



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

September 2007

## Mineral Etymologies

~from Popular Mineralogy

Etymology is the study of word origins. From where do some common minerals' names come?

**Quartz:** The origin of this name is not clear, but it is possible that it came from the Middle High German term *querch* (*zwerg*) meaning something akin to "dwarf cross". *Zwerg* means "dwarf" or "goblin". Germanic miners had a rich mythology of dwarves or goblins, some of whom were malicious, inhabiting their mines and causing mischief for the miners. Perhaps intergrown quartz crystals may have been seen as the "crosses" of these sprites.

**Mineral:** The modern, more rigorous, scientific definition of this word arose in the early 1800s, but usage distinguishing a mineral as a material which is neither animal nor vegetable apparently arose in the early 1600s. The word *mineral* originally meant "substance obtained by mining" and was derived from the Middle Latin *minerale* for "something mined" which comes from *minera*, or "mine."

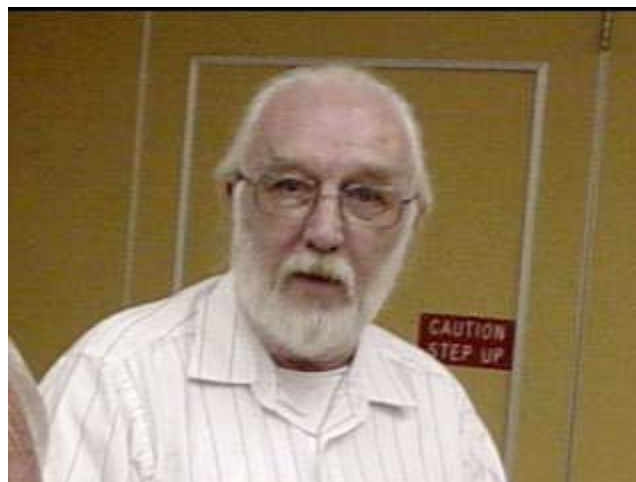
## The Tar Pits of California

~from Popular Mineralogy

The best fossils of *Smilodon* (saber tooth tiger) have been recovered from the famous tar pits at Rancho La Brea in Los Angeles, California. Many paleontology texts include the typical scene from Rancho La Brea's Pleistocene past: an herbivore helplessly stuck in the tar attracts carnivores such as dire wolves and saber-toothed cats. The carnivores leap into the tar to attack their prey only to become entrapped themselves. More than one *Smilodon* met its end mired in the tar pits and the tar did a wonderful job of preserving their skeletons.

A side note for those wondering how a tar pit forms: the tar comes from petroleum. Petroleum (or

oil) sometimes seeps out of the ground, forming pools. Over time oxidation and *biodegradation* occurs (a fancy way of saying that bacteria attack the oil) and the lighter, more volatile fraction of the oil evaporates away. These processes convert the liquid oil into the heavy *asphaltum* of the tar pits. It is a natural version of the asphalt we use for road-building.



Ray Plummer giving presentation on heat treating rocks

~submitted by George Goetzleman

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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)

**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

I had great expectations to get this letter out before Labor Day Weekend. But I have been extremely busy at work and busy rocking on the weekends.

We just spent the weekend in the Prineville area and introduced some friends to rocking. They really enjoyed the digging for thundereggs at Richardson's and at Lucky Strike. There were not very many people out digging this weekend. Most were probably at home getting kids ready for school.

It was very smokey in the area due to the fires. Luckily we went through Sisters before the evacuation. There was still lots of traffic.

I want to thank the Haslebacher's for hosting the picnic. It was a very nice time and a beautiful place to have a picnic. We had a great time and enjoy the items we bid on.

Please submit articles for the newsletter. It can be difficult to try to find something every month. I am sure we would enjoy hearing about your trips from this summer or past trips.

Those of you that are not getting the newsletter please let Janice Van Cura or Walt Friday know. I am not in charge of membership or addresses.

Hope everyone had a great summer and I will see you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

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

## Presidents Message

I hope that all of you have been enjoying your summer and that you have had many opportunities to look for rock. Being in Oregon we are lucky Rockhounds since there are lots of places we can look for rock right in our own state. I just wish I was a little closer to Central Oregon. Oh well. As I look back over my last seven years as a member in WAMS I realize that without the club and its members I would not know as much about rocks as I do. I am very thankful for having joined this club. But I also realize that in order to get a lot out of an organization you have to be willing to step up and help out. This is the time of year that we start looking for next years officers. I want to suggest that if you really want to get to now your rocks and the other members in the club that you run for an office or serve as a committee chair. There are several positions that we need to fill. The club will only survive as long as we have members who are willing to volunteer. Each position has its own unique responsibilities and rewards, and none of them are that difficult to fulfill. So please contact a board member and let us know which position you are will to serve as. Thank you in advance. Janice

## McDermitt Field Trip

~submitted by Steve Lawrence

There will be a field trip to McDermitt September 27-30. Contact Steve for more information.

## Montana Federation Report

~submitted by Janice and Joe Van Cura

Joe & I had a wonderful time attending the Federation Show in Butte Montana. Margo and Dexter Leonard also were there from our club. Dexter and I attended the delegates meeting as the representatives from our club. At the meeting several resolutions were passed and some were not. The main issue that was resolved had to do with whether or not someone could be president of the Federation more than once. After much discussion of semantics a motion was passed that now allows someone to serve as president more than once in there life but not back to back. The office of 2nd vice-president was not discontinued, and the motion to remove the requirement that board members cannot be from the same family did not pass.

The show was well attended and it was very interesting to see a selection of different dealers. Montana has more crystals and gems than Oregon and the dealers reflected the local rock. They had some very interesting lectures on the local area rock. We went on a couple of the fieldtrips and got some

## Upcoming NW Shows

Sept 8-9	Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club Douglass County Fairgrounds Roseburg, OR
Sept 14-15	Bend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Bend Community Center Bend, OR
Sept 14-15	South Coast Rock & Gem Fest Coos Bay, OR
Sept 28-30	Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Portland Expo Center Portland, OR
Oct 27-28	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Canby, OR

fluorite. The fluorite was not in crystal form but as a covering on host rock. IT was a thin layer so we are not sure what we will do with these other than black light specimens. We also dug at Crystal Park. The place really looks like a mine field with all the holes that have been dug. Some of the area is close because there are so many holes that the big trees might come down if people kept digging. Margo, Dexter Joe and I spent the day digging together in one whole and we got some nice crystal. This was the first time that I have dug for crystals, it was great to learn how to screen for crystals. With out Dexter's equipment I do not know what we would have done. Before the show Joe and I did stop by Gem Mountain in Phillipsburg and purchase some buckets to screen there for sapphires. We did find some that they said were good enough to cut. This was a lot of fun.

After the show there was a field trip group that camped near butte, we went for just the first two days. The first night we went to Calvert Hill and did black light hunting. It was amazing to see the rocks light up at night. When we look at some of the rocks we pickup that have sheelite in the day light I realized that I would never have ever picked them up if it wasn't for the black light at night. The other trip we went on was for colored jasper. It made me realize how lucky we are in Oregon. Our jasper is so good as so available.

If you ever go to Montana I recommend that you stop by Gem Mountain and Crystal Park. They are a lot of fun.

## **WANT ADS**

**~submitted by Janice Van Cura**

Wanted an individual who can talk in front of people, lead a meeting and remember to write a short article each month. Run for President. Other requirement include appointing committee heads, attending board meetings and other items as needed.

Wanted someone to do paper work. If you can keep track of forms, update a spreadsheet and attend meetings than you are perfect for Vice President. The main activates are to provide new member information packets and update the mailing lists. Also needs to attend board meetings.

Can you take notes and type them up. Can you attend meetings regularly. Then we need you for Secretary.

Wanted individuals interested in learning more about the club. Consider being a board member at large. Responsibilities are to attend board meetings regularly and be available for club members to contact with issues that they wish to be brought before the board. Per the By-laws board meeting are

to be schedule as needed. In the past few years we have met on the third Monday of the Month, but we do not meet every month. This is an opportunity to get to know more about your fellow club members and the club.

Wanted: an individual that likes to go on fieldtrips that it willing to suggest trips, find leaders and set dates. We will need a new fieldtrip chair for next year. This is a great job for a new member that wants to learn where to go. You do not need to lead the trips yourself, you can just set up the time and find another member that knows the area. By being the chair you can go to the places that you want to collect from or learn about.

Wanted other people that are interested in other committee chairs, like program chair, assistant show chair, coffee maker, etc. See the list in the newsletter of current offices.

## **WILLAMETTE AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**

**General Meeting, July 5, 2007  
Salem Senior Center**

**~submitted by Mary Haslelbacher**

6:38 p.m. Meeting called to order by President Janice VanCura... She introduced executive board, Vice-Pres., Walt Friday, Secretary, Mary Haslebacher, Treasurer, LeeAnn Settlemier, Bulletin Editor, Kristi Edwards, Members at large, Walt Nelson, Joe Start, Joe VanCura, Chuck Hunt, Board President Ray Plummer. There was one guest introduced.

Library is open for anyone to check out materials.

Show & tell was wxyz . Ray Plummer did an outstanding job explaining the history and heating of stones. Walt Friday used his computer to show it on big screen. Ray will have parts of this put on our web site. [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org)

New members, Milan Miller, Steve and Shirley Cloud were voted on and approved and passed to accept them. Welcome

Minutes were approved and passed to accept as printed in bulletin as printed. LeeAnn gave the Treasurer's report, it was approved and passed to accept. Bills were read, approved and passed to pay.

Break for 20 mins. Meeting called back to order 7:55 pm.

Reports: Steve Lawrence said there would be a field trip to McDermitt late Sept. or early October. Call him for information.

Vickie Johnson said there was a meeting of Oregon Council at the Madras show. This council is set up settle any disputes that might arise. They will be at the Portland Expo, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, for a meeting. Call Vickie if you need directions or times.

September refreshments will be the Knutsons, Starts and VanCuras.

Door prizes will be furnished by Theresa Byme. Executive Board will meet July 16, at Senior Center at 6:30pm.

Congratulations to Aaron Currier on his wedding, July 7,  
Meeting adjourned.

## **WAMS Executive Board**

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

### **Board meeting July 16, 2007**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Ray Plummer, in attendance were Janice Van Cura, Joe VanCura, Kathy Fisher, Joe Start, LeeAnn Settlemier, Mary Haslebacher.

Over the course of years we have been slowly depleting our stock of rocks. After much discussion the Board has come to the conclusion some rules need to be in place for accepting donations and use of pile.

A motion was made, "Therefore donation of rocks will no longer be accepted unless there is prior approval by the Board and meets guidelines to be set up by Board" Motion seconded and passed.

Motion made that "the club establish a standing committee at the pleasure of the President of no less than 4 people to evaluate the donation of rock or other related items". Seconded and passed.

One guideline was for all cut rock to be oil free. Wash before putting into rock pile for environmental issues.

Walt Friday, Kristi Edwards, Susan Appleby will pursue the idea of putting the newsletter into e-mail or web site at least 5 days before meetings. There are a lot of things that have to be explored before this can happen.

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

LeeAnn presented the idea of putting some money into CD (\$5000 @4.75% 5mos, \$5000 @5.10% 10 mos) that pays better interest. Motion made to have CD at US Bank same as checking account, seconded and passed.

Motion was made to move \$1,000. from Show Fund to the General fund, seconded and passed.

There was much discussion of our bank balance and future concerns. The costs of everything have gone up since 2000. This last newsletters cost was over \$200. We paid over \$2000 this last year. The Senior center has raised its rent to \$480 a year, Oregon Council dues are \$59 yearly, NW federation is \$773, we pay \$500 for liability, \$50 to Corporation Dept. \$30 to Justice Dept. (Total \$3893) (Approximately \$19 per person) The club also pays for some of Christmas dinner, Dealers Dinner and picnic.

A motion was made to raise dues since they have not been raised since the year **2000** to \$15 per person and \$24 for a couple. Junior member's to stay the same. Seconded and passed

### **NFMS News**

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

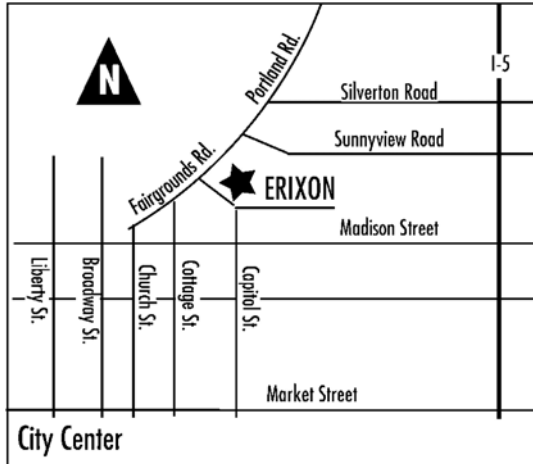
### **AFMS News**

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

# What's Rocking?

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

**September Program**  
Not determined at press time  
**September Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**A**



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



Official Publication of the  
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