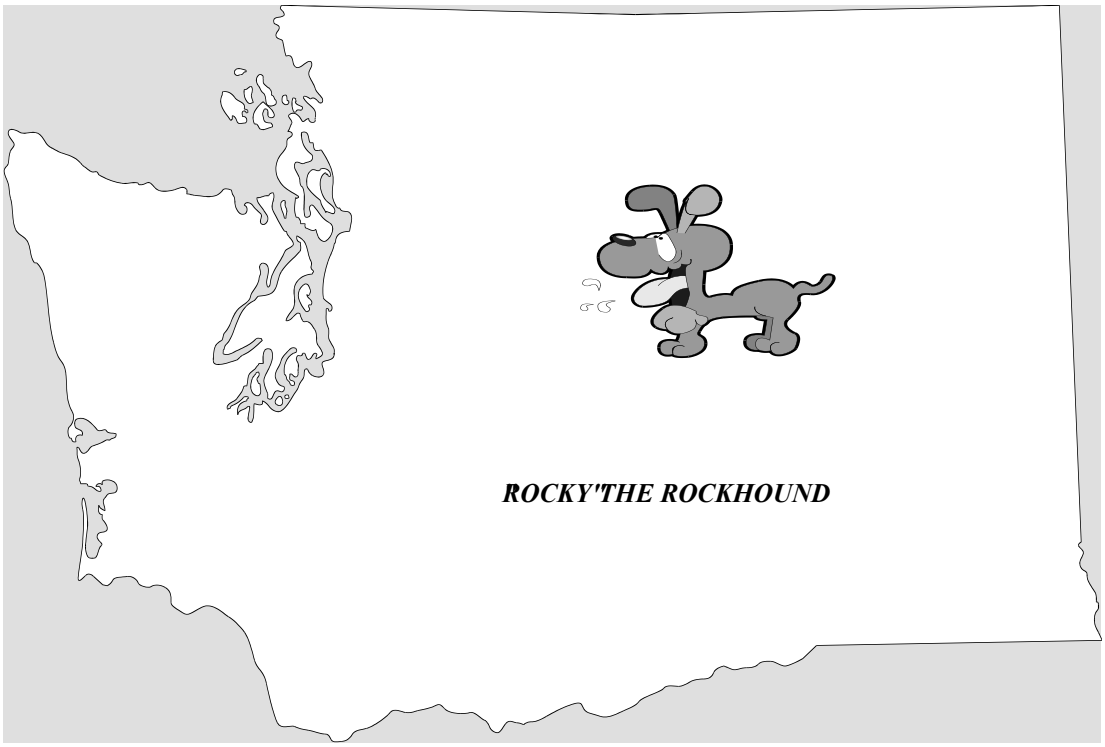
The Council Reporter

Volume 32, Issue 2 *February2012*



Official Publication of the Washington State Mineral Council

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
2011 OFFICERS

OFFICERS

President	Brian Waters	bwaterss2011@gmail.com	(206) 290-2312
VP	Michael Shaw	mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com	(509) 244-8542
2nd VP	Brad Johnson		
Secretary	Christina Morrisey	cmvw@frontier.com	(425) 398-1300
Treasurer	Kathy Earnst	earnstkk@comcast.net	(360) 856-0588
Imm Past Pres:	Andy Johnson	washatonian2@hotmail.com	(509) 546-1950

TRUSTEES --- EAST SIDE

Steve Townsend	srtrocks@aol.com	(11-12-13)	(509)-933-2236
Howard Walter	1 S. 56th Ave, Yakima, WA 98908-3107	(12-13-14)	(509) 972-3437
Dale Geer	P.O. Box 34, Moxie, WA 98936	(12-13-14)	(509) 248-6975
Krisanne Gray	E. 1012 Indiana Ave., Spokane, WA 99207	(11-12-13)	(509) 701-3519
Timothy DeGrie	rockhound5555@yahoo.com	(10-11-12)	

TRUSTEES --- WEST SIDE

Ed Lehman	9120 20th St. SE, Lake Stevens, WA 98285	(10-11-12)	(425) 334-6282
Bill Moser	5130-142nd PL NE, Marysville, WA. 98271	(10-11-12)	(425)-238-8222
Stu Earnst	27871 Minkler Road Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	(12-13-14)	(360) 856-0588
Bob Pattie	4316 N. E. 10th, Renton, WA 98059	(12-13-14)	(425) 226-3154
Glenn Morita	4528 152nd Pl SW, Lynnwood, WA 98087	(11-12-13)	(425) 743-6249
Lisa Waters	bwaterss2011@gmail.com	(11-12-13)	(206) 290-2312

STAFF

Editor	Glenn Morita	4528 152nd Pl SW, Lynnwood, WA 98087	(425) 743-6249
Historian	Jackie Pattie	4316 N. E. 10th, Renton, WA 98059	(425) 226-3154
Wagonmaster	open		

The West Side Board meets the third Tuesday of each month between Quarterly meetings, unless a meeting is specially called. Usually no meeting in July and December dependent on Board action.

MAILING ADDRESS
Washington State Mineral Council
27871 Minkler Road
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

WEB PAGE ADDRESS
http://www.mineralcouncil.org
Editor's e-mail address
gmorita@seanet.com

Westside Board Meeting Minutes 02/21/12

Brian Waters opened the meeting at 7:45 pm

There was no treasurer's report

Wagonmaster:
Ed Lehman reported on the recent field trips.

The Beaver Valley trip was attended by about 20 people. Ed says that the new collecting are has material in veins as opposed the nodules in the old area. One person was able to collected a large piece of vein material weighing several pounds.

The Cedar Ponds trip had about 24 people attend even though the weather forecast was for heavy rain. Most of the folks did OK.

The next trip is to Saddle Mtn on 3/11 for opal and petrified wood.

Ed reported that there is a new database search engine on the BLM website for getting information on mining claims. The URL is: http://www.blm.gov/lr2000/. It's not a user friendly as the previous database search tool.

New business:
Brian reported that Andy Johnson wants some material to display in the WSMC mineral display case for the Federation show in Kennewick on May 18-20.

A question was brought up by Lisa Waters about putting in a display of material at the Cabela's store in Lacey. She said that the Flint Knappers have one on display with their work. Lisa said she thought the displays may be permanent. The board asked Lisa to contact Cabela's to get more information.

Brian reported that there is talk of a new club forming in the Chehalis area. Ed also mentioned that the recently formed Darrington club will start having regular meetings next month.

Bob Pattie is volunteering his time to represent the hobby to Washington DNR Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Planning Area committee. More information can be found at the DNR website: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/News/Pages/2012_01_23_recplan_snoq.aspx

Bob suggested that we propose a test site for the DNR to assess the impact of rock collecting at a known location. The DNR could then determine usage patterns, demographics, and environmental impact. The idea is to show the DNR that the impact of rock collecting is generally low, is highly seasonal, and that a wide range of people with many different backgrounds engage in this activity.

Old business:
The WMSC asks every club to send their contact information to the Editor. We need to keep our e-mail list current if important information is to be disseminated in a timely manner.

Submitted by Glenn Morita,

March 31, 2012
Combined Board Meeting
AGENDA

Pres. Opening of Meeting
Treasurer's Report
◊ Kathy Earnst
Committee Reports
◊ Wagonmaster
Old Business
New Business
Open Comments
Adjourn

Preliminary Meeting Calendar for 2012

West side board meetings:
1/17, 2/21, 4/17, 6/19, 10/16

At 7:30PM at the
Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds

General meetings :
3/31, 5/5, 9/22, 11/3

All general meetings will be held at:

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg
Meeting @ 9:30 AM

Secretary Pro-Tem

CHRYSOPRASE

By George Downey

Most rockhounders fully appreciate the Chalcedony group of gem quartzes. But, probably most of us would agree that all quartzes are not created equal. Then, with bias, there are those among us who would agree that the most unequal and the most highly prized among these is the naturally occurring microcrystalline variety of quartz designated as bright apple- green Chrysoprase (think Granny Smith or the rare Wyoming apple green jadeite).

Historically, Chrysoprase has been prized over the centuries: From the times when it decorated one of the foundations of the 12 walls of Jerusalem; from Roman and Greek times when it was used for cameos and intaglios; from ancient Egyptian times when it was made into beads, etc.; from many European countries over the years where it was used lavishly until most of the mines played out and the material became prohibitively expensive; from Fabrege's time when he used top quality Chrysoprase in some of his best jewelry; and on into the present times when it is cut en cabochon for jewelry or for carving. First class material is comparatively rare and expensive.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The name ―Chrysoprase comes from the Greek―chrysos meaning golden and―prason meaning leek. This was an old name that applied to stones used for ornamentation and was broadly applied to several yellowish green gemstones such as Beryl, etc.. But, it has eventually narrowed down to designate green Chrysoprase.

Early on, gem Chrysoprase, because of its beautiful translucent green color and its very fine texture was thought possibly to be green imperial Jadeite. There are some similarities, but big differences. Gem Chrysoprase has a color range from the prized apple-green to a dense green. It owes its coloration to staining by nickel oxide compounds. This is unlike other green stones which derive their coloration from staining by chromium or vanadium.

Chrysoprase's chemical composition is silicon dioxide or SIO2. It registers at 6.5 – 7.0 on the MOHS scale, a specific gravity of 2.58 – 2.64, and a refractive index of 1.530 – 1.539. It can be transparent to translucent to opaque. Its microscopic fibers have a radial structure resulting in an opalescent glow. It takes an out-standing polish. It is a very forgiving stone which can be cut quite thinly to transmit an ambient light. For faceters, it can be interesting to facet for special effects.

Since about 1960, the finest quality Chrysoprase primarily comes from Queensland and Western Australia. Other deposits of Chrysoprase have been found in Germany, Brazil, India, South Africa, the Ural in Russia, and the United States (e.g. Arizona, California, and Oregon).

There are a couple of cautions. Chalcedony can be colored green to simulate Chrysoprase. This practice is patently fraudulent. Equally fraudulent is the practice of dyeing it to intensify poorer quality Chrysoprase. So, be sure of your source.

From Stone Age News, 02/12

Malachite

by Lawrence H. Skelton

Most readers are probably familiar with the mineral malachite. Well-known to the ancient world, this hydrous copper carbonate, Cu2CO3 (OH)2, usually occurs in copper deposits that are associated with limestone. Malachite is bright green, often a swirling mixture of various shades of green and forms as crusts on other copper-based minerals and as banded stalactitic or botryoidal masses. Crystallizing in the monoclinic system, its needle-shaped crystals are usually indistinct and form in tufts, rosettes or as a velvety blanket. Hardness and specific gravity range from 3.5 to 4.0 and 3.0 to 4.03 respectively. Streak is pale green and luster is adamantine to glassy in crystals and frequently silky in the fibrous botryoidal (grape-like) forms. Like other carbonate minerals, malachite effervesces on application of acid, a characteristic that allows it to be distinguished from other green copper minerals. The name malachite is generally considered to derive from the Greek "malakhe" which refers to the green leaf color of the mallow plant.

Malachite is a supergene mineral; that is, one formed by descending water acting in a relatively shallow or oxidation zone. When ground water containing carbon dioxide obtained from overlying organic or atmospheric sources trickles downward and contacts native copper or copper sulfide deposits, or when water carrying dissolved copper contacts limestone, chemical reactions cause two cupric copper ions to react with a carbonate ion released from the water or from the limestone and precipitate as malachite. Widespread limestone beds and copper deposits in some areas have permitted formation of massive deposits of malachite. In the 1830s, a mass of malachite discovered approximately 100 miles north of Ekaterinburg, Russia, at the Demidoff Mine yielded a mass of malachite estimated to weigh 70 tons. James D. Dana in his 1854 text (p.282) cited a similar find at Nischne Tagiksk, Siberia, which "partly dis-closed, measured at top 9 feet [2.7 m] by 18 feet [5.5 m]; and the portion uncovered contained at least half a million pounds of pure malachite." The largest reported malachite deposit was the "Green Hill" found in the 1890s at the Tsumeb Mine in northern Namibia. That mass, now completely mined out, measured 36 feet (12 m) high, 130 feet (40 m) wide and 590 feet (180 m) deep and was composed of solid malachite with some azurite and a "few minor copper minerals."

The major modern source of malachite is the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire). It is estimated that "99% of all [presently available] lapidary grade malachite" is from there. Important American sources are mines at Bisbee and Morenci, Arizona. Kunz in 1892 wrote of a 15 pound mass from a mine at Bisbee. Ford, in 1948, cited the Globe District in Arizona, Tintic District in Utah, Berks County in Pennsylvania and Ducktown in Tennessee as sources of malachite. Australian resources are at Broken Hill in New South Wales.

The presence of such massive volumes made malachite available to the ancient world as a source of metallic copper and a decorative stone which are among today's uses. The earliest reported record of malachite is that of the southern Nile Valley Baderian Culture (ca. 4500 B.C.) where the green mineral was powdered and likely used for eye shadow. Around 500 years later, Egyptians farther north on the Nile were mining malachite in the Sinai Desert near Suez. They too used it for eye shadow as well as wearing it as an amulet for protection from cholera, an endemic disease there. Malachite was sacred to the goddess Hathor and, according to hieroglyphs found in archeological remains, the Sinai mines were dedicated to her. The ancient Greeks used malachite for amulets and jewelry. Wearing of malachite was thought to protect the wearer against evil spirits. Pliny (23 – 79A.D) reported that the temple of Diana (or Artemis) at Ephesus was decorated with malachite which was thought to protect women during childbirth. During the classical period, it was considered a "woman's stone" and was dedicated to Venus by the Romans, to Aphrodite by the Greeks and to Freya by northern Europeans. Pliny noted that malachite was "imported from Arabia." Malachite's frequent concentric banding lent it to another talismanic purpose: protection from the evil eye, a use still practiced in some parts of the world.

There is lack of consensus on the location of King Solomon's copper mines but the main contenders are ancient mining areas of Timna near the Gulf of Eilat and Khibat en-Nahas south of the Dead Sea. Malachite and chalcocite (copper sulfide) occur at Eilat and malachite and cuprite (copper oxide) are reported at Khibat en-Nahas. All these ores are easily smelted to metallic copper using primitive methods and ancient evidence of such smelting is found at both sites.

In Europe during the Middle Ages, malachite was worn as protection against sorcery and black magic and especially was considered to protect children and travelers. It also was used as a green pigment by artists in both 9th and 10th century Europe and western China. Such use died out during the latter Middle Ages but picked up again during the Renaissance. Artists found it of optimum use mixed in egg-base tempera and learned to control the shades of green by adding other

(Continued on page 6)

Local Area Shows for 2012

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
March 2012 3rd 10am - 6pm 4th 10am - 5pm	East KingCo Club	Annual Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah, WA
March 2012 3rd 9am - 6pm 4th 9am - 5pm	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society	58th Annual Rock & Gem Show	O'Conner Field House Canyon Co. Fairgrounds 2200 Blaine Caldwell, Idaho
March 2012 10th 9am—6pm 11th 10am—5pm	Magic Valley Gem Club	61st Annual Show	Twin Falls Co., Fairgrounds 215 Fair Ave., Filer, ID
March 2012 17th 10am—5pm 18th 10am—5pm	North Seattle Lapidary And Mineral Club	57th Annual show	Lake City Community Center 12531 28th Ave. NE, Seattle
March 2012 31st 10am - 6pm April 1st 10am - 5pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society	64th Annual Rock & Mineral Show	Sweet Home High School Activity Gym handicap parking 1641 Long St. Sweet Home, OR
March 2012 31st 10am - 6pm April 1st 10am - 5pm	Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club	51st Rock and Gem Show	Bloedel-Donovan Park 2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA
March 2012 31st 10am - 6pm April 1st 10am - 5pm	SE Idaho Gem and Mineral Club	55th Annual show	Bannock County Fairgrounds 10588 Ifft Rd Pocatello, ID
April 2012 20th 9am—6pm 21st 10am—6pm 22nd 10am –4:30pm	Willamette Agate and Mineral Society	57th Annual show	Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S Hwy 99 (Pacific Hy) - 10 miles west of Salem Rickreall, Oregon
April 2012 21st 10am—5pm 22nd 10am –5pm	West Seattle Rock Club	45nd Annual Rock Show	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. (W Seattle), WA
April 2012 28th 10am - 5pm 29th 10am - 5pm	Grays Harbor Gem & Geology Society	44th Annual Earth's Treasures	Grays Harbor County fairgrounds 43 Elma/McCleary Rd. Elma, WA
April 2012 28th 10am - 6pm 29th 10am - 4pm	Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society	Annual Gem and Mineral Show	Hermiston Conference Center 415 S Hwy 395 Hermiston, OR. 97838
May 2012 4th 10am—6pm 5th 10am—6pm 6th 10am - 4pm	Spokane Rock Rollers	53rd Annual show	Spokane County Fair and Expo Center 604 N Havana Spokane, WA
May 2012 18th 10am - 5pm 19th 10am - 5pm 20th 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club	2012 NFMS Annual Gem Show Rock'N the Country No Leaverites Here!	Benton Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak St. Kennewick, WA
June 2012 2nd 10am—6pm 3rd 10am—5pm	Everett Rock and Gem Club	59th Annual show	Everett Soccer Arena 2201 California St Everett, WA
June 2012 2nd 9am—5pm 3rd 10am—4pm	North Idaho Mineral Club	Annual show	Kootenai County Fair and Event Center Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
August 2012 11th 9am—5pm 12th 10am—5pm	Maplewood Rock And Gem Club	6th Annual Rock and Mineral Sale	Maplewood clubhouse 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, WA

TENTATIVE LIST OF WSMC FIELD TRIPS FOR 2012 - (May be altered during the year. Please check back often.)

The WSMC sponsors field trips through various rock clubs in the state. These trips offer the general public as well as the experienced rockhound the opportunity to collect a wide variety of materials from agate and jasper to crystals and fossils. Experienced guides familiar with the sites are on-hand to help find good quality material. Check with the local clubs in your area for further information. ***AREAS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO COLLECTING: LUCAS CREEK, ADNA, DIATOM PITS (FRENCHMAN HILLS).*** **No motorized vehicles allowed: Green Mountain (Kalama) and First Creek.**

Check out the trip info, and tool listings at: mineralcouncil.org. **Updated: November 14, 2011**

Date	Host	Site	Meet @	Material	Tools
1/28	Msvl	**Bvr Vlly Quarry**	10:30@ Pt Ludlow C of Comm (93 Beaver Valley Rd)	**Chert, Zeolites,Geodes**	Hard rock tools
2/18	Msvl	**Cedar Ponds**	9:00 @ Monroe, WA Jack 'n Box	**Red & Yellow Jasper**	Dig & light hard rock
3/11	Evt/LkSd	**Sadl Mtn/Dtm Pts**	9:00 @ Mattawa, WA-Harvest Foods	**Pet. Wood & Diat. opal**	Light & dig tools
4/14	MtBk	**Racehorse Crk**	9:00 @ Nugent's Corner,E of Bellnham	**Fossils; Morel mshrms**	Dig, light, & split tools
4/21-22	Pow-Wow	**Saddle Mtn**	8:00 @ Boat launch: S. Mattawa	**Petr. Wood**	Light hard rock & dig tools
5/19-20	Msvl	**Wasco, OR**	8:00 @ Biggs Junction,OR; Shell Gas	**China Hollow Pic Jasp($)**	**Regstr.Opens 3/16/12; $25 Deposit**
6/13-16	Tri-Fed	**Idaho**	TBD		Contact Fed. Representative
6/23	Spkn	**Emerald Crk, ID**	8:00 @ Emerald Crk Parking Area	**Star Garnets ($ Fee dig)**	Old clothes, Ziploc bag/$fee dig
6/27-7/1	Pow-Wow	**Madras, OR**	8:00 @ Jefferson Fair Grounds	**Agate, jasper, wood, T-eggs($)**	Dig & light tools
7/21	Msvl/Dar	**Darrington**	10:00@ Rock Show behind IGA Store	**Travertine & Spelunking**	Hard rock dig, dress for water
7/28	WSea	**Lk Wenatchee**	9:00 @ Coles Corner Gas Sta.	**Garnets, actinolite, talc**	Screen, wood saw, dig tools
8/4	Yak	**Timberwolf Mtn**	9:00 @ Ace Hardware, Naches, WA	**Quartz Crystals**	Shovel, pick, rock hammer
8/11	Spkn	**Lolo Pass, ID**	8:00 @ Lolo Hot Springs Pkng Lot	**Smoky Quartz Crystals**	Shovel & pick (lots of digging)
8/18-19	NW Op	**Greenwater**	9:00 @ Enumclaw Rngr Station	**Agate, Jasper**	Dig & light hard rock
9/8-9	Pow-Wow	**Red Top**	8:00 @ W Frk Teanaway Camp	**Geodes, Agate, jade**	Dig & light hard rock
9/15	NW Op	**Little Nachese**	9:00 @ TBD	**Thunder eggs, Rhyolite**	Dig & light hard rock
10/6	Spkn	**Chewelah Area**	9:00 @ Chewelah Safeway	**Magnesite, Var. Minerals**	Container, and rock hammer
10/27	Msvl	**Miller Rvr**	9:00 @ Hwy 2, Money Crk Campgrnd	**Picture Jasper**	Rock Hammer & Container
11/10	MtBk	**Blanchard Hill**	9:00 @ I-5 exit 240, Gas Mart	**Stilpnomelane in Quartz**	Hard rock tools

(* Deposit must be received no later than 30 days before trip date to reserve spot; deposit fully refundable.) Participants must be age 16 or older; no children or pets, please; maximum of 40 participants so get your reservations in early!)

ALWAYS CALL TO CONFIRM TRIP DATES AND DETAILS!!— SEE BELOW

Abbreviation	Host	Contact	E-mail
Evt	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Brad Johnson (206) 403-3073	cavemanrocks@yahoo.com
LkSd	Lakeside Gem & Min Club	Andy Johnson (509) 546-1950	washatonian2@hotmail.com
Msvl	Marysville Rock Club	Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282	wsmced@hotmail.com
Msvl-Wasco trip		Stu & Kathy Earnst (360) 856-0588	earnstkk@comcast.net
		27871 Minkler Rd, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	
MtBk	Mt Baker Rock Club	Kris Menger (360) 927-0994	kmenger@ comcast.net
Nw Op	NW Opal Association	Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238	ynotbandit@earthlink.net
Pow-Wow	All Rockhounds Club	Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433	cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com
Spkn	Rock Rollers of Spokane	Mike Shaw (509) 251-1574	mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com
WSea	West Seattle Rock & Gem Club	Brian Waters (206) 290-2312	bwaterss2011@gmail.com
Yak	Yakima Rock & Min Club	Jerry Wichstrom (509) 653-2787	jewtmew@aol.com

Trips are open to all. Most 2 day trips include Sat potluck, Sun free breakfast, tailgating, swap, and horse shoes. Small fee required for Pow Wow and Madras trips. FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Ed Lehman at *wsmced@hotmail.com* or (425) 334-6282. Or see mineralcouncil.org

(Continued from page 4)

crushed light colored carbonates.

The use of malachite as an artistic pigment disappeared early in the 19th Century when it was replaced by synthetic pigments; however, it continued to be used as a green pigment in ordinary paint. After discovery of the massive deposits in Russia, malachite was used czarist artisans both as an exotic carving material and as a veneer on wall panels, tabletops and other furniture. Used as a veneer, great care was taken to fit thin slices so that banding inherent to malachite would appear continuous and unbroken on the finished object. Eight of the ten 10 meter (33 feet) high Corinthian columns in St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia are carved from malachite. (The other two columns are carved lapis lazuli.)

