



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

March 2009

SHOW WORK PARTY

~submitted by Linda Groah

Thank you to all the people who came to the work party on Saturday, Feb. 21. There were about 30 people there. Lots of rock was cleaned, sorted and put in buckets, ready for the silent auction. There will be another small work session with "cans" of rocks getting filled. If you would like to be part of that, please contact Silent Auction Chair Bill Fricke, at 503-689-1220.

Inside jobs finished were filling 600 grab bags and 1300 eggs for the treasure hunt. It's always fun to get to know people better, and now some of us will remember some names of newer members we enjoyed working with. The pizza for lunch was good, topped off with cookies brought by Reyne Knutson and Misty Grove. YUMMM!!

We do still need some items for the show - especially small polished jasper pieces for the school students' buckets (we want to provide one per child - total needed about 1200). Joe Van Cura will collect these from you. If you are currently polishing some for him, please let him know soon. If you CAN polish or provide some, please let Joe or Linda know.

Another set of items needed are more slabs and nicer pieces for the silent auction, plus some REALLY nice donations for the oral auction (to benefit the scholarship fund) and for raffle prizes for the show. You can bring items to the next meeting, or let Linda know what you will be donating.

Also at the regular meeting on March 5, Phil Knutson will have the signup sheets for all the jobs at the show. We really need everyone's help to work at least one shift during the show, plus a lot of people to help setup the tables, cases, etc on Wed., April 15

(and takedown on Sunday night). Please sign up right away, for the best shifts will be filled soon!!

The next show planning meeting will be Monday, March 9, at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center. ALL Wams members are welcome. It takes a lot of people to make the show successful, and we all benefit from the income earned at the show. Plus, of course, it's just fun to work together!



Volunteers taking time out for Lunch

~submitted by Peggy Peterson

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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, 2615 Portland Rd 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: 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: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 Rules and Awards: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 Programs: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 Property Control: Phil Knutson 503-363-4231
 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

It looks like there was a great turn out for the work party. Sorry we were not able to make it. It was our anniversary weekend and we had other plans.

Thank you Peggy for the great photos you sent for the newsletter. Looks like everyone was having fun sorting and cleaning rocks

I have updated all the board members and committee members in this issue. Please let me know if there are any new changes.

I hope someone will step forward to do the newsletter. It will take someone that has email and access to web pages. I will continue with it until someone volunteers. It has been 4 years and I would like a break and help in other areas of the club.

Be sure to sign up to help at the show at March's meeting. I always have a great time helping out.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi Edwards
Bulletin Editor

kmedwards2@comcast.net

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Howdy Ho all you fellow rock nuts and hounds,

Boy, what happened to February?! Here it is almost March, and our April show is just around the corner. Just want to remind everybody to sign up on the volunteer list for the different jobs to cover our April show. It takes a team effort to put on a good show every year. I want to personally thank everyone, who has stepped up and volunteered for the different club positions. It truly is the best way, to make it your club. We still have positions to fill and would love to find somebody to take over for Kristi for the newsletter by next January. If Kristi starts teaching you to do it now, it will be a better and easier transition, into the next year.

Thanks, Rob Leedy

JUNIOR PROGRAM

~submitted by Jennifer Ferrell & Cindy Waters

Hey Junior Members, the junior program is going to be starting up again in March. Hope to see you all there.

We are going to be planning new programs and activities as well as field trips for the year. We also are going to be starting the AFMS badge program.

We will be needing input from both juniors and their parents on what they want and expect from their junior program. This is your program; let's make it as fun and interesting as we can!

We will be looking for parents to help out at the Junior Meetings as well; it's more fun when we all get involved.

We're looking forward to having an awesome year! Come on down and help us make this a fun program!

VIRTUAL CABGING

March Program

~submitted by Daniel Bontempo

We are going to try a different sort of program for March: A Virtual Cabbing contest! We will pass out color printouts showing several attractive slabs. Members and guests can use a pen to outline one calibrated or freestyle cab on each slab. Entries will be cut out and posted on the wall where everyone will vote on their favorites. The most votes win the slab. We will have some templates, markers, and scissors on hand, but please bring any templates or scissors you have. (You can share with your neighbor.)

UP COMING SHOWS

March 7-8	Wonderful World of Jasper Rock & Arrowhead Club Klamath Falls, OR
March 7-8	Gems are Fine for 2009 Caldwell, Idaho
March 13-15	Natures Design Hillsboro, OR
March 27-29	Gem Faire Eugene, OR
March 28-29	61 st Annual Show Sweet Home, OR
June 26-28	2009 Faceting Conference Clackamas, OR

We are trying to organize a few cabbers to give 5 minute mini-talks on how they compose their own cabs. If you would like to help out by giving a talk, contact Daniel Bontempo (541-497-7916, Daniel.bontempo@oregonstate.edu). Maybe we can even get some photos of your cabs to project up on the wall. We would also like to invite folks to bring in their favorite cabs (your own or purchased) for an inspirational display along the side wall. A fun event to see what kind of cab designer you would be, without having to buy, cut, or grind anything! And you could win a nice slab.

IN SEARCH OF PETRIFIED WOOD 2008 PART 2—A FIELD GUIDE TO COLLECTING PETRIFIED WOOD

~reprinted with permission by MAGS Rockhound News

W. C McDaniel (Author)

“Let’s go collect some petrified wood” is one my favorite phrases and collecting trips. “A field guide to collecting petrified wood” will take you along on one of those trips. The guide covers: where to look, how to search, what to look for, and concludes with some recommended collecting preparations and precautions.

Where to look? In the South the two primary collecting locations are areas with flowing water such as creeks, rivers and gravel bars or pits. Most bars are found along creeks and most pits are usually private mining operations. What type of creeks will produced petrified wood is a frequently ask question. An initial way to assess a creek’s petrified wood potential is to stand on a bridge or overlook and see if one or more of the following features can be observed.

If the creek looks promising look for a convenient access as sometimes that can be difficult and an obstacle if you find some big pieces that need to be hauled back to your vehicle.

- Creeks that have eroded down about 15-20 feet appear to the best producers of wood.

However, this not an iron clad rule and each creek just needs to be checked.

- Is the water clear, flowing and shallow enough to walk? Clear water is not an absolute requirement but it sure helps in finding wood in the middle of the creek. Also flowing or moving water indicates the banks are being eroded away exposing more wood. Is the creek accessible via banks? Check the vegetation and the slope of the banks.

Banks that gradually slope upward from the surface are the best, however in many cases the top part of the bank may be steep for the first four or five feet.

How to search. Creek searching requires a commitment to stay focused and check everything that looks like wood and everything that doesn’t look like wood. One of the best things, besides your eyes, to bring along is a good walking/probing stick with a metal tip, Petrified wood makes a distinct clink (glass like) noise when hit with metal. Wood can be found on both sides of the creek, in the middle, under water, sticking out of water, sticking out of the banks, lying exposed on bars and/or buried underwater in sand or clay deposits. Some of the best finds were not visible but were found by probing the bottom and responding to the “clink” sound of metal upon petrified wood.

. What to look for.

- Color- The overwhelming majority of petrified wood found in the creeks of the south are the earth tone colors of cream, light to medium tans/browns and whitish. In addition some of the wood will be grayish and others will have rust/reddish stains. Wood that has been in the creek for a period of time may have black stains due to decayed organic material. The rust and black stains can be removed with a soaking in a weak solution of oxalic acid.

- Shape and size - The majority of petrified wood is going to look like real logs. Most wood will be more vertical (longer/taller) shaped than horizontal (short and wider), rarely will wood be wider that it is taller. Grains, crevices and holes usually run vertical. Some will have exposed crystals. Size does play some role, especially for large pieces which have almost no competition from other competitors. In addition size is not an absolute indicator of quality. This will remain subjective and determined by the preferences of each collector.

Some wannabes, impersonators and

heartbreakers- The chief culprits are iron concretions, sandstone, clay, chert, real wood and limestone, usually placed in the creek for erosion control. Most of these can be quickly assessed with a quick poke with your walking stick. If the material doesn’t make a clink (I wish I could say ‘clink’ here to illustrate the sound) then it is most likely not petrified wood. If you remain uncertain turn it over and check it out. A second opinion from your collecting partners is also a good idea.

Preparations:

- Check the weather the day of and the previous days for the area you are going. Creeks can significantly change during periods of rain. The Internet is a good source to check current and specific local information.

- The majority of the creeks are located in rural and woody areas. Check to make sure there are no active hunting seasons underway. If there are, delay your trip until the seasons are completed.

