

WASHINGTON AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume XIX ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

OLYMPIA WA

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

REFRESHMENT LIST:

FEBRUARY – BOB & KATHLEEN HANSSON

MARCH – JIM THOMAS

APRIL - RALPH NOLLNER

MAY - M J HUETTER

JUNE - DAN DEBOER

JULY – TOLBERTS

AUGUST - CLUB PICNIC

SEPTEMBER – ROBERT & BONNIE LAMBERT

OCTOBER - MIKE TANAKA

NOVEMBER – THE HOLMQUISTS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

BUY...SELL...TRADE

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

Lapidary Estates & Downsizing Sale: 2/6/2016.
Everett United Church of Christ 2624 Rockefeller Ave
Everett Five Rockhound Collections. Hours 9 – 4.

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

TREASURY REPORT: *The bank account stands at \$8490.76 We have 20 tables and lots of rock.*

Keith Greetham update: He's back home!

Lacey Fun Fair: We've signed up for another stint. If you want to help, mark your calendars for 5/21-5/22. Spend some time at our booth selling rocks to the wee ones.

SHOP TIP BY BOB O'BRIEN

We have collected material coated with iron stains. Using muriatic (hydrochloric) acid bleaches and damages rocks. Oxalic acid is most effective when warmed, but if left too long, stains the rocks. I tried "Iron Out" sold at Lowes. I am pleased with the results. It doesn't damage calcite. It removes heavy stains or limonite buildups without damage to pyrite. Light stains will remove in one day. Pyrite takes about three solution changes and about 4 days. I have been able to salvage crystals that I was keeping in the discard pile. To use it, I mix about 1/4 cup to 1.5 gallons of lukewarm water. It is not very corrosive and is sold as a stain remover for sinks and clothing. Lowes carries it in the plumbing area.

Fossils: Fossils are evidence of past life, preserved in sedimentary rock. Vertebrate fossils man NOT be collected for personal or commercial use on public land. Anything with a backbone or a spinal column falls into this category. Other "non-significant" fossils, such as coral, plant casts, mollusks, and insects are available for collection. Please assist in the management of your National Forest by reporting the location of vertebrate fossil finds.

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

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

Dar = Darrington Rock Club. Ed Lehman (see above)

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 Kickett, 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.

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 = Larry Vess - vessel3@comcast.net 253-473-3908, 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 Kickett, 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 Steve Townsend srtrocks@aol.com 509-244-8542

NWOS - Northwest Opal Society. Tony Johnson - 253-863-9238

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.

The Washington State Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs and the general public.

Most trips are free. (Our club is a member of the Mineral Council.) Included will be PowWow trips. (Must joint to go on trips.) Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For now, go to mineralcouncil.org for updates or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com, home (425-334-6282) or cell (425-760-2786). 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.

Next year, once the weather improves.

UPCOMING SHOWS: 2016

Feb 13-14: Whidbey Island Gem Club. Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome Street Oak Harbor WA
Feb 12-14: Oregon Agate and Mineral Society. OMSI 1945 SE Water Ave Portland OR97214

March 5-6: East King Co. Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah WA

March 26-27: Mt Baker Rock and Gem Club. Bloedel-Donavan Park 2214 Electric Ave Bellingham WA

April 16-17: Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club. Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds 1500 S. Oak Kennewick WA

April 22-24: Mt Hood Rock Club W.P. Jackson Armory 6255 NE Cornfoot Road Portland OR 97218.

April 23-24: West Seattle Rock Club. Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave SW Seattle WA

April 30-May1: Everett Rock and Gem Club. Everett Comm. College-Walt Price Student Fitness Center 2206 Tower Street Everett WA

May 7-8: Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club Douglas County Fairgrounds I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg Or

June 3-5: Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Swiss Park 9205 198th Avenue East Bonney Lake WA 98390.

July 24-26: WAMS. One again into the fray...

July 29-31: Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (AFMS and NFMS Meetings) Linn County Expo Center Albany Oregon

October 22-23: Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4th Ave Canby OR 97013

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.wyodinator.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

Mailing address:

P O Box 2553

Olympia WA 98507-2553

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
VICE-PRES.	Bob Hansson	
ACT SEC:	M. J. Huetter	352-9702
TREASURER:	M. J. Huetter	352-9702
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	352-9702

WEB SITE: Charley Price
JR PROGRAM: Greg Tolbert

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Printing & Mailing
M. J. Huetter 352-9702

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.

Minutes for JANUARY 5, 2016

Box score: Adults 24, Juniors 2

Guests: Billy Ray, Jeanie Davies, Rachel, Arlyn and Brandon Dietz, Neil Marsh

Show and Tell:

Chuck – Picture of Rock Display Post

Cherry – Story of Rock adventure

Kathleen – Carnelian (dirty)

Bob – Polished Agate

Bob – (not to be confused with Bob above) Small agate (clear carnelian)

Leann – Wire wrapped cabs

Albert – Quartz crystal, irradiated smokey quartz

Billy Ray – Misc rocks and carnelian

Jim – Fossil leaves

Rachel – Possible jade cobble, petrified wood, green mudstone

Dana – Soap stone from Kenya

David – Thundereggs, agatenodules, petrified wood, banded agate

Brandon – Petrified wood, Quartzite, rose quartz, onyx, selenite rose

Drawing:

Brandon won the junior division. Cherry won adult and donated it to Arlyn.

Federation: Federation would like email addresses for newsletter. Jim will update current email addresses.

Show report: Dan DeBoer reported that our annual Tenino show will be held July 22-24. The three day extravaganza is working quite well.

Old Business: After discussion between President and Committee Chair, it was decided not to get into the business of Scholarships. Will discuss it further at the May meeting.

New Business: Jim will host another amythest trip jointly with the Shelton Club.

Program: Members shared highlights from last year and Hopes for this year.

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

Topaz is a crystal form of aluminum-fluor-silicate, commonly found in shades of yellow or amber but also in pink, green, blue, or clear. Topaz has a hardness of 8, harder than quartz. Topaz forms at very high volcanic temperatures in igneous rhyolite cavities. The world's finest topaz comes 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 returned to Utah last summer with 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.