



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

November 2009

## QUASI-DONATIONS

~submitted by Eric Becklund

No, I am not looking for Quasi's. However, I would like to run something like a scavenger hunt, where I am the scavenger and you are the hunter. I am in the process of building a new game for the kids area of our rock show. It will be a marble roller type game built on a 4x8 sheet of plywood. I am seeking parts and expertise.

If I can get donated parts we can keep expenses down and produce a quality game. If you have any of this stuff just laying around, looking for a new home, I can help put it to good use.

Needed roller parts include: 1 - 5/8" sheet of plywood, 6' - 1" angle iron, 2 qts. white wood primer, 1 qt. each, red paint and white paint, white pvc pipe (1/2" - 3"), white pvc elbows and joints, chasing Christmas mini-lights, wind chimes, bells and gongs, 100 - 4" electric fence wire hangers, 1/8" sheet aluminum, 6' of 3" auger (capable of lifting a 1 1/4" steel ball up a 45 degree incline), and a 5 - 10 rpm electric motor.

I am also looking for expertise. Our club has within it many people with many talents. I need help. Can an artist produce a 24" hypnotic wheel? Do we have an electrician that can help me evaluate and run electric motors? Also, I am looking for someone to weld some wire chutes together.

If you have any of the needed supplies please bring them to the next club meeting, or call me at 503-787-3881 and we can get together. Also, it would be very helpful if you would bring a list, of what you are giving, so I can return anything not used on the game, assuming you want this good stuff back.

I will sincerely appreciate your help and believe that together, we can make a great game that will bring a lot of fun to the show. Thank you.

## All You Rock Hounds and Nuts

~submitted by Rob Leedy

We dearly need your help on Nov. 7th, at Don and Geri Esch's house at 9:00 AM. If you were at the club picnic and saw our club rock pile, we need to dearly clean up our mess. We need all the rock hounds we can get as we need to sort and reorganize all of our rock pile. It has become a bad eyesore and mess. I would not enjoy having a mess like this at my place. We have a lot of plastic buckets, that have deteriorated beyond use and they need to find there way to the dump. I will bring up more information and even get on my knees to beg all of you to turn out for this clean up party. Please mark your calendars and come enjoy the work of sorting rocks and junk.

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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 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: Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811
- 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
- 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

It is November and time to elect new officers. Now is your chance to help out the club!! I hope you will come to the meeting and help vote in new officers. Maybe even run for an office.

I have decided to volunteer to be the Show Chair. I am hoping this will be a great experience. Thanks to all those that have volunteered to help and to convince me to do this. I will be counting on all of you to help.

I hope someone will step forward to do the newsletter. It really is not that hard to do and if you get great articles from members it makes it easier.

Thanks Dexter for your wonderful article and photos!

Enclosed in the newsletter is the renewal form for membership. Also don't forget about the holiday dinner.

There will be a show meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> at the senior center. All are welcome to come.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi

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

## Presidents Message

To all the WAMS members, aka "Rock nuts",

It's been a fast year for me being President of WAMS. I'm sorry for having a bad year serving you the members of WAMS. I just had one of those years!

As most of you know, I have served this club in some position, almost every year since I have become ill with the rock hound virus. I hope our Board members have called all of you asking you, if you will step up to the plate and make this your club also. What is sad, is thinking about the "what ifs" you know what if we don't have anyone to volunteer for President? What if the club goes without a newsletter person? How will we still have a club, if no one volunteers for any of the open positions? Please, no really, PLEASE! Stop griping and step up and volunteer! Make this your club...Also, let's not think about the "what ifs". But honestly, it will be hard to be the club we love, without a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Board members. or even a newsletter. I ask all of you...Do you still want a Rock Club? Lets not think about the "what ifs". Stand up and make this your club, a club we can all be proud of! I will not beg or get on my knees, at the next meeting. That is not me! "WHAT IF"? Your Prez, Rob Leedy

P.S. Thank you Kristi Edwards, for all you have done with our award winning news letter, over the past few years. Also, thank you for stepping up to be our next Show Chairman! I guess even if we don't have a club, we'll at least have a show in April :)

## UP Coming Shows

November 6-8	Gem Faire Lane County Fairgrounds Eugene, OR
November 14	Columbia Willamette Faceter's Guild Clackamas, OR
November 13-15	South Sound Gem Show Puyallup Fairgrounds Puyallup, WA
November 14-15	Skagit Rock and Gem Sedro Woolley Comm Center Sedro Woolley, WA
November 21-22	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Kitsap County Fairgrounds Bremerton, WA
November 6-8	Chugach Gem and Mineral Anchorage, Alaska

## Holiday Dinner

~submitted by Kathy Bennett

We have a lot going on at our November meeting, so I hope everyone will attend. I look forward to seeing everyone, chatting with old friends and getting to chat with new friends.

Our holiday celebration dinner will be held this year on December 5th from 5 PM until 10 PM. The location will be Roth's in West Salem, the same as last year. Their address is 1130 Wallace Road, in West Salem. The meal will be an old fashioned ham dinner with oven baked brown sugar ham, fresh vegetable tray with dip, scalloped potatoes, candied yams, buttered corn, fresh fruit bowl, old fashioned dinner rolls, blackberry cobbler, water and coffee.

Tickets will go on sale at our November meeting for a price of \$12 for members and \$17 for non-members. We will be selling tickets to the holiday dinner as well as collecting your 2010 dues at our November meeting. Also we will be electing our new officers in

November. If for some reason you cannot attend the November meeting we will also be collecting dues at the holiday celebration. (Renewal membership is due December 31st)

If you cannot attend the November meeting, but want to attend the holiday dinner please contact either Kathy Bennett or Rob Leedy. Kathy's number is 503 363 4974, or Rob Leedy 503 371 6421. You can call if you have any questions. (I am home evenings or weekends, but Jim will be home most of the time). Dues can also be mailed to our WAMS post office box if you are unable to attend either of these functions. Our mailing address is PO Box 13041 Salem OR 97309-1041.

## **WAMS Is Now On Facebook**

**~submitted by Susan Appleby**

Join in and be a friend. Upcoming event information is listed. You can upload photos, start a discussion, questions, got rocks for sale - let others know here.

Go to facebook.com and search for Willamette Agate and Mineral Society. A great place to keep others up to date on what's going on.

## **NW Federation Field Trips**

**~submitted by Dexter Leonard**

The Billings show was a combination of the NW Federation, the American Federation and the Billings club show. We arrived on Saturday and spent three hours at the show expecting to spend Sunday all day here. The organizers had scheduled trips from Monday to the following weekend and we had planned on going on several of them. When signing up we found out that a few trips were full including two that we were planning to go on. These were the Bear Canyon ledge agate and the Stillwater Pt and Pd mines. We found out that the Bear Canyon trip was still open, but over 300 people had already signed up. We were able to sign up too. This trip was scheduled for Monday.

While getting tickets for the show I was talking to a fellow rock hound from California and he looked us up inside the show and invited us to go with him on Sunday so we scrambled to find Joe and Janice to take our place for a commitment we had on Sunday. So Sunday we met our new friends in Billings and headed to Laurel, west of Billings. We took exit 434 off of I 90 and headed south on 310/212 to Warner Mt. We stayed on 310 to milepost 4 and then took Quarry Drive east and then on Helt road for 3.4 miles. We turned on to Bear Canyon Road. and headed

east to the mouth of the canyon, which is visible as a small canyon.

Four-wheel drive is recommended and we parked at the mouth of the canyon. Then we walked up the canyon for a mile and half looking for agates. The best collecting is on the north side of the canyon about 200 feet up in a very steep wall area with ledges. There were about 20 cars parked in the canyon and some people were having good luck digging on the ledges, but we did not want to climb up to them and then try and get down in one piece as the last section was very steep and rocky. So we did all of our looking below, digging down the hill near the road and in the gulches.

We collected in the gulches coming down into the canyon. In order to find anything we dug and looked for small egg like thunder eggs rocks and did find some small fortification agates about 1" in diameter. We also found some fossils along with some coral.

