

Welcome Friends and Rockhounds

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The Petrified Digest

December, 2024

Merry Christmas



The Club's Annual Christmas Party will be at our December Meeting on the 20th at 6:00 pm, one hour earlier than our typical start time. The club has purchased two hams. As of the writing of this newsletter, We still need a club member to volunteer to cook them. If you would be willing to do that it would be greatly appreciated.

Please come if you can and remember to bring either a side dish or a desert.



Lapidary Corner

Featuring Don Deycous

Don told me that he started playing around with rockhounding in the mid 1970s. Along with his father-in-law, Arlie Christian, he joined the Ginkgo Mineral Society in the early 1980s. A few years after that, he started making calibrated cabochons. Don didn't like the fact that using a template to fashion cabs created a lot of waste, so he decided to learn how to do silversmithing.

The only issue was that he didn't know how to do it and there weren't any classes he could take. That being the case, Don taught himself. He said, "The first few attempts were kind of rough but I kept at it." As his skill level grew, he made bracelets, earrings, rings and pendants; featuring single and multiple free formed stones. A few years later, he entered a bola tie with a fire agate set in sterling silver in the Chelan County Fair. It took Best of Show.

Don began subscribing to Rock and Gem Magazine about 50 years ago. He has donated some of these to the club and they have been used as raffle prizes. Unfortunately, he lost a lot of the early issues in a fire. The national publication had a feature titled, Craftsman of the Month. Don submitted photos of a business card holder that was made of Saddle Mountain Petrified Wood for consideration and he was selected as the Craftsman of the Month for August 2011.

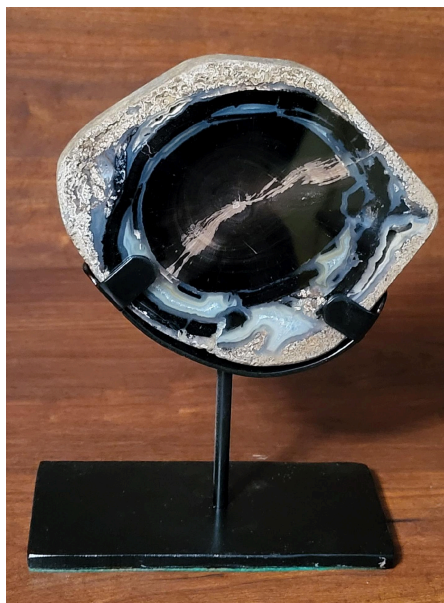
Don explained that he used to have a booth set up on C Street in front of the Court House in Ephrata where he sold his wares. He wanted a better way to display his business cards and that led to him creating the pet wood card holder.

Nine years ago, Don and his wife Arla, took a Viking Grand European 16-day River Cruise on the Danube River. The cruise started in Amsterdam and concluded in Budapest. After the cruise, they spent a couple more days in Budapest before returning home. Don said that they stayed at a fairly new Hilton Hotel. He went on to say that when they did the excavation for the construction, they found some artifacts that were on display at the hotel. Along with the artifacts, there were two slabs of petrified wood that were mounted on customized metal stands.

Don said, "I have been to Rock Shows all over the country and I had never seen displays like those." He went on to say, "I can't believe that I had to travel all the way to Hungary to see those kinds of displays." Of course, this led him to determine to make similar displays.

Don had spent many years at Saddle Mountain searching for and finding Petrified Wood, so he had plenty of raw material. He also has a 24 inch saw that he made himself about 10 years ago. He told me that, at the time, the blade cost \$550 back then. He said that he made this saw to replace an 18-inch Highland Park saw so he could cut larger material. He also already had an angled flat lap grinder with a water attachment that used self-adhering diamond pads ranging in grit from 50 to 13,000. He used cerium oxide on felt to achieve the final mirror finish. Don also owned a metal saw that made clean cuts that he used for various projects. It was used to cut the metal for the stands. He then used a wire-feed welder to construct the pieces.

Pictured below are some his wonderful displays. Please note the way Don custom built the stands to cradle each specimen. The first one is Carnelian Agate that Don thinks came from the westside of the mountains. He explained that carnelian had been found on Weyerhaeuser land that had been clearcut. After it was logged off, new trees were planted. Then people went up there and dug up not only agate but also a lot of the young trees. This prompted the installation of a gate across the road and a sign that read, "Survivors Will Be Prosecuted!" Don can't say for sure that this was the source of this piece as he bought it but this is his best guess. The second piece is Pet Wood from Wyoming that he bought at an estate sale. The other specimens were collected by Don on Saddle Mountain.





From the Scribe

November 15th Ginkgo Meeting was called to order by V.P. Derek Corder at 7:14pm

October minutes were approved as published and the treasurer report was read.

Pam Lander provided an update on our Christmas wrapping event being held December 21st to 23rd at the Wenatchee Valley Mall in Sportsman's Warehouse. Three people are still needed for Sunday 22nd from 1-6pm. We will not be wrapping Friday 20th so everyone can enjoy the Christmas party.

Our Christmas party will be held Friday December 20th at 6pm. We will have a potluck style dinner with the club supplying two hams and a gift exchange with a \$20 suggested limit. We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to cook 2 hams.

Brenda Jackson reported 60 people were called for board member nominations resulting in 11 nominations, some being duplicates. Nominations are as follows; President-Melisha Maxey, Vice President-none, Treasurer -David Earhart, and Secretary – Liz Hemberry. The floor was opened to nominations and Brenda Jackson volunteered for the vice president position. Rick Lechner offered a unanimous vote that nominees be approved as presented, the club approved. Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your dedication to our club! Here's to a great 2025!

Melisha Maxey briefly went over the Fred Meyer rewards program for non-profit organizations. If you shop at Fred Meyer the club can receive funds based on your shopping that will not affect personal rewards in any way. If you're interested in signing up to help the club earn free money, please see a board member or Marica Summers.

Show & tell – Brenda Jackson brought a nice green yard rock, Ken Sly brought some Red Top material, Rick Lechner showed off his Slab'asaurus- a rock holding device for lapidary slab saws that will withstand the tests of time, all while holding onto your rocks like the jaws of a T-Rex. They have their own Facebook page that you need to check out!

Jodi Rose donated two 5-gallon buckets of "yard rock" to the club to be sold at the meeting for \$5 each, these were purchased by Diana Rhodes and Margie Porterfield.

Door prize was won by Jodi Rose and Rick Lechner won the raffle. Three donated books were won by Beth Shaw, Diana Rhodes, and Jodi Rose.

There was no presentation this month.

The meeting took a break for refreshments and "towel sale" shopping for items brought by members. Jodi Rose, Ken Sly, Carol Smith, Carl Pederson, and Janet Clark all brought various items from raw stones to shoes. My apologies to those I missed, I was so excited to look at all the goodies that I forgot to write it all down.

The meeting was not technically adjourned but never reconvened after snacks and shopping.

Melisha Maxey, Secretary

Towel Sale

The Annual Towel Sale where members bring all sorts of things to sell or trade was held at the November meeting. There were raw stones, finished products and much more. This event provides a great opportunity to not only see what others are making and to acquire some cool stuff but also a great opportunity to get to know one another.

Where's the Equipment

Several of our members have graciously provided homes for our shop equipment. They will make the equipment available to Club members by appointment so we can still cut and polish the stones we collect. Below is a list of equipment with phone numbers to call to arrange an agreeable time:

R John Montgomery: A Genie and trim saw 509-860-2762

Jodi Rose: A Genie and trim saw 509-763-9402
 Carl Pederson: A Genie, an 18-inch slab saw (\$2.00 per cut), 10 inch slab saw, faceting machine 509-630-8239. If you need slabs cut contact Carl, he may be able to cut them for you.
 Marcia Summers: A slant lap.509-860-7556

From the Vault

As of December 12, 2024	
3 CDs	\$13,277.24
Savings Account	\$2,086.87
Checking as of 11-1-2024	\$5,647.89
1 Deposit	\$253.36
2 Checks Written (Rent)	(\$140.00)
Ending Balance As of December 1, 2024	\$5,761.25

David's Notes
 Membership dues for 2025 can be paid now.

Individual: \$20.00
 Family: \$40.00
 Senior (one): \$15.00

Marketplace

		
Custom Ellensburg Blue Contact Carol Smith 509.884.3349 for some very reasonably priced items		

The Ginkgo Mineral Society was formed to promote the education of mineralogy and geology; to encourage the collecting of rocks and minerals; to provide field excursions to mineral collecting areas; and to promote interest in lapidary work.

We are a 501c7 organization and are not "charitable" in nature but are a membership organization formed to serve its own members. 501c7 organizations do not solicit charitable donations. As long as a social club is "organized for pleasure, recreation or other non-profit purposes" it can qualify as exempt from federal income tax.

Annual Dues: Individual-\$20.00, Senior-\$15.00, Family-\$40.00, Lifetime (20 plus years)-Free. Please mail your dues to Ginkgo P.O. Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807.

Club information cards are available to handout to folks who show interest in our hobby. See David Earhart for cards to carry with you.

[Learn more](#)

Next Meeting:

December 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm
 Presbyterian Church
 200 S. Kentucky, East Wenatchee

Email ideas, trip notes or photos
 to: Lizhemberry@hotmail.com Website:
www.wenatcheerockclub.org
 Facebook page: Ginkgo Mineral Society

Club Officers

President..... Melisha Maxey.....509-885-2996
 Vice President..... Brenda Jackson..... 509-884-5135
 Secretary..... Liz Hemberry..... 509-699-9450
 Treasurer..... David Earhart..... 509-860-0988

Coordinators

Marcia Summers..... Membership..... 509-860-7556
 David Earhart..... Nason Creek..... 509-860-0988
 Pam Lander..... Christmas Wrap, Grit..... 509-884-5135
 Carl Pederson..... Shop and Equipment..... 509-630-8239
 Melisha Maxey..... Rock Auction.....509-885-2996
 Brenda Jackson..... Social Chairperson..... 509-884-5320
 Susan Oglebay..... Club Website..... 509-754-2665
 Thea Stender.....Museum..... 509-630-1391
 R John Montgomery.....Chelan County Fair.....509-860-2762
 Ken Hemberry..... Newsletter..... 509-699-9450
 Cheri McMillan.....Facebook Page Admin.....509-860-0009



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