

The Petrified Digest
Published monthly by the Ginkgo Mineral Society
P O Box 303, Wenatchee, Washington 98807

MEETINGS

3rd Saturday of the month, 2:00 PM
Location – See Program Schedule, page 5

OFFICERS

President	Richard Prevett, 474 N Kansas, East Wenatchee, WA 98802	(860-5785)
Vice President	Robert Spurrier, 500 Malage St., Wenatchee, WA 98801	(881-8096)
Secretary	Carol Smith, 1104 3 rd St NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802	(884-3349)
Treasurer	Christy Price, 124 N James Ave., East Wenatchee WA 98802	(699-1448)

COMMITTEES

Program	Liz Forrer, 1311 Westwood #2, Wenatchee, WA 98801	(662-1146)
Museum	Gayle Savage, 1494 Eastmont #28, East Wenatchee, WA 98802	(884-7426)
Publicity	Maxine Anderson, 930 Monroe St, Wenatchee, WA 98801	(662-7446)
Field Trips	John Stanfield, PO Box 132, Waterville, WA 98858	(745-8848)
Educational	Charles Mason, PO Box 97, Rock Island, WA 98850	(884-2114)
Hospitality	Everyone	
Refreshments	Various	
Sunshine		
Chelan Co. Fair	Carol Smith, 1104 -3 rd St N.E, East Wenatchee, WA 98802	(884-3349)
Jr Activities		
Equipment	Robert Spurrier, 500 Malaga St., Wenatchee, WA 98801	(881-8096)
Newsletter	Maxine Anderson, 930 Monroe St., Wenatchee, WA 98801 Mae Jinkens, 935 Vassar, Wenatchee, WA 98801	(662-7446) (662-8980)
Web Site	Jill Timm, 1400 Central Avenue #107, Wenatchee, WA 98801	(663-2961)

The Ginkgo Mineral Society was formed to promote the study of Mineralogy and Geology to the extent that it leads to a better understanding of Mineralogy; to encourage the collection of minerals and to promote interest in lapidary work.

DUES: Adults - \$20.00 Seniors - \$ 15.00 Family - \$30.00 Juniors - \$15.00

Exchange bulletins are welcome and appreciated.



PRESIDENT 'S MESSAGE:

Lots of good things to say about the Rock Auction - made over \$600, signed up new members and lots of rocks found new homes.

Elections are coming up, so be sure to vote for your favorite candidate.

We also need to be thinking about hosting the Nason Creek Rest Area December 29th - January 2nd, 2009.

Still plenty of good weather for rock hunting. Need to dress warmly though.

Richard Prevett

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GOING - GOING - GONE !!!

These were the words that Auctioneer Charlie Mason echoed over and over as Ginkgo held its "Annual Rock Auction" October 18th to over 30 members and guests.

This year there was a long table full of rocks for the "Live Auction," and several other tables for the "Silent Auction."

There was lots to see and bid on - a variety of rocks from "A" to "Z" plus jewelry, slabs, bookends, special Lapis Lazuli, picture rock, large specimens, tumbling material - too much to list.

At times, the bidding was hot and heavy as numbered paddles were raised to acknowledge the bid and be recorded by Treasurer Christy.

Our thanks to Bonni Martin and Christy Price for all their work in setting up the Auction. It was a fun evening and every rock was sold, amounting to over \$631.00.

No business meeting was held, but President Richard announced that the Nominating Committee had candidates for President. Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are yet to be filled. Voting to be held at the November meeting.

Delicious refreshments were served by Cheri McMullan and Wanda Shaw.

(editor)

Food for thought: When the going gets tough, the tough eat chocolate!

HOW IMPORTANT IS ONE VOTE?

In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control over England.

In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency of the United States.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service, just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Many are known to say that their "one" vote doesn't mean anything, this might change their mind!

(Fr Chiesto-Hi-Lites via The Rockfinder,8/92)

SOAPSTONE

The Chinese have treasured soapstone for centuries and used it to carve their delicate figurines. The Eskimos use it to make lamps and cooking pots. In ancient Babylon, it was used to make signet rings and other items of jewelry. In North America, the early pioneers used it to make laundry tubs. But this is not why it is called soapstone. The mineral gets its name because the waxy polished surface looks and feels like soap.

(Fr. Montana Council Reporter)

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HOBBY TIP

To get a gloss finish on Tigereye, polish once, then dry, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Leave a couple minutes and give it a second polish. Result should be the deep finish you want.

(Fr several bulletins via The Stone Age News)

FALL FIELD TRIP

The October 11th field trip was to Saddle Mt. for petrified wood. Taking the trip were Cheri & Casey McMullan, Bob Spurrier, Liz Forrer and Vickie Cox.

We made it to the Mountain in record time, but a bit bewildered as to where to dig. A phone call from the mountain to a "not feeling well" Larry Shaw, put us on the right track.

Petrified wood was found by all, and we left early at separate times to visit the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park and Ginkgo Rock Shop at Vantage.

Also, Vickie has an interesting story to tell involving a mix-up between Saddle Mt. (Mattawa) and Saddle Rock (Wenatchee)!!

(Robert Spurrier)

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LAPIS LAZULI

Few gems display a color as rich as the deep royal blue of fine Lapis. Lapis was one of the most precious commodities of the ancient world, and was even valued on an equal level with gold.

Lapis was used in medicines, cosmetics and paintings. The tomb of Tutankhamen, Pharaoh of Egypt, contained a wealth of gold and lapis jewels. Lapis has been mined continuously though sporadically for more than 6,000 years in the Badakshan region of Afghanistan. Lapis is actually a rock, composed chiefly of the minerals lazurite, pyrite, and calcite. Lazurite is blue, pyrite yellow and calcite is white. The brassy-gold spots and flecks of pyrite in genuine lapis are very distinctive.

(Fr. SCMF Newsletter)

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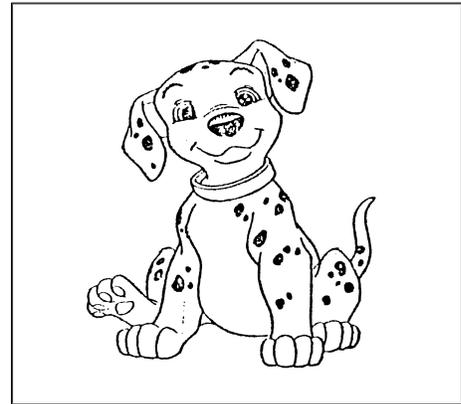
"I am pushing 60, that's enough exercise for me." - Mark Twain

ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

The leaves are falling and rock hunting days are getting shorter. However, the Workshop is open every Saturday from 9 – 1 and 1 – 4 to finish your Christmas projects, or to start new ones.

The "Space Exhibit" at the Wenatchee Museum is being held over for the month of November. It shows 20 large poster images of the earth from space, alongside 20 of Liz Forrer's similar images of rocks.

Don't miss this! (See page 5)



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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

We are a new group of "Rockhounds" that are strangers to each other. It would be nice to "Get to know You," so if each family would write up a "resume" of your life and how you became interested in collecting rocks, it would be appreciated. Also, add any comments as to what you would like to learn in the Club, and any suggestions you would like to make. These will be published in the newsletter.

Marie Magnuson

HOLIDAY FAIR

The Wenatchee Valley Senior Center held their Holiday Gift Fair Saturday, November 8th with many crafts and over one hundred booths.

Gayle Savage was there with her hand-crafted sterling silver jewelry and hand polished stones. Usually, several in the club participate, but this time Gayle was there representing the Ginkgo Club, and herself.

CLUB DUES

Ginkgo Mineral Society dues are DUE January 1st and become delinquent February 1st. You may pay at the regular meeting or mail to the above at P O Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807. (See agenda for rates).

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A CHUCKLE:

A woman was getting swamped with calls from strangers. The reason? A billing service had launched an 800 number that was identical to hers. When she called to complain, she was told to get a new number. "I've had mine for twenty years", she pleaded, "Couldn't you change yours?"

The company refused, so she said, "Fine, from now on, I'm going to tell everyone who calls that their bill is paid in full." The company got a new number the next day. (Fr Chief Joseph Gem & Mineral Club, 10/08)

OPAL – OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

The name Opal comes from the Latin "Opalus" and Sanskrit "Upala" meaning precious stone. The play of color is caused by the interference of light reflected from various layers due to minute cracks or to variation in water content. This is similar to soap bubbles or oil film on water. Opal is considered to be a silica gel that has hardened. It does not crystallize in any of the crystal systems, but forms a mass in cavities. It is also found in botryoidal masses, and seams and veins in rocks. It has also been found in stalagmatic form.

To look into an opal is to see a rainbow. Pliny, the Roman, praised this gem, which within one stone, combines the burning red of the Ruby, glorious green of the Emerald, the majestic blue of the Sapphire, and a myriad of other colors. The Roman Senator Nonius preferred exile rather than sell his favorite Opal ring to Marc Anthony for Cleopatra.

Opals were mined as early as 4,000 B.C. in Eastern Africa. Hungary was the source of Opals for centuries until the mines were abandoned in the 1880's. Mexican opal has been known since the time of the Aztecs (A.D. 1200-1519). The Mayan Indians of Central America and Mexico decorated their homes with these stones. Both Guatemala and Honduras have produced very fine Opal. Recently, the mines of Brazil have produced opals of exceptional beauty, which demand a very high price.

Australia is perhaps the best known consistent opal producer today. Opal was first discovered there in 1849 in South Australia. Lightning Ridge, White Cliffs and Coober Pedy are all famous for their fine material.

Virgin Valley in Nevada has produced precious opal since its discovery by a cowboy in 1905. The opal occurs in beds of volcanic ash and tuff, and wood in the forms of logs, limbs, bark, twigs and roots are replaced in whole or part by either chalcedony, common opal or precious opal. One of the most famous opals from Rainbow Ridge is the Roebing Opal, and is on display at the U.S. National Museum. One of the most recent discoveries of opal is near Spencer, Idaho. This is a favorite location for rockhounds and the material is colorful and excellent for making doublets and triplets.

(Fr. Gem & Minerals by Mae Williams)

TARNISH PROTECTION

Tarnish is caused by sulfur gases in the air. Chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur, so place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer or just around your jewelry.

(Fr Rockpile Legend via Blue Agate News, 1/08)

WHY ENGLISH IS DIFFICULT TO LEARN!

The bandage was wound around the wound.
He could lead if he would get the lead out.
The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
They were too close to the door to close it.

NOTE: If you missed seeing the "Space" exhibit at the Wenatchee Museum in October, it is now being held over through November. The following article is reprinted here for your information from the August-Sept. Newsletter:

**NEAR AND FAR, Earth from Space
Presented by US Geological Survey, the Smithsonian Institution and...Liz.**

There is a new exhibit at the Wenatchee Valley Museum which will be showing during the month of October. There are 20 large poster images of the earth from space, alongside 20 posters of similar images of small rocks that our Ginkgo Club member Liz Forrer has photographed. As described on the first poster, "The Earth has been described in many ways, as a blue pebble floating in space, a blue gem among the stars and the third rock from the sun." However, it is described often as compared to the rocks and minerals we can touch and hold in our hand.

The exhibit "NEAR AND FAR" features satellite imagery of the earth from the Smithsonian Institution and USGS alongside the digital photography of rocks and minerals by Wenatchee artist Liz Forrer.

Several of our Ginkgo members' rocks that were photographed are part of the display - thanks to Marie Magnuson, Larry & Wanda Shaw, Bill & Ruth Williams, as well as Christy Price's Aunt LaVon Siprek from Puyallup and East Wenatchee resident Laverna Armintrout.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM-4 PM . Don't miss this awesome exhibit!

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE & EVENTS:

- November 22nd - Regular Meeting (4th Saturday, not 3rd) Program by Larry Shaw, "How to Use a GPS".
- December 20th - Regular Meeting
- March, 2009 - Spokane Gem Show (Be thinking about this)

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

If you wish to use the workshop, call the volunteer. If no one calls, the shop will be closed.

November 29	Bob Spurrier	9 - 4	881-8096
December 6	Richard Prevett	9 - 4	860-5785
December 13	Christy Price	9 - 4	669-1448
December 20	Club Meeting		
December 27	Maxine Anderson	9 - 1	662-7446
	Cheri McMullan	1 - 4	860-0009
January 17	Bob Spurrier	9 - 1	881-8096
January 24	Carol Smith	9 - 4	884-3349
January 31	Bob Spurrier	9 - 4	881-8096

MELLOWNESS

I like Spring, but it is too young. I like Summer, but it is too proud, so I like best of all Autumn, because its leaves are a little yellow, its tone mellower, its color richer, and it is tinged a little with sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of Spring, not of the power of Summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and is content.

(By Lin Yutang, Fr. The Puget Sounder via Ore-Bits, 9/03)

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P O Box 303
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