



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

**November 2007**

## McDermitt Field Trip

~submitted by Theresa Byrne

We had quite a turnout for the field trip. Over 30 people. Tom Robertson and Danny Groah went down early to scout the roads. There had been heavy rains the previous weekend, and they wanted to make sure the roads were still passable. They also looked for good areas to dig, and started a few holes. A few other club members also went down early for the scouting trip.

We went to two locations Friday. The first was Zimmerman Wood. There wasn't much for surface collecting, but there were tumble size pieces just below the surface, and pieces up to 6" x 2" just a few inches further down. Those willing to dig deeper found even larger pieces. It was hard to leave this spot, since it was so productive. Our second location was Disaster Peak Picture Rock. Its hard work breaking out pieces there, but several members were rewarded for their efforts. The wind really picked up later in the day, and it was pretty rough that night for those in tents. They had to take them down to avoid damage - or further damage.

We went to four locations Saturday. It was cold and windy in the morning, but it warmed up (to the 50's) within a couple hours. Our first location was Purple Cow. I'm not sure why they call it that - most of the rock is a green or burgundy agate. We didn't have high hopes for that area, but it turned out to be quite productive. Most of the pieces were small, about 3" x 1", although a few people found some larger, quite nice pieces.

The next location was a wood area east of Cottonwood Creek. It wasn't as good as the Zimmerman area on Friday, so we didn't stay long. Gary Green Jasper was our next stop. It's a green & blue-green striped jasper. There's a lot of rock lying around the hillside, so you can pick from that or try to pry some loose from the main vein. Those working on the main vein broke out enough large pieces for everyone on the trip.

The last location Saturday was Crystal Cave. Its not really a cave, but a hollowed area on a hillside. It's an eerie, sparkly place. There are very large rocks covered with small crystals or blue botryoidal.. Of course the best pieces are too big to take, so they remain to impress future rock hounds. Strangely enough, there's wood at this location too. Some very large rounds came out of a shallow hole.

Sunday's trips were to three thunder egg locations. Eggs were plentiful at each location with sizes ranging from golf ball to softball size. For anyone interested in visiting this area, it should be noted the roads are steep and challenging in places. Sunday night's weather was even worse than Friday, rain, snow, sleet, and winds up to 50 mph. It was so bad people began leaving camp at 3AM Monday.

Members taking park in the trip included: Tom Beaty, Bruce Becklund, Eric Becklund, Theresa Byrne, Mike and Polly Cullen, Mark & Kristi Edwards, Danny Groah, Steve Lawrence, Rob Leedy, Al & Susie Liebetrau, Larry Lovell, Tom Robertson, Ken & Lee Anne Settlemier, Ted Silver, Eleanor Wershow, and Art & Joyce Winters. Guests included members of the Central Oregon Rock Collectors: Paul & Bernice Asman, and Chuck & Lila Lemley. Other guests included: Merle & Kathy Allen (Monroe, Eugene Club), Rita & Orville (Bishop CA), Dick Rantz (Bellingham, Mt Baker Club), and Tom Yard (Hillsboro). Whew!

## IN THIS ISSUE

WAMS Club Information	2
Editor's and President's Messages	3
Up Coming NW Shows	3
Christmas Dinner	3
McDermitt Field Trip	1
John Day Fossil Beds	4
Junior Scholarship	4
Meeting and Board Minutes	5-6



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: \$15.00
- Couple: \$24.00
- 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

Another year has gone by and before we know it the holidays will be here.

We had a great time at McDermitt. Lot's of fun and good company. We met some very nice people from other clubs. I want to thank Tom and Dan for leading the trip and showing the group great spots to dig at.

Friday was a very windy day that collapsed our tent and ripped it. No we were not running down the hill to catch it. The tent is now in a landfill at McDermitt. Thanks to our friends Kathy and Merle for saving us. We were able to use their tent and they slept in their van. Also I would like to thank Rob and Steve for helping load our things during the wind storm. We learned a lesson about tent camping at McDermitt.

Thanks for all the articles and pictures this month. I am passing on the pictures of McDermitt field trip to Susan to put on the web.

This is the last newsletter for this year, and remember to see Chris Beaty or Theresa Byrne at the meeting for the Christmas dinner.

Enclosed in the newsletter is the membership dues form.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

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

## Presidents Message

It is hard to believe that a whole year has gone by. I have enjoyed being your president. During this year I have gotten to know many more members than I knew at the start of the year, and I look forward to digging rocks with more of you next year.

I would like to encourage all of you to think seriously about serving as an officer of the Club. A club like ours can only continue as long as we have people who are willing to help out. If we all work together, none of these jobs are too big to do. We have several people that are willing to serve as officers and committee heads next year but there are still some gapping holes. As of this writing people who have agreed to run for office are:

President - no one  
Vice President, Cathy Fisher, Mary Haslebacher  
Secretary - no one  
Treasurer, Lee Anne Settlemier  
Federation Delegate, Marvin Bartell  
Members and Large, Dextor Leonard, Bob Manley, Thor Sather, Rob Leedy, Norm De Roux, Larry Nasset, Geri Esch

The following people have agreed to be Committee Chairs

Show Chair, Cathy Fisher  
Oregon Council, Vickie Johnson  
Scholarship Committee, Ted Johnson  
Newsletter, Kristi Edwards  
Juniors, Jennifer Ferrell  
Historian, Steve Lawrence  
Nameplates, Ted Johnson  
Property Control, Teresa Byrne  
Stamps, Aaron Currier

The rest of the positions need to be filled or we have not yet confirmed that the current member is willing to continue.

So look at the list else where in the newsletter and come to the meeting in November ready to let us know what you can do.

Thanks for a great year

Janice

## Upcoming NW Shows

Nov 2-4	Gem Faire Lane County Fairgrounds Eugene, OR
Nov 16-18	Gem Faire Oregon Convention Center Portland, OR
Nov 17-18	Fall Festival of Gems Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society Kitsap County Fairgrounds Bremerton, WA

## WAMS CHRISTMAS DINNER

~Submitted by Christine Beaty

This year's Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, December 1, at 5:30PM at West Salem ROTHS in the Oregon Room. Turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings, will be \$8.00 per member and \$10.00

per guest. Once again, entertainment will be provided by Joe Start's fabulous band.

Pre-payment is required. The Dinner Committee (Chris Beaty and Theresa Byrne) will be collecting money at the November meeting. We must have a firm number of people attending at least one week in advance. Those unable to pay at the November meeting must send their payment to WAMS PO Box 13041, Salem OR 97309, before November 26<sup>th</sup>.

It's going to be a fun evening. Hope to see you there.

## **John Day Fossil Beds**

~submitted by **Bob Manley**

On the way home from deer hunting in early October, we took time to visit the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center at the Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds. It was only three miles out of the way. We were on the road from John Day to Mitchell and Prineville (hwy 26).

If you have any interest at all in fossils, in particular mammals and plants, this is a "must see". We spent about an hour, but personally could have spent several hours more. The center is thoughtfully laid out and includes specimens from all units of the total monument. My personal favorites were plants, seeds and nuts from the Clarno Nut Bed. We also watched prep work going on thru a viewing window.

This is a great place to visit for kids of all ages, including those of us who are considered Senior Citizens.

### **COMING IN 2008!**

#### **Willamette Agate and Mineral Society's John and Lucille Sams Memorial Scholarship Fund**

~submitted by **Ted Johnson**

In the January, February, and March 2008 Newsletters, you will find the 2008 Scholarship Fund Application Form and Instructions.

This first year of the fund, we will have a small amount to award. Until this process and the funds have an opportunity to grow and mature, award(s) will be reserved for WAMS Jr. Members and WAMS Member sponsored young folks, grades 2 - 12. Applications will be accepted, for consideration, that will provide a young person learning opportunities in rocks, minerals, fossils, or other Geology related topics or activities.

The application period will open January, 2008. The deadline for submitting an application will be the first Thursday in April, at the General Meeting. The Scholarship Committee intends to announce award(s) at the May, 2008 General Meeting.

Applications can be submitted anytime between January and the April deadline, and can be submitted to:

Ted Johnson Joe Van Cura Chuck Hunt Rob Leedy Joe Start

**Let's help those young'uns get excited about rocks!**

## **REMEMBERING OLD MEMBERS**

~submitted by **Mary Haslebacher**

Virginia Smith, a former member of WAMS has passed away in Billings Montana. Virginia and her husband "Chick" were the first leaders of the Junior Club and spent many years working with the children. Chick was with the Bureau of Reclamation so he knew many places to go. The Townsend's daughter has kept in touch with Virginia. They joined the Club in 1954. When the fire burned all the WAMS records later that year, Virginia began the Scrapbooks for the Club.

## **ESTATE SALE:**

~submitted by **Sharon Thompson**

The last parcels of jewelry manufacturing/supply store inventory will be available for purchase. It includes about 120 lots of good, commercial grade faceted gemstones—emeralds, rubies and sapphires, native cut and included but of good color; jade; garnets; amethysts; opals; aquas; gray, rice, and fancy baroque pearls; some faceted synthetic sapphire; and CZs. When set, these stones would make excellent holiday gifts or holiday show inventory. The inventory also includes some small polished agates and agate slabs; one large slab of petrified wood; a few azurites of stunning color (one needs repair); one lot of rough (mostly star sapphire material suitable for beginners to practice on); a couple mineral specimens; some novelties (an agate slab clock, for example); and some grab bags of tumbled material suitable for cabbing practice, kids, or the bottom of a fish tank. All priced to sell, but no reasonable offer refused. It all must go. Cash only. If interested please email [Sharon.elaine.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.elaine.thompson@gmail.com) or call 503-371-7235

# **WILLAMETTE AGATE & MINERAL GENERAL MEETING**

**October 4, 2007 Salem Senior Center**  
~submitted by Mary Haselbacher

President Janice VanCura called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Board & officers in attendance, President Janice VanCura, Vice-President, Walt Friday, Treasurer LeeAnn Settlemier, Secretary Mary Haselbacher, Board members, Joe Start, Joe VanCura, Kristi Edwards, Thor Satter, Marv Bartel, Chuck Hunt and Kathy Fisher. Guests introduced themselves.

Announcements were made that dues needed to be paid and members need to purchase their Christmas party tickets,

The last General meeting minutes need to be corrected to read "October refreshments will be furnished by Larry Nasset, Joyce Fawcett & Larry Fawcett, & Mary Haselbacher."

Walt Friday presented names of people wanting to be members: Sharon Miller, Darrel & Penny Dunagan, Amy Proff, Mary Huber, Kris Brown, Hilary Stephens & her brother Kevin Stephens. Motion made to accept them as members, seconded and passed. Welcome to the Club.

The rock of the month is "B" for Show & Tell. There was a good display.

The months Program was presented by Don Esch on a large tumbler he has made that can tumble up to 100 pounds of larger rocks. This tumbler used a lot less grit than the smaller ones. Don will give the instructions to Susan Appleby to put on our website.

Break at 7:15 for 25 minutes.

LeeAnn read the Treasures report; motion made to accept, seconded and passed. She then presented bills for payment. Motion made to pay seconded and passed.

President Janice then read a list of names that have said they will run for a board position. She then asked for people to step forward for the open positions.

Kathy Fisher reported there were a couple of projects she would like someone to help her explore, making a Rock Calendar with the Clubs dates, making bumper stickers with different saying. If you know how to do this please call Kathy. October 13, will be a work day at Don Esch's to wash and sort rocks.

Vickie Johnson report that the Oregon Council had met on Sept 29, in Portland. They have asked and the Club will host their meeting at our 2008 Show on April 19. The Capital display will change on November 19. The Springfield Club will put their display in.

The Junior Club would like some ideas that can be done in a short time at meetings, The Club wishes to say HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BRITHDAY to Lucille Puffer, Her birthday was September 25.

Ted Johnson said the Scholarship committee has been meeting and working on the guidelines the Board has asked them to explore. They hope to have something ready for the October Board meeting.

November refreshments will be provided by, (I need to apologize as I didn't get first name that said they would bring snacks) Chuck Hunt, Susan Larsen and Mary Hubert

Meeting adjourned 8.40 p.m.

# **WILLAMETTE AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC, BOARD MEETING**

**OCTOBER 15, 2007**  
Salem Senior Center  
~submitted by Mary Haselbacher

6:35 p.m. Meeting called to order by Board Chairperson, Ray Plummer, Board meeting attendees: President Janice VanCura, Treasurer LeeAnn Settlemier, Secretary Mary Haselbacher, members at large, Chuck Hunt, Thor Satter, Joe VanCura, and Joe Start. Guests were Geri Esch and Ted Johnson.

Ted Johnson gave a report on progress of the Scholarship program on making the criteria for submitting a request. They are exploring ways to make this Fund self supporting. The Committee will be meeting on October 22, 2007 and will have more details after that. They are trying for a May 1st date to grant a request.

LeeAnn presented bills to be paid. Motion made to pay the bills. Seconded and passed to pay.

Chuck Hunt gave a report on the Library and Fund and the purchase of books. Board gave him approval to proceed with his plan.

Joe Start said he is going to have the old storage van gone from Fairgrounds soon as possible. It is free.

The Board discussed different ideas and items that have come up for some changes to by-laws. Janice said this will be worked on this next year. No action taken.

Up-coming election, good slate of people. Discussion followed. Thanks to Janice and others for their work in filling the spots. Mention made we hopefully have a good showing to cast votes.

Mary presented a donation from Jessie Ellston, She donated 2 slices of Sunset to the Scholarship Fund raffle and also some Lake diamonds to the Juniors.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

**FMS 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)



Bruce Becklund at Mc Dermitt  
Submitted by Bruce



Tom Yard with his prize  
Submitted by Theresa Byrne

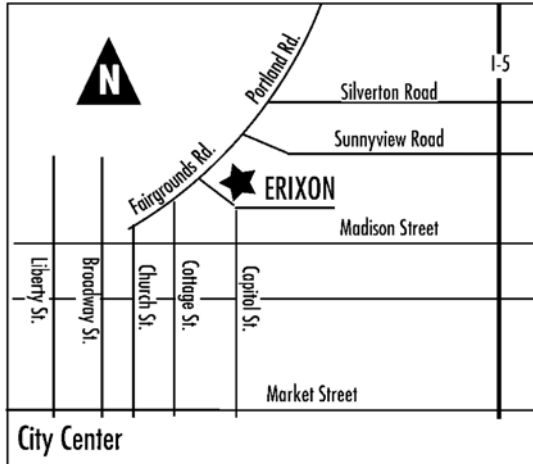


Ken Settlemeier and Rob Leedy at Zimmerman's  
Submitted by Theresa Byrne

# What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
Thursday  
November 1 - 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem  
**Guests Welcome!**

**November Program**  
TBA  
**November Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**C**



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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