



# NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 47 NO. 9

JULY 2007

## Speakers Announced for NFMS Show

The 67<sup>th</sup> NFMS Show will have five talks on minerals, five or more talks on gemstones and one talk on gold placer deposits in Montana. If you want to find fantastic crystals, a nice gold specimen or some of Montana's sapphires, be sure to come and listen to the talks.

The exact time and day of each talk hasn't been finalized, but most of the talks will be given twice during the show. Mr. Robin McCullough of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology will lead off the talks on Friday with a presentation on gold placer deposits in Montana. Robin is the author of the best selling book on placer mining - *Applied gold placer exploration and evaluation techniques, 2003*. Robin will be followed by Chris Cooney. Chris owns the Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine and will be speaking on the history of Gem Mountain. Chris is also bringing a fantastic display of sapphires from Gem Mountain.

Other speakers and their subjects are listed below.

Chris Van Lear – Pegmatites of the Boulder Batholith. Chris is an expert on pegmatites of Montana and Idaho. He will also have a display of minerals from the Boulder batholith at the show.

Chris Tucker of Billings will give a talk titled "Minerals of the Elkhorn Mine – Montana". Chris recently published an article "*Wulfenite in Montana*" in *Rocks and Minerals*. He is now researching the minerals from the Elkhorn Mine. In the 1890's the Elkhorn produced some fantastic crystallized silver specimens (not wires), great cerrusite specimens and hemimorphite. Come and hear what Chris is finding. Chris will have two exhibits at the show.

Pete Knudsen will present a talk titled "Japan Law Quartz Twins and other minerals of the PC Mine, Basin, Montana". Dr. Knudsen mined the PC Mine from 1988 to its exhaustion in 2005. The PC is a world class mineral deposit. Specimens from the PC Mine will be on exhibit at the show.

Charles Borland a retired science teacher and quartz lover will give a talk on Crystal Park. Crystal Park was one of the featured localities in the June NFMS newsletter. There will be many Crystal Park specimens on display at the show.

Now to the gemstone talks. Dr. Richard Berg of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology will give a talk on Montana Sapphires. His newest publication, "Sapphires in the Butte-Deer Lodge Area, Montana" is hot off the press and will be available at the show.

Cheryl Bennet of Bozeman will give a talk on corundum from Alder Gulch. Alder Gulch produced millions in gold and a lot of interesting history. Cheryl will discuss the corundum that is found there.

Will Heierman of New York will give a talk on "Burmese Painite - The Mineral and the Story". Dr. Heierman is an enthusiastic collector of corundum and sapphire. Painite is a rare mineral that occasionally occurs with corundum. Dr. Heierman will have a display of corundum and painite at the show.

## DEADLINES NFMS Show

**ADVANCED REGISTRATIONS** are due July 15<sup>th</sup> to Betty Luke, P.O. Box 254, Harrison, MT 59735

**COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT APPL.** are due July 15<sup>th</sup> to Joe Slouber, P.O. Box 427, Butte MT 59703

**NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT APPL.** are due July 15<sup>th</sup> to Bill Luke, P.O. Box 254, Harrison, MT 59735

Forms for the above are in the February or June issue of this newsletter, can be downloaded from the website, or from the show chairman – Pete Knudsen, 406.723.8524

## Rockhound Retreat

**Registrations** are due July 15<sup>th</sup> to Lamar Tilgner. See the last page of this newsletter for registration form and more information. Also, see the February issue of this newsletter or the NFMS Website for a complete write-up about the Retreat.

## Northwest Newsletter

The newsletter will not be published in August. Please submit articles for the September issue to the Editor by August 12, 2007, including the winners of the competitive events. You can give these results to the Editor at the Annual Show in Butte.

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### NFMS WEBSITE

[www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)

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The addresses on this page (97 total) are those that can not be mailed using the automated bulk mailing program that we use to mail the Northwest Newsletter. There is something incorrect about one or more of the following: address, city, state, or zip code. Please note that the Post Office does not recognize a person's name. It is quite possible that a 1<sup>st</sup> class letter will be delivered to many of these addresses, but the Northwest Newsletter is mailed using a computer program and there is no human (intelligent being) to look at the address to determine if it is deliverable, at least at a local level. The Circulation Chair, Bev Schroeder, started out with over 300 addresses that were undeliverable. After using Super Pages and the Zip Codes on the Internet, that list was whittled down to the 97 addresses on this page which were not resolvable by this method. Believe me, going through a list of over 300 by this process is a lot of work.

I published a similar list last year, but the names were random. The list on this page is organized by Club for your convenience. In the first column there is a four digit code. The first letter represents the state (i.e., O for Oregon). The next three digits represent the city or town for the club. For Seattle, Portland, Bellevue, and Bellingham, there is a slight modification that you should be able to figure out. Once you find the correction, send it to the Circulation Chair, Bev Schroeder, and the mailing list will be updated. In some cases, it may be necessary to contact the local Post Office for the correct address.

## Northwest Fossil of the Month

By Betty McLin Hare, Idaho Gem Club Member & Webmaster, Idaho Museum of Mining & Geology VP, Betty can be contacted thru [bmhare@hotmail.com](mailto:bmhare@hotmail.com)

### July - Oregon's State Fossil *Metasequoia*

*Metasequoia* is a remarkable species! The tree's fossils are found in much of the West including Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, & Montana! Many examples are found in Yellowstone's Petrified Forest in Wyoming as eighteen separate forests thrived there and were burned out. They are also found in Chile, southern Australia, and Antarctica!

*Metasequoia* existed in Greenland, Canada, & England and most of North America from the Cretaceous 70 million years ago and became extinct five million years ago. They were discovered still living in China in 1946 and are now marketed in the U.S. through nurseries as the "Dawn Redwood". It was adopted as "Oregon's State Fossil" in 2005.

In Oregon, you can dig for *Metasequoia* fossils at the OPLI-managed dig site behind Fossil High School in Fossil, Oregon. In Idaho, *Metasequoia* fossils are found in Cretaceous strata along with dinosaurs near the Wyoming border with Idaho, in the Miocene Clarkia formation in northern Idaho around Moscow, and along the Snake River Plain. In Washington, beautiful specimens are found in the Republic flora near Republic. Specimens can be seen at the Burke Museum of Natural History at the University of Washington in Seattle.

In Montana, very perfect examples are found in the Hell Creek and Muddy Creek formations. In Utah, *Metasequoia* is associated with the Green River shale. As you can see, *Metasequoia* forests covered a large section of the United States. I can't even begin to tell you the other places that we can find *Metasequoia* fossils. If you get some time, check it out on the Internet!

### Passing of the Guard "Follow the leader"

By Keene Clay, Mt Hood Rock Club.

All too often the memorial display for a club is brought out, a short eulogy is given and a moment of silence follows. This is a ritual that is probably common in every club. Another member is lost. Another friend is lost. Another rock hound cannot collect, or help with programs or share in the fun of our shows.

Something more is lost. The pioneers of our rock hounding hobby are slipping away. The leaders that we have relied on to lead our clubs and our Federation are slowly disappearing. What they know and what they have accomplished is fading from our collective memory.

We live in a very busy world. The options that we have for entertainment are too many to list. The world we live in is demanding and very different than the world of our rock hounding pioneers. There are some very big shoes to fill and without volunteers to fill them we will see our shows, our clubs, our regional organizations and our hobby slowly fade away.

I remember joining the club and thinking that I could stay neutral and enjoy the collecting and help a little at the shows. I soon realized that there was too much to do to stay neutral. I got involved and my enjoyment increased with my commitment and knowledge. I hope to encourage each of you to increase your involvement.

Clubs need officers, committee members, trip leaders and show volunteers. The Federation needs the past officers of the clubs to fill the void and fill

vacancies and offer leadership. The editor needs knowledgeable people to share in their knowledge. The clubs need to be open with collecting areas, and we each need to take others to places that others have taken us. In a hobby that centers on rocks we need to make sure we are not dead weight.

It is time to step up and "follow the leaders". We need to find ways to support the club while learning what it takes to be effective at the next level of leadership. Ask yourself what you can do and then commit to do it the best you can. You and the hobby will be richer for it.

### FRA Poster Contest 2007

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Chair, [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com)

David Rich contacted me recently with a very neat idea! His club, the Summit Lapidary Club from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies, is sponsoring a poster contest, which they're opening up to any and all kids who belong to the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program nationwide, regardless of which regional federation they're in. In addition, they welcome entries from any school teachers who would like to do this as a class project. So if you're utilizing the FRA program within your club, I encourage you to work with your kids to design posters and send them to David. Here are the details:

**THEME: "Gemstones of the World."** Prepare a poster illustrating one or more gemstones or minerals that interest you, from anywhere in the world.

**ELIGIBILITY:** 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place, with the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner also receiving a prize.

#### CONTEST RULES:

- All entries must be presented on paper 12 inches by 18 inches.
- Include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of Entry.
- Artwork can be in pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artists' medium.
- No three-dimensional posters accepted.
- The title may be on the front or the back.
- List names of the gems and/or minerals and why you chose them.
- All entries become the property of the Summit Lapidary Club.

#### SCALE OF POINTS:

Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Gems and/or Minerals & Reason Chosen—20 points.

#### DEADLINES & CONTACTS:

- Entries must be postmarked by October 1, 2007.
- Send to: David Rich, 1166 Broadview Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278
- Winners will be displayed and prizes and ribbons awarded at the Fall Gemboree on October 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- If you have any questions, please call the contest chairman, David Rich at (330) 630-9625, or [DRICH@lapidaryclubofohio.org](mailto:DRICH@lapidaryclubofohio.org)

I encourage every club with juniors who have been taking part in the AFMS/FRA program to jump in and send in entries from their pebble pups and junior members. It sounds like David and the good folks of the Summit Lapidary Club have come up with a great way for kids to express their interest in their favorite gems and minerals while—as always—having fun!

## Robert & Beverly Bockman Rockhounds of the Year 2007 North Idaho Mineral Club

Robert and Beverly Bockman are nominated as rockhounds of the year for the North Idaho Mineral Club. They bring different skills and abilities contributing to successes of our club.

Bob has served as President and in other club offices; he has served as field trip chairman; he provides many pounds of tumbled rock for use during our annual show and he is able and willing to help members repair and rebuild their equipment.

Beverly (Bev) edits our club newsletter, arranges programs for club meetings and served as club secretary. She is a tremendous resource in identification of gems, stones and minerals. Bev is outstanding in helping others especially in showcase layout, and her ability to find new advertising resources contributes to the success of our annual gem and mineral show. Bev also served several successful years as editor of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Newsletter. She has served as show chairman and accepts and quickly accomplishes all tasks responsibly.

Both Bob and Bev are active in two other rock and mineral clubs in which they hold offices. Both are interested and active in all facets of rockhounding and building enthusiasm for rockhounding activities. Given their knowledge, enthusiasm, personalities and overall love of people their participation in our club provides support and friendship for all members.

