



THE COCHISE COUNTY ROCK

Monthly Newsletter of the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club

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

MARCH 2015



The next **GENERAL MEETING** of the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club is on Monday, March 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunsites Community Center.



PROGRAM:

Sandhill Cranes 101
Steve Marlatt

Steve Marlatt has had an interest in wildlife from his earliest memories, growing up on wildlife refuges throughout the west where his father worked as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and has worked on studies of the Southern Bald Eagle and the Interior Least Tern. A part of the founding organizers of Wings Over Willcox and an active leader and presenter ever since, Steve has worked with a “different” kind of wildlife as a science teacher for 22 years. He is currently teaching 8th grade science at Willcox Middle School.

Mr. Marlatt’s PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 7PM, followed by a short break then the General Business Meeting will begin.



Gem and Mineral Minutes of the February 9, 2015 Meeting:

Present: 29 members and guests.

Elliott opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

He offered to let the speaker go first, but John Townley told us to hold our regular meeting first.

Treasurer's Report:

Walter reported a balance of \$2892.20 plus the \$7000 CD. Report was approved.

Secretary's Report:

Approved.

Field Trip:

Carl announced that the field trip would be to Helvetia, in the Santa Rita Mountains heading towards Sonoita. We were to meet at Exit 281 at 9:00am. We would be looking for malachite and chrysocolla, just to mention a few of the types of rocks we were to would find. Carl cancelled the trip under threat of rain.

Lapidary Lab:

Irvin said he would be working on the lab this coming week and would like some help. Allen Hill offered his services. Anyone else who wanted to help could call Irvin at 520-508-9972.

Elliott adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm and then introduced our speaker for the evening, John Townley.

Mr. John Townley had three tables set up displaying his collection. He talked about carving crystals, and showed how he showcased them in carved wood designs he had created. He Showed us some large rocks that he had cut in his lab and then polished to a high sheen. It was an interesting talk and enjoyed by all.

Refreshments brought by Joan Hammer and Judy Bernard were served by Gail Grennell and Bette Greene.

Respectfully Submitted by Bette Greene, Secretary

OFFICERS 2015

President: Elliott Hendricks 520-471-8820
Vice President: Tony Crumly 520-826-2566
Secretary: Bette Greene 617-688-1474
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: Carl Schnabel 520-826-0100
Newsletter: Rhyna Giudice 520-826-0200

DUES ARE DUE!

Walter would like to remind everyone that if you have not paid your 2014-2015 dues, please do so! The cut off is this month of March and if you are delinquent, you will be dropped from the membership, not allowed to participate in field trips or use the lap lab and you will no longer receive the monthly newsletters.

Yearly Single Membership \$15.00 Yearly Family Membership \$25.00

CLUB CALENDAR

March

9th General Membership Meeting

April

1st Board Meeting

13th General Membership Meeting

May

11th General Membership Meeting

27th Board Meeting

June

6th Picnic (Tentative)

FIELD TRIP: (This field trip was rescheduled from February due to inclement weather)

The field trip is scheduled for **Sunday March 15th.**

We will meet at **9:00 a.m.**

Take Interstate 10 to Exit 281 on to South Route 83, on the right hand side there is a parking area, this is where we will meet to begin our adventure!

The field trip will be to the **Helvetia Mining District**. We went there last May and everyone wanted a return trip in cooler weather. This area boasts some of the most historically prolific mines. Many are now abandoned but the tailings piles remain. Some of the minerals to be found include calcite & quartz, lots of copper ores which include chrysocolla, malachite and bornite as well as green epidote and pyrite.

Upcoming Events:

[50th Annual RockHound RoundUp Information](#)

Gem & Mineral Show:

March 12th to the 15th, 2015

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

(Thursday through Sunday)

South West New Mexico Fairground in Deming, NM

Public Invited

Free Admission & Free Parking

Jewelry & Rock Related Items

Buyers Market

Lapidary Equipment

Displays and Demonstrations

Guided Field Trips

Auctions

Coffee, Donuts, Breakfast & Lunch

March Birthstones

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone.

Aquamarine

The name *aquamarine* is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning *the sea*. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Other Names: blue-green beryl

Origin of Name: The name originates from the Roman Aqua meaning water and Marine meaning sea

Meaning of the Stone: Water of the Sea, the stone of the scorpio zodiac

Classification:Precious

Family: Silicate mineral/Beryl mineral, of the emerald family

Region: Europe, USA, Russia, Brazil, Indies, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Color: Blue (pure aquamarine) green, yellow, red, white

Transparency: transparent or opaque

Fracture: Conchoidal

Hardness (Gravity): 7.5-8(2.76 avg.)

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Bloodstone

The second birthstone for March is *bloodstone*, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the *martyr's stone* as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Other Names: Heliotrope

Origin of Name: Due to nodules of bright red jasper resembling blood

Meaning of the Stone: Traditional birthstone of pisces

Classification: semi-precious

Family: Mineral-Chalcedony, Quartz

Region: Australia, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Russia, Indies

Color: green, dark green, almost black, with specs of red

Transparency: Opaque

Fracture: conchoidal, granular

Hardness (Gravity): 6.5-7(2.58-2.64)

Crystal System: Trigonal

Similar Minerals: jasper, Carnelian, Agate, Chrysoprase

If there is any information you would like to see added to our newsletter feel free to make your suggestions at the next meeting for discussion.

