



# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 82 NO 9**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

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## ★★ DUES ARE DUE IN OCTOBER ★★

Mail to IGC, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443

or pay at the September or October Meetings

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Hope you are all doing well, feeling healthy and coming into fall with a bank of memories from our heatwave summer! We had a big turnout for the Labor Day overnight field trip to Texas Springs led by Robert Murphey. The August trip to South Mountain had unusually low attendance. Greg Sandmeyer had 4 people he invited come out and Cheryl Link and I were the only club members who showed. The minerals were plentiful and Greg was sure we found the Ilvaite and Hedenbergite specimens! Thank you Greg for taking time to bring us to this special claim. This month, we have the last field trips of the year to consider. Sept. 18 is to the OGMS Blue Egg Claim with Robert Murphey as the guide. Cheryl Link is guiding us over to Plush, OR, Sept 23-26, for a 4-day Sunstone collecting trip to our claims (7 hours away one way). On October 2, Saturday, we invite you all to take the day and come down to Gooding to the Idaho Rock Shop, owned by Tony Funk. Tony has built the \$1.00 pile up to close to 400,000 pounds of pretty great material. We also will be having a BBQ lunch, which Tony is providing.

In October, I am trying to arrange a museum trip to either the Idaho Mining Museum or the Orma J. Smith Museum in Caldwell. Both museums have rock, gem, mineral and fossil collections that are incredible.

Idaho Gem Club awards an annual Scholarship to students in the fields of Geology and Earth Sciences. The application is included in this issue, and is also available on our website, [www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com). Please share this information with your teachers or friends who are in this line of study. Once we are able to get some ideas and help from members, I would love to build up our Scholarship Fund with some special auctions or fundraising benefits. Please send me a text if you have some suggestions. My goal is to increase the amount paid out to the winner each year.

There is a lot of opportunity to share education on our hobby with the community. If you would like to present a program to the club or others and boost the knowledge of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, or lapidary, please contact me or any of the club officers and we will be happy to set something up. There are many facets of our hobby that we should be expanding on as representatives of the Gem State and Idaho Gem Club. We have brochures to share and handout to your friends and favorite shops. We would like you to feel you are a contributor to our growth, and sharing club information, talking about rocks and lapidary, coming to field trips and attending workshops is a start! Anytime you feel we could improve by adding events, your comments are welcome anytime!! There is a great number of talented members who I hope will feel they can bring something special to our community! Let's talk! This is YOUR club! Help make it one you are proud to belong to.

This fall, we will be scheduling some jewelry making classes. Contact the officers listed and tell us what you wish to learn, what you need help with, or ask for one-on-one instruction. I would love to hear from someone who can put together a half hour program on crystals and metaphysical properties of rocks

## PARKING LOT SWAP AND TRUNK SALE

**from 5-6:45 before the meeting  
on Tuesday, September 21**

The deadline for issues is the Friday after each Board Meeting for the current month's edition. To submit articles, please send them through email to Dana Robinson, Editor [drobinso@boisestate.edu](mailto:drobinso@boisestate.edu)

*continued on page 3*

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Field Trip 7/1-5 Challis/Mackay	2	3
4 Independence Day	5 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	6 Board Meeting 7 pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Kids' Day 10 am-2 pm
18	19	20 Picnic Meeting Municipal Park 6 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24 OGMS Field Trip, Coal Mine Basin, P. Wood
25 Field Trip Succor Creek, Thundereggs	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Tony Funk Sale Workshop 10 am-2 pm
3	4 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	5 Board Meeting 7 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 General Meeting 7 pm	20	21 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	22	23 OGMS Field Trip, Graveyard Pt. Plume Agate
24 31 Halloween	25	26	27	28	29	30 Gem Faire 29-31

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	3 Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Kids' Day 10 am-2 pm
15	16	17 Picnic Meeting Municipal Park 6 pm	18	19 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20	21 OGMS Field Trip, Wagontown, Bog Wood
22 Field Trip South Mtn.	23	24	25	26	27	28 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
29	30	31				

## NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	2 Board Meeting 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 General Meeting 7 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30		Thanksgiving		

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Field Trip Plush, OR Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24 through Sept. 26	25 OGMS Field Trip, Blue Egg Claim, Blue Opal Thundereggs
26 Field Trip Plush, OR Sunstones	27	28	29	30		

## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Workshop Xmas Party 10 am-5 pm
19 Workshop Xmas Party 10 am-5 pm	20	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	New Years Eve

*President's Message cont.*

to volunteer and schedule a time and date. We have meeting places at the church, workshop and others available! Let's bring about some new variety and expand our minds and skill sets! Watch your emails and the club calendar, as well as facebook for updates, changes and additions.

Everyone loves our Swap Meet and Rock Trunk Sales held before the General Meetings, so we will have a parking lot trunk sale from 5:00 pm to 6:45. If the weather is decent, we may hold the meeting outside. Bring a chair if it is not raining! Our meeting program will be on Sunstones.

We look forward to being part of Gem Faire, scheduled for October 29 and 30, 2021. Sign up for a position at our table during this exciting Gem Show event.

Please read through the whole newsletter for upcoming events and information. I'd love to hear from you if you have something you wish to discuss. Call or text me! We will follow guidelines for safe health practices, bring your mask to meetings if you prefer.

It is also TIME TO PAY ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES! RENEW AND STAY IN THE LOUPE! October is the due date so this is an early reminder. The newsletter will only be delivered to paid current members!! Teresa will be at the meetings to accept renewals.

*Respectfully yours, Deana Ashton, President*

**DO NOT ACCEPT OR RESPOND TO ANY EMAIL REQUESTING INFORMATION** from Deana Ashton, President. It originates from email MKPresidents@gmail.com and it is a scam, fraud and false!!! I will never ask anyone for personal information unless I do so in person!! I am a victim of identity fraud and this series of email requests is not from me. It has targeted club officers and members. I will speak to you in person if I ever need anything from you! Absolutely do not respond or reply to the sender of the email! Please flag or report the email to your provider. Thank you!

## 2021 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Sept 18 OGMS Blue Egg Claim  
 Saturday Sept 25-26 IGC Plush, OR, Sunstones  
 Saturday, October 2 Idaho Rock Shop Club Trip, Gooding

## IDAHO GEM CLUB MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Idaho Gem Club Field Trip day is the 3rd Sunday of each month and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society Field Trip day is the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The field trip is Thursday, September 23rd through the 26th and will be to the Sunstone claim near Plush, OR, with Cheryl Link. The meeting place is at the Flying J Truck Stop, Exit 29 in Caldwell, at 7 am, leaving at 7:15. You will need a vehicle with good tires, hand shovels, a sledge hammer, screen, and your camping gear.

The OGMS field trip is to the Blue Egg claim for thundereggs. Robert Murphey will be meeting everyone at the Xtra Mile station at the intersection of Hwys. 55 and 95, just past Marsing, at 7 am, leaving at 7:30 am. You will need tools, lunch, and plenty of water.

**IGC -- Ryan Boring and Tia Call, 208-602-4594**  
**Cheryl Link — 208-859-5098**  
**Deana Ashton — 208-794-5628**  
**OGMS — Robert Murphy, 208-590-1848**

## FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

Rock Hammer	Water
Chisel, Pick, Pry Bar	Sunscreen and a Hat
Shovels	Knee Pads
Buckets or Sacks for	Gloves
Collecting	Safety Glasses
Screening Box	First Aid Kit
Map or GPS	

Good boots or hiking shoes are recommended  
 Rain Coat (dress in layers for cooler mornings)  
 Lunch/Dinner/Snack Foods/Camping supplies

If you have questions, please ask any board member and they can help you find the answer.



**Kids' Day, August 2021**

## WORKSHOPS

IGC Lapidary Workshops are your best benefit of membership. We provide quality equipment to create rock projects and jewelry. Bring your rocks to cut! Come see what you can create! Everyone welcome!

Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:45 pm  
Saturday the week after general meeting -- 10:00 am-2:00 pm

## WORKSHOP LOCATION

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID  
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop

\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dax Hock & Sarah Breck  
Marc & Christine Radsma  
David & Phillisse Rozansky  
Brenda Boyle & Mary Jane Ovesik

Jessica Hauert  
Martha Salyers

## New Members:

Our website at [idahogemclub.com](http://idahogemclub.com) has all of the information regarding our club operations. We also have a facebook page for interacting and socializing. Please contact any Officer or Board Member with questions or suggestions! Welcome to your Gem Club!

## WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Huxley Hock  
Eve Radsma  
Evan Rozansky

Beaudry Hock  
Solomon Radsma





## SUNSTONES

### What is Sunstone?

The name “sunstone” is used for specimens of translucent to transparent feldspar that produce bright metallic flashes when light interacts with tiny plate-like mineral inclusions within the stone. These mineral inclusions usually have a common orientation, and light entering the stone reflects from them at a common angle. This produces a flash of light in the eye of the observer who views them at the proper angle. This optical phenomenon is known as “aventurescence.”

The first materials to be called “sunstone” because of their aventurescence were specimens of oligoclase, a plagioclase feldspar. As other types of feldspar with a strong aventurescence were discovered, the name was also applied to them. Labradorite feldspar (another plagioclase) and orthoclase feldspar have both been found with strong aventurescence.

Sunstone is also known as “heliolite” and, more commonly, “aventurescent feldspar.” It is cut into cabochons, beads, and small sculptures. The most transparent pieces are used to produce faceted stones.

