

THUMBLICKER

APRIL 2009 MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:34 pm

STOOD FOR PLEDGE OG ALLEGIANCE

1st ORDER OF BUSINESS

We have a new librarian. Robert Chapman has agreed to take this position. Thanks to Robert for volunteering his time for this position. We will be seeing comments in our newsletter regarding our inventories and articles posted from some of the older magazines and books.

Survey results are in. As of this meeting, we have in 13 – 14 responses. The most popular requests for additional workshop days, we have 4 votes for Thursday, 2 for Monday, and three for Tuesday. One person said they did not want Wednesdays, the rest were good with the existing Wednesday classes to remain and are pretty happy with our existing schedule, but in addition, Thursday was the most popular, with Tuesday coming in second and finally Monday to be added.

For the classes, we have options of Intarsia, Casting and Stained Glass and the ‘other’ option. We have seven votes for Casting, this being the most popular vote. Then it was pretty much a tie for Chain maille, Intarsia, Enameling and Stained glass with votes being five for these classes.

We had three people volunteer for Custodial & Maintenance. One couple volunteered for Show committee. And several other people volunteered for Education. Tom & Kay Benham offered their knowledge for teaching other workshops. We have a couple of members that know Chain maille, and they are willing to teach on different nights, with differing methods. Overall, we had a pretty positive response from those who returned their survey. There were a lot of suggestions, with all being different. None that were consistent with each other. One from Kay Benham was setting up the payment schedule for people who want to take the weekend workshops and to schedule the workshops at a time as to not interfere with normal classes.

Board members will be looking at ways to set this all up. We are already in discussion of the new nights and classes. This will take a little time to work out.

No questions or comments were submitted from attending members.

1st VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Has not had a response from the Seminole county schools Partners in Education for the Rock and Mineral educational hosting that was given at one of the elementary schools. Tara re capped that our club is ‘Partners in Education’. Bob Cole and John Piziak host educational programs at the elementary schools in Seminole county. This is on our website and we have the Partners in Education certificate posted.

Bob did have someone approach him at our show to ask if we can give lecture on rocks and such. This was not in lieu of the recent one given.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

As was discussed at the Board meeting, we now have an Educational committee. Gaither will chair the committee, with all instructors being a part. Committee will be in charge of organizing classes and electing new instructors etc. Gaither will be sending an email to all members regarding this committee. Anyone who is interested in being on this committee, please let Gaither know.

Gaither had a follow up question regarding more shop hours. Tara is handing this off to the Education committee once it is formed. So if you would like to have a part in the decisions of shop time and hours, please consider being a part of this committee.

SECRETARY REPORT

Michele lets members know fair set up is the following day on Wednesday 4/15.

Discusses with Gaither on bringing club equipment in. Michele will set up mineral display. Anyone who want to display minerals needs to bring them in on this Wednesday, as the mineral display cabinet needs to be filled prior to Fair opening. The Jewelry display cabinet is to be filled with members' jewelry, keeping in mind that if you leave it there permanently, no one person can be responsible for it. We have several volunteers to work on various days. They are not held responsible for selling your jewelry unless prior arrangements have been made. In the past, some members come for a day and bring some items with them and take them when they leave at end of day.

Michele talked to Bill Meginley regarding the power point. It was left that if we have room in our location this year, we would like to bring it in.

The main day that I have a concern on is Thursday the 23rd, as that is the school fieldtrip day. Our booth generally gets loaded with 300 kids. In the past, I have always provided small minerals to give to the school groups. We need at least two people there on this day. More, if possible. Some one will need to give out the mineral specimens and also, the bowl of tumbled rocks that are given out daily to the kids are also given to the school kids. This is a great way to promote education on rocks and minerals to young children and start their rock collection. The teachers appreciate it also. The time for this is 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Ann Piziak volunteered to be there. Thank you Ann.!

Please see me for fair tickets. If you just want to come to the fair with your family, that is fine. We want you to have fun. I do ask that you just stop by to say hi and to see if the person or persons at our booth need anything. I'm not asking you to give up your family time, just to see if you can offer a 15 minute food break or such other. I have already given the list of names for badges. If you have not let me know that you need a badge please do so, I can add it tomorrow or Friday. Hope everyone has fun. See you at the Fair!!

TREASURER REPORT

The income taxes have been filed. It was filed online by one of the 990 post cards. We did not owe any taxes as we do not make enough in the year. Jim gave the checking acct. balances and reported all bills current. Gave workshop year to date income and also past month shop income. A brief report as discussed at board meeting, the expenses and incomes from our show. See Jim Johnstone if you would like to discuss finances.

SHOW CHAIRMAN REPORT

Bill gave a detailed report on our expenses and income of our recent club show. See Bill Meginley for if you would like to know this information. We had a 34% increase in floor traffic this year. 865 people attended our show. Not bad for a two day event. Bill was pleased with these numbers as we had some bad weather on that Sunday. 445 people attended on Saturday and 420 on Sunday. We had 30 volunteers to man the stations. What a joy it was to have so many come and volunteer. Bill hopes you enjoyed yourselves as it is as much fun as it is work. You were all a tremendous help, this is more than we have had since Bill has been show volunteer and chairman these past five years or so. We did not have a shortage of help in any area this year as we have had in the past. Bill sends his thanks to all who helped out, you are much appreciated!!

We are having a second show in November, on the 13th, 14th & 15th. It will be open on Friday from 1 pm – 8 pm, Saturday will be open 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, with Sunday opening at 10 am and closing at normal time of 6 pm. We are opening an hour later as we have found that many people didn't come in at 9 am, the crowds generally starts coming in around 10 am. We are expanding the hours to try and get more people to attend and allow the vendors to make more money. As discussed in the past, this show will be smaller than our primary one. Again, we will need volunteers for this show. We will not need as many as we will have a smaller space, we will be in the front half of the same building. Our club will still have some tables, but not as much club participation is required. Bill will give a more detailed description as to what volunteers are needed in the near future. Bills son Michael has been helping him to come into the 21st century by creating teaching him excel spreadsheets as a show notebook going forward so every time we have a show all that information is entered. This will help out in the future to lessen problems that can occur. We will have approximately 20-25 vendors. We tried to schedule this show so as not to interfere with another club show and the wholesale show that is the 1st weekend of Nov.

At this point, the Fairgrounds is our biggest expense. We are looking for other venues, but have not found any that can match up with the parking ability, central location and price. If anyone has any ideas on this please feel free to let Bill know. Also, if you have any ideas on show improvements, he would welcome your input. Bills son has set up an email address for him that is for show chairman. If you have any ideas or feedback, both negative and positive, please contact him at this email address - cfmgsshowchairman@hotmail.com. He gladly welcomes your ideas. If you do not have a computer, you can contact him by phone. His phone # is listed on the front page of the Thumblicker.

Fred Tunderman suggested a high school gymnasium. Most high schools have very large gyms.

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

No comments at this time

FIELDTRIPS

Saturday May 30th we are scheduled to go to Eddie Rucks' quarry, which is now known as The Fort Drum Crystal mine and campground. The fee is \$30.00 per person. Children 16 and down to seven is \$15.00, and under seven is free. There is a 5 gallon bucket limit

with one matrix piece. You are welcome to fill several buckets and at the end of the day you can select the best pieces to keep. A matrix piece consists of a large clump of the coquina that the crystal clams are found in with one or more clams in it. Matrix pieces are very prized. I myself found one several years ago on my way to the facilities. I still have that piece. You can also find calcified shells and shark teeth up to three inches. There are several websites you can visit to see some very nice photos of the quarry and these beautiful fossil minerals. The clams are partially replaced by honey to amber colored calcite crystals that have a scalenohedron termination also known as 'dogtooth calcite'. They are stunning! Some of the crystals are large enough to facet. Better get 'em while you have the chance, as in all great things, the quarry will come to an end one day. We will not be entering the actual pit as it is now a lake as I understand. We will be searching thru the tailings. There have been some exceptional finds in the tailings, I have personally seen them. You will need to pack a lunch, and bring plenty of cold fluids to drink. DON'T FORGET THE SUNSCREEN and a straw hat wouldn't hurt! It is best to wear long pants as the coquina can be sharp. A good hiking type boot is best, but any enclosed tennis shoe will due. High heeled fashion type construction boots are not a good idea ladies. You can bring small hand tools to help pick thru the pilings. Large tools are not needed. Bring plenty of newspaper to wrap your findings in. You don't want to damage them. Also bring more than one five gallon bucket for prime selecting. You may want to bring lawn chairs to take a break and eat lunch.

Just before you get to the quarry road, you will see two old pump gas stations and a restaurant.

Directions to the quarry will go out in this newsletter on a separate page. We will be entering the pit around 9:00 am. If you want to carpool, please let Michele know, she will be able to ask other members who are going if they wouldn't mind teaming up in one vehicle. I believe my truck is already full as of this writing. PLEASE PLEASE call me (Michele) to let me know if you are coming so I can have a sign up list made with phone numbers. And everyone, have a great time. I know I will!

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Chapman asks about the monthly rockfest we have spoken about in past meetings. John Piziak answers that we are focusing on getting thru the Fair first. At next meeting, we will decide a date to start. We will need volunteers to help get the word out. We want to invite both local and out of area clubs. So if anyone has the time to research the internet and find clubs in north, south and coastal areas of Florida, please send all info to John Piziak. Also if you would like to get involved in other areas of advertising, see John P.

DOORPRIZES

Donated by: Michele Bogle, Bob Chapman, Paul Bordenkirchner and Ray Miller.

Winners: Bill Meginley won and gave to new member Andao.

Jim Johnstone won and donated to club.

Ann Piziak won and donated back to the drawing.
Ann Piziak won again (with Johns' ticket)
Michele Bogle donated back to drawing
Fred Tunderman
June Huggins
Jay Rogers
Jan Tunnell

50/50

Won by Larry Tunnell

Congratulations to all winners!

Attendance

23 members 3 guests (now new members)

New Members:

Jan Neeport - involved in Art class at Maitland Art Center and interested in learning to cut a cabochon.

June Huggins - hobbies include Art historian and recently finished a master program for jewelry.

Andao - interests are designer clothing and learning to cut stones.

CLUB TALK

Discussed a doorprize for the Fair. Michele Bogle agreed to donate the doorprize. The doorprize drawing helps to increase our mailing list for show post cards. Anyone that would like to donate a doorprize see John P.

Last years doorprize was won by Cindy Ketcherson. It was a Spinel, and she was very pleased with it. We also had a tennis bracelet that was won by Debbie Beckman. She has not claimed it yet.

Motion to adjourn for refreshments

8:30 pm second' by John P.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

By Michele Bogle

“GARNET”

Note: I am having some computers problems and cannot log onto the internet. Therefore this months article will be a little lighter than normal. I am not able to down load photos at this time either. I apologize, and hope to have the problem fixed before next newsletter.

Sincerely,
Michele

Antique jewelry set with Bohemian garnets have come back into fashion, from having gone into a decline after the Victorian era. Because of its old time and renewed popularity, the idea has developed that garnet is always red-brown or dark purple-red. Some of it is, but much of it is not. Except for blue, every color is represented by some kind of garnet. The other misconception, even among collectors, is that garnet is the name of a single mineral species. It is really the name of six or so species. Mineralogists recognize six major kinds of garnet and admit, at the same time, that rarely does any of the six occur in pure form. Some of their compositions are so grossly intermixed that it is difficult to determine what the mix is. The six species fall into two groups. One group includes Uvarovite (the calcium-chromium garnet), grossular (the calcium-aluminum garnet), and andradite (the calcium iron-garnet). The other group includes pyrope (the magnesium-aluminum garnet), almandine (the iron-aluminum garnet), and spessartine/spessartite (the manganese-aluminum garnet). There is some, but not much mingling between the two groups and a rather free mixing within each. Garnets are popular collection specimens. Invariably, they are well crystallized in 12 sided dodecahedrons or 24 sided trapezohedrons – or some combination of the two. It is actually difficult to find garnets that are not well formed. Sometimes the crystals are too big to handle. In the commercial almandine deposit at Gore Mountain, New York, crystals a foot across are common, and they have been known to reach three feet. At Dalsfjord, Norway, there are crystals weighing over an estimated 500 pounds. Of course collectors prefer perfect crystals that are six inches in diameter or less. Because of their strong crystallizing ability and variable composition, garnets are able to form in all sorts of rocks in a wide range of temperatures and pressures. This makes it a very widespread group of species. Because garnets are highly resistant to weathering, they persist after their host rocks have decomposed. This accounts for enormous deposits of garnet sands big enough to be mined.

<u>GARNET</u>	<u>HARDNESS</u>	<u>SP.GRAVITY</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
Pyrope	7	3.5	orange-red, deep-red, purple-red
Almandine	7	4.3	dark red, purplish-red, brownish-red
Spessartine	7	4.2	orange, orange-red, yellow-orange
Uvarovite	7.5	3.5	Green
Grossular	6.5	3.5	white, colorless, yellowish, gray, pale green, orange-red, yellow-orange, reddish-brown and pink
Andradite	7	3.8	brown to black, olive, brownish-green, emerald green, yellow and brownish-red

CRYSTAL HABITS: (ALL SPECIES)

ISOMETRIC : Dodecahedrons and trapezohedrons

I will be writing more the following months on the Garnet group. I have taken this information from the book: Rocks & Minerals by Paul E. Desautels. Ridge press-Grosset and Dunlap. Collectors' Series

The Garnet group is a wonderful study. Most species are easily found when out rock hunting. As stated above, they are most perfectly crystallized so make a great mineral for your collection. I have several different Garnet types in my collection, even the grass green Uvarovites. I love them and hope you appreciate their beauty as well. Even the garnets we generally find in the southern states that have been replaced by iron are great as they have retained their perfect crystal structure.

More to come on this group next month.

Michele