

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2011

OLYMPIA WA

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.WAMSOLYMPIA.WORDPRESS.COM](http://www.wamsolympia.wordpress.com)

## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT**

**OCTOBER - DAVID OLEXER**

**NOVEMBER - JERRY SPRENGLE**

**DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

### BUY...SELL...TRADE

*This column is offered free to WAMS members to buy, sell or trade equipment or material reasonably related to rocks or minerals.*

## TREASURY REPORT:

We have \$4965.31 in checking, along with our 20 tables.

## LOOKING FOR:

1. Big CLEAR plastic trays. We use these to show off \$1 and \$2 rocks in water. They are approximately 2 ft by 1.5 ft by 1ft deep. We currently have two. One is 2 ft deep, which is okay, but we prefer them not so deep. With slabs now for sale, it would be nice to have a few more. Even big ones would work—when we sell rocks out of the buckets, if the buckets or containers are clear they show off the rocks better.
2. Buckets or containers, preferably smaller than the 5 gallon, maybe 2 to 3 gallons size. Or anything in that neighborhood. We hope to try a new marketing/sales ploy down at Castle Rock and we will need more containers for customers to carry off rock.

If you have any you are not using or come across any in a garage sale for CHEAP that's what we are looking for.

**SPECIAL THANKS: To Teresa Sprengle who told Jerry to start clearing out his rock collection. This collection makes Hearst's San Simeon look like a squatter encampment. He donated 13 buckets, which will be on sale at CastleRock. Thanks, Teresa!!**

## HEAT TREATING TIGER-EYE

Tim McGinnis - Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club

Tiger-eye is a rare form of quartz, fibrous by substituting itself in place of Crocidolite. Crocidolite is a variant of the mineral riebeckite, a complex silicate containing iron. It is also known as blue asbestos.

Tiger-eye derives its color from the addition of iron from the Crocidolite to the oxygen that is already present in its basic quartz structure. Heating tiger-eye causes a chemical reaction in the limonite particles, changing them to a reddish

hematite. Called ox-blood, if placed in hydrochloric acid, the coloring will fade to a grey-green, resembling the precious cat's eye variety of quartz.

**Instructions:** Rarely is red tiger-eye a natural occurrence. It must be heated, typically in a kitchen oven. To protect the tiger-eye from thermal shock during heating, cover slabs of ordinary, gold tiger-eye in fine clean silica sand, at least 3 inches all around the slab. Place the metal container in a cold oven and increase the temperature 50 degrees every hour until it reaches 400 degrees. Let it cook for one hour and then turn the oven off; DO NOT open the door. Allow plenty of time for the container to cool all the way through. This is best done leaving the container in the oven over night.

## FAVORED POLISHING MATERIALS:

The most popular polishing agents for gemstones are tin oxide, cerium oxide, alumina, Linde A, diamond, rouge, and chrome oxide. Diamond had been growing in popularity in recent years because it is fast and gives an excellent polish. Several factors affect polish choices--price, easy availability, new compounds, and the material type and color on the market. If there is a good supply of fine green jade on the market, chrome oxide will be in big demand. *Lapidary Journal Feb 1999*

## WHY DO ROCKS FLUORESCENCE?

The word takes its name from fluorite and was first discovered by Vincenzo Cascariolo, cobbler and part-time alchemist. In 1602, he tried to smelt a heavy white metal he thought was gold. He was very disappointed, and at one point he put it into bright sunlight. It seemed to drink in the warm light and afterwards it would glow in the dark (it was calcined barite.)

It was two centuries before the significance was noted by Sir George Stokes. With the mineral fluorite, he recognized the principle of fluorescence. He set it apart from other known forms of fluorescence, such as "thermoluminescence," the beautiful flow radiated by many minerals when heated gently, from "chemiluminescence," the cold light produced by some chemical reactions, from "bioluminescence," as seen in decaying wood, and from "triboluminescence," the sparks of light seen in the dark when struck or scratched with a sharp object.

At that time the only known source of ultraviolet light was sunlight. Then in 1867, a Frenchman by the name of Becquerel, using a new "phosphorescope" detected a delicate red fluorescence in calcite and timed its phosphorescence at one-half second. *Rockhound Special June 2002*

## LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WMSC = Cascade Mineral Society. Brian Williams (206) 290-2312 email [bwaters2011@gmail.com](mailto:bwaters2011@gmail.com)  
 Ed L = Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 [wsmced@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmced@hotmail.com)  
 WSMC = Washington State Mineral Council, use Ed above.  
 BC Wagon masters: Clair Belzer 604-946-8656  
 Kit = Kitsap Rock club: Tony Schackmann 360-372-2777  
 Maple = Maplewood club: Don Furey 425-348-4827  
 Msvl = Marysville club: Christina Morrissey 425-398-1300  
 Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-366-0576 [kmenter@comcast.net](mailto:kmenter@comcast.net)  
 East King = East King Co, Norma Kikket, 206-612-3113  
 N.W.R. = NW Rockies & MT Baker clubs: Kathy Earnst 360-856-0588 or Ed Lehman 425-334-6282  
 Pvgm = Puyallup Rock Club Tony Johnson 253-863-9238  
 Bellv = Bellevue, Bruce Himko, 425-957-1284  
 Skagit = Skagit Rock Club: Vi Jones 360-424-8340  
 Pebb = Whidbey Pebble Pushers: Dick Edwards 360-579-2807  
 Pow Wow club = Cliff Matteson (253) 475-8433  
[cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.conniematteson@gmail.com)  
 Longview = Longview club Emmett Johnson 360-636-3491  
 Ashwood Oregon Darrell Friend 541-489-3252, web page [www.ashwoodrockstock.com](http://www.ashwoodrockstock.com)  
 Eking = East King Norma Kikkert, [kev1123@hotmail.com](mailto:kev1123@hotmail.com)  
 WAC - Washington Agate Club  
 Yak = Yakima Rock Club Bill Snell 509-933-2093  
 Whidb = Whidbey Rock Clubs Dick Edwards 360-579-2807  
 BELL = Bellingham Rock Club Brian Hughes 360-671-7330  
 EVR = Everett Rock Club Bob Johnson 425-408-0849  
 NID = North Idaho Diane Rose 208-667-8591  
 PVGM = Puyallup Valley Tony Johnson 253-863-9238  
 Elb = Ellensburg Rock Dave Master (509) 925-3827  
 WAMS = Wa Agate & Mineral Club. Mike Messenger. 360-561-6379 [mmessenger@comcast.net](mailto:mmessenger@comcast.net)  
 Boe = Boeing Rock club Erik Chilson 360-825-3138  
 Swms = SWest WA Mineral Society Dave Roth 360-295-3567  
 W Sea = West Seattle Rock Club Brian Waters 206-290-2312  
 Always call the club rep to confirm all trip data. Some trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day. Pow Wow requires membership \$3 each a year. WSMC 6100 Road trip rider fee is \$8 to help offset the \$65 vehicle access permit we must purchase. Some trips have no charge.

## UPCOMING SHOWS: 2011

SOUTHERN WA MINERAL SOCIETY: SEPT 17-18. CASTLE ROCK FAIRGOUNDS

## FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011

09/3-4 NSEA REPUBLIC WA: Time TBD. Plant fossils. Shale and splitting tools.

09/10-11 POWWOW RED TOP, CLE ELUM. 8 am W Fork Teanaway Camp. Geodes, agate, jade. Tools: Dig & light hard rock

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09/17 PVGM LITTLE NACHES. 9 Enumclaw Ranger Station. Thundereggs. Tools: Dig & light hard rock  
 9/24-25 Stu Earnst ([earnstkk@comcast.net](mailto:earnstkk@comcast.net)) WASCO OR: 8 Goldendale WA. China Hollow Picture Jasper. **REG OPENS 7/1 \$25 Deposit**

10/29 MSVL: Miller River. 9 am Hwy2 Skykomish WA. Picture jasper. Rock Hammer and container.

11/5 Mt Bk: Blanchard Hill. 9 am I5 exit 240 gas mart. Stilpnomelane in Quartz. Hard Rock tools.

## FEBRUARY.

*Talk about your field trips....*

**GIANT CRYSTAL CAVE DISCOVERED (article from BBC December 2000)**

A gigantic cave of crystal has been discovered in an old silver mine in Spain. The geode, which is 26 feet long and crammed full of gypsum prisms, has been put under police protection to prevent souvenir hunters from raiding the extraordinary natural phenomenon. Javier Garcia Guines, the geologist who discovered it told BBC News that up to 10 people could sit inside the geode--an object normally small enough to hold in your hand. Javier Garcia Guines stated: "Bending your body between the huge crystals is an incredible sensation. The crystals are absolutely transparent and perfect."

The geode, essentially a rocky cave which has become lined with crystalline deposits, is 26 feet in length, 6 feet wide, and 6 feet high. The crystals of gypsum--hydrous calcium sulphate--are about a half a meter in length.

The giant geode may have formed at the same time as a geological event called the Messinian salinity crisis. At this time, about six million years ago, the Mediterranean Sea evaporated, depositing thick layers of salts. The same salt saturated fluids could have filled up the geode. The drying out of the Mediterranean was probably caused by a restriction in the Straits of Gibraltar, the sea's only connection with the rest of the Earth's oceans. The hope is to turn this magnificent object into a tourist attraction.

## Field Trips We Wish We Had Taken Dept.

The September headlines in *The Wenatchee World* read "Chelan Man Finds 450 LB Geode on Red Top Mt." Dave Fasche said when his pick kept hitting something, he realized it was "BIG". The oblong geode is a 30" wide by 36" long and 18" tall. Even in the photograph, the interior agate looked blue.

Fred Fowler of Chelan found a geode weighing about 185 lbs in 1954. So, much for that record.

Mr. Fache has submitted photos of the geode to the Guinness Book of Records and has contacted several museums. He isn't sure what he'll do with it, (no doubt his wife wants it out of the kitchen), but like Indiana Jones, he believes "this should be in a museum."

*The Petrified Digest 10/03*

## INTERNET ROCK SITES

1. [www.orerockon.com](http://www.orerockon.com) - Pacific NW field trips, equip buy/sell, misc.
2. [www.wrightsrockshop.com](http://www.wrightsrockshop.com) Has everything.
3. [www.agateswithinclusions.com](http://www.agateswithinclusions.com). The name sums it up.
4. [www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Forest/2031/](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Forest/2031/) . Terry's Oregon Rock Page has info on Oregon collecting.
5. Information on collecting in Eastern Oregon during the Madras Pow Wow: Write Eula Dillard, 145 E. 179th, Spanaway WA 98387 or call 253-847-2755.
6. [www.wyodonor.org](http://www.wyodonor.org) and [www.thermopywy.net/bhbf](http://www.thermopywy.net/bhbf) for dinosaur excavation trips.
7. <http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/byname.htm>  
Part of Amethyst Galleries, Inc.'s web site, this is a listing of all the minerals in that company's (extremely extensive) database. More than a mere list, however, each entry is linked to its own page, giving info. such as the mineral's chemical composition, history, physical characteristics, and so on.
8. <http://www.goodearth.com/virtcave.html> The virtual cave site offers a directory of all caves in the US that are open to the public.
9. <http://www.luckystrickemine.com> Info from Prineville, OR rock dig site.
10. <http://www.the.gemshop.com>. The Gem Shop in Cedarburg, Wisconsin hold claims to central Oregon rock sites.
11. [www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com) This is a great site! Every aspect of rockhounding is addressed or it gives you a link.
12. [www.stonetrails.com/ORlocs/ORlocs.htm](http://www.stonetrails.com/ORlocs/ORlocs.htm) Oregon rock sites Replace OR with WA...you'll get Washington sites.
13. <http://www.kinglseynorth.com>. **Buy grit in bulk.**
14. [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/) - Fees and required permits for access to Federal lands.
15. General interest sites: [www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com), [www.fireagate.com](http://www.fireagate.com), [www.awesomegems.com](http://www.awesomegems.com)
16. Be sure to go to our website (See top of Page 1). There are numerous links to other sites.
17. WEBSITES FOR DINO LOVERS  
<http://dsc.discovery.com> Look for games and videos  
<http://www.paleoportal.org>  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com> Look for technology and science.  
<http://www.geo.ucalgary.ca>  
<http://www.scienceschoolhouse.com>
18. <http://www.jescoproducts.com> **Buy grit in bulk**

### OFFICIAL BLM REGULATIONS REGARDING COLLECTING:

You can collect a reasonable amount of rocks and minerals from BLM lands, but a permit or fee may be needed if you exceed certain amounts as described below. Note that the collecting limits for petrified wood are slightly different.

#### A REASONABLE DAILY COLLECTING AMOUNT

*No BLM permit or fee required.*

- fits in a car trunk or is a partial pickup truck load and,

- weighs less than 250 pounds
- and the material is not for commercial use.

(For petrified wood see below)

#### MORE THAN A REASONABLE DAILY AMOUNT

*Requires a permit and fee from BLM.*

- is a full pickup truck load or,
- involves more than one trip (or partial load) and,
- weighs more than 250 pounds
- or the material is for commercial use,
- or explosives or power equipment is used.

#### PETRIFIED WOOD:

Collecting petrified wood is free up to 25 pounds per day, plus one piece, but no more than 250 pounds per year. Pooling of quotas among two or more people to obtain pieces over 250 pounds is prohibited. A permit is needed for amounts over these limits.

#### AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES; CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collection on private lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collection areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, building, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning materials--matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless or how found.

I will cooperate with Field Trip Leaders and those in designated authority in all collection areas.

**WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY**

**WAMS meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Lacey, 4702 22nd (corner of College St. and 22nd)**

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**MINUTES AUGUST 2, 2011**

**NONE – PICNIC. A LOT OF  
OUTSTANDING ROCK WAS TRADED  
BY MEMBERS. EVEN KEITH!!**

Submitted by  
M J Huetter, Secretary

**GREEN ICEBERGS**

Green icebergs have been appearing for centuries in Antarctica. They pop up near large south polar ice shelves and until now have been a puzzling phenomena. However, American and Australian geophysicists working together recently found a core sample of an ice shelf burdened with a mother lode of dead and dying plankton. On the bottom of the Arctic shelves, plankton builds up to form a thick yellow layer of marine organisms. Occasionally, pieces of the ice shelf break off, and because of the unusual shape or excessive melting, can lose their balance in rough seas and turn tail up, exposing the marine ice. The yellow plankton entombed by the blue polar ice produces a striking green coloration. A rare sight indeed, this gem of the Antarctica, only one in every thousand icebergs displays this emerald green color.

*Big Rock Traders*

**MAIL TO:**