

The CMS Tumbler

July
2024

The monthly newsletter of the Cascade Mineralogical Society, Inc., Kent, Washington

Next Meeting:
July 11, 2024
7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
25406 97th PI S
Kent, WA

The Program is
Guess That Rock

The Show & Tell
Theme is bring a rock
you want identified

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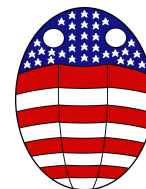
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Website: <https://www.cascademineralsociety.org>
 Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CasMinSoc/>
 Facebook Groups: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168207926650075>
 Show Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cascadegemandmineralshow>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cascaderockclub/>
 YouTube Channel (Please like and subscribe):
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFatV_JjgZRm9ESA



This month remember to wish a
Happy Birthday to

Michael Godwin on July 1
 Mike Blanton on July 2
 Christopher Whitney on July 2
 Kate Sandoval on July 3
 Alexia Deeser on July 4
 Richard Russell on July 5
 Christina Vitellaro on July 5
 Noah Dobner on July 7
 Kristan Watkins on July 10
 Peter Anderson on July 13
 Virginia Bird on July 18
 Ann Sweet on July 23
 Ralph Davis on July 24
 Mark Albrecht on July 26
 Michelle Brown on July 30
 Roger Pullen on July 30
 Diane Korf on July 31
 Brian Oliver on July 31



and also remember to wish a
 Happy Anniversary to
 Israel & Kate Sandoval on July 5
 Nik & Michelle Brown on July 15
 Breanna & Price Post on July 16
 Gina Manso & Erik Richards on July 28



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Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

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Raffle Master Roger Pullen	206-387-3214	Phone calls only. No email or texting.
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YouTube Channel Alex Williams	425-891-4717	alexw0121@gmail.com

2024 CMS Dues are \$30 per year per family

Pay online, by mail, or at our meetings.

New mailing address: Cascade Mineralogical Society, c/o Ananda Cooley, 300 Lenora St. - PMB 6145, Seattle, WA 98121

You can pay your dues via credit card!! We now accept all cards through our website or at the meeting.

You can renew your membership or enroll as a new member and pay your dues all in one shot online. You will find it under the "Membership" tab on our website. <http://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org>

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies; the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies; and the Washington State Mineral Council.

Our Club is a Member of these Federations and Associations

AFMS: The AFMS governs our Northwest Federation. <http://amfed.org/index.html>

The bulletins are published quarterly. You can find the news bulletins at <http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>



NFMS: The Northwest Federation is our home federation. To keep up on the goings-on in our own backyard. <http://northwestfederation.org/>

The link for the news bulletins is <http://northwestfederation.org/Newsletters.asp>



ALAA: The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the rockhounding interests of 325 gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 States and the District of Columbia.

The association's purpose is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting, and mining. The use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. They also carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators, and public land managers. <http://amlands.org>

The front page also has a lot of current news, rockhounding restrictions or lack of, etc. <http://amlands.org>

ALAA also publishes a quarterly newsletter. To keep up on the news and lobby efforts on our behalf, check out <http://amlands.org/>



Washington State Mineral Council: The Washington State Mineral Council is dedicated to the location and conservation of rock and mineral sites of interest to the rockhounds of Washington state. <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

You can find local rock and gems shows and planned field trips. It's a great resource if you want to plan on an outing.

Also check out "Misc. News" for all the latest updates on collecting sites around Washington.

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/news-updates/>

When the weather is good, they have regular monthly field trips. So take advantage of these great outdoor rockhounding adventures! The field trip details are under "Field Trips" on the left side of the site. Check out the link for additional information for the time and place to meet and the field trip leader.

You can find all this information and a whole lot more about what is happening in our state at <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>



Rockhounding Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

from the AFMS website

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com Please put the word "Tumbler" and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

NFMS Needs Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Every year the NFMS collects postage stamps from its member clubs. They have a stamp company that buys them, and in turn, these funds are donated to cancer research. Every year NFMS donates around \$5,000.

On letters that you receive, tear the corner with the stamp off. Try to leave about 1/4" of the envelope around the stamp. Be careful not to damage the stamp. Place the stamps in a plastic baggie and bring them to the meeting. Our member, Mike Blanton, collects the stamps and turns them over to the NFMS at the regional rock and gem show. You can give them to Mike as often as you want throughout the year.

Collecting the stamps is another way we rockhounds give back to our community.



Don't Forget To Show Your Membership Card At These Retailers

JERRYS ROCK AND GEM
 804 WEST VALLEY HWY. KENT, WA. 98032
jerrysrockandgem.com jerrysrockandgem@msn.com

Follow us on Facebook **253-852-0539**



Black Jack's Metal Detectors
 Mining Equipment, Low Pressure Dive, & Rock Shop!
www.BlackJacksMetalDetectors.com
 Your place for Metal Detecting & Mining Equipment

101 Park Ave N,
Renton, WA. 98057
Store # 425-430-0290
Direct # 253-961-3095



SoDo Rocks

Friday thru Sunday
10 am to 4 pm

2700 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98121

New for Members Only – New Texting Service

We are busy and often forget that CMS has an upcoming meeting or event. Therefore, we have a texting service to remind members of CMS meetings and events.

Everyone is automatically entered into this service. You can opt out anytime by responding with STOP.



Access CMS Club Instagram page



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.

Access our CMS YouTube channel



Access our CMSclub website for the latest on meetings and club events



Access CMS Facebook Groups



July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	9	10	11 General Meeting 7:00 pm	12	13 Greenwater Trip
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Darrington Show
21 Darrington Show	22	23	24	25	26	27 WAMS Show
28 WAMS Show	29	30	31	Have a safe and happy 4th of July!		

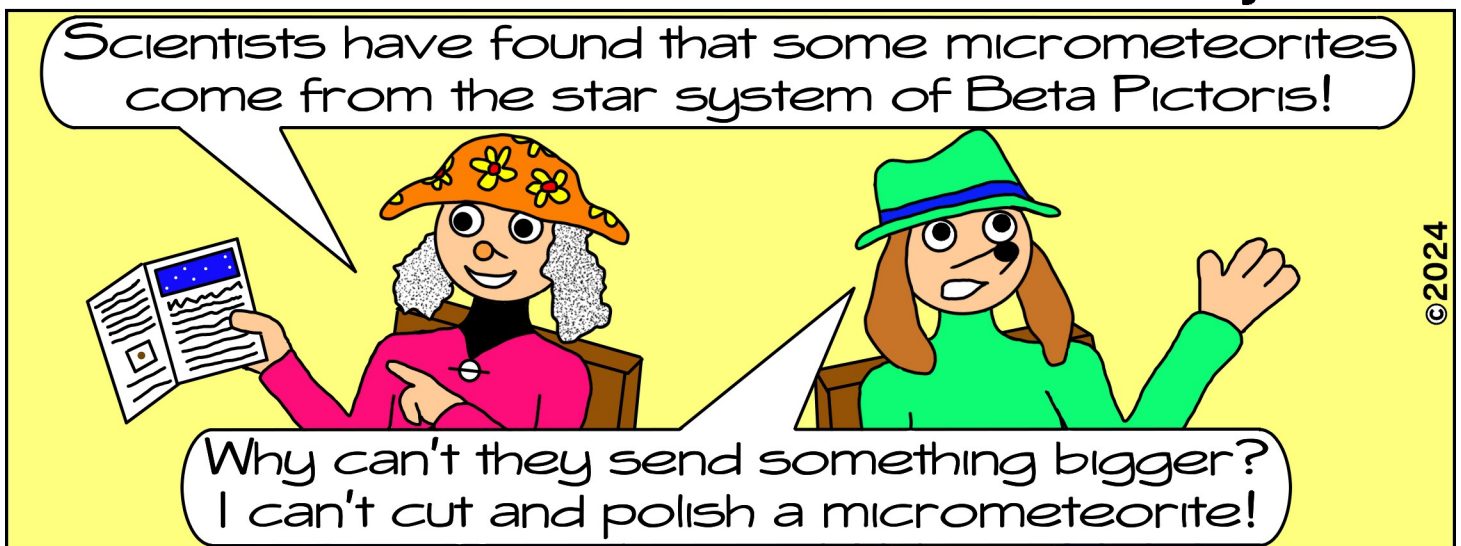
CMS Show Committee Meeting:....Monday, July 8.....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, July 8.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 CMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday, July 11.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Closed for winter
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Closed for winter

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 15
 More Show info can be found on Page 16

Mr. & Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



CMS Show Committee & Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2024

by Pete Williams, 2024 Secretary

Attendees: Kat Koch; Linda Jorza; Pete Williams; Rich Russell; Mike Blanton; Paul Arhnberg; Diane Horsfall; Ananda Cooley; Roger Danneman; Lee Oliver

Show Committee 6:36

The show is sold out with 37 vendors. One vendor with a large booth cancelled, but it was filled from the waiting list. Total sales are now final with a good selection of vendors. Construction at the Kent Commons is going well. There will be no disruption moving from the Green River Room, where people will have to enter, into the gym. Two large flags were purchased to advertise the show.

Kat indicated she will not be the show chair next year.

Board Meeting 7:08

We now have 128 family memberships. We missed getting a booth at Maple Valley Days this year, but we should get one for next year. We will have a table at the Gem Faire in September.

The program for the June meeting is Carl Carlson with a presentation on Ellensburg blue agates.

The Stevens family represented our club at the Hermiston, Oregon NFMS Show last month. The NFMS is providing some funding for clubs to purchase a vehicle. There will be a report out on the details at the next Board meeting. The possibility of having a club shop in a member's garage does not look feasible at this time.

Kat ordered 100 save the date cards to hand out at the show. There has been an ad running on the reader board at the Kent Commons for a few weeks now. The food truck at our show will be Texas BBQ.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29

CMS General Meeting Minutes June 13, 2024

by Pete Williams, 2024 Secretary

Called 7:17

The awards won by members of our club at the NFMS show were presented. Winners are listed in the June Tumbler newsletter. At this show in Hermiston, Oregon a new youth leader was also introduced. The Mineral Council has signed the lease on Walker Valley. They now has a Facebook page. The program for the July meeting will be Earth Light Gems presentation on identifying rocks.

More volunteers are needed to run our show at the end of this month. We need volunteers for both the gym and Green River room.

Lee Oliver suggested our club purchase license plate frames to advertise the club. There was a lot of interest in the idea.

The next field trip is Saturday to Red Top.

Program: The Veins of Ellensburg Blue by Carl Carlson. All those present were given an Ellensburg blue agate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 followed by show and tell and the raffle.

From the Top of the Rock Pile by Kat Koch, President

As I write this, the show committee is only 4 days away from showtime! Also, as you read this, 2024 show will be behind us.

Putting the show together at our new venue has been a lot easier than the college. Thank goodness, I have done so much of the show planning from my daughter's home while caring for her.

Our meeting on July 11th will feature Kim from Earthlight discussing identifying rocks. We will also have a financial recap of the show.

Our August meeting is our annual picnic at Lake Wilderness Arboretum on Sunday, August 18th. It is a potluck lunch and club auction. Our Young Tumblers can use their "Rock Bucks" to buy auction items. If it is a nice warm day, the Lake Wilderness Beach and playground are a short walk away.

We continue to get new members every week. As of this writing, we have 134 families. Welcome to our club!

If you are a new member, please come up and introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you.

Since our membership continues to grow, I hope more members will attend our monthly meetings. The larger our meeting attendance is each month, the easier it will be to book quality speakers.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our July meeting.



Welcome
New Members

July 11th – Post-Show Report & “Guess that Rock” by Kim of Earthlight Gems

We will have a little fun while learning to identify rocks. You will win a prize if you are the first to guess right. The night's overall winner with the most correct guesses will win a grand prize.

Show 'n Tell: Bring a rock, mineral, or fossil you want to be identified. We will see if Kim or some of our members can identify it for you.



August 18th – Our Annual Sunday Potluck Picnic in the Arboretum.

Through the courtesy of our member Charles Benedict, we can reserve the Lake Wilderness Arboretum again this year for our annual picnic under the trees. The Arboretum provides picnic tables and plenty of free parking.

It is a potluck lunch. Setup begins at 11:30 am, with lunch at noon. The picnic is not only an excellent chance to enjoy a nice lunch under the trees but also to visit with one another.

Following lunch, we have a club auction. It is an excellent opportunity to pick up items such as rocks, fossils, minerals, opals, and jewelry at a fraction of their value. We would greatly appreciate any items you want to donate to the auction. Our club auctions are held two times a year, and they help cover our bills and keep our dues down.

Our Young Tumblers can bid on auction items and pay with the "Rock Bucks" they have saved. I encourage our Young Tumblers to save their Rock Bucks for our club auctions.

If it is a warm day, Lake Wilderness is within walking distance for swimming, and there are a couple of large play areas with playground equipment for the kids.



Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

As we arrive at another Fourth of July, still looking at a nation with freedom in mind and a hope for world peace. Our due diligence in trying to keep a peaceful world out of all conflicts. Let's have fireworks, not bombs.

Topaz by Katelyn Livingston

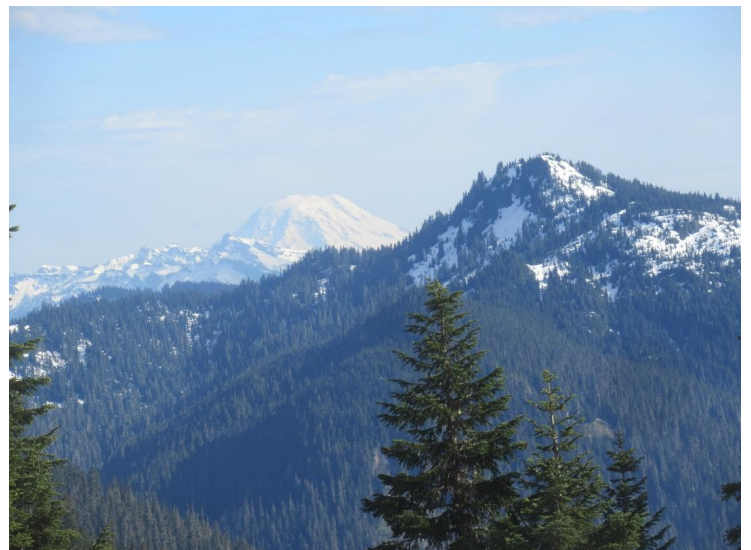
Topaz has a history of producing large crystals that can grow up to 4 feet and can weigh hundreds of pounds. The largest Topaz ever found weighs 600 pounds!
from Beehive Buzzer, 11/23

Field Trip Report for June 8th Trip to Little Naches by Roger Danneman, Field Trip Leader

On Saturday, June 8th, we went to Little Naches for Thunder Eggs, LilyPad Jasper, and Leaf Fossils. We had a beautiful day and the scenery was breathtaking. Going over Chinook Pass (which was just opened for summer on May 31st) you can see a number of waterfalls this time of year and the views of Mt. Rainier were picture perfect. Temps were in the upper 60s and low 70s. Our meeting spot was on NF-19 by the Little Naches Campground. We had 22 people, 1 dog, and 14 vehicles on this trip. Very pleasant conditions for digging. We spent 2 1/2 hours at the Thunder Egg site. Blue chalcedony in various forms, but of course we're mostly looking for full or broken-half thundereggs. A nice breeze kept us relatively cool. I expected more mud in the pits because it had rained hard earlier in the week, but the site was fairly dry. After hiking back to the cars we drove on to the Lily Pad site. Easy pickings there. After that about half the group stopped at the mud stone formation for leaf fossils. Washington State geology maps peg this as a 35 million year old mudstone. So the carbon imprints and leaf outlines we find embedded in that stone, are that old. A few nice specimens were found. Certainly a fun day.

