

The CMS Tumbler

December 2023



The monthly newsletter of the Cascade Mineralogical Society, Inc., Kent, Washington

Christmas Party:
December 3, 2023
Set-up 11:30 a.m.
Eating 12 Noon

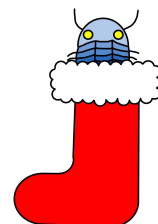
American Legion Hall
25406 97th PI S
Kent, WA

The club will furnish Turkey and Ham.
Bring a dish or dessert and your own silverware, cups, plates, etc.

We will have a club auction.

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Connect with us!

Website: <https://www.cascademineralsociety.org>
Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CasMinSoc/>
Facebook Groups: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168207926650075>
Show Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cascadegemandmineralshow>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cascaderockclub/>
YouTube Channel (Please like and subscribe):
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFatV_JjgZRm9ESA

This month remember to wish a Happy Birthday to

- Elijah Fu on December 2
- Lynette Alexander on December 2
- Jim Cerenzie on December 4
- Eric Paulus on December 4
- Nora Quinn on December 4
- Steve Thoreson on December 5
- Israel Sandoval on December 6
- Nan Li on December 8
- Michael Kelly on December 11
- John Cornell on December 14
- Ron Jacobson on December 15
- Tanya Kosen on December 18
- Lauren Vitellaro on December 21
- Nik Brown on December 21
- Shannon Soliz on December 22
- Connie O'Neill on December 27
- Erik Richards on December 27
- Beverley Williams on December 29
- Garry Hartzell on December 31

and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Mark & Penny Hohn on December 27
Peter & Beverley Williams on December 29 (41 years)

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For commercial use, the author(s) must be contacted for permission; if no contact information is given, contact them via the editor.

Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

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Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.
greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com

2023 Elected Officers

President Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Vice President Linda Jorza	206-478-1642	ljorza@gmail.com
Treasurer Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com
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Director 2 - Field Trips Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	roger.danneman@gmail.com
Director 3 - Programs Paul Ahnberg	941-704-2063	runhikebird@icloud.com
Director 4 - At Large Richard Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
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Show Coordinator Christina Vitellaro	425-351-4737	bluefirtree@comcast.net
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Mineral Council Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	dianahorsfall@comcast.net
Mineral Council Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com

2023 Show Committee Chairs

Cascade Coordinator Christina Vitellaro	425-351-4737	bluefirtree@comcast.net
Cascade Co #2 Peggy Shashy	904-655-3241	14thebirds@bellsouth.net
Cascade Co #3	Vacant	
Book Display Cases Peggy Shashy	904-655-3241	14thebirds@bellsouth.net
Show Display Cases Refurbish Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Mail Flyers Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com
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Show Silent Auction (shared) Richard Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
Show Silent Auction (shared) Noelle Barnes	206-914-0514	noelleb@outlook.com
Pre-Show Raffle Case & Donation Requests Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Show Raffle Case Display Terri Gerard	206-437-0240	eyeballgraphics2002@yahoo.com
Raffle Prize Distribution Jennifer Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
Show Demonstrators Richard Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
Show Load In/Out		
Show Display Case Presenters Peggy Shashy	904-655-3241	14thebirds@bellsouth.net
Show Road Signs		
Show Event Volunteer Recruiter		
Show Refreshments Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
Spinning Wheel Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
Show Website Kat Koch	425-765-5408	vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Show Vendor Chairman Kat Koch	425-765-5408	vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Show Food Trucks Paul Arhnberg	941-704-2063	runhikebird@icloud.com

2023 Committee Chairs

Club Historian Jim Cerenzie	253-638-1478	jcerenzie@yahoo.com
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Health & Welfare Bev Williams	425-228-5063	britbev1957@outlook.com
Library Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	dianahorsfall@comcast.net
Meeting Greeters Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
Meeting Programs Paul Arhnberg	941-704-2063	runhikebird@icloud.com
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Refreshment Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
Raffle Master Roger Pullen	206-387-3214	Phone calls only. No email or texting.
Show & Tell Michael Blanton	425-271-8757	mblanton41@hotmail.com
Webmaster Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
Facebook Group Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Facebook Club Page Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
Instagram Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
All Other Social Media Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
West Seattle Timebank Volunteers Linda Jorza	206-478-1642	ljorza@gmail.com
Videographer – YouTube Channel	Vacant need volunteer	

2023 CMS Dues are \$30 per year per family

Pay online, by mail, or at our meetings.

New mailing address: Cascade Mineralogical Society, c/o Ananda Cooley, 300 Lenora St. - PMB 6145, Seattle, WA 98121

You can pay your dues via credit card!! We now accept all cards through our website or at the meeting.

You can renew your membership or enroll as a new member and pay your dues all in one shot online. You will find it under the "Membership" tab on our website. <http://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org>

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies; the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies; and the Washington State Mineral Council.

Our Club is a Member of these Federations and Associations

AFMS: The AFMS governs our Northwest Federation. <http://amfed.org/index.html>

The bulletins are published quarterly. You can find the news bulletins at <http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>



NFMS: The Northwest Federation is our home federation. To keep up on the goings-on in our own backyard. <http://northwestfederation.org/>

The link for the news bulletins is <http://northwestfederation.org/Newsletters.asp>



ALAA: The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the rockhounding interests of 325 gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 States and the District of Columbia.

The association's purpose is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting, and mining. The use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. They also carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators, and public land managers. <http://amlands.org>

The front page also has a lot of current news, rockhounding restrictions or lack of, etc. <http://amlands.org>

ALAA also publishes a quarterly newsletter. To keep up on the news and lobby efforts on our behalf, check out <http://amlands.org/>



Washington State Mineral Council: The Washington State Mineral Council is dedicated to the location and conservation of rock and mineral sites of interest to the rockhounds of Washington state. <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

You can find local rock and gems shows and planned field trips. It's a great resource if you want to plan on an outing.

Also check out "Misc. News" for all the latest updates on collecting sites around Washington.

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/news-updates/>

When the weather is good, they have regular monthly field trips. So take advantage of these great outdoor rockhounding adventures! The field trip details are under "Field Trips" on the left side of the site. Check out the link for additional information for the time and place to meet and the field trip leader.

You can find all this information and a whole lot more about what is happening in our state at <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>



Rockhounding Code of Ethics

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

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 to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely 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 practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

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 petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational 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 will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

from the AFMS website

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com Please put the word "Tumbler" and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

NFMS Needs Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Every year the NFMS collects postage stamps from its member clubs. They have a stamp company that buys them, and in turn, these funds are donated to cancer research. Every year NFMS donates around \$5,000.

On letters that you receive, tear the corner with the stamp off. Try to leave about 1/4" of the envelope around the stamp. Be careful not to damage the stamp. Place the stamps in a plastic baggie and bring them to the meeting. Our member, Mike Blanton, collects the stamps and turns them over to the NFMS at the regional rock and gem show. You can give them to Mike as often as you want throughout the year.

Collecting the stamps is another way we rockhounds give back to our community.



Don't Forget To Show Your Membership Card At These Retailers

JERRYS ROCK AND GEM
 804 WEST VALLEY HWY. KENT, WA. 98032
jerrysrockandgem.com jerrysrockandgem@msn.com

Follow us on Facebook **253-852-0539**

Black Jack's Metal Detectors
 AND MINING EQUIPMENT!

Black Jack's Metal Detectors
 Mining Equipment, Low Pressure Dive, & Rock Shop!
www.BlackJacksMetalDetectors.com
 Your place for Metal Detecting & Mining Equipment

101 Park Ave N,
 Renton, WA. 98057
 Store # 425-430-0290
 Direct # 253-961-3095

SoDo Rocks
 Friday thru Sunday
 10 am to 4 pm

2700 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98121

These three retailers are huge supporters of our club. Please seek them out when looking for lapidary items and supplies. Don't forget to show your membership card and receive a 10% discount on most items!

New for Members Only – New Texting Service

We are busy and often forget that CMS has an upcoming meeting or event. Therefore, we have a texting service to remind members of CMS meetings and events.

Everyone is automatically entered into this service. You can opt out anytime by responding with STOP.



Access CMS Club Instagram page



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.

Access our CMS YouTube channel



Access our CMSclub website for the latest on meetings and club events



Access CMS Facebook Groups



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Xmas Party 12 Noon	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 Happy New Year						

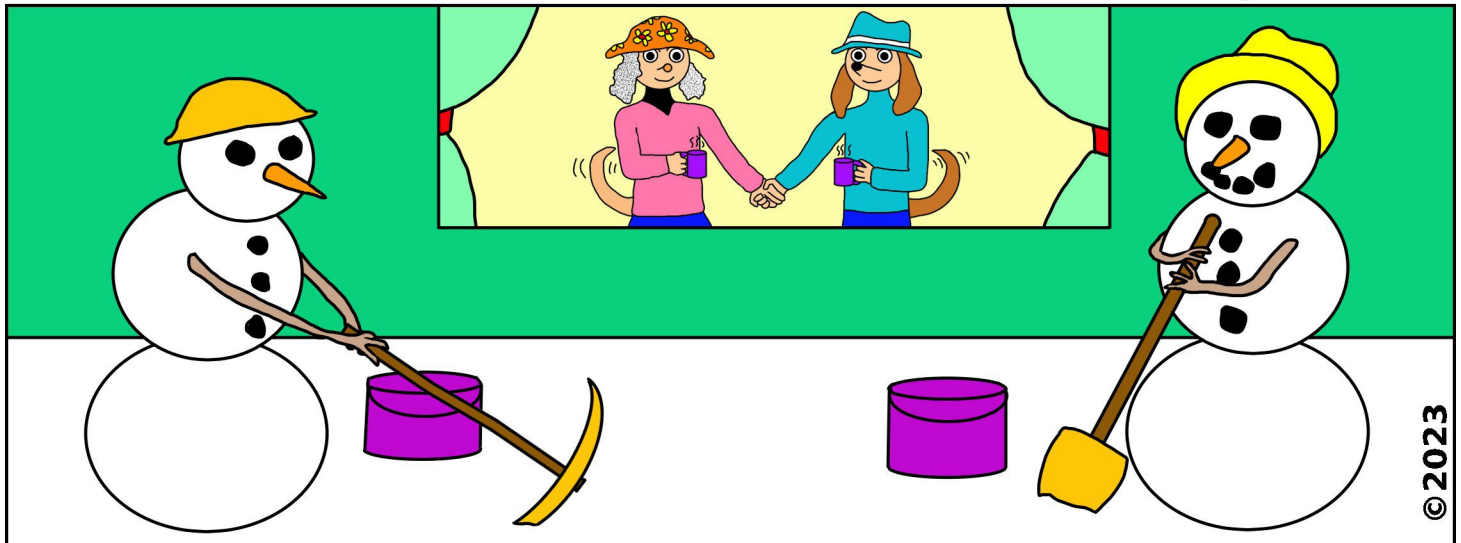
CMS Show Committee Meeting: ...Monday, December 11.....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, December 11.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 CMS Christmas Party & General Meeting:.....1st Sunday, December 3.....Set-up 11:30, Eating 12 Noon

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Closed for winter
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Closed for winter

More Show info can be found on Page 16

Mr. & Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

CMS Board Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023

by Pete Williams, 2023 Secretary

Attendees: Kat Koch; Linda Jorza; Pete Williams; Rich Russell; Mike Blanton; Ananda Cooley; Roger Danneman; Noelle Barnes; Paul Arhnberg

Called to order 7:03

Noelle volunteered to assume the role of VP for the 2024-2025 year term. We still need a program director. If one is not found, each Board member will select a month and sponsor a topic for that month. The January program will be fossils found in Washington state and the November program will be Roger reviewing the field trips for the year. Also, needed is Young Tumbler support. Roger will also assume the role of show volunteer coordinator.

The shop will be closed for the winter. A motion was made and passed to raise the speaker stipend to \$100. We have not been able to get a good internet connection in our monthly meeting room. Ananda will test a different method at the next general meeting. With a good connection we could have virtual speakers.

There is a possibility of using a member's garage for the club shop. We would need a separate electrical connection and pay rent of around \$300 a month. A trip to view the potential shop area is being arranged.

Due to our expanding membership, we will need to upgrade Mailchimp software. A motion was made and passed to spend an additional \$13/month for Mailchimp. Membershipworks software would also soon need to be upgraded with expanding membership at a cost of an additional \$21/month. To avoid that cost we will test to see if manually handling family members will work out.

A recommendation was made to introduce new members in the Tumbler each month. Rich and his wife are requesting food donations for the Kent food bank. Collections will be made at the November meeting and December Christmas party.

The club Christmas party will be on December 3 at the American Legion Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25

CMS General Meeting Minutes November 9, 2023

by Pete Williams, 2023 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:14

Kat thanked all the volunteers who helped out at the show. The show netted about \$7300 largely due to the silent auction, raffle, and club sales.

The shop will be closed for the winter. We are working on a potential indoor shop. The next Federation show will be in May in Hermiston, OR. There is also the Kitsap show the week before Thanksgiving. The next Washington State Mineral Council meeting is in January. There are still looking for volunteers for some positions. The last CMS field trip will be on November 5 to First Creek.

We need 2 more positions fill for the upcoming year. They are for a show coordinator and a show club activities coordinator. Our annual club Christmas party will be on Dec. 3 at 11:30 with lunch at noon. There will be election of officers and an auction. The club will provide ham and turkey. Bring food for the food drive.

Program: CMS Field Trips in 2023 with material from each site by Roger Danneman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 followed by show-and-tell and the raffle.

From the Top of the Rock Pile... by Kat Koch, CMS President

Every year, as we approach the holiday season, I look forward to our club's Holiday Party. It is always so lovely to sit and talk and enjoy dinner together. We can all take a deep breath, relax, enjoy talking about rocks, or get to know each other.

Following our Pot Luck dinner, we have a club auction where you can pick up great bargains. Our Young Tumblers can also spend their "Rock Bucks" just like cash on auction items.

We appreciate any donated items to the auction. All auction proceeds go towards club expenses.

We continue to get new members online or in person at our monthly meetings. We welcome each of you to our great rock and gem club. When you attend our monthly meeting, please introduce yourself to me, as I look forward to meeting each of you.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Holiday Party on December 3rd. Look for further meeting details elsewhere in this issue of the Tumbler.



Welcome
New Members

General Meeting – Sunday, December 3rd

Topic: Our Annual Holiday party, potluck, the election of Officers, and action.

Potluck: The club provides turkey and ham. Members fill in with veggies, salad, rolls, butter, dessert, drinks, etc.

We generally have around 40 to 45 members attend. Bring your plate and silverware.

Setup is at 11:30 am, and dinner is at noon. We usually wrap things up by 4 pm.



Election: After dinner, we hold the election of the Board of Directors for 2024. See Pete, the club secretary, if you want to volunteer for a Board position.

Club Auction. Our club auctions are a great chance to pick up items at a fraction of their retail cost. You are welcome to donate items to the auction. All proceeds go to the club treasury to cover expenses.

Our Young Tumblers can also spend their "Rock Bucks" at the auction that they have saved, just like cash for items they want



Our Holiday Party is your last chance to donate to our 2023 Holiday food drive for the Kent Food Bank. We had a lot of donations at our November meeting, but let us blow our donations out of the water this year! Members Rich and Jennifer Russell will take our club donation to the food bank in time for the forthcoming holiday season distribution.

Rucking by Roger Danneman

Did you know that there is a fitness activity called "Rucking"? An activity that is low impact, builds muscle, burns fat, increases bone density, and improves heart health? It's touted for healthy living and longevity. You don't need a fitness membership or expensive gym equipment. Essentially Rucking is carrying weight over distance. The term comes from military conditioning exercises where they add weight to their rucksack and walk. I came across this fitness craze via an internet article as I was settling in at home after our last field trip of the year. It was a cold and wet November evening and I was nursing my aching muscles and fighting off leg cramps. My thoughts went to earlier in the day when I lead a group 2 miles into a forested area on an up and down cat trail with moderately steep hills. The agate and jasper and crystal to be found going up steep slopes and swimming through loose rock scree. As I continued reading the article I started thinking



"this is great". This is exactly what we're doing on many of our field trips. We carry in tools and carry out rocks (hopefully), and hopefully all the tools we went in with. So I don't have to feel crazy when I tell my friends what I do for fun. Well maybe there's a little craziness to it, but what passion doesn't have a little. The beauty is that if you can walk, you can ruck. And if you ruck, you can get in or stay in shape for next year's field trips. But do it gradually. Start off with say 20 pounds. And when that feels comfortable, increase it by 5 pounds and so forth. You can use baggies filled with sand or your favorite or least favorite rocks in your collection. You can even find weighted vests online. So..... Rucking and Rockhounding go hand in hand. Live longer and healthier and find more cool rocks.

A pearl is formed by an oyster to deal with an irritating particle that has gotten inside it's shell.

November Field Trip by Roger Danneman, CMS Field Trip Guide

On Sunday Nov. 12th a small group of us went over to First Creek for our last field trip of the year. Originally scheduled for Sat. the 11th, I moved it to Sunday because of stormy weather in the forecast. The day started out cool and slightly overcast, but it was actually quite pleasant for hiking and digging and more importantly we didn't get rained on. 5 of us worked both sides of the 2-mile ravine and 2 more prospected the high ridgeline closer to the highway. The hills there are steep and it was quite a workout. About 3:00 I heated up a pot of hot water and we enjoyed some hot cocoa, mocha, and coffee before heading back with our seam agate pieces, nodules, and crystal plates.

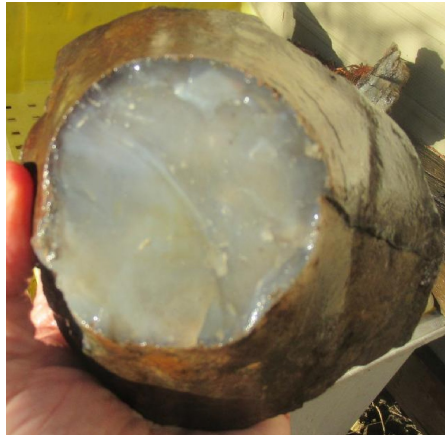
We're definitely on the cusp of winter. Redtop was covered with a blanket of snow and seemingly no longer accessible.

With me on this trip was Julie G., Gina M., Pete W. and his son Alex, Loren M., and Nik B.

Remember our holiday party is on Dec. 3rd at the Legion Hall. An event filled with lots of good food and an auction of club material. A good place to pick up a few Christmas presents.

I usually have the new schedule ready by mid-January and our first trip of the year will likely be the 2nd or 3rd Sat. in March to areas around Mt. Baker. Until then, stay warm, stay dry, and stay active.





Pacific Northwest Tree Rings Expose Potential Hidden Mega Earthquake by Kat Koch

In February 2023, the Turkey-Syria border experienced a 7.8-magnitude earthquake. It was followed 9 hours later by one nearly as large. The quake was caused by shallow faults less than 18 miles beneath the surface that buckled and ruptured, causing violent focused quakes. These two earthquakes leveled thousands of buildings and killed thousands of people.

The oral histories of the Salish people of the Pacific Northwest tell of “a formative event in which a great serpent spirit, a’yahos, shook the earth, carving out cliffs and forming new lakes.” Their stories place this event from 900 CE to 930 CE.

In a study led by the University of Arizona Laboratory for Tree-Ring Research, Bryan Black, Associate Professor of Dendrochronology, studied Puget Lowlands’ tree rings in western Washington. The study found significant evidence of similar earthquakes to those in Turkey-Syria due to interconnected shallow faults approximately 1,000 years ago. The tree rings helped pinpoint the seismic event in late 923 CE or early 924 CE. The Salish story coincides with the geologic evidence that whole forests were swept into lake beds, and new lakes appeared in the Seattle fault zone.

The study findings mean that a repeat event has the potential for a mega earthquake to shake the region now home to over 4 million people, including Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia. The report suggests that current hazard models may need revision.

Oxford Dictionary Definition of Dendrochronology: The science or technique of dating events, environmental change, and archaeological artifacts using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks.

Bibliography: SciTech Daily, Science Advances, Wikipedia, Science Org, Oxford Dictionary



The growth rings of a tree. Each ring represents one year; the outside rings, near the bark, are the youngest



Drill for dendrochronology sampling and growth ring counting.

Young Richard’s Almanac by Dick Morgan

As you age your outlook and your firm beliefs have been formed from what you have learned from the people that you interacted with and those that you formed relations with have a very strong effect on why you are the way you are.

Make Your Next Show Golden! by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

When I talk to “civilians” (i.e., normal people who don’t collect rocks), eyeballs roll when I mention I’m a Rockhound and our rock club is hosting an upcoming show. While rough rocks, slabs, muddy crystals in matrix, and pristine trilobites may stir the souls of those of us already baptized in the hobby, believe it or not most folks don’t see the attraction. I remind them of that nerd they knew in high school who sported a shelf of dusty rocks. But when I mention gold or jewelry, ears perk up. Sometimes.

If your society hosts an annual show, and if you’re still calling it a rock and gem show, you’re missing out on attracting a lot of potential attendees. For nearly a decade now, my local Ventura club has included a by-line in all our show

publicity that emphasizes we are hosting a “gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry show.” And maybe we should start adding “healing stones”? In our press releases, we invite folks to come see “artists in action” crafting handmade jewelry, beading, gemstone carvings, silversmithing, and more.

Some years ago, a nearby prospecting club—the Valley Prospectors—joined our show with demonstrations of gold panning and sales of prospecting supplies and seeded pay dirt. Not a moment goes by during the show when we don’t have several people lined up at the tubs of water, diligently seeking tiny sparkling specks with all the excitement of a 49er. The allure of gold never fades.

To differentiate ourselves from the commercial Gem Faire sorts of shows, we highlight the educational aspects of displays by members and invited guests, a kids’ booth, and a teacher station with free specimens and educational handouts. We emphasize it’s a show the whole family—and community—will enjoy.

In short: “Rock shows. They’re not just for Rockhounds!” Does your PR make that abundantly clear as you gear up for your next show?

Finally, as I’ve been noting for a while, I plan to host a Zoom conference on “Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media.” I’ve now selected a date—October 28—and am contacting all who have asked to be included. By the time you read this article, we likely will have held the meeting, so watch for the next AFMS Newsletter, where I’ll be including tips and suggestions emerging from the conference. I’ll also be recording the meeting should anyone be interested in viewing the whole thing. Until next time!

from AFMS Newsletter, 11/23

Club Safety Program — Safety Matters by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

The last words anyone wants to hear at a club show, meeting, field trip, or other activity are:

- Does anyone have a bandage?
- The fire extinguisher is not working!
- Where is the nearest hospital?

Many businesses, schools, even families practice safety. They have regular fire drills, emergency weather event drills and even prepare go-bags to have emergency supplies readily accessible in the event of an emergency. Rock and mineral clubs prepare in other ways – they keep medical emergency/medical aid kits handy; they address possible safety concerns ahead of time to prevent injury; they offer training for their lapidary/craft workshops; and some clubs also have occasional meeting programs about field trip, show, and meeting safety.

Club members are, no doubt, people who keep themselves and their family safe. In the club setting of a show, meeting, or field trip. However, it is not just club members who are present – there are visitors, guests, and the general public. Such guests attend club activities and expect the club will be conducting a safe event. So, who in the club attends to safety of our guests, visitors and the general public?

Many clubs make the show chairperson the one who addresses matters of show safety, the field trip chairperson the one who addresses field trip safety, and the club president the one who addresses meeting room safety. Other clubs have a single dedicated safety chairperson who has the last word on all matters of safety with any and all club activity. Some clubs have members who are the dedicated safety persons for their show’s safety, another member dedicated to the field trip safety, and still another member dedicated to work-shop safety. No matter how it is addressed, clubs recognize the need to have all activities be safe for everyone – members, guests, and the general public.

At this point I must confess to being a safety person. That means reading about safety interests me. It is fun to read about safety. I like thinking of new, better, and additional ways of being safe. Safety is one of the means to keep everyone happy and enjoying their club experiences. The more people are involved in safety, the better the overall experiences will be for everyone. It would be great if everyone in the club kept being safe as part of the club “experience.” That all said, being safe involves knowledge of rock cleaning chemicals, MSHA rules, soldering fume ventilation, machinery operation, wiring a hall for the show dealer electrical needs, minerals that can be dangerous to even hold in one’s hand, reading the expiration dates of the items in the emergency medical kit, knowing how to perform emergency medical treatment, and so much more. There is so very much to being safe that it is difficult to imagine that one person can be knowledgeable with, and keep up to date on, all aspects of safety.

With safety being so important and given that being knowledgeable in every aspect of safety would be difficult for one single person, please consider the following: There is wisdom in having a dedicated field trip safety person, a show safety person, a shop/equipment safety person, and a medical safety person in every club.

Safety is important for every club. Instead of safety being just a job, it is also an opportunity to learn, share what one learns, help people stay safe, and have a sense of satisfaction with keeping the hobby enjoyable for everyone.

Safety is every club member’s business. Everyone’s safety matters.

from AFMS Newsletter, 11/23

Sardonyx

A Sardonyx stone, also called banded agate, is a variation of onyx, which is a semiprecious stone of the silica mineral agate comprised of the chemical make-up SiO₂. Onyx stones have the same properties as quartz stones. Its name is derived from the Greek words “sard,” meaning a reddish brown, and “onyx,” meaning veined gem. Sardonyx features many layers of quartz fibers stacked on top of one another that form translucent, opaque and solid banded colors

over time. Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx (two types of the layered mineral chalcedony) to create a reddish zebra-striped gemstone with white bands. They are easily identified by their alternating dark and light bands of flat white, gray, red and brown colors. Sard ranges in color from yellowish-red to reddish-brown, depending on how much iron oxide is present. Sard is easily confused with carnelian, another type of chalcedony that is slightly softer and lighter in color. Other colors can include blue, green and black. Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate.

Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios, and brooches to show the color contrast between layers, or tumbled smooth for holistic healing.

Stone of Old

This gem is perhaps most well-known as an August birthstone in modern times, but it was once more valuable than sapphire, silver and gold, and has been coveted by civilizations for thousands of years. Worn as engraved talismans by Roman soldiers, Sardonyx was believed to channel the attributes of the figure carved into the stone. During the Renaissance the gem was sought after by public speakers because it was thought to bring its wearer eloquence. Sardonyx gained fast popularity in ancient times because of its practical application, sturdy construction, and striking banded colors and patterns.

The first known uses of sardonyx date back thousands of years to Ancient Egypt. To this day, archeologists still unearth ancient artifacts including sardonyx necklaces, rings, and other relics from the past. Over thousands of years, sardonyx has accumulated a rich history of use, mainly in the creation of cameos and intaglios, which are intricate, three-dimensional carvings made from earthen stones and rocks.

Sardonyx History

What is it that makes sardonyx so adaptable? For starters, no two sardonyx stones look alike. Binding layers, color, transparency, and sizing all change the stone and its appeal. As a result, the value of sardonyx has stood the test of time, even if it's a relatively abundant gemstone.

Perhaps the most famous sardonyx jewelry was a carving with the image of Queen Elizabeth I of England. This striking piece was gifted to the Earl of Essex by the Queen herself as a token of good faith and friendship. Evidently, it did lose some protective properties as he was later executed by the crown.

Legend, Folklore and Healing Properties

Used as a stone of strength and protection in ancient times, sardonyx is associated with courage, happiness, and clear communication. Ancients believed that placing a sardonyx gemstone at each corner of a house would grant protection against evil. In general, the stone's bold, warm colors represent courage and happiness. When gifted or owned by a couple, sardonyx can help foster smoother communication skills and provide marital stability and everlasting happiness. Amulets and talismans made of sardonyx were thought to give the wearer a boost of energy. Ancient Romans would carve Mars—the God of War—or Hercules into the gemstone to promote courage, while women would wear cameos carved with Venus, Goddess of Love, hoping to attract a qualified partner.

Religious texts also reference sardonyx. For example, it's used as the first foundation stone in the walls of New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation.

Legend has it that sardonyx can help with depression, willpower, and confidence. It can help one find integrity, meaning, and happiness. Those who practice yoga have found it helps with meditation. You can also place a stone under your pillow before going to sleep to encourage a blissful night of rest.

On a physical level, sardonyx contains nourishing minerals the human body craves. Sardonyx stone may assist in endocrine system functioning, promote good circulation, and cleanse the skin.

As with other vibrant gemstones like tanzanite and opal, the color and pattern of sardonyx changes its meaning. For example, red with white banding and red bullseye stones are rumored to have stronger spiritual properties.

Sardonyx Gemstone Properties

In many ways, sardonyx can be compared to onyx, with a few slight discrepancies:

- Color: Sardonyx colors vary from white to orange and red to black. Most often it appears reddish-brown with lighter or darker binding.
- Crystal structure: Trigonal
- Luster: Vitreous to waxy
- Transparency: Translucent, Opaque
- Refractive index: 1.530 to 1.543
- Density: 2.6
- Cleavage: Poor

Gemologists measure a stone's quality based on four different categories called the 4 C's. Each individual stone ranks differently, with sardonyx having its own unique set of parameters.

Color

In a sardonyx stone, the color itself isn't as important as the contrast. A high-quality stone should have vibrant layers of red sard contrasting bright white layers of onyx. The key here is saturation in whatever colors are present in the

stone. If the sard is more brownish-red than true red and the onyx is black, the stone can still be highly desirable as long as each layer is vibrant enough to distinguish the colors.

Cut

The most common cut of sardonyx is cabochon. However, well-carved stones placed into cameos, intaglios, inlays, and brooches can be sold for a lot more, especially if they hold historical value. What's more, these cutting styles lend themselves to cherished family heirlooms that can be passed down from generation to generation. In this way, sardonyx is truly a timeless, everlasting stone.

Clarity

The clarity of a sardonyx stone is less important than color and contrast, but it's still important to understand. Stones ranging from translucent to opaque can all be extremely valuable, as long as they show no visible watermarks or fractures.

Carat Weight

The value of a stone's carat weight relies on its quality in the other three categories. A large sardonyx stone with weak coloring would be valued less than a smaller stone exhibiting striking color combinations, patterns, and clarity.

Origins and Sources

Sardonyx comes from regions across the globe, including Brazil, India, Germany, Uruguay, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Madagascar and in the Lake Superior region of the United States. The finest examples, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India, where the geological composition is perfect for vibrant, flawless, and colorful stones.

from Grindings, 7/23

A Rockhound's Christmas Letter by F. Geisler

Dear Santa:

Just a high station wagon with springs extra strong
Is one little thing for which I do long.

A hammer with handle that cushions the shock
While pounding away the excess country rock.

Titanium steel chisels with points ultra sharp,
To aid in coaxing crystals from matrix to part.

A knapsack with straps that my shoulders will fit,
Some brushes and forceps in a neat little kit.

A machine that'll cut true and polish and slice
And another one to facet- these sure would be nice!

Maybe books - some of those costing ten bucks or more
To keep leisure hours from being a bore;

A supply of fine mountings, both silver and gold
For the hand-wrought jewels they're designed to hold.

Dear Santa, DO add plenty of powder and grit
For working these stones. I'll need quite a bit.

On Christmas Eve, Santa, don't try that old flue,
'cause the door, standing wide, will be open for you!

via The Quarry, 12/22; via The Rockpile, 12/22; via The Strata Data, 12/21; via The Strata Data, 12/73; from Geologem

My Gemstones The Pretty, The Odd, The Rare... Kyanite by Brett Lawrence

Kyanite is an interesting mineral with industrial and commercial uses and as a attractive gemstone. It is also known as disthene and cyanite. Its name evolved from ancient Greek that has evolved into our current language as dark blue. Its blue name is also akin to the cyan.

Kyanite's color can range from deep sapphire-like blue, to lighter blue as with aquamarine or blue topaz. More rarely it can be yellow, orange, or pink. The orange color in the image is the result of small amounts of manganese included in the material's structure. This material comes from Tanzania. One quality of kyanite is that it is pleochroic, meaning different colors can appear when the gemstone is viewed from different angles.

Kyanite has a few other qualities that make it difficult for the gemstone lapidarist when faceting. One is anisotropism. A crystal and resultant gemstone will exhibit different hardness values depending on the axis or direction in the crystalline system. For example, a steel nail will scratch it when moved parallel to the long axis but will not do so when moved perpendicular or at right angles to it. Another challenge is its perfect cleavage or its ability to split along structural planes. The above issues, along with its lack of suitable hardness, (its durability) do not lend kyanite to use in everyday jewelry such as ring settings. These factors, however, would not preclude its use as a pendant or in earrings.

But such does not hinder kyanite's use in industry. It finds use as a refractory material that does not change or decompose in the presence of high heat or pressure. This makes it useful in kilns, furnaces, incinerators, and reactors. It is also finds use in electronics, in electrical insulators, and as an abrasive.

Kyanite is found in numerous locations around the world, including Myanmar, Cambodia, Kenya, Nepal, Tibet, Switzerland, Russia, and the United States.

Finally, kyanite is a polymorph with sillimanite and andalusite. All three have the same chemical composition but formed under different geological conditions of heat and pressure. I admire the wonderful blue color of kyanite but also find the fire and glitter of andalusite captivating... but that's another story.

via The Council Reporter, 10/23; from PVGM Rock-A-Teer, 8/23

Modern December Birthstones

The December birthstone list is somewhat more unusual than that of other months of the year because the modern birthstone chart has three gemstones for December instead of just one or two, like most months have. They are Turquoise, Zircon and recently added Tanzanite.

