

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Volume 75, Issue 6 Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona



SUMMER ISSUE 2009



NEXT MEETING:
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009
AT 7:00 PM

MEETING SPEAKER - STAN CELESTIAN



The next meeting will be our last until September. We hope you can make it, we always have the most informative and entertaining speakers, and are looking forward to hearing from Stan Celestian, retired after teaching at Glendale Community College for 31 years. He currently teaches part-time at GCC as well as teaches Geology at ASU West. His current project is to prepare a fully online version of Physical Geology and Lab using PowerPoints that are rich in geology images that he's taken over the years. The talk on June 12th will highlight trips he and his wife Susan have made to southern California including Death Valley, the Algodones Dunes, Salton Sea, collecting hanksite and halite at Trona and he will also give an update on collecting at Amethyst Hill.

And now, a word from our President.....

Hello, everybody, I hope you have a great summer and get to do some rock collecting. See you at the June meeting.

Lois Splendoria



ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR

NUMBER 120

By Raymond Grant

Last month I wrote about paramelaconite, a very unusual and rare copper mineral, that exists because of the two-oxidation states of copper. Here is another mineral that is dependent on the oxidation state of an element. Actually, it is the story of an Arizona mineral that that was named Arizonite, but was later discredited.

Arizonite was first described in 1909 and since then has been a valid mineral a couple of times and not a valid mineral a couple of times. Today, the name arizonite is not an official mineral. A mineral with the composition of the original arizonite exists and is called psuedorutile.

The mineral ilmenite has the formula $Fe_3Ti_3O_9$. In ilmenite, the iron has a plus 2 charge. The three irons would have a total charge of plus 6. The formula for psuedorutile and that given originally for arizonite is $Fe_2Ti_3O_9$.

Here the iron has been oxidized to the plus 3 state, so only two irons are needed to get the plus 6 charge. The place in the mineral structure where the third iron would be is vacant.

The samples of arizonite were collected by F.L. Hess of the United States Geological Survey from a pegmatite 25 miles southeast of Hackberry in Mohave County, and seemed to be an altered ilmenite. Unfortunately, the exact locality is not known. The specimens are in the Smithsonian collection. The mineral psuedorutile comes from altered ilmenite in sand from South Neptune Island, South Australia.

Why isn't the mineral named arizonite as was originally proposed? Several studies were made on the original Arizona sample and they determined it was a mixture of hematite, anatase, ilmenite, and rutile and not a distinct mineral. Was it just luck that this mixture of four minerals had the exact composition of psuedorutile or did the studies of arizonite in 1943 and 1950 miss the real arizonite or did they find the sample was really a mixture?

Whatever the answer, the mineral that once was named after our state is not a real mineral according to the present day list of minerals.



TO ALL THE FANTASTIC
FATHERS OUT THERE, WE LOVE
YOU AND THANK YOU ~
ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST!



Happy Anniversary

By Heather Hill

Since volunteering for the position of newsletter editor last year, I've put out a dozen issues, you're reading the 12th. I enjoy the duties very much although some of you know I've been heard to exclaim that I want to throw the computer out the window at times as the job can be frustrating. I missed the technology boat, well, not so much as I simply chose not to climb aboard...not a boat person, really. It's not the content, it's the formatting I'm still teaching myself & trying to exercise patience with. I wish that I would've signed up for technology courses back in high school, where the computer class was a dark room with a green glow from the large computers that sat upon rows of desks; my geekier friends who jumped on the boat earn six figures a year nowadays....ha, who's a geek now? No, I prefer to hike my way through life on terra firma.

Don't get me wrong, computers are wonderful inventions, absolutely amazing to say the least, and in so many, many ways have made my life much easier. I have a *lot* of respect for the Rockhound Record Editors of the past who created newsletters on typewriters...and when cut and paste meant you actually cut paper with scissors and used actual paste from a jar to put a newsletter together.

Still, a lot of hard work goes into this newsletter and I do get exasperated with formatting issues I'm not trained to troubleshoot. For example, I worked on the Wyoming in July Coalition Trip info and had it in the April newsletter but it ultimately didn't make it in the final copy even though I thought it had, a formatting discrepancy wiped out the whole article. Or, when emailing it becomes a project for reasons I am also not trained to identify. All in all, though, I am truly proud of the way the newsletter is looking. I could not do it whatsoever without the contributions of Lois Splendoria, our President, an excellent guide; Ed Nichols, Betty Deming and Ray Grant too, are all wonderful and invaluable, I just don't know what I'd do without them. They really give the newsletter it's substance.

With that being said, I hope you liked learning about the monthly birthstones I wrote about in the past newsletters, it's time for me to find new topics to entertain and inform you with. I have some ideas about adding a new feature or two which you will see in the September issue and I hope to come up with some good articles for you to read. I will be taking a break along with the rest of the club for the summer; in late August you will receive the next issue and we'll see you all in September for our next meeting on the 11th.

In the meantime, please stay healthy and safe, have some fun, and many blessings to you all.

Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation Membership

Your membership in the Foundation will help us to continue supporting improvements at the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum.

For \$25.00 you can be a member and you will entitled to:

- ❖ A one-year subscription to the Foundation newsletter
 - ❖ A 10% discount at the Museum Store for one year
 - ❖ An invitation to special events such as mineral sales, field trips and programs
 - ❖ A discount for Foundation- sponsored events. Members pay only \$30.00 to attend the Seventeenth Annual Symposium
 - ❖ Free Museum admission
-

I would like to be a member and have enclosed \$25.00

Make checks payable to: Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

**Send to:
Arizona Mineral and Mining
Museum Foundation
P.O. Box 41834
Mesa, AZ 85274**

MSA FIELD TRIP INFO

There is no field trip for June, July or August. Ed Nichols said he may bring some samples from the recent May Field Trip to Jacob Lake to the June meeting.



COALITION TRIP PLANS

WYOMING IN JULY

The White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club – Show Low, AZ, will sponsor this trip as part of the Coalition of Rock Clubs of Arizona.

This trip will prove to be one of your collecting trips of a lifetime, as beautiful scenery and many mineral and fossil sites will be available. Plan for several days if possible.

The following are the particulars:

Arrive: in Kemmerer, WY on July 12, 2009 (southwest part of the state)
Rockhounds and guests are invited to an “open room” at the Fossil Butte Motel on July 12th between 4 & 7 p.m. Don’t know the room number yet but you can bet you’ll spot it. This get-together will give us all a chance for introductions and to sign-in get your name on the list for a drawing later on. Bring snacks if you can.

Meet: July 13th at Creative Creations, 821 So. Main (antique, fossil & rock store)

Time: 8:00 A.M. Wyoming time

Vehicle: 4 x 4 high clearance is preferred but sharing a ride may possibly be arranged if you don’t have this kind of vehicle

What You Will Find: The choice is up to you. On the list so far, is:

1. **Fish Fossils** at the quarries (featured on TV’s “Cash & Treasures” show)
Tools for “fishing” will be provided if you do not have the correct ones.
2. **Star Crinoids** (near the quarries)
3. **Blue Forest Petrified Wood** (awesome wood)
4. **Wyoming Blizzard Rock** (geo-thermo formation of druze quartz)
5. **Jade Slicks** (a beautiful green)

6. **Gold Panning** (*what is gold going for now?*) With each sign-up for gold panning event, you will also receive a GP Kit to take home with you. The kit includes panning sand with gold in it, 10" gold panning pan, tweezers, ½ oz. vial to put your gold in, and a "How to Pan for Gold" book.
7. **Sweetwater Agate** – not the little pebbles you might know about, but agate still in the host rock. Absolutely fantastic – it's fluorescent! Brilliant shades of green, and host rock fluoresces peach and orange colors. Sizes of specimens depend on how big of a piece you can carry.

These sites are confirmed, additional sites may be added as time passes. You will be able to pick the place you want to go on a particular day as long as at least 5 (five) other rockhounds are interested in the same place on that day.

*The Sweetwater Agate, Jade Slicks, and the **addition of Wyoming Opal** have been combined into one event. Also, the Fish Fossil and Crinoid events are ½ day separate events.*

Fee: Each "event" (collecting area) will cost \$60 per person – cash, check or credit card will be accepted. This fee will cover the cost of a guide for each area who will help direct you to the best.

