



The Telephone City Crystal



The Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc.

BLMS INC

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

2008 Executive

President :
Bill Boone
519-442-7543

Vice President:
John Moons
519-752-9756

Treasurer:
Karen Ward
905-525-0779

Secretary:
Kathy Campbell
519-442-6542

Show Chair – 2008:
Jenny Jones
519-750-0953
2009 – Bev Anderson
519-578-6041

Newsletter Editor:
Roger Campbell
519-442-6542

roger.camp@sympatico.ca

Social: Susan Wakeley
519-752-7690

Program:
Phyllis Czarnowski
519-752-8276

Field Trips
Gary Bechtel
519-756-8298

CCFMS Rep.:
Blair Batty
519-426-8409

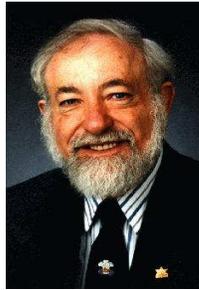
Librarian:
Russ McCrory
905-389-6525

Workshop:
Brad McClelland
519-751-3141

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2008

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: WOODMAN DRIVE COMMUNITY CENTRE
491 GREY ST. BRANTFORD, ONTARIO



PROGRAM : VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY AROUND ICELAND AND JAN MAYEN

BY ALAN V. MORGAN A PROFESSOR OF EARTH
SCIENCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

**NOVEMBER MEETING: HELMUT KOENIG – A MEMBER OF THE
CANADIAN GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION – NOV. 21, 2008**



N.B.

**THE CLUB HAS AGAIN COMMITTED TO AWARD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO
TWO STUDENTS IN SECOND YEAR AND TWO STUDENTS IN THIRD YEAR
ENROLLED IN EARTH SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO.**

Thank you

1. Thanks to Brad for providing a great video on King Tut's Glass, most of us were very surprised at this unusual natural glass found in the desert.
2. To Russ and the Hendersons for the Apatite specimen donations.
3. To the members who brought their 'show and tell' pieces.
4. Many thanks to Susan for the snacks and beverages after the meeting.

**Brad is still looking for members to teach at the
workshop (Wed. 7-9 PM) Let's keep him busy
or else he might get that 'glassed' look from staring
through windows.**



Brantford Lapidary and Mineral Society, Inc
1 Sherwood Drive, Brantford, ON N3T 1N3 (mailing address)

Coming Events

- Oct 18-19** 39th Annual Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club Show,
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, 53 Yonge St., Kingston, ON.
Contactemoss(g),cogeco.car www.spaceclick.ca/klmc/index.cfm?page=gemstorm
- Oct 25-25** U. Waterloo Earth Sciences G/M Show and Science Open House
Sat. &Sun. 10am – 5 pm
Theme: "International Year of the Planet Earth
University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave., Waterloo, On
For more info visit www.openhouse.uwaterloo.ca
- Nov 14-16** 49th Montreal Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show,
Fri. 4-10, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10- 5.
Hippodrome de Montreal / Blue Bonnets. Adults \$7.00, Seniors \$6.00,
Students \$5.00, under 12 free
Contact: <http://www.montrealgemmineralclub.ca/pages/AnnualShow.html>
- Nov. 2** Walker Mineralogical Club Annual Auction
Waddingtons Auction House, 111 Bathurst Street, Toronto
Viewing: 12 Noon, Start of auction: 1:00pm for preview of some items
Contact: www.walkermineralogicalclub.com
- Nov 15** Canadian Micro Mineral Association Fall Mini-Conference
The Burlington Arts & Cultural Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Road, Burlington. ON
Contact: Bill Lechner at 416-438-8908 or bill.lechner@rogers.com
- Nov 22-23** 2008 London Gem and Mineral Show
Sat. 9-6, Sun 10-5
Western Fairgrounds – Special Events Building (entrance near Florence & Rectory)

CLUB NEWS

Welcome to all our new members who were added to the membership list at our Sept. meeting:

- 1. Doug and Laurie Neilsen**
- 2. David Stumpf**
- 3. Darren and Carrie Gage and Family**
- 4. Melanie Sohm**
- 5. Maggie Wilson and Reiner Mielke**

Elections - Everyone should already be in the spirit with the Federal and US elections upon us! Elections for 2009 will be held during our November meeting. Please consider a position on the club executive to continue our club as an active and growing club.

We will need to form a nominating committee at our October meeting. We have an updated membership list to make it an easy task. Please Call Pres. Bill or one of the exec. to volunteer.

Board Members Please Note -Pres. Bill asks that we meet at 7PM before the Oct. Meeting to discuss nominating committee appointment.

Bev Anderson our 2009 Show Chair will soon need our help for the show in April. Offer your assistance, I'm sure it will be appreciated.



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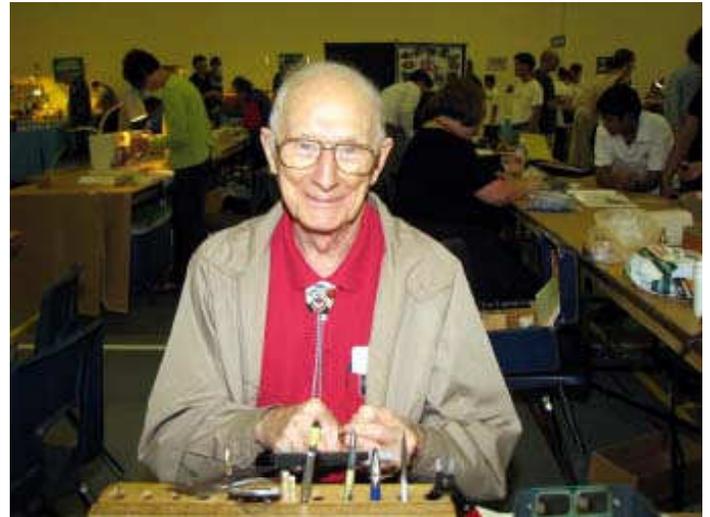
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SCARBOROUGH SHOW 2008

Channel working display by Bob Gillespie



David Sannes & Teresa Pfuetzner
From CGA identify gems at 2008 Show



Beautiful Work Bob!

We have always enjoyed the Scarborough show including the swap area, great showcase displays, friendly demonstrators and a good dealer selection. Keep up the good work!



Peter Russell from U. of W. promoting the hobby



Roger Heaton from Ohio
cracking a geode in swap area

WORKSHOP

Obsidian by Lilo Grollmuss

Obsidian and Pumice are chemically the same as Rhyolite. Obsidian, or natural glass, is formed when rhyolite lava is quickly chilled. Though it is dark colored, thin fragments are light and transparent. The Indians made knives, arrowheads and ornaments from this unusual rock.

Making Jewelry

Obsidian comes in different variations: black, brown, transparent, gold and silver sheen. After the obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around the stone on your grinding wheel to keep the edges from chipping and flaking. Make sure to wear glasses or goggles all the time you are working on the stone. If a small chip of the stone gets into you eye it will be hard to remove. It is transparent and hard to see even with a magnifying glass. Start the obsidian on a sanding disk with 100 or 120 grit cloth until all the scratches are removed from the surface. (The grinding wheel will do the job, too, just a little faster.) then use a new piece of 220 sanding cloth, that has never been used to polish an agate or any other stone. Keep on polishing until the left over scratches from 100 and 120 grits are removed. This disk will give you already a good finish. Still, use a finer 400 and 600 polishing disk and the buffer to excel to a mirror-like look. Most important - keep the sanding disks wet. If the cloth gets dry it can blister the obsidian. When grinding and sanding obsidian, always grind and sand from the center out, otherwise the wheel and sanding belts will pick up tiny little chips of glass that will scratch the stone. From The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 11/00. via RockCollector 2/01

New Method of Tumbling by Al Nutile in Tulip City Conglomerate

The writer believes that the following idea can take much of the work from the popular method of tumbling. All of the instructions we have seen state: "Wash stones and tumble very clean between each change of grit or final materials," at the same time stating, "If liquid is too thick add some slurp or grit from previously used material."

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes: Don't wash at all after each week of tumbling with grit! Start with #50 grit, tumbling a week. Then DON'T EMPTY THE TUMBLER, but add 5 teaspoons of new grit [one step finer] to the mixture in the three pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now [finally] thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before pre-polish and final polishing.

For a really glossy finish, take one or more weeks [after washing out the polishing powder] adding three spoons of sugar, one spoon [level] of *Cascade* or *All* or any non-sudsing detergent and add about ten drops of muriatic acid, if you have some, let stand one minute - open, close tub, and tumble for a week.

We have run eleven tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for extra final steps, you save three washings and getting rid of the slurp each time. Saves time, work and mess, and still gets a better polish.

From Pickin's & Diggitis 7/96 et al via The Rockhouser October '99 via The Pseudomorph May 2000 via Rock Chips 6/00



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Famous Petrified Forests

Our petrified forests are generally of three types. The first type has been showered and completely covered by volcanic ash leaving the trees standing in an upright position. The Petrified forest of Yellowstone National Park are an example of this type. The trees are standing in their original state where they grew many millions of years ago. The forest of Yellowstone covers more than 40 square miles which is the largest area known. Another unusual feature of the Yellowstone Petrified forests is that many thousands of fossilized leaves, needles, cones, and seeds of over one hundred different kinds of trees and shrubs have been found there. It is the only place in the world where twenty-seven successive layers of petrified forms can be seen.

The story behind the Yellowstone Petrified Forest is that an old volcano began to erupt and continued for some twenty years. Mineral bearing waters had begun to petrify the once living forest. In the span of a couple of hundred years, a new forest began to appear and grew for the next five hundred years. Then, the old volcano erupted again. This process reoccurred twenty-seven times as twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forest have been exposed in the Fossil Forest on the south side of Larmar River Valley. An example of a well-preserved stump can be seen a few feet from the highway along "The Petrified Road". Along the northern slopes of Specimen Ridge there are many layers of petrified tree trunks. About two thirds of the way up on the eastern edge is a group of upright standing trunks of unusual beauty and size just as they grew many millions of years ago. The largest of these petrified stumps is a redwood over five feet in diameter and believed to be approximately one thousand years old when buried by volcanic debris.

A second type of Petrified Forest is believed to be the result of logs jamming at the mouth of a river, sinking into the mud and becoming petrified. The Petrified Forest of Arizona is an example of this type. Driftwood may be deposited on the shore by the winds. Generally fossil wood, which at one time was driftwood, does not have bark. This fact may account for the lack of bark on the wood in Arizona. The Arizona forests are between one hundred and two hundred million years old. One stone log, twenty feet wide and forty feet thick flung across a ravine forms a natural bridge - the famed Agate Bridge. The Arizona Petrified forests are composed of different forests varying in coloring. The Rainbow forest is a multiplicity of colors; the Blue forest is mostly carbonized sections; and the Black Forest is brilliantly black. Many logs of white, some almost transparent, make up the Second Forests, while the Third Forest displays large specimens as long as one hundred sixty feet. The fossil wood is of three general types. 1. Jasperized wood predominately bright red, some translucent and variegated with a riot of colorless 2. Small amounts of bright red wood are found often with areas of nearly colorless quartz. 3. Section of dark or nearly black wood.

The opalized wood forests of central Washington run a close second to the famed forests of Arizona. An outstanding feature in Washington is the only fossilized ginkgo trees known in the world are found there. The well known Ginkgo Petrified Forest is of the driftwood type, (cont'd)

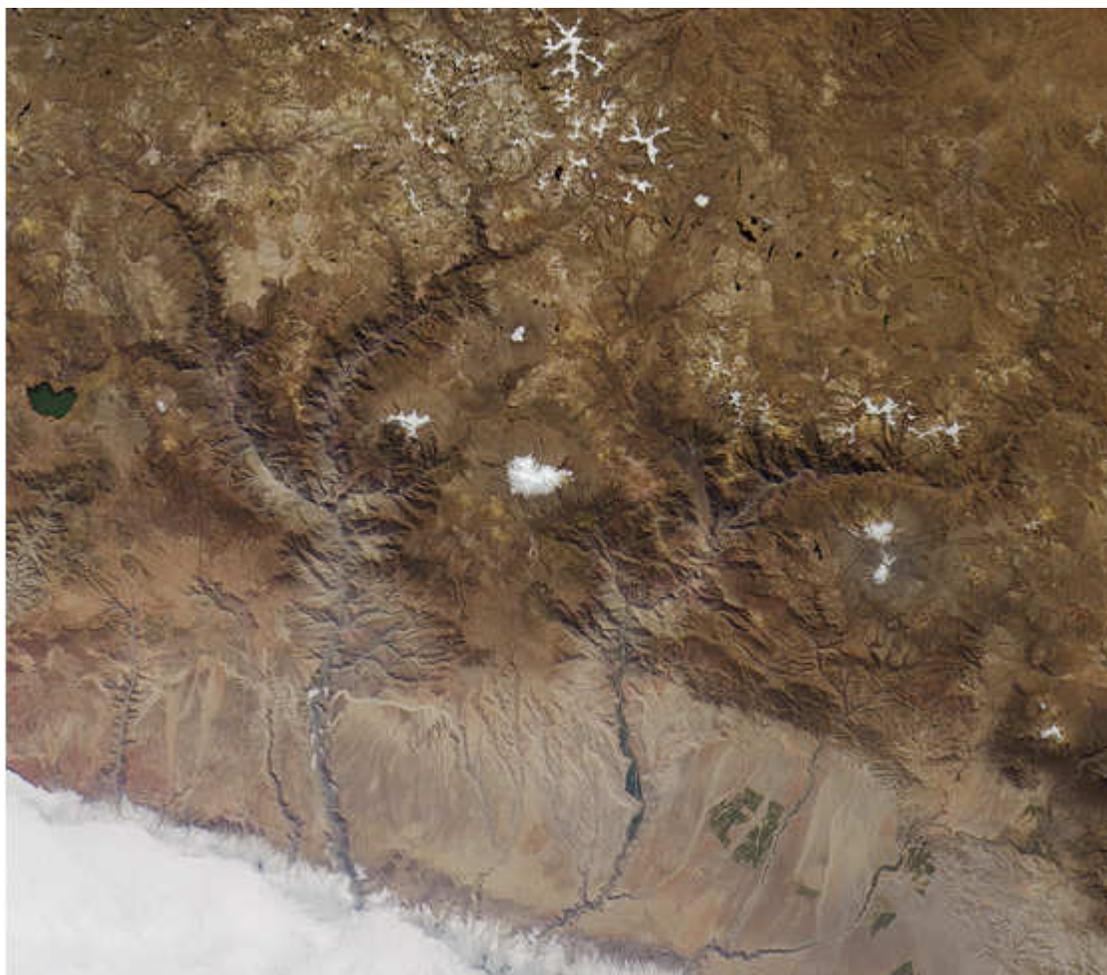
Of the ten thousand fossilized trees in this forest, only six have been identified as Gingko trees. The Gingko is one of our oldest and most primitive types of trees, a direct ancestor of our modern tree, and is remarkable in that it has survived through millions of years while other species have died out.

Nevada boasts of the largest petrified tree known in the world. It is fourteen feet in diameter and nearly three hundred feet long. Another distinction in Nevada is the woods of Virgin Valley are fully opalized with the "fire" of the fire opal.

A third type is that of scattered woods may be covered in some manner, to become solidified later. For instance, rising waters in a lake may completely cover a forest and protect it from decay. Later on petrification may preserve the trees permanently. Some of the woods in California, Nevada, Oregon, and central Washington have this origin. (Submitted by Dick Young) The Clackamefte Gem 9/00 via Golden Spike News 7/01 Via Rock Chips9/01

Cotahuasi Canyon of Peru - the world's deepest

Most people would probably bet that the "Grand Canyon" of Arizona is the deepest valley in the world. It is extremely well known and of enormous proportion. It is about 1737 meters deep - a little over one mile. Although the Grand Canyon is a very deep canyon, it is not Earth's deepest. That distinction belongs to Cotahuasi Canyon in southwestern Peru. The Rio Cotahuasi, a tributary of the Rio Ocona, cut Cotahuasi Canyon to a depth of approximately 3354 meters - over twice the depth of the Grand Canyon! (via geology.com)





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What Kind Of Rockhound Are You?

The Fortune Hunter - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?"

The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

The Optimist - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition.

Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

The Road Runner - No mountain trail or riverbed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Roadrunner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along streambeds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

The Smasher and Basher - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledgehammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.

Scribe via Ft Lewis Rock Club News 6/01

via Golden Spike News 6/01

Fulgurite is scientific Latin for "lightning stone." Fulgurites are made when lightning strikes the ground. When a bolt strikes loose sand, it vaporizes a thin wormhole and melts the zone around it, creating an instant froth of natural glass. These fulgurites can be meters long, but they're fragile, and what you see in rock shops are usually small pieces a few centimeters long and as light as pumice. Sometimes a fulgurite forms in solid rock, a skin of natural glass. The glass made from pure quartz has the mineral name lechatelierite.

Laugh A Little

A fossil collector was proudly showing his flagstone walkway to some friends. Imprinted on the flagstones were dinosaur footprints. As he was explaining the significance of the fossil footprints, a woman in the group exclaimed: "I'm amazed they would come so close to the house."

A few people leave footprints in the sands of time, but many others are mighty busy covering their tracks.

Kids Corner

Can You Match The Correct Dinosaur With its Name And Description?

Ankylosaurus- A walking tank with a horned helmet; a plant-eater.

Dilophosaurus- had a large head topped with a set of two curving crests.

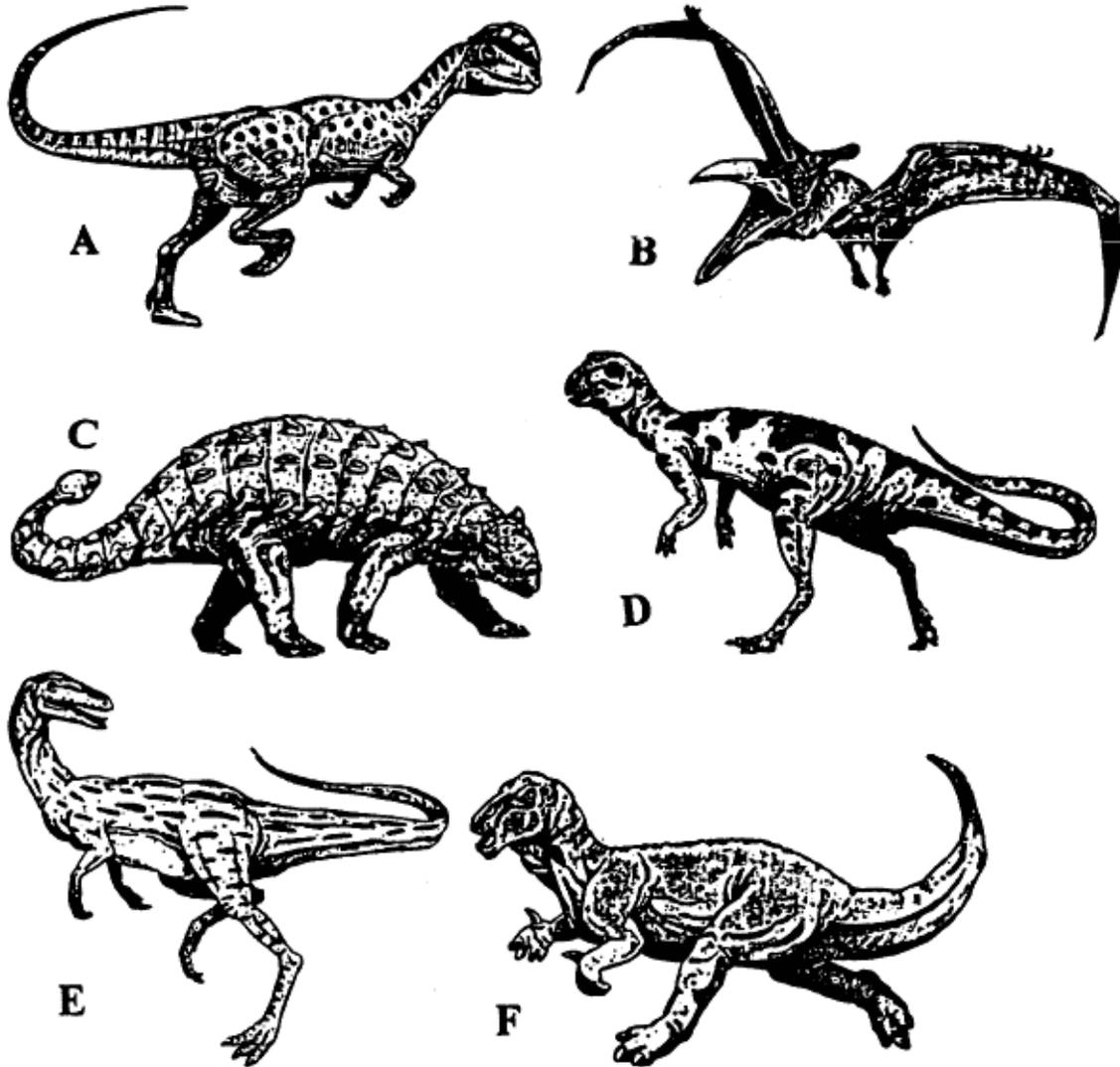
Hypsilophodon- had long, arched claws, powerful legs, and a long rigid tail.

Iguanodon- This plant-eater had hands with four fingers and a spike-like thumb.

Procompsognathus- had a very light build, long legs, and could probably run fast.

Pteranodon- A flying creature with a toothless beak, crest on its head and no *tail*.

(This one was really hard, right?)



DINOSAUR KEY

C Ankylosaurus

A Dilophosaurus

F Iguanodon

B Pteranodon

D Hypsilophodon

E Procompsognathus