



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

April 2008

A Learning Experience!

~submitted by Chuck Hunt

How many times and for how many years have we been to the beach and told our kids and friends unfamiliar with the ocean to **"NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON THE OCEAN"!!**

Well about a week after the second WAMS trip to the Newport area to look for agates, fossils etc., Barb and I decided to drive down and spend a couple of days at the coast. Now Barb isn't able to walk up and down those trails at the beach parks like Moolack or Lost Creek Beach Park, but since we were at the beach she wanted me to get my time out there looking for the allusive "Newport Blues".

It was a nice afternoon with little wind and no rain when we pulled into the parking lot at Lost Creek Park. I look down the beach each way and saw about 100+ people up and down the beach. Low tide was still two hours away but I hustled down there to find some of those agates. After hunting for about a half hour I stopped and talk to a family that was also looking for agates. I went on my way and found quite a few small agates but I was trying to make the best of it. Then I heard that call that you don't want to hear, "Oh no, watch out!" I turned and looked at the ocean and about two feet from me was about a three foot wave with another 12" wave on top of that. As I turned to head up to the dry beach, the sand and gravel under my foot gave way and so did I. The wave goes over me and momentarily I am under water. As the wave heads back out to the ocean it would like to pull me out too. I dug in my hands into the sand and the toes of my boots too. The water ran out and I staggered up the beach. The young lady, who had hollered was with her mother and daughter. She asked me if I was O.K. and I told her that I had just broken one of the most firm rules about beachcombing. She said, "Are you sure you are O.K.?" I said, "Yes, my wallet miraculously was dry, and so were my cigarettes, but my lighter was soaked. Then she said, "I bet that wasn't too good for your cell phone either!" I checked my cell phone and sure enough it was dead.

I told my 8 year old granddaughter in Ohio about this experience and she told me, "You know Papa I even know when you go to the beach you never turn your back on the ocean!"

About a week or two later two boys were lost further up the coast to the ocean. A lot of lessons there but the biggest was, **"NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON THE OCEAN!"**

WORK PARTY

~submitted by Rob Leedy

WHEN: April 5th 2008

TIME:: 10:00 am

WHERE: Rob & Cara Leedy's Home

ADDRESS: 1335 Vista Ave SE Salem Oregon

PHONE: 503-371-6421

WHAT TO BRING: Bring munchies to share with everyone. Cara and I will supply the beverages.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO BE THERE? We need to fill plastic eggs and grab bags full of rocks, for our April rock show. If you do not come, we will put a curse on you!! The curse, which isn't nice, will be that for a full year from said date, you will look in all the wrong places for rocks any time you look for them!!!! All that you will find is chuckers and leaverites.

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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: \$15.00
- Couple: \$24.00
- Juniors: \$ 2.50

Guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend WAMS meetings!

Website: www.wamsi.org

2008 Elected Officers

- President: Geri Esch 503-371-1472
- Vice President: Mary Haselbacher 503-393-5228
- Secretary: Walt Friday 503-363-9861
- Treasurer: Lee Anne Settlemier 503-394-4283
- Federation Director: Marvin Bartel 503-364-4170
- Members at Large: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421
 Thor Satter 503-949-0481
 Bob Manley 503-845-6482
 Larry Nasset 503-585-4390
 Dextor Leonard 541-745-7517
 Norm De Roux 503-371-4623

Board Chair: Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401

2008 Committee Chairs

- Show Chair: Cathy Fisher 503-851-1837
- Field Trips: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- 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: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Programs: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Property Control: Theresa Byrne 503-364-7190
- Public Relations: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Advertising: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Publications: Bob Manley 503-845-6482
- Scrapbook/Historian: Steve Lawrence 503-585-8014
- 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

March sure flew by. I am hoping that the snow and cold that we have had will go away soon.

I don't know of any field trips coming up, so if you are planning one let me know. I can put it in the next newsletter.

If you did not receive your newsletter last month or know of someone who did not receive it, please call Geri Esch, Cathy Fisher or Lee Anne Settlemier. They keep the member list updated as to who has paid their dues. Then they send me the list.

Also if you paid cash for your dues, please let Lee Anne know. She did not get all the names of those that paid cash and this may be why you are not getting the newsletter.

I did mention at the last meeting that the newsletter and editor are receiving an award at the Federation show in June. Thanks to all of you that have submitted articles to make this a good newsletter. I appreciate it very much.

See you at the meeting

Kristi Edwards
Bulletin Editor

kmedwards2@comcast.net

Presidents Message

It's Show Time!!

Cathy Fisher will be passing a clip board around for you to sign up to volunteer for the Show. We will need your help, because there will be lots to do. If you have never volunteered before, Walt Friday is preparing a video for the April meeting to give you an idea on what it takes to put on the Show.

Thanks to Walt Friday and Theresa Byrne for the March program. If any of us learned anything, it is how NOT to dig for rocks. Digging in a trench is a no, no, especially if you are picking at a rock as high as she was.

I have had some complaints about the noise in the back of the room. For those who have hearing aids, they cannot distinguish between the speaker and the background noise. Please keep your visiting to before the meeting and during the break.

Geri

Flint Knapping

~submitted by Len Cleary

There were five flint knappers at Steve Braden's home on March 7th, the first Friday of March. Steve spent a lot of time with each one of us helping us to break the obsidian and shape it. We all had fun and learned a lot. Plus Steve always has a coffee pot on and a plate of goodies ready to eat. The next meeting will be on April 4th, the first Friday of April at about 7 pm. We meet in Steve's well-heated garage. Steve has made arrowheads which are beautiful. I am happy he is will to teach us.

Rock Raffle

~submitted by Cathy Fisher

Expect some super special rocks for the raffle at April's Meeting. I have found some nice ones and there have been some really nice ones donated.

Sign Up for Show

~submitted by Joe Start

Joe will be sending the sign up sheets around the room during the meeting. Please sign up to help at the show. This will save Joe time by not having to spend a lot of time calling for volunteers.

Upcoming NW Shows

April 5-6	Mt. Hood Rock Club Mt Hood Community College Portland, OR
April 5-6	Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society Medford, OR
April 5-6	Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society Bannock County Fairgrounds Pocatello, ID
April 12-13	Mt Baker Rock and Gem Club Bellingham, WA
April 18-20	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Rickreal, OR

Historian Needs Help

~submitted by Steve Lawrence

Steve would like the clubs help in getting the scrapbooks up to date. Right now he has information and pictures up to 2000. If you have any pictures or articles from the last 7-8 years please send these to Steve.

Jurassic "Crocodile" Found in Oregon

~National Geographic



Illustration by Jon Hughes, fossil photo by Jim Barlow

March 22, 2007—It endured a rocky ride—literally—but this ancient "sea monster" from Asia has found a place in the United States to call home.

The fossil remains of a crocodile-like reptile called *Thalattosuchia* have been discovered in rocks in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon—about 5,000 miles (8,050 kilometers) from where it most likely died, researchers announced on Monday. So far about 50 percent of the animal, including the upper leg bone and rib fragments seen here (bottom), have been unearthed.

"This creature lived in Jurassic times, so it's 150 to 180 million years old," retired University of Oregon geologist William Orr said in a press release. Orr provided expert advice to the excavation team.

"It probably lived in an area from Japan to East Timor, somewhere in the western Pacific in a tropical estuarine environment."

The reptile, the oldest ever found in Oregon, is a rare discovery in North America. But similar fossils have been found throughout Southeast Asia, so experts believe that the remains were carried to the U.S. by plate tectonics. As the section of Earth's crust containing the fossils moved eastward, the Pacific plate collided with the North American plate, pushing the bones into the mountains.

The 6- to 8-foot-long (1.8- to 2.4-meter-long) creature, shown in an artist's conception (top), is part of a group that scientists think represents an evolutionary transition for this line of crocodylians. Features from related fossils suggest that the animals were evolving from being semiaquatic to entirely ocean dwelling.

The newfound fossils will go to the University of Iowa for further study before going on display at an Oregon museum.

—Victoria Jaggard

Website Links

~submitted by Susan Appleby

<http://www.narg-online.com/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

<http://www.opb.org/>

WAMS GENERAL MEETING MARCH 5, 2008

~SUBMITTED BY WALTER FRIDAY, SECRETARY

Geri Esch, President at 6:30 p.m, called meeting to order.

Board and Officers in attendance: Geri Esch, President; Walter Friday, Secretary; Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer; Marvin Bartell, NW Federation Delegate; Members -at-large: Rob Leedy, Dexter Leonard, Thor Satter, Bob Matley, Larry Nasset and Norm De Roux

Announcements: Dues are due for 2008. If new nametags are needed, contact Ted Johnson. The March Board meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m. February meeting Show & Tell is the letter 'H.'

Show and tell: Geri Esch hosted. The letter was "G."

Program: A video of the television program *Cash and Treasures*, hosted by Kirsten Gum and featuring Joe Cota of Lebanon, one of our rock show dealers. The subject of the program was Oregon petrified wood.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approve Minutes: The February 7, 2008 minutes were approved as published in *Rockhound Rumbblings*.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report and the bills were approved to be paid.

REPORTS:

Show: Kathy Fisher, Show Chair, reported that preparations are moving along. A few work parties will be required. Joe Start called attention to the sign-up sheets to volunteer for the rock show.

Scholarship: Ted Johnson announced the scholarships are now open and the first scholarships for juniors will be granted in May. Scholarships will be granted for geology or earth science related

campus or classes. Scholarships are funded by raffle ticket sales. To date there have been no applicants.

Federation: Marvin Bartell said the next meeting is on the same date as the WAMS Rock show.

News Letter: Kathy Fisher reported that to save money on mailings, members could volunteer to get their *Rock Rumbblings* newsletter from the WAMS Web Site. There was a question as to whether the WAMS Board had acted on this issue. The matter was referred back to the Board for Clarification.

Oregon Council: Vicki Johnson reminded the group of the rock case at the State Capitol.

Program: Vacant. The president asked for a volunteer to fill this position. The next program has not yet been determined.

Stamps: Geri Esch informed that cancelled stamps are donated to the Northwest Federation where they are collected and sold to collectors and the proceeds are donated for cancer research.

Sunshine: Karen Porter read a long list of member with health problems and that she had sent cards.

Lapidary Classes: Geri Esch reminded that society offers lapidary training. Cost is \$30.00 for seven three-hour classes and the classes run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. It was announced that 136 WAMS members have been certified to date though the shop.

Silversmithing Class: The instructor position is vacant. Currently looking for a shop leader. Now operating as an open shop.

Refreshments: February volunteers were thanked. March volunteers were recorded.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

New Members: Geri Esch presented new member names: Robin Russell and Darrel Smedstad. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept these candidates as members.

Meeting adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

Raffle and door prizes were drawn and awarded.

Board Meeting Minutes March 17, 2008

~Submitted by Walt Friday

Janice Van Cura called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

BOARD AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Geri Esch, President: Walter Friday, Secretary: Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer: Cathy Fisher, Show Chair: Marvin Bartell, NW Federation Delegate: Janice Van Cura Board Chair: Members at-large: Rob Leedy, Bob Manley, and Larry Nasset. Ted Johnson was a guest.

AGENDA: Janice Van Cura, Board Chair announced the following agenda: rock show, look at the books, meeting background noise and newsletter.

MINUTES: Minutes of the February 11, 2008, meeting were approved as published.

TREASURERS' REPORT: Motion made to accept, seconded, and approved.

SCHOLARSHIP: Scholarship Chair, Ted Johnson, was recognized. Ted observed that the new nametag magnet connectors might be a problem for people with heart pacemakers. In response to a question Ted said he has not been able to find replacement letters for the engraving machine. He has looked on E-Bay, but whole machines are going for more than we wish to pay. The cost of each nametag is about \$3 for the material alone.

Ted noted that we have no applications for the youth scholarships. A range of suggestions included: sending the juniors to OMSI fossil show (there are 8 to 9 juniors eligible for an OMSI trip), not award any scholarship this year and build the fund, extend the application deadline, etc.

ROCK DONATIONS: Janice Van Cura reported that folks in Scio had contacted her. They offered a collection, mostly of petrified wood that has been shellacked. Consensus, little interest.

RAFFLE TICKETS: President Geri Esch asked about the formula for the number of prizes for raffle tickets sold. The number of raffle prizes awarded is one for each 10 raffle tickets or fraction thereof, i.e. if we sell 45 tickets we award 5 raffle prizes.

