

SEDONA RED ROCKING NEWS

Sedona Gem and Mineral Club
P.O. Box 3284, Sedona, AZ 86340
www.sedonagemandmineral.org



October 2009
Volume 55, Issue 7

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MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MEMBER ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION
OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

October General Meeting is Wednesday, 7:00 pm, October 14, at the Sedona Library off of Dry Creek Road in West Sedona. Guests are always welcome. The Board of Directors meets at 5:00 pm the day before the General Meeting, also at the library. Any members are welcome to attend and participate with input.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Petrified Wood Expert Walt Wright

We are pleased to host Walt Wright, of Brea, Calif., a foremost expert in paleobotany (the study of fossil plants) and owner of one of the world's largest collections of petrified wood, as our program speaker this month.

Walton (Walt) Wright is an Educator/Botanist/Ecologist/Paleontologist /Geologist and Paleobotanist. It was Walt's mother, with a PhD in science and math, who gave him his first piece of petrified wood at the age of 10. The rest, as they say, is history.

Walt has worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the University of California. He has been a consultant for various government agencies and has done extensive writing in the field of petrified woods. He wrote a chapter on the Triassic Chinle Formation on fossil woods in 2002, and the "Secrets of Petrified Plants" in both English and German. He holds a Bachelor of Science from California State University at Fullerton and a degree of Master of Science from the University of California at Riverside.

Walt is a national speaker and is booked several months in advance. He has conducted petrified wood identification seminars for the past 15 years and lectures at gem & mineral shows, rock clubs and other forums. He is a member of the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society.

Please help us welcome Walt Wright to Sedona. He will not only be our guest speaker at the club meeting but will also hold daily seminars and be available for petrified wood identification at our Gem & Mineral Show, October 17th and 18th.



OCTOBER MEETING DATE CHANGE!

Just a reminder that the October meeting will not only be held the second week of the month (instead of the third) but also on Wednesday instead of Tuesday. Please make special note of the October meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Also the board meeting will be held the day before the regular meeting, Tuesday the 13th, instead of Monday.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

The field trip this month will be to our annual Rock Show & Sale on Saturday, Oct. 17th & Sunday, Oct. 18th. Additional information will be available at the October meeting, or contact Pat McMahan at 300-8333.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS from Pat McMahan

Oct. 17-18 Sedona Gem and Mineral Club Show - All the rocks you would ever want - and FUN too!!!

Nov. 21 Bloody Basin - Moss and plume agate.

Dec. 30-31 Quartzsite camp out with Coalition Members, Desert Gardens and Tyson Wells shows - Maybe even more things than our show!

Jan. 20 Quartzsite QIA POW WOW - Likely more things than our show...

Feb. 10-12 Tucson Show Tour - Definitely more things than our show!

Mar. 20-21 Burro Creek - Purple agate, dendritic agate, pastelite, and more.

April 24 Holbrook with Sedona sponsored Coalition trip - Petrified wood.

May 22 Grey Mountain - Mokie balls, (not what you think!), Agate, petrified wood.

REMEMBRANCE

Harold Doty, a longtime member of our club, passed away on September 12th due to a massive stroke. Harold is survived by his wife of 23 years, June, who has also been an active and valued member of our club for many years. Our hearts go out to June, and Harold will be greatly missed.

OPAL - OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

Opal is the modern October birthstone and the accepted gem for the 13th wedding anniversary. Most opal is 50-65 million years old, dating back to the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Opal formed as silica from decomposing rocks mixed with ground water which formed a silica gel that collected and hardened in underground cavities and fissures. Opal's chemical formula is SiO2 .nH2O. Opal's hardness on the Moh's scale is 6.5.

There are two distinct types of opal, common and precious. The way the silica particles form determines which type. In precious opal, silica particles are packed in regular rows and layers. Moving the stone causes light to diffract, or split, as it grazes the opal surface. This light diffusion shows iridescent flashes of green, blue, aqua and sometimes yellowish or red colors which are referred to as "fire".

Color and Varieties

Black Opal comes from the Lightning Ridge region of Northern New South Wales. It is the most rare and valuable opal. Fine quality black opals often cost more per carat than diamonds.

Boulder opal occurs in the boulder opal belt, an area between the New South Wales border and northwest Queensland. Boulder opal forms on a dark ironstone base (the host rock) and occurs as a thin uneven layer adhering to the ironstone. Because of the uneven layers, sometimes part of the ironstone is visible on the surface of the stone. Queensland Boulder Opal accounts for a small percent of the world market, and because of its brilliance and rarity can bring up to \$1000. Light opal is the most common type of opal found and refers to both the crystal type opal (translucent) and the milky opal (opaque). It is the most common variety of opal and is generally less expensive than gem quality light opal. Brilliantly colored light opals may be quite expensive with a value exceeding some Black and Boulder Opals. Precious opal also occurs in Nevada and Idaho in the United States.

Brilliance or luster is one of the primary factors that determine an opal's value. An opal with strong intensity and color play adds more value.

Opal takes its name from the Latin word Upala meaning precious stone. The Romans believed opal was the symbol of hope and purity. They called it cupid paederos (child as beautiful as love) and thought the wearer safe from disease. - *bernardine.com*



From the Payson Rimstones Rock Club

The December Coalition trip will be a campout, tentatively in the Quartzite area.

Fieldtrips, Dec. 30 & 31; Tyson Wells Gem and Mineral show, Jan. 1-10. So, lots to do!

Details TBA.

Contact Lynne Wheeler:

Home: 928-472-7170

Verizon cell: 928-978-4062

Email: lynnewheeler@gmail.com

Membership Application
(please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Renewal or New
Membership Desired (Check One)

Individual \$10.00 _____

Family \$20.00 _____

Junior (9-18) \$ 5.00 _____

If a family membership, please list the names of family members below:

Would you like to receive your Newsletter by:
(Circle Yes or No)

Post Office (printed B/W) Yes or No
Email (in color) Yes or No

You may mail this application
with your dues to:

Sedona Gem & Mineral Club
P.O. Box 3284
Sedona, AZ 86340

Cut this section from the newsletter and mail to the above address, or you are welcome to come and join at one of our regular meetings.

Questions?

Call Pat McMahan: (928) 300-8333

www.sedonagemandmineral.org

We're making it as easy as possible to get your dues in! Just cut out the application above, fill in the blanks, and mail to:

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

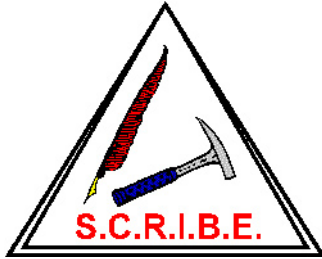
If there is anything you would like to have published in this newsletter, please be sure to get it to me by the 1st of the month. Also, any news, articles, and photos of events or rock collecting trips are greatly appreciated!

Email any info to: rockhound_86326@yahoo.com

Thank you!

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Oct. 10-11--PAYSON, ARIZONA: 12th annual show; Payson Rimstones Rock Club; Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Event Center, Bingo Hall, Tonto Apache Reservation; adults \$3, children under 12 free; discount tickets available at Payson Chamber of Commerce, Payson Library, Parks & Recreation Office; contact Barry Jones, (928) 476-3513

Oct. 10-11--SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA: 35th annual show; Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club; Elks Lodge, Wilcox Ave., 1 block east of Buffalo Soldier Trail; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; free admission; live demonstrations, educational displays, gems, jewelry, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies.

OCTOBER 2009

Oct. 17-18--SEDONA, ARIZONA: 9th annual show; Sedona Gem & Mineral Club; Sedona Red Rock High School, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; speakers, kids' crafts, meteorite and other displays, raffles, mineral identification, sphere making and other demonstrations, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry; contact Pat McMahan, (928) 300-8333; or e-mail: pdxprss@earthlink.net. Website: www.sedonagemandmineral.org

Oct. 17 Family Day at the Museum
Arizona Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ
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

NOVEMBER 2009

Nov. 6-8--BLACK CANYON CITY, ARIZONA: Show, "Rock-A-Rama"; Braggin' Rock Club; tailgaters, dealers, minerals, gems, jewelry; contact Don, BRC, P.O. Box 308, Black Canyon City, AZ 85324, (623) 374-0202.

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