The BLM in Wyoming has no problem with rockhounds collecting as long as you adhere to the 25 pounds plus one rock per person (this does not apply in the fish quarries). Use reasonable judgment. They ask that you leave the land the way you found it, or better.

Accommodations: will be up to you to secure. May we suggest:

- Energy Inn (307) 877-6901
- Fossil Butte Motel (307) 877-3996
- There is a new motel opened April 20th, the Best Western Fossil Country Inn & Suites (307) 877-3388, this may be the best answer to lodging.
- Public campground – tents only
- Camping at Fossil Quarry will be allowed. Must check in with our host first.

For RVers: (*Please know that the RV Parks will not commit a space for you; there's a lot of ongoing construction and they rent the spaces to the construction workers first*)

- Riverside RV Park (307) 877-6634
- Foothills RV Park same as above, (307) 877-6634

For more info about the area:

Kemmerer Chamber of Commerce (307) 877-9761

or go to their website: www.kemmererchamber.com

Or email: chamber@hamsfork.net

If you'd like to go on this trip you should make your reservations NOW. There is ongoing construction in the area and by spring, the rooms / spaces will be filled unless you've secured your own space.

What to bring: A good attitude, a bright smile, rock hunting gear which might include buckets to put your specimens in, old newspapers to wrap them in first, shovel, picks, a piece of re-bar to stick into the ground until you hear the “clink” of a piece of wood, hat, sunscreen, chairs, etc., a small food / drink cooler to take lunches into sites, plenty of drinking water, and a UV light if you have one. If you belong to a rock club, please wear your name badge.

Rocks: Bring some to share, trade or sell to other rockhounds from different areas.

Our host in Kemmerer is George Putnam of Wyoming Fossils, LLC (Creative Creations). He is working very hard to provide everyone with interesting and great places – all within an approximate 100-150 mile radius of Kemmerer. George’s specialty is the fish fossils. In the quarry, he will show you how to find, prepare, clean and preserve your fossils. In his store, you will find specimens from around the world and some from out of this world...antiques are available also.

His website is www.wyomingfossils.com

His email address is listed on the website. If you email him, please use the **Subject line: Wyo In July**

The average temperature in Kemmerer in July is 65-70 degrees at an elevation of 7,400 feet. ***How much better than this can it get?***

For more information, you can contact Eunice McQuiston of the White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club, Show Low, Arizona at (928) 536-7209, or email her at rocknglow@frontiernet.net using the same subject line as above: Wyo in July.



ROCK SHOWS

JUNE 19-21, 2009 TOMBSTONE OLD WEST MERCHANTS & MINERS

Tombstone Territories RV Resort
2111 E. Hwy 82, Tombstone, AZ
Hours: Fri, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4
Dealers Contact:

Betty at Rhinestone Cowboy,
P.O. Box 414 Tombstone, AZ 85638
520-457-9505



**DMMR BOARD OF GOVERNORS
4TH QUARTER MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009, 10:00 A.M.**
DMMR CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR,
1502 W. WASHINGTON, PHOENIX

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that the Board of Governors of DMMR will hold a quarterly meeting open to the public. Information concerning the board's agenda for the meeting may be obtained by calling 602-771-1602 or 1-800-446-4259.

Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Jacqueline Hall, Administrative Assistant, 602-771-1602.

Requests should be made
as early as possible.



**JULY 31, AUGUST 1-2, 2009 PRESCOTT
GEM, MINERAL AND JEWELRY SHOW**
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Activity
Center

3700 Willow Creek Rd. Prescott, AZ

Sponsored By:

Prescott Gem & Mineral Club

Hours: Fri., Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4

Admission: \$2, children 12 & under free with
paid adult

Parking: Free
Show chairperson: Gail Ferguson
Dealers contact: Larry Jackson
P.O. Box 345
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
928-636-9188
Lpjack65@cableone.net
Website:
www.prescottgemmineral.org



**IF YOU'RE TRAVELING AROUND THIS
SUMMER:**

JUNE 2009:

6--DELTA, COLORADO: Delta
County Rock Wranglers; Heddles
Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison
River Dr.; Sat. 9-5; free admission;
dealers, exhibits, door prizes, family
activities; contact Harry W. Masinton,
(970) 856-3861

6-7--COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO:
Annual show; North Idaho Rock Club;
Kootenai County Fairgrounds and
Event Center, corner of Kathleen and
Government Way, one block east of
Hwy. 95; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; contact
Bev Bockman, (208) 773-5384;
e-mail: bockbb@aol.com

6-7--SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA: "The Great San
Francisco Crystal Fair"; Pacific Crystal
Guild; Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A,
Laguna and Marina Blvd.; Sat. 10-6,
Sun. 10-4; adults \$6, children under
12 free; gems, jewelry, crystals,
beads, psychics; contact Jerry
Tomlinson, (415) 383-7837;
e-mail: sfxtl@earthlink.net;
Web site: www.crystalfair.com

June cont'd.....

12-14--ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 300 San Pedro N.E.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

13-14--BUTTE, MONTANA: Show; Butte Mineral & Gem Club; Civic Center Annex, 1340 Harrison Ave.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Pete Knudsen, (406) 496-4395

26-28--SANDY (SALT LAKE CITY), UTAH: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; South Towne Exposition Center/Exhibit Hall 5, 9575 S. State St.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com



JULY 2009:

17-19--REEDSPORT, OREGON: Annual Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary Show; Lower Umpqua Gem & Lapidary Society; Reedsport community Bldg., 415 Winchester Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, demonstrators, spin the wheel, silent auction, door prizes, displays, raffle; contact Bill Hendrickson, (541) 271-6816, or Bruce Moon, (541) 271-0166; e-mail: bamoonman7@msn.com

JULY-AUGUST 2009:

30-2--BILLINGS, MONTANA: Federation show; Billings Gem & Mineral Club; Montana Trade Center, Holliday Inn-Grand Montana, 5500 Midland Rd.; Thu. 10-5, Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; contact Doug True, (406) 670-0506; e-mail: dtruefossils@yahoo.com

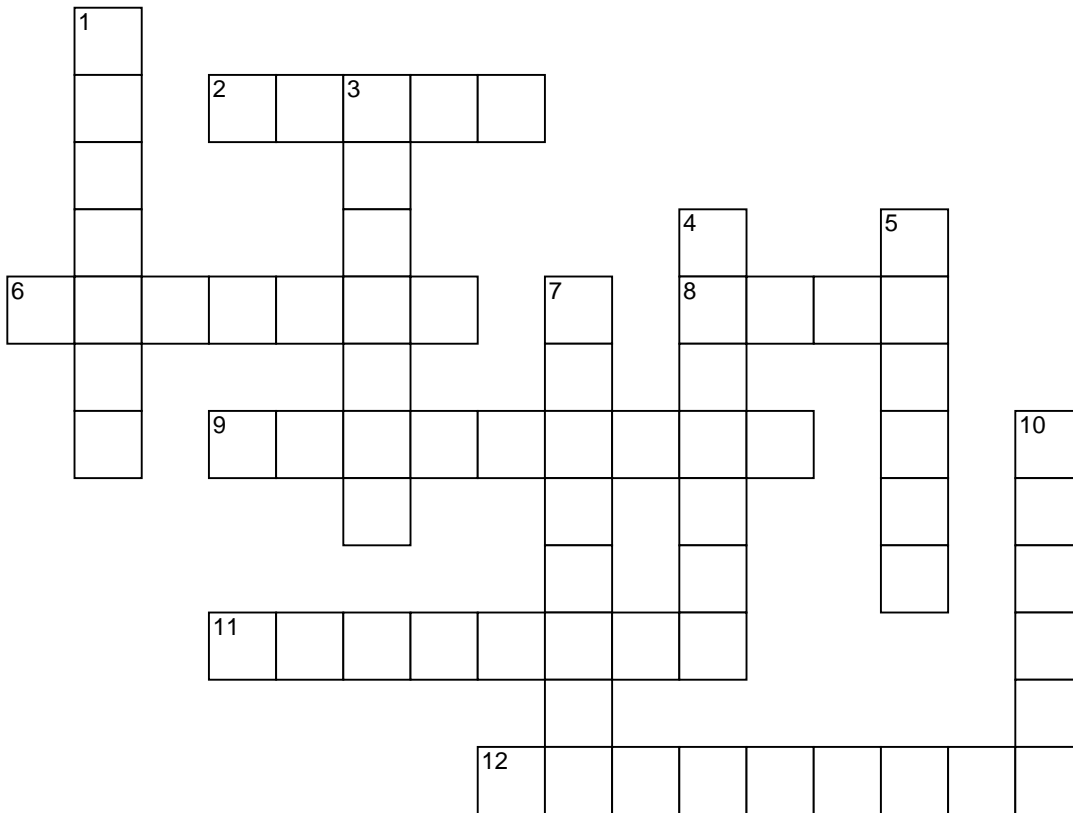
19-21--NEWPORT, OREGON: Annual show, "We're Rockin' the Coast in Newport!"; Oregon Coast Agate Club; Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 633 N.E. 3rd St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4:30; adults \$2, students \$1, kids under 6 free; dealers, demonstrators, kids' activities, door prizes, raffle prizes; contact Juli Dahl, (541) 563-7495; e-mail: jdahl2@peak.org