List of attendees: Julie & Gina M., Annie & Nicole S. & dog Tess, Chris W & Raquel, Ananda C., Nik B., new member Kerri-Lynn D., Michelle M. & Gerry P., Jarrod D., Robert M. & Evelyn & Jonathon, Loren M., Hannah G. and her Mom, and guests Ben, Daniel, and Jack. And of course me.

Next field trips are on June 15th to Red Top and on July 13th to Greenwater area for black agate, jasper, and opal.







Field Trip Report for June 15, 2024 Red Top by Roger Danneman Field Trip Guide

On Saturday, June 15th, we went to Red Top Mountain north of Cle Elum for jasper, agate, and crystal geodes. That area has only been clear of snow for a few weeks. Temperatures were in the mid-40s to low 50s and breezy. A few snow showers even made an appearance. The snow didn't stick, but it was enough to sting the face and make the ground and rocks wet later in the afternoon when we were at the higher meadow elevation (5100 ft). We had a group of 25 people in 13 vehicles. That included a group from the Hazen HS Geology Club in Renton and we hope to see more of them in the future. Our lower dig site is still producing nice agate and jasper. Good tumbling material. We spent 2-3 hours there and then we hiked up the Indian Creek Trail to the Red Top Meadow. The pits up there are not as prolific one has to work

harder. But since it was cooler weather, my dig performance was better and I turned up some nice material. There were a few others up at the meadow that did fairly well that day digging up geodes and nodules. One just has to move a lot of dirt.

Loren actually scheduled this trip, so him and I were co-Leaders. There were several down trees across Indian Creek Trail as we made our way up there. Loren went back to his car to get his chain saw and cleared the trail so our trip down was much easier. Thanks Loren. Everyone using that trail this year will benefit from your hard work. With us on this trip were Jason S. with his son and 2 friends, Ann S. along with dog Tess, Kelly G., Arleaha W. with her young daughter, Nik & Michele B., Michelle M., Colin O., Adrian, Ben + wife and 2 friends, and the Hazen HS group of David, Vanessa and her father David, Ada and her father Matthew, and their advisor Patrick.

Our next field trip is scheduled for July 13th at Greenwater. Details to be sent 1-2 weeks before the trip.





Pyrite Sand Dollars by Kat Koch

What is a Pyrite Sand Dollar?

They are also known as Pyrite Dollars, Miner's Dollars, and Sun Dollars. Pyrite Sand Dollars are disk-shaped mineral concretions of Pyrite (iron sulfide) arranged in a regular configuration with minor amounts of marcasite. Regular Pyrite is arranged in an orthorhombic configuration (e.g., rectangular or stretched cube shape). These spectacular mineral disks can range from the size of a penny to a dinner plate but the most common size is 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

Pyrite, often referred to as 'fool's gold' due to its metallic luster and brassy color, is a common sight in organic-rich settings. However, the disk-like shape, a hallmark of Pyrite Sand Dollars, is a rarity found only in two places on Earth: the area near Sparta, Illinois, and Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico. This unique formation is a testament to the wonders of nature.

Pyrite's metallic luster and pale brassy-yellow have often been mistaken for gold by miners, hence its fond nickname, "fool's gold." It is the most abundant sulfide mineral, crystallizes in the cubic system as well-developed, opaque, brassy-yellow crystals, and is among the most widely collected minerals. Pyrite Sand Dollars, an unusual pyrite formation

exhibiting striations radiating out from the center like sun rays. Enormous pressure compacts the slate, causing Pyrite to grow laterally in a radiating manner, resulting in these unique disk-like formations. Pyrite Sand Dollars are found about 300 feet deep in the coal mines, in narrow seams of shale on top of the coal vein, and are estimated to be 300 million years old.

Pyrite is distinguishable from native gold by its hardness, brittleness and crystal form. Pyrite is brittle, gold is malleable.

There are two theories about what Pyrite Sand Dollars are. The Smithsonian's theory of origin is that they are definitively a fossil replacement. The Carnegie-Mellon Institute believes they are a concretion.

Pyrite Metaphysical Properties

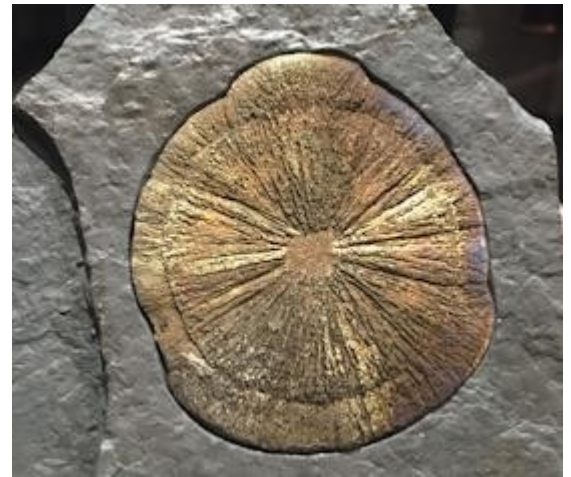
Pyrite, with its unique metaphysical properties, can be a powerful mineral for personal growth and self-improvement. It helps one communicate more openly and honestly, physical and providing emotional protection. If you are unsure or indecisive about something, carry a pyrite as a touch stone to help boost your self-confidence. The stone's reflective qualities make it a great meditation or divination tool, just as the ancient Incas did. These properties, combined with its unique formation and history, make Pyrite Sand Dollars a truly special and valuable mineral.

Pyrite increases physical stamina, stimulates the intellect, and helps to transform thought into intelligent action. It is a stone often used for wealth magic or manifesting needed energies. An excellent shield stone, Pyrite removes negativity from the aura to help one concentrate.

What are their Healing Properties or abilities?

Pyrite has long been revered for its protective properties, and acts as a shield against negative energy and environmental pollutants. Pyrite not only promotes physical well-being but also enhances mental strength. By stimulating the second and third chakras, Pyrite empowers the mind and willpower, providing a sense of security and resilience.

Bibliography: Rock College, LuxeRox



Venomous Snakes and Safety by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

The good news is that relatively few snakes are venomous. The bad news is that some are indeed venomous. The good news is that there are ways to be safe when encountering venomous snakes. The bad news is that it is sometimes difficult to tell which are venomous and which are not.

To sort out the issues of how to be safe around snakes please see the guidelines following this report. But first, a bit of background information will be helpful to know.

When collecting in a new area it is common to become familiar with hazards to be found there – plants to avoid, biting and stinging insects to mind, weather to watch, and snakes to respect. Considering snakes, it is probably safe to say that most rock, mineral and fossil collectors are not herpetologists, with their knowledge of snake habitats and lifestyles. Snakes generally want to be left alone. Some, such as rattlesnakes, give us fair warning that we are getting a little too close for comfort by rattling their tails.

There are numerous excellent snake guidebooks and websites, with their detailed information and pictures to aid with venomous and non-venomous snake identification. The problem with snake identification is that there are a number of look-alikes, making it sometimes difficult to identify venomous snakes from the non-venomous kinds. Getting a good close look at a snake and making comparisons with the identification guidelines is ill-advised considering that venom could be involved. Compounding the identification difficulty is that snakes can and do cross over with the resulting offspring being not quite like the images in the identification guides.

One popular activity when visiting a new collecting area is to visit local rock shops to learn not just of area minerals but also of collecting cautions. The trouble with snakes is in the naming and locating of the named snake in the identification guides.

For example, a snake called a water moccasin in Alabama may be called a cottonmouth in Kentucky. Snakes do not respect state lines. With environmental changes, snakes are slowly finding their way into new areas. So, a mineral collector may come across a snake that isn't supposed to be found in the area. In addition, for one reason or another, sometimes people move/release snakes in areas they are not known to inhabit. In snake identification, collectors should be aware such things occur.

As a side note, any snake identification guide may not reflect the current state of classification. Modern DNA technology is causing some shifting in how snakes are grouped, so take some naming and identification with a grain of salt in older guidebooks. That said, venom is still venom.

If one is bitten by a snake, drive to a medical facility offering an anti-venom. The efficacy of anti-venom continues to improve. Please do not be bashful with utilizing the services of a medical facility if a snake bite occurs on a field trip.

Most snakes bite to secure food. They use just enough venom to serve the need. When agitated or attacked a snake is likely to use its full venom capability when biting. Give snakes a wide clearance. Children, by being smaller than adults, may be more seriously affected by a venomous snakebite. And with their natural curiosity and lack of full understanding of a snake's potential dangers, children need to be carefully supervised.

There are several common wisdoms when dealing with snake bite in the field – such as pack the area of the bite in ice. Unfortunately, they are for the most part not particularly useful and some may actually complicate matters. The best

advice to treat snakebite is to get to a medical facility quickly. Facilities in areas with venomous snakes will likely have anti-venom in their pharmacies.

Among the common wisdoms and advice are both to keep the victim immobilized, and yet get to a medical facility as soon as possible. While those two ideas appear to be opposites (immobilize and transport), they are the two that are advisable to follow. The solution for a snakebite is both to keep the patient's heart from racing (and spreading venom) and to have a collecting partner aid the patient in not having to exert themselves as the partner drives the patient to the medical facility.

The snakebite guidelines:

- Make an effort to go collecting with other people, preferably people who can also drive a motor vehicle.
- Mind the activity of children when snakes are likely in the area.
- Become familiar with the location of the area's medical facilities.
- Know the nature and habits of the venomous snakes in the collecting area.
- Wear snakebite clothing - chaps, gaiters and sturdy footwear.
- Keep one's hands and fingers in sight – snakes (as well as scorpions) may be hidden underneath objects.
- Some snakes rattle their tails — please heed those warnings of tail movement and sound.
- Venomous snakes may not look exactly like the pictures in the books. Allow for variations. And the best snakebite

prevention advice – give all snakes wide clearance in every instance. Leave them alone. In some instances and areas they may be protected species

The study of snakes is an engaging activity. On a rock, mineral and fossil collecting trip the main focus is usually on the collecting, not the snake identification. Please keep clear of all snakes, even the non-venomous ones. If one is really curious about a snake, feel free to take a picture of it (from a safe distance) for identification at a later date.

Your safety matters, and so does that of the snake. We can learn to share the world together... there is enough room for all.

My thanks to the person suggesting the topic for this article. Learning is fun.

from AFMS Newsletter, 10/23

Field Trip Safety by U.S. National Forest Service

With field trip season just around the corner, it's good to review how to enjoy collecting rocks, minerals, and fossils in a safe manner. The U.S. Forest Service provides these safety tips for rockhounding field trips:

Stay out and stay alive; abandoned mines are potential killers. Rotten timbers, open shafts, toxic gases, and a lack of oxygen can be deadly.

Rockhounding is mostly a rugged and dirty pastime. Clothing, especially footwear, should be serviceable and adequate for hiking in rugged terrain, digging, and weather conditions. Boots are recommended.

Be prepared for extreme weather conditions including rain or snow at any time of the year. Temperatures in the winter can drop below 0 degrees and summertime temperatures can be over 100 degrees. Carry extra food, water, clothing, fuel and other supplies.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.

Always wear proper protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.) when striking or breaking rocks.

Rockhounds may unknowingly create hazards through careless digging. Undermining the root of a tree is both destructive and dangerous, as it may cause the tree to fall. Tunneling through unsupported soil or under overhanging banks that may cave in on the digger are unsafe practices. Deep or steep-sided pits or trenches should be filled upon completion of digging, as they pose a hazard to both people and livestock.

Be aware that the roads leading into the digging sites may be used by heavy trucks carrying logs, gravel, livestock or other products. Travel at your own risk. Unimproved roads can be dangerous to travel when wet, muddy or snowy. Rockhounds should inquire with the BLM or USFS about possible road closures and fire restrictions prior to visiting the rockhounding sites.

Rattlesnakes may be found in certain areas during the warm months. Watch for them in rock slides, around damp areas, under old buildings, ledges, etc. Prompt medical treatment is always advisable if bitten.

In the spring, wood ticks are found in sagebrush and timber fringe areas, where they can hang on the tips of bushy twigs and transfer to any person or animal that brushes past. Ticks can carry spotted fever and other infections. They should be removed promptly, and the bites should be treated.

Protect your pets by keeping them under control at all times.

from Flatirons Facets, 3-4/24

Aquamarine

Aquamarine is a March birthstone. Naturally it is pale blue to light green in color and is a variety of Beryl. Emerald and Morganite are also varieties of Beryl.

Aquamarine is sometimes heat treated to remove any green tones to give it a more pure light blue color.

Aquamarine can form in massive crystals (100 lbs plus). The Dom Pedro Aquamarine is the largest faceted Aquamarine and came from a 60 lb crystal over 2 feet long.

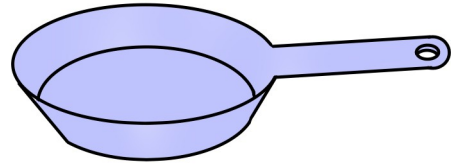
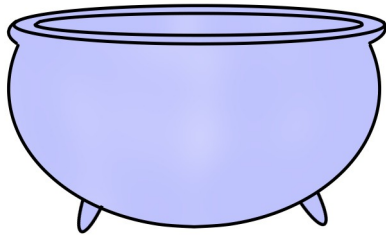
from West Seattle Petroglyphs, 3/24

Young Tumblers News

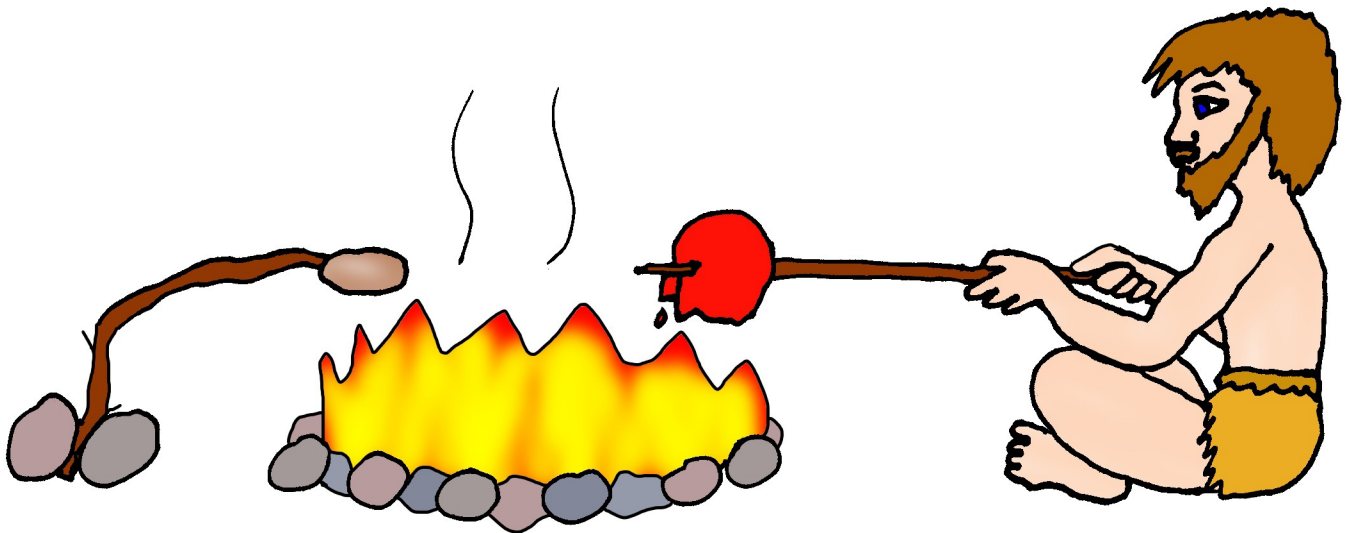
Helping Children Understand: Stone Age Cooking

