



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

February, 2003

The Paleontological Review

- submitted by Aaron Currier

New Winged Dinosaur Found

Fossil hunters in China have discovered what may be one of the strangest prehistoric species ever seen -- a four-winged dinosaur that apparently glided from tree to tree. It has been named *Microraptor gui* in honor of the Chinese paleontologist Gui Zhiwei. Researchers speculate that it developed around the same time as, or later, than the well-known, two-winged, bird-like dinosaur, *Archaeopteryx*, which is thought to have flown. This discovery will no doubt revive the debate about how birds might have evolved from reptiles -- learning to flap wings while gliding from a tree or taking off from the ground with a running start. (From the Statesman Journal, January 23, 2003).

Watch for information about the Oregon town of Fossil and their recent efforts to promote a tourist industry around their famous fossil locales in Wheeler County.

Fossil Fest at the Hatfield Marine Science Center!

On Saturday, February 8th, at the HMSC Visitor Center there will be fossil identification, swap and displays, plus talks at 11:00am: "Fossils from Oregon," Guy DiTorrice; and 1:30pm: "Thomas Condon's Coastal Experience," Dr. William Orr, University of Oregon, both in the Hennings Auditorium. For more information contact terri.nogler@oregonstate.edu

Guy DiTorrice has a fossil-related website at www.oregonfossilguy.com

Dr. William Orr is the curator of the Condon Museum, Oregon's state archive of fossil specimens in Eugene and author of Oregon Fossils. The Condon Museum Website:

www.uoregon.edu/~dogsci/facilities/condon.html

Thomas Condon was a well-known paleontologist who was Oregon's first state geologist and spent many years studying the fossils of the John Day Basin as well as the Oregon Coast. He discovered numerous species and his name is often used in giving new names to species, such as *Mytilus condoni*.

We Need Your Help ...

- submitted by Janine Owens

- Save your coffee cans for the club to use at the Show for rough rock sales
- Volunteers needed to tumble rock for the Show. The club will supply the rock, grit, and tumbler. Contact Rob Leedy for more information
- Grab bags are always needed for the Show. I will print the pattern for the grab bags in the next issue of the Bulletin
- Please continue collecting cancelled postage stamps and turn them into Peg Townsend

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The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc. (WAMS) is a nonprofit organization and an Oregon Corporation, founded November, 1947. WAMS is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS), the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), and the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (S.C.R.I.B.E.).

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Salem Senior Center, 1055 Erixon Street NE, in Salem, Oregon. Executive Board meetings are held with upcoming

meetings announced at the general meeting, and all members are invited to attend.

WAMS was organized to stimulate interest in the study and collection of agates, minerals, gems, and fossils, and support lapidary work, education, scientific study of natural earth sciences, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section #501(C)(3) IRS.

WAMS Membership

Membership fees are due by December 31st for the following year. Potential new members are encouraged to attend three meetings as a guest and complete an application form. Members will then vote to accept the new member. Members joining WAMS between the first of the year and October pay the full amount for that year. After October, full payment is due in December for the following year.

Membership Dues:

- Individual: \$12.00
- Couple: \$18.00
- Juniors: \$ 2.50

Guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend WAMS meetings!

2003 Elected Officers

- President: Jim Bennett 503-363-4974
- Vice President: Kit Leshk 503-393-9102
- Secretary: Kathy Bennett 503-363-4974
- Treasurer: Janice VanCura 541-753-2401
- Federation Directors: Don Townsend 503-364-3790
- Gerry Lundeen 503-364-6487
- Members at Large: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886
- Don Esch 503-371-1472
- Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102
- Board Chair: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421

2003 Committee Chairs

- Show Chair: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421
- Field Trips: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421
- Joe VanCura 541-753-2401
- Bulletin Editor: Janine Owens 503-315-5751
- Education: Volunteer needed
- Juniors: Volunteer needed
- Nameplates: Archie Janke 503-566-8300
- Oregon Council: Geri Esch 503-371-1472
- Rules and Awards: Gene Gangle 503-581-4440
- Programs: Aaron Currier 503-581-8920
- Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Public Relations: Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102
- Advertising: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Publications: Volunteer Needed
- Scrapbook/Historian: Volunteer Needed
- Hostess & Host: Volunteer Needed
- Refreshments: Volunteer needed
- Coffee: Volunteer needed
- Stamps: Peg Townsend 503-364-9829
- Sunshine: Jennifer Ferrell 503-375-6268

The Rockhound Rumbblings bulletin is published monthly for members of the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (WAMS). The editor is not responsible for the authenticity of information in articles submitted for publication, nor are the opinions expressed therein necessarily those of the editor or officers of WAMS. Permission to reprint material in the bulletin is granted freely, provided proper credit is given. Exchange bulletins are welcome.

Advertising Rates

Member: Non-business - One (1) free ad per year or \$1.00/issue or \$8.00/year. (Business card size or 12 lines or 1/10 page).
 Non-member and members with a business - \$4.00/issue, \$35.00/year (10 issues), or \$17.50 for 1/2 year (5 issues). Same size regulations as above.

Mailing Address

WAMS ? P.O. Box 13041 ? Salem OR ? 97309-1041



Editor's Message

Happy February to all!

Our mild winter (so far, knock on wood!) reminds us that Spring will soon be in the air. Time to get back out of the house, and hopefully get out and get some collecting in. I can't wait! Our Field Trip Coordinators, Rob and Joe, have been busy preparing a schedule so we can all plan ahead for some great WAMS field trips. If you have any special places that you would like considered for a future field trip, be sure to contact one of these fellows.

I wish to extend my sympathy to Lucille Sams during this difficult time for her and her family. Jon will be greatly missed, and though I didn't have the pleasure of knowing him as well or as long as some of our members, I admire and respect the contributions that he and Lucille have made to our club, and the rockhounding and lapidary world.

As always, thanks to the members who submitted articles and information for this month's issue of Rockhound Rumbblings. The variety of information really helps and makes for some good reading!

Janine Owens, WAMS Bulletin Editor
email: sunshynnn@attbi.com

Lapidary Class Update

- submitted by Ted Silver

Classes are ongoing. Gene will be ready to welcome new students the second Wednesday in February and, while I will be four weeks into my current class, that looks like a good time for Tuesdays also. Anyone who is interested in the classes or has questions about access to the lapidary shop or the classes is invited to contact me at the meeting, the shop or at home (503-585-2559).

Tumblers Available

Tumblers are available for loan to members. If you are interested, please contact Theresa Byrne at 503.364.7190 or email tabyrne@juno.com.

Wanted to Buy ...

Rotary Rock Tumbler, used, 12 to 18 lbs.

Please contact Bert or Sonia Kleiner at 503-873-2686

President's Message

We have a rolling start on another year, one that I believe will have great momentum before we are done.

Our annual show in April is just around the corner; we (the Board of directors) are in full discussion on how all of us can make it even better this year. I could spout on about the great need for volunteers but you all know that this club is nothing without people who are willing to go out of their way to get things done, because without each and every one of you there would be no WAMS.

There are lots of neat trips on the agenda in the near future and over the rest of the year; always a great way to get to know other members and generally have a wonderful time doing it.

I believe this year we will start to develop some activities for the junior members of our club and all will have an opportunity to be involved.

There is talk of WAMS doing a federation show and I think we could. The club has never sponsored a show and it may very well be time if there is enough commitment from the membership.

As you can probably tell I am a bit excited about the opportunities this year. I would encourage all to get excited about this club; it is by far the finest group of people I have been associated with in my adult life.

Bye for now.

Jim Bennett, WAMS President
email: bennettj@OregonVOS.net

Senior Center Newspaper Recycling

- submitted by Ted Silver

The Salem Senior Center has a newspaper recycling program and is asking everyone to bring their newspapers to the center for recycling. The money earned goes directly to support the Center and can have a big impact on the success and continuation of the many programs and services offered to the community. Any questions? Call Ted Silver at 503-585-2559.

For more information about the current silversmithing class schedule and possible open shop times, contact Don Miller at 503-585-5443

Minutes from January Meeting

- submitted by Kathy Bennett, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by new president Jim Bennett. Welcome to all present and thanks given to all who served last year. Welcome to guests. Had them say a little about their interests.

Program - given by Aaron, Joe and Rob about areas to find specific rocks.

Show and tell for the letter "A".

BREAK TIME

Business meeting was brought to order by Jim Bennett at 8:20 p.m.

Secretary's Report - Secretary's report for last meeting will be in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer's report will also be in the February newsletter.

Field Trip Report - January 18th will be the trip to the Rice Museum. Rob will call with where to meet. February will be a trip to the beach; trying to find a house or two to rent. Memorial Day weekend may be a trip to Ashwood.

Federation Report - nothing at this time.

Oregon Council - no report.

Public Relations - Jodee Leshk has volunteered for this position

Show Report - need rock tumbled, grab bags etc. Jennifer will be in charge of display cases again.

Adjudication - will be in April by Gene.

Old Business

Christmas party - Thanks to the Christmas Committee, Gerry, Joyce & Kathy. Thanks to Ted for his phone calls. Thanks to Tom Robertson & Rob Leedy for the "good prices" & donations for the gift bags. Aaron gave certificates to those not present at the Holiday Social.

Stamps to Peg Townsend.

Sunshine report: Our best goes to Lloyd Hamby.

New Business

New Members: Voted in two new members, Don Dolvson & Mary Schaeffer.

Refreshments - Thanks to George, Archie & Judy for refreshments. Next month refreshments Archie, Ted & Theresa.

Board meeting will be January 20th at the senior center 7PM.

Meeting brought to a close 8:35 PM.

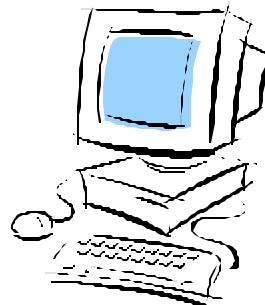
Raffle drawing and door prizes drawings.

WAMS T-shirt Order

- submitted by Theresa Byrne

A new batch of WAMS t-shirts will be available soon. They will be short sleeve, 100% cotton, either Hanes Beefy-T or Fruit of the Loom Lofteez, and available in Small through 3X. They will be dark green with a white WAMS logo (10" x 10" or so) on the front. I will be taking orders at the February and March meetings; there will be a sample shirt at those meetings. The price is \$10.00; checks should be made payable to WAMS. The shirts will be ready by the April meeting.

If you would like a shirt but can't attend the meeting, please mail the payment to my home address before March 10. Theresa Byrne, 1175 Duffield Heights S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302. Questions: 503-364-7190.



Cool Websites

- submitted by Susan Appleby

Links to over 200 mineral fossil gem and lapidary sites:
www.the-vug.com

Great silversmithing link:

www.silversmithing.com

Always a source of great info on gems and jewelry - projects, articles, you name it: www.ganoksin.com

Diamond and gemstone news: www.gia.edu

Industry links, show calendars, and good archive:
www.coloredstone.com



Ask Rocky

Question: I tumbled some Newport Blues, and they came out black! What caused that? Is it possible to polish them, yet still have them remain blue?

Answer: I tumble them just a day or two (up to 4 days or so) in fine grit or prepolish (500-800 grit). I'm assuming you mean a rotary tumbler. I like to use the little tumbler, but I will, if I have 12 pounds or so of all agate and jasper from the beach, load up the bigger tumbler. The sand has basically worked most of the material I pick up through 220 grit. After running them through the fine grit or prepolish, polish them; a vibratory tumbler is best - you can open it and check them every day and stop when the polish suits you. If they are too dull, run them through a fine grit tumble of a day or two and repeat the polish. I've never been back to the rotary tumbler, by the way.

Did you look at the "black" stones in good enough light? I just haven't really had this happen, so unless you started with black or possibly removed the blue (over tumbled?) so that a very dark blue is all that is left, I couldn't really say. Rocky would like to look at your problem rocks and scratch his head a bit.

Have a question for Rocky? Please submit your questions to Rocky, care of Theresa Byrne via email tabyrne@juno.com, or call 503-364-7190.

Field Trip Schedule for 2003

- submitted by Joe VanCura

The Field Trip coordinators had a field trip to discuss field trips! I met Rob at Lost Creek Wayside south of Newport on January 11th about 10 a.m. We discussed possible trips as we searched for agates. It was a productive morning as we roughed out our field trip list and found a few agates and fossils.

The February field trip will be to the central Oregon coast on the 15th and 16th. The tides should be good and the Wine and Seafood Festival is the following weekend. I have reserved six rooms at the Waves Motel (1-800-282-6993). If you want one of the rooms, tell them that you are with the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society so that you will get the group discount. More info will be available at February's meeting, or you may call Rob Leedy (503-371-6421) or myself (541-753-2401).

The rest of the year is as follows:

March – undecided, perhaps the North Coast or Glass Buttes; **April** – WAMS Show is the 18th-20th so maybe something on the 26th and/or 27th; **May** – Ashwood on Memorial Day Weekend 24th-26th; **June** – Sunstones, date to be determined; Prineville show and field trips on 28th-29th; **July** – Ochocos for thundereggs, tube agate and fossils 11th-13th; Madras Pow Wow and field trips on 2nd-6th; **August** – Goldpanning and pyrite at Quartzville Creek on 16th-17th; **September** – Tom Robertson will lead trip to Eastern Oregon, probably Owyhee area; **October** – Trask Mountain or Whitcom Creek; **November** – Visit member collections?; **December** – Christmas Party on 6th.

In Memory Of ...



Jonathan A. Sams

March 31, 1919-January 18, 2003

Jon passed away peacefully in his sleep at home after several months of illness. He was born in Froid, Mont. to Jonathan and Ida Sams. He was raised in Newport, Wash. where he graduated from high school. He married Mary

Lucille Ratcliff on May 12, 1939 and they enjoyed 63 years together.

He volunteered with many organizations throughout his life. The most recent was the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society where he chaired their annual rock show and demonstrated his fluorescent rocks that became a feature for several years. One of his favorite projects was working as club educational representative. He would go to various schools and youth events to talk about rock collecting and lapidary work. He spent many years collecting, cutting and finishing rocks for jewelry and for display. He was an expert at identifying rocks.

(reprinted excerpt from memorial program)

Memory of Jon ...

- submitted by Aaron Currier

Jon and Lucille Sams used to teach the Fluorescent Show with the Watkins' before Mick Edwards, Debbie Eisenhut, and I took over for them. Jon stopped by a couple of years ago to watch our presentation. He spoke with me after the show and commented that we did a fine job. He wanted to show me his belt buckle which he had fashioned out of fluorescent rocks -- fluorite, calcite, and chalcedony (it glows blue, red and green!). I thought it was very creative. He proceeded to take the buckle off his belt strap and gave the buckle to me. He walked out with his belt strap dangling. Jon and Lucille will always be very special to me and I will always cherish my fluorescent belt buckle.

Quest for State Fossil

(Editors Note: The following is an email forwarded to me from Judy Rochefort of the Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Clubs)

Greetings:

I'm working with the Oregon Paleo Board to get legislation introduced to declare an official "State Fossil".

The proposed candidate is the leaf-impression of the plant *Metasequoia* found in central Oregon.

Your assistance in the form of letters(s) of support, petitions and/or spreading the word is appreciated.

I'm in the process of prepping a fact sheet to be distributed to each state legislator with a riker-mounted specimen. My wife is financing the riker boxes and I'm prepping mounts from collected specimens from the high school location in Fossil, Oregon.

Will send you the fact sheet as soon as it's done.

Any other resources appreciated. Thanks!

Guy DiTorrice
 PO Box 256
 Newport OR 97365
 [541] 961-1762
www.OregonFossilGuy.com

Upcoming NW Shows

Feb 2003 8 -9am - 5pm 9 - 9am - 5pm	Whidby Island Gem Club w/ Whidby Island Pebble Pushers Oak Harbor, WA
Feb 2003 15 -10am - 5pm 16 - 10am - 5pm	West Seattle Rock Club Seattle, Washington
Feb 2003 22 -10am - 7pm 23 - 10am - 5pm	Idaho Gem Club Boise, Idaho
Feb 2003 22 -10am - 6pm 23 - 10am - 5pm	Everett Rock & Gem Club Everett, Washington
March 2003 7 - 9am - 5pm 8 - 9am - 5pm 9 - 10am - 5pm	Tualatin Valley Gem Club Hillsboro, Oregon

Spotlight on Members



Name: Zach Abbas
Family: Mom (Janine), Dad (Leon), Stepmom (Angie), Stepbrother (Garon)
Pets: Cat (Luna) and kitten (Caramel)
Born: Salem, Oregon
Occupation/employer: Tough job – being a kid
Hobbies/leisure time: Read, play with Star Wars & Power Rangers figures, checkers
My least favorite chore: Cleaning my bedroom
My best vacation: Disneyworld February 2002
Favorite childhood memory: Hiding behind the Christmas tree
The most important person I've met: My mom, because I love her so much
I'd love to meet: A new brother!
My most embarrassing moment: First day at preschool
My favorite toy: Cyclonis, the Transformer
I've never been able to: Touch the ceiling
Personal hero: My brother, Garon
Favorite music/musicians: Me
Favorite TV programs: Wheel of Fortune, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire
Favorite movies: Power Rangers Wild Force
Favorite restaurants: Los Arcos
What started me collecting rocks: My mom and Homer Owens
Age I started collecting rocks: 2 years old
Years in WAMS: 3
What I like best about WAMS: Refreshments at the meetings
Favorite rock/gemstone/fossil: Dinosaur bone fossil
Favorite place to collect: Pink limbcast area (Paulina)
Favorite WAMS field trip: Newport agate collecting, 2002
My best rock find: Crystal
Favorite dessert: Chocolate cake

AFMS News

www.amfed.org

SEASIDE GEMBOREE IS COMING! START PLANNING!

from February, 2003 CFMS Newsletter

It's hard to believe that we are into the year 2003 already! The AFMS/CFMS show, Seaside GEMboree is just around the corner. Now is the time to start planning your vacation for June 2003 and attending the HUGE convention and gem show in Ventura, California.

The Seaside GEMboree will have something for the whole family. Our camping is right next to the Ventura Beach. Our weather will be cool with sunny afternoons. Seaside Park, (formerly Ventura Fairgrounds) is within walking distance of the beach city of Ventura and all of its local shopping. The AFMS/CFMS will have 50 dealers, demonstrations, gold panning, displays, a silent auction and many SPECIAL DISPLAYS NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

One of our special programs will be by Bob Varish, a meteorologist who has self-collected two of the MARS METEORITES. Bring your possible meteorites to our show and Bob will tell you if you have a Meteorite or Meteorwrong.

We will also have a FULL SIZE TRICERATOPS MODEL, collected by Paleontologist Marcus Erickson, who will be on hand to talk Dinosaurs and help in our Dino Dig.

There will be a HUGE BUILDING for display cases, where we will have both AFMS and CFMS competitive displays and also non-competitive displays. This will give you a great opportunity to show your best skills and material. We hope you will want to put in a display case. Our MERMAID CONTEST is creating a lot of interest. We want everyone to start creating an entry. Your (mermaid) entries will be displayed together in a display case. There will be a nice prize for the winning entry. To date, we know we will have carvings, silver work and jewelry made for the mermaid contest. HOW ABOUT YOU? What will your entry be? Get your entry form in as soon as possible.

All of the Seaside GEMboree forms-- Pre-registration and camping, Mermaid contest, Display, etc. are on the CFMS WEBSITE (www.cfmsinc.org). You can print the forms from the website or call Maxine Dearborn at (818) 883-7851

NFMS News

www.amfed.org/nfms

KIDS CORNER—DECEMBER

By Gary Buhr

I trust that you are as proud of our Northwest Newsletter as I am. The patience, courage and confidence that Editor Bev Bockman has exercised in her first year at the "helm" is truly remarkable. She has taken new ideas and run with them! This keeps vital communication current in your NFMS. If you feel "short changed" then contribute, participate & volunteer to make a difference.

Since we had a computer glitch in the JUNIOR JACKPOT in the October issue, I want to correct that here. A very important volunteer, AMANDA HOWARD, age 7 of the Nisqually Valley Rockhound Society had her comments deleted, so here is what AMANDA had to say. "I got interested in rocks when I saw them and my Dad told me about the Club. My favorite rock is white quartz. My sister, SARAH and I were hosts at the 2002 Yelm Rock Show and helped at the Juniors Table". Their show is touted as the biggest little gem show in Washington. Thank you Amanda for helping.

We are making progress on the education kit idea that will promote our hobby plus PR and community outreach for local clubs and the NFMS. Consultations with Toby Cozens, Larry. Hulstrom, Keene Clay and Lyle Vogelpohl have been fruitful in sorting out initial decisions. Larry. Field of Billings, Montana has provided an abundance of information because he has been there & done that as a professional educator and rockhound for over 30 years. Besides supplying us with a prototype kit, Larry Field has actually delivered thousands of kits during his work & hobby classes, so we are off to a good start. Just imagine how many "precious gems" we have in the NFMS!

Speaking of gems, Eldon Glein of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society in Salem, OR sent a letter packed with lots of new ideas to enhance the concept of rockhounding. His vision is to help Juniors understand what scientific professions their great hobby can lead to. Eldon believes many Junior rockhounds can and will make contributions or discoveries that reveal solutions for mysteries of our future environment. With study and field trips we gain insights about Mother Earth and her miracles. As the calendar turns we can all rejoice a new beginning in 2003.

What's Rocking?

WAMS General Meeting

Thursday

February 6 – 7:00 p.m.

Salem Senior Center

1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem

Guests Welcome!

February Program

Crystals – Aaron Currier

February Show and Tell

Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letter

'B' for Show & Tell



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