

# 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 February morning.*

*Average high temp - 43*

*Average precipitation (snow) - 3 inches*

*City of Wenatchee Incorporated February 29, 1892*

## **Ginkgo Club Meetings:**

**Next meeting: Unknown**

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.

I hope this year finds you well.

I am evaluating what did and didn't happen last year in the club and I am wondering how many of you are interested in going on outings, official or unofficial, regardless of what mandates are being pushed on those in our state. We may or may not be able to legally hold our official monthly meetings but that does not mean that those interested cannot go on outings.

Please text your thoughts and ideas to me at my phone number listed in this publication. Thank you.

President,  
Steven Douglass



## From the Scribe No Meeting – No Minutes

Heal fast, Bob.

## From the Vault

CD	12/4/20		\$10,000.00
Savings Account			
	December Interest		0.08
	Ending Balance		\$1,797.37
Checking Account	1/01/20	Beginning Balance	\$727.80
		(Shop fees, grit)	
		Newsletter printing	<u>(187.04)</u>
	11/30/20	Ending Balance	\$540.76

Notes from Dave:

Time to pay membership dues for 2021. So far 20 families have paid. Send checks to:

Ginkgo

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Thank you to Dan Hanson for getting out the Newsletter each month from his home in Arizona. He is keeping us all informed even though we have no meetings.

Kirk and Tabatha Holman are spending vacation time in Arizona this month. They visited with Tom Prang while in Quartzsite. Lucky; you people in AZ. Wish we were there!

Wanda and Larry Shaw went to Saddle Mountain last week. The weather was great and the petrified wood was big.

Dave and Pam Lander have been road-tripping around Central Washington. They encountered lots of elk and wild turkeys. Pam and Marcia Summers were at the shop filling containers with grit since Danny and Vicki McGregor were buying this year's supply.

## 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)

*Ellensburg Blue*  
*by Carol Smith*  
*509.884.3349*

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.



*Hand painted*  
*Columbia River Stones*  
*by Carol Smith*  
*509.884.334*



## Do you know

The legend of the 14-pound “Pearl of Allah”? Willian Dowell Cobb was on an archeological expedition in 1934 in the Philippines near the island of Palawan. According to his story, the giant pearl was found in a giant *Tridacna* clam estimated by local divers to be over 450 years old. To add spice to the story (or maybe it was true) when the clam was brought to the surface it was clamped onto the arm of a dead pearl diver. The local Muslim chief thought the pearl looked like the turbaned-head of Allah and kept the pearl as payment for certifying the death of the diver. Cobb expressed interest in buying the pearl but was rejected because of the religious significance. Two years later when Cobb returned to the area, the chief's son was dying of malaria. Cobb treated the boy with injections of atabrine over a period of days and saved his life. The chief believed this was the “will of Allah” and rewarded Cobb with the pearl. For years the “Pearl of Allah” was considered the largest natural pearl but has now been surpassed by the 75-pound “Giga Pearl” that was first mentioned in family records in 1959. The “Pearl of Allah” has been valued by various appraisers at between \$200,000 and \$93,000,000. True story or not, the pearl is very dramatic and quite lovely in a weird way.





## Amethyst - Birthstone for February – Both Traditional and Modern Lists

Amethyst's name comes from the Greek word “amethystos” meaning not intoxicating. In ancient times it was thought that drinking from an amethyst goblet or putting an amethyst crystal in your cup of wine, would prevent you from getting drunk. In the crystal kingdom, amethyst is an eye-catching purple or violent which is by far the most popular and valuable form of quartz in the world today. Not long ago, amethyst was part of the five cardinal gems considered the most valuable; diamond, emerald, ruby, and sapphire being the other four. Massive discoveries of amethyst in Brazil have led to its decline in value. Amethyst is hard enough (7 on Mohs scale) to be used in a variety of jewelry pieces and its availability in large sizes means it can be used for some stunning ornate carvings. It owes its vibrant color to the presence of iron or manganese when forming in fissures within igneous rocks.

