



Newsletter of the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Salem, Oregon

September 2010

### Interesting Websites

*Susan Appleby* suggests we check out these cool websites. One is about Oregon Coast agates and the other features fossil-hunting tours.

Oregon Coast Agates:

<http://oregonagates.blogspot.com/>

Fossil Education and Tours:

<http://www.paleodiscoveries.com/>

### WAMS Jewelry Craft Workshop

The Wednesday jewelry craft workshop has been moved to Monday. Same hours, noon to nine. This change will incorporate the many aspects of jewelry craft into one session. Beginning and advanced silversmithing along with lost wax casting, PMC and polymer clay. This will give everyone an opportunity to expand their skills, explore new avenues, and express their imaginations through the arts of jewelry design and creation. *Submitted by Theodore Silver*

### Richardson Ranch Plume Thunderegg Bed Open Labor Day Weekend

Bonnie Richardson writes that Richardsons' Plume Bed will be open Labor Day weekend from Thursday through Monday. See their website <http://richardsonrockranch.com/> for more information.

### REMARKABLE ROCKS

*by Dan Groah*

The names of rocks and minerals and the processes that shape and polish them are a vocabulary unique to our hobby. On a basic level, even the uninterested are likely familiar with terms like agate, petrified wood, lapidary or crystal. To take it up a notch, mostly rock and mineral fans could tell you what an enhydro is. A non-believer might wonder if it is safe to have chrysoptase or corundum in the house. Of

course most of the objects couldn't hurt a neophyte unless they dropped one on their foot.

However, some of these objects methods command more respect. An Oregon agate from Trent contains stibnite with pretty orange patterns of realgar. The realgar contains antimony with arsenic. Trent agate is not one to lick to enhance its appearance. The same could be said of cinnabar which can occur in some Mcdermitt materials. (Is everyone keeping up with these terms so far?)

Now it's time to turn the heat up again with words from a category called fossils. Only people like Aaron Currier or Bob Manley would take the time to correctly recite and remember cute little Astoria formation fossils like *Cryptonatica oregonensis* or *Chlorostoma pacificum*. Also fossil shell related terms like operculum or foraminifers. (Notice that as we continue the new terms have more letters.)

I said the Astoria formation shells were cute, but this next word represents something not cute but really bizarre. *Hallucigenia* could be one of those threatening creatures in a 1950's sci-fi movie. Having seven pairs of stilted legs and seven tentacles, each with its own mouth. *Hallucigenia* looks scary but is just an example nature gone wild. Plus, it's extinct, and was microscopic.

Remember that I said that these rock- related words seem to be getting longer as this article advances? Also some are dangerous. This last term fits both categories.



*Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconios* is. Never heard of it? It can be a killer. But if you wear a respirator in your rock shop when working with dry sanding you should be O.K. The term means a lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust.

## Notices:

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**Board Meeting** *The board meeting will be held on Monday, September 20th at the Senior Center at 6:30 PM.*

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**Editor's Note:** My apologies for being late with the September issue. October newsletter deadline is Sept 20th. Debbie Straw

## The Prez Says

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First I must make note and advise all that we all have lost a dear member who has worked for a long time for and with the club. Karen Porter passed away. We will all miss her. And we send our deepest condolences to Jerry Porter and family.

Well, here we go into the fall season. Yes, I know it is still summer, but it is time to prepare, and I hope that everyone had a chance to go out and hit pay dirt while the sun was shining.

As for the September meeting program I have been advised that I am in charge of the program, so bear with me if you will. I think it will have to do with agates, but we will see. I do have the DVD, so something good will show up for sure. I don't remember who was planning on bringing refreshments, but if you think it was you, go ahead and bring something. The more, the better! 😊

Not a lot more to say except I have heard some stories about the "Blue Forest" trip and I think that we may have a bit of a story to hear at the meeting.

Hope y'all will be able to make it.  
Chuck

## July 1, 2010, Non-General Meeting

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*submitted by Kathy Bennett*

We did not have a general meeting as we did not have a quorum. We did have an "unofficial" short gathering to make some announcements. President Chuck Hunt announced that we would appreciate new members waiting three meetings before ordering name tags. We did not have a show and tell as no rocks were brought in. The show and tell for next meeting again will be the letter E. Thanks to Dan Groah for bringing door prizes. He got them from Judy Elkins 10 cent per pound pile. They were nice specimens. Judy is an honorary member and has a rock shop in Prineville. You can stop by her shop if you are in the area for a nice selection of reasonable rock.

After discussion, it was announced our next meeting will be **SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**. The center is

closed from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, so we cannot have our regular Thursday meeting. It will be on the second **WEDNESDAY** in September. **We do not have a regular August meeting** because of the picnic which will be held August 8<sup>th</sup> at Tom & Susan Robertson's home as written in the bulletin.

**WORK PARTY AT THE ESCH'S ON AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>, starting at 9 AM. PLEASE HELP OUT IF YOU CAN.**

Ted Johnson reported there were no applicants this year for the scholarship. If you would like to help out the scholarship fund, they are accepting donations of nice rock for the raffles and auctions.

Dan says we are a go for the Wyoming trip. He and Tom will arrive late afternoon in the campgrounds and will go check out a good camping site. I would like to thank Tom & Dan for organizing this trip. Packets have been handed out to those going. If you have any questions, call Tom or Dan.

**We need a Federation Director. This is a board position and needs to be filled.**

Ted & Vicki Johnson will be going to Madras for the Oregon Council meeting being held there.

Ken Settlemeier is going through the library and doing a catalog for us. Thanks Ken.

You can order T-Shirts with the WAMS logo for \$10. You can order at the host/hostess desk. You have choice of styles and colors.

Chuck Hunt will bring rocks for door prizes for the September meeting.

We had an application for a new member, Sheri Hilgers, but it will be voted on at the next meeting since we did not have a quorum.

Volunteers for refreshments for the September meeting are Reyne Knutson and Jocee Wagner.

Scholarship numbers and door prize numbers were drawn.

Some members brought rocks to sell or trade.



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: 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 Batty 503-261-8788

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: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

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

## Upcoming Shows

- Sept 11 - 12 Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club  
 "Rough to Gems"  
 Douglas County Fairgrounds  
 Roseberg, OR
- Sept 11-12 Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Club  
 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
 Walla Walla County Fairgrounds  
 Walla Walla, WA
- Sept 19- 21 Farwest Lapidary Rock & Gem Society  
 South Coast Rock & Gem Fest  
 4<sup>th</sup> St Park Lot (across from Outdoor- In  
 Restaurant)  
 Coos Bay, OR
- Sept 25-26 Hellgate Mineral Society  
 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "Big Sky Rocks"

*Submitted by Kathy Bennett*

Members in attendance: Rob Leedy, Chuck Hunt, Phil Knutson, Ed Pyritz, Debbie Straw, Tom Beaty, Kristi Edwards, Mark Edwards, Don Esch, Eddie Hopper, Larry Lovell & Kathy Bennett.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board, Rob Leedy at 6:35 PM at the Senior Center. Rob first polled the group to see what additional Items needed to be discussed at this meeting. Kristi brought the trim saw and faceting machine that were donated at the show. Larry will see if the trim saw needs any work and Tom will see if the faceting machine needs work. It will be decided at a later date the disposition of these items. They may be refurbished and sold at a raffle at the April show, or may go to the highest bidder. This will be determined at a later date.

Rob announced there will be no July or August board meetings scheduled.

Our annual summer picnic will be held at Tom & Susan Robertson's house on August 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM to 5 PM. Our budget is \$400 as we will be ordering a porta-potty and a hand washing station. The club will also provide chicken, plates, plastic ware, and napkins. There will also be prizes for bingo. We will have a tailgate party, so members can bring rocks for sale, trade or give away.

Kathy Bennett was asked to research some questions in the bylaws. These answers were read and the bylaws discussed. It was decided we should also go through the bylaws. Kathy will write an article to see if any members would like to be on the committee to go over the bylaws. Ed, Kristi and Kathy have volunteered to be on the committee. We will poll the members to see who else might be interested.

Phil has the contract for the Senior Center. There was some confusion regarding the months and years on the contract, so it will be discussed with the Senior Center. It was approved to pay the bill and we will clarify the dates before paying it.

Debbie Straw, editor, brought up a question regarding want ads. She will write a small piece for the bulletin regarding what is free to members and the small charge for business advertisements. Phil brought up the question regarding who collects these fees.

There have been several people who have joined the club in the last year, had a name tag made, and then never returned to pick up the nametag. Phil

went through the nametags and several were no longer members and the tags had to be tossed. The cost for each nametag is about \$5 to make and there is a charge to mail all of the bulletins each month. There has always been a suggestion that guests attend 3 meetings before joining. Last night a motion was passed saying new members should attend 3 meetings before being eligible for the nametag to be made.

Just a reminder, the bylaws currently state, your annual dues must be paid by the end of February to be a member. If paid after this, you need to reapply for membership.

**THERE WILL BE A WORK PARTY AT DON & GERI ESCH'S ON AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> (THE DAY BEFORE THE PICNIC). WE WILL FINISH THE JOB WE STARTED OF GOING THROUGH THE ROCK AND BETTER ORGANIZING. ALL HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED. We will start at 9 AM.**

Kristi reported we will have a signed contract for the April show with the Fairgrounds again after their fair closes. The date has already been reserved.

A question was raised regarding the donated rock from the J2B2 sale. Joe was contacted and it has not been picked up yet. Larry Lovell and Don Esch volunteered to go pick up the rock. Joe said they are giving us about 1200 pounds of rock. This matches a percentage of what was bought by members. Thanks for organizing this, Joe.

There was a discussion regarding club rock. Don said that it is ok with him to continue to keep it at their property. It was decided that all loose, rough, club rock be moved to one central location for accessibility.

We took a small break and Tom & Larry picked up the machines from Kristi. Tom said the faceting machine is like the one he has. He suggested we may be able to get at least \$500 out of it. He will see if it needs fixing etc. The disposition of the items will be decided at a later date. All members will be notified if it is to be sold to the highest bidder or as raffle at the April show.

The meeting was adjourned by Rob at 8:30 PM.

[Something for the kids:](#)

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WELCOME to the Mineralogical Society of America's

[Mineralogy 4 Kids](#)

Rockin Internet Site

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# *Karen Porter*

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*Karen and Jerry Porter are shown on their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2008.*

***We were saddened to hear of the passing of Karen Porter, a longtime rock hound and WAMS member, on Sunday, August 22nd. Karen was a very giving person, and always had a smile for everyone. Karen was a wonderful person to everyone. She and her infectious laugh will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to Jerry and his family at this time of sadness.***

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***Her services were Friday, August 27th, 3 PM at Golden Funeral Home in Salem.***

**WAMS General Meeting**

Wednesday Sept 8th- 6:30 pm  
Salem Senior Center  
2615 Portland Rd NE Salem, OR

**Guests Welcome!**

**What's Rocking?**

*The September program will be a DVD on agates.*

**June's Letter is "E"**



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