



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2012

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

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

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

MEETING 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M. SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

DVD PRESENTATION (BEGINNING)

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS

(Loaned to us by Diane Rose)

REFRESHMENTS AND SILENT AUCTION—THE BEST IN THE WEST!!!

James Richard Rauch, age 79 Dec 27, 1932—Sept. 9, 2012

Jim has been a member of this club for several years, and was a devoted rock hound and maker of many beautiful things till sidelined by Parkinson's Disease. He lost his wife Lu, and then was with Sherla Francis, companion—also a club member, but has recently been at the Guardian on Mullan in Post Falls. His last year was poor but he never lost his enthusiasm for his hobby. His clock was the centerpiece last year at the Post Falls Library, and he participated in meetings and shows as long as he was able.

Memorial services will be at Yates Funeral in Hayden on Monday, Sept. 17. at 10 AM. All who can attend please do so. Refreshments after the service in the chapel.

North Idaho Mineral Club Minutes

August 16, 2012

The program was presented by Johnie Pitman on Inclusions in Agates. It was very well presented as a slide show as well as having many of the photographed pieces available for show and tell. Thank you Johnie and Ginger for the presentation.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Bill Johnson.

Three guests: WELCOME!

Dale Ruperd is visiting his parents and joined us for the evening. Dennis and Kathy Elson also came for the first time.

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Warren Price plans on going to Helena, MT for sapphires, anyone wishing to join him is welcome. Cory said he would like to go. Fees: \$60 for the first 5 gallon bucket, unsure after that on fees.

Bill Johnson and Mike Rose are making tumblers. If they succeed, they will make them and sell them. They are getting the bearings in Spokane from Brown's Bearings. according to Bill Johnson.

Show Chairman: any volunteers?

Show next year: Beverly said she is already getting requests for contracts.

Show always the first weekend in June of each year.

Suggested the Club make new, permanent signs for Fairgrounds.

New Officers: need a slate of potential officers in September for 2013.

Everett Headrick announced that Tom Crimmins, a club member, is now Chairman of Idaho Parks and Recreation Department. The agencies for: Indian lands, Wildlife, and BLM set boundaries and according to Everett a State Senator moved the boundaries, added road closures, etc. hope I understood what he was saying. For more information Call Everett at 208-772-7643. Everett also stated, that Colville NF roads and trails are reopened.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Silent auction will close so get your bids in!

Diane Rose, Secretary

Trip for SAPPHIRES turned out to be a solitary excursion to the Helena area. Warren first did the Phillipsburg area with disappointing results—reported ore mentionable stone. He went on to Spokane Bar where after much work he obtained very little. Spent the night in a hotel and went back to Phillipsburg for more digging and is bringing the concentrate from his work to the meeting so we can examine it.

I can vouch for the excitement and disappointment involved in hunting for sapphires. Bob and I spent many hours and much effort in our visits. We also were disappointed at Spokane Bar, but at Eldorado Bar we worked like I have never worked before or since, and got our rewards. Last I heard it had been settled with houses and 10 acre plots, and no access for rockhounds after many years of hunting. PHOO! (BB)

If you have e-mail please read the Northwest Newsletter for September 2012- www.amfed.org/nfms — either read on line or download and save. If you are a member of this club and would like to have a hard copy of this newsletter please see Mike to make sure that your name has been submitted to the circulation chairman so you can receive yours by mail..

Our neighbors to the east in Missoula—the Hellgate Mineral Society are holding their annual show at RUBY'S RESERVE STREET INN on the west edge of Missoula. If you have never been it is not far—good highway all the way, and they have a good show. Support our neighboring clubs.

Interesting facts

- * Molten rocks are responsible for the formation of topaz, emeralds, diamonds, and rubies.
- * Ground water evaporation is what forms opal, amethyst, quartz and turquoise
- * Metamorphic re-crystallization makes garnets and staurolite.
- * Of all gemstones jade is the most durable.
- * Wear opals, pearls, amber and turquoise carefully as they scratch easily.

These are just a few tips and hints on polishing and cleaning of rocks and minerals. Read up all you can before you commence with the cleaning and polishing for best results.

- * Jade and other soft stones like aventurine and tiger eye, can be effectively polished using a wet 600 sanding cloth. Once done, apply the No. 1200 metal lapping compound, available at any auto supply store, to one inch of a leather lap and work the stone, you will find that the stone gets a dull polish which can then be given a good shine using cerium oxide or tin.
- * Peridot is best worked on using a 260 to grind, 1,200 for pre-polishing and then with Linde A on a type metal lap or a tin lap.

* Malachite can be cut using a saw. This is soft stone so it's best to keep away from the direct parallel of the grain by about ten degrees. By doing this you will get the bull's-eye effect when you dome the stone. Wear a mask while grinding as the flying dust is toxic and grind on a well worn out 600. Give it a final polish with "ZAM on hard felt" the more you polish the better the stone becomes.

* Fire Agate is really a chalcedony which has a layer of iridescent limonite that is trapped in-between the chalcedony layers. You need to be careful when working with fire agate. Start your grinding slowly using a 100 grit wheel. The "fire" is the dense spot inside where the iridescent limonite is. Once done, grind on a finer wheel so you "fire" is seen more clearly and closer to the surface. Be careful you don't sand away the "tire". Finish

off with a leather buff using tin oxide.

Did You Know?

- Cleaning Stones is an art by itself.
- Eyeglass silicon treated tissue removes fingerprints from stones.
- Flush the dirt to the surface using toothpaste that has fluorite. It can penetrate brick, terracotta, ceramics and stone easily. The dirt can then be rinsed off with water.

Desert roses are best cleaned using a solution of Axion Dishwashing Cleaner and water. Soak overnight, brush gently and rinse in clean water. This is an easy and safe method.

Ultrasonic cleansers are used by some professionals but there are some stones that must not be cleaned in this manner. They are stones like pearls, lapis, opal, coral, tourmaline, mother-of-pearl, emerald and turquoise, agate, topaz and malachite.

- **Fluorite** should never be cleaned in warm or hot water because it will wash off the luster and it will never come back. A better idea is to put in 'muriatic acid' which will remove the calcite and then rinse in cold water.

Pyrite, quartz and other silica's are best cleaned with radiator cleaner DuPont No.7. Use one tablespoon for one quart of water then rinse with dilute ammonia and a final rinse in clean water.

* A good soak in water and ammonia will clean out lichen and algae from your rock samples.

*If you want to see what's inside your stone before you commence faceting, drop them in some oil of cassia or Cinnamon. All flaws and inclusions will be visible as the refractive index of these oils is very similar to that of most gemstones. The surface irregularities disappear, making them easy to see.

The above hints and facts are from the Nov. 2009 Blue Agate News —Needles Gem and Mineral Club. (they only meet during the winter)

HOWTO BECOME A FOSSIL

Freezing: Leaves the creature much as it was in life. Its arteries may still contain dried blood. The Ice Age mammoths of Siberia and Alaska froze.

Drying or Desiccation: Best known are the camels and sloths in our southwest caves.

Wax and Asphalt: Natural paraffin makes an excellent preservative. Many specimens have been found in Polish mines. The most famous asphalt fossils were found in the California La Brea Tar Pits (La brea means *the tar*).

Simple Burial: English bogs are famous for their buried forests. Sand dollars are mollusks, some of which were preserved this way for up to 75 million years.

Carbonization: Incomplete decay of volatile substances leaves carbon behind, sometimes reducing organisms to paper thin layers of shiny black film that reveal much detail.

Tracks, Trails and Burrows: Dinosaur tracks are the most famous of these. In Nebraska, the Devil's Corkscrew once housed a beaver who dug an eight foot spiral hole.

Castings and Coprolite: Ancient worms swallowed sand to help digest small organisms, then regurgitated these castings. Coprolite is a polite word for petrified dung.

Gastrolites: Many ancient reptiles ground their food with these stones (as do modern fowl). The stones are rounded, smoothes, and even polished at times and are known as gizzard stones.

Petrification: Our common stony fossils got that way by mineralization, the replacement of structure by dissolved minerals, or by secondary replacement, such as when limy fossils are dissolved and replaced by silica.

Molds and Casts: Natural molds in sediment remain after organisms decay. Sandstone beds reveal molds of shells and trees. The finest molds are Northern European amber, which have perfectly preserved insects.

Imprints: Sandstone, shale and tuff reveal external molds of very thin objects such as leaves. Best known are the Illinois Coal Age plant imprints.

Source: Numerous bulletins, original authors sources unknown via The Rock Bag, 3/1998, via Rockhound Rambling, 5/2009

MALACHITE

Great care must be exercised in working with malachite as it is poisonous in its raw state. Never lick it to see the color. If you wet your finger to apply it to the stone, do not put your finger back in your mouth. Grind malachite wet and wear a mask. When cutting it on the saw, do not get the contaminated oil on your skin. If you do, cleanse the affected skin immediately.

If you smoke, you can tell very easily if you are inhaling malachite dust because the smoke will taste sickeningly sweet. The reason for this sweet taste is that the copper oxide dust mixes with the moisture in the mouth, and this combination reacts with the tar of the tobacco, turning it into saccharin, an artificial sweetener.

When working with Malachite, saw about 10 degrees away from directly parallel to the grain. This way when you are done with the stone, you will get a bulls-eye effect. Malachite is a fairly soft stone, try to cut the slab a little thicker than other material. When grinding, always wear a breathing mask. This is toxic material and can make you very ill. After grinding, sand first on a new 600 grit sanding belt. For polishing, ZAM on hard felt is recommended. Give the stone a little extra time.

Source: RockVein, Winnipeg R&M Club, 4/2004, via Quarry Quips, 6/2009



2012 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT—BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C) 765 3009

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TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)

HOSPITALITY BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384

MEMBERSHIP MIKE BURTON Show Chairman 2012 BILL JOHNSON 765 3099

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PROGRAMS—CLUB MEMBERS & BEV

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317 c

ALAA—EVERETT HEADRICK - FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643

FEDERATION DELEGATE DALE RUPERD 664-2712

WSMC DELEGATE OPEN

REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN OPEN

FIELD TRIP OPEN

MORE HINTS AND SUCH FROM THE BLUE AGATE NEWS Oct. 2009

When sawing geodes, look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in an upright position while formed. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely you will get the best picture. Source: Cutting Remarks, 5/2008, via Yellowstone Deposit, 6/2009

Thought for a Christmas Gift - Make a set of Coasters: Get out that box of slabs you plan to use someday and blow off the dust. Pick out six that you can trim to four-inch squares. Then, round the corners and bevel the edges so that the squares will have smooth edges. Polish the best side -- either on your equipment or by spraying with a waterproof acrylic. Back the other side with self-sticking felt. The thickness of the squares does not have to match. Finished? You now have a set of six unique coasters in a variety of colors and patterns. Of course if you have a huge supply of slabs and want a matched set of coasters, go for it! They make nice gifts.

Always grind, sand and polish tiger eye in the direction of the fibers of the material to eliminate undercutting and damaging the fibers at the surface. Source: Skagitt Gems 01/2001, via Calgary Lapidary Journal, 4/2008

If you have an item that has been epoxied incorrectly, it can be taken apart by soaking it in household vinegar. It works and is inexpensive. Source: Calgary Lapidary Journal, date unknown, via The Slate, 9/2008, via Rockhound Rambling,

Make your own gemstone buttons by cutting a set of round cabochons, or whatever shape you want. Glue them to the back of a flattened-out bell cap so that the loop becomes the button shank. Or, you can fit your cabs into the base of those manufactured settings used for making covered buttons. Source: Thunder Bay Gems via Calgary Lapidary Journal, 4/2008

Keep polished cabochons in photo - slide 'protector' pages. The pages for a 3 ring binder. Each page has 20 individual pockets. The cabs are easily viewed but are protected. Source: Thunder Bay Gems via Calgary Lapidary Journal, 4/2008

Wipe a piece of chalk over your jeweler's files. The chalk keeps the file from clogging and you can blow the chalk out. Silversmiths draw your jeweler's saw through a hunk of old candle wax or beeswax. It will coat the blade and you can saw faster. Source: Golden Spike News, 5/2004 via Rockhound Rambling, 5/2008

When polishing, do not use a saucer, dish or pan and messy brush to apply the polishing agent. Such methods invite contamination. Instead, use a plastic spray bottle. Put the polishing agent into the bottle, add water and a small stone or buck shot. The purpose of the stone or buck shot is to agitate and stir up the polishing powder when you shake the bottle. Shake well and squirt the solution on the felt, leather or poly pad. No more contamination. No waste of polishing agent and the polishing agent may be applied exactly where you want it.

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

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

Affiliated with:
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
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2012 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

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

SEPT 22-23 HELLGATE MIN. SOCIETY- MISSOULA. MT

OCT. 6 EUREKA ROCK & GEM CLUB-MOUNTAIN HOME, ID.

OCT 12-14 PORTLAND REGIONAL SHOW HILLSBORO, OR.

OCT. 13-14 MARYSVILLE ROCK & GEM-MARYSVILLE, WA

OCT 29-21 HELLS CANYON GEM CLUB-LEWISTON, ID.

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