



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

**November, 2003**

## Northwest Federation Show for 2005

- submitted by Janice Van Cura

The planning process is in full swing. I have notified the officers of the Federation that we have agreed to host the event and that I will be acting as Show chair. We are getting final information together to determine the location which is the first step. We are down to two choices: the State Fair Grounds or the Linn County Fair Grounds in Albany. We also have a group of people working on a theme and logo. I am preparing a proposed budget and the presentation to send to the Federation for them to approve in April. Several people have volunteered for Committee chairs, but we still have several openings. If you are interested, please contact me. Most of the positions will not have anything to do for a year or so.

Monday thru Thursday evenings so give someone a call and come grind a rock or two. Supervisors are Jennifer Ferrell for Monday night, myself on Tuesday evening, Gene Gangle on Wednesdays, and Jack Cole on Thursdays. Remember, if you don't call, we might not show up.

Remember, there's lots of room in silversmithing, chain making, and lapidary. Great people, great fun!

## Senior Center News

- submitted by Ted Silver

Just a little reminder; there are lots of activities and special events planned at the Senior Center in the coming months such as Tai Chi, Veterans Day lunch and celebration, adult education classes, and even bagpipe lessons (ouch). Check the table in the main hall for informational brochures, etc.

Bring your newspapers! I've volunteered to help increase the volume of newspapers deposited for recycling. The proceeds go to the "Friends of the Salem Senior Center" to help offset the costs of operating the Center. Every little bit helps. "Friends" is a 501c.3 group that supports the Center and by next fiscal year is expected to provide at least 50% of all operating and program costs. As a Business Partner of the Center, WAMS enjoys many privileges so anything we can do to support the Center is greatly appreciated.

## Dues, Dues, Dues

2004 Member Dues are due now. In order to file our member list with the Northwest Federation in December I need to receive all dues by the end of the Christmas party. Dues are \$18 for couples, \$12 for singles, and \$2.50 for juniors. I will be collecting at both the November meeting and the party. If you will not be attending please mail your dues to: Janice Van Cura, 3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330.

## Lapidary/Silversmithing Update

- submitted by Ted Silver

Where did everybody go? Lapidary and silversmithing have been pretty slow lately. Maybe folks are just out enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Gene and I both have room for lapidary students and the shop is open

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# W.A.M.S. ROCKHOUND RUMBLINGS



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 Rob Leedy 503-371-6421
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:	<b>Volunteer needed</b>
Juniors:	Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970
Nameplates:	Archie Janke 503-566-8300
Oregon Council:	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
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:	Jack Cole 503-463-6441
Scrapbook/Historian:	Bob Harrison 503-364-2288
Hostesses:	Joyce Winters 503-364-5233 Gerry Silver 503-585-2559
Refreshments:	<b>Volunteer needed</b>
Coffee:	<b>Volunteer needed</b>
Stamps:	Peg Townsend 503-364-9829
Sunshine:	Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970

The Rockhound Rumbings 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 Everyone! A huge thanks to everyone who submitted articles, photos, and information for this month's newsletter! Your contributions really make the newsletter interesting and informative, and make life much easier on your poor ol' Bulletin editor! ☺

I have set up an email reminder to go out each month to alert everyone of the deadline for newsletter submissions. If you did not receive such an email this month and would like to be included, please contact me with your current email address.

As WAMS has now officially committed to hosting the 2005 Northwest Federation Show, we are going to have a couple of \*very\* busy years! I'm sure it will be a lot of hard work, and a lot fun, and I hope many members will get involved and contribute their time and energy to make this show a great success!

See you at the November meeting ☺

Janine Owens, WAMS Bulletin Editor  
Email: [sunshynnn@comcast.net](mailto:sunshynnn@comcast.net)

## A Call for Volunteers ...

A task force is being assembled to organize a new "Memorial Display Case" that will debut at our next annual show in April. This case will be dedicated to the memory of WAMS members who have passed away. The task force will work with the families of our past members to seek donations of perhaps a favorite specimen or display piece that can be displayed in the memorial case. If you are interested in chairing this task force, please contact one of the Members at Large (see page 2 of the newsletter for a current listing). Step up and help honor those who have contributed to WAMS and rockhounding!

## 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](mailto:tabyrne@juno.com)

## Silversmith Classes Available

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



## Cool Websites

- submitted by Susan Appleby

Bob's Rock Shop is back online @ <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/table.shtml> Has been away for awhile. Lots of information and links. . .

West Coast Mining - Owyhee Picture Jasper Claim, Amethyst Sale, Opal Butte Opal, Polka Dot Agate. Those lucky enough to get to the Succor Creek fieldtrip were able to meet Dale Huett the owner. Go to [www.wcmining.com](http://www.wcmining.com)

Interested in an Interactive topo map? TopoZone is the web's center for professional and recreational map users. Has interactive maps of all the U.S. @ [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com)

Need some information on tumbling some stones? Check out [www.gemworld.com/Tumbling.asp](http://www.gemworld.com/Tumbling.asp)

American Federation has a great site - if you haven't checked it out @ [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

American Lands Access Association promotes and ensures the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting @ [www.amerlands.org](http://www.amerlands.org)

## Upcoming NW Shows

<b>November 2003</b> 7 – 3pm-9pm 8 – 10am-9pm 9 – 11am-6pm	<b>Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club</b> Eugene, OR
<b>November 2003</b> 8 – 9am-5pm 9 – 10am-5pm	<b>Skagit Rock and Gem Club</b> Sedro Wooley, WA
<b>November 2003</b> 22 – 10am-5pm 23 – 10am-5pm	<b>Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society</b> Bremerton, WA

## 2003 November/December Special

Too much inventory – Sale on in-stock items

Genie wheels 25% off  
Saw blades 25% off  
Raytech UV Lamps 25% off  
Estwing Tools 15% off  
3 used grinders in stock

Tom Robertson 503-363-9678

## Christmas Social

- submitted by Kathy Bennett

### IT'S TIME TO PARTY AGAIN

Our annual Christmas Social will be **December 13<sup>th</sup>** at Lum Yuens. We will start with socializing at 6PM and then have a buffet dinner starting at 6:30. There will be prizes for everyone. Officers for the coming year will be sworn in. We will have certificates for a number of awards and the Member of the Year will be announced. The cost will be about \$10 per person.

There will be a sign up sheet at the door at the November meeting if you have not already signed up. If you won't be at the November meeting and want to attend the dinner you can call Joyce Winters 503.364.5233 or Gerry Silver 503.585.2559 or Kathy Bennett 503.363.4974. We need to have a count for the restaurant. **Also if you sign up and are unable to attend please let us know so we can adjust the count.**

It is a great time to chat with everyone and tell our favorite rock stories. From the reviews last year everyone had a great time. Plan to carpool if you can as parking is limited.

The menu will include Fried Won Ton, BBQ Pork, Fried Shrimp, Pork Chow Mein Cantonese style, Cashew Nut Chicken, Sweet & Sour Chicken, and Special Fried Rice. Coffee and soft drinks will be included. We have requested **NO MSG**.

WE REALLY HOPE YOU CAN ALL BE THERE TO JOIN IN THE FUN.

## Logo for WAMS NW Federation Show

- submitted by Susan Appleby

Janice VanCura, show chairperson has asked me to come up with some ideas for logos and taglines for our NW Federation show. I wanted to ask WAMS members for input on their suggestions and other comments they may have. Possibilities might include Oregon Treasure Trails or something to that effect. Let me know what you think. Send ideas or comments to me at: [susannw@comcast.net](mailto:susannw@comcast.net) or call 503.391.4221. Thanks for the input.

## Featured Gemstone: Opal

- submitted by Susan Appleby (Text from GIA's *Essential Colored Stone Reference Guide* ©1999)

Opal is the world's most popular phenomenal gem. Many cultures have credited opal with supernatural origins and powers. Arabic legends say it falls from the heavens in flashes of lightning. The ancient Greeks believed opals gave their owners the gift of prophecy and guarded them from disease. Europeans have long considered the gem a symbol of hope, purity, and truth.

Opal is one of the US birthstones for October (along with tourmaline). Some people think it's unlucky for anyone born in another month to wear an opal, but that particular superstition comes from a novel written in the 1800s (Anne of Geierstein by Sir Walter Scott) and not from ancient belief or experience. In fact, throughout most of history, opal has been regarded as the luckiest and most magical of all gems because it can show all colors. Once, it was thought to have the power to preserve the life and color of blond hair.

Although experts divide gem opals into many different categories, the main types are:

- \* White opal - translucent to semi-translucent with play-of-color against a white or light gray body color.
- \* Black opal - translucent to opaque with play-of-color against a black or other dark body color.
- \* Fire Opal - transparent to translucent with brown, yellow, orange, or red body color. This material, which often does not show play-of-color, is also known as "Mexican opal," "gold opal," or "sun opal."

The market supply of fine black opal is extremely limited, but white and fire opals are generally available in a wide range of sizes. You'll usually see black or white opals fashioned as cabochons and set in rings, pendants, pins, or earrings. Fire opals are used in the same kinds of jewelry, but they're often faceted. All three types occasionally appear as beads and carvings.

Pieces of white or black opal that are too thin to use alone often become part of opal doublets or triplets. In these assembled stones, a sliver of opal is cemented, usually with black adhesive that dramatizes the play-of-color, to a backing such as chalcedony, glass, or plastic. A doublet consists of two pieces (the opal and the backing), while a triplet also has a protective top made of rock crystal quartz or colorless glass.

### Explaining Play-of-Color

Play-of-color occurs because opal is made up of sub-microscopic spheres stacked in a grid-like pattern,

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like layers of ping-pong balls in a box. This structure breaks up light into spectral colors. The colors you see depend on the sizes of the spheres. Those approximately 0.1 micron (one ten-millionth of a meter) in diameter produce violet. Spheres that are about 0.2 microns in size produce red. Those in between produce intermediate hues.

Common trade terms for play-of-color include:

- \* Pinfire or pinpoint - small, close-set patches of color
- \* Harlequin or mosaic - broad, angular, close-set patches of color
- \* Flame - sweeping reddish bands or streaks that shoot across the stone
- \* Peacock - mainly blue and green

**Hardness** 5 to 6½ on Moh's scale

**Stability**

High heat or sudden temperature change can cause fracturing. Opals are generally stable to light, but heat from intense light can cause fracturing (known as "crazing"). Opals are attacked by hydrofluoric acid and caustic alkalis. Loss of moisture, and crazing, can result from storage in airtight containers, such as safe deposit boxes.

**Care and Cleaning**

Opals can be cleaned with warm, soapy water. Avoid ultrasonic and steam cleaning.

**Imitations and Synthetics**

Glass and plastic have been used to imitate opal, and synthetic opals are available in a variety of colors.



**History of Alchemy**

-- submitted by Don Esch (from Hayden's Dictionary of Dates - 1869)

ALCHEMY, the forerunner of the science of chemistry: its chief objects being to the discovery of the philosopher's stone (which was to effect the transmutation of metals into gold), an alkahest or universal menstruum, and the elixir of life. Alchemy is said to be as old as the Flood: yet few writers, from

Homer till 400 years after Christ, mention any such thing. The alchemists assert that their founder was Hermes Trismegistus (thrice greatest), an ancient Egyptian king. Pliny says the Emperor Calpurnia was the first who prepared natural arsenic, in order to make gold of it, but left it off because the charge exceeded the profit. Others say the Egyptians knew the secret. Zosimus wrote on the subject about 410. The Arabians are said to have invented this art, wherein they were vainly followed (in the 13th century) by Roger Bacon, Albertus Magnus, Aquinas, and Raymond Lullius, by Basil Valentine (born 1394), and by Paracelsus (died 1541), and others. --In 1404 the craft of multiplying gold and silver was made felony by 5 Hen. IV., c. 4, which act was repealed in 1689. A license for practicing alchemy with all kinds of metals and minerals was granted to one Richard Carter, 1476.--Rymer's Ford. Dr. Price, of Guildford, in 1782 published an account of his experiments in this way, and pretended to success: he brought his specimens of gold to the king, affirming that they were made by means of a red and white powder. Being a fellow of the Royal Society, he was required upon pain of expulsion, to repeat his experiments before Messrs Kirwan and Wolfe (some say Higgins): but, after much equivocation and delay, he took poison and died, Aug., 1783.



**Dr. William Orr during his presentation at the October WAMS meeting. Dr. Orr gave a presentation about the study of accretionary tectonics.**



**WAMS members Janine Owens & Aaron Currier with Dr. William Orr at the October meeting**

# Minutes from October Meeting

-- submitted by Kathy Bennett

Welcome to guests and members.  
Adjudication being done by Gene Gangle & Rob Leedy during program.  
Program was by Dr. William Orr.  
Show and tell, then break.

Business meeting:

Janice was selected as the chairperson for the Federation Show 2005.  
Secretary's report was in the newsletter, accepted as printed.  
Janice gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted.  
Janine said it was nice getting all the articles from members. Keep them coming.  
Don Esch will be going to the sunstone area. Contact him if you are interested.  
October is the opening of nominations for new officers. Members at large will be contacting people to see if they are interested in filling the positions. Contact them if you are willing to be an officer.  
Positions open include president, secretary, treasurer and members at large. The voting will be done in November and the installation at the December social.

New Business: George received a nice letter from the State Fair thanking the club for having the booth. A big round of applause for George.  
The Christmas social will be at Lum Yuen's on December 13<sup>th</sup> this year. See article for details.  
Contact Joyce Winters, Gerry Silver or Kathy Bennett if any questions.

Rob wanted to know if there are any volunteers to put together a case for items of members who have passed to display their items either on loan or donated.

It was suggested we send a thank you to the person's responsible for letting us on their claims on the Succor Creek trip. Also the parks dept for the nice facility. A big thank you to Tom Robertson for all of his work to make this a trip to remember. Bring your cancelled stamps to Peg for money for the kidney foundation.

A trip to Chandler Mtn on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Contact Rob Leedy if interested.

A big thank you to those who brought the delicious goodies. Susan & Jim volunteered for next meeting.

Program for next month might be opal or wood. Aaron took suggestions from the group.  
Jodee Leshk will have a 5 week chain making class. Contact her if interested.

Janice gave a report on the Federation Show. We need volunteers. If you are interested in chairing or just helping, contact Janice VanCura. She will have an article in the next newsletter. Also we need a theme for the show.

Meeting was adjourned and door prizes were awarded.

# Minutes from October 20 Board Meeting

- submitted by Kathy Bennett

In attendance were Rob, Jim, Kit, Chuck, Janice & Kathy.

The board approved the contract for the 2004 show in Polk County for \$1500. Rob has the contract and will sign it and send it to them. This includes the rental of the building, popcorn machine and the storage of the vehicles. Kit and Jodee will work on a database from the tickets from last year's show.

The Rice Museum has asked for money donations to bus children to the museum. This was discussed and decided if we were going to donate money we would rather it be to our show.

No volunteer yet for the Memorial case. Contact Rob if you are interested in helping with it.

Discussion was held on vendors for the show. One has dropped out and we need to decide who would be best to replace them. We will contact Mary regarding this and possibly meet at the November meeting.

We discussed the Holiday Social coming up. The board approved \$4.80 per member for the dinner, plus \$25 for room rental and \$225 for prizes. This will make the price per member \$10.

It was decided we would discontinue selling tickets for the trailer fund for a while. The trailer door has not been done yet. Need to have it addressed. Will check with Gerry Lundeen on this.

Janice and Rob will bring door prizes for the next meeting. Still need a volunteer to organize who will bring them to each meeting.

Member names were approved as listed. Meeting was adjourned.

# The Paleontological Review

- submitted by Aaron Currier, WAMS

## Suffocation suspected for greatest mass extinction

The oxygen-starved aftermath of an immense global belch of methane left land animals gasping for breath and caused the Earth's largest mass extinction, suggests new research.

Greg Retallack, an expert in ancient soils at the University of Oregon in Eugene, says his theory also explains the mysterious survival of a barrel-chested reptile, *Lystrosaurus*, that became the most common animal on the planet after the end of the Permian period, 251 million years ago.

Paleontologists have long puzzled over the mass extinction at the end of the Permian. There is no evidence for a large asteroid impact, but sharp changes in carbon isotope ratios indicate something triggered massive releases of frozen methane hydrates from under the sea floor and in permafrost.

Methane is a strong greenhouse gas, and it reacts with atmospheric oxygen to produce carbon dioxide, which also would turn up the global thermostat. This dramatic climate shift has been blamed for the extinctions.

But Retallack was not convinced after working in the Karoo desert of South Africa. Fossils there show that the extinction claimed 88 per cent of late Permian genera. Yet the fossil soils he examined did not show evidence of the tremendous climate change needed for the wipe out.

He acknowledges that more work is needed to confirm his theory, and suggests looking at how *Lystrosaurus* changed as it spread in the post-methane world.

Journal reference: *Geological Society of America Bulletin* (vol 115, p 1133)

## Closer to Home

In a recent visit to the ocean shores in Lincoln County, I discovered a large portion of the cliff wall near Highway 101 containing fossiliferous sandstone recently collapsed revealing numerous species of mollusks. The material, part of the Astoria Formation, is now being consumed by the ocean's daily high tides. These fossils are from the Miocene and estimated to be around 17 million years old. If you are interested in seeing a great representation of this formation, it is a great time to go. The locality is about a half a mile north of Moolack Creek, north of

Newport. Some of the genera found include *Anadara*, *Macoma*, *Katherinella*, *Spisula*, *Acila*, *Calicantharus*, *Priscofusus*, *Turritella*, *Cryptonica*, *Dentalium*, and *Patinopecten*. Remember collecting within the boundary of Beverly Beach State Park, collecting for commercial purposes, and collecting from the walls is illegal without a permit. Note that the fossils are very fragile and break easily. Great care should be taken to insure any specimens you do collect make it home in one piece.

## NFMS News

[www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)

### Claims Grant

The NFMS has donated funds to help clubs acquire claims. Clubs need to get as many claims as possible in order to keep areas available for guaranteed rockhunting in our futures.

Rocky McCall (360.629.2515) is in charge of this and is available to help answer your questions. He can also help you fill out the paperwork and take some of the fear and misunderstanding out of filing. The federation will donate \$50.00 towards your filing fees. This money is all donated at this time and is not coming out of the general fund in any way. Please take advantage of this and help us keep more areas open to rockhounds.

## AFMS News

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



At the November 2002 Directors' meeting in Visalia, CA, the Directors of CFMS voted to adopt the Rockhound Sticker and design as the "official" recognized symbol for rockhounding. This sticker was developed and introduced by the Publicity/Public Relations

Committee at the CFMS and AFMS Shows last July. To date close to 13,000 stickers have been sold throughout the US and Canada.

The stickers sell for 50 cents each for 1 to 59 stickers (minimum order - 10 stickers) or 30 cents each for quantities of 100 or more; price includes postage and handling. Frank Mullaney, the CFMS / AFMS badge chairman is handling sales of the stickers and he will accept checks or credit cards. When ordering make check payable to: ROCKY FIVE. To order stickers, contact him at: 5705 Begonia Drive, San Jose, CA, 95124-6535. His phone number is 408-266-1791, and his email address is [rockyfiv@aol.com](mailto:rockyfiv@aol.com).

# What's Rocking?

## WAMS General Meeting

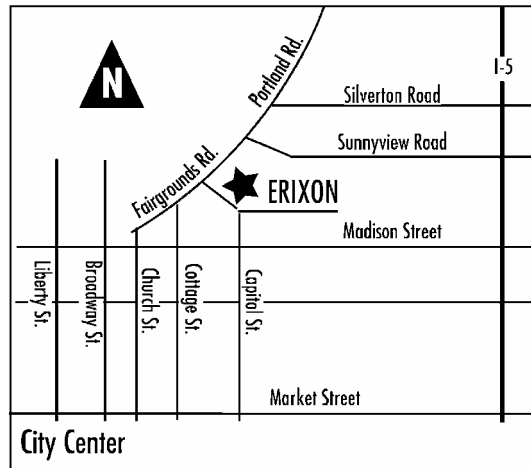
Thursday  
November 6 – 7:00 p.m.  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

## November Program

To be Announced – Organized by Aaron Currier

## November Show and Tell

Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letter 'I'  
for Show & Tell



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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