

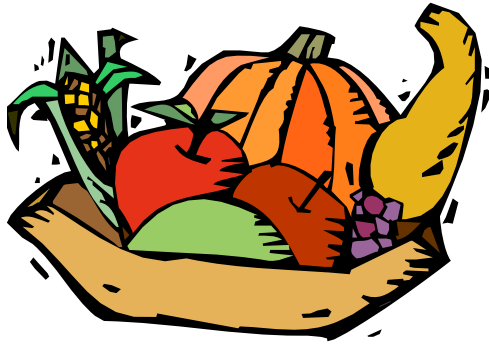


THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor
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THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
OF FRANKLIN, NC, INC.
25 Phillips St.
Franklin, NC 28734

FIRST CLASS



Save Stamps

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL	MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
January	24	26	July	18	20
February	21	23	August	29	31
March	28	30	September	26	28
April	25	27	October	24	26
May	23	25	November	14	16
June	27	29	December	TBA	9*

Board Meetings: 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. in West Room of the Macon County
Community Facilities Building HWY 441 S
Except When Noted In The Newsletter

*** Party Zone for End of Year Party and Covered Dish**

Date: November 16
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: The Macon County Community Center
We will view the video on Ammolite®: the shell of the 70-million-year-old ammonite. This gem is located in our hexagon case.

November Celebrations

December Birthdays

- 4 – Nancy Stalcup
- 7 – Donna Sizemore
- 8 – Sam Bedrick
- 8 – Linda Sterrett
- 17 – Mittie King
- 20 – Ray Behr
- 22 – Linda Behr
- 28 – Edward Treisback



December Anniversaries

- 4 – Albert & Sandra Moccia
- 8 – David & Linda Smith
- 15 – Tom & Diane Aiello
- 21 – Ted & Jan Robles
- 23 – Edgar & Barbara Wing
- 25 – Matt & Dottie Tari
- 27 – Dan & Linda Bibb
- 29 – Bob & Sharon John

Capricorn Birthstone - Snowflake Obsidian

By Edward G. Robles for The Mountain Gem

Obsidian is a rock, of varying composition and form. It is a member of the felsic series, which, depending on the speed of cooling, includes the members volcanic ash, pumice, scoria, obsidian, rhyolite, and granite. Being essentially non-crystalline, and of varying specific gravity, it is more properly thought of as being a glass. It notably is possessed of vitreous luster and conchoidal fracture, the latter being advantageously used by primitive inhabitants of wherever obsidian is to be found to prepare projectile

points, knives and other tools, and if properly “Knapped” yields an edge superior to the finest steel.

Black obsidian, the most common form, occasionally contains radially symmetrical crystalline bodies of a high-temperature modification of quartz which is known as “Cristobalite.” This modification is in the tetragonal system, hardness 7, Specific gravity 2.3, conchoidal fracture, usually white, hence the term “Snowflake.”

Metaphysically, snowflake obsidian is alleged to have the property of bringing hidden things to the surface in a fashion gentle enough so that they can be dealt with reasonably instead of “Erupting.” It is said to help provide balance in a time of change, and in recognizing and altering patterns in a beneficial manner. It is considered to be a shield against negativity, and is useful in guarding against harm from any source whatsoever. All in all, it would appear to be a useful stone. The type locale is Inyo, Co., California; it is also to be found near Crater Lake, Oregon, and the San Juan region of Colorado.

Jewelry made from snowflake obsidian is usually reasonably massive, since the white “Flakes” are usually of fair size. While the obsidian itself is relatively soft and easily scratched by grit of any nature, it takes a high polish, and if properly protected will make beautiful pendants or brooches. It can also be carved into attractive figurines, household objects (ashtrays, etc.). Whether or not it possesses the mystical properties associated with it, it is easy to work and is useful as well as ornamental. It deserves a place in any Capricorn household, and also on the person or in the home of anyone who appreciates a stark contrast between black and white.

*Sources: Prinz et al, Simon and Schuster’s Guide to Rocks and Minerals, New York, 1978
 Sinkankas, John, Mineralogy, A First Course, D. van Nostrand, Princeton, NJ, 1967
www.crystalcavern.com*

Mistletoe Magic: Please bring your donated items to the museum. Mark them accordingly. All items must be locally made.



Fred Plesner, President

October, what a month: Seagul students, Gemboree, Pumpkin Fest and more. You did good! You were there when the going got rough and stayed the course. I know it was all time consuming but if you feel like I do, it was all worth it. Just knowing that I helped to make a difference to someone, somewhere makes me feel good.

There were new faces this year and your efforts have been noted, not just by me but also by others. **Linda Behr**, our immediate past president has given me much sound advice and encouragement and **Mary Bedrick** has been there quietly doing much of the behind the scenes work.

November will also be a busy month beginning Friday, the 3rd, when we welcome a mineralogy class from Furman University and ending with the Christmas Parade. In between we will be participating in Mistletoe Magic. We will be looking for donations of your lapidary skills for resale at Mistletoe Magic.

I want to thank **Alex Solimine** for that excellent presentation on Paleo-Indian points and his assistance in our attempt to obtain the donation of additional artifacts. It is good to have someone on board whose judgment we can fall back on.

Most of all I just want to thank you for all the hard work and time you have put in. Well done!

Thank you,
Fred Plesner, President

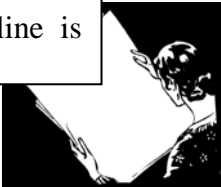
Pendant Winner

This year's winner of what has become an annual drawing for the Society is **Pat Becker** of Weaverville, N. C.

This years drawing was held at about 7:00 P.M. at the downtown gazebo at the Pickin - on - the - Square by the Franklin's mayor, Joe Collins. After the drawing Donnie Clay produced a cell phone and Pat Becker received a personal telephone call of congratulations from the mayor. Congratulations to Pat Becker.

Fred Plesner

Newsletter deadline is
December 1st



Leaflookers Gemboree
Fred Plesner, Gemboree Chairman

This year's Leaflookers Gemboree went off smoothly enough, the usual glitches in the setup, but basically quite smooth. This was due in large part to the goodly number of people who showed up for the set up. Thanks to each of you who were there. I did appreciate all the help. The layout for the entire electrical layout went off without a hitch thanks to **Jack Jungles** and those assigned to help him.

I think we must have set some kind of a record because during the entire Show we only tripped three circuits. **Jack**, give yourself a pat on the back for that one. We also purchased several new electrical cords for this year's Show that helped with some of the problems.

I cannot explain it but interest in the demonstration room has exploded since we moved from the front room to the old office. It does the heart good to see club members demonstrating and watching people enjoying the demonstrations, congregating and asking questions. For those of you who have not tried demonstrating, it is a way to connect with others and affirm your interests.

The crowds were there! The dealers seemed happy with the money that was spent, and there seemed to be a bustle in the air. We probably took in two to three times the number of discount coupons than we have seen in the past. This will of course be reflected in the gate receipts. All in all it was a good Show.

The only problem of note would appear to be our trailer; it will require a new lock mechanism for the hitch ball on the tow frame.

Take down was a total surprise. In addition to our own members we had several "wanna-be" members show up to help. How blessed can I be! Thanks to each of you for hosting, set-up, take-down, demonstrating, selling all those raffle tickets, whatever your part was. It all came together for a very good Show.

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society
Board Meeting of October 25, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Fred Plesner at 6:30 p.m. on October 25, 2006 in the Museum Meeting Room. Present were: **Linda Smith, Don Smith, Ray Behr, Tom Sterrett, Bruce Siegfried, Linda Behr, Sharon John, Dean Plesner and Mary Bedrick.**

(cont'd)

Board Meeting (cont'd)

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Siegfried reported total income of \$6800, (this amount included the July Gemboree income) and a total outflow of \$792.00. (Detailed reports on file.)

Museum Report: Ray Behr was able to purchase a new monitor for the Gift Shop for \$200.00 and it will be installed over the winter.

Editor: Linda Behr reported that the newsletter deadline is October 31st.

Gemboree: Fred Plesner reported that the Leaflookers Gemboree was a success again this year.

Old Business:

Pumpkin Fest will be on October 27th and 28th. The Streets of Franklin will be in charge this year. We will be distributing polished stones to the kids during the day and **Belinda McGuire** will give out candy in the afternoon.

The End of the Year Party, our covered dish, will be on December 9th, Saturday from 1- 4 p.m.

New Business:

The audit went well. **Ray Behr** is to be commended on a job well done as Treasurer.

The November program will be the video on Ammolite®.

Ray suggested buying a DVD and VCR combination.

Ray will be handling the scheduling hours for Joe Scotti, our employee, at the museum.

This month's copy of the **Lodestar** featured **Elizabeth Siegfried**, SFMS Junior Workshop Scholarship Winner.

We have acquired several items: an amethyst geode, which will be for sale in the gift shop; two bracelets and a jade carving for door prizes; a beaded necklace, for the beading classes; and earrings for a door prize at the End of the Year Party.

The Raffle Pendant drawing will be on October 28th during Pickin' on the Square.

Furman University students will visit the Museum on November 3rd at 6 p.m.

It was decided that the Museum closing date would be November 4th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, Recording Secretary

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting of October 2006

President **Fred Plesner** called the October General Meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present were: 21 members and 6 guests.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Siegfried reported that with the donations and jewelry raffle we had a net gain of \$6000 for the month (*this figure included the July Gemboree Show profits*).

Museum Report: Fred Plesner reported that we have a part time employee named **Joe Scotti**. All members should get their work list made in order to get all work done around the museum this winter.

Gift Shop: Debra Siegfried reported that all is ok.

Education: There will be a class from Furman University visiting on November 3rd.

Historian: Linda Behr took pictures of the Seagull students for our album.

Gemboree: Fred Plesner reported that the set up and take down of equipment went smoothly and that all members involved in the Gemboree should log in the hours they worked.

Old Business:

The End of the Year Party is Saturday December 9th starting at 1 p.m. at the Party Zone.

Donated pretty rocks are needed for gem trees, lapidary, etc. Please mark accordingly and leave in Museum.

The yearly audit was done on October 16th by **Linda Sterrett** and **Fred Rasmusson**. All was in order.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

The door prizes were won by **Scott Joyce, Joe Muncher, Carol Nalywajko and D. Anderson**.

Alex Solimine gave a very interesting presentation on The Stone Age Culture of Paleo-Indians.

Refreshments were served.

Submitted by Sharon John, Recording Secretary



2007 dues are due; membership is \$10 per person, junior membership (under 18) is \$3.

Non-member subscription to **The Mountain Gem** is \$15 per year.

Mail checks to the museum with

“attention: membership chairman,” or bring to any meeting.

Raku Pottery

By Elizabeth Siegfried,
SFMS Junior Workshop Scholarship Winner

As I was taking a flaming hot piece of pottery out of the kiln with yard long tongs, I started to wonder to myself: What am I doing here? I must be crazy to think I can do this!

These were some of my thoughts during a pottery class I took in August at Wildacres. I had never done any kind of pottery before, so this was a new experience for me. This was what I was hoping for though, I taken jewelry classes for four years, and I wanted something different. Boy, did I get it!

The week at Wildacres started when I got there Monday afternoon I ate supper and had an orientation for my class. There I met Cathy and Sarah House, who were our teachers for the week. A lot of people have not heard about raku pottery, so they do not know what the term means. It is regular pottery with the raku glaze painted on it to make it unique. The colors that the pottery ends up with are: copper, green, blue and iridescent.

Tuesday morning class started, the teacher did an example piece and then we tried one. She showed the class how to make a bowl using a plastic form, and then we were on our own. We mostly did hand building or forming, where students take a piece of clay and flatten it. Then we took the flattened piece of clay and put it either on the inside or the outside of a bowl, with our hands pushing the clay over the bowls, other in some cases, other shaped forms. We then finished our pieces by putting designs or patterns on them. When our projects were bowls, we put feet on the bottoms for them to sit on. Then we had to let the pottery dry and harden for a few hours or overnight. Our teachers let us try throwing clay on a wheel, but most of us had little success with that.

We made pieces of pottery for the first two days and then the third day the pieces we had made were put in the kiln. Some of the items made by the students were: big and small bowls, plates, trays, boxes, candleholders, vases, and buttons, anything we could think of. You really have to bring your imagination along to this class!

The fourth day we started putting glazes on the pottery and firing them in the raku kiln. This was the fun part! Of course it was all fun but this was exciting! We chose glazes for our pieces, and then were anxious to see how they would turn out. We never really knew how it would look, a glaze turned out differently on

every piece of pottery. It was hard to say, "I want one that is that color," and actually get that color.

There was no guarantee exactly how it would look when we put the first few pieces in that morning, and then built 'nests' to put the pottery in after it came out of the kiln. These 'nests' consisted of sawdust and newspaper. After the piece has been in the raku kiln for about 20-30 minutes we raised the lid of the kiln to take out our pieces. Of course, these pieces have just been fired at about 1200° F so you cannot just reach in and pick them up. We had to put on big gloves that went up to our elbows and grab a pair of huge tongs that were more than a yard long. There were only two pairs of tongs, but an average of four pieces in the kiln at one time. So we had to wait until the first person finished with the tongs, and then passed them to the next, and then the piece could be taken out, being careful not to drop it. The next step was to turn around and place the piece on a nest.



Then came the surprise— whoosh! The sawdust and newspaper caught on fire from the heat of the pottery, and then we quickly put a metal pot or tub over the pottery while it was burning. All this must be done while not

dropping it, as the broken pieces will go right through your shoes and clothes to burn *you*. Also running into anyone else carrying a flaming piece of pottery will result in the same tragedy. There were always other people around watching, so you had to keep an eye on them. After less than five minutes of crazy rushing around, the kiln is started again and we go back to sitting, reading, knitting or anything else to pass the time until the next adrenaline rush.

This process went on over and over for two days until all the pieces were fired. We had to take dinner in shifts so someone could stay with the kiln. By the time we were done around 7:30 P.M. we smelled like a campfire, or like we had been fighting a fire or *something* that was burning anyway! After the pieces cooled, we cleaned them up with water and scrub pads and a little Comet® to take off some of the black soot left on the piece. This was all you had to do, and voila! A beautiful piece of RAKU POTTERY! Now where to put it?

I really had a great time and I think all the other students did as well; it is an experience not to be missed. I learned a lot. After building the pieces, firing them in the kiln, and doing the finishing touches, I had eight beautiful pieces of unique Raku Pottery. Thanks to everyone for the opportunity to take this class, without the SFMS scholarship I never would have had such a wonderful time.

Ocean Jasper

*By Dan Sperber
For STONEY STATEMENTS 5/2006*

Since I started cutting Ocean Jasper, everyone asks me what it is and where it comes from. Well, I decided to do a little research and this is what I came up with.

The recent introduction of the newest stone in the jasper family is spectacular orbicular jasper, known as Ocean Jasper (sometimes referred to as Ocean Floor Jasper). This stone, the product of one mine on Madagascar's remote northwest coast bordering the Indian Ocean near Marovato, was only discovered after years of searching, in an area so isolated it has no roads and the only way it can be accessed is by boat. All ocean jasper mined here must be transported to a more developed area of Madagascar using the same method...by boat.

Ocean Jasper can only be observed and collected at low tide. It is made up of rhyolitic spheres or orbs, and comes in an astonishing array of colors and color combinations, many of which, in the gem trade, can go for a ton of money. One of the most sought after forms of ocean jasper, is the stuff that is translucent. Stones cut from this material and set into jewelry can go upwards of a hundred dollars each...or more. I found a reference to a story about the discovery of this great material from an article published in the June 2001 edition of BC Rockhounder, by the owner of the Ocean Jasper Mine, Paul Obenich.

