



## EARTH SCIENCES

THE ROCK CLUB DEDICATED TO THE SERIOUS STUDY OF GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY,  
PALEONTOLOGY

### THE TUMBLER

April 2009

#### April MEETING

NORTH EASTWOOD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
9425 EAST 30TH STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

SUNDAY, April 12, 2009, 2:00 PM

#### “Topographic Maps and How to Read Them”

James Yarber, 500 Club Member



#### 2009 CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

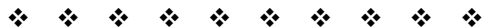
April 12 James Yarber, “Topographic Maps”  
May 3 Ron Everhart, “Volcanos”  
June 14 Dale Fadely, “History of the Indiana Dunes”



#### CLUB WEB SITE

[www.geology.iupui.edu/Outreach/500%5FEarth%5Fsciencs/](http://www.geology.iupui.edu/Outreach/500%5FEarth%5Fsciencs/)

Please send pictures and information you would like to share on the website to Len Gritzer at lengritzer@hotmail.com



The Tumbler is published monthly by

500 Earth Sciences  
P O Box 90352  
Indianapolis, IN 46290-0352

#### 2009 OFFICERS

President	Ann Richardson
Vice President	Jim Yarber
Secretary	Marge Begeman
Treasurer	Gail Hall

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPRING IS HERE! For many of us and especially for our rock club, it has been a long, hard winter. With the coming of spring, I hope things will turn themselves around. Vice President James Yarber has been busy planning field trips and looking for exceptionally interesting speakers for our meetings. Ron Harlow is thinking about a return visit to one of our meetings when he gets released from his doctor. It would be nice to see him again. Club member Eric Marchani has volunteered to replace George Wagner in contacting businesses for donations for our annual show. It appears that SPRING IS TRULY HERE! Thirteen club members and nine guests attended the March meeting ‘Behind the Scenes’ Tour of the Indiana State Museum. Many Thanks go out to Peggy FisherKeller, Curator of Geology at the museum for leading the tour. All who attended had a GREAT TIME. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the April meeting but James has informed me that he has it all under control. I want to THANK JAMES FOR ALL HIS HARD WORK this year.

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 7, 2009

The March 8, 2009 meeting was held at the Indiana State Museum where Ron Richards asked Margaret (Peg) Fisherkeller to show us behind the scenes of the Paleontology Lab in the museum. We had 13 members attend plus 8 visitors; Tim J. Stephens, his wife Lana, and their 4 children plus a friend of theirs, Bitteny Evans and also a friend of Jim Yarber, Pat McNulty.

We viewed the inside loading dock which enables the specimens from the archeological digs to be brought into the museum easily. From there we entered the ‘cleaning room’ or wet lab where the specimens go through their first preparation stage. The room consists of several stainless steel sinks and tables with special drainage systems in the floor and sinks to deal

with the soil and matrix that is removed. It also stores the field apparatus used for the summer digs. Peg explained about a cave in southern Indiana where the cruddy dirt has been removed and some amazing finds were recovered.

A storage freezer was seen which is basically used to store incoming fabrics and furs etc. that arrive at the museum. The items are kept in the freezer for a minimal of 48 hours which is the time needed to kill any bugs and unwanted insects, thus protecting the museum from invasion of anything which might eat and destroy it's collection.

From there we went into the preparation lab. All the mastodon bones from last summers dig in Northern Indiana had been cleaned and were laid out on exhibit tables. The summer 2008 dig found bones from four animals, two juveniles and two adult. Because the bones were found in moist soil they must be prepared by drying them out slowly. We were told that the bones were covered with plastic and then uncovered, alternately, to let the drying process occur. The dirt where the bones were found did color the bones somewhat, but the wet soil can not fossilize the bones, as is found in a dry soil atmosphere.

There were also some mastodon tusks being prepared. The tusks demand a different type of procedure due to the ivory composition. A solution of 50% white Elmer's glue and 50% of water is placed on the tusks to hold the ivory in place where it tends to crack.

The biology storage room had shelves of prepared taxidermied animals and birds. One special storage locker held older taxidermy specimens that had been prepared by arsenic treatments. This locker was against an outside wall and was made to explode outward, away from the room, in case of any problem with the arsenic.

From there we viewed the 'clean lab' which held fossils and minerals that have been finished. Here the specimens are catalogued and stored. Some were in the process of being digital photographed for reference and for web viewing for possible sale to other museums. The Indiana fossils and minerals were sorted and stored by the county in which they were found. Bob Howell had some exotic specimens from Crawfordsville, Indiana area.

After the meeting we individually visited the museum and enjoyed the displays.

Submitted, Marjorie K. Begeman

TREASURER REPORT: The balance for the club stands at \$10,664.13

MONTHLY GIVE-AWAY: We had no monthly give away because of our field trip.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

MWF Stamp Project: Ann is collecting commorative stamps. Bring them to the meeting ASAP.

CORRESPONDENCE: None reported

FIELD TRIPS: None reported

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dr. Nelson Shaffer, Section Head Coal and Industrial Minerals at the Indiana Geological Survey, Bloomington, informed us of the up and coming tour of Indiana's limestone regions, sponsored by the Friends of Mineralogy Club in June. Dr. Shaffer will conduct a geode field trip as part of the activities. Two new books are now available at the Geological Survey: Natural Heritage of Indiana published by the Academy of Science and Early History of Indiana Limestone by Ron Bell. The Indiana State Museum will be setting up a display at the main show in the Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona, February 12-15, featuring Mineral Oddities. They are looking for specimens to take with them. If interested in entering specimens, contact Peggy Fisherkeller at the Indiana State Museum. Len Gritzer has purchased a projector for power point presentations. It will be available for club use. Jamison Brizendine has volunteered to be the editor of the newsletter through May at least.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

PROGRAM: We will be having our next meeting April 5

FIELD TRIPS: TBA State Museum. Dora Folz has volunteered to contact various quarries for possible field trips.

SHOW COMMITTEE: The next show will be the Treasures of the Earth 27-29, 2009 at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds. The Cricket Creek Plays band will be entertaining us on Saturday, March 28, 1:00-4:00.

PUBLICITY: No report.

MIDWEST FEDERATION: No report

LIBRARY: No report.

WEBSITE: Len Gritzer asked members to submit material for the website to him.

MICROMOUNTERS: No date was available at this time.

NEXT MEETING: February 5, 2009.



## LITTLE KNOWN FACTS Submitted by Ann Richardson

Welcome back to the Little Known Facts column about our club members. This month we are featuring club member **Gail Hall**. **Did you know** that Gail was a competitive swimmer. The headlines after the Olympics could have read 'Michael Phelps move over, here comes Gail Hall' if she had continued swimming. Gail grew up on the shores of Lake Michigan and began swimming when she was three years old. A lot of her earlier swimming experiences were in Lake Michigan. She competed in the SWA Competitions doing the butterfly stroke through high school. As a freshman at Purdue University she continued to swim competitively. Then she took a class in synchronized swimming and entered the Midwest Inner Collegiate Solo Championship as a senior and won it. After graduating from college she taught synchronized swimming, regular swimming and physical education along with U.S. history, and world history (for only 1 year). She retired from teaching in 1980 but continued with synchronized swimming at the masters' level. In spite of a chipped elbow she competed in the World Masters here in Indianapolis and won second place in her age group. Her best friend won first place which was the only time she was able to beat Gail. Then Gail entered the world of retail and worked in a reference library. She became an executive secretary at the National Carousel Association (they made wooden merry-go-rounds). Their goal was to preserve the remaining wooden carousels in the USA and Canada. While there Gail restored fifteen carousel animals. For the past ten years Gail worked for The Nature Conservancy in Indianapolis in the membership department. Next month, the Little Known Facts Column will feature **Dora Foltz**.

### COMMITTEES FOR 2009

**REFRESHMENTS:** Dee DeGraw

**PROGRAM:** James Yarber, Chair

**NEWSLETTER/EDITOR:** Jamison Brizendine

**FIELD TRIPS:** James Yarber, Chair; Dora Foltz (Quarries)

**LIBRARIAN:** Nora Hovee, Chair

**ARCHIVES:**

**SHOW:** Don Mahoney & James Yarber, Chairs, every member is expected to help with the show.

**PUBLICITY:** Dee DeGraw (Committee Member), Chair

**FUND RAISING:** Don & Nancy Mahoney, Chairs

**WEB SITE COORDINATOR:** Len Gritzer

**TREASURES OF THE EARTH:** Ann Richardson, Chair

**GEOFEST:** Ann Richardson, Chair

**MIDWEST FEDERATION LIASON:** Dee Slater

**MIDWEST FEDERATION DELEGATE:**

**MICRO MOUNTERS:** Ann Richardson, Chair, James Yarber (Committee Member)

### Exploring the Mineral Wealth of Canada

Jones, Bob. Rock and Gem, November 2001, Pg 12-16

As collectors, we often forget that Canada, the northern portion of our continent, is a great source of minerals.

