



BUGLE



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RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB
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Editor: Gordon Burkholder
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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 2015

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Vice-President	Linda Henderson	250-286-1718
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Secretary	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388
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Shop Coordinator	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Shop Maintenance		
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Slab Draw/Collection	Beba Adams	250-926-0044
Coffee Break	Melissa Ticknor	
Basic Lapidary Instructor	Steve Cooley	250-287-4388

Delegates to Vancouver Island Zone Meetings

Senior	Gordon Burkholder
Intermediate	Jan Boyes
Junior	Ulla Williams

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.

President

Welcome to another year of Rock Hounding, Lapidary work and Club fun! I'd like to give a special welcome to all the new members who joined up at or after the show in June. I look forward to getting to know you through the year and hope that your involvement proves to be a rewarding experience.

Kathy Young

Vice President

From the Library

Check out the information available to you as a club member on the website. The library list is located there. Books, magazines and other related items can be checked out for a month by members. Let me know what you'd like to read and we'll make arrangements for you to get it.

Linda Henderson

Show Report

A message from a grateful Show Chair

It has been a real joy to work with such dedicated people. Our show committee worked endlessly to get the show on the "road". No one was ever too tired to attend yet another meeting or turned me down when I asked them to look after more and more details. My thanks to the team, Linda Henderson, Diane Cooper, Melissa Ticknor, Gord Billings and Beba Adams.

I would also like to applaud all the club members who pitched in to help whenever they were asked and all those that showed up on Friday night and transformed the gym then came on Saturday and Sunday to look after a table (or two!) and were still there when it was time to take it all down. It simply could not be done without all of your efforts.

I would also like to thank Jan Burkholder for answering my endless emails even while she was in Mexico. And last but not least by any means I would like to send out many bouquets of rocks to my right hand man Harry Kerr who helped with so many things I can't begin to tell you.

Molly Milroy

Kids' Corner

Approximately 80 children who came through the show to the "Kid's Corner" from Campbell River and area have some very special treasures that they either made or won. It was very touching to see the children walk off with their parents laden with the "creative creatures" that they made, bags of polished rocks and crystals that they could purchase for just \$2:00 a bag. For a donation the children also got to make Gem Trees that Dagmar and Wayne spent many days getting ready for. There was also an educational section, free, donated by Dennis Cambrey where the children could match up rocks with their names by using a chart and cut pieces of rock. These were then glued into the correct place on the map of Vancouver Island. These were also piled into mom's or dad's arms to be taken home as a reference. Many children made pendants from the materials Beba donated and Saturday saw many kids wearing a special necklace that they made themselves. The moms didn't have to carry these because the kids could wear them right away.

I wonder how many of Monday's Show and Tell and Journal writing had lots to do with Rocks at Campbell River Schools.

Linda Henderson

Gem Tree Station

We made 60 trees ahead and they were used fully at the end of day one. We made another 46 trees between Sat. night and during Sunday show and used 42. After washing slabs and setting up, each tree takes ½ hr. to make to 'glued on slab' stage and then drying.

Total trees decorated by kids and teens: 102. Boys and girls were interested, and this was a confidence building exercise for all since it's a no fail activity and the outcome was always beautiful.

Wayne and Dagmar Hughes

Zone Report

As the club responsible for chairing the Zone for the next 2 years we have held our first 3 meetings. Gordon Billings acted as chair in my absence. Jan Boyes is the Secretary and Ulla Williams is treasurer. Our latest meeting was held in August at Jack and Jan Boyes. Delegates from Victoria, Duncan, Parksville, Cowichan and Campbell River met to give club reports and to discuss business related to the Zone. The social aspect of such meetings is very important as we get to know or renew acquaintances with members of other Island clubs.

The business of the Zone had a lot to do with finances and some ideas about how to keep our clubs running and relevant and fresh. The exchange of ideas and the asking of pertinent questions generated a lot of good discussion. Each delegate took from this what they could to inform their own executives and club members.

The biggest item for discussion was the upcoming Gemboree which the Zone is hosting this year. Its format is different in that it will only be a one-day event and the main activity will be an auction of donated items. The Gemboree is slated for September 19 2015 from 11:00 – 3:00 at the Cedar Grove RV Park in Parksville. Each club will be responsible for providing a good number of items for auction and for assisting with the actual event. All proceeds will go to the Zone coffers to pay for expenses and operation costs. All members of Island Clubs are encouraged to attend and camping is available on site. For more details contact your Zone reps.

As chair of the Zone, I will be attending the BCLS meeting held in Abbotsford in October to deliver a report.

The next Zone meeting will be in November in Parksville at the home of Marion Barclay.

Gordon Burkholder, Senior Zone Delegate

Web Site Data from the Web Master

The Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club's website is the place to go for information about our club and its activities. It is also a repository of past club information and issues of the Bugle, the on-line home of our newsletter, a venue to sell used equipment, a place to advertise your own web page or interests and a good spot to visit regularly regarding field trips and news items that occur between "Bugle" issues. A list of library materials is also stored in the pages of the website. There are feature articles and biographic information on some special club members as well.

Copy the url and paste it into your browser and then bookmark this page for easy access. www.riplerockgemandmineralclub.com

Janet Burkholder

Editor's Message

This year it will be my goal to provide you with articles and information to pique your interest and add to your knowledge of rocks, lapidary, gems, and the formation of our earth. Once again I am sending out an invitation to you to be a contributing member by submitting articles and photos. Please email them to me at gdburk1953@gmail.com If you want to check out past issues of the "Bugle" go to the website www.riplerockgemandmineralclub.com that is maintained by Janet Burkholder. Her work in providing this forum is invaluable. Thanks, Jan!

It will again this year be my goal to have the "Bugle" emailed to all members by the Monday prior to our general meeting. If you don't receive one then please check with me to ensure your email address is correct. Dennis Cambrey, Steve Cooley and I all keep a copy of emails and it sometimes happens that there is a 'typo'. Steve will be sending out the hard copies to members without email and this may cause some delays in their arrival to you.

This fall and winter, Jan and I will be exploring the eastern parts of Arizona and I'll keep you up to date on the goings on there. Have a great time exploring the world of rocks!

Gordon Burkholder

Quotable quote:

Children have a natural antipathy to books - handicraft should be the basis of education. Boys and girls should be taught to use their hands to make something, and they would be less apt to destroy and be mischievous. *Oscar Wilde*

FROM THE SHOP

Visible Scribe Markings

Here's an interesting way to keep all of your score marks visible during your lapidary work on the saw and wheels. It comes from the workshop of **Max Baaske** who passed last year. He used pens to inscribe his shape and then went over them with clear fingernail polish. The marks stay true for the duration of the cabochon process.

Hold that Rock!

To keep uneven rocks in place during the slabbing process use wedges driven in around the rock to provide more surfaces for the vice to grip. I use this technique in my 24, 18 and 12 inch saws and it has proven to be the difference between a good cut and a broken blade many times.

Lacquer Polish

Some rocks which aren't formed into a smooth cabochon finish can be lacquered to give their faces a polished look. There are many products available to accomplish this effect. Visit your favorite hardware store and ask what they'd recommend.

Replacement of Genie Wheels

There are 2 types of wheels on a Genie. The diamonds on metal wheels are called and the Nova wheels are diamond on a rubber backing. The diamond is glued onto each wheel and after use gets worn away and needs replacing. The use of water and in some cases an additive to make the water adhere more effectively as well as proper technique gives the wheels a longer life. Even with proper usage the wheels will have to be replaced at some point.

Changing the wheels requires that they be taken off their spindles and the spacers removed. New wheels are set back on the spindles and spacers replaced. It is a good idea to thoroughly clean the machine of all dust and residue at this time.

The wheels can be reversed at a mid-way point in their wear to extend their life. Care is needed to ensure that the spaces between the wheels are maintained in order to allow the user maximum distance between the grinding surfaces.

Quote:

After all is said and done, more is said than done. *Aesop*

GEM OF THE MONTH

Sapphire



The Logan Sapphire Brooch, the second largest sapphire known (at 422.99 carats), is on display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Image Credit: Andrew Bossi

The sapphire, birthstone for September, is a relative of July's birthstone, ruby. Like ruby, it is a form of the mineral corundum, a normally drab grey mineral. Red corundum is called the ruby, while all other gem quality forms of corundum are called sapphires.

Typically, sapphires appear as blue stones, ranging from very pale blue to deep indigo, due to the presence of small amounts of titanium and iron within the crystal structure. The most valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires also occur in other natural colors and tints – colorless, gray, yellow, pale pink, orange, green, violet and brown – called fancy sapphires. These different colors are caused by different

kinds of impurities within the crystal. For example, yellow sapphires get their color from ferric iron, and colorless gems have no contaminants.

The biggest source of sapphires world-wide is Australia, especially New South Wales and Queensland. Found in alluvial deposits of weathered basalt, Australian sapphires typically are blue stones with a dark and inky appearance. Kashmir, in India, used to be a well-known source of the cornflower-blue stones. In the United States, a major source is the Yogo Gulch Mine in Montana that mostly yields small stones for industrial use.

