

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

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

November 2017

Streak: Colorless

Topaz

Mohs: 8.0

Words from...

The President

I want to thank Janie for the wire wrapping demo at our last meeting. It was a really good demo and I know we all learned something. Personally, I never knew that you could get the same type of wire with different hardness. Once you know why you would need them, it makes perfect sense. Our show, tell and sell was fun. Janie brought a huge stash cabs to show us what she made over the summer but most of us ended up talking her into selling us at least one. Seems like the sell part of our show, tell and sell is working out pretty well. We will be having a program about rhodochrosite mining in Colorado at our November meeting. It is a multi-part program so I hope everyone can make the meeting. Anyone going to the Hogg mine on the 11th, bring your stash to show and tell. You know we love to see that stuff. As usual, we will have pot luck so bring your favorite dish to share. Hope to see everyone on the 26th.

Pat

Announcements

We **will** be having our November meeting on the 26th. Our Christmas party is going to be held in our regular meeting place on **Saturday, December 16th**. We will meet at 12:00 and eat at 1:00. We will not be having a club meeting in December as the 4th Sunday is Christmas Eve. If you want to join in the Dirty Santa game, bring a gift. Gifts should be no more than \$15-20.

Upcoming Shows

NOV 24 – 26	Mobile Rock & Gem Society	Mobile, AL
NOV 25 – 27	Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society	Salem, VA
DEC 1 – 3	Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society	Montgomery, AL
DEC 1 – 3	Withlacoochee Rockhounds	Hudson, FL
DEC 9 – 10	Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society	Franklin, TN

Source: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-789.html> and <http://www.the-vug.com/educate-and-inform/mineral-shows/#september>

Meeting Minutes – October 2017 – by Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND OPEN: The meeting was called to order at 2:05PM by President Pat LeDuc. There were 14 members and 3 guests. Our guests were Lou, who is a tattoo artist, was brought by Jeff, and Marcus and Lucus, neighbors, who were brought by Anne. Lou has extensive experience faceting so we hope he is willing to give us a class or demo.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: The SFMS Scholarship Raffle is being held this weekend, so good luck to all those who purchased tickets. Happy birthdays were wished. We are told that Grady is now in the same retirement center as Esther. Grady's health is fair, but his hearing continues to decline. I know we all wish them well.

CORRESPONDENCE: AFMS Newsletter.

MINUTES & TREASURE'S REPORT: Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Everyone received their copy of the Newsletter. Diane Rodenhizer did not attend today's meeting so there was no treasury report.

Please Note – Second Reminder - The fiscal year of the Club now starts September 1st. Existing members are being levied a pro-rated amount to cover their membership for the 8 months from January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018. Singles will be asked to pay \$10 and families will be asked for \$13. That will allow members to have un-interrupted insurance coverage.

SHOW BUSINESS: Jeff has the new vendor contracts ready and encourages anyone who plans to book a table for 2018 show to get their application in. Jeff will be meeting with Mickey about the cost of the Farm Center rental. Jeff is expecting an increase, and is prepared to negotiate for the best terms possible.

Grab Bags are on the table again. JoAn asked for the number of bags that we need to prepare. At least 100, with Bruce and Pat suggesting we need somewhat more than we had for last years show. We have budgeted \$200 for the supplies and ask any member who has material for the bags to bring it to the next meeting(s). Pat asks that members help with preparing the bags, which includes sorting and assembling the material and preparing info sheets to go in each bag.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Garry was unable to attend the meeting but he sent a reminder about upcoming digs. He will be sending out an e-mail reminder about the dig at the Hogg mine scheduled for November 11th. Members wishing to go should get in touch with Garry to get details.

NEW BUSINESS: We will need several new club officers for the coming year. Anne, Arnie and Jeff will be the selection committee. Pat will be taking home the name tags for an update.

PROGRAM & SHOW AND TELL: Ken brought a nice selection of things that he collected from trips to Michigan. Arnie and Janie Mae brought in pieces for Show, Tell and Sell. The group broke for munchies, shopped and Janie Mae gave us a demonstration on wire wrapping. Thank You, Miss Janie! It was great!!

