

The Rockfinder
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
7091 E East Park Ln
New Carlisle IN 46552



October 1995

THE ROCKFINDER

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The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a non-profit organization, and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Time:	2:00 PM EST	Place:	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
General Meeting	4th Sunday of each month		805 S 29th St (29th & Wall)
June - Field Trip Meeting			South Bend, IN
July - No meeting		August - Annual Club Picnic	December - Christmas Party

Board Mtgs: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm, South Bend (Main) Library, Basement Level.

ROCKFINDER STAFF: Editor Larry Hess 15358 Kerlin Dr, Granger IN 46530
 Co-Editor Margaret Heinek 7091 E East Park Ln, New Carlisle IN
 Staff Bob Heinek / Club Members

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor by the 10th of each month.
 Call: (219 272-5431) Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

cut ----- cut
 Membership Dues are: Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Club
 c/o Margaret Heinek
 7091 E East Park Lane
 New Carlisle IN 46552

___ Individual	\$ 6.50 per year
___ Family	\$ 10.00 per year
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General Geology ___	Beads ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Gems & Minerals ___	Silversmithing ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Fossils ___	Artifacts ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
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Crystals ___	Micromounts ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___
Other _____			

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THE ROCKFINDER

Volume **35**
Number **10**

October 1995

Published by:
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Meeting: Meeting: Sunday October 22
Doors Open 1:30 PM
Meeting at 2:00 PM

----- October's Program -----
Al Mitterling will give a program
on Meteors.

Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S 29th St (29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

Hosts:

Louis and Lorraine
Jordan
Margaret Schultz

Nina Hassler
Rob Heinek
Judy Heinek
Louis Jordon, Sr.
Irene Ungurait
Tess Miller

Bob & Kathy
Miller
Louis & Lorraine
Jordon

UPCOMING SHOWS

Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society
October 20 - 21 - 22
Allen County Fairgrounds
2726 Carrol Rd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Central Michigan Lapidary Society Show
Marshall Street Armory
Lansing, Michigan
October 27 - 28 -29

Licking Co. Mineral Society Show
Indiana Mound Mall
771 S. 30th Street,
Heath, Ohio
November -3 - 4 - 5

Happy Halloween



MARGARET'S COLUMN

October already! Won't be too long until Thanksgiving, the Christmas holidays and the New Year. I believe most people are glad the heat is over with. Now if we can have a winter not too severe, I think all will be happy.

Our trip to Brown County was fun. I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. The bus ride was "long" for the youngsters, and wanted to get to the cabin fast! Our bus driver was a pleasure, she fitted in with us, and said she had a good time. Fran felt she would like to join the club.....we look forward to having her with us.

The program this month will be Al Mitterting, of Warsaw, on meteors. Al spent one day at the September show as a demonstrator and exhibitor. I am sure this will be an informative program, so come and hear what he has to say on the subject.

The November speaker will be Tim Keel with his program on Tornados and Severe Storms.

Since our bus trip, and the motion to host the MWF Convention in 1997 if no other bids are presented, we understand there is a club that is interested. That's good!

Bob and Todd Miller picked up the library books and the book case. They have not been taken to the church, but will be stored for a short time at Bob's home.

Paul Godollei is recuperating for a few weeks at Holy Cross Care and Rehabilitation Center, 17475 Dougdale Dr., So. Bend. He has had trouble swallowing, so he must have supplemental feedings. If you are in the neighborhood, go in to see him, he will enjoy a visit. We hope Paul will regain his strength and be able to be active again.

The Potawatomi Zoological Society is presenting, in a rare personal appearance, Robert Bakker who will present a program on "Tyrannosaurs rex- The Ten-Thousand Pound Roadrunner From Hell". It will be

held at the Morris Civic Auditorium in South Bend. There will be only one program on Tuesday November 7, 1995 , 7:30 P.M. Interested in attending? The cost is \$15.50 adult, \$10.50 children under 18. Contact the Morris Auditorium.

* * * * *

MAN FINDS PRICELESS NECKLACE
IN GARDEN

A Swedish man in Stockholm, digging in his garden unearthed a spectacular find: an ornate gold necklace believed 2,000 yr. old.