Back in the 1950s, a buyer was shown a few pieces by a prospector, but the latter couldn't remember where he'd gotten the material. After some confusion, it was agreed that it came from a remote and rugged section of coastline...on the northwest side of the island. Not a very encouraging description to pinpoint the source! In the 1977 edition of Grund's Mineral Encyclopedia, there was a photograph of the mythical jasper, but its source was still unknown. The mystery remained. Then, in 1998, Paul Obenich, owner of Madagascar Minerals, spent 45 days traveling up the coast, stopping at fishing villages and asking everyone he met if they knew of this striking rock.

He found it, but in the most bizarre locality...the mystery of why the deposit had remained hidden for so long became clear when he discovered it was only accessible at low tide. Hence the new name...Ocean Jasper

Via THE ROADRUNNER 6/2006

Cleaning Quartz Crystal

Author unknown

Usually brushing quartz crystals with a soft brush or gently scrubbing in warm soapy water, followed by rinsing will clean them.

Often the crystals are discolored by some stain or incrustation that requires more drastic treatment to clean them. Usually, iron stains (reddish or dark brown) may be removed by soaking overnight or gently boiling in a solution of oxalic acid (old style radiator cleaner) followed by cooling and rinsing.

Black stains, usually caused by manganese, can be removed with dilute hydrochloric acid. Use 50-50 acid and water for proper strength – REMEMBER AAA – always add acid to water. Adding water results in steam explosions and acid splashes ON YOU. Soak or gently boil the crystals and rinse in water.

Sometimes crystals are incrustated with hard clay which will not loosen by soaking in water. You should gently boil the crystals in a strong solution of sodium sulfide (1 part to 4 parts water). If you can't get sodium sulfide, try common household lye – it works almost as well. Follow by gently boiling in oxalic acid to remove iron stains and then rinse.

FOR SAFETY: 1. Use a Pyrex® container for heating and boiling. 2. Work in a well ventilated area. 3. Don't let solution boil dry. 4. WEAR RUBBER GLOVES.

These cleaning methods work with most silicate or oxide minerals – but they'll RUIN a calcite or zeolite type mineral. Try a small piece before risking your choice specimen. Oxalic acid will clean off pyrite crystals.

Source: ROCKY TRAILS; via CHERT CHATTER 5/05

Or Try This:

To clean quartz or amethyst crystals, cover with fresh vinegar and allow to stand overnight to remove carbonates such as calcites, barite and lime. Repeat if necessary. Wash well. Place in washing type of ammonia for 8 to 12 hours. Boiling these crystals in rhubarb stalks (a powerful source of oxalic acid) in a Pyrex® dish will achieve the same results. Water or a solution of baking or washing sodas will neutralize the acid.

Source: "GEM' N' I" via CHERT CHATTER, 5/05

Bumper Stickers for Ladies

How can I miss you if you won't go away?

Do not start with me. You will not win.

Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels.

Program report by Linda Behr on the information from Alex Solimine's talk and handouts.

If you missed the October meeting, you missed a very interesting program given by Alex Solimine on projectile points (commonly called arrowheads).

In North Carolina, the two most important archaeological sites are the Baucom site, Union County and Hardaway site in Stanly County. The entire Piedmont Region yielded a great number of prehistoric points. The rarest and most valuable point are those of the Paleo-Indian period—from 10,000—12,000 year ago, or more.

Each style of point (how it was made) determines its cultural period. Common lithics (stones) used were argillite, chert, flint, jasper, quartz, rhyolite, siltstone, etc. Points were made by knapping methods. Flint was exposed to heat to change its molecular structure making it more “glassy” and easier to flake and change its color.

Indians used hammerstones, elk billets, and other tools in shaping the stone through percussion blows. Final shaping was done by “pressure-flaking” which was carefully applied to all edges and was used to create the notches on side and corner notched points.

In determining value, the thinner the point the better it was made. Thick points are crude but most common—these are called “field grade” and are not really valuable.

An authentic point is genuine only if it is worked on both sides. Material that is smooth or polished is questionable unless the patina is matched to the age of the stone.

