

02/20/07 West side board meeting minutes

President Mike Messenger opened the meeting at 7:40pm

Stu presented the treasurer's report in Kathy's absence.

Wagonmaster's report:

Stu is working on organizing a trip for talc tentatively set for mid March. He's in the process of getting the necessary permission from the land owners. He reported that there was a lot of good light and dark green material at the sites he visited. The trip information will be posted on the website.

Ed reported that about 40 people attended the Walker Valley field trip on 2/10. Lots of smallish geodes were found and everyone went home happy with their finds.

Ed also reported that the Cedar Ponds trip was attended by about a dozen collectors. Everyone did well and one piece of jasper weighing about 60 pounds was collected.

Stu reported that the Twin Rivers locality is still producing lots of fossils. Especially interesting are the finger size fossilized razor clams that have been tumbled in the surf. They are well agatized and are very attractive.

There was no old business to discuss.

New business:

Diane Rose sent information on two collecting trips to the Emerald Creek garnet site in June and September. The trip size is limited to 50 people each day. Those wishing to attend must be pre-registered. The dates are June 16-17 and September 22-23. As more information becomes available it will be posted on the website.

Ed Lehman talked about his plans to produce a CD version of the map booklets. The CD would include color pictures of the rough and finished materials and pictures of the collecting sites. He would like to know if the Mineral Council would be willing to help produce the new "book". Ed will try to demo a sample from the CD at the next combined meeting to solicit comments.

Stu will verify the 3/20 meeting date with the Palace Cafe

The board needs to finalize the meeting dates and places for the remainder of the 2007 Combined meetings.

News:

Mike reported that Longview Fiber has been purchased by Brookings. It is unclear whether or not land access will change. Mike will monitor the situation.

Meeting adjourned,

Submitted by

Glenn Morita, Secretary Pro-Tem

Enhanced, Treated, Heated, Dyed, Stabilized, Created, Irradiated, Fake?

by Deborah Pfanz

Gemstones and semiprecious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them 'more' colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them 'fake'; however one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

Heat Treated this is the most common treatment and is as old as fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem material to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye is turned blue or red. Carnelian turns orange-red. Aquamarine may go from green-blue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned a deep blue. It is also used to enhance the 'color change' gems such as tanzanite.

Dyed this is also a very common practice. Agate is dyed to get fancy pinks, purples, oranges, and blues—eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is sold as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charoite. Turquoise and Jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

Irradiation while topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

Stabilized Opals are often stabilized—either by filling such as with Opticon resin (similar agent) or by capping either as a doublet or triplet.

Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for filling and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon, which are more permanent than the natural oils were. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

Created - this is a touchy subject for some folks. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl just helped to grow by a human. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones. They just weren't grown in the earth.

So what is the answer: Real or FAKE? This 'real vs. fake' can be argued with all sides being technically correct.. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been 'helped along' by the human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gem smith, jeweler, or crafts person know what you are using?

The beauty and art that we create with these stones is being helped along by our touch, much as it was to first get our attention. There is beauty in the knowing—be sure to share that with those around you.

From Carny Hound 02/07, via Rock Chipp 6/01, via The Quarry 10/04, via The Rock Collector 11/04 via Breccia November 2004

Field Trip Report - Cedar Ponds

January 20, 2007

What a beautiful day! The anticipation of going on the first field trip of the year is finally here. Over the past few weeks the weather at times had been not the best for hiking or searching for crystals. Not really what I would want when trying to get a good fossil plate, but just fine for any rock hound to grab a shovel and pick and go get some Jasper. Now, Jasper is found in many places, in a wide variety of colors, sometimes in the float, and sometimes in the harder ground. The Jasper we hope to find at Cedar Ponds is a blend of many colors with interesting patterns.

Our Club hosted this Field Trip, and what fun I had, and everyone else appeared to be having fun too. We met at the Jack in the Box in Monroe at 9:00am. We had members from a few other clubs, and some new rock hounds who had not been on a "Rock Expedition" before. Maybe you thought you might go, but then didn't know what to bring. The most important thing to bring is a good attitude.

You won't go wrong with a shovel, a pack or bucket, and a willingness to learn. On the www.mineralcouncil.org website there are sample tool kits of what you may want to bring, depending on the type of trip you are doing.

The group drove past the entrance to the Jasper area, we stopped and parked there. The group drove up a short distance with Ed, and hunted for a fossil find. After spending some time looking for fossils, they came back and hiked the 1 mile to the Jasper area. The road still had ice & snow in many, or a lot of places, so we didn't get to the crystal area. Crystals may be hard to see through a layer of snow and ice, I'm not sure, just a hunch. We didn't wait for the group to get back from searching for fossils; we were excited to start looking for the Jasper. The road or trail had snow on it, so anyone following could just follow the imprints, kind of like tracking Big Foot. Sometimes I wonder if it is the digging and searching, hoping to find something, or if it is the friendship and fun of being around other Rock Hounds that I enjoy more. The most common area for digging has good tree cover, so snow & ice was no problem at the dig site. Some of the group left about 2:30, while others still had visions of the big dig on the brain. The day went by fast, the weather was perfect, and many of us hiked out at dark. Some of the best things of this trip happened towards the end of the day, and you would need to be there to get that feeling.

Respectfully submitted by Ken, MRGC

From Stone Age News 02/07

The Garnet Group

by Mary Fraser

The garnet group is made up of silicate minerals with similar crystal structure. They have a hardness of 6.5 - 7.5, streak white, a luster vitreous, greasy, or resinous, and are transparent to opaque, coming in all colors except blue. They occur in gneiss mica schists, dolomitic metamorphic rocks, and frequently in sands. They are rare in igneous rocks. The occurrence is worldwide. Garnets are used as grinding and polishing agents and as gemstones.

The garnet groups are divided into two series of minerals: pyralspite series named after its three members pyrope, almandine, spessartite and ugrandite series named after uvarovite, grossularite, and andradite.

Almandine: (iron aluminum) common garnet. Forms in schist in areas of regional metamorphism. Colors are brown, red-violet, and almost black.

Andradite: (Calcium-iron) occurs in metamorphic rocks. Colors are brown-black (melanite), colorless, green (demantoid), and yellow.

Grossularite: (calcium-aluminum) found in metamorphosed impure limestones and limy shales where aluminum is high and iron is low. Colors

include colorless, green (tsavorite variety), yellowish, brown, red, and brown-orange (hessonite variety).

Pyrope: (magnesium-aluminum) also known as carbuncle, bohemian garnet, and cape ruby. Pyrope occurs in silica poor rocks such as kimberlites. Colors are red, brown-red, and the rose-red (rhodolite variety).

Spessartite: (manganese-aluminum) associated with manganese ores of metamorphic origins. Colors are yellow, orange, and red-brown.

Uvarovite: (calcium-chromium) origin is metamorphic. Its color is emerald green from chromium.

Garnets are among the commonest minerals. They crystallize in the cubic system as 12-sided dodecahedrons or 24-sided trapezohedrons or a combination of both.

In ancient times garnets were called carbuncles. Ancient Egyptians valued them as ornamental stones and they were considered to be the bearers of well being and family harmony. Greek and Roman citizens believed the bearer to be favored with inheritance. Garnets are found on the Breastplate of Aaron. It is said these "stones of health" extract negative energy from the chakras and transmit it to the beneficial state. Also known as the "stone of commitment" garnets monitor and adjust the flow of energy around the physical body and align the emotional and intellectual bodies. Garnet is also reported to enhance the assimilation of iodine, calcium, magnesium, and vitamins A, D, & E into the body.

From eTumbler 02/07, via Breccia, 3/06; via Grindings, 9/04; from Rockin' Around, 3/02

A Brief Guide to Geologic Literature

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writings, are defined below for your enlightenment.

It has been long known: I haven't bothered to check the references

It is known: I believe

It is believed: I think

It is generally believed: My colleagues and I think

There has been some discussion: Nobody agrees with me

It can be shown: Take my word for it

It is proven: It agrees with something mathematical

Of great theoretical importance: I find it interesting

Of great practical importance: This justifies my employment

Of great historical importance: This ought to make me famous

Some samples were chosen for study: The others didn't make sense

Typical results are shown: The best results are shown

Correct within order of magnitude: Wrong

The values were obtained empirically: The values were obtained by accident

The results are inconclusive: The results seem to disprove my hypothesis

Additional work is required: Someone else can work out the details

From Teddy Adkins, Geologist, Unit Petroleum Company