

# THE PETRIFIED DIGEST



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

**GINKGO MEETING PLACE AND TIME**  
**FRIDAY November 15, 7 pm**  
**Douglas County Fire District #2**  
**377 Eastmont, East Wenatchee**

## **TUMBLING GRIT FOR CLUB MEMBERS**

Graded 30 Grit	\$3.20 lb.
Un-Graded 60/90 Grit,	\$2.35 lb.
Graded 220 Grit,	\$3.70 lb.
Graded 600 Grit	\$4.30 lb.
Tripoli Polish.	\$2.60 lb.

Available at the monthly meetings or call  
Howard at 509-662-1016.



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

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

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 PO Box 303, Wenatchee, Washington 98807

MEETINGS

**DAY AND TIME:**

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

OFFICERS

President	Howard Floyd	662-1016
Vice President	Darrell Smith	884-3349
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
Publicity	Valerie Hampton 884-3578
Social	Maxine Anderson 662-7446
Chelan County Fair Booth	Open
Museum	Open
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** Starting September, meet at Douglas County Fire District #1 on Eastmont Ave

November		December		January	
<b>15</b> Friday	<b>Regular Meeting &amp; Christmas shopping</b> 7 pm - Fire Station	<b>20</b> Friday	<b>Christmas Party</b> 7 pm - Fire Station	<b>17</b> Friday	<b>Regular Meeting</b>

**STILL LOOKING FOR A ROCK SHOP LOCATION....** 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.

**EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:** Ginkgo's shop equipment is currently located at 105 Eastridge Drive in East Wenatchee. Call Bob Spurrier at 509-881-8096 or Cheri McMillan at 509-860-0009 in advance to make arrangements to use the Genie, 10" trim saw or the big saw.

**CLUB GIFT SHOPPING EVENT**

A variety of gift items will be available at the November meeting for a fun holiday shopping event in the company of friends. We'll also elect our slate of officers for the coming year. Nominations include: Carol Smith, President; Darrell Smith, Vice President; Christy Price, Secretary; and Bonni Martin, Treasurer.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –**

2013 is winding down fast. Before you know it 2014 will be upon us. I've already started on several of my winter projects and I'm looking forward to sharing them with you as they get completed. We set a full schedule of events and outings throughout 2013 and I'm thinking 2014 will be even better. We'll be electing new officers this Friday and it's up to all of us to help and support them throughout the following year. For personal reasons, I'm stepping down from the position of president, but I'm not stepping down from the Ginkgo Mineral Society. I love this rock club and want to be part of it's growth for many years to come. I know now how important it is to get involved, help out where I can and yes to even volunteer to be on a planning committee or to help with Ginkgo outings and events. It's a small price to pay and the personal returns are outstanding. You get to feel good about what you've done, you get to influence what we do and how we do it, people appreciate and respect you and you get to be an important member of the Ginkgo Mineral Society. And that's not bad when you consider how much fun we have with most of the things we do.

This Friday is also the Ginkgo Christmas shopping night. It's a great opportunity to fill your Christmas shopping lists with unique and really neat stuff that people love to receive for Christmas. And it's a chance to visit and swap lies about rock adventures. I hope you can all make it.

I'd like to wish you all a Special Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And don't forget the Ginkgo Mineral Society Christmas party on Friday, December 20th, 7 PM. We always eat too much and have too much fun (if that's possible). And there's the ever popular gift exchange where you get to steal a great gift away from someone that doesn't want you to take it from them. Which is pretty neat until someone else steals it away from you. But at least you only have to bring one gift. The perfect solution to this dismal situation is if everyone brings a really special gift that everyone else really wants. So give some thought to the present you bring this year.

I'll close this special presidents message with my favorite special saying, "There's just something Special about people that like to play in the dirt".

Howard Floyd, President

**OCTOBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNER**

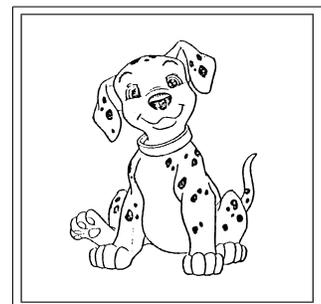
Congratulations to Denise Neal for her winning photo (at right), taken at the Ruggles Mine in New England. If you'd like to enter the member photo contest, send your photos to Jill at [jtimm@aol.com](mailto:jtimm@aol.com) and to [ginkgonews@yahoo.com](mailto:ginkgonews@yahoo.com)



**ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:**

We have a lot to be thankful for.

Image shared from a post on Facebook by Dantes Troops to Teachers National Office.



**NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TOPAZ**

Following is an article from [www.earthsky.org](http://www.earthsky.org)



The word 'topaz,' birthstone for the month of November, comes from a Sanskrit word meaning "fire." And in ancient lore, the topaz could be used to control heat. It was said to have the power to cool boiling water, as well as excessive anger. As medication, topaz was used to cure fever.

Topaz occurs in a range of magnificent colors – blue, pale green, varying shades of yellow, pink, red, brown and even black. Pure topaz itself is a colorless stone. Red and some pink topaz get their colors from chromium that is substituted

for aluminum in the crystals. But most other colors occur due to minor element substitutions and defects in the crystal. Some colors are unstable and can fade away; for example, brown topaz mined in Siberia can be bleached by sunlight. In other stones, color changes can be induced by heating. High energy irradiation and moderate heat treatment of colorless topaz can transform it to blue gemstones.

Chemically, topaz is known as aluminum silicate fluoride hydroxide. Because of strong chemical bonds within this mineral, topaz is the hardest of silicate minerals. Topaz gemstones occur in a large variety of sizes, from tiny crystals to large rocks. The biggest uncut stone, a specimen found in Brazil weighing almost 600 pounds, is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. A famous cut topaz in history is found among the crown jewels of Portugal, a magnificent yellow stone weighing 12 ounces.

This gem, with its lively fire, clarity, beautiful colors and hardness is ideal for jewelry such as clips, necklaces, brooches and bracelets. Pure topaz, when brilliantly cut, can be often mistaken for a diamond. Because of its rarity, topaz is an expensive gem. The most valued and rarest color is red. Imperial topaz-sherry colored varieties of brownish-yellow, orange-yellow and reddish brown-are the most popular topaz stones and command high prices, as do pink colored stones. Light blue and pale yellow topaz are of less value, but are nevertheless stunning in beauty.

Brazil is the largest producer of topaz, the most notable source being the Minas Geranis region. Gems are also found in Russia, the Ukraine, Pakistan, Scotland, Japan and Sri Lanka. In the United States, the gemstones have been found in Colorado and California.

During the Middle Ages, the topaz was used mostly by royalty and clergy. A 13th century belief held that a topaz engraved with a falcon helped its wearer cultivate the goodwill of kings, princes and magnates.

Topaz was once thought to strengthen the mind, increase wisdom, and prevent mental disorders. It was thought to guard against sudden death. Powdered topaz added to wine was used to prevent asthma and insomnia. A cure for weak vision called for immersing the stone in wine for three days and nights, then rubbing the liquid on the eyes.

Article from [www.earthsky.org](http://www.earthsky.org). Visit the web site for more fascinating information. Image credit: Rob Lavinsky.

**Upcoming Shows AMFS** Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/Shows>

**Nov. 23-24** Sat-Sun 10-5 Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society, 2013 Fall Festival of Gems, President's Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton, WA