



The Petrified Digest

October 2023



Silicified Cache of Hickory Nuts inside a Petrified Sycamore Log

A rockhound named Carl Clinesmith found this petrified sycamore log in the 1940s, that had silicified hickory nuts inside. The site where Carl found this is now the Yakima Military Training Range. No collecting there anymore.

Welcome Friends and Rockhounds

Hello. My name is Ken Hemberry and I am the new editor of the Petrified Digest. Since I am taking over for Dan Hanson, I thought I would kick off my first newsletter with a story about Dan and his wife Dena. I hope you like it.



Meet Your Fellow Club Members

Dan and Dena Hanson

You might say that Dena Murren was born to be a rockhound. After all, her parents were active members of the Ginkgo Mineral Society. Her father Quentin, served as both the club's Vice President and President and her mother Verga, was the Secretary for many years. Verga also published the club's newsletter.

As a pre-teen and all through high school, Dena took many trips with her family in search of various rocks and minerals. She enjoyed these outings immensely and they laid the foundation for a lifelong love of rockhounding and lapidary.

In 1969, after graduating from college, Dena took a job with the Puyallup School District teaching middle school students in a combined class of spelling, writing, English and social studies. In September of that same year, she met a fellow first year Puyallup teacher named Dan Hanson. He was smitten with Dena and they began to date. Dan was not only smart enough to earn a degree in mathematics, but he was also smart enough to not let a good thing get away and four months later, Dena Murren became Dena Hanson.

As Dan and Dena began to build their life together in Puyallup, they would pause every four to six weeks or so, to travel across the Cascade Mountains where they would join up with Quentin, Verga, and often with other Ginkgo Club members, to go rockhounding. They would try to time these trips so they could attend club meetings. Back then, the club met on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

Over the years Dan and Dena saw the club membership grow, shrink, and then grow again. Between the mid-80s and mid-90s, one could expect to see 75 to 80 enthusiastic rockhounds at the club's meetings. Dan told me he thinks it is cyclical. He also said that the club is currently in growth mode. He told of when the club had a spring talent show and how he and Dena enjoyed hearing her father sing in the club's barbershop quartet.

Dan and Dena also told me of when the club held its Annual Apple Blossom Gem and Mineral Show in the National Guard Armory on 5th Street in Wenatchee. The club would have between 60 and 72 display cases filled with all sorts of wonderful works of art; both those created by nature and those created by club members. There would also be anywhere from a dozen to 20 vendors selling their wares and the Apple Blossom Royalty always put in an appearance.

In preparation for the show, many women in the club would sew small bags while other club members would polish and shape stones to put in these bags that would then be given away to children. At one point, Dan had nine tumblers going to provide polished rocks for those lucky kids.

After the club discontinued the show, Dan continued to polish rocks to give to kids at the Chelan County Fair. My wife Liz and I had the pleasure of working at the club's booth for a few hours at this year's fair. Oh, how we delighted in seeing the happy faces on so many children's faces as they opened these small bags, reached inside, and extracted the tiny treasures. Of course, the bags aren't hand sewn anymore, but rather made of brightly colored netting and tied with an equally brightly colored ribbon, but I can imagine that the reaction the kids had that attended the club's shows a few decades ago was much the same as that of this year's fair kids.

Over the years, Dan has made over a thousand cabochons. Some of which were provided for wire wrapping classes but the bulk of them have been given out at the fair. In 1974, Dan was given a faceting machine. His first project was to facet two garnets which he set into earrings and then gave to Dena's mother. He dabbled in this new hobby over the years as time would allow. After he retired in 2009, and the Hanson's moved to Wenatchee, Dan had more time to hone this skill. Last year, during their winter respite in Arizona, Dan sold a dozen faceted rings.

Dan and Dena have stepped up to assist the club in so many ways. They host the annual picnic/auction. In addition to setting up and coordinating the club's booth at the fair, Dan has been hosting the website and publishing this newsletter. The time has now come for him to relinquish these duties. Thea Stender will be taking over as the fair coordinator, Susan Oglebay will host the website and I am the new editor of The Petrified Digest. I am sure that I speak for everyone in the club in giving Dan a huge thank you. All that he has done is much appreciated.

While Dan enjoys faceting, Dena enjoys polishing petrified wood, making cabs and wire wrapping. As I said at the beginning of this story, she was born to be a rockhound. I would also assert that she was destined to go through her life's journey with Dan. Fifty-three years of marriage would support that assertion. During the interview for this story, I thought about asking Dena what her favorite stone was. I didn't because I was pretty sure I already knew. Undoubtedly, it's the one that she wears on the fourth finger of her left hand.

Upcoming Events

There are plans in the works for field trips to Saddle Mountain in October for petrified wood and to Frenchman Coulee in November to look for common opal. There will be more details at the October meeting. Keep an eye on our facebook page for updates as well.

From Atop the Rockpile

Hello rockers. We have a bunch of new members, so 2024 looks promising for all kinds of fun with new (old) positions to be filled. At the upcoming October meeting, our nominating committee will present who has volunteered to run for various offices. Voting on these folks will be at our November meeting.

Please consider volunteering for one of these many positions that will be open for the 2024 year. Also, some info about our November meeting program. We will have a gift show of items that members want to sell, trade or barter. Anything goes....rocks, tea towels, crafts, baked stuff like banana bread, odds & ends.

I'll be asking all of you about ideas for field trips for the next year, so we can plan a calendar of various trips and how many would be interested in different trips. All for now. AND Old Farmer's Advice..."Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin you none."

-Carol

From the Scribe

Thea Stender presented a program detailing the differences between Cryptocrystalline texture which is made up of crystals so small they can't be seen under typical microscopes and Macrocrystalline texture with crystals large enough to be seen with the naked eye. She presented handouts showing that Agate, Jasper, and Chert belonged to the former group while Quartz, Tiger's Eye, Calcite and Garnet belong to the latter.

Bob Grant brought pictures that his wife had made from stones and other materials. He also showed matched sets of polished stones that she used for things like bunny ears and butterfly wings as well as Native American worry stones.

Marcia Summers brought rocks from Red Top collected on an exploratory search for new digging locations. Cheri McMillan and Bob Spurrier brought slabs, including Ocean Picture Stone from British Columbia, that Bob has been busy cutting. Mr. And Mrs. Leidigh brought leaf fossils they collected in Alaska.

Thea brought examples of both macrocrystalline and cryptocrystalline minerals.

Jodi Rose brought seven 5-gallon buckets of rocks comprised mostly of petrified wood. They were sold during the meeting for \$5 apiece to raise additional funds for the club.

Refreshments:

The club bought cookies and a veggie tray with dip. Jodi Rose also brought cookies while Pam Lander brought cherry tomatoes.

Door Prize and Raffles: The door prize was won by Brenda Jackson. Raffle winners were Liz Hemberry (twice), Ken Hemberry, Sheri McMillan, and Bob Grant.

Business Meeting:

The business meeting was called to order by President, Carol Smith. The minutes and the Treasurer's Report were read and approved.

Committee Reports and Announcements:

Due to the fact Carol Smith and Dan Hanson are stepping down from the duties that they have been performing there will be quite a few new people in new positions. The following individuals have volunteered and have been appointed

to fill:

Chelan County Fair and Museum Coordinator: Thea Stender

Social Chairperson: Brenda Jackson

Facebook Page: Cheri McMillan

Newsletter: Ken Hemberry

Club Website: Susan Oglebay

A thank you is given to those who are stepping forward and a big thank you is given to those who have been serving in these positions. It is appreciated. Dan Hanson thanked all those who participated in and provided displays at the fair. There was a record number of entries. Bob Grant announced that the Flint Knapping Club that he belongs to will be at Glass Butte for the last week of October practicing their craft. All club members are welcome to attend.

Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

New Business:

There was a discussion about field trips. The current trip coordinator, Jodi Rose, who takes care of both her mother and father, would like to play a reduced role going forward which is understandable. Many thought that we could redesign how trips are scheduled and planned. There will be more discussion on this at the October meeting.

We will need nominations for those who will fill the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. David Earhart has agreed to run for Treasurer again, so we have a nominee there. The other three positions will need to be nominated at the October meeting with elections to follow in November. Jodi Rose and Pam Lander were appointed to call members in order to seek nominees for the above-mentioned offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Pam Lander, Secretary

Follow-up Announcement

Jodi and Pam have called members and the following people have volunteered to serve in the following offices:

President: Thea Stender

Vice President: Derick Corder

Treasurer: David Earhart

Secretary: Melisha Maxey

While these folks have agreed to run, that doesn't preclude others from seeking office

Member News

There haven't been a lot of trips reported by members lately. Marcia Summers and others took a trip to Red Top to look for new places to dig.

They had seen some nice specimens collected there by Chuck Watkins at an unspecified location. While they didn't find the same quality of material that he did, they remain undaunted and committed to continuing to search for new dig sites.

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 9/30/2023	
CD	\$10,124.48
Savings Account	\$1799.76
Checking Account Beginning Balance	\$5,361.40
3 Deposits (yard sale, raffle, equipment sale, rock buckets)	\$1,080.20
6 checks written (Fair passes, storage, meeting room, postage, newsletter printing, refreshments)	\$530.01
9/30/2023 Checking Ending Balance	\$5911.59

David's Notes

The rent has increased on the 5'x5' storage unit that we rent from \$42.50 to \$47.50 per month. Perhaps someone could store our stuff in their house or garage.

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

October, 20, 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: Ginkgo 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

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