



Grindings

Idaho Gem Club, Inc.

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

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DIRECTORY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rockhounds!!

Thanks to everyone who came to the Banquet at El Korah Shrine! Carlas Brown, of Brother Brown's Underground, prepared a fantastic Prime Rib and Chicken Buffet dinner. We had 85 members present. Thank you, Eugene Stewart for being the Emcee for the evening. You make it a fun event for all. It was a Geode themed night, and many geodes were given away in drawings and to winners of the centerpieces. We recognized many members who have been essential to the club over the past year.

Willia Renken was recognized for Outstanding Leadership for 16 years as an IGC Officer and Past President. Her guidance keeps our ship upright and we are grateful. It was a highlight to surprise Brenen Helgerson with a special award, Rockhound of the Year 2021. He inspires those around him to achieve greater things and thoroughly enjoys nature and life. Brenen accepted the position of IGC Photographer. He has a real talent for capturing moments and will take photos of our Gem Show, and in the future he will take photos of field trips, meetings, workshops, fairs and activities of the club. Thank you, Brenen! So happy you are a big part of this rockhound community! Banquet details in this edition.

Our Annual Gem Show is upon us. February 26 and 27, 2022, we will open the Expo Idaho doors to approximately 8,000 visitors. Volunteers are still needed! We appreciate the labor and hours you donate to set up and tear down the show, as well as running the booths all weekend. Our Pizza Party was a fun way to discuss show plans and thank those who worked on the 2020 show. We still need more people to sell entry tickets, help the Silent Auction and Hospitality Tables, sell club merchandise, and run the Grab Bag and Wheel of Fortune Booth. For tearing the show down, loading trailers and re-loading the storage unit we can always use extra help.

The next club meeting is Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 pm at Maple Grove Grange Hall, 11692 W. President Drive. There is a map on the back page of the newsletter. Come check out our new venue and sign up for the show volunteer lists. We will have a program on display cases and how to set them up. There is a Junior and Adult display case contest where people can vote for their favorite case. If you want to show off the jewelry you have made, or display your favorite rocks, express yourself in a showcase! Use your imagination! We encourage all youth and Merit Badge Program kids to earn their Showmanship Badges during this event. They can also make progress on the Fluorescent Mineral Badge.

We are predicting larger attendance based on the success of the Gem Faire and the increasing interest in the Treasure Valley for rocks, gems and minerals. As Gem Show Hosts, invite anyone who is curious about prospecting, making opal jewelry, taking up flint knapping, or buying new lapidary equipment and tools. Be there to show new Idahoans about the Gem State and see what new rock and mineral specimens are on the market. Regional claim owners have a bounty of incredible material to show off!

Download a Show Flyer at www.idahogemclub.com and post at your workplace. Share the event on your social media. We are a non-profit 501c3 organization. The majority of club operation funding comes from our show. Workshop equipment, new equipment such as facet machines to cut gemstones, club hats, T-shirts and new apparel, new books for library . . . it all is generated from the success of this event. Come have a fun weekend, meet new people, talk about rocks and see what makes IGC such a long-standing success!

Fluorescent Minerals are HOT HOT HOT right now! We are proud to display 6 of the newest UV Lights in our expanded Black Light Display Room at the Gem Show! Everyone has looked forward to the brilliant colors that will be glowing in their showcases. Be sure and go into the big black tent inside the Expo and check out the incredible specimens.

Let's all look forward to a great event and make plans to be available for helping that weekend!

Remember: Club Meetings are now held at Maple Grove Grange Hall, 11692 W. President Drive, Boise. See you on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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



Upcoming Events

OGMS's 65th Annual Rock & Gem Show, March 5-6, 2022, O'Connor Field House, 2207 Blaine, Caldwell, ID
Magic Valley Gem & Mineral Show, March 12-13, 2022, Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, 215 Fair Ave., Filer, ID
SE Idaho Gem & Mineral Society Show, March 26-27, 2022, No. Bannock County Fairgrounds, 10588 Fairground Dr., Pocatello, ID

Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society Show, April 9-10, 2022, Idaho Falls Recreation Center, 526 Memorial Dr., Idaho Falls, ID

GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW

February 26-27, 2022
Expo Idaho

It is time to get this show on the road! We will need help loading the show equipment into trailers at Lockaway Storage, on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Show set-up is on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 8:00 am-8:00 pm.

With enough helpers, we can be set up by 2:00 pm. Then people can install their display cases until 8:00 pm.

Bring leather gloves to help set up show please!

Load Trailers: Thursday, February 24, 1:00-3:00pm

Show Set-Up: Friday, February 25, 8 am-8 pm

Show Hours: Saturday 10 am-6 pm

Sunday 10 am-5 pm

Show tear down, load trucks and return to storage on Sunday from 5:00 pm to about 8:00 pm

**MEMBERS STILL NEEDED
 TO HELP RUN BOOTHS!**

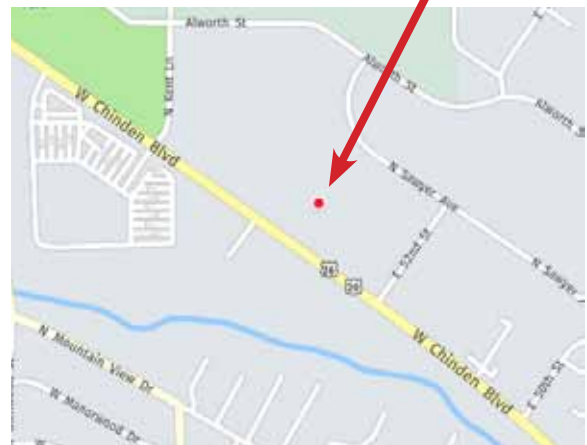
We have filled many time slots for our many activities, however we still have several places open. There will be a last opportunity to sign up at the General Meeting on February 15th. If you can dedicate 2-4 hours during the weekend, we can find a spot for you to help out. After your shift, take a good look at all the booths and enjoy learning fascinating aspects of our hobby through the demonstrations and vendors! It is a fun way to participate in this exciting weekend!

DISPLAY SHOWCASE RESERVATIONS:

You may set up a display of personal interest, show off the jewelry you have created, or focus on your favorite type of rock. Children are encouraged to have a case as well! There are fluorescent showcases as well in the Black Light Room. Cheryl Link is Chairperson for the Display Showcases. You can contact her at 208-859-5098. Text message is best. Case set-up starts on Friday, February 25th, at about 2 pm.

**Truck Load-Up for Gem Show
 Thursday, Feb. 24th at 1 pm**

Lockaway Storage
 5246 W. Chinden Blvd., Garden City, ID
 (close to Expo Idaho)



ROCKY RATTLERS CAN SET UP DISPLAY CASES TOO!!

For all of the members of our Junior's club, you are also encouraged to do a showcase with your collections. See the guidelines on this page for ideas and direction. You can use the display to work toward the "Showmanship" and "Flourescent Mineral" badges.



A balanced display is pleasant to view.



General Gem & Mineral Show Display Guidelines

1. Decide what you want to display

- What do you like to collect?
- Specimens from a special field trip?
- What is the show subject or theme?
- What will make your display special? (unique, best quality, complete collection, favorite)
- Examples of your lapidary skills? (carving, cabs, faceting)
- Have you made jewelry or gem trees?

2. Communications from your display

- Present your display as if you are speaking to a new friend that you have not met yet.
- Purpose of your display is sharing the art of nature, public education, and promoting your interests and club hobby.
- Keep it simple without too much wording.
- Coordinate colors that are pleasant to your eye and that highlight the specimens.
- Avoid use of excess "props" (feathers, sticks, photos) in your case because they steal attention from specimens.

3. Specimens you decide to display

- All same material or different types of gems, minerals, or fossils.
- Size may be large or small, uniform or mixed.
- Quality should always be the very best you can provide.
- Number of specimens should be just enough to make your display easy to view and not look too "busy" or overfilled.
- Large specimens in back of display case, smaller in front.
- Always wash/clean your specimens before placing in the case.

4. Labeling your display

- Always have accurate names, correct spelling, punctuation and information. To help avoid mistakes, check them twice, then ask someone else to read the labels.
- Use uniform size of lettering on the labels and make the letters large enough to read at about two feet from the front of the case.
- Individual labels for each specimen should include, at a minimum, correct name of mineral or fossil and origin, or where it was found.
- If all material in a case is all the same sort of material identify it on a single label at the back or on the floor of the case.

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

DISPLAY CASE CHECK LIST

By Wilma Fabos

(reprinted from the Grindings, February, 1996 issue)

1. Select specimens and prepare them.
 - A. Trim them
 - B. Clean them
 - C. Polish them

You may wish to, at first, select more than you plan to use since one may be more attractive than the other in the final arrangement.
2. Select material for liners and risers, and prepare liners and risers.
 - A. Judges prefer light, plain colors without pattern for competitive exhibits.
 - B. Make sure there are no wrinkles and the material is clean.
 - C. Do not use patterned material or material which will draw attention to itself and away from the specimens.
 - D. Do not have seams showing.
 - E. Make every effort to insure that corners of material covering the risers are flat and not bunched.
 - F. Try to select material which shows off the items displayed to advantage.
3. Prepare labels. Prepare fresh ones each time.
 - A. Type them if possible. If typed, type them on the same typewriter using the same print wheel.
 - B. Make sure their size is complementary to the specimen and uniform throughout.
 - C. Check for accuracy, accuracy of the mineral, the location, the formula (if used), and the spelling of everything.
 - D. Check labels for completeness.
 - E. Check to see if you have a label for each specimen and if it actually belongs to the specimen you have placed it by.
4. Set up the liners, risers, mineral specimens and labels on a table and let it set awhile so you can arrange it and rearrange it until you have it as nearly perfect as possible.
5. Draw a diagram of the final arrangement of the specimens indicating exactly where each specimen was placed and how it was placed.
6. Pack all specimens and labels carefully in a box for transport.
7. Pack risers and liners in dry cleaning bags for transport.
8. Assemble all other items on the check list to take with you to the show. Don't forget the diagram as it will save you much valuable time in setting up your case.

Other things you may need: name plate, case lock, material to securely prop up specimens for better display, specimen stands, windex and paper towels, whisk broom or soft brush, scotch tape, pins, and lights. Get to the show, set up the case, clean inner and outer surfaces of glass, lock case, accept ribbon and SMILE.



2022 GEM CLUB BANQUET
January 18, 2022



Our Chef, Carlas Brown,
Brother Brown's Underground



Ed Moser, Marge Conley, Cheryl Peterson,
Barb Wanner, John Lee



Sandy Blodgett, Mike Dome,
Linda Barlow



Cheryl Link and Marge Conley



Brenen Helgerson,
Rockhound of the Year



Emcee, Gene Stewart, and Pres. Deana Ashton



Deana Ashton, Cindy McCreath Woolsey,
Willia Renken



Leon and Judy Doer



BANQUET AWARDS***Certificates of Appreciation were given to:***

Cheryl Link for Philanthropy and Education
 Dana Robinson for Excellence in Editorship & Publishing
 Eugene Stewart for Master of Ceremonies
 Liz Warner for Lapidary Excellence and ROLE Instructor
 Rick Corbett for Volunteer Hours in Community Events
 and ROLE Instructor
 Teresa Nebeker for Excellence in Treasury and
 Membership Management
 Brenen Helgerson for Rockhound of the Year 2021
 Willa Renken for Outstanding Leadership

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cheri Kunz

New Members:

Our website at idahogemclub.com has all of the information regarding our club operations. We also have a facebook page for interacting and socializing. Please contact any Officer or Board Member with questions or suggestions! Welcome to your Gem Club!

SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

By Deana Ashton

IGC Sunshine Lady sends cheer, get well wishes, sympathy and anniversary expressions for our club. Please text or call Deana at 208-794-5628

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A very big Thank You to Terri Frostrom, Teresa Nebeker, Tim Bolendar, and Robert Garner for their assistance with the Banquet!

You made our event a big success and you each went the extra mile helping in various ways!

Thank you very much,
 Deana Ashton, President

WORKSHOPS

See the calendar for upcoming workshop dates! Come cut your rocks and learn cabochon making! Brent Stewart, Rick Corbett, Liz Warner and Tim Bolender 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)



PEARLS

A pearl is a hard, glistening object produced within the soft tissue (specifically the mantle) of a living shelled mollusk or another animal, such as fossil conulariids. Just like the shell of a mollusk, a pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (mainly aragonite or a mixture of aragonite and calcite) in minute crystalline form, which has deposited in concentric layers. The ideal pearl is perfectly round and smooth, but many other shapes, known as baroque pearls, can occur. The finest quality of natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries. Because of this, pearl has become a metaphor for something rare, fine, admirable and valuable.

