



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

November 2006

## LONGEST MEMBER

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

Bettie (Stearns) Christopherson is the oldest Club member that still belongs to the Club and up to this year put a case into our Show. Rollin and Bettie joined the club in 1951 and were one of the first members to display and sell at the 1956 Show. It was quite an undertaking. Bettie was chairperson of the first bylaw committee. Rollin being a hydro-engineer was very precise in what he did. He made spheres by hand that is as good as the ones being made with a machine. If something wasn't perfect when he worked it, it didn't get displayed or sold.

In 1965 Rollin designed a case and built a 2x4 case for a thunder-egg display and presented it to the Capital. The display should still be there. The people at the Capital were so interested in the rocks that they contacted the Club about a display. Rollin contacted all the clubs in Oregon to see if they would be interested in doing a display of rocks every 3-4 months. When the addition to the Capital was built there was a window space left and you could see into the next room. Rollin contacted all the clubs in Oregon to see if they would be interested in doing a display of rocks every 3-4 months. They all agreed.. Rollin then designed the case. Rollin and the Clubs worked hard to get the Thunder-egg to be the States rock and sunstones to be the state stone. .

Bettie was the Club Treasurer for 21 years until she said she needed to retire. Bettie was the holder of the scrapbooks and historian for the club. She was the 40<sup>th</sup> Show Chairperson. Bettie and Rollin went to many states collecting, selling and trading to get different items. I remember no matter where we went she was always picking up a rock. We had a beautiful rock garden until they joined the club and the rock they brought home became jewelry or display items. Rollie passed away in 1989.

During these early years of the Club the Show had more competitive cases than they did non-competitive.

The Club had their own case that Bettie, Rollin and some of the other members would take to other States for competition, from Billings MT, Seattle area, and also within the State of Oregon at other clubs shows. They won trophy after trophy and ribbons on the case. At one time all the trophies and ribbons were put on display at our show.

## 2006 Christmas Dinner

~ Submitted by Christine Beaty

The 2006 Christmas/Awards dinner will be held at the West Salem Roth's in the Oregon Room on Saturday, December 2nd beginning 5:30 PM. Turkey Dinner with all trimmings will be served. Cost is \$10.00 per member and \$15.00 for non member guests.

**It is extremely important that you sign up for the dinner ahead of time as we need to get a head count to Roth's no later than November 27th. You can sign up and pay at the November meeting, or you can mail your checks payable to WAMS to:**

Ray Plummer  
3355 Willa Ln SE  
Salem, Or 97302

**Remember, WE MUST have your sign up by November 27 or you may not get a dinner if you come unannounced.**

See You There !

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

### 2006 Elected Officers

President: Ray Plummer 503-361-7466  
 Vice President: Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401  
 Secretary: Mary Haslebacher 393-5228  
 Treasurer: Janine Owens 503-881-4373  
 Federation Director: Marvin Bartel 503-364-4170  
 Members at Large: Walt Friday 503-363-9861  
 Joe Start 503-873-2769  
 Joe Van Cura 541-753-2401  
 Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886  
 Jennifer Ferrell 503-370-2560  
 Kit Leshk 503-393-9102

Board Chair:

### 2006 Committee Chairs

Show Chair: Cathy Fisher 503-851-1837  
 Field Trips: Steve Lawrence 503-585-8014  
 Bulletin Editor: Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811  
 Education: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 Juniors: Jennifer Ferrell 503-370-2560  
 Nameplates: Ted Johnson 503-362-6186  
 Oregon Council: Dan Groah 503-873-6930  
 Rules and Awards: Ted Silver 503-585-2559  
 Programs: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055  
 Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190  
 Public Relations: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 Advertising: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221  
 Publications: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886  
 Scrapbook/Historian: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 Hostesses: Cathy Fisher 503-851-1837  
 Linda Busey  
 Refreshments: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 Coffee: Nancy Plummer 503-361-7466  
 Stamps: Aaron Currier 503-393-2055  
 Sunshine: Karen Porter 503-371-7752

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

I apologize if this newsletter is late. We have been fighting colds for about 2 weeks. It is that time of year.

I plan on continuing the newsletter for next year, but if someone is dying to do this I will give it up. It has been fun and after all I do get the news first hand.

I am hoping that Mary continues with her great articles on the history of WAMS.

I am enclosing the form again for dues in case you need one. Remember the dues are due by the end of December.

If you have any articles or items that you would like to see in upcoming issues, let me know.

There will not be another newsletter until January. So Happy Holidays to all the members of WAMS

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

[kmedwards2@comcast.net](mailto:kmedwards2@comcast.net)

## Presidents Message:

It's November and this will be my last message as President as we don't have a December newsletter.

I feel it has been a great year for the club, and we have accomplished a great deal. Our show was successful; we purchased a new trailer, and built 60 new cases.

We have also gained some new members, and were sorry to see a couple of long time members pass away. They will be remembered and missed for a long time.

I would like to thank the Officers and Board members for the good work and club support they have shown during the year. They have done an excellent job.

I also would like to thank those of you who have volunteered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row to help build cases, and all of the other volunteer jobs that the club needed to have done. Without you folks we wouldn't have a club.

If I had any wish for the future of the club, I would wish that the spirit of volunteering would become a rampant infection in all members to help make our club the best damn rock and mineral club in the world.

A couple of things to think about before the meeting November 2:

1. Volunteer to run for a club Office
2. Sign up for the Christmas Dinner ?
3. It is time to pay dues for 2007
4. Nominations for 2007 officers/board members will open at the meeting....Would YOU be willing to serve?
5. We had some really excellent programs this year, which was your favorite? Be ready to vote for it this month along with the officers for 2007.

We will not be having Show and Tell at this meeting. The program will be Nominations and Elections.

See you at the meeting

Ray Plummer  
President

## Upcoming NW Shows

Nov 3-5	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club 49 <sup>th</sup> Annual Show Oakway Center Eugene, OR
Nov 10-12	Gem Faire Lane County Events Center Eugene, OR
Nov 17-19	Gem Faire Oregon Convention Center Portland, OR

## WAMS GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 5, 2006

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher  
Salem Senior Center

The meeting was called to order by President Ray Plummer at 6:35 p.m.. He introduced the officers and

Board members. Janice VanCure, V-pres.; Mary Haslebacher, Secretary; Board members Jennifer Ferril, Walt Friday, Joe Start, Chuck Hunt, Joe VanCura, Krisi Edwards and Cathy Fisher

Minutes of September General Meeting as printed in newsletter, motion to approve as written. seconded. Motion approved.

The Treasurer was ill and unable to be at meeting, so no Treasurer's report.

Announcement of Hoover School, Salem, wanting someone to come before Nov. 18 and speak to her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Anyone interested contact Ray Plummer.

The rock of the month "O" was a big hit from old to young.

Janice and Joe VanCura gave a program on Thundereggs. It was a great program of all the egg beds in Oregon.

Ray announced a break for refreshment at 7:35 until 7:50

**Sometime between the time of Show and Tell and 7:45 2 large pieces of Opal were taken. This does not reflect well on our Club. Ray announced if the stones were returned to him there would be no action taken. AS of now Show and Tell is suspended for the next month.**

Meeting reconvened at 7:50

The trailer is now at Tom Robertson's. It has to be moved before the rains. We have 2 locations (members Don Esch and Mike Dana) the Board will be looking at besides the Fairgrounds. If these don't pan out, we will look at Public Storage. Before the trailer can be moved, it needs people to arrange and secure the cases in place. Contact Cathy Fisher.

Sometime before the Show there will be a work party to complete 15 liners. Just need trimming.

We had one new member present her application, motion made to accept, seconded and pass. Welcome Cathy

Nominations are open for new officers and Board members. Contact the Board members if at all interested.

Aaron Currier will also have a vote ballot for the 12 awards that are given each year. October 14, 9:00 am to 12 Kids can go on field trip to the Sams for rock On the 21, open to adults for half price sale.

Karen Porter sent out 4 cards this month

Reminder, silver-smithing classes open on Monday night at 6:30

November refreshments will be provided by Sonja Kleiner, Nadine Romero and Chuck Hunt. Cathy Fisher will bring door prizes from WAMS rock pile.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

## **WAMS BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 16, 2006, SENIOR CENTER**

**~submitted by Mary Haslebacher**

The Board meeting was called to order by, Chairman Kit Leshk at 6:32 pm. Those in attendance were Janice VanCura, Walt Friday, Cathy Fisher, Joe VanCura, Ray Plummer, Joe Start, Jennifer Ferrell and Mary Haslebacher.

The first order of business was the replacement of a barrel and lid for our big vibrator tumbler. This is a much needed tumbler for all the rock the club has to polish. Motion was made to replace the items. Motion seconded and passed.

Cathy Fisher gave her ideas for some changes in the show lay-out if we do not have anyone to do florescent show and also to use the other corner for a new kid's game. Also need to make the Raffle drawing more visible.

A secure place is needed to store our new trailer. Motion made to store the trailer at storage facility on Gaffin Road. This is fenced and you must have a code to enter. Motion seconded and passed. Mary to contact the facility and make sure space still available.

During the October general meeting a couple of our Show & Tell people lost some valuable rocks. It had been suggested that the Club should pay them for their loss. After much discussion a motion was made, "NOT to reimburse anyone for a loss of their items". Motion was seconded and passed.

Show and Tell is an important part of our meeting. **Our friends** bring their items to show, to let others know how to go and find the items, how to work the items. The Board has come up with guidelines for displaying in the future that will be published in the newsletter. The Club is all about education, not only the public but all the members.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.

## Cool Web Sites

~submitted by Susan Appleby

Looking for your next lapidary project. Lapidary Journals website has many projects, articles, upcoming shows and more @ <http://www.lapidaryjournal.com>

A Foremost Resource on The Internet. Open to the public, Free of Charge!

Lots of information for the benefit of Web's jewelers and craftsmen - and those interested in jewelry and gemstones. <http://www.ganoksin.com/>

Interested in beading? Step by Step Beads has projects, info on bead societies, links and resources @ <http://www.stepbystepbeads.com>

Minerals anyone ? This site has great references articles, information on collecting and cleaning and galleries of minerals by locality or type @ <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com>

and everyone loves gemstones. The International Gem Society has detailed information on gems from Agate to Zircon, techniques for cabochon cutting, tumbling and faceting @ <http://www.gemsociety.org>

## Ancient Fish Fossil May Rewrite Story of Animal Evolution

~submitted by Susan Appleby

John Roach for National Geographic News  
October 18, 2006

A fish that swam on an ancient barrier reef in Australia 380 million years ago had fins and nostrils remarkably similar to the limbs and ears of the first four-limbed creatures to walk on land, according to a new study.

Four-limbed land animals, also known as tetrapods, such as modern amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, evolved from lobed-finned fish. That transition from water to land has long fascinated scientists, but the fossil record of how it occurred is still incomplete.

The new finding suggests that certain aspects of tetrapod ears and limbs can be traced much further back in "fishy looking" fish than had been previously known, says John Long, head of sciences at Museum Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. "They were just cunningly disguised in the fossil record by their more fishlike overall features."

"They tell us that evolution progresses steadily but often hides the evidence until a really well preserved fossil like this turns up."

### Fishy Fish

The team analyzed a remarkably well preserved fossil specimen of a fish called Gogonasus. Previously the lobed-finned fish-which was about 12 inches (30 centimeters) long and covered in diamond-shaped scales-was known only from crushed or fragmented fossil remains.

But the new specimen, discovered last year in Western Australia, is nearly complete, with an almost intact skull, body, and fin bones (map of Australia). Among the most remarkable features are slits on the roof of the skull called spiracles that scientists had previously seen only in creatures more closely related to tetrapods.

Tiktaalik, the closest known fish ancestor to land tetrapods, had fins with armlike skeletal structures, a head that moved independently of its body, and spiracles on the top of its head.

"This Gogonasus fish shows similar adaptation for air breathing that we see in creatures much closer to tetrapods," said Jennifer Clack, a paleontologist and tetrapod expert at the University of Cambridge in England. Clack was not involved in the new study.

Long and colleagues also describe Gogonasus' fins in detail for the first time, showing they are stout and robust like those in early tetrapods. "In simple terms, Gogonasus is a missing link between fishes that look like fish and the more amphibian-like elpistostegians [tetrapod-like fishes such as Tiktaalik]," Long said.

### Marine Dispersal

Prior to the discovery of Gogonasus, tetrapod-like fish were known mostly from the Northern Hemisphere, raising the question of how tetrapods got to the Southern Hemisphere. "The marine environment of Gogonasus means that tetrapod-like fishes and tetrapods probably had more marine dispersal ability than previously thought," Long said.

The early tetrapod-like fish could have swum around the world, however, Gogonasus may have evolved its tetrapod-like features independently of the first fishes to crawl out of water onto land. "It's possible the features we are seeing in Gogonasus-the air breathing and limb characters-are in fact evolved in parallel, in fact have nothing to do with those in tetrapods. They perhaps derived similar mechanisms quite independently," she said.

"We'll need a lot more work to sort that one out."

### NFMS News

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

### AFMS News

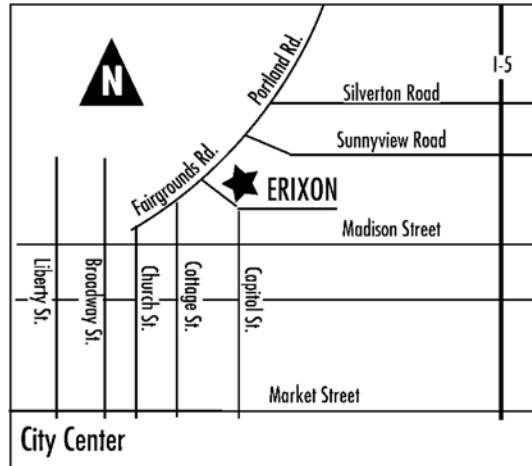
Can be viewed at [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

# What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
Thursday  
November 2 – 6:30 p.m.  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem

**Guests Welcome!**

**November Program**  
Nominations for Officers  
**November Show and Tell**  
No Show and Tell this month



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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