

MINERAL MONKEYS

By Sharon Marburger

Hi Juniors. As you know, Carolyn has taken off to attend family events in England. I don't have much to say, so here are some pictures I took at our last meeting. Remember that the May meeting is MAY 10. I'm sure Cindy or Susy will have something for you to do.



Finishing up our gem trees!



ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP AND ROCK PARTY

By Sharon Marburger

The Roadside Clean-up and Rock Party was held on Saturday, April 28 in Hickman. There were eleven club members turn out to pick up trash and two non-member volunteers. Two other members drove up and down the road to offer assistance, water, and rides as needed. It was a beautiful day, an ideal 70° F. with a light breeze.

Although our stretch of Highway 77 looked pretty clean when Jim and I traversed it to put up the cautionary road signs, we ended up collecting about 30 big orange plastic bags of trash. Department of Roads had mowed the highway shoulders back to the fenceline, which hadn't been done in about a year. With the shortage of volunteers and the extra amount to clean, it took about two hours instead of the customary 45-60 minutes.

Ed Ridge was the jackpot winner this time. He found a package of wire clips and a \$5 bill! I found a badger skeleton, which was really neat!

After the full bags were stacked, six of the volunteers met at the Marburgers' for the Rock Party. Three other members who had not been able to help with the clean-up joined the group.

There were pulled pork sandwiches, two types of baked beans, meatloaf, ham and cheese pinwheels, cole slaw, muffins, cheesecake salad, crackers, dates, chocolate covered yummys, apple dessert, lemon bars, and chocolate cheesecake.

Jim set up two Genies on the front porch so we could be as loud as we wanted and not interfere with the lively conversations inside. Jayne had a troublesome cabochon that she asked if Jim could help with. Between them, they got the cabochon to behave itself and take on a magnificent polish. Jayne and Eddie worked on some other pieces, and Sharon tried out a piece of bowlerite that Jim had just gotten in the mail. There was a lot of talk about past and future field trips, and the fun we've had over the years.

It was shocking to see the time when folks decided to call it a night. We were having so much fun, no one noticed that 11 p.m. had sneaked up on us!

If you didn't participate, you missed another wonderful opportunity to visit with club members and learn something new about the hobby.

As Jayne stated in her President's Message, we are looking for people to host future Rock Parties. Let her know, or another Board member know, if you would like to host a party. It is simple. Decide your food (or theme), pick a date and time, and it will happen.