

THE ROCKET

September 2023

deadline for next issue
October 13, 2023

Club email: secretary.hrc@gmail.com
Newsletter email: Edrocket18@gmail.com
Roz MacLean – editor

Future Meetings: Our monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month.

Next Meeting: Friday – September 22 at 7PM
at Hastings Community Center Hall

This meeting can be a “hybrid meeting.” For those unable to attend in person, please contact our secretary, Crystal, for a zoom link for the meeting.

We are back!!!

At our first meeting there will be two auctions after the general meeting.

Our club members made such a positive impression at the summer events that a rock enthusiast made a donation of an old private collection to the club; so, we are auctioning it off at our first meeting. Come prepared to get some unique items.

Our workshop has upgraded some equipment so we have arbors without wheels available. There has been some interest, but we want all members to have a chance at getting this equipment so the arbors will be auctioned at the meeting with opening bids starting at \$400. (There has been no decision on the Rock Saw at this time so it isn't part of this auction)

We'd also like to know what you've found this summer – at a rock show or rockhounding. Come prepared to show and tell.

Program from last Meeting (June 23)

There was no formal speaker for June. It was our annual Wine and snacks evening with a Bottle draw after the general meeting. It was such a great evening there are no pictures.

A Reminder on Memberships

Memberships are due by January 1, 2024. We do not have a meeting in December so renewals will be at our October and November meetings.

Directories will be \$10 next year





Workshop Hours

If you are a member in good standing, have taken the required lapidary workshop training course, you can drop in at the workshops and use the equipment on a first come, first served (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project if you need to wait to use a particular piece of equipment,

Lapidary:	Monday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Richard
	Wednesday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David
	Thursday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Tim
	Saturday	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Robert
Silversmithing	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Robert
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Crystal and Robert

These are the regular hours. Changes are often announced by email. Some short programs are announced at meetings, may be in an email, or in this newsletter.



Training on the Highland Park slab saw



Shambala bracelet workshop

Bob will be doing a short course for Hastings Community Centre. It is open to the public, but Hastings Centre Rockhounds members can also sign up.

(This is the 3 workshops our club is doing for the centre that we've been discussing during our meetings.)

\$30 for 3 sessions and materials are all included.

Sunday Oct 15, 22, 29 from 12:30-2:30

To register put the address below in your search

https://anc.ca.apm.activecommunities.com/vancouver/activity/search/detail/469322?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true

The last enamelling workshop



Thanks Dawn Patricia Dutriza for pictures

Help Our Club and Earn Vouchers for Workshops

From Linda Foy: Hey, we have started a new way to help your club... at the May 2023 meeting it was decided (and agreed upon) to start a voucher program for those who help. The way we are starting this is by making 'windows' in rocks- and these rocks will be used for the grab bags and at our shows.

So, have you ever gone out for a walk and found an interesting rock?
When you picked it up did you have a desire to know what was inside? (You may be a rockhound)
Did you have an overwhelming desire to lick it? (You are probably a rockhound)
If no one was around- did you lick it? (You are absolutely/definitely a rockhound)
A window is like a "perpetual lick" on the rock.

There will be a container in the workshop with rocks in water. When you polish a window in three stones you can hand them into the instructor running the session. You will receive a voucher for those completed rocks. That voucher allows you to have a free workshop in the future (by handing the voucher in).

If you polish more - you can get more vouchers... but- if you do such a good job that you keep the rock; that does not count towards the voucher!

You can also donate three rocks towards the task, that helps the club too... and should earn you a voucher. But those three rocks donated may not count – unless they are good enough to polish! Most quartzites and silicates will polish, and porphyries as well. The typical river rock that is used in landscaping is mainly Fraser River rock and it is mostly quartzites. Thanks in advance, and have fun!

Shows

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

October 14 & 15, 2023, **Port Moody Rock & Gem Club Show**, Kyle Centre, Port Moody

October 14 & 15, 2023, **Surrey Rockhound Club**, Sullivan Hall, Surrey,

November 4 & 5, 2023, **Delta Rockhound Gem & Mineral**, South Delta Rec. Centre, Tsawwassen

November 10,11,12, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Show**, Matsqui Community Hall, Abbotsford

November 18 & 19, 2023, **Parksville & District Rock & Gem Clubs**, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

BC Lapidary Society News



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

DATE: October 1, 2023 **TIME: 1:00 pm** **PLACE: Via Zoom**
ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

EACH MEMBER CLUB IS ENTITLED TO ONE (1) VOTE

The Club Delegate designated to vote for their club must register with the Executive Secretary when they arrive to the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89997988583?pwd=citZUkJGTvdmdk05ekIBVlpSUkNOUT09>

Meeting ID: 899 9798 8583 Passcode: 075327

For more information and mobile numbers please contact Crystal

According to Rock and Gem Magazine these US Rock Shows are coming up

September 23-24: 65th Thunderegg Rock & Mineral Show, Willamalane Center, Springfield, Oregon
www.springfieldthundereggrockclub.org

Do good while rockin' out to dozens of vendors, as all proceeds go toward a \$1,000 scholarship for a local student, plus free admission and rock shop tours.

October 20-22: 44th Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) National Fossil Expo, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL www.midamericapaleo.org

Dino-mite! All roads lead to the largest show in the world to exclusively exhibit fossils. From trilobites to Tsintaosaurus, there's an array for all interests and budgets, plus a Friday night lecture with a renowned scientist on the 'fossil theme of the year' (in 2022 that was 'Lagerstätten,' sedimentary deposits exhibiting exceptionally preserved fossils, like the Cambrian Burgess Shale). Go ahead, geek out.

October 29-30: Chugach Gem & Mineral Show, Midtown Mall, Anchorage, AK www.chugachgms.org

If you've been dreaming of a trip to Anchorage or chasing northern lights, now you can visit a gem and mineral show, too.

October 28-30: FOSSILMANIA, Somervell County Expo Center, Glen Rose, TX www.dallaspaleo.org/FOSSILMANIA

Texas' longest-running show dedicated to fossils and everything paleontology puts it best: We have fun. We learn stuff. We go to cool places. We find interesting things. We make new friends. This is not a gem and mineral show but who's noticing if there are fossil collecting field trips, guided tours of dino tracks, a badge workshop for Scouts, plus books, apparel and artwork?

November 10-12: Honolulu Mineral, Gem, Fossil, Jewelry Show, Convention Center, Honolulu, HI www.Honolulu.show

Hawaii has never had a major mineral and gem show like this before. Browse 130+ dealers within walking distance from Waikiki Beach and minutes by car from Diamond Head, Rainbow Valley, and surfing towns. Make that a double "aloha."

Also from Rock and Gem Magazine

There are some more special days coming up for those interested in Rocks.

International Fossil Day - October 11

As the name implies, this day is reserved for appreciating and exploring fossils. Of the approximately 250,000 different fossilized species that have been identified, it is estimated there are millions more to be found. Many groups organize fossil hunts and expeditions on this day in early fall. Be sure to find one near you.

Sapphire

by Roz MacLean

updated from September 2018



Faceted Sapphire

<https://www.gia.edu/Sapphire>

Sapphire is the birthstone for September in modern Western culture. However, since 2013, British jewellers have also recognized lapis lazuli as the birthstone. At one time “Chrysolite” was recognized as the birthstone for the month, but even though the word has a long history – appearing in the Bible and other sources, there are many stones that might be chrysolite not just one. Chrysolite was covered in September 2022. For now, we’ll look at Sapphire and its variability.



Sapphire rough

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/Sapphire-jewelry-and-gemstone-information/>

According to the International Gem Society, Sapphire is the birthstone for Thursday and for those born under the Taurus zodiac sign, although some say Gemini. Everyone wants to claim Sapphire. It is considered the stone to recognize a 5th, 45th and as a secondary choice for a 23rd Anniversary. Some sources say Yellow Sapphire is an alternate for a 7th Anniversary. Star Sapphire is for a 65th Anniversary. Lapis lazuli is Britain’s alternate birthstone for September and many think Lapis Lazuli is the Sapphire mentioned in old texts. During the Medieval Ages, European lapidaries came to refer to blue corundum crystal by "Sapphire", a derivative of the Latin word for blue: "saphirus".

