

THE ROCKET

May 2023

deadline for next issue
June 9, 2023

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

Thank you to our guest editor, **Jayne Wellygan** for producing our April Newsletter.

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

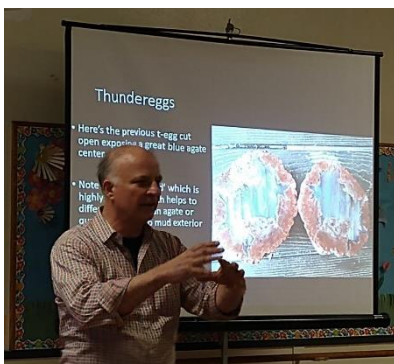
Next Meeting: Friday – May 26 at 7PM
at Hastings Community Center Hall

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.

Program from last Meeting (April 28)

Harley Waterson gave two excellent presentations at our last meeting! The first was on Silicates and Thundereggs where we learned that Thundereggs are a specific formation of agate and can be hollow which makes them a geode. We also learned about Tilt Thundereggs and Fluorescent Thundereggs with lots of powerpoint pictures and samples passed around.

Harley's second talk was on making doublets and triplets of opals and other rocks. He had many tips and tricks to achieve a good product. Harley also inspired us to experiment and try something new with the rocks we play with.





Last meeting pictures Roz

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	Robert



Photos: Richard Kotecki

Tim or Linda will temporarily do Monday nights. Thanks Tim and Linda. Get Well soon Richard.

Our Club News

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 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!

Hastings Rockhounds at the BC Gem and Mineral Show

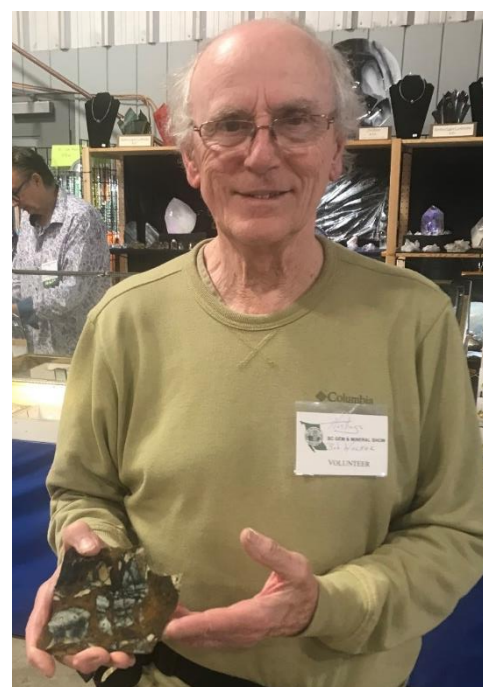
What did you find?

I did not see everyone but...

Renee found Lace Agate

Alison found Madagascar Ocean Picture

Bob found some Morrisonite



We had 3 club cases with exhibits from members:

They did not all have labels so we'll have to confirm who was there at the meeting May 26



Guenter Club member and BC Lapidary Arts Award Winner Had a case



And a close up



Club Members demonstrated
Nigel on Friday – Faceting



And There was a Great Map of Rocks in BC

as leaving (or entering) the show



Upcoming Events of Interest

Rendezvous



Rendezvous Quesnel, BC, June 9 — 11, 2023, Barlow Creek Hall, Quesnel, BC. Rendezvous is the British Columbia Lapidary Society's annual gathering and features field trips, displays, auctions, workshops and demonstrations, and our annual general meeting. Organized by the Quesnel Tumbling Rivers Rock Club and the Prince George Club with the assistance of the British Columbia Lapidary Society, it will be held at Barlow Creek Hall and Campground. More information on the BC Lapidary Society website. Registration is now available on the BCLS website. Many field trips and wire wrapping sessions must be pre-booked.

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

Shows

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

June 3 & 4, 2023, **Selkirk (Kokanee) Rock & Mineral Club** Castlegar Recreation Complex

June 3 & 4, 2023, **Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club** Campbell River Community Centre

June 9-11, 2023, **Quesnel Tumbling Rivers Rock Club** Barlow Creek Hall, Quesnel

July 14,15,16, 2023, **1120 Rock Club**, Rutland Centennial Hall, Kelowna

September 16 & 17, 2023, **Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Show** Old Age Pensioners Hall, Aldergrove

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

November 17,18, 19, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Show**, Matsqui Community Hall, Abbotsford

Tailgate Sales

May 27,2023 **Shuswap Rock Club Tailgate**, Centenoka Park Mall (West Parking Lot), Salmon Arm

July 15, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Tailgate (July)** Central Heights Church Parking Lot

August 20, 2023, **Fraser Valley Tailgate (August)** Royal Canadian Legion Branch 265 Parking Lot

September 9, 2023, **Abbotsford Rock & Gem Tailgate** Central Heights Church Parking Lot

BC Lapidary Society News

August 15, 2023 – anticipated deadline for [scholarships](#). Keep an eye on the BC Lapidary Society website.

The BCLS publishes [a calendar](#) each year, featuring 13 photographs of rocks and minerals from British Columbia and the dates of rock shows across the province. The photographs included are determined by way of contest.

The contest is open to all BCLS members. Enter for a chance to win one of 13 spots on our 2024 calendar. The prize for each photo chosen is a copy of the calendar and a lapidary item valued at not less than \$20. **Contest closes Canada Day July 1st 2023.** See full contest rules on the BC Lapidary Society website - see address below. Remember, our calendar lists all the BCLS club shows. Help make our calendar great!