Turquoise

Turquoise is the oldest and most popular of December's birthstones. It was found on artifacts dating back 5000 years, in ancient Egypt, Sumeria and Mesopotamia. Its name means "Turkish Stone" in French because that's where the first deposits of turquoise were first found in the ancient world, before the first mines in Egypt, and it is the route that the gemstone took when it was introduced in Europe.

The Egyptians were the first who to recognize the value of Turquoise and use it as a precious stone. The tomb of Tutankhamen was packed with turquoise jewelry, the stone being used on it sarcophagus and mortuary mask. Most likely, Cleopatra used ground-up turquoise for her eye paint.

Millennia later, Turquoise became a sacred stone for Tibetans and Native Americans who used it extensively in their specific religious rituals officiated by the shamans. Both Tibetans and the Native Americans believed Turquoise to promote spiritual and mental clarity and also help build trust, understanding and kindness within the community.

Unlike other precious stones, Turquoise was not a stone only for rituals or for the rich. It is believed that ancient warriors wore turquoise rings that they believed would save them from falling off the horse. Many cultures believed that turquoise helped children have a healthy night sleep preventing nightmares and also protecting against harm.

The Native Americans in the southwest used turquoise as money, believing it would bring animals to the hunter, riches to the warriors and overall happiness.

Turquoise ranges in color from sky blue to green. Very often, to enhance this color, jewelers use a layer of wax coat of the gem which means that the color is not permanent.

This December birthstone is relatively easy to scratch so you need to avoid hits and also hot water and household chemicals.

When shopping for turquoise jewelry, make sure you avoid "Vienna Turquoise". It sounds exotic and refined, but in reality it is just a cheap class imitation.

Modern Turquoise sources are Iran, China, Australia, Afghanistan, Mexico and the US.

Tanzanite

In 2002, the American Gem Trade Association officially added tanzanite to the modern list of birthstones for the month of December.

It was first discovered in 1967 in Tanzania by a local Masai shepherd and it would soon become 'the stone of the 20th century', being popularized only two later by Tiffany's with a massive marketing campaign.

Tanzanite has a beautiful, intense blue color. It varies from ultramarine blue to light violet-blue. In sizes over 10 carats, the effect is impressive. Some tanzanite crystals need to be treated at 500 degrees Celsius to enhance their color and resistance.

Tanzanite is so popular today both because of its fascinating color but also because of its rarity, the only known deposits being in Tanzania, at Merelani.

Without a long history like that of the other December birthstones, tanzanite does not have any powerful, mysterious powers associated to it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty.

Zircon

Not to be confused with zirconia, cubic zirconia, or zirconium.

Zircon is another alternate birthstone of the month. Zircon is actually the oldest known mineral on Earth; the oldest samples are even older than the moon, which formed about 4 billion years ago. Zircon was the first crystal to form in

molten granite as it cooled to form rock. Low zircon formed as the result of a process associated with the presence of uranium and thorium. The natural radioactivity disrupts the crystal structure and produces the changes in color and density through a process known as metamictization.

Most zircon deposits are alluvial. Sri Lanka is the best known source for green metamict 'low' zircon. Specimens are also found in Burma (Myanmar), and may possibly exist in other well-known zircon deposits in Cambodia. Most zircon deposits come from Burma, though Australia boasts the oldest deposits dating back more over 4.4 billion years.

Other notable sources include Brazil, Korea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam.

Zircon in its purest form is completely colorless (white), but owing to trace impurities, it can occur in a wide range of interesting colors, including yellow, orange, red, green, blue, violet, brown and combinations in between. Yellow-brown to orange and red zircon are the most common occurrences, along with colorless. Blue is the most popular, but its color is obtained through the heating of brown zircon, usually from Cambodia and Burma. Due to pleochroism, blue zircon can look greenish from certain angles. Medium dark, pure blue stones have the most value. Green zircon is very rare and typically very expensive.

References: Birthstone-Jewelry.com and Gemselect.com

from The Sierra Pelonagran, 12/15

Alaskan Prospector's Farewell

by Jo Borucki

Alaska! Now I ask ya,
If I was truly sane,
Would I prospect there in winter?
I might not come back again.

It's zero there in winter,
Not centigrade, but Fahrenheit.
And it even gets much colder,
In the middle of the night

I've heard that in Alaska
Even polar bears freeze,
"Enough!" they say, "We're heading south."
So step aside now if you please."

"But you're looking mighty tasty,
And I'm missing many meals.
The weather plunged so hasty
That it even froze the seals."

So if I don't come back again,
If you don't see me soon,
Perhaps I'm frozen solid
And may thaw sometime in June

Or I may be warm and cozy
In the stomach of the bear
If you see him, then please greet me
Say "I know you're there somewhere."
from Breccia, 6/23

Anne of Geierstein by Erin Valenzuela

In 1829, Sir Walter Scott wrote Anne of Geierstein, which included a mysterious 19th century noblewoman named Lady Hermione. The Lady was known for always wearing an extraordinary opal in a golden hair clip. She never took it off, it was said to reflect her moods and led others to believe she might have used it for sorcery. The opal proved to be her downfall. When it was doused with a small amount of holy water; the opal lost its luster and the Lady turned to into a pile of ash.

This fictional gemstone had a detrimental impact on real opal gemstones for decades. Once prized opals were deemed unlucky and linked with the occult. We still hear legends today that say the opals are only safe for those born in October (because it is their birthstone). Many gem historians believe that these rumors were fueled by jewelers who had a tough time setting opals and by the diamond cartel/industry who were threatened by the discovery of new beautiful black Opal mines in Australia. I bet that Sir Walter Scott had no idea that his spooky character would have repercussions in the opal gem market for almost two hundred years.

from Rockhound Ramblings, 10/23

Young Tumblers News

Advice From Beings In Nature

Advice From a Penguin

Dive into life. Find warmth among friends. Appreciate snow days. Take long walks. Stand together. Go the extra mile. Keep your cool!

