

THE  
PETRIFIED DIGEST



[www.wenatcheerockclub.org](http://www.wenatcheerockclub.org)

December 2012

The Petrified Digest  
 Published monthly by the Ginkgo Mineral Society, Inc.  
 PO Box 303, Wenatchee, Washington 98807

MEETINGS

**Winter Schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month, 2 pm**  
**Douglas County Fire Station, 377 Eastmont Avenue, East Wenatchee, WA**

OFFICERS

President	Bob Spurrier	881-8096
Vice President	Pat Russell	470-7625
Secretary	Carol Smith	884-3349
Treasurer	Bonni Martin	421-5242



COORDINATORS

Field Trips	Open
Shop & Equipment	Bob Witt 669-0819
Program/Education	Howard Floyd 662-1016
Hospitality	Christy Price 699-1448
Publicity	Valerie Hampton 884-3578
Social	Maxine Anderson 662-7446
Chelan County Fair Booth	Carol Smith 884-3349
Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	Open
Museum	Lori Ludeman 745-8608
Newsletter	Valerie Hampton 884-3578 Newsletter email address: ginkgonews@yahoo.com
Web Site	Jill Timm 663-2961 jtimm@aol.com

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+ yrs) - Free  
 Exchange bulletins are welcome and appreciated.

**Club Calendar**

December – Winter Schedule		January		February	
<b>15</b> Sat	<b>Regular Meeting</b> <b>2 pm Fire Station</b> <b>Christmas Potluck</b>	<b>19</b> Sat.	<b>Regular Meeting</b> <b>2 pm NEW LOCATION</b>	<b>16</b> Sat.	<b>Regular Meeting</b> <b>2 pm</b>

**PLEASE NOTE – CURRENTLY ON WINTER MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Winter: October through March – 2 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

**ROCK SHOP CLOSED** – A new location is being sought. Contact an officer if you know of a space such as an empty garage or outbuilding. Desired features include a lavatory (sink/toilet) and room enough for several saws, bench equipment & supplies, and work tables/chairs.

Bonni Martin has the Genie set up in her garage for members to use 5 – 8 pm Wednesdays and 10 am – 2 pm Saturdays at 302 S Iowa, East Wenatchee. Stop by to work on grinding and polishing projects.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Ginkgo Club members,

Another year is coming to a close. I am sorry to say we will lose the Eastmont Fire Station as our club meeting place at the end of this month. The board is currently looking into other places. We should have something to tell everyone at the Christmas party about a new meeting room.

This has been a sad year for our rock club, losing two of our longtime members. I would like to tell everyone about a time in the club's history several years ago when our rock club almost vanished. The club went down to only 5 or 6 members. But Marie Magnuson would not give up hope, she fought to keep the club going. At its highest point since it was up to over 80 members. Bill Williams was a long time member as well. His home was always open to club members to teach them, cut rocks for them, and chat about places to go rock hunting long forgotten. Ruth Williams has donated Bill's rock saw to our club. Thank you, Ruth. Both of these members who passed away will be missed dearly. They both made huge contributions to the club over the years and helped to make the club what it is today. I also hope that the club spirit of these two great individuals lives on in the Ginkgo Mineral Society.

Thank you everyone for all the help this year running the club; and thank you fellow board members for all the help this past 6 months. Also, I'd like to welcome the new board in for the next year. I'm looking forward to sharing the board with all of you. I hope we all have a fun year ahead and hope the best for everyone this holiday season.

-Bob Spurrier, President-

**ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:**

I'm very grateful for simple pleasures this chilly season – a safe home, good food, and a warm place to curl up with my favorite people nearby. Our warmest wishes to you and your family for a Merry, Blessed Christmas, as well as Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and of course a very peaceful and prosperous New Year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

New officers were elected for the coming year. They include President Howard Floyd, Vice President Darrell Smith, Secretary Carol Smith, and Treasurer Bonni Martin.

After a brief discussion of the upcoming Christmas potluck, the Door Prize was awarded to Melisha Maxey and everyone enjoyed refreshments courtesy of Glen & Lori Ludeman. A dozen or so "booths" around the room included a variety of offerings in the gift sale, which continued until 5 pm.

**A PETRIFIED FACT** By Ed Wengerd

From Moroks Newsletter 12/12, via in Gem Cutter's News, via El Gambrisino

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially those from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the cast and the wood were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

**BENCH TIPS**

by Brad Smith

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at  
Facebook: [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips) or at  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips)

**SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES**

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick. I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of Vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

*From our archives -* Gems & Mineralines, December 1981

**December Gemstone - Zircon**

Zircon, birthstone of December, is one of the oldest known gems and was in use before (the birth of) Christ. It is one of the twelve stones in the High Priest's breastplate. The name Zircon is derived from an Arabic word meaning "gold covered" or "reddish". In biblical times, zircon was called "jacinth" or "hyacinth". The sixth of the seven Moslem heavens is said to be composed of yellow jacinth.

The chief source of the zircon gems is Ceylon, where they are found in the gem gravels, together with corundum gems, spinels and hessonite garnets. They are also mined in Burma, Siam, Indo-China and Australia.

Natural colors range from lemon-yellow to red-brown and leaf greens. The natural colorless (white) and natural blues of any appreciable depth of color are very rare. Heat treatments produce white, blue, and various shades of brown. Heat produces not only color changes, but also startling effects on the specific gravity, refraction and other properties of the stone. Its brilliance rivals that of the diamond.

Heat treatment of natural brownish zircons to produce whites and blues was known about 1900 in Siam. Much of the heating is still done there, both before and after cutting. Although various chemicals are used in the treatment, the chemicals covering the stones no more than exclude air to the stones. Zircons are usually cut as brilliants or are given a combination brilliant step cut. The former is better adapted to blue zircon and other light colored stones, and the latter to hyacinths and deep honey-yellow stones.

Gem Name – Zircon

Crystal System – Tetragonal

Refractive index - 1.79 to 1.99

Mineral Name – Zircon

Hardness - 7 ½

Composition - Zirconium Silicate

Specific gravity - 4.0 to 4.8

**THEY ROCK HOUND**

The cold time of year has come,  
when rock hounds put away their gear,  
they settle in for snow covered days,  
they look at the rocks that was dug in  
warmer days,  
they pick and choose to find the best,  
they tumble, cut, and grind their  
treasures to life,  
they make jewelry and specimens that  
all will adore,  
they then display them all through their  
house,  
they work until spring and the sun  
thaws the ice,  
they get out their gear for warm  
weather is here,  
they hunt for new treasures for winter  
is near.

Bob Spurrier



THE CLUB RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SHARE:

**Subject: Rock and Mineral Collection**

I am having to give up my mineral collection because of failing health reasons and would like to sell the collection to someone who has the time to photograph or appreciate the collection as a whole.

In the collection, at the moment, there consists 670 pieces and 225 of that are Thumbnail specimens. The larger items are wrapped in bubble wrap for protection and numbered that correspond to the Excel data base that I have put the information of where they came from, who I bought them from, what I paid or what they were worth at the time of collection.

The collection has items from all around the world as well as those from the US. I have tried to, through the years, to gather the more rare or hard to obtain minerals as well as purchase single items from mineral collections that were put on sale by collectors such as Robert E. Jenkins II and Martin Lewadny.

I also have a few items from this state that have been collected from well known mines and from other current producing mines that extract gold and silver. Most samples have visible gold and silver showing and is not the run of the mill sulfides.

The total currently spent for the collection stands at \$14,905. I would consider all offers for this collection. If none come forward by the end of December, I will enter each piece on eBay to sell the collection over a period of several months.

You can contact me at [bluangel33@comcast.net](mailto:bluangel33@comcast.net) or by phone (leave a message) 253-241-7360 if anyone is interested.

Joel Ray

*Editor's Note: If you are interested in this collection, please contact Joel directly. This information was passed along to us, and is not associated with the Ginkgo Mineral Society, its executive board, or the newsletter editor. We do not have any further details.*

**HEAT TREATING ROCKS**

*You have just removed a slab from an agate rough, and you are disappointed with the color. The overall color is washed out white. At this point, most rockhounds would toss both the slab and the rough into their rock garden and write off the investment in the piece. Well, there may be life yet in that nondescriptive piece of rough. Try heat treating agate, jasper, petrified wood and many other types of rocks. Almost any sedimentary rock can benefit from the process. A recent example was a piece of dull brown agate. After heat-treating, it became a deep red.*

*How, you ask, does one go about heat treating a piece of rock? The process is relatively simple, but is a trial and error process. The slab should be immersed in a small pan of sand and placed in a range oven. Turn the oven temperature to warm - about 200 degrees, for about one hour to expel any moisture trapped in the stone, then raise the temperature 25 degrees every half hour until the temperature is up to 350 degrees. Leave it at this setting for two hours, then turn off the oven and allow the rock to come to room temperature without opening the door.*

Now you can check the results. If you are satisfied, you can slab the rough and heat-treat the lot. If not, turn the slab over and repeat the process. You can skip the time at 200 degrees since all the moisture has already been baked out by now. Raise the temperature to 400 degrees at this time. Continue raising the final temperature by 50 degrees until the results you want are reached. Most ovens will go up to 500 degrees. If you need to go higher, some special oven will be required.

(Fr. Texas Facetors Guild News Letter 11/04, Stonecutter, Chief Joseph Gem and Mineral Club 10/09)

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



**December Meeting and Christmas Potluck**  
**SATURDAY, December 15 – 2 pm**  
**Douglas County Fire Station**  
**377 Eastmont Avenue, East Wenatchee, WA**

*The club will provide ham and potatoes as well as table service.  
Please bring a dish to share and one wrapped gift for each person  
who wants to participate in the exchange.*

Send your article ideas, trip notes or photos to [ginkgonews@yahoo.com](mailto:ginkgonews@yahoo.com)



The Petrified Digest  
Valerie Hampton, Editor  
PO Box 303  
Wenatchee WA 98807