

# Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

January 2012

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

MEETING AT LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER 1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628 6:00 P.M. 3rd Thursday of month Visitors Welcome

See the NFMS web site at [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms) See OUR web site for the club at [www.northidahomineralclub.com](http://www.northidahomineralclub.com)

MEETING ON JANUARY 19- 6:00 PM

PROGRAM: CUTTING AND FACETING OF THE  
GREAT AMERICAN TOPAZ.

LEON AGEE WILL PRESENT THE SLIDE PROGRAM OF HIS MANUFACTURE OF THE EQUIPMENT TO FACET THIS ENORMOUS GEM, AND THEN HOW THE FACETING WAS DONE...AN AMAZING PROGRAM.

There will be a silent auction and refreshments by Bev and Bob Bockman

**The American Golden Topaz has local history!**

**(from Wikipedia) The American Golden Topaz a 172 faceted topaz weighing 22,892.5 carats (4.5785 kg), is the largest cut yellow topaz in the world, and one of the largest faceted gems of any type in the world. Originating from Minas Gerais, Brazil, it was cut by Leon Agee over a period of two years from an 11.8 Kg (26 lb) stream rounded cobble owned by Drs. Marie and Edgar Borgatta. It was contributed jointly by the Borgattas and by Rockhound hobbyists of America to the Smithsonian Institution in 1988 and is displayed in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.**

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**DECEMBER MEETING at Top of China on December 15 was enjoyed by quite a few members and guests. No official business was conducted except for gifts from the club and club members of assorted rock items. The president for 2012 is Bill Johnson, the Vice President is James Finckbone, the Secretary is Diane Rose ( secretary pro tem while Diane is in AZ for Feb and March will be Tammy Madland). Treasurer remains Mike Burton, who is doing triple duty as membership chairman and webmaster. Show Chairman for 2012 is Bill Johnson, Federation Director is Everett Headrick and I am almost sure that his federation delegate will be Dale Ruperd. Hope I am not mistaken, Dale.**

**Both Dale and (our retiring president) Warren Price have been doing some beautiful faceted gems.**

**We will be paying our respects at the January meeting to Tom Grady who died this fall after a brief illness. He leaves his wife, Ruth. Please sign a card at the January meeting to be sent to Ruth. Also we “lost” Norman and Mary Sheard to San Antonio, Texas in a whirlwind move just before Christmas. I hope they keep in touch as I do not have their current address. Norm has been a club member for many years, and a resident of Post Falls for a LONG time. His business name was ANCHOR GEMS and he has been an accomplished jeweler (and rockhound) for years. BB**

#### SHOW REPORT—(JUNE 2 & 3—2012)

So far we have 15 vendors either promised or paid, and recently have been able to contact several more with the prospect of participating in the June show. We will have some of our “old favorites” and some brand new to us. So it should be an interesting time. Things are changing every year. The Rathdrum Star is out of business, and we depended on their advertising for contacts in all the small towns of Northern Idaho. Any ideas? Am printing the flyers for use by club members, so if anyone needs any before mid spring please speak up. Some of our vendors like them to help advertise for us. Also, our radio station will probably be unavailable. I have not talked to Jill yet.

We need help making prizes for the kids games—the ring toss and the treasure dig, and the wheel of fortune. I personally have many things that can be used. We just have to make a time and place to work on some. How about some ideas from the members???

This is a tough time to have a show!! We will need everyone pulling together to make our money for rent, storage and scholarship. *Please plan to be here the first weekend in June.*

C2 The Press Friday, October 28, 2011

## North Idaho

# 'I was there'

"I was there." Those are three powerful words in the right circumstances. They imply a first-hand knowledge that only a few can legitimately claim. In grade school we were taught that primary sources, those who were there,



**Tom Crimmins**

**My Turn**

I retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1998 after a 32-year career. During my career, I was involved with the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) and subsequent RARE II processes on several forests in California. These processes were intended to identify any and all areas that could potentially be considered for wilderness designation and then, once and for all, make recommendations for areas that should be considered for wilderness designations and areas that should be managed for multiple use.

It is important to note exactly what "wilderness" means. While many of us would use the term to describe a host of outdoor

environments, in the context of public lands management, wilderness has a very specific definition.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines areas eligible for wilderness designation by Congress as areas where "...the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," and "...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable."

As forest managers, my colleagues and I were tasked with determining which areas of national forest lands met the criteria above and to make recommendations about which areas should ultimately be designated as full-fledged wilderness areas. In an effort to be comprehensive we cast a broad net. We included huge swaths of land, now known as Inventoried Roadless Areas, in the review process with the understanding that those areas that were evaluated and found unsuitable for wilderness designation would continue to be managed under the same rules and processes as other forest lands. We were wrong.

As it stands Inventoried

Roadless Areas, including the nearly 36 million acres my colleagues and I determined were unsuitable for wilderness designation are still being managed to protect their "wilderness" characteristics. This doesn't make sense.

One might ask, "What's the harm in managing the lands this way?" The short answer is that wilderness is the most restrictive land management tool available. So restrictive that it literally takes an act of Congress to designate a wilderness area. As a result these nearly 36 million acres are, by and large, being managed to restrict all sorts of uses including mountain biking, motorized recreation, timber harvesting and a whole host of other activities. The national forests are known as the "Land of Many Uses," but that doesn't apply to these lands. We can do better.

Without a doubt there are areas of forest lands that are appropriate for wilderness designation. That is what the RARE and RARE II processes were all about; however, the lands we identified as unsuitable for wilderness should provide opportunities for multiple uses, which is a big part of the Forest Service's mission.

There is a bill pend-

ing before Congress that would, finally, set this straight. Rep. McCarthy (R-Calif.) has introduced legislation, H.R. 1581, that would implement our recommendations and lift the restrictive management of IRAs and direct that these lands be managed for multiple uses. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill and have testified before Congress to urge its passage.

To be clear, this bill would not open these lands to unfettered access to all uses. Instead, only the lands that my colleagues and I found unsuitable for wilderness designation will once again be managed by forest managers through forest planning and other public processes that will identify the best, most appropriate uses for these lands, which in some cases may be no change in their management at all.

Quite simply this bill would accomplish what forest managers thought we were accomplishing years ago. I know, I was there.

Tom Crimmins retired from the Forest Service after 32 years of service and is currently active as trail management consultant.

## Garnet

The term 'garnet', refers to a group of more than ten different gemstones of similar chemical composition. Red is the color most often encountered, but the garnet also exists in various shades of green, a tender to intense yellow, a fiery orange and some fine earth-colored nuances. The only color not offered is blue. Furthermore, the world of the garnets is also rich in rarities such as star garnets and stones whose color changes depending on whether they are seen in daylight or artificial light.

Garnets hardness is 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale. With a few minor exceptions it applies to all the members of the garnet group, and it is the reason for the excellent wearing qualities of these gemstones. The only thing they really don't like is being knocked about or subjected to improper heat treatment. A further plus is their high refractive index, the cause of the garnet's great brilliance. The shape of the raw crystals is also interesting. Garnet means something like 'the grainy one', coming from the Latin 'granum', for grain. This makes reference not only to the typical roundish shape of the crystals, but also to the color of the red garnet, which often puts one in mind of the seeds of a ripe pomegranate. In the Middle Ages, the red garnet was also called the 'carbuncle stone'. Garnets are found in jewelry from early Egyptian, Greek and Roman times.

Many an early explorer and traveler liked to carry a garnet with him, for the garnet was popular as a talisman and protective stone, as it was believed to light up the night and protect its bearer from evil and disaster. Not only do garnets have many colors; they also have many names: almandine, andradite, demantoid, grossularite, hessonite, pyrope, rhodonite, tsavorith, spessartine, and uvarovite. First, there is the fiery red pyrope. Its spirited red, often with a slight brownish nuance, was a gemstone color much in demand in the 18th and 19th centuries. Garnets from a find in the north-eastern part of the former kingdom of Bohemia - small stones of a wonderful hue - were world-famous at that time. In Europe, they were worked into jewelry a good deal, especially in the Victorian period. That genuine Bohemian garnet jewelry was traditionally set with a large number of small stones, which were close to one another like the seeds of a pomegranate, with their red sparkle. And today too, garnets are still found in former Czechoslovakia and set close together according to the old tradition, the attractiveness of classical garnet jewelry thus consisting mainly in the beauty of the gemstones.

For the 'almandines', named after Alabanda, an ancient city, have a chemical composition that differs somewhat from that of the pyrope. A further garnet variety, also red, is the rhodonite, a mixed crystal of almandine and pyrope. This popular garnet is of a magnificent velvety red with a fine violet or raspberry-red undertone. Originally found in the USA, it now comes mainly from the gemstone mines in East Africa, India and Sri Lanka.

At the Kunene River, on the border between Namibia and Angola, a deposit of radiant orange to red 'spessartites' was discovered. The spessartite was originally named after the site of a find made in Germany. Spessartites had led a quiet, shadowy existence as stones for gemstone lovers and collectors until that momentous discovery in Namibia. There were hardly any used in jewelry because they were so very rare. But this new find changed the gemstone world. Since then, its wealth has increased by the addition of this unusually fine, intensely radiant orange-red gemstone. Under the trade name 'mandarin-garnet', this wonderfully orange noble garnet became world-famous in no time at all. Unfortunately, the mine in the quiet hills of Namibia was only able to be exploited for a few years. The search for gemstones in the remote bush country began to involve too much effort and became too expensive. So fears grew that this highly precious gemstone, might only become available in rare individual cases. That is, until another deposit of the orange treasures was discovered, this time in Nigeria. Their color and brilliance are so similar to those of the mandarin garnets from Namibia that only an experienced specialist can discern the subtle differences.

**2012 OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.****PRESIDENT—BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C) 7653009****VICE-PRESIDENT JAMES FINCKBONE 208 752 1838****SECRETARY DIANE ROSE, 659-6173****TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)****FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643****FEDERATION DELEGATE OPEN****WSMC DELEGATE OPEN****REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN OPEN****HOSPITALITY BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384****FIELD TRIP OPEN****MEMBERSHIP MIKE BURTON & Bob Bockman****SHOW 2012—BILL JOHNSON 765 3099****NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN****PROGRAMS—CLUB MEMBERS & BEV****WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317 c**

Now for the green garnets. Several green varieties are known. First there is 'grossularite', created by Nature in many fine tones of yellow, green and brown and esteemed for its many fine interim hues and earth colors. Here too, there was a spectacular find: in the final year of the 20th century, extensive grossularite deposits were discovered in Mali. These Mali garnets captivate us with their great brilliance. Even the brown, which is otherwise not terribly popular, seems vivid and natural, and goes particularly well with ethnologically inspired trends.

Probably the best known green garnet is the tsavorite, which also belongs to the grossularite group. Tiffany's in New York gave this name to the previous emerald-green stone which was discovered in 1967 by a British geologist, Campbell R. Bridges, in the north-east of Tanzania - near the Tsavo National Park. The green of the tsavorite runs from vivid and light to deep and velvety and, like all garnets, it has particularly good brilliance.

The star of green garnets is the rare demantoid, a gemstone for connoisseurs and gemstone lovers. Its brilliance is positively tremendous, even greater than that of the diamond. Meanwhile, the demantoid is no longer quite as scarce in the gemstone trade, thanks to some new finds in Namibia.

This article is excerpted from one in the Hellgate Breezes, Missoula MT. January 2007 BB

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ATTENTION—THOSE WITH INTERNET SERVICE—[www.fs.fed.us/kipz](http://www.fs.fed.us/kipz). Read about the draft revised Land Management Plans (forest) and draft environmental statements for the Idaho Panhandle Forest for public review and comment.. Of course the local office had their meeting on the 10th of January before we got this notice, but there will be one in Sandpoint on the 23th of Jan. at the Ranger District Office.

LOOK UP [www.amlands.org.6652/96212.HTML](http://www.amlands.org.6652/96212.HTML) and open SB-6057 Read especially pages 8 through 11. Also read "Some Rules for Collecting Fossils and Minerals. Very good and easy to read information. Washington state is doing something now—Check your NFMS newsletter on the Federation web site to read about what the Mineral Council has been able to do!!! Let's try to support these folks even through we don't get to the meetings. BB

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**CLUB WEB SITE**

***www.northidahomineralclub.com***

**Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.**

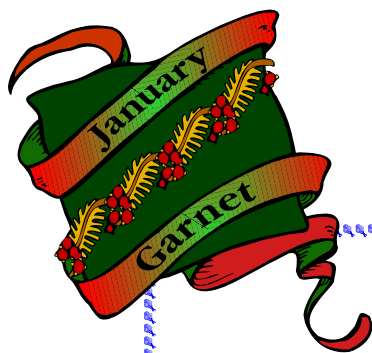
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S.C.R.I.B.E.



2012 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.

FEB.11-10 WHIDBEY ISLAND GEM CLUB- OAK HARBOR WA.

FEB. 10-11-12 OREGON AGATE AND MIN. SOC. PORTLAND, OR.

FEB 25-26 IDAHO GEM AND MIN. CLUB BOISE, ID.

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