Lapidaries cut malachite gemstones for jewelry purposes but its inherent softness lends its use mainly to ear-rings, pendants and jewelry which is protected from raps and scratches. It should be wet cut since the dust is toxic. Over-heating while cutting or polishing can result in oxidation and black streaks. The author has had best results by hand polishing on leather with Linde A© powder. Malachite remains a popular carving material, principally by artists in China and Africa. Its green swirls and bands have been duplicated in glass that is both cheaper and more easily formed. The bulk of modern production of this lovely mineral however is used as copper ore.

from CMS eTumbler, 02/12 via *The Tumbler Page 8 February 2012*

References cited:

Curner, Rick, 2002. Into the Heart of Darkness: Searching for Minerals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mineralogical Record, v.53, Nov – Dec 2002, p. 473 – 487.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Attention all newsletter editors

To all newsletter editors could you please print this in your next newsletter, and the rest of you could you forward it on to your newsletter editors?

Early this year I tried to contact as many rock hounds in Washington State that I could through the various club newsletters and e-mail lists. This is the follow up to that.

As most of you know HB 2600 was given a hearing in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Despite the low number of rock hounds that showed up and the even smaller number of us that testified this hearing actually went well. I don't remember everyone that showed up at the hearing to support the bill, but thanks to all that did. The rock hounds that testified in favor of the bill were Me, Brian Waters, representing the WSMC, James Keffer, representing the Puget Sound Knappers, and Christina Morrisey, representing the Marysville Rock and Gem Club.

That hearing was on January 27th. On January 31st the bill was passed out of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, but before it was it was amended so that the only state agency that would be effected was the DNR. The WDFW and the State Parks were taken out of the bill, and the limits for collecting rocks was lowered to 25 lbs per day and 250 lbs per year. At this point the WSMC and PSK no longer supported the bill because the collecting limits were too low and the state agency that we really wanted to target with these bills, the WDFW, was taken out of the bill.

HB 2600 actually made it out of another committee after it had been amended, but it was amended one more time during that process so that if it did not have a funding source by June 30th of this year the bill would be null and void. Since we no longer supported the bill that was fine with us.

SB 6057 never made it out of the Senate Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters Committee.

Therefore, at this point, we are no longer asking people to contact their state legislators to support these bills.

Since this time members of the WSMC and the PSK have met with people in the DNR. The meeting was actually requested by both the WSMC and the DNR almost simultaneously. Both of us felt that we could work together to find a solution to our problem of collecting on state lands without having to go through the legislative process. At least we felt we could do this with the DNR, if not the WDFW.

Our meeting went well, though it seems that it was a kind of "getting to know you",meeting and that we are really starting from scratch in this process with the DNR. At the meeting we discussed our desire for collecting on state lands and explained who rock hounds are and what we do, and the DNR expressed their concerns. I think both sides left the meeting with the feeling that we could work together so that amateur rock collecting will be allowed on DNR lands. We left the meeting agreeing to meet again after the legislative session and come back with some ideas that we can discuss.

The DNR representatives also expressed that while they are totally separate agencies than the WDFW and State Parks that by working with them we may be able to make some inroads with the other agencies.

To wrap this up, I have two requests of the Washington State rock hounding community.

First, if any of your state Senators or Representatives wrote or co-sponsored either of these bills please contact them and thank them for doing so. The Senators were Senators Honeyford, Hatfield, Becker, Schoesler, Shin, Delvin. The Representatives are Representatives Bailey, Blake, Chandler, Kelley, Goodman, Anderson, Reykdal. If you are still uncertain on whom your state legislators are you can find out here: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

Second, if you know of any places on state lands , whether they are DNR, WDFW or State Parks where there is material that rock hounds would be interested in collecting please let me or someone from the WSMC or PSK know.

The reason for this is that at the meeting with the DNR we had spoke with them of the possibility of setting up one or more designated areas for amateur rock collecting that could be used as test sites for several years. The other reason is that the legislature has in the past made both the WDFW and the State Parks do a two year study to see if certain activities such as gold prospecting on salt water beaches would be practical within each of the agencies mandates. This may be a route that we might want to take in the future.

Thanks to everyone that wrote letters, made phone calls, talked to folks or went to Olympia. Without your support none of this would have been possible.

Brian Waters
President
Washington State Mineral Council

Dues are due

Combined Board Meeting
March 31, 2012
9:30 AM

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The
Washington State Mineral Council

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
27871 Minkler Road
Sedro Woolley, WA. 98284

1st
Class Mail