



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

March, 2003

Hunting Blues at the Coast

- submitted by Susan and Rudy Appleby

February 15th. A nice sunny day, very warm in the 60s - WAMS members turned out in good number. We arrived at Lost Creek around noon well in advance of low tide to find WAMS members - Aaron Currier, Stacey, Jesse, Joe and Janice VanCura, Jim and Kathy Bennett, Bert and Sonia Kleiner, and a few others were already in possession of a nice collection of Newport blues. There were quite a few fossil shells turning up along with some bone. The gravel bed extended from the high tide mark down to the outgoing tide. It went south down the beach almost as far as the eye could see. Plenty of space for lots of agate seekers which there were.

WAMS members continued to arrive with an almost regular frequency. Jennifer Ferrel, Charmaine Mortimer, new members Mark Thorpe with his wife and son, Rob Leedy, Don and Geri Esch and daughter Theresa, and other new members who we also got to spend the dinner hour with. A lot of unusually included patterned agates were found, including a very nice piece of sagenite found by Rob Leedy. We took off around 4:30 to check into the motel and prepare for dinner. We got a few handfuls of nice blues and a couple special ones.

We arrived a bit early at the Sizzler - Mark Thorpe and his family couldn't wait until the 7:00 dinner time and had a booth at the end of the WAMS long table (which filled up quickly). A total of 25 members were counted for the day. We hadn't seen Bill and Linda Vanacek on the beach, but had the pleasure of getting to know them better over dinner.

The agate poker party did happen with a handful of diehards. We headed back to the Waves. Sunday morning a storm blew in and a very high tide - nothing like the near perfect calm day before. We had to head back to Salem, but some collecting was done on Sunday.

Another fine day at the coast. You never know what you'll find. Pleasant company, a large gravel bar and the weather couldn't have been better.

We're ready for the next trip.

Last Chance for T-Shirt Order

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 bgo (10" x 10" or so) on the front. Orders will be taken 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 quantity and sizes you wish to order, along with payment before March 10 to: Theresa Byrne, 1175 Duffield Heights S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302. Questions: 503-364-7190.

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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
- Hostesses: Joyce Winters
- Gerry Silver 503-
- 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

Hello to March!

Sounds like the February field trip was quite enjoyable, and I'm sorry to have missed it! A good day at the coast is always enjoyable, even if the agate collecting isn't profitable. We are extremely lucky to live in an area that is so rich in opportunities for collecting specimens of all varieties. Our Field Trip chairpersons, rob Leedy and Joe VanCura are always looking for input on trips that you, the members, wish to take so be sure to see either of them if you have a special area or interest that you wish to pursue. Look for the article on the upcoming March trip in this issue.

Thanks again to those who contributed articles for this issue of the Bulletin. Your efforts are very much appreciated, each and every issue! All members are welcome and encouraged to send articles, tips, websites, etc. for the newsletter. You may submit written material to me at the monthly meetings, or via mail, or email to the address below.

I'm ready for Spring and some warmer weather, and looking forward to getting out for some great rockhounding! Happy collecting and shop time to all of you!

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

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.

Thank you!

This issue of Rockhound Rumbblings was made possible by submissions from WAMS Members:

Susan and Rudy Appleby
Kathy Bennett
Ted Silver
Theresa Byrne
Joe VanCura
Aaron Currier

Updates

- submitted by Ted Silver

Another quick reminder to those lappie dappies wanting to use the lapidary shop. Most nights have room for you. Please give a courtesy call to myself, Jennifer Ferrell or Gene Gangle if you would like to come in and play (remember, no working allowed). If no one calls and we don't have students we won't waste a trip as we must have at least two people in the shop to keep it open. Also, we're limited to a maximum of five, including the supervisor, so guess what; the first four callers are in.

The jewelry lab is open Monday evenings from 6:30 till 9:30 for beginning silversmithing and open shop for the more advanced artisans. Fees are \$1.25 per hour plus any materials needed for class work. So come on down and turn some of those excess cabs into beautiful jewelry.

The city budget committee met at the Center on Feb 20 but I was unable to attend so as of this writing I don't know what, if any, impact will be felt by the Centers users. I hope to have an update in time for the club meeting on the 6th. In the meantime, we can all show our support of the Center by taking advantage of the opportunities offered in the lapidaryshop and jewelry lab and by bringing in newspapers for recycling. Money received from recycling newspapers is applied directly to operating expenses and helps keep user fees more user friendly.

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

Silversmith Classes Available

For more information about the current silversmithing class schedule and possible open shop times, contact Charmaine Mortimore at 503-304-0746

Minutes from February Meeting

- submitted by Kathy Bennett, Secretary

Meeting brought to order at February 6 at 7PM by president Jim Bennett. Welcome to everyone including guests. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jon Sams and Lloyd Hamby, longtime respected members of WAMS.

Theresa Byrne is taking orders for shirts at this meeting and next. The cost is \$10. They will be ready for the April show.

Aaron gave a talk on crystals. Crystal exhibits were from Aaron, Janine and Rob.

Business Meeting

Secretary's report was in the newsletter. Accepted as written.

Janice gave the treasurers report and it was accepted as given.

Show report given by Rob. Work party as Don Esch's this Saturday at 2pm.

Field trip report given by Rob. February's will be at Lost Creek.

Federation report-nothing to report per Gerry Lundeen

Publicity report-Jodee Leshk. No Oregon Council Report.

Newsletter report -Janine.

Adjudication, by Gene Gangle, will be in April. Be thinking about having a display at the show.

Old Business-

Any interest in having a Federation show July 2004? The board is looking into details. Our club has never had a show. They are looking into the logistics and interest.

Ted announced prices will go up in March for the lapidary classes to \$30.

Charmaine is now supervising the silver classes.

New Business-

The club is buying two new tumblers for member use.

Need rock tumbled for show. See Theresa.

Money is being sent in memory of Jon Sams and Lloyd Hamby to Federation College Fund.

Voted in new members. Voted to pay the current bills.

Discussion on the Junior's club. Need to check with the center and get a volunteer to organize.

Gerry Silver, Joyce Winters and Kathy Bennett will again work on the December holiday dinner.

Need volunteer to organize the summer picnic.

Anyone interest in giving a talk (talks) to the Boy Scouts at their camp July 21st to 31st.

Something on rocks, rock collecting etc. See Kit for details.

Stamps-save for next time as Peg is not here.

Sunshine report-Don Miller.

Refreshments-thanks to Archie, Ted & Theresa.

Refreshments next month -Archie, Chuck and Jim & Kathy

Program report next month -Aaron is checking with someone to give a talk on fossils.

Adjourn - regular meeting. Drawing for door prizes. Drawing for trailer fund prizes.

Spotlight on Members



Name: Gerry Lundeen

Family: Wife-Pat, Son- Michael(age 25)

Pets: Dalmation Dog (now deceased)

Born (city,state): McMinnville, Oregon

Occupation/employer: Retired from Public Utility Commission

Hobbies/leisuretime: Horticulture, Rockhounding, Sailing, Occasional Elk Hunting

My least favorite chore: Cooking

My best vacation: Snowbirding at my brother-in-law's house in San Diego

Favorite childhood memory: Family picnics

The most important person I've met: George Shultz

My most embarrassing moment: I had to sing a song in front of Jr. High assembly for initiation into the boy's letterman club.

My favorite toy: All-Wheel-Drive AstroVan

I've never been able to: Sing

My claim to fame: My career as a professional engineer

An unusual thing about me: I was adopted at birth

Something people might be surprised to know about me: I'm a Vietnam Veteran

Pet peeves: Inconsiderate people

I'm afraid of: Flying

Favorite music/musician: Marty Robbins

Favorite author: Louis L'Amour

Favorite TV program: Austin City Limits

Favorite movie: Sound of Music

Favorite actor: Harrison Ford

Favorite actress: Meryl Streep

Favorite restaurant: Chalet

What started me collecting rocks: I wanted a retirement hobby

Age I started collecting rocks: 54
Years in WAMS: 5
What I like best about WAMS: Diverse people with a common interest
Favorite rock/gemstone/fossil: Wonderstone /rhyolite for working in Lapidary shop
Favorite place to collect: Quartzsite, Arizona
Favorite WAMS field trip: Ashwood, Oregon
Favorite lapidary equipment: Rock Saw
My best rock find: Petrified wood at Tom Robertson's yard

Field Trip Report

The March field trip will be on the 15th and 16th. We are going to a silver pick in Bend. The main attraction is thundereggs, so of course I am excited. There is also some agate, jasper, petrified wood, and obsidian. Silver picks can be great places to get some no longer available material. This is certainly the case with these thundereggs. They were all dug 20 to 40 years ago from Desolation Canyon, which is now in the Mill Creek Wilderness and closed to collecting. I have been told that there may also be White Rock Spring, Stringer, and Yellow Jacket eggs as well. I will have fliers, maps, and photos of the material at March's meeting. I plan on going over to Bend on Friday and will stay through Sunday to help with the sale. Since the sale will start at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday many of you may want to go over on Friday as well. Parking will be limited to side streets, so you may want to carpool. All material will be 50 cents per pound and there will be no previews or early sales. There are at least 30,000 pounds of thundereggs, so there should be plenty for those who may want to come later or on Sunday.

Joe

Lecture for March 6, 2003
WAMS General Membership Meeting

Why am I a Paleontologist?

A lecture by Dr. Ellen J. Moore, Scientist Emeritus of the U.S. Geological Survey and a courtesy research associate at Oregon State University.

Author of "Fossil Shells from Oregon Beach Cliffs." Dr. Moore will be speaking and presenting a slide show to our group at the March meeting. You are invited to bring specimens of fossils collected at the beach for identification. Aaron Currier will also bring his species type collection for examples and comparison.

The Paleontological Review
Submitted by Aaron Currier, WAMS
Dr. Ellen J. Moore, author of Fossil Shells from Western Oregon--A Guide to Identification will be our

guest speaker at the March meeting. Here is a review of her most recent publication on marine mollusks of the Newport area. This is the book I use to identify the snails and clams I find at Moolack and Lost Creek Beaches. The following information is from Dr. Moore's website:

www.cmug.com/~chintimp/homepage.html
This book will appeal to residents of Oregon, tourists, and students. Common fossil shells are pictured with annotated photographs alongside a description of their distinguishing characters. Fossiliferous rock formations are briefly described, and maps show their geographic occurrence near western Oregon towns. Eight detailed excursions by car give an illuminating overview of the geology of western Oregon. This book, with a comprehensive bibliography and index, is a must for the intellectually curious.

This book expands on the author's previous technical and popular books to include the full geologic range of fossiliferous rocks in western Oregon, from the late Paleocene to the Pleistocene, and the full geographic range, from border to border.

Check out the website to read reviews by local newspapers or just get the book!

131 pages. Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 00-102253. ISBN 0-9640066-1-8. Two-color cover. Published: May 2000. Softback \$12.00 (shipping included).

Chintimini Press
3324 SW Chintimini Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-1529
<http://www.cmug.com/~chintimp/homepage.html>

Tips, Tricks and Notes:

Old Ivory

All fossil ivory is old, but all old ivory is not fossil. There may be a few million years difference between old ivory and fossil ivory. Old ivory is a term used in reference to ivory which was collected and usually carved or made into artifacts in past centuries. Beautiful and intricate ivory objects were found in the King Tutankhamen tomb. Ivory carving was popular in Europe in the 13th century and became very elaborate in 17th Century China. Most of this work is old ivory. It was done a long time ago and the ivory has acquired a soft mellow look of age.

Some tribes in the past have used fossil ivory in their carvings. For example, the Eskimos¹ use of Mammoth ivory. Fossil ivory is usually from an extinct animal (Mammoth, Mastodon, Gompothere whale) and is somewhat mineralized. Old Chinese carvings are sometimes done in fossil ivory too. As to which is more valuable, it depends on quality, workmanship and rarity.

Lapidary Journal 2/78, via Coastal Waves 11/02,
Golden Spike News 2/03

Cabochons that have become dull by wear can be repolished without removing them from the mounting. Cut 1/4 inch diameter soil leather disks and put 3 of them on a Dremel or Foredom screw-type mandrel. Work carefully with LindeA or diamond past near prongs and bezel. Breocua 8/03 via Hatrockhound Gazette 12/02

When shaping and polishing your stones, do not press hard. Let the machine do the work. By pressing hard, all you do is wear out the wheels and yourself. You can also cut deep scratches in your stone that way. You have better control over your work with a light touch. Grind your stones at a high speed, sand on a medium speed and polish on low speed - all with a light touch. ,,via Gem Times 3/02, Rock Rollers 6/02, Hatrockhound Gazette 12/02

Don't use Oxyclean in your rock tumbler unless you want to be picking up the pieces all over your shop. Oxyclean creates a very large amount of gas which will explode in an enclosed container.

Feature Fossil

- submitted by Susan Appleby

I recently acquired a collection of fossils collected from a quarry located in Sandersville Georgia (central GA). Included were shark teeth, fossil bones, stingray barbs, echinoderm and stingray teeth and barbs. I have ground down some windows on the bones and also cleaned up some of the barbs on the genie and they are quite nice. Hope to use them in some creative jewelry project in the near future. Might not be a local collecting site, but it is always interesting to learn what other area of the US have to offer.

Following is an article from Fossil News, 12/01 regarding this.

Feature Fossil . . . by Marc Behrendt

Phylum CHORDATA
Class CONDRICTHYES
Order HYPOTREMATA

Locale: Venice Beach, Florida - From the Jerry Rice Collection

Shark tooth collectors are a fun group of individuals. They have marvelous displays of the finest teeth they've ever found. Then they pull out the big pickle jars loaded with all the spare teeth. When a jar is poured onto a table, hours fly by as the teeth are sorted and studied. This stingray dentition is just one fossil collectors can find in Florida.

Though I group this in my "teeth" category, this dentition is actually part of a stingray's mouth plate. If

studied closely, the majority is comprised of bone-like material, and the upper grooved edge is the actual tooth or grinding surface. Such teeth help the ray crush hard-shelled food items. For simplicity's sake, I will call this a tooth. The stingray teeth are usually broken into rectangular or square pieces, with parallel ridges on the surface running perpendicular to the edges, much like a mammoth tooth. Jerry says that people frequently concentrate on looking for the stereotypical shark tooth shape, and often overlook the stingray teeth on the beach. Key in on the black and shiny tendencies of these teeth. So if it is squared or rectangular, black and shiny, you ought to check it out!

Reference: Cartmell, B. Clay, Let's Go Fossil Shark Tooth Hunting, 1993, page 38-43.



Ray tooth measuring 7/8 inch long, 3/8 inch thick. Note the ridged grinding surface, rectangular shape of this tooth and the tar black coloration.



A thinner ray tooth, measuring 7/8 inch long and 1/4 inch wide. Note the ridges on the grinding surface.



Note the black porous bone-like material and the rectangular shape of this ray dentition.

Board of Directors meeting January 27, 2003

Members present: Rob Leedy, Jim & Kathy Bennett, Kit & Jodee Leshk, Janine & Zak Ownes, Janice VanCura, Chuck Hunt, Theresa Byrne, Don Esch, Gerry Lundeen & Aaron Currier.

7PM meeting called to order by Rob. Wanted to know if there is interest in putting on a Federation show in July 2004. Rob would volunteer to be the show chair. Feel at this time Rob needs to find out what kind of profit the other clubs have made; problems faced etc. Will talk more about it later. It would be a big commitment for all of the club.

Rob proposed buying two additional 12 pound tumblers for \$160 each for the club. This was approved. He will purchase from Tom Robertson.

Rob proposed having a web master as part of the Board of Directors which would change Bi-laws. Don Esch is already handling the web page and is a member at large so is on the Board. Nothing was done regarding this.

Theresa will be taking orders for T-Shirts in February and March. Suggested one color; One price; Dark green with white emblem for \$10.

Janine asked for article for the newsletter. She will be doing it this weekend.

In the past we have donated \$100 per year to the Salvation Army. Not sure why always Salvation Army and why we have donated. Tabled for now.

\$50 donation in memory of Jon Sams has been sent in.

Kit has sent 172 letters to schools. He is working on ways to contact home schoolers. They are being invited for Friday afternoon. George is the contact person on the letters. Also has contacted the Boy Scouts. They would like someone to come to a campout they Will be having Camp KneeDeep from July 21st to 31st. Will be asking if any volunteers.

Field trip for February 15th & 16th scheduled for the beach.

Discussed getting a Juniors Club going to attract more younger members and doing projects. We will check to see if there is another area available in the Senior Center for them to meet. If so, we will be looking for volunteers to come up with a program and/or project to do. Possibly a different person each month.

Aaron would like someone else working the "F" show at the April show. He will do Friday for the school children, but would like someone else for Saturday and Sunday.

Need to work on the write-ups for all the jobs at the show. Kit is looking for donations of agates to give to the school children. Don Esch has about 4 gallons of rock polished for the grab bags. Save your coffee cans to put rocks in for the show to sell. Also need rock to fill them. Gerry Silver has 299 grab bags done and filled with last years rock. Don is talking about having a rock crushing/work party maybe February 8th.

Meeting adjourned.

Goodbye to a WAMS Friend



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

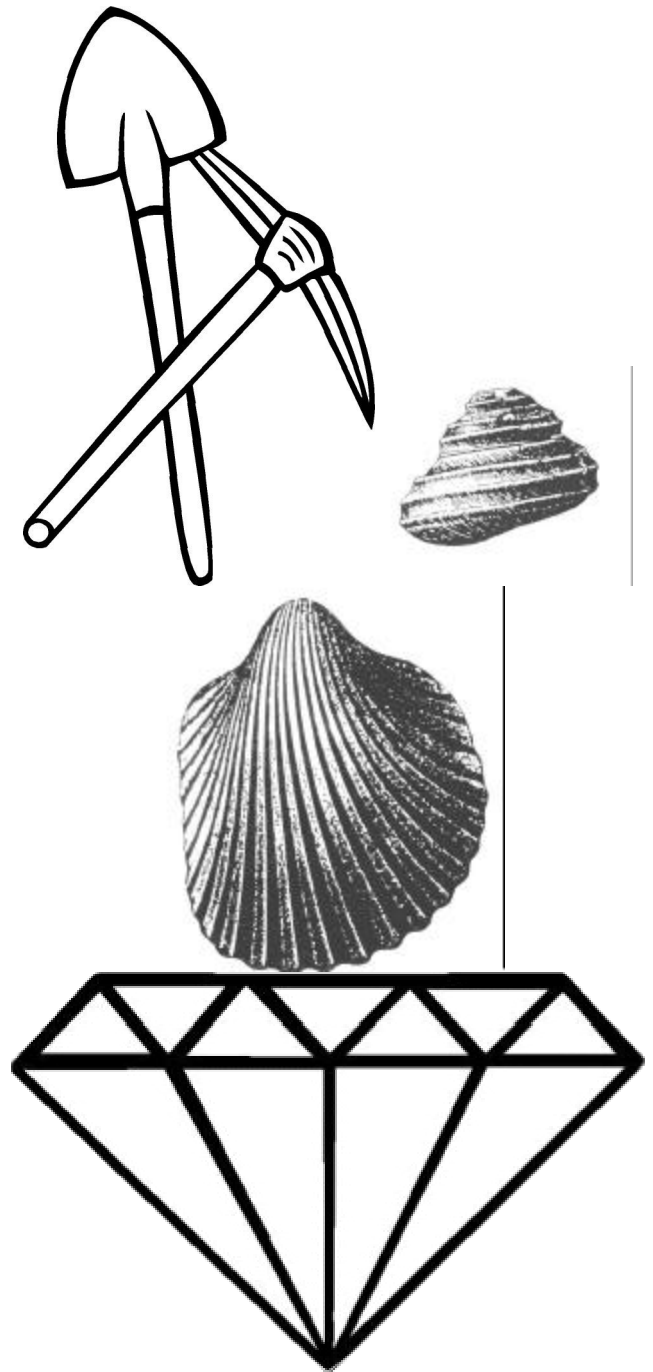
Always a source of great info on gems and jewelry - projects, articles, you name it: www.ganoksin.com

Diamond and gemstone news: www.gia.edu

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

AFMS News
www.amfed.org

NFMS News
www.amfed.org/nfms



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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Janine Owens, *Bulletin Editor*

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