

Welcome Friends and Rockhounds



The Petrified Digest

May, 2024



Meet Your Fellow Club Members

Derek Corder



Derek Corder was introduced to rockhounding at a young age. He told me that he always liked rocks and that he collected them as a kid. He also said that his grandmother did a lot of beach combing on the coasts of both Washington and Oregon. When she passed away, he inherited some of her stuff.

He also said that his mom really likes rocks. "One time we were driving over Blewett Pass when she saw some soapstone that she liked," he said. "She made my dad go back and load it into the Subaru. Those rocks are still in their yard." He went on to say that later, she tried to talk his dad into going back to get more. Derek chuckled and then added, "My dad told her he wasn't going back up there again."

Derek was born in Washington. As a youngster, he also lived in Colorado and Montana. Then, his dad, who was originally from Wenatchee, got a job and relocated the family to his former hometown. After college it was back home to Wenatchee. Three years ago, he was hired to oversee Public Records Management for Chelan County. If someone needs a public record, Derek is the person who they would contact. He went on to explain that if the request is routine, he will sometimes delegate the duty to someone else. However, regarding requests directly from the County Commissioners or in cases where the record contains sensitive information, he always deals with those directly. It was obvious to me that Derek takes his job seriously and always conducts himself in a professional manner.

Derek told me that last year, he was feeling cooped up and that he wanted to get out and meet more people and be more active. He also developed a passion for volunteering. Until recently, he was the volunteer coordinator for the Friends of Ohme Gardens.

Derek joined the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fisher's Club where he has been quite active and currently sits on their board of directors. He told me that he has always been interested in geology and that he wanted to learn more and to meet more people who share his love of rocks and minerals, so he joined the Ginkgo Mineral Society. Derek said that he is looking forward to more club field trips. I think a lot of us are. Always willing to help, when the call went out for new officers for our club, Derek answered and is now our Vice President.

He is also interested in lapidary. He recently received an expanded drum cabbing machine from Susan Oglebay. He excitedly said that he is looking forward to trying it out. He also said that he really wants to find garnets. He went on to add that garnet is his birthstone.

Derek has been following through on his desire to get out more and to be more active. He recently completed his first 10 K run on the Ancient Lakes Loop Trail near Quincy. He also said that he really likes camping. His favorite place to go is Steamboat Rock State Park which he visits several times in the summer. He likes to take his kayak and paddle around. He hasn't fished there yet but he plans to. I think he hears some walleye calling his name.

Derek is also a member of the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center. Last year, he went on a museum geology tour of the Channeled Scablands in the Columbia Basin. He had heard that sometimes Nick Zentner would attend one of the museums tours and this was one of those. I'm sure that most of you are familiar with Nick. For those of you who aren't, he is a geology professor at Central University in Ellensburg. He does great lectures and has a YouTube channel called, Nick on the Rocks.

Derek said that his dad is a big fan of Nick. He said that when he told him that he had met Nick, his dad was so jealous. Being a Nick fan myself, I must admit that I'm kind of jealous too.

From Atop the Rockpile

Hello rock and mineral lovers! It's the month of May and its getting warm outside. It's time to enjoy the spring with some field trips! This month we would like to do a field trip to First Creek. We need someone to lead the trip up there. It is approximately a two mile hike in. If you would be willing to lead this trip please contact me, the President. My contact info is in this newsletter! If we can find someone to lead the field trip, it will be happening the Saturday after the meeting. To fit the field trip locality, please bring any find from First Creek that you'd like to share at Show and Tell. Rock on!

Thea Stender

From the Scribe

May Program: Ellensburg Blue by Carol Smith

Carol read from an article titled [Ellensburg Blue Agates](#) are extracted for use as gemstones in March 1905, written by Paula Becker 1-25-2003. referencing Ellensburg's first mayor, Austin Mires, being the first white man to pluck stones from the agate beds. Teanaway basalt dates from the Eocene epoch of geographic history (50 million years ago). In Ellensburg agate fields it is mixed with a darker brown Columbia Plateau basalt from the more recent Miocene epoch (24 million years ago).

The Ellensburg formation dates from the Miocene epoch and is largely composed of easily eroded rock and rock debris. This "biscuit" topography, combined with the movement over time of the Yakima River and its tributary creeks, encouraged the formation of geodes and agates. Although agate beds between Thorpe and Ellensburg yield a variety of agates, it is the brightly colored "Ellensburg Blue" agates for which the beds are famous. These agates are unique to the region. Native Americans tribes eschewed the agates for use in arrow tips and trading. Ellensburg Blue are the hardest known agates with a hardness of 7.0 to 8.3 depending on mineral deposits.

Carol brought her collection of set and raw blues to show differences the stones can have, including a raw stone she quoted at \$55 per carat totaling a whopping \$2700! She also pointed out people have a lot to say about Blues, which is great, but not always correct. Do your research and go out and explore. They say you can't find Blues on Red Top though while sitting up in the meadow near the stream the whopper I previously mentioned rolled right out of the bank. You could still hear the excitement in her voice as she told the story.

If interested in having a stone tested to confirm it is a true Blue you can reach out to langfordlapidary@gmail.com or at 509-566-3135.



Photo to the left: \$2,700 raw stone, just over 49 carats.

A note for the gold show sale- Carol sold one Ellensburg Blue ring for over \$400 and is doing very well on sales.

Show and Tell: Pam Lander displayed Washington charms to give away as well as Apache Tears. Peggy Grant

showed pebble art pictures-cus seaweed stuck to a shell and d	3 Deposits	\$563.00	finds: shell bored into rock,
	4 Checks Written	(\$241.65)	
Refreshments: were provided l	Ending Balance as of 4-30-24	\$4,986.62	

Door Prize and Raffle: The door prize was won by Melisha Maxey. David Earhart donated petrified wood collected by the Previtts and Pam Lander donated slabs which were won by R John Montgomery, Bob Grant, David Earhart and Pam Lander.

Business Meeting: The meeting was called to order by Melisha Maxey on April 19, 2024 at 7:07 pm. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The March Treasurer's Report was also read and approved.

New Business: Rick and Carol Lechner donated a TV that we will be able to use for presentations. In addition to the Lechners, Tony Marconi also offered to donate a TV but we only need one. A special thanks to both Tony and the Lechners.

Old Business: We really need field trip leaders!

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Melisha Maxey
Secretary

Notices

The NCW Prospectors Gold and Treasure Show The show was held at the Chelan County Fairgrounds April 13th and 14th. This is an annual event that provides our members with a chance to sell their wares. Those who sold there this year did well with Carol selling an Ellensburg Blue ring for \$400. David Earhart reported that the show had 900 attendees!.

New Members: Two couples and an individual who attended the Gold and Treasure Show signed up to become new members of our club! They are-Bob Allen and Jessica Brown, Al and Julie Kennedy, and Rory Maitland.. During the March meeting Janiece and Mark Carroll also signed up. Welcome to the Club!

Fossil Lovers will want to keep tuned for the Club's Trip to Murdock and Twin Beach near Port Angeles to look for marine fossils that can be found in the Pysht Formation in Clallam County from the late Oligocene to early Miocene. It is about a 5 1/2 hour drive from Wenatchee. There is a campground at Twin Beach. For those whose who prefer a motel, they can be found in Port Angeles and the surrounding area. Thea will be leading this trip which will take place sometime in August. Please provide input to Thea if you are interested in going. I'm sure it will be a fun trip.

Where's the Equipment

Several of our members have graciously provided homes for our shop equipment. They will make the equipment available to Club members by appointment so we can still cut and polish the stones we collect. Below is a list of equipment with phone numbers to call to arrange an agreeable time:

Dave Stender: A Genie and trim saw 509-630-1176

Jodi Rose: A Genie and trim saw 509-763-9402

Carl Pederson: A Genie, an 18-inch slab saw (\$2.00 per cut), 10 inch slab saw, faceting machine 509-630-8239. If you need slabs cut contact Carl, he may be able to cut them for you.

From the Vault

As of May 4, 2024	
2 CDs	\$11,600
Savings Account	\$1,800.00
Checking Account as of 4-1-2024	\$4,665.27
3 Deposits	\$563.00
4 Checks Written	(\$241.65)
Ending Balance as of 4-30-24	\$4,986.62

David's Notes

Memberships that are past due must be paid before 5-31-2024.

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$40.00

Senior (one): \$15.00

Upcoming Field Trips Hosted by the Washington Mineral Society

The following trips are sponsored by the Washington State Mineral Society. These trips are free of charge and open to the public.

June 15th: Saddle Mountain to look for Pet Wood. Meet at 9:00 am at the Mattawa Grocery Store. This trip is hosted by the Marysville Rock Club. .

August 24th: Lake Wenatchee to look for Garnets. Meet at 9:00 am at Lake Wenatchee Park. This trip is also hosted by the Marysville Rock Club.

Marketplace

		
<p>Custom Ellensburg Blue Contact Carol Smith 509.884.3349 for some very reasonably priced items</p>		

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.

We are a 501c7 organization and are not "charitable" in nature but are a membership organization formed to serve its own members. 501c7 organizations do not solicit charitable donations. As long as a social club is "organized for pleasure, recreation or other non-profit purposes" it can qualify as exempt from federal income tax.

Annual Dues: Individual-\$20.00, Senior-\$15.00, Family-\$40.00, Lifetime (20 plus years)-Free. Please mail your dues to Ginkgo P.O. Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807.

Club information cards are available to handout to folks who show interest in our hobby. See David Earhart for cards to carry with you.

Next Meeting

May 17th at 7:00 pm

Presbyterian Church

200 S. Kentucky, East Wenatchee

Email ideas, trip notes or photos

to: Lizhemberry@hotmail.com Website:

www.wenatcheerockclub.org

Facebook page: Ginkgo Mineral Society

Club Officers

President..... Thea Stender..... 509-630-1391
Vice President..... Derek Corder..... 425-270-0221
Secretary..... Melisha Maxey..... 509-885-2996
Treasurer..... David Earhart..... 509-860-0988

Coordinators

Marcia Summers..... Membership..... 509-860-7556
David Earhart..... Nason Creek..... 509-860-0988
Pam Lander..... Christmas Wrap, Grit..... 509-884-5135
Carl Pederson..... Shop and Equipment..... 509-884-6980
Carol Smith..... Rock Auction..... 509-884-3349
Brenda Jackson..... Social Chairperson..... 509-884-5320
Susan Oglebay..... Club Website..... 509-754-2665
Thea Stender..... Chelan, Co. Fair, Museum..... 509-630-1391
Ken Hemberry..... Newsletter..... 509-699-9450
Cheri McMillan..... Facebook Page Admin.....509-860-0009
Sarah Collamore.....Facebook Page Admin.....808-365-3555
