



Willamette Agate and Mineral Society

October 2023 Newsletter

Visit our website: WAMSI.net

Dear Club members:

Welcome to another edition of the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society Newsletter. Mimi is under the weather, so I am filling in to complete the front page. What a great month this has been for club participation. The 2 club field trips were outstanding; where over 20 people showed up at Hampton Butte, and 36 at the Rock Castle. At Hampton Butte, club members were very successful by digging and walking the hillsides and surface. We purchased around 1000 lbs. of rocks at the Rock Castle, which was matched by Joe Cota.

In this edition I have included a wrap up of both fields trips, a column about the history of our club, details on membership, a list of the positions we discussed that need new volunteers to fill, and some links on great places to go around Oregon to rockhound. Many times, I hear people asking where to go and find material. I thought these links would draw interest; whether you are just starting out, or wanting more information on places you have gone in the past.

At our October club meetign on October 5th, Janice Van Cura will deliver a program on thunder eggs, and the history on collecting in Oregon, with stories from different beds.

We will also have copies to hand out on the WAMS Presidential awards voting ballot that we discussed in our program at the September meeting, that we will be voting on soon.

Show & Tell will be the letter "I".

Enjoy the newsletter and see you all at the meeting.

Sincerely, David Smith: WAMS Club Newsletter Editor



Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (WAMS) – General Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes

September 7th, 2023

Officers Present: President Mimi, Treasurer Dave Maxwell, Secretary Cassandra Hutchinson.
Members at Large: Suzette.

1. **Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm.**
2. **Introductions of Officers, Chair Positions, New Members and Guests**
Welcome new members and guests!
3. **Announcements**
 - General Meeting – October 5th @ 7:00 PM.
 - Board Meeting – October 16th @ 6:30 PM.
 - Ken – Field trip: Hampton Butte, 9/15-17/23 Petrified Wood Field Trip
 - Caitlyn – Field trip: Rock Castle 9/23, potluck
 - Center 50+ Event shared.
4. **Old Business**
 - Approval of July Meeting Minutes – motioned, seconded, approved.
 - Treasurer’s Report- End of Summer Show revenue, scholarship distributions (4K to 3 recipients). Motioned, seconded, approved.
 - Rob L – Silent Auction for Scholarship.
4. **Show and Tell**

Club members brought material that begins with the letter “H” and shared about their finds. Next meeting will be the letter “I”.
5. **Program** –President Mimi hosted a discussion on open positions and chair positions. Also discussed upcoming end of year awards. Open positions include:
 - Secretary, Members-at-large, Show Chair, Hostess, Sunshine, Federation Director, Advertising, and Public Relation.
6. **Kids Rocks and Break**
7. **New Business**
 - Voting in of new members. Motion approved.
 - October Program – Janice VanCura: Intro to thunder eggs and their history.
 - Pam S – Juniors will be painting rocks at the next meeting (dress accordingly)
 - Dave M – Needing rocks for easter eggs, Dave will tumble.
 - September Meeting Housekeeping
 - Refreshments – Corrine, Victoria
 - Rocks for kids – Dave S/Dan G
 - Scholarship rocks – Joe V
 - Door Prize rocks – Steve Lawrence

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:12

WAMS Officers and Chair Positions

Officers: President: Mimi Surgeon

Vice President: Barbara Hopkins

Treasurer: Dave Maxwell

Secretary: Cassandra Hutchinson

Members At Large: Tom Beaty, Ken Seward, Suzette Mykyles

Woody White, Cody Torres David Kersenbrock

Federation Director: Larry Ferguson

Board Chairman: Richard Ilg

Advertising: Camille Ainsworth

Education: Scott Lambright, Pam Stringer

Field Trip Coordinator: Barbara Hopkins Historian:

Hostess: Bonnie Stubenrauch, Terry Christenson

Juniors: Scott Lambright: Pam Stringer

Librarian: Eddie Hopper

Nametags: Woody White

Newsletter Editor: David Smith

Oregon Council: Ted and Vickie Johnson

Programs: Eddie Hopper

Property Control: Woody White

Public Relations: VACANT, could be You!

Publications: David Smith

Scholarships Chairman: Joe Van Cura

Scholarship: Kathleen Forbes, Steve Wilson

Show Chair: Ken Stubenrauch: Andree Kraker

Stamps: Aaron Curier

Sunshine: Bonnie Stubenrauch

Web Master: Andree Kraker

Important Club Information and Reminders

Meeting Calendar: 2023-2024

Club Meetings: October 5th, November 2, January 4th, February 1st, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th,

Picnic: August 6th

Christmas Party: Not yet available

Board Meetings: October 16th, November 20th, December: No meeting, January 22nd, February 26th, March 18th, April 22nd, May 20th, June: No Meeting.



Positions open:

As we discussed at the last club meeting; we have several open positions that we need to fill as we approach the new year. It is ever so important that we get new members to transition in so we give the current people a break, and so they can make an impact in other ways. In the September newsletter, we listed these positions with a description of each. If you have questions, you can also talk to the current members that fill these roles.

1. Show Chair: (Board Position), this could be co-chaired
2. Hostess: (Chair Person)
3. Sunshine (Chair Person)
4. Secretary (Officer)
5. Members at Large (We need 2-3)

September Field Trips in Review:

What a great month we had with 2 memorable field trips; to **Hampton Butte**, followed by **The Rock Castle** in Lebanon. On day two at Hampton Butte, Ken led a number of us to the northside where we found a lot of great material. Caitlyn Pratt led the trip down to The Rock Castle the following weekend, where new material was added to the 50 cent pile for club members to go through. I call it the mystery pile. A special thanks to Ken; Bonnie, and Caitlyn for taking charge and making these outings special.

HAMPTON BUTTE WEEKEND



The Rock Castle



You have enough
rocks

But I don't
have THESE
rocks



Program For October; Janice Van Cura will deliver an Intro to Thundereggs and the history of collecting in Oregon. A brief look at what is a thunderegg and some stories about several different beds. You will not want to miss this.



WAMS is one of the largest rock and gem clubs in the Northwest. Our members are interested in all aspects of rockhounding – from collecting agates and fossils to working the rocks and gems into specimens and jewelry to enjoy for years.

What do you get for your membership in WAMS?

Interact with about 200 members of all ages who share the same interest in rocks, fossils, and minerals.

Learn where to find and how to dig many different varieties of rock – also learn how to do this safely with club outings and field trips.

Access to several members who cut and polish professionally.

50+ Senior Center has a fantastic lapidary shop upstairs and it offers training for a nominal fee. Several of our members are the instructors.

Library of books about rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry making, silver smiting and more!

Sumer Picnic – fun times – Free

Banquet in December (also free)

Door prizes at every meeting – I got a rock...

Raffle each meeting for the scholarship fund.

Meetings are fun and informative. There is show and tell each month, where members bring their treasures to share. We also have a program on topics of interest to members.

Guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend WAMS meetings. Potential new members are encouraged to attend three meetings as a guest and complete an application form. Members will then vote to accept the new member.

Membership Dues:

Individual: \$15.00

Couple: \$24.00

Juniors: \$ 2.50

Membership dues are due by December 31 for the following year. Anyone joining WAMS between January and June pay the full amount. Those joining WAMS between July and December pay half the amount.

The History of our Club:

The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc. was organized to simulate interest in the study and collection of agates, minerals, gem materials, fossils, lapidary work, and the educational and scientific study of natural earth sciences. WAMS is a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

WAMS was formed November 1, 1947 under the name of Willamette Gem Cutters. It began with a group of people interested in gems and minerals and was at first a social society where people compared rocks and minerals. The name was soon changed to Willamette Agate and Mineral Society to cover all phases of lapidary and mineral interests. By 1950 the group had joined the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, thereby becoming affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and members began to display their collections and lapidary work at Valley and Eastern Oregon gem and mineral shows. In 1956 the organization held its first non-competitive show in the old Isaac Walton Building on Mill Creek. In 1957 the first competitive show was held at the State Fairgrounds beneath the grandstand. In 1958 the Society was incorporated under the Oregon State laws for nonprofit organizations. WAMS is also a member of the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs.

In 1963 The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society started the second Junior Rock Club in Oregon (The Mineral Minors). Working with other Oregon organizations, WAMS helped to raise money to build the Lon Hancock Room at OMSI in Portland to house Mr. Hancock's gift of John Day artifacts.

In 1966 we worked to make the Thunder Egg, the official Oregon State Rock and presented a case of thunder eggs to the State which is on display in the Capitol Building.

Rockhound Rumbings is the official publication of the organization. The first issue was printed in 1967 and is published monthly for circulation to members as a means to keep them informed on local, northwest, and national news concerning the gem and mineral hobby. In 1968 Willamette Agate and Mineral Society won the All-American Award for Community Service given by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The club project of 1978 was a trailer-van for storing the club gem show display cases and equipment.

In 2000, WAMS moved the meeting location to the Salem Senior Center and started lapidary classes.

In 2001 WAMS started silversmithing classes.

In 2003 WAMS membership exceeded 200 rockhounds.

In 2009 WAMS membership exceeds 250 members and our club meetings have been moved to the new 50+ Center in Salem.

Today WAMS is still going strong with about 200 members. In addition to membership benefits in the club, WAMS provides educational opportunities for local schools and youth groups. The first day of our annual "River of Gems" Show is dedicated to School Groups and we have the joy of entertaining and educating the hundreds of kids that attend each year. The Jon and Lucille Sams Memorial College Scholarship Fund is also available to qualified students applying to college to study the earth sciences.



Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc.

PO Box 13041
Salem Oregon 97309-1041

Membership Application

New Renewal

Individual Membership Name _____

Couple Membership Name _____

Name _____

Junior Member(s) Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Mailing Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____ (Cellular) _____

Email 1* _____

*If you have more than one email for your membership/family, please indicate which one to mail the newsletter too.

Email 2 _____

1. I (we) would like to receive the WAMS monthly newsletter by email (color) or by USPS mail.
2. I (we) would like to receive the Federation newsletter by email or by USPS mail.
3. I (we) would like to receive an email for WAMS announcements, event updates and field trip information.
4. I (we) are interested in being a WAMS officer/or chairperson.
5. I (we) are interesting in helping with the annual rock and gem show.
6. I (we) are interested in volunteering for work parties and/or event committees.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership Dues:	
Individual	\$15.00
Couple	\$24.00
Junior(s)	\$2.50

Please return this form by mailing it to the address above or bringing it to the monthly meeting and giving it to the treasurer with your dues. Thank you. Renewals are due by the first meeting of the current year. Members that are considered delinquent will not be able to participate in any WAMS functions or continue to receive the monthly newsletters. Members joining after July 1st will only pay half price.

To be filled in by WAMS treasurer	
WAMS - Received By: _____	Date _____
Payment method: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash (or) <input type="checkbox"/> Check Ck# _____	Amount: _____



WAMS contact information:

Webpage:

www.wamsi.net

Facebook:

Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.

Instagram:

Willamette_agate_and_mineral

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/RiverofGems>

Newsletter email:

rockclubnewsletter@gmail.com

River of Gems email:

Wams.riverofgems@gmail.com

Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (W.A.M.S.) is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS), the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), and the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (S.C.R.I.B.E.).

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Salem 50+ Senior Center, 2615 Portland Road NE, in Salem, Oregon. Executive Board meetings are held with upcoming meetings announced at the general meeting, and all members are invited to attend. W.A.M.S. was organized to stimulate interest in the study and collection of agates, minerals, gems, and fossils, and support lapidary work, education, scientific study of natural earth sciences, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section #501(C)(3) IRS

W.A.M.S.

P.O. Box 13041

Salem 97309