

THE  
PETRIFIED DIGEST



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

January 2012

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

MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 2:00 PM  
Douglas County Fire Station, 377 Eastmont Ave, East Wenatchee

OFFICERS

President	Richard Prevett	860-5784
Vice President	Greg Peek	548-4779
Secretary	Carol Smith	884-3349
Treasurer	Bonni Martin	
Past President, member Executive Board – Ron Gray 669-3106		

COORDINATORS

Field Trips	Ron Gray 669-3106 / Larry Shaw 884-0882
Shop & Equipment	Bob Witt 669-0819 / Ron Gray 669-3106
Program/Education	Pat Russell 470-7625
Publicity	Charleen Prevett 670-2325
Social	Maxine Anderson 662-7446
Chelan County Fair Booth	Greg Peek 548-4779
Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	Richard Prevett 860-5784
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.

*Editor's Note: There will likely be some changes in the various coordinators for this year. Please stay tuned for updates to this list. Be sure to let President Richard Prevett know if you are interested in helping out with any of the activities.*

**Club Calendar**

January		February		March	
7		4		3	
14		11		10	
21	<b>Regular Meeting</b> ✓ pay 2012 Dues	18	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	17	<b>Regular Meeting</b>
28		25		24	
				31	

ROCK SHOP HOURS: **Saturdays by appointment**, except meeting days. Call Bob Witt 669-0819 **before Saturday** to arrange shop time.  
**Safety glasses required** - dust mask recommended - paper towels requested

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well, I'm back. There was a time I hadn't a clue about what being the club president entailed. Now, I think I have a better idea of what's expected of me. Being an active club member for the past few years has given me new insights into the needs of the club and its presence in the community.

I have a number of goals I would like to pursue over the next year. First I think the club needs a new shop space. We've outgrown the one we have. We need more room and we need restroom facilities. Besides, at ninety-eight, Marie doesn't need all the drama of strange people coming through her yard.

I still believe the club can get the annual gem show off the ground. Last year was a baby step. Perhaps we could think of the show in terms of creating something new rather than trying to resurrect something old.

There are field trip issues that need to be addressed. I would like to assure members that every reasonable effort will be made by the club to get anyone on a field trip that wants to go. Field trips can be tailored to those with physical limitations. Financial help should be available to those that need it. We're about people and rocks and getting them together.

I would like to see the club take a more active role in the community. Reaching out to the schools and youth groups are a very good start. Greg Peek and Bob Witt are already doing this on their own. The club should be behind these guys all the way, giving whatever support and encouragement they need.

I'm asking a lot. But, I believe in the potential of the club. We enlighten people. We introduce people to the beauty of the earth that we take for granted every day. I will need your help. So please, if you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, feel free to contact me and we can talk about it.

I'm looking forward to the coming year.

Richard Prevett, President

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**ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:**

Hope everyone is staying safe and cozy during our winter weather. To avoid cabin fever, come out to the January club meeting and see some old and new friends. You could also begin planning your spring rock trips with the club show calendar in this issue.

Remember, it's time to renew your membership this month. Bring your dues to the January meeting or send them to the club post office box.



**The Geologist's Lament**

By R.L.Frism 1940

Gather 'round me, hear my story,  
 I'm a rockhound in distress  
 I'm a rockhound bathed in troubles  
 I'm an outcast, more or less.  
 I have fossils in the kitchen,  
 I have crystals in the hall.  
 I have minerals in the bathtub;  
 I have relics on the wall.  
 I have oxides on the carpet  
 I have oil upon the floor.  
 I have blacklight in the parlor  
 I have bones behind each door.  
 Attic rooms are fairly sagging.  
 Rocks pave the cellar floor,  
 Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,  
 All of this and millions more.  
 Wifey thinks that I am goofy  
 I don't know, she may be right.  
 She insists I have silicosis,  
 Or some contagious form of "ite"  
 Says my head is lined with agate  
 (A freak displacement of the bone),  
 Says my brain is just a nodule.  
 Says my heart is turned to stone.  
 Threatens me with separation;  
 Storms about our rockhound home,  
 Says life for me is just a geode  
 Or a hunk of mammal bone.  
 Are you rated as a fossil?  
 Are you obliged to live alone?  
 How do you maintain a hobby,  
 And still maintain a happy home?  
 (Fr. MOROKS JULY 2011 Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter via  
 EL GAMBRISINO Gem Crafters Via Gravel Gazette 10/01)

**Upcoming Shows AMFS**

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/shows.htm>

February 11-12 Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4  
 Whidbey Island Gem Club & Pebble Pushers  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show**  
 Oak Harbor Senior Center  
 51 SE Jerome St, Oak Harbor, WA

February 10-12 Fri – Sun 10-5  
 Oregon Agate & Mineral Society  
**For the Love of Rocks & Minerals**  
 Admission Free  
 OR Museum of Science & Industry Aud.

1945 SE Water Ave, Portland, OR  
 February 25-26 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5  
 Idaho Gem & Mineral Club

**Annual Gem & Mineral Show**  
 Expo Idaho Fairgrounds  
 5610 Glenwood & Chinden, Boise, ID

March 3-4 Sat 9-6 Sun 9-5  
 Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society  
**58<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Gem Show**  
 O'Conner Field House  
 Canyon Co. Fairgrounds  
 2200 Blaine, Caldwell, ID

March 10-11 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4  
 Rock & Arrowhead Club  
**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Show "Crystals"**  
 \$1 donation/children free  
 Klamath Cty Fairgrounds  
 3531 S 6<sup>th</sup> St, Klamath Falls, OR

March 10-11 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
 Magic Valley Gem Club  
**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Magic Valley Gem Show**  
 Twin Falls Cty Fairgrounds  
 215 Fair Ave, Filer, ID

March 31-April 1 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5  
 Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club  
**51<sup>st</sup> Rock & Gem Show**  
 Admission Free  
 Bloedel-Donovan Park  
 2214 Electric Ave, Bellingham, WA

March 30-31 Fri 8:30-6, Sat 9-5  
 Panorama Gem & Mineral Club  
**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Show** Admission Free  
 Fort Colville Grange Hall 1 mile east of  
 junction US 395 & Hwy 20, Colville, WA

March 31-April 1 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5  
 Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society  
**64<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Mineral Show**  
 Adults \$.50 Children under 12 free w/adult  
 Sweet Home HS Activity Gym  
 1641 Long St, Sweet Home, OR

March 31 – April 1 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5  
 SE Idaho Gem & Mineral Society  
**55<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**  
 Bannock Cty Fairgrounds  
 10588 Ifft Road, Pocatello, ID

## The Lure of Gemstones

(Borrowed from *The Petrified Digest*, August 1976 & August 2010)

Billions of years ago, when the molten earth began to solidify, the outside layers cooled relatively quickly to form the fine-grained rocks of which most of the world is composed. The deeper layers cooled more slowly, and there formed the crystal-minerals we know today as gemstones. Through history, gems have been treasured – first for the powers attributed to them to ward off evil and heal sickness, then for their beauty and intrinsic value. Uncommonly durable, they have been passed on from generation to generation, so that today gems, centuries old, may lie in a jeweler's display case beside newly cut stones. Easily portable and negotiable, gemstones have enabled men to carry a fortune in a pocket from one country to another in times of upheaval. No class of society is immune to their lure; they are like the badge of solid respectability and the baubles of the underworld. Even in a rapidly changing world, it seems safe to say that, as talisman, as love tokens, as status symbols, as ornaments of surpassing beauty, as examples of craftsmanship, as investments, they will be treasured in the future no less than they have been in the past.

## Lesser Known Beryl Stones

by DeLane Cox

In the group of stones known as beryl, the two most widely known are the emerald and the aquamarine. However, there are several other beryl stones that are not as widely known to the general public. Among these stones are Morganite, heliodor, Maxixe-type beryl, and goshenite.

Beryls have a refractive index of 1.57-1.60, a specific gravity of 2.67-2.80, and a hardness of 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale. Their crystal system is hexagonal, cleavage is rare to indistinct in one direction, and they may fade quickly when heated.

Morganite was named after the financial wizard J.P. Morgan. The first Morganite found was pale pink, and this is still the primary color. The stone also comes in orange and purple. The darkest, most intense colored Morganite comes from Madagascar, but Brazil also produces some

excellent materials. Morganite is heat-treated to purify the color.

Heliodor is a yellow beryl, and has been called golden beryl. It is found primarily in Madagascar, Brazil, Russia, Namibia, and the U.S. It is not uncommon, just not widely known. The Maxixe (pronounced - ma SHE she) beryl begins its life as a pale pink to colorless beryl. It is irradiated to produce a medium to dark blue stone that resembles sapphires. The name comes from the mine in Brazil where the stone was first identified around 1917. These stones are rare, and tend to fade when exposed to light.

Goshenite, a colorless Beryl, was named after Goshen, Massachusetts, where it was first found. By placing silver or green colored metal foil behind the stone in a closed back setting, the stone has been used to imitate diamonds or emerald. Goshenite is not a common stone.

A very rare beryl is the red beryl, called Bixbite. First discovered in Utah in 1906, it is sometimes erroneously referred to as the red emerald. Due to the rarity of this stone, it remains just a collector's gem.

References:

Hall, Cally. Gem Stones, DK Publishing, Inc. New York 1994; Newman, Renee, GG, MA. Gemstone Buying Guide. International Jewelry Publications, Los Angeles, 1998.

(Fr. The Council Reporter 10/11 via CMS eTumbler, 10/11, via Breccia, 9/11; from Rock, Pick, & Chisel, 10/04)



**JANUARY MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 2:00 pm**  
Douglas County Fire Station, 377 Eastmont Ave, East Wenatchee

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

Open to members of Ginkgo Mineral Society

**FOR SALE:**

**Frantom 10 inch Lapidary trim/slab saw Cabochon unit** with 2 grinding wheels and a buffing plate. The saw has a gravity feed; just add weight and start cutting. The grinding stones have some life left but need to be dressed. The water system is not included but connections are there for the wheels. I built a cover for the saw and it will be included if you want it. It doesn't look too nice but it is functional. Since we have owned the saw, we have only used high grade mineral oil as a lubricant. It is a very nice running saw. We are asking \$250 or OBO for the unit. For more information contact **Paul Hampton** at 884-3578



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