

Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 8443 ▼ Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

VOL 71 NO 3

March 2011

President's Message



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brent Stewart
President

863-9336

Willa Renken
1st Vice President

362-3941

Jason Madsen
2nd Vice President

378-4666

RECORDING SECRETARY

Deana Ashton
891-7273

Phil Neuhoff
939-4508

Ed Moser
340-8060

Rick Corbett
383-9930

Deana Ashton
891-7273

Dan Phillips
585-3019

Jim Clinton
283-8891



TREASURER
Kathy Griffin
467-9286

NFMS DIRECTOR
Charles McCreath
344-5085

EDITOR
Tony Griffin
467-9286

highdesert2003@q.com

CLUB WEB SITE
www.idahogemclub.com

Wow, what a great show last weekend! None of it would have been possible without all the great help we had from set up to tear down. The Show is a lot of hard work and we had a lot of help from some new and current members. So many areas of thanks need to be addressed from the demonstrators, those who put in display cases, activities for the kids, admissions and hospitality. Several job's that just go on throughout the year such as gathering for door prizes and tumbling stones and grab bags. Thanks again to all of you.

This is the Idaho Gem Club's show and it is the members who make it possible so lets keep working hard to make next years show great. This year we had fantastic attendance and our show chairman, Charlie Smith, said that all the dealers were happy with business.

Spring is just around the corner and the rocks are calling to us. I am sure everyone wants to get out to the hills to feel the dirt under our feet and dig. I know that the best part of being in the club is rock hounding for both new and old members alike.

Our field trip chairmen have been working hard so we can have a good time and find lots of treasures. Thanks to Aaron and Rick.

Hope everyone enjoyed the Owyhee Gem Club's show the weekend after ours. They always put on a nice show so I hope our club showed lots of support by going over to Caldwell.

Over the second weekend in March, I will be traveling to Turlock,CA. to participate in their 45th Annual Show. Our family has been going and working at that show since it started, we are the oldest dealer at their show. I will keep you all posted on how that show goes.

Brent Stewart
President

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
BOARD MEETING ♦
FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB
GENERAL MEETING ♦
DECEMBER 21, 2010**

No

Report

Submitted

No

Report

Submitted

*Respectfully submitted,
Deana Ashton
Secretary*



Grand Prize Winner

Charles is the winner of our 2011 Grand Prize Amethyst Geode

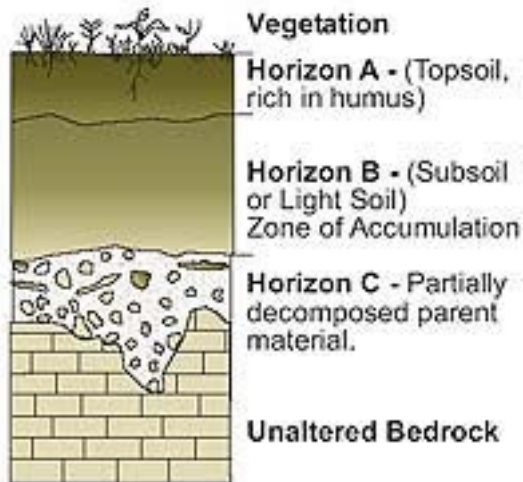
Charles had to be persuaded by mom & dad to attend the Rock, Gem, and Fossil show on Sunday.

His family has been off and on again rockhounds, recently deciding to start enjoying what Idaho has to offer.

Congratulations Charles

Charles Puschak

What is Soil?



We have a working knowledge of what is and what is not soil. We know it as the earthy material that we learned to call dirt when we played in it as children. We marvel at this seemingly lifeless material that gives life to plants. We understand that it is the most basic of building materials and the foundation on which we build structures. Yet, whatever this stuff is, it nearly defies formal definition.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, soil is the collective term for "natural bodies, made up of mineral and organic materials, that cover much of the Earth's surface, contain living matter, and can support vegetation out of doors. Soils have in places been changed by human activity. The upper limit of soil is

air or shallow water." The lower limit of soil is more difficult to define, but it generally coincides with the common rooting depth of native perennial plants.

Soils do not cover all of the earth's land. Non-soil land surfaces, which will not grow plants, include the ice lands of polar and high-elevation regions, recent hard lava flows, salt flats, bare rock mountain slopes and ridges, and areas of moving dunes. Engineers generally ignore the biological component of soil and consider soil to be material that can be excavated with a shovel or compacted into roadbeds or other support base. More formally, engineers may consider soil as "rock particles and minerals derived from preexisting rocks.

Used by permission for educational purposes.

<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/geo/basics/geology.htm>

March Field Trip Report Whang Doodle/Queenstone

When: March 19th 2011 weather depending.

What: We'll be collecting jasper and opalene at Queenstone; common and possibly some fire opal at Whang Doodle

Where: Meet at ION station at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Hwy 95 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Take Exit 33A (last Nampa exit West of Nampa) cross over the freeway, stay on Karcher Rd, (Hwy 55) and travel past the bridge across the Snake River in Marsing 2.7 miles. Departure time will be 7:30ish. We will travel south on Hwy 95 past Sommer Camp Rd. to the Whang Doodle claim. Parking will be directed and organized as members arrive.

Club will depart for Queenstone claim around midday.

Queenstone claim is a short drive back to Sommer Camp Rd. About 1 mile from Hwy 95 on Sommer Camp Rd. past Elephant Butte. Other claims are also in the area so stay in the designated area.

Equipment needed: rock hammer, shovel, bag or bucket for specimens collected, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, lunch, water, fuel, and any items you need for your personal use.

If you would like more information, please come to our Gem Club Meeting: March 15th, 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain View Church of the Brethren 2833 N. Cole Rd.

Call our Field Trip Chairman

Aaron Wanner @ 794-9474 cell phone or

Email: aaronwanner@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

3/2 Heide Finnegan
 3/5 Gene Alvey
 3/6 Jean Dingley
 3/6 Jason Madsen
 3/7 Ronald Dingley
 3/15 Dave Webster
 3/20 Gerry Koen
 3/22 Andrew Housh
 3/28 Larry Friend
 3/30 Heather Madsen

March Birthstones
 Faceted -
 Aquamarine

Cabochon -
 Bloodstone

APRIL

4/2 Sherri Potts
 4/2 Lance Olson
 4/3 Bill Marsh
 4/3 Marcy Belcoe
 4/3 Hannah Denton
 4/8 Phyllis Marsh
 4/8 Ann Brasley
 4/10 Douglas Williams
 4/11 Frank Baillargeon
 4/12 Nathaniel Loewen
 4/12 Joyce Murray
 4/13 Rick Olmstead
 4/13 Edwin Moser
 4/15 Dorothy Snowball
 4/17 Jim Da Silva
 4/18 Tara Hilgert
 4/22 Willa Renken
 4/24 Neil Potts

April (continued)

4/26 Vern Boyd
 4/27 Terry Belcoe
 4/27 Linda Harder
 4/27 Nikki Kelly
 4/28 Kyleigh Jackson

April Birthstones
 Faceted -
 Diamond

Cabochon -
 Rock Crystal

GENERAL MEETING
 3rd. Tuesday of every month

March 15, 2011
Church of the Brethren
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

BOARD MEETING:
 1st. Tuesday of every month

April 5, 2011
Church of the Brethren
2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm.

Welcome to Our New Members**Cathy Bournier****7006 Rosewood Dr.Boise,ID****Phil Capps****11068 Culdesac Way,Boise,ID****Connie Canon****9986 Rosecroft Apt. 101, Boise, ID****John Chaplik****9575 N. Highway 52, Horseshoe Bend, ID****Ben & Emily Cook****1948 E. Meadow Creek Dr.,Meridian; ID****Paul & Kathleen Derig****3623 Wills Rd.,Emmett,ID****Bob & Harlene Dodson****3026 Lochsa Ave. N., Meridian, ID****David Douglas****10203 Fox Ridge Dr., Boise, ID****Jerry & Janie Gankow****812 W. Tropical Dr., Nampa, ID****Brian Goffin****5200 Sorrento Dr., Boise, ID****Lonnie & Cindy Hicks****185 E. Eastbrook Ct., Meridian, ID****Tara Hilgert****454 W. Chrisfield Dr., Meridian, ID****Jack & Holly Lavoie****1968 E Bergeson St., Boise, ID****Cheryl Lawson****8573 W. Donnybrook Dr., Boise, ID****Linda M Lawson****15054 Fiesta Way, Caldwell, ID****Alan & Pam Miller****4401 W. White Birch Ct., Meridian,ID****Jim & Phyllis Mitchell****5840 N Collister Dr., Boise, ID****Pamela Peterson****2325 N Middlefield Rd., Boise, ID****Bob Regan****8545 W. Fairview Ave. Apt 207, Boise, ID****Anthony & Tara Rose****3674 Law Ave., Boise, ID****John & Nancy Skene****11981 W. Cactus Ct., Boise, ID****Sandra Stephenson****206 Brownlee Loop Rd., Horseshoe Bend, ID****Shannon T. Tharp****519 S. Olive St., Nampa, ID****Janelle Wintersteen****3408 N 33, Boise, ID**

We are a fun crowd, please make your selves known to each other, both older members and newer members.

Hints & Tips

Bench Tips

DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.

Templates

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc, but if you need other shapes, it's easy to make your own. Simply cut the shape out of sheet

plastic, copper or brass.

The brass template let's me quickly trace the design of these ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet, and the nickel template makes it easy to drill the silver pin inlay pattern into the ironwood.



More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

or

facebook.com/BenchTips

Editors note: Brad Smith contacted the club offering to provide tips to publish in the newsletter.

Please make sure to access Brads sites listed above if you find these tips helpful.

For Sale

I have a Thumler Tumbler A-R 12, 12 lb. rock tumbler for sale, I only used it 3 times its just like new! I have all the owners info, I paid \$209.75 will sell for \$150 OBO, for info call me at 208-921-0929

Wayne Larsen

What is the Geologic Cycle?

The geologic cycle is a collective term used to describe the complex interactions between the component sub-cycles of tectonic, hydrologic, rock, and the biological cycling of elements known as the biogeochemical cycle. These various subcycles influence each other and may produce natural hazards and processes important to environmental geology such as landslides, earthquakes, volcanic activity, flooding, groundwater flow, and weather. The rock cycle is influenced by all the other geologic subcycles. For example, tectonic processes provide the pressure and heat necessary to recrystallize some or all of the minerals in a rock and transform it from one rock type to another.

Used by permission for educational purposes.

<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/geo/basics/geology.htm>

Rocky Rattlers

**Juniors need to bring
their folders to the
meeting this month
Ed Moser
Cell 340-8060
Juniors Chair**

March Refreshment Committee

**Chair: Rick Corbett 890-2599
Becky Gibson 383-9930
Joe Nielson 362-3522
Chuck McCreath 344-5085**

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Need approximately 15 dozen cookies. Wrapped door prizes are also needed. Arrive early enough to set up the chairs. The chairperson brings the coffee urn, coffee, punch, cream, sugar, cups and napkins. Afterward, put meeting tables & chairs away, clean kitchen and sweep the room. Gather and take all the trash with you. Don't forget it is the responsibility of the chair for the coming month to pick up the coffeepot, take it home and bring it the next meeting.

April Refreshment Committee

**Chair: Richard & Sue Clark 336-6930
Jim & Belle Witt 890-8035
Shelley Shearer 891-072**

FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for articles is the board meeting, if it needs to be typed. If the article is sent via e-mail the deadline is the Saturday after the board meeting.

Phone: (208) 467-9286
E-mail: highdesert2003@q.com
My mailing Address is:
Tony Griffin
4126 Apache Dr.
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8978

Electronic Grindings

Thanks to those who signed up for the electronic Grindings. Not only does this save the club money it helps save me time putting on labels and postage. Currently it costs around \$1.70 per issue or \$20.40 per year to print and mail each newsletter.

If you would like to receive the Grindings newsletter through e-mail let me know. Please send an e-mail to WLR_DKR@msn.com and I will add you to our e-mail list. The Grindings will be sent in PDF format.

SAVE STAMPS

Just a note to remind people to save their postage stamps to donate to the Federation. The stamps are sold and the proceeds are donated to cancer research. Cut at least 1/4 inch margin around the stamps. You can turn them into Chuck McCreath at our next meeting. **THANK YOU!**

**Sunshine Lady**

Arlene Bailey is the club sunshine lady. Her job is to send some cheer to members who are ill or just need some cheering up. But she needs your help in doing this job. If you know of someone who has been recently ill let her know so she can send them a card. Her phone number is 562-8030. Thank you in advance for your help.

"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 officer, 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", I 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.

THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the Editor or President.

CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

www.idahogemclub.com



IDAHO GEM CLUB 2011 Field Trips

Proposed 2011 Field Trip list for the Idaho Gem Club, alternate trips you can take with the family and the Tri-Federation field trip. Items marked MVGC are extra trips for your information, if you want to go on these trips they will be on your own. Please make arrangements to get information from Aaron Wanner@ aaronwanner@gmail.com.

Standard rock hounds list: rock hammer, shovel, bag or bucket for specimens collected, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, lunch, water, fuel, and any items you need for your personal use.

MARCH 19 Queenstone/Whang Doodle, Marsing, Idaho: Jasper/opal

7:00 am Meet @ION gas station 5644 BUNTROCK RD MARSING, ID 83639 West on Hwy 55 through Marsing to intersection @ Hwy 55 and Hwy 95.

7:30 am Travel to Whang Doodle from the ION Truck Stop go South on Hwy 95 to Sommercamp Rd., this is just before the DOT weigh station.

APRIL 23 Haystack Butte/ Negro Rock, Jasper / Pet. Wood

6:30 am Meet @ Flying J 3512 Franklin Rd Caldwell, ID 83605

7:00 am Travel to Haystack Butte. High clearance vehicle needed for rocky terrain.

May 7- 8 MVGC Elko, NV Petrified Wood

Host: Brian Borjas

MAY 21-22 Glass Butte/Hampton Butte near Riley, Oregon

Obsidian/Wood, Over Night Stay 232 miles from Nampa

6:30 am Meet @ Flying J 3512 Franklin Rd Caldwell, ID 83605

7:00 am Travel to US 20 regroup in Burns, Oregon. Travel the rest of the way

JUNE 18-19 Texas Springs, Jackpot, Nevada: Agate, Jasper, Geodes, Bog Wood & more. Over Night stay 193 miles to Jackpot from Nampa.

6:30 am Meet @ Pilot 1050 Highway 20 Mountain

Home, ID 83647

7:00 am Travel to Jackpot. All vehicles OK for travel.

July 2-3 MVGC Kemmerer, WY Blue Forest Petrified Wood, Fossils

Host: Rebekah & Sandy (provided Wal-Mart stops hogging her time)

JULY 23-24 Silver City/ Wagon Town Over Night stay

7:00 am Meet @ION gas station 5644 BUNTROCK RD MARSING, ID 83639 West on Hwy 55 through Marsing to intersection @ Hwy 55 and Hwy 95.

7:30 am Travel to Silver City, all vehicles OK for travel

AUG 20 Graveyard Point , Plum Agate Oregon near Homedale Idaho

7:00 am Meet @ION gas station 5644 BUNTROCK RD MARSING, ID 83639 West on Hwy 55 through Marsing to intersection @ Hwy 55 and Hwy 95.

7:30 am Travel to Graveyard Point. Location is tricky to get to so GPS or maps may be needed if not traveling with club. High clearance vehicle needed for terrain.

SEPT 17 Carey Moss/Lass agate, Carey, Idaho

7:00 am Meet @ Pilot Travel Centers 1050 Highway 20 Mountain Home, ID 83647

7:30 am Travel to Carey, Id. All vehicles OK.

OCT 22 Succor Creek/ McBride Creek, Thunder Eggs/ Pet. Wood

7:00 am meet @ION gas station 5644 BUNTROCK RD MARSING, ID 83639 West on Hwy 55 through Marsing to intersection @ Hwy 55 and Hwy 95.

7:30 am Travel to Succor Creek. All vehicles OK for travel

NOV 19 To be determined

Beacon Hill/ Agate nodules, Weiser, Idaho Date to be determined more info at IGC meetings.

The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences.

Dues:

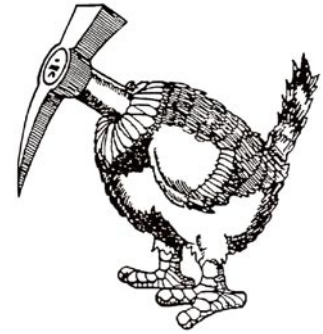
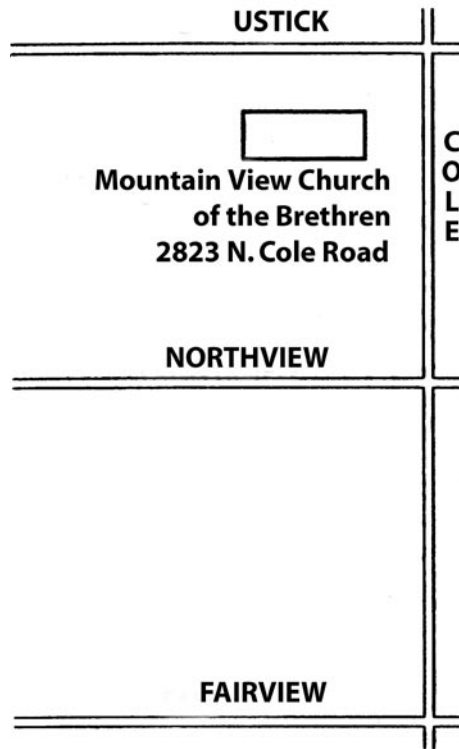
\$12.00 per person
\$15.00 per couple
\$17.50 per family

Subscription:

\$10.00 per year

General Meeting:

3rd. Tuesday of each
Month at 7:30 p.m.



The Whangdoodle Bird
(Often seen on field trips)



Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 8443
Boise, Idaho 83707-2443