Submitted by: Everett Headrick, President,  
North Idaho Mineral Club

## KLAMATH ROCK SWAP

### July 13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>

(Previous years held in Keno)

This year's Rock Swap will be held in the Davis Creek, CA area – Lassen Creek Campground (also a great rockhounding area)

Find Directions and more details at our new website: [klamathrockclub.org](http://klamathrockclub.org)  
Or call Gene at 541-850-0325

Tailgate --Swap--Buy--Sell Rocks  
Public Invited --Everyone

Free Camping and Field Trips—Excellent  
Obsidian digs in the area: Electric Blue,  
Rainbow and Needles

Silent Auction—Potluck

Come trade & socialize with old rockhounds,  
make & train new ones

Charlie Wyckoff—Webmaster 541-273-1102  
[Charlie@klamathrockclub.org](mailto:Charlie@klamathrockclub.org)  
Sponsored by the Klamath Rock &  
Arrowhead Club

## Mining, Minerals and Museums in Butte Montana!

By Bill Luke, President, Butte Mineral & Gem Club

A previous report listed some of the things that are being planned in conjunction with the 2007 NFMS Show. In this article, I will briefly describe some of the mining related items listed in the Butte Visitor Guide. As with most guides, many attractions are listed, and Butte has MANY!

Many people ask about the status of the Berkeley Pit. Most of Butte's underground mining operations were phased out in 1975 because of escalating operations costs. In early 1982, mining ceased in the Berkeley Pit and operations moved to the Southeast Berkeley Pit, since named the Continental Pit. After the pit and underground mines were closed, ARCO stopped pumping water out of the hundreds of miles of underground mine tunnels. Naturally flowing, highly acidic mine water reached the bottom of the Berkeley Pit in November of that year. Today, the pit is about 1,800 feet deep at its lowest point, measuring about one and a half by one mile.

The Continental Pit and the Butte Concentrator are now operated by Montana Resources. 350 employees extract copper and molybdenum concentrates in a highly productive operation, using 240 ton haul trucks and other equivalent-sized equipment. The ore enters the concentrator at 0.25% copper and emerges at about 26 to 32 percent. Molybdenum concentrates average 54 to 57%, among the highest concentrates in the world.

There is a Berkeley Pit Viewing Stand that is open 9-8 weekdays and 9-6 on weekends. There is an admission being charged (\$2.00 per person in 2006) and a Gift Shop at the viewing stand.

Betty and I recently visited the World Museum of Mining and went on the underground tour hosted by Larry Moody, a member of the Butte Mineral & Gem Club. Larry has many years of underground experience and was a well qualified guide. He explained the water level in all of the mine shafts and tunnels. This tour leads to the shaft under the Orphan Girl headframe where you can see the original timbering, lift shafts and many drills and equipment of various vintages. The development of the tour was done by students at Montana Tech, and credit goes to another of our members, Pete Knudsen, and others. You might also meet another long-time miner and another of our members, Ed Drabant, at Mining Heritage Day at the Museum.

The WMM also organizes free tours of the Anselmo Mine yard, one of the best preserved in Butte. It has been maintained just as it was in 1959, after operating since 1887. Volunteer retired miners provide information and stories at each of six stations. At the headframe, with cages still hanging over the shaft, Ed Drabant will tell about the thrilling experience of descending into the shaft thousands of feet down.

Still interested in Mining, Minerals and Museums? The Mineral Museum on the Montana Tech campus, which had its beginning in March, 1901, is one of the best-taking first place with their display in Denver the past two years! The collection has over 15,000 specimens from world-wide localities, and 1300 spectacular minerals from the Butte mines. Admission is free. The Mineral Museum will be featured at the NFMS Show.

There are still many headframes on the skyline of Butte. Several have recently been outlined in red lights, the start of a campaign to memorialize all of Butte's historic headframes. They make quite a sight at night on the richest hill on earth. Also known as "gallows frames," or "gallus frames," they mark where the mine shafts were located. At the top of the frame are the pulleys that the cable passed through from the adjoining engine room to the lifts that transported men and materials down and the ore back up.

Have you tried miners' food, the pasty? Cornishmen worked in the mines in England, the copper mines of Michigan, then on to Butte. Their favorite food was the pasty, a self-contained mixture of beef, onions and potatoes, wrapped and sealed in pastry, then baked to perfection. When they opened their lunch thousands of feet below Butte, it was a "letter from home". The miners no longer go underground where pasties were easy to carry for lunch, but many Butte restaurants and bakeries still bake them.

The Granite Mountain/Speculator Fire Memorial is a must-see. It is high on the hill, overlooking the old mining operations, with several headframes in view. During WWI, demand for copper was high, and every mine in Butte was working to capacity. One of the biggest was the Speculator, which also encompassed the Granite Mountain mine, the two being connected by many cross-shafts. On the night of June 8, 1917, a fire started at the 2400 foot level. The final count shows that fire, smoke and gas claimed 168 lives. Surprisingly, there were 247 survivors of this terrible event. Details of the fire, its cause, heroic efforts and survivor stories are contained on pillars at the site. The memorial honors all of the underground miners who worked on the Hill over the years.

## Field Trips Announced During NFMS Show

By Pete Knudsen, Butte Mineral & Gem Club

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual NFMS show will feature one field trip per day and a whole week of field trips following the show.

The first field trip will be to the barite deposit at the Whitehouse campground which is about 30 miles north of Butte. A short article describing this site was published in the last issue of the NFMS newsletter. It is an excellent site, easy to get to and one where you will find specimens to bring home.

The second trip will be to the Delmoe Lake area just east of Butte to search for smokey quartz, feldspar and amethyst in the pegmatites. Finding good specimens in the pegmatites in the Butte area takes a lot of persistence, a lot of walking and just plain hard work. On this trip you will be introduced to some of the clues to where to look and dig to find a fantastic specimen.

The third trip will be to collect fluorite from a locality west of Butte. The fluorite here is mostly in botryoidal form rather than crystals, but some of it is very gemmy.

On Monday following the show, the second Rockhound Rendezvous will be offered by the Butte Mineral and Gem Club. Details of this week-long field trip are contained in the article that follows.

## Butte Mineral & Gem Club to Host Field Trips Following the Show

By: Betty Luke, Butte Mineral & Gem Club

The Butte Mineral & Gem Club is hosting a week long Rendezvous campout and field trips to several areas following the NFMS Show. Dates of the Rendezvous are August 6 - 12th. Any and all people wishing to attend this week long event are encouraged and invited to do so. A BLM Site has been selected for a primitive RV camping area, south of Butte, and people with all sorts of RV's, including tents, are invited to attend. The gathering site campground for these trips is close enough to Wisdom, Wise River and Butte that people not having RV's who wish to stay in motels can meet with these groups in the morning and still attend the trips. Advanced sign-up is important as Tim Hoff, the person in charge, will need to make arrangements to have enough sani-cans and garbage cans on site to accommodate everyone. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the cost of these amenities, and that charge will be based on how many people attend; more people, less money for everyone to pay. Planned trips will be leaving every day from the camp site area to places such as the well known Crystal Park area, a Jasper area that is close to a paved road where people can pick up nice specimens of many different colors of Jasper (pinks, browns, greens, yellows, reds). Nighttime trips are planned to collect fluorescent material close to the camp area for those owning blacklights. Other fun activities, such as a Saturday night potluck and visiting around the campfire and rock exchanges, are planned.

One of the areas planned on the trip agenda is to Black Pine Mine. The following is part of an article sent to me, as Editor of the Montana Council Reporter. Wayne Farley, of the Bitterroot Club in Hamilton, has led several trips to the area and has done much research into the material found at that locality:

"A separate list of 45 minerals found at the Black Pine Mine during operations and on the dumps can be found at the web site: <http://www.mindat.org/loc-3875.html>.

The rarest of the Black Pine Mine minerals are the bright green Philipsburgite (type location) named after Philipsburg and the intense blue Veszytyite. A thumbnail specimen of Veszytyite from the mine won 1st place in the thumbnail category at the 2006 Tucson Show. I brought along purchased thumbnail specimens of Philipsburgite and Veszytyite from my collection to show to our group.

Minerals that our group probably found on this trip were: Radiating green sprays of acicular Arthurite, flat bladed blue fans of Azurite, yellowish-green Bindhelmite, a single crystal mass of colorless Cerussite, numerous coatings of blue-green Chrysocolla, fan blades of reddish-brown Hubnerite, botryoidally green Malachite, bright green vitreous balls of Philipsburgite, dark green balls of Pseudomalachite, brassy Pyrite, dendritic Pyrolusite, numerous clear micro Quartz crystals with inclusions, fluorescent Stolzite, and black Tetrahedrite. We also found many unidentified green micro specimens in small cavities.

Continued on page 6

**Notes: - by Pete Knudsen, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, relating to the Amethyst Hunt article below.**

Butte is located in the Boulder batholith, a large body of quartz monzonite. The batholith contains many pegmatites that have produced smoky quartz, feldspar, titanite, epidote, and often amethyst. Exciting finds are made each year by collectors. Amethyst is still found in the pegmatites. The deposit referred to in this article below is most likely the Pohndorf Amethyst deposit which was mined commercially for amethyst in the early 1900's by August Pohndorf. The Pohndorf Amethyst deposit is on private land and is mined out.

August P. Pohndorf, (1866-1939), was born in Germany in August 1866 and came to America in 1880. By 1900 he had married a woman named Amelia and moved to Butte, Montana where he worked as a miner and began building a substantial mineral collection. He sold his mineral collection in 1909 and moved to Denver, opening a small mineral shop called Pohndorf's. The Denver mineral business thrived and developed a high reputation for quality.

### **An Early Day Amethyst Hunt**

By George L. Cobban, Astoria, Oregon

Reprinted from *The Mineralogist*, October, 1952

In a remote corner of my mineral cabinet rests a small handful of now badly faded amethyst crystals. For over a half century they have lain there and attracted the eye of many visiting rockhound enthusiasts, and every time I look them over, vividly comes back to memory the wonderful field trip I was on when they were found and I helped gather.

It was mid-summer in 1897; my father had associated with a couple of other old timers in gathering together a mineral collection to take back to Boston for exhibition and subsequent sale. They had learned of a fine outcropping of amethyst crystals far back on the main ridge of the Rocky mountains some twenty-five miles Southeast of Butte, Montana.

After due preparation for a three or four day's trip, our party consisting of father, mother, sister, Charlie Tillinghast and Harry Prentiss and myself, left Butte very early one morning, our family in our own surrey drawn by our fine team of bays from the famous Marcus Daly ranch in the Bitterroot valley, the others in a buckboard drawn by a high-spirited team of livery hire. We took the road across the flats and followed up willow-lined Silver bow creek, where we saw hundreds of ducks flying back and forth and several early morning fishermen were on the stream.

Looking back at Butte, the whole place was covered with a cloud of yellow smoke from the smelters and we thought how wonderful it was to be out where the grass was green and trees green.

At Nine mile we stopped briefly and were soon on the road south, following up a long narrow canyon on a rough, crooked, dusty road winding in and out around great granite boulders, beneath high overhanging rock ledges. At one place, observing a cloud of dust coming down, we pulled off the road in a wide place to let the overland stage clatter by. The stage drawn by four horses was crowded and piled high on top with rolls of bedding and boxes. The driver perched high on the seat with one foot on the brake and four lines in one hand, cracked his long black snake lash over the lead team as they drove by with a merry hello. The dust hanging in a cloud in the still summer air and powdering our faces, we drove on up the canyon. Near the top was a wide place in the road where a clear spring of water coming out of a seam in the rock formed a small pool surrounded by sweet smelling red willow and moss covered rocks. Here we quenched dry throats, washed our dust covered hand and faces, filled canteens and a few minutes later were on top of the divide of the main ridge of the Rocky mountains, where waters flowed to two widely separate oceans, that on the West to the Columbia River and to the East the Missouri.

As we drove down the East side, the descent was gradual, the road following a small willow and choke cherry lined creek, winding easily past low, nearly bare round rolling hills, broken here and there with outcropping granite ledges and occasionally crowned with a some monument, some erected by roving shepherders, and some mining claim markers.

Every hill on either side had some kind of prospector's hole, some with quite sizable dumps, showing that tunnels had drifted far into the hill side. Most of the diggings were abandoned, but at one place we turned off the main road into a side trail winding up through a narrow canyon, cluttered by debris of a recent cloudburst, making our carriage most uncomfortable to ride in as it bumped over boulders, assuming precarious angles, until finally we came to an occupied miner's shack adjacent to a large dump spilling down the rather steep hillside.

Here we stopped awhile as father had business with the foreman, and we impatiently waited under the hot sun in a most desolate sort of place, so very hot, with no shade. The team, held by mother, was most impatient as they were assailed by a swarm of big black horseflies and threatened to wheel out of there at any moment, but presently father and the foreman, each bearing a sack of ore, came down and stowed the stuff under the back seat. The man, whom father called MAC, was dressed in a pair of dirty overalls, unlaced shoes, no shirt, but in glowing red underwear, opened at the front showing a mighty chest covered with hair, and chewing a big cud of tobacco, put one foot on the front wheel hub and talked a few minutes with such an Irish brogue, I could understand but little except something about assayer report and stockholders' meeting, and more equipment and supplies were needed.

How we got down out of there without disaster, when we finally left, was a wonder, the team thought we were headed for home and fairly bounded out, with us careening and bumping behind and hanging on for dear life.

Back on the main road the country gradually flattened out, descending into a pleasant little valley at the head of which was our stopping place for the night, a roadhouse notoriously known as the "Eighteen Mile House" or the "Treefry Ranch" where we arrived just in time for supper, being royally welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Treefry, who were expecting us and had prepared accommodations. Our family party of four was assigned to a second story room, with a ceiling barely high enough to stand erect under, partitioned off with hanging curtains of canvas, into three compartments, in which were neat individual cots with far too much bedding for the hot summer nights. The other party of two were assigned to an adjacent log cabin, with several double-decked bunks lining three sides and a large pot-bellied stove in the center, occupied by several other transients.

In the large dining room we are together at a long table, sitting on roughly hewn benches much too low for sister and me, but what a dinner we had, everything grown in Treefry's garden and topped with roasts and steaks of venison. The topic around the table was strictly mining, with several specimens of ore being passed around and commented on at the end of the meal. Ore specimens were on every window sill and shelf. Plans were made for next day's excursion, and we retired, bothered considerably by the loud noises coming from the all-night saloon or bar adjoining the main building where week-end revelers congregated. This was one of the main stop off places on the stage line and a central point for many miners and prospectors.

At dawn our entire party, with the addition of an old timer who knew the country, took off in our two rigs and headed easterly down the valley, where some three miles from the Treefry ranch we turned off North and followed into a rough canyon which led up toward a ridge spotted with low juniper trees and broken outcropping granite ledges. On the way a large cougar leisurely crossed the trail directly in front of the leading team, but having no gun with us he went on unmolested. At another point we stopped while Tillinghast clubbed a rattlesnake to death and a few yards on, another, the rattles of which I still possess.

We presently came to a park of quaking aspen trees, where a small spring boiled up from beneath a ledge of shale, and here we stopped to make camp. Not knowing how long we might be at this place, we did not unharness the horses, but with halters tied the team to two large trees in the shade, not unhitching them from the carriages. Then, with prospecting paraphernalia, we climbed into a hog back ridge, which we followed back a short distance to where the amethyst find was located.

The amethysts were in exposed clusters of beautiful deep purple or violet colored crystals, in a seam two or three feet wide, extending along the extreme backbone of the ridge, for some twenty feet or more, then dipping down into a ledge of rotten disintegrating granite. Small individual crystals lay strewn about like pebbles on the surface, down either side of the ridge, but the main part was in masses or clusters, adhering to what appeared to be a ledge of rotten granite and quartz seam.

**Continued on page 6**

## Amethyst Hunt continued from page 5

Most of the large crystals were large enough for lapidarists to work up into many beautiful things, some of which were eventually shaped into drinking glasses or mugs, much in demand as ancient tradition had handed down the belief that wine drunk from a cup of amethyst, is incapable of producing inebriation, or that a small crystal placed in a drinking vessel prevents intoxication.

With miner's picks and prospector's hammers, every one working, we soon had sacked up all the exposed specimens making no attempt to dig very deep, as we had all containers full and as much as we could carry on this trip.

At about mid-day we started back to where the teams were tied and were within sight of them, when suddenly the hired livery team took fright at something, either at us carrying bulging bags, or at some wild animal, and rearing back frantically, broke their halter ropes, wheeled about, upsetting the buckboard with a loud crash, and tore down the ravine in a cloud of dust. Our team attempted to tear loose and follow, but one of the men got to them in time, preventing further disaster.

Two of the men took off at a run, following the runaway team. For a few minutes we stood there by our outfit, stunned by the sudden happening, then mother calmly suggested that we might just as well eat our lunches and wait there at the spring for further development. We spread our lunch in the shade beneath a quaking aspen tree by the spring, watched the team and fed them grain in nose bags and rather quietly ate with a careful eye on our very nervous horses, who kept looking up on the ridge above, far to the right from where we had come down.

After a short time one of the men who had followed the runaway team, came back and gravely informed father that they had found the team but one of the horses was dead. The doubletree had broken from the buckboard and the horses had continued on down hampered by the neck yoke and harness, but had unfortunately tried to pass a tree, one on either side, and had so tangled that one of them was hung in such a manner as to break its neck.

