



White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 3504
 Show Low, Arizona 85902
www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org
whitemtngmc@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

April 12, 2026

It was nice to see so many members, new members, and guests at our April meeting. With the holidays upon us, it was a long stretch since our meeting in March. During our break, we had the Mellon show in Concho. Thanks to everyone who acted as a vendor and/or attended. It was, I think, quite a success. I was surprised at the lack of many children, but found out that the school was on spring break, so many were either not around or too busy having their freedom. Next year we will work that break into our plans if possible. The only problem was an overflowing toilet as we were cleaning up to leave. Thanks to Carl, this was taken care of in short time. Thank you, Carl. We were returned our reserve money and paid them what they asked for, similar to the donation given last year.

Our fossil raffle is back this month as I forgot to have it available in March. Larry Legge and myself have added two polished cephalopod fossils to the beautiful fossil donated by Doug Wolfe. This will be the chance to get your name in the drawing. Tickets are \$5.00. You will have a chance to buy a ticket at the beginning of the May meeting. We will draw the winner during that meeting.

Thank you to Sandra Angelo and Tery Pollard for filling in at the main desk at the April meeting. One of our regulars, Thelma Gray, could not be at the meeting. In addition, our wonderful Diane Moten passed away at the beginning of March. We miss her greatly. Her funeral is scheduled for April 18, 11 AM mass at St. Rita's in Show Low. Carol Glick planned on being greeter but her husband, Malcolm Glick, fell and was admitted to the hospital. He is home now, but Carol could not attend the meeting in caring for Malcolm. Please keep him in your thoughts.

On April 24 and 25, the City of Show Low and the Show Low Chamber are sponsoring a BizExpo to showcase the businesses and non-profits in the area. This year we have a booth. We will have a small collection of rocks and minerals, a framed copy of the geological map of Arizona, and will be handing out general flyers, business cards, and information about our show in July. We will also have a bowl of tumbled rocks to give away. I will "man" the booth on Friday, April 24, and have or will find a couple of members to step up on Saturday. I encourage members to stop by the Expo and see what our city has to offer. The times are 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day. Our two-part field trip is also scheduled for April 25. Read about that trip further on in the Rock Talk. The Show Low Chamber, of which we are a member, is having "Rocking the Rim" at Frontier Field, Friday, May 22 - noon to 9 PM, Saturday May 23 - 9AM - 9PM, and May 24 - 9 AM to 2 PM. We have been offered, and accepted, a free booth. The "catch" is that one person from our group must agree to donate a four-hour block of time to the Chamber sometime during the event. I will do that. Our booth is planned to be connected to Doug Wolfe and the dinosaurs and will be oriented for children. If you believe you could man our booth for any length of time, please let us know at the May meeting. Any time you can spare is acceptable! We plan to hand out flyers, have the spinning wheel, and give polished rocks to children. I don't expect we will stay until 9 PM unless anyone is really interested in night help. (Too late for me!)

Our annual show is July 10, 11, and 12 at the Elks Lodge in Show Low. Our editor, Bea Kennedy, has been working on flyers for the event. Our Show Chair, Sandra Angelo, is organizing the particulars of the event. If you have ideas or ability to help in any manner, please contact Sandra at the May meeting. More information will be available then.

Our GoDaddy website is mostly updated -- www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org. The current Rock Talk is posted, and the club e-mail is whitemtngmc@gmail.com. In addition, my personal telephone number and e-mail are there also should you feel the need to reach me.

This week I have been hacked on my e-mail account. My list of recipients were subjected to "me" asking for a "favor". If one were to click on that link, they were then subjected to a complete lying story of an ill daughter and my need for an Amazon (?) card to buy her groceries and the like! Please be aware that these useless fools prey on gullible oldsters. We don't want to be those people they prey on. Enjoy our April Rock Talk, and consider how you may take part in all our upcoming events.

Have a wonderful month. Donna Pollard, President



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Shelly Applegate | Randy Beecroft |
| Ginger Donahue | Judy Harrell |
| James Jacobs | Francie Lucero |
| Cheryl Park | German Sierra |
| Leon Stroud | Debra Trimble |
| Kim Whitley | Ursula Wilson |

—————
Monthly Potluck for May:
Last Names A through L

LET'S DO LUNCH

The Let's Do Lunch Club will meet at Red Devil Pizza, April 30 at 12 PM. Address is 1774 E White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

If you have a favorite rock, geologic topic, lapidary technique, or DIY project you would like to share with your fellow club members, we welcome your contributions to our knowledge of the wonderful world of rocks. See page 3 for submission details.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

March Expense

Rock Talk Printing, Postage, Historian Supplies, PO Box Annual Fee, Arizona Corporation Commission, Webmaster Fees, Member Badges, Meeting Supplies.

Upcoming Expense

Tax Preparation, Meeting Supplies, *Rock Talk* Printing & Postage

Income This Month

Member Dues, Member Donations, Badge Payments, Gem and Mineral Show Vendor Contracts, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle

Ursula's Fluorite Specimens from March Field Trip



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Laura Leffew, Luke Leffew, Barbara Larrick, Kayden Olson, Rachel Rivera, Charlie Rivera

Rock Talk Newsletter

Our newsletter is published monthly by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any information or comments members wish to include in the monthly newsletter must be given to the editor at the general membership meeting or call the editor no later than Tuesday following the meeting.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a couple/family. (\$5 less if you receive newsletter by email.) Dues are paid in January each year along with a completed application form. Memberships initiated in November or later in a given year are also good for the following year.

Meetings

We meet the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the VFW Post 9907, 381 North Central Avenue in S how Low. Turn north off the Deuce of Clubs at Burger King. Social half hour at 1:00 PM, meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

Elected Officers

| OFFICE | NAME | PHONE | EMAIL |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Donna Pollard | (480)600-2714 | tdpollard@msn.com |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Sandra Angelo | (928)537-3726 | sandra_angelo@hotmail.com |
| 2ND VICE PRESIDENT | Debbie Trimble | (520)400-6527 | dltrimble076@aol.com |
| SECRETARY | Shelly Applegate | (928)245-4300 | shellylynn@gmail.com |
| TREASURER | Kim Whitley | (928)853-4455 | kimwhitley@gmail.com |
| EDITOR | Bea Kennedy | (330)391-1916 | bea.bullwinkl@gmail.com |
| FIELD TRIPS | Dick Turpin | (480)240-0995 | dickturpinaz@gmail.com |
| | Ursula Wilson | (928)532-5703 | uwilson@yahoo.com |

Members At Large

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hope Rubi | (928)228-8851 | Terry Pollard | (480)431-0686 |
| Ursula Wilson | (928)532-5703 | Carl Hickman | (928)536-3744 |

Volunteer Positions

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Website Maintenance | Donna Pollard | (480)600-2714 | tdpollard@msn.com |
| Show Chairman | Sandra Angelo | (928)537-3726 | sandra_angelo@hotmail.com |
| Assistant Show Chairman | Ursula Wilson | (928)532-5703 | uwilson@yahoo.com |
| Sunshine | Donna Pollard | 480-600-2714 | tdpollard@msn.com |
| Education, Schools | Open | | |
| Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle | Thelma Gray | | |
| Auctioneer | Donna and Terry Pollard | | |
| Highway Cleanup | Brookie/ Larry Embry | (928)537-0760 | |
| Bonus Prizes | Sandra Angelo | (928)537-3726 | |
| Historian | Donna Pollard | (480)600-2714 | tdpollard@msn.com |
| Librarian | Rick Palmer | (928)333-5019 | palmer57@frontiernet.net |
| Meeting Room Setup/Cleanup | Shelly Applegate | (928)245-4300 | shellylynn@gmail.com |

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Show Low: B.G. Hogarth | Snowflake/Taylor: Karen Hickman |
| Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer | Heber/Overgaard: Open |

Donna's Fluorite Specimens from March Field Trip



Bea's Fluorite Specimens From March Field Trip



WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES APRIL 12, 2026

Our Meeting began at 1:30 led by our wonderful club leader Donna Pollard! We began the meeting as usual with the Pledge of Allegiance and Greetings to our Guests and New Members! So glad all of you joined us today!

Announcements:

- Rocking the Rim - There is going to be a kids area for our club booth and for Doug Wolfe's Booth. We need some volunteers please. May 22-24 th at Frontier Park.
- Just a warning there has been a scammer sending out emails from our President. Know that its not Donna, please just ignore these emails! In business meeting we will discuss the possibility of taking down our personal information.
- Show and Tell: Ursula - Fluorite from the last Rockhound Trip! Lynne - Carlota Mine - Beautiful pieces of Chrysocolla. Chooch- Hematite with Crystals. Sandra - Blu Thompson donated a Binder- A collection of all the Rocks and Fossils that can be found at Blue Hills Environmental. Here to take look at it. Bea - A rock that may be a tooth! Determined that it could be 85% probability of it being a tooth. Rolo - Mesa Club trip – Onyx And a Cheirotherium rex footprint! You can come see more at our next Rockhound Trip!
- Field Trip: April 25 we will be meeting at the Bashas In Snowflake at 9:30. We will be going to see Dinosaur Footprints! Any vehicle can make it and there will be no collecting there. Afterwards we will have break for a couple of hours. Go out to lunch or go home if you'd like but come back if you'd like to find some fossils! After a break we will be heading to Donnas' Sons house at 1:30!
- Lets' do Lunch Club - April 30 th Red Devil Pizza at Noon.
- Rocky Mt. Federation - Always open to accept anything from us in their newsletter! Let Donna know if you'd like to share or add anything! Will add our Club flier for our next Gem Show!
- Highway Cleanup - May 16 th - Please book the date and come help if you can. Meet at the Show Low Chamber at 9 AM, leaving at 9:15 to the Rd. Bring gloves, and appropriate footwear.
- Presentation by Ron On the Use of Dousing Rods! It was very informative and fun to see!
- Door Prize Drawing Winners: Terry, Ursula, and

Wendy

- 50/50 Prize winners: Karen, Sandra, and Bea.

Business Meeting:

- July 10 th -12 th Annual Gem Show - We have some new fliers in progress, and we have confirmed that we will have food vendors for the duration of the show. And we are ready to donate items for Raffle Baskets. Coordinate with Lynne to see what items are needed. In the works of getting Bracelets at entry for the Gem Show. Security for the Gem Show is also in the works!!
- Biz Expo- North Star Business Center, in town at the gymnasium, the 24th. Anyone willing to go to help promote club.
- Go Daddy: Squared away the website
- We will update the Roster and get it all squared away before November 15.
- Pavillion secured September 6.
- Club Library: Where are the items? Rick Palmer has them, and we will try to relocate them.
- Looking for a building that the Club can own and use. We are still looking but nothing yet.
- Approved to look into the possibility of having 2 acres in Concho.
- Applying for a Grant- We just need to go through our Budget and numbers.
- Club Unanimously approved of getting a flyer in the Show Low Magazine! We will see if we can get it in!
- Treasurers Report: Everything is going smoothly and for this month! Our Budget is looking fantastic!!
- Wondering if we should specify how old one needs to be, to be considered a child.
- Minutes approved!
- We will update the prices for this upcoming Gem show in all platforms

Meeting Adjourned:3:55

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Applegate, Secretary

APRIL FIELD TRIP, APRIL 25, 2026
MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT

April 2026 Field Trip: Jim Lange Dinosaur Fossils and Shane Pollard Fossil Collecting

Field Trip Leader: Dick Turpin 480-240-0995 dickturpinaz@gmail.com

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Locations of the Field Trip Sites: Jim Lange Property (Snowflake) and Shane Pollard Homesite (Concho)

Where and When We Will Meet: In the morning, we will meet at Basha's Grocery in Taylor at 9:30 AM. Rollo Pool will lead us to Jim Lange's property, about 7 miles east of Snowflake. In the afternoon, we will meet at the Dollar General store at the "Y" at the intersection of highways 60 and 61 at 1:30 PM. Donna and Terry will lead us to their son's property.

Recommended Vehicle: Any vehicle can reach either location. We may ask some folks to carpool from the Basha's parking lot, depending on the number of attendees.

What we will collect: Fossils at Shane Pollard's property. No collecting at Jim Lange's, photos only.

Recommended Things to Take: Buckets, rock hammer, grabber, digging tools, camera, water, lunch, sunscreen.

Cell Phone Service: Both sites have some cell service.

Options: Feel free to attend either trip or both.



March 2026 Field Trip Report

New Mexico Ice Cave and 21 Mine Fluorite Trip

Our March field trip to New Mexico began at the "Y," where ten of the usual suspects gathered for the long drive to the 21 Mine—one of our club's favorite spots for high-quality fluorite. As we passed the St. Johns dump turnoff, we got a firsthand reminder of how challenging it is to maintain a highway built on volcanic bentonitic soils. For the next twenty miles, the road behaved more like a roller coaster than a highway.

After nearly three hours on the road, everyone was eager to start collecting. Three additional members met us at the base of the old mine road. We reorganized into the vehicles most likely to survive the steep, rocky climb ahead. Though the road is only about a mile long, it remains one of the roughest routes our club travels.

Despite the challenging ascent, every vehicle made it to the mine dumps. Members quickly spread out, tools in hand, and the satisfying sound of rocks hitting plastic buckets soon echoed across the hills.

Collectors explored a number of old waste piles and found abundant fluorite. The highest-quality material tended to be about a foot below the surface, where soil was less mixed with mine waste. At that depth, nearly every rock contained fluorite, often with vivid green and purple crystals. Some of the most productive digging sites were on the lower dumps. As temperatures rose, many people found comfortable collecting spots in the shade of the pines.

By late afternoon, most members had filled their buckets with excellent specimens and were ready for the journey home. Debbie and Bea continued on toward Grants, planning to attend the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Show the next day. Daren and Dick stayed behind to camp overnight and try UV collecting after dark. Their results were mixed: the less colorful specimens fluoresced better than the deeper green and purple material. For those seeking rich color, daytime collecting remains the best approach. However, for bright fluorescence under UV light, night collecting has its advantages. We still hope to test how different colors respond under shortwave and midwave UV. If any club members have those lights, your feedback would be much appreciated.

Overall, it was an excellent trip despite the long drive. Special thanks to Greg for recommending a site the club last visited many years ago. With more trips to the 21 Mine, we can continue to refine our collecting techniques and bring home even higher-quality fluorite specimens.

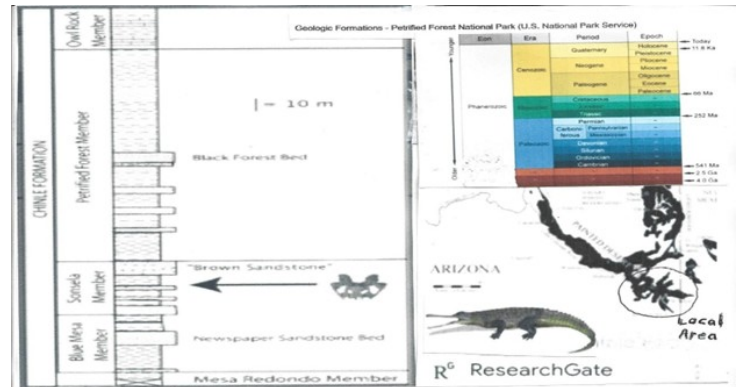
ROCK FORMATION OF THE MONTH THE CHINLE FORMATION

Submitted by Donna Pollard

Known nationally as the formation in the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona which is rich in petrified wood, this formation is also known for pre-dinosaur fossils. "Chinle" refers to a Navajo word meaning "where the water flows out". Chinle, the town, is located on the Navajo Reservation at the mouth of Canyon de Chelly. The Chinle formation is a Triassic geologic unit, of approximately 210 – 230 million years. It is visible in a larger area than the Petrified Forest.

Sitting above the Chinle Formation are Pleistocene and Holocene sediments from 1.8 million years ago to the present, and the remains of the Bidahochi formation. The Pleistocene and Holocene sediments include windblown sand and alluvium, and 500,000-year-old dunes still in evidence in the higher elevations of the Chinle.

The Bidahochi formation from the late Miocene and early Pliocene Epochs of the Neogene period, (4 – 8 million years ago), began with large lake basins covering much of Northeastern Arizona. There was extensive volcanic activity and the small amount of material left from the Bidahochi include scoria cones and maars; flat-bottomed, roughly circular, volcanic remnants.



The Chinle Formation is youngest below the remnants of the Bidahochi, The contact between the two is called an "Unconformity". This amazing contact represents 192 million years of missing time. This is why dinosaur fossils are not found there. The Bidahochi stopped depositing 8 million years ago, but the Chinle was deposited more than 200 million years before, from a huge river system that ran Northwest to Southeast. There are five major members of the Chinle Formation, from youngest to oldest, the Owl Rock, Petrified Forest, Sonsela, Blue Mesa, and Mesa Redondo.

The Owl Rock Member is the colorful pink, orange and red mudstones and limestones about 205 million years old. Iron and manganese provide the colors, with a lack of oxygen in certain layers give the blues and green hues. Fluctuating water table levels resulted in the iron rusting or not, creating the various red hues.

The Petrified Forest Member are reddish mudstones and brown sandstones, with reworked volcanoclastic units. This is where large amounts of petrified wood are found. The Black Forest Bed has been dated to approximately 213 million years

The Sonsela Member (see photograph on next page), approximately 216 million years old, consists of the Flattops One Bed, a thick, cliff-forming brown cross-bedded sandstone. Below that is blue, grey and purple mudstones some white sandstone, and thin, hard veins of calcite, that sit upon cross-bedded sandstone and conglomerate of rounded pebbles and cobbles. Logs of the Rainbow Forest in the Petrified Forest National Park can be found here, as can the fossilized remains of Phytosaurs, a carnivorous, tropical lowland dwelling predator. The Sonsela is mostly found from the Four Corners area of AZ, CO, NM, and UT, south to Concho, AZ.

The Blue Mesa Member is comprised of thick grey, blue, purple, and green mudstones and minor sandstone beds. Newspaper Rock, a well-known feature in the Petrified Forest National Park is part of this member, approximately 220 – 225 million years old. Below this the Mesa Redondo Member.

The oldest member, Mesa Redondo, dates 225 – 227 million years ago. When most people think of the Chinle Formation, the Petrified Forest National Park comes to mind. Instead, the older the rock layers are, except the Blue Mesa, the more likely they will appear at the surface southeast of the National Park. Here in the White Mountains we have this situation. The WMGMC St. Johns property has the Sonsela Member beds, where we find fossils of the Phytosaurs that roamed the swampy tropical areas of 200 million years ago. Parts of Concho have hills of the Sonsela and the Mesa Redondo. Redondo Mesa is a large mesa visible from Rt. 60 when heading east from Show Low. The Mesa Redondo Member of the Chinle formation was named for the Redondo Mesa District of Northeastern Arizona, located between Show Low, and Snowflake, Arizona and incorporating mesa Redondo. We live in a geologically rich area, an area to explore, with a constant chance of greater discoveries. Our geologic history rocks. (U.S.National Park Service)

ROCKIN' SHOWS COMING UP!

MAY 2026

2-3—KINGMAN, ARIZONA: Annual show; Mohave County Gemstoners; Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 Fairgrounds Boulevard, PO Box 70610; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Free to All Ages. Free Parking; Demonstrations, Gold Panning, Mohave College, Over 38 Unique Vendors, Kids Activities, Silent Auctions, Raffles, and Fun for All; contact Daina Sandhop, (425) 268-9983; Email: mcgemstoners@outlook.com; Website: <https://mcgemstoners.org/>

8-10—TUCSON, ARIZONA: The Tucson Fine Mineral Gallery Spring Showcase. Hours: 10AM-6PM Daily. Venue: The Tucson Fine Mineral Gallery, 465 W St Marys Rd, Tucson, AZ 85701 Website: <https://tucsonfineminerals.com/>

JULY 2026

10-12—SHOW LOW, ARIZONA: We are thrilled to announce that White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club (WMGMC) has scheduled its 27th Gem Show for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 10 through 12 at the Elks Lodge located at 805 E Whipple Street, Show Low, Arizona 85901. Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, Kids free with an adult; contact Carl Hickman, (928) 536-3744; Email: carlhickman8@earthlink.net; Website: <https://whitemountain-azrockclub.org/>



2025 WMGMC Annual Gem and Mineral Show

JULY-AUGUST 2026

July 31-August 2—PRESCOTT VALLEY, ARIZONA: Annual show; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Findlay Toyota Center, 3201 N Main St; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$5 General Admission, \$4 Seniors, Vets and Students, Children Under 12, Free; 22nd Annual Prescott Gem & Mineral Show. Largest indoor gem & mineral show in Northern Arizona! Over 75 vendors offering mineral specimens, beads, slabs, cabochons, crystals, fossils, meteorites, fine jewelry, classes, kids area and more; contact Dan Hunt, Show Chair; Email: pghmshowchairperson@gmail.com; Website: <https://www.prescottgemmineral.org/>



Sonsela Member, Chinle Formation, View From Blue Mesa Trail, Petrified Forest National Park, Photograph Public Domain From NPS

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM
& MINERAL CLUB
CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FIELD TRIPS WANTED!!

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY

GREAT PLACES FOR OUR OUTINGS!

| MONTH | MEETING DATE | FIELD TRIP DATE | NOTES |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| JANUARY | 4 | 17 | Gila County Show |
| FEBRUARY | 1 | 21 | |
| MARCH | 1 | 21 | Mellon Center Show—14th |
| APRIL | 12 | 25 | |
| MAY | 3 | 23 | Highway Cleanup—16th |
| JUNE | 7 | 27 | |
| JULY | 5 | 25 | ANNUAL SHOW 10-11-12 |
| AUGUST | 2 | 22 | |
| SEPTEMBER | 6 (Picnic) | 26 | Highway Cleanup—19th |
| OCTOBER | 4 | 24 | Harvest Fest |
| NOVEMBER | 1 | 21 | |
| DECEMBER | 6 | CHRISTMAS PARTY | |

LAPIDARY ADVENTURES

Polishing the Calcite Found at the Blue Hills Property

Submitted by Bea Kennedy

During the Club's trip to the Blue Hills property near St. John's last fall, I collected about a gallon size bag of the square calcite chunks that have eroded from one of the hills. (See this month's Rock Formation article to learn more about the geologic formation where this material is found.) In February, I saw the bag of squares and thought, "What would happen if I threw some of these into the tumbler?"

My usual tumber sequence is stage 1 in the rotary tumbler; stage 2 to final polish in the vibratory tumbler. Knowing that calcite is relatively soft, I skipped stage 1. I also tossed in 3 fluorite crystals (similar hardness and similar results through all processes). After completion of this first round of tumbling, results were disappointing to say the least. All of the rocks had been shaped and corners rounded. They seemed to be fairly smooth, but they were all dull.



After a little research, I retried the final polish with dry walnut shell media. Still dull and unimpressive. However, it seemed like the rocks were getting smooth enough that it should be possible to get some sort of shine on them. Which led to the next set of experiments.



With one piece, I took plain old sandpaper up to 3000 grit and was able to produce a nice, though not mirror, finish. I flipped that piece over and tried some green polishing compound from Harbor Freight. Again, a nice but not mirror polish, but this time the green compound was stuck in the small imperfections still present in the piece.

At this point, I switched to a rotary tool sanding disk kit which goes up to 10,000 grit. I took some of the tumbled pieces from 2000 grit to 10K, and also took two of the raw, untumbled pieces from 60 grit to 10K. The results were a marginal improvement over the hand sanding and polishing compound, but still disappointing. Taking a couple of these pieces and using 30K grit diamond polishing compound just dulled the little bit of shine that the 10K grit sanding disc had produced.



A YouTube video gave me one more thing to try with the tumbler. I took some of the same rocks that had already been through the tumbler twice, but this time just in the rotary tumbler, I switched up the usual procedure. Since the rocks were already shaped and smoothed, I started with stage 3 (500 grit), lots of plastic pellets for media, lots of water, and double my usual amount of grit. Instead of the barrel being 2/3 to 3/4 full, it was about 85-90% full. I completed this round with 1200 grit aluminum oxide, followed by 8000 grit aluminum oxide. This resulted in VERY smooth rocks, but still with a dull finish.

It looked like the stones no longer had any of the tiny imperfections that had trapped the Harbor Freight polishing compounds, so I decided to give that another try. After polishing with the brown, grey, green, and blue polishing compounds, the most pleasing finish came from the blue compound (possibly 2000 grit). It also did not matter if I went through all the compounds in sequence or straight to the blue compound from the tumbler. While the rocks still have a tiny bit of texture from their natural cleavage habit, there is now a mirror finish. In the pictures you can see the juniper tree just outside my rock shed.



One suggestion I was unable to try was to replace the final aluminum oxide polish stage in the tumbler with tin oxide. Carl also suggested either tin oxide or tooth polish (not toothpaste) on a round furniture pad for use with a rotary tool.

Let me know if you have had success polishing this material. I will bring the results of these experiments for Show and Tell at the May meeting.

Wishing you all the very best. Bea Kennedy

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM

AND MINERAL CLUB

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SHOW LOW, AZ 85902



WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
SHOW LOW, ARIZONA