

EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

FOUNDED – 1947

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPM&GS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.

Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 2216 East Yandell (The Bridge Club), El Paso TX. at 6:30 PM. Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting. The meeting in July is our yearly picnic – the date to be announced.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| President | Miguel Chrisman | (915)740-0301 | Programs | Loraine Johnson | (915)751-4527 |
| Vice President | Judy Herd | (915)821-7818 | 3 Year Trustee | Matt Durning | (575)382-4301 |
| Treasurer | Linda Durning | (575)382-4301 | 2 Year Trustee | Tom Smith | (915)356-8653 |
| Secretary | Marie Murphy | (915)471-1071 | 1 Year Trustee | Randy Herd | (915)821-7818 |
| Historian | Marty Gaugler | (915)859-6634 | Show Chair | Harry Bruntz | (915)539-2022 |
| Editor | Charlie Christensen | (575)640-1203 | Assist. Show Chair | Jeanette Carrillo | (915)533-7153 |
| Field Trips | Matt Durning | (575)382-4301 | Webmaster | Laura Spencer | (575)635-7719 |
| Membership | Charlie Christensen | (575)640-1203 | Assist. Webmaster | Charlie Christensen | (575)640-1203 |

The Voice

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession by the Wednesday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month. Please note Charlie Christensen's e-mail address: charlieenos@msn.com. Please e-mail articles to be published. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby.

WEBSITE: Our club now has a website, www.epmgs.org. Any information you would like to see on this website contact Laura Spencer at trukestrel@hotmail.com.

The El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials; to encourage mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting will be 23 April 2009 at **6:30 PM**. This is an Eatin' Meetin'!!!! Bring some good eats to share with the crowd. **ALL MEETINGS THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 PM.**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The School Board Meeting information is posted under School Information and Class Enrollment.

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address or phone number please send e-mail to Charlie Christensen at charlieenos@msn.com. If, you do not have e-mail capabilities please send notification addressed to EPM&GS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.

THE VOICE

VOLUME LVX NUMBER 7 APR 2009

A PLEA TO MEMBERS:

The Club needs to revitalize the meetings, the club in general, etc. The Club needs your suggestions, participation, etc. Please either come to the meetings and give us your suggestions, or send them to me via e-mail charlicenos@msn.com (put Club Suggestions in the subject box) or send them via mail to EPMGS, Suggestions, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. In order for your club to prosper and be a great club everyone's help is needed. Please help make your club grow!!!!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

For those of you who are celebrating one or both of these occasions in the month of April Happy Birthday and/or Happy Anniversary.

BIRTHSTONE FOR APRIL – DIAMOND

Diamond: Not Necessarily Colorless

It really is not our job here at the International Colored Gemstone Association to tell you all about diamonds. However, diamond is the modern birthstone for April, so we will take this opportunity to say a few words about fancy colored diamonds, which are more to our taste than the colorless type: more rare, more valuable, and way more colorful (although the colors can tend to be a little pale). Fancy colored diamonds are not mass-market products that are advertised everywhere and sold by the numbers. They have more personality than that. Fancy colored diamonds are almost as much fun as colored gemstones! Like colored gemstones, each one is different. They come in fabulously expensive pale pinks and blues, pale to bright yellows, oranges, greens, and all those brown colors that are now being called names like cognac and champagne. So, buy a diamond instead of a colored gemstone if you must,

but at least consider a fancy colored diamond which will give your jewelry more character, more individuality, more color!

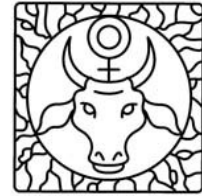
Source: International Colored Gemstone Association via Rock Chip Apr 2008

(Mar. 21- April 20)



Mars

(April 21 – May 21)



Venus

HINTS, TIPS, AND STUFF

EDITORS NOTES: The source of these tips, hints, and stuff are other club bulletins. Be careful when trying out any new idea. They have not been tried by this editor.

CLUB RAFFLES

At our April Meeting we will be Raffleing off some Gemstones. Opal, fire agate, and others – donated by Mike Chrisman. So bring your money and buy some tickets.

We still need donations for our Raffles that we hold at the meetings every few months. Anything Rockhounding related - Picks, Collecting Bags, etc. Or, Polished Rocks, Jewelry, Mineral Specimens, etc. These items are raffled off to raise funds for our monthly rent at the Bridge Club.

How Plumes Get Into Agate

By Ruby Lingelbach

Agates that are formed in cracks and crevices of the host rock many times have plumes, such as those found at Graveyard Point on the Idaho/Oregon border. There have been some rockhounds hunting there who found seams of “pre-agate”. Or cracks in rocks that had plumes grown on the sides of the crack extending toward the middle. These protrusions were built by chalcedony, but most had a coating of calcite or some other mineral. If the silica solution had been sufficient to fill the crack or had been undisturbed until the space was filled, these would have created the beautiful, sought-after Graveyard Plume agate, with the plumes colored by whatever mineral that had precipitated first.

Source: Strata Gem – Dec. 2007 via Rock Chips May 2008

Household Products That Can Be

Used As Rock Cleaners - by Betsy Martin

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrite gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when using these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.
2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) – dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in diluted Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.
3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) - dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).
4. Calgon - dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.
5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids.

Submitted by Judy Maury, via: Rock Skippers
Review – Nov. 2007 via Rock Chips May 2008

Maps on the Internet

By Glen Miller

Here are some tips for locating free online maps primarily USA). The good news is that there is a federal program that publishes digital products online that will provide complete national coverage. The bad news is that it is a federal program, subject to man-power and funding constraints, but it is a very good start.

Geological and Geophysical Maps - Finding The Map you need: Traditionally, one went to a state bookstore to purchase a paper map hoping it was still in print. The trend today is to publish them online with free access! "About.com" - the quick and easy solution for links to state geological maps.

About.com researches and assembles all types and classes of information. If you go to their Geology or Maps sections and poke around, there are pages for state geological maps and state geological organizations. They also list state authorities and links to their websites. Once in those websites, you may frequently find a free downloadable map for the local area you are looking for. The USGS has taken great steps to centralize the search for geological maps. *Source: CFMS Feb. 2008 Newsletter via Rock Chips May 2008*

Note from Editor: Go to About.com then type in Geological Maps in the search block – click GO.

For the glass finish on tigereye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on the stone. Leave it on for a couple of minutes, and then give it a second polish. The result should be that deep glass finish that you've been wishing for.

Never use ammonia or detergent on turquoise.

Ammonia will turn turquoise white. A good way to test for genuineness would be to apply some to the back of the stone. *Source: T-Town Rockhound – 1/04 via Rock Chips June 2008*

Little Known Facts

The **Black Sea** is black because of the high concentration of hydrogen sulfide (a gas) in the water.

The **Red Sea** gets its red hue from the recurring bloom of small algae.

The **Russian White Sea** earned its name from ice that covers it most of the year.

The **Yellow Sea** derives color from the mud the rivers carry into it.

Source: Rockhound Ramblings –9/07 via Rock Chips Jun 2008

It's Summer...so here's some Camping Info

When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsite on either side vacant.

The guitar of the noisy people at the next campsite makes excellent kindling.

It is entirely possible to spend your whole vacation on a winding mountain road behind a large motor home.

The best backpacks are named for national parks or mountain ranges. Steer clear of those named for landfills.

Bear bells provide an element of safety for hikers in grizzly country. The tricky part is getting them on the bears.

Why is it that when someone tells you there are more than a billion stars in the universe, you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint somewhere, you have to touch it to make sure?

Desert Safety Tips

by Bob Fitzpatrick, CFMS Field Trip Chair

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or a sudden change in the weather catches you unprepared. Be aware of the hazards of desert travel, in both winter and summer. Harsh weather conditions can turn a desert outing into a tragedy. Acquire knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety. Plan your trip carefully. Tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Stick with your itinerary and let them know when you return. Do not travel in the desert backcountry without taking along appropriate maps... It is easy to become disoriented in the desert where many landmarks and rock formations look similar. Dress property. In summer, layered clothing slows dehydration and minimizes exposure. Good hiking shoes, loose fitting natural clothing, a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are a must. Desert temperatures can reach over 90 degrees F and drop below 50 degrees F in one day. Summer temperatures can reach 125 degrees F in some

locations. In winter, temperatures can often drop below freezing. Bring extra warm clothing. Carry plenty of water. There are no dependable sources of water within the desert. A gallon of water per person per day is the absolute minimum that should be carried. When planning a hike, remember that water weighs approximately eight pounds per gallon. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back. Don't forget extra water for your vehicle. Do not ration your water. It will only do you good if you drink it.

First Aid Trip Tip

Never count on Band-Aids that get cooked in a car. I keep maybe 5-10 in a sandwich bag and I'm quick to replace them, especially before going rockhounding or on a long trip. Use cloth bandages (no adhesive) and gauze. I also keep a couple rolls of adhesive tape (cloth type) in the 1st aid kit. They last much longer than band aids when cooked in a car's heat; I figure they're good for a couple of seasons including summer. They may get sticky, but they'll still work. Oh yeah, covering your fingertips with adhesive tape can help protect them from broken rock shards like quartz flakes.

Source: of the above tips: Beehive Buzzer – 4/08 via Rock Chips Jun 2008

Bondo on Turquoise?

Matthew Durning

I've seen on several occasions that some vendors or other artists use a bondo like material on their turquoise cabs. On an online rock hound discussion site I asked about this and the how and why. I had several responses to my inquiry but this response was sufficient I thought, reprinted in part.

“What you are seeing may literally be bondo, although other epoxy type materials are also used to back cabochons. The reason this is done is to salvage pieces of turquoise are otherwise too thin to cut into slabs. Turquoise often occurs in seam deposits and depending on the seam thickness the material may not be suitable for cabling to the desired size, or cabling at all without the backing. Even when slabbing larger chunks of turquoise, there are still end cuts that may not be otherwise useable without backing.

This is generally not something you want to be doing if your material is otherwise thick enough to cab, particularly so if you are cutting for resale, as backing diminishes the value of the cab (bondo isn't worth much per carat...).

However, like just about everything else, there is a place for backed cabs. If you are making your own jewelry and can conceal the backing beneath a bezel and back, nobody will be the wiser. But it would be unethical to sell that jewelry without disclosing that the cabs are backed. Some people won't care a great

deal. Same as issues with natural verse stabilized turquoise; I guess one could consider backing as an extension of stabilizing. Bob Keller 03-19-2009.

What do you think? Bob Keller went on about using thin pieces for inlay or intarsia. I think it has a place. Why waste good turquoise?

Wonder why the jade cab you are making won't reach the high degree of polish desired? The glaze caused by working with a well worn sandpaper prevents the high polish. Try washing the stone in acetone, then washing in detergent two or three times, scrubbing with a toothbrush. Rinse well and try it on new sandpaper. By Doc Wimmer

Polished jade: A little graphite added and mixed to ordinary buffs makes a wonderful jade polishing agent. It also works on some hard to polish agates, or by this recipe: 1 tablespoon of tin oxide and one cup of vinegar on a leather buff (avoiding the dry buff while polishing) produces a good polish on jade, using either high or low speed.

For polishing jade, we find that heavy harness leather, at least 1/8" thick, is most suitable. Do not try to use light leather. A piece of felt floor covering makes a good cushion behind the leather. Chrome oxide is the most satisfactory polishing agent. Slow speed, not over 350 rpm, for a 10" disc works best. Quite heavy pressure is generally required. Particularly for flat surfaces; and just enough water to keep the leather moist, applied with the chrome oxide in the form of a thin cream. Considerable pull will be felt as the leather dries out. It is only while this pull or drag is felt, that actual polishing takes place.

Pyrite can be cleaned using radiator cleaner (DuPont #7). About 2 commercial Tbs. of cleaner in an aluminum pan with about two quarts of water is adequate. Action to remove tarnish is relatively rapid. To rinse, use a diluted ammonia solution to neutralize the residual action in the specimen. Follow this with clean water. [As with all chemicals, be sure to use in a well-ventilated area and wear adequate hand and face protection.]

Denim: Did you know that denim iron-on patches make excellent polishing disks? They will adhere to surfaces when ordinary glues will not. Just cut to fit to your wheel disks.

Polishing Aid: A monument maker uses a weak solution of oxalic acid to acquire the glassy shine on granite. It is used as a polishing aid. Dissolve a little oxalic acid in water, then work it into a felt buffer or add to your polishing paste. It also works wonders on agates.

Source of all the above items: Leaverite News, May 2008 via Rock Chips Aug 2008



FIELD TRIPS

Note from Your Field Trip Coordinator: Any and all Clubs and their members are cordially invited to join us on any of our Field Trips. If you need more information call Matt at (575)382-4301 or (915)491-3244 or e-mail madtex@q.com.

The Pick and Shovel Field Trip Report

By Matthew Durning – Field Trip Chair
madtex@q.com

It's officially spring and life is good. Cool mornings, hot afternoons, cold nights and hurricane winds. What more can we ask for? I'd say it's perfect rock hounding weather. I'd also say that pretty much described the March field trip to the Deming "Rock Hound Round Up". I spent a few hours there more socializing with new and old friends than browsing. I brought my newest pooch who was more content to sit and watch this crazy world walk by. I did make some deals and some contacts for a future mine trip. Good trip and show. I drove into a DWI check point at about 2:00pm. Fortunately my dog "Taco" was driving while I ate my Dairy Queen ice cream cone. Those snow birds must drink early. BTW, I did share my ice cream with "Taco".

Our April 11 Field Trip will be to the constellation mining area outside of Lordsburg, NM. We will collect Psilomelane, a black manganese mineral with some agatization. I've polished some very nice pieces from there. **We will meet at the McDonalds on I-10 in Lordsburg at 9:00am.** From there we will drive

approximately another 25 miles or so. Cars will make it close to the site but then there will be a short walk over hills and ravens to the collecting area.

I took a side trip with a couple of friends to the "Copiapo Mine" located at the Webb Gap west of the Anthony Gap RT 404. The area was described in the December 2008 "Rock and Gem Magazine". I believe it might have been dug looking for uranium way back when. What we found was aragonite, a carbonate mineral that has white, green and brown banding. Also there is jarisite. We found several nice specimens in the tailings which are also fluorescent. I also found hematite which was very different from the hematite we found in Dona Ana County in February. The winds were at hurricane strength that day and I had to duct tape my hat to my head. The road there was a roller coaster trail and the last two miles were by 4X4 only. If any one would like to go there I would not mind going out there again. It is a very interesting area.

My ANTI rock hound, no public please, this is my land only for certain special types creep U.S Senator Bingham's -NM, bill S-22 failed by only two votes. Great news for us and anyone who enjoys OUR PUBLIC lands. He has vowed to try again with U.S Congressman "Prince Harry" Teague-NM. Did your representatives vote for it? If you do not stay alert our rights to enjoy our hobby will be outlawed and you will be a trespasser on public land. Two votes are just too close.

Matthew Durning
Field Trip Chairman



SCHOOL INFORMATION AND CLASS ENROLLMENT

Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in Lapidary and Jewelry-craft classes. The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in any way by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important that you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a "Go" with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Each Class has a \$20 fee plus a Lab Fee and any other material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class to the Senior Center, and the Lab Fee will be paid to your instructor. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

Active Member Instructors:

Tony De La Cruz
Redgie Medlock
Peggy Fontaine

Dorris Brown
Art Moreno
Liz Kosturakis

Pete Beltran
Ken Raab
Norm Ballou

Francisco Cuevas
Greg Berglund
Ron Anderson

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings are all held at noon in the conference room at the Memorial Park Senior Citizens Center. Anybody who wishes to sit in on any of the meetings is welcome. We recommend that you call Jim at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. His number is 562-4268.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Tues 21 Apr 2009 | Wed 27 May 2009 | Tues 23 Jun 2009 | Mon 20 Jul 2009 |
| Tues 25 Aug 2009 | Mon 21 Sep 2009 | Tues 20 Oct 2009 | Mon 16 Nov 2009 |
| Tues 15 Dec 2009 | | | |

Class Schedule: (Classes run from 9 AM to 12 Noon unless otherwise noted)

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday & Wednesday | Lapidary | | 04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009 |
| Monday & Wednesday | Silversmith | Advanced Beginning Advanced | 04-13-2009 thru 05-20-2009 06-01-2009 thru 07-08-2009 07-20-2009 thru 08-26-2009 |
| Tuesday & Thursday | Casting, Faceting, & Wirewrap Classes | | 04-14-2009 thru 05-21-2009 06-02-2009 thru 07-09-2009 07-21-2009 thru 08-27-2009 |
| Monday thru Friday (see note below) | (NEW) ADVANCED WORKSHOP 12:30 – 3:00 PM | | All the time |
| Friday | Beading | | Held from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Fee \$3.00. Bring your own materials. |

NOTE: ADVANCED WORKSHOP IS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS. THERE WILL BE NO MATERIAL SALES DURING THIS WORKSHOP. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS.

The shop at the Memorial Senior Center is open for anyone's use on Friday's from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The shop fee for every session is \$3.00 to be paid to the instructor in charge of the Workshop.

SHOW DATES

APRIL 2009:

4-5--KINGMAN, ARIZONA: Show; Mohave County Gemstoners; Kingman Academy of Learning, 3419 Harrison; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dealers, crafts, jewelry, fossils, rough material, minerals, gems, club displays, silent auction, raffle; contact Pete, (928) 565-4321, or Dave, (928) 692-3797

4-5--POCATELLO, IDAHO: 52nd annual show; Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society; Commercial Bldg., Bannock County Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Marty Rakatansky, (208) 233-0538, or Kevin Taylor, (208) 232-4269

4-5--SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS: Spring show; Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society; Siloam Springs Community Center, 110 N. Mt. Olive St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; contact Thomas Morrow, (479) 936-0394; e-mail: info@nwarockhounds.org

5--WATERLOO, IOWA: Annual show; Black Hawk County Gem & Mineral Society; Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial St.; Sun. 12-5; free admission; demonstrations, displays, fish pond, silent auction, jewelry, vendors; contact Dave Malm, (319) 266-6433

9-11--WYOMING, MICHIGAN: 34th annual show; Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club; Rogers Plaza Town Center, 972 Rogers Plaza SW; Thu. 10-9, Fri. 10-9, Sat. 10-9; free admission; displays, demonstrations, dealers, children's starter collections; contact Don Van Dyke, 4296 Oakview, Hudsonville, MI 494426, (616) 669-6932; e-mail: donvandyke@tm.net; Web site: <http://indianmoundsrockclub.com/index.htm>

11-12--ABILENE, TEXAS: Show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Abilene Civic Center, N. 6th and Pine St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, ages 6-12 \$1.50, children under 6 free with adult; gems, jewels, slabs, rough, lapidary tools and supplies, demonstrations, fluorescent display, silent auction, wheel of fortune, sand art, door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Sallie Lightfoot, (325) 692-4642; e-mail: slightfoot@aol.com; Web site: www.txol.net/rockclub

17-19--ALPINE, TEXAS: 20th annual show, "Treasures of West Texas"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Highland Events Center, Hwy. 90, across from Sul Ross State University; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; 2nd annual Collegiate Geology "Box of Rocks" Competition, Kids' Corner, door prizes, rock food table, Rock For Life dance, Grub Run Rally, field trips (Woodward Ranch, Shafter Silver Mine, Red Rock Ranch); contact Donna Trammel, (432) 426-2924; e-mail: rocklady2002@sbcglobal.net

17-19--ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN: Show, "Crystal Reflections"; Mt. Clemens Gem & Lapidary Society; Roseville Recreation Center, 18185 Sycamore; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; adults \$3, students \$1, children under 12, police, firemen, and active military with proper ID free; lectures, more than 40 display cases, lapidary demonstrations, Tin Can Auction, raffle, kids' grab bags, ID table, activities; contact Ron Rolfe, 42729 Fortner Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48313, (586) 726-1578; e-mail: ymrolfe@comcast.net; Web site: www.orgsites.com/mi/michigan-club/index.html

18-19--FORT DODGE, IOWA: Show; River Valley Rockhounds; Opera House, Fort Museum, west on Bus. Hwy. 20; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; displays, dealers, rock equipment demonstrations, new and used equipment sales, silent auction, children's area, door prizes; contact Robert Wolf, 3521 10th Ave. N, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, (515) 955-2818; e-mail: midnightwriter@frontiernet.net

18-19--IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO: 44th annual show; Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society; City Recreation Center, Memorial Dr. and B St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Steve or Jeanne Hammond, 994 W. Center, Blackfoot, ID 83221, (208) 782-1917; e-mail: rock_hounds@msn.com

24-25--IRVINE, KENTUCKY: 46th annual show; Bluegrass Gem & Mineral Club; Mountain Mushroom Festival/Agate Hunt; Estill County School System Central Office, 253 Main St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; agate hunting in local creeks for \$10 per person, flint knapping demonstration; contact Phillip Daly, 10330 Forkland Rd., Parksville, KY 40464, (859) 854-0418; e-mail: phillipdaly@bellsouth.net; Web site: www.orgsites.com/ky/bggamc/

24-26--DENVER, COLORADO: Show, "Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show-Spring"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.; free admission; 80 wholesale and retail dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

24-26--SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH: Show, "2009 Spring Festival of Gems"; Wasatch Gem Society; 115 North 10th West, Utah State Fair Park, Zions Bldg.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children, scouts and leaders in uniform free; member displays, craft and lapidary demonstrations, dealers, equipment, rocks, gems, kids' grab bags, Wheel of Fortune, silent auction, door prizes; contact Jeffery Huefner, (801) 467-6850; e-mail: jeffjaneh@juno.com; Web site: www.wasatchgemsociety.com

24-26--WICHITA, KANSAS: 56th annual show, "Great Plains Treasures"; Wichita Gem & Mineral Society; Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd.; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, ages 12-17 \$1, children under 12 free with adult; Great Plains fossils, Kansas meteorites, dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, jewelry; contact Lyle Koerper, (316) 722-7115; Web site: www.wgmsks.org

25-26--WACO, TEXAS: Show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; Heart of Texas Fairgrounds, Bosque Ave.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students and children \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Road 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311; e-mail: rkcole8@peoplepc.com

FOR A MORE COMPLETE LIST OF ALL SHOWS (I ONLY LIST A FEW) GO TO
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp> OR REFER TO A COPY OF ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE.