



## ROCK TALK

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Member of RMFMS and AFMS

Volume 13 Issue 9 September 2009

### Elected Officers

President Pete Scholten  
(928) 537-1874

Vice President David Bingell  
(928) 367-4062

Secretary Tonie MonDragon  
(859) 338-2296

Treasurer Larry Legge  
(928) 537-2524

Editor Charlene Bingell  
(928) 367-4062

Field Trip Chairman-  
Eunice McQuiston  
(928) 536-7209

### Board Members:

Laura Scholten  
(928) 537-1874

Kathleen Varhol  
(928) 368-9556

Eunice McQuiston  
(928) 536-7209

Ursula Wilson  
(928) 532-5703

### Volunteer Positions:

Show Chair Open

Advertise & PR Open

Librarian Jan Petruzzi  
(928) 368-4688

Door Prizes/50-50 Raffle  
Kathleen Varhol

Auctioneer Bill Stalder  
(928) 368-4496

Highway Clean Up  
Nanz Marshall  
(928) 537-2524

Coalition Trips/Historian/Sunshine  
Eunice McQuiston  
(928) 536-7209

Education (Schools/Libraries)  
Open

Web Master Ron Dale  
Ron.bunnie@gmail.com

## President's Message

September, 2009

Hi All,

First of all thank you for all of your kind thoughts in regards to the passing of my father.

This is my favorite time of the year in the high country. It's not hot and it's not cold and the winds are blowing at tornado strength as they are in the spring. So it really is a good time to get out and do some collecting. Hope to see everyone in Magdalena. This has always been a good trip and I have never come back disappointed with the specimens we have collected. It is not as far as Wyoming and less expensive so if you can I encourage you to make it there.

Thanks to David for covering for me while I was gone out of town.

Hope you all have a great month. Remember get involved that is what the club is all about.

Pete

"Rock Talk" is published monthly by The White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any comments members wish to have published in "Rock Talk" need to be turned in or called in at the general membership meeting to the Editor.

Membership dues are \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for couple/family. Dues are due the first of January of every year along with a completed application. Meetings are held at J.B.'s Restaurant on the Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, Az., 1st Tuesday of the month, social hour starts at 5:30/meeting at 6:30.

# Meeting Minutes

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club  
September 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by David Bingell, Vice President. David explained that Pete Scholten was not available due to the recent passing of his father, and expressed condolences and asked for prayer, meditation and good thoughts for their family.

There were 21 members and 1 junior member present and no guests. David suggested in the future we might inquire of guests to tell us about their favorite rock or mineral.

A motion to approve the August meeting minutes as published in the August newsletter was made by Nanz Marshall and seconded by Robert Stalder, and passed by unanimous vote.

David made announcements of the Huachuca and Payson Club Shows both on the weekend of October 10 and 11. The Colorado Expo will be September 18-20.

David asked for Officer reports, beginning with the Vice President's. David will have Larry Legge (Treasurer) mail in a check for \$5.99 to purchase the Club version of a DVD of the Tucson show. In doing this, Club members will have a coupon number to order the full 4 hour 2 DVD set for \$30.00. The short version will be added to the Club library.

Larry Legge gave the Treasurer's report.

Charlene Bingell gave the Editor's report, again requesting subjects for research.

Tonie MonDragon gave the Secretary's report mentioning the Club still needed a vote to approve the suggested updates to the Bylaws. The Bylaws will be published in full in this newsletter with the suggested changes. The vote will be taken at the October meeting.

In Eunice's absence, Nanz Marshall gave the Field Trip report. The next trip will be September 11-12<sup>th</sup> to Magdalena and begin with an activity planned by Eunice on Friday afternoon. The main activity will be on Saturday. Ron Ginn reported he will have a suggestion for an additional activity on Sunday for those who stay over. Nanz relayed Eunice's suggestion to bring a yard rock for the Western Motel's rock garden.

Nanz reported on the August trip to Luna and Eunice's report is published in this newsletter.

David asked for Board Member reports and Nanz reported that the highway cleanup scheduled for this Saturday is postponed until September 19<sup>th</sup> due to the expected storm. We will meet at the Big K parking lot on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to the Club's adopted mile to do the cleanup.

It was reported that the equipment donated by Janie Ballard and the Mateoskys was at the McQuiston house to be viewed. The pieces will be auctioned one each month at the club meeting. A picture will be available and the piece of equipment won can be picked up at the McQuistons.

Nanz reported that the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber has offered our Club a free booth at the Fall Festival on October 3-4<sup>th</sup>. We are allowed to have activities, hand outs or sell. The only cost will be 5% of sales to be donated to the forest Service. Contact Nanz immediately if you are able to donate time to be at the booth that weekend. She has to respond to the Chamber by September 25<sup>th</sup>. She would like two shifts for both days.

David next discussed unfinished business. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. on October 6<sup>th</sup> prior to our regular meeting at JB's Restaurant. Subjects for the agenda are the donation to Show Low Unified School District and the website. The vote on the Bylaws needs to be completed but there is nothing on that matter for the Board to address. Ron Dale will provide information on a hosting decision for the website and some suggested domain names.

There being no further old business, new business was called for. Ron Dale suggested the Club purchase a microphone and small amplifier for the educational presentations as some members cannot hear the speaker. Ron will research equipment and prices and report back to the club.

At 7:25 p.m. David called for a fifteen minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m. Nellie Hill reminded members she has field trip rocks in her back yard that are free for the taking. Call Nellie to arrange viewing and picking.

The Educational Program was presented by Bill Stalder. Bill provided a slide show, hand out and narrative on his 2002 trip to view the "Grand Staircase" that includes the

Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park. Bill's trip was with a geology class from a community college in Southern California and his photos showed the geological formations and some faults visible from the highways. His handout showed the correlation of strata at the three locations on the Colorado Plateau.

The drawings were held and Nanz Marshall won the door prize specimen. Larry Legge won \$8.50 in the 50/50 drawing and the second place prize of a sphere. Robert Stalder won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize of a specimen. The silent auction was scheduled to run another 3 minutes.

Sandra Angelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jan Sandberg and the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonie MonDragon  
Secretary

## Next Meeting

Mark your calendars: Our meetings are always the first Tuesday of the Month- Next month will be October 6th - at JB's Restaurant on the Deuce of Clubs in Show Low- social hour starts at 5:30 meeting starts promptly at 6:30 PM

**ATTENTION Board Members-** Please be at the meeting at 6 PM for a board meeting to discuss payment to Show Low Schools for this past show and a decision on the website name- Ron Dale will be bringing web site names that are available for our club web site. We will make a decision on the website address at that time. Please be present to make your input known and to voice your decision.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday August and September Babies!- We only have today - this moment in time- so CELEBRATE! No matter what your age!

September:  
Jan Sandberg - 7 and John Scholten-8

October  
Edie Christie - 6, Tara Cluff - 13,  
William Hoddy- 26

## FIELD TRIPS

### Field trip updates:

#### SEPTEMBER

Magdalena New Mexico Field Trip  
September 11 and 12, 2009

The main trip for this outing will be just north of Socorro for Escondida Fossils. A map will be provided but I'm hoping James and Damaris (owners of the Western Motel) will lead us to the site. They have been to this site to check it out for me they say it is promising. There are mine tailings in the area also.

Field trip: September 12<sup>th</sup>

Meet at the Western Motel

Time- 9:00 AM New Mexico Time

Vehicle- Any, but always better to have a high clearance  
What to Bring - your usual tools, buckets/bags, bug spray, UV Light if you have one for night collecting, chairs, lunch, water, walkie-talkies, etc.

Travel time/Distance - 165 miles from Show Low area- approx. three hours

What you will find - fossil crinoids, brachiopods, and sea fans. Some brachiopods have retained portions of their mother of pearl shell material.

Warning - Always partner with someone. Don't go off by yourself. Watch for any critters that slither.

Only collect what you need.

Meet back at the motel at 5:00 PM to go to the Magdalena Café for Dinner?

If you plan to go on this trip, please make your reservations now.

Have a fun time- Eunice.

Field Trip Report - Luna New Mexico  
August 22, 2009

Eleven Members and one guest met at the Safire Restaurant in Springerville. Tonic Arrived one minute before nine due to a band of sheep crossing the road- for a moment she thought she was near Chinle, AZ. Fred

says that a "band" of sheep usually means at least 600. Anyhow, there were a lot of "yarns" crossing.

We arrived at the collecting site around 10:30 and were greeted by Nanz and Larry who had been camping since Wednesday. Oh how lucky they were to enjoy the clean mountain air and tranquil setting.

Of all the rockhounds there, I think Fred and I were the only ones who had been to this site before and most did not know where to look- "just go up on the ridges and look for float". The hardy rock hounds did some hiking. Bill Smith, from Payson, found a big chunk of agate buried except for the tip. I believe Pete ended up with it but Bill got a picture of it. Dan and Archie (who were there before us) also found some nice chunks of agate. I did not see any of these but I heard rumors!

Just like in years past, you can count on rain in August up in the mountains. We were not disappointed, but thanks to Bill and Linda, some of us stayed dry. Others came wandering up later soaked but smiling. We were lucky because there was no thunder or lightening.

Did I mention Larry ran a taxi service with their new toy.

It was a wonderful day.

Eunice

#### September Coalition Field Trip September 26, 2009

The September Field Trip will be held on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> and will be heading out to the Fourth of July to pick up agates. To get to the meeting area, head west on I-10 to exit 112 (Gila Bend/Yuma). You'll be heading south after getting off the freeway. At the first traffic light (MC 85) turn left, and there will be a Shell gas station near the corner. This is where we will be meeting to sign waiver forms and hand out maps. I should be there at 7:30 AM (look for the big bronze F250). We will leave promptly at 8:00. The agates show good banding, are usually gray and white, although we have found some peach and white ones walnut sized.

It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you have a 4WD for this trip, as there are a few wash crossings that are quite sandy as well as some areas that require some clearance. Also, pack a lot of water- it will be warm. Bigger vehicles may get some desert pin-stripping, as the trail is not very well used and overgrown.

I will have my cell phone on if people need to contact me the day of the trip - 602-703-5188.  
Hope to see you on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Robin Evans

#### Roster Updates:

Will be available on our website- password is given to members only. Updates are coming....

## Rock & Gem Shows

### SEPTEMBER 2009:

16-20--DENVER, COLORADO: Show, "Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show - Fall"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn - Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.; Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 200 wholesale and retail dealers, free shuttle bus to Merchandise Mart; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665, fax (505) 867-0073; e-mail: mz0955@aol.com; Web site: [www.mzexpes.com](http://www.mzexpes.com)  
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

18-20 Denver Colorado- Denver Gem and Mineral Show- Colorado Fossil Expo- Denver Merchandise Mart - Expo Hall 451 East 58<sup>th</sup> Ave (I-25 & Exit 215) Fossils Windows to the Past- Dealers - Exhibits- Lectures- Gold Panning - Demonstrations Hours Fri- 9-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5 Admission \$6 Plenty of free parking

### October:

10-11--PAYSON, ARIZONA: 12th annual show; Payson Rimstones Rock Club; Mazatzal Hotel & Casino Event Center - Bingo Hall, Tonto Apache Reservation; adults \$3, children under 12 free; discount tickets available at Payson Chamber of Commerce, Payson Library, Parks & Recreation Office; contact Barry Jones, (928) 476-3513  
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

10 - 11 - The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Huachuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at the Elks Lodge on Wilcox Ave One block from the Buffalo Soldier Tr. Sierra Vista, AZ  
Demonstrations, Displays, Dealers. Food Vendors

Public Invited Free Parking Admission For information  
Contact- Maudie Bailey 520-378-6291

ATTENTION DATE CHANGE: see below

September - Saturday  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Highway Cleanup at  
8:30 AM – meet Kmart  
parking lot- only takes an hour  
of your time!

## Bits and Chips

Thank you to the Stalders for donating the Extender Grabber trash Pick up thingies- for those of us who help on the Trash Pick up days- We Say Thank You!

Jane Ballard is having a Yard Sale on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>- at 5153 Branding Iron Loop in Pinetop- come see the treasures and goodies for sale all of you "Yard Sale Lovers!"

Did you Know that Lightening can strike ORANGE- ask Nanz about her harrowing lightening experience!

And did you know that Lightening can come down in "Balls" of Blue- ask David or Charlene about that story too!

No bats, no tequila, no tequila – no margaritas. Around the world, bats pollinate or disperse the seeds of more than 300 important species. In Mexico bats pollinate the saguaro and agave cactus plants, from which tequila is distilled. Bats are an important pollinator of agave and have helped make commercial tequila production possible. From the Nature Conservancy Magazine Spring 2009

Equipment to be bid on that has been donated is for your viewing pleasure at Fred and Eunice's house. If you are interested please call before coming by to view the items.

Nellie still has lots of rocks for people to come and get- at 1915 14<sup>th</sup> Drive in Show Low – her phone number is 532-7406. She will be going to her winter home in October so please come by in September.

Update- the Woodland Lake Park Festival will be now at the Woodland Road Wildlife Area and Park and will be only on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 – 4- so if you would like to volunteer time for the club to have a booth there- they have change it to a no cost no donation needed for us to have a space- thanks Nanz for the Update.



This Item will be up for Bids at the Next meeting- Please attend the next meeting if you would like to put a bid in for this item.

### September's Birthstone:

The throne of celestial judgment is supposed to rest on sapphire. According to the Book of Revelation, it is the second stone in the foundation of the New Jerusalem.

One ancient writer noted that "the figure of a ram or bearded man engraved on a sapphire has the power to cure a person from many ailments and free him from poison or demons." At the time it was believed to remove all impurities and foreign matter from the eyes. It is said that Charles IV used an oval sapphire for this purpose.

Oriental tradition described the sapphire as a guiding gem, one that warded off evil omens and brought good fortune to its owner. the nineteenth century explorer Sir Richard Burton, who translated The Arabian Nights, owned a large sapphire and claimed that it brought good horses and prompt service wherever he went.

Learn more about Sapphires:

[http://www.kingsjewelry.com/learning\\_gemstones\\_sep.shtml](http://www.kingsjewelry.com/learning_gemstones_sep.shtml)

Next see the attached By-Law changes- italicized and bolded- in red

**BY-LAWS**  
**THE WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

Adopted *January 1, 1997*  
Amended February 1, 2000  
Amended May 6, 2003  
Amended January 1, 2006  
Show Low, Arizona

**ARTICLE I**  
**DESIGNATION**

The official name of this organization shall be THE WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, a non-profit organization.

**ARTICLE II**  
**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To provide a means and the incentive for individuals with a common interest in mineralogy, lapidary, geology and associated earth science to pursue these interests.
2. To subscribe to, and promote the National interest in the conservation of this country's natural resources and public lands.
3. To conduct field trips for the purpose of collecting material and specimens specifically related to earth sciences.
4. To share with its members knowledge and experience gained in working with mineral specimens and gem material.
5. To encourage and assist junior members in furthering their education in minerals, gems, and related subjects.
6. To foster good fellowship in the course of club activities.

**ARTICLE III**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 Regular membership is open to all adults who have an interest in the purpose of THE WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB and are current in their dues. *A copy of the By-Laws will be provided upon request.*

Section 2. Junior membership is open to persons between the ages of 9 and 18 who are related to or sponsored by an adult club member. No dues shall be required of a junior member.

Section 3 Should the attitude or conduct of any member be such as to be considered detrimental to the welfare of the club, such member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Before such action shall be taken, a registered letter shall be sent by the Board of Directors to the member requesting the member's appearance before the Board of Directors at a time and place to be designated, to show cause why such action should not be taken. If the member fails to appear

without good reason, membership will be revoked. Such a member has a right to appeal at a meeting of the general membership. Reinstatement of membership requires two-thirds of the members present to vote in favor of reinstatement.

#### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Field Trip Chairman. There will be up to three (3) Directors at large so as to make the full complement of the Board an odd number. Officers and Directors must be members in good standing. No one person may hold more than one elected office at any given time. The President shall act as Chairman of the Board for purposes of conduction of all corporate business.

All Officers and Directors at large shall be elected at the regular meeting of the Club held in November each year. These Officers shall hold office for one (1) year beginning January 1, or until their successors have been duly installed. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a member to fill any vacancy in any office as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors shall consider the conduct of any elected officer. If it is deemed to be detrimental to the Club, the Board may, by a simple majority, recommend that the officer in question be removed from office. If, at a regular membership meeting, the general membership concurs by a majority vote by secret ballot, the officer in question shall be removed from office.

No elected or appointed Officer or Director shall receive remuneration from the Club.

#### **ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected officers including up to three (3) Board Directors at Large.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall meet annually except for special meetings called by the President. Cancellation of Board meetings, for any reason other than lack of a quorum, must have the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Board.

Section 3. For purposes of meetings, a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. The Board of Directors may authorize and approve all expenditures not included in the budget as provided in the Operating Regulations.

Section 5. Regular business shall be handled by the Board of Directors at its meeting, the minutes of which shall be approved by the Board at the next Board or general membership meeting, and be available to the general membership.

## ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1 When necessary, increases in annual dues are voted on at the regular meeting of the membership after being brought before the membership at a previous meeting and being printed in the Club newsletter. Amounts are incorporated in the Operating Regulations.

Section 2. Annual dues are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year and are delinquent March 1<sup>st</sup>. Any member not paying dues by March 1st will be removed from the Club roster.

## ARTICLE VII PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

All meetings of the Club shall be conducted in an orderly manner. In the event of a dispute, Robert's Rules of Order (revised) will prevail.

## ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

The President shall have the authority to appoint all standing and special committee chairmen. Committee chairmen shall select committee members from the Club roster.

## ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

The general meeting of the Club shall normally be held on the first Tuesday of each month. A quorum for conducting business shall consist of at least twenty percent *(20%) of the membership Approval of the transactions shall be by a majority vote of the members present.*

The general meeting in October shall be for presenting the list of candidates. The general meeting in November shall be for the election of officers. The newly elected officers and directors shall be installed at the general meeting in January and shall commence their duties immediately.

Minutes of the general meeting shall be published in the Club newsletter and approved at the next general meeting.

## ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year will be from ( The 1<sup>st</sup> of January through the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

## ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Any amendments to these By-Laws shall be read at the regular general meeting *then published and then voted on at the next meeting.*



Publication in the Club newsletter shall be considered as official notice to all members of any business conducted by the Club.

These By-Laws will be reviewed by an appointed committee every third **year to** determine their adequacy and applicability to the Club in terms of its activities and purpose. The current by-Laws are operative from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008.

#### **ARTICLE XII OPERATING REGULATIONS**

The operating Regulations shall be for the workings of the Club that have nothing to do with the corporate structure. This includes job descriptions, activities and membership requirements

#### **ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION**

*In the event of dissolution, assets of the Club shall be disbursed pursuant to Article X of the Articles of Incorporation*

### **THE WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB OPERATING REGULATIONS**

#### **Membership Requirements:**

Candidates of membership shall complete an application, attend two functions of the Club, including meetings or field trips, and shall be current in their membership dues.

#### **Membership Dues:**

Annual dues for each adult membership will be \$15.00 for a single and \$20.00 for a couple or family, including adult dependent children, per fiscal year January 1 through **December 31**. Dues not paid by March 1st will be delinquent and the member will be removed from the membership roster. Members joining after July 1 will only pay one-half the annual dues.

Increases in annual dues amounts, upon approval of the Board of Directors, shall be presented to the general membership for their approval, in which case a simple majority vote must approve the change.

#### **Committees:**

The President has the authority to appoint the following Committee Chairmen - Show Committee, Nominating Committee, Budget Committee, Audit Committee, Membership Committee, School Committee.

#### **Job Descriptions:**

**PRESIDENT:** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Club and to perform all duties customary to the office.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside at meetings and perform all the duties of the President in his/her absence or inability to serve, and to arrange a suitable educational program each month.

**SECRETARY:** It shall be the duty of the Secretary- to keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors, and provide correspondence as necessary.

**TREASURER** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all dues and other monies and disburse same as authorized by the Board of Directors and/or the membership, and to render reports upon request of the President or the Board of Directors. Club funds shall be disbursed through the use of a Club bank account Any single expenditure greater than \$ 100.00 which is not budgeted must be approved by the Board.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** It shall be the duty of the Newsletter Editor to publish a monthly newsletter including the minutes of the monthly meetings, to substitute in the absence of the Secretary at the regular meetings, and to keep a file of the membership in the prescribed form, reproduce and mail the newsletter to the general membership.

**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:** it shall be the duty of the **Field** Trip Chairman to arrange for a suitable field trip each month. The Field Trip Chairman shall be entitled to reimbursement of gasoline expense to preview *a field trip site approved by the Board, prior to the preview a set rate of 25 cents a mile with appropriate documentation.*

**LIBRARIAN:** It shall be the duty of the Librarian to maintain, and inventory, the books, magazines, pamphlets, maps, audios and videos owned by and donated to the Club, to accept and make recommendations of additions to the library materials, to make the library **materials** available to the membership and to prepare a budget for maintaining and increasing the Club's library resources

**HISTORIAN:** It shall be the duty of the Historian to document the activities of the Club through photographs and commentaries. Expenses of the Historian will be part of **the** approved budget.

**AUCTIONEER:** It shall be the duty of the Auctioneer to conduct a monthly **silent** or live auction at the regular meeting of the members (except at the Christmas meeting), and to conduct an auction during the annual Club show if such an event is included in the Show activities Materials for the auctions may be donated or purchased with an approved budget.

**ACTIVITIES:** The Club may sponsor the following activities:

1. Annual Gem and Mineral Show to be held during Memorial Day weekend each year.
2. Monthly silent auctions for the benefit of the Club treasury
3. Establish a fund or an annual scholarship.
4. Monthly field trips for purposes of education or collecting earth science materials.
5. Establish educational opportunities within the community at large.
6. Set a goal to establish a workshop/clubhouse for membership.
7. Community improvement such as highway clean up
8. Maintain compliance with mineral rights regulations for Club claims

## Desert Rocks Close Up

Text and Photos by Dawn Nelson



**Rocks -** Deserts have a lot of them. Actually, all environments have a lot of rocks. Dig down through the rich soil of a deciduous forest, or the thick mucky history of a peat bog, or even the sand of a beach, and you will eventually come to bedrock. Depending upon the environment, you may find plenty more rocks than just the common underlying bedrock sheet.

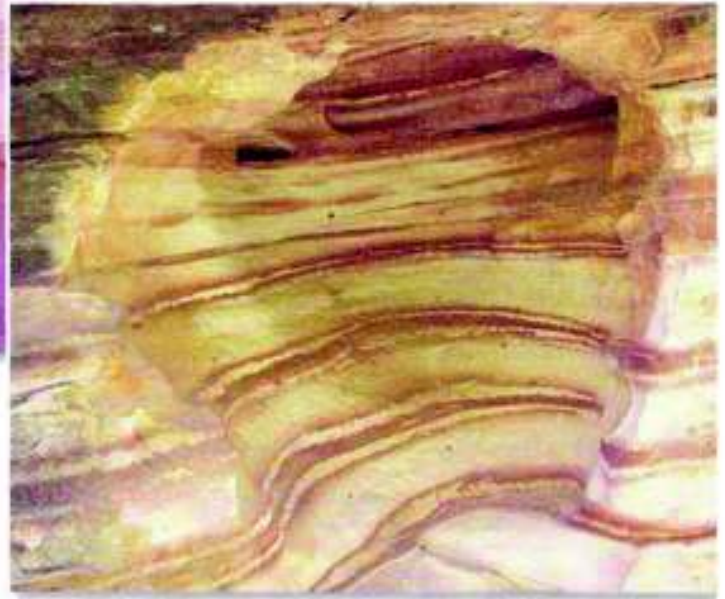
I grew up in Maine, which is strewn with the broken remnants of old mountains, ground down to rocks and discharged on the land by glaciers. Digging in Maine's soil is a test of the will. And all those stone walls of Maine? Simply a place to deposit this year's latest crop of rocks forced to the surface by the processes of freezing and thawing.



Rock in a hole.

Most environments hide their rocks beneath layers of soil or shield them under a blanket of thick vegetation. A stream may scour the land away to reveal bare rock. A stony prominence may thrust upward through the trees, but the rocky heart of most environments lies hidden.

But the desert is different. The veneer of life is thinner. Desert life seldom hides the richness of the mineral earth. In the desert, rocks reign supreme. Desert rocks are sculpted, colored, moved, deposited and broken down by the relentless forces around them. Desert rocks seem to take on a life of their own. It is recorded in millions of years of resisting, and finally yielding, to the wind, sun and water.



Striped pockets.

In desert rocks, you can read the story of the slow, patient progression of stone into sand, and then possibly even back again to stone. You see the fingerprints of an incomprehensibly ancient past, you can only imagine the whims an unfathomable distant future.



Rock pudding.

For more pictures and the rest of the story:  
<http://www.desertusa.com/mag02/may/rocks.html>

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club  
P.O. Box 3504  
Show Low, AZ 85902-3504

Member:  
Rocky Mountain Federation  
Of Mineralogical Societies



American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



[http://www.desertusa.com/Thingstodo/du\\_ttd\\_photo.html](http://www.desertusa.com/Thingstodo/du_ttd_photo.html)



Rock cheese.



*Gilia latiflora* ssp. *davayi* is one of many common wildflowers that can be part of a multicolour carpet of wildflowers in the desert or lining the sides of the road. But a close-up look at these delicately-coloured blossoms shows they look anything but "common."

For more pictures and the rest of the story:  
<http://www.desertusa.com/mag02/may/rocks.html>