

Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society

P.O. Box 1724 • Richmond, IN 47375 • eiggs.weebly.com • facebook.com/EasternIndianaGemGeologicalSocietyEIGGS

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Memberships:

Annual dues \$15 Individuals \$20 Families

Please send dues to:

EIGGS PO Box 1724 Richmond, IN 47375

📆 Next meeting: Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

President's Message

Hello everyone,

This year's show, by nearly every measure, was a huge success. By my count we had approximately 261 students and 65 adult teachers and chaperones in on Friday. We had six public or private schools and eight home schools on Friday. We had one Boy Scout troop Saturday and two on Sunday. We had more adults and more seniors than we've had in the last five years and the 2nd highest number of kids in five years. Admissions, silent auction, wheel, scholarship tip jar, mining and magazine sales had the highest numbers in five years. I am pleased with the direction of our show.

The raffle numbers were down this year either because the grand prize that was not quite as impressive as the previous year's or due to very few pre-sale tickets sold by club members this year. Probably a combination of both. Total expenses were in line with previous years.

If we can consistently bring in total profits at this level or higher, we may be able to increase our graduating senior

Again I want to say thank you to Judy, John and Charlene, Nicole and everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the show to make it a success.

scholarship -- something to think about.

Upcoming on our schedule is mandatory workshop refresher training, renting a dumpster to clear out the garage, replacing the upstairs door to the garage roof and finishing up the cellar replacement project.

Mark

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4-H geology projects



Volunteer for 4-H Super Saturday

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Mike Manning plans Flint Ridge trip

PAGE 16-17 EIGGS show photos



Catie Moore at the Earlham exhibit

PAGE 10 Grand Canyon trip



March 2016

Judith & Jim visit the Grand Canyon



PATRICK PIERCE, SECRETARY

There was no business meeting. Instead, the members of EIGGS and the show dealers enjoyed a carry-in dinner together.

Show Report:

Dave Straw, Treasurer

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	INCOME
\$4,965	\$4,144	\$4,328	\$4,239	\$5,037	Admissions
\$1,657	\$1,401	\$1,187	\$1,666	\$2,027	Silent Auction
\$0	\$1,185	\$615	\$436	\$438	Kulhman items
\$317	\$355	\$239	\$320	\$360	Wheel
\$44	\$42	\$7	\$10	\$52	Scholarship
\$165	\$181	\$181	\$120	\$235	Mining
\$19	\$100	\$75	\$125	\$189	Magazines & Books
\$7,167	\$7,408	\$6,632	\$6,916	\$8,338	Subtotal
\$5,695	\$5,615	\$5,365	\$5,405	\$5,550	Dealers & Kitchen
\$0,055	\$0	\$0	\$1,473	\$1,124	Raffle
50	50	50	\$1,475	\$1,124	name
\$12,862	\$13,023	\$11,997	\$13,794	\$15,012	TOTAL INCOME
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	EXPENSES
\$2,195	\$2,195	\$2,195	\$2,195	\$2,195	Kuhlman Rental
\$2,195	\$2,193	\$2,193	\$2,193	\$2,193	Ad-IN brochure
\$385	\$301	\$304	\$169	\$151	Ad-Pal-Item
\$180	\$180	\$198	\$198	\$198	Ad-Gad-a-Bout
\$180	\$591	\$568	\$495	\$429	Ad-Ohio Papers
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90	\$99	Ad-Radio
\$214	\$481	\$393	\$390	\$418	Stamps, flyers, cards
\$160	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	Labor: Set-up
\$0	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	Labor: Security
\$241	\$188	\$246	\$206	\$25	Misc.: food, auction items, etc.
\$0	\$0	\$500	\$126	\$75	Special Display/Kids Area
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$356	Raffle
éa sao	\$4.245	¢4 co4	64.474	64.226	TOTAL EXPENSE
\$3,570	\$4,216	\$4,684	\$4,474	\$4,226	TOTAL EXPENSE
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	PROFIT
\$9,292	\$8,807	\$7,313	\$9,320	\$10,786	Total
-					

Attendance

		Adult	Senior	Child	Passes	TOTAL
2016	Friday	98	129	17	0	244
	Saturday	408	218	164	0	790
	Sunday	238	106	81	0	425
	TOTAL	744	453	262	0	1459

^{*} These numbers do not include the 261 students and 65 adult chaperones who attended Student Day, Friday, March 4.



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR EARNS EIGGS SCHOLARSHIP

pplause greeted Lincoln High School senior Dakota Harrison when she was Mawarded the EIGGS scholarship at the show on Sunday, March 6.

Dakota plans to use the \$500 scholarship to pay for expenses at IUPUI in Indianapolis where she will study forensic and investigative science in order to become a forensic psychologist. Her love of science, soils and mineralogy will help her achieve that goal.

"I have always been tied to the earth, from the time I was little, till now," Dakota said in her scholarship essay. "I still have the purple stone I bought as a child at the Richmond Gem and Mineral Show. In high school I was involved in soils judging for two years. I was part of a State qualifying team and was a State qualifier on my own."

In May Dakota will complete the requirements for the Indiana Academic Honors diploma and is taking Advanced Placement English and Chemistry. She is currently enrolled in dual credit pre-calculus, which means she will be receiving both high school and college credit for her work. She has already completed dual credit courses in animal science and information and communications technology.

In addition to her academic success, she has participated in sports including softball, basketball and volleyball. She is also involved with the Science Academic Team and Key Club, a service based club sponsored by the Kiwanis. She is a four-year member of FFA and has held a variety of positions in the group.

She volunteers in the community, helping with lawn maintenance, planting flowers and pulling weeds. She also has taken part in service activities such as the Gleaner's food drives and End Hunger Now.



At the EIGGS Gem and Mineral Show, Charlene Reidenbach and President Mark Lisota congratulate Lincoln High School senior Dakota Harrison and her mother Sara Harrison. Dakota was the recipient of the 2016 EIGGS scholarship.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR: CLUB MEMBERS CELEBRATE MARRIAGES



Newlyweds!

Congratulations go out to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hankosky. Bob and Vivian are both avid square dancers. They met at a square dance three years ago. Then on New Year's Eve, at another square dance, Bob proposed to Vivian. They married on February 6 at a Hoosier Corners Square Dance.



Just Married!

Congratulations to Judith Echano Medina and Jim Caulkins the club's latest newlyweds, who were married in Connersville on March 18. "We met playing the same online game, Second Life, where we were vampires in the same clan. We've been together ever since we met, even though we didn't meet in person until a year later," Judith said.



Celebrating 50 years!

Congratulations to Jim and Marty Lucas who celebrated their Golden Anniversary on March 21. In high school Jim saw Marty's photo and made a deal with one of her girlfriends to set them up for a date. "He was a sexy drummer at the time. You should have seen him from behind on a drum stool," Marty said.

At the 4-H Super Saturday held Feb. 27, EIGGS vice-president Mary Ann Morse and secretary Patrick Pierce share their knowledge of the earth sciences with students and their parents. They discussed topics including fossils, minerals, Indiana specimens, the rock cycle and the lapidary process.

SVOLUNTEER AT 4-H SUPER SATURDAY

Interested club members are invited to promote 4-H geology

4-H provides great opportunities for students in grades 3-12 to study geology, and those who have been involved in the program love it. Club member Xavier Jones said it gave him a chance to share his love of rocks, gems and minerals and earn a variety of ribbons, too.

However, despite there being a wide variety of projects for students of all ages, over the years,



the number of geology entries at the fair has been declining, according to Wayne County Purdue Extension secretary Debbie Cates.

When we reached out to 4-H to invite them to the gem and mineral show, Cates extended an invitation of her own, asking EIGGS members to participate in two 4-H Super Saturday events to promote interest in geology.

Club members Mary Ann Morse, Patrick Pierce and Lisa Morris attended the first event Feb. 27, where they explained the various project options and shared their love of the earth sciences with 4-H members and their parents.

→ → → The next Super Saturday event is March 23 from 9 a.m. til noon at the Tom Raper Center at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patrick Pierce at 937-838-1644 or patrickwp@gmail.com

To learn more about the geology project categories, please go to http://tinyurl.com/j3kdnm9

WHURRY! YOUTH POSTER CONTEST DEADLINE APRIL 15

Hey, kids, have you finished your "Amazing Agates" poster for the Midwest Federation's annual youth poster contest? If not, you had better get going, because the postmark deadline is April 15.

Who: Any student in grades 1-8. Each grade will have a winner.

What: A poster illustrating any type of agate, what it looks like and where it can be found.

Rules:

- 1. All entries must be presented on 12"x18" paper.
- 2. Name, address, age and school grade of the participant must be listed on the BACK of the entry.
- 3. No three-dimensional posters will be accepted.
- 4. The title may be on the front or the back.
- 5. On your poster, list the name of the agate, a brief description of what it looks like, and why you chose it.
- 6. Artwork on the posters can be pen, ink, crayon, magic marker, paint or any other artist's medium.
- 7. All entries become the property of MWF and the Summit Lapidary Club.

Scale of Points:

30 points: Originality & artwork

25 points: Design 25 points: Title

20 points: listing of agate type, what it looks like & where it is from

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2016



Condor agate via theAgateLady.com / Gitche Gumee Agate and History Museum; Grand Marais, Michigan

Send to: Poster Contest 617 Wooster Rd. W. Barberton, Ohio 44203

Prizes: Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th places. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive prizes, too. Winners will be announced at the MWF Convention in South Bend, IN, August 20, 2016.

Questions? e-mail SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com

For more information, visit the MWF website www.amfed.org/mwf

Special Thanks to our SILENT AUCTION BUSINESS DONORS

The silent auction is an important fund-raiser for the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society's scholarship program. The following businesses made generous donations to our auction. If you enjoyed the silent auction, we encourage you to visit their shops and websites. If you choose to browse or purchase from any of them, please thank them for their support of the rock club and gem and mineral show in Richmond, Indiana.

'49er Minerals, Inc. 49erminerals.etsy.com

Arizona Wired Elegance *ArizonaWiredElegance.etsy.com*

Beads Addict, Bone Addict, Cab Addict CabAddict.etsy.com

Cabtopia Custom Templates *Cabtopia.etsy.com*

DD Rock Shop *DDrockshop.com*

Debra Chagares Jewelry *Chagares Photography.com/Jewelry*

Diamond Pacific DiamondPacific.com

Earths Creations facebook.com/ReneeMcVeyEarthsCreations

Elemental Designs *Elemental Designs. etsy. com*

Fire Mountain Gems & Beads FireMountainGems.com

Fox of the Grotto foxofthegrottoshop.wix.com

Jeremy Hickman Jewelry OneAtATimeDesign.etsy.com

Jewelry by Joe [Wirrig] *Lewisburg, OH*

Jewelry Tools Jewelry Tools.com

Jox Rox LLC jox-rox.com

LapCraft LapCraft.com

Moon Silver Studio *MoonSilver Studio.etsy.com*

Moving Rock MovingRock.etsy.com

Natalie's Rock Craft *NataliesRockcraft.etsy.com*

Rakme Cabs and Slabs *RakmeCabsAndSlabs.etsy.com*

Raschana / A-Plus Lapidary Raschana.etsy.com

RyZanStones RyzanStones.etsy.com

Serenity Designs / Wrapenrock Wrapenrock.etsy.com

Slabs Cabs Rough / Greg's Cabochons SlabsCabsRough.etsy.com

Sparkle Quest / Rogue Gems *SparkleQuest.etsy.com*

SS Jewelry Designs *SSjewelrydesigns.etsy.com*

Wire Jewelry WireJewelry.com

XaosArt / Beata Sasik Gallery XaosArt.etsy.com

SS JEWELRY DESIGNS 10% DISCOUNT

In addition to donating cabochons, specimens and a slab for the Silent Auction, Jeff and Sherry at Etsy store SS Jewelry Designs are offering a 10% discount on all club members' orders.

Use the discount code **SHOWDISCOUNT** when checking out.







DD ROCKS 15% DISCOUNT OFFER

In addition to donating slabs and rough rock for the Silent Auction, Ken & Terry at DDRockshop.com are offering a 15% discount to the first 20 club members who order from their online shop. Use the discount code **EIGGS** when checking out.





CABTOPIA 15% DISCOUNT OFFER

In addition to providing cabochon templates for the Silent Auction, Susan at Etsy store Cabtopia is offering a 15% discount on all club



members' orders. The discount can be used on all items, even already discounted ones. Use the code **LUVRCLUB15** when checking out.

ADDITIONAL THANKS to Vickie & JaJuan at Rosa's Office Plus for printing show signs & educational materials; Characters Printing in Troy for flyers & postcards; the Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau for additional materials for the school packets; and Adam Kruth, the general manager of the Richmond Menards, for donating bags for the mining sluice.

Rock Pickings: March 2016



WELCOME, NEW MEMBER! A warm welcome to Libby Adams, EIGGS's newest member

Libby Adams

Occupation:

High school math teacher

Location:

Connersville, Indiana

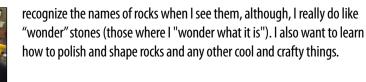
How did your interest in rock, gems or minerals develop?

I always liked rocks, even as a little kid. My grandparents had a small creek that runs

through their property. In the summertime, my brothers and I would play in the creek. My brothers were more interested in swimming or catching crawdads, but I would collect rocks and bring them to my grandma. She then proceeded to put them in her garden, but I had fun looking for all the cool rocks.

What do you hope to learn from being a club member?

I want to learn more about the different types of rocks and be able to



What have you learned so far?

I have learned how to shape and polish rocks into the shapes that I like. I have made two cabs so far. Judith [Echano Medina] has also taught me how to make trees with beads and wire and then attach them in a pleasing manner to a rock.

What are a few of your other hobbies or interests?

I like to read and crochet. I recently started a craft club at Connersville High School, where I hope to get students interested in learning and figuring out how to do different things. I love to tie-dye and color. I also binge watch TV shows on Netflix.

Anything else you want to share?

I have two cats named Pixie and Ollie. I want to learn how to swim over the summer. I might also teach summer school this summer. I have two brothers. I also have two nephews, one who is three years old and one who is two months old, and one niece, who is four years old.





RAFFLE PRIZES

Troy raffle tickets available now

ickets are on sale now to win the raffle grand prize at the Troy, Ohio, gem and mineral show. At 26.5 pounds, this huge chunk of labradorite offers both flash and substance.

The piece measures 10.5" at the highest point and is 11" wide and 4" thick. You can see the piece at the next EIGGS meeting, April 7.

You may buy raffle tickets in advance from Judy Burton and Joe Wirrig, or you may buy them at the show, April 23-24.

Tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the day on Sunday. You do not need to be present to win, although you must arrange to pick up the prize.

Raffle proceeds become donations to the Brukner Nature Center for educational purposes.



MIDWEST FEDERATION SPRING MEETING

by Sharon Marburger information provided by David Rich

The MWF Spring meeting will be held at The Summit Lapidary Club's Spring Gemboree 2016 on April 23 and 24.

The State Directors' meeting will be at 9 a.m., and the Executive

Committee meeting at 9:30. The meetings will be held at Summit Lapidary's clubhouse, 244 Chestnut Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. There is parking on the side streets.

As a special treat to the many of us who travel great distances to attend the MWF meetings, a field trip to the Nethers' Farm in Hopewell, Ohio to collect flint is in the works.

On Friday, April 22, participants can meet up at the Summit Lapidary Club's clubhouse, located at 244 Chestnut Avenue in Cuyahoga Falls. President Andy Carey will lead a caravan from the clubhouse to the collecting location in Hopewell, leaving promptly at 7 a.m.

It is a 125-mile drive to the collection site. The plan is to hunt for four or five hours, then return to Cuyahoga Falls.

If you are driving to the meetings and show from the south and west, you might consider meeting the caravan at 9:00 a.m., at Nethers Farm, 3890 Flint Ridge, Hopewell, Ohio.

There are lots of motels in Columbus, Ohio, and a smattering of them

between Columbus and Hopewell. It is about 45 minutes from Columbus to Hopewell, according to Google Maps.

Once we gather at the Farm:

- 1. There is easy parking. The cost to collect is \$5 per person and 50 cents a pound.
- 2. You should come prepared with safety glasses, safety leather gloves, boots, long sleeves, and any other normal safety items.
 - 3. Bring your own tools and containers to carry your rocks. It is a bit of a hike to the flint area, so a wheeled bucket may

be in order.

4. You can hammer and chisel all you want OR walk around and just collect flint.

Ohio weather is unpredictable. It could be gorgeous, rainy, or even snowy. Should the weather be inclement, there are other activities you may do on your

- 1. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton, Ohio. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 2. The Warther Museum in Dover, Ohio is dedicated to Ernest "Mooney" Warther, whose hobby was carving. He took up making handcrafted kitchen cutlery to earn his living. Carvings, knives, buttons, trains - it sounds like an interesting place.

If you are interested in attending the field trip, send your on-the-road contact information (cell, text, or e-mail) to MWF President David Rich. He will main-

tain a sign-up list. The contact information is necessary in the event of truly awful weather. Of course, if you are a hard core collector, you may still go collecting since the farm never closes.

MFW President's Message

by David Rich, MWF President

You still have time to prepare a trip to Summit Lapidary and Akron Mineral Society 40th Gemboree. The show is April 23-24 in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.



This year the president of Summit Lapidary, Andy Carey, will lead the early birds on Friday, April 22 to the famous Ohio flint collecting site know as Nethers Farm.

