



Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club

# The LITHNICS

Volume 62 Issue 4

October 2024

# THE LITHNICS



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE MID-OHIO MINERAL AND FOSSIL CLUB  
MANSFIELD, OHIO



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SPECIAL INTERESTS .....	Joyce Kish, Susan Mathews, Bryan Summer
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# OUR CLUB

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club, is to create an interest in and study of the earth sciences and all lapidary arts and to afford an opportunity to share knowledge and working techniques with others.

## MEETINGS:

**General club meetings** are at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month at:

**Gorman Nature Center, 2295 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio.**

If the first Monday falls on a holiday we meet one week later.

Visitors are always welcome.

**Special Interest Group (Classes) meetings** are held September through May at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month. See Special Interest Chair, Mike McCullough.

## CANCELATION OF A MEETING

If for any reason the club officers feel that a meeting should be canceled you will be notified by email as soon as possible. If Mansfield schools are closed so are we. If for any reason you don't feel safe to drive to a meeting, please, please stay home.

## Annual dues are:



<b>Adults</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Children under 16</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>

Dues are due Jan. 1st of every year. Whether you join in January, December, or any month in between, the cost is the same. Everyone's dues are due again the next January 1st .

**LITHNICS:** Our quarterly newsletter.

Permission is hereby granted to use any original **LITHNICS** articles, whole or in part, as long as proper recognition is noted with the reprint.

Club members are encouraged to make contributions to the LITHNICS.

Contact: Bryan Summer (bryansummer1@gmail.com)

# The Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club



*Lawrence Hull*

Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club President



**Upcoming Meetings** – all meetings are at the Gorman Nature Center at 7:00 pm  
**Continue to watch for information about future meetings in your email.**

- Monday, October 7                      7:00 Meeting Gorman Nature Center
- Monday, November 4                    7:00 Meeting Gorman Nature Center
- Monday, December 2                    Annual Christmas Dinner 5:00 Golden Corral
- Monday, January 6                        7:00 Meeting Gorman Nature Center
- Monday, February 3                      7:00 Meeting Gorman Nature Center
- Monday, March 3                         7:00 Meeting Gorman Nature Center

# The 18 Best Spots For Gem Hunting In Ohio In 2024

By Keith Jackson - Geologist  
August 20, 2024



Ohio is home to some of the best gem mining spots in the nation, offering gem hunters the chance to search for various gems and minerals. From the Hocking Hills to the Ohio River Valley, loads of hidden gems are waiting to be discovered. Our state's diverse and unique geological formations provide access to the most enjoyable spots to dig for precious gemstones.

We've put together our favorite places for gem hunting in the Buckeye State. Whether you're a beginner looking to try your luck or an experienced miner wanting to find rarer gems, our state has something for everyone to enjoy! Read on to learn more and visit the top destinations we've located.

Our state's parks, quarries, mines, creeks, and rivers are the best places to look for gemstones. Detailed descriptions of our major favorite attractions, including Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve, Nether's Farm, Caesar's Creek State Park, Hocking Hills Gem Mine and Gold Rush, and Sandy Creek Mining Co., are provided below.

## The Gemstones Found In Ohio You Can Mine



The gem hunters who can come to our state are fortunate because it is home to various gemstones. No matter what state you plan to go gem hunting in, there are various circumstances and levels of accessibility for gem hunting resources. So with this knowledge, we've created different guides to help you find gems near you. With the appropriate information and a little luck, you'll discover how rewarding searching for gemstones in this state can be.

### **Rare gemstones found in Ohio**

- Calcite
- Celestite
- Fluorite
- Sphalerite

### **More common gemstones found here**

- |              |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| • Agate      | Dolomite  | Ruby      |
| • Amethyst   | Gypsum    | Sapphire  |
| • Barite     | Hematite  | Witherite |
| • Carnelian  | Marcasite |           |
| • Chalcedony | Pyrite    |           |
| • Diamond    | Quartz    |           |

### **Our Favorite Places For Gem Mining in Ohio**

We've selected some of our all-time favorite places to dig for gems. These are excellent options that are available for adults with more experience and young children who are just getting started.

#### **Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve**



15300 Flint Ridge Road, Glenford, OH, USA

Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve is a unique geological and archaeological site in eastern Licking County. The site includes more than 400 acres of wooded hillsides, ravines, and streams that contain evidence of ancient quarrying activities by the Hopewell Indians. The flint from these quarries was used to make tools and weapons by Native Americans from 200 BC to 500 AD.

Today, you can explore the nature preserve, which contains numerous trails for gem hunting and wildlife. Gem hunters can also view the remains of ancient quarries as well as interpretive signs which explain the history and significance of Flint Ridge.

### **Gemstones Found At Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve**

This area is among the first spots that come to mind for those looking for gemstones. The following gems are known to be abundant here:

- Agate
- Amethyst
- Carnelian
- Chalcedony
- Flint
- Jasper
- Smoky Quartz
- Quartz

### **The Best Time To Visit Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries And Nature Preserve**

The preserve's trails are open year-round so that you can explore the area even during winter. However, checking in with the preserve is best to ensure that any trails or other areas of interest are open before planning a visit.

### **Nethers Farm**



3680 Flint Ridge Rd, Hopewell, OH 43746, United States

Nethers Farm is located in the heart of our state and offers a special mining experience for all ages. Gem hunters can pan for gems using the sluice, search for gems in the creek bed, or explore the farm's many trails and gardens.

The farm also has a rock shop that sells jewelry made from the gems found on-site. Nethers Farm is a great place to learn about geology and have fun simultaneously!

### **The Types Of Gemstones Found At Nethers Farm**

It is known that this spot is rich in the following gems:

- Chalcedony
- Flint
- Quartz

### **The Best Time To Visit Nethers Farm**

The best time to visit Nethers Farm is during the summer months, from June to August. During this time, the farm is open to gem miners and offers a variety of activities.

### **Caesar's Creek State Park**



8570 OH-73, Waynesville, OH 45068, United States

Caesar's Creek State Park is home to some of the best gem hunting opportunities in the state. Gem hunters can sift through dirt and gravel to uncover semi-precious stones. You can purchase a bag of gem mix from the park office or bring your own from home. Once you have your bag of gems, you can search for stones using screens or sluices provided by the park staff. The gemstones found here can then be taken home or sold at the park store.

### **The Types Of Gemstones Found At Caesar's Creek State Park**

These gems are common in this location:

- Calcite
- Pyrite

### **The Best Time To Visit Caesar's Creek State Park**

The park typically opens in mid-May and closes in late October, so the best time to visit is from May to October. It offers a variety of activities, including digging for gems, fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, and more. Gem hunting is popular at the park during the summer when the weather is warm and sunny.

### **Hocking Hills Gem Mine And Gold Rush – Great for kids**



29255 Pattor Rd, Logan, OH 43138, United States

Hocking Hills Gem Mine and Gold Rush is an outdoor adventure in Logan. It is a remarkable experience that combines the fun of panning for gems, minerals, and fossils with the excitement of a real gold rush. You can search for valuable gems, minerals, and fossils in the mine's sluice boxes or take part in a simulated gold rush using authentic tools and supplies.

While exploring, the mine gave us a chance to learn about geology, mineralogy, and prospecting. We had fun gem hunting while learning about the science behind gemstones and gold mining.

### **The Types Of Gemstones Found At Hocking Hills Gem Mine And Gold Rush**

This spot is excellent for introducing kids to several types of gemstones, but it is particularly well-known for the following:

- Amethyst
- Calcite
- Fluorite
- Rose Quartz

## **The Best Time To Visit Hocking Hills Gem Mine And Gold Rush**

The weather is warmer, and the days are longer in the summer months of June to September, allowing more time to explore the area. The mine is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, and gem hunters can mine for gems or pan for gold in the creek that runs through the property.

## **Sandy Creek Mining Co. – Great for kids**



22 S Poplar St, Fostoria, OH 44830, United States

Sandy Creek Mining Company is a gemstone mining and retail operation based in the heart of Amish Country. Founded in 2013, Sandy Creek Mining Company has been offering family-friendly gemstone mining experiences to people across the state. It offers a variety of pay-to-mine packages that include all of the necessary equipment to find gems and minerals.

