



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

## February 2010

### Remarkable Rocks

~submitted by Dan Groah

Remarkable Rocks is a series of facts and stories that I have collected that tends to emphasize the unusual in the mineral world. A person's perception of what is unusual is perhaps dependant on where they are or where they are on the road to accumulation of geological knowledge. When I was in the third grade, my teacher put on a science display that included a "rock that floats." Naturally, my eight year old self was totally amazed at such a wonder. Today, pumice is no big deal. So, some of the subjects of this new series may be quite familiar to some and not to others. Whatever you may think of the odd and unusual in the forth coming articles, this endeavor is designed to be enlightening and fun. If you know of any little known geological items that would catch the attention of other readers, please let me know.

I'm starting the series with something about thunder eggs. This was the subject of the DVD program in our January meeting. One thunder egg pictured in the program was a huge 1800 pounder in front of the office of Richardson's Rock Ranch. The normal size for most thunder eggs seems to be in the 3 inch to 6 inch range. Few people outside of the rock hound community realize that they can get this big. One time, digging eggs in the Ochoco's, I spent part of a day standing on a rock hard lump in the dirt floor while digging eggs in the bank to my front. My digging partner (Gary Buss) joked that I was probably standing on a giant thunder egg. When we finished working the bank and started a new lift down, we found the rock that I was standing on to be just

that....a huge 300 pound thunder egg. While not as big as the Richardson's egg, it seemed incredible to us. And there are thunder eggs even larger. Near the zoo in Portland is the old OMSI building which is now an activity center for children. In the grassy area to the left of the building are several boulders that were placed there during the OMSI era. Because there was no signage, few people realized they were looking at 4 to 5 foot diameter thunder eggs. These monsters came from the Deschutes river canyon near Maupin.

To my knowledge, they are the largest known.

### Thanks to Mary

~Submitted by Kathy Bennett

I would like to thank Mary Haslebacher for all the work she has done over the years on the dealers for our show. When I got her notes I can see that there was a lot of behind the scenes work she did in contacting all the dealers that I was not aware of. Mary thanks for a job well done. I hope you have fun on your trip.

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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)

**2010 Elected Officers**

- President: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Vice President: Eddie Hopper 503-584-0331
- Secretary: Kathy Bennett 503-363-4974
- Treasurer: Phil Knutson 503-363-4231
- Federation Director: Gene Gangle 503-581-4440
- Members at Large: Ed Pyritz 503-585-2903  
Tom Beaty 503-361-8788  
Leonard Cleary 503-585-4398  
Don Esch 503-371-1472

Board Chair: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421

**2010 Committee Chairs**

- Show Chair: Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811
- Field Trips: Rob Leedy 503-371-6421  
Joe Van Cura 541-753-2401  
Kristi Edwards 541-738-6811
- Bulletin Editor: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Education: Jennifer Ferrell 503-551-1554
- Juniors: 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: Phil Knutson 503-363-4231
- Property Control: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
- Public Relations: Susan Appleby 503-391-4221
- Advertising: Bob Manley 503-845-6482
- Publications: Steve Lawrence 503-585-8014
- Scrapbook/Historian: Reyne Knutson 503-363-4231
- Host/Hostess: Eric Becklund 503-787-3881
- 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 am getting this newsletter out early this month to notify all of you of the upcoming field trips. Thanks to all of you that have made this possible.

I want to thank Kathy Bennett for all her hard work on getting me information for the newsletter and show. She has retired from her job, but I think she is now working full time for the club. Also a big thank you to Linda, Eric, Susan, Phil, Reyne, Larry, Tom and Rob for your help with the show. This is my first year as show chair and all have been very supportive.

This club is still in need of a president, so please think about helping out.

Daniel Bontempo thanks the club for his award. He has joined a group in Kansas. I am sure he is very involved as he was with our group.

I am still in need of volunteers for the show. So please email me to help.

See you at the meeting.

Kristi

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

## Up Coming Shows

Feb 4-12	<b>Business to Business Trade Show Gem and Lapidary Wholesalers Inc Tucson, AZ</b>
Feb 5-8	<b>Fine Mineral Show 9th annual show Tucson, AZ</b>
Feb 12-14	<b>We Rock Oregon Agate &amp; Mineral Society Portland, OR</b>
March 6-7	<b>Thundereggs Rock &amp; Arrowhead Club Klamath Falls, OR</b>
March 12-14	<b>Back Again in 2010 Tualatin Valley Gem Club Hillsboro, OR</b>

## Field Trips

~submitted by Joe Van Cura

January's trip will be on the 30th to the Rice Museum. They are expecting us about noon. Rob wants everybody that will be carpooling to meet at the old K-mart on Portland road at 10:30am. This is near the Harbor Freight and Bingo Hall. Call Rob to let him know that you will be going at 503-371-6421.

In February we will be going to the coast, specifically, Lost Creek. The date is Feb. 6th. We will meet at the Lost Creek parking lot at 9:00 A.M. Hopefully there will be rock showing by then. If not we will try to find alternative spots north or south from there.

If you have any questions call Rob or you can call Joe at 541-753-2401.

## Thank You

Thank you so much for your thoughts and sympathy cards regarding the passing of Ken's mother. We really appreciate your kindness. Ken and Lee Anne Settlemier

## WAMS Show Meeting Minutes

Mon. Jan 4, 2010 @ Senior Center, 6:30

~submitted by Linda Groah

**Present:** Kristi (SHOW CHAIR) & Mark Edwards, Rob Leedy, Kathy Bennett, Reyne & Phil Knutson, Eric Becklund, Tom Robertson, Dan & Linda Groah, Larry Lovell, Susan Appleby.

**Show Theme:** Rocks of Oregon

**Contract:** Dates of show April 16-17-18. Kristi has contract signed with the Polk County Fairgrounds. She passed out checklists of what we need to look at before, and finish doing at the end of the show.

**Budget:** We looked at last year's income and budget. We will draw up a new budget to present to the February board meeting.

**Advertising:** Aaron Currier will do the newspaper ads. Last year we spent \$537, although the budget for advertising was \$1250.

Susan Appleby will contact Capi Lynn at the Statesman, in hopes of having an article about one or more of our demonstrators before the show.

Postcard reminders were sent last year, and many came back, as we had incorrect addresses. Rob suggested we do a personal survey this year again, asking people at the show where they heard about the show.

We need a person to put ads in IGA shopper, classifieds, Nickel Ads, and send info to TV and radio stations for the "community events" section.

Kristi did send info to the NW Fed and rock magazines.

Rob did not get an estimate on new signs yet, but will do so. Tom suggested we have a banner made, and pay the Polk Co. Fairgrounds to put it up in the building all year, with the other displayed banners.

**Advertisers:** It was suggested someone contact Fast Signs and the city of Salem, who apparently will put up a banner (we buy) near the Convention Center, to advertise the show in April.

Flyers need to be at the Polk Co. Fairgrounds, in the office, so that they can pass them out as other events are held there.

Everyone who has other ideas will e-mail Kristi, who will pass them on to all of us.

**Brochures:** We have 700 TE brochures, which are passed out more often than others.

**Dealers:** Kathy B. reported that all have paid \_ or more. \$2930 paid, \$1966 more will be collected at the show, for a total of \$4896. Kathy is willing to become dealer chair, as Mary is probably retiring from that position. Linda is willing to help Kathy.

**Demonstrators:** Susan Appleby is the new demonstrator chair. She needs a wire wrap person, and was hoping to get Walt Friday for spheres, or perhaps Tom Beatty to do spheres or silversmith. We need to check that fire extinguishers are on hand, and discussed safety for use of gas torches for silversmith.

**Display cases:** Reyne Knutson will start passing out applications at the regular club meeting this month. Susan will send her the updated applications via e-mail.

**Egg hunt:** Eggs are in the trailer. Joe Van Cura and Dan G are tumbling.

**Friday kid's day:** Joe Van Cura will handle the scheduling. Ann Gasser will send out letters to schools. .

**Fluorescent Show:** Tom Robertson will order the new lamp in March, after Phil checks at the next board meeting, for the OK to spend the money. It was agreed upon last, year, but we want to make sure the board is aware. Tom needs updated order information. Last year it was \$1062, plus \$30 freight.

