

THE PETRIFIED DIGEST



www.wenatcheerockclub.org

GINKGO MEETING PLACE AND TIME
FRIDAY June 20, 2014, 7 pm
Douglas County Fire District #2
377 Eastmont, East Wenatchee

TUMBLING GRIT FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Graded 30 Grit	\$4 lb.
Un-Graded 60/90 Grit,	\$3 lb.
Graded 220 Grit,	\$4 lb.
Graded 600 Grit	\$5 lb.
Tripoli Polish.	\$3 lb.

Available at the monthly meetings



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

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

The Petrified Digest
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 PO Box 303, Wenatchee, Washington 98807

MEETINGS

3rd FRIDAY of the Month, 7 pm
 Douglas County Fire District No 2
 377 Eastmont Avenue, East Wenatchee, WA

OFFICERS

President	Carol Smith	884-3349
Vice President	Darrel Smith	884-3349
Secretary	Christy Price	699-1448
Treasurer	Bonni Martin	421-5242

COORDINATORS

Field Trips	Howard Floyd	662-1016
Shop & Equipment	Bob Witt	669-0819
Program/Education	Carol Smith	
Publicity	Valerie Hampton	884-3578
Social	Maxine Anderson	662-7446 & Candi Floyd 662-1016
Chelan County Fair Booth		
Museum	Carol Smith	
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	
20 Friday	Regular Meeting 7 pm - Fire Station	18 Friday	Regular Meeting 7 pm - Fire Station	16 Sat.	Club Picnic 2 pm Christy Price's home on Squilchuck Road
28	Field Trip Red Top - meet 9 am Sunnyslope Park & Ride	19	Field Trip Crystal Mt. - meet 9 am Sunnyslope Park & Ride		

NEW SCHEDULE Please call Carol Smith at 884-3349 if you are planning to visit the rock shop to make sure someone will be there to open it. The shop is located at Christy Price's home: 4325 Squilchuck Rd, Wenatchee and is usually open on Saturdays. Directions: from the intersection of Mission & Crawford Streets at Lincoln Park in Wenatchee, it is 4 miles up Squilchuck Road. Turn left on Cranmer Road and take an immediate left onto Christy's long driveway.



The Old Farmer's Advice

"Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The club's rockhounding season started off with a good trip to Dry Gulch for leaf fossils on Saturday May 24th. Bonni Martin led a group of approximately 12 people, they all had good luck & nice weather.

June is here and everyone is chomping at the bit to get to Red Top. So, on May 31st, a small group got together - Jeremy, Carol, Christy, Marty, Kevin with family - and went to check out the roads. They decided to work the lower dig and had a great time. A club outing to Red Top will be June 28th to the back side of Red Top with Jeremy Harden leading the group. They will meet at Sunnyslope Fire Station Park & Ride at 9 AM. The July field trip to Crystal Mt. Will be July 19th, meeting at the Sunnyslope Park and Ride at 9 AM. Also, I am looking for a volunteer, a Supervisor for the Chelan Co. Fair. We will have a discussion about it at our June meeting and make plans for a great showing this year at our booth. We've scheduled our August picnic at Christy Price's up the Squilchuck next to the bubbling creek, a great place to relax in the shade! See you at the June 20th meeting, 7 PM.

Carol Smith, President

Safety Matters

by Ellery Borow, Safety Chair AFMS Newsletter – May-June-July 2014

The Eyes Have It – They do! The eyes have it all! They give us depth perception, amazing colors, pattern perception in that pretty jasper slab -- our eyes draw back the curtain on our window to the world.

Judging by experiences with all manner of rock and mineral collecting, it appears that the vast majority of our field identification of minerals and rocks is performed by visual means alone. Indeed, we use our eyes to judge the mating of facets on that stone we are cutting, to lay out the cabochon template on that pretty slab of jasper, to follow the visual clues of the trail as we hike to that long lost rock quarry. There is an endless variety of how we use our eyes in our hobby. Our eyes allow us to enjoy many areas of our rock, mineral, fossil hobby that we might otherwise be unable to pursue.

So, why do I see so many folks pursuing the hobby without protection for the valuable resource that is their vision? I see folks hammering rock, grinding stones, working in dusty environments, spending hours in the blindingly bright sunlight – all without benefit of suitable eye protection. It seems strange that folks would so risk the precious gift of sight.

I have heard numerous reasonable-sounding arguments as to why protection was not being used during vision-risking tasks. Excuses such as "my goggles were accidentally left home", "the goggles' elastic straps are worn out and no longer hold them in place". "the goggles are too scratched or hazy to see through", "the goggles were run over by a truck", "the lenses keep falling out", "they are uncomfortable to wear", and other excuses too numerous to list. Well, trust me on this one, there are numerous solutions to these problems. Goggles are cheap (relative to the cost of eye surgery or vision loss). Lots of places sell goggles. Most hardware, grocery, department stores sell them. One does not need to visit a rock shop to find goggles. Please consider keeping an extra pair or two on hand.

There are replacement lenses available for many styles of goggles. New and replacement goggle straps can be made from elastics found in sewing, fabric and yard goods stores.

Store goggles in a protective box or case and keep them in the collecting bag so they are not inadvertently left home. Goggles are ill-fitting? There are numerous goggle styles. Visit a store and try on various kinds to locate ones you find comfortable.

Can't find well-fitting goggles? There are other ways to protect one's eyes such as face shields, prescription safety glasses, safety glasses that fit over one's own regular prescription glasses, and aviator style goggles -- among others.

Please consider protecting your precious gift of sight. We also hope you use that precious gift to keep reading these safety matters columns. Your safety matters.

(Fr. *Rock Chips*, Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club, June 2014)

SAWING JUMP RINGS

The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.



It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end. To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw at about a 40 degree angle.



Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a mess of rings. Count how many rings you cut before breaking a blade, first without lube and then with some every 6-8 rings.

SAVE WHEN BUYING SILVER

Silver products like sheet, wire, and casting shot are sold by the Troy ounce at what is called the spot price. That's what companies pay for the pure metal on the commodities market, and the spot price changes daily.

But in addition to the spot price, there is also a cost to fabricate the metal into wire or sheet, so the price of the item you buy is the cost of the metal plus the cost to make it. Different products have different fabrication charges because each takes a different amount of labor. Also, different companies will have different fabrication charges because of local labor rates and their desired profit margin.

You can save money by finding a company with a lower fabrication charge. Also, note that the fabrication charge per ounce is less on larger orders, so you can save more by buying more. Find a friend to place a joint order and split the shipping charges.

But for casting purposes, there's an even better way to save. Buy your silver at a coin store. They sell bars and rounds in pure and Sterling for the spot price plus about a dollar per ounce.



The local coin shop adds only a small profit over the spot price. Further, they often waive the sales tax on a cash buy. So I save about \$3 per ounce, pay no tax, no shipping charges, and support a local business.

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

<http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

Now is the time to get the tumbler going so you'll have plenty of material for your projects and some to share for the kids' basket at the Chelan County Fair.

