

Rockwood Rockhound News

January 15, 2009 Meeting



Land of Fire & Ice

Claudia Uccello will be presenting a slide show about her trip to Iceland. This fascinating island is located right smack dab on the Atlantic rift where the North American and Eurasian plates are moving apart. As one might imagine, this creates some very interesting geology.

RECAP OF THE NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING

In November we watched a DVD, which we checked out of the MidWest Federation, on Gemology called *Gemstones from A to Z*. We learned about many of the precious stones that we all admire so much. It was quite interesting to learn how their names were derived, how to identify them and where to find them. The MWF has quite a collection of DVDs, videos and slideshows that cover just about any topic of interest to a rockhound.



The Christmas Party Was a Great Success!

We enjoyed another Christmas Party at the home of Dianne and Andy Larson. Potluck dinners are a culinary art that is slowly disappearing since everyone is so busy and one is able to pick up most anything at the supermarket. It is a shame because potlucks are so much fun and the food is delicious. There weren't many leftovers!

After eating most of us contributed a thought, a song, a poem. We sang Carols and donated food to the Circle of Concern. It was pleasant, traditional and just plain fun. Thanks, Andy & Dianne, for letting us use your home. Happy New Year!

Dates to Remember

January 15, 2009

Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Daniel Boone Library.

January 17, 2009

The St. Louis Science Center will open an exhibition on *A T-Rex Named Sue* in the Exploradome

February 13-15, 2009

Cabin Fever Show in Kirkwood, MO at 111 South Geyer Road, 63122. (email cabinfever-prod@aol.com)



so



*We are sorry to report that Mary Parrott is not doing well. She is now having to go to dialysis several times a week. In case anyone would like to send a card, Mary & Alan s address is: 14212 Spring Dr.
DeSoto, MO 63020*

This past year Dianne & Andy Larson s sons were having the trip of a lifetime as they hiked from Alaska through South America. Now they are back to their jobs. We received this note from Dianne:

Hi you prayers, This is a call for your help in praying Luke through this job. He just arrived in Kabul and will be working security from the embassy, driving trucks, accompanying convoys and responding to emergencies. Please pray for his physical and spiritual safety. This is a 63 day job after which they get a break. His belongings did not make it so pray that they might although he had such messed up travel that it is a hard stretch to think he may ever get his belongings. His address is Luke Larson,Armor Group LGF, APO-AE 09356 Thanks in advance for your prayers on his behalf. Dianne/Andy

Luke is also being called back into the Rangers and will probably be heading to Afghanistan.

The Ten Commandments of Rock Collecting

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's rocks unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by squeezing, biting or pushing.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of a mineral violently; for sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above a neighbor's head on a field trip, lest thou are willing to dig him out.



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Thou shalt protect thine eyes, hands, feet so they may enjoy many field trips with thee.

Thou shalt not encroach upon they neighbor's diggings lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.

Thou shalt not break "The Old Miner's Rule." While a miner's tools, equipment and personal belongings remain in or next to a digging, that is his spot until he relinquishes it.

(Source: "The Ten Commandments of Mineral Collecting" via *The Rockboulder* 5/04 & "Old Miner's Rule" from the *Tumble Rumble* 7/04 via *Gem and Mineral Hunters of Virginia* 11/07)



From Our Secretary

MINUTES OF ROCKWOOD GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING -
November 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Dianne. She read the minutes of Oct. as Marianne was absent. Bob Morse gave the treasurer's report.

The Christmas potluck was discussed. Dianne had talked to the Schlichters and Joyce Erard about compatible dates. It was decided to have it on Sat. Dec. 6th from 12-2. Each is to bring something in the way of a food for the Circle Pantry. Also each is to be ready to share something like a fond memory, poem, song, healthy joke etc. No one is to stay away because this is threatening. You can not share if you choose. A sign up sheet was presented for the potluck and others not there may just call Dianne or come and surprise us all!

Bob Morse has graciously consented to continue to represent us at the regular SLAESC meetings. They meet every other month throughout the year at various member's homes. The show committee will meet in Dec.

Dianne shared some items from the MWF newsletter. There was a reminder of the Rock show this weekend and the change of location to the Viking. Dan Weinrich, our Oct. speaker and former teen member of the club will be a vendor at this show.

There were 6 in attendance at the meeting and Bill won the door prize. The formal meeting was concluded.

Respectively submitted by Dianne Larson, Sec. pro tem

the program was a video from the MW library on the Colorful World of Gemstones. It was a good reminder of all the stones that are out there, particularly those used in art and jewelry.



Photo by
C. Uccello

Hints & Tips from Sparky, the Rockhound

Never go hunting alone--take a thermos of water--small first aid kit--never lick a rock to see what color it is--always use your hammer or pick to turn over a rock (who knows what danger lurks beneath) wear sunglasses--head cover, sunscreen--wear sufficient clothing (jeans, jacket, no

shorts)--better be save than sorry. *Futon County Rockhounds via: Gem City Rock News 12/08*



**Dues
are due!**

\$15 single \$20 family



NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

**Trivia Vug**

by R. J. Harris

- The Bingham Canyon copper mine in Utah is the biggest manmade hole on Earth. It is more than half a mile deep and 2.5 miles across. An astronaut can see this hole from the space shuttle with his bare eyes.
- Montana is the sixth largest coal producer in the USA. Ninety-five percent of their coal is used to generate electricity.
- Pegmatite dykes in the granite are responsible for the white streak in the foreheads of Presidents Washington and Lincoln on Mt. Rushmore.
- On the average Old Faithful gushes 8,400 gallons of boiling water per eruption.
- Bryce Canyon's colorful hoodoos are sculpted by snow over thousands of years.

(Rockbuster News 10/07) Brought to our attention by Barbara Sky Rockwood Gem & Mineral

A Mineral That Was as Good as Gold

by Homer Esbbaugh,

Random Facts Curator

Once upon a time, a mineral we now consider common was “worth its weight in gold”—literally! that mineral is **halite**, commonly known as salt. NaCl. It is a critical nutrient to all animal life. In fact, it is so important to survival that one of our four tastes was developed to detect it. (We can actually *taste* only four things; sweet, sour, bitter and salty. *Flavor*, what we usually think of as “taste,” is actually a combination of taste and aroma.)

The phrase “not worth his salt” comes from the ancient Greek, when salt was used to pay for slaves. Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt. In fact our word for monetary payment for work, “salary,” comes from the Latin for salt—*sal*. Our word “salad” (from the Latin “*salter*”) comes from the Roman habit of salting their fresh greens.

Today many town names reflect their origins as sites of ancient or medieval salt mines or salt springs. “Wich” or “wytch” is the Old English word for “brine well” (what we now call a salt spring) is seen in names such as Northwich & Middlewich. The German word for salt, “Salz,” appears in Salzburg (“salt city”), a large city located on the Salzach (meaning saltwater or brine) River.

As with many precious materials ancient lore grew around salt. It was so precious that the spilling salt was deemed by the ancient Romans to be the work of the Devil. Salt thrown over the left shoulder (where evil lurks) was believed to drive the Devil away.

Halite crystal clusters can be found at Searles Lake, California, where collecting is permitted only once per year. This halite is known for its unique rosy pink color from the halophytic bacteria trapped inside.

Source: MWF News 11/08 via: The



Had milk... want beer.

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



Go, Dog, Go!