- Bring along a backpack (this is easier than carry a bucket in the creek bed), digging tools, change of clothes, especially shoes and socks, insect repellent, snacks and drinks. Leave your valuables at home or

in a safe place. If you must take your keys and/or wallet place them in a water tight container. Remotes usually don't work after a good soaking.

- A walking stick with metal end is a good multiple use tool. It can steady you, serve as a probe and if necessary fend off wild creatures of the creek and woods.

Precautions:

- Creek beds can be slippery, especially rocky bottoms that have organic material accumulating on them. Good sturdy shoes are a big plus.

- Watch out for the vegetation. The common enemies are poison ivy and oak. Also be on the outlook for thorns and root systems that may trip you.

- Watch out for the wildlife and critters that abound in and around creeks. Snakes, spiders, mosquitoes, bees and wasps are the most common. While some contact is inevitable there are some basic precautions you can take to avoid an early end to your trip. They include: generous use of insect repellent, watch where you are going, use a walking stick to check an area out before reaching in with your hand and most important remember you are in their territory, respect them, leave them alone, and if the situation warrants just leave. • Don't go by yourself. Make sure someone knows where you are going and they know your expected return time.

WAMS GENERAL MEETING

February 5, 2009,
6:30 PM New Salem Senior Center
~submitted by Theresa Byrne

Rob Leedy, President, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

BOARD AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Leedy, President; Daniel Bontempo, VP; Kathy Bennett, Treasurer; Members at Large Bob Manley, Phil Knutson, Joe Start.

SHOW AND TELL: Rocks beginning with the letter "O" were shown, such as opal, obsidian, Ochoco, and Owyhee. George Goetzelman brought a polished thunder egg, and a cabochon made from the other half. Both were donated to the club for the oral auction at the show.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Rob mentioned that various positions need to be filled, and asked members to volunteer their time for these positions. Richard Dowty has volunteered to be Field Trip Chair. Still needed are Chairs for Education, Juniors, Rules and Awards, and Public Relations. This is your opportunity to make it your club.

PROGRAM: The program was a discussion of possible field trips for 2009. Areas suggested included Newport beaches, McDermitt, Glass Buttes, Paullina, Holley Wood Ranch, Willamette River, Chandler Mt., Carnelian agate near Kalama, and Marble Mount. Many of these locations generated a discussion regarding whether they are still open. Mt Hood Rock club would like to team up with WAMS on trips.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The January Treasurer's report was presented and accepted. The following bills were submitted and approved for payment: Oregon Council dues \$32; Federation dues \$423; Corporation Fee \$50; Ann Gasser show expenses \$74.44; Reyne Knutson show expenses \$5.49; Ted Johnson trailer supplies \$123.38; Kristi Edwards newsletter expenses \$210.20. A motion was made and passed to move \$1500 from the Show Fund to the General Fund.

SUNSHINE: Ted Silver is ill; a card will be sent to him.

SCHOLARSHIP: Ted Johnson presented information regarding the Scholarship Program. An application was included in the January newsletter, and is also available on the WAMSI.org website. Requests for funds must be geology or earth sciences related. Applications are due no later than the April general meeting. Award(s) will be announced at the May meeting. Ted also encouraged members to donate items for the Oral Action at the show. They would like about 20 good quality items.

NEWSLETTER: Kristi Edwards will be editor though 2009. We will need a new editor after that. Anyone interested is encouraged to volunteer now, so they can learn from Kristi while she is still editor.

BREAK/REFRESHMENTS: Members enjoyed each other's company, coffee, and delicious home-made cookies and brownies. Refreshments at the March meeting will be provided by Chuck Hunt, Vicki Johnson, and Ken Leith. Chris Beaty will bring refreshments in April.

SHOW REPORT: Janice Van Cura and Linda Groah gave an update on the April show. Volunteers are needed for various positions, such as silent auction, treasure hunt on Saturday, and front door, make popcorn, etc. Friday, they will need help in greeting the kids.

A work party is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 10AM, at Esch's. We will be filling grab bags and plastic eggs, and getting rocks ready for the silent auction. Plastic eggs are needed; please bring any if you have them.

Tom Beaty volunteered to polish a bucket of rocks for the wheel of fortune and grab bags.

Please donate silent auction items for the show. Slabs, cut rock, rough rock, polished rock - all are needed. Better quality items are requested for the oral auction on Sunday, with proceeds going to the Scholarship Program. Raffle items are also needed. Please go through your collections and find some things to donate.