The word sapphire has its roots in several ancient languages: the Arabic safir, the Latin sapphirus (meaning blue), and the Greek word sappheiros for the island of Sappherine in the Arabian Sea where sapphires were found in ancient Grecian times. Ancient Persians called sapphire the “Celestial Stone.” It was the gem of Apollo, Greek God of prophecies and was worn by worshipers visiting his shrine in Delphi to seek his help. It was used by ancient Etruscans as far back as the 7th century B.C.

The sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, it was worn by priests as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. It was believed that the stone’s color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die. The French of the 13th century believed that sapphire transformed stupidity to wisdom, and irritability to good temper.

One of the most famous sapphires rests on the Imperial State Crown, worn by Queen Victoria in 1838. It resides in the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. This gem is called the St. Edward’s Sapphire because it once belonged to Edward the Confessor, who wore the stone on a ring during his coronation in 1042.

(source; earthsky.org/earth/September-birthstone-sapphire)

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine

I went to Montana a few years back and visited the Eldorado Mine. One of the things they prospect for is sapphires from the Spokane Bar in the Colorado River. I bought a 50 pound bag of gravel from the bar for \$75 and was shown how to ‘pan’ for the sapphires. We had fun looking through the gravel and imagining what it would be like to find our own sapphires! Here’s a link to their website that will show how it’s done. Check it out! http://huntforgems.com/minerals/el_dorado.html

Quote:

I'm not confused. I'm just well mixed. *Robert Frost*

WHAT'S THAT ROCK?

Jasper



Jasper, an aggregate of micro quartz and/or chalcedony and other mineral phases, is an opaque, impure variety of silica, usually red, yellow, brown or green in colour although rarely blue. The common red colour is due to iron inclusions.



The mineral aggregate breaks with a smooth surface and is used for ornamentation or as a gemstone. It can be highly polished.



The specific gravity of jasper is typically 2.5 to 2.9. Along with heliotrope, jasper is one of the traditional birthstones for March.

(Source; en.wikipedia.org · Text under CC-BY-SA license)

Thought for the day:

The best path through life is the highway. - *Henri Frederic Amiel*

WELCOME “NEW” MEMBERS

Membership

Club membership has increased since the annual show. I'd like to welcome these folks and families to our Club;

Pam Chaney, John, Devitt and Linda Fisher, Elijah Juhala, Andy & Debbie Leclerc, Katherine & Roy McBrien, Gillian McCallum, Kathy, Calkins and Richard Pagliardi, Robin Rae, Valerie, Tino and Sherbrooke Romita, and Janice Williams.

Dennis Cambrey

FROM THE CUTTING FLOOR

Wet Polishing Rocks and Slabs

I took a step in a different direction this summer after working on polishing some faces of the rocks I've been using as homes for my wire trees. For the most part my Genie isn't capable of handling these jobs. A wet grinder system is the answer. I investigated various wet grinders and talked to several people including carver, Mike Boas about the one he uses. His preference is the Makita but at appx \$400 I wanted something more economical. So, I went online and found many suppliers of a variety of grinders that fit my parameters. I settled (but hopefully didn't settle for) on a Rotoblast model. It cost

under \$200 and came with a set of pads. It has variable speed settings, comes with a GFI breaker and is quite light at around 4 Kgs.



I have begun to get used to using this new tool and have had some interesting results so far. I am working on a piece of onyx, a flat flower stone rock and several pieces of banded chert. As a bonus I am also using the polisher to finish a cement slab that I made for the hearth on our outdoor fireplace. The project pictured is for a young fellow from Sayward and is a quartz rock he found while working in the bush.



I like the results but there are a few things about doing rocks this way that are problematic. First is the mess that is made by grinding rocks in a tub and having water splashing and splattering all around you! My walls and the fence and my clothes have all had to be washed after each session. Second is what to do with all the rock dust? The sludge that accumulates at the bottom of the tub must be drained and spread around after each session. Can't wash that down the drain! Finally, the amount of effort and work that is required to get a good result is quite large. I spent several hours getting the rough grind done on the onyx and still have 5 more grits to go through before it's done. Good thing I'm retired!

For more information about wet grinding systems, see Doug Murray's article on the wet polishing system he uses for doing large slabs for the clocks he makes. Check out his system on the club website.

Final Thought:

You don't have to be a person of influence to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they've taught me. - *Scott Adams*