



Lake City Rockhound News

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

October, 2016
Volume 15, No. 10

We meet on the 3rd 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>

Contents

Meeting Information.....	1
Meeting Minutes.....	1
Morganite.....	1
Cleaning Your Specimens.	2
Geodes.....	3
Stones of Mexico.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	4

This Month's Meeting

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2016

The Meeting Program:

Trees of Stone

The Petrified Wood of Washington State

Refreshments: Austin Parent and Susan Rekow

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

Buy your tickets today.

September 2016 Meeting Minutes

Minutes called to order by President Dale Rupert. There were 21 members with no visitors. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were pictures of some of the new collection from Tensed. Mike Austin and Maryann Smith both want to purchase or trade rocks from the new collection. According to the purchase the new "collection" is specifically for the use by the Club to use for yearly Shows, monthly auctions and Scholarship drawing. Not for general sales. So the Club will not sell or trade for smaller rocks. Consensus, no sale or trade from this "collection".

NEW BUSINESS:

Dale Rupert agreed, reluctantly, to be the Show Chairman for the 2017 Show. Beverly wants to be Dealer Chairman again. She REALLY NEEDS TO TRAIN someone! Beverly said she would get contracts out ASAP. [I have NOT seen our contract as of yet, 10-10-2016]

Federation Show is in Hamilton, MT., May19-21, 2017. Check out the silent auction before it closes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Rose

Addendum: We have future officers lined up and Dean Hutchinson will co-chair the Show in June 2017.



Morganite

from stoney statements 08/08

With pink a fashion favorite, morganite is a gem that is much in demand. It has a dazzling brilliance and soft color that ranges from clear pink to a lovely peach. If it reminds you of the beauty of aquamarine, that's not surprising since they



are the same mineral: morganite is the pastel pink color and aquamarine is the pastel blue color of beryl.

There is something rich and dazzling about morganite. Although its color is pastel, it has a lushness rare in pink gems. And its brilliance makes it a dazzling addition to your jewelry wardrobe, adding a feminine touch to black, gray, earth tones, and navy. Like many other pink gems, morganite looks beautiful set in white gold. The warmth of its color means it also works well in yellow gold, blending beautifully with blue, celadon, peach, yellow, lilac and other rich pastels.

Morganite was first discovered in California in the early twentieth century. A rich gem find of tourmaline, kunzite, and other gems outside San Diego started a gem rush in the

region. Morganite was an exciting new discovery, one that drew the attention of the world's most important gem buyer: George Kunz of Tiffany & Co.

Kunz knew that this rich pink gem was something exceptional and he bought all he could. He decided to name it in honor of his biggest customer: millionaire bank tycoon J.P. Morgan, who was an avid gem collector.

Although morganite was also discovered in 1908 in Madagascar and there are also deposits in Brazil, Mozambique, Namibia, Afghanistan, and Russia, it remains relatively rare. In fact, its rarity keeps it relatively affordable, since it isn't available in enough quantity to cut in standard sizes and use in manufactured jewelry.

Morganite remains a connoisseur gem, for those who are willing to seek it out for its unique combination of soft shades and dazzling brilliance.

The pink color of morganite is caused by manganese impurities. Morganite most often has a light, silvery-pink color, but other pink forms are also familiar. Its most desirable and valuable color is deep purplish-pink. Peach colored morganite is the next most desired. Gems with orange or yellow hues may be made a purer pink through heat-treatment. Pale pink morganite (as well as colorless beryl) can be irradiated to form blue beryl. Morganite was named by the gemologist George F. Kunz in honor of J. Pierrepoint (J.P.) Morgan, who financed his expenditures on the study of gemstones.

Morganite is occasionally be found in large sizes: the largest faceted morganite is a 598.70-carat cushion-shape from Madagascar in the collection of the British Museum. With a hardness of 7.5, morganite is a durable gem perfect for everyday wear. Clean with mild dish soap: use a toothbrush to scrub behind the stone where dust can collect.



CLEANING YOUR SPECIMENS

By Roy Horsman (Reprinted from THE ROCK VEIN, The Newsletter of the Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club, Mar./Apr. 2000, p. 5)

Wash carefully to remove dirt. If soaking in acids or other solutions, try an inferior specimen first. When working with acids, remember the three A * s ALWAYS ADD the ACID to the water. Keep your solution fairly clean for best results. OXALIC acid is useful for rust stains, MURIATIC acid for removing hematite stains, and HYDROCHLORIC acid is

the best for removing black manganese stains.

When using ANY of these solutions: WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. GOGGLES AND RUBBER GLOVES.

HOUSEHOLD BLEACH is fine for removing many stains, but please DO NOT MIX HOUSEHOLD BLEACH AND ACID. The results could be tragic.

- Barite** - 30% hydrochloric acid solution.
- Beryl** - Any acid solution may be used.
- Petrified wood** - Household bleach OR oxalic acid.
- Bornite** - Overnight in oxalic, or under constant watch in HC 1.
- Carbonated minerals** - If your specimen will not come clean in bleach, use a very weak solution of oxalic acid.
- Chalcopyrite** - Soak overnight in a solution of oxalic acid, 2 ozs to a quart of water, or under close watch in HC 1.
- Copper** - Nitric or HC 1. You may also use a solution of 20 parts water, 3 parts Rochelle salts and 1 part household lye.
- Epidote** - Quick dip in aqua regia, nitric or sulphuric acid.
- Fluorite** - HC1 or muriatic, 1% acid to 10% water.
- Galena** - Soak overnight In oxalic acid. Wash well.
- Gold** - Ammonium bifluoride.
- Graphite** - Try any acid.
- Hornblende, Microcline, Scapolite, Tourmaline** - Any acid except hydrofluoric.
- Iron, Labradorite, Marcasite** - Concentrated sulphuric acid. Soak overnight in oxalic acid solution, or very quick dip In hydrochloric acid. OR It may be washed in ammonia water.
- Millerite** - Hydrofluoric or sulphuric acid solution.
- Orthoclase** - Most acids except aqua regia.
- Pyrite** - Overnight in oxalic acid solution or a quick dip in hydrochloric. Rinse In ammonia water solution.
- Quartz** - Insoluble. Use any acid.
- Silver** - 1 oz baking soda, 1 oz salt, dissolved in 2 quarts warm water in an aluminum container. Rinse In warm water.
- Sulphide minerals** - Acetic acid solution. If this doesn't work, try hydrochloric acid solution, watching specimen carefully.
- Tremolite** - Any acid except hydrofluoric.
- Zircon** - Any acid.



New Show: Both PBS TV networks now have a show called *Mineral Explorers* on their Create channel.



Geodes

**via Port Moody Newsletter and The Rock Vein,
March/April, 2001.**

Step into a rock museum or collector's shop and you will immediately light on the geodes. Resistance is futile. These are among the most enchanting and puzzling of Earth's creations.

There are conflicting views about how geodes form but most geologists agree that they begin as bubbles in underwater limestone sediments or in a lava flow. Occasionally they form around the body of a sea creature on the ocean floor. Over time the bubble is cast in a hard shell of silica, and water containing dissolved material is trapped inside. The precipitate that results is composed of a variety of minerals, usually quartz or calcite, but also aragonite. Many thousands of years later, weathering lifts the hard little silica orb away from the surrounding rock.

The Exterior of the sphere appears dull and pitted, which is no doubt why the Greeks called them geodes, meaning "Earth-like". However, on the inside, they can look heavenly. The precipitate forms a lining of inward projecting crystals and, since different materials harden at varying temperatures, the material forms layers.

Sometimes a cavity may be completely filled by layers. Purists refer to these geodes as nodules. Crack open a nodule and instead of a hollow crystalline core, you might find halos of brilliantly hued agate, produced where chalcedony-laden water precipitated within the shell.

The best locations to look are in deserts in the Western US, especially Arizona, Utah and Nevada. BC is well known for it's own brand of geodes known as Thunder-eggs.

Geodes come in many sizes, from marble sized to as large as 18 inches in diameter. Once you uncover a geode, tap it firmly as you would test a watermelon for ripeness and listen for the telltale hollow sound. Then, with a well-placed blow, split the rock to unlock its secrets.



Stones Of Mexico

via Glacial Drifter 5/98

Amethyst: Little or no flawless amethyst occurs in

Mexico. However, in the mountains near Taxco (Tass-go)--a town once famous for its silver mines and now noted for the picturesqueness of its streets and the artistry of its silversmiths--are numerous veins which yield amethyst of fair to excellent color, though almost opaque from numerous flaws. Individual crystals are several inches long and up to an inch in diameter; due to intense inter growth, cementation, and flaws, they do not possess the beauty of comparable specimens from Brazil or Uruguay. Only rarer is a portion of a crystal sufficiently clear to allow the cutting of a flawless stone of more than a few carats weight. These crystals are shipped from Taxco to Queretaro City, the lapidary center of the nation. Here the amethyst is cut and polished; most is cut en cabochon, but some of the better material is carved into rudimentary figures--miniature frogs, for example--suitable for a better grade of silver jewelry. Most of the cut stones eventually find their way back to Taxco, where they are mounted. Amethyst-also occurs in Guanajuato (wann-a-watt-to) in some quantity. Although more pleasing as mineral specimens than is the Taxco, Guanajuato amethysts are vastly superior in size, color and transparency. The author received, on one occasion, some small, flawless pale doubly-terminated amethyst crystals from an unknown locality in Sonora; they greatly resembled Herkimer quartz in appearance. No more is known of this occurrence.

Other Stones: Turquoise occurs in several places in Mexico: Northern Chihuahua; Concepcion del Oro, Zacatecas; Lower California. These deposits have been worked sporadically for the past fifty years with decreasing success. Turquoise produced tends to be greenish, light in color, small in size, and rather soft.

A flawless one-carat emerald crystals was recently shown the author by a fairly reliable miner. The miner claimed to have discovered it in the State of Oaxaca (wa-ha-ha) in a region known to be hostile to outsiders. (many foreigners do not appreciate that access to certain parts of Mexico is not feasible owing to the presence of actively hostile groups.)

During the war of flourishing business in Queretaro City was based on the manufacture of colored glass in imitation of precious stones. Magnificent large "Aquamarines", "Amethysts", "Topazes" and "Emeralds" made their appearance, not expertly cut on home-made faceting machines (jam-peg cutting is unknown in Mexico). The glass stones had unpolished girdles, as many think this is the sign of a genuine stone. Rings mounted with these well-authenticated stones were sold widely and some even found their way into the United States. The merchants who supplied the colored glass in sheets received amazing prices for "gem rough" of a particularly choice shade.

North Idaho Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 1643
 Hayden, ID 83835



First Class Mail

NIMC Officers			
President: Dale Ruperd (208-664-2712)			
Vice-President: Corey Brenner (208-640-4743)			
Treasurer: Carl Chapin (208-772-9049)			
Secretary: Diane Rose (208-659-6173)			
Other Positions			
Show Chair 2016: 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)			
Affiliations			
AFMS – American Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
NFMS – Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies			
S.C.R.I.B.E.			
ALAA – American Lands Access Association			
Gem Show Schedules			
Oct 22-23	9:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club	Clackamas Cty Fairgnd, 694 NE 4 th Ave, Canby, OR
Oct 22-23	10:00-6:00 10:00-5:00	Bellevue Rock Club	Vasa Park, 3560 W. Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE, Bellevue, WA
Nov 12-13	9:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Comm Ctr, 703 Pacific St, Sedro Woolley, WA
Nov 12-13	9:00-5:00 10:00-5:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196 th St SW, Edmonds, WA
Dec 10-11	9:00-6:00 10:00-6:00	Maplewood Rock & Gem Club	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196 th St SW, Edmonds, WA
Feb 11-12	9:00-5:00 9:00-4:00	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Oak Harbor Sr. Ctr., 51 SE Jerome, Oak Harbor, WA
Mar 11-12	10:00-5:00 10:00-4:00	Magic Valley Gem Club	Twin Falls Cty Frngds, 215 Fair Ave, Filer, ID