And how do we know where the Paleo-Indians lived? Their projectile points are uniquely fluted. So when finding a skull of an animal, with a fluted point, you are able to date the point.

These Indians lived between 8,000-12,000 B.P. they traveled on to find food. They were NOT fighters. It is suspected that they lived in the Piedmont Area for about 35 to 40 years.

Today's Eskimo is a descendant of the Paleo-Indian.

The last great Ice Age began 60,000 to 70,000 years ago and grew to cover most of Canada and the upper areas of the United States. Included in this

great sheet of ice were the Great Lakes' area, New York, northern parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and all of New England. This freezing period reached a peak around 18,000 B.P. (before present time) a warming trend had started. So much water was frozen, that the ocean was 400 feet lower than it is today and much of the continental shelf from New York to Nova Scotia became exposed land. By 14,000 B.P. all of southern New England and the lower parts of New York, New Hampshire and Vermont lay exposed, as the glaciers melted. (Braun and Braun – 1994)

As the climate warmed and glaciers retreated, tundra began to cover much of the exposed land. Mammoths, mastodons, musk-oxen, large beaver and caribou followed the retreating glaciers northward. By 11,000 B.P. the tundra and grasslands began to be replaced with shrubs, trees and vegetation.

By 12,000 B.P. early hunters followed the large Pleistocene animals into New England and out onto the continental shelf. They led a nomadic existence, constantly following migrating herds. Gradually the larger animals either moved north with the retreating glaciers or died out. By 10,000 B.P. most had become extinct. Different animals such as caribou, moose, bear, elk and white tail deer came into the changing landscape and became

the favorite prey. Melting glaciers began to fill the ocean and slowly cover the continental shelf. The rising sea level caused the shoreline to slowly recede toward its present coastline. (Braun and Braun) In recent years trawlers have caught mammoth and mastodon teeth, while fishing (dredging) near Georges Bank. (Braun and Braun) Bones from Pleistocene animals are occasionally found in bogs and pond bottoms that have dried up. Peat is a good preservative for bones and tusks.

(Editor's comment: we were happy to hear that the latest belief is that a Supreme Being created Man and that Man did not evolve from something else.)



Happy Thanksgiving



The following notice was sent to editors to get the message of what SFMS has to offer to our Junior Members. Please refer to their resources and if you want any more information, contact me, Linda Behr. The A.F.M.S. and The LODESTAR can be found at www.amfed.org/sfms).

To: Editors of SFMS Club Bulletins

From: Hugh and Leona Sheffield, Co-Chairpersons for SFMS Youth Resources Committee



Leona, Elizabeth and Hugh

It was brought to our attention at the Annual AFMS/SFMS meeting in Nashville last month

that clearly the Editor of the club bulletin is the heartbeat of the club. Editors seem to really know what is going on and also have an effective tool to share information with all other members of their clubs.

In the past, we have written letters to all presidents of the SFMS clubs asking them to become more of an advocate for the youth. We have never received any inquiries or expressions of interest from these letters. So we are appealing to you for your cooperation by having an article that would be of interest to youth in every issue of your bulletin, whether or not you have any youth in your club.

Someone in your club may just share it with a young person and pique their interest. And even the adults like to know what is available for the youth or what the youth of other clubs are doing.

The best source of information is the *Lodestar* from which you can copy any article that we have submitted. There is a youth article in every issue of the *Lodestar* and in the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter*, both of which you receive. There are also excellent articles for youth in every issue of the *Rock and Gem Magazine*.

There is an annual contest for the SFMS *Junior of the Year (JOY)*, youth scholarships for SFMS workshops* and AFMS badge programs and membership in the *Future Rockhounds of America* available. Details of all these are in past issues of the *Lodestar* or available from us.

If the above suggestions do not meet your needs, please call and we will do what we can to help. We surely appreciate all your efforts to promote youth in our clubs.

Yours truly,

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
Co-Chairpersons of SFMS Youth Resources

(Editor's comment: Elizabeth Siegfried was a winner this year. Refer to her article.)



Websites:

Flint Knapping

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/learn/ancient/flint.htm>

The Milky Way-

<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceopticsu/powersof10/index.html>

Toprock Gemstones & Minerals

www.toprocks.net.

Crystals, Malachite, Fluorite

<http://www.absolutequartzcrystals.com>

<http://www.malachitemall.com>

<http://www.fluoritecrystals.com>

source CRLC.CA 11-2006 issue

Exchange newsletters' websites for their newsletters:

Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club

<http://www.crlc.ca>

(Member Of Alberta Federation Of Rock Clubs

Gem & Mineral Federation Of Canada

<http://www.crlc.ca>)

December covered dish and End of the Year

Party will be held at the Party Zone on Saturday December 9th at 1 p.m., 163 Holly Springs Park Drive, Franklin.

PLEASE let either Debra Siegfried at 349-3877 or Linda Behr at 349-0827 know what foods you would like to bring. We don't want all of the same type of food... "a little variety is the spice of life."



Member News:

Fred and Fran Rasmusson, Art and MaryAnn Zoekler have all headed south for the winter months. We'll miss them while we're enjoying our cool winter.

Elizabeth Siegfried is attending classes through Southwestern Community College.

Dave, Linda and Jenna have taken a cruise to Mexico.

I would love to put more news here, but I don't have any. Please email or call me with any news. Linda Behr, editor

(Editor's comment: this may be an older article but this is very good advice for all.)

Frostbite and Hypothermia

SAFETY FIRST

*by Bill Klose EFMLS Safety Chairman
Submitted for the February 2001 EFMLS News*



My fall fossil collecting was cut short this year by old man winter's early arrival. As in past years I didn't give up easily, and braved out into the cold and wind with the help of wisdom provided in Chapter Sixteen of the AFMS SAFETY MANUAL. It is a little late for the fall, but the late winter and early spring are blessed with some collecting days that have similar wind and cold conditions. The two problems that must be avoided are frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite is caused by the cutting off of circulation to and the possible destruction of superficial tissues, especially in the extremities (hands, feet, ears, nose) and other exposed areas of the body. The wind (wind chill factor) and moisture can add to the effects of cold temperatures, even when above freezing. Symptoms of frostbite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of skin followed by numbness and waxy looking patches. In more severe cases these patches get lumpy, redden, blister, and the skin dies and falls off, or gangrene sets in. Severe pain is associated with this condition. At the first signs of frostbite, dry the affected area and cover with clothing or tuck (hands and feet) into clothing or armpits to prevent further cooling. Do not rub or apply snow to the frostbitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature (not above 104 degrees F). Do not place hands under running hot water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so they could become burned. As the frostbitten area "thaws" it is normal to feel pain or a burning sensation. If blisters form, do not break them, protect them with a loose dressing and seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening. The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin. The person then behaves confused and forgetful, acts tired and wants to sit or lie down. In severe cases, the person will go unconscious, and will have shallow breathing and erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows. At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol). Prevent further heat loss by blankets, warm rocks, or a companion in bed with the victim. Get medical attention as soon as possible if the symptoms have gone beyond the shivering stage.

The best protection against frostbite and hypothermia is to keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry. Dress in loose layers of warm, waterproof, and windproof clothing, that covers exposed areas. Warm gloves and a hat are essential. Up to 80% of the body's warmth can be lost out through an uncovered head. The young and elderly are especially at risk, as are people who have been drinking alcohol, have diabetes or poor circulation. People taking beta-blockers to lower blood pressure are especially at risk. It is best to pair up with someone who can watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.

If you aren't a cold weather collector, these same precautions apply to any activities performed during cold weather conditions.

*Articles from EFMLS
http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyEFMLS.htm*



How Many Do You Remember??

- High beam lights' switch on the floor
- Ignition switches on the dashboard
- Heaters mounted on the inside of the firewall
- Real ice boxes (ask your mom about that)
- Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards
- Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner
- Using hand signals for cars without turn signals



Did you know?

By Charles Windoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you, we are in charge of our ATTITUDES."

*Source: The Rockytier July 1995;
Via The Roadrunner March 2004*

Coming Events

November

17-19--Marietta, Georgia: 21st annual show; Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Mike Ingram, (770) 427-1108; e-mail: mingram2@mindspring.com; www.cobbcountymineral.org/event.html.

Nov. 18-19, Atlanta, GA - Intergalactic Bead Shows, Inc. Gwinnett Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 888-729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, www.beadshows.com

18-19, Atlanta, GA - The Down the Street Bead Show. Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Pkwy. 18th, 10-6; 19th, 10-5 866-667-3232, info@downthestreetbeadshow.com www.thedownthestreetbeadshow.com.

24-26--Mobile, Alabama: 12th annual show; Mobile Rock & Gem Society; Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Ziegler Rd. and Cody Rd.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3 (\$2 with mention of this listing), students \$2, children under 12 free with adult; contact Ed Harris, 12520 Jeff Hamilton Rd., Mobile, AL 36695, (251) 865-9157; e-mail: ed_harris_jr@hotmail.com; Website: www.geocities.com/mobilerockandgem/MRGChome.htm.

December

1-3--Greensboro, North Carolina: Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club; Greensboro Coliseum, 1700 W. Lee St.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$5 (weekend pass), students and children \$1 (weekend pass); geode cutting, findings, beads, mineral specimens, rough material, faceted stones, fine jewelry, jewelry repair, door prizes; contact Joe Maguire, 1615 Wilton Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408, (336) 288-7452; e-mail: joe_maguire@prodigy.net; Web site: www.ggmc-rockhounds.org.

1-3--Montgomery, Alabama: 36th annual show; Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society; Garrett Coliseum, Federal Dr.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; door prizes; contact Jane Barkley, (334) 277-2722, or Iris McGehee, (334) 262-7275

8-10--Norcross (Atlanta), Georgia: 13th annual show; Georgia Mineral Society; North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Ct.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; more than 40 dealers, door prizes, auction; contact Kim Cochran, 2659 Van Court, Snellville, GA 30278, (770) 979-8331; e-mail: decembershow@gaminereral.org; Web site: www.gaminereral.org/december-show.htm.

10-11--Nashville, Tennessee: 25th annual show, "Earth Treasures"; Mid Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies; Tennessee State Fairgrounds; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students (12-17) \$1, children 12 and under free; jewelry, gems, minerals, collectibles, equipment, fossils,

rocks, loose gems, door prizes, kids' prizes; contact Mary Sparks, (615) 509-4812.

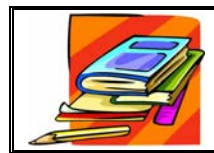


A foreign visitor attended his first American football game. Afterward, he remarked to his host that he truly enjoyed the game, but could not understand all the fuss over 25 cents. "What do you mean?" the host asked. In struggling English, the visitor described the coin toss at the start of the game and continued "after that, everyone keeps yelling 'get zee quarter back, get zee quarter back.'"

A military recruiting officer was interviewing new enlistees and testing their mental dexterity. Faced with a bathtub full of water, each enlistee was asked whether they would use a spoon, a teacup or a bucket to empty the tub. Finally one recruit reviewed the situation, reached into the tub and simply pulled the plug. Upon seeing this the recruiting sergeant made a note, "Recommend for Officer Candidate School."

A man entered a stationery store and told the clerk he was looking for a combination birthday/anniversary card. "I don't think we have such a card. Why not get one of each?" the clerk replied. "You don't understand," the man explained. "It's the fourth anniversary of my wife's 39th birthday."

*Source: N.C. Farm Bureau Jan.-2006
"on the Lighter Side"*



The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC is in need of someone to write Grants for our attaining a full-time Director. If you would like to consider doing this research, please contact one of the Board Members. All help is appreciated!!!!

?????????I wonder why the government couldn't change Daylight Saving Time and Standard Time to just a half hour difference. We could then keep the clocks the same year round.

If you have a request for a class or workshop class contact Linda Smith, at 369-8383.