



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

May 2007

## Cinch Mounts and Skipping Down Memory Lane

~submitted Gene Gangle

At the April WAMS Club meeting, where our program was on cinch mounts, I remembered - - - afterwards, of course - - - an episode at the beach a few years ago that involved cinch mounts. My wife and I had invited a couple we know over to the beach to rock hound and beach comb. We went to Lost Creek, pretty much an annual WAMS field trip in February. The last few years the gravel beds have been covered by sand, unfortunately. But, I digress. This particular year the gravel beds were visible, uncovered and productive. Our friends listened to my exposition of what we were finding: agate, jasper, and if I didn't know what it was - - jasp-agate.

I explained that, with jasper at the beach, I look to see if it's relatively smooth, not pitted or rough, because that will be an indication of how solid the stone is or is not inside. Then I found a flat yellow and red earth-colored piece of jasper the size of a quarter, about one-quarter inch thick. Perfect for cinch mount, a calibrated 30 x 22 stone. The size and shape of a "skipper". Guys would try to see how many times they could make the stones "skip" and girls would try to bounce the stones off of our heads. That's the way I remember it.

Following this idea of throwing things, I remember the time a friend, who worked at the same summer cannery job I did, went with his sister, her girlfriend Jan and me to Crater Lake for a camp-out on our day off. At night we all settled down in our sleeping bags, the two guys about twenty feet from the two girls. Soon after, Jan gently threw a small cone which hit my sleeping bag. I tossed a cone back with vigor. After a couple moments hesitation, Jan threw another small cone. So I tossed a whole bunch of

cones back. After a short hesitation, a whole bunch of cones came flying back at me.

Ten years later, I'm driving down the road, I remember that moment at Crater Lake. All of a sudden I realize how dumb I had been. Jan wasn't wanting to toss cones. She was trying to send me a signal. Her bold, assertive effort was wasted on me. A couple months after this camp-out, I had heard that Jan had joined a convent. True story. My wife knows the story and she assures me that sensitivity was not then, nor is it now, my strong suit. But I digress. Maybe even regress.

Back to the Lost Creek episode - - - I showed the jasper that I found on the beach to the other couple and told them I would shape, sand, and polish the stone and set it in a cinch mount that she could wear as jewelry. Two days later, we got together at their house and gave her the cinch-mount pendant. To go from a rock on the beach to a piece of jewelry in two days - - well, they were impressed. I was so gratified; my cinch mount was the key to making it all happen so quickly.

I still occasionally throw "skippers", just not cinch-mount "skippers". And I smile to myself when I think of those high-desert-plateau small cones.

### IN THIS ISSUE

WAMS Club Information	2
Editor's and President's Messages	3
Up Coming NW Shows	3
Down Memory Lane	1
Field Trip and Rock Sale	4
Show and Tell Parables & New Rock Tumbler	5
Meeting Minutes	5
Board Meeting Minutes	6



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)

### 2007 Elected Officers

- President: Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401
- Vice President: Walt Friday 503-363-9861
- Secretary: Mary Haslebacher 393-5228
- Treasurer: Lee Ann Settlemeier 394-4283
- Federation Director: Marvin Bartel 503-364-4170
- Members at Large: Walt Nelson 503-316-1845  
Joe Start 503-873-2769  
Joe Van Cura 541-753-2401  
Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886  
Jennifer Ferrell 503-370-2560  
Thor Satter 503-581-5795  
Ray Plummer 503-361-7466
- 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: Vicki Johnson, 503-362-6186
- Rules and Awards: Ted Silver 503-585-2559
- Programs: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- 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
- Refreshments: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Coffee: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- 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 just wanted to say that I enjoyed the Show this year. It was really nice to see many of our new members volunteering their time.

Cathy you did a great job!!!!!!!

Cathy also wanted me to tell all of you that helped and supported her though out of all of this THANK YOU!!

She could not have done this without all of your help. She told me she has learned a lot and is willing to do this next year. Thank you Cathy!!!

There is an upcoming field trip in May that Joe Van Cura is leading. Also one in June to Succor Creek. Let Steve Lawrence know if there is somewhere you would like to go. Also the sunstone claims that are owned by Lee King are still available to dig on. Let me know if you are interested and I will give you the information.

Thanks to those that continue to submit stories. I appreciate the help.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

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

## Presidents Message

By the time you read this the Show will be over. I hope that you had a great time at the show, and added a new rock or two to your collection. And that you got to know some of your fellow club members better.

Joe and I just got back from our first collecting trip of the year. We went to the All American Pow Wow trip to Saddle Mountain. This is the same group that puts on the Madras Show. It was interesting to meet some new rock hound friends and get to see a new collecting site. We found a few nice pieces, but we mainly got tumbling stock. The dig sites are on BLM land. Currently there is a dispute as to where the boundary is between the BLM land and a private rancher. The map at the entrance shows the whole area as open. But one of the ranchers is making a fuss and saying that he has the mineral, rock and sand rights to part of the area. Several of the Washington clubs are contacting the Spokane BLM office to see if we can find out what the correct answer is. So if you plan a trip up there I suggest that you call the BLM and check on what areas are open for digging. We went to a couple of good sites that the rancher agreed were BLM and open digging land and had decent luck. We just need to remember as rock hounds that what ever we do when we interact with land owners will reflect on all rock hounds. I was pleased with how polite and diplomatic the Pow Wow's field trip chair was in dealing with this situation.

Hope that everyone has Happy Hunting this spring.

Janice Van Cura

## Upcoming NW Shows

May 4-6	Gem Faire Washington County Fairgrounds Hillsboro, OR
May 4-6	Creative Metal Arts Guild Oregon Convention Center Portland, OR
May 19-20	Hatrockhounds Annual Gem & Mineral Show, OR Hermiston, OR
June 21-24	Prineville Pow Wow Prineville, OR
June 27-July 1	Madras Rock Show Madras, OR

## May Program

~submitted by Janice Van Cura

This month we are going to try something new for the club meeting. Instead of a speaker everyone is encouraged to bring something to swap sell or share with other club members. We will have some announcements and then a long break so that everyone can look and see what people brought. This can be a great way to help new members see what is available and add to everyone's rock collection. Can we ever have too many rocks? We will still have the show and tell, therefore, the items on the show and tell table will not be up for trade. Please respect our fellow members items. If the members like this "program" we can think about repeating every year or so. Please let your officers know what you think of the meeting.

## Ochoco Field Trip

~submitted by Joe Van Cura

Well it is that time of year when most of my thoughts turn to collecting more rocks. Not that I don't already have more thunder eggs than I can ever cut. Our May field trip will be to the Wildcat Mountain area. There are a number of thunder egg beds there and also seam and float agate. The egg beds that I hope to visit are White Fir Springs Agate, White Fir Springs Jasper, White Rock Springs, Queens Point, and a recently discovered bed that most of the locals are calling Jeremiah's bed.

I will be heading up there mid morning Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. My plan is to camp at the picnic area across the road from White Fir Springs. I will be leaving the camping area about 1:00 to check out a couple of the locations. Anyone there by that time on Friday is welcome to come along. We will be leaving the camping area at 8:30 Saturday and Sunday mornings, so those who want to camp somewhere else should plan accordingly. At this point, I am not sure which locations I will be going to on which days. It will depend on what I find out on Friday.

To get to where we will be camping go east on Highway 26 approximately 23 miles from Prineville to milepost 41. Continue about 3 tenths of a mile and turn left onto Forest Road 3350. Then go about 4.1 miles to the picnic area on the left. There will be a gravel road on the right that goes up a hill to the White Fir Springs Agate area. The White Fir Springs Jasper area is another 2 tenths of a mile up the road. The White Rock Springs bed is about a mile hike into the wilderness area so be prepared to do some walking and bring a backpack or something to carry the eggs out. Digging is prohibited in the wilderness, but surface collecting is allowed and there are a lot of broken pieces laying around. Queens' point is also a hike in, but only about a half mile and it is not in the wilderness, so you can bring a shovel and dig.

On Saturday night it would be fun to plan to have a club potluck for those that want at the campground.

## Show and Tell Parables

~submitted by Steve Lawrence

**Serious Steve's Seductive Standup of Sonnet of Somewhat Shallow Shtick**

- 1) I'll start off with the state rock of Oregon- a thunder egg scarfed from Bear Creek split smoothed in symmetry of a couple of spastic sparrows.
- 2) A splendid slice of scarlet Sweet Home Carnelian with a splash of seashore scene.
- 3) A couple of spring selenite I snagged from Don Esch's supply.

- 4) A squatty slab of smashed green swamp wood I sniffed out from some sandy soil on a Sat/Sun safari.
- 5) A shimmering specimen of sand (quartz) I salvaged from scenic Bear Creek. (My secret spot)
- 6) A shop worm sun burnt salmon steak stone segmented and simonized to show off the sanguine inner sanctum—Shocking!!!
- 7) A stolen scrap of sienna sagenite with a stand out smattering of sleek splines.

Word for the day **SYZYGY** (the configuration of the earth, moon and the sun lying in a straight line)

## Wanna Go Rock Hunting

~submitted by Rob Leedy

Found a mother lode for you. A 90 year old man in Springfield, OR has decided to sell his life long rock collection. There are at least 40 pick-up loads of rough rock and fossils from all around Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and California. This sale will be held Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9-5. No early birds please, because the early bird in this case will not get the worm. All rock will be priced at a low cost of 50 cents per pound.

This sale is located at Wayne and Thelma Brutscher at 1347 North 30<sup>th</sup> Springfield, OR 97478. Their phone number is 541-747-0183. **Please do not call unless you need directions.** If you don't come see us we can't save you any money on Saturday.

The directions are from I5 head east on Hwy 126. Turn right on Mohawk Blvd. Head south and take 2<sup>nd</sup> left on Olympic St. Head east and go to 30<sup>th</sup> street. Turn right. House is on left side heading south.

**(Rob will have flyers at the meeting)**

## Don Esch's Rock Tumbler

~submitted by Theresa Byrne

Here is the latest machine we got together. Got two of the tires off of the ladder truck I drove and made a large tumbler from mostly used parts. Holds about two five gallon buckets of rock at a time, does rough grind in about 3 days using only 4 pounds of grit, and does polish in 2-3 days, finishing with about 100 pounds tumbled, ready to go rock. Sealing the center was a problem until I noticed my wife's exercise ball. Worked

perfect. The only problem was rolling it up the hill so we could empty it. Steve Lawrence still can't believe how well it works. So far we figured we did about 500 pounds of rock in 3 weeks!!

Enjoy

Don Esch



**Big Tumbler**



**Amazed Friend**

## **WAMS April Meeting Minutes April 5th**

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

Meeting called to order by President VanCura.  
Officers and Board members in attendance were

introduced. She then asked if there were guests. There were 9 guests that introduced themselves. The President asked for all bills to be submitted, that raffle tickets were available for purchase. The library was not out but if anyone wanted a book it could be brought out.

Ted Johnson said he had badges for those that had joined. A reminder the badge is free when you join the Club.

The Show and Tell was next with the rocks and minerals beginning with the letter "S". Next month will be the letter "T".

Gene Gangle gave a program on "cinch mounts", how to use, tools to help hold the stones in place when you place them and tighten. Walt Friday used his projector to film Gene and put him up on a screen so everyone could see. The members enjoyed it and thought it would be a good idea for all programs.

Break time.

Meeting called back to order. The secretary's report as printed in the bulletin was approved with a correction, "the field trip for June is not scheduled but there is a possibility if there is interest". Motion made to accept with correction, seconded and passed.

The Treasure read the Bank information and what is in each fund. Motion made to accept, seconded and passed. Bills were presented, motion made to pay, seconded and passed.

Because of so much money in Library Fund it was suggested that the raffle money would be better used in the Scholarship Fund. A motion was made to change the raffle to the Scholarship Fund, seconded and passed.

Aaron Currier has T-shirts that were ordered and he would take orders for more. He showed a pamlet he had picked up and it had an announcement of our show. (free ad)

Joe Start said if anyone wants to do a CPR class, he will arrange \$25. Please contact him.

Oregon Council, Vickie Johnson, if on any field trips there is a dispute or difference of options do not argue, notify the Council and they will settle the disagreement.

Silver-smithing classes. Charmaine reminded the members that the class is on Monday evenings. 3 hours classes at \$1.25 an hour.

The President announced that Ted Johnson would chair the Scholarship Fund and if anyone is interested in being on it to contact him.

Joel and Jacele Gunderson, Brian and Marta Briggs and Patricia Gambit had presented their applications for membership. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept them as members. Welcome to the Club

President VanCura and Show chair, Kathy Fisher had sent around a sign up sheet for the Show. The time is getting close and there are a lot of spots to be filled. On Friday there will be at least 1000 children. This is the one activity the Club puts on to make its money. The one time when members are asked to step up.

There will be a Board meeting on Monday April 16.

Next months refreshments will be furnished by Ann Gasner, Leanne Settlemer, and Nancy Nunley

May's meeting will be a rock swap, show or sell.

Meeting adjourned, 8:40 P.M.

## **WAMS Executive Board Minutes April 16th**

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

The meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m by Board Chairperson, Ray Plummer, in attendance were Walt Friday, Kathy Fisher, Marv Bartel, Lee Anne Settlemer, Charles Hunt, Joe Start and Mary Haslebacher.

First order of business was discussion on the condition of hoses and torches in Silversmithing room. They were to have been replaced a long time ago. A motion was made and seconded we purchase the items needed. Motion passed.

The Board then passed a motion for the safety of WAMS members and instructors, as of this date to suspend all use of the hoses and torches until they are replaced and approved by City of Salem. (The Senior Center is under the care of the City)

Walt Friday gave his mail box key to Lee Anne so she can pick up mail.

Joe Start gave an update on the CPR classes and passed out some first aid kit information he received from Don Esch. A motion was made for Lee Anne to purchase a close out kit "Adventure Medical 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit", it is 1-10 people for 10 days that Don

recommended, if it is sold out, she will get the next one Don recommends. Motion seconded and passed. The kit will be in the possession of the Field Trip Coordinator, whoever they are.

Kathy Fisher gave a report on the Show. She said everything will be ready. Joe Start has been calling the membership list and has had good results.

Joe Start said at this time he could not commit to hosting the annual picnic on Sunday August 5, therefore the picnic will be at Ray & Mary Haslebacher's .

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

### **NW Federation News**

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

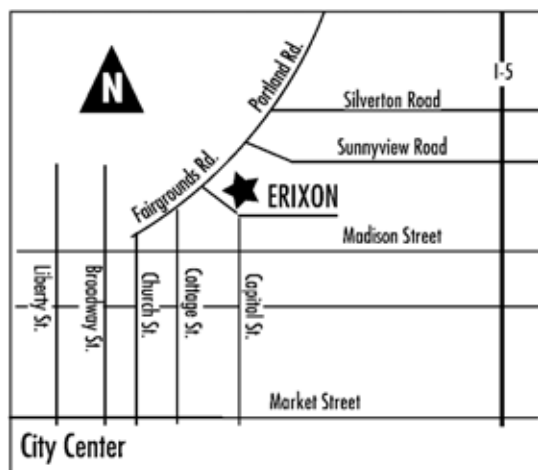
### **AFMS News**

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

## What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
Thursday  
May 3- 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

**May Program**  
Swap Sell  
Bring Items you would like to sell or swap  
**May Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**T**



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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