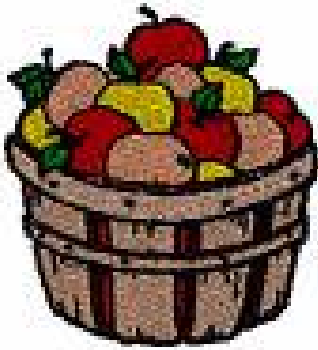


St. Croix Rockhounds  
Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082



**First Class**

September, 2007

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082

September 18th – Program is:  
“SILENT AUCTION”



St. Croix Rockhound's  
**LEAVERITE NEWS**  
Vol. 32, Issue 7; September, 2007

Member of:



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## ST.CROIX ROCKHOUNDS

**MEETINGS:** Club meetings are held the third TUESDAY of each month, at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 P.M.. Everyone is welcome.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Full membership for a single person over 16 is \$7.50 per year. Family membership is \$10.50 per year.

### OFFICERS:

|                    |                    |                |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| President          | Pete Rodewald      | (715) 425-5561 |
| Vice President     | Brad Bonse         | (651) 439-6832 |
| Secretary          | Doug Olson         | (651) 430-9035 |
| Treasurer          | Lin Rawlings       | (651) 735-4691 |
| Program Committee  | Mark Rasmussen     | (651) 275-0607 |
|                    | Bill Cordua        | (715) 425-9544 |
|                    | Victor Martinsen   | (715) 247-3700 |
| Show Committee     | Bill Cordua        | (715) 425-9544 |
| Refreshments       | Freya Kask         | (651) 777-6371 |
| Librarian          | June Young         | (651) 429-3887 |
| Historian          | John Parsons       | (651) 257-2724 |
| Sunshine Committee | Marie Newlander MN | (651) 439-7809 |
| Tour Director      | Susan Dustin       | (651) 430-3933 |
| Liaison Officer    | Freya Kask         | (651) 777-6371 |
| Newsletter Editor  | Doug Olson         | (651) 430-9035 |

The purpose of our organization is to bring together rock and mineral enthusiasts on a regular basis through membership and through pooling of individual knowledge, talents and skills, to improve the lapidary skills of participating members. Affiliation: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

**COMING UP! - September 18<sup>th</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN in the cafeteria. Meeting time will be 7:15 pm. The program is: "SILENT AUCTION" which is the club's annual fundraising event. Come see and bid!! Bring your friends and neighbors!! Clear out you unwanted inventory and donate to the club auction.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds annual Silent Auction at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater, Minnesota.

**October 6-7<sup>th</sup>:** Eastern Federation convention in Newark, NY

**October 13-14<sup>th</sup>:** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club at the Har Mar Mall, Rosedale, MN.

**October 20-21<sup>st</sup>:** Minnesota Mineral Club show at the National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN. For info call Alan Olson 612-729-8331.

**December 15-16<sup>th</sup>:** Anoka county Gem & Mineral Club show in Faribo West Mall, Faribault, MN

**June 20-22, 2008:** MWF convention in Lincoln, NE.

# Minutes of the St Croix Rockhounds May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Meeting was called to order** by president, Pete Rodewald at 7:28.

**Treasurer's Report**-Lin Rawlings treasurer's report was approved as read by Pete Rodewald.

**Minutes** of the April meeting were approved.

Show Committee: Bill Cordua sent a Thank you note to the Valley Creek Mall for hosting the club show. We have been invited back again for next year.

**Sunshine**-June Shalander is recovering in the Greeley Health Care Center. She would love to hear from us. Phyllis White has moved into the Linden Healthcare Center at 105 W. Linden St., Stillwater 55082.

**Refreshments**- Freya Kask and Elaine Martinson will brought refreshments for tonight's meeting.

**Field Trips**-Susan Dustin reported that the trip to the Zumbro River to look for cold water agates was successful. 12 people attended and rock found was brought to tonight's meeting. She also reported that Brad Bonse would appreciate people meeting him for Fairburn agate in SD this Thursday.

Susan is looking for ideas and leaders for future trips.

Pete Rodewald will be traveling to Copper country on 8<sup>th</sup> of June. Interested parties are to meet him at the Motel 8 lobby at 7pm Friday. As of tonight 7 people plan to go.

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** – Potluck picnic has been scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm. Bring you own chair and plastic dishes to Cheryl Kopp's house. A flyer with directions will be mailed two weeks before the picnic.

Door prizes were won by: Earle Kask, Elaine Martinson, Dave Flynn, Tory, Susan Dustin, Eloise Kimball, Cheryl Kopp and Marie Newlander.

**The meeting was adjourned** for the program "Video Field Trip to the Keweenaw Rift: Lava Flows and Copper"

Submitted by Doug Olson, secretary.

**SILENT AUCTION –  
Everyone's favorite program.  
Bring a guest!!!**

## Celebrate!

**September's birthstone –Sapphire.**

Sapphire is a variety of the mineral species corundum. Sapphires occur in all colors of the rainbow with the exception of red, which is ruby. The name corundum comes from the ancient Sanskrit "kuruvindam", while the name "Sapphire" comes from the Persian word "safir", meaning "beloved of Saturn", (or Greek sapphiros).

Sapphires are commonly heated to improve their color and reduce cloudiness that is caused by rutile inclusions. The rutile inclusions are responsible for the "star" or "cat's eye" in star sapphires.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die.

**September birthdays:**

Helen Betlach – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Gregory Logajan – 8<sup>th</sup>

Freya Kask – 11<sup>th</sup>

Pete Rodewald – 13<sup>th</sup>

Elaine Martinsen – 15<sup>th</sup>

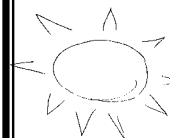
Victor Martinsen – 25<sup>th</sup>

**September Anniversaries:**

Leroy & Helen Betlach – 12<sup>th</sup>



**Sunshine Report**



Phyllis White has moved into the Linden Healthcare Center at 105 W. Linden St., Stillwater 55082.

-if you have news - good or bad please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.

**Sapphire:** Birthstone for September. Occurs in a [wide range of colors](#) (blue, pink, "padparadscha", orange, yellow, green, purple, black, colorless). Color is due to trace impurities of Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Ti, and/or a yellow color center. The most desirable (i.e. expensive) color is an intense "cornflower" blue; these are sometimes referred to as "[Kashmir sapphires](#)". At their best these have a very saturated, slightly milky, violet blue color. Padparadscha (see above) is next in value, followed by pink, then orange, purple and yellow, respectively. Though sometimes touted as a good investment, green sapphires are not currently, and have not historically been, of great value. The color of most sapphire can be altered through heat treatment (see below) and/or irradiation.

**Sources** - Major producers same as ruby ([Burma](#), [Thailand](#), [Sri Lanka](#)), plus Australia and East Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, with lesser amounts from Malawi and Burimundi). Production in Thailand has seen a [dramatic decrease](#) in recent years. All mined in gem gravels or clay resting on basalt. Some of the [finest blue sapphire](#) currently being mined comes from the Rakwana district of Sri Lanka. - Sources of note:

**Shaping and Treatment** - Faceted in both step and brilliant cuts. Star stones and included rough cut en cabochon. - Heat treatment of sapphire is a widespread practice (nearly ubiquitous?), irradiation less so. Following treatments and results have been noted:

Heating in open crucible from 1500-1900oC of pale yellow or nearly colorless stone can yield a rich dark yellow, golden, golden-brown, orange, or reddish-brown color (Fe<sup>2+</sup> oxidized to Fe<sup>3+</sup>). Pink with some C can be heated to give stable padparadscha orange-pink color.

Very dark blue can be lightened by a few minutes at 1200oC in an open, non-reducing vessel (Fe<sup>2+</sup> oxidized to Fe<sup>3+</sup>).

Whitish or pale blue containing masses of fine rutile ("silk"), called Geuda by Sri Lankans, can be heated in air to 1200oC to remove blue; heating to around 1900oC will restore blue and remove silk.

Irradiation can convert some pinks to padparadscha. Heating of irradiated stones will restore the original color (yellow color center destroyed).

A "[surface diffusion](#)" method of treatment can be used to darken the color of pale blue sapphire, or turn white sapphire blue. Method involves coating stone with TiO<sub>2</sub> and Fe-oxide powder and heating to near melting temperatures. Ti and Fe diffuse into outer few microns of stone, yielding a very thin, skin-like layer of blue color. Immersion in oil will [reveal this](#) (see strong color zoning, darker color ring around the girdle and along facet junctions), as will bleeding of color around cracks and pits.

A more recent, [controversial](#) variant, involving "[bulk diffusion](#)", relies upon the diffusion of beryllium and/or other light elements at very high temperatures into natural colorless or pink sapphires, yielding yellow, yellow-orange an orange sapphire, and padparadscha. Purplish red rubies treated by the same technique may become a purer red.

There are means to detect most heat treatments that include examination of inclusions, dichroism, and fluorescence. Simple techniques for detecting diffusion treatments rely on detection of [color zoning of unnatural appearance](#), or of microscopic [recrystallized overgrowths](#) (also termed "[re-deposition](#)"). Unfortunately, bulk diffusion that involves beryllium can yield stones with no discernable color zoning or overgrowths, [requiring](#) much more [sophisticated laboratory testing](#).

**Star Sapphire** - Star sapphire is the result of reflection of light from fine, oriented, rutile needles. Like star ruby, star sapphires may be heat treated to high temperatures to dissolve the rutile and produce blue sapphires of good clarity. Such has been the recent fate of much of the Sri Lankan Geuda material that might have otherwise been uncut able (too dark and/or cloudy). Unfortunately, some reports state that much of the good star material is now suffering the same fate. The same [characteristics](#) apply to good star sapphire as to star ruby (see above). The best body color is an [intense pure blue](#), but such natural stones are rare and one more frequently encounters blues that are more gray. Fine blues are more translucent than even good gray-blues and are cabbed thicker as a result. Such stones may appear to be "overweight" with bulky bases, an important consideration when paying by weight but a necessity to maintain a deep blue color. This is not the case for average blue stones, however, and you should not pay for excess weight unnecessarily.

Synthetic star sapphire ([and ruby](#)) was first made by Union Carbide ("Linde Stars") in the late 1940's. These synthetics, and those currently being made by Nakazumi Earth Crystals in Japan, are superior in the straightness and narrowness of the star and the outstanding deep blue body color. These characteristics are sufficient to distinguish these synthetics from all but a handful of naturals; one author states that the stars look so vivid and intense that they appear to be painted on the stone rather than emanating from within it. These do not have to be cut as deep to maintain color, and this can serve as a tip off as

## Titus and the Glowing Stone: A Mineral Mystery Story

Test your mineral skills. Can you guess the mineral in this story?

About 2500 years ago, everyone knew that Titus' shop in Athens was the place to go with strange rocks. It was an unassuming hole in the wall on a back twisty street in the bustling Placa, within sight of the Acropolis. Inside, it was barely lit, dark and crammed with mysterious objects. As one walked in, it took a moment for the eyes to adjust, but one had an instant claustrophobic sense of many heavy things piled on shelves over one's head. In that moment of disorientation, a form would detach itself from the shadows and moved wraith-like, flowing forward until it was close enough to whisper: "Can I help you?"

This was Aegirine, Titus' assistant, who has also helped Titus' now-deceased father on many missions, studying and collecting the rare and unusual from the Mediterranean and beyond. Aegirine was wiry, even cadaverous, with a mischievous gleam in his eyes that suggested he enjoyed the startling visitors. In this case, the visitor was a young woman.

To Aegirine's admiration, she didn't stay disoriented long. She set her feet firmly, brushed a lock of dark hair out of her eyes and said: "I'm looking for Master Titus. I'm told he may be able to help me."

"Perhaps," said Aegirine slowly, drawing out the word to a hiss. "It depends on whether it is something to engage his interest, for he is not generally for hire."

Wordlessly she reached into a sack she was carrying, drew out a lemon-sized stone and placed it in Aegirine's hand. Aegirine glanced at it and tried not to start himself. He closed his hand and said, "Wait here while I see my master."

Titus was a short, dark, slightly pudgy young man with an energetic manner. He looked up from his cluttered table of rocky oddities at Aegirine's discrete knock. Aegirine entered with a smile, anticipating his master's wide-eyed reaction as he held out the stone.

