

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XVII ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2014

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

Charley reports plenty of good material is left. Call him at 360-259-3063 and set up an appt. at \$1a pound. (Email is cprice@pacifier.com.)

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

LOOKING FOR: We sold out all of our copolytes. Anyone have any? Willing to trade for some big rock.

TREASURY REPORT: The bank account stands at \$7639.37. In addition we have 20 tables and a lot of rock. *Bills coming up: Insurance \$375, 2015 rent \$350, Federation and Mineral Council dues for 2015.*

"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. But if anyone wants to take on a job, we will happily let you!

At the December meeting, the new officers will take over.

Dues haven't changed--\$10 per household if the newsletter is mailed or \$5 per household if sent by email. You'll have the October, November, and December meetings to pay. Those who do not will be taken off the mailing list December 15th. Besides the club newsletter, your dues entitled you to receive the monthly Northwest Federation Newsletter. Such a bargain..

GIANT CLAMS OF THE TRIASSIC

The discovery of a new family and species of giant clams revealed information about Triassic clams and the Triassic Pacific. George Stanley, a University of Montana (UM) geology professor, and Thomas Yancey, a researcher from Texas A&M University, described the giant clams, which range up to 3 feet in diameter.

In the mid 1980's, Stanley and a student discovered the saucer shaped fossils, silhouetted in white in a wall of black limestone, in a quarry of the Wallowa Mountains in Oregon. Unable

at the time to separate the fossils from the limestone, they transported the limestone, more than 400 pounds of rock to UM. The similar densities of the fossils and their matrix rendered X-rays ineffective. The fossils' identities remained a mystery until recently, when Yancey, having the tools and the time, began removing the surrounding rock, and could see the internal morphologies of the giant clams. The researchers assigned the fossils the family name *Wallowacochidae* after the surrounding mountains.

The fossils had unusual wing-like extensions surrounding their central body cavities. According to the scientists, the clams used chambers inside their shell extensions to nurture and house algae. Partially translucent shells or natural fiber optics allowed light to pass through the clams' shells to the symbiotic algae.

The extinct clams lived in the Triassic period about 200 million years ago. The researchers believe that the clams' habitat was a shallow lagoon, behind coral reefs, that surrounded isolated volcanic islands like Tahiti or Fiji located in the eastern Pacific. Identical fossils were found in the Yukon and in Sonora, Mexico.

The different locations of the fossils may help geologists reconstruct the paleogeography of the Pacific during the Triassic. "I believe the clams were living in isolation around an island like the Galapagos and eventually plate tectonics brought them crashing into North America. Later fault systems moved them north and south," Stanley says. *Geotimes 8/99*

WHY DO ROCKS FLUORESCENCE?

The word takes its name from fluorite and was first discovered by Vincenzo Cascariolo, cobbler and part-time alchemist. In 1602, he tried to smelt a heavy white metal he thought was gold. He was very disappointed, and at one point he put it into bright sunlight. It seemed to drink in the warm light and afterwards it would glow in the dark (it was calcined barite.)

It was two centuries before the significance was noted by Sir George Stokes. With the mineral fluorite, he recognized the principle of fluorescence. He set it apart from other known forms of fluorescence, such as "thermoluminescence," the beautiful flow radiated by many minerals when heated gently, from "chemiluminescence," the cold light produced by some chemical reactions, from "bioluminescence," as seen in decaying wood, and from "triboluminescence," the sparks of light seen in the dark when struck or scratched with a sharp object.

At that time the only known source of ultraviolet light was sunlight. Then in 1867, a Frenchman by the name of Becquerel, using a new "phosphorescope" detected a delicate red fluorescence in calcite and timed its phosphorescence at one-half second.

Rockhound Special June 2002

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
 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 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.
 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.
 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.

FIELD TRIPS: Mineral Council.

11/08/14 MtBaker: Blanchard Mt. 9:00 I-5 240 exit gas station. Stilpnomelane & chert. Hard rock.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2014

Nov 8-9: Skagit Rock and Gem Club. Sedro Woolley Community Center 700 Pacific St Sedro Woolley WA

Nov 8-9: Maplewood Rock and Gem Club. Maplewood Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA

Feb 7-8: Whidbey Island Gem Club. Oak Harbor Senior

Center 51 SE Jerome Street, Oak Harbor WA
 Feb 28-1: East KingCo Rock Club. Pickering Barn. 1730
 10 Ave NW Issaquah WA
 May 2-3: Everett Rock and Gem Club Everett
 Community College, Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower
 Street, Everett WA
 June 5-7: Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Swiss
 Park, 9205 198th Ave East Bonney Lake WA 98390

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, cerrusite, 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*

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 259-3063
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RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Minutes for October 7, 2014

Box score: Adults 21, Juniors 1.

We had a whole bunch of guests: Rachel and Julia, Teri and Traci

Show and Tell:

Rachel – Petrified wood and jasper

Julia – A great big agate.

Lisa – Fossil

Jeremy – From quarry: calcite/crooked cube.

Chuck – Quartz ball, big sandstone from Randle.

Becky – A beautiful rock from East Creek and soft picture jasper.

Ron & Deb – Brought in polished cabs from the “free club” rocks given away at the previous meeting.

Zoe – Pyrite display.

Jim – Picked up rock books during summer travels.

Karen – Talked out her adventures in a tourmaline mine near San Diego.

Jim – Told of his day with the amethyst lady out of Lakewood.

Showed material that he purchased that came from Uraquay.

Bob – Petrified limb cast with purple in it.

Kathleen – Smoky quartz and other various crystals.

Jim – Limestone full of shells.

Keith – Over 100 arrowheads and spear points.

Winners: Jeremy and Zoe.

Treasury report in newsletter. No old business. New business: dues and nominations. In pregnant moments of silence, the old regime was nominated by default. Jim passed around a sign up sheet for a group trip to the amethyst lady in Lakewood. Zoe presented a slide show showing the many “facets” of the Hermiston Show.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary – M.J. Huetter

MAIL TO: