



NORTHWEST

NEWSLETTER

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Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

May 2009

Visit Montana While at the AFMS/NFMS Show

by Larry G. Field, Billings Gem & Mineral Club



Courtesy of: http://visitmt.com/history/Montana_the_Magazine_of_Western_History/Spring03/treasurestate.htm

Are you planning a trip to the AFMS/NFMS show to be hosted by the Billings Gem and Mineral Club of Billings, Montana? Much has been written about the show; it is shaping up to be a great show. This, however, is only half of the story. The other half is the state itself. Maximize your time for this trip. Take advantage of the scenery, outdoor activities, historical sites and much more. Read what the Almanac has to say about the state, visit the web sites, read books, be prepared. Don't miss this opportunity to look at the things that interest you while in the state. Obviously, you must be interested in rocks. Pick up a copy of Feldman's rockhound's guide. Montana's two official state gemstones are agate and sapphire, and both are still quite abundant. Many authorities believe that Montana has the largest remaining sapphire reserves in the world. Prepare yourself for this trip so that you don't overlook items that would greatly interest you.

Visit a magazine shop, pick up an outdoors magazine. What is the cover photo - a trout, a snow covered peak, a wild flower covered meadow, a stalagmite decorated cavern, a massive waterfall, a reconstructed dinosaur, a deep river eroded gorge, an elk, a hummingbird, a ptarmigan, a gemstone? Odds are good that whatever is featured on the cover can be found in Montana. Montana's first official nickname was "The Treasure State". This was more recently replaced with the second official nickname, "The Big Sky State". Both hint at the abundant and varied resources and recreational quality of the state. The recreation is so concentrated that an agate hunt on the Yellowstone can be expanded to include collecting of a variety of treasures, a look back at Lewis and Clark, a study of western history, fishing & swimming, bird & game watching, metal detecting, collecting of wild edible plants, photography, interpretation of geology and much more.

Speaking of geology, much of what is now Montana used to be at the bottom of the mid-continental seaway. As the mountains to the west, the continent and the ocean itself raised and settled, the ocean transgressed

and regressed. Each time the ocean transgressed, the land organisms were compressed into a smaller habitat and the marine animals expanded into larger. Each regression reversed the available areas for marine and terrestrial habitats. As the mountains grew, they eroded, providing vast quantities of sediments to bury organisms. The forces of mountain building created igneous and metamorphic deposits; the down pouring of eroded sediments created clastic sedimentary deposits; precipitation in the deep ocean provided precipitated sedimentary deposits. Finally, the uplifting of the Pryor Mountains created the modern base of erosion that has exposed sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks dating from yesterday's silt to 2 billion year old deposits. Rock hobbyists can target specific rock types and ages to hunt for their preferred target, whether it is minerals, rocks, fossils, precious metals or other.

In the fall of 2008 the football team from Superior in western Montana traveled to Wibaux for the state football championship game. Why do I mention this? The trip approached 700 miles one way. The scheduled show and field trips cover nearly two weeks and nearly 350 miles of area. If you participate in all, you have but scratched the surface of this magnificent state. Plan as much time as you can; plan to put hundreds of miles on your vehicle. Montana is the fourth largest state, a drive diagonally across the state is equivalent to driving from Washington DC to Chicago. See the world's first national park, Yellowstone; see the world's first international park, Glacier-Waterton. See some of the states 56 counties, hundreds of museums, historic areas, and much more. Take time to hike, fish, take photos and make memories. This is the place to do it.

Montana is composed of two distinct areas. Western Montana is the Montana with which most people are familiar: mountains, trout, elk, coniferous forests, crystal clear water, sapphires, gold, etc. Eastern Montana, though larger, is less well known. It is home of prairies, warm water, bass, pike, antelope, sage grouse, dinosaurs, agates and much more. Most scheduled field trips will be in eastern Montana, but take time to see both Montanas. Fishing, hiking, bird & game watching, photography, rock collecting and more will be at their prime during the show season. Montana has many fish species on which there are no limits; in fact, in Yellowstone Lake, fishermen are encouraged to fish for lake trout and to KEEP ALL they catch. Not only is there no limit, but catching and keeping of lake trout is encouraged. In all cases, check current regulations prior to any type of outing.

Montana has several national parks & monuments and an extensive system of state parks; all worth a visit. There are at least half a dozen within a stone's throw of Billings.

Continued on page 6

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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Bryan Schroeder, Editor
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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

May 20, 2009

E-MAIL: nfmsnews@gmail.com

NFMS WEBSITE
www.amfed.org/nfms

NORTHWEST FEDERATION EXEC. OFFICERS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT: Paul Heesacker, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net
1st VICE PRESIDENT: Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 99509 Brandon Dr., Kennewick, WA 99336, (509) 628-0170, ecataldo@badams.com
2nd Vice President: Fritz Mack, 10619 Holly Dr., Everett, WA 98204, 425.513.0115, rockngem_mack@netzero.net
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Joan Day, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 509 Highland Blvd., Brigham City, UT. 84302 (435) 723-3830, joanday@sisna.com
TREASURER: Lyle Vogelwohl, 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 Posthuma, Eureka Rock & Gem Club, 5760 SW Riley Ln, Mountin Home, ID 83647, 208.794.0976, frankposthuma3@clearwire.net
CIRCULATION: Tom Burchard, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, 801.479.4286, Roxhund@aol.com
CREDENTIALS: Beth Heesacker, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net

CUSTODIAN: Fritz Mack, 2nd Vice President (see above)
DIRECTORY: Audrey Vogelwohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, nfmsdirectory@comcast.net
EDUCATION: Jim & Libby Spencer, Clackamette Mineral & Gem Society, 660 Collins Crest, Gladstone, OR 97027, 503-650-5027, the_spencers@comcast.net
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)
EXHIBITS REGISTRAR: Dee Holland, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O.Box 23, Tenody, ID, 83468, (208) 756-2394, shirleyleeson@cox.net
FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Jon Spunaugle, 4841 Doctor Eldridge Dr., Washougal, WA 98671, 360.624.7604, jonspe@comcast.net
HISTORIAN: Shirley Leeson, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O. Box 23, Tenody, ID., 83468-0023, (619) 460-6128 or (208) 756-2394, shirleyleeson@cox.net

JUDGING DIRECTOR: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net
JUNIORS CHAIR: Gary Buhr, Everett Rock & Gem Club, 1242 State Ave., PMB 157,#1, Marysville, WA 98270-3672, (360) 659-7776 (work), (425) 356-7696 (cell), gemnut@hotmail.com; AK-Steve Jensen, ID-Barbara Nash, MT-open, OR-Janine Owens UT-Shaun Peck, WA-Marc Cimolino
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bryan Schroeder, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 153 Spring St., Richland, WA 99354, (509) 371-1572, nfmsnews@gmail.com
NFMS Club-at-Large: 1st Vice President (see above)
NOMINATING CHAIRMAN: Patty Amos, Mt. Hood Rock Club 15523 NE 215th Ave, Brush Prairie, WA 98606, (360) 892-3716, packrats2@msn.com. **Members:** TBD
OPERATIONS REVIEW: OPEN
PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL: Chuck Sonner, Southern WA. Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, chuckagate2@yahoo.com
PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: Andy Johnson, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, P.O.Box 3251, Pasco, WA 99302, (509)547-7625, washatonian@hotmail.com

SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN: Quita Perry, Southern Washington Mineral Society, P.O. Box 819, LaCenter, WA 98629, 360-263-3075, NFMSProgramLibrary@TDS.net
RESOLUTIONS: Betty Luke, Butte Mineral and Gem Club, P.O.Box 254, Harrison, MT 59735, (406) 685-3694, ramblers@3rivers.net
RULES & AWARDS CHAIR: Joe Slouber, Butte Gem & Mineral Club P.O. Box 427, Butte MT., 59703-0427, (406) 494-3034, RockHound@in-tch.com
SAFETY: Dale Geer, Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 34, Moxee, WA 98936, 509.248.6975, moxican1@q.com.
SCHOLARSHIP: Rose Alene McArthur, Hells Canyon Gem Club, 33427 Highway 212, Orofino, ID. 83544, (208) 476-3840, obmcarthur@cpintern.com
SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2009: Doug True, Billing Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils@yahoo.com
SHOW COORDINATION: Judi Allison, Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th #A, Hermiston OR. 97838 (541) 720-4950, jall@eotnet.net

STAMPS: Hermina Kolski, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 208 Riverview #2E, Great Falls, MT 59404, (406) 231-0620
SUPPLIES: Tim Hoff, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, 1016 Waukesha Ave, Butte, MT., 59701, 406-491-3587, ttinker9742@bigskyhds.com
WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (503)753-2401, jvancura@peak.org
WEBMASTER: Jack Eads, Kitsap Mineral & Gem Soc., 5169 E. Hillcrest Drive, Port Orchard, WA. 98366-8101, (360) 871-2445, jacke@wavecable.com
NFMS WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2009

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils@yahoo.com
NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Lamar Tigler (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, rocks1x1vi.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 BULLETIN-**Darlene Posthuma, **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-**Dale Geer, **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: Dr. Robert Carlson, ALAA President, 1585 Los Pueblos, Los Alamos, NM, 87544, 505.662.5534, drobertcarlson@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), write to: **AFMS Central Off., 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 Vogelwohl, 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 Joyce 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
May 20th

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BRYAN SCHROEDER
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
nfmsnews@gmail.com

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Paul Heesacker
NFMS President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One more meeting over and one more to go. It does seem like my year as President of the NFMS has flown by. We had a good meeting in Kennewick, WA. It was short and fairly uneventful. I hope all the delegates and directors report back to their respective clubs and review the resolutions that will be voted on at the big meeting in Billings, Montana. Thanks go to the officers and club representatives that were so helpful in making the meeting a good one.

I want to encourage all of you to try to come to the show in Billings. It promises to be one of the best! All our thanks to go Doug True and his crew for the planning and hard work that is going into this show.

There will be a moon rock, fossil skeletons and fossil preparation demonstrations, a yogo sapphire exhibit, more than 35 dealers and 30,000 ft. of vendors and exhibits. Not only all that, but there will be a full week of field trips afterward. The show is July 30-Aug 1st. See recent and current Northwest Newsletters for more information.

Please notice that the person to send the delegate and director's credentials names to is Beth Heesacker (Credential Chairwoman). **DO NOT SEND THE CREDENTIALS! JUST THE NAMES.** Bring the credentials to the annual meeting in Billings, MT. We still need clubs to host the 2010 and the 2011 NFMS meetings. I encourage you to talk this over with your clubs. Hosting the meeting brings in more people to your show and increases your revenue. It also allows you to meet the officers of the NFMS and really feel a part of the greater rockhounding community. On a more selfish note, we as the officers and representatives of our various clubs get to spend our money on your vendors' items and we really like to go on field trips to new areas if you have any planned. We need to know as soon as possible to give you and us time to work out the details. See you in Billings.



Fritz Mack
2nd Vice President

Editor's Note: Look for Fritz's story in a future edition



Evelyn Cataldo
1st Vice President

Spring Adventure

It was my good fortune to vacation in Costa Rica in March. Of course, in planning the vacation, the question was asked, "What kind of rocks are found in Costa Rica?" I couldn't answer that question, so checked with the internet. Much to my surprise, there is almost no information available (i.e., in English). We knew of the volcanic activity that has occurred over the ages in Costa Rica, so felt that there must be good rocks to be found. So, off we went.

Luck was with us. Our hotel in Santo Domingo featured a huge, beautiful display of Costa Rican rocks and minerals in its lobby! Out in the garden area, we discovered several wooden benches laden with agate and petrified wood.

And luck found us again. Early the second morning, as we were waiting outside for a tour bus, an elderly gentleman noticed our son looking at the displays and he asked if we were interested in rocks. His name was Jose Figuer Troyo, and he had personally collected the many rocks that were on display! Jose gave me a lovely Costa Rican quartz crystal that he had found.

Petrified wood is found in Costa Rica; although we did not find it to be of the quality of our Northwest woods. It was blackened by the volcanic activity and we could not see any evidence of growth rings. Approximately 150 million years ago, a forest was buried in place along the Rio Puerto Viejo. Wood, leaves, fruits, seeds and pollen have been found in this area. Over the years Costa Rican mines have yielded gold, silver and copper. There are finds of quartz crystals, amethyst, citrine, azurite, calcite and nephrite jade. Shell and marine fossils are found along the coastal areas. Jose showed us some wonderful pyrite samples.

We asked Jose if he knew of a rock shop that we could visit. He was unaware of a rock shop in Costa Rica. The only rocks that we found for sale were at the San Jose airport and they were tumbled stones from the U.S. That makes my quartz crystal even more special!

Have a wonderful spring. Enjoy the sunshine and warm weather.

P.S. I had an e-mail from Doug True advising that the Ye Old Timers Club will be selling both sizes of rockhound stickers and cloth patches at the NFMS/AFMS show in Billings.



Darlene Doodles
Bulletin Aids Chair

First of all I want to thank all my judges: Betty Meyer, Bonita Spencer, Carolyn Faux, Chuck McGuire, Diane Obermeyer, Jean Elmer, Joan Harkin, Marti Sondgeroth, Mary Klopfenstein and Steve Nelson. All of you did an excellent job.

Congratulations to each and every editor of the bulletins and the authors of articles, features and poems. Keep up the good work. You are appreciated.

Now, after around 10 years, I am stepping down as the NFMS Bulletins Aids Chair. I have enjoyed doing this, but feel it is time to hand the reins over to someone else. Your NEW NFMS Bulletin Aids Chair is:

Darlene Posthuma, Eureka Rock & Gem Club
5760 SW Riley Ln
Moutain Home, ID 83647
208.794.0976
frankposthuma3@clearwire.net

NEWS ALERT

The following NFMS Committees Chairpersons have changed or have had an e-mail address change.

BULLETIN AIDS: Darlene Posthuma, Eureka Rock & Gem Club, 5760 SW Riley Ln, Moutain Home, ID 83647, 208.794.0976, frankposthuma3@clearwire.net

CREDENTIALS: Beth Heesacker, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: Andy Johnson, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 3251, Pasco, WA 99302, (509)547-7625 washatonian@hotmail.com

SAFETY: Dale Geer, Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 34, Moxee, WA 98936, 509.248.6975, moxican1@q.com

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

E-mail address change only:
WEBMASTER: Jack Eads, Kitsap Mineral & Gem Soc., 5169 E. Hillcrest Drive, Port Orchard, WA. 98366-8101, (360) 871-2445, jacke@wavecable.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bryan Schroeder, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 153 Spring St., Richland, WA 99354, (509) 371-1572, nfmsnews@gmail.com

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vi Jones

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Chair for NFMS

The AFMS has asked us to keep our nominations to about FIFTY (50) words. (We used to get about 100 words). So please keep things short. Send to me via e-mail at rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net or mail to Vi Jones, P. O. Box 2841, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-7841 or call (360) 424-8340 for info. Thanks!

The Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club of Clackamette, Oregon honors **DR. DEAN ARRASMITH** as their 2009 Club Rockhound of the Year. Dr. Dean Arrasmith and his wife Betty joined our club in 2007. In the two short years before his sudden passing in January he was extremely busy. He represented our club to the NFMS as Federation Director, became the NFMS Safety Chair, helped win the 'Bronze' AFMS All American Award for our club and was enthusiastically involved in all aspects of our hobby. From field trips, rock polishing, sphere making and club business--his knowledge, expertise and common sense was a gift which he generously gave to our club and individual members. The Club will miss his presence as well as his contributions and enthusiasm for the hobby. Submitted by Jim Spencer, Federation Director.

Billings Gem & Mineral Club named **DALE & HELEN FRYER** as their 2008 Rockhound(s) of the Year. Dale is the only living Charter Member of the Billings Club. Dale is known as the "Bola King" in their club and volunteered to make bolas for the upcoming 2009 AFMS/NFMS show for all special events. They are always willing to help where needed and as a couple have probably put in more hours than any other couple in the history of our club. Submitted by Doug True, Federation Director.

West Seattle Rock Club has named **ELLA COX** as their 2008 Rockhound of the year. Since 1968 Ella has served as Bulletin Editor and served in many committee chairs, also serving as NFMS Bulletin Aids Chair and Judge. Her displays have won popular acclaim and People's Choice Awards. Ella has provided a source of creative inspiration and fun being a rockhound. Submitted by the Executive Board of the West Seattle Rock Club.

The Rock Rollers of Spokane, Washington, have great pleasure in recognizing **LEON AGEE** as their 2008 Rockhound of the Year. Leon has given over twenty-five years of service to this club including Club President, Show Chairman, Show Judge and Lapidary Judge. The American Golden Topaz on display in the Smithsonian Museum was cut by Leon. This topaz weighs 10.1 pounds and has 172 facets. Submitted by Vic Cooper, Federation Director

Note. The American Golden Topaz is truly an impressive feat and Leon has an amazing slide presentation on the cutting of this gem. The topaz has been in various rockhound shows and everyone should have the opportunity to view this stone and appreciate his work. Way to go! Thanks, Leon, for sharing your talents all these years. Vi Jones

The Rock Rollers of Spokane, Washington have great pleasure in recognizing **JIM COTANT** as their 2009 Rockhound of the Year. Jim has given over thirty years of service to this club including Federation Director, President, Show Chair and other elected positions. He teaches lapidary at the club twice a week and demonstrates lapidary at local schools. Submitted by Vic Cooper, Federation Director

The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club of Colville, WA nominates **REX BARRANS** as our 2009 Rockhound of the Year. Rex has served as field trip leader for ten years. He schedules the trips and secures permission, calls or e-mails everyone and includes several other clubs. There are 50 - 60 families on the list. Rex led seventeen field trips last year. He is a great resource for mineral identification. Rex built the "wheel of fortune" and "ring toss" we use at the annual show. He tumbles rocks and fills 500 grab bags. He has donated numerous specimens for our monthly silent auctions to raise money for scholarships. Submitted by G. Pitman, Club Secretary

Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah nominate **RAY and LOLLY NYCE** as their 2009 Rockhounds of the Year. In 1973 Ray and Lolly joined the Golden Spike club after his job moved to Hill Air Force Base. They also joined Min. Soc. of Utah, Timpanogos, Cache Valley, Wasatch and Utah Federation. They were officers in some of the clubs and they have led many field trips over the years. At shows Ray demonstrated sphere making. In 1977 Ray won first place in sphere making at the AFMS Show in Salt Lake City. Lolly demonstrated painting on rocks and slabs. She has had articles written about her in several magazines-- Rock & Gem, Lapidary Journal and Gem & Minerals. Ray and Lolly gathered tons of rocks over the years, donating them for rock bags for the kids, silent auction, wheel of fortune and door prizes. After 35 years of membership, much more could be said about Ray and Lolly. We want them to know that it has been a real pleasure to know them and thank them for everything, including the hours of Rock gathering. Submitted by Edna Whitehorn



PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY

Andy Johnson

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2009

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year 120,000 volunteers worked in over 1,800 locations and in every state. Now, 8 federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands.

National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that

worked from 1933-42 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage and resources. This annual event educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resources issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands; It builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community based upon mutual interests in the improvement, enhancement and restoration of America's public lands while at the same time improving our public lands for multiple-use outdoor recreation with volunteers assisting land managers in hands-on work. It certainly is not too early for your club to begin to think how they can participate and make it a rockN good time.

In Washington - State recreation rules have been updated— effective March 14, 2009

The Board of Natural Resources formally adopted revisions to rules guiding recreation and behavior on DNR-managed lands February 3, 2009. The rules go into effect March 14, 2009. In addition to revising recreation rules, DNR initiated HB2472, a bill unanimously passed by the Washington State Legislature, creating the Sustainable Recreation Work Group to make recommendations on a vision for the future of recreation on DNR-managed lands. Further information can be obtained at their website. <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/>

In Montana - HB 190 has been signed by the GOVERNOR - APRIL 2009

(HOUSE BILL NO. 190
INTRODUCED BY K. VAN DYK, P. BECK, COHENOUR, ESSMANN, GALLUS, JENT, MACLAREN, O'HARA, POMNICHOWSKI, SHOCKLEY, STAHL, STEENSON, BRUEGGEMAN, BLEWETT, CAFERRO, FUREY, GILLAN) is AN ACT revising laws related to access to state waters from county roads and bridges; PROVIDING that a fence attached to or abutting a county road bridge IS NOT considered an encroachment under certain circumstances; PROVIDING for PUBLIC ACCESS to surface waters for recreational use from a right-of-way, and it's abutments; PROVIDING for PUBLIC PASSAGE to surface waters through county road and bridge rights-of-way while maintaining livestock control or property management; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, and PARKS to negotiate with affected landowners to provide methods to ensure public passage to surface waters for recreational purposes while maintaining livestock control or property management, providing for payment of the cost of any fence modification necessary to provide public passage; AMENDING SECTION 7-14-2134, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE

In IDAHO - A state mineral lease allows you to mine and remove minerals from state endowment land. Leases cover up to 640 acres on lands, or one river mile on navigable streams. To hold a mineral lease you must obtain a bond and pay an annual rental of \$1.00 per acre per year with a minimum of \$160.00 per year. There is also a \$25.00 application fee. Royalties must be paid to the state for any minerals removed. Leases on navigable streams require a prepaid royalty. Further information and application forms are available at the Idaho Department of Lands offices and on their web site.

www.idl.idaho.gov

Field Trips in Montana continued

by Doug True, AFMS/NFMS Show Chair

Last month we took you through five field trips scheduled after the AFMS/NFMS Convention and Show. We told you about a potluck and a swap after the Bear Canyon trip.

Trip #2, **Tuesday, August 4, 2009** Geological tour of the Pryor Mountains led by Dr. David Lopez. The trip will leave from the Holiday Inn Trade Center at 8 a.m. We will travel south to the town of Pryor, in the Crow Indian Reservation then travel west to Edgar then south to Bridger, east to Sage Creek area and into the Pryor Mountains. This trip will show and discuss the Geological structure, strata graphic and uplifting of the area. Besides being great geology this is also a beautiful drive. Bring your camera, lunch and join us. You should return to Billings around 5p.m.

Trip #3, **Tuesday August 4.** Tour of the Stillwater mines smelter, worlds largest Platinum, Palladium mine. We are still working on details as we might get a mine tour instead!! Further updates later on this trip.

We covered trips 1, 4, 5 and 6 last issue. Next up will be trip #7 Fossil hunt at Hysham, Montana, Saturday, August 8, 2009. You will be collecting in the Cretaceous Bear Paw Formation, looking for ammonites, scaphites, baculites, bivalves and snails and on occasions a bone or two will be found. The trip will leave from the Howrey Island Wildlife Viewing Area at 10 a.m. To reach this location exit off I-94 (exit 67) go north ½ mile, left on Cutacross Rd, go west 2.1 miles, turn left onto Old Highway 10, drive 3.9 miles, turn right at Wildlife Viewing Area, Howrey Island. This is the location where the potluck and swap will be after the fieldtrip.

Travel with History by Larry Field

For those who attend the Hysham area functions, western history abounds on the drive from Billings to Hysham. If attending the field trips, you can view as you travel. As you exit the east side of Billings, you will view the eastern extreme of the "Rimrocks." The east end of this cliff, to the north of Billings, includes Coulson's cemetery, now named "Boot Hill", the grave site of early trapper, guide, explorer and scout, Yellowstone Kelly, and the Black Otter Hill, named after the famous Crow Chief. The east end of the Rimrocks to the south feature Coulson, the most upstream seaport on the Mississippi River system (paddleboats), the site of Coulson and Sacrifice Cliff. As you drive the river valley east of Billings, you are driving through the "Serengeti of the West", where huge herds of grazing animals, bison, bighorn sheep, deer, elk and pronghorn made so much noise those early travelers couldn't sleep at night. Next, you will pass the site of "Huntley". This was the hunting ground of President T. Roosevelt. He would take huge pack trains from Medora, ND to his favorite hunting area. Finally, and most famous, you will see Pompey's Pillar to your north about 30 miles east of Billings. Your drive from Billings to Hysham will follow the same route taken by Captain William Clark almost exactly 203 years ago, on July 25 & 26 of 1806. Clark camped at Billings July 24, Pompey's July 25 and east of Hysham on July 26. On July 26 the Corps of Discovery was never out of sight of elk and spent much time waiting for the buffalo herds to cross the river before the Corps could continue downstream. The Indians of the time call this stream "Elk River"

Next month we will cover trip #8 to Portal Creek, south of Bozeman, Montana. Here you will be hunting Petrified wood and some nice agate formations. We will also cover some other collecting areas you might want to visit while you are in Montana.

**Schedule of Events - UPDATE
2009 AFMS/NFMS Show & Convention
Billings, Montana July 30-August 2, 2009**

Tuesday, 7/28/09

1 PM - Rules & Awards Meeting- Cottonwood Rm.

Wednesday, 7/29/09

8AM-4PM -AFMS Annual Meeting- Cottonwood Rm.

4PM-6PM -AFMS Scholarship Meeting-Cottonwood Rm.

Thursday, 7/30/09

10AM - Show opens: Ribbon cutting

1-1:30 PM - Billings & Montana: Slides, Q & A. Speaker: Larry G. Field - Cottonwood

2-3 PM - NASA and the Moon Rock, Speaker: William Heierman- Cottonwood

3:30-4:15 - Wyoming Jade/Edwards Black, Speaker: Lynn Edwards- Cottonwood

Friday, 7/31/09

10-10:30AM -Billings & Montana: Slides, Q & A. Speaker: Larry G. Field- Cottonwood

11-12AM - Corundum, Rubies & Sapphires, Speaker: William Heierman - Cottonwood

1-4 PM - Wood Identification & Geology Workshop- Cottonwood Rm. [Walt Wright, Fee \$20. Limited space (35)]

4 PM - NFMS Meeting-Registration- Ballroom (Missouri Rm.)

5 PM - NFMS Annual Meeting- Missouri Rm. (Ballroom)

7:30 PM - AFMS Cracker Barrel- Missouri Rm. (Ballroom)

Saturday, 8/01/09

Noon-1PM - AFMS/NFMS Past President & Committee Chair Luncheon - Bitterroot Rm.

11-12 AM - Geology of the Western States- Tom Thayer- Cottonwood Rm.

1PM - AFMS Faceted Stone Auction- Cottonwood Rm.

3-5 PM - American Land Access Association - Cottonwood Rm.

6-7PM - Social Hour / No host Bar- Missouri Rm.

7PM - AFMS/NFMS - Awards Banquet- Missouri Rm.

Sunday, 8/02/09

8-10AM - AFMS/NFMS All Editor's Breakfast- Bitterroot Rm.

10AM-Noon - All editors Symposium- Bitterroot Rm.

10 - 12 and 1-3 PM - Petrification of Wood, What are we looking at?

[4 Hour session by: Walt Wright, Paleo-Botanist, Fee \$25, Limit 35]

1 PM - NFMS Live Rock Auction, Convention Center

**WOOD IDENTIFICATION SEMINARS
BY WALT WRIGHT**

Walt Wright, Botanist, Ecologist and Paleobotanist has given talks on petrified wood for over 30 years. He has taught seminars and classes on wood identification with discussions of ancient habitats and paleogeography since 1992. Walt has identified specimens in Museums & University collections from all over the world.

Don't miss the chance to attend one of the two seminars Walt will be presenting during the show. Signup now as there will be limited space (35 per session).

Both of the programs will be different and will cover various aspects of wood identification, how does petrification take place, geology and the earth.

Friday July 31, (3 hour class) Cost \$20.00, Sunday August 2, (4 hour class) Cost \$25.00

Advanced registration form

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ for class conformation

Send Registration and payment to:

2009 Show Committee
Debbie MacDowall
6125 Linck Circle
Shephard, Montana 59079

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

"News Flash May 2009"



**Juniors
Chairman
Gary Buhr**

Hope your summer vacation plans are already made to include the Big "Rock Show of the Year" this July 30, 31 and August 1, 2 in Billings, Montana, which will be the 51st NFMS Annual Show and Convention that is in concert with the 2009 AFMS Annual Show, same time, same place. Yep, this will be our world-class main event of the year! Details are in your NFMS Northwest Newsletter and on your NFMS Website anytime the power is on to connect you with the internet.

So much will be happening for your enjoyment at the Big Show. Especially the 2009 NFMS KIDS CORNER where we spin the four foot Wheel of Fortune for neat prizes, Make Critters or Jewelry that fits your imagination, Gem Panning in dry quartz sand, invest Raffle Tickets for high quality prizes and play the FREE game of Mineral Bingo. Junior Rockhounds will be needed to staff the KIDS CORNER, so if you are near Billings, MT, please volunteer to PARTICIPATE and contribute to our success this year! Besides helpful Juniors, we desperately need major pounds of polished stones like agates, jaspers, petrified wood, mineral specimens or single crystals, small polished stones (garnets, sunstones, etc.) or faceted gems for the Sand Panning, and all kinds of sea shells or Critter Making supplies. From Show Dealers where you can shop, Show Chairman Doug True has secured 20 top quality prizes to donate into the 2009 Junior Achievement Trust Raffle that we will set up and sell tickets to at the KIDS CORNER. Any donations you can afford will be wholeheartedly appreciated by the Junior Rockhound customers that keep the KIDS CORNER pulsating throughout the Big Show. It is a great way for Juniors to learn about commerce with their peers as well as the educational benefits of identifying and pondering the rocks, gems and minerals as they move through the KIDS CORNER. Last year we "sold out" so new donations are critical and needed to fuel the fire of keeping Juniors interested in our favorite hobby--Rockhounding!

Another way Junior Rockhounds can add to their excitement and education at the Big Show is to enter a competition display of your favorite quality treasures. These displays require accurate planning, full show attendance and help from your "resource center" that would include the Rules or Judging Committee, Juniors Advisors, Parents, Federation Directors or a trusted colleague that has experience in detailing competition type displays. You need to keep asking questions until you locate a resource with correct, quality answers about understanding and interpretation of the AFMS Uniform Rules for competition. If you determine competition displays do not ring your chimes or are too complicated, then be sure to consider placing a non-competition display in this Show. Your display will be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who views your treasures that are arranged with your personal touch as well as your perspectives of sharing the unbounded beauty of Nature.

What else? 30,000 square feet of cool fun with Dinosaurs (T-Rex!), Fossils, Space Rocks, Master Carvings of Bob Sahli, Gold Nuggets, Corundum Crystals, Rock Dinner Setting, Seminars, Special Exhibits, Field Trips, Fluorescent Displays, Auctions, Authors, 48 juried Dealers, Raffles, the KIDS CORNER, new Friends and a fantastic talent pool of experts who enjoy educating Junior Rockhounds about the earth sciences and where to find treasures. Is there more? Absolutely, but you will have to attend the 2009 AFMS/NFMS Annual Show and Convention in Billings, Montana, July 30,31 and August 1, 2 so you can enjoy the rest of the story.

Juniors Advisor Sandee Hess is leading our newest Juniors group in the Mt Baker Rock and Mineral Club, Bellingham, WA. How exciting to see a big turnout at their Annual Show in April. Thirty parents signed their Juniors up to participate in the new Juniors Rock Club, expect more on their progress and success.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Bryan,

My name is Craig Heath and I am a member of the Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society in Sequim, WA. Hopefully, this will get to you by the 15th so as to be used in your next edition of the Northwest Newsletter. If not, then perhaps for the June Edition.

This letter concerns the deposit of Thulite, the pink variety of zoisite, located along Tunk Creek, north of Omak, WA. Like a number of rockhounds, I had heard the report that this deposit was unavailable to rockhounds due to the unauthorized blasting and removal of the mineral by irresponsible collectors. However, recently I came into contact with Jim Lawson, president of the Chief Joseph Rock Club. Earlier this month (April) I met with Jim in Omak and was greatly encouraged that he has an exclusive arrangement with the property owner of the deposit which allows him to access the property, lead field trips, blast and excavate and remove and sell the minerals from this deposit. The landowner gets a percentage of the proceeds (he used to get nothing!) and can keep others out, as access to the property is under lock and key.

Jim is wanting to promote both field trips to the site as well as the material collected from it. He showed me several piles of material, displaying the zoisite in a wide array of colors including the bubble gum-to bright pink thulite, white, semi-translucent, black, peach, and several shades of green. Jim was excited about an avocado-green color he had recently found, and said in the month of so he would be unearthing more of it.

Jim's daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Andy Lampe, operate a business also in Omak called Lande, LLC. They feature, among other items, a variety of one-of-a-kind products created from the Thulite and

other Zoisites including clocks, address signs and even headstones. Such large slabs of sanded and engraved Thulite are impressive indeed!

Those of you in charge of planning field trips for your rock club for the year might want to contact Jim at 509.826.4940 to arrange for a visit to this unique deposit in north central Washington, or to purchase rough material or gifts. Good quality rough can be purchased for as low as \$1.00 per pound.

p.s. I've enclosed more information on Lande, LLC plus my own business card. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Signed Craig Heath

**Visit Montana While at the
AFMS/NFMS Show
(Continued from page 1)**



Western history follows the Yellowstone River: The first permanent Caucasian settlement, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, Coulson, the original "Billings", at the navigational upstream limit of the Yellowstone, the most upstream seaport on the Mississippi system, Sacrifice Cliff, Black Otter, Battle of the Little Bighorn, and much more. Nearly any town of 500 or more individuals has a quality museum, over 100 state-wide.

If you plan to drive to the AFMS show in Billings, check the tourism web site first. Plan different routes to the show and home from the show. Each highway has much to offer. The tourism site can advise what exists for your visiting pleasure. Bring collecting tools and swap material. Collectibles are still very abundant in Montana. A day on the Yellowstone should easily yield a half dozen agates and a good day on the river could yield fifty pounds of agate, wood, jasper, fossils and other collectibles.

Have you ever seen our national bird, the bald eagle, in its natural habitat? The Yellowstone is a nesting area and a winter fishing water for many; a full day's river float in the spring may result in 30-50 sightings. Plan now to visit the American Federation Show and Convention and make the most of your time while in Billings and Montana. Check an almanac and our state's tourism web site for items that would interest you prior to making the trip. If you can spend quality time, purchase copies of guide books such as rock collecting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, etc. specific to Montana. Plan to make the most of your time because you will not have enough time to see it all. Enjoy your visit, make memories and take photos but please leave our state as pristine as you found it!



Collector Poster

We will sell these at the show for \$5.00 ea. Those who would like to order one snail mail \$9.00 (includes postage and mailing tube). These posters are about the same size as a page of this newsletter, maybe a little larger.

By Doug True
2009 Show Chairman

The following article was submitted by Vi Jones and comes from "The Outdoor Press", Thursday, February 3, 1994 edition.

They'll Put The Bite On You Unless . . .

By JOHN R. CLARKE
Shooting & Firearms Editor
Clarke's 13 Lucky Rules To Keep From Getting Bitten By A Snake:

1. Always wear snake boots, snake leggings, or at the very least boots that come up mid-calf when in "snake country", which can be just about any area outside of your front or back yard.
2. Always walk very carefully and keep your eyes focused over a fan shaped area about 10 to 15 feet in front of you. Most snakes are usually visible at this distance.
3. Never step over a log or fallen tree - step up on it if you must cross it and check the other side before stepping down.
4. Never walk in a deep rut or ditch because snakes frequent the sides of these watching for small animals which often use them as a means of travel.
5. Never climb a hill directly but do so at an angle so you can observe the area in front and to either side of your direction of travel.
6. Never put your hand, arm, or leg in a place you cannot observe beforehand, especially near holes, crevices, or piles of brush.
7. Always know the species of poisonous snakes found in your area and be very observant for them by watching for their color pattern and body shape as you walk. Remember, most non-poisonous snakes are usually round like a piece of hose and most poisonous snakes are usually flatter and the shape of their head is more like an Indian arrowhead.
8. Always watch for snakes depending upon the weather and time of year. If it is cool, look for snakes in warm spots directly in the sun like at the base of a tree or even on top of a tree stump. If it is hot, look for them in cool places near water, around shady areas, or under something. Snakes are cold blooded and dependant upon the air to regu-

late their body temperatures. Snakes often travel in pairs especially during the fall mating season, so watch for a mate laying somewhere, nearby.

9. Always be very observant around junk cars, pieces of old farm equipment, water holes, swampy areas, rock piles, sandy area with lots of gopher holes, and abandoned buildings. Snakes seem to love these places over all others.

10. Never travel under overhanging branches in a small boat or canoe because many snakes use these for resting and sunning places, especially water moccasins.

11. Always carry a firearm with you when in "snake country", preferably a revolver loaded with "rat shot". You might not ever have to use it but one has saved my skin more than once.

12. Never pick up a poisonous snake you have killed because they can still bite if the head is intact, even after they are clinically dead.

13. If you accidentally come upon or step on a poisonous snake which is within striking distance, usually 2 to 3 feet, you have two options - stand perfectly still or back off. The one you use is usually dependant upon the snake and how far you are from it. If the snake is coiled and its head pulled back - you better be moving. If it just lays there or rattles and the head is not drawn back - freeze for a moment and if it stops rattling - move slowly away. Just remember, it is as scared as you are, probably more so, and they usually bite "defensively" as opposed to "offensively".

WOLF CREEK FAIR

Rainbows are biting fairly well on Wolf Creek reservoir in NE Oregon.

BROWNLEE FAIR

Rainbow fishing is fair on Brownlee reservoir in NE Ore.

The Credential forms below are reprinted from the April Newsletter because the Credential Chairperson was incorrectly identified. Please note the change below:

The NFMS Credentials Committee Chairperson, Beth Heesacker, must receive the names (only) of Club Directors and Delegates as soon as possible (ASAP) for planning purposes of the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on August 31, 2009, Registration 4 pm, Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings, Montana. The Credential forms below must be completed by the designated director/delegate, signed by the Club President and Secretary, and BROUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR AND DELEGATE to the annual meeting. Or, this should be done by the alternate delegate(s), if necessary. Send the name(s) (not the credentials forms) to

Beth Heesacker
4145 NW Heesacker Rd.
Forest Grove, OR 97116
Phone: 503-357-8804 or email to heesacker@coho.net

NFMS DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Director _____
 Name of Club _____
 City, State _____
 Club President Signature _____
 Club Secretary Signature _____
 Date _____

Must be completed and signed to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

NFMS DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Delegate _____
 Name of Club _____
 City, State _____
 Club President Signature _____
 Club Secretary Signature _____
 Date _____

Must be completed and signed to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

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2009 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
May 9 - 10	Bozeman (MT) Gem and Mineral Club	Gallatin Co. Fairgrounds	Dan Carter 406-586 4552 or Doug Ellis 406-266-4452 opalcrusher@hotmail.com
Sat 10 - 6	50th Annual Show	Black & Tamarack [exit 1-90 @ N. 7th St.] Bozeman	Mike Filarski
May 16-17	Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show	Hermiston Conference Ctr., Highway 395 South Hermiston, OR	stonemorlin1@netscape.net (541) 922-5091
Sat 10 - 6	Bitterroot Gem/Mineral Society hosts Montana State Rock & Gem Show	Bitterroot River Inn Conf. Ctr., 139 Bitterroot Plaza Drive, Hamilton, Montana	Steve Vieth 406-363-2632 STEVEVIETH@gmail.com
May 30-31	West Seattle Rock Club 43rd Annual Show	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA	Ron Nims Ron.Nims@Attachmate.com
Sun 10-5	President's Gemboree		
June 5-7	Puyallup Valley Rock and Mineral Club Annual Show	Fruitland Grange 112th Street & 86th Ave East Puyallup, Washington	Brett Lawrence bandslawrence@comcast.net
Fri 12-6			
Sat 10-6			
Sun 11-4			
June 6-7	North Idaho Rock Club Annual Rock & Gem Show, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Kootenai Co. Fair, Event Ctr., Kathleen & Gov't Way, one block E. of Hwy 95	Bev Bockman 208-773-5384 bockbb@aol.com
June 13-14	Butte Mineral and Gem Club Show	Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Ave Butte, Montana	Pete Knudsen 406-496-4395
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
June 19-21	Oregon Coast Agate Annual Gem & Mineral Show, "We're Rockin' the Coast in Newport"	Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 633 NE 3rd St Newport, OR	Guy DiTorrice 541-961-1762 guy@orcoast.com
Fri 10-6			
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-4			
June 26-28	Columbia Willamette Faceters Guild Faceting Conference	Monarch Hotel 12566 SE 93rd Avenue Clackamas, OR	Terry Olsson or Haden Olson (503) 631-3132 mangriff@ccwebster.net
Fri 5-9 pm			
Sat 9-5			
Sun 9-5			
July 17-19	Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Show, Treasures from the Earth	Reedsport Community Bldg 415 Winchester Avenue Reedsport, OR	Bill Hendrickson (541) 271-6816 bamoonman7@msn.com
Fri 10-6			
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-4			
July 25-26	Wa Agate & Mineral Soc. (WAMS)/& Tenino Rock Cruisers, 15 th	Parkside Elementary School Stage St. South, I-5 exit 88, Tenino, WA	Daniel Deboer keylock1@live.com
Sat 9-6			
Sun 9-5			
July 30-Aug 2	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
Thur 10-5			
Fri 10-5			
Sat 10-5			
Sun: 10-5			
July 31-Aug 2	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society, Annual Rock and Gem Show	North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway North Bend, OR	Rocky Pribble 541-572-8301 Greg Solarz 541-756-3957
Fri 9-5			
Sat 9-5			
Sun: 10-4			
Aug 15-16	The Nisqually Valley Rockhound Society's Annual Show	Yelm Middle School Hwy 510 Yelm, WA	Mike Smith 360-458-8747 msmith2012@ywave.com
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 12-13	Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society Show	Walla Walla County Fair, 9th St. and Orchard, Comm. Center, Walla Walla, WA	Warren Rood 509-522-2330 wrood@coffeeycomm.com
Sat 10-5			

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Sep 18-20	29th Annual Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, "A Rockhound Revival"	Fair Complex (across from Hillsboro Airport) Hillsboro, Oregon	Russ Snook 503-648-3989, dmsnook28@yahoo.com
Fri 10-6			
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 26-27	Hellgate Mineral Society 15th Show, GOLD (50 Yrs) Rockhounding	Ruby's Reserve Street Inn, 4825 N. Reserve Missoula Montana	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday LN, Missoula Montana 59081 (406) 543-3667
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 2-4	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society "Earth's Treasures"	Clallam County Boys/Girls Club 400 West Fir Street Sequim, WA 98382	Foster Thompson, 360-670-1405 or 360-681-7981 Sonia Zachman 360-452-8588
Fri 10-5			
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-3			
Oct 10-11	Marysville Rock & Gem Club Annual 'Rocktoberfest' show	Totem Middle School 7th Street & State Ave Marysville, WA 98270	Bill Moser, 425-238-8222 bill-ji@comcast.net or Rocky McCall 360-629-2515
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 17-18	43rd Annual Hells Canyon Gem Club Show "Hidden Treasure"	Nez Perce County Fair Building 1229 Burrell Ave Lewiston, Idaho	Rick Westerholm (208) 746-2101 rkweste@cableone.net
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 24-25	Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, "Nature's Beauty in Stone 2009"	Clackamas Co Fairground Pavilion Bldg, 694 NE 4th Ave., Canby, Oregon	Rick Mauw 503-691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Sat 9-6			
Sun 10-5			
Nov 13-15	South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral 5th annual show (Boeing Employees Mineral Society)	Puyallup Fairgrounds Exposition Hall, Meridian Street S and 9TH Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371	Lyle & Char Jorgensen 425-483-0557 mechanix@comcast.net
Fri 10-5			
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-4			

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