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AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2009

Dear Members,

For years I have admired Nail Stones that you often see in displays, on the internet and in books. One of our members has just bought one from overseas which is absolutely magnificent which prompted this article and also trying to find out how they are formed. Another member also has one that was purchased in Indonesia which is just as lovely and fascinating to look at. I have included some pictures at the end of this article for to enjoy!

Searching the internet has come up with a lot of blanks and not much is written up in books. I was lucky to have my Son, who is a geologist, here with me for a holiday just recently so I cornered him and probed into his 'educational library mind' to find out more about these stones, which I find just as mysterious as Chrysanthemum Stones.

On his educational guess, you would say, these are stones that were processed by tectonic processes resulting from distortion of the earth's crust due to forces within it, causing structural deformation. These tectonic stones suffered from the intense tectogenesis, resulting in two sets of cross and tensive cracks which then formed two groups of frames which then collected a yellow ferrosilicon substance.

After that, the rocks suffered the weathering, and the soft substances in the frame also suffered the constant weathering and the years of filling up with liquid loaded with minerals. So in fact, in was the stones that first cracked under the great pressure and split letting in all the mineral loaded liquid which then solidified and formed the 'frames' around the fragmented rocks trapped inside. All of this occurred within the earth's crust that caused the structural deformation.

I find these stones fascinating because they remind me of church leadlight windows or something that maybe Gaudi would have incorporated in his famous church in Spain.

These stones are quite rare and considered very luxurious! Only wish I had one.

If any of our members has some more information on these stones, I would love to hear from you and you can email me at brendap7@bigpond.com so we can share the information.

Happy Hunting,
Brenda



Permission was sought by our two members to publish these pictures. Ed.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'Astounded by this monstrous and inhuman vision of rock, cloud, sky and space,
I feel invaded by a ridiculous greed and feeling of possessiveness I want to know it all,
possess it all,
embrace the whole landscape, intimately, profoundly, totally.'

- Edward Abbey (American environmentalist)

George and Johns 'Timely Timber & Tool Tips'

August 2009

Hello 'Rock Hounds'

This month we'll detail the plans for making the Dremel holder / cradle that we spoke about last time, ideal if you haven't got or can't use an adjustable table stand. We made a couple to trial and the response was good so here are the details.

You will need a piece of timber 230mm long x 75 – 85 mm Wide x 16 - 18 mm Thick. This will give you a base and a front and rear cradle. The timber can be any sort of off cut, plywood or particle board.

I used a piece of Blackbutt flooring which was nice and solid but very hard to carve the cradle ends. You'll need something like Meranti or Pine (without knots) to make the job a bit easier. Western Red Cedar is probably a bit too soft for this project.

1. On either end of the timber mark the cradle ends. These will be about 35 mm from the end of the timber. Find the middle of the end board and draw a half circle. The rear cradle will have a 25mm radius and the front cradle will have a 12mm radius.
2. Cut the half circles from the timber using a hole saw, spade bit, scroll saw, or a very aggressive tungsten bit (9931 is good) in the Dremel.

3. The front cradle will need a tapered cutout so draw an 18mm half circle on one side of the smaller cradle. You'll need to carve out the timber from the 18mm rear to the 12mm front. This will give you a taper that will fit the front of the Dremel.
4. The rear cradle will need a bit of carving (or not) to be a snug fit for the Dremel.
5. When you are satisfied that the cradle ends fit the Dremel, you can cut them from the main piece of timber.
6. Next, position the ends on the base and place the Dremel in the cradles, adjust the position of the ends to get a snug fit. Mark the position of the ends with a pencil, remove the Dremel and attach the ends to the base. The easiest way is to use a PVA wood glue, glue both ends to the base and clamp together, use a strong rubber band or hold down with sticky / masking tape, leave for 12 hours and then remove.
7. Glue a piece of 'Grip Mat' to the underside of the base; this will stop it from sliding around. If you just want to use the cradle as a holder for the Dremel you don't need to go any further. If you want to use a flexible shaft attachment, you will need to add a strip of 'Velcro' to hold the Dremel in place.



This can be adapted to suit most types of rotary tools.

That's it for now, so long till next time,
G&J

When Kate and Peter Adams were here recently I found that Kate is an avid stone collector and from that point on a great friendship has evolved. I shared a few stones with her that I collected here to add to her collection.

She told me that she has some on daizas and some in a large tray in her backyard so when she is out on the verandah having a coffee she can look at them and rebuild the fantastic memories from where they came from. Kate has stones from all over the world and I can imagine a lot of great stories to tell.

I have included a few photos that Kate sent me of some interesting stones to share with you.



Black Hut Stone –
California

Cave Stone with Owls
United Kingdom

Flower Stone -
Washington State

Help, let me out!
Washington State

In July's newsletter we submitted a draft for you to use to document your stone collection. We have had a few suggestions which I have included on the following page. No dotted lines (makes printing details difficult) and very importantly what sort of wood was used in making the daiza. Remember, an Australian stone needs Australian wood, and yes we have plenty of great timbers here for this purpose.

SUISEKI RECORD



(Place to your photograph here)

ORIGIN:

CLASSIFICATION:

DIMENSIONS:

HEIGHT:

LENGTH:

WIDTH:

DAIZA TIMBER:

COMMENTS:

Exciting News!

We now have our own website address which is www.suisekiaustralia.com

It would be great if we can utilize this site by publishing more photos of our stones. Remember, we don't have to put our names or contact details on there, just a pictorial record of our stones. Great to show our overseas friends what stones we do have here. Recently, there has been great interest on what is happening in the suiseki world 'down under'.

All of our club meeting dates and daiza workshop dates are on there in case you lose track of our program.

Photos of our stones that were on display in Melbourne a couple of years ago and of course George's instructions on how to make a daiza and more are also on there for your information.

Even if you have information regarding other aspects of suiseki I would urge you to post them on the site for everyone to share.

Contact the secretary (email address is on the website) and I am sure he will put them on for you.

WHERE AND WHEN

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month (except school holidays, December and January) at the Don Moore Community Centre, North Rocks Road, North Rocks, N.S.W. commencing at 7.30 p.m. sharp. If you would like to contact me regarding any information on the meetings, daiza making workshops or offering articles to be included in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at brendap7@bigpond.com or you can telephone me at (H) 02 9547 2157, or on (Mob) 0412 384 834.

At our last daiza workshop, Ray Nesci came to our working area with boxes under his arms. He told us that he had just taken delivery of these 'new' stones. Well, you should have seen us the way we jumped out of seats to inspect this new haul. We were like kids in a lolly shop and we acted like kids too!! You can imagine. It was disgusting!!!!!!!

There were two types of stones – one was the South African Tiger Eye which had magnificent colours through it and the actual 'tiger eye' part was iridescent and absolutely beautiful, and the other stone was another stone from South Africa called the Desert Moon Maxi – a white stone with ochre type colour inclusions.

It only took a few minutes and you guessed it, they were all GONE!!!!

NOTE: The South African Tiger Eye is totally different to the Australian type.

NEXT MEETING

Our next club meeting will be held on the 19th August, at 7.30 p.m. and to follow on from our new purchases from Ray's, George will give us a short talk on Tiger Eye, the Australian type and the South African type and their comparisons.

Also bring along a stone(s) to exhibit complete with stands and soes, any new stones that you have recently acquired or anything else associated with stones and their display.

See you all then.

SEPERATED AT BIRTH!



The stone on the left belongs to the newly appointed President of the European Suiseki Association, Mr. Igor Barta from the Czech Republic and the stone on the right is mine. Their similarities are striking so I contacted Mr. Barta and I was given permission to publish the 'sisters'. I call my stone the Sari Princess.