Advice From a Polar Bear

Live large. Sniff out opportunities. Learn some good icebreakers. Be thick-skinned. Be fearless. Appreciate long winter nights. Keep it cool.

Advice From a Sea Turtle

Swim with the current. Be a good navigator. Stay calm under pressure. Be well traveled. Think long term. Age gracefully. Spend time at the beach.

Advice From a Glacier

Carve your own path. Go slow. Channel your strengths. Smooth the way for others. Keep moving forward. Avoid meltdowns. Be cool!

Advice From a Tree

Stand tall and proud. Sink your roots into the earth. Be content with your natural beauty. Go out on a limb. Remember your roots. Enjoy the view.

Advice From a Mountain

Reach for new heights. There is beauty as far as the eyes can see. Climb beyond your limitations. Be uplifting. Savor life's peak experiences. Rise above it all. Avoid dark and cloudy thoughts. Rock on.

Advice From a River

Go with the flow. Slow down and meander. Be thoughtful of those downstream. Go around obstacles. Immerse yourself in nature. Stay current. The beauty is in the journey.

Advice From the Earth

Be well-rounded. Keep a positive atmosphere. Have a magnetic personality. Celebrate diversity. Think globally. Be good to your mother. There's no place like home.

Advice From a Honeybee

Create a buzz. Sip life's sweet moments. Work together. Always find your way home. Bee yourself.

Advice From a Butterfly

Let your true colors show. Get out of your cocoon. Take yourself lightly. Look for the sweetness in life. Take time to smell the flowers. Catch a breeze. We can't all be monarchs.

from Breccia, 11-12/23

What is Cantera Opal?

Cantera opal is a type of Fire opal that does not show play of color and are sometimes referred to as jelly opals. Cantera means "quarry," and such stones come from quarries at Magdalena, Queretaro and other Mexican locations.

Mexican opals are sometimes cut in their rhyolitic host material if it is hard enough to allow cutting and polishing. This type of Mexican opal is referred to as a Cantera opal. Also, a type of opal from Mexico, referred to as Mexican water opal, is a colorless opal which exhibits either a bluish or golden internal sheen.

How is Opal Formed?

Opal is formed by a silicon dioxide and water solution. When water runs down the earth, it takes silica from sandstone and brings it into cracks and voids, created by natural faults or decomposing fossils. This leaves behind a layer of silica as the water evaporates.

How Cantera Opal is Formed?

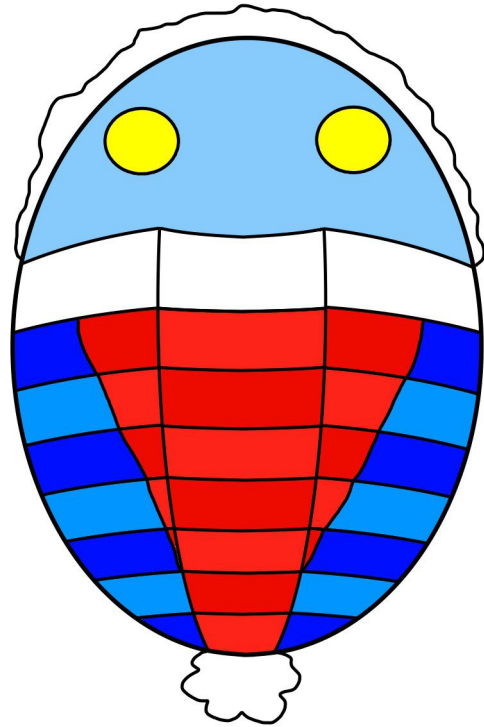
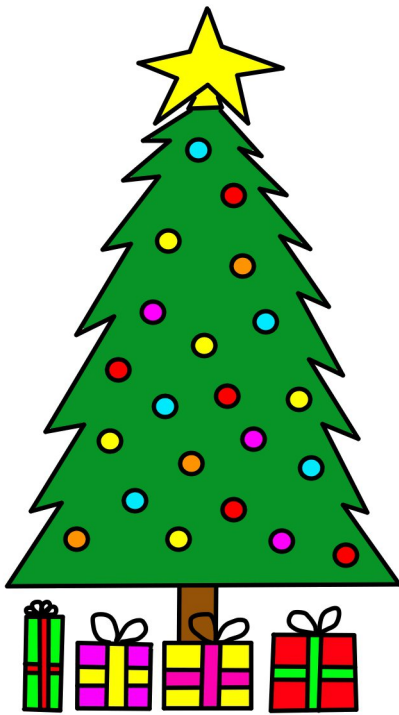
Cantera Opal is a gemstone formed from the "Rhyolite". Rhyolite is a kind of "Igneous Rock"

These are only found in Mexico and type the same as the Australian boulder opals, but the host rock is rhyolite rather than ironstone.

Where are Mexican Fire Opals Mined?

Mexican opal is mined in the Mexican states of Queretaro, Hidalgo, Guerrero, Michoacan, Jalisco, Chihuahua and San Luis Potosi.

from The Sierra Pelonagran, 1/23



Show

December 9 & 10: Saturday 9 am - 5 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, *Holiday Gift Sale*

Maplewood Clubhouse

8802 196th St SW

Edmonds, Washington

Punishment

What do you call a gemstone that's always on the move?

"Tourmaline."

How does a gemstone know if it's popular?

It has lots of "carat-er" references.

Why is it hard to be a diamond?

Too much pressure.

There are a few gems amongst these terrible rock puns.

from Breccia, 11-12/23

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