

# Jade State News

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

2132 Gail Lane, Cody Wyoming 82414

Volume 2018, Issue 1



## WSMGS OFFICERS

President: Jim Gray  
pres@wsmgs.org

Vice President: Linda Richendifer  
vpres@wsmgs.org

Secretary: Carla Tillman  
sec@wsmgs.org

Treasurer: Stan Strike  
treas@wsmgs.org

Historian: Rod Baltes  
hist@wsmgs.org

Jade State News Editor: Jennifer Flowers  
jsn@wsmgs.org

RMFMS State Director: Stan Strike  
wydir@wsmgs.org

RMFMS WY PLAC Representative:  
Rich Garow

The WSMGS conducts meetings quarterly  
and as special events require

## Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

### THE FORMATION OF EDEN VALLEY PETRIFIED WOOD

Wyoming is a state rich in fossil wood and has several petrified forests. The petrified wood that marks the existence of one of these ancient pre-historic forests is known to collectors as the Eden Valley Wood Collecting Area which is named after the town of Eden, Wyoming. Eden is located in the southwest part of Wyoming and is in an 80 mile long area where petrified wood can be found.

#### A. TYPES OF EDEN VALLEY WOOD

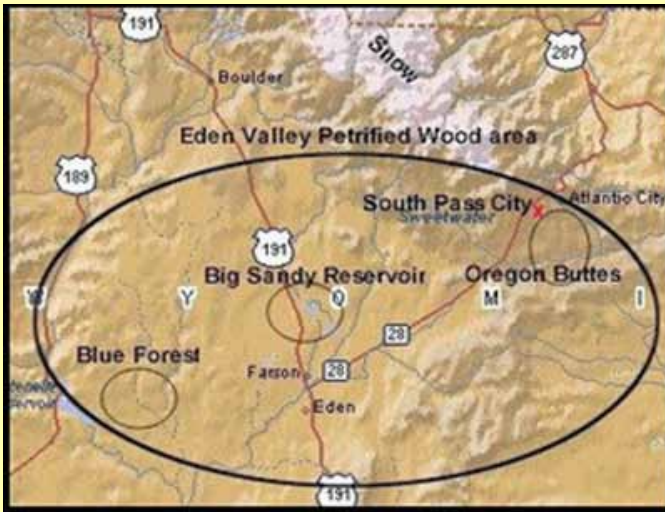
In the Eden Valley in southwestern Wyoming, petrified wood is found over a wide area around Farson. Most of the petrified wood resembles ordinary weathered wood and has an opaque cream colored coating of silica covering a silicified black to brown central core. On the Figure #1 map, three (3) common collecting areas are located: Oregon Buttes, Big Sandy Reservoir, and the Blue Forest:

continued on page 2

<b>WY Blue Forest Pet Wood</b>	<b>Pages .....1-7</b>
<b>WSMGS Board Report</b>	<b>Pages .....8-11</b>
<b>WSMGS Treasurer Reminders</b>	<b>Pages .....12</b>
<b>Protect club from Leagal Issues</b>	<b>Page .....9-10</b>
<b>More WY Rockstars Needed</b>	<b>Page.....13</b>
<b>WSMGS Website Overview</b>	<b>Page..... 14</b>
<b>Calculating Flat Lap Weights</b>	<b>Page.....14</b>
<b>Vibratory Flat Lap</b>	<b>Page.....15-16</b>
<b>Club Reports</b>	<b>Pages ....17-20</b>
<b>WSMGS clubs</b>	<b>Page.....15</b>

# Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page 1



1-Eden Valley Wood Collecting Areas

(1) The Big Sandy Reservoir collecting area is located 10 miles north of Farson is the Big Sandy State Park Recreation Area which includes Big Sandy Reservoir. The area one or more miles east of the recreation area is known for petrified cluster palm wood, cluster palm (formerly known as cane), and surface wood collecting areas. (T27N, R105-106W). recommended map - US Geological Survey, Farson 1:100,000 topographic quadrangle).

(2) On the eastern end of the deposit, fossil wood is found around Oregon Buttes just east of South Pass, Wyoming. Oregon Buttes was a major landmark on the Oregon Trail. Near Oregon Buttes, the Bridger Formation contains petrified wood. This wood, known as the Bridger-type, consists of partially silicified black wood. Where the wood is completely replaced by silica, it ranges in color from brown, tan to green. In addition to the wood, some clear chalcedony and vein moss agates are found in this region. ((T26-27N, R100-101W).

(3) The Blue Forest collecting areas are located near the west end of Eden Valley and about 30 miles west of Farson. The fossil wood found in this area is well known for the light blue chalcedony encased by fossilized algae that can be associated with many of the specimens. (sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, T24N, R110W).

Blue beds petrified wood (T23N, R109W). The

Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society (1965) described the south half of this township as a source of several types of petrified wood, which are found in the "blue beds" that cover much of the area. These "blue beds" appear to be within the Bridger Formation (Sutherland, 1990), and are located a short distance to the southeast of the Blue Forest agate area (recommended map - US Geological Survey, Rock Springs 1:100,000 topographic quadrangle).

## B. LAKE GOSIUTE AS THE SOURCE OF EDEN VALLEY PETRIFIED WOOD

Modern-day travelers on Interstate 80, traveling west of Rawlins, cross the Continental Divide twice. Southwest of Rawlins, the divide splits to encircle a low lying basin called the Great Divide Basin This area is also called the Red Desert Basin for the red soil derived from Eocene formations that cover the surface of the Great Divide Basin today. The Great Divide Basin, along with the neighboring Green River Basin to the west, were covered by Lake Gosiute during the Eocene Epoch.

Over 50 million years ago, during the Eocene Epoch, volcanoes in what would one day be the western United States were erupting and depositing ash in western Wyoming. At this same time, the Rocky Mountains began to form as the earth buckled and uplifted. Heavy rains which drained off of this new mountain range created Lake Gosiute.

Over a four million year period, Lake Gosiute expanded and contracted in response to changes in the region's climate. When Lake Gosiute reached its maximum surface area of 15,500 square miles (39,000 km<sup>2</sup>), it would have been slightly larger than the state of Connecticut today. At its smallest, the lake is estimated to have encompassed 4,000 square miles and could be compared as slightly smaller than the Island of Hawaii. Lake Gosiute was estimated at its maximum to be 60 feet deep.

Lake Gosiute began to form in the Great Divide/Green River Basins for the first time in the early Eocene Epoch. During this time, the climate was warm and moist. Under these conditions, hardwood trees, pine, fir, magnolia and other types of trees flourished in widespread heavily forested

## Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page 2

swampland cut by numerous braided streams. These streams fed into the Great Divide/Red Desert Basin, which filled to form ancient Lake Gosiute. Subsequent climate and tectonic activities during the lake's life span of 4 million years, saw repeated patterns of rising and falling water levels.



Lake Gosiute During Early Eocene

Lake Gosiute expanded and contracted in response to periods of increased precipitation followed by dry periods. The fluctuation in the lake level alternately allowed expansion of the forests around the lake, or drowned the timber as the lake rose. Lake Gosiute's ancient shoreline would also have been littered with driftwood, which became the source for Eden Valley Wood.

During the Eocene, sediment from the surrounding high areas was eroded by streams into Lake Gosiute.

These sediments were then covered over by ash deposits from volcanic eruptions. As Lake Gosiute became full of eroded sediment and volcanic ash, the driftwood and the drowned timber along its shoreline was also covered up. As the level of water in Lake Gosiute decreased, the original area to the west—the Green River Basin—remained as a fresh

water lake as it became separated by a ridge from the original Lake Gosiute.

As the climate changed with the periods of drought and reduced precipitation, Lake Gosiute continued to shrink in size and migrated to the southeast into a deeper basin—the Washakie Basin—where it became a dying lake with a high mineral salt content. These original deposits of saline materials and deep primal ooze of organic matter, over millions of years, produced today's highly valued mineral trona, while the latter created coal-bed methane gas, coal, and the world's largest known oil-shale deposit. Energy demands have also made the original Gosiute Lake area the epicenter of today's natural gas boom in Wyoming.

With geological time, the original Lake Gosiute sediments and ash deposits subsided and compacted to form layers of rock. The types of rocks formed in Lake Gosiute were sandstones, mudstones, siltstones, oil shales, coal beds, saline evaporite beds (trona), limestones, dolostones, and tuff (volcanic ash). Incorporated within these rock layers were the original driftwood and trees that formed along Lake Gosiute's shorelines.

Eden Valley Petrified Wood formed when the original trees and branches were rapidly buried under sediment and were initially preserved due to a lack of oxygen. Petrification occurs when water that contains inorganic minerals, such as calcium carbonate or silica, passes slowly through the organic wood. As the original wood's lignin and cellulose decay away, its original cellular structure is duplicated and replaced by these inorganic minerals. Elements such as manganese, iron and copper in the water and sediment during the petrification process give petrified wood a variety of color ranges. Pure quartz crystals are colorless, but when contaminants are added to the process the crystals take on a yellow, red or other tint.

### BLUE FOREST PETRIFIED WOOD

A. THE UNIQUE FORMATION OF BLUE FOREST PETRIFIED WOOD



## Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page3

Of the three Eden Valley petrified wood types, the Blue Forest petrified wood is the most unique because of its color and its algae coating. Some parts of Lake Gosiute were shallow and supported thick layers of algae. It was this algae that helped to create the Blue Forest Petrified Wood. The driftwood and trees in these shallow water areas of Lake Gosuite became coated with this algae. As this algae and water (which had a high concentration of calcium) began to evaporate and dry, the calcium mixed with the algae to form a hard but porous coating on the wood. As the algae dried it shrank away from the wood, leaving a space that was later filled with minerals. It is thought that the element Tin, if present in the groundwater, caused specimens of Blue Forest petrified wood to exhibit blue crystalline quartz or microcrystalline chalcedony.

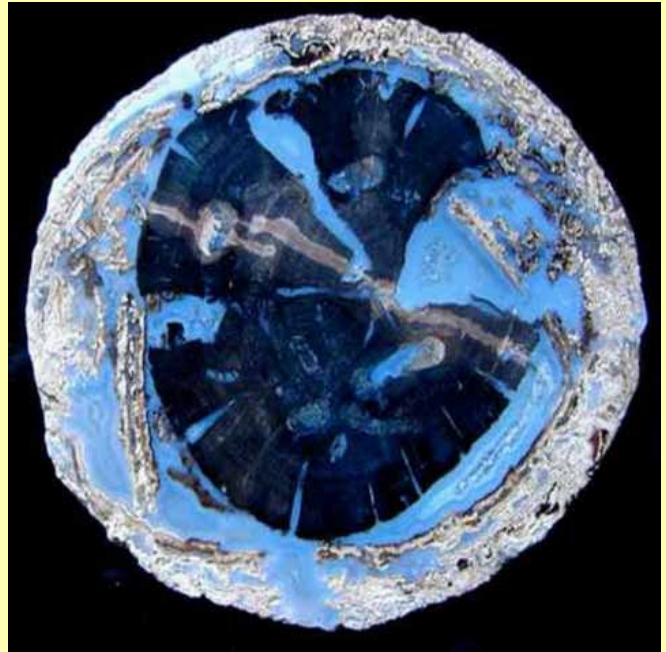
As mineral laden water moved downward through the layers above, the water also seeped through the algae coated wood which had been buried by sediments and volcanic ash. As the wood decayed, the wood was replaced, cell by cell by silica and calcite leaving petrified replicas of the original piece of wood. As the minerals coated the inside surface of the algae cast, perfect impressions of the outer surface of the wood were duplicated and preserved features not found in fossil wood anywhere else in the world. Some specimens of Blue Forest petrified wood have been found that preserve worm holes, insect borings, woodpecker holes, rare lichen fossils and small clam shells.

### B. THE LOCATION OF BLUE FOREST PETRI-FIED WOOD

Historically there is some confusion about the location of the Blue Forest Petrified Forest collecting site.

From the previous information presented, the wood along the shoreline was covered with algae and mixed with the sediments that filled Lake Gosuite. Over geologic time, this wood became petri-

fied within layers of sedimentary rock. As this entire region of approximately 100 miles by 100 miles was subject to erosion, only a few locations become known to rockhounds where the Blue Forest Petrified Wood could be collected within reach of the surface.



3-BLUE FOREST –EDEN VALLEY PETRIFIED WOOD (NOTE WORM BURROWS)

The following 4 travel descriptions allow rockhounds to start at a location and arrive at a single historical collecting site that is on public land and easily accessible by car. Please note the Computer Rockhounding Video that follows that offers visual clues to keep you from getting lost! If all else fails consult the GPS readings that also follow! Certainly there are other locations where the petrified wood can be collected but are guarded secrets shared by only a few rockhounds.

#1 Farson Route: Drive State Highway 28 southwest for about 22.5 miles, Turn right onto County Road 8 traveling northwest for about 11.25 miles to the ridge east of the Green River, Then turn right/north from County Road 8 onto gravel road, Then traveling on the gravel road for one mile north, one mile east, and one mile north will put you into the

# Wyomings’s Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page4

Blue Forest Petrified Wood digging area.

#2 Rock Springs Route: Drive U.S. Highway 191 north 40 miles to Farson, Turn left onto Highway 28 traveling southwest for about 22.5 miles, Turn right onto County Road 8 traveling northwest for about 11,25 miles to the ridge east of the Green River, Then turn right/north from Co. Road #8 onto a gravel road, Then traveling on the gravel road one mile north, one mile east, and one mile north will put you into the Blue Forest Petrified digging area.

#3 Green River Route: Drive west 2.25 miles, Turn right onto WY State Highway 372 traveling northwest for about 43.4 miles, Turn right from Highway 372 at Fontenelle (only a gas station & few buildings) and Travel north 1 mile then turn right/east to cross the Green river bridge (passing by the Dripping Springs Campground), travel County Road 8 for 4.5 miles then turn north toward the Blue Forest collecting area.

#4 LaBarge Route: Drive south on State Highway 189 about 24 miles to junction with Wyoming Highway 372, Turn left onto 372 and travel east for about 5.6 miles to Fontenelle (just a gas station and a few outbuildings), Turn left at Fontenelle and travel north 1 mile then turn right/east to cross the Green River bridge (passing by the Dripping Springs Campground), travel County Road 8 east for 5 miles then turn left/north on a gravel road for about 5 miles toward the Blue Forest Petrified Wood collecting area,

Start looking for all the holes and dirt mounds. Many times there will be campers parked there. For the petrified wood collector, get the Farson map if you intend on visiting. Maps at local BLM offices: Rock Springs, Pinedale, Kemmerer, Rawlins are closest offices but most all Wyoming BLM offices will stock this map) All areas have some petrified wood. Note the BLM map symbols: private (white), Bureau of Reclamation lands (orange), and yellow being public BLM lands. Blue sections are public State Lands. Please stay off private property with out permission. Ranchers with public grazing permits ex-

pect you to respect their livestock and certainly look out for Energy Company vehicles traveling these backroads!

Blue Forest GPS Coordinates: (42° 1’9.46”N, 109°53’34.10”W) 42° 1’ 13” North , 109° 54’ 40” We or [Elevation 7,200 feet+] (42.019294N, -109.892805W ) 42.02028, North 109.91111 West



4- BLUE FOREST TRAVEL MAP

Computer Rockhounding: Video Directions to Locate Blue Forest Collecting Area <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwE5AINP5Ck> Blue Forest Photos: petrifiedpalace.com.

## C. COLLECTING BLUE FOREST PETRI-FIED WOOD

1. Required Tools & Preparation: shovel, tiny camp shovel-trenching tool, whisk broom, wire brush, canvas to sit on, small pry bar, larger pry bar, trowel, specimen collecting box (a 10 quart pail is about 25 pounds of wood when filled, that’s the daily limit as

## Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page 5

to Federal Law), newspaper to wrap specimens in, lunch and water, there is no store except the Fontenelle or Farson store within miles, gas up in Rock Springs, Green River, Farson, or Big Piney. Camping is at the Dripping Springs Campground on the Green River, or dry camp at the forest. Realize the area is in a large natural gas development boom and it will provide sounds and some traffic 24/7.

2. Where is the Petrified Wood?: When you are in the right place you will see hundreds of holes and dirt mounds. Not much wood is found on top any longer, you need to dig to find it!! You can walk around looking on top and you can find chips of wood and agate but that's about it.

To find the good stuff you have to dig and it's pretty hard work because most Blue Forest Petrified Wood lies about 2 to 6 feet down. And it's not just dirt but a thick layer of shale and you need a pick to get through it. Then when finally you get to it, it's encased in a hard white algae. Plan on 4-6 hours on site! [The source of this material appears to be the Laney Shale Member in the upper part of the Green River Formation, and the overlying Bridger Formation both of Eocene age. Laney Shale sediments consist of tuff (fused volcanic ash), marlstone (mixture of clay with calcium carbonate) and brown to grey shale,]

3. Where And How To Dig? That's the million dollar question! Some times you pick a spot and get lucky but the law of averages is against you. Several methods are used by rockhounds to find the Blue Forest:

Method A: Some rockhounds use long metal probes with handles to push the probe into the ground until they hit something hard and then dig down to it.

Method B: Some rockhounds use witching rods which are 2 brass wire pieces –each 1/8 inch thick and 2 feet long and then bent about 3 inches from one end for a handle. Just like you have heard about the water witching rods, these rods are used to find the petrified wood under many feet of dirt. Some persons say it works 4 out of 5 times?!

Method C: About anywhere you dig that hasn't

been dug yet is likely to be a good place to dig.

On average, about every third hole will produce very well and take the rest of the day to complete the whole specimen, or the pieces of the specimen as it commonly occurs.

Strange thing about the blue forest wood is that there aren't many small branches or twigs, most are larger branches or logs. The original lighter weight wood limbs may have just floated away while the heavier logs sank and stayed put near the original Lake Gosiute shoreline.

The Blue Forest digs have been producing fossil wood for many generations and the locality still continues to give up its treasures. Many rockhounds believe there is still tremendous collecting potential in the Eden Valley of Wyoming and the Blue Forest digs -- and if a collector spends enough time and energy exploring these deposits his efforts will surely pay off with great finds!!

4. IT IS THE LAW: I would like to remind visitors to the Blue Forest that the BLM did not had a reciprocal policing agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (whose land it is located on), until a few years ago and thus the BLM Ranger didn't show up much...if at all. Now, expect to see a BLM Field Official enforcing the 25 pounds plus 1 piece per day collecting rule and enforcing filling in your holes. You can also expect a large fine for commercial digging if caught selling commercially.

Please read the Code of Federal Regulations Part 43, Sub part 3622. You are allowed to dig 25 pounds plus one piece per day. Not to exceed 250 pounds per year. Hand digging only. Not for commercial use. The largest risk to losing digging ability at the Blue Forest is from the BLM's monitoring the poor practices of not filling in the holes, and public littering.

Computer Rockhounding: Collecting Blue Forest Petrified Wood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08aChIwiHVM> + Google: "Blue Forest Petrified Wood Videos"

D. LAPIDARY PREPARATION OF BLUE FOREST AGATE

Most Blue forest Petrified Wood that is found by



# Wyomings's Blue Forest Petrified Wood

continued from page 6

digging has an algae coating on them. This should be expected since it was the original algae coating that allowed the formation of the Blue Forest Petrified Wood. The algae surface can be polished but the prettiest pieces of Blue Forest Petrified wood pieces are algae free or require lapidary work to remove the algae coating.

1. Some rockhounds try to gently knock the outside algae layer off with a hammer and chisel, trying hard not to break the wood.

2. Other rockhounds try to grind the outside layer of algae off to show the Blue Agate

3. Muratic acid is used to chemically remove the algae matrix which works really well on pieces that don't have too much algae on them.. Another big tip: Do not leave your wood in the acid too long or it turns the blue agate a light gray color. It's still nice looking, just not blue any more.

I would recommend viewing the following computer video presentations for more complete and additional Lapidary Hints to make your Blue Forest Petrified Wood into beautiful specimens.



5-BLUE FOREST PETRIFIED LIMB CAST

COMPUTER VIDEO LAPIDARY HINTS for Cleaning Blue Forest Petrified Wood

(1) [http://www.earthquestminerals.com/Blue%20Forest%20Prep/blue\\_forest\\_prep.html](http://www.earthquestminerals.com/Blue%20Forest%20Prep/blue_forest_prep.html)

(2) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKH6S\\_OBqsM+](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKH6S_OBqsM+) Goggle: "Cleaning Blue Forest Petrified Wood"

ADAPTED REFERENCES UTILIZED:

#1: Blue Forest Wood Photo: [http://rayerminerals.homestead.com/files/hout-blue\\_forest.jpg](http://rayerminerals.homestead.com/files/hout-blue_forest.jpg)

#2: <https://thegemshop.com/pages/eden-valley-petrified-wood-location>

rified-wood-location

#3: Figure 2-Lake Gosiute During Early Eocene : <https://geology.utah.gov/map-pub/survey-notes/exploring-utahs-other-great-lake/>

#4: Eden Valley Petrified Wood Location Map: [http://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0159/6368/files/map\\_ev\\_large.jpg?527](http://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0159/6368/files/map_ev_large.jpg?527)

#5: WSMGS Jade State News-May 2015:

#6: Figure 3- Blue Forest-Eden Valley Petrified Wood [http://rayerminerals.homestead.com/files/hout-blue\\_forest.jpg](http://rayerminerals.homestead.com/files/hout-blue_forest.jpg)

#7-Figure #4: Blue Forest Travel Map from Wyoming Department of Transportation Roadmap

#8: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/bul/1372e/report.pdf>

#9 : <https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=90093>

#10:[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green\\_River\\_Formation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_River_Formation)

#11:<http://www.ebay.com/gds/Blue-Forest-Petrified-Wood-How-and-Where-to-Find-it-/10000000000756733/g.html>

#12: Figure 5- Blue Forest Petrified Limb Cast <http://www.mineraltown.com/Reports/28/holz5-gross.jpg>

#13: <http://www.ebay.com/gds/WHERE-IS-THE-BLUE-FOREST-WOOD-AREA-LOCATED-/100000000003019228/g.html>

#14: [http://www.earthquestminerals.com/Blue%20Forest%20Prep/blue\\_forest\\_prep.html](http://www.earthquestminerals.com/Blue%20Forest%20Prep/blue_forest_prep.html)

#15 : <http://www.ebay.com/gds/BLUE-FOREST-WYOMING-in-modern-times-/100000000001900601/g.html>

#16:[https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC17XNK\\_lake-gosiute](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC17XNK_lake-gosiute)

#17:[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_Desert\\_\(Wyoming\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Desert_(Wyoming))

More information may be found in the following back issues of Lapidary Journal:

1950 April Page 16

1953 August Page 246

1968 May Page 330

1972 October Page 1078

1974 May Page 336



# WSMGS BOARD REPORT

WSMGS ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 14, 2017

Attention WSMGS Board Members: This email exchange refers to the Resignation Of George Tillman as WSMGS President. The WSMGS ByLaws state that if the president resigns, the position is to be assumed by the vice president with confirmation by the WSMGS Board. However, upon contacting Linda Richendifer, she stated that she had recently accepted the position of Riverton club president and would not be able to accept the position of WSMGS president. Previously the WSMGS Board voted to be able to “temporarily suspend” specific bylaws-this was approved by the membership. Therefore, George Tillman and I have confirmed that Jim Gray of the Sublette County Rock Hounds is willing to serve as WSMGS President until the 2019 annual meeting.

PLEASE RESPOND WITH YOUR “REPLY ALL” VOTE BY MONDAY DECEMBER 18 TO [treas@wsmgs.org](mailto:treas@wsmgs.org) OR [strikestan@gmail.com](mailto:strikestan@gmail.com) :

ACTION ITEM #1- I APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JIM GRAY AS THE WSMGS PRESIDENT. VOTE YES OR NO #1

ACTION ITEM #2- I APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF

\$50 Christmas gift certificate for our webmaster-Marlene Sibley.

VOTE YES OR NO #2

SUMMARY OF VOTING: ACTION ITEM 1= APPROVED (4 AGREE-2 NONVOTE)

ACTION ITEM 2= APPROVED (4 AGREE-2 NONVOTE)

WSMGS ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING- JANUARY 29, 2018

I. Electronic Meeting Instructions to Board Members:

As a WSMGS Board Member, I would ask you to read this Electronic Meeting email and VOTE on all Action Items by selecting “Reply All” after Typing your name and indicating a “Agree or Disagree” vote for each numbered Action Item. The Deadline for your responses by “Reply All” email will be Monday, January 29th. If you have questions about any item call or text me at 307-260-6442 or [pres@wsmgs.org](mailto:pres@wsmgs.org) Board members are encouraged to submit old or new business items that have not been included in this meeting and a special attachment will be sent out for the entire WSMGS Board’s consideration.

II. Secretary’s Report By Carla Tillman:

A. Electronic WSMGS Board Meeting Minutes are as printed in the November 2017 Jade State News, which is available online: [wsmgs.org](http://wsmgs.org) under the heading Newsletters.

III. Treasurer’s Report by Stan Strike:

Beginning Balance-November 1, 2017 = \$1,931.13

Income:	12-01-17	WSMGS dues Paid:	\$454.00
		[Cody-78,Sublette-114,Shoshone-45,Cheyenne-114/103]	
	12-21-17	WSMGS dues Paid:	
		[Riverton-130]	\$130.00
	01-12-18	WSMGS dues Paid:	\$55.00
		[Rex Young-20, Natrona Co.-35]	
		Total Credits =	\$639.00



## WSMGS BOARD REPORT continued from Pg 8

### Expenses:

11/14/17	Debit	USPS-postage:Jim Gray/George Tillman	(\$10.42)
11/30/17	1128	RMFMS-dues/insurance	(\$12.60)
11/30/17	1129	Jennifer Flowers-November 2017 JSN	(\$75.00)
12/ 01/17	1131	Homesteader Museum-WSMGS Vote	(\$100.00)
01/09/18	1132	WY Rib & Chop-webmaster gift	(\$50.00)
		Total Expenses =	(\$248.02)
		Ending Balance-January 31, 2018 =	\$2,322.11

\*\* A thank you to all of the WSMGS affiliated clubs for sending in their 2018 WSMGS Dues. WSMGS has the following totals for 2018: 512 Dues Paying Members, 20 Pebble Pups and 44 Life/Honorary = a sum Total 2018 Membership of 576 members.

### IV. Email Sent to Club Contacts 1/20/2018: WSMGS CLUB REPORT REMINDERS

A. December 15th to January 15th- WSMGS Club Annual Report and or Club Minutes to current Historian: Rod Baltes at-41 Y Road-Riverton, WY 82501 or [hist@wsmgs.org](mailto:hist@wsmgs.org)

B. January 1st to May 15th- Form 990N must be electronically submitted to the IRS (The Registered agent for each club should receive this form from the IRS in advance of the deadline). Clubs may contact the IRS directly by email: [la2.alt.www4.irs.gov/pub/rup\\_login\\_1](mailto:la2.alt.www4.irs.gov/pub/rup_login_1)

A "Helpful hints To Register with the IRS" email was sent to all club contacts on January 20, 2018.

C. Deadline for Annual Report to WY Sec. of State Varies by WSMGS Club-Deadline for renewal of "Non Profit Corporation Annual Report" varies by club and is due the 1st day of the month in which the club was first recognized by the Wyoming Secretary of State as a Non Profit Corporation.

(The Registered Agent for your club should receive this form in advance of the club's deadline

### WSMGS Clubs' Incorporation Dates:

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society	December 2, 1969
Cody 59ers Rock Club	February 1, 2012
Natrona County Rock Hounds	April 15, 1954
Rex Young Rock Club	No record of Incorporation
Riverton Mineral & Gem Society	August 17, 2012
Shoshone Rock Club	February 8, 1962 ? (No Articles of Incorporation on file (WY Secretary of State)
Sublette County Rock Hounds ??	No Record of Incorporation
WSMGS Board Incorporated –	November 23, 1964

### IV. President's Report by Jim Gray:

A. Jim Gray was confirmed as the new WSMGS Board President as a result of the December 14, 2017 Electronic WSMGS Board Meeting concerning the Resignation Of George Tillman

B. The WSMGS officers have been in contact with persons from Gillette and have encouraged them to hold an organizational meeting in March with WSMGS' full support . There also seems to be interest in the Rock Springs/Evanston area. Another group of rock hounds has been reported in Douglas.

## WSMGS BOARD REPORT *continued from page 9*

### V. Vice President's Report by Linda Richendifer:

- A. WSMGS affiliated rock clubs need to submit their Annual Election of Officers Report as soon as club officers are determined for the new year. The WSMGS Vice President will update the Annual WSMGS Club Directory and it will be sent to the email contacts in each club. This WSMGS Club Directory is for WSMGS affiliated club use only and IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION. The WSMGS makes every effort to protect the personal information of its members via the use of Alias Email Addresses for each WSMGS affiliated Club and the WSMGS officers.

### VI. Jade State Newsletter by Jennifer Flowers:

- A. Clubs are encouraged to submit news items, abbreviated minutes, and photos for publication in the Jade State News. Submission dates to Jade News Editor [jsn@wsmgs.org] are the 1st of February, May, August, and November.
- B. The WSMGS would like to encourage clubs to nominate [non-club members] individuals/couples from your region who have been active in promoting the Earth Sciences to be recognized by receiving recognition in the Jade State News as Wyoming Rockstars! Check out former winner writeups on the WSMGS website: wsmgs.org-Menu-WSMGS Topic Library-WSMGS Awards.

### VII. WSMGS Website by Marlene Sibley:

- A. WSMGS will not renew an older, unused website address: wygemandmineralsociety.org which Expires March 4, 2018. WSMGS will have only one web address after that date: wsmgs.org
- B. The WSMGS needs Action Photos from each of your clubs. Please include the photographer's name for proper photo credit and a short caption summary as to activity. Send photos to : webmaster@wsmgs.org

### VIII. Old Business:

- A. The WSMGS treasurer reports the confusion in some clubs as to their total membership on the October 31st date upon which WSMGS and RMFMS dues are based. It is important that every club coordinates this information between their officers such that a Current Membership List is available. Members who join the club after the initial start of the membership year are automatically covered by RMFMS liability insurance IF the club purchased it based on their October 31st membership totals.
- B. WSMGS recommends that all persons participating in field trips be members of that club such that the club is covered by the liability exclusions of being incorporated with the Wyoming Secretary of State and/or RMFMS insurance. This eliminates liability issues associated with the participation of members in club activities.

### IX. New Business:

- A. The IRS 990-N Form for 2017 was submitted 1-17-2018 by WSMGS treasurer Stan Strike. The form was accepted by the IRS. Prior to 2017, the Urban Institute hosted & managed the Electronic Filing System (990-N e-Postcard) for non-profit organizations. Beginning in 2017, the IRS is directly hosting and managing the e-Postcard requiring users to complete a "IRS.Online Services Profile" which culminates in the completion of the 990-N . An email was sent by the WSMGS treasurer to all club contacts to help them with this process.

## WSMGS BOARD REPORT continued from page 10

**B. Action Item #1-Continued WSMGS Board Support for Action Item #4-October 2016 Board Meeting**  
 Discussion: With the approval of Action Item #4, concluding the October 2016 Electronic Board Meeting, the WSMGS Board will continue to encourage the collection of club documents and facilitate the compliance with the legal requirements to protect all WSMGS members. With the succession of club officers over time, it becomes legally important that the club’s documents – which includes Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, minutes and financial records are preserved.

If the club is not incorporated or current in their Annual Report required by the Wyoming Secretary of State they are creating a legal liability for their club. As a nonprofit corporation your club is required to keep these important documents and share them with your members. This is why the WSMGS encourages each WSMGS affiliated club to send copies of their Annual Reports to the WSMGS Historian so if club records become lost, they can be retrieved for future reference.

The WSMGS will continue to encourage the collection and archiving of copies of all WSMGS affiliated clubs’ legal documents and in their absence the WSMGS Board will help to develop updated or new documents. The WSMGS will also continue to remind and monitor their WSMGS affiliated clubs/societies that they complete the required WY State and IRS reporting. **NOTE SOME CLUBS NOT INCORPORATED ??**

**\*\*\* VOTE Action Item #1- Approval of Continued WSMGS Board Support for Action Item #4-October 2016 Board Meeting**

NAME:

AGREE OR DISAGREE:

**C. Action Item #2- Financial Support/Recruitment/Formation of New WSMGS Affiliated Clubs:**

Discussion: The WSMGS supports the formation of a new rock clubs in the state of Wyoming. If a group of individuals express an interest in organizing a rock club, representatives of WSMGS will help organize a new rock club based on interested individuals attending an organizational meeting.

In order to cover the cost of the advertising-motel-meals- -gasoline involved with recruitment, WSMGS representatives would be reimbursed by the WSMGS treasurer in the amount not to exceed \$200 per potential club. WSMGS representatives will be appointed by the WSMGS President.

**\*\*\* VOTE Action Item #2- Approval of Recruitment of New WSMGS Clubs and Associated Funding Not to Exceed \$200 Per Potential Club**

NAME:

AGREE OR DISAGREE:

SUMMARY OF VOTING: ACTION ITEM 1= APPROVED (5 AGREE-1 NONVOTE)

ACTION ITEM 2= APPROVED (5 AGREE-1 NONVOTE)



**X. MEETING ADJOURNED- JANUARY 29, 2018**





## Club Report Reminders From WSMGS TREASURER [1-20-18]

A. December 15th to January 15th- WSMGS Club Annual Report and or Club Minutes to current Historian: Rod Baltes at-41 Y Road-Riverton, WY 82501 or hist@wsmsg.org

B. January 1st to May 15th- Form 990N must be electronically submitted to the IRS (The Registered agent for each club should receive this form from the IRS in advance of the deadline).

Clubs may contact the IRS directly by email: [la2.alt.www4.irs.gov/pub/rup\\_login\\_1](mailto:la2.alt.www4.irs.gov/pub/rup_login_1)

1. Clubs that registered with the IRS in 2017 were required to reregister with the IRS. The steps required were described in the February 2017 Jade State News-pages 9-10 (wsmsg.org-menu-newsletters). As a result of this process the club registered security questions, images, password and user name.

2. IF your club has a record of these Security choices from last year, you will be able to LOG IN to the above listed website using these Security choices. If your club did not register with the IRS in 2017 or failed to keep a record of your security choices, Follow the following IRS X, Y, Z Hints:

X: NEW REGISTRATION AND LOGIN STARTED DEC. 10, 2017: All e-Services users must re-register and create new e-Services accounts using a more rigorous two-factor authentication process called Secure Access. Register for your account by selecting the service you want to access. Please review Important Update about Your e-Services Account for details. If you previously registered in Get Transcript, online tax account, or Get an IP PIN, please use that password and your e-Services username. We recommend using the "Forgot Password" feature after one failed attempt. Please attempt to register online prior to contacting the e-Help Desk for exception processing.

Y: Modify Profile and/or add IRS2Go App: To change your password, change your site image, change your site phrase, or add the IRS2Go security code, you can log into Get Transcript Online and select "Profile". The IRS2Go app has a new "security" feature that will allow e-Services users to generate the second-factor security code to access accounts. See Secure Access: How to Register for Certain Online Self-Help Tools for more details on the IRS2Go app.

Z: Registration Assistance: If you cannot register online via Secure Access and need exception processing, call the e-Help desk at 1-888-841-4648 (select your language, then prompt 1 and remain on the line until an assistor picks up) 7:30 a.m. Eastern to 7 p.m. Eastern

C. Deadline for Annual Report to WY Sec. of State Varies by WSMGS Club-Deadline for renewal of "Non Profit Corporation Annual Report" varies by club and is due the 1st day of the month in which the club was first recognized by the Wyoming Secretary of State as a Non Profit Corporation.

(The Registered Agent for your club should receive this form in advance of the club's deadline)

### WSMGS Clubs' Incorporation Dates:

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society	December 2, 1969
Cody 59ers Rock Club	February 1, 2012
Natrona County Rock Hounds	April 15, 1954
Rex Young rock Club	No Record of Incorporation
Riverton Mineral & Gem Society	August 17, 2012
Shoshone Rock Club	February 8, 1962 (No Articles of Incorporation on file with WY Secretary of State ??)
Sublette County Rock Hounds	No Record of Incorporation
WSMGS Board Incorporated	November 23, 1964



## Protecting Your Rock Club From Legal Issues

Most of us do not plan on having an accident with our car or having our home catch fire BUT we carry the necessary insurance coverage to protect us from such losses. Your Rock Club should be no different-it needs to protect the club and its members from injury or damage lawsuits or legal situations that could be a financial loss to the club. The WSMGS Board recommends the following to all WSMGS affiliated clubs:

1. Register with the Wyoming Secretary of State as a non-profit Corporation.
2. Register your club's current Articles of incorporation with the WY Secretary of State.
3. Complete the Annual Report required by the WY Secretary of State.
4. Maintain an accurate & current membership list of all individual members.(RMFMS insurance requires)
5. Purchase RMFMS liability insurance for all individual members of your club.
6. Require all field trip participants to be current club members (filled out membership form & dues paid)
7. Require all field trip participants to fill out Liability Release Form & Sign Up Sheet contact Information.
8. Maintain accurate meeting minutes and financial reports that are available to all club members.
9. Promote Safety during all club activities in consideration of members and nonmembers.
10. Protect all members' personal information from the public domain.



## MORE WYOMING ROCKSTARS WANTED

The WSMGS would like to encourage WSMGS affiliated rock clubs or individual rock club members to nominate [non-rock club members] individuals/couples from your region or within the state of Wyoming who have been active in promoting the Earth Sciences in a public setting. These nominees will be recognized in the Jade State News as Wyoming Rockstars! Submit your nominations with photos to the WSMGS Jade State News editor's email address: [jsn@wsmsg.org](mailto:jsn@wsmsg.org)

### Former Wyoming Rockstars:

\*\* Eddy and Ava Cole

\*\* Curt Talbot

\*\* Cliff and Rowena Manuel

\*\* Clarence Ellis

August 2013 Jade State News

August 2014 Jade State News

May 2015 Jade State News

May 2016 Jade state News

Check out these former nominees' writeups on the WSMGS website:  
[wsmsg.org-Menu-WSMGS Topic Library-WSMGS Awards.](http://wsmsg.org-Menu-WSMGS-Topic-Library-WSMGS-Awards)

## WSMGS WEBSITE OVERVIEW [wsmgs.org ]

For those of you who have not used the WSMGS website, the WSMGS Board asks that you explore your website. The WSMGS website received a Blue Ribbon / 1st Place Award in the 2017 RMFMS competition and placed 10th in the AFMS national competition!

The WSMGS website was designed as a useful source of information for all rockhounds. It is unique in that it is designed to not only be a source for current information but to be cumulative within its Topic Library by referencing articles from previous editions of Jade State News that can be selected and retrieved with a click of a computer "Mouse"!

A Google Search of the WSMGS website address of wsmgs.org will bring up the WSMGS Home Page. On the Home Page, select MENU and the following 4 headings appear, each with subheadings:

WHO WE ARE: About WSMGS- Trademark & Logo-WSMGS History-WSMGS Documents

NEWSLETTERS:     -WSMGS / Jade State News (quarterly 2010-2017)  
                           -AFMS website link (monthly 1997-2017)  
                           -RMFMS website link (monthly 2007-2017)

WSMGS TOPIC LIBRARY: Educational Activities-Field Geology-Field Trips-Fossils-Gemstones-  
 Lapidary-Minerals- Rock Shows-Rocks- WSMGS Awards

ROCKHOUNDING WYOMING:   Places To Explore-Upcoming Events-Rock Shops- Rockhound  
 Law-                                 Safety-Web Links

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO CHECK OUT YOUR WSMGS WEBSITE. PEOPLE FROM 18 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE VISITED IT. AFTER ALL, IT IS AN AWARD WINNING WEBSITE. A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WEBMASTER, MARLENE SIBLEY, FOR BUILDING AND MAINTAINING IT!



### Calculating Flat Lap Weights:

Calculating Flat Lap Weights: When polishing slabs on a vibratory flat lap it is necessary to add weight on top of each piece. One method that can be used is to weigh out the proper weight of lead shot in a Ziploc plastic bag. The correct weight can be calculated:

Weight on slab (lbs) = Area of slab in square inches (lxw) x 0.5 – weight of slab

OR Rule of Thumb: Weight on slab (lbs) = 0.5 lb / square inch of slab (from Lynn Neale & Linna Beebe-Shoshone Rock Club-Powell, WY)





## Vibrating Lap

by Perry W. Trout  
from Rock & Gem  
(November 1982)

First off, we must say that the vibra-lap is an amazing machine; and then we'll hasten to add that it does require extra attention to operate properly and to insure positive results. It requires both attention and proper cleaning like no other item in the lapidary shop. But once this routine, this requirement, is accepted, then it is easy and you are assured of pleasing results.

We wonder just how many vibra-laps are setting around unused, and if so, is it possible that it simply involves too much trouble to use. We find that cleaning and maintaining the vibra-lap can become tedious, but the end results far outweigh any thought of the shepherding involved.

In our case we consider the vibra-lap as a standby unit; it is not used every day, or every month, but when needed it can produce a polish on any flat surface such as no other machine can do.

Every rockhound doesn't need a vibra-lap, nor can he justify the cost of a unit that will be used only infrequently. But the rockhound who goes in for displays and collecting will soon find that the only way he can polish a nodule or geode half, a book end, a pen base or a slab is to acquire and do it with the vibra-lap. And if first you would like to justify the cost, then make one try at having just one item polished by somebody else. The cost, like most anything else these days, is not only unbelievable, but simply out of reach.

After recommending thoughtful consideration, we now mention another thought, another reason for wanting a

vibra-lap—whatever the cost. And that is, when you have acquired a tumbler, trim saw, slab saw, grinder and polisher, then you'll find that you are at the end of the lapidary road; you can do everything but . . . in which case we *do* recommend that you go a step further and buy a vibra-lap. We find that a 10-inch will do for the average rockhound; both from a practical view and economy-wise. It will readily accommodate the needs of the average lapidary and possibly more in line with what he can afford.

And before the actual purchase we recommend that he give careful thought to the unit and some of its characteristics; of what he wants to do with it and the limits of what it will do. We consulted with rockshop dealers and decided, on their recommendation, to choose the "scored" pan; with grooves in the bottom running in all directions, like the spokes of a wheel. The grooves help to distribute, and renew, the abrasive grit against the base of the gemstones or rocks involved. It will, at the same time, involve a slight complication in the



*A flat lap machine is simple to operate, but does demand fairly constant attention, with hourly inspections and additions of water.*

cleanup process between each change of grits; but we think it is worth it. (Thoughts on the "clean-up" later).

We also chose to acquire an extra pan, exclusively, for the polish. This pan has a smooth bottom with a "rug" which remains intact; and the use of which insures that there is no possibility of renegade grit being left to get into and "mess up" the final polish. After considerable experience, we consider both the grooved pan and the extra pan an absolute must. And another thought here; when the polish cycle is completed, we place the polish pan with pad in a plastic bag to isolate for storage; where no scattered or flying abrasive grit can get into it.

Now the operation is ready to roll. But first, this involves a certain preparation. For the trial run we select 3 or 4 nodule halves or comparable average rocks that have been sawed in two and have a flat surface. Any burr or lip at a corner or end must be ground off so as to not leave a high corner or spot which would elevate part of the stone and defeat, or prolong, the process. We consider four pieces as a well-balanced arrangement and with ample room for stones to move about or rotate as they shift around, reacting to the vibration.

Before placing the stones in the pan we add one tablespoonful of 80 grit to the pan; fairly well distributed across pan and grooves. Before adding the stones we place a heavy rubber band around each, as a buffer when they bump against each other; which they will do more or less—and sometimes incessantly. Water must now be added to the pan. We use a detergent squeeze bottle. The amount of

water must be regulated, or governed, by the amount needed to keep stones moving and also to keep them quiet. But not enough water that it will be thrown out of the pan. We find that once started, then a squirt or two—or three—each hour is quite sufficient.

And here we now stress the importance of being in charge and operating the lap. It is not a machine that you can start and then go away and forget it. Once when I was in a doctor's office, and the subject of rockhounding came up, the doctor just happened to be one, as well as a lapidary. But he had discovered a puzzling problem: "In operating my vibra-lap," he said, "it runs dry . . ."

I quickly assured him that ours did too. But I also assured him that it only ran dry for lack of attention. It simply required water frequently and when needed.

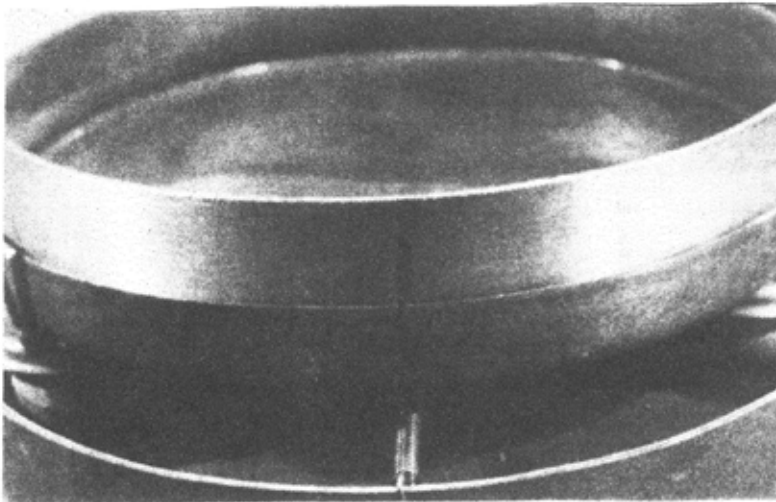
My own method is to busy myself on nearby projects so that one ear is attuned to the vibrating lap. I find that an hourly check and that squirt or two usually keeps it going and without problems. But any change in the sound warrants my immediate attention. Sometimes the stones begin chattering when they need help.

We find that with agate, 5 or 6 hours daily operation will usually polish the stones in 5 or 6 days. Obsidian, and the softer stones, require considerably less. The time element has a lot to do with what you start with. If saw marks or deep scores are present it will, of course, require much more time in the coarse grit. Sometimes a stone face will appear to be perfectly smooth and then when the coarse grit run is finished, it will prove to have both high and low spots. And in which case the only answer is to run longer in the coarse grit. On the average we change grit each two days or 80-220-400-600 and polish, all just short of 7 days, or one week. Inspection can be



## Vibrating Lap Continues from Pag 15

by Perry W. Trout from Rock & Gem (November 1982)



Flat lap pan must be level, and felt pen markings can make realignment easier after removing pan for cleaning, which is carefully done between grits.

made with each change of grit to see what, if anything further, is needed. We use one tablespoonful of grit with each grit change, and when the last grit is changed and ready for the polishing pan and rug we use only one teaspoonful of tin oxide or Raybrite A. If the final polish is not quite up to par, then we extend the final run a few hours.

Pen bases and paper weights can be polished without extra weight, but added weight can hasten the process. Slabs won't polish alone. We add a rock that has been sawed with a flat face and attached with 2-face tape. It must be kept in mind that a slab with a weight attached in the middle, the ends will not polish, therefore make it a point to attach two weights or balance the weight as much as possible.

A word of caution here; when leaving stones set overnight, be sure to life one corner or end, and prop with a stick or piece of dowel under it; otherwise by morning, your stones will be stuck in "concrete."

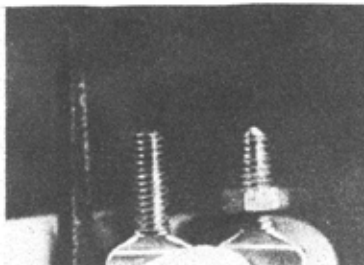
You can coax (when necessary) and keep the vibra-lap going under all conditions, and quite easily, but when changing grits there are positively no shortcuts. The cleaning and scrubbing of the worn-out grits must be done thoroughly and meticulously. A few coarse grit left in the grooves can loosen and spoil the over-all polishing with the vibra-lap.

We make the cleaning both simple and easy by setting aside a water bucket and wash pan especially for this purpose. Also a fiber bristle brush and a pointed dowel stick for cleaning the grooves. Our method is to scrub, clean and rinse; then set bucket aside with waste and residue to settle, after each change. After a few weeks, the clear water can be poured off and then evaporation will eventually reduce the balance to mere sediment which can then be disposed of with the trash. After much thought and deliberation, we have found no alternative for this sound cleaning process. Dumping the

waste into any drain outlet is positively a no-no.

The cleaning process involves four changes: 80-220-400-600 grit. When it comes to the polish, involving the pan with rug, the cleaning is omitted. And for the reason that the polish has become embedded in the rug and is simply helpful for future polishing. In no case is it washed. And thus requiring but the addition of a mere teaspoonsful of polish.

The 10-inch lap will readily accommodate average-sized nodule halves or rocks that have been halved for the reason that the 3 or 4 pieces tend to balance the lap. If one large rock is attempted, it will usually move around "hunting" until it gets in a corner and the unbalanced machine will just set there and "chatter." If a large stone must be lapped, it must necessarily be balanced by adding additional weight. We find it easier to work with the stones that are more suited to the lap's capacity. We find it relatively easy to polish petrified wood for bookends and agate pen bases or paperweights. But in the case of pen bases and paperweights, unless weighted, they will require more lapping time to polish.

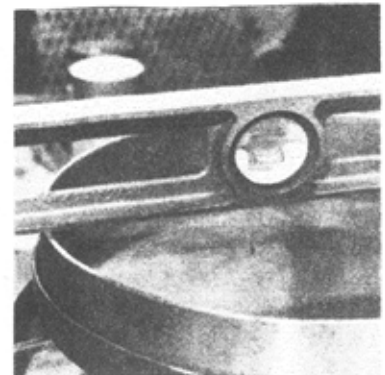


Locking screws which hold pan onto vibrating base can be improved with judicious filing to a point. Unscrewing nuts clears partially clogged threads.

Endless ways have been tried to water the lap to reduce the chaperoning time and with minor undue effects; but, in our experience, they all have one advantage and two disadvantages. And worst of all, if you cover the pan, then you no longer see, or know, what it's doing inside. We prefer to let the pan remain open and follow with an hourly check and a few squirts of water. Remember the lap is only used infrequently; so, for the short time it is used, one can afford to be on hand to make it work—and succeed.

In addition to our lapidary work, cutting and polishing, we are also a rock "collector". And with our constant search for quality cutting materials, we almost always saw each new nodule or rock in two, to further reveal any sterling qualities it may have. Then, if a collector's item, we then lap the face before displaying it, with the result that we have dozens of polished faces and with specimens so unusual or so attractive and beautiful that we'll never cut them. And to avoid it, we simply search for and acquire more or additional cutting material. With such a plan, we have accumulated a broad variety of interesting material; we can now pick and choose.

The vibra-lap remains the less-used of any of our motorized machines or tools; but without it and our many bookends, pen bases, paperweights and odds and ends. We realize it's an expensive luxury, just standing by for the few times we may or may not need it. But then what item in the shop is not a bit of luxury when you come right down to it. It's mostly in the eye of the beholder; but the rockhound—no. It's just a means to get things done. And in no case does a fisherman ever justify the cost of fishing by the pounds of fish he brings home. The rockhound only figures the cost in the outright enjoyment he receives; and this simply can't be over-estimated or valued in dollars and cents. As a heavy contributor to the rockhound's enjoyment, we have to include the infrequent use of the trusty vibra-lap. RSC



Pan can be leveled with a carpenter's spirit level. Most flat lap machines have levelling screws on base. Water is easily added with a plastic bottle.

## Club Reports

### Shoshone Rock Club Nov 2017 - Jan 2018

November 2017: Shoshone Rock Club officers for 2018 were elected during the November meeting. They are: President, Gary Olson; Vice President, Mary Vogel; Recording Secretary, Linda Dandy; Treasurer, Linda Thomas. Other board members are Carl Brown, Tuesdee Oswood, Dorine Strom, Nancy Ryan and Les Hunt.

In recognition of their longtime membership and contributions over the years, Mary Ann Northrup and June Rich were named Honorary Life Members of the Shoshone Rock Club.

Plans were made for the annual Christmas Dinner in December.

Gary stated he would like to see some lapidary equipment available to rock club members. He volunteered to check into costs and report to the club to see if members were interested. He also is willing to provide classes for use of the equipment. Gary noted that one style of horizontal lapidary unit weighs only about 17 pounds, so it would be easy for members to use it in their homes once they get instructed on the use of the machine. Further discussion indicated club members should have at least three classes before they could use the unit independently. Gary said he would report back at the next meeting.

The evening's program was a silent auction, with many rocks, minerals, slabs, fossils, magazines, books and a mineral testing kit provided by members. The auction raised \$289.77 for the club.

December 2017: The Shoshone Rock Club's annual Christmas dinner took place at Powell's Homesteader Museum, with 26 members and guests present. The club provided the ham, and five members brought delicious scalloped potatoes.

Doug and Beverly Huggins signed up as new members, and Cresta Peterson won the door prize, provided by Joyce Johnston.

Gifts of rocks, fossils and more were exchanged, and plenty of food was on hand. Elyse

Lynn talked about her musical instruments — flutes and the types of wood they were made from — and she played two songs for the group. Stan Strike presented a \$100 check from the Wyoming State Gem and Mineral Society to Brandy of the Homesteader Museum in recognition of Homesteader Museum being selected as the Wyoming's outstanding museum for 2017 during the Society's annual meeting. The museum was nominated for the honor by club member Linda Thomas, who attended the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society's annual rock show as a delegate in June.

January 2018: Guest speaker Ned Kelley gave the January program, "Our National Park Treasures," which included images he and his wife, Lynette, took while walking around Yellowstone National Park. Ned and Lynette have been hiking the local area for about 36 years, almost on a weekly basis. Ned reminded those present that it is illegal to take or destroy anything in national parks, such as rocks, fossils, plants, deer or elk horns, etc.

The Powell Branch Library offers the use of a smart board, and club members could easily see the images projected on a screen. One photo showed a very large agate, and it looked similar to a river-worn boulder of Montana agate. It looked like it may have weighed around 80 pounds or so. The Kelleys saw many petrified wood logs, with some of the logs in parallel broken sections. They also saw agate, opalized wood, chalcedony, and much more.

Ned mentioned they have often seen as many as six to eight bears in a day while hiking, and usually they have no problem with them. But one day they were some distance from a grizzly that was not moving. Lynette decided to whistle at the bear, and Ned said she can really make a loud whistle. The bear immediately started to charge towards them. When the bear got very close to them, Lynette brought out a super-loud horn and blew it, and the bear then turned away. The whistle may have sounded like a wounded animal. The lesson



## Club Reports

### Shoshone Rock Club Nov 2017 - Jan 2018 continued from page 17

seems to be, either do not whistle at bears, or be sure you are carrying a super-loud horn if you encounter a bear. (Bear spray is advised as well.)

This was a great program. The guys in the club hovered around Ned afterward, asking many questions.

Treasurer Linda Thomas conducted the meeting. Guests were the Kelleys, Donna Brasher, Mike NeVile, Kenny Winn, Ed Budny, Larry Roop and Nella Flurkey. Ed Budny became a new member of the club.

Yearbooks for 2018 were distributed. The door prize winner was Les Hunt.

Dorine Strom plans a two-day field trip to Tuff Creek, Boysen Reservoir and Agate Flats in the Riverton area. Plans and dates will be confirmed later.

Respectfully submitted by club member Ilene Olson

cc: Linna Beebe, Gary Olson, Linda Dandy

### Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter

January 2018

Next Meeting -Wednesday, February 14 -Silent Auction Message from the President

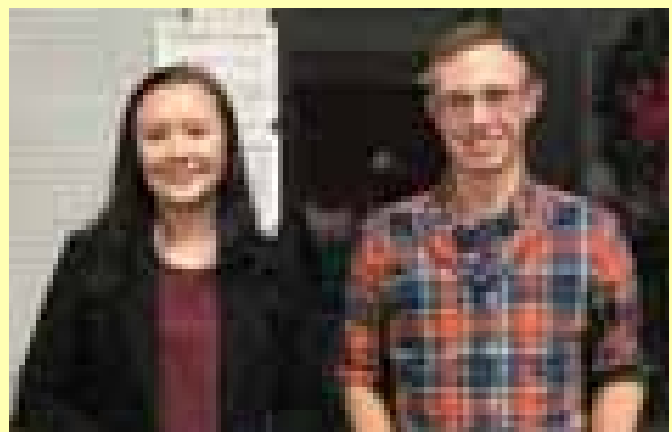
I would like your input on field trips. How far are you willing to travel? Are you capable of taking others? What type of rocks or minerals are you looking for? Can you do overnight trips either at a campground or the wide open spaces? Do you prefer to go on weekdays or weekends? Some of the places that the club has gone to years ago or recently are beginning to get picked over. We spent some time this last summer looking for new locations. The drive is far sometimes 90-150 miles one way but we found wood, jasper and agates. Going to the blue forest is possible and also back to the Joe Dorris claim at Lake George, Co. Most of the land close to Cheyenne is private and getting permission to go on it is hard. Please send me an email so I can start to help in getting trips lined up for the summer. [djarnold1944@yahoo.com](mailto:djarnold1944@yahoo.com)

If you know of places to go and would like to share let me know. Here's hoping summer is not too far off.

The Christmas Party was a lot of fun, as always, It was held at the Cheyenne Alliance Church on North Ridge Road. Wonderful food was brought by

all. It is always a delight to see and try new recipes. The gift exchange was enjoyable . Over the evening many gifts changed hands several times.

This year we gave out two \$1.000 gifts to two UW students. They are Ms.Shaelynn Kaufman and Mr. Andrew Flaim. The money comes from the proceeds of the silent auction table during our May show.



I would like to thank all that helped out during the party to make it so successful. We had about 40 members in attendance.

Summary of the Program for the January Meeting  
Lew Gray, a former employee of the Caderra Rojo

## Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter Cont from page 18

Mine, recently retired and new member of the Cheyenne Gem & Mineral Club, made a presentation on Powder River Basin coal. Coal production in the PRB increased dramatically as a response to concerns of high sulfur content coal being a significant contributor to "acid rain" in the eastern United States and Canada. Powder River Basin coal is classified as sub-bituminous, a lower grade coal with a lower sulfur content which met the demands of power plants for a lower cost alternative to power production.

Appalachian bituminous coal. The Powder River Basin coal beds were formed approximately 60-65 million years ago. The coal beds were the result of an environment that was very warm and moist which was very conducive for vegetative growth. Its estimated that it took 8-10 feet of vegetation to produce 1 foot of coal, some Basin coal beds are up to 100 feet thick. The vegetation was overlain with sediment thousands of feet deep that produced sufficient pressure and heat for the formation of coal. Over geologic time the overlaying sediment eroded leaving a thin soft rock sandstone over burden which is easier and more economical to mine. Lew also discussed the types of very large equipment used to mine Powder River Basin coal and techniques used to store and transport coal to eastern power plants. Thanks to Lew for the presentation, and welcome to the Cheyenne Gem & Mineral Cl

Valentine's Day- Special meeting - Mark Shively  
The February 14 meeting is going to be the club's annual Silent Auction. Watch for a separate email with the rules and auction form attached.  
Sellers will need to sign up for a seller number, DO NOT use your initials, PLEASE. Buyers will need to sign up for a buyers number, DO NOT use your initials PLEASE!!! Please start collecting flats that can be used and taken by the buyers.

Volunteers Needed for the 18th Annual Cheyenne Mineral, Gem and Rock Show  
2018 Rock Show - Jan Shively Show Chairman

It's that time again!!!! Planning for the Rock Show.

We NEED people to help or we may have to cut some parts.

Please volunteer to spend some time at the show and also for the setup and teardown. Setup & tear down are big items, we are all getting older, so we need more help.

Last year we didn't have anyone to relieve the members much less to help the vendors. Vendors that are also club members, we need you also.

Please volunteer for 2-4 hours on one day, to help with the tear down as that is when we are all tired and need more help.

You can sign up at the meetings, email me at [gidgetmom4@hotmail.com](mailto:gidgetmom4@hotmail.com), or call me at 509-953-0634 (leave message).



This photo was taken from last years trip.

### Dig for Hourglass Selenite by Bob King

Last year 12 of us drove to Cherokee, OK to collect hourglass selenite crystals. Everyone found a great many of these crystals and we are going there again this April. This year two club members are going to stay and dig for five days. I will be there April 5 & 6. If you think that you might be interested in going on this trip, call Bob King

## Cheyenne Mineral and Gem Society Newsletter Cont from page 19

at (307) 632-2702. There is NO fee to collect these crystals. It is a 10-hour drive to the dig area from Cheyenne. Google "Oklahoma Hourglass selenite crystals" for pictures and more information.

### Collecting hourglass selenite

All you need is a long handled shovel and water. The collecting area is located on a salt flat. You push your long- handled shovel into the red sand and listen for a "crunch." The crunch will be caused by your shovel slicing through a crystal. If

no crunch, you try another spot. After selecting a place to dig, you dig a hole in the red sandy "soil" about 18" deep. The bottom of your hole will fill with ground water. The crystals can be washed out of the walls of your hole by pouring water over them or by using the water in the hole to splash water on them. Some people kneel down above their hole to do the crystal collecting and some get in the holes to do their collecting. I get in my hole and get soaking wet. I throw my digging clothes away at the end of the day.

### Calendar of Events for 2018

February 10	FlyDragon Art Studio, Gem, Mineral and Bead Sale, Cheyenne, WY
March 16-18	Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Show, Albuquerque, NM
March 23-25	Ft Collins Gem and Mineral Show, Loveland, CO
April 7-8	Lincoln Nebraska Gem & Mineral Show
April 6-8	Eastern Federation, Raleigh, NC
April 13-15	Colorado Mineral & Fossil Spring Show, Denver, CO
April 27-29	Northwest Federation, Yakima, WA
May 5-6	South Central Federation, Lubbock, TX
May 19-20	Cheyenne Gem and Mineral Show, Cheyenne, WY
June 15-17	Rock the Wyoming Range, Big Piney, WY
July 7-8	Natrona County Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show, Casper, WY
July 20-22	Rocky Mountain Federation, Rapid City, SD
Sept 21-23	Southeast Federation, Jacksonville, FL
Oct. 6-7	Midwest Federation, Springfield, IL



## Natrona County Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show July 7-8, 2018 Ramkota, 800 N Poplar St, Casper Wyoming Wyoming Jade

Tate Musium: display of Jade    Raffle: Hunk of Jade + more    Pebble Pup bags for Kids 12 & under  
Demo of Flint Napping, Primitive Rock Tools & Gem Stone Faceting.

Vendors: \$60 for 6' table pair, \$80 for 8' table pair.

Contact Mac Goss 307-439-9073, [macogre13@yahoo.com](mailto:macogre13@yahoo.com)

or visit Natrona County Rockhound club facebook page for a copy of the vendors contract & more info.





Sublette County Rock Hounds



present the  
*Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society Show*  
**Rock the Wyoming Range**  
**Gem & Mineral Show**  
 Show Theme: Petrified Woods of  
**Wyoming**

**Friday, June 15, 2018 9am-5pm**

**Saturday, June 16, 9am- 5pm**

**Sunday, June 17, 9am-4pm**

**Sublette County Fairgrounds Events Center,  
 Marbleton, Wyoming**

Fluorescent Mineral Display

Exhibits

Demonstrations

Field Trips

Wheel of Fortune

Door Prizes

Knapping

Opals

Jewelry

Rough Rock

Slabs

Petrified Wood

Jade

Food Concessions

**Admission \$2, children under 12 free**

Contact: [jimgray@wyoming.com](mailto:jimgray@wyoming.com)

To: Vendors and Demonstrators

Thank you for your interest in the SUBLETTE COUNTY ROCK HOUNDS GEM & MINERAL SHOW, JUNE 15-17, 2018, at the Sublette County Fairgrounds Events Center in Big Piney, Wyoming.

RV Spaces at the Sublette County Fairgrounds 10937 Highway 189, north of Big Piney (307) 276-5373

RV Spaces at Rob's Roost 23 E. 3rd Street, Marbleton, Wyoming (307) 276-3611

The Marbleton Inn 405 Winkelman, Marbleton, Wyoming (307) 276-5231

The Country Chalet 9 Hwy 189, Marbleton, Wyoming (307) 276-3391

The Big Piney Motel 130 S. Front Street, Big Piney, Wyoming (480) 343-1234

Pinedale, Wyoming is approximately 40 miles from the show and there are more motels there.

If you have any questions please call Jim at (307) 260-6442.

# WSMGS CLUBS

Information subject to change; updates will be posted upon notice. Contact the Editor with changes at: [jsn@wsmgs.org](mailto:jsn@wsmgs.org)

## Cody Fifty-Niners Rock Club

P.O. Box 1251  
Cody WY 82414

[cody59ers@wsmgs.org](mailto:cody59ers@wsmgs.org)  
[www.Cody59ers.com](http://www.Cody59ers.com)

Meets 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m. Park  
County Courthouse, Cody

President: ..... Nella Flurkey  
Vice-President: ..... Teresa Rowan  
Treasurer: ..... Roger Lyons  
Secretary: ..... Linda Jennings  
JSN: ..... Linda Jennings  
Historian: ..... Jackie Platt



## Shoshone Rock Club

P.O. Box 256,  
Powell, WY 82435

[shoshonerockclub@wsmgs.org](mailto:shoshonerockclub@wsmgs.org)

Meets 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  
Powell Library,  
317 E. 3rd Street, Powell

President: ..... Gary Olson  
Vice-President: ..... Mary Vogel  
Treasurer: ..... Linna Thomas  
Secretary: ..... Linda Beebe  
JSN: ..... Linna Beebe  
Historian: ..... Linda Beebe  
Field Trips ..... Dorine Strom



## Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 21412  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

[cheyennemgs@wsmgs.org](mailto:cheyennemgs@wsmgs.org)

Meets Sept. – May 2nd  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

LCCC Health Science Bldg., 1400 E.  
College Dr., Room 309, Cheyenne

President: ..... Donna Arnold  
Treasurer: ..... Jan Shively

## Natrona County Rockhounds

P.O. Box 123,  
Casper, WY 82644

[natronarockhounds@wsmgs.org](mailto:natronarockhounds@wsmgs.org)

Meets 1st Monday 7:00 p.m.  
Clubhouse, 5211 Rambler, Mills

President: ..... Mac Goss  
Vice-President: ..... John Hine  
Treasurer: ..... Kenny Platte  
Secretary: ..... Mac Goss



## Rex Young Rock Club

112 East 3rd  
Lingle, WY 82223

[rexyoungrockclub@wsmgs.org](mailto:rexyoungrockclub@wsmgs.org)

Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Center  
216 E. 19th, Torrington

President: ..... Kim Nielsen  
Vice-President: ..... Sherman Lenhart  
Treasurer: ..... Leroy Meiniger  
Secretary: ..... Joyce Trowbridge  
JSN: ..... Joyce Trowbridge  
Historian: ..... Joyce Trowbridge



## Riverton Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 1904,  
Riverton, WY 82501

[rivertonmgs@wsmgs.org](mailto:rivertonmgs@wsmgs.org)  
[www.RivertonMGS.com](http://www.RivertonMGS.com)

Meets Sept.–May 2nd  
Monday 7:00 p.m.  
303 E. Lincoln, Riverton

President: ..... Rod Baltes  
Vice-President: ..... Rob Currier  
Treasurer: ..... Melvin Gustin  
Secretary: ..... Kim Brown

## Sublette County Rock Hounds Club

P.O. Box 1351 Big Piney, WY 83113

[subletterockhounds@wsmgs.org](mailto:subletterockhounds@wsmgs.org)

Meets 3rd Saturday 1:00pm  
The Bench Grill,  
415 Winkleman, Marbleton, WY

President: ..... Jim Gray  
Vice-President: ..... Mike Schaffer  
Treasurer: ..... Deb Jess  
Secretary: ..... Leane Gray

