



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

DECEMBER 2011

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

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

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms See OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY—DECEMBER 15 —6 PM

TOP OF CHINA BUFFET AT

757 W. APPLEWAY



Brief meeting after dinner and installation of officers for 2012. Please come!!! (Dues are also due if you have not joined for 2012. Thanks!)

Barring unforeseen circumstances Leon Agee will be our speaker in January on the 19th. He will show us how the Great American Topaz came to be and why it is on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The work that he did to be able to facet this huge stone is amazing.



The North Idaho Mineral Club recently donated \$2,000 in support of students in the geology field at North Idaho College.

Pictured are NIC Foundation Executive Director Rayelle Anderson, NIC Vice President for Instruction Jay Lee, NIC student Scott Williams and Mineral Club members Tammy Madland, Hiram Madland, Bev Bockman, Melissa Price, President Warren Price and Vice President Bill Johnson (Not pictured: NIC student scholarship recipient Sean Buck.)

North Idaho Mineral Club donates \$2,000 to NIC

The North Idaho Mineral Club recently established a scholarship through the North Idaho College Foundation in support of students enrolled in geology or interested in geology fields at NIC. The club donated \$2,000 to be split between two students.

Sean Buck of Sandpoint and Scott Williams of Rathdrum are the first two recipients.

"I was very excited to receive this scholarship and I really appreciate the club's investment in my education," Williams said.

The North Idaho Mineral Club was established in 1949 to promote interest and education in the various earth sciences as well as the lapidary and related arts.

Glad news above and sad news below. One of our most interesting rock hound friends—a silversmith and lapidarist of no mean talent has left us. Tom Grady died on Nov. 11 after a mercifully brief encounter with an illness from which he could not recover. Ruth seems to be coping well- even fulfilled a commitment to appear at a craft show at the fairgrounds last weekend and she has support from her children-but give her a call-just to say hello. BB

We here in the "Inland Empire" have scored for at least the next three years. According to the Northwest Newsletter the next Federation show will be in Kennewick in May in 2012, the show in 2013 will be in Butte, and the show in 2014 is in Hermiston. Almost next door!!! Make plans now for all three.

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin. The treasurer reports all bills are paid. **2012 dues are now due and are overdue on December 31.** \$10 for a single adult and \$17.50 for a family or couple.

Election of officers **for 2012**: Paper ballots were distributed to be used for voting. Votes were unanimous for the slate of officers:

Bill Johnson	President
James Finckbone	Vice President
Mike Burton	Treasurer
Diane Rose	Secretary

Possible alternate meeting places were discussed, and the decision was made to remain at this location.

The Christmas dinner was discussed with several options. Warren had made inquiries at the Kinder Center on Mullan in Post Falls...\$50 for the evening and a nice area. Bev, Diane and Warren will check it out. No gift exchange is planned. **SIDE NOTE**: Several days after our meeting it was discovered that a bond was required for our dinner to take place and that was unacceptable. So the manager of the **TOP OF CHINA is expecting us at 6 PM on December 15, Thursday.**

Show Board Meeting was held at Headricks (and thank you again for a hosting) on November 13. During the meeting it was decided to purchase the Grand Prize from Gale Deiner this year, with a value between \$100 and \$150. Bill Johnson and Diane Rose will go and pick out a piece from Deiner's collection. (This has been done and the picture appears in this bulletin, but doesn't do it justice). There will be advance tickets available for members to sell and also at the show, the proceeds to go for ongoing club expenses and projects.

Bev Bockman suggested we invite Leon Agee to come to one of our meetings to give a presentation on the Great American Topaz project. It is now housed in the Smithsonian. The members present seemed interested in this, and Bev will make the arrangements.

No refreshments will be needed till the January meeting. Volunteers????

Warren reminded everyone to check out the silent auction that will close shortly. He also brought Moqui Marbles from Utah and obsidian — both free to members and guests. They are from the collection of a friend.

The program this month is a DVD: **Chiricahuas, Islands in the Desert.** furnished by Mike and Daine Rose.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Rose, Secretary.

December Birthstone—Turquoise and Lapis Lazuli



Two gems are designated for December and both have been worked for thousands of years in Egypt and India. Both are soft and easily carved and cut. Ancient Tibetans believed turquoise to have magical powers and the ladies of the time prized beads, pins and rings of turquoise. Southwestern Indians have worked their turquoise mines for many generations.

When it was introduced to Europe it was called the "Turkey Stone" or turquoise after the French usage. Mistakenly it was thought to have come from Turkey and only later discovered to have come from Iran. Early Persians believed that wearing it protected from illness and assured success in business. When the stone became dull or lost color that meant approaching ill health.

In the middle ages people thought that turquoise could avert a fall. (continued on page 5)



The Grand Prize for our 2012 show —it is 3 1/2 pounds of beautiful azurite and malachite.

It is 5 1/2 inches by 4 1/2 inches by 2 inches in size

Photo by Mike Burton

CLEANING CRYSTALS

Many times I have been asked how to clean crystals and I have never been sure what to recommend, but I came across an article on the web that I filed 10 years ago—and the information still seems good. So here goes————(excerpts—author unknown but he has a mine in Arkansas) Ed.

Cleaning crystal is a three step process. The clay or soil must be washed off first. Second-, the iron oxide film is removed with oxalic acid and last the crystal is washed with fresh water. Sounds simple but there are many ways to do each step.—type of crystal and quantity you have to clean.

Points can be done with a hose, crystal clusters may require pressure washing to get out the dirt: let dry in the sun and then wash again till clean. If all the dirt is not removed it will combine with the oxalic acid and prevent the removal of the iron stain. Oxalic acid may be bought at most drug stores , cleaning supply houses or rock shops. It should not be expensive. Mix the oxalic acid one pound to 2 gallons of water. It is safest to let the crystals with the acid solution sit in the sun for several days, or if in a hurry you may heat the solution. Small amounts can be heated in an old crock pot—larger amounts may need a large pan over a hot plate. **Never use aluminum!! Do all this in a well ventilated area (preferably outside) and wear protective gloves.** Be sure to neutralize the acid with baking soda, lime or ashes from the fireplace before discarding it.

When the crystals are removed from the acid wash with liberal amounts of fresh water. If you are unsatisfied with the results repeat all three steps as many times as necessary to get the results you are satisfied with.

If the crystals have a sandstone base it may turn green in the acid. To prevent this heat the clusters in clean water before putting them in the acid bath. This will open the pores in the sandstone and fill them with water preventing the acid from entering the sandstone.

For small cleaning jobs you can use the product called “Iron Out” which is used to remove rust stains from porcelain. It is a bisulfate cleaner sold at Home Depot. It is fairly cheap, quick and did a good job. 3TBS per cup of water cleaned a few points at a time. One bottle did a bucket full.

Muratic acid may be used for very heavily stained crystals but is nasty and dangerous material so it is a last resort and used following all recommended safety precautions.

2011 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT WARREN PRICE 446-4902
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SECRETARY DIANE ROSE, 659-6173
TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)
FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643
FEDERATION DELEGATE BEVERLY BOCKMAN 773-5384
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN **PROGRAMS**—BEV
 BOCKMAN AND Club Members

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317

(From pg. 3)

Many horsemen of the time carried a piece of turquoise – the bigger the better. If a man could not afford his own stone he could rent one before a long trip. This belief persisted till the 17th century.

The oldest pieces of jewelry are of gold and turquoise. 8000 jewels lay on the arms of Egyptian Queen Zer whose tomb was opened in 1900. The sarcophagus of King Tut was of yellow quartzite with three inner cases of which the innermost was of beaten gold set with turquoise, lapis and carnelian. Sacred scarabs were often made of turquoise, from bean size to as large as a yard across.

The best quality turquoise is a pure pale blue without a tinge of green. Some Indian tribes, however, prefer the green.

Lapis Lazuli retains its Latin name meaning “stone of blue”. This stone was prized more by artists than by jewelers because it provided the most permanent blue color available for a many centuries. The stones were crushed and used to make the color ultramarine when mixed with oils.

Ancient belief was that wearing Lapis brought about grace and beauty, could cure melancholy, and the stings of spiders and snakes. (An all purpose gem!) It was applied to the eyeballs when finely ground as a cure for cancerous growths.

Though lapis is now found in some areas of Colorado and California it was unknown to the early American Indians.

Neither gem is normally found in the crystal form—however crystals of both do exist. Lapis Lazuli crystals are found in Afghanistan as well defined crystals—usually formed with massive white calcite. Small turquoise crystals have been found in Campbell County, VA. Luckily the ancients had the custom of burying jewels with their dead, thereby preserving for all time the lapidary culture of the ancient people. (Excerpted from an article in the Umpqua Gem, Dec. 1998)

A FEW WORDS FOR THOUGHT

Are you an active member?
 The kind that would be missed,
 Or are you just content,
 That your name is on the list?
 Do you attend the meetings?
 And mingle with the crowd?
 Or would you rather stay at home,
 And complain both long and loud.
 Do you give a little time?
 And help to make things tick?
 Or leave the work to just a few,
 And talk about the clique.
 So come to all the meetings
 And help with hand and heart.
 Don't be just another member,
 But take an active part.
 Think it over people,
 Are you right or wrong?
 Are you an active member?
 Or do you just belong?
 (via: Hatrockhound Gazette 6-04)

**ROCK LICKER - OCTOBER, 2004
 POLISHING JASPER**

You will find that Jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are "earthy" and porous and many others contain hematite, which is very difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test for jasper is to WET it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away it contains a high amount of chalcedony (quartz) and will take a good polish. Most jaspers polish well on leather with Linde A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember, that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.
MOONSTONE
 Moonstone will cleave. Be sure to grind it on a smooth wheel. It polishes nicely on felt with cerium oxide.

PERIDOT

When polishing peridot, apply a drop of lemon juice or vinegar to speed things considerable; the slight acid seems responsible for the improvement. Rinse laps and splash pans with plain water when finished. (Via:, Breccia. Oregon Rockbound 10/98)

Cheer up! Even the majestic oak tree started as a little nut.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

Merry Christmas from Bev !!

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.

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**2011 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR.,
ID., AND MT.**

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.

**SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS
AND CLUBS**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**