



GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 53, No. 12

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

December 2015

Potluck Christmas Dinner

Hello All

This is my last newsletter as president. Robert, my husband, takes over next month. I truly appreciate all the support that I have experienced in this position from folks in the club. It means so much to me and makes me feel like we are a family. I couldn't have done it without you.

I will, however, continue as the program chair. That said, we have some interesting things happening. We had an impromptu field trip the day after Thanksgiving to Lake Douglas in Tennessee. A photo of some of the crystals that we found are on Page 2. (The crystals still need some cleaning.) We had a great day...beautiful weather.

This Saturday, we will be going to Chunky Gal to a few different spots that Bill Wetzel, the field trip chair of the Greenville Club, is going to take us to. We're gathering at the Ingles in Seneca @ 8:45 am (12/12/2015). Please email at clund@clemson.edu if you are interested in going.

On December 15th, we will have our traditional Christmas gathering at OLLI. The PDGMS will provide a ham (and possibly a turkey) via John Ishler & Ted.

JANUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the PDGMS will be on January 19, 2016. Put it on your calendar.

DECEMBER MEETING

WHEN: December 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm

WHERE: The Olli Classroom Building

SPEAKER: Good Cheer and Good Food

TOPIC: Pot-Luck Christmas Dinner

Let's get together for a pot-luck dinner and install our officers for 2015. Please bring a vegetable or dessert and the club will provide the meat.

We'll be downstairs in the auditorium, gathering at 6 pm; bring a covered dish to share and your own beverage.

In January, Tim Barton, field trip chair from the Asheville club will present on Lake Douglas and then lead another field trip to Lake Douglas so everyone can have another opportunity gather some Herkimer diamonds of their own.

Wishing all of you peace and joy in this Christmas season and a blessed New Year.

Carol

Our Dues are Due this Month

Our dues must be paid to the Southeast Federation by this month or early next month. Please help by bringing your dues to the December meeting.

November Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 7:17 pm on November 17, 2015 in OLLI building by Carol Lund

Present

There were 21 attendees.

Agenda:

This presentation offered an overview of a geologic field trip that went down the southwest coast of Oregon and examined exotic terrains, raised marine terraces, and coastal landforms. Also, calderas, stratovolcanoes, obsidian flows, and volcanic features in the Cascade Mountains were explored. Speaker

Officers for 2015

Carol Lund, President.....864-888-8719

John Palmer, V. Pres.....941-545-3713

Teresa Smith, Sec.....864-888-8719

John Ishler, Treasurer.....864-885-9126

2015 Directors

John Deney.....864-296-8077

Fred Sias.....864-654-6833

Teresa Smith.....864-888-8719

Ted Wallenius.....864-882-3940

Scott Brame is on the faculty at Clemson. He has led many geologic field trips. He also organizes the annual Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium and mentors an undergraduate mapping research group.

Old Business

Mobile Classroom:
Tabled for now...

Bob Campbell Museum Display:
Some Specimens have been collected and we are still requesting specimens from members.

Field trip: A field trip on December 12 has been scheduled with the Greenville Gem and Mineral Club to the Chunky Gal Mountain area.

New Business:

Election of new officers:
Nominations for officers are

President: Robert Lund
Vice President: John Palmer
Secretary: Teresa Smith
Treasurer: John Ishler

3 Directors: Charlie Rowe, Fred Sias, and Bob Whitmore.

Fred Sias moved to accept these nominees, Susan seconded.

Carol Lund moved to close nominations, Fred Sias seconded motion. Nominees were elected by *acclamation*

December Meeting:

December 15 potluck dinner at OLLI downstairs in auditorium.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm by Carol Lund.

Herkimer Diamonds

Herkimer diamond is a generic name for a double-terminated quartz crystal discovered within exposed outcrops of dolostone in and around Herkimer County, New York and the Mohawk River Valley. Because the first discovery sites were in the village of Middleville and in the city of Little Falls, respectively, the crystal is



Herkimer Diamonds (quartz) from Lake Douglas.

also known as a Middleville diamond or a Little Falls diamond.

Herkimer diamonds became largely recognized after workmen discovered them in large quantities while cutting into the Mohawk River Valley dolostone in the late 18th century. Geologists discovered exposed dolostone in Herkimer County and began mining there. The popularity of mining for double-terminated quartz in the Herkimer County outcroppings is what led to the name, *Herkimer diamonds*. Currently, Herkimer diamonds can be found in large quantity in at least Herkimer, Fulton and Montgomery counties, and double-pointed quartz crystals have also been found in abundance in Tibet and Afghanistan, as well as in other countries.

Many of the New York crystals are known for their extreme clarity, and Wiccan and New Age belief systems often ascribe specific occult properties and a wide variety of mystical powers to them.

These quartz crystals, which geologists theorize formed extremely slowly in small solution cavities or vugs, have 18 facets (6 sides) and two terminations. There are also larger cavities that are several feet in diameter that are called "pockets". Herkimer diamonds are found clear, cloudy, smoky or even containing a variety of rare impurities. Impurities (rare and general) can include fluid inclusions (sometimes incorrectly called enhydros, phantom. A fluid inclusion is a pocket within a crystal containing liquid, usually water, sometimes also methane or oil, and rarely, smaller crystals. A phantom is a crystal containing other visible crystals of the same type usually coated with colored impurities. They can be found in clusters, as scepters, skeletal crystals which contain a series of crystal edge outlines inside the crystal and as hopper crystals which have faces replaced by a step like pattern.

(Modified from Wikipedia.)