

BEEHIVE ROCK & GEM CLUB
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BEEHIVE ROCK AND GEM CLUB

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September 2011

**MEMBER OF UTAH FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

The Beehive Rock & Gem Club began in April of 1970.

The purpose of our club is: To collect, cut and polish rocks, to gather fossils, mineral specimens, to discuss and impart our knowledge of the different phases of collecting, polishing and displaying-

To promote, organize and hold meetings, outings, trips, and similar events. To enjoy and protect our natural resources.

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**USUAL DATE FOR MEETING – FOURTH THURSDAY – 7 PM
OGDEN HINKLEY AIRPORT TERMINAL, 3900 S & AIRPORT ROAD**

November, December have changes. Maybe others.

Call any Board member for current information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BEEHIVE ROCK & GEM CLUB FOR 2011

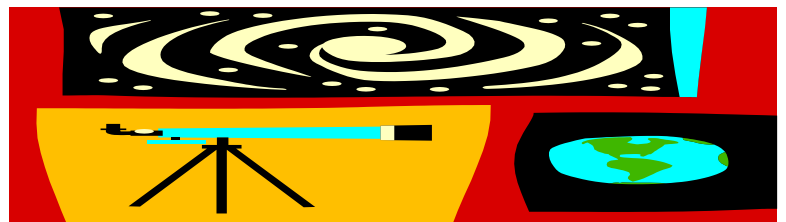
President & Board Chair	Joe Kent	801-771-8184
Vice President	Steve Smith	801-731-4216
Secretary	Norine Ramos	801-774-8306
Treasurer	David Law	801-731-4255
Field Trip Coordinator	Roger Bush	801-775-0147
Assistant	Ray Law	801-825-5857
Program Chairman	Ray Rutledge	801-732-8331
Door Prize Chair	Jim Alexander	801-399-0785
Hospitality Chair	Linda Pilcher	801-392-7620
Communications Chair	Kay Berry	801-825-6261
Membership Chair & Club Directory	David Law	801-644-4931
Mini-show Chair	Dean Bennett	801-773-7142
Safety Chair	Lynn Hayes	435-723-2216
Publicity	Mark Acker	801-475-4705
Managing Editor of BUZZER	Dave Harris	801-737-1266
Associate	Leora Alexander	801-399-0785
Calling Committee Chairs	Sherm & Ricky Thomson	435-760-1362
Calling Committee Chairs		

FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES

Rocky Mountain Federation Delegate -----	President
Utah Federation Delegate -----	TBA
Public Land Advisory Committee -----	Jim Alexander

DUES

Due: October 1
Single - \$11
Couple or
Family - \$16
Junior - \$5
Overdue: January 1

Beehive Rock & Gem Club Meeting**September 22, 2011**

- Mineral of the month – Garnets in all their variety
- -See and recognize from pictures some of the interesting major geology features enroute to your Floy Wash / Yellow Cat field Trip in October ---oil shale, old mountains, river - deltas, ancient lakes landslides, ocean advancements over the land from the east, etc.

“Rocky” Ray
Program Chairman

Presidents Message

Well it's time to think of a number of things including Floy Wash, Club elections, and volunteerism.

First, Floy Wash; during the meeting the Board of Directors, after discussing sights that Ray Law and Roger Bush wanted to go to, voted to camp in Yellow Cat this year and concentrate on more areas there. This doesn't mean we can't be social with the main group, we just wanted to be close to other areas and also do some night work with black lights.

Club elections; I don't know of anyone who is not willing to serve another year. That being said we will hold elections at the October meeting. If you wish to run for one of the elected offices, President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer please let one of the board members know before the next board meeting. This will enable us to setup for elections.

Lastly volunteerism; I would like to thank those who have served in both elected and appointed positions. Over the past year I have asked several times if anyone out there was willing to serve, few came forward. So again I ask. David Law and his wife Veldora have put together all of our celebratory activities since I can remember. They could use some help. Ray Rutledge has faithfully provided us all with interesting meeting agendas. He is always open to suggestions and help in setting up programs. Dean Bennett is looking for someone to set up the mini show in the Huntsville Library.

We wanted to start some meetings early with demonstrations and workshops unfortunately this didn't happen. We'll try again next year. Maybe before the meeting isn't the best time maybe a Saturday would be better?

In the Buzzer this issue is an opportunity for you to speak out, volunteer and/or make suggestions. Please do so!

Joe Kent, President



Board Notes

September 6, 2011

Business: Joe Kent said he has received the permit to hunt on State School Lands. The Club paid for it, so he will ask other club presidents if their clubs will contribute to the cost. Copies will be available before the fall rock trips.

The Sept.17-18 trip to the Albert Creek area south of Kemmerer was confirmed. (See Field Trip Report, pg 4.)

The Moab show is Oct, 7-9. Most of the Board members voted to camp in the Yellow Cat area instead of the usual Floy/Salt Wash Camp on the Ruby Ranch road. They usually drive over to Yellow Cat and they want to be "on site" this year. Talk to them about it at the Sept. 22nd meeting.

Elections are in November. This meeting is usually earlier in the month because of Thanksgiving. The date should be in the Oct. and Nov. BEEHIVE BUZZERS.

Please be open to those who may ask you to help. Do you want to get to know club members? Look at the "Board" list and see how you can help.

A "Sharing " sheet will be coming out soon - please respond favorably and help out the Committee Chairs and Your Club!

Joe has consented to remain as President if no one wants his job.

Leora Alexander, Associate Editor

Report on our August Club Barbeque at the Airport

For those who missed our great Club Barbeque ---we had a large group 68-70 of members and some visitors who enjoyed the great variety of foods and of course the grilling skills of our Treasurer, his wife and our Vice President.

Also a big hit was the quality collection of rocks (slabs, finished cabs, minerals, etc) that were donated by club members and sold for the benefit of the club. Sometimes it was like a rush at a big store sale because of the quality. We want to thank those who contributed.

"Rocky" Ray

Field Trip Report

October's field trip will be to the Yellow Cat area, about 30 miles east of Green River, Utah on I-70. This will be 7-9 October. Some members then continue on to the Henry Mts.

Take the Yellow Cat Road exit (193) and head southeast for approximately 6.8 miles over relatively flat terrain. At that point the road will descend into a large valley and about .8 mile farther on you will find the campsite. Watch for my red Ford truck and camp trailer. If there are any questions feel free to call me.

Roger Bush

Cell # 388-8605

Home # 775-0147

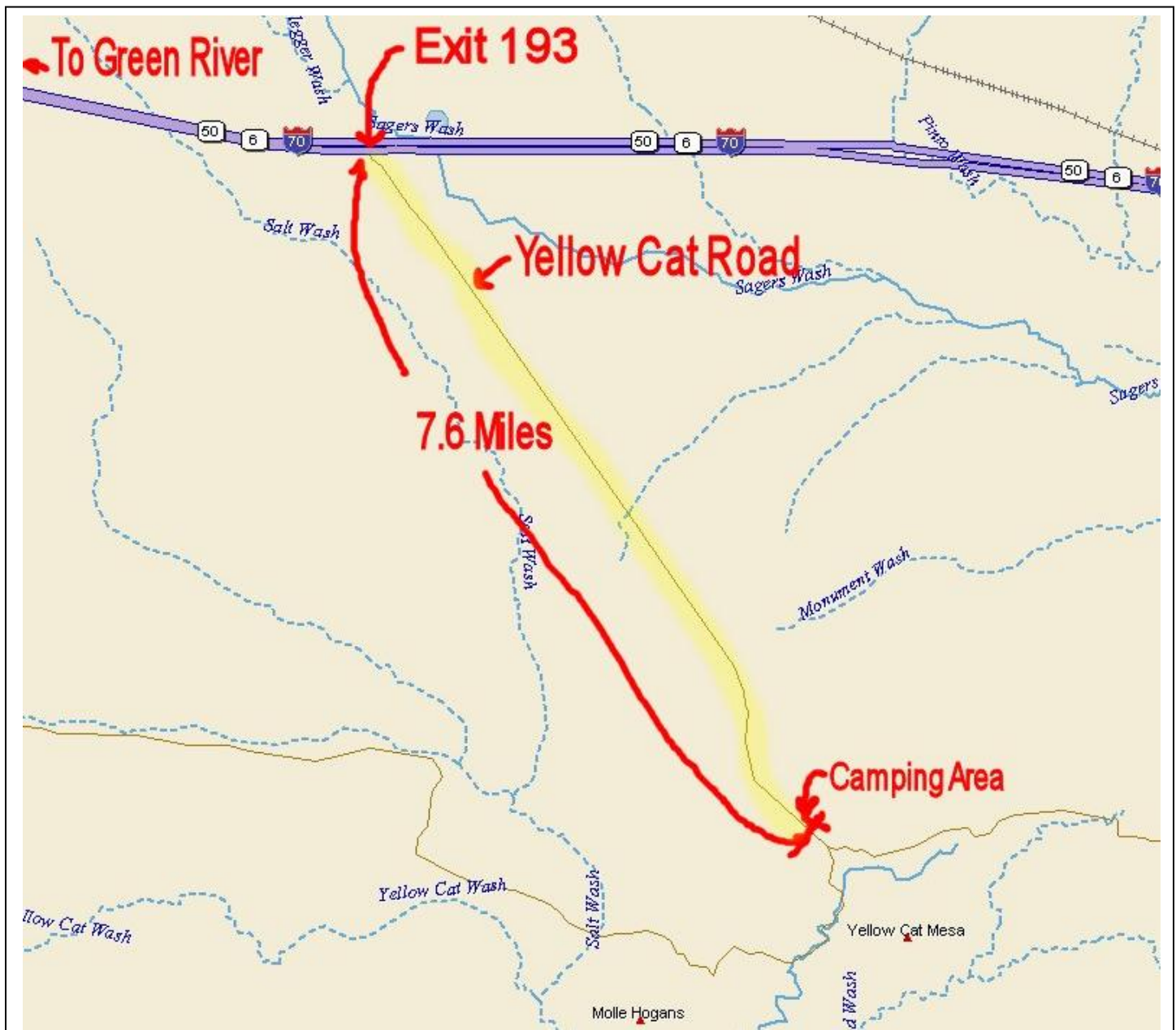
Email: r.bush2003@comcast.net



Junior, Mommy would like to talk to you about your rock collection.

by Erston Barnhart

Via Hy Grader 3/94, Strata Gem 9/11



Show Dates

September

23-25—SANDY, UTAH: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 S. State St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 weekend pass, children 11 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

23-25—SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH: Show and sale; Mineral Collectors of Utah, Trolley Square, 600 S 700 E; Fri. 12-9, Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dealers, exhibits, hourly drawings, identifications, demonstrations, Touch Table, membership sign-ups, Wheel of Fortune, grab bags; contact: Curt Forrester, 7792 N. Kookaburra Ct., Eagle Mountain, UT 84005, (801) 789-6325; e-mail: fossilmin@dcdi.net; Web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/mincollutah/home>

23-25—TOOELE, UTAH: Tooele Gem & Mineral Show, Dow James Building, 400 N 400 W, Tooele, Utah. Usually free admission. Fri. & Sat, 10-7, Sun. 10-4. Contact; Eldon Shinkle, 435-882-4044.

October

1-2—ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO: Annual show, "Gems from Heaven in 2011"; Chaparral Rockhounds; Roswell Convention & Civic Center, 912 N. Main St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children under 12 free; contact Diane Weir, 2300 S. Union Ave., Roswell, NM 88203, (575) 622-5679; e-mail: dcweir@dfn.com

5—DENVER, COLORADO: Retail show; Rings & Things; Ramada Plaza Denver North, 10 E. 120th Ave.; Wed. 12-5; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact David Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobotson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Den

7-9—MOAB, UTAH: Annual show; Moab Points & Pebbles Rock Club; Old Spanish Trail Arena, 3641 S. Hwy. 191; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, field trips, spin wheel, door prizes, displays; contact Jerry Hansen, PO Box 186, Moab, UT 84532; e-mail: moabrockclub@live.com; Web site: www.moabrockclub.net

15-16—GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO: 64th annual show; Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club; Two Rivers Convention Center, 1st and Main; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children 12 and under free with parent; dealers, demonstrations, children's corner, special attractions; contact Wayne McMackin, 191 Lumley, Grand Junction, CO 81503, (970) 640-9271; e-mail: wcmackin@msn.com; Web site: www.grandjunctionrockclub.org

Check www.rockngem.com/showdates for other Fall shows out of our area.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHSTONES — Opal – for Hope – Hydrus silica, often with some iron or aluminum, a non-crystalline form of Quartz. Hardness on Moh's Scale, 5-6. Opal's beauty has been enjoyed for centuries. It has become somewhat less expensive unless you buy Australian black opal.

Tourmaline -- A complex silicate of boron and aluminum, whose composition varies widely because of substitutions. Hardness on Moh's Scale of 7-7 1/2. The pink to red variety is called Rubellite, pink being the October color.

Rose Zircon -- Zirconium silicate. Hardness of 7 1/2. Zircon is the gem variety of the mineral, zirconium. We are most familiar with that name from our Western Zirconium Company on the northeast shore of the Great Salt Lake near Ogden.

ANNIVERSARIES -- Opal, 14th. Zircon, 19th, no color specified.

FLOWERS -- Your choice - Calendula, Marigold, Amaryllis.

From BEEHIVE BUZZER Sept,1997

National Public Lands Day is Sept 24th

NPLD is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2010, 170,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted trees and restored our water resources. Go to www.publiclandsday.org.

Via NFMS News August 2011,
Via Magic Valley News Sep 2011

Safety Awareness

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

I'm sure you have heard the adage that "Safety Is Everyone's Business". I would like to remind you that Rockhounding in the field is a hazardous occupation and the adage is true.

Rockhounds hit rocks with hammers and propel sharp shards of rock at speeds approaching 100 miles per hour. Rockhounds climb on piles of loose rock that is a disaster waiting to happen. Rockhounds get near rock faces where a rock falling from 50 feet up only gives you

1.3 seconds of warning. We hold chisels and swing hammers at them with great force and dubious accuracy. We go into remote places with wild and dangerous critters, some poisonous. Sometimes we even go into mines.

Yes, there are such things as accidents. But most 'accidents' are probably avoidable given conscious thought and common sense.

Never collect alone; always have someone along who can at least go for help. Make sure someone not on the trip knows where you are going so they can send help if you don't return in a reasonable time.

Know the area you are visiting (look up a topo map) and plan an escape route ahead of time. How do you get out if a disaster occurs or you get 'lost'. Which way is civilization, and how to you find the path?

Wear reasonable protective gear. Hard hat protects you from falling stuff or bumping your head. Eye protection against flying chips. Earplugs protect against hammer noise and flying chips. Steel toed boots protect the foot and ankle. Consider gloves.

Someone got hurt. Who knows First Aid? Did someone remember a First Aid Kit with basic supplies? If someone gets hurt badly, how will you be calling for help? Are you prepared to stabilize the situation and keep the patient alive until professional help can arrive?

How far away from the rock wall should you stay back to stay safe from collapse or falling rock? When is that rock face most dangerous? Do you know what a winze is, and why it is dangerous? Do you know why not to use tempered chisels? What do you do if you find explosives, or an abandoned mine shaft? What must you do if you have to apply a tourniquet? Do you know the difference between heat stroke and sun stroke? How do you do CPR?

The primary job of your Club's Field Trip Director is to make sure everyone comes back alive from every trip. Safety really is everyone's business, and you can help make that happen. You should be able to answer the above questions.

