

THE ROCKFINDER



Joyce Larson, Editor
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
144 Spruce Drive
Westville, IN 46391

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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The MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Regular Meetings

Time: 2:00 p.m. EST	Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of each month	1501 W. Cleveland Road
June - Field Trip meeting	South Bend, IN
July - No meeting	West of the St. Joseph River
August - Annual Club Picnic	
December - Date to be announced	
Christmas Party	

Dues

Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
Family	10.00 per year
Junior	2.00 per year

Rockfinder Staff

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Co-Editor.....Margaret Heinek	7091 E. East Park Ln., New Carlisle, IN 46552
Staff.....Bob Heinek/Club Members	

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor (219-785-4382) by the 10th of each month.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

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NOVEMBER 1992
SOUTH BEND, I

PUBLISHED BY: MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

MEETING: November 22, 1992
Doors Open - 1:30 p.m.
Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Westminster Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM: Jewelry Making



HOSTESSES FOR NOVEMBER: Catherine McHugh
Viola Robinson
Pat McLaughlin

BIRTHSTONES FOR NOVEMBER: Topaz and Citrine

CATCHING UP ON OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Drawing taken from Gem-Time

- 1 - Nina Hassler
- 3 - Jerry Goble
- 19 - Tess Miller
- 28 - Irene Ungurait

NOW FOR NOVEMBER - BIRTHDAYS

- 8 - Tom McLaughlin
- 11 - Bill Schuster
- 14 - Bob Miller
- 27 - Bess Wise

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Kathy & Bob Miller
- 19 - Tess and Del Miller
- 26 - Mariam & Vic Fiege
- 26 - Monica & Vic Segel

No November Anniversaries!

WISHING ALL OF YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
SPENT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

If any of you have a special recipe that you would like to share with club members, why not write it down on a recipe card and bring it to the meeting on Sunday. We could share at that time or start adding a recipe to our publication for sharing with our Exchange Clubs.



MARGARET'S COLUMN -

Where has the year gone? It has been a good year, we have some new members, and some are juniors!

We did not have a meeting in October, and we should have had nomination of officers. We will have both nominations and elections on the 22nd at our regular meeting. The nominating committee will present a slate. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with prior permission from the person.

Our next bus trip will be November 29th to the Museum of Science and Industry to see the "Rings of Fire" and the Christmas trees. I have made reservations at the Museum and because of their policy, I have had to pre-pay the entrance and program fees. We will leave South Bend from the bank at Hwy. 31/33 and Cleveland at 8:30 Eastern time, and will return to South Bend at approximately 7:30. We plan to go to the Wheaton, Illinois show in the afternoon. This will be the last show of the season, so if you want to purchase Christmas gifts, this is the time for you to do so. Geodon usually has a good show and I am looking forward to both the Museum and the show. If you have not made a reservation yet, but would like to go, let us know at the November meeting. We must have your money in advance. If you have made a reservation with me, and at the last minute you find you are unable to go, you must still pay the entrance fee into the Museum, as I have pre-paid (unless you get someone to take your place). We will brown-bag our lunch and as usual we stop for supper on the way home, unless you would rather not. Let me know.

Our Christmas party will be Sunday, Dec. 6th. As usual this will be a pot-luck dinner, with the club furnishing the meat, coffee, rolls and butter. We ask that you bring your own service and one dish of food to share for every 2 people in your family. Ideas are salad, dessert, vegetable and a good appetite. We have some very good cooks in the club. We will eat at 1 p.m. and Bob and Kathy Miller have planned a game for all to play. We will have a gift exchange with a value of \$5.00. I suggest you figure on \$2.00 for a child. The gifts should be marked "man", "woman", "child" or "man or woman." Participation is voluntary, but if you prefer not to, please do not take a gift.

Kathy and Bob Miller are on a trip to China, so they will not be with us in November. Joyce Larson has returned from her working trip to Florida, and she reports the devastation from Andrew is horrible. I am sure she is glad to be home after 6 weeks there. Some of our other members have been on trips this summer to interesting places, so be prepared to tell about them.

Our program this month will be making the jewelry we had planned doing last spring. So come prepared to work on a piece for a necklace, bola or something else to wear.

Margaret

-BOJI STONES-

Boji stones are as old as the earth itself. They are found in Kansas among fossils and petrified bones in an area that once was an ocean. This land is considered sacred by Native Americans. The stones are found around the base of a natural earth pyramid several stories high (almost directly at the epicenter of North America). The surrounding earth is made mostly of slate. As the rains wash away the slate, the Bojis emerge on stems looking as if they had grown from the earth. These stones are spherical nuggets containing mostly pyrite with a mixture of other trace minerals.

(-via Gem City Rock News & The Conglomerate)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - This we know: The earth does not belong to man...man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that connects us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever man does to the web he does to himself.

(-via Chief Seattle, c.1850 & Gem City Rock News)

NO MATTER how long and hard you shop for item, after you have bought it, it will go on sale.

(-via The Jean Harris Collection, The Rockpile & Gem City Rock News)

LAPIDARY CLASSES - by Gordon Dobecki

During our September show many children and their parents enjoyed polishing the Petosky stones that were donated by Stanley Kyle. Some of the children came back to do a second and even a third. Close to eighty stones were polished! I had a sign-up sheet for those who might be interested in taking "lapidary" lessons. By the end of the show 24 names were on the list.

Eighteen students were enrolled for classes that started the first week in October. Unfortunately only 14 students came. We consolidated into 4 classes. They were held every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (2) during October. It seems that every year the students do a better job than the ones the previous year.

It might be that I am getting better at teaching, but more likely, it is due to the upgrading of the equipment. Counting my faceting equipment, I have close to \$5000.00 worth of machinery.

I have just ordered two more diamond grinding wheels to go along with the two I already have. We have 3 sanding drums, and two polishing heads, along with two slab saws, two trim saws, and two vibrating laps.

The 14 students who took the October classes were:

Valerie Parshall	Lynn & Chris Britz
David Wynegar	*Allison Novotny
*Brian & Larry Hess	*Jason Imler
*Melody Lenart	Tina Caparo
Ann McFadden	Virginia Steel
*Alice Garwood	Cheryl Knevels

Those with an * are continuing in advanced work during November. No classes will be held during the Holiday Season.

Advanced and Beginner classes will again be offered in January or February depending on the weather and interest.

Although teaching so many classes takes me away from my own lapidary work, it is the only way to cover the rising cost of liability insurance while still keeping the classes affordable.

Anyone interested in taking classes in 1993 can contact me during the day at Darden School, Tel. 272-1300 or in the evenings at home at 11900 Loughlin Drive, Mishawaka, IN 46544, Tel. 259-7055.

The classes run one day per week for four consecutive weeks. It is usually not possible to make up classes missed. The exception to this would be a snow emergency. The sessions are 75 minutes long. The cost - \$39.00 includes all your supplies, and stones. Slabbed material is also available for purchase.

The class size is usually 3-4 people. The average student finishes 3 or 4 projects...the value of which can amount to half the cost of the lessons.

Some of the advanced students have been able to create stones..the value of which pays for the lessons. Some students have been working on sugelite, opal doublets, fancy shapes, and intarsia. Brian Hess, from our club, has been doing excellent work on intarsia.

If you would also like to expand upon your lapidary skills, please give me a call.

—Gordon Dobecki

HINTS - HINTS - HINTS - HINTS

BRECCIA - often throws rockhounds. According to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, it is said BRET-cha.

CAMEO? INTAGLIO? MOSIAC? INTARSIA? A cameo is a carved gem in which the design stands in relief. Intaglio is a carved gem with the design carved into the surface (originally used as a seal). Mosaics are pictures made of tile, colored rock, glass, etc. which is broken and uneven. Intarsia is a picture made of pieces which fit together to an exact shape and thickness.

(Fort Hamilton Gems, The Conglomerate, Osage Hills Gems & Serendipity Gems)

DIAMONDS IN WYOMING - are being sought in two newly discovered kimberlite deposits. The Wyoming geological survey and Colorado State University report that these are just 2 of nearly 100 kimberlite intrusives found in the Laramie and Front ranges of Colorado and Wyoming. At least 12 have shown to contain diamonds.

(Cycad, Osage Hills Gems & Serendipity Gems)

INDIAN SILVERSMITHING - is not an ancient art and tradition. It started in the 1830's in the southwest. "Mother-in-law" bells were among the first creations. In some tribes, it was the custom for the son-in-law to have nothing to do with his mother-in-law. So he made her bells to wear so that he could hear her coming & avoid meeting her.

(Michigan Gem News, Chips, The Rockpile, Osage Hills Gems and Serendipity Gems)

AN 11 A.D. BOOK - written by Theophilus described the cutting and polishing of stones in India. Rock crystals were cut with an iron saw charged with a sand slurry. Polishing was done with stones of increasingly fine texture. Polishing was accomplished with brick dust on a lead slab. Powdered rock crystal was used to cut and polish other gemstones such as emeralds, beryl and onyx.

(original source unknown, Osage Hills Gems and Serendipity Gems)

OBSIDIAN BLADES FOR EYE SURGEONS - may be available in the future. Anthropologist Payson Sheets of the University of Colorado is working with an eye surgeon to test scalpels modeled on ancient Mayan blades. The blades have an edge 4 billionths of an inch thick. They should cost about \$15.00 compared with \$800.00 for diamond blades. The use of obsidian blades has been traced back over 4000 years.

(San Diego Lap, Deming Rock Chips, Osage Hills Gems & Serendipity Gems)

FOGGING ON SAFETY GLASSES OR SHIELDS,- can be prevented by pre-treating the inside with glycerine soap - available at the drug store. Just rub with dry soap, wipe thoroughly with a non-scratching cloth, and wear. This works well on regular glasses and car windshields, too.

(Osage Hills Gems and Serendipity Gems)

A billion seconds goes back before World War II. A billion minutes goes back before the time of Christ. A billion hours goes back to the cave man. A billion dollars of government spending goes back to yesterday.

THICKEN TUMBLING SLURRY - fast with instant potatoes. (Owyhee Gems, Serendipity Gems)

TO STORE THOSE MISCELLANEOUS - small dop sticks, drills, files, burrs, etc., just cut a block of plastic foam and push the tool down in it to make it's own hole. You can write on the foam with ink to identify them if you wish.

(Chips & Tips, Osage Hills Gems & Serendipity Gems)

When Columbus came, Indians were using some 85 different gem materials for ornamental purposes. (Dinny's Doings, Tule Smoke Signals, Osage Hills Gems & Serendipity Gems)

HURRICANE ANDREW by Joyce Larson - Editor (and Insurance Adjuster)

After a great vacation in August with my California grandson where we visited Mammoth Cave and dug for crystals near Hot Springs; a pleasant visit with my Texas daughter and granddaughter in Indiana, a scarey bout with pneumonia (I'm never sick!) I returned to work in September, Labor Day week in fact. One of our adjusters had already been sent to Florida to assist with claims originating from the August 24th disaster. I had been asked twice during that week if I could also go. Not having been released by the Dr. at that time, I could not leave. On 9-24 I was told to make plane reservations as I would be leaving on the 26th, the same day the previous adjuster was to return. With the Dr.'s. release and reservations made I attempted to organize myself for a required 6 week stay. I had to fly into W. Palm Beach as the Miami airport was closed. Upon picking up a rental vehicle I headed south to Miami - seeing little damage to the north. Nearing Miami to the west was a different story. With street signs blown down, in a strange city - it took 1½ hours to find the office to which I had been assigned. The insurance company had seven offices set up from Miami to the Homestead area, some in trailers as the buildings were uninhabitable. I started my storm duty that same day - 7 days a week, 12 hours a day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Exactly what is storm duty? It means dealing with thousands of people who have their lives and the clothes on their backs. They have lost everything else, their homes, belongings, clothes, furniture, electricity, water, vehicles, boats, etc. They did have insurance though and that helped a multitude to be placed in motels and trailers. Immediate payments were made to many for clothing and food. There were tent cities for the less fortunate. The Red Cross had many tents along the highway south of Miami to Homestead where food was available. The Salvation Army had raised a circus size tent where people were able to get clothing, furniture, food - all donated items. Storm duty also has an unpleasant side to it. 26 of our adjusters were attacked with everything from baseball bats to being shot at. 52 were involved in accidents. Armed security guards were placed at the doors to our office to disarm the irate public. Initially all 2,900 of us had been issued shirts and jackets that showed "Disaster Team" and the company name. It became unsafe to wear them outside of the building. On the 19th day I had a day off and took my camera, heading south into the Homestead area. This was my first opportunity to actually drive into the area in daylight. The sights were unreal. The people in Homestead had stayed intending to "ride out" the hurricane as they had done before. Only this time it was disasterous. Homestead has no liveable buildings, the entire downtown area destroyed. What was left in the Homestead area were the people - congregating on the streets. Again, it wasn't safe to exit the car. I drove with doors locked and took pictures from the vehicle. I then drove into an area called Cutler Ridge. Expensive homes reduced to splinters - mobile home parks so totally destroyed that bulldozers were called in to level and pile up what was left. After taking pictures of what I thought were heart-wrenching sights, I stopped the picture taking and just drove. A snapshot can't begin to tell the story. The Miami TV station crew did make a video tape of this entire happening from tracking the hurricane before it hit the coastline, to being out in it while it was happening, to taking the "after" photos the following day, aerial shots that tell the entire story and show the magnitude of the damage. I brought this tape home with me. I felt like those six weeks would never end, yet when the time came to come back to Indiana I had mixed emotions. You work so closely with people in a situation like this, lifetime friendships are made, you feel like you've been of help, have done some good, eased some pain and the job wasn't done when I left and probably won't be for the next four years. As I boarded the plane to come back to Indiana, my replacement was also on the plane from Indiana to Florida and so it will go until all of these people have been taken care of. I had trouble sleeping once I got to Florida but I'm still having a problem now that I'm back. The company has told us that we would more than likely be asked to make a return trip for another six weeks. Would I go again - yes, however I know the return trip would not be like the first - going into an area just four weeks after such an occurrence. I am sure the return trip would be a clean up of files and claims situation - but yes, I would still go.

Joyce

HOW TO HAVE A THRIVING GROWING CLUB

Not by reacting to a new proposal with one or more of the following negative remarks:

It won't work.....Let's try it
 We've tried that before.....I love a challenge
 It's too hard.....We'll make it work
 It's too risky.....It's worth the risk
 That's against our policy.....We can change our policy
 It will cost too much.....We'll raise the money, somehow
 That's not in our bylaws.....We can revise the bylaws
 Ridiculous.....Sounds good to me
 I'm too busy.....I'll find the time
 Out of the question.....That's a great idea
 I won't be here 10 years from now.....Let's do it for a better future
 Maybe, but some other time.....Let's do it, now!!

(-via Trinity Tailings, American River Currents and Scribe)

FOR JUNIORS

The following words are scrambled & are "rockhound" related. Each word is either a form of rock, fossil, or gemstone. The answers are found on page 10, upside down.
 Good Luck.....but.....no peeking!

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. GAWYDU ODGEE | 14. BYRU |
| 2. ULEB NELOHCOYAC | 15. TELOBIRIT |
| 3. NBFURAIR TAGEA | 16. NAGRET |
| 4. ZLBIAINRA BTAEA | 17. NAMDOID |
| 5. DAREMLE | 18. SNETOLDGO |
| 6. DFIPERTIE ODOW | 19. CRINITE |
| 7. QSUEIOTRU | 20. SILSFOS |
| 8. NATSEPRIA | 21. HIPSAPER |
| 9. POAL | 22. PAZTO |
| 10. TMONANA GATEA | 23. PIALS ALIZUL |
| 11. HSMYATET | 24. HOMAIMM OHTOT |
| 12. IRPIAER EATAG | 25. MAQRANUAIE |
| 13. TIPODER | |



(Drawing 'lifted'
 from Gem City Rock
 News)

(-via G.I. Nuggett, The Glacial Drifter, The Skawmish Roktawk & Gem City Rock News)

Why is it that modern technology can make nearly everything wrinkle resistant — except people?

Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans.

You can't change the past, but you can ruin a perfectly good present by worrying too much about the future.

We learn by our mistakes. Most of us never lack for study materials.

(-via The CFMS Newsletter)

A truly great person makes everyone else feel great.

A HOLIDAY HELPER (?).....

CHRISTMAS RUMCAKE

1 or 2 qts. of rum	1 cup butter	1 tsp. sugar
2 large eggs	1 cup dried fruit	2 cups flour
Baking powder	1 tsp. baking soda	Lemon juice
Brown Sugar	Nuts	

Before you start, sample the rum for quality. Good, isn't it? Now, go ahead, select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check the rum again. It must be just right. To be sure rum is of the highest quality, pour one level cup of rum into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat. With an electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 seaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sure that the rum is of the quinest fality. Cry another tup. Open second quart, if necessary. Add two arge leggs, 2 cups fried druit, and beat till high. If druit gets stuck in beaters, just pry loose with drewscriver. Sample the rum again, checking for tonscicticity. Next, sift 3 cups of pepper or salt (it really doesn't matter). Sample the rum again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add a babblespoon of brown thugar, or whatever color you can find. Wix mell, and frinkle with slour. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350 gredees. Now pour the whole mess into the coven and ake. Check the rum again and bo to ged.

(-via MGAGS - Barbara Matz)

MORE MINERAL STAMPS

Just four days after the release of the US mineral stamps, Canada released mineral stamps also. A booklet of 10 stamps has five different designs in 42¢ denomination: Gold from Hunger Creek, Yukon Territory; Copper from Kamloops area, British Columbia; Sodalite from Bancroft, Ontario; Grossular garnet from Asbestos, Quebec and Galena from Little Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories. The stamps mark the 150th anniversary of the Geological Society of Canada, and are sponsored by the Mining Association of Canada. For ordering details, write to the Canada National Philatelic Centre, Canada Post Corp., Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2G 2R8; or Interpost, Box 378, Malverne NY 11565.

(-via Eastern Federation of Min. & Lap. Societies - The Rockhounder)

WHAT IS A WILDERNESS?

We're all too familiar with the designation of scenic land as wilderness under federal law. But few of us realize what all that means - except that it'll cost us up to \$1000 and/or a year in jail if we make a mistake around such land. 1. Recreation is restricted or excluded by 1) obliteration of campsites, 2) not allowing promotion of visits, 3) rerouting transportation away from interesting areas, 4) keeping roads at low standards 5) regulating the use of horses and pack stock, 6) requiring permits for limited area and time 7) limiting the size of groups, 8) limiting total users, 9) restricting boat/canoe beaching in the areas. 2. No facilities or improvements will be provided. Existing ones will be removed. Existing trails will be limited to the minimum for wildlife management. Trails can only be 2 feet wide. Camping prohibited near lakes, streams, trails or other natural attractions. Garbage may not be buried. No camp structures may be built (lean-to, fire rocks, etc.) 3. Hunting and fishing may be discontinued, habitat manipulation is allowed only to enhance wilderness character. Prescribed burning is not allowed. Fish stocking is limited to discourage visitors. Trapping is prohibited. Stock grazing leases are grandfathered, no new ones are allowed and present ones may be stopped if they adversely impact the wilderness.

(continued page 8)

WHAT IS WILDERNESS, Continued:

4. Mining laws are withdrawn from wilderness. Archeological and historical sites are subject to the forces of nature and may not be excavated, stabilized or improved. Sites not on the National Register of Historical places shall be destroyed. No tools, equipment or structures may be used. 5. No roads, landing areas or strips, motorized equipment, bikes, hang gliders, flyovers, dropping of materials or supplies, structures, violating any order of an authorized officer, entry without a permit. 6. Any designated officer may require permits for any use and may issue written orders closing the use of the lands or waters. (And the Enviro-nuts claim the idea is to allow future generations to enjoy the wilderness! An obvious lie - considering the items above - Editor Color Country Chips via Serendipity Gems)

THREE ROOMS AND A PATH

-by Richard M. "Pek" Gunn

In Nashville, every family boasts
of five rooms and a bath;
But in my youth I never had
but three rooms and a path.

They built the outhouse on the bank
of Tumbling Creek and then
Each time I passed I had an urge
to push the outhouse in.

For weeks I fought this powerful urge.
and one day I was weak --
I slipped out to the outhouse, and
I pushed it in the creek.

That night my dad called me aside,
and all he had to say
Was: "Do you know who pushed the
house into the creek today?"

I told my dad that it was I -
he didn't even chide -
But then and there with leather belt
prepared to tan my hide.

"But Daddy, when George Washington
cut down the cherry tree,
He told the truth and so his pa
let little George go free."

"But, let me ask you something, son,"
my dad said with a frown,
"Was his pa in that cherry tree
when George cut it down?"

(-via Council Reported, Owyhee Gem
& Dinny's Doin's)

I'd rather be a could-be
If I couldn't be an are.
For a could-be is a may-be
With a chance of touching par.
I'd rather be a has-been
Than a might-have-been, by far.
For a might-have-been has never been,
But a has-been was once an are.

(-via Rock Writings, Gems of the Rogue &
Breccia)

ANCIENT EGG AUCTIONED ... for \$10,444.00

An AP news release reported the July 2, 1992
auction of a fossilized dinosaur egg laid
in France about 70 million years ago. The
auction was in London, the price \$10,444.

London's Natural History Museum said the
seven-inch, solid brown fossil egg probably
came from a hypselosaurus.

The Dutch agent who bought it usually acts
on behalf of private collectors.

HYRACOTHERIUM SANDRAE: Fossils of a newly
identified species of a cat-sized horse found
in northwestern Wyoming, is the oldest
known horse in North America. H. Sandrae
lived during the Eocene epoch about 50 mil-
lion years ago and resembled a Siamese cat in
size and build.

(-via Science News, Flint Flashes, Brecci
and Dinny's Doin's)

FOSSIL COLLECTING IN FLORIDA - by Paul Godollei, Club Member

A recent trip to central Florida revealed some exciting places to find fossils of Pleistocene age and earlier. The phosphate beds buried under the sandy soil have been mined for many years, and bones and fossilized remains of prehistoric animals are common in the phosphate deposits. In the area south of Mulberry in Polk County the phosphate is still being mined with huge dredges. I stopped at an abandoned strip mine 10 miles south of Mulberry and was able to find some brachiopods after only a few minutes search. Over the years fossilized remains of over 100 species have been found. The Mulberry Phosphate Museum has a very nice collection of bones of horses, rhinos, mastodons, saber tooth cats, sloths and sharks. A rare three toed horse and a six horned antelope are among their rarer finds. In 1988, a complete skeleton of a 25 foot baleen whale was discovered in the bone beds, and is on display in the museum. The museum is located in Mulberry at the intersection of State Road 37 and one block south of State Road 60 and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 4:30. Admission is free.

The next time I get to Florida I will spend more time in the old phosphate gullies that look a lot like the water filled coal strip mines in southern Indiana and Illinois.

An attempt is now being made to fill in the enormous mounds and dangerous water holes and to try to reclaim the land for farming and recreation.



DISPOSSESSED (by D. L. Howard)

I had a little rock collection & it grew and grew and grew, until I had so many that I knew not what to do. There were specimens in the kitchen, in the bedroom and in the bath, 'til from one room to another, I could hardly dig a path! So I started in to cut them just as quickly as I could, but the barrier still outgrew, although they all looked good. They were stored upon the mantle, they were stored upon the floors, they were falling out the windows and rolling out the doors! T'was a hopeless situation, I was "rockbound", don't you see; none could I dispose of, for they meant too much to me! But after months of contemplation, and a session with the spouse, we've resolved the situation by moving out of the house! (-via Serendipity Gems, and others)

THE TEN ROCKAMANDMENTS

1. Though shalt not touch they neighbor's minerals unless he places them in your hand.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, biting or squeezing.
3. Thou shalt not drop they neighbor's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt not place they neighbor's specimen in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test they neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently, sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above they neighbor when on a field trip unless thou are willing to spend remainder of day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine own eyes, hands and feet so thou can enjoy many, many more field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon they neighbor's diggings lest his hammer be dropped on thy toe.
10. Thou shalt not complain about or denounce thy club officers under penalty of being elected one thyself.

(-via Scribe, Strata Gems, Burro Express and MGAGS)

WHICH IS RIGHT?

An English professor gave the following words to his class to punctuate:
"Woman without her man is nothing."

Most of the guys wrote it:
"Woman, without her man, is nothing."

Most of the gals had it:
"Woman, without her, man is nothing!"

SHOP HINT:

There is another way of finishing soapstone that we have heard of that the Chinese use or used. Heat the finished article in an oven for one hour at 200 degrees. Remove from oven and apply a coat of paste wax. A jade effect results from this method.

Don't be satisfied with scratches in your cabochon. Go back and do the job again. When a stone is properly polished you can read the reflection from the bottom of an overhead light bulb in the high polish of your stone. To work out a flat spot in a cab, mark a cross in the stone with an aluminum pencil. When it's properly ground and shaped you will have erased the cross and the flat spot.

(-via the Rock-A-Teer, W. Seattle Petroglyphs, Golden Spike News)

THANKS MARGARET FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE OCTOBER ROCKFINDER FOR ME!

Joyce

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|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 19. citrine | 10. montana agate | 1. dugway geode |
| 20. fossils | 11. amethyst | 2. blue chalcodony |
| 21. sapphires | 12. prairie agate | 3. fairburn agate |
| 22. topaz | 13. peridot | 4. brazilian agate |
| 23. lapis lazuli | 14. ruby | 5. emerald |
| 24. mammoth tooth | 15. trilobite | 6. petrified wood |
| 25. aquamarine | 16. garnet | 7. turquoise |
| | 17. diamond | 8. septarian |
| | 18. goldstone | 9. opal |