

# “CUTTING REMARKS”

The Official Publication of the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
520-323-9154

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Please join us on June 13th  
for the next monthly  
meeting. Optional social  
hour begins at 8:00 AM  
followed by the educational  
program at 9:00am followed  
by the meeting. Visitors are  
always welcome.



Articles or news to be included in the *Cutting Remarks* should be emailed to your Editor, Wayne Klement ([wayneklem@aol.com](mailto:wayneklem@aol.com)), or feel free to call him at 520-954-6298. Submission deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thanks!

## THE PREZ SEZ ..... by Bill Carmody



It is June and the grass has riz; show me where the good jasper is. I thought I would start off with a little poetry this month. (Not necessarily good poetry.) Summer seems to be getting under way a lot earlier this year. I don't think the esoteric and arcane criteria defining the onset of monsoon have been met for this year, but it sure feels like it.

On a trip recently with some friends, I went to an area outside of Show Low seeking adventure and riches. We found lots of jasper. Our riches were confined to several coins and some aluminum cans that Donna Pugh found by searching the McDonald's parking lot and going through 75% of the dumpsters in northeast Arizona – I think she might be on her way to becoming a bag lady - but, that's another story. We worked an area --- wait a minute. The word "worked" connotes labor and drudgery. I will start again. We happily searched the area for zebra jasper, ammonites, and horn coral. And we found some. (I think crinoids were supposed to be there too, but we didn't see any.) The banded jasper or zebra jasper has been there for a long time. I found old crocodile teeth marks on one piece where it barely escaped while crossing a river. (I made that up about the teeth marks and crossing a river.) However, I think most rock hounds must

think that the rocks they are seeking have the ability to move around. These hounds always want to get up at O'dark-thirty to start looking. Rocks aren't like fish. You don't have to go out to get rocks before they stop biting. They don't go under ground when the sun comes up. My sentiments are: get up at a reasonable time – say the crack of noon. The rocks will be there whenever you get to the area. (Look for some of the zebra jasper in June's raffle.)

Rim has resigned from his job as Club trip coordinator. I want to say a very sincere thanks to him. Rim did a great job at a time when it was a huge boon to the Club. His work subdued chaos and brought orderliness and uniformity to club trips where none existed previously. We are really going to miss Rim's contributions in this area. Fortunately, Wolfgang Mueller volunteered to take over the position for the next two years. Alright! Wolfgang wants to provide two presentations: 1. First, an orientation on rock hounding: equipment, techniques, safety, and such. 2. Then, mineral identification – so you know what to look for on the trips. (I will provide information about the zebra jasper to Wolfgang for a probable, future Club trip.)

After doing the Show Low area, I went up to the Holbrook area. (First, let me say my

objective for this year's foray was to get round pieces of petrified wood with the bark intact. Anything else would have to be darn unique or I was going to leave it behind.) We had heard about a fee dig/pick area on private land south of the National Park. It is owned by Gordon DoBell. He is super energetic and fun to be around. The lane approaching the farm house was bulldozed through a small hill. Four or five big petrified logs were exposed in the banks along side the road whetting our appetites and spiking our enthusiasm as we continued to the farm house. We were told that the area to search was south of the house and that we would find some excavated areas to plunder. Frankly there wasn't much there to be picked up or dug out. We were kind of bummed out. However, we were also told to go by the buildings north of the ranch house – there was some more petrified wood there. It didn't take me long to give up the south forty and head for the shop buildings. When I got there, I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Gordon had piles of the stuff there and even better wood inside one of the buildings. Some specimens were even polished. I met my objective and then some. We were told that the wood is 33 cents per pound. (A five gallon

**Cont'd on next page .....**

**Prez Sez Cont'd from prior page .....**

bucket of wood would be about \$28.) Actually, I am not sure what the price ended up being. Gordon seemed to be flexible and seemed willing to negotiate prices. (Maybe, his generosity related to how he felt that day.) The Dobell Ranch includes a free museum full of beautiful specimens along with some history of the area. This ranch is located on Old Hwy 180 east of Holbrook.

This month the jewelry contest features the cabochon. Enter your bauble and win a prize (If your entry is selected).

I would like to mention again that the Club is electronically disseminating the "Cutting Remarks" newsletter via E-mail. It is great to see the pictures in color. However, if you are really having problems with it, let us know. If those problems can't be solved, we will mail out a copy via first class mail. Again, my priorities in this change are, in order of importance:

1. Get the best presentation of the Newsletter to you.
2. Cut down on the work for the editor.
3. Save money. Let us know how this works out for you. Priorities 1 and 2 are the

most important.

The board of directors and I are anxious to hear your ideas on expanding the lapidary lab's capacity.

I have to pass on some "gallows" humor I received via email. The quote is from a list of answers to the question: How bad is the economy? "Even people who have nothing to do with the Obama administration are thinking about not paying their taxes."

And remember, always practice safe fee picking.

Bill

## GROWTH HABITS OF SINGLE CRYSTALS

**Barrel-Shaped:** Self descriptive term applied to such crystals as vanadinite and mimetite.

**Bladed:** This describes the appearance of crystals that are almost equal dimension in all directions and look like children' toy blocks. Some of the feldspars, galena and fluorite can be so described.

**Columnar:** These crystals are thick and fairly elongated, shaped in miniature like the columns of a building. Examples include beryl, quartz and tourmaline. Sometimes the word prismatic is used to describe the same crystals, because the dominant faces on columnar crystals are usually called prisms.

**Capillary:** From a Latin word meaning hair, capillary is often used interchangeable with filiform, also from Latin, meaning thread-shaped. The terms describe minerals such as silver, which is sometimes found as thin wires, or millerite, which is found in long, very thin, stiff wires.

**Pyramidal:** This expression is used when the ends, or even the entire crystal, looks vaguely like three-, four-, or six-sided pyramids. Examples include wulfenite and anatase.

**Stubby:** Such crystals are also sometimes described as stout or equant. All these terms try to draw an image of crystals that are neither flattened or elongates, but are nearly the same dimensions in all directions. Tourmaline, apatite and beryl can be columnar or prismatic, but they may also be of shorter lengths and stubby.

**Tabular:** This means that the crystal growth has been flat, with only minor thickness. Wulfenite is often tabular. Torbernte is almost always tabular.

*From Michigan Gem News date unknown via Gems of the Foothills, August '95 via VGMS RockhoundRambling May 2009*

**DONATION.....From Abe Lackow .....** Items included a tool box, silver saw, bolo tie items, Findings ( jump rings, earrings, tie tacks, bracelets, necklaces, and bell caps.

## MAY MEETING MINUTES ..... By Jenny Coniglio



Prior to the meeting there was a presentation by Robert Ezzo about the history of lost gold mines and treasures of southwest Arizona, and the founding of the Tumacacori Mission complex.

The meeting was opened by President Bill Carmody with a quorum present.

The April minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

**New members** were recognized: Ann Patterson, a geologist, has wasted no time in getting involved; she has a rock being sawed in our shop building while the meeting is being held! Kathy and Ron Cermak are interested in silversmithing. Ron is also a chain maille artist.

**Visitors:** Marcus introduced himself as a former member in the 1970's and has now returned. He makes fancy rock carvings.

Ron Davidson will show new members and guest around the shop building and explain the procedures for participation.

**Old Business:** The County Fair is over, and thanks to Murray Hiller and Diana Hara our booth efforts went flawlessly with the Fair organizers. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped man the booth!

The Newsletter is switching to electronic transmission, making it much easier for Editor Wayne Klement to distribute it. We are proud of the Newsletter and how the nice color is now able to be seen in the photos and advertisements. Wayne had a few e-mails bounced back but he

is receiving new e-mail addresses. 90 Newsletters were sent by postal service at first class rates. These cost more, but the savings in printing costs cancelled out this expense. The net savings made the change to partial email a necessity.

**New Business:** Robert Ezzo moved that the club investigate making claims on some sites that have snowflake obsidian and other rocks of interest. A claim can be filed for \$125 per 160 acres per 8 person usage. He further moved that the members petition the lawmakers to change the laws to allow more collecting on State lands. John Thompson suggested that our club research the suggestion for the Club to file a claim. He volunteered to head this committee. Ideas should be sent to Bill Carmody and he will forward suggestions to John's committee. Since there was no second on Robert Ezzo's motion, it was tabled.

**Shop floor painting:** Ron will head this project and Trevor (new member from a couple of months ago) will help with any equipment needed since he is a professional painter.

**Wish lists** are needed from the shop monitors and instructors soon so that the money for improvements can be spent from this year's budget.

It was noted that we need a light installed inside the middle display case in the meeting room. Also the church in the back of the room display case has a broken piece that needs repair.

Bill Carmody asked that

comments about enlarging the lapidary lab be sent to him or a Board Member. During the winter there is a lot of activity in that building, and sometimes classes and other areas are very crowded. Perhaps we might change how areas are used or expand certain areas.

**Announcements:** Bisbee will have a Gem Show over the Memorial Day Weekend. Reservations will be necessary at that time if people want to take the mine tour.

Murray brought grapefruits to share.

Rim Tallat-Klepsa has resigned as tour and mine trip organizer. Thank You Rim for your 5 years of doing this job so well! Wolfgang Mueller volunteered to assume this role. He mentioned that he would like to also offer short classes on identifying minerals, and a class for new people about to go on a trip. He welcomes member's suggestions on locations. In the future the trip sign-ups will be held during the meeting or afterward, but not before the meeting starts.

There will be a swap trunk show after the meeting for those who brought items to sell or swap.

The meeting was adjourned.

Abe Lackow won the jewelry contest with his broach/pendant.

The door prize of a huge faceted "diamond" was won by Don Phillips.

The raffle followed with many nice items to choose.

## **June Birthstone : Pearl**

Birthstone Color: White

From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. Ancient civilizations had many stories to explain the origin of June's birthstone, such as the Greek belief that pearls were the hardened tears of joy that the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. According to Arab legend, pearls were formed when oysters were lured from the depths of the ocean by the beautiful moon and then swallowed moonlit dewdrops. And the Ancient Chinese thought that these gems originated from the brains of dragons.

The scientific explanation for natural pearls is almost as mystifying as folklore. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl. Natural pearls are relatively rare, so a process evolved in which a piece of shell or bead was placed inside a mollusk to stimulate the production of nacre. This results in a cultured pearl, which accounts for about 90 per cent of the pearl industry.

Divers find natural pearls in The Persian Gulf as well as in the waters off Japan, the South Pacific Islands off northern Australia, and the coasts of Panama, Venezuela, and California. Most of the cultured pearl industry is in Japanese and Australian coastal waters. These gems come in a variety of colors, from pure white to pink, yellow, gray and black. They also come in different shapes and sizes.

Pearls have been a passion and even an obsession of people throughout the ages. They have been ground up and used in cosmetics and as a medicine to treat heart and stomach conditions. Some cultures swear by pearls as an aphrodisiac. These gems have adorned crowns, clothing, and temples, and were said to be a favorite of Cleopatra.

Only those with royal status once wore pearl jewelry, but eventually these gems were seen among all classes of people. They continue to be viewed as a mark of taste and refinement as well as a symbol of purity, and they are often given to celebrate a marriage or the birth of a child. Pearls are nature's perfect gift, suitable for all ages, and elegantly worn with everything from jeans to an evening gown.

### **Alternate Birthstones**

June has two alternate birthstones. The first is Moonstone, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.

The second alternate birthstone for June is the Alexandrite. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in Urals in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania. It is a rare and expensive gemstone, symbolic of joy and good fortune.

*Source: 2003-2008 About-Birthstones.com*

## HOW TO BECOME A FOSSIL

**Freezing:** Leaves the creature much as it was in life. Its arteries may still contain dried blood. The Ice Age mammoths of Siberia and Alaska froze.

**Drying or Desiccation:** Best known are the camels and sloths in our southwest caves.

**Wax and Asphalt:** Natural paraffin makes an excellent preservative. Many specimens have been found in Polish mines. The most famous asphalt fossils were found in the California La Brea Tar Pits (la brea mans *the tar*).

**Simple Burial:** English bogs are famous for their buried forests. Sand dollars are mollusks, some of which were preserved this way for up to 75 million years.

**Carbonization:** Incomplete decay of volatile substances leaves carbon behind, sometimes reducing organisms to paper thin layers of shiny black film that reveal much detail.

**Tracks, Trails and Burrows:** Dinosaur tracks are the most famous of these. In Nebraska, the Devil's Corkscrew once housed a beaver who dug an eight foot spiral hole.

**Castings and Coprolite:** Ancient worms swallowed sand to help digest small organisms, then regurgitated these castings. Coprolite is a polite word for petrified dung.

**Gastrulites:** Many ancient reptiles ground their food with these stones (as do modern fowl). The stones are rounded, smoothed, and even polished at times and are known as gizzard stones.

**Petrification:** Our common stony fossils got that way by mineralization, the replacement of structure by dissolved minerals, or by secondary

replacement, such as when limey fossils are dissolved and replaced by silica.

