

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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OLYMPIA WA

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NOVEMBER - JERRY SPRENGEL

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

TREASURY REPORT: We have \$4568.56 in checking, along with our 20 tables and a sizable rock inventory for future sales.

THE ANCIENT EYE

Trilobites are among the oldest of the meozoans (multi-cellular animals with differential tissues and organs.) They are incredibly complex, especially for being the earliest with a brain, nervous system, digestive tract, muscular system and compound eye. The puzzle of their complexity was emphasized by the lack of evolutionary predecessors.

Trilobites were strictly marine animals that first occurred at the base of the Cambrian. It was thought they were among the first fossils since no undisputed form was known in the Precambrian. There are a wide variety of fossils of simple plants and animals among the late Precambrian rocks, but nothing as complex as the trilobite. When soft-bodied trilobites were discovered in the Vendian (late Precambrian) period, it is probable that the trilobite's predecessors were often not fossilized because of their lack of hard parts.

Hard shells were primarily a Cambrian development. The evidence is that non-shelled trilobites lived in the Precambrian and developed hard shells of elegant and beautifully simple structure in the Cambrian, after which growing competition caused them to develop increasingly specialized and bizarre forms with complex spines, antlers and other armor probably meant for defense.

The trilobite's inevitable decline was prolonged during the Carboniferous period, their antlers and spines disappearing, the specialization preventing them from adapting. Declining in numbers and in function, plain, small and defensive, the entire class of animals in the largest phylum of animals on earth, the arthropods, became extinct by the end of the Permian. They had wandered the earth for 300 million years and had developed 1,500 genera and over 10,000 species. Edited from Larry Solomon in FOSSIL NEWS Calgary Lapidary Journal March-April 2007

Baby Diamond

The youngest known diamond--a spring chicken of just 628 million years--has been unearthed in Zaire, according to a report in SCIENCE NEWS. Typically, diamonds range in age from 2.4 billion to 3.2 billion years old. The gem's age was determined by a study of its mineral inclusions. This find suggests that diamonds have formed throughout geologic time, and not just during early periods of earth's history. Diamonds are likely still forming in the earth's mantle. Diamonds develop at depths of 200 kilometers under stable continental regions., where temperature and pressure conditions combine to transform carbon into its densest form. After resting there for eons, the gems are brought to the surface by volcanic blasts called kimberlite eruptions. LAPIDARY JOURNAL January 1995

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, WSMC = 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
 Pvgn = 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 360579-2807
 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.
 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: 2012

WHIDBEY ISLAND GEM CLUB: FEB 11-12. OAK HARBOR SENIOR CENTER 51 SE JEROME STREET OAK HARBOR WA

NORTH SEATTLE CLUB: MARCH 17-18. LAKE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER 12531 28TH AVE NE SEATTLE MT BAKER ROCK CLUB: MARCH 31-1. BLOEDEL-DONOVAN PARK 2214 ELECTRIC AVE BELLINGHAM WA CITY OF PORT ANGELS: 2ND ANNUAL ROCK, GEM AND JEWELRY SHOW MARCH 24-25 VAN BURTON COMMUNITY CENTER 308 EAST 4TH STREET PORT ANGELES WA 98362. INFO CINDY 360-417-4550 CKOCHANEK@CITYOF.PA.US

WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB: APRIL 21-22. ALKI MASONIC TEMPLE 4736 40TH AVE SW WEST SEATTLE GRAYS HARBOR CLUB: APRIL 28-29. GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 43 ELMA/MCCLEARY ROAD ELMA WA

EVERETT ROCK AND GEM CLUB: JUNE 2-3. EVERETT SOCCER ARENA 2201 CALIFORNIA STREET EVERETT WA

"OUR CLUB": JULY 23-24. SET UP JULY 22 WITH EVENING POTLUCK. FIELD TRIPS: 2012

WALKER VALLEY HISTORY

BY ED LEHMAN

Walker Valley quartz crystals were first discovered in 1972 by a local farmer chasing cattle. The rock formation was created 300 million years ago by volcanic action. The gas bubbles have filled, or partially filled with clear quartz, amethyst, calcite, siderite, goethite, hisingerite, and agate.

Local clubs and the Washington State Mineral council have had agreements with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for many years. The WSMC has held a 10 year lease that began in 1994 for educational, scientific and recreational rock collecting. The area has seen much activity by many groups such as rock clubs, Boy Scouts from the neighboring camp, 4-H clubs, schools, geology classes, and just plain family recreationalists. Over the years many people have enjoyed the area.

There is material from Walker Valley at the Burke Museum at the University of Washington and soon at the Rice Museum in Oregon, plus many other public displays. Anyone who has been to a Northwest Rock and Gem show has seen Walker Valley crystals displayed.

Walker Valley has been featured in two national magazines and I have personally helped with 5 large newspaper spreads on Walker Valley as a recreational family activity.

Over the last year, logging activity has removed hundreds of yards of geode bearing material, which they have a legal right to do, but recent logging has removed the tree upon which our sign with collecting regulations and contact information. Additionally, our recent excavations have been filled and logging slash has been piled on top of the main deposit. It will take several hundred man-hours to remove the overburden to create a good collecting area once again.

There are also posts on the spur access road, a gate will soon follow. This will make access to the site difficult or impossible for some people. We need your help to let the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources know our concerns to keep this site open to all. We are all taxpayers, the land belongs to us, not a state agency.

Commissioner of Public Lands DNR
 P O Box 47701
 Olympia WA 9854-7001

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.wyodonor.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.

NONE. CHRISTMAS PARTY.

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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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

CABOCHON TECHNIQUES

The final polish of a gem cabochon depends on the sanding. A sanding procedure used by experts is to reverse directions as the sanding progresses. Initial sanding is performed in on direction, which is then reversed. If any traces of the first direction remain, the sanding has not been thorough enough. This technique continues until, at the end of the fine sanding, the cab is perfectly smooth and uniform and has a prepolish. A fine polish is only attainable is the sanding has been complete. Also...

Not every lapidary bothers to grind a tiny bevel at the bottom of every cabochon, citing such reasons as ultimate use of the cab or the qualities of the specific piece of material. However, the bevel at the bottom of the cabochon strengthens the shape and gives a good cab a professional look.

LAPIDARY JOURNAL JUNE 1999

SHOP HAZARDS?

Dust is a problem in many home lapidary shops. Consider a low-cost portable dust collector if a larger system is not affordable or practical. It will have replaceable fiberglass filters and a single axial fan, and is lightweight enough to be easily moved from one sander or polisher to the next.

In a similar vein, the mist from the cutting oils may be hazardous. If you are unsure about possibly dangerous mists and dusts, the best solution is a twin filter respirator. Of course, the respirator is no help unless it is *used*.

Lapidary Journal Sept 1996

MAIL TO: