

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY

2014

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

REFRESHMENT LIST:

FEBRUARY – LISA WOOD

MARCH – JIM THOMAS

APRIL - LEANN CARANCI

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY – RALPH NOLLNER

AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC

SEPTEMBER – JIM & CHERRY

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

Mark you calendars for May 10th 2014. We will have another club sale of rock at \$1 a pound. Once again at MJ's house: 4616 16th Ave SE Lacey WA 98503.

TREASURY REPORT:

The checking stands at \$3365.80. We own 20 tables and literally a ton of rock. Running tally of rock sold vs \$3000 investment. Sold to date: \$794.

SHOP TIPS: A way to clean quartz and amethyst crystal carbonates such as calcite, barite and lime that does not involve dangerous acids is to cover them with fresh vinegar. Stand the crystals overnight in the vinegar; repeat if necessary. Wash well and then place the crystal in washing ammonia for 8 to 12 hours, remove, rinse and wipe. When a stone is properly polished, you can read the reflection from the bottom of an overhead light bulb in the high polish of the stone.

ENHANCED, TREATED, HEATED, DYED, STABILIZED, CREATED, IRRADIATED, FAKE? by Deborah Phianz

Gemstones and semiprecious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them "more" colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them "fake"; however, one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

Heat Treated: This is the most common treatment and is as old as

fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem material to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye turns blue or red: carnelian agate turns orange-red. Aquamarine may go from green-blue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned to a deep blue.

DYED: This is also a common practice. Agate is dyed to fancy pinks, purples, oranges and blues--eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is old as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charite. Turquoise and Jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

IRRADIATION: While topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact, diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

STABILIZED: Opals are often stabilized--either by filling such as with Opticon resin (similar agent) or by capping with as a doublet or triplet. Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for filling and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon, which are more permanent than the natural oils. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

CREATED: This is a touchy subject for some folks. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl, just helped to grow by human hand. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones...just not grown by Mother Nature.

SO..REAL or FAKE??: This "real vs fake" can be argued with all sides being technically correct. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been "helped along" by human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gemsmith, jeweler, or craftsman know what you are using? *Rock Chipp 6/01*

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS (PUB. WSMC)

CMS, WMSMC = 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
LkSd = Lakeside Gem & Mineral club. Andy Johnson 509-546-1950
Maple = Maplewood club: Don Furey 425-348-4827
Msvl = Marysville club: Ed Lehman 425-334-6282
Mt. Baker club: Kris Menger 360-927-0994
kmenter@comcast.net
East King = East King Co, Norma Kicket, 206-612-3113
N.W.R. = NW Rockies & MT Baker clubs: Kathy Earnst 360-856-0588 or Ed Lehman 425-334-6282
Pvgn = 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 Jerry Wichstrom 509-653-2787
jewtmew@aol.com
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.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2014

Feb 8-9: Whidbey Island. Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome Street Oak Harbor WA
Feb 14-16: Oregon Agate. OMSI, 1945 SE Water Ave, Portland OR 97214

March 1-2: East King Co. Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah WA
March 7-9: Tualatin Valley. Washington County FairPlex, 873 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro, OR.
March 23-24: Port Angeles. Port Angeles Parks and Recreation, 308 E 4th St, Port Angeles
March 29-30: Mt Baker. Bloedel-Donavan Park, 2214 Electric Ave Bellingham WA

April 11-13: Mt Hood Rock Club: Kliever National Guard 10000 NE 33rd Drive Portland OR 97211

April 12-13: Yakima Rock & Mineral Club: WA National Guard Armory 2501 Airport Lane Yakima WA 98903

April 26-27: West Seattle Rock Club: Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th SW Seattle WA

May 3-4: Everett Rock & Gem Club: Everett Comm College Student Fitness Center 2206 Tower Street Everett WA

June 6-8: Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club: Swiss Park 9205 198th Ave East Bonney Lake WA 98390

August 15-17: NFMS Annual Meeting Hermiston Conference Center 415 South Highway 395 Hermiston OR

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council.

02/15/14 MSVL: Cedar Ponds. 9 @ Monroe Jack in the Box. Jasper. Dig & light hard rock tools.

03/15/14 MSVL: Cherry Creek. 9 @ Duval Safeway. Jasper. Dig, light hard rock, wading.

04/19/14 Mt Baker. Racehorse Creek. 9 @ IGA at Nugents Corner. Fossils. Dig & light, hard rock tools.

5/17/14 Elb: Saddle Mt. 9 @ MATAWA Leprechaun Market. Petrified Wood. Dig & light hard rock.

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.

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
VICE-PRES. Bob Hansson
ACT SEC: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
TREASURER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121
NW FED REP: Jim Thomas
MINRL CNCL : Jim Thomas
COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
PROGRAMS: Charley Price
SILENT AUC: Mike Tanaka 455-4607
ROCK SHOW Dan DeBoer 866-3940
NEWSLETTER: M. J. Huetter 459-8121

WEB SITE: Charley Price
JR PROGRAM: Greg Tolbert

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Printing & Mailing
M. J. Huetter 459-8121

The Washington Agate & Mineral Society Newsletter is printed and distributed monthly. Material may be reprinted if properly credited. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Minutes for January 7, 2014.

None submitted .

LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES??

These beautiful are found in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, states which border Lake Superior. However, since these ancient agates were carried away from the largest of our Great Lakes by glaciers and floods, they are also found in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and both Dakotas. Lake Superior agates are called banded agates. Fortification agates have bands with sharp curves and angles resembling ornate fortresses. Some Lake Superior agates have straight bands, in which case they are referred to as onyx banded. Another variation is eye agate, which is similar to tube agate. A rare type is sagentic agate, which has interesting needle-like inclusions of foreign minerals along the edges. A few have thick reddish or brownish moss. I don't know if there are any Lake Superior iris agates, but if so, they are rare indeed.

LAPIDARY JOURNAL DECEMBER 1994.

TUMBLE POLISH ROCKS INTO GEMS:

Edward Smith notes that while in the "old days" it was mostly agates and jaspers that went into the tumbler, now anything from amber to zoisite can be tumbled. He says that vibratory tumblers produce a polish very rapidly. He recommends synthetic and man-made compounds for polishing since such natural compounds as tin oxide and cerium oxide become too small too quickly through the action, which produces both rotation and vibration. Says Smith: "Aluminum oxides perform best on materials 5 through 8 in hardness." Lapidary Journal Sept 1996

MAIL TO: