

ROCK CHATTER

Published by West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral
Club of Macomb, Illinois
Member of AFMS, MWF, and GESCI

Objective: To promote interest and education in
Earth Sciences and all related fields.
Volume 21, Bulletin 12, December 2017

Dinner and Rocky Bingo
Monday, December 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb

ALLUVIUM - December 2017

With some luck we are again planning our annual Christmas party meeting for December 4th at 6pm. First we will need the weather to be decent, always a possible issue for the cold weather months. Second, with our need to have a third party to open up the building for us, I have to rely on being able to get a hold of the person with the key and get me in early to begin setting up.. Yet another challenge.

Last month we began a list of food items that members are planning to bring-the list so far should appear in the newsletter-if you are planning to add to the menu -and please feel free to do so-please let Donna or myself know what you are going to bring so we can put it on the list.

We will have our gift exchange as usual too. Remember, this is voluntary and is done with hobby related goodies with a modest value (5-8\$ or so). If you bring a gift, you will get a gift. Please note if what is brought is specifically or a man or woman, if needed.

We will need to set our officer positions for next year during the evening, as well and collect any dues still needing to be paid for 2018.

Hopefully our calendars will be here and be able to be distributed and then we can get on to...."Rocky"bingo to close out our evening.

I hope to have the building open by 5:15 and begin set up on the 4th. Please be early so we can get things going on time (6 pm).

A call on weather will be made by mid day on Sunday if it appears that we will have issues. Please plan on checking your mail for any notices sent in that regard. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and plan on joining us for the fun on December 4th!

Rob



News from the American Federation

The 2018 AFMS Convention is being held in Raleigh, North Carolina, April 6-8, 2018. The hosts are the Eastern Federation even though this venue is in the Southeastern Federation. Should be a fun trip out there.

In 2019, the MWF hosts the AFMS in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 16-17, 2019, on conjunction with the MWF Convention and the Cedar Valley show.



News from the Midwest Federation

The MWF has several chairmanships that need able bodied people to fill them. A new Endowment Fund Chairman, Environment and Legislation Chairman, Club Rockhound of the Year Chairman, and Merit Awards Chairman, and Insurance Chairman are needed

If any of these areas interest you, contact the MWF President

The 2018 MWF Convention will be hosted by LOESS in Springfield, Illinois, October 5-6, 2018. We hope to see good attendance. Plans are being made for a special field trip to Funk's Prairie Home and Mineral Museum as well as another field trip.



News from Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc.

The theme for the 2018 Geodeland Show is Fossils. Be keeping an eye out for some different or striking fossils that could be used in our club case for the show.

Or, if you have a nice collection, plan to set up a separate case to share your collection with those who will be attending the show.

Also, pencil in the dates on your calendar, so you can help with set up, the show and take down. Dates are March 10-11, 2018.

2018 SHOW CALENDAR

March 2018

10-11. MACOMB, IL Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Annual Show. Student Union Ballroom at Western Illinois University. Murray St., Sat., 10-6, Sun., 10-5.

2018 Conventions

MWF: October 5-6, Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln Orbit Earth Society. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds. Saturday, 10-6 p.m., Sunday 10-5 p.m.

April 4-8: AFMS /EFMLS Convention and 42nd Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. AFMS Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 5

Minutes of the November 6, 2017 Meeting

President Rob Heath started the meeting at 6:10. Those present were:
Rachel Divers, Drew Divers, Deb Coursey, George Coursey, Linda Hess, David Hess, Ron Sharf, Dee Sharf, Rob Heath.

The minutes from last month were considered. George moved to accept them with a 2nd from Ron.

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Old Business:

Dues are due. Agate calendars will be ordered. A sign up list was sent around. Election for 2017 officers will be held next month. Be thinking about which office you would like to hold. Membership booklets were mentioned.

New Business:

Next months meeting was critiqued. everyone signed up for the annual Christmas dinner.

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Donna – Ham or Turkey
Jackie - Scalloped corn
Drew & Rachel – Dinner rolls/butter/ apple crisp/cranberry sauce
Ron & Dee - Desert bars/veggie dish
Deb & George –Pumpkin cheesecake/ cookies/ potatoes
Linda & David. - Tossed salad and dressing/ fresh fruit
Rob - Beverages - coffee, tea, etc

After a short business meeting, we will have a gift exchange and play arousing game of ROCKY BINGO

The 24th of Nov. is the deadline to submit articles to

the newsletter

The next meeting is set for December 4th.

It was moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Deb.

Following the meeting, members shared their specimens and memories of their favorite rocks.

Dee Sharf, Acting Secretary

AFMS “Code of Ethics”

-I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

-I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

-I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

-I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

-I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc. I will leave all gates as found.

-I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

-I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

-I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

-I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

-I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

-I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

-I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

-I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

-I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

-I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

-I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Source: www.amfed.org

Ask a Geologist

by Ray Anderson

Cedar Valley Gems, November 2017

Ask a Geologist is a monthly column that gives CVRMS members an opportunity to learn more about a geologic topic. If you have a question that you would like addressed, please send it to rockdoc.anderson@gmail.com, and every month I will answer one in this column. Please let me know if you would like me to identify you with the question. I will also try to respond to all email requests with answers to your questions, regardless of if it is chosen.

Rona asked: “You seem to be pretty excited about the jade sculptures that you saw on your field trip to Liz-zadro’s Mu- seum. Jade doesn’t look like other gemstones. What is jade ?? and how does it form ??”

Rock Doc replied: Jade is a cultural term used for a very durable material that has been fashioned into tools, sculptures, jewel- ry, gemstones, and other objects for over 5,000 years. It was first used to manufacture ax heads, weapons, and tools for scrap- ing and hammering because of its toughness. Then, because some specimens had a beautiful color and could be polished to a brilliant luster, people started to use jade for gemstones, talismans, and ornamental objects. Although most people who think of jade imagine a beautiful green gemstone, the material occurs in a wide variety of colors that include green, white, lavender, yellow, blue, black, red, orange, and gray. Originally, all jade objects were thought to be made from the same material. Howev- er, in 1863 a Frenchman, Alexis Damour, discovered that the material known as “jade” could be divided into two different min- erals: jadeite and nephrite. Because these two materials can be difficult to distinguish, and because the word “jade” is so en- trench- ed in common language, it is widely used across many societies, industries, and academic disci- plines. The word “nephrite” is also an imprecise term, used for materials composed of the minerals actinolite and tremolite. Jadeite and nephrite have distinctly differ- ent mineral compositions. Jadeite is an aluminum-rich pyroxene ($\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$), while nephrite is a magnesium-rich amphibole [$\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg, Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$]. However, the two minerals have very similar physical properties in the eye of the average person. Only trained observers with significant experience are able to reliably differenti- ate them without mineral testing equipment. This is why

jadeite and nephrite were not properly distinguished by scien- tists until 1863. Both minerals form through metamorphism and are most- ly commonly found in rocks associated with subduction zones. Therefore most jadeite and nephrite deposits lie along the margins of current or geo- logically ancient convergent plate bound- aries involving oceanic litho- sphere. Jadeite is typically found in rocks that have a higher pressure origin than nephrite. This leads to a geographic separation of most jadeite and nephrite deposits. From ancient times, much of the prospecting for jade has been done in the steeper parts of drainage basins, where pebble- to boulder-size pieces of rocks are found in stream valleys. Boulders and pebbles of jade normally have a brown weathering rind that hides their inner beauty and potential value. Small windows are often cut into the boulders in the field to assess the material’s quality and to determine if it is worth the labor of transport. Jade boulders can be very difficult to move without damage. Human and animal labor was the only way to transport them histori- cally. That is still the method of collecting the boulders in some areas, however moving them with helicopters in a basket or sling on a cable is common. Although helicopters are very expensive, one nice jade boulder can be worth many thousands of dollars in rough form. Some jade is also mined from hard rock deposits, from ancient conglom- erates associated with ophiolite ex- posures. Ophiolites are the metamorphosed fragments of ancient sea floor, exposed at the sur- face by faulting or uplift. Resistant Jade boulders are naturally separated from easily-weathered ophiolite rock and concentrat- ed in conglomerates. They are extracted in both surface and underground mines. Geographically, much of the world’s jade is found around the rim of the Pacific Ocean, where subduction transports large slabs of oce- anic lithosphere beneath continents and volcanic island arcs. This accounts for much of the jade found in South America, Central America, the United States, Canada, eastern Asia, and New Zealand. Perhaps the most at- tractive and valuable jade found in the United States is from the area around Jeffrey City and Crooks Gap in Wyoming. There, nephrite jade is found by prospecting alluvial sediments, looking for jade in stream-rounded pebble- to boulder-size pieces.

Modified from <http://geology.com/gemstones/jade/>

December is our annual
Christmas Party with a
potluck dinner starting at
6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4, 2018
Trinity Lutheran Church
123 S. Campbell St.
Macomb, Illinois

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All numbers are in 309 area code.

Meetings

The first Monday of each month (except September, which is the second Monday) at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 123 S. Campbell St., Macomb at 6:00 p.m. (Oct. - March). April through September meetings at 7:00 p.m. May meeting is usually held at Western Illinois University. Call Rob or Donna if you are concerned about weather related cancellations or have other questions about meetings.

Dues (per year)

Individual	\$10.00
Family or individual sponsoring juniors	\$15.00