Discussion followed on darkening procedures for the fluorescent area. Rob and Kathy will each bring their canopies, and we will see which works. We think there are more dark sided tarps in the trailer.

Tom suggested we replace the front glass on the fluorescent cases with plexi glass for safety. Even though there were safety glasses available, people didn't use them. Phil was asked to approach the board for funding for the plexiglass fronts for 4 cases.

We will need people to set up the fluorescent show, and take it down. Most of the materials are at Van Cura's.

**Front Door:** Phil Knutson will purchase 2 better cash boxes, for the silent auction and front door area. He will also make nametags of dealers, demonstrators, and other people who need them. The other cash boxes are OK, for popcorn, magazines and kids' area (needs 3).

**Kid's area:** Eric Becklund, coordinator, received some rocks from Dan G. Joe and Dan are still tumbling for Eric's games.

Eric will have photos of each kind of rock, to help kids identify them, for the sandbox game.

Phil made gates for the "zigzag" game. Eric needs wooden frames to sift rock. Kristi will bring one from her work place, to see if that will work.

Discussion on material for "sandbox" included kitty litter, wood pellets, newspaper pellets, saw dust. Eric will get a kids' swimming pool for the "sandbox", and we'll place it up on 2 tables, so kids can walk around it to hunt for their rocks.

Kathy B will have more grab bags made for the sewing group at the Sr. Center.

**Layout:** Kristi will e-mail the map info to Joe VC.

**Magazines:** We decided to put these in the "critter" area, which also has the grab bags.

**Oral auction:** The scholarship committee does want to do this. They are also thinking about raffling some of the expensive opals that were donated last year, at club meetings, rather than at the show. They could sell tickets for 3 meetings before holding the drawing.

Items donated (by ANYONE) could include finished items and rough material. Last year there were about 30 "lots" to sell, which takes about an hour. The oral auction will be Sun. 2 PM.

**Popcorn:** Reyne will coordinate, and Kristi will make sure machine is clean before we start this year. Rob has about 50 lbs of popcorn at his house, and thinks we may need another 50 lbs for the show. Bags will sell for \$1, with a few smaller bags being used for the kids' door prizes. We will need a list, at the end of the show of remaining materials, to plan better for the following year.

**Program:** Susan Appleby will do this again. Kathy will give Susan the dealer info.

**Raffle and Door Prizes:** Kristi will discuss this later.

Susan A has the coupons for door prize items - including "free spin on wheel", popcorn, etc. She will make these up before the show. Kristi will either collect the dealer items for the raffle, or designate someone to do so.

**Security:** We need a chair for this. In the meantime, Rob will call around and get bids before our next show meeting.

**Set-up and Take-down: We need a coordinator for this.** Kristi will ask Don Esch. Other suggestions were Ed Pyritz and Jake Stryker. Steve Lawrence will coordinate loading and unloading the trailers.

Someone will need to get the pizza and snacks for both set-up and take-down.

Last year Ivan Standley moved the trailers in (by noon on Wed) and Ted Johnson has also moved trailers. We need a coordinator to make sure this happens.

**Silent auction:** Larry Lovell will coordinate this. They will have 5 tables this year. Rob will buy the lights, and will price halogen vs. regular. Larry will also buy plastic tubs for the wet slabs, to prevent water leakage. Larry already has trays for the dry rocks.

Larry needs small paper tablets for the bidders. Linda will bring several pads for him.

Phil will bring a clock with a second hand for the auction timing.

Steve Lawrence is continuing to move the auction rocks from the Esch house to his. They are clean and ready to take to the fairgrounds in April.

**Trailers:** Janice has the keys, and will give them to Kristi this week. We will need blocks to set under the tongues at set-up. It seems whatever has been used in the past disappeared. Tom had loaned some of his that never come back to him.

**Thursday dinner:** Kathy suggested we have chicken (pre-done) instead of spaghetti. Rob asked the fairgrounds food service if they would provide spaghetti, and they would do so for \$4 per plate. We paid about \$5 per plate for Annette's last year. Kathy will take over the dinner plans with help from the committee

**Volunteers:** Cindy Waters will coordinate this. Kristi will find out if Cindy will be at the regular meeting this week.

**Work Party:** Will be scheduled at the next meeting. We will probably have one in March.

Both Rob and Tom volunteered their homes. It will be decided at the next meeting. This is when we fill grab bags and eggs.

**The next meeting will be Monday, Feb 8, at the Senior Center, at 6:30. Anyone is welcome to come, and offer help!!!**

## **WAMS General Meeting**

**January 7, 2010,**

**~submitted by Kathy Bennett**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board, Rob Leedy, at 6:35 PM on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

The board members attending were asked to introduce themselves. Rob also acknowledged that Gene Gangle is the new Federation Director. Guests were asked to introduce themselves and tell what their interests are.

Show & Tell was for the letter W, (next month will be X, Y and Z).

Program Director, Dan Groah, showed an interesting DVD of US thunder eggs. Next month the program will be on opal cutting.

Break, thanks to those who brought goodies.

## Business Meeting

There were 62 members in attendance and 15 guests.

Need Host/Hostess, thanks to Linda Groah and Reyne Knutson for volunteering tonight. (By the end of the night Reyne Knutson and Eric Becklund, stepped up to volunteer. Thanks to both of them.)

Show Report-Kristi Edwards, show chair, gave the following information:

- Contract signed with Polk Co, had to pay \$300 cleaning deposit
- Joe Van Cura is in charge of the oral auction for the Scholarship fund
- Susan Appleby is in charge of the demonstrators
- Kathy Bennett is in charge of the dealers
- Linda Groah is the show secretary
- Reyne Knutson is in charge of display cases
- Cindy Waters is in charge scheduling volunteers
- Eric Becklund is in charge of the kid's area
- Rob Leedy is in charge of the egg hunt & security
- Steve Lawrence will be in charge of the trailers
- Larry Lovell will be in charge of the silent auction
- Aaron Courier will be in charge of newspaper ads

We still need chair volunteers for advertising, coordinate the set up and take down, and the fluorescent show. If you are interested in chairing these tasks, please contact Kristi Edwards.

Karen Porter gave the sunshine report, including Ken Settlemier mother's passing. Walt Nelson, Gene Gangle, Bill Jacoby and Chuck Hunt were also mentioned to keep in our good thoughts.

Field trips: Joe & Rob. In January the club is planning a field trip to the Rice Museum. The group will meet on January 30th at 10:30 AM at the old K-Mart (which is now Harbor Freight and the Bingo hall on Portland Rd in Salem) near the coffee stand in the parking lot. Anyone that knows where the Rice Museum is can meet at the Rice Museum at 12 noon.

The Rice Museum has indicated that if we give them \$500 worth of brochures (jasper, thunder egg, petrified wood etc) from our club, that they will let all WAMS members in for free admission for the year. This was passed, but there was much discussion regarding what the \$500 worth would be. It was decided that the board would make the final decision, keeping in mind that we want to do it for the cost of producing the brochures. We will be contacting the Rice Museum to see what kind of proof they will need that someone is a member of WAMS.

In February (Joe was not sure of the exact date, he thought the 16<sup>th</sup>, but it will be published in the newsletter) there will be a field trip to the coast (agate poker, anyone?). Geri said that Don was just at the coast and we have sandy beaches without rock showing. Here's hoping that changes before February. Memorial weekend there is a trip to Hampton Butte scheduled. The Klamath Falls group will also be there that weekend. It will be fun meeting fellow rock hounds. Joe also asked about how many people would be interested in out of state trips, possibly Wyoming. There were several that said they might. Contact Joe or Rob if you have someplace you would like to be considered for a trip.

April is coming and that means adjudication. We need two or three volunteers for this. Let us know if you plan on bringing in something to be judged.

Bob Manley is the librarian. He indicated he will not be able to attend all the meetings, so has left instructions on how to get the material out for meetings.

Phil Knutson gave a report on equipment owned by the club that is available to be checked out. We have 5 tumblers and 3 polishers, some of which are not in use at this time. Contact Phil if you would like to check them out.

EDITOR- We **really need** someone to step up to do this. Kristi has said she will stay on through April, but someone really needs to help here. She has done this for 5 years and would like a break. She is willing to train. **Please** think about this opportunity.

Secretary's report was in the newsletter. It was accepted as published.

Treasurer's report was given for November and December and accepted as read. The bills were read and approval was given to pay all.

Our new VP, Eddie Hopper, read applicant names for new membership. They included Craig & Laurie Howell, Connie McCutcheon and Gabriel Thompson (junior member), Claudia Wise and Joseph Greene. These members were voted on and accepted. Welcome to WAMS.

There was no old business.

There was no new business brought up at this time. We collected \$50 for the scholarship fund raffle; prizes were drawn.

Eric Becklund will bring the door prizes for next meeting.

Christine Beaty, Nadara Hopper and Cara Leedy volunteered to bring refreshments for the next meeting.

XYZ will be the show and tell rocks for next meeting. Next meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the senior center. Door prizes were drawn, and the meeting was closed at 8:36 PM by Rob Leedy, Chairman of the board.

## **Board Meeting Notes**

**Jan, 19, 2010**

**~Submitted by Kathy Bennett**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the board, Rob Leedy at 6:35 PM.

Members in attendance were Rob Leedy, Don Esch, Ed Pyritz, Phil Knutson, Leonard Cleary and Kathy Bennett.

The first on the agenda was the brochures for Rice Museum. The Rice Museum has indicated if we give them \$500 in brochures, they will give free admittance to the museum for the year to all WAMS members. The cost to produce 5000 brochures was just over \$1000. We have 5 types of brochures. They are thunder eggs, agates, petrified wood, fossils and jasper. We have over 1000 of each. It was proposed that we give the museum 500 of each, 2500 total. This is contingent that they are handouts. Rob will contact the museum to see if this is acceptable and also to see if they will be giving the brochures or selling.

Phil discovered he has the show briefcase at his home and will bring it to Kristi.

Next on the agenda was the light for the show. Tom Robertson is authorized to buy a new short wave bulb not to exceed \$1200.

It was suggested the show chairman should present an operating show budget to the board of directors by the February board meeting for the 2010 show. Future show preliminary budget should be presented by the October board meeting.

Kathy will bring a list of prospective dealers to the next board meeting, so the board can vote on the alternates for this show.

Art & Joyce Winters are now life members. Phil will contact Eddie with this information.

There was a motion to transfer funds from the replacement reserve to the general fund and to delete that category of replacement reserve. The amount was \$305.44. (This was an internal move in the treasury report. The category was started years ago and no longer had a purpose.)

There was a discussion on the library fund. There are two new agate books out and it was voted to buy these new books. Phil will check for the best prices on them.

Phil and Leonard will do a treasury audit.

Rob and Kathy have volunteered to plan the holiday dinner this year. They will come up with a budget to propose to the board. We need a volunteer to do the August picnic. Don Esch said we could use their home again.

Don Esch will write an article for the newsletter on the next work party to clean up the rock pile. They are just waiting for better weather.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, as the 15<sup>th</sup> is President's day. The time will be 6:30 PM at the Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

## **North Lincoln Agate Society**

**~submitted by David Eslinger**

I belong to the North Lincoln Agate Society (NLAS), and we are considering a show in the Lincoln City Cultural Center from June 16-18. We would like to know if your club has vendors that might like to participate. Cost has not been set, but will probably be \$150-200 for rent, tables and electricity for the three days. Could you ask your members if they would like to participate, and give me some feedback? Thanks.

I have attended and purchased at your show the last two years, and appreciate your efforts to reach children about geology and lapidary. (I always give the kids free rocks, and enjoy communicating with them)

I will be buying in Tucson at the gem show from 1/30-2/10. I am emphasizing fossils this year, and as my business name implies (Nature's Art), I emphasize natural products including fossils, crystals, spheres, carved stones, coral and my handmade jewelry using those materials.

I can be reached at 541-994-5900 or at [dhe@charter.net](mailto:dhe@charter.net).

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

**WAMS General Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
February 4 - 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR  
**Guests Welcome!**

**February Program**  
Opal Cutting  
Ed Pyritz  
**February Show and Tell**  
Bring rocks/minerals/gems beginning with the letters  
**XYZ**



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