

The Strata Data

Bulletin of the Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne IN

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message
March Meeting Minutes
Field Trip Info
7 Pillars IN Field Trip Report
Calendar of Events
Ask Ima-Baklava
4-H Workshop
AFMS President's Message
Queen of Mineralogy-June Culp
Zeitner
Lapidary Arts
Book Review: Rock from Mars
Turquoise, or Turquoise?

From:

*The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
Fort Wayne Indiana*

The Strata Data

Michele Yamanaka, Editor

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M Yamanaka

APRIL PROGRAM

Apr. 26, 2006

Science Central

1950 N. Clinton

SAFE COLLECTING!



Deliver to:

The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society is an educational, recreational non-profit club in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is dedicated to the study of geology, mineralogy, lapidary and related earth sciences. Its purpose is to foster and promote fellowship, meetings, programs, exhibits or any other form of acquiring knowledge in these fields, and techniques or skills useful in the subjects here named. This organization sponsors monthly field trips and hosts an annual show. It has an ongoing monthly Junior program. It also maintains a club web site (http://3riversgem_mineral.tripod.com). The club newsletter, The Strata Data, is also available on the web site. The Society is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2006 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Byron Thomas (260) 580-2541
 Vice President: Ed McDonald 1-260-908-2324
 Secretary: Becky Kemp (260) 496-9147
 Treasurer: Anita Richert (260) 749-2061

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Hilda Wolfe (260) 447-0325
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Show Chairman:

Chet Perkins (260) 638-4914

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Donnelle Flood

Bob Langdon

Ellen Prill

Bill Journey

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mary Graft

Dr. Jack Sunderman

MEETINGS

Location: Science Central
 1950 N. Clinton
 Fort Wayne IN

Date: 4th Wednesday of each month except:
 July - no meeting
 Nov & Dec - 3rd Wed. (holiday schedule)

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE (Always check the Strata Data for a confirmed date.)

January 25	July - no meeting
February 22	August 23
March 22	September 27
April 26	October 25
May 24	November 15
June 28	December 20

DUES

\$20 - individual / \$25 - 2 people / \$30 -2+ people

Send to Membership Chair:

Hilda Wolfe

6214 S. Anthony Blvd.

Fort Wayne IN 46816

FIELD TRIPS

4TH Saturday of the month

Contact the Field Trip Chairman or the Ass't

Field Trip Chairman for information:

(260) 908-2324

(260) 580-2541

lancelotblue1@msn.com

PUBLISHING DEADLINE: First day of each month. Articles may be mailed to: Michele Yamanaka, 4336 Charter Lane, Fort Wayne IN 46815 OR emailed to: YamanakaM@cs.com (Microsoft Word 95/Version 6.0 documents).

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CLUB WEBSITE: http://3riversgem_mineral.tripod.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's April and Mother nature has played a big joke on us. She let it get warm and our thoughts went to collecting. Then she turned around and made it get cold quickly, turning our thoughts of collecting away from collecting to keeping warm. But it is the time of the year to get our thoughts back into collecting and we need to remind ourselves of the safety aspects of safe collecting. Always be safe and practice safety when collecting with the group or by yourself.

We have many trips planned for collecting this year: Pendleton IMI, and Lafarge (at some future point) just to name a few. If you have any ideas about where to collect, just let Ed McDonald or myself know and we will work on getting them into the schedule.

On another note - I believe it is a better idea to continue to have the meeting in the lunch/cafeteria at Science Central. It make for easier seating and an easier flow of people. I would like to thank everybody who showed up and helped with bagging minerals for our grab bags. Also I would like to thank any and everybody that sewed the grab bags. We have a long way to go to bagand then fill the grab bags. Ed, Hilda and I came up with an idea to do 25 or so bags for which we would charge \$5 -\$10 each. These bags would hold better specimens and as such would be more expensive. If you have some nice thumbnails or smaller better minerals or fossils, we are accepting donations for the more expensive bags.

Please keep in mind our proposed idea for a flea market during this summer's Three Rivers Festival. I am still interested in holding this. I would like to know how many, and who, is interested in this so we can work out the finishing touches. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Door prizes: We are now giving 2 door prizes away - 1 Jr's prize and 1 Adult's prize. I am taking care of the Jr's prize. Our club is in need of door prizes for the adults. If you would like to donate, please let me or anybody on the board know about it.

There was a bit of a miscommunication recently and I apologize for it. Patrick wanted to know if we could start having a silent auction at every club meeting. I think it is a good idea. Most people I have talked to also seem receptive towards it. The proceeds of these auctions would go totally towards the club's scholarship fund.

Get your boots, hats and gloves ready - it's time to start collecting!

-Byron

Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2005

IPFW Science Bldg, Rm 209

Present: Byron, Michele, Chet, Ed, Walt, Sharon, Mel, Anita, Hilda, and Becky.

Byron called the meeting to order at 7:25pm.

Anita gave the Treasurer's report and recommended trimming an already lean budget or doing something to increase the club's income. Possible solutions would include increasing membership, having more dealers at the annual club show. Special note was made that Form 990 (IRS CP 140) was filed this year and only needs to be filed once every three years.

The Education Committee (Walt & Sharon): A 4-H Geology Workshop is scheduled for Monday, May 22 from 7-8:30pm. Club members interested in assisting youth with identifying specimens should contact Tricia Spangler (ph. 471-7581.)

The Membership and the Strata Data committees: nothing new to report.

Show committee: Chet reported the availability of 2 dealer spots at the October

club show. The Allen County Fairgrounds contract for 2007 was reviewed; Chet will confirm the change in costs with the Fairgrounds Board.

Programming: March will include bagging/tagging items for grab bags; April's program will be a safety presentation by Ed McDonald; Mr. Ed Eddington's micromount presentation is rescheduled for May; and June's programming will include a presentation of findings from Pipe Creek --- a precursor to the field trip July 1.

Field trips (Ed): 3/25 – Seven Pillars, 4/1 - LaFarge Quarry, 4/15 – Cleveland Township/S/ Whitley Co. library, 4/29 – Anderson Quarry. See Strata Data for details. Still to be decided is the date and location of the annual club field trip.

Other club business: Patrick Hessey requested to hold another small silent auction. Board decided to delay auction until April's club meeting due to a very full March meeting agenda. The Board also approved a motion to allow \$200 to be paid to Hilda Wolfe, our club delegate to the MWF, to help cover some of her expenses to the convention. Per club by-laws, the club must also approve the expenditure.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

-B. Kemp, Secretary

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2006

Byron opened the club meeting at a few minutes past 7:00pm. Thirty-three adults and juniors were in attendance. Bags, labels, and materials were available for members to work on filling for this year's show. Club needs to decide next month whether or not to accept the contract with the Fairgrounds for the 2007 show. Other options for show locations are still open.

Motions to accept last month's treasurer's and secretary's reports were passed. Motion to allow \$200 to be given to Hilda Wolfe for expenses as delegate to this year's MWF convention also passed. The

position of club librarian was passed to Jeff Hoffman.

Ed Mc Donald presented the schedule for field trips and club programming for next several months. Check Strata Data for details. Sign-up sheets were passed around for the April 1st trip to LaFarge Quarry (with the Holland, MI club) [LATER CANCELLED], as well as the South Whitley library (Cleveland Township), and the Seven Pillars lecture/hike. Business-end of meeting was quickly adjourned to allow members to bag/tag specimens. The Kemp family brought refreshments and Adrianna Yamanaka won the drawing for the Junior Door Prize.

-Respectfully submitted, B. Kemp, secretary



SUNSHINE REPORT



- Birthday greetings go out to Berniece Wilkins, Mary Graft, Beth Kuhn, Carolyn Williams, Bill Dunn, Joe Hoffmann and Marlene Leitzman. Happy Birthday to all of our April Birthdays!
- I would like to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to Bob Zigler and also our best wishes for Marie who has definitely been under the weather since their return from Arizona.
- Bob Graf is still trying to recover from complications. Our most sincere well wishes go out to him and his wife.
- And now on to something else: I would like to thank Ellen Prill for being our "Grab bag sewer for so many years. I am sure I speak for everyone in the club when I say: **Thank you, thank you, thank you.**

While I am at it, I would like to thank every person in the club who has donated time and materials for sewing, or rocks and fossils to make the grab bags and all the people who have stuffed said bags. In short everyone who has worked so hard to make and keep our club a viable entity. **THANK YOU EVERY ONE!!!!!!!!!!**

- Hilda

REVIEW OF MARCH 22 PROGRAM

Since this was a work night, there was no official program. But club members sat at tables and networked with each other as all bagged and tagged fossil and mineral specimens to be used in the grab bags to be sold at the Club Table at the 2006 show. It was a relaxed evening and a nice time to catch up on each other's lives and rock hunts. *-M Yamanaoka*



Bagging and tagging 1

Join us at the **April 26** Meeting at
Science Central, 7-9 pm
1950 N Clinton

PROGRAM: Safe Collecting!!!

FIELD TRIPS

Schedule of Field Trips

- **April 15 - South Whitley County Library** (201 East Front St., South Whitley) to see the Agate collection of deceased member Ted Schultz on permanent display and hear a talk by Jim Hayes (one of Ted's lapidary students) on Ted's life and making cabochons. The "East Wing" addition of the library was financed by generous donations of Ted and Mildred Schultz.

- **April 29 - Anderson IN Quarry** (Pendleton exit 22 off I-69) for calcite and other minerals. More details and sign up sheet at the April club meeting.
- **July 1 - Pipe Creek Quarry**

----FIELD TRIP REPORT---

March 25, 2006: 7 PILLARS Landmark
Miami County, Peru IN

Ed McDonald, Walt and Sharon Wattenbarger were participants for this trip.

Along the Mississinewa River, near Peru, we observed the "Carvings" of the 25 ft. high limestone cliffs. Over a time of hundreds of years, these cliffs were "stream-carved" by the Mississinewa - an amazing thing to be sure.

Presented by Tony Fleming-

Members of "Acres" and some of the Miami Indians gave an historical talk of the area. These "acres" hold spiritual significance to the Miami Indians, who historically gather to hold councils and Pow-wows.

A good time was had in spite of some "snowy" winds. But the sun did peek out to make the PILLARS "show-off" even more.

Ed McDonald took the "ladder trip" down along the river to observe more intimately the alcove-like rooms, pillars and coinices.

The centuries of erosion into the Liston Creek Limestone truly has made it a geographical wonder.

-by Sharon Wattenbarger

HINT: POLISHING JADE

When using chrome oxide for polishing jade, mix it with a solution of ½ water and ½ vinegar.

-from T Town Rockhound, 11/05 via The Rockpile, 2/06.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22-23, 2006 - Troy OH. Bruckner Gem & Mineral Club. Miami County Fairgrounds, Activities Building, CR 25A. Sat: 10-6, Sun: 10-5. Adults \$1, children free. Demonstrations, displays, dealers, specimens, gems, jewelry, rough stone, silent auction, raffle, kid's games. For info, call Tom Dilworth, 937-323-6482.

May 5-6, 2006-Kalamazoo, MI. "The Art of Lapidary". Kalamazoo Geological & Minerological Society. Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St. Fri: 4-8; Sat:10-6; Sun: 10-5. Contact: Kitty Starbuck (269) 649-1991.

May 6-7, 2006 - Cincinnati, OH. "Geofair 2006. Cincinnati Mineral Society & Cincinnati Dry Dredgers. Cincinnati Convention Center, 525 Elm St. downtown. Gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry. Contact: Dan Cooper - dancooper@cinci.rr.com.

May 13-14, 2006 - Berea (Cleveland) OH. 38th annual show. "Beautiful World of Rocks and Gems." Parma Lapidary Club. Cayahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Road. Sat: 10-7; Sun: 11-5. Adults \$5, children 12 and under free. Contact John Zaborowski (440) 949-8242.

May 19-21, 2006 - Southgate MI. Federation show. Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society. Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Pkwy, Fri: 4-8; Sat: 10-6:30; Sun:11-5. Contact: Mike Bomba (313) 381-8455.

