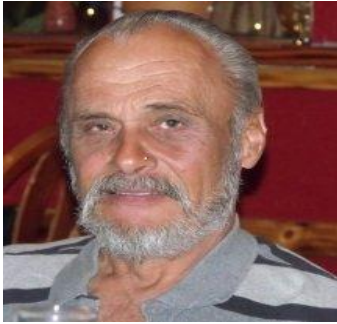


LITTLE GEMS

Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



General Meeting:
Second Tuesday of the month
Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center
1776 Airway Ave.,
Kingman, AZ 86401
General Meeting
7:00 PM

First of all, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Club. A few have been to our claim and helped with our annual assessment work, while others participated in our Burro Creek Campout. Don't forget our June Potluck Supper, beginning at 6:30 PM.

June brings us to the halfway point of the year. This has been a challenging year with many interesting places to go and many different specimens collected. As the weather becomes warmer, the pace will slow down a bit. Unlike many Clubs, we attempt to go afield throughout the year. The warm weather brings its challenges – heat being the first and foremost. Most of us are not as young as we once were and the pace needs to be a bit slower. Members need to be vigilant about keeping hydrated as heat cramps, or worse can develop before you realize it. As a former EMT, I can say with certainty: once you are “thirsty,” you are past your “safe” threshold. Drink water or tea before you go afield and often while you are out and about. Avoid sodas, they actually have a diuretic affect on the body and will not satisfy your thirst. Shade and frequent breaks are a must in hot weather. Wear a wide brimmed hat and appropriate clothing. When we take our lunch break and get out the chairs – this serves a purpose – re-hydrate yourself and have something to eat. Relax and relate to what you have found and where. Always be mindful that you may have to deal with rattlesnakes, scorpions and bees. Speaking of bees, are any of you allergic to them? If you are, do you have a bee kit (epinephrine and Benadryl) handy? You're “shooting craps” if you don't – medical treatment, may, be some distance away. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” – see your physician for a prescription.

“Cabochon 101” is underway and we show you what equipment is used and how to use it to make jewelry. Some of our members do “rent” time on their equipment and their rules will be followed. We can also show you where to get your equipment at the best price.

A trip to Flagstaff is being planned with a great camping area next to Sunset Crater National Park. In addition to getting some petrified wood, we also go to some cool restaurants, see a few Indian ruins and go to the Lowell Observatory for a day. It is a great trip, if you can, join us.

Thanks to our own Stephan Szabo, a tour of the Mercator/Equatorial Copper Mine was arranged in May. After a safety briefing, onto the bus for perhaps the best tour of a mining facility I have ever been on. There wasn't much we didn't see or get pictures of – yes we did get a few rocks. We will try to arrange another tour in the future.

FRED BUNGE, President

The Mohave County Gemstoners' Club is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

The purpose of the Mohave County Gemstoners is to:

1. Stimulate interest in Mineralogy and Lapidary Arts.
2. Stimulate individual's interest in cutting and displaying of minerals, fossils and gemstones.
3. Stimulate interest in stonecutting, carving and setting of fine gems and jewelry.
4. Stimulate interest in other areas, such as faceting, jewelry design, jewelry fabrication and metalsmithing of jewelry.

Fiscal year for memberships runs from

January 1st thru December 31st. Dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per couple and \$25.00 for family. Junior Membership cost is \$8.00.

Name badges are required, either Pin or Magnetic style available at cost.

Little Gems is published monthly. It is available online at www.gemstoners.org

The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download Adobe Reader (free program) to view.

Submissions should be to the editor by the 20th of the month to: theview@goldenvalleycable.com or mail to: Mohave County Gemstoners PO Box 3992, Kingman, AZ 86402.

2011 Club Leadership

Elected Officers:

President – Fred Bunge

Vice President – Gary Gann

Secretary – Open

Treasurer – Mary Gann

Sergeant At Arms – Cheri Hommel

Board of Directors:

Year ending 2011: Laraine Smith

Year ending 2012: Jack Hommel

Year ending 2013: Open

Club Committees 2010

By-Laws – Fred Bunge

Field Trips – Gary Gann

Greeters – Cheri Hommel

Membership – Dorothy Bunge

Photographer – Jim Howell

Webmaster – Mary Gann

Newsletter Editor – Jack Hommel

Refreshments – Mary Gann

Telephone - John and Laraine Smith

Show Chairman 2011 – Mary Gann

Sunshine – *open*

MINUTES OF THE MAY 2011 GENERAL MEETING

A presentation of Cabochon 101 was given by Club members covering the first four steps in the multi-step process of making a cabochon. Participants were those members who have never had any lapidary experience. The next session will be given from 6:30 – 7:30 PM prior to the JUL meeting. The General meeting will be moved back one half hour, to 7:30 PM as to not inconvenience the general membership with the class.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by our President, Fred Bunge. The flag salute was led by the President.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Both the FEB & MAR minutes were approved as published in the Little Gems Newsletter. As there was no quorum for the April meeting there were no minutes taken

Treasurer's Report: The Club is in good financial shape. An accounting of receipt and expenditures was given.

Correspondence: (NONE)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership – We welcomed our newest members and presented them with their folders and badges. Those with anniversaries and birthdays this month were introduced.

Show – We have been given the dates for the 2012 Show and it will be again at the KAOL HS gymnasium. We will be exploring the possibility of having vendors inside and outside the building for next year.

Field Trip – Mineral Park (Mercator/Equatorial) 13 MAY, will carpool from the Powerhouse @ 10:30 AM. Secret Pass outing has been cancelled. Castle Mtn. 06 JUN, meet @ the Nugget Casino in Searchlight, NV @ 7:30 AM. Flagstaff Campout 16-19 JUN, meet @ Benito Campground, Sunset Crater N.P..

Web Master – Many good comment being received on our web site.

Editor – Need more articles for our newsletter. All submissions must be in “letter format.”

Refreshments –Potluck supper will be at 6:30 PM, pizza will be provided by the Club. Members are asked to bring salads and desserts. The Boy Scouts will be our guests for assisting us with the Show.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Claim Work Party – overburden and rocks were moved to make a parking area that won't block the road.
2. Calendars – We still have calendars for sale @ \$10/each – see Mary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. KABAM – 14 MAY @ Metcalf Park, set-up will be at 7:00 AM. We will be doing demonstrations, displays and sales.
2. Toys For Tots Campaign – Fred will contact the Marine Corps League for more information.
3. Salvation Army - canned goods collection for the holidays – Carolyn Andrews will obtain information for next meeting.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. Door prizes.
 2. Future presentations for next year will be on Diamonds, Turquoise, hands-on lapidary and Tumbling of Apache Tears.
- 50/50: - \$22.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Fred Bunge, President

JUNE'S BIRTHSTONE



From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.

Divers find natural pearls in The Persian Gulf as well as in the waters off Japan, the South Pacific Islands off northern Australia, and the coasts of Panama, Venezuela, and California. Most of the cultured pearl industry is in Japanese and Australian coastal waters. These gems come in a variety of colors, from pure white to pink, yellow, gray and black. They also come in different shapes and sizes.

Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra.

Only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry, but eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

Alternate Birthstones

June has two alternate birthstones. The first is Moonstone, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.

The second alternate birthstone for June is the Alexandrite. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in Urals in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania. It is a rare and expensive gemstone, symbolic of joy and good fortune.

JUNE'S ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Sue Beilman, Gary & Mary Gann, William & Peggy Sue Moor,

MEMBER'S JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jim Byrne, Ginny Good, "Pete" Hansen, Judy Howell, Robin Jenkins, Kadek Mangold, Rickie Zoellner

**FIELD TRIP
INFORMATION**



- Sign in 15 minutes before departure time.
- Leader will state relevant information after everyone has signed in.
- Each vehicle is to keep the one behind it in sight. Stop if vehicle is not visible and report situation on radio channel 3.
- Always notify leader if you are hiking or driving to another site, give your approximate return time, and keep a radio with you and turned on.
- If leaving and not returning, notify leader, in person or by radio.
- Always take food, water, and first aid kit, full tank of gas.
- Name badges are required at all Club functions.

FIELD TRIPS

- **THURSDAY 16th JUNE THRU SUNDAY 19th JUNE Flagstaff.** Meet @ Sunset Crater Bonita Campground. Map & instructions will be provided to those planning to attend. Petrified Wood, Jasper, Agate, Lowell Observatory, Pueblo Indian Ruins. 4WD/ 2WD.
- **SATURDAY 9th July Tour of Member's shops.** Members who actually work with the rock they drag home from the Field Trips we go on. There will be equipment, slabs, cabs, jewelry, tools, and answers to questions. Place & time to meet will be announced.
- **MONDAY 18th July Rosie's Den area.** 2WD & 4WD. Meet @ Rosie's 7:30, on Hwy 93 past Chloride and Grasshopper Jct. Malachite, Chrysocola, Turquoise, and other ores of copper.
- **MONDAY 25TH JULY. McCracken Mine.** 4WD. Meet @ Powerhouse 7:00 AM. Amethyst, quartz crystals, galena.
- **August 7th: Grapevine Canyon.** Meet at Power House at 7 AM. 2WD. Interesting Petroglyphs, bring a camera.
- **MONDAY 22 August Picnic @ Packsaddle Pass / Windy Point campground / Big Wash Road,** 2WD. Beautiful scenery, great companionship.

Questions? Contact Gary @ 757-8121.

Burro Creek Campout - May 1st to 3rd

Burro Creek has got to be our number 1 favorite campground. It is just so beautiful. Over the years we have encountered many forms of wildlife, from curious coyotes to stubborn bulls, ornery Javalinas and shy fox, foraging skunks and angry rattlesnakes. Each morning the sun creeps up over the hills to light up the rocky wall across the creek. The blue sky is stark relief for the graceful Blue Herons that rise up over the wall and wing their way up the

creek in search of breakfast. This year a snowy white Egret has also found a home on the wall among the rocks and struggling Cacti.

Sadly, Jim-former Camp Host, pointed out that when the herons moved in, the eagles that had inhabited the rocky wall for years, moved out. (You mean that *man* is not the only one who encroaches on habitats? Such a shock.)

Sunday, we started at the Kitty Litter and picked up the bright white Chalcedony formations that litter the white hillside. It takes a minute to identify what you are looking for, and then you begin to see it all over the place.

After that we went to Mary's Wash. There is some beautiful jasper here, and we also found all colors of agate. Some had ribbons of purple running through it. The rock formations themselves are awesome, rising up out of the ground as if a giant hand has pushed them up through the earth. Some of the rocks were a yummy dark red raspberry color. I can't wait to see if it can be polished.

As two of the new people had not been to the Pastelite or agate fields, we stopped there on our way back to camp. These places are always fun to pick around in.

Monday morning we were joined by a couple, Tom & Connie, from Apache Jct., who arrived in an electric blue Volkswagen Bug. So, we made room for them in our Jeep and out we went again. They were very taken with the white Chalcedony formations from the Kitty Litter place, so we hit that first. Another favorite was the Jasper and agate available from Mary's Wash, so that was also on the list of places. The really good thing about all this activity in the wash (the Anaheim Searchers have been frequenting this place, also.) is that a really hard to traverse wash has become like a smooth highway.

Tuesday we proclaimed a day of rest and kicked back. The weather was absolutely great. Just enough breeze to tame the warmth of the Sun. Fred had gone into Kingman, and on the way back experienced a blown tire, almost uprooted a guardrail on the wrong side of the highway, and so was delayed about an hour. For our last night Gary built a blazing fire to sit around, and when it was reduced to coals, Dorothy showed us the proper way to make S'mores. Yummy.

One of the greatest things about Burro Creek>other than its close proximity to neat rocks, that is>are the stars. We usually get up sometime during the night or very early in the morning to sit out and just gaze up from the relative comfort of our chairs. Everything up there seems brighter and closer in the pitch black of the desert expanse. Shooting stars are more dramatic, and once, we even saw a meteorite, with a tail that was green and white. That was exciting. I always look forward to our next visit to Burro Creek.

Mineral Park Mine Tour, May 13, 2011

The Mineral Park Mine, owned by Mercator Minerals LTD., was a full day of sightseeing and hands on turquoise collecting. The Mineral Park Mine expansion is one of the largest, furthest advanced copper-molybdenum expansion projects in North America. Lucky for us, our Club Member, Stefan Szabo, not only works there, but was our bus driver and tour guide. He was more than willing to stop every time we wanted to snap pictures or to unload and search an area for whatever we could find. Anyone who has spent time around copper knows the beautiful rocks that can be found in such an area, and Mineral Park did not disappoint. Trent scored a healthy piece of turquoise he spied from the bus! Besides the obvious joy of picking up rocks, Stefan took us to several vantage points for viewing the whole Mine and the area surrounding it. He also shepherded us along the catwalks through the plant where the molybdenum is processed. Very interesting. As soon as we sort through them, some of the pictures will be posted on the Picture page at our web site.

From Mineral Park, in April alone, they took 610,000 lbs of Moly, 3.7million lbs of copper, and 62,500 oz of Silver. And, just on the other side of the hill, Marty Colbaugh is harvesting a good amount of turquoise.

Most of mined Moly is used as an alloy in stainless steel and alloy steel. The stainless steel is used as food handling equipment, chemical processing equipment, and home, hospital, and laboratory applications. The alloy steel is

stronger and tougher and used to make automotive parts, construction equipment, tools and chemical processing plants.

Moly is also used in paint pigments, smoke and flame retardants, and as a dry lubricant. Its high melting point, 4,753 deg. F, lends itself to uses from furnaces to light bulb filaments, nuclear plants and as missile and aircraft parts. Molybdenum is found in host rocks and can look similar to galena, or pyrite cubes. Another curious fact is that Molybdenum occurs naturally in the human body. At 250 lbs a human body will contain about 0.01135 grams of moly.

At the end of the tour we each received a piece of polished turquoise and a copper nugget. Everyone had a great time, and if we are lucky enough to do this again, I will be on the list! Thanks Stefan for your time and effort.

Your field trip committee is working diligently to prepare an exciting slate of exploration trips, mineral specimen gathering expeditions and other rewarding club activities for all members in the 2011 year. Results will be announced in the Little Gems newsletter and at general membership meetings.



SELL, BUY Or TRADE

“Graves” faceting machine. Worth \$3,000.00, Asking \$1,200.00.

CONTACT: Wayne Nicholson@ 928-263-6337

DO YOU HAVE ANY LAPIDARY RELATED ITEMS YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS MIGHT WANT OR NEED? DO YOU WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL? CONTACT THE EDITOR.

*******ROCKIN’ COOKERY*******

Here will be a place for you to share your Great Grandmother’s never fail family pleaser recipe’ or for you to share your own creation with your fellow club members. You can submit your articles via e-mail or directly to the editor at the general meetings. You will be credited for the recipe’ unless you state your desire to remain anonymous.

CAMP DESSERT – S’MORES

By Dorothy Bunge

This is a slight twist to the recipe you may have learned from your Boy or Girl Scout days – but this is more to the discriminating “adult” taste, than those of kids.

Ingredients: (2) Graham crackers, (2) marshmallows, (2 tsp.) Hershey’s chocolate bar (shaved), marshmallow fork and a teaspoon.

Preparation: Take a few minutes and shave the chocolate with a peeler, place in a plastic bag and keep refrigerated.

Assembly: Place one graham cracker on a paper towel. Place a teaspoon of shaved chocolate on each “half” of the graham cracker. Place your marshmallows on a fork and slightly brown them and wait until they “double” in size. Place the marshmallows on the chocolate and use the other graham cracker (slightly tilted) to pull the marshmallows off the fork. “Squish” the top graham cracker onto the marshmallow/chocolate center (which melts the chocolate rapidly) and enjoy. ☺

WHITE (BETCHAMEL) SAUCE

By Fred Bunge

French cooking is fun, but Béchamel Sauce is really a drag. If not done right, tastes like raw flour – preparation is everything. So, why go there? From the U.S. Army, I gained an appreciation for S.O.S. – a rib stickin’, last you all day breakfast. I still do the “real” deal at home on occasion, but I have found a product that stores easily, is easy to use and is just as good, without having to put on my Chef’s hat. You can find Tony Chachere’s white, brown or mushroom gravy mix (all are very good) at Bass Pro Shops or ordering on-line at www.tonychachere.com. Dorothy, actually designed this combination while doing breakfast at Burro Creek

- (1) Brown 1 Lb. hamburger in a frying pan as usual. Drain grease into a can.
- (2) To you hamburger, mix: 1 Cup milk, 1 Cup water (do the milk first-the water rinses out the measuring cup) and add 6 Tbsp. of the gravy mix. Stir well with spoon.
- (3) Bring to a boil, then, reduce to a simmer for a few minutes, stirring occasionally.
- (4) While at the simmer, make your toast and plate them. Pour the S.O.S. from the pan directly onto the toast – or – if you want to be neat about this, use a spoon. Either way, Bon Appetite’.

NOTE: You’ll not need any seasoning, as the Tony Chachere’s mix is already is seasoned.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is critical for all members to note that elections are a very few months away and some of your current officers and board members are prevented by our club constitution and bylaws from continuing in their offices.

It is extremely important that those of you who have not yet served in one of these important capacities now consider that your fellow members need you!

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	Castle Mtns CA meet Searchlight NV 7:00 AM 6	Board Meeting Library 6:30 PM 7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Gen'l Mtg @Senior Ctr. Pot Luck at 6:30 PM 14	15	Flagstaff Sunset Crater 16	Flagstaff Sunset Crater 17	Flagstaff Sunset Crater 18
Flagstaff Sunset Crater 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	Board Meet at library 6:30 PM 5	6	7	8	Shop Tours. Member's Shops. 9
10	11	Gen. Meeting at Senior Ctr. Cabs 101 at 6:30 PM 12	13	14	15	16
17	Rosie's Den meet 7:30 AM @ Rosie's 18	19	20	21	22	23
24	McCracken Mine. Meet 7AM pwrhse 25	26	27	28	29	30