

THE ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 49—ISSUE 1

JANUARY —2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Tim Tiffin

As a child, I was drawn to the beauty of rocks and minerals. My dad got me interested in the hobby when I was about eight years old, and I have been collecting ever since.

I remember subscribing to Rock & Gem magazine and the Lapidary Journal for most of the 1970s. But in the 1980s, when my energy and money needed to be channeled into college and graduate school, these subscriptions lapsed as I took a hiatus from the hobby. My two other hobbies, numismatics and astronomy, were put on hold as well.

During my early years of collecting, our family summer vacations were often tailored around those places where we could hunt for rocks. I still have fond memories of finding jasper, agate, petrified wood, opal, obsidian, tourmaline, gold, quartz crystals, thunder eggs, geodes, and fossils.

As club members, one thing that we all have in common is that we like to collect rocks and minerals. For some, the reasons for collecting might be as varied as the number of specimens they have. For others, the sheer volume of material from decades of collecting may seem to be epic!

Every now and then, I look around my house and see rocks in the garage, rocks in the carport, rocks in the office, rocks in the pantry, rocks in the bathroom, rocks in the bedroom, and rocks on the mantel. With so many rocks, very little organization, and no apparent theme, I sometimes wonder if I am a rock collector or an rock accumulator.

But with such a vast variety of material just waiting to be found, how does one judiciously choose what to focus on while he or she collects?

Our first meeting of the year should help us address this problem. Jack Edwards (our federation director), Warren Rood (our previous president), and Keith Bacus (our vice president) will present a forum on rock and mineral collections. Look inside this edition of the Rock Licker for more details!

This year is shaping up to be another interesting year for our club.

And, since you are a unique member of the club, you have the ability to contribute in your own special way. So don't be afraid to speak up and participate! Remember, it is through working as a team that we can continue to make our club a vibrant one.

Happy New Year!

Tim Tiffin

P.S Don't forget to bring items for the show and tell portion of our January meeting.

COMING EVENTS

- *The next meeting will be on January 8 starting at a new time, **6:30 pm**.*
- *Start thinking about field trip possibilities for next summer that you would like the club to take.*

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Installation of 2008 Officers—Bill Stonecipher

We've come again to the time of year
 When all are filled with Christmas Cheer.
 T'is the time too, with pomp and flair,
 To install the Rock Club's 2008 Chair.
 Tim Tiffin, the president, is our new man
 Let us offer applause and all help when we can.

We have a new vice president too
 Ready to represent the club, me and you.
 He will lead us on trips far and wide
 To find new treasures to show with pride.
 With finds and fun, he will treat us
 His name of course is Keith Bacus.

For another year our secretary returns
 Our faith and respect she always earns.
 She and her family are just great;
 Willing and anxious to always participate.
 So before we go on any farther
 Let me introduce Sandy Kinsfather.

Our treasurer to the club has been true,
 And to this position he will renew.
 To us all he is bright and loads of fun
 We all know he is the one.
 Managing our finances he will stay
 Lets hear it again for Ralph Trethewey.

We need representation at the National Federation
 To keep in touch with goings across the nation.
 We have two members who have the nack
 Of where it's going and always come back.
 The director and delegate jobs are spread between
 Our faithful members, Jack and Charlene.

This year we have a new board slot
 An important position, it does a lot.
 Our junior's director shows youth the ways
 Between and on our meeting days.
 We have a member who fills that bench
 And value the work of our own Kim French.

The last board position is not by ballot
 That person we know has already given a lot.
 The past president has a lot to give
 And has for the club had to live.
 He's been a three year leader "dude"
 I present to you, past president, Warren Rood.

This is our club's 2008 executive board
 All members need to keep on board
 They cannot keep the club healthy alone
 They need each of us to help keep the tone.
 So if our club is to have continued success,
 It will take us all — to all "God Bless"

Federation News—Jack Edwards, Federation Director

Our Federation will join with the Rocky Mountain and California Federations for a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip during the period May 21 – 26, 2008 at Texas Springs, NV.

The Texas Springs, NV area is known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as other agate and petrified wood.

Texas Springs is located about half way between Wells, NV and Twin Falls, ID, south of Jackpot, NV and east of Hwy 93.

A camp area will be located about 6 miles from Hwy 93 on Trout Creek. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motor homes and trailers. It is a dry camping area: no services or hook-ups. If you wish to stay in a

motel, Jackpot, NV is the closest area with accommodations.

Schedule:

Wed. May 21 Arrive at Camp

Thur. May 22 Daily Field Trips, potluck and get together.

Fri. May 23 Daily Field Trips, tailgate displays & potluck dinner

Sat. May 24 Daily Field Trips, tailgate displays & potluck dinner

Sun. May 25 Daily Field Trips

Mon. May 26 Break camp & head home.

Contact our NFMS Field Trip Leader for further information.

Dick Parks, Northwest Federation. packrats2@msn.com

360-892-3716

Obituary—Wilber Wagoner

On December 4, 2007 the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society lost another of it's life time members with the passing of Wilber Wagoner.

Over the years Wilber held various leadership positions in the club and still, at the age of 89, attended club meetings when he was able.

A life long resident of Walla Walla County, he received numerous awards and recognitions for his work as a teacher. He taught science at various local Walla Walla schools for over 30 years, retiring in 1980.

He was very active in several community organizations and enjoyed working at school science fairs and teaching lapidary skills.

He loved all kinds of outdoor activities, including rock hounding.

Wilber Wagoner will be missed by all who knew him.

Rock Licker on the WEB

To find your way to our new Rocklicker Google Group go to www.google.com and look across the top and just above the big blue G in Google you will see the word "more" underlined and in blue. Click it.

Click Groups and then type "rocklicker" in the search block.

If you join the group you will be able to join in discussions and post messages. A group is a way to make web pages more interactive.

Give it a try and give any feedback to David Walk.

KID'S CORNER

Keep an eye on this corner for information regarding the youth activities of our club.

The Junior Club will be broken into two classes starting in January, 10 and over and under 10.

Changes to the Youth Program Coming

There are some changes coming this next year for our youth activities. After some discussion with the Board members, we have decided to split the kids into two groups. After the first of the year, the Juniors will be for ages 10 and up. This will allow us to have activities that are more involved and age appropriate, which we have been unable to do with such a wide age spread. I will continue with the older group. We need a parent or grandparent that would be willing to take on the commitment of running an activity for the younger children to step forward. If you are interested please contact one of the board members.

For the time being Kim will plan to have some activities that the children under 10 can do at the back tables during the general meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-Kim at frenchke@hscis.net

Kim French

Juniors Advisor

January Refreshments

Members whose last name begins with A-M bring cookies or vegetables and dip

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

FAMILY—\$15.00

SINGLE—\$10.00

JUNIOR—\$3.00*

***WITH ACCOMPANYING
ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

BLUE DIAMOND CLUB

NAME TAG

\$6.50

The club needs your help

WE NEED SMALL PLASTIC CONTAINERS WITH LIDS (LIKE COOL WHIP, BUTTER, COTTAGE CHEESE, ETC) TO PLACE SMALL TUMBLING MATERIAL IN FOR USE AT OUR AUCTIONS
SEE BILL STONECIPHER

Now Is The Time to Start Planning

It is never too early to start thinking about what you are going to exhibit at next year's Walla Walla County Fair, our annual Gem and Mineral Show and at our November Club competition. All three of these events provide an opportunity to display the items you have collected or the fine work you have done during the year. Some are judged events, others are not. Each of the exhibit opportunities has slightly different rules regarding the specific work but generally they accept anything that has been collected or worked in the past year.

Notes From The Board Meeting December 4, 2007

The Board passed the following business decisions:

- to invest some of it's cash reserve into a Certificate of Deposit.
- to spend \$100.00 on raffle prizes.
- to make a \$50.00 donation to the NFMS in honor of Merna Young.

In addition discussions were held regarding:

- what kind of raffle prize(s) to buy. No decision reached.
- holding an auction in the spring during the day to see if it draws more outside interest. Held for further consideration.
- consider starting club meetings at 6:30 pm rather than 7:00 to make the club more young family friendly. The issue will be brought up for a vote at the December club meeting.
- splitting the junior club into to groups. "10 and up" and "under 10".

Secretary's Report—December 9, 2007 Club Meeting Minutes

The annual Christmas dinner and party began at 6:00 pm. Bill Stonecipher led the blessing and we all had a really good dinner and visiting time. Approximately 50 club members and their families attended.

Following the dinner, President Warren Rood thanked Bill Smelcer for the table decorations. He also thanked Paul McCaskill for bringing his collections for the centerpieces and Sandy Kinsfather for bringing her prize piece. Warren also brought his wonderful pieces of petrified wood, etc. Thanks goes to you also Warren.

We had a silent auction for a winter wall hanging made by Suzanne Young.

David Walk discussed the new Club web site. (Editor note: See related article on page 3.)

Warren led a moment of silence for club members who passed away this past year; Marilyn Anderson, Merna Young, and Wilber Wagoner.

Bill Smelcer passed out gift bags to all the junior club members. Thank you Bill.

Warren presented to the club the idea of starting club meetings at 6:30 pm. A vote was taken and passed 24 to 4 to start the meetings at 6:30 pm.

He also presented the changes proposed in the structure of the junior program. (Editor note: See related article on page 3.)

Outgoing president Warren Rood gave a very nice farewell speech after which he thanked the other officers and club members for their service to the club during 2007. He presented each with "Thank You" gifts.

Following the service recognition, the officers for 2008 were announced through a poem written by Bill Stonecipher who followed that by administering the oath of office.

Following the installation of officers the club presented Warren with cards and a gift of Idaho quartz for his 3 years of service as president.

New president Tim Tiffin announced there would be gift exchange after the meeting for those who want to participate.

Treasurer's Report

Members are reminded that their 2008 club dues were due January 1. If they haven't already done so they need to get them to Ralph Threthewey as soon as possible.

Life Members

Doug Anderson
Paula Bremrose
L. A. Davin
Bill Smelcer
Charlotte Smelcer

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	ttiffin@innw.net
Vice-President: Keith Bacus	509-529-1248	keithbacus@yahoo.com
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: Charlene Edwards	509-529-3673	
Junior Activity Director: Kim French	509-525-7387	frenchke@hscis.net
Past President: Warren Rood	509-522-2330	wrood@coffeycomm.com

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, 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

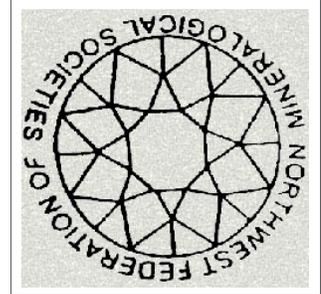
Affiliations:

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

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

MARCUS WHITMAN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 338
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Volume 49
Issue 1



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
THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AND
THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION
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 6:30 pm.

Note: July is reserved for a club picnic and December is reserved for the Christmas party and potluck.