

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XV ISSUE 6

JUNE 2012

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY - THE HANSSONS

**AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC (NEW DATE 8/14 –
COULDN'T GET 1ST TUESDAY.)**

SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

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:

The checking stands at \$4603.50 plus we own 20 tables.

LACEY FUN FAIR REPORT:

Bob and MJ manned the ship on Saturday, May 19. The two sold \$385 worth of rocks. On Sunday, it rained, so they closed down shop and did not sell anything. The money went to the following: \$100 Fun Fair fee, \$30 for Olympia city fee for August picnic, \$40 for insurance increase (from \$350 to \$390), \$45 for Castle rock fee, \$120 for annual p o box, and the remainder for newsletter costs and paper products.

A PETRIFIED WOOD FACT

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green with it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the wood and cast were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

Rock Roller 11/01

SHOP HINTS

Use your trim saw for the essential straight cuts, then use a pair of slip-joint pliers to finish your rough preform by the process of nibbling. Nibbling removes objectionable points of material--use the pliers with strong pressure while simultaneously giving a sharp twist to the cabochon blank. Agate and similar materials respond well to this technique; however, a tough material such as nephrite does not.

Cleavage planes in fluorite may give the faceted trouble. Advanced cutters advise orienting the table facets

away from the cleavages by cutting 10 degrees away from the cube. Cutting a twinned crystalline gem such as amethyst or chrysoberyl may also be difficult. Experts suggest having the twinning plane just below and parallel to the girdle.

Lapidary Journal August 1998

TUMBLING SUGGESTION:

Tumble agate slabs by layering them with about 50% small rounded stones that are less than 1/2 inch in diameter. They could be small beach agate, Sweetwater agate, or commercial material for tumblers. Balance the load so that there is a ratio of 30% flats, well separated by the small stones. Start with coarse grit to remove the saw marks. Next, use medium to fine grit, but be patient---processing flat surfaces takes several times longer than that of normal tumbler loads. Use rotary or vibratory tumblers.

LAPIDARY JOURNAL AUGUST 1996

LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES??

These beautiful are found in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, states which border Lake Superior. However, since these ancient agates were carried away from the largest of our Great Lakes by glaciers and floods, they are also found in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and both Dakotas. Lake Superior agates are called banded agates. Fortification agates have bands with sharp curves and angles resembling ornate fortresses. Some Lake Superior agates have straight bands, in which case they are referred to as onyx banded. Another variation is eye agate, which is similar to tube agate. A rare type is sagentic agate, which has interesting needle-like inclusions of foreign minerals along the edges. A few have thick reddish or brownish moss. I don't know if there are any Lake Superior iris agates, but if so, they are rare indeed.

LAPIDARY JOURNAL DECEMBER 1994.

TUMBLE POLISH ROCKS INTO GEMS:

Edward Smith notes that while in the "old days" it was mostly agates and jaspers that went into the tumbler, now anything from amber to zoisite can be tumbled. He says that vibratory tumblers produce a polish very rapidly. He recommends synthetic and man-made compounds for polishing since such natural compounds as tin oxide and cerium oxide become too small too quickly through the action, which produces both rotation and vibration. Says Smith: "Aluminum oxides perform best on materials 5 through 8 in hardness." Lapidary Journal Sept 1996

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 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
 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

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

NORTHWEST STONE SCULPTORS ASSOCIATION: JULY 14-22. CAMP BROTHERHOOD, MOUNT VERNON WA
WEBSITE WWW.NWSSA.ORG.

"OUR CLUB": JULY 28-29.

MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB: AUG 11-12. MAPLEWOOD CLUBHOUSE. 8802 196TH STREET SW EDMONDS WA

SWMS SHOW 09/15-16. CASTLE ROCK FAIRGROUNDS.

FIELD TRIPS: 2012

SWMS SALMON CREEK 6/2. 15 EXIT 63 PARK AND RIDE CARNELIAN, PETRIFIED WOOD, COPROLITES. SHOVEL POWWOW: MADRAS OR, 6/27-7/1. JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. AGATE, JASPER, WOOD, T-EGGS. DIG AND LIGHT TOOLS.

MSVL/DAR: DARRINGTON 7/21. ROCK SHOW BEHIND IGA STORE. TRAVERTINE AND SPELUNKING. HARD ROCK DIG, DRESS FOR WATER.

WSEA: LK WENATCHE 7/28. COLES CORNER GAS STATION. GARNETS, ACTINOLITE, TALC. SCREEN, WOOD SAW, DIG TOOLS.

NW OP: GREENWATER 8/18-19. ENUMCLAW RANGER STATION. AGATE, JASPER. DIG & LIGHT HARD ROCK.

NORTHWEST FEDERATION RETREAT LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT THE HANCOCK FIELD STATION, ANTELOPE OREGON. COST IS \$270 PER PERSON FOR ROOM AND BOARD PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$45 FOR CLASSES. CLASSES MAY INCLUDE CASTING, CABLING, FACETING, SILVERSMITHING AND BEADING. ALSO ON TAB ARE FIELD TRIPS, SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS, AN AUCTION AND "SHOW AND TELL." INFORMATION AT WEB SITE WWW.AMFED.ORG/NFMS
POWWOW: RED TOP 9/8-9. W FORK TEANAWAY CAMP. GEODES, AGATE, JADE. DIG & LIGHT HARD ROCK.
NW-OP: LITTLE NACHESE 9/15. TO BE DETERMINED. THUNDER EGGS, RHYOLITE. DIG & LIGHT HARD ROCK.

MSVL: MILLER RIVER 10/27. HWY 2 MONEY CREEK CAMPGROUND. PICURE JASPER. ROCK HAMMER AND CONTAINER.

RECYCLING SAW OIL - FOR THOSE THAT HAVE TO

First, put the dirty trim saw oil in a disposable container, then add some very hot water and stir thoroughly. The hot water warms the oil and lowers its viscosity, letting the dirt settle out more easily. As the water sinks to the bottom, it carries the dirt with it, leaving clean oil on top. Put the container in a freezer or set it outside in a northern winter. After the water freezes, you can pour off and reuse the oil. Lapidary Journal September 1998.

SHOP HINTS

Use your trim saw for the essential straight cuts, then use a pair of slip-joint pliers to finish your rough preform by the process of nibbling. Nibbling removes objectionable points of material--use the pliers with strong pressure while simultaneously giving a sharp twist to the cabochon blank. Agate and similar materials respond well to this technique; however, a tough material such as nephrite does not.

Cleavage planes in fluorite may give the faceter trouble. Advanced cutters advise orienting the table facets away from the cleavages by cutting 10 degrees away from the cube. Cutting a twinned crystalline gem such as amethyst or chrysoberyl may also be difficult. Experts suggest having the twinning plane just below and parallel to the girdle. *Lapidary Journal August 1998*

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.

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. Keith Greetham
ACT SEC: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
TREASURER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
NW FED REP: Jim Thomas
MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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

WEB SITE: Charley Price
JR PROGRAM: Greg Tolbert

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Printing & Mailing
M. J. Huetter 459-8121

The Washington Agate & Mineral Society Newsletter is printed and distributed monthly. Material may be reprinted if properly credited. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

RETURN ADDRESS:

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

MINUTES MAY 1, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Charley Price

Boxscore: Adults 18, Juniors 6

SHOW AND TELL:

Sam Luensman: Canada Amethyst, Alaska leaf fossils
Zoe: Strait of Juan DeFuca concretions/clams
MJ: Polished rocks
Jaeden: agates and coprolites from Salman Creek
Greg Tolbert: Twin River calcite
Greg Wilson: fossilized leaves Salmon Creek
Evan: sandstone
Jamie: pyrite and marcacite (sp?)
Charley: Oregon angel wing, plume agate, rhyolite
Jim: Texas pumice
Kathleen: shell fossils Lewiston
Jerry: Oregon angel wing that Charley missed.
Bob: horn corral, carnelian agate, small limb casts

Treasurer's report and minutes approved. No Federation report. Jim Thomas reported for Mineral council: show update, field trips, and test area on State DNR land.

Puyallup show will not be at Grange but up in Bonney Lake.
Reminder that club picnic will be Aug 14.

Member Albert Bachman reported that the Panorama City lapidary shop will be disbanding and selling off its equipment and rock. Charley volunteered to value it.

Greg Wilson gave a slide show on Slide Mt fossils. He displayed latex forms of the fossilized tracks.

MAIL TO: