



NORTHWEST

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 49 NO. 1

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

September 2008

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



ZOE TOLBERT, age 8, First Place

Zoe's Outline/Resume

Section I, HOBBY RELATED Club Involvement: I am a Member of Washington Agate & Mineral Society (Olympia, WA) since 2005; Participate in WAMS-led rockhounding field trips; Participate in rock show & tell for every club meeting since 2005 and with a rock that I collected! Hobby Craft Involvement: Co-author, "The Best Ever Rockhounding Gear Guide" (2007); Co-author, "The Best Ever Rock Tumbling Guide" (2007); Site contributor (and owner), www.GatorGirlRocks.com; Provide rock collecting field trip reports; Rock polishing- primarily agates, jasper, petrified wood, chalcedony nodules, apache tears, etc.; Rock collecting- numerous collecting trips in Washington as well as the Pacific Northwest, but also including, Canada, Italy, and 17 different states; Regularly correspond with other rock collectors across the U.S. through my website; Donate rocks to students to increase awareness of rock collecting hobby. Competitive Involvement: Thurston County Fair, Best of Class (2007) for Polished Rocks Exhibit; Thurston County Fair, First Place (2007), Polished Rocks; Thurston County Fair, First Place (2007), Rock Collection.

Section II, EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT Scholastic: Student, Annie Wright School which has merit-based, high achievement admissions; Knowledge Bowl, First Place (2007), Second Place (2006); Contributor, AWS Writer's Tea (authored Kuddlekins, 2008). Extracurricular: Dancer, Tacoma City Ballet's professional theatre production of "The Nutcracker Suite" (2006 & 2007); Student, Creative Theatre Experience (Summer 2007 & 2008); AWS Gator Rock Club (2006- present), assist father in teaching after-school rock club course for grades K-3;

Student piano (2005-present), student ballet (2004-present), student gymnastics (2008).

Section III, COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT Events Involvement: Volunteer, Nisqually Wildlife Refuge (2003-present), volunteer, school-based charitable programs (2004-present) such as Starlight-Starbright Foundation, Jump for Heart, Nothing But Nets, St. Leo's Food Bank, and Penny Drive; Volunteer, City of Lacey, Adopt-A-Road (2006-present); Volunteer, Lewis County Flood Cleanup (2007-present). Community Involvement: Brownies (2006-present); Olympia Rose Society (2003-present), volunteer to tend the Washington State Centennial Rose Garden.

Section IV, WORK RELATED Co-owner and contributor, www.GatorGirlRocks.com (a rockhounding resource for children and families); Clean-up volunteer at school; Chores at home. My other interests and hobbies are mountain climbing (climbed to peak of Mount St. Helens in 2007), collecting flattened pennies, visiting state capitals (10 to date), arts (theatre, ballet, dance, music, painting, sculpture), crafts (beading & sewing), and reading, especially Harry Potter, American Girl and Magic Treehouse.



SIERRA SCHACKMANN, age 15, 2nd Place

Sierra's Outline/Resume

My name is Sierra Schackmann and I am 15 years old and a junior member of the Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society. I first became a member of the club when I was about eight years old, and my family and I had gone to the Kitsap County Fair in 2001. We saw the rocks and jewelry presented in the showcases and thought they were really fascinating, so we decided to join the club. Ever since that day, my family and I have gone to almost every meeting, and have been putting in a showcase at every Kitsap county fair, and KMGS show. I help put up and take down chairs and or supplies at the club meetings, help set up the shows and fairs every year since I have joined.

What's Inside

NFMS Information.....	2
Officer & Committee Reports.....	3
Rockhound of the Year.....	3
Portland Show Announcement.....	3
Vibrating Lap Instructions.....	5
Tri-Fed Field Trip Critique.....	6
Fossil of the Month – Ammonites.....	7
Kids & Eggs Field Trip.....	7
Propane Tank Safety.....	7
Paleo Act Resurrected –Act NOW!!!.....	8
Competitive Case Awards.....	9
FRA Application.....	9
Junior Rockhounds	10
Mineral Formation Mysteries.....	11
2008 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	12-15
Show Calendar.....	16

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

September 10, 2008

NFMS WEBSITE
www.amfed.org/nfms

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
 Bryan Schroeder, Editor
 153 Spring Street
 Richland WA 99354-1651

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Burley ID 83318
 Permit No. 9

Continued on Page 4

NORTHWEST FEDERATION EXEC. OFFICERS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT: Paul Heesacker, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR, (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@cbadam.com
2nd Vice President: Fritz Mack, 10619 Holly Dr., Everett, WA 98204, 425.513.0115,
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

NEMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: Evelyn Cataldo, 1st Vice President (see above)
BULLETIN AIDS: Darlene Denton, Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club, 5830 Haddon Lane, Anacortes, WA 98221, (360) 588-0217
CIRCULATION: Tom Burchard, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, 801.479.4286, Roxhund@aol.com
CREDENTIALS: Mary Bolton, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 17540 SE Brooklyn, Portland, OR 97236, (503) 760-5176, philmary@comcast.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: Margaret Stallknecht, Stallknecht-Morgan Museum Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 171, Letha, ID 83636, (208) 365-1653, mestallknecht@yahoo.com
ENDOWMENT FUND: CHAIRMAN: Edna Nelson, Mt Hood Rock Club, 66830 Maple Crest Rd., Deer Island, OR 97054, (503) 397-5284, snelson@ados.net; **TREASURER:** Jon Spunangle (Temporary), 4841 Doctor Eldridge Dr., Washougal, WA 98671, jonspe@comcast.net

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Open
HISTORIAN: Shirley Leeson, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O. Box 23, Tenody, ID., 83468-0023, (619) 460-6128 or (208) 756-2394, shirleyleeson@msn.com
JUNIORS CHAIR: Gary Buhr, Everett Rock & Gem Club, 1242 State Ave., PMB 157,#1, Marysville, WA 98270-3672, (360) 659-7776 (work), (425) 356-7696 (cell), gemnut@hotmail.com; AK-Steve Jensen, ID-Barbara Nash, MT-open, OR-Janine Owens UT-Shaun Peck, WA-Marc Cimolino

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Beth Heesacker, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bryan Schroeder, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 153 Spring St., Richland, WA 99354, (509) 371-1572, nfmsnews@verizon.net

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: Russell Snook, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 73 S. 26th Ave, Cornelius, OR 97113, (503) 648-3989, dottys28@msn.com

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: OPEN
PUBLIC RELATION: OPEN; Members: AK-Tom and Linda Cooper, ID-Clarence Wright
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: Dee Holland, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O.Box 23, Tenody, ID, 83468, (208) 756-2394, beauholland@centurytel.net
JUDGING DIRECTOR: Joe Slouber, Butte Gem & Mineral Club P.O. Box 427, Butte MT., 59703-0427, (406) 494-3034, RockHound@in-tch.com

EXHIBITS REGISTRAR: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net

SAFETY: Bo Jeffers, West Seattle Rock Club, 1009 SW 125th, Seattle, WA, (206) 2248-1475, malumInsea@comcast.net
SCHOLARSHIP: Rose Alene McArthur, Hells Canyon Gem Club, 33427 Highway 212, Orofino, ID. 83544, (208) 476-3840, obmcarthur@cpinternet.com
SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2009: Doug True, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils@yahoo.com
SHOW COORDINATION: Judi Allison, Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th #A, Hermiston OR. 97838 (541) 720-4950, jall@eotnet.net

STAMPS: Hermina Kolski, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 208 Riverview #2E, Great Falls, MT 59404, (406) 231-0620
SUPPLIES: Tim Hoff, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, 1016 Waukesha Ave, Butte, MT., 59701, 406-491-3587, ttinker9742@bigskyhds.com

WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (503)753-2401 jvancura@peak.org
WEBMASTER: Jack Eads, Kitsap Mineral & Gem Soc., 5169 E. Hillcrest Drive, Port Orchard, WA. 98366-8101, (360) 871-2445, jacke@silverlink.net
NFMS WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2008

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Keene Clay, Mt Hood Rock Club, 19473 SE Foster, Boring OR 97009, (503) 558-8500, clayken@comcast.net

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Lamar Tigner (Chair), Mt. Hood Rock Club, 200 SE Olvera Ave., Gresham, OR 97080, (503) 666-2905, LSTILGNER@aol.com
CLAIMS COMMITTEE: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net

OPERATIONS PROCEDURE UPDATE: Open
ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA. 98273, (360) 424-8340, rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives):

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

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

The **AFMS NEWSLETTER** is published monthly except Jan-Jul-Aug by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each NFMS member club should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary, and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newsletter. If they are not, or if anyone else wants to subscribe (\$4.50 per year), write to: **AFMS Central 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

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 Endowment Fund Treasurer is an open position. Should ask Edna Nelson who she wants the funds to be sent to.

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions

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: To Be Determined

To **ALAA** Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to **ALAA**

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

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE
 for YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO
 the next
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is
September 10th
For the October 2008 Issue
509 371 1572
BRYAN SCHROEDER
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
nfmsnews@verizon.net

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evelyn Cataldo NFMS 1st V.P.



As you are reading this, we have just arrived at Star Springs Campground at the base of Mt. Hillers (picture above) in the Henry Mountains of Utah. To us, this is one of the most delightful places in the western United States. We find ourselves returning year after year to delight in the deep canyons, the rugged landscape that exposes the layers of the Earth, and the incredible blue of Lake Powell at Bullfrog Basin. To us, this is nature at its finest.

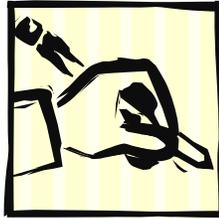
Our rock hunting friends from New Mexico, Utah and Washington make the yearly pilgrimage to join us in the Henry Mountains. Under glorious skies we will travel down into the canyons for petrified wood, agate and coprolite. The Mancos shales to the west will yield small ammonites and marine fossils. We always have to stop for a new supply of devil's toenails on the way back to camp.

All too soon, we will have to leave the beauty and quiet of the Henrys and join civilization again.



Education Chairperson
Margaret Stallknecht

Well, we are having a scorcher of a summer in western Idaho & eastern Oregon! I've committed to another year as education director for the federation and am looking forward to having a great time. Now that the Ontario show is over, it is time to get back into my role as education director and canvas among you to see if you have any ideas for what we can do as a federation to further educate our juniors? If you have any ideas, please forward them to me. Adults can channel their curiosity better; juniors need to be exposed to the variety of the rock arts and crafts..... maybe a rock art article & directions in the Northwest News every so often???? Let me hear from you at mestallknecht@yahoo.com with any new or old ideas. We don't want this hobby becoming a lost art!



NFMS Bulletin Aids Chair

Darlene Denton
5830 Haddon Lane
Anacortes WA 98221-4332

Changes for the 2009 Bulletin Editor's Contest:

A. Category by Bulletin Size (to more evenly distribute the number of bulletins in each category)
New Editor – any size
Mini Bulletins, 6 pages or less
Small Bulletins, 7 – 11 pages
Large Bulletins, 12 pages or more

B. Add a "Features" category (to include more of our writers & artists in awards): The Features category will include: written articles covering field trips, book reports, travelogues, historical commentary and original shop hints, as well as original drawn items such as cartoons, puzzles, quizzes, and sketches/drawings.

C. No points will be deducted from bulletins that are exclusively e-mailed for being formatted in a single column per page. Each page must still have a header or footer that gives the name of the bulletin, the page number, and the date/volume number. (Online bulletins are easier to read in one column so the reader does not have to scroll down-up-down each page.)

D. On the score sheet for bulletins, "Headings, margins, spacing good, typing neat & clean, corrections neat" under **FORMAT/EDITORSHIP will be changed to "Headings, margins, white space, spacing good; typing neat & clean; corrections neat."** (White space is space on the page that has no typing or art work in it – it's just white. Readers need white space on each page to let their eyes rest, and white space makes what is written and drawn stand out more. Thus, editors need to make good use of white space.)

KEEP THESE CHANGES IN MIND AS YOU MAKE UP YOUR BULLETINS. Thanks for adding me to your recipients too. Keep up your great work.

Hard copies of the rules changes will also be available at the AFMS Breakfast with the Editors held this coming September in Houston, TX.

Editor's Note: The above was modified slightly from Darlene Denton's submittal to reflect additional remarks by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Public. Chair

New Group Rate Discount :

Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show
September 26-28, 2008
Portland Exposition Center
(See Show Calendar for Additional Details)

The Portland Regional Show has established a new Admission policy for group admission. Any club or organization that enters the show together as a group of 5 or more paid admissions will receive a special price of \$4 per person in the group.

One of the members of the group must present a copy of this flier at the admissions table for the group to receive the discount. Admission is good for all three days. No other admission discounts will apply.

Anyone that puts in a display Case (as specified by show regulations) will get in free. For more information contact Keene Clay at 503-558-8500 or odroc@comcast.net.

We hope to see you and your friends at the show in September. This form may be photocopied and shared.

Rockhounds of the Year for 2008

The **Clackamette Mineral and Gem Rockhounds of the Year for 2008 are Bea and Forrest Settle.** They truly represent outstanding rockhounds through their service and support to our club and the rock collecting community.