Keep in mind that the AFMS Show and Convention will be held in conjunction with the

Northwest Federation's Show and Convention, hosted by the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, on July 29, 30 and 31 in Albany, Oregon. They are planning some fun field trips that you won't want to miss.

Then the MWF Show and Convention will be held August 19, 20 and 21 in South Bend, Indiana, and hosted by the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society. Mark your calendars and plan to attend both events!

I look forward to seeing you all at the "Ridge" in April!

Show Site for MFW Spring Meeting

April 23-24—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO: Show and sale; Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society, Emilio & Sons Expo Center; 48 East Bath Road; Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children \$1; 40th Year Celebration.; contact Sandy Shorter, 8510 Grouse Ridge Dr, Chardon, OH 44024, Phone: 440-479-0069; e-mail: Gymboree@outlook.com



MEMBER PROFILE: HARRIS PRECHT

by David Lundquist

n lighted glass shelves in a cabinet he handcrafted out of red oak, Harris Precht displays part of his prized possession, a vast collection of minerals

Growing up in Fayette County, Harris roamed farm fields hunting fossils and artifacts with his grandfather. That early fascination with rocks has since led to a 50-year mineral quest. Unlike most mineral enthusiasts, Harris focuses his collection on specimens from a limited area, in his case the Midwestern states of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Indiana.

Through purchasing, trading and on-site collecting, he has multiple samples of the most common Midwestern minerals: barite, calcite, fluorite, pyrite, aragonite, hematite, celestite, dolomite, galena, sulfur and quartz, as well as rarer specimens.

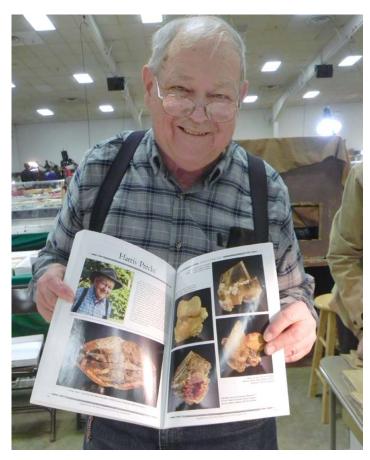
Besides the living-room cabinet holding a few dozen minerals, Harris has an entire bedroom wall filled with minerals, many on lighted shelves, the rest in cotton-lined white boxes nestled in easy-glide drawers. The beauty and variety of the minerals defy description. Some of them fluoresce. A few have tiny -- and very fragile -- grass-like crystals. Black cubes rest on a field of white. All are stunning.

For the hundreds of minerals in his collection, Harris can easily pick his favorite: "All of them," he says. "All are my favorites."

True to the discipline and precision that go with his carpentry profession, Harris meticulously records the type of each mineral and where it was found. He estimates 10-15 percent of his collection comes from on-site picking in mines, caves and quarries.

Harris has invested much time in his hobby ever since his mineral interest was piqued at a Midwestern Federation meeting in the early 1960s. He started a mineral club with other rock devotees in Connersville and then attended an Earlham College geology night class with Professor Charles Martin.

That Connersville group soon moved to Richmond where our EIGGS celebrates its 50th year. A charter member along with Bob Huff and Merrill Hinshaw, Harris appreciates the survival and growth of the area chapter. "We're one of the few clubs around with our own clubhouse and our own lapidary shop," he says.



■ Selections from club member Harris Precht's extensive Midwestern minerals collection were recently featured in *Mineral Collections in the American Midwest*, published as a supplement to the July-August 2015 issue of the *Mineralogical Record*. An avid collector of minerals, Precht is one of EIGGS's founding members.

Collecting minerals is getting harder and harder, according to Harris. Mines have been closed and sealed; quarries are often off-limits because of liability concerns; modern excavation techniques often crush crystals.

While the collecting of minerals might be a dying hobby, Harris encourages youngsters to continue to collect rocks, particularly fossils. "There are all kinds of fossils still to be found," he says.

"So, Harris, what are you going to do with that bare wall -- show more of your minerals?"

"No," he says with a smile. "That's where I'm going to display my fossils."

If you would like to recommend someone for a Rock Picking feature or wish to share your story, please e-mail EiggsNews@gmail.com



Millerite from Missouri



Aragonite out of an Indiana geode



Calcite on limestone from Rensselaer, IN

EIGGS CLUB HISTORY

fter attending a 1964 meeting of the Midwest Federation, Harris Precht returned to Connersville inspired to start a gem and mineral club. He rented meeting space at the local YMCA and then ran an ad in the newspaper advertising the new Whitewater Valley Rock and Mineral Club.

They met monthly for about a year, but membership peaked at about 10-12. A Midwest Federation regional vice president in Indianapolis and Richmond resident Merrill Hinshaw suggested that the club be moved to Richmond where it would be able to attract more members.

In 1966 Precht and some club members did just that. They joined up with Hinshaw, Earlham professor Charles Martin, and a half dozen interested people and the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society was formed.





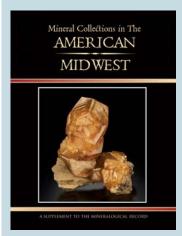
■ At Student Day, area children learned about the minerals found in the Midwest, both at Precht's booth and from his display case.

Mineral Collections in the American Midwest

by Terry Huizing & Wendell Wilson (Eds.)

Mineral Collections in the American Midwest, published as a supplement to the July-August 2015 issue of the Mineralogical Record, gives an exciting look at mineral specimens in the collections of 46 private individuals [including EIGGS own Harris Precht] and four museums in the states of the American Midwest.

At 240 pages, it contains nearly 600 gorgeous photos of superb mineral specimens from collections in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin,



2015, Softcover, 240 pages
Published by Mineralogical Record, Inc.
Dimensions 8 x 9.8 (inches)
Purchase at mineralogical record.com
Price \$25

Missouri, Ohio and Kentucky (plus one just over the border in Tennessee). These are specimens that most collectors would never get to see unless they happened to be personal friends with the collectors whose minerals are featured, or unless they personally visit the Cranbrook Institute, the Wayne State University Museum, the Indiana State Museum and the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum.

The book begins with "A Brief History of Mineral Collecting in The American Midwest," recounting some of the most famous collectors and dealers who operated in those states as early as 1820. The Midwest was not a focus of 19th Century mineral dealing like those that existed in New York and Pennsylvania; rather it was primarily the territory of

the amateur mineralogist, the rockhound and the lapidary — especially following the end of World War II. Mines and quarries yielded minerals to the miners (especially in the Michigan Copper Country, where collecting was considered a basic right by the miners) and the visiting collectors on a small scale, and roadside mom-and-pop rock shops opened up throughout the Midwest. It was a good place for children to dig rocks, and for families to collect together.

Clubs of rockhounds and collectors formed, and eventually joined together in the Midwest Federation. Local mineral shows across the Midwest flourished, giving collectors a chance to meet, compete with each other, and acquire new specimens. Today, much of that activity goes on, and many collections have become sophisticated in a distinctly Midwestern way.

Then follows the main body of the work: individual chapters on museums and on each collector or couple, with biographical notes on their collecting orientations and philosophies, and pictures of their specimens.

from mineralogicalrecord.com



Barite after celestite from Illinois



Honesite from Kentucky



Calcite with marcasite from Missouri; self-collected



Calcite on fluorite from Illinois

ON THE ROAD: MEMBERS VISIT GRAND CANYON

by Judith Echano Medina

s part of our honeymoon trip to Las Vegas, Jim and I went on a one-A spart of our noneymounting to East. 1911.

Aday trip to the Grand Canyon. I did some research ahead of time, but I could not imagine what it was like until I got there.

The day started early: at 6:05 a.m. a bus picked us up at the hotel and took us to the station where we got on another bus with those going on the same trip. After an hour, we arrived at our first stop: the Hoover Dam. A recorded narrator explained that during the construction of the dam, gaming was not allowed in Boulder City, where the

workers were staying. Gambling is still illegal over there nowadays. By the way, while we were on the bridge watching the dam, we were not in Nevada but Arizona. We were also told that it is not true that there were workers who were buried alive in the dam.

A couple of hours later we arrived to the Grand Canyon Park. We visited the West Rim, which is in the Hualapai Native American Reservation. Felix, our bus driver, explained to us that once in the reservation

we had to follow their rules. He also explained that the Native Americans don't use railings on the edge, but they don't lose lives there as they do on the railed south rim, which is part of the U.S. National Parks.

After our arrival, we were on our own. To move around the park we had to take shuttles that would take us to the three stops that we were going to that day. Our first stop was the Hualapai Ranch. It was a fun and fast way to get an

idea of what a small town in the wild west might have looked like. We could see a jail, a noose, a cemetery, the undertaker, and of course, a great view of the canyon.

Our second stop was the highlight of the trip: the Grand Canyon Skywalk at Eagle Point. The Skywalk is a glass bridge 4,000 feet above the Grand Canyon floor. We were not allowed to walk on the bridge carrying anything, so I don't have any pictures from there. Instead, we enjoyed the amazing experience of seeing the canyon's floor under our feet and birds flying right below where we were standing.

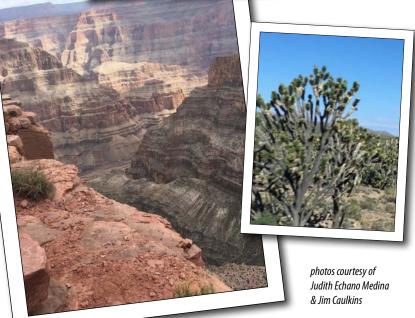
Our last stop was Guano Point, where "Highpoint Hike" offers a panoramic view of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River. Also in this location there was a Hualapai Market, where I saw some jewelry made by Native Americans.

Around 3 p.m. we headed back to Vegas, with one last stop, a gas station/bar/gift shop, called The Last Stop. If you are around that area, it is an interesting place to visit.

Overall, it was a great visit. It is hard to put into words how small one can feel right there. The Grand Canyon is a good example of the ways that nature shows us its greatness.







Do you have photos or "rock adventures" to share? If so, please e-mail EiggsNews@gmail.com



ON THE ROAD: LANGSDON MINERAL COLLECTION

ant to take a road trip? When Jerry and Pat Steinlage visited the EIGGS Gem and Mineral Show, they highly recommended a trip to Langsdon Rock and Mineral Collection in Celina, Ohio.

In 2006 Ron & Ruth Langsdon donated a substantial part of their personal rare mineral collection to the Mercer County Library in Celina,



so that future generations could enjoy it and learn about minerals. They felt a public library would be an ideal location for viewing by both present and future generations. The collection consists of more than 900 minerals from all over the world in 21 display cases.

Many of the specimens are newly discovered minerals from recently-opened mines in India, China and Pakistan. Other specimens are from historic mining areas, which are now closed to collectors. The collec-

tion contains pyrite, galena, quartz, tourmaline, apophyllite, stibnite and rhodochrosite, among many others. Each sample is labeled with the mineral type and place of origin.

The library offers classes and group tours by prior arrangement with the curator of the collection.

The library is open six days a week with a variation in hours from summer to winter. Saturdays they are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call ahead for library hours or to request a program or tour. Information & photos from LangsdonMinerals.org







What: Langsdon Mineral Collection Where: Mercer County District Library Address: 303 N. Main St.; Celina, OH 45822 Why: Over 900 mineral specimens in 21 cases

Phone: 419-586-4442

E-mail: Minerals@MercerLibrary.org

LangsdonMinerals.org facebook.com/LangsdonMinerals





MAY 28 FIELD TRIP: FLINT RIDGE, OHIO

ockhound Mike Manning, a member of the Troy club, and a long-time vendor at the EIGGS show, will lead a field trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio, Saturday, May 28.

This trip will be during the flint Knap-In Weekend. (See the Knap-In flyer on page 20.)

More information will be in the April newsletter. If interested, you can contact Mike at manningsrockshop@live.com

According to ohiohistory.org, "Flint Ridge is a nearly eight-mile-long vein of high-quality flint located in Licking and Muskingum counties of eastern Ohio.

The unique rainbow-colored flint was used by

the Native Americans for trade, tools and weapons. It is Ohio's official gemstone is popular for flint knapping.

Hundreds of quarry pits and workshop sites are scattered across more than 2,000 acres of ridge top in these Appalachian foothills.

Flint Ridge seems to have been well known in the ancient world, as small amounts of it have been found at Native American sites across the presentday eastern United States.

Because of this flint's great beauty, it has been respected throughout the ages in the tools, weapons and ceremonial objects of native cultures and in modern times in the production of jewelry."



Jeweler's Bench: Joe Wirrig

Have you always liked rocks & gems? What spurred your interest?

Back when I started in the early '80s gold was "hot," and I could see where money could be made. I realized you could make more when you added diamonds into the equation. So that's where the interest really started. Being an artist is one thing, but making money is another.

In the very beginning I worked with some turquoise and learned a little about stone cutting then.
Being self-taught, I got into the gold and diamonds. From there I started casting. I never turned down any kind of work, so if I didn't know how to do it, I would figure it out.

Ten or 12 years ago a customer of mine called and asked if I was interested in some rocks in an estate inventory. She wanted to facet a stone, so I bought the rocks and the equipment and got into the lapidary work.

How did you become a member of the club?

I joined the Dayton Club years ago and went there for several months. They used to have Art in the Park, a big art show. The members there didn't seem very involved though. I went to the Richmond show and talked to Dave Straw who told me about the club and the shop. I went to the club on a Tuesday to visit, and the rest is history.

What types of jewelry do you make?

Goldsmithing, silversmithing, intarsia, lapidary work, a

little faceting, filigree, stone setting, engraving, casting — I do, or learn to do, whatever the job demands.

What type of pieces do you like the most?

The ones that make the most money.

How long have you been teaching silversmithing?

My Monday group has been together for about four years. That's my weekly "entertainment," but I have been teaching on and off for years.

What spurred your interest to make jewelry?

I had originally repaired some pieces for my wife, and after I had two back surgeries, I needed something to do since farming was out for a while. I needed something I could do inside, year-round with little investment — something to keep me busy. I found that as I did more pieces, I liked the process more and more.

What is the most rewarding thing about making jewelry?

I like the satisfaction of completing a project and having satisfied customers.

What are your favorite materials to work with?

Next to diamonds, I like lapis. I like the color and the texture of it. It isn't always the easiest to work with, but I like the color.

Initially I cut turquoise, then I cut faceted stones and then I did repair work -- whatever lapidary work was needed to fix the pieces. Doing repair work -- that's where you really learn. You have to be creative and learn to do whatever it is that is needed to repair it. You have to learn to improvise.

How has being in the EIGGS club helped you with your jewelry work?

You always learn from other people, no matter what. I have helped other people, and other people, whether they realize it or not, have helped me.



lver"

Name: Joe Wirrig

retired toolmaker

Jewelry media:

From: Lewisburg, OH

Member since: 2009

gold, silver, gemstones

Occupation:

Silver filigree

Gold & diamond



Agate, spiny oyster, damsite & river rock



Pietersite & silver filigree



Marra mamba & silver



Silver, lapis & citrine

Jeweler's Bench: Joe Wirrig

continued from page 12

Sometimes you learn by watching others make mistakes. I have also learned more about the processes by teaching others; I have found that you have to be able to explain the reasons for why you are doing things.

What is the most challenging part of making your pieces?

Everything can be challenging. The first time I set a diamond it took me about eight hours because I wanted it to be right and I had never done it before. I didn't have anyone to show me; I was just learning out of books. Back then I didn't have YouTube to look at. For example, the principle of stonecutting is really easy, but the technique is really difficult.

Over the years, how many pieces do you think you have designed? Many, many pieces!

From where do you draw your inspiration?

Anything and everything! I've gotten ideas from architectural pieces, buildings, wall art, even lamp fixtures. I see items I like on the internet and in magazines, too.

Do you have a personal favorite piece of jewelry you've created? A diamond ring I made for my wife.

How many hours a week do you work on your pieces?

I used to work 8 a.m. til noon and all day Saturday. Now I probably put in about 15 hours a week.

What advice would you give to others about jewelry-making?

You have to be persistent because you are going to have some failures. If you are persistent, you will make it. If not, you won't.

Where do you sell your pieces?

At two shows and every place I go – funeral homes, weddings, church – at breakfast --wherever I am! It drives my wife crazy, but I think business is wherever you find it.

Do you have any upcoming events?

The Troy Show April 23-24 and maybe Yellow Springs Art on the Lawn on August 13.



■ At the Richmond gem and mineral show, Joe Wirrig spends time at his booth with daughterin-law Jannette Wirrig, daughter Debbie Goins and son-in-law Greg Goins.

Why would you encourage people to get involved at the rock club?

If their interest is in specimen collecting, field trips, cutting stones, and the general camaraderie or fellowship, it is a good place to go.

Besides making jewelry, what are your other hobbies?

Cooking and baking. I used to farm — raised hogs, cattle, kids, chickens, ducks, pheasants. I used to hunt a lot — deer, antelope, coyotes, etc.

What else about you would you like to share about yourself?

Sue and I have been married for 55 years this September; we have five kids, 13 grandkids, and 1 great-grandson. I built a pig roaster in 1980 and we did professional pig roasts for companies and family reunions. I used to smoke turkeys for people, too. I like to cook and bake breads and pies. My cherry pie was the second best out of 26 fruit pies at the Preble County Fair. (In my spare time, I also like to make fun of Jan.)

In this feature, we hope to showcase the talents of one member each month. If you would like to suggest a member, please e-mail EIGGSnews@gmail.com



Gold, diamond & tanzanite



Gold & fantasy blue topaz



Gold, dinosaur bone & gold in quartz



Gold, diamonds & gold in quartz



Gold & dinosaur bone

Rock Pickings: March 2016 **13**



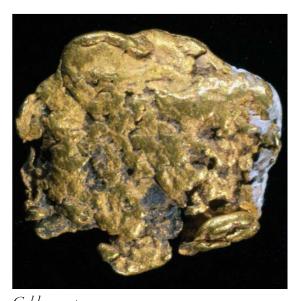


Pyrite (Fool's Gold): An Often Misunderstood Iron-Sulfide Mineral

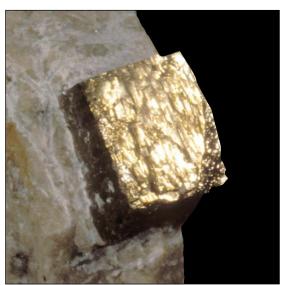
Pyrite is often mistaken for gold because it is brassy yellow, although most gold is bright orange-yellow. But similarity in color is about all pyrite and gold have in common. Pyrite is hard enough to scratch some metals, but is brittle and breaks up easily when struck with a hammer. Gold is soft and malleable and may be pressed into very thin sheets. Pyrite occurs in geometric crystal forms, such as cubes or octahedra, but can be massive or granular. Gold also forms in geometric crystals, but it often occurs as roundish globs, wiry masses, or, in Indiana, as flakes. Gold is also much denser than pyrite.

Pyrite, the most common sulfide mineral, is found in many kinds of rock in Indiana. Pyrite is not mined in Indiana but is a source of sulfur for sulfuric acid, fertilizers, and other products. Today, most sulfur comes from deposits on the Gulf Coast or is recovered from the refining of sulfurous crude oils.

When coal containing pyrite is burned, sulfur dioxide is formed. Sulfur dioxide mixes with water molecules in the air, producing acid rain. Sulfur dioxide can be removed by a process called "scrubbing." One scrubbing process uses finely ground limestone in a water slurry that reacts with sulfur compounds in exhaust gases, removing the sulfur and eliminating it from the exhaust.







SHOWS

April 1-3—INDIANAPOLIS, IN: Annual show; Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Indiana State Fairgrounds - Agriculture/Horticulture Building; 1202 East 38th Street; Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5 (Good all 3 days), Children under age 16 Free; Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the U.S. who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize. Contact Van Wimmer - Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, (650) 384-6047; e-mail: vawimmer@verizon.net; Web site: www.toteshows.com

April 2-3—COLUMBUS, OH: Annual show; Columbus Rock and Mineral Society and Licking County Rock and Mineral Society, Northland Performing Arts Center; 4411 Tamarack Blvd., 628 Sanbridge Circle E; Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 11 - 5; Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Students \$3, Children under 6 free; The 2016 show theme is Rockhounds, Pebble Pups- Make It a Family Affair. Special exhibits include an Education area containing exhibits on rocks, minerals, and metals. We have hourly silent auctions for adults and children. Stocks of minerals, crystals, geodes, agates, opal, turquoise, jewelry, faceted stones, silver findings, rough cutting material, rhodochrosite, cabochons, fossils, beads, and dinosaur bone from all over the world. A Demonstration Area features folks demonstrating the art of cabochon making, sphere making, gem tree construction, gold panning, jewelry soldering and faceting during show hours. Credit cards are accepted at dealers but cash or check must be used for show admission.; contact Craig Kramer, 628 Sanbridge Circle E., Columbus, OH 43085, 614-436-4511; e-mail: craig.kramer@wowway.com; Web site: http://www.columbusrockandmineralsociety.org/

April 2-3—LEXINGTON, KY: Annual show; Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club, Clarion Hotel; 1950 Newtown Pike; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; \$2 Admission, Children \$1 Admission; Lexington Rock Gem and Jewelry Show sponsored by Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club (BGGMC). Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent display, prizes, and auctions.; contact Allen Ferrell, 859-277-2469; e-mail: kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com; Web site: www.bggamc.homestead.com

April 2-3—CINCINNATI, OH: Annual show; Intergalactic Bead Show, Sharonville Convention Center; 11355 Chester Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4-\$5, Children free; Our shows provide attendees with the world's finest and rarest beads, precious stones, gems, freshwater pearls and an exquisite collection of finished jewelry. Shop quality. Contact Shawnna Whitson, (888)-729-6904; Web site: http://beadshows.com

April 23-24—TROY, OH: Annual show; Brukner Gem and Mineral Club, Miami County Fairgrounds; 650 N. County Rd. 25 A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; Adults \$2, Seniors \$2; Dealers with gemstones, jewelry, minerals, fossils, mineral 7 crystal paintings, wire-wrapped jewelry, meteorites & beads; demonstrations on gold panning, sphere making, & rock polishing; geode cracking, gem sluice, & silent auction. Contact Judy Burton, 912 Kent Lane, Troy, OH 45373, (937) 339-1966; e-mail: jleeburton@woh.rr.com; Web site: Brukner Gem and Mineral Club



April 23-24—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO: Show and sale; Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society, Emilio & Sons Expo Center; 48 East Bath Rd; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children \$1; 40th Year Celebration.; contact Sandy Shorter, 8510 Grouse Ridge Dr, Chardon, OH 44024, (440)-479-0069; e-mail: Gymboree@outlook.com

April 30-May1—Cincinnati, OH: GeoFair, Cincinnati's Largest Non-Profit Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, will dazzle visitors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 30, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at the Sharonville Convention Center 11355 Chester Road. The 51st annual GeoFair will highlight "Mineral and Fossil Collections in the American Midwest." Admission to GeoFair is \$9 for adults and \$3 for children (uniformed Scouts enter at no charge). A two-day adult pass is available for \$12. (A coupon for \$2 off adult admission is offered for download at GeoFair.Com) Plentiful free parking is available at the Sharonville Convention Center. More than 50 commercial vendors from as far away as Florida and Nevada offer stunning items for sale, ranging from curiosities costing mere pennies to museum-quality specimens costing thousands of dollars. Family-friendly activities at this year's GeoFair will include merit badge assistance for scouts, earth science games, gold panning, free mineral collections (for kids under 12), free fossils (for kids under 12), and free identification of your fossils, meteorites, minerals and gemstones.

May 6-8—FRANKLIN, NC: Annual show; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Carpenter Building; 1288 Georgia Rd.(US441); Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Finished gold and silver jewelry, silver and gold findings, minerals, fossils, cab & facet rough, demonstrations, and much more.; contact Norman Holbert, 180 Camelot Estates Road, Franklin, NC 28734, 828 634-0350; e-mail: normholbert@comcast.net; Web site: www.fgmm.org

June 24-26—BEDFORD, IN: Annual show; Lawrence County Rock Club, Lawrence County Fairground; US Highway 50; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; 51st Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Sponsored by the Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc. There will be wide variety of gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment & supplies, rockhound & prospecting supplies, 4-H project material, science project material.; contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812)-295-3463; e-mail: djt5766jkft@msn.com; Web site: www.lawrencecountyrockclub.org

Rock Pickings: March 2016 **15**

Naomi Jones Harris Precht & John LaMont Clarence Story Libby Adams Mikala Jones & Serenity Gaston Dave Lundquist & Joy Ingerman Briana Jones Charlene Reidenbach & Ann Richardson Judith Echano Medina Scott & Emily Gibson

Mary Ann & John Morse





Kathy Sheehy & Dave Straw



Susan Kuhlman







Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale



Make It a Family Affair

Learn about family rock & fossil hunting in Ohio!

April 2-3, 2016

Sat. 10 AM-6 PM & Sun. 11 AM-5 PM

Northland Performing Arts Center 4411 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus OH 43229

South side of Morse Rd. next to Menards. Access from I-71, I-270, Rt. 23. Look for yellow building with blue scaffold tower set back from the road. Plenty of **FREE PARKING** behind the building.

What you'll find at the show:

- Mineral, fossil and gem dealers with treasures for sale from around the world
- Interesting speakers
- Special talks for kids
- Lapidary demonstrations
- Gold panning
- Educational exhibits
- Free specimen ID
- Silent auctions
- Silent auctions for kids
- Games & activities for kids
- Door prizes
- Free specimen for kids



Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, 2-day pass \$12, Youth 6-16 \$3, Under 6 FREE FREE: Scouts & 4-H in uniform, Teachers with school ID, Military with ID

Please note: Tickets are available at the door; cash or check only. Credit/debit cards cannot be accepted for admission, but our dealer vendors can process credit/debit cards.

Sponsored by the Columbus Rock & Mineral Society with the Licking County Rock & Mineral Society

We are a non-profit organization and the only family-oriented, educational rock show in Central Ohio that welcomes children. All show proceeds benefit scholarships for Ohio earth science majors. We invite you to come and explore the exciting world of geology as a family. Learn more at www.ColumbusRockAndMineralSociety.org.

Dealer contact: Craig Kramer 614-436-4511 or craig.kramer@wowway.com

Bring in this flyer for \$1 off adult & senior ticket prices. One discount per ticket.

33rd ANNUAL BRUKNER GEM, MINERAL, **FOSSIL AND JEWELRY SHOW**

TROY, OHIO

MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS DUKE LUNDGARD BUILDING

North End - Heated & Air Conditioned COUNTY ROAD 25-A • TROY, OHIO

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FREE DOOR PRIZES

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BENEFITS BRUKNER NATURE CENTER

Admission: Adults \$2.00 ~ Children Free ~ Free Parking

FOOD **AVAILABLE**

FREE ROCK TO EACH CHILD



Mineral Identification by Club Members and Gary Getz, an Ohio Geological Consultant



See Gems in the Making Specimens - Gems Jewelry - Rough Stone Demonstrations - Displays Silent Auction Dealers Raffles

Children's Activities:

Wheel of Fortune - Grab Bags - Sluice - Mystery Rock

North Recommended Route: I-75 to exit 78 south on County Rd. 25-A to Fairgrounds - North Entrance Alternate Route from Troy: South exit 74 to Rt. 41 to Elm Street to Fairgrounds to North Entrance

SPONSORED BY BRUKNER GEM & MINERAL CLUB • 5995 HORSESHOE BEND RD. • TROY, OH 45373 Show Chairman: Judy Burton, 937-339-1966 Vendor Info: Mike Manning, 937-552-4705

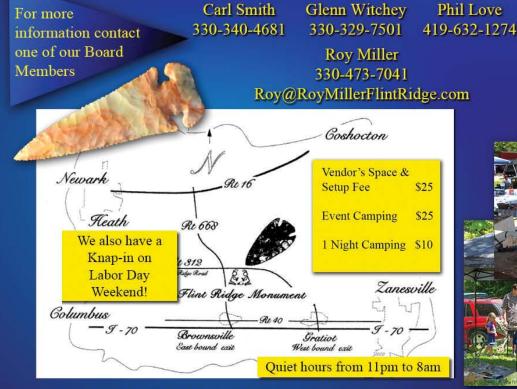
2016 Spring Flint Ridge Knap-In

Friday, May 27th 9 - 5 Saturday, May 28th 9 - 5 Sunday, May 29th 9 -2

Held at the
Flint Ridge State Memorial
7091 Brownsville Rd
Glenford, OH 43739

Everyone is Invited!

Come and join us for a fun and educational weekend. Witness craftsmen and artisans demonstrate how to make arrowheads, spears, stone tools, bows, atl-atls, stone pipes, cordage as well as other items from hide and bone. Take a nature walk through the woods on the park trails and see the remains of the ancient quarry pits left behind by the native people. Then take a tour of the museum to learn about the history and geology of Flint Ridge.



Admission is \$5.00 per vehicle which includes free Museum Admission

Hosted by: The Flint Ridge Lithic Society in conjunction with the Licking Valley Heritage Society.