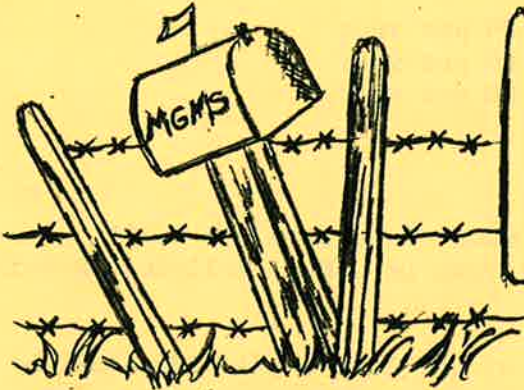


THE ROCKFINDER



Joyce Larson, Editor
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
144 Spruce Drive
Westville, IN 46391

FIRST CLASS MAIL



JSL



MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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The MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Time: 2:00 p.m. EST | Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church |
| Fourth Sunday of each month | 1501 W. Cleveland Road |
| June - Field Trip Meeting | South Bend, IN |
| July - No meeting | West of the St. Joseph River |
| August - Annual Club Picnic | |
| December - Date to be announced | |
| Christmas Party | |

DUES

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Individual | \$ 6.50 per year |
| Family | 10.00 per year |
| Junior | 2.00 per year |

ROCKFINDER STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Editor.....Joyce Larson | 144 Spruce Drive, Westville, IN 46391 |
| Co-Editor.....Margaret Heinek | 7091 E. East Park Ln., New Carlisle, IN 46552 |
| Staff.....Bob Heinek/Club Members | |

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor (219-785-4382) by the 10th of each month.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

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JANUARY 1993

PUBLISHED BY -
MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

MEETING: January 24, 1993
Doors Open 1:30 p.m.
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Westminster Presbyterian Church
1501 W. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana
West of the St. Joseph River

HOSTS: Bess Wise
Gordon Dobecki
Larry Hess

PROGRAM: Mid-West Federation Slide
Program on "Keokuk Geodes".
Marge Collins and Margaret
Heinek will bring in Geodes
for viewing. The slides will
show "How the geodes were formed
and the minerals they consist
of". This will be a very inter-
esting slide presentation.

See you at the meeting!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CLUB MEMBERS -

- 6 - Paul Crum
- 6 - Melissa Klodzinski
- 14 - Clarence Orrell
- 14 - Gordon Dobecki
- 14 - Marion Klodzinski
- 26 - Marilyn Meier

GREAT NEWS - A SERVICE FOR YOU FROM THE MWF

For clubs who do not have a BULK mailing permit, you may now mail your show flyers through the MWF...BUT YOU MUST HAVE 200 PIECES...ALL THE SAME.

If you wish to take advantage of this service, PLEASE CALL ME for instructions on what to put on your mailing page.

Before these are sent to me to mail, THEY MUST BE SORTED AND LABELED WITH MAILING STICKER. You will have to check with your local Post Office on how to sort bulk mail.

I understand that bulk mail rates will be going up (what else is new?). When you send your flyers to be mailed, please check with your postmaster for rates, and submit a check with your mailing.

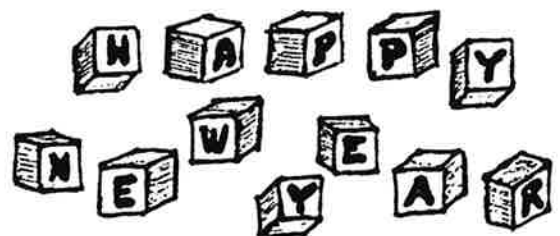
Kitty Starbuck
MWF Newsletter

JANUARY BIRTHSTONE - GARNET

Varying in size and color according to the part of the world in which they are found, the garnet family has its own special identity. You can recognize garnets as ruby red pyropes; brown or orange almadines; glossularites which are cinnamon colored; and andradites, green in color - to mention a few of the family members. These varied colored garnets are used widely in industrial markets, from watch gears and scientific instruments to sandpaper and abrasives of many kinds.

The name garnet came from the Latin word, "granatus" meaning "like seeds," as they are found seeded in many rocks. Yet some garnets have been as large as melons; Pliny reported that the Indian carbuncle garnet was large enough to be carved into a water jar.

Some ancient Asiatic tribes used red garnets as bullets for sling bows because they pierced their victims quickly.



MARGARET'S COLUMN -

As I write this I am getting ready for a fast trip to Denver for an Executive Board meeting of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I do not ski, and I am glad, as I won't be there long enough to do anything but attend the meetings. Kathy Miller, as President of the Midwest Federation, will be there with Bob. My Bob will stay in Indiana to keep the home-fires burning!

We have lost one of our members, Nelvin Chesnut, who was a charter member of the original "Rock and Gem Club", now the "Gem and Mineral Society". Nelvin was greatly involved in the early activities of the club, as was his wife, Virginia, who died a few years ago. He then moved to Tennessee, then Georgia, but continued to be a member of the Society. Every year when he sent his dues, he wrote how much he liked reading the Rockfinder to keep track of the members. Nelvin was always upset when his name was misspelled as Melvin Chestnut. Then the South Bend Tribune spelled it wrong in his obit - too bad!

Bill and Marie Crull are in Florida; Fred and Addie Niebauer in Texas for the winter. We will miss them.

Now I am back from Denver with much information about the financial problems the American Federation faces. One proposal was a dues increase to \$1.00 per member from the current 25¢. This might mean the Midwest would have to increase its dues, which have been \$1.00 per member, to at least \$1.75, and perhaps to \$2.00. Then our club dues might have to increase also. Talk about trickle down economics! I felt that if the AFMS would only increase the dues 25¢ each year for 3 years, it would be easier to take. This will be voted on at the AFMS meeting in Denver, September 16-19, 1993.

One suggestion made at the meeting to possibly avoid a dues increase is for rock club members to take out the AFMS Visa credit card. The AFMS would then get \$1.00, and 25¢ each time it is used. There is no annual fee the first year, and it may be cancelled before the 2nd year comes due. If each member would take one out it would

continued.....

mean the AFMS would realize almost \$55,000. If you are interested, I will give you the information.

If the AFMS can improve financially, they would like to send each family a copy of the AFMS Newsletter. Until then, if you would like to purchase a subscription to it, it is \$2.50 per year: see me if interested. Joyce does get one free and she includes items from it in our ROCKFINDER.

If you have not sent your DUES to Sister Jeanne, do so now PLEASE. We would like to get all of the names fast so the roster can be assembled. DON'T BE MISSING!

Margaret

TWO LADIES were discussing what they would wear to the Country Club dance. "We're supposed to wear something to match our husband's hair, so I'm going to wear black," said Mrs. Johnson. "What will you wear?" "Goodness," gasped her companion, "I don't think I'll go!"

One of the few men who can smile when everything goes wrong is an auto mechanic!

(-via The Petrified Digest, Wenatchee, WA)

AN INSPIRATION BY STEVEN

Lord, grant me strength that I may not fall
Into the clutches of CHOLESTEROL,
At POLYUNSATURATES, I'll never mutter,
For the road to hell is paved with butter.
And cake is cursed and cream is awful,
And Satan is hiding in every waffle.
Beelzebub is a chocolate drop,
And Lucifer is a lollipop.
Teach me the evils of hollandaise,
Of pasta and gobs of mayonnaise.
And crisp fried chicken from the South
Lord, if you love me, shut my mouth.

(..Source unknown - taken from SCRIBE)

CONGRATULATIONS: to Brian Hess on the Honorable Mention award for his jewelry at the South Bend Regional Museum of Arts, Student/Faculty Exhibition. The exhibition, which includes Brian's work, will run from January 10-31, 1993 at the Century Center. If you are in the area, go in and be proud of our Junior club member.

Kathy and Bob are very busy with the MWF, Bob as Rules Chairman and Kathy as President, and as both are still working, they feel they need to drop some of their outside duties.

We are real proud of you, Brian!

THANK YOU, KATHY

Larry Hess was also honored at the same Art Center for his photography. He won "Best of Show". Congratulations!

* * * * *

* * * * *

I know many of our members are still working and are busy with the Michiana Society's activities, and they are to be thanked for their help in making the Society such a good one.

* * * * *

A book is being placed in our library in memory of a charter member, JESS WISE. Paul will announce the name of the book at the January meeting.

Feb. 20, 1993, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, will be the date and hours for our display table at the South Bend Library. We were asked to share our hobby with the juniors. I asked for 2 tables and several chairs so we could have room to show the children about rocks and fossils. I would hope some of our members would be able and willing to spend a few hours that day. Let me know when you will help.

A book will also be dedicated in the near future, to the memory of Nelvin Chesnut, also a charter member.

* * * * *

If you are a new member, there will be a copy of the Society's By-Laws. Pick yours up at the registration table at our January meeting.

If you are willing to help or have some small rocks or fossils that we could give the children, please share them. I know we have Petoskys and small geodes in storage, which we can take. I promised to have someone that will demonstrate polishing and others to explain how we identify stones. Let's make this a learning experience for these youngsters.

* * * * *

Molly Elwell has agreed to serve as our SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN for 1993. If you know of an illness or death of a member, please notify Molly at 232-6849, and she will see that a card is sent.

Becky at the Library promised to have the South Bend Tribune and one of the TV stations their for publicity. This is one way we will be able to get good publicity.

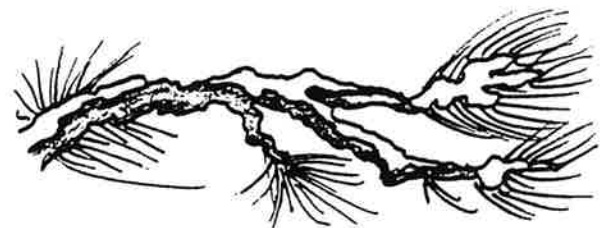
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She would also like to up-date the lists of birthdays and anniversaries, so write your name(s), date of the month of both your birthday and anniversary, and the month and give this information to Molly. (The year is not needed).

The book in honor of Jess Wise is GEM STONES OF NORTH AMERICA, Vol. 2, by Sinkcankas.

* * * * *


I want to thank Bob Miller for serving as Vice-President and acting as program chairman, for the last few years. Also, Kathy Miller for serving as Sunshine Chairman and doing such a fine job for so many years.



continued.....

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC. - is a 501-C-4 organization that can take and voice a partisan position on matters of concern to rockhound hobbyists (which AFMS cannot do and maintain its tax benefits). It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is "to promote and ensure the right of amateur collecting and recreational mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes". Dues (not deductible) are \$25.00 per person per year. If you would like to join, send \$25.00 (check or money order) to American Lands Access Association, Inc., c/o R. E. Romack, Treasurer, 655 8th St., Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

(-via the Rockhoulder, Derwood, Maryland)



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(not tax deductible)

Please Enroll Me as a Member of the A.L.A.A., Inc.

Annual Membership Fee: Name _____
\$25.00 Address _____

Remit to: City _____ State _____ Zip _____
A.L.A.A., Inc. Telephone No. (____) _____
R. Ed Romack, Treasurer
655 8th St. HOBBY INTEREST _____
Idaho Falls, ID 83401 CLUB AFFILIATION _____

The A.L.A.A. is a 501 C 4 organization (permits lobbying) organized for the purpose of promoting and ensuring the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting, mining and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. To carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax Purposes.

NECKLACE: This word came into being around 1590, first simply as gold or silver braid. This braid was also known as lace, from the French word meaning wire or cord. The ornament braid was usually sewn on garments, but when it was decorated with precious gems and worn around the neck, it was called NECK LACE.

(via Mineral Memos, Pseudomorph, Fulton Co. Rockhoulders and Gem City Rock News)

ROCKHOUND PRAYER: "Dear Lord, let me find an agate so big, so beautiful and so rare that I'll never have to stretch the truth whenever I tell about it."

(via Fulton Co. Rockhoulders, The Pica Pick and Gem City Rock News)

"WHAT IS A ROCKHOUND"

The term "ROCKHOUND" may seem to suggest or imply an odd character or peculiar person with an unreasonable or unbalanced interest in odd stones and rocks, who is willing to talk at great length about his finds and wastes. I guess we all know a few such people but the majority of rockhounds are well adjusted intelligent people from all walks of life. He may be a banker interested in Crystallography, the possessor of a beautiful group of crystals. HE IS CALLED "ROCKHOUND". He may be a paleontologist (Science of Fossils) with a dozen college degrees and a fabulous collection of fossils. HE IS CALLED A ROCKHOUND". He may be a highly skilled lapidarist producing beautiful gems--HE, TOO, IS CALLED "ROCKHOUND". He also may be a fine silversmith.

Rockhounding is a family hobby, suitable for every age and ability and temperament. It is an outdoor sport for which you need no licenses. There is no closed season, almost no limit and anyone regardless of wealth, social position or living conditions can enjoy it as a year-round hobby. One of the main attractions of the rockhound hobby is the creation of a beautiful gem from a drab shapeless piece of rock.

