

# 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 May morning.*

*Average high temp - 73*

*Average precipitation - .69 inches*

*Wenatchee Valley College - Established private 1939 became public 1941*

## **Ginkgo Club Meetings:**

**Auction and meeting**

**June 19 6:30pm**

**At Dan & Dena Hanson Home**

**2421 Lester Rd, Wenatchee**

**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!  
 It's that time of year. The snow is gone and we now have access to most places we can go. Hopefully everyone had a good time on our recent outing. The rest of this year's rock treasure hunting trips will be announced shortly. Looking forward to digging with you all soon.  
 President,  
 Steven Douglass



## From the Scribe No Meeting – No Minutes

### From the Vault

CD with first quarter interest			\$10,011.10
Savings Account			\$1797.51
		April Interest	<u>0.08</u>
		Ending Balance	\$1,797.59
Checking Account	4/01/21	Beginning Balance	\$949.50
		Deposits	50.00
		Two checks	<u>(80.01)</u>
	4/30/21	Ending Balance	\$919.49

Dues may be paid now. Send to Ginkgo P.O.Box 303 Wenatchee, WA 98007  
 Or drop off at David's house: 1255 1<sup>st</sup> S.E. East Wenatchee

This is a list of members who have paid dues for 2021. If you have a question contact David.  
 If your name is NOT listed your dues are past due for this year.

Allen	Frederick	Mosher
Aumell	Garver	Prang
Bodrero	Gill	Pinnix
Burke	Hanson	Price
Condon	Holman	Reynolds, B
Danielson	Jackson	Reynolds, L
Douglass	Lander	Rhoads
Downey	Latimer	Russell, L
Earhart	Lechner	Shaw
Summers	Marconi	Sherwood
Everhart	McGregor	Sly, K
Elf	Spurrier	Smith
Engley	McMillan	Watkins
Feiten	Montgomery	Witt

## Special Notice

This year one of our goals is to increase our membership with new members. If you know of someone who has an interest in collecting rocks, who might want to cut & polish rocks, or just someone you know who likes your rocks, there is an application form with this newsletter.

## 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*



*Double Tumbler Frame*

I don't know much about the barrel but I put on new bearings and new belts. Good motor that can be easily switched from 110 to 220. The frame is wide enough to run two 15lb barrels.

\$100

Contact Dan Hanson  
253.318.6616



## Emerald - Birthstone for May – Both Traditional and Modern Lists

The most prized emeralds have a pure dark green color with vivid color saturation that is evenly distributed throughout the stone with no visible variations. The name comes from the Greek word “smaragdus” and the Latin “smaragdus” meaning green gem and goes back even further to the Sanskrit “maragdam” meaning emerald. Emeralds were highly valued by ancient Egyptians, Romans, Indians, Aztecs, and Incas. It is a member of the beryl family and also a member of the traditional “big four” gems, along with diamond, ruby, and sapphire.

Major sources: Colombia, Brazil, Zambia, Australia, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States





## Saddle Mountain Rockhounding trip May 1 – by David Earhart

David and Dan Hanson decided to get the Ginkgo gang out of the house and get something going. It worked! Seventeen of us showed Saturday morning, May 1 to go to Saddle Mountain to get petrified wood in all shapes and sizes. We headed out from the parking lot at Hobby Lobby. First out of the gate were Carol and Darrel Smith, followed by David and Marcia with Brenda Jackson giving directions from the back seat. Next were Dan and Dena Hanson followed by Carol Turner and her grandkids Nick and Elizabeth.

After two potty breaks we were joined in Mattawa at the gas station by T Rex Bodrero and Dan's friend Gregg Stanford from Spokane. (Ed: Another young lady asked if we were the rockhounds and after a positive response, she followed us up the mountain. Turns out she was a newbie looking for her club members from the Spokane Rock Rollers who were also on a rockhounding trip to the area. She eventually found others from her group and left our caravan.) Upon reaching the top of Saddle Mountain several of us split off for the limb cast area to dig for those goodies. When we broke for lunch R. John Montgomery joined us. He reported visiting with Kim and Larry Fulkerson and Phillip Trepanier.

