

The Petrified Digest
P.O.Box 303
Wenatchee, WA 98807
Published monthly by:
Ginkgo Mineral Society, Inc.

The Petrified Digest



Meetings Are Cancelled Until Further Notice

Ginkgo Club Meetings:

3rd Tuesday of each month
Faith Presbyterian Church
200 S. Kentucky Ave
East Wenatchee

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

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.**

Coming field trips (according to the most recent Washington State Mineral Council Newsletter) For info contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@gmail.com h#425.334.6282 c#425.760.2786

Date	Host	Site	Meeting place & time	Material	Tools
10/24/20	MSVL	Money Creek Skykomish	Money Creek Campground 9 am	Picture jasper	Dig & r. bar pick
11/21/20	DARR	Blanchard Hill	I-5 Exit 240 Gas Mart 9 am	Dalmation stone & chert	Hard rock tools

President's Message

Hello Rockhounds
 I hope this message finds you all well.
 There has never been a year like 2020.
 Hopefully you were able to get out and find some
 treasures this season. Looking forward to seeing you in
 the event that our state situation changes for the better.

President,
 Steven Douglass



Getting to know you – Steven Douglass

I've been picking up rocks since I learned to walk but I've been a member of Ginkgo for only three years. My favorite rocks are kyanite and celestite. I will go anywhere there are interesting rocks to be found so I really don't have a "favorite" place. After I clean my finds I display them throughout my home. I once told the club members I wanted to find some Ellensburg Blue at the Rock-N-Tomahawk Ranch. None of the old timers wanted to go because they had apparently gone before and had found nothing. I went and I did find a nice "blue" and was told I was the only one from the club who has ever found anything there. I guess I'm a bit lucky.

Secretary's Report No Meeting – No Minutes

Treasurer's Report for September

Savings Account

September Interest	0.82
Ending Balance	\$11,796.16

Checking Account	9/01/20	Beginning Balance	\$1,275.35
		2 Deposits	141.00
		(Shop fees, grit, sale of faceted stones)	
		Newsletter printing	<u>(47.42)</u>
	8/31/20	Ending Balance	\$1,368.97

Additional Notes: Thanks to our members for using the shop and purchasing grit. We have not had enough rock hounding trips and I am running out of tumbling material. Go away COVID

Our memberships in the Ginkgo Club have dropped off from about 80 in 2019 to around 50 for 2020. Thank you for sticking it out this year. Hopefully next year we'll be back to normal.

Also, the NCW Prospectors are again planning on their 2021 Gold Show in Cashmere. But who knows what will happen by next spring.

We enjoy hearing from Phillip Trepanier about his rock hounding trips on the Ginkgo Mineral Society Facebook Page. Thanks Phillip!

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

Faceted gems

Tanzanite, green garnets, synthetic sapphire, amethyst, and many more.

The proceeds from the sale of these gems will go to the Ginkgo Mineral Society in memory of Lowell James Swingen. Although he was not a member of the club,

he was a kindred spirit in rockhounding and gold panning.

He was always smiling when cutting a geode or other rock on his 18-inch saw or when he was standing in the middle of some small Alaska creek panning for gold. Thank you to Bev Price, his lovely wife, and to the Swingen family for this donation.

Contact Dan for prices and selections



Dan Hanson 253.318.6616

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 509.884.3349



Did you know

Some of the early settlers in the area now known as Kendrick, Oklahoma used the semiprecious stone Heliotrope for the foundations of their rough cabins. The rock was found in layers 3 to 4 inches thick and provided good foundation material for their structures. The folks in the area in later years call the rock “medicine rock” or “Indian Bloodstone.” Legends abound for this earthy green stone with bright red spots.

One old Indian legend centers around a poor day of hunting buffalo. After a day without success, the party camped by a small spring. An odd-shaped green stone with red spots caught the interest of one of the warriors who picked up the stone and fastened it to a necklace of deerskin for him to wear. After a night of pleasant dreams of hunting success, the warrior and his hunting party found a large herd of buffalo nearby. They killed many fat buffs that provided meat for the tribe for many months.

Eventually the tribal medicine man announced that the rock, when given in powdered form in tea, performed miraculous cures. There may be some substance to the claim of strong medicinal value since the rock shows high content of iron oxide, calcium, and trace mineral salts that were missing in the meat diets of the Plains Indians. He also declared the stone had strong powers to protect the warriors in battle. The “secret” of the “big medicine rock” soon spread to the other Plains Indians and the rock's value soared.

Bloodstone is found on other continents also. One older legend says the stone was created when the red blood from Jesus' sided dripped on pieces of green jasper below the cross. A similar version of this legend says the bloodstone was formed when blood from His wounds fell on the green earth and turned into stone.

In very ancient times, bloodstone was used for signet rings, protective amulets, and decorative pendants. It was carved into goblets and other useful objects. It appears at its best in silver settings and can be very striking in a piece that combines bloodstone with turquoise. Bloodstone has the characteristics of typical jasper with a hardness of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale.

If you are ever in Lincoln county Oklahoma and have occasion to tear down an old cabin, check the foundation rocks. You might end up with some really good medicine.



Getting to know you – David Earhart

In 1966, while attending Oregon State University, I worked for a landscaper. I would pick agates out of people's rock flower beds in the Willamette River Valley area. At a North Central Washington Prospector's meeting Carol Smith asked if other folks would like to join Ginkgo. I had just retired and was starting to join hobby clubs. Marcia was not excited! I like petrified wood because it polishes really great and Saddle Mountain is a favorite place to gather some. I also like to dig on Red Top for anything that looks interesting. I give the rocks I polish to kids and little old ladies at the Chelan County Fair. I once found a 60-pound petrified log while elk hunting in the Coockum area but NO ELK that day in 1992.

News of Note

Alaska's "Black Diamonds"

About 1800 a shipment of blue trading beads arrived in Alaska from Russia. (This was long before Alaska was purchased from Russia in 1867.) When the package was opened in the dimly lit room, the firelight reflected on the highly polished surfaces of a few hematites which were mixed in with the beads. Someone said they shone like "black diamonds."

The Russian governor of the territory had the local Indians set the stones and was so pleased with the results that he ordered more hematite from Europe. These he had set into rings and pendants and sent to the royal family of Czar Alexander I as a gift of friendship.

Gem quality hematite is found in Alaska and in many of the iron ore areas of the world. The spectral signature of hematite was also seen on the planet Mars by the infrared spectrometer on the NASA **Mars Global Surveyor** spacecraft on orbit around the Red Planet in 1996. Soil sampling was done by the **Opportunity** rover as the little machine wandered around the surface from 2004 to 2018 sending information back to scientists on Earth. The scientists speculate the hematite on Mars is *likely* in little spherules (like opals) that *likely* were formed from a water solution (like opals).

In Alaska hematite is still given as a token of friendship and loyalty. Maybe on Mars it can also be used as a token of friendship for any aliens living there.

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. I am open to any comments, questions and criticism. Stay safe!

