



# Lake City Rockhound News

Newsletter of the North Idaho Mineral Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

June, 2017  
Volume 16, No. 6

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Lake City Center, 1916 Lakewood Drive, Coeur d'Alene in the Library, from 6:00PM to 8:00 PM. Visitors and Guests are Welcome.  
Our web site: <http://www.northidahomineralclub.com>

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## This Month's Meeting

**Regular Meeting** – June 15, 2017

**The Meeting Program:**

***Darwin's Dilemma Video***

**Refreshments:** Jean Gordon and Mike Austin

There will be a silent auction and scholarship raffle tickets will be sold.

Buy your tickets today.

## Meeting Minutes for April 2017

Meeting called to order by President Marilyn Kohler. The Pledge of Allegiance recited. Guests: Debbie Mefferd, and Ellie\_\_\_\_\_ sorry did not get her name.

Minutes were approved as written Motion to approve by Corey, seconded by Dean, passed.

Treasurer's report was given. Motion to accept as presented by Bill Johnson Seconded by Dean Hutchinson, approved.

**New Business:** Suggested to purchase a hand cart to move Fairground tables, etc. After discussion. Decided to check out what is available. Dean Hutchinson will check. Bryan, Marilyn's brother offered his dolly for the show, problem solved. [After the meeting]

**Old Business:** Requested assistance from High School age Boy Scouts to assist with Kids Corner. Asked how much stuff was available for Kid's Corner. Mike Rose and Bill Johnson will check. After fact: Found almost nothing was left from last year's: 22 grab bags, 1 bag of pencils, 50 magnets 50-60 tumbled rocks. Andi Johnson, Bills wife made 150 plus and filled them as well. Beverly said she had rock and bags needing to be sawn and filled. Susan Rekow said she would do that.

Potluck dinner Friday: Marilyn Kohler in charge of calling and making sure there is enough food. Slip passed around for sign up. Marilyn will call other members for more. Dinner on Saturday at Golden Corral at 5:30-6:00 pm for all members and dealers so those that work the Show do not have to cook. Please attend!

Mike Burton stated all Ads were done. Dean Hutchinson made a request for a family in Plummer would like a tumbler donated.

Motion to adjourn, Bill Johnson made motion, Mike Rose seconded, approved.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose, Secretary



## Cutting Petrified Wood

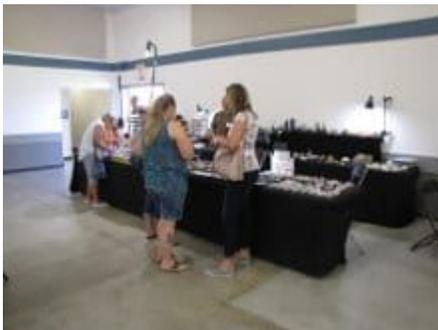
**from Rockhound, 11/95 Via Rock Rollers, 1/01 via RockCollector 2/01**

Petrified wood should be cut lengthwise of the grain. This produces a more varied pattern. Sometimes cutting crosswise will give good patterns, but this is not usually the case. Limb sections are rather on the scarce side as they tend to disintegrate before they petrify. If they are cut diagonally and polished to one end, it adds to their beauty.



### Gem Show a Success

The North Idaho Mineral Club Gem, Mineral, Rock and Jewelry Show for 2017 must be considered a success. We had about 868 attendees, who were all in a mood to spend money. Our vendors were happy about that.



Our food vendor was also happy with our response to their

offerings.

We want to thank those members who volunteered to work at the show. These members helped to make the show the success that it was.



### Brad's Bench Tips for June

Brad Smith <[brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com)>

#### DRILL PRESS VISE

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the of risks of working with high power motors, use of larger drill bits, and higher heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.



You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com, mscdirect.com/enco, smallparts.com, grizzly.com or sears.com

#### DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll out my own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. It ruined my whole ingot.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents

on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture.



### **Chalcedony**

From <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

Chalcedony is a catch all term that includes many well known varieties of cryptocrystalline quartz gemstones. They are found in all 50 States, in many colors and color combinations, and in sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. Chalcedony includes carnelian, sard, plasma, prase, bloodstone, onyx, sardonyx, chrysoprase, thundereggs, agate, flint, chert, jasper, petrified wood, and petrified dinosaur bone just to name a few of the better known varieties.

Because of its abundance, durability, and beauty, chalcedony was, except for sticks, animal skins, bones, plain rocks, and possibly obsidian, the earliest raw material used by humankind. The earliest recorded use of chalcedony was for projectile points, knives, tools, and containers such as cups and bowls. Early man made weapons and tools from many varieties of chalcedony including agate, agatized coral, flint, jasper, and petrified wood.

The move from using certain items as weapons and tools, to using the same items for ceremonial and personal adornment is very easily made. It was only natural for early man to use his finest looking knife for special occasions or to attach a special lance point or arrowhead to his tunic. In fact, agate and petrified wood may have simply been elevated to gems from common and functional weapons or tools.

All 50 States produce some variety of chalcedony, but the material from some States is better known than that from others.

Arizona is well known for its petrified wood because of the Petrified Forest National Park, and petrified wood ranks third in value of commercially produced gemstones. It is generally accepted that the Park contains the most colorful examples of silicified logs in the world.

Petrified wood occurs in every county in the State, but the commercial production is essentially from privately owned lands in Navajo and Apache Counties near the Petrified Forest. Federal regulations restrict collecting petrified wood

on public lands to 250 pounds plus one piece per person per year, none of which is supposed to be sold commercially. The regulation essentially eliminates production from federal lands. Pieces as small as 1/4 inch to sections of logs 5 feet in diameter are recovered from the surface of the ground or with minimum excavations for use in the lapidary trade.

Arizona petrified wood has the broadest range of applications of any gem material produced in the State. The material is suitable for tumble polishing for use in baroque jewelry or for cutting into cabochons for jewelry and display. Free form and calibrated slabs are polished for pen and pencil set bases and bases of other items, and polished slabs are used for clock faces. Additionally, large blocks, limb sections, and geometric shapes are used as bookends and decorator pieces. Objects of art, principally carvings, are produced, and furniture such as coffee and end tables are made from the petrified wood.

Arizona is the only State currently to have commercial production of fire agate. Fire agate is a form of chalcedony which contains inclusion of iron oxides that result in a play of colors much like that of precious opal. Eleven operations in Arizona report either commercial production of fire agate or dig-for-fee production. The material is produced in Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, and Yuma Counties.

Fire agate is cut into free form and calibrated cabochons for use in the manufacture of silver and gold jewelry. The material is popular in the southwest and with hobbyist lapidaries throughout the United States. Fire agate also has been used and is currently used in Indian style jewelry. California's "Mojave Blue" agate has gained a great deal of attention in the past several years. This pastel blue or blue-gray agate cuts into attractive cabochons for jewelry and, in the hands of an expert carver, makes outstanding carvings.



**Blue Agate**



North Idaho Mineral Club  
 P.O. Box 1643  
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**First Class Mail**

<b>NIMC Officers</b>			
President: Marilyn Kohler (208-967-2545)			
Vice-President: Mike McConnell (406-360-4944)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)			
<b>Other Positions</b>			
Show Chair 2017: Dale Ruperd/Dean Hutchinson			
Newsletter: Michael Burton (208-772-9347)			
Federation Director: Dale Ruperd			
Federation Delegate: Bill Johnson (208-765-3099)			
Webmaster: Michael Burton			
Programs/Membership: Bev Bockman (208-773-5384)			
<b>Affiliations</b>			
AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
S.C.R.I.B.E.			
ALAA – American Lands Access Association			
<b>Gem Show Schedules</b>			
Jul 15-16	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Darrington Rock & Gem Club	Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave, Darrington, WA
Jul 21-23	9:00-6:00 9:00-6:00 9:00-5:00	Wash. Agate & Mineral Society	Parkside Elem. School, 301 Central Ave E, Tenino, WA
Aug 12-13	9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196 <sup>th</sup> St SW, Edmonds, WA
Sep 9-10	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Clallum Cty Gem & Mineral Assoc.	Vern Burton Comm. Ctr, 308 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> St, Port Angeles, WA
Sep 9-10	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc.	Walla Walla Cty Frgrnds, 363 Orchard St, Walla Walla, WA
Oct 7-8	10:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Marysville Rock & Gem Club	Totem Middle School Gym, Marysville, WA
Oct 13-15	10:00-6:00 10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show	Washington Cty Fair Complex, 873 NE 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Canby, OR