

THE
PETRIFIED DIGEST



www.wenatcheerockclub.org

June 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
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 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
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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

June		July		August	
4	Rock, Gem & Jewelry Sale	2	Holiday weekend	6	Workshop 10-3
11	Saddle Mountain	9	Workshop 10-3	13	LK Wen./First Cr Field Trip
18	Regular Meeting Hosts Cheri M & Bob S / ????	16	Regular Meeting Hosts Richard & Charleen P / ????	20	Club Picnic Lincoln Rock Park
25	Clarkia Field Trip POSTPONED	23	Red Top Field Trip delay - road washout	27	Workshop 10-3
		30	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

Hello Rockhounds,

June is halfway over and summer is almost here! Somebody tell the snowpack. As we all know there is still a lot of snow above 4000 feet. Reports are that you still couldn't get to Red Top even if you could get past the washout. Yes, washed out road. I understand it's before the big rock slide. Bad news for the July field trip. I also talked to Gene Huston about our June field trip to Clarkia...remember that big snow pack? Bad news for our June trip. But wait – there is some good news. We can go to Clarkia in July. Well, I hope no one is as disappointed as me, but I guess it will all work out. Get more details at the meeting Saturday.

Just a side note: I have driven over Badger Mountain untold times during my life. Last Sunday I was up at a friend's place at the very top and had the occasion to look into the Enchantments, with all that snow. It was truly breathtaking. If that's not a huge caldera, I would like to know what it is. It makes St. Helens look tiny. The Stuart basolith -Wow.

Don't forget to bring any rocks that you may have that contain iron or nickel to the meeting Saturday. This includes meteorites (Greek "heavenly apparition"), also known as meteor stones or aerolites. In the words of a great lady, "aren't rocks fun!"

See you at the meeting.

Ron Gray, President

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TIDBITS FROM THE MAY MEETING

The program was presented by goldsmith Dean Ojala, who showed casting & designs for jewelery. Richard Prevett was nominated as Show Chairman for next year's annual Ginkgo Rock and Gem Show. The raffle was won by Howard Floyd, and the Door Prize by Cheri McMillan.

SPECIAL NOTE: June's meeting will be about meteorites, so **please bring your strange or special rocks of interest** to show and share.

We'll have lots of information, discussion on the identification process, and probably more questions than answers. It will be entertaining, due to so many different opinions that will undoubtedly surface!

UPCOMING CLUB FIELD TRIPS**REVISED**

Due to late snow and a cool spring, the Clarkia trip has been postponed. Red Top may need to be rescheduled due to a washed out road and lingering snow. Stay tuned for updates....

July ?? – Clarkia, Idaho vicinity

???– Red Top Mountain

August 13 – Lake Wenatchee/First Creek

September 24 – Yellowstone River, Montana

October – Saddle Mountain (date to be announced)

TELLING LAPIS LAZULI FROM SODALITE

If you want to know whether you have sodalite, lapis or imitation lapis, look for pyrite inclusions. Lapis Lazuli will have pyrite inclusions. Sodalite does not have pyrite inclusions. In imitation Lapis the inclusions are golden flakes not pyrite crystals.

Lazurite is the mineral name of the gem and ornamental stone Lapis Lazuli. Lapis Lazuli is a gemstone with a rich blue color. It has a hardness of 5-5-1/2, and is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with some sulphur. Most of the properties of lazurite are similar to those of sodalite, but the association of pyrite with lazurite determines the identification.

Sodalite is composed of sodium aluminum silicate with chlorides. It is 5-1/2 to 6 on the hardness scale and the color is usually blue but may tend toward white, grey, yellow or red. It is associated with other feldspathoids, so called because they resemble feldspars but are of a slightly different composition.

When working Lapis to a polish it requires fine sanding to prevent pyrite inclusions from protruding. Leather may be used with chrome oxide for polishing. Sodalite, on the other hand, polishes perfectly on felt with cerium oxide, after a fine job of sanding.

A drop of Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen sulfide. On the white areas of the stone it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish Lapis from Sodalite.

This report was inspired by an article from Tulip City Conglomerate via the Roseville Rollin' Rocks and the Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society *The Beacon*

Fr. MOROKS 6/11

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in awhile"

- Kin Hubbard

CABBING TIP

by Rich Kelly -- owner of South Fork Mining and member of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society.

In the winter I am one of those guys who always has splits at the top of my finger tips. Some days when I want to cab, the thought of my fingers brushing against the diamond wheels prevents me from cabbng.