**Molds and Casts:** Natural molds in sediment remain after organisms decay. Sandstone beds reveal molds of shells and trees. The finest molds are Northern European amber, which have perfectly preserved insects.

**Imprints:** Sandstone, shale and tuff reveal external molds of very thin objects such as leaves. Best known are the Illinois Coal Age plant imprints.

*From Numerous bulletins, original authors/sources unknown via The Rock Bag 03/1998 via Rockhound Rambling May 2009*

### Meet the May presenter - - Bob Ezzo.....



Bob gave an interesting insight into the legends of lost gold mines and other points of equal interest.

Thanks, Bob.

# Rockhounds! Copper City Rock Shop

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Ad Expires  
December 2009



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Ad Expires June 2010

## JEWELERS HINTS

This is a great way to keep your sterling silver jewelry from tarnishing. Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur. So, place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer, or just around your jewelry.

Fire scale is caused when you heat silver or gold and the copper alloy mixes with oxygen in the surrounding air. One way to prevent fire scale is to coat the entire piece you are working on with flux. As the flux dries when you are soldering, it will create a glass that forms a barrier between the copper and the oxygen.

When making a bezel for a smaller stone, it is often very difficult. So try using a super glue to attach your stone to your metal block. This will hold your stone in place and it can be removed when you are ready for it by placing a solvent on the glue.

This method is not recommended for opals (especially doublets and triplets).

Source <http://www.rocks4u.com>

A reminder .... The lab that had been open on Wednesday afternoons monitored by John Poole has been closed and may reopen in the Fall. Any change in this will be published in the newsletter.

**SALE STILL GOING ON !!**

**ROCKS & ROCK SLABS FOR SALE**

**Ron Davidson - 9219 E. Kayenta**  
Agates, Petrified Wood, Picture Jasper,  
Thunder Eggs, Obsidian, Geodes, Slabs, and  
much, much, more. Call 749-3157 to  
arrange for an appointment to preview items  
desired.

Ad expires Feb 2010

**MYTHS EXPLAINED?**

If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence. The origin of myths is explained in this way.

*Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)*

**DONATIONS**

You may contact one of the following individuals if you are interested in making a donation (rocks, equipment, etc.) to the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club. Please call: Bill Carmody at 760-8598 or Dan Harmsen at 721-8452.

**Rate Schedule for Advertisements - - - Ad Sizes & Prices**

1/8 of a page -  
2" H by 3 1/2" W  
\$36.00 per year  
\$18.00 per half year  
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1/4 of a vertical page -  
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1/4 of horizontal page -  
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\$24.00 per half year  
\$4.00 per month

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Ad Expires November 2009

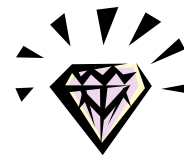


## MONEY SAVING DISCOUNTS

- **DAH Rock Shop** - 10% on most items. See ad on page 10 of this newsletter. 520-323-0781
- **Colorwright** - Amount of discount depends on item(s) being purchased. 520-623-3874
- **Jay's of Tucson** - 10% discount. 520-323-1123
- **Jed's Rock Shop** - 20% on all items. 520-882-6044
- **Copper City Rock Shop** - Bring in ad from page 9 of this newsletter and get 10% off on all purchases. 928-425-7885
- **Kent's Tools** - 10% 520-624-8098
- **Tucson Mineral & Gem World** - 10% 520-883-0682

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marcus Amshoff  
Cathy Cermak  
Ron Cermak  
Inge Koopman-Leyva  
Gerardo Leyva  
Corry Lindahl  
George Miller  
Ann Pattison



### ADVANCED FACETOR'S CORNER

The May question of the month: Color can be relied upon to 'tell stones apart' ..... True or False?

**The answer ..... ?**

Come to the June meeting to hear the answer.

The May question of the month: Nephrite is easily fractured..... True or false?

**The answer: FALSE**



### DON'T FORGET

Please don't forget to bring in **YOUR** aluminum cans to the Club for recycling. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated to help add \$'s to the Club's treasury.

