



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

## August 2009

### To All Oregon Rock Clubs

The Oregon Council of Rock & Mineral Clubs conducted its annual meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Madras, Oregon. Many issues were discussed and resolved at this meeting. We not only elected a new group of officers for the Council, we also voted to continue the Council, to make a more effective effort at communicating with the member clubs, and to reinstate the Council's newsletter.

Without any doubt, the most important decision made at this meeting was the vote taken on the proposal to disband the Council. The proposal had been presented at the spring meeting and copies were sent to each club (the proposal can be viewed on the Council's website, at

[http://www.oregoncouncilrmc.org/20090527\\_OCRMC\\_resolution.pdf](http://www.oregoncouncilrmc.org/20090527_OCRMC_resolution.pdf)). Though the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated, the very fact that we had such a proposal indicated a need for the council to do more.

However, before we set out on a course to do more, we should look at the council's goals. The Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs is dedicated to:

- Preserving access to public lands for rock and mineral collectors.
- Establishing and utilizing communication links to state and national government representatives and agencies.
- Spreading information regarding the issues that impact our access to public lands.
- Promoting a sense of community among both the rock and mineral clubs that are affiliated with the Oregon Council and other organizations that are dedicated to preserving recreational access to public lands.

While these are good goals, and the Council can provide much of the leadership and structure necessary to accomplish them, the Council also needs each of our club representatives to be a leader too. Club representatives need to establish a working relationship with their local land use agencies (BLM & USFS). They need to contact these agencies and ask if there are any local land use issues that impact rock

collecting. And if there are issues, the club's representative needs to report it to the Council. When the Council is made aware of a land access issue that have an impact on rock collecting activities, we can evaluate the issue, make a recommendation, and share the information with all Oregon rock & mineral clubs.

Club representatives also need to be leaders within their own clubs. They need to report the information they receive to their club's membership.

And finally, the Council also voted to reinstate the Council's newsletter. Our goal is to publish the year, in advance of each of the Council meetings. Our intent is for the newsletter to include a message from the council president, an announcement of the next meeting, minutes from the previous meeting, a summary of current land access issues and recommendations, and other relevant information.

We will also provide space for each affiliated club to promote their club shows, field trips, and other activities.

If there's more that you would like to see the Oregon Council do, please let us know.

John Burford  
President, Oregon Council  
2192 SE Moraga Ave  
Albany, Oregon 97322

Message, request, from Vicki Johnson, Oregon Council representative - Please bring issues to me to share with the Oregon Council, and thus other clubs in Oregon. If it can be in writing, that would be appreciated, otherwise have patience with me if I write while you talk.

Thank you, Vicki

<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>	
WAMS Club Information	2
Editor's and President's Messages	3
Up Coming NW Shows	3
Oregon Council News	1
Picnic news	3
Tempskya Fossil	3-4
Maps	5



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, 2615 Portland Road 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)

**2009 Elected Officers**

- President: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421  
 Vice President: Jim Bennett 503-363-4974  
 Secretary: Lee Ann Settlemier 503-394-4283  
 Treasurer: Kathy Bennett 503-363-4974  
 Federation Director: Marvin Bartel 503-364-4170  
 Members at Large: Bob Manley 503-845-6482  
 Larry Nasset 503-585-4390  
 Ray Haslebacher 503-393-5228  
 Norm De Roux 503-371-4623  
 Phil Knutson 503-363-4231  
 Ed Pyritz 503-585-2903  
 Joe Start 503-873-6729

Board Chair: Geri Esch 503-371-1472

**2009 Committee Chairs**

- Show Chair: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 Field Trips: Richard Dowty 503-633-9800  
 Bulletin Editor: Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811  
 Education: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
 Juniors: Jennifer Ferrell 503-551-1554  
 Cindy Waters 206-371-1810  
 Ted Johnson 503-362-6186  
 Nameplates: Vicki Johnson, 503-362-6186  
 Oregon Council:  
 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  
 Host/Hostess: Joe and Emily Start  
 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 hope everyone is having a great summer. If there are any upcoming field trips planned, please let members know. I have had some members asking if there are any trips this summer. If you are planning to go somewhere and would like others to join, let me know and I can email the members.

The picnic is in September, so there will be no meeting or newsletter.

I have enclosed 2 maps to help you find Don and Geri's place. (Thanks Lee Anne for the maps).

Hopefully the extreme hot weather we just had is over. It was way too hot.

If anyone is interested in taking over the newsletter, let me know. It is not that difficult, just time consuming.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards  
Bulletin Editor

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

## Presidents Message

Greetings to all you sick rock hounds. Hope all is going well with you all this summer. Sure is hard to dig rock with this very hot weather. Hope to see all of you at the picnic in September at Don & Geri Esch's home. . Bring your extra rock to trade or sell.

We have a cool speaker for the August meeting. He is the author of the gem trails of Oregon book. I will not be at the August meeting, but your new vice president Jim Bennett will lead the meeting.

We are still looking for some one to take over the news letter. Please contact Kristi Edwards if you are interested. Now get out there to your shop and cut that rock you told me you wanted to cut last winter that you were complaining it was too cold in your shop. Don't tell me it's too hot now. Rob Leedy

## September Picnic

This year's WAMS picnic will be on Sunday, September 13 at the home of Don and Geri Esch. They live at 1651 Sonya Drive SE. Sonya Drive is off of Macleay Road, east of 62nd Avenue SE. The picnic will start at noon and we plan to eat at 1 PM.

Please bring chairs, and if you have a folding table that you can bring, please do so. Also bring your own plates, cups, and silverware. Last names beginning with the letters A-M are to bring a salad and letters N-Z are to bring deserts. Chicken, water, and a sports drink will be furnished.

There will be tailgating. The scholarship committee would appreciate donations of material for the scholarship fund sale table.

## TEMPSKYA --- SO UGLY!

~submitted by Gene Gangle

Our August letter for rocks/minerals/gems is the letter "T". I'm writing about tempskya, which, although it has been found outside Oregon, is a very unusual and scarce fossil in the Oregon fossil record period.

The first thing that needs to be addressed is the pronunciation. It is pronounced "temp-skee". I know. What happened to the "a"? Why spell it the way they do? I don't know. And I realize that, as I say that, I am violating the unofficial mantra of the rock hound when I say "I don't know". (The unofficial mantra of the rock hound is "what we don't know, we make up").

## UP Coming Shows

August 15-16	Nisqually Valley Show Yelm, WA
September 12-13	Marcus Whitman Gem Show Walla Walla, WA
September 18-20	29 <sup>th</sup> Annual Portland Gem and Mineral Show Hillsboro, OR
September 18-20	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society Coos Bay, OR
September 26-27	Hellgate Mineral Society Missoula, Montana

The second characteristic of *tempeskya* has to do with its color, which is a brown butterscotch or “baby-poop brown”. Take your pick. I have only actually seen *tempeskya* from Oregon, but I read an article about the *tempeskya* that is found on the East Coast in the Carolinas, and they describe the color as “creamy, with pastels”. The morphology and cell structure are the same as in Oregon material, but, evidently the minerals present in the silica-rich water in the petrification process were different than in the Oregon material, which is the aforementioned consistent, rather prosaic, brown. Sort of ugly.

. . . . Which reminds me of a story.

In my career as an educator, my contacts with the nearby community were often along the lines of concerns or complaints. A lady who sounded elderly called to say that, during lunchtime, a young man who she thought was one of our students walked across her lawn and tossed a partially-consumed milkshake on her lawn. She wanted to know if we could do something about that. I responded by saying we had a responsibility for our students from the time they left for school until they were back home. I followed that statement up by asking if she knew the boy in question. She started to say, “You know”, then she hesitated, then added, “I don’t know how to say this”, and she paused, then continued, “but he’s the ugliest kid I’ve ever seen.” We had 1600 students at Sprague High School. I knew who it was. Instantly.

Once you have seen a sample of *tempeskya*, you will know it when you see it again. Almost instantly. The color is distinctive, if not ugly. As I understand where *tempeskya* stands in the fossil record, it is in between a fern and a palm tree. It has a rough, bark-like exterior, with “eyes” scattered across the organic material inside, which represent the vascular bundles used to transport water and nutrients. I should add that Dr. C.A. Arnold, a paleobotanist at the University of Michigan, stated that “several species of *tempeskya* have been described from North America, but the Greenhorn material represents a form different from any of the previously-known ones”. (October, 1940, Mineralogist). Thus, Oregon *tempeskya* appears to be unique.

The third thing that attaches significance to Oregon *tempeskya* is not only where it stands evolution-wise in the fossil record, but also when it occurs in the fossil record. It is a cretaceous-period fossil. In reading the literature on *tempeskya*, I found that the occurrence was in an alluvial (water-worn) deposit near the town of Greenhorn, which is on the Baker/Grant County line, at about the 7,000 foot level. (This is what I’ve read. I’ve not been there).

So I called up Aaron Currier, who was sort of connected at the hip (that may be a fossil phrase) with fossils. I asked him if he knew about *tempeskya*. He said he had heard of it, but really didn’t know much about it. I said, “It’s a cretaceous plant”. Aaron said that sounded right. I asked, “How can that be?” and went on to tell Aaron what he already knew, that the cretaceous period started 135,000,000 years ago. Oregon didn’t exist until 45-55,000,000 years ago. Then, when I researched the *tempeskya* story, I found out that the North American continent, western coast, 135,000,000 years ago, was somewhere around Idaho and the Greenhorn deposit occurred on islands, 6-7,000 feet high, off the Idaho coast. Thus, the alluvial deposit at Greenhorn.

So the *tempeskya* story illustrates an unusual time in fossil/plant transition from fern to tree and highlights an Oregon fossil that flourished before Oregon was Oregon. *Metasequoia*, our state fossil, occurs in California, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. Oh, and Oregon. Because it is so unusual and rare, I believe *tempeskya* has a stronger claim to be the Oregon state fossil. I should have campaigned when the legislature made its choice. I guess the message is, “Don’t hide your light under a bushel”. Rocks either.

The Rice Museum in Hillsboro has some wonderful samples of *tempeskya*, including a highly-prized variation which shows scarlet streaks on transverse cross-sections.

Yes, I know *tempeskya* is kind of ugly, but it holds a rather unique place in the Oregon geologic and fossil record. So ugly, so special.

## WAMS General Meeting

No meeting in July

## WAMS Board Meeting

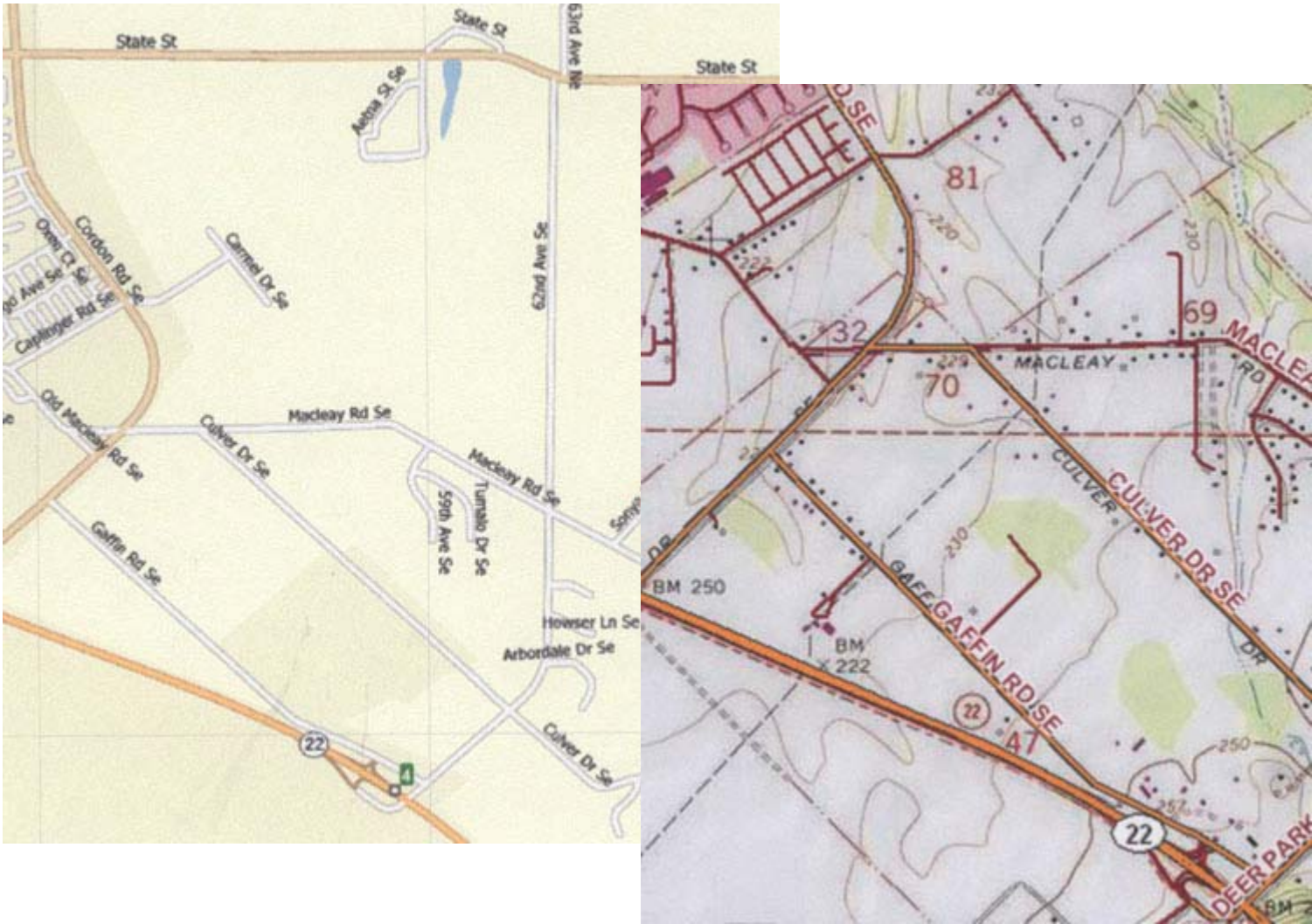
No meeting in July

### 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)



Maps to Don and Geri Esch's for the picnic

# What's Rocking?

**WAMS General Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
August 6 - 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR  
**Guests Welcome!**

**August Program**  
Garret Romaine  
Author of the new Gem Trails of Oregon  
**August Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**T**



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**Willamette Agate and Mineral Society**  
Kristi Edwards, *Bulletin Editor*  
1236 SE Seaport Circle  
Corvallis, OR 97333