



the BEMS Tumbler

November
2008

The monthly newsletter of the **Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society, Inc.** Seattle, Washington

Next Meeting:
November 13, 2008
7:30 p.m.

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

Just off the Valley
Freeway (Highway 167) North
edge of Kent

The Program was not known at
press time

Our show is this month!

Happy Thanksgiving!



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*

Del Oswald on November 1,
Holly Grieve on November 11,
Mary French on November 12,
Herman Gelbach on November 12,
Malcolm Wheeler, Sr. on November 14,
Joel Jurasek on November 22,
Robert Pattie on November 25,
Vera Gelbach on November 30,

*and also remember
to wish a*

Happy Anniversary to
Patrick F., Jr. & Jacqueline Myers
on November 6 (13 years),
Delbert & Barbara Oxborrow
on November 22 (19 years),
Robert & Jacqueline Pattie
on November 23 (51 years)



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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.

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2008

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Vice President Scott Burch
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Pete Williams
Director Bill Cook
Director Dick Morgan
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Carolyn Sealton
Library Charlotte Churchill
Video Library Stephanie Jurado-Smith
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Cheryl Edgar
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Jewelry Joe Poston
 Lapidary Dick Morgan

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

2008 BEMS Dues are \$15 flat rate Individual, Family, or Retired.

Send or deliver dues to:

Richard Russell

(or pay him at the meeting)

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 *Boeing Company*; the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; the *Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; and the *Washington State Mineral Council*.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Dick Morgan

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **morgangraphix@yahoo.com** Please put Tumbler and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month, (except December which varies).

The BEMS external website is **<http://www.bemsonline.com>**

In some displays you want to use a slab of rock to show how it looks before polishing. Water won't stay wet, grease looks greasy, some waxes turn white under heat, so use liquid detergent. Rub the surface with the liquid detergent and wipe it off. There is no shine and the pattern will show through.

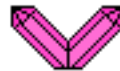
via Breccia, 1/98; via Lapidarian, 3/90; Original Source Unknown

Silicon treated tissues for cleaning eyeglasses do a great job of removing finger prints from polished stones.

via Owyhee Gem, 5/98; via Beehive Buzzer, 9/93; via Golden Spike News, 9/93; from Grindings, 11/90



November



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
		THE SOUTH SOUND GEM, OPAL & MINERAL SHOW IS NOVEMBER 7, 8 & 9					1
2	Lapidary Shop	Board Meeting 	5	South Sound Show Set-up	South Sound Show	South Sound Show	8
South Sound Show	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry	12	General Meeting 	Faceting Class		15
16	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry	19	20	Faceting Class	Kitsap Show	22
Kitsap Show	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry	26	Thanksgiving 	Faceting Class		29
30							

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
 More Show info can be found on Page 10

Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BEMS Board Meeting:.....Tuesday (9 days prior to General Meeting).....9:30 am to 10:00 am
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



BEMS Board Meeting Minutes September 30, 2008

by Keith Morgan

*Members Present**President Malcolm Wheeler Treasurer Rich Russell**Editor Keith Morgan Field Trips/Director Bill Cook**Shop/Director Dick Morgan Library Charlotte Churchill**Mineral council Bob & Jackie Pattie Guests Pat Morgan & Lei Rogalf***Shop Reports:** The shop has six 70 lb. bags of grit of varying grits.

Rich Russell was authorized to spend up to \$200 dollars to buy rough rock for club purposes.

Field Trips: The Greenwater trip was successful.**Program:** A speaker about gold prospecting.**Mineral Council:** The Mineral Council would like to meet again at the Kent Rec Center to plan upcoming trips on January

17.

New Business: There will be no Atop The Rock Pile's until the strike is over.**Old Business:** The Nominating Committee has gotten Jerry Heiser & Dave Van Dyke to run. The Ballot will be printed & mailed in the Tumbler.

The club has filed again for non-profit status.

Bob Pattie's demonstration at the cub scout meeting was a hit.

Editor's Notes

Apologies to Scott Burch. On my list of birthdays I had him as 4/10 instead of 10/4. A belated birthday wish to him.

Our Christmas party will be December 14. Mark your calendar.

Ideal vs. Real Formulas in Minerals

Mineralogy texts often accompany their descriptions of each mineral with a chemical formula. Articles in magazines such as The Mineralogical Record may also give formulae for minerals. And mineral lists such as Fleischer's Glossary of Mineral Species (the 10th Edition, released in 2008, authored by Malcolm Black and Joseph A. Mandarino) give mineral formulae, too. The observant collector will notice that sometimes there are differences between the ways different literature sources report formulae for the same mineral.

This may be because the older source is reporting the mineral formula as it was known originally, while another source is reporting a more-accurate formula based on later data. Sometimes, there are perfectly valid, but different, ways to write a mineral's formula. For instance, John Sinkankas' Mineralogy gives HFeO_2 as the formula for the common mineral goethite. Other sources use $\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$. Note that both give the same ratios of Fe, H, and O.

But discrepancies can also be because one literature source is reporting the "ideal" chemical formula while another is reporting the actual chemical formula for the mineral as found in nature. One example of this may be seen by examining the case of franklinite. Franklinite is "zinc iron oxide" and the ideal formula is ZnFe_2O_4 . In this formula, zinc is present as Zn^{2+} and iron as Fe^{3+} , while oxygen atoms have a "minus two" charge (i.e. O^{2-}). Electrical charges are balanced in this formula. Four oxygens in the minus two state give a total of eight negative charges. Two irons in the three plus state give a total of six positive charges, and two more from the zinc ion bring the total to eight positive charges. Thus, the mineral is electrically neutral.

An actual specimen of franklinite may contain a substantial amount of manganese (Mn). How does that fit into the picture? In such a case, the formula is closer to $(\text{Zn},\text{Mn},\text{Fe})(\text{Fe},\text{Mn})_2\text{O}_4$. Putting the first three elements in the first set of brackets indicates that some of each of those elements (as Zn^{2+} , Mn^{2+} or Fe^{2+}) is occupying the position that Zn^{2+} held in the ideal formula. Likewise, either iron or manganese may occupy the site held by iron in the ideal formula. Note that the iron and manganese must be in the "three plus" state (as Fe^{3+} or Mn^{3+}) to produce an electrically-neutral mineral. This actual formula gives us more information than the ideal formula does. It tells us, for instance, that both iron and manganese are present in franklinite as both "plus two" and "plus three" ions.

from The Quarry, 8-9/08

Cleaning Tips

Remove algae and lichen from rocks by soaking them in ammonia water followed by the use of a stiff brush.

To remove cutting oil from slabs, first place them in kitty litter to absorb the oil, then put them in warm water with a dishwashing detergent.

BEMS General Meeting Minutes October 9, 2008



by Pete Williams, 2008 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30

There were 3 guests in attendance.

Minutes were approved as written.

Tumbler Editor's Report: A reminder was made that those who write articles will receive 6 free raffle tickets.

Webmaster's Report: Members can list items for sale on the club web site (bemsonline.com). You may also put a link to your web site pending approval by the board.

Treasurer's Report: There is a new lock box in the lapidary room on the outside of the black cabinet. Put your shop fees and shop supply purchases in the box. For purchasing shop supplies, put a note in with what you bought and amount paid. Rich is now collecting 2009 dues.

Shop Reports: The lapidary shop has been having 12-15 people on Mondays. A home school visit is on Tuesday and more volunteers are needed. Cheryl Edgar is the new director of shop operations. Some openings for lessons in the faceting shop will be coming up soon. Interested people can add their name to the waiting list.

Library: A new book on minerals is available for borrowing. A DVD player was donated to the club.

Health & Welfare: Long time member Marjorie Easter passed away recently. The club is collecting cards if you wish to send one to her.

Federation Report: Reminder to save stamps (except forever stamps) as their sale is used to fund a scholarship.

