



# Chippers' Chatter

Newsletter of the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society  
Baltimore, Maryland <chesapeake.rockclub.us>  
Volume 53 Number 09  
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(No Vol. 53, Nr 08)

## Who We Are:

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society is a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies and is Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society was established in order to allow its members to gain knowledge and skills in various phases of the Earth Science field. Through field trips, exhibitions, and cooperation with other societies, we endeavor to further not only our own knowledge, but also that of the general public.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month except August at the Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.m. and visitors are always welcome.

## **Deadline for submitting articles or comments in this Newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

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## President's Message

August 11, 2009

The nominating committee for 2010 will consist of: Barbara Kays, Al Pribula, and Wayne Homens. We appreciate their volunteering for this position.

Gil

See you at the September meeting!

## NOTICES:

**Attention all!** We need information for any upcoming Gem & Mineral shows in our area. Please notify the editor. Thanks in advance.

**NOTE:** The Patuxent Lapidary Guild has moved its September auction to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October to avoid Conflict with the Gem Cutters Guild's show at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Open House to celebrate Its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is still Sunday, 13 September.  
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## Upcoming Shows & Special Events:

### 2009

**September 7 – 13:** 2<sup>nd</sup> EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. Speaker in residence – Brenda Foreman

**September 26 – 27:** 45<sup>th</sup> Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Howard County Fairgrounds; I-70 at MD Rte 32. Sat: 10am-6pm, Sun: 10am-5pm; Sponsored by: Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Inc

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### Goodies 'N Such

by Liz & Wendy Stanne

**We hope that everyone had a great summer and look forward to hearing lots of news at our September meeting. The following members have signed up to bring in the refreshments for September:**

**Keith Kaneda  
Wayne Homens  
Liz Stanne  
Jack Burger & Linda Wunder**

## Personals

**Bulletin! Bulletin! Bulletin! Bulletin!**

**Dave Mitchell and Trinh Phan got married recently! Congratulations to the newlyweds!**

### Howard County Show:

Sat Sept.26 and Sun. Sept 27

We will have our Chesapeake table there as always. We will need volunteers to cover both days. I will have a sign up sign up sheet at the meeting. If you will not be at there you can call me with your preferred time and day.

Thanks,  
Lynne

++++That's all the personal news I have this month. If you have any news or know about any thing affecting any members, please let me know. <<Editor>>

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## Minutes

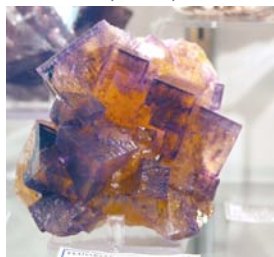
There was no regular meeting in July 2009. Instead, the annual Summer picnic was held and a good time has had by all. The next regular meeting will be held 11 September.

## Feature Articles

### Mineral of the Month – Fluorite

by Steve Weinberger

Fluorite (CaF<sub>2</sub>) is one of the more popular minerals, judging by the number of specimens on dealers' tables at shows. It forms in the cubic system with octahedral and sometimes dodecahedral modifications. Fluorite comes in many colors such as blue, violet, yellow, pink, green and clear. Color zoning is common.

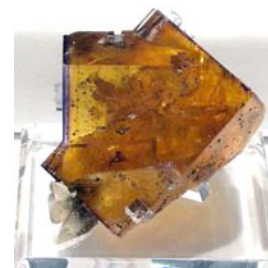


Fluorite is relatively soft (4), is transparent to translucent, has a vitreous luster and can exhibit fluorescence.

Worldwide locations are too numerous to list, but in the U.S., besides the most famous localities of Cave-In-Rock, IL and Elmwood, TN, nice examples have been

found at Mt. Antero, Colorado; the Globe Mine in New Mexico; Trumbull, Connecticut; Sweet Home Mine, Colorado; and Westmoreland, New Hampshire.

It's probably safe to say that virtually everyone who collects minerals has at least one example of fluorite. Bring in some of your favorites to the September meeting to show the various forms, colors, and locations that help to make fluorite one of the most popular minerals.



Both specimens shown are from Cave-In-Rock, Illinois.

Ref.: Bernard & Hyrsl. *Minerals and their Localities*.  
Guastoni & Appiani. *Minerals*.

