



NORTHWEST **NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 49 NO. 9

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

August 2009



Evelyn Cataldo, 1st Vice President

NFMS WANTS YOU!

September 1st is the start of the new fiscal year for the NFMS. That is the time when the new officers start fulfilling their duties and new Committee Chairpersons may be needed.

As we approach the new 2009/2010 year, several of our Chairpersons are vacating their positions due to personal constraints or objectives.

I have found that our Society "forefathers" did an excellent job of dividing up the needs of this organization so that no volunteer is burdened with excessive duties. If you are willing to donate a couple of hours a month, enjoy meeting and working with people with similar interests and want to see our Society continue to grow and progress, then we need you.

The NFMS needs volunteers to chair the following standing committees. I have included brief descriptions of each committee's goals.

Slide and Video Library:

Maintain a library of colored slides, videos, movies and other program material to send out to Member Societies upon request.

In discussing this committee with the current Chairman, it appears that this committee needs to have a couple of members. One member would be in charge of maintaining the library and a second "techie" type member would copy the older slide programs that are in need of repair onto discs.

Resolutions:

Counsel and advise Member Societies desiring to submit Resolutions at the Annual Meeting. Review submitted Resolutions making sure that the aims and purposes of the Society submitting the Resolution are clearly set forth. Recommend changes if needed. Make sure that the Resolutions are not contrary to the aims and purposes of the NFMS.

Exhibits Registrar:

Be in charge of receiving applications for competitive display space for the NFMS Show and AFMS Show when hosted by the NFMS. Work closely with the Display Chairman of the Host Society, the Judging Director and the Rules Chairman. Be available during show set-up to assist incoming exhibitors. Provide application forms for publication in the *Newsletter*. Prepare an exhibitor card for each competitive display entry and a judge's score card for each class for which there is an entry.

Usually, the Exhibits Registrar will become the Judging Director the following year and then the Rules Chairman the year thereafter. So, this is a three year commitment.

If you have an interest in helping the NFMS by volunteering for one of these Committees, please contact either myself or one of the other Federation officers.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Evelyn Cataldo
(509) 628-0170
ecataldo@cbtabs.com

CALLING ALL ROCK CLUBS

We need a host for the 2010 NFMS Show

Discuss this with your Club. If you have an interest in hosting the 2010 NFMS Show, please contact one of the NFMS Officers. Questions??? Call one of the Officers.

If you think your Club is not large enough to host a Show, how about joining with one or more nearby Clubs!

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

AUGUST 15, 2009 – September Issue
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – October Issue

E-MAIL: nfmsnews@gmail.com

NFMS WEBSITE
www.amfed.org/nfms

NORTHWEST FEDERATION EXEC. OFFICERS 2008-2009

PRESIDENT: Paul Heesacker, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net
1st VICE PRESIDENT: Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 99509 Brandon Dr., Kennewick, WA 99336, (509) 628-0170, ecataldo@cbtabs.com
2nd Vice President: Fritz Mack, 10619 Holly Dr., Everett, WA 98204, 425.513.0115, rockgem_mack@netzero.net
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Joan Day, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 509 Highland Blvd., Brigham City, UT. 84302 (435) 723-3830, joanday@sisna.com
TREASURER: Lyle Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, nfmstreasurer@comcast.net

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: Evelyn Cataldo, 1st Vice President (see above)
BULLETIN AIDS: Darlene Posthuma, Eureka Rock & Gem Club, 5760 SW Riley Ln, Moutain Home, ID 83647, 208.794.0976, darleneposthuma@clearwire.net
CIRCULATION: Tom Burchard, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, 801.479.4286, Roxhund@aol.com
CREDENTIALS: Beth Heesacker, Clackamette Gem & Mineral Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, heesacker@coho.net
CUSTODIAN: Fritz Mack, 2nd Vice President (see above)
DIRECTORY: Audrey Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617
nfmsdirectory@comcast.net
EDUCATION: Jim & Libby Spencer, Clackamette Mineral & Gem Society, 660 Collins Crest, Gladstone, OR 97027, 503-650-5027, the_spencers@comcast.net
ENDOWMENT FUND: CHAIRMAN: Edna Nelson, Mt Hood Rock Club, 66830 Maple Crest Rd., Deer Island, OR 97054, (503) 397-5284, nelson@ados.net; TREASURER: NFMS Treasurer (see above)
EXHIBITS REGISTRAR: Dee Holland, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O.Box 23, Tenody, ID, 83468, (208) 756-2394, shirleyleeson@cox.net
FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Jon Spunaugle, 4841 Doctor Eldridge Dr., Washougal, WA 98671, 360.624.7604, jonspe@comcast.net
HISTORIAN: Shirley Leeson, Intermountain Faceters Guild, P.O. Box 23, Tenody, ID., 83468-0023, (619) 460-6128 or (208) 756-2394, shirleyleeson@cox.net
JUDGING DIRECTOR: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net
JUNIORS CHAIR: Gary Buhr, Everett Rock & Gem Club, 1242 State Ave., PMB 157#1, Marysville, WA 98270-3672, (360) 659-7776 (work), (425) 356-7696 (cell), gennut@hotmail.com; AK-Steve Jensen, ID-Barbara Nash, MT-open, OR-Janine Owens UT-Shaun Peck, WA-Marc Cimolino
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Bryan Schroeder, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 153 Spring St., Richland, WA 99354, (509) 371-1572, nfmsnews@gmail.com
NFMS Club-at-Large: 1st Vice President (see above)
NOMINATING CHAIRMAN: Patty Amos, Mt. Hood Rock Club 15523 NE 215th Ave, Brush Prairie, WA 98606, (360) 892-3716, packrats2@msn.com. Members: TBD
OPERATIONS REVIEW: OPEN
PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL: Chuck Sonner, Southern WA. Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, chuckagate2@yahoo.com
PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: Andy Johnson, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, P.O.Box 3251, Pasco, WA 99302, (509)547-7625 washatonian@hotmail.com
SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN: Quita Perry, Southern Washington Mineral Society, P.O. Box 819, LaCenter, WA 98629, 360-263-3075, NFMSProgramLibrary@TDS.net
RESOLUTIONS: Betty Luke, Butte Mineral and Gem Club, P.O.Box 254, Harrison, MT 59735, (406) 685-3694, ramblers@3rivers.net
RULES & AWARDS CHAIR: Joe Slouber, Butte Gem & Mineral Club P.O. Box 427, Butte MT., 59703-0427, (406) 494-3034, RockHound@in-tch.com
SAFETY: Dale Geer, Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 34, Moxee, WA 98936, 509.248.6975, moxican1@q.com
SCHOLARSHIP: Rose Alene McArthur, Hells Canyon Gem Club, 33427 Highway 212, Orofino, ID. 83544, (208) 476-3840, obmcarthur@cpinternet.com
SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2009: Doug True, Billing Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils@yahoo.com
SHOW COORDINATION: Judi Allison, Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th #A, Hermiston OR. 97838 (541) 720-4950, jall@cotnet.net

STAMPS: Hermina Kolski, Club-at-Large, 208 Riverview 2 East, Great Falls, MT 59404-1534, 406-231-0620
SUPPLIES: Tim Hoff, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, 1016 Waukesha Ave, Butte, MT., 59701, 406-491-3587, ttinker9742@bigskyhsd.com
WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (503)753-2401 jvancura@peak.org
WEBMASTER: Jack Eads, Kitsap Mineral & Gem Soc., 5169 E. Hillcrest Drive, Port Orchard, WA. 98366-8101, (360) 871-2445, jacke@wavecable.com
NFMS WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES 2009

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils@yahoo.com
NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Lamar Tilgner (Chair), Mt. Hood Rock Club, 200 SE Olvera Ave., Gresham, OR 97080, (503) 666-2905, LSTILGNER@aol.com
CLAIMS COMMITTEE: Rocky McCall, Marysville Rock & Gem club, 8330 272nd St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-7430 (360) 629-2515, rm711@tgi.net
OPERATIONS PROCEDURE UPDATE: Open ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA. 98273, (360) 424-8340, rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

AFMS THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: Lauren Williams, **ENDOWMENT FUND-** Edna Nelson, **EDITORS HALL OF FAME-Open, NEWSLETTER EDITOR-** Bryan Schroeder, **NFMS CLUB BULLETINES-** Darlene Posthuma, **ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR-Viola Jones, CONSERVATION & AWARD LEGISLATION-** Darlene Posthuma, **EDUCATION-ALL AMERICAN AWARD-** Jim & Libby Spencer, **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-** Bill and Janet Smith, **JUNIORS PROGRAM-** Gary Buhr, **PROGRAM COMPETITION-** Quita Perry, **PUBLIC RELATIONS-OPEN, SAFETY-** Dale Geer, **SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION-** Dee Holland & Rose MacArthur, **SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS-** Tim Hoff, **JUDGE TRAINING COMMITTEE-** Dee Holland, **UNIFORM RULES-** Dee Holland (Director) & Barbara Jacobsen, **WAYS AND MEANS-** Glenn Lee (chair) & Janice Van Cura, **WEBSITE-** Jack Eads.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The **AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA)** is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual membership fee of \$25.00 helps support their activities. Contact: Dr. Robert Carlson, ALAA President, 1585 Los Pueblos, Los Alamos, NM, 87544, 505.662.5534, drobertcarlson@yahoo.com

The **AFMS NEWSLETTER** is published monthly except Jan-Jul-Aug by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each NFMS member club should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary, and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newsletter. If they are not, or if anyone else wants to subscribe (\$4.50 per year), write to: **AFMS Central Off., Steve Weinberger, P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.** Make checks payable to "AFMS". Email: cebar62@aim.com

The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) and is usually published ten (10) times per year. This publication is brought to you through your club membership in NFMS. The purpose of the Northwest Newsletter is to keep all NFMS members informed of activities and events pertaining to the business and services of the Federation. The Newsletter is printed and mailed to approximately 3500 homes in six states by Burley Reminder in Burley ID. For matters related to the Newsletter (i.e. content, advertising, etc) contact the **Newsletter Editor** (printed elsewhere on this page). For matters related to the Newsletter circulation (new members, address changes, etc.) contact the **Circulation Chairperson** (located elsewhere on this page).

SHOW COORDINATION. Your Federation provides a free service for NFMS members by listing your show in this Newsletter, on the NFMS website, two magazines ("Rocks and Minerals" and "Rock and Gem") and the on-line Calendar from "Lapidary Journal". Please provide the date and time for the show, the club name and show title (if applicable), the location of the show, and

most important a contact person with address, e-mail address and/or phone (e-mail is preferred). Please send your show information four to six months in advance to the **SHOW COORDINATION Chairperson** (printed elsewhere on this page). If you see an error once your show is listed, or if your show is not listed, contact **Newsletter Editor** (printed elsewhere on this page).

SAVE STAMPS PROGRAM. NFMS members are encouraged to use and save commemorative stamps. The money generated from the sale of these used (cancelled) stamps is then donated to Cancer Research. The collected stamps can be sent to the **STAMPS Chairman** (printed elsewhere on the page), brought to the NFMS Annual Show or given to your Federation Director in your club.

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS**Where to send your money****(See this page for address, phone, or e-mail)****To NFMS Treasurer for:**

1. Dues and supplies
2. Donations for the general fund
3. Donations to Junior Achievement
4. Advertisement in this Newsletter

Send to: Lyle Vogelpohl, see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer for:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund
2. Memorial contributions

Make check payable to NFMS Endowment Fund, send to Endowment Fund Treasurer.

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions to AFMS Scholarship

Make check payable to **AFMS Scholarship Fund**.Send to: **Rose Alene Mc Arthur** (see Scholarship this page).**To AFMS Endowment Fund for:**

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment
2. Memorials

Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to ALAA

Send to Joyce Hanschu, ALAA Treasurer, 6607 Sturbridge Ln; Canton, MI 48187-2638

NFMS NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

Members, Non-members, clubs, etc. can advertise in the Northwest Newsletter. This service is provided to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and is encouraged by the Federation. The only criteria for the ad is that it be hobby related (e.g. rocks, equipment, grit, shows, etc.).

Ads for the Northwest Newsletter are
\$1.50 per square inch.

Example: 3" x 4" ad = 12 inches
 12 inches x \$1.50 = \$18 per issue of the
Newsletter

Do not send ads on colored paper because the back-ground will look gray in the ad. Following the placement of the ad, the Editor will send a billing statement to the customer which will include instructions to make payment to the NFMS Treasurer. For more information or questions, call, e-mail or write the Newsletter Editor (printed elsewhere on this page.)

DEADLINE
for YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO
the next
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is
August 15th
For September 2009 Issue
509 371 1572

BRYAN SCHROEDER
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
nfmsnews@gmail.com

COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vi Jones

Rockhound of the Year Chair

The Mt. Hood Rock Club (Oregon) is proud to nominate **Lamar and Merlia Tilgner** for Rockhounds of the year 2009. Members since 1972, they have taught hundreds the arts of Capping, Silversmithing, Beading, Wire-wrapping, Displaying, Judging, Earrings, Bead Knotting, and High-speed Sanding.

Lamar was the first President of the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association and created the Northwest Rockhound Retreat. He also negotiated a display case for our club in the Northwest Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals. Merlia sews 400 grab bags each year and has been helping with Membership for over 20 years. Together they are invaluable to our club.

Stephen Petkovsek, President
Mt. Hood Rock Club

Letter to the Editor

Submitted by Laurence O'Callaghan

The story at page 5 in your July '09 edition of NW NEWSLETTER about the heavy-handed application of vague, obscure "regulations" that resulted in ridiculous charges and an exorbitant \$2000 fine being lodged against a recreational rockhound was - to say the least - very scary. It might appear to some as an example of one ranger in Georgia gone wild. That is until I read the July 09 edition of ROCK & GEM magazine, which carries an article at page 62 concerning a similar incident which happened to a rockhound in Arizona. These reports are all the more scary coming just a few days before my wife and I are to travel to Idaho to begin a few weeks of meandering and occasional recreational rockhounding in Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Montana. We're seriously wondering if similar vague and obscure "regulations" and run-amok rangers may be hiding in the bushes with their video cameras just waiting for us to pick up a few pretty rocks. Several questions come to mind: Is the news of these and similar outrages being broadcast to all branches of the AFMS, and will they be a topic for discussion at the AFMS meeting in Billings at the end of July '09? Are the names and addresses (both e-mail and snail-mail) of the appropriate responsible(?) individuals at federal and state levels being widely disseminated so that all of us who are interested in not being victims of non-uniform application of ridiculous, unpublished policies can express our outrage? I believe there should be established and advertised a website where all incidents such as those described above are recorded.

PORTLAND REGIONAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

After three not so successful years at the Portland Expo Center, the Portland Regional Gem and Mineral show returns to the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro, Oregon. Due to the economic problems everyone is facing, it was necessary to cut our show costs and move back to a more economical venue