



NORTHWEST

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 49 NO. 3

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Jan/Feb 2009

AFMS 2009 Webmasters Contest

by Phyllis George
AFMS Webmasters Contest Chair

It's official—the AFMS Officers and Directors have just voted to create a Webmaster Contest on a three-year trial basis. Ike House (new president of the SCFMS) first started a Webmaster Contest within his region while he was the SCFMS Bulletin Aids Chair. Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, took the SCFMS Webmaster Contest judging sheet as a start, and he did an outstanding job of developing the documents that are now available for download on the AFMS Web site. The entry form, judging score sheets, and the score sheet guidelines will all be available on the AFMS Web site <<http://www.amfed.org/>> by the time you read this.

We are working at a feverish pace to get this new contest up and running. The Webmasters Contest Committee Members (one for each regional federation) are in place, and they are the ones running the Webmasters Contest for their regional federation. The Committee Members receive the entries, they forward the entries to the judges for that region, they receive from the judges the completed score sheets, and they rank the results and award the first-place plaque and the certificates (places one through ten and honorable mention) at the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast at their regional federation's annual show. The first-place entry is forwarded to the AFMS level for judging. Currently the Committee Members are notifying webmasters in their region and the regional newsletter editor about the details of the contest, the due date for entries, and of the schedule for their regional contest.

Members of the Webmasters Contest Committee are as follows:

- CFMS: Merryan O'Neill, mvoneill@comcast.net
- EFMS: Dan Imel, lapidry@aol.com
- MWFMGS: Cindy Root, d-root@sbcglobal.net
- NFMS: Cheri George, lizardwoman3@yahoo.com
- RMFMS: Phyllis George, pgeorge4@comcast.net
- SCFMS: Don Shurtz, don.shurtz@gmail.com
- SFMS: Jim Flora, jimflora@alltel.net

Contact the Committee Member for your region for information about the contest and the deadlines. This information varies by region according to when their annual show is scheduled. Since I had no takers for the RMFMS position, I'm going to fill it myself. The deadline for RMFMS entries is January 15, 2009.

Coming in the March Issue:

- Mid-Year Meeting Information
- AFMS/NFMS Show Information

Webmasters wishing to enter their Web sites into the contest should download from the AFMS Web site (or from their regional federation's Web site) the contest **Guidelines**, the **Entry Form**, and the **Score Sheet** form. These are in PDF format, and they can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader®. Free Acrobat Reader software is available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/>. The contest information on the AFMS Web site can be found at http://www.amfed.org/web/webmasters_contest.htm.

To enter the contest, the webmaster needs to fill out the Entry Form completely and fill out the information requested in the top part of the Score sheet. These forms can be filled-in on your computer and saved to your hard drive. *Note: You need Acrobat Reader version 8 or later to be able to save the forms to your hard drive once you fill them in.* Send the two completed forms as e-mail attachments to your regional Committee Member before the due date in your region.

My plan is to have two judges for each regional competition (their scores for each contestant will be averaged) and one judge for the AFMS level. Each pair of judges probably will be judging two different regions, but they will not be judging their own region. Right now I have a total of eight judges. If I can get seven more judges, each pair would judge the entrants from only one regional federation.

If you are a current (or former) webmaster or are very Web-site savvy, please help make the contest a success by volunteering a little of your time to act as a judge. Read the Guidelines to see what the judges will be looking for on the sites that they judge, and contact me at pgeorge4@comcast.net to help this new contest be a success in its first year.

This contest runs concurrently with the Bulletin Editors' Contest, but each Committee member sets the due dates for the contest entries that are to be sent to him or her. The regional judging results will be announced at the regional Bulletin Editors' Contest. The AFMS judging results will be announced at the AFMS Bulletin Editor's Breakfast. The AFMS schedule is as follow:

2/28/2009 AFMS Judges List sent to all regional Webmaster Contest Judges

3/31/2009 All regional entries forwarded to the AFMS contest are due to the two AFMS Judges.

5/15/2009 All AFMS contest entries judged and the results returned to Phyllis George by the two AFMS judges.

7/31/2009 – 8/2/2009 NFMS/AFMS joint Show & Convention in Billings, MT. Results will be announced at the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast

Editor's note: I was going to print the three articles mentioned above in this newsletter but decided it was not cost effective. That is, webmasters should be quite capable of going to the AFMS website.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

February 15, 2009

NFMS WEBSITE

www.amfed.org/nfms

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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TREASURER: Lyle Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, nfmstreasurer@comcast.net

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: Evelyn Cataldo, 1st Vice President (see above)
BULLETIN AIDS: Darlene Denton, Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club, 5830 Haddon Lane, Anacortes, WA 98221, (360) 588-0217
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CUSTODIAN: Fritz Mack, 2nd Vice President (see above)
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ENDOWMENT FUND: CHAIRMAN: Edna Nelson, Mt Hood Rock Club, 66830 Maple Crest Rd., Deer Island, OR 97054, (503) 397-5284, smelson@ados.net; TREASURER: NFMS Treasurer (see above)
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NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2009

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Keene Clay, Mt Hood Rock Club, 19473 SE Foster, Boring OR 97009, (503) 558-8500, clayken@comcast.net
NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Lamar Tilgner (Chair), Mt. Hood Rock Club, 200 SE Olvera Ave., Gresham, OR 97080, (503) 666-2905, LSTILGNER@aol.com
CLAIMS COMMITTEE: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net
OPERATIONS PROCEDURE UPDATE: Open
ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA. 98273, (360) 424-8340, rocks1x1vl.george@verizon.net

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

AFMS THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: Lauren Williams,
ENDOWMENT FUND: Edna Nelson, **EDITORS HALL OF FAME-Open, NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Bryan Schroeder,
NFMS CLUB BULLETINS: Darlene Denton, **ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR:** Viola Jones, **CONSERVATION & AWARD LEGISLATION:** Darlene Posthuma, **EDUCATION-ALL AMERICAN AWARD:** Jim & Libby Spencer,
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Bill and Janet Smith, **JUNIORS PROGRAM:** Gary Buhr, **PROGRAM COMPETITION:** Quita Perry, **PUBLIC RELATIONS-OPEN, SAFETY:** Dean Arrasmith, **SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION:** Dee Holland & Rose MacArthur, **SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS:** Tim Hoff, **JUDGE TRAINING COMMITTEE:** Dee Holland, **UNIFORM RULES:** Dee Holland (Director) & Barbara Jacobsen, **WAYS AND MEANS:** Glenn Lee (chair) & Janice Van Cura, **WEBSITE:** Jack Eads.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual membership fee of \$25.00 helps support their activities. Contact: TBD

The AFMS NEWSLETTER is published monthly except Jan-Jul-Aug by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each NFMS member club should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary, and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newsletter. If they are not, or if anyone else wants to subscribe (\$4.50 per year), write to: **AFMS Central Office, Steve Weinberger, P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.** Make checks payable to "AFMS". Email: cebar62@aim.com

The NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) and is usually published ten (10) times per year. This publication is brought to you through your club membership in NFMS. The purpose of the Northwest Newsletter is to keep all NFMS members informed of activities and events pertaining to the business and services of the Federation. The Newsletter is printed and mailed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Burley Reminder in Burley ID. For matters related to the Newsletter (i.e. content, advertising, etc) contact the Newsletter Editor (printed elsewhere on this page). For matters related to the Newsletter circulation (new members, address changes, etc.) contact the Circulation Chairperson (located elsewhere on this page).

SHOW COORDINATION. Your Federation provides a free service for NFMS members by listing your show in this Newsletter, on the NFMS website, two magazines ("Rocks and Minerals" and "Rock and Gem") and the on-line Calendar from "Lapidary Journal". Please provide the date and time for the show, the club name and show title (if applicable), the location of the show, and most important a contact person with address, e-mail address and/or phone (e-mail is preferred). Please send your show information four to six months in advance to the **SHOW COORDINATION**

Chairperson (printed elsewhere on this page). If you see an error once your show is listed, or if your show is not listed, contact **Newsletter Editor** (printed elsewhere on this page).