I also do not use dop sticks, I prefer to work the stone with my fingers, it is more comfortable and gives me a sense of the stone. So I decided to try those rubber finger tip things people use when filing or perhaps sewing. The ones I found in a stationery store are called Machine Quilting Finger grips; they sell for about 25 cents each - and a pack of a dozen for less than \$3.00. They take a little getting used to, but they do work, and they allow me to work on days when I might not have taken a chance. They may also help if you have just had your nails done, (I assume this would apply to the women?) and want to keep from scratching your nails. One thing, as the stone is almost done and the polish is getting close to a finish, the stone definitely slips out more often, so be careful towards the end. Hope this helps, give it a try.

Fr. MOROKS 6/11 via Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. bulletin.

Flash floods and rock/mud slides are still a very real possibility this season. Be sure to rockhound with a buddy. Let someone back home know where you're headed and when you expect to be back in case you are stranded by an unexpected storm or road problem.



ALLERGIC TO YOUR JEWELRY?

The mildest skin reaction to jewelry is a greenish stain on the skin, which as it turns out has nothing to do with allergies or even skin sensitivities. "It's the oxidation process of jewelry, other than gold, that causes skin to turn green," says David Herschthal, MD,. "Fine jewelry, such as 18-karat gold, oxidizes far less, so the discoloring usually doesn't occur with those pieces." Sweating, he adds, exacerbates the problem because salt, or sodium chloride, contained in perspiration slightly corrodes the metal. "So if you really love that copper necklace, don't wear it to the gym!" More severe skin reactions are usually caused by nickel in the metal. A nickel allergy can occur at any age, and manifests a few days after contact as eczema, which appears as an itchy, dry, crusty, and red pigmented skin rash with watery blisters. The affected area is usually restricted to the site of contact, although it can sometimes be found on other parts of the body. Once a nickel allergy has developed, it is usually a chronic, life-long condition. Nickel is a silvery-white metal found in nature. It is usually mixed with other metals to produce alloys. Nickel-iron, which is used to manufacture stainless steel, is a common nickel alloy. Other nickel alloys are used to make: coins, costume jewelry,

bra or girdle fasteners, zippers, snaps, buttons, suspender clips, hairpins, studs, eyeglass frames, pens, handles, utensils, paper clips, keys, and tools. One way to sleuth out a nickel allergy is to figure out if you have reactions to these items as well. If you do, you can use substitutes made of plastic, coated or painted metal or some other material.

"It's difficult to know if a piece of jewelry contains nickel without actually testing the metal," says Nicole Teague, a jewelry artisan in Berkeley, CA. "That little authenticity stamp that says "sterling" or ".925" is a nonregulated steel stamp that anyone can use if they know where to find it. Even the most reputable department stores can be duped."

Wonder whether your favorite opal ring contains nickel? You can test it yourself, using a dimethylglyoxime spot test, which is a nickel-testing kit that safely tests your jewelry and other suspected metallic items for the presence of nickel. You can obtain one from a dermatologist, pharmacist, or from a number of different testing labs.

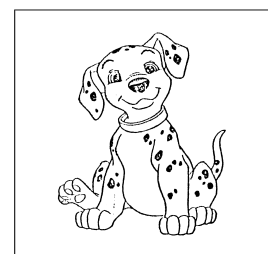
Fr. MOROKS 6/11 Via Snoopy Gems Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society



ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:

It looks like Spring is finally here. Here's hoping you can enjoy some sunny days and dry roads to go exploring for rocks!

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INPUT, PLEASE...

What are you interested in learning or hearing about? At the June meeting, Program Chair Pat Russell will be circulating a list for your input and feedback. Members are asked to bring their ideas. Examples of possible programs include in-depth field trip discussions, maps, jewelry making with rocks and beads, prospecting for gold, visits to museums, club member swap/sale/barter, a "what is it?" rock program, simple wire wrapping to hold that special stone, or any other topics you may be curious about and would like to know more. What sort of program appeals to you? Please share your ideas when the list comes your way. Thank you!



IMPORTANT NOTICES

- The **location for the June meeting has been changed** to the Douglas County PUD Auditorium, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee (park in lower lot).
- The **Clarkia Field Trip has been postponed** due to heavy snowpack. More details at the meeting June 18.

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

FOR SALE: Frantom 10 inch Lapidary trim/slab saw Cabochon unit

10" trim/slab saw with 2 grinding wheels and a buffing plate. Has a gravity feed; just add weight and start cutting. The grinding stones have some life left but need to be dressed. The water system is not included but connections are there for the wheels. I built a cover for the saw and it will be included if you want it. It doesn't look too nice but it is functional. Since we have owned the saw, we have only used high grade mineral oil as a lubricant. It is a very nice running saw. We are asking \$300 or best offer. For more information contact Paul Hampton at 884-3578

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