

THE ROCKET

October 2022

deadline for next issue
November 11, 2022

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Roz MacLean – editor

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

Next Meeting: Friday – October 28 at 7PM at Hastings Community Center Hall

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

Times are changing...

Attention Club members! We allow and encourage refreshments and socialization at our meetings, and need people to volunteer to bring snacks to the meetings! Yum Yum! And a reminder to bring serving utensils if what you bring is a little juicy. Bring your own mug in case we get the coffee on too!



Next Meeting Program:

Paul Pinsker will be giving the presentation on October 28, entitled "**Megafloods and Erratic Behaviour**". This will be a PowerPoint slide presentation covering the dramatic landscapes of the Channeled Scablands of Eastern Washington. He and his wife traveled around this fascinating topography in May of this year, then returned to see additional features (and revisit one) on their way to and from their ultimate destination of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

Program from last Meeting:



Harley Waterson from the Fraser Valley club was our guest presenter. He gave a talk on **Agates**. He talked about their formation, and the various patterns and types of agates created by how they form. Harley had lots of samples and a power point presentation demonstrating and explaining the various types of agates: Banded, Fortification, Plume, Brecciated, Dendritic etc. Many of us were fascinated by agates that break light into a rainbow and the ones that shadow when moved. Harley also told us of the places in BC where agates can be found and sources for learning more about Agates.



Thanks for a great presentation, Harley.

Photos: Richard Kotecki

and Nickell Aktarian

BCLS report

Scott Brown

Monday 2022-10-03

This is a high level summary of BCLS meeting On October 1, 2022.

- No applications received for BCLS scholarship nor Lapidary arts award. Deadline has passed.
- The Outdoor Recreation council of BC is a lobby group for access to back country - the BCLS executive will continue to receive notices from the ORC but would like a volunteer to step forward and represent our (BCLS) interests
- Reports from various zones and clubs - main theme was restricted access to good collecting sites due to claims and fire damage.
- Treasurer report - BCLS treasurer is resigning after 5 yrs. Need new treasurer. Seeking volunteers. About \$77,000 cash in various accounts. New show cases still need to be purchased.
- Wagon Masters report - reminder to respect claims. Report/rumours of some members unethically collecting.
- 300 copies of the 2023 calendars are printed - cost is \$10 each. **Clubs should get orders in to BCLS** - Nick from our club has a picture in this year's calendar!
- Rendezvous will be held June 9-12 in Quesnel. 6 field trips planned. No other details
- No summer camp proposals submitted.

Rockhounder's Code of Ethics

We ask all BCLS members and guests to follow our Code of Ethics on rockhounding trips.

- I will respect private property and do no Rockhounding without the owner's permission.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in Rockhounding areas.
- I will take garbage home or deposit in proper receptacles.
- I will leave gates as found.
- I will do no willful damage to materials or take more than I can reasonably use.
- I will fill excavations, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will build fires in designated places or safe places only, and make sure they are completely extinguished before leaving.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will obey all laws and regulations of forestry and game departments in the area in which I am hunting.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will always use good outdoor manners.
- I will show respect to other members.

More Agates from Harley Waterson's Display
Thanks Nickell for photo



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	Bob
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Robert

Fall Activities

Some club fun – Filling Grab Bags for Our Show

In preparation for our show next year (2023!) The club is calling for volunteers for **sorting and wrapping of grab bag filler!** Come down to the shop **Nov 15th 6:45 to 8PM**. It's bound to be a blast! Also calling for rock donations and coloured tissue paper for the wrapping! Bring your enthusiasm!

Making Grab Bags for Our Show

Since we sold all the grab bags we had in storage for the show, we will need to make more for next year. We need to start the process. It is now that we need to begin to make the bags and put a call out for donations of stones for the bags.

Please sort through your collections and see what would be wonderful to receive and find in the grab bags that will be for sale at the show. This fund raiser is such a popular part of our annual show that teachers and people just waiting to attend to get 'their fill'.

The finished bags should be 16 x 20 cm (6 1/4inch x 7 3/4inch) and folded over at the top to put a draw string through. I will bring samples at the meeting for those wanting one.

The type of materials needed for the bags is up to you- but the kids like bright colours and texture if possible- fuzzy always goes first!

The rocks and pebbles need to be big enough not to be swallowed, but at the same time not too big as to fit into the bag, fist size is maximum (5cm square is perfect-2 inch x 2 inch).

Of course, no toxic rocks - lead sulfate (galena), bumblebee jasper (arsenic), and the like. We never put obsidian in the bags since it can become chipped and then can cut like a knife to anyone trying to clean up the shards (known to be the first surgeon's tools in history).

Members can bring the items for grab bag donations to either the workshop marked for the purpose, or at the meetings. Linda can pick them up if you give her a call.

Preparation for November meeting

Please support your club

According to our constitution: A Nominating Committee shall be selected at the September regular meeting in the following manner: the President shall appoint one, the Executive Committee shall appoint one, and the club shall select one. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select suitable candidates for each of the four (4) Executive Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the club, and/or Special Directors for the coming year, and to provide a list of the candidates selected for publication in the notice of the Annual General Meeting and ensure that each member is informed of the duties of each elected position prior to nomination.

1. The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of those members holding the following positions:

- Four (4) Executive Officers –President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Senior Delegate to the Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of BC
- One chairperson convener of each of the following Standing Committees:
 - Field Trips
 - Library
 - Membership
 - Program
 - Publications
 - Publicity
 - Show
 - Social
 - Ways & Means
 - Workshop
- The following special directors:
 - Delegate to Hastings Centre Board of Directors
 - Director-at Large
 - Historian
 - Sunshine

DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES

- 30. The President shall preside over General meetings of the club and over Executive Committee meetings, and shall be ex-officio member of all club committees with exception to Special Complaints Resolution Committee. The President shall be a signing Officer.
- 31. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside as chairperson of General meetings and at meetings of the Executive Committee, and otherwise assist the President and other Officers in the exercise of their respective duties as may be required. The Vice-President will also be the club's Delegate to the Hastings Community Association's Program Committee. The Vice-President may also serve as a signing Officer in the absence of the President.
- 32. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all club funds and shall sign all cheques for the withdrawal of such funds as are required from time to time, along with any one of following; the President, the Secretary or in the absence of the president, the Vice President. In the event the treasurer is unable to sign cheques, the president shall be one of the signers. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the receipts and expenditures of club funds and shall report the financial position at each meeting of the club. The Treasurer shall also submit all records to an auditor at the request of a General meeting. The Treasurer shall be a signing Officer.
- 33. The Secretary or alternate shall attend all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee and record accurately all minutes and proceedings of every such meeting in a minute book to be provided by the club, shall receive and file all reports, keep or cause to be kept proper books and records in all respects of the business and affairs of the club, and conduct all correspondence of the club, also see clause 10, as directed by the Executive Committee in a prompt and efficient manner. The Secretary shall be signing Officer.
- 34. The Field Trips Committee shall arrange and supervise field trips for the club, and ensure that first aid equipment is available and, if possible, have present a member who is qualified in level 1 first aid. He/she shall also ensure that all participants on the field trip are members in good standing.

35. The Library Committee shall purchase and catalogue books and periodicals and care for them; shall acquaint members with titles of such books as are available, supervise the loan and return of books and magazines and collect fines for each overdue month.
36. The Membership Committee Chair shall receive all applications for membership, collect club dues, see that membership cards are issued; maintain attendance records at all meetings, ensure that guests sign the guest book and that they are introduced to those assembled at the meeting; issue copies of the Constitution and Bylaws, Workshop Rules and Regulations of the Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Rockhound's Code of Ethics, Vancouver City Code of Conduct, Respect Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures, Respect in our Club Orientation Pamphlet and the British Columbia Lapidary Society By-Laws to all members; issue annually a list of the names and addresses of all willing members to each member and to the Lapidary Society; keep the Records of Orientation Completion; keep the club advised of the number of members to date, and report to the Hastings Community Centre on attendance at each General or Special meeting held at the centre.
37. The Program Committee shall arrange for programs for the General meetings, and keep the Executive Committee advised of future program plans.
38. The Publications Committee shall prepare and issue the club's publication, "The Rocket", and such other publications as the Executive Committee may from time to time request. "The Rocket" shall be distributed electronically or pick-up to all interested members of the club, and to certain other clubs and individuals upon request. A copy will be posted in the workshop.
39. The Publicity Committee shall arrange for publicity for the club and the club's Annual Show; shall send news items to appropriate magazines and to affiliated associations; and attend to other special notices. As part of the Publicity Committee a Webmaster shall maintain the Club's website.
40. The Show Committee shall organize and co-ordinate the club's Annual Show, its participation in the Annual BC Gem Show of the Lapidary Society, and any other displays and shows in which the club may decide to participate.
41. The Social Committee shall be responsible for purchasing and serving refreshments for General meetings and for the Annual Club Show and other special functions as requested, as well as for arranging for the club's annual dinner.
42. The Ways & Means Committee shall be responsible for the raffle held at General meetings, including the purchase or receipt of donations of prizes, conduct of the raffle and recording of receipts and expenses, and shall propose special projects to raise money for the club if required from time to time.
43. The Workshop Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all equipment in the club's workshop is kept in working order; shall purchase new supplies and equipment; shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures connected with the workshop and report thereon to each General meeting; shall coordinate the arrangement of classes and, together with class instructors, ensure that the rules and regulations governing the use of the workshop are up to date and adhered to.
44. The Director-at-Large shall substitute for any officer of the club unable to attend any meeting (except that in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall substitute). Any officer of the club unable to attend a General meeting or a meeting of the Executive Committee should advise the Director-at-Large in advance of the meeting in question, and submit any report to be made through the Director-at-Large.
45. The Historian shall keep a journal of club activities; collect pictures, hard copy or soft copy, from members for scrapbooks and a slide collection of slides submitted by members as well as any other material pertaining to the history of the club.
46. The Sunshine Director shall be notified by members of the club of any special circumstances that might require sending "get well" cards, condolences or congratulations to members.
47. The Delegate to The Hastings Community Association's Board of Directors shall attend monthly meetings of that Board to report to it on the activities of the club and to keep the club informed of the activities of the Association.
48. The Delegates to The Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of British Columbia, as per BCLS rules, shall act as representatives of the club at meetings of the Lapidary Society, reporting to it the views of our club and reporting to the club on the activities of the Society. In particular, participation by one or more delegates or designate at the Annual General Meeting at Rendezvous is required.

Club Activities last summer – Pictures as promised

Abbotsford Tailgate Sale

Thanks, Richard Kotecki, for all photos



Bob, Alison and Richard



Vancouver Gem Show



Richard and, Bob with club equipment



display of club work

Coral is our “Rock of the Month”

Roz MacLean

I've been thinking about orange-coloured rocks this month and thought of Coral – that orange pink material we often see in jewellery. As an organic, coral isn't a rock, but there is a form of coral we are more likely to use in our workshops. More on that later. I have some coral jewellery, but I've since heard that harvesting is banned (not entirely correct) so it seems a good material to learn more about.

According to some sources, in Vedic astrology, Coral can be associated with the zodiac signs of Libra (September 22- October 23) as well as Pisces, Capricorn, Scorpio and Taurus and may be useful to Aries. Coral sounds like a good choice for an October newsletter.

As a rockhound, Coral presents a problem unless we use fossilized or agatized coral. Again, more on those later. According to Minerals.net, Coral is found in tropical to subtropical saltwater in the Red Sea, near the Midway Islands, the Canary Islands, the Taiwan and Malaysian Coast and along the Coast of Australia, Italy, (Sardinia), and Hawaii. Depending on the type of Coral and its location, it is harvested from depths of 50-3000 meters so requires scuba diving, a skill many of us don't have, so we would use purchased Coral. In many areas Coral harvesting is highly regulated and requires a special license. According to Gemsociety.org (the International Gem Society), if you are offered coral for sale be aware that it could be illegal. According to the Gemmological Society of America (GIA) sellers of “rough” should provide official documents that prove the origin of the material. To learn more about coral trade restrictions and protections for specific coral species, consult the websites of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES). Harvesting isn't banned worldwide, just in a few locations.

There are many types of coral, but only two types of coral used in jewellery or carvings. The most used form is Precious Coral, also known as Red Coral. It is the marine coral species *corallium rubrum* or one of the closely related species. It is calcareous coral composed of calcite and is white to pink to deep red.



