

"Stones and Bones" Official Publication of
The Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc. (IBVGM&FS)
Editor, P.O. Box 2054 Auburndale, FL 33823

STONES and Bones



MEMBERSHIP MAILING ADDRESS:

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2054
Auburndale, FL 33823

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Inc. meets at 7:00 P.M., the second Thursday of each month at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2007. *Visitors are always welcome.*

Check out our website at www.bonevalley.net

MAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR
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STONES and Bones

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Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society, Inc.

Officers For 2007			Statement of Principles
President	Jan Liles	863-519-9449 mgjan4gems@verizon.net	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To stimulate interest in the collection, study, identification, and classification of gem, mineral & fossil specimens. 2. To disseminate knowledge of lapidary work and classification of gems, minerals & fossils, and their applications in the arts and sciences. 3. To encourage and facilitate instruction in the various elements of mineralogy and lapidary work and identification and classification of fossils. 4. To arrange and conduct field trips for collection of specimens. 5. To participate by displaying and taking part in all local, state, and Federation shows to the greatest possible extent. 6. To encourage adherence to the American Federation of Mineralogical Society's Code of Ethics.
1 st VP	VACANT		
2 nd VP	VACANT (also membership chairman)		
Secretary	Cindy Reed	863-644-6665 lunaria@tampabay.rr.com	
Treasurer	VACANT		
Board Members			
Past President	Jane Davis	813-754-1584	
1-Year Term	VACANT		
2-Year Term	Jan Liles	863-519-9449	
3-Year Term	Tom Abel	863-640-2781	
Committee Chairs			
Program Chairman	VACANT		
Corresponding Secretary	VACANT		
Annual Show	VACANT		
Education	VACANT		
Field Trips	VACANT		
Historian	Juanita Bergfield	863-967-7745	
Shop Manager	Jim Reed	863-644-6665 rocks57@tampabay.rr.com	
Parliamentarian	Mary K. Sullivan	863-635-3728	
Sunshine Secretary	Martha Duncan	863-207-5909	
Snacks	Barbara Lane	863-646-8987 lrbarbiedoll31@juno.com	
Stamps			
Editor / Webmaster	Cindy Reed	863-644.6665 lunaria@tampabay.rr.com	

LOCATION FOR 2007 MEETINGS - Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave.

Directions: Coming east on Hwy 60 (W. Main Street), you can turn south on 555, go a little more than a mile and turn left on W. Clower Street—go east on W. Clower St. to S. Floral Ave. and turn right (south).

Coming south on US 98 from Lakeland, continue south on Broadway to Stuart St., then turn right. Go one block then turn left onto S. Floral Ave.

If you are coming from the east on 60 or from the south on 98, then you can take Stuart St. west to S. Floral Ave.

As most of you know, Tony Gricius lost his battle with cancer on September 27. It had become very aggressive in the last year. His wife, Sharon said their sons and grandchildren were with him at Hospice in the end. The family has asked for donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or Good Shepherd Hospice, in lieu of flowers. He was a very strong force in our club and he will be missed. Our prayers are with his family.

Message from the President

Dear Members:

I have ordered programs from the SFMS catalog to finish off the rest of the year. The civic center has given free use of their TV/player. The program titles are "Russian Gem Treasures" and "Jewels of the British Crown". These will be for Oct. and Nov. in this order. I hope to see members coming to the meeting to enjoy the informative programs.

We still need people to come forward as November is election time. We need 11 positions filled this year. These are all marked on the front page in darkened lettering. We **NEED** support for the 1st Vice, secretary, treasurer, Program chairman, Annual show chairman, Snacks, Editor, Membership chairperson (was 2ND vice). I will take a second year as President if no one else is willing to do it. Without these positions filled and more people willing to take responsibility, the club will go under. I will stay until we repair the Connex and do what the Federation requires to close this club down. It has become too stressful with no persons to give me a break for any of the meetings and better support. Meeting attendance has made me feel that I am not doing a successful job. We had only a handful again for Sept. Members are making the choice of what will happen. Are you someone that could give one evening a month? Think of the information that will become lost for our club.

Jan Liles, Pres.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nathan Cooper
Connor Donovan
Jim Reed
Martha Satterfield
Charles Stull

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Brian & Susan Donovan
Charles Stull

October Birthstones

Modern Birthstone	- Opal, Tourmaline
Traditional Birthstone	- Tourmaline
Mystical Birthstone	- Jasper
Ayurvedic Birthstone	- Opal
Other	- Aquamarine, Coral, Beryl, Obsidian

If I've missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know. I'm going by what we receive on your application. Thanks

OCTOBER PROGRAM

a video from the SFMS on "Russian Gem Treasures".

October Shows and Swap Meets

Oct. 5-7, Sarasota, FL - Frank Cox Productions. 175th Gem, Jewelry, and Bead Show. Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail (Hwy. 41). 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 941-954-0202, frankcox@comcast.net, www.frankcoxproductions.com.

Oct. 6-7, Deland, FL - The Down the Street Bead Show. Central Florida's Bead, Jewelry, and Art Extravaganza. Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 E. New York Ave (Rte. 44). 866-667-3232, www.thedownthestreetbeadshow.com.

Oct. 13-14, Havana, FL - The Down the Street Bead Show. Beads, Jewelry, and Art Extravaganza. The Planters Exchange, 204 2nd Street NW. 14th, 10-6; 15th, 10-5. 866-667-3232, www.havanaextrav.com.

Oct. 13-14, Jacksonville, FL - The Bead Mercantile Show. Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Rd. (I-295 & San Jose Blvd.). 423-639-7942, www.beadmercantile.com.

Oct. 13-14, Orlando, FL - Florida Fossil Hunters. Florida Fossil Hunters, Central Florida Fairgrounds, Bldg. A, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children \$1; fossils, rocks, gems, minerals, artifacts, related equipment, books, silent auctions, raffles, children's dig pit; contact Valerie First, 4603 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32708, (407) 699-9274; e-mail: vjfirst@aol.com; Web site: www.floridafossilhunters.com.

Oct. 19-21, Pompano Beach, FL - The Down the Street Bead Show. Elks Lodge, 700 NE 10th St. 19th, noon-6; 20th, 10-6; 21st, 10-2. 866-667-3232, www.thedownthestreetbeadshow.com.

Oct. 19-22, Miami Beach, FL - Jewelers International Showcase. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., 17th St. & Convention Center Dr. 561-998-0205, fax 561-998-0209, jisshow@aol.com, www.jisshow.com.

Oct. 20-23, Miami Beach, FL - Jewelers International Showcase. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., 17th St. & Convention Center Dr. 561-998-0205, fax 561-998-0209, jisshow@aol.com, www.jisshow.com.

***Oct. 26-28, Orlando, FL - Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, Inc.** Osceola Heritage Park, 1875 Silver Spur Lane. 26th-27th, 10-6; 28th, 10-3. 601-879-8832, fax 601-879-3282, info@glwshows.com, www.glwshows.com.

Oct. 27-28, Ft. Myers, FL - The Down the Street Bead Show. Clarion Hotel, 12635 S. Cleveland Ave. 27th, 10-6; 28th, 10-5. 866-667-3232, www.thedownthestreetbeadshow.com.

Oct. 27-28, Orlando, FL - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Show. Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 888-729-6904, ibs@beadshows.com, www.beadshows.com.

27-28--TAMPA, FLORIDA: 48th annual show; Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club; Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. Hwy. 301 N; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$4, children under 6 free; silent auction, displays, demonstrations, wire wrap classes, PMC classes, kids' sand mine; contact Jan Hendershot, 11316 Leprechaun Dr., Riverview, FL 33569, (813) 671-9556; e-mail: jan.hendershot@verizon.net; Web site: www.tampabayrockclub.com.

Note from Jim Reed – Shop Manager

Everyone: Several people have been operating the club for a while allowing it to function by donating time to the club. We need other members of the club to ASSIST. This assistance can be taking over some of the open positions or helping those people carry out their jobs. I realize that these positions take some time – but you'd be surprised how you can reduce your time efficiently by using your own techniques. After the first few weeks, you'll be surprised how easy some of these jobs can be performed. **BUT WE NEED HELP – IF NOT THIS CLUB WILL FOLD AND MATERIALS SOLD.** Is this what you, as members, really want?

No Board Meeting for September.

IBVGM&FS Meeting Minutes September 13, 2007

The September 13, 2007 meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Jan Liles. The location was the Bartow Civic Center on Floral Ave.

Tom Abel reported that check had been written prior to the meeting for expenses at the shop and will be mailed to Jim Reed. Tom will make a deposit for the monies collected for Aug and Sept total \$96.00 from the shop use/sales. No program available for tonight.

Discussed the connex roof leak and rusting problem reported to all in the newsletter by Jim Reed. No calls had come forward offering help with repairs from Members. It was voted for and approved to get three appraisals for the job to repair the roofing. Also discussed the age of the workshop and was told that it had been rebuilt and a new roof placed when purchased sometime in the 90's. We still need the exact year to feel more secure on the age of the asphalt now on the roof. They usually last 10-15 years under Florida sunshine. Board will select a candidate and hire out the work to be done on the connex and also an estimate for the shop trailer. This choice will be presented to the members at the next meeting for a vote to complete the work.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Liles

Rock & Gem Magazine is offering special subscription rates to club members. The normal price is \$22.95 for 12 issues. The special club price is \$19.99. In addition, they will contribute \$6 to our club for each new or renewal subscription. They've requested that subscription requests be sent in bulk, so if you'd like to take advantage of this offer, please contact me.

Thanks

Cindy Reed – Editor 863-644-6665

Now, for part 2 of Jim Reed's thoughts on Opals.....

WHERE DO OPALS OCCUR?

By Jim Reed, P.G.

Opals occur in many locations of the world, however the most famous opals come from Australia. Other notable locations include Mexico, Brazil, Honduras Ethiopia, Peru, Slovakia, United States, Indonesia, and Turkey. Here is a brief description of each. Australian opals are the most extensive deposit. Since these opals have been studied and researched by many people, additional information is discussed.

MEXICAN OPALS – Mexico is famous for fire opal or matrix opal. Most Australian opals occur within sedimentary rock, Mexican opals occur within volcanic rocks. These opals occur in many areas of the country.

BRAZILIAN OPALS – opals are found at several localities in the country, but the most famous is the Boi Morto mine. Supposedly the opal is very stable, similar to much of the Australian material.

HONDURAS OPALS – similar to Mexican, Honduras opals are also found in volcanic rocks and have been mined for a long time. Unfortunately, the opals can often be unstable and craze.

ETHIOPIAN OPALS – opal from this country is apparently a fairly new find, and information on this country has not been determined.

PERUVIAN OPALS – most common are pink, but can also be blue. The blue is much rarer and is often dendritic.

UNITED STATES – opals in the U.S. occur at a few localities including Spencer (Idaho), Bonanza Mine (Nevada), and Virgin Valley (Nevada). Other less famous mine also occur in Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and California. Precious opals are also known from Louisiana and Mississippi.

SLOVAKIAN OPALS

INDONESIAN OPALS

TURKEY OPALS

AUSTRALIAN OPALS – Opal is the national gem of Australia. Since opals from Australia are the most famous location and have the largest extent (number on localities over a large area), I decided to describe in detail some information about this continent.

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As previously described last month, opals are made a hydrous silica oxide. The amount of water depends upon the location and how the opal formed. In Australian opals, the amount of water is about 1% and the opals are fairly stable (will not craze) and can be left in open air.

In Australia, opals are found in sedimentary rocks often of cretaceous age (cretaceous age is approximately 145 to 65 million years ago). Opals are found in rocks in the east-central part of the continent (Queensland, South Australia, and New South Wales states). Generally opals form in sandstones, mudstones, and claystones. Opals have been found as seams in the host rock, and replaced fossils (clams and dinosaur bones have been discovered). Often the sediments are formed in a wet environment and dry out. While the sediments are wet, silica is dissolved. Drying

out, the rocks undergo weathering and form cracks and cause places for opals to form. Often there are a number of wet and dry periods. Opals form through the formation of spheres (as discussed last month) which settle out and accumulate. Some rocks that have opals have silica-rich water flow through them during formation. Sometimes the opal forms a thick band inside the host sediment, other times the rock becomes part of the opal stone (as ironstone or boulder opal). Complete understanding of opal formation is not clear (such as water pH and chemistry - future research needs to be performed).

Some of the opal fields within each state are as follows:

QUEENSLAND OPAL (fields such as Yowah, Koroit, Bulgroo, Yaraka, Toompine, Opalton-Mayneside, Davenport-Palpara, Kynuna – plus many other localities)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (fields such as Coober Pedy, Mintabie, and Andamooka)

NEW SOUTH WALES (fields such as Cocoran, Lightning Ridge, and White Cliffs)

Future topic - next month, I'll attempt to go through of the various types of opal (e.g. – black, white, etc.), the patterns of the opal fire.