

NEEDLES GEM & MINERAL CLUB



PO Box 234
Needles, CA 92363
Editor:
Sally Hayward

Blue Agate News

Our on-line NewsBlog
<http://ngmc.blogspot.com/>

Updated frequently, comments welcome, news wanted for Blog and Newsletter

E-mail Sally with info:
wyoaqha@gmail.com
shayward@wyoming.com

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Dec 19 at 5 PM PST
First Baptist Church
404 F Street
Needles
Christmas Pot Luck
Honey Baked Ham
Always 3rd Tuesday each
month Oct-May

BOARD MEETINGS

June January
Dates: To Be Announced

Blue Agate News

Volume 1, Issue 8

December 2006

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Articles are wanted from our members for our newsletters!

Is there someplace you want to visit on a field trip?

Is there a hint you'd like to share with our group?

What about your favorite recipe?

What about something for sale?

Welcome New Members

No New Members

The Blue Agate News is published monthly, except June, July, August and September. Submission of articles is requested to the editor by the 21st of each month, preferably by email (shayward@wyoming.com or wyoaqha@gmail.com) or (928)768-7437 (307)231-2239. The NGMC Newsletter is published via email - if you have Internet, please share your address with the Editor. This will save our Club money and you will have the newsletter immediately. It's will be necessary to download Adobe Reader http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversion_s.html in order to view it. This is a free program.

Thanks BW for proof reading the Blue Agate News.

The Blog (Web Log) – **Blue Agate News On-line** is free and can be updated frequently October through May. If you would like to have something posted, please email the information to Sally at the above email addresses. Maty has kindly returned to the Blog for proof reading. Thanks Maty!

NGMC INFORMATION

THE OBJECTIVES OF NGMC

To promote public interest in collecting and studying rocks and minerals.

To preserve and perpetuate the lapidary arts.

To provide field trips to obtain lapidary material and minerals for preservation and display.

To provide opportunity for the purchasing, exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

The NGMC meets the third Tuesday of each month from October through May at 6 PM Pacific Time in the Recreation Room at the First Baptist Church located at 404 F Street in Needles.

NGMC OFFICERS

President: Knox McCloy
928-768-9064

Vice President: Michael Boeck
928-768-6168

Treasurer: Frank and Mary Flynn
928-768-3588

Secretary: Sally Hayward
928-768-7437 or 307-231-2239

Past President: Barb Ballard
928-768-6335

Past President: Corinne More
760-326-5005

Sergeant at Arms: Pat New
928-768-5640

Field Trip Chairperson: Barb Ballard
928-768-6335

Assistant to Field Trip: Corinne More
760-326-5005

Editor: Sally Hayward 928-768-7437

Honorary Lifetime Members

George Truit
Norma Truit
Myrna Givens
Corinne More
Tom More

Membership dues are payable at the November meeting and delinquent after the January meeting. Please send dues to the official Club address on the first page of this newsletter, attention: Treasurer

Membership per person: \$15.00 year

Name Badge: \$3.50

Field Trip Fee: \$1.00

"No Badge" fine: 25¢

Refreshment Schedule

January 2007 – Sally, Faith

February 2007 – Gisela, Corinne

March 2007 – Mary, Joan

April 2007 – Barbara W, Ramona

May 2007 Season End Pot Luck

October 2007 – Maty, Barb Ballard

November 2007 – Sandy, Paula

December 2007 Christmas Pot Luck

Upcoming Field Trips & Events

December 2

Big Chief Jasper and Lavender Quartz

8 AM PST, 9 AM MST

Meet at Needles Cemetery

December 19, 2007 – One hour early

5 PM PST – 6 PM MST

Christmas Pot Luck and Chinese Auction

Short Meeting-2007 Officer Election

See Slate of Officers to left

Bring an inexpensive gift – maybe a nice specimen or whatever your imagination dictates.

If you haven't signed up for the Pot Luck, please let Sally know what you'll bring. The NGMC will furnish the ham and the members bring the rest! Last year was a feast and a ton of fun!

2007 Membership Dues are now due. Delinquent after January 1, 2007. Please send the dues to the official Club address on the first page of the Newsletter or give them to Frank at the meeting.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for the 2007 Officers of the NGMC and they will be voted in at the December meeting. Their official duties will start January 1, 2007.

- Mike Boeck, President
- Knox McCloy, Vice President
- Frank Flynn, Treasurer
- Sally Hayward, Secretary
- Parliamentarian, Pat New
- Field Trip Chairperson, Barb Ballard
- Assistants: Don McQuarie and Tom Harrell

President Knox McCloy:



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Mohave Jasper

Mohave Jasper was first discovered by a Bill Musgrove while doing bat surveys for the state. He was not a rock hound at the time and didn't know what he had stumbled into. Years later, Bill developed multiple sclerosis and as a sort of therapy his rock hound friends got him hooked on the hobby. As he began to learn more about rocks and their composition, he remembered the rock he had found many years before. He described it to his rock hound friends and they all thought it worthy to try to find this float. It took them 3 weekends of exploring The Black Mountains just outside of Oatman, AZ. When they found it they all took pieces with them and were happy to see that the material was solid, free of pits, and took a high

polish. The Jasper varies from deep chocolate to rich cream. Some shows fine symmetrical banding. The choicest pieces have fine fortification banding. Over the years as word got out to collectors and dealers the small area of less than 3 acres had been "worked out."

Source: Rockhound List

Large specimen found by Karen Grassell
Sunsites Rock Club's newest member, small specimen found by Sally Hayward. NGMC



Field Trip Review

On November 18, 14 Rock Hounds and one Rock Hound Dog traveled to the Fire Agate Dig near Oatman. Everyone got great material and Ann and Sally learned the finer (?) points of hard rock mining.



FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES - NGMC

Leader will state approximate how far, road conditions, and if 4WD is required when each Field Tripper signs in.

Each car is to keep the car behind in sight and STOP if the car is not in sight (unless otherwise stated by leader).

Field Tripper will notify the leader if they are hiking/driving to another site and their approximate return time.

Field Trippers will notify the leader if they are leaving the group and sign out (with time).

Members wear Name Badges

Handheld radios: Stay on Channel 6.

BLM Meeting on November 8, 2006

I attended the BLM Route Evaluation presentation by the Lake Havasu City BLM office at the early session on November 8. I was very surprised to see I was the only member from NGMC in attendance at this standing-room only meeting (first of two sessions.) This is **our** chance to keep our public access open for rock hounding and any other recreation in BLM areas. Basically, they reiterated the meeting from last year.

The BLM wants and needs public input for route evaluation and uses. If we don't speak up, all our areas could be closed. I believe the time for public input closes March 15, 2007. If you want our few existing areas kept open, please speak up. Go to your local BLM Office, obtain the "Public Comment Registration Form," get the maps and CD's (full of information), find out where they propose closure, and voice your opinion! This is our chance to speak and be heard!

The BLM highly complimented the Lake Havasu 4WD Club for their time and effort in helping define and map areas the 4WD club wants left open. Said they went on almost 60 trips with the local BLM office defining areas and use. My compliments to the Lake Havasu 4WD'rs.

Submitted by Sally Hayward

NGMC members T and Corinne More, Barb Ballard and Don Hughes attended the 4:30 PM BLM Access meeting. The area presented includes land along the Colorado River in Arizona and California north of I-40 and east to the Black Mountains. The area has been divided into six sections and the first section being access-managed is the Bullhead City Section.

BLM is mandated by congressional law to actively manage access on federally owned



Shop Tip!!!!!!!

Less means more shine when you polish with oxide!

land. If they do not or do not do this according to law, environmentalists and/or others will bring suit.

The 4:30 PM session was standing-room only and was packed with 20 to 40-year-old men who are ATV enthusiasts.

After the BLM presentation the questions were hot and heavy from 2 ATV dealers and many others. The BLM presenter was adept at not answering questions. Example: "How much is this meeting costing us taxpayers?" Answer: "The cost of this meeting is within our budget."

Everyone attending the meeting wanted all roads and washes left open, stating that after each rain there was no evidence of a road being in a wash. BLM asked for people to use the public comment forms and let them know which roads should be left open.

There are no wilderness areas being planned.

Submitted by Corinne More

ROCKHOUND CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, and buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", to use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rock hounds everywhere.


Source: <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>




Classifieds

For Sale: 1998 Wanderer 24" 5th Wheel RV.
Good Condition, New tires
\$6000.00
760-326-5005

HOW FOSSILS FORM

Fossils of hard mineral parts (like bones  and teeth) were formed as follows:

- Some animals  were quickly buried after their death (by sinking in mud, being buried in a sand storm, etc.).
- Over time, more and more sediment covered the remains.
- The parts of the animals that didn't rot (usually the harder parts like bones and teeth) were encased in the newly-formed sediment.
- In the right circumstances (no scavengers, quick burial, not much weathering), parts of the animal turned into fossils over time.
- After a long time, the chemicals in the buried animals' bodies underwent a series of changes. As the bone slowly decayed, water infused with minerals seeped into the bone and replaced the chemicals in the bone with rock-like minerals. The process of fossilization involves the dissolving and replacement of the original minerals in the object with other minerals (and/or permineralization, the filling up of spaces in fossils with minerals, and/or recrystallization in which a mineral crystal changes its form).
- This process results in a heavy, rock-like copy of the original object - a fossil. The fossil has the same shape as the original object, but is chemically more like a rock! Some of the original hydroxy-apatite (a major bone constituent) remains, although it is saturated with silica (rock).

- **unaltered preservation** (like insects or plant parts trapped in amber, a hardened form of tree sap)
- **permineralization=petrification** (in which rock-like minerals seep in slowly and replace the original organic tissues with silica, calcite or pyrite, forming a rock-like fossil - can preserve hard and soft parts - most bone and wood fossils are permineralized)
- **replacement** (An organism's hard parts dissolve and are replaced by other minerals, like calcite, silica, pyrite, or iron)
- **carbonization=coalification** (in which only the carbon remains in the specimen - other elements, like hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen are removed)
- **recrystallization** (hard parts either revert to more stable minerals or small crystals turn into larger crystals)
- **authigenic preservation** (molds and casts of organisms that have been destroyed or dissolved).

Most animals did not fossilize; they simply decayed and were lost from the fossil record. Paleontologists estimate that only a small percentage of the dinosaur genera that ever lived have been or will be found as fossils.

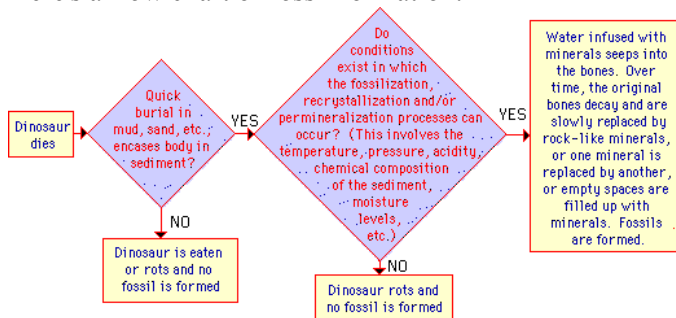
Most of the dinosaur skeletons that are shown in museums are not actually fossils! They are lightweight fiberglass or resin replicas of the original fossils.

Why are Fossils Rock-Colored?

Because they ARE rocks! A fossilized object is just a rocky model of an ancient object. A fossil is composed of different materials than the original object was. During the fossilization process, the original atoms are replaced by new minerals, so a fossil doesn't have the same color (or chemical composition) as the original object. Fossils come in many colors and are made of many different types of minerals, depending on what the surrounding rock matrix was composed of; one dinosaur bone (Minmi) is an opal.

Also, some fossils of skin (and other soft body parts) have been found. Again, the color of the skin is not retained during the fossilization process, all that remains today is a rocky model of the original.

Here's a flow chart of fossil formation:



There are six ways that organisms can turn into fossils, including:

Source: EnchantedLearning.com

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Please send Exchange Bulletins to the address above.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Happy Rock Hounding! May your bag come home full!



Maty Middleton Photo