

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XV ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2012

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

NOVEMBER - JERRY SPRENGEL

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL POINTS BULLETIN OR DESPERATELY

SEEKING ROCKS! . Any rock or buckets of rock you want to get rid of bring to the November meeting or call M.J. Huetter at 352-9702 for pickup.

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$6176.41, plus we own 20 tables.

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

At the November meeting, we will rubber stamp in last year's officers once again. Change travels at a glacial pace.

Dues haven't changed--\$10 per household if the newsletter is mailed or \$5 per household if sent by email. You'll have the November, and December meetings 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.

Natural Glass by Betty McVey Meyers Lapidary Journal

Natural glass is known as obsidian. Early Romans called it *obsianu*; Pliny spelled it *obsidianus*.

Obsidian was formed by rapidly cooling volcanic lava. The chemical composition varies greatly, but it is between 66 to 72 percent silica. Being a natural glass, obsidian has no crystal structure. Therefore, it has no cleavage. Characterized by conchoidal fractures, it can be broken into sharp edged flakes. Thus, it was prized by early man for arrowheads, knives, scrapers, and other weapons and tools. It was also transformed into ornamental and ceremonial objects such as ear ornaments, masks, figurines and mirrors.

Obsidian knives are extremely sharp. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies reported that Don Crabtree has been involved in recreating Stoneage obsidian knives. He was so confident that he used them on himself for major surgery. Crabtree says obsidian is a thousand times sharper than the platinum blade. The cutting surface is so sharp that it does not bruise the cells and healing is more rapid and scarring is diminished. He feels obsidian surfaces will eventually revolutionize surgery and could be especially useful in plastic cosmetic surgery.

No two obsidian sources contain the same trace elements, so a research team is analyzing obsidian Indian artifacts to trace them back to their volcanic source. They can

retrace ancient Indian trade routes. Artifacts from digs in Campeche and Chiapas, Mexico, have been traced to sources near Mexico City and Guatemala, meaning obsidian was transported 400 to 600 miles by classic and pre-classic Meso American Cultures. Arrowheads from Utah were traced to sources up to 150 miles away.

Normally obsidian is black or gray in color, but also turns up as rainbow, peacock, mahogany, banded, snowflake, iridescent, and even red or blue. Some has a silver or gold sheen, caused by reflections from minute bubbles or inclusions. Purple sheen obsidian, velvet stone, gives the appearance that if it were touched it would feel like soft, plush velvet. Snowflake obsidian is the result of crystals of cristobalite forming in cavities of the molten rock when portions of the lava cooled more slowly. The crystals of chistobalite are white, resembling snowflakes falling through a black night sky. Small obsidian nodules of perlite are called "Apache tears", connected with various legends of shedding tears.

Obsidian is 5 to 5.5 on the Mohs scale, cutting and polishing well for jewelry. The lapidary treatment for this volcanic glass is the same as for artificial glass. Always handle with care. Felt buffs heat too fast, causing fractures. Tin oxide on leather gives a good polish. Snowflake obsidian has two hardnesses, which presents a problem.

Apache tears are usually tumbled and used for baroque style jewelry. Obsidian works best as pendants, bola ties, and brooches; rings and belt buckles take on too much abuse for glass.

Obsidian occurs throughout the world wherever there is volcanic activity. Most volcanic glass ranges in age from Miocene to recent times. Relatively unstable, there is little chance of finding it in older rocks. Obsidian evidently can form very quickly--"in a flash."

Lapidary Journal carried an article "Multimillion Volt Adirondack Obsidian," relating the story of lightning striking a high voltage line in the Adirondacks. Through unusual circumstances it heated the ground rocks to a white hot, molten flowing melting point. Overnight this rock cooled and turned to obsidian,

Most of the obsidian used in jewelry is found in North America, from the states of Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico. Iridescent obsidian is found in Oregon. Velvet stone comes from California-Oregon area. One site for finding Apache tears is North central New Mexico near the naturally weathered rock formation called "Tent Rocks."

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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

**CASCADE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY AND NW
 OPAL ASSOC. NOVEMBER 9-11. PUYALLUP
 FAIRGROUNDS EXPO HALL MERIDIAN STREET S
 AND 9TH AVE SW PUYALLUP WA**

**MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB. NOV 10-11.
 MAPLEWOOD ROCK CLUB CLUBHOUSE 8802 196TH
 STREET SW EDMONDS WA**

FIELD TRIPS: 2012...None left.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A GOOD ROCKHOUND:

1. Love of the outdoors. Where else can you find rocks?
2. Strong back or good judgment. Rocks gain weight with every step.
3. Sense of humor. Be able to appreciate another fellow's find after you have just stepped over it.
4. One leg shorter than the other. It helps on the side hills.
5. Cheerful. Smile even if every muscle and bone in your body aches.
6. Adventurous. Daring to take a road, even if it looks like it goes straight up.
7. Persistent. Don't be satisfied until you have turned every rock over twice.
8. Determination. A willingness to go again after you swore you never would.
9. Imagination. Visualize a beautiful gem cut out of a plain rock.
10. Congeniality. You can hunt alone, but it's more fun in a group. CARNY HOUND MAY 2001

ACID: BE CAREFUL

Acid is often used by mineral collectors, lapidaries, and jewelry makers. Although some acids are more dangerous than others, it pays to treat all acids with respect and follow safety rules. The exception is vinegar--acetic acid--which can be used quite safely in many ways as a household solution.

Acid is usually used in solution. The cardinal rule is to add acid slowly to the water. The reverse is hazardous, as there is more of a likelihood of splashing. Use glass or ceramic containers with tight-fitting covers.

When working with acid, be sure to have adequate ventilation. If an acid solution is to be heated, do so slowly in a Pyrex container, preferably on an electric burner or hot plate at a low setting. A gas is more likely to crack the container. Some acids must be heated outdoors, so read the directions of whatever acid you are using. Always wear protective gloves when working with acid: protective goggles are advisable for some techniques.

Should you accidentally get acid on your skin, wash immediately with running water, then follow with a solution of bicarbonate of soda. A box of soda should always be nearby during any acid procedure. Nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, and sulfuric acid are extremely corrosive. Beginners should have an experienced partner when working with these. Always store the acids tightly in a safe place, well out of the reach of children. Lapidary Journal February 1999

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Fulgurites are a type of natural glass which are of no interest to the lapidary but find space on the shelf of the mineral collector. Fulgurites are better known as "petrified lightning." They are tubes of fused sand which formed from the intense heat set up when a lightning flash struck and entered wet sand. They are tube-like with a smooth glassy interior and a rough, sandy, but slightly glazed exterior. They may be quite long, possibly over five feet. These are hard to obtain since they are very fragile when first dug from the sand. After drying and weathering, they become more durable. Small pieces are much more common, up to four inches in circumference.

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.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 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.

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
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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Box Score: Adults 14, Juniors 4

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

Show and Tell:

Bob – Basalt with quartz.

Kathleen – Fossilized snail shells.

Lucia Grimm– Polished rock and geode. White salt crystal.

Jim Pedrick – Big crystal.

Cherry – Rocks from burn area.

Lisa – Sunstone and concretions.

Jim Thomas - Meteorite from Siberia. Sand glass from Libya. Tektite from SE Asia. Muldavite from Czech.

Evan – Collection of rocks from India.

Jerry – Big honking agates, one looked like “bacon slab”, the others full of druzy quartz.

Greg – Indian artifact.

Zoe – Big coprolyes from Salmon Creek.

Megan - Picture jasper from family collection.

Treasury report was accepted. M J reported that it takes about \$800 to operate, the big culprits rent and insurance.

Jim Thomas reported that the Mineral council petitioned for rock collecting, but the state rejected it due to past damage to streams. No federation report.

Nominations were accepted for 2013, all the usual suspects were rounded up.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary

M. J. Huetter

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

MAIL TO: