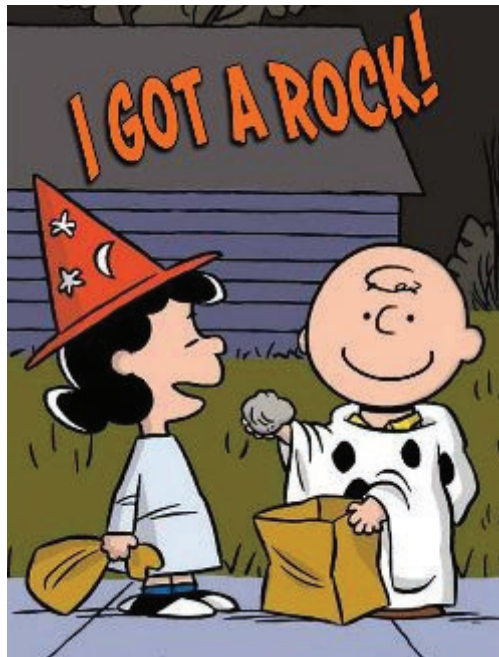


Goodbye Halloween. Hello Thanksgiving



The Petrified Digest

November 2023



Welcome Friends and Rockhounds

I asked our President, Carol to do an interview with me so I could write an story about her as she has led an interesting life. She chose to write the story herself which is even better. Here it is I know you'll enjoy it.



Meet Your Fellow Club Members

Carol Smith

I was born in Bremerton, Washington where I spent the first 13 years of my life. My father's father delved into prospecting and went to the Yukon in 1889. Perhaps that history influenced my love of rocks, minerals, geology, archeology and artifacts of Indian heritage.

My first recollection of rock hounding was early on in grade school. While the rest of my classmates played games such as ring-around-the-rosie, I spent my recess time way out on the playground where the area was covered with gravel. My behavior prompted my teacher to call my parents concerning my anti-social behavior. All questions were solved when I explained that I had discovered that the playground gravel contained various colors of small agates and THAT was a lot more fun than playing silly group games. I still, at age 81, have in my china closet the original bottle of little agates that I gathered in the late 1940s.

My mother came to Washington in the early 1920s and helped my father settle in Rock Island after he had lost the Pender, Nebraska homestead during the Depression. We moved from Bremerton to Wenatchee in the mid 1950s and I attended Eastmont High School where I graduated in 1960. I joined the Ginkgo Mineral Society around 1955. Marie Magnusson was the President back then. One field trip stands out in my memory, mainly because we used boats for transportation.

We launched at Vantage and headed down river for several miles. We stopped at a large sandbar where we screened for Indian artifacts at what once was an Indian campsite. I found a rock pipe stem about a foot deep, as well as a large, green Hudson Bay bead and several smaller beads. Others found similar items and arrowheads. This activity is totally forbidden now. The history surrounding our local tribes is special to me.

As my high school graduation approached, my father decided that I should attend college in Spokane to become a dental assistant or a secretary. I insisted that I wanted to be a certified archeologist, so to solve the problem, four months after graduation I married an Air Force career soldier. We had two children in our 12 years of marriage. During those years we traveled to or lived at Fairchild AFB Spokane, McChord AFB Tacoma, Wichita Falls, Texas, South Carolina, and Naha AFB in Okinawa. Vietnam was a force in our lives.

Following my divorce, the children and I travelled to Wenatchee, where I attended cosmetology school. After a year of hairdressing work, I realized that I couldn't support us on those wages. I stiffened up my resolve and joined Laborers Local 292 in Wenatchee. I was immediately dispatched to a seven-month clean-up crew at Rock Island Dam. I was the only women on the day shift with 300 plus men. I was a licensed hairdresser who was afraid to shovel snow off the roof because of a fear of heights! What a reality check that job was! I worked alongside carpenters, iron workers, electricians, laborers and other tradesmen. I learned to climb three story upright ladders. Attached to a short safety line, I was told to NOT look down!

