

THE ROCK LICKER

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JULY 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

Isn't it nice that we live in such a geologically diverse area? I was pleased to hear that many of you enjoyed last month's Big Sink trip and Bob Carson's follow-up lecture at Whitman College. Unfortunately, due to prior university commitments, I was unable to attend either event. But I am happy that many of you were able to experience them!

This month brings one of my favorite club events - the annual picnic. My family and I had a enjoyable time at the July 2005 picnic. This was the first encounter we had with our great club. It's hard to believe just how quickly those four years have gone by! In addition to the potluck, we will be having a good show-and-tell. So remember to bring your treasures to display! You will find more details about this event inside this newsletter.

Independence Day is just around the corner and, like last year, we will be hosting a club booth in Pioneer Park on July 4. Thank you to all who have already signed up to help man our booth. If you are able to help out but haven't signed up yet, please let me know. We are expecting to have great time. Look for more details see the article below!

Tim Tiffin-President

Annual Club Picnic – July 14

Our club picnic will be held at the Lions Park Club House on July 14. If the weather is pleasant enough, we will move some tables and chairs to the outside lawn. We will begin at 6:00pm.

Make sure to bring one hot dish (e.g., casserole, entrée, mashed potatoes, vegetables, dessert) and one cold dish (e.g., green salad, potato salad, macaroni salad, vegetable plate, bread, dessert). In addition, you will need to bring your own plates, bowls, and utensils. The club will provide cups and drinks.

To better accommodate those in our group that have dietary restrictions, we will provide small cards on which each chef can indicate what type of allergens (e.g., nut, soy, wheat, dairy) their dish has and whether or not it is vegetarian-friendly.

After everyone has had their fill of good food, we will have a show-and-tell.

COMING EVENTS

June 27-28 Ukiah field Trip

July 10-11 field trip to be rescheduled

July 14 Annual Club Picnic

July

Refreshments

Club Picnic.
Everyone bring a hot dish and a one cold dish, salad or dessert.

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Fourth of July in the Park

Again this year the club will be sponsoring a booth on Saturday, July 4, as part of Walla Walla's Independence Day festivities. The booth will be open from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Like last year, we will have a display case with rocks and minerals, available brochures about our club, and we will be selling raffle tickets for the amethyst cathedral drawing to be held at our September show activities. It will be a great way to meet people and share with them the exciting aspects about our hobby. We hope to see you there.

June Field Trip Visited the “Big Sink”

It was June 7th, but looked more like Oct. 7th, when 10 rock club members set out to see the mysterious Big Sink. Leading the trip was Dr. Bob Carson, professor of geology at Whitman College. We were joined by Bob's family, friends and 3 students. After “feeling” our way over Tollgate in dense fog, we broke out of the clouds and traveled thru Elgin, Palmer Junction, and up on to the Umatilla National Forest to the Big Sink trail. Along the gentle 2 mile uphill hike to the site, Bob pointed out the different landforms in the Big Sink, as well as the vegetation. We saw several calypso orchids and a few mushrooms, underneath very impressive Ponderosa pine and grand fir trees.

Bob spoke about the many different ways the earth can be formed or transformed, such as wind, volcanic activity, water, etc. He asked us to think about these and speculate on what formed the Big Sink. Once at the head of the sink, the land had dropped away so steeply that we were eye level with the mature trees growing out of the bottom. He drew diagrams showing that there are concentric arcs of rock, interspersed with slump blocks. While we enjoyed lunch and kept an eye on the thunderhead above us, we all ventured our theory on how the sink was formed. “Rock Man” Warren Rood was right on when offered his “soft rock theory”. Bob showed how there were 2 layers of basalt with a layer of pyroclastic material in between. The pyroclastic layer was impervious to water and, as the water built up, it allowed the basalt layer to slip.

A handful of people scrambled over the edge and walked in the sink observing the jumble of rocks that are actually arranged in an orderly manner. The rest of the group hot-footed it back to the vehicles before the rain hit. It turned out to be a perfect hiking weather day and it was a treat to be able to spend it with a person as knowledgeable and congenial as Dr. Carson.

Ukiah Field Trip June 27-28

It is not too late to sign up for the overnight field trip to Ukiah. On Saturday, Janel Lacey will lead trips to roadside fossils near Heppner as well as Apache tears and petrified wood south of Ukiah. The group will camp at Olive Lake campground Saturday night.

On Sunday the group will travel to Vinegar Hill to gather serpentinite (also known as Oregon Jade or greenstone). On the way home you will be able to visit the restored Historic Freemont Powerhouse and/or the restored mining dredge near Sumpter.

If you plan on going on this trip, meet at the club house at 07:00 am on June 27th to caravan to Ukiah. If you want to go down early plan on meeting at the Forest Service Office in Ukiah at 09:00 on the 27th.

June Program Featured Lecture on the Wallula Gap

About 35 members and families gathered at Whitman College the evening of June 9th listen to a lecture by Dr. Robert Carson of the Geology Department at Whitman College. Dr. Carson's presentation, titled "Where the Great River Bends" was a detailed look into the geological, ecological and human history of the Wallula Gap area near the confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia Rivers. This is an area that all of us have traveled through many times but probably have never given it much thought as to how it was formed and its significance to our livelihood in the Walla Walla valley today.

Everyone in attendance came away with a new perspective of the forces of nature over time. I personally was intrigued by the changes in the course of the Columbia River over the millennium from running along the foothills of the Cascades and out through Satus Pass to where we now see it flowing. Equally interesting was the fact that the Clearwater/Snake system was more influential in forming the Wallula Gap than the Columbia, as evidenced by the gravel layers 900 feet above the current Columbia River level that have been traced to central Idaho origins.

Over the past two centuries, Ft. Walla Walla (and later the town of Wallula) served as a jumping off point for many of the families that settled the Walla Walla Valley and a shipping terminal for many of the agricultural products of the area. (It continues today with the grain elevators and new Railex Terminal in the area.)

At the end of the program there were copies of his recent book written by Dr. Carson and several associates titled "Where the Great River Bend" were available to purchase.

July Show and Tell

The club picnic will feature a show and tell opportunity for you to learn more about the various club members and their hobbies. Bring handcrafted items, photography, or rocks or mineral specimens, etc. you have collected or worked. There will have a table set up to display anything you want to show.

Kid's Corner—

During the June meeting at Whitman College, the Juniors that attended received a crystal growing kit. They had a choice of birds or trees. They will bring them to the September meeting to show. There will not be a Juniors activity in July, due to the club picnic.

Kim French
Juniors Advisor

Local Gem and Mineral Shows

Check out the current NFMS "Northwest Newsletter" for a listing of the upcoming gem and mineral shows in the Pacific Northwest.

Also pay particular attention to the Combined NFMS/AFMS Show hosted by the Billings Gem and Mineral Club on the week of July 30-August 2 in Billings, MT. There are several interesting field trips and activities planned to participate in at this event.

Let's show our support of the federation and neighboring clubs by attending one of these events.

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**

Walla Walla Fair Exhibitor Entry Forms are Due August 5th

As you are all aware the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society had to terminate its direct involvement with the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days due to a scheduling conflict with our own club's show and the high demand on volunteer time needed for each event.

That doesn't mean there will not be an opportunity to enter lapidary work and collections of gems and minerals in this year's fair. They have added a Lapidary Division (57124) to go along with the Collection Division (57120) within the Open Handcrafts/Designer Crafts Department where individuals will be able to enter material. For details see the 2009 Exhibitor's Handbook.

Both the Exhibitors Handbook and Entry Forms are available at the Fair Office or on line at www.wallawallafairgrounds.com. Entry Forms must be received by the Fair Office by August 5th. Contact Jim Brain if you have any questions at 509-522-2261 or jrbrain@verizon.net.

Club's Gem and Mineral Show in September

I have some exciting news to share with you about our Gem and Mineral show. We have 14 dealers signed up to come to our show. All but two of the dealers from last year are returning and we have 5 new dealers. The 5 new dealers will have some beautiful new material including: Royal Sahara jasper, Laguna and Crazy Lace agate, Opal Butte opal and polk-a dot agate. Our local rock expert Dale Huett is coming as well as a gentleman from Lewiston that has a 6' replica of a T-rex skull. He will also have smaller fossils for sale. We are going to use the T-rex skull in our advertizing. I am also trying to build up our demonstration section. If you have a talent you would like to share, just let me know.

In the meantime here are several things that you can do to help us get ready for our show..

- 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

July Crystal Field Trip Postponed

The field trip to Northern Idaho to find crystals that was scheduled for July 10-12 is postponed. We will discuss this trip at the next meeting. Whether or not we go will depend on how many are interested in the trip. If you are planning to go, come with several dates near the end of July or in August that will work for you.

Editorial—DID YOU KNOW—by Jim Brain

As individuals who enjoy the great outdoors in the pursuit of our hobbies and recreational activities, we all need to be aware of the Laws, Rules and Regulations that have been put in place to protect the scenic and cultural values of our public lands. One such law is the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended.

The purpose of this Act is to secure the protection of archaeological resources and sites on Federal lands and Indian lands within the United States. Archaeological resources are defined in the Act as “any material remains of past human life or activities”. This includes but is not limited to pottery, basketry, bottles, weapons, weapon projectiles, tools, structures, paintings, graves, etc. that are at least 100 years old.

As rock hounds, in search for that unique specimen, we often encounter arrowheads, spear points and other artifacts. Remember these are archeological resources and come under the provisions of the Act.

The following extract from the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 outlines the prohibited acts.

PROHIBITED ACTS AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Sec. 6.

(a) No person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4, a permit referred to in section 4(h)(2), or the exemption contained in section 4(g)(1).

(b) No person may sell, purchase, exchange, transport, receive, or offer to sell, purchase, or exchange any archaeological resource if such resource was excavated or removed from public lands or Indian lands in violation of-

- (1) the prohibition contained in subsection (a), or
- (2) any provision, rule, regulation, ordinance, or permit in effect under any other provision of Federal law.

(c) No person may sell, purchase, exchange, transport, receive, or offer to sell, purchase, or exchange, in interstate or foreign commerce, any archaeological resource excavated, removed, sold, purchased, exchanged, transported, or received in violation of any provision, rule, regulation, ordinance, or permit in effect under State or local law.

(d) Any person who knowingly violates, or counsels, procures, solicits, or employs any other person to violate, any prohibition contained in subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both: Provided, however, That if the commercial or archaeological value of the archaeological resources involved and the cost of restoration and repair of such resources exceeds the sum of \$5,000, such person shall be fined not more than \$20,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent such violation upon conviction such person shall be fined not more than \$100,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. (e) The prohibitions contained in this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) Nothing in subsection (b)(1) of this section shall be deemed applicable to any person with respect to an archaeological resource which was in the lawful possession of such person prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) Nothing in subsection (d) of this section shall be deemed applicable to any person with respect to the removal of arrowheads located on the surface of the ground.

If you come upon an artifact, leave it as you found it. If you think it may be significant, map the location and contact the local federal land manager.

As responsible users of public lands we need to continue to be aware of and respect the various rules and regulations that guide our use of our public lands.

Secretary's Report—June 9, 2009 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

Vice-President Keith Bacus opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Our meeting took place in the Hall of Science on the Whitman College campus in Room 151.

Thank you's: Warren thanked Elmer and Marilyn Ringering for showing the club the digging sights around the Middle Fork of the John Day. He also thanked Bob Carson for leading a group to the "Big Sink".

Field Trip: The Ukiah field trip is the next trip for leaf fossils, apache tears, petrified wood, and serpentinite (Oregon jade). The group will meet at the Lions Club House at 7:00 a.m. June 27, 2009.

The group will be lead by Warren Rood and Janel Lacey.

4th of July in the Park: Warren encouraged members to sign up to help at the booth at Pioneer Park on July 4th. The club needs help in selling raffle tickets for the amethyst.

Introduction of Speaker: Vice-President Keith Bacus introduced Professor Bob Carson, our speaker for tonight's program.

Program: Professor Bob Carson's presentation was on how the Wallula Gap was created. His presentation was based on his book, "Where the Great River Bends". He

presented slides of pictures that were included in his book. He wrote the book along with 4 other writers, 7 photographers, and he edited the book. It also has a section written by Mike Denny, called "The Seasons". His presentation was very informative and interesting. After his presentation, he gave the club members an opportunity to purchase one of his books and also to tour the gem displays in the Hall of Science.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Kinsfather
Secretary

ROCK LICKER On the Web

How many of you know that every month Webmaster David Walk posts the current Rock Licker on the club's web site? It is usually available the same day that the newsletter is put in the mail. You should check out the web site for this and other interesting photographs of field trips and special interest articles. <http://mwrocklicker.googlepages.com/home>

Along that line, we have discussed in the past the possibility of sending out the Rock Licker electronically rather than through the mail. With the cost of postage, printing and everything else going up I would like input on the subject again. Currently I send out about 60 copies of the Rock Licker each month at a costs of about \$.80 each (or almost \$10.00 per year per household). That amounts to about \$800 per year. If we were to cut that in half it would be a significant savings to the club.

I know that not everyone has internet access and that some of you have already expressed your views on this but I would like to hear from more of you. Over the next couple of months let me know if you would be interested in receiving the Rock Licker electronically. Drop me a note at jrbrain@verizon.net or see me at one of the next club meetings.

If we can save a few bucks here and there, we can keep our club dues down.

Jim Brain, Rock Licker Editor

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	tiffin@charter.net
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Federation Director: Norma Long	509-525-4640	
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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, 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,

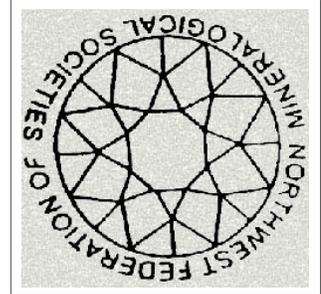
Affiliations:

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 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.