



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

May, 2004

## 2004 River of Gems Annual Show Educates and Entertains

- by Janine Owens

The annual WAMS rock, gem & mineral show "River of Gems" was held April 16-18 at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall. Initial reports indicate the show was very well-attended, and feedback from the dealers, demonstrators, attendees, and WAMS members who volunteered have been very positive. Many thanks to all who volunteered; your involvement and efforts are what make our show one of the best!

As in past years, schoolchildren were bussed in on field trips during the Friday show. Each school was provided with an assortment of prepared thundereggs for the teachers to pass out to the children. Our volunteers also organize a fluorescent show viewing for each of the schools, which is always very popular with the kids and teachers alike. The decibel level in the building on Friday is a distinct indicator of how much the kids enjoy the entire show; their excitement and enthusiasm is refreshing, and provides WAMS with a great opportunity to educate our future rockhounds.

This year, we were also fortunate to have two excellent articles about the show published in the Statesman-Journal newspaper. This certainly increased our visibility in the Salem area communities, and hopefully increased our attendance throughout the show.



*The Silent Auction was a very popular attraction*



*Future rockhounds enjoying the Friday show*

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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!

Website: [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org)

### 2004 Elected Officers

President: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055  
 Vice President: Kit Leshk 503-393-9102  
 Secretary: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886  
 Treasurer: Linda Groah 503-873-6930  
 Federation Director: Susan Robertson 503-363-9678  
 Members at Large: Don Miller 503-585-5443  
 Tom Robertson 503-363-9678  
 Ray Plummer 503-361-7466  
 Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400  
 Jim Bennett 503-363-4974  
 Board Chair:

### 2004 Committee Chairs

Show Chair: Bob Harrison 503-364-2288  
 Field Trips: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421  
 Joe VanCura 541-753-2401  
 Bulletin Editor: Janine Owens 503-315-5751  
 Education: **Volunteer needed**  
 Juniors: Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970  
 Nameplates: Archie Jahnke 503-566-7507  
 Oregon Council: Dan Groah 503-873-6930  
 Rules and Awards: Ted Silver 503-585-2559  
 Programs: **Volunteer Needed**  
 Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190  
 Public Relations: Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102  
 Advertising: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221  
 Publications: Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400  
 Scrapbook/Historian: Bob Harrison 503-364-2288  
 Hostesses: Joyce Winters 503-364-5233  
 Gerry Silver 503-585-2559  
 Refreshments: **Volunteer needed**  
 Coffee: **Volunteer needed**  
 Stamps: Peg Townsend 503-364-9829  
 Sunshine: Jennifer Ferrell 503-581-6970

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 Rockhounds,

And so begins May. It is with pleasure that I look back at the 2004 River of Gems show, and think to myself of what an excellent show it is. It's educational and fun for the kids, especially with Treasure Hunt on Saturday, and the on-going fluorescent show schedule throughout the show. We have an \*exceptional\* group dealers with high-quality materials of all varieties. Our demonstrators provide one-on-one interaction and knowledge-sharing with show attendees. And, the Polk County Fairgrounds facility is a superb venue for our show; it's very accessible for handicapped persons, the facility people are very easy to work with, and the food is superb!

Every club member that volunteered their time and energy can certainly say with pride "WE did that!" And we did a darn fine job, too! ☺

As the weather improves (and can it get any better than the past couple weeks?), our Field Trip Co-Chairpersons Rob Leedy and Joe Van Cura have organized a nice schedule for those who want to get together and collect as a group. I see that they have scheduled some of my favorites: Paulina Limbcast, Hampton Butte, and McDermitt. Also, a special long-distance trip is planned to Davis Creek for obsidian. Hopefully, my schedule will allow Zachary and I to participate in some of these trips. However, I'm juggling a new job (legal assistant for a group of attorneys specializing in elder law, estate planning, and Medicaid applications), Little League, and my \*other\* hobby ... dual-sport motorcycling. Yeppers, I'm keeping myself busy!

Welcome to our new members; we've seen steady applications for membership throughout the year, and I'm sure we'll see some more new faces at the meeting on Thursday, as there were many show attendees who inquired about club participation.

Keep those articles coming! Articles can be submitted via the website at [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org) (click on the "Rockhound Rumbblings" link on the left side to find an email link that will be forwarded automatically to my personal email address. Or send articles, photos, etc. directly to [sunshynnn@comcast.net](mailto:sunshynnn@comcast.net).

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

**NOTE: GENERAL MEETINGS  
WILL NOW BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M.**

## President's Message

If I was held to one word, it would be "outstanding." If you know me, though, I can't stop with one word. Our club showed it's strength a few weekends ago with yet another successful show. There isn't enough room to thank all the people who helped make this the best show we've held to date. We had long-time members working right along with first-year members combining knowledge and energy and it all came together under the direction of Bob Harrison. WELL DONE BOB! Thanks to Mary Haslebacher for helping with the Thursday Spaghetti Dinner, coordinating our dealers and helping to handle some touchy issues; your diplomacy is greatly appreciated! Thanks to Chris and Sandy Wissinger, especially with our new brochure, helping to finalize the repair of the trailer, videotaping the show, and other projects. Thanks to Jennifer Ferrell for organizing the displays... we had a great variety along with the t-eggs. Thanks to Debbie Eisenhut and the fluorescent crew for an excellent side show. Thanks to Susan and Rudy Appleby for coordinating the demonstrators...it was educational for everyone! Thanks to Rob Leedy for managing the Treasure Hunt; and implementing the idea to begin with... 300 kids is a great turnout! We're doubling every year! So many more people helped in many different ways; I wish I had the space to list everyone. I especially want to recognize Kit and Jodee Leshk for all the pre-show work they did to organize the kids' day, silent auction, and fixing the raffle display; as well as helping throughout the show. From finding tickets to bringing homemade donuts; from handing out 1,200 t-eggs to kids to assisting Bob in closing up at the end EVERY NIGHT. You are all stand up volunteers!

We had a great turnout at the last board meeting (100% executive board member attendance) to discuss the show and the overall response was positive. We have a number of great ideas to improve next year's show and in preparation for handling the Federation Show in August. We will begin earlier this year with the appointment of the show chair. I have implemented a 2005 Show Chair Appointment Committee consisting of myself, Don Miller, and Kit Leshk to identify who will run things next year. We will be accepting inquiries beginning May 17.

I invite your comments, questions, and ideas. Don't hesitate to email me... [creola@teleport.com](mailto:creola@teleport.com).

What an outstanding club of generous people!!!

Regards,

Aaron Currier, President.

QUARTZ CRYSTALS - 2 large clusters at 75-100 lbs each, about 23"L x 21"W x 9"H on each, nice sized crystals, good clarity. One purchased for \$3000, selling for \$1500 and the other for \$2500, selling for \$1250 **or both for \$2500 or make a reasonable offer**- Keizer, (503) 463-5545 – leave message



## Cool Websites

- by Susan Appleby

Need a good link page - The Mineral & Gemstone Kingdom has information on

rocks, minerals and gemstones and many good links at <http://www.minerals.net/>

Online source for mineral and fossil photos at <http://www.yuprocks.com/>

University of California, Berkeley - Museum of Paleontology at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/> (lots of good links)

All sorts of silversmithing tips at <http://users.frii.com/dnorris/tipmenu.html>

and don't forget . . .

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

Please send information and photos you would like to be included to [info@wamsi.org](mailto:info@wamsi.org)

## Minutes from April 1 Meeting

- submitted by Chuck Hunt

The Early Bird Sale continued at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Currier at 6:58 p.m. There were 91 guests and members! Such growth is great for our club and rock hounding in general.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The May meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7 p.m.

Show & Tell: Rocks with the letter "M" and thundereggs.

### PROGRAM:

Jennifer Ferrell presented our junior members of WAMS to the membership and advised that they did well on their first field trip to Sweet Home and Scio.

They found lots of wood. Colin and Victoria Standley, Zach Owens, Pete Crawford, Joe Lockwood and Jesse Cooper all presented rocks they found on the field trip or a favorite one from home, including some they are going to send to NASA.

### ADJUDICATION:

Ted Silver and Don Esch carried out adjudication of finished material. They advise that some very nice items had been presented for adjudication.

### GUESTS:

Darrell and Ida Cole

Steve Braden

Joe Lockwood

Walt Friday introduced his sister-in-law Judy Lamb and his wife.

Marvin, Chrissy and Sarah Edwards

### BREAK

### BUSINESS MEETING:

Called to order at 8:20 p.m.

Secretary report: Motion made & seconded to approve. Passed.

Treasurer's report: Motion made & seconded to pay all bills presented by treasurer Linda Groah. Passed.

### SHOW REPORT:

Bob Harrison advised that things are coming together well, but need more volunteers.

Kit Leshk advised that there will be about 1,000 students coming to Friday's show and he still needs more thundereggs and slabs for the students.

There is another need to fill ten more cases for the show.

The Early Bird sale of material amounted to \$64.95 and that amount will go into the show silent auction fund.

### FEDERATION REPORT:

Susan Robertson advised that she is still waiting for her Federation credentials.

### FEDERATION SOW REPORT:

Janice VanCura absent.

### OREGON COUNCIL REPORT:

Geri Esch has been the council representative 12 years for WAMS and it is time for a change. The new representative will be Dan Groah and his first meeting will be Sat. April 3, 2004.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Joe VanCura and Rob Leedy discussed possible trip to the limb cast area May 15-16. A trip to Davis and Lassen Creek area for obsidian over the ["April Minutes" continued on Page 5]

["April Minutes" continued from Page 4]

Memorial Day Weekend: Call Rob Leedy if you plan to go. Need a volunteer to take over the committee chair for Joe and Rob.

**PUBLICITY REPORT:**

Susan Appleby: The show fliers are available for pick-up and distribution.

**WEBSITE:**

The committee advised that there is a need for contributors with information and pictures for the website.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Information received that Janine Owens is up for an award as editor of *Rockhound Rumbblings*. Congratulations!

**SENIOR CENTER CLASSES:**

Ted Silver advised that the Wed. evening classes are full and that Tues. eves. are pretty full also. New classes will start in September.

**LIBRARY:**

Chris Wissinger advised that the library is open. He also stated that he is open for ideas as to what items need to be added to the library, magazines, videos, books and especially books for our junior members, including "Oregon Under Foot".

**STAMPS:**

Peg Townsend advised keep the stamps coming. She will collect them at the next meeting.

**SUNSHINE REPORT:**

Jennifer Ferrell (Working with junior members of club and not available)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Member-at-Large to be added to accommodate Bylaws. Motion made & seconded to approve Ray Plummer for position. Passed.

Member-at-Large Archie Jahnke resignation accepted. Motion made & seconded to fill position with Chris Wissinger. Passed.

**THUNDEREGG BROCHURE:**

Executive minutes of March meeting approved to print 5,000 four-color brochures. Motion made & seconded to accept recommendation so they can be printed in time for the WAMS April show. Passed.

**INSTALL NEW MEMBERS"**

Jim & Lisa Lind and Joyce Potter.

Note: Bylaw changes will be discussed at the May Exec. Board meeting.

**COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS:**

Thanks again to Jodee Leshk for seeing that the coffee is on and ready for each meeting... May volunteers for refreshments will be Sonia Kleiner, Jim Bennett and Ken Leith.

**ROCK RAFFLE/DOOR PRIZE**

Volunteer for May will be Ted Silver. Thanks to Ray Plummer for hauling in the rocks for April.

**MAY PROGRAM:**

Thanks to the Wissingers for volunteering to video tape the Gem Show and they will present it as the program for May!

The R-O-C-K for May will be "N" or your favorite rock...

## **Minutes from April 19 Executive Board Meeting**

- submitted by Chuck Hunt

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by board Pres. Jim Bennett. Board members in attendance, Jim Bennett, Kit Leshk, Aaron Currier, Bob Harrison, Don Miller, Linda Groah, Janine Owens, Tom Robertson, Susan Robertson, Chris Wissinger, Ray Plummer and Chuck Hunt. Guests: Nancy Plummer, Dan Groah, Sandy Wissinger, Rob Leedy, Ted Silver, Mary Haslebacher and Jodee Leshk

**WAMS SHOW REPORT:**

Bob Harrison: A Massive THANK YOU to all of the volunteers. They did a great job. No problems with security, but there was some confusion as to whether they should be inside or outside of facility at night. That issue will be resolved. We have always had interior security and it will be included in next year's contract that it will be interior security in the evening and night. The Polk County Fairgrounds contract for next year is \$1,500. There was a suggestion to consider an additional two years added to the contract (2006/2007) before the price increases. Motion made & seconded to have Bob Harrison sign a three year contract at \$1,500 a year due each April at the show if possible. Passed.

Ray Plummer says that he observed a leak in the second trailer, not the one needing the door replaced.

Chris Wissinger advised that he is still waiting on the door company to get the door so that it can be installed.

Treasurer Linda Groah reported an initial and incomplete show financial report. The general report was that proceeds were dramatically increased over last year. The final report will be presented when the expenses are paid.

Mary Haslebacher, Dealer Chair reported that one dealer pushed a student back from display with a  
["Executive Board Minutes" continued on Page 6]

["Executive Board Minutes" contined from Page 5]

cane. The child's friend was crying. The teacher advised Kit that she would have to report the incident to the principal. This was not the first year of dealer unfriendliness. Motion made & seconded to send a letter to the dealer and advise them that we will no longer offer them a contract for future shows. We will also state the specific reference in the contract. Motion amended to wait to send notice to the dealer until we receive comments from the school district. Passed. Mary Haslebacher had received a complaint that one or more of the vendors had too much advertising in their cases. The Board will consider rules/standards for cases as to what vendors can put in their cases regarding advertising. The dealer in question has been working pretty well with us regarding door prizes, helping with material, etc. No Board action will be taken regarding the dealers in this issue at this time. The Board will consider standard size vendor signs for booths.

Bob Harrison advised that he was rudely offended by one of the vendors. Bob Harrison also advised that there was some concern about closing early. Some dealers need more time to tear down booths and pack up.

It was noted that we had some vendors back up to the door early Sunday morning. Dealers are not to back up to the doors until they are all packed up and ready to load. The Board will consider allowing more time to take down booths and displays and review the closing time on Sunday.

Need to get a head count of children coming through the door on Saturday. Many circumvented coming into the front door by going around the building to the Treasure Hunt area. Adults entered the building from the side following the Treasure Hunt. It was suggested we give out "special" colored bags for those participating in the hunt, which would require all visitors to come through the front door. For some pictures of the Treasure Hunt check out [WAMSI.org](http://WAMSI.org) or [PolkCountyFair.org](http://PolkCountyFair.org).

Aaron Currier reported that the thunderegg brochures were completed in time for the show and handed out to interested people. Due to some confusion some were given out free and others were sold for 25 cents. It is not WAMS intention to sell the brochures, but to regulate the distribution to avoid waste. If a person wants one, give it to them for free. This is one of the items that needs to be written up for next year specifically with a person at the door to hand out the show program and accompanying brochure(s). There is still an obvious need to write guidelines for each area in a new master notebook. After they are filled out and after the show they should go back to the Show chairman who will be responsible for them until the next show. If anyone knows where the old master notebook is, please advise an executive officer.

WAMS Junior Club: There was a lot of interest in the Jr. Club at the show and some information needs to be written up for reference to hand out.

Kit advised that the mailing list drawing resulted in 165 tickets filled out. Some people were already on the list and some were members of our own club.

