



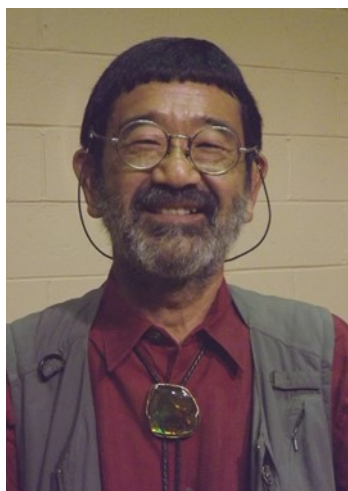
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Tom Burchard, Circulation
875 E. 4500 S
S Ogden, UT 84403-2913

VOLUME 56, NO. 3 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies MARCH 2016



Hidemi Kira President

Hello to All,

In this issue, I need to start with this sad news. Our NFMS Past President, Jon Spunaugle passed away on Saturday March 6th. He has greatly contributed to the NFMS and the AFMS for a long time. Just to list a few instances: he has served as AFMS 3rd VP (last year), Financial Advisor of the NFMS Endowment Fund, AMFS Scholarship's Treasurer, ALAA's Director and many others. He has done superb work and it is a great loss for both NFMS and AFMS. We will miss him a lot.

I am sure you have read the two articles in the last issue regarding growing the membership of their clubs. I would like to thank our 2nd VP, Keith Fackrell of the Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society and Dr. Philip Neuhooff of the Idaho Gem Club for sharing their impressive stories and I hope those articles gave you some ideas of how you can grow your clubs. As I wrote in my previous newsletter article, there probably are many different circumstances in your area and some things may not work as well in some cases. However, there are things we can learn from these stories. I am expecting more to come and will keep asking for more success stories. The reason is not only for encouraging growth in membership, but also ideas to make your club a fun and exciting place. If you know of something that has become a popular activity in your club, please share it with the other NFMS members!

I sometimes hear that Rockhounding is becoming a dead hobby. Is it true? I don't think so. I know there was time in the past that the Rockhounding world was much bigger. I have heard that my club, the Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club (OR), had a waiting list to join because there was a limit in the number of families in the bylaws. Now we don't have as many members as we did in those days, but since 2007 (the beginning year when I started to keep track of the membership count) we have grown 288%. And the membership of the total NFMS has grown 123% since 2007. There were ups and downs, but it shows that it has been growing and the NW is the fastest growing Federation among the 7 Federations in the AFMS. Utilizing the information and tips from the other clubs should make us even better. And as I always mention, number is not the most important factor to be a great club, but it will help when we have to make our voice heard in these times when we face many closures of the public lands where we enjoy collecting rocks.

Since writing about our voice needing to be heard, after sending letters to the government and Senators regarding the public land issues, I received an invitation to attend a Town Hall from one of the Senators I wrote to. I have to confess that I heard about these Town Halls in the past, but never have attended. I thought I would try it out as it was pretty close to home and would be a good opportunity to learn something new. I was hoping I could address our concerns regarding the public land use directly if possible as well. I was hoping it would be a little group in order to have an opportunity to talk directly, but it was a fairly large group and they were handing out tickets like door prize tickets. The other half of the tickets was put in a basket and they drew each time to allow the lucky person to address their questions or comments. I won the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle two years in a row and I think I used up all my luck there. My number was not called and I did not have the opportunity to address my thoughts. During the Town Hall, the Senator mentioned that the best way to have your needs heard is to address it at the Town Hall and next is to write a letter and send a hard copy. He said he receives a tremendous number of emails and one will easily be buried. I am sure many of you know about this already, but if you do have a chance to attend these Town Halls, please do. The more we attend the odds will increase that we will have a chance to speak up! And if you send a letter, make sure you use snail mail!

As you all know, the NFMS/AFMS Convention and Show will be in Albany, OR this year and I would like to share what our club is planning to do this year. Our Federation Director, Jim Heiman is planning to display 3 club cases and has started to work on it. One case will consist of material and specimens collected in Oregon exclusively. The next case will consist of material that came from all the states that make up the NFMS (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Montana and Utah). The third case will be used to display Oregon thunder-eggs, our state rock; sunstones, our state gem and meta-sequoia, our state fossil. This is one example of what a club can do. Hope we will see many club cases together with the individual cases!

The NFMS 2016 Mid-Year Meeting is coming soon. It will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 1 pm at the Benton County Fairgrounds (1500 South Oak, Kennewick, WA) during the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club's Annual Show. I just got a message from the Show Chair, Larry Hulstrom that the meeting room has changed to Building #3. I hope many of you can attend the meeting as there will be many items to be discussed and hope we can get as much inputs as we can. And hope you can enjoy the Lakeside Club's Show as well. I would like to thank the Lakeside Club again for hosting the meeting.

What's Inside:

President's Report	1
2 nd VP's Report	3
Nomination for 2nd VP.....	3
Endowment Fund.....	3
Jon Spunaugle Obituary	4
Editor's Rockpile.....	4
NFMS Mid Year Meeting Update ...	4
2016 Annual Meeting and Show ...	4
Important Deadlines	5 & 6
Club Growth A Third Perspective	5-6
Ads From Our Members	7
NFMS Clubs' Shows	7-8

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

April deadline– April 11th
(NOTE EARLY DATE)

For deadlines and to submit articles
contact

Beth Heesacker

Email: nfmseditor@coho.net

NFMS Website:

www.amfed.org/nfms

To see this newsletter in living color and
to see it usually by the first of the month

go to

[http://www.amfed.org/nfms/
newsletters.asp](http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp) and click on the month
you want to see.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
McMinnville, OR
Permit #7

NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2015-16

PRESIDENT: Hidemi Kira, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, 15455 S. Highland Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045, htkira@spiritone.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Jim Bosley, Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral, 634 Tyson Ave., Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401, (208)520-1819, jbosley@cableone.net

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Keith Fackrell, Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society, 2295 E. 700 S. Springville, Utah 84663, krfackrell@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judi Allison, Hatrock-hounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th. St., Hermiton, OR, 97882, 541-720-4950, jall@eotmet.net

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: Jim Bosley, 1st Vice President (see above)

BULLETIN AIDS: Ronna Watkins, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, POB 635, Tieton, WA 98947, (509) 673-0085, 4ronna@gmail.com

CIRCULATION: Tom Burchard, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, (801) 479-4286, Roxhund@aol.com

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS:

RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR: Lauren Williams, 957 E Elva Ave, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 (208) 529-6978

JUDGING DIRECTOR: : Evan Day, 509 Highland Blvd, Brigham City, UT, 84302, 801-391-2912, eday@sisna.com

REGISTRAR: Dee Holland, PO Box 23, Tendoy, Idaho, 83468, 208-756-2394, beauholland@centrytel.net

CREDENTIALS: Del & Clara Walker, Central Oregon Rock Collectors, 12377 SE Davis Loop, Prineville, OR 97754, 503-812-6540, cdwalker@q.com

CUSTODIAN: Keith Fackrell, 2ND Vice President: (see above)

DIRECTORY: Carol Willey, Oregon Coast Agate, 929 Ojalla Road, Siletz, OR, 97380, 541-444-1360, going4rocks@outlook.com

ENDOWMENT FUND:

CHAIRMAN: Edna Nelson, Mt Hood Rock Club, #14025, PO Box 190, Jefferson, OR 97352-0190 (a mail forwarding address), (503) 397-5284, rockhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com **TREASURER: NFMS Treasurer** (see above)

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: OPEN

HISTORIAN: OPEN

JUNIORS CHAIR: Audrey Vogelpohl, West Seattle

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Beth Heesacker, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, nfmseditor@coho.net

NFMS Club-at-Large: 1st Vice President (see above)

NOMINATING CHAIRMAN: Warren Rood, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral, 243 E. Birch, Walla Walla, WA 99362, warrenrood@yahoo.com

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Lamar Tilgner (Chair), Mt. Hood Rock Club, 200 SE Olvera Ave., Gresham, OR 97080, (503) 666-2905, lstilgner1@frontier.com

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL: Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 99509 Brandon, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 628-0170, cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: Ben Odum, 3511 N. Atlantic, Spokane, WA 99205 (509) 953-2470, rockroller_ALAA@yahoo.com

SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN: Darrell Watkins, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 635, Tieton, WA 9894, (509)673-0085, darrell848@aol.com

RESOLUTIONS: Fred Burton, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 90 Lakeview, Tooele, UT 84074, (435) 882-8614, f7burton@gmail.com

SAFETY: Tanya Sonner, Southern WA. Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, chuckagate2@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP: Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 99509 Brandon, Kennewick, WA, 99338, (509) 628-0170, cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com

SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2016: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc., 3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (541)753-2401, jvancura@peak.org

SHOW COORDINATOR: Pat Lambert, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 26106 S. Oak, Kennewick, WA 99337, palambert@charter.net

STAMPS: Chuck Sonner, Southern WA. Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, chuckagate2@yahoo.com

SUPPLIES: Tim Hoff

WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc., 3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (541)753-2401, jvancura@peak.org

WEBMASTER: Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 4112 E. Park Ridge Dr., Nampa, ID 83687, 208-465-1920, nfms.webmaster@gmail.com

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Bev Bockman, Rock Rollers Club, P.O.Box 1326, Post Falls, ID 83577, (208) 773 5384, bockbb@aol.com

WEBSITE CONTEST: Cheri George, lizardwoman3@yahoo.com

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

AFMS 5TH VP & AFMS FIELD TRIP –Doug True

ENDOWMENT FUND- Judi Allison

EDITORS HALL OF FAME-OPEN

NEWSLETTER EDITOR-Beth Heesacker

NFMS CLUB BULLETIN AIDS-Ronna Watkins

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR-Evelyn Cataldo (chair) & Bev Bockman

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION-Darlene Posthuma

ALL AMERICAN AWARD- Sean Hietpas

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-OPEN

JUNIORS PROGRAM-Audrey Vogelpohl

PROGRAM COMPETITION-Darrell Watkins

PUBLIC RELATIONS-OPEN

SAFETY-Chuck Sonner

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION-Dee Holland (chair) & Evelyn Cataldo

SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS-Tim Hoff

JUDGE TRAINING COMMITTEE-Dee Holland

UNIFORM RULES-Dee Holland

WAYS AND MEANS-Lauren Williams (chair) & Janice Van Cura

WEBSITE-Brad Larson

WEBSITE CONTEST – Cheri George

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 individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: www.amlands.org on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

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). Contact: AFMS Central Off., Steve Weinberger, P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 cebar62@aim.com Make checks payable to "AFMS".

The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) and is usually published ten (9) times per year. This publication is brought to you through your club membership in the 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 Oregon Lithoprint in McMinnville, Oregon.

For matters related to the Newsletter (i.e. content, advertising, etc.) contact the Newsletter Editor. For matters related to the Newsletter circulation (new members, address changes, etc.) contact Circulation.

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. If you see an error once your show is listed, or if your show is not listed, contact the Newsletter Editor.

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**, brought to the NFMS Annual Show or given to your Federation Director in your club.

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS**Where to send your money**

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, 8810 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617

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: Evelyn Cataldo (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:

- Memberships, new and renewals
- Donations
- Make check payable to ALAA (American Lands Access Assn) Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154

NFMS WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms

NFMS NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE 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

For an additional 50% of the cost of the Newsletter ad, you can have the same ad placed on the NFMS website for the same length of time. The Newsletter ad must be purchased to receive this additional advertisement.

Do not send ads on colored paper because the back-ground will look gray in 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**

**See the NFMS on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>
(for the desktop/laptop/tablets)

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>
(for mobile devices like phones)

2nd VP's REPORT

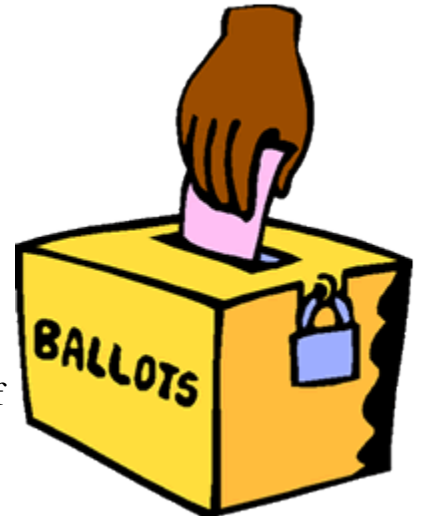


Keith Fackrell 2nd Vice President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Custodial Committee for the great job you have done. Thanks for getting the inventory list to me so I could compile the information and get it turned over to Judy Allison, our very capable Secretary, so she could get it into the minutes.

It takes an amazing group of people to keep an organization running efficiently. I say "Thank You" for your cooperation and willingness to do your part. Thank you for all you do to help keep Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Society running so smoothly.

Nomination for 2nd VP By Warren Rood, NFMS Past President



It is my privilege to nominate Yakima club member Ronna Watkins for the position of Second Vice president of the NFMS. Ronna is an enthusiastic member who has worked hard for the growth of her club. She has also been a steady Bulletin Aids Committee Chair of the NFMS. I believe she will be a great asset to our organization and provide enthusiastic leadership.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in Albany. Ronna's biography is below.

Ronna Watkins, Candidate for NFMS 2nd VP

Greetings from Tieton! "Tieton?" you may ask, "Where is Tieton?" Tieton is just west of Yakima in central Washington. It is where my husband, Darrell & I decided to raise our last two of five sons, and retire. It is at the forest edge on a plateau planted in orchards and vineyards. The packing plant here is the largest exporter of apples in the United States. We live on the Tieton andesite flow, the largest andesite flow in the world as far as anyone knows. The flow was created by an eruption of the Tieton volcano that was near what is now Goat Rocks. The volcano, that probably created the Tieton andesite in a singular event, likely stood more 8,000 feet tall and probably had a similar shape to Mount Rainier. Just west of here are amazing basalt palisades on the White Pass Scenic byway.

So, why am I writing about the amazing geological significance of where I live? Because, it is easier than writing about myself. But, since Warren Rood asked me if I would, here it goes...

Most of you know me as the Bulletin Editor Aids Chairman (BEAC) for the Northwest Federation and have seen me at most of the NFMS meetings over the last six years. I have enjoyed running the Annual Editors Contest and hosting the Editors' Breakfasts, supporting my husband in his position as the NFMS Slide/Video Librarian, and watching my sons, Walter and Nicholas participate in competition displaying of their collections. And, I love to travel and field collect, and you will find me on most of the field trips offered.

Here in the Yakama Valley I am a member of the Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, Inc. I have served my club as secretary in years past and am now our social chairman, bulletin editor, and I head up our club's communications committee. I, also, heavily support our show chairman any way I can and our children's chairman, as teacher and facilitator for two merit badge earning Junior Rockhounds of America groups.

I am a huge advocate of supporting our club leaders, growing young rockhounds in all aspects of our hobby, and enthusiastically including everyone in opportunities to grow and lead, in their organization and our hobby. Something not many people know about me is that I collect shells and marine fossils...and that, I can dig a hole pretty fast looking for petrified wood on Saddle Mountain. Besides rockhounding, I teach journalism and sciences to homeschoolers, share and teach about the safe use of essential oils, and love to paint.

I am very excited to continue to serve the NFMS and look forward to seeing everyone at the mid year meeting in Kennewick. Spring is here so get outside and enjoy, I will!



Buy a Ticket-Win a Prize By Judi Allison

Tickets are now available for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing that will be held at the combination AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention in Albany, Oregon the end of July. Why buy a ticket? You could win one of a number of nice donated prizes, but better yet, your prize could be support of such things as the Junior Badge Program, judges training, digitizing slide programs to videos, and production of video programs to be distributed to the individual Federations to name a few.

You can get tickets from me, Judi Allison, by sending an email with your name and address to jall@eotnet.net or calling me at 541-720-4950. I will also be at the midyear meeting in Kennewick, Washington with a supply on hand. They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Let's support the Endowment Fund and in turn support the American Federation.

Jon Spunaugle - Mr. Rockhound

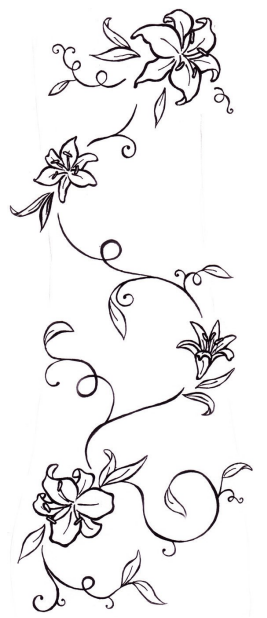
By Lyle and Audrey Vogelpohl

Jon succumbed to cancer on Saturday, March 5th, while in hospice care at the home of his daughter in Kirkland, Washington. His family was by his side and his grandson, an opera singer, sang as he left this life.

Jon was always ready to help. Analytical and a stickler for detail - which showed in the years of his volunteering in the American Federation (AFMS), the Northwest Federation (NFMS), the American Lands Access Association (ALAA). and most recently as Treasurer for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

President of West Seattle Rock Club in 1992, he enjoyed faceting and recently donated faceted stones to the club. Jon was NFMS President in 1991-1992, was our NFMS Regional VP to the AFMS in 2015, and currently he held the position of Financial Advisor of the NFMS Endowment Fund.

Jon will be missed not only because of his involvements, but because he was a friend.



From the Editor's Rockpile

By Beth Heesacker

First, I want to express condolences from the NFMS to the family and friends of Jon Spunaugle. He will be greatly missed.

I have finally gotten back to working on sorting out my mineral collection. The boxes of specimens sure pile up from different meetings and shows that I attend. The specimens need to be cleaned, sorted, put in "perky boxes" (small hinge top plastic boxes), labeled with the identity of the mineral, numbered and entered into my database. I sometimes wonder if I will ever get caught up. It is called "job security" since I will always have something to do. :-)

I have my schedule for the summer pretty much filled in - 2 NFMS meetings, mineral meetings (including one in California), a geology trip with some friends to the Wallowa, OR area, my monthly art group and then there are the newsletters to edit in between. Retirement seems to be very busy. I am enjoying it immensely.

I hope you are enjoying the articles from various NFMS members on how they grow their rock clubs. Our President, Hidemi Kira, has asked a number of people to write these in hopes that our member clubs will find them useful.

Again, don't forget in the excitement of the planning for the AFMS/NFMS Meeting that there also is the upcoming Mid-Year NFMS Meeting in Kenniwick hosted by the fabulous Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club. See their flyer below.

2016 NFMS Mid Year Meeting April 16, 2016

Building Change

Due to issues that we have had in the past with the heating system the Mid-Year meeting scheduled to be held on Saturday April 16 at the Benton County Fairgrounds has been moved to Building #3. Building #3 is located two buildings to the south (or left as you come in from the parking lot) from where the Lakeside Show will be held.

The Mid-Year meeting is scheduled to be held at 1:00pm with registration starting at 12:30pm. Come early and attend the 20th Annual Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club show that starts at 10:00 AM. Parking for the meeting will be available either in the main fairgrounds lot or the lot closer to the horse racing track. No parking inside on the grounds will be permitted, other than those that have paid for camping at the Lakeside Show.



2016 GEM SHOW

Hosted By Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
20th Annual Show

Saturday, April 16th – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, April 17th – 10 am to 4 pm

Benton County Fairgrounds
1500 S. Oak St., Kennewick, WA



Adult Admission \$5 (good for both days)
Children 14 and under FREE
with paid adult admission



<p>Events & Activities Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40+ Collectors' Exhibits Great Door Prizes Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Dealers Fluorescent Displays Kid's Korner – Games & Crafts Silent Auctions Geode Cracking Tailgating – Sunday 7am to noon 	<p>Demonstrations Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabochon Fashioning Gemstone Faceting Gem Trees Sphere Making Silversmithing Wire Wrapping Jewelry Fabrication
---	--

Bring This Flyer To The Show For
\$1.00 Off Price Of Admission



2016 NFMS AFMS Show Update July 29th to 31st, 2016, Albany Oregon

July will soon be upon us. Remember to sign up for display cases and pre-register for events. The forms were in the January NFMS newsletter which is available on the NFMS website if you have misplaced your copy. Also the forms should be on the WAMS website wamsi.org in a printable version by the time you get this newsletter. The food is going to be great at the banquet, and so will the company, so sign up and come join us.

We are working on some special displays that are above and beyond the normal display cases. So if you or your club has a really great display piece but it just does not fit in a case please give me a call and we can see if we can fit you in.

Also, we have had lots of interest from people coming from out of our federation area. We want to really show them a good time and give them an opportunity to take home some northwest rock. If you are out and about between now and the show on a field trip consider bringing some extra rock back to add to either the silent or oral auction at the show. It is a good way to support your federation and share the wealth with our visitors.



2016 NFMS Mid-Year Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Time: 1 pm

Place: Benton County Fairgrounds

1500 South Oak, Kennewick, WA

(During Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club's Annual Show)

2016 AFMS Annual Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016

Time: 9 am

**Place: Linn County Fair & Expo Building
Albany, Oregon**

(before the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society's Annual Show)

NFMS Annual Meeting

Date: Friday, July 29, 2016

Time: 4pm

**Place: Linn County Fair & Expo Building
Albany, Oregon**

(During Willamette Agate and Mineral Society's Annual Show)



Growing Your Club

By Dr. Ken Zahn

Past President,

Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club

It was a pleasant surprise to get an invitation from Hidemi a few weeks ago to write about our Bozeman, Montana, Club's growth since 2007. We've grown from 38 (2007) to 162 members (2015) – an increase of 326%, 2nd behind the Yakima WA club (+357%) in overall growth rate over the 8-year period among the Federation's 82 clubs. Let's set the stage a bit. We're a small town (~37,000) with only ~55,000 people within a 50-mile radius – no match for the Boise ID, Provo/Spanish Fork/Orem/Salt Lake UT, or coastal Oregon and Washington club areas. Winters are snowy and dark, field collecting is usually limited to April – October, and we're a long way from the many fine historical collecting areas in ID, UT, OR, and WA – though Montana has some too.

Our club has been active since 1939 – so we have a long history. My 1st year in the club was 2005. Membership was 38 in 2007, averaged 52 from 2007 to 2009, 99 from 2010 – 2013, 125 in 2014, and 162 in 2015. Moving around the U.S. in the last 43 of my “almost 80” years, I've seen A LOT as a member of 11 different clubs - but have been a club officer only the last 2 years. Trying to identify WHY the 8-year upward trend for the Bozeman club, and WHY the several plateaus before 2014, was instructive, but it's still more subjective than hard science.

There are clearly many similar individual project and organizational elements in any club's success over the long haul (I'll speak to some of these in a moment), but there are also some more subtle and subjective elements (both positive and negative) that are probably even more important in attracting and keeping solid members (I'll speak to those next month).

First, some typical common elements of successful clubs I've noticed over the years:

- (1) An efficiently planned and organized annual show featuring 20 – 30 display cases of both nearby-area materials and world-wide specimens. It should also be a major profit center for the year, not a financial drain. Our Show Chairperson thinks way ahead about every detail (venue contract, security, support staff training/briefing and duty assignments, floor layout, equipment condition, insurance, audio system, etc.), plans activities for kids, lines up and communicates early with high-quality vendors, and maintains a short waiting list of locals in case of potential last-minute cancellations. Pretty standard! But at Bozeman's shows, I've seen some interesting additional, more subtle “success elements” that the chairperson puts in place as well. We bought out a failing party-rental agency's chairs and use them for the show, saving big bucks each year by not renting them from the venue (Fairgrounds). Running a food concession is a pain for permits, a cut of the profit for the venue, health department hassle, etc. We provide a free, member-donated “pot luck” dinner for vendors and club volunteers on setup evening, and have free snacks and beverages during the show -- simply asking for a small donation; we build good will and don't lose money on it. In 2010, one member canvassed each entering attendee as to how they heard about the show; the analysis of the data sheet results drove a major shift in how we advertised from 2011 on and attendance has generally grown each year. Our “silent auction” is generally not “silent.” A pretty vocal “color” announcer talks up the pieces being offered, mentions vendors, and reminds folks of other show info such as raffles, food, activities for kids, and videos that may be running. Besides the usual donated-item raffles, we buy a very large, splashy (but inexpensive) display specimen at the Tucson show each year and sell only a limited number of \$10 raffle tickets on the item at our show, bringing a 5-10-fold profit. Talking up possible membership to attendees is also VERY important. Use an enthusiastic, very friendly member for the task, and be sure to discuss it at entrance, during the show, and at the exit. Having club mining claims, activities for kids, and a good field trip schedule to mention/discuss helps people consider membership. Passivity here gets almost no new memberships.

- (2) A well-planned and -organized set of field trips scheduled for the collecting season. Assure there are designated leaders for planning, leading, and announcing each outing via meetings, email, and website/Facebook page, etc. We've done some “over-nighters” to N. Idaho and Utah as well, and have sometimes subsidized the purchase cost of sapphire gravel buckets for club members – a very successful way to get newcomers out on a field trip here in Montana.

- (3) Great topical guest speakers, educational program presentations, demonstrations, and occasional videos for monthly meetings. We have offered speakers from out-of-town a room at a member's home for the night after the meeting so that there is no motel expense, and no need for them to drive home late at night. These speakers become like “family” to our club.

- (4) Smoothly-run, informative, and up-beat monthly meetings. Again – a pretty standard goal of any club. Our club meetings aren't much different in format from most, BUT we've learned some lessons that have paid big dividends in the hardest part of growing membership – *retaining new members after their first year.* Think about it: Clubs usually meet only an average of 9 - 10 times a year in a formal evening business meeting format (usually there's a Christmas party and a summer picnic meeting – with little business conducted). No new member attending their first several monthly meetings wants to hear bickering about payment of minor bills, long-winded diatribes about what we *can't* do or *shouldn't* do, or heated arguments about personal opinions on trivial issues. Even one such meeting is enough to turn off a newcomer, yet many “mature” clubs have these characteristics in spades. This is how clubs often shrink or die, or why members transfer elsewhere. Keep it light; keep it fun. During the early Spring of 2010, for example, a group within our club launched a tirade over certain club property immediately after our Vice President gavelled a meeting to order (the President was away).

(continued on page 6)

Thirty minutes later the wide-eyed guest speaker gave his presentation. Meeting over, the stunned attendees left embarrassed and divided. Over the next 2 months, the club completely reorganized meeting procedures. New bylaws were written and passed, and a functioning Executive Board and essential Standing Committees were established. The meeting format was reorganized (program presentation; then refreshments, “show-and-tell,” and silent auction; followed by short business meeting). The dissenting group left the club over the bylaws changes, but membership almost doubled over the Summer and Fall – and remained stable through 2013. Since then, financial and operational matters and long-range plans have been fully discussed by the Executive Board first, and the business elements of general meetings are then more focused and efficiently conveyed. Members HAVE FUN at the meetings, enjoy the program presentations, make friends with other members, are happy with their auction winnings, and leave enthused with what they see can be collected on upcoming field trips.

Besides these common features of successful clubs that I’ve noticed over the years, there are also some more subtle leadership elements that are even more important to assuring a stable, productive club. A “Top Dozen” come to mind from observing the Bozeman Club and many others. Each, when done well, can spur stability among those who join; but done poorly, can yield disappointment and shrinking membership.

1. Acknowledge and praise - OFTEN - the work efforts of members; try not to miss anyone who has contributed. This is often a core group of dedicated members plus new volunteers.
 2. Nominate Executive Board members carefully, with a mix of very experienced and newer but willing members; try for built-in diversity of capabilities across the main functional areas of the club. A good Board will usually surface issues early and assure a forum for a good discussion of solutions and initiatives for improvement or expansion that can be thoughtfully researched and presented to the general membership. Watch for potential leaders within the club.
 3. Aim for an Executive Board meeting between most regular monthly meetings as a way to bring up ideas and suggestions and to “check in” on the status of issues, projects, and general club “health.” Avoid long “communication dead spaces” between monthly meetings by sending both a newsletter and club-wide email reminders of upcoming activities and field trips. Members are busy with normal life activities; reminders help them plan in advance for club functions.
 4. Address issues head-on and quickly. Rumors, concerns, and misinformation usually travel fast and color perceptions before leadership even realizes what is happening. Base discussions on research and facts. To minimize apprehension, “report out” to the general membership promptly.
 5. Delegate project leadership, but check in on progress. Offer to help find volunteers if asked. Then, praise and recognize the work done. It has always amazed me how often members volunteer to do or lead special projects. Often, others then also volunteer on upcoming projects -- be they doing paperwork or research or “pounding nails.”
 6. If elected to an office, LEAD -- AND DO THE JOB PROACTIVELY. Be dependable and reliable in task execution; then fully brief any incoming new officer on history, procedure, and recordkeeping to assure an efficient transition of the functions at the end of your term.
 7. Keep up-to-date on the financial, legal, and paperwork elements: yearly tax and non-profit reports, liability insurance, Director & Officer insurance, fund-raising opportunities (donations of materials, live and silent auctions, raffles, annual show), club membership rosters, and meeting minutes. Attention to detail in these areas engenders a feeling of competency in the club’s leadership.
 8. Be sure to place club brochures at any local “rock shop” or other venue that has “rocks for sale” (e.g., also often at antique stores or flea markets). Respond to requests from the public when called by a customer of those local shops. Our club picks up about 10 memberships a year through those responses, in addition to the 20 or so from the summer show.
 9. Take some risks in proposing, discussing, and executing some new initiatives that gain visibility or good will for the club.
- In 2012, for example, it was suggested that our club refurbish an unused, large (6’ x 6’ x 4’) and heavy glassed-in display case, fill it with good Montana specimens, and place it in the Airport’s public waiting area. We got some of the expected membership reactions: “too much work,” “who’s going to do it?,” “too much money for tempered replacement glass,” “no one wants to donate nice pieces,” “who will transport it up and down stairs?,” “what about security?,” etc., etc. Five members took it on, getting \$1000 of donated glass from local firms, donated woodwork refinishing and transportation by the airport maintenance staff, and lots of very nice donated or loaned specimens. About a year later, it was complete and installed at NO COST to the club. Since 2008, we’ve also filed 2 mining claims for club-member use (again over the usual concerns about the work required, cost, paperwork, liability risk, etc.) In 2013, one member took on a project to replace a run-down ranch gate and build/install a footbridge over a ranch canal so that the club could continue to have permission to collect material on private rangeland. Great good will -- and a feeling of accomplishment for the volunteers involved, all of whom are still members. By 2014, with a larger membership and years of careful fundraising, it was proposed that the club take the next step to grow in capability by renting a “clubhouse,” rebuild the many old donated saws, grinders, polishers, drills, and associated equipment; and start offering lapidary instruction. After the obvious concerns were discussed, the membership decided to take the plunge and try for success over a 2015 – 2016 trial period. Again, a core group of volunteers stepped up, and we’re now one successful year into our new level of capability and member engagement. As a final example, after addressing many security and liability concerns, the Bozeman club assembled 100 of its members’ best collected specimens (on loan) and displayed a large case at the 2015 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The club paid for insurance, but all other costs (paperwork, time, packing, transport, security, travel, lodging, etc.) were donated. Again, the resulting generation of club pride has been helpful in unifying the club.
10. Reach out to new members immediately. Make them feel welcome, understand their hopes and interests, and encourage early participation in field trips and activities. Our engaged members usually become long-term members. On “first field trips” by new members, assure that they have (or borrow) the right tools and have a mentor willing to help select a good spot to “dig.” Stay with them awhile as they learn what to watch for and how to identify local material.
 11. Cultivate “helping relationships” within as wide a member base as possible – certainly within the core membership. Building personal friendships that are not only based on monthly meeting gatherings will greatly enrich everyone. If someone needs a new job, try to help suggest options. Someone “laid up”? – arrange meals, etc. I have found that my rockhounding relationships are some of the strongest and most enduring I’ve had in my 80 years. I suspect that is true for many who, at some time, also started as “new growth” in a Gem and Mineral club.
 12. Finally, make it ALL fun, interesting, and educational.

AFMS and NFMS Deadlines:

All American Club Yearbook Award

NFMS Deadline: March 22, 2016

AFMS deadline: April 15, 2016.

Check with your regional chairs for their deadline.

Junior Achievement Award:

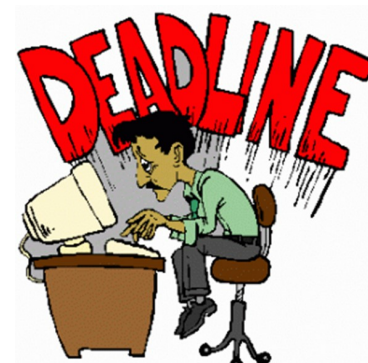
NFMS deadline: April 1, 2016

AFMS/NFMS Case Registration:

June 29, 2016

AFMS/NFMS Meeting Registration:

NFMS deadline: June 30, 2016





ROCK SALE

Tons of rough—\$1 per pound
 Jewelry 1/2 price
 3,000 cabochons
 Beads
 Faceted gems
 Findings
 Fluorescents
 Eggs
 Machinery
 Silversmithing tools



May 6—15, 2016
 10am—6 pm
 Jeannette and Howard Bushman
 14901 SW Glade Lane
 Sherwood, OR
 503-625-5177

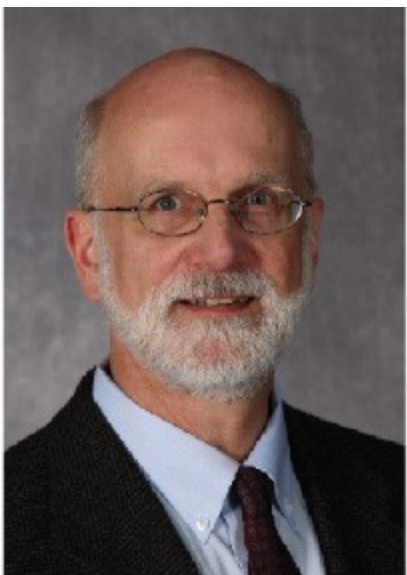


Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
 presents its 46th
 Annual Rock Show

Carnival of Rocks

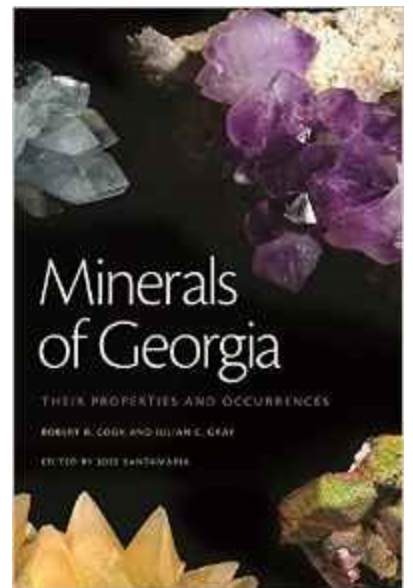
Saturday, May 7 – 9am to 5 pm
 Sunday, May 8 – 10am to 4pm
 Free Admission – donations appreciated
 Food Concessions
 Douglas County Fairgrounds
 I-5 exit 123 * Roseburg, OR

DON'T MISS THE FUN!
 Gem and Mineral Displays
 Rock and Jewelry Dealers
 Demonstrations
 Door Prizes * every 1/2 hr.
 Silent Auction * Raffle Prizes
FREE Kids' Activities:
 Rock Hunts: Sat: 11am – 1pm – 3pm
 Sun: 1pm – 3pm
 Rock Painting by *Michael's*



New Book by a Local Author Julian Gray, Executive Director of the Rice Museum

Minerals of Georgia presents an illustrated, alphabetized record of every mineral (or mineral group) identified in the state. Under each entry is a county-by-county listing of every occurrence known, including both widespread species and obscure ones. In addition to economically important mineral deposits, this volume covers various mineral localities within the state that are well known among professional mineralogists, mineral collectors, and rockhounds as the source of outstanding study, display, and lapidary material.



Illustrated with over 150 color photographs this guide provides the most current listings and descriptions of mineral occurrences and mining activities documented in Georgia over the past 150 years.

Minerals of Georgia will be invaluable to the mineralogist, collector, and researcher with its definitive and updated listings of the distribution and specific localities of a mineral, the mineral's association and geologic setting, and the varied mineralogy of a particular county or mineral district. Even the casual reader will gain a better appreciation of Georgia's diverse mineral treasures.

(University of Georgia press release)

NFMS Clubs' Show Schedule

March 18 - 20 Fri & Sat - 10 - 7 Sun - 10 - 5	Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Society	Spanish Fork Fair Grounds 475 South Main Street Spanish Fork, UT	Karl Powell 801 319 6115 timpanogosrock@gmail.com
March 19-20 Sat - 9 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Hellgate Mineral Society	Hilton Garden Inn 2730 North Reserve St. Missoula MT	Bob Riggs 406 543 3667 robert.riggs3@gmail.com
March 25-27 Fri & Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 4	Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA	Spokane County Fair & Expo Ctr, N. 604 Havana & Broadway, Spokane WA	Vonnie Dillon 509 951 8173 showchair@rockrollers.org

NFMS Clubs' Show Schedule

March 26 - 27 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club	Bloedel Donovan Comm. Cntr., 2214 Electric Avenue, Bellingham WA	Lori Nettles 360 961 7873 lorinhardy@yahoo.com www.mtbakerrockclub.org
March 26 - 27 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society	Sweet Home High School Gym, 1641 Long Street Sweet Home OR	Joe Cota 541 451 2740 or Ed Anderson 541 944 2124 ela4rocks@gmail.com PO Box 2279 Lebanon OR
April 8 - 10 Fri - 9-6 Sat - 10 - 6	Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society	Golden Spike Event Ctr, Weber County Fairgrnds, 1000 N 1200 W, Ogden UT	Deborah Blake 385 205 9187 gemshow@goldenspikegem.org
April 8, 9 & 10 Fri & Sat 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 4	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club	Central Wash State Fair Grounds, Modern Living Building, 1301 South Fair Avenue, Yakima WA 98901	Dwayne Drake 509 731 5794 ya-kima_rockhounds12@yahoo.com PO Box 326, Yakima WA 98907
April 9 & 10 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society	Idaho Falls Recreation Ctr, Corner of Memorial Drive and B Street, Idaho Falls ID	Dave Gunderson 208 523 2355 or Kevin Landon 208 357 3847 PO Box 2362 Idaho Falls ID
April 15 - 17 Fri & Sat - 9 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Willamette Agate and Mineral Society	Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S Pacific Hwy W Rickreall, OR 97371	Bob & Etheleen Flippo 503-623-4241 reflippoo@hotmail.com
April 16 & 17 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club	Benton County Frngds. 1500 South Oak Kennewick WA	Mary Lou Omstead 509 783 2798 PO Box 6652 Kennewick WA 99336
April 16 & 17 Sat 9 - 6 Sun 10 - 6	Maplewood Rock Club	Maplewood Club House 8802 196 th Street SW Edmonds WA	Cindy Wright cindykwl@hotmail.com 425 493 6155
April 22 - 24 Fri & Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Mt Hood Rock Club	W.P. Jackson Armory, 6255 NE Cornfoot Road Portland OR 97218 [NOTE LOCATION CHANGE]	Wayne King mhrshow@gmail.com 503 284 7195
April 23 & 24 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 5	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40 th Avenue SW Seattle WA	Diane Christensen diane@purms.org 206 439 3606 www.westseattlerockclub.org
April 23 & 24 Sat - 9:30 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4:30	Grays Harbor Gem and Geology Society	Elma Fairgrounds 43 Elma-McCleary Road Elma WA	Leroy Sisk and Gary Emberley , 624 Fairmont Place Aberdeen, WA 98520 360 533 6196 melissa624@hotmail.com
April 30 - May 1 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Everett Rock and Gem Club	Everett Com. College Walt Price Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower Street, Everett WA	Fritz Mack 425 232 0809 rockngemmack1@gmail.com PO Box 1615 Everett WA 98206
April 30 & May 1 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Billings Gem and Mineral Club	Al Bedoo Shrine, Aud., 1125 Broadwater Ave, Billings MT	Doug True dtruefossils12@yahoo.com 406 670 0506
May 7 & 8 Sat - 9 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club	Douglas County Fairgrounds, I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg OR	Sue Woodman 541 672 3486 rock-sandhorses3@gmail.com or Eileen Paul 541 672 5229 bead-patch@mydfn.net
May 7 & 8 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club	Gallatin County Frgrnds Building #1, 901 North Black, Bozeman MT	JerryHancock jaegers@bresnan.net PO Box 11001 Bozeman MT 59719
May 14 & 15 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society	Hermiston Conference Ctr 415 Highway 395 South Hermiston OR	Mike Filarski, 541 571 2593 stonemorlin1@netscape.net
May 21 & 22 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society	First Interstate Center, Ravalli County Frgrnds 100 Old Corvallis Road Hamilton MT	Steve Vieth 406 381- 7597 viethsteve88@gmail.com
June 3- 5 Fri & Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 5	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club	Swiss Park 9205 198 th Avenue East Bonney Lake WA 98390	Nancy LeMay bees2knees@att.net 253 985 5784 info@puyallupgemclub.org
June 4 & 5 Sat - 9 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	North Idaho Mineral Club	Kootenai County Frngds, 4056 North Government Way, Coeur d'Alene ID	Dean Hutchinson 208 686 9156 PO Box 1643 Hayden ID 83835
June 11 & 12 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 5	Butte Mineral and Gem Club	Butte Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Avenue Butte MT	Pete Knudsen 406 496 4395 PO Box 4492 Butte MT 59702
July 16 - 17 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 5	Darrington Rock and Gem Club	Manford Grange 1265 Railroad Avenue Darrington, WA	Ed Lehman 9120 20 th Street SE Lake Stevens WA 98258 wsmced@hotmail.com 425 334 6282 (cell 425 760 2786) or Angela Moore angela51726@gmail.com 360 436 2107
July 29-31 Fri - 10 - 6 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 4	Willamette Agate and Mineral Society AFMS and NFMS MEETINGS	Linn County Expo Center, Albany Oregon	Janice Van Cura 541-753-2401 jvancura@peak.org , www.wamsi.org
August 5 - 7 Fri & Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society	North Bend Community Ctr., 2222 Broadway North Bend OR	Don Innes 541 396 5722 doninnes.innes20@gmail.com
September 10 & 11 Sat - 9 - 6 Sun - 10 - 4	Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association	Vern Burton Community Ctr., 308 East 4 th Street Port Angeles WA	Jennie Bourassa 360 681 0372 or Kathy Schriener 360 681 3811 PO Box 98 Sequim WA 98382
September 10 & 11 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 5	Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society	Walla Walla Cnty Frngds Community Cntr Bldg., 363 Orchard St., Walla Walla WA	Keith Bacus, 509 529 1248 1829 Howard St Walla Walla WA 99362
September 17 & 18 Sat - 10 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	The Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	Castle Rock Fairgrounds, 120 Fair Lane SW Corner of Highway 411 and Cowlitz River Castle Rock WA	Nicole Doiron 360 785 4417 raknad@q.com
October 22 & 23 Sat: 9 - 6 Sun: 10 - 5	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club	Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR 97013	Beth Heesacker, heesacker@coho.net , 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116
October 22 & 23 Sat - 10 - 6 Sun - 10 - 5	Bellevue Rock Club	Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish PKWY SE, Bellevue, WA	Bruce Himko bellevuerockclub@comcast.net PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009
November 12 & 13 Sat - 9 - 5 Sun - 10 - 4	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Comm Center, 703 Pacific Street Sedro Woolley, WA	Debbie Frank skagitrockandgem@gmail.com PO Box 244 Mount Vernon WA 98273