Sixth grader Elizabeth now knows how to swing a rock hammer and expose those limb cast goodies to fill her bucket. You couldn't stop her brother Nick in one spot for very long as he was all over the hillside. In his words, "We found the mother load." Grandma Carol had her bucket full also.

All in all, it was a great day for all. Where do we go next?



## Do you know

Where Saddle Mountain came from and how all that petrified wood got so high up? The story starts more than 15 million years ago.

Cracks opened up in the Earth's crust in the area of what is now southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. Lava flowed out of these cracks much like we're currently seeing in Iceland this past 6 weeks. But the quantity of lava was tremendous and covered the landscape of vast areas of central and eastern Washington and Oregon and even enough to flow down the Columbia channel to the ocean. This happened many, many times with thousands of years between many of the flows.

All the while other forces were at work on the mountains to the west (Cascades). There were periodic mud/ash/debris flows from the mountains pouring out over the lava layers. The trees and branches in the flows were trapped under later lava flows and were petrified. The many varieties of petrified trees found in the one relatively small area would not have all grown in the same area. Some grew in swamps, some grew on low lands, and some grew high up on the mountains.

After the lava flows subsided, the Earth's crust began to deform. Giant ridges were pushed up and formed structures such as Frenchman Hills, Saddle Mountains, Manastash Ridge, and many more. As the ridges were pushed up the tops eroded and layers of petrified logs and wood were



exposed.

The story of Saddle Mountain (actually it is plural - Mountains) in recent history is one of exploration, expansion and conflict. Many times farmers in the late 1800s and early 1900s attempted to farm the dry land, usually with little success. Some of the land was state land, some private land, some railroad land, and some came under federal control (BLM). In 1933, the federal government created a project to irrigate over a million acres of eastern Washington including some of the southern slope of Saddle Mountain. With water now available farms became more viable. Conflicts arose between farmers, rockhounds searching for petrified wood, and ATV owners. There were few fences and even less signs to define boundaries. In 1987, Burlington Northern owned 16,000 acres which they traded to the BLM for acreage in the Tri-cities area. The exchange consolidated land and reduced some of the conflicting and confusing management issues.

Today's rockhounds and off-road vehicle riders share the land with a few farmers - mostly without conflict. It is an interesting place with an interesting history.

Thanks to James Engley for suggesting this topic. And thanks to Nick Zentner, CWU Geology Professor, for his lecture series and James Sharpe, a 1997 CWU grad student, for his master's thesis work. Information was taken from both.

## Field Trip Success and Safety

This issue of the newsletter highlight our recent rockhounding adventure. So it seems timely to review some suggestions that can make rock hunting trips fun and safe. List 1 is suggestions for equipment to take for the average trip such as Saddle Mountain. List 2 is additional safety equipment for trips farther afield from the vehicle or for overnight excursions.

List 1	List 1 good to have if out of sight of vehicle	List 2 additional stuff	
Water		Extra Water	All trips are different so these items should be selected to fit the trip. Multi-day or hiking trips require more planning and more equipment. Regardless of the duration or distance for a trip, it is good to communicate a travel plan with others.
First aid kit	Area map	Bigger first aid kit	
Gloves, hat, good shoes	Layered clothing	Medications - if needed	
Bug spray	Food bars	Food bars	
Tissue	Whistle	Survival blanket	
Bucket or backpack	Flashlight	Hand-held GPS	
Small shovel		(good to have)	
Hoe or short handle rake		Emergency beacon	
Light weight pick		(also good to have)	
Walking stick		Fire starter	
Rock Hammer		Knife	
Pry bar		Rope	
Lunch		Large trash bag (poncho)	
Folding chair -		TP	
for older rockhounds		Wet wipes	

## 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

June 5 <sup>th</sup> 9 to 5 June 6 <sup>th</sup> 10 to 4	North Idaho Mineral Club	Annual show	Couer d'Alene, ID
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> 9-6 July 24 <sup>th</sup> 9-6 July 25 <sup>th</sup> 9-5	Washington Agate and Mineral Society	Rock and Gem Show during Tenino Oregon Trail Days	Tenino, WA