



# Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society

# ROCK PICKINGS

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

## EIGGS Board Members

### President

Mark Lisota  
317-525-1418  
mlisota@hotmail.com

### Vice President

Mary Ann Morse  
765-914-2672  
jfmamorse@gmail.com

### Secretary

Patrick Pierce  
937-838-1644  
patrickwp@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Dave Straw  
765-966-4249  
strawdl@aol.com

### Vendor Chairman

John LaMont  
812-322-7809  
midwestchar@peoplepc.com

### Show Chairman

Judy Burton  
jleeburton@woh.rr.com

## Memberships:

Annual dues  
\$15 Individuals  
\$20 Families

### Please send dues to:

EIGGS  
PO Box 1724  
Richmond, IN 47375

**1** Next monthly meeting: October 1, 6:30 p.m.

**3** Next Club Clean-up Day: October 3, 9 a.m.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I can't believe fall is upon us. Where did summer go? Time to look forward to pumpkin pie, turkey, and Christmas trees with pretty lights.

I was very pleased with the turnout for our September Clean-up Day. I hope the turnout for the next one in October is just as great. We had a lot of fun and got to know each other a little better. I want to turn this into an annual tradition with 2-4 club clean-up days per year. We can accomplish a LOT as a group.

Heads up: just around the corner at our upcoming monthly meetings we will have our annual grab bag assembly line (everyone's favorite), officer nominations, and our annual holiday dinner.

I will see you at the next meeting.

Mark

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Carrie Newcomer

# MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

EIGGS met on September 3, 2015

Members present: Alma Glisson, Alan Kempton, Barbara Kuhlman, Susan Kuhlman, John LaMont, Jim Lucas, Lisa Morris, John Morse, Mary Ann Morse, Charlene Reidenbach, Kathy Sheehy, Deanna Smith, Danny Spurgeon, Dave Straw, Joe Wirrig.

Vice President Mary Ann Morse called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. President Mark Lisota was absent but sent notes to share at the meeting.

## Clean-up Day, part 1

Mark was pleased with the Sept. 29 Club Clean-up Day and wanted to thank everyone who showed up and pitched in.

## Projects completed during the Clean-up Day

- installed dead-bolt plug
- patched the garage roof with pitch
- painted insides of 10 display cases
- took contact paper off the fronts of the 10 display cases
- cleaned up the remaining bricks on the side of the small garage
- cleaned up some weeds and brush
- earlier in the week Nicole Siliven did additional outdoor clean-up & weed-whacking

## Projects still to be completed

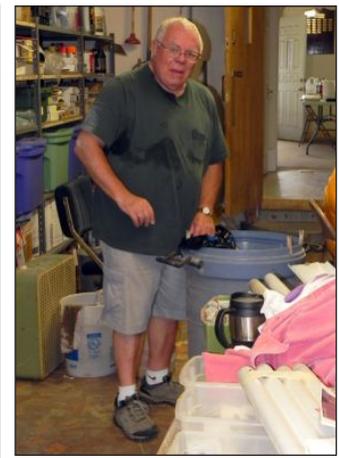
- Paint display case fronts
- Tighten bolts on display cases
- Remove plastic & insulation from garage ceiling
- Scrape paint in the second-floor hallway and repaint the upstairs hall
- Remove humidifier and water heaters from the basement
- Finish clean up behind the old garage
- Remove and discard items deemed unusable or "trash"

**Clean-up Day, part 2:** Members considered options for the next Club Clean-up Day and decided on October 3 with a 9 a.m. start time. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for the volunteers. Jim motioned to accept the October 3 date. Membership voted, agreeing to the date.



### Club Clean-up Day

- In the garage, Alma Glisson removes contact paper from the display case fronts.
- While John Morse used a heat gun, Deanna Smith uses a metal scraper to peel off old contact paper.
- Replacing the trash can liner, Dave Straw takes a break after helping fill three bags with brush and weeds.



Dave suggested ordering a dumpster. He priced a six-yard dumpster at \$167 (He said prices may have gone up, but it would be less than \$200). He said there was no time limit on how long it could be kept.

At the October meeting, the membership will decide on a third Clean-up Day date.

**Newsletter:** If you have ideas or suggestions for the club newsletter, please e-mail Lisa.

EIGGSnews@gmail.com

**Air-conditioner:** The club air conditioner has died... (Alan said the air conditioner was here when the building was purchased in 1999.) Does anyone have a new or used window air conditioner to donate? Would someone volunteer to arrange the purchase of a new 220 air conditioning unit and install it?

Joe suggested a unit that would cool both rooms, either together or one room only, depending on building usage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

He said that type of unit may be more expensive now, but might save in the long run. Some members mentioned that the air conditioning won't be needed in the winter, but Charlene pointed out that air conditioners are on sale now.

Joe agreed to do some online research.

### **Treasurer's Report:** Dave Straw

In August the club spent \$994.

\$186 for utilities

\$47 for amethyst for the show auction & stamps

\$41 on roof sealer

\$718 on miscellaneous

\$14 for gas and oil for the mower

\$123 for framing/matting of the club paintings

\$15 for a paper cutter

\$500 for scholarship

\$66 for miscellaneous

(maybe trash cans that Mark bought?)

August income was \$1,970.

\$40 in dues

\$1880 from dealers

\$42 from shop fees

\$8 from soda sales

**Grant update:** On Sept. 18, Dave will find out whether the club will receive a grant from the Wayne County Foundation. He asked for \$6,000.

Dave reminded people not to finalize any new show flyers until he knows about the grant. If the club receives the grant, then the Wayne County Foundation will need to be listed on the promotional flyers. (This is a stipulation for receiving the grant.)

**Concrete update:** Dave has checked in with the concrete contractors. The work will be done this month and Dave thought "sooner, rather than later." Dave plans to be there when the work is being done to monitor the progress. Alan asked if all the old concrete would be hauled away. Dave said yes.

When the concrete work is being done they will put water-stop sealant in to keep water from running toward the building. Also, new drains will be run underground from the gutters out to US 40.

**Basement update:** The club bought a dehumidifier three months ago, and it has been running in the basement non-stop since then. The humidity in the basement is now down to 65%. The basement is no longer wet, just damp in spots, according to Dave.

### **Vendor Update:** John LaMont

In terms of vendors, the show is now full. An additional \$1,500-1,600 will come in before Dec. 15. John noted that some of the vendors had paid in full, while others had put half down.

**Earlham Update:** Joe reported that Judy and Deb had talked with Andy from the Earlham Geology Department. Andy suggested that perhaps in the future, instead of giving a \$500 scholarship, the club donate the \$500 to the department, which would then use the money to fund a class field trip.

**Show Update:** Joe is working to get the grab bag name tags printed up and at some point will need the membership help to glue all the specimens to the name cards. He thought perhaps this could be done after a club meeting or perhaps at the Clean-up Day.

Joe also reported that Seton Catholic School has already called to confirm the show dates so they can schedule it as a field trip for some of their students.

**Officer Nominations:** Mary Ann mentioned that it was time to begin thinking about the nomination and election of officers. The first step is for the Vice President to form a nomination committee of three to five people, including the Vice President. Susan and Jim had previously agreed to be on the committee and Danny volunteered at the meeting. Mary Ann said nominations should be announced by the November meeting and that voting would take place in December.

**Rocks for sale:** Joe has pieces of rhodochrosite to sell at \$75/lb.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Morse seconded the motion.

Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.



■ John Morse, Jim Lucas & Deb Chagares help with club clean-up.

## 🔧 2ND CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY DATE SET

*Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 3*

After the resounding success of the first Clean-up Day, club members voted to hold a second Clean-up Day, Saturday, Oct. 3, beginning at 9 a.m. If you can't be there at 9, come when you can. Refreshments will be provided.

### Projects still to be completed

- Paint display case fronts
- Tighten bolts on display cases
- Remove plastic and insulation from garage ceiling (please wear appropriate clothing and bring gloves and a face mask)
- Scrape paint in the second-floor hallway and repaint the upstairs hall
- Remove water heaters from the basement
- Finish clean-up behind the old garage
- Remove & discard any items deemed unusable or "trash"

## WIRE WRAPPING WORKSHOP OFFERED, OCTOBER 13

**What:** Wire-wrapping class  
**When:** Oct. 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Who:** Club Members  
**Supply List:**

Participants must bring their own supplies, including:

- Square & half-round wire
- Flat nose pliers
- Round nose pliers
- Cutters
- Ruler
- Fine tip Sharpie marker
- Painters tape (blue is good)

*(Deb will bring her own tools so there will be a few extra tools)*

**W**ire-wrapping can turn your cabochons into wearable art. Learn the techniques to make pendants, earrings or other ornaments at a wire-wrapping workshop offered Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 6-9:30 p.m. at the EIGGS club house.

Deb Chagares will teach this members-only class. The class will cost \$30 per participant. Enrollment is limited to 15 people, so please register in advance. You may pay on the night of the class.

Deb suggests purchasing craft wire from a hobby store or from [www.ParaWire.com](http://www.ParaWire.com). She says they have low prices and a variety of colors to choose from.

Go to [ParaWire.com](http://ParaWire.com), then navigate to the Craft Wire/ Shaped Wire section. Purchase 21-gauge square wire for framing your piece and 18-gauge half-round for binding it.

To register, e-mail [deb@chagaresphotography.com](mailto:deb@chagaresphotography.com)



*pendants by Deb Chagares  
photos by Jim Chagares*

## LAPIDARY LAB

Don't forget that the club offers a weekly lapidary lab on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. Members can gain hands-on training and practice. Participants can learn to use slab saws, trim saws, flat laps, grinders and polishers. There is a \$2 fee for equipment usage, and members using the equipment must attend six regular club meetings a year.

## WORKSHOPS & TRIPS

As club members, what classes or workshops are you interested in? We have club members with a wide variety of interests and specialties. Let an officer know what interests you and perhaps a workshop can be arranged. The same holds true for club trips: where would you want to go? What would you like to see? Let an officer know.

## CLEAN-UP DAY UPDATE

Seventeen club members gathered on Saturday, August 29, to tackle a variety of projects for improvement of the club.

The first order of business was to unload the 10 display cases from the trailer before cleaning them and prepping them for painting. While some club members painted, others helped make sure the case backs and sides were securely connected.

Another group worked in teams to peel old chipped contact paper off of the display case fronts. Once that was done, the remaining sticky residue had to be removed, too.

A few club members tackled outside work, filling three large bags with weeds, small trees and other debris, while others worked inside, cleaning tables and vacuuming the shop area.

Armed with brushes and buckets of roof tar, Mike Ragen and John LaMont headed upstairs to seal the area where the lower garage roof connects to the building. Hopefully, this application of roof tar will eliminate the leaks that have been plaguing the garage area.

By 2:30, the garage was swept out and the showcases were re-loaded. While they didn't get to all the projects, progress was made and a second Clean-up Day is scheduled for Oct. 3 at 9 a.m. A third clean-up day has been discussed, as well.

Thanks to the 17 members who participated: Judy Burton, Deb Chagares, Alma Glisson, Amy Hughes, Missy Killion, Susan Kuhlman, John LaMont, Jim Lucas, Marty Lucas, Mark Lisota, Lisa Morris, Mary Ann Morse, John Morse, Mike Ragen, Deanna Smith, Dave Straw and Joe Wirrig.

### UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- Repaint the display case fronts.
- Take down old ceiling insulation in the garage.
- Scrape & paint the peeling paint on the stairway to the upstairs
- Remove old basement hot water heaters
- Sort some of the rock material in the garage
- Remove remaining bricks from the side of the small garage and clear weeds
- Prepare rock specimens for grab bags



■ Brush in hand, Mike Ragen works to seal the roof to prevent leaks.  
■ In the garage, Amy Hughes applies a second coat to one of the 10 showcases.



■ Roller ready, Judy Burton puts a first coat on one of the 10 display cases that needed to be painted.  
■ Looking for work to be done, Joe Wirrig cleaned up the lapidary room and swept the floor.



■ During the Club Clean-up Day, Mary Ann Morse works with Missy Killion to strip old contact paper from the display case fronts.  
■ Ready to roll, Susan Kuhlman adds the second coat of white paint to the insides of the showcases.

## MEMBER VOICES: DAVID LUNDQUIST

■ At the 2014 Rock and Gem show, David Lundquist's granddaughter Evelyn shows off the geode she helped vendor Mike Manning crack open.



■ In New Castle, EIGGS member David Lundquist shares his love of rocks with visiting grandsons Calvin and Carter.



I was about 10 when I developed interests in several hobbies. I bought Golden Press pocket books identifying rocks, trees, insects, and constellations. Later I picked up on stamp collecting and raising tropical fish.

For years I soaked stamps off envelopes, set insect traps, collected leaves, faithfully cleaned my aquarium, strained to pick out constellations in the skies over Chicago -- and collected pocketfuls of rocks that had caught my eye.

Pursuing each hobby involved inevitable frustrations, but the most frustrating of all was rock collecting. Beyond identifying a half dozen or so obvious specimens, I have been stymied.

My inability to put names on rocks and minerals continues as I try to pass my interest on to my grandchildren, who will inherit my rock/fossil/mineral/artifact collection.

Through my experiences in EIGGS, I would like to learn to identify rocks I see in my walks around New Castle. That boulder on Trojan Lane by Americana Bank -- is that red scoria? What type of volcanic rock lines the entryway to the *Courier-Times*? Those boulders by the former National Guard Armory -- what kind are they?

Closer to home base, can you identify each rock lining the front parking lot of the EIGGS clubhouse? I can't.

When my granddaughter and I want beautiful rocks and interesting fossils from around the world, we load up at the annual Rock and Gem Show. But the rocks that turn up in Indiana fields -- what are their names? That's what I'd like to know.

*Can anyone help David out? If you have rock identification knowledge to share, contact him at davidlundquist50@gmail.com*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

A warm welcome goes out to the Terhaar family of Williamsburg, the newest members of the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society

*Jamie Terhaar submitted the following information about her family's interest in rocks and geology.*

As a family, we heard about EIGGS from friends [and club members] Naomi Jones and Xavier Jones.

We joined EIGGS because our son, Johnathon is very interested in rocks and minerals and making things from them.

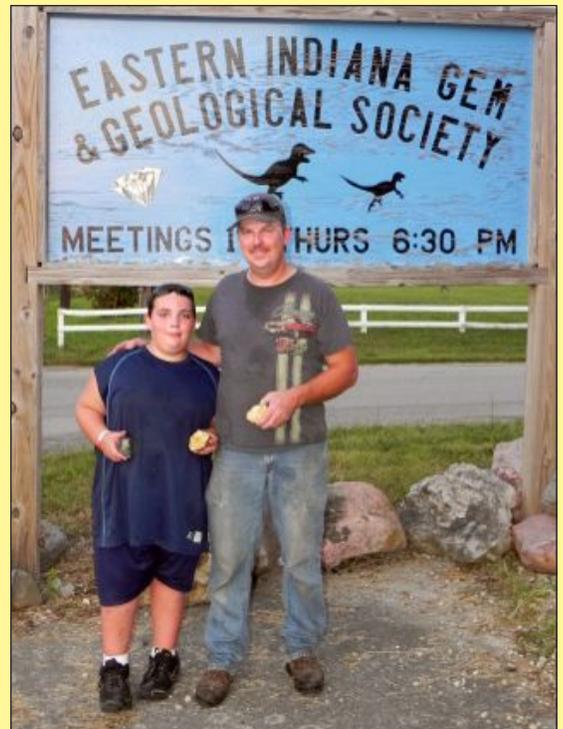
As for me, I have only gone [to the club house] once due to my work schedule. I am interested in making jewelry and seeing what some rocks look like on the inside.

My husband, John, is interested in learning how old some rocks are and how to make things from them.

Johnathon loves to find different rocks and see what is inside them. He recently made me a necklace from his first rock he found.

He loves helping his dad and is very content learning about different rocks and learning how to form them into something special.

He's learning about the equipment but is disappointed because due to his [young] age he cannot do anything but sit and watch right now.



■ Johnathon Terhaar and his dad, John, display some rocks they cut.

## 🎵 FOLK 'ROCK': CARRIE NEWCOMER TO PERFORM AT EARLHAM



### Earlham Artist and Lecture Series:

Carrie Newcomer and members of the Earlham choirs

**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Goddard Auditorium, Carpenter Hall

**Tickets required:** \$10/ adults, \$5/seniors & children under 18.

**Phone:** 765-983-1200

 **LISTEN** You can listen to this song and more at [carriewcomer.com/the-geography-of-light/](http://carriewcomer.com/the-geography-of-light/)

### Geodes

You can't always tell one from another,  
And it's best not to judge a book by its tattered cover.  
I have found when I tried or looked deeper inside  
What appears unadorned might be wondrously formed.  
You can't always tell but sometimes you just know.  
Around here we throw geodes in our gardens.  
They're as common as the rain or corn silk in July.  
Unpretentious browns and grays, the stain of Indiana clay,  
They're what's left of shallow seas glacial rock and mystery,  
And inside there shines a secret bright as promise.  
All these things that we call familiar,  
Are just miracles clothed in the common place.  
You'll see it if you try in the next stranger's eyes,  
God walks around in muddy boots,  
Sometimes rags and that's the truth.  
You can't always tell, but sometimes you just know.  
Some say geodes were made from pockets of tears,  
Trapped away in small places for years upon years.  
Pressed down and transformed,  
Until the true self was born,  
And the whole world moved on  
Like the last notes of a song,  
A love letter sent without return address.  
You can't always tell one from another,  
And it's best not to judge a book by its tattered cover.  
Now I don't open them to see  
Folks 'round here just like me --  
We have come to believe  
There's hidden good in common things.  
You can't always tell but sometimes you just know.  
You can't always tell but sometimes you just know.  
By Carrie Newcomer © Carrie Newcomer Music, BM1 Bug Publishing

Okay... I admit it... That headline is deceptive. There will be no rock, folk or not, at the upcoming Carrie Newcomer concert at Earlham -- just acoustic folk melodies. However, since Newcomer is the former lead singer of the folk trio Stone Soup, and since she did record an ode to geodes on her *Geography of Light* album, somehow the title seemed appropriate.

Born in northern Indiana and now living outside of Bloomington, Newcomer is a songwriter, national recording artist, performer and educator.

*The Boston Globe* describes her as a "prairie mystic" and the *Austin State-man* says she has "a voice as rich as Godiva chocolate." More importantly, though, she brings a Midwestern sensibility to her songs, which makes one stop and see the miraculous in everyday moments. "She's the kind of artist whose music makes you stop, think, and then say, 'That is so true,'" according to *The Dallas Morning News*.

She was listed as one of "The 50 most influential folk musicians of the past 50 years" by Chicago's WFMT, while Boston's WBEZ listed her as one of the most influential folk artists of the last 25 years.

She has released 15 albums and has toured in the past with Alison Krauss and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Nickel Creek recorded Newcomer's song "I Should've Known Better" on their Grammy-winning album *This Side*.

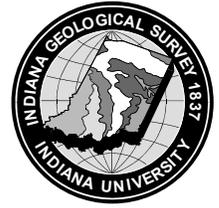
 "My home in Southern Indiana is a rolling green land abundant in limestone and the mysterious rocks called geodes. Geodes are so copious in this part of the state that we pile them in our gardens and think of them as commonplace. I am fascinated with these unassuming brown and grey stones that contain inside them a sparkling center of quartz crystals. They are surprisingly beautiful and a wonderful metaphor. They remind me to look deeper, because often within what may appear quite ordinary is a core of beauty and mystery.

Sometimes I will take visiting friends on muddy walks along the hills and hollows of my home pointing out the creek beds full of geodes. Often they confess that if I hadn't pointed out these unadorned stones, their presence would have been missed entirely. But once familiar with the signature lumpy look of geodes, these friends begin to see the stones everywhere.

This is how paying attention works. At first I have to look quite deliberately to find the sparkling center of things, but eventually I begin to notice the patterns and come to expect the unexpected."

-- Carrie Newcomer, in *The Geography of Light* liner notes

# GeoNotes



## Geodes: One of Nature's Mysteries



**G**eodes are hard, sub-spherical nodules of quartz rock, ranging in size from less than one inch to more than two feet in diameter.

Geodes are very resistant to weathering processes and concentrate in streams in south-central Indiana. Because they can be hollow and lined with beautiful quartz crystals, geodes are highly prized by rockhounds.

Some geodes also contain calcite or other excellent crystals. At least 20 different minerals, some rather rare, have been identified in these extraordi-

nary rocks. In south-central Indiana, geodes can be found in the walls of road cuts and other exposures of rocks of the Harrodsburg Limestone and Ramp Creek Formation.

For several miles on either side of this outcrop area, geodes are abundant along streams and scattered on the ground.

The origin of these interesting rocks is obscure, but some geologists believe that geodes were formerly fossils or gypsum nodules that were slowly replaced, molecule by molecule, by silica.

## JEWELER'S BENCH: JUDY BURTON



**Name:** Judy Burton

**Occupation:**  
Licensed Massage  
Therapist

**From:** Troy, Ohio

**Member since:** 2010

**Jewelry media:**  
Sterling silver wire  
wrapped gems  
and minerals

When I quit smoking in 2004, a friend gave me a bead board, a bag of beads and elastic cord. I started making bracelets -- hundreds of them -- and gave them all away. It taught me to focus and to be in the present.

Then I upgraded to making beaded jewelry with wire and clasps, toggles and such. This helped me be more creative and trust my intuition.

Then I saw a piece of wire-wrapped jewelry and knew that I wanted to learn. So I started asking my friends and someone told me about a lady named Donna and said that she taught wire-wrapping, but they didn't know where.

Coming home from a spiritual retreat, that I facilitate twice a year, my friend and I saw a sign for a rock show: the Troy Gem & Mineral Show. I had never been to one before, so we went. Oh my God, the rocks and rocks and rocks! I was in heaven and didn't know it. Then I saw wire-wrapped jewelry and I was amazed at how beautiful it was and knew I really wanted to learn. I started talking to the lady at the booth and guess what? Her name was Donna Kuszpa and she taught wire wrapping at Riverbend in Dayton and she had a class starting in a couple weeks----it was what I call a God thing and I was there ready to learn.

Donna is a really good teacher; she teaches the skills necessary and encourages practice, practice, practice. Once you have the skills, you can create anything. Once I had the skills, I had to continue to trust my intuition. What I have learned since then is that, for me, it is all about intuition and the energy of the stones.

Sometime in 2010, I saw on the Travel Channel a program about mining for rubies in Franklin, N.C. and realized that it was only 7 1/2 hours away. That's where we went for our vacation and I found rubies.

By this time I knew some of the guys from the rock show, and I took my rubies to one and asked if he would cut them for

me. He said, "No. Go learn how to do it yourself. There's a club in Richmond and they teach." My aunt and uncle were friends with someone in the Richmond club, so I called them and they gave me Gene Davis's number. He was president at the time, and I went to my first meeting with my grandson, Jacob, who also loves rocks, and we joined. It was another God thing.

I've been cutting ever since, and it has changed my inspiration and style and it continues to change. I trust my intuition when it comes to all my jewelry. It's a God-given gift, and I thank everyone who admires it. When I'm attracted to a stone I look up the healing properties and it's always been right for me at that time in my life. Making and wearing the gems and minerals that I am attracted to are very significant in my spiritual growth and journey through this life.

In my home I have a Genie and trim saw and all the other things that I need, but I still prefer to work at the club. Being around the people in the club and becoming friends and enjoying the fascination with rocks is amazing. My jewelry is changing again: you never know where inspiration will come from. I just have to trust and follow where it takes me.

I've attempted to do silversmithing, but realized that I don't have depth perception. And I'm still afraid of the torch. Wiring is for me instant gratification; silversmithing takes more time and hand strength.

I sell my jewelry today at three gem and mineral shows: Troy, Richmond and I was asked to be the on-site wire-wraper for the Ft. Wayne show which is coming up in October. That was such a compliment. I also do Gathering at the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio and enter pieces in the Darke County Fair, Greenville, Ohio. I won Best of Show in the Fine Arts Show with a piece of Darke County Granite that Jacob found in his yard, and several other firsts and seconds with other pieces. I show at the Aullwood Apple Festival in Sept. in Englewood, Ohio, and I was asked this year to be a part of the Aullwood Art Show, the day after Thanksgiving and Bruknerns Art Show, which is usually in December.

*In this new 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](mailto:EIGGSnews@gmail.com)*



Opal ring



Charoite pendant



Variscite pendant



Amethyst pendant



Lapis pendant



Rhodochrosite ring

## **UPCOMING SHOWS,** CONTINUED

**Oct. 2-4—INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA:** Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg.; 1202 E. 38th St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 (3-day pass), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, gem trees, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silversmiths and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes, classes available, Western jewelry; contact Van Wimmer, Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: [www.toteshows.com](http://www.toteshows.com)

**Oct. 16-18—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:** Annual show; Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds; 2726 Carroll Road; Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$1, Children 12 and under free; Attractions: gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, Viking knit classes, exhibits, geode cracker, gem sluice, kids games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescence room, touch 'n feel table, mineral ID, speakers (Saturday.) ; contact Russell Greim, 7619 Co. Rd. 68, Spencerville, IN 46788, (260) 403-0450; e-mail: [3riversshow@gmail.com](mailto:3riversshow@gmail.com); Web site: [http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem\\_mineral/](http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/)

**Oct. 24-25—EVANSVILLE, INDIANA:** Annual show; Evansville Lapidary Society, Washington Square Mall; 5011 Washington Ave; Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m.; Admission is free; Back to our original location- Washington Square Mall featuring 20+ dealers. Junior Rockhounds booth with spin and win game, raffles, hourly door prizes, silent auction, private collectors/exhibits, arrowheads and artifacts, demonstrations and club booth. Offering specimens, crystals, fossils, minerals, fine jewelry, beads, carvings, rough, geodes, faceted stones, tumbled stones, slabs, cabochons, rough and more; contact Sara Rappee, 413 North Park Dr., Evansville, IN 47710, (812) 589-3079; e-mail: [sararappee@gmail.com](mailto:sararappee@gmail.com); Web site: [www.evansvillelapidarysociety.tumblr.com](http://www.evansvillelapidarysociety.tumblr.com)



**Oct. 24-25—CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO:** Semi Annual Show; Akron Mineral Society & Summit Lapidary club, Emidio & Sons Expo Center; 48 Bath Road; Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m, Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Students \$4, Children \$1; October 24th & 25 Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Fall Gemboree gem and mineral show; Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m, Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Emidio & Sons Party Center, 48 East Bath Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors (55+) & Students, \$4 Children (7-14) \$1, Children (6 and under) free. Displays of Ohio Flint and members' work, Geo Juniors displays, Dealers with geodes, minerals, jewelry, beads and findings, slab material, lapidary equipment, silver smith work, wire wrap, gold findings and more. Children's activities: make a gem tree, mine for minerals and stones in our gem mine, and take a look in to our kaleidoscope. Members demonstrate throughout the day: Gem ID, wire wrapping, gem trees; cutting and polishing stones and faceting; Silent auction and door prizes throughout the day and a children's treasure hunt. Free parking and wheel chair accessible. Show Chairman: Bob Powers Contact email: [Gemboree@outlook.com](mailto:Gemboree@outlook.com) ; contact Joyce Kish, 3014 Clarkmill Rd., Norton, OH 44203; e-mail: [gemboree@outlook.com](mailto:gemboree@outlook.com)

**Oct. 24-25: Honolulu, Hawaii** (anyone want to go?)  
2015 Annual Hawaii Rock & Mineral Show  
Organized by: Rock & Mineral Society of Hawaii  
Outrigger on the Beach Hotel, Waikiki, Leahi Room, Upper Lobby



## ALAA EXCERPT

The rocks and minerals below are no longer collectable due to access closures.



**Tick Canyon Howlite**  
Southern California  
*This is now private property*



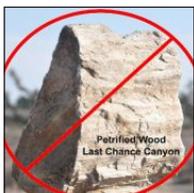
**Stone Canyon Jasper**  
Central coastal California  
*This is now private property*



**Horse Canyon Agate**  
found east of Tehachapi, CA  
*Access and collecting closed by BLM directive*



**Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper**  
Morgan Hill, CA  
*Access closed due to local ordinance*



**Last Chance Canyon Petrified Wood**  
Near Johannesburg, CA  
*No collecting of natural resources; area annexed into state park*



**Serpentine Rock** (CA State Rock)  
*Most serpentine in California is found along the San Andreas Fault in the Clear Creek Management Area, which has been closed by the EPA*



**Pink Thulite** (Death Valley)  
*Collecting sites in the California Mojave Desert are Saline Valley and Panamint Range, which are now in Death Valley National Park*



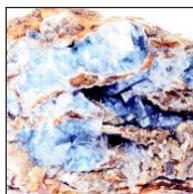
**Indian Paint Rock**  
*California collecting area is inside Death Valley National Park*



**Strawberry Onyx** (Cady Mountains)  
San Bernardino County, CA  
*Access Road closed due to wilderness designation*



**Owls Head Sagenite**  
*Sagenite Canyon in California's Owls Head Mountains*  
*Collecting site is now inside Death Valley National Park*



**Celestite**  
*Meckley Quarry, Mandata, Northumberland County, PA; collecting area is a private quarry, closed to collecting by the public by insurance carrier*

## Now It's Your Turn

This is YOUR newsletter and we want to hear from you! Please take a minute and answer at least one of the following questions. E-mail your answers to [ElGGSnews@gmail.com](mailto:ElGGSnews@gmail.com) or mail them to ElGGS Newsletter, PO Box 1724, Richmond, IN 47375. Your answers will be featured in upcoming issues. Thanks!

**1.** How, when, and where did you develop an interest in rocks, gems and geology?

**2.** Do you collect rocks, minerals, gems or fossils? How long have you been collecting? Do you specialize in any particular category? If so, what draws you to these items?

**3.** Do you have one favorite stone in your collection (gem, mineral, fossil, etc.), and if so, why is that your favorite?

**4.** Have you gone on any trips to collect rocks? If so, where have you gone and what have you found?

**5.** Which ElGGS members would like to see featured in upcoming newsletters? Please explain why they should be featured.

**6.** Would you like to write a short article for the newsletter? If so, please submit your topic and a general overview of what you would like to write.

# STARTING A ROCK COLLECTION

by Rachel M. Barker  
Rocks Tell the Story of the Earth

## Starting a Collection

A good rock collection consists of selected, representative, properly labeled specimens. The collection can be as large or as small as its owner wishes. An active collection constantly improves as specimens are added or as poor specimens are replaced by better ones. A rock collection might begin with stones picked up from the ground near your home. These stones may have limited variety and can be replaced later by better specimens. Nevertheless, this first step is helpful in training the eye to see diagnostic features of rocks (features by which rocks can be differentiated). As you become more familiar with collecting methods and with geology, the collection will probably take one of two directions. You may try either to collect as many different types of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks as possible or to collect all the related kinds of rocks from your own particular area.

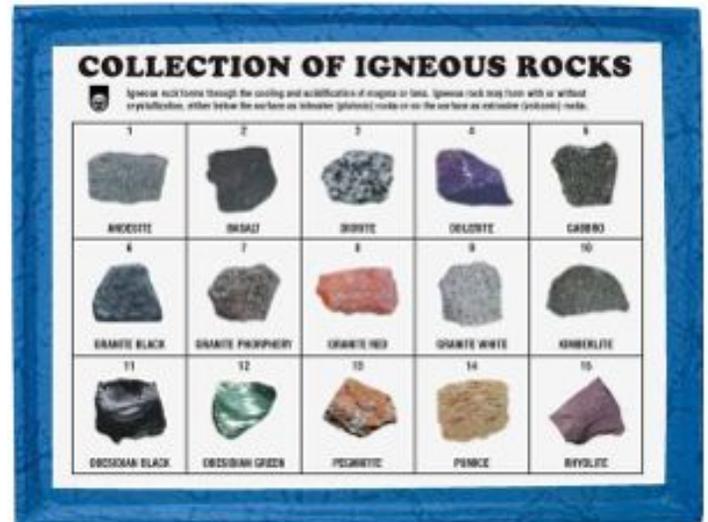
## Identifying Rocks

Many books about geology explain the identification and classification of rocks and describe the underlying geologic principles. Almost any recent general book on geology would help a rock collector. Geologic maps, which are useful guides for collecting, are also excellent identification aids. They show the distribution and extent of particular rock types or groups of rock types. Depending on size and scale, the maps may cover large or small areas. Most have brief descriptions of the rock types.

Comparing one's own specimens with those in a museum collection can help in identifying them. Most large rock collections are well-labeled. Small rock collections abound in libraries, schools, public buildings, small museums, and private homes.

## Where to Find Rocks

Collections usually differ depending on where the collector is able to search for rocks. In the great interior plains and lowlands of the United States, a wide variety of sedimentary rocks are exposed. Igneous and metamorphic rocks are widespread in the mountains and piedmont areas of New England, the Appalachians, the Western Cordillera, and scattered interior hill lands; igneous rocks make up almost all the land of Hawaii. Along the Atlantic



Item for sale at [rocksminealscollections.com](http://rocksminealscollections.com)

and Gulf Coastal Plains, loose and unconsolidated rocks are widespread; in the northern United States, glaciers deposited many other unconsolidated rocks.

The best collecting sites are quarries, road cuts or natural cliffs, and outcrops. Open fields and level country are poor places to find rock exposures. Hills and steep slopes are better sites. Almost any exposure of rock provides some collection opportunities, but fresh, unweathered outcrops or man-made excavations offer the best locations. If possible, visit several exposures of the same rock to be sure a representative sample is selected.

## Collecting Equipment

The beginning collector needs two pieces of somewhat specialized equipment -- a geologist's hammer and a hand lens. The hammer is used to break off fresh rock specimens and to trim them to display size. It can be purchased through hardware stores or scientific supply houses. The head of a geologist's hammer has one blunt hammering end. The other end of the most versatile and widely used style is a pick. Another popular style -- the chisel type -- has one chisel end; it is used mostly in soft sedimentary rocks and in collecting fossils.

The hand lens, sometimes called a pocket magnifier, is used to identify mineral grains. Hand lenses can be purchased in jewelry stores, optical shops, or scientific supply houses. Six-power to ten-power magnification is best. Optically uncorrected hand lenses are inexpensive and quite satisfactory, but the advanced collector will want an optically corrected lens. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

# STARTING A ROCK COLLECTION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Other pieces of necessary equipment are inexpensive and easy to find: a knapsack to carry specimens, equipment, and food; bags and paper in which to wrap individual specimens; a notebook for keeping field notes until more permanent records can be made; and a pocket knife, which is helpful in many ways, especially to test the hardness of mineral grains.

On some collecting trips, additional equipment is needed. Sledge hammers can be used to break especially hard ledges of rock. Cold chisels often make it possible to loosen specimens. Dilute hydrochloric acid helps in identifying limestone and dolomite. A long list could be made of such equipment; the collector must decide for each expedition which tools are really worth the weight.

## Housing and Enlarging a Collection

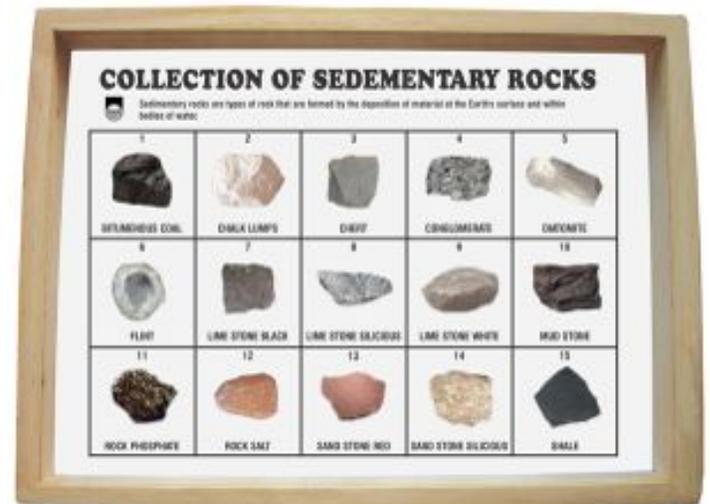
The practical problems of cataloging and storing a collection must be considered by every collector. Housing arrangements can be very simple because rocks are durable and do not require special treatment. Shoe boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes are often used. Ordinary egg cartons can be used if the specimens are rather small. Shallow wall cases for rock collections are available commercially.

It is important to have a careful system of permanent labeling so that specimens do not get mixed up. Many people paint a small oblong of white lacquer on a corner of each specimen and paint a black number on the white oblong. The number, rock name, collector's name, date collected, description of collection site, geologic formation, geologic age, and other pertinent data are entered in a small notebook. If rocks are kept on separate trays, a small card containing some data is usually placed in the tray.

Extra specimens are sometimes used for trading with other collectors. Few people have the opportunity to obtain all varieties of rock types, and exchanging can fill gaps in a collection. Collectors interested in trading are usually located by word of mouth. No nationwide organization of rock collectors exists, though local clubs and individual collectors are found throughout the United States. It may be necessary to buy some specimens, but good specimens are expensive.

## Hints for Rock Collectors

Label specimens as they are collected. Identification can wait until later, but the place where the rocks were



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found should be recorded at once. Many collections have become mixed up because the collector did not do this.

Trim rocks in the collection to a common size. Specimens about 3 by 4 by 2 inches are large enough to show rock features well. Other display sizes are 2 by 3 by 1 inch, or 3 by 3 by 2 inches.

Ask for permission to collect rocks on private property. The owners will appreciate this courtesy on your part.

Be careful when collecting rocks. Work with another person, if possible, and carry a first aid kit. Wear protective clothing -- safety glasses, hard-toed shoes, hard hat, and gloves -- when dislodging specimens.

Avoid overhanging rock and the edges of steep, natural or quarried walls.

Do not collect rocks in national parks and monuments or in State parks; it is illegal. Similar rocks commonly crop out on land nearby.

Look for unusual rocks to study in large buildings or in cemeteries. Dimension stone blocks and monument stone are often transported long distances from where they are quarried. Polished stone sometimes looks different from unpolished rock. This provides good identification practice.

Join a mineral club or subscribe to a mineral magazine. They occasionally discuss rocks.

*This publication is one of a series of general interest publications prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey to provide information about the earth sciences, natural resources, and the environment.*