

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI ISSUE 4

APRIL 2013

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

APRIL - LEANN CARANCI

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY - THE HANSSONS

AUGUST 6 - CLUB PICNIC (Starts at 6. Potluck.)

SEPTEMBER - GREG TOLBERT

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER - THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$5480.92, 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.

AGATE RICH IN FIBER!

Sometimes chalcedony, including agate, is described as fine-grained quartz, but the real case isn't that simple. Arrowheads and other stone tools are harder and more durable when made from chalcedony rather than from coarse quartz. On the other hand, coarse quartz is better to grind up as a concrete additive than chalcedony. The chalcedony causes various chemical reactions in the concrete, which can fail, quartz is unreactive. With the advance of modern analytical tools, these differences can finally be investigated.

Chalcedony has a microscopically fibrous structure, made of evenly spaced silica rods. More surprising is the fact that the fibers show a regularly alternating pattern of elongation--some parts being "length fast" and some parts "length slow." This means that in part of a particular fiber, light travels faster parallel to the long axis of the fiber.

PETRIFIED LIGHTNING

Along the ocean beaches, sandy hills or dunes, people sometimes come across a strange hollow tube of cemented sand, sometimes like a small straight rod. This piece of *petrified lightning* was created in a fraction of a second when lightning struck the earth and fused sand particles into silica glass. Scientists call these fragile objects "fulgurites," from the Latin word *fulger*, meaning lightning.

What Happens? When a bolt of lightning strikes an area of dry sand, the intense heat, with temperatures as high as 3,272 degrees, melts the sand surrounding the strike into rough glass tubes. In as short a time as 100-millionths of a second, a stroke of lightning pierces the Earth and leaves this fused record of its searing path. With diameters from one-half inch to two inches, some fulgurites are ten or more feet long, although most are less than a foot.

They are nearly always found in pieces, for the brittle cast breaks easily if jarred, dropped or stepped on. The inside walls of the tube are glassy and lustrous, while the outside is rough with sand particles adhering to it. They are usually tan or black, but an almost transparent white fulgurite has been found in Florida. Fulgurites have been found in almost all parts of the US, wherever people happen to recognize what they are.

Golden Spike News

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

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: Ed Lehman 425-334-6282

Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-366-0576 kmenter@comcast.net

East King = East King Co, Norma Kikkert, 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 Brad Johnson 206-403-3073

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.

Msvl 04/13 Racehorse Creek 9 am Nugetn's Corner, East of Bellingham. Fossils, Morel Mushrooms Digging, light and split tools.

Powow 04/20-04/21 Saddle Mt 8 am Boat Launch: S. Mattawa. Petrified Wood. Light hard rock and dig tools

Msvl 05/18 Walker Valley 9 am Big Lk Store. Geodes. Hard rock tools. (Plenty of energy required)

Powwow 6/26-30. Madras OR 8am Jefferson Fair Grounds. Agate, jasper, wood, T-eggs (\$). Dig and light tools.

Msvl 7/20 Darrington 10 am Rock Show behind IGA store. Travertine & Spelunking. Hard rock dig, dress for water.

Msvl 7/27 Lake Wenatchee 9 am Coles Corner Gas station. Garnets, actinolite, talc. Screen, wood saw, dig tools.

Msvl 8/17 Greenwater 9 am Enumclaw Ranger station. Agate, jasper. Dig & light hard rock.

Powwow 9/7-8 Red Top 8 am W Fork Teanaway Camp . Geodes, agate, jade. Dig & light hard rock.

Msvl 9/14 Little Naches 9 am 410& FR 19. Thunder eggs, rhyolite. Dig & light hard rock.

Msvl 10/19 Money Creek 9 am Hwy 2, Money Creek campground. Picture jasper. Rock hammer and container.

Msvl 11/16 Blanchard Hill 9 am I-5 exit 240, gas mart. Stilpnomelane in quartz. Hard rock tools.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2013

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

Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral 5/31-6/02. Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave East Bonney Lake WA

Everett Rock & Gem 06/01-06/02. Everett Community College 2206 Tower Street Everett WA

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council. The wrong trips were reported in last month's newsletter. Try these instead

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 Charlie Price
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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

MINUTES MARCH 5, 2013

Box score: 21 adults, 6 junior
New member: Ralph Nollner
Prior member back in the fold: Anne Heyerdahl
Show and Tell:
Keith: Coral specimens.
Nora: Opalized wood from Dolomite site in Vantage.
Jaedon: Pictures of baby goat.
Becky: Boitrodal agate from Toutle River.
Leeann: Yellow and red jasper.
Bob: Amazing agate nodules from Silver Lake.
Evan: Unknown rock from Mom's work.
Chuck: Minnesota iron pit iron ore/comparing agate and iron
Lisa: Thunder eggs from former meeting. Agate from Africa.
Zoe: Amazing agate nodules from Silver Lake.
Kathleen: Sequim petrified wood
Samantha: Opaque agate.
Jim: Pyrite sites in Western WA. Iron sites in WA.

Adult winner: Lisa Junior winner: Nora

Treasury report from newsletter.
Correction to February newsletter: All field trips wrong.

Mineral Council: No meeting, lack of quorum. Council estimates 13 pounds per person is carried off from Council trips. Slow action concerning rock hounding on state land. Federation report: None.

Tenino show report: Set up Friday 7/26. Show 7/27-7/28. Potluck Friday evening. Everything under control.

Old Business: None.
New Business: Cabellas will allow us to man a table at their store March 16-17. Ann volunteered to chair the committee. Motion made and seconded to pursue this opportunity.
Stone Rocks and bugs handouts.
Keith donated book on Gem Cutting by John Sinkankas.

Program: Gator Girl Rocks website presentation.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary
Charlie Price

MAIL TO: