



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

May 2008

Irony in Sweet Home

~submitted by Ivan Standley

Recently my family and I attended the annual Sweet Home show at the high school located in town. This show is one we never miss and if the truth be known, I always try to get there first thing as it opens so I can beat Gene Gangle to Bower family stash of morrisonite. But, every year it feels like I am just going through Gene's tailings. This year was no different.

I was late because I had promised to haul cattle in the morning for a friend. I hitched a ride to meet my wife Tina and the kids at the show. When we got to town I called Tina and we met for a Mc lunch. Then off to the show we went. When we got to the school the main parking lot was full, so we parked behind the building where it looked like they had torn out a tennis court. The hole that was left from the excavation was filled with a red clay soil from somewhere nearby. As I got out of the car I thought to myself, this looks like the type of soil where petrified wood is found. Not even finishing the thought I spotted a piece the size of a half dollar. Pointing it out to my wife, she said, "Let's wait until after the show to look. We can rock hound before going home."

We looked the show over, bid on auction rock and saw some amazing displays. The whole time I could not get the thought of that mud lot out of my mind. In the meantime the kids had had enough of the show and went out to the car early. I met up with them 15 minutes later. They had 10 or so pounds of wood already piled up on the sidewalk. I could not believe what I saw.

I, having water proof work boots on, had no problem getting in the mess and going where the kids had not. Tina supervised from the sidewalk, pointing out what

she wanted. Not more than 5 minutes later I heard my son Collin shout in excitement. When I looked over he had a rock in his arms that he could hardly lift. I argued with him to put the mud covered rock down he was hugging and that it was nothing. But he insisted, so I walked over to see what he had and sure enough he held a 20 pound piece of petrified wood. Collin, proud of his find, showed it to his Mom and to anyone else who would listen.

Among other pieces, Victoria found a nice one with blue swirls and crystals along one side. Benjamin was content to play in the puddles and wash rocks.

Fighting the snow and cold wind, we looked through the mud lot for about 2 more hours and came up with about 70 to 80 pounds of wood, not worth a million dollars, but we gained at least that many fond memories.

WAMS T-Shirts

Cathy Fisher will have the T-Shirts that were ordered at the Hostess Desk. She will also be taking orders for Aaron if anyone would like to order a shirt.

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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 503-551-1554
- 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

Mark and I just got back from Paulina. Steve Lawrence went with us. We all found a few nice rocks, but Mark came up with a really nice one. I think it was just luck that day.

The weather was beautiful during the day, but cold at night. The wild flowers in bloom were very pretty.

Mark and I bought a new tent, so this was our first outing with it. So much nicer than the old one. Much easier to put up and take down.

With the rocking season coming up, Mark and I will be taking some long weekends to go. So I will need articles and pictures for the newsletter by the 25th of each month at the latest. It makes it difficult to get a newsletter out before the meeting if I don't have the necessary articles.

This will be the first month that some of you will not get the newsletter in the mail. Hopefully it will work for you on line. If you find that you would like it mailed to you in the future, let me know.

See you at the meeting

Kristi Edwards
Bulletin Editor

kmedwards2@comcast.net

Presidents Message

What a great show we had! A special thank you to the volunteers. You are just as important as the dealers in attracting the crowds. Yes there are things that need to be changed. This coming year the Board will be looking into what can be done differently in 2009.

If one thing the 2008 Show will be known for is the crazy weather. We always like rain during the show to help attendance, but I don't how much the snowflakes at 3am Saturday and that hailstorm that hit Salem helped.

Now that the Show is over, and our rocks are put away, I don't have an excuse not to get to that spring cleaning.

The program for May will be a tailgating party. So bring your rocks to trade or sell.

The trip to Stinking Water has been put off, because of the poor quantity of material at the sight. It had been suggested to me to coordinate our June field trip with the Prineville Show which is in late June. There are 3 field trips scheduled: Ochoco thunder eggs, petrified wood and a third to be scheduled. They would be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Thank you,
Geri Esch

Tailgate Sale

~submitted by Theresa Bryne

May's program will be a rock sale by members. This is a great chance for members to sell extra rock, supplies or equipment, or to add to their collection. We had about 7-8 people selling items last year, and it proved to be very popular. So go through your favorite rock storing places - garage, under the bed, etc. - and find some items to bring to the sale. The more sellers (and buyers) the merrier!

Some of the Dangers of Abandoned Underground Mines

Every mineral collector has looked wistfully into the dark entrance of an old, abandoned underground mine and wondered what mineralogical masterpieces awaited him if he could only screw up the courage to go in. Are the minerals worth the risk? The real question is "What dangers are there down below?"

