

ROCK CHIPPINGS



The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.

Volume 52 Number 5
May 2011

Club Calendar

May 17

Business
Meeting

7:00pm at Thalia's
Home

May 7

Silversmithing
Series-Ring

10:00 am Thalia's
Home

May 21

FRA Meeting

10:00 am at
Thalia's Home

May 21

Pot Luck

Latin Theme

6:30 pm

Program

TBA

Refreshments:

Mary Beth Pio

From your President

Well another month and more issues to be resolved. We had the May proposal of our annual garage sale, but not much enthusiasm as in regard to having a garage sale. I don't blame our members but what we do need is a good coordinator. He or she needs to organize a place, what we have stored in the depths of our garages and a group of volunteers that will sacrifice a few hours. Well enough of that the meeting went smoothly and time for the silent auction and dessert.

I am not real positive about the May meeting, as I have not heard whether we have a set date for the camp out. But no problem, you will all be in good hands in my absence.

John Noster



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Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Larry Bradbury at info@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at info@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:30PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at:
Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Ave. Canoga Park
Visit our website www.rockchippers.org



INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS AND FIELD TRIP

Hosted by Northwest and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies

HAMPTON BUTTE, OREGON

May 27th—30, 2011

(Memorial Day Weekend)

Materials: Petrified Wood, Agate and Obsidian

Facilities: The campground is a large pasture. This is dry camping with port-a-potties. It can accommodate all sizes of motor homes and trailers and is also very good for tenters.

Collecting Trips: The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30am SHARP from the campground. We will be running a maximum of 50 collectors to three separate locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You will have to sign up each day on a first come first served basis.

Plan on several pot luck dinners and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, but no later than May 20 if you plan to attend E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information.

Contacts:

Doug True— Northwest Federation, dtruefossils@yahoo.com, 406-670-0506

Richard Pankey— California Federation, dickpankey@juno.com, 925-439-78509

Check out the CFMS website for the weekend schedule of Field Trips and more.

FRA

Our May meeting will be on the 21st. This is a change from our usual second week because of the CFMS Convention and show in Anderson that weekend. Hope all of you can make it, 10:00am, my place. We will be viewing the Crystal Hunters at the Smokey Hawk mine in Colorado, a video about collecting Amazonite and Smokey Quartz crystals found near Pike's Peak. Bring any work you have completed for the Rocks and Minerals badge.



Thalia Goldsworthy FRA Advisor

CLASSES

The third part of the Silversmithing class where everyone will finish and polish up their creations. See you at Thalia's home on

May 7 from 10am to 2 pm. Don't forget to bring lunch or a snack drinks will be provided.

Virginia Rotramel, Class Coordinator

CLASSES FOR 2011

Feb. 12th - Tree of Life Pendant

March 12th - Bead Knotting

April 23, 30, **May 7 - Silversmithing - band ring project**

June 11 - Gemstone ID

July 9 - Wire Wrapped Earrings

August 13 - New Prong Ring

September 24 - Grab Bags

November 12 - Dichroic Glass Fusing

**LAPIDARY TIPS****Healed or Not?**

If you are not sure as to whether a fracture in slab is a healed fracture or not, wet your finger and swipe it across the fracture. Watch the fracture as the water dries, the fracture if NOT healed will take a bit longer to dry out. If dries at the same rate as surrounding stone, most likely it is healed.

Tiny Work

When polishing small crevices, use a shish kabob stick. The larger ones will fit a Dremel or Dremel like hand piece. Simply dip the tip in water, then in the polish and let it go. Works great for Fire Agate.

Inclusions

By Jem

Saturday, March 19, 2011 I went to the Bowers Museum to hear a lecture by John Koivula on inclusions. Inclusions are minerals or other natural compounds that get stuck inside other minerals. Some of the natural things that are usually found as inclusions are: rutile, tourmaline, cacoenite, brookite, anatase, columbite, methane gas, water bubbles, water, lepidocrocite, native iron, goethite and garnet.

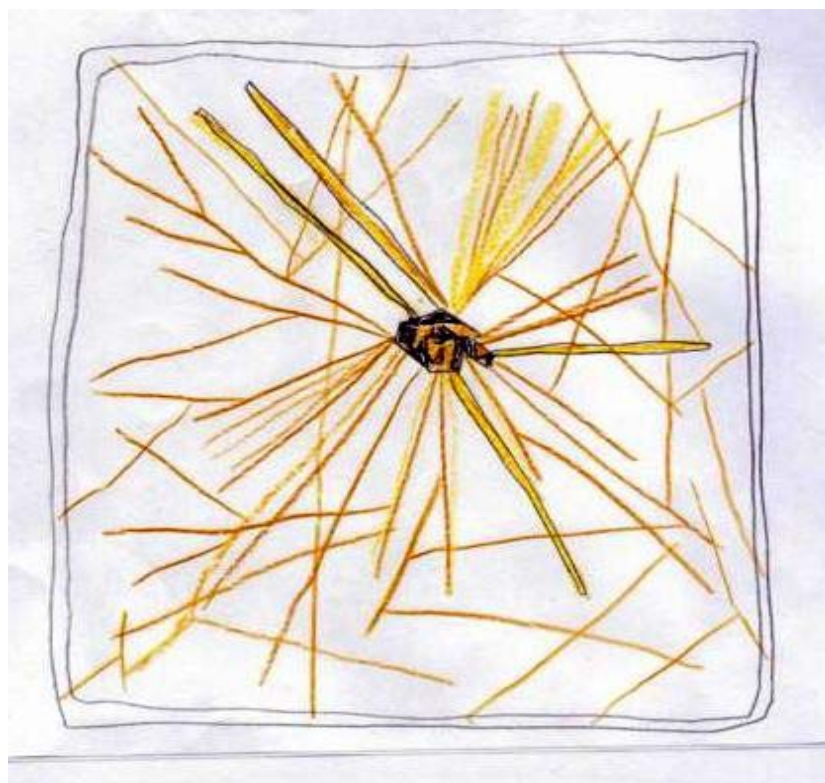
At the GIA (the Gemological Institute of America), where Mr. Koivula works, all the loupes there are put at 10x magnification. That is because if they are put at 11x magnification, the gemologists will find flaws in all the minerals they are looking at. If the minerals they are looking at are flawless at 10x magnification, then they are good. But if they are not flawless at 10x, then they won't be used. Nature does not like flawlessness but some people think flaw-less things are better than things that aren't flawless, even though nothing is truly flawless.

During the lecture, I saw many pictures of minerals, such as: a curved quartz crystal, Bolivian cassiterite, opals that looked like toes, and a diamond crystal with a garnet inclusion.

Mr. Koivula is a mineral photographer who focuses his interest on inclusions. He uses polarized light to make his photographs look more beautiful. Mr. Koivula is also a geochemistry mineralogist and the Chief Gemologist at the GIA. If you ever visit the GIA, I hope you have a good time there, because that place is gemerrific!

Description of Illustration:

Mr. Koivula calls large cut crystals with inclusions in them —study blocks. □ This picture is of a study block I saw at the Bowers Museum. It is a piece of quartz with long, thin crystals of rutile, a large crystal of anatase in the middle, and a tiny crystal of brookite next to the anatase. If you want to see some of Mr. Koivula's photographs, you can visit his website at www.johnkoivula.com.



CAMPING HINTS

FROM —Petroglyphs: June 2001

When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side vacant.

Get even with a bear who raided your food bag by kicking his favorite stump apart and eating all the ants.

A hot rock placed in your sleeping bag will keep your feet warm. A hot enchilada works almost as well, but the cheese sticks between your toes.

The best backpacks are named for national parks or mountain ranges. Steer clear of those named for landfills.

While the Swiss Army knife has been popular for years, the Swiss Navy knife has remained largely unheralded. Its single blade functions as a tiny canoe paddle.

Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: Remove lint from navel before applying the match.

You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag with several geese.

Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping. Shine a flashlight into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.

A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.

A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A baked potato in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.

In emergency situations, you can survive in the wilderness by shooting small game with a slingshot made from the elastic waistband of your underwear.

The guitar of a noisy teenager at the next campsite makes excellent kindling.

The sight of a bald eagle has thrilled campers for generations. The sight of a bald man, however, does absolutely nothing for the eagle.

In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

FOR MAY

May 7 Larry Bradbury - Birthday

May 11 Myrna Barton - Birthday

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 11 Bob & Margie Meyer

May 25 Mark & Lisa Evidon



Instruments Used in Gem Identification

There are many ways to identify gemstones using instruments designed for that purpose. As a beginner there are three instruments that help separate colored stones and help identify 80% of those stones: the loupe, Chelsea filter and dichroscope.

The 10X Triplet-Type Loupe is a hand held magnifier that will help you detect chips, cracks, scratches, symmetry in cutting, sharpness of facet edges and the presence and type of flaws. A lens with a black coating avoids distractions you would get from a chrome or gold-plated loupe. The triplet construction provides less distortion across the lens so you have a larger clear view.



The Chelsea Filter is a small single pocket size color filter. It is used to separate look a likes and dyed stones. It was initially designed for use with emeralds, but is helpful with others such as sapphires, aquamarine and jade.



The Calcite-Type Dichroscope is a pocket-sized tubular instrument used to differentiate transparent colored gemstones of the same color from one another. It will enable you to easily separate single-refracting colored stones from double-refracting ones. It is useful with gemstone rough as well as finished stones and in cases where stones are already set in jewelry.



Three additional instruments enable you to add additional information to your identification process: the refractometer, ultra-violet lamp and microscope.

The Refractometer is a small instrument that enables you to get what is called a Refractive Index measurement. Every gemstone has a different R.I. This instrument provides the identity of most stones, although it will not distinguish between natural gemstones and their synthetic counterparts. It is used mainly with stones that have at least one flat, polished surface. The major shortcoming of this instrument is that it will not work for stones with a very high R.I. such as diamond or garnet. It is used with a special liquid with a known R.I. around 1.81. The stones being measured must have a good polish.



The Ultra-Violet Lamp is used to detect the presence or absence of fluorescence – the stone's ability to exhibit color when viewed under ultraviolet light, color not visible in ordinary light. Both long and short wave are used separately in this identification process.



The microscope that works best for gemstone identification is a binocular microscope that offers both dark-field and bright-field illumination and a light source that is at the top of the instrument to reflect light from the stone being examined. 30 power is all you need for general use, but 60 power is recommended for identifying new-type synthetic stones.



There are other instruments that are used beyond the six mentioned above. Each has its special uses.

The Spectroscope shows a complete color spectrum, exhibiting vertical black lines or bars at certain points of the spectrum that indicate the specific gemstone identity. It is most useful working with diamonds, sapphires and green jadeite. Some prefer this instrument over other instruments for broader gemstone identification.



The Polariscope is used to detect optical properties of gemstones. It will quickly determine whether a stone is single- or double-refracting. It will show the presence of strain in diamonds and other gems. It is being used to separate synthetic amethyst from genuine with an immersion cell and special liquids. There are other immersion tests used for other gem-identification purposes.



A **Diamond Tester** is used to separate diamonds from their imitators however they are not foolproof. Colorless corundum (sapphire) and synthetic moissanite give false —positive— results. Testers that are dual – that test both thermal and electrical conductivity are preferred. Identification of diamonds must not be made solely using a tester.



No matter what level of expertise you seek there are certain incidentals that are important.

Good light, both incandescent and daylight are needed.

A portable penlight or flashlight is especially useful with colored stones.

You will need a pair of locking tweezers and/or retractable prong tweezers for holding unmounted stones.

Rubbing alcohol and clear acetone-based nail polish remover without conditioner are needed to clean stones.

A can of compressed air is useful to remove dust.

Refractive Index Liquid is necessary for most refractometers, an R.I. of 1.81 is preferred.

A magnifying headpiece can be helpful if you need both hands free.





















A roll of white toilet tissue, a coarse, lint-free brand serves several purposes.

There are more instruments for other purposes. The six mentioned above will provide a good lab for gemstone testing. Practice is the best way to learn gemstone identification. The class offered by WHRC in June will start you on this great adventure.

Information taken from *Gem Identification Made Easy* by Antoinette Matlins and A.C. Bonanno.

www.worldofstock.com

GEMSTONES OF THE WORLD

 GOLD TIGERS EYE SOUTH AFRICA	 SODALITE BRAZIL	 AMAZONITE RUSSIA	 BRECCIATED JASPER SOUTH AFRICA	 AMETHYST ZAMBIA
 BANDED AGATE BOTSWANA	 PHANTOM AMETHYST NAMIBIA	 RED TIGERS EYE SOUTH AFRICA	 ROSE QUARTZ NAMIBIA	 UNAKITE ZIMBABWE
 RHODONITE AUSTRALIA	 GREEN QUARTZ BRAZIL	 CARNELIAN URUGUAY	 BLOODSTONE INDIA	 HAEMATITE BRAZIL
 SNOWFLAKE OBSIDIAN U.S.A.	 BLUE LACE AGATE NAMIBIA	 LEOPARD SKIN MEXICO	 AVENTURINE INDIA	 RED JASPER MALAGASY

ZPT PHOTO 792-5990

Gem & Mineral Shows

May 13-15 Anderson, Ca

CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

“Northern California Treasures”

Shasta District Fairgrounds—Anderson, CA

Briggs Street (8 miles south of Redding)

Fri & Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4

Website: www.superiorcal.com

June 3-5 Woodland Hills, CA

ROCKATOMICS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Pierce College

20800 Victory Blvd.

9-5 Daily

June 4-5 La Habra, Ca

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

La Habra Community Center

101 W. La Habra Blvd.

10-5 Daily

June 4-5 Glendora, CA

GLENDORA GEMS

Goddard Middle School

859 East Sierra Madre

Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4



The C's of Black Diamonds

By Arjun Collier

Article from ArticleBiz.com



Black diamond rings are beautiful to behold; even more so when they are combined with colorless diamonds, white sapphires, or any other precious gem that makes for a stunning contrast. Black diamonds are found mostly in Brazil and have been around for quite some time, although they recently are gaining in popularity as celebrities and others are finding them to be edgy and unique. When you are choosing any of the large variety and sizes of black diamond rings that are available it is important to consider the same 4 C's. of diamond quality that you would consider when choosing any diamond. They are color, clarity, carat and cut.

Color : People are discovering (unlike how they felt years ago) that a black stone is a real diamond. They are crystallized carbon, just like colorless diamonds. The darkness of black diamonds comes from tiny cracks throughout the stone that contain graphite or sulphides. It could also be caused by changes that hap-pen when a near-white diamond is subjected to very high temperatures. A diamond that comes out of the ground that is naturally dark is rare and therefore more expensive.

Most diamond rings, necklaces, bracelets and pendants are treated by exposing them to high heat. There is nothing wrong with doing this and a treated stone is often of a better quality. If you feel like you have to have a black stone that has not been treated, be certain to look for one that is advertised as untreated or GIA Certified (Gemological Institute of America).

Clarity : Clarity refers to how clear a diamond is, but with a black stone clarity refers to the stone's luster and making sure that it has no surface chips or cracks. Black rings and other types of black diamond jewelry should have a glossy, sparkling surface. Triple A is the best rating grade.

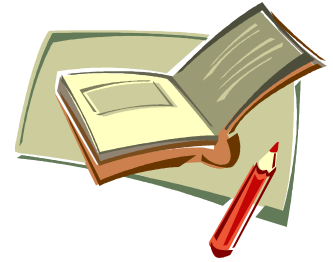
Carat : Carat refers to the weight of the diamond. Depending on what size you are looking for, you could purchase a one-half carat black ring or a two carat black diamond or larger. Bear in mind that black diamonds are heavier than traditional diamonds, so a one carat black diamond will look smaller than a color-less one carat diamond.

Cut : The cut of a diamond refers to the stone's proportions and polish, not to its shape. Most of the time black diamonds have a simple cut of sixteen facets and their surface should be smooth with no cracks. When a diamond is mined from the earth, it simply looks like a piece of glass. So the diamond is cut with precise facets (or tiny polished faces).

Before purchasing diamond rings it is also important to consider the setting. These rings are already stunning to look at but when set with white gold or yellow gold, the brilliance of the blend is elegant and beautiful. If you are in the market for a ring that is non traditional and that will make a dramatic and powerful statement, black diamond rings could be just what you are looking for!



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2011



Called to order by John Noster at 7:35p.m. John Noster led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcomed members. 24 adults and 1 junior present.

Virginia made a motion to approve the minutes as written in the bulletin, Thalia seconded. No additions or corrections.

Treasurer—Barbara Bradbury, as of March 31, 2011 all accounts are in good order.

Membership—Larry Bradbury, all paid up. Bring friends to our meetings.

Classes—Thalia Goldsworthy, April 24th starts a three part silver smithing series. Project will be a band ring. Room for six people. \$30.00 fee and the cost of silver. Silver is fluctuating daily. The project can be done in silver or copper.

Mary Beth assembled the clubs display case up at the Conejo Rock and Gem show. The show ends tomorrow (the 17th).

New Business

Discussion about whether membership wants to do a yard sale. Many raised their hands that they had items to donate for a sale. Location discussed. Jean is too busy for it to be at her home this year.

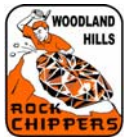
Antonia volunteered her home. She will need everyone to help set it up and then take it down. A tentative date of June 4th was discussed. Thalia explained that if someone had a large piece of furniture, etc. to sell that it could be sold at the yard sale but 10% of the price to be given to the Rock Chippers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Meeting was followed by program which was our silent auction.

Ways and Means— Virginia organized the silent auction. Refreshments provided by Lisa.

Submitted by Lisa Evidon, Secretary



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated



Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.



Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Potlucks are at 6:30 p.m.



Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.

Membership is open to interested applicants after they have attended at least 2 meetings. Annual dues are due in November for the following year. Membership fees are currently \$25 for one adult, \$15 for a second adult at the same address, juniors (ages 10-18) and pebble pups (ages 4-9) \$5 each. New members pay an additional \$6 initiation fee per person. Late joining new members may have lower dues as they are prorated after mid-year.



We are a member society of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Elected Officers/Directors

President	John Noster	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Bob Meyers
Secretary	Lisa Evidon	Director At Large	Larry Bradbury
Corp. Adm.	Thalia Goldsworthy	Director At Large	Myrna Barton

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Librarian.....	Barbara Bradbury
Bulletin Editor	Mary Beth Pio	Library Displays.....	Open
Classes/Workshop.....	Virginia Rotramel	Membership.....	Larry Bradbury
Courtesy/Hospitality...Lillian Berwager		Parliamentarian.....	Open
Custodian.....	Jason Peterson	Programs.....	Open
Display/Education.....	Open	Publicity.....	Lorraine Taneja
Federation Director....	Virginia Rotramel	Shop	Jean Buetow, Bob Meyers, Mary Beth Pio
Alternate Fed Director.....	Open	Club Show Chair.....	Mary Beth Pio
Field Trips.....	Committee	Ways and Means.....	Virginia Rotramel
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		



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