

THE ROCKET

deadline for next issue
May 15, 2020

April 2020
Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Fourth Friday of the month **when** Hastings Community Center opens, but not July or August.

Editorial

I usually do not do an editorial, but this month I thought one might be necessary. I missed doing a newsletter in March because things were changing fast and it seemed that e-mails from the secretary were doing a good job of keeping us informed. Also, it was depressing for me to have a newsletter with no content except a list of cancellations: Our club show, our workshops, the BCLS Gem Show, all the other club shows, and Rendezvous. The list just keeps growing. It seemed too self-serving to put out a newsletter with only an article on a rock, written by me. Since the time the March newsletter would have come out there have been submissions and some club news. It seems appropriate to put out another newsletter now. The next newsletter will come when there is club news or events or article submissions enough to warrant a newsletter. Until then, stay safe, enjoy your rocks and hobbies and let me know about your projects. See you soon.

Roz, Editor

Workshop Hours

Workshops are closed until further notice due to coronavirus shutdowns.

Last meeting Programs:

Last meeting we had a Rockhounds Quiz. There were lots of prizes. It was a fun time for all, but sadly no pictures of that meeting.

Proposed Program

For our March meeting **Linda Foy** was prepared to give a program on **Crystals in Everyday Life**. To set the stage for her program she sent an article to the newsletter. Unfortunately, our meeting was cancelled, but Linda thought it would be ok to publish the article she submitted and she'll do another when she is able to do the Crystals program for our meeting:

When people talk of crystals, most assume that one is talking about Quartz crystals. Quartz crystals are known for having piezoelectric qualities which allow the crystal to 'record a program' when pressure is applied. This programming can also be done using sound. When highly focused thought (thinking with intention) is used as well, during this programming process, the 'recording' is of a higher definition and will last much longer than one that is just set and then forgotten.

Having crystals in our daily life can help remind us of what we desire and can give focus so we are better able to carry out our intentions and/or can find ways to bring our desires into reality.

There are many other rocks besides quartz (SiO_2) that can also 'record' programs that can be played again and again, but most of these other rocks have their own 'pre-programs' that are helpful to us in our daily lives. They vibrate at different wavelengths and can affect our lives and bodies in beneficial ways.

A stone's colour, chemical makeup and crystal structure effect the energies they 'hold', and depending on what we are 'looking for' or need in our lives, we will be attracted to different stones at different times.

Quartz is the universal 'recipient' stone that can be programmed for many things, whereas a stone such as calcite is a 'working' stone with its own 'pre-program' which vibrates strongly with the calcite within its makeup; and, therefore, affects the calcium in our bodies.

Along with the crystal structures, the chemical makeup and the colour spectrum of stones; there is also the 'placement' of crystals and stones. This can be beneficial to all. It is like fine tuning on a stereo to get a clearer and stronger station signal. It is the reason why certain places in the world hold strong vibrations of the past (both good and bad). Any space can become a sacred place. Every stone can be used for a higher purpose and everything can be used to support you in your daily life. The practical uses are endless.



Easter Eggs for Rockhounds

While searching around on the web Melanie G came across these pictures and sent them along to the newsletter. How many can you identify? Collecting rock eggs is a long standing hobby amongst rock enthusiasts. We have a few members in our club that collect them.





Ray Buchanan

We sadly announce the passing on March 26, 2020 of our valued club member Ray Buchanan. He regularly attended our workshops and displayed at our shows. You may remember his beautiful boxes with lids that had designs made of stone, and inside were pendants that matched the boxes. Ray was in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame as a Pioneer in costume design. He was in London, with theatre tickets for 5 different shows, where it is believed he caught the coronavirus. He returned to Vancouver and passed away at St. Paul's hospital. Ray had just turned 90. The Port Moody Rock Club had a nice tribute to him on their Facebook page.

Ray's Intensive care nurse at St Paul's was greatly affected by his experience with Ray and wrote a poem. The story was carried on Global TV. [https://globalnews.ca/news/6797023/nurse-poem-patient-death-](https://globalnews.ca/news/6797023/nurse-poem-patient-death-coronavirus/)

[coronavirus/](#)

Here is a poem that was written for him by Doug Rae:

Today I held his hand
I told him
He was strong
This virus had
Taken over
No more fighting
To be done

Today I held his hand
And in the other
Held a phone
His family said

We love you
It's time to say
Goodbye

Today I held his hand
As I hung up
On that phone
His breathing pattern
Changed
His heart beating
No more

Today I held his hand
Tears behind my
Plastic face mask
This protective suit
I'm wearing
Cannot shield
Humanity

Today I held his hand
So he wouldn't be
alone.

From our April 2018 newsletter:

PROJECTS

Did you see Ray's display at our club show? He has been doing woodworking for years and has combined his two hobbies in these beautiful pieces. The two smaller boxes have matching pendants. The tops of the boxes pivot to open and have small magnets to keep closed. Wow! (photo: Vivian)



Announcements

March 22, 2020 9:06 PM

Rockhounder Returns! Volume 2020 Issue 1

Electronic Rockhounder Magazine available to all BCLS Members

Dear members,

We are pleased to announce that Greg Carson has returned to the role of Editor for the Rockhounder and will be publishing at least four issues of the magazine in 2020. The Rockhounder will be published in an electronic format only in 2020 and will be made available to all of our members through this mailing list.

There are two versions of the magazine available, regular size and large size. The larger size features higher resolution photographs.

Regular Size (40 MB)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yinOC7Jlha_nJVn-palS4-UusZ9Ur1PU

Large Size (160 MB)

https://drive.google.com/open?id=10WwUUMwjAtE3QM_WN9iXgI1MNjVK9wi0

Have ideas for Rockhounder articles? We are interested in learning more about the history and activities of our member clubs for feature articles in upcoming issues. Email Greg at rockhounder@bclapdary.com.

The April Issue of the

Thompson Valley Rock Club's Newsletter, Chips and Chatter

had an excellent list of links of interest to rockhounds. The page is reprinted here with the kind permission from Cara Beckett and Dave Zirul of the TVRC.

From Dave Zirul – a handbook on the basics of rock hounding:

http://cmscontent.nrs.gov.bc.ca/geoscience/PublicationCatalogue/InformationCircular/BCGS_IC1994-07.pdf

Geology Page

A fragment of a lost continent found in Canada:

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/fragment-of-lost-continent-discovered-in-canada>

Found in fossils - a worm-like ancestor:

<https://www.courthousenews.com/worm-like-creature-ancestor-of-humans-and-most-modern-animals/>

From Mars: <https://astronomynow.com/2020/03/23/curiosity-climbs-its-steepest-slope-so-far/>

“Water World” wasn’t just a movie:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200302122449.htm>

Another incredible picture from Mars:

<https://www.universetoday.com/145441/another-incredible-picture-of-mars-this-time-from-a-region-just-outside-valles-marineris/>

Rare earth discovery: [http://www.scinews.com/geology/mountain-pass-rare-earth-element-bearing-deposit-](http://www.scinews.com/geology/mountain-pass-rare-earth-element-bearing-deposit-07987.html)

[07987.html](http://www.scinews.com/geology/mountain-pass-rare-earth-element-bearing-deposit-07987.html)

A new mineral found inside a diamond: [http://www.scinews.com/geology/goldschmidtite-mineral-earths-mantle-diamond-](http://www.scinews.com/geology/goldschmidtite-mineral-earths-mantle-diamond-07624.html)

[07624.html](http://www.scinews.com/geology/goldschmidtite-mineral-earths-mantle-diamond-07624.html)

Mineral never seen in nature found in meteorite: <http://www.scinews.com/geology/edscottite-07572.html>

[07572.html](http://www.scinews.com/geology/edscottite-07572.html)



Photo: mindat.org

This month's stone is

Jasper

In the latest newsletter articles on rocks we've been looking at material that is more likely to be worked by lapidaries like ourselves, in our workshop.



Photo: Russ Kaniuth, Rock & Gem August 30, 2018

In January we looked at the variety of quartz called chalcedony. Specifically, it was the **crypto-crystalline** (crystals too small to be seen by the naked eye) **quartz** (the chemical compound consisting of one part silicon and two parts oxygen - silicon dioxide (SiO_2)) that is transparent to translucent, looks like a solidified gel, and is called **Chalcedony** in the gem trade.

In February we looked at **Agate**. It is also cryptocrystalline quartz, a translucent variety of chalcedony that is banded. This month we are looking at Jasper.

Jasper is the name given, primarily by lapidaries, to the cryptocrystalline quartz that is opaque. It often has interesting patterns and comes in a wide variety of colours. It is often multi-coloured. Many things get called Jasper that are not Jasper because they are opaque and sometimes because they are multi-coloured. More on that later, but for now, what we call Jasper is called different things by different people. Geology.com has a whole article on Flint, Chert and Jasper. They are names for the same material. Field of study, physical properties, where it is found and any historic use of the material impact the name used. Geologists tend to use the word chert, historians and archaeologists tend to use the word flint, and gemmologists and lapidaries use the name Jasper. Jasper is especially used for material that will cut accurately, takes a bright polish, has an interesting pattern and a beautiful colour. The aim is to have beautiful cabochons or tumbled stones.

The name Jasper comes from Old French (jasper) and Latin (jaspidem) which came from Greek (iaspis) who developed it from Hebrew (yashpeh) or Akkadian (yashupu). It means spotted or mottled stone.

Jasper is an alternate birthstone for March, some say February when it is associated with the guardian angel Barchiel, or a birthstone for those born at 10pm. During the Middle Ages some scholars associated Jasper with Peter the Apostle so those named Peter used it as a birthstone.

Jewelers of America say Jasper is an anniversary stone for the 34th anniversary.



According to Wikipedia, Jasper was known and mentioned in ancient times. In Mehrgarh (now in Pakistan), bow drills were made of green jasper between 4000 and 5000 BC. The English Egyptologist Flinders Petrie (1853-1942) thought the first stone on the High Priests breastplate was red jasper and the tenth stone may have been a yellow jasper. On Crete about 1800 BC jasper was used to make seals for documents.

During the Ancient times and the Middle Ages powers were attached to Jasper; Engraved mottled jasper was believed to protect the wearer from drowning. Others believed jasper could repel scorpions and spiders and/or keep the wearer free from ailments of the chest, lungs or stomach.

Wikipedia: Male torso carved from red jasper, Bronze Age, Harappa, Indus Valley Civilisation, Pakistan

Up to more recent times the word Jasper was used for stones we now know are separate varieties. The word may have been used for stones such as nephrite or even chrysoprase. The *Nibelungenlied*, a poem from around 1200 and written in Middle High German, describes jasper as a clear green stone.

Today Jasper is the word used by gemmologists and lapidaries to describe microcrystalline quartz that is opaque with interesting patterns and colours. It is used for cabochons, beads, carving and decorative objects like ashtrays or bookends.

Jasper is **cryptocrystalline**

(crystals too small to be seen by the naked eye) **quartz** (silicon dioxide (SiO₂)) with a large number of impurities or trace elements that cause the various colours. Jasper is found around the world occurring as veinlets, concretions and replacements in sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic rocks. Jasper is also common as pebbles on shorelines and rockpiles. Jasper often forms when fine particulate materials are cemented by silica precipitated from solution. The patterns are caused during the formation process by water or wind flow and how the original sediment or volcanic ash was deposited. The colour is based on the geology of the area which supplies the trace elements. Iron oxide produces red, brown, orange tones, but yellow, black and green tones are also found in Jasper.

Some Jasper is dyed to create more intense colours. Check for concentrated colour in cracks and surface pits if buying jasper. Sometimes dyed jasper is used to pass for another rock. "Swiss" or "German lapis" is really dyed jasper. Look for the pyrite inclusions to find real lapis.

In the field, look for the conchoidal fracture (smooth, curved surface) that looks waxy or dull. If the conchoidal fracture is shiny and glass-like, you are looking at quartz or obsidian. If it is transparent and all one colour it is chalcedony; if it has bands of colour and is transparent to translucent it is agate; if it is opaque it is jasper. If the stone has both translucent and opaque zones some people use the term "jaspagate."

With a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7, Jasper is suitable for a rock tumbler and making into all types of jewellery. It may break along fracture lines or veins and the colour may lighten if it is dyed and put in a steam cleaner. Soap and water should be all that is necessary to clean jasper jewellery. Also, some say that because jasper can be dyed and therefore may be porous, the colour could change or be stained by hairspray or perfume.

Jasper is usually not expensive. According to gemdat.org, fine material, cut in designer forms generally ranges between \$2 and \$5 per carat, and commercial grade cabs could be 50 cents each, but some rare types of Jasper with unusual colours or patterns can be up to \$200 per piece.

Interestingly and confusingly, jasper is a name used for stones that are NOT jasper. Often this happens when a material is on the market and someone has not tested its chemistry or Mohs hardness. Some might be a type of mudstone that is too soft and is very different to try working with in the workshop. "Bumblebee Jasper" has a hardness of about 4 and is not a jasper at all.



Jasper is found all over the world and BC has some good sites for rockhounding. Gem Trails of British Columbia by Cam Bacon has some good suggestions for sites to get started. Jasper is often named for its colour: bloodstone, green or lemon; from its pattern: like orbicular, poppy, or landscape, or from the place it is found: Morissonite, Mookaite, or Bruneau. There are also localized trade names. As minerals.net put it, "Jasper has an over-abundance of variety names." They then give a list of 27 different varieties and I know some that aren't on their list!

Geology.com [Mookaite](#) from [Mooka Creek](#) Western Australia.



Wikipedia - German, early 17th century, Waddesdon Bequest, British Museum