HATROCKHOUND GAZETTE

February 2017

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 6:30 pm

Tumbling with Laura.

Laura will give us a run through of the process for creating shiny tumbled stones.
If there is time, we may also have a little surprise contest.
Come be our Valentine!!!
(Thanks to Sue Jones, Stan Sloan and Ginthers for treats)
Just a note to all treat providers. . .the club has plates, napkins, cups and flatware.

Your Fearless Leaders. . .

Hatrockhounds Executive Minutes
Monday, January 31, 2017

Present: Janet Judd-Fahey, Judi Allison, Mike Filarski, Margaret Free

- ✓ ***February Meeting-*** Laura is supposed to do a demonstrative talk on tumbling, however, she has been sick. Judi will check with Sue Jones about possibility doing her talk on Native American Talking Sticks if need be, since she was sick in January and we cancelled the meeting because of the weather.
- ✓ ***Show Information –*** Mike reported that he has two contracts back, about usual for this time of year. The date for the show next year (2018) is confirmed-May 12-13. It will again fall on Mother's Day weekend. Janet brought up the idea of checking with the EOTEC (Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center) on the hill. We felt at this time the Conference Center is serving us well. People have gotten used to us being there. There may be a possibility that eventually we may have to look at another venue, since the city most probably won't be helping support the Conference Center, but instead will put its monies toward the EOTEC. EOTEC may be an option at some time in the future.
- ✓ ***Upcoming Expenditures –*** Post office cost this year is $90. That is up $30 from last year. Insurance will be due, Chamber membership is $100. Conference Center for the show is $1375.

- ✓ ***Field Trips –*** We decided to work at setting up specific dates for some field trips this year so members can plan in advance. Because of the distance we have to travel, please keep in mind that these trips take the entire day. We usually need to meet and leave by around 7:00 am and plan for a return around six or seven. Members need to be prepared with food, water and any digging and carrying tools needed, as well as proper clothing and any first aid type items that might be needed. We follow the **Rockhounds Code of Ethics** which you will find posted in this newsletter. When we get closer to some sites where a higher clearance vehicle might be needed, we always work to get everyone where we need to go. The plan is to go to **China Hollow near Wasco in June** (possibly the third) for jasper. We will visit the **Richardson Ranch in July** (maybe the 29th) to look for thundereggs. In **August** (perhaps the 19th) Mike will help us find wood, quartz and other items on the **Middle Fork of the John Day River**. The China Hollow and Richardson trips are fee dig. It is usually a dollar a pound, so people learn to high-grade. (A five gallon bucket will often weigh at least 25-35 pounds, so keep that in mind.) There is no charge for the Middle Fork materials. (This will be an area where those who wish to will be able to camp.)
  Janet also mentioned that if members are interested, Scott Jackson is willing to take us on a field trip around Addy, Washington. (That is North of Spokane, so it would definitely be a long day, or people could make it an overnight.)
- ✓ ***Miscellaneous-*** Janet will take care of being certain we have a reserved area at the West Park in Umatilla for our August picnic. It is on the road west of the dam. Janet also said Scott Jackson would be willing to give a talk sometime on sphere making. We will again pay for our membership in the Oregon Council. It helps with keeping us aware and informed on issues related to rockhounding in Oregon.
- ✓ Secretary, Judi Allison

AFMS Code of Ethics

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

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
I will leave all gates as found.
I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

WHEN I FIND A MINERAL OR FOSSIL IN THE FIELD, WHY DOESN'T IT LOOK SIMILAR TO SPECIMENS IN MUSEUMS OR AT MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOWS?

By Carl Ege

Nearly every mineral or fossil on display at a museum or offered for sale at a mineral and fossil show has been "prepared." Preparation is the process of cleaning and (or) restoring specimens to reveal their true beauty.

Methods of preparation include washing, trimming, chemical treatment, mechanical treatment, repairing, and cutting and polishing. Practically all specimens need at least one form of preparation, while others need a combination of treatments.

A Specimen in the field does not look the same as a specimen in a case.

Washing

Washing removes dirt or clay that may cover the specimen. Using a scrubbing brush or toothbrush under running water is the best method, and soaking the specimen in water may also help. Disappointments generally occur during washing because the specimen may look much better wet than dry. This is the time to inspect your specimen and determine if you should proceed or just throw the specimen away.

Trimming

There are two types of trimming: hand trimming and heavy trimming. Hand trimming is accomplished by using a rock hammer and chisels to reduce the size of the specimen to enhance its display value. Heavy trimming is done by a device similar to an old-fashioned printing press, but with a hardened steel chisel attached to the screw shaft. The tool's advantage over hand trimming lies in its ability to apply greater force and pressure at the precise place to properly trim the specimen. During trimming, it is important to use safety goggles to protect the eyes from rock chips, and wear gloves to protect the hands.

Chemical Treatment

Chemical cleaning methods are used when washing and trimming are unable to remove undesirable material that may cover your specimen. Sometimes solutions such as acids, or even water, can be used to dissolve unwanted mineralized coatings without damaging the specimen. When handling any acids remember to wear rubber gloves, eye-protective goggles, and old clothes. Also avoid inhaling any fumes during acid treatment. Listed below are the most commonly used chemical solutions for specimen preparation.

CHEMICAL SOLUTION WHAT IT REMOVES

Hydrochloric acid (also called muriatic acid) carbonates (such as calcite) and iron oxides

Acetic acid (in vinegar) calcium carbonate (calcite)
Formic acid calcium carbonate (calcite), used mainly in fossil prep.
Oxalic acid iron oxide rust stains on quartz and pyrite
Hydrofluoric acid silicates (quartz and clay minerals)
Nitric acid iron oxides and other metallic substances
Water water-soluble minerals such as nitrates, borates, & sulfates

Mechanical Treatment

Mechanical treatment pertains to the steel tools and electrical hardware used to clean specimens. These
methods have the potential to damage specimens by scratching or fracturing, so it is important to test on lesser specimens to see if any damage will result. Mechanical methods are commonly used when preparing dinosaur bone. Remember to always use safety goggles, gloves, dust mask, and proper ventilation. Listed below are the most commonly used mechanical tools for preparation.

TOOL OR DEVICE

Ultrasonic cleaner, Rotary tool (dremel), Dental pick, sewing needle, Air abrasive unit (sandblaster), Air engraver (airscriber)

Repairing

Some specimens found broken in the field or damaged during other forms of preparation can be repaired. In mineral preparation, only minerals with clean breaks or fractures should be repaired. In vertebrate fossil preparation, repairs are very common because most vertebrate fossils are found broken or crushed. Adhesives, such as balsams, glues, and cements work well to repair specimens.

Cutting and Polishing

Some specimens cannot be fully appreciated unless they are cut to display their internal structure. For example, the
outside of a geode is pretty plain, but when cut open, a beautiful crystallized cavity may be exposed. Massive specimens, such as agate, jasper, or variscite should be cut and polished to reach their full potential. Sometimes polishing will bring out details that would have otherwise been overlooked. More detailed information on preparation can be found on the Internet under searches such as "mineral and fossil
cleaning" or "mineral preparation." There are also books on the subject that may be found at your local rock shop
or bookstore.

From Butte Tailings, Montana Newsletter, November 2016

FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL:
DO YOU HAVE SOME AMETHYST TO SHOW OFF? OR ANOTHER PURPLE STONE? WHY NOT BRING IT ALONG AND SHARE WITH OTHERS?

FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE

Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.**www.americangemsociety.org/february-birthstones**