<https://www.gemstones.com/gemopedia/coral>

Conchiolin corals are made of the same substance found in pearls and other shells. It is a Marine coral species of the antipatharia family and comes in black, brown and gold. Conchiolin corals are also tougher and less brittle than the calcareous corals. There is a rare blue coral that is closely related to the conchiolin corals. Often these corals tend to a shade of gray.

Corals form branching structures created from coral polyps. The gemstone we use is formed when the polyps die and the skeleton hardens. According to gemsociety.org, “Calcareous corals have wavy, fibrous structure and cavities from polyps...Conchiolin corals have a concentric, circular growth pattern (“tree rings”) and show white crescents in cross sections of branches.”

Coral may go by many names varying by color, place and growth habit. The most extensive information about the different types of coral, how to identify them and harvesting information for them can be found at <https://www.gemstones.com/gemopedia/coral>.

Most coral is real but there are a few imitations. According to the International Gem Society, Pierre Gilson developed “Gilson Corals” or “developed corals” in the 1970's to help protect natural corals from “destructive harvesting.” Other imitations maybe plastic, glass, dyed limestone, ceramics, bone or marble. Sometimes pieces may be “reconstructed” and glued together. When examined under magnification they lack the



Picture

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/coral-jewelry-and-gemstone-information/> This Nigerian beadwork is called “Coral Highness,” since the necklace combines red corals, marble stones and a gold pendant, it is also very suitable for a lady of royal lineage.
Photo and description by [Benita Nnachortam](#).
Licensed under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).

distinctive evidence of the growth patterns – either polyp shapes or the concentric growth and the imitations may appear granular. Natural coral has a matte finish unless it has been polished. Sometimes pieces of coral may be “reconstructed” and glued together.

For jewellery Coral is usually used as cabochons or beads or sometimes small, spiky branches are used. Sometimes it is used in small carvings. The small and branching nature of Coral limits the size of finished pieces. The value of Coral is based on colour with a uniform colour being a good benchmark. The colour in natural, untreated Coral is stable.

According to [gemsociety.org](https://www.gemsociety.org), “[Dyeing and bleaching](#) are common treatments for coral. Although dyeing can improve or even change a piece's color, the new color may fade, especially in sunlight. This process can be identified by magnification or a solvent test. The addition of dyes may produce [phosphorescence](#).” The deep red corals are the ones to watch for dyeing.

Also according to [gemsociety.org](https://www.gemsociety.org), “Bleaching produces gold coral from black. This is a stable treatment. This process can be identified by magnification (which reveals a different texture) ...”

Precious Coral has a Moh's Hardness of 3.5 and should be treated carefully. It is sensitive to heat and should be cleaned only with a damp cloth and dried. Ultrasonic cleaning is not recommended. Coral is best stored in a separate bag or pouch. Because coral is porous, it should not be worn in pools, or exposed to chemicals like in cosmetics and perfumes.

In spite of the concern for care, coral has been a long-lasting substance. It has been known and prized for over 30,000 years says the GIA. A coral necklace that dates from 6200- 5900 BC was found in Spain and there is evidence of trade of the Mediterranean coral throughout central Europe. Coral artifacts have been found in Celtic sites dating between 600 and 100 BC. The Greeks have a legend of Perseus about the origin of Coral. Native and aboriginal peoples throughout the regions where coral is found have long used it for personal decoration. In the 1500's the Portuguese traded Coral with peoples of West Africa where it was used in jewellery to signify high social rank. It was a favorite material in the Victorian age. Black Coral is the state gem of Hawaii.

Fossilized Coral or Agatized Coral is likely to be found amongst lapidary materials. If it has been agatized, the Fossil Coral is higher on the Mohs Scale than Precious Coral. The Fossil Coral can date back to 500 million years ago when more of the earth was covered by seas. Many of those lands are now above water. Harder than Precious Coral, possible for a rockhound to find and unlikely to be impacted by overharvesting concerns: this sounds like a material to look at another time. Agatized Coral also takes us back to our program of the last meeting and all we learned about agate and how things are agatized.

Image Source: <https://www.gemsociety.org/article/coral-jewelry-and-gemstone-information/>



Fossil coral



Red Coral



Yellow (Gold) Coral



Images source:
<https://www.gemstones.com/gemopedia/coral>