

THE ROCKET

March 2024

deadline for next issue
April 12, 2024

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 – March 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.

Program for next meeting (March 22)

You've heard the word Stabilization. Yeah, that one used in connection with turquoise and chrysocolla.

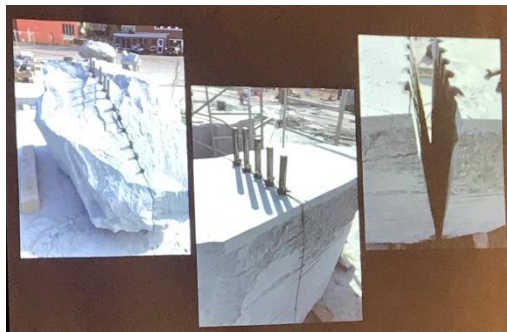
A gemstone is considered stabilized when a colorless bonding agent (commonly plastic) is used to impregnate a porous gemstone typically for added durability and improve its appearance. IGS website

Wondering what it is all about? Can you do it at home? Is it expensive? Well, no worries because all of your questions will be answered, (well most of your questions). Our most excellent instructor Bob Walker, will talk about the process and applications of the techniques used, and more specifically about what works for which stones and what doesn't.

Program from last meeting (February 23)



Oliver Harwood, a sculptor and club member gave an absorbing presentation and some insights into working on a large scale. He also brought in some samples of his tools. By talking about his work and sharing photos, he covered selection of the stone, tool use and some interesting stories. Oliver attended Art school in Halifax, then he was in Italy, carving at marble studios before moving to the west coast of Canada. Oliver has completed several public art pieces, has taught many stone carving courses and runs a sculpture studio in East Vancouver. He even offered some smaller scale soapstone carving lessons at our recent show.



Workshop Hours

If you are a member in good standing and 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

***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 News

To register for these extra classes contact Crystal, our club secretary (for contact see page 1)
People must sign up ahead for each session, but will be able to attend multiple times.

Torch-on Enamelling classes. Maximum number is 6 attendees. \$10 for materials, \$3 for the workshop.

Friday, April 26th 9am - 12pm

Ad-hoc Silversmith on the enamelling days (will only open with 6-12 people registered)
\$3 workshop

Friday, April 26th 1pm - 4pm

- If Silversmith workshop registrations do not meet the minimum requirement, it may be cancelled, Crystal will notify registrants if that happens.

Lost & Found

In the past, found items have been tacked on the bulletin board, but some items have been disappearing from there and not making it to the owners, so in future, please see the instructor in charge of the workshop session if you are looking for a lost item. Anything found will be locked away so you must ask to see if your lost item has been found.

We are still looking for a couple of pieces of Labradorite. A Compass Card has been found.
Talk with the instructor of your workshop

Other Rock and Gem Shows

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
May 10, 11, 12, 2024 **BC Gem Show, Chilliwack Heritage Park, Chilliwack**
June 1 & 2, 2024 **Kokanee Rock Club**, Castlegar Recreation Complex, Castlegar
June 8 & 9, 2024 **Ripple Rock Gem & Mineral Club**, C. R. Community Centre, Campbell River
July 19, 20 & 21, 2024, **1120 Rock Club**, Rutland Centennial Hall, Kelowna
July 20, 2024 **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Tailgate**, Central Heights Church Parking Lot, Abbotsford



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

Rendezvous 2024

Registrations in Progress

<https://www.bclapidary.com/rock-hunting-rendezvous.php>

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

Armstrong, BC, May 17 – 19, 2024
IPE Grounds
3371 Pleasant Valley Road
Armstrong, BC

Rendezvous returns to the Interior in 2024 and will be hosted by the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club.

It will be headquartered at the Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) Grounds in Armstrong, BC.

Our club activities

Field Trips

Kyle is planning a Field Trip for March 24 from 9:45am at location in Hope to 3 pm. This first trip will be to Hope as Yale is currently closed. There may be river concerns with heavy waterflows so parents are cautioned. The meeting location in Hope will be given after you register. We are looking to find some nickel silicate, and agates etc., and perhaps do some gold panning. Club members are asked to bring gold pans or share. Some can be purchased from Deakin Industries. This field trip should be accessible for all vehicles as it is a short walk from the paved road. People may want to share rides.

Every attendee must be a club member in good standing.

Meeting location given after you register
(Spots may be limited).

All members participating in the field trip must:

1. Be a member in good standing (attend 2 out of 3 past general meetings unless became a member in the time period)
2. Bring their BCLS membership card and Hastings Rockhounds lapidary membership card
3. Prior to starting the activity, sign in with wagon master/field trip leader and fill out necessary waiver forms as well as show proof of BCLS membership and Hastings Rockhounds membership
4. Abide by any and all BC provincial panning reserve rules and regulations as well as any and all BCLS rules and regulations.

Members are urged to:

- Dress appropriately and pack a lunch and fluids
- Proper footwear, hikers and or boots. Gum boots are a plus at this location
- Sweater and jacket (windbreakers work well as this location can be very windy)

Tools recommended:

- gold pan (there may be those willing to share but can be purchased at Deakin supplies or online for a reasonable price)
- bucket or bag to store your finds
- shovel
- hand rake
- work and or garden gloves
- classifier

For other info/registration:

Contact our wagonmaster Kyle at kylepiatocka@gmail.com or by text at 778-302-6822.

Vancouver Gem & Mineral Show

We need some volunteers for our club table at the Vancouver Gem & Mineral Show at the PNE Forum. Members can help by demonstrating (lapidary, gem tree, beading, soapstone carving, silversmithing etc.). We also need help from members to help promote our club to the wider community. You don't need to come for the full day, but at least give a 3 hour commitment for the side benefit of getting free admission to the show.

Thurs Mar 21 - setup (at 9am until finish)
Fri Mar 22 - 1pm-9pm
Sat Mar 23 - 10am-6pm
Sun Mar 24 - 10am-5pm and Cleanup

Crystal, our club secretary sent an e-mail February 27th with this link to a document to sign up. Check your e-mail or try this:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10IDSPXhBmTfISU8SgRI2xhSNplwISXrP7PNVr49t048/edit?usp=sharing>

Or you can email Crystal back the dates and times you're available and she can add it in the table for you. :)



💎 The Vancouver Gem Show - spring edition! 💎

Collectors, Artisans, and jewelry enthusiasts from across Canada will come together to showcase their unique assortment of minerals, fossils, gemstones, and handmade jewelry.

The Show hours:

Friday, 22 March 2024, 1pm-9pm
Saturday, 23 March 2024, 10am-6pm
Sunday, 24 March 2024, 10am-5pm

door prizes, drawn hourly.

2024 Rockhound Holidays

Rock and Gem magazine has put out its list of 2024 Rockhound Holidays. Key dates before our next newsletter:

Geologists Day – April 7 dedicated to people who explore, research and share their knowledge, and time to appreciate all those things we have and know about rocks and the Earth because of geologists.

Earth Day – April 22 A Good day for rockhounds to explore and appreciate Earth's treasures.

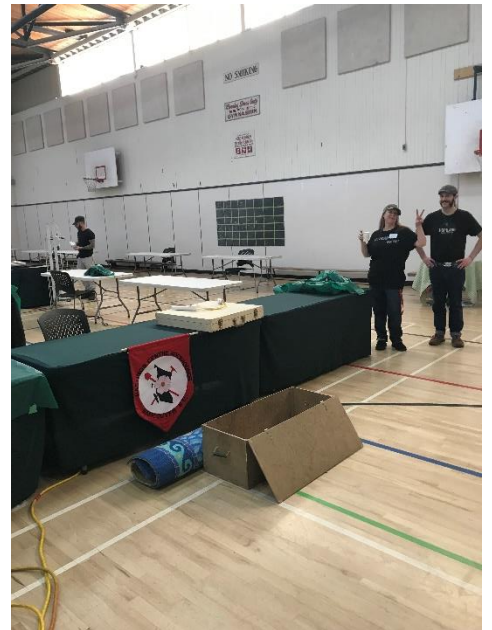


Our Club Show!

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

(I don't have every name, so left them all out. If you like- use these pictures like a yearbook and collect names/signatures/info on rocks next to applicable pictures.)

Friday set up – We went from an empty gym to show ready. Thanks volunteers.



Saturday – Lots of vendors, lots of attendees – oops not enough pictures



Richard Kotecki saved us **Sunday am** with pictures of vendors – many, but not all are club members, and some are new rock contacts and friends



Throughout the show

we had great club tables for kids, auctions, rock sales and food.



Demonstrations – more than shown here



Time for a quick coffee

Sunday late afternoon
A flurry of last-minute activity

Then it is time to take down



Our club has a great variety of activities and most were shown through the showcases





Projects

Samiko finished her first cab and showed us a new way to wear some rock jewellery. She made a belt for her kimono.



Then she made some pins to wear in her hair with her next couple of cabs.



At the show, people have some great stories, finds and will make some great projects from them. Please share a photo and a line or two about what made this show great for you. We'll try to have some of these in the next newsletter.

Reprinted from March 2019 and updated



Bloodstone

is the traditional
birthstone for March.

An ancient and
alternate name for
bloodstone is

Heliotrope.



Aquamarine became a modern birthstone for March in the 21st century because jewellers now prefer transparent birthstones. Since the beginning of the 20th century, aquamarine was an alternate choice to bloodstone. Before that, it was Bloodstone for March – and for the zodiacal sign of Aries March 20/21 to April 19/20. No anniversaries, birth hours etc. use Bloodstone. In Roman times Bloodstone was associated with the war god Mars and today it is associated with the month named for that god.

The most sought-after Bloodstone is a dark green with red flecks. Minerals.net and The American Gem Society say the green is often a gradient from light to dark and the red is flecks or streaks with other colours. It is an opaque stone, but those bloodstones that are a bit more transparent are often the ones called Heliotrope. Interestingly, if the rock has some yellow patches some call it Plasma.



All these names come from the rocks's physical properties. In Medieval times a legend was told that the blood of Christ dropped on a green stone at the foot of the cross and created Bloodstone. Heliotrope is from the Ancient Greek helios for sun and tropein for turning. Pliny the Elder of ancient Rome observed that the stone gives a red reflection when turned to the sun while immersed in water.

Albert the Great called bloodstone the Stone of Babylon because of its magical properties which were considered “not of God”. In ancient times bloodstone was associated with courage, strength to defeat one's enemies, and healing of blood disorders. In Pliny the Elder's time magicians used the stone for invisibility. In the 4th Century Damigeron wrote of it making rain or a solar eclipse and its use in divination and preserving health and youth. Even today, some believe it helps with mental clarity, increasing creativity or even boosting overall energy. In some cultures, a powder is made of bloodstone/heliotrope and used as an aphrodisiac.

There is some confusion about Bloodstone because some people will call any rock with red spots or streaks a bloodstone. Some call hematite “bloodstone” because it will leave a red streak. Most lapidary and jeweller sources say it must be green with red spots.

Bloodstone is Silicon dioxide (SiO_2) with inclusions of hematite (iron oxide (Fe_2O_3)) and as a member of the Chalcedony family it is a micro or crypto crystalline Quartz. This means it has microscopic crystals. It is not called Jasper because Bloodstone is a more specific word: green with red flecks. According to geology.com: If an opaque stone is predominantly another colour or if the marks and streaks are predominantly a colour other than red it is Fancy Jasper.



One of the ninety engraved gems, cameos and bullae from the Roman Empire. The J. Paul Getty Museum

Because it is a form of quartz it has a Mohs hardness of about 6.5 to 7. Which makes it a good candidate for many forms of jewellery. Bloodstone is often cabbed, but it can be found faceted or made into beads. Since Babylonian times and perhaps before then, bloodstone has been used to make jewellery, seals and amulets. There are examples of bloodstone in signet rings, cups and statues.

Bloodstone is one of the few gems that is untreated from mine to market. But some simulants have been tried. According to the Fall 1984 Gems & Gemology Gem News – GIA, the Japanese glass manufacturer limori has produced a green “maple stone” with red “flowers” that resembles bloodstone. Glass and bloodstones have very different properties so this should be spotted fairly easily. (**Satoyasu limori** (19 October 1885 – 13 October 1982) is the same Japanese scientist who created Victoria Stone.)

Bloodstone is found in the United States in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. According to the Gemological Institute of America, Bloodstone can be found filling fractures or cavities in other rocks or as pebbles in riverbeds. I could not find any sources of bloodstone listed for BC but because of how it is made and where it is found, there should be some.

The biggest producer of Bloodstone is India, and other primary sources for the stone are Brazil and Australia. Some sources say we have gem quality bloodstone in Canada, but I could not find out where in Canada. I am hoping to hear news from club members.



A German snuffbox, ca 1740, made from bloodstone and gold. 3.8 x 8.3 x 6.4 cm. Gift of Mrs. Charles Wrightsman, 2008. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public Domain.

Club member Myrna Taylor had a Chan Luu style bracelet of bloodstone at our recent show.