Door Prize for this month went to Joan.

-- Respectfully submitted by B. Fizzell

Rocks That Look Like Food

As we head deeper into winter, most of us will soon stop for a day, gather with friends and family, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Our tables will likely be laden with an abundance of attractive, delicious and savory dishes. The following series of pictures shows what appears to be an ordinary table set for such a Thanksgiving Day feast, but actually, there is no real, edible food on it. It is simply a display of stones and crystals arranged to look like tasty meals. Rockhounds will immediately recognize it as a “feast” the Lord created...a collection of beautiful—albeit inedible—rocks scattered throughout the earth for our wonder and enjoyment.

In 1982, Bill and Lois Pattillo of Robstown, TX, returned home from a gem and mineral show in Portland, OR, where they'd seen a clever exhibit of "pastries", or rather an exhibit of rocks that looked like pastries. Soon an idea formed that they'd continue to nurture for the next 31 years – "Let's exhibit a table of rocks that look like food."



First they canvassed friends, family and rockhound acquaintances looking for rocks that looked like food. Whether purchased or hand collected on digs, they've stated that most of the Food Table rocks are in their natural state. Only a very few have been dyed and some have been cut and shaped to resemble the food they represent

Then they assembled those pieces and displayed the collection in 1983 at the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society show in Corpus Christi, TX. It was an instant hit and before they retired in 2014, the Pattillos had traveled over 100,000 miles and displayed the collection at 41 show locations throughout the Southeast and the mid-West.

Over the years, they've seen a lot of pointing, smiles and confused looks by folks seeing it for the first time. Despite the "Do Not Touch" signs on the table, people seem compelled to confirm what they are seeing. One young man even admitted having popped an item into his mouth thinking it was edible. Luckily he didn't break any teeth!

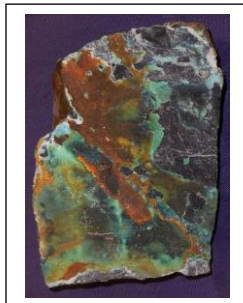
Fortunately for all of us, the Food Table lives on and will continue to travel from show to show thanks to Keith Harmon, who assumed responsibility for it when the Pattillos retired.





Club Meeting – October 2017

Photos by Pat & Bruce



Club Meeting – October 2017

Photos by Pat & Bruce





Mineral of the Holidays – Turkey-Fat Ore

By Leslie A. Malakowsky

You do not need to eat turkey for the holidays to appreciate this mineral! “Turkey-fat ore” is an old name for a variety of Smithsonite (also called zinc spar). The typical habit is earthy botryoidal masses. The name alludes to the mineral’s resemblance to turkey fat in color and form. It is usually bright yellow because of the inclusion of cadmium sulfide, although the presence of cadmium isn’t necessary for the name to apply.



Smithsonite is a zinc carbonate (a mineral ore of zinc) with the chemical formula ZnCO_3 . In mineralogy, the term “carbonate” can refer both to carbonate minerals and carbonate rock (which is mainly composed of carbonate minerals), and both are dominated by the carbonate ion, CO_3^{2-} . Smithsonite has a Mohs hardness of 4.5 and a specific gravity of 4.4 to 4.5.

Smithsonite was originally identified with Hemimorphite. The two minerals are very similar in appearance. The term “calamine” was used for both minerals until it was realized that they are two distinct minerals. Smithsonite was named in 1832 by French mineralogist and geologist Francois Sulpice Beudant (1787-1850) in honor of English mineralogist and chemist James Smithson (1765-1829), who first identified the mineral in 1802. (Smithson’s bequest established the Smithsonian Institution.)

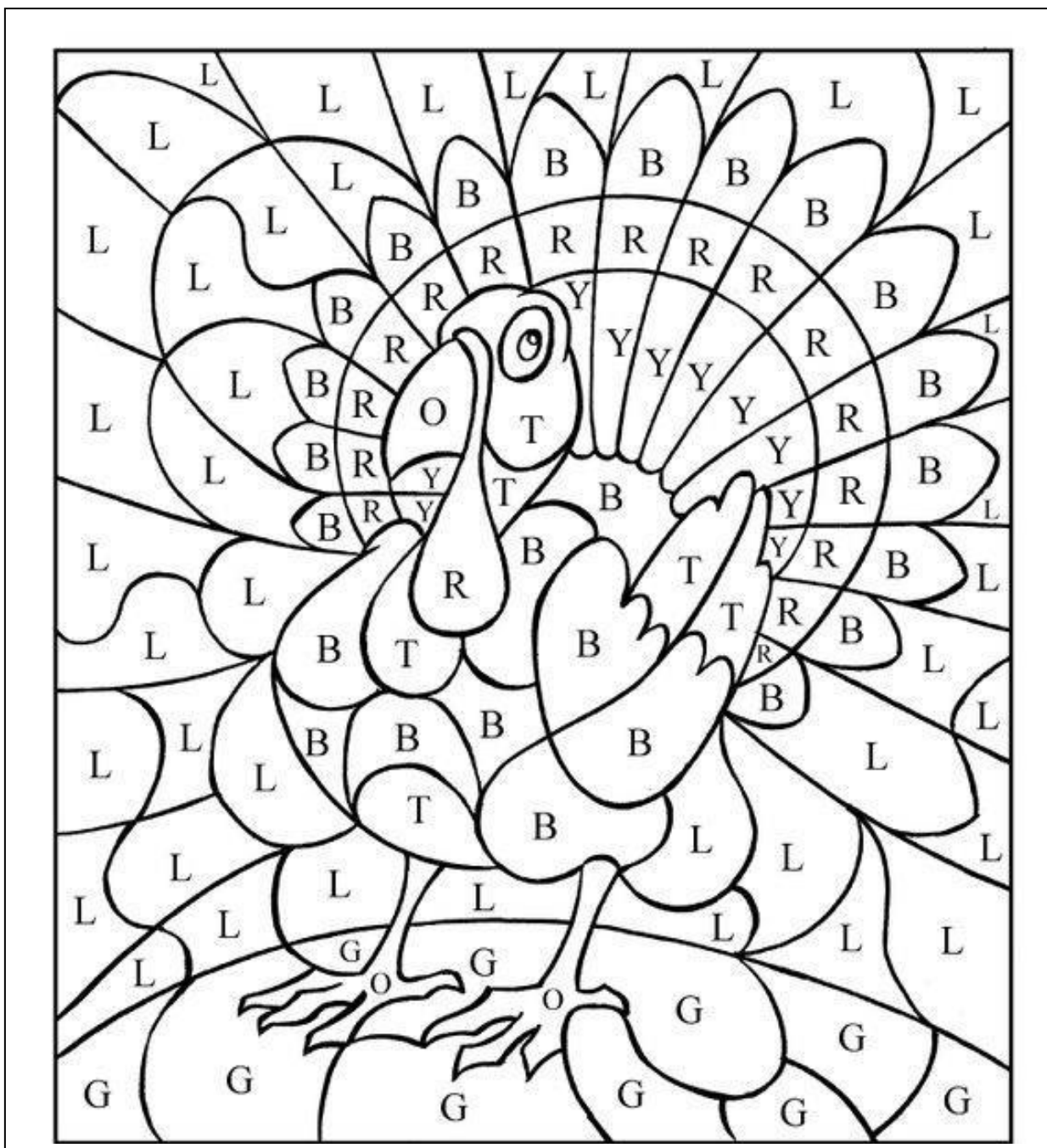
Smithsonite is a variably-colored trigonal mineral that only rarely is found in well-formed crystals. It occurs as a secondary mineral in the weathering or oxidation zone of zinc-bearing ore deposits. It sometimes occurs as replacement bodies in carbonate rocks and as such may constitute zinc ore. It commonly occurs in association with Hemimorphite, Willemite, Hydrozincite, Cerussite, Malachite, Azurite, Aurichalcite and Anglesite. It forms two limited solid solution series, with substitution of manganese leading to Rhodochrosite, and with iron, leading to Siderite.

When it shows good translucent green coloring or attractive banding, Smithsonite is polished and used as an ornamental stone. In jewelry making, yellow-colored stones are rarely faceted but massive forms are cut into cabochons. In industry, zinc is extracted from Smithsonite, and it is of interest to collectors and scientists concerned with the study of mineral deposits. And casual collectors enjoy its beautiful botryoidal form!

References: Wikipedia, mindat.org, webmineral.com

Turkey Color Challenge

Can you figure out which colors to use from the key below?



B = Smoky Quartz

G = Emerald

L = Aquamarine

O = Imperial Topaz

R = Ruby

T = Sand

Y = Smithsonite

Who What Where When Why How

November Birthdays

NOV 4 Chris Bokenfohr

NOV 4 Patti Wilson

NOV 9 Janie Schings

NOV 19 Ken Wilson

Random Rock Facts

Light is able to pass through transparent minerals; translucent minerals partially let light pass through; and opaque minerals do not let any light through. A mineral type can exhibit more than one level of transparency. Most transparent minerals also occur in translucent forms and some that are completely transparent also have forms that are completely opaque.

A number of minerals may seem opaque, but when held to a light source seem to be letting a small amount of light pass through at its corners. A specimen with such characteristics is said to be transparent in thin splinters or sections. All minerals with a metallic luster are opaque. Most minerals with a submetallic luster are translucent in thin splinters.

Source: <http://www.minerals.net/resource/property/Transpar.aspx>

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

Officers

President – Pat LeDuc
334-806-5626

Vice President – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Secretary – Bruce Fizzell
334-577-4353

Treasurer – Diane Rodenhizer
334-447-3610

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334-503-0308
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Webmaster – Pat LeDuc
334-806-5626

Membership Chair – Diane Rodenhizer
334-447-3610

Show Chair – Jeff DeRoche
334-673-3554

Field Trips Chair – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

Hospitality Chair – Vacant

Club Hostess – Vacant

Club Liaison – Garry Shirah
334-671-4192

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

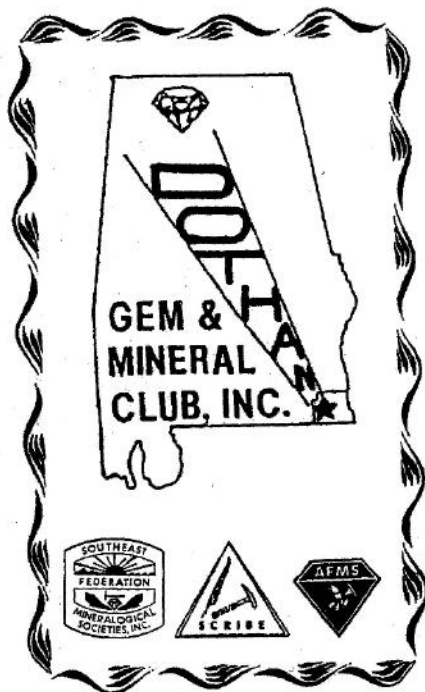
Refreshments

NOV 26 – Potluck Refreshments

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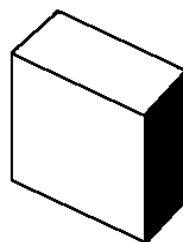
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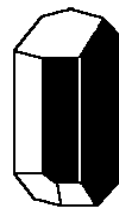
Where you might hear...

In the triclinic system—one of six crystal systems—all the axes are different lengths. None of them meet at 90°. Triclinic system minerals include amblygonite, axinite, kyanite, microcline feldspar (including amazonite and aventurine), plagioclase feldspars (including labradorite), rhodonite, and turquoise – each of which form in one of these three basic shapes:

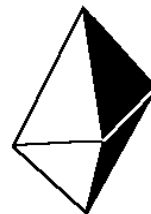
Triclinic System



Prism



Prism



Dipyrmaid

Source: https://www.gemsociety.org/article/mineral-habits/#The_Isometric_System
What are Crystal Systems and Mineral Habits? by Donald Clark, CSM IMG
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