

Sedona Red Rocking News

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

PO Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340
www.sedonagemandmineral.org

Next Club Meeting – Apr 15, 7:00 pm

General SGMC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sedona Library, 3250 White Bear Road in West Sedona.



April, 2014

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Member American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies

Member Arizona Coalition of Rock
Hound Clubs

Newsletter Editor: Ray Topp
Email: radio@rconnect.com

President's Message

From Pat McMahan – SGMC President

I am very excited about what is happening to our club. Our meetings are more fun. The great questions you ask of our program speakers show your inquisitive nature and desire to learn more. The rocks you have brought to our meetings share your passion with all of us and get us all pumped up. Our raffles have been the best in years and give those of us that can't get out in the field a chance to add to our collections. Our business meetings have been shorter, and I hope informative and interesting. I think our cookies even taste better. We want our meetings to be something we all look forward to coming to.

With Ted Schultz as your Field Trip Leader, we are having amazing field trips. Be sure and read his report on our last trip, where our field trippers went to completely new areas at Burro Creek where we collected colorful purple and other colored agate – awesome stuff. Ted has more winning trips scheduled. Becky Helgesen has fun classes planned, including silversmithing, lapidary and more. She is organized, and is knocking her socks off to provide some of our best classes ever. Ray Topp is doing an excellent job of recording all this fun stuff and presenting it in our newsletter.

Our board is leading our club through all this. Thanks to Evelina Dunton, our program speaker in April is Susan Celestian. Former Curator of the Mining and Mineral Museum in Phoenix, we are honored to have Susan's talent and expertise. She is an avid collector of fossils here in our state. She is an expert in her field.

So, we have these and many other things happening in our great club. I promise you that the more involved you become, the more fun you will have with your club experience. As your president, I am available any time to talk to you about how we can make our experience together even better. I can be reached at 928-300-8333 or agates920@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted!

Here's an opportunity to get a job. The pay is not too great, but the benefits are really something. Here is a chance to get to know club members, express your creative talents and have a lot of fun. Our SGMC Show at the Sedona Red Rock High School in October needs new fresh talent. We need you!

The following areas are open, but only for a limited time, so you'd better hurry.

Table Chairman: Contact table rental company and arrange payment for the tables. Using our prepared floor plan, guide them so tables are placed properly. Direct new dealers to their tables. Be there when we close the show for table removal.

Sign Chairman: Have a party and draw signs (about 20 will be needed). These will be like garage sale signs on poster board. Place the signs and sandwich boards out on Friday Evening or early Saturday morning, on as much private property as possible – asking property owners for their permission. I have some ideas to make this simple. Pick up signs on Sunday afternoon.

Show Case Display Chairman: Contact club members to find those who want to show off their rock collections. Help set up cases for the show. We only need about 10 cases filled.

Raffle Chairman: This is a very fun thing to do. Announce raffles, draw winners, sell tickets, smile and look good. Don't worry, you will have lots of help. Specimens are already labeled and sorted for each hour.

Club Event Chairman: Organize the Annual Club Picnic in June, the Christmas Party in December, and the Ice Cream Social in September. Our club members always pull together to help out with the small details, they just need direction.

You will have help and direction for any and all of these fun positions. Just imagine how cool this will look on your resume.

April Program

From Evelina Dunton – Program Chairperson

The Sedona Gem and Mineral Club will meet on April 18th at 7:00 p.m., in the Sedona Public Library for a presentation by Sue Celestian titled, *Fossils of the Devonian Martin Formation, Central Arizona*.

Celestian grew up in central and southern Indiana. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio and a Master's Degree in Geology from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Celestian taught Physical, Historical and Paleontological geology as well as the geology of Arizona. Celestian was the Education Curator as well as Curator of Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum in Phoenix from 1997-2007.

Celestian's interests include small-scale mining, mineral and fossil collecting, traveling, jewelry making, drawing, and stained glass; all of which reflect her passion for the study of Earth's history and Earth-shaping processes. During the break, Celestian and her husband, Stan will be happy to identify any fossils of unknown origin that club members bring in.

The SGMC meeting will also feature member displays, closing with the monthly raffle of some great rock and mineral specimens. Visitors, member guests, and prospective new members are always welcome.

Field Trips

From Ted Schultz – Field Trip Chairperson

Burro Creek Field Trip

On Saturday, March 22nd, thirteen members of the SGMC departed for Burro Creek. Burro Creek is next to Nothing. There is nothing between Wickenburg and Wikieup except Nothing and that's exactly where we turned to begin our field trip adventure.



Ready to Go!

Our Prez Pat led us on an eight mile trail of challenging forest roads. We even had to stop and build up the road before we could proceed forward. What true rockhounds will go through to get to the good stuff.



Re-Building the Road

Suicide Hill

Once we got to our final destination, we began a half mile hike up a wash to Suicide Hill, aptly named for climbing up it – or down it. Burro Creek is one of the premier destinations for Arizona collectors and is famous among rockhound sites throughout the country. Although pastelite can be found in abundance at Burro Creek, the most famous is the Burro Creek purple agate, a rare and prized variety.



Down We Go

Unexplored Area

On the remote hillsides of this area, everyone had a chance to find some great specimens of both pastelite and purple agate. The weather was great, the company was great, and the scenery was incredible. It was apparent that this location had probably not been explored before. Maybe if we keep this location a secret, we can enjoy some great Burro Creek specimens for years to come. I look forward to a return visit.



Rockhound's Bonanza

Coalition Field Trip for Petrified Wood, Dobell Ranch, Holbrook, Arizona

Hosted by: Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

What for: Petrified Wood

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Where: Meet in the parking lot of Jim Gray's Petrified Wood Co., 147 Hwy 180 E, Holbrook, AZ at 9:00 a.m. We'll sign waivers and leave promptly at 9:15 a.m. for the Dobell Ranch, which is about 15 miles further. Roads are paved right to the collecting site. If you wish to visit Jim Gray's Rock Shop, it is open at 7:30 a.m. and has a wonderful display and selection of gems and minerals to see and purchase. Coming from Flagstaff, take Exit 286 in Holbrook, turn right and proceed through town, over the railroad bridge, and about 1/2 mile further to the junction of Highway 180 East. Jim Gray's is on the southeast corner.



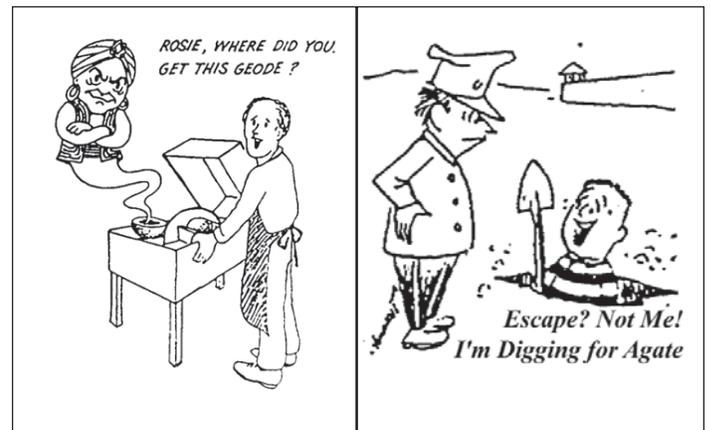
What We'll Find: The Dobell Ranch and Museum is on the site of the original entrance into the Petrified Forest National Park. The property is directly adjacent the Park and is one of the few remaining places where you can still legally collect petrified wood. Owners Tonya and Gordon Dobell will give us collecting instructions upon arrival. Make sure you take time to visit their free museum on-site.

Fee: There will be a \$28.00 fee for a full 5 gallon bucket (which can hold approximately 80 pounds of petrified wood). Please bring cash. You will have the opportunity to pay for extra buckets, if you wish.

What to Bring: 5 gallon buckets, and collecting tools. There is both surface collecting and digging for the petrified wood. You may wish to bring water and lunch, depending on how long you'll be collecting.

Bad Weather: In case of rain or snow in the Holbrook area on April 25th or 26th, the trip will be cancelled. Please pay attention to the Internet weather sites or your local radio or TV.

Trip Leader: Ted Schultz 651-214-7532 (Verizon Cell), 928-284-0415 (Home) or email tedschultzjr@aol.com





**Sedona Gem & Mineral Club
Membership Application**
(please print)

Name ↑

Address ↑

City ↑

State ↑

Zip ↑

Phone Number ↑

Email Address ↑

Membership Desired *(please check one):*

Individual Membership – \$15.00

Family Membership – \$25.00

Junior (9-18) Membership – \$5.00

For a family membership, list all names below: ↓

How should the names read on the badge(s): ↓

How would you like to receive the club newsletter?

Email *(color)* -or- Postal Service *(printed in B&W)*

Do we have your permission to share your personal information *(address, phone number, email)* **with other club members only?**

Yes No

Please mail this application *(or bring it to a club meeting)*, with your dues to:

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club
PO Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340

For questions please call: Marge Schwartz (membership) at: 928-203-0356 or Email: bschwar13@msn.com

Classifieds & Sales

Buy - Trade - Sell



SGMC Club Hats



Years ago, the club purchased black hats with the SGMC Club patch attached. Just a little history: the gentlemen who was in charge of purchasing these hats was from back east and wasn't aware of how hot it got here in Arizona – and how black attracts the heat.

The board of directors is asking for your help in locating the extra patches that were made up to be placed on the hats. If you have any information as to where these extra patches might be located, please contact one of the board members.

You have an opportunity to own one of the club hats – they are available for purchase at \$7.00 at the general monthly meetings.

You Might Be a Rockhound If...

- You've been found guilty of trespassing on BLM land. The judge sentences you to 10 years' hard labor breaking rocks. You fall to your knees and beg him, "Please, your honor, let it be 20!"
- The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
- You're planning on using a pick & shovel while on vacation.
- You have acid burns on the back lawn.
- You have to shovel the garage floor periodically.
- You have left camping gear behind to take more rocks home.



Board of Directors & Committee Members

Board of Directors

President - Pat McMahan: 928-300-8333

1st V.P. (Programs) - Evelina Dunton

2nd V.P. (Field Trips) - Ted Schultz: 928-284-0415

Treasurer - Ralph Graves

Secretary - Susan Read

Director - John Brown

Director - Amy Koba

Director - Tom Helgeson

Past President: Ed Hodges

Committees

Newsletter Editor - Ray Topp: 928-284-1570

Membership/Sunshine - Marge Schwartz: 928-203-0356

Education - Becky Helgeson

Webmaster - Patti Polk



The Sunshine Lady

Marge Schwartz is our Sunshine Lady, and if you know of anyone who needs some sunshine in our club, please contact her at: bschwar13@msn.com

Birthstones

From Marge Schwartz – Membership Chairperson

April Birthstones

The Diamond

April's birthstone is just a crystallized form of carbon, yet stunning in its ability to reflect and refract light into vivid flashes of brilliant color. The ancient Hindus called them "Vajra," meaning lightning, both because of the sparks of light thrown off by this gem as well as its invincible hardness. The Diamond is said to be harder than any other substance on earth. Prior to the 16th century, when gemstone cutting and polishing techniques were perfected, it was considered taboo to modify the original state of a Diamond. Today, a gift of a Diamond is symbolic of everlasting love. There is no more convincing a promise of an enduring relationship than the brilliant gemstone that has endured in people's hearts throughout the ages.



The Greeks and the Romans explained diamonds by stories of "tears of the gods" or by "splinters from falling stars. Cupids' arrows were even said to be tipped with them. This may be the root of the idea that diamonds represent love today. The Romans also believed diamond gave the wearer "strength, invincibility, bravery, and courage during battle."

April's Alternative Birthstones

Throughout history, other gemstones have been associated with those born in April, including bloodstone, opal, topaz, sapphire and jasper. Bloodstone is the zodiac stone for Aries.



Bloodstone

Opal

Topaz

Opal is the mystical gemstone for April. Topaz is the Talismanic gemstone of April. The sapphire is the Arabic, Hebrew, Italian, Russian and Roman gemstone for April. Jasper is the planetary gemstone for Aries.

<http://www.about-birthstones.com/aprilbirthstone.html>

KIDS CORNER

Please remember to save your paper egg cartons for our SGMC fall rock show Kids Corner. The children will be given an egg carton to place their specimens in when they take them home. Thank you for your support.



The Rock Bucket

Things to Add to Your "Bucket List"

Rock Bugs & Spiders

Rock bugs and spiders will come in handy for cute gifts for children of all ages. You will need some tumbled stones, pipe stem cleaners or "Chenille Stems" from a craft store, glue (a multi-purpose cement such as Bond 527) small bottle of white and black acrylic paint, and toothpicks.

Using the white acrylic paint and a toothpick, paint the white of the eyes on the stones. The acrylic paint will take about 30 minutes to dry. When the paint is dry, use the black paint to paint the pupil of the eye. Paint the pupils in the center of the white, or to the right side, or the left side, or close together for a crazy looking set of eyes. (If you make a mistake, use fingernail polish remover and start over.) If you prefer, those cute wiggly eyes may be used, but they tend to fall off easily with handling.



The spiders will have eight legs, so use two of the chenille stems and cut them in half. Gather up these four pieces and twist the wire in the center about three twists. The bugs have four legs so use only one stem and cut it in half and then twist the two pieces in the center at least three times. Bend the ends to simulate feet.

The gluing is the last step. Place the tumbled stone on the center of the stems where the twist is located and estimate where the glue needs to be applied so that the stems and stone will be glued together, without having glue exposed. Apply the glue to this area and center the stone and set upright so that the weight of the stone will help the glue adhere to the stone and the stem legs. Complete drying takes 24 hours. Great for kids, grandkids, and a fund raiser at a rock show.

Club Classes

From Becky Helgesen

The two silversmithing classes set for April and May are full. If you have interest in further classes on this subject, contact Education Chair Becky Helgesen (lillianaloo@gmail.com). Cost is \$30 and includes all supplies except a cabochon.

The two lapidary classes, both set for Sat., May 17, still have openings. The morning class is from 8 to noon and the afternoon class is from 1-5. Both will take place at Pat McMahon's place in Cottonwood. Cost is \$10. The only supply needed is a nice rock to cut. Contact Becky if interested.

Amy Koba has offered to hold a wire-wrapping class on Tues., May 13, from 1-4 p.m.. Cost is \$25. Bring a couple of nice cabs to choose from, 20-30 mm or so, and jewelry pliers if you have them. The class is limited to four people. If interested, contact Education Chair Becky Helgesen at: 928-554-5077.

Regional Gem Shows

Regional Gem Clubs

April 2014

12-13 – Anthem, Arizona

Daisy Mountain Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Anthem School, 41020 N Freedom Way, Anthem, AZ. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Adults \$3, seniors and students \$2, children free. Gems, minerals, fossils, fluorescence, jewelry, beads, wire wrapping, geodes, raffles, kids' events. Contact Ed Winbourne, 1717 W. Medinah Court, Anthem, AZ 85086, 978-460-1528, Email: ewinbourne@gmail.com

June 2014

6-8 – Flagstaff, Arizona

Coconino Lapidary Club Annual Show. Silver Saddle Outdoor Market, corner of Rt. 89N and Silver Saddle Rd. Daily 9-4, free admission. Show includes rough, finished, jewelry, fossils, and raffles. Contact Becky Cox, 6666 Snowflake Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86004. Phone: 928-380-6657, Email: bcox@fusd1.org

August 2014

1-3 – Prescott Valley, Arizona *New Listing*

Prescott Gem & Mineral Club. Tim's Toyota Center, Glassford Hill and Florentine Rd., Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4, adults \$4, seniors and students \$3, children (12 and under) free. 50 dealers, rough rock, slabs, cabochons, fossils, gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, equipment, findings, kids' activities, member displays, fluorescent mineral display, raffles, demonstrations. Contact Judy Sullins, Prescott Gem and Mineral Club, PO Box 3923, Chino Valley, Arizona 86323-2721, Phone: 928-445-1117; Email: sullinsjs@cableone.net Website: www.prescottgemmineral.org

November 2014

8-9 – Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society. Lake Havasu Community Center, 100 Park Ave., Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4, adults \$2, children (under 12) free. Contact Sue Kirk, 1100 Pueblo Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406, Phone: 928-302-1531, Email: macsuzy@mac.com

15-16 – Payson, Arizona *New Listing*

Payson Rimstones Rock Club. Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Event Center; Hwy. 87 at Mile Marker 251; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children (under 12) free; gems, minerals, specimen rocks, fossils, lapidary equipment, jewelry and findings, slabs or rough material, gold prospecting equipment, dealer displays, club displays, Educational Corner, fluorescent display, sand painting, bead-ing, Spinning Wheel, silent auction; contact Margaret Jones, PO Box 884, Pine, AZ 85544, Phone: 928-970-0857; Email: margieaberry@gmail.com

May Newsletter Deadline: April 28th

We welcome your articles, in addition to news and announcements, to be included in your newsletter. Please include photos if you have them.

– Contact Ray Topp: radio@rconnect.com

Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club

PO Box 712, Apache Junction, Arizona 85117

Contact: Wally Frlich – 480-982-7760

Website: www.ajrockclub.com

Meeting Place: New Club Lapidary Shop, 2151 West Superstition Blvd, Apache Junction.

Meeting Time: Second Thursday of each month, October through April at 7:00 p.m.

Black Canyon City Rock Club

PO Box 1472, Black Canyon City, Arizona 85324

Contact: Dave Sills – 623-374-5821

Website: www.bccrockclub.9f.com

Meeting Place: Black Canyon City Library.

Meeting Time: Third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Coconino Lapidary Club (Flagstaff)

11270 Zady Lane, Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

Contact: Brad Bradley - 928-522-5839

Meeting Place: Summit Fire Station 33 on Hwy 89 North.

Meeting Time: Third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Flagstaff Gem & Mineral Society

4021 S. Kendall St, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Contact: Joe Findley – 928-310-6927

Meeting Place: Coconino County Fairgrounds Building #11.

Meeting Time: First Thursday of each month 7:00 p.m.

Mingus Gem & Mineral Club (Cottonwood)

PO Box 1284, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Contact: Heather Redden - 928-649-9901

Website: www.mingusclub.org

Meeting Place: Elks Lodge, 100 S Broadway St, Cottonwood, AZ

Meeting Time: First Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m., except July and August.

Payson Rimstones Rock Club

Contact: Lynne Wheeler – 928-978-4062

Meeting Place: Payson Public Library, 328 North McLane Rd, Payson, AZ

Meeting Time: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m.

Prescott Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 3923, Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Contact: Linda Loschke – 928- 225-6110

Website: www.prescottgemmineral.org

Meeting Place: Moose Lodge, 6501 E 6th St, Prescott Valley, AZ

Meeting Time: 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Verde Valley Rockhounds (Cottonwood)

P O Box 2674, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Contact: Jim Van Wert – 928-649-1938

Meeting Place: American Legion, Cottonwood, AZ

Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m., 2nd Thursday of the month except July and August



Tips From the Shop

Two Machines – Two Different Jobs

There is much being said that vibratory tumblers do the same job as a rotary, but faster. Contrary to this belief, one is not a substitute for the other.

The rotary tumbler is the standard for tumbling stone. The process is long – about 4 weeks. The rotary rock tumbler wants to round the stone just like the action on a gravel beach. In the coarse stage; it tends to get rid of any sharp edges and tries to make the stone into a rounded shape. In contrast, because of the vibratory action, the vibratory tumbler tends to keep the stone in its original angular shape and just smooths and polishes it. The vibratory tumbler will not round the stone.

In rock tumbling, where the vibratory tumbler wins, is that it will smooth and polish preformed shapes such as rectangles or cabochons without rounding them.



To grind and polish preformed shapes, put them into a vibrator that is almost full of stones of the same kind. Do not mix different materials.

You can also use both types of tumblers to finish stones. Use the rotary tumbler to round the stones, then use the vibratory tumbler for the fine grit and polish stage. This will be faster than just using the rotary tumbler alone.



For polishing jewelry the vibratory tumbler is not recommended over the rotary tumbler for tumbling the jewelry with steel shot. The vibratory tumbler is good for sanding and smoothing jewelry castings such as rings. Plastic or ceramic media is usually used for this purpose.

A Solid Slab Makes a Good Cab

You don't want to cut a cab from a larger slab with fractures in it, or it might break during cutting. But it can be hard to see these fractures in slabs, especially in opaque ones. A surprising way to identify fractures in stones, when you can't see them, is to slap the slab onto your work surface with some force. It may break, but it will likely break along the existing cracks, so you can be reasonably confident that the remaining pieces are stronger and more stable. You can also stress those remaining pieces, to further draw out any potential breaks. If they remain solid, cut your cabs from those tested pieces.



PO Box 3284
Sedona, AZ 86340

