



October 2016

Volume 44 Issue 10

Beehive Buzzer

The official Newsletter of the Beehive Rock and Gem Club, Ogden UT

Beehive Rock & Gem Club Meeting

Tuesday, Oct 25, 2016 — 7:00 PM

Golden Hours Senior Ctr, 650 East 25th St, Ogden

At this month's meeting, in addition to an exciting program, we will also be holding our annual club officer elections!

The following officers are being elected: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Every adult member in good standing can run one of the positions and is entitled to one vote. Voting is done by secret ballot.

Nominations may be made from the floor for any of the offices at the time of the elections with the consent of the nominee.

If you have any questions, would like to run for any of the above positions or would like to nomination another person, please contact Nancy Anderson at 801-425-7470.

This Has Been a Rough Year for Utah Rockhounds

By Jim and Leora Alexander

First, we lost longtime Rockhound friend, Golden Spike member and former Beehive member, Bob Whitehorn.

Then in early September Wasatch Gem & Mineral Society of Salt Lake Area lost a long time supporter, "Rich" Richardson. The last few times the Wasatch Club met with us at Floy, Rich was right in the middle of potluck-setup plus always ready to help otherwise. His father, Dean Richardson, was a pillar of the Wasatch Club, until he moved "south" to Arizona. Dean helped organize and was President of the now-defunct Utah Federation of Rock Clubs.

Then Beehive & Golden Spike member Clix Swaner lost his son. They were both at Floy Wash last year.

Carroll Crittenden of both clubs lost his brother about the same time.

Next, Ivan Rudd was a very active member of Golden Spike for many years, an important part of their show committee, Club Officer and former Northwest Federation President. He always was sure all the lights were on in cases and on the dealer tables. His wife, Liz, has preceded him.



The Beehive club lost Life Member Ray Nyce on Sept 25. Many of our members met and learned from him. He tried almost every type of lapidary. He was the original sphere-maker in our area, making his machines with old washing machine motors. He mentored Ray Law as he

learned to make the spheres we have all seen and love. Ray & Lolly joined the Beehive Rock & Gem Club soon after we did in the 1970s. He was President or Vice President/Trip Leader for years, usually trading off with Jim. He was also Treasurer for the Utah Federation of Rock Clubs. Lolly was Beehive Secretary or Editor for many years. At that time, the wives of the President and V.P. were the Hospitality crew, heading up potlucks on trips, Holiday Party, Birthday Parties, etc. We have personally missed them since they "retired" from the Club.

When we saw Lolly, she was grateful for the "Rock" people who came to the Family Visitation, [Obituary: <http://www.aaronsmortuary.com/notices/Raymond-Nyce>]

Beehive Rock and Gem Club owes its survival to people like them. We must hang in there, Beehivers! Learn, do and pass it on, following their example!

Club Calendar*

October

25 Tue Monthly Club Meeting, 7 pm
 31 Oct Halloween

November

3 Thu Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
 6 Sun End Daylight Saving Time
 11 Fri Veterans Day
22 Tue Monthly Club Meeting, 7 pm
 24 Thu Thanksgiving

December

1 Thu Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
 25 Sun Christmas

* (Club activities in Bold)

You can pay by cash or check at the club meetings.
 Pay at the table where you sign in.

You can also pay by sending a check to:

Beehive Rock & Gem Club
 P.O. Box 1011
 Ogden, UT 84402

Rockhounds

There are hounds, you know, that hunt the fox.
 Now, we are the hounds that hunt the rocks.
 We have rocks in the car; rocks in the shed;
 Some even say we have rocks in the head!

But we love to hunt them on river and hill
 And to cut one in two is always a thrill.
 Although you may travel far from your home
 You'll find nothing as grand as a good agate stone.
 God hid them in his mysterious way
 That they may be found in our time and day
 So we might dig and hunt and hike
 Each one is different, no two are alike.

To be out there in your walking shoes
 Is always the cure for the worst of the blues.
 So come with us, have a good look around.
 And you may become an avid rock hound.

Paul Graupner, Broadus, Montana

*From "Meanderings of a Montana Rockhound"
 Tidewater Gem & Mineral Society webpage*

Via *Rockhounder*, Oct 2016

Friendly Reminder
Time to Pay Annual Dues for 2017



Yes, it is time for club membership renewal!

Annual Club Fees for the upcoming year are **due October 1, 2016**. Members who have not paid by January 1, 2016 will be dropped from the club rolls. Don't let that happen!

Annual membership dues are **STILL ONLY:**
 \$11 Adult Single
 \$16 Couple or Family
 \$5 Junior Single (Under 18 and not part of a family membership)



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Woodward Ranch Field Trip

September 15-19, 2016

By Christina Johnson

The Woodward Ranch was such a great opportunity to visit numerous locations around Nephi. Belinda Woodward and son Tristan lead four to ten members to three or four different collecting areas each day, over the four days. They did an excellent job!

On Thursday, Roger, Mike and Belinda all found small pieces of Palm Wood that had clearly defined black and white vascular bundles. It is apparent from the quality of these pieces why the palm from this location is so desirable. The cell structure certainly is lovely.

Friday we went to two locations for Furner Agate, jasper and wood. The jasper had decorative patterns in a mixture of shades of gold, bronze, black, yellow and red. It will make beautiful cabochons. Some of the opalized wood was a lime green color. I was very pleased to find wood like none I'd ever found before. There was also white common opal that was highly fluorescent to a neon shade of yellowish green. We went back to the palm area but all struck out this time.

Saturday, off to Levan for Golden Swirl agate, then later in the day, Honey onyx and Silver Lace onyx. There was some talk about the color of Honey Onyx not being stable when exposed to sunlight, which lead me to test it with my black light when I got home. Wow! One piece has all the colors of a rainbow under short wave UV. It will be interesting to see if its reaction under the black light also fades over time. We had fun looking through the rocks at the Woodward Rock Shop and I found two beautiful Texas Springs limb casts that had to come home with me. Dennis and Nancy arrived, Dick, Belinda and Tristan joined the seven of us, as well as a brand new member to the club, Ed. The pot-luck hit the spot and we zonked out quickly afterward.

Sunday, with help from another son, we found Paul Bunyan Holey Agate which formed in sedimentary limestone. It comes in shades of gold and white, yellow and white, and red and white with some hints of blue and has a porous texture. Most is not cutting material quality but I found it very interesting from a geological perspective and it will make nice display pieces. Most chalcedony and agate I have found is from rhyolite with much less found in sedimentary environments. Here we could see it formed seams as crack fillings and also as nodules in solid limestone. Next stop Shadow Agate hill, which has chalcedony

eroding out of the decomposing volcanic rhyolite. Some pieces exhibit narrow fortification banding which gives it the "shadow" effect. Sometimes agate of this type when sliced very thin can have a rainbow of colors when held up to the light. Then it is called iris agate. Montana agate is famous for its iris agate. I had to head home but I have heard tales of an amazing find of wood that was located after I left. Wouldn't you know!





Photos by Christina Johnson

The "Morphs"

By Bob Rush

A **pseudomorph** occurs when an original mineral such as aragonite or barite dissolves and is replaced by another mineral such as quartz. If a mineral such as aragonite or barite that has grown in a cavity or fracture is coated by a new mineral such as agate or quartz as a film, preserving the shape of the original mineral it is called an **encrustation epimorph** (meaning "outer form"). The coated mineral (aragonite or barite) is called an **endomorph** (meaning "inner form"). If the **endomorph** later dissolves away leaving hollow cavities they are known as **perimorphs**.



Agate pseudomorphs after Aragonite.
From alaintruong2014.wordpress.com



Encrustation epimorphs (left)
Drusy quartz pineapples covered with
golden epimorph crystals of dogtooth
calcite. www.wmctucker.com

Endomorph of Calcite and aragonite
(right) www.minerals.info



CABS WITH CURVES

By Bob Rush

Lately I have been working on incorporating more inside curves in my cabs. I want to have the advanced lapidary students in the lapidary courses at Camp Paradise to include inside curves in their cab. I also intend to have my students at MJC do the same thing.

The techniques in making them include the standard cabbing steps as well as grinding the inside curves with a 1" silicon carbide mizzly wheel. I sand the curves on an 8" expando wheel with a very well worn 220 grit silicon carbide belt. I slide the belt about 1/4" over the edge of the wheel and use the flexing edge to reach into the curve. The polishing is done with a 1/2" diameter wood wheel made from a dowel and coated with moist Rapid Polish.

The sample cabs are made from Piranha Agate and the large cab is about 5" tall.



Source: *Ghost Sheet*, Sept 2016

The Curious Case of the Crying Calcite

By Sara Kurth

Over the holiday season, Museum staff noticed something alarming. The Angel Wing calcite was crying! Well, it wasn't really crying, but it filled the case with water that leaked out behind the wall. There was no water on the outside walls and the water was relegated to just the single case. The mineral specimen was moved so the water could be cleaned and the cause of the water could be investigated. It turns out that there are some very interesting properties associated with the mineral.

Angel Wing calcite is a relatively new name for this variety of calcite. In fact, it is only within the New Age scene that the name is used. Calcite is a calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) mineral found in sedimentary limestone rock. The mineral calcite comes in many colors and crystal structures. Several polymorphs, or minerals with the same chemical composition but different crystal shapes exist, including aragonite and vaterite. Calcite is the most stable form of CaCO_3 – aragonite will change into calcite under extreme temperatures greater than 380°F .

Among some of the interesting attributes of calcite is its ability to double refract. This property allows objects viewed through the crystal to appear doubled. Using the transparent form of calcite, Iceland spar, the double refraction property has been utilized for optical purposes, including early use by Vikings for navigation purposes. In fact, ancient sea creatures called trilobites had calcite optic lenses, useful for seeing predators in murky waters (Schwab, 2002). Calcite will readily dissolve when exposed to acid. It is this reason that marble, metamorphosed limestone, will break down over time when exposed to the elements.

This does not explain why our Angel Wing calcite was crying. Calcite is hygroscopic, which means that it is able to absorb water from the environment (Rougvie, 2016). Much like salt can become clumpy in humid summer months, calcite can, over time, absorb water, which will eventually destroy the crystal structure.

For unknown reasons, on December 21st, our Angel Wing calcite spontaneously released all the absorbed water on a single day. Perhaps there was a significant change in humidity in the Museum, or the temperature fluctuations in December caused a significant change in the environment. Whatever the reason, it is now clear that humidity control for the specimen is necessary. To alleviate the humidity, a moisture absorbent material has been placed in the case, much like placing rice into your salt container. The Angel Wing calcite

was returned to its case on permanent display.

References

Rougvie, J.R., January 6, 2016, personal communication, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin

Schwab, J.R., 2002, British Journal of Ophthalmology, v. 86(4).

Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, 220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126

Via Conglomerate Apr 2016, Rockhounder, Oct 2016

The looking-glass world of “contronyms” - words that are their own antonyms.

- **Left** can mean either remaining or departed. If the gentlemen have withdrawn to the drawing room for after-dinner cigars, who’s left? (The gentlemen have left and the ladies are left.)
- **Dust**, along with the next two words, is a noun turned into a verb meaning either to add or to remove the thing in question. Only the context will tell you which it is. When you dust are you applying dust or removing it? It depends whether you’re dusting the crops or the furniture.
- **Stone** is another verb to use with caution. You can stone some peaches, but please don’t stone your neighbor (even if he says he likes to get stoned).
- **Off** means ‘deactivated,’ as in “to turn off,” but also ‘activated,’ as in “The alarm went off.”
- **Weather** can mean ‘to withstand or come safely through,’ as in “The company weathered the recession,” or it can mean ‘to be worn away’: “The rock was weathered.”
- **Out of** means “outside” or “inside”: “I hardly get out of the house because I work out of my home.”

The contronym (also spelled “contranym”) : goes by many names, including “auto-antonym,” “antagonym,” “enantiodrome,” “self-antonym,” “antilogy” and “Janus word”.

Via Boulder Buster, Sept 2016, Rockhounder, Oct 2016

October Birthstone: Opal or Tourmaline

Color: Varying, or for Tourmaline: Light Rose

Symbol Of: Faithfulness, Confidence, Stability

October's birthstone treats the eye to an explosion of shimmering colors, not unlike those of a magnificent rainbow following a summer rain. The Opal derives its name from the Latin word "opalus," meaning precious jewel. Prized for its unique ability to refract and reflect specific wavelengths of light, the Opal was called "Cupid Paederos" by the Romans, meaning a child beautiful as love. One legendary explanation for this gemstone's origin is that it fell from heaven in a flash of fiery lightning. Ancient monarchs treasured Opals, both for their beauty and for their presumed protective powers. They were set into crowns and worn in necklaces to ward off evil and to protect the eyesight. These gemstones were also ground and ingested for their healing properties and to ward off nightmares. The Opal dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas

where ancient geothermal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica, combined with water, were deposited into the cracks and cavities of the bedrock, forming Opal.

This gemstone actually contains up to 30% water, so it must be protected from heat or harsh chemicals, both of which will cause drying and may lead to cracking and loss of iridescence. Opal must also be guarded from blows, since it is relatively soft and breaks easily. Most of the world's Opal deposits are found in Southern Australia.

Other sources of this gemstone are Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada. Quality Opal is very expensive, made more so by the caution that must be exercised in cutting, polishing and setting it into jewelry.

A gift of Opal is symbolic of faithfulness and confidence. And the powerful energy radiating from this fiery gemstone will surely illuminate any occasion!

Alternate Birthstone

An alternate birthstone for October, Pink Tourmaline has the seemingly magical property of pyroelectricity. Scientifically speaking, this means that when heated, the gem takes on a static electric charge, making it capable of attracting lightweight objects. No wonder this gemstone was revered for its mystical properties centuries ago! Considered the "stone of the muse," it was believed to stimulate the

creative process of its wearer. Pink varieties of Tourmaline range in color from pastel pink to ruby red and are mined in Brazil, Afghanistan, Burma, and India. A gift of this stone is symbolic of hope.

Learn about the mineral properties of the opal at [Conservation and Survey Division](http://Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska) of the University of Nebraska. via aboutbirthstones.com



Source: *Golden Spike News*, Oct 2015

Officers & Club Information

2016 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Nancy Anderson	801-425-7470
Vice President	Jason Meyer	801-690-6479
Secretary	Dave Offret	801-791-6081
Treasurer	David Law	801-644-4931

Activity Committee and Chairpersons

Field Trip Leader	Roger Bush	801-388-8605
Field Trip Coordinator	Dennis Anderson	801-425-7470
Program	Tom & Debbie Larsen	

		385-319-2808
Door Prize	Jim Alexander	801-399-0785
Hospitality	Linda Pilcher	801-392-7620
Communications	Steve Smith	801-731-4216
Membership	David Law	801-644-4931
Mini-show	Alice Crittenden	801-547-7781
Safety	Dennis Anderson	801-425-7470
Publicity	Mark Acker	801-475-4705
Buzzer Editor	Dave Harris	385-205-0304
Associate	Linda Pilcher	801-392-7620
Associate	Leora Alexander	801-399-0785
Calling Committee	Linda Pilcher	801-392-7620

Federation Representatives

Rocky Mountain Federation Delegate	Dan Siler
Utah Federation Delegate	Open
Public Land Advisory Committee	Jim Alexander

Club Affiliations

The Beehive Rock & Gem Club began in April of 1970 and is a member of the following:

- Utah Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
- Scribe

Advertising Rates:

For sale ads are permitted for members at no charge. Business advertisements will be charged at the rate of \$5.00 for ¼ page or 15 cents per word for less than ¼ page.

Objectives of the Club

The purpose of our club is to stimulate interest in the collection of rocks, minerals, gem materials, and legal fossils. To discuss and impart our knowledge of the different phases of collecting, cutting,

polishing and displaying them. Also to organize educational meetings, field trips and similar events while enjoying and protecting our natural resources.

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues for adult members are:

\$11	Adult Single
\$16	Couple or Family
\$5	Junior Single (Under 18 and not part of a family membership)

Dues are due October 1st of each year.

Meetings

General club meetings are held at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Golden Hours Senior Center located at 650 E 25th St, Ogden, Utah.

All visitors are welcome!

Board Meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Golden Hours Senior Center located at 650 E 25th St, Ogden, Utah.

Mailing Address

Beehive Rock & Gem Club
P.O. Box 1011, Ogden, UT 84402

Newsletter

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