19-21--SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Show; Gem Faire Inc.; Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

25-28--PRINEVILLE, OREGON: 64th annual show, "Prineville Rock Hound Pow Wow"; Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow Association; Crook County Fairgrounds; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, field trips, displays, auction, obsidian, jade, petrified wood, agate, jasper, thunder eggs, faceting rough; contact Rebecca Buss, (541) 546-9473; e-mail: rebecca@rebeccasrecreations.com; Web site: www.prinevillerockhoundpowwow.org

26-28--GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

Igneous Rocks



Tgr tlpvgf 'y kj 'r gto kuukp'htqo "www.rocksandminerals4u.com

ACROSS

- 2** the name given to molten rock from volcanos
- 6** a vent for extrusive igneous rocks
- 8** the common name for magma flowing from a volcano
- 9** igneous rocks that form from magma that reaches the surface of the earth
- 11** a light colored igneous rock with high silica content, explosive eruptions
- 12** igneous rocks that form below the surface of the earth and cool slowly

DOWN

- 1** rocks that come from the mantle
- 3** a common intrusive igneous rock
- 4** one of the eight basic rock forming minerals
- 5** an igneous rock with a low silica content that flows easily
- 7** volcanic glass with no crystalline structure, breaks with very sharp edges
- 10** a very light igneous rock, honeycombed volcanic glass



WE HOPE THAT
ALL OF OUR
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS ENJOY A
SAFE & HAPPY
SUMMER!

SEE YOU IN JUNE,
THEN IN
SEPTEMBER, FOR
OUR NEXT
MEETINGS.

MSA CONTACT INFO:

President:
Lois Splendoria
chimes@extremezone.com
602-571-4577

Vice President
& Field Trip Coordinator
(Club Trips):
Ed Nichols
epidote555@yahoo.com
(480) 636-1251

Treasurer and Coalition Field Trip
Coordinator: Betty Deming
(602) 242-1553
bd_mac2003@yahoo.com

**Secretary: Position vacant.
Interested?
Contact Lois Splendoria**

Newsletter Editor:
Heather Hill-Oliverson
sagegirl777@juno.com

Mineral Curator:
John McLaughlin
(623) 979-5246

Librarian/Door Prizes/Hospitality:
Bob Holm (623) 247-1325

Refreshments: Lynne Dyer
(480) 396-2393

**MSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS:
LYNNE DYER, TERRY DYER
BOB HOLM**

**HEATHER HILL
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
1502 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

www.azminerals.com



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Exchange Editors: Please send all newsletters to the return address listed above.



**Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935**

A Non Profit Organization

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: Adults – Single Adults \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) -\$2.50, Families & Couples - \$20.00.

**Mail dues to Betty Deming at
2922 W. Claremont, Phoenix, AZ 85017**

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



www.amfed.org

www.rmfmms.org

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