They also made our experience unforgettable by offering us to shop through their wide selection of finished jewelry and polished stones. Whether you're looking for an educational experience or just a fun day away from home, Sandy Creek Mining Company will surely provide you with an unforgettable experience!

## **The Types Of Gemstones Found At Sandy Creek Mining Co.**

This location is home to fine gems and minerals. Here, the following gemstone types are most frequently encountered by kids:

- Agate
- Amethyst
- Calcite
- Citrine
- Fluorite
- Garnet
- Pyrite
- Quartz
- Rhodochrosite
- Tourmaline

### **The Best Time To Visit Sandy Creek Mining Co.**

Sandy Creek Mining Co. operates from May through September and offers to pan for gold, search for gemstones, and offer educational programs about area history and prospecting.

### **Other Great Options For Real Gem Mining in Ohio**



If you want to do real gem mining in the Buckeye State after you've had a chance to explore the areas we previously highlighted, there are still tons of other fantastic locations you may go to. The folks with a lot of expertise in mining gems and who wish to hunt for more active mines should go to these following locations.

- Blue Limestone Park – Pyrite
- Green Island – Celestite
- Maple Grove Quarry – Calcite, Celestite, Dolomite, Fluorite, Marcasite, Pyrite
- Medusa Quarry – Calcite, Marcasite
- Pugh Quarry – Calcite, Dolomite, Fluorite, Marcasite, Pyrite, Sphalerite
- Serpent Mound – Quartz

### **The Top Public Gem Mining Locations in Ohio**



More enjoyable family-friendly public gem mining venues are included below for parents who want to introduce their kids to the world of gemstone hunting.

- **Cici's Gem Mine** – Cross Creek Camping Resort, 3190 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH 43015, United States
- **Fox's High Rock Farm** – 14977 OH-664, Logan, OH 43138, United States
- **Island Mining Co** – 115-IM Division Street, Kelleys Island, OH 43438, United States
- **Ohio Caverns** – 2210 OH-245 E, West Liberty, OH 43357, United States
- **Seneca Mining Company at Seneca Caverns** – 15248 E Township Rd 178, Bellevue, OH 44811, United States
- **Paradise Park Miniature Golf and Gem Mining** – 2777 Marion-Waldo Rd, Marion, OH 43302, United States
- **Perry's Cave Family Fun Center** – 979 Catawba Ave, Put-In-Bay, OH 43456, United States

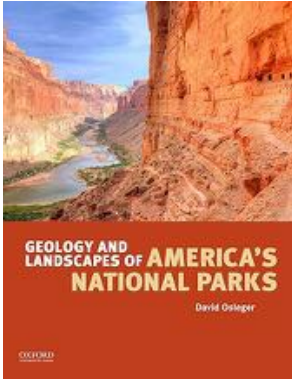


## Ohio Rockhound

A useful website focusing on Ohio minerals, including collecting sites.

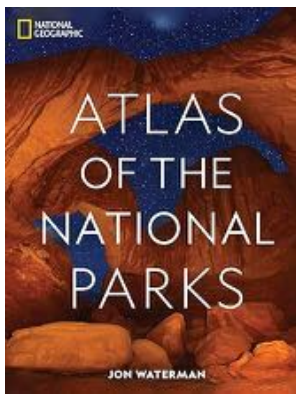
1. Mark J. Camp, [Roadside Geology of Ohio](#) (2006).
2. June Culp Zeitner, [Midwest Gem, Fossil, & Mineral Trails: Great Lakes States](#) (Rev. ed., June 1999 – first published in 1955).
3. June Culp Zeitner, [Midwest Gem Trails: Field Guide for the Gem Hunter, the Mineral Collector, and the Tourist](#) (3d. Rev. ed., 1964 – originally published in 1956).
4. James Martin Monaco & Jeannette Hathway Monaco, [Fee Mining & Mineral Adventures in the Eastern U.S.](#) (2d ed. 2010).
5. Kathy J. Rygle & Stephen F. Pedersen, [Northeast Treasure Hunter's Gem & Mineral Guide](#) (4th ed. 2008)

## Geology Books



### **Geology and Landscapes of America's National Parks** by David Osleger (Author)

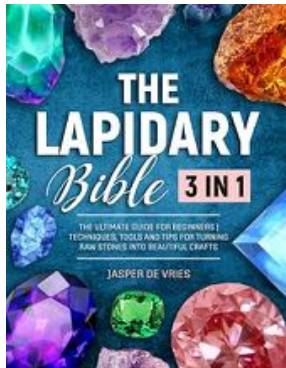
The US National Parks have been called "America's Best Idea." They also provide a beautiful and accessible set of examples around which to structure an introductory geology course, motivating students' curiosity about the science that explains the dramatic landscapes of our nation's unique protected lands. This book introduces such core geologic concepts as volcanism, mountain building, deep time, tectonics, sedimentation and glaciation using our beloved Parks as touchstones.



### **National Geographic Atlas of the National Parks** by Jon Waterman (Author)

The first book of its kind, this stunning atlas showcases America's spectacular park system from coast to coast, richly illustrated with an inspiring and informative collection of maps, graphics, and photographs.

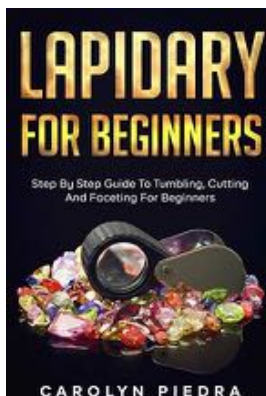
From the white sand beaches of Dry Tortugas to the snowy peaks of Denali, this captivating book combines authoritative park maps with hundreds of graphics and photographs to tell the stories of America's sixty one beloved national parks.



### **The Lapidary Bible: [3 IN 1] The Ultimate Guide for Beginners** Techniques, Tools and Tips for Turning Raw Stones into Beautiful Crafts by Jasper De Vries (Author)

Discover the trade secrets, tips, and advice from expert jewelry and gemstone crafters!

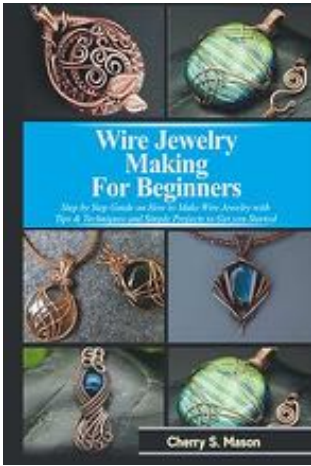
Whether you are looking to begin your very own gemstone business or simply understand more about the creation of precious stones, The Lapidary Bible will help you confidently source, cut, and polish gemstones.



### **Lapidary For Beginners: Step by Step Guide to Tumbling, Cutting, and Faceting for Beginners** Paperback – June 20, 2022 by Carolyn Piedra (Author)

Do you wish to delve into lapidary art but have no clue how to get started to stop wishing you could cut gemstones into beautiful shapes and sizes to make your own gemstone designs?

This book is designed to show you the step by step processes that will lead you to cut your own gemstones and look like a professional while you're at it!



## WIRE JEWELRY MAKING FOR BEGINNERS: Step by Step Guide with Tips & Techniques on How to Make Wire Jewelry and Simple Projects to Get Started

October 25, 2022

by [Cherry S. Mason](#) (Author)

Do you love to try your hands on DIY Wire Jewelry craft but don't know how to start? Here is a beginner guide with the basic tips and techniques to wrap your first pieces.

This book covers all the basic techniques for the production of different kinds of wire jewelry. Its content forms a strong foundation for the development of wire jewelry-making skills for beginners and intermediate.



### A Brief History of Geologic Time

4.1M views · 6 years ago

PBS Eons

By looking at the layers beneath our feet, geologists hav

CC

3 chapters Introduction | History of Geolo



### Ohio Rocks - Geology, Ice Age, Fossils, and Resources (Full)

132K views · 8 years ago

Dircyborn

Ohio was much different than it is today. Watch and learn what made it so as we explore Ohi

16 chapters Introduction | Ohios Geology | Ice Age | Geology | Ohio Geolog..



### Exploring the Serpent Mound Impact Structure

40K views · 8 years ago



This short promotional video describes the new Guidebook 22: "Guide to the

0:17 The Appalachian foothills of Southern Ohio are home to Scenic featu

### Interesting Web Sites

1. Mineralogy4kids
  - a. <https://min4kids.org>
2. Minerals by Name
  - a. [http://www.galleries.com/Minerals By Name](http://www.galleries.com/Minerals_By_Name)
3. Ology - the science website for kids from the American Museum of Natural History
  - a. <https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology?channel=earth>
4. Fascinating Geology for Kids
  - a. <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/geology-for-kids/>
5. Geology for Elementary Schools
  - a. <https://study.com/academy/topic/geology-for-elementary-school.html>
6. Elementary School Science
  - a. <https://www.elementaryschoolscience.com/lesson-plan-intro-rocks-minerals>

### 2024 Rockhound Holidays

People often say there's a holiday for everything, and they're right. The good news is there are some fun holidays for Rockhounds to enjoy and celebrate.

Old Rock Day – January 7

National Jewel Day – March 13

Geologists Day – April 7

Earth Day – April 22

Nickel Day – May 16

Dinosaur Days – May 15 & June 1

National Caves & Karst Day – June 6

World Oceans Day – June 8

International Drop a Rock Day – July 3

International Rock Day – July 13

National Pet Rock Day – September 1

Collect Rocks Day – September 16

National Fossil Day – October 16

## **Upcoming Events and Rock Shows** – (Ohio and close to Ohio)

Check the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical + Geological Societies for Calendar Updates

### **October**

- Oct. 11-13 Michigan Mineralogical Building P, Macomb Sport & Expo John Peters,  
Fri 9-6, Sat 10-7, Society Center, 14500 E. 12 Mile Road, joope13@hotmail.com  
Sun 11-5 Warren, MI
- Oct. 18-20 Central Michigan Lapidary County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Robin Smith,  
Fri 1-7, Sat 10-6, & Mineral Society Mason, MI [RSMITH@radssmith.com](mailto:RSMITH@radssmith.com) Sun 10-4
- Oct. 18-20 Three Rivers Gem & County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Bev Jenkins,  
Fri & Sat, 10-6; Mineral Society Road, Fort Wayne, IN 3riversshow@gmail.com  
Sun 10-5
- Oct. 26-27** Akron Mineral Society and Emidio's Expo Center, 48 E. Bath, Mary Myers,  
Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5 Summit Lapidary Club **Cuyahoga Falls, OH** [gemboreelead@gmail.com](mailto:gemboreelead@gmail.com)

### **November**

- Nov. 2-3** Mid-Michigan Rock Club Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Laura Foster,  
Sat & Sun 10-5 Badour Road, **Midland, MI** [pop345corn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pop345corn@sbcglobal.net)
- Nov. 23-24** Northwest Ohio Rockhound St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 Suzanne Shimatzki,  
Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5 Club W. Sylvania Ave., **Toledo, OH** [sshimatzki@gmail.com](mailto:sshimatzki@gmail.com)

### **December No Close Area Events**

## **Our Club's Craft Program**

We will send out information about craft classes as we get them planned and scheduled.

**MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**

New Website: <https://www.mwfed.org>

New Juniors Website: <https://www.mwfed.org/juniors>

## **FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA**

(American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)

**Lora Hall, AFMS Youth Director**

[youth@amfed.org](mailto:youth@amfed.org)

**Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) is a whole lot more than just the badge program!** The new FRA website is packed FULL of lots of resources for activities with kids and teens in YOUR club - Any Midwest Federation Club. Features like **Rock Pals, the Junior Volunteer Award, Contests and rock-related activities for Kindergarten-12th grade kids** can make your club attractive to families and increase your membership. Check out the links below for ideas, and visit [www.juniors.amfed.org/rock-mineral-activities](http://www.juniors.amfed.org/rock-mineral-activities) for more!

