



## Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Show

The Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Show will be held Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20 in Powell, WY. Hours are Saturday, 9am to 7pm, and Sunday, 9am to 4pm. The show will be held at the Park County Fairgrounds, 655 5th Street, Powell, WY. RV parking and camping spaces are available. Motel reservations should be made **now** as space is limited during this weekend.

The theme of the show is Wyoming Wonders.

Set up will be Friday, noon. A complimentary dinner hosted by Shoshone Rock Club will be held Friday evening for demonstrators, dealers and club members.

At least 7 demonstrators will be participating.

Gary Olson, making cabochons (see page 4); Amy Walker, wire wrapping;

Knapping Jack, flint-knapping; Laurie Coombs, glass beads and sphere making.

Wayne Sutherland of the WSGS will speak on "Wyoming's Mineral Wealth, and Curt Talbot, geologist and teacher will be displaying specimens from his extensive fossil collection. Glen Laidlaw of USGS will be available to identify specimens at no charge.

Some wonderful raffle prizes will be awarded:

Afghan Flag by Lynn Junker.

Standard show display case of quarter sawn oak, poplar and maple plywood by Bill Beebe of Stone Age Industries.

A lovely Mexican onyx vase.

Amethyst donated by Alice

Guston.

Also, Knightia fossils, Concrete Critters, Ammonite, salt lamp from the Himalayan Mtns., and a scallop from New Jersey.

Many door prizes are planned such as Knightia, painted Brazil slabs by Mary Ann Northrup, and wire wrapped necklaces.

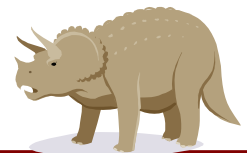
After the show a field trip will be led by Lynn Neale, Monday, June 21 to the Lysite area to hunt for agate.

Contacts:

Jane Neale 307-754-3285

Mary Ann Northrup 307-754-4472

Art Schatz 307-548-7258



Some door prizes mentioned in the above article.



# Wyoming Jade

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## The discovery of Wyoming Jade

By

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Minor prehistoric jade artifacts have been reported from Wyoming, but have not been verified by archeologists. Assistant State Archeologist Danny Walker (personal communication, 2010) has examined carved prehistoric objects of various types from Wyoming, but although green in color, all have been steatite or serpentine rather than nephrite jade. The well known early Wyoming Jade hunter, Allan Branham, spent many years hunting in central Wyoming for both artifacts and jade, and never found any jade artifacts. He concluded that the knowledge and skill to make use of jade was not present in the native inhabitants of central Wyoming as it was in other parts of the world such as New Zealand or Central America (Branham, 1964 & 1965). The only prehistoric use of Wyoming Jade appears to have been for weighting down the bottom edges of buffalo hide teepees (Bergsten, 1964).

The earliest accounts of jade in Wyoming are anecdotal, and were reported by Lawrence J. Bergsten (1964). Bergsten talked with an old time resident of Lander, Bill Marion, who related to Bergsten that prior to 1900, he had been accompanied on a prospecting trip through some rugged country by a Scottish geologist, who picked up a rock and declared it to be jade.

Bergsten (1964) also related information given to him by Harvey Samuelson, a lapidary in Salinas, California with 60 years of experience. While working in Portland, Oregon as a lapidary in 1908 and 1909, Samuelson purchased apple green Wyoming jade from cowboys who had traveled west to spend their winters. The cowboys sold it for whatever they could get, and Samuelson cut a considerable amount of jade. Since there was no United States demand for the jade, most of it went to England. Bergsten accounted Samuelson's story as reliable. Years later, about 1958 or 1959, Bergsten talked with lady at a mineral and gem show in Indio, California, who had purchased some jade jewelry from The Old Curiosity House in London, England in 1909; the proprietor had told her at the time that the jade came from Wyoming.

Robert Hill, Sr. (1979) stated in an article in *Gems & Minerals Magazine* that the first jade strike in Wyoming was in 1913, but provided no supporting data. In consideration of Bergsten's anecdotes, it is possible that the existence of jade in Wyoming was known to at least a small number of individuals in the early 1900s. The jade strike in 1913 reported by Hill may have been a delayed reiteration of jade brought to Oregon four or five years earlier. However there are no known early written records to substantiate this.

James L. Kraft, in his book 'Adventure in Jade' (1947), related two stories concerning the discovery of Wyoming Jade that he had heard from local jade hunters. Kraft, the president of the Kraft Foods Company of Chicago, had a

## Wyoming Jade—continued from page 2

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great interest in jade, was one of the early purchasers of Wyoming Jade about 1938 or 1939, and later financially helped Allan Branham open one of the first jade shops in Lander (Bergsten, 1964). Kraft's jade hunting and personal

contacts in Lander gave him the opportunity to hear the local stories concerning the discovery of jade in Wyoming.

One of these stories relates that a man named Corbin came to the area from Oregon on a bicycle to collect agates in the Sweetwater area (Sweetwater agate) in the early 1930s. During his search along the river banks, he picked up a chip of dark green rock that he identified as jade. When cut and polished, it was exceptionally clear, and he showed it to a local gem collector, Biford Foster, so that Foster would know what to look for and maybe find more. Corbin left the area for Oregon, and did not return. Biford Foster was a Lander lapidary, and was considered a master craftsman in his fashioning jade into jewelry (MacFall, undated).

The second story relates that a sheepherder, working in the Crooks Mountain area in 1931, brought a sizeable piece of dark green stone with included quartz crystals to Lander that he had found. The stone turned out to be nephrite jade, which after identification, he sold to a museum. The story stirred up local interest and inspired local people to hunt for jade (Kraft, 1947). This story was retold with less detail by Branham (1941), and again with details by Russell P. MacFall (undated) as part of the introduction to his self-published collection of articles, *Wyoming Jade: A Pioneer Hunter's Story*. That collection is dominated by articles written by Allan Branham that were reprinted from articles published in the *Lapidary Journal* in 1965 and 1966.

A 1945 unfinished draft report on jade deposits in central Wyoming by J.D. Love stated that jade was discovered in the area about 1935, with unverifiable credit claimed by at least a dozen individuals. That statement probably reflects popular perception in 1945. However, Love's conclusion that we will probably never know for certain who or when the discovery of Wyoming Jade was made is most likely correct.

### References

Bergsten, Lawrence J., 1964, History of the Wyoming Jade Region: *Lapidary Journal*, Sept. 1964, Reprinted in MacFall, Russell P., Editor, undated, *Wyoming Jade – A Pioneer Hunter's Story*: Self published, 56 p.

Branham, Allan, 1965 & 1966, Several articles in MacFall, Russell P., Editor, undated, *Wyoming Jade – A Pioneer Hunter's Story*: Self published, 56 p.

Hill, Robert Sr., 1979, Nephrite, Jadeite—Jade: *Gems & Minerals Magazine*, No. 504, Oct. 1979, p.62.



*Editor's note: Here's another story, unsubstantiated.*



In 1932 Bert Rhodes found a piece of green rock along the Sweetwater River. Upon identification, it was assumed the Chinese had lost it on the way to the gold mines in California (?). It was identified as green jade.

Bert owned a rock shop in Lander. Curious, he returned and found pieces of jade and staked a claim. This led to a nearly 50 mile area of claims.

Nephrite jade, the kind found in WY, is a calcium-magnesium-silicate and belongs in the amphibole group of minerals. WY jade is in shades of black, green, pink, white, gray, brown and snowflake. Jade was named the official Wyoming state gem in 1967.

## State Show Door Prize Example

The photo to the right is a wire wrapped tumbled bloodstone necklace made by Mary Vogel. It is similar to other door prizes that will be awarded at the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society Show in Powell on June 19 and 20. Door prizes will be awarded hourly. Contact persons for the show are on Page 1.



## Shoshone Rock Club

Shoshone Rock Club March 10, 2010

Board members discussed a field trip to be led by Lynn Neale, Monday, June 21, after the show to the Lysite area to hunt for agate. The field trip after the show will be 4 wheel drive recommended, \$5.00

per vehicle and please take no more than 50 lbs. Funds will go to the caretakers of the property.

Art Schultz reported on his program at the Lovell Visitors Center and on the book he is writing about the early day pioneer town of Kane.

The club will try for field trip out-

ings to Greybull, Meeteetse, Crystal Creek and Legend Rock of Sheep Eater Indians, a spiritual place of petroglyphs.

The program was a movie, "The Land that Time Forgot" from Harvey Wilkins, of boating down the Big Horn Canyon before the dam was built.

—Linna Beebe

## Inspiration



If you make cabochons, or would like to, you gotta see what Gary Olson can do with a rock!

Gary Olson of Powell will be demonstrating how to make cabochons at the state show. He held a class in March to show his technique to Shoshone Rock Club members.

Gary and other demonstrators will be showing their skills and abilities during the show. See page 1 for a list of other demonstrators in attendance.

# Snakebite 101

As professional handlers of venomous snakes say, "The best equipment for treating a venomous snake bite is a set of car keys".

However, the first step in treatment is to avoid panic. Death is rare. Even without evacuation, most cases result in several days of serious misery, and then full recovery. Remember that the fatality rate even for untreated pit viper (rattlesnake) bites is extremely low.

The treatment steps are:

- Use the Sawyer Extractor. If you are in snake country, the Extractor should always be within easy reach in your pack. The Extractor can remove as much as 30% of venom if applied within three minutes. Use the Extractor as quickly as possible, and then keep it on the bite for about 30 minutes. Because of the great suction it creates, no cutting is necessary. This should always be the first thing you do, even when evacuation is in progress.
- Remove rings, bracelets or any other constricting jewelry on the affected limb, which may swell to as much as twice its normal size.
- Immobilize the bitten extremity with a splint, just as you would a fracture.
- Have the patient rest and keep activity to a minimum.
- Have the patient drink as much fluid as possible, in frequent small amounts in order to maintain fluid volume and kidney flow.
- Remember that a snake bite is a contaminated puncture wound and treat it as such.

Get to medical care as quickly as you can. Otherwise have the patient rest and drink fluids; keep the

wound clean; give lots of encouragement.

The following are **not** recommended for pit viper bites.

- Do not make incisions or try to suck out the venom. In outdoor conditions, cutting into an already compromised limb is asking for infection. You absolutely do not want pit viper venom in your mouth! Conversely, your mouth is full of all kinds of bacteria, and you can't suck as hard as the Extractor can.
- Do not use a tourniquet. Tourniquets can result in loss of the limb due to decreased blood flow. In addition you are just keeping the venom localized where it does the most tissue damage.
- Do not use electric shock. It can be dangerous and has no proven value in managing pit viper bites. It is the great urban legend of wilderness first aid.
- Do not use ice. There is no evidence that snake venom activity diminishes with cold. Freezing already compromised tissue can lead to frostbite which can damage the limb more than the original bite.
- Do not give alcohol. It causes vessels to dilate and may speed venom absorption.

The use of an elastic bandage pressure wrap is recommended for some snake bites, but not necessarily for rattlesnake bites. A pressure wrap may increase the risk of disfiguring local tissue damage which may then require skin grafts and extensive repair and treatment. A pressure wrap may help contain the venom in a limb, but at the cost of increased damage to the tissues of that limb. The decision to use a pressure wrap is a serious one. Some advice recommends that this

decision be decided in full consultation with the patient.

## **Editor's note:**

Could you, having just been bitten, make a reasoned and rational decision at this point?

A pressure wrap may provide some protection to the rest of the body but may result in the need for skin and tissue grafting on the bitten limb.

This information was borrowed from The Rocky Mountain Federation News, May 2010 issue. They borrowed it from Steve Beyer's blog site, [www.singingtotheplants.com/2009/03/jungle-survival-tips-snakebite-i](http://www.singingtotheplants.com/2009/03/jungle-survival-tips-snakebite-i)



# Historian's Report

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Richard Heumier, Historian

Hello Historical Rockologists and friends.

As a State officer, I have been filing all the State documents, under each club's name, that I had gathered from various people around the state during the winter. I also pulled out every year's past and present club's officers and filed them by year going back to the 1940's.

I need to remind each club to send in their activities and planned rock trips to me and the Jade State News editor, Gene Case.

See you at the State Show,

Richard Heumier, Historian

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## Lysite Trip 9-19-09

Speaking for myself; I had a great time. I was told this would be a hard rock mining trip. So after brandishing implements of destruction I began to dig and pry. Once I had worked my self into a proper lather. I took time to notice that folks were hauling material off by the bucket load. So I made an adjustment in my mining procedure and went on a fact finding mission. (spying really) To find out what was being hauled out. Once I developed an eye for this jewel and a walk around the hills I found my own little niche. And began the hauling process my self. I noticed that there were some nice large pieces further down the hill that had escaped the trained eye of the professional. As it turns out them professionals are very smart, and there was a reason them larger pieces had been overlooked in the past. SO I targeted a couple of treasures and began my decent/accident. Misty, my hunting team member, was passing by and noticed my heart beat under my shirt pocket and told me I could not have any more. Her mother henning my have saved my life. (Bless her heart) All in all it was a great day

and I now look forward to going again next year.

Thanks fer the hunt, Monte Draper, Riverton

P.S. Now I am in the market for a large rock saw? (whew)

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My husband and I had a great day. But it didn't start out that way.

When we got to the site and I went to put on my rock hunting boots, to my great surprise, I had mistakenly brought two different styles and they were two right footed boots. I ended up wearing my tennis shoes.

After all of that, I finally got to look for rock. Down the hill I carefully went, and immediately started picking up nice pieces of agate. Some of them were too big for my pack, so I started making piles. After running into Bruce, who was also making piles, we traveled along the side of the hill, still making piles of nice agate. I finally decided to start moving some of the rock up the hill, when Ken showed up and wanted me to see what he was finding. After loading up three

of the five piles of my nice agates, I went to look at his rock (agates). While the rest of us were carefully walking up and down the side of the hill with our treasures, he was digging on the top of the hill and finding gorgeous, solid, gemmy, pieces of Lysite agate. And he didn't have to lug it up and down the hill. I started looking around the slash piles ( the rock other diggers left behind), and found treasures of my own. The nice drusy and agate flow, the ones that make great yard and specimen pieces.

Needless to say we brought home a nice assortment of agate. Pieces for cabbing, sphere making, bookends, clock faces, yard rock, tumbling and just to look at.

All in all, a great day.

Ken and Linda Richendifer,  
Riverton

Lysite story continued on page 9...



## The Art of Display by June Culp Zeitner

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June Culp Zeitner, well known author, collector and recipient of the first AFMS Recognition Award, has written many articles during her career. Many readers will know her from articles which appeared for years in Lapidary Journal and more recently in Rock and Gem Magazine.

This article, written in 1971 and most recently reprinted in Pickin's & Diggin's newsletter of the Williamson Co. Gem & Mineral Society (Georgetown, TX), this article is still as valid today as it was when written.

To show off minerals and gems one need only learn and apply a few rules of art. Some are so elementary that most pebble-pups as well as advanced rockhounds know them. Nevertheless, they are all important.

### Cleanliness:

A dusty or finger printed specimen or case detracts from any display.

### Arrangement:

A pleasing arrangement has balance, good proportion, pleasing harmony, rhythm, design and suitable background. Generally speaking there are two types of balance in art, formal and informal. If you can draw a line through the center of a design that design is formal. If the two halves are not the same, the balance is informal. An old fashioned garnet brooch is usually formal in design. A modern free form brooch set with a garnet baroque would probably be informal in balance.

Formal balance is well suited to arrange cabochons for display. A group of slabs of dissimilar sizes and shapes lend themselves to informal balance. Why strive for balance? We want to show it off to the best advantage. Just as we would never lay a picture agate upside down, we would not lay it in a row with bigger or brighter stones.

Trained to take in things at a quick glance our eyes naturally seek the center of interest. If you have any prized specimens which you are anxious to show off, give them plenty of space. Overcrowding is a sin of

which most of us are guilty.

According to the strict rules of art, a display should have most of its weight towards the bottom. This means apparent weight rather than actual weight. A good display can't have the most massive or brightest pieces at the top. It would appear too heavy. The eye is upset at seeing a display with a high center of gravity which looks as if it would topple over. In a display all on one level the larger items naturally go to the background, the more spectacular specimens towards the center and the smaller items in the foreground.

Every good display, like every good picture, should have margins. The rules governing margins in art call for the widest at the bottom, the second at the top and the two sides either equal to or a little narrower than the top.

Remember that bright colors strike the eye before dull colors. They tend to come forward. They can be used in smaller amounts and still attract attention. The placing of bright colors must be watched carefully. For example if you placed a slab of electric blue Chrysocolla in each corner of your show case they would tend to draw the eyes in four directions at once. Whatever you had planned for the center of interest in the middle of the case would be lost. Bright colors placed in a hit or miss manner spoil any feeling of balance and rhythm by causing the eye to jump.

One large specimen can be balanced by a group of smaller ones. One bright specimen can be balanced by several duller ones. The subject of color is important to rockhounds and we should know and understand the color wheel, the primary, secondary and tertiary colors and the basic color harmonies. A very bright color should be used in smaller amounts than muted shades or tints. The center of interest of any arrangement should be towards the center where the eye naturally falls first. If too many bright colors other than the center of interest are used the result is a "busy" or jumpy arrangement. It is definitely worth the effort in arranging a gem and mineral display to carefully consider the color of every piece before deciding where to place it. The artful use of color can make an average collection spectacular, while the poor use of color will make a superb collection seem like a dull jumble.

## The Art of Display continued..

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### Background:

In the successful display of gems, the background against which the gems are placed should be in keeping with the value of the gems. It should not detract from the color of your gems but should flatter every stone in the display. Tweed or calico would not be used to set off a faceted collection. Velvets, velours, silks and satins are more appropriate. However, as beautiful as red velvet is it would not be an appropriate background because red is a detracting color. After much experimenting, we have found that a pale blue satin, a grey tone of blue, is the most versatile of background material for mineral display. There is just enough color in this to set off tints as well as shades. Another wonderful background for gems or jewelry is the use of mirrors. A sparkling mirror multiplies the beauty of your gems.

Snowy white Styrofoam is another suitable background. It can be cut in various shapes to enhance the beauty of a specimen and is useful in creating split levels of display. A specimen can also be made to stand in the precise position it looks best. Besides the ordinary background material many rockhounds with imagination use other devices to add interest. A piece of silvery driftwood against a sea-blue drop may be used to set off a collection of beach agates. A piece of Indian pottery adds interest to a turquoise display. Under no circumstances should the background be so big, bright or unusual that it detracts from the real purpose of the exhibit.

### Lighting:

Good lighting is essential. Scenic agate slabs are best viewed with a light behind them. Spot lights are suitable for large spectacular pieces, but in most cases tube lights directly above or inside each display case are best. Natural light is a big help for home display. A big north or south window opposite your display gives a good light.

### Flair:

For want of a better word I use flair to describe that something extra which the person-

ality of the rockhound stamps on his display. A beginning artist should learn the rules of art, however, we all know artists who have broken rules and come out on top. Not all great gem displays follow the artist's display rules, but you should learn the rules first before you build up enough faith in your flair to learn when it is right to break a rule or two. If gem dealers and collectors would think of themselves more often as artists, many shops and collectors would greatly be enriched with very little expenditure. Display cases are not hard to build. With a little effort every hidden box of specimens could graduate into a real artistic display.



A showcase at the recent Cheyenne show.

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### Isn't It a Fact?

By Nellie Morgan

Rocks on the lawn, rocks in the shed,  
Shovels and hammers under the bed.  
Boots and knapsacks beside the door,  
Clay and grit all over the floor.  
Slabs and specimens on the chairs,  
Boxes of crystals on the stairs.  
A rockhound's home is a disgrace,  
But O, it's such a happy place!



## Lysite – continued

Members of the Riverton Club at Lysite.



*Editor's Note: I love these two stories because they show what I think is one of the great strengths of our rock clubs: the experienced rockhounds sharing their knowledge and techniques with less experienced rockhounds for the benefit of all. This, along with members' willingness to lead outings and present a program at regular meetings makes for a viable club that benefits all. One more necessity: members must be willing to take their turn at holding office or willing to sit and watch the club fail for everyone.*

### WYOMING STATE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

President—Connie Case

Vice President—Jim McGarvey

Secretary—Mary Ann Northrup

Treasurer—Jane Neale

Historian—Richard Heumier

RMFMS State Director—Jim McGarvey

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*The purpose of the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society is to help provide a social framework to promote popular interest in education in the various earth sciences such as geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and related subjects. Members of the Society are dues-paying rock clubs within the boundaries of the State of Wyoming.*

[wystatemineralandgemsociety.com](http://wystatemineralandgemsociety.com)