

Earth Science Museum, 3215 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85017 www.earthsciencemuseum.org, scote@earthsciencemuseum.org, 602-973-4291

### ESM OUTREACH UPDATE Mardy Zimmermann, Outreach Coordinator

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, ESM board member Shirley Coté presented a hands-on mineral identification program for five fellow North Mountain Visitor Center volunteers, a couple of fellow Daisy Mountain rock club members and a City of Phoenix park ranger.



Attentive participants at the hands-on mineral identification class D. Duffy photos



Rock and mineral specimens for the participants to handle and inspect

September 2021 Volume 10, Issue 9

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, ESM board member Mardy Zimmermann gave a presentation on her and her husband Richard's Forty Year Adventure of collecting Arizona Fluorescents at the Flagg Mineral Foundation's Minerals of Arizona Symposium. This year the symposium was held at the University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum, 115 N Church Ave Ste 121, Tucson, AZ 85701.



Mardy giving her presentation on fluorescents Photo by Kelli Wakefield



Fluorescent mineral display at the museum Photo by Ray Grant

### The ESM is Seeking New Board Members

Are you looking for an opportunity to become involved with the Earth Science Museum (ESM)? Would you consider contributing your time and talents towards our mission to excite and inspire all generations about Earth sciences? The ESM is currently seeking applicants to serve on its board of directors.

Board members are involved with helping the University of Arizona Mining, Mineral, and Natural Resources Education Museum reopen the old mineral museum in Phoenix. Candidates should ideally have some background relating to the Earth sciences; however, experience in either an educational or museum setting is also acceptable. A key attribute involves a strong interest and flexibility to participate in a variety of supporting activities. These activities may include one or more of the following tasks:

- Attending board meetings or meetings with University of Arizona officials
- Participating in work sessions at the museum or other locations
- Outreach programs at schools, gem and mineral shows, or other community events
- Contributing newsletter content

If you are interested, please send a brief resume to:

harvey.jong@earthsciencemuseum.org

Resumes will be reviewed by current board members who will make recommendations on which candidates to include on a board of directors ballot. If selected, you will need to confirm that:

- 1. You approve of your name appearing on the ballot.
- 2. You are a current ESM member. If you are not a member, an application form appears on the last page of our newsletter.
- 3. You agree to follow the ESM conflict of interest policy.

The general ESM membership will vote on the slate of candidates at the next annual meeting, and candidates receiving a majority of the votes will serve a one year term.

Thank you for your interest and consideration!



ESM Outreach at the yearly Flagg Gem & Mineral Show; Egg Carton Program and Sales Tables (below) Photos by S. Coté





Arizona Rocks 100 Text & Photos by Ray Grant

When you write Arizona Rocks 100 do you do something special? I started collecting minerals when I was a kid, studied geology in college, taught geology and mineralogy, wrote about minerals, and now started a Geology and Mineral Museum in Coolidge, so I thought I'd do something about minerals for 100 as it is my number one interest. Then I had my first visit to the University of Arizona Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson as part of the Flagg Mineral Foundation's Minerals of Arizona Symposium and I had my 100th subject.

The Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum is fantastic and worth a visit, and be sure to have at least a couple hours or more to see it. The museum is in the old Pima County Court House in Tucson. There are mineral specimens and the number and guality of those on exhibit is amazing. If minerals are not your thing there are fossils, gemstones, meteorites, geology and more. Look for the large amethyst geode and turn the handle to open and close it. Check out the fluorescent minerals. The gemstone gallery with all the cut stones and some fantastic mineral specimens will take some time. Watch the videos on the two large on the wall projections or on one of the many smaller screens around the museum. The museum is now open Monday to Friday from 10 to 4, but I would check on their website before visiting and there is information about cost and parking.