Major sources: Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Zambia



## Amethyst Myths and Legends

Next time you are rockhounding, wear an amethyst pendant suspended on a dog-hair cord. That will be a cure for any snakebite you might get. If you have a mental challenge facing you, put an amethyst stone in your pocket to improve your intelligence. An amethyst can help you control your evil thoughts and can calm you when you are highly excited by passion and love. Roman women wore amethyst charms to insure their husbands would remain faithful when they were off fighting Caesar's wars. And Greek legend has it that the God of Wine, Bacchus, was very angry because he had been subjected to some form of neglect. He was determined to take out his anger on the next person who crossed his path; that person would be devoured by his tigers. Unfortunately it turned out to be a pure and lovely maiden named Amethyst who worshiped the Goddess Diana. When the tigers lunged at the maiden, she offered up a prayer to Diana who immediately changed the maiden into a transparent statue. To compensate for his rash actions, Bacchus poured some of his favorite wine over the statue turning into the lovely color of amethyst.

## News of Note

“We've seen this look just before Jim Mayer frees up that BIG agate and breaks into a BIG grin.” (Thanks Carol S. and David E. for sending this to me.)

## Getting to know you – New member Tracie Downey

Welcome Tracie from Winthrop.

She has been an informal rockhound since she was old enough to pick up rocks. She “Loves Rocks.” Tracie is very interested in learning more about minerals. She is an amateur jewelry maker and is learning how to form cabs. She is also learning to wire-wrap and doing silversmithing and flint knapping. “I am excited to connect with others who love the craft and I am eager to learn from you all. Thank you so much for folding me in and I look forward to meeting folks when it is safe to do so.”



## How to

Make the perfect cab ( or at least good enough for gifts for relatives!)

There are probably many reasons why most of us will never make the perfect cab. As we get older our hand-eye coordination seems to wane. Our hands aren't quite as steady as they once were. And we sometimes have less patience and are willing to “settle.” But following these few steps will lead to good looking cabs that we will feel proud to pass along to grandkids, mothers and fathers, and others in our circle of friends and family.

Step 1. Choose good rocks. Look for cracks, soft spots, or other imperfections in the rock. Cut a slab or two and inspect again.

Step 2. Use your template to mark out a good pattern in a pleasing orientation using a fine-tip Sharpie or sharp aluminum or copper nail. Make sure your template is true and you have true lines you will be able to see when you work the stone.

Step 3. Preform the cab using your trim saw and grinder. Cut close to the line - about 1/8<sup>th</sup> or so. It is easier to grind off extra material than it is to grind on missing material. After trimming, grind down to the edge of the template line. (At this point I drop the preformed cab onto a concrete floor to see if I missed some hidden crack or weak spot. I would rather it break at this point instead of as I was doing the finishing polish on the stone or even worse when I am setting it into a bezel.)



Step 4. Lay the stone on its back on a flat surface and scribe a line 1-2 mm up from the back around the perimeter of the stone using a Sharpie. This is the height of the girdle that will be inside the bezel. Grind the top slowly and carefully down to the line and into a dome shape using progressively finer wheels or sandpaper. The important thing is every trace of scratches from the previous polishing step must be removed before you move on to the next size of grit.

My “normal” progression of grit is 80 – 220 – 600 – 1200 then polish with 3000. But as you refine your methods, you may find a different progression that suits you better. The perfect cab is one that makes you feel good when it is done.

Editor's Note:

If you have any activities you are doing at home and would like to share or ideas for me to research, please send me an email.

## 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

March 2021 27 <sup>th</sup> 10am-6pm 28 <sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society	72 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Rock & Mineral Show "Petrified Wood"	Sweet Home HS Activity Gym 1641 Long St Sweet Home, Or
April 2021 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10am-4pm 24 <sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm 25 <sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	59 <sup>th</sup> Parade of Gems Adults - \$6 \$5 w/ coupon Students - \$2 K-12 years free with paying adult	Central Washington State Fair Modern Living Building 1301 S. Fair Avenue Yakima, WA 98901