

ROCKDUST NEWSLETTER

Sun City

April 2025



Good Bye to Snowbirds Potluck April 10th

Join fellow rockhounds for this festive event. Sign-up in the Museum to bring a dish to share. Please arrive at 5:00-5:30 as dinner will be served promptly at 5:30.

After the meal, Legacy Awards will be presented to Mike Blachut and Mary Brown-Martilik along with appreciation of others' contributions to the club.

Finally, Colin Morley, veteran club member will speak on Arizona Geology and Rocks "ARIZONA ROCKS!" is the title.

April 17th Field Trip - Payson

April 17th, Payson, for Zebra Jasper with possible side trip for Fossils. Meet at SE Corner Bell, 7:30am. Bring water, lunch, chair, collecting supplies and \$10 for gas to driver if carpooling.

Thank you,
Cheryl Etten

April Calendar

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 10:30am Board Meeting SD Breeze	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Member Meeting Potluck Fairway AZ Rms 5:00pm Speaker Colin Morley	11 Monitor Training 9-10am Museum	12
13	14	15	16	17 Field Trip SE Corner Bell 7:30am	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Lunch and Learn at Fairway, noon-1:00pm	25 Monitor Training 1-2pm Museum	26
27	28	29	30			

***Note - Museum Renovation on 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 and 4/24 from 8:30am-12:30pm**

May Calendar

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am Board Meeting Museum	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Member Meeting- Fairway AZ Rooms Social 6pm Speaker James Kufeldt "Cutting Diamonds"	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

SHOW AND TELL MORPHS TO “LUNCH AND LEARN

Almost from the clubs beginning (60+years), monthly informal events for Rockhounds to show off and/or help identify specimens. Historically, these events were called “show & tell”. With input from club members, the club leaders have decided to change the title and event’s emphasis. Education will be as it was in days of old. We will seek to have an expert (club member or not) share their knowledge with us. At the beginning of the session, we can still share rocks minerals with each other (and have help identifying them).

Questions and Comments: E-mail scrockmuseum@gmail.com

LAST MEMBER MEETING OF THE PROGRAM YEAR May 8th

On May 8th , we will gather at 6-6:30pm. Those of us still in Sun City will hear from a NEW SPEAKER from Diamond Jim’s on Bell Road in Sun City. James Kufeldt is accredited by the Geological Institute of America. He will share with us details of the store’s bi-annual trip to Antwerp, Belgium, the diamond capital of the world. Store owner, Diamond Jim himself, cuts diamonds there. James will share about processing raw diamonds into fine gems and jewelry. James will bring discount coupons to the meeting. Please plan to attend this fascinating presentation.

Last Rockdust of the Program Season

In this final season issue, the Board recognizes the following individuals and committees for their stellar service to the Sun City Rock Hound Club.

- Cheryl Etten & Dan Round, lead scouts and the entire Field Trip Team
- The Education Committee, headed up by Dave Balzer, who regularly went out to School STEAM events: Fred Wieck, Dave Peterson, Vicki Beers, Ed & Deb Carlone, Roz Shafer
- The Refreshment Committee: Karin Schardt, Beth Mead and Marty Martin
- The Membership Committee: Tom and Linda Schonewald, Pricilla Davis, Kathy Marjanen, David Alvord and Deb Carlone
- Carol Bankert-George, Museum Chair extraordinaire for her monumental work this year to improve the Museum
- Board Members: Lynn Applebaum, Cheryl Alvord, Connie Johnson, Maryse Mercier, Sherry Christensen. (Tom & Linda Schonewald on medical leave)

Rockhounds trip to ASU, April 19th



Lynn Wheeler's Fluorescents at Lunch and Learn

March 20th Field Trip - Cave Creek Wilderness (Jasper)



The first day of Spring provided a great Rockhound field trip adventure. Led by Cheryl Etten and Dan Round, an enthusiastic group of 25 Rockhounds caravanned out into the wilderness northeast of Carefree / Cave Creek. (Seven Springs / Humboldt Mountain-FAA Radar Station area). The journey covered paved road, gravel road, then 3 miles of slightly rugged, jaw-clenching, thank goodness we made it road. Red Jasper and other rocks were plentiful and were so close and accessible, they nearly jumped into the vehicles.

Everyone found good quantities and variety of rock. Special thanks to Terry Caviness for his valet parking service and assisting all drivers with getting their vehicles turned around for the journey home.

Museum Updates April 2025

Museum Refresher and New Monitor Training dates for March

- **Friday** April 11th, 9-10am
- **Friday** April 25th, 1-2pm

For existing members - it is only 1 hour long and will help refresh your memory of existing processes and learn about what is new.

For new members – learn the basics about volunteering in the museum.

Hope to see you at one of the sessions! Sign up at the monthly meeting, in the museum, email scrockmuseum@gmail.com or just show up!

New retail items

Reminder: New EGG CARTON activity for guests to fill with nicer quality mineral specimens. Please come check it out.

REMINDER - Member's discount changed to 10% January 1st, 2025.