I hope that the University of Arizona will do a similar great job for the museum planned for Phoenix and that I will be writing about it someday in this column. Finally, there would be no Arizona Rocks without Shirley Coté doing this newsletter. Shirley deserves a lot of recognition and thanks for her hard work to have this newsletter every month since October 2012. Thank you, Shirley!



Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum is in the old Pima County Court House, 115 N Church Ave Ste 121, Tucson, AZ 85701



The Bisbee mineral pocket recreation



Some of the wulfenites on exhibit



AZ Mining, Mineral & Natural Resources Education Museum Update September 2021 https://ammnre.arizona.edu/

Catie Carter Sandoval cscarter@email.arizona.edu 703.577.6449

Help support the museum at: http://tinyurl.com/SupportMM-NREMuseum

The Banquet of Rocks is now on display at the Cave Creek Museum (6140 E Skyline Dr, Cave Creek, AZ 85331, 480-488-2764).

The setup includes a Thanksgiving-themed dinner complete with entrees, sides, drinks and desserts. The food rock collection was donated to the AMMM in the 1990s by Margaret and Arless Nixon and featured at the museum until it closed. It is on loan to the CCM for the rest of the season, which runs from October to May. The museum is open from Wednesday through Sunday and also hosts regular demonstrations of their Golden Reef 10-Stamp Mill.



The Cave Creek Museum's resident miner Happy Harry with the Banquet of Rocks



Left to right in front: Judith Hatsell, Sarah Ziker, Stephanie Bradley (striped), Darlene Southern (with candy box), Judi Smith (with pie); in the back: Evelyn Johnson (black dress), and Jo Ann Stuckey "enjoying items" from the Banquet of Rocks



Assortment of "rock candy"



Assortment of "fruits and a cantaloupe"



# **Pinal Museum and Society News**

351 N. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge, AZ Pinal Geology and Mineral Society meeting October 20, 2021

> www.pinalgeologymuseum.org Ray Grant raycyn@cox.net.

The Museum will be open on Saturdays October 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Museum is reopening on a limited basis for right now and hopes to expand the open days in the future. We will try to open on Fridays also, but please check our website to see which days we are open.

Masks are required for all visitors and volunteers over five years old. We have taken this step to protect our volunteers so they can safely open the Museum for you. Please provide your own masks. We will have some on hand at the Museum, but cannot guarantee to provide them. If wearing a mask is a problem, please plan your visit for later.



Steve Scott donated this really large fossil shark's tooth (megalodon) to the Museum. He collects them scuba diving in the Gulf of Mexico near Venice, Florida. After dinosaurs, one of the favorite fossils of kids are the shark's teeth.

# The Bahama Banks

Wikipedia

The **Bahama Banks** are the submerged carbonate platforms that make up much of the Bahama Archipelago. The term is usually applied in referring to either the Great Bahama Bank around Andros Island, or the Little Bahama Bank of Grand Bahama Island and Great Abaco, which are the largest of the platforms, and the Cay Sal Bank north of Cuba. The islands of these banks are politically part of the Bahamas.

The limestone that comprises the Banks has been accumulating since at least the Cretaceous period (145-66 mya), and perhaps as early as the Jurassic (201-145 mya); today the total thickness under the Great Bahama Bank is over 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles). As the limestone was deposited in shallow water, the only way to explain this massive column is to estimate that the entire platform has subsided under its own weight at a rate of roughly 3.6 centimeters (2 inches) per 1,000 years.

The waters of the Bahama Banks are very shallow; on the Great Bahama Bank they are generally no deeper than 25 meters (80 feet). The slopes around them however, such as the border of the Tongue of the Ocean in the Great Bahama Bank, are very steep. The Banks were dry land during past ice ages, when sea level was as much as 120 meters (390 feet) lower than at present; the area of the Bahamas today thus represents only a small fraction of their prehistoric extent. When they were exposed to the atmosphere, the limestone structure was subjected to chemical weathering that created the caves and sinkholes common to karst terrain, resulting in structures like blue holes.



Modern ooids from a beach on Joulter Cays, the Bahamas By Mark A. Wilson (Department of Geology, the College of Wooster)

Dean's Blue Hole—Bahamas



Dean's Blue Hole Long Island Bahamas By Ton Engwirda CC BY-SA 3.0 nl

**Oolitic aragonite sand** is composed of the calcium carbonate mineral, aragonite, with an egglike shape ("oolitic" from the Ancient Greek word for "egg") and sand grain size. This sand type forms in tropical waters through precipitation, sedimentation, and microbial activity, and is indicative of high energy environments. The production of oolitic aragonite sand in the Bahamas surpasses anyplace else in the world. Changes in seawater chemistry and paleoenvironments can be interpreted by the sand's chemical composition and structure.



# The Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO)

Wikipedia & Google Maps

The **Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO)** is the name of a region of much deeper water in the Bahamas separating the islands of Andros and New Providence.

The TOTO is a U-shaped, relatively flat-bottomed trench measuring approximately 30 by 240 kilometers (20 by 150 mi). Its depth varies gradually from 1,100 m (3,600 ft) in the south to 2,000 m (6,600 ft) in the north.

Its only exposure to the open ocean is at the northern end. Except for the northern ocean opening, the TOTO is surrounded by numerous islands, reefs, and shoals which make a peripheral shelter isolating it from ocean disturbances, particularly high ambient noise.

This channel (TOTO) and the Providence Channels are the two main branches of the Great Bahama Canyon, a submerged geological feature formed by erosion during periods of lower sea level. During their early history the Tongue of the Ocean and the Providence Channel were broad, relatively shallow basins flanked by growing carbonate banks. As the Blake-Bahama platform subsided, sedimentation kept pace with subsidence on the banks, but not in the basins.



Great Bahama Canyon and Providence Channels - Google Maps



Stromatolite formation on Highborne Cay in the Exumas, The Bahamas. By Vincent Poirier CC BY-SA 3.0

**Stromatolites** or **stromatoliths** (from Greek *strōma* "layer, stratum" (GEN *strōmatos*), and *líthos* "rock") are layered sedimentary formations that are created by photosynthetic cyanobacteria. These microorganisms produce adhesive compounds that cement sand and other rocky materials to form mineral "microbial mats". In turn, these mats build up layer by layer, growing gradually over time. A stromatolite may grow to a meter or more. Although they are rare today, fossilized stromatolites provide records of ancient life on Earth.

# Arizona Geology Blog – Grand Canyon Stratigraphy: a fresh view



Today - 9/9/2021, AZGS released Bob Leighty's magnificent and informative <u>Grand Canyon</u> <u>Stratigraphy</u>. It includes the usual strat column features: geologic time, lithologies and rock units. The Lithologies section boasts nearly 40 radiogenic age dates tracking the temporal evolution of strata exposed in Grand Canyon. Also included, is a rich suite of symbols representing key sedimentary features and structures: fossils, mud cracks, cross bedding, convoluted bedding, to name a few.

Other useful features: Canyon Etymology, Tectonic History, a dozen photos of representative Grand Canyon rock units, and major hydrologic features. The full sized poster measures 24 x 54 inches.

See today's <u>Arizona Geology blog</u> for more details or go directly to view/download the publication at <u>AZGS Document Repository</u>. A Spanish translation is available, too, courtesy of AZGS' Victor Higareda Garcia.

We thank Bob Leighty (Mesa Community College) for an excellent contributed report.

Got questions or concerns, drop us a line (<u>fmconway@arizona.edu</u>)

Thanks, AZGS Staff	F. Michael Conway	
	Sr. Research Scientist	
	Arizona Geological Survey	
	fmconway@arizona.edu cell: 520.971.3688	

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# The upper & central portions of Grand Canyon strata





# Parent/Teacher Resource Page 1

https://www.earthsciweek.org/

# EARTH SCIENCE WEEK UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

#### PLAN FOR UPCOMING EARTH OBSERVATION DAY

Earth Science Week 2021 invites you once again to take part in Earth Observation Day during this weeklong celebration of the geosciences! Earth Observation Day (Tuesday, October 12) aims to engage students and teachers in remote sensing as an exciting and powerful educational tool.

The event is a STEM educational outreach event of AmericaView and its partners. AmericaView is a nationwide partnership of remote sensing scientists who support the use of Landsat and other public domain remotely sensed satellite data through applied remote sensing research, K-12 and higher STEM education, workforce development, and technology transfer.

For lessons and activities by AmericaView and other organizations, as well as additional Earth Observation Day resources, please see the <u>program website</u>.

#### AGI WEBSITE LOCATES GEOHERITAGE IN YOUR STATE

Did you know that in the roughly 30-mile-wide Rio Grande Rift, running from Colorado through New Mexico, the continental crust is thinning as it stretches to the east and west at a rate of a few millimeters per year?

Or that West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio preserve fossil-rich reefs, remnants life that once thrived in shallows seas spanning eastern North America throughout the Paleozoic?

To learn about the ways people interact with geoheritage where you live, explore the Our Shared Geoheritage page of the Earth Science Week website and unearth the geologic history of your state. This page also links educators and students to recommended resources including downloadable reports, articles, blogs, geoheritage locations, and learning activities.

View Earth Science Week's <u>Geoheritage by State</u> to learn more about geoheritage where you are. And learn more about <u>Our Shared Geoheritage</u> online.

#### NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS OFFER EDUCATION RESOURCE

The National Park Service's National Natural Landmarks (NNL) program — which recognizes and encourages the conservation of sites that contain outstanding biological and geological resources — provides teachers and students with unique opportunities to study and experience geoscience in their part of the country.

NNL sites are designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for their condition, illustrative character, rarity, diversity, and value to science and education. Many of the nearly 600 sites across the country have been given this designation for their significant geological resources.

Each site tells a piece of the story of the nation's natural history, from various geological processes to characteristic landforms to evidence of plants and animals that lived thousands to millions of years ago. To find out more about the NNL program, visit <u>online</u>.

# Parent/Teacher Resource Page 2



#### https://learn.concord.org/earth

# Earth Science Resources

This online collection of **transformative geoscience resources** includes Earth system models, data visualization tools, and curriculum modules. Each module is designed for middle and high school students and is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Teacher Editions, which include detailed background information, tips, and exemplar student responses, are available to help teachers guide their students through each module. Classroom management tools, reports, and a real-time dashboard to help teachers track their students' progress are also available. Validated pre- and post-assessments for each module are provided.



West Valley Rock & Mineral Club Buckeye's 7th Annual

# Helzarockin GEM & MINERAL SHOW

# October 8 • 9 • 10 2021

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri-Sat 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sun Adults \$3 kids under 13 free

# Open Air Event Buckeye Arena

802 N 1st Street (Miller Road) Buckeye, Arizona

Rocks, Gems, Jewelry, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Slabs, Cabs, Gold Panning & Scavenger Hunt Rock Painting Snacks and Beverages Available

show@westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com

Alice: (602) 329-2519 Gloria: (206) 931-6993 Kurt: (508) 735-4072 Lara: (602) 405-2926



West Valley Rock & Mineral Club

heizarockin\_rockmineralshow



47TH ANNUAL HUACHUCA GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW October 9th & 10th, 2021 Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4 http//huachuacamineralandgemclub.info/ The Mall at Sierra Vista 2200 El Mercado Loop Sierra Vista, AZ

# Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show

# October 16 & 17 Sat 10–5 / Sun 10–4

Sedona Red Rock High School – 89A at Upper Red Rock Loop Rd, W. Sedona

> Hourly Raffles Grand Prize

Admission – \$ 4 Children under 12 – Free

For more information go to: www.sedonagemandmineral.org

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# Earthquake

# ALL ARIZONA CLUB MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS!



Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Next Meeting: October 14, 2021, 6:30 pm <u>www.ajrockclub.com</u> @ Club Lapidary Shop 2151 W. Superstition Blvd., Apache Jct.



#### **Daisy Mountain Rock & Mineral Club**

Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (unless a Holiday then 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) Next Meeting: October 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Please go to their website for more info

> www.dmrmc.com @ Anthem Civic Building 3701 W. Anthem Way, Anthem, AZ



# Maricopa Lapidary Society, Inc

Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday (unless a Holiday then 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) Next Meeting: TBA, 2021, 7:00 pm <u>www.maricopalapidarysociety.com</u> @ North Mountain Visitor Center 12950 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix



# Mineralogical Society of Arizona

Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Next Meeting: October 21, 2021, 7:30 pm In person and online

#### www.msaaz.org

Franciscan Renewal Center 5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale



# **Pinal Geology & Mineral Society**

Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Next Meeting: October 20, 2021, 7:00 pm On YouTube until further notice

www.pinalgeologymuseum.org @ Artisan Village 351 N. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge



#### West Valley Rock & Mineral Club

Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Next Meeting: October 12, 2021, 6:30 pm <u>www.westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com</u> @ Buckeye Women's Club 845 E. Monroe Ave., Buckeye, AZ



### White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (unless a Holiday then 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) Next Meeting: October 3, 2021, 1:00 pm <u>www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org</u> @VFW Hall 381 N. Central, Show Low



### Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society

Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday (<u>February & December</u> on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday) Next Meeting: October 8, 2021, 7:00 pm <u>www.wickenburggms.org</u> @ Coffinger Park Banquet Room 175 E. Swilling St., Wickenburg

# **ESM's Meeting Notice**

ESM's next meeting will be at North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix, on Tuesday, TBA 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

### BECOME A MEMBER! Join the Earth Science Museum's



#### IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? Please renew today! ©©©

ESM Earth Science Investigation Team Membership Form New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewal

Membership levels:

\_\_\_\_ ESI Family \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ ESI Individual \$10

Membership benefits:

- Monthly e-newsletter *Earthquake*
- Official team membership card
- Knowledge that your contribution is making a difference in earth science education.

#### MANY THANKS TO OUR MAJOR DONORS!

AZ Leaverite Rock & Gem Society

Flagg Mineral Foundation www.flaggmineralfoundation.org

Friends of the AZ Mining & Mineral Museum

Maricopa Lapidary Society http://maricopalapidarysociety.com/

> Mineralogical Society of AZ www.msaaz.org

Payson Rimstones Rock Club

Sossaman Middle School

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org

Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society <u>http://www.wickenburggms.org</u> <u>www.facebook.com/pages/Wickenburg-Gem-</u> <u>and-Mineral-Society/111216602326438</u>

> Staples Foundation www.staplesfoundation.org

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#### Earth Science Museum 3215 W. Bethany Home Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85017

Phone: 602-973-4291

Editor E-Mail: scote@earthsciencemuseum.org

#### Mission

Our Mission is to excite and inspire all generations about earth sciences through educational outreach.

Vision

We envision a community where students and the general public have curiosity about, passion for, and understanding of the underlying principles of earth sciences.

For more information about the ESM, how to become a member or how to arrange for a school visit or Community function, go to: www.earthsciencemuseum.org.

# We're on the Web!

*Visit us at:* www.earthsciencemuseum.org

#### NOTICE:

ESM's next meeting will be at North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N 7<sup>th</sup> St, Phoenix, on Tuesday, TBA 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING INTEREST & SUPPORT!!!

#### EARTH SCIENCE MUSEUM NON-PROFIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Doug Duffy, Ray Grant, Bob Holmes, Chris Whitney-Smith Earth Science Museum 3215 W. Bethany Home Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85017

