



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

May, 2005

“River of Gems” Rocked!

- submitted by Janine Owens

Our 50th annual show is now history, and early reports indicate the show was very successful. It has been estimated that overall attendance was over 4,400, and over 1,100 schoolchildren and chaperones attended the show on Friday.



The kids kept the dealers busy on Friday – Photo by J. Owens

The dealers indicated strong sales overall, and the attendees seemed delighted with the abundance and variety of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, and other material available to purchase. “The Sagenite Man”, Gary Buss, was missed, as he was unable to attend due to an emergency hospitalization. However, our Dealer Coordinator, Mary Haslebacher, was able to fill that space with a quality dealer with very little notice.

Clubmembers gathered to give DayBright Gems a round of applause and farewell, showing appreciation for their many years of participation in the show, and generous donations to our club.

The Treasure Hunt for the kids on Saturday, organized by Rob Leedy, was very well-attended. The smiles on the children’s faces illustrated their appreciation for this event. Grocery sacks donated by Walmart and Albertson’s enabled the kids to stash the many treasures distributed on the lawn.



Scrambling for treasure – Photo by J. Owens

WAMS wishes to express gratitude to those that volunteered their time and efforts to ensure the success of our 2005 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 6:30 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 dues are due by December 31 for the following year. Anyone joining WAMS between January and June pay the full amount. Anyone joining WAMS between July and December pay half the amount. Potential new members are encouraged to attend three meetings as a guest before completing and submitting an application.

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

2005 Elected Officers

- President: Kit Leshk 503-393-9102
- Vice President: Ray Plummer 503-361-7466
- Secretary: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886
- Treasurer: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Federation Director: Dexter Leonard 541-745-7517
- Members at Large: Don Miller 503-585-5443
Dan Groah 503-873-6930
Tom Beaty 503-361-8788
Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Board Chair: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055

2005 Committee Chairs

- Show Chair: Bob Harrison 503-364-2288
- Field Trips: Kristi Edwards 541-745-0898
- Bulletin Editor: Janine Owens 503-881-4373
- Education: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Juniors: Archie Jahnke 503-371-4579
- Nameplates: Sandy Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Oregon Council: Dan Groah 503-873-6930
- Rules and Awards: Ted Silver 503-585-2559
- Programs: **VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED**
- Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Public Relations: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Advertising: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Publications: Chris Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Scrapbook/Historian: Sandy Wissinger 503-304-9400
- Hostesses: Joyce Winters 503-364-5233
Gerry Silver 503-585-2559
- Refreshments: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Coffee: Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102
- Stamps: Peg Townsend 503-364-9829
- Sunshine: Jodee Leshk 503-393-9102

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,

Another terrific show was accomplished by our club last month! Thanks to all of you who work so hard to make it a success. You know who you are, and you know what you do, and I wish to personally thank you.

This year I was able to participate all three days of the show, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I volunteered on Friday to fill an empty display case on Saturday morning, and (silly me) thought that a crystal display would add some variety to the wonderful displays already entered. However, I was looking pretty wistfully at the petrified wood that I could have used for a display, as I completed hand-wrapping the crystals for transport Saturday morning at 2:00 a.m. Did I mention that I had never entered a display case before? Trial by fire, but I was fairly pleased with the result.

Zachary was able to enjoy the show both Saturday and Sunday, and probably wore out the gold-panning crew in the demonstrator area. He is still quite proud of his gold-panning efforts, which were greatly enhanced by Don Miller. Thank you, Don; you're a dear. On the way home from the show on Saturday, Zachary told me, "Mom, I know what I want to be when I grow up." Yes? "I want to be a gold miner!" I explained to Zachary that it would be very hard work to make a living doing that, but he tried to convince me that you could really get rich doing that for a living. We continued on Highway 22 towards town, and a bit later he remarked, "But, Mom, you know what the bad part is about being a miner?" Hmmmm, what is that? "You can't go into all the restaurants." Puzzled, I asked him why not, and he replied, "You know, the signs that say **'No Minors Permitted'**?" I chuckled all the way home, after I explained the difference between 'miner' and 'minor' to my young son! ☺

I hope we're able to participate in some of the field trips that Kristi Edwards is lining up soon. Zachary has been picking tiny agates out of the pea gravel at his school playground and coming home with pocketfuls of them. The clothes washer quickly alerted me to his newest rockhounding venture!

Submit your articles and photographs electronically to me at sunshynnn@comcast.net, or contact me at the meetings (or by phone at 503.881.4373).

See you at the meeting,

Janine Owens, WAMS Bulletin Editor
Email: sunshynnn@comcast.net

President's Message

Hi All,

I want to say how great our show went just a few short weeks ago, and I especially want to say **Thank You** to all of you that gave your time to make the show such a great success. I arrived on Wednesday around 2:00 p.m. and I was quite surprised at how much had already been accomplished and how many people were there setting things up. Thursday was the same; lots of people doing all those last minute things and getting ready for the big weekend. We had over 70 members and dealers at the Thursday evening dinner.

Friday was a blast, at least for me, because I greeted all the school kids before they entered the building. We had just over 1,100 school kids this year. Not a record, but an excellent turnout. The weather almost cooperated Friday. During the heaviest "showers" I managed to get on a couple of the busses and talk to the kids. It was warm and dry on the busses.

Saturday's Treasure Hunt was outstanding. The children and families kept coming in and coming in. We ended up with five WAMS members at the door between about noon and 1:00 pm just to get them through. The weather even cooperated; the sun peeked out during the hunt.

Sunday was another busy day; lots of guests came through the doors. Finally, Sunday's breakdown went just as well. There were many volunteers that stayed and broke things down and put everything away. Bob Harrison and I were the last two to walk out the door at 7:10 pm. Then there was the Sunday evening dinner. 30 members were there to enjoy a good meal, good company, and to finally relax after a very busy weekend.

But we can't relax for long. We have the big Northwest Federation Show to put on in less than three months. That's right, for those of you that may not know, we are sponsoring the Northwest Federation Show to be held this year in Albany. Things are moving along, and I'm sure we will have all the usual people to give their time to this show, but we will need more volunteers. With a membership of over 200, we should be able to do that. If you are a new member of WAMS, please get involved. If you've been a WAMS member but have not yet volunteered, please do. WAMS is for you. You can make WAMS the best rock club ever and at the same time make the 2005 Northwest Federation Show the best show ever. Please VOLUNTEER.

See you at the May meeting,

Kit Leshk, President

Upcoming NW Shows

May 6-8	Gem Faire Hillsboro, OR
May 7-8	Eugene Mineral Club Eugene, OR
May 21-22	Hatrockhounds Hermiston, OR
June 3-5	Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club Puyallup, WA
June 17-19	Oregon Coast Agate Club Newport, OR
June 17-19	Deschutes County Redmond, OR
June 23-26	Prineville Rockhound Prineville, OR
June 29-July 3	All Rockhound Pow Wow Madras, OR
July 1-4	Roundup of Gems Sisters, OR
July 7-10	Rock Rustlers Cascade Locks, OR

May Program: Competitive vs. Non-Competitive Displaying

- submitted by Janice Van Cura

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to put a display case in a show? Is the thought of competing intimidating? For the May program we will explore the ins and outs of putting together a display case. We will discuss some of the basics of competitive displaying so you can see if it is for you. I did my first competitive display at the Boise show last year, and again at the Portland Regional. I feel that for me it was a great learning experience. With the federation show coming to Albany in August, now is a great time to explore this possibility.

ANNETTE'S WESTGATE CAFE

1311 EDGEWATER NW
SALEM, OR 97204
PH. 503-362-9588

½ OFF MEAL

Buy 1 meal and 2 drinks at menu price and get a 2nd meal of equal or lesser value for half price.

