



The Rock-It

May 2009

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Secretary: Jan Shelley (503) 618-8696
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Board Member: Lamar Tilgner (503) 666-2905
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Exhibits Chairperson: Lamar Tilgner (503) 666-2905
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Refreshments Book: Mary Bolton, see her before she sees you!
Club Historian: Esther Lively (503) 774-9559
Librarian: Barbara Brandt or Dick Wormcke
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Regional Advisor:
Regional Advisor: Steve Nelson (503) 397-5284
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"The Rock-It" is the official club publication of the Mt. Hood Rock Club. The news deadline is the first day of every month, for that month's publication. The contents of "The Rock-It" may be reprinted if credit is given to "The Rock-It" and the author.

Meetings: Mt. Hood Rock Club meets the second Tuesday & the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gresham. The Church is located at 8th & Norman. Regular meetings start at 7:00 pm. Juniors are welcome!

Mt. Hood Rock Club: Phone No. (503) 760-1825

Dues are due before January 31st if you want to be included in the club's roster for that year.

Dues: \$10.00 per adult, juniors \$1.50 family membership same household \$15.00.

Oregon Council Web site:

www.oregoncouncilrmc.org

Mt. Hood Rock Club is a proud member of the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association, Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Oregon Council Rock Mineral Clubs.

Website: www.mthoodrockclub.com so check us out on our new web site.

FW: [Rockhounds] Fluorescence indoors and out

Via: Email from Tim Fisher

Using Your Ultraviolet Lamp: Some Suggested Activities

Indoor Activities:

A nighttime trip through your home with an ultraviolet lamp is guaranteed to be an interesting experience. Here are a few suggestions for things you can try:

In the kitchen:

Many foods and drinks fluoresce. Milk, beer, and tonic water fluoresce, as do many soft drinks, but pure water does not. Some vegetables and fruits fluoresce. Green peppers are interesting: they fluoresce red, but only when freshly cut. When dinner is served tonight, try turning out the lights and beaming an ultraviolet light on your food. Do you still want to eat it? Many glass, ceramic, and plastic items used in the kitchen fluoresce, but metallic items (silverware) do not. If you have leaded glass wine goblets, for example, examine them under a shortwave ultraviolet lamp—they fluoresce brilliant blue. Ordinary glass will fluoresce weak yellowish green or not at all. Your dinner plates may well fluoresce, especially where they are chipped to expose the unglazed porcelain beneath. For a particularly disturbing experience, beam your ultraviolet lamp on the wall above your stove. Notice all those disgusting stains? If you are like most people, your kitchen is considerably less clean than you think it is. Daylight reveals little, but ultraviolet light may reveal far more than you'd like.

In the bathroom:

As in the kitchen, you should find many items that fluoresce in your bathroom. Among the likely possibilities: your toothbrush, shampoo bottles (and the shampoo within), soap, and aspirin.

For those who definitely are not faint of heart, try beaming your ultraviolet light in the bathtub, around the toilet, and around the bathroom sink. We leave the details to you . . .

In the living room:

Try examining the fabric on your chairs and couch and the fibers of your living-room rug under ultraviolet light. You may find, for example, that some of the fibers in your rug glow brightly, perhaps in more than one color, whereas others do not glow at all. Specialists in criminal forensics routinely inspect crime scenes with ultraviolet light, in part to look for just such fluorescent fibers, which sometimes can link a transported victim to the very room where the crime took place.

In the bedroom:

Most or all of your white undergarments should glow brilliant blue-white under longwave ultraviolet light. This is no accident, for nearly all laundry detergents sold in the U.S. contain an optical brightener that is designed to fluoresce in sunlight. The bright blue-white fluorescence offsets the yellowish tone of incompletely cleaned or old cloth and makes your clothes appear whiter—and hence cleaner—than they really are. Similarly, most typing and copy paper is treated with an optical brightener to increase its apparent whiteness. Other clothes in your closet probably will fluoresce also. Pay particular attention to those that fluoresce in a color different from their color in daylight. You may find a blue sweater that fluoresces red, or a green sweatshirt that fluoresces blue.



In the basement:

If you live in a humid climate and have stored galvanized nails, screws, or fencing for years, you may find that these items fluoresce blue under shortwave ultraviolet light. The fluorescence arises from hydrozincite, an alteration product of the zinc coating that prevents these items from rusting.

In the garage:

[automotive fluids. develop this later..]

Outdoor Activities:

What you find in the way of fluorescence outdoors depends largely on where you live. Here are a few likely possibilities:

Wood: The wood of many trees and shrubs fluoresces, though usually not brightly. Among the brightest of the fluorescing woods are sumac, black locust, and mesquite [check the latter!! Can't remember]. Also check leaves; these fluoresce when dry (autumn, winter)

Lichens: Lichens are the low-growing, scaly plants that grow in small, circular to lobate patches on rocks. Many species of lichen fluoresce, some of them quite brightly.

Fungi: Some mushrooms fluoresce, as do many molds. The fluorescence of molds can be a most useful property: food inspectors, for example, routinely use ultraviolet lamps to detect the aflatoxin mold, which is deadly to humans and commonly infests peanuts.

Shells: The calcium carbonate in sea shells and in coral fluoresces, most often in hues of white, yellow, cream, pale orange, or pale blue, and rarely red. Shells pulverized into sand by the sea are a common component of beach sand worldwide. Some sands, such as those along many tropical beaches, are composed mostly of

shells and coral and are strongly fluorescent. Other sands, such as those along much of the eastern seaboard of the United States, are composed mostly of nonfluorescent quartz, but even in these the tiny grains of shells can instantly be detected at night with a longwave ultraviolet lamp.

Minerals:

The ultimate in outdoor recreation with an ultraviolet lamp is prospecting for valuable mineral deposits. Many deposits were found in this way, particularly deposits of scheelite during the tungsten boom of the 1930s and 1940s, and of uranium during the uranium boom of the 1960s and 1970s. Even if you don't find a mineral deposit, continued searching of rocky areas with an ultraviolet lamp will almost certainly yield interesting specimens that you may wish to take home. Opportunities abound even in areas where little or no rock is exposed. Exciting discoveries may await you in the crushed rock used for gravel driveways and landscape decoration, in the rock facing of downtown buildings, in the riprap along drainage culverts and dams, and even in the aggregate used in concrete. You can also examine sand along stream valleys and beaches near the seashore, where you are likely to find tiny, yellow-fluorescing grains of zircon, a zirconium silicate mineral widespread in many igneous and metamorphic rocks, and in the sediments derived from them.

Plants:

[chlorophyll; discuss later. Dried leaves in autumn or winter, ditto]

Animals:

Scorpions, glowworms, people, cats, etc. [Warn again about SW UV; **DO NOT** point at animals. Use LW only]

Antlers, bones:

[Deer bones and antlers in eastern U.S. often fluoresce pink to pale blue. Don't know why...]



Happy Birthday

- Mary Bolton
- Pam Harris
- Rich Johnson
- Hidemi Kira
- Carol Mitzel
- Steve Nelson
- Troy Smith
- Kyle Wellman



Mays Recipe of the Month

Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1-cup butter or margarine
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 1-cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1-cup bran
- ¾ cup rolled oats
- 2 tsp. Baking soda

Preparation:

Melt butter. Beat together with the sugars, vanilla, peanut butter and eggs.
 In a separate bowl, combine the flour, bran, oats and baking soda.
 Stir mixture into butter mixture.
 Drop by teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet.
 Bake at 350* for 15 to 18 minutes.
 Remove to a rack to cool.

Tips: everyone had heard about the benefits of fiber. Oat and bran can significantly lower blood cholesterol in addition to adding fiber. Experiment with your own recipes.

Oregon Tour



- ALOHA
- BAKER
- CASCADES
- CORVALLIS
- EUGENE
- HELLS CANYON

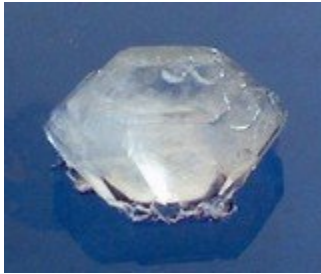
- ASHLAND
- BEND
- COLUMBIA
- DESCHUTES
- GRESHAM
- JEFFERSON

LAKE OSWEGO
MEDFORD
SALEM
THE DALLES
UMATILLA
WALLOWA

LINCOLN
MT HOOD
SPRINGFIELD
TILLAMOOK
UNION
YAMHILL

How to Grow an Alum Crystal

By Anne Marie Helmenstine, PH.D. About.com



Alum is found in the 'spices' section of the grocery store. With a bit of time and effort, you can grow a big alum crystal. Alum Crystals are probably the easiest crystals to grow. The chemical is non-toxic and the crystals grow quickly and reliably.

Difficulty: Easy

Time Required: Days to Weeks

Here's How:

-
1. Pour 1/2 cup of hot tap water into a clean jar.
 2. Slowly stir in alum, a little at a time, until it stops dissolving. Don't add the whole amount - just enough to saturate the water.
 3. Loosely cover the jar with a coffee filter or paper towel (to keep dust out) and allow the jar to sit undisturbed overnight.
 4. The next day, pour the alum solution from the first jar into the clean jar. You will see small alum crystals at the bottom of the jar.

- These are 'seed' crystals that you will use to grow a big crystal.
5. Tie nylon fishing line around the largest, best-shaped crystal. Tie the other end to a flat object (e.g., popsicle stick, ruler, pencil, butter knife). You will hang the seed crystal by this flat object into the jar far enough so that it will be covered in liquid, but won't touch the bottom or sides of the jar. It may take a few tries to get the length just right.
 6. When you have the right string length, hang the seed crystal in the jar with the alum solution. Cover it with the coffee filter and grow a crystal!
 7. Grow your crystal until you are satisfied with it. If you see crystals starting to grow on the sides or bottom of your jar, carefully remove your crystal, pour the liquid into the clean jar, and put the crystal in the new jar. Other crystals in the jar will compete with your crystal for alum, so it won't be able to get as big if you let these crystals grow.

Tips:

-
1. You can use sewing thread or other string instead of nylon fishing line, but crystals will grow on the entire length of the submerged string. Crystals don't adhere to nylon, so if you use it, you can get bigger, better crystals.
 2. Alum is an ingredient used to make pickles. It makes them crispy.
-



What You Need:

- 1/2 c hot tap water
 - 2-1/2 T alum
 - Nylon fishing line
 - Pencil, ruler, or knife
 - 2 clean jars
 - Spoon
 - Coffee filter/paper towel
-

WD-40 and some of its uses

A lady got up very early one morning and went outside to pickup the Sunday paper, she noticed someone had sprayed red paint all around the sides of the neighbors brand new beige truck. She went over and woke him up and gave him the bad news. He was, of course extremely upset.

And they stood there trying to figure out what could be done about the problem. They decided there wasn't much recourse but to wait until Monday, since nothing was open. Just then another neighbor came out of his house, surveyed the situation and immediately went to get his WD-40 out and cleaned the red paint off with it. Guess What! It cleaned up that paint without harming the original paint on the truck! I'm impressed!! **Water Displacement #40.** The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and de greaser to protect Missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three Technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you. **'IT IS MADE FROM FISH OIL.'** When you

read the 'shower door' part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. If yours is plastic, it works just as well as glass. It is a miracle! Then try it on your stovetop... It is now shinier than it has ever been before.

- 1) Protects silver from tarnishing.
- 2) Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- 3) Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- 4) Gives floors that `just-waxed` sheen without making it slippery.
- 5) Keeps flies off cows.
- 6) Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- 7) Removes lipstick stains.
- 8) Loosens stubborn zippers.
- 9) Untangles jewelry chains.
- 10) Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- 11) Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- 12) Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- 13) Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- 14) Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- 15) Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- 16) Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- 17) Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- 18) It removes black scuffmarks from the kitchen floor! Open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
- 19) Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car. Remove quickly, with WD-40!
- 20) Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- 21) Lubricates gear shift on lawn mowers.
- 22) Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
- 23) Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- 24) Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
- 25) Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, well as vinyl bumpers.

- 26)** Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- 27)** Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
- 28)** Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
- 29)** Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- 30)** Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
- 31)** Removes splattered grease on stove.
- 32)** Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- 33)** Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
- 34)** Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- 35)** Removes all traces of duct tape.
- 36)** Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain
- 37)** Florida's favorite use 'Cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
- 38)** Protects the Statue of Liberty from the elements.
- 39)** WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a LITTLE on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time.
- 40)** Ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
- 41)** WD-40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
- 42)** If you've washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and Presto! Lipstick is gone!
- 43)** If you spray WD-40 on the distributor cap, it will displace the moisture and allow the car to start. Keep a can of WD-40 in your kitchen cabinet. It is good for oven burns or any other type of burn. It takes the burned feeling away and heals with NO scarring. Remember, the basic ingredient is **FISH OIL**

Caution

WD-40 is not an electrical contact cleaner. It leaves a sticky residue that can attract dust. WD-40 should never be used in locks for the same reason. Locks should be

cleaned with isopropyl alcohol, allowed to dry thoroughly and lubricated with dry graphite powder.

Internet message via John Thomson, SCRIBE Member. Author Unknown

**GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
50-YEAR COLLECTION**

Rough Rock, Slabs, Specimens, Lapidary Equipment

Saturday June 20th and Sunday June 21st
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

6817 SE Knight Street
Portland, OR 97204

503-771-6675 or 503-319-3944

Floyd Jones/Floyd's Rock Pile

**MOUNT HOOD ROCK CLUB
Annual Awards**

(A)

Gemstone of the Year – Must be a completed Gemstone that the Entrant completed in the past year.

(B)

Cabochon of the Year – Must have been completed by the Entrant in the past year.

(C)

Jewelry of the Year – Must have been completed by the Entrant in the past year. The stone can be purchased.

(D)

Project of the Year – Must have been organized and implemented by the Entrant within the last year.

(E)

Fossil of the Year – Must have been collected and prepared by the Entrant within the last year.



(F)

Silver Pick of the Year – Must have been acquired by the Entrant within the last year.

No individual may enter more than 1 item in each category but an item may be entered in multiple categories. The Entrant will be given up to 2 minutes to define and politic for the selection of their glorious entry. Winner of each category will be based upon the voting of the club members present at the meeting. Voting will be done on a secret ballot at the last meeting in November. The winners will be presented at the Annual Christmas party.

Common Minerals and Their Uses



Aluminum: Is the most abundant metal element in the Earth's crust. Bauxite is the main source of aluminum. Aluminum is used in the United States in packaging, transportation, and building. Guinea and Australia have about one-half of the world's reserves. Other countries with major reserves include Brazil, Jamaica, and India.

Bauxite: A general term for a rock composed of hydrated aluminum oxides. It is the main ore of alumina to make aluminum. Also used in the production of synthetic corundum and aluminous refractories.



Antimony: A native element, antimony metal is extracted from stibnite and other minerals. Antimony is used as a hardening alloy for lead, especially storage batteries and cable sheaths, also used in bearing metal, type metal, solder, collapsible tubes and foil, sheet and pipes, and semiconductor technology.



Stibnite (the main ore of Antimony):
The sample in the photo contains 71.8 percent antimony and 28.2 percent sulfur.

It is the most important ore for antimony. Stibnite is used for metal antifriction alloys, metal type, shot, and batteries, in the manufacture of fireworks. Antimony salts are used in the rubber and textile industries, in medicine, and glassmaking.

Asbestos: Because this group of silicate minerals can be readily separated into thin, strong fibers that are flexible, heat resistant, and chemically inert, asbestos minerals are suitable for use in fireproof fabrics, yarn, cloth, paper, paint filler, gaskets, roofing composition, reinforcing agent in rubber and plastics, brake linings, tiles, electrical and heat insulation, cement, and chemical filters.



Barium: Used as a heavy additive in oil-well-drilling mud, in the paper and rubber industries, as a filler or extender in cloth, ink, and plastics products, in radiography ("barium milkshake"), as getter (scavenger) alloys in vacuum tubes, deoxidizer for copper, lubricant for anode rotors in X-ray tubes, spark-plug alloys. Also used to make an expensive white pigment.



Beryllium: Beryllium alloys are used mostly in applications in aerospace, automobiles, computers, oil and gas drilling equipment, and telecommunications. Beryllium salts are used in fluorescent lamps, in X-ray tubes and as a deoxidizer in bronze metallurgy. Beryl is the source of the gem stones emerald and aquamarine. Sample in photo contains 14 percent beryllium oxide.



Coal: One of the world's major sources of energy. In the United States, coal provides approximately 23% of all the energy consumed.

Coal is used to produce more than half of all the electrical energy that is generated and used in the United States.

Coal is a very complex and diverse energy resource that can vary greatly, even within the same deposit. In general, there are four basic varieties of coal, which are the result of geologic forces having altered plant material in different ways. These varieties descended from the first stage in the formation of coal: the creation of peat or partially decomposed plant material.

Lignite: Increased pressures and heat from overlying strata causes buried peat to dry and harden into lignite. Lignite is a brownish-black coal with generally high moisture and ash content and lower heating value. However, it is an important form of energy for generating electricity. Significant lignite mining operations are located in Texas, North Dakota, Louisiana, and Montana.

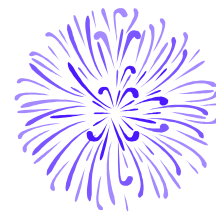
Subbituminous Coal: Under still more pressure, some lignite was changed into the next rank of coal subbituminous. This is a dull black coal with a higher heating value than lignite that is used primarily for generating electricity and for space heating. Most subbituminous reserves are located in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington and Alaska.

Bituminous Coal: Even greater pressure results in the creation of bituminous, or "soft" coal. This is the type most commonly used for electric power generation in the U.S. It has a higher heating value than either lignite or subbituminous, but less than that of anthracite. Bituminous coal is mined chiefly in Appalachia and the Midwest. Also used to make coke.

Anthracite: Sometimes also called "hard coal," anthracite forms from bituminous coal when great pressures developed in folded rock strata during the creation of mountain ranges. This occurs only in limited geographic areas - primarily the Appalachian region of Pennsylvania. Anthracite has the highest energy content of all coals and is used for space heating and generating electricity.



Dealers wanted



Happy Mothers Day to all!