The official bulletin of the Dothan Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Rockhounds Herald

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

January 2017

Streak: White **Garnet** Mohs: 6.5 - 7.5

Words from...

The President

We had a nice Christmas party. As usual, there was enough food to feed a small army. JoAn Lambert did a great job with the ham. Thanks. Gifts were exchanged and we re-elected club officers. The officers will remain the same for the next year.

At least for the time being, our Newsletter Editor will be staying on in that position. We were all very happy to hear that news. Joan Blackwell does such a great job that it is going to be difficult to replace her. Her last article on the gold panning spurred quite a bit of interest. Our V.P. & Field Trip Chair, Garry Shirah, is interested in putting together a group to go search for some gold. Count me in!!!

It looks like Jeff DeRoche has done a bang up job with our 2017 show. All vendor spots are spoken for already. Talk with Jeff and see what you can do to help out with the show. March will be here before you know it. ***Don't forget the Panama City show Jan 28 – 29 at the Fairgrounds.***

The new schedule for 2017 at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is out. You can find it on their website http://www.lapidaryschool.org/. The SFMS has reserved the week of June 11th but the individual classes are not posted yet. Wildacres has not updated the 2017 calendar but I will keep an eye open for the retreat schedule.

Hope to see everyone at our meeting on the 22nd.

Pat

Announcement

Membership Dues – Time again to pay your annual club dues. Diane Rodenhizer will be accepting checks and cash from now until the February 28 meeting. If you can't make it to the Christmas party or at least one of the next two meetings, please send a check (no cash, please) to: Diane Rodenhizer, 478 Private Road 1106, Enterprise, AL 36330.

Upcoming Shows

JAN 21 – 22	**Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society**	**Deland, FL**
JAN 28 – 29	**Panama City Gem & Mineral Society**	**Panama City, FL**
FEB 6 – 7	**Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club Merritt Island, FL**	
FEB 20 – 21	**Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society**	**Vero Beach, FL**
FEB 25 – 26	**Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society**	**Jackson, MI**
FEB 25	**Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society**	**Lakeland, FL**

Source: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-123.html

Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

TOOLS FOR THE ASKING

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250° F.

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic above that let's me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

Many thanks,

Brad
www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Editor's Note: See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

Learning Series: The Wonder and Natural Beauty of Rocks

THE NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM
VIEWING STONES COLLECTION
AT THE U. S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

The Museum is well known for its display of masterpiece living specimens of bonsai and penjing. Less well known is the Museum's world-class collection of viewing stones.

Bonsai and viewing stones are closely related art forms, each reflecting a deep respect for nature. While a bonsai is cultivated to evoke the qualities of a venerable old tree, a viewing stone is usually displayed to suggest an aspect of the natural landscape, such as a distant mountain or a waterfall. Thus, when these small-scale forms are viewed together in a complementary arrangement, the whole of nature can be imagined.

The collection began with six Japanese viewing stones that accompanied the gift of bonsai from Japan on the occasion of the American Bicentennial in 1976. Today there are 105 stones from different countries: Japan, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Zaire, Namibia, Italy, Canada, and the United States. The viewing stone collection has expanded to include stones outside the formal requirements of Japanese viewing stones—such as Chinese scholars' rocks and abstract natural stones.

The stones are displayed in and around the Museum's Mary Mrose International Pavilion. Cases in The Melba Tucker Suiseki and Viewing Stone Display Area are periodically installed with different stones. The displays in the Japanese tokonoma (an alcove for art display in a Japanese home) and the Chinese scholar's room provide a cultural context for the appreciation of different types of stones and related arts. The Special Exhibitions Wing provides a place for thematic exhibits which incorporate accessories in a more formal display.

Dry Waterfall Stone
From New York State, USA
10 x 15 x10 cm
Donated by Martin Schmalenberg
1990

Hut Stone
From California Desert, USA
3 x 16 x 5 cm
Donated by Cheryl Manning
1996

Near Mountain Stone
From Delaware County
Pennsylvania, USA
9 x 25 x 13 cm
Donated by Jim Hayes
1996

Mountain Stone
From Eel River
California, USA
14 x 43 x 22 cm
Donated by Harry Hirao
1995

Chrysanthemum Stone
From Neodani
Gifu Prefecture, Japan
30 x 27 x 22 cm
Bicentennial Gift from Nippon Bonsai Association
Donated by Kiyoshi Yanagisawa
1975

Chinese Scholar's Rock
Taihu stone
From Lake Tai
Jiangsu Province, China
83 x 38 x 30 cm
Donated by Kemin Hu
2000

Chinese Scholar's Rock
Lingbi stone
From Lingbi
Anhui Province, China
73 x 34 x 20 cm
Donated by Kemin Hu
2000

Pattern Stone – Geisha
From Mohave Desert
California, USA
22 x 20 x 15 cm
Donated by Mariana Haug, in memory of her mother, Melba Tucker
1997

Dwelling Stone
From Ciniru River Valley
Kunigan, West Java, Indonesia
13 x 20 x 15 cm
Gift from Indonesian Suiseki Asociation
Donated by Ismail Saleh
1994

Chrysanthemum Stone – Moon Night
From Neodani
Gifu Prefecture, Japan
42 x 58 x 20 cm
Gift from Nippon Suiseki Association to President Gerald Ford
Donated by Tanekichi Isozaki
1975

Museum and Arboretum Visitor Information

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is located on the grounds of the U. S. National Arboretum at 3501 New York Avenue N.E. – Washington D.C. 20002

The National Arboretum is open every day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is open every day from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

There is no charge for admission to the Arboretum or the Museum and parking on the grounds is free.

The Arboretum and the Museum are closed on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, President's Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Editor's Note: "Penjing" is defined as tray landscape, potted scenery, potted landscape, or miniature trees and rockery, and is the ancient Chinese art of depicting artistically formed trees, other plants, and landscapes in miniature.

"Viewing Stone" is a modern term embracing several traditional Asian art forms where unusual stones, ideally shaped by natural forces, are selected because they represent "microcosms" – worlds in miniature – or capture the essence of the Earth's life-energies.

Japanese suiseki (miniature landscape or object stones) and Chinese gongshi (scholar's rocks) are traditionally displayed on an individually carved wooden base, in a ceramic container, or in a tray of sand according to long-established aesthetic conventions. Once shown only in temples or elite residences such as the palaces of nobles and scholar's studios, they are now found in our homes and offices as well as museums around the world. These microcosmic "spirit stones" become objects for contemplation and meditation; they beckon us to embark on mental pilgrimages to special places, real and imagined, from our memories and dreams.

American viewing stones reflect our desert and mountain landscapes and unique aesthetic tastes while still respecting the Chinese and Japanese traditions.

For a look at additional viewing stones, check out the archive links to the museum's past exhibits at https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/past-exhibits/.

Source: https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/viewing-stones-collection/

Christmas Party – December 2016

Photos by Pat & Bruce

There were smiles all around at the Christmas party.

Christmas Party – December 2016

Photos by Pat & Bruce

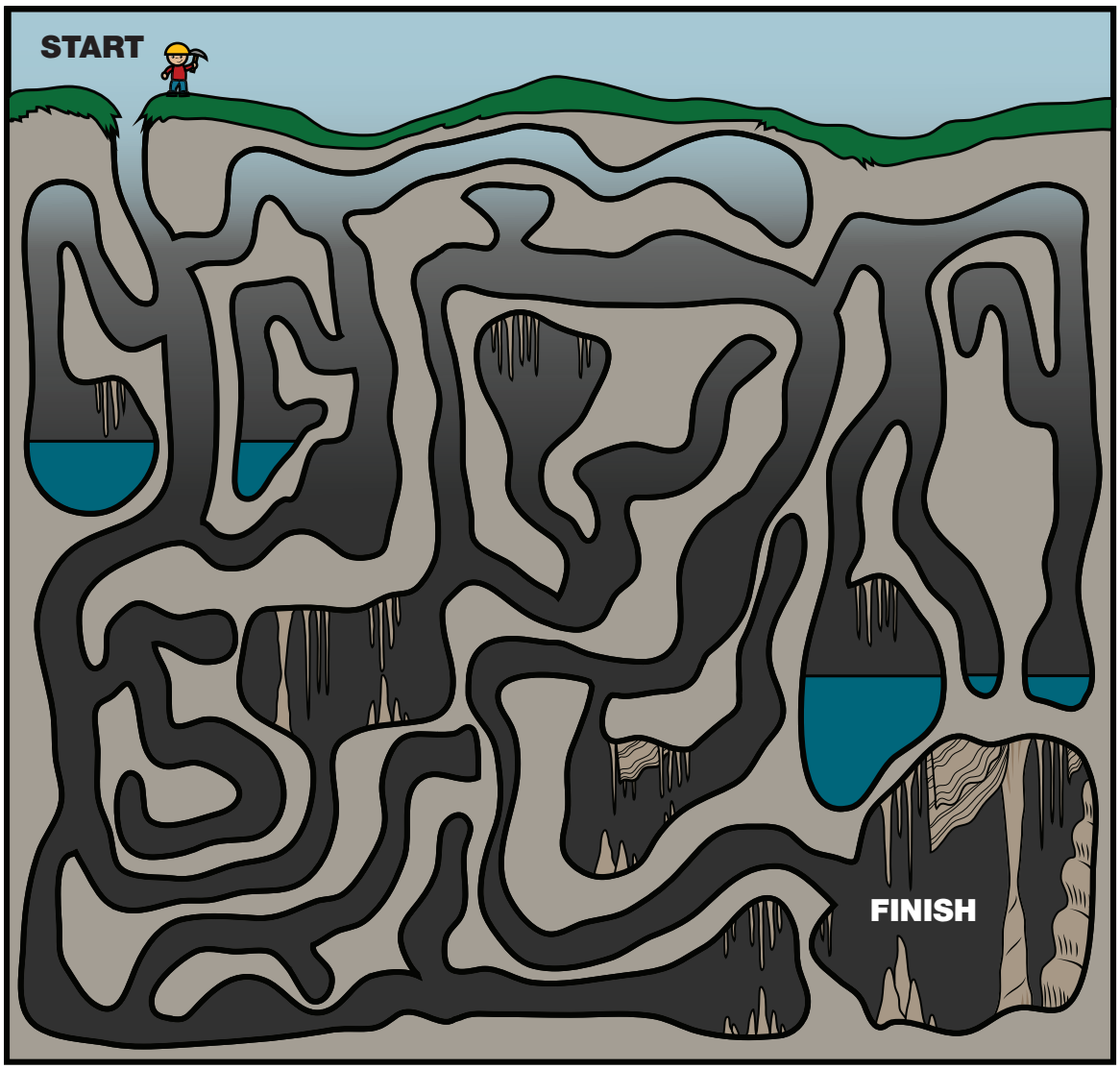
Kids Corner

Karst

Karst is a type of landscape made when acidic water seeps through cracks in the ground and slowly dissolves **limestone rock** over thousands or millions of years, leaving underground passages and spaces. Karst landscapes attract visitors and explorers, because caves, sinkholes and other interesting features can be found there.

It's a Cave Expedition!

Help the spelunker (or cave explorer) get through the cave maze to the main chamber!



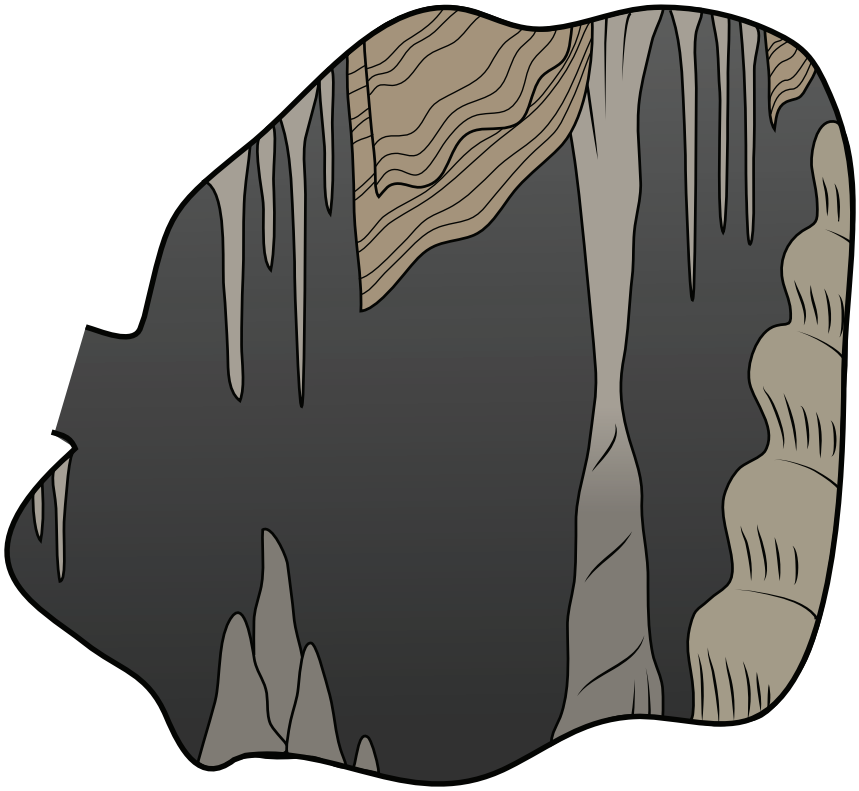
Limestone is a rock that is made of tiny shells, corals, and skeletons of tiny ocean creatures. The limestone that is found on land was formed at the bottom of an ancient ocean!

Caves

A **cave** is a natural underground space that is large enough for people to fit inside. Caves are created through a variety of processes, including the weathering of rock, volcanic activity or landslides.

Label the Formations

There are many different formations in caves, including stalagmites, draperies and flowstone. Most are caused by the slow dripping of water, which over time deposits minerals. Draw a line from the cave formation terms to the correct drawing in the cave to the left.



DRAPERY: looks like stone curtains hanging from the ceiling.

