



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

June 2010

WAMS Lapidary Shop

~submitted by Theodore Silver

Does WAMS have a lapidary shop? No! But we do have access to a well equipped shop at Center 50+.

The shop is operated and maintained by the Senior Lapidary Club and is open to anyone 18 years and older, with an interest in cutting, shaping and polishing rocks. The seniors do require that people demonstrate knowledge of proper equipment usage, either by completing their 21 hour training course or by 'challenging' the course (demonstrate proficiency by cutting, grinding and polishing one of your stones.)

The course costs \$30.00 which includes 21 hours of instruction, one slab of your choice from their stock and one thunderegg. Oh , and one beautiful yellow apron.

Shop hours are: Monday -Friday, 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. til 3:30 p.m. Evening hours are 6:00p.m. til 9:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. Saturday hours are 9:a.m. til 1:00p.m. Daytime use is restricted to those 50 years and older but evenings and Saturdays the age limit is 18 and older.

You're encouraged to stop by and visit, meet the supervisors, ask questions and check out the shop. Those folks 50 and up are also encouraged to join the senior lapidary club which meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the lecture hall on the second floor at Center 50+.

Oh, how much does it cost? You can use the shop for \$1.25 per hour (trim saws, grinders, polishers) plus hourly rates for slab saws. See you there.

Remarkable Rocks

~By Dan Groah

I have a keen interest in things lost in Oregon, especially rocks and minerals. Lost gold is always near the top on most people's priority. The Lost Blue Bucket mine and the Neahkanie Mountain treasure have been pursued relentlessly. But I prefer stories on less known sites.

In 1904 while seeking shelter from a storm near Pine Mountain east of Bend, some cowboys discovered a crystal cave. They told Nicholas Smith, a hardware store owner in Bend of the Find. Smith, following fresh cattle trails in the snow, found the cave. He interred, broke off some crystals, and left because of an oncoming storm.

Next spring he went back. No snow, no fresh cattle trails, and no cave. Smith displayed the crystals he obtained in the cave in his store for years, but the Crystal Cave itself has not been seen since.

Did you like that one? How about this story? In 1856, Dr. Evans, who was also an amateur geologist, was seeking rock samples forty miles from Port Orford. These samples were sent back east for testing. One turned out to be from a rare Pallasite meteorite. Evans remembered that the sample came from a "rock" five feet in diameter. This would by far be the largest pallasite meteorite ever found.

Dr. Evans remembered exactly where the meteorite site was located, and an expedition

was planned to go there. But Dr. Evans suddenly took ill and died. Over the years hundreds of people have followed Dr. Evans directions but the Lost Port Orford Meteorite is supposedly still out there.

One of my favorite "lost" stories has to do with a rancher who lived near Adel in eastern Oregon. Adel is in Warner Valley which for centuries supported hundreds of Indians with its desert lakes.

While ranching was his livelihood, collecting Indian artifacts was his passion. However, his wife thought little of his hobby and after some years of his collecting, hid the whole collection while he was on a trip to Lakeview. She never told him or anyone else where she ditched them.

On a personal level, I have my own lost rock story. In the 1960's while living in Prineville, Oregon, there was a small thunderegg site discovered below the road up from the White Fir thunderegg bed.

I was more interested in another thunderegg site at the time, but I took a little time and dug a couple of small holes and picked out some fair agate and crystal thundereggs. The next year after I had lost interest in the first thunderegg bed, I decided to return to the bed below the road. During this time there had been a logging operation in this area. One would have thought that this would have exposed the bed even more. But it didn't. And neither I nor anyone else has been able to find it since.

May General Meeting Notes

May 6, 2010

Salem Senior Center

~submitted by Kathy Bennett

The May meeting was brought to order by President, Chuck Hunt at 6:37 PM. At that time he introduced members of the board. Aaron Currier made an announcement that the T-shirts ordered were in and he had a few extra that he would sell at the break. There were 10 guests in attendance and Chuck asked them to stand and introduce themselves. Show & Tell was next for the letter C.

Program Director Dan Groah, introduced Rudy from the Rice Museum for a program on Biggs Picture Jasper. He also told us information regarding the items that were recently stolen from the museum.

Chuck announced tickets will be on sale at the host/hostess desk at the break for the scholarship fund.

The May business meeting was called to order at 8 PM, by President Chuck Hunt.

Kristi gave a show report and gave a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all that volunteered at the show. She has agreed to chair the show again next year. Way to go, Kristi. Chuck echoed her thanks to the volunteers. We even had non-members out to volunteer because we were so busy.

The secretary's report for the April General Meeting and Show Meeting notes were accepted as printed in the bulletin. Phil read the Treasury report and the Show Treasury report. It was accepted as read.

Debbie Straw, our new editor, has asked if anyone has any pictures of the show, or any other of our events, to e-mail them to her.

Sunshine report was called in by Karen Porter, as Jerry is in the hospital having tests done because of a clogged artery. Our best wishes go to Jerry. Karen did send a sympathy card to Gary Buss, one of our dealers. He lost his mother just before the show and then his father passed during the show. Our thoughts go with both of them.

We need volunteers for several positions. Please give a thought to volunteering for your club.

There were no applicants this year for the scholarship fund, so all money will remain in the fund. Chuck advised there is a memo that will be going to the board to possibly have the money for non members in the geology field.

Chuck announced he was talking with Jim Heiman, from the Clackamette Club. They were

wanting to know if we were open to doing a Federation Show as a joint venture. It was thought that they have the clubs for 2011 and 2012 already, so it would be after that.

Rob asked for a show of hands of how many were going to Hampton Butte. He said there will probably be about 40 from the Klamath Club. He will be going over on Friday, May 28th. Call Rob if you need directions. There will be a potluck on Saturday. There will be a Sunday breakfast for \$5 with the money going to the Scholarship fund. The Klamath Club is also planning some rock trade/sale/auction.

Dan Groah spoke about the Wyoming trip coming up in July. They will have packets ready for those who are going at the next meeting as Tom Robertson was not at this meeting.

Summer picnic- Terry Meyers has offered her home for the picnic. Kristi Edwards will be planning the picnic. More information will follow regarding the date etc. (possibly the second weekend in August)

The holiday dinner will be at the Senior Center on December 11th at the Senior Center. It will be a potluck with the club furnishing the main dish. There will be games and prizes. It should be a lot of fun. Rob Leedy, Reyne Knutson and Kathy Bennett will be planning this dinner.

Stamps go to Aaron Currier if he is there, or leave at the host/hostess desk. These are cancelled postage stamps that we send to the Federation. The money goes to Cancer research.

See Ted Johnson for your nameplates. They are now putting all of them on the magnets as it saves on the clothes. (unless you have a pacemaker and then we have a pin attachment)

We need a volunteer for Adjudication in October.

Thanks to Ken Settlemeier for getting out the library.

Contact Phil Knutson if you want to borrow any equipment. He can see if any tumblers are available.

Vicki Johnson gave a report from the Oregon Council. They had a meeting at the restaurant next to the show, during the show. The report was in regards to Marine collecting. Contact Vicky if you have questions regarding the details. She also announced that they will be changing the rock display at the capitol building the middle of May. The Clackamette club will be putting in a new display. It was also announced that the Hemlock agate area is now accessible. It is thought to be in the Roseburg area.

Phil read the many bills to pay. It was passed to pay the bills.

Eddie Hopper announced the new member applicants. They are Dr. Jim Greer, Shirleen Greer, Wayne Anderson, Sherry Anderson, Tom Noakes and Phyllis Michael Noakes. They were all accepted as new members.

Thanks to Steve Lawrence for bringing the door prizes. Larry Lovell volunteered to bring them next meeting. Thanks to those who brought goodies. Jackie Lord and Jenny Taylor will bring goodies to the next meeting.

Show and tell for next month is the letter D.

There was \$79 collected for the scholarship fund, so 8 tickets were drawn.

The next general meeting will be June 3rd at the Salem Senior Center at 6:30 PM.

The next board meeting will be at the Salem Senior Center at 6:30 PM on May 17th.

Chuck closed the meeting and door prizes were drawn.

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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

2010 Elected Officers

- President: Chuck Hunt 503-304-3886
 Vice President: Eddie Hopper 503-584-0331
 Secretary: Kathy Bennett 503-363-4974
 Treasurer: Phil Knutson 503-363-4231
 Federation Director: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 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
 Bulletin Editor: Debbie Straw
 Education: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 Juniors: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
 Nameplates: Ted Johnson 503-362-6186
 Oregon Council: Vicki Johnson, 503-362-6186
 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: Reyne Knutson 503-363-4231
 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

Folks, please bring your cameras to events, and email photos to put in the newsletter. Thanks go to Eric Becklund for this issue's photos of the show.

Deadline for July newsletter info is June 19th.

Anyone who'd like to get together after June 19th to have a "tabs and address labels party" let me know. It will be a great opportunity to visit, work outside (because it *will* stop raining by then) and share stories. Not only that, refreshments will be provided!

Debbie
dhstraw@gmail.com

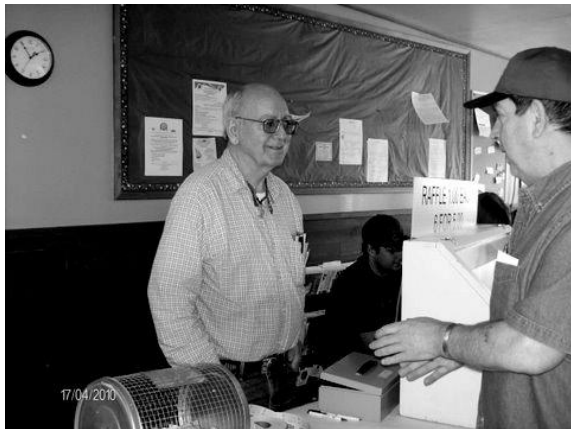
Upcoming Shows

June 4 - 11 Puyallup Valley Gems Show
Fruitland Grange
Puyallup, WA

June 18 - 20 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
Rock'n the Coast
Yaquina View Elementary School
Newport, OR

June 24 - 26 Prineville Rockhound
Pow Wow Association
Crook County Fairgrounds
Prineville, OR

June 30 – July 4 All Rockhound Pow Wow Club
Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Madras, OR



Jim Shine

July Field Trip to Blue Forest

~submitted by Dan Groah

Blue Forest petrified wood trip to Kemmerer, Wyoming. This trip is set in July because the elevation is near 7,000 feet and a fall trip here is chancy, weather-wise.

July 10 Travel

July 11 Travel and meet at the Fontinelle camp ground on the Green River Wyoming

July 12 Travel to digging area (7 miles from camp) and dig

July 13 Dig Blue Forest

July 14 Dig Blue Forest

July 15 Travel to Delta, Utah.

July 16 Travel 50 miles and dig trilobites (fee area)

July 17 Travel and dig Dugway geodes and camp

July 18 Dig Dugway

July 19 Head for home on your own.

For those who can go on this trip to Wyoming, more specific information will come later. Contact Tom Robertson (503-363-9678) or Dan Groah (503-873-6930)

The Pres. Says,

Well the numbers for the show are just about finalized and it looks like, even with a bad economy that, we did better than last year's show and that is Great!

Now our thoughts are turning to better weather and some of those great field trips that are coming up; like Hampton Butte, The Blue Forest, Crazy Glen, etc. (I threw that last one in there just to see if you are paying attention.) Someone even mentioned that we may make a trip up to the Lewis River in Washington to look for agates and coprolites.

The plans for the summer picnic are starting to gel and we are all looking forward to warmer, drier weather I am sure.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Chuck

Board Meeting May 17, 2010

There are no meeting notes as we did not have a quorum. Board members, please be sure to attend the next board meeting June 21st at the Salem Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

THE STRAIGHT POOP

Submitted by Gene Gangle

Loggers say that when Babe the Blue Ox ran away with a plow behind her, before Paul Bunyan could catch her, Babe had plowed the Grand Canyon. That's the straight poop, they say.

Waldport, south of Newport on the Oregon coast, is called "home of the Irish" because so many town folk have red hair. Iron oxides present in the water leach out into the hair of the locals which combine with the ever present fog and mist of that coastal town so that their hair rusts—turns red. That's the straight poop.

"Coprolites" found along Salmon River and Lucas Creek in Lewis County, Washington are not straight. Nor are they poop. They lack the calcium phosphate one would expect to find in true fossil animal dung. Instead, composition of the material is largely oxides of iron, hematite and limonite, plus an infiltration of silica. There are several theories of origin.

Dake in the October 1935 issue of *The Mineralogist* suggested the "coprolites" were of stalactic origin. He accounted for the repeated twistings of the stalactites on the basis of changing air currents through the caverns in which the "coprolites" may have had their origin.

Major in the October, 1939 issue of *The Mineralogist* offers a Bryozoan sea moss growth theory to account for what can be termed fossil pseudomorphs. Percolating solutions and iron-depositing bacteria removed the calcite and replaced it with iron minerals. A professor Amstutz in the December 1958 *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* states "It is most probable, if not certain, that the Washington coprolites are of dung origin", and refers to the possibility of a "new species" of animal responsible. Dake in *The Mineralogist* March 1960 responds that the area sampled was limited and that collectors have noted large coiled masses measuring up to 16 inches in diameter and weighing 100 pounds. Many species would have had to be involved and who, he asks, can name a species to drop this amount of dung at one sitting? (No, Beavis, that's not what I said.)

Both Dake (1960) and Major (1952) state that the animal origin theory is wholly untenable to account for the Washington "coprolites". Dake does concede that the shape of the material certainly does resemble animal dung.

The Lewis County "coprolites" are found both in position and in the stream gravels of Salmon River and adjacent streams. Associated with the "coprolites" in the stream gravels is excellent quality carnelian agate and vivianite, according to Major, and when found in position, the "coprolites" are usually in a sedimentary formation like a bed of soft clay or in or near a deposit of low grade bituminous coal. Chemical composition argues against organic origin. Size variation poses a problem for one or a few species to account for the material, material which is chemically consistent. Abundance and size of material argues for a chemical explanation for the genesis of Washington "coprolites" rather than an animal origin. Major suggests Lewis County must have been the spot where Noah's ark came to rest. When all is said and dung, however, the Lewis County "coprolites" are strangely appealing and they are specimens worthy of collection. And that's the straight poop.

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SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

A new series of articles is beginning with an interview with our President. Theresa Byrne will be contacting members in the future to see if we can't get profiles on everyone. I think we will be amazed at how much we may have in common (other than our interest in rockhounding).

Name: Aaron Currier

Born: Salem, Oregon

Family: 2 fish . . . Unnamed

Occupation/Employer: Co-owner/Production Manager of Currier Graphics & Publishing

What started you collecting rocks: The availability of agates on the gravel road walking home from school when I was eight and inspiration from family friends who had jars and jars of rocks in their living room.

Age started collecting rocks: Eight

Member of WAMS for: Five years, two months.

My favorite rock/gemstone/fossil(s): Agatized Gastropods

Other Clubs & Associations: Key Northwest Parrotheads, Save the Manatee Club, & Harbour Lights Lighthouse Society. I am also the Grant Chair for the Salem Schools Foundation, which sponsors the Awesome 3000 children's run in May and doles out about \$50,000 in grants each year to teachers in Salem/Keizer schools.

My least favorite chore: Cleaning the bathroom.

My best vacation: All four trips to Key West combined make for great stories.

The most important person I've met: Besides my parents, I'd say Governor's Kitzhaber and Straub.

I'd love to meet: Jimmy Buffett

My most embarrassing moment: Turning around suddenly, hitting my head on a wooden tray of sign letters...silently being carried behind me by an employee of a hotel where I was working at a conference. The letters flew everywhere!

My favorite toy: It used to be my sailboard, now it's my guitar.

I've never been able to: Find the motherload.

Personal hero: My grandfather who ran in a coast to coast footrace in 1928 and finished 16th.

My claim to fame: My photography.

Hobbies/leisuretime: Genealogy, Photography, Volunteering with friends, Hiking, Traveling somewhere tropical. I also collect postage stamps of lighthouses, occasionally scuba dive and sail.

Something people might be surprised to know about me: I ran two marathons.

I'm afraid of: falling from high places.

Favorite author: EB White...Charlotte's Web

Favorite actor: Nicholas Cage

Favorite actress: Meg Ryan

Favorite movies: The First Olympics, Athens 1896 and Cool Runnings

Favorite place to collect: my thoughts or rocks? both would be Moolack Creek at the coast.

Favorite WAMS field trip: Ashwood Rockstock...98 or 99.

My best rock find: It's a toss-up between a really cool scallop fossil from Moolack and the basketball-sized zeolite comprised of at least five minerals.

What I would like to ask the next profilee: How big (pounds) is the largest agate you have found (not bought).



River of Gems 2010 *Photographer Eric Becklund*



WAMS General Meeting

Thursday

June 3 - 6:30 pm

Salem Senior Center

2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR

GUESTS WELCOME!

What's Rocking?

The June program will be a DVD on Fairburn Agate. The video program is 25 minutes long, and describes these agates and the differences between agates formed in limestone and those formed in volcanic rock.

JUNE'S LETTER IS "D"



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