Sunstone is popular with innovative jewelry designers and is especially popular in the geographic areas where it is commercially mined. It is not a gemstone that is seen in every jewelry store, and many jewelry buyers have never witnessed its aventurescence. However, once a person is given a demonstration of sunstone’s aventurescence, they often want to try it and are fascinated. It is a gemstone that sells best if the jeweler takes a moment to educate the buyer about aventurescence.



### History of the Oregon Sunstone Location

Sunstones are feldspar crystals that formed in lava. Thirteen to fourteen million years ago, a volcano in Steens Mountain erupted, pouring out massive amounts of lava. The lava flow was subsequently covered by a vast lake and remained underwater for thousands of years. As the lake gradually dried up, the exposure to weather caused the lava to decompose and reveal loose sunstones.

### History of Sunstone as a Gemstone

Sunstone has been known for at least a few hundred years. The sunstone deposits of Oregon were discovered by Native Americans who collected the gems, treasured them,

traded them widely, and sometimes buried their dead with a small bag of stones.

Sunstone deposits near Lake Baikal in Russia were mined in the early 1800s, and deposits in southern Norway were mined in the late 1800s. Some stones are still produced in these areas. In the United States the common use of sunstone by lapidaries began in the early 1900s. At that time Tiffany & Company acquired mining claims near the community of Plush, Oregon. There they opened the first commercial sunstone mine in the United States and produced jewelry with faceted sunstone and sunstone cabochons. They called the clear stones “Plush Diamonds.” Their efforts with sunstone must not have met Tiffany’s expectations because they stopped production and sold their claims.

In the early 1980s, new sunstone deposits capable of sustaining commercial mining operations were discovered in Oregon. This was celebrated in 1987 when the Oregon legislature named “Oregon Sunstone” the official state gemstone. Jewelry designers and lapidaries were inspired to work with sunstone and promote it to Oregon residents and tourists. This created a patronage for a gemstone produced in the United States -- especially in the state of Oregon. “Oregon Sunstone” is now a very popular gemstone in Oregon, where most people have heard of it. Many people who visit Oregon go home with a piece of Oregon Sunstone jewelry, and this spreads the word about sunstone to other areas.

### Inclusions that Enhance Desirability

Inclusions are particles of foreign material in a gemstone. They cause a reduction in the clarity of the stone and usually decrease its desirability. However, some inclusions in sunstone can enhance the desirability of a gem. These inclusions are flat, plate-shaped, highly reflective, and precisely aligned along a crystallographic axis of their host. This common orientation enables them to simultaneously produce a flash when the stone is moved under incident light. Instead of detracting from the stone’s beauty, these flashes of light usually delight the observer and increase the desirability of the stone. The flash can be strong enough to surprise and fascinate the observer. The inclusions in sunstone are usually tiny plates of copper, hematite, or goethite. They are usually aligned parallel to one of the crystallographic planes within the stone. The inclusions in sunstone can be so small that they are not visible to the





unaided eye, or they can be large enough to be clearly visible. The color of the inclusions and the reflections from them can impart a distinct color to the gem.

The sunstone from India is thought to have hematite inclusions rather than the copper inclusions of Oregon

Sunstone. If you examine the stones closely with a 10x loupe or a gem microscope, you can tell that they are not copper.

### What Color is Sunstone?

Sunstone occurs in a range of colors that begins with colorless and ranges through yellow, orange, and red. The color is determined, in part, by the abundance and size of the copper platelets within the stone. The copper platelets impart a pink or reddish color to the stone. Some exceptional stones are deep green or blue in color.

Color can vary within a single stone. Some stones exhibit a color gradient. They might be pink on one side of the stone and the color gradually strengthens to orange on the other side of the stone. Other stones have sharp color changes. Some exceptional stones are pleochroic - their color depends upon the direction of observation.

The value of gem-quality sunstone is determined by its color, transparency, and the quality of aventurescence. Colorless and yellow stones are usually the least expensive, and values increase through pink, orange, and red. Bright red stones, green stones, and nice bicolor stones have the highest values. Transparent stones with a nice aventurescence command premium prices.

Sunstone can fit almost any budget. Small cabochons with a pleasant orange color and nice aventurescence can be purchased for under \$50. Bright red stones and attractive bicolor stones that have been nicely faceted can sell for over \$1000 per carat.

Although aventurescence is what has traditionally defined sunstone, clear, gem-quality plagioclase from Oregon without obvious aventurescence has been sold under the name of "Oregon Sunstone." Yellow gem-quality plagioclase without obvious aventurescence from Mexico has been sold under the name "Golden Sunstone."

### Faceted or Cabochon

Most varieties of gemstones that exhibit an optical phenomenon produced by inclusions (such as the asterism

displayed by a star sapphire, the chatoyance of chrysoberyl, or the aventurescence of aventurine) are cut en cabochon to best display that phenomenon.

Specimens of sunstone with a nice aventurescence are usually cut en cabochon. Incident light produces a bright glow on a dome-shaped cabochon that is tilted back and forth in the light. When the angle between the observer's eye and the stone is the same as the angle of incident light (but in the opposite direction), the observer sees a bright flash of light. That is when the full reflection from the included platelets is observed. Transparent "Oregon Sunstone" produces beautiful faceted stones. Faceted sunstone with aventurescence exhibits the beauty of a faceted gem with an optical effect normally seen only in a cabochon.

### The "Cut" is Everything

The artisans who cut sunstone must study the stone before they begin work. If the stone is cut at a random orientation, the aventurescence will be less than optimal. The maximum flash



and a symmetrical flash in a cabochon is obtained when the stone is cut with the platelets oriented parallel to the top and bottom of the stone. In this orientation the cabochon usually

shows maximum color when viewed from directly above, and the aventurescence is symmetrical.

As a feldspar mineral, sunstone has a hardness of 6 on the Mohs Hardness Scale and perfect cleavage in two directions. This makes it best suited for earrings, brooches, small pendants, and other jewelry items that will not be exposed to rough wear.

Some artisans use sunstone for small carvings and sculptures. Material up to three inches in size has been found, and some of these large stones are used for carving. Sunstone beads are also popular. As a bead, sunstone displays aventurescence from both sides of the included copper platelets.

### Sunstone Localities

Aventurescent feldspar has been found in Australia, Canada, China, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Norway, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, the United States (Oregon, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania) and other localities.

The most famous sunstone deposits in the United States are located in Oregon. A few of the sunstone deposits in

Oregon are large enough to sustain mining operations. They are found in certain basalt flows in Lake County and Harney County. There the sunstone occurs as phenocrysts within the basalt. Some sunstone is produced from the weathered zone above the basalt flows, and some is produced from the basalt.



The Oregon basalt flows that contain sunstone are located mainly on public land, and many productive or promising areas are held by mining claims.

#### Oregon Sunstone Collection Area

The Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area allows visitors to enjoy collecting these rare and beautiful gems in their natural setting. Located in the remote Rabbit Basin, the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area is in the high desert habitat of sagebrush and open spaces of south-central Oregon.

The boundaries of the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area are marked by orange plastic posts that say 'Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area,' and corners are marked with large Bureau of Land Management triangles on wooden posts. There are many private mining claims surrounding the public collection area and several within it. Collecting Sunstones from a private claim without permission is not allowed and may result in legal penalties. Please take the time to know where you are before collecting.

Due to the isolated location, rock hounds visiting the collection area should be well prepared. The only facilities available at the site are a pit toilet, picnic tables, and a shade structure. You are welcome to camp anywhere within the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area.

There is no fee for collecting sunstones, but you may not collect sunstones for trade or commercial purposes.



#### INTERESTING FINDS

Two new dinosaur species have been discovered in China. They are both reported to be as big as a blue whale. Read about it at:

[www.cnn.com/2021/08/12/china/china-new-dinosaur-species-intl-hnk-scli-scen/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2021/08/12/china/china-new-dinosaur-species-intl-hnk-scli-scen/index.html)

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During recent years, archaeologists have been investigating prehistoric hunter-gatherer sites from the period just before the end of the last Ice Age, when water levels were much lower. Most of these sites are now under the waters of the Great Lakes. According to a recent news blurb in *Archaeology Magazine*, archaeologists have recovered obsidian tool flakes from a site 100 feet under Lake Huron. Analysis of the obsidian showed it came from a site in central Oregon, which we locals know is probably Glass Buttes. We always knew it was traded widely across the country at various Pow Wows, but it has been going on much longer and has ranged farther than we ever imagined.

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Royal Ontario Museum paleontologists have unearthed a huge new fossil species belonging to an extinct animal group in 500 million year old shale in Kootenay National Park in the Canadian Rockies. Check out the story and pictures at:

<https://scitechdaily.com/absolutely-mind-boggling-massive-new-animal-species-discovered-in-500-million-year-old-burgess-shale/>



## JUDY KAY BLODGETT



Judy Kay Blodgett, 77, passed away peacefully at her home in Boise, ID, on August 23, 2021 surrounded by her husband, son, niece, and cousin. She lived an exceptionally blessed and inspiring full life as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, homemaker, career woman, business owner and devoted Christian.

She was born March 7, 1944, in Tacoma, WA, to Edward Earl Lukehart and Iona Faye (King) Emerson. Her father's career necessitated moving the family around a lot. Even so, mom was

full of energy and had zest for life. While living in Baker, OR, in her teenage years, she channeled all that zeal and became a cheerleader, along with her sister Sue Ann. Mom loved being a cheerleader tremendously, and had said those years in Baker held some of her fondest memories. This became the foundation, that everyone who would come to know her, as "their cheerleader"! The Lukehart family eventually settled in Boise, where mom attended her later years of schooling at Boise High. Mom married her first husband at an early age, and that's when she had her first child, Kari. Mom sought a separation and divorce from her first husband shortly after Kari was born. It was during this time mom completed her schooling in cosmetology at the top of her class, and accumulated many awards in hair design and dressings. She then entered the workforce as a beautician, at Helen's Hair Fashions in Boise. It wasn't too long after that a chance encounter would have mom meeting the love of her life, and her best friend, Sandy Blodgett. After only a few dates, they fell in love. Dad said, "she was the most beautiful woman he has ever seen." Indeed, mom was stunning both inside, and out. She was also known for her thick head of hair that was never unkept, and admired by all. Then, in no time at all, they were talking about marriage, to which mom said, "the only way she would marry dad, is if he promised her she'd never have to work again." Dad said, "if that is all it's going to take to marry you," he said, "let's go for it." So then, on May 26, 1965, they got married at St. Michaels Cathedral in Downtown Boise. Dad has said, "he felt like the luckiest man to not only marry mom, but soon after getting married, he adopted Kari." They Honeymooned on the Oregon coast, and for the next 56 years on their anniversary, they would go back to the same area in celebration and created a lifetime of fond memories and made lifelong friendships.

Mom and dad never left each other's side their entire marriage. Dad retired as a Captain with the Boise Fire Department with many interests, and hobbies they both shared in. They were lifetime R.V.'ers to the coast or local mountains. Mom loved to go fishing with dad. Dad loved "rock hounding", and mom would join him in his collecting for many years. So much "rock hounding" was collected that they became "life members" of the Idaho Gem Club. Mom was very artistic, from her award-winning hair designs, to her love of art drawing with pastels, and her collection of porcelain Christian Dolls that she displayed three of by her bedside, up to the time of her passing. For most of mom's working life, she was the secretary of B & B Fence, which was a business that dad and his

father Max owned together. Upon Max's passing, mom became CEO and President of B & B Fence, and a member of the Association of General Contractors. Mom held that role all the way into retirement.

Mom loved her Christian faith and considered herself to be a bible scholar. She was involved in her church at Central Assembly. Mom loved babies so much, she would volunteer many Sundays in the church nursery, just so she could get her "baby-fix". She had this same love for animals. She was always raising little Shih Tzus, and would take them everywhere held in her arms, as another way to get her "baby-fix", (in this case, "puppy-fix"). Her Shih Tzus were always part of the family, and everyone knew it. Mom loved to entertain family and friends often, as such, would always have our home decorated as if there was to be a gathering at any moment. Her favorite time of year was Christmas. Mom was well known for her Christmas decorating, as it became an annual event to pack up the entire house of "normal" furnishings, and replace everything with a Christmas theme. There was not one wall, table, or corner that did not have a string of lights, little nativity scene, or new ornament from the Christmas Cottage. Every year the decorations would take longer and longer to put up, because she could not part with the previous year's decorations. Those were magical times, and the friendly atmosphere mom would create was enhanced by her beautiful smile, infectious laugh, and hilarious quick wit that charmed everyone that met her or knew her.

Mom became friends with everyone she came in contact with, and was remembered for many years after any first encounter. Mom is survived by her husband, and the love of her life of 56 years, Sandy Blodgett. Her children, Shane Blodgett, Kelly (Mark) Kovaes, and Mike Blodgett, whom gave her many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her sister Pam (Jim) Hendricks, and her fur-baby Misty. Mom was preceded in passing by her daughter Kari, mother, father, sister, and several other family members. The family would like to give a special thank-you to Alyson from Doctor's House Calls of Idaho, Sarah, Sophie, and Grace from Doctor's Hospice of Idaho, for helping us give mom exceptional care and dignity in her last week of life. Sandy and Shane want to personally acknowledge and thank, niece/cousin (mom) Angela Hellickson, for her tirelessly devoted support given to her aunt Judy, and uncle Sandy this last year and a half. Angela has helped around the clock with everything from cooking and cleaning, to being by mom's side until her passing. Additionally, thank you to cousin (mom) Sandra Rhodenbaugh, for stepping right in with help, counseling, and being present every day the last week of mom's life.

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheer, get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions for our club. Please text or call 208-794-5628, or email [gemdigger2014@outlook.com](mailto:gemdigger2014@outlook.com) and I will follow through reminding our members we care.



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## Application

### ***Earth Science Scholarship Awarded by the Idaho Gem Club, Inc.***

Description: The Idaho Gem Club, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to promoting “the interests of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences” is offering a \$500 scholarship for to help defray the educational costs for a local undergraduate Earth science student (see eligibility criteria below).

Eligibility: Applicants must be a full time, undergraduate student majoring or minoring in Earth science (including geology, geophysics, and earth science education) at a two- or four year college or university in the Treasure Valley region of Idaho during the 2016-2017 school year. Although not required, preference may be given to Idaho residents.

Terms of acceptance: The funds provided through this scholarship are to be used solely for the purpose of meeting the costs of undergraduate education, including tuition, books or materials, or field camp fees. Awardees are requested to visit a general meeting of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc. to give a short 15-20 minute presentation on an Earth science topic of general interest to our members. If COVID-related restrictions are in place, this requirement may be altered to providing a short article for the club newsletter.

Instructions: Please fill out in full the two page application form on the following pages. Note that as part of the application, a 1-2 page essay is required in addition to the information requested in the application. Applicants must have their application endorsed (via signature) by an Earth science faculty member at the institution they are attending during the 2017-2018 academic year. Completed applications should be **received by September 30, 2021** either by email (pneuhoff@yahoo.com) or at the following address:

**Scholarship chair person  
Idaho Gem Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 8443  
Boise, Idaho 83707- 8443**



**IDAHO GEM CLUB, INC.****FREE APPLICATION FOR  
EARTH SCIENCE  
SCHOLARSHIP**

The Idaho Gem Club Inc. is offering a \$500 scholarship for any full time college or university student majoring in Geology, Geophysics, or Earth Science Education.

Applications must be filled out and either emailed (pneuhoff@yahoo.com) or returned to:

**Scholarship chair person  
Idaho Gem Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 8443  
Boise, Idaho 83707- 8443**

before September 30, 2021 to be eligible for the scholarship. Scholarship forms can be obtained in the Geology department or Financial Aid offices or on the web at <http://www.idahogemclub.com>

{Please type or print legibly; asterisk (\*) indicates required information}

**PERSONAL DATA**

Name\*:

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Address\*:

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of Idaho\*? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been a member of a gem or mineral club\*? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes give name and location\*:

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*The application is also available on the club website: [www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)*

College or University Attending\*:

\_\_\_\_\_

Class Level (e.g., Sophomore, Junior, etc.) in 2016-2017\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s) and Minor(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Department(s)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Current G.P.A.\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and department of Faculty member sponsoring application\*:

\_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICATION ESSAY\*:

The Idaho Gem Club, Inc was formed for purposes that included promoting “the interests of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences.” Please write a 1-2 page essay describing your career goals, and how it will benefit the public good through application of your education in earth science to education, natural resource development and stewardship, hazard evaluation, or similar pursuits as a professional.

### Note to applicants:

The scholarship will be awarded at one of the Club’s regular monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month. We are asking the recipient to present a short program (relating to earth science) at a meeting. Would you be willing to do this\*? \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE

By signing this application, you certify that the above is true and correct. Also, you certify that you will use Idaho Gem Club Inc. Scholarship funds only for the purpose of defraying the cost of attending an institution of higher education (i.e., tuition, books, etc.)

Student Signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date\*: \_\_\_\_\_

I know the above student and certify that they are an earth science student in good standing and endorse their application.

Signature of faculty sponsor\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*The application is also available on the club website: [www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)*



## IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING AND GEOLOGY

There are several upcoming events for the museum. You will definitely enjoy getting involved. Preregistration is required at [idahomuseum.org](http://idahomuseum.org) under Special Events.

### September 26 — Identify Rocks, Minerals and Native American artifacts

The event will be at 1 pm at the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, 2455 Old Penitentiary Road in Boise. Bring in your specimens and Coyote Short PG will help you identify what you have.

Preregistration required at [idahomuseum.org](http://idahomuseum.org) **Special Events**.

### October 3 — Celebrate Idaho Geology and Earth Science Week

You'll find activities for all ages and treasures for the kiddos. Hunt for gems, explore Idaho rocks and minerals, and more.

Registration required at [idahomuseum.org](http://idahomuseum.org) **Special Events**. We are scheduling 25 people per hour between 1 pm and 4 pm and requiring everyone 3 and older to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth. The museum door will be open. The gift shop will also be open.

### October 6 — Online Lecture:

#### Uncovering the Legacy of Idaho's Chinese Pioneers

The event will be a Zoom on-line lecture by Renae Campbell, University of Idaho. The presentation will summarize research being conducted to uncover the stories connected to Idaho's Chinese pioneers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Boise Basin.

Preregistration required at [idahomuseum.org](http://idahomuseum.org) **Special Events**.

## Boulder Mill Mining Minerals Project

We are crossing the finish line to getting approval for the Boulder Mill Mining Minerals Project. This low-impact project will be located on Elk Creek, North of Idaho City. In the final stages of getting this project approved, we've been working with the U.S. Forest Service, and now we need your help. It's time for the public comments portion of this process. If you have the time, we would greatly appreciate any supportive comments that you could lend us on the U.S. Forest Service's website. On this website, there is a link to the BoulderMill Proposal Sheet, and below that there is a field for leaving your comments. Remember if it is not mined, logged, or farmed, we don't have it. Thanks again for your support. Here is the link:

[https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/  
Public/CommentInput?Project=60509](https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=60509)

### 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](http://www.idahogemclub.com)

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### MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 17, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:26 by Deana Ashton. Ed held up the flag on his hat for the Pledge of Alliegance and he also offered the prayer for our meal and membership. There were 40 adults and 9 juniors present.

After introducing six new guests, we lined up for dinner, ate and then continued the business meeting.

Rick Corbett drew door prizes for 9 kids and 7 adults.

Guests Bob and Kevin Shubert, lapidary artists from California, had gifts of cabs for all new members and guests.

Grindings late this month. There were no corrections to the minutes as printed in the Grindings. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made and seconded, and the membership voted to pass this motion.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the finances, receipts and expenditures.

**Juniors Report:** No Badge Program or Juniors updates this month.

**Federation Director Report :** Federation Director Randy Harrison was absent tonight. He did not attend the Federation meeting in July. According to Ed Moser, no news to report other than reminder for Sept. 11/12 in Walla Walla for the next meeting.

**Workshop Report** by Brent Stewart: Brent talked about good turnouts for Kids Day and workshops and reviewed upcoming dates.

**Field Trip Report:** Tia Call and Ryan Boring have stepped up to lead our field trips! Their first trip was to Succor Creek on July 25 to collect Thundereggs. Don Dixon came and he helped a lot. He pointed out that everyone was sitting on the eggs where they should have been digging. Everyone found material after that. New maps will be coming to share the information.

There is a field trip to Texas Springs over Labor Day weekend, Sept 4-6. There will be maps out to the sites. It is a dry camping area. Be sure to bring a black light. A lot of things flouresce out there!

For the August field trip, Greg Sandmeyer is taking us to South Mountain for Ilvaite and Hedenbergite specimens. He is meeting us at Jordan Valley Park on the east side of the highway at 9 am on Sunday, August 22. A high clearance vehicle is needed -- a Subaru SUV will make it. You will need a hand rake, hand shovel and a screen. It will be a very limited collection area.

Robert Murphey is leading the OGMS field trip to Wagon Town for agatized Bog Wood. He is meeting at the Xtra Mile station at the intersection of Hwys. 55 and 95 Saturday, August 21, at 7 am, leaving at 7:30.

**Program:** The program is an auction again. Christina Anderton did a fantastic job Auctioneering again tonight!

#### Old Business:

Deana recounted a story of two older ladies who got stranded overnight with two flat tires. Otto tried to get to the spare, but they only had one. They were assured a tow truck was coming, but it never did. Be prepared out there and watch out for others!

The September field trip will be out to the Sunstone claim. Cheryl Link will be leading the trip. She is leaving on Thursday, September 23 and returning on Sunday, September 26. It is a 7 hour trip to get there. Dry camping for this trip. You will need a sledge hammer, shovel and screen.

#### New Business:

An event is planned for October 2 at Tony Funk's shop in Gooding. There will be \$1/lb, \$3/lb, and \$5/lb piles to look through. He has brought in a lot of new material. The meeting will be in Mountain Home. More details at the next meeting.

Willa Renken is starting a new Silversmithing Class on September 9-10. Contact her if you are interested. Her information is in the officers list of this newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm for auction.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Editor*



## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Deana Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**Present:** Deana Ashton, Cheryl Link, Rick Corbett, Teresa Nebeker, Terri Frostrom, Brent Stewart, Jason Smith, and Dana Robinson.

**Absent:** Willa Renken, Ed Moser, Randy Harrison.

Deana asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Jason. Board members voted, motion carried.

**Secretary Report:** New Rock & Gem magazines in library for September and October. Need newsletter articles by Friday.

**Treasurer Report** by Teresa Nebeker: Teresa went over the monthly expenses and deposits. Four newsletters were returned. Teresa will contact to get correct addresses.

**Federation Report:** NFMS annual meeting on September 11-12 has been changed to a Zoom meeting. Deana will contact Randy Harrison to see if he was notified and can attend. The stamp donations do not currently have a committee member so hang on to the stamps for now.

**Program Report:** The program will be on Sunstones this month. There will also be a parking lot Trunk Sale on meeting night from 5-6:45. If its nice we can have the meeting outside too. The October program will be on fluorescents.

**Claims Report:** Cheryl Link has filed all of the mining claim paperwork and submitted the fees for next year. She presented details about claim fees and address for the filings. IGC is listed as claim owner and Cheryl is the agent.

**Juniors Report:** Cheryl will set up a Kids Badge Program meeting for Saturday, October 16th with the other committee members. Will work on completion for the Field Trip section and maybe start into Collecting.

**Workshop Report** by Brent Stewart: Our regular Thursday workshop will be on Sept. 23 from 6-8:45 pm, and the Saturday workshop will be Oct. 2 from 10 am-2 pm. ROLE workshop is October 4, 6-8:45 pm, and the two regular workshops for October will be the 21st from 6-8:45 pm, and the 30th from 10 am-2 pm.

We will be doing the December Christmas Party workshop the weekend before Christmas.

The genies in the workshop don't need new pumps, just adjusting and oiling before the next workshop.

Kid's Day fees are not in from August yet. We need to document expenses to justify the cost of Kid's Day. Cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

New donations of findings are needed to refill the boxes in the workshop.

We are going to sign up for a table at the Gem Faire this year. It is October 29th.

**Field Trip Report:** South Mountain field trip poorly attended. Only Greg, Deana, Cheryl and two guests showed up. The Texas Springs trip had about 20 people and they found lots of limbs.

Cheryl is leading the field trip for September out to the Sunstone claims. Meet at the truck stop in Caldwell at 7 am on Thursday, Sept. 23. It is a seven hour drive to the claims. She will be returning on Sunday the 26th. She will get the name of the truck stop.



The Caldwell club is going to the Blue Egg claim. They are meeting at Homedale Park at 8 am, leaving at 8:30.

On Saturday, October 2nd Tony Funk will BBQ lunch, and offer great bargains in his yard for \$1.00 a pound. He has added lots of good stuff to the \$1/lb. pile. There will be great stuff from old estates he has purchased. We will meet Robert at 8 am in Mountain Home and then travel to Gooding.

Deana would also like to set up an October trip to the Boone Science Museum.

**Scholarship Report:** A new scholarship application has been sent to Doug and Dana. It will be in the next newsletter and online.

**Old Business:** Dana will send an eblast for Judy Blodgett's service to be held on Sept. 10th at 11 am at Cloverdale Funeral Home.

Mike and Linda delivered the donations from Guy DiTorrice to Cheryl. There are books, magazines, newsletters, lots of information on fossils, tools for field trips, casting materials, safety glasses, gloves, and some fossils, as well.

**New Business:** No new business.

Seven new applications were reviewed. Cheryl made a motion to accept the new members, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson*



## Donations

If you wish to donate rocks, books, tools, equipment, jewelry making items, or anything hobby related, please contact Deana Ashton at 208-795-5628, Willa Renken at 208-866-0944, or Cheryl Link a 208-859-9058. We will make arrangements to receive items, add them to the club inventory and provide a tax donation receipt.

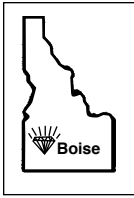
Currently we are in need of findings for the workshop so members can finish their project with a nice setting.

Thank you, in advance. We appreciate any and all donations that keep our club going!

## *A special Thank You to Guy Ditorrice*

**for the large donation of fossil material,  
the educational tools to teach how to make  
casts and collect materials, and for the  
many book additions for our club library!**

**We will utilize these tools for  
future classes and educational programs.**

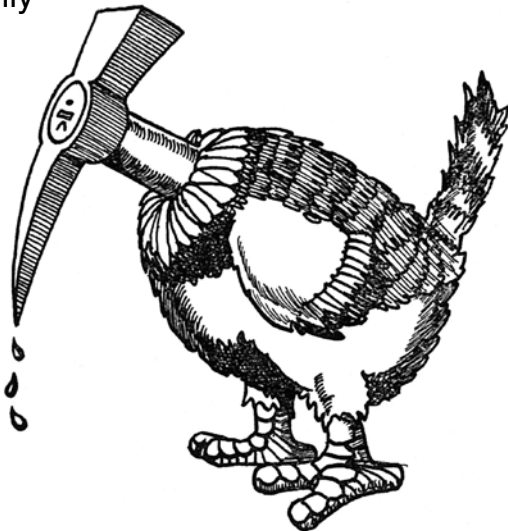


Idaho Gem Club, Inc.  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

<b>Dues:</b>	<b>Subscription only:</b>
\$22.00 individual	\$10 per year
\$25.00 couple	
\$28.00 family	



**GENERAL MEETING:**  
3rd Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING:**  
1st Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**ADDRESS:**  
Mtn.View Church of Brethren