Is there anyone who looks at a beautiful gem stone and not derive some pleasure from looking at it.

(via Fulton Co. Rockhounds & Hy-Grader)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES!

- Sign on the electrician's truck - voltswagen.
- Sign on a garden supply store - let your mind go to seed.
- Sign in a shoe repair shop - we bring back departed soles.
- Sign in a photolab - someday your prints will come.
- Sign in a barber shop - it's longer than you think.
- Sign on a diaper service truck - we offer bottom prices.

(via Pegmatite, & Gem Time, Las Vegas)

IN CASE YOU THINK YOU WON'T BE MISSED:

1. If your car starts one out of three times, do you consider it 'faithful'?
2. If your paper boy skips the Monday and Thursday editions, would they be missed?
3. If you fail to come to work two or three days a month, would your boss miss you?
4. If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you miss it?
5. If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week, do you miss hot water?
6. If you miss a couple of mortgage payments in a years time, would your mortgage holder miss it?
7. If you say, 'I'll skip this meeting, I won't be missed', will we miss you?

YES, WE'LL MISS YOU - PLEASE COME.

(via Korn Krib News, Dopstick, Prospector and Gem Time)

THE REMARKABLE EYE OF THE TRILOBITE

The eyes of trilobites, small extinct arthropods of the Paleozoic Era, have been found to possess sophisticated, glass-like lenses capable of producing clear images over a wide depth of field.

The lenses owe their remarkable properties to their impregnation with the mineral calcite, specifically calcite with its crystal structure arranged as precisely as to produce the optical properties of glass, says Kenneth Towe of the paleobiology department of the Smithsonian Institute.

The crystal orientation is so accurate and consistent from specimen to specimen that it must have been due to a process of biomineralization. The "calcite lenses" says Towe, "must have been present during the life of the animal."

To study the optics of the lenses, Towe embedded specimens in clear epoxy, face down on glass slides and looked at objects through the eye with a microscope. The result was inverted images that stayed in focus from a few millemeters to optical infinity.

(continued page 6)

THE REMARKABLE EYE OF THE TRILLOBITE, Cont...

A few living arthropods have calcified lenses in their eyes, but their poor orientation would produce double vision.

(via Delvings, Del Air Bulletin)

SYNTHETIC vs. ARTIFICIAL

"Synthetic" does not mean artificial. A synthesized stone is one grown in a lab and has exactly the same chemical composition as its natural counterparts.

There are many forms of artificial gems -- usually glass or hard plastic, or faked from thin wafers of real stone sandwiched between glass or plastic.

A synthetic stone, however, has all the same properties as a stone pried from bed-rock. Some companies specialize in synthetics (i.e. Gilson's), and these can be costly, although they are priced below natural stones.

"Boules" which can be bought for faceting may be synthetics, and the stone you cut from this source will be virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, except by very sophisticated scientific techniques.

Very often, it is the perfection of a synthetic stone that marks it from what nature produces! Laboratory products just do not have the inclusions of natural stones--so don't despise synthetic jewelry. It would take an expert with a battery of equipment to tell them apart!

(via Scribe, The Palomar Gem & Delvings)

THAT SHUDDERING RUMBLING SOUND - U.S. Geological Survey

There is a definite earthquake sound that is quite separate from the rattling of dishes & the cracking of walls. It is a low-pitched moan or roar. The cause of the sound is the transfer of energy waves from the earth to the air during the first moments after the sub-surface grinding starts the earthquake. Because only a few of the shock waves fall into audible frequencies, the sound often tends to be sporadic and short-lived and gains much of its mysterious quality from the inability of the listener to pinpoint its origin.

(via Glory Hole, Crystal Ball, Pegmatite and The Glacial Drifter)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - ARE YOU AVERAGE???

"Average" is what the failures claim to be when their family and friends ask them why they are not successful.

"Average" is the top of the bottom, the best of the worst; the bottom of the top, the worst of the best. Which of these are you?

"Average" means being run-of-the-mill, mediocre, insignificant, an also-ran, a nonentity.

Being "average" is the lazy person's cop-out; it's lacking the guts to take a stand in life; it's living by default.

Being "average" is to take up space for no purpose; to take the trip through life, but never to pay the fare; to return no interest for God's investment in you.

Being "average" is to pass one's life away with time, rather than to pass one's time away with life. It's to kill time, rather than to work it to death.

To be "average" is to be forgotten once you pass from this life. The successful are remembered because they tried, but the "average", the silent majority, is just forgotten.

To be "average" is to commit the greatest crime one can against one's self, humanity, one's God. The saddest epitaph is this: "Here lies Mr. or Ms. Average--here lies the remains of what might have been, except for their belief that they were only "average".

(via American River Currents, The Rock Ledger and Scribe)

WHAT IS TEREDO PETRIFIED WOOD?

Teredo Petrified Wood was made the official fossil of North Dakota as of March 15, 1967. However, it is a misnomer. In reality it is a piece of petrified wood with holes bored by a worm-like mollusk and the round holes are filled with quartz, chalcedony, opal, sand, etc., depending on the location and means of petrification. That is your Teredo Petrified Wood.

More on the shipworm, the common name of the mollusk. It lines its home with a secreted calcium compound, has two small shells in front of its head which are used to bore holes by rocking and rasping, has two pallets in the tail end which are used to seal the entrance to the living quarters, and has two small sipons at the tail end to control the intake of water and expel same.

Each shipworm eats and excavates its tunnel home and grows in length until maturity, but should its home be punctured, it will die because of respiration failure. The adult female secretes millions of eggs a year.

There are several species of mollusks involved: Teredo, Bankia, Lyrodus, Psiloteredo, Nausitoea, Nototeredo, and some other related forms. But, Teredo takes all the credit. Today they are said to destroy the unprotected wood in water but a long time ago they were on the cleanup detail.

Teredo Petrified Wood is a desirable collector's item especially if the fillings are of gem quality.

What is meant by worms in wood and/or petrified wood? The use of the word "worms" in this case is a misnomer since actually it is larva which bores holes and some species nest in the wood.

First we have the beetle which lays an egg or eggs, depending on the species. When the eggs hatch, we have a baby larva which upon maturity pupates and the result is a beetle. The difference between a beetle and a fly: the beetle has teeth and the fly does not. The larva has a hard plate with hooks in front of its face and bores by moving its head up and down.

Petrified wood with worm holes should be more desirable because it tells you more of the past.

(By - Jeffy Bulkis - Dinny's Doin's, Hy-Grader, Rocky Trails)

THE SQUAW ON THE INDIAN PENNY

The U. S. Mint's outlay for model feels has been practically nil. Legend has it that when the eagle was selected as our national emblem, the Philadelphia Mint adopted a live specimen named Peter, who posed for several early coins before he got tangled up in the Mint's machinery. Peter died as a result of his injuries, but he retained his Civil Service status through the thoughtfulness of fellow employees who had the bald bird stuffed. Though the Mint was not on a first name basis with the Bison, who posed for the buffalo nickel? The Indian was long-thought to be a chap named Two Guns Whitecalf. According to designer, James Earl Frazer, however, the portrait was a composite of 3 other braves. The Indian on the old penny was a pale-faced squaw named Sarah Longacre, daughter of a Mint official, while the Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Roosevelt and Kennedy coins were all done from portraits.

(via The Petrified Digest, Montana Council Reporter, Mineral Matter & The Glacial Drifter)

GEMSTONE INCLUSIONS: By Gerry D'Amico

Almost all gemstones have some type of inclusion which a lot of people look at as a "flaw". This "flaw" is an important characteristic of the gem material as it often proves to be an indicator of the type of gem that you are looking at as well as the genuineness and sometimes even the country of origin of the particular stone. A jeweler's loupe or a microscope is all that is needed to view the internal world of the gemstones.

An excellent reference source on inclusions in both genuine and synthetic and also treated stones is a book by E. J. Gubelin and J. I. Koivula called the Photoatlas of Inclusions in Gemstones. It has over 1,500 pictures of inclusions which is very helpful also.

In an attempt to provide the reader with an easy reference guide for the information, I will list the inclusion, what it looks like, and the gemstone or material that it is found in so that you may refer to it in the future.

Lily-Pad Inclusion: Looks like a lily pad and is found in peridot.

Halo or Disc-Like Inclusion: Looks like a flat, disc-like shape and resembles a halo. Very often this inclusion will contain a black mark in the center which could be a zircon crystal. This inclusion is found in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) sapphires.

Fingerprint: Small crystal inclusions that are arranged in curved rows and looks like a fingerprint. These inclusions are found in quartz, topaz, and sapphires.

Horsetail Inclusions: Consist of hair-like fibers arranged together and resemble a horse's tail. This is indicative of demantoid garnet.

Needle Inclusions: Resemble fine needles and are seen in garnet, sapphires, aquamarine, andalusite, and exclusive to Burmese rubies.

Two-Phase Inclusions: Resemble a frankfurter in outline that has a bubble enclosure. This bubble may or may not move when the stone is tilted. Topaz, quartz, some tourmalines, as well as synthetic and genuine emeralds exhibit this inclusion.

Three-Phase Inclusions: Looks like irregularly shaped pea pods and contain a bubble, cube shape or rhomboid solid next to the bubble. These inclusions may be solid, liquid or gas. Found in emeralds from Colombia.

Bubbles: Look just like what you would think. This type of inclusion indicates that you are looking at synthetic material, glass or a piece of "genuine amber".

Dark-Ball Inclusions: Look like a dark opaque ball surrounded by irregularly shaped, wispy, brown cloud-like formations. These inclusions are exclusive to Thai rubies.

Feather: Is actually a crack in a gemstone that looks like a feather. This inclusion is observed in sapphires, rubies and diamonds.

Zebra Stripes: Look just like a zebra's stripes and is indicative of quartz.

Swirl Marks: Look like serpentine, curved shapes or curlicues and usually appear as a darker shade of color than the material that you are looking at. This indicates that you are looking at a piece of glass.

Veils: Looks like bubble-like inclusions that are arranged in layers and resemble a wispy veil. This is common in your synthetic emeralds and synthetic rubies.

continued, page 9.....

GEMSTONE INCLUSIONS; Continued.....

Color Banding: Looks like concentrated color resembling bands in a gem material. This is caused by changes in temperature, pressure and chemicals during the growth period. Straight color banding indicates a genuine stone and curved color banding indicates a synthetic stone.

Source of information: The Glacial Drifter, Oct. 1992)

TAGUA NUTS - VEGETABLE IVORY

Tagua nuts, a true ivory, known to have been used for over 125 years, is the exceedingly hard kernel of a nut produced by a palm.

It grows in northern So. America. Botanical name: Phytelephas macrocarpe. Found in dense thickets near, or along rivers, the tree may reach heights of 20 to 30 feet. From eight to thirty nuts are massed in large thorny heads, resembling enlarged chestnuts, but may be found growing at ground level, or a few feet above the ground, or in the top of the tree, depending on the sub-specie.

About 1859, ships returning to Germany from South America carried tons of Tagua nuts in their holds as ballast. Some of these found their way into the hands of skilled Austrian carvers, who made beautiful hand carved buttons of them. By 1860, ivory buttons were in demand, and Schnollen, Germany became the center of the ivory button industry.

By 1864, a factory was established in America, where ivory buttons were made in many forms - dyed and natural, shiny and dull finish, metal rimmed, carved and stamped. Probably your grandmother, or great-grandmother used ivory buttons made from the Tagua.

In the early 1900's, experimentation with plastics developed and in a few years cheaper plastic buttons foretold the end of the ivory button industry. The use of Tagua nuts for carvings and figurines continued in the Orient.

Today many would like to work with ivory, to slab, carve, cab or scrimshaw, but scarcity, high cost and endangered species has

turned us back to the Tagua nut.

WORKING WITH TAGUA: It handles, cuts, ages and works just like animal ivory.

TO CUT: Use any small saw - hacksaw or similar. Cut dry. Do not use your diamond saw - it is a waste of time and nut may absorb oil.

TO GRIND: A worn 80 or 100 belt will remove saw marks.

TO POLISH: A worn 400 or 600 belt, used dry will polish, or can use any white polish and your favorite buff. Use a little moisture here.

CAUTION: Treat Tagua nut ivory very gently- do not overheat in working.

Suitable for slabbing, cabbing, carving, scrimshaw - just use your imagination.

(via Western Gem & Mineral Supplies, Canada and The Rock Rattler),

I was glad to find this article on the Tagua nut. At the last Wheaton show I purchased 3 of them but up to now, they have been sitting because I didn't know where to start. I didn't know if they were to be cut into slabs or just how I should handle them. Now I will give it a try. Have any of you ever worked with this nut? The Tagua Nut I am referring to!!

Can Spring be far behind this miserable weather we are having? The first week of January I received 3 seed and flower catalogs in the mail. I'll be so glad to cut grass again!!!

Joyce

ECHINOIDS: by Paul Godollei, Club Member

The echinoderms of the subphylum Eleutherozoa are divided into three distinct classes of free-moving, bottom dwelling animals; the Stelleroidea (starfishes and brittle stars), Echinoidea (sea urchins and sand dollars), and Holothuroidea (sea cucumbers). Of these, the Echinoids have existed in seas from the Ordovician age to the present, and have an exoskeleton that is disc-shaped heart-shaped, biscuit-shaped or globular. Modern representatives of this group include the sea-urchins, heart urchins and sand dollars. The exoskeleton consists of the main body or test, which is composed of many intricately fitted calcareous plates arranged in more or less radial rows.

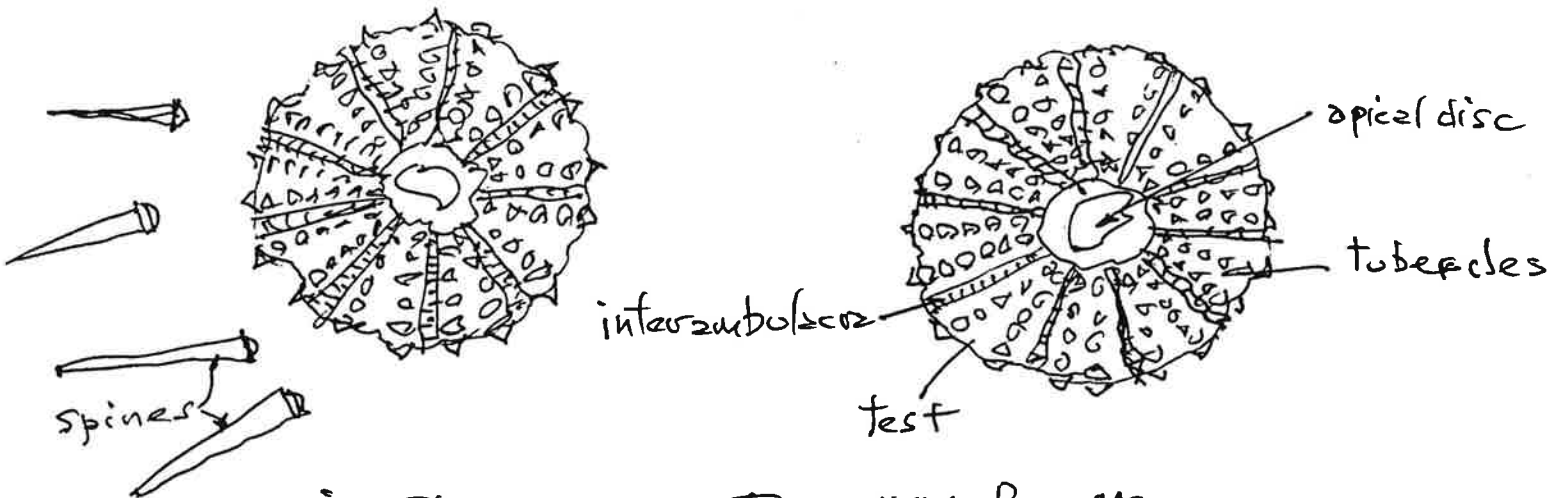
The exterior of the test is usually covered with large numbers of movable spines, which were used to move about and also to direct food to the mouth. The ambulacral or food grooves on the shell exhibit the typical five-rayed, starlike echinoderm pattern.

Although echinoderms are known from the Ordovician Age, it wasn't until the Mezozoic era that the group began to flourish. They were especially abundant during the Cretaceous and have been fairly abundant to the present time. Many plates and spines have been found, but the best complete specimens are from the Mezozoic and Cenozoic eras. Certain species are valuable as guide fossils.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Shimer & Shrock-"Index Fossils of North America."
"Fossils" - By William H. Matthews III

Order: PHYMOsomATOIDA
Family: PHYMOsomATIDAE
Common Name: Sea Urchin

Ate algae, sponges & other soft organisms



Species: Phymosoma Texanum Roemer
Age: Cretaceous; Mound, Texas

Range - Lower Jurassic - Eocene

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY.....

The man who never makes mistakes loses a great many chances to learn something.
As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point your way.

(-Scribe, Winter Issue, 1992)