The most valuable pearls occur spontaneously in the wild, but are extremely rare. These wild pearls are referred to as natural pearls. Cultured or farmed pearls from pearl oysters and freshwater mussels make up the majority of those currently sold. Imitation pearls are also widely sold in inexpensive jewelry, but the quality of their iridescence is usually very poor and is easily distinguished from that of genuine pearls. Pearls have been harvested and cultivated primarily for use in jewelry, but in the past were also used to adorn clothing. They have also been crushed and used in cosmetics, medicines and paint formulations.

Whether wild or cultured, gem-quality pearls are almost always nacreous and iridescent, like the interior of the shell that produces them. However, almost all species of shelled mollusks are capable of producing pearls (technically “calcareous concretions”) of lesser shine or less spherical shape.

The English word “pearl” comes from the French *perle*, originally from the Latin *perna* meaning leg, after the ham- or mutton leg-shaped bivalve.

The scientific name for the family of pearl-bearing oysters, *Margaritiferidae* comes from the Old Persian word for pearl “margārīta” which is the source of the English name Margaret.

Physical Properties

The unique luster of pearls depends upon the reflection, refraction, and diffraction of light from the translucent layers. The thinner and more numerous the layers in the pearl, the finer the luster. The iridescence that pearls display is caused by the overlapping of successive layers, which breaks up light falling on the surface. In addition, pearls (especially cultured freshwater pearls) can be dyed yellow, green, blue, brown, pink, purple, or black. The very best pearls have a metallic mirror-like luster.

Because pearls are made primarily of calcium carbonate, they can be dissolved in vinegar. Calcium carbonate is susceptible to even a weak acid solution because the crystals react with the acetic acid in the vinegar to form calcium acetate and carbon dioxide.

Creation

The mollusk’s mantle (protective membrane) deposits layers of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) in the form of the mineral aragonite or a mixture of aragonite and calcite held together by an organic horn-like compound called conchiolin. The combination of aragonite and conchiolin is called *nacre*, which makes up mother-of-pearl. The commonly held belief that a grain of sand acts as the irritant is in fact rarely the case. Typical stimuli include organic material, parasites, or even damage that displaces mantle tissue to another part of the mollusk’s body. These small particles or organisms gain entry when the shell valves are open for feeding or respiration. In cultured pearls,

the irritant is typically an introduced piece of the mantle epithelium, with or without a spherical bead (beaded or beadless cultured pearls).

Natural Pearls

Natural pearls are nearly 100% calcium carbonate and conchiolin. It is thought that natural pearls form under a set of accidental conditions when a microscopic intruder or parasite enters a bivalve mollusk and settles inside the shell. The mollusk, irritated by the intruder, forms a pearl sac of external mantle tissue cells and secretes the calcium carbonate and conchiolin to cover the irritant. This secretion process is repeated many times, thus producing a pearl. Natural pearls come in many shapes, with perfectly round ones being comparatively rare.

Typically, the build-up of a natural pearl consists of a brown central zone formed by columnar calcium carbonate (usually calcite, sometimes columnar aragonite) and a yellowish to white outer zone consisting of nacre (tabular aragonite). The presence of columnar calcium carbonate rich in organic material indicates juvenile mantle tissue that formed during the early stage of pearl development.

Imitation Pearls

Some imitation pearls (also called shell pearls) are simply made of mother-of-pearl, coral or conch shell, while others are made from glass and are coated with a solution containing fish scales called essence d’Orient. Although imitation pearls look the part, they do not have the same weight or smoothness as real pearls, and their luster will also dim greatly.

Gemological Identification

A well-equipped gem testing laboratory can distinguish natural pearls from cultured pearls by using gemological X-ray equipment to examine the center of a pearl. With X-rays it is possible to see the growth rings of the pearl, where the layers of calcium carbonate are separated by thin layers of conchiolin. The differentiation of natural pearls from non-beaded cultured pearls can be very difficult without the use of this X-ray technique.

