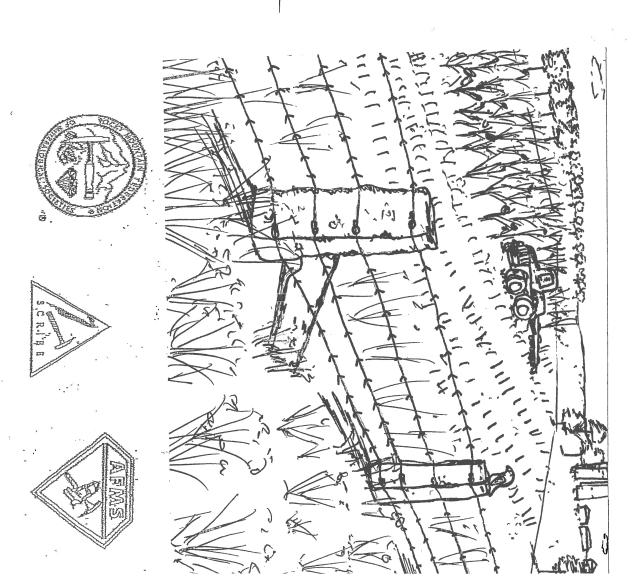
The Post Rock Sara Murphy 608 W. 10th Newton, KS 67114

FEBRUARY, 2021 Volume 29, Issue 2





THE POST ROCK

THE McPHERSON GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Meeting Address: 112 E.Euclid, McPherson

McPHERSON GEM & MINERAL CLUB OBJECTIVES

- 1. To promote and encourage education of earth sciences.
- 2. To provide an opportunity to purchase, exchange and exhibit specimens of minerals, gems, fossils and other geological specimens.
- 3. To give and promote lectures, entertainment and exhibitions for the enjoyment, instruction and education of its members and the general public.
- 4. To promote and encourage field trips for the purpose of studying and collecting.

The McPherson Gem & Mineral Club is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and abides by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Editor and Club is a member S.C.R.I.B.E.

The McPherson Gem & Mineral Club meets the second Sunday of each month at 3:00p.m. in the McPherson Senior Center (112 E. Fuclid) unless otherwise noted and announced. The Executive Board meets one hour prior to the monthly meeting at the McPherson Senior Center. Information about the Club may be obtained from any one of the officers listed.

McPHERSON GEM & MINERAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2021

PRESIDENT	Lisha Collins	4203 Quivira Dr.	Hutchinson,	67502	620-664-1338
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Swap Com.- Alan Hedrich, 1120 E. 9th., Hutch.. 620-747-2265

Please submit all material for publication by the 20th of each month. Exchange bulletins welcome.

Permission to reprint if credit is given. Editor has the right to edit material.

Articles and notes not attributed to an author are Editor comments. S.M.

In case of bad weather please call a board member to see if meeting cancelled and check e-mail

FEBRUARY

WHERE.....McPHERSON SENIOR CENTER

WHEN.....FEBRUARY 14, 2021 Zoom Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM.....OPEN

ROCK OF THE MONTH..... OPEN

JUNIOR SPOT ...OPEN

HOSTESS......No Refreshment will be provided at this time

COMING EVENTS - McPHERSON CLUB

ALL CLUB MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

DUES ARE NOW DUE - Please Pay If there is a dot by your name this will be your last newsletter unless you pay your dues.

Single Membership is \$20.00 <u>Dues</u> Couple Membership is \$25.00 Family Membership is \$30.00 Post Rock Newsletter only is \$15.00

McPHERSON SWAP - 2021 - May 7-9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE McPHERSON GEM & MINERAL CLUB

By Lisha Collins

Happy Valentine's Day! This is the time of the year I start looking forward to spring. Christmas and New Years are over and I am over winter.

We had a nice casual zoom last month. It was on a Tuesday evening so as not to disturb any games. Though, I think I did not avoid that all together. I know not everyone can do zoom, but it seems it is all we have now. We talked about the swap a little. What we know is that Alan continues to plan for the swap in May and that at this time we have the building reserved. If that is not an option we discussed the possibility of all outdoors event even if it is just local people.

