

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:**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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

## 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. Cranmer road is before the Beehive Grange. The shop is the big beige building between the driveway and Squilchuck Rd. 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.**

## Cancelled events

Some events in Idaho are taking place but everything in Washington is effectively cancelled. Some clubs are holding virtual meetings using Zoom or some other video conferencing software. As the virus restrictions drag on we might consider having a virtual guest speaker or meeting.

## President's Message

Hello Everyone!

It is such a strange year to even be writing about rockhounding. Last weekend I took some friends and our new club member Jo Anne Davis up to the head of Lake Wenatchee for some Soapstone and Actinolite on an unofficial outing. Then we continued up to the Heather Lake trail and found a bunch of garnets. We had the pleasure of running into our local resident geologist Tom Prang, leading what appeared to be a small group of students, back down the hill as we were hiking up...

Once I got everyone settled in their garnet spots, I took my friend and hiked up the creek and jumped into and swam across and back (only once) a nice large pool of PAINFULLY cold water. I do it every time I am there...

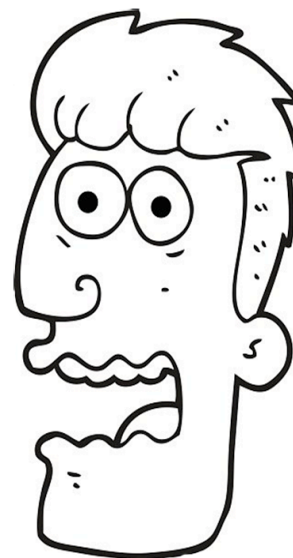
Pretty sure I know what the men who went down with the Titanic felt (in terms of cold) as they went into the icy waters of the Atlantic 108 years ago. It hurts! It hurts a lot...

On the drive home we stopped at the Alps Candy store and watched a gorgeous eagle as it was flying in a circle over the river there...

We will keep you posted as things on planet Earth change and when/if we are allowed to meet in large groups again. I hope that you and your loved ones are all doing well.

President,  
Steven Douglass

**Your face**



When someone says you  
have enough rocks

## Secretary's Report No Meeting – No Minutes

## Treasurer's Report for September

### Savings Account

August Interest	1.07
Ending Balance	\$11,795.34

Checking Account	8/01/20	Beginning Balance	\$1177.63
	4 Deposits		283.00
		(Memberships, shop fees, grit)	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr Fred Meyer Rewards		30.10
	3 Checks Written		<u>(215.34)</u>
		(Newsletter, postage, shop/office supplies)	
	8/31/20	Ending Balance	\$1275.39

## 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)

### *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 Lowel 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

Rainbows and opal both get their color from the diffraction of light through little droplets of water.

Some backstory first: White light consists of wavelengths of all the colors of the rainbow mixed together. When the light passes through water droplets, the wavelengths of each color travel at their own speed and effectively separate into a rainbow. This is called diffraction. We'll come back to this shortly.

Opal develops in quiet, stable environments with no disturbances. Silica solution seeps into a host matrix and if the temperature is low, the solution develops into a form of quartz. The host matrix maybe sandstone, wood, bone, etc. Opal is between 5.5 and 6 on the Mohs scale.

In olden days, opal was thought to be a magical stone. It displays all the colors of other gem stones so it was highly prized. Interestingly some opal losses its color when dried and some losses its color when it get wet. Because opal shows different colors as it is rotated or moved, it was considered by some to be evil.

As we learned last month, there have been dramatic advancements in tests for rocks and minerals in the last century. Prior to the mid-60s, scientists could not adequately describe the process of how color was displayed in opal. In 1964 some precious opal was subjected to a scanning electron microscope. For the first time, the microscopic spherules of water could be seen and the process of diffraction was described. But as descibed above, the conditions must be precise. For opals to display color, the spherules must be arranged in an orderly way.

Next time you see a rainbow, think of that nice piece of opal sitting on your bench waiting for you to shape and polish it.

### **Don't:**

Store opals in a safety deposit box – too dry

Soak opals in oils as was common in the past

Wear in a pool or while washing dishes as chemicals may be harmful

Use ultra-sonic cleaners

Place opals in direct sunlight for a period of time.

Once opals are cut and polished, they do not need to be kept in water. But they should be worn frequently.

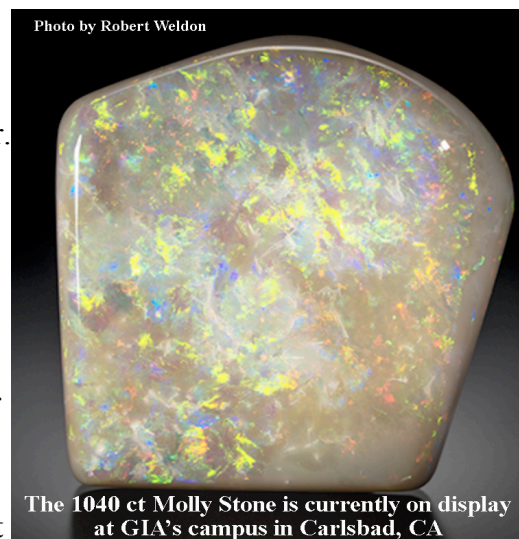


Photo by Robert Weldon

The 1040 ct Molly Stone is currently on display at GIA's campus in Carlsbad, CA

## Other stuff of interest

**Nick Zentner is Back with Live Streams** Nick is kicking off the fall with a new series of live stream events from his backyard in Ellensburg. He will be doing 2 live streams per week – one will be Wednesday evenings at 6 pm and one will be Sunday morning at 9 am. He is always entertaining and is a wealth of knowledge about northwest geology. Nick Zentner on YouTube

## News of Note

Notes from **David and Marcia: Larry and Wanda Shaw** along with other prospectors, spent several days camping at Liberty where Marcia and I joined them for some rockhounding. One afternoon was spent digging on Red Top's lower dig with limited finds but we had fun. Another afternoon Larry took us to his "crystal rock slide" where the climbing was difficult but the finds were rewarding.

Recently, Marcia and I went camping and fishing at Curlew Lake with my son and daughter-in-law. We enjoyed more fish and chips than ever. The 4 of us caught over 50 perch along with some trout and bass. Pretty good eating!

**James Engley** has been busy in his shop. This is African Blue Lace Agate that he purchased some time ago at a rock show. The two rings on the left are done. The partially completed one on the right shows his process.



## Thank you

**Chuck Moser** donated a wonderful box of cut and polished geodes for our auction. He also donated some buckets of rough for the club.

## Auction news

Do you have any rocks you can donate to the club for our auction? Please call Dan Hanson (253.318.6616) to arrange pickup.

## 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!

**Why can't minerals ever lie?** They're always in their pure form.