The next show meeting is on March 9th, 6:30 p.m., at Salem Center 50+.

Daniel Bontempo is coordinating advertising for the show. If you have suggestions for ways to advertise, please let him know. Radio stations, newspapers, websites, calendars, etc. provide this type of information, if notified. Please let him know if you are aware of any, especially the ones that provide this service FOR FREE. There will be flyers on the website that can be printed and left on bulletin boards, etc.

INVENTORY: If you have any club equipment, please let Bob Manley know. He is compiling a list.

TUMBLERS: A 10# tumbler is available for members to use. A vibratory tumbler will be available soon. Contact Phil Knutson to borrow one.

OREGON COUNCIL: Oregon is celebrating its 150th birthday this year, and Vicki and Ted Johnson will be manning our display at the Capitol on February 14th. They will have the Wheel of Fortune, with kids spinning for jasper, petrified wood and agate. They have over 1500 rocks. The celebration runs from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS: New members voted in at this meeting:
Terry and Edie Mischke
Gene Smith (Judy Smith joined last month)
Jeanette Duke
Carolyn Frey and her daughter Julie
2008 board meeting were approved.

Although she is a new member, Jeanette Duke has jumped right in and volunteered. Thank you Jeanette, for volunteering to help with the silversmith and jewelry making.

DOOR PRIZE: Dan Bontempo and Rob Leedy will bring door prize items for the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:20 p.m.

WAMS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2009

Salem Senior Center

~submitted by Phil Knutson

The Board was called to order at 6:35 by Board Chairman Geri Esch.

Members in Attendance: Those in attendance were Geri Esch - Board Chairman, Rob Leedy - President, Kathy Bennet – Treasurer: Board Members at Large - Joe Start, Bob Manley, Ed Pyritz, Philip Knutson, and Guests- Ted Johnson, Dan Groah, Linda Groah, Richard Dowty, and Cindy Waters.

Committee Chairs: Two of the more important volunteer Committee Chair positions in the club have now been filled by newer members. Cindy Waters is the new Juniors Chair and Richard Dowty is the new Field Trips Chair. It was proposed that the Juniors Chair position be considered as a permanent board position. The WAMS bylaws will need to be amended for additional positions to be added to board membership. The matter was added to the items to be considered by the committee which will revise the bylaws.

Scholarship Committee: The board had an extended discussion on the merits of establishing a separate bank account for the scholarship funds. After considering several proposals, it was determined the scholarship committee should meet, and then submit a written proposal to the board with their recommendations for a course of action.

2009 River of Gems Report: Show Committee Co-chair Linda Groah reported that preparations for the WAMS spring show are proceeding on schedule. A work party is scheduled for Feb. 21, and the next show meeting is March 9. Tom Robertson would like a volunteer to shadow him during the trailer unloading and show setup process to learn the procedure and eventually assume this responsibility from him. Ted Johnson reported that the keyed lock on one of the trailers had been switched to a combination lock. Ted has replaced this lock with a more secure keyed lock. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the old lock or any additional keys for the locks please contact Ted.

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 difficult. The other side of the room is not

available during our customary Thurs. night meeting. Both sides are available on any Monday or Wednesday of the month. Room rental is \$45 a night for the current room and would be \$65 a night if we were to expand into both sides on a different night. In order to change the meeting date, the WAMS bylaws would need to be amended. We will try to change the setup in the current room to see if a more useable configuration can be found. WAMS members are encouraged to give input on their feelings with regard to date changes and/or expanding the meeting room to members of the board.

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.

February Board Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for March 16, 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.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 PM.

Lost and Found

~submitted by Theresa Byrne

Did anyone misplace this thermos/cooler? Did you leave it at Holley Wood Ranch during the club field trip? If so, please contact Daniel Bontempo, Vice President, to reclaim it. You may pick it up directly from him, or he will bring it to the next meeting.



SHARE THE ADVENTURE – SHARE THE FUN!

If you're planning to go rocking this spring or summer and don't mind sharing the adventure with other members of WAMS, let Richard Dowty know your itinerary and he'll help spread the word.

More Work Party Pictures from Peggy Peterson



Eric Berglund showing off his talents while others look around



Ken Leith and Mark Bucholz

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

March Program
Virtual Cabbing
March Show and Tell
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters
P



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