

# WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XV ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2012

OLYMPIA WA

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

## REFRESHMENT LIST:

**DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY (BYOT) Everyone brings their favorite holiday treat and/or drink. We're talking finger food.**

**So, come with your Christmas favorites to share with other members. As is our custom, please bring one gift--doesn't have to be rock related--to our Christmas meeting. You can wrap it nicely or just put it in a sealed paper bag. If it's specifically for a man, a young girl, etc, please write that on the outside. Like our silent auction, each person will write their name under one present. When the bell goes off, you get the present that has your name under it. Of course, the most fun of the evening is not having any business to discuss.**

**ALL POINTS BULLETIN OR DESPERATELY SEEKING ROCKS!** Any rock or buckets of rock you want to get rid of bring to the December meeting or call M.J. Huetter at 352-9702 for pickup. On this note, **we wish to thank KEITH GREETHAM for his recent donation**, which should give us enough to get through the Lacey Fun Fair in spring. During the sorting process, bad rock is tossed, and really, really, good rocks are returned to the donor. It's a great way to cull your collections and help the club.

## TREASURY REPORT:

*The checking stands at \$6221.41, plus we own 20 tables.*

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

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

## "Dues are due..."

Dues haven't changed--\$10 per household if the newsletter is mailed or \$5 per household if sent by email. You'll have the December meeting to pay. Those who don't will be taken off the mailing list December 15th. Your dues also entitled you to receive the Northwest Federation Newsletter.

## THE COSMIC QUESTION: SHOULD YOU LABEL YOUR ROCK COLLECTION?

Let's be truthful and air our dirty linen: It's a rare rock hound who catalogs his collection. Designating "Bucket 1", "Bucket 2", etc. with a grease pen does not count. After a hard day digging and hauling home tons of questionable material at best, it's all we can do just to dump them in a pile. Thank goodness for big back yards.

We rely on oral tradition, ignoring such recent discoveries as the printing press or word processing programs. "Honey, all the stuff around the drive is petrified wood, except for any obsidian, jasper, and chunks of broken asphalt that may be mixed in by mistake."

Admittedly, word of mouth is not a very orderly procedure, but it works. *Fact: it's counter productive to label material that is stored under the back deck or behind the shed. Also, it's dangerous, considering the infestation of black widow spiders.*

So why bother? Any knucklehead knows that a 3000 pound boulder was carted home as a source of future cabs, not a specimen for the Smithsonian. Besides, after 13 years, who can remember where and how it was acquired.? It's a "get around to" rock, not something reviewed by Bob Jones for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Grand Case.

Of course the argument swings the other way if you're lucky enough to own a prize piece. For bragging rights, the rock should be labelled, if only to inform the viewer it isn't a synthetic bauble purchased for \$19.99 from "As Seen On TV."

Does affixing a label detract or add to the stone's natural beauty? Many figurative rocks have been exchanged over this question.

Consider: should Marilyn Monroe have worn a badge: "*Norma Jeane Mortenson*. Carbon life form. 92% water.?" Or that gorgeous LA sunset: "*Light refraction*: Primary colors filtered through 1,000,000 tons of floating pollutants." Who cares about the origin, density, and chemical symbol of malachite, when "How much do you want for it?" succinctly sums up its worth and beauty?

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## 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 Kickett, 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 Kickett, [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.  
 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...None

## FIELD TRIPS: 2012...None.

**Okenite** - The attractive white puffball is a naturally occurring mineral (hydrated calcium silicate.) Each "hair" is an individual crystal that is somewhat flexible. Unlike almost all other similar looking minerals, it may be petted gently with little damage. (It is very soft.) If you pet it a great deal however, the specimen will become dirty and it will lost much of its "hair." There is no way to clean it. Okenite is not technically a zeolite, however it is often listed with them, and is often found in close association with true zeolites. Such is the case with these puffballs that are found in the gas pockets of the pillow basalts in a rock quarry near Bombay, India. It is found with Laumontite,

Gyrolite, Quartz and other Minerals.  
*Pebble Trails, 4/99*

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If you must label a specimen, please, get the name right. Is it Jade, Fake Jade, Nephrite, or Moose Creek Green? Some have more aliases than Carlos the Jackal. To avoid heated arguments, only collect specimens with one name. The Hope Diamond, for example. Who will question the nomenclature when you surround it with 20 armed marshals.?

Frankly, only one reason exists to label or (mislabel) your collection: money. Advertising "All you can carry -- \$5!!", doesn't command much attention. But terms like "Diamond" or "Imperial Jade" added to locales like "Kimberly Mines, South Africa" or "Zhu River, China" will make people wish their credit card limits were higher. Whether or not it really is Imperial Jade moves us into ethics, which this article doesn't have time to address. We're still trying to figure out the concept of labelling.

Another reason (\$\$\$\$) for cataloging, or, at least, sorting material is that the last thing you want to do is sell a bucket of thunder eggs for \$20 and hear the purchaser exclaim "Wow, look at all this Ellensburg blue at the bottom."

Purists say "baloney" to all this discussion. "Look, just let the rock sit out on the lawn in its natural beauty. Wait for someone to start asking questions. Avoid written information that could hold you liable. For example: "I got this piece at a silent auction." (True.) "I was told it may have broken off of the meteor that blasted all the dinosaurs into extinction." (Hearsay.) "But I can't be certain. The previous owner said he bought it from a rock shop in Minnesota from a bin marked 5 cents per pound. (Leave out of conversation.) "That's why I placed a question mark after the 'Jurassic Meteor?'" (Caveat Emptor.)

While not required by U.S. law, certain rocks should be labelled out of courtesy: uranium for sure. cinnabar with high concentrations of cyanide. chipped obsidian with scalpel edges, and mercury, while not a heavy favorite among rock hounds, still fascinates kids. With profit margins razor thin, any lawsuit could easily wipe out 20 years of sales.

As Shakespeare noted centuries ago: "A rock by any other name, still carries weight"-- at which point Macbeth heaved one through Juliet's stained glass window.

## CONSIDER THIS NEXT TIME...

If the fist cut from an agate nodule reveals a high-quality colorless or white chalcedony with a fine turtleback pattern, the agate may be iris. Make the next cut thin, and look through the oiled slab toward a strong single light source some distance away to check if it is indeed iris agate. If confirmed, the best slabs will be thin slices from the center of the nodule. Be sure to cut perpendicular to the banding. To polish a thin slab of iris, cement it to a piece of plywood trimmed to the same size. You can also use wax to attach the rock to the wood. Lapping can be don on a flat lap using silicon carbide grits. Don't let the slurry get too dry. Sand the specimen on the lap through 1,200 grit. Cerium oxide on a leather buff attached to the lap plate will give a bright polish. LAPIDARY JOURNAL OCTOBER 1998

## 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.luckystrikemine.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. I make sure 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  
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TREASURER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121  
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MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas  
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**RETURN ADDRESS:**

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

Box Score: Adults 10, Juniors 6

Guests: Lisa Wood (children Reed & Nora) had been here 8 years ago.

Show and Tell:

*From the archives..*

9/7/12 Keith – fossilized dinosaur-dung, -bones, -gizzard and -skin.

10/2/12 Keith – a wide variety of crystal.

**KEITH** – oddball rocks: cauliflower, azurite, pyrite, Thanksgiving turkey rock, rutile filled

Bob – take a seemingly ugly rock and polish a window into its beauty.

Zoe – Denny creek material, glossular garnets

Nora – Serpentine rock from Oregon

Lisa – Obsidian from Glass Butte

Evan – no rocks, but did recite the Greek alphabet ,which may come in handy given the country's present fiscal malaise.

Celeste/Jadean – Limestone crystal and rocks from Canada.

Leann – exhibited polished rock mounted in wire wrap.

Charley – Calvert Hill MT jasper.

Drawing winners: Nora and Bob.

Treasury report was accepted.

No Federation or Mineral reports.

Charley reported that Jerry would be undergoing open heart surgery. A card was purchased, signed by club members, and M.J.was asked to drop it off at the hospital.

New and old members were reminded that the December meeting would be our annual Christmas fare. See page one for details.

Charley gave a demonstration of making rock clocks, passing out slabs to the juniors and reporting where to pick up the clock guts, so to speak.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary

M. J. Huetter

**MAIL TO:**