

◆ NOC NEWS ◆

Volume 15 Issue 4

Vicki Marks, Editor

April 1996

◆ FLASH! FLASH!!

NOC SHOW A BIG SUCCESS!!!

Financially our NOC Show netted over \$4200.00. This is about a \$400.00 increase over last year, but our expenses were somewhat higher and all bills are not in as yet. I will try to have a complete breakdown on each area at the next meeting.

Bill Burns, Treasurer



HAPPY
EASTER



**YOUR
EDITOR IS
ON TOUR IN
ARIZONA, SO
PLEASE
FORGIVE
MISSED IN-
FORMA-
TION.**

GENTLE REMINDERS!

1 April refreshments=Izzie & Bill

and Bob Lauterio

2 p5 of CFMS - WRITE LETTERS!!

ONLY YOU CAN SAVE OUR LAND

3 FILL OUT LAST PAGE-DIA. DAYS

◆ LORETTA O., PRESIDENT

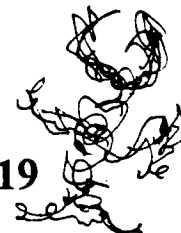
DAY TRIPPING

On Sunday April 21, we will have the first one day field trip of the year. It will be led by Loretta Ogden to the Museum of Natural History in Los Angeles for the **STONES FROM HEAVEN** (Chinese jade) exhibit. We will leave at 9:30 A.M. carpooling as much as possible. They have a very nice lunch room that can accommodate all of us for a reasonable price. I go there fairly often and have not had any problems, so don't worry about taking your car there. It seems some are more comfortable than others driving into the city. Please remember my car only hold four, and other drivers are very welcome.

I will have exact times and meeting places at the April meeting.....so, talk to me about the trip there or call me

DAY - 714-671 0588

NIGHT - 714-529 4419



◆ APRIL MEETING

BY MIKE
MANETH

"POLISH ROCKS"
"NOT FINGERS"



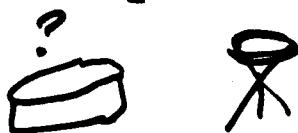
CHUCK PIERCE will give a Lapidary Safety Program for the April Meeting. For those of you who don't know Chuck, I'm sure there will be some interesting info and maybe a few surprises. Chuck is a real wizard with machinery and ideas!

000000000000000000000000

Our March meeting came to a close with a BANG...two main door prizes were won by **LUCKY AL HERMOSILLO**. a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to the following members who donated door prizes: Sue Hansen, Sandy Mogan, Harwood, Huber, Trini

Hermosillo,
Ofelia Warthen,
Bill & Izzy
Burns.

THANKS YOU ALL,
Mary and Pat



REFRESHMENTS

Thanks for the great March refreshments..(I left the names at home and the memory fails, your Ed.)

Sign-ups for the rest of the year!

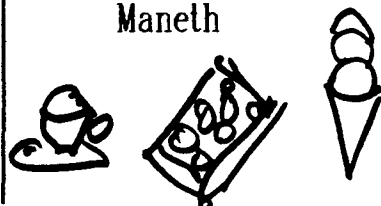
May-Trini Hermosillo, May Richardson, John Balderrama

June-Zeke Wilder, Ed and Annabelle Post

Sept.-Jane Livezy, Virginia Harvey

Oct.-Susan, Jerry Ginny

Nov.-Sandy Mogan, Mary Maneth



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Joan Abramson 4/27

Virginia Harvey 4/26

Bob Henry 4/19

Trini Hermosillo 4/11

Bill Huber 4/4

Barbara Steed 4/6

Vicki Marks and

Frieda Pool share

4/17!!!

Happy Birthday to all of you/us. May you have diamond filled days that sparkle and shine.



Sweet Peas



WWW DOES NOT STAND FOR WORLD WAR WON

by Loretta Ogden

Have you asked anyone for their address lately? Did they say some strange thing like "snail -mail or E -mail buddy?" Well just in case your interested we are living in a world with a whole new language. Java is no longer coffee, it is a program language for the computer. C++ is not a little better than a C+ on your report card, it too is a program language. I was of the understanding that a hard drive was a long car trip or something a workaholic has a lot of. Another one is the local host , you guessed it, he threw the last party I attended in the town I live in. A mother board could be the biggest, best or most impressive board ever. In my early days a bus was something we went to school in and a SCSI (scuzzy) bus was what our hero's got off of after a football game. Surprise, www now stands for world wide web even though many of us still conjure up pictures of wet, wild and wonderful. Oh my how things have changed.

I never dreamed I would learn or relate to all these things and their modern definitions, but I have and let me tell you how exciting it all is. I have learned to cruise the net and made some nice friends along the way. I take pleasure in using the Information (super) Highway every chance I get. It may be a need for a recipe or just see what Oprah had to say on that particular day. Not too long ago I corresponded with a young man who thought it would be great for his Dad to exchange rockhound stories on line where being deaf is no problem at all. Most of the time the people are genderless - so I would also call this phenomena the great equalizer. NICE! We have learned to YELL and gesture ☺ , some of the ones I have seen are not so benign as this. I got acquainted with a young man who sold me a diamond, He bought in Russia a while back. He is planning to go back there to live for a year and offered to look for gemstones and minerals for me. With our Internet connection we will be able to communicate with each other for a reasonable price. I have been able to view the gem collection at the Smithsonian from my perch at our computer and check the various collector boards in my own time frame. This has been a very rewarding experience for me and I would love to share it with all of you.

I am including a list of web sites and e-mail addresses for those of you with computers. If you are not on line, I can only say try it you'll like it. For those of you who don't have the equipment, call me. I would love to have you over to explore this whole new world.

Don & Loretta Ogden
E-Mail
donogden@aol.com or
dono@webworldinc.com
Website
<http://www.webworldinc.com/dono>

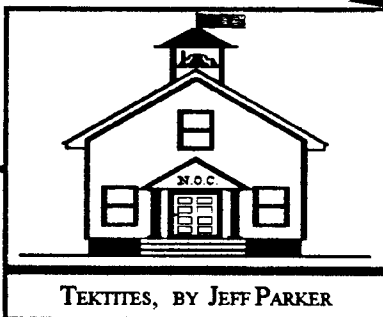
National Gemstones Website
<http://www.primenet.com/~rgenis/>

Jeff & Linda Parker
E-Mail
GemArt@x.netcom.com

Bobs Rock Shop Website
<http://www.rtd.com~bkeller/rockshop/linklist.html>

U.S.Jem Website
<http://www.pfxnet.com/usjem>

EDUCATION



TEKTITES, BY JEFF PARKER

Tektites are black or green, spherical, pear-shaped, or button-shaped natural glass objects containing 70% to 80% silicon dioxide. They generally weigh several grams, but specimens weighing several hundred grams are common.

Found in strewnfields in *Australia, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Central Europe, West Africa, Texas, and Georgia*, tektites were deposited 700,000 to 32 million years ago, based on the ages of the rocks in, or upon which they rest. Microtektites, glass beads less than a millimeter in diameter, are found in cores of young marine sediments near some strewnfields.

The origin of tektites is highly controversial. The shapes, surface pits, and grooves of tektites indicate that they were once molten and their outer surfaces were aerodynamically molded by hypersonic flight through the Earth's atmosphere. Although this interpretation suggests an extraterrestrial source, their cosmic-ray exposure ages are too short for tektites to have come from outside the Earth-Moon system. Furthermore, their chemical compositions are unlike most analyzed lunar rocks but similar to some terrestrial igneous and sedimentary types. Most experts, therefore, favor an origin by melting during terrestrial meteorite impacts, followed by the quench-

ing of ejected droplets and remelting during high-speed atmospheric flight. Some strewnfields are

close to known impact craters of similar age, although most are not. Another theory is that tektites are volcanic rather than impact glasses, a product of lunar volcanism.

Well, it looks like this one is still open for debate. Also if anyone would like to suggest a topic for a future *Education* article, and what they might like to read about, please let me know at our next meeting.



JEFF PARKER, NOC MEMBER

References: Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia

Jeff's Fun Quiz

- Q1: How many stars are in the Big Dipper?
- Q2: To what temperature must you heat a Diamond to make it burn?
- Q3: How long did it take to sculpt Mount Rushmore

(1) seven. (2) 1400-1600 f. (3) fourteen years.

Your Ad Here



LOUD AND CLEAR -

AFMS SCORES BIG!

by George Loud, Chair,
AFMS Conservation & Legislation

Fossil Act [HR 2943]

On February 2, 1996, representatives Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Joe Skeen (R-NM) introduced the *Fossil Preservation Act of 1996* which thereby became bill HR 2943. Introduction of bill HR 2943 is a historical event in that it represents the first legislation ever drafted by rockhound hobbyists and introduced into the U.S. Congress. Now that the bill has been actually introduced and assigned a number, we are all able, for the first time, to specifically identify the legislation in correspondence with our federal representatives. Letters to your representatives in support of HR 2943 can be addressed simply:

The Honorable _____
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Letters to your senators can be addressed:

The Honorable _____
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The full text of HR 2943 is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter.

The bill allows for surface (reconnaissance) collecting of any type of fossil, using hand tools only, provided the area of surface disturbance is less than 2 square meters, i.e., an area measuring no more than 3.3 x 6.6 feet. See Section 4 (c) (1) (A) (I).

The Fossil Preservation Act of 1996 would implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Science (NAS) 1987 committee report entitled "*Paleontological Collecting*", which report culminated three years of study by that group, funded at least in part by your tax dollars, including grants from the Department of Interior (DOI) and USGS. The National Academy of Sciences is chartered by Congress to provide Congress with advice relative to scientific matters.

The NAS report envisioned implementation of its recommendations through federal agency rulemaking procedures. Indeed, a "Negotiated Rule Making Process", initiated by the BLM and USGS 1989-90, resulted in the writing of proposed regulations following the guidelines of the 1987 NAS Committee report. However, for reasons that are not entirely clear even today, the regulations were never published as proposed rules in the Federal Register, promised participants in that "Negotiated Rule Making Process". It has now been almost nine years since the NAS report was issued and the federal land managing agencies are today still following rules which are at odds with the recommendations of that report. In view of the apparent inability of the federal agencies to effect the recommendations of that report, the need for intervention by our elected representatives is clearly indicated.

One premise of HR 2943 is that an uncollected fossil exposed to the elements is a lost fossil. I personally am familiar with sites along the shores of the Potomac River littered with vertebrate fossils which literally disintegrate before your eyes. I also have a standing invitation to visit sites in our Western states where fossils which we are prohibited from collecting can be seen lying on the surface and disintegrating under the influence of the weathering process of nature. Accordingly, HR 2943 is aptly titled "*The Fossil Preservation Act of 1996*".

Recently, at the invitation of staff of the House Natural Resources Committee, I had the privilege of visiting Capitol Hill to brief staff members on the merits of the proposed legislation. I have learned that the Speaker of the House is very interested in this legislation as he himself is a fossil aficionado.

For whatever reason, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists (SVP), with approximately 1,200 members, is engaged in an all-out effort to defeat this legislation. The voice of our membership, 50,000 or so voices, should be the louder voice. Whether or not we are the louder voice and, ultimately, the fate of this bill will depend on you. Please write.

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness - Quartzsite, Arizona

I have received a copy of the "*Draft Kofa National Wildlife Refuge & Wilderness and New Water Mountains Wilderness - Interagency Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*" dated January 24, 1996. This management plan, if adopted, would:

1. Allow rockhounding as a use only on New Waters but limit use to hand methods that do not cause surface disturbances.
2. Eliminate rockhounding on Kofa as authorized by 50 CFR 25.31, including the Crystal Hill area and other nonwilderness areas.
3. Incorporate information regarding not leaving surface disturbances into agency outreach materials by 1996.

Thus, some level of rockhounding would be allowed in the New Waters Wilderness Area (24,600 acres) but rockhounding would be eliminated entirely in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (665,400 acres) which includes both wilderness (510,900) and nonwilderness areas.

The rationale for closing Kofa is stated as follows:

Surface disturbances have routinely been left unreclaimed in New Waters. Unrestricted access to the Crystal Hill area (nonwilderness) has lead [sic.] to the extraction of commercial quantities of minerals. These activities have resulted in surface disturbances that adversely affect visual resource values and present the possibility of wildlife habitat being degraded should the activity continue at any level. Rockhounding of any magnitude presents a potential threat to Kofa archeological resources, which could be purposefully or inadvertently taken in violation of the Archeological Resources Protection Act, and refuge regulations. In addition, with unrestricted mo-

(LOUD AND CLEAR continued on next page)

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(LOUD AND CLEAR continued on next page)

LOUD AND CLEAR (Continued)

torized access to the area, rockhounding is expected to increase along with increases in human presence in general, creating the possibility of undesirable intrusions into various bighorn sheep lambing areas in the northern portions of Kofa during critical periods of the year. Unlike New Waters which has no motorized access, the Kofa portion in question is nonwilderness and motorized access creates a higher frequency of visits and mineral extractions of replaceable resources. (My emphasis.)

Thus, the report cites alleged abuses at the Crystal Hill nonwilderness locality, a popular locality for collecting quartz crystals, as a rationale for closing all 665,400 acres of the Kofa to rockhounding. To describe this as overreaching on the part of the BLM is probably an understatement. Further, I do not understand how "rockhounding" presents any more of a "potential threat to Kofa archeological resources" than any other activity within the wildlife refuge which might lead to encounters with artifacts, e.g., hiking, etc. Comments should be sent to Tom Baca, Natural Resource Planner, Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103. The deadline, by my calculations, is March 9, 1996.

Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area - Wyoming

On a more upbeat note, Mr. John Washburn of Springfield, IL brought to my attention a notice published in the January 19, 1996 issue of the *Federal Register* relating to an "Environmental Assessment" (EA) entitled "*Management for the Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Plant Area*". The notice as published in the *Federal Register* is actually a notice of availability of that report and provides only a rough outline. Accordingly, I telephoned Mr. Dave Baker with the BLM in Worland, WY to inquire as to specifics of the EA and the recommended management action. Mr. Baker advises me that their plan would encourage fossil collecting by amateurs and, indeed, seeks to preserve the site for that purpose. The *Federal Register* notice states that the recommended management action would place "management emphasis on enhancing opportunities for scientific research, public education, recreation, hobby collecting of fossils...". In furtherance of this objective, the EA recommends the closing of "the 260 acres of known fossil concentration areas to mineral location and pursuing the mineral location withdrawal." Thus, as explained by Mr. Baker, the recommended management action would seek to protect the "fossil concentration areas" for the foregoing purposes. Mr. Baker told me that "all the experts" with whom he has spoken recommended encouragement of fossil collecting by amateurs. It is noteworthy that these experts with whom Mr. Baker has had contact are from the Smithsonian Institution. According to Mr. Baker, these professionals have expressed to him the hope that, by encouraging amateur collection, unusual specimens might be brought to light which would serve to close gaps in the fossil record and further our knowledge of life history. This brings to mind a statement at pages 10 and 11 of the aforementioned NAS 1987 Committee report entitled "*Paleontological Collecting*" which reads:

A number of rock formations are so sparsely fossiliferous as to seem of little potential scientific

value were it not for amateur collectors diligently searching for new material. One example is the Mazon Creek Biota of Pennsylvanian Age in Illinois (Appendix #1). Fossils from Mazon Creek provide a unique view of life in the coal swamps that occupied Illinois 300,000,000 years ago. However, the more important Mazon Creek fossils are so rare that few, if any, professional paleontologists can justify the time and expense required to collect them. The cumulative efforts of amateurs collecting over many years have made important Paleontological analyses of Mazon Creek possible. Paleontologists at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago have fostered amateur-professional cooperation in the study of Mazon Creek fossils. Many other examples of amateur-professional cooperation could be cited.

If anyone wishes to correspond with me on any conservation/legislation issue affecting our hobby, please note my new address below.

George Loud, Chair
Conservation and Legislation Committee
9709 Layminster Lane
Vienna, VA 22182

A . L . A . A .

Refer to April CFMS Newsletter Page 5. The comment period for the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness - Quartzsite, Arizona has been expanded to the first week of May. Get those letters sent - This will close the camping on BLM land at Clouds and Main Event in Quartzsite.

Rock has geologists scratching their heads

A brilliant blue rock bought on vacation as a cheap souvenir is a mineral new to science, geologists confirmed this week.

"The mineral has the most intense blue that we have ever seen," said Gordon Cressey, deputy head of the mineralogy department at the Natural History Museum in London.

Cressey said Wednesday that the mineral mimicked a stained-glass window, changing color from blue to purple to transparent depending on the direction from which light dif-

Thank
for
the
article

Source?
Date?
Let me
know
VM

AREA PLAN AMENDMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area

There has been a change in management philosophy from single-species management to ecosystem management. BLM Managers seek to maintain ecosystem functions and the diversity of life. Thus plans are proposed for the Big Morongo Canyon and Salt Creek areas of Critical Environment.

The present area of critical environmental concern in the Big Morongo Canyon is a beautiful desert oasis area. Over the years, at least 235 species of birds have been observed here. This is over three times higher than the number found in the BLM's Desert Plan inventory. Mammals in the area include big horn sheep, mule deer, bobcats raccoons, coyotes, etc. This area lies near Desert Hot Springs and expands nearly to Yucca Valley and East to the Joshua Tree National Park Boundary. I do not know of any mineral areas in this area, but the black jade area is to the east of the proposed boundary. The plan constitutes the closure of some roads and would expand the boundary from 3,075 acres to 29,000 acres.

The Salt Creek Pupfish/Rail Habitat ACEC expansion proposal is to protect the sensitive cultural resources, wetlands, riparian areas, and RT&E species habitat. This area located south of the Orocopia Mountains, west of the Chocolate Mountains and east of Salton Sea would increase the Salt Creek ACEC from 4,288 acres to 14,880 acres. There is no mining activity occurring presently in this area and there is relatively low mineral material contained here.

For maps and copies of these proposals contact

Julia Dougan, Area Manager
Palm Springs-South Coast Resource Area
USDI Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 2000
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-2000

Comment period for this Proposal is until May 17, 1996.
Isabella Burns, DAC Member

ROCK HOARDERS HINT

Remodeling your home, refacing your kitchen, or redoing the bath? Designers or cabinetry wizards may wish to take note of the innovative drawer pulls which were featured in the February, 1996 issue of *Sunset Magazine* (p. 89). Sandi Frank and Jeff Nelson of Redwood City, California fashioned natural rocks (not even tumbled, from the look of the photo) into drawer pulls.

They did it thus: center a 3/8-inch nut with epoxy to the "back" face of the rock; drill and countersink holes in the back

of the drawer or cupboard front; and attach a bolt so that it can tighten the nut firmly to the wood front of the cabinetry. I think I might add a spacer of some sort to the front side to allow a little space for fingers and knuckles to grasp the "knob" adequately.

No sealer or finish was used by Ms. Frank or Mr. Nelson, who preferred a natural patina imparted by their hands. However, depending on the type of rocks used, that would seem to be a personal preference.

**CAPISTRANO VALLEY
ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB**

Leah Gundy