

## **Willamette Agate and Mineral Society**

### **January Newsletter 2024**



**Brrr, hello everyone...I hope this letter finds you warm and happy. Winter is upon us and the temperatures are dropping. Rumor is we might get snow in the valley this winter, we'll see :)**

**Thank you to everyone that attended the holiday potluck this year. It was a great turn out, lots of good food and great conversation. I enjoyed giving out the awards this year and recognizing all the volunteers and members that contributed to make our year great.**

**Horizon Award (Juniors)- Emily**

**New member of the Year Award - Cailtyn Pratt**

**Fieldtrip Achievement Award - Ken & Bonnie Stubenrauch**

**Program of the Year Award - Alvin Lambright**

**Multifarious Award - Suzette M. & Steve Lawrence**

**Community Awareness Award - David Smith**

**Excellence in Education Award - Scott Lambright & Pam Stringer**

**Inspirational Rockhound of the Year Award - David Smith & Eddie Hopper**

**2023 WAMS Member of the Year Award - Ken Stubenrauch**

**2022 WAMS Member of the Year Award - Larry Ferguson**

**Thank you to all of our award winners, it takes all of us to make this club a success and your efforts are appreciated. A big thank you to Barb Hopkins (Vice President), Cassie Hutchinson (Secretary) and David Maxwell (Treasurer) for bearing with me as I stumbled through my first year as president. I appreciate your help, guidance and good nature as I threw ideas at you, changed things and asked for help now and then. I also want to thank the general membership for making my first year as president a pleasant one :) I'm looking forward to 2024 and all the fun we will have together.**

**Our next meeting is January 4th at the 50+ Center, we will start up the show-n-tell again...the letter is K. I hope to see you all there. Have a wonderful holiday and safe New Year**

**Mimi**

## **W.A.M.S. Board Members and Officer Positions**

Mimi Surgeon      Barbara Hopkins      Dave Maxwell      Cassandra Hutchinson  
**\* President**      **\*Vice President**      **\*Treasurer**      **\*Secretary**

Ken Seward: Scott Lambright: Suzette M.: Woody White

### **\*Members at Large**

Larry Furguson      Richard Ilg      Camille Ainsworth      Scott Lambright: Pam Stringer  
**\*Federation Chair**      **\*Board Chair**      **\*Advertising**      **\*Education: Juniors**

Barbara Hopkins      Eddie Hopper      David Smith      Vickie and Ted Johnson  
**\*Field Trip Coordinator**      **\*Librarian: Programs**      **\*Newsletter Editor**      **\*Oregon Council**

Woody White      Joe Van Cura      Ken Stubenrauch: Andree Kraker      Aaron Curier  
**Property Control**      **Scholarship Chair**      **Show Chair Coordinators**      **Stamps**

Andree Kraker      Bonnie Stubenrauch      David Smith      Terry Christenson  
Bonnie Stubenrauch  
**Web Master**      **Sunshine**      **Publications**      **Hostess**





Visit and become a member of our W.A.M.S. Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/272934920267>

- Interact with over 2,800 current members
- Share your rockhounding photos and ideas
- Keep up with additional club news to the minute
- See others experiences and see what they are finding

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*Next Club General Meeting is on January 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*Club Website: WAMSI.net: Learn more about the club's history*

*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.*

*If you have ideas for field trips; would like to lead one, or have questions how to sign up; Barbara Hopkins is taking requests and coordinating dates*



# KID'S CORNER

## ● Landforms

From the mountains to the plains, the earth is covered with a huge variety of fascinating landforms. But how did they get there?

## ● Volcanoes

What are the Earth's most fantastic, and sometimes most violent, geologic changes? Here is a hint: molten rock and ash shoot out of them!

## ● Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, & Atmosphere

Did you know that there is a name for all of the rock on earth? Sure is. Here are a few names that will come in handy.

## ● Igneous Rocks

Can you imagine melting a rock? It takes a lot of heat, but the earth has plenty!

## ● Metamorphic Rocks

Take a rock, add a whole bunch of heat and pressure, and presto! You have a new kind of rock: a metamorphic rock.

## ● Earthquakes

When the ground shakes, there is a hidden cause. There are plates in the Earth's crust moving around, and when they collide, it is called an earthquake!

