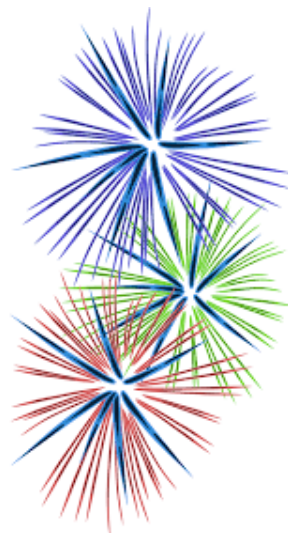


THE ROCKET



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!! January 2024

deadline for next issue
February 9, 2024

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

All club photos this month by Richard Kotecki. Thank you so much.

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

Next Meeting: Friday – January 26 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.

Field Trips: Kyle is coming to the meeting with plans for a new trip.

Program (January 26)

It is all about microphotography. David Myers uses his USB microscope to make “rock art” from deep inside his backlit pendants. Some colour adjusting may be done using the software that comes with the microscope. Paul Pinsker will apply microphotography to sand from various locations and will bring in his Coral shown at last meeting to illustrate the source of the colouring at Komodo’s famous Pink Beach. Sand is a specialized sub-hobby of rockhounding that was featured in Rock & Gem Magazine a few months ago.

Program from last meeting (November 24)

The meeting was our Annual General meeting. We elected a new Executive. See the next page for details. It was also our Winter Social event. There were some incredible snacks so thank you everyone for contributing.

Paul Pinsker brought in his finds from his recent trip to Indonesia. Principal among them was a block of botryoidal amethyst, more commonly referred to as “grape agate”, that he had hoped to buy as his main souvenir. At the rock shop called Batu Batu in the centre of Ubud, Bali he hit paydirt. He also made some smaller captures including a tumbled bumble bee jasper and a red amber, both from the same shop. All these are from sprawling Indonesia. Finally, he snatched a chunk of red coral from the churning surf by the shore near their hotel in southeast Bali.



A reminder to renew memberships: all memberships are by calendar year and due by January. You must be a member in good standing to use the workshop. This means you must have a current membership and have attended 2 out of the last 3 general meetings.



Election results for 2023 executive committee.

Position	Name
Sunshine	Elly B
Historian	Vera
Director at large	Elizabeth Dobresnski
Rep to Hastings Centre	Iris & Midori
Field trip	Kyle and Wesley
Librarian	Joyce
Membership	Nickell & Oliver
Program	Lara
Publication	Roz
Publicity	Midori & Susan
Show chair	Sante, Linda & Richard
Social	Sophia L
Ways & Means	Jaime & Joyce
Workshop	Jo
Senior to BCLS	Scott
Intermediate to BCLS	Dawn
Junior to BCLS	Nickell
Treasurer	Renee
Secretary	Crystal
Vice President	Scott
President	Diane



Workshop News

Torch-on Enamelling classes are being planned. We're looking at Friday, once per monthy with a maximum of 7 people at each session. People must sign up ahead for each session, but will be able to attend multiple times. \$25 charge for supplies and instruction.

More information at the January 26 General Meeting.

***Beginners to Silversmithing** are asked to contact Crystal before attending.

Instruction is available **only at the Saturday session** and there is a \$35 beginners kit with supplies needed for silversmithing.

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.

Shown below are the regular workshop hours. Changes are often announced by email. Some short programs are announced at meetings, maybe in an email, or in this newsletter.

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

Projects

Richard Kotecki made a butterfly of Wernerite, (named in 1800 by José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva (1763-1838) for Abraham Gottlob Werner. He was professor of mining and mineralogy at the Freiberg Mining Academy. He was an influential teacher and his ideas shaped early geological thought,). Richard then mounted the butterfly on a slab of Pinolite. Under long wave UV light his butterfly demonstrated the yellow fluorescence Wernerite is known for.



Our Club Show!



March 16,17, 2024, **Hastings Centre Rockhounds**, Hastings Community Centre

More information at our general meetings.

There will be plenty to see & do. Together we can make our show a great success and have a lot of fun introducing our hobby to the community.

Donations: We need rocks for the grab bags. Rocks that are small fist size or smaller, non poisonous, not sharp when broken (like obsidian) and safe for children can really help the club. Contact Linda.

WE WILL ROCK YOU



Other Rock and Gem Shows

February 24, 25, 2024, **Maple Ridge Lapidary Club**, Albion Community Centre, Maple Ridge

March 9, 10, 2024, **Alberni Valley Rock & Gem Club**, Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni

March 15,16,17 2024, **Victoria Lapidary & Mineral Society**, Leonardo da Vinci Centre, Victoria

April 5, 6 & 7 2024, **Courtenay Gem & Mineral Club**, Legion Hall, Courtenay

April 19, 20 & 21, 2024, **Richmond Gem and Mineral Society**, Library & Cultural Centre, Richmond



The British Columbia Lapidary Society hosts the BC Gem Show

May 10, 11 & 12, 2024 Friday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 A - 5:00 PM

Rocklovers-Round-Up Tailgate Sale One Day Only!
Saturday, May 12, 2024
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chilliwack Heritage Park, 44140 Luckakuck Way, Chilliwack, BC

Our club activities: We were at the Vancouver Gem Show.

It is a commercial show, but we often get a table to demonstrate our hobby and introduce our club to the community. It was a great club showing and sharing, but I'm sorry I don't have all the members names.



Our Rockhounds come in all sizes



David and his collection of pendants



Bob Walker's display



Some demonstrations by Nigel, Gunther and Bob



Richard's Display



Clippings and Links

Did you see the article in Newsweek about Plastic Rocks? Dec 17, 2023

<https://www.newsweek.com/plastic-rocks-pollution-geology-discovered-map-1851193>

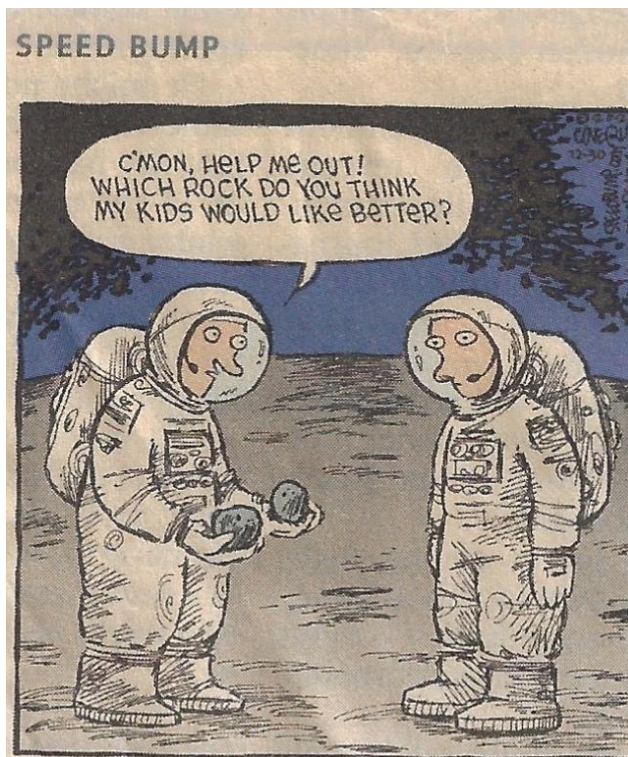
Bizarre Plastic Rocks Now Found Across Five Continents

A few highlights: The **first example of a plastic rock** was reported in Hawaii by geologist Patricia Corcoran nearly 10 years ago—and termed a "plastiglomerate." Others are now calling them plastistones. These rocks have been now been found all over the world.

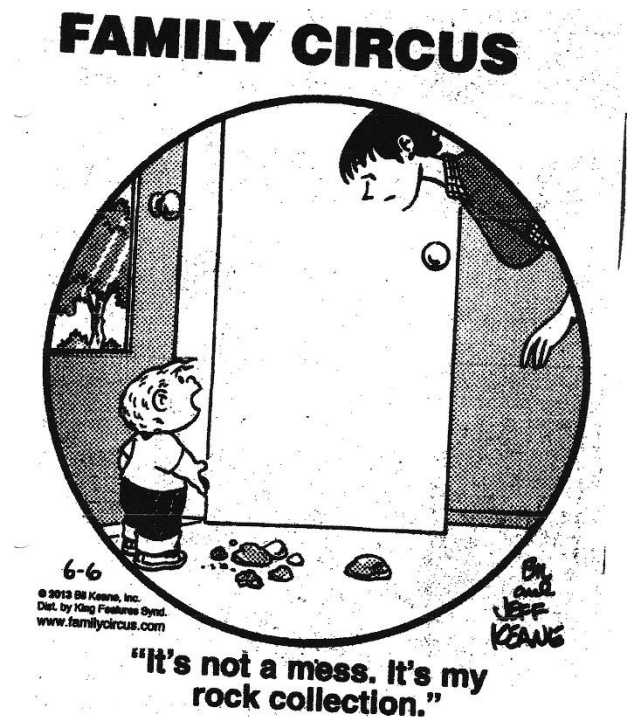
"Rocks containing plastic are expected to increasingly emerge as part of natural geological processes and stick around for a long time." There is much more to read in the article.



Have you seen the classifieds section of the BC Lapidary Society website? Currently there are some saws, equipment and some motors of different sizes for running arbours & other lapidary Equipment, and even a carat meter for weighing your gemstones.



Thanks for the cartoon, Paul



(and can't we all relate to this?)



5.12-ct grandidierite
medium dark blueish green
oval cabochon, 10.7 x 9.3 mm,
Madagascar. © The Gem Trader

Grandidierite

When I go to a Gem Show, like the one at the PNE in December, I often have something I'm looking for, (this time blue green tourmaline), and I keep my eye out for something new to me. I enjoy learning about new rocks. This visit I came across some beads of various shades of bluey green made of Grandidierite. I had never heard of that rock before, so it was time to learn, especially when I found other rocks at the show that looked similar but were not Grandidierite!



Grandidierites in a cluster of crystals, from Cap Andrahomana, Madagascar. © Rob Lavinsky
www.iRocks.com.

Grandidierite was first found in Madagascar in 1902. French mineralogist and geologist Alfred Lacroix who discovered the stone named it after Alfred Grandidier. According to an article on gemrockauctions.com, Grandidier was a French explorer and naturalist who wrote a 38-volume book in 1885 titled *Histoire physique, naturelle et politique de Madagascar*, translated as *Physical, natural and political history of Madagascar*.

According to the GIA, in **Gems & Gemology, Spring 2020, Vol. 56, No. 1**, "Grandidierite is found in various localities as an accessory mineral in aluminous boron-rich pegmatites and in rocks subjected to local high-temperature, low-pressure metamorphism such as contact aureoles and xenoliths..."

Colour is the first factor to identify Grandidierite. According to Mindat.org, Grandidierite is a Neosilicate. The formula is $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})(\text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_3(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{BO}_3)\text{O}_2$. Some other sources write the formula slightly differently but the important part is (Mg, Fe). The presence of iron causes the blue-green hue. According to Joel Arem, Ph.D., FGA at the International Gem Society (IGA), "Grandidierites appear bluer in color the more iron (Fe) they contain. A recently discovered gemstone, blue ominelite is the Fe-analogue (Fe, Mg) to grandidierite (Mg, Fe)." Grandidierites can be a wide range of shades of blue green as shown by the picture below and it is all based on how much iron is in the specimen.



Both Pictures here & below from
<https://www.gemrockauctions.com/learn/a-z-of-gemstones/grandidierite>

Another factor to identify Grandidierite is its Mohs hardness of 7.5 which helps to distinguish it from lazulites with a Mohs hardness of 5.5 to 6. If you have the right tools, lazulites have somewhat higher refractive indices (RI) and specific gravity (SG).

Grandidierite itself is rare, but transparent Grandidierite is even rarer and

the highest prices are for that quality. Grandidierite is the 3rd most expensive gem in the world according to Fire Mountain Gems. New discoveries of transparent material in Sri Lanka in 2000 and more recently in Madagascar may change the market a bit. According to IGA it is so rare it is seldom seen in gem or jewellery collections. Most material is opaque and may be carved into statues; Some material is translucent and cut into cabochons.



For those of us who don't deal in the expensive and rare, there are beads, cabochons, and rough, and local, well close to local, sourcing. According to Mindat.org there are two locations for Grandidierite in Canada, reported in 1980 and 1983, near Gananoque, Ontario. It has also been found at Morton Pass, Albany County, Wyoming and in Russell Township, St. Lawrence County, New York. Other places with Grandidierite are Algeria, Antarctica, Australia, Czechia, Germany, Greenland, India, Italy, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, Slovakia, South Africa, Suriname, and Zimbabwe. But only Madagascar and now Sri Lanka have produced notable quantities of transparent gems.

With a MOHS of 7.5, Grandidierite is suitable for most jewellery applications, but it has a near perfect cleavage in two directions so it can be a challenge to facet and it might break if hit on the right angle. A protective setting is recommended.

There are no known treatments of this rock and outside a research lab, there are no known created specimens.

I've never bought rocks online, but some rough and some finished stones are available there. According to gemrockauctions.com, "Grandidierite cabochons can be 1-10 carats. Though the largest faceted specimen weighs 763.5 carats, most faceted Grandidierites are under 5 carats. Madagascar has produced crystals as large as 8 cm (3.14 in) in length."

There are some rocks similar to Grandidierite such as aquamarine, chalcedony, apatite, spinel, or blue topaz. The pleochroism and perhaps the hardness tests should help determine the difference. Opaque and semi-translucent Grandidierite may resemble some jade, but jade tests should reveal the difference. As always, it is important to work with a dealer you trust.

As a footnote, yes, I bought the beads and no, they are not transparent. They are mostly translucent and a few are opaque, but I love the colour. I also checked with another club member about the dealer and was satisfied before I purchased.

the largest known faceted specimen of Grandidierite weighs 763.5 carats,



A green-blue translucent to semi-translucent grandidierite weighing 763.5 ct.
measuring 50.32 × 48.15 × 36.17 mm (photo approximately life-size)
Photo by Diego Sanchez.

<https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/spring-2020-labnotes-unusually-large-grandidierite>