




# Grindings

*Idaho Gem Club, Inc.*

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

**VOL 85 NO 4**

**APRIL 2024**

## DIRECTORY

ITEM	PAGE
President's Message	1
Calendars, Upcoming Events	2
Juniors Calendar, Program, Field Trips	3
Workshops	4
Pizza Party	5
Malad Gorge State Park, New Members, Sunshine Lady	6
Idaho Faults Diagram	7
Bruneau Pattern Jaspers	8-9
General Meeting Minutes	10
Board Meeting Minutes	11

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Rockhounds:

It's April and officially spring time. Time to get grinding and rockhounding. Our April field trip is coming up on Saturday, April 20. We'll meet at 8 am at the Ion/Chevron station on the corner of Highway 95 and Highway 55 for a trip to Graveyard Point. We have a claim hill there in an amazing area full of plume agates and some lace agate. We are leaving the Chevron at 8:30 so don't be late. Bring plenty of water and a lunch, buckets and whatever supplies you need, such as a shovel, rock hammer, hand spade, and a hat would be nice, too. The wildlife is starting to come out as well, including snakes, so be watchful. Leave them alone and they'll leave you alone.

Next month we're going to Gooding to Tony Funks Boneyard. We will be meeting there at 10 am. The address is 1727 S. 2150 E., Gooding, ID, and there will be a map in next month's newsletter. Tony is cooking hot dogs and hamburgers and we are bringing the side dishes. It's a pot luck feast, so bring your favorite dish and we'll have a great time. Tony has several acres of rock piles of different prices, all reasonably priced. Last year I never got out of the \$1 piles and collected amazing material from around the world. We're going to be in good company with the Owyhee Gem Club and maybe the Magic Valley Club joining us for the day.

At our April meeting we will have a Silent Auction. A table set up with trays of various stones will be up front for you to bid on. After the meeting you'll have 10 minutes to get your final bids in. Liz will help coordinate the auction and will answer any questions you have. The proceeds will go toward next years banquet. We're also having a Show-and-Tell during the meeting, so if you have any rocks or gems you are not sure of, or something you've made, bring it and show it off, or get it identified. Let's have a little fun during the meeting.

We had a good turnout last month at the Mining Museum. With the rain, an indoor adventure was the right call. We also had a Pizza Party a couple of weeks ago at Idaho Pizza. We had 36 members come and dine. A little Thank You for a great show in February. If you missed it, we'll have other get togethers this year, and I hope to see you there.

We're having several workshops this month, so check the calendar for dates and times. Come visit and learn how to cut and grind a cabachon. Our workshop is located behind Stewart's Gem Shop. Be sure not to park in Stewart's limited parking spots, please. There is parking across the street or across the alley.

Again, April 17 at 7 pm for our meeting. Check out the Silent Auction rock trays and don't forget your show and tell rocks. See you there!

*Respectfully Submitted, Rick Corbett, President*

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)

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

APRIL

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 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16 General Meeting 7 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Field Trip Graveyard Pt. 8 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30				

MAY

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 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25 Field Trip Tony Funk's 8 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE

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

JULY

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 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	16 Picnic Meeting 6 pm	17	18 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	19	20 Field Trip TBA 8 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
28	29	30	31			



Upcoming Events

**Gemstone Junction Rock & Gem Show**, April 12, 9 am-6 pm, April 13, 10 am-6 pm, April 14, 10 am-4 pm. Golden Spike Event Center, 1000 N 1200 W, Ogden, UT

**Colorado Mineral & Fossil Spring Show**, April 12-13, 10 am-6 pm, April 14, 10 am 5 pm. Crowne Plaza DIA, 15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO

**Wasatch Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**, April 19-20, 10 am-6 pm, April 21, 10 am-4 pm, Salt Lake County Equestrian Park and Events Center, 2100 W 11400 S, South Jordan , UT

**Helena Mineral Society's Gem Mineral & Fossil Show**, April 19-21, Helena Civic Center Ballroom, 340 Neill Ave, Helena, MT

## JUNIORS 2024 CALENDAR

We will be working on 4 badges this year from the AFMS Badge Program. You are welcome to bring a geological treasure for a quick show-and-tell at the beginning of the Juniors class.

- Tue Apr 16 - Field Trip badge - Finalize plans for trip
- Sat Apr 27 - Shoofly Oolite Field Trip - Grand View/Bruneau Area
- Tue May 21 - Collecting Badge
- Tue Jun 18 - Collecting Badge
- Tue Jul 16 - Picnic - Stone Age Tools & Art badge - activities at park
- Tue Aug 20 - Picnic - Stone Age Tools & Art badge - activities at park
- Tue Sep 17 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Oct 15 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Nov 19 - Lapidary Arts - help them prep for "Project of the Year"
- Tue Dec 17 - (Juniors projects due for competition) - Activity: fun crafts



## JUNIORS FIELD TRIP

Saturday, April 27, will be the Junior's Shoofly Oolite Field Trip to complete a field trip badge requirement. We will start gathering at 8:30 am and leave by 9 am from Grand View Gas'n Bass gas station located at 110 Frontage Rd., Grand View (corner of Hwy. 167 and Hwy. 78).

The location is southwest of Mtn. Home and it's about a 15 minute drive south to the Shoofly Oolite Interpretive Site trail head. Wear hiking shoes and bring plenty of water. Plan an hour and a half to explore the geologic formations.

In the event of bad weather such as rain or high wind, the trip will be cancelled.

## APRIL PROGRAM

The program for this month will be a Silent Auction of 10 trays of material. They will be set up on a front table so you can take a look and make a bid. There will also be time after the meeting for final bids. The proceeds will go toward next year's Banquet.

## FIELD TRIP

The field trip for April is out to our Graveyard Point claim for plume agate. We will meet at 8 am on Saturday, April 20, at the Ion/Chevron Station just outside of Marsing. It is at the intersection of Hwy. 55 and Hwy. 95. We will leave from there at 8:30 am.

You will need a rock hammer and a chisel, but there is plenty of material to pick up on the surface too.

If the weather is too wet we can go to the Queenstone claims where we can park on the roadside.

## FIELD TRIP SUPPLIES

Rock Hammer	Water
Chisel, Pick, Pry Bar	Sunscreen and a Hat
Shovels	Knee Pads
Garden Claw Rake	Safety Glasses
Buckets or Sacks	Gloves
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

**WORKSHOPS**

See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates. Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making. Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, and Liz Warner keep the club lapidary workshop operating year round.

Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:45 pm  
Saturday the week after general meeting — 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
ROLE Workshops are the First and Third Mondays — 6:00 pm-8:45 pm

**WORKSHOP LOCATION**

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID  
Next door to Stewart’s Gem Shop  
\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



PIZZA PARTY



## MALAD RIVER GORGE STATE PARK

The Malad River is located within Gooding County and Oneida County, Idaho, and is part of the Columbia River basin. It is formed by the confluence of the Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers near Gooding. From there the river flows south and west for 12 miles to join the Snake River near Hagerman.

The river flows through Thousand Springs State Park, where it tumbles down a stairstep waterfall. The Malad Gorge is 250 feet deep and 2.5 miles long.

The name of the river stems from the French *malade*, as in *Rivière aux Malades* ('river of the sick'), apparently as a reference to some illness suffered by early French-Canadian trappers who investigated the area.

### Malad River Gorge State Park

This 451-acre park is located just off Interstate 84 at the Tuttle exit. People pass the park in an instant, never suspecting the spectacular canyon views that await them just a mile off the highway. The Malad Gorge is open for hiking, picnicking and day outings. Guided tours can be arranged by calling the park at 208-837-4505.

The Park offers picnic areas with tables and grills, perfect for family outings. No reservation is required.

### Nature of the Area

The Malad River crashes down stairstep falls and into the Devils Washbowl, then cuts through a beautiful 250-foot gorge on its way to the Snake River, 2-1/2 miles downstream. Views of the gorge are best from the sturdy bridge that crosses the canyon. You can take a short hike to discover nearby fingers of the gorge where crystal-clear springs produce ponds and streams. Ritter Island offers excellent opportunities for photography and birdwatching.

### Nearby Parks

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument  
Hagerman State Fish Hatchery



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bill Gardunia  
Robert & Theresa Mayes  
Lowell & Lyndia Townley

Bob Kerr  
Logan Nye  
Al Shaw

### 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!

## SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

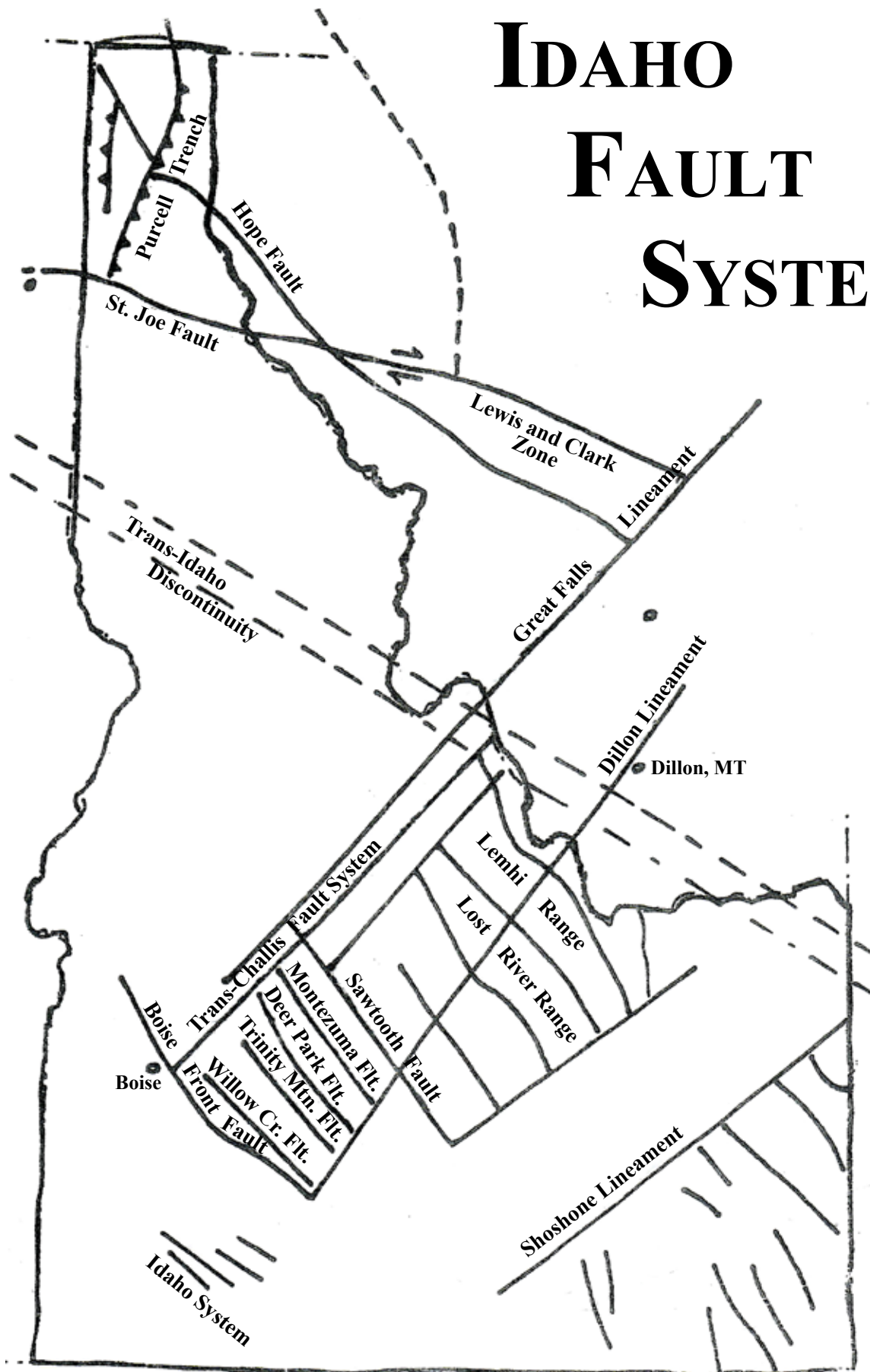
By Deana Ashton

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheerful greetings to club members needing get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions. If you know someone in need of cheer or attention, please text or call Deana at 208-794-5628.



Henry Fujii exhibit at IMMG

# IDAHO FAULT SYSTEM



## BRUNEAU-PATTERN JASPERS

The Bruneau jasper pattern is characterized by a series of overlapping oval shapes arranged in a circular format. An edge or line curves back on itself until it intersects with another line. This element gives the appearance of an oval shape behind the curved line that it crosses. The overlapping oval shapes are an illusion resulting from the repetition of the curved edge. This illusion of visual depth creates the beauty of the generally opaque jasper material.