Not to be combined with other offers. Good with coupon only.
Limit 1 per family. Expires 5-31-05

NW Federation Show Report

- submitted by Janice Van Cura

The Committee met on Thursday, April 21st. Plans for the show are progressing nicely. We will be meeting monthly between now and August in order to assure that we don't miss any details. Anyone is welcome to come. We do need some specific volunteer positions at this time. If there is anyone interested in helping oversee setting up the WAMS display bases and cases, or creating a black light area under a canopy please let me know. We also will need some donations of rock. The favors committee needs some polished pieces of petrified wood and thundereggs for centerpieces, along with polished beach agates and jasper. Check with Kathy Bennett if you have some of this. We also need some people to cut and polish about 80 small thundereggs for favors. If you can help, see Joe at the May meeting. The Junior area has asked for donations of crystals and thundereggs, and other items for wheel of fortune prizes. Also, rough rock donations for the silent auction are appreciated. If you plan to display or attend the show please send in your registration and display form. Forms will be available at the May meeting. We will also need volunteers to set up on Wednesday and Thursday, and to work throughout the show, and take down on Sunday. Volunteers will receive a free admission to the show on the day they work. Those working setup will receive a free three day pass. In order to know who to have passes for we will need you to sign up in advance. Thanks for all the help so far and in the future.

Field Trip Report

- submitted by Kristi Edwards

Following is a list of field trips tentatively planned for WAMS members:

May 14-15: Kalama/Green Mountain for carnelian agate (limited number of attendees allowed; contact Janine Owens for more information)

May 28-29 (Memorial Day weekend): Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club invites WAMS members to Quartzville Creek (see article on Page _____ for more information, or contact Kristi Edwards or Ray Plummer for additional details)

June: Hart's Mountain on a private claim (tentative)

July 17: Ochoco Mountains for thundereggs

Also, a group from Portland has provided their field trip schedule. Please contact Kristi Edwards for more information.

Joint Field Trip with NW Mineral Prospectors Club

- submitted by Bob Mote, President, NWMPC, via Ray Plummer

We have an outing/field trip planned with the Northwest Mineral Prospectors Club at Quartzville (just above Green Peter Dam) for Memorial Day Weekend.

Plans are for a field trip to dig for Thistle Creek and Whitcomb Creek nodules on Saturday and probably Sunday.

NWMPC has many activities planned for those that don't want to dig - panning for gold, and dredging, of course. If you are interested, members of NWMPC will help you get started. Also planned are the following activities:

- GPS Classes, followed by a hunt for prizes using the GPS
- Metal Detector Hunt
- Rubber Ducky Races on the Creek
- Panning Tub Set up and Classes on Panning
- Equipment Talks
- Raffles
- Potluck (Saturday Night) - bring Main Dish and Dessert
- Karaoke at night

Also bring any Show and Tell items you think folks might be interested in.

We will have a big 18 x 30 tent set up in the case of inclement weather and there will be Porta-Potties available. Quartzville Creek Gold Claim has lots of camping, with room for big motor homes, trailers, and tent campers. The road is paved all the way to the camping areas. RSVP, if possible, for camping and the potluck to Ray Plummer (503-361-7466) or Kristi Edwards (541-745-0898).

AFMS News

Can be viewed at www.amfed.org

NFMS News

Can be viewed at www.amfed.org/nfms/

Meetings from April 7 General Meeting

- submitted by Chuck Hunt

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by President Kit Leshk. There were 104 members and guests in attendance.

Show and Tell: W,X,Y, and Z. We had doubled-yolked thunderegg, Whitcomb Creek nodules, Wyoming Wood, Wulfenite, Zeolites, Xenoflora, yard rock, etc. There were many innovative and creative names. Next month, May, will be the letter "A".

Program: Rockhounding Tools and Safety by Kit Leshk. This was a very complete and well planned program. There were shovels, picks, chisels, note pads and pencils, gem hunting books, maps, cell phone, brushes, GPS, safety goggles, water, spray bottle, medicine, food, good boots, gloves, signal mirror, whistle, snake bit kit. If you are digging fossils you will need screw drivers, tooth brush, Elmer's Glue, or VINAC (polyvinyl acetate), a First Aid Kit and for your vehicle a spare tire or two and tools. Kit explained how, where and when to use them. This was a very complete and thoughtful program which will help some of our new members and some of us older members as well.

On Saturday, April 30th, at 10 a.m., there will be a rock sale to benefit our junior program at Tom and Susan Robertson's.

Break

8:11 p.m. Business meeting called to order.

First item of business was the adjudication report by Ted Silver. Only one person turned in three cabochons and this was her third week out of lapidary class and according to Ted she did a great job, too. Congratulations to Joann!

Secretary Report: Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as printed in the newsletter. Approved.

Federation Show Report: Joe VanCura advised that the next Federation meeting will be Thursday April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Ray Plummer advised that he has applications for the Federation show cases. Dan Groah advised he has the applications for the petrified wood identification classes following the Federation Show.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Approved. Motion made and seconded to pay the bills. Approved.

Field Trip Report: Kristi Edwards advised that a trip is planned to Ashwood Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-30), the Ochocos in July and to the Plush area later in the year for sunstones, as well as other trips in the offing. Look for info in Rockhound Rumbings.

Federation Report: Dexter Leonard absent.

Oregon Council Report: Dan Groah advised about legislation to watch is a fossil bill promoting the ["April 7 Minutes" continued on Page 6]

["April 7 Minutes" continued from Page 5]

Metasequoia as the fossil of Oregon and the proposal of a new wilderness area in the Columbia Gorge with limited access.

Publicity Report: Susan Appleby

Newsletter Report: Janine Owens absent.

Adjudication Report: Next one will be in October.

Library Report: Chris Wissinger absent, but the library will be out and available at all of the meetings.

Stamps: Get them to Peg Townsend.

Sunshine Report: Jodee Leshk no recent illnesses.

Senior Center Classes: Going well.

Junior members take time out with Aaron Currier for a project.

WAMS Show Report: Bob Harrison advised we need more people to sign up for the volunteer sheets to work different areas of the show. Need someone to go to Sweet Home to pick up seven to ten loaner cases. Kristi Edwards volunteered. We need volunteers to go to the Robertson's to paint foam and make risers on Saturday. Kit advised that there will be new dealer signs and name tags "Show Volunteer" available. We mailed out 202 postcards to previous attendees, a brochure on petrified wood is done, and there will be an equipment sales area at show this year. The setup at the fairgrounds begins Wednesday at noon with a spaghetti feed Thursday evening.

Badges: George Goetzelman will check out the engraver and give us a report.

State Fair: We still need a volunteer to take over from George. This year's date is Sept. 1.

Roving microphone: Still in the research process.

NEW BUSINESS:

New members Carol Bridges, Thor and Rachel Satter, junior members Naomi and Ariana Elsbernd, Ken and Lee Anne Settlemier, Olof and Lois R. Carpenter. Motion made and seconded to accept the new members. Approved.

The April Board meeting will be on Monday April 18th.

May Show and Tell: the letter "A".

Refreshments: Need some volunteers to bring some goodies to the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. followed by drawings for the door prizes.

Minutes from the April 18 Executive Board Meeting

- submitted by Chuck Hunt

The meeting was called to order by board chairman Aaron Currier at 6:36 p.m. Members present were Aaron Currier, Kit Leshk, Ray Plummer, Tom Beaty, Bob Harrison, Don Miller, Theresa Byrne, Dan Groah, Dexter Leonard and Chuck Hunt. Absent members were Janine Owens, and Chris Wissinger. Guests were Mary Haslebacher, Jodee Leshk, Rob Leedy and Marvin Bartel.

Show Report:

Theresa Byrne presented preliminary numbers on the 2005 WAMS Gem Show. This year we had approximately 4400 attend the show including 1300 school kids and chaperons on Friday!

We had one of last year's problems creep in again and that was the need for a fence between the building and the Treasurer Hunt area. Many people came in the side door after the hunt and avoided the front door. This is an area of concern for 2006. When we had an overflow of persons at the entrance they just walked on into the show without paying. Maybe we need more ticket sellers?

We had the wrong size popcorn bags and we need gloves for those handling food. The problem will be taken care of for 2006.

We had some very good coverage from the Statesman Journal, especially on Friday, because they want to emphasize what we are doing for kids.

Need to set up a committee regarding the selling of equipment so that there will be people to cover the area where the equipment is located. Possibly set it up in the demonstration area or a major area so we get a better flow of traffic. We will discuss this at a future meeting.

Need a lost and found, a First Aid Kit for cuts and scrapes, and a club information booth with membership applications, brochures, etc., with a committee head.

Dealer Gary Buss at the last moment had a medical emergency and had to withdraw from the show as a dealer and thanks to Mary Haslebacher for hustling and filling the space. Motion made and seconded to reimburse Gary Buss full funds because of his medical
["April 18 Minutes" continued on Page 7]

[“April 18 Minutes” continued from Page 6]

emergency and because his space was filled by another dealer. Approved. Amend the above motion to reimburse Gary Buss \$352.00. Approved.

Motion made and seconded to reimburse Mary Haslebacher for funds for mailing, copying, long distance calls, etc. (Mary advised that she will not submit a bill requesting reimbursement and that if she did get reimbursed she would return it to the club.) Motion failed. Note: Could we possibly have a layout where all the dealers can see where their areas will be when the dealer data gets mailed to them.

Space: We had a problem with dead space behind the popcorn, wheel of fortune, etc., allowing people to wander in the area. We may need to redo the area. Also we need to open up the space or change spacing between the Silent Auction and the dealer to the south to allow more egress to restroom area.

Need to talk to the county about tables that are close to being in need of repair.

Need to coordinate more volunteers. Need a call sheet to remind people the day before. (Remember the Federation Show is coming up in August). Each area needs a committee head, i.e., popcorn, silent auction, etc., and be able to call their volunteers. Need a cell phone number to be able to take sick calls from volunteers.

We possibly need to draft an additional sheet for the new member packet about the club activities, especially the show since it funds most of the club activities. Also include a list of committees and asking which one they would be possibly interested in supporting as a volunteer.

It was suggested that WAMS send Day Bright a letter of appreciation for all of their long time support they have given the club, donations, help, etc. One of their last donations was some fire opal, fire agate and Emu egg for use with our junior program.

Additional thank you letters to Walmart and Albertsons for bags for our show and any others that donated to our show or juniors.

Petrified wood brochure: we ran out at the WAMS show and we need to print additional ones for the Federation Show in August. Motion made and seconded to print 5000 brochures. Approved. Amended to pay up to \$600.00 to print the petrified wood brochures. Approved. Suggested brochure emphasis next year will be for agates or obsidian.

Suggestion was to include a coupon on the postcards to see how they are working.

It was rumored that someone was selling rocks in the parking lot. If someone is selling in the parking lot they will be advised that it is against policy, all dealers pay a fee, and they must discontinue or vacate the area. The Polk County representative was advised and they will keep an eye on it in the future and take appropriate action.

We had a problem with vehicles backing into fire lanes, no parking areas or space at the doors. We may need to include that information in dealer packets.

Old Business:

Show chairman for 2006: Kit will check with Chris Wissinger who was appointed Assistant Chair for 2005 first. Consistent with 2005, the position is open for inquires and by the next board meeting the Show Chair will be appointed. Please contact Kit if you are interested.

With more people joining WAMS we will soon need an additional member at large.

Tom Beaty advised that the books were audited and that all looks fine, however the use of vouchers must be consistent for future auditing purposes.

New Business:

There was a suggestion about printing more t-shirts, including pocket shirts with the WAMS logo, and baseball caps.

Dexter Leonard made a report of the Federation meeting in Hillsboro. There were 27 federation members present. He advised that Janice Van Cura made a very good presentation at the meeting. There was an in depth discussion about junior members of clubs. The clubs with the strongest junior groups were Waldport, Oregon and Marysville, WA.

The Federation would also like to see more competitive cases in the shows. Motion made and seconded to pay \$409.00 for the first printing of the petrified wood brochures. Approved.

Motion made and seconded to created a committee of Don Miller, Ray Plummer and Wayne Chesley as authorized WAMS members allowed to make purchases up to \$1500.00 total, the remaining part of \$4000.00 (previously approved), to finish the WAMS display cases. Approved.

There was a lengthy discussion about the use of vouchers, with regards to paying the club bills.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

A WAMS Haiku

- submitted by Gene Gangle

**Rickreall Rock Show
Petrified wood is its theme
This is wood that rocks.**

1869 Excerpt on Arsenic

- from *Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, 1869*, submitted by Don Esch

ARSENIC, a steel-gray colored brittle metal, extremely poisonous, known in early times. Brandt, in 1733, made the first accurate experiments on its chemical nature. The heinous crimes committed by means of this mineral obliged the English Legislature to enact regulations for its sale, 1851. The sale of all colorless preparations of arsenic is regulated by this act. In 1858 Dr. A.S. Taylor asserted that green paper hangings prepared from arsenic were injurious to health, which appears to be true, although doubted by some chemists.

Side note: A lot of our agate does contain small amounts of arsenic, giving us another reason not to lick them. Obsidian is one of them.

The One that Got Away ...

- submitted by Chuck Hunt

In the mid sixties, a friend and I went out fishing on Gales Creek, southwest of Portland. I would go on these fishing excursions and usually bring home a creel of agates, fossils or interesting rocks, but few fish. This time I found a piece of petrified wood that had some peculiar marks on it. I brought it home and added it to my collection of rocks. While I was away at school in Oklahoma City, Barbara, my wife, was teaching school in Portland at Mill Park grade school. They had a rock and fossil day and OMSI sent a specialist to her class to teach about rocks and fossils. He saw my piece of petrified wood and said it looks like hatchet or chopping marks on this piece of wood and if so this would be extremely important in dating mankind in the Western U.S. He said he would sure like to "borrow" this fossil to check it out and send it to The Smithsonian for them to see if the marks are really man-made and then send it back to Barbara. And now you know as much about it as I do. There was no further contact, information or anything else! Another of Life Learning Experiences!

Visit WAMS on the web: www.wamsi.org

NFMS Juniors Committee

10 Tips to Starting a Juniors Rock Club
by Gary Buhr, Chairman, Spring, 2005

1.) A Juniors Club can be a separate entity/name or a part of your regular Rock Club. May need to modify Bylaws or Club Constitution to make it official. This model is based on the success of Everett Rookie Rockhounds during the past 7 years growth where the Advisor interacts and leads the meeting. Some Juniors Clubs run their own meeting with Juniors as officers using Roberts Rules of Order, but that seems to be the minority pattern.

2.) It only takes one or two Juniors and a durable, consistent Advisor to begin. Growth will depend on demographics or population, convenience of meetings and how fun/enjoyable the meetings are. This is our hobby so be sure not to make your Juniors meetings seem like "boring" academic school class. A "hands on" meeting will occupy minds and prevent disturbances.

3.) Empower the imagination of the Juniors by making their meeting participatory rather than observatory. Making lapidary or rock/fossil related projects should be a top priority. If not making items for the Juniors to take home, then play a game that all ages (4 to 17) can understand and win rock prizes to take home.

4.) The general Rock Club membership must have ongoing generosity where they or the Rock Club funds are continually donating items for the Juniors to utilize, work with or win as prizes at every Juniors meeting. The Juniors need to take something home from each meeting to appreciate, ponder and add to their collection or simply to be the "carrot" on a stick.

5.) Juniors meetings should be the same date and time as the regular Rock Club meetings because of transportation and the Juniors should meet in another room of the same building because of noise levels. Preferably during the "boring" (to Juniors) part of the regular Rock Club meeting which is the program or the business parts, usually during the first hour. Then after the Juniors complete their one hour meeting they (quietly) come into the regular meeting to enjoy show & tell, the sales table, socialization and treats with the rest of the general membership. Each Juniors meeting should be different to maintain vitality during the year, but can be repeated on an annual basis unless it is something the Juniors really enjoy and ask for more often. Also is healthy to do an annual poll of the Juniors about how you are doing, what they like, what they do not like and what they would change in their meeting. This feedback helps guide the Advisor with a "pulse" of what the Juniors want.