by Keith Alan Morgan

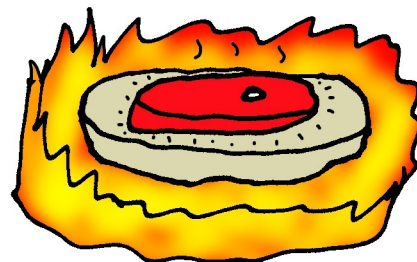
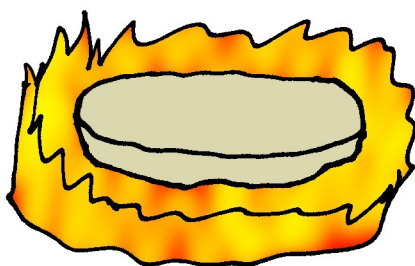
Before they had pots and pans, prehistoric man had limitations when it came to cooking food or heating water.



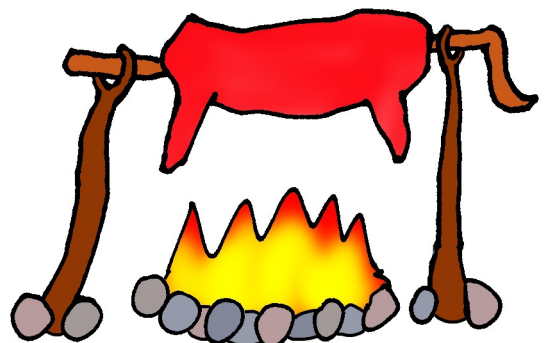
They could spear a chunk of meat, or a vegetable, on a stick and prop it, or hold it, over a fire.



They could also put flat rocks in a fire and when the stone was hot enough they could put what they wanted to fry on top of the flat stone.



Water could be put in an animal skin, or bladder, and hot stones from the fire could be put in to heat the water up. You have to admire human inventiveness when it comes to getting a hot meal.



Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

Some information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com>).

July 13

Cascade Mineralogical Society - Greenwater - agate, jasper

Difficulty Rating 2. This site is next to where we park, but is a dig. Black/tan agate and jasper is found here.

Roger Danneman Roger.Danneman@gmail.com

July 20

Darrington Rock Club - Sweetwater – Meet before 11 am at the Darrington Rock show – Travertine –

Bring rock hammer & 3 pound hammers, chisel, small pry bar

Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

Bumblebee Jasper

In the 1990s a new variety of “jasper” was discovered in Indonesia and rock collectors have been impressed with its bright stripes ever since. The material’s orange, grey and black bands have led to it being called Bumblebee Jasper. Its name is derived from the close resemblance it has with a bumblebee. The stone showcases very intricate patterns as well as splendid yellow/orange hues on its body. Bumblebee Jasper is one of the most unusual and beautiful looking stones you can find in our world.

Properties

Originating only inside the volcanoes of Australia and Indonesia, Bumblebee Jasper is very unique and hard to find. It is not actually jasper, despite its name. It’s called jasper because of its luster and patterns which make it look like traditional jasper. True jasper ranks 7 or higher on Mohs Scale of Hardness while bumblebee jasper is closer to 5.

It is formed from volcanic matter and a combination of various different sedimentary rocks. Bumblebee jasper looks like jasper but lacks the quartzite crystal structure. It’s actually made up of a combination of sulfur, calcium, aragonite, pyrite, orpinite, and realgar. These minerals form into small stripes or bands and have a smooth exterior like jasper.

The calcite formation in Bumblebee Jasper is a little bit different from the type you find in geodes. The crystals are formed as radial fibers from a central point, rather than the larger crystals that calcite is known for. The coloring agents include realgar, and pyrite or hematite. The realgar content seems to be primarily found in orange and yellow sections of the stone. Pyrite or hematite contains the oxidized iron that makes up the black parts of the stone. The end result is bands, orbs, and other complex structures that create striking patterns across the surface of the mineral.

Is Bumblebee Jasper Toxic?

The short answer to the question is, yes, bumblebee jasper can be dangerous. However, it’s really only dangerous if you plan on polishing, cutting, and sanding the rock by yourself.

Some rockhounds are afraid to handle bumblebee jasper because of the presence of realgar. Realgar is a highly toxic compound and can be dangerous if inhaled or accidentally consumed. However, a polished piece of bumblebee jasper should be perfectly safe to wear as jewelry.

If you plan on customizing your bumblebee jasper, you should definitely be prepared. We recommend wearing gloves and a face mask to minimize inhaling rock dust while you cut and polish.

Where is it Found?

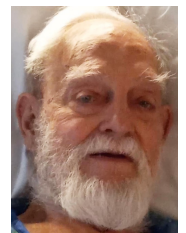
Bumblebee jasper has only been discovered in Indonesia and Australia. One of the main reasons bumblebee jasper is so rare is that it’s difficult to collect. The other reason this material is so rare is that it requires unique conditions to form. The main supplier is Indogate in Indonesia. It is collected from the fumaroles at the base of Mount Papandayan. Mount Papandayan is part of a stratovolcano, which typically have a peak and are composed of layers of lava and tephra. Since Mount Papandayan is an active volcano, miners need to journey inside a dangerous environment where they run the risk of falling inside the volcano or being burned on the hot vents.

Everyone should appreciate the bravery and ambition it takes for the local Indonesians to pluck these rocks from an active volcano! Whenever you hold your little crystal, remember where it came from!

from Grindings, 1/24

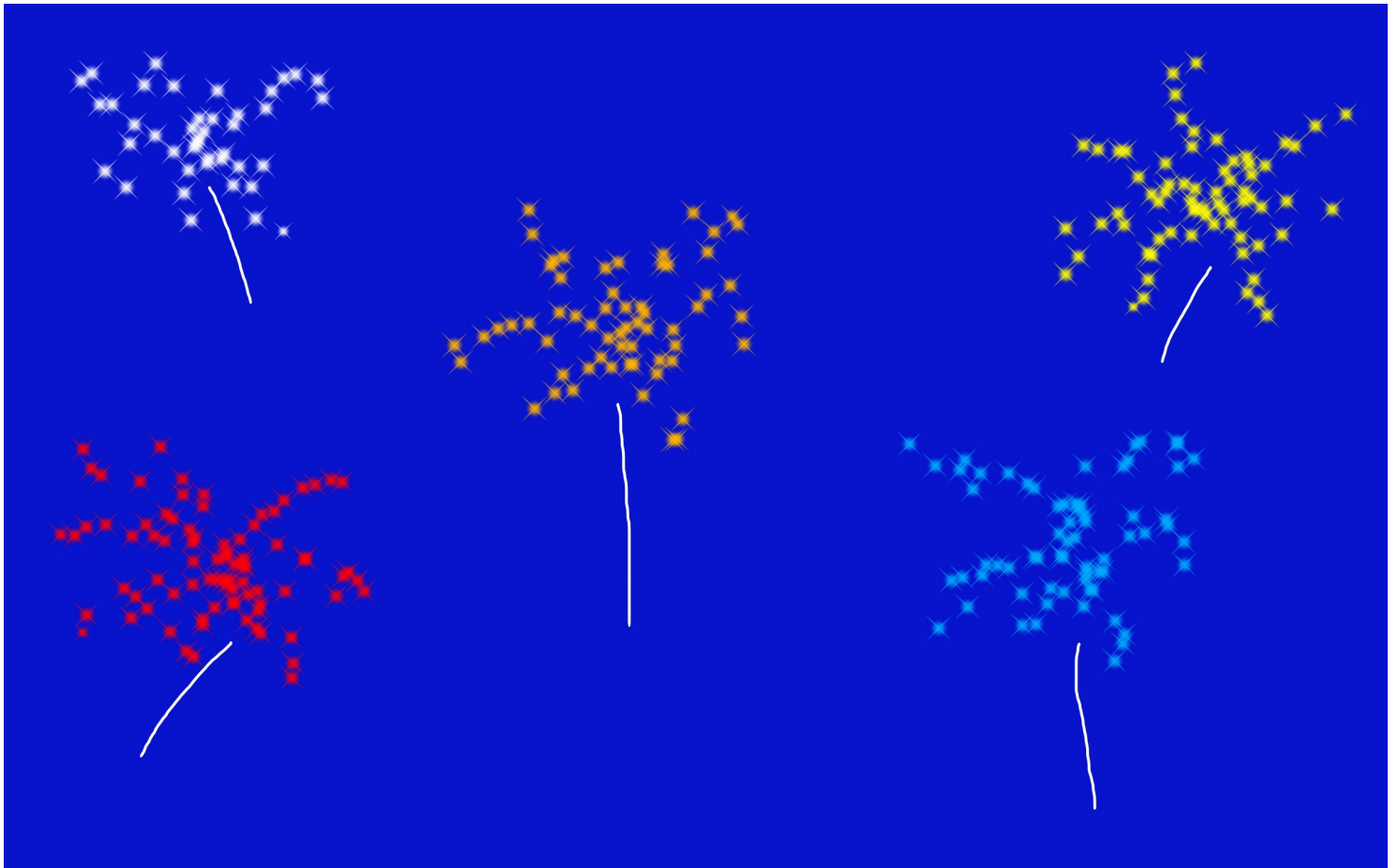
Member News

Dick Morgan was back in the hospital from a combination of pneumonia and side effects from some of the medications he was on. That’s been dealt with and he’s currently in rehabilitation to strengthen his muscles after his extended bed rest, so he can return home.



A new rock form has been classified. It is being called “Plastistone”. It comes from melted plastic that cools within a mineral’s matrix, forming a fusion. It is considered a form of sedimentary rock.

from Grindings, 1/24



Shows

July 20 & 21: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Darrington Rock & Gem Club, Rock and Gem Show and Sale
Mansford Grange (behind IGA)
1265 Railroad Avenue
Darrington, WA

July 26 - 28: Friday & Saturday 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday 9 am - 5 pm
Washington Agate and Mineral Society, 2024 Rock & Gem Rendezvous
Tenino City Park
300 Park Ave W
Tenino WA

In the 1960s, the The world's largest uncut emerald American jewelry industry changed the definition of "emerald" to include the green vanadium-bearing beryl as emerald. As a result, vanadium emeralds, purchased as emeralds in the United States, are not recognized as such in the UK and Europe. In America, the distinction between traditional emeralds and the new vanadium kind is often referred to as "Colombian Emerald."

from Cedar Valley Gems, 5/24

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