When in the field, don't get within 10 feet of another collector without acknowledgment so you are outside the zone of flying chips. Protect yourself with proper safety equipment. Drink lots of water so you don't overheat. Be aware of what is going on around you; don't walk into dangerous situations. Get some training so you can help in case something goes wrong.

Take a Red Cross First Aid class. Learn CPR.

Get Certified in Mine Safety and Hazard Awareness by the Department of Labor. Part 46 certification for Rockhounds will get you into many quarries and mines that would otherwise be closed. It should be a tough one day class and test. Many of the questions will cause you to flunk if missed. You really have to pay attention and think if the class is properly taught. Safety in the field can be a life or death issue; the class should be harsh too.

Don't depend on your Field Trip Chair. It is your life that is at risk in the field. Safety needs to be a conscious and actively thinking state of mind to be effective. Take some responsibility and learn how to be safe so you can collect again.

Via SCRIBE Jul-Sep, 2011

Inside An Agate



Agates with solid inclusions are some of the most beautiful agates in the world. Solid inclusions may be shaped as sagenite, plume, dendrite, or moss. Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium.

SAGENITIC AGATE is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments

are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors. Sagenite has been found in over 250 different agate deposits worldwide, a little in most agate fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate in most fields.

PLUME AGATE has fluffy inclusions which often appear to be soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite. Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Priddy Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume.

DENDRITIC AGATE has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Often dendrites form between flat "waterline" bands of agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

MOSS AGATE has inclusions in the agate random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweed or moss. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.

Via Golden Spike News 9/10, Strata Gem 9/11

Oddities of the Mineral Kingdom

ITACOLUMITE: the rock that bends. It will bend and when turned over will bend in the opposite direction. No known practical use has been found for this bend rock, but it is a source of gold and some diamonds in Brazil and India. It is also found near clay with diamonds in it in these countries.

Itacolumite is a metamorphic rock. The rock is a most extraordinary kind of sandstone and will bend under its own weight and slabs of it will bend even if the slabs are thick. The rock's flexibility is caused by symmetrical quartz grains which interlock and, therefore, rotate against each other when it bends. There is also some mica in it that helps as elasticity for the bending. Minerals of chlorite and talc are also found flexible. Itacolumite is porous to some degree from the water running through the veins in the rock.

Bentonite: the rock that swells. This rock, when put in water, will swell, taking up some five times its own weight, and can enlarge to 50 times its own volume.

Bentonite is a clay mineral, which makes it soft and

slippery. The Black Hills region has beds of this mineral and they have a very wrinkled look when viewing them, as there is hardly any vegetation growing on them.

Bentonite is mined with mechanical shovels used for industrial purposes. Bentonite is used by oilmen in filling the pores in rocks in which they are drilling for oil. It filters and also purifies some commercial products and holds molding sand together. It is also used as a paper filler/carrier for use in such things as drugs and in farm ponds to prevent leakage. There are many other uses as well. Utah is one of the sources of bentonite.

Magnetite: The mineral, magnetite, used in compass needles has been found in Monarch butterflies. This discovery may help explain the well-known yearly migration of this species from eastern North America to Mexico. Source:

Via The Rock Rattler 2/92, Pick and Pack 2/02,
Rockhound Ramblings 5/06,
Watsach Gem Society News & Views 9/11

Turquoise: The embodiment of the color

Some say that in the thirteenth century, turquoise was named in the mistaken belief that it came from Turkey. That may be true or it may be that the name comes from the Persian word for turquoise, firouze, since Persia has been a major source of this gemstone for thousands of years. In any case, the blue of this gemstone is so vivid and distinct that it has given its name to the color.

Turquoise is one of the oldest known gem materials. The Egyptians were mining turquoise in 3,200 B.C. in the Sinai. The blue of turquoise was thought to have powerful metaphysical properties by many ancient cultures. Montezuma's treasure, now displayed in the British Museum, includes a fantastic carved serpent covered by a mosaic of turquoise. In ancient Mexico, turquoise was reserved for the gods, it would not be worn by mere mortals.

