

Welcome Friends and Rockhounds

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The Petrified Digest

March, 2025



Mike Zinski

Liz and I decided that we wanted to broaden our horizons a little, so we joined the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club in Kennewick. Earlier this month, we attended our first meeting. There, we met Mike Zinski and the following day we toured his shop.

I asked Mike how he got into rockhounding and lapidary. He said that his wife contracted a horrible disease and passed away in 1964. "I was broken up," he said. "I needed something to take my mind off of it and something else to think about." He paused and then added, "Rockhounding helped."

Mike told me that it was around 1967 when he was at a large Gem and Mineral Show in Las Vegas. The owner of Dick Foley's Roadrunner Rock Shop had a booth there and he was demonstrating the new Ultratech Faceting Machine fitted with a Crystalite Diamond Flat Lap. Mike had a bag of Mexican Topaz that he had just purchased so he asked Dick to try faceting a piece of it. Dick said that he would have to ask the man who manufactured the flat lap if it was okay. He then turned to a nearby gentleman whose name was Jack Greenspan, the owner of Crystalite. Jack said it was okay, then said to Mike, "I think you should be the one to demonstrate it." Mike readily agreed. Soon a crowd gathered around and watched as Mike faceted the Topaz.

Mike was enthralled with how this new machine cut the stone with its electroplated diamond flat lap that Jack had invented. Previously, Mike had only faceted on an O'Brien Faceting Machine. Mike went on to tell me, "Very few people have ever heard of one and even fewer have ever seen one." Mike did such a great job with the machine that Jack asked him to demonstrate at other shows. He told me that he and Jack flew to a show in Washington DC where he met Howard Stanley, the inventor of the Ultratech Faceting Machine. He said that he got to know him well saying, "he was a good guy." Then added, "He was a fantastic guy!"

Sometime later, Mike was working as a Class A Computer Tech for RCA Aerospace debugging Saturn 5 computers when the company went on strike. The shutdown ended up lasting for a couple of months. Since he couldn't afford to be out of work that long, he took a job at Crystalite. He never returned to RCA. Instead, he continued working for Jack, eventually making diamond laps and later, diamond capping wheels.

A couple of years ago, Mike saw a 3D printed trim saw at the Yakima Gem and Mineral Show. It appeared to work just as well as the ones produced by the well-known manufacturers. "I've seen so many people join our club in Kennewick who are enthusiastic about getting into lapidary," he said. "But when they find out what the equipment costs, they say that they can't afford that, and they stop coming to the meetings." Mike paused and then went on, "I got tired of losing all those potential rockhound buddies!"

So, Mike bought a used Ender 3D printer. He downloaded Free Cad 0.19 to design the lapidary equipment and UltiMaker Cura 15.04.07 as the slicing software. Both are free programs. The slicing software provides the printer with specific instructions on how each layer is to be printed and the path the nozzle is to take to print each layer.

The Ender produced the desired results but it had a limited capacity. It could print the table for a 4 inch saw but not a 6 inch saw. So, Mike bought a printer with a larger build platform and then an even larger one after that. He mostly uses an Anycubic Kobra 2 Max which has a print capacity of 420 x 420 x 500 mm which translates to about 16 1/2 L X 16 1/2 W X 19 5/8 H in inches. This printer allows him to make up to a 14" vibrating flat lap and up to 8" inch trim saws among other things. However, it isn't quite large enough to print a 10" saw. To keep the costs low, Mike typically uses a small 24-volt DC motor that sells for a little over \$20 and a similarly priced motor controller. In total, he has between \$75 and \$150 in the machines that he makes.

However, Mike doesn't sell anything that he makes. He explained to me, "I'm not a business, I'm a hobbyist." He added, "I want the hobby to grow and I will provide a copy of the cad files that I use and help instruct people how to make their own machines." He also allows any member of the Kennewick club to use his shop. When we were there, a club member was brushing up on her faceting skills. There was plenty of room and Mike told me that he

owns 15 to 20 faceting machines. Writing this story, I was reminded that while it's great to find rocks and minerals, it is the people that you meet and the friendships that are forged that is one of the best aspects of rockhounding.

Below are some of the machines that Mike has made. From left to right: Horizontally mounted flat lap with lap rack beside it, 8 inch trim saw (motor has not been installed yet, vibrating flat lap.



From the Scribe

GINKGO GENERAL MEETING

2-21-2025

The meeting was called to order by President Melisha Maxey at 7:02.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

Visitors were Ron and Andrea Lutes who joined the club.

Susan Oglebay gave a report on upgrading our website, which is back on line. She attended a zoom meeting on web design and is anxious to get busy!

Members wanting to sell a few items at the Gold Show are: Ken SLy, Pam Lander, Carl Pedersen and David Everhart. We will have a raffle item at our booth.

A suggestion was made to check out equipment but only after training has been done on that particular machine.

David Everhart will lead a trip to Saddle Mountain in pursuit of Petrified Wood on March 22nd. Meet at the Hobby Lobby west end of the parking lot, ready to leave at 9 am. Members are encouraged to bring examples of items found in that area to the next meeting.

Pam Lander will lead a field trip to Ancient Lakes on April 19th. It's an easy 3/4 mile walk.

Jodi Rose will lead a trip to Naches for Thundereggs, Serpentine and Lily Pads on June 14th. She will also lead a trip to the Heather Lake Trail for Garnets on August 9th.

Rick Lechner has a list of field trips in Wyoming for this summer. If anyone is interested contact Rick at 307-349-4327.

Carol Smith suggested we see if Nick Zentner would come to Wenatchee for a lecture. Susan Ogelbay suggested we go to the Dry Falls Museum.

There will be a wire wrapping class in the near future.

Show and Tell:

Rick Lechner brought samples of rocks to cab and how they turn out. One piece he bought at a show was Cherite from Russia, a beautiful purple!

R John Montgomery brought box of rocks found at a thrift store which were very nice.

Door Prize and Raffle: Chris Shaw won the door prize, R John Montgomery won the main raffle. Other raffle winners were Janiece, Carl, Rick, Sheila, Diana, Curt, Mary and Cindy.

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Summers, Substitute

Rockhounds Downsizing & Estate Sale

This event was cancelled and has now been rescheduled for:

Saturday April 5th, 9 am-3 pm (One day only) Cash only

Everett United Church of Christ 2624 Rockefeller AVE, Downtown Everett
Gemstones, Lapidary Rough and Slices, Mineral Specimens and Much More

Field Trips

Saturday, March 22nd.....Saddle Mountain.....Petrified Wood.....Led by David Earhart....Meet at the west end of Hobby Lobby in East Wenatchee. We will leave there at 9 am. **Dress warm and be prepared to dig!**

Saturday, April 19th.....Ancient Lakes.....Common Opal.....Led by Pam Lander.....Meet at the west end of the Hobby Lobby Parking lot in East Wenatchee. We will leave there at 9 am.

Saturday, May 10th.....Rufus, Oregon.....Picture Jasper....Led by Rock and Sage Field Trips.....Meet at the Sherman County Rock Shop 462 South First, Rufus Oregon at 9 am.....This trip is a Rock and Sage Trip to a fee site. Liz and I will be going. If anyone wants to carpool, lor if you have questions, let us know. (509-699-9450). This is an early bird trip as it is over 3 hours from Wenatchee.
Saturday, June 14th.....Naches...Thundereggs, Serpentine, Lilly Pads....Led by Jodi Rose....Meet at Hobby Lobby in East Wenatchee...Leave at 6 am.
Saturday August 9th.....Heather Lake Trail....Garnets.....Led by Jodi Rose.....Meet at Hobby Lobby....Leave at 9 am.

These are the scheduled trips at this time. However, we plan to add more. In addition to the newsletters, check our Facebook page for more details on these trips.

Upcoming Gem and Mineral Shows

25th Annual NCW Prospectors Gold and Treasure and More Show at the Fairgrounds in Cashmere. Saturday April 12th, 9 am to 5 pm. Sunday April 13th from 9 am to 4 pm. \$5 Admission, 12 and under FREE! Free sample of gold to the first 50 paid admissions! **There will be at least four club members displaying their wares and representing the club. We have been to this show and really enjoyed it.**

65th Rock Rollers of Spokane, Washington Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show at the Spokane Fairgrounds, 404 N Havana St, Spokane. Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th from 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday March 30th from 10am, Sunday March 30th from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$12 at the door. \$11 for advance admission.

Yakima Rock and Mineral Club 62nd Parade of Gems at the Central Washington State Fair Park, Modern Living Building 1301 Fair Ave in Yakima. Friday April 25 from 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday April 26th from 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday April 27th from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission for an adult \$7, student \$2, under 12 free with paid adult.

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Show at the Benton County Fairgrounds, Building #21500 South Oak St, Kennewick. Saturday April 26th from 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday April 27th from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$5 (good for both days), 14 and under free with paid adult admission.

These are the upcoming shows through April that are located in Washington on the east side of the Cascades. If you want to see a list of all shows in Washington or in other states click on this link:
<https://xpopress.com/show/state/Washington>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations, or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage of property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities any deposit of pertified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public education and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners," and at all times will conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public :

"image" of rockhounds everywhere.

Several of our members have graciously provided homes for our shop equipment. They will make the equipment available to Club members by appointment so we can still cut and polish the stones we collect. Below is a list of equipment with phone numbers to call to arrange an agreeable time:
 Pam Lander: A Genie and trim saw 509-884-5135
 Jodi Rose: A Genie and trim saw 509-763-9402
 Carl Pederson: A Genie, an 18-inch slab saw (\$2.00 per cut), 10 inch slab saw, faceting machine 509-630-8239. If you need slabs or rocks cut contact Carl, he will cut them for you.
 Marcia Sommers: A slant lap.509-860-7556

From the Vault

As of January 31, 2025

3 CDs.....	\$13,405.28
Savings Account.....	\$2,087.77
Checking Account.....	\$4,938.55
4 Deposits (Meeting, Memberships, Fundraising).....	\$1,793.84
3 Checks Written (Newsletter, Pizza, Books).....	(\$672.89)
Ending Balance.....	\$6,059.55

David's Notes

It's time to pay your membership dues for 2025. Members who haven't paid by the March meeting will be taken off the mailing/emailing list to receive the April newsletter. We hope that we don't have to do that as we appreciate your continuing support.

Individual: \$20.00
 Family: \$40.00
 Senior (one): \$15.00

Marketplace



The Ginkgo Mineral Society was formed to promote the education of mineralogy and geology; to encourage the collecting of rocks and minerals; to provide field excursions to mineral collecting areas; and to promote interest in lapidary work.

We are a 501c7 organization and are not "charitable" in nature but are a membership organization formed to serve its own members. 501c7 organizations do not solicit charitable donations. As long as a social club is "organized for pleasure, recreation or other non-profit purposes" it can qualify as exempt from federal income tax.

Annual Dues: Individual-\$20.00, Senior-\$15.00, Family-\$40.00, Lifetime (20 plus years)-Free. Please mail your dues to Ginkgo P.O. Box 303, Wenatchee, WA 98807.

Learn more

Next Meeting:

March 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm
 Presbyterian Church
 200 S. Kentucky, East Wenatchee

Email ideas, trip notes or photos
 to: Lizhemberry@hotmail.com
 Website: www.wenatcheerockclub.org
 Facebook page: Ginkgo Mineral Society

Club Officers

President..... Melisha Maxey.....509-885-2996
 Vice President..... Brenda Jackson..... 509-884-5320
 Secretary..... Liz Hemberry..... 509-699-9450
 Treasurer..... David Earhart..... 509-860-0988

Coordinators

Marcia Summers..... Membership..... 509-860-7556
 Pam Lander.....Grit..... 509-884-5135
 Carl Pederson..... Shop and Equipment..... 509-630-8239
 Melisha Maxey..... Rock Auction.....509-885-2996
 Brenda Jackson..... Social Chairperson..... 509-884-5320
 Susan Oglebay..... Club Website..... 509-754-2665
 Museum.....Open
 R John Montgomery.....Chelan County Fair.....509-860-2762
 Ken Hemberry..... Newsletter..... 509-699-9450
 Cheri McMillan.....Facebook Page Admin.....509-860-0009
 Assistanr.Facebook Page Admin.....Open
 Christmas Wrap.....Open



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