Here was a knot of crystals that glowed blue with a dull internal light, illuminating faintly the yellowed skin of Aegirine's hand. "Wherever did you get that!" burst Titus.

He took it from Aegirine and turned it around, examining it closely from all sides then holding it to the sunlight from the small window. Now the stone looked greener. He held it back in the shade and the pale blue glow returned. "A young lady, waiting outside brought it."

Titus hurried out and introduced himself. "You must tell me of this unique stone," he said.

The story was a simple but sad one. Her name was Orithia and she had recently lost her husband to fever. In his younger days he had traveled widely and had gotten this stone from a cold island somewhere far to the northwest. Now creditors were coming around and she needed money. She was hoped this strange stone was an emerald that glowed in the dark and could bring her wealth upon its sale.

She mistrusted her ability to value such an item, but had heard that Titus was honest and could help her. "Well, this is remarkable, but I think it not an emerald. See here, emeralds are six-sided in their rough state and these are decided square, cubes even."

He then took a small piece of iron and carefully rubbed it against an unobtrusive part of the stone. "Also emeralds are tough but the iron can scratch this. No, my lady, it can't be emerald. It does resemble some of the myrrhina I've seen from Persia, but the glow is remarkable. It lights without burning, like a fire fly."

Orithia looked crest fallen. "Then is it worthless?"

"Not so. I know people who would pay well for such a curiosity."

He had Aegirine bring wine and sweet cakes, then they settled down and negotiated a fair price. Aegirine looked disapproving but said nothing and fetched the coins. When Orithia left, Aegirine did speak up. "You aren't going to resell that are you? That's for you and you've overpaid. Again."

"Hush," said Titus. "I know a good deed when I see one. Besides, I've never seen anything like this, and must have it for my collection. Find a place for it, good Aegirine. I'll study it more in the evening."

Dourly Aegirine picked up the stone and thought a minute. He took it out into the sun and exposed it for a while. He then brought it inside, got up on a stool and used the stone to look into the containers on the tops of the musty shelves. "Hmm", he mused to himself, "Almost as good as a candle and drips no wax. Perhaps this will be of some use after all."

O.K. you 21st Century mineral people, what mineral did Orithia bring for Titus to see?

**Dr. Bill Cordua**, U. of Wisconsin - River Falls

*Answer: The mineral is fluorite, which can sometimes phosphoresce strongly enough in sun light to give the effect described in the story.*

## **Blood vessels recovered from T. rex bone** by Jeff Hecht, *NewScientist.com news service 03/05*

Paleontologists have extracted soft, flexible structures that appear to be blood vessels from the bone of a Tyrannosaurus rex that died 68 million years ago. They also have found small red microstructures that resemble red blood cells.

The discovery suggests biological information can be recovered from a wider range of fossil material than realized, which would greatly help the tracing of evolutionary relationships.

The preservation found by the researchers is extraordinary - far better than traditionally expected in dinosaur bone. But that may be because researchers have not been looking hard enough at their finds. Mary Schweitzer at North Carolina State University, US, has also extracted similar soft structures from a few other dinosaur bones.

The leg bone came from a skeleton called B-rex found in a remote canyon in South Dakota, in 2000 by a member of Jack Horner's research team at the Museum of the Rockies in Montana. The 107-centimetre-long femur - small for a T. rex - was intact when found, and its hollow interior had not been filled with minerals. That is unusual for a long-buried bone.

However, with a protective plaster jacket built around it, the bone was too heavy for a helicopter to retrieve it from the remote site and it had to be broken in half. When Horner's group split the bone, they carefully took samples for Schweitzer, then working at the Museum of the Rockies.

**Elasticity and resilience:** Bones are built by cells called osteocytes which are nourished by a rich fabric of blood vessels. The osteocytes secrete proteins which collect the calcium compounds that give bones their strength.

To see what remained of this internal structure, Schweitzer soaked samples of the core of the bone in a solution that dissolved the calcium compounds. This left what she describes as "a flexible vascular tissue that demonstrates great elasticity and resilience".

For comparison, she then examined ostrich bones, as these birds are the largest and closest living relatives of T. rex. She found similar structures when she removed the calcium from the ostrich bones and treated the mixture with enzymes to break down collagen fiber in the bony matrix.

**Protein sequencing:** Other researchers have previously recovered traces of protein from dinosaur bones, and indeed just two weeks ago Schweitzer reported traces of protein in 70 million year old dinosaur eggs.

"[The T. rex paper] suggests that biological and biochemical information might be recoverable from a wide range of fossil material," says Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum, in London, UK, who has detected proteins in Iguanodon bone. "There certainly seem to be blood vessels," she told New Scientist.

The next step will be to isolate proteins and try to sequence them. Comparing protein sequences could help trace relationships with other prehistoric beasts and with animals alive today. Schweitzer decline to discuss DNA because she does not work with it, but DNA is far less stable than proteins so is usually broken into fragments, even in tissue that has been frozen since the ice age.

Journal reference: Science (vol 307, p 1952)

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### **Rocks Have Something for Everyone:**

The Anteater has no teeth so it swallows ants whole. Imbedded in the thick muscular walls of its stomach are tiny pebbles it has collected, which serve to grind up the hard bodies of the insects.

Diamonds and gold nuggets have been found in the gizzards of chickens, used for the same purpose.

The alligator swallows rocks for a different reason: to provide ballast to keep him on an even keel in the water.

The sea otter uses rocks to crush shellfish on his chest while he floats serenely on his back.

*from Golden Spike News 10/03, T-Town Rockhound 12/03, Strata Gem 1/04 and The Gemrock 11/04 via Rockwood Rockhound News 3/05*

## **Tyrannosaurus rex fossil gives up precious protein** by Jeff Hecht, *NewScientist.com news service, 04/07*

*Tyrannosaurus rex* is no longer just dry bones. For the first time, we have a bit of its flesh.

Researchers recovered protein from inside a massive *T. rex* leg bone buried for 68 million years, and sequenced seven fragments that identify it as collagen, the most abundant protein in bone.

Protein sequences are a far cry from the *Jurassic Park* vision of a genetic blueprint for dinosaurs, because they do not contain all the information in the genome. But they do offer an important tool for studying extinct species. And because proteins are more durable than DNA, they can reach further back into the past.

Previous claims of fossil DNA finds have not been verified; the oldest DNA yet recovered comes from Neanderthals up to about 50,000 years old.

Until now, the oldest recognized protein was collagen from a mastodon that died within the past 600,000 years. The dinosaur protein is more than a hundred times older, but is far less complete than the mastodon protein, says John Asara of the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, US, who sequenced both.

**Chicken feat:** The sample comes from the same *T. rex* femur that hit the headlines two years ago when Mary Schweitzer at North Carolina State University, US, found it contained soft tissue she [interpreted as blood vessels](#). At the time, Schweitzer stopped short of claiming the bone contained protein. Now, she and Asara report two lines of evidence for protein.

In Schweitzer's lab, bone samples reacted to an antibody to chicken collagen. That is important because birds are the closest living relatives of *T. rex*.

Asara nailed the case when he purified Schweitzer's samples and ran them through an ion-trap mass spectrometer. Although the samples contained little protein, he was able to reconstruct the amino acid sequences of seven collagen fragments. Collagen evolves very slowly, and all the fragment sequences matched those of living species, including chickens, newts and frogs.

The protein discovery is exciting, but paleontologists will have to work harder to uncover fossils that preserve it better, says Jack Horner of Montana State University in the US, who was involved in the analysis. Most fossils have been found near the surface where degradation is more likely, he explains.

The protein was garnered from a bone buried nearly 20 meters down. "If we can get as deep as possible into sediment where there has been little contamination, I think we'll find many specimens like this," Horner said. Eager for the quest, this summer he will send more than 100 people to field sites to dig for protein-rich fossils.

## **SOME LAPIDARY CRAFTS-**

**Channel work** - The lines of the design are formed with vertical metal strip backed by horizontal sheet metal. The spaces between the strip are filled with polished rock or gem material. This gives color to the design.

**Casting** is the replacement of a item by forming a mold, removing the item from the mold material and filling the void left with molten metal and cooling.

