



BUGLE



Published by
RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB
Box 6, Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9

Editor: Gordon Burkholder
Format Design: Janet Burkholder

Volume 27
Copy 11
November 2016

Regular monthly meeting
2nd Friday each month at 7:30 pm
(Except June, July & August)
Craft Room, Campbell River Community Hall
401-11th Ave
Campbell River, BC



RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB

RIPPLE ROCK EXECUTIVE 2016

President	Kathy Young	250-285-3343
Vice-President	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Past President	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
Secretary	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388
Treasurer	Dennis Cambrey	250-337-8949
Wagonmaster	Shane Mawhinney	250-285-3465
Assistant Wagonmaster(s)	Ken Palmblad	
Show Chair	Pat Doyle	
Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance		
Entertainment		250-285-2377
Publicity	Diane Cooper	250-830-0889
Bugle Editor & Distribution	Gordon Burkholder	250-923-1740
Non-Executive Positions		
Webpage Manager	Janet Burkholder	info@ripplerockgemand mineralclub.com
Library	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
Showcase	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Jack and Jan Boyes	
Basic Lapidary Instructor	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Jan Boyes
Intermediate	Ulla Williams
Junior	Up for election

WORKSHOP

Shop located at 246 Dahl Rd.
 For general shop info contact
Beba Adams 250-926-0044
**The workshop hours are posted on the
 club website.**
www.ripplerockgemandmineralclub.com

MEMBERSHIPS

A single membership is \$15.00 and a family is \$25.00. Memberships may be paid at the *General meetings* or by mail to Box 6 Campbell River, BC, V9W 4Z9.

NOTICE of Meeting date change

Because of the Remembrance Day holiday the monthly meeting of our club will be on Thursday, **November 10** at 7:30 in the Craft Room at the Community Centre. Please make sure you remember this important change.



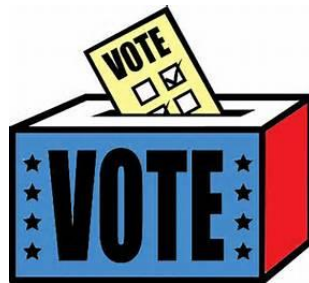
Election Reminder

Club Elections are held in November and the nominations for the positions should be made this month. We need members to volunteer for the executive positions of:

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Show Chair
Assistant Show Chair Shop Foreperson Shop Maintenance
Wagon Master Assistant Wagonmaster Club Publicity

Entertainment Chair Junior Zone Representative and Bugle Editor.

Several of the existing executive members are willing to stay on in some position but a sustainable organization needs new people to come forward with their own ideas and opinions. Please consider becoming a member of the executive and get your nomination at the meeting on Friday.



Gemboree Report

The Gemboree will be brought up at the Zone meeting being held in Parksville at the residence of Marion Barclay. Clubs will be asked to ensure that the promotion of the Gemboree is made a part of their monthly meeting.

Our committee has some needs and asks members to save blue jean legs to be sewn into handbags for registrants. These totes will be sewn by Linda Henderson and she could use some assistance so get hold of her if you'd like to sew some totes.

Each tote will be 'filled' with a variety of items and we could use tumbled rocks and small pieces of cut rock from our members. Start saving them now, please.



If you have a source of cheap or free 2 gallon pails with good handles for putting rocks in while on field trips, please let Gord Burkholder know. We could use about 20 for the field trips.



Christmas Pot luck Dinner

The annual pot luck dinner will be held on the regular meeting day in December. It will begin at 6:30 in the lounge which is right next to the craft room across the hall. Prepare your favorite dish to share with your fellows. More details will be provided at the November meeting so be there or read the minutes which will be sent out. You will all need to bring along your plates and cutlery and a beverage.



Club Web Site

The Club is looking for someone to take over the website duties. Janet Burkholder will continue to update the web page until someone takes over for her. Please contact Janet for information about this position.



