

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XIII ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2011

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

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.

"TWO THINGS YOU CAN'T AVOID...ELECTIONS AND DUES!"

Once again, we are looking for volunteers to fill the posts. Any warm body will do. It's highly recommended that you volunteer for a post before you are appointed to one. At the October meeting, we will ask for volunteers. At the November meeting, we will vote. At the December meeting, the new officers will take over.

Dues haven't changed--\$10 per household if the newsletter is mailed or \$5 per household if sent by email. You'll have the October, November, and December meetings to pay. Those who don't will be taken off the mailing list December 15th. Along with the club newsletter, your dues entitled you to receive the monthly Northwest Federation Newsletter. If your address label has YES on it, then you have paid next year's dues. If it says NO, then you owe. For those on email, your only reminder will be when you stop getting the newsletter!

On the subject of elections: Keith has volunteered to run for Vice President and Zoe wants to run for Junior Vice President.

TREASURY REPORT:

We have \$5214.31 in checking, along with our 20 tables and a sizable rock inventory for future sales. Future expenses: \$325 for 2012 church facilities, \$350 for liability insurance, \$150 dues to NW Fed and Mineral Council.

VIBRATORY TUMBLERS ARE NOT THE SAME AS ROLLING TUMBLERS

A vibratory tumbler employs vibration as the driving force which powers the rotation of the load inside the tumbler hopper. The tumbling material is alternately separated and compacted during each vibratory cycle. This improves the tumbling process and allows fresh abrasive to be drawn in between the material. The compaction results on the other half of the cycle forcing contents against the container wall and causing an aggressive but gentle abrasive action. Only the contents inside the container actually rotate as the containers themselves remain practically motionless except for their driving arc of motion. Only a small amount of abrasives are required in the tumbling process, since they operate on a different than most ordinary tumblers.

As a general rule, one level tablespoon of abrasives per pound load plus an equal amount of water are the basic requirements for starting the tumbling process. As the abrasive begins to break down and combines with rock dust and water a slurry (or coating mixture) is formed, it is this type of coating which should be maintained throughout all the tumbling cycles. Too much water or too much abrasive will cause materials to collect in the bottom of the container and not rotate properly. (*I can attest to that!! Ed.*) It is necessary only to maintain a thin coating of abrasive slurry between the materials in the load. The load is capable of carrying only a given amount of slurry in rotation and suspension, any additional amount in excess will only cause improper operation of the unit and the collection of these materials in the bottom of the container, where they will be of no value in the process.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WMSC = Cascade Mineral Society. Brian Williams (206) 290-2312 email bwaters2011@gmail.com
 Ed L = Ed Lehman (425) 334-6282 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
 East King = East King Co, Norma Kicket, 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
 Longview = Longview club Emmett Johnson 360-636-3491
 Ashwood Oregon Darrell Friend 541-489-3252, web page www.ashwoodrockstock.com
 Eking = East King Norma Kikkert, 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
 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

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club: Annual Fall Show. 11/12-11-13.
 Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th Street SW, Edmonds WA

Northwest Opal Association and Cascade Mineralogical Society:
7th annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show. 11/11 10-5,
11/12 10-5, 11/13 10-4. Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds,
Meridian Street South & 9th Ave SW

Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society: Fall Festival of Gems. 11/19-
11/20. Kitsap County Fairgrounds, President's Hall, 1200 NW
Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton WA

FIELD TRIPS FOR 2011

11/5 Mt Bk: Blanchard Hill. 9 am 15 exit 240 gas mart.
 Stilpnomelane in Quartz. Hard Rock tools.

Tips from Ed Reiber (He won the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society's Jaguar Trophy at the Gem Diego show in 1998 for his case of polished Mexican agates.)

Deer Park fire agate - I used an old sewing machine motor with a chuck attached to it to hold the tool. That way, I could hold the piece to be worked on with both hands and have better control over it. I used silicon carbide grit on wooden dowels and Cratex wheels to shape the piece and follow the surface of the fire layer. The sewing machine motor didn't go too fast, so I didn't burn through the fire layer. I finished up with cerium oxide on a wooden dowel, which put a nice polish on the fire agate.

Displaying translucent cabs and polished slabs with dendrites or sagenite--The idea is to bounce as much light as possible through the translucent stones. First, use white liners and risers. I use about a 5-6 inches tall and 3 inches wide riser along the sides and back of the case. I can then put two rows of cabs and specimens around the edges of the case, one on top of the risers along the sides and back of the case. I can then put two rows of cabs and specimens around the edges of the case, one on top of the risers and one just in front of the risers. In the center is a slightly tilted stand of clear Plexiglas, about 2-3 inches tall in the front and 3-4 inches tall in the back, with rows of cabs laid on it. This really lets the light shine through.

TEST FOR TOPAZ

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, sometimes impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. Obviously, there is a big price difference, so you don't want to be fooled, unless you're one of the rare rock hounds that has money to burn.

Topaz is harder than quartz. A drop of water will not spread on topaz, but will on quartz. Clean the stone with a cloth to remove all trace of grease. It must be dry before the test; then place a small drop of water on it.

On stones with a hardness of 7 or less on the Moh's scale, the water will disperse. On harder stones, it will remain as a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

Ore-Bits

INTERNET ROCK SITES

1. www.orerockon.com - Pacific NW field trips, equip buy/sell, misc.
2. www.wrightsrockshop.com Has everything.
3. www.agateswithinclusions.com. The name sums it up.
4. 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.wyodinor.org and 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 This is a great site! Every aspect of rockhounding is addressed or it gives you a link.
12. 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/ - Fees and required permits for access to Federal lands.
15. General interest sites: www.rockhounds.com, www.fireagate.com, 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)

Officers:

PRES Charley Price
VICE-PRES. M. J. Huetter 459-8121
ACT SEC: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
TREASURER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
NW FED REP:

MINRL CNCL :

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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SILENT AUC: Mike Tanaka 455-4607
ROCK SHOW Dan DeBoer 866-3940
NEWSLETTER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121

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RETURN ADDRESS:

**WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 2553
OLYMPIA WA 98507**

Show and tell:

Jerry – MT Tahoma agate from Richard's claim.

Zoe – Utah trilobites.

Jim Thomas– Utah fossils and park with dinosaur tracks.

Keith – Oddball samples, including corral, coprolytes, argonite and a petrified pine cone.

Mike – collector of sand from Waikiki Beach (WA) that is loaded with iron. Brought magnet to prove it.

Jim & Cherry Pedrick – pumice from Mt Etna.

Bob & Kathleen – samples from Eleanor Miller's rock sale and augite out of Chehalis.

Evan – tumbled rock and fossils.

Ellie (guest) – sample of agate from Waddell Creek. Did one contain a leaf fossil? Jury still out....

M.J., filling in for Charley, gave the infamous history of elections.

While the opposite of party bosses (“Vote early and often.”), it fell more into the apathy category and to “leave the bums in office.” A breath of fresh air wafted through the discussion, when Keith volunteered to run for Vice President (only to knock M.J.'s name off one of the many listed on the bulletin back sheet.) Zoe also volunteered to run for junior Vice President. Anyway, they were the first volunteers since the turn of the century willing to unseat the established bureaucracy.

Submitted by
M J Huetter, Secretary

MAIL TO: