



Willamette Agate and Mineral Society

Monthly Club Newsletter: March 2024

Happy March rockhounds,

February was a busy month...

First; I want to thank Laura Joki for being the speaker at our general meeting, talking about identifying rocks. She had a great power point to show us and books to sell, that helped us learn tricks to identify rocks. She has also agreed to be a speaker at our River of Gems show on Sunday, April 21, 2024.

Second, I want to thank David Smith for being the field trip leader at Nelscott Beach in Lincoln City, on February 4. It was a cold but rain-free day and once the tide was out, it gave us lots of rocks to hunt through. We had a great turn out, I saw a lot of club members, and found lots of treasures. I'm looking forward to our March trip to Cota's Rock Castle, I'm sure Caitlyn will have a sign-up sheet again at the March general meeting.

Don't forget about Aaron's t-shirt sign-up at the next meeting if you still need to order one.

Third, remember what I talked about at the February meeting? ...don't forget to wear your name tags, or pick up your new ones at the door when you sign in to the meeting. Thanks for making those Woody.

The March meeting does not have a speaker; but we will be breaking up into groups, have a topic and get to know our fellow rockhounds (wearing our nametags). The small group subject to be announced at the meeting.

March's Show-n-Tell will be the letter M, or any treasures from the last field trip. Lastly, I will be handing the torch to David Maxwell, current treasurer, and former president, to run the meeting while I am out of the state this month for a trip. You will be in good hands; thanks David, I'll be back at the April meeting. See you all then.

Take care and be safe,

Mimi

February Meeting Minutes From General Club Meeting

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

February 1st, 2024

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

Meeting Called to Order at 7:01 pm.

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

Welcome new members!

2. Announcements

- Next General Membership Meeting is March 7th, 2024, 7:00 pm at Center 50+.
- Board Meeting – February 26th (due to holiday), 6:30 pm at Center 50+.
- **Membership dues are due.** Those who have not paid will not receive a March newsletter.

3. Old Business

- Approval of January Meeting Minutes – motioned, seconded, approved.
- Treasurer's Report- Account overview. January was a busy month, dues and show expenses. Motioned, seconded, approved.
- Change to March Egg Stuffing event, it will be in Bldg. B at Polk Co Fairgrounds 3/23 from 9-1

4. Show and Tell

Club members brought material that begins with the letter "L" and shared about their finds. Next month is letter "M".

5. New Business

- Barbara: Voting in of new members. Motion approved.
- Aaron: Club shirt order has started, sign up at February and March meetings. Shirts will be printed in time for the April show.
- Member Ashley shared that Oregon Science Olympiad happening 3/16 is looking for volunteers.
- Good of the order:
 - Tom Beatty – Don Miller is moving to Siletz for those who might want to visit before he moves.
- January Meeting Housekeeping
 - Refreshments – Victoria, Annie
 - Rocks for kids – Richard
 - Scholarship rocks – Woody
 - Door Prize rocks – Barb

6. Kids Rocks and Break

7. Program: Laura Joki – Tools to identify rocks and minerals

8. Raffle tickets and closing.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:38 pm

2024 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 Tanya Kirk David Smith Terry Christenson
Bonnie Stubenraugh
Web Master **Sunshine** **Publications** **Hostess**



Measuring Editor Success



As your dedicated club newsletter editor, I often wonder how the monthly newsletters are perceived by club members, and fulfilling your overall satisfaction. It is important to me that you enjoy the content and find it as a useful resource in overall club communications, and as a learning tool.

That being said: I would like to ask a few questions to determine how I am doing, and seek any feedback on what you would like to see moving forward. It is your newsletter and I owe it to you to send out material you are all interested in.

Q1: Which part of the newsletter do you find most interesting or useful?

Q2: What types of articles do you find unnecessary, or just do not like?

Q3: If you could change one thing about the newsletter, what would it be?

Q4: Is the delivery consistently on time and are you referring to the club website at WAMSI.net for additional club resources?

I do get some nice feedback from members in my personal interactions but would like to hear from a larger audience; so please take a little time to think and reply; otherwise, I will assume everything is satisfactory.

I value everyone's participation and feedback. You can send answers to me at my editors' email address at rockclubnewsletter@gmail.com.

February Club Field Trip to Lincoln City's Nelscott Beach

Our field trip to Nelscott Beach on February 4th was a perfect day of weather and everyone who came out had a good time. 20+ members came over for the day; many of which attended Laura Joki's presentation at noon. There was plenty of gravel on the beach once the tide receded enough, and some nice agates and jasper were taken home.



Attention all members Let Us Help Get the Word Out

We are down to a few weeks until to our biggest event of the year. Please help us spread the word about the 67th annual rock and gem show hosted by our club. Last years show brought a record attendance and significant results in helping us accomplish our goals as a club for 2023. Without volunteers, we could not make these things happen.

You can contribute to the success of our event by signing up for various roles. To volunteer, simply reach out to me, and I'll add your name to the sign-up sheet. Alternatively, sign-up sheets will be available at our next meeting.

Here are the different areas and days for volunteering:

1. ****Setup Days (April 17-18): **** Help us set up on Wednesday and Thursday.
2. ****Event Days (April 19-21): **** Volunteer opportunities each day, including front door entrance, membership, raffle table, kids' area (wheel, grab bags, bingo, Crystal Mine, critters), popcorn, magazines, display cases, silent auction, or be a general floater.
3. ****Treasure Hunt (April 20): **** Assist with setting up boundaries, hiding eggs, overseeing the treasure hunt, and participating in the cleanup between 10 AM and 2 PM.
4. ****Show Tear Down (April 21): **** Help us clean up and tear down after 5 PM. Most shifts are two hours long, but feel free to stack your shifts based on your availability. The show runs from Friday, April 19, to Sunday, April 21, with hours from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Willamette Agate Mineral Society. We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in making the WAMS River of Gems Show 2024 a memorable success. Best Regards:




Caitlyn Pratt

wams.riverofgems@gmail.com




Upcoming Events for Members to enjoy



SAT, MAR 16 AT 10 AM
Rock Castle
Created by Barbara Hopkins

Going ▾ Invite Edit ↗ ⋮



FRI, APR 19 - APR 21
Willamette Agate and Mineral Society "67th" ann...
Shared by David Smith

Invite Edit ↗ ⋮

[Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society Show - 3/16/2024](#)

Start Date: 3/16/2024

End Date: 3/17/2024

Hours: Sat 9:00 – 5:00 Sun 10:00 – 4:00

Address:

1 Peninger Rd

Seven Feathers Arena, Jackson County Expo

Central Point, OR 97502

Website: <http://craterrock.com/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

[Rockin' the Coast Rock & Gem Show - 3/16/2024](#)

Start Date: 3/16/2024

End Date: 3/17/2024

Address:

1130 Wallace Rd NW

Roths Event Center

Salem, OR 97304

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows



Important club reminders and updates to announce:

****A friendly final reminder that if you have not yet paid your 2024 membership dues: they are considered past due and need to be caught up ASAP.**

****Remember to wear your name tags at the March club meeting. Dan and Linda Groah have some polished rocks they will be giving away to people wearing their name tags at the meeting. Just an FYI; they have a lot of nice material in their collection.**

****If you know any club members who have belonged to our club at least 20 years and are 72 or older, they qualify to be a lifetime member.**

****The theme for our April show will be petrified wood. If you are interested in having a display case at the show please get in touch with Eddie Hopper.**

****March 23rd we will have a work party at Polk County Fairgrounds from 9:00 am-1:00 pm for the egg and bag fill in preparation for the show. They have changed the location to the building behind where we hold the main show.**

****If you are interested in leading a club field trip; please coordinate with Barbara Hopkins. We already have a few field trips lined up which include: The Rock Castle, Old Marker Ranch, Beers Mountain, Succor Creek, Hampton Butte, and some day trips during the Prineville Show. Field trips are a great way to enjoy the hobby and share experiences with others.**

****Finally: as we approach and prepare for the April club show, we are looking for any club members who can donate slabs for the silent auction. They were a major contributor to our success last year and we hope we can obtain enough to last the entire 3 days.**

Junior's Journal: A section for kids: the future of this club



Laura Joki: our program speaker last month, showed up early for the juniors meeting to have a group discussion around careers and opportunities to work in geology related professions. These kids are smarter than me; they gave some great feedback and asked good questions.

Did you ever wonder how petrified wood was formed? Here is a great link you can watch that tells a great story; step by step. Parents; please have your kids watch this short video by opening the link below. You may need to copy and paste it to your browser to open, or hold down your shift key and click on the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt7p6s6IKSk&t=2s>



Petrified Forest National Park | Nature Boom Time

Rock and Mineral Collecting for beginners:

If you are new to the hobby of rockhounding and are looking for ways to find out where to go; how to get started, and what to look for, here are some great steps in getting organized and setup to right way. Collecting rocks and minerals is an exciting and rewarding hobby – full of fun, adventure, and hands-on opportunities to learn more about our world’s geology – all while building an important anecdotal and historical record.

1. **Do the research.** Start close to home, by exploring your area’s geology – what minerals and rocks are present in your current locale? Are there any interesting geological features, or caches? By familiarizing yourself with the samples available near your home base, you can get used to using the tools of the trade, and practice your collecting skills, without venturing out into unfamiliar territory. Read [The Wisdom Pocket Blog](#) or check out some of our recommended reading lists.

2. **Join a club.** What better way to learn about collecting, than to connect with others who share your interest? Your local mineral collector’s club is a great place to learn more about your area, as well as the best approaches to collecting. There is no reason to recreate the wheel, when you can benefit from the knowledge of those who are more experienced – and collector’s clubs are also a great way to learn about other gatherings, events, and expeditions. The American Mineral Federation lists contact info for many local collecting clubs.

3. **Gather the tools.** If you decide you want to self-collect, acquire some basic equipment – though you do not need to invest in expensive tools to get started. A great beginner’s toolkit should include safety glasses, a short-handled shovel, a good rock hammer or geologist’s pick, a mallet, a chisel, a bucket, work gloves, and a pair of sturdy boots – all of which can be found at most hardware stores, or your local tool shop. Do not worry about advanced equipment – you can always add more sophisticated items to your toolkit as your collection of specimens grows, and hone your collecting technique.

4. **Catalog your collection.** As early as possible, begin keeping a catalog or database of your specimens. At the very least, maintain a record which identifies each specimen by a unique name or number, its mineral and varietal names, the year mined, and locale details (including the mine name, as well as specifics such as depth of find or level). Including the price paid for purchased specimens, and any other details regarding their previous history or display can also be helpful in determining the value of your collection, in future.

5. **Keep the labels.** When acquiring specimens from others, make sure you save any identifying labels, records, or information which accompanies them. The history of your specimens is what makes them unique – and, in some cases, distinguishes them as rare. This information adds to the story or provenance of your collection, and helps add additional interest and value to your collection.

6. **Use reliable reference sources.** It's a great idea to invest in a good reference book, or other resource materials and publications. John Sinkankas' book, *Field Collecting Gemstones & Minerals* is an excellent choice, as is the periodical publication *The Mineralogical Record*. For a list of other recommended sources on rock and mineral collecting, visit our reference page [here](#).

7. **Learn how to properly trim and display your collection.** Study the display of pieces you admire, and you will learn a lot about how to trim your pieces properly. By learning what helps make a quality specimen stand out, you will begin developing an eye for display which will help you trim and balance your display pieces, when you are ready to invest in the tools. Contact us if you need advice or recommendations on cleaning or trimming fine mineral specimens. We also have a custom base lab located in The Arkenstone's Dallas gallery. You can view examples of the bases on our custom base page.

8. **Limit the size of your mineral collection.** It may sound counter-intuitive, but invest in a nice display cabinet or case, and limit your collection to what fits inside. This will help you select your specimens with discernment – and avoid the all-too-common scenario, in which a collection becomes unmanageable. There is no point in collecting pieces which lie unseen for years in storage – if you cannot find the space to show off your collection, you may as well not own it! And, if you find yourself in need of a good downsizing – do not discount the opportunity for trade. You may find that by bundling your less desirable pieces, you are able to obtain one or two choice display specimens.

9. **Develop your relationships.** Many dealers travel far and wide, attending the best shows and symposiums, as well as visiting specific locales and interacting with other collectors. Once you have decided to define the focus of your collection, whatever that focus may be – develop your relationships with a few respected dealers. When you let them know what specimens you are interested in, you may find them willing to let you know when they come across a good deal, or an item of particular interest. Many dealers also maintain their own websites, which can be a wonderful resource for photos, articles, and news about recent finds.

10. **Purchase quality.** It may take you a while to develop an eye for fine quality stones and minerals – but as you learn more about the characteristics you are seeking, make sure you are buying the best you can afford. It is far better to own a collection with just a few stunning, high-quality display specimens, than to hold onto a large collection of mediocre pieces. Hold out for the finest specimens you can afford!

Above all else – have fun! Rock and mineral collecting is an adventure which allows plenty of opportunity for enjoyment. If you're not having a good time, you are doing it wrong!

Story from Irocks.com

The Arkenstone

WAMS contact information:

Webpage:

www.wamsl.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 (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.

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