

THE
PETRIFIED DIGEST



www.wenatcheerockclub.org

June 2012

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

MEETINGS

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

OFFICERS

President Bob Spurrier, Interim 881-8096
 Vice President Open
 Secretary Carol Smith 884-3349
 Treasurer Bonni Martin 421-5242
 Past President, member Executive Board – Ron Gray 669-3106

COORDINATORS

Field Trips Open
 Shop & Equipment Bob Witt 669-0819
 Program/Education Open
 Hospitality Christy Price 669-1448
 Publicity Open
 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

June		July		August	
2		7		4	
9		14		11	
16	Regular Meeting Hosts: Howard & Candi Floyd and Jerry Arndt	21	Regular Meeting Hosts: Bob Spurrier & Cheri McMillan	18	Regular Meeting Club Picnic – location to be announced
23		28		25	
30					

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

The June meeting program will include a visit from Bev Jagla to talk about the Navajo school and a soapstone carving demonstration by a local artist.



MAY HIGHLIGHTS & JUNE BUSINESS MEETING DECISION POINTS

Leadership changes: For a variety of reasons, various folks have resigned their positions. The Executive Board received letters of resignation from Richard Prevett, President and Greg Peek, Vice President. Greg also resigned as Program Coordinator, and Kathy King resigned as Field Trip Coordinator. Bob Spurrier stepped forward assist the club until a new President is in place. The membership voted to appoint Bob Spurrier as Interim President until elections are held at the June meeting.

Meeting Day: A discussion was held about changing the club's meeting day during the warmer months to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7PM. The evening meetings would be for the months of May through September. Meeting space is available at the Eagles Lodge banquet room in Wenatchee, which also has an outdoor garden room. Meetings during the months of October through April would be the third Saturday of the month at the fire station in East Wenatchee as usual. A vote will be held on this proposal at the June meeting.

Club Yard/Garage Sale: This was cancelled and will not be rescheduled for this year.

Club Events: Carol Smith is pursuing a place to have our August club picnic. Bill and Ruth Williams are having health issues and they're uncertain about how things will be for them to host the picnic at their home. Carol is also looking into a field trip for June. Carol requested and received volunteers for Host-Hostess at the Chelan County Fair booth.

Refreshments List: The Club provided the refreshments for the May meeting, and volunteers were requested to fill the three open months for the remainder of the year. All but October was filled at the meeting.

Birthday Recognition: Due to the many changes taking place in our club, Carol Smith suggested we put the birthday cupcake recognition list on hold for now, and the members agreed.

Web site: The club contact for the web site has been changed to the club email address at ginkgonews@yahoo.com to provide consistency and reduce personal information on the site as well as the need for contact information changes.

School sponsorship: A discussion was led by Carol Smith about helping a group of Navajo school children in Arizona. The membership decided to "adopt" them and help with school items, possibly books, and winter hats & gloves. Teacher Bev Jagla will keep us updated as she is working with the Navajo teachers on how to improve the children's reading skills.

Prizes: The Raffle was won by Jeff Hampton and the door prize by Shirley Mayer.

RECAP OF CLUB BUSINESS FOR JUNE MEETING:

- ◆ **Election of Officers:** Candidates for the President and Vice President positions will be nominated and elected at the June meeting.
- ◆ **Meeting Day:** The option of meeting the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm for the months of May through September will be put to a vote.
- ◆ **Coordinators Needed:** Volunteers are requested for the Field Trip, Programs and Publicity positions with the club. Members are also welcome to share a Coordinator position as a team if they like, with one or both parties on the contact list.

Please attend and vote on these important decisions.

Dinosaur Feathers in Amber?

Feathers believed to be from dinosaurs have been found beautifully preserved in Alberta amber. The primitive, hair-like feathers known as protofeathers likely belonged to theropod dinosaurs similar to tiny Tyrannosaurus rexes that roamed the swampy forests of Alberta 70 million years ago, said Alexander P. Wolfe, a University of Alberta earth sciences professor who co-authored the research published Thursday in *Science*.

"Protofeathers aren't known from any modern, existing groups of birds and therefore the most obvious interpretation is that they belong to dinosaurs!" he said.

Theropods, which are thought to be closely related to modern birds, were already known to have feathers, based on features surrounding fossils found in China. But a lot of details were lost in the fossilization process.

"The feathers get altered, they get substituted by minerals and you can't see any of the detail!" Wolfe said. The protofeathers may look very hair-like, but the researchers confirmed they were feathers by looking at them under a microscope. Hair, found on mammals, has microscopic scales. Feathers, found in birds and dinosaurs, have features called nodes and internodes instead.

"With amber, it's different. We actually have the actual object.... we actually have this protofeather for the first time in the flesh. The feathers are preserved down to the pigments that show what color they are and microscopic details of their structure. Based on the fact that the protofeathers were just single filaments or clumps of filaments, just two centimeters long, the researchers concluded these had nothing to do with flight", Wolfe said.

Instead, he believes they were used to keep the dinosaurs warm. The protofeathers were among a wide range of feathers found in Alberta amber specimens by Ryan McKellar, a researcher who recently completed his PhD under Wolfe's supervision. McKellar's research was initially interested in insects, but stumbled upon some very bird-like feathers in the process of sorting through amber from Royal Tyrell Museum and the University of Alberta's collection.

He decided to keep an eye out for other feathers. After sorting through around 4,000 chunks of amber, each less than two centimeters in diameter, he had collected a wide range, from the protofeathers to more complex feathers from the same time period that were most certainly from birds. Some were downy, "like the kind you have in your pillow," Wolfe said. Others look like modern flight feathers. Some also had special features found in diving birds such as grebes.

Wolfe, an expert in amber chemistry, said such birds likely shared the same ecosystem as the dinosaurs: A steamy, 'very buggy' coastal forest similar to Florida's everglades, dominated by cypress and cedar-like trees. The remains of the forest were compressed into coal deposits in Alberta where the amber samples were found.

Wolfe said now that the new research, including photographs, has been published, he hopes researchers in other parts of the world where feather dinosaur fossils have been found will start keeping an eye out for dinosaur feathers in amber. He also hopes to do a biochemical analysis on the proteins in the feathers.

(Article and photo from Quarry Quips via MOROCKS Newsletter 6/2012)



Dinosaur Feather in Canadian Amber

Sad News

The club learned recently of the passing of longtime member Joe Fears on May 11, 2012. He was 92. Joe and his wife Lily enjoyed many years as members of the Ginkgo Mineral Society. Following are some excerpts from the obituary published in the Wenatchee World: Joe and Lily were married for 68 years; she passed away in 2009. Together they have five children, Michael Fears of Reno, NV, Joe Fears of Oak Harbor, WA, Debra (Holland) of Wenatchee, WA, Phillip Fears of Wenatchee, WA and David Timothy, who died at birth in 1959. Joe was a Rural Route letter carrier for the Wenatchee Post Office. He retired in 1979 after 28 years. In addition to the rock club, Joe enjoyed gardening and photography. He also loved to bowl and was a member of the Eagles. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lily; son, David Timothy; brother, Leon Fears; and sister, Ada Jared.

On behalf of the club, Carol Smith delivered a condolence card to Heritage Funeral Home for the family, which includes his four children; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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From the archives (Borrowed from The Petrified Digest, August 1976 & August 2010)

The Lure of Gemstones

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.



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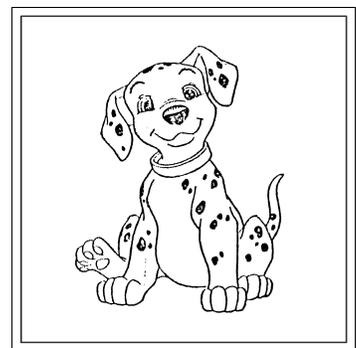
ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

Now is the time to be collecting material to tumble for the Fair. Club members traditionally bring a supply of rocks so that children who visit the booth can take a free sample with them. Petrified wood is very popular, along with agate, jasper and any colorful or patterned variety. Remember to start your tumbler around the first of July for plenty of time to finish by the Fair in early September.

Quote for the month:

*Be kinder than necessary,
for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.*

Author Unknown



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

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

See inside for important issues to be decided at the next meeting, June 16, 2:00 pm at the Fire Station.

Congratulations, Graduates!



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