

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

MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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:**

Another year has nearly passed and we're already planning our Christmas Party. It's been a fun year. I hope everyone found some pretty rocks. Charleen and I sure did.

On behalf of the rest of the club members, I would like to welcome our new officers. It looks like they're going to have a busy year ahead of them, so they will need all the support we can give them.

At the same time, I would like to thank everyone for the support shown me. Now I'm looking forward to be a regular member again. Thank you.

Richard Prevett

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**ROCKHOUND GIVES THANKS**

For the minerals and rocks that we hunt through the year,  
Let's pause for a moment and give thanks, far and near.

To the one who devised such a wonderful plan -  
That only the Master could have placed it right there.

For He who made Heaven, as He who made earth,  
His gifts are made abundant, and immeasurable in worth.

We all have gone searching in those quarries of lime,  
To look for the fossils that mark eons of time.

A passage of Scripture about time (in His way),  
Says a whole thousand years is but only a day.

Let's thank Him for mountains, for sunrise and sunset,  
For beauty around us - and for friends we have met.

A rockhound's a person who appreciates this,  
And though he grows weary, God's sweet love he can't miss.

He can listen to birds, and enjoy the blue sky,  
He may want to give up, but then something says "Try!"

His effort's rewarded, so what more can he ask?  
Than to thank the Good Lord for His part in the task.

So, then, to our Maker who has made all that's fair,  
Let us humbly give thanks for earth's treasures so rare.  
(Fr. Eureka News via Quarry Quips, 11/92)

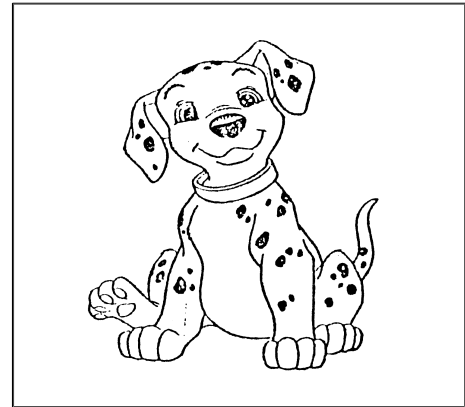
**ROGER, THE ROCKHOUND SEZ:**

The Holiday Season is upon us and members have been busy in the workshop finishing Christmas items or starting new projects.

Plan to participate in the projects below.

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS"**

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**GINKGO CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

The Club will hold their Christmas potluck on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the meeting room at Douglas Co. Fire Station, 377 No. Eastmont Ave., East Wenatchee.

Bring your favorite potluck dish and your own table service. As Santa may pay a visit, bring an "anything" gift (not necessarily rock oriented). Ladies, mark your gift "Lady" and men mark your gift "Man".

Also, as this is a "time of giving", bring several non-perishable food items for the food box.

**NASON CREEK REST AREA**

The Ginkgo Club will man the Rest Area from December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> (five days). They will be serving hot drinks (cider, cocoa, coffee & tea), and cookies and pastries, and will need more people to sign up for the shifts of 9:00 am to 1:00 and 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Volunteers will be given copies of the rules and regulations. Contact Wanda Shaw (884-0882) or Christy Price (669-1448).

**GEOLOGY BOOKS AVAILABLE**

Charlie Mason will have a supply of his 2<sup>nd</sup> edition book "The Geological History of the Wenatchee Valley and Adjacent Vicinity" at the December meeting. This is offered to members with his personal autograph at \$25.00 (tax included).

**NEW LIBRARY BOOK**

"Rockhunting Montana" has been donated to the library by Craig Garver and Barbara. Had two copies, so we received the extra.

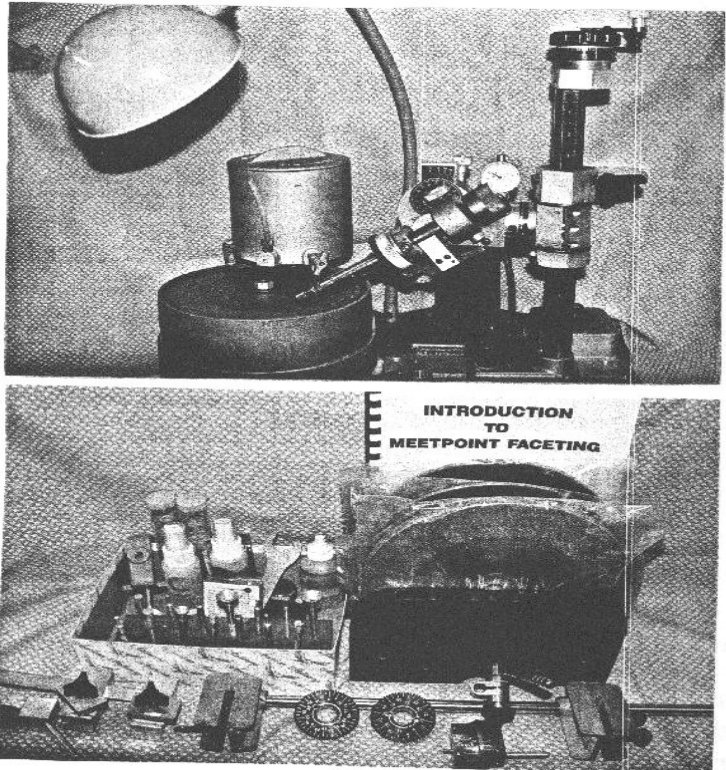
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**"Broken Cookies don't have calories"**

**FOR SALE:**

Prismatic faceting machine. Extras include 8 inch 60-80 preform disk, 600-1200 disk, polish disk, (with 325 and 1200 liquid diamond mesh). Three index, 80-64-96. Also a 45 degree set, a transfer block, an auto curve w/two six sided gears, 14 dops.

I have been in contact with the owner of Prismatic, and any future info or work can be done by him personally. Very good condition, \$1,600 firm. Contact Carol Smith @ 509/884-3349.

**HOW RICH ARE WE?**

One day a father and his rich family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing him how poor people can be. They spent a day and a night at the farm of a very poor family. When they returned from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"Very good, Dad!"

"Did you see how poor people can be?"

"Yeah!"

"And what did you learn?"

The Son replied, "I saw that we have a dog at home, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden; they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden; they have the stars. Our patio reaches to the front yard; they have a whole horizon."

When the little boy finished speaking, his father was speechless.

His son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."  
(Fr Stonecutter, 11/08)

**THE LEGEND OF THE SAND DOLLAR**

The Holy Shell, otherwise known as the Sand Dollar, is one of nature's most unusual specimens of marine life. The markings on the shell symbolize the birth and crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. An outline of the Easter Lily is a five pointed star that represents the Star of Bethlehem. The narrow elliptical openings are reminiscent of the five wounds made in the body of Christ during the crucifixion.

On the underside of the shell is an easily recognized outline of the Christmas Poinsettia. When the shell is broken open, cells are found, each holding five objects that look like birds in flight. These represent the Dove of Peace. Another interpretation of these bird-like objects connects them to the angels who sang to the shepherds on the first Christmas morning.  
(Fr Rockytier, 1986 & others via Scribe, 1994)

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**IS IT HARD OR TOUGH?**

The terms "hardness" and "toughness" are sometimes confused when comparing qualities of gemstones – and there is a great deal of difference.

The Diamond is far and away the hardest – for it will scratch, cut or polish any other stone. As an example, with a diamond-pointed wheel dresser, as is used by lapidary workers, silicon carbide grinding wheels could be reduced to dust in minutes.

But for toughness (resistance to chipping and breaking) – jade has it beat by a country mile. A diamond will scratch and easily cut jade, but a jade hammer can crush a diamond to powder. It is the cross-matted structure of jade that makes it nearly impossible to break.