IRS RULES FOR DONATIONS: Janice reported that she had resolved the issue of the rocks given in Springfield. The problem is the new IRS rules. Janice explained that any sizable donation requires more justification by IRS, \$0-\$499 is no problem, \$500-\$5,000 requires an appraisal, Over \$5,000 require a more detailed appraisal and there are few people recognized to do this type of work.

LOOK AT THE BOOKS: The chair asked for board volunteers to look at the books with Lee Anne Settlemier. Walt Friday and Rob Leedy agreed to serve. They will meet before the April 3 meeting at 5:30 p.m.

NOISE AT THE BACK OF THE MEETING:

President Geri Esch reported she had received a number of complaints about members NOT being able to hear at the meeting. She asserted if a person speaks on the floor most couldn't hear the speaker. Geri agreed to try to get the remote microphone to each speaker. In addition it was felt that there is a growing murmur in the room for those talking at the tables in the back of the room during the meeting. Cathy Fisher noted she has been adding tables because the group seems to like the tables.

Suggestions:

The President asked that those who want to do business at the back of the room go into the corridor. If the noise levels aren't eliminated the tables will be and we will only set up chairs in theater configuration. Setup chairs in the corridor for those who want to do business during the meeting.

NEWSLETTER: Janice Van Cura reminded that this issue was referred back to the Board by the membership at the March general meeting. Cathy Fisher said she thought her remarks were misunderstood. To clarify: The newsletter will continue to be mailed to all who want it. Anyone who wishes to save the society money for postage and paper can notify the Cathy Fisher that they don't want the letter mailed to them and they can read and/or printout the letter from their computer at the WAMSI.ORG site.

REFRESHMENTS: President, Geri Esch, said there was unrest about the fairness of asking people to supply refreshments. After a long discussion Secretary, Walt Friday with aid of Cathy Fisher, moved to:

Appoint a refreshment committee and provide an annual budget of \$350 from society funds to supply refreshments. After lengthy further discussion Walt withdrew his motion. A suggestion was made to ask the members for ideas and suggestions.

During the discussion it was learned that the coffee urn owned by WAMS had been returned without its "inerds." If anyone knows where the "inerds" are could you let Cathy Fisher know? The center is supplying coffee to groups at a cost of \$10 per meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to: *Authorize the Treasurer to pay the \$10 per meeting coffee fee.*

ROCK SHOW:

Cathy Fisher suggested we need an additional trailer to gather WAMS property and store it in one place.

Cathy Fisher responded to questions about advertising for the show. KBZY will be there and wants to interview Geri Esch. They will be handing out prizes of their own, and they will

have 30 of our tickets to give away. Alternate methods of advertising were discussed.

Cathy Fisher proposed having bumper stickers with humorous, rock hound related sayings be offered for sale at the show. There was concern from the Board about the proposal, due to the cost versus the price for which we could sell them.

Cathy Fisher asked for an advance to for show expenses. By consensus the treasurer was authorized to advance \$150 to Cathy Fisher to pay show expenses.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:55 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., the day after the rock show.

FMS News

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

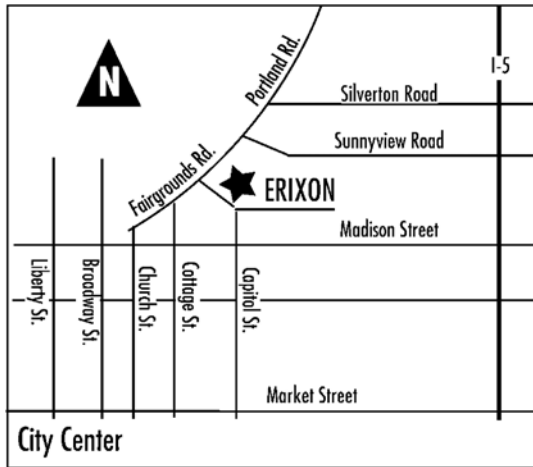
AFMS News

Can be viewed at www.amfed.org

What's Rocking?

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

April Program
Walt Friday will show video on "What It Takes To Put
On A Show"
April Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters
H



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



Official Publication of the
Willamette Agate and Mineral Society
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