**Enameling** is the fusion of ground glass on a metal surface.

**Engraving** is the formation of a pattern in a base material by removing metal from the base.

**Filigree** is the formation of patterns from wires twisted, coiled, or otherwise shaped and then soldered into a wire framework

**Wire-Wrapping** is coiled, twisted and bound wire formed into a pattern which also holds and frames gem materials.

**Intarsia and Mosaic** are formed by forming a pattern from individual pieces of stone, slab, or tile.

**Cameos** are raised figures that form the image of an item.

*from Rockwood Rockhound News 12/98*

# Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

**To clean fluorite**, do not wash in hot, nor even warm water. The luster will vanish and be gone forever. It can be placed into muriatic acid to remove calcite, then washed in cold water. *from The Ammonite, Quarry Quips via Rockwood Rockhound News 04/03*

**If your diamond charge lap** is dirty and slow in cutting, clean it with Twinkle, available at most supermarkets. It will not only be cleaner, but it will look and probably cut like new. *from The Ammonite, Quarry Quips via Rockwood Rockhound News 04/03*

**Agates** can be cut and polished on diamond, but we prefer to use Carborundum grinding wheels and polish with cerium oxide on hard felt. You can also use leather or poly-pads. Try a little red rouge when polishing. It seems to give a more glassy finish. One thing to remember is to get rid of all scratches from the grinding stage with a 600 grit sanding disc or belt before proceeding to the polishing step. *from The Rockytier 10/04, The Backhender's Gazette, 4/00; via SCFMS. 5-6/00; via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 11/01; via Golden Spike News, 11/01; via The Tumbler, 11/02 via Stoney Statements 07/05*

**Treat wood dop** sticks with a light coat of shellac. This prevents the wood from absorbing water, cracking the wax, and loosening the stone. *from the Burrow Express, 4/98; via Green Valley Rocker, 4/98; via Beacon 5/04 via Stoney Statements 07/05*

**Poisonous Malachite** - did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick you finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke, and the taste becomes very sweet, you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation. *from Amador Nugget 7/00 via Grant County Beacon 8/03 via Rockhound Record 12/03*

**A Little Lore:** "There are no stones in the sky", said LaVoisier, a famous French scientist who has been called "The Father of Modern Chemistry," "Therefore," he continued, "No stones can fall from the sky." To the farmers who saw them, he assured them that they had been mistaken; the fact that they saw them was an optical illusion; what they saw was lightning striking nearby. The fact that they were hot when picked up was due to the well-known heating effects of lightning, and the fact that they were ferruginous (iron) in nature, only proved the lightning theory, since "Everyone knew that lightning was attracted to metal." Thomas Jefferson, confronted by a clergyman with a similar tale said, a little later, "I would rather believe that a Yankee Preacher would lie, than believe that stones fall from the sky."

Now, the facts. While a rock zips along through space, it is called a Meteoroid. Falling through the atmosphere, burning up, a Meteor. If it should happen to explode before it reaches the ground, it's a Bolide, and if it actually reaches the ground, it's a Meteorite. *from the Mountain Gem via Rockwood Rockhound News 12/98*

**Meteorites are lovely** light shows as they streak across the Earth's atmosphere, a tiny streak of light to wish upon. Most disintegrate in the Earth's atmosphere. However, seeing one fall to the ground is an entirely different phenomenon. Fortunately, no one caught the fair-sized one coming down in Pennsylvania farm land. It came down at an angle; a red fireball with a long flaming red tail. About 10,000 feet it broke into two parts, quite spectacular! Exterior surfaces of meteorites become heat fused, but interiors do not become hot. There is no record of any starting fires upon impact.

Meteorites are classified by Composition into three categories:

Iron (Siderites): Stony Irons (Siderolites): Stone (Aerolites)

Principal mineral constituents of meteorites, other than carbonaceous chondrites, all occur as terrestrial minerals- Olivine, ortho- and Clino-pyroxene, feldspars, troilite, and two nickel-iron alloys, Kamacite and Taenite. There is a wide range of minor constituents, many of which are not known to occur naturally on earth. Ureyite is an emerald-green mineral found only in meteorites. *from Chatbox 06/97 via Rockwood Rockhound News 12/98*