

Welcome Friends and Rockhounds

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The Petrified Digest

November, 2024

Meet Your Fellow Club Members

Susan Oglebay



Susan Oglebay grew up in Maryland right next door to Washington DC. She was always attracted to rocks as a kid. She told me that her older brother played little league baseball and that while his games were going on, she would wander around looking for shiny rocks. It was while doing this that she found her first crystals. When she got a little older-she guesses around 12 or so, she would catch a bus to the Smithsonian Institute. She loved the gift shop there because it had lots of rocks and minerals for sale and she was a very willing customer.

After graduating high school, Susan attended the University of South Carolina with the intention of becoming a veterinarian, as she has always had a love of animals as you can see from the picture above. While there, she obtained a degree in psychology and earned about 90 percent of the credits necessary to also get a degree in chemistry. Many years later, she attended the University of Maryland to complete the chemistry degree.

She planned to pursue a master's degree but she changed her mind and opted instead to attend law school at George Washington University in DC. Her first job after law school, was with the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. She had an intense interest in doing legal aid work, so this was a good fit for her.

It was sometime in the 1980s that she was asked by a colleague to form a private law practice which she agreed to do. A few years later, she accepted the position of Assistant Commonwealth Attorney of Virginia. This job which was essentially as a prosecuting attorney was half-time, allowing her to continue with her private practice. She told me, "When I was in Virginia, I found lots of interesting jaspers that were brought in with other material to line the railroad tracks." She went on to say that she wasn't sure exactly where the jasper came from, though it was quite likely somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains. It was around this same time that she purchased a Thumler Rock Tumbler that she saw in a catalog.

Susan also worked for the United Mine Workers of American District 28. There, she expanded her base of knowledge to include Black Lung litigation, worker's compensation and some collective bargaining for when the miners would go on strike. She continued in private practice, where she had occasion to work on a couple of First Amendment cases until 2008, when she left to move to Lincoln County, WA. She put her career on hold for a year and then took a job with the Grant County Public Defense. She moved to Ephrata in 2009 and has been there ever since. Susan retired from the Public Defenders Office in 2020 which was the same year that she joined the Ginkgo Mineral Society.

Susan joined the online group, rocktumbling.com. She explained to me that the group focuses on all types of lapidary and not just tumbling. One day, Susan saw a post from a very talented wire wrapper named Tela Formosa, who wanted to trade wire wrapping for some finished cabs. Susan responded and that led the two of them to not just exchanging cabs and wrapped pieces but also becoming online friends and eventually meeting in person. Tela taught Susan the art of wire wrapping and when Tela decided to write a book focusing on wrapping designs, she asked Susan to edit it. Of course, Susan agreed. Sadly, the book is no longer available for purchase, but Susan is happy that she still has a copy.

Susan has been cabbing and wire wrapping since approximately 2010. She said, "I started making jewelry for an excuse to play with rocks." She added that she gets a lot of inspiration from rocktumbling.com but that she designs all

of the pieces herself. She then went on to say, "I start by sketching the piece five or six times but it always turns out differently than what I originally sketched because although I'm comfortable with designing, I'm lousy at the execution of the design and often have to make modifications because the original design wouldn't work."

Susan will sometimes wrap a piece for someone else. She said that she never charges to do it and that she also gives her jewelry to friends. I asked her if she ever sold any of her pieces. Her response was, "rarely." She went on to say, "I usually donate them for the Animal SOS Auction so they can pull dogs from death row and perform free spaying and neutering." A lot have also been donated to Animal Aid Unlimited (a rescue and treatment for street animals in India, although the founders are from Seattle.) Like I said at the beginning of this story, she's an animal lover.

Lapidary Corner

This month we are featuring the lapidary work of Susan Oglebay. All of the wire wrapping in these pieces was done by her. In addition, she also does some soldering and forming. Most of the stones were shaped and polished by her as well. If you would like to have your lapidary pieces in the newsletter let me know by calling or texting: 509-699-9450, or emailing: lizhemberry@hotmail.com



Halloween themed pendant that Susan made for a maker's challenge. An agate serves as the backdrop. I love the carnelian bead that represents a spooky moon.



This piece also has an agate backdrop for the Tree of Life with garnet chips, rose quartz and spinell beads. Susan made this as a gift for a friend who lost her husband. The grandparents are at the bottom, the children in rose quartz and the great grandchildren at the top.



This is a piece of tumbled carnelian left over from another project. It is wrapped with gold filled wire.



Pyrite in matrix with gold filled wire.



Necklace with diamond shaped fluorite beads and sterling silver wire.



Lapis with copper wire. I think this is my favorite piece.



Blue Mountain jasper with copper wrapping.

From the Scribe

October Ginkgo meeting was called to order 10/18/24 at 7:05 by Vice President Derek Corder. The September minutes were approved as published, the treasurer report was reviewed and approved.

David Earhart reported the shop space offered by club members is still occupied with no ETA of when it may be available or the what the fee would be for us to rent it for a workshop space.

Board member nominations are currently taking place. Brenda Jackson, Pam Lander, and Ken and Liz Hemberry have called members to ask for nominations.

Pam Lander reported our annual gift-wrapping fundraiser at the Wenatchee Vally Mall scheduled to begin Friday 12/20 will be a bit different this year as another group will be wrapping on Monday 12/23. Pam will be looking for a minimum of 12 volunteers to gift wrap and will discuss details about the fundraiser at the November meeting. On a side note, this event raised \$1400 last year, which went into a CD gaining 5% interest for the club. BIG thank you Pam for leading the group, all the helpers along the way, and David Earhart for making our funds grow. Susan Oglebay has lots of boxes to donate and will coordinate with Melisha Maxey for pick up.

There was no presentation this month. If you have presentation ideas or would like to give a presentation, please contact Derek Corder at 425-270-0221.

There was a short discussion about the current website and having a new one made. We currently pay \$130 a year for our domain name & website hosting. Melisha Maxey talked to Firefly, who does not make websites but referred us to a gentleman who estimated \$750 to build something similar to our current site plus a \$40 monthly maintenance fee. Chris Shaw was not at the meeting to give us an update on this contact. An idea of a website with separate public and private access was discussed. Ken Hemberry is going to look into some local options and report back.

Ken Hemberry would like to add a lapidary section to the newsletter that would feature a member and their projects.

All members are welcome to bring their wares to sell at the November meeting, it's a great time to do some holiday shopping!

The 2025 refreshment sign-up sheet went around, if you didn't get a chance to sign up, please consider doing so at the next meeting. October spooktacular refreshments were provided by Bob and Peggy Grant and Ozzie Reeves.

We had two new members sign up; Ari Rahmani and Vicky Briseno- welcome!

Show and Tell: Robert Russell brought a beach agate from Birch Bay in Blaine, Bob Grant brought obsidian from Glass Butte Oregon, showed some knapper discards, and a large point he purchased for \$10 at a Walla Walla show, Vicky Briseno brought a small piece of petrified wood covered in drusy from Saddle Mountain, Melisha and Aurora Maxey brought this years agate nodules from Red Top, petrified wood from Saddle Mountain, concretions from Banks Lake, and garnets from the Huckleberry Garnet Mine in Idaho, Ron Payne brought basalt embedded with agate and discussed hounding the Maury Mountain area, and last but certainly not least John Reinhofer brought an impressive 24 sided garnet with schist that must have weighted at least 4lbs!

Door prize was won by Aurora Maxey, raffle was won by Melisha Maxey. Winners of donated items were; Bob Grant won a slab and Flint Rigge flint, Ken Hemberry won Unakite, David Earhart won Turritella, Sondra Jolly won Serpentine, and Brenda Jackson won a slab. The Turritella, Flint Ridge Flint, and Unakite was donated by Susan Ogelbay.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45
Melisha Maxey, Secretary

Buy, Sell, Trade

November's meeting will feature an event where members can sell rocks, minerals, slabs, cabs, or other things. You can buy, or trade; whatever works. This is a fun thing that gives everyone a chance to show off their stuff, check out other stuff and interact with with one another.

Upcoming Nominations

Nominations will be made and club officers will be elected at our November meeting on the 15th. Phone calls were made to gauge interest and to allow nominations to be made and we have had the following individuals willing to serve:

President: Melisha Maxey
Vice President: No nominations yet
Treasurer: David Earhart
Secretary: Liz Hemberry

Other people can be nominated at the meeting so feel free to do so. As you can see, we have had no one step forward to run in the VP position. Please consider doing so.

Brenda Jackson

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 Sommers: A slant lap. 509-860-7556

From the Vault

As of October 31, 2024	
3 CDs	\$13,118.23
Savings Account	\$2,086.70
Checking	\$5,376.89
1 Deposit	\$318.00
1 Check Written	(\$70.00)
Ending Balance As of October 31, 2024	\$5,624.89

David's Notes

Cost to Join the Club:

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:

November 15, 2024 at 7:00 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..... Vacant
Vice President..... Derek Corder..... 425-270-0221
Secretary..... Melisha Maxey..... 509-885-2996
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..... 509-885-0988
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
Sarah Collamore..... Facebook Page Admin..... 808-365-3555



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