This area in the Pryor Mountains has wild horses, and some people went looking for them but did not find any.

There are snakes but no one there saw any while we were there.

**These photos were taken outside of the canyon.**





### **The Second Field trip on the Yellowstone River east of Miles City.**

We started in Miles City, at the Wal-Mart parking lot and there were about 150 cars. The parking lot was a huge traffic jam. Some people were selling minerals but we did not get anything. Finally took off for the river and it was fun getting through the traffic and keeping in view of the car ahead of us. We went east and towards the river. In fact went on the old abandoned railroad bed belonging to the Milwaukee railroad. We followed the bed and went across the river on the rail bridge. That was interesting as my truck was wider than the bed. They had metal plates where the rails had been located and they moved as we drove across.

### **Railroad Bridge**



When we got to the north side we went downstream for several miles to a fishing access site called Bonfield where they divided up the group into two groups. The first group drove down to the river and our group went downstream another mile or so and

parked on the right of way. I have included a photo of the site.



We went down the bank and we waded to an island and went out and looked for Montana moss agate, fossils and coral. We had fun, but did not find any agate. We did get fossils, coral and clear agate.

We hope to go again, but a boat would be helpful as the islands and banks are hard to reach. The Yellowstone River is big and fast. This year the river was high and fast all summer, so a lot of places for agate were not accessible.

### **Yellowstone River**



## Yellowstone River



All photos submitted by Dexter Leonard

## No Camping at Richardson's Rock Ranch in 2010

Richardson's Rock Ranch will not have any camping at their location in 2010. Listed are campgrounds nearby.

### Madras Area Campgrounds:

- Lake Simtustus, 541-475-1085
- Pelton Campground, 541-475-0517
- Cove Palisades State Park, 541-546-3046
- Central Oregon KOA, 541-546-3046
- Hay Stack Reservoir, 541-475-9272

## Moen Estate Sale

~submitted by Rob Leedy

The Moen's were long time dealers at the WAMS show. There will be an estate sale November 14 and 15. Call Rob at 503-371-6421 for the address and time.

## Lebanon Lapidary Shop

The Lebanon lapidary shop will be having a sale November 21 and 22. The address is 31 Sturtevant Road. Phone number is 503-580-6247.

## WAMS General Meeting

October 1, 2009, 6:30PM, Salem Center 50+  
~submitted by Theresa Byrne

Jim Bennett, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

**Officers and Board Members in Attendance:** Vice-President Jim Bennett, Treasurer Kathy Bennett, Board Chairperson Geri Esch, Newsletter editor Kristi Edwards, Federation Director Marv Bartel, and Members at Large: Joe Start, Ed Pyritz, Phil Knutsen, and Larry Nasset.

**Show and Tell:** Finding rocks beginning with U proved to be difficult, so members used their imagination by bringing rocks that were unusual, ugly, or unidentified.

**Oregon Council:** Ted Silver attended the recent Oregon Council meeting. They discussed conflicting information given out by BLM and Forest Service. The Oregon Council has joined the ALAA (American Lands Access Association). They hope to get information to the clubs about areas where there have been problems between rock collectors or claim owners, and BLM or Forest Service. In some cases, berms are being built and the miners can't access their claims. Let Vicki Johnson know of any access problems so she can share it with other rock clubs.

**Program:** Tom Quintal spoke about problems between miners and BLM and the Forest Service. A lot of roads are being gated and have a berm in the way so that miners are not being allowed access to their claims. He explained the grants and laws that govern ingress/egress over public domains. Let him know if you want to be on an email list for information regarding this issue.

**Sunshine Report:** One of the dealers at our Rickreal show, Maxine Moen, recently passed away.

**Treasurer's Report:** August and September Treasurer's Report were presented by Kathy Bennett and approved. Bills were presented and approved for payment.

**Scholarship Committee:** Working on ideas for fund raising.

**Federation Report:** Jance VanCura reported on the Billings Montana AFMS/NFMS show. It was great, with lots of impressive displays and field trips. If a club wants to sponsor the Federation Show, it must now be approved by the committee. So far, no club

has been selected to put on the next Federation show.