Never fear if you accidentally drop a solid jade cabochon on cement. If it breaks, better check it, it is probably not jade. The Chinese used jade for anvils just as we use steel. Sometimes, the same anvil was used for several generations. Jade used for axes and hammer-like tools centuries ago was a practical, useful and highly valued material. (Fr Gemstone Stories & other bulletins via Rock Rollers, 10/08)

**GOLD – FRANKINCENSE – and MYRRH**

Of the Christmas phrase, gold is familiar to us, but what about the other two?

Frankincense comes from the resin of a desert tree, *Boswellia Curteril*, found in arid parts of Arabia, Somalia and India. Scientists believe that the tree was imported into Israel, and its fragrance cultivated near the Dead Sea in the royal gardens of Judea.

Myrrh was more common in ancient Israel, but an expensive item, none-the-less; it too, comes from a tree, *Commiphora Myrra*, which is native to Arabia, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Myrrh was pulverized and then used as an important ingredient in holy ointments. The wealthy also wore small bags of myrrh around their necks carrying the fragrance with them.

(Excerpted fr Royal Neighbors Magazine & other bulletins via Rocket City Rocks, 12/99)

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**SIMPLEST GEM & MOST COMPLEX**

The Diamond is the simplest gem – the chemical composition being all of carbon and crystallized isometrically.

Tourmaline is the most complex. It is said that tourmaline's chemistry is more like a doctor's prescription than the makings of a respectable material.

(Fr Rock Chips, 1/2007)

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**REMEMBER...**

...One of the few men who can smile when everything goes wrong is an auto mechanic.  
(Anonymous)

...That a snowflake is one of Nature's most fragile creations, but look what it can do if they all stick together.  
(Fr. Tek Rock Club via Stone Age News)

... and that snowmen fall from Heaven  
Unassembled!

**PAST MEETINGS:**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – The program was given by Larry Shaw on “How to use GPS” (Global Positioning System). He gave an excellent report noting when it started in 1957 when the Russians first sent their Sputnik into space. In 1960, the US Military showed interest, and in 1983, information was released to the public. The rockhounds experimented with it and found it a very useful tool. Guest Eleanor Culling from Leavenworth showed her GPS and told of experiences in working with it.

The dates for serving the Nason Creek Rest Area are December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wanda Shaw and Christy Price are heading the Committee.

The Ginkgo Christmas Potluck is scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring gifts and favorite food (See p. 2).

Officers for 2009 were elected as follows:

President – Bob Spurrier  
 Vice Pres. - Paul Hampton  
 Secretary - Ellen Osier  
 Treasurer - Christy Price

Carol Smith passed around a picture of a Prismatic faceting machine for sale. This brought up the question of whether we should have a Web Site for classified items - Jill Timm will check into this.

The Raffle ticket was drawn for Chuck Watkins and Door Prize went to Charleen Prevett.

Refreshments were served by Sally Bolyard and Maxine Anderson of Pumpkin Pie with cream, Holiday breads & cookies, grapes plus fudge.

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**PROGRAM SCHEDULE & EVENTS:**

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Regular meeting, Ginkgo Christmas Potluck (see P 2)

**Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – January 2** – Nason Creek Rest Area (see P 2)

**January 17** – Regular Meeting

**March, 2009** – Spokane Gem Show (Be thinking about this)

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**CLUB DUES**

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

**THREE WISE WOMEN**

DO YOU KNOW what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of three wise men who visited Baby Jesus? They would have asked directions, got there on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts! (Fr. Country Magazine, via Rocket City Rocks and Gems, 12/99)

## **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, (REVISITED)**

On the twelfth day of Christmas,  
My true love gave to me,  
Twelve tumblers tumbling,  
Eleven perfect spear points,  
Ten diamond saw blades,  
Nine crystal clusters,  
Eight agate nodules,  
Seven sheets of silver,  
Six sapphire star stones,  
FIVE GOLDEN RINGS,  
Four fluorescent lamps,  
Three gem books,  
Two Trilobites,  
AND A BRANCH FROM A PETRIFIED TREE!

(Fr Tek & The Ammonite 12/90 via Cabber  
Gabber, 12/97)

The Petrified Digest  
Maxine Anderson, Ed  
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