

Willamette Agate and Mineral Society

December Newsletter: 2023



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy December everyone -

Can you believe this year is almost over? It seems like it was just March last week. I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and healthy...Christmas is coming. Almost time to break out the decorations and start playing Christmas music. 😊

I'd like to thank everyone for making my first year as your president a good one, and let you know I look forward to my second term this coming year. I've been blessed with great officers/board members and chairpersons as support staff and appreciate their wiliness to serve and volunteer their time as much as they do. This club, as we know it today, wouldn't function without them! So, a big THANK YOU from me to you. I challenge you - the general membership - at the December Holiday dinner, to go up to a minimum of three officers/board members and/or chairpersons and thank them for their contribution to the club.

Don't forget...there is NO general meeting and No board meeting in December, we have our annual Holiday Potluck and Award Ceremony, Saturday, December 9, 5-8 pm. Come enjoy good food, good friends and good conversation.

We will start the show-n-tell alphabet up again in January.

Happy Holidays, Mimi

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

Meeting Minutes

November 2nd, 2023

Officers Present: President Mimi S, Vice President Barbara H, Treasurer Dave M, Secretary Cassandra H. Board chair: Richard. Members at Large: Suzette, Woody, and Tom.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm.

1. Introductions of Officers, Chair Positions, New Members and Guests

Welcome new members! No guests.

2. Announcements

- No General Meeting in December due to Holiday Potluck. Potluck will be December 9th at Center 50+.
- Board Meeting – November 20th @ 6:30 PM. No December Board Meeting
- No upcoming field trips.
- Member Award sheets for voting are available during tonight's meeting.
- 2 Silent Auctions during tonight's meeting – 1 to benefit scholarship and 1 to benefit lapidary.

3. Old Business

- Approval of October Meeting Minutes – motioned, seconded, approved.
- Treasurer's Report- Account overview. Update on scholarship CD that matures November 2023. Motioned, seconded, approved.

4. Show and Tell

Club members brought material that begins with the letter "J" and shared about their finds.

5. Kids Rocks and Break

6. New Business

- Barbara: Voting in of new members. Motion approved.
- Dave Smith: Shared about club providing rocks for children's grief counseling group at Willamette Vital Health.
- Good of the order:
- January Meeting Housekeeping
 - Refreshments – Brett, Ginny
 - Rocks for kids – Richard
 - Scholarship rocks – David Driver
 - Door Prize rocks – Woody

7. Program: No program. Voting for member awards during this time.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:37

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



Special Donation: It was a heartwarming honor to be able to assist Willamette Vital Health, in supporting the children enrolled in their grief counseling classes in 2024. We purchased 364 polished stones of different colors for each week of both 7-week class programs next year. Each color represents a specific area of their healing journey, a very special way to help. Willamette Vital Health; formerly Willamette Valley Hospice, is celebrating their 45th year serving the needs of our community. So happy we could do this.





W.A.M.S. Annual Holiday Potluck

Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Salem 50+ Senior Center
2615 Portland Rd NE, Salem, OR. 97301

Come share hor d'oeuvres and conversation with fellow rockhounds at 5:00 pm, or join us at 6:00 pm for dinner, awards and swearing-in of our 2024 slate of officers, followed by dessert and goodies bags.





W.A.M.S./ The year in review

Submitted by:

David Smith: Club Newsletter Editor

Dear members: It has been a fantastic year for our club so I thought I would send out some of the main highlights to summarize our accomplishments:

Two Shows: Our April and August shows were greatly successful: The 66th annual “River of Gems Show was a record breaker in attendance. The results exceeded our expectations, with over 4400 paid entrants at the show; a new record. This really helped us raise enough revenue to offer 3 scholarships this year, a tremendous accomplishment.

The outdoor show in August was also a nice success and continues to get better year over year. We filled the space with over 35 vendors and had very good attendance throughout the 3-day event. Many thanks to Ken Stubenrauch for making this so successful. We are looking for a club member to take over the coordination of this show as Ken will be a vendor starting in 2024.

Membership: 2023 has been a very good year with membership: as we have added close to 80 members to the club; including several juniors that are the future of our legacy. If you are newer to the club; the best way to make the most of your membership is to find an area you are interested in and get involved. There are several volunteer opportunities; whether it be a club officer position; field trip coordinator, or just help with events.

Field Trips: To many; our club field trips make being a member of the club such an enjoyable experience where they can connect with other rockhounds, learn more about the hobby, and enjoy the wonderful experiences of getting out in the field and discovering the joys of nature.

(Continued from previous page:)

This year; we had several trips all over the state of Oregon that included Nelscott Beach in Lincoln City, China Hollow, Succor Creek, Old Marker Ranch, The Rock Castle, Bear Creek, Cogleton Hollow, the Ochoco Mountains and Hampton Butte. Thank you to all the volunteers that led these outings and created lasting memories. We are currently starting to look at 2024; if you have ideas or would be interested in leading a club field trip in the upcoming months, please contact our Vice President; Barbara Hopkins.

2023 Club Picnic: Our annual club picnic was once again a great event; hosted again this year at the home of Tom and Susan Robertson. There was a lot of good food for everyone; Tom had his shop open for members to buy treasures, other club members were able to sell their own creations and we had a very well-organized raffle with door prizes. A very special thank you goes out to the Robertsons for hosting the event again, and to Victoria Kelly who organized and led the event again this year. She did an outstanding job as always.

Lapidary Shop: The Lapidary Shop upstairs at the 50 Plus Center is available to club members. If you are interested in using the shop, there is a sign-up sheet and a small fee by the hour. For questions on hours and availability; please talk to Caitlyn Pratt who is in charge on Monday evenings. We have a lot of working equipment for members to use and enjoy.

Meeting Programs: Thank you, Eddie Hopper and several club members who volunteered to deliver great programs, at our club meetings throughout the year. Eddie and Mimi worked well in coordinating these programs with our club meeting agenda, and I truly think it is important we continue to have such great success with this. They make the meetings that much better. A lot goes on behind the scenes that needs to be acknowledged.

Next Club General Meeting is on January 4th.

Club Website: WAMSI.net: Also: join our Facebook page

Reminder: Club dues for 2024 can be turned in at our club meeting to David Maxwell, our club Treasurer. Fill out the application in this newsletter and turn in with your dues. We ask you also complete the form for renewals to assure we are current with your information.

2023 Photo Gallery: Another great year for the Club









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:

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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 (NWFS), 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.
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