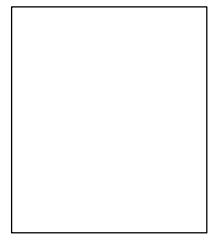


**October 2023 Edition of**  
The Shin-Skinner News  
Frank Meadows – Editor  
107 Frances St.  
Sayre, PA 18840



First Class Mail

**October Birthstone**



**Opal & Tourmaline**

**To:**

**Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc. 9516 N. Rome Rd., Athens, PA 18810**

**PURPOSE:** The club was organized in 1962 in Sayre, PA to assemble for the purpose of studying and collecting rock, mineral, fossil and shell specimens, and to develop skills in the lapidary arts. We are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

**DUES** are payable to the treasurer BY January 1st of each year. After that date membership will be terminated. Make checks payable to Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Inc. as follows: \$12.00 for Family; \$8.00 for Subscribing Patron; \$8.00 for Individual and Junior members (under age 17) not covered by a family membership.

**MEETINGS** are held at the Athens Methodist Church at 7:00 P.M. in the basement, the 2nd Wednesday each month, **except JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, and DECEMBER.** Those meetings/events (and any changes) will be announced in the newsletter as to event time, date and location. Visitors are always welcome.

**FIELD TRIPS** are scheduled regularly from May through September; dates and details to be announced in the Shin-Skinner News

**ARTICLES** submitted for publishing should be emailed to the editor using MS Word format. Deadline for submissions to the Shin-Skinner News is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Articles without by-line are written by the editor. Uncredited photos by Frank Meadows. Permission is hereby granted to member clubs of Eastern Federation and/or the American Federation to reprint material contained in the Shin-Skinner News providing proper credit is given to the author, if known, and the Shin-Skinner News.

**OFFICERS**

President: Bruce Benish - Email: [Bbenishsurveying@gmail.com](mailto:Bbenishsurveying@gmail.com)  
Vice-Pres.: Bob McGuire 570-928-9238 - [UVBob1942@gmail.com](mailto:UVBob1942@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Mary Walter Email: [mksrck@yahoo.com](mailto:mksrck@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Trish Benish - Email: [Patriciabenish@gmail.com](mailto:Patriciabenish@gmail.com)  
Immed. Past President: Dave Millis

**BOARD** meetings are held at 6PM on odd-numbered months unless special meetings are called by the president.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Jeff Benish, Frank Meadows, Duane Wells

**APPOINTED**

Publicity: Hazel Remaley 570-888-7544 [northridge5@verizon.net](mailto:northridge5@verizon.net)  
Editor: Frank Meadows 570-731-4631 [Agentoferosion@yahoo.com](mailto:Agentoferosion@yahoo.com)  
Field Trips: Dave Millis 305-395-9560 [Rockdoc077@gmail.com](mailto:Rockdoc077@gmail.com)  
Juniors: Inga Wells 607-425-7426 [Ingawells@yahoo.com](mailto:Ingawells@yahoo.com)  
Webmaster: Bob McGuire [UVBob1942@gmail.com](mailto:UVBob1942@gmail.com)

**PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

**Club Email:** [Chehannarocks1969@gmail.com](mailto:Chehannarocks1969@gmail.com)  
EFMLS Liaison: Hazel Remaley 570-888-7544 [northridge5@yahoo.com](mailto:northridge5@yahoo.com)  
Historian: Inga Wells – 607-425-7426  
Meeting Host: Duane Wells  
Show & Dealer Chair: Bob McGuire 570-928-9238 - [UVBob1942@gmail.com](mailto:UVBob1942@gmail.com)  
Membership: Trish Benish Email: [Patriciabenish@gmail.com](mailto:Patriciabenish@gmail.com)  
Librarian: Bruce Benish  
Sunshine Chair: JoAnn McGuire 570-928-9238 [UVBob1942@gmail.com](mailto:UVBob1942@gmail.com)

Visit us on the Web at: <http://chehannarocks.com> or Email us at: [Chehannarocks1969@gmail.com](mailto:Chehannarocks1969@gmail.com)

*We Talk to Each Other - We Help Each Other - We Teach Each Other - We Smile A Lot!*



# Shin Skinner News

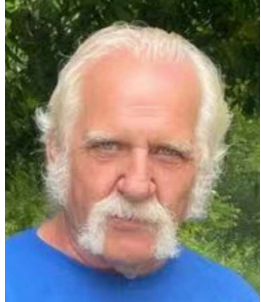
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9516 N. Rome Rd. Athens, PA 18810  
2001, 2003, and 2004 AFMS ALL-AMERICAN CLUB



Volume 62

October 2023

Issue Number 10



**Bruce Benish**

## President's Message

by Bruce Benish

Hello everybody. We returned to the Athens Methodist Church for the September meeting. We moved the time to 6:30. I think it worked ok, still I hope I get some feedback on this.

Dave was looking for another trip this year. I'd like to go but I've been too busy to think about it.

Professor Bruce Oldfield gave a nice talk on radiation. He's a good speaker and I enjoy when he gives a talk. He told us to donate to S.R.A.C. what we wanted to pay him.

The Christmas party will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wild Fire Restaurant. As in years past, there will be a \$5.00 deposit which will either be returned the day of the party or be giving to a chosen charity.

The next meeting is Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Hope to see you there.

Bruce

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION BY THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH TO:  
[AGENTOFEROSION@YAHOO.COM](mailto:AGENTOFEROSION@YAHOO.COM)  
THANK YOU.**

## INSIDE THE SHIN-SKINNER

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**NEXT MEETING: ATHENS METHODIST CHURCH  
OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM.**

**\*\*\*\*\*ANNUAL AUCTION\*\*\*\*\***

**PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO DONATE AND SOME CASH TO  
BUY THAT SPECIAL ITEM**

Photo by JoAnn McGuire



**Bob McGuire**

# VP NEWS

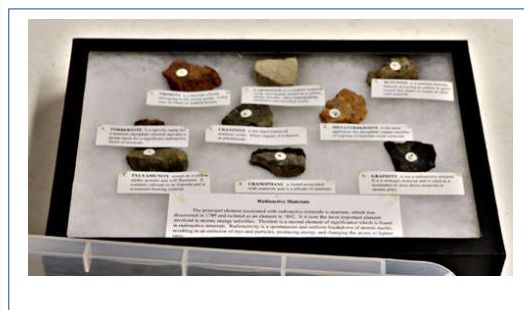
*By Bob McGuire*

The September meeting was great with Dr. Bruce Oldfield giving us a program on time and radiation. Brought some radioactive specimens, radiation counters and a boatload of information.

The October meeting at 6:30 will be our annual auction. Bring some geologic related items for the auction. If you were on a field trip, you could donate a few collected items.

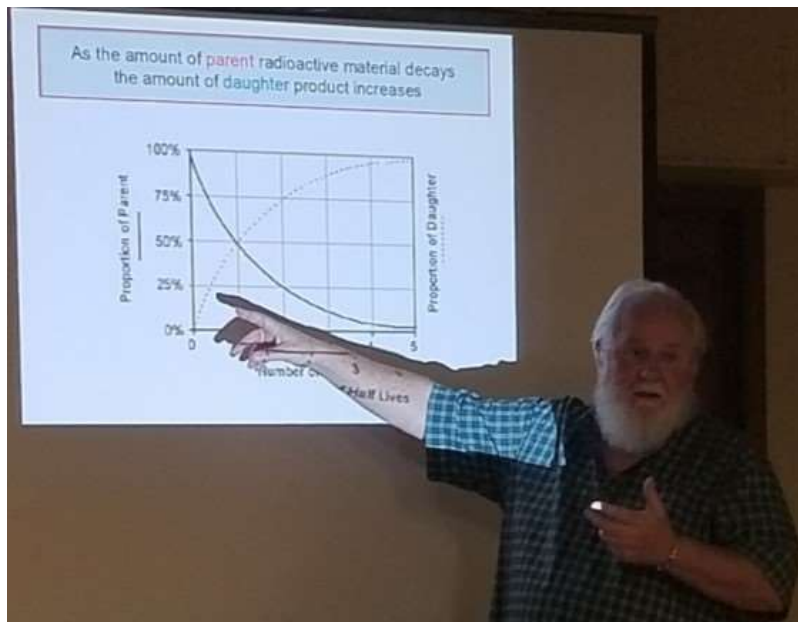


**Bruce Oldfield**



Geiger Counter

(Photographs above taken by Bob McGuire)



Graph showing decay of parent element. Parent element decreasing in quantity as it decays into daughter element, which is increasing in quantity.



Radioactive Vaseline Jar lid



A radioactive plate



C.Bourne photo

**JoAnn McGuire**

## *Sunshine Report* by JoAnn McGuire

Hope you all are enjoying the nice weather. Little cooler temperatures and I guess Fall is on the way. I'm not really ready for cold yet.

Sympathy to the Julie Fluke family on her recent passing. She was a good club member for a number of years. Very friendly and always a happy person. She passed away at her home at her favorite place, looking over the lake that she loved.

Get well wishes to anyone who is not feeling up to snuff right now. Hopefully, you'll feel better soon. Let's hope the flu bug doesn't hit too hard this year. There's always all these other "bugs" and viruses that keep coming up. Stay healthy everyone.

See you in October for our annual auction. Meeting is Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Athens United Methodist Church, in the basement. Hope to see you there.

If you know of someone in need of a card or phone call, please let me know and I will do my best to take care of it.

JoAnn McGuire  
Lady Sunshine



### *October Birthdays*

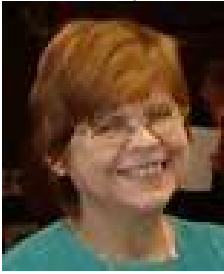
- 2 – Severn Dimmick
- 8 – Tim Gable
- 13 – Janet Andrus
- 28 – Ellie Conden
- 29 – David Walter



### *October Anniversaries*

- 1 – Hazel & Marv Remaley
- 3 – Colleen & Michael Ricci
- 13 – Lynn & Jim Pannebaker

C.Bourne photo

**Inga Wells**

## *Junior Rockhounds / Pebble Pups News*

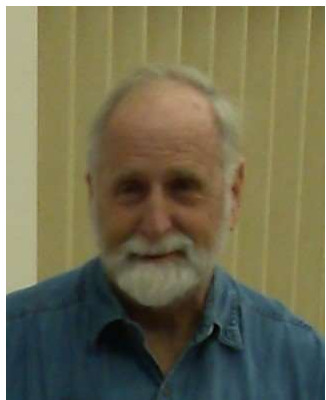
*By Inga Wells*

The Che-Hanna Pebble Pups will meet on Sunday, October 15 at 1:00 PM at the Athens United Methodist Church, 118 S Main Street Athens 18810. Please use the ramp door at the back of the church.

Program will be on Gypsum and calcite; Craft: making molds.

In case we schedule any additional meetings for October, they will be announced via email and our Junior Rockhound Facebook page.

Inga

**Dave Millis**

## **FIELD TRIP TO TALCVILLE, NY**

The field trip to Talcville to collect amphibole, variety Tirodite is on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. It's about 3 1/2 hours from the meeting place at North Gate Plaza near Exit 6 north of Binghamton on I-81. Be there at 8am.

We have given the variety name of Tirodite to any Amphibole that fluoresces ruby. So, bring your long wave UV light. Bring Tools that you can handle. Don't bring a sledge if you can't swing it. Crack hammer and chisel is probably enough. Shovel or screen box is not useful.

We will stop twice. The first is at the parking area near Exit 39, to join anyone coming from Syracuse or Wayne county clubs. This will be about 10 am.

The second stop is for coffee, gas and restroom at Exit 48. This should be about 10:30-40. After that, Set your GPS to Spragueville. It saves having to go into Gouverneur and about 4 miles. Talcville is another 10 miles.

The walk is about 50 feet. There's tirodite there, or you can work your way up the hill.

*September Club Meeting Minutes**by Mary Walter*

Regular Meeting September 2023

There were seventeen (17) members present.

We lost another long-time member.

Our condolences go to the Julie Fluke family. Julie passed away September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Julie taught school for many years in the Troy school district. She taught English and adult literacy classes. Julie loved all things in nature. She was an award-winning photographer and loved to sing. Julie's family is donating her collection to Che-Hanna. She was a happy, joyous person.

We had a great program given by Bruce Oilfield, retired SUNY Binghamton and Broome Community College professor. Bruce always gives an interesting program. The program was on radioactivity. He demonstrated using a Geiger counter. Bruce showed some of items you might have in your home that might be radioactive, old orange Fiesta ware, Vaseline glass, Coleman lantern mantles and smoke alarms. Currently, there is no good way to dispose of radioactive items from your home, they should not go in the trash. He explained how Radon gas can be in your home. Radioactivity is all around us all the time in very small amounts, that usually will not hurt us.

\*Last month's minutes were accepted as written.

\* Trish gave a treasure's report, filed for audit.

\* the Christmas party was discussed. The party will be held December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wildfire restaurant in Towanda off of Rte 6. In memory of Sandy Kenner there will an ugly sweater contest. The Christmas party committee will meet to make plans for the party before the next club meeting. Price will be \$5 for members in good standing and \$15 for guests and other members. Watch for further information about the party in future a Shin-skinner.

\* Stellia's food truck was chosen to provide food for upcoming rock show on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> next year. Bob McGuire will continue to be show chairperson. Thank you Bob.

\* Club dues should be turned in before January 1, 2024. \$8 for individual and \$12 for family.

Going once, going twice, going three times

\*\*\* sold\*\*\*

The October meeting is our annual action.

Please bring something to donate and some cash to buy that special item.

\* Junior Rock Hounds please watch for postings on where your meetings will be held. There are several different possible places. Inga has some fun activities planned.

\* Dave has made some more trips to Talcville to collect the mineral, Tirodite which is an Amphibole. Dave gave out door prizes and samples of Tirodite.

Meeting was adjourned.

Mary Walter  
Secretary

*September Board Meeting Minutes**by Mary Walter*

September 2023 Board meeting

There were eight (8) members present.

- \* Last month's minutes were excepted as written.
- \* Trish gave a budget report and shielded were the money was transferred from checking to the CD. Daune audited last year's budget and it was all good. Thank you Duane.
- \* It was decided to give the person that loaned the club the bus to go to the Syracuse show a \$100 gift certificate to Antler Ridge.
- \* Junior Rock Hounds have several possible places to have their meetings. Athens Methodist Church, Ulster recreation center, South Waverly Community Hall. They should watch for postings for locations.
- \* We will be having an Ugly Sweater Contest in honor of Sandy Keener. The Christmas party committee will meet before the next regular meeting.
- \* Stella's food truck was chosen for our show in March.
- \* A new home for the picnic tables that were at Satterlee Creek has not been found yet.
- \* October is our annual club auction.
- \* It was discussed what to do with Dell Wheats collection, which on McGuire porch. It needs to be gone through to see what it is. Julie Fluke's family donated her collection to the club. The collection needs to be picked up from her home.

Mary Walter  
Secretary

*Upcoming Shows & Events From: EFMLS.ORG*

**October 2023**

**7: Southern Maryland Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show**

Old Waldorf School 3074 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD

**28-9: Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show & Sale**

New Location: Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial St, East Rochester, NY 14446

**March 2024**

**23-24: Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club – Annual Rock & Mineral Show**

## Obituary of Julie Fluke



**Julie Fluke**

Juliet (Julie) Byrd Fluke, nee Howells, 84, of Nanticoke and Columbia Crossroads, PA, joined her beloved husband David Walter Fluke, on September 2, 2023. She died peacefully at home, with her son Ed, overlooking her beloved Laurel Lake.

Julie was born April 12, 1939, in Nanticoke, PA, the youngest of four children of Benjamin Franklin Howells and Millicent Haight Howells. She graduated from Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, PA, and Penn State University, where she obtained a degree in Education. She married David Earl Cummings on March 29, 1961, and moved to Hastings Nebraska, where she taught English. They had one child, Edward Elliott Cummings. That marriage ended in 1963. While teaching in Sussex, NJ, Julie met David Fluke, and they wed on October 30, 1965, and moved to Media, PA.

She taught English, Reading, and Spanish at elementary schools in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and volunteered at state parks to teach children about the natural beauty around them. In 1976, Julie moved with her husband David and her son Ed to Laurel Lake in Berrytown and she taught for the Troy Area School District. She also taught for adult literacy programs in the community, and Sunday school at Berrytown Wesleyan Church.

Julie admired and appreciated the natural world, from cloud formations, to birds, furry critters, and the tiniest insects. She loved animals, rocks and minerals, fossils, and seashells. She was a member of the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club in Sayre and built an extensive collection that she delighted in sharing with everyone, especially children.

She was also an accomplished and award-winning photographer, and sang with perfect pitch in choruses and church choirs. She was intelligent, ever-curious, playful, unique and eclectic, and she loved entertaining children. Julie loved living at Laurel Lake and sharing it with her family and friends. She shared her gratitude, compassion, and joy, and her generous and adventurous nature made her well-liked and loved by many.

Julie was preceded in death by her husband David Fluke, and by her three brothers, Benjamin, David, and Roger. She is survived by her son Edward Cummings, sisters-in-law Esther (David) Howells, Amelia (Roger) Howells, and by many nieces, nephews, and friends who will miss her very much.

There will be a memorial service and celebration of Julie's life on Saturday September 30th at 3:00 pm, at Berrytown Wesleyan Church, 178 Burt Road, Gillett, PA 16925. The Gerald W. Vickery, Jr. Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. 1093 W Main St., Troy, PA has been entrusted with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Allen F. Pierce Free Library, 34 Fenner Ave. Troy, PA 16947.

To **send flowers** to the family or **plant a tree** in memory of Juliet Byrd (Howells) Fluke, please **visit our floral store:** <https://www.vickeryfuneralhome.com/obituary/Juliet-Fluke/sympathy-landing>

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM  
Berrytown Wesleyan Church (Burt Road)