

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 January morning.

Average high temp - 36

Average precipitation (snow) - 4 inches

Elevation - 663 feet

Ginkgo Club Meetings:

Next meeting: **Unknown**

Email ideas, trip notes, or photos to:

ginkgonews@yahoo.com

or to wonderstar@nwi.net

Web page: www.wenatcheerockclub.org

Face Book page: **Ginkgo Mineral Society**

From Atop the Rock Pile (President)

No comments this month



From the Wizard (Vice President)

I am pursuing information about some field trips that we can safely share and enjoy. Some of them involve an overnight stay.

1. Tahoma jasper @Mt. Rainier
2. Huge deco concretions – Fairy Stones” @North Bend Middle Fork Valley
3. Columbia Basin agates @Tricities near Fir Road (new location)

I will keep in touch with my rockhounding “secret scouts” as to when our local mountain areas will be free of snow and we can get into Red Top and above Liberty. I imagine our first outing will be our ole standby Saddle Mountain. I will keep you posted as to how this all plays out. Look forward to Valentine's Day and better days to come.

Carol Smith

Vice President

From the Scribe (Secretary) No Meeting – No Minutes

Although he has not been taking notes for meetings, Bob has been very busy working on some very beautiful stones. These were recently posted to FaceBook for us all to see and admire. Excellent work, Bob!

Bob Spurrier
Secretary



From the Vault (Treasurer)

Savings Account

Beginning Balance January 1, 2020	\$11,784.61
Interest for 2020	11.18
Opened CD Dec 10	<u>(10,000.00)</u>
Ending Balance December 31	\$1,795.79

Checking Account

Beginning Balance January 1, 2020	\$1,132.44
Income	2,169.90
Expenses	<u>(2,850.39)</u>
Ending Balance December 31	\$451.95

Cashmere Valley Bank changed their interest rate in mid 2020. Carol and David opened a CD with \$10,000 from savings. The interest rate is at 3.5%. We will earn \$3.50 per month not 13 cents per month. **(Additional note on page 5)**

Happy New Year
David Earhart
Treasurer

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

<p><i>Ellensburg Blue</i> by Carol Smith 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> <i>Columbia River Stones</i> by Carol Smith 509.884.334</p>	

What's the Difference Between Traditional and Modern Birthstones?

The list of traditional or ancient birthstones most well-known in the United States actually originated in Poland between the 16th and 18th centuries. In 1912, the National Association of Jewelers released a list of so-called “modern birthstones.” The modern list differed somewhat from the traditional, most notably by including only transparent gems. Presumably, this made it easier for jewelers to create “mother’s rings,” which feature the birthstones of a woman’s children, in a manner more suited to modern tastes.

Jewelers continue to add options to the modern birthstone chart. For example, spinel, citrine, and tanzanite are recent additions to the modern list. In the United States today, people draw freely from both lists and pick the stones that appeal to them.

Garnet - Birthstone for January – Both Traditional and Modern Lists

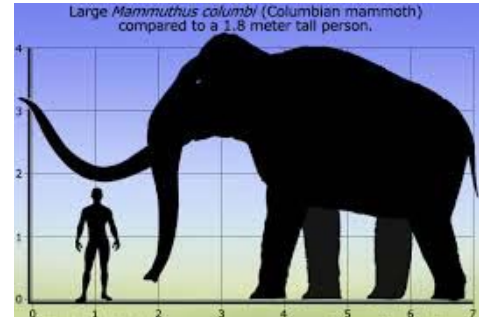
Garnets are a group of silicate minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Even though red is the most known color of garnet, this fiery gemstone also comes in green, pink, yellow, brown, purple, and even black. Garnet can also be found in a translucent, almost colorless variety. All species of garnets possess similar physical properties and crystal forms, but differ in chemical composition. The garnet family is one of the most complex in the gem world. It's not a single species but rather consists of several species and varieties.

Major sources: Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States



Did you know

In 1975, petrified wood was designated the Washington State gem. Petrified wood is not really a gemstone but a fossil. Never the less, it is has been cut and polished into lots of jewelry. In 1998 the Columbian mammoth was designated the official fossil (species) of the State. Most of the fossil remains are single items like molars. Some tusks have been found but usually not in very good condition. There were some more “complete” skeletons of individual mammoths discovered by various construction crews through out the state. Columbian mammoths probably derived from imperial mammoths that were native to North America some 300,000 to 500,000 years ago. Carbon dating suggests the last Columbian mammoths roamed the Puget Lowland 15,000 to 17,000 B.P. years ago. In eastern Washington, the last mammoths were present 11,000 to 13,000 years B.P. In both western and eastern Washington, they seem to have been driven from the state by rapidly changing climatic conditions and deteriorating habitat. Glaciers covered the Puget Lowlands by 15,000 years B.P. In eastern Washington, warming temperatures after the glaciers receded, probably drove the mammoths out of the state. (B.P. Stands for Before Present in carbon dating. 1950 is considered Present since atomic testing after that year has “polluted” the carbon dating process.)



For more information check the link:

<https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol/washington/state-dinosaur-or-fossil/columbian-mammoth>

News of Note

Bench Tip: ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.



A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model-making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

From: Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

[//Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Bench Tip: GETTING THE POLISH OUT

On many forums, I frequently see questions about how to get the polish out of cracks and pits of lapidary material after the polishing step is complete. People try scrubbing the piece with a toothbrush and soap or using a dental water pick or a dental sonic cleaner. Most of these approaches do not get the job done.

I have an ultrasonic cleaner that I bought more than 30 years ago, and it is very effective at removing polish from cabochons as well as many other materials. The cleaner is an old Bransonic model B12 80-watt unit. The tank holds 4 cups or 32 oz of fluid. The tank size is 5" by 5" and 3" deep.

There are many options of ultrasonic units that are jewelry and lapidary suitable. They vary in size from the smaller version, as I have, to those that have gallon sized tanks. The variation of power in these units is measured in watts of energy, and most also have a heater and a timer option.

Less expensive units are sold as “sonic” cleaners for home use in cleaning jewelry or dentures, but they tend to produce less power and often have smaller tanks.

There are also many different cleaning agents sold for use with these units, but I mix my own agents. Most of the time I use about two teaspoons of cheap liquid dish soap and a tablespoon of cheap liquid ammonia (not the sudsy type), which I add to hot water. This mixture works well for most of my applications.

Jewelers use these units with the heaters and timers for many of their cleaning activities. When polishing jewelry with white diamond tripoli or jeweler’s rouge the polish is applied from a round stick or a chunk polishing media. These pieces are actually powdered media held into stick form by a type of grease, and when the resultant polishing residue remains on the piece of jewelry it is difficult to remove. However, the hot soapy cleaning solution in the ultrasonic cleaner quickly dissolves the greasy residue.

With regard to a cab that has a druzy or crystalline pocket the polish will cling to the rough areas and resist vigorous scrubbing activities. Removal of this residue is quickly and easily accomplished with an ultrasonic unit. Using the combination of liquid detergent and ammonia in the unit, all you need to do is dip your piece into the solution. A cloud of polish will emanate from the druzy or crystal pocket. In a minute or less all of the polish will dissipate. However, it is critical that you remove the polish shortly after the piece is polished. If the polish has time to dry it will be more difficult to remove.

If you are using the ultrasonic unit to remove polish from the dop stick do not add the ammonia to the solution, because it will degrade the dop wax.

Do not use any bleach in the unit because it will damage the stainless tank.

Also, do not use the unit on opal or porous stones.

From: Rock&Gem by Bob Rush



Income comparison:

	2019	2020
Membership	\$1,970.00	\$1,149.00
Shop Fees	595.00	406.75
Grit sales	197.00	211.50
Rock sales	0.00	80.00
Book Sales	95.00	118.75
Meeting raffle	590.00	79.00
Fred Meyer Rewards	150.62	113.72
Savings account	23.09	11.18
Equipment sales	125.00	0.00
Member gifts	169.00	0.00
Christmas wrap	960.00	0.00
Rock auction	604.00	0.00
Nason Creek	<u>515.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$5,993.71	\$2,169.90

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 h#425.334.6282 c#425.760.2786

March 2021 27 th 10am-6pm 28 th 10am-5pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society	72 nd Annual Rock & Mineral Show "Petrified Wood"	Sweet Home HS Activity Gym 1641 Long St Sweet Home, OR
April 2021 23 rd 10am-4pm 24 th 10am-5pm 25 th 10am-4pm	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	59 th 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

Ginkgo 2020 Year End Financial Report

	Expenses		2020 Budgeted	Proposed 2021
Shop	Rent	\$540.00	\$540.00	\$540.00
	Grit & Supplies	\$129.20	\$200.00	\$300.00
	3 Blades	\$37.47	\$800.00	\$500.00
Newsletter	Printing	\$547.17	\$450.00	\$550.00
	Envelopes	\$112.24	\$100.00	\$150.00
	Postage	\$354.00	\$300.00	\$350.00
Business	P.O.Box (2021)	\$106.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
	Website (2021)	\$100.36	\$100.00	\$125.00
	Insurance (2021)	\$423.00	\$400.00	\$450.00
	Sec. Of State	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Meetings	Rent/Church	\$150.00	\$600.00	\$150.00
	Books	\$232.46	\$250.00	\$200.00
	Pizza	\$64.66	\$200.00	\$200.00
	Handouts	\$43.83	\$150.00	\$150.00
Activities	Shop Repairs	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$300.00
	Promotions	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Totals	\$2,850.39	\$5,250.00	\$4,700.00

David Earhart
Treasurer