

THE ROCKET

April 2024

deadline for next issue
May 10, 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 – April 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.

Program for next meeting (April 26)



Guenter Otto will be the program presenter at our next meeting. Guenter will introduce us to the tools and techniques used for stone carving that he uses for jewellery.

He is thinking of offering a class or two in our workshop and this will give us a chance to see what is involved. He has been actively involved in lapidary arts for the past over 45 years and has won some notable awards:

First place (at least 3 times), Pacific Northwest Jewelry Guild competitions (BC and Washington)

Commissioned to carve a 100-carat sunstone by Sunstone Bute Mine for a Smithsonian exhibition

2001 Guest demonstrator - Vancouver Museum jade exhibition (Ultimate Treasures of Ancient China)

2014 First place, silver category, World Jade Symposium

And in 2022 as the nominee from our club, Guenter was the first winner of the BCLA Lapidary Arts Award.

Program from last meeting (March 22)



Bob Walker, a club member and instructor, pretty in-depth explanation of STABILIZATION that can be used for more than just turquoise or chrysocolla. Bob shared some of his inspiring examples as he discussed different methods for stabilization. We can even do it at home! Please see more notes and Bob's article on Stabilization later in this issue.



Thanks Bob, for a really useful and interesting presentation.

Bob Walker showing how thin some samples can be

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 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.

Latest Projects



TJ just completed a sector shaped cabochon of Morrisonite. He bought the slab at our recent club show! (My picture does not do it justice.



David Myers has completed two new backlit Agate Pendants with some interesting shapes revealed.

Stabilizing Methods from Bob Walker

Here is an overview of different methods used to stabilize lapidary material using resins. Stabilizing lapidary material with resin helps to enhance its durability, appearance, and workability. Here are a few common methods:

1. **Impregnation:** This method involves saturating the porous lapidary material with a liquid resin. The material is usually placed in a vacuum chamber to remove air and moisture from the pores before being immersed in the resin. The vacuum helps the resin penetrate deep into the material, ensuring thorough impregnation. After impregnation, the material is typically cured under heat or UV light to harden the resin.
2. **Pressure impregnation:** Similar to impregnation, this method also involves saturating the material with resin. However, pressure is applied to enhance resin penetration. The material is placed in a pressure vessel, and the resin is forced into the pores under high pressure. This method is particularly useful for stabilizing materials with very fine pores or intricate patterns.
3. **Cactus Juice stabilization:** Cactus Juice is a popular brand of resin used for stabilizing wood and other porous materials. It is widely employed in the lapidary community for stabilizing delicate and porous stones. The material is submerged in Cactus Juice, which is then vacuumed to remove air and ensure deep penetration. The resin is heat cured, resulting in a hardened and stabilized stone.
4. **Epoxy and polyester resins:** Epoxy and polyester resins are commonly used in lapidary work for stabilizing materials. These resins are mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions and then applied to the surface of the stone. The resin seeps into the pores, reinforcing the stone's structure and providing added strength and durability.
5. **Polymer stabilization:** Polymer stabilization involves using heat-activated polymers to stabilize lapidary material. The material is immersed in a polymer solution and then heated, causing the polymer to solidify and bond with the stone. This method is often used for stabilizing softer stones and fossils.

It's important to note that the choice of resin and stabilization method may vary depending on the specific lapidary material and its properties. It's recommended to follow the manufacturer's instructions and conduct some testing on small samples before proceeding with larger projects.



**Extreme Stabilizing
Before and After**

Thanks, Bob, for the photos



Rock and Gem Shows

May 10, 11, 12, 2024 **BC Gem Show, Chilliwack Heritage Park, Chilliwack**
June 1 & 2, 2024 **Selkirk Rock & Mineral 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
Sept. 21 & 22, 2024 **Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Show**, Kinsmen Community Center, Aldergrove



BC Gem Show Volunteer Call Assistance needed May 7 – 12

The following was sent to everyone in an e-mail from Crystal on April 7, 2024. It is a great opportunity to meet some members from other clubs and really help out our provincial body. Thanks to any who can volunteer.

Greetings members,

The BC Gem Show will be returning to Chilliwack, May 10-12, 2024:

<https://www.bclapidary.com/bc-gem-show.php>

We are seeking volunteers to assist with setup, show stations, and take down. Please have a look at our volunteer schedule and let us know where you can help by responding to this email:

<https://www.bclapidary.com/Volunteer-Schedule-2024-Chilliwack.htm>

The schedule is read only and will be updated as we fill the slots through balancing volunteer requests.

Assistance and support from our membership is greatly appreciated. Together we will once again make the show a success!

Thank you,

BCLS Show Committee

The British Columbia Lapidary Society hosts the BC Gem Show

Our Club can have display cases at the Show. If interested in contributing please contact Crystal, our club secretary right away. Set up is Thursday and take down is Sunday after the show. Some sharing of responsibilities (one day or the other to look after the case) may be possible.

 The BC Lapidary Society Proudly Presents:

THE BC ROCK & GEM SHOW

May 10-12, 2024

Treasures of the Earth

Gold, Silver & Copper Explored



Photos courtesy of Rubble Rock And Gem and Trevor Cheneau

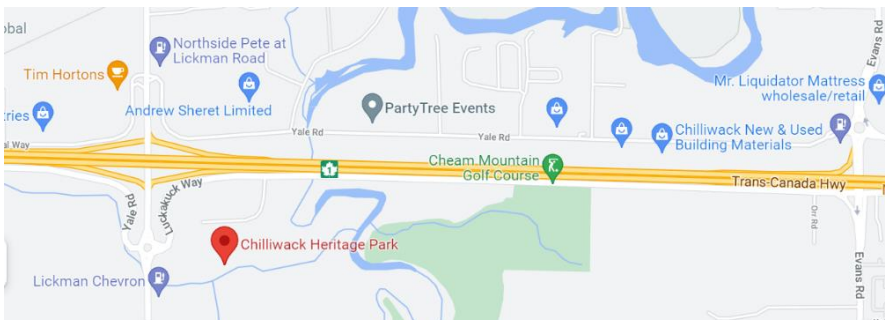
Dendritic Silver Ore Placer Gold Native Copper

Door Prizes, Dealers, Demonstrators, Club Exhibits, Displays, Spin and Win, Grab Bags, Gold Panning, Fun for the whole family!

 **And Rock Lovers Roundup Tailgate Sale**
Saturday Only - May 11th, 10am-5pm
Admission included in the price of the Gem Show

WHEN	WHERE	ADMISSION
MAY 10-12, 2024	Chilliwack Heritage Park	Adults: \$6.00
Friday: 10am-8pm	44140 Luckakuck Way	3 Day Pass- \$12.00
Saturday: 10am-6pm	Chilliwack, BC	Students (6-17): \$2.00
Sunday: 10am-5pm	Exit 116 (Lickman Rd) off Hwy 1	Children under 6: Free (accompanied by an adult)

 **Bring your Mother to the show for Mother's Day!**
visit bclapidary.com



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 is hosted by the Vernon Lapidary & Mineral Club.

The BCLS Annual General Meeting will be held Sunday May 19, 2024 at 7:30pm at the close of Rendezvous in Armstrong. The Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the Agenda were sent out by Crystal, our club secretary, on April 9, 2024.

Our club activities



Help Our Club and Earn Vouchers for Workshops

At the May 2023 meeting it was decided to start a voucher program for those who help. We started this by members making 'windows' in rocks- and these rocks will be used for the grab bags and at our shows. Lara is now looking after the program.

*As Linda Foy explained in 2023...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!

July 7, 2024

Tailgate Sale/Hastings Community Association Anniversary

As part of Hastings Community Centre Association our club will be participating in the anniversary celebrations on July 7. There will be many activities and we will need many volunteers. Please talk with Lara who will be heading a committee to organize volunteers. We need people to operate a Spin and Win Table in the park, to work on the Tailgate Sale and to do demos and tours of the workshop.

The Tailgate Sale will be organized by Richard and Sante, and sponsored by the Community Association. Instead of the parking lot (which will be needed for other events) the "tailgate sale" will be modified to an indoor sale. It will be held in the Community Hall (same room as our general meetings).

Vancouver Gem & Mineral Show

Members demonstrated lapidary arts like lapidary, gem tree, beading, soapstone carving, silversmithing etc. T They also helped promote our club to the wider community. It looks like a fun time for all involved.
Thanks Richard Kotecki for the photos.



Field Trips

Kyle Piatocki was wagon master for the field trip March 24, 2024. Participants met in Hope, went to Emory Creek, Hope Panning Park and Herrling Island. Some had a hearty breakfast before starting out. They had some great finds and there were some great scenery shots too. I could not name everyone in the photos. Thank you to everyone for sending in photos.



3 Photos: Dan P



group picture from Emory Creek. Photo: Tim Haslam



Photo: Kyle



2 Photos: Tim Haslam



2 photos: Jo



Some folks can rockhound anywhere



Wagonmaster Kyle gets some River time too



3 photos: Jo

Photo: Sara B

The finds:



Photo: Sara "T Rex head showing teeth"



2 photos: Amy



His Rose Quartz



Agate



Agate

5 photos: Tim Haslam



Some garnet sand



Fraser River Rock
slabbed by Dan P, photo: Jo



2 photos: Sara B – her Jade

Chrysoprase

Reprinted from May 2019



geology.com

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



Arkenstone www.iRocks.com

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.

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 (SiO_2). 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 carbonate) 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. 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 Snuff box - Frederick the Great-1765
The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection on
loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London*

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 ahead deposits will be discovered.