SAVE STAMPS PROGRAM. NFMS members are encouraged to use and save commemorative stamps. The money generated from the sale of these used (cancelled) stamps is then donated to Cancer Research. The collected stamps can be sent to the STAMPS Chairman (printed elsewhere on the page), brought to the NFMS Annual Show or given to your Federation Director in your club.

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS

Where to send your money
(See this page for address, phone, or e-mail)

To NFMS Treasurer for:

1. Dues and supplies
2. Donations for the general fund
3. Donations to Junior Achievement
4. Advertisement in this Newsletter

Send to: Lyle Vogelpohl, see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer for:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund
2. Memorial contributions

Make check payable to NFMS Endowment Fund, send to Endowment Fund Treasurer.

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions to AFMS Scholarship

Make check payable to AFMS Scholarship Fund.

Send to: **Rose Alene Mc Arthur** (see Scholarship this page).

To AFMS Endowment Fund for:

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment
2. Memorials

Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to ALAA

Send to Norman W. Hanschu, ALAA Treasurer, 6607 Sturbridge Ln; Canton, MI 48187-2638

NFMS NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

Members, Non-members, clubs, etc. can advertise in the Northwest Newsletter. This service is provided to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and is encouraged by the Federation. The only criteria for the ad is that it be hobby related (e.g. rocks, equipment, grit, shows, etc.).

Ads for the Northwest Newsletter are \$1.50 per square inch.

Example: 3" x 4" ad = 12 inches
 12 inches x \$1.50 = \$18 per issue of the Newsletter

Do not send ads on colored paper because the back-ground will look gray in the ad. Following the placement of the ad, the Editor will send a billing statement to the customer which will include instructions to make payment to the NFMS Treasurer. For more information or questions, call, e-mail or write the Newsletter Editor (printed elsewhere on this page.)

DEADLINE
for YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO
the next
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is
February 15th
For the March 2009 Issue
509 371 1572
BRYAN SCHROEDER
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
nfmsnews@verizon.net

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Paul Heesacker
NFMS President

The end of another year approaches all too rapidly. The weather slows down the rockhounding, at least outside. Now some of us do not mind going out in the rain, but when the snow gets too deep, it is hard to find those elusive prize specimens. "Inside rockhounding" is another thing. There is the occasional garage sale or estate sale to go to and add to your rock stash. There is always the field trip to see another rockhound's display that can help fill the winter months.

Beth and I have done our fair share of all these this year. Our biggest trip was our interrupted trip to Texas for the AFMS meeting. (Maybe the trip report is contained in this issue depending upon space available.) All together we figure that we ended up adding about 3.5 tons of rock and fossils to our pile(s) this year. Not bad, I guess.

This next year, August 2009, the NFMS show will be in Billings, Montana which gives us another chance to get out and search the countryside for more agate, jasper, fossils, etc. We always like to do a few side trips, and maybe we can check out some of the places we missed on our big trip this year.

It looks like the NFMS still needs a club willing to put on the 2010 meeting/show and a club to host the 2011 one too. Hosting the meeting brings in more attendees, is a wonderful way for the NFMS officers to get to know you (and vice versa), and adds a bit of prestige to your local show. If your club would be interested in doing this, please contact me and bring your proposal to the NFMS Board at the spring meeting in Tri-Cities, WA in April. Thanks in advance for stepping up to do this.

Keep warm this winter and have fun processing all the wonderful and beautiful rocks you brought home this summer.

to share with their youngest son. They became members of the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club and have enjoyed collecting material and expanding their knowledge.



Evelyn Cataldo
NFMS 1st V.P.

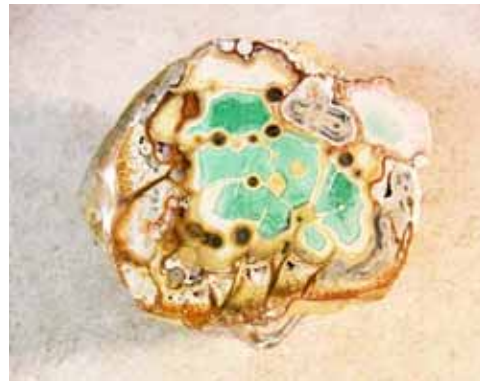
Hello Friends and Fellow Rockhounds,

Several people have asked me about the beautiful green material that I displayed at the Ontario Show in August. So, for those that are not familiar with Clay Canyon Variscite, let me tell you a little bit about this outstanding lapidary material.

Clay Canyon Variscite was discovered in 1893 in the Oquirrh Mountains near Fairfield, Utah. To my knowledge, the deposit has long been depleted. So, we have to look to older collections to find the magnificent nodules. And that generally makes the material, when available, a little pricey.

The variscite was formed approximately 345 million years ago and is hydrous aluminum phosphate. Within the Clay Canyon nodules, in addition to the green variscite, ten other minerals have been identified. The minerals are crandallite, goyazite, wardite, millisite, montgomeryite and carbonate-fluorapatite. In addition, alunite, calcite and quartz comprise the matrix for the phosphate nodules. The green color in the variscite is attributed to small quantities of vanadium and chromium.

Some of the minerals are easily identifiable within the specimens while others need chemical or optical tests to determine their occurrence. Along with the green variscite, the easy to identify minerals are (to view the variscite in color go to the NFMS website www.amfed.org/nfms and click on the newsletter):



Clay Canyon Variscite

Crandallite which forms the yellow bands.

Goyazite closely resembles crandallite and is impossible to distinguish from the crandallite without testing.

Wardite is the blue green to bluish gray component or the "eyes" or spherules and the veining.

Millisite is the white to clear component, along with wardite, that makes up the spherules and veining.

Not only does the Clay Canyon variscite make stunning specimens, the material can be slabbed for cabochons and polished to a high sheen.

Until next month, Evelyn



NFMS Bulletin Aids Chair

Darlene Denton
5830 Haddon Lane
Anacortes WA
98221-4332

Calling all Editors:
Hurray you are all

doing a great job as editors. Some are giving out the most important information that the club members need about club activities and others are elaborating on additional information to encourage and inform those wanting and needing further incentive with the rock hounding hobby.

One question is needed to insure the junior club members will be pointed in the right category for their articles. Please include their ages at the time the article is sent in to your club bulletin. There are two age brackets: Under 12 years and 12 to 17. It saves me having to contact that club for the ages. Thanks lots for bringing age out.

Now, with the holidays almost upon us we wish you all "Happy Holidays" and safe New Year.

Attention those new "NFMS" clubs that just joined us. If you are or plan to publish a club bulletin, please add my name and address to your list of recipients. Or, if you want more information on what is scored when you do a bulletin, contact me and I will send that information to you.

Good Luck. Keep up good work and remember the editor is one of the most important members in each club. Take Care.

A little girl asked her mother: 'How did the human race appear?' The mother answered, 'God made Adam and Eve; they had children; and so was all mankind made.' Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, 'Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved.' The confused girl returned to her mother and said, 'Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?' The mother answered, 'Well, Dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family, and your father told you about his.'
Via SCRIBE Oct-Dec 2008



Education Chairpersons
Jim and Libby Spencer

Jim and Libby Spencer met at summer camp. He was the day camp director, and she was a counselor. They have been married for 33 years and have two sons. Both Jim and Libby have BS degrees from the University of Oregon and received their Masters degrees (M.Ed) at Oregon State University where Jim was director of the Outdoor Program. Libby grew up with a rockhounding dad, and although Jim always had an interest in rocks, they didn't really pursue the interest until a few years ago when Jim was looking for a hobby

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAFETY CORNER

**Dean Arrasmith
Clackamette Mineral
& Gem Corp**

(January)

We have been snowed in for about two weeks here in Portland, Oregon. This much snow is unusual for the Willamette (wil-la-met, if you want to sound like a local) Valley. This has been a good time to do some maintenance on my rock mining tools. You know the ones – the mushroom-headed chisels, the loose handled heavy hammer, those steel feathers that need straightening, and everything that needs rust removed and protected for the next season.

Now is a good time to make sure your rock tools are in good working order. Grind the heads of mushroom-headed chisels and also sharpen the pointy ends. You will appreciate having a sharp point when using the chisels and not have shards of steel shattering onto your hands and arms with misdirected blows. Fixing any loose, cracked or otherwise damaged handles will be appreciated by your fellow rockhounds that do not have to duck when that heavy hammer head doesn't come whizzing past their heads. Survey your other tools and make repairs, sharpen the points and edges so they work like or are better than new. As with any skilled craft, a good set of well-maintained tools reminds us to work safely and enjoy our hobby.

As always, if you have ideas or concerns about safety or need some information, please contact me at deanarrasmith@centurytell.net. I will respond to you in this column.

Please be safe.

Friends

I have received notice that **Bob Wallace**, NFMS President 1977-78, passed away on December 23, 2008. His wife,

Barbara Wallace, said pulmonary fibrosis had weakened his heart and caused heart failure. He was born March 8, 1920.

If you wish to send Barbara a note her address is:
Barbara Wallace
521 Hamilton Way
Powell, WY 82435-3113

Submitted by Lyle Vogelpohl
West Seattle Rock Club



her husband, who passed away several years ago, were the pillars that supported SCRIBE in the early years. Betty has not been well for a number of years and finally passed away on November 21, 2008. A donation will be made in Betty's memory to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

That is not all -----

When I phoned Diane Dare to give her the news (she, Betty and I have been good friends for 30 years) she informed me that **Jack Dare**, her husband, had passed away on November 22 and she was just starting to send notices to friends and Scribe members to tell them. Jack had a massive heart attack in September and never completely recovered from it.

If anyone wants to send cards, the addresses are:

Rob Keator, 5520 - 64 Place, Marysville, WA 98270
Diane Dare, 3331 Hampshire Dr., Holiday, FL 34690

Submitted by Trudy Martin
Scribe President



away on October 31, 2008. Lad was one of the founding members of the club and served the organization in various capacities over the years including serving as president in 1955. He published the first club bulletin in November 1951 and served as editor of what ultimately became the Rock Licker through 1960. He became a life time member in 1974. In recent years Lad had been unable to attend club meetings but looked forward to attending the annual Gem and Mineral Show to visit with old friends. This year he really enjoyed the fact that his name was drawn as a winner of one of the door prizes. We extend our condolences to the Davin family.

Submitted by Jim Brain, Editor, The Rock Licker
(Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society)



be made to the Shrine Hospital for Children, 6601
244th St. S.W., Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043,

I received a phone call yesterday afternoon from Rob Keator, grandson of **Betty Keator** who was SCRIBE

Treasurer for probably 20 years. She, along with Cal,

The Cyrene Chap. OES Scholarship Fund, c/o Ruth Breland, 1192 So. Spruce St., Burlington, WA 98233 or to a memorial of your choice. I will personally donate to the NFMS Endowment Fund in Carroll's name--which he promoted at every opportunity.

All those that knew Carroll will miss those twinkling blue eyes full of mischief, his storytelling, his warmth and enthusiasm and down to earth humor and common sense. He was a mentor to everyone he met, intelligent and wise and always got the job done. His passion for rockhounding and his expertise in faceting cannot be duplicated. He was one of my favorite people and I'm proud to be his and Bev's friend. I'm sure most of you feel that way.

Submitted by Vi Jones
North Puget Sound Faceting Guild

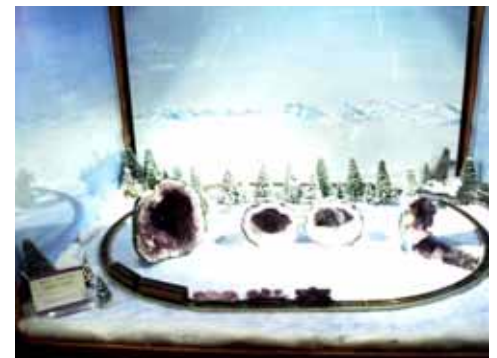


West Seattle Rock Club, Inc. ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

West Seattle Rock Club names **Ella Cox** as their Rockhound of the year. A member since 1968,

Ella is representative of members who support the club's activities in many ways. In the club she has volunteered her time as various committee chairs and has always helped when and where needed, including as award-winning club newspaper editor, NFMS Bulletin Aids Chairman and Judge.

Retiring in 1981 has afforded her more time for her various interests including fashioning figures of tissue and glue to create scenes inside eggs, creating jewelry boxes of rock encrusted eggs, and fashioning lapidary jewelry. But wait, there is more ... painting and poetry, playing the organ, collecting old music, and attending dances. The most visible facet of our hobby in recent years has been her WSRC's "Peoples' Choice" display at the club's annual show ... her miniature train lay-out with gem loaded cars traveling through amethyst mountains.



Thanks, Ella, for inspiring each of us to be creative and to have fun.

Submitted by West Seattle Rock Club, Inc.
Executive Board

Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous

By Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips

Our next Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous is schedule for May 20-25, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for **OBSIDIAN!!!** The Rendezvous is hosted by the NFMS and the CFMS.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp. In addition to the daily collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, knapping demonstrations, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is in the extreme northeastern corner of California on Highway 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. The collecting area is in the mountains behind the little town of Davis Creek, which is 22 miles north of Alturas. Some supplies and gasoline are available at the general store; also ice cream on a hot afternoon. The people at the store are very helpful, and prices are reasonable. They can give advice on the road conditions and other local information.

There are two established campgrounds convenient to the collecting areas, although you can camp in many locations throughout the mountains. The Plum Valley Campground has many trees and a stream, but the interior roads are somewhat rough and narrow. Large trailers and motor homes may have difficulty.

A much larger campground that can handle any size rig is the Lassen Creek Campground. This is the campground we will use for our rendezvous. This is a beautiful, spacious campground with enough room for our group and all of our planned activities. There is a stream and big tall pine trees. No facilities are available at any of the campgrounds, except for well maintained pit toilets. All trash must be carried back out. Motels and full hook-up campgrounds are available in Alturas and Lakeview.

There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour. So mark your calendar – **May 20 to 25, 2009**, watch for the trip flier for all the details and start making your plans to join us for another great Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous. The trip flier and other information for the Rendezvous will be posted on the CFMS web site, www.cfmsinc.org in December and other federation web sites. *Editor's Note: A schedule of this field trip will be provided in the next issue of this Newsletter.*

Texas Bound

by Patty Amos, NFMS Past President

As most of you know I am on my way to Texas. So this newsletter will be about our trip to and from Texas. We are currently going through WY and will stay in Cheyenne tonight. We hope to be able to see lots of different sites while we are gone. So will include some pictures of the different areas that we went to. We did a couple of searches on routes to TX and the one we followed took us through parts of Kansas and Oklahoma. I don't think Dick was too thrilled with Kansas. We finally arrived in Houston on Wednesday the 24th. We were able to see the wind damage, in some of the areas, as we got closer to Houston and where we were going to stay. The RV Park we stayed at had just gotten their electricity and water back about 4 days before we got there. We had a great time at the show. It was nice to see so many people at their show with all of the other problems going on. They had around 50 cases and 11 of them were competitive cases. The following pictures are of the show. On Sunday we started out at the show and then we made a trip down south towards Galveston, and drove as far as we could.



Inside the show in Humble, TX



Kids Area

It was really sad to see people piling their belongings out on the streets because they were no longer any good. When we saw the boats on the sides of the road, it really hit home about how much wind and water there was at that

time in order to be able to move some of those boats. There were huge ones that you know are heavy and they looked like they were just placed there. Some of them looked like they didn't have much damage to them. I hope you enjoy the pictures I will be putting in the newsletter. While there, we also went on a field trip to the Whisky bridge area which has a lot of fossils. It turned out to be my lucky day. While there, I found a shark's tooth which our guide said was the



Footprint at Clayton Lake, NM

biggest he had seen taken out of that area. As you can imagine, it made my day. They have funny roads in Texas; the on and off ramps are very short with a lot of frontage roads. We are heading to Clayton Lake in New Mexico today where we will go and look at the Dinosaur tracks that were found there. They have over 500 different tracks made from at least 8 different species.

New "Gem State" Vehicle License Plate Proposed for Idaho

by Charles Osgood (via Ed Moser, Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society)

The new "Gem State" plate is being presented to the 2009 Idaho Legislature for consideration and adoption under the Special Interest License Plate Program. The significance of the plate is to honor the long standing nickname of Idaho as "The Gem State" and also for Idaho's rich gem and mineralogical heritage. Idaho is widely known as the Gem State and common usage of either term is generally understood.

There are more than 240 different gem minerals found in Idaho. The special vehicle plate under consideration includes a representation of Idaho smoky quartz crystals which are considered world class for their uniqueness and beauty. The star garnet, Idaho's state gemstone, only found in Idaho and India, is also represented on the plate. The third gemstone on the plate is of a faceted stone which will be easily recognized by the general public. This faceted stone will also honor a group, comprised mostly of Idahoans, known as the "Dare-Devil Faceters" who are believed to have cut the largest gemstones in the world. Their efforts produced finished stones ranging in weight from 3.3 to 19.5 pounds. It is believed that no other state has incorporated a gem or mineral theme into its license plate designs.

The plate is being sponsored by the Gem Clubs of Idaho. A portion of the monies generated by the sale of the plate will be directed towards education in earth sciences. If the plate is approved by the Idaho Legislature, it will be available for purchase in 2010. Any donations to defray the costs of production would be appreciated.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting:

Charles E. Osgood
Gem State Special Plate Committee
4376 W. Thorn Creek Street
Meridian, ID 83642
208-887-1214
Email: ceosgood@msn.com

Financial Report 68th Annual Northwest Federation Show & Convention

**Sponsored by Stallknecht-Morgan Gem & Mineral Soc.
June 20 - 22, 2008
Malheur County Fairgrounds**

**Cash Received and Expenditures
October 6, 2008**

Money Received

Dealers space rent	3,500
Receipts at Door	1,270.50
Booklet sponsors	1,200
Ontario Tourism Grant	2,500
Cash Advance Loan to start show (private)	6,000
Ontario Convention Center Grant	3,600
Advanced Registration	2,500
Camping	800
Country Store	203
Total Money Received	<u>\$ 21,573.50</u>

Expenses

Refund 3 dealers	771
Stamps and Envelopes	280
Hired Truck (setup and tear down)	400
Porta Potties	456
Newspaper Ads	300
Traveling to all the clubs adv show (4/06 thru 6/0 8)	867
Promotion DVD	120
Name Tags and ribbons	255
Rental World (TV)	549
Skirting for Dealer Tables	443
24 hr plain closed security	1,700
Rent of Fairgrounds	3,000
Oregon St Guard Bldg (Mtg and table rent)	250
Advertising (bill boards, handouts, booklets etc)	6,476
Radio Advertising	500
Groceries for breakfasts	325
Martha's Catering (paid cash)	1,125
BBQ on Thurs., Dinner after annual mtg	
Show Pins	428.50
Show Insurance (Rider required by fairgrounds)	648
Holiday Inn (Breakfast, lunch, Banquet, 2 rms)	4,550.05
Total Expenses	<u>23,443.55</u>

Net Loss **(\$ 1,870.55)**

White Rock Wanted

My name is Tom Hooker and I am Vice-Pres of the Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club, in Springfield, Oregon. I am having a problem finding a white rock.

On October the 16th in 2007 Dallas and Marilyn Vance were killed by a hit and run driver at Pony Village in Coos Bay, Oregon. The driver has been arrested and will or has stood trial.

It is my desire to make a white sphere in honor of Dallas and Marilyn Vance as they were very dear friends of myself and my wife. I have contacted every rock dealer and monument company in the Eugene/Springfield area in a effort to locate a white rock, such as marble or limestone. All attempts have met with negative results. I even wrote a letter to the Governor of Vermont, as they have marble quarries, with negative results. I have often heard of quarries in Canada, Alaska, Washington and other areas, but all attempts to locate the name or address of these places has also met with negative results.

I only need a piece about the size of a football or so to make this sphere. My aim is a sphere about 4" in diameter that could sit, with a plaque, on my mantel. Is there any way to contact people or put out the word that I am wanting to contact such a quarry or dealer. All efforts so far on the internet have also been negative.

Thanks so much for your attention and consideration.

Tom Hooker
1466 Fairview Drive
Springfield, OR 97477
martom21@aol.com



TEXAS SPRINGS AGATE
(Near Jackpot, NV)
by Bill Blue, Rock Rollers Club, Inc.

In July I made a trip to the Texas Springs Agate area near Jackpot Nevada. I had a copy of roadside geology stating where this place was. I followed the directions and I spent a day looking and could not find the exact spot. I had an old GPS and I did get close. This spot is 25 miles out south of Jackpot in the desert. The only person I saw out there was a guy from California who was walking from Mexico to Canada. He had the worst sunburn I have ever seen. I offered him food and water but he refused any help. So when I got home, I purchased the biggest, baddest GPS made. I got my hands on some good TOPO maps too. I also asked club members and got the exact location, down to five foot. So, in September I made a second trip down and found the exact spot. I was surprised that the area is so small. The area where most of the digging is being done is about 50' X 50'. The agate is petrified wood limb cast from small to as large as several pounds. The color is white to pink. Some of the white is as pure as I have seen. It is a very fine grained material that takes a very nice polish. Jackpot has some nice places to stay. Jackpot is one good day's drive from Spokane. It is located south of Twin Falls Idaho. You can get there with a two wheel drive vehicle if you drive direct to the location, but if you get off the main trail, a high clearance vehicle is needed. There is a nice level spot to camp, but no facilities are available. Take a lot of water. I have left maps and pictures at the Rock Rollers Library. GPS location is 41-40-667N 114-34-440W

Do You Have Your Rockhound Sticker!

The Rockhound Sticker:

- Promotes and Publicizes rockhounding.
- Identifies you to others as a rockhound.
- Helps rockhounds meet one another.
- Lets everyone know you are interested in collecting rocks, minerals and fossils, and you are willing to talk about collecting.
- An emblem for club members as well as unaffiliated rockhounds.
- It does not replace club or federation badges, it complements them by saying "I am a rockhound."
- Because of its simple design it can be recognized easily and from a distance.



Get your rockhound stickers today!

Thanks to Patty Amos

Northwest Fossil of the Month

By Betty McLin Hare, Petrified Watermelon Pickers Gem Club

University of Montana's Museum of the Rockies w/ Jack Horner

The Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana exists to preserve and tell the stories of Montana and the Northern Rockies in order to educate visitors about the region's rich history, which includes but is not limited to its rich paleontological roots. The museum was founded in 1957 due in part to a gift from Caroline McGill, and the museum's collection has grown to 300,000 objects that cover more than 500,000,000 years of history. The museum frequently offers symposiums allowing Native Americans, whose tribes called the region home, to share their stories with visitors. In 2005, the Museum became an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, which provided the museum with greater access to the collections and programs of the Smithsonian

Dr. Horner has been curator of the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman since 1982. Museum of the Rockies is an amazing place to get up close and personal with the many dinosaurs that Montana holds. Dr. Jack Horner brought to us the wonder of the *Maiasaurus*, the "good mother" lizard and her nests of eggs. Montana held the first proof of colonial nesting, parental care of babies, and the first dinosaur embryos! Dr. Horner's team has discovered many different kinds of dinosaur eggs and bones since then.

The museum houses the largest collection of dinosaur remains in the United States and possesses the largest *Tyrannosaurus* skull ever discovered as well as the thigh bone of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* that contains soft-tissue remains. The museum is also part of the Montana Dinosaur Trail and is the state's official repository for paleontological specimens.

Its permanent exhibits include: *Enduring Peoples*, which chronicles the life of American Indians on the Northern Plains and near the Rocky Mountains; *History of the Northern Rocky Mountain Region*, whose inhabitants included Native Americans, fur traders, gold seekers, and white settlers from frontier days through World War II; *Living History Farm*, which includes the Tinsley House where costumed interpreters demonstrate life in a turn-of-the-century home; and the Taylor Planetarium, a 40-ft, 104-seat domed theater.

The Museum of the Rockies is located at 600 W. Kagy Boulevard in Bozeman, Montana. There is something to educate and entertain almost everyone, not just the paleontology enthusiast!

2009 SCHEDULE

ROCKHOUNDS POW WOW CLUB OF AMERICA

April 18th & 19th

Near Mattawa, WA. Camping is a free, dry camp site. We furnish outhouses. We will dig for Petrified & Picture Wood, Limb sections, and Diatom Opal. Saturday evening is potluck dinner, then a small meeting & door prizes. (We encourage everyone to donate things they have made, or rocks & slabs they have.) Sunday morning is pancake & sausage breakfast by the Club.

July 1st thru 5th

The Gem and Mineral show at Jefferson County Fair Grounds in Madras Oregon. Daily field trips to dig for Agate, Jasper, Thunder Eggs, and Petrified Wood on private land for a fee. Seventy-five vendors with everything from rough rock to finished jewelry. Activities going on daily, with our AUCTION on Friday night. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE SHOW.

September 12th & 13th

Teanaway Camp ground by Cle Elum, WA. Free dry camping with outhouses only. We dig for Agates, Crystals, Jadeite, Jasper, and maybe Blue Agate. Saturday evening Potluck, General meeting, & door prizes follow, donated by our members. (Please bring something you made, or a nice rock or slabs.) Sunday morning Breakfast is provided by the club.

Membership is required for field trips. \$7.50 per person or \$15.00 per family, includes up to 17 yrs. We hope to see you there. Be prepared to have a good time, lots of food, and lots of good friends. For more information call: Pauline Miller 360-658-8091 paulinem280@aol.com or Rocky Mc Call 360-629-2515 rm711@tgi.net

Web site for your Club

by Jack Eads, NFMS Webmaster

Northwest Clubs,

Many clubs are thinking about web sites and asking three questions: do we want a web site, how much will it cost and who will do it.

Let me answer: Most clubs have already asked the question and received the wrong answer and have stopped thinking about the web.

Yes, we want a web site because: it is a way to advertise your club, show club outing photos, post the club newsletter (save postage) and show a map to your meeting place for new visitors.

Someone said it cost \$100.00 a month to host a web site on the web. Your best friend is your computer. Ask your computer to search "free hosting" (4,490,000. links on Google) and "free name registry" (11,600,000. links on Google). See, you don't need to pay an arm and leg. Check it out.

Who will be the webmaster? Most have asked the wrong person, and they start at \$80.00 an hour. How about you? Anyone who is good with email, taking digital pictures and downloading them to the computer and enhancing photos on Print Shop for their photo album is half-way there.

All that's left is reading one or two books* on a sixth grade level with pictures and a visual quick start. I think learning the "html" code is easier and better than working with templates. Learning 20 codes** is enough to get started; all the rest is fluff and stuff, and it comes along as you need it.

If your Club is interested in a web site, I am available and willing to help your brave soul set it up, you can contact me at Jacke@wavecable.com

*"HTML For the WWW" by Elizabeth Castro and/or
"Create Your First Web Page in a weekend" by Steve Callihan

** 20 HTML codes

Code rule #1: The slash bar "/" ends the code.

Rule #2: Spaces are very important, when two codes are in a line, use 1 space "" to separate them or they won't work.

Rule #3: Codes are incased inside "< >".

The codes are:

<HTML> Top line. </HTML> Bottom line of page

<HEAD> </HEAD>

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1"> This tell the viewers browser what's coming.

<TITLE>20 HTML codes</TITLE> Your title for each page.

<BODY> The start of your web page. </BODY> End of your web page.

<TABLE> Think tic tac tow, 3 boxes across, 3 boxes down.

<TABLE BORDER="2"> This will put a box line around your text or photo.

<TR> Starts a row of boxes. </TR> Ends a row.

<TD> Starts a box. </TD> Ends a box. You can have many boxes and rows and fill them with text, photos or both.

</TABLE> End of Tic Tac Tow.

 Use .jpg or .gif or .pdf always lower case.

 size.

<H2> </H2> The number is your font SIZE.

 Any color you like. Stop

 Makes your font **BOLD**.

<P> Starts a new paragraph.

<P ALIGN="CENTER or LEFT or RIGHT"> What ever follows will be There.

</P> End of paragraph.

 This starts a new line in your text.

Your next page The link from page to page.

www.craterrock.com Link to other web sites.

<!-- This can be seen only by you --> Make notes, save codes, hide dates.

Jack Eads, NFMS webmaster

Jacke@wavecable.com



Meramec Caverns, Staton, MO

Editor's Note: Remember the Giant Cave found in Mexico discussed in the last issue of the Newsletter. Below is the rest of the story.

Gary Berdeaux, president of the National Caves Association and managing partner at Kentucky's Diamond Caverns, says most U.S. caves are limestone, and no two are alike. "Each is as unique as a fingerprint," he said. "Some of the most incredible ones are off the beaten path, but all have a special beauty, whether it's spectacular sculptural formations or the interplay of light and shadow or a particular geographic setting. And, every cave has a story." Here are some of Berdeaux's favorites across the continental United States:

Luray Caverns

Located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley about 90 miles west of Washington, D.C., these caverns feature cathedral-sized chambers with soaring ceilings, towering columns and breathtaking stalactites in colors ranging from bright white to rich reds and yellows. The caverns are noted for the "Great Stalacpipe Organ" that plays symphonic-quality music from a four-keyboard electronic console using stalactites for pipes.

Penn's Cave

America's only all-water cavern is located in Central Pennsylvania's Penn State country about two hours east of Pittsburgh. Tours are by flat-bottomed motorboat on an underground stream. Along the limestone passageways, stalagmites, stalactites, flowstone cascades and draperies decorate the interior rooms used by Seneca Indians and early explorers; Penn's Cave is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mammoth Cave

Mammoth Cave National Park, about 75 miles from Louisville, is home to the world's longest cave system, with more than 365 miles of connected tunnels and waterways. It is a relatively dry cave so it has few stalactite and stalagmite formations, but Mammoth's rich history is its major claim to fame. Mummies have been discovered there along with 4,000-year-old petroglyphs. More than a dozen tours to different parts of the cavern range from 20 minutes to 6 hours. Popular tours take in the Frozen Niagara, which features waves of stone that mimic falling water, and show the cave by lantern light the way Ralph Waldo Emerson, Jenny Lind and other 19th-century notables saw it. There are even remnants of a long-vanished tuberculosis "hospital" 160 feet underground.

Caverns of Sonora

About 200 miles west of San Antonio is a national natural landmark noted for its stunning array of calcite crystal formations, especially helictites, the most delicate and most beautiful of cave formations. National Speleological Society co-founder, Bill Stephenson said, after seeing Caverns of Sonora for the first time, "Its beauty cannot be exaggerated, even by Texans." National Caves Association president Gary Berdeaux says entering the caverns is

"like stepping into a Faberge egg." The most famous helictite here is called the Butterfly after its characteristic form. Even rarer are the anthodites found in this cave.

Kartchner Caverns (*Editor's Note: A living cave*)

This state park about an hour from Tucson boasts one of the world's longest soda straw stalactites – over 21 feet – and the tallest and most massive column in Arizona, Kubla Khan: 58 feet tall. Both are located in the Throne Room. The Big Room features the world's most extensive formation of brushite moonmilk. The caverns contain many other unusual formations such as shields, totems, helictites, and rimstone dams, as well as a nursery roost for more than 1,000 cave bats.

Wind Cave

Wind Cave National Park, located about 50 miles from Rapid City, South Dakota, features one of the world's longest and most complex cave systems. It is best known for its incredible display of boxwork, a rare cave formation of thin calcite fins that resembles honeycomb. Wind Cave is more than 300 million years old, making it one of the oldest in the world. It gets its name from the strong airflow in the cave.

Carlsbad Caverns

Twenty miles southwest of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is a series of enormous rooms that forms one of the world's largest caves. James White, a Carlsbad-area cowboy, discovered the caverns in 1900, but no one believed his fantastic descriptions of house-size stalagmites and eerie stalactite icicles, pagodas and palaces of improbable beauty. His tales caught the attention of public land officials who assigned federal geologists to explore Carlsbad Caverns. The reports filed by these geologists impressed President Calvin Coolidge, who declared the caverns a National Monument in 1923. The following year, White led a National Geographic expedition into the caverns, and the subsequent publicity made the caverns so famous that they were declared a National Park in 1930.

THE AGATE GEODE (A Rockhound's View)

By Jim Nelson, Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club

Different locations produce different results. All geodes and nodules form similarly. They are fed by silica in the volcanic ash. GEODES defy Gravity – If they did not defy gravity there would be no geodes.

The containers for the geodes formed partially in the early formation of the earth where basalts covered the entire earth. The container was caused by bubbles that formed. There are specific areas which have had special circumstances to form the recorded bubble which either eroded or was mined by man.

Gravity is necessary for the flow of water. The containers lie under a flow of and are completely filled with high silica water – the silicates like the surface of the water and precipitate to the outside edge. The geodes form from the outside to the center, and flow patterns in nodules also indicate similar formation. The geode or nodule is dependent on the amount of silicates available and the amount of water available to carry silicates. The temperatures were from 30 to 40 degrees. The containers or pockets eventually were located on the slopes of mountains that either were volcanoes or volcanic ash deposits which fed in the water to the underlying pockets. Temperature differences cause different results with crystalline quartz forming within the geode at a very slight increase of temperature within the pocket. A lack of silica supply would cause calcite deposits on the crystalline quartz within the geode.

It was assumed that the silicate layering was cooler at the basalt with many centuries of accumulation until an insulation barrier was formed. The slight increase in temperature resulted in a crystal quartz formation. Calcite crystals would form on the quartz because of a lack of silicates. During the formation time frame additional volcanic activity would supply more silicates to the container.

Recently, a slice of agate was discovered where all of the circumstances occurred within the pocket where the additional supply seemed to change the formation entirely to agate forming a pseudomorph within the container.

Field Trip Interrupted

by Beth Heesacker, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club



We had been making plans for months. Paul, as 1st Vice President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies needed to represent the NFMS at the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies meeting in Humble, Texas. Since we needed to travel through so many states that we had not ever seen before, we decided to rockhound on the way there and back. The rockhound trip of a lifetime!

Using the Gem Trails of . . . and Rockhounding . . . books and the large DeLorme maps, I

planned out what sites we might want to visit along the highways we planned on traveling, given the time we had.

The plan was to travel from our home in Oregon, through Idaho, then Wyoming, Colorado, the NE corner of New Mexico, across Texas to the meeting, then back west through southern Texas and up Arizona, Utah, Idaho and home to Oregon. Little did we know that our plans would be interrupted so many times.

First interruption. Paul's birthday was late in August. Guess who forgot to renew his driver's license? Well, around the fifth of September he realized his omission and went to the DMV to renew. Oregon has a new law that you cannot get your license renewed and just handed to you. You have to wait for them to process it and it takes 5 days for them to mail you your new license. Guess what, we had planned to leave on September 8th. We had to wait since I do not care to drive the pickup pulling the 5th wheel trailer and besides, that would not give us a backup driver.

Our mailman knew our situation and so early on Friday, September 11th, we got a call from him to meet him at the post office since he recognized the envelope and would wait for us to pick it up before he started on his delivery rounds. Paul picked it up and we were on our way.

Since we were behind schedule we drove long and hard through Oregon and Idaho to get to Wyoming to hunt fossils in Kemmerer. They shut down the digs at the end of September due to weather so we knew that we could not do this on our way back. When we got there we heard that the weather the last four days would not have been good for digging anyway since it had been raining and snowing. We would not have been able to be comfortable digging anyway if we had been on time.

We were successful in extracting about 500 pounds of fossil bearing rock for our 4 hours of digging. There was a small difficulty in splitting the rock since it was so wet from the rain and snow that many pieces tried to just smash and shatter. We ended up leaving them thicker than the quarry likes but we would have destroyed too many possible fish if we had split them. I will have many long hours cleaning them and seeing what treasures are still hidden.

Then we headed out across Wyoming. The Badlands and Flaming Gorge area were next. We came across a new road being put in and found some wonderful flint that had been bulldozed out and left on the ground. In the Green River area we checked out the road department's quarry and saw the wonderful thick cobble deposits there we found agate and jasper among the large amount of quartzite.

We did a very long drive across the Great Divide Basin. Not realizing just at what elevation we were at, I was surprised when we crossed the Continental Divide (a couple of times) and there were no mountains. I expected the Rocky Mountains. Not here though.

South of Walcott we hunted for Wyoming black agate. We could not find the quarry mentioned in the book but we did get permission to search a road cut on private property and found some nice black agate. We also had permission to go look at a cliff face where there was supposed to be much more but the walk would have been too much for me.

North of Medicine Bow, in the Walker Draw area, we walked around picking up agate, jasper and petrified wood by the handfuls. Since it was BLM land, we abided by the regulations and left lots behind for everyone else to find. We also checked out Moss Agate Ridge and brought home lots of samples. Can't wait to have some time to cut and see what it looks like inside.

While in Wyoming we also visited the University of Wyoming's Geology Department and saw their Museum. I hope to go back to the Laramie Mountains some day and do some searching for the many types of granite and other decorative rocks in that area.

Dropping down from Cheyenne we entered Colorado. South of Boulder, near Leyden there was supposed to be an old uranium mine but it was well fenced off so we could only look from afar. We took off down another road and found a place where there were very large granite boulders of various colors and got a few smaller samples of each color. It was a wildly colorful place.

Now for interruption #2. We drove over to Golden and the brewery was closed so we drove to Evergreen where there was a Wal-mart. Did I tell you that is our favorite camping site? We have the road atlas that Wal-mart puts out and try to stay at their stores every chance we get. It is free and we can get whatever we need to replenish the larder at a reasonable price. That evening we heard that snow was expected. We immediately hooked back up to the trailer and left. They got snow.

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Wilkerson Pass and Lake George were our next areas. We tried to contact the quarry near the national monument where you can hunt fossils, but they were closed that day and we could not stick around for the weekend when they planned on being open. At Wilkerson Pass we dug in mine tailings for mica books and other oddities and in the pegmatites. We did not find many crystals. Did I tell you that we were at a great elevation so the oxygen was scarce and it was hard to breathe? We did not dig very hard. We did come across a beautiful white rock sticking out of the ground, and after convincing Paul that he wanted it, we dug it out. It was a 250 pound milky quartz boulder. We used the small crane in the back of the pickup to lift it and set it in the pickup box. The rock sat right behind the 5th wheel hitch and was just the right height that we could still back up to the 5th wheel to reconnect without hitting it. Maybe you could get a playing card between the hitch and the rock. Tight.

We visited the Colorado School of Mines and their museum in Colorado Springs. Why can't I find mineral specimens like that? We really had a hard time finding good large crystals on the whole trip. Lots of other rocks but crystals eluded us.

Little Burnt Mill Road, south of Pueblo, added more fossils to our growing load. We did not add much near Stonewall since most roads were marked "No Trespassing" but the geology was amazing. It is a huge dike sticking up out of the ground and it is beautifully rugged. At Cokedale we picked up our Christmas presents for everyone. Lots and lots of coal seams. Hope everyone has large Christmas stockings.

At Trinidad, Colorado we decided that we had better check in on the progress of the plans for the AFMS meetings in Humble, Texas. Did I mention that hurricane Ike had just gone through there? Well, since the emergency workers and the displaced locals needed a place to stay, all motel room reservations had been canceled so the AFMS decided to cancel the meetings instead of people arriving there and not having a place to stay. This was Interruption #3.

Now we had to decide what to do. Not really a hard decision. No way were we going to just go home. Off on the hunt for more rocks. We decided to go south through New Mexico before turning north. Our first stops in New Mexico were near Albuquerque. West of the city is a mountain called Sandia Crest. It rises over 10,000 feet above the city. Geologists tell us that the rocks on top of the mountain are the same as those found 3 miles below the city. The Crest heaved up 5 miles or so and the city sits on a lot of sediment that filled in the valley.

The rockhounding book I had at the time was written in the 50's and it did not seem to help much. Every road from the book that we found led into very fancy housing districts. All access to the rockhounding sites was cut off. On the way up to the top of the Crest we did stop at trailhead and found crinoid stems and other fossils so the trip was not a waste. I did finally get a Gem Trails of New Mexico book at New Mexico Tech where we found another good rock museum. I guess that the road department had read the Gem Trails book too. They blocked off one road cut in the book and put up a sign stating that it was illegal to collect rocks there.

Continued Next Issue

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS**“News Flash Winter****Juniors
Chairman****Gary Buhr**

Have you seen the four cool photographs of Junior Rockhounds "in action" that Webmaster Jack Eads has placed on the front page of your NFMS Website? We are thankful that Jack is so supportive about the future leaders in our favorite hobby--Rockhounding!

Do you remember the photos of and articles about famous Junior Rockhounds ZOE TOLBERT of the Washington Agate & Mineral Society (Olympia, WA), SIERRA SCHACKMANN of the Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society (Bremerton, WA), and CLINTON A. SLOVARP of the Rock Rollers Club (Spokane, WA)? Check out your September, 2008 NFMS Northwest Newsletter to see that they are the 2008 NFMS Junior Achievement Award Winners! If you are a super achiever and like to excel in this hobby, school, community activities and work related activities, consider entering the 2009 NFMS Junior Achievement Awards. We invite your participation! All the rules, criteria and application are on the Juniors Page of your NFMS Website anytime the power is on. Just Google NFMS or go to www.amfed.org and click the Northwest Federation. If you do not have a computer linked to the internet, how far is your local Public Library? If you are a winner, then your name goes on a Legendary Plaque and you receive cash, a pen set, plus an official framed Certificate of Achievement. Applications MUST be postmarked by April 1, 2009 for this annual cycle and the Awards are announced and presented at your NFMS Annual Show and Convention in Billings, Montana this summer. You too can be famous!

Time to start planning and saving for the very BIG 2009 NFMS Annual Show and Convention in Billings, Montana. This will be a special Show because the AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) Annual Show will be held during the same time and place running four days rather than our usual three-day Show. This combined Show is hosted by the Billings Gem & Mineral Club with Doug True (406-670-0506 or dtruefossils@yahoo.com) as Show Chairman. This will be a huge opportunity to participate in our main event of the year. How do Junior Rockhounds participate in this spectacular Show? After securing a safe ride with parents or guardians to Billings, MT, there are three very BIG events for Juniors to participate in:

1. KIDS CORNER help operate the fun place of the Show where we help Junior Customers spin the four foot Wheel of Fortune, Gem Panning in dry quartz sand, Critter Making, and help visitors who purchase Raffle Tickets for quality prizes that benefit only the NFMS Junior Achievement Trust Fund; one highlight of the KIDS CORNER is Mineral Mogul Lorna Goebel with her FREE Mineral Bingo Game and her PowerPoint presentation of the ABC's of Minerals.
2. Set up a Competition Display Case of your best treasures to be judged by experts and receive Awards based on the criteria of the AFMS Uniform Rules (best to direct questions to Dee Holland, 208-756-2394, shirleyleeson@cox.net; Rocky McCall, 360-629-2515,

rm711@tgi.net; or Joe Slouber, 406-494-3034, RockHound@in-tch.com). and
3. Set up a Non-Competition Display Case of your best treasures for the public to appreciate as well as your fellow rockhounds. Meeting new Junior Rockhounds from all over the Northwest is another big plus of attending this major event of 2009. Yes, it requires significant preparation, commitment and investment of time and money, but the rewards can be life changing and clearly unforgettable building blocks for your successful future. As Zig Zigler always says "see you at the top!" If you have any questions about this BIG Show, ask your Juniors Advisor, Federation Director or contact the Show Chairman for details and guidance.

What new Rockhounding activity will you start this year? Will you share your experience and results with the other Rockhounds of the Northwest? Just write an article along with a couple photos and send it to NFMS Juniors Committee Chairman Gary Buhr, and it will be placed in front of all the active rockers via our Website and in the Northwest Newsletter. Your successes can help other Juniors get started on something new or improve what they are already doing. Please participate, you are invited!

Members of the Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club (Kennewick, WA) have made a donation to the Northwest Federation Junior Endowment Fund in memory of Merlene Mehlenbacher Shoemaker. Generous donations are welcome and on behalf of all Junior Rockhounds a heartfelt Thank You and Sympathy is extended to the Family and Rock Club of Merlene Mehlenbacher Shoemaker. She always supported her husband Steve in working with the Lakeside Junior Rock Club.

Holy socks Batman! Lots of new goings on in the NFMS with new members and new Junior Rock Clubs. In Bellingham, WA the Mount Baker Rock and Gem Club is starting a club for the children of members. Last November, GB attended their monthly meeting to discuss starting a Juniors Club and Sandee Hess volunteered to be their Juniors Advisor. Thank You Sandee! Their first meeting will be on February 16th at 7 PM in the lapidary room at Bloedel Donovan Park on the shores of Lake Whatcom. After the class the children will come to the general meeting to be part of "Show and Tell". The first big goal for Sandee is to have the Mt. Baker Club have something to display at their Annual Rock Show in April from the kids. She has lots of ideas and is in the process of organizing them into fun and success for the Junior Rockhounds of Bellingham.

**A True Rockhound****Gary Buhr
Nominated for
Rockhound of the
Year Award**

The Everett Rock and Gem Club nominates Gary Buhr for the

American Federation Mineralogical Society's Rockhound of the Year Award for 2009 from the Northwest Federation.

A FAST RISING STAR

To introduce Gary (as if that is needed) a little history first:

- ◆ Gary Buhr joined the Everett Rock and Gem Club in March, 1998
- ◆ Assistant Junior Chairperson in June, 1998
- ◆ Joined the Everett Rock and Gem Board in June, 1999
- ◆ Began as (ER&G) Junior Chairperson in 2000
- ◆ And became NFMS Junior Chairperson in 2002

The proper position for Gary is Junior Chairperson as he is the biggest kid there. Each year the club has a picnic at a local park. This year a balloon toss was organized and Gary plus other adults participated in the fun but Gary had to change clothes at the end since he was water-soaked to the bone.

Gary leads our Everett Rookie Rockhounds with enthusiasm. He has been a positive role model for the youth in our club. Our junior membership has grown. Gary always makes the meetings, activities and field trips fun! Our junior members have learned a lot from him. Gary works with passion at our annual Club Show, organizing and running the Kid's Corner. Our kids are inspired to work right alongside of him for the entire weekend of the show, as well as helping at the annual Northwest Federation shows. Gary has the interest of the hobby at heart and works with the juniors to foster a lifelong interest in all aspects of being a rockhound. As evidence of this, visit the Kids Corner at a Federation Show or at an Everett Rock and Gem Show.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Everett Rock and Gem Club

Lorna Goebel, Federation Director



**EDITOR'S
CORNER**

First, I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and I wish you good health and good luck for the New Year. Second, I would like to apologize for my tardiness in getting out the first 2009 edition of the Newsletter. Below is a story or two that somewhat explains what has happened to me since I last issued the Newsletter in October 2008.

Story #1

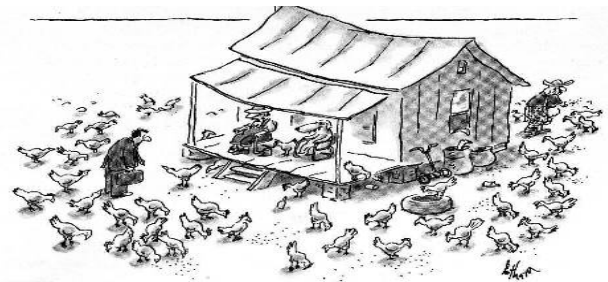
As I was completing the October/November issue of the newsletter, I started to develop a painful arm and shoulder and I thought I could finish without putting on the wrist support that I had worn in the past. I call it an extension of the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome that I had developed several months earlier. I then went to therapy to accelerate relief. After about 10 days I returned to normal, but just in time to make a sudden trip to Reno to help our oldest son who asked for our help due to his wife sudden illness. In retrospect, it appears his wife was suffering from Panic Attacks and it probably was the result of the current economic crisis. I can attest to the fact that Panic Attacks are frightening because I suffered from several episodes about 35 years ago. (At that time they did not know what they were). After about a week we decided to return home, and that was temporarily interrupted when we hit a herd of deer on the freeway (I-84) outside of La Grande, Oregon. No one was hurt including our dog Roxie, but it did total the car. So we spent the next week or two looking for a replacement. Then came Thanksgiving which we spent at home in Richland, WA. Next came Christmas, and we traveled to Seattle "with reservation" (we have another son and daughter that live there). Note that the "new" car stayed in the garage and we took the pickup – it has 4 wheel drive, and Snoqualmie Pass conditions were variable during that time frame. In case anyone is interested, when you total a car in the state of Washington (and 26 other states) the insurance company pays the sales tax on the value of the car totaled. If you think about this, it makes sense. Finally, I have been trying to resolve some medical issues before the New Year. Unfortunately, I have been having some problems adjusting to new medication and further follow-up will be required into 2009.

Story #2

First, some history. When I retired 14 years ago I asked myself what should I do now? The answer was to protect my assets. That resulted in taking a financial planning course which I later abandoned. One reason was that I was advised by a person I was communicating with in Portland, OR that people don't like free advice, particularly when it comes to finances. I also experienced this first hand.

Now, to the present. While we were vacationing in Sedona, AZ last September, Bev (my wife) read in USA Today that her WA state pension fund had taken a hit because of the Lehman Bros. failure. The next day I read in the same newspaper that the Money Market fund in which my IRA account resides was closed because of excessive distributions (withdrawals). That got my attention. Hence, for the last four months, I have been reading financial material with respect to where we are and where we are going. This has probably consumed more of my time than the first story above. I am not surprised about our current economic crisis; what I am surprised about is the depth. I am not a registered investment advisor so I cannot provide investment advice. What I can do for anyone reading this article is provide you with some of the information that I have collected in my recent research. It is not free though. You will need to make out a check for \$10 to the NFMS Endowment Fund. If you don't like the information I provided, you can ask for a refund. There is no guarantee that you will get the refund.

So, where are we going?



"Hello, son. I suppose chicken farming doesn't seem so bad now."

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2009 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Feb 13-15 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Oregon Agate and Mineral Society's Annual Show, Free Entry and Parking	Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) Auditorium, 1945 S E Water Ave. Portland OR	Richard Hall 360-263-2599 bernicehall@mcleodusa.net
Feb 14-15 Sat 9-5 Sun 9-5	Whidbey Island Gem Club 44th Annual Sweetheart of Gems	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 S. E. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA	Keith Ludemann 360-675-1837 rock9@whidbey.net
Feb 21-22 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-6	Everett Rock & Gem Club, 56th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show	Washington National Guard Armory, 2730 Oakes Avenue, Everett, WA	Fritz Maek, PO Box 1615, Everett, WA 98206 425-232-0809
Feb 28-Mar 1 Sat 10-7 Sun 10-5	Idaho Gem Club Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show	Expo Idaho Glenwood & Chinden Boise, ID	Charlie Smith, P.O. Box 1264, Riggins, ID 83711, 208-628-4002 info@idahogemclub.com
Mar 7-8 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society, GEMS ARE FINE FOR 2009	O'Connor Field House 2200 Blaine Caldwell, ID	Tom Rogers lmr_tmr@safelink.net 208-465-5529
Mar 7-8 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4	Rock & Arrowhead Club, Annual Show Wonderful World of Jasper	Klamath Co. Fairgrounds, 3531 S. 6th St Klamath Falls, Or	Amanda Newnham dusstyrocks@aol.com G. Carlson 541-882-8276.
Mar 7-8 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Annual East Kingco Rock & Gem Show	Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah WA	Norma Kikkert eastkingco@gmail.com
Mar 13-15 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Rock Rollers Club 50th Anniversary show, "GOLD"	Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, N. 604 Havana @ Broadway, Spokane, Washington	Leigh Kletke (509) 299-6662
Mar 13-15 Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 51st Annual Show "Nature's Design" www.tvgc.org	Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave Hillsboro, OR	Cal Davis 503-357-4954 Rose Jackson jeweledrose@comcast.net
Mar 13-15 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Golden Spike Gem & 58th Annual Show	Gemstone Junction Union Station 2501 Wall Ave Ogden, Utah	Richard 801-648-5060 club@goldenspikegem.org
Mar 14-15 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4	Magic Valley Gem Club Rock and Gem Show	Boys and Girls Club 999 Frontier Road Twin Falls, ID	Harold Waggoner 208-423-9668 rmetts@cablone.net
Mar 27-28 Fri 8:30-6 Sat 9-5	Panorama Gem & Mineral Club, 9th Annual Show Free Admission	Fort Colville Grange Hall, 1.2 mi. east on Hwy 20 Colville, WA	Bill Allen 509-935-8779 sago@theofficenet.com
Mar 28-29 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4	Sweet Home Rock & Min. Soc, 61st Annual Featuring <i>Thundereggs</i>	1641 Long St. Sweet Home, Or.	Dee David (541) 367-4895 ced@centurytel.net
Apr 4-5 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society 52nd ANNUAL SHOW	Commercial Building Bannock County Fairgrounds Pocatello, Idaho	Marty Rakatansky (208)233-0538 Kevin Taylor 208-232- 4269
Apr 11-12 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club, 48th Rock & Gem Show	Bloedel-Donovan Park 2214 Electric Ave Bellingham WA	Wes Gannaway 360-384-4209 debnwes@comcast.net
Apr 18-19 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society 44th Annual SHOW	City Recreation Center Memorial Drive & B Street Idaho Falls, ID	Steve or Jeanne Hammond 208-782-1917 rock_hounds@msn.com

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Apr 18-19 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show	Benton County Fairgrounds Kennewick, WA	Dave Westland (509) 735-9678
Apr 25-26 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Grays Harbor Gem and Geology 41st Annual Earth's Treasures Show	Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 32 Elma-McCleary Rd, Elma, Wa	Gary Emberly 360 533 6196 melissa624@hotmail.com
May 9 - 10 Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 4	Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club 50th Annual Show	Gallatin County Fairgrounds Black & Tamarack [exit I-90 @ N. 7th St.] Bozeman, MT	Dan Carter 406-586 4552 or Doug Ellis 406-266-4452 opalcrusher@hotmail.com
May 16-17 Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show	Hermiston Conference Ctr., Highway 395 South Hermiston, OR	Mike Filarski (541) 922-5091 stonemorlin1@netscape.net
May 30-31 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	West Seattle Rock Club 43rd Annual Show President's Gemboree	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA	Ron Nims Ron.Nims@Attachmate.com
June 6-7 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4	North Idaho Rock Club Annual Rock & Gem Show, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Kootenai Co. Fairgrounds Event Ctr, Kathleen & Gov't Way, one block E. of Hwy 95	Bev Bockman 208-773-5384 bockbb@aol.com
June 13-14 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Butte Mineral and Gem Club Show	Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Ave Butte, Montana	Pete Knudsen 406-496-4395
Jun 19-21 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Oregon Coast Agate Club Annual Gem & Mineral Show, "We're Rockin' the Coast in Newport"	Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 633 NE 3rd St Newport, OR	Juli Dahl jdahl2@peak.org. 541-563-7495
Jul 30-Aug 2 Thur 10-5 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun: 10-5	NFMS/AFMS Combined Show hosted by Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 51 st year	Holiday Inn Grand Montana 5500 Midland Rd Billings MT	Doug True 406-670-0506 dtruefossils@yahoo.com
Oct 2-4 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society "Earth's Treasures"	Clallam County Boys & Girls Club, Carroll C. Kendall Unit 400 West Fir Street Sequim, WA 98382	Foster Thompson, 360-681-7981, fostert@olyppen.com Sonia Zachman 360-452-8588, sezrtho400@aol.com