Securely tying the remaining horse, one man had started across country on foot to the Treefry ranch for another horse and help. After eating, two of the men went down and with some hay- bailing wire and straps got the buckboard temporarily repaired, and by mid-afternoon we were back at the spring, with a horse from the ranch hitched with the very jittery livery horse. We loaded up our many sacks of amethyst and without further incident arrived at the road house in time for supper.

That evening as father showed some of his best crystals, a lot of talk resulted. One old timer declared that the find was not true amethyst, but merely a bunch of ordinary white quartz crystals that had been exposed for centuries to the bright rays of the sun, which had caused them to turn that color, much as clear white glass exposed for years to the sun may color deeply to amethyst hues. During the course of conversation the old timer told father of a ledge of smoky topaz crystals that he had run on to, and he was hired to guide us to the place, but which trip was to become another story.

The next day Tillinghast and Prentiss drove back to Butte, with their hired rig and the aid of Treefry's ill-matched horse, taking the load of amethyst with them, where it was immediately put on display and was of great public interest for a long time to come. Most of the finest pieces were eventually sold in Boston.

Our family stayed on at Treefry's to enjoy another exciting trip for smoky topaz, and another fine find of amethyst and to cap it all filed on mineral claims in each of our names, the outcome which has long since passed into oblivion.

These few crystals of amethyst which I now hold in my hand are real and most deeply cherished, not alone for beauty but for memories they bring.

## Rendezvous Field Trip, continued from page 4

The problem is that about a dozen of the 45 minerals are green and can only be differentiated by x-ray analysis. Also found was a 0.5x0.7x1.0 inch clear glassy crystal in the parking area as soon as she stepped out of her vehicle. At first glance it looked like a quartz crystal, but under my hand lens it looked more like Cerussite.

We all found beautiful Pyrolucite dendrites in the first area. Later on about 100 yards up the road, we all walked about 100 feet to an area of another dump to collect fluorescent Stolzite. On our return to our vehicles for lunch Maryann saw a glitter in the rocks, and reached down and picked up a perfect 1.5" D. by 2" long clear Quartz crystal that everyone had previously walked over. Robie also found a similar Quartz crystal in a different area, but with a slightly dinged tip. Daniel Farley found a 2" Quartz cluster at the main mine. Everyone was pleased with what they found. I, Wayne Farley, found a basketball size rock at the main mine with many small vugs. I broke it up into fist size pieces for specimens. When I got home, I checked the specimens with my microscope for micro crystals and

identified the following minerals:

Azurite, Bindhelmite, Brochantite, jackstraw habit Cerussite, Chrysocola, Hubnerite, Malachite, Philipsburgite, Pseudomalachite, Pyrite, Quartz, and Tetrahedrite. I also observed several other unidentified minerals.

In 2005, my son and I were collecting at the Black Pine, and I found a 2" diameter rock with a vug filled with Quartz crystals. When I got home and examined it under the microscope, I discovered beautiful translucent red micro Carminite (lead-iron arsenate) needles and blades on and penetrating the Quartz crystals. We also did a night hunt for fluorescent Stolzite [Pb(WO<sub>4</sub>)] in 2005 and found a large pile of fluorescent rocks that produced a white fluorescence with short-wave. When I got home I examined the fluorescent rocks under the microscope but could not see any Stolzite crystals. I still think the fluorescence is from Stolzite, but the crystals are too small to see with my microscope (10-100 magnifications). The only other fluorescent mineral reported from the Black Pine Mine is from Hemimorphite, and it has a yellowish-cream fluorescence. I have a purchased specimen that shows visible fluorescent crystals. On the 2006 hunt, I led everyone to the fluorescent pile, and they picked up specimens that I said would probably show fluorescence. I checked my specimens from the pile when I got home, and they also showed typical fluorescence for Stolzite."

Although some of this may sound rather technical, the bottom line is that this is just one of the many areas we plan to attend on this series of field trips. Montana was known as the Treasure State, and this area of SW Montana still has treasures waiting to be collected. If you are in the Butte area for the show, don't miss the special planned activity, hosted for your entertainment and collecting pleasure, by the Butte Mineral & Gem Club. People interested in attending need to contact the person in charge: Tim Hoff at 406-491-3587 <tttinker9742@bigskyhsd.com>, or write him at 1016 Waukesha Ave., Butte, MT 59701.

## PORTLAND REGIONAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

**SEPT. 28-30, 2007**

10 to 6 Fri and Sat, 10 to 5 Sun.

PORTLAND EXPOSITION CENTER  
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[www.portlandregionalgemandmineral.org](http://www.portlandregionalgemandmineral.org)

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$7 (3 DAYS)  
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**Geology Symposium**  
**"Northwest Fossils"**,  
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Featured Speakers include: Bill Orr, PhD, Jeffrey Myers, PhD, and Ellen Morris-Bishop, PhD.

Admission Adult \$18 and Student \$11.  
Includes show admission.

## NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

## News Flash JULY"



### Juniors Chairman

#### Gary Buhr

Yep, this is the last call before your biggest and best show of 2007 happens in

Butte, Montana on August 3-5, 2007, when we celebrate the 67th Annual NFMS Show and Convention. It will be a great event to encompass into your Summer Vacation along with the attractions that have been highlighted in your Northwest Newsletter over the past few months. By being there, attending and participating in the events you support the huge efforts of Show Chair Pete Knudsen, Betty and Bill Luke and the volunteers from Butte Mineral and Gem Club who all went the extra miles for you! Please remember that the 2007 KIDS CORNER will need LOTS of generous donations to ensure we have enough prizes for the biggest and best one of the year.

Success in our Annual NFMS Rock Show will reflect to all the new Junior Rockhounds that attend what a fabulous hobby Rockhounding offers to everyone regardless of which "facet" they chose to grind on and polish. Sky is the limit and what better place to start than Big Sky Country!

President Chuck Sonner points out that we need to go beyond our shows and meetings for New Member outreach, such as schools, teachers, Boy or Girl Scout groups or other community organizations where you can make presentations about our favorite hobby-- Rockhounding! Connecting the school or scout leaders into the planning of activities will help reduce your labor and time intensity. My experience with building the successful Everett Rookie Rockhounds was more on the personal level of one connection at a time, empowering each Junior's interests and treating each with utmost respect, hence the Juniors gain a greater sense of self importance/involvement and actually want to become vested in the process of their Junior Rock Club. Realistically, that mostly happens after they arrive at your Rock Club meeting as a Guest. So, we need to continually work with schools and other community or civic groups to extend the hand of invitation and then work closely with Guests and New Members to help them find their specific interests of Rockhounding. Then, be sure to provide activities or programs that will excite the imaginations so your Junior Rock Club will be built with the maximum tensile strength for durability, fun and learning from the greatest hobby in the world. How often do you check the NFMS Juniors Web Page?



Check these two articles from two "top drawer" Juniors that were published in the Everett Rock & Gem Club Pebbles Newsletter during May and June, 2007.

"In My Own Words, How Coal Was Formed" by Everett Rookie Rockhound SKYLAR VAN DER PUTTEN. Four

hundred and fifty million years ago, before dinosaurs, there was warm and very moist air. As soon as you stepped out of your house your hair would get soaked. Plants grew like crazy back then because they liked that condition. They spent so much time growing up so fast that they had little time to grow roots. So immediately the leaves and plants fell over and died. Later there was a huge pile of leaves and then there was a flood and the water was so powerful it carried boulders and dirt with it. The dirt and boulders squished the leaves and kept piling over until it was so far underground it got squished and all the water was all gone. Then it dried up and turned into solid rock which became coal.



"In My Own Words" by Everett Rookie Rockhound RANSOM SAMUEL CUTSHALL. Crack! The heavy blow of a rock hammer sounds loud against the bedrock. Thud! A coconut sized ball of rock falls from the bank which has been its home since it was formed hundreds, possibly thousands of years ago. These hard spheres, drab colored and knobby on the outside, can contain countless brilliant colors and landscapes on the inside, once they are cut open. Knowing where to look, what tools to use and differentiating between a real Oregon thunder egg and a mud ball are all important in finding thunder eggs.

The internal color of Oregon thunder eggs is what draws rock hounds from all over the United States. There is no set coloration for the thunder eggs, and they could be filled with anything from agate to quartz to amethyst. The red moss agate, and the blue moss agate are the most common, but lucky rock hounds will occasionally find a specimen of the the rare Friday Plume, a mellow blue agate. In some areas of Central Oregon a form of common opal can be found, but if you're patient, you could find a rewarding sample of the very rare fire opal!

Without knowing where to look, it is unlikely you will just stumble across one of these eggs! One of the most popular places in Oregon to search for thunder eggs is at Richardson's Recreational Ranch. This ranch is a gorgeous 4000 acre piece of land, located in the middle of scenic Oregon. Approximately 60% of the worlds thunder eggs come from this location. When digging for thunder eggs it is extremely important that you do not dig in the bank because of the risk of the bank collapsing on you! The best place to look is by digging down just in front of the banks where the thunder eggs are embedded up to a few feet down. The majority of the eggs are found in a soft blue rock, but at some agate beds, like Priday at Richardson's Ranch, the digging can be hard work as the matrix becomes a type of hard andesite. For this type of digging special rock tools are often needed.

Many different tools are needed to cut, extract, and break open thunder eggs. A chisel, rock-hammer, and 2 lb. crack hammer are all extremely

useful and very necessary. A pair of gloves and safety glasses will help protect your face and hands from flying chips of rock. Thick jeans, boots with good traction and a thick shirt all protect your body from sharp rocks and thorny bushes. It is always important to have a sizeable first id kit, as well as a bucket to hold your finds. Tools make all the difference. Experience helps too or you could end up filling your bucket with useless mud balls.

A real Oregon Thunder Egg and a mud ball look almost identical on the outside, but are worlds apart once you crack them open. The hardness of both is also similar and can be deceiving as they are equally difficult to crack open. The real giveaway is to look for a pressure seam. If there is no raised seam circling the egg somewhere along its surface then it is most likely a mud ball and filled with something boring like ugly green zoisite. Another way to tell is by the weight. A true thunder egg is much heavier than a mud ball. Once my dad was digging in a hole and tossing the thunder eggs to me to put into the bucket. One of the eggs bounced off the rim of the bucket and hit him on the head! It almost knocked him out. At least we knew it was a real thunder egg.

Ping! A crack hammer echoes loud through the canyon. A small dark ball of stone is levered out of the ground. A few more knocks with the rock hammer and the telltale sphere breaks open. It is like opening a treasure chest, hidden for centuries, not knowing what you will find inside. Will it hold Red agate? Will it hold Blue agate? Will it hold Mossy agate or the rare Fire Opal? The only way to know is to try your hand at rockhounding. Who knows, maybe someday you may find a true, blue Oregon Thunder Egg filled with the rare Friday Plume!

#### Bibliography

- 1.) "World Famous Rockhounding: Richardson's Recreational Ranch" Brochure, April 2007;
- 2.) "The Story of Thundereggs: The Official State Rock of Oregon." Brochure, April 2007;
- 3.) Symes and Harding. Crystal and Gem. New York: Kindersley, 1991;
- 4.) Symes. Rocks and Minerals. New York: Kindersley, 1988.

**Faceter's swap meet**



Sat. -- July 21, 2007 -- Noon to 5 p.m.

Buy and Sell -- Open to the public  
Sponsored by North Puget Sound Faceting Guild

**Mount Vernon Senior Center  
Cleveland & Hazel Sts.  
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To reserve your space - contact Vals Richmond at (425) 787-0710 [DVRICH@earthlink.net](mailto:DVRICH@earthlink.net)  
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Vi Jones at (360) 424-8340 [rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net](mailto:rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net)

Make checks for \$20 to North Puget Sound Faceting Guild,  
P. O. Box 2841, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-7841

# 2007 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Jul 28-29	WA Agate & Min Soc & Tenino Rock Cruisers 13th Annual	Parkside Elem School, Stage St. So. (Exit 88 off I-5), OLYMPIA, WA.	Daniel DeBoer 360-866-3940 keylock@comcast.net
Aug 3-5	Butte Min & Gem Club	Civic Center 1340 Harrison Ave (I-90, exit Harrison Ave, turn north), Butte MT	Pete Knudsen (406) 723-8524
Fri 10-5	NFMS 67th Annual		
Sat 10-5	"Richest Hill on Earth"		
Sun 10-5			
Aug 4-5	Far West Lapidary & Gem Soc., Annual Indoor Show	North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway	Carolyn DeMetz 541-267-5008
Sat 10-6		North Bend, Oregon	
Sun 10-5			
Aug 18-19	Nisqually Valley Rockhound Soc. BIGGEST LITTLE GEM SHOW IN NW	Yelm Middle School on Hwy 510 Yelm Wa.	Leonard Cone pinecone4@comcast.net
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 8-9	Umpqua Gem & Min. Club Annual Show "Wonders of the West"	Douglas Co. Fairgrounds 15 Exit 123 Roseburg, Oregon	Dave Snyder (541) 679-7553 deyoung1953@msn.com
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 8-9	Hellgate Mineral Society "Rockhounding Around Missoula"	Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, 4825 North Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59801	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday Lane, (406) 543-3667
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 14-16	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society, So. Coast Rock & Gem Fest 2007	4th Street Parking Lot across Family Restaurant Coos Bay, Oregon	Carolyn DeMetz 541-267-5008 czdemetz@earthlink.net
Fri 10-6			
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 15-16	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc. 38th Annual Show	Walla Walla Co. Fairgrounds, Comm. Ctr. Bldg., 9th St & Orchard	Jack Edwards 509-529-3673 edwardsj@wwics.com
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Sep 15-16	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society 42nd Rock & Gem Show	Castlerock Fairgrounds Cowlitz River @ A St Castle Rock, WA	Diann Thurston (503) 728-4274
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-4			
Oct 5-7	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Soc "Earth's Treasures"	Carrie Blake Park Guy Cole Convention Ctr. 202 N. Blake Rd. Sequim, WA	Bill Dettmer, gsi@goal-system.com, Wanda Power fvp@tenforward.com (360)681-2323
Sat 9-6			
Sun 9-2			
Oct 13-14	Marysville Rock and Gem Club, 33rd Annual Show "Roctoberfest"	Marysville Jr. H S Cafet 7th St. and State Ave., Marysville, WA	Rocky McCall 360-629-2515
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 20-21	Hells Canyon Gem Club, 41st. Annual Show	Nez Perce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Ave Lewiston, ID	Jacque Dabritz 208-843-5545 jdabritz@lewiston.com
Sat 10-6			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 27-28	Clackamette Min & Gem, "Adventures in Stone 2007"	Clackamas Co. Fair-grounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, Oregon	Rick Maurer (503) 691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Sat 9-6			
Sun 10-5			
Oct 27-28	Bellevue Rock Club Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	3560 W Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE; Bellevue WA (exit 13, I-90)	Bruce Himko Brucebecky@comcast.net P.O. Box 1851, Bellevue WA
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-5			
Nov 2-4	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club, 50th annual Rock & Gem Show	Oakway Center, 112 Coburg Rd, Eugene, OR (exit Coburg Road off Hwy. 126)	Jim Nelson (541) 687-8100
Fri 12-7			
Sat 10-7			
Sun 11-4			
Nov 9-11	NW Opal Assoc. & BEMS 3rd Annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show	Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Meridian St. S. & 9th Ave. SW, Puyallup, WA	Steve Mackey 253-759-8903 smackey@harbormet.com
Fri 10-5			
Sat 10-5			
Sun 10-4			

## 2007 REGISTRATION NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

*Please complete and submit by July 15, 2007*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a related Club? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

**Costs:** Registration Fee: \$240.00; Fossil Bed Trip: \$35.00; Workshop: \$45.00

**Note:** *These costs must be paid at registration. Material cost will be paid to the Workshop Instructor*

Do you need a cabin? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need RV Parking Space? \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are in a cabin, please identify if you want another registrant in the same cabin?**

**Instructions:** Please identify below which workshop(s) you wish to participate in. Show Workshops you plan to work and number in order of preference. Remember, there are 28 hours of Workshop time, so you can register for multiples and divide your time. \*It has been requested that if you take Faceting or Judging that you allot full time to that effort. **Only pay for one Workshop fee.** Place the amount on the line to the right, total the column and send a check with this form to:

Lamar Tilgner  
200 S.E. Olivera Ave.  
Gresham, OR 97080  
phone: 503-666-2905, e-mail: lstilgner@aol.com  
(Make check payable to Lamar Tilgner)

Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops \_\_\_\_\_ Lapidary Shop \_\_\_\_\_

Fossil Bed Trip-opt. \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Faceting\* \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Fee \_\_\_\_\_ Silversmithing \_\_\_\_\_

Wirewrapping \_\_\_\_\_

Intarzia \_\_\_\_\_

Beading \_\_\_\_\_

Judging Seminar\* \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** If you have any special dietary needs, please note them below