Bea has been the club's Treasurer for several years, providing stability to the operations of the club. She also handles club publicity and communications with the entire community regarding our shows and other rockhound information. She greatly contributes to the quality of our club.

Forrest is the club's Custodian. He houses and maintains the club inventory of rock and materials on his property. He organizes the club rock washes and handling of the rock for our annual shows, coordinates the various props and equipment for the annual show, and annually leads a field trip to Lassen Creek.

Forrest provides training in the lapidary arts (along with other club members). He encourages each to perfect his craft. He and Bea have mentored many club members into better lapidaries. Their personal collection is legendary and they well represent our club throughout the Northwest by showing their outstanding collections at many shows. They also maintain a network of rockhounds through their active participation in many events. Among the recognition for their show cases, they won the People's Choice Award at the Mount Hood Club Show this year and Best Northwest Material at a Federation Show two years ago.

Together, Bea and Forrest are an inspirational source of information and support for our club. We are glad to honor them as the 2008 Clackamette Rockhounds of the Year.

Submitted by Dean Arrasmith, Federation Director

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

I have gone to so many field trips over the years, but these are the ones that were the most memorable: Saddle Mountain (petrified wood), Red Top Mountain (jasper and crystals), Twin Rivers (fossils and beach agates), Kalama (carnelian agate), Lucas Creek (carnelian agate), Ochocos, Oregon (agate, thunder eggs, jasper, moss agate, petrified wood, and limb casts), Rim Rock Lake (mammoth size thunder eggs and jasper), Wenatchee (soapstone, actinolite, garnets, and quartz), Spencer, Idaho (precious opal), and Green Water (jasper, agate crystals, petrified wood, common opal, etc.). One of my talented hobbies is making ming trees (trees constructed of wire with rock beads and rock base) with rocks that I have found over the years. I have put my ming trees in my cases before along with my rock critters. I have attended the Port Townsend Gemboree, put a showcase in the Puyallup Show, and visited the Rice Museum in Oregon.

I am currently a freshman at North Mason High School and have a GPA of 3.95 or better. When I was in Middle School at Hawkins, I accomplished honor roll a number of times and have a certificate of seals that describe everything I have done. I have also gotten a certificate that shows I was a great student and that the teachers appreciated me being there. Since middle school, I have gotten straight A's so far and hope to keep that goal throughout high school. I am also currently on the high school softball team, and hope to keep playing that sport in the future. I have also been involved in choir and art as some of my other skills. My mother, Heather Schackmann, was the junior's leader at KMGS, and needed every bit of my help for getting the class ready, or making the rock critters and ming trees for the show, and sometimes helping organize the games for the picnics that our club has. I have also helped teach the juniors to make Ming trees and rock critters to put in the shows.

I am a member of the Sunnyslope Improvement Association (SIA) and have been since I was old enough to remember. For the past years I have helped SIA with the parties and functions that go on, like the Huckleberry Social, the Christmas parties, the May Sale, and sometimes the Halloween parties. For the nights when they have potlucks there I go with my dad to help at the meetings and learn what's going on. After each event I help take down and clean up the hall for the next event. I have also donated items to the SIA for the May Sale, like toys or clothes to help benefit and raise money for the community. I am currently active in KMGS, the North Mason Bible Church youth group, and the SIA.

At home I am very active with chores that consist of unloading the dishwasher, putting leftover food away into containers, and whatever else needs to get done in the house. I help my mom with a lot by folding the laundry sometimes, cleaning the laundry sometimes, cleaning the house when guests are expected, and sometimes organizing the pantry and keeping things up to date. I also maintain the birdfeeders and in the summer, baby-sit the neighbor's kids. I help trim and clear the huckleberry and salal brush on our property as well to keep it maintained. I am always happy to help anyone who needs it.



CLINTON A. SLOVARP age 17--First Place

My Resume/Outline

Section I. HOBBY RELATED ACTIVITY: Membership with the Rock Rollers Club in Spokane, for four years. In good standing with the club as a Junior member; Attended the Rock Roller's Club Annual Gem and Mineral Show for five consecutive years. Have helped to run club operated booths and help with the show for all shows in the duration; I have entered show cases into our club's show for the past four years as follows: 2005 Show--A display case of my favorite pieces in my collection. Non-competition case. 2006 Show--A quartz crystal show case. Non-competition. Received the People's Choice Award at the show. 2006 Show--An educational Igneous Rock Competition case. Entered at the Junior level. I earned first place and received 96/100. 2007 Show--An educational Igneous Rock Competition case. Entered at the Novice level, I received first place and received 97/100. 2008 Show--An educational Igneous Rock Competition case. Entered at the Intermediate level, I received first place and 98/100; I have my own very extensive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils acquired through rock-hounding, purchase, and other means. My collection is thousands of specimens large; I own some of my own rock working equipment including a 12' table saw, 3 grinding wheels and a polishing wheel; With my equipment I work at home in my spare time at lapidary, becoming better at making cabochons. Also, I have experimented with other creations using the saw and wheels. My latest completions include coaster sets made out of slabs, and I am planning to try and make a lamp as my next project; I haven't participated in any of the Club's digs, due to schedule conflict, but I have gone on digs independently or with friends. My last dig was at the Stone Rose fossil site in Republic, WA; I have been able to promote my hobby, club, and our show through informing my peers, teachers, and family and friends.

Section II. EDUCATION/EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT at SCHOOL:

Centennial Middle School--Numerous achievements and involvements throughout, details available upon request; West Valley High School--**ACADEMICS:** Junior in high school taking zero hour band; I am a Running Start Student at Eastern Washington University where I take all of my other classes; 4.0 GPA (Transcript available upon request); I have earned my academic letter and consistently made honor roll throughout high school; I have taken advanced courses including AP European History, Honors English I, II, III, and IV, was a year ahead in mathematics, and have two full years of Spanish as a foreign language.

ACTIVITIES: 2nd year member of National Honor Society; Marching band, Wind Ensemble concert band, and pep band participant for three years; Currently I am Drum Major for high school band; Currently play piano and French horn, taking lessons in both; As a freshman earned the award for Rookie of the Year in Band; As a sophomore earned Sophomore of the Year in Band; Participated in our region's 2006 WMEA Solo and Ensemble receiving a II, or Excellent rating, on my solo. Also I earned a I, or Superior rating, as part of a sextet, and was second alternate to state for that year's competition; Participated in our region's 2007 WMEA Solo and Ensemble receiving a I, and awarded second alternate to state, for my French horn solo. Also I received a I, for my work as part of a Brass Quintet; Participated in our region's 2008 WMEA Solo and Ensemble receiving a II for my French horn solo, a II for my Brass Quintet group, and I and first alternate to state for my French horn duet; Two years of involvement in the FIRST robotics program, and the Electrics Captain for the 2007-2008 build and competitions; Member of Link Crew (Sophomore year); Golf Team (Sophomore year) and earned the academic scholar award; Spanish club member freshman and sophomore year; Eastern Washington University, Cheney--Major, Biology, with a Pre-Med option, anticipated graduation June, 2011; I have earned 34 credits at EWU, maintaining excellent grades; Golf at EWU, Fall quarter of 2007; I have made the dean's list for two consecutive quarters, and the entirety of my time at the University.

Section III. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT: I do numerous chores around the house for my parents including baby-sitting my 3 year old brother and providing respite care for my fourteen year old brother with multiple disabilities; I played piano for a formal charity dinner to raise money through donations from prominent community members, for the construction of a new local recreation/community center; I have volunteered at Spokane's Hoopfest the past three years, helping to clean up garbage, and other maintenance; The work I have mentioned for The Vox is donated time, to stimulate reading and literacy, instill the habit of reading a newspaper, and initiate deeper thinking from my teen peers; I have performed numerous times for volunteer work with music through band or on my own at such places as Park Place retirement home, and Vallyfest; With my acquired journalism experience, I am a Volunteer Reporter for my church's newsletter, the Zion Messenger; I received the Chase Youth Award for outstanding contribution to our community for my efforts with The Vox, the publication I work with; Help my grandfather work on his house, shovel snow, rake pine needles, chop wood, etc.

Section IV. WORK RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Employment--Work all posts at Dairy Queen, part-time during the school year, full-time in summer. Hired in January of 2007, Danna or Hollend, managers; Sports Editor at teen publication, the Vox, 11th grade and Sports Writer in 10th grade, Circulation of 30,000, Erin Daniels, Advisor; Leadership--Sports Editor at The Vox, a real teen publication, with circulation of 30,000; I am the Drum Major for my high school band for the Fall and Spring marching season, as well as leading the Pep Band at sporting events; I have attended numerous leadership programs including HOBY's CLEW workshop, EWU's Drum Major and Leadership Camp, Middle School Leadership conference, and many others; Head of Electronics for FIRST Robotics Competition team; Two year member of National Honor Society; Nominated for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.

Subject: Check out YouTube - 'RockHounds: The Movie' Trailer

[YouTube - 'RockHounds: The Movie' Trailer](#)

Vibrating Lap Instructions

Copyright 2006 Dan Kelly, D and B Rockwerks

Submitted by Maryann Benny, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club

What is a Vibrating Lap? Well, basically it is an aluminum pan, or tray, attached to a motor, which has a spinning weight on it, creating a fast circular or vibrating motion. It is used to grind, sand and polish flats, such as slabs, or thunder egg halves. The principal is that the pan is vibrating so fast that it moves underneath the slabs that are being worked. The pan usually has grooves which help to distribute the grit and act as an anchor for the grit particles as the slab is moving across it. In most cases, with rocks with a Mohs of 6-7 (agate), I use the following grits and I'm sure if you have similar grits, it will work fine. You do want to use GRADED grits. Graded grits will just have one number, i.e. 80-grit. Un-graded will have 2 numbers, i.e. 60/90; you want the single number grit. The 60 represents the roughest the grit will be and 90 represents the finest the grit will be. You get a more efficient grind with graded grit.

The Grits I use are: 80-Grit for Rough Grind; 220-Grit for Coarse Sand; 600-Grit for Fine Sand; and then Polish Stage.

Depending on roughness of the surface to be ground, you may be able to skip the roughest grade grit if it is a very smooth surface; start with 220-Grit and check progress. If needed, go to 80-Grit.

Vibrating Laps can be very finicky machines, but once you get the hang of them, they are an easy way to polish several slabs at once. They can give excellent results with a bit of knowledge and practice. A lot of people give up on them because they get too messy, (I'll talk about that in a bit), or they won't polish the whole slab.

First, preparing your slab for the Vibrating Lap, make sure that the side you want to work is free of saw burrs and if possible grind the slab down as flat as you can. It saves the pan and time down the road. OK, now that all of your slabs are ready, what now? You could just put them in as is, and it would work, but it will take longer and you run the risk of chipping the edges of the slab. So, I found a way to speed things up a bit and protect the slab edges.

To do this you will need the following: OLD cast iron saucepan, or similar; Scrap Plexiglas, doesn't matter if it is scratched or not; Lead, either fishing weights, or Tire stores will sell used tire weights cheap; Tin Snips; Small Cat Food Cans, or similar; 2-sided sticky tape; 2-part, waterproof epoxy.

OK, now we are ready to make our weights and guards. First, get a camp stove, wear gloves and goggles, go outside on a day with a breeze, and always stand upwind, always! **DO NOT BREATHE LEAD FUMES! LEAD CAN BE DANGEROUS! BE SAFE! AT YOUR OWN RISK!** Place the cast iron pan on the stove and add some lead; it will melt in a few minutes. Depending on your stove, it could take 10 minutes to start melting. It will turn liquid and silvery when melting. The metal parts of the tire weights will float to the top, and you can skim them off with a spoon. Once you have melted the lead you will need to **CAREFULLY** pour one-quarter inch to one-half inch of melted lead into a cat food can; let cool completely. When totally cool, use the tin snips to remove the tin can. You now have a lead "wafer".

You will want to make a selection of "wafers" for different projects. Paint the wafer to minimize lead chips breaking off. I use thick clear paint but any good paint will work. Now get the Plexiglas and cut out sections of the Plexiglas that are about one-half inch larger all the way around the lead wafers.

Make several sizes to work with different-sized slabs; you can make different sized weights also. You will always want the Plexiglas to be larger than the slab you are trying to polish. Make sure corners are rounded; if they aren't, they will hang up on the vibrating process. Now, take the Plexiglas that is a bit larger than the wafer, center everything and then epoxy the two together with waterproof epoxy. Let dry very thoroughly.

Now that the epoxy is dry, you are just about ready to get busy grinding with the vibrating lap. You will need to find the center of gravity for both the slab and the weight set. To do this, balance the slab on your finger. This balance is the center of gravity (CG). Mark it on the side not to be ground with a pencil. Now, do the same with the weight set up. Mark that on the Plexiglas side, and you now have the CG for both the slab, and the weight set up. Join the slab and the weight set up with the CG's together, using 2-sided sticky tape. I use cut pieces about the size of a pea, about every inch along the slab; smaller pieces make removal easier. Now your slab should be totally protected from bumping by the Plexiglas guard, and the weight will speed things up. NOTE: You do not want to use large amounts of weight because that will cause premature wearing of the pan. Slabs that have burrs left on them should be removed for the same reason; you want to start with smooth slabs. Try to use slabs of similar thickness, this way the Plexiglas guards bump into each other rather than sliding above or below. Be sure the Plexiglas guards are bigger than the slab you are working. OK, enough, let's get that Lap, Vibrating. Take your weighted slabs and place them in the pan; you do not want to cram the pan full, and I would say 80% is about right. When the slurry is right

and the pan running, your slabs should "dance" freely; if there are too many slabs, they will "catch" and "bind". If you have too few slabs, they will not "dance" and rotate around the pan. They should be able to move freely and should be moving when the lap is on. Now, add grit as per manufacturer's instructions. I will use a 12" Lap as an example; you will have to adjust yours accordingly. I add about 3-4 tablespoons of 80-Grit. Then I put 1 small drop of liquid dishwashing soap which breaks surface tension and allows the grit to stick to the slab better. Now add water to get a thin pancake batter consistency. I use a spray bottle which gives better control over amount of water. Let it run for 5-10 minutes, then check the consistency of the grit slurry again, and adjust as needed. Now, for the messy problem. If you have the slurry too thin, you will know it, because grit will start splashing out, right at the point that the splashing stops is the point you want to be at. You can put a shower cap over the lap to minimize any splash that may happen, one cap per grit. The lap will run for a couple of hours without having to add water, but check it fairly often and add water as needed to keep the slurry at the desired level. Use a spray bottle as this allows for fine adjustment.

The first grind time will depend on the roughness of the slab at starting time, but on an average it will take around 10-16 hours of vibrating to get through the first stage. You should add about 1-3 tablespoons of fresh grit every 3-4 hours.

The way that you test the slab to see if it is ready is to get a pencil and mark a zigzag so that it covers most of the slab. Place the slab back in, and after 2 minutes, check it. If the pencil line is COMPLETELY gone, you are ready to move to the next grit. If ANY of the pencil line is still there, keep on that grit, and recheck every few hours until it passes. Now, when moving to the next grit, you want to wash the slabs and weights, very, very thoroughly. **DO NOT LEAVE ONE GRAIN OF GRIT ON THE SLAB.** Clean, Clean, Clean. Now, clean the pan out, not leaving any trace of the previous grit anywhere. Clean bumpers, pan, slabs and work area. Now that everything is clean, let's move on.

Place slabs back into pan, add 3-4 tablespoons of 220-Grit, and add a drop of soap. Then, add the water to make the slurry as you did earlier. If it is splashing, the slurry is too thin; add a bit more grit. Again, check it after 5-10 minutes and adjust as needed. Recheck slurry thickness every hour or two. Add 1-3 tablespoons of fresh grit every 3-4 hours. When it again passes the pencil test COMPLETELY, it is ready for the next grit. (About 10-16 hours.) When the slabs are ready, we will move to the final grit stage. OK, again clean the slabs and EVERYTHING else COMPLETELY. When clean, add the slabs, drop of soap and 3-4 tablespoons of 600-Grit. Sand on 600-Grit, adding 1-3 Tablespoons of fresh grit only **once** after 3-4 hours. We won't add more fresh grit after this because the grit will break down and act as finer grit than 600 for the last stages of sanding. Keep on 600-Grit until it passes pencil test completely. When it does, Wash & Clean EVERYTHING again. Clean, Clean, Clean. Now, you are ready for polishing. Place the polishing pad in the pan, add the bumper, and then add the CLEANED slabs. Add about 2 tablespoons of polish and add water until you see the slabs pushing about one-quarter inch of slurry in front of them. Again, if it is splashing, too much water. Check water every hour or two and polish until done, usually 10-20 hours. You will find and develop your own way of working these Laps. This is just what worked for me after much trial and error. I am hoping to save people the frustration I had; I almost gave up several times. I want to show that the Vibrating Lap can be a fun and good Lapidary tool when used correctly. Feel free to contact me with comments or questions. Let me know what has worked for you.

NOTES:

- Too much weight will wear the pan out sooner.
- Clean thoroughly between grit stages.
- Only one shower cap per grit. (Do not use a cap that was used for 80-Grit on the 220 stage.)
- Be Careful when melting lead. (Do not breathe lead fumes.)
- Use Graded as opposed to Un-graded grit.
- Softer Stones such as Marble & Obsidian will have a reduced working time than above; keep an eye on progress, and when it passes the pencil test, it is ready to move on to the next stage.
- The pencil mark must be 100% gone when doing the pencil test, or that part that is not gone will not look good when the slab is done. All the pencil mark must be gone after two minutes.
- Some smoother slabs, and softer stones, will not need the roughest grit stage; start them at 220-Grit.
- For added protection, add a wide rubber band around the Plexiglas guard.
- Try to use slabs of similar thickness. (Plexiglas guards work better.)
- If desired, you can add wafers on top of each other for more weight, but remember pan will wear faster.
- Be sure tube guard around inside of pan is in good condition and cleaned well in between stages.
- Check grit slurry regularly; it does dry out if not attended.

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous & Field Trip May 21 – 26, 2008, Texas Springs, Nevada

By Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips

The announcement flier said, “Be prepared for a variety of weather.” And that is what we had! Over the next 6 days we found out that the Texas Springs area is a “Land of the 4 Seasons.” It was a warm summer-like Tuesday morning when we turned off the highway headed to the Tri-Fed. Camp by Trout Creek. When we stopped to put up the signs to mark the way to camp, we were joined by the Northwest Federation co-leader **Dick Parks**, and **Patty Amos**. Six and a half miles from the highway we turned left into “grassy” area amongst the sage brush and shooed away the cattle. This was our camp. Shortly after noon **Dean Richardson** and his new wife, **Bernice**, and his son, **Rich**, arrived. Dean and Rich have been collecting in this area since the 70’s and helped guide our collecting trips.

Late in the afternoon the sky darkened, the wind picked up and there was an ominous, dark yellow/gray cloud coming at us from the western horizon. In less than 20 minutes we were hit with a dust storm with wind in excess of 50 mph that lasted close to an hour. By this time we had more than 8 rigs in camp and we closed everything up tight to ride out the storm. This is the last we saw of summer.

Winter revisited us with night time temperatures in the high 20’s and low 30’s. Spring rains returned over the next few days. They were mostly intermittent and spotty. They never effected nor stopped our collecting trips but they caused us to cancel 2 potluck dinners, a couple of happy hour get-togethers and a couple of campfires. On Friday afternoon it was beautiful, the sun was shining and it was pleasantly warm. We set up for our tailgate exchange and map exchange with high expectations for a fun activity. People started to gather and so did the storm clouds. When the rains started we quickly put away our maps and tailgate displays. As the temperature rapidly dropped the rains changed to sleet, then hail and concluded with snow, which covered the ground and our vehicles like a winter wonderland. There were 10 tents as part of our camp and they were weighted down with piles of snow-sleet-hail. Within an hour the sky had cleared, the snow-sleet-hail had melted and the sun was once again shining brightly. Our afternoon events and potluck dinner were washed away but we were able to have our first campfire.

Our Camp

Well, that is enough about the weather. It was wet. It was wild. It was windy. And it gives us good stories, but it is not the total defining aspect of our Tri-Federation Rendezvous. And it never stopped us from doing what we set out to do, that is, collect pink agate limb casts and have a great time with other rockhounds. The **Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous** was held for 6 days over the 2008 Memorial Day Weekend. Over 140 people from the NFMS, CFMS, RMFMS and MFMS came to our Rendezvous. They represented over 45 clubs from 12 states. We had rockhounds of all ages from 4 to 84. Most of our group camped with us amongst the sage brush. We had trailers, motorhomes, tent trailers, tents and pickup campers; a total of 41 camping units. Some chose to take advantage of the motels and full hookup campgrounds that were only 8 miles away in Jackpot. When people arrived at camp I had them sign in on the trip register, sign an Informed Consent Waiver and I gave them a copy of the AFMS Code of Ethics. When camping on BLM land, we practice the Leave No Trace principles. That means we “pack-out-what-we-pack-in”. We leave the area cleaner than we found it. This should be our practice no matter where we camp. I walked around our camp on Monday evening after most of our group had departed and I am proud to say that there was no trash or garbage left anywhere. We did tear up some sagebrush and left some tracks in the dirt, but they will grow back and wash away with the next few rains.

Collecting Trips

Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. The Texas Springs area is well known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as other agate and petrified wood. Although this area has been popular with rockhounds for many years, prized material can still be found for those who are willing to dig for it. And many were successful! On Wednesday morning Dick Parks and I took off for a scouting trip of the five planned collecting sites around Texas Springs. The sites were 15 to 22 miles from camp. We marked the roads, turns and collecting sites with fluorescent orange ribbons for easy identification and travel. The five planned collecting sites were identified as: the “Classic Pink Limb Casts”, “Past the Pink”, “Rich’s Hill”, “Snakeskin”, and “Small Pink Limb Casts and Bog”. The 2 most popular sites were the Classic Pink and Rich’s Hill. Because of limited parking and to minimize the collecting pressure we had sign-ups for these sites, with a limit of 50 people per

site. The other 3 areas were self-guided sites. Dean, Rich and I led the trips to Classic Pink and Rich’s Hill.

The group assembled each morning at 8:00 for information about the sites, instructions, safety information, and announcements of the other activities for the day. We lined up our vehicles and headed down the road at 8:30. The Classic Pink site is a sparsely foliated hill of ash and dirt. There are many holes and old digs from previous rockhounds. While a rare piece can be found as float, collecting at this site is accomplished by digging and many of the holes are deep. As the name denotes, the sought after material here is pink agate limb casts that range in size from twigs to large masses over 100 pounds. Some of each was found, but most were in the ounces to a couple of pounds range. Rich’s Hill is named for Dean’s son who discovered the area where he found a number of fair sized logs and casts last year. Rich’s Hill is about one half mile due east of the Classic Pink area. The material here ranges from twigs and small limbs as float to small logs and limbs 10 to 12 inches below the surface. The digging was easy in this loose topsoil. The material is mostly a brown jasp-agate. The most productive digging was at the bottom of the hill. On Saturday Dick Parks led a group to an agate area near Opal Springs a couple of miles north of Texas Springs. Dick also led people to some travertine/onyx sites that were only 8 miles from camp.

Of the three self-guided sites the Small Pink was the most productive, the Snakeskin had the most unusual material and the Past the Pink was more of the same and harder to dig. The Small Pink is a low-lying hill about one half mile long. There are small, finger sized pink agate limb casts all over the east side of the hill. Although this was not planned to be a dig site someone tried digging and found small logs like those on Rich’s Hill. Soon everyone was digging. There was gray/brown bog agate at this site also.

There are two geode sites near by. One at Contact about 18 miles south of Jackpot and one 5 miles north, just off of the highway, at Rabbit Springs. On Sunday I led a group of over 40 to collect some geodes. The Contact geodes were found in trenches and in shallow digs on the hillside. They are hollow geodes that are filled with calcite. The Rabbit Springs geodes are hollow and chalcedony lined. They are just off the old highway, about .3 miles in from the turnoff. Broken geodes litter the surface and whole ones can be found with easy digging in loose/ashy soil. The Rabbit Springs geodes were abundant and are fluorescent. This was the best day of geode collecting that I have ever experienced. The geodes were in the top 12 to 24 inches of loose ashy soil. Everyone who dug filled their bag and buckets with baseball to softball size geodes.

Our Other Activities

Our afternoon activities were the most affected by the rain, snow and wind. We had a speaker from the BLM scheduled for Thursday’s happy hour, but his talk and our potluck dinner were canceled because of rain. On Friday afternoon we were all set up for our Tailgate and Map Exchange when they were washed away by rain, hail, sleet and snow. But on Saturday the weather cooperated and we finally held our Tailgate and Map Exchange. We had 12 people participate in our Tailgate. They pulled their trucks up or set up a table to display what they brought. Several people brought rocks and specimens from their home areas to share. There were minerals and specimens from several locales including Wyoming, New Mexico, Oregon, Nevada, California, and Arizona. Several people brought buckets of specimens to give away to the group. We had good participation in the Map Exchange with 15 to 20 maps from California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nevada and Montana collecting areas. Some really good, detailed maps to some excellent collecting sites. Enough to fill our field trip schedule for a long time.

One of my favorite activities when camping is the campfire. There was a lot of wood brought for our nightly campfires but we didn’t get to use it until Friday evening. We had so much wood that we had a hard time burning it all and sent a lot home for the next outing.

Let’s Eat – a Favorite Rockhound Activity

Our Welcome Potluck Dinner was postponed on Thursday because of the rain. When the rain returned on Friday we had to call it off again at the last minute. But the food was all ready, so we broke up into “mini-potlucks” in our trailers and motorhomes. The selection may have been smaller, but the food was still good. On Saturday the sun was shining, there was a breeze but no wind, and we were able to have our All Rendezvous potluck. It is amazing that in the midst of the desert and sagebrush, when the dinner bell rings, the serving table is filled with freshly prepared food and delicious desserts. After dinner we had self introductions to find out a little about one another and where people were from.

Continued on Page 7

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous Continued from Page 5

To celebrate our age diversity, Betty gave a stained glass clown to our youngest, a 4 year old, and a stained glass angel to the oldest, an 84 year old "youngster".

As the weekend drew to a close the big question from all was "Where will the Rendezvous be next year?" My answer to them was "Any where you want to lead it?" This **Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous** was a great, fun, rewarding event. It was more than a fieldtrip, it was a rendezvous, a coming together of rockhounds to do and share all the things we like to do. We had a great time together. We met and got to know a lot of wonderful rockhound friends. We collected some interesting rocks. We enjoyed the beauty and majesty of this great land of ours. I hope that someone out there will pick up the ball and arrange for our next Rendezvous. Our Inter-Regional Field Trip Committee is ready to help. Call or email me with your ideas and suggestions.

Northwest Fossil of the Month

By Betty McLin Hare, Idaho Gem Club

Ammolite and Ammonites

Ammonites lived in North America during the Jurassic. The sea was very tropical and well lighted. The reef systems created the sheltered environment which provided the foods that the ammonites needed even in the depth of the reef. The dark shales from the distal edge provided a rich food source for micro organisms that ammonites and their prey ate.

When the ammonites are in danger they hide in corals as the ancient denizens did. The deep micrite rock preserved the fallen ones and recorded the female and male varieties of the swimming gems *Planiceras meeki* (female) and *intercalare* (male) characters. The male's warty macho bumps and the feminine pearlescence were the distinguishing features of our swimming gems. The macho bump personalities were also pearlescent but not as much as the female of the species. The male ammonites have their own characteristics. It takes a skillful hand to bring out their unique pearlescence.

An identifying feature of the ammonite *Planiceras intercalare* is the raised tubercles that are evenly spaced in two concentric rings along the spiral out to the edge of the living chamber. The peaked ridges along the ventral edge are called crenulations. All these bumps or spines served an ornamental as well as defensive purpose for the animal. The raised nipples on many specimens show a remarkable three-dimensional rainbow effect, changing color from every angle.

The unique pearlescence is a very valuable asset to the gemstone called ammolite. This gemstone is so unique and rare that it is mined only by the Blood Tribe of native American gem hunters and occurs on their reservation that borders highly erosional river systems on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. The ammonite gem is found in the Black Bearpaw Shales of Southern Alberta, Canada. Ammolite is actually Canada's national gemstone.

They are exquisite fossil gems that reflect similar characteristics of the Spencer Opal of Spencer, Idaho. The range of colors and the options of displaying it are just like opal. Ammolite can be set into a triplet and backlit just like a Spencer Opal. The Spencer Opal has a very unique fire and it looks very similar to our fossil friends.

FAR WEST LAPIDARY & GEM SOCIETY

SOUTH COAST ROCK AND GEM FEST 2008
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2008
(Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

4th Street Parking Lot
Across from Outdoor-Inn Family Restaurant
Coos Bay, Oregon

FREE ADMISSION--DONATIONS ACCEPTED

ROCKS, GEMS, SLABS, TOOLS, FINDINGS,
MACHINERY, BEADS AND MUCH MORE

CONTACT: DON INNES PHONE: 541-396-5722

Kids and Eggs, Eggs and Kids.

By Stephen Petkovsek
Mt. Hood Rock Club

Boy was it hot! Seven of us in total. Fortunately, all seven made it back, but then, I'm getting ahead of myself...

A fellow coworker, Rik, was admiring my collection of rocks on my desk and started asking questions about them. You see, he has three kids and was looking for something to do to get them out of the house. One of them found a piece of Mahogany Obsidian, so I cut and polished it for them. Later, I offered to guide them over to dig Thundereggs at Richardson's, which he promptly accepted. I also brought along the son, Peyton, of another coworker who was unable to join us.

I picked up Peyton at his house, then met Rik and family in Sandy since they live on that side of town. After introductions, we headed for Madras with the stereo blasting (Peyton likes his music loud). We made a pit stop at the rest area on Mt. Hood, threw frozen water at each other, then piled back in our cars and continued on our way. Next stop, Madras to pick up a little lunch, then out to the ranch. After registering with the rock shop, we parked on the grass under the trees and had our lunch before heading to the T-egg beds.

SAFETY NOTE:

It was supposed to be in the 80's in Portland on Saturday, but it was going to be in the 90's in Central Oregon. I brought along 6 frozen 20 oz. bottles of water, plus two more 20 oz. sodas for Peyton and me. In addition, I also brought along some fruit and powered Gatorade knowing we would need the electrolytes. When working out in the hot sun without the benefit of shade, it is very important to drink plenty of liquids and pay attention to what your body is telling you. Don't let yourself get overheated, take plenty of breaks, and watch out for others with less experience! OK, enough of the safety talks, now back to our story.

BACK TO OUR STORY:

That's when they started getting anxious! If you've been to the ranch, you know it's about a 15 minute drive from the rock shop to the egg beds. Boy, that was a long 15 minutes for Peyton sitting in the passenger seat. When we finally got out to the Blue bed, we hurriedly put on some sun block, grabbed our tools, and headed down to the digging area. As expected, Peyton led the way. I showed him what to look for and how to dig, and then he took over from there. When the rest of the group made their way into the bed, I went through my spiel again for them. Within minutes there were cries of "I found one" from all directions. I knew instantly it was going to be a successful trip.



We dug in the Blue bed for about an hour, then moved over to the Red bed. However, the Red bed was in dire need of maintenance with lots of overhangs, so we only dug there for a few minutes as I didn't feel it was safe enough. We then moved over to the Moss bed for a while. There are lots of eggs there, but they are very small, so we didn't stay there long either. From there, we moved to the new Pony Butte bed. Since this is a fairly new bed, there were lots of safe areas to dig and lots of eggs to be found.

Continued on Page 8

Kids and Eggs, Eggs and Kids.

Continued from Page 7

We were all pretty hot and tired by this time since it was just after 3:00 pm, so we headed back to the rock shop. Rik and family each chose 2 eggs to have cut and Peyton picked out his two biggest as well. While waiting for the eggs to be cut, we couldn't help but shop. I won't say how much I spent, but I will say I picked up a few more Mexican coconuts. Two out of the three had amethyst in them. It was getting close to 4:00pm, but we were still waiting on Peyton's big multi-egg to finish. Rik knew he still had a long drive ahead of them, so we parted ways there. Once the big egg was done, we paid our bill and headed home.

As expected, about half way home, Peyton fell asleep, even with the music blasting. Worn out from the heat and fun of the day. I dropped him off at home around 7:00 pm. Of course he then had to tell mom and dad all about it. Dad was busy and couldn't go with us, maybe next time. I finally got home around 8:00 pm, very tired, but with a grin that wouldn't go away. Guiding a group of future rockhounds is a rewarding experience. All seven made it home safe and sound, dirty, sweaty, tired, but happy.

WORDS OF CAUTION

By **John M. Wright, RPG**

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chairman

HR 554 Resurrected Again!

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, has once again this year been resurrected, reviewed, and approved by the Agriculture Committee. It is now currently under review by the House Judiciary Committee and expected to clear that committee by July 18, 2008. This bill is on a "fast track" for passage and will most likely be voted on by the House of Representatives shortly after their return from summer recess which means September or October unless there is some unforeseen delay. I fully expect it to be quickly passed by voice vote, or quietly tacked onto some other major piece of legislation. It appears that a compromise has also been reached for Senate approval. While you may not agree with my assessment of this bill, it is important that we let all our members know that it is back on the table so to speak and hopefully they will take appropriate action

I want to emphatically remind you again, this is a dangerous piece of legislation that is going to hurt a lot of innocent people. The bill is so vague and open to interpretation that you can be arrested, have your vehicle impounded, and be tried for driving on a federal highway with a small rock wedged in the tread of your tires. As I said before, there is no requirement for the arresting officer to be knowledgeable regarding fossils or rocks, the burden of proof is your problem. I wonder what happened to innocent until proven guilty. Does the gravel in your driveway contain fossils? Your neighbor can turn you in for a nice reward. Secret "Area 51" type sites for paleontologist; sounds ridiculous, but unfortunately this bill authorizes it.

Who is going to benefit from this bill? A few inconsiderate, paranoid college professors and museum curators that seriously lack the competence to compete in a free market society. Actually, this group is really all about money in the form of job security, grants, books, articles, TV specials, and speaking fees. The fact that more than 90% of the major fossil discoveries are made by amateurs causes symptoms suffered by these "professionals" very similar to a severe case of hemorrhoids.

"We the people" according to the Constitution own the federal lands and support them with our tax dollars, so why should a small special interest group be given exclusive rights to our lands? The justification used by the paleontologist is to preserve rare fossils for future generations, but aren't these the same scholars that warn us that the catastrophic circumstances that led to the demise of the dinosaurs and many other species in the past is going to happen again. They say "**it's not a matter of if, but when.**" so according to their own philosophy the prospects for any future generations are not very good.

They say that rockhounds (informed amateurs in their vernacular) destroy sites and remove critical evidence needed by the scientific community. Well, I recently spent several weeks reviewing paleontological articles and publications plus numerous other well known scientific publications covering a span of about 50 years and

while I'm sure there must be many references to cleaning up excavation sites, I did not find any. However, I easily found "hundreds" of articles and references about leaving a site "**as good as or better than found**" in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' monthly Newsletters, the seven area Federations of Mineralogical Societies' monthly newsletters, and the numerous local Gem & Mineral Societies' monthly bulletins. It sure seems to me like rockhounds (whoops – informed amateurs) are a little more concerned about conservation and protecting the environment than the scientific community.

Once the scholars and curators acquire "our" fossils from "our" lands, they will be tucked away in storage areas at universities supported by "our" tax dollars, to be studied by students who we as parents "pay" tuitions for, and taught by professors whose salaries are paid by "our" dollars and tuition fees. The museums built with "our" tax dollars and "our" donations will have experts whose salaries are paid by "our" taxes and donations prepare the fossils "owned by us" for display so "we the public" can see them for a "fee." Talk about a stacked deck!

A lot of politicians have benefited by riding on the environmental bandwagon, but with the price of gasoline skyrocketing, travel, food, utilities, building materials, and almost everything else going up astronomically, being "Green" is becoming more of a political liability than an asset. Someday, they may even come to the realization that people who spend their lives studying petrified bones and dinosaur poop don't add a lot to the economy.

Another important product of this legislation will be to further enhance the black-market trade. It's already a lucrative business, and this bill will just increase the price of American fossils overseas. With people, merchandise, and tons of narcotics being smuggled freely across our porous borders, moving fossils out of the country shouldn't pose much of a problem.

It is ironic, but we spend billions of dollars helping other nations gain independence, become democracies, and help their people enjoy the benefits of freedom. Unfortunately, the same politicians that appropriate our tax dollars for this noble purpose turn right around and help implement policies to accommodate special interest groups that place far more restrictions on our freedoms here at home.

Time is short to stop or change HR 554. About the only alternative we have left at this stage is to call our representatives and tell them how we feel about this bill. I know that many of you are leery when it comes to talking directly with dignitaries and that it may be difficult for you to contact your Representatives or Senators to talk with them in person. Most of the members of congress maintain offices in their districts and the staff members working for them at these offices are local people. If you call and talk with a member of their staff, you will normally find them to be very friendly, courteous and easy to talk with because they want your vote and support. Most importantly, they pass information received from constituents on to their boss. If they get several calls, a red flag, so to speak, goes up indicating areas of importance. Often this is a better way to get the attention of your Representative as he or she wants and needs every vote to stay in office. Constituents usually are more influential than anyone else when dealing with legislators.

I might add a note of interest at this point: our club sends a courtesy copy of our monthly bulletin (which includes my AFMS & SFMS articles) to both our U.S. Senators and our Representative. We have been told that it is well received and appreciated by them.

I am also including a list of the Agriculture Committee members provided by Carolyn Weinberger, Editor of the AFMS Newsletter. It would really help if you called or faxed them, particularly if you live in their congressional district. **Agriculture Committee Members:** Collin C. Peterson, MN, Chairman; Tim Holden, PA, Vice Chairman; Mike McIntyre, NC; Bob Etheridge, NC; Leonard L. Boswell, IA; Joe Baca, CA; Dennis A. Cardoza, CA; David Scott, GA; Jim Marshall, GA; Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, SD; Henry Cuellar, TX; Jim Costa, CA; John T. Salazar, CO; Brad Ellsworth, IN; Nancy E. Boyda, KS; Zachary T. Space, OH; Timothy J. Walz, MN; Kirsten E. Gillibrand, NY; Steve Kagen, WI; Earl Pomeroy, ND; Lincoln Davis, TN; John Barrow, GA; Nick Lampson, TX; Joe Donnelly, IN; Tim Mahoney, FL. **Republican Minority:** Bob Goodlatte, VA, Ranking Minority Member; Terry Everett, AL; Frank D. Lucas, OK; Jerry Moran, KS; Robin Hayes, NC; Timothy V. Johnson, IL; Sam Graves, MO; Mike Rogers, AL; Steve King, IA; Marilyn N. Musgrave, CO; Randy Neugebauer, TX; Charles W. Boustany, Jr., LA; John R. "Randy" Kuhl, NY; Virginia Foxx, NC; K. Michael Conaway, TX; Jeff Fortenberry, NE; Jean Schmidt, OH; Adrian Smith, NE; Tim Walberg, MI;

Join Future Rockhounds of America

HISTORY OF FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

Rockhound clubs throughout the Federations have been supporting youth groups for many years. Most clubs have always had young members but often didn't know what sorts of activities to provide for them. Consequently, many youth fell through the cracks. We're sure no one would argue the fact that we need to ensure the future of our hobby by encouraging our youth. Knowing this, under the direction of AFMS President Bill Cox in 1984, a committee was added to the AFMS called "Junior Clubs." Bill coined the name "Future Rockhounds of America" and designed a certificate to be given to junior clubs becoming members of FRA. It gives pebble pups and juniors the distinction of belonging to something worthwhile. The only requirement for obtaining FRA membership is to be organized and sponsored by a regional federation club (although exceptions can be made). There are no dues to pay to AFMS. Starting in Fall 2004, Juniors Activities Chair Jim Brace-Thompson developed a free badge program of guided activities to provide youth leaders with 53 individual activities in 9 areas: Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, and Leadership. In 2008, 6 new areas were added with 32 more activities: Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. Kids can now earn badges in each of 15 overall areas. Those earning a minimum of 6 of the 15 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge as a mark of accomplishment and distinction. Details of the program may be found on the "Kids Corner" section of the AFMS web site: www.amfed.org.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AFMS YOUTH PROGRAM, FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA?

All you need is a group of kids, a sponsor, a name, and an application to FRA!

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Your group must be a member of your regional federation, either through a sponsoring club or through an independent application into your local federation.
2. The number of youth is not important: you can have as few as 1 or 2 or as many as you can handle.
3. Age: any kids up to the age of 18.

Just fill out the application below or contact your regional federation Juniors Chair or check out the "Kids Corner" of the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org).

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

NAME OF YOUTH GROUP: _____

SPONSORING ADULT CLUB: _____

FEDERATION: CFMS ___ Eastern ___ Midwest ___ So. Central ___ SE ___ Rocky Mountain ___ NW ___

CONTACT PERSON: _____

MAILING & EMAIL ADDRESSES & PHONE: _____

YEAR ORGANIZED: _____ CURRENT NUMBER OF YOUTH MEMBERS: _____

Accompany this application with a brief description of the activities you already do with your youth members, i.e., participation at meetings, club shows, field trips, and other activities. After completion of this questionnaire, please forward it to the AFMS Juniors Activities Chair: Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, California 93003; (805) 659-3577; jbraceth@roadrunner.com

NORTHWEST FEDERATION COMPETITIVE AWARDS

DIVISION	EXHIBITOR	CLUB	AWARD
D Novice	Char Jorgensen	Everett Rock & Gem	Rosette
A Novice	Joan Rowe	Everett Rock & Gem	Rosette
C Novice	Peter Williamson	Marysville R/G	Rosette
A Advanced	Dana James	Puyallup Valley G/M	?
A Advanced	Gary Buhr	Everett R/G	Plaque
E Advanced	Laura Cimolino	Everett R/G	Plaque
UV Master	Pat Snyder	Lakeside G/M	Trophy
C Master	Jerry Blimka	Hells Canyon Gem	Trophy
E Society	Chris Blickfeldt	Idaho Gem Club	Trophy
A Junior	No. Pudget Sound Faceters		Trophy
A Junior	Nickolas Ermsberger	Golden Spike G/M	Trophy
A Junior	Colin Rowe	Everett Rock & Gem	
A Junior	Alex Moedel	Idaho Falls G/M	
A Junior	Alexander Carrington	Everett R/G	

MEMORIAL TROPHIES

Hedin – Petrified Wood	Roger Beck	Eureka G/M
Mattison – Junior Trophy	Alex Moedel	Idaho Falls G/M
Smith – All Northwest material	Russ Snook	Tualatin Valley G/M
Zeihen – Minerals	Alexander Carrington	Everett Rock & Gem
Small Society Plaque	N/A	No. Puget Sound Faceters
Sweepstakes Trophy	Jerry Blimka	Hells Canyon Gem Club

Congratulations to all. Just putting a competitive exhibit in is encouraging. Each club in the Northwest has in its purpose, the education of the public. There is no better way to serve this issue than to put beautiful competitive exhibits in. Northwest is only one of two regional federations who have consistently tried to bring back competitive exhibiting.

REMEMBER: this is a prelude to the "big one" next year in Billings, Montana. We will be spotlighted at that time by all the seven regions when they come to visit. Let's put on a show for them by surpassing this years competitive exhibits.

The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society, Ogden Utah, is going to have competitive exhibits at their show in March. How about your club doing the same?

Dee Holland,
NFMS Rules Chair, 2008

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

“News Flash July 2008”



**Juniors
Chairman

Gary Buhr**

Just after school was out for summertime, Ontario, Oregon was the epicenter of attraction for Northwest Rockhounds participating in the 2008 NFMS 68th Annual Show and Convention. We all extend a great big 'THANK YOU' to Show Chair Margaret Stallknecht for making that event happen in the heat of eastern Oregon at the Malheur Fairgrounds.

Arriving early before set up, travel troupe LAURA, Carol, Mel and Gary headed south to Succor Creek for prospecting. We discovered an antique Rock Shop in

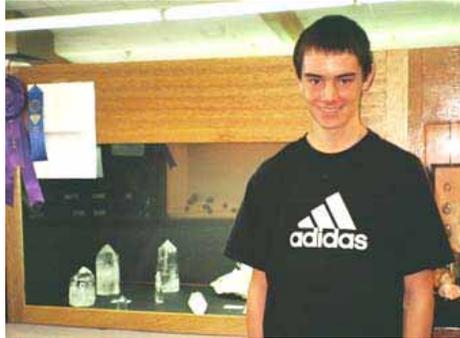


Adrian, OR and met Rockhound 'Miss Penny' pictured at left and learned many 'pearls' from the owner about local names of agates.

Junior Rockhounds brought their experience and talents to ensure that the Show was buoyed by youthful participation and awards for Rockhounds under age 18 that clearly represent our future. The Awards Banquet honored three 2008 NFMS Junior Achievement Award Winners; see their 'resumes' and pictures in this edition of Northwest Newsletter and on the NFMS Website. (Please note that their outlines/resume were converted into continuous text to save space). ZOE TOLBERT, Washington Agate & Mineral Society (Olympia, WA) won First Place in the Age 12 & Under Category; SIERRA SCHACKMANN, Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society (Bremerton, WA) won Second Place; and CLINTON A. SLOVARP, Rock Rollers Club, Inc. (Spokane, WA) won First Place. These three winners are true role models of achievement, please 'CONGRATULATE' them at your first opportunity.

Eight Junior Rockhounds entered top quality displays that they designed and set up themselves. KIMBERLY VINCENT age 10, member of Idaho Gem Club, Inc. (Boise) and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society (Caldwell, ID) displayed Mexican coconuts, Hog Creek geodes, and thundereggs from Richardson's Ranch on a 'bed' of polished Oregon beach agates. MICHAEL VINCENT age 6, member of Idaho Gem Club, Inc. (Boise) and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society (Caldwell, ID) assembled a case full of carnelian agates from Oregon that are all self-dug! KAITLIN VINCENT age 15, member of Idaho Gem Club, Inc. (Boise) and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society (Caldwell, ID) set up two huge 30+ pound meteorites from Campo del Cielo, Argentina and accented by a 'heavenly' array of green stars.

Pictured in the next column is COLIN ROWE, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA), with his Competition Display of quartz in natural crystal, obelisk-type and sphere formations. COLIN won a purple Rosette and First Level Blue Ribbon for his first entry with a competition case.



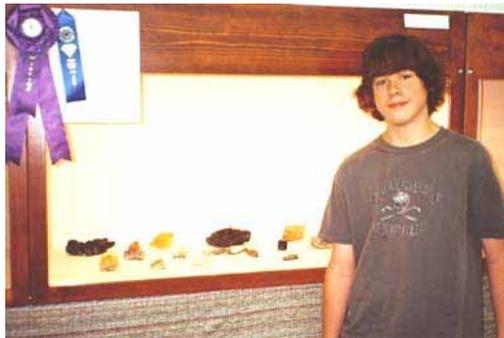
COLIN ROWE

Junior LAURA CIMOLINO (below), Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA), is pictured by her Competition Display of pyrite in an Advanced Educational Category. LAURA won a purple Rosette and First Place Blue Ribbon. Next year she can enter this as a Master Level at the AFMS/NFMS Annual Show.



LAURA CIMOLINO

ALEX CARRINGTON, Everett Rock & Gem Club (WA), is pictured by his first Competition Display case of mixed thumbnail and cabinet minerals (sphalerite, calcite, fluorite, epidote, apophyllite, copper, schorl, celestine, gypsum, pyrite, danburite, quartz, kyanite, mimetite). ALEX won a purple Rosette and First Level Blue Ribbon, plus the coveted Lester Zeihan Memorial Award for best mineral display of the Show!



ALEX CARRINGTON



NICHOLAS ERNSBERGER

First time Competition Display by NICHOLAS ERNSBERGER (previous column), Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society (Ogden, UT), was filled with self-made jewelry in coordinated sets of earrings with necklaces using agates, jaspers, obsidian and glass or Swarovski beads. NICHOLAS won a purple Rosette and First Place Blue Ribbon.

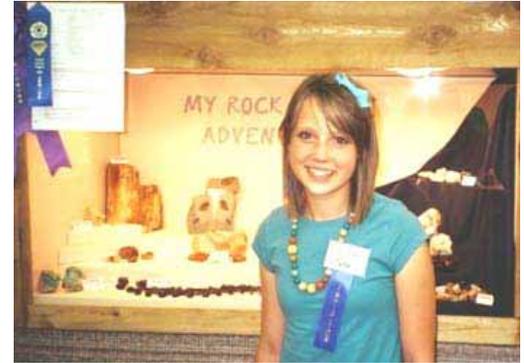


Photo of ALEX MOEDL by her very first display that she entered as a Competition Display with a title of 'My Rock & Gem Adventures'. Her display of petrified wood, trilobites, topaz, sunstones, opals, geodes, sapphire, wonderstone, fire agate, quartz, chrysocolla and garnets won a purple Rosette and First Level Blue Ribbon. ALEX is a member of Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society (Idaho Falls, ID).

ROSE ROBERTS, granddaughter of Show Chair Margaret Stallknecht, and her friend LIBBIE KLETTKE were constant 'runners-gofers-couriers' during the three day event, so their participation was mostly behind the scenes; please make it a point to give them mucho 'KUDOS' when you see ROSE or LIBBIE next; their help is much appreciated.



JILLIAN BERG, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA) won Second Place Award for her newsletter article titled 'Camp Delaney 2007'. NFMS Bulletin Aids Chair Darlene Denton presents the Award with help from President Patty Amos (not in picture)



Pictured to the right is RANSOM CUTSHALL, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA), with his First Place Award for authoring a newsletter article titled 'Thundereggs'.

Continued from Page 10

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUND



Picture shows LAURA CIMOLINO, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA), who was our three day 'anchor' at the 2008 NFMS KIDS CORNER. Her customer, Scott, enjoyed winning prizes at the big Spinner Wheel of Fortune. Many kids and adults made Critters, Sand Panned for Gems and played FREE Mineral Bingo with Mineral Mogul Lorna Goebel, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA) plus Friends of Mineralogy/Seattle Chapter. Lorna had her new laptop with the power point presentation of The ABC's of Minerals, if you missed it be sure to see it next year! Mel Buhr, Everett Rock and Gem Club (WA), set up the display case full of 22 quality prizes for the 2008 NFMS Junior Achievement Trust Fund Raffle.

The KIDS CORNER and Raffle were 'fueled' this year by superb donations from these generous Rockhounds: Joe Slouber--Butte Mineral & Gem (MT); Kay Devonier--Idaho Gem Club, Inc. (Boise) and Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society (Caldwell, ID); Mel Buhr--Everett Rock & Gem (WA); Derek & Amy Whitmarsh--Everett Rock & Gem (WA), Skagit Rock & Gem (Mt. Vernon, WA); Margaret Stallknecht--Show Chair, Stallknecht-Morgan Museum Gem & Mineral Society (Letha, ID), Malheur County Rock & Gem (Ontario, OR); Mt. Hood Rock Club (Gresham, OR); Vi Jones--Skagit Rock & Gem (Mt. Vernon, WA), North Puget Sound Faceting Guild (Mt. Vernon, WA); Keene Clay--Mt. Hood Rock Club (Gresham, OR); H & I Lapidary (Tacoma, WA); Cleo Thompson (Payette, ID); Agate-Beach.com (Mike Wendt); Joan & Evan Day--Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society (Ogden, UT), Intermountain Faceters Guild (Burley, ID); Facet Shoppe (John & Barbara Franke, Burley, WA); Roger Beck--Eureka Rock & Gem (Mountain Home, ID), Intermountain Faceters Guild (Burley, ID); Service Station Gems (Noyam & Tony, Marsing, ID); Rocks and Gifts (Joy & Gerald Scarrow, Jerome, ID); Susan Magnam (Twin Falls, ID); Rose & Orville McArthur--Hells Canyon Gem (Lewiston, ID); Coons Lapidary (Cecil & Emory Coons, Burns, OR); Lorna Goebel--Everett Rock & Gem (WA), Friends of Mineralogy/Seattle Chapter; Russ & Dorothy Pease (Junction City, OR); Pat & Don Snyder--Lakeside Gem & Mineral (Kennewick, WA). Yep, these are the great generous Rockhounds who make it happen at the NFMS KIDS CORNER, please send them all a heartfelt 'THANK YOU' for supporting our future!

Mineral Formation Mysteries

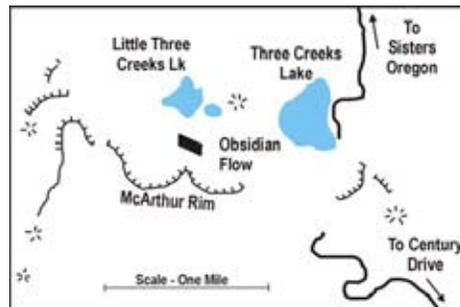
By Bob Bristow, Rock Rollers Club

Part 1

There are a number of geology formation processes that either have no current explanation or the current explanation does not explain all of the facts. Some of the genesis explanations have been taught by geology professors for so long that to question them is considered heresy. However, having spent my life doing research and overturning long-held theories, I am not bothered in the least to question any and all explanations by eminent geologists. In fact, I kind of enjoy it! So here are some of my favorites.

Obsidian Genesis

Almost any mineralogy book will tell you that obsidian is simply rhyolite lava that has cooled so fast that crystals could not form. When I was in high school, I spent part of the summer prior to my sophomore year camped at Three Creeks Lake near Sisters, Oregon. While climbing McArthur Rim above the lake one day, I saw flashes of light about a mile away from a hump below the rim and above Little Three Creeks Lake. Upon climbing over to that point, I discovered the flashes to be coming from large pieces of obsidian. The source was a solid outcropping of obsidian at least ten feet thick. To say a ten foot thick layer of lava froze instantly boggles my mind. In fact, I flat out say that the current explanation has to be bunk.



If not by quick cooling, how does obsidian form? I don't know. However, Donald Alt, in his "Roadside Geology of Oregon" proposed that rhyolite forms glass when the lava is perfectly dry. I haven't seen this suggestion in any of his other books so he may have been beat up by geologists satisfied with the classical explanation. Wouldn't it be interesting to run some laboratory tests with man-made rhyolite in which the water content could be varied?

Growth of Large Crystals

One of the fundamentals of crystallography is thought to be that the size of a crystal is a relative measure of how long it took to form. For example, a large quartz crystal may have taken hundreds or even thousands of years to form in hot mineralized water. This may be true in some case, but not all. In the laboratory, large quartz crystals can be made to form in two or three weeks. If it can be done in the laboratory, why can't it be done in nature? This was brought home to me by an experience growing calcite crystals. I didn't plan on it, but they grew anyway. I was actually trying to leach a chunk of calcite to expose some garnet crystals it contained. Normally, I would use hydrochloric acid to do the leaching. However, I had some oxalic acid left

over from cleaning crystals so I decided to use that. I brought it up to near boiling and left it overnight. The next morning I unplugged the heater and left it to cool. When I lifted the calcite rock out of the container the following morning, I knew immediately that something strange had happened. The rock was covered by 1/8-inch long needles. These were beautiful hexagonal calcite crystals that took only one day to grow. (The crystals grew because the hot solvent had become saturated with calcite ions. When the solvent cooled, it could no longer hold all of the calcite and had to deposit it somewhere.) The bottom line is that I believe that some environments factor in addition to time must determine crystal size. What that factor could be is a mystery.

Mineral Formation Mysteries

By Bob Bristow, Rock Rollers Club

Part 2

Most rockhounds will find a treasure in the ground and be fascinated by it. They wonder how such a beautiful thing could have formed. This questioning can lead to deeper and deeper probes into geologic processes. They quickly find that the more they discover, the more questions they have. If they continue their research, they quickly run into the fringe of knowledge. Inside of this fringe, we know and understand what is happening. Outside is darkness filled with mysteries. The fringe itself is filled with speculation and theories about the darkness and its mysteries. What is fact and what is speculation is an open question. This is the second article on geology phenomena that I consider speculation while some professionals call them fact. Last time, we talked about how the current theory of obsidian formation and the growth of large crystals doesn't make sense. Let's continue with some more mysteries.

Pegmatites

Geology books say pegmatites form when the final granite melt is squeezed into the surrounding rocks where it cools so slowly that the crystals grow huge. There are certainly plenty of cases where this could be true. However, to be acceptable, a theory must explain all occurrences. There are at least as many cases where the cooling rate has been rapid as there are cases for the slow cooling proposal. Most of us have seen narrow veins (under four inches) that are filled with large pegmatite crystals. (Just south of the Hwy 395 bridge over the Little Spokane River is an example of numerous four-inch pegmatite veins.) The country rock around the veins could have been hot and kept the temperature up in the veins, but there is no evidence of heat having altered the rock except very near the vein boundary. This indicates that cooling must have been relatively rapid. If thin veins cooled rapidly and still formed large crystals, why propose that other pegmatite bodies had to cool very slowly. In addition, the center of the granite melt must have taken as long as the pegmatite liquid to cool down. Why doesn't the granite center have large grains like the pegmatite?

Ring Craters of Odessa

Marge and Ted Mueller have written a good book on the Columbia Plateau basalt flows and the great floods that produced the scablands. In this book, they describe the 100 or so "ring craters" north of Odessa.

Continued on Page 15

NFMS Annual Meeting Minutes

Ontario, OR
June 20, 2008

President **Patty Amos** opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced members of the Board in attendance: Joan Day, Secretary; Lyle Vogelpohl, Treasurer; Evelyn Cataldo, 2nd Vice President; Paul Heesacker, 1st Vice President; Evan Day, Parliamentarian. 1st Vice President asked the Past NFMS Presidents to introduce themselves: Carroll Dillon, NFMS; Glenn Lee, NFMS; Dorothy Lee, NFMS and AFMS; Dee Holland, NFMS and AFMS; Rocky McCall, NFMS; Lyle Vogelpohl, NFMS; Frank Posthuma, NFMS; Lauren Williams, NFMS; Jon Spunaugle, NFMS; Richard Glismann, NFMS; Chuck Sonner, NFMS; Linda Keltz, NFMS; Russell Snook, NFMS; Ed Romack, NFMS. Current AFMS President **Shirley Leeson** was introduced and welcomed. 2nd Vice President **Evelyn Cataldo** asked the Delegates to stand and introduce themselves. Pastor **Evan Day** gave the invocation.

President **Patty Amos** asked for a vote by authorized Delegates to seat Delegates without proper credentials. This was passed and we had 56 total voting Delegates representing 42 Clubs.

The following includes both the printed and oral reports given by the officers and committee chairs:

1st Vice President **Paul Heesacker** reported on his Budget for 2008/2009. The Budget was approved as written in Appendix A.

2nd Vice President **Evelyn Cataldo** stated that her report was in the packet. As Custodian, she has contacted each of the Executive Officers, NFMS Standing Committee Chairs and NFMS Special Committee Chairs either by e-mail, post or phone to inquire as to whether they had any NFMS property in their possession. The majority of those contacted responded to the request. A detailed inventory of NFMS property as reported by the Officers and Committee Chairs was included in the Midyear meeting minutes.

From the gathered information, there are a couple of items of inventory that should be considered for reassignment or disposal.

The Newsletter Editor has in his possession a desk chair which is extremely uncomfortable and of little value. It is not in use and is taking up space at his home. Could someone else possibly put this chair to use? Also, it is my understanding, the Newsletter Editor's software program "duplicate remover" is not transferable to the next Editor.

The Slide/Video Librarian has a metal cabinet with lock and some particle board shelving for slides that are not in use. Does someone else have a need for these items?

This should be a separate paragraph, which it is in the attachment. PLUS this is much longer than the paragraph in the attachment.

Secretary **Joan Day** said that **Lauren Williams** had been nominated by NFMS Past Presidents to be the AFMS 1st Vice President.

All clubs are asked to designate e-mail contact persons for inclusion in the Directory, including the club's NFMS Director and/or Delegate, so that minutes, notices and other NFMS business can be sent promptly and inexpensively to everyone. If your Club did not get the Midyear packet, Midyear Minutes, or the Annual Packet; your Club and/or Director's addresses are probably missing or in error. Please send an email with the addresses (or updated address if they have changed internet providers) to the Directory Chair and to Joan at joanday@sisna.com. At the moment we have a 3-page list of incorrect addresses. Please be sure that your internet provider will allow our messages to your inbox – "Earthlink" prevents us from sending messages to their clients.

Treasurer **Lyle Vogelpohl** said his report was in Appendix B to the packet. He also gave a report on the Junior funds (and said we should not be collecting funds just for the sake of collecting funds.) He also stated that Juniors cannot receive awards if they are not listed as Juniors in their club. He also added that the Junior Fund exceeds \$20,000 and he would like suggestions how to use it.

This was followed by a lively discussion. For the third year in a row we grew in membership. Unfortunately, 1 club disbanded and 1 club withdrew. This year we gained 350 adults and 40 juniors!!!!!! Two new clubs have applied for membership, the NW Rock Club of Kalispell, Montana and the Rocky Trails Junior Rockhounding Club of Seattle, Washington. They were voted on and accepted for membership. Our membership now exceeds the membership we reported in 1998. We are growing.

Newsletter Editor **Bryan Schroeder** said that he had been looking for a replacement for the Circulation Director since both the Editors job and the Circulation Chair was too much to handle. He was very glad to announce that **Tom Burchard** from the Golden Spike had agreed to take the job.

Problems seem to crop up with the bulk mailing. Apparently some people are not receiving the Newsletter, possibly because bulk mailing sometimes goes to a different zip code. I am working to fix that problem. The newsletter is on the Website so anyone who wants can print it and they can notify him not to mail a copy

In order to help the Newsletter be better, I (Bryan) am asking for an Editorial Board who would write opinions regarding current issues.

Rocky McCall gave his report on Claims. In the years he has been in charge, not one club has requested monies. One Club looked into a claim, but then thought that if they accepted money from the NFMS then other clubs in the NFMS might want to use the claim. With the new laws and land movements changing every day it is difficult to keep on top of the regulations, it is a one on one project. The regulations not only change from state to state but from county to county. I am more than willing to work with any club that is interested in filing a claim. So far there has not been any interest. The NFMS has a fund to help in the filing cost, but it has not been used.

This fund is not for a private claim, or for a claim that is delinquent. It was set aside only to help a club start the filing process. Think about the off-highway routes that the BLM is trying to get rid of -- if a club has a claim then they have leverage to keep a way open. Rocky feels the money that has been set aside for mining claims help should be put into some area of the budget that needs the monies.

Rocky said the BLM will have a representative at the show at 10am tomorrow morning to answer our questions.

Directory Chair **Audrey Vogelpohl** said she had several NFMS Directories with her to sell for \$5. Each club gets one directory free with additional copies at \$5.00 (if mailed ... \$9.00). This year it is divided into colored sections to make it easier for you to find what you want.

Education Chair, **Margaret Stallknecht** commented this has been a wild year! I have been to as many Shows and Club meetings as I could. Receiving a warm welcome from everyone. I have been asked many questions that I'm not sure of the answers, but I have been in contact with the top people to try and get the right answers for everyone by the time we have the show in Ontario.

I'm in hopes of having an information work shop for those that would like to learn more about how the Federation works and how to present the many things available for your clubs to draw on. I would like to see a lot more use of the film Library and have more input from the members of the club for the delegates to bring to the meeting.

One of the biggest questions that I feel really needs to be addressed is 'How to get more members and things to do to keep them.' This seems to be one of the biggest problems with the older clubs. The membership drops & they quit having shows and they're not bringing in new people. I found that one of my best sources for new people are the schools. If you have kids that like rocks, they will bring Mom and Dad to meetings if they know about them. The best way to do that is have a committee that will put together a traveling rock box to go to the schools and scout troops and talk about the rocks in your area. Talk with your local newspaper to get in the community calendars. Hold easy field trips that are close and easy on the gas; do work shops. We all need to get out there and work on expanding our clubs.

Continued on page 13

NFMS Annual Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 12

Endowment Fund Chair **Edna Nelson** provided an Interim Report (Appendix C) of the Endowment Fund as required by the NFMS Operating Procedures.

President **Patty Amos** announced that **Edna Nelson** is Chairman of the Endowment Committee, **Jon Spunaugle** is the Financial Consultant, and **Lyle Vogelpohl** is the Treasurer.

Field Trip and Silent Auction Chair **Keene Clay's** written report said: I am trying to encourage individuals and clubs to sponsor field trips to their areas. The individual club may call it a Federation field trip or may simply open it up to other people that may be interested. The goal is to increase the knowledge of collecting areas and the number of people willing to lead trips while increasing the interaction between clubs and areas.

At this time, I had the Tri-fed trip to Jackpot on the schedule for Memorial day weekend. I am also planning to personally lead a trip in the Prineville/Ochoco area for the Labor Day weekend (Aug 29-31 and Sept 1) before the rockhound retreat. President **Patty Amos** gave an oral report of the fun activities at the Tri-Federation trip to Jackpot.

Bryan Schroeder, NFMS Newsletter editor, has offered to print field trips in the paper. Clubs are encouraged to send their field trip lists to him to share with the others in the Federation. **Bryan** will also print any field trip summary information on how to get to an area that you know about and what you would expect to find. Please send a short summary and any maps that are available to **Bryan** and share your local knowledge with the rest of the Federation membership.

Silent and Oral Auction rock is needed for Federation Show. The income from the Oral and Silent auctions adds \$2000-\$5000 to the Federation treasury each year. Federation representatives are requested to arrange for their club to bring and donate quality rock to the oral and silent auctions. Material should be clean and labeled. Bring material to the show during setup on Thursday after 4:00 and deliver it to the silent auction area. (Contact **Keene Clay** or **Dick Parks**.) If your club has committed to bring material please contact **Keene Clay** (odroc@comcast.net, 503-558-8500) in advance of the show so we will know what to expect. We will try to arrange assistance in transporting for larger amounts of material.

The Historian of the NFMS, **Shirley Leeson**, had a written report which said: First, I'd like to acknowledge **Roger Beck** for collecting early articles pertaining to the AFMS Rules for Competitive Awards. These came from early Gem and Mineral magazines and are from the 1960s.

Second, the NFMS Historian's duties were defined in Boise in 2004. It was determined at that time that the duties did not include taking care of searching out the museums of interest within the NFMS boundaries. Unfortunately, the NFMS web-site still has my name as a contact person for this project. At Boise I suggested someone take on this position but it was never filled. Please do not forward information to me. Contact the webmaster, **Jack Eads**, to have something either removed or added. It is at the pleasure of the NFMS Executive Board to create this position and I strongly support this suggestion. I have been contacted on a number of occasions and suggested they forward their information directly to the webmaster, but there should be someone coordinating this before turning it over to the webmaster.

Juniors Chair of the NFMS, **Gary Buhr** reported that we need prizes for the Wheel and things for the Auction. We have three applications for the Junior Achievement Award but the sad thing is they are not listed as Juniors in their respective clubs. **Lyle Vogelpohl** said that the AFMS has a program called Future Rockhounds of America that the Juniors can use. The only problem is that the Juniors MUST be paid members of the Federation's clubs to be eligible for this program and any future prizes or awards they may earn

1.) When fuel prices went over two dollars I was forced to stop traveling all over the Northwest to Rock Shows once or twice monthly. I continually ask Juniors, Juniors Advisors or anyone interested in sending electronic photos or articles so we all can realize how much is really going on in your area of the Northwest Federation (AK, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA).

2.) The Junior Achievement Award Trust Fund now has over twenty thousand

dollars and we need to develop a valuable and constructive way to spend some of those funds. If you have any good suggestions please contact **Lyle Vogelpohl** or **Gary Buhr**.

3.) Webmaster **Jack Eads** creates a superb monthly update on the NFMS Juniors Web Page. Editor **Bryan Schroeder** continually provides excellent layout for the Juniors Page data in the Northwest Newsletter. Thank you both for your ongoing and timely service.

4.) We are anticipating an historical turnout of five Juniors Competition Display Cases at the 2008 NFMS Show and Convention in Ontario, Oregon.

5.) KIDS CORNER desperately needs Spinner Wheel of Fortune prize material such as polished agates, jaspers, petrified woods, small or single crystals, rough rocks, obsidian, or shells or ? We also will need small polished gems for the dry sand gem panning. Donations greatly appreciated!

6.) The 2008 KIDS CORNER Junior Achievement Award Trust Fund Raffle has few prizes at this time (March). We need at least 25 quality prizes such as books, jewelry, lapidary or bead work, mineral specimens, prospecting tools or anything that you believe would motivate Rockhounds to purchase tickets. Thank you kindly for your donations and consideration of our future.

Long Range Planning chair of the NFMS, **Beth Heesacker**, questioned: What does that future of our hobby look like to us? Do we see a vibrant and expanding club with new finds in new locations or do we see clubs dying off and a world where these lands are closed to us and our hobby is limited to estate sales and high grading from the collections of our fellow rock club members?

The first area of concern is the people and is a problem probably very common to most clubs. The majority of the members are those who have been faithful to our wonderfully invigorating hobby for many, many years. We appreciate them, their expertise and guidance, but they are the foundation, not the future. If we want to see our clubs grow we need to spread the word to younger people that we have a family oriented and exciting hobby.

We need to go to where young people are and use the tools to attract them that appeal to young people, like the internet. Set up a vibrant and colorful website. Keep it up to date and change it often in order to attract people back to it. Place posters, or copies of your newsletter, in libraries and stores. Keep in contact with your schools and find ways to make presentations and advertise the fact that you are from a club that has exciting meetings and field trips.

Advertise those exciting field trips outside your club (check on your club's insurance liability), and make sure that your outings are child friendly. Set up one day workshops/demos for the public, and advertise them well, so that others can see the beauty of what we have found and get a taste of what we do. All club functions must have activities for the children in order to be a place that their parents can attend. Make sure you have club brochures and applications available, of course.

Have a rock show that is changing, expanding and draws new people in with widespread and exciting advertising. Focus again on what the younger generation might be interested in: new rocks from new dealers, more educational opportunities, exciting activities for the kids, demonstrations that allow hands on and take home projects, etc. Be sure again to have your club member applications prominently available.

The second problem is that many areas are closing down. Be active in groups that are government watchdogs such as the Oregon Council of Rocks and Minerals and your NFMS. Keep your ears open to hear about any actions by the government that threaten our access to the forests, deserts and mountains. Forward this information to the larger groups so they can act on it. Join with others that want to keep access open even though you might not agree with everything they are about. The ATV groups, for example, are larger and have more clout, we can find ways to share the land with them as long as we keep vehicle access open.

I know there are other opportunities out there that will help us make sure our hobby has a bright and vibrant future. I value your input so please get in touch with me and share your ideas. Thank you.

Continued on Page 14

NFMS Annual Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 13

Nominations chair **Chuck Sonner** gave his report on nominations for 2008/2009. **Paul Heesacker** agreed to step up to President, **Evelyn Cataldo** agreed to step up to 1st Vice President, **Fritz Mack** agreed to be 2nd Vice President, **Joan Day** will continue as Secretary, while **Lyle Vogelpohl** will continue as Treasurer. This was voted on and approved by the assembly.

Rockhound Retreat chair **Lamar Tilgner** announced that they were filled up for this year with 15 on the waiting list for the Rockhound Retreat. This being our fourth year, we have upgraded the number of Workshops that are available for the participant. For 2008 we have : A full Lapidary Shop with about 10 workstations, High speed Sanders, Trim Saws, and Large Saws plus Polishers, A Silversmithing workshop, A Casting workshop, An Intarsia workshop, A Faceting workshop, A Wirewrapping workshop, A Beading workshop, A Stone Setting workshop, and last but not least we have a Judges Training workshop. This is becoming a well rounded event. We are preparing a DVD for distribution to all Northwest Clubs. At this point the pictures are all selected and the script is about finished. When completed, a copy will be mailed to all clubs.

Rules And Awards chair, **Dee Holland**, reported that Registrar **Rocky McCall** says we have had a number of people who have asked to have their exhibits evaluated and we will be happy to do that in the hope that NEXT YEAR they will put the same case in competition. REMEMBER, 2009 is the Northwest/American Federation Show and Convention in Billings, Montana. All master exhibits that receive 90 or above this year will automatically be eligible for competition at the AFMS level next year. **Dee** also showed the new wood to be used for the plaques for the next 3 years. He explained the difference in the wood, noted that they were the same type and from the same vendor as the AFMS trophy plaques. He asked for a motion to accept these new plaques. It was so moved and approved.

Scholarship chair **Rose MacArthur** said that at the mid year meeting she collected \$59 for the Scholarship Auction, then \$100 was donated in the name of someone who died. She also said that you do not have to wait until someone dies to donate to the Scholarship Auction. **Dee Holland** mentioned that "Doc Bob," a treasure-filled wooden puzzle made by Dr. Robert Carlson, would be auctioned at the Awards Banquet also for the benefit of the Scholarship Auction.

Show Coordinator **Judi Allison** said she will continue to send your show's information to the NFMS Newsletter, web site and the magazines, Rocks and Minerals and Rock and Gem (I understand Rock and Gem will be going online soon as is Lapidary Journal /Jewelry Artist, which I also submit to.) I would like to remind clubs to SEND YOUR INFORMATION AS SOON AS YOU HAVE IT. If you send it early, you are guaranteed more exposure, but if you send it with only two or three months lead time, you may not get any exposure. For example, if you send information to me on the eleventh of a month two months prior to one when there will be no publication, (Say, the 11th of October – no publication in December- your information will not show up in the NFMS Newsletter until Jan because the cutoff for the November publication is the 10th of October.) And the least amount of lead time required by any of the magazines is three months. I try to check my e-mail at least once a week, but don't always catch something sent on the 10th. So, please be very timely with your submissions. I would also suggest that you have a publication chairperson or be certain that sending off the information is in the written description of the chairperson of your show. I sometimes get duplicate information or someone writes wondering why their information isn't in the publications. If I don't receive it, I can't pass it along. **Judi Allison** gave her new address and e-mail so that clubs may get their show dates to her. If she does not get the info, she cannot put it in the magazines: Judi Allison, 1701A NW 11th, Street Hermiston, OR 97838, Phone 541-720-4950, e-mail JALL@EOTNET.net

As 2008 Show Chair, **Margaret Stallknecht** reported they had taken in \$874 on Friday for attendance. **Margaret** said all meetings and meals were across the freeway at the Holiday Inn near Wal Mart. Field Trips will leave on time the next day.

Good day! Boy, is everyone coming on board for the show! It has been so wonderful to see and hear the good comments about our "Up and Coming in Ontario" show. Since I took on the show in 2006, I have learned so much, with so many people right there at every turn to keep me going. With having a good time at the same time! One of my philosophies in life has been to improve myself by

learning something new everyday - no matter how big or how small. Having the gift of being the shows chairwoman sure has enriched that a lot for me! While in Ogden in March, I met the most wonderful people that have such a zest for life! They will be at the show working on prepping Dino bone from the Museum there in Ogden. They were the most popular display at the show. I'm so thrilled that they will be at the show with us. Mr. Endley will also be there with his Dino eggs. Believe me, that is a life time-love to see what he has gotten over the years. We will be having a Dino walkway for the kids to take part in and many, many things happening all day, everyday.

But, we still need help from all the clubs! The Kids' Corner is in desperate need of supplies. They had such a good turnout in Montana that they are running out of many of the things that they need to entertain the kids with. Please look around the house. Do you have bits and pieces that you could spare? Yarn, string, pompoms, google eyes, glue, new pencils, fake fur, pieces of lace, ribbon, colored paper, cookie cutters, felt pieces, or the new foam material that they could cut. Material of some kind. We plan to have a table where the kids will learn to build a Dino in a bottle patterned after the old ship in the bottle. It's so cool but we need a lot of bottles of all kinds and shapes. Pringle cans with their lids, dried beans and rice to make shakers are also needed.

We need TUMBLED ROCK most of all for grab bags. Ogden went through 2000 first day. In 1/2 day, Caldwell ran out too. The kids love them and they're priced right. Plaster of Paris and pie plates, sequins for the animal imprints, good clean stuffed toys for prizes at some of the games. There will be a country store so any old thing laying around that someone else might like would be useful. You know, one man junk is another man's treasure. The new clubs here need used equipment and books of all kind. We will also have Pins and T-shirts to show off that you were at the show, plus the Federation shirts and hats. So be proud and show off your colors.

There's still plenty of camping. We have 5 shower spots and many field trips before, after, and during the show. In addition to the talks by our trip leaders there at the show, we have self-trip maps that will be available. We would like to have you spend as much time as you can at the show while it's open. Show support for our dealers because without them, the show would just not be the same. We have the outside dealers. You're going to see a lot of new faces and material that hasn't been on the market before so bring the spending money and have a good time. We hope to have fun things for everyone. The gold panners are ready to show you the latest in panning. The Knappers will be setup every day to teach you how to make your own arrowheads. Please take time and learn from some of the best. The black light club will be on hand to answer questions.

Shirley Leeson has pre registration for the 2009 NFMS/AFMS show in Billings. All meetings will be in the Holiday Inn and air-conditioned.

Slide/Video Librarian, **Quita Perry**, reported that the Directory lists the programs we have in stock. We would like to have more new ones.

Stamps Chair **Hermina Kolski** said that this year we have over \$4,000 for Cancer research from sale of donated postage stamps. Hermina thanked everyone for the stamps she has received. A volunteer from among the delegates agreed to help her with identifying particularly valuable stamps.

AFMS Programs representative **Dorothy Lee** reported that AFMS President **Shirley Leeson** is very concerned regarding the lack of participation in AFMS Programs. **Dorothy** has questionnaires and asks that anyone with an opinion please fill it out and get it to her.

All American/Rockhound Of The Year chair **Viola Jones** reported that a nomination for Club Rockhound of the Year has been received from the North Puget Sound Faceting Guild for **Robert Jimenez**--our long-time Bulletin Editor. Texas rockhounds, **Bob** and his wife **Shirley** (now deceased) moved to Washington in 1998 and immediately became involved in the Whidbey Pebble Pushers and the North Puget sound Faceting Guild. **Bob** became the editor of both club newsletters -- winning many honors for his editorial expertise. **Bob** and **Shirley** were officers in both organizations. They enthusiastically planned and helped coordinate two faceting conferences held by the faceting guild. **Bob** was instrumental in starting a school program honoring children for exemplary behavior. Students received polished

NFMS Annual Meeting Minutes Continued from Page 14

rocks as their reward. Bob also helped junior rock hound activities including field trips, teaching about rocks and displaying. Although **Shirley** never got **Bob** to facet, he published a thorough and interesting bulletin for nearly 10 years. **Bob** has demonstrated a high standard of excellence in all aspects of the hobby and we thank and salute him. Submitted by **Vi Jones** and **Beverly Dillon**, NPSFG.

Hells Canyon Gem Club of Lewiston, Idaho nominated **Ralph Mathewson** as their 2008 Rockhound of the Year. "**Ralph's** unflinching good humor, helpfulness, and patience are truly the facets of a gem of a guy. **Ralph** is a master Facetor. He competes at the shows and has won international faceting awards. You can always count on **Ralph** to put in a display at our show. He is never too busy to teach his art at the club, at shows, demonstrations and on a private basis. On top of that, he is eager to aid the children of the community whenever we give presentations at the schools"....."Truly, **Ralph** is a stable and reliable asset to our club." Submitted by **Rose Alene McArthur**, Federation Director (Complete text is in June, 2008, Northwest Newsletter.) Thank you **Rose**, for your club's nomination.

I hope everyone read the reminder article in the Northwest Newsletter. Everyone please note that this is a wonderful, inexpensive way to honor your club members and let everyone know how much they are appreciated. I would recommend that each club have a committee appointed or add this duty to an officer's job description so that it doesn't get forgotten. Please forward your yearly nomination to: **Vi Jones**, P. O. Box 2841, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-7841, phone (360) 424-8340 and the best way is to e-mail your nomination to rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net Remember to keep the write-up to about 100 words (or I will edit it!) and I will forward it to the Northwest Newsletter and the AFMS Newsletter. Thanks everyone!

Rocky McCall reminded everyone he had tickets to sell for the AFMS Endowment Fund raffle and he would haunt everyone until they bought. **Jon Spunaugle** talked about the Fossil Bills that are in the House and Senate at this time.

Evan Day reported that he talked to **Jack Eads** who is recovering from serious heart surgery but will continue as Website Chair next year and wishes he could be at this meeting.

A Sgt. from the National Guard Security Unit warned us that 2 suspicious men with backpacks were asked to leave the show Friday afternoon, so be very careful for the rest of the show.

President **Patty Amos** called the meeting to a close

Fifth Annual

McDermitt

Rock & Gem Show

Come have fun – again – at the Rockhound Rendezvous in
McDermitt, Nevada

- at the Diamond A Motel – in the parking lot out front
&
- inside the McDermitt Community Hall

US Highway 95, McDermitt, Nevada

September 18 - 21, 2008

Rooms & Dry Camping Available – or Just Come Up for the Day!

For information:

- call: (775) 532-8551 or 532-8088
- fax: (775) 532-8552 or 532-8099
- email: rocks@diamondamotel.com

A large selection of agates, jaspers, opals, petrified wood, jewelry and other rockhound related items will be available for sale from many dealers!

Field trips are planned!

FREE ADMISSION!

Show Promoted by the Diamond A Motel and Illyssa L. Fogel

Advertised Worldwide

Mineral Formation Mysteries, Part 2 Continued from Page 11

Figure 1 shows about half of the craters on the Mueller's map. Luci and I spent an afternoon examining several and found them fascinating.

Some are simply shallow craters. The interesting ones have partial rings of basalt around the outside. The rings can be up to 15 to 20 feet high and I noted one crater with three rings. The space between the rings was even lower than the bottom of the crater center. The best crater we saw is called "Amphitheater Crater." The Muellers have an explanation for the crater's formation but they indicate that they really can't believe it and included it as the only explanation available.

The theory they list involves the breaking up of an upper

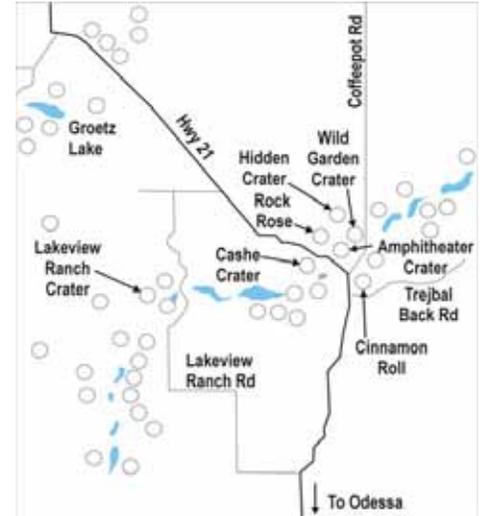


Figure 1. Ring Craters

crust over molten lava and hardening with that upper crust sagging down into the soft lava below. The great floods then formed eddies in the low spot plucking out most of the basalt and leaving the rings. Like some of the theories discussed above, this might fly except it doesn't account for all of the evidence.

Southeast of Amphitheater Crater is Cinnamon Roll. This is like the ring craters except that it sticks up in the air about 50 feet and is composed of several bulges that correspond to the rings in the other craters. It looks like this mound may have started to form like the other craters but was halted part way through the process. If this is true, the craters were first pushed up into several concentric cylinders and then sucked down leaving parts of the hardened edges of the cylinders as the rings. What could have caused this? I haven't a clue and it looks like no one else has either. However, it makes for exciting speculation and is a great mystery.

Thundereggs

I have a folder of theories on thunderegg formation. One says they formed in voids in rhyolite like common geodes. Another writer is convinced they are fossilized crinoid heads. A third author has written a whole book on the subject. After rejecting all existing theories, he explains how silica (quartz) in rhyolite could form balls like it does in some man-made applications. The balls would then form into thundereggs. This is the best research I have seen. However, it, too, has some serious flaws.

We know the following about thundereggs and any successful theory must account for all items:

1. Eggs have a spherical shape
2. Rhyolite in the egg is often different from the country rock rhyolite.
3. Some eggs are hollow.
4. There is sometimes a small sphere at the center.
5. Large shrinkage of the rhyolite core occurred before silica filled the interior.
6. Some eggs have flow line where silica entered from cracks in the shell.
7. Eggs form in both volcanic ash and solid lava.
8. Opal, calcite, flint, and other minerals sometimes substitute for silica.
9. Sometimes the country rock is composed of the same odd form of rhyolite as the egg shell.

Finding a theory of formation that satisfies all these observations is a tall task. However, since thundereggs are there, there must have been a way for them to have formed!

2008 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Sep 6-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4-30	Unpqua Gem & Mineral Club, Annual Show "Rocks Under Foot"	Douglas County Fairgrounds Douglas Hall (1-5, Exit 123) Roseburg, OR	Dave Snyder 541-679-7553 dwilliams@mesj.net
Sep 13-14 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc, 39th Annual Show	Walla Walla Co. Fairgrounds Comm. Ctr. Bldg, 9th St. & Orchard, Walla Walla, WA	Warren Root 509.525.0101, ext. 578 wroot@coffeyscomm.com
Sep 19-21 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Far West Lapidary's Rock and Gem Society South Coast Rock and Gem Fest 2008	4th St. Parking Lot, Across from Outdoor-In Family Restaurant, Coos Bay Oregon	Don Innes 541-396-5722
Sep 20-21 Sat 10-6 Sun: 10-5	Hellgate Mineral Soc. 14th Annual, "Rock-hounding in The Rockies"	Ruby's Inn & Conv Center 4825 N. Reserve Missoula, MT	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday Lane, Missoula, MT 59801 (406) 543-3667
Sep 20-21 Sat 10-6 Sun: 10-4	So. WA Mineralogical Soc. Annual Rock & Gem Show	Castle Rock Fairgrounds Castle Rock, WA	Diane Thurston 503-728-4274 spuds@clatskanie.com
Sep 20-21 Sa, Su 10-5	?	City Park Vale OR	Margaret Stallknecht (208) 230-2487
Sep 26-28 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-6	The Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show "The Beauty Within"	Portland Metropolitan Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland OR 97217	Mary Bolton 503-760-5176 philmary@comcast.net Josh Heater 971-570-5456 j.frankray@hotmail.com
Oct 11-12 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marysville Rock & Gem 34th Annual Gem/Mineral Show (Rocktoberfest)	Totem Middle School 7th. Street & State Ave Marysville, WA 98270	Ken Metz (425) 422-8575 Ken_metz@hotmail.com Rocky McCall 360.629.2515 rm711@tgi.net
Oct 11-12 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Billings Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show	Billings Hotel & Conv. Ctr 1223 Mullowney Lane Billings Montana.	Vern Watson, (406) 652 5958 2511 Olson Dr. Billings MT. 59102
Oct 18 Sat 9-4	Eureka Gem Club	Senior Citizen's Center Mountain Home OR	Margaret Stallknecht (208) 230-2487
Oct 18-19 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Hells Canyon Gem Club, Inc. Annual Show	Nez Perce County Fair Grounds, Lewiston, ID	Jack Edwards 509-529-3673 edwardsj@wwics.com
Oct 25-26 Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, Earth's Hidden Treasures 2008	Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave Canby, Or	Rick Mauer (509) 691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Oct 25-26 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Bellevue Rock Club Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd SE Bellevue, WA	Marjorie McKinley, POB 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009-1851 bellevuerockclub@comcast.net
Oct 31-Nov2 Fri 12-7 Sat 10-7 Sun 11-4	The Springfield Thunderegg Club of Eugene, OR, Rock & Gem Show	Oakway Center 112 Coburg Road Eugene, OR	Jim Nelson 541 687-8100 or Bob Smith 541 741-0060
Nov 7-9 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4	NW Opal Assoc. & BEMIS 4th Annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show	Expo Hall, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Meridian St. S. & 9th Ave. SW, Puyallup, WA	Gerry Alexander 360-.876.4543
Nov 8-9 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-5	Skagit Rock & Gem Club, "Treasures of the Earth" Annual Show	Sedro Woolley Comm. Ctr. 720 State Street Sedro Woolley, WA	Tina Anderson, (360) 299-8224
Nov 15 5:30 preview 7-10 p.m.	Columbia-Willamette Faceters 35th Annual Color Stone Auction	Monarch Hotel 12566 SE 93rd Ave Portland, Oregon 97015	Gail Lough @ glough7@gmail.com

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Nov 22-23 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Kitsap Mineral & Gem Club "Fall Festival of Gems"	Kitsap Co. Fairgrounds, 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd. Bremerton, WA	Gerry Alexander 360-876-4543

2009 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Feb 14-15 Sat 9-5 Sun 9-5	Whidbey Island Gem Club 44th Annual Sweetheart of Gems	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 S. E. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA	Keith Ludemann 360-675-1837 rock9@whidbey.net
Mar 7-8 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society, GEMS ARE FINE FOR 2009	O'Connor Field House 2200 Blaine Caldwell, ID	Tom Rogers lmr_tmr@safelink.net 208-465-5529
Mar 28-29 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4	Sweet Home Rock & Min. Soc. 61st Annual Featuring Thundereggs	1641 Long St. Sweet Home, Or.	Dee David (541) 367-4895 ced@centurytel.net
May 30-31 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	West Seattle Rock Club 43rd Annual Show President's Gemboree	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA	Ron Nims Ron.Nims@Attachmate.com
Jul 30-Aug 2 Thur 10-5 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun: 10-5	NFMS/APFMS Combined Show hosted by Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 51 st year	Holiday Inn Grand Montana 5500 Midland Rd Billings MT	Doug True 406-670-0506 dtruefossils@yahoo.com



Door Prizes
Display Cases
Dealers
Demonstrations
Silent Auction
Slabs
Fluorescent Show
Kid's Korner
Bargain Rocks
Snack Bar
And.....**MORE!!**

CLACKAMETTE MINERAL & GEM CLUB'S 44TH ANNUAL

GEM and ROCK SHOW

"EARTH'S HIDDEN TREASURE 2008"

CLACKAMAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

694 NE 4TH AVE. CANBY, OR

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2008

SAT. 9 AM - 6 PM, SUN. 10 AM - 5 PM

FREE ADMISSION

For More Information Contact: Rick Mauer: (503) 691-6395 or tallerricardo@juno.com,
Bea Settle: (503) 631-3128, www.clackamettegem.org, RockHound@clackamettegem.org