Weighing about 17 ounces, the necklace consists of two bulbs adorned with granular and filigree gold, linked by strands of braided gold thread. It was made in a Celtic style probably in the early Iron Age, experts said. The necklace may not bring much for its discoverer. He is obligated by law to sell his souvenir to the state for its gold weight plus 10%.

With gold selling at about \$384 per ounce this week, the man would get about \$7,450 for his priceless piece of history which will be displayed at the Swedish State Museum in Stockholm.

GLOBE , 7-8 '95 and Achites July '95

* * * * *

HINTS-

When drilling holes in stones, glycerine is a good holding agent for the grinding compound or grit. It adheres to the drill, and you do not have to use a dike. Ballpoint pen tubes make good drills for drilling holes for pen sets.

via THE OPAL & THE DRIFT & ACHATES.

GEM-ROCKS break down into three categories: those you have; those you wish you had; and those you can't find or afford!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE BUS
TRIP TO BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK
SEPT. 15, 16, 17, 1995

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15, 1995

38 members (29 adult members and 9 junior members), left by bus from South Bend at 4 pm for the trip to Brown County State Park, arriving there at about 8 or 8:30 pm.

In a short meeting during the drive, Kathy Miller, tour director, gave each passenger a sheet "Fossils of Indiana" and advertising literature on things to see and do in Nashville, Indiana. She also had a description of what we could see in the state museum.

The following motions were then made:

Motion) by Bob Miller, Seconded by Jessie Zeiger, for the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society to join the Mazon Creek Collecting Site outfit for two hundred dollars (\$200.00) which will entitle club members to collect there. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion) by Sister Jean Finske, Seconded by Tom Fields, that the club donate five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to "Our Redeemer Luthern Church", where the club meets, for their remodeling fund, since we will store club property there. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about the next possible bus trip was inconclusive. The omnimax "The Living Sea" at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and the Cranbrook Museum in Bloomfield Hills, were discussed as possibilities. Tabled for consideration on Sunday.

Motion) by Pam Rubenstein for Michiana Gem and Mineral Society to bid to host the 1997 Midwest Federation Show and Convention if no other bid is extended by another club. Some discussion followed, but no second to the motion was made. Tabled until Sunday.

Christmas party will be held the first Sunday in December (Dec. 3) at the church. Pot luck, with

the club furnishing meat, etc, as in the past.

We arrived at the park around 8 or 8:30 pm. After the tour leader checked with the registration desk, cabin assignments were made, and we retired to our cabins.

SATURDAY, SEPT 16

We left from the Abe Martin Lodge at 9 am for Morgan-Monroe State Forest to hunt for geodes and fossils. Our tour guide found the place on Bean Blossom Creek suggested by the ranger, where everyone found interesting material. Our bus driver, Fran Eldridge, changed her clothes and joined us. Said she had always wanted to rock hunt and learn how. She might even join the club.

At around 3 we returned to our cabins to clean up and change clothes before going into Nashville to sight-see and shop. After the short drive back to the lodge, we gathered in the private dining room there for an enjoyable dinner.

SUNDAY, SEPT 17, 1995

The bus left about 8:30 am for the return trip to South Bend. We drove to a location on Lake Yellow Wood named African Safari Land, a wildlife area. It is the closest thing to Africa in vegetation in Indiana. While we were there a man in a pickup truck came to us with a load of pumpkins he had just brought from Tennessee. Many of us bought light-colored ones which are supposed to glow in the dark. We'll see!

The following actions were taken during the trip: Motion) by Gordon Dobecki, seconded by Tom Fields to appoint Marie Crull delegate to the MWF convention in Detroit in October. Passed unanimously.

Motion) by Pam Rubenstein, seconded by Tom Fields, for the club to bid on hosting the MWF convention in 1997, if no other club will bid. Passed unanimously.

(continued next page)

(minutes continued)

Discussion about the next bus trip, on October 1, to Cranbrook resulted in a vote count of 13, including juniors. Consideration of the Museum of Science and Industry resulted in a lesser count, amount not recorded. It was decided to postpone the trip, perhaps until Nov. 19, to allow members not on the bus to participate, if they wished, as October 1 is too soon to cover all members.