**Rock Collecting in Independence:** Marv Bartel reported that the area by the bridge in Independence is now fenced and rock collecting is no longer possible there.

**Donation to Center 50+:** On behalf of Salem Senior Center 50+, Ted Silver thanked the club for its generous contribution to the Lapidary Center. Larry Fawcett and Larry Lovell worked very hard getting the equipment installed and running.

**Work Party:** There will be a work party Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Esch's. We will be sorting rock.

**Refreshments:** Thanks to Susan Appleby and Emily Start for this meeting's refreshments. Volunteers for next month are: Reyne Knutson, Karen Porter, and Sandra Martin.

**Nominations for Officers:** The club is having a tough time getting people to step forward and agree to be officers. Jim asked members to think about it, and let board members know if you are willing to take one of the positions.

**New Business:** Joe Start reports we will meet in the room with the projector and loudspeaker system from now on.

**Next Meeting:** Bring rocks beginning with "V".

The meeting was adjourned and door and raffle prizes drawn.

## **WAMS Board Meeting Minutes October 5, 2009**

~Submitted by Kathy Bennett

Attending: Geri Esch, Rob Leedy, Jim Bennett, Joe Start, Mary Haslebacher, Larry Nasset, Larry Lovell, Ed Pyritz, Marv Bartel & Kathy Bennett

The meeting was called to order at the Salem Senior Center at 6:30 PM by Geri Esch.

Mary Haslebacher has been in charge of the dealer chair for many years. She and Ray will be going on a trip this spring and she asked if there was someone else who could do it. She is going to get the contracts sent out and put the PO Box to send the contracts back in. Kathy Bennett said she would volunteer for this. Mary and Kathy will work this out before Mary leaves on her trip.

We had a recent opening in the dealers and after a lengthy discussion it was decided that the first option for the opening would go to Scott's Treasures and the second option would be Earth's Treasures. Mary called Scott and he was already booked for that date, so she will be contacting Earth's Treasures for the 24 foot space.

A question was brought up regarding if the silent auction would be moved back up front. After much discussion, there was a motion to keep the same location, but with the tables in a straight line instead of the V type configuration of last year. This motion was passed. Larry Lovell suggested that the tables be moved in a bit to make more room for the people wanting to bid on the items. We did not have the layout schedule, so will check this to make sure it all works.

There was a discussion regarding the show. We really need to have someone volunteer to head this very important project for our club. In the meantime we are going to have a special meeting of the heads of the committees to at least get started on the plans for the show. This meeting will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

Another project that we need to continue to do is sorting and straightening the rock pile at the Esch's. A big thanks to those that worked on it this last Saturday, but that only scratched the surface. We will be having another work party November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. The board voted to supply pizza and water or soft drinks for this work party.

There was a discussion regarding compensation for attending as delegates to functions for the club. The charitable organization rate is .14 per mile. It was voted that is the rate we will be paying.

The Christmas holiday dinner will be at Roth's IGA in West Salem again this year. The room was reserved last year. Rob & Kathy will contact them and give more details in a separate article in the newsletter as we do not have any details at this time. Rob & Kathy also volunteered to plan the Christmas dinner next year.

The board voted \$100 for small gifts for each person attending. Ken Leith asked Jim Bennett to show a nametag pin to the board for a possible change in our nametags. The board decided they would stay with the type they are currently using.

There was a discussion regarding the offices that need to be filled for the 2010 year. The members at large will start contacting members to see who would be interested in helping their club. Ed Pyritz will contact the members at large to co-ordinate this effort.

The voting for new officers will be at the November meeting. Please be sure to attend.

At the November meeting we will be collecting dues for 2010. They are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can pay at the November meeting, the Christmas dinner or you can mail to the PO Box 13041, Salem, Or 97309-1041. We will also be collecting money for the Christmas dinner at the November meeting.

Also at the November meeting we will be voting for the WAMS member of the year.

**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)

## ***What's Rocking?***

**WAMS General Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
November 5 - 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR  
**Guests Welcome!**

**November Program**  
Officer Elections  
**November Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**V**



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