



**Official Bulletin  
of the  
Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**

Alaska Pebble Patter  
Chugach Gem and Mineral Society  
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**CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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<b>FIELD TRIP</b>	<b>FEDERATION LIAISON</b>
Bonnie Hepburn 274-0941	Tom Cooper (907) 262-9759

THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. maintains memberships in:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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THE CHUGACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
725 WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> AVE., ANCHORAGE, AK  
(Enter the church from the rear parking lot.)

BUSINESS MEETING – 7:30 PM — 2nd Thursday of each month.

POTLUCK MEETING – 6:30 PM — 4th Thursday of each month.

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert (plus serving spoon) to serve 5 people.

Also bring your own plate, silverware and drink. But most importantly, bring a rock to show!

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Annual membership fees: Individuals - \$15.00; Families (2 or more) - \$20.00; Bulletin Only - \$10.00  
Lifetime membership fees: Individuals - \$150.00; Families (2 adults & children under 18) - \$200.00



## President's Message

May - June 2005

Greetings,

We have been seeing new faces at the meetings and that is exciting. We have a fun and active group so let's all make sure to welcome our guests and future members and engage them in conversation at the meetings. We all have at least one thing in common for chat--we love rocks and minerals and of course the fun and excitement of finding them. There is always common ground for conversation with a guest or new member.

Sheila has T-shirts and denim shirts available for sale. They are quite a hot sales item, but we have plenty for everyone. They will be available at the next potluck meeting.

Except for the high country where snow still blankets the ground, the rest of the state is open for rock collecting. Be sure to check the website for field trips and if you can't get to a meeting but still would like to go on a trip just contact the trip leader and let them know. June looks like a great time for gold, starting out with the Gold Show at the Crow Creek Mine where we can volunteer to help with the event (call me for more information), and gold panning at Hope. Nothing like a fleck of gold glittering in the bottom of a pan to get the juices flowing!

Speaking of the start of the collecting season, I'd like to mention just a few thoughts about safety on these trips. One concept to always keep in mind is gravity or 'things always fall downhill'. Watch yourself on steep slopes. Make sure you always have good footing and if you are moving rocks on a slope be sure to be considerate of those who may be below you--let them know if rocks are falling their way.

When you are collecting along or under a steep slope look over your head to be sure nothing is going to fall on you while you are beating on rocks there. For those of you who do regularly bash rocks to bits it's a really good idea to wear safety glasses or some eye protection from the flying chips. Eyes are easily damaged but not easily repaired.

In summary, stay aware of what you're doing and who is around you. We go on these trips to have fun and collect rocks. If someone gets seriously hurt we get to do neither of these. Who needs that? So by being safe and thinking about the consequences of your actions you are not only taking care of yourself but you are also being considerate of the rest of the group. Pretty easy, really.

Have fun and be safe,  
Anita

**Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**  
**April Business Meeting Minutes**

First Vice President Heather Jordan called the April 14, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society to order at 7:32 PM.

Guests present were David and Hedy Rankin from the Gold Prospectors Association.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary – Bea Allen was absent.

Treasurer – Linda Ewers reported a balance of \$1,538.12 in the checking account. This amount was left after two \$1,000 scholarships were paid out to the University of Alaska Anchorage, and after the donation of \$2,500 to the Alaska Museum of Natural History for sponsorship of the hadrosaur head.

Membership – No membership report. Club members were reminded to pay their dues or be dropped from the membership roster.

Corresponding Secretary – No mail was delivered.

Northwest Federation Liaison -- Tom Cooper was absent.

Sunshine Committee -- Dorothy Arnold was present but had nothing to report.

Pebble Patter – Sue Hilton was absent.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys was present but had nothing to report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Shirts – Sheila Macias brought the new club shirts with her and was selling them. She urged members to buy plenty so we could use the money to fund hats at \$12 per hat. The T-shirts cost \$13 for short-sleeve shirts, \$15 for long-sleeve shirts, and \$25 for embroidered denim long-sleeve shirts.

Fieldtrips – Bonnie Hepburn e-mailed trip leaders and asked them to e-mail her with descriptions of the fieldtrips they were leading. The descriptions would be posted on the website and placed in sheet protectors on top of the fieldtrip folders so members would have an idea of what to look forward to. Bonnie

reminded members that the Coyote Lake clean up was coming up. She also went on a scouting trip for the Nikiski beachcombing field trip and said there was still some snow in the campgrounds. Andres Macias said the Fossil Point trip was looking too expensive at \$375 per person and they were thinking of canceling the trip. Greg Durocher discussed the Denali Fault Trip and pointed out that it included a moderate hike. People were going to leave on Friday night to camp at Sheep Mountain and then leave for the fieldtrip on Saturday morning after breakfast at Sheep Mountain lodge. Bonnie reminded members of the Wishbone Hill and Boulder Creek fieldtrips. Gretchen Bersch talked about the fieldtrip to Yukon Island and Red Mountain on July 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. She suggested taking mountain bikes to Red Mountain for those people who didn't want to use the shuttle to the mountain. Bonnie reminded those who wanted to go to Nome for the July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> fieldtrip to buy their plane tickets early.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Rockhound Guide – Joe informed the club that it was going to cost a total of \$9,000 to print a new batch of Rockhound Guides and that some of the previous investors had pulled out. To make up for the loss, \$5,000 was needed. If 500 copies were ordered, we would get them at \$11.84 per copy. If 1000 copies were ordered, we would get them at \$9.78 per copy.

Fundraising Feed – Andres Macias proposed a chili or spaghetti feed as a fundraiser. The fundraising committee was going to pull the details together and make a proposal at the following business meeting. A suggestion was made to work with the Gold Prospectors Association on this.

**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

Greg Durocher and his sister went on a fieldtrip to Table Mountain in Colorado. Greg thanked Craig Casner for showing him copies of magazine that featured rocks and minerals from Colorado prior to his trip. Greg found thomsonites, zeolites, quartz, and especially mesolites.

Dorothy Arnold discussed the club's fieldtrip to the Alaska Museum of Natural History to attend the Dinosaurs of Darkness exhibit. There was a great variety of small and large dinosaurs.

Everybody was really impressed by the exhibit. Sheila Macias brought a picture of the club-sponsored dinosaur head to the meeting for people to see. The exhibit will continue for about six months. Admission is \$3 for kids and \$5 for adults.

Gretchen Bersch went to the Big Island over Spring Break. She walked on volcanic beaches, hiked to an active volcano and kayaked to the Captain Cook monument to snorkel.

Dwight and his wife took a trip to Arizona. They brought back desert roses for those who wanted some.

Phillip Elrod announced to the club that the Gold Prospectors Association was now meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. They changed their meeting schedule to accommodate the CGMS meeting schedule. The Alaska Treasure Seekers was meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adeline Geldenhuys

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**Chugach Gem & Mineral Society**  
**May Business Meeting Minutes**

President Anita Williams called the May 12, 2005 meeting of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society to order at 7:35 PM.

The evening's guests were Michael Clark, Margie and Gary Schaefer, and Cathy Worden.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Recording Secretary - Bea Allen was absent for the April business meeting and the minutes that were taken had not been sent to her. They will be in the Pebble Patter.

Treasurer - Linda Ewers reported that the checking account balance is \$2763.37 and the two CD accounts total \$15,773.73. The savings account balance is \$4441.81 and the Smith Barney account balance is \$18,983.21.

Membership – Jean Kane reported 154 paid members and 64 who had not paid this year's dues.

Northwest Federation Liaison – Tom Cooper had nothing new to report but reminded us to save our stamps and turn them in for the Federation.

Corresponding Secretary – Nancy Danford said there was no new mail.

Sunshine Committee – Dorothy Arnold stated that there were no members ill or in distress.

Newsletter - Sue Hilton will have an edition out soon but would appreciate members submitting articles of interest.

Website – Adeline Geldenhuys was not present.

Fundraising Committee - Andres Macias said his committee hadn't met but that Anita's suggestion of a garage sale seemed like a good idea; a date and location would need to be set.

Fieldtrips - Bonnie Hepburn was absent but Greg Durocher reminded us the folders were on the table and to sign up for the trips. The next trip was May 15<sup>th</sup> for the annual cleanup, and then on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was a trip to Nikiski Beach for agates. The Fossil Point trip on May 24<sup>th</sup> was canceled but Andres wanted to do a trip up Boulder Creek instead. Also the Denali Fault trip on May 28<sup>th</sup> was canceled. The June 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Wishbone Hill for fossils was still on but the mining road was in bad shape.

**OLD BUSINESS**

T-shirts - Sheila Macias reported that sales had been very good and the club had recovered the production cost of \$354 and was showing a profit of \$140. Anita thanked Sheila for taking charge of this effort and doing a great job.

July potluck meeting - Anita had arranged for us to meet at the David Green Park on 36th between LaTouche and Lake Otis. Details will be given at a later meeting.

The Gold Prospectors June 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> show at Crow Creek Mine still needed volunteers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Norval had editions of the Smithsonian Book of Minerals and Fossils that were ordered for members, and some extra copies were also available for \$32.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Andres and Sheila Macias went to Wishbone Hill recently. The road was very bad from winter runoff and requires a truck, four-wheel drive or ATV to get all the way to the site. Andres reported that in the enthusiastic use of his rock hammer he chipped a rock and a shrapnel-like sliver embedded itself in his leg, requiring a trip to a clinic to have it removed. Anita reminded us that we need to be safety-conscious at all times and Greg related a couple of his experiences when he was careless.

Annual clean up trip - Anita said that instead of going to Coyote Lake we had the opportunity to go to Independence Mine on the 15th and clean up that area. There was a possibility of an inside mine tour but it is limited to 10 people so those going may have to draw for it if turnout exceeds 10.

Melvin C. Bennett reported that he and Phillip Elrod went to Wishbone Hill on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and they had to park the truck and hike in. He said the particular area he was interested in showed some changes from mining but they were insignificant and he still found fern fossils.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jay has recently been notified he has been accepted into AIPG as a Certified Professional Geologist.

After a short break, the evening's program was a slide show by Norval and Jean Kane of some of the club's fieldtrips over the years. Many members were delighted to recall these past adventures!

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bea Allen, Recording Secretary

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**Field Trip Report**  
Hatcher Pass Road Clean Up  
By Anita Williams

On Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> seven intrepid club members braved the rainy weather to clean up trash along Hatcher Pass road. This was a bit of a spontaneous trip since we had been scheduled for several months to clean up around Coyote Lake out of Sutton. Several days

before the field trip I got a call from Joe Turnbow. He said that if we were interested in doing clean up along Hatcher Pass road we might be able to work out getting an underground trip in the Independence Mine as a trade for the work. Well, that sounded like a good plan particularly since the road to Coyote Lake wasn't in the best shape for easy access. So I made the proposal at the Thursday meeting and met with hearty approval for the change. Then I contacted the sign-ups and had Greg send out a general notice to the club to entice members who might be interested in the work-for-tour plan. The rest was up to the membership.

Fred Meyers in Palmer on Sunday morning was fairly lonesome except for Heather, Tom, Linda, Diana and myself. Tom was loaded for bear--or should I say tour. He thought we'd get the tour on Sunday even though the mine was still snowed in. I'll bet he would've been willing to dig out the entrance. Anyway, we drove up to the Mother Lode and connected with Toni and Candace. We all divided up to do separate sections of the road covering the area from the Hatcher Pass Lodge down to the lower parking lot for the downhill skiers by the Little Su. It was chilly and misty/rainy all day, but everyone was equipped for the weather and the job.

We started around 11 am and pretty much finished off around 3 in the afternoon. During this time I got to talk with Pat Murphy, the Park Director. He sure was pleased to have us there and said we could have a mine tour anytime from mid-August to mid-September or so. Now all we have to do is find a time when everyone is available to do the tour. That will probably be more difficult than picking up the road trash! Not too many road treasures this trip although Tom definitely found the best trash. He landed a sippy, soggy twenty-dollar bill for his efforts. It at least helped pay for his gas for the trip. The rest of the debris was pretty mundane aside from a disemboweled computer printer, sleds, a snowboard or two, the odd nickel and dime, and a very small (pocket sized) warthog. All in all the road looks good, we had some fun, and we are looking forward to our mine tour.

Field Trip Report

By Linda Ewers

# Dinosaurs of Darkness

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Announcement

JULY POTLUCK MEETING

The CGMS potluck meeting on July 28th will be held at 6:30 pm at the David Green Park on 36th and McInnes Street between the Seward Highway and Lake Otis. The club will provide the meat and drinks if everyone else will please bring a dish to share. There is a shelter there in case it should decide to rain, plus there is a playground so if you have kids and want to bring them along please do. We will have door prizes as usual. I will be asking for volunteer help at the next meetings. Let me (Anita) know if you would like to help.

CGMS recently took part in 2 events at the Alaska Museum of Natural History.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> the club was invited to participate in the Grand Opening of the "Dinosaurs of Darkness" Exhibit. The club was well represented and we took this opportunity to present to the Museum our check for \$2500 to contribute to the purchase of the Hadrosaur dinosaur as a permanent addition to the museum. The club "purchased" the head. (I'm not sure if they will allow us to put a CGMS hat on it or not!). Mayor Mark Begich made the ceremonial ribbon cutting, but was preceded by Anita Williams, who handed the check to Ann Pasch. We all enjoyed touring the exhibits, and partaking of their tasty snacks.

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, fourteen CGMS members took part in a guided tour of the new Alaska Museum of Natural History "Dinosaurs of Darkness" Exhibit. Our tour guide was a young man named Jack Miller, who says that he has been studying dinosaurs since he was 2 or 3 years old. Even though he studied journalism in college, he has not left his love of these prehistoric creatures behind.

This traveling exhibit from Australia featured dinosaurs from regions that all have long dark periods in common: Russia, Alaska, Canada, Antarctica, and from places we no longer think of as being dark: New Zealand, Australia and Africa. The exhibits were predominantly casts, but even so, they were very impressive. We were told that the first dinosaurs were pretty small, being only about a yard or so long.

Of interest to all of us were the Alaskan dinosaur artifacts, and specifically "Lizzie" from the Colville River area of the Brooks Range. We were able to view the CGMS Hadrosaur head that the club sponsored, and touch some real Alaskan dinosaur bones from the Colville dig that were brought by Barb Gorman of Fairbanks, who joined us for the tour.

If you haven't seen the exhibit, try to see it before the end of summer. The Museum is located across from the old Brewster's store in Mountain View. It's a great trip for kids of any age. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids.