The Apache believed that turquoise helped warriors and hunters to aim accurately. The Zuni believed that it protected them from demons. In Asia it was considered protection against the evil eye. Tibetans carved turquoise into ritual objects as



well as wearing it in traditional jewelry. Ancient manuscripts from

Persia, India, Afghanistan, and Arabia report that the health of a person wearing turquoise can be assessed by variations in the color of the stone. Turquoise was also thought to promote prosperity. In Europe even today, turquoise rings are given as forget me not gifts.

The most important turquoise deposits are in Iran, Tibet, China, and the Southwest United States. Turquoise is a mineral usually found in association with copper deposits. Turquoise is sometimes mined as a by-product of copper mining.

Turquoise from Iran is often said to be the best because it is sometimes a clear sky blue with no green modifying the color and no black veins running through it. Turquoise just as fine is produced in Arizona and New Mexico. In general, the bluer the blue, the more highly valued. A clear even texture without mottling or veins is also preferred. However, some people prefer turquoise with veins, sometimes called spiderwebs, which set off the color. Turquoise is porous and should be kept away from chemicals. Clean it with warm soapy water only.

Via Strata Gem 7/05, T-Town Rockhound 3/06.

Watsach Gem Society News & Views 9/11

Famous Petrified Forests

By Dick Young



Gallatin Petrified Forest specimens. Photo © www.nps.gov

Our petrified forests are generally of three types. The first type has been showered and completely covered by volcanic ash leaving the trees standing in an upright position. The Petrified Forest of Yellowstone National Park (Gallatin) is an example of this type. The trees are standing in their original state where they grew many millions of years ago. The forest of Yellowstone covers more than 40 square miles which is the largest area known. Another unusual feature of the Yellowstone Petrified forests is that many thousands of fossilized leaves, needles, cones, and seeds of over one hundred different kinds of trees and shrubs have been found

there. It is the only place in the world where twenty-seven successive layers of petrified forms can be seen.

The story behind the Yellowstone Petrified Forest is that an old volcano began to erupt and continued for some twenty years. Mineral bearing waters began to petrify the once living forest. In the span of a couple of hundred years, a new forest began to appear and grew for the next five hundred years. Then, the volcano erupted again and this process reoccurred twenty-seven times; as twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forest have been exposed in the Fossil Forest on the south side of Larmar River Valley. An example of a well-preserved stump can be seen a few feet from the highway along "The Petrified Road". Along the northern slopes of Specimen Ridge there are many layers of petrified tree trunks. About two thirds of the way up on the eastern edge is a group of upright standing trunks of unusual beauty and size just as they grew many millions of years ago. The largest of these petrified stumps is a redwood over five feet in diameter and believed to be approximately one thousand years old when buried by volcanic debris.

A second type of Petrified Forest is believed to be the result of logs jamming at the mouth of a river, sinking into the mud and becoming petrified. The Petrified Forest of Arizona is an example of this type. Driftwood may be deposited on the shore by the winds. Generally fossil wood which at one time was driftwood does not have bark. This fact may account for the lack of bark on the wood in Arizona. The Arizona forests are between one hundred and two hundred million years old. One stone log, twenty feet wide and forty feet thick flung across a ravine forms a natural bridge - the famed Agate Bridge.



Arizona Petrified Wood. Photo © www.wikipedia.com

The Arizona Petrified forests are composed of different forests varying in coloring. The Rainbow forest is a multiplicity of colors; the Blue forest is mostly carbonized sections; and the Black Forest is brilliantly black. Many logs of white, some almost transparent, make up the Second Forests, while the Third Forest displays large specimens as long as one hundred sixty feet. The fossil wood is of three general types. 1. Jasperized wood predominately bright red, some translucent and variegated with a riot of colorless 2. Small amounts of bright red wood are found often with areas of nearly

colorless quartz. 3. Section of dark or nearly black wood.



Petrified Ginkgo log. Photo © www.celebratebig.com

The opalized wood forests of central Washington run a close second to the famed forests of Arizona. The only fossilized Ginkgo trees known in the world are found there. The well known Ginkgo Petrified Forest is of the driftwood type. Of the ten thousand fossilized trees in this forest, only six have been identified as Ginkgo trees. The Ginkgo is one of our oldest and most primitive types of trees, a direct ancestor of our modern tree. It is remarkable in that it has survived through millions of years while other species have died out. Nevada boasts of the largest petrified tree known in the world that is fourteen feet in diameter and nearly three hundred feet long. The woods of Virgin Valley in Nevada are fully opalized with the “fire” of the fire opal.

A third type of Petrified Forest is that of scattered woods may be covered in some manner, to become solidified later. For instance, rising waters in a lake may completely cover a forest and protect it from decay. Later on petrification may preserve the trees permanently. Some of the woods in California, Nevada, Oregon, and central Washington have this origin.

Via The Clackamette Gem 9/00,
Pick Hammer 9/11



Water by Bural LaRue

Water is so essential that a 1% decrease in normal levels makes us thirsty. Thirst after eating salty foods, even though the body has ample water indicates that thirst depends not only on how much water is in the body, but precise salt concentrations of stored water.

Thirst is a complex response with at least two different mechanisms. When body water content falls below a certain level, saliva decreases, the throat gets dry, and thus, the urge to drink. In addition, when body water content falls, there is a greater concentration of salt and other dissolved elements in the remaining cellular and bodily fluids. This increase

is recognized by the brain and converted into the sensation of thirst by the same part of the brain as appetite controls. If the signal for more water is not answered, water is drawn from the cells, and kidney functions are retarded to conserve fluid. A 10% water level drop (6% of body weight) causes mental deficiencies. 20% loss is usually considered fatal.

In the hot desert, a person may last only a few hours since hard exertion under these circumstances can cost upwards of 2 quarts per hour. Thirst cannot tell how much or when to consume. Therefore, it is important to drink small quantities at frequent intervals, even if you don't feel thirsty. If you choose a fluid replacement drink, choose it carefully. The popular sports drinks each have different formulas worth studying. The body reacts differently to various forms of calories. It may be a good idea to try out the fluids under a variety of conditions before making a choice.

CFMS Newsletter 11/10, Pick Hammer 9/11

First American Rockhounds

By Ivan Imel



Wenatchee blades. Photo © Dr. R.M. Gramly
www.lithiccastinglab.com

We try to imagine when rockhounding first became popular, the 20's, 40's...or when we know it peaked in the 60's, the golden age, yet it continues today! What we don't realize is that rockhounding began a lot earlier than even the early 20th century; thousands of years, in fact. What is currently thought to be the first Americans, Clovis hunters, approximately 11,000 years ago wandered across the Bering Straits to become our first rockhounds. Their first points, the ones they brought with them, may have been bone, ivory or struck flint blades. Somewhere here in the USA they developed their characteristic leaf-shaped point with large thinning scars very prominent in the base and running 1/3 to 1/2 the length of the point. These points are among the finest points made by American Indian hunters.

We conjure up pictures of Clovis hunters killing mammoth, but the truth is they hunted anything that moved and had any size at all, down to rabbits and armadillos.

Where did rockhounding come in? Clovis hunters prized the best flints, cherts, petrified wood, agates, chalcedonies, obsidian and jaspers they could lay hands on. Think of the opportunities they had as they were the first to nearly every major occurrence imaginable of fine material, and they were willing to haul those materials away as blanks and

tools for hundreds and possibly a thousand miles or more.

A Clovis point found near Uvalde, Texas was made of obsidian from 125 miles north of Mexico City. Another Clovis point found at Blackwater Draw of obsidian came from the Mineral Range in Utah. Two Clovis points or knives found near St. Louis were of Knife River flint from South Dakota. A Clovis point found in a cache in western New York is possibly of the same Knife River flint, a silicified lignite with rich translucent amber colors. From the same cache was one point of famous Flint Ridge flint (Ohio) and a fluted knife of Indiana hornstone, both a considerable distant source.

At Wenatchee, Washington a cache of incredibly beautiful Clovis blades and points were made of agate varieties from a nearby source. The points were dendritic chalcedony, banded agate and a large Clovis blade, found nearby, of obsidian. They were the first to exploit this agate source, but not the last; being quarried up until the late prehistoric times. A number of agate points were found in Utah and Nevada.

Probably the most striking Clovis blade, 12" x 3" was found near an old lake in Northern Mexico and made of beautiful red banded Laguna agate.

A Clovis point found near Dickens, Texas is made of beautifully variegated Tecous Jasper in yellow, reds and pink. The list of beautiful materials would go on and on. The fact is, Clovis hunters had an eye for beautiful rock and were willing to go where roads didn't go. In their spread across the lower 48 states, much of Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and possibly clear down into Venezuela, they had an eye for beauty combined with wanderlust; all the makings of a first-class rockhound.

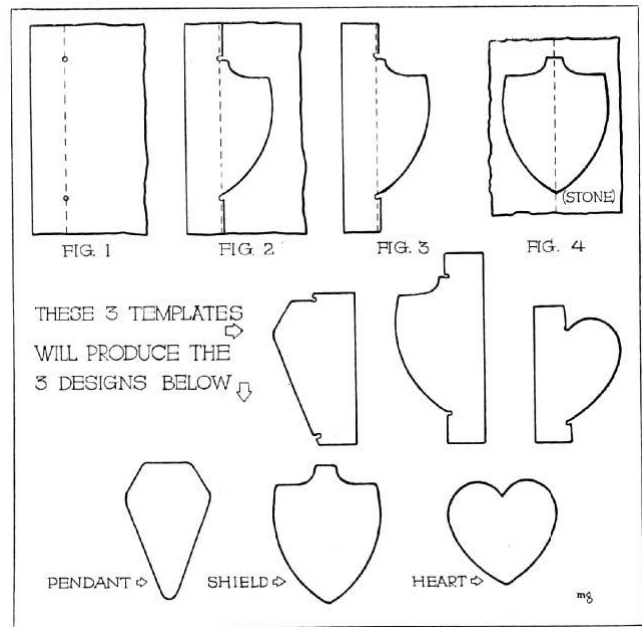
Via The Rockytier 6/93, Pick Hammer 8/11

How to Make Templates

William E. Clark of Clark's Gem Shop, 807 Chicago St., La Porte, Indiana, offers a method of making your own templates. See the diagram above.

Take a piece of sheet aluminum about twice the size of the pattern you wish. Draw a line and mark off the pattern. Drill 2 1/16" holes as in Fig. 1 and then draw the pattern as in Fig. 2. Cut around the edge of the pattern but do not cut the center line. You will then have a pat-tern as in Fig. 3.

Take the slab and draw a line through the center of the design you wish in the cabochon. Lay the template on the slab and be sure the center line on the template matches the slab. Draw half of the design with a marking pencil. Turn the template over, match up the center line and draw the other half of the design as in Fig. 4. Remove and grind to the outline and you will have a cab as in the center figure in the bottom row.



Via Lapidary Journal, Rock Chip 7/11, Strata Gem 9/11

New Definitions for Old Words

1. ARBITRATOR: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonalds.
2. AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do.
3. BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage.
4. BURGLARIZE: What a crook sees with.
5. CONTROL: A short, ugly inmate.
6. COUNTERFEITERS: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.
7. ECLIPSE: What an barber does for a living.
8. EYEDROPPER: A clumsy ophthalmologist.
9. HEROES: What a guy in a boat does.
10. LEFTBANK: What the robber did when his bag was full of money.
11. MISTY: How golfers create divots.
12. PARADOX: Two physicians.
13. PARASITES: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.
14. PHARMACIST: A helper on the farm.
15. POLARIZE: What penguins see with.
16. PRIMATE: Removing your spouse from in front of the TV.
17. RELIEF: What trees do in the Spring.
18. RUBBERNECK: What you do to relax your wife.
19. SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does.
20. PARADISE: Two numbered cubes used in games.
21. SUDAFED: Brought litigation against a government official.