June 23-25, 2006 - Monroe County Fairgrounds. Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show and Swap, Lawrence County Rock Club.

September 8-10, 2006 - Greenfield IN. Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Sept. 16-17, 2006 - Clarksville IN. Falls Fossil Festival at the Falls of the Ohio State Park.

October 20-22 - Fort Wayne, IN

45th Three Rivers Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Lapidary and Jewelry Show, Allen County Fairgrounds. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. Adults \$3, 55+ \$2, students \$1, under 12 free with paying adult. [Club members free!]



ASK IMA

By M Yamanaka

DEAR IMA: You are always so serious...Here is a question (or joke?) on the lighter side. If Baklava were a silicate, what kind would it be? - JOKER

DEAR JOKER: That's easy! Phyllosilicate, of course - named because of the sheet formation of the molecules. "Phyllo" is a Greek word meaning "sheet" or "leaf". Baklava is made from sheets of pastry called "phyllo". Mica is a mineral in this group. Another name for "phyllosilicate" is "disilicate."

-reference from Minerology, by Sinkankas. Page 34

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

May 2-4: Manchester College "Indiana Heritage Event" at Kekionga Park near Pierceton IN. Our club has been asked to help again with a fossil station at this educational event. The hours are 9 am - 2 pm each day. More details at the club meeting. Please contact Ed McDonald if you can volunteer some time.

May 22, 2006 - 4-H Geology Workshop - County Extension Office at IPFW. 7-8:30 p.m. At this meeting, 4-H youth will learn how to put their geology exhibits together, and will receive help on identifying specimens they have collected. Any club member who is willing to volunteer to help identify items please phone Trish Spangler at 260-471-7581.

FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION

Jim's Thoughts

by Jim Robinson, AFMS President

Finally it's spring time for most of us. Time to get out the digging tools and get ready for some field time. It has been a pretty rough winter for many, but for us here in north Florida we have had our usual winter upper 60's to middle 70's all week and near freezing on week-ends.

In my last message I expressed concern that Newsletter information may not be getting to the general membership. Judging from the Bulletins I received this past month, this is not the case at all. More than 50% ran one or more committee reports and many ran all of them including my message. This is encouraging indeed as the club bulletins are our only means of keeping up with what's happening throughout the Federations. We would encourage anyone with a concern or suggestion on the day-to-day operation of the AFMS to contact one of the officers or myself.

The AFMS Annual Meeting is less than 6 months away, not too far in the future to be making plans to attend and some of our committee people will be looking for help. If you are asked, be generous. Remember, it's your Federation.

Jay Bourne is well underway with the AFMS Endowment Fund Drive and is in need of items for the raffle. Many of our programs are funded from proceeds from the Endowment Fund and would not be available without it. As an example, just look at the Slide and Video programs your own Federation receives each year. Many of you use these contributions for programs each month at your meetings.

During the past three years, The AFMS Judges Seminar has made many members of the Regional Federations aware of the magnificent Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC and the mineral, lapidary

and jewelry classes offered each year by the Eastern and Southeastern Federations. I had the pleasure of attending the judging seminar in 2005, also have had the joy of teaching faceting there and at William Holland in Young Harris, GA. This year both Federations are offering these classes to members of other federations on a space available basis. If you have an opportunity to get one of these classes, please don't pass it up. It's an experience you will remember for a lifetime.

Until next month, JIM

Via A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Vol. 59, Number 5, April '06

FOCUS ON THE SHOW

- Thanks to all the club members who pitched in at last month's meeting and filled almost a thousand plastic bags with tags and specimens for our grab bag project. Your efforts will go a long way in making our grab bag project a success again this year.
- A special thanks to Bill Agee and Family for breaking up and bagging hundreds of pyrite, calcite & gypsum specimens at home during late Feb. - early Mar.

-Chet

[Page 10 answers: rust, basalt, lava, particles, iron, spacesuit]

FROM THE MIDWEST FEDERATION

One of the Midwest Federation's Own Honored

by Judith Washburn, Geology Chair

On February 11, 2006, just days after celebrating her 90th birthday, the "Queen of Minerology," June Culp Zeitner, was awarded the Carnegie Museum of Natural History 2005 Carnegie Mineralogical Award. Dr. Bill DeWalt, Director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, presented the award at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show's Annual Awards Banquet in Tucson. To the thundering applause of a

standing ovation, June accepted the award and a bouquet of flowers....

Known for her writings on the lapidary arts, June Zeitner has published nine books (and at age 90 she is finishing her 10th book) and nearly 1,000 magazine articles. She has been a featured speaker at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in the past, was Special Assistant Editor of *Lapidary Journal*, and is a columnist for *Rock and Gem*.

When I became actively interested in the hobby in the early 70's, June Zeitner was already a rising legend in the rock and mineral world. She had served as President of the Midwest Federation in 1968-69, and her book, *Midwest Gem Trails*, was in its third edition....The largest emerald found and cut in the United States was named after her...

What an inspiration June Culp Zeitner has been, and continues to be..[Editor: And she is one of us -a MWF person!]

-Excerpts From the MWF Newsletter, Issue 451, April '06

LAPIDARY ARTS

A "lapidary" is a craftsman who cuts, polishes and engraves stones. The word comes from the Latin *lapis*, meaning "stone". The Art of Lapidary is one of the oldest known to man. It can be traced in history to 5000 BC. When precious stones were cut and polished for the Pharaohs of Egypt, according to the Bible, it was quite common to use precious stones as personal ornaments and gems were mounted in the garments of the priests. We read of Solomon's equipping a fleet which returned from Ophir laden with precious stones.

Caesar's wife's earrings were reportedly valued at \$778,000!

The Israelites and the Egyptians used emery powder for polishing as early as the 4th Millenium BC.

For many years, lapidaries were employed only by the nobility and high ranking clergy. During this time, the art of lapidary became a very secretive trade.

A sapphire point was used in cutting until about 3000 BC when the bow was introduced in Assyrian and Babylonian work. Modern gem cutters use a lathe with a point or disk of soft iron, coated with diamond dust and oil.

-From Chip and Lick (date unknown) via Tulip City Conglomerate, 3/06.

BOOK REVIEW

"THE ROCK FROM MARS: A DETECTIVE STORY OF TWO PLANETS"

By Kathy Sawyer, 2006, Random House Publishing Group, Random House Inc. NY.

This mystery opens with the discovery at the "crime scene" of an unusual "rock" by 'Robbie' Score on Dec. 27, 1984. The evidence, i.e., "rock" was 4.5 million years old, had been moved millions of miles 18 million years ago to the location in Allen Hills of the Darwin Mountains in Antarctica. The "rock," a meteorite designated ALH84001, joined "Shergotty," "Nakhla", and others now totaling a dozen known meteorites with origins from the planet Mars.

The evidence laid dormant until rediscovered by David McKay working for NASA at Johnston Space Center. David McKay was an expert in moon dust returned by astronauts during the series of Apollo missions. The "rock" meteorite was designated ALH84001 - Allen Hills (location), 84 year (collected), 001 (first to be examined in building 31 at JSC. ALH84001's isotope composition was matched to Mars by evidence from previous fly-by missions to the red planet.

As in many scientific inquiries, each answer poses more questions, alters the hypothesis, and leads to new areas of

inquiry. The twists and turns of the investigation were revealed on "terrible Tuesday", Aug. 6, 1996. "Mickey, Minnie and Goofy" (chips from ALH84001) were studied to reveal their "evidence" with more new evidence emerging. The results were published articles in Nature, Science and numerous other periodicals, news conferences, and press releases, all of this leading to new exploration. Bingo! New discoveries: Kathy Thomas-Keptra's study of magnetic crystals from ALH84001.

If "terrible Tuesday" was stressful to McKay, Tuesday, April 9, 2002 has to be nearly equal. The place? - Hanger 12, Moffit Field, that houses the Ames Research Center (NASA's nerve center). The discussion? - "Life"...what is it and how to define it. Heavy hitters with reputations and credentials had a very serious and heated discussion. This scientific conference with red team - pro martian life vs. Blue team - anti martian life - would send researchers "down the rabbit hole" for further study of the electron microscope images, and development of new technologies to answer new questions.

"The Rock from Mars..." is a well written true adventure in the investigation of the mysteries of ALH84001. Recommended reading for rockhounds who are interested in out of this world minerals and fossils, and those interested in the personalities and personal side of the investigation of ALH84001 and the other nearly dozen Martian meteorites.

-Ye Ole' Fossil, Ed McDonald

TURQUOISE, OR TURQUOISE?

I have found several references that indicate the biggest difference between turquoise from Iran and that from the USA, is trace impurities from the host rock. In Iran the impurities tend to be copper based, and in the USA, they are iron based. Iranian (or Persian) turquoise tends toward blue, and US turquoise tends toward green.

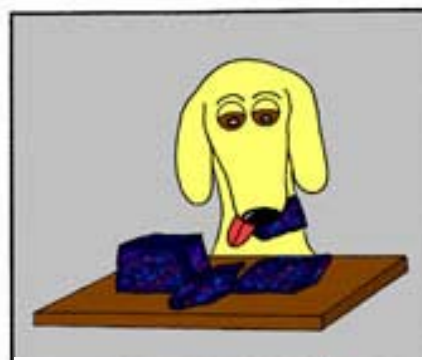
The hydro-thermal replacement process, which forms turquoise as a secondary mineral, tends to make a porous stone, and crypto-crystals. Hardness varies between 5.5 and 6.5, with the softer end tending to be more porous. The harder stuff takes a better polish.

Eliminating the pores, and making turquoise harder, is what the treating is all about. Waxes, oils, and plastics, are all common forms of treatment. Unless your turquoise is on the softer end, and slightly chalky, you can reasonably assume, more likely than not, that it has had some treatment.

By the way, imitation turquoise has been around for centuries. Ancient Egyptians used a glazed quartz paste. There are a number of minerals that can be confused with turquoise, or treated to look like it. Many imitations can be made.

I think the only way to be sure it hasn't been treated, is to dig it yourself (Or send it to a laboratory for rather expensive testing)!

-from a posting by Indian Mounds club member, Kreigh Tomaszewski, on **Rockhounds@drizzle** 10/24/05 via Arrowhead News 11/05. (Drizzle postings allow reprints)



A mineral collector's best friend
a Labradorite Retriever

-D. Powell

KIDS KORNER

Review of JUNIOR Meeting for March

The Juniors learned about 3 more clues to mineral identification. We had 3 stations and the juniors were divided into 3 groups. Each group rotated between the 3 stations so that everyone could learn about:

- cleavage and fracture (Patrick)
- streak (Michele)
- color (Sharon Wattenbarger)



Sharon teaching about mineral color 1

With our junior group usually between 18-20 now, I greatly appreciate the help of Patrick Hessey and Sharon Wattenbarger in the presentations.

The juniors took home worksheets on each of the clues, as well as specimens of feldspar and a streak plate for their mineral hardness/ID kits. Nice APATITE crystals have been purchased for the mineral hardness/ID kits, but each junior has to earn his/her crystal by writing a report on his/her choice of the official state rock, mineral or fossil of one of the 50 states. The report is due by the April 26 meeting.

-M. Yamanaka

[Answers for quiz on page 7]



Tim Stein checking mineral streak 1

“BASALT on MARS “ for Juniors

As on earth, basalt is the predominant rock on Mars. When basalt is “fresh lava”, it is gray colored. As it is exposed to moisture, the iron minerals in it rust. As the rock ages, the iron particles flake off, creating the famous red and orange dust that gives Mars its color (Science Cards 2004, Plare, Inc.).

If you went to Mars, you would have to wear a spacesuit to protect yourself against cold temperatures and to provide air to breathe. Mars air is different than our air. Some days the sky would look pink due to dust storms.

-excerpts from article written by Linda Winkelmann, Junior Club Chair, Tulip City Conglomerate, 10/05.

Unscramble the following to find words used in the “Basalt on Mars” article:

u tsr _____

labast _____

avla _____

trapclise _____

nori _____

tapusices _____

-Scrambled words by M Yamanaka