

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2013

OLYMPIA WA

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

Jerry L. Sprengel, 65, of Olympia passed away at Providence St. Peter hospital on December 7, 2012, one month after undergoing heart surgery. Jerry was born in Olympia to Al and Retta Sprengel and was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Teresa, his daughters Amy Greene of Olympia and Angie (Moshe) Seror of Israel daughters of Karen Nelson; step-son Ciaran Wilburn of Olympia; sisters Alretta Skellenger of Minnesota and Jeanne Allen of Bremerton; his nine grandchildren in Israel; and nieces, a nephew and cousins. Jerry served in the Air Force in Vietnam and after his military service worked as a land surveyor for Bracy & Thomas in Olympia. He went to work at the Olympia Brewing Co. in 1974 where he worked in the bottle shop on production, maintenance and finished as a warehouseman. He retired in 2000 after 27 years. Jerry had a lifelong interest in the outdoors, hunting, fishing and trapping and as a young man he was an accomplished woodsman. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout and spoke very fondly of his scouting days. He had many interests which included farming, gardening, bee keeping, building, rock hounding and he particularly loved old hand tools. He had an outgoing and inquisitive nature and was never shy to ask a question or share his knowledge.

There will be a celebration of Jerry's life at Unity Church of Olympia, 1335 Fern St SW Olympia on December 29, 2012 at 3:00 pm.

Published in The Olympian on December 19, 2012 Print |

Our club was just a small piece of his life, that unique love and laughter. We thank God for the brief time he was with us.

The club voted to hold its January meeting on 1/1/13 at 7 p.m. Bring any hangover remnants.

REFRESHMENT LIST:

JANUARY – JAMIE GLASGOW

FEBRUARY – KEITH GREETHAM

MARCH – CHARLEY PRICE

APRIL - LEANN CARANCI

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY - THE HANSSONS

AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC

SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$5494.91, plus we own 20 tables. Paid bills for 2013 rent, insurance, and dues to Northwest Fed and Mineral Council.

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

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 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: 2013

Whidbey Island Gem Club: 2/9-10. Oak Harbor senior center, 51 SE Jerome St, Oak Harbor WA

East Kingco Rock and Gem: 03/2-3. Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA 98027 (across from Costco)

West Seattle Rock Club 4/27-28. Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Ave SW, Seattle WA

FIELD TRIPS: 2013...None so far.

When working with acids, keep in mind the three A's:

ALWAYS ADD ACID TO WATER!!!!

When using soap and water to clean specimens, use DISH soap--it does not contain a bleach that laundry soap often has. Use distilled water for final rinse to preclude any residue from the water coating the specimen.

Shaklee's Oven Cleaner is an excellent cleaner for pyrite.

Lime-Away can dissolve unwanted calcite deposits.

Galena (lead sulfide) can be cleaned with denture cleaner--use it easily, as it is a mild abrasive. (Select a dentifrice that does contain some abrasive. A few of the new cleaners, especially the gels, contain nothing but soap, flavoring and "cavity fighters.")

Heat sensitive minerals such as barite, cerussite, apophyllite should not be subjected to extreme heat or cold.

Native silver will tarnish if a paper label is placed inside a box with it.

Paper is made with sulfurous chemicals, so stick the label outside the box. A camphor stick will help to keep the silver clean.

Tip - To clean fragile crystals or hard to reach recesses in mineral specimens, try "crew", a product of Johnson Wax. Spray on the foam, let it stand a minute or so then rinse with water. It is safe on all materials.

Lapidary Journal

CROCODILE WANNABE

It seems as though dinosaurs are getting scarier and scarier. As if *Tyrannosaurus Rex* wasn't bad enough, we then were told about *Giganotosaurus*, which was sort of like *T. Rex*, but bigger. And now we have *Suchomimus tenerensis*. At 36 feet long and weighing approximately five tons, *Suchomimus* was roughly the same size as *T. Rex*, but had massive, powerful forearms with thumb claws that measured four inches in length. The sick-shaped thumb claw was, in fact, the first part of the dinosaur to be discovered, spotted by David Varricchio, curator of the Old Trail Museum in Choteau, Montana. The elongated skull and the region of the Sahara in which it was discovered gave it its name, which translates to "crocodile mimic from Tenere."

The leader of the expedition, Paul Sereno, of the University of Chicago, describes *Suchomimus* as "a dinosaur trying hard to be a crocodile." *Suchomimus* lived approximately 100 million years ago, in an environment that was decidedly hostile. Although the imposing dinosaur was the largest and most common predator of its day, the fish-eater would have had its competition. "If you weren't grabbed by a spinosaur," says Sereno, "you'd likely run into a 50-foot crocodile." *Lapidary Journal Feb 1999*

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 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*

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. 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.

None – Christmas party!

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary
M. J. Huetter

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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OLYMPIA WA 98507**

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.

MAIL TO: