

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2013

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

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.

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Get out that box of slabs you plan to use "someday" and blow off the dust. Pick out six and trim to 4" squares. Round the corners and bevel the edges so the squares will have smooth edges. Polish the best side. Back the other side with self-stick felt. The thickness of the slabs does not have to be the same. You now have a set of six unique coasters in a variety of colors and patterns. Ore-bits 3/96

TOPAZ - BY Erin Huggins, age 10, *Skagit Gems* 1996

Topaz is the crystal form of the mineral aluminum-fluor-silicate, most commonly found in shades of yellow or amber but is also found in pink, green, blue, or clear.

Topaz has a hardness of 8, much harder than glass and even harder than quartz. Formed at very high volcanic temperatures, topaz is often found in cavities in the igneous rock rhyolite.

The world's finest topaz is said to come from Russia, but fine topaz also comes from Ramona, CA, Pikes Peak, CO, and Topaz MT, UT.

My family has visited Topaz Mt twice in the last three

years to hunt for topaz. On our first trip we didn't find much at the mountain, but when we drove out we made an interesting discovery. We could see hundreds of little sparkles in the sunlight, so we stopped to look. All over the ground we saw little topaz crystals, especially near anthills. The ants had pushed them out of the ground to build their nests. We found lots of them, but they were all clear, like glass. Topaz loses its color in the sunlight, so don't leave topaz jewelry near a window.

We went back to Utah last summer and had much better luck. We hunted for topaz at a commercial quarry called the Mile High Claim.

We had permission to look there. During a day in the quarry we found many nice topaz crystals. Some were still attached to the rock, but many were loose. I discovered that by looking in the loose gravel at the base of the cliff there were crystals that had been knocked loose by the blasting. I could look there easier than grownups because they don't bend over so well. After I found a few my brother got real interested in the gravel at the base of the cliff, too. We got out some screens and managed to clean out all the gravel. This only took until about 10 o'clock that night, when my parents made us to bed anyway. Some of the topaz crystals were perfect, but some had little specks that looked like sand on them and in them. These are called inclusions. They are little specks of quartz. Some crystals look like they are made of quartz sand. When it got dark we could see all the little sparkles of topaz crystals in the moonlight. It was a very beautiful night!

That same day my dad found a really nice crystal. The way he found it was while he was picking up loose rocks to throw them out, he picked one up and when he laid it in his bucket, he saw the other side. He made a weird gasp that we all rushed to him to make sure he wasn't having a heart attack. It was a top quality crystal with a smaller crystal behind it. At first my brother thought it was a phantom crystal, which is a crystal with another crystal growing inside of it. Too bad it wasn't.

WORKING WITH MONTANA AGATE

Don't overlook the flat pieces of rough Montana agate. These often have fine, large sprays of dendrites, sometimes the elusive "red tops." These agates are sometimes rather milky and have thick white rinds, so it is difficult to see interior details. Cut a thin slab at first, parallel to the flattest surface. Do the same to the opposite surface.

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 Mark Bauman 253-756-8636

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

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.

FOR OPALHOLICS:

Goeff Huaghton has published basic instructions for successful opal doublets and triplets in THE OPAL EXPRESS of the

American Opal Society. He uses quartz caps and a background material such as obsidian.

1. The surfaces to be joined should be absolutely flat, but not polished. After using a 260 grit diamond disc, a surface should be sufficiently rough for glue to hold.

2. Surfaces must be clean and absolutely free of oil. Wash them with hot water and dish washing detergent followed by alcohol and acetone.

3. Avoid bubbles in the glue. Take care when mixing the epoxy. If bubbles are left in the joint, they will show. Mix the epoxy more thoroughly.

4. Don't do any more work with the doublet until the glue has completely hardened. Give it at least two days in a warm place.

For those who do not use diamond discs, the parts are usually ready to assemble after using 220 grit carbide. Alternatives to obsidian for a backing include black jade, black jasper, black agate, dark glass, and besantitic. Some cutters of outstanding doublets or triplets use a suggestion from Paul Downing--spray the back of a thin piece of precious opal with flat black (epoxy compatible) paint.

Lapidary Journal August 1998

BE FRUITFUL...

As far as public relations goes, it might be a hard sell. When compared to the magnetic appeal of a newly discovered dinosaur, the spindly twig recently uncovered in China might not look like much. But for botanists, it's of momentous importance. First of all, it's not simply a twig--it bears peapod-shaped fruit, making it a flowering plant. And second, it has been age-dated at 142 million years old, making it the earliest known flowering plant. And if the implications of that aren't immediately apparent, consider this: plants had to develop flowers in order to attract pollinators, in order to bear fruit. "It would have been a very different world if early flowering plants like this one had not been successful," said David Dilcher, of the University of Florida, in an article he co-authored for *Science*. "There would have been no apples, no Wheaties in the morning, no corn on the cob, no potatoes, no rice or other grains." *Lapidary Journal February 1999*

VIBRATORY TUMBLER ADDITIVES:

Edward Smith, inventor of the Mini-Sonic and Vibra-Sonic tumblers, tested the various additives recommended for polish additives--leather, felt, cork, oat hulls, and rice hulls. He writes that none of these had the necessary properties for finishing stones in the vibratory tumbler. Smith recommends milled dried corncob, ground walnut or pecan shell, hardwood shapes, sawdust, and wood shavings.

A recent test by other innovators found that pieces of Styrofoam work better for a polish than the formerly popular plastic pellets. *Lapidary Journal Feb. 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*

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.

MINUTES JANUARY 1, 2013

Boxscore: 10 adults, 4 juniors

Show and Tell:

Keith: Fossil fish, petrified pinecone.

Charlie: Rocks from Skokomish River. Suiseki.

Leeann: Serpentine jewelry.

Bob: Visited mine tailings from North Central Washington, also got rocks from road gravels.

Kathleen: Fossil variety. Cat shaped mud baby.

Evan: Agates from Ellensburg and Liberty Mountain.

Jamie: Tufa from Nevada.

Lisa: Rough gemstones, emerald citrine, amethyst, aquamarine.

Nora: Ocean jasper necklace.

Zoe: Polished agate, Kansas pop rock (pseudomorph of pyrite).

Adult winner: Nora

Junior winner: Leeann

Treasury report from newsletter.

No Mineral or Federation report.

No old business.

New business: Bob brought petrified wood for juniors. Charlie asked for Programs input.

Program: Slide show about rocks.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary

Charlie Price

MAIL TO:

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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