

THE
PETRIFIED DIGEST



www.wenatcheerockclub.org

August 2011

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 Ron Gray 669-3106
Vice President Pat Russell 470-7625
Secretary Carol Smith 884-3349
Treasurer Charleen Prevett 670-2325
Past President, member Executive Board – Larry Shaw 884-0882

COORDINATORS

Field Trips Ron Gray 669-3106 / Larry Shaw 884-0882
Shop & Equipment Bob Witt 669-0819 / Ron Gray 669-3106
Program/Education Pat Russell 470-7625
Publicity Charleen Prevett 670-2325
Social Maxine Anderson 662-7446
Chelan County Fair Booth Greg Peek 548-4779
Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show Richard Prevett 860-5784
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.

President Ron's Motto: "Pull on an oar, don't just ride in the boat."

Club Calendar

August		September		October	
6		3	Workshop 10-3	1	Workshop 10-3
13		10	8 th -11 th Chelan Cty Fair	8	Workshop 10-3
20	Club Picnic/meeting Eastmont County Park	17	Regular Meeting Hosts: Marie Magnuson - Diane Everhart	15	Regular Meeting Hosts: Glenn & Lori Ludeman/??
27	Workshop 10-3	24	Yellowstone River trip	22	Workshop 10-3
				29	Workshop 10-3

ROCK SHOP HOURS: 10 am – 3 pm Saturdays, except meeting and field trip days, and selected rock shows. Check the calendar above for scheduled shop days.

Safety glasses required - dust mask recommended - paper towels requested
Call Bob Witt 669-0819 with questions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ron Gray, President

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RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention: There will be our regular raffle at the August picnic. It will feature a **new surprise item** which will prompt all of you to purchase lots of tickets for a chance at this new addition to our raffle table. Also, the door prize will be a polished geode. One will be given away at each meeting for the next six months. Count on drooling and bring extra \$\$ for the raffle.

Carol Smith

CHELAN COUNTY FAIR UPDATE

Superintendent Greg Peek asked that we share the following message with you:

I just got back from the Chelan County Fairgrounds training on the ins and outs of the fair. The director needs our list of hosts & hostesses after the rock meeting on August 20th. I will be at the meeting with signup sheets for attending our booth. If you are not planning on going to this month's meeting and want to help out please call me and request a time. I can be reached at 548-4779 or 509-293-3083. Any questions, please call me.



**GINKGO MINERAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL CLUB POTLUCK PICNIC**



Saturday, August 20st

Where: Eastmont County Park between Grant Road and 3rd Street in East Wenatchee, Shelter #1 (off Georgia Street).

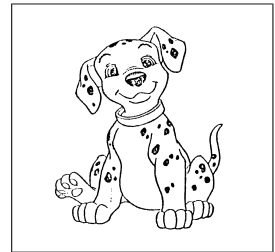
Time: Meet at 2 pm We will be eating about 3:00 pm.

What to bring: The Club is providing fried chicken, water and soda pop, and plates, silverware, cups, napkins. Each of you **bring whatever you would like to add to the Potluck!** Electrical outlets are available in the shelter for crock pots or other equipment. You may want to bring lawn/folding chairs or blankets.

ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

It's almost time for the Chelan County Fair! Keep on tumbling and polishing, and reserve your spot at the booth to join in the fun of watching youngsters pick out a treasured rock to take home.

Be sure take steps to protect your favorite rockhound, canine or otherwise, from the threat of rabies. See the story on Page 3.



LEAF FOSSILS

Carol Smith and Bonni Martin went fossil hunting in Dry Gulch near Wenatchee in June, and shared the following instructions for others who may be interested:

Drive to the end of South Miller St. and park in the dead end parking lot. Go through the double gate and hike the road for approximately a mile and quarter. The digs are about 50 feet at the end of the only guardrail on the right. The shale slides have a variety of leaf fossils of varying degrees of hardness.



Above and at left: Dry Gulch near Wenatchee



Below, left: Bonni Martin enjoys lunch at the dig.

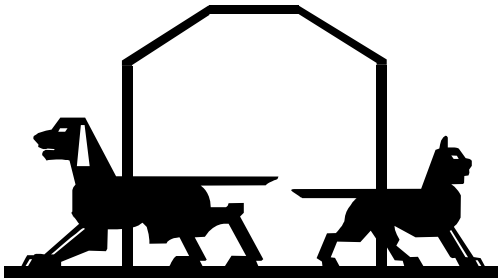
At right: Carol Smith with some of the day's finds.

Below, right: Samples of the leaf fossils found at the Dry Gulch site.



SAFETY NOTE – RABIES FROM ROCKS?

Well, not technically from *rocks* – but a recent conversation with local veterinarian Dr. Robert Thompson revealed a risk of which many rockhounds may not be aware. If you enjoy exploring caves, old buildings and other dark locations for potential finds, you may need to protect yourself with more than a hard hat. You may be exposed to rabies, a deadly virus that is virtually untreatable once symptoms appear. Incubation after exposure can be anywhere from 10 days to 7 years, with the average being 3-7 weeks. The survival rate for rabies cases in humans is extremely low – less than 5%. However, most people respond to an immediate vaccination series if exposure is suspected. Avoiding treatment requires confirmation that the animal is not infected. This is why it's important to capture and test the suspect animal immediately following a bite. If that is not possible, victims are often given preventative treatment as a precaution.



Most people are aware that dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies. The reason for this is that they, too, are extremely susceptible to the virus. In our region, the main source of rabies is bats, and it can also be found in raccoons, skunks and other warm-blooded animals. Roughly ten percent of the bat population is infected. Contrary to popular belief, infection is not always the result of a bite. According to Dr. Thompson, the most common way it is transmitted to humans is

through pets: a dog or cat finds a sick bat and plays with it or carries it home. Rabies is found in the body fluids of infected animals. Merely coming into contact with an infected animal that is alive or has recently died can transmit the virus because of saliva and body fluids on the fur of the bat. It may come as a surprise that it can also be an airborne contaminant. Therefore, explorers should be extremely cautious when entering caves or buildings, especially if it seems wet or humid inside. The source of the moisture may be bat urine or feces, and carry with it a risk of rabies infection. Droplets are carried through the air when dust is stirred up or the animals are disturbed. Masks can be helpful, but even gloves offer little protection, especially if the wearer unknowingly touches infected material and then rubs their eye or wipes their brow. The risk is higher if there is any broken skin – something rockhounds frequently sport in the form of scrapes and scratches.



Dr. Thompson recommended that people who are at higher risk, such as those who explore caves, see their doctor and ask about rabies vaccination. He noted that the vaccine is readily available and is considered safe for most patients, as there is a low risk of reaction to the serum. Citizens can also order the vaccine through a local pharmacy or clinic and request the shots from a staff nurse. They are given in a series several days apart. One series of vaccinations may be sufficient during your lifetime. People at higher risk, such as veterinarians, have their blood tested periodically to check the titer, an indicator of antibodies to the virus. If you were vaccinated a long time ago, it might be best to check your level or have the shots again. If you have never been vaccinated, it is something to consider if you handle wild animals, go spelunking, or take your dog on countryside outings. It is important to note the Washington State Health Department does not advocate everyone getting vaccinated. Only people at risk should consider the value of vaccine.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Open to members of Ginkgo Mineral Society

Hyde Park cabochon machine with a 7-inch rock saw. The saw and the cabbing machine are on a sturdy metal frame; all wired in are two motors with push button controls – one for the saw and one for the cabbing. I am asking \$222.00. I can be reached at 548-479 or 293-3083 (cell) OR you may talk to me at the next Ginkgo meeting on August 20th.
Greg Peek

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



The Petrified Digest
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