

THE ROCKET

deadline for next issue
June 14

MAY 2019

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

Next Meeting: Friday – May 24 at 7PM
at Hastings Community Center Hall

PROGRAMS

Our speaker for May 24 will be **Patrick Mulvaney**, opal specialist from In The Bag Too, Ltd. of Vancouver. His presentation will cover the opal business, including showing rough and cut stones from Lightning Ridge, Coober Pedy & Yowah.

Last meeting Programs:



Our April 26 speaker was **Dr. Philippe Belley** from the Faculty of Science at UBC. He is a prospector-geologist who for the past 10 years has used various techniques (including knowledge of landforms, scouting drones, Inuit expertise, flashlights, dogged perseverance, etc.) to locate gemstones and other minerals in North America. His PowerPoint presentation "Unearthing Gemstones" took the audience on a prospecting travelogue through British

Columbia (peridot, amber, sapphire, and hydrothermal quartz) to Baffin Island (spinel, sapphire, lapis lazuli, and polar bears) to the Ottawa Area (garnets – blue grossular and red spessartine, wollastonite, graphite, mica, molybdenite, and mega feldspar, apatite and calcite crystals) to Utah (topaz and sunstone). In May he is departing to his once again base in Ottawa, but we should follow his exploits and hope he returns to our Club for an update someday.



Workshop Hours

Lapidary:	Monday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Wednesday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
	Thursday	6:30pm – 9:30pm
	Saturday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Metalwork:	Monday	9am – 2 pm
	Sunday	10:30am – 1:45 pm
Silversmithing:	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Soapstone Carving:	Tuesday	6:45 pm – 9:30 pm
		There is room for 10 people. Please contact Linda Foy before showing up for the first time.

Project:

Mike tells us that the metal works class is a bit quieter now as many are travelling. He says he will be prepping up pieces for the future i.e. doing cuffs in brass/ copper and corrugated sheets and patterns for demos in the future.



In the meantime, he has sent us some photos of work being done by Guenter Otto. Guenter is playing with chasing on air with brass. He uses the silhouette dies to press out the volume. He then uses a pitch pot doing chasing and repousse then defines a pattern. Interesting enough he uses tap & dies screw mounts so the pieces are assembled with little soldering. The bezels are made with brass tubing. Eventually he will be making these items in silver but right now he is working through the concept phase. He is working with his daughter who is a glass bead designer/ maker using the techniques above. *Thanks to Mike Ma for the photos*



Field Trips:

'Tis the Season...

If you've been out **Rockhounding or on a Field Trip** we'd like to hear about it. You don't have to share your secret site but we'd like to know about your finds. If you know someone you'd like us to feature, tell me your suggestions and I'll follow up with them. Thanks, Roz (Editor).

Edrocket18@gmail.com

Recent News

2019 Rendezvous

Rendezvous is the British Columbia Lapidary Society's annual gathering and features field trips, displays, auctions, and our annual general meeting.

Rock Creek, BC, June 7 - 10, 2019

Rock Creek Fairgrounds

380 Kettle Valley Road South

Rock Creek, BC

This year Rendezvous is being organized by the Penticton Geology and Lapidary Club with the BCLS. See the BCLS webpage for more information.

Summer Camp is an opportunity for British Columbia Lapidary Society members from all over the province to gather, socialize and rockhound in a different area of the province. Generally, it is four days of organized field trips and five nights of social activities.

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August 5 - 10, 2019

Galloway, BC

BC Mountain Hideaway

7060 Galloway FSR

Galloway, BC

The region is famous for a number of significant fossil (trilobite) deposits, and mining camps. Local members of the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines have agreed to lead a number of field trips to interesting sites. Home base will be the BC Mountain Hideaway.

To register, you will need to do two things:

1. Register with our Summer Camp coordinator, Linda Marcelet, by contacting her by phone at 250-777-1399, or email at lindamarcelet50@gmail.com. Only members of BCLS charter clubs may participate.
2. Contact Debra with BC Mountain Hideaway at 250-908-3849 to book your accommodation. There are three options available: cabin, bunk house, or campground. Cabins range from \$125-\$145/night, the bunkhouse is \$85/night, and camping for trailers is \$20/night. Breakfast is provided for some cabins.

More information and a map are available on the BC Lapidary Society website.

Upcoming Events of Interest: Shows

The following clubs are having shows and sales. For more information visit the BC Lapidary Society website or the club websites.

June 1 & 2, **Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club**, Community Hall, Campbell River

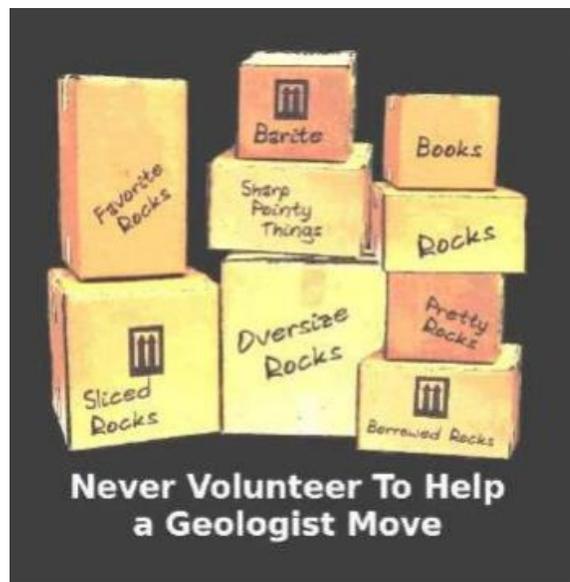
June 1 & 2, **Kokanee and Selkirk Rock Clubs**, Castlegar Recreation Complex

July 7, **Tailgate Sale, Surrey Rockhound Club**, Sullivan Hall, Surrey

July 19–21 **Okanagan Gem Show**, Rutland Centennial Hall, Kelowna

By 1120 Rock Club of Kelowna and the
Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club

Clippings: People see rock related items all the time. This is our chance to share it.



or A Rockhound

Chrysoprase

is the modern birthstone for May in Britain, some people also recognize it as a birthstone for June and at least one source claims it is an ancient Russian birthstone for December. It has been a birthstone for Gemini for centuries and other sources say it is also associated with Cancer and Libra. It is not associated

with an Anniversary. That may be because of its history and its rarity.



geology.com



Arkenstone www.iRocks.com

The name comes from the Greek word “chrysos” for gold and “prasinon” or “prase” for green. The word “prase” has been used for centuries for many other green or greenish quartz, but only chalcedony coloured by nickel is **Chrysoprase**.

Chrysoprase is a green variety of chalcedony. Like all chalcedony it is cryptocrystalline (crystals invisible to the naked eye) silicon dioxide (SiO₂). The colours of chalcedony come from small amounts of trace elements. In the case of **Chrysoprase** the trace element is nickel. Other green gems are coloured with chromium (emerald or tourmaline) or vanadium (tsavorite) and even iron (peridot), but Chrysoprase is one of the few gemstones coloured by nickel. The amount of nickel makes the colour stronger. Chrysoprase ranges from a bright spring green to a deep apple green. The transparency ranges from opaque to nearly transparent.

Chrysoprase with no veining or marking and highly saturated colour has been wrongly identified as Imperial Jade but jadeite feels heavier and the two rocks sound different if hit against each other. Other gemstones get mistaken for Chrysoprase. Prehnite is usually more yellowish; turquoise is bluer and usually has veining; Variscite is softer and more waxy feeling. “Lemon” or “Citron Chrysoprase” is really magnesite (magnesium carbonite) and a yellower milky green colour.

Chrysoprase has a hardness of 6-7 on the Mohs hardness scale. This is a good range for jewellery and many types of jewellery are made of Chrysoprase. However, there is some discussion about fading with prolonged exposure to sunlight and heat. Some people say only imitation Chrysoprase, made by dyeing white chalcedony, will fade. Others, such as the jewellers Van Cleef and Arpels say the nickel in Chrysoprase can cause the colour to fade if it is subjected to too much sunlight. Chrysoprase jewellery should be stored in a fabric-lined box away from other jewellery.



*Van Cleef and Arpels
Chrysoprase Owl*

Geology.com says to be careful shopping for Chrysoprase jewellery. “Dyed materials often have a near perfect appearance and a consistent green color. Genuine Chrysoprase usually exhibits some variation in color, saturation, or diaphaneity.”

Chrysoprase was known to the ancient Greeks and Romans. It was said to have been a favorite gemstone of Alexander the Great. Because he wore it during an eleven-year winning streak of battles and conquests it became known as the “victory stone”. The story is that he wore a Chrysoprase stone on his girdle or belt. One day walking near a river a snake surprised him and

bit the stone off the girdle and dropped it in the river. Supposedly, Alexander never won another battle.

Volmar (a 12th century monk) wrote that if a Chrysoprase was put in a thief's mouth who was supposed to be beheaded or hung, the thief would be given the power to escape, presumably by becoming invisible.

Some people believed that Chrysoprase could be used to speed the healing of any wound if held over the affected area. If kept near your bed a Chrysoprase was believed to speed healing, even of a broken heart. It was also believed to heal eye problems, strengthen eyesight and aid in hormonal balancing. Put under the pillow it was believed to help people with trouble sleeping. Chrysoprase is believed by some to promote love, forgiveness, compassion, joy and happiness, self-confidence. It is believed to promote creativity and attract success in new adventures.

Chrysoprase has been used as a decorative stone. In the Book of Revelation of the Bible, Chrysoprase is one of foundation stones in the New Jerusalem. In the Chapel of St Wenceslas within the St Vitus Cathedral in Prague, the theme of the foundation stones is used. Large pieces of Chrysoprase can be seen there with other stones mentioned as foundation stones.

Frederick the Great of Prussia (1712-1786) loved the stone. According to Si and Ann Frazier in the February 1992 issue of Lapidary Journal, his favorite ring was a large Chrysoprase surrounded by 15 brilliants (presumably diamonds) ...He also carried a walking stick...with a knob of chrysoprase." He is said to have commissioned two tables to be made for his palace San Souci at Potsdam. They were believed to be single slabs two feet wide, three feet long and two inches thick.



*Chrysoprase Snuff box - Frederick the Great-1765
The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection on
loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London*

His love of Chrysoprase may have come from the fact it was mined in Selesia, a territory captured by him. Much of the world's early Chrysoprase came from the Szklary deposit, Lower Silesia, in Poland. Mining began there in the Middle Ages. It was considered depleted in the 14th century. Chrysoprase was popular in Europe in the 1740's but commercial supplies were exhausted again in 1830. Modern sources exist, but Chrysoprase is not available in quantities to make it a widely available gemstone. It is mined by the kilograms not tons. It tends to be a stone for lapidaries or exclusive jewellers and buyers.

Chrysoprase is found in Indonesia, India, Tanzania, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Brazil. In 1965 it was discovered in Australia which is now the biggest producer of Chrysoprase. In North America Chrysoprase has been found in California, Arizona and Oregon at the Nickel Mountain mine, Douglas County, Oregon. I could not find any mention of BC sites.

Chrysoprase deposits occur at shallow depths in areas where nickel bearing rock has been weathered. It is found as a cavity, vein and fracture filling, especially in nickelferrous serpentine. It also occurs as nodules in the soils above where nickel bearing ores are weathering. These conditions exist in BC, perhaps with some summer exploration deposits will be discovered.