**Thanks !**

### MONTHLY JEWELRY CONTESTS

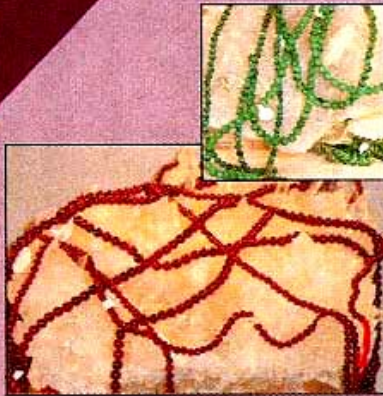
In order for members to better plan for future monthly contests, here is the schedule for each category by month:

January - Bolo Tie	May - Brooch	August - Faceted Stone	November - Bracelet
March - Belt Buckle	<b>June - Cabochon</b>	September - Chain	
April - Necklace	July - Charm	October - Pendent	

The winner of the May Jewelry contest was Abe Lackow. Congratulations Abe!

# DAH ROCK SHOP

- Crystals
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Meteorites
- Faceted Stones
- Cabochons
- Turquoise
- Tumbled Stones
- Bookends
- Eggs & Spheres



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**STERLING SILVER WIRES AND SHEET RECEIVE THE NEXT PRICE BREAK**

Ad Expires March 2010

**WEEKLY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE** Phone 323-9154

Mondays 1 - 4 PM

Faceting Guild - Fee charged. Experienced facetors only. Contact Paul Head 296-0331

Silversmith Lab - Fee charged.

Contact Lou Akerman 290-6968 **(Note:**

**Lou will be going North June 7 and will return September 8)**

Mondays 6 - 9 PM

Beginning Faceting - Class fee charged.

Contact Earl Zoeller 886-3518

Tuesdays 9 AM – Noon

Open Cabbng - Fee charged.

Contact Ron Davidson 749-3157

Silversmithing Lab - Fee charged.

Contact Ron Davidson 749-3157

Tuesdays Rock Sawing

8 - 10AM Dave Arens 749-2113

10AM - 1PM Jim Baker 886-2126

Wednesdays 1– 4 PM

**This lab is closed due to lack of participation. It may reopen in the Fall....stay tuned.**

Wednesdays 6 - 9PM

Beginning Casting - Class fee charged.

Contact Chuck Lundstrom 577-6446

Open Cabbng - Fee charged.

Contact Keith Haubert 888-8719

Thursdays

10AM - 1PM Rock Sawing - Fee Charged

Monitor - Jim Baker 886-2126

Please call to confirm Jim's availability

**6 - 9PM Open Cabbng & Silversmithing**

**Monitor - Ron Davidson 749-3157**

Fridays 9 AM - Noon

Open Cabochon Lab - Fee charged.

Contact Dan Harmsen 721-8452

**Note: This lab will be closed after May 29th for the summer. Next Open Lab will be on October 2.**

Saturdays 10am - 3pm

Silversmithing - Ron Davidson 749-3157

Cabbng - Ron Davidson 749-3157

Rock Sawing - Jim Griffin / Ron Davidson

**COMMITTEES**

ADVERTISING

Jean Barkley 546-1651

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT

Ron Davidson 749-3157

CLASSES & PROGRAMS

Bob O'Donnell 886-0384

CLUB HISTORIAN

Sylvia Czayo 297-8607

FIELD TRIPS

Rim Tallat-Kelpsa 760-8704

JUNIOR EDUCATION

Gretchen Arnaiz 747-1511

Sheila Powell 578-1976

KITCHEN

General Membership

LIBRARIAN

Susette Flemings 741-2275

MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Klement 954-6298

Donna Pugh 299-1535

SECURITY

Ron Davidson 749-3157

SILENT AUCTION

Dan Harmsen 721-8452

Old Pueblo Lapidary Club  
 (Cutting Remarks - June 2009)  
 3118 N. Dale  
 Tucson, AZ 85712  
 (520) 323-9154

OPLC Membership Application - Please Print

Name1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

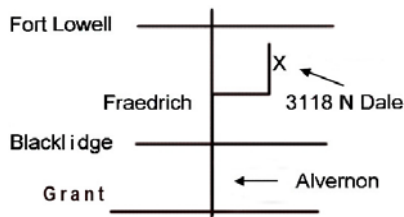
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Annual Renewals</u>
Single Member	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$9.00	<b>\$15.00</b>
Couple (same address)	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	<b>\$20.00</b>
Junior	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	<b>\$7.50</b>

Mail to: Membership Chairperson, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, 3118 N. Dale, Tucson, AZ 85712



The Business Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. A pre-meeting social hour (except for the December meeting) is at 8:00 a.m., followed by an educational program, and ends with the monthly meeting. Visitors are most welcome.