

# The Petrified Digest

P.O.Box 303

Wenatchee, WA 98807

Published monthly by:  
Ginkgo Mineral Society, Inc.



*Brought to you by SkyFi*



Graphic used with permission

*Wenatchee Valley on a March morning.*

*Average high temp - 55*

*Average precipitation - .61 inches*

*City of East Wenatchee Incorporated March 11, 1935*

## 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 haven't heard from anyone so I must assume you are all happy with things.

Good news! Emerald Creek, the star garnet area near St Maries, Idaho will be open in May, after being closed for three years... and furthermore... No state mask mandates! Woo Hoo! Hope you all are ready to schedule a trip down there this spring/summer. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.



President,  
Steven Douglass

## From the Scribe No Meeting – No Minutes

### From the Vault

CD			\$10,000.00
Savings Account			
		February Interest	0.08
		Ending Balance	\$1797.44
Checking Account	2/01/21	Beginning Balance	\$540.76
		4 Deposits - memberships	365.00
		grit sales	54.00
		Fred Meyer Rewards	27.41
		Newsletter printing	<u>(111.64)</u>
	2/28/21	Ending Balance	\$875.53

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership for this year. We pray we will have the opportunity to meet and rockhound soon.

### David's Notes: Coordinator: Nason Creek – David Earhart

I suppose you new members and others wonder what this entry in the list of coordinators is all about. Well, the Washington Department of Transportation has a rest stop on Highway 2 ten miles west of Leavenworth near Nason Creek. Non-profits are invited to hand out free coffee and goodies to travelers for which donations are accepted. Twice a year, Ginkgo would staff this spot for several days. It's fun to visit with the travelers and talk about rockhounding.

Once every two years, the Department invites non-profits to register and our names are drawn from a box. As names are drawn, we get to choose an available weekend. After all the names have been drawn once, the names are returned to the box and redrawn and we get to choose our second weekend from the dates still available. This process continues until a two-year schedule is filled. We end up with two weekends each year in the two-year cycle.

In the past, we have received donations of cash in the amount of \$500 to \$750 each time. This is a major fundraiser for the club and pays for many of our expenses. However, due to health concerns about COVID-19, the opportunity has been suspended. If restrictions are eased and the virus is more under control, the Department may plan opportunities for next year.

## 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*



## Welcome new members

Rick & Carol Lechner come to us from Wyoming where they were members of a rock & mineral club there.

Andrew and Janine Elf come to us from the Everett Rock & Gem Club.

John Aumell is joining with his brother-in-law, Andrew Elf.

We hope to meet you all in person in the near future and can share rockhounding stories with each other.

## Bloodstone - Birthstone for March - Traditional List

In the world of gemstones, it would be difficult to find one with more history and spiritual importance than bloodstone. Powers attributed to bloodstone include healing powers, the ability to change the weather, protection from enemies, turning the wearer invisible, prophetic talents, an aphrodisiac, and a symbol of justice. Bloodstone is mainly a deep green to almost black looking stone decorated with red, orange, or brown spotting caused by iron oxide inclusions. Bloodstone makes fine jewelry with a hardness of 6.5 – 7 on the Mohs scale.

Major sources: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy and the United States.





## Aquamarine - Birthstone for March – Modern List

Named after the color of seawater, aquamarine is the blue to blue-green member of the beryl family. This historical gemstone has been featured in writings for at least 3000 years and was revered by ancient Sumerian, Egyptian, and Greek cultures. It was an object of great beauty and great spiritual strength. To the Greeks, aquamarine was the sailor's best friend as carrying one ensured safe travels on the waters. Aquamarine has a hardness of 7.5 – 8 on the Mohs scale and is typically faceted for rings and earrings.



Major sources: Brazil, Madagascar, Australia, India, Namibia, Nigeria, and the United States.

## Did you know

Last month we introduced the Pearl of Allah which for many years held the title of the largest natural pearl ever found. It weighs about 14 pounds. This month we look at a “new” record-holder, the Giga Pearl that weighs about four times as much at 60-plus pounds.

The exact date the Giga pearl was found is not recorded but the pearl was passed down to a Canadian man from his aunt who received it from the man's Filipino grandfather in 1959. Giant pearls like this are found in rare giant clams in the Palawan regions of the south-western Philippines. The family wasn't certain it was a pearl until it was taken to New York and certified by the Gemological Institute of America.

The Giga pearl is now on display in a specially designed gold sculpture resembling an octopus that embraces the tooth-shaped pearl. The owner – Abraham Reyes – is looking for a place to permanently display the sculpture and pearl. It's value has been placed at 60 to 90 million dollars.



But wait! Another giant pearl has arrived on the scene. This 75 pound behemoth was kept hiding under a Filipino fisherman's bed for 10 years before he had to move and gave the pearl to a relative for safe-keeping while he moved. His relative is a Puerto Princesa city tourism officer who put the pearl on display as a tourist attraction. The pearl is displayed in a simple glass case in the city hall. This pearl has not been “certified” so it does not hold the official record as the largest but that process may be completed in the near future. The un-named pearl has been valued at 100 to 130 million dollars.



## Gold, Gems, and Rocks in Biblical times

Gold is the most-often mentioned mineral in the Bible. It was valued by most peoples of the time but was quite often a source of conflict between them. Many of the battles mentioned in the Bible were for land that held deposits of the precious metal. Just as now, panning was a common method for separating gold from the host matrix. Pans were usually just ordinary gourds. Sluice boxes were also an effective method that used sheep fleece to capture the heavy metal flakes. Maybe that's the inspiration for “Jason's Golden Fleece.”

In Exodus, there is a description of “The Breastplate” worn by the high priest. It was made of cloth and had four rows of three gems each sewn on it to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Although diamonds are mentioned in some translations, it is unlikely the stones would have been real diamonds. More likely the stones were pretty rocks or common gems of the times. In Revelations, there are references to gems that we call emerald, beryl, chrysoprase, sapphire, sardonyx, and crystal

– which is probably quartz. The Greeks called crystals of quartz, *Krystallos* (ice) because they thought it was ice that would not melt.

The word “rock” is used many, many times in the Bible. “The Lord is my rock and fortress,” “He shall set me upon a rock,” and many more. The reference to “fortress” is significant because in the deserts of the near east, rocks or hills were places that were more easily defended. Many cities were built on “rocks” such as Troy, Athens, Jerusalem, and even Rome had its beginnings on hilltops. Rocks also provided respite from the sun. So verses like “The Lord is a shadow of a great rock in a weary land,” have more meaning for desert dwellers than it does to someone from the west side of Washington where gray is the dominant color of the sky. Many of the word-pictures of the Bible had vivid meaning for the writers but are lost on modern readers in the comforts of our homes, offices, and shopping malls.

## News of Note

### Examining Georius Agricola's *De Re Metallica* (From Rock&Gem)

By Steve Voynick

The bibliographies of the modern literature of minerals, mining, assaying, and smelting often cite a pivotal work titled *De Re Metallica*. This fact may seem surprising for a work that is 465 years old, but *De Re Metallica* is no ordinary book. An encyclopedic dissertation on mining and metallurgy, this book is one of the landmark achievements of the early Renaissance period. Based on personal observation and written in meticulous detail, it documents both period craftsmanship and the rudiments of science and is the first true example of modern technological literature.

*De Re Metallica* (*On the Nature of Metals*) is the work of Georgius Agricola, a well-educated humanist scholar, physician, author, and de facto mineralogist and metallurgist. His achievements include describing 20 new mineral species, preparing the first systematic mineralogical classification system, recognizing bismuth and antimony as primary metals (elements), and most importantly writing a work of great historical significance that is still relevant today. Through its text and the original illustrations, *De Re Metallica* offers a fascinating look at mining and metallurgy in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



## 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. Also if you have questions about anything in the newsletter, I would like to know that also.

## 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

April 2021	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	<b>Cancelled</b>	
April 2021	West Seattle Rock Club	<b>Annual Show</b>	Alki Masonic Temple, Seattle