Right now the Kansas City shoe has been cancelled and Tucson has been rescheduled for April.

I am so glad for the McPherson gem and mineral Facebook community. I see post from members and I continue to get new requests. I did see one political post. It was not negative in any way however, we do have a rule against political posts. I do appreciate our members being good examples and maintaining our rules. Great job people!

We will have another Zoom meeting on Valentines Day, Feb 14th at 2:00 p.m. Please watch your email for the link.

My Challenge

See if you can find a rock that remind you of winter, valentines, etc. for our Valentines Zoom.

WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF THESE BEFORE COVID -19

The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.

I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to Someone. He asked what I was wearing.

This virus has done what no woman has been able to do, Cancel sports, shut down bars & keep men at home!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & asking for money.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas (& sweats) will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE A.F.M.S.

Judy Beck

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

Well March is on its way and by the time you are reading this we'll be starting to have some warm days that promise spring is on its way! By the end of the month we'll be able to get our camper out and enjoy some days out in nature. Even with COVID it is possible to do some "socially" distanced field trips and explore new areas. Our club, McPherson Gem & Mineral, has a newsletter, Facebook Group Page, and we have done a few "social" Zoom meetings to stay connected. What has your club been doing to maintain that connection to its members? Shoot me an email, and I'll share some of your ideas in my next newsletter article.

Plans are proceeding for the convention, June 17-20 at Big Piney, WY. I've been told that there will be field trips on the 15th & 16th and also on the 21st & 22nd. I can't wait to see what treasures we are able to find on this trip! So while the winter wind is blowing, I sit back and dream about Wyoming and petrified wood and fossil fish....well you get the picture ©! Immediately after the Big Piney Show we're planning to head out to catch the California Federation Show the following weekend. It is fun to start thinking about some travel plans again!

We continue to have Zoom meetings with the groups that are looking at how we can increase the visibility and usability of our website platforms. Thanks to all that participated in the survey that was sent out-the committee received some GREAT feedback! One of the nice things about our "virtual" meetings is that we are able to bring people together all across the United States to share ideas. I'm in awe of the wonderful volunteers and their expertise as we tackle these projects! We'll look forward to bringing you all a progress report in June at Big Piney!

Have a wonderful spring and may all your finds be keepers!

Judy Beck

STONES WERE APPLIED TO MANY USES IN ANCIENT PALESTINE

- 1. They were used for the purpose of building. For most public edifices hewn stones were used. An exception was made in regard to altars. The Phoenicians were famous for their skill in hewing stones. Stones were selected for certain colors in order to form ornamental string courses (a horizontal band in a building, forming a part of the design).
- Large stones were used for closing the entrance of caves, sepulchers and springs.
- 3. Flint stones often served the purpose of a knife.
- 4. Stones were used as ammunition of war for slings, catapults and bows. Also as weights for scales.
- 5. Large stones were set up to commemorate any remarkable event.
- 6. There was also the worship of stones that prevailed among the heathen nations.
- 7. Heaps of stones were piled up on various occasions, such as the making of a treaty or over a grave of a notorious offender. Such heaps often attained a great size from the custom of each passerby adding a stone.
- 8. Stones were used for tablets, also as guide stones to various cities of refuge.
- A time to "CAST AWAY STONES" and a time to "GATHER STONES" seems to refer to the custom
 of spoiling an enemy's field by throwing stones upon it and the clearing of the field of stones
 preparatory to its cultivation.
- 10. Stones were also used as a form of punishment for sins and often times even for a death sentence. From Pike County Rockhound News and seen in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER 4/2000



MEMBER NEWS CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

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02-12 Carol Sawyer

02-12 Brett Whitenack

02-28 Alan Hedrich

02-29 Brendan Burnett

02 - 22 Mark & Linda Heidebrecht



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Patrick Harrington, 606 Washington, Salina, KS. 67401, 785-342-5207 patrickfharr@hotmail.com

Robert "Bob" Enders will be 97 years old on March 8. Bob donated his rock and mineral collection to the club in 2019 and it has been displayed in the McPherson County Courthouse as well as at our swap meet in the 4-H building. Due to the Covid virus, the collection nor the Swap meet were held in 2020 but maybe this year 2021 will be better! It was displayed in the courthouse.

Once again the club has use of the display cabinet in the courthouse during the upcoming month of March and April 2021. As Jim Brown is putting together the display he is wanting to know if you as members would like to see anything special in the upcoming display during March and April?

JANUARY BIRTHSHELL SEASHELLS - AUGER

BY Jim Brown

January birthshell was the Auger-known as Terebra. These shells usually burrow into the sand or much of the seashore. They are very numerous and are found in warm and tropical regions (1)

One particular Auger shell is very common and quite collectible. It is large and heavy. Described and named by Linnaeus in 1758 it is known as Terebra maculata or Marlinspike. This shell is found in the Pacific ocean (2)

Nearly all Auger shells are brightly colored and similar to Cone shells, some species have a harpoon or needle like appendage that contains a poison - like a bee sting!

References:

- (1) The Complete Encyclopedia of Shells; R.H. DeBrune; 2003 Rebco International pg.207-210.
- (2) World Register of Marine Species aka WoRMS 2008 Wikipedia www.marinespecies.org

PRISMS-BEWARE

Seems a trucker had a prism hanging in the cab of his truck and the sun was hitting it just right so as to light up some papers on the dash, which in turn lit up the rest of the cab. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.00 To top it off, the prism was a gift from his insurance company!

AFMS Newsletter via Shawnee Slate 12/00 and seen in NEWS AND VIEWS 12/2000

FEBRUARY BIRTHSHELL TULIP SHELL

Jim Brown

February birthshell is the Tulip Shell - Fasciolariidae. The shells in this family are fairly large and somewhat heavy for their size.

Fossils of these shells (living 110 million years ago) during the Cretaceous (1)

Tulip shells are considered to be carnivorous - meat eaters -they like to feed upon other gastropods (snails) as well as bivalves - oysters, scallops, etc., (2)

References:

- (1) "Catalogue of the Marine Gastropod Family Fasciolariidae:" M.A. Snyder 2003 Academy of Natural Science ISBN 9780910006576 Retrieved 08-08-2010.
- (2) World Register of Marine Species Data Base; WoRMS www.marinespecies.org

DINOSAURS FOR US KIDS (ADULTS)

By Jim Brown

If you were to visit my "rock home" you would find a lot of Dinosaurs from my bookcases, tables, on top of my periodicals - just everywhere! I have a fascination regarding dinosaurs - all shapes, sizes and colors. A rainbow of colors.

Recently WXPI.com news reported that in China, a non bird type dinosaur had been found, sitting on a nest of eggs.

The fossils were found in Cretaceous aged rock some 70 million years old: Some of the embryos were very well developed. The adult oviraptor was found very close to the nest of eggs suggesting to researchers that it was possibly incubating the eggs.

Oviraptor fossils were first found in 1923 in Mongolia. Ovi=egg raptor-thief. At first they were thought to be egg thieves but more recent discoveries have shown such was NOT the case.

Reference:

WXPI News, Cfhina 2021 Facebook WXPI.com

DAFFY - NITIONS

FROM MOROKS, Aug. 2012; VIA THE ROCKHOUNDER, DEC. 2012

Agate - The door in a fence Cabochon - A small French taxi Faceting - A complex way to ruin a good jewel Facet - Australians' answer to a water tap Field Trip - When you fall down outside Findings - Stuff you find! Flint knapping - Sleepy stone

Fossils - People on social security Garnet - Something you catch a long fish in Geode - A poem to G Grinding Wheel - A bearing going out in your old truck Inclusion - Unwanted third person on a date Lap - Motherly space between trunk and limbs Lapidary - A Scandinavian milk parlor Malachite - One of the tribes of Israel Mexican Lace - Fiesta clothing Petrified Wood - Wood that has been frightened Pseudo morph - Anything pretending to be a morph Quartz - A bottle size that milk comes in Rhodochrosite - Highway where crows can be seen Rock hammer -The drummer in a modern band Semi-precious - Daddy's little girl Silver Solder - A millionaire's instant lawn machine Template - A little house of worship Trim Saw - A machine that takes the fat off

FACEBOOK FEATURED ROCK

By Alan Hedrich

DIOPTASE

I always say I'm not that big a fan of green, but I'll have to say when I opened the box the dioptase specimens were in, I had to eat my words! I sat there turning one of them back and forth letting the light sparkle off those gorgeous crystals for so long. I think Avery (my dog) was rolling his eyes thinking I had truly gone crazy! It's probably the closest I'll ever come to holding an emerald, which is my favorite gemstone. And that's a good way to begin talking about our featured mineral because throughout history, dioptase has been confused with emerald:

Dioptase is a silicate and is in the group of cyclosilicates. Although it can resemble emerald, is not as hard, being a 5 on the MOHS scale as opposed to 7½-8 for emerald. It's softness prevents it from being a serious gemstone. Sometimes, it's crystals can be very transparent, and that's how it's name came about: "dia" from the Greek for "through", and "optazien" for "visible", or "to see".

It ranges from emerald to blue-green in color, has perfect cleavage, and is prismatic in form. It can be found in crystalline and massive aggregates. It forms in copper veins that have been exposed to oxidation. It has been found in Kazakhstan, Iran, Namibia, the Congo (where my specimens were mined), Argentina, Chile, and the U.S.

By Alan Hedrich

A few of you may recall a small piece of this caused a bit of stir at our Saturday night SWAP auction a few years ago. Helen Wood and I got into a bidding war over it. I think she got it for \$40 or \$45 once I gave up. Back then, I wasn't crazy enough to go bankrupt over little rocks. Today, I am! But that little rock has remained one of my most favorite materials, and I have vowed to collect as much of it a I can (afford)! So, I thought I'd talk a little about one of my obsessions now that I know something about it.

This material was originally found by a man named Robert Steele in Juab County, Utah in the 1960's. His son now operates the claim. It is possible to buy from him, but from what I've heard, it's only in small amounts, and it seems the deposit is running out.

This is most often called flowering tube onyx, but sometimes just tube or cave onyx. It is important to know this is not a true onyx which is a quartz-based material. Instead, this is mostly calcite and is a form of stalactite. There are other types of cave onyx found around the world. This term was applied to formations found in the Ozarks in the 19th and 20th century.

Flowering tube onyx is a "flowstone" which you may be familiar with. The most technical term is speleotherm the slow deposition of calcite in thin layers in caves over time. If you've visited caves, you have seen them in formations called "draperies", "curtains", or "cave bacon". They are mostly calcium carbonate (calcite), but also aragonite, gypsum, etc. The color depends on the climate outside the cave over time; the water bringing in trace elements like iron oxide (for the tans, brown and reds), and occasionally copper oxides for blues and greens. This material ranges in the "autumn" colores due to iron.

Patterns within the rock can be masses of wavey lines, or circular designs hence the "flower" portion of the same. As one might expect, it is a soft material and usually needs to be stabilized before you can work it into cabs, From what I understand (although do not actually know the process) this is done in a vacuum injecting a "stabilizer" agent into the rock. I have worked a few pieces and find it pleasant to work, and have been able to get a really great final polish. I must warn you, this stuff doesn't come cheap! It is popular, and there is a limited supply available, so it commands a higher price. But it sure is neat stuff!

TYPES OF GEMSTONES

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Source: https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/17/types-of-gemstones/

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ...

BY MARGE LAVIGNE.