## ● Weathering & Erosion

Some of the world's most famous landmarks were created by weathering and erosion. Ever heard of the Grand Canyon? That is one of them.

## ● Minerals

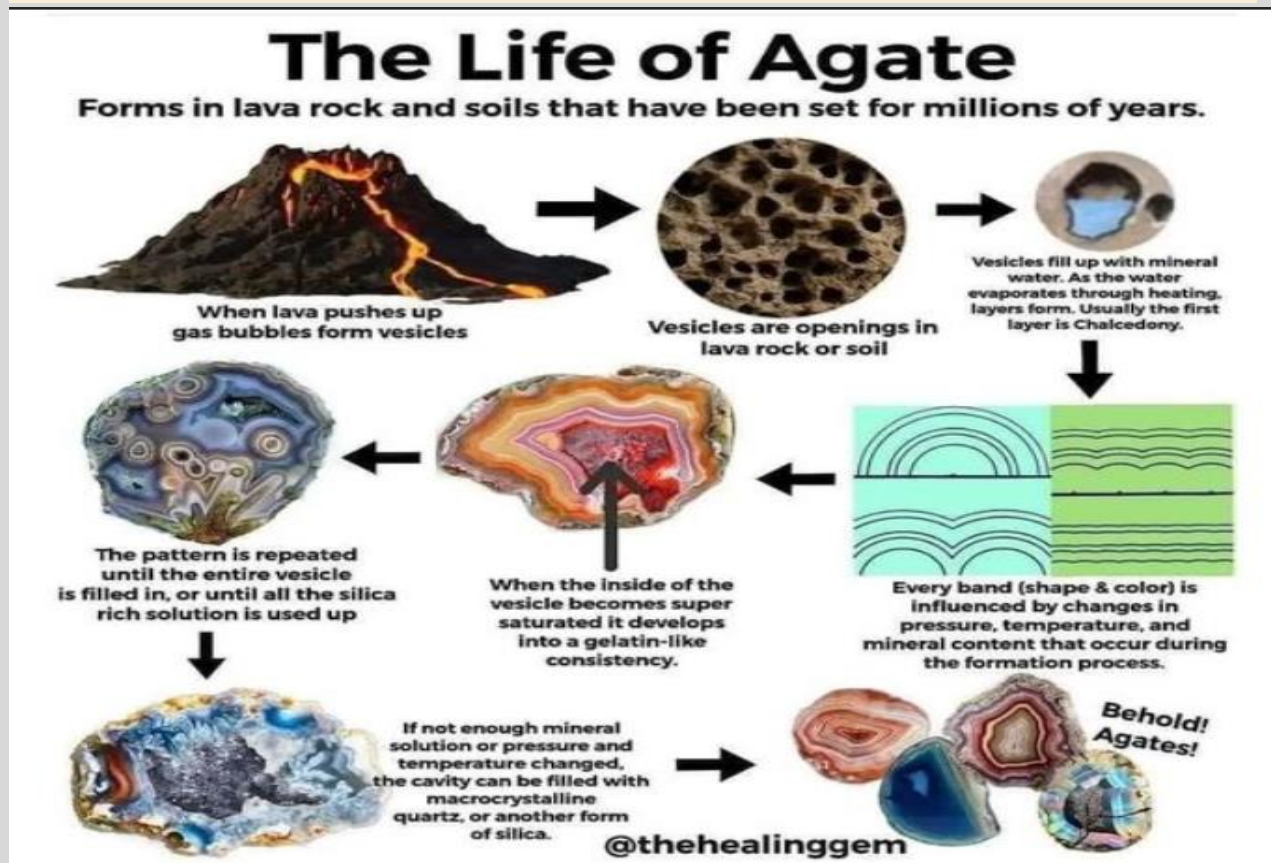
You may have heard of minerals. They are important to living things all over the planet.

## ● Sedimentary Rocks

The Earth has layers, and so do some of its rocks! Sedimentary rocks are the product of a lot of pressure, and they even tell a lot about the Earth's history.

## ● The Rock Cycle

You might think rocks never change, but that is not true. Like water and nitrogen, rocks have their own cycle, and it is all about change



**Our 2023 December Holiday Potluck party had a great turnout with over 100 in attendance. It was so inspirational to see such good leadership; volunteerism, and support. A great way to wrap up a signature year for the club.**





## **Rockhounding: Geologic History of Oregon**

**Central Oregon has been shaped by numerous and varied volcanic events that began millions of years ago and continue to the present. A chain of volcanoes in eastern Oregon began erupting about 50 million years ago during a time of tropical climate conditions that supported lush woodlands. The volcanic and sedimentary rocks from these volcanoes are known as the Clarno Formation. During this time period, ash on steep slopes of volcanoes frequently mixed with tropical rains and produced large-scale mudflows that swept across the landscape, entombing plants and animals, preserving them as fossils. Entombed trees and wood debris became much of the petrified wood that rockhounds in central Oregon collect today.**

**After the eruptive activity of the Clarno volcanoes ceased, a short period of erosion took place. Beginning about 33 million years ago, another set of volcanoes produced the lava flows and ash deposits of the John Day Formation. By that time, the climate was cooler and more temperate and the plants and animals were different from those that lived in the shadow of the Clarno volcanoes. Like the Clarno volcanoes, eruptions from the John Day volcanoes also buried and preserved the remains of plants and animals.**

**Steins Pillar in the Clarno Formation. © By R. Franklin Steins Pillar in the Clarno Formation. By R. Franklin.**



**Painted Hills in the John Day Formation. © By R. Franklin Painted Hills in the John Day Formation. By R. Franklin**



The earliest eruptions of the Cascade Mountain Range began about 40 million years ago. Successive lava flows began to pile high enough to form a barrier to moist Pacific storms and eventually transformed the central Oregon climate into the dry high desert conditions of today. The present day high Cascade peaks that make up the familiar backdrop of central Oregon all formed in the last million years.

The Three Sisters in the Cascade Mountains. © By R. Franklin The Three Sisters in the Cascade Mountains. By R. Franklin



During past volcanic activity, superheated groundwater circulated through the rocks, filling the cracks and voids with quartz, calcite, cinnabar, and other minerals. Today the Clarno and John Day formations are highly eroded, exposing many different rock layers rich with semi-precious gems, creating a paradise for rockhounds. Many members of the quartz family of semiprecious gemstones are represented in these deposits including crystalline quartz, amethyst (rare), and various types of chalcedony such as agate and jasper. A particular favorite of rockhounds are the agate-filled nodules known as thunder eggs, the Oregon state rock.

Another notable series of volcanic events occurred about 4.9 million years ago in the area southeast of Hampton. Multiple flows of molten volcanic glass oozed out of the ground at Glass Buttes, producing a vast landscape covered with obsidian. Many of the hills in this area are literally solid glass! Today, rockhounds visiting the Glass Buttes area can find gold sheen, silver sheen, fire sheen, rainbow, midnight lace, double flow, and mahogany varieties of obsidian.



Glass Butte at Sunset. © By R. Franklin Glass Butte at Sunset By R. Franklin



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**As we start a new year; I thought it would be good for those who do not know about our club history to see how far we have come since the formation of the club in 1947. 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 more than 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

(please circle one)      New      Renewal      Lifetimer/Diamond

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 \_\_\_\_\_

- I (we) would like to receive the WAMS monthly newsletter by  email (color) or by  USPS mail.
- I (we) would like to receive the Federation newsletter by  email or by  USPS mail.
- I (we) would like to receive an email for WAMS announcements, event updates and field trip information.
- I (we) are interested in being a WAMS officer/or chairperson.
- I (we) are interesting in helping with the annual rock and gem show.
- I (we) are interested in volunteering for work parties and/or event committees.
- I (we) consent to having our name listed in the club roster given to members.
- I do not consent to having my/our pictures in the newsletter or on the FB page.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Dues:

Individual	\$15.00
Couple	\$24.00
Junior(s)	\$2.50

Membership runs Jan-Dec.

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:  Cash (or)  Check Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

10/22/22



**WAMS contact information:**

**Webpage:**

[www.wamsi.net](http://www.wamsi.net)

**Facebook:**

Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.

**Instagram:**

Willamette\_agate\_and\_mineral

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/RiverofGems>

**Newsletter email:**

[rockclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rockclubnewsletter@gmail.com)

**River of Gems email:**

[Wams.riverofgems@gmail.com](mailto: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**