



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

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Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

July 2009



“THE Fossil for Oregon”

by Guy DiTorrice
Oregon Coast Agate Club

Metasequoia

Imagine doing research about fossils in your state and discovering that

yours was the only one in the NW Federation without an official “State Fossil”. Pretty sad, especially since one of the towns in the state of Oregon is named FOSSIL!

For Federation information, the other western states and their official fossils include:

- Alaska: *Mammuthus primigenius* – woolly mammoth
- California: *Smilodon californicus* – saber-toothed cat
- Colorado: *Stegosaurus syenops* – dinosaur
- Idaho: *Equus simplicidens* – horse
- Montana: *Maiasaura* – dinosaur
- Nevada: *Shonisaurus popularis* – ichthyosaur
- North Dakota: *Teredo* – petrified wood
- South Dakota: *Triceratops* – dinosaur
- Utah: *Allosaurus* – dinosaur
- Washington: *Mammuthus columbi* – woolly mammoth
- Wyoming: *Knightia* – fish

Something had to be done about getting Oregon its own State Fossil, and it was up to a couple of fossil nuts to make it happen. So, long-time collector Guy DiTorrice of Newport (also known as “Oregon Fossil Guy”) and his youthful sidekick McKenzie Smith of Tigard (now billed as “Oregon Fossil Teen”) took on the job.



McKenzie Smith with Dr. William Orr

The first thing to consider is what fossil found in Oregon should be given the official designation? Oregon had yet to snag a solid specimen of any ice-age critters (so rule out sabre-tooth), dinosaur rock had yet to expose itself (though that changed in the last few years) and the plant choices just weren’t sexy enough (*Teredo* is a larval-bored petrified wood).

A plant fossil started making the most sense, especially since the state’s tourism division is always promoting how Oregon is “green”. The more interesting problem was trying to pick a plant with some sort of uniqueness that might also excite legislators in the State Capitol.

Of the many fossil plants in Oregon, the best known are from the Miocene epoch, 25 to five million years ago. *Metasequoia* was **THE** characteristic tree making up a good portion of the flora in prehistoric Central Oregon, according to State Paleontologist Dr. William Orr and co-author of **PLANT & ANIMAL FOSSILS OF OREGON** and **OREGON FOSSILS**.

He also cites the distinctive feature of *Metasequoia* with its characteristic “oppositeness” - branches, needles and cone scales are opposite each other in two symmetrical rows. Split one down the middle and you have a mirror image of both sides. The tree is also one which sheds its needles annually as its leafed cousins do, making it very unique among cone-bearing trees.

Metasequoia became extinct in Oregon some five million years ago, but was brought back to the U.S. in the 1940s after it was discovered in China during WWII.



It is often marketed through nurseries as the “*Dawn redwood*”. Live specimens may be found on most Oregon university campuses (e.g. Portland State, UO, OSU, etc) as well as being used as roadside landscaping in Gresham.

The designation of *Metasequoia* as Oregon’s State Fossil provided a special species for consideration as few states consider plants for their official fossil. The designation recognizes Oregon’s timber-rich heritage with an ancient plant that is also a true “living fossil”.

Starting in 2003 with draft legislation, the duo approached countless elected officials who managed to make many promises, but managed to drop the ball and failed to introduce the measure prior to a hard-&-fast submission deadline. But, these two bone-bugs did not give up.

Continued on page 6

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

JULY 15, 2009 - August Issue
AUGUST 15, 2009 – September Issue

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@cbtubs.com
2nd Vice President: Fritz Mack, 10619 Holly Dr., Everett, WA 98204, 425.513.0115, rockgem_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 Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, nfmstreasurer@comcast.net

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: Evelyn Cataldo, 1st Vice President (see above)
BULLETIN AIDS: Darlene Posthuma, Eureka Rock & Gem Club, 5760 SW Riley Ln, Mount Home, ID 83647, 208.794.0976, darlenehposthuma@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 Vogelpohl, 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, snelson@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), gennut@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@cpinternat.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@cotnet.net

STAMPS: Hermina Kolski, Club-at-Large, 208 Riverview 2 East, Great Falls, MT 59404-1534, 406-231-0620
SUPPLIES: Tim Hoff, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, 1016 Waukesha Ave, Butte, MT., 59701, 406-491-3587, ttinker9742@bigskyhsd.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 Tilgner (Chair), Mt. Hood Rock Club, 200 SE Olvera Ave., Gresham, OR 97080, (503) 666-2905, LSTILGNER@aol.com
CLAIMS COMMITTEE: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net
OPERATIONS PROCEDURE UPDATE: Open ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA. 98273, (360) 424-8340, rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net

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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 Vogelpohl, see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer for:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund
2. Memorial contributions

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

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

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

Make check payable to **AFMS Scholarship Fund**.

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

To AFMS Endowment Fund for:

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment
2. Memorials

Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to ALAA

Send to 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
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For the August 2009 Issue
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NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Evelyn Cataldo, NFMS 1st VP

As the club's bulletin editor she has been the recipient of many NFMS Federation awards including the Bulletin Editor's "Hall of Fame". When called upon to assist a fellow rockhound, she doesn't hesitate to provide any help required. Eloise is most deserving of this special recognition and honor.

Submitted by Howard A. Walter, Jr.
Federation Director

Her ashes are spread under her favorite rose bush at their previous home in Forest Grove. They have been a real asset to their club and the Federation and have made many friends over the years. The Davises received the "Long and Outstanding Service Award" from TVGC for 2008. Wes is still at Sublimity and is very lonely, with nothing to do, so would probably enjoy a card or phone call from old friends. He may be moving to his daughters' home in the future. His address is: 500 Conifer Dr. B-17. Sublimity, OR 97385; phone: 503-769-0837.
Submitted by Dorothy Snook, TVGC President

Summer Greetings,

The AFMS/NFMS Convention and Show in Billings is fast approaching and the excitement is building. Doug True and the Billings Gem & Mineral Club members have planned a fascinating and rewarding experience for all. Be sure to read Doug's article on the Show in the June issue of Rock & Gem Magazine.

I remember the last NFMS Show in Billings. It was one of the best I've attended, and I am expecting nothing less this time. While standing in line to get tickets for the last Show, we started talking with the guys behind us and ended up being invited to go agate hunting with them! We took them up on their invitation and have enjoyed agate picking with them on three past Montana vacations. Montana agate picking is one of my favorite activities. I can hardly wait. Check out the picture of me and some of my Montana agates. So plan on being in Billings starting July 30th and enjoy

- Exceptional special displays
- Outstanding exhibits
- Extensive variety of dealers
- Noteworthy demonstrations & speakers
- Amazing field trips
- Fantastic scenery
- Famous Western hospitality

I hope to see you in Billings. **I'm issuing a special invitation to each of you to stop by our travel trailer for a chat.** I'd love to hear from you as to what your hopes and concerns are for the NFMS in the coming year. We will be camped on-site. Look for the Cougar trailer with the Washington license plates. We will have a cold drink waiting for you.

Until Billings,
Evelyn



Vi Jones
Rockhound of the Year
Chair

The Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, Inc. of Washington, nominates **ELOISE GLASS** for our 2009 Rockhound of the Year. Eloise has been a long time club member and she has occupied many of the elected offices as well as chairing numerous committees.



Dale Geer

Safety Chair

How to Remove a Tick

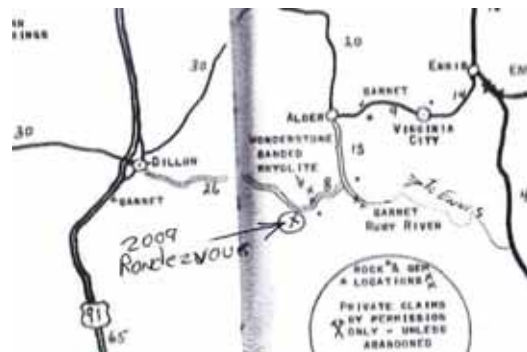
Bet it would work on dogs, too. Spring is here and the ticks will soon be showing up. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children or your pets. Give it a try. Please forward to anyone with children, hunters with dogs or anyone who even steps outside in summer! A School Nurse has written the info below (good enough to share) and it really works!! I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc. Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20). The tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it, (and that was frequently) and it's less traumatic for the patient and easier for me. Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Please pass on. Everyone needs this helpful info!



Esther Davis, long time member of the Tualatin Valley Gem Club and the Northwest Federation, passed away April 26th at age 91. She and husband Wes have been living in an assisted living home in Sublimity, Oregon since the first of the year. Wes and Esther will be remembered as being at every Federation show and mid-year meeting with NFMS supplies. Esther was the Bulletin Aids Chairman for many years and bulletin editor for TVGC for about 25 years. Esther passed away peacefully with Wes at her bedside. They recently celebrated 50 years of marriage.

4th Annual Rendezvous by the Butte Gem & Mineral Club
(August 26 - 30 2009)



This is to let everybody know that there will be a 4th Annual Rendezvous by the Butte Gem & Mineral Club. The specific information follows:

Location: On private land between Dillon, MT. & Alter Mt-called the Sweetwater Rd (also known as the Bozeman Trail). To find the road from Dillon, take Kentucky avenue which will turn into the Sweetwater Rd. and go for about 17 miles. (There will be banners showing you where to turn into. From Alder, take the road to the Ruby reservoir -- go past the reservoir for about 1 1/2 miles to were the road splits -the left will go to Ennis, the right will go to Dillon. The right is the one you will take; there will a banner there--take it for about 10 1/2 miles and there will be another banner to direct you in.

Campground: This is a pack it in pack out area - very historical. The camp site was used by the American Indians for thousands of years; there is a Buffalo jump near by, also the old Bozeman stage stop is next to the way in. Down the road about half a mile is a ranch built between the 1860s to the 1880s (no one lives there now).

DRY CAMPING ONLY and NO OPEN FIRES. There will be a \$25.00 fee for the Rendezvous to help off set the cost for the chemical toilets. There is a running stream next to the camp site - it is clean but is not considered drinkable

Field Trips: Garnets, Montana Wonderstone (rhyolite), Dendritic Opal nodules, Talc, Fossil-crinoids. There will be a flint knapper and a bead maker there to show how it is done

Please send a deposit of \$10.00
To Butte Gem & Mineral Club
1016 Waukesha, Butte, MT 59701
For Contact Person:
Tim Hoff -phone 406-491-3587
Email- nwfm_timhoff@bresnan.net



PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY

Andy Johnson

General Land Office Adds Colorado, Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas Master Title and Use Plats to Searchable Web

BOISE – Most of the Master Title and Use Plats for the States of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota have just been made available on the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) General Land Office (GLO) Records website. Title companies, historians, genealogists, schools and other interested people can now obtain free data and images capturing Land Title and Land Use information at www.glorerecords.blm.gov.

These records are a graphical representation of federal ownership, use authorization, agency jurisdiction and rights reserved to the federal government on private land within a township. They will continually be updated as land title and land use change. For convenience of ease, website viewers can query by township and range to receive the exact location of the lands.

The Master Title and Use Plats can be used in conjunction with the Patents, Survey Plats and Field Notes already available from the GLO Records website for a better understanding of the federal government rights and interests.

"The BLM-ES is constantly creating new and improved ways to provide public access to our information that is simple and straight forward," said Juan Palma, BLM-ES State Director. "No longer will the public have to go to our State Offices to view these important documents. Now they can see them from the comfort of their own homes via the computer. Access from anywhere at any time to these Master Title and Use Plats is now available and opens doors to a new audience of public users," said Palma.

As of June 8, 2009, the GLO Records website has over 10,000 Master Title Plats for the States of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota; nearly 5,500 Master Title Plats for the State of Idaho; and more than 14,000 Master Title Plats for the State of Colorado. In addition, for the States of Colorado and Idaho, each Master Title Plat online has corresponding Historical Indices, which provide a history of the land status by identifying in chronological order all past and present actions that affect title to federal lands.

The GLO Records website is continuously expanding its archives to provide the public with more records in a user-friendly environment. Additional states and documents will be added to the website as the data and images become available.

The Master Title Plats and Historical Indices for Idaho are also available to the public on the BLM's public File Transfer Protocol (FTP) website. This site contains several different downloadable formats for each file. They can be found at: ftp.blm.gov/pub/ID/mtp. For questions or assistance with this FTP site, please contact Idaho BLM Land and Resource Information Systems Specialist Lydia Ferguson in Boise, phone (208) 373-3972 or email Lydia_Ferguson@blm.gov.

The BLM manages more land - 256 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development and energy production; and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GROUP EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER OBAMA BLM PICK

Submitted by John Martin, ALAA Internet Committee, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee, et al, smartin@antelecom.net

To all Rockhounds, Pebble Pups, Fossil Friends and recreational users of Public Lands,

Even though most of us do not use off road vehicles and the many miles of off road trails in the pursuit of our Rockhounding Happiness, the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) is a large supporter of Public Use of Public Lands and they go the distance in helping to keep our Public Lands open to All the Public Usage. The news release below is being sent for informational purposes and to help keep all of us informed on the appointments and actions that may have adverse effects on our chosen hobby and recreational activities. Please consider supporting the BlueRibbon Coalition by subscribing to their newsletter.

For those going to Billings, MT in July, a Director of BRC will be speaking at the ALAA Meeting on Saturday, August 1, 2009, so if you are there, please consider attending the meeting.

****News Release****

POCATELLO, ID (June 17, 2009) — The BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), a national grass-roots group dedicated to preserving responsible recreational access to public lands and waters, today expressed concern over the Obama Administration's nomination of Robert V. Abbey as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The group says although Abbey has a good record during his 32 years with federal land managing agencies, his affiliation with some litigious preservationist groups raises significant questions.

Abbey worked for more than 32 years with state and federal land management agencies before retiring from the federal government in July 2005. Most recently, he served as BLM's Nevada State Director. Upon learning of Abbey's nomination, BRC polled many of its members and supporters who had worked with him over the years. "With few exceptions, the reports we are getting have been positive," said Brian Hawthorne, BRC's Public Lands Policy Director. "Abbey is generally known of as a good manager and one who understands the importance of public lands in providing diverse recreation for the American public."

But, the Coalition is concerned about Abbey's association with the *Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)* and their sub-groups, *Public Employees for Environmental responsibility (PEER)* and *Rangers for Responsible Recreation*, after his retirement from the BLM. *CBD and PEER are aggressive litigants who often challenge even the most restrictive recreation management plans.*

BRC's Executive Director, Greg Mumm, noted that among the vast number of so-called environmental groups, CBD and PEER are well known for being the least willing to compromise and most likely to sue. "The goals of these groups are directly opposed to BLM's multiple-use mandates," Mumm said, adding, "Congress needs to ensure Abbey's affiliation with these radical groups will not impede his ability to fulfill BLM's multiple-use mission."

Don Amador, BRC's Western Representative, remembers being shocked when Abby joined CBD. "These groups specialize in manufacturing conflict where none exists. Given Abbey's solution-oriented approach at BLM, we were mystified as to why he would want to affiliate with them."

The BLM manages 256 million acres primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres with strategic oil, gas and mineral reserves. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation and encourages individual environmental stewardship. It represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,200 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. 1-800-258-3742. <http://www.sharetrails.org>

Editors Note: The following article is from the AFMS Newsletter, dated June/July 2009. Although the incident below occurred in Georgia, is a similar incident possible in the Northwest? In the next issue I will publish an article closer to home.

Words of Caution

by John Wright, RPG, Conservation & Legislation Chair

If you plan on visiting the National Forest, be aware that you cannot trust the information on their "web sites" or in their brochures as Forest Service law enforcement officers use a different set of rules, regulations, and interpretations than the ones published. These inconsistencies are probably the result of poor coordination within the departments of the National Forest, and if you have ever attended any of the public forums they conduct, you know just how poorly organized they are. Unfortunately, Forest Service officials and Federal Judges invariably side with the law enforcement officers no matter how inconsistent or corrupt the circumstances may be.

Dick Pankey, President of ALAA, informed me of a pending case which is very typical of what can happen that occurred in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests located in northern Georgia. The victims in this case are Dr. Madden, MD, and his fiancée, who were rock-hounding in compliance with the Forest Service directives, but criminally charged any way. I believe this is an important enough example that all of our members should be made aware of the problems they could encounter when visiting in "our" National Forests. Permission was granted by the victim, Dr. Madden, to use his very well written account of the circumstances, which unfortunately is very typical of a number of other similar cases being adjudicated in the South Eastern Federal Mineralogical Society (SFMS) area at the present time.

E-Mail received from Dick Pankey:

A couple of weeks ago I received the article below, THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. It was written by a rockhound from Georgia. He first contacted me in early February. We have exchanged e-mails, had telephone conversations and he has provided me with other information regarding collecting in Georgia National Forests and the charges against him and his fiancée. I have begun collecting rockhounding regulations and information from BLM and FS offices around the country. So far much of the information is sketchy and vague. Written regulation and pamphlets most often don't exist. What I have found out is that although the laws allow for collecting on BLM and FS land, each district can establish their own management plan based on their interpretation of the law and the ranger/enforcement officer enforces the management plan based upon their interpretation. And these vary widely!

So, we have undocumented, inconsistent regulations, enforced by people based upon their ideas and agendas.

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

On November 1, 2008, my fiancée, Dori, and I were criminally charged with collecting Staurolites on U.S. Forest Service land. Local collectors have been going to this location to collect Staurolites for over 30 years. Our friends, Tonya and Barry, informed us of the location in Blue Ridge. We visited this area four (4) times in the summer and fall of 2008. The Staurolites we found on the surface were mostly poor quality. However, just a few inches under the surface using a scraper we found much better quality ones. We used hand tools including a scraper and a small pick. I feel we were very careful not to damage the site. We did not dig more than 6 or 7 inches and completely filled in our holes and raked the dirt to ensure the site looked undisturbed.

On November 1, 2008, Officer Mike Tipton of the USFS approached us. We did not attempt to hide ourselves because we had no idea we were doing anything wrong. He stated he had set up a video camera at the site and had been watching us. This was very alarming to us. I assured him if he had approached us that first time and explained that the Forest Service did not wish us to collect here, we would have politely left and never returned. He will attest to the fact that we were cooperative. He even complimented us stating we were "not like most of the individuals he deals with."

Officer Tipton approached us and asked us what we were looking for. We told him we were looking for Staurolites. He did not know what Staurolites were,

but informed us we needed a mining permit to dig for any type of mineral. He told us any Staurolites we find are government property. Next, he confiscated our scraping tools, knap sack and bucket. He separated us and read me my Miranda rights. At this point he asked me if I would allow federal agents to search my home in Rome for any other federal property. When I said "no", my interview was over. Evidently he tried to obtain a search warrant, but was unsuccessful. Officer Tipton repeatedly inquired as to whether we sold rocks. I told him I have never sold minerals and Staurolites have only intrinsic value. In the past there have been locations in Blue Ridge (Hackney Farm) that have allowed individuals to collect a bucket of them for \$5.00.

On January 11, 2009, Officer Tipton gave us a courtesy call. He stated we are being charged criminally with 261.9(a) destroying a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine) and 261.9(b) removing a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine). These are criminal misdemeanor offenses and can result in a criminal record. I strongly feel the section we are being charged under is both vague and does not address the important point that we were collecting minerals. Mineral collecting is generally allowed on most U.S. Forest Service lands including public domain lands and acquired lands. Unfortunately, each individual Forest Service can now make the rules (on acquired lands) dictating the rules for rock hounding, and Georgia has one of the most restrictive policies. Under this charge it appears we are vandals or even worse thieves. I told Officer Tipton I was considering going to court. Five days later when I received my ticket it had doubled to \$400.00 for each offense for a total of \$2000.00.

In conclusion, I feel strongly we took the utmost care to treat this land with care. We spent at least 15-20 minutes each time to leave the ground looking undisturbed. I feel the US Forest Service in Georgia is treating mineral collectors like criminals. Mineral collecting has in the past been considered a wholesome and educational activity. In other states, the US Forest Service has been much more responsive to working with mineral collectors and even encourages collecting. I am saddened that in Georgia the US Forest Service is now considering it a criminal offense. Thank you for the time you spend considering this matter. (Signed) Robert Madden, M.D.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

Note: This is the Federal Code that Dr. Madden was charged with violating. The specific items in the charges are noted in "Bold" print.

36 CFR 261.9 - Property.

Code of Federal Regulations - Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property (December 2005)

TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY
CHAPTER 11 - FOREST SERVICE, DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
PART 261 - PROHIBITIONS
subpart a - GENERAL PROHIBITIONS
261.9 - Property

The following are prohibited:

- (a) **Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.**
- (b) **Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.**
- (c) Damaging any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.
- (d) Removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.
- (e) Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States when such building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public.
- (f) Using any pesticide except for personal use as an insect repellent or as provided by special-use authorization for other minor uses.
- (g) Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.
- (h) Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, property.
- (i) Excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.
- (j) Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave without a special use authorization, or removing any cave resource for commercial purposes.

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

News Flash July 2009



**Juniors
Chairman
Gary Buhr**

Holy Heat Wave
Batman, we had

the thermometer hit 93 degrees in Marysville by the bay in May, very rare for that coastal community. When on those hot Field Trips, drink plenty of water to rehydrate after all the sweat of digging new treasures. If your schedule allows flexible digging times, you can beat the heat by working early in the day or later in the evening during all our daylight this time of year. This will keep your cardiovascular system happier by doing less cooling during high heat periods of the day.

Sometimes, when discovering treasures, Rockhounds hardly notice the heat because "crystal-fever" does seem to equalize the temperatures. Be safe and have fun finding your next "keeper".

I'm Pproud to announce that there are two 2009 NFMS Junior Achievement Award Winners that will be honored at the Annual Banquet during the 2009 NFMS Annual Show and Convention in Billings, Montana this July 30, 31, August 1 and 2. It will be a special Showtime because this Big Event will include the Annual AFMS Show as well. The two special Junior Winners are ALEX MILLER, age 10, from West Seattle Rock Club and ALEXANDER CARRINGTON from Everett Rock and Gem Club. These two stars will also be highlighted in an upcoming edition of the Northwest Newsletter and your NFMS Website Juniors Page.

West Seattle Rock Club had their 43rd Annual Show, called the "President's Gemboree" in May this year, which brought out many passionate participants of all ages. Besides hosting an active KIDS CORNER, many Junior Rockhounds placed neat displays of their treasures into the Show and delighted the public visitors.

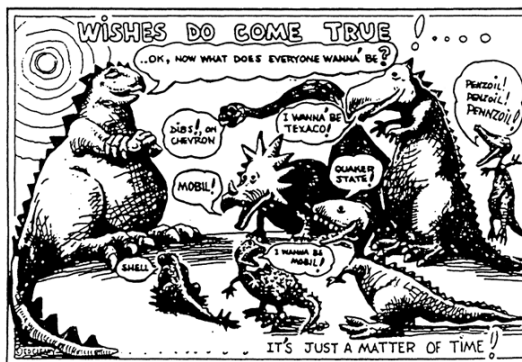


Photo above is ALEX MILLER, age 10, who has been in the West Seattle Rock Club for three years. ALEX displayed a case titled "Minerals and Optics" to show/demonstrate how light goes through minerals and what colors are formed. The specimens he utilized are quartz, jade, amethyst, calcite, copal, fluorite, labradorite, carnelian & moss agates, pyrite, petrified wood, satin spar, stibnite, tiger's eye, ulexite and bismuth. ALEX included sugar and salt that he referred to as "imposters". Why do you think he placed those two refined essences in his display? Stuck? Ask him!



MILES DURNWIRTH (above) is age 9 and a member of the West Seattle Rock Club for two years. MILES displayed a case titled "State Rocks" from all over America. He has managed to collect 30 rocks from 30 states out of 50 in the USA. Although MILES has not visited each of the states to collect yet, he definitely plans to in the future. The Washington State Rock is Petrified Wood; his aunt has a ranch near Ginkgo Forest on the Columbia River where MILES self-collected his show specimen of petrified wood. His aunt's grandfather pulled out the petrified wood logs for the famed Ginkgo Museum near Vantage.

Junior Rockhounds who also placed displays, but missed the photographer included "ALEX" ALEXANDREA WALL, age 15, who is also forever honored as the 2004 NFMS First Place Junior Achievement Award Winner! Her display was titled "Jewelry" and contained many kinds of lapidary arts, gemstones and her published article titled "Cabbing with Lyle" (Vogelpohl). You can imagine the detailed content of her well-organized 14 Step Process of making beautiful cabochons for necklaces that was listed in the fine display by ALEX WALL. MERLIN TOSH, age 13, displayed a full case titled "Wire Wrapping" with lots of nice finished items like a gem tree, earrings, cabochon necklaces, even the wire on spools and the pliers for twisting. Gems used in his wire wrapped jewelry included Mexican lace agate, goldstone, white opal, jasper, amethyst, tiger's eye, agates, obsidian, amber, rose quartz, onyx and jet. All four Junior displays received a Blue Ribbon in the West Seattle Rock Club Junior Competition. It is almost AFMS/NFMS Showtime; is the Big Event on your calendar? PLEASE make a donation for our 2009 KIDS CORNER in Billings, we need polished stones, crystals, or whatever you can donate. Thank You Kindly for your consideration.



From The Boondocker 5&6/92
via T-Town Rockhound 6/98

**Continued from page 1.
"THE Fossil for Oregon"**

The designation of *Metasequoia* as Oregon's State Fossil was approved by the Legislature in the spring of 2005 as House Joint Resolution #3. State Representative Alan Brown of Newport introduced the resolution, with his staff being doggedly helpful tracking the measure through the House, the Senate and finally the Governor's office.



Official literature listing state designations now include *Metasequoia* as "Oregon's State Fossil". The designation is a permanent part of the Oregon Blue Book – sort of the state's official book of archived information about Oregon – and was added to the State website as well as other printed literature (e.g. official State highway map).

You may find your very own *Metasequoia* at the managed dig site behind Wheeler High School in Fossil, Oregon. The school district and community have been cooperatively-protecting the site with fencing and providing on-site management. For a donation to the cause, a highly-trained interpreter helps you find fossil-bearing rock, provides you tools for digging and helps identify your finds.

Major excavation practices of the past are now prohibited – after all, people were driving pick-ups onto the high school football field to pick and shovel loads of fossil-bearing rocks. You may work the site in selected areas where the overburden has been carefully removed and collect a few handfuls of specimens to take home. School and other groups are encouraged to use the site for educational purposes.

Personally, it's a workbench contest for me. Grab a couple blocks of layered marl, and split them lengthwise with a single-edge razor blade using an old tablespoon as my 'hammer'. Object of the game is to work as many slices out of one block with fossils on both sides of each slide. Thin specimens, but ohhhh the detail is so clear and fine.

Heading to Fossil, OR to get your Oregon State Fossil? Contact:

Will Boettner, P.G.
www.PaleoVentures.com
Paleo Adventures LLC
PO Box 541
680 Main Street
Fossil, OR 97830
will@paleoventures.com
(541) 763-2500
(877) 841-6250

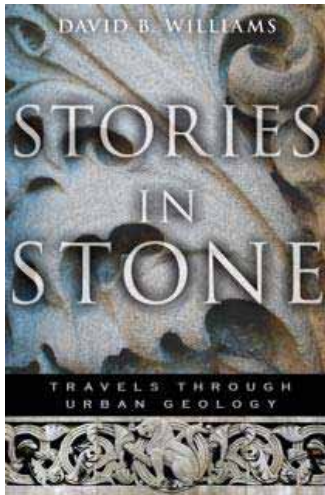
For other Oregon fossil info, contact:

Guy DiTorrice
www.OregonFossilGuy.com
PO Box 256
Newport OR 97365
oregonfossilguy@hotmail.com
(541) 961-1762

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Schroeder,

I am a Seattle-based natural history writer and have recently published a book that I think will be of interest to readers of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies newsletter. The book looks at how people use stone as a building material in the urban landscape. Each chapter focuses on a different type of rock and weaves together stories of people, geology, architecture, and history.



Most people probably don't expect to make geological finds along the sidewalks of a major city, but when I look at the stone masonry, façades, and ornamentations of buildings, I see a range of rocks equal to any assembled by plate tectonics. In my new book, *Stories in Stone: Travels Through Urban Geology*, I introduce readers to a three-and-a-half-billion-year-old rock called Morton Gneiss that is the color of swirled pink-and-black taffy; a 1935 gas station made of petrified wood; and a fort in St. Augustine, Florida, that has withstood three hundred years of attacks and hurricanes, despite being made of a stone (coquina) that has the consistency of a granola bar.

I show why a white, fossil-rich limestone from Indiana became the only building stone to be used in all fifty states; how the construction of the granite Bunker Hill Monument in 1825 led to America's first commercial railroad; and why Carrara marble—the favorite sculpting material of Michelangelo—warped so much after only nineteen years on a Chicago skyscraper that all forty-four thousand panels of the stone had to be replaced. From New York to California, from limestone to slate, *Stories in Stone* will inspire readers to realize that, even in the most modern metropolis, evidence of our planet's natural wonders can be found all around us in building stones that are far less ordinary than we might think at first glance.

For more information on *Stories in Stone*, you can go to the Stone page on my web site, listed below.

Thank you kindly,
David Williams

~~~~~  
**David B. Williams**  
[wingate@seanet.com](mailto:wingate@seanet.com)  
**Blog:** [www.stories-in-stone.blogspot.com](http://www.stories-in-stone.blogspot.com)  
**Web site:** [www.storiesinstone.info](http://www.storiesinstone.info)



Ammolite

or

Ammonite

Courtesy of:  
<http://www3.telus.net/Crest/origin.html>

An iridescent ammonite from Madagascar

The story of Ammolite begins over 65 million years ago during the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs ruled the earth, pterosaurs glided overhead in the skies and the oceans teemed with an enormous variety of aquatic life. Accompanied by tropical climates, the continents were evolving into the shapes and global positions we are familiar with today. During this time the interior of North America was partially submerged under the warm shallow Bearpaw Sea which bordered the developing Rocky Mts. Today part of this region is southeastern Alberta, CA.

Living in the Bearpaw Sea were many exotic creatures like plesiosaurs which "flew" through the water like penguins as they diligently fished the shallow waters. In addition to such "monsters" were ancestors of modern sea life such as sharks and turtles. One such ancestor were the ammonites, the predecessor to squids and the South Pacific nautilus.

Ammonites were squid-like creatures with coiled shells containing gas filled chambers which provided buoyancy. Like modern squids and nautiluses, they propelled themselves through the water with a "jet" and when threatened, clouded the water with ink during their escapes. Ammonites needed such speed and defense as they were favored as a delicacy by mosasaurs, another predacious marine reptile.

Sinking its peg-like teeth into the coiled shell, a ravenous mosasaur would extract the ammonites squid-shaped body and devour it, discarding the empty shell which then sank to the sea floor. This is where fortunate circumstances came together to create specific conditions for the next step in the birth of a gemstone.

Settling on the sea bottom, the empty ammonite shell was buried in mineral-rich sediment carried there by rivers and streams from the young Rocky Mountains. During the fossilization process, the sediment not only preserved the shell but also enhanced the shell's colors into iridescent greens, reds, yellows, and rare blues and violets. In 1981, the International Colored Gemstone Commission (ICGC) recognized this new organic gemstone as Ammolite. With finite supply in a very specific area and only one in a hundred of the preserved shells yielding few gemstones, Ammolite is the *rarest* gemstone in the world!

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# 2009 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

| Date                                                           | Club/Show Name                                                                                   | Show Location                                                                     | Contact Person                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 17-19<br>Fri 10-6<br>Sat 10-6<br>Sun 10-4                  | Lower Umpqua Gem and Lapidary Show,<br>Treasures from the Earth                                  | Reedsport Community Bldg<br>415 Winchester Avenue<br>Reedsport, OR                | Bill Hendrickson<br>(541) 271-6816<br>bamoonman7@msn.com                         |
| Jul 25-26<br>Sat 9-6<br>Sun 9-5                                | Wa Agate & Mineral Soc. (WAMS)/& Tenino Rock Cruisers, 15 <sup>th</sup>                          | Parkside Elementary School<br>Stage St. South, I-5 exit 88,<br>Tenino, WA         | Daniel Deboer<br>keylock1@live.com                                               |
| Jul 30-Aug 2<br>Thur 10-5<br>Fri 10-5<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun: 10-5 | NFMS/AFMS<br>Combined Show<br>hosted by Billings<br>Gem & Mineral Club,<br>51 <sup>st</sup> year | Holiday Inn Grand<br>Montana<br>5500 Midland Rd<br>Billings MT                    | Doug True<br>406-670-0506<br>dtruefossils@yahoo.com                              |
| Jul 31-Aug 2<br>Fri 9-5<br>Sat 9-5<br>Sun: 10-4                | Far West Lapidary & Gem Society, Annual Rock and Gem Show                                        | North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway<br>North Bend, OR                      | Rocky Pribble<br>541-572-8301<br>Greg Solarz<br>541-756-3957                     |
| Aug 15-16<br>Sat 10-6<br>Sun 10-5                              | The Nisqually Valley Rockhound Society's Annual Show                                             | Yelm Middle School<br>Hwy 510<br>Yelm, WA                                         | Mike Smith<br>360-458-8747<br>msmith2012@ywave.com                               |
| Sep 12-13<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun 10-5                              | Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society Show                                                      | Walla Walla County Fair,<br>9th St. and Orchard, Comm.<br>Center, Walla Walla, WA | Warren Rood<br>509-522-2330<br>wwood@coffeyscomm.com                             |
| Sep 18-20<br>Fri 8-6<br>Sat 8-6<br>Sun 8-5                     | 29th Annual Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, "A Rockhound Revival"                          | Fair Complex (across from Hillsboro Airport)<br>Hillsboro, Oregon                 | Russ Snook<br>503-648-3989,<br>dmsnook28@yahoo.com                               |
| Sep 18-20<br>Fri 10-6<br>Sat 10-6<br>Sun 10-5                  | Far West Lapidary & Gem Society<br>ANNUAL GEM FEST                                               | 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Parking Lot<br>(across from Outdoor Inn)<br>Coos Bay, OR      | Rocky Pribble<br>541-572-8301                                                    |
| Sep 26-27<br>Sat 10-6<br>Sun 10-5                              | Hellgate Mineral Society<br>15th Show, GOLD (50 Yrs) Rockhounding                                | Ruby's Reserve Street Inn,<br>4825 N. Reserve<br>Missoula Montana                 | Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday LN,<br>Missoula Montana 59081<br>(406) 543-3667            |
| Oct 2-4<br>Fri 10-5<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun 10-3                    | Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society<br>"Earth's Treasures"                                      | Clallam County Boys/Girls Club<br>400 West Fir Street<br>Sequim, WA 98382         | Foster Thompson, 360-670-1405 or 360-681-7981<br>Sonia Zachman<br>360-452-8588   |
| Oct 10-11<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun 10-5                              | Marysville Rock & Gem Club Annual<br>'Rocktoberfest' show                                        | Totem Middle School<br>7th Street & State Ave<br>Marysville, WA 98270             | Bill Mosser, 425-238-8222<br>bill-jj@comcast.net or<br>Rocky McCall 360-629-2515 |
| Oct 16-18<br>Fri 12-7 pm<br>Sat 10-7<br>Sun 11-4               | Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club 52nd Annual Rock and Gem Show                                   | Gateway Mall<br>3000 Gateway Street<br>Springfield, OR                            | Bob Smith 541-741-0060<br>John Randall 541-683-2661<br>sweetbottom@juno.com      |
| Oct 17-18<br>Sat 10-6<br>Sun 10-5                              | 43rd Annual Hells Canyon Gem Club Show<br>"Hidden Treasure"                                      | Nez Perce County Fair Building 1229 Burrell Ave<br>Lewiston, Idaho                | Rick Westerholm<br>(208) 746-2101<br>rkwester@cablone.net                        |
| Oct 24-25<br>Sat 9-6<br>Sun 10-5                               | Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, "Nature's Beauty in Stone 2009"                                  | Clackamas Co Fairground Pavilion Bldg, 694 NE 4th Ave., Canby, Oregon             | Rick Mauer<br>503-691-6395<br>tallerricardo@juno.com                             |
| Oct 24-25<br>Sat 9-6<br>Sun 10-5                               | Bellevue Rock Club<br>"Octoberfest of Gems"                                                      | Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE<br>Bellevue, WA 98008                | Marjorie McKinley, PO Box 1851, Bellevue, WA 98009,<br>206-633-1421              |

| Date                                          | Club/Show Name                                                                     | Show Location                                                                                       | Contact Person                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov 13-15<br>Fri 10-5<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun 10-4 | South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral 5th annual show (Boeing Employees Mineral Society) | Puyallup Fairgrounds<br>Exposition Hall, Meridian<br>Street S and 9TH Ave SW,<br>Puyallup, WA 98371 | Lyle & Char Jorgensen<br>425-483-0557<br>mechanix@comcast.net |
| Nov 14-15<br>Sat 9-5<br>Sun 10-5              | Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Annual Show<br>"Treasures of the Earth"                    | Sedro Woolley Community Center, 720 State St.<br>Sedro Woolley, WA                                  | Lois Stone<br>Clear Lake, WA<br>(360) 856-1190                |
| Nov 21-22<br>Sat 10-5<br>Sun 10-5             | Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society Show "Fall Festival of Gems"                        | Kitsap County Fairgrounds<br>1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd<br>(Pres. Hall), Bremerton, WA                  | Gerry Alexander<br>(360) 876-4543                             |

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 July 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**