VIA THE ROCK RATTLER, APRIL 2010; VIA GEM CUTTERS NEWS, SEP. 2012; VIA CALGARY LAPIDARY JOURNAL, DEC. 2012

- ...that coral reefs are the largest structures ever built on planet Earth by any animal, including man.
- ...that a pearl has a life expectancy of only 100 years, or 150 at the most.
- ...that one ounce of gold can be beaten or flattened into a sheet of 100 square feet, or drawn into a wire almost a mile long, or made into a foil that is less than five millionths of an inch thick and virtually transparent.
- ..that your turquoise ring could change its color if you wash your hands without removing it and even become smelly if you immerse it in dishwater or oily liquid.
- ...that two flints or a flint and steel will strike a spark that can be used to start a fire, but also that two quartz stones will serve the same
- ...that some gem materials come from strange sources. One is grown on trees (amber -formally tree sap). Some start as an irritant inside the shell of a mollusk (pearls) or grow in the mouths of animals (ivory). One begins as an "apartment complex" for a colony of sea creatures (coral). One comes from volcances and is the product of stone so hot that it melts (obsidian). One is even thought to be formed of rock which has melted after being hit by a meteorite falling from outer space.
- ...that what determines the hardness graduation in lead pencils, which, by the way, range from 9H (hard) to 9B (extra soft) is achieved through the addition of varying amounts of clay to the graphite. Graphite is the "lead" in lead pencils.
- ...that when held in your hand up to your ear, Sulphur sizzles and pops. This is caused by cracking inside due to the expansion caused by the heat of the hand.
- ...that the polishing agent known as "jeweler's rouge" is made of powdered hematite.

LET IT SNOW * LET IT SNOW LET IT SNOW



by Diane Dare from ROCKHOUND HAROLD via GEM CITY ROCK NEWS

One of the most delicate of crystals is that wintertime specialty, the snowflake. Clouds are made of microscopic droplets of water, thousands upon thousands concentrated in one area. Rain starts when the droplets get so concentrated that they join together into larger droplets, becoming so heavy they fall to earth. Sleet starts as rain, then passes through a very cold layer of air on its way to the earth, freezing into solid raindrops. Snow starts as a nucleus of dust or other particle that attracts the molecules of water from the cloud droplets, and as the molecules accumulate, they form ice crystals which get larger as more droplets adhere.

The basic structure is one oxygen atom at the center of two hydrogen atoms, and a single snow <u>crystal</u> may have a hundred-million such molecules. A snow <u>flake</u> is an assemblage of individual crystals, both whole and broken, that have joined together in falling. Six sides are basically inherent in the atomic structure of snow <u>crystals</u>. The form and the growth rate are the result of environmental conditions.

Snow crystals form in clouds with temperatures of from 32° F. to -39° F. As the crystals become larger, they begin to fall, often hitting one another. The resulting part that breaks off becomes the nucleus for another crystal, a chain reaction that makes more crystals and causes a sudden burst of heavy snowfall!

There are seven common snow shapes, determined by the temperature and humidity of the air in which they form.

HEXAGONAL PLATE CRYSTALS are six-sided and flat, with varying designs on the surface. They have no projections, so float freely, not interlocking with others. The largest can be about 3/16" in diameter, but half that is more common. They are only a small percentage of all flakes in a snowstorm and develop at temperatures of 32° to 27° F. Perfect hexagonal shapes form at 18° to 10° F.

COLUMN CRYSTALS are six-sided columns with flat or pointed ends, the largest being only about ¼" in diameter or length. They often have a hollow air space in them and are not common. They form in clouds with little moisture, at temperatures of 23° to 18° F. and again at -13° F. and lower. When clouds of these crystals pass in front of the moon, they create a halo of color around it.

STELLAR OR DENDRITIC CRYSTALS are starshaped, with six points radiating from the center. The points may be simple or very elaborate in design. These are the ones we picture when we think of snowflakes. They develop at about 10° to 3° F. and the largest are about ½" across. They also are only a small percentage of flakes in a storm, forming in low clouds with plenty of moisture. Because of the fancy designs and points, they often interlock when falling and end up in large conglomerate flakes up to 2" across, drifting slowly to the ground. These flakes, which hold together so readily, are the ones that stack up on branches and street signs.

NEEDLE CRYSTALS are long slender six-sided columns with five points on either end. They are common and account for much of a storm's accumulation. Ranging in size from 1/4" to 3/8" long, they freeze together to form conglomerate flakes that seem to break into splinters of ice when they hit the ground. They develop at 27° to 32° F.

ASYMMETRICAL CRYSTALS are groups of plate-like crystals joined together in an irregular shape. Common in our snows, they join together to form conglomerates that look like stellar crystals at a distance. The largest of these is about 3/8" across.

<u>GAUPER</u> are small snow pellets, really small stellar or hexagonal plates that become coated with frozen droplets as they fall through moisture-laden clouds. This coating obscures the shape of the original crystal. They fall in short, concentrated snow showers within a longer storm and bounce when they hit the ground.

<u>POWDER CRYSTALS</u> are minute granules, best known to skiers. They don't pack which makes for good skiing. They look like small grains but are really tiny columns and plates joined together in irregular formations.

Then there are all kinds of combination crystals that start in one atmospheric condition and travel through another before they land. There are column crystals with hexagonal plate crystals at either end. Stellar crystals may have hexagonal plate crystals on the points, creating the most spectacular of the snow shapes. Bullet crystals are columns with pyramids at the ends where they are joined together. Then there are spatial dendrites which are feathery stellar crystals with other points projecting off the six original points.



THE IMPORTANCE OF KANSAS ROCKS

BY Wes De Coursey

As I walk around Kansas towns I see that dark brown Dakota Sandstone has been used in the building of numerous houses. At other houses I see some nice Fencepost Limestone, with peoples' names on them. Of course limestone is used very often to build public buildings such as court houses, banks, and churches.

The most important use of rocks, however, is in the form of Soil, produced by the erosion of the sedimentary rock layers of Kansas. This process of weathering has produced some wonderful soil for growing farm crops and raising cattle in areas like the Flint Hills. The soil is responsible for what is known as the Tall Grass Prairie, such as we find on the Konza Prairie, near Manhattan, KS.

Some rock layers, like the Pennsylvanian Age rocks that are deeply buried. furnish us with petroleum, natural gas, and coal. Coal is mined near the surface in southeastern Kansas. Further in southeastern Kansas chert rock containing galena and sphalerite, which are important lead and zinc ores, are mined.

For many years we have used "dutch cleanser" as a scouring powder, this contains mainly volcanic ash. The ash was blown into Kansas from volcanic action in New Mexico or possibly Wyoming. The ash was then washed into deposits here in Central Kansas and appears to be almost pure ash, with few impurities. I have collected samples from deposits near Concordia, Roxbury and Medicine Lodge.

Certainly everyone realizes the importance of the rock and mineral called "halite" or salt. It is used not only for food purposes, but the cavities in the salt layers are used for storage wells for petroleum products, such as those west of McPherson, KS.

Gypsum rock is also very important to us. Mined in the Gyp Hills area of south central Kansas, it is used for sheet rock (for houses) and Plaster of Paris (to help mend broken arms or legs.)

One could make a case for the importance of rocks and minerals of Kansas just for the fun we rockhounds have in collecting all kinds of things in Kansas – fossils, quartz, opal, pyrite, geodes, septarian concretions, and selenite crystals - just to name a few. Dr. DeCoursey was an active member of club ***** Taken from The Post Rock 11/2001

COMING EVENTS

Kansas City Show - CANCELLED March

April 24, 25, 26, 2021 Wichita Gem & Mineral Show Cessna Activity Center-CANCELLED

McPherson Gem & Mineral Swap McPherson 4-H Building May 7, 8, 9, 2021

Rocky Mountain and AFMS Show Big Piney, WY

June 17-20 2021

IF THERE IS A DOT BY YOUR ADDRESS IT MEANS YOUR DUES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AND THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLERTTER.

WE WOULD REALLY MISS YOU SO PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO MARK HEIDEBRECHT 419 S. Walnut, McPherson, KS. 67460