Field Trip Report: Check the WSMC list for upcoming field trips.

Mineral Council: A meeting was held last month. A board meeting is coming up this month. The MC buy from 2 to 3 locks each month for the gate at Walker Valley. The Ft. Lewis club is disbanding. A rock ranch is being started in the Spokane Valley primarily for juniors. There will be a January wagon master field trip planning meeting to schedule trips for 2009. See Bob if you wish to participate.

South Sound Show: All 36 vendors have paid in full. There will be a work meeting on 10/18 to iron out the curtains for the tables.

Old Business: The nominating committee has identified a few candidates so far. VP: Scott Burch and Jerry Heiser. President: Dave Van Dyke. More volunteers are needed for each office. Please provide the names of interested people to Keith to be published in the next Tumbler.

The committee is still looking for volunteers for show set-up on 11/6. Much help is needed. The set-up needs to be complete by 8:00 PM. See one of the committee members to volunteer. Displays are to be cleaned up at 4:00 PM on 11/9. Volunteers are needed for clean up. Members who signed up as volunteers prior to the meeting on 10/9 need to re-sign as there were problems with the previous sign up sheet.

New Business: None

Program: Lyle from the Washington Prospectors Association gave a demonstration on gold panning.

Raffle: The special was won by George Oxborrow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Displays:

Leonard Bahr - Cubic zirconia, cristinitite & corundum.

Jerry Chilson - Ochoco thundereggs from Elkins Rock Shop in Prineville, Oregon.

Eric Chilson - Boulder Meadows jasper.

Malcolm Wheeler - 1,000 year-old pot, carved ivory, clay marble & plastic Buddha.

Cliff Frome - Chrome tourmaline, 2 sunstones, sphene, spessartite garnet & rutilated quartz.

Maya Smith - Petrified wood.

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks.

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

Why do some politicians want to change from a system that works to one that has proven over & over to fail?

As we get past Election Day, many people start pitying the poor turkey.

After the filling up on turkey comes the emptying of the wallet for Christmas gifts. Happy Holidays!

Margery Easter has died. They found her body on sept 27th, and are saying that it was a heart attack. They have already buried her at Mt. View cemetery in Auburn. Cards can be mailed to her family at her address: 808 8th St. SE, Auburn, WA, 98002. No donations or flowers are requested.

BEMS 2008 Ballot

Either use this page or a copy to vote on.

Either bring to the November meeting or mail to Malcolm Wheeler.

One vote per family only.

Only members of BEMS eligible to vote.

President	Dave Van Dyke	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice-President	Scott Burch	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jerry Heiser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Pete Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Rich Russell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director (2-year term)	Dick Morgan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federation Representative	Mike Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington State Mineral Council Representatives	Bob & Jackie Pattie	<input type="checkbox"/>

Safety First by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

Prior to lifting or carrying an item, consider:

1. How heavy or bulky is the item?
2. How good a shape are you in and have you had any back problems in the past after lifting? Many back problems are cumulative, where a repeated minor injury will flare up and become worse. Statistics indicate that about 80% of back injuries occur in people between 30-50 years of age.
3. How much space is there around the object to be lifted and how much space is around where it is to be set down?
4. What kind of obstacles are there along the transportation route, such as trip hazards, holes, protrusions, and overhangs?

If any of these question create a concern, or if there is any doubt, get help or use an aid such as a dolly, hand truck, or even a forklift to lift and move the object.

Be sure to wear appropriate safety equipment, such as safety shoes and work gloves, when lifting.

Prior to the lift, make sure you have adequate clearance for your hands and arms. Stand close to load with the feet apart and the toes pointed out to provide firm footing. Bend your knees, not your waist. Grip the load firmly with a “full palm grip”. Do not place your fingers under the load. Tighten your stomach muscles and then lift your head and shoulders first and then with your back straight, use the strength of your legs to slowly and smoothly push up. “Jerk lifting” a load will multiply the stress to your lower back. Never hold the load away from your body, but hold it close to your body at all times with your back upright.

To raise a load above shoulder height, first lift to waist height and rest on the edge of a ledge, hip, or stand, and then shift hand positions so that the load can be boosted after the knees are bent. The knees should be straightened as the object is lifted or shifted to the shoulders. If the object is to be placed on a table or shelf, first set it on the edge, and then push it far enough onto the support so it will not fall. The load should be released gradually as it is set down and then pushed into place with the hands and body directly in front of it.

When setting a load down, keep your back straight and upright, bend your knees, and lower the load down slowly and smoothly. Do not add the weight of your body to the load. Keep your fingers and feet clear from under the load as you ease it down.

via Breccia, 2/08; via The Franklin County Rockhouser, 10/07; from EFMLS News

Cutting Lepidolite

Use a water-cooled tile saw to cut slabs, and a water-cooled trim saw to trim slabs to cab shapes. Keep oil away from it, Lepidolite just soaks it up.

from Golden Spike News, 8/08

Displaying Your Treasures by Clay Williams, El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society

Whether a case contains mineral specimen(s) or the product of any other related activity, the challenge is to display them to best effect. The author, who is struggling with the mastery of this art and has been for a number of years through successes and occasional failures, was asked by several club VIP's to share some of his insights.

A good place to start is the color scheme. The colors of all supporting elements of the exhibit should be relatively muted and, for the best effect, should both match each other and what is being displayed. The author took labels in colors that were appealing and also blended with his specimens, along with a junk piece of mineral that matched those specimens, to a fabric store where he placed each next to liner fabric candidates. The store clerk must have wondered what was going on. When the winning fabric was finally determined, the only other limitation was, could enough be purchased to cover all liner foam board and any possible fabric covered risers?

The word, muted, cannot be emphasized enough when talking about the case, the liners, the mounts and/or risers and the labels! All should be less eye catching than the object or objects of display. Various earth tone colors are an excellent way to execute this difference. Avoid bright colors, especially red, at all cost! That the last, when on cars, draws inordinate scrutiny from police should be a hint why. The bright purple liner that I saw at a recent show should probably go in favor of something much less attention getting — after all, the intent is to get people to focus on what is being displayed, not on the background.

Labeling is important and indicates the exhibitor has taken the trouble to correctly identify your treasure. In most cases, such as with minerals and fossils, it should definitely include locality and name information. This should be more specific than, say, "Emerald, South America." A better effort would state that emerald is a variety of beryl and, at the very least, give the country and province, region or district of origin. It also might be nice to know where a lapped piece of tiger's eye, topaz in a jewelry setting or turquoise in a belt buckle came from. Competitive entries have certain requirements, which vary for different types of displays. Check the AFMS rules and CFMS Supplementary Rules Information. It would also be a good idea to ask for someone's advice if you are contemplating such a move.

Even though not really muted, black, depending on the shade of your liner, usually is fairly readable. Readability is an important issue and is one reason why the author tested a sample label at the fabric store. Readability also limits your choice of fonts. Making that font bold and of a reasonable size helps, as it must be assumed that not everyone can see or read well.

The author's labels are composed on a PC and then printed onto transparencies using an ink-jet. Each transparency page is then cut into individual labels, which may be further trimmed to fit in the spaces between specimens. Gloves are used whenever handling the finished product, as it fingerprints easily. This not-often-seen procedure gets lots of attention from those more interested in the process than the item or items being displayed.

Layout within the case is, of course, a personal thing. However, too much clutter looks very unprofessional and should be avoided; it diminishes the overall impression. Also to be avoided is the placement of lower quality material among stars; the former detracts from the latter. This is easier said than done, especially if one is new to collecting and, therefore, has a limited choice of what to include.

Labels should be of consistent type and not look like they were just thrown in. The liner or liners should cover the entire area visible through the glass, and not be stained or dirty. Avoid giving the appearance that your effort was lacking.

It is a good idea to try putting your case together pre-show. Such a dry run will get the kinks out, if any. It is the time to make final changes and is great practice, especially if the exhibit is at all complex. Also this can uncover any omissions while something can still be done.

Good luck!

Note: Clay Williams has credentials behind his advice. He has entered his displays and won in competition at California Federation of Mineralogical Societies shows. He won the 1st Place Advanced Minerals Trophy for his copper minerals case and was also awarded the coveted Hamel Minerals Trophy at the 2005 CFMS Show in Roseville, CA. In June, he received the 1st Place Masters Minerals Trophy for his copper mineral case at the 2007 CFMS Show in Lancaster, CA

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/07-1/08

Used spongy fabric softener sheets are great for wrapping gems and fragile specimens for storing or shipping. They can also be cut to size for liners in boxes.

via Breccia, 11/97; via Roc Toc; from Dusty Rocks

When using Styrofoam for risers in a display case, hollow out the bottom with a spoon. This enables you to tuck up the fabric lining so that the bottom sits firm and even in the case. Any surplus material is fastened in the hollow area.

via Owyhee Gem, 2/98; via The Rock Rattler, 12/97; via Tule Smoke Signals; from Tarheel Rockhound

In Roman times, a stone used to kill a powerful animal was tossed over the roof of a house where a woman was expecting, in the belief that it would make birth easy & painless.

General Shop Procedures by Cheryl Edgar, Shop Operations

Before beginning your first lapidary project, take a few minutes to get to know your equipment and how to safely and efficiently operate it. Spending an hour acquainting yourself with proper shop procedures can save you and your fellow club members time and money spent on spoiled material and tools (not to mention the ill-will engendered by their abuse). When in doubt, ask an experienced member how to use the machines.

Cleanliness in lapidary work is absolutely essential to prevent damage to machines and material. Wash your hands and your stone between each different step of the stone-shaping process. Any grit carried over to the next finer grit will contaminate that lap, and cause deep scratches in your stone. When contamination occurs, machinery must be repaired (a time-consuming and costly process); damaged projects must be redone. Wash, wash, wash: to ignore this basic step is to risk ruining your stone, and everyone else's.

General Shop Procedures

1) When you turn on a machine, be it grinder or sander, listen for chatter, look for vibration. Excessive amounts of either can signal a damaged machine or unbalanced wheel. Left unreported or ignored, this can lead to a broken arbor, an accident, or both. It is in your best interest to report problems with club machines to the instructor or shop operations coordinator.

2) After the machine is turned on, and running smoothly, turn on the water, both at the wall and above the wheel. The water keeps the wheel from clogging with grit, flushes away excess material, and prevents heat friction that might crack your stone. Silicon carbide grinders become unstable if water soaks into them in a resting position, so be especially careful to begin water flow after they are turned on, and shut the water off ten to fifteen minutes before you stop the wheel.

3) Keep fingers away from the edge of the grinding or sanding laps; they can cut.

4) Tie back clothing and hair, to avoid catching it in the machines. This includes, but is not limited to, ties, baggy shirts, and scarves. It is better not to wear watches or jewelry when operating machinery.

5) When grinding or sanding, move your stone back and forth across the entire width of the wheel's surface to prevent uneven wear or grooves (dishing) on it. This is especially important with silicon carbide wheels. When a wheel becomes dished or unevenly worn, it must be "trued" to restore it to a smooth, even surface, or it must be replaced.

6) When first learning the art of lapidary, work with inexpensive material until you get a feel for the machines and how to use them. A hard material (agate) is better than a soft one (onyx) for an early project. You should avoid using the silicon carbide wheels for soft or brittle materials, like opal or obsidian. These stones respond much better to the diamond sanders.

7) To dop or not to dop? If your stone is large enough, you don't need a dop stick (that little wooden handle) to hold your project, just a firm grip. Some would say you have better control without a dop. If you are worried about grinding organic material (i.e., fingers), by all means utilize a stick until you feel more confident in your skills. Try both methods and make your own decision.

8) Grind with the wheel's rotation. The trailing edge of the stone should follow in the same direction as the spinning wheel. If you push your stone against the wheel's rotation the stone will probably nick or break and be flipped right out of your hands. Hold your stone firmly and try to develop a steady, even pressure. Don't force sharp edges against the wheel, as this will cause pitting. Try to get a feel for how different materials respond to grinding, sanding, and polishing on the various equipment. Examine your rough project often to see how it is shaping up. Be mindful of the position of your fingers in regard to the grinding surface; no need to sacrifice fingertips to the lapidary gods!

9) Are you remembering to wash your stone and your hands between each progressively finer grit to remove potential contaminants?

10) When finished, first turn off the water both above the lap or wheel and at the wall. If you stop the machine and water at the same time, a silicon carbide wheel will absorb water at the bottom; when the machine is next used, it will be out of balance, the unbalanced wheel will vibrate as it turns, and could break both the wheel and your stone. Diamond drums are prone to rust if not dried properly. After you've turned off the water, leave the lap or wheel running for ten to fifteen minutes to allow it to dry thoroughly, then turn off the machine.

11) Clean up after yourself. Treat the machines and your fellow rock-cutters with respect. Leaving the work area dirty is unsafe for people and machinery alike. Clean up oil drips. Wipe up grinding sludge. There are specific containers for oil-soaked rags or waste material; make sure you dispose of them properly. Put tools away when you finish with them. Tidy up when you are done so that the next club member can safely and enjoyably use their time in the shop.

12) Even after following these instructions, mistakes can happen (Wise old birds occasionally fly into trees, too.). If you think you may have damaged a machine accidentally, TELL SOMEONE. You can lessen the irritation factor if we are able to remedy the situation sooner rather than later. Respect fellow BEMS members by reading instructions, working safely, and maintaining machinery. Good rocking!

Sources:

Kraus, Pansy. Introduction to Lapidary. Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications, 1987.

Long, Frank, The Creative Lapidary. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1976.

Sinkankas, John. Gem Cutting: A Lapidary's Manual (Third Edition). New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1984.

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 trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member, and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day.

Information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<http://www.mineralcouncil.org>).

November 8 *Mt Baker Rock Club - Blanchard Hill - Stilpnomelane in quartz* - Will need hard rock tools - Meet at 9 am at I-5 exit Gas Mart
Brian Hughes - (360) 671-7330 or abhughes@comcast.net

Words Of Caution by John Wright, RPG, Conservation & Legislation Chair

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, to the best of my knowledge has cleared all committees and the next logical step would be to schedule it for a vote by the House of Representatives, but with the current turmoil in congress caused by the failures on Wall Street, I can't get through to my contact to find out the exact status of this particular legislation. My personal opinion is that it has been placed on a back burner and action on it will be delayed for the time being. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, but it does give us another small window of opportunity to express our opposition. With the up-roar among the citizens caused by the proposed bail-out plans for Wall Street and the upcoming elections, constituents have really gotten the undivided attention of representatives, and if you have not written or petitioned yours to express opposition to HR554, you now have a short but golden opportunity to let your sentiments be known.

While my information has been very limited, I was very pleased to find out that quite a few of our members have talked to their representatives or have written them a letter in opposition to the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. I also know that a number of our clubs have submitted petitions opposing this legislation. While these efforts are really commendable, the down side is that these individuals and clubs represent only a very small percentage of our membership. If we want to stop or have this legislation significantly modified in our favor, it is going to require a lot more participation. We have to let our representatives know what our desires are if we want them to act in our favor.

I am serving as president of my club again and for several months I have encouraged our members to contact or write a letter to our representative regarding HR554. As you might expect my efforts were basically ignored. Finally, I decided to write a petition that our members could sign and a sample letter that they could use as a guide to write their own. Quite a few of our members signed the petition and several of the ones that did not sign took copies of the sample letter to use as a guide in writing their own. I regret that I waited so long to do this and that all of our members did not participate, but at least we have taken a positive step. I would like to challenge other club presidents to take similar action to get more of our members and respective clubs involved.