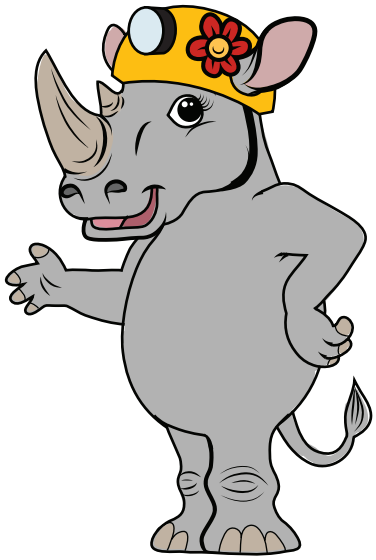
STALACTITE: looks like an icicle made of stone.

COLUMN: these form when a stalactite and stalagmite meet.

STALAGMITE: these are usually thicker than stalactites.

FLOWSTONE: looks like a frozen waterfall.

Memory Booster: *stalag**mite**s grow up from the ground and "**mite**" reach the ceiling, and stalac**tite**s hold "**tite**" to the ceiling!*



Who What Where When Why How

January Birthdays

JAN 12 Michael Merino

JAN 20 N. Joan Blackwell

Random Rock Facts

Minerals can be only identified absolutely by x-ray analysis and chemical tests. The x-ray analysis determines the structure of the mineral and the chemical tests determine the composition of the mineral. Structure and composition are the defining marks of a mineral.

Unfortunately for the average collector, these tests require expensive equipment, expert know-how and often destroy the specimen. Fortunately, both structure and composition affect certain physical properties. It is through the proper use of these properties that minerals can reliably be identified.

Source: http://www.galleries.com/Mineral_Properties

Meeting Information

Time: 2:00 PM
Date: Fourth Sunday of each month (except June, July and August)
Place: Fellowship Hall – Tabernacle United Methodist Church
4205 S. Brannon Stand Road
Dothan, AL

Website: www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

Objectives

To stimulate interest in lapidary, earth science and, when necessary, other related fields.

To sponsor an educational program within the membership to increase the knowledge of its members in the properties, identifications and evaluations of rocks, minerals, fossils and other related subjects.

To cooperate and aid in the solution of its members' problems encountered in the Club's objectives.

To cooperate with other mineralogical and geological clubs and societies.

To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of minerals.

To provide opportunity for exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

To conduct its affairs without profit and to refrain from using its assets for pecuniary benefit of any individual or group.

Classified Ads

Looking for an item to round out your rock collection?

Got a specimen, tool or handicraft for sale or trade?

Submit the pertinent details to me by the 10th of each month and your inclinations will be made known to the membership in the next bulletin.

N. J. Blackwell
28 Lakeview Trail, Apt. C
Daleville, AL 36322
Phone: 334-503-0308
Email: Tsavorite7@aol.com

Annual Dues

Single $15
Family $20

Officers

President – Pat LeDuc
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Vice President – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

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334-577-4353

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Show Chair – Jeff DeRoche
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Field Trips Chair – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Hospitality Chair – Vacant

Club Hostess – Vacant

Club Liaison – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Refreshments

JAN 22 – Potluck Refreshments

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD
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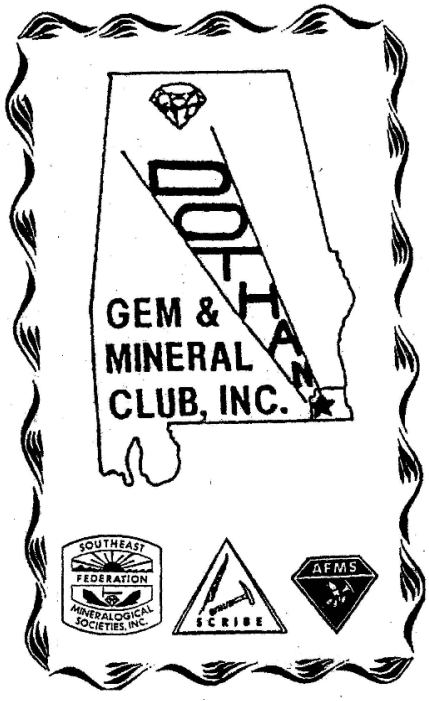

Where you might hear…

These are the physical properties most useful for mineral identification:

- **Color**
- **Luster**
- **Transparency (or diaphaneity)**
- **Crystal Systems**
- **Technical Crystal Habits**
- **Descriptive Crystal Habits**
- **Twinning**
- **Cleavage**
- **Fracture**
- **Hardness**
- **Specific Gravity**
- **Streak**
- **Associated Minerals**
- **Notable Localities**

Source: http://www.galleries.com/Mineral_Properties

Member of
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies