

# SEDONA RED ROCKING NEWS

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



**April 2010**

**Volume 56, Issue 4**

MEMBER AMERICAN FEDERATION OF  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

MEMBER ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Newsletter Editor: Patti Polk  
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General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Sedona Library off of Dry Creek Road in West Sedona. The Board of Directors meets at 5:00 pm the day before the General Meeting, also at the library. Members and guests are always welcome to attend.

**Be sure to attend the annual Sedona Gem and Mineral Show October 16 and 17, 2010, at the Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona. For more information call Pat McMahan at (928) 300-8333 or Ed Hodges at (928) 282-4980.**

## APRIL PROGRAM

### “Photographing Gems and Minerals”

*Presented by Jeff Scovil*

Jeff Scovil is Associate Photographer for the Mineralogical Record and Rocks and Minerals magazines. He is an internationally published photographer whose work can be found in most of the mineral and lapidary magazines published in the United States as well as in France, Germany, Spain, Poland and Russia. Jeff has run the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show Seminar in Mineral Photography since 1986 and has overseen Tucson's Mineral Photography Slide Competition since 1988. Jeff lectures widely on the topics of mineralogy and gem photography. He travels extensively as a photographer of minerals, fossils, jewelry and lapidary specimens for dealers, collectors and museums including the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Jeff works in digital, 35mm and 4x5 large format photography and has photographed Martin Zinn's shows in Tucson, Costa Mesa, CA, Springfield, MA and Denver, CO.

Jeff has been a professional photographer of minerals, gems, jewelry and fossils for 20 years and is winner of the 2007 Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He has collected minerals since the age of 8 and traveled around the world photographing minerals and gems and visiting mineral localities in Brazil, China, Japan, Morocco, Madagascar, Israel and most of Europe and Russia. Jeff's book *Photographing Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Materials* was published by Geoscience Press in 1996 and is the only book ever published on the subject. His photographic services are available to collectors, jewelers, museums, universities, scientists and publishers and include photography for advertising, cataloging, insurance, education, exhibits, illustrations, publications, portfolios, presentations, web pages, jury slides, show exhibits and more.



## APRIL FIELD TRIP

SGMC sponsored Coalition trip to Holbrook, AZ. See article below for details.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS *from Rita Topp*

May 22: Grey Mountain for Mokie balls, agate, petrified wood.

September 2010: Grapevine Canyon for onyx.

October 2010: Diamond Point (Payson) for crystals.

November 2010: Sheep's Bridge for agate.

December 2010: Fossil Dig.

January 2011: Chimney Beds for agate.

February 2011: Tucson shows for everything & anything.

## Coalition Field Trip

**April 24, 2010, Holbrook, Arizona**

Club Sponsor: Sedona Gem and Mineral Club

Trip Leader: Pat McMahan

WHAT TO COLLECT: Petrified wood on a private ranch about 35 miles east of Holbrook.

MEETING PLACE: Meet at Navajo exit I-40 (Approximately 35 miles east of Holbrook) at 8:30 am Saturday April 24, 2010. Exit I-40 then pull off to right just after exit. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver there. We will leave from there to the ranch at 8:30 sharp in caravan.

COST OF MATERIAL: \$1.00 per pound. No limit.

MOTEL: I have negotiated a special rate for Friday night April 23<sup>rd</sup> of \$35.00 including tax per room for 2 people for our coalition members at the Best Inn (possibly not the best) at 2211 Navajo Blvd. 928-524-2654. Take exit 289 off I-40 in Holbrook and go north about 1 mile. It is on your left or west side of Navajo Blvd. Tell them you are with the Coalition of Rock Clubs when you call to make your reservations and you will get the special rate.

*Continued on next page...*

### Refreshments... *by Mary Jane Cooke*

Cookie monsters for April are: Susan Gage, Barbara Schultz and Bernice Brown.

OPTIONAL: Come join us for dinner or breakfast.

Dinner - Friday night, 6:00 pm at the Mesa Restaurant. The Mesa Restaurant is across the street and east a short distance from the hotel. The food is Italian and is about the best in town. We will sit in the banquet room. Please bring bragging rocks to show club members at dinner, petrified wood from your last trip or other favorites.

