

THE ROCK LICKER

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JUNE 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Time Tiffin, President

On rare occasions, our club meetings do not go as planned and we find ourselves improvising. Such was the case last month when our guest speaker from the McBones organization did not join us. I would like to extend a big thanks to all of you who chose to stay after the refreshment break to give valuable input on both the Fourth of July event and our annual September show. It was greatly appreciated! Since we are still in need of valuable assistance, we will have a sign-up sheet at our June meeting for anyone who can help out with these two events.

As many of you already know, we will not be meeting at the clubhouse this month. On June 9, we will be attending a very informative presentation on the Whitman College campus. Bob Carson, professor of geology and environmental studies, will be speaking on the Wallula Gap, which is the subject of his latest book "Where the Great River Bends: The Columbia at Wallula." His talk will be held in the Hall of Science Room 151. For those that are interested in Dr. Carson's biography, it can be found at <http://people.whitman.edu/~carsonrj/>.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for the field trip to the Big Sink that Bob Carson is leading us on. We will be caravanning from the clubhouse at 8:00 am on Sunday, June 7. I hope to see you there! Tim

Junior Member Awarded National Merit Scholarship

Jeff Ladderud, a Junior member of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society for the past three years, has been awarded one of the 2500 National Merit Scholarships awarded this year. He will graduate from Walla Walla High School this year and plans to attend Washington State University Honors College on a Regents Scholarship this fall. Jeff will study either geology, geophysics or physics with a life goal to go on to graduate school and ultimately be a college professor.

Though active in school sports and music programs, 4-H and his church, Jeff has found time to participated in many of the club's field trips and other activities.

The members of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society extend our congratulations and wish you the best as you pursue your academic and life goals.

COMING EVENTS

Don't forget that the next club meeting is June 9th at 6:30 pm in room 151 in the Hall of Science on the Whitman College Campus.

June

Refreshments

Due to the change in meeting location, we will not be having refreshments at the June meeting.

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Start Planning for the Club's Gem and Mineral Show now

I know that our Gem and Mineral show in September seems like it is a long time from now. However the time will fly and our show will be here before we realize it. So, the question is, what can you be doing right now to get ready for our show? Well, there are several things that you can do.

- Volunteer to tumble some smaller colorful agates, wood or jasper. We will need quite a bit of these sparkly beautiful stones for our kid's mine dig. The kids in our community really love this.
- Start planning and working on a beautiful display case that will show the community our very best material.
- You can be dreaming of small things that we can do to improve our show and let Warren know of your ideas.
- Mark your calendar for September 11-13. We need you to volunteer some time during the weekend to make this years show a success. You will be glad you did, it is an exciting, fulfilling weekend.

Warren Rood—Show Chairman

June Program Features Dr. Bob Carson

Our June meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Bob Carson, geology professor at Whitman College. The subject of Dr. Carson's presentation will be the geology and ecology of the Wallula Gap area of the Columbia River. He recently co-authored a book on the subject.

The program will start at 6:30 pm in room 151 of the Science Hall on the Whitman Campus. Arrive a few minutes early to allow some time to take in the beautiful geology display along the first floor halls of the building.

For those not familiar with the Whitman campus, the Science Hall is located in the NW corner of the campus, just off of Isaac St. (Enter the parking lot just east of the RR tracks and building will be on your left.)

4th of July in the Park Needs Your Help

Again this year the club will have a booth at the 4th of July in the Park celebration in Pioneer Park.

We plan on having a display case containing material provided by club members, general information about the club and we will be selling raffle tickets for the prize to be given away at our club's show in September. We really need help with the staffing the booth. If enough people come for an hour or two throughout the day, it would help immensely.

Hospitality

Hi! I'm Marilyn McCann, Hospitality Chairman. Perhaps you've seen my name in the Rock Licker and wondered what I do. The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society sends cards to members who are hospitalized or who've had a death in their family. Several of you have been good about calling me so I can get a card in the mail, but I'd like to remind all of you to phone—I'd rather receive too many calls rather than not acknowledge an illness or death. If you get the answering machine, please leave me a message. I can do a better job with everyone's help. Thank You, Marilyn McCann

June Show N' Tell

Since the next club meeting will be at Whitman College, there will be no Show n' Tell program for the June meeting.

Be ready to share material at our July picnic.

June 7th Field Trip To Explore the "Big Sink" area

Warren Rood and Dr. Bob Carson will lead a field trip into the "Big Sink" area on the Umatilla National Forest on Sunday, June 7th. There Dr. Carson will discuss the unusual geology and other features of the area. This trip involves a mile and half hike over moderate terrain to reach the area so come prepared with appropriate shoes. Make sure bring a lunch and plenty of water as there are limited opportunities for either along the way. Unfortunately this trip may not be appropriate for smaller children.

Members going on this trip should plan on assembling at the Lion's Park field house at 08:00 am on Sunday, June 7th to consolidate travel as much as possible. Because of snow in the Tollgate/Jubilee Lake area, we will have to drive around through Elgin, OR on Highway 204 to reach the area so make sure you have a full tank of gas.

Ukiah Field Trip is June 27-28

Janel Lacey will be leading a weekend field trip June 27 and 28 targeting leaf fossils, Apache tears, petrified wood and serpentinite in the Heppner and Ukiah area.

The trip will leave Walla Walla at 7:00 am (or the Forest Service office in Ukiah at 9:00) on June 27th and return Sunday afternoon.

The first day will include searching for leaf fossils near Heppner and Apache tears and petrified wood near Ukiah. The second day includes gathering serpentinite in the Vinegar Hill area. Side trips include Olive Lake, the Historic Fremont Powerhouse, and restored Sumpter mining dredge.

Additional details and camping/lodging information will be available at the June meeting or by calling Janel (weekdays) at 541-427-5394 or sending an e-mail to jlacey@fs.fed.us.

Kid's Corner—

At the June Juniors meeting, the kids will be getting an activity that involves birds, trees and crystal growing. Sorry there was not a May activity, I was unable to attend the meeting. See you on the 9th.

Kim French
Juniors Advisor

Classified Ad

FOR SALE — A 16 inch Covington Engineering slab saw kit with a 16 inch blade. It was used for only about 3 months and is like new. Owner has \$1100 invested in it the equipment.

Is am asking \$800 or best offer. He may be interested in trading the unit for a faceting machine complete with laps. (No ancient machines without laps please.)

If you are interested, contact Gary Litchfield at:

Litch's Lapidary

409 Miller

Milton Freewater, OR 97862

541-938-4978

garylitchfield@aol.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE-2009

FAMILY—\$25.00

SINGLE—\$12.00

JUNIOR—\$5.00*

***WITH ACCOMPANYING ADULT
MEMBERSHIP**

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

Davis Creek Trip Recap—Janel Lacey

“Leaving No Rock Behind” is a good way to describe my recent trip that included participation in the Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous. On the morning of May 20th, 10 members of the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society left Walla Walla for the Davis Creek/Lassen Creek area of northern California. The focus of the rendezvous this year was Obsidian.

After nearly 400 miles of driving including numerous stops to check out material in road cuts, the group arrived at the Lassen Creek Campground, headquarters of this year’s rendezvous just before dark. The campsite was in a beautiful green meadow with a wonderfully refreshing, though cold, stream running through it and scattered clumps of large Ponderosa Pine that provided some relief from the sun. In all about 80 rock hounds from various parts of the country participated in this year’s four day event. (Our club was well represented by members Olan and Norma Long, Suzanne and Vern Young, Keith and Frank Vasconcelles, Warren Rood, Russell Kinsfather, Don Larson, and myself.)

On the first day we chose to go with the group headed to a dig site that featured rainbow sheen obsidian. Our guide showed us how to chip off the right part of the rock to see what the colors were. Most material was on the tailing piles left by those more energetic people who liked to dig for their treasures. In the afternoon we went to a second site that featured obsidian needles. Again you could dig or just pick up material on the surface. Needles ranged in color from red to mahogany to black. Some of the red pieces had black spots throughout which I called “leopard skin” and were very interesting to me. That evening there was a welcoming potluck with lots of good food and camaraderie around the campfire. Rockhound stories flowed freely.

On the second day we opted to go to the “electric” blue sheen dig site. Here we met Glen Ripper, affectionately known as the “Obsidian Man” who has traveled all over the west collecting obsidian. He had beautiful samples of blue sheen obsidian. This site was mostly a dig site. Material was about “potato” size and plentiful once you found the right layer. Keith hit the jackpot finding a large boulder estimated to weigh around 300 lbs that he and Frank somehow got loaded onto their truck. All Frank could say was “This will make a nice sphere, once I figure out how to modify my machine to handle it.” That evening everyone gathered for a tailgate trade show. Several people were interested in trading for some of Warren’s “Touchet Jade”.

On the third day we split up. Some of us went to Cottonwood Creek where we tied in with Mike Denny from Walla Walla while some of the others stayed at the Rendezvous. Russell headed to Plush for sunstones. At Cottonwood Creek there was limited rock gathering. More time was spent with Mike viewing the flora and fauna of the area and watching the spectacular evening thunderstorm.

The next three days were long days spent driving to different sites in the area, dodging thunder showers, and stopping periodically to gather material. We hit a BLM site near Whitestone Ranch for sunstones, Willow Hot Springs, and the McDermitt, NV area. Weather did limit our travels as the roads got slick and muddy from the periodic rain showers. We hit the Virgin Valley and the Rainbow Ridge mine where again Frank and Keith hit it big finding a very large pieces of fiery opal, probably worth a few thousand dollars when it is cut and polished.

On May 27th, with a full load of rocks on board (2000 lbs at least) we headed home stopping at the Malheur Bird Refuge briefly to gather some petrified corral. I am pretty sure that no rock was left behind and I know for sure that several good friendships were made during this trip. I can’t wait until next year. Please join us where ever the location will be.

Secretary's Report—May 12, 2009 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

President Tim Tiffin opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Welcomed Guests: President Tim and the club members welcomed Mike Kearbey and Baily Campbell.

Minutes: Tim asked for a motion to approve the club minutes for April 14, 2009. It was so moved and seconded. We voted and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Pierce gave the total in our account. He said we had another application deposit for the show. We also got the rebate check for \$54.00 from Miller Magazines.

Announcements: Tim talked about a letter received from Gary Litchfield stating that he has a 16" slab saw kit for sale. (See separate announcement.)

Federation News: Norma Long gave a report on the Federation meeting. She mentioned that Doug True told about the use of public lands and how we should respect what it says on public lands and fill in the holes. She told us about the huge raffle in Billings and the tickets are \$5.00 a ticket. One of the raffle items is an intarsia bolo tie. The items for the raffle are pictured in the NFMS Newsletter.

Flint Knapping Class: Curt Schell talked about the flint knapping class at his place over the Memorial Day weekend. He said to bring ¼ or 3/8 inch copper wire and a solid rod, goggles, and ¼ inch slabs of obsidian or soft mat rock.

Picnic in July: We talked about the idea of having a show and tell to get to know each other at our July picnic.

Thank you notes to sign: Tim told the members about the thank you notes that needed to be signed for Jackie Koppany and Elmer Ringering who assisted the club in recent programs and field trips.

Field Trip: Warren Rood talked about the trip to Davis Creek on Wednesday, May 20 and then Saturday the plan was to meet with Mike Denny at Cottonwood Creek to dig for opal, a fee dig.

The June field trip will be to the Big Sink, led by Bob Carson. There will be nothing to pick up and keep. It will just be something of interest. Also, Bob Carson will be doing our June program at the Whitman Campus.

Honors: Tim announced that Jeff Ladderud is a National Merit Scholar. Congratulations, Jeff!

Sunshine: Bill and Charlotte Smelcer have moved to Garrison Creek Lodge. They can have visitors.

Shows: Tim made an announcement about the Hermiston Rock Club Show on May 16 and 17. The 43rd Hell's Canyon Show, in Lewiston, Idaho is on Oct. 17 and 18.

Sales: Sally Reed has a fine blade saw, in good condition that was donated to the International Toy Fox Terrier Historical Society that will be auctioned off. The auction will be held for the saw and other stones with site locations, arrowheads and others. Contact Sally

for more information.

Just for Kids: Sally had a "magical stone" that she had the junior members try to identify. The juniors that could identify the stone were to receive a malachite or azurite stone. She had to give a good hint before anyone could guess what the stone was. It was a slag. She gave all the juniors a stone.

Raffle: Bill Stonecipher showed some of the raffle items that included goggles, screens, digging tool, petrified wood, crystals, aragonite, selinite, pyrite, sunstones, and a wonder stone. Bill had about 7 young helpers.

Show 'N Tell: Seventeen members participated in this part of the meeting. Several brought samples of material they collected on the North Fork John Day field trip. For a complete list of those who participated and what they brought see the related article on page 6 of the Rock Licker.

Break: At 7:50 p.m. we took a break for refreshments and for visiting.

Program: Our guest for tonight from the McBones Project did not show up. Our meeting continued until about 8:30 p.m. with a few people gathered to discuss the 4th of July in the Park and the annual Show.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Kinsfather,

Secretary

May Show & Tell Summary:

The Show and Tell segment of our May meeting was one of the more active in recent months. Keith Bacus lead this part of the program that featured rocks and gems beginning with the letter "S" or materials from recent field trips.

Jack Edwards showed a display case of sunstones, Smokey quartz crystals, Russian starlight, siderite, and a dinosaur tooth.

Juniors Bailey Campbell and Josiah Wister showed stones found in their driveway.

Ketih Bacus showed calcite crystals.

Ray Wister showed serpentine and a short display on sphere making.

Frank Vasconcelles showed tools he made for the knapping class and a very pretty jasper agate necklace he made.

Janelle Lacey showed serpentine from Vinegar Hill and sunstones.

Glenn Wister showed silver onyx.

Warren Rood showed "Walter" the large piece of petrified wood from the Middle Fork of the John Day field trip.

Junior, Ashton Huntley showed petrified wood from John Day trip.

Junior, Dallon Huntley showed agates from John Day trip.

Bill Stonecipher showed petrified wood.

Dave Williams showed selenite with a hardness of 12, stibnite, and silver from Ontario, Canada.

Linda Stonecipher showed field books, serpentine, petrified wood, crystals, sapphires, and stibnite from China.

Sally Reed showed silica, sandstone creations, and suiiseki viewing stones.

Paul McCaskill showed petrified wood from Middle Fork of the John Day and a piece of dinosaur bone.

Bud Roup showed petrified wood from the Middle Fork of the John Day and his "loaf of bread".

Kevin Casebier showed sue mores (?) with agate in it, limb casts, and petrified wood.

A big thank you to all that participated.

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: Randy Pierce	541-938-3685	randy@c-zone.net
Federation Director: Norma Long	509-525-4640	
Federation Delegate: Olan Long	509-535-4640	longo@wwics.com
Junior Activity Director: Kim French	509-525-7387	frenchke@q.com
Past President: Warren Rood	509-522-2330	wrood@coffeycomm.com

Supporting Cast:

Classes: Ralph Trethewey
 Drawing: Bill Stonecipher
 Historian: Larry Bennett
 Lapidary: Paul McCaskill, Ray Wister
 Librarian:
 Photographers: David Walk, Russell Kinsfather
 Programs: Warren Rood
 Refreshments: Crystal Walk
 Show and Tell: Keith Bacus
 Publicity: Linda and Bill Stonecipher
 Stamps:
 Sunshine: Marilyn McCann (509) 522-1776
 Web Master: David Walk

Life Members

Doug Anderson
 Bill Smelcer
 Charlotte Smelcer

Working Groups:

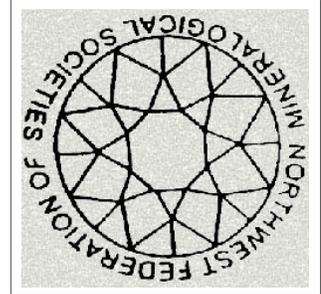
Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood
 Junior Club: Kim French, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer
 Membership: Charlene Edwards and Sandy Kinsfather
 Show: Warren Rood-chairperson, Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda Stonecipher,
 Kim French, Bill and Charlotte 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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THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION
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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.