Although Sapphire is associated with the colour blue, there are many other colours of Sapphire. Sapphire is corundum, a crystalline form of aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and typically has trace elements of iron, titanium, vanadium and chromium. The different trace elements give Sapphire the different colours. Generally, in North America; any corundum except a red one is a Sapphire. Red corundum is a Ruby and in some places, people will call pink Sapphire a Ruby. Sapphires can be yellow, green, white, colorless, pink, orange, brown, even purple. The rarest colour for Sapphire is called padparadscha which is a type of orange-pink colour. Sapphires in colors other than blue are called fancy or parti-coloured. Parti-colored Sapphires have two or more colours in the same stone. According to Wikipedia “Australia is the largest source of particolored Sapphires;...Parti-colored Sapphires cannot be created synthetically and only occur naturally.”

Synthetic Sapphires have existed since 1902 when [Auguste Verneuil](#) developed a process for producing synthetic Sapphire crystals. Synthetic Sapphires are made without flaws yet the most valued Sapphires come from Kashmir and have a velvety appearance that comes from fine needles of rutile inclusions. The inclusions scatter the light coming through the stone to give it a velvety appearance, but do not affect the stone’s transparency.



Star Sapphires are created by bigger- but still tiny needle-like inclusions oriented in specific directions to create the effect called asterism. Usually the star has 6 arms, but can have 2, 4, or even 12. In some Star Sapphires the inclusions are also hematite. The best stars have arms of equal length that shift when the stone is moved slightly but no dead spots appear in the arms. Most good Sapphires are faceted, but Star Sapphires are cut as cabochons to display the star best, centered at the top of the cabochon.

Some say that wearing a Sapphire can bring spiritual enlightenment and inner peace. Some people also believed that Sapphires possess healing properties for rheumatism, colic, and mental illness and can enhance powers of psychokinesis, telepathy, clairvoyance and astral projection. A traditional Hindu belief holds that the Sapphire causes the planet Saturn (Shani) to be favorable to the wearer. An Italian superstition holds that Sapphires are amulets against eye problems, and melancholy and the Egyptians used Sapphire in an eyewash for treating or preventing eye ailments. The Egyptian Sapphire may have been Lapis Lazuli though.

Sapphire has long been associated with royalty and is said to attract wealth, protect against poison and fraud, envy and infidelity. Sapphires also are thought to bring harmony between lovers and peace between adversaries. In modern times the British royals have famously used a Sapphire engagement ring for Princess Di and Kate Middleton.



Sapphires have also have been used as travelers' guides and protection from illness and ill omens. The Ancient Greeks associated Sapphire with Apollo and those consulting oracles like the one at Delphi, often wore the gem, probably to get at some of those properties of the "third eye". Sir Richard Burton traveled the Orient with a large Star Sapphire that is said to have brought him luck. Viewing the stone was believed by many to bring good fortune so he would allow those who gave him good service etc. to view the talisman.

Sapphires have a Mohs hardness of 9 and besides jewellery are used as windows, spacecraft parts, supermarket scanners, optical parts, wristwatch crystals and thin wafers used in insulating some solid-state electronics like integrated circuits and some LEDs.

About 95% of Sapphires are heat treated to enhance the colour but a controversy over heat treatment began in the 1980's after the advertising of Yogo Sapphires from Yogo Gulch, Montana claimed they were the only blue Sapphires that weren't heat treated, making them "more valuable". This was a big change in fortunes for the sapphires of Montana that were originally thrown away by miners searching for gold. Montana also produces many other colours of Sapphire.

In BC, Star Sapphire has been found near Passmore. Gem quality Sapphire pebbles of light green colour have been found in the Pend Oreille River.



Gem quality Sapphires have recently been found near Kimmirut on Baffin Island. These are called Beluga Sapphires and were made into a brooch to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee year celebrating the 65th anniversary of her coronation. The Queen's Sapphire Jubilee Snowflake Brooch consists of 48 Beluga Sapphires, along with 400 diamonds from northern Canada, all set in Canadian white gold.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/Sapphire-deposits-gems-1.4226897>