Breakfast at Dennys - One mile east of hotel on Navajo Blvd. across the street. Plan to leave the restaurant by 7:40 am to arrive at Navajo early. We will leave the Navajo exit at 8:30 sharp.

RSVP please to Pat McMahan at 928-300-8333 or email at [agates920@yahoo.com](mailto:agates920@yahoo.com) so we can let the restaurants know ahead of time how many of us there will be.

#### SAMPLES OF MATERIAL:

Visit my website: [www.agateswithinclusions.com](http://www.agateswithinclusions.com)  
Scroll to Arizona then Holbrook to see petrified wood picked up in the Holbrook area.



### Birthstones for April and the Folklore Surrounding Them

By Marge Schwartz

Gem scholars agree that the tradition of birthstones arose from the Breastplate of Aaron described in the Bible (Exodus 28, 15-30). The breastplate was a ceremonial religious garment set with twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel and corresponded with the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve months of the year. Here is a collection of facts and folklore for your enjoyment.

#### Modern Birthstones – Represent the Calendar Month

1. Diamond: Formed deep within the earth where there is intense heat and pressure, Diamonds are simply crystallized carbon. Ancient volcanic activity brought these gemstones to the earth's surface, within volcanic rock formations or washed out into rivers. The diamond is a symbol to be treasured by many. The diamond is listed as the Modern Birthstone, Traditional Birthstone, Ayurvedic Birthstone, Sun Sign (Star Sign) – Aries, and the Ancient Hindu and the Polish Birthstone.

2. Opal: 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  $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Many myths surround the opal. The Arabs believed that opals fell from heaven in flashes of lightning. Ancient Greeks also believed the opal had the power of giving foresight and the light of prophecy to their owners. Cleopatra is said to have worn an opal to attract the attention of Mark Anthony.

3. Sapphire: Sapphire is a variety of the mineral species corundum and comes in a variety of colors.

#### Planetary Stones

Aries: Jasper - It often contains organic material and mineral oxides which give it interesting patterns, bands and colors.

Taurus: Aventurine - Many believe that aventurine has the capacity to calm a troubled spirit and bring about inner peace. The rockhound should know that it is a microcrystalline quartz with flecks of mica or inclusions of hematite.

Mystical Birthstone: Opal.

#### Zodiac Birthstones

Taurus: Sapphire, Amber, Coral, Turquoise – Amber and coral are not rocks or stones but are treasured gems included in the birthstone lists.

Aries: Topaz - During the Middle Ages topaz was thought to heal both physical and mental disorders and prevent death

#### Talismanic Stone

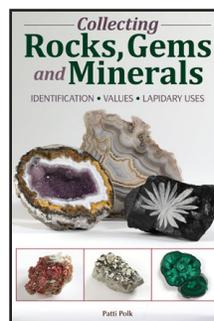
Taurus: Garnet - During the Middle Ages primitive cultures believed that the red stones would stop bleeding. Many early cultures believed that garnets were helpful in preventing and curing blood disorders and infections.

Aries: Topaz -The Egyptians wore it as an amulet to protect them from injury.

Happy Birthday to all the April babies in our group and enjoy the good luck stones this month.

### NEW BOOK NEWS!!!

Check out member/webmaster/newsletter editor Patti Polk's new rock collecting book available now at: [www.agategrrrl.com](http://www.agategrrrl.com) See details below.



#### Collecting Rocks, Gems, & Minerals - Identification, Values, Lapidary Uses by Patti Polk

Softcover, 272 pages  
First edition, 2010, Krause Publications  
Price: \$17.99

Designed with beginners in mind, yet filled with valuable technical information for advanced collectors, **Collecting Rocks, Gems, and Minerals - Identification, Values, Lapidary Uses** takes you from being just someone who

appreciates rocks to a true "collector". Chock full of photos and information, this book is ideal for anyone who is interested in finding and collecting rocks and minerals; the lapidary arts; or for anyone who needs help in understanding and estimating the value of rocks, gems, and minerals when buying or selling them for fun or profit.

- Easy-to-use, quick reference format arranged by category and color of stone
- Provides retail values and helpful tips for locating, collecting, buying and selling
- Contains more than 650 full-color color photos
- Includes organics such as amber, bone, coral, pearl, and shell
- Covers common rocks and minerals that novices can find in the field (and the countries, states and regions where they occur) as well as precious and semiprecious materials

Books will be available in April 2010 from the bookstore on Patti's website: [www.agategrrrl.com](http://www.agategrrrl.com), so sign up now to pre-order your personally autographed copies. Just go to the books and magazines section and order securely through Paypal with your AZ zip code for local delivery. If you have any questions, email Patti at: [sales@agategrrrl.com](mailto:sales@agategrrrl.com). Enjoy!

## Scholarship News

from Mary Jane Cooke, Student Education Chair

Sedona's Gem and Mineral Club proudly announces the availability of two \$1000 scholarships for deserving Red Rock High School seniors pursuing further studies in accredited colleges, universities or schools of continuing studies in the Physical Sciences or Conservation areas. If there are no qualifying students continuing in these fields, we then extend the awards to students, who in the Guidance Department's judgement, have shown excellence or the greatest improvement in their H.S. curriculum studies.

As in the past four years, we leave the decision totally in the consideration of the H.S. Guidance department and the student's teachers.

This is the second year the Board has made two \$1000.00 awards available.

The award recipients for last year were Teresa Breanne Cunningham and Brielle Cavanaugh, both highly motivated socially concerned young women who plan to use their many talents serving others. Their High School experience includes not only very high scholastic accomplishments but service to the community and school social activities and clubs and, membership in the National Honor Society. Both have fully taken advantage of the H.S. sports programs. They have expressed a most expansive gratitude for the needed scholarships, which they put to frugal use for college expenses.

Past recipients are: Jessica Shreve, \$1000 in 2006 - our first Award; Max Weaver, \$1000 to the Air Force Academy, in 2007; and Taylor Kurz, \$1000 in 2008.

All are still prospering in their studies and most excited in their goals, focused on serving others.

We are so proud of all our graduating seniors and Sedona's Red Rock High School and all its staff which consistently provides the highest is educational and social development opportunities for our young people.



Pres. Ed Hodges with last year's \$1000 awards winners at the Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 12th, 2009.

## MORE MEMBER NEWS!!!

Our very own Nancy Bihler will be one of the featured artists for the month of April at Sedona Arts Center from April 2nd through May 5th.



Don't miss the opportunity to see Nancy's gorgeous hand-made jewelry!

One of Nancy's featured pieces, "Copper Splash"

### 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

or Ed Hodges: (928) 282-4980

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10 -11, KINGMAN, ARIZONA: Show, "Gems of Arizona"; Mohave County Gemstoners; Kingman Academy of Learning High School, 3420 N. Burbank St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; demonstrations (obsidian knapping, faceting, wire wrapping), mineral displays, silent auction, dealers, cash raffle, hourly door prizes, children's activities.

Contact Nan Russell, (928) 846-0927, or Donna Robinson, 3202 E. Leroy Ave., Kingman, AZ 86409, (928) 263-1480.

e-mail: [gemstoners@live.com](mailto:gemstoners@live.com)

Web site: [www.gemstoners.org](http://www.gemstoners.org)

## MAY 2010

1 - 2, FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA: Show, "Fountain Hills Gem & Mineral Show"; O.B. Rocks & Minerals; Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission.

Contact Rick Obermiller, 1332 N. Jesse St., Chandler, AZ 85225, (602) 826-2218; e-mail: [obrocks@gmail.com](mailto:obrocks@gmail.com)

29 - 30, LAKESIDE, ARIZONA: Annual show; White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club; Blue Ridge Junior High School, 3050 N. Porter Mountain Rd.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, students (15 and under) free with paying adult; dealers, gems, minerals, beads, fossils, lapidary equipment, rough and finished rock specimens, silent auction, spinning wheel, kids' activity area, door prizes, raffle prizes, display cases, fluorescent mineral display. Contact Larry Legge/Nanz Marshall, (928) 537-2524.

e-mail: [larrylegge@yahoo.com](mailto:larrylegge@yahoo.com)

Web site: [www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org](http://www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org)

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