I am getting very little feed back about the issues I am addressing in my articles. I do occasionally see some of them reprinted in the exchange bulletins we receive from other clubs. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please let me know. I would very much like to know about any conservation and legislative matters in your particular areas and also what actions your club might be taking in national issues like the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. My e-mail address is <osjw@datasync.com>.
 from West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/08

Iron, that puts the red in bloodstone (and our blood), plays at least three roles on Earth - forms rock, remembers when/where, and, colors it beautiful. One of the early forming elements in the birth of stars and of space-traveling debris, iron is a major constituent of the rocks of Earth. Not only does it form part of the crystals that form in magma, it "remembers" when/where. The ability of ferromagnetic substances to remember the direction of a magnetic field means they store the information on their orientation to the magnetic poles of Earth. Iron, iron alloys and iron compounds are divided into smaller groups known as magnetic domains with each domain having a different orientation. Below a certain size, a particle of ferromagnetic substance will have only a single magnetic domain, these particles are called single-domain particles. Some kinds of dolphins, bacteria, and homing pigeons have single-domain particles within their bodies to help them sense direction. Man has learned how to read the single-domains of rocks to assist in understanding the geology of our planet. Man also uses needle-shaped single-domain particles as coatings on magnetic disks, tape, cards and other memory devices. Iron rusts very well, and some architects take advantage of this to weatherproof iron with its own oxides. Iron rusts only at a water-air interface, so once the coating of rust is complete, it rusts no more — unless disturbed. A break in the rust restarts the process, and ordinary wind and rain can break the rust. Iron-rich rocks "rust" also, and this oxidation of the rocks was valued by ancient peoples for their decoration of caves, teepees, or bodies. The iron rust, or even the iron ion, is often responsible for the coloration of some of our most important gems. Beryl and corundum can be induced to turn gold by the presence of a small percent of iron. Aquamarine is bluer or greener depending where the iron ions are in its crystal lattice. Hematite is 70% iron, and pyrite (marcasite) is 40% iron.



Shows

November 7-9: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 4 pm
Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society & Northwest Opal Association
4th Annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show
 Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds
 Meridian St. S. & 9th Ave. SW
 Puyallup, WA

November 8 & 9: Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Treasures of the Earth
 Sedro Wooley Community Center
 720 State St.
 Sedro Wooley, WA

November 8 & 9: Saturday 9 am - 5 pm ; Sunday 9 am - 4 pm
Maplewood Rock & Gem Club, Annual Show
 Maplewood clubhouse
 8802 196th St SW
 Edmonds, WA

November 22 & 23: 10 am - 5 pm
Kitsap Gem & Mineral Society, Fall Festival of Gems
 Kitsap County Fairgrounds, President's Hall
 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd
 Bremerton, WA



Internet Addresses

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
<http://www.amfed.org/>

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/>

Washington State Mineral Council
<http://www.mineralcouncil.org/>

Bob's Rock Shop
<http://www.rockhounds.com/>

American Lands Access Association
<http://www.amlands.org/>

United States Faceters Guild
<http://www.usfacetersguild.org/>

Gemological Institute of America
http://www.gia.edu/3954/gia_home_page.cfm

Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors
<http://scribesite.home.att.net/>

Society of American Silversmiths
<http://www.silversmithing.com/>

Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society
<http://bemsonline.com>

Mineralogy Databases
<http://www.mindat.org/>
<http://webmineral.com/>

Fossil Facts & Finds
<http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com/>

The Virtual Fossil Museum
<http://www.fossilmuseum.net/>

Paleontology Portal
<http://www.paleoportal.org/>

National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall Of Fame
<http://www.rockhoundhalloffame.org/>

International Colored Gemstone Association
<http://www.gemstone.org/>

Ready To Cab
<http://www.readytocab.com/>

The KAMics - rockhounding & other cartoons
http://www.drunkduck.com/The_KAMics/