

# The Petrified Digest

P.O.Box 303

Wenatchee, WA 98807

Published monthly by:  
Ginkgo Mineral Society, Inc.



Graphic used with permission

*Wenatchee Valley on an early April morning.*

*Average high temp - 64*

*Average precipitation - .53 inches*

*Rock Island Dam - first dam on Columbia River 1936*

**Ginkgo Club Meetings:**  
Next meeting: **Unknown**

**Field trip to Saddle Mountain**  
**May 1                      Details on page 3**

Email ideas, trip notes, or photos to:  
[ginkgonews@yahoo.com](mailto:ginkgonews@yahoo.com)

or to [wonderstar@nwi.net](mailto:wonderstar@nwi.net)

Web page: [www.wenatcheerockclub.org](http://www.wenatcheerockclub.org)

Face Book page: Ginkgo Mineral Society

## From Atop the Rock Pile

Hello Rockhounds.

Around the end of the month, the governor will make an announcement which may allow us to meet in person again. Everyone cross your fingers. I have some ideas brewing for outings and growing club membership. That said we are not going to do anything that could jeopardize the GMS in any way. Hoping to see you all soon.

President,  
Steven Douglass



## From the Scribe No Meeting – No Minutes

### Special Legal Notice

**Ginkgo Mineral Society, Inc.**

We are a 501c7 organization which is a social designation.

This means that since we are not a charitable organization we cannot accept tax deductible donations. If you know someone who wants to donate their rock collection please tell them that they can't use the value of their collection as a tax deduction. But we love getting them and will use them appropriately. We will also provide a nice "thank you" note from the club. And as a reminder, membership dues are not tax deductible either.

## From the Vault

|                                |                |                   |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| CD with first quarter interest |                |                   | \$10,011.10    |
| Savings Account                |                |                   |                |
|                                | March Interest |                   | <u>0.07</u>    |
|                                | Ending Balance |                   | \$1,797.51     |
| Checking Account               | 3/01/21        | Beginning Balance | \$875.53       |
|                                |                | 2 Deposits        | 142.00         |
|                                |                | Two checks        | <u>(68.03)</u> |
|                                | 3/31/21        | Ending Balance    | \$949.50       |

## David's Notes

Dues can be paid now for 2021. Send to:

Ginkgo

P.O.Box 303

Wenatchee, WA 98807

Or drop off your dues at my house at 1255 1<sup>st</sup> St. S.E. East Wenatchee

Membership reached an all time high in 2019 at around eighty families. Then with COVID-19 and no club meetings, the membership has dropped to around thirty families.




We can have rockhounding trips if we observe appropriate protocols. Pam, Marcia, and I went to Saddle Mountain on March 12. It was a beautiful day with sun and NO wind. The sad news is that the two girls out dug me at the limb-cast area! Oh well!

Now, Dan and I are planning a trip to Saddle Mountain for petrified wood on Saturday, May 1. You may bring your dues that day and give them to me. Let's go! Yeah Spring!

## Market place

Have something other club members might like and you want to sell?

Send picture(s) and description(s) to Dan Hanson – [wonderstar@nwi.net](mailto:wonderstar@nwi.net)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Ellensburg Blue</i><br/>by Carol Smith<br/>509.884.3349</p> <p>Pendants, traditional cabs and freeform in 14k gold or sterling silver wire wrap. A few select rings and several pieces of the rare lavender blue. Prices vary by carat weight and color.</p> |    |
| <p><i>Hand painted</i><br/><i>Columbia River Stones</i><br/>by Carol Smith<br/>509.884.334</p>   |   |
| <p><del>3 Lb Lortone Tumbler</del><br/><del>Works great</del><br/><del>includes a spare belt</del><br/><del>\$25.00</del><br/><del>Contact Dan Hanson</del><br/><del>253.318.6616</del><br/><b>Sold</b></p>  |  |

## Field Trip! Field Trip! Field Trip!

Saturday, May 1

To Saddle Mountain

We'll leave from the Hobby Lobby parking lot at 9 am

Bring water, wind breaker, and appropriate digging tools

And a BIG bucket for your finds.

