

# THE COCHISE COUNTY ROCK

## Monthly Newsletter of the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club

<https://sites.google.com/site/cochisecountyrock/>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/cochisecountyrock/>

### “Finding and Grinding Rocks in Cochise County, Arizona since 1965”

March 2014

+++++

The next **GENERAL MEETING** of the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club is on Monday, March 10 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Sunsites Community Center.

The **PROGRAM** for the evening will be “Color, Form and the Rock” presented by member Glen Renell. A short talk on perception, order, choice, and why I picked up that rock.

Born in 1947 in Portland, Maine, Glenn Renell was educated at Rhode Island School of Design, Fort Wright College, and received his MFA in Painting from the University of Massachusetts in 1978. He was a professor of painting, drawing, and design at Maine College of Art for 20 years, resigning in 2001 to paint full time. Glenn now resides in Pearce, Arizona.

A landscape painter, Glenn has cultivated a profound understanding of the relationship between a painter, a place, and a viewer. His perceptive observation of the subtleties of light and the relationships of sky, land, and horizon are beautifully rendered in his paintings.

Glenn is represented by Medicine Man Gallery in Tucson and Santa Fe, Greenhut Galleries, Portland, Maine, and Mitchell Brown Fine Arts in Paradise Valley, Arizona. This year he will be showing at the Phippen Museum Miniature Masterpieces, the Paso Robles Signature Exhibition, and has a painting selected for exhibition at the U.S. Embassy, Athens, Greece.

**CLUB DUES** are due for 2014. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for a family. Walter Sigel will be collecting them at the meeting or you can mail your check to Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club, PO Box 87 Pearce AZ 85625.

**NOTE: If you have not paid your dues by March 31st you will be dropped from the membership list.**

+++++

### **OFFICERS 2014**

President:	Jack Light	520-824-4774
Vice President:	Elliott Hendricks	520-471-8820
Secretary:	Nadine Wirshing	520-507-3865
Treasurer:	Walter Sigel	520-826-1009
Del. At Large:	Carl Schnabel	520-826-0100
*****		
Hospitality Coordinator:	Cheryl McLaughlin	520-507-1750
Speaker Coordinator:	Don Hammer	520-384-3105
Field Trip Coordinator:	Henri Van den Bos	520-384-0288
Newsletter:	Zoe Schnabel	520-826-0100

---

If you have a question or comment about the **Cochise County Rock**, you may contact the editor at:

[ssgmeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ssgmeditor@gmail.com)

**MARCH FIELD TRIP**

On Saturday March 15, 2014 the field trip will be to the Chiricahua National Monument, led by Jack Light. We will be meeting alongside the entrance road just before the Park Ranger Station at 9:30 am. and car pooling if necessary. We will be heading up to the Sugar Loaf Trail which is before Masai Point. Rising above the surrounding canyons, the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain at 7,310' is one of the highest points in the monument. Jack will be leading us along the 1 ½ mi. trail and explaining the diverse geological aspects.

Jack grew up in an Army family and has lived all over the USA and Japan. He received his BS in Geology from the University of Texas, El Paso and has worked as a geologist, engineer and supervisor in the mining industry. In later years he started his own company, offering services in geology and surveying. Since retiring he has done contract work in geology for several mining companies.

Chiricahua National Monument has a \$5 per person rate for entrance fees. The Interagency Senior, Access, and Annual Passes are honored.

**Senior Pass - \$10**

The Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance fee such as the Chiricahua Nat'l Monument. The pass admits the pass holder +3 adults. Children under 16 are admitted free. The pass can only be obtained in person at the park.

+++++

**CLUB CALENDAR**

March 10	General Meeting
March 27	Board Meeting
April 14	General Membership Meeting
May 1	Board Meeting
May 12	General Membership Meeting
May 29	Board Meeting
June 7	Picnic

After "summer break," meetings resume in September.

Monthly Membership meetings are held at the Sunsites Community Center, beginning at 7 PM. Board of Directors meetings are held at the Sunsites VFW, beginning at 6:30 PM

+++++

**MINUTES FROM THE FEB 10 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE APPROVED**

Jack Light opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. There were 17 in attendance, which constituted a quorum. He thanked Hanni Sigel & Cheryl McLaughlin for providing the treats.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the January meeting . All were in favor.

There will be a Field Trip near Lordsburg, NM on Sat. Feb 15<sup>th</sup> for fire agate. We will meet at the NM Welcome Center, exit #20, Rte 10. at 9:30 a.m. Bring light digging tools, etc. High clearance vehicles and 4-wheel drive are necessary.

The Treasurers report was given by Walter Sigel and approved by all.

Old Business: A materials list is needed to finish the shed. We need wallboard, 2 X 4's and counter tops. There was a discussion of what is available and what else is needed.

There was no new business.

After refreshment break, the program was to be a DVD of the Grand Canyon, "The 1923 Expedition" by the USGS, however the DVD player was not functioning.

The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Wirshing, Secretary.

**ROCK HOUND ROUND-UP.....and for us,  
A FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY  
Deming, NM March 6-9, 2014**

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Gem and Mineral Show, presented by the Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. is about to happen. It takes place at the SW New Mexico Fairgrounds in Deming, NM.

There is free admission with the public being invited to this fun event. There will be lapidary equipment, Displays and Demo's. Guided field trips leave at 8:30 a.m. from the Fairgrounds on Thurs, Friday and Saturday. Materials found include onyx, agates, geodes and other semi-precious gem stones. Bring your usual field trip gear. A donation of \$5.00 is requested however the *Big Diggings trip has a \$10.00 donation*. This is the only time of year when you can join in on field trips without being a member. **Several of our own members are planning to attend. We are meeting at the Field Trip info booth at 8 am on Saturday. See you there if interested.**

Auctions are held on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> as well as on Saturday evening. Daily door prizes are held twice daily and a cash raffle drawing is held on Sunday. Prizes range from \$250.00 to \$100.00. Contact Art Krasinski at 575-494-5971 for further information about this exciting event.

+++++

**PRESIDENTS REPORT MARCH 2014**

The February field trip was a success! We had a good turnout of members and the weather couldn't have been better. Some nice specimens were collected, although not much fire agate.

In March we'll have a non-collecting trip to the Chiricahua National Monument, where we'll go up the Sugarloaf trail. It's about 1 ½ miles long up a gentle slope and we'll see 3 rock types and some volcanic structures.

The shed is coming along slowly. As soon as I get the materials lists together I'll start a dialog with Lowes and, hopefully, get what we need to finish the inside.

Jack

+++++

**FYI: WHERE CAN I COLLECT ROCKS?**

A "Rockhound" is generally an amateur geologist who enjoys collecting unusual or interesting rock, mineral and gem specimens. Rockhounding is one of many recreational pursuits of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Collecting **not more than 250 pounds per year** of non-commercial quantities of rock by rockhounds is allowed free of charge on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Commercial collecting for the purpose of sale or barter is not allowed without special authorization. Also, rock cannot be collected on public lands for construction or decorative purposes in commercial landscaping without a permit. Rockhounds may use hand tools such as shovels and picks, but must not use explosives or power equipment for excavation.

Rock collecting is **NOT PERMITTED** on Arizona State Trust Lands nor Federal Lands. A recreation permit is required to camp, hike or travel on Trust Land that is designated as open for recreation. An individual permit is \$15.00/yr. and a family permit is available for \$20.00/yr.

See AZ State Trust Lands website for further information.

+++++

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR REFRESHMENTS at the Monthly Meetings.....coffee, water, soft drinks and paper goods are supplied by the club.



**FIELD TRIP REPORT: Duncan Fire Agate**  
**Sat. Feb. 15th**

It was a perfect early spring day to hunt for the elusive fire agate however, everything else was found except fire agate. The few pieces of bubbly brown-gold agate were far and few between but lots of other things were found: mysterious green stone within "lava," a horseshoe, green agate, clear and pink chalcedony, and lots of cow pies!

Bri McKnight had fun taking these photos. In addition to the images shown here please visit our photo web-site at: [picasaweb.google.com/cochisecountyrock/February2014](http://picasaweb.google.com/cochisecountyrock/February2014). (see mast head of newsletter)

Paul McKnight "googled" the area that we were in and determined that we were on High Lonesome Road. The road to the right that we were also on, (a.k.a. White Jeep Road) ends at a Mountain Research Station.



**What we didn't find! THE elusive Fire Agate!**

