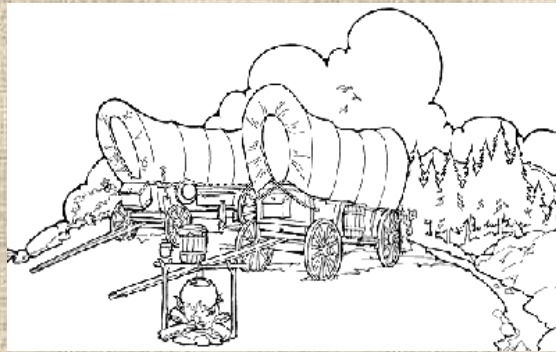


The Founding of the Wyoming Mineral and Gem Society

Article submitted by: Verne Orcutt, Editor

April 20, 1937, a meeting of 47 people from Lander, Hudson, Riverton and Wind River gathered at the Fremont County Vocational High School building for the purpose of organizing a society in the interest of mineralogy, geology and paleontology.



The meeting was chaired by W. L. Marion, who stated the purpose of the meeting. Nominations were made for the offices of temporary Chairman and Secretary. Lloyd B. Curtis was nominated and elected as Chairman and L. V. Abbott was elected as Secretary.

A committee was appointed with Byford Foster, W.L. Marion, Norbert Ribble and Mrs. Phil Shorts as members to prepare the by-laws for the new organization which were to be presented for adoption at the May 18, 1937 meeting .

At the May 18th meeting, a motion was made by Mrs. Phil Shorts to incorporate which was seconded and passed as the "Wyoming Geological Society". The by-laws were presented by the committee and approved.

May 22, 1937, the Articles of Incorporation were filed and accepted at Fremont County Clerk's Office.

This year, 2013, we are celebrating our 76th Anniversary with six affiliated member clubs from across the state!

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society (WSMGS) State OFFICERS

President: Stan Strike

2132 Gail Lane-Cody, 82414

Phone: 307-250-1244

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P.O. Box 116-Kinnear, 82516

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WSMGS Webmasters

Jim McGarvey Marlene Sibley

Wyoming WSMGS Affiliated Rock Clubs

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society:

P.O. Box 21412- Cheyenne, WY 82001

President-Bob King-2857 Olive Dr.

Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307-632-2702)

Contacts: Bob King

Carroll Schnell

Cody 59ers Rock Club:

Stan Strike-2132 Gail Lane

Cody, WY 82414 (250-1244)

President-Jim Ulmer-P.O. Box 3003

Cody, WY 82414 (307-272-5330)

Contacts: Jenny Schneider

Beth Spears

Natrona County Rockhounds:

P.O. Box 123-Mills, WY 82644

President-George Tillman (970-405-5502)

Contacts: Helen Hoff

Jennifer Flowers

Rex Young Rock Club:

Ron Harroun-Box 373-Lingle, WY 82223

President- Kim Nielsen-50434 Leisure Lane

Scottsbluff, NE 69361(308-632-2385)

Contacts: Kim Nielsen

Joyce Trowbridge

Riverton Mineral & Gem Society:

P.O. Box 1904-Riverton, WY 82501

President-Linda Richendifer-10709 Hwy 26

Kinnear, WY 82516 (307-856-1532)

Contacts: Linda Richendifer

Alice Gustin

Shoshone Rock Club:

P.O. Box 256-Powell, WY 82435

President- Mary Ann Northrup-736 Lane 13

Powell, WY 82435 (307-754-4472)

Contacts: Linna Beebe

Jane Neale

WSMGS INFORMATION AND UPDATES

by Stan Strike, President



1. Spring?: Spring in Wyoming, with its April & May snow and rain showers, makes it a difficult time for Rock Clubs to organize field trips for their members. But summer will come and in this May issue of the Jade State News are some reminders to make our field trips an enjoyable and safe activity for all of our members.

Is your club thinking about the June 15-16 State Show in Riverton? You will find additional information about the WY State Mineral & Gem in this issue.

Our new JSN Editor-Verne Orcutt- has published our Jade State News since August 2012. Give him a thumbs up with a quick note to his email address as listed on our WSMGS webpage listed under "Contact WSMGS".

2. New WSMGS Website: *Look at us now!* Our new website is up and running online at—<http://www.wymineralandgemsociety.org>--and has been redesigned by our WSMGS Webmaster-Marlene Sibley. Marlene gave a report to the Board as to the traffic to the website which already included several states and 8 foreign countries! Please take time to explore this informative site on your own and make it a club program for all to see. The website has been nominated for the RMFMS web contest and deserves some recognition from some of our Wyoming rockhounds as well -send Marlene a note of thanks to the address listed on the "Contact WSMGS" webpage . If you have been missing some of the most recent Jade State News or a specific JSN article?--they can be found under the "Newsletter" or

"WSMGS Library" and the "Rockhounding WY". The WSMGS Board is excited about the WSMGS website-it belongs to all of us! Give us your ideas to make it even better and as they say in Wyoming – "Let 'er Buck"!

3. Club Homework: The WSMGS Board has spent considerable time at our January and April Board meetings restating and amending our WSMGS Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. This was a necessary process required by the WY. Secretary of State and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, in order that the WSMGS can qualify as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Changes were also made in these documents to update, clarify, simplify and to standardize usage between articles and sections. These WSMGS Board "Draft" documents were sent to the club contacts on April 15th. Note that four "new" By-Laws have been added: Art.III-Section 8. Member Recognition, Art. V-Section 13 Financial Awards, Art.VIII-WSMGS Website, and Art.X-Dissolution of Corporation. Your club members should study them and report any concerns to Stan Strike: (307-250-1244) or strikes@bresnan.net. Your club delegates will be asked to vote and ratify these documents at the WSMGS Membership meeting in Riverton on Friday, June 14th.

4. WSMGS Officers: It is an odd year-and I am not talking about the weather! The WSMGS By-Laws require that officers be elected or re-elected on "odd years=2013" at the annual WSMGS Membership meeting which is June 14-7:00p.m. at the Riverton Fairgrounds. Please consider attending this meeting as a delegate or interested person and you will discover being an officer in the WSMGS requires little work but a great many rewards. (P.S.-a free dinner will be served at 6:00p.m. prior to the business meeting.)

5. WSMGS Board Meeting: The WSMGS Board met April 13, 2013. Topics discussed were:

- * Nomination of Marlene Sibley For WRMFMS webmaster contest
- * Rockhound of the Year Nominations and judging
- * WSMGS Clubs that are not incorporated or members of RMFMS
- * Approval of Contact Agreement to Host WSMGS Mineral & Gem Show/ Trailer Use Contract Agreement
- * 501(c)3 Progress update
- * Development of WSMGS logo, seal, and/or insignia
- * Progress report on 2013 WSMGS Mineral & Gem Show –Riverton-June 15th-16th
- * Annual WSMGS Membership Meeting: Riverton Fairgrounds-Dinner/6:00p.m.---Meeting/7:00p.m.
- * Approval of expenses for Board travel to April WSMGS meeting and RMFMS meeting May 17-19th
- * Discussed possibility of sponsoring RMFMS Regional show in 2015 or 2016
- * Discussed and finalized WSMGS restated and amended Board Draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

4/10/13

State Historian's Report

Hello Rockologists,

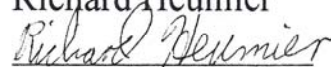
This spring has been unusual to say the least. The weather in Torrington has seen quite a change; going from 65° to a 20" snowfall in two days.

I have had the privilege of going to Cheyenne to work on getting paperwork done at the State Capital for the preliminary application of the 501(c) 3 to the IRS. Interesting & actually fairly easy, according to the State's Incorporation Office. We shall see, when the paperwork goes in!!.

When in Cheyenne, I also visited with the Cheyenne M&GS club President: Bob King. He had a lot of new rocks and locations of rock hunting spots to talk about. He is a very dedicated person to rockhounding and a great person to visit. He also had some bad news about the Cheyenne School system. They have closed down all the Earth Science courses, got rid of most of the staff, and moved the School Bus system into its place. In the past, the Cheyenne rock club, has made and supplied basic rock display boxes to the schools in Cheyenne, taught geology classes to the different schools, brought large puzzled dinosaurs, and done special reading classes on Earth Sciences. What a shame on the School system, but a sign of the changing of times!?

I have made rosette ribbons for each of the categories of showcases in the up & coming state show on June 15th & 16th, 2013 in Riverton. An interesting project.

State Historian,
Richard Heumier



Dragging a Moose by the horns *(Anonymous)*

Having shot a moose two Antartians began dragging it by the tail to their pick-up. On the way they were stopped by a game warden. "Let me see your hunting licenses boys," he said. When he saw that everything was in order he asked if he could give them some advice. "Sure!" the hunters agreed. "Well boys, I think that you would find it a lot easier to drag that moose by the horns and not the tail. "Aye, O.K. and thanks," said the lads.

After about five minutes one said to the other, "Boy, dragging by the horns is sure a lot easier, eh?" "Aye, you're right," said his friend, "but have you noticed that we are getting further away from the truck?"

The Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Show Jade: Wyoming's Timeless Gem



June 15th & 16th, 2013

Fremont County Fairgrounds

An event of family fun for all with a Raffle, Wheel of Fortune
Door Prizes, Silent Auctions, Grab Bags (full of rocks)
A blacklight Mineral display, a kids sandbox, and much more.

Vendors will have mineral specimens, rough rock,
finished stones, beads, jewelrytoo much to mention

Saturday (June 15th): 9:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday (June 16th): 9:00am - 3:00pm

Adults: \$2.00, children under 12 free:: any father attending with kids on Sunday -Free

**Sponsored by: Riverton Mineral & Gem Society
Our 75th Anniversary
and the Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society**

For additional information contact: Show chairman Alice Gustin
riverton.wyoming.gemshow@gmail.com

NATRONA COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS PRESENTS
OUR
GEM & MINERAL SHOW
JULY 13 & 14 2013

FEATURING

AGATE

CABS, SLABS, JEWELRY AND MORE!

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CONTACT: HELEN HOFF
307-266-2839 hmhoff@bresnan.net

Sweetwater Moss Agates

Sweetwater Agate is not a true agate as it lacks the banding patterns of agate, but is a form of Moss Agate.

Moss Agates have a distinct dendritic pattern from iron oxide or manganese oxide in white to blue chalcedony.

Sweetwater Agate appears as a bluish translucent chalcedony with black dendrites (manganese oxide) inside.

Some Sweetwater Agates appear as very dark smoky chalcedony that looks black until it is held up to the light. Once a dark Sweetwater Agate is held up to the light it reveals its black dendritic pattern. Other varieties of Sweetwater Agates are made up of a translucent chalcedony that is lighter blue in color with black dendrites inside. Sweetwater Agates are one of the few known agates that fluoresce in UV light and glow in lime greens due to the presence of hydrous uranium arsenate.

Sweetwater moss agate may occur as small pebbles in lag gravel and in the basal conglomeratic sandstone of the Split Rock Formation. A few remnants of this original conglomerate still exist near the Cedar Ridge opal deposit south of Riverton. Most of this conglomerate was eroded to the south and was deposited on Agate Flats-20 miles to the south. Sweetwater agates can also be found along the Sweetwater River and Sage Hen Creek west and northeast of Jeffrey City, respectively.

The agates in the conglomerate don't look like any of those found on Agate Flats. These are covered with a dark brown surface coating. How-

ever, all the rocks in the conglomerate are covered with that same dark brown covering. The Sweetwater Agates aren't common in the conglomerate but when they are found, they are large and of the best quality. This brown surface material can be removed from the Sweetwater Agate by tumbling and polishing.

The Sweetwater Agates on Agate Flats (20 miles south of Cedar Ridge) may be found on the desert slope or in the draws and gullies that has been recently eroded by water. These surface agates can also be sculpted and polished by the wind to form ventifacts. Do not expect to find many Sweetwater Agates as the name Agate Flats might imply because others have been before you as this blog tells us; "A big impact upon Agate Flats came from the caravans of rock hounds during the 1970's. Many were retired folks from back East. They came west in their newer versions of the covered wagon, but rather than moving through this land, they parked those Airstreams and Winnebagos near any live water and the few springs in the area. Some stayed all summer. Some were commercial men who hunted rocks and sent truckloads of the stuff back east."

Therefore the sad story of a land of plenty and how the land was changed. Good luck hunting the Sweetwater country! Try these locations to find Sweetwater Agates:

Location 1

Near the top of the hill north from Sweetwater Station Rest Stop. Gravel beds contain Sweetwater Agate. East side of highway.

WWW.maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&t=h&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=109563666194210927650.000483f8136ba5116455b

Location 2

Agate Flats: A 100 square mile area northeast of Sweetwater Station Rest Stop is called Agate Flats. Both the Oregon and Mormon trails crossed this area. The BLM has constructed a two lane, all weather, improved gravel road. And a very large sign announces that if the agates are worth digging up, then the holes are worth filling up or the government will make sure you pay for the difference.

The following web links were used to compile this article on Sweetwater Agates:

- (1) <http://planetnews-pro prospector.blogspot.com/>
- (2) www.wyomingrockhound/rocks-of-wyoming/wyoming-moss-agate
- (3) www.samsilverhawk.com/2009gemstones/102509cabs/sweetwater.html
- (4) www.minerals.net/mineral/sweetwater_agate.aspx
- (5) www.wsgs.uwyo.edu/public-info/onlinepubs/docs/IP-11.pdf
- (6) www.talkingstick.me/rocks/granite-mountains/

*Great Photos of Sweetwater Agates For Jade State News: <http://www.coloradopro prospector.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=4005>

Sweetwater Moss Agates

Photos courtesy ColoradoProspector.com



A. What is Agate?

Agate is the banded form of the mineral Chalcedony, which has microscopic fibrous quartz crystals with pore spaces that attract and fill with chemical impurities that produce distinctive colors and banding. (Other forms of Chalcedony such as jasper, flint, and chert are made of microscopic granular quartz which is uniformly colored.)

The formation of agate is most often from deposition of layers of silica filling voids in rocks or other spaces created by decomposition of organic material, faulting, etc. If the impurities dissolved in the silica source vary in kind and amount over time, new layers may be deposited that vary in thickness and color. Since the cavities are irregularly and uniquely shaped, each agate forms its own pattern based on the original cavity shape. When a cavity is completely filled, it forms a solid mass of Agate, but often it is only partially filled, leaving a hollow void. This void may provide the space necessary to produce larger visible crystalline Quartz deposits within the void after the agate has been deposited on the outside of the geode.

Therefore no two agates are exactly the same. Although the pattern on every agate is unique, the type of agate produced at the same location will be alike in banding style and color because they were formed from the same silica source under the same environmental conditions.

Since most agates are formed in the same way and are all made from silica that produces microscopic quartz mineral crystals with colored banding patterns, all agates have the same physical and chemical properties which distinguish them from other rock types. However the chemical and physical properties of the impurities added to the silica source makes each agate formation location unique producing a specific agate variety.

B. Information about a Specific Agate Variety?

Several distinctive varieties of agate found in Wyoming have been given descriptive or geographical names by rock hunters. Some varieties are so distinctive that many rock hounds can give you the geographical location within a few miles of where the specimen was collected by merely looking at a hand-sized sample.

Therefore it is important to do your homework before going to the field in order to be a successful agate hunter.

When hunting for a specific agate, check the following sources before going to the field in order to learn as much about the agate as you can:

1. Conduct an internet search for information specific to the agate and the area you will be searching. The Wyoming

State Mineral and Gem Society have a website: www.wymineralandgemsociety.org.

2. Research for books that describe a specific agate.
3. Look at pictures online and in books identifying the agate in the rough and polished condition.
4. Contact Rock Shops in the area to view the agates and/or where to search for the agates.
5. Contact Rock Club members for information about the agate.

C. Finding Agates in the Field!

1. The most important first step before searching for agates is to know that the ownership of the area you are planning to hunt/collect allows legal access. Deliberately trespassing and ignoring regulations pertaining to rockhounding may result in a legal fine and will endanger the use of this same area for future rockhounding.

2. If searching along the shoreline of a lake or reservoir, observe the rock layers below the high water mark that have been sorted and deposited by wave action. Look for agates in the layers that have an abundant number of chert and jasper rocks because they have the same relative weights or specific gravity.

3. Focus on the physical characteristics of the agate you are trying to find such as color, transparency, waxy luster, and curved smooth edges (conchoidal fracture).

4. Agates are easier to find early in the morning or late afternoon on a sunny day. If the agate's surface coating has been weathered away, the translucent quartz will "glow" if you search by walking towards the sun.

5. The banding on agates becomes more visible when wet--so search the water's edge or wet finds with a water spray bottle. However the conchoidal fracture and waxy luster of agates show up best when dry.

Information for this article was compiled from Agates Inside Out by Karen A. Brzys and

www.minerals.net/mineral/agate.aspx

HUNTING FOR AGATE



PREPARING AND CLEANING AGATES

If large agates of a specific variety are common, it is acceptable to cut them in half and polish the cut sides. Also if the agate is hidden by a thick exterior coating or is hollow geode, it is permissible to cut them to expose the agate inside. However, today large agates are increasingly rare so measures are taken to preserve the entire specimen. Remember with agates-bigger is better. The following are steps you can take first to avoid using a rock saw.

With all of the following cleaning techniques protect your eyes with eye protection, hands with rubber gloves & tongs, and clothing with an apron. Make certain to work outside or where there is adequate ventilation.

Cleaning with Soap

1. Clean the agate with soap and water using a stiff brush. Let the agate dry completely. Examine.

Cleaning with Oven Cleaner

1. Put the agate into a plastic container and spray it with foaming oven cleaner. Wait 30 minutes.

2. Remove the agate and rinse & scrub completely with warm water. Let dry completely. Examine.

Cleaning with Muriatic Acid

1. Put agate in plastic container which can be fitted with a tight lid. Add a measured volume of water to the container until the agate is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ covered up.

2. Slowly add a volume of Muriatic Acid to the

container that equals four parts water to one part Muriatic Acid. Seal the container with a lid and wait 24 hours. Examine. If necessary, let set for no more than two more 24 hour periods.

3. Remove the agate and rinse it completely in warm water - scrubbing if necessary. Allow to dry. Add baking soda to the leftover Muriatic Acid and stir to neutralize it until no more bubbles are

produced. Dispose of this mixture by diluting with more water and disposing of it by flushing it down the toilet with several more flushes to further dilute any remaining acid that may be present.

4. Place the dry rock in the clean plastic container and sprinkle with Baking Soda. Add enough warm water to cover the agate and mix the solution. Put the lid on the container and wait 15 minutes. Rinse and scrub the agate in warm water. Let dry completely overnight.

5. If the dry agate has a frosted appearance. Rub mineral oil over its entire surface and then let set in the warm sun or under a lamp for about an hour. Wipe the excess oil off the agate using a clean dry cloth. (Never soak agates in oil for an extended period of time because it may affect the colored banding).

** Article compiled from Agates Inside Out by Karen A. Brzys.*

WHY DO ROCKHOUNDS COLLECT ROCKS?

There have been psychological studies done about why some people collect-and the reasons are as varied as the collectors' personalities themselves. "Collecting" can be defined as the selecting, gathering, and keeping of objects of "subjective" value--thus the term "leaverite" is applied to some rockhound finds. A "collector" can be defined as an enlightened amateur preserver of many good earthly things, although great, are oftentimes not recognized by society.

It is known that it took thousands of years of rockhounding by early man to accumulate today's knowledge that is classified within the various branches of the geological sciences. Thus the most noble reason that some people collect, may be to gain more information about rocks and to educate others with their writings and displays.

A second reason that rockhounds collect may be for the "aesthetic value"-- by finding pretty or unusual rocks and putting them on display to look at and appreciate the varying colors and shapes.

Continued at top of next page

Why Do Rockhounds Rocks continued from page 10

Other rockhounds search out rocks for a third reason--as a unique and valuable collection to gain recognition and distinction from others.

Some rockhounds get "high" with their special rock finds and each of these pleasurable experiences demands that they keep collecting to sustain their exhilaration and excitement. Thus the fourth reason some rockhounds collect is to get the "fix" by repeating the act of collecting as an enjoyable experience.

A fifth reason may be purely social. These rockhounds enjoy other people and just being outside but collect because everyone else in their group is doing it.

A sixth reason that a few collectors have to collect is solely to profit themselves financially. These collectors aren't really rockhounds. They tend to collect in larger quantities, oftentimes by purchasing or with permit, and are called commercial dealers or collectors that sell to the public. Commercial collecting is controlled by laws.

The final reason some rockhounds collect is the "physical security" of possessing something no one else has. If this is done in limited amounts, it is a valid reason to collect. But if the rockhound collects excessive amounts of the same "rock" at any cost to themselves or others, it indicates a flawed personality that may vary from a packrat or hoarder to

greed and mental illness.

Finally you should realize that collecting is only a small part of Rockhounding. It is important that you get your best finds out of the box and, if necessary use lapidary techniques to shine them up, then put them on display for yourself and others to enjoy.

Maybe your collection will be like that of the school custodian in Arizona who willed his collection to the University of Arizona and was later valued at several million dollars. Or your collection could begin like that of James Smithson with his mineral-Smithsonite-and his other geochemical contributions which allowed his fortune to be melted down and reminted in U.S. coins worth \$508,318-an amount used to start the Smithsonian Institution-the world's largest museum complex.

So why do you collect rocks? Hopefully for all of the right reasons. Probably, we all have collected rocks for several different reasons as we have matured as rockhounds. By reminding ourselves of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, we can leave a legacy of rockhounding that others will be able to participate in and enjoy in the future.

** As adapted from Rock & Gem -June 2010 article by Bob Jones pp. 76-77 and the March 2010 article by Steve Voynick p.40. then authored by Stan Strike.*

MATCHING LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT to the DESIRED LAPIDARY PRODUCT

Lapidary is the art of using techniques to change a rock, mineral, or gemstone in order to increase its value. Each technique requires a certain type of lapidary equipment in order to produce a specific lapidary product. The following is a basic outline of the equipment required to produce a desired lapidary product.

A. **Trim Saw** -to make straight line cuts on small specimens or to trim a slab outline to avoid excess grinding. Turn saw on to make certain enough lubricant is being carried by the blade to carry away the cuttings as the specimen is "slowly" pushed into the saw blade. Be careful not to turn/twist the specimen as it is advanced.

B. **Slab Saw**-to cut larger rocks to expose "fresh" un-weathered surfaces or to produce thin slabs. Make certain specimen is securely wedged in the vise and positioned such that it is not touching the blade. Check the lubricant that it is covering at least 1/4" of the bottom of the blade, plug in and start the saw. Listen to the saw as it starts cutting the specimen. Do not leave the saw while it is running. When you hear the cut piece fall, shut off the saw.

C. **Tumblers**-to produce freeform specimens with rounded edges and polished surfaces. Rotary tumblers can be used to shape and polish rough specimens by using coarse, medium and fine grit then polish. Vibratory tumblers do not shape specimens so can be used to polish slabs and cabochons with medium and fine grit then polish.

Continued at top of Page 12

D. Grinding, Sanding & Polishing Arbors-to shape and polish smaller specimen edges and surfaces. If the specimen is large enough, it may be worked by hand to position it as it is treated to the progression of silicon carbide or diamond belts with a water source to cool the specimen and to flush away the cuttings: coarse grit grinding belts, medium to fine grit sanding belts, and a polishing buffer. If treating a small specimen, it will have to be attached to a 4 inch "dop stick" by using dop wax, super glue, or epoxy. The dop stick can be held and presented to the same progression of grinding, sanding, and polishing.

E. Vibratory-Lap-to polish a specimen with a flat surface. A vibratory-lap is a round flat pan that vibrates with the flat side of the specimen placed in the grit and water in the pan. The pan must be 2/3rds full of specimens equally distributed. The sequence of grit used progresses from coarse, fine, to polish. Each stage takes 6-8 hours and the pan should be sprayed with water as needed to keep the grit moist.

(compiled from www.rocks4you.com)

LAPIDARY TIPS

Black Petrified Wood. Black petrified wood when sanded and polished doesn't appear to look like wood at all. It looks like a uniformly colored black polished specimen. If you want the look of wood try putting your already sanded piece in a plastic container and add enough common full strength household bleach to cover the specimen. Cover the container and allow the specimen to soak until the wood grain pattern becomes visible.

Scrub and rinse the specimen in water and then polish it.

(Compiled from "The Ammonite- April 2013 Newsletter"- Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society)

Cutting Montana Moss Agate. Montana Moss Agate nodules are found in two basic shapes-flat & slightly curved or round & elongated and nearly all are cracked from being rolled down streams. To determine how to cut each nodule, first look into the rock with a strong concentrated light in a dark room to observe any dendritic moss or banding pattern. (Most specimens will have only limited patterns but keep looking until a keeper reveals itself.) Then position the nodule securely in a rock saw and make thin cuts across the end and one side at right angles to the internal pattern in order to determine if it should slab from end to end or from side to side. The best and largest patterns usually appear toward the center of the nodule so never cut them in half.

(Compiled from "The Ammonite"-October 2012-Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter)

Makeup for Moss Agate. Polished dark moss agate sometimes ends up with small surface pits filled with leftover lighter colored polishing powder. Try rubbing a small bit of black India Ink into these light colored pits and then wiping it off quickly.

("The Ammonite"-October 2012 Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Newsletter)

Slab All the Rock with a Wood Block. In order to cut up all of a round rock, a small rock, or end cut/heel, the specimen must be cut so that it has a flat edge. Make certain the specimen and an appropriately sized piece of wood block are clean, dry, and free of oil. Apply even thick coats of Elmer's Glue or Water Glass (Sodium Silicate) to the specimen's flat surface and the surface of the wood

block that will be in contact with the specimen. Position the wood block on a flat surface with the "glue" side up and set the flat side of the specimen on top of the wood block glue. After 24 hours of drying time, position the wooden block in the rock saw vice in front of the saw blade. Determine the maximum number of slabs that can be cut by keeping track of the total number of 360 degree turns of the cross feed that can be made from the edge of the vise to the 'end' of the specimen. The final slab can be loosened from the wood block by putting the wood block with attached slab down in a container of water until slab can be loosened. The wooden block can not be reused because it is soaked with saw oil. **Safety Note-if using Sodium Silicate (waterglass) wear eye protection and gloves.

(Stone Age Industries-Powell, WY)

Beware of Man-Made & Colored Stones! Many of the beads and cabochons from China and India are man-made and color enhanced such as cherry, strawberry, pineapple, and rutiled quartz as well as hematite. Most of the cheaper beads are also color enhanced and will fade with time. "Mountain Jade" is dyed marble and "Malaysian Jade" is dyed quartz. Purchase your stones from a reputable dealer or else "Buyer Beware"!

("The Pegmatite"-April 2008 & LA-ROCKS)

Flat Lapping Geodes. To keep the crystal centers of geodes free from grit when flat lapping, place small pieces of paper towels or plastic wrap to fill in the deepest part then finish covering the crystals in the center by carefully rubbing a soft wet bar of soap over it and smoothing with your finger until the hole is filled in and the crystals are protected. When flat lapping is complete, use warm water and a soft brush to remove the soap.

("The Ammonite"-October-2012 WDGMS Newsletter)

Knotted Fine Metal Necklace Chain. Put a drop or two of vegetable oil on a piece of wax paper. Then lay the knot in the oil and work the knot loose using 2 straight pins.

("The Ammonite"-March 2013-western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter)

Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

facebook.com/BenchTips/ March 16, 2013

CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of hot steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. Only a minute or so is needed, and in fact you don't even need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit.

You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at www.facebook.com/BenchTips/ or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

"I know how difficult it is for some clubs to start or maintain an active program for children interested in the hobby. If there is a group in your club that's doing this, they should know about Mini Miners Monthly and other resources for your pebble pubs produced by

<http://www.diamonddanpublications.net>>www.diamonddanpublications.net"

FIELD SAFETY TIPS:

TICK REMOVAL:

“Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20); the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.”

(Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society—May 2012 Newsletter)

INSECT BITES:

If stung or bitten by an insect, dissolve one fourth (1/4) teaspoon of meat tenderizer in two (2) teaspoons of water and rub this solution into the skin around the area of the sting or bite. This should relieve the pain.

(Dr. Harry Arnhold, Jr. AMA Journal)

RATTLESNAKES BITES:

An understatement: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!” when it comes to rattlesnake bites!!

If someone gets a bite by a rattlesnake, get them to the nearest hospital immediately. Limit the victim’s activity if possible to keep their heart rate normal. Help the individual to remain calm and comfortable.

Reassure the victim that it is not life-threatening. Wash bite area with water and remove restrictive jewelry or clothing that would interfere with swelling. Position the affected bite area below the victim’s heart. Call 911 to contact the hospital to alert staff to facilitate treatment instructions.

Steps to Prevention:

1. Wear high leather boots and / or snake-leggings.
2. Stay close to vehicles and transportation routes.
3. Do not rockhound alone.
4. Always assume snakes are active even if the weather is cold and cloudy.
5. Snakes are more likely to be out from under cover on cloudy warm days and especially at night.
6. Use a walking stick or rock scoop/grabber to explore with or overturn rocks. (Baby snakes have venom!)
7. Walk slowly in areas of thicker vegetation, create vibrations with your footsteps and your walking stick.
8. Walk away from the shaded side of bushes or holes when it is sunny and hot.
9. Walk around logs or large rocks or drop-offs where a rattlesnake may be resting.
10. Be especially alert when climbing a steep incline, which could result in a snakebite to the upper body.

11. If a rattlesnake is located slowly move away and warn others.

Do not try to kill it and collect its rattles!

12. Rattlesnakes do not always rattle-look for them.

Final Prevention-Have good health insurance-rattlesnake bite anti-venom is very expensive!!

(compiled from A.F.M.S. Newsletter-June/July 2012)

HEART ATTACKS:

(1) Dissolve two (2) Bayer “Crystal” Aspirin in the victim’s mouth & help them swallow a some water.

(2) Call 911 and report that Heart Attack victim has taken two Aspirin and listen for directions.

(3) Transport victim to hospital. Make certain victim is sitting and not laying down

(compiled from RMFMS Newsletter-January 2012)

BURNS:

(1) Cool down the burned area with cool water gently applied.

(2) Apply white part of a raw egg to the burned area and let dry.

(3) Continue adding layers of raw egg white and letting each layer dry.

(4) Seek medical attention as soon as possible for severe burns

(compiled from RMFMS Newsletter-Sept./Oct. 2011)

POKER GAME GONE BAD:

Six guys were playing poker when Smith loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen comrade, the other five complete their playing time standing up. Roberts looks around and asks, "Now, who is going to tell the wife?" They draw straws. Rippington, who is always a loser, picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse than it is. "Gentlemen! Discreet? I'm the most discreet man you will ever meet. Discretion is my middle name, leave it to me." Rippington walks over to the Smith house, knocks on the door, the wife answers, and asks what he wants. Rippington says, "Your husband just lost \$500 playing cards." She hollers, "TELL HIM TO DROP DEAD!" Rippington says, "I'll tell him.

(Anonymous)

2013 Field Trip Schedule Riverton Mineral and Gem Society

Date	Where	For	Leader	Vehicle	Comments
04/27/13					
05/04/13					
05/11/13	Dry Creek	Fossils / Jasper	Mel Gustin 856-3699	Hi Clearance	Cell: 851-0072
05/18/19	Blue Forest	Petrified Wood	Louie Gillette 332-5642	Any	Surface to deep digging
05/25/13	Worland	Fossils	Mel Gustin	Any	Surface to deep digging
06/01/13					
06/08/13	Jeffrey City	Jade	Tom Dewey 332-1585	Hi Clearance	Surface to Hardrock mining
06/15/13	WSMGS Show	Riverton	Fairgrounds	June 15 & 16	Linda 856-1532
06/22/13	Gas Hills	Selenite	Richard Rodgers 851-5027	Hi Clearance	Surface to some digging
06/29/13					
07/06/13	Flaming Gorge	Chert/Wood/Agate	Ben Struempf 856-4964	Any – See Ben	Cell: 8585500 Overnite camping
07/13/13	Casper Show	Casper	Contact Helen Hoff	For Info.	hmhoff@bresnan.net
07/20/13	Twin Creek/Lander	Fossils	Ellen Clark: 335-9132	4WD	Cell: 714-1004 - Surface
07/27/13	South Pass	Carissa Mine Tour	LaRue Brown: 349-7575	Any	Tour of Mine and Mill
08/03/13					
08/10/13	Lysite	Lysite Agate	Bob Carlson: 856-2589	Hi Clearance	Cell: 851-6781
08/17/13					

Date	Where	For	Leader	Vehicle	Comments
08/24/13	Surprise	??????	Glenn Laidlaw: 856-6714	Truck	Call Glenn to get more info
08/31/13	South Pass	Garnets	Jim McGarvey: 856-6188	Any	Wading and digging in the river
09/07/13	East Fork	Petrified Wood & limb Casts	Louie Gillette: 332-5642 c: 330-4555	4WD	Wading in River
09/14/13					
09/21/13					

**For more information about a trip, contact the leader.
Contact Bob Carlson about leading a trip or trip suggestions.**

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JSN REPORT – SHOSHONE ROCK CLUB JAN-APRIL 2013

Jan. 8, 2013

Vice President, Lynn Neale, conducted the meeting in the absence of Mary Ann Northrup, out of town to witness her son, David, being sworn in as a state representative. Guest, Stan Strike, Cody 59'ers, gave a brief report on the WSMGS rock show to be held in Riverton, Father's Day weekend, with the show theme: Jade: WY's Timeless Gem. E-mail Alice Guston, show chairmen, for interest in being a dealer at the show: riverton.wyoming.gemshow@gmail.com.

Other guests: Trevor Wollam, & Bob Jackson. Treasurer, Art Schatz, reported donations were made to the Boys & Girls Club of Powell, the American Land Association and dues were paid to the Rocky Mtn. Federation. John Brown was the door prize winner. Lynn and Jane Neale were hosts for refreshments, with 18 members and guests attending. Lynn Neale and Linna Beebe presented the program and showed some of their fluorescent rocks. Lynn used the club UV lamp and Linna had a "Way Too Cool" lamp; both units were longwave/shortwave. It was noted the club UV lamp (purchased in 1975) was not as bright as WTC lamp and Lynn said he would check into getting new parts. Short-wave filters lose their transmitting ability after several hundred hours of use. Many samples of rocks and minerals were on display and a few are noted: Benitoite (very rare), ulexite, flos ferri aragonite, ruby, Franklinite, blue apatite stone, & molybdenite. The use of a UV lamp can help identify minerals due to the color exhibited. All of the minerals on display showed fluorescence and some were phosphorescent. (Several assorted photos for the club will be sent attached separately to use if desired). Linna Beebe will be giving a program this month to the Boys & Girls Club on mammoths and mastodons.

Feb. 5, 2013

Guests welcomed were Krista Seifer and son Tanner, & Trevor Wollam. Former member, Dorine Strom, rejoined the club and Linda Miller became a member. Mary Vogel & Lynn Neale will be the club delegates at the state show. Jane Neale reported Richard Heumier is donating the sterling silver and a rare tiger jade slice to be used for the Rockhound of the Year award. SRC members were invited to attend a field trip in Lovell, at the home of former charter members, Joe & Arlene Tyrrell, by their son, David. Rocks, minerals, and fossils of will be available at no cost. With the Tyrrell collection of 60 plus years, members were delighted with the invitation. The evening program was an "Ugly Rock Contest" and slips of paper were passed around to vote, and four year, old Tanner Seifer, was the very proud winner of a five dollar bill for his entry. John Brown brought in two beautiful crystals for the door prize and Art Schatz

and Krista Seifer each took one home. Refreshments were served by Tuesdee Oswood. Jane Neale had offered to fill in for host duties and temporary secretary since Linna Beebe was sick. The February program for the Boys & Girls Club was designing Levi rock bags. Linna made up a number of bags and the students used assorted colored permanent markers to design their bags and then each student received their choice of several rocks donated by the club.

March 5, 2013

Plans were discussed for next months meeting as the club will be celebrating their 61st Anniversary. A potluck dinner will be held at the Garland Community Church. Guests in attendance were Fred & Dae Renaud, Judy Frisby, Stan Strike and Marcie Huckabee, (daughter of June Rich). John Hurst, author of the book, Dryhead Agate, donated one of his books to the club, and Mary Vogel had the winning bid. Lynn Neale reported on his findings for repair of the club UV lamp and members decided to purchase a new UV lamp due to the high cost of repair. Motion was approved. Club member, Roger Lyons had sent a very thoughtful letter to David Tyrrell for the generosity of his family in donating his parent's collection. New or renewing memberships noted: Sherring Brown Burke & Carl & Sharon Brown. Donald Sedwick won the door prize donated by Mary Ann Northrup, a Lysite agate cabochon made by Joe Tyrrell. Hosts for the evening were Mary Ann Northrup and Donna Brasher. The evening program was presented by Jane Neale, "Lets Talk Trona". Soda ash is mined as an ore called trona. Jane had many rough samples on display and a fact sheet was available which stated: "The trona formations occurring in Wyoming's Sweetwater and Uinta counties are the largest known deposits in the world." 18 members and guests were in attendance. March program for the B & G Club was a fluorescent rock display by Lynn and Jane Neale.

April 2, 2013

A potluck dinner was held at the Garland Community Church with 34 members and guests. For the program, members were also asked to bring a rock, fossil or other for help with identification or bring something to try and stump the crowd. Out of 45 minerals on display, June Rich was declared the winner with a score of 16 correct answers and she was awarded the prize brought in by Lynn Neale of Lysite agate. It was so nice to see many members of the Cody 59'ers in attendance. The meeting was most enjoyable with lots of fun, food, and education.

Submitted by Linna Beebe, Secretary

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Natrona County Rockhounds

The regular membership meeting of the Natrona County Rockhounds Club was held Thursday, April 4 2013, at 7 pm at the clubhouse in Mills (5211 Rambler).

Officers present were George Tillman, President; Jennifer Flowers, Treasurer; Helen Hoff, Secretary and Directors Jeanette Decker and John Kegler. Vice President Carolyn Logan was excused as she was snowbirding.

George led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order. Secretary's report was given, with motion to approve by Phyllis Miller, seconded by Jennifer Flowers and passed. Treasurer's report was given. A one year report of income and expenses was provided, indicating an increase over a year. Motion was made to accept by Bill Hackney, seconded by Jeanette Decker and passed.

Old Business included the annual report to State Gem and Mineral Society, with the membership indicating an abbreviated report should be sent with no names or financials. Hoff said she would make it so.

Rick Messina advised that GPAA Casper Chapter had not received any advice on rules yet, and gave reasons why they could not change the September date of the Dan Hausel talk.

New Business included the need to clean the clubhouse. Hoff advised she would start in when opening the shop Wednesdays 5-7pm and several members indicated they would show up to help.

Larry Flowers advised the clubhouse is missing some T-Lock shingles from the windward side, and that they are no longer made. Bill Hackney said he could provide some. Larry said he had nails and a ladder.

The additional trim saw has been purchased, but it came with no blade. Motion was made by Larry Flowers to buy a blade, seconded by Carla Tillman and passed. Jennifer said she would order a thin one.

A Casper Chapter GPAA update was given by Phyllis Miller. They had 14 people, good food and a food time at Alcova and a turnout of 91 (including lots of rockhounds) to hear Wayne Sutherland speak about diamonds. Hoff even won a door prize. Future outings (list attached) were detailed.

Hoff advised of an easy driving trip to Fremont Canyon. Members were asked to communicate about field trips, that sharing is an e-mail or phone call to Hoff and easy to make happen even at the last minute.

George advised he has roughly 1 oz of Montana sapphires (pay to dig) from Larry Hanes for sale. John Ake advised buyer beware, since Montana sapphires can be good salting or waste. He purchased a half kilo directly from a mine and it was half waste because of heat treating making the sapphires brittle or being too small to facet.

Hoff advised there were still only 23 tables sold for the show, with a weekend of spamming emails and ads in the Quick Quarter and flyers out. We need 33 to pay the Parkway.

Motion was made by Carla Tillman to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis Miller and passed. Rocks were shared.

Rick Messina gave a presentation on how to use a Jolly Balance to test for specific gravity (weight in air versus weight in water) which can aide streak plate and hardness in the field to identify minerals.

Casper chapter Gold Prospectors of America 2013 outings scheduled to date

May 4&5 a joint Gillette/Casper trip to the GPAA claim Husker#1, meet at noon there; the next day to go to a Northeast (Gillette) GPAA claim.

May 19th – the trip to the Miracle Mile is on hold at this time

June 2 – to the Miners Canyon at the east end of the Ferris Mountains

June 15&16- to the 3 Trails Museum (Pioneer Days) in Casper

June 23- to the Sweetwater by Jeffrey City or else Green Mtns Cottonwood Creek

July 7 to Doyle Creek

July 20&21st to GPAA claims on Rock Creek, Atlantic City- anniversary outing for the Casper Chapter GPAA, hand pan only

For more information or courtesy coming-along call Rick Messina 234-0244 or Phyllis Miller 259-7852

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