



# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

**AUGUST 2013**

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628 6:00 P.M. 3rd Thursday of month Visitors Welcome

VISIT the NFMS web site at [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) See OUR web site for the club  
at [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)

PROGRAM AUGUST 15, 2013 AT 6 pm

JIM SULLIVAN – *NEAR EARTH EXPLORATIONS*

GEOLOGIST AND MINERAL SPECIALIST

"EDIBLE MINERALS"

MEETING FOLLOWS,, SILENT AUCTION, AND REFRESHMENTS

Our annual picnic at Dalton Gardens City Park was very well attended by members old and new, and we welcome some new members to the club. BRUCE AND BETTY HOLMES from Pinehurst, and JEFF AND KIM CHRISTENSEN AND CHILDREN ANA, KELI AND RONNIE BARRAZA (CHRISTENSEN) of Hayden, ID.

I have a personal plea to the generous someone who arrived a little late and contributed an large platter of vegetables and dip to the event. It was never opened, and was left on the table, so Bev took it home and used it.....please, whoever made this generous contribution give me your name so I may compensate you!!!

Bob had a flat on his truck on the way home, and surprised himself by being able to change the tire (they are very heavy)...at the time he had no cell phone so I was waiting home wondering what had happened to him-and the phone rang. Someone stopped to see if he needed help and Bob borrowed his phone. That was a relief! He now has a beautiful red phone for emergencies!

Minutes of the June meeting are not available at this time, so hopefully Diane will be handing out printed copies at the meeting. Someone visiting her rearranged Diane's "office"—So the hunt is on.

## STONE GLASS

Taken from an article in Rock and Gem by Wm Kappelle in a column called SHOP TALK.

Many of you have tried making things out of stained glass—wind chimes—window hangings, etc and even windows. Long ago I saw a window made entirely of translucent types of obsidian with whorls and flows, and it was absolutely beautiful!

Replacing the glass with common lapidary materials or even mixing glass with rock would be easy to do with some variations in technique and some different tools would be required. You can't get away with just a glass cutter and some grozing pliers to prepare the pieces, but the assembling is the same as with glass. Review follows:

The individual pieces of glass are held together by one of two ways—(1) to fit a channel of lead (called a came) to each individual piece and then to solder them all together. (2) a more modern method in which a thin piece of adhesive backed copper tape is affixed to each piece—then solder is run over the copper and the pieces are soldered together.

The first step in making a stone glass piece is to develop a pattern. Use your own imagination or use a craft book or the internet for inspiration. You will need to make a full sized drawing called a "cartoon" from your sketches.

Put a sheet of heavy craft paper on your work table—then a sheet of carbon paper, then a sheet of plain white paper, another sheet of carbon paper and top off the pile with your cartoon. Tack the corners down or use tape, and trace your design. Cut the individual pieces from the craft paper and adhere them to your stone with rubber cement. Before cutting the stone pieces out remember to allow for the gap between each piece where the copper or lead will be placed. Using the copper method the only other tool you need is a good soldering iron.

For your first project keep it simple. Consider mixing your stone with glass pieces—you can get them already beveled in shapes—translucent stones are great but opaque ones can be beautiful also. Turn your imagination loose—you may find a whole new road to follow.

### **Glass Specimen Cover—(Via the Owyhee Gem 10/06, Tumbler3/06, Rock Rollers 2/06, Delvings 1/06, Rockpile 1998)**

You can make a cheap, clear glass cover for your crystals, minerals, etc. At a flea market or thrift store pick up a few old wine glasses without patterns etched on them. With your trim saw, cut the stem off as close to the base of the globe as possible. Polish the goblet end to a glass finish, place over your specimen and there you are. No more dust on your specimen. Also, looking down through the cut end magnifies whatever you have under it. The stem can be polished flat to mount anything else you fancy.

## Coprolite, Or This Dung Is For You

by Brett Whitenack

This article deals with a subject that some people find rather offensive and vulgar. Others find it quite amusing. There are few people who find it extremely fascinating and worthy of study. What could exhibit so many varied reactions? I'm speaking of petrified poop, Dina doo, fossilized, er, ah, pardon me. I don't wish to offend anyone reading this article. I'm talking of the much maligned, the lowly, the humble, coprolite.

"What is coprolite?" I'm glad you asked.

Coprolites are fossilized feces, dung, scat! Yes, ladies and gentlemen, coprolites are the extruded remains of meals that prehistoric animals deposited.

"But how can these be fossils?" The oldest coprolites date some 400 million years ago from the Silurian Period and are from fish. The most recent coprolites are from Ice Age animals and may still contain much original organic matter—a fact your nose may discover if the coprolite gets wet!

Coprolites form just like any other fossil.

They must have been buried rapidly in fine grain sediment and kept away from biological agents that could destroy them, such as scavengers or the environment. Ground water percolating through a potential fossil must be of a correct nature, not too acidic, and full of minerals that can replace the soft materials. Of course, these requirements only pertain to those coprolites that are petrified. Some younger coprolites have been found desiccated in southwest caves and date from the last Ice Age. Being of a soft nature, dung doesn't preserve as readily as bones, teeth, or scales. However, coprolites aren't exceedingly rare by any means, and you too can easily own a piece of this most interesting geologic wonder. Given its detached nature, a coprolite can't be identified with the exact species of animal that left it. In some instances, coprolites from sharks can be determined from the grooves and markings on them, as shark have distinctive spiral valves in their intestines.

By studying the makeup of a coprolite, or can tell if the animal was a carnivore (meat eater) or herbivore (plant. eater). It is interesting to note that carnivorous coprolites are more readily preserved due to their higher mineral content the bones the animal ate.

Other things that can be told by studying coprolites are such things as the paleoenvironment where the animal lived, other organisms that were associated with it, and how this animal interacted with its surroundings.

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## SHOP HELPS

Alex Rosek of Minocqua, Wisconsin, has an inexpensive way of drilling holes in slabs of gem materials to be used for clock faces.

He uses a cordless screwdriver. First he fits a piece of plastic tubing snugly into the chuck of the screwdriver. The chuck will then be able to accept the bit, which is a domed wood screw with the head large enough to make the right size hole for the clock shaft.

He uses a metal washer temporarily glued to the correct spot on the slab for the bit to fit in as the hole is made.

The washer should be the size that the widest part of the bit will slip into. A couple of drops of water are then placed in the center of the washer and the slab, and some of the grit is put inside the hole of the washer.

The washer hole guides the bit and holds the grits and coolant needed to start the hole in the stone. After the hole is started, the washer can be removed. Additional grits and drops of water are added until the hole in the stone is drilled.

Thanks, Alex, for a great idea for do-it-yourself lapidaries.

Via Umpqua Gem 8/05

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC  
2013 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT—BEV BOCKMAN -773-5384 OR  
CELL 659 4021

VICE-PRESIDENT—DALE RUPERD 664 2712

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CINDY YATES 660-7588 FEB- APRIL

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818-6317 (ALSO SHOW CHAIRMAN 2013  
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PROGRAMS—CLUB MEMBERS AND BEV  
ALAA-EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643

FEDERATION DIRECTOR—DALE RUPERD

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ERST AND CINDY YATES 277-8840 AND  
660-7588

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The name coprolite has two sources as to how they were named: one fact, the other fiction. During the great "bone wars" of Professor O.C. Marsh and Professor Edward Drinker Cope during the latter years of the last century, Professor Cope men apparently stole an Allosaur skeleton from a quarry of Professor Marsh's. This incensed Professor Marsh, and to "immortalize" Professor Cope, Professor Marsh named the fossilized fecal remains "coprolites" to get even with his arch enemy. a quaint legend, but entirely untrue.

The name coprolite has more humble and mundane origins. The English geologist, William Buckland, deduced their true nature and named them from the Greek kopros, "dung," and lithos, "stone," literally dungstone. Buckland thought the would be important in agriculture as a source of fertilizer due to their high calcium phosphate content.

In addition to the information they can tell us, coprolites have become fashionable as a cutting material. Believe it or not, some coprolites exhibit beautiful colors when cut and polished. It has been said that the reds are from the meat the animal ate, brown from nuts and seeds, green from plant material, and black from the juices of blackberries. Actually, these colors come from the minerals deposited by ground water that percolated through them as they were fossilized.

via BEMS Tumbler 04/07; West Seattle Petroglyphs, 8/06; via Carny Hound, 3/06; via The Southwest Gem, 2/04; via Stoney Statements. 1104: from The Stone Chippper 5/03

#### CLUB BUSINESS

1. Board of Directors (or Executive Board ) (name?) has not existed for some years for various reasons, but it is necessary according to the by-laws that there is such an entity. The Board shall consist of the officers that are elected by club vote in November/December for the succeeding year and two members of the membership at large. These individuals should have been active members of the club for at least one year. (We have proposed that in the absence of pressing business that the board meetings take place every two months and reported to the membership via this newsletter.)
2. At this time the board consists of Bev Bockman, Mike Burton, Dale Ruperd, Diane Rose, Carl Chapin and Bill Johnson
3. Also it has been declared that our voting representatives to the NFMS conventions shall be reimbursed travel expenses for fuel one way and lodging as needed. This has long been ignored, but that cannot continue.

Bev Bockman, President of the club for 2013

If any member desires a copy of the club by-laws and does not already have one , please see me at the next meeting or call and let me know. We will have more printed.

SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS ARE ATTENDING THE NFMS CONVENTION (AND ROCK SHOW) AT BUTTE, MT. THIS WEEKEND. WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO A REPORT FROM THOSE WHO WERE THERE!!! AND SOME PICTURES????

#### PERIDOT (FROM THE INTERNET)— MOST IN THE U.S. COMES FROM ARIZONA



#### BLACK ONYX (FROM THE INTERNET)

## August Birthstone

Peridot (pronounced *pair-a-doe*) is a gem variety of olivine. Peridot is an ancient and yet currently very popular gemstone. It was found even in Egyptian jewelry from early second millennium BC. The stones used in those days came from an occurrence on a little volcanic island in the Red Sea, about 45 miles off the Egyptian coast. Peridot is also a very modern stone, for only a few years ago Peridot occurrences were discovered in the Kashmir region, and the stones from there show a unique beauty of color and transparency, so that the image of the stone, which was somewhat dulled over the ages, has received an efficient polishing

The ancient Romans were already quite fond of the gemstone and coveted the brilliant green sparkle, which does not change either in artificial light. They named the stone "Evening Emerald" since its green color did not darken at night but was still visible by lamplight. Legend has it that it was a favorite of Cleopatra. Peridot is found in Europe in many medieval Churches decorating several treasures, like the Cologne Cathedral (more than 200 carats in size adorn the shrine of the three magi.) In the era of Baroque the deep green gemstone experienced another short flourishing, before it became forgotten.

But suddenly, around the middle of the 1990's Peridot was a great sensation on the Gemstone Trade Fairs all over the world. The reason: In Pakistan there had been found a sensationally rich occurrence of the finest Peridot on a rough mountain side, in about 13 and a half feet. The extremely hard climatic conditions only allow mining to go on through the summer months and yet the unusually large and fine crystals and rocks were brought down into the valley. These stones were of finer quality than anything else ever seen, and the occurrence proved so rich that the high demand can be met without a problem.

The depth of green depends on iron. The gemstone is actually known by three names: Peridot, Chrysalis (derived from the Greek word "goldstone") and Olivin, because Peridot is the gemstone variety of the Olivin mineral. In the gemstone trade, it is generally called Peridot, a name derived from the Greek "peridona" meaning something like "giving plenty". Peridot is one of the few gemstones that exist in one color. Finest traces of iron account for the deep green color with a slight golden hue. Chemically Peridot is just an iron-magnesium-silicate, and the intensity of color depends on the amount of iron it contains.

Peridot is not especially hard- it is about 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs' scale. Peridot-Car's Eye and Star-Peridot are some of the rarer versions.

The most beautiful stones come from the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region. Peridot as a gemstone also exists in Myanmar, China, USA, Africa, and Australia. Stones from East Burma, today's Myanmar, show a vivid green with fine silky inclusions.

Information paraphrased from [www.gemstone.org](http://www.gemstone.org)

### **Onyx: Black Magic—Zodiac Gemstone for Leo**

In jewelry design as in fashion, colors look crisper against a background of black, and black and white always looks right. In fine jewelry, the black backdrop is often supplied by onyx, a black chalcedony quartz with a fine texture. Some onyx also displays white bands or ribbons against a black background. If the layers are even, this type of onyx can be carved into cameos.

Onyx was very popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans. The name comes from the Greek word 'onyx', which means nail or claw. The story is that one day the frisky Cupid cut the divine fingernails of Venus with an arrowhead while she was sleeping. He left the clippings scattered on the sand and the fates turned them into stone so that no part of the heavenly body would ever perish. True, black isn't normally the color one associates with fingernails. But in Greek times, almost all the colors of chalcedony from fingernail white to dark brown and black were called onyx. Later, the Romans narrowed the term to refer to black and dark brown colors only. Onyx which is reddish brown and white is known as sardonyx. Black onyx shines especially well when used as a backdrop for color play. Its fine texture also makes it ideal for carving, making it a favored material for today's lapidaries.

*Lake City Rockhound News*

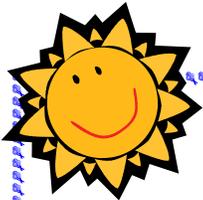
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**Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Dale Ruperd**

**CLUB WEB SITE**

***www.northidahomineralclub.com***

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**2013 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.**

**\*\*Consult [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) for show details.**

**AUGUST 9-11 BUTTE MINERAL AND GEM CLUB —NFMS 75TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW AT THE BUTTE CIVIC CENTER, 1340 HARRISON AVE**

**AUGUST 9-11 PORT TOWNSEND CLUB— PORT TOWNSEND, WA.**

**AUGUST 17 IDAHO FALLS CLUB-IDAHO FALLS, ID**

**SEPT. 7-8 UMPQUA GEM AND MINERAL-ROSEBERG, OR**

**SEPT. 14-15 MARCUS WHITMAN CLUB- WALLA WALLA WA.**

**SEPT 14-15 CLALLAM CO. GEM AND MIN.—PORT ANGELES, WA.**

**SEPT 21-22 HELLGATE GEM & MIN-MISSOULA, MT**

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