

THE ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 49—ISSUE 10

OCTOBER —2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Tim Tiffin-President

I want to send out a big note of thanks to all those who donated their time and energy in making last month's show a great success. Your help was tremendous, and we couldn't have done it without you!

On a different subject, since you, the club members, are an integral part of the club, we value your input. If you have been compiling ideas or thoughts on how we might improve the way we do things, the board wants to hear from you!

At our October board meeting (October 7), we would like to hear your ideas for improving next year's show.

The following month, at our November board meeting (November 4), we would like to hear your ideas for improving the club in general.

We would like to invite any member who has thoughts or suggestions to attend one of these board meetings to discuss your ideas with the officers.

Both meetings will be held in Kretschmar Hall, Room 322, on the campus of Walla Walla University. If you need directions, please contact me. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 pm.

We certainly hope that you can join us for either or both of these meetings, and we look forward to your input!

Tim

October Meeting Program

Two of our members will be giving presentations this month. Janice Nielsen will bring a sample of sea, plant, and animal fossils and talk about them.

Curt Schell will give a brief demonstration of what he calls "a rockhound's version of flint knapping." It's a nontraditional approach that doesn't waste as much material as conventional flint knapping methods. Both presentations should be very interesting indeed!

The "Show and Tell" topic is **Fossils**. Bring examples to share.

Goethite Field Trip

On Sunday, October 19, Tim Tiffin will be leading an excursion to the goethite pit on the other side of Jubilee Lake. We will be leaving at 8:00 am from the clubhouse parking lot. More details will be provided at this month's club meeting.

COMING EVENTS

- *The next meeting will be on October 14 starting at our usual time, **6:30 pm**.*
- *.Goethite field trip on October 19th.*
- *Open Board meetings on October 7th and November 4.*

August

Refreshments

Members whose last name begins with A-M please bring apples with a dip or topping.

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Gem and Mineral Show A Resounding Success

If this year's show seemed like it was bigger and had greater attendance than last year's show, that's because it was both bigger and better. And last year we had a good show. This year we had about 770 kids and adults come through our doors. We sold 471 raffle tickets for our beautiful amethyst cathedral. We had 11 vendors, 4 more than last year. We had record sales at our front door, silent auction and the two kids areas. There seemed to be a lot of excitement everywhere you looked.

It takes a lot of teamwork to put on our Gem and Mineral show, that's because there are a lot of big things to move and set up and a lot of small details that need to happen. About 35 members donated big chunks of time and I know many were exhausted afterwards. However, along with the work comes a deep satisfaction knowing that an excellent job was done. We could not have done this show without teamwork. We could not have done this show without each and every one of you. Thank you so much for your time.

Some of my best memories from the show were awarding attendees the door prizes. We gave away a very nice gift every hour donated by the various dealers. Most people were shocked that they had actually won something. They just couldn't believe it. One of the winners was Ladd Davin, who in his 90's is the only charter member of our club still alive. He was surprised to find he had won a gorgeous sphere. Even Tim Tiffin's mom won a prize. We gave away 14 very nice door prizes.

Another great memory was watching Annie and Dakota Pierce holding their baskets of treasures they had won or bought. Their smiles made every effort worthwhile.

Thomas Arneson, the raffle winner, will be awarded his prize at our next meeting. I wish you could have heard our phone conversation when I called and told him he had won. It started out with him only saying yes and no to my questions. I am sure he thought I was a telemarketer. When I asked him if he knew why I was calling he said "no". When I asked him if he had been to the Gem and Mineral Show this weekend he lit up and asked two or three times "Did I win it?" When I told him he had won the amethyst cathedral, he started shouting at the top of his lungs "I am so excited, I can't believe it", "I am so excited".

I am sure each of you have your favorite memories of the show. We would all enjoy it if you shared them in the next rock licker. Just email them to Jim Brain.

Thanks again to all those who graciously volunteered their time to make the show a success.

Warren Rood—Show Chairperson

Local Area Shows Coming Up—Plan on attending one if you can

October 18-19 — Hells Canyon Gem Club, Inc.— Annual Show at the Nez Perce County Fair Grounds, Lewiston, ID.

See the most recent Northwest Federation Newsletter for a complete listing of upcoming shows as well as other interesting articles regarding federation activities.

Another Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated beautiful polished rocks, specimen pieces and time to work in the Rock Mine at the recent Gem and Mineral Show. Your generosity made many young people happy and maybe a few will become club members, some day. Looking forward to next year's show..

Suzanne Young

Rock of the Month— Perlite

Background--The name perlite comes from the French word *perle* which means *pearl*, in reference to the “pearly” luster of classic perlite.

Perlite is a type of volcanic glass that expands and becomes porous when it is heated. Volcanic glass forms when molten rock (lava) pours out of a volcano and cools very, very quickly. Because it cools so quickly, there is no time for crystals to form or for water to escape. Instead, the lava hardens immediately into this glass-like material containing 2 to 5% water. It is a silicate rock, which means that it has a high percentage of silica (Si).

When crude perlite is heated, it can expand to as much as twenty times its original volume. This expansion is the result of heated water: when the glassy lava rock is heated to 1600 degrees F (871 degrees C), the water molecules trapped in the rock turn into vapor which causes the rock to expand. (This is the same principle as the water in pop corn that causes the kernel to pop when it is heated.) Before it is expanded, perlite is commonly gray, but can also be green, brown, blue or red. After it has been expanded, perlite is typically light gray to white.

Perlite is known in industry in two forms. *Crude perlite* is prepared by the crushing and screening of perlite into various size fractions. *Expanded perlite* is perlite after it has been heated.

Sources—Unfortunately there is limited information about perlite production and consumption in the world. However, it is still accurate to say that the United States is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of crude perlite and expanded perlite. A number of western states including Utah and Oregon produce perlite, with New Mexico being the most important perlite-producing state.

The United States, however, is not the only significant producer of perlite. Other countries that are believed to produce large amounts of crude and expanded perlite include China, Greece, Italy, Philippines, Mexico, and Turkey. Even though the United States has large resources of perlite, most is still imported, with nearly all imported from Greece.

Uses--Perlite is used in a number of different situations. The majority of perlite is used in construction products, mainly ceiling tiles and roof insulation products, but also as refractory bricks (a refractory brick is a brick designed to withstand very high temperatures), pipe insulation, and filling in masonry block construction. For example, loose perlite is poured into holes in concrete blocks after they are laid in place to improve the insulating quality of the construction. Perlite is also used as an insulator in other ways in the construction of buildings. It reduces noise and, since it is non-combustible, it also improves the fire resistance of different construction components in buildings.

Perlite is an important commodity in the horticulture industry where it is mixed with soil. The addition of perlite to soil increases the amount of air (i.e., oxygen) held in the soil, as well as the amount of water retained by the soil. This obviously improves the growing conditions for plants. This represents approximately 10% of annual perlite consumption.

Perlite is also used in a variety of different applications. For example, it is used as a filter for pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and beverages, and as a filler in the production of plastics and cements.

Source of information used for this article: Minerals Information Institute (www:mii.org)

Thanks to Dave Williams for his donation of the specimens to be hand out at the club meeting.

Editor's Note: I am resurrecting the "Trip of the Month" feature that we ran for a few months last fall in the Rock Licker. If any member takes a special trip or has a favorite place to vacation or look for rocks, take a few minutes and write up a short article about it and send it to me. I will find a place for it in the Rock Licker. It doesn't have to be a finished article, just the highlights. I can clean it up.

Trip of the Month

Working my dredge in Eagle Creek.

The trip to Eagle Creek was exciting; Russell Kinsfather, his son Jared and I left Thursday at 5:30 PM and got to the camp site at 11:00 PM. It was dark and we went past the turnoff we were looking for and went all the way to Richland, Oregon where we had to backtrack through on forest roads to the camp site on Eagle Creek. It took a little time to put-up the tents and turn in for the night.

The next day, Friday, turned out to be a very nice sunny, beautiful day. After a quick snack for breakfast we setup the Gold Dredge and got down to business sucking up the rocks, sand and gravel in search of the elusive yellow stuff (GOLD). After about three cycles of dredging and refining the ore, we panned it to black sand and a few flecks of gold, somewhat disappointing. After all that accelerated activity we felt tired and needed a rest to recharge our batteries. It was real hot in the tents but rejuvenating. It was late afternoon when we decided to go for a hike up Little Kettle Creek about two miles up the road, so we started up Eagle creek but after approximately 1.5 miles it started to drizzle so we decided to walk back to camp and call it a day, a long day.

The next day, Saturday was rainy all day, the clouds were black and heavy with rain and there was no letup until Sunday morning. White fluffy clouds would roll in, evaporate, and roll back in, repeating the cycle several times before clearing to an almost sunny day. Between dredging, hiking, eating and sleeping, we did manage to collect some nice looking rocks. One I found looks like yellow/pink Rhyolite, green looking jade like rocks, some naturally sculptured rocks of various colors and a lot of banded agate in basalt.

Early Sunday we broke camp, packed the truck and did one final dredge in a new location but with no joy. So off we went down the road only to find a sign on the side of the road that said; "PAINT YOUR WAGON" FILMED IN 1968, so we went down to the creek and looked over the area to see if we could recognize the locations as seen in the movie...

Homeward bound, all in all it was a very good adventure and with Russell's exposure to/ working the gold dredge, he may be building a gold dredge in the near future to pursue his passion. We have pictures to substantiate this adventure.

Frank Vasconcelles

Note: Frank has a valid placer claim on Eagle Creek north and east of Baker City just outside the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. The mining Rules and Regulations of the State of Oregon and the Bureau of Land Management limit his operation to a few weeks in the fall to maintain water quality and protect fish the habitat.

September club rock contest winners

The feature of the September club meeting program was the annual internal rock show competition where club members were invited to show the best examples of their collecting or lapidary work from the past year. This year there were over 125 pieces entered by various club members. The members voted on their favorite piece in each classification. Mayor Ammon of College Place was our guest judge who selected the Best of Show and Mayor's Choice awards for each division.

Adults Division

Agates:	Warren Rood
Cabochons:	Paul McCaskill
Crystals:	Warren Rood
Fossils:	Warren Rood
Petrified wood:	Warren Rood
Rough rock:	Ralph Trethewey
Shaped:	Warren Rood
Spheres:	Jack Edwards
Thunder eggs:	Warren Rood
Other:	Curt Schell
Best of show:	Jack Edwards—sphere
Mayor's choice:	Jack Edwards—sphere

Kids division

Crystals:	Jared Kinsfather
Petrified Wood:	Jared Kinsfather
Thunder eggs:	Joe French
Other:	Jared Kinsfather
Best of show:	Joe French
Mayor's choice:	Joe French

Kid's Corner—

There was no September meeting for the Juniors, instead they participated in the Club Rock Contest. At the October 14th meeting, the Juniors will be given a notebook to start a Field Trip Journal. They will start setting it up to record future, and perhaps past, rock hunting trips. This journal is something they can use for years to come to remember past trips and to plan for ones in the future. I hope to see many of the Juniors as we get started on this project.

Kim French-Junior Advisor

Life Members

Doug Anderson
L. A. Davin
John Rand
Bill Smelcer
Charlotte Smelcer

Safety Tip

Be prepared. The fall season offers a variety of weather conditions. Make sure you are ready if you are out and about. Take clothing that can be layered so you can add or remove layers to fit the conditions. Also make sure you have rain gear in case it is needed.

Federation Reminder—Thanks to those who have been saving their postage stamps.

I would like to remind the other members to save commemorative and regular postage stamps. The money generated from stamps collected by all of our NW Federation Clubs are sold and the funds are used for Cancer Research. If each member saved five stamps a month it would add up fast. Start by saving the stamp from this month's Rock Licker newsletter.

Continue to save your stamps and give them me at our monthly meetings.

Jack Edwards-Federation Director

Highlights From The September 2nd Board Meeting —Sandy Kinsfather-Secretary

Warren discussed with the Board members the final details for the annual show. Some of the dealers will donate items for door prizes.

The treasurer's report was read and we have money. The insurance bill and the TV advertising were paid.

A list of names of those that signed up for more information at the park and the fair was given to one of the board members to call.

Field Trips: The dates of the trip to Clarkia for fossils is still undetermined. Jack has called about the trip and has not had a response back.

Secretary's Report—September 9, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Tiffin at 7:00.

Welcome of Guests: Ernie and Starlene Strickland were welcomed. Other guests (Brenda, Nefali and Anna.) arrived later but we did not get their last names.

Old Business: Tim asked for any additions or corrections needed to the minutes of the August meeting. They were approved as printed.

Announcements: Tim announced that Andy Porter from the UB is at the meeting taking pictures for an article he is writing about our "Rock of the Year Contest" and our upcoming annual Gem and Mineral Show.

Jim Brain, Superintendent of the Gem & Mineral Department at the Walla Walla Fair reported that things went well for the exhibit and thanked the club members who helped staff the exhibit. He is going to check with the Board to see if the club wants to be involved with the fair again next year considering the time commitment and how close it is to our clubs Annual Gem and Mineral Show.

New Business: Warren discussed the promotional activities that are underway relative to the Gem and Mineral Show. He also said he needed as many volunteers as he could get to help set up and staff the show. Several members volunteered.

Upcoming Events: The club

trip to the diatomaceous earth site and Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park is scheduled for September 28.

Evening Program: The program for the September meeting was our annual competition amongst club members to determine the best of class for a variety of gem and mineral categories.

Club members voted for their favorite piece in the various categories displayed. Mayor Ammon of College Place presented the Mayor's award to the "Best of Show-Youth" and "Best of Show-Adult" classes. (A complete listing of the various winners is found in a related article on page 5 of this month's Rock Licker.)

Treasurer's Report

All of the bills have been paid and we have a positive balance in our account.

The Gem and Mineral Show is our primary fund raising event and with a good crowd we should do well there.

To restate the reason for increasing the dues in 2009 is that all costs of being a club are increasing.

2009 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

FAMILY—\$25.00

SINGLE—\$15.00

JUNIOR—\$5.00*

***WITH ACCOMPANYING
ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

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

A Note from the Editor

I am always looking for material to include in the Rock Licker. My goal is to make the Rock Licker your newsletter, not limited to board members reporting club activities.

If you have something you would like to have included, send it to me at:
jrbrain@gte.net

Or call 509-522-2261

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	tiffin@charter.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: Steve Rice, Ralph Trethewey
 Drawing: Bill Stonecipher
 Historian: Charlene Edwards
 Lapidary: Paul McCaskill, Ray Wister
 Librarian: Yvonne Brewer
 Photographers: David Walk, Russell Kinsfather
 Programs: Warren Rood
 Refreshments: Crystal Walk, Charlotte Smelcer
 Show and Tell: Keith Bacus
 Publicity: Linda and Bill Stonecipher
 Stamps: Jack Edwards
 Sunshine: Marilyn McCann
 Web Master: David Walk

Working Groups:

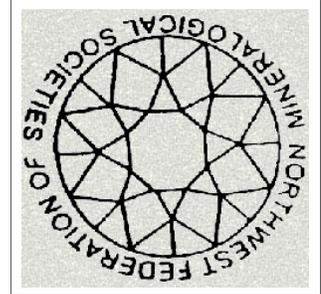
Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood
 Junior Club: Kim French, Tracie Tiffin, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Karen Bumgarner
 Membership: Charlene Edwards, Sandy Kinsfather
 Show: Warren Rood-chairperson, Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda Stonecipher, Kim and Kevin French, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer,

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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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 6:30 pm.
Note: July is reserved for a club picnic and December is reserved for the Christmas party and potluck.