Motion) by Kathy Miller, seconded by Ozzie Kytta, to forget October, and go for November 19, for the bus trip. Passed unanimously.

We stopped for lunch near Indianapolis, with several fast-food restaurants in the immediate area. Afterwards, the bus took us into the city to the Indiana State Museum. After two pleasant hours in the museum, we took our leave of Bill and Dee French, former members of the club who now live in Albuquerque and came on a visit. The bus then continued on to South Bend, arriving at 6:30. After unloading the bus, we all went to our homes.

Robert Heinek, Secretary pro tem

DANGER - SUNSHINE

Kel Albright Safety Chairman
(The summer is over, but it is prudent to remember this warning).

One of the fastest increasing diseases to day is skin cancer. It is caused by too much sunshine. It does not appear right after you get too much sun, though, it can appear 10, 20 30, or more years later. So, the only sure protection is to start now to develop good habits to avoid sun damage to your skin. Then, keep on being careful.

The basic cause of damage from the sun is through ultraviolet radiation. Recent research reports that sunscreen does not protect against skin cancer. In Mel's area, the TV weatherman, reports the UV exposure time. In summer it typically is something like 8 minutes for fair skinned people, and 22 minutes for dark skinned people.

*Stay out of the sun during the most dangerous

times - 10 AM to 2 PM (11 AM to 3PM daylight time).

*Wear a hat, a long sleeved shirt, and long pants (tight knit cloth) when in the sun.

*Apply sunscreen before going out and reapply every two hours or after swimming while outside.

*Use at least 15SPF sunscreen on all exposed skin (the 15 means it takes 15 times as long to reach the same sun exposure as with no sunscreen). The higher the altitude, the UV comes to you and the more sunscreen is needed. Cloudy days do not protect you -UV comes right through the clouds.

*If you work outside,use sunscreen daily. A tan does not protect you.

*Some medicines, drugs, cosmetics and birth control pills make you more sensitive to sun damage.

*If you develop an allergy to sunscreen change to another one.

*Watch out for reflective surfaces - sand, snow, water (The Great Salt Plains). Staying in the shade doesn't help around these.

*Stay out of tanning parlors.

*Keep infants out of the sun. Start using sunscreen on children when they are 6 months old. Teach your children sun protection early and insist they follow the rules.

Sources: American Academy of Dermatology and the Skin Cancer Foundation via AFMS Newsletter.



THE FAIRBURN AGATE

South Dakota's State Gem

Just like flowers and trees of a certain area, the agates are different in each region. The South Dakota State Gem is the Fairburn Agate - they are beautiful and highly coveted by rockhounds from all over the nation.

The Fairburn agates are found as far east as Kadoka, and as far west as Rapid City. Usually in the area of Highway 44 with the major beds being south of the highway. They can be found in Nebraska from the Chadron area westward to the Wyoming line.

The favorite areas for local Fairburn enthusiasts are Wasta, Senic and Conata in Pennington Co. or Interior, Weta, and Kadoka in Jackson Co. Fall River Co. has areas of Fairburn beds near Oelrichs and Ardmore.

Fairburns are a fortification agate, which refers to the assumed resemblance of the pattern of medieval fortresses. They are most often described as having "holly-leaf" shaped patterns.

Fairburns are a sedimentary agate. These are varieties of fortification agates called Teepee Canyon agates that are still found in their limestone matrix. Fairburns have been eroded from their rock formations by ancient rivers that no longer flow through the area.

Fairburns are now found in scattered gravel beds of the Oligocene, mainly in the Chadron Formation which is noted for its Titanotheres fossils. The soil is a sandy clay marked by beds of gravel. There is a great variety of gem material in the gravel, banded jasper, which is most often called prairie agate, chalcedony, carnelian, yellow agate, moss agate and onyx banded agate. There are even pebbles of rose quartz, rutilated quartz and snow quartz.

They range from football size to as small as a pencil eraser. It is possible to find orange, yellow, white, black, brown, lavender and red all in one agate. A prize piece could have 50 to 100 narrow bands, and may have pretty "eyes", quartz crystals or amethyst.

Jewelry can be made from Fairburns but they seem to be more valuable as specimens.

Fairburns were named after the small community of Fairburn in Custer Co., South Dakota. "Grandma" Kern lived on a ranch 14 miles east of

Fairburn and loved the beautiful rocks that were found on her land. It was told that as Grandma Kern aged, she lost her vision. She followed rock collectors around with a nail pouch full of silver coins and bought every Fairburn that they would find.

In her later days she was almost blind but she still refused to part with her agates. It is rumored that the agate collection was eventually sold to the Kellogg Family of Battle Creek, Michigan.

A Fairburn is not a jasper, like prairie agates. It is agate and has translucent bands which belong to the chalcedony variety of quartz. The pattern of a good Fairburn is obvious at a glance. I have a good friend who says that if you have to ask if it is a Fairburn, it isn't. The bands are not *almost* there, they *are* there. The fortifications are not *almost* parallel, they *are* parallel. The contrasting bands are not hazy or imagined, they are real.

A Fairburn's bands vary in size. Some bands are wide, some are narrow, unlike the Lake Superior agates that have evenly spaced bands. There is also a greater color variation, the Fairburn is quite colorful while the Lake Superior tends to be analogous. The Fairburn will have a more irregular shape to the bands, also.

Fairburn agates have been collected for many years and are becoming rare, although the continuous erosion keeps supplying new float for hunting.

It is not unusual to find that the hunt depends on the time of day, the angle of the sun, the shadow of the weeds and many other variables including the stories that sound too much like the fish stories of the one that got away.

Reference: *Facts About Fairburns*, by June Culp-Zeitner, Lapidary Journal, Aug. 1973. By Cathy Kjar-Schwafel, member of Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Soc., bulletin SOONER ROCKOLOGIST, 10/94, via THE ROCKPILE & CEDAR VALLEY GEMS.

SHOP TIP-- To get an extra high polish on a cabochon or a flat piece, first polish in the regular way, then buzz with a used sheet of "Bounce" fabric softener. A used sheet seems to work better, maybe it has been transformed by heat in the drying process. Any brand of sheet would result in the same manner. This trick has worked on lots of different materials. The higher polish is noticeable. Leslie Brooks, Border Gem Chatter via Tulip City Conglomerate.

FOR SALE.....

Several people have contacted the club with items they have for sale: Interested? Contact the owners.

Rocks, Minerals, Crystals Agate....\$1.00 per stone or \$2,500.00. 2 cases also. Jacob Phend (a former Michiana Gem Soc. member) phone, 264-9427.

Double Station Rock Grinder...2 1/2" wheels, \$125.00... phone 277-1291.

8" trim saw, metal stand, good motor, 2 wheels for transport. Grinder - polisher, double end, metal stand, good motor, drip, disc & belt, 2 wheels for transport: both for \$200.00. Other miscellaneous rock grinding equipment. Ozzie Kytta, 234-4573.

Sale.. Sat & Sun, Oct 14 & 15 (rain date Oct 21-22) 10 AM - 5 PM. Rough rock, slabs, specimens, finished & unfinished jewelry, findings, 14" slab saw, 6" trim saw, Gemini grinder, Unisonic tumbler, miscellaneous small tools and equipment. 569 Breezy Bluff, Battle Creek, MI.

Phone 616- 964-1297. I- 94, exit 97 - Capital Ave, north 2 miles to Williard Beach sign on left, left to Breezy Bluff, right to end of street, 3rd house from end. (Mrs Harry Akins)

* * * * *

CAVE ART FOUND IN FRANCE

On Christmas Eve in 1994, Jean Marie Chauvet and his spelunker friends discovered the largest trove of prehistoric art found in the last fifty years. They found over 300 paintings in four separate chambers -- paintings of lions, oxen, mammoths, and other animals including the only panther and owl ever recorded.

The paintings are underground in southern France's Ardeche region. The works are believed to be 20,000 years old and done in yellow ocher, charcoal and iron oxide. There are also sketches of a human hand, and a bear skull resting on what may

have been an alter, with bear painting behind.

The French government plans to buy the cavern that the underground chambers are in from its private owner, and only experts will have access to the site.

The Ardeche paintings depict animals that prehistoric humans didn't hunt -- indicating that the artist or artists painted for religious or decorative reasons. Other prehistoric paintings depict only animals that humans hunted. Additionally, many of the Ardeche paintings depict ancient European relatives of African animals, supporting the theory that there was once a land bridge between continents.

The Conglomerate from Newsweek via Rock Digest and Flint Flashes 7/95

Fashions may come and fashions may go,
And fads for a short time beguile,
But a person will always look stylish and smart
When wearing a jovial smile.

Author unknown

HINTS

When polishing, mix a tablespoon of Crisco with the same amount of Linde A, or other polishing compound and apply it to a felt polishing wheel or lap. It's viscosity prevents the powder from falling off or traveling to the edge of the lap.

via SOONER ROCKOLOGIST, A.
PICKER and ACHATES

This WARNING has been given many times, but it is good to remind you.....

Field cleaning of rocks can be dangerous, even fatal. Use water from a squirt bottle to wet stone, do not lick! At least one death has been attributed to a fungus contracted from licking a rock specimen. Material containing arsenic, mercury, selenium, some of the boron and phosphates can be deadly.

OHIO FLINT

Two bulletins from Ohio had interesting articles on the flint of Licking Co. in July, 1995. (This article is a combination of the two.)

Some of Ohio's best preserved prehistoric Indian sites are located in Licking Co. These attractions, maintained by the Historical Society, offer some excellent scenery as well as a glance into the far distance past.

Flint Ridge State Memorial contains the remnants of hundreds of quarry pits from which prehistoric Indiana dug for flint. They are shaped tools from this fine stone to kill and skin game, and to light fires.

Indian trails from villages and campsites throughout the midwest converged along the ten-mile ridge which is four miles north of I-70 on county road 668.

The Great Circle Earthworks are within Moundbuilders State Memorial. The circle embankment is about 1,000 feet in diameter and enclosed an area of 26 acres. The Eagle Effigy Mound is in the center of the enclosure.

The Indian Art Museum displays the artistic achievement of every prehistoric group living in Ohio from 10,000 B.C. to 1,600 A.D..

Octagon State Memorial, also in Newark is a group of embankments in the shape of an octagon and is used and maintained as the Country Club Golf Course. (Flint Flashes)

There are two ways to dig flint. The first is to walk about scratching the surface and picking up the small pieces. Usually, that material has been looked at several times over the past thousand or so years. If you'll be content with small cabochons or material for tumbling, it's the easy way to go.

The second way is to get serious and go for the big chunks. That means being prepared to spend time and energy digging deep. There are two ways of digging deep. Sink a pit just big enough to get into and wiggle around, or dig a pit big enough to work in. The first day is frustration. You spend less time digging down to the flint member, but once you get there you have no room to work. You'll probably be trying to splint solid flint, which just doesn't happen. The end result will be pretty colored dust and tiny flakes, and an aching body. Doing

it the 2nd way, when you reach the flint you will be able to locate the natural fractures in the stone and pry out chunks with a minimum of sledge work. Your body will still ache, but you will have material to show for all the labor.

The rubble you dig out will be mostly small pieces of flint. Don't just shovel it aside, look through it for good material. It pays to have a washer sitting by with a bucket of water and a scrub brush. Some of the prettiest flint may be found in the rubble....If nothing much shows it could be you're either where the flint does not show color OR you could be digging an old Indian pit. I (Clayton Welch) once dug such a spot and came up with nothing but three hammerstones in the bottom.

Associated with the flint will be fossils and minerals. Mostly common mineral will be quartz or chalcedony and occasionally common opal/

The tools you will need: a small "D" handle spade; a miner's pick (smaller than a railroad pick and double pointed. Check hardware stores in coal mining areas); a long bar (I use a spud bar); a crowbar; a gadpry; assorted chisels; 2 and 4 pound crackhammers; an 8 pound sledgehammer with half the candle cut off (you are working in close quarters); hard hat; sturdy boots; safety eye protection; heavy leather gloves (those flint pieces in the pit are sharp); old clothes; a heavy bucket and stiff scrub brush. Don't forget bandaids. It's not a question of if you will get wounded by the flint but when. Trust me!

Where to dig? Pick a spot. Mother Nature didn't sort this stuff out like a box of cookies in a grocery store.

Clayton Welch....via THE LITHNICS.
(Clayton tells it as it is!!!! Ed.)

Soaps
That irritate
Their mugs
Turn jolly gents
To Jitterbugs.

BURMA SHAVE.

HINTS & TIPS: MILLEFIORI BEADS & POLYMER CLAY

by George Finley

from SHAWNEE SLATE 3/94, 11/94

I had seen some beads at the Denver show and read a little here and there about bead making. A lady at the Idabel show was wearing beads her husband made from local clay that he had rolled and hardened on a wood burning stove. He then drilled holes in the beads and painted each one. So with all this running around in my head, I was ready for the February, 1994, issue of "Rock and Gem." On the cover was "Bead Making--Millefiori, Enamel, Clay." I read the article and made a trip to a local hobby store for supplies.

After reading the article three times to be sure I understood, on the third time I highlighted the most needed information. I found a one foot long by six inch wide board which was covered with wax paper for cutting and rolling the clay. I did not have an aluminum bread pan so I took a round aluminum pan and squared it by hand as best I could.

I then took the six different colors of clay and cut a 1/4 inch wide piece off the ends with my X-Acto knife. I cut each long piece into three pieces. Then I took different colors and layered them to make a rough rod. Next the rod was rolled out to make a smooth rod. The rod will get longer and thinner as you roll it out. I then rolled up the rod to make it like a cane. Some rods I rolled loose and others I rolled tight for different looks. You then have to roll very lightly again to remove the rough edges. I cut lengths different sizes to roll into different size beads. I then put them on a wire and hung the wire over the pie pan and put it in the oven. Something went wrong soon--there was smoke coming out of the toaster oven. The article said that if you over cook them, the beads will turn brown. They were right. I did some more on my small toaster oven and did them 10 minutes at 170 degrees. Sure looked good that time. I cut some clay from rolls and flattened them out. I had made several rolls that were different colors. I took the flattened clay and wrapped it around the cool overheated (brown) beads and rebaked them at 170 degrees for ten minutes. They came out looking very good. I would suggest that you only try a few beads in the oven to see if you have everything right.

Next I had to put the polish on them. I had only one hibachi stick to hold the beads, so I improvised with large wooden matches that I cut points on the end. Then I stood the sticks in florist clay while the beads dried. The variety of bead shapes is unlimited.

I hope this helps someone else. I hope you have as

much fun as I did making millefiori beads, as I had a grandson helping me. He added to the creative fun.

SUPPLIES FOR MILLEFIORI CLAY BEADS

Things you should get if you want to learn and do millefiori beads:

1. Polymer clay is sold under different names: Fimo (TM), Sculpey III (TM), or Super Sculpey (TM).
2. A 1 x 4 or 6 or 8 inch wide board 8 to 18 inches long. Cover the board with wax paper and tape wax paper so it will stay on. This is what you will use to cut and work clay on.
3. A knife, X-Acto knife or razor blade.
4. A small aluminum pan, like a bread pan--a pie pan is not deep enough.
5. A large needle, knitting needle is good for the size hole you want. You can use sharp wire.
6. A couple of heavy copper wires or cut coat hangers all long enough to fit on the pan. Hang beads on the wire suspended above the pan sides. The wire needs to be the right size for the bead holes.
7. A very small jar and a small paint brush to coat beads. Gloss varnish gives the beads a bright shine.

Fimo and Sculpey are two polymer clays that I have tried. Wal-Mart is now carrying Creative Craft Clay. The white was too chalky but the other colors are fine. It seems about the same as the other brands.

The Creative Craft Clay has instructions on the back. The baking time is about the same as the others, but this one uses a regular home oven, not a toaster oven. Try carefully in gas or propane ovens since they have different heating ranges, as do different electric ovens.

I made some bola tips with inserts for some small rose rocks. I will make some very small ones for my very small rose rocks. The larger items can lay flat in a flat pan and they bake properly. I ran out of wire pins, so I used straightened paper clips with a small hook on the end so it would not pull out of the clay. They are a little harder to work with than pin wire. I cut off the extra wire and used round nose pliers to make a loop.

With all the different polymer clays, the price just gets better for those who work with it. The ideas are unlimited, and it can become an addictive hobby.