First, you must realize that unlike cave abandoned underground mines are unstable. All underground mines are unstable to a degree, but constant care and monitoring by miners makes them safe enough for mining. Once the mine closes,

Upcoming NW Shows

May 7-8	Eugene Mineral Rock Club Lane Co, Fairgrounds Eugene, OR
June 6-8	Puyallup Valley Gem Show Fruitland Grange Hall Puyallup, WA
June 13-15	Oregon Coast Agate Club 46 th Annual Show Newport, OR
June 20-22	NFMS Show & Convention 68 th Annual Show Ontario, OR
June 26-29	Prineville Gem & Mineral Show Crook County Fairgrounds Prineville, OR

however, it begins to decay rapidly. Just walking through an old mine can create enough vibration to cause a roof collapse. But the whole tunnel doesn't have to collapse to kill you. All it takes is one fist-sized piece of rock falling from high enough above your head.

A mine shaft is a vertical opening. The term "adit" is used for a horizontal opening. Shafts are particularly dangerous; they can be hundreds of feet deep and be filled with water at the bottom. The "collar" around the top of the shaft can be loose. If you stand too close to look into the shaft, it may collapse, pitching you into the shaft.

It is difficult to assess the depth of a shaft because of the darkness. It can be clogged with debris, too. Old ladders descending into shafts can look strong enough, but dry rot can weaken rungs or rust may have corroded the bolts holding the ladder in place. Mine shafts are the number one cause of death and injury in abandoned mines.

Maybe you'll find some old dynamite. Explosives become highly unstable with time and exposure to humidity. Old dynamite contains nitroglycerine, which can explode with the slightest disturbance. Blasting caps can also be dangerous. If rats get into a box of blasting caps, they can scatter them about. If you step on one, it can go off.

Air may not be circulating in an abandoned mine. You may descend into an area where there is little oxygen. Once you pass out due to lack of oxygen, your chances of survival are miniscule. Explosive or poisonous gases are also possible. Pockets of methane may build up and a spark from use of a metal tool or a flashlight can cause a gas explosion.

Supporting structures in an abandoned mine can collapse. What may appear to be a solid rock floor could really be a mud-covered rotten wood roof concealing the top of a winze (a shaft that doesn't go to the surface). Walk across it and you may fall through. Likewise, pools of water can also conceal drop offs or sharp objects such as old nails.

The minerals aren't worth the risk. Every experienced collector knows that you are probably more likely to find good specimens on the dumps outside anyway. So stay out and stay alive!

©2008, Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D.

*Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA.. **Popular Mineralogy** provides technical answers to your general mineral questions. If you have a question you'd like to have answered, please send email to sicree@verizon.net*

WAMS GENERAL MEETING APRIL 3, 2008

~SUBMITTED BY WALTER FRIDAY, SECRETARY

Gerri Esch, President at 6:35 p.m, called meeting to order.

Board and Officers in attendance: Gerri Esch, President; Mary Haslebacher, Vice President; Walter Friday, Secretary; Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer; Marvin Bartell, NW Federation Delegate; Members - at-large: Bob Manley, Larry Nasset and Norm De Roux, Cathy Fisher, Show Chair and Kristi Edwards, Newsletter Editor.

Announcements: Dues are due for 2008. If new nametags are needed, contact Ted Johnson. Ted noted that the new nametags have magnetic holders and need to be kept away from pacemakers and credit cards. The March Board meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2008, 6:30 p.m. May meeting Show & Tell is the letter 'I.'

Show and Tell: Gerri Esch hosted. The letter was "H."

Program: A portion of the video 2006 River of Gems Show was shown by its producer Walter Friday. The portion related to the setup and teardown of the show was shown.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approve Minutes: The March 6, 2008, General Meeting minutes were approved as published in *Rockhound Rumbblings*.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Anne Settlemier, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report showing \$1,936.18 in the checking account, \$8,500.00 in CD's and \$10,043.36 in savings for a total of \$20,479.54. The bills were approved to be paid.

REPORTS:

Show: Cathy Fisher, Show Chair, reported that Every 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. A work party will be held at Rob Leedy's at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12.

Field Trip: Joe Start said that during the Sweet Home rock show he had negotiated a deal with the operator of the petrified wood dig shown in the March program. The operator will give us a special price of \$1.00 per pound. This trip will be on the weekend after Mother's Day, May 17 and 18.

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

classes. Scholarships are funded by raffle ticket sales. Two scholarship applications were received at the meeting.

History/Scrapbook: Steve Lawrence said the WAMS scrapbook has not been updated since 2000. He asked for any historical information for this period. He hopes to have the project completed by the end of the year.

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

Newsletter: Geri Esch reported that the board had review the mater of receiving the newsletter electronically. The *Rock Rumbings* newsletter will continue to be mailed, except for those who specifically ask to be dropped from the newsletter mailing list and choose to view the newsletter on the WAMS Web Site.

Oregon Council: Vicki Johnson reported the Council meeting considered the proposed closure of Saddle Mountain site in Central Washington. Vicki Johnson reminded the group of the rock case at the State Capitol. A new case will be presented in May celebrating the 150 Anniversary of Oregon as a state. The case will be by the Rogue Gem and Geology Society from Grants Pass.

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: Linda Groah reported that Karen Porter is in the hospital undergoing tests and George Goetzelman fell and broke his ankle and that she had sent cards.

Lapidary Classes: Geri Esch reminded that our 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.

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

Refreshments: Geri Esch introduced an issue discussed at the Board about appointing a chair of refreshments and budgeting \$35/meeting or \$350 a year (for ten meetings) for refreshments. After discussion a motion was made by Linda Groah, seconded and passed to retain the system of asking volunteers to provide refreshments. March volunteers were thanked. April refreshment volunteers are: Mary Laymen, Virginia Myers, Brenda Nelson and Cary Flocker.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

New Members: Mary Haslebacher, Vice President, presented new member names: Sharon and Gilbert Valdez, Toni Hatch and Kevin J. Dial. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept these candidates as members.

Meeting adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

Raffle and door prizes were drawn and awarded.

BOARD MEETING APRIL 21, 2008

~Submitted by: Acting Secretary, Cathy Fisher

Board Chairman Janice Van Cura called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. In attendance were Geri Esch, Mary Haslebacher, Lee Anne Settlemier, Marvin Bartel, Rob Leedy, Cathy Fisher, Larry Nasset, Leonard Dexter, and Bob Manley.

The guests were Kristine Beaty and Teresa Byrne, who will be planning our Holiday dinner, Ted Johnson and Chuck Hunt, who are a part of the Scholarship Fund Committee, and Wes Kester, who is a long time member and Dealer at our WAMS Show.

The Agenda started with our guests. The board discussed the Holiday Dinner with the complete details to be finished by September. The board made a motion to accept a \$250.00 budget for decorations and goodies for the Dinner, seconded & passed.

The Scholarship Fund was discussed and a motion was made to accept the committee's report, seconded & passed.

Marvin Bartel gave a report on the Federation meeting at Kennewick, WA. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for reimbursement.

Next the 2008 and the 2009 WAMS Show were discussed until 8:40 PM. Mary gave a report on survey responses and Lee Anne gave a preliminary report on the show's finances. Cathy presented a preliminary list of items to remember or do for next year. Other people in attendance provided other suggestions.

Lee Anne gave the Treasurers report. Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the report and pay the Bills.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

2008 53rd RIVER OF GEMS SHOW

Reported by: Cathy Fisher, Show Chair

The first thing I'd like to do is:

THANK ALL OF THE VOLLUNTEERS.

Sometimes the jobs we are asked to do might be unpleasant, tedious and backbreaking.

The hours are long, and when we got home at night, most of us probably headed straight for the PAIN PILL CABINET, but in spite of all that **what I saw** was happy, smiling, friend making teamwork.

I am still learning how to do this show myself, and the first thing I did Monday morning was to address all the things I could think of to make next year better and brighter. If you have suggestions or questions please write it down and give it to me at the meetings or email me at rockhuntinggem@comcast.net.

For those of you who were new this year, I hope all the hustle and bustle was a fun and rewarding experience.

For all of those that have done this show for many years, I thank you for your help, patience, and passing the secrets on of how to set up and tear down our show.

My thanks also to the fairgrounds Staff and Kitchen for their friendliness and help in setting up.

Our club members, Demonstrators, and Dealers should be proud of the outstanding Display Cases put in this year.

The Dealers themselves were professional, courteous and a great hit with the public.

The Demonstrators and Educators showed us all how the wonders of the earth develop, get found, get cut, get polished and faceted, get made into book ends, jewelry, spheres, elephants and tigers, knives, beads, and Sand Art.

I'd like to thank all of the Junior club members who helped set up, tear down, ran the games in the Kids Korner, and worked at the entry door.

I would like to **Thank** one person who went Above and Beyond the call of duty. Whether he was sweeping, taking out the garbage, manning the Ring Toss or Bean Bag Toss, baby-sitting Johns little girl, helping set up and tear down, packing for the dealers and staying with me till everything was locked down tight: **AND** always had a smile on.

That person's name is: **CORY PYRITZ.**

Wait till you see next years show!!



**Happy winner of Amethyst Cathedral
~submitted by Theresa Byrne**



Lots of beautiful crystals at the show this year

FMS News

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

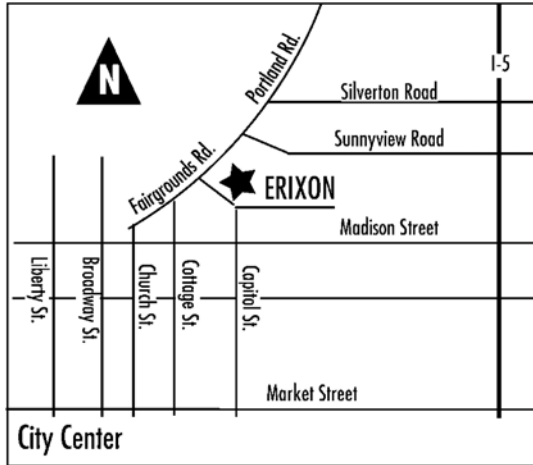
AFMS News

Can be viewed at www.amfed.org

What's Rocking?

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

May Program
Tailgating Party
May Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters
I



Map to Salem Senior Center – 1055 Erixon



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