### [The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical + Geological Societies](https://www.mwfed.org)

You can check out all the Shows and Events in our Midwest Region (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska) at the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical + Geological Societies <https://www.mwfed.org>



[The U.S. Geological Survey Youth and Education in Science \(YES\) Team.](https://www.usgs.gov)

Revamped their web presence to better assist with online and home learning.

The new USGS learning from home portal for lesson plans and activities, grades K – 12.

[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

Students of all ages can always tap into the USGS Resources for Teachers for over 140 years of USGS research in the natural sciences in the form of lesson plans and activities, maps, podcasts, online lectures, videos and animations, and much more. Browse thousands of ideas for using these resources in elementary, secondary, university, and informal education settings

# Meeting Minutes

## July 2024

Lawrence welcomed guests & members. Secretary absent. Treasurer gave detailed account of June Mineral & Gem show indicating profit.

The following committees gave reports: The Shop, Special Interests, Historian, Field Trips, DVD's & books.

Refreshments were had and a nice program followed.

As Secretary was absent this evening, no further notes are available at this time.

## August 2024

Vice-President Jim B opened meeting and welcomed guests & members. No Treasurer's report read & no minutes for previous month given.

Special Interest on field trip to Upper Michigan. Upcoming Gold Rush Days across from Clear Fork High school happening Labor Day Weekend. There will be vendors and a grand prize.

Committees reported in:

Shop - open

Historian - absent

Lithnics - absent

Membership - absent

CD's & videos - available for check out

Hospitality - provided tonight by the DeTorre's & Bakers. September will be the Burnells; October - Brenda could use some help

New Business - none

Old Business - none

Personal Exhibits:

1. Kristen & Mark - Brought excess veggies for those interested: Zucchini, peppers etc.
2. Member brought a Dogtooth Calcite & Celestite
3. Suzanne - made a nice watchband for a watch
4. Pat - brought some rocks for ID
5. Bob Kreiling - won the raffle at Flint Ridges of arrowheads
6. Jay M - ID'd many fossils, Dolomite with Calcite & Granite

No door prize as Pam K is in Upper Michigan on field trip.

Meeting adjourned for refreshments & program on carving was given by Roger B.

## September 2024

Lawrence opened meeting welcoming guests & members. Treasurer's report read. No minutes this month.

Committee reports were given:

Shop - Walt said is open

Historian - Jason not here

Hospitality - Joel is currently in Iceland

CD's & DVD's - Carolyn in Denver at show

Membership - Pam K updated

Special Interests - Fossil Park in Sylvania is up & available for anyone to visit. Fossil Park has added shelters & bathrooms as well. Plus many areas in south western Ohio open & good for digging (Caesar's Creek, etc. ). Possible sight by Lodi for digging. Upper Peninsula trip very good. Many chisel chips were found along with many unusual sights led by Mike Trefla. Lawrence leaving for Arizona for mineral digging.

Programs - let Lawrence know if anyone would like to give a talk.

Lithnics - any articles send to Bryan S for submission

Lawrence asks if anyone interested in a silver class in 2nd Monday in October. Do Kumihimo class by Gay A's daughter, Teri, 2nd Monday in November.

Tom K - show: Potential fees of \$3,000 including tables with no A/C on Thursday & Friday. A/C will be on Saturday & Sunday. Tom has asked fairground trustees for a five year contract.

Bryan did submit request with State of Ohio for non-profit for the next 5 years. Fee of \$30 was charged.

Personal Exhibits:

1. Jay - Paw Paws for eating, metal detecting in backyard found a broadax & USA
2. Pam K - wire-wrapped pendants from Calumet, Mich. One has copper running thru it & the other has Thomsonite.
3. Found some fossils close by.
4. Roger - brought all kinds of Agates, etc

Door Prize: Kitty Harrison - won Colonial Coral.

Meeting adjourned for refreshments & Prof. James St John, OSU Newark, gave an excellent program.

Don't Forget to Check Out our Website for Club Information:

<http://www.midohiomineralandfossilclub.com>



## The Lithnics

If you have any club news, articles you would like share with members, updates on your committee, etc. please email info to:

Bryan Summer – [bryansummer1@gmail.com](mailto:bryansummer1@gmail.com)

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