### August Birthstone - Peridot

Compiled by M.S. Hakulin

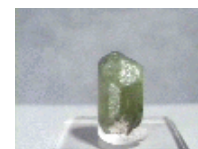
Peridot (pronounced *pair-a-doe*), the gem variety of **olivine**, is the birthstone for August and the Zodiac stone for the constellation Libra (astrological sources refer to peridot as *Chrysolite*). Peridot is perhaps derived from the French word *peridot* which means unclear, probably due to the inclusions and cloudy nature of large stones. It



could also be named from the Arabic word *faridat* which means gem. In either case, peridot has been mined as a gemstone for an estimated four thousand years or better, and is mentioned in the

Bible under the Hebrew name of *pidtah*. Pliny wrote about the green stone from Zagbargad Island in 1500 B.C. Today, Peridot is mined in Norway, Australia, Arizona, and the Congo. In addition, gem quality peridot comes from the ancient source of Zagbargad (Zebirget) Island (also known as St John's Island) in the Red Sea off the coast of Egypt; Mogok, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma); Kohistan, Pakistan; Minas Gerais, Brazil; Eifel, Germany; Chihuahua, **Mexico**; Ethiopia; and, Salt Lake Crater, Oahu, Hawaii, USA.

It is composed of two minerals: **fayalite** and **forsterite**. Fayalite is the iron rich member and forsterite is the magnesium rich member. Olivine's formula is written as **(Mg, Fe)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>** to show the substitution of the magnesium and iron. Peridot is usually closer to forsterite than fayalite in composition although iron is the coloring agent for peridot. The best colored peridot has an iron percentage of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements that may also contribute



to the best peridot color. Possibly the most unusual peridot is that which comes from **iron-nickel** meteorites called *pallasites*. Some are actually faceted and set in jewelry.

*From the Bulletin Exchange:*

### **How to Find the Fire In Fire Agate**

Author unknown

Fire agate is a quartz based rock with layers of iron oxide in chalcedony which results in iridescence. It occurs in nodules of milky or grayish translucent chalcedony. Sometimes it is found in botryoidal growths in geodes and in chalcedony roses. Fire agate appears as a dull, reddish brown layer, but when the surface layers are removed, it exposes the rainbow colors of iridescence. The fire is brought out by tumbling, trimming, and grinding off the outer layers to expose the iridescence. Polishing magnifies the fire.

#### Here's how to find the fire:

Remove the matrix, then tumble polish it. Tumbling removes excess chalcedony. When polished, remove excess stone around the edges, then polish and set. Allow the stone to retain its irregular shape and polish slowly, so you don't go through the fire layers. The graceful natural shapes are superior to those cut to calibrated sizes, as the best fire doesn't always fit a mold.

To set it off, mount in a custom made gold or silver setting. Fire agates are found in Arizona, California, Idaho, Mexico and other places.

--from *CABBER GABBER*, May 2001

via *Mountain Gem*, December 2005 (2006 S.C.R.I.B.E. CD); Rock Buster News, Newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.; Vol XLVIV No 7 Sept 2009

### **September Birthstone - Sapphire**

Compiled by M.S. Hakulin

The September birthstone, Sapphire is chemically and structurally the same as Ruby - both are varieties of the mineral corundum. Corundum is found in every color of the rainbow, with red being designated as ruby and all other hues

Sapphire. But the most prized color of Sapphire is a rich, deep blue. These gemstones were mined as early as the 7th Century BC from India and what is now Sri Lanka. |



Sapphires are well known among the general public as being blue, but can be nearly any color except shades of red or pink (since those are called rubies). Sapphire is also the Zodiac stone for the constellation of Taurus the

Bull. Although the blue color is by far the most popular color for sapphire the orange-pink, golden, lavender, green, white, and even black varieties have generated much interest in the gem trade. Tennis bracelets are available that contain a complete rainbow of sapphire gemstones. |



Large specimens of Corundum crystals are rare, although the 563-carat Star of India can be seen in the American Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Oriented rutile crystal inclusions cause a six-pointed-star light effect (called *asterism*) to form the popular Star Sapphire. This is the largest and most famous of star Sapphires, which are cut to reflect light from inclusions within the stone, revealing a bright six-legged star pattern.

Legend has it that ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the Ten Commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.

Named after the Greek word "saphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and it was the chosen center stone for the engagement ring for the Queen of Hearts, Princess Diana.

*From the Bulletin Exchange:*

### **HOW TO CUT OBSIDIAN**

Author unknown

**GOLD SHEEN:** To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to unstuck them. Watch for "fire spots" in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

**IRIDESCENT:** There are two types of iridescent obsidian.

In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get effect. To get a rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximately 15-degree angle across the bands.

**MIDNIGHT LACE:** Lace-patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce. Although obsidian is comparatively soft, it is

still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try cerium oxide on Lucite®, but keep it wet.

**RAINBOW OBSIDIAN:** Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an overhead single lamp bulb. As [the layers] are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.

**SAFETY TIP:** After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

**GRINDING OBSIDIAN CABS:** Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a “shattering” experience, as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

**POLISH ON OBSIDIAN:** Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing will result in blisters and scratches. Obsidian is relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and soft. With proper understanding of its glassy properties you can obtain some beautiful results.

--from *Golden Frog*, February 2005

via *Coral Geode*, April 2006 (2006 S.C.R.I.B.E. CD)

## Earth News

by Kevin Dermody, CPRMC

### Paleo

The earliest tree-living vertebrate was discovered by Jorg Frobisch in central Russia's Kirov region. A single large block of red mudstone holds several skulls and over a dozen complete skeletons, some adult and some juvenile. Called *Suminia getmanovi*, they were 20-inch long herbivorous synsapsids with elongated fingers, opposable “thumbs”, and grasping tails.

This also demonstrates that herbivores had by 260 million years ago diversified, became common, and occupied new niches to exploit new resources and avoided the relatively few predators. Earlier communities had many carnivores of various sizes attacking each other, insects, aquatic life, and the few herbivores that existed.

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A few years ago, paleontologist Anthony Martin of Emory University discovered the first burrow made by

small, herbivorous dinosaurs in Montana. Recently he did it again, this time in Victoria, Australia. Unlike the Montana burrow, the three Australian burrows were uninhabited, but the diggers were probably just the same size as the burrows, as were the Montana dinosaurs, to make it difficult for larger predators to follow them. The burrows are six feet long, one foot wide, and gently slope down in a semi-spiral to an enlarged chamber. Australia was much closer to the poles 110 million years ago and had long, cold winters. The fact that small dinosaurs could burrow to escape extreme climates would hinder the notion that they went extinct from an asteroid impact because they couldn't seek such protection as mammals were supposed to seek.

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The oldest members of African ungulates, called paenungulates, as well as the oldest members of the elephant family, have been found in the Ouled Abdoum phosphate basin in Morocco. First came *Phosphatherium escuillei*, and then paleontologist Emmanuel Gheerbrant of the Paris Museum discovered *Eritherium azyouorum*. Both are 60 million years old, *E. azyouorum* is very small and primitive for an elephant, weighing only 8 to 11 pounds.

References: Sciencedaily.com, Verizon Central Newsroom; Rock Buster News, Newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club (CPRMC), Inc., Vol XLVIV No 7 September 2009

### Do U Believe It!

Forwarded by Peggy Moran & Ruth Hakulin, original source unknown

After reading this, you'll go "duh, I didn't know that."

- "Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand
- And "lollipop" is the longest word typed with your right hand. (Bet you tried this out mentally, didn't you?)
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt". (Are you doubting this?)
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet. (Now, you KNOW you're going to try this out for accuracy, right?)

- The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious." (Yes, admit it, you are going to say, a e i o u)
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (Some days that's about what my memory span is.)
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- The cruise liner, QE 2 moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket. (Good thing he did that.)
- The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.

- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Now you know more than you did before!!

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### **2009 Officers:**

**President:** Gil Charlton, gilchar@msn.com,

**Vice President:** John Buchleitner,  
jbuchl@verizon.net,

**Recording Sec'y:** Earle Pftzing,

**Corresponding Sec'y:** Phyllis Dyer,  
Stevedyer2@verizon.net

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Cornish,  
mcornish23 @ yahoo.com,

<b>Directors:</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
	Steve Dyer	Carolyn Weinberger
	Gary White	Bernie Emery

### **Committee Chairs**

Auctions - Lynne Luger & Bernie Emery  
 Directory - Phyllis & Steve Dyer  
 Field Trips - Dave Fordyce  
 Greeters - Al Pribula, & Earl Pftzing  
 HOLIDAY Party - Dawn , Rachel, Karl & Karin Johnsson  
 Hospitality - Liz & Wendy Stanne  
 Legislation - Dave Fordyce  
 Library - Tony Wilner  
 Mineral of the Month - Steve Weinberger  
 Personals/Announcements/ - Patricia Smith & Lynn Luger  
 Robinson Award - Patricia Smith, Richard Hoff, & Elizabeth Stanne  
 Sunshine Pgms - Richard Hoff, Keith Kaneda & Tony Wilner  
 Safety - Johnny Johnsson  
 Show - Bernie Emery & Lynne Luger  
 Showcase - Steve Dyer

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