These shapes are not concentric like the bands in a nodular banded agate, but are part of one continuous formation through the rock. If the form could be visualized in three dimensions, it would look something like a soft pillow folded over on itself many times. A good example is melted candle wax running down the side of a candle. As the wax cools and solidifies in an oval drip shape, more melted wax flows over it and hardens on the top. This process results in the same type of forms as in Bruneau jasper. If you cut through the solidified wax, you will see the same curved edges that form the overlapping shapes. The pattern resulting from this form, so well known in the famous Bruneau jasper, does not have a generally accepted name other than “eggs.”

### Accounts of Discovery

#### *Bruneau Jasper*

Bruneau Jasper is a beautiful jasper that comes from a remote canyon near the Bruneau River in western Idaho, about 30 miles south of the tiny town of Bruneau. It is a “picture jasper” and is used as an opaque gemstone. The stone exhibits layered patterns of brown, reddish brown and cream color, or sometimes of red and green color.



It was discovered in the Bruneau River canyon in Idaho, near the bottom of the canyon walls, where the rhyolite in which the jasper occurs is exposed for a length of 5 miles. The first claims were filed in the 1950's. Tradition in the Bruneau area claims that the name Bruneau was either from its French translation of ‘brown water’ or after a French explorer by the name of Jean-Baptiste Bruneau.

As of 2009 Bruneau jasper was no longer in production due to the Protected River status of the Bruneau.

#### *Morrisonite*

Jasper was detected in this locality in the 1940s by rancher Jim Morrison (no relation to The Doors’ lead singer). It is found in Oregon on the east slope of the 2,000-foot-deep Owyhee River Canyon, located a few miles south of the beginning of the Owyhee Reservoir. Morrison collected rocks and Indian artifacts on his ranch in the canyon. The first mineral claim here was filed in 1964, and there are currently five adjoining claims. No new commercial production has occurred since 1996.



#### *Willow Creek*



Willow Creek jasper is mined in a small canyon northeast of Eagle, Idaho. In this area the thundereggs exist next to perlite. A thunderegg two feet in diameter from this deposit is considered small. Unfortunately, not all eggs have jasper interiors; therefore, many hard efforts go without reward. In the 1980s, there were several claims with different owners. In the early 2000s, Larry Ridley of Boise,

Idaho, owned the entire area, which he has mined steadily with equipment for many years.

#### *Blue Mountain*

Blue Mountain jasper is found in Oregon, on the south end of the Blue Mountains, just a few miles north of McDermitt, Nevada. This jasper has color combinations similar to those of the morrisonite found about 80 miles to the north. While morrisonite is formed in veins, the Blue Mountain jasper is more nodular in shape, even though the two types are formed in similar rock. There are still a couple of claims in the area.



#### *Imperial Jasper*



The last type is Imperial jasper and a sub-variety known as Royal Imperial jasper. Imperial jasper is found on the east slope of a steep canyon north of San Cristobal, Mexico. It is also found in a smaller drainage to the east of the main canyon. Red, Pink, Brown, Green, Spider-web, Select, and Royal Imperial are all names associated with these various jasper deposits.

The jasper-bearing area is very large. Most Imperial jasper has enough color and pattern to be of interest, and very little is



discarded. A high percentage of the rock from the side canyon exhibits the pattern found in Bruneau jasper. The name Royal Imperial jasper was recently applied to the rock from this area to distinguish it from the other varieties. About 100 tons of Imperial jaspers have been produced in the last decade. This amount is far more than the total historical production of Bruneau, Morrisonite, Willow Creek, and Blue Mountain jaspers combined.

### Similar Patterns Found in Different Jaspers

There are other jaspers with the pattern of Bruneau jasper that are not well known. Hart Mountain jasper and Rim jasper from Oregon are two of them. There are also thundereggs found in the mountains southeast of Deming, New Mexico, that are filled with this type of jasper. These jasper deposits are small, and pieces are rarely found for sale except in private collections.

Many people are familiar with Bruneau jasper, yet they may not be familiar with Morrison Ranch jasper, for example. They recognize the pattern of the jasper from Bruneau Canyon that is so well known. This relatively rare and highly identifiable pattern is associated with all the jaspers mentioned above.

The formation of the orb pattern present in Bruneau, Willow Creek, and Morrison Ranch jasper is independent of the type of geological formation in which the jasper forms. Bruneau and Willow Creek jaspers are both thunderegg formations; the jasper fills the thunderegg's interior cavity. Morrisonite and Blue Mountain jasper, in contrast, are formed in the brecciated cracking of a welded tuff. Short veins leading to small pockets connected to other veins of jasper are the general rule. Royal Imperial jasper seems to form all by itself in massive, fine-grained ash or altered andesite deposit. The outside shape of the Royal Imperial nodule is the same shape as the mass of orbs inside.

### Pattern Formation Theory

Current theories on the formation of chalcedony (agate and jasper) propose that silica collection goes through a gel or amorphous stage. An increase in silica concentration or some other event triggers the change to a more solid state. The edge or line observed in these jaspers is a visual record of the transformation that takes place when silica changes from its amorphous stage to its more solid form.

The egg pattern is the only pattern that Bruneau jasper exhibits. Jasper that does not have the orb or egg pattern is a plain tan color of little visual interest and is usually discarded.

Thus, Bruneau jasper is strongly associated with the orb pattern, which is why people reference Bruneau jasper when they recognized the same pattern in morrisonite.

Willow Creek, Imperial Blue Mountain, and morrisonite jasper have different patterns caused by other events that result in a more complex visual experience. This is why many of these types of jasper on the market do not have the egg pattern. They have enough color and other patterns to be visually interesting without eggs. Only about 25 percent of the morrisonite sold has the egg pattern. The morrisonite that comes from the Christine Marie claim has little visual interest other than the egg pattern. Some of the Imperial jasper varieties have little or no egg pattern, while a very high percentage of the Royal Imperial has the pattern. If a piece of Willow Creek, morrisonite, Blue Mountain, or Imperial jasper exhibits the egg pattern, it is considered a high grade or better piece.

The most common of the non-egg patterns exhibited by these jaspers also goes by several names, including "straws," "streamers," or "reseals." These look like different-colored lines or, when in mass, a weblike pattern. The streamers usually extend from the outside surface of the jasper, where they are thicker across, inward toward the jasper's center, where they end in a point. Streamers or reseals are formed in the jasper from fractures or separations in the original jasper, which are then filled in with more jasper.



### Metaphysical Properties of Bruneau Jasper

All Picture Jaspers are said to help bring balance to your life. Brown Jasper is connected to the Earth and encourages a deep ecological awareness. It brings stability and balance, and is particularly grounding as a worry stone, or for dissolving a sudden rush of fear, anger, or panic. It facilitates deep meditation and centering, and grants access to past lives.



### GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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### MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Rick Corbett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Twelve guests and new members introduced themselves. Rick thanked all who helped with the show.

Becky drew winning door prize tickets for 6 juniors, plus one Golden Ticket, and 10 adults, plus Indoor Race tickets.

Rick asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Ed seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried with one opposed.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements. There is a lot of show activity and a re-deposit change. A detailed report and show earnings details are on the front table for anyone who wants to review it.

**Program:** Rick showed the fossil fish they dug in Kemerrer, Wyoming. In the quarry he was in the 18" layer has the best examples. The quarries are privately leased, so it is a fee dig. Check the internet for current information.

He explained how the fish are extracted from the split stone. You should seal them with clear enamel to protect from dust, etc. There are also some leaves, sticks and insects.

**Juniors Report:** Juniors were excused for their meeting.

**Field Trip Report:** The March field trip will be a Meet and Greet at the Mining Museum this Saturday at noon. Coyote will be on hand to answer questions.

Next month will be to Graveyard Point for plume agate. Then on May 25th is a field trip to Tony Funk's in Gooding. It is a Pot Luck picnic. The various piles have different prices. We will be joining with OGMS and maybe the Magic Valley club for this trip.

**Workshop Report:** Liz went over the next dates for ROLE and general workshops. They are also on the calendar in the newsletter.

The ROLE program workshops are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month. The workshop is located in the garage behind Stewart's Gem Shop at 2618 W. Idaho St. Please park across the street. Be sure to bring an apron to keep your clothes clean.

**Old Business:** Debbie reminded everyone the April meeting will be the last chance to turn in stamps before the Federation Meeting on May 10-12 in Hermiston, OR.

**New Business:** Mike reported that access is better at Emerald Creek for star garnets. It is open 4 days a week. The new system requires reservations 90 days in advance.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING APRIL 2, 2024

Rick Corbett called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

**Present:** Rick Corbett, Jason Smith, Willa Renken, Teresa Nebeker, Liz Warner, Terri Frostrom, Cordell Blaine, Brent Stewart and Dana Robinson

**Excused:** Deana Ashton

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

**Treasurer Report:** The final numbers were in, so Teresa went over the final expenses for the show. The year by year comparison showed we had much lower expenses this year.

She also went over the financial statements for deposits and disbursements. The final Wells Fargo accounts have been moved to DL Evans Bank.

There are three CDs coming close to renewal in June. Will discuss at next meeting.

NFMS membership cost may be raised next year. Their newsletter will be going all digital, as well.

**Program Report:** Terri and Liz are putting together 10 trays of material for a silent auction at the meeting. Funds will go to next year's banquet. Possibly a show and tell for the next meeting.

**Junior's Report:** Juniors will be planning for their Field Trip on April 27th to the Shoofly Oolite Field. Cordell will send details later in the week for the newsletter.

**Field Trip Report:** This month's field trip will be to Graveyard Point on April 20th. The usual meeting point at the Ion station outside of Marsing at 8 am, leaving at 8:30. A backup plan is to Somercamp Rd. to the Queenstone area if the weather is wet. A high clearance vehicle is recommended.

The May field trip is to Tony Funk's in Gooding on the 25th. The address is 1727 S. 2150 E., Gooding. It is a pot luck so everyone should bring a dish to share. Tony is cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Bring drinks and table service as well. The Owyhee club is also coming, and possible the Magic Valley club.

June will be the first Beacon Hill trip on the 1st and 2nd. A high clearance vehicle is recommended.

**Claims Report:** Jason reported that the claim markers have been done in Oregon and at Graveyard Point. He still needs to do Whangdoodle, Beacon Hill and the Queenstone claims.

**Workshop Report:** Brent went over upcoming workshop dates for April and May. The next ROLE workshop will be Apr. 20, 6-8:45 pm. The regular workshops will be Apr. 18, 6-8:45 pm and Apr. 27 from 10 am-2 pm. In May the ROLE workshops will be on May 6 and May 20, 6-8:45 pm. The regular May workshops will be on May 23 from 6-8:45 pm, and June 1st 10 am-2 pm.

Liz went over the ROLE program. Two new people have joined. She will get new wheels for workshop machines.

**Old Business:** There was good attendance at the pizza party with 36 enjoying dinner. The Mining Museum trip was also well attended.

Jenni and Rick need to make the field trip list for 2024 and get it to Doug for the website.

**New Business:** No new business.

Six new member applications were reviewed. Liz made a motion to accept all the new applications, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*



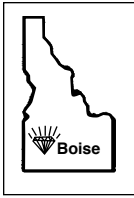
### THE GRINDINGS

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CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

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



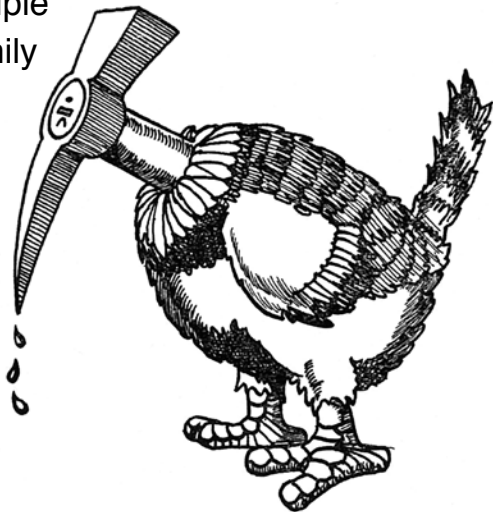
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.  
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 Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

**Dues:**  
 \$22.00 individual  
 \$25.00 couple  
 \$28.00 family

**Subscription only:**  
 \$10 per year



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

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

**ADDRESS:**  
 Maple Grove Grange  
 11692 W. President Dr., Boise

