



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

October 2007

JUNIOR NEWS

~submitted by Jennifer Ferrell

Hi everyone. I have missed you and apologize for being absent so much lately. A big thank-you to everyone in the club that has helped out with the junior program over the past several months. The biggest thank-you goes to Aaron Currier.

I just got back from a week-long trip to NW Nevada. Some friends and I camped at Sheldon National Antelope Refuge where the famous Virgin Valley opals come from. It is about 400 miles from Salem. We spent one day going through mine tailings at the Royal Peacock Opal Mine. We did not find much, two really good opal limb casts, but it was so much fun. It costs \$45.00 per day to search the tailings.

For some of the time, we did some surface collecting of obsidian. People are allowed to pick of 7 pounds of rock per day for personal use. There was lots of pretty obsidian all over the place. We found some obsidian needles, which I read about in "Gem Trails of Oregon". These needles are commonly found at Davis Creek in California just south of the Oregon border. For our October general meeting, I have lots of obsidian to give all of you kids. I know some of you have obsidian, but this is extra special because I carried it across the desert just for all of you!

I also want to tell you about all the wildlife we saw. My favorite was seeing the wild horses. We saw a band of about 70. We also saw wild burros, pronghorn antelope, a Least Chipmunk, tons of birds I cannot remember all the names of, blacktail jackrabbits, a baby scorpion, bighorn sheep, lizards, a bullfrog, and more. We did not see or hear any rattlesnakes, which was fine by me. I'll try to have pictures developed to show you at the next general meeting.

Bring in your examples of "B" rocks to the next meeting if you can. I will bring a piece of brown obsidian for one of my "B" rocks. Please bring any

rocks, not just "B" rocks you want to show the junior group.

I have a new cell phone. The number is 503-551-1554. Also, I have arranged a special field trip for the juniors that we can do on any weekend. We just need to coordinate our schedules. It might work for us to have different kids go on different weekends since everyone gets so busy during the school year. I look forward to seeing everyone in October.

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 October and November meetings, and would appreciate your signing up as early as possible.

We must have a firm number of people attending a week in advance. Those unable to pay at the October or November meetings must send their payment to WAMS PO Box 13041, Salem OR 97309, before November 26th.

It's going to be a fun evening. Hope to 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

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 Rumblyngs 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

Mark and I are off to one last rocking trip. We are leaving September 22 and headed to Succor Creek and meeting the club at McDermitt on September 27. I am sure the weather will be much cooler than it was in June.

I want to thank everyone that has contributed to this newsletter for their information to me when I asked. I wanted to get this out before we left. Again thank you.

I want to thank all of you that have led field trips this summer. With out you we would have not gone to these great places to find rock.

I plan to continue to be the editor of the newsletter for at least one more year. So please help me in submitting articles, stories and pictures for the newsletter.

I hope you noticed in the September NFMS newsletter that Gene Gangle's story was published. Thanks Gene for the great story.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards
Bulletin Editor

kmedwards2@comcast.net

Presidents Message

It is hard to believe that summer is over. The weather is starting to turn colder and it looks like my rock trips for 2007 are done with. It has been great fun hunting rock with various club members this year. One of the greatest joys about being involved with the rock club has been the people that I have gotten to know. I think that Rock Hounds have got to be some of the nicest people on earth. This summer I had the opportunity to dig in a new state. We went to Montana for the first time. We met Dexter and Margo Leonard there. In Montana the rock gathering is different. Without their assistance I am sure that I would not have known what to do or gotten as many "treasures" as we came home with. They taught us to screen for crystals, I always assumed that you would be able to see a crystal all shiny when you dug it up. But sometimes they are covered with so much dirt you can't see them. I want to thank them for teaching this rockhound some new tricks.

As part of getting to know everyone better I would like to suggest that we wear our nametags to the meeting. The club has grown a lot in the last few years, and I know that I do not know everyone by name. I do remember most of the faces when I see you at a rock show or out digging but not all of the names. I am sure that there are others out there in the same boat. So wear your nametag and let's make sure to introduce ourselves to each other.
Janice

October Program

~submitted by Janice Van Cura

This month we are having a presentation by Don Esch on how he built a very large homemade rock tumbler. If you ever wanted to tumble a lot of rock, and some large ones this presentation is for you. It is really interesting how rockhounds can turn old items laying around into something useful.

If you have an idea for a program in November please give Janice a call.

Weird Geology

From Popular Mineralogy
Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D. Author

"Minerals" found in plants

Generally, definitions of "mineral" state that the mineral is abiological in origin. Thus, kidney stone and gall stones aren't usually considered minerals; some definitions will also exclude pearls found in oysters. These pseudo-minerals are not restricted to

Upcoming NW Shows

Oct 5-7	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society Guy Cole Convention Center Sequim, WA
Oct 27-28	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Show Clackamas County fair Canby, OR
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

the animal kingdom, however. Plant-formed “minerals” include tabasheer and the coconut pearl.

The coconut pearl

The term “coconut pearl” or “cocoa-nut pearl” refers, as one might suspect, to a pearl found within a coconut, the seed of the coconut tree (*Cocos nucifera*). In 1841-1850, the naturalist Georg Eberhard Rumphius in a six-volume work entitled *Herbarium Amboinense* described coconut pearls mounted in jeweled gold settings owned by wealthy Malaysian families. These pearls are reportedly calcareous spheres, composed of aragonite, similar to oyster pearls. In recent years, some “coconut pearls” have been offered for sale more than \$50,000!

The natives of Aguyan Sulu, an island in the Sulu Sea, part of the Philippines, once believed that possession of a coconut pearl was the only truly efficacious charm against the attack of the “berberlangs” – a type of ghou. Unfortunately, the coconut pearl only protected the finder; its magical virtues disappeared when the pearl was given away; furthermore, when the finder dies the pearl loses its luster and appears dead.

Supposedly, the coconut pearl is the “rarest gem of the plant world,” but there is some real doubt as to whether or not any such pearl could really occur within a coconut. Obviously, given the substantial sums that a coconut pearl commands, there is a terrific incentive to fakery, possibly by inserting the “pearl” into the coconut through the germination pores on the end.

While some botanical museums display examples of coconut pearls, there is no known biological mechanism by which aragonite could be precipitated by the coconut plant. After all, an oyster pearl is merely a sphere of the exact same material that the oyster uses to make its own shell. The coconut pearl is reputedly so rare that plant mineralogists and other authors who have written about the pearls clearly never found one themselves.

Doubt remains about the true origins of these “pearls.” However, it is important to note that some authors report that the coconut pearl is really “a stone like an opal” (ref: R. T. Gould, *Oddities*, Bell, New York, 1944), and is a siliceous concretion similar in composition to a “plant opal” known as “tabasheer.” If the true coconut pearl exists and is siliceous, it might be akin to *phytoliths* – silica bodies found with plants such as some grasses. A siliceous coconut pearl would be more believable.

Tabasheer

The evidence for the existence of “tabasheer” is much stronger than for coconut pearls. Tabasheer is used in the East Indies as a medicine. Tabasheer and “bambusa” are hydrated silica concretions that come from the joints of the bamboo plant. Analyses of tabasheer reveals that it is mostly hydrated silica with very minor amounts of aluminum, iron, calcium, and magnesium (ref: J. Klinowski, et al., *Philo Mag A* 77:1, Jan., 1998 pp. 201-216). In short, tabasheer really is a “plant opal.”

Chemeketan Canoe-Kayak Club

~submitted by Ted Silver

The Chemeketan Canoe-Kayak Club is looking for knowledgeable rock hounds to accompany them on several planned river trips. Anyone interested should contact Ed Graham at 503 588 7248 for a list of scheduled trips and required items. A monthly bulletin with trip write-ups is available by calling 503 315 8785 and you can check out their website at www.chemeketans.org.

Willamette Agate and Mineral Society General Meeting

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

September 6, 2007, Salem Senior Center,

President Janice Van Cura called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. She then introduced officers and then had guests who wanted to introduce themselves. In all there were 15 guests.

The Board meeting will be on September 17, 2007, 6:30pm at the Salem Senior Center. Anyone interested are welcome to come and set in on the meeting. If you have any questions ask one of the Board members listed in the bulletin.

The evening's Show and Tell is the rock/mineral starting with the letter “A”. There was a good display of not only the “A” but others.

The evenings program were various rock slides from donated reels of slides presented by Janice Van Cura.

A motion was made to accept the Secretary's report as printed in the newsletter. Motioned seconded and passed.

Treasure Lee Ann gave the report, motion made to accepted, seconded and passed.

The bills were presented for payment; motion made to pay, seconded and passed.

The Board had presented a motion to be approved to increase annual dues. There was much discussion. During the discussion there was a motion made to approve, with a second motion to suspend until next year. A vote by show of hands was made on the suspension with the vote NOT approved. The vote to approve the rate change was passed also with a show of hands. The voting body was then counted to make sure a quorum was passing the increase. Motion has passed. The rate increase will be: junior's rate will stay the same; individual rate will be \$15 and couple's will be \$24.00

Refreshment break until 8:05

The following names were presented for membership, Carter Turnbull, Eleanor Wesshoen, Albert and Suzanne Lubetrum, Steve Rogers, Jim Shinn, Richard and Heidi Koch. Motion made to accept, seconded and passed. Welcome to the WAMS

Various Committee Reports: Steve Lawrence asked for all those interested in going to McDermott, September 28, 29, and 30 to contact him.

Federation report: there were 63 delegates to the Montana meeting. The next Federation Show will be in Ontario, OR in June 2008. In 2009 the Northwest Federation and The American Federation will combine somewhere in the northwest.

Newsletter: If you are moving please let Kristi know. If you know anyone not receiving their newsletter let her know also so they can be contacted for correct mailing address.

Oregon Council: In November the Springfield Thunder-egg Club will be on display in the Capital

2008 Show: Cathy said she needs volunteers to sort and clean the donated rocks for the silent auction and also for tumbling. Please call her.

The Christmas Party will be coordinated by Mary Beaty and Rena Knutson.

Lapidary Classes: contact Ted Silvers for openings.

Silver smiting Classes: Charmaine said that early next year a new person will need to be found to head the classes.

Stamps: Continue to save. Aaron will be back in January to collect.

Next month Show and Tell will be the letter "B".

Next months program will be presented by Don Esch on how to build a big tumbler. Don will also bring the door prizes for October.

October refreshments will be furnished by Larry Nasset, Joyce Forest, and Mary Haslebacher

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

WILLAMETTE AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY INC.

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

Board Meeting, September 17, 2007, Salem Senior Center

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Ray Plummer at 6:57 pm.

Attendance Ray Plummer, Janice Van Cura, Joe Van Cura, Joe Start, Cathy Fisher, Lee Ann Settlemeier and Mary Haslebacher.

The Christmas Party committee Christine Beaty and Theresa Byrne gave their recommendations for the party. The cost for members will be \$8.00; non members will pay \$10.00 with the club picking up the rest of cost. The Committee would like \$200 towards favors and \$100 for music. Motion made and seconded, and passed.

There was much discussion on the future of the Lapidary Shop and Silver-smiting classes. There is a need for New Teachers. If no one volunteers by January 31, 2008 there may be limited classes, days or non at all.

Lee Ann presented bills to be paid. Motion made to pay, seconded and passed.

Want to know what a "ROCK BUDDY" is. Ask Cathy Fisher 503-851-1837

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm

FMS News

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

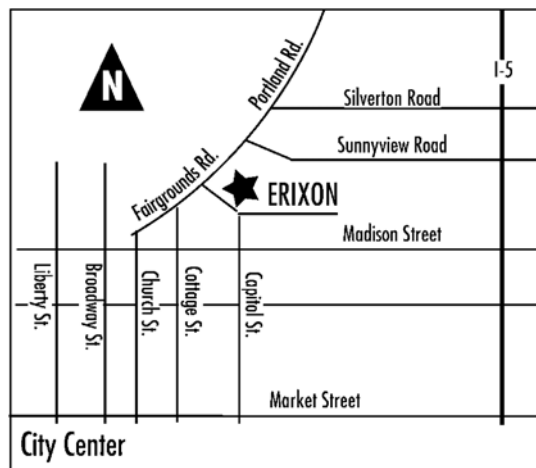
AFMS News

Can be viewed at www.amfed.org

What's Rocking?

WAMS General Meeting
Thursday
October 4 - 6:30 pm
Salem Senior Center
1055 Erixon St. N.E., Salem
Guests Welcome!

October Program
Building a Rock Tumbler
By Don Esch
September Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters
B



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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