Community Outreach

Wayne and Dagmar Hughes have completed their teaching session with the young folks at the Community Access Service center. Here's their report.

The Community Access Services for Children and Youth - an after school program under the Campbell River and District Community Living Association of children with developmental disabilities, were given the opportunity to make gem trees this past week. The Ripple Rock club arranged with Agnes King, supervisor, to donate the rock bases with copper wire trees. Gems were provided to complete the trees. We helped

set up each person and they enjoyed watching the avid concentration to get their tree just right. They were all artistic and beautiful. All but one young person kept the trees for themselves in their bedroom. One mother got a gift 😊.



Editor's Note

This edition of the 'Bugle' features some information on stone carving. Our club has many members who have worked with soapstone and we have a large set of rasps located at the shop. There is usually a class for carvers held each year and soapstone can be purchased from Eagle Gem in Courtenay.

Gordon Burkholder

Quotable Quote *What experience and history teach us is this- that people and governments have never learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it. Georg Hegel (1770-1831)*

SOAPSTONE



Rough soapstone for carving

Soapstone *from Wikipedia*

Also known as steatite or *soap rock* is a talc-schist, which is a type of metamorphic rock. It is largely composed of the mineral talc and is thus rich in magnesium. It is produced by dynamo thermal metamorphism and metasomatism, which occurs in the zones where tectonic plates are subducted, changing rocks by heat and pressure, with influx of fluids, but without melting. It has been a medium for carving for thousands of years.

Soapstone is relatively soft because of its high talc content, talc having a definitional value of 1 on the Mohs hardness scale. Softer grades may feel soapy when touched, hence the name. There is no fixed hardness for soapstone because the amount of talc it contains varies widely, from as little as 30% for architectural grades such as those used on countertops, to as much as 80% for carving grades. Common, non-architectural grades of soapstone can just barely be scratched with a fingernail and are thus considered to have a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs scale. If a candidate rock cannot be scratched with a knife blade (hardness of 5.5), it is not soapstone.

Some Soapstone History *from geology.com*

People have quarried soapstone for thousands of years. Native Americans in eastern North America used the soft rock to make bowls, cooking slabs,

smoking pipes, and ornaments as early as the Late Archaic Period (3000 to 5000 years ago). Native Americans on the west coast traveled in canoes from the mainland to San Clemente Island (60 miles offshore!) to obtain soapstone for cooking bowls and effigy carving as early as 8000 years ago.

The people of Scandinavia began using soapstone during the Stone Age, and it helped them enter the Bronze Age when they discovered that it could be easily carved into molds for casting metal objects such as knife blades and spearheads. They were among the first to discover the ability of soapstone to absorb heat and radiate it slowly. That discovery inspired them to make soapstone cooking pots, bowls, cooking slabs, and hearth liners.

Throughout the world, in locations where the soapstone is exposed at the surface, it was one of the first rocks to be quarried. Soapstone's special properties continue to make it the "material of choice" for a wide variety of uses

<http://geology.com/rocks/soapstone.shtml>



Carving Soapstone

by Kathleen McGiveron

Step 1 Create a work area by cleaning off a flat surface to use for your carving and covering it with newspapers. Put on your safety glasses. This is an important step for any type of carving that you do and will help you to **protect** your eyes. Decide on a design. When you look at your soapstone, you might "see" your design within the stone. Once you decide on the design you will carve, sketch it onto the soapstone with a pencil.

Step 2 Cut out all unneeded soapstone using a small wood saw. This should give you a rough estimate of what your sculpture will look like. Take

off any **damaged** areas of soapstone with a wood rasp before you start carving. Use a hacksaw to remove large amounts of soapstone.

Step 3 Use a drill to make holes for areas that need to be cut out in the middle of the piece, such as around the legs of an animal sculpture. This is called pointing. Drill the holes 1/2 the depth of the stone and drill them very close together. You can then use a chisel to remove the exact amount of stone that you wish.

Step 4 Remove the broken stone so that you can see the area that you are working with. You can draw a center line on your sculpture so that your symmetry will be nice and even.

Step 5 Use files to shape your sculpture into the design you want. You should use your file tools to create detail in your design.

Step 6 Rub wet/dry sandpaper over your soapstone carving. Use fresh water with each new piece of sandpaper.

Step 7 Warm your sculpture in the oven at 200 degrees for 10 minutes. This will soften up the soapstone for polishing. Use furniture polish and a soft cloth to polish your sculpture.

More ways of polishing soapstone

- Remove the file marks by sanding, using 220 or 240-wet/dry sandpaper. This sanding is done wet. Hold the carving in one hand, wet the carving and the sandpaper in a container of water and begin sanding the carving with the sandpaper. The white mud that develops should be rinsed off in the container of water regularly, as it slows down the sanding process. Hold on to your carving as wet, smooth soapstone can be very slippery.
- Wet sanding is done until all the file marks have been removed. File marks show as white lines on your green stone.
- For a high polish, additional sanding can be done using a 1000 or greater wet/dry sandpaper. The way to judge if you have missed an area is by feel, the missed areas will feel rough. After completion of the wet sanding, rinse the carving and allow drying. The carving will turn gray when it is dry.

Polishing Soapstone with wax

- 4. Place the carving in a oven and heat to 250 ° F. Try not to heat over 300 ° F. High temperatures will not hurt the stone, (Soapstone can take temperatures of 1700 ° F without any ill effect) but the beeswax will evaporate at 300 ° F.
- 5. Remove the carving from the oven using gloves. Melt the bee's wax onto the carving by holding it against the hot stone. Spread the wax over the carving with a small soft piece of cloth. When the carving has been fully waxed, allow the carving to cool.
- 6. As the carving cools, the surface of the carving will turn from shiny to dull. At this point, the wax has turned from liquid to a soft solid. This is the time to begin wiping down the carving and remove the excess wax on the surface of the stone.
- 7. After the excess wax has been wiped off, allow the carving to fully cool. You may now polish the carving with a soft cloth sprayed with Pledge; this will bring up a high shine on the carving.

Polishing Soapstone with oil

- 4. Using a soft cloth, wipe on a light coat of boiled linseed oil. Tung oil or Danish oil can also be used. Do not apply heavy coats or the oil will become gummy and hard to polish. Wipe off the excess oil and allow drying. A new product for polishing is Howard Feed-N-Wax (available at Home Depot).
- 5. When the oil has dried, buff with a cotton or flannel cloth to polish.

Anniversary Gifts

Here are some of the traditional suggestions for anniversary gifts

- 25th silver
- 40th rubies or garnets
- 45th sapphires or tourmalines
- 50th gold
- 55th emeralds or turquoise
- 60th + diamonds

Seems the longer you're together the more expensive the gifts. What does that tell you?

Significant Inventions and technological advances

I came upon my old (1989) version of the New York Public Library Desk Reference and I looked up some interesting things about significant events in history. I focused on rock or mineral related things and found:

BC 4500 working of copper by the Rudna Glava in Yugoslavia

3500 gold mining by the Mesopotamians

100 stone bridges made by Romans

AD 80 magnetism China

1410 wire by Rodolph of Nuremberg

1565 graphite pencil Konrad Gesner

1732 copper – zinc alloy Christopher Pinchbeck

1735 platinum Don Antonio de Ulloa de la Torre

1771 fluorine Karl Scheele

1774 barium K. Scheele

1782 tellurium Fran Muller

1789 Uranium and Zirconium Martin Klaproth

1828 beryllium Fredrick Wohler

1852 fluorescence George Stokes

1854 Paleozoic fossils Adam Sedgwick

1902 radium Pierre and Marie Curie

1908 Bakelite Leo Baekeland

1971 quartz digital watch George Theiss and Willy Crabtree



Dig it!