

# The Rockhound Record



**75th Anniversary Year - 1935 - 2010**

**Mineralogical Society of Arizona - October 2010 - Volume 76, Issue 8**

## UPCOMING PROGRAM



**Friday, October 8, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Gene Knuckey**  
**Chrysotile Mine in Ash Creek Arizona**

Gene has been our speaker before, and if you missed it, you will have the chance to hear him speak at our Oct. 8th meeting. Mr Knuckey is a local author, who worked for the city for 27 years before retiring. He will speak about mining at the Chrysotile Mine from 1914 to 1945.

The chrysotile mine is located in Ash Creek just east of Globe in Gila county. Asbestos was the mainstay of the mine and chrysotile is named for the type of asbestos that was mined. In particular, when Hoover Dam was constructed in the 1930's, asbestos from chrysotile was used for insulation of the hydroelectric plant.

Mr. Knuckey will tell us about the mine from his unique historical perspective. He is the third generation in his family to have lived at the mine. Gene's grandfather was a supervisor of the mine, and his father, Francis Knuckey, grew up living at the mine. He will bring in a picture album from that time.

Betty Deming

## President's Message

With the cooler weather coming on strong, many of you will again be out looking for mineral and rock formations to add to your collections. Make sure all your equipment is in good condition before you go out on that first trip.

Remember that the Flagg Gem & Mineral Show is coming up soon. We will need some good specimens for our booth this year as usual. So, while going through your stuff, please set some aside for use at the club's booth. Also, set aside some time for working the booth, as it can get hard if only a few people have to do all the work. Ed and Bob always end up doing the lion's share of work. We will be having a sign-up sheet starting at the next meeting for those interested in working a couple of hours at the booth.

We had a good showing of club members at the fossil hunt north of Payson. Carolyn and I stopped off at the Natural Bridge State Park on the way back and climbed down to the creek at the bottom of the Bridge Arch. It is only a quarter of a mile, but remember it is that distance back up to the rim. Very interesting site.

Roger Deming



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



# 2011 Dues Are Due

It's that time again already. Dues are due for the 2011 year. Please see me at the meeting or send to my address. Dues are as follows:

**PRESIDENT**

Roger Deming  
(480) 633-0731

[Rogersweeps@yahoo.com](mailto:Rogersweeps@yahoo.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT /  
CLUB FIELD TRIPS**

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(480) 636-1251

[epidote555@yahoo.com](mailto:epidote555@yahoo.com)

**TREASURER /  
COALITION FIELD TRIPS**

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**BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS**

Lynne Dyer  
Terry Dyer  
Bob Holm  
David Lay

Families & Couples: \$20.00

Single Adults: \$12.00

Juniors (under 18 yrs): \$2.50

Life members: (Club Member 25 yrs.): No Charge

Betty L. Deming  
2922 W. Claremont St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017



We are going to sell business card ads for our newsletter. If you are interested in advertising your business in this newsletter, please contact Lois Splendoria at [chimes30@q.com](mailto:chimes30@q.com). The rates are \$25 per year for MSA members and \$35 per year for non-members. Our first sponsor is Frank Burns, and a big thank you to Frank! Please remember him for your Home Inspection needs and tell your friends and colleagues about his business.

**FRANK HOME INSPECTIONS**



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[frankhomeinspections@cox.net](mailto:frankhomeinspections@cox.net)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

**Mary Parsons &  
Alexis Philipovitch  
Phoenix, AZ  
Joined September 2010**

# ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR NUMBER 132



By Dr. Raymond Grant

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona is 75 years old. The first meeting was held on December 4, 1935, and the second meeting on December 18, 1935. There was election of officers at the second meeting, and Luther Steward, who was elected vice-president, gave a talk on "Some Arizona Mineral Localities". Think of all the people who have been members over the past 75 years, all the programs, all the shows, and all the field trips.