During any job I held, I was always on the lookout for interesting rocks. At Rock Island Dam, a large outcropping of rock above the spillway was rumored to be an Indian burial ground before the Columbia River was harnessed by dams. I couldn't get out to it, but you can still see it today. After six years of laboring and five surgeries on my hands

and shoulder joints, I switched to Traffic Control with Lab. 292. On a flagging job on Blewett Pass working 12-hour shifts, instead of taking a half hour lunch I walked the creek bed behind the Liberty Café. I scored a baseball sized agate that had washed out of the creek bank. The next four months of "potty breaks" were spent walking Swauk Creek. During another job in Chelan Falls, the excavator uncovered an Indian burial site. A UW archeologist team arrived and worked the site for months. Guess where I spent my lunch breaks? In 1982 I married Darrel Smith, a construction concrete finisher. He was, and is, a "keeper!" He embraced my love of

rocks and has developed his own style of wire wrapping.... with barbed wire on 4-5 inch agate slabs. You'll see one at our Xmas party this year. Darrel joined the club shortly after we married, and I have had 40+ years of sharing life and rocks with a very special person.... and the Ginkgo Club members and friends.

I'm looking forward to new leadership in 2024. I have been treasurer for many years and president when the position needed to be filled. I have enjoyed the members and friendships, their stories, and adventures. I figured out that I've presented 66 educational programs and field trips. I am slowing down physically. It's time for me to let go and enjoy the members.... seated with them.

From Atop the Rockpile

Happy Fall to everyone,

It's leaf raking time and the snow on the Cascades has finished our field trips to the agate beds up there for this year. There will be spontaneous trips to Saddle Mt. until snow covers the collection sites. Anyone wanting to go there.... just post your info on our Ginkgo web site.

Years ago the club members went in December and had a hot dog cook out and campfire. Don't forget this November meeting will be a gift buying, barter, trade, & sell anything you want for your own pocketbook! Items from rocks to pot holders and lots of stocking stuffers for Christmas will be available for sale. My monthly advice, (not the farmers) is "Be Kind" to others & yourself.

Carol

From the Scribe

Chuck Watkins brought a large map of Red Top Mountain to show a new dig site. He had examples of the beautiful agates found there. Chuck would be willing to lead a field trip when the weather allows. Bob Grant talked about his trip to Glass Butte Oregon. He showed the different colors of obsidian and shared some pieces with the club.

Lea Glen had bracelets she sells at craft fairs which have a certain energy. Rick and Carol Lechner had petrified wood from Wyoming. Carol Lechner also talked about conservation measures in Wyoming to limit rock hounding.

Refreshments were provided by Marcia Sommers and Brenda Jackson.

Door Prize and Raffles: the door prize was won by Chuck Watkins. Raffle winners were Margie Porterfield, Carl Pederson, Mary Morris, Diana Rhoads, Liz Hemberry and Melisha Maxey.

Business Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by David Earhart as Carol was not in attendance. The minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.

Old Business:

The club still needs a shop. Rick Lechner asked, "What about buying an older trailer and have it in an RV park? Good food for thought.

New Business:

Dave Earhart informed the club that the storage unit rent has increased. Does anyone have space to store the contents in their garage. It must be rodent free.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm
Pam Lander, Secretary

Trip Report

I was part of a group of nine rockhounds, led by Thea Stender, that traveled to Frenchman Coulee to look for common opal on November 11th.

After meeting in the parking lot of Hobby Lobby in East Wenatchee, we carpooled toward the site taking HWY 26 and then I-90. Exiting the freeway, the coulee with its narrow and then broadening expanse lined with columnar basalt provided an impressive view.

As we headed up the trail, we saw many people scaling the basalt. Leaving the climbers behind, we walked along flat and then inclined terrain and then up a steeper portion. Coming to a plateau, we were greeted with an almost never-ending wonderful view of a semi-arid landscape shaped by various geologic events.

After hiking about 1.5 miles, we came to the base of a slope where common opal, somewhat weathered by the elements, could easily be found. Most of the group climbed up and around the slope to a higher plateau that contained a few small pits and more impressive views. We could clearly see where heavy equipment had been employed, some time ago, to remove diatomaceous earth. It was here where we found the fresher, unexposed opal.

As with other trips, it was great to get to know more members of the club and to discover another great part of our home state. Thanks to Thea and all who attended.

Notes from Thea:

Common Opal may be found in diatomaceous earth in the siliceous skeletons of diatoms, radiolarians, and sponges. In this case, the common opal is opalized diatoms. A diatom is any member of a large group comprising several generations of algae, specifically microalgae, found in the oceans, waterways and soils of the world.

We know this common opal was previously a living species of algae because it is found in diatomaceous earth which is fossilized algae. These algae were high in a compound called silica, which aided in the opalization of it once the water that they resided in slowly evaporated underground over long periods of time.

We were digging in the "Priest Rapids Member" Formation. Serravallian-Tortonian Age (12-10.5 Million years ago)

How to dry opals safely: <https://www.gemsociety.org/article/how-to-dry-opals-safely/>



Climbers on the Feathers Wall.



Kyle Lesmeister
"Digging Opal"



Thea Stender
displaying one of her
finds.



Brenda Jackson
inspecting various
specimens.



Pam Lander showing
Eric Aperule a couple
of pieces.



Sarah Collamore
trying to choose
which ones to
carry home



One of Kyle's finds with the coulee
in the background.

Where's the Equipment

Several of our members have graciously provided homes for our shop equipment. They will make the equipment available to Club members by appointment so we can still cut and polish the stones we collect. Below is a list of equipment with phone numbers to call to arrange an agreeable time:

Marcia Summers: A Genie 509-860-7556

Dave Stender: A Genie and trim saw 509-630-1176

Jodi Rose: A Genie and trim saw 509-763-9402

Carl Pederson: 18-inch slab saw (\$2.00 per cut), 10 inch slab saw, faceting machine 509-630-8239

From the Vault

As of 11/9/23	
CD	\$10,124.48
Savings Account	\$ 1,799.84
Checking Account	\$ 5,911.59
One deposit (meeting raffle, 2 memberships, grit sale, book sales)	\$ 321.00
3 checks written (rent payments)	\$ (92.00)
10/31/22 End Bal.	\$ 6,140.59

David's Notes

Thanks to Dan for the many prizes that he provides for our raffles. The ticket dollar amount has been near or over \$100 each meeting. A thank you to all who have participated as well.

Our long-time club member, Aris Fredrick passed away in October. He was almost 90 and had been a rock hound for many years.

Marketplace

		
<p>Custom Ellensburg Blue Contact Carol Smith 509.884.3349 for some very reasonably priced items</p>		

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.

Annual Dues: Individual-\$20.00, Senior-\$15.00, Family-\$40.00, Lifetime (20 plus 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.

Next Meeting

November 17, 2023 at 7pm
Presbyterian Church
200 S. Kentucky, East Wenatchee

Email ideas, trip notes or photos
to: Lizhemberry@hotmail.com Website:
www.wenatcheerockclub.org
Facebook page: Gingko Mineral Society

Club Officers

President..... Carol Smith..... 509-884-3349
Vice President..... Pat Russell..... 509-421-1307
Secretary..... Michelle Girard..... 509-679-4605
Secretary..... Pam Lander..... 509-884-5135
Treasurer..... David Earhart..... 509-860-0988

Coordinators

Marcia Summers..... Membership..... 509-860-7556
David Earhardt..... Nason Creek..... 509-860-0988
Pam Lander..... Christmas Wrap, Grit..... 509-884-5135
Carl Pederson..... Shop and Equipment..... 509-884-6980
Carol Smith..... Rock Auction..... 509-884-3349
Brenda Jackson..... Social Chairperson..... 509-884-5320
Susan Oglebay..... Club Website..... 509-754-2665
Thea Stender..... Chelan, Co. Fair, Museum..... 509-630-1391
Ken Hemberry..... Newsletter..... 509-699-9450