

THE ROCK LICKER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Tim Tiffin

It's nice to live in the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution!

While recently cleaning up our home office, I came across the November 22, 2007 edition of the Union-Bulletin and my eyes fell on a piece by Rich Lowry of the National Review. As I read his editorial entitled "Be Thankful for the Industrial Revolution," I was struck by the lack of recreational time that existed for most people living prior to the 1800s. When you think about it, it's hard to pursue leisure activities when all of your time is spent just trying to eke out a meager existence. But that all changed with the Industrial Revolution.

Now fast forward two centuries. Although we're all busy living out much more complex lives, I'm glad that we have enough time to enjoy our great hobby. This month at the meeting, we will be planning our club's field trips for the rest of the year. So, come prepared to offer your input and cast your votes! Also, don't forget to bring an interesting rock or mineral for our Show and Tell.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 12!

Tim Tiffin
President

February Club Meeting to Focus on Planning 2008 Field Trips

Are you tired of the snow and cold weather? Ready to start planning for warmer times ahead? Come on out to the next meeting and we will start planning our club field trips for this year. Several field trip options will be presented along with samples of the material you will find. You will also be given some details, such as the distance and available lodging. In the end you will be able to vote and choose our field trips for the year. This is the perfect opportunity for you to help shape the clubs activities.

You will also have an opportunity to present any field trip ideas that you may have. Just come with samples and details and let Keith Bacus know of your ideas. Every idea will be welcome.

Field trips are one of the major benefits of the club, because they give you an opportunity to find new and exciting material, learn many new things and get to know fellow rock hounds.

COMING EVENTS

- *The next meeting will be on February 12 starting at our new time, 6:30 pm.*
- *Don't forget to bring items for show and tell.*

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New Web Site—David Walk

We are pleased to announce the completed launch of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society web page.

You can find the webpage by pasting this address in your web browser.

<http://mwrocklicker.googlepages.com/home>

Make sure to mark the page in your favorites.

The completed page features a clean, simple look for easy navigating to the society's monthly newsletter, *The Rock Licker*, as well as video, photography and documents of interest to members.

You can send your comments, links of interest and photographs to our webmaster

David Walk at mwrocklicker@gmail.com

Rock of the Month—Chalcedony

Each month we will try to feature a Rock, Gemstone, Mineral or Fossil. This month it is **Chalcedony**.

Chalcedony is a catch all term that includes many well know varieties of cryptocrystalline quartz gemstones. They are found in all 50 states, in many colors and color combinations, and in sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. Chalcedony includes carnelian, onyx, thundereggs, agate, flint, jasper, petrified wood, and petrified dinosaur bones to name a few of the better know varieties.

Because of its abundance, durability and beauty, chalcedony was one of the earliest raw material used by mankind. The earliest use of chalcedony was for projectile points, knives, tools and containers such as cups and bowls.

All 50 states produce some variety of Chalcedony, but materials from some states are better known than that of others. Oregon is well know for its variety of Chalcedony. The various picture and scenic jaspers, thundereggs, and a variety of petrified wood are examples of Chalcedony found in Oregon. In Washington, the most sought after Chalcedony is petrified wood. The local petrified wood is know for its broad range of colors and patterns as well as the wide range of identifiable species. Over 15 species of trees have been associated with the petrified wood found in Washington.

For additional information visit the US Geological Survey web site:

<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/chalcedony.html>

Federation News—Jack Edwards, Federation Director

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 68th NFMS Show "Up and Coming in Ontario" to be held in Ontario, OR, June 20-22, 2008. Watch for articles on the Show in the NFMS Newsletter or on the NFMS Website at www.amfed.org/nfms.

Word is out that the 2009 Show will be hosted by the Billings, MT Club. This show will be a combined AFMS/NFMS Show. Expect some great field trips.

I want to thank our members who brought stamps to the January meeting. January is usually a good month because of the Christmas card stamps. You are encouraged to save commemorative and regular stamps. The money generated from stamps collected by all of our NW Federation Clubs are sold and the funds are used for Cancer Research. Please give your stamps to me and I will keep them until it is time to turn them in at the Federation Mid-Year Meeting.

Jack Edwards, Federation Director

Show and Tell Schedule

An important part of our monthly meeting is the Show and Tell segment. It is one of the ways members can learn about different gems, minerals or fossils collected by other club members.

The following is the show and tell schedule for the next few months.

February—Field trip material

March—Mineral or metal

April—faceted stones or cabochons

May—Begins with "O". Opals, oxides, obsidian or ores.

Who Is Doing What?—Jeff Ladderud

I would just like to extend a message of thanks to Warren Rood, as well as to Keith Bacus. Since I joined the club last July I have acquired two thunder eggs. However, I have had no way to cut them open myself and reveal the treasures inside. Warren was more than happy to let me use his saws to accomplish the job. Furthermore, he explained all about how the rocks are cut. Afterwards, Keith came over to Warren's house to use the flat lap. I was able to work along side Keith, smoothing out one of my stones, while Keith explained the process to me. Thanks so much to the two of you for sharing your equipment, time, and knowledge with me. Your willingness to give of these things is a great way to keep our club's youth (myself included) interested and involved in the lapidary arts, a sure way to keep our club healthy and strong.

Junior Program—Kim French

At our January meeting, we made a successful split of the kids activity groups. Tracy Tiffin took the under ten group and had three participate in decorating some collection boxes. They turned out very nice and the kids enjoyed making them. There were nine that participated in the older group. They started the first half of a project, making some Stalagmite/Stalactite Caves. At the February meeting they will be completing their caves. Also in February, I will be handing out some "Popcorn Rocks" to both groups for a take home crystal growing activity. There will be a prize for all that bring their completed "Popcorn Rock" to the next meeting, to show others how they turned out. Upcoming activities for the older group will include a "Turn that Bone to Stone" activity. We will also be making some display shelves that they can show their collections on. They will build the displays, cover them, mount their own rocks and minerals and label them. It will most likely be an activity that will take us two meetings to complete. We will also have a Pebble Play Mancala game night. It was nice to have such a good turnout of the older Juniors. If you Juniors have suggestions of activities you would like me to set-up, please let me know. See you at the meeting.

Kim French-Juniors Advisor

KID'S CORNER

Kim French is trying to put together the Juniors program for the year so Juniors, be thinking of the kinds of activities you would like to have at the monthly club meetings. If you have any ideas let Kim know at the next meeting.

February Refreshments

Members whose last name begins with N-Z bring either a pie or ice cream

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

January Program Highlights—Collecting

Most of us got our start in the hobby as a kid, when someone gave us a rock or mineral, or pointed out one in nature. Our collection began there and we keep trying to improve it. A collection can consist of a few pieces in a bowl, or a room full. If we think about our collection and give it definition, it will grow faster and be more focused. What do we like to collect, and how do we want to obtain it? You may only want self collected material, or be willing to purchase that wonderful piece from a far off land. Educate yourself on the materials you are interested in through books, magazines, the internet, sales and shows. Then you will know what you are looking for, and what it is worth. You won't lose your focus at a show or sale, and your collection will increase in quality, and maybe size. You will save time and money, that could be better spent on your next collection! Many happy collections.

Keith Bacus

Notes From The Board Meeting—January 2, 2008

- Bills have been paid for the year and the club has a cash balance in excess of immediate needs. Treasurer Ralph Trethewey invested a portion of the cash reserve in a 7 month CD to maximize interest income before the funds are needed.
- The board is still working on a tentative program schedule for 2008. It will be finalized in the near future after input from the February club meeting.
- Yvonne Brewer has volunteered to serve as the club librarian. The board agreed to budget \$100.00 for new materials (DVDs, videos, magazines, books, etc.) to be included in the library.
- Board also agreed to sponsor two \$25.00 cash awards to be presented to Best of Show Adult and Youth winners in the gem and minerals section at the Walla Walla County Fair and Frontier Days this fall.
- Board approved sending a \$50.00 donation to AMS in honor of Wilbur Wagner.
- Warren Rood will replace Jack Edwards as the club's Annual Show Chairperson.
- Discussion continued on having a spring auction but no action was taken.

Secretary's Report—January 8, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes

President Tim Tiffin called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm

He welcomed the following visitors: Brian Bennett, David Smeltzer, Bob Smith, Angie and Bailee Butler, Nicolie, Graeme, and Garret Thorn, and Rudi Domazlicky (a new member).

President Tiffin asked if there were any corrections to the December meeting minutes as printed in the January Rock Licker. None were needed and they were approved as published.

Heidi Rau made a suggestion to spotlight a rock in the Rock Licker each month. Jerry Rau mentioned that there is good information on the internet on rocks and minerals. President Tiffin said if members

have suggestions they should call Jim Brain with their ideas. Jim also asked for member e-mail addresses so he could contact them for potential articles to include in the newsletter.

The gem and mineral display at the Children's Museum, which ran through January 7, was a success. It may become a regular event.

Outgoing president Warren Rood thanked the club for the crystal he was given by the club as well as members for the cards and letter they sent him. He thinks members will find a niche in the club to keep their interest.

Several items were presented during the show and tell portion of the meeting. Jerry Rau showed a nice

sample of Bluejohn from England. He said that goblets and cups were made from it. Paul McCaskill showed a large agate he was working on. Glenn Wister displayed the large stove pad he has made with inlaid slabs of various agate that he had prepared. Bill Stonecipher had some atacamite from Chile as well as a "bladder stone" he had acquired.

After a short break for refreshments, there was a raffle of a few mineral specimens followed by the evening program. (See related article on Page 3.) The meeting adjourned after the program.

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 Trethewey as soon as possible.

The club has invested its excess cash in a 7 month CD to maximize interest income until the funds are needed just before the fall show.

The Junior program account balance is also in good shape.

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: Yvonne Brewer

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, Tracie Tiffin, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Wade Brooks, Karen Bumgarner, Venus Smith

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

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

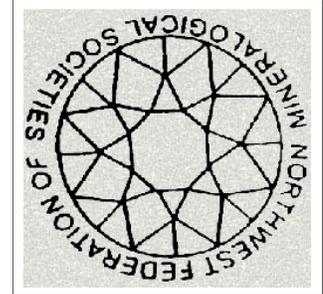
Affiliations:

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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Remember to save your stamps



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<http://mwrrocklicker.googlepages.com/home>

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
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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 6:30 pm.

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