



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter August 2024



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

A Note from the President: Hi fellow rockhounds! In this month's newsletter we have two classes available this fall. The wire wrap class will cover making a ring and the second is a cabochon class. If you are interested, please sign up as soon as possible as these classes do fill up fast. I went with representatives from BLM and DEQ, three geologists and a weed specialist, to our sapphire claim. All in all, we are close to being compliant with the standards that these governing bodies have for small miner claims. We will have to address weeds next spring and have some cleaning up to do. The final reports will be done in a few more weeks and I am sure that there will be an additional list of things to do. I hope to see you September 19th at our monthly meeting!*Cherri*

A Note from the Vice-President: I want to thank you for letting me serve you as vice president. Due to a change in my job I need to resign. I would encourage you to fill this role. You will be working alongside a great team and a great group of people who are always there to help one another. I'll still be around as much as I can, and will help as I am able, but we really need you to help with Club activities. The ask is truly small, but rewards are huge. Please consider taking on the role of president or vice president.

Thank you. -- *Kim*

In this issue: Upcoming Events, Wire-wrapping Class – Rings!, Cabochon Workshop, Partnerships for Education, Sapphire Claim Safety Fencing, Books of Interest to the Montana Rockhound, August Membership Meeting Notes, 43d Annual Montana Crystal Collectors Rendezvous, Trim saw/Polisher for sale, and of course...more bad jokes!

Helena Mineral Society Officers:

helenamineralsociety@gmail.com

President: Cherri Murphy *Vice President:* Kim Peterson

Secretary: Jim Meier *Treasurer:* Jan Smith *Membership Chair:* Stacy Robare

Member at Large: Wayne Waters *Show Chair:* Alexis McEwan

Grab Bags: Natalie Jordan

Field Trip Committee: Bob Ringler, Monte Miles, & Shawn Moore

Claims Committee: Ken Liston, Curt Smith, Wayne Waters, Monte Miles

Program Committee: Ken Liston, Curt Smith, Wayne Waters

Event Coordinator: Kathy Lamping

Historian: Kelly Wilson *Newsletter Editors:* Sarah Hall & Jim Meier



Field Trip! Field Trip! Field Trip!



Thank you to our Field Trip Committee for putting together this year's trips. Fire Season cut into our fun a bit, but we will hopefully get out a bit more next year. Several "indoor" fieldtrips to museums are in the works for the coming months. Additional details and meet-up instructions will be sent out via e-mail to confirm plans prior to each trip. If you have any questions, concerns, or additional Field Trip ideas please feel free to contact Bob Ringler at 431-3364.



Upcoming Article Series: How To Be A Good Hound ...Rockhound, that is!



As noted in the June issue, legal, respectful, and safe collecting is one of the focuses of our Club. The June article, "Claim Jumpin', Highgradin', & General Misbehavin'", covered how not to be a good rockhound, how to violate your Club membership duties, and ultimately lose your Club membership. You might even get a few Federal Felony charges tossed at you. Starting in the fall, the Editors will present a series on how to be a good, well behaved rockhound.

In coordination with a number of federal, state, and local agencies who are kindly giving of their time, knowledge, and resources to provide information and regulations pertaining to "hobby or recreational" collecting, we will present an overview of what you need to know to collect on National Forest, BLM, State, and other lands. We will not only discuss Montana, but also a variety of different geographical regions and ecological environments around the country.

If you have specific questions on this topic you would like to have answered in the article series, or you have a particular National Forest or BLM location you would like to see covered, please send your questions to HelenaMineralSocietyNewsletter@yahoo.com.

Mark your Calendars!



Next Club Meeting – September 19, 2024, 7pm at 720 Faw Rd
Billings 2024 Rock Show – September 21 & 22, 2024

Eagle Seeker Community Center (old Shrine building), 1125 Broadwater, Billings, Montana

Wire Wrapping Class – Rings! – October 19, 2024

Cabochoon Workshop at Montana Learning Center – October 26, 2024

Montana Crystal Collectors Rendezvous – Bozeman, September 27-29, 2024

Please contact Jay Bernasek at jayb@mtopticom.net with questions.

Second Annual (Hellgate Mineral Society) **Rock Swap at Fort Missoula** September 29th.
3400 Capt Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – December 7, 2024 at Fortress of Joy

Club Picnic will be Sunday, July 13, 2025 at noon at the large Fairground Pavilion

WIRE WRAPPING CLASS – RINGS!



We are excited to announce that the Club has once again invited Trent McCauley and Brianne Scott from Butte to offer a Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Wire Wrapping class here in Helena. The class will be offered on **Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00** at Fortress of Joy (720 Faw Rd) in the 180 Youth Building. All levels of experience are welcome to attend. The cost is **\$40 per person (non-refundable)** with all supplies being provided. The class is limited to 15 people.

Payment is due at the time of registration, or your spot will be given to the next paid registrant. *Please register prior to Thursday, October 3, 2024.* Any unpaid seats after Thursday, October 3 will be offered to the public. Payment is **cash only** and can be provided to Kim at the monthly meeting unless other arrangements are made to meet up in town.

Please contact Kim with any questions – text (anytime) or call (after 5pm) 406-439-3531. Kim does not have voicemail.

CABOCHON WORKSHOP

We are also excited to announce another Cabochon Workshop in conjunction with the Montana Learning Center. There will be two sessions on Saturday, October 26, 2024. One session will run from 9:00-12:00, the other from 1:00-4:00. Each session has eight opening – individuals may only sign up for one of the two sessions. Please text or call Jan at (406) 438-6678 to register or sign up with Stacy at the September or October Membership meeting.



The real wealth of the Nation lies in the resources of the earth soil, water, forests, minerals, and wildlife. To utilize them for present needs while insuring their preservation for future generations requires a delicately balanced and continuing program, based on the most extensive research. Their administration is not properly, and cannot be, a matter of politics.

~ Rachel Carson

Partnerships For Education

You will remember from the May Newsletter that the Club donated three age appropriate books on rocks and minerals to the summer reading program run by the North Jefferson Libraries. The Club also participated in their Summer Reading Kickoff event at the Montana City Firehall. As of July 31, 2024, 197 kids had participated in the program reading over 157,361 minutes this summer! That's over 2,622 hours or 109.27 days of continuous, nonstop reading...wow!!



SAPPHIRE CLAIM SAFETY FENCING



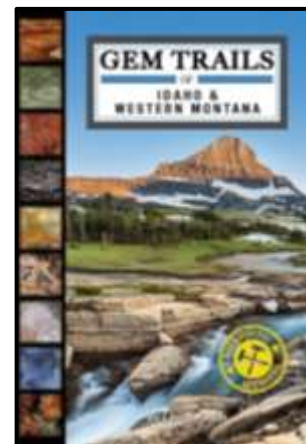
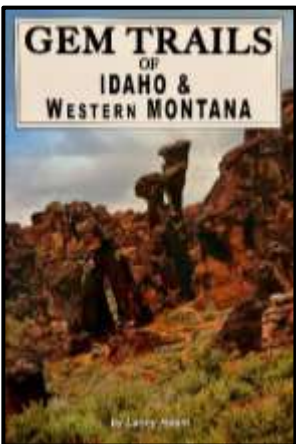
Thank you to Ken Liston and his wife for installing safety fencing at the Miss Beverly Sapphire claim. It is a temporary safety measure. BLM will provide further guidance in the coming weeks as to reclamation and remediation options for the damaged, unsafe areas. As a reminder to Club members, the Blue Star claim is closed to collecting.



Books of interest to the Montana Rockhound



Another classic from Lanny Ream is his Gem Trails of Idaho and Western Montana. Republished in 2012, it is available from a variety of sources. Lanny covers 99 different collecting localities – spread throughout our western neighbor, Idaho, and the western part of Montana. The republished edition was updated with GPS information and handy “at-a-glance” information as well as detailed maps. But, as always, double check current access requirements, fire conditions, and claim status before venturing out to collect.



Notes from the August Club Meeting...

- Ken Liston presented a detailed presentation on Diatremes and Kimberlites...or to put it another way, he discussed what happens when the Earth farts (his words, not the editors!).
- Geologists from BLM and DEQ joined Cherri, Wayne and Jim at the Miss Beverly Claim to discuss remediation and reclamation. We expect their suggestions soon. Our Claim “neighbor” Tom Greene has kindly offered to help with the reclamation. The government representatives were also concerned about invasive toadflax and thistles.
- The dock the club has used on Hauser lake is for sale. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact the Club via e-mail.
- Both the Club President, Cherri Murphy, and the Club Vice-President, Kim Peterson, will be resigning at the end of this term. Elections will be held at the September meeting.
- Please, PLEASE, return any of the new yellow club vests that were used at the 2024 Mineral Show. These are Club property and were purchased as a shared resource. They cannot be kept by individuals. If you would like to purchase a vest for your personal use and ownership, please contact the Club leadership via the Club e-mail.
- Work is progressing on the new Club website – it should be up and running by the September membership Meeting. A demo will be provided.
- We received word that the barrels of Sapphires that the Club had voted to purchase were not good quality and the decision was made not to purchase the material.
- The decision was made to purchase six folding tables to use for the Annual Picnic and Christmas Party as well as sorting material at the storage units.
- Dave has lapidary equipment for sale – please see the ad later in this edition for details.

Name that Smelter...Do you recognize this historic locality?

Image redacted in on-line
version at copywrite owners
request.

43rd Annual Montana Crystal Collectors Rendezvous

September 27-29, 2024

Bozeman, Montana



By Jay Bernasek
jayb@mtopticom.net



Montana Crystal Collectors has been described as an event, rather than an organization. Once a year, a group of people get together to buy, sell, trade, and talk about rocks and minerals. This year the event will be held in Bozeman MT, September 27 – 29, at the Best Western GranTree Inn, just off the 7th avenue interchange (1325 N. 7th Avenue).

Friday evening is a social event where people that haven't seen each other for a year have a chance to just visit.

Saturday morning is a buy/sell opportunity. Anybody that wants to can set out rocks, minerals and jewelry for sale is welcome to. There are a limited number of tables (usually 10 to 15), and tables are first come first serve (sharing is allowed/encouraged). The group breaks for lunch at noon, which ends the “for sale” portion of the day, and all for sale items should be packed up at that point.

Saturday afternoon includes speakers on various rock, mineral, and geology related topics. This year the speakers will include Peter Bennett (Faceting) and Paul Senn (Factors affecting Crystal Growth) among others. There is a best self-collected specimen competition, where anybody can show off the coolest thing they found in the last year. All attendees get to vote on their favorite, and the winner gets to take possession of the “fickle finger of fate” award for a year. The award must be returned the following year, to be given to the next winner. The afternoon ends with a live auction. Most people who sell stuff during the morning donate an item for the auction. The auction is how we raise the money to pay for the facility that holds the event each year – there are no dues, or entrance fees. So people are encouraged to donate an item, and bid!

Saturday evening includes a banquet dinner, and another prominent speaker. This year, our speaker is Dr. Michael Wise, a geologist from the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington D.C. The banquet dinner is \$36 per person and includes Mesquite chicken, barbecue pulled pork, and other side dishes. If you want to go to the banquet, please contact me no later than September 16 for reservations. Also, if you do make a banquet reservation, but something comes up and you can't make it, please let me know to cancel. We still have to pay for any unclaimed dinners.

Sunday we have a field trip, the location of which usually isn't decided until the last minute, as it's often dependent on weather.

A flyer has been sent out with all the details to all previous attendees. But, if this is your first time, and you want more information on this years event, you can contact me, Jay Bernasek, at jayb@mtopticom.net.

Helena Mineral Society Meetings



The Helena Mineral Society meets at
Fortress of Joy – 720 Faw Rd, Helena, MT 59601

Next Meeting – September 19, 2024 at 7 pm

Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome!



Trim Saw and Polishing Wheel for Sale - Contact Dave 406 443-0348



It has a 6" trim saw with a nearly new blade, expandable drum with a large supply of silicon carbide belts, and a 6" polishing wheel that uses interchangeable belts. There are water valves for the drum and the wheel. Asking price \$250. The Kingsley-North catalogue shows a similar machine for \$1350 new.

You might be a rock hound if ...



“Matrix” is not a movie title to you
and you were seriously put out to discover that
“The Phantom of the Opera” is not about crystals!



Helena Mineral Society Contact Information

Mailing Address: Helena Mineral Society, Inc.
PO Box 736
Helena, MT 59624

General Information and Questions: helenamineralsociety@gmail.com

Gem and Mineral Show: HelenaMineralShow@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions: HelenaMineralSocietyNewsletter@yahoo.com

Website Submissions: HelenaMineralSocietyWebsite@yahoo.com

Submission Guidelines – Please ensure that pictures submitted are in jpg format and documents are submitted as pdf files. E-mail subject line should include your full name and the topic – for example “Sarah Hall – Montana Agate Pictures”. Only current Club members in good standing may make submissions to the Newsletter and Website.



HelenaMineralSociety