6.) The Juniors Advisor should be fairly creative and spontaneous while enjoying the Juniors meeting. Always have a plan for the one hour meeting, but entertain questions as they come up because that is when the best learning happens according to each Juniors interests and abilities. Keeping the mood of the meeting fun and happy will create a positive experience for the Juniors and that will maximize the learning. With many ages present at the same table a briskly paced meeting will be more fun and without the prospect of boredom/noise. The same Advisor at each meeting creates a familiar face which gives the Juniors a sense of security plus a stable environment that allows more fun and freedom to participate. Success for your Juniors Club will never be built on excuses but rather being there every month with a fun program so the Juniors have an expectation of fun while learning.

7.) If there are Junior Guests, introduce each at the start of your meeting, ask how they found out about your Rock Club and what they like about rocks. Many times this will spawn a (curious) conversation amongst the Juniors which helps compatibility and cohesion of your meeting group so they will want to come back each month to interact with their new friends the Rockhounds.

8.) Besides a monthly meeting, create the opportunity for Juniors to attend a Field Trip (indoors or outdoors) or a lapidary workshop. Modern schedules are nearly hectic, but you need to offer these opportunities or the Juniors will do something else since we live in a culture of so many choices. Time is the big challenge for parents and the Juniors only want to do what is fun or interesting.

9.) Promote the Juniors who participate. After each meeting or Juniors activity the Advisor or volunteer scribe should write an article and photo if possible about what happened at the meeting or event. Actually taking notes helps develop an interesting article and promotes accuracy of name spelling. In the verbiage, print the names of participating Juniors in CAPITAL LETTERS to emphasize how special they are in your next newsletter or on your website. This communication will empower the Juniors and the future of your club.

10.) Resources List to give you ideas for projects, but it is always best to use your own thoughts and creativity because they may be easier for you to develop with affordable resources at hand and more compatible with your local community. No matter what you are doing or what project is at hand, always treat every Junior with respect and recognize their importance as the future leaders of your Rock Club.

- a. Websites (amfed.org/nfms/juniors)
 (Canadian Rockhound: Junior Rockhound Web-Magazine)
 (Rock Hound Kids.com)

- b. Printed publications
 Geology Crafts for Kids--50 nifty projects to Explore the Marvels of Planet Earth by Anderson, Diehn & Krautwurst, Sterling Publishers, New York
 Rock & Gem Magazine--Rock & Gem centerpiece by Steve Decker
- c. Contact your NFMS or AFMS Juniors Committee Chairman



Dave Sellers (faceting) and Rudy Appleby (lapidary) demonstrate their crafts – Photo by J. Owens

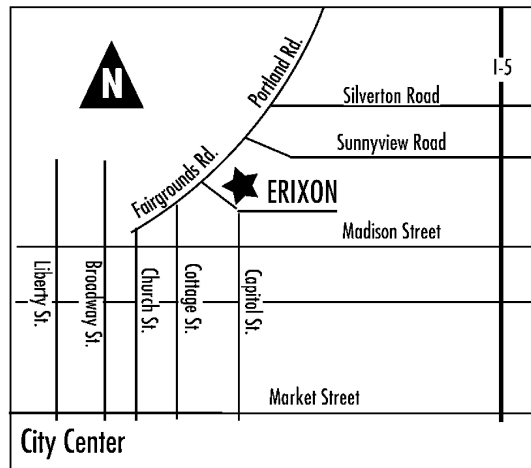


Cota Lapidary's fine selection – Photo by J. Owens

What's Rocking?

WAMS General Meeting
Thursday
May 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Salem Senior Center
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem
Guests Welcome!

May Program
Competitive vs. Non-Competitive Displaying –
Janice Van Cura
May Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letter
'A' for Show & Tell



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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