



Petrified Wood



Few things in life are as much fun as walking under a clear blue sky and finding a piece of petrified wood. The thought that you are holding what was once a beautiful tree that has been preserved in its original shape and look as a solid rock for sharing among your family, friends and school classmates - millions of years later - is unlike any other. Unlike most fossils, which are often impressions left in rock, petrified wood is the name given to a special type of fossilized remains of vegetation that once grew on our planet. The words "Petrified Wood" derive from the Greek root *petro* meaning rock or stone; literally "wood turned into stone".

The two questions most often asked are: How can real wood last so long, and how can wood become so hard that it can last for millions of years? The simple answers are that there is actually no real wood left in the sample you are holding. Millions of years ago our world was a very wet and marshy place. The continents were massed at the equator and the land was swamps covered with a great variety of plants and trees. When the tree or plant died it fell or was knocked to the wet, muddy ground where it was covered by water. The rains brought a flow of mud containing dirt, silt and sand which covered the wood, blocked out oxygen, and preserved it from rotting. That which remains preserved is what is called petrified wood. The watery mud was rich in minerals such as iron, silicates, copper and manganese for example. Slowly over hundreds of years the minerals filled every cell in the original wood so that the wood became stone. The colors in petrified wood come from these minerals. Carbon results in black, copper or chromium give green/blue; iron oxides for red, brown and yellow; manganese for pink or orange, and manganese oxides can also produce black. The resulting petrified wood can be spectacular and most have a Mohs hardness of 7, the same as quartz crystal. A forest where the wood has petrified becomes known as a Petrified Forest. Petrified Wood can be found all over the world and is quite common in Wyoming and most of the western states. Wyoming's Blue Forest Wood is highly sought after with people coming from far away to the Farson area to dig for it. See the related article on Page 5. *(Thanks to Pasadena Lapidary Society for some material)*

Bureau of Land Management

Resource Management Plan - Lander Field Office

I'm making a big assumption here, and that is that all the BLM field offices in the state have similar plans. If you are outside the Lander Field Office's purview, contact your local office. Please take a few minutes to let BLM know your preferences. You don't have to write a long explanation, but at least indicate which alternative you prefer. If you have specific concerns, state them, as well as why you are concerned. The public meetings provided attendees plenty of information on making effective comments. If you couldn't make it to the meetings visit your local BLM office for that information. At least choose Alternative B,C or D and let BLM know your choice.

---Gene Case, Editor

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office has held numerous meetings throughout this area to solicit public input for guidance on how the populace wants Public Lands to be managed. BLM staff were present to discuss the plan, provide handouts and explain a truly impressive collection of graphic displays set up to educate the public. Other Field Offices throughout the state have done the same. Since this plan is of crucial interest to rockhounds, I'm sure most of you have attended one of these sessions, but for the few who couldn't attend, I will summarize briefly on this page. **The comment period is open until December 7, 2011.** You can get a copy of the draft plan from the RMP website at

www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html

or visit your local library where a hard copy is available for you to review, or stop by the BLM Field Office to pick up a CD of the document and helpful handouts.

You can submit comments by Email to LRMP_WYMail@blm.gov. You can send written comments to: Lander Field Office, 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520 or your local BLM office.. Comments need to arrive at BLM by December 7.

BLM has suggested four alternative plans to the public. These are only suggestions and are subject to modification depending on the comments received during the comment period. See Plan for details.

Alternative A (Current Management) - This is the management approach established by the 1987 Management Plan, so has been in effect for the past 24 years.

Alternative B (Most Resource Conservation) - Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources while managing the public lands for multiple use.

Alternative C (Most Resource Utilization) - Alternative C emphasizes resource uses such as mineral development and reduces protections of biological, heritage and visual resources.

Alternative D (BLM Preferred Alternative) - Alternative D applies a more balanced approach than alternatives B and C, and generally increases conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources compared to current management.

Editor's Note: The current management plan was adopted in 1987 so clearly needs to be updated; the world has changed a great deal since then. My conversations with BLM staff have convinced me that the agency wants to carry out the public's will while managing public lands for all to use. This isn't the government telling us what to do. It is the government asking us, "What do you want us to do?" Don't miss this opportunity to participate. Your two-cent's worth counts. ---GC

Club News

Rex Young Rock Club – Torrington

We had no meeting in June but we did get together in July for a barbeque at the home of Roy and Joyce Trowbridge. There were fifteen party-goers that showed up. It was a great evening to sit outside to eat and visit and look at Ron Harroun's display of rocks at his house.

We were at the Senior Center on August 11th with eleven members attending. Plans for our state show are just getting started. We elected Dale Tikalsky for show chairman. Chuck Kilgore and Ervin Shaffner won the door prizes. There was no program so the meeting was dismissed and Dale served the refreshments.

We met September 14th with twelve members present. We did not have much business to discuss. Joyce Trowbridge and Sherman Lenhart won the door prizes. The show-n-tell was to bring your best summer finds.

Joyce and Ron brought the refreshments.

On October 12th, we had a wonderful carry-in meal. It was a small group, but we still had plenty of food to eat. The business meeting was called to order after we ate. We discussed themes and ideas for field trips to take people for a day. Another thing we talked about was the Christmas dinner. It was suggested that we have it again at the Western History Center. The door prizes were won by Sherman and Paul. There was supposed to be a silent auction tonight but since there was only nine we will have to have it another time when more members are here to participate.

Joyce Trowbridge
Reporter

Natrona County Rockhounds – Casper

Natrona County Rockhounds Club (Casper) has contracted for the weekend of June

23 & 24 for our 2012 show featuring "Wonderful Wood" and dedicated to our founder Bob Kope who just died. It will be at the Parkway Plaza in Casper, and will be our 60th annual show.

Thanks!

Helen Hoff, Secretary



Natrona County Rockhounds founder Bob Kope died in September

Bob and Nadine Kope were the founders of the Natrona County Rockhound Club. He spent his time collecting some of the finest specimens of gem quality Wyoming jade. During his lifetime he amassed perhaps the largest single collection of Wyoming jade in the country. In addition, he collected works of far eastern jade carvings, other rocks such as agate, and pietra duras pictures. Bob was entrepreneurial in spirit, owning up to five different businesses at one time. He owned a hot shot service, a small engine repair, tool pusher supply, and his jade collection. Bob loved to barter and trade. He was a great story teller.

Club News

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society

BUS TRIP TO DENVER SHOW

For the seventh year in a row the Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society chartered a 47 passenger bus to take people to the third largest mineral show in the world – The Denver Mineral & Fossil Show. This was its 44th year in Denver.

The cost of the bus is paid for by proceeds from the club's annual May mineral show. The ride is free to members and non-members alike. Admission to the show is only \$4 per person. What a deal!

Saturday, Sept 17, the bus left Cheyenne at 8 AM and arrived at the show at 10 AM when people were free to go their own way. There was plenty to see and you could not see it all in one day so people had to pick & choose where to go. There was a free shuttle service to take you to and from the three venues – the Merchandise Mart, the Holiday Inn and the Quality Inn. There was also another similar show going on at the Denver Coliseum, but there was no shuttle service to this show. However, several of us managed to take the Holiday Inn shuttle bus to the Coliseum.

Hotel rooms were converted into “Rock Shops,” (There were over 200 dealers from all over the world.). At the Merchandise Mart there were dealers, a large fossil display and a great number of mineral display cases. In tents outside the two hotels there were vendors selling a large assortment of minerals. There were also dealers in tents behind the Coliseum. Three of the dealers who attend our May show were also dealers at the Denver show.

The show closed at 6 PM and that is when we got back on our bus and drove to Cheyenne. It was a great way to spend a day.

COMMON OPAL FIELD TRIP

The morning of Saturday, October 8, twelve hearty club members whose ages ranged from 9 to 80 drove north from Cheyenne to a “school section” located near Chugwater to collect common opal for their own collections and for our May mineral show's grab bags. For several of those on this trip it was their first ever mineral collecting experience. When we arrived at the site the temperature was 37° F with a steady light rain. Most of us got really soaked, but some came prepared with proper clothing. Everyone found plenty of very nice specimens and each grab bag will contain a common opal specimen. After about an hour and a half of collecting in the steady rain we walked back to our vehicles to get dry and warm. As we drove towards Cheyenne the temperature went down to 32° F and the rain turned to snow. That afternoon Cheyenne received 5” of snow. Though the weather wasn't the best, we all had great time and will remember the trip.



The Soddien Six

Wyoming Rock Shops

Below is a list of rock shops in Wyoming. If you know of other rock shops in the state please let me know. If you know any on this list are closed I'd like to know that too. Thanks ---Gene Case

Don's Rock and Gift Shop 8917 Hwy 16 W. Buffalo 307-684-7983

Rick's Rock 511 South Melrose St Casper 307-265-7625

Rose's Rocks & Gifts 5026 W. Lafayette Casper

Wonder 1825 Cy Avenue Casper 307-268-8732

Bohemian Metals 314 West 17th Street Cheyenne 307-778-8782

Antares Fossils & Minerals 431 Front St. Evanston 307-789-8737

Crystal Falcon Rock Shop 170 West Broadway Jackson 307-733-9158

Northland Traders PO Box 6998 Jackson 307-733-9552

Bob's Rock Shop 413 Coral Street Kemmerer 307-877-3220

Severns Studio & Fossil Quarry 500 Loma Vista Drive Kemmerer 307-877-9402

Tynsky's Fossil Shop 201 Beryl Street Kemmerer 307-877-6885

Norman's Rock Shop 240 N. 8th St. Lander 307-332-2441

Stone Age Industries Inc Powell 307-754-4681

Bill's Rock Shop 1720 E Monroe Ave Riverton 307-856-3857

Tynsky's Rock Shop 706 Dewar Drive Rock Springs 307-352-3706

Star Valley Gift & Rock Shop Thayne 307-883-2028

Torrington Rock Shop Rte 1, Box 491 Torrington 307-535-5938

Coulters Rock Shop 1503 11th St Wheatland 307-322-3252

Eloxite Corp. 812 10th St Wheatland 307-322-3050

Wheatland Rock Shop 1808 9th St Wheatland 307-322-2192

Petrified Wood Colors

According to Wikipedia, this is how petrified wood gets its colors:

Following is a list of contaminating elements and related color hues:

[carbon](#) - black

[cobalt](#) - green/blue

[chromium](#) - green/blue

[copper](#) - green/blue

[iron oxides](#) - red, brown, and yellow

[manganese](#) - pink/orange

[manganese oxides](#) - blackish/yellow



WYOMING STATE MINERAL & GEM
SOCIETY

President—Connie Case

Vice President—Stan Strike

Secretary—Mary Ann Northrup

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Historian—Richard Heumier

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The purpose of the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society is to help provide a social framework to promote popular interest in education in the various earth sciences such as geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and related subjects. Members of the society are dues-paying rock clubs within the boundaries of the State of Wyoming. Jade State News is the official publication of the Society.

www.wymineralandgemsociety.com