



# Grindings

**Idaho Gem Club, Inc.**

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

**VOL 83 NO 12**

**DECEMBER 2022**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The year 2023 will be a great year, one full of change. Representing Idaho Gem Club as your President has been an honor, and I enjoyed my time working with all of you. We survived a world-wide pandemic because we worked together and communicated our needs well. You wanted field trips, we delivered. You wanted meetings, we met! Most importantly, many managed to grow closer as families who learned and adventured together. Our membership is at the highest number in the 88 years IGC has existed! Our ROLE Workshop is thriving thanks to the hard work of a few committed shop hosts, and the community outreach continues to bring new members into the club. This is a great club and our growth is making it a lot of fun with new ideas from all of you!

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Tailgate Rock Swap/Trunk Shows for the last few years. I loved finding opportunities to bring members together doing fun events and projects. Many new program developments and club features are undergoing "makeovers" thanks to a few energetic and creative volunteer members who became Chairmen of the Field Trip and Juniors/Youth Program Committees. I can't wait to see the new plans take place. We have a new couple, Jenni and Ravi Gudapati, who are excited to fill the Field Trip Committee as Chairmen! Jenni has an abundance of wonderful ideas of integrating education and fitness into our trips and they will be creating a list of destinations soon. I asked Jenni to elaborate on their creative plans during our January meeting, which is also our annual Banquet, January 17, 2023. During that portion of Banquet Meeting, we will talk about plans for the Youth Group, as well.

The Board of Directors have voted on a change of President and elected Rick Corbett, who will be sworn in at the banquet along with all club officers. Liz Warner will serve on the Board for 3 years. I will be serving one last year as a Board member. Congratulations!

If you have not purchased banquet tickets, hurry down to Stewarts Gem Shop and pick them up soon! We have a limit of 70 attendees. The banquet is at the Cottonwood Grill on January 17, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

We have a very busy General Meeting on December 20th! Therefore, the ROCK TUMBLING AND GRAB BAG SEWING CONTESTS will be extended to January 14th. At 10 am at the workshop, we will hold a weigh-in for the rocks tumbled and count the grab bags, and winners will be awarded prizes. Thankfully, the Board upgraded the contest prizes and now the Grab Bag winners will win a beautiful Rock Sphere and 2nd place Gift Card. The Rock Tumbling winners will receive a Paleo Pick and a sphere for 2nd place. Please plan to bring all donations of tumbled rock and grab bags to our club workshop, 2620 W. Idaho St. (next to Stewart's Gem Shop) on January 14, 10 am, to turn them in! We are grateful for your help making bags and spending the time and effort tumbling. Hopefully we can meet our goal of 16 5-gal. buckets of finished rocks. Mark January 14 on your calendar as the Grab Bag Stuffing Party. Volunteers needed!

The December meeting will have a finished gift and nice slab AUCTION at the start of the evening. We then will have voting for the PROJECT of the YEAR competition, where members are encouraged to submit a unique item they made of rocks, minerals or fossils. The entries are not displayed with the maker's name, so when you come to the meeting bring your submission in a box or bag, give it to Liz Warner, and she will assign you an item number and place them on a table. Then members can view all the items and vote for their favorite on a ballot handed out during the meeting. The USED EQUIPMENT RAFFLE will conclude this night, as well. We will have ample time for you to purchase last minute raffle tickets for the equipment raffle items. Winners will be drawn and please plan on removing items that night. Thank you Scott Schlagel for your generosity in donating great equipment for members to have a chance to own!

A brief business meeting will take place at the end of our evening. I enjoy seeing many of you attend meetings and hope to see you on December 20th at 7:00 pm!

Don't forget the Holiday Workshop Dec. 17 and 18 from 10 am-5 pm. Come learn to make a cabochon! Marge Conley will hold wire-wrap lessons at her home on Sunday. Bring a 30x40 cabochon to create your first pendant! She will have some for purchase also. A fee of \$20 covers wire costs. No charge for instruction. Marge teaches the basics needed for elegant classic wrapping. More details inside! Happy Holidays to all of you!

*Respectfully Yours, Deana Ashton, President*

The deadline for issues is the Friday after each Board Meeting for the current month's edition. To submit articles, please send them through email to Dana Robinson, Editor  
drobinso@boisestate.edu

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	6 Board Meeting 7 pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Workshop Xmas Party 10 am-5 pm
18 Workshop Xmas Party 10 am-5 pm	19 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20 General Meeting 7 pm	21	22 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day	2 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	3 Board Meeting 7 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Grab Bag Stuffing Party 10 am
15	16 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	17 Annual Banquet 6 pm	18	19 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Workshop 10 am-2 pm
29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23	24 Show Setup 8 am-Noon Expo Idaho	25 Gem Show 10 am-6 pm
26 Gem Show 10 am-5 pm Tear-Down	27	28				Workshop 10 am-2 pm

## MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	7 Board Meeting 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 ROLE Workshop 6-8:45 pm	21 General Meeting 7 pm	22	23 Workshop 6-8:45 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## Upcoming Events

**Lapidary Equipment Raffle**, from September 20. Tickets will be on sale at the general meetings. Drawing on Dec. 20  
**Project of the Year Contest**, December 20.

**Grab Bag Stuffing Party**, January 14, 2023, 10 am. Weigh-in for Tumbling Contest and count for Sewing Contest before stuffing grab bags. Club Workshop, 2620 W. Idaho St., Boise

**Annual Rock, Gem & Fossil Show**, February 25-26, 2023, 10 am-6 pm. Expo Idaho, 5610 N. Glenwood St., Garden City

## CHRISTMAS PARTY WORKSHOP

### Gem Club Workshop

**Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18  
10 am - 5 pm — 2620 W. Idaho St.**

Come to our annual Christmas Party Workshop! Enjoy chili and good hearty chicken and noodles from Willa. Bring a treat to share while enjoying use of the lapidary saws, grinders and polishers during both days. We have some settings for your cabs, and there are kids crafts. You can make a special cabachon. Plan on hanging out for awhile!

Marge Conley will host students on Sunday from 10 am-3 pm at her home for wirewrap lessons from the expert! Call Marge to schedule your place at 208-375-8935.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

The program for December will be an Auction of donated items to benefit the Banquet Fund. The auction will be before the business meeting on December 20. Please bring donations of finished items or specimens for gift-giving to the meeting. Your generosity is most appreciated!

## WORKSHOPS

See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates! Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making! Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, and Liz Warner keep the club lapidary workshop operating year round.

Third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm-8:45 pm  
Saturday the week after general meeting -- 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### WORKSHOP LOCATION

2620 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID  
Next door to Stewart's Gem Shop

\$5 Fee for each visit (kids free)



## PROJECT OF THE YEAR CONTEST

The Project of the Year contest is happening at the next general meeting. All of the entries will be set up on a table in the side room for display. Please plan to bring your entry in early in a box.

Ballots will be handed out once all entries are in. There will be time before the business meeting to vote for your favorite. I'm sure we will see some great work this year!

## EQUIPMENT RAFFLE

This is your last chance to purchase raffle tickets for the donated equipment. We will be drawing winners at the December general meeting. Be sure to be there if you have purchased tickets! Good Luck to All!!

## ROCK TUMBLING & GRAB BAG CONTESTS

The Rock Tumbling and Grab Bag Sewing Contests will conclude at a Grab Bag Stuffing Party at the club workshop on January 14th at 10 am. Everything can be turned in, weighed and recorded. Then we will stuff all of the grab bags that we can.

Prizes for the Rock Tumbling Contest are a Paleo Pick for 1st Place and a Nice Sphere for 2nd Place. Prizes for the Grab Bag Sewing Contest are a Nice Sphere for 1st Place and a \$50 Gift Card for 2nd Place. The more you turn in, the better your chance to win the contest!

### COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

It is important that any issues, conflicts, or concerns that you experience are heard by the Board of Directors. It is requested that if you have a grievance, please come talk to the Board members at their monthly meeting, which is held at the Grange Hall the first Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm. We want your time spent with us to be a good experience. Nobody should ever be afraid to come forward with controversial or uncomfortable information. If you see something occur which jeopardizes the safety of others, stop and find the person in charge and we will handle the situation right then. This is a family-oriented club and respect should be shown to others at all times. This includes profanity. Our conduct should be good at all times. Officers should be respectable to others especially in the company of Gem Club members, young and old.

You are always welcome to attend Board Meetings and join the business discussion.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doug & Lisa Elliott	Kathy Abraham
Wesley & Cristy Johnson	Ryan Osborn
Louis Golling & Liz David	Kristie Weekley
Clayton King & Heather Wilde	

### WELCOME NEW JUNIORS

Zeke Johnson	Ryker Johnson
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### SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheerful greetings to club members needing get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions. If you know someone in need of cheer or attention, please text or call Deana at 208-794-5628.

Marge Conley fell and broke hip the day after our November meeting. She had surgery the next day, spent 10 days in rehab and is now home. Marge had a spoiled birthday the week of her fall. She is ready to start driving and a little itchy to get out of house! And, being the champion she is, she will host wirewrapping at her home during the Holiday workshop weekend, Sunday, December 18, 2022!

Ed Moser has had a successful surgery and seems to be doing well! Keep him in your prayers for strength!

Robert Garner has lost his mother, Tammy, who lived in California and was an avid rockhound. At the November meeting, Robert had just driven home to Idaho with a box of petrified wood he collected in CA at her favorite rock spot. He gave away those pieces at our meeting as a gesture of love, sharing his moms love of rocks with others. Robert and Desiree are in our thoughts and prayers.

### THANK YOU!

Ed Moser has been a great asset to the Idaho Gem Club over a long span of years. He was a Field Trip Leader, and helped at the gem shows with his late wife, Deanna, and has been Federation Director for OGMS for years, offering updates to IGC as well. Ed donated a large amount of stamps he had collected from club members to the Federation this fall. These cancelled stamps are cut from envelopes, by members, and then sold to collectors. The money generated goes to Breast Cancer Research and the lady survivors' prosthesis. He also displays rocks at local libraries.

Ed also spent many years as a Scout leader in the valley and worked with our youth education program. He has stepped down from the Board of Directors, which he served on for over 10 years. Thank you Ed for contributing your time and knowledge to the Idaho Gem Club. Thank you for your service to the US as a Veteran as well. You are a fine man and a good friend to so many!

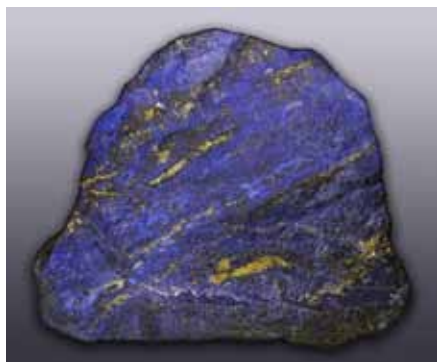
## LAPIS LAZULI

### Composition

Lapis Lazuli is a mixture of minerals with lazurite as the most important mineral component. Lazurite is a blue feldspathoid silicate mineral. Not to be confused with Lazulite, Lapis lazuli, or lapis for short, is a deep-blue metamorphic rock used as a semi-precious stone that has been prized since antiquity for its intense color.

Most lapis lazuli also contains calcite (white), sodalite (blue), and pyrite (metallic yellow). Some samples of lapis lazuli contain augite, diopside, enstatite, mica, hauynite, hornblende, nosean, and sulfur-rich löllingite geyerite. It usually occurs in crystalline marble as a result of contact metamorphism.

Lapis is the Latin word for “stone” and lazuli is the genitive form of the Medieval Latin lazulum. It means “sky” or “heaven”; so this is a “stone (of/from) the sky” or “stone (of/from) heaven”.



[nmons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3415430](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3415430)

### History

As early as the 7th millennium BC, lapis lazuli was mined in Badakhshan province in northeast Afghanistan. Lapis lazuli artifacts, dated to 7570 BC, have been found at Bhirrana, which is the oldest site of Indus Valley civilisation. Lapis beads have been found at Neolithic burials in Mehrgarh, the Caucasus, and as far away as Mauritania. It was also

used in the funeral mask of Tutankhamun.

By the end of the Middle Ages, lapis lazuli began to be exported to Europe, where it was ground into powder and made into ultramarine, the finest and most expensive of all blue pigments. Ultramarine was used by some of the most important artists of

the Renaissance and Baroque, including Vermeer, and was often reserved for the clothing of the central figures of their paintings, especially the Virgin Mary. Ultramarine has also been found in dental tartar of medieval nuns and scribes.



### Sources

Mines in northeast Afghanistan continue to be a major source of lapis lazuli, where it has been mined for 6,000 years. Important amounts are also produced from mines west of Lake Baikal in Russia, and in the Andes mountains in Peru, which is the source that the Inca used to carve artifacts and jewelry. Smaller quantities are mined in Angola, Argentina, Burma, Pakistan, Italy, Mongolia, Canada, India, and in the United States in California and Colorado.



### Uses and Substitutes

Lapis takes an excellent polish and can be made into jewelry, carvings, boxes, mosaics, ornaments, small statues, and vases. Interior items and finishing buildings can be also made with lapis. Its usage as a pigment in oil paint largely ended during the early 19th century, when a chemically identical synthetic variety became available.

Lapis lazuli is commercially synthesized or simulated by the Gilson process, which is used to make artificial ultramarine and hydrous zinc phosphates. It may also be substituted by spinel or sodalite, or by dyed jasper or howlite.

## NEW FOSSIL DISCOVERY

A new fossil has been discovered in the tropical forest of southern Taiwan. Yang Kirui, a geology professor at National Cheng Kung University, led a team of students into the forest in Hengchun on an exploration. When they came across four ribs sticking out of the ground, the exploration turned into a 3-month project to completely uncover a massive whale fossil. It was almost 50 feet long and about 70% complete.

The whale's jawbone was the biggest piece found at about 7 feet long and weighing over 700 pounds. It took a dozen students around 7 hours to carry it out of the forest.

You can see pictures at <https://news.yahoo.com/four-ribs-sticking-forest-floor-194411630.html>.

## GEM CLUB OFFICERS

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## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Deana Ashton, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fourteen guests and new members introduced themselves.

Rick drew winning door prize tickets for 3 juniors and 12 adults.

Deana asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, Terri seconded, the membership voted and the motion carried.

Thanks were given to Scott Schlagel for the equipment donation and to Teresa Nebeker for all her help selling tickets.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial statements. The auction funds from the equipment raffle will benefit the Scholarship Fund and the Banquet. She has paid the first installment for the show venue and purchased the IBond for \$10,000.

**Sunshine Lady Report:** Deana reported that we lost two members, Jim Storrey and Al Larsen, this year. Rob Garner's mother also passed away recently. Jean Dingley and Ed Moser are having some health issues and we all wish them speedy recoveries.

**Workshop Report:** The ROLE workshops for December will be Dec. 5 and 19, 6-8:45 pm.

Our Christmas Party Workshop will be on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18. It will be going from 10 am until 5 pm both days. Willa volunteered to bring Chili and Chicken Noodle soup, and everyone can bring something to share, pot luck style. You will be able to use the equipment, as well as visit with fellow members.

The next workshops are after the general meeting on Thursday, Dec. 22 from 6:45-8 pm, and Saturday, Dec. 31 from 10 am-2 pm.

**Old Business:** The Gem Show sign-up sheets are at the front table. We still need a lot of volunteers to help out.

Deana went over the Grab Bag and Tumbling contests. The club has lots of rock if you need tumbling material. We will have a Bag Stuffing party in January.

The Equipment Raffle Drawing will be in December. There are still opportunities to buy raffle tickets at the December general meeting.

The Banquet will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Cottonwood Grill in Boise. The No-Host Bar begins at 5:30 pm. Dinner choices are Beef or Chicken. We will call Lifetime members to see if they would like to come. We have a limit of 70 tickets.

**New Business:** Jenny and Ron Gudapati have volunteered to be the new Field Trip Chairs for next year. They will be working on the list for next year soon. Possibly another trip to Glass Buttes with Emory Coons.

Robert Garner expressed concern over activities at the workshop and the conflicts between some Board members.

Election for Board Members was started. Ed Moser is stepping down and the three nominees are: Willa Renken, Cheryl Link, and Liz Warner. Deana opened the floor for nominations for the board. After no floor nominations, Mike Dome made a motion to close the floor, Dana Robinson seconded, the membership voted and the motion passed.

Chris Wagner made a motion to accept the nominees by acclimation, Ed Moser seconded, the membership voted and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm for the auction.

*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 6, 2022

Deana Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

**Present:** Deana Ashton, Teresa Nebeker, Ed Moser, Rick Corbett, Willa Renken, Terri Frostrom, Brent Stewart, Cheryl Link, Jason Smith, Liz Warner and Dana Robinson

**Guests:** Sandy Blodgett, Debbie Mitchell

Deana asked for any corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Ed. Board members voted, motion carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Teresa went over the financial deposits and disbursements and the dealer payments. There are new lines on the statement for the new account recently opened.

Teresa will also send the Life Member cards to two members who cannot attend Banquet.

**Secretary Report:** Newsletter snafu has been fixed for the December issue. Back with the original printer as most economical.

**Workshop Report:** Brent reported that the metal for the saw room roof is in and they will be installing soon.

The next workshops are on Dec. 17th and 18th for the Christmas Party Workshop from 10 am-5 pm, then the usual Thursday workshop on Dec. 22nd from 6-8:45 pm and Saturday, Dec. 31st from 10 am-2 pm. The ROLE workshops are Dec. 5th and 19th at 6-8:45 pm.

**ROLE Report:** Liz reports that the program is attracting more people than ever and the workshops have been busier than the general workshops. There are many folks that have reached the Novice level and need certificates. We can hand out some to those who come to the general meeting and the rest at the Banquet. All will be asked to stand and be recognized at the banquet.

There was discussion about adding a new machine to the workshop. Liz will research options.

Deana asked about wire wrapping tools. There are two boxes of wire missing and only a portion of the tools Rick ordered earlier were available to use. Liz and Deana did an inventory and Liz placed an order so they will be available for the Christmas Workshop.

**Equipment Raffle:** Deana asked for help loading the equipment to take to the general meeting where winners will be chosen. Rick volunteered to help with that.

She also reported that most of the wooden show tables have been sold, so we will rent better tables for the show this year.

**Banquet Report:** Terri reported that she has purchased the table center pieces for the event. Still some tickets left to sell.

**Old Business:** Willa reported that the trailer ordered is in process, but the company has had a delay due to illness. The VIN number has been issued and the final payment will be made on delivery. There should be time to organize a work party to load it from the storage unit before the show. The final need will be a used trailer to store and haul the rock for the silent auction. We have temporary places to store the trailers until a final lot can be found. It also means we will not need to do the usual Thursday load-up at Lockaway Storage. The trailers will be hauled to the venue and unloaded and loaded only once.

An update on the Christmas Workshop was discussed. Willa will provide Chicken Noodle soup for Saturday, and Chili for both days.

She will also be bringing her famous deviled eggs...yummm! Rick has plenty of bowls, etc., so we just need folks to bring finger foods to share.

**New Business:** The Project of the Year plaque is at the workshop, Liz will be handling the set-up in the meeting room. She suggested giving out the ballots after all of the entries are in place just before the meeting, then giving folks 10 minutes or so to make their votes.

It was also suggested that we have the Auction at the start of the evening before the business meeting. This month's auction is geared more for finished pieces to be given as gifts. Sandy will be the Auctioneer.

Instead of doing the weigh-ins and counts for the Tumbling and Sewing contests in December, it will be done at the Grab Bag Stuffing Party on Saturday, January 14th at the club workshop, 10 am. That is also when we will be putting stamps on the Reminder Postcards for the show.

There was discussion on having refreshments at the next general meeting. The general feeling was that having refreshments would prevent some folks from participating in the other activities so it will be postponed.

As Sunshine Lady, Deana asked for agreement on sending Holiday flowers to a few of our members. Everyone was in agreement that it would be a nice gesture.

There was much discussion about the complaints made during the last general meeting. Safety is always the top priority. Alcohol and drugs have no place at club functions. It was suggested to put an announcement in the newsletter about taking those kinds of problems to a board meeting, and not the general meetings.

Cheryl brought in small display boxes as a suggestion for the 2023 show case favors. After discussion, Cheryl made a motion to purchase the 2" x 3" display boxes as the 2023 showcase favors. Willa seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Cheryl passed out the ballots to vote for the President of the club. Rick Corbett was voted the President for 2023. Congratulations!

Four new member applications were reviewed. Ed made a motion to accept the new applications, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

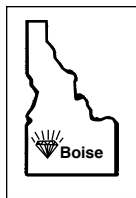
*Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson, Secretary*

### 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.

CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE!

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



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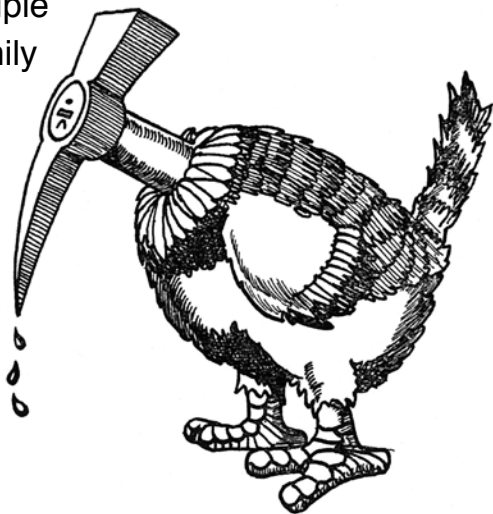
The purpose of the Idaho Gem Club is to promote mutual, educational and scientific interests and benefits of it's members in mineralogy, geology, gemology, the art of lapidary and kindred arts and sciences. Applications and/or renewals may be sent to the Idaho Gem Club, P.O. Box 8443, Boise, ID 83707-2443.

**Dues:**

\$22.00 individual  
\$25.00 couple  
\$28.00 family

**Subscription only:**

\$10 per year



**GENERAL MEETING:**

3rd Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD MEETING:**

1st Tuesday of every month: 7:00 p.m.

**ADDRESS:**

Maple Grove Grange  
11692 W. President Dr., Boise

