



Corundum



Blood red corundum is called a ruby and is the rarest, most valuable gemstone. All other gem quality corundum is called sapphire and may be pink, green, violet, gray, yellow or other colors. Some rubies and sapphires are faceted, but most are made into cabochons. There is an extremely rare orange variety called padparadschah. Sapphire is synonymous with colors of the sky (shades of blue). The blue color is a result of metallic oxides.

Corundum is mainly used for abrasives or as gemstones. Other uses include watches, phonograph needles (remember phonographs?) and for scientific purposes.

The oldest sapphire is in the State Crown made for Queen Victoria in 1838. The late Queen Mary had a favorite necklace of 34 perfectly matched blues from Sri Lanka.

Sapphires are thought to be a symbol of truth, sincerity and faithfulness. For this reason politicians are prohibited from owning them in most countries. Sapphires were used in magical folklore as amulets for protection, especially from poison and were thought to bring health, wealth and strength to its wearer.

Chemically, corundum is simply aluminum oxide compressed under high pressure and temperature (typically 7.2 kilobars and 6000C). To get this kind of pressure typically requires deep burial in a sedimentary basin, or along a subduction zone. In a basin, we will need a 12 to 14 mile column of sedimentary rock to create this kind of pressure and temperature! After being buried so deeply, you will need Mother Nature to provide a tectonic (mountain building) event to bring the aluminum-rich rock back to the surface. Rocks that are buried so deeply tend to convert (recrystallize) to schists and gneisses. When brought back to the surface, these recrystallized sedimentary and igneous rocks (now schists and gneisses) can be found in the cores of mountains.

Editor's note: Thanks to Richard Heumier and Dan Hausel for the material on corundum. Dan Hausel's websites are a goldmine (pun intended) of information for those interested in rockhounding. The addresses for Dan's sites and others are listed on page 5.

Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society

Rockhound of the Year - 2011

Mary Ann Northrup



Mary Ann Northrup was the recipient of the WSMGS 2011 Rockhound of the Year award. Mary Ann is a member of the Shoshone Rock Club in Powell. She has been a director on the club's board for 14 years, Co-chair of the State Gem and Mineral Show for three years, and has held all the offices of the Shoshone Club several times. She leads field trips about four times a year and is the resident expert in identifying specimens, their sources, geologic age and the conditions under which they formed. In short, she is a geologic encyclopedia and happy to share her knowledge with all who ask. Mary Ann has been dedicated to the Earth Sciences for 60 years and continues to enhance rockhounding in Wyoming for all of us. Congratulations Mary Ann!

A three member committee from the geology department of the University of Wyoming selected Mary Ann as Rockhound of the Year this year from the following nominees: Linna Beebe from Powell, Jane Neale from Powell, Lynn and Jane Neale (joint nomination) from Powell, and Richard Heumier who is a member of the Riverton, Powell, Cody, Casper and Cheyenne Clubs. These are all outstanding rockhounds who contribute a great deal of themselves to rock clubs all across the state. Thanks to each and every one. ---Connie Case, President, WSMGS.

2011 State Mineral and Gem Show – Cody, WY

Hosted by Cody 59ers Rock Club/Assisted by the Shoshone Rock Club



The Cody 59'rs won the People's Choice Award

The "Antique Rock Show" was held on July 9th (9am-6pm) & 10th (9am-3pm), 2011 in the Cody Auditorium. Admission was \$3/ person with preschoolers free. The public was asked to record their address zip codes as they were admitted and to vote for 1 of 5 Rock Club showcases with their admission ticket. There were 662 recorded persons from 27 states and Australia. Local attendance was 276 from Cody and 52 from Powell.

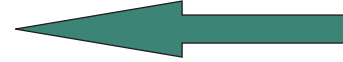
The Show consisted of 15 dealers from 6 states and 7 local demonstrators, 2 day Raffle, short interval Silent Auction, 1 hour Silent Auction, Kids Rock Activity Area (fossil cupcakes, pet rocks, sand panning), Cody 59ers Club Table, Blacklight Display, Rock Identification, Jewelry Design, Gold Panning, Cabochon Making and a Food Court. Five informational speakers were scheduled to speak on the local geology and rock hounding.

The 59ers applied for and received a \$1000 grant for advertising outside of Park County. Flyers with \$1 off coupons were sent to museums/Rock Shops outside Park County. Coupons were also given out through the Cody Shoshone Recreation activity and during the Kids July 2nd Parade. Internet advertising was sent to the Rock & Gem Magazine show calendar, WSMGS Jade State News, RMFMS /AMFS show calendars, and the Billings Rock Club internet group. Richard Heumier handed out flyers at the Casper Rock Show. Local advertising was done with storefront flyers and coupons downtown and in motels & campgrounds. Interviews and photos were given to the Cody and Rock Springs newspapers resulting in published articles. Paid advertising was done with the Cody Enterprise (Cody Country), Billings Gazette(Enjoy), Penny Pincher, Buyers Guide, and Fremont Beverages (banners). At registration 118 -\$1 off coupons and 20-free coupons were accepted.

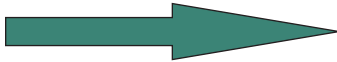
Thank you to the members of the Cody 59ers Rock Club and the Shoshone Rock Club who donated their time to work at the show. Much of the rock material for the Silent Auction was donated by Harvey Wilkins of Basin. Dealers & demonstrators, local merchants and rock club members furnished most of the raffle/silent auction items. Eloxite and Stoneage Industries were generous with their donations. Walmart and Albertsons donated food items. A special thank you to the WSMGS officers for their help and guidance which resulted in another successful Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Show. Applied & received to RMFMS for an additional Liability policy for the Show. Also at club table, recruited 10 new members (paid dues) with 12 others expressing interest! --Stan Strike



The Riverton Club won second place in the club case competition at the State Show with their case displaying *Wyoming's Antique Trees*.



The Shoshone Rock Club in Powell won third place in the club case competition



This large Triceratops was cut out and assembled by Richard Heumier. Various members of the Riverton club assisted with assembly space, painting and advice. Jane Neale of the Powell club created a nest and painted eggs to go with it. The Cody club named the beast 'Richard'. Why 'Richard' laid eggs is unknown at this time. WSMGS provided funds for materials. The Cheyenne club provided plans for this impressive display.

"Richard" is available (without trailer and flags) for loan to member clubs' use at Rock Shows. Borrowers must provide transportation, but 'Richard' can be disassembled and comes with assembly instructions. Contact R. Heumier or Connie Case for info.

Win \$50 in our Logo Contest!

WSMGS is still looking for a new logo design. The governing board will judge entries and select a winner that meets the criteria listed below. Entries should be sent to Gene Case, Jade State News Editor at thecases@bresnan.net or by snail mail to 807 Rose Marie Drive, Riverton, WY 82501. The deadline for entries is September 30, 2011.

Criteria

1. No more than four colors.
2. Include the Wyoming Bucking Bronco.
3. Include images related to rockhounding.
4. Include the apple-green color of jade. Not necessarily a picture of jade, just the green color.
5. A shape that is easily reproduced by sewing machine (for a sew-on patch).
6. A maximum size of 7" x 7". Resolution must be such that it can be enlarged or reduced without losing clarity.
7. Must include the words, "Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society".

Websites for Rockhounds

Dan Hausel's Websites:

<http://diamondprospector.webs.com/>

<http://www.goldhunter.webs.com/>

<http://gemstonehunter.blogspot.com/>

<http://wygemstones.blogspot.com/>

<http://diamond1872.blogspot.com/>

<http://gemwy.blogspot.com/>

<http://searching-for-gold.blogspot.com/>

<http://aupan.blogspot.com/>

<http://aumine.blogspot.com/>

<http://gold-prospectorsguide.blogspot.com/>

<http://si02.blogspot.com/>

Other Websites:

[-http://www.wymineralandgemsociety.com/](http://www.wymineralandgemsociety.com/)

<http://sites.google.com/site/wyomingrockhound/home>