

THE
PETRIFIED DIGEST



www.wenatcheerockclub.org

July 2012

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

MEETINGS

**Summer Schedule: 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7 pm
 Wenatchee Eagles, 1208 N Wenatchee Ave, 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	Pat Russell	470-7625
Shop & Equipment	Bob Witt	669-0819
Program/Education	Howard Floyd	662-1016
Hospitality	Christy Price	669-1448
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

July		August		September	
				3	Labor Day
				6-9	Chelan County Fair booth
17 Tues.	Regular Meeting 7 pm Eagles Hosts: Bob Spurrier & Cheri McMillan	21 Tues	Regular Meeting Club Picnic – location to be announced	18 Tues	Regular Meeting 7 pm Eagles

PLEASE NOTE – CURRENTLY ON SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE:

Summer: April – September - 7 pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month at Wenatchee Eagles
 Winter: October – March – 2 pm, 3rd Saturday of the month at Douglas County Fire Station

ROCK SHOP HOURS: Stop by in the morning beginning at 9 am on non-field trip Saturdays. Call Bob Witt with any questions, 669-0819.

ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

New president Bob Spurrier will have command of this space next month. He sends his greetings and an invitation to our first meeting on the new summer schedule.

For those who'd like some extra time to socialize or eat dinner before the meeting, you may wish to come to the Eagles Lodge at 1208 N Wenatchee Ave in Wenatchee a little early on Tuesday evening. Have dinner, relax and make an evening of it.

Quote of the month:

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in awhile."

-Kin Hubbard-

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Editor's Note: The following was submitted by member Perry Kimple. Thank you, Perry! It seems many rockhounds have similar stories to tell...

HIKING THROUGH THE YEARS

5 Years: I like hiking. I run on the curves in the trail, spread out my arms and pretend I'm an airplane. I can make motor noises, too. When we stop for a rest I'll throw cones and sticks. If I get tired, Daddy will carry me.

12 Years: It's not going to rain. I'll leave my raincoat out and I'll have room for six cans of Coke. When the Scoutmaster isn't looking Joe and I will explore on our own.

15 Years: This is a neat way-to-go. Don't have to wash and will leave my toothbrush at home. Who needs clean underwear? I have eight candy bars and my fish pole.

18 Years: I finally have my own new pack and sleeping bag. Hooray! No more hand-me-downs from Dad. Maybe Joe and I can talk Mary and Sue's parents into letting the four of us backpack to the Enchantments this weekend.

25 Years: Due to our expecting our first child this year my wife and I will miss a few backpacks this summer. Oh well, I should get to the yard work, anyhow. Better read up on some of this literature about backpacking with babies and little kids.

35 Years: Love this backpacking. If young John goes into Scouting, I'll volunteer to go on all the hikes with the Troop. I'll have to get that house and yard work done evenings after work, if I have the energy.

50 Years: Here I am, still pounding the trails. More alone each year though, as the kids leave the nest and go their own way in life. Better locate a buddy or two to accompany me.

70 Years: Neither my hiking cronies nor my wife can get out much anymore. This trail sure seems monotonous all alone. For fun, I think I'll spread my arms like an airplane, rev up my engine, and bank through the next trail curve. Won't run though. Just keep a-walkin'.

(From "Signposts" magazine, circa 1970)



LIGHTNING FUSES SOIL INTO ROCK

By Dale Gnidovec, Curator of the Orton Geological Museum at Ohio State University

I love watching lightning, although it can be frightening when it hits the ground. If a lightning bolt strikes soil or sand, the intense heat creates glassy stringers called fulgurites, after fulgur, the Latin word for lightning. Fulgurites also form if lightning strikes solid rock, such as the tops of high mountains. The result is a glassy coating or crust called a rock fulgurite. Fulgurites form faster than any other rock on earth, in about one thousandth of a second. I think of them as petrified lightning.

Most fulgurites are branched hollow tubes with thin walls. They are a few feet to a few tens of feet long and an inch or two wide. Their diameter generally decreases in depth and they may have occasional bulbous or knobby enlargements. The interiors are glassy, sometimes with a silvery luster, and look as though a glaze had been applied. Blister like bubbles may be present, some intact and some exploded, leaving small pits and craters. The inner cavity is usually round and elliptical, but it may have three, four or five corners. The exteriors are grainy, bumpy or even spiny and may have ridges paralleling the long dimension.



Color depends on the original material, but many are gray. Fulgurites may spiral, and if so, they always twist to the right. The quartz grains adhering to the exterior often have rims of cristobalite, a type of quartz. The change to cristobalite takes place at about 2,678 °F. Above 3,110 °F, cristobalite

becomes liquid. Rapid cooling of that liquid creates the glassy material of the interior. Fulgurites are thought to form at temperatures of about 3,300 °F. The glassy material has been given a mineral name, lechatelierite, after Henri LeChatelier (1850-1936), a French chemist. Most references disallow the name because, by definition, a mineral is supposed to be crystalline, which glass is not.

Fulgurites are fairly abundant in some areas, such as western Australia, the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert, and the eastern beaches of the United States. One area of the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa was estimated to contain 2,000 fulgurites.

Fulgurites have been known for a long time, but their origin was a bit of a mystery until 1790, when one was found near a tree that had been struck by lightning. It was discovered during excavation for the foundation for a tablet meant to warn people against taking refuge under a tree during a thunderstorm.

From The Council Reporter 6/2012 via Carny Hound 05/12, Clackamette Gem 4/12; Golden Spike, 8/10; BEMS Tumbler 8/10; Conglomerate, 2/09; The Lithics, 1/09; et.al.

Fulgurite image courtesy of Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulgurite>

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WDFW's land acquisition proposals available online

OLYMPIA – Current proposals by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to acquire land for fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation are now on view on the department's website.

Jennifer Quan, WDFW lands division manager, said the new webpage is designed to give the public an opportunity to learn about land acquisition proposals before the department seeks funding sources in spring and summer.

Details of 21 proposed land acquisitions, identified by the department as priorities for future funding, are available at

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/acquisitions/>. Previous acquisitions and those already under way are not included on the website

From Andrew Johnson

What modern science teachers are up against...



Posted on Facebook by Jan Stadler. Artist unknown.
 Editor's note: I tried to search for the artist to give proper credit. If anyone knows where to find the information, please let me know.

OK, a quick quiz for you geology buffs. What is the correct answer to the test question above? (See back cover to find out if you're right.)

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Upcoming shows around the Northwest:

July 20-22 Fri. 10-5; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
 Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Annual Show
 Reedsport Community Bldg.
 451 Winchester Ave, Reedsport, OR

July 21-22 Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
 Darrington Rock and Gem Club Annual Show
 Grange Hall
 1265 Railroad Ave, Darrington, WA

July 21-22 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
 Northwest Rock Chucks 5th annual show
 Northwest Montana Fairgrounds
 265 N Meridian Rd, Kalispell, MT

August 11-12 Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5
 Maplewood Rock and Gem Club
 6th Annual Rock and Mineral Sale
 Maplewood Clubhouse
 8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, WA

September 8-9 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
 Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association
 Annual Show - Vern Burton Community Center
 308 E 8th St, Port Angeles, WA

September 8-9 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
 Umpqua Gem Club 42nd Annual Show
 Douglas County Fairgrounds
 2110 Frear St, Roseburg, OR

September 8-9 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5
 Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society
 Annual Show
 Walla Walla Cty Fairgrounds Community Center
 9th St and Orchard, Walla Walla, WA

September 15-16 Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
 Southern Washington Mineralogical Society
 47th Annual Show
 Castle Rock Fairgrounds
 A St and Cowlitz River, Castle Rock, WA

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And finally, in honor of the current "plague" in the Wenatchee area:

Summer Rockhound

By Cindy Lind

The 'Skeeter and the Rockhound both, went out to hunt one day.
 The Rockhound wanted specimens, the 'Skeeter wanted prey!
 The Rockhound found a likely spot, and settled with his gear.
 He'd dug a short time when he heard, a buzzing in his ear.
 The Rockhound swatted at the noise, and stood to look around.
 He missed the Skeeter, but he saw, a great stone on the ground!
 The Rockhound bent to lift the stone, his backside in the air.
 The 'Skeeter took advantage then, and bit the Rockhound there.
 The Rockhound jumped and squashed the bug, his bottom to defend.

The Rockhound and the Skeeter had, both got it in THE END!
 (From Moroks Newsletter 7.2012 via Victor Valley.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Open to members of Ginkgo Mineral Society

FOR SALE: Gemstone vibrator tumbler, finishes 8-10 lbs. \$50. Also, three Loritone 3 lb. Tumbler barrels \$8 each. Carol Smith 509-884-3349

Answers from Page 3: 1. Igneous 2. Metamorphic 3. Sedimentary (or Sedentary, if you enjoy word play)

Send your article ideas, trip notes or photos to ginkgonews@yahoo.com

NEW! Summer meeting schedule April - September



***3rd Tuesday evening of the month, 7 pm
Wenatchee Eagles
1208 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee***

See you July 17th!



The Petrified Digest
Valerie Hampton, Editor
PO Box 303
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