


# Grindings

## Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 8443  Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

VOL 75 NO 5

May 2015

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President: Phil Neuhoﬀ**  
939-4508

[pneuhoﬀ@yahoo.com](mailto:pneuhoﬀ@yahoo.com)

#### 1st Vice President

**Willa Renken**  
362-3941

[wlr\\_dkr@msn.com](mailto:wlr_dkr@msn.com)

#### 2nd Vice President

**Deana Ashton**  
794-5628

[shesteched@msn.com](mailto:shesteched@msn.com)

**Secretary: Melodee Worley**  
890-6834

[melphilw@hotmail.com](mailto:melphilw@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer: Barbara Wanner**  
794-7968

**NFMS Director:**  
**Charles McCreath**  
344-5085

#### Board Members:

**David Douglas**  
208-559-7216

[douglas.dm@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.dm@gmail.com)

**Sandy Blodgett**  
208-376-8051

**Cheryl Peterson**  
208-887-5363

[cpete4421@gmail.com](mailto:cpete4421@gmail.com)

**Dana Robinson**  
343-0487

[drobinso@boisestate.edu](mailto:drobinso@boisestate.edu)

**Brent Stewart**  
863-9336

[gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com](mailto:gene@stewartsgemshopinc.com)

**Ed Moser**  
340-8060

[ed.moser15@gmail.com](mailto:ed.moser15@gmail.com)

**Editor: Linda Barlow**  
724-3309

[barlow596@gmail.com](mailto:barlow596@gmail.com)

**Club Website**

[www.idahogemclub.com](http://www.idahogemclub.com)

## President's Message

I hope you all are enjoying the early start to nice weather and access to collecting spots. Take advantage of the nice weather and a great lineup of field trip opportunities that are coming up in the next month. The usual club field trip after the May meeting will be to two (or four, depending on how you count them) of the club's iconic claims, the Queenstone jasper claim and the Whangdoodle precious opal claim. The last weekend of May will see a trip to another storied IGC claim, the Beacon Hill agate nodule claim. June 6 will present a special opportunity to visit the storied South Mountain mineral deposit, including a tour of current mining activities and mineral collecting. Further details can be found elsewhere in the Grindings and will be discussed at this month's meeting. We are still working out the details of the South Mountain trip...if you are interested in this opportunity and do not have email please contact Brent Stewart prior to the trip for more info (his contact info is to the left of this message or he can be reached at Stewart's Gem Shop).

The early onset of warm weather presents special challenges for our hobby. Fire danger is likely to be high this year, and the fire season may come earlier than we are accustomed to. Please be very careful. ATV's, vehicle exhaust pipes, cigarettes, errant sparks from rock hammers, and other heat sources can all too easily set off an unwanted wildfire. As rockhounds, we cherish the land and its offerings, and need to be good stewards by minimizing the impact of our activities.

On a similar note, I want to highlight our program this month. We will have a special visit from Sandra Mitchell, Executive Director of the Idaho Recreation Council. The Idaho Recreation Council is an allegiance of interested parties from across the state that rely on access to public lands for pursuing their interests, be they rock collecting, off-road vehicle use, camping, boating, or other activities. Sandra will share with us updates on current legislation and efforts by the Idaho Recreation Council and allied organizations in preserving access to public lands and challenges that lay ahead.

As we move forward through the rest of this year, I would like to reach out to all of you with a special appeal. One of the principle messages I have received during my time as president is that the main reason that people join the club is to learn about our hobby. We are principally an educational organization. Please take the time to share your knowledge with others. New members join hoping to learn how to find rocks they enjoy, how to identify or recognize them, and how to turn them into jewelry or other decorative objects. I have personally benefitted from the generosity of some of our more experienced members who have taken the time to share their knowledge with me. I do my best to pass along the same to new members I get to know. In the coming months, we are going to modify club meetings to incorporate more "show and tell"...a simple gesture like bringing samples from a past or upcoming field trip, or a new tool you find handy and sharing that with others will greatly enrich our collective experience. If you have something you want to share, let me know at the meeting and I will incorporate it.

*Phil Neuhoﬀ, President*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
April 21st, 2015**

Secretary Melodee Worley absent this evening. She is probably rocking her new grandbaby back East!

Phil Neuhooff, President, excused absence.

Willa Renken, 1st VP presiding over meeting.

Called to order at 7:35pm.

Mike Whitehen led Pledge of Allegiance

Door prizes= 12 adult and 14 children won prizes this evening

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Grindings made by Gene Alvey, Twila Gallagher, seconded motion.

New members and guests tonight were introduced, 13 present!

**Secretary report:** regular mail, magazine received. Melodee on vacation to see her new grandchild.

**Treasurer's report:** Barbara said most of show invoices paid and it looks like we made about 5,000 profit.

She asked for a few members to get in contact with her, The Buckingham, Gordon Roberts and Butte family. Please contact Barbara Wanner for Treasurers business.

**Federation Directors report:** Charles McCreath reported that he and Shirley attended the Federation Show in Ogden. They were pleased with the turnout from our club who traveled down to Utah. He said our club is the largest in the federation!

Charles explained the purpose of the Federations and how they tie in to our club and support causes in the regions. He shared news from the meetings he and Shirley attended at Ogden. Charles also showed the specimens he collected in Utah and talked about their unique qualities. He also mentioned the Juniors Merit programs available in the Federation.

Of mention was the excitement of a possible visit to Boise, Idaho from Bob Jones, Senior Contributing Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine. Listening to Bob Jones speak of the many adventures and discoveries in the rock gem and mineral world is such a treat. He showed a slide presentation during the banquet at Ogden and during show was often engaged in a tale of epic proportion. Bob Jones holds the Carnegie Mineralogical Award, is a member of the Rockhound Hall of Fame, and been writing for Rock and Gem since it's inception. He is a world traveler, frequent keynote speaker and has written several books and video scripts.

If we get confirmation of his Idaho visit, we will pass along information so you can all plan on making time to catch him for a special visit.

Sandy Blodgett and Linda Barlow also shared their experiences in Ogden with the general membership.

**Field Trip Report:** Graveyard Point trip planned for the 25th April. Meet at 7:30am this Saturday at Gem Stop Junction on Hwy 95. Club will caravan to the club claim. Brent suggested tools to bring and supplies you would need for a successful trip.

**Juniors:** Ed has special donation of specimens to hand out and tonight they will continue learning about fluorescence and break some geodes.

**New Business:**

Rock and Equipment sale at the Conley's this Friday and Saturday

Keep an eye out for a stolen Genie ( a 6 wheel grinding lapidary equipment) that was stolen from a club member. If you hear of anyone peddling one or catch an ad on craigslist or elsewhere, contact the Board and we can pass along information to the person who lost this valuable tool.

Our **program** tonight was cancelled at the last minute. The Idaho Gold Prospectors were to do a panning demo and talk about Idaho Gold sites and processing. We have decided this would be especially fun to reschedule during July meeting which is held at Ann Morrison park just feet from the Boise River. I am checking on special permits and plan a great program.

**Refreshment Committee** has signed up Jean Gonzalos and Woody Weyerman to bring door prizes, refreshments for May's meeting. June meeting refreshments will be given by Christine Anderton and Dana Dancer. Thank you folks for stepping up to help! The list of duties is printed in the Grindings. You can also call Deana at [208-794-5628](tel:208-794-5628).

Lots of folks had signed up to do refreshments at a recent meeting. However, the list has been lost and we ask that if you had signed up for a month, call Deana at 208-79-5628 and I will happily write you down for whichever month you can do.

Your participation is a wonderful way to get involved with members and support our club. Thank you!

Meeting adjourned before refreshments were served and we all enjoyed visiting and looking over the Utah show and tells!

*Deana Ashton*

*Program Committee Chair*

**MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB**  
**Board Meeting**  
**May 5th 2015**

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by Pres. Phil Neuhoﬀ

Board members present: Willa Renken, Deana Ashton, Ed Moser, Dana Robinson, Sandy Blodgett, Charles McCreath, Cheryl Peterson, David Douglas, Treasurer, Barbara Wanner. Absent: Brent Stewart  
Guests: Shirley McCreath

Motion made by Willa Renken to accept Minutes from meeting as printed in the Grindings and 2nd by Dana Robinson.

**Secretary report:** Melodee Workey is on vacation, Mail rec'd by Deana Ashton: Rock & Gem magazine, tax extension, 2 bank statements, check from license plate funding, & one application. Nothing other to report from secretary.

**Treasurer report:** Barbara Wanner needs to collect an additional \$5.00 from the following new members who submitted wrong amount in check w/ application. Deborah Butte, Gordon Roberts, and the Buckinghams..Please contact Barbara Wanner.

She showed us a new show report that included dealer fees. This significantly increases our show profit. Barbara asked if the Board felt it was important she be present at the monthly board meetings-she would like to be excused to attend a horse riding club that meets on Tuesdays. Board excused her permitting she provide statements to Dana Robinson to report and share any important info with her to pass along.

NWFederation report: Charles McCreath said Doug True is going to submit that 150 people will attend Federation field trip for the July 2-5, 2015 meeting which is to Vale, Hoo Doo Basin & Grassy Meadows. Contact Doug True at [dtrueossils12@yahoo.com](mailto:dtrueossils12@yahoo.com) or call him at [406-670-0506](tel:406-670-0506) to reserve your place on trip ASAP! This is possibly the last time people will be allowed to visit this recreation site due to upcoming changes to access. The road to Hoo Doo Basin is closed as noted by the McCreaths as of this spring. Contact Charles McCreath or Doug True for more information.

The 2016 **NWFED/AMFED show** will be held in Albany, Oregon 2nd and 3rd of July, 2016.

**Junior Achievement Award Program** is something Charles feels our club really needs to encourage involvement in. Our last winner was in 2008. He mentioned that kids were bussed in to the show from schools in 40 minute increments and allowed to view the show and learn more. There are money prizes available for juniors.

In early July, Bob Jones, the contributing senior editor of Rock & Gem magazine will be coming to Boise to do a story on the 3 generation Stewart family. He will try and take Bob on a field trip, more info to come.

Federation offering movies to check out, they are converting from VHS to DVDs. He has a list he will pass on to the secretary, Melodee, of movies related to rockhounding and lapidary for members to rent. The fee is 9.95 to return the movies.

Some discussion took place related to the trend of captivating membership attention and interest during general meetings by allowing more hands on rock time, less business. The board discussion will continue next month.

**Juniors report:** Ed Moser reports that this month's program will feature a mineral identification quiz. There was a bag of specimens donated last meeting by someone...who is the mystery donor? Please contact Ed. He also shared that the youth programs offered by federation require a field trip report to be submitted showing what kids found, and what they did with specimens, i.e.: made cabochons, displayed, shared with community. Community involvement is key element to the awards program. He feels the discipline skills required for awards program criteria are beneficial to students in all aspects of studies. If any questions, contact Ed Moser.

**Field Trip Report:** This month's trip will be to Queenstone and WhangDoodle claims the 23rd. It was added and confirmed we will visit Beacon Hill on May 30, 31st. Contact Brent Stewart for more information on field trips! Hopefully some samples of what to look for at the field trip claims will be shared at meeting as well.

No further old business.

New business: Marge Conley is donating a case to club for displaying the door prizes at annual Gem Show.

May's general meeting program will be on public lands access by Sandra Mitchell. She has a lot of information for all interested members to hear on the proposed rules and changes for access to claims etc.

Refreshments and door prizes this month will be by Woody Wyerman and Jean Gonzolas. Refreshment responsibilities include: 10 adult and 10 junior wrapped door prizes and the refreshments, 10 dozen cookies or snacks, 3 gallons punch, with early arrival to set up chairs and take down after meeting. Thank you!

Sandy Blodgett made a motion we accept new memberships and motion 2nd and accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

*Deana Ashton, 2nd VP*



## Idaho Gem Club Field Trips 2015

APRIL 25: Plume Agate @ Graveyard Point, Idaho  
 May 23: Opalene, Fire Opal, & Jasper @ Whang Doodle & Queenstone  
 May 30 & 31: Geodes @ Beacon Hill  
 June 6: Ilvaite & Hedenburgite @ South Mountain, Idaho  
 June 20: Petrified Wood @ Bruneau, Idaho  
 July 24-26: Obsidian @ Glass Butte, Oregon  
 August 22-23: Agate @ Carry, Idaho  
 September 19: Jasper @ Haystack Butte, Oregon

### SOMETIME THIS YEAR:

Agate Nodules @ Beacon Hill, Idaho

Field Trip Contacts:

Aaron Wanner: [aaronwanner@gmail.com](mailto:aaronwanner@gmail.com) or 208-794-9474

Brent Steward: [rocksbybrent@gmail.com](mailto:rocksbybrent@gmail.com) or 208-863-9336

**Equipment needed:** rock hammer, pick, shovel, bag or bucket for specimens collected, appropriate clothing for the weather and location, lunch, water, fuel, and any items you need for your personal use. A pry bar could be useful also.

### Whang Doodle/Queenstone Claims

8:00 a.m. Meet at Gem Stop at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Hwy 95

8:30 a.m. Depart We will travel south on Hwy 95 past Sommer Camp Rd. to the Whang Doodle claim.

Parking will be directed and organized as members arrive.

Club will depart for Queenstone claim around midday.

### Beacon Hill Claim: Geodes

**When:** Saturday May 30th & Sunday May 31st;

meet between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

We will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. both days

**Where to meet:** Rest area on I-84 just after crossing the Snake River going into Ontario Oregon.

**How to get there:** Travel West on I-84 to Exit 377 rest area. Pull into rest area.

### DeLamar Mine

**When:** June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**What:** We'll be collecting Ilvaite & Hedenburgite

**Where:** 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Park just past the rodeo arena as you get into Jorden Valley.

9:00 a.m. Depart taking the road from Jorden Valley into DeLamar mining district.

**Space may be limited. SIGN UP AT NEXT GENERAL MEETING ONLY. May 19<sup>th</sup>.**

### Bruneau woodpile

**When:** JUNE 20TH 2014 Rain or shine.

**What:** We'll be collecting petrified wood

**Where:** 8:00 am Meeting @ D & B Supply, 555 Airbase Rd, Mountain Home, ID 83647

8:30 am Travel to Bruneau woodpile. High clearance vehicle needed for rocky terrain or ride with others from the club.

Location to the site is tricky, so the best way is to follow your way with the others.

## GRAVEYARD POINT FIELD TRIP



## NFMS NEWS

### Federation Fieldtrip July 2-5 Vale, Grassy Mountain and Hoo Doo Basin

Save the date for this year's federation field trip in eastern Oregon. This will be in the Vale, Grassy Mountain and Hoo Doo Basin areas. GREAT Petrified wood. The permit process for this area will take some time. Watch for updates and if you would like to help with this one, contact Doug True, [dtruefossils12@yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils12@yahoo.com)

**Two links for additional newsletters we receive as members of the rock club.**

NFMS—Newsletter available at:

<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp>

AFMS—Newsletter available at:

<http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>

#### Save Stamps For Cancer Research

**Cut at least 1/4 inch margin around the stamps. You can turn them into Chuck McCreath at our next meeting. THANK YOU!**

Date: April 20, 2014

Contact: Kathy Muir, State and Federal Grants Manager [\(208\) 514- 2431](tel:2085142431) / [Kathy.Muir@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:Kathy.Muir@idpr.idaho.gov)

#### IDPR is accepting applications to fill vacancies on Advisory Committees

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) are accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following Advisory Committees in the following areas:

- Recreational Vehicle (RV) Advisory Committee;
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Committee;
- Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) Advisory Committee;
- Off-Road Motor Vehicle (ORMV) Committee;

These committee members evaluate grant applications based on established criteria and make recommendations to the Idaho Park and Recreation Board for funding. Members are required to attend meetings during the year with travel expenses reimbursed.

**RV Advisory Committee** – The purpose of the Recreational Vehicle Program is to acquire, purchase, improve, repair, and maintain RV facilities and sites. There are currently three advisory committee member openings, one for District II, one for District III and one for District V. Those applying for the RV Committee must live in Idaho, be willing to serve a three-year term, be an RV owner with valid Idaho RV registration, actively participate in the activity they represent, and attend required meetings.

**RTP Advisory Committee** – The purpose of the Recreational Trails Program is to acquire, purchase, improve, repair, and maintain trail facilities and sites. There are currently five advisory committee member openings statewide for the following interests; one for Hiking, one for Motorbike, one for XC Skiing, one for Snowmobiling, one for Disabled and one for Water Trails. Those applying for the RTP Committee must live in Idaho, be willing to serve a three-year term, be an active participant in the trail activity they represent, and attend required meetings.

**WIF Advisory Committee** – The purpose of the Waterways Improvement Fund is to provide for the protection and promotion of safety, waterways improvement, creation and improvement of parking areas for boating purposes, making and improving boat ramps and moorings, marking of waterways, search and rescue, and including purchase of property for boat related purposes of boating facilities. There are currently three advisory committee member openings, one for District I, one for District III and one for District IV. Those applying for the WIF Advisory Committee must live in Idaho, be willing to serve a three-year term, own a registered vessel, be knowledgeable about boating activities, and attend required meetings.

**ORMV Advisory Committee** – The purpose of the Off-Road Motor Vehicle Fund is to acquire, purchase, improve, repair, maintain, furnish, and equip off-road motor vehicle facilities and sites or areas used by off-road motor vehicles on public or private land, and to assist with the enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of off-road vehicles in the State of Idaho. There is currently five ORMV advisory committee member openings, two for District I & II (Motorbike/ATV & Snowmobiling), one for Districts III & IV (Non-Motorized) and two for Districts V & VI (Snowmobiling & Non-Motorized). Those applying for the ORMV Committee must live in Idaho, be willing to serve a three-year term, be an active participant in the off-road activity they represent, and attend required meetings. Applications are due no later than June 5, 2015 and may be obtained by contacting Kathy Muir at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation State and Federal Grants Program.

Kathy Muir, State and Federal Grants Manager

[\(208\) 514- 2431](tel:2085142431)

[Kathy.Muir@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:Kathy.Muir@idpr.idaho.gov)

5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, ID 83716 -Or-

P.O. Box 837205657 Warm Springs Avenue Boise, ID 83716



## Bench Tips

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

### MAGNETIC TOOL BAR

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See <http://www.harborfreight.com> and search on-"magnetic-holder"

My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

### SILVER DISCOLORATION

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is one of them that comes into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure, and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it! Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloys like brass or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid - generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

There are two ways to prevent firescale. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case, oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench tip solution. Depletion guiding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal amounts of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but is not as effective as preparations made specifically for the task. Jewelry supply companies offer several commercial solutions, but my favorite is the Prips mixture in alcohol. I use it every time I intend to do more than two solderings on a piece.

## Idaho gets its final say over Boulder-White Clouds

**Marty Trillhaase | Posted: Monday, May 11, 2015 12:00 am**

Later this month, Idaho will take its last, best chance to decide for itself the destiny of the Boulder-White Clouds range.

Beginning on May 21, the latest version of a Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bill will go before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining.

Then in June, the House Resources public lands subcommittee will take up the measure.

The Boulder-White Clouds have been at the center of Idaho's environmental movement ever since a proposed open pit molybdenum mine became the focus of the 1970 gubernatorial campaign between Republican incumbent Don Samuelson, who supported the mine, and Democrat Cecil D. Andrus, who opposed it. Andrus won.

Over the years, Idaho created the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area. For more than a decade, Congressman Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, has been frustratingly close to securing wilderness protection for this iconic range as well.

At the close of the 2006 congressional session, he went home believing he had passed his Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act - only to be betrayed by then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert. Four years later, he had the entire Idaho congressional delegation behind him, only to have Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, withdraw his support.

This year, Risch returned to the fold as co-author of a smaller bill that makes more concessions to motorized recreation. Instead of protecting 330,000 acres with CIEDRA, the new Sawtooth National Recreation Area-Plus designates 295,000 acres spread among three wilderness areas:

- The White Clouds Wilderness.
- The Ernest Hemmingway-Boulders Wilderness.
- The James McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness.

Some would argue Simpson bargained too much away to bring Risch and the motorized community aboard. But from the beginning, Simpson brought a clear-eyed approach to the bargain: Find that delicate balance of local interests - ranchers, central Idaho residents, businesses and government officials, conservationists and recreationists - who would get behind an Idaho plan.

Waiting in the wings is a top-down federal mandate. President Barack Obama could double its size by declaring a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument using his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906. That's the same law President Theodore Roosevelt used to protect the Grand Canyon.

With the larger land mass, however, comes these caveats:

- Obama is under no political obligation to look after the interests of Idahoans.
- Once Obama issues his proclamation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management could spend the next two to four years drafting regulations and plans.
- By that point, there will be a new president and a new administration. The people in charge may have different ideas about some of the management details.
- And you can bet disgruntled groups will be in court. They may not win, but critics of the Antiquities Act have been itching for this kind of a fight.

Whatever its shortcomings, Simpson's bill offers certainty and the nation's highest level of protection for the Boulder-White Clouds. Once passed, an act of Congress settles the matter.

For instance, conservationists want to protect the wild character of the White Clouds by closing about 178 miles to mountain bikers. Passage of the Simpson bill would accomplish that goal.

A national monument would leave it up to the U.S. Forest Service, which probably lacks the political leverage to ever make a mountain bike ban stick.

But it's an Obama-imposed Boulder-White Clouds National Monument staring Idaho in the face if Simpson can't prevail this time. At the Idaho congressman's request, the president has given him six months to deliver.

Simpson's clock began ticking in February. - M.T.

## More Sage Grouse News From ORBA

### **National Defense Authorization Act Could Protect Motorized Recreation.....Again.**

The House's of Representatives defense authorization bill would ban the Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing an Endangered Species Act finding for greater sage grouse for ten years and roll back federal sage grouse conservation plans spanning 67 million acres of the West.

Not to be confused with the Bi-State Greater Sage Grouse, this bill would address a much larger habitat area than the California and Nevada Bi State Grouse removed last week.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) generated language that was included in the text of the National Defense Authorization Act that Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) released this week.

Mark up is expected later this week. Bishop's sage grouse provision represents one of the strongest GOP challenges yet to efforts to bolster protections for sage grouse across its 165 million acres of Western habitat.

The administration signed a settlement four years ago with environmental groups that required FWS to decide by Sept. 30 whether the bird deserves Endangered Species Act protections. That deadline has compelled the Bureau of Land Management, states and landowners to cobble together habitat protection plans designed to avert the need to list the bird.

Republicans have criticized the listing deadline as arbitrary. They argue states need more time to prove that their own sage grouse conservation plans can work before FWS makes its listing determination. In addition, oil and gas drillers, miners, and livestock grazers are uneasy about what kind of restrictions BLM might impose in final land-use plans spanning 67 million acres. BLM plans are due out next month.

The Language says Fish and Wildlife "may not make [a] finding" of whether sage grouse need protection under ESA until after Sept. 30, 2025, in any states that have crafted their own grouse conservation plans.

The amendment would also allow governors to halt or roll back any of the land-use plan amendments by BLM or the Forest Service if they don't conform to the state plans.

Bishop is not the first to propose delaying federal protections for sage grouse. Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner (R) last week filed separate legislation that would allow states at least six years to develop their own conservation plans for the greater and Gunnison species of sage grouse before either bird could be listed for protection under ESA, among other provisions (Greenwire, April 22).

The president would presumably veto a bill such as Gardner's if it were passed by itself. But tucking a similar provision into the defense bill -- which has passed annually for more than the past half-century and provides funding authorization for the military -- would change the political calculus for the president.

Congressman Cook's HR 1676 bill to establish the Johnson Valley Off Highway Recreation area used a similar strategy to gain approval and save the Hammers. "This further proves ORBA's position that we must fight these attacks on Motorized Recreation in Washington DC" said Fred Wiley ORBA President.

ORBA is a national non-profit trade association of motorized off-road related businesses formed to promote and preserve off-road recreation. ORBA proactively protects recreation access and opportunities by ensuring that America's families are not arbitrarily denied the right to responsibly recreate. ORBA provides leadership in addressing land use issues by advancing policies that conserve the environment while at the same time providing off-road recreation opportunities.



**Although Congressman Labrador is not on the official committee, he will be involved and he is supportive of the committee's work and goal!**

(Rep. Bishop) [Lee.Lonsberry@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lee.Lonsberry@mail.house.gov), [801-698-7349](tel:801-698-7349)

### **Reps. Stewart and Bishop Launch New Federal Land Action Group**

**WASHINGTON** — Today, Representatives Chris Stewart (R-Utah) and Rob Bishop (R-Utah) launched the *Federal Land Action Group*, a congressional team that will develop a legislative framework for transferring public lands to local ownership and control.

This Group, chaired by Rep. Stewart, will build on the work started by Utah and other states in recent years. “The federal government has been a lousy landlord for western states and we simply think the states can do it better,” Stewart said. “If we want healthier forests, better access to public lands, more consistent funding for public education and more reliable energy development, it makes sense to have local control.”

Rep. Bishop, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said, “This group will explore legal and historical background in order to determine the best congressional action needed to return these lands back to the rightful owners. We have assembled a strong team of lawmakers, and I look forward to formulating a plan that reminds the federal government it should leave the job of land management to those who know best.”

The Federal Land Action Group will hold a series of forums with experts on public lands policy, with the goal of introducing transfer legislation.

Other members of the Group include Representatives Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), Diane Black (R-Tenn.), Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.), Crescent Hardy (R-Nev.), and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY).

## YESTERYEAR

### YESTERYEAR

#### May 1982:

A class on cab making will be held on June 7, 14 & the 21st at the home of Chris Blickfeld. If you are interested contact Chris. The last field trip was attended by 56 people.

This month's field trip will be at Charles McCreath's claim in Painted Rock Canyon. The caravan will leave a 7am. Those attending should bring picks, shovels, hammer. There will be a 1/2 mile walk. Work has been completed on the Beacon Hill, Crystal Ridge and Queenstone claims. There is a tentative trip planned to Manns Creek near Weiser in July. Frank Hazelton handled the scholarship drawing which was won by Ellis Fritschle.

A tip from Frank: When you have stones too small to cut along, clean them good, drop in a mild carton, add cement. Then you can cut thru the whole slab and chip the cement away. Frank announced his retirement from the scholarship job and the club. He will be moving to the Ft. Worth area and we will miss him.

In Loving Memory of Days Gone By

Marge Conley - Historian

## Welcome New Members

### Adults

1. Janelle Raber
1. Nijone Lockhart, Boise
2. David Soares, Boise
3. Darci & Robert Rainey, Star

### Jr. Rattlers

1. Leah Vanpelt, Boise
2. Sophie Vanpelt, Boise
3. Quentin Vanpelt, Boise
4. Kiana Rainey, Star



### Rocky Rattlers

Juniors need to bring their folders to the meeting this month

FOR SALE:  
24 INCH HIGHLAND PARK SAW WITH NEW BLADE  
COST: \$1,000  
CONTACT: GENE MALLARD, 991-8475

### THE GRINDINGS

is the monthly newsletter of the Idaho Gem Club, Inc., associated with the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Permission to copy is freely granted when proper credit is given to both the publication and the author. Articles without bylines are written by the Editor or President.



### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Need approximately 15 dozen cookies.  
Wrapped door prizes are also needed  
Arrive early enough to set up the chairs.  
The chairperson brings the coffee urn, coffee, punch, cream, sugar, sups, & napkins.  
Afterward, put meeting tables & chairs away, clean kitchen, & sweep the room.  
Gather & take all trash with you. Don't forget it is the responsibility of the chair for the coming month to pick up the coffee pot, take it home, & bring it to the next meeting.

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

**MAY**

5/2 Leah Vanpelt  
 5/3 Len Corless  
 5/4 Garrell Hathaway  
 5/10 Robert McCrea  
 5/14 Gina Gartman  
 5/14 DJ Johnson  
 5/14 Jan Johnson  
 5/14 Glenn Mumford  
 5/16 Mike Witschen  
 5/17 Amy Watson  
 5/18 Gerri Goertzen  
 5/18 Mary Ellen Biebel  
 5/18 Diane Wheeler  
 5/19 Larry Friend  
 5/21 Nathan Basley  
 5/21 Amy Watson  
 5/22 Janice Egner  
 5/22 Randi Gladwell  
 5/22 Duane Mayer  
 5/24 Larry Ridley  
 5/24 Mary Ridley  
 5/25 David Douglas  
 5/25 Mike Egner  
 5/26 Nancy Schlossman  
 5/30 Blaine Dahlstrom

**May Birthstones**  
**Faceted — Emerald**

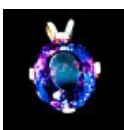


Cabochon-Chrysoprase

**JUNE**

6/1 Larry Brasley  
 6/4 June McConnell  
 6/10 Tina Frederick  
 6/15 Chuck Fawcett  
 6/15 Sarah Neuhoﬀ  
 6/16 Chris Blickfeldt  
 6/17 Sandy Blodgett  
 6/20 Jodie Harrison  
 6/21 Cheryl Peterson  
 6/23 John Conklin  
 6/29 Steve Markel

**June Birthstones**  
**Faceted— Alexandrite**



Cabochon—Moonstone



Traditional—Pearl

## METAPHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF STONES & CRYSTALS

**EMERALD**

It is a green variety of beryl. It is commonly found in Columbia (for gem quality) and Brazil (for commercial grade). Don't forget the emeralds found right here in our own Idaho!

Judy Hall in The Crystal Bible gives us insight to the Emerald as a stone of inspiration because it enhances psychic abilities, opens clairvoyance, and stimulates gathering wisdom from the mental planes. It enhances unity (by maintaining physical, emotional, and mental equilibrium), unconditional love (as the "stone of successful love" including domestic bliss and loyalty), partnership (keeping it in balance) and promotes friendship (by opening the heart chakra and calming the emotions).

Physically the emerald aids recovery after infectious illness. It can be worn on the little finger, ring finger, over the heart or on the right arm for healing purposes. Warnings include not wearing it constantly as it can trigger negative emotions.

**CHRYSTOPRASE**

This stone is useful for a deep meditative state imparting a sense of being a part of the divine whole by bringing universal energy into the physical body.

It encourages fidelity in business and personal relationships by promoting love of truth and hope while giving personal insights. It also draws out talents and stimulates creativity. It is calming and creates openness to new situations. It helps you turn your attention to positive thoughts and actions assisting you to overcoming compulsive or impulsive ideations.

Mentally it stimulates fluent speech and mental dexterity preventing you from speaking out unthinkingly in anger.

It can be used for relaxation and peaceful sleep. Chrysoprase releases emotions of the inner child. It reduces claustrophobia and nightmares.

**Workshop Report**  
**No Workshop month**

## Dates To Remember

### SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

Please let me know if you are aware of any of our members having surgery, an illness, or just in need of cheer. We all can use some good cheer! We try and keep in touch with all our members, and I apologize if we have overlooked any member who has lost a loved one. Please let us know if we can help in any way. Contact Deana Ashton at 208-794-5628 or any Idaho Gem Club Board Member/officer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND ANY GEM CLUB FUNCTIONS BUT ARE UNABLE TO DRIVE, CALL ME! WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET YOU THERE!

Deana- 208-794-5628

### GENERAL MEETING

3rd. Tuesday of every month

### BOARD MEETING:

1st. Tuesday of every month

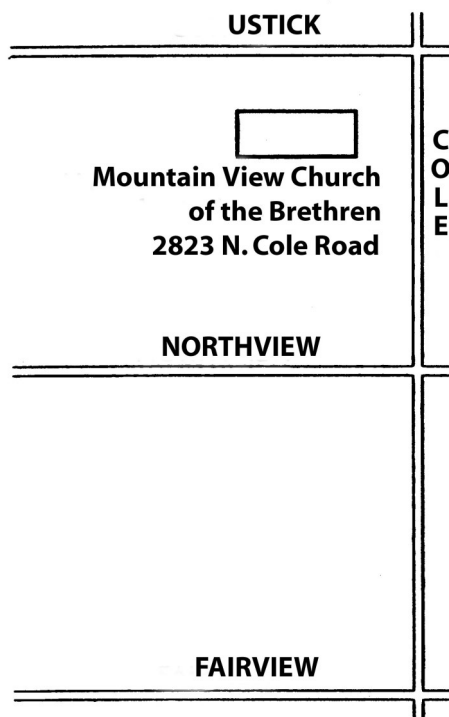
2 September 2014

Church of the Brethren

2823 N. Cole Road, Boise, Idaho

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of its members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and



The Whangdoodle Bird  
(Often seen on field trips)