Raffle ticket prices were increased without the board approval. Changes to prices are not to be adjusted without following procedures.

There was some concern about non-members/dealers/demonstrators trying to access the building before our volunteer staff showed up. Consideration will be made to keep the front doors locked and have volunteers come in the back doors with nametags and tee shirts. There was a suggestion to have name tags for exhibitors and hosts.

Had many requests for espresso at the show this year. The Board will consider an espresso booth.

Kit offered a tip of the hat to Katy Bayless and Kathy Bennett for all the extra help. Aaron wanted to specifically recognize Kit and Jodee Leshk who went out of their way to do special things, like taking coffee to the dealers, baking donuts, etc. He promoted the couple for "Outstanding Members of the Year."

Aaron Currier, President, announced that the 2005 Show Chair will be selected by committee. The committee will consist of Aaron, Kit Leshk and Don Miller. Inquiries will be accepted for the show chair position beginning May 17th.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ray Plummer advised that Ram Rock has an overstock of o.k. gold, nickel silver, etc., and that the club can buy it at the dealer's cost of \$441.47. It will be inventoried by Ray as to what can be used for our club's class of silversmithing. Motion made & seconded by the executive board to bring before the membership at the next general meeting to purchase after a presentation by Ray Plummer . Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

## Friends of Salem Senior Center

- submitted by Ted Silver

From Friends of the Salem Senior Center: A big thanks and a hearty welcome to those who recently joined 'Friends'. Your dedication and contributions will help us maintain the many activities and programs being enjoyed by so many at the Senior Center. As you know, 'Friends' is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide funding and support for the Centers programs. We still have a long way to go to reach our city council mandated goal of 50 % of total financial support of the Center so all contributions are greatly appreciated and welcome. Thanx, again. Ted Silver, Director at Large.

## Field Trip Report

- submitted by Joe Van Cura

It is the time of year for field trips. While there is still snow in the higher elevations of central and eastern Oregon, there are plenty of places to collect. We have two trips planned for May. The first one is to Paulina for limb casts. We will be going to the mile post 51 area on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday May 16. We will camp by the river, but some may want to stay in Prineville and come out for the day. Chris Wissinger will be the leader for this trip. If you have any questions, he can be reached at (503) 304-9400.

The second trip in May is to Davis Creek, California for obsidian on the 29th, 30th, & 31. Contact Rob Leedy at (503) 371-6421 for more info.

Our June trip will be to Hampton Butte for the green petrified wood. It will be on the weekend of the 12th & 13th. If anyone knows of some good locations to collect at Hampton, let me know.

In July, we are planning a trip to Darrel Friend's ranch in Ashwood. This one is still in the planning stages, but I am looking at July 17 and 18. We may also be able to get on Alex McDonald's ranch for petrified wood.

At this time we still have August open. If there is somewhere you would like to go in August, let Rob or me know.

September finds us going back to McDermit after a years absence. McDermit offers wood, thundereggs, and jasper. This trip will be on September 11 & 12.



## 2005 NW Federation Show Report

- submitted by Janice Van Cura

The show committee is working on various aspects of the show. The main committees at work now are facilities and dealers. We discussed the show with the dealers from our show and several have accepted the invitation to attend. The Dealer committee plan is to try and have all the dealers lined up by August. If you have anyone you want to recommend please contact Linda Groah with the information.

The next area that we need to be working on is filling the display cases. The plan calls for 200 display

cases, 50 of these will be filled with competition and special displays. Chris Wissinger and Tom Robertson have agreed to help with displays but I still need a committee chair and some more committee members. The role of the committee chair is to coordinate the assigning of people to specific locations and keep track of how many cases etc we need. We will have an application form ready soon for the 150 or so general displays. Once this is done the committee will prepare an invitation letter that members of the committee can leave on various displays that they see at shows they attend and they think would be a good addition to the show. Since most of the shows are coming up soon or in the fall I would like to start now so that we are not scrambling to fill cases. Club members are all invited to put in a case. If you do not have your own case a case can be provided. The competitive application will not be available until next February or March.

For part of the special displays we would like to do a series showcasing the various locations in Oregon. Since the theme of the show is Oregon Treasure Trails, we plan to have a map and show the general location of each of the cases. If you have a location that you would like to see included, or have material for a specific location please let either Chris, Tom or I know.

Aaron Currier is the program chair for the show. He and I are working on ideas for speakers. We are trying to fill 15 spots during the weekend. If you have any ideas or leads please let us know.

This show is going to be a lot of fun. Part of the excitement is the planning and seeing it all come together. I look forward to working with everyone on this project.

Janice Van Cura  
Show Chair  
[jvancura@peak.org](mailto:jvancura@peak.org)

## WAMS Show Dealer Report

- submitted by Mary Haselbacher

Many, many thanks to all of our dealers; without them we would not be so successful. So far, I have received many thanks from the dealers stating that they had very good sales and very happy to be in our show. They also were very appreciative of our of our dealer's dinner on Thursday night.

At this time I want to thank all of you that contributed to the dinner – West Gate Cafe, and especially Jodi Leshk who went beyond the call of duty, and all of those who helped set up and clean up. And to Ray for cleaning the van after the near disaster of the spaghetti sauce.

["Show Dealer Report" continued on Page 8]

["Show Dealer Report" continued from Page 7]

Please if you hear any comments, complaints and anyone that would like to be added to the list of future dealers, please let me know so I can send them the application to be in our files.

## Lapidary News

- submitted by Ted Silver

The Senior Center lapidary shop is still open week nights for WAMS members. Please call the supervisor for the respective nights to assure yourself a lot. There is only so much space and students have priority so please call any of the following supervisors: Jennifer Farrell, Monday; Ted Silver, Tuesday; Gene Gangle, Wednesday; Jack Cole, Thursday. Anyone interested in the classes are asked to contact Ted Silver or Gene Gangle. Operating hours are 6:00 pm to 9:00pm.

## 2004 Holiday Social Planning is Underway

- submitted by Sandy Wissinger

We are in the process of soliciting feedback and ideas to plan the 2004 Holiday Social for WAMS. Does everyone wish to return to Lum Yuen's? Have menu ideas? Wish to play games, or exchange gifts? All ideas are very much appreciated! Please call Sandy at 503.304.9400 or email her at [sandywissinger@yahoo.com](mailto:sandywissinger@yahoo.com).

## Dinosaur Information

- submitted by Susan Appleby

Interested in Dinosaurs?

Dinosaurs - A Special Issue at the bookstore now has been published by Scientific American. It presents articles about discoveries in the field of paleontology. Also check out <http://www.sciam.com> for brief descriptions of the articles.

### SYNOPSIS

From a purely self-interested standpoint, it's good that the dinosaurs and their ancient ilk are dead. Yet they live on in our imaginations and our intellectual pursuits, where they retain the power to puzzle, fascinate and startle us. How did they hunt (and what hunted them)? Were they orphans from birth, surviving on instinct and appetite alone, or did parents nurture them? Over millennia, how did their species evolve?

Studying the mineralized remains of prehistoric beasts from the comfortable distance of a few eons, scientists have learned a great deal about how these awesome creatures stalked and swam through the long-ago world. This special edition presents articles about some of the most exciting recent discoveries in the

field of paleontology. We invite you to take an armchair safari into prehistory, to spend some quality time with the terrors of Earth's distant past. --The Editors

## Ashwood Rockstock Information

- submitted by Susan Appleby

Ashwood Rockstock will be held over Memorial Day and for those that might have an interest in attending, following is some information that might be helpful. Check out <http://www.ashwoodrockstock.com> - the site is not complete but has driving directions and some other information. You can contact Darrell and Cathy Friend at 541.489.3252 if you are thinking about attending.

More information at

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Forest/2031/Rkstk.htm> or <http://lists.drizzle.com/pipermail/rockhounds/2004-January/005450.html>.

Following are excerpts comes from <http://www.eclecticlapidary.com> an article by Terry Ensell about the '98 Rockstock, but information is still pertinent for those that might be interested in attending this year.

Located in the high desert of Central Oregon. The area is just beautiful with a smattering of Juniper trees and a gold to green carpet of desert grasses throughout. All of the camp sites are close to Trout Creek so, you can take a little dip if you get too warm. The camp is easy to find. Just go down the Ashwood Road about 16 miles and look for the big "CAMP" sign. We camp in one of several fields along the Ashwood Road. But not to worry, most of the bovine bombs are dry and disarmed! We have plenty of room for lots of tents and campers of all sizes. It is dry camping but, there is water available close by and for the folks not having the necessary facilities we will have porta-potties. Anything else you may need you can get in Madras about 30 miles away. We leave from camp at 9:00 AM to head for the dig sites. Most of the beds are easily accessible and are prepared. Most material is 50 cents per pound and some is \$1.00 per pound for the rock you keep. There is not a minimum.

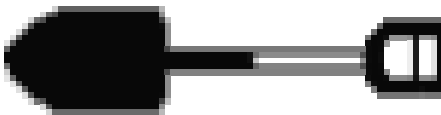
The first "Rockstock" trip was on Labor Day weekend in 1993 and was 30 strong with three different ranches open. It was such great fun and such nice material that we decided to do it again that following Memorial Day. And since then it has been a bi-annual trip every

Memorial Day and Labor Day with several ranches open. We have had folks from Arizona, Ohio, Wisconsin, Idaho, California, Montana, Wyoming, Indiana, Mississippi, Washington, Canada, and even Germany. You don't have to be a salty rock dog to come along. It is a great place for beginners and pebble pups as well. All of the people who come are just wonderful and will do anything to help others out. You are welcome to come a few days early and stay a few days later if you wish. There will be limited digging available on those days.

If you're planning a vacation in Central Oregon there are many rockhounding opportunities available. The Prineville Chamber Of Commerce has about eight free claims to dig on. Also check out the Master Field Trip List for other trips. Close by Richardson's Recreational Rock Ranch is open year round, weather permitting for digging on their ranch and has a very extensive variety of rock from all over the world. The Richardson's have free no hook-up camping and bathrooms with showers by their shop. They also have new and used equipment available. And, if you like spheres you will think you are in heaven. They have hundreds of them. They also manufacture and sell their own sphere machine. Richardson's also makes and sells a high speed sander and 12" polishing wheel. Their prices are hard to beat!



*View of the Marston Ranch area*



## AFMS News

Can be viewed at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## NFMS News

Can be viewed at [www.amfed.org/nfms/](http://www.amfed.org/nfms/)

## WAMS 2004 River of Gems



*Junior Member Zachary Abbas panning for gold*



*Rudy Appleby interacts with interested youngsters*



*The lovely ladies of the Grab Bag table*

# What's Rocking?

## WAMS General Meeting

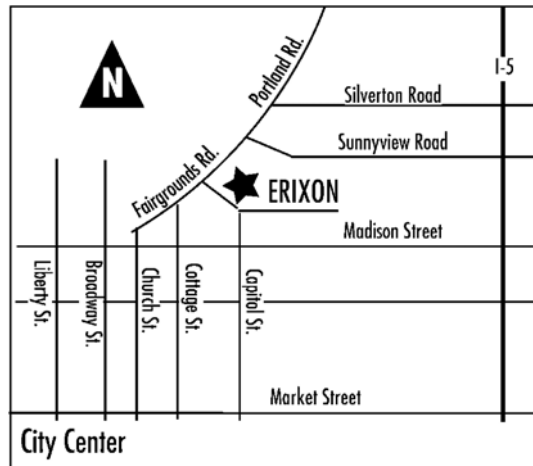
Thursday  
May 6 – 6:30 p.m.  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

## May Program

2004 River of Gems – by Chris & Sandy Wissinger

## May Show and Tell

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



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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