It has produced some wonderfully rare collector minerals, like serandite, from Mount St. Hilaire, and lazulite from the Yukon. It is also a great source of industrial minerals like asbestos, nickel and more. For the lapidary, Canada is the type locality for labradorite, and yields tons of fine nephrite jade, bright-blue sodalite, and diamonds from the far north. For the collector of fluorescent minerals, nothing is brighter than the brilliant yellow-responding werenerite, now called meionite, a member of the scapolite group, which found at several localities north of Montreal.

The gold prospector sometimes forgets the Klondike region is not in Alaska. It's in Canada! Klondike gold may not have been found as beautifully crystallized specimens, but tons of it has been scooped up by Argonauts. This led to plenty of successful prospecting elsewhere in the far north.

There's no brief review like this can encompass all of what Canada has to offer. But there are some species that are so common, so important, or so popular that we should address them.

Canadian jade come almost exclusively from British Columbia, where it formed in metamorphic rocks, which is also produces asbestos, tremolite, serpentine and the like. Keep in mind that "jade" is a general name applied to jadeite, which is rare in Canada, and nephrite, an abundant and lovely grass green gem containing some black magnetite, chlorite, and sometimes talc. Nephrite gets its tough properties from its composition, a fibrous mix of tremolite and actinolite. These fibrous minerals interlock to form a tight, tough rock that takes a wonderful polish and varies from a creamy "mutton fat" color to a deep, rich green. Remarkably, the chemical structures of these two minerals have identical ratios of calcium, magnesium, iron,

silica, oxygen and hydroxyl radicals. The differences observed are due to actual variations in the amount of magnesium versus iron in the structure. The magnesium-rich type is lighter in color. Iron enriches the color to a superb green.

The main source of jade in Canada is north-central British Columbia. Two mountain ranges, the Ominecas and Cassiers, produce Nephrite. Further south is the Frazier River, a sometimes abundant source of jade. It produces stream-rounded alluvial masses, some which in at multiple tons. Jade is also extracted during hard-rock mining, the leading source of the gem. The Cassier Mine and mines at Dease and Cry lakes, south of Cassier, are the important operation.

DEANNE I. SLATER  
Submitted by Ann Richardson

Deanne Slater, age 68 of Indianapolis, IN passed away February 24, 2009. She was born June 28, 1940 in Yonkers, NY. Dee was a graduate of the Vassar Brothers Hospital as a Registered Nurse. Dee took up residency in Indianapolis as the result of a failed trip back to New York. She was traveling with a six week old son, Michael and a very sick old car at the time. The old car died in Indianapolis. So Dee found a job in one of the local hospitals and a comfortable apartment to live in. She only returned to New York to visit but always returned to Indianapolis. Dee was an active member and officer of the following organizations; the 500 Earth Sciences Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Club of Indianapolis, The Midwest Federation, the Indiana Society of Paleontology Club, the Friends of Mineralogy Club, ScienTec, and the Lost River Conservation Association in Orange County, Indiana. After retiring from Nursing, Dee became a volunteer at the Indiana State Museum, Geology Department and the Indianapolis Children's Museum, Geology Department. Surviving is her son, Michael (Alice) and grandson Joseph Mcdermott of Fishers, Indiana; Joseph K. (Maureen Mooney, Stowe) of Vermont. Dee will long be remembered for her 'Gun Ho Enthusiasm' and for always 'Going That Extra Mile' in whatever she did! She will be missed by those who knew her and worked with her!

JOHN ZINK  
Submitted by Ann Richardson

John Zink, age 88 of Indianapolis, IN passed away February 17, 2009. John was the owner of JOX ROCKS ROCK SHOP, 4825 North Franklin Road, Indianapolis, IN for thirty-three years. He opened the rock shop in 1976. Prior to opening the opening of the rock shop he was a collector of minerals, fossils and he cut stones as a hobby. He also did shows. Surviving is his son Phil and daughter Deborah. John has been well known as a rock dealer in Indianapolis and will be missed. According to Phil the shop will continue to be opened so stop by and say "Hi".

GET WELL WISHES ARE BEING SENT TO  
RON HARLOW

Ron Harlow, a former member of the 500 Earth Sciences Club has under gone open -heart surgery at the beginning of March and is recovering quite well. He has read every book he owns and is now cleaning out his collections. Cards from club members would sure put a smile on his face while he is recuperating. Ron Harlow 1901 Martin St. Indianapolis, Indiana 45237-1040.

ITEMS FOR SALE  
DWAINE EDINGTON  
Home Phone # 928-772-3080  
Cell Phone # 928499-9167

1. RUSSIAN MICROSCOPE (MBS): .65-100 power.  
This scope is not a zoom. \$250.00
2. Fiberoptic light source with bifurcated cable. \$200.00
3. Fiberoptic flexible Ringlight. \$150.00.
4. 4 inch faceters saw with an extra blade. \$150.00