The very first official club field trip was on Sunday, January 19, 1936, to collect kyanite at Squaw Peak. In 1936 it was not a city park, and collecting was possible. During World War II, it is reported that about 38 tons of kyanite was mined from Squaw Peak, again before it was a park. I was told that it was carried down the mountain on burros and used to make spark plugs. Today the area is part of the Piestewa Peak Recreation Area and collecting is not allowed, but it is a very interesting mineralogical area.

The Park consists of Precambrian metamorphic rocks. There are several types of schist, greenstone and quartzite present. The following is a list of the minerals found in the Park: quartz, muscovite, andalusite, kyanite, pyrophyllite, piemontite, epidote, actinolite, chlorite, garnet, chloritoid, ilmenite, staurolite, schorl, apatite, chrysocolla, malachite and kanonaite.

The kyanite occurs in a quartz-kyanite schist that you cross hiking the trail to the top. This schist runs for about one and a half miles and has some small prospect pits. There is also some kyanite in later quartz veins. Looking for kyanite here is hard, as it is usually a white or gray color and not the typical blue color of most kyanite. It does form nice radiating groups. One time I was contacted by someone making an exhibit of minerals from the largest cities in the United States, I sent him a kyanite specimen from Squaw Peak. It was in Fred Burr's collection and may have been collected before it was a park.

To me the most interesting mineral found here is piemontite. It is red needles up to an inch long. A specimen of mica schist with red needles through it is attractive. The andalusite and kanonaite are aluminum and manganese rich members of a mineral series. The kanonaite is the manganese rich end-member. Most of the material found here is andalusite with a fair amount of manganese and is sometimes referred to as viridine and is typically a dark green color.

The staurolites and garnets are small, only up to 2 or 3 mm in size. The staurolite is rare and only found in one area 5 feet by 45 feet located south of the road. It is unusual in that it contains a relatively high concentration of zinc.

I have never seen the malachite or chrysocolla, but they are reported from some small prospects in the park.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### ***October 9-10, 2010 - Sierra Vista***

#### **Rock Rustler's Dream**, Elks Lodge,

1 Elks Lane, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Sponsored by: Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club

Beads, jewelry, gems, rocks, minerals, fossils, demos, displays, equipment, and supplies, hourly raffles

Hours: Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4

Admission and Parking: Free

Show Chairperson: Maudie Bailey, P.O. Box 1596, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636, 520-378-6291

Dealer Chair: Ingrid Baillie, P.O. Box 1596,

Sierra Vista, AZ 85636, 520-459-3718

### ***October, 9-10, 2010 - Payson***

#### **Payson Rimstones Annual Gem & Mineral Show**

Tonto Apache Res. in the Mazatzal

Hotel & Casino Event Center on Hwy. 87, Payson, AZ

Sponsored by: Payson Rimstones Gem & Mineral Club

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Admission: \$3.00, children under 12 free

Parking: Free

Show Chair & Dealer Contact: Barry Jones, Payson Rimstones Rock Club

P.O. Box 1641, Payson, AZ, 85547, 928-476-3513 hm., 928-951-3787 cell

**paysonrimstoneshow@gmail.com**

### ***October 16 & 17, 2010 - Sedona***

#### **Sedona Gem & Mineral Show**

Sedona Red Rock High School Cafeteria

995 W. Upper Red Rock Loop Road, Sedona, AZ 86336

Sponsored by: Sedona Gem & Mineral Club

Website: **www.sedonagemandmineral.org**

Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4

Admission: Free, parking free, children free

Show Co-Chair & Dealers Contact: Pat McMahon, P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ, 86340, 928-300-8333,

**agates920@yahoo.com** or

Susan Read, 928-284-9547, **pdxprss@earthlink.net**

### **Saturday, October 16, 2010 - Phoenix**

#### **Family Day at the Museum**

Co-sponsored by the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation

Arizona Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Hours: Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **Free Admission and Parking**

Demonstrations and activities for children will be sponsored by the Museum.

For event information call: 602-771-1611

For dealer booths contact: Darrell Dodd at 480-575-5214

Museumgram #8  
By Kathy Connell  
**MINERCON@aol.com**

A lot has happened since our last Museumgram. We would first like to welcome our newest member, and she is Hope Winter from Scottsdale , Arizona . Thanks for thinking about the museum and joining FAMMM.

We were going to run the stamp mill on September 11, but the men have not had a chance to operate and run it since last MAY. There are always small adjustments that need to be made since we had shut it down for the summer. It is also hot in September, and the demonstration with the start-up and operation of all the equipment takes over 30 minutes. We decided the Monday before that with the heat this would not be wise, so we are changing our monthly operations to occur on the second Saturday from October thru April. We will also be operating the outside equipment during our two Family Days each year. Talking about Family Day, make sure you circle Saturday, October 16. That is when you can tell all your friends about the museum and that it is free that day. There are plenty of children's activities for the little ones to enjoy.

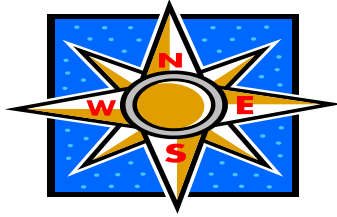
On Friday, September 17, the museum is once again closed for a furlough day. As far as I know there are no scheduled furlough days in October. And speaking about the museum closing, there is a good chance that we will close several days during the week of September 20-24. The department is scheduled to move that week, and it is felt that the move can be completed better if the doors were closed. If you would like to visit during the next few weeks, please call to see if the museum will be opened. Things are so up in the air that even the department is not sure if they will have movers there next week.

We are scheduled to have a FAMMM board meeting on Monday, September 20 at 3:30 p.m. The move should not affect us, and it will be held in the classroom.

Now for the important news: Our wonderful curator, Jan Rasmussen, has decided to retire. Her last day will be Tuesday, October 5. We have known about this for sometime now, and she has just recently put in her resignation. She wishes to spend more time with her family and some close friends. She bought a home in Tucson near the end of last year and was thinking about retiring last February, but wanted to see the completion of the Mine-to-You project before leaving. She also would like to get a few more displays upstairs before leaving, and we hope that we can accommodate her on this matter. We wish her lots of success in all her future endeavors and we know that we will see her off and on over the years. Love you Jan!!!

Freeport McMoran has sent FAMMM a check for \$10,000 for a grant that we applied for last year. The money will be used for this year's outreach program and for new teacher kit identification books. We ordered the 1500 books, and they arrived this week. The Arizona Historical Society is recognized on the new books as our new administrator. Jan worked on that a few weeks ago to change the department in charge of the museum.

# COALITION TRIP - OCTOBER 23, 2010



To all my rockhound friends,

## **APACHE JUNCTION COALITION FIELD TRIP CLUB SPONSOR, APACHE JUNCTION ROCK AND GEM CLUB**

TRIP LEADER: HARRY ROBERT WARREN  
**rockharry@netscape.com** or 480-986-5852

What to collect? Lovely peach agate and fossils

MEETING PLACE; THE PAYSON MC DONALD'S, CORNER OF 87 and 260. Time 8:30 A.M. (people from White Mountain Club, you would find the opening at Exit 276 just before Sharp Creek). We will travel by caravan from Payson the 24 miles.

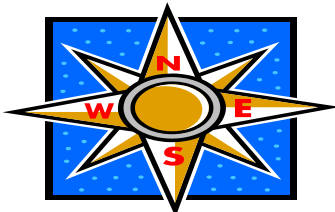
You will need high clearance for this trip and 95% of material will be on the surface but you might have to dig a little. The weather in the high country is beautiful this time of year and it is always invigorating to get out to see all the marvels of nature again. In the attachment you will find some fossils from last year. Some people in the past have found fabulous fossils. It is like looking for crystals, the more you look, the better your chance to find the ultimate specimen. It will be all fun and bring your lunch, a smile and see your friends from other clubs.

Be prudent in your collection of peach agate because we will be coming up again and again.

You will get a map and see my fossil samples at the meeting place.

With warm regards-----just plain Harry

# MSA FIELD TRIP - OCTOBER 9, 2010



The field trip to Jackrabbit wash, west of Phoenix and north of the town of Tonopah off I-10, is for Apache tears and agate, some in the form of small geodes. We will meet at Tonopah at 9:30 am.

The town is small—gas station, store, and truck stop (Shell) gas station. The restaurant just south of the Shell station is where we meet. Look for the yellow MSA sign. Hope to leave for the short drive to the agate and obsidian tear site before 10:00 a.m.

This will be our first desert Fall trip, and I am requesting a cooler day from the weather gurus! Tonopah is about 60 miles west of Phoenix and south of I-10. Any car can make the trip. If you have a carpool set up, the best place to meet, say at 8:00 a.m., is the Museum, as most club members know the location.

Take plenty of water and small digging tools; a screen, if you have one, for the Apache tears; small garden tools; and folding shovel and plastic can or bucket for agates. A spray bottle with tablespoon of Clorox in the water works good for cleaning potential gems and also hands.

If more info needed, call my home phone, 480-636-1251, prior to trip day or my cell phone THE DAY OF TRIP ONLY, 480-370-6716. See you at the Oct. 8th meeting.

Ed Nichols  
YeOlde Rockhound

## NEWS ABOUT OTHER EARTH SCIENCE CLUB MEETINGS IN METRO PHOENIX AREA

Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

*Meeting Place:* Desert Chapel Church, 462 N. Palo Verde Dr., Apache Junction, AZ 85120

*Day of Month:* 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., except May through September

*Club Website:* [www.ajrockclub.com](http://www.ajrockclub.com)

Arizona Leaverites Rock and Gem Society

*Meeting Place:* Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ, 85007

*Day of Month:* 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., except July and December

Maricopa Lapidary Society, Inc.

*Meeting Place:* Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ, 85007

*Day of Month:* 1st Monday 7 p.m., if 1st Monday is a holiday, meeting is 2nd Monday

For more information about Arizona Earth Science Clubs, visit the following link:  
<http://www.mines.az.gov/Publications/circ134clublist2009-2010.pdf>

**Meeting Minutes - Board of Governors  
June 11, 2010  
By Lois Splendoria, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by president Roger Deming at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Ed Nichols, Bob Holm, Betty Deming, Lynne and Terry Dyer, Dave Lay and Lois Splendoria.

It was decided to have the whole club vote on the 75-year pin designs. Bob Holm suggested putting the entries in the newsletter and have everybody vote on them at the September 2010 meeting. (*Lois' Note: Because of the size of the files, this would have made the newsletter too large to e-mail. The artwork was e-mailed to the members before the September meeting.*)

The board discussed new MSA membership cards. Roger will get a stamp made that looks like the current card. Roger will design the artwork on a business card-sized form and present the club with the bill.

The board discussed getting more new members. We also discussed possible advertisements for the newsletter. It was reported that Fred Thiele, the owner of Natural Expressions, Inc. in Gilbert, may be interested in placing an ad.

Ed said that he needed another key for the storage area and discussed getting two more keys made, one for Roger and one for the Dyers. We need more raffle minerals, and Lynne said that she has some minerals to donate to be used for the monthly raffle. We discussed getting Debra Long a CD tower for the CD's she is producing of the old newsletters.

Roger suggested donating empty ink cartridges, except for the Epson brand ones, so that they can be turned in at Staples in the club's name. He also suggested that the club get a Staples Rewards Card for the MSA, and he asked Betty to get him the club's tax number.

Ed talked about the spare case parts. Lynne suggested opening up the club's library cabinet before the meeting so people could look at the books. It was decided that we need extra keys for the library, one for Bob Holm and one for Lynne Dyer.

The board discussed the future of the Museum as it pertains to our meeting place. Ed said he thought that the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation had already started a legal action.

Since there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting Minutes - Board of Governors  
September 10, 2010  
By Lois Splendoria, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by president Roger Deming at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Ed Nichols, Bob Holm, Betty Deming, Lynne and Terry Dyer, Dave Lay and Lois Splendoria. The minutes of the June 11th meeting were approved.

We discussed the 75-year pin. Roger said 300 cost about 70 cents each and suggested selling them for \$3 each. There is a price break on a quantity of 300; any amount lower than that would cost \$1.75/pin. We voted unanimously to order these. We discussed how to vote on the pin entries at the September 10th general meeting.

Ed said that Frank Burns is no longer interested in being the field trip leader next year. Ed said he could continue but sometimes gets busy. Roger remarked about getting in to collect at Wickenburg with a fishing license. Lynne suggested that the GPS coordinates be put in the directions for the field trips, and also specific intersection directions. Bob Holm belongs to a lapidary club in Glendale and wants to post our field trip information for that club to get people to go on the trips.

We discussed putting a notice in the next newsletter about selling ads for the newsletter. Lois will put a notice in the October newsletter and will run it every month.

We briefly discussed the purpose of belonging to the Rocky Mountain Federation and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Lois said that the website addresses are on the last page of the newsletter.

We discussed the project of putting the old club newsletters on CD's in PDF (portable document format—which can be read with Adobe Reader). Lynne said she has some old newsletters from 1957 through the 1970's. Ed brought up the fact that we are going to need a new newsletter editor in 2011. He suggested hiring a Geology student to do the club newsletter and paying for their books for their academic books.

Since there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Chairman's Letter**  
**By Ray Grant**

***Reprinted from the Summer 2010 Newsletter  
of the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation***

First, let me give you a little history and then a proposal. The A. L. Flagg Foundation for the Advancement of Earth Sciences was formed in 1962. (Note: We can celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 when the state celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.)

In 1988 the name was changed to the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation (The Mining and Mineral are reversed in our name because of a communication problem in 1988.) At that time, no other changes were made to the Articles of Incorporation. Many people I meet still call us the Flagg Foundation (easier to say than AMMMF).

Since the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum will cease to exist when it becomes the Centennial Museum, and another organization, the Friends of the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, exists, I propose that we change our name back to the original A. L. Flagg Foundation.

At the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, my plan is to pass a resolution (if a majority agrees) to change the name back to the Flagg Foundation, with a part of the motion to have a second vote on the name change at our annual meeting in January, so people have time to think it over.

At present things at the Museum will generally remain the same as they were under the Department of Mines. The Historical Society and the Centennial Commission will be raising the funds for the changes to be made to the Museum. When the final renovation plans are finished, we can determine what the Foundation needs to do next.

One change that will occur is that Jan Rasmussen will retire as Curator sometime in the future. Her expertise will be greatly missed. If there is anyone that you know, who would be qualified to fill the Mining and Mineral Museum Curator position, please have him or her contact Jan.

Family Day will be on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation will have our usual mineral sale. Stop by the Museum to see some of the interesting specimens for sale. We can also use a few people to help with the sale. Bill Yedowitz will be organizing the sale, and Darrel Dodd will organize dealer spaces for the day.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** In view of all that is going on with our hobby right now, I thought our club members would find the above article interesting. - Lois Splendoria

**LOIS SPLENDORIA**

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA  
1502 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Address Correction Requested**



**EXCHANGE EDITORS:**  
Please send all newsletters to the return address listed above.

First Class Mail

**Mineralogical Society of Arizona**  
**Founded 1935**  
**A Non Profit Organization**  
[www.azminerals.com](http://www.azminerals.com)

**Purpose:** To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

**Meetings:** 7:00 p.m. at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ, *on the second Friday of the month, September through June (except February, which is the third Friday).*

**Dues:** Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to:

**Betty Deming**  
**2922 West Claremont**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85017-1629**

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<b>UPCOMING MEETINGS</b>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	OCTOBER 8, 2010
<b>FRIDAY</b>	NOVEMBER 12, 2010
<b>FRIDAY</b>	DECEMBER 10, 2010

**AFFILIATIONS**



[www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)