Natural and cultured pearls can be distinguished from imitation pearls using a microscope. Another method of testing for imitations is to rub two pearls against each other. Imitation pearls are completely smooth, but natural and cultured pearls are composed of nacre platelets, making both feel slightly gritty.

Origin of a Natural Pearl

Previously, natural pearls were found in many parts of the world. Present day natural pearling is confined mostly to seas off Bahrain. Australia also has one of the world’s last remaining fleets of pearl diving ships. Australian pearl divers dive for south sea pearl oysters to be used in the cultured south sea pearl industry. The catch of pearl oysters is similar to the numbers of oysters taken during the natural pearl days. Hence significant numbers of natural pearls are still found in the Australian Indian Ocean waters from wild oysters. X-ray



Harvesting pearl photo by Keith Pomakis

examination is required to positively verify natural pearls found today.

Value of a Natural Pearl

Fine quality natural pearls are very rare jewels. Their values are determined similarly to those of other precious gems, according to size, shape, color, quality of surface, orient and luster.

Single natural pearls are often sold as collectors' items, or set as centerpieces in unique jewelry. Very few matched strands of natural pearls exist, and those that do often sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The introduction and advance of the cultured pearl hit the pearl industry hard. Pearl dealers publicly disputed the authenticity of these new cultured products, and left many consumers uneasy and confused about their much lower prices. Essentially, the controversy damaged the images of both natural and cultured pearls. By the 1950s, when a significant number of women in developed countries could afford their own cultured pearl necklace, natural pearls were reduced to a small, exclusive niche in the pearl industry.

Freshwater Pearl Farming

In 1914, pearl farmers began growing cultured freshwater pearls using the pearl mussels native to Lake Biwa. This lake, the largest and most ancient in Japan, lies near the city of Kyoto. The extensive and successful use of the Biwa Pearl Mussel is reflected in the name Biwa pearls, a phrase which was at one time nearly synonymous with freshwater pearls in general. Since the time of peak production in 1971, when Biwa pearl farmers produced six tons of cultured pearls, pollution has caused the virtual extinction of the industry. Japanese pearl farmers have cultured a hybrid pearl mussel – a cross between Biwa Pearl Mussels and a closely related species from China, *Hyriopsis cumingi*, in Lake Kasumigaura. This industry has also nearly ceased production, due to pollution. Currently, the Belpearl company based out of Kobe, Japan, continues to purchase the remaining Kasumigaura pearls.

Led by pearl pioneer John Latendresse and his wife Chessy, the United States began farming cultured freshwater pearls in the mid-1960s. They were introduced as a commercial product in August 1985. The Tennessee pearl farm has emerged as a tourist destination in recent years, but commercial production of freshwater pearls has ceased.

Momme Weight

For many cultured pearl dealers and wholesalers, the preferred weight measure used for loose pearls and pearl strands is the momme. Momme is a weight measure used by the Japanese for centuries. Today, momme weight is still the standard unit of measure used by most pearl dealers to communicate with pearl producers and wholesalers. One momme corresponds to 1/1000 kan. Reluctant to give up tradition, the Japanese government formalized the kan measure in 1891 as being exactly 3.75 kilograms or 8.28 pounds.

Hence, 1 momme = 3.75 grams or 3750 milligrams.

In the United States, during the 19th and 20th centuries, through trade with Japan in silk cloth, the momme became a unit indicating the quality of silk cloth.

Though millimeter size range is typically the first factor in determining a cultured pearl necklace's value, the momme weight



of pearl necklace will allow the buyer to quickly determine if the necklace is properly proportioned. This is especially true when comparing the larger south sea and Tahitian pearl necklaces.

The value of the pearls in jewelry is determined by a combination of the luster, color, size, lack of surface flaw and symmetry that are appropriate for the type of pearl under consideration. Among those attributes, luster is the most important differentiator of pearl quality according to jewelers.

All factors being equal, however, the larger the pearl the more valuable it is. Large, perfectly round pearls are rare and highly valued. Teardrop-shaped pearls are often used in pendants.

Shapes

Pearls are generally of spherical shapes. Perfectly round pearls are the rarest and most valuable shape. Semi-rounds are also used in necklaces or in pieces where the shape of the pearl can be disguised to look like it is a perfectly round pearl. Button pearls are like a slightly flattened round pearl and can also make a necklace, but are more often used in single pendants or earrings where the back half of the pearl is covered, making it look like a larger, rounder pearl.

Pear-shaped pearls sometimes look like teardrop pearls and are most often seen in earrings, pendants, or as a center pearl in a necklace. Baroque pearls have a different appeal; they are often highly irregular with unique and interesting shapes. They are also commonly seen in necklaces. Circled pearls are characterized by concentric ridges, or rings, around the body of the pearl.



Lengths of Pearl Necklaces

There is a special vocabulary used to describe the length of pearl necklaces. While most other necklaces are simply referred to by their physical measurement, pearl necklaces are named by how low they hang when worn around the neck. A **collar**, measuring 10 to 13 inches or 25 to 33 cm in length, sits directly against the throat and does not hang down the neck at all. Pearl **chokers**, measuring 14 to 16 inches or 35 to 41 cm in length, nestle just at the base of the neck. A strand called a **princess** length, measuring 17 to 19 inches or 43 to 48 cm in length, comes down to or just below the collarbone. A **matinee** length, measuring 20 to 24 inches or 50 to 60 cm in length, falls just above the breasts. An **opera** length, measuring 28 to 35 inches or 70 to 90 cm in length, will be long enough to reach the breastbone or sternum of the wearer; and longer still, a pearl **rope**, measuring more than 45 inches or 115 cm in length, is any length that falls down farther than an opera.

Necklaces can also be classified as uniform, or graduated. In a uniform strand of pearls, all pearls are classified as the same size, but actually fall in a range. A uniform strand of akoya pearls, for example, will measure within 0.5 mm. So a strand will never be 7 mm, but will be 6.5–7 mm. Freshwater pearls, Tahitian pearls, and South Sea pearls all measure to a full millimeter when considered uniform.

A graduated strand of pearls most often has at least 3 mm of differentiation from the ends to the center of the necklace. Popularized in the United States during the 1950s by the GIs bringing strands of cultured akoya pearls home from Japan, a 3.5 momme, 3 mm to 7 mm graduated strand was much more affordable than a uniform strand because most of the pearls were small.

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 18, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:32 by Deana Ashton. Gene Stewart welcomed everyone to the 83rd Annual Gem Club Banquet. He then introduced the head table; Sandy Blodgett, Alice and Gene Stewart, Deana Ashton, and Cheri Kimsey Kunz. Ed Moser gave the blessing and we enjoyed a great BBQ dinner catered by Brother Brown's Underground. Gene asked for a round of applause for Carlos Brown for such a good dinner.

Terri drew tickets for about 60 geodes that were donated by Tim Bolender, Brent Stewart, Deana Ashton and Malcolm Cesare. There were geodes from Dugway and Rabbit Springs. Gene told jokes while the drawing was proceeding.

Congratulations were offered for Roy and Patsy Bethel on their 76 years of marriage. Congratulations were also offered to Liz Warner for winning the Project of the Year contest.

Gene then asked for a moment of silence for the members we lost during the past year.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Liz Warner and Rick Corbett for their help in workshops. Lifetime Member Certificates were awarded to Rick Olmstead, Dana Robinson, Willa and Doug Renken, and Karol Cawthon.

Gene introduced the Officers for 2022; Deana Ashton, President, Willa Renken, 1st Vice President, Cheryl Link, 2nd Vice President, Teresa Nebeker, Treasurer, Dana Robinson, Secretary, Cheryl Peterson, Rick Corbett, Jason Smith, Brent Stewart. Past presidents in attendance were also recognized.

Certificates were awarded to: Cheryl Link for Philanthropy, Brenen Helgerson for Rockhound of the Year, Willa Renken for Leadership, Gene Stewart for Master of Ceremonies, Dana Robinson for Editorship, and Teresa Nebeker for Treasury and Membership Management.

Business Meeting:

Door prizes were given out as thank you's. About 60 to 70 tickets were drawn. There will be a Pizza Party on February 3 thanking all who helped with the last show and for planning for the upcoming show

There were no corrections to the minutes as printed in the *Grindings*. Willa Renken made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, Ed Moser seconded, and the membership voted to pass the motion, with one nay vote from Mike Dome (of course).

Secretary Report: No report.

Treasurer Report: There is a copy of the financial statements on the back table for anyone who wants to look it over.

Juniors Report: No report.

Workshop Report: No report.

Old Business:

We still need plenty of volunteers to help out at the Gem Show. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the back. Willa also encouraged everyone to get involved.

Gene thanked the Banquet organizers; Deana Ashton, Teresa Nebeker, Tim Bolender, and Terri Frostrom.

Deana reflected on the years 2020 and 2021 and all of the good and bad that the years had to offer.

New Business:

The next meeting in February will be at the new venue, Maple Grove Grange. It is a great location where we can have parking lot sales before the meetings from 5-7 pm. Also we have changed the field trip day to the second Saturday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

MINUTES OF THE IDAHO GEM CLUB BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Deana Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Present: Deana Ashton, Cheryl Link, Rick Corbett, Teresa Nebeker, Terri Frostrom, Willa Renken, Jason Smith, and Dana Robinson

Absent: Ed Moser, Brent Stewart, Randy Harrison

Guests: Sandy Blodgett

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 Jason. Board members voted, motion carried.

Secretary Report: New AFMS newsletter for library. Also received a postcard about a meteorite testing facility; meteoritetesting.org.

Treasurer Report by Teresa Nebeker: Teresa went over the monthly financial statements, banquet costs recap and the vendor list showing who is paid up for the show.

Workshop Report: The ROLE workshop for February was cancelled.

The next workshop will be on Thursday, Feb. 17th from 6-8:45 pm.

Youth Group: No report.

Old Business/Show Report: Doug Renken is the Set-up Chairperson with advertising as part of the job. Cheryl Lawson is interested in taking an active role helping out. We need to make checklists for each station showing needs, i.e., small bags, tickets, etc.

There will be a pizza party on Thursday at 7 pm at the Idaho Pizza Company on Fairview in Meridian. It is a thank you for the last show's participants and a planning session for the next show.

There was discussion about putting a flat lap demo station in the back by the black light room. Sandy volunteered to man the table. The Scholarship Fund ticket sales can be put in the back too so there isn't confusion with front tickets. Cheryl reported that case favors have been ordered and will be here in time. She also has the display case sign ups under control.

Willa has the demonstrators lined up for the show. The Bead Society will have a place, Greg Sandmeyer is doing opals, and Robert Coggins will be doing faceting. The flintknappers have also confirmed they will be there.

Deana suggested making lanyards for the set-up/take down volunteers so we know who is helping. There was also discussion on the show layout and getting the floor chalked.

Willa will check on pricing for table rentals to replace the old wooden ones. If we can rent tables there will be less to store. With the rental unit price increasing, it is cost prohibitive to have. We need to purchase another trailer to store the show stuff and lose the storage unit. Teresa will check on parking space for the trailers. Expo Idaho is also increasing the rent we pay by 10% per year as well.

We need to update our advertising for the show. New videos and stills for advertising on TV. Brenen Helgerson will help us with that.

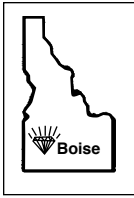
New Business: Terri Frostrom announced that she received a donation to the club of 12 hoodies and 12 t-shirts from Teezers for the Basket Raffle booth.

One new member application was reviewed. Dana made a motion to accept the new member, Jason seconded, the board voted and the motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Robinson
Secretary





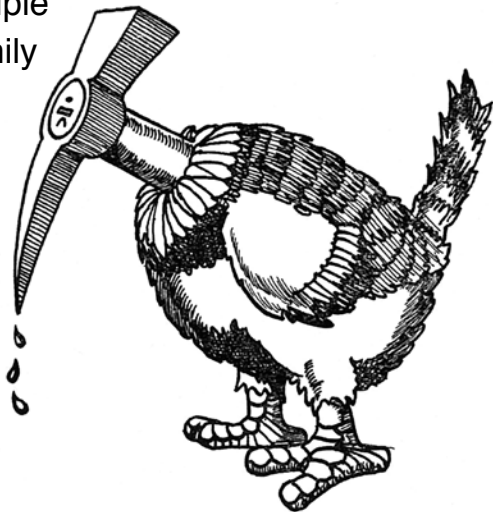
Idaho Gem Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 8443
Boise, Idaho 83707-2443

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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