## Diamond- Birthstone for April – Both Traditional & Modern Lists

World-wide, diamonds are the most popular stone used in rings – all because of a clever marketing strategy in 1938. That year, during the depths of the Great Depression, a marketing company came up with the slogan “Diamonds are Forever.” The world was made to believe diamonds are rare and last forever. Actually diamonds are the least rare of the “big four” - diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires. And unfortunately they are quite easily chipped or broken. There is a huge price markup on diamonds as supply is carefully controlled and strategic advertising gives the impression that diamonds are an investment. According to an insider, diamonds are marked up between 100 to 400 percent depending on the company selling the diamond. Diamonds lose approximately 50% of their value when they walk out of the store. Typically the original price will never be reclaimed when the diamond is resold by the kids or grandkids. The name “diamond” was taken from the Greek word, “adamas” meaning “invincible.” Diamond is the hardest known natural substance on Earth (10 on the Mohs scale) with a cutting resistance approximately 140 times greater than a sapphire or a ruby (both 9 on the Mohs scale). Naturally occurring diamond forms under extreme pressure and at very high temperatures, typically at depths of over 90 miles inside the Earth's mantle. Because diamond is carbon it cannot be age-dated by the customary carbon-dating process. However, natural diamond usually has inclusions of other minerals such as olivine and garnet that can be aged-dated. Astoundingly, diamond has an age range of 1 to 3 billion years. It is brought to the surface by deep volcanic eruptions of kimberlite magma. Diamonds can be created in labs and have the benefit of being free of the impurities and flaws of natural diamonds.



Major sources: Central & South Africa, Canada, India, Russia, Brazil, and Australia

## News of Note

### Alternate Birthstones List

We've looked at some birthstones selected for the month a person is born. However, there is another list of some birthstones based on a person's profession.

- an architect – cornerstone;
- a laundress – soapstone;
- a shoemaker – cobblestone;
- a cook – puddingstone;
- a burglar – keystone;
- a motorist – milestone;
- a tourist – Yellowstone;
- the careless – tombstone;
- and politicians – Blarney stone



### Ajo, Arizona Rocks by Dan Hanson

Before returning home from Arizona, I went to Ajo (pronounced ah hoe), Arizona with three other rockhounds from the rock club at our resort. We had heard that the rock club in Ajo had disbanded in the late 90s and one of the original members had a 26-inch slab saw he was willing to sell. I'm not sure any of us had any idea how big a saw like that is but as we drove to Ajo, we told each other grand stories about the rocks we could cut. After a quick look at the ginormous device we decided it wouldn't fit in my car for the ride back to our resort rock shop. However, not to waste a good



adventure, we did spend some time with Bob Hightower and his wife, Dee. Bob worked in the open pit New Cornelia Mine for over 40 years and he and his wife now run the small visitor shop overlooking the mine that closed in 1985. It is still a wonder to see the 300-plus miles of railroad circling the mine steps of the 1200 foot deep pit. Bob collected hundreds of pounds of gem-quality rocks from the mine over the years including shattuckite, ajoite, higginsite, cuprite, malachite, papagoite, chrysocolla, and some others I forgot. His workshop was beyond believable with thousands of finished and unfinished cabs of the semiprecious stones. From his workshop, he brought out many pounds of rough that we could purchase for our own use – although he was very proud of his rocks! Each of us did buy a piece or two that we later slabbed and will work up in the future. By the way, Bob is over 90 and still slabbing, cabbings, and selling his rocks. (We did not ask Dee's age.)

| New Cornelia Mine from viewpoint   | shattuckite – dark blue<br>ajoite – light green<br>higginsite – medium green        | A very few of Bob's projects  |
|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |

### Follow the Leader by Dena Hanson

Dan came home to our casita (little house) in March and invited me to go with Greg (a lapidary friend) and him to hunt for jasper north of Lake Pleasant, AZ. I was very intrigued. I had never hunted for jasper but I had picked it up before. I imagined hunting Easter Eggs and was game to try.

To familiarize you to the dry, desert land in the area, this is what I saw. It was a very busy, dusty road that was the north entrance to Lake Pleasant. The three cactus-filled hillsides nearby had gun enthusiasts out target practicing so I kept one eye on them while I looked down at the ground with my other. Several RVs were parked on flat land across the road and seemed to be loving the area.

Enthusiastically, Greg jumped out of the car telling us we were going to get lucky. Have you ever heard a rockhound tell you that? Oh, Oh! We carried rocks for an hour to the front of our car and the pile grew. Finally, we stood over the big pile and began culling our finds to bring home. Nothing too beautiful so far. But stopping at a dry, creek bed on the way out, we found our spot. Sitting by the side of the creek, was a large, golden, jasper stone half the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. Many people had tried chiseling a portion of the jasper off. Of course, Greg and I tried that too but it was an extremely hard rock so not much luck.

My success was a 5"by 5" red jasper rock I found about 100 feet up the draw that the water had washed out. Greg had his backpack full of gold, red, and brown jasper when he showed up again. This slab is from one of the rocks he collected.

Dan and Greg spent many hours slabbing those jasper rocks and I am ready to travel out to Lake Pleasant, AZ to look for jasper again.



## Officers

|                |                  |              |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| President      | Steven Douglass  | 509.885.2213 |
| Vice President | Carol Smith      | 509.884.3349 |
| Secretary      | Bob Spurrier     | 509.881.8096 |
| Treasurer      | David J. Earhart | 509.860.0988 |

## Coordinators

|                   |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Field Trips       | Open              |              |
| Shop & Equipment  | Carl Pederson     | 509.884.6940 |
| Program/Education | Carol Smith       | 509.884.3349 |
| Social            | Marge Porterfield | 509.679.3440 |
| Chelan Fair       | Dan Hanson        | 253.318.6616 |
| Museum            | Richard Congdon   | 509.886.2410 |
| Newsletter        | Dan Hanson        | 253.318.6616 |
| Website           | Val&Paul Hampton  | 509.884.3578 |
| Rock Auction      | Bob Spurrier      | 509.881.8096 |
| Christmas Wrap    | Pam Lander        | 509.884.5135 |
| Nason Creek       | David J. Earhart  | 509.860.0988 |

### Grit for club members



|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Graded 30      | \$4.00 lb |
| Ungraded 60/90 | \$4.00 lb |
| Graded 220     | \$4.00 lb |
| Graded 600     | \$4.00 lb |
| Polish         | \$7.00 lb |



The **Ginkgo Mineral Society** was formed to promote the education of mineralogy and geology; to encourage the collecting of rocks and minerals; to provide field excursions to mineral collecting areas; and to promote interest in lapidary work.

Dues: Individual—\$20.00 Senior—\$15.00 Family—\$30.00 Lifetime (20+ years) - Free

Please mail your dues to Ginkgo P.O.Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807

**Club information cards are available to handout to folks who show interest in our hobby. See David Earhart for cards to carry with you.**

## Shop Talk

The Ginkgo Club workshop is located at Christy Price's home: 4325 Squilchuck Rd., Wenatchee. Take the Squilchuck road toward Mission Ridge and turn left on Cranmer Road then an immediate left to the driveway. Check the Ginkgo Mineral Society Facebook page to see if someone may be opening the shop. **Club officers and the shop foreman have a key to open the shop.**

**Washington State Mineral Council** For info contact Ed Lehman at

[wsmced@gmail.com](mailto:wsmced@gmail.com) h#425.334.6282 c#425.760.2786

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|--|---|---|---|
| <b>UPDATE &amp;<br/>VERIFIED:<br/>Canceled</b> | <b>Yakima Rock &amp;<br/>Mineral Club</b> | 59 <sup>th</sup> Parade of Gems<br>Adults - \$6 \$5 w/ coupon<br>Students - \$2<br>K-12 years free with<br>paying adult | Central Washington<br>State Fair Modern<br>Living Building<br>1301 S. Fair Avenue<br>Yakima, WA 98901 |
|--|---|---|---|