To continue to bring both our members and guests the best price possible the board has decided to reduce the discount. Keep in mind that member discounts are for members only.

New Glass cover on desk in retail area

Look for essential information posted under the glass. Thank you to Maryse who suggested and will be updating information.

RENOVATION of Museum

The RCSC is planning several projects for the museum over the summer.

- (1) Painting the museum walls.
- (2) Reducing the light switches in the museum from 12 to 4.
- (3) Installing an electrical outlet in the fluorescent room.

This is a perfect time to rearrange, redecorate and reimagine the museum. Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to participate. We will be meeting on Thursdays in April from 8:30 to 12:30. Please stop by to help if you can help. We will be working on:

- Packing up specimens in cabinets that need to be moved for painting. Then return to the cabinets after the painting is completed.
- Consulting and help with facilitating new cabinets in the museum.
- Redecorating the walls and blank spaces with existing and new artwork.
- Helping to coordinate the grand reopening October 1st in conjunction with our 35th anniversary of the museum opening.

If you would like to help over the summer months, please sign up at the meeting or museum or email the museum at scrockmuseum@gmail.com.

Mineral Spotlight: Rhodochrosite (by Deb Carlone)

Rhodochrosite is a manganese carbonate mineral (MnCO_3) formed by the oxidation of manganese ore. In its pure form (rare), it is typically a rose-red color but can be shades of pink to pale brown. It streaks white, and its Mohs hardness varies between 3.5 and 4.5. **Rhodochrosite** also will show rhombohedral cleavage (perfect in 3 directions). It will react with dilute acid causing it to *slowly* effervesce.



Rhodochrosite can appear in different forms, sometimes as smooth, shiny crystals with sharp edges and other times as rounded, bumpy shapes that resemble clusters of bubbles. In some cases, it forms layered bands, creating a striped pattern when cut, while other pieces look more like rough chunks of pink rock.

Rhodochrosite occurs as a hydrothermal vein mineral along with other manganese minerals in low temperature ore deposits as in the silver mines of present day Romania where it was first described in 1813. The name is derived from the combination of Greek words ροδόν (rodon, meaning *rose*) and χρωσις (chrosis, meaning *coloring*). **Rhodochrosite** is mainly used as an ore of manganese. Quality banded specimens are often used for decorative stones and jewelry. Due to its softness and perfect cleavage it is rarely found faceted in jewelry.



Rhodochrosite has been found in Arizona, specifically in the Bisbee mining district at the Junction and Biggs mines. Also Trench and Josephine Mine group, Alum Gulch, Harshaw mining District, Patagonia Mts, and Santa Cruz County in AZ. It is also found in Colorado (Sweet Home Mine) and became their official state mineral in 2002. If you want to view an interesting story of **rhodochrosite mining** filmed at Detroit City Mine in Colorado on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DaASwpL62Kw>
Note: *The Detroit City mine was started in 2016 and is a new mine approximately 60 meters vertically above the former Sweet Home Mine adit (now permanently closed/sealed off). The goal is to mine specimen-quality rhodochrosite and associated minerals.*



2025 Rockhound Club Officers & Board Members

President Lynn Applebaum, lynn.applebaum@sympatico.ca

Vice President Cheryl Alvord, chetti2@aol.com

Secretary Sherry Christensen, treasure_85254@yahoo.com

Treasurer Maryse Mercier, marysemm@mac.com

Connie Johnson, connradical@gmail.com

Tom Schonewald, tomandlinda1@gmail.com

Club Contact Information

Museum Telephone 623-428-6442 Club Email scrockmuseum@gmail.com

Best way to reach club members: use the Rockhounds general email, scrockmuseum@gmail.com; your email will be routed to the appropriate person.

YouTube Channels

Mars Guy Channel– Our favorite ASU professor Steve Ruff (our February 2024 guest speaker) has over 142 videos now on Mars he has created and has 34 thousand followers.

Elley Knows Rocks Channel – Our one-time guest speaker Elley Ringo has over 500 videos on rocks, minerals, Arizona mines and her adventures in Greenland.

Sidetrack Adventures- Not rock hound related, but, the host of the channel, Steve, takes you weekly on the highways and byways of southern California and Arizona. Many could be potential day trips from Sun City.

Rock Hounding Channels

- AZ Rockhound Expeditions
- Currently Rock hounding
- Native Arizona Adventures (local group also on Facebook, sponsors monthly field trips)
- Rockhounding the West

New Business Cards



Rockhound Website (under development, check it out)

www.scrockmuseum.com



FACEBOOK & PINTEREST

As a reminder, our club has both Facebook & Pinterest Pages. Both can be found by searching Sun City Rock Hounds in these applications.

Facebook: includes pictures of rock and mineral specimens that are posted weekly along with occasional news stories on topics club members may find of interest. Meeting and field trip information will also be posted.

Pinterest: includes hundreds of pictures of rock and mineral specimens in and the Nazca Lines in Peru, home collections and even a few pictures of club activities.

