



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

February 2009

LAPIDARY SHOP

~submitted by Ted Silver

The lapidary shop is now open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This has proven to be a very popular activity and, at times, challenging for the supervisors. Nine lapidaries are a lot to monitor especially when some are students so occasionally some experienced folks may be asked to help. In fact some have already volunteered. Thanks Terry!

The new wet belt sander has arrived and Larry hopes to have it operational this week. This may, eventually, replace the high speed dry sander that we all are accustomed to but, does have some safety issues. On the silver smithing side, Ed Pyritz has offered to facilitate the silver smithing program at least until he finds gainful employment, so all who have some experience and don't need a lot of instruction are invited to attend Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m. We're still hopeful that someone will step forward and accept the task of instructor.

In the same vein, we are also working toward lost wax casting and other forms of creative jewelry techniques on Thursday afternoons. Eventually, depending on the popularity of the program and availability of the facility, we hope to expand that program into Thursday evening. Tom Beatty has generously offered to help in that endeavor and I hope to absorb some knowledge and creativity while I'm in Quartzsite next month (February). Looks like they will be doing some broom straw casting as well as rock salt and ice cubes. With all that and prowling the desert with my brother I may be gone longer than I planned so if you don't see me for a while just think of poor Ted suffering through 80 degree weather while you're basking in the beautiful Oregon spring weather.

SHOW WORK PARTY

~submitted by Janice Van Cura

There will be a show work party Saturday February 21st at 10:00 am at Geri and Don Esch's. We will be

having both inside and outside projects. Outside we will be washing and sorting rock for the silent auction and other uses. While inside we will fill grab bags and egg for the treasure hunt. Bill Fricke has agreed to be the silent auction chair so he plans on being there and could use some help sorting rock for the auction.

Scholarship Auction

~submitted by Joe Van Cura

This year at our annual show in April, the scholarship committee will have an oral auction to raise money for the Jon & Lucille Sams Scholarship Fund. The auction will be on Sunday at 2:00. The items to be auctioned off will be on display during the entire show. Currently we are looking for items to be auctioned. Our goal is to have about 20 items. These items should be higher-end items with a starting value of about \$20 or more. These could be rough lots or finished pieces, specimens or jewelry. Rob Leedy will be collecting the donations, but they could be turned in to any of the members of the scholarship committee, which includes Rob, Ted Johnson, Joe Start, Chuck Hunt and myself. In addition to the items being on display, there will be a handout at the display with the lots listed. Already we have a beautiful Holly Blue pendant donated by Jim Shine. Thank you Jim. Please watch for additional upcoming information on the auction.

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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

2009 Elected Officers

- President: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421
 Vice President: Daniel Bontempo 541-497-7916
 Secretary: Lee Ann Settlemeier 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: Linda Groah 503-873-6930
 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: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 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 want to thank everyone that helped contribute to the newsletter this month. It really helps me out. I appreciate the memorials for those members that have passed away.

Chuck Hunt has found a great website that allowed me to reprint an article from their magazine. I wish I could find some petrified wood that big. Check out www.memphisgeology.org

Mark and I went to Lost Creek January 10th. Not much rock was showing. We drove south to some favorite spots and not much rock there either. Oregon needs some good storms to come through to expose more rock.

We did run into Barry and Denice Ward. They wanted to let the members know that they will be gone until February 15th. So their home will not be available if there is a weekend field trip to the coast.

Many members have not paid their dues for 2009 and this will be your last newsletter. Please get your dues up to date.

Thanks again to all that sent articles.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards
Bulletin Editor

kmedwards2@comcast.net

Presidents Message

Howdy Hoe all you fellow rock nuts,

My message to you this month is a few thoughts for all of you to think on. Why do you enjoy being a member of WAMS? What do I want out of being a member of this club? Do you know the best way to make this a club of what you would like it to be? I know a lot of you have your complaints and wants about our club. Why I give my time and efforts to this club through my volunteerism, is to try to have a voice and be a voice of others to make this a club that we can be proud of. We are like a lot of clubs and organizations, in that there is a core group of around 20 or so members. Out of around 200 members, that commit their time and efforts to try to make this club what we believe is a good fun and great club. Our club needs you to help make this club what you want and desire, by you giving of your time and efforts to make this a club of your dreams also. Through your giving of your time and knowledge, I ask you all to please look at all the open positions that are open and ask yourselves if you can help make a difference in this great organization called our rock club. Even if you can't volunteer your time, I ask of you to please come to a board meeting, or talk to any board member for you can voice your opinions of your wants, goals and desires for where WAMS should be headed. By doing so, you will have a voice in making this a club of your dreams!!! I ask all of you from the bottom of my heart, to please ponder these thoughts.

Thanks, Rob Leedy

UP Coming Shows

Jan 31- Feb 14	Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show Inns Suite Hotel Tucson, AZ
Feb 2-9	Bead Renaissance Show Tucson, AZ
Feb 14-15	Sweetheart of Gems Whidbey Island Gem Club Oak Harbor, WA
March 7-8	Wonderful World of Jasper Rock & Arrowhead Club Klamath County Fairgrounds Klamath Falls, OR

In Search of Petrified Wood2008

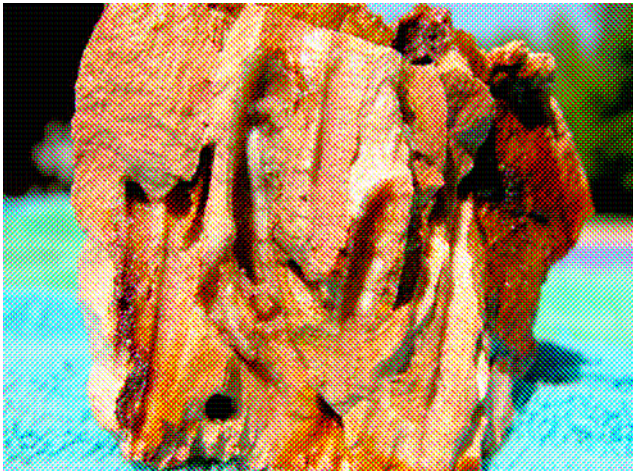
Part 1—Search Sites & Results

~reprinted with permission by MAGS Rockhound News

W. C McDaniel (Author)

The chatter and splashing sounds of five rockhounds hiking down a crystal clear Tennessee creek were abruptly and loudly interrupted by one of those words that bring instant fear and awareness "SNAKE." The snake, quickly identified as a "Midland Water Snake," was cornered and surrounded so it took the quickest and most direct way out, right between the legs of one those rockhounds. Jokes and comments were made and, just as quickly, the eyes and journey returned to the main objective—petrified wood. The visit to this creek was one of many collecting trips made to several sites over the course of the past several months. Those visits and creeks produced more gold medal specimens of

petrified wood than Michael Phelps produced gold medals during the summer Olympics.



Site 3- Collected and Photograph by Dan Reed.
In December a field guide describing some petrified wood collecting tips will be published.

Site 1(Mississippi) – This site was first visited and written about in 2004. That year, and subsequent years, the site consistently produced a large number of pieces, many over 100 pounds. However, in 2008 the finds were limited in size and quantity. In addition, there was evidence other people had been in the area. It needs some good hard rains and a break before returning to the area. No photographs from this site are published.

Site 2 (Mississippi) - This site was first visited and written about in 2004. That year the findings were limited when compared to Site 1. In addition, no follow up visits were made until this year. This year the search area was expanded to about 2 miles up and down the creek from our access point. In addition, our search methods were expanded to include much of the sandy bottom in the middle of creek and extensively probing with metal pointed sticks and listening for the distinct petrified wood clink. The expansion of the search area and methods produced a large number of big and good quality pieces of petrified wood.

Site(s) 3(Mississippi) This is a new site and was first explored in late winter. This area, located in the suburbs of Memphis, is a series of small to mid size creeks, some looking like a ditch. One of the nicest things about this location is that you can sleep later, stay later, and still be home by supper time. These sites were remarkable in the number, size, and quality of the collected pieces. Many pieces were located by probing with a metal stick in about 3-4 feet of waist deep muddy water. In many cases you had no idea what you were hauling up until it surfaced. An occasional iron concretion made this task a little more time consuming and at times disappointing.

Fortunately there were a lot of good pieces that made this task worthwhile.



Part Site 2. These two large pieces were collected about 1 ½ miles from the access point and within about fifty feet of each other. To get them from the creek bed to the driveway required the following: one pick-up truck, one trailer, one canoe, one GPS system, two days, two hand trucks, two dogs, four rockhounds and several feet of rope. Photograph by Barb Reed.

Site 4 (Tennessee) - This was a new site for the author but other members of the group had collected at this site. The site, located in West Tennessee, is near where MAGS has collected fossils for many years. The creek was accessed through private property and was one of the smallest creeks searched during the year. The majority of the wood was in the 3-10 pound range with the largest reaching (continued page 6“In Search of Petrified Wood” about 25 pounds. In addition this was the only site where fossils were also found, mostly sponge corals. No photographs of this site are presented in this article.

In Memory of WAMS Members

~submitted by Tom Beatty

RAYMOND PLUMMER

Ray Plummer was born on July 21, 1947 and died November 27, 2008. He is survived by his wife Nancy Plummer, his daughter Leslie Arnould and his sons, Kenneth and George Plummer. Ray had a wide circle of friends and enjoyed being a member of the FOE. He served 8 years in the USA Navy during the Viet Nam war.

Among his accomplishments were computer expertise and programming. Ray was active for many years in the dog show circuit. He showed German Sheppards and corgis' champions.

Ray became interested in gold mining in 1997-98 and joined NW mineral Prospectors, a club in Portland. As a result of several years in this hobby, he also became interested in rocks and silversmithing. Ray joined WAMS in 2003 and regularly attended the Monday night silversmithing classes at the senior center. He took a wire wrapping class from Jody Leshk and another from Emily Start. He became very good friends with Bob Watkins, and learned the art of knapping. Together they experimented with heat treating rock to increase its ability to be knapped and to enhance its color. This information was later presented to WAMS members as a program at one of the regular monthly meetings. Ray was a past President of WAMS Willamette Agate and mineral Society. He was a creative and inventive artist in silverwork and was an especially good at cutting and polishing stones. Ray was a member of the APA and played Stop League pool. He enjoyed playing WOW (World of Warcraft) with family and many friends across the world he met online.

BETTIE STEARNS

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

Bettie collected many pretty rocks that lined her yard. When she joined WAMS these rocks eventually became jewelry and polished for display cases.

Bettie was a long time member of WAMS and held many officer positions. She was a very active member in the shows with many display cases.

Thank you to all that sent cards and remembered Bettie.

LES PUFFER

~submitted by Mary Haslebacher

Les Puffer was a long time member of WAMS. He was very active in the shows and with the juniors. He helped with the lapidary shop at the Senior Center.

For Sale:

Faceting machine & a few rocks from the Puffer Estate.

For information call Judy or Frank at (360) 817-9207 (Camas, WA.)

Wanted:

Smith Little Torch with accessories to solder silver using propane. Please call (503) 508-4981 if you have one or know of one for sale.

Thanks!
Steve Summers

Minutes of WAMS Show Meeting Jan 5, 2009 at 6:30 PM at SR. Center, Salem

Prepared by Linda Groah

Present were 12 people: Janice Van Cura, Linda and Dan Groah, Joe and Emily Start, Geri and Don Esch, Eric Becklund, Phil Knutson, Jim Shine, Tom Robertson, Daniel Bontempo.

Dealers: Mary Haslebacher was not present because of her mother's recent death and funeral (today). Lebanon Lapidary vendor Margaret Banks passed away last week. It is expected that her husband and other family will continue selling, but not confirmed yet. We are full, with a waiting list. Phil asked for a list of vendors and helpers to make badges. Linda will get this to him.

Demonstrators: Emily opened further discussion our previous agreement that demonstrators who wish to sell should limit their sales area to 1/4 of their table. Since table areas differ in size and placement, it is hard to tell sometimes. Emily will reconfirm with her demonstrators of the expectations. This should be on their contract, as well as the price \$28 for those who sell.

Added demonstrators since the last meeting include Gene Newman, Bead Patch (maybe) and Aaron Currier/Bob Manley with fossils. There may be a faceter from Roseburg. There may also be the thunder egg cutter, which will be in the NW corner of the demo area. If it is too noisy, we will move the machine outdoors on the other side of the cafeteria.

Advertising: Daniel is working on getting the info to Rock and Gem and other on-line sources. Many suggestions were offered for other places, such as free calendar areas in entertainment sections of local newspapers such as Salem's Statesman Journal, along with their Silverton and Stayton newspapers. Also in Silverton is "Our Town" a twice monthly. Linda will give Daniel a copy of this. Other towns we have advertised in are Corvallis, Dallas, Monmouth/Independence, McMinnville, and Newberg. Daniel will talk to Aaron Currier about how he used to do the advertising for these newspapers. Daniel has a budget of \$1250.

Susan Appleby has done a mock-up in the past for a newspaper ad. She can be asked to do so again. It was suggested we put an ad in the NW Federation newspaper for the March or April issue.

Tom suggested that we get an article written to be published in the Statesman a few days before the show that features one of our club members as a hobby. Terry Kramer, a flint knapper, was suggested. The flyers can be downloaded from the WAMS website by anyone and passed out at other shows.

Groahs' and Emily will take some to their other shows. Janice will print some for the meeting tomorrow night. We will encourage everyone to put them up at work, church, other hobby places, etc.

Other area calendars that do free notices include TV - in the Portland/Salem area, KATU.com (ABC), KGW.com (NBC), KOIN (CBS) and 12 (Fox) also have community events calendars on-air/on-line.

Salem radio station KBZY (1490 AM) is who we worked with last year. Even though we don't plan to do an on-air remote this year, we could still ask to be on their on-line events page, as well as other radio sta.

Libraries and other event centers (like Senior Center) all have bulletin boards that we can post flyers on.

Cable TV in various areas (try Comcast) also have event calendars that we can request to be on. Some radio stations are willing to give away free tickets as part of various promotions. We could get free passes to all area radio stations that are willing to do this.

Joe S. will contact people he knows at the Statesman and find out if we can get an article in.

Fluorescent Show: Tom R. presented the plans he and Dan G and Aaron C have created to put on a walk through show. Tom will provide the 10' x 20' tent. We need 4 cases, one long-wave and three short-waves. Aaron will do the taped narration, lasting about 4 minutes. He knows how we need to put the rocks in for best effect. Tom and painted the inside of a case black and knows how we can arrange them the rocks on the shelves for presentation. We discussed height of tables - at 30" may be too short for adults, but we don't want to make them too high for small children. It was decided to set them up at the 30" height and then put Tom's 4 x 4's under them if we decide at the last minute to raise them higher.

It had been asked if we could just set shelves on tables and put the lights over them, but there is a radiation factor, so we need to have them in enclosed cases, behind glass. This is also a safety and security factor. Tom will help set this up, but we need other volunteers to take it down on Sun.

Tom presented the need for another short wave light. We have a long and short-wave each from Dr. Debbie, and can borrow one other short wave from Powell Butte members Al and Susie Liebetrau. Cost is about \$1330 for a light, but we also need an extra lamp for each kind, which costs about \$160 each.

Linda offered to present the light and lamp information at the general meeting tomorrow night and ask for approval to buy one more light plus the spare lamps.

Layout: Tom and Eric will go to Rickreall next week and measure in the areas to figure out how to set up the fluorescent area and the kids' games. The fluorescent show will go from east to west, which is "long" way in the SE area. We plan to route the viewers past the popcorn machine (which can be

turned more sideways) and all the way to the back to come through the tent and then back to the center area. We hope this will keep the check-in area (for students on Friday) clearer.

On the SW side in the kids' area, the wheel of fortune and grab bag areas, plus the bean bag toss, and the demonstrators of Primitive Arts will be located. We need about 8 feet for each game (total 24').

The rest of the show layout will be completed with Tom and Joe Van Cura's CAD program.

Oral auction: We are unsure where to put the 2 cases with about donated items. We were the area by the fluorescent show, but there may not be room. If not, they will be in with the regular display cases. When it comes time for the oral auction on Sunday at 2 PM, the cases and/or items in them will be moved by dolly or roller cart of some kind to the back of the cafeteria, where there is room for people to sit and bid. Linda will share this information Ted Johnson, whose scholarship committee suggested the oral auction. **[On Tue night, Linda was informed that Rob Leedy, not Ted Johnson, is going to chair the oral auction.]**

We will request 20 quality items, retail \$10 and up, for the oral auction. If more than that are donated, some could be used for the raffle. Items need to be rock-related - such as finished pieces, polished slabs, jewelry, rock tools, etc.

Kids' area: Eric needs more critters made. There are about 120 left from last year. Reyne and Lee Anne will work on some at home. Janice will get some more granite slabs for the critter bases from a Philomath countertop place. She asked that we keep a look-out for such a place in Salem also. They donate their leftover end pieces, which can be cut for our critter bases. Don might have some bases already at home, and Geri will bring them tomorrow night.

The bigger grab bags from last year hold about 4 oz of rock, and sold for \$1 each. Since the new grab bags are smaller, we think 2-3 oz of rock will work, for 50 cents or 75 cents. Tom pointed out how much it costs for supplies to tumble the rocks, and we will try to keep the grab bags on a per cost basis (not overloaded!). Eric will weigh some out, and get a standard for us to work with.

Work Party: Don and Geri agreed to host a work session at their home, for members to sort and wash rock outside for the silent auction, and other workers will fill grab bags and treasure hunt eggs inside. We will have this on Saturday Feb 21, from 10 - 2. Pizza will be ordered for workers' lunch. We think the empty "easter" eggs are in the trailer.

Don also asked for smaller buckets, as the bigger ones are hard on our old backs! **[Aaron Wiltsey, at the Tue meeting, offered to get some smaller buckets]**

Silent Auction: We still need a chair. Janice will ask at the meeting Tue. **[Bill Fricke offered to be chair, at the meeting Tue]**

We also need more rock for the silent auction. J2B2's Bruce Ferguson has offered a "Silver Pick" experience near the end of March. (not the last weekend, which is the Sweet Home show). Daniel B thinks this will be on a Sunday from noon to 3 PM. For every so much rock that is sold, some is donated to us. Daniel B will organize this.

Raffle: Since we will have the oral auction in the back of the cafeteria, we decided to also hold the raffle there also. This will relieve the bottleneck up by the front door. The raffle will be held at 3 PM, after the oral auction is done. The items for the raffle will be moved to the cafeteria area just prior to the raffle.

Security: Geri signed, Joe sent contract. He has 2 or 3 people to help with the 6 - 11 PM shift on Thur, Fri and Sat.

Trailer: The keys have been given to Janice. Tom suggested we get a few extra sets made. The EZ lift stabilizers are being put on the trailer to easier moving.

Thursday eve dinner: Linda will reconfirm with Mary that her daughter will provide the entree' and members will bring the salads and desserts. Linda and Mary will also make sure we have the coffee/punch and plates and eating supplies.

Volunteers: Phil will start working on this in Feb, and bring the sign-up sheets to the March and April meetings. Joe will make additional calls in the last few weeks before the show to fill needed spaces. Phil will also include the set-up day and take-down sign-up sheets.

One of the glitches last year was some take-down workers who tried to remove table skirting while dealers were still putting away their wares. We need to make sure that dealers are not disturbed while they are taking down.

Phil and Reyne will ask dealers and demonstrators to remove their displays from the display cases as soon as possible at the end of the show. This will allow the cases to be taken down first, before dealers' tables.

Shifts are 2 hours, but Phil expects that many people will volunteer for extended shifts. Friday morning when the students are there is the critical time. Joe S. will work with Phil to find one or more greeters for the students on field trips. Last year Joe had some classes wait on the bus, to keep the whole facility from being overloaded. We don't want the fire marshal upset!

Brochures: Dan G is working with Applebys' and Aaron Currier to create one on Jasper. Phil said we still have thousands of the previous brochures, and

suggested maybe we should not order as many of this one. Dan and Tom give these to Rice Museum and some rock shops for educational purposes.

The next River of Gems show meeting will be Monday, March 9 at 6:30 PM at the Sr. Center.

WAMS General Meeting January 6, 2009,

**6:30 PM New Salem Senior Center
~submitted by Lee Anne Settlemier**

Rob Leedy, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35.

BOARD AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Leedy, President, Daniel Bontempo, Vice President, Lee Anne Settlemier, Secretary, Kathy Bennett, Treasurer, Geri Esch, Chair of Board, Members-at-Large: Bob Manley, Larry Nassett, Phil Knutson, Ed Pyritz, and Joe Start.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next board meeting will be Monday, January 26, at the Senior Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 6, 2008 general meeting and the November 17, 2008 board meeting were approved.

SHOW REPORT: There was a Show Committee meeting last night, January 5. Advertising is getting out. There are flyers available, and anyone can go onto the WAMS web site and print additional flyers. Applications for the display cases will be available at the February General Meeting. We just had a person volunteer to be the Committee Chair, but the Silent Auction needs additional help. On either February 21 or 22 there will be a work party for the Silent Auction at the Esch residence to clean and sort rock. At the work party, we will be filling buckets for the auction, and will also fill some buckets to sell "by the bucket". We need 2 ½ and 5 gallon buckets for the Silent Auction, and some were volunteered at the meeting. At the same time there will be a work party to fill grab bags and eggs for the show. The Florescent Show is back. It will be a walk-through show with four cases and a taped program that will provides instruction. We will be able to borrow lights for three of those cases, but will need a fourth light.

PROGRAM: WONDERFUL WORLD OF AGATES SYMPOSIUM sponsored by Weis Earth Science Museum. The video discussed the history of agates, and showed pictures of ancient art objects made of agate. It also showed agates from around the world, including quite a few from Oregon.

NEW MEMBERS: Judith Smith and Cindy Waters were welcomed to the club.

SUNSHINE REPORT: was presented by Karen Porter. During the past month, we have lost three members. Ray Plummer, former president of the club, passed away in December. Betty Stearns, longtime member who held various offices, passed away this month. She is the mother of Mary Haslebacher. Lester Puffer passed away today. Emily Start and Daniel Bontempo were both in the hospital, and are now recovered.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS: Kathy Bennett, treasurer, presented bills for approval from Roth's for the Christmas party, the annual fee for the post office box rental, newsletter expense, and the storage space rental for the Show trailer. The members approved paying the bills.

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer report was presented and approved. General Fund income came from dues and the Christmas dinner. A \$700 donation was made to the Jon and Lucille Sams Memorial Scholarship fund. At the end of December, the total of all WAMS funds came to \$23,466.96.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: An application for the Jon and Lucille Sams Scholarship fund was included in the January Newsletter, and must be turned in no later than the April meeting. Ted Johnson gave a brief report on the status of the fund.

FIELD TRIPS: Contact Daniel Bontempo if you are willing to lead a field trip to the Oregon Beaches this winter, and have suggestions for other field trips, or a willing to lead a field trip.

NEW BUSINESS: It was voted to buy one or two Florescent lights with replacement bulb(s) depending on whether or not there was a price break for purchasing more than one light.

OREGON COUNCIL: The Oregon Council is collecting jasper, agate, and petrified wood. There are in need of 1,000 pieces in the two to three inch size.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:55 PM.

REFRESHMENTS: Josie Wagoner and Judy McCormick provided refreshments for the meeting. We need volunteers to provide refreshments for the February meeting.

BOARD MEETING: January 26, 2009 at 6:30 PM. (The Senior Center will be closed on the third Monday of the Month for the Martin Luther King Holiday so the meeting is a week later than usual).

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 at the Senior Center. Show and Tell letter is "O".

WAMS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2009

Salem Senior Center

~submitted by Phil Knutson

The Board was called to order at 6:30 by Board Chairman Geri Esch.

Members in Attendance: Those in attendance were Geri Esch, Rob Leedy, Joe Start, Bob Manley, Ed Pyritz, Larry Nasset, Kathy Bennet, Philip Knutson, and Theresa Byrne.

Treasurer's Report: New WAMS officers who have check signing authority for the clubs checking account need to validate their signatures at the bank. Northwest Federation dues are now due and are \$12 per member. In order to submit our portion of this obligation, an accurate membership total is required. The current membership of the club is unclear, as it is believed that a portion of the membership have not yet paid their 2009 dues. Members are encouraged to submit their dues in a timely manner so this matter may be resolved. Also due at this time are the Oregon Council dues of \$0.25 per member.

Committee Chairs: Several volunteer positions in the club are currently unfilled. The board discussed ways to encourage members to volunteer for these posts. A push is needed for more volunteers from the newer members of the club to fill these positions. The junior program was also discussed. The board needs input from members and participants to revive the juniors program.

2009 River of Gems Report: The show committee has reported that only one additional fluorescent light display will need to be purchased for the upcoming show.

Nominating Committee: A club member has suggested that the nominating committee for club officers meet early in the year to identify and recruit candidates for the elected officer positions. The board is in agreement with this proposal and will start the process around July for the next year positions.

Field Trips: The board discussed the need for more field trips by the club as a way of generating more activity and interest in the club. Joint participation with other valley clubs on field trips will be looked

into. It was suggested that prior to a field trip to a collecting site, the monthly program and also the show and tell rocks be about that site.

It was noted that there seems to be fewer sites available in the local area to collect than in the past.

Scholarship Committee: The scholarship fund now has slightly over \$2,000 in funds. It was suggested that the committee look into placing a portion of these funds into an account with a higher rate of return.

Monthly Meeting Room Set-up: The monthly meeting room at the new Senior Center is not as well suited for the clubs needs as the previous set-up. The room is smaller and the audio-visual equipment is in the other side, which makes the presentation of programs very difficult. The other side is not available on our regularly scheduled meeting night. The board is actively looking into the availability of the either both sides or the other side for our meetings, however the monthly meeting date would need to be changed to utilize this option.

Bylaws: The last revision to WAMS bylaws was in 2005. A committee will be selected to review the bylaws and make recommendations to the Board for revisions. Members of the board will be issued copies of the current bylaws.

WAMS Property Control and Inventory: Bob Manley has assembled an inventory of WAMS property which members are utilizing or storing. If members are aware of any additional WAMS materials please give a listing to Bob. Any historical items or information from 2000 onwards are needed for by scrapbooks and history chair.

February Board Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9, 2009 at 6:30 in the Senior Center. The board meeting is open to all WAMS members and they are encouraged to either attend or to give input to the officers or board members at large on any issues of concern.

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
February 5 - 6:30 pm
Salem Senior Center
2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR
Guests Welcome!

February Program
No program at this time
February Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters
O



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