<http://www.bclapidity.com/rock-mineral-calendar.php>



In 2023 our club member, Nick Tsougrianis had his picture chosen for January.

Field Trip News

Earlier this year the BCLS sent a notice regarding Field Trips, especially those hosted by the Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club and Abbotsford Rock & Gem Club – which have been open to all BCLS members and promoted on the BCLS Facebook page. **Field Trips will now require that all participants show a valid BCLS membership card when registering at the meet up location.**

As always, guests are welcome on field trips provided they are sponsored by a participant with a valid BCLS membership card.

Please bring a valid BCLS membership card to our field trips going forward.

Regards

Trevor Christie
Wagonmaster, Fraser Valley Rock & Gem Club

BC Lapidary Society Classifieds

There are currently many items for sale through the BCLS Classifieds section on the BCLS Website. Do you need some new equipment for a home workshop? There is a faceting machine and related supplies, 2 slab saws, a wet tile saw, some carat meters and pocket scales, a motor speed control, Display cases, a small tromel, and even a woodworking belt disc sander.



I was looking for a green lapidary stone for May and thought of

Aventurine

By Roz MacLean



From Wikipedia

I just bought an interesting slab at the Rock and Gem show and wondered about the difference between Green Quartz and Aventurine. Then I went “down through the rabbit hole”...now you can come too.

According to Geology.com: Aventurine (spelled without a “d” as the second letter – I had a lot to learn), is “a variety of translucent quartz or quartzite with abundant small plate- or flake-shaped inclusions. Light entering the quartz strikes these inclusions and reflects from them. This produces a sparkly appearance known as “aventurescence.” The inclusions can also impart a distinct, and often beautiful, color to the material.” If the stone doesn’t have lots of small, sparkly bits, it is not aventurine.

The term came from glass makers in Italy in the 1600s. They accidentally added tiny bits of copper to some molten glass that made a sparkly glass they called *avventura* or in English *by chance*. Aventurine glass is still made today. The most commonly known variety is a popular man-made material called goldstone that is plain glass with copper flakes added. Coloured goldstone is made by using coloured glass.



Goldstone samples

This phenomenon is not confined to quartz. The phenomena appearing in other stones makes naming interesting. The geology.com site describes sunstones and iolite with aventurescence. Sunstones with aventurescence are known as “aventurescent feldspars” and iolites are known as “iolite sunstones.” Today the word **Aventurine** is used for the quartz stone with inclusions that sparkle when hit by light. The inclusions can be small reflective grains of metal or mineral. They are usually a member of the mica group of minerals but can be hematite or goethite.

Aventurine is a Silicate - SiO_2 with a MOHS hardness of 7 down to 6.5 if there are abundant inclusions. It has a colourless streak – it is harder than the streak plate. It is translucent to nearly opaque. The most distinctive diagnostic is aventurescence.



I thought all Aventurine was green but it can come in many colours. The inclusions impact the colour of an Aventurine. The most common inclusion is fuchsite, a green chromium-rich mica which gives the green colour of most aventurine. Another inclusion is lepidolite, a lithium-rich mica that gives the quartzite a pink, red or slightly purple colour. Muscovite is another





member of the mica group found as inclusions giving a gray, yellowish or silvery Aventurine. Ilmenite (iron-titanium oxide) that also gives a gray, yellowish or silvery Aventurine. Hematite and goethite (iron-oxide) as inclusions produce pink, orange, red and brown Aventurine.

Aventurine and translucent quartz without aventurescence are often dyed bright colors and used to produce low-cost cabochons often seen in inexpensive jewelry. These should not be called “aventurine” but the name is used as it seems more appealing than “transparent quartz.”

Aventurine is used to produce beads and cabochons used in all types of jewellery including rings because the hardness of the stone. But there can be some challenges working with Aventurine. Sometimes the mica inclusions are mostly laying in the same direction and makes cleavage or parting of the stone more likely. It can look like a fracture. Sometimes the mica inclusions are so large or abundant they affect the working of the stone by making pits in the polished surface when the mica pulls out or intersects the polished surface. Geology.com notes Aluminum oxide, cerium oxide, and tin oxide will all produce a bright polish on aventurine.



from the Gem-A Archives. photographed by Pat Daly.

Aventurine is sometimes used to make bowls, vases, and small sculptures. Green aventurine is a popular and less expensive alternative for jade. As long as the buyer knows they are not buying jade, the items can be very attractive. Another confusions is that one synonym for Aventurine is “Indian Jade” (India is a source of green aventurine). Another synonym is Greenlandite (because it is found in Greenland).

Some treatments have been applied to Aventurine to pass it off as something else. In 2014, The Gem Institute of America had a rare example of a bangle submitted in Taipei being called “ice-jade” but was a polymer impregnated aventurine quartz. It was identified with a spectrometer and a long-wave UV light. Natural aventurine has a weak reaction to long-wave UV light, but polymer will show a strong blue reaction.



Aventurine deposits are found all over the world: India, Russia, China, Austria, Spain, Brazil, Chile, Canada and the US. India and Brazil are the biggest producers. Some stones from McLaren’s Bay in Canada are even multi-coloured.

Aventurine are considered lucky stones and some believe they are associated with money, and healing of the heart or eyes. They are a stone for the zodiac sign Taurus (April 20 to May 21) which makes it seem appropriate for this month’s article. As for the slab I bought at the gem show, it is green quartz – as advertised.