

THE ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 48—ISSUE 12

DECEMBER—2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had our ups and downs. The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society has been way up and way down.

I remember Marilyn Anderson used to tell me about the early days of the club when approximately 60-70 members were coming to meetings. The club was young and definitely up. When Jack Edwards joined the club in the early 90's he recalls only about 12-15 coming to the meetings. During the 90's, the club membership was built back up to about 30. By the time I joined the club in 2003, the numbers were again down to 12-15 members coming to the meetings. Currently we are up with close to 50 people coming each night.

When we are up, everyone benefits because each member brings their knowledge and talents to share with the entire group. So, how do we stay up? We need to concentrate our efforts on several things.

1. All of us need to focus on growth. This year we did three new activities that raised our community awareness. We had a booth at the 4th of July in the Park, the exhibit at the Walla Walla County Fair and currently have a display at the Walla Walla Children's Museum. All of this was on top of our Gem and Mineral show. We need to continue do things that get our name out in the community so more people are aware of our club and have an opportunity to join.

2. The club needs to provide interesting and educational programs; an active kids section, many fun field trips and a positive environment. As one of your leaders I can honestly say that we have been trying our best to create this type of growth atmosphere for you. If you have concerns or ideas on how the club can do better next year, give Tim Tiffin or any board member a call.

3. Get involved. As a member there is something you can do also. Get involved in some aspect of the club. There are so many possibilities; sharing your talent, helping with an activity or event, or just going on a field trip. You will be happier with the club because you will feel more like it is part yours, which it is. Personally I plan to be very involved after I retire from being your president.

Together we can keep our club healthy and growing, providing each of us with immense satisfaction.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president the last three years; it has been a great experience that I will treasure.

Warren Rood

President

COMING EVENTS

- *Christmas Party set for December 9.*
- *January meeting will be Jan 12.*
- *Start thinking about field trip possibilities for next summer.*

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Christmas Party and Installation of Officers

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 9th at the Lions Park Club House. We will start setting up for the party at 4 pm. All help will be greatly appreciated. Dinner will be served at 6 pm sharp. The club will furnish the turkey, rolls, butter, juice and coffee. Members are asked to bring one hot dish (vegetables, potatoes, dressing, etc.) and one cold dish (salad, dessert, etc.) also bring your own table service. If you did not sign-up at the last meeting, just give Warren Rood a call by Dec.7th at 522-2330. We need to

know how many members are coming, so we will know how much food the club needs to provide. We will have member recognition and install our new officers. We will also have a fun gift exchange like we had last year. Be thinking of a nice hobby related gift to bring for each person that would like to participate. Think in terms of something nice, not expensive. Any homemade or found item such as a slab, arrowhead, rough or polished rock, cabochon, sphere, jewelry, tumbling grit, tool or a book would be a good gift.

Windmill Field Trip Report—Warren Rood

Remember when the days were still warm and sunny? It was on one of those days that eight of us drove to the Nine Mile Windmill Project. Terry Mead, project manager gave us a slide presentation showing the windmill construction and how they control them by

computer. We walked though one of the towers and were amazed at the size and sound of the blades. Afterwards we were able to fill our pockets and bags with the crushed obsidian pieces. I think Paul McCaskill, Jared Kinsfather and Josh Brooks have built in obsidian radar because they could sure find it fast.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

DOUG ANDERSON
PAULA BREMROSE
L.A. DAVIN
JOHN RAND
BILL SMELCER
CHARLOTTE SMELCER
WILBER WAGONER
MERNA YOUNG

Federation News—Jack Edwards, Federation Director

Correction to June NFMS Newsletter article that will affect any field trips to the Saddle Mountain Collecting Site

(Mattawa,WA)

An article appeared in the June NFMS Newsletter on Saddle Mountain (Mattawa, WA) collecting site concerning some Sections to which a Mr. Nathan Maughan has the mineral rights. A portion of that article reads: "Although all surface area belongs to the BLM and wood can be legally collected from the surface without digging in those Sections, it might be prudent not to do so under the circumstances."

The following three sentences replace the above

quoted sentence with regard to surface collecting: *"Although all 'surface area' belongs to the BLM, the BLM states that petrified wood can not be legally collected from the surface in these three sections. While the BLM did not specifically say so, the mineral reservation concerns rock whether on the surface or under it. The mineral right is not limited to sub-surface minerals only.*

(Orville McArthur, Hells Canyon Gem Club)/NFMS Newsletter

December Refreshments

See the Christmas Party story above

Obituary—Merna Young

Merna Young was a kind, loving person that was also very strong, capable and independent. She was born Feb. 16, 1914 and passed away in her sleep November 28, 2007 in Pasco, Washington. She and her late husband Albert moved into their cute house on 314 Princess Street in 1944 where they raised their two girls, Donna and Mary. After the girls moved away, Merna and Albert joined our club in 1971. Rock hounding was something they really enjoyed together, and went on many trips with their camper. Merna was the club treasurer from 1977 through 1994 and also was the show chairman 1984 and 1987. Even in her 90's Merna lived independently in her house and was very interested in what the club was doing. She would faithfully read this newsletter and come to our Gem and Mineral show. She came both days this year. Her daughter Donna Norton is still a member of the club. Merna will be missed greatly by all those who knew her.

WHO IS DOING WHAT

Day Field Trip: There is a garnet site in Oregon that is close by. The garnets are small and most no bigger than a pencil eraser, but they are nice specimens. Travel south on Highway 395 to Pilot Rock, OR and go through town. Going out of town there will be a road titled "Yellow Jacket Road" that angles off to the left. Take this road and stay to the right when coming to other roads. As you go up the mountain you will come to pink colored Schist in the bank and in the road. This is where the garnets are located. Probably need something small to sift with or a gold pan might do. Good Rock Hunting.

Jack Edwards

Another Successful Auction

The success of our annual rock auction last month can be attributed to the hard work prior to the event by members including Jack, Warren, Keith, Ralph, Russell and others. THANK YOU!

As auctioneer, my time during the actual auction is focused on the bidding and it would be impossible to keep track of the what was going on if weren't for the clerical staff headed by my wife Linda with the help of Yvonne Brewer (one of our new members) and Sandy Kinsfather. They did the detail work of keeping track of all the sale prices and buyers as the auction progressed at its frenzied pace. THANK YOU.

Helping to keep the auction process flowing smoothly required the services of several of our junior members who served as runners delivering the various items to successful bidders. THANK YOU.

Finally to have a successful auction you have to have active bidders. Without bidders the auction could not function. We had active bidding on almost all items. To all those individuals who bid, I want to express my sincere thanks for helping make the auction a success. THANK YOU.

Bill Stonecipher—Auctioneer

**DON'T FORGET
TO PAY YOUR
2008
MEMBERSHIP
DUES BY
JANUARY 1,
2008 TO THE
CLUB TREASURER**

NFMS Stamp Program

Now is a good time to start saving the stamps that you receive on your holiday mail for the NFMS's Cancer Fund Project. Any type of stamp is collectable, but the commemorate stamps bring more money. We need a quarter inch margin around the stamp. They do not have to be trimmed, but do need the margin.

Stamps that are collected are turned into the NFMS Stamp Committee at the Annual meeting. They are then packaged and sold by the pound. The NFMS is reimbursed, and a check is sent to the Cancer Society.

It is for a good cause so save your stamps and bring them to our monthly meetings.

KID'S CORNER

The November Meeting for the Juniors was a quick craft activity before the auction. The eleven that participated, picked out pewter figures and glued them onto some nice rocks. There will not be an activity during the December Meeting. December is our Christmas Party and we will be busy with the gift exchange and dinner. See you all then.

Kim French—Junior Advisor

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

**FAMILY—\$15.00
SINGLE—\$10.00
JUNIOR—\$3.00***

***WITH ACCOMPANYING
ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

**BLUE DIAMOND CLUB
NAME TAG
\$6.50**

Museum Rock Exhibit

The Walla Walla Children's Museum currently has a special exhibit on rocks. Our club set up a display case that includes a variety of agate, jasper, petrified wood and other samples. The exhibit runs until January 6, 2008.

A Very Special Thank You—Bill Stonecipher-auctioneer

I want to share with the rest of you something that happened at the recent auction that many of you may not be aware of. During the course of the evening one of the young runners really wanted to buy a particular piece of petrified wood. He tried several times to get me to sell it to him for 45 cents as that is all the money he had but I had a lot of other items to sell and we had set one dollar as the minimum bid for any item. After several attempts by the younger boy to get my attention, one of the older boys, picked up the piece of wood and asked me to auction it. He offered a dollar for it and I sold it to him as he was the only bidder. He immediately turned and quietly handed, without fanfare, the piece of petrified wood to the younger boy. The young man who bought the wood and then gave it away was much quicker than I to recognize the interest the younger boy had and of his situation. His actions make me feel very good about the kind of young people we are raising to be the future adult leaders of society. THANK YOU my young friend for giving me hope for the future.

Notes From The Board

Jim Brain discussed the new layout and modifications of the Rock Licker. We discussed what part of the minutes of the meetings should go in.

Motion was made to have only excerpts of the Board Meeting minutes included but have the entire club meeting minutes included in the Rock Licker. The Board approved it.

We discussed the Rock Auction and the purchase of containers of rocks and slabs from 2 different people. A motion was made for both purchases and seconded and approved by the Board.

We discussed putting an advertisement in the Union Bulletin about the Rock Auction. The Board approved it.

We talked about the Christmas Party/Potluck Dinner for Dec. 9.

We were asked by the Children's Museum if we would make up a basket of rocks, minerals, etc. for a silent auction and we talked about the basket that Jack Edwards put together of his own rocks and Kim volunteered to decorate the basket.

Secretary's Report—Regular Club Meeting Minutes

The November 13, 2007 meeting of the Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Warren Rood. The guests were introduced and welcomed.

Warren asked if there were any corrections needed on the November minutes as printed in the Rock Licker. None were needed. The Minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed.

Christmas Party: Sunday, Dec 9 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a din-

ner, recognition time, farewell to President Warren Rood, installation of officers and a gift exchange.

The club will provide turkey, rolls, butter, and juice. Club members are to bring one hot dish and one-cold dish.

Website: Russell Kinsfather is having trouble with the website software and Warren asked if there was anyone who was familiar with web pages and would like to get it started. Dave Walk volunteered. Thank you, David.

New Rock Licker Editor: Jim Brain discussed the new layout of the Rock Licker. He requested that if any club member does something special with rocks, he would like them to let him know so it can be shared in the new letter. He also said he would like to include more educational articles in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Sandy Kinsfather-Secretary

Treasurer's Report

*The Club's Federation dues are calculated annually based on the club's membership the previous year. In December we will be paying our 2008 Federation dues based on a 2007 membership of 106 adult and 46 junior members.

*The club took in a little over \$1000 at the November auction and continues to have a positive bank balance but does need to have everyone pay their annual dues on time so our programs can continue as planned.

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Warren Rood	509-522-2330	wrood@coffeycomm.com
Vice-President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	ttiffin@innw.net
Secretary: Sandy Kinsfather	509-529-1455	sandyj@bmi.net
Treasurer: Ralph Trethewey	509-529-9209	
Federation Director: Jack Edwards	509-529-3673	edwardsj@wwics.com
Federation Delegate: Vacant		
Junior Activity Director: Kim French	509-525-7387	frenchke@hscis.net
Past President: Bill Smelcer	509-525-6638	no e-mail address

Supporting Cast:

Classes: Tammy Kolowinski, Steve Rice, Ralph Trethewey

Drawing: Bill Stonecipher

Historian: Charlene Edwards

Lapidary: Paul McCaskill, Ray Wister, Tammy Kolowinski

Librarian: (Looking for a volunteer to fill this position)

Photographers: David Walk, Russell Kinsfather, Tammy Kolowinski

Programs: Warren Rood

Refreshments: Crystal Walk, Kim French, Charlotte Smelcer

Show and Tell: Keith Bacus

Publicity: Linda and Bill Stonecipher

Stamps:

Sunshine: Marilyn McCann

Web Master: David Walk

Working Groups:

Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood

Junior Club: Kim French, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Wade Brooks,
Karen Bumgarner, Venus Smith

Membership: Charlene Edwards, Jim Hansen, Venus Smith, Sandy Kinsfather

Show: Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda Stonecipher, Kim and Kevin French,
Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Warren Rood

Affiliations:

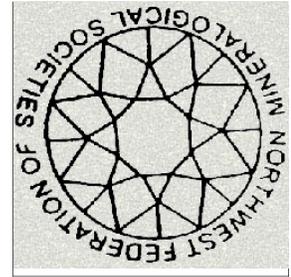
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://www.amfed.org>

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) <http://www.amfed.org.nfms>

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THE ROCK LICKER

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To:

(Place mailing label here)



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COMING SOON:

WE WILL HAVE OUR OWN WEB SITE

THE MARCUS WHITMAN
GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
IS AFFILIATED WITH:

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AND
THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE ROCK LICKER is the official monthly publication of the **Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.** (NFMS Club # 719), PO Box 338, Walla Walla, WA 99362. The objective of the Society is to encourage the study of earth science through suitable programs, field trips, exhibits and other educational activities. People of all ages are welcome to join us. There are junior club activities for youth under the age of 17.

Regular club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at the Lions Club Field House on the corner of SE 8th St and SE Larch Ave. in College Place, WA. Both the Juniors club activities and general club meeting start at 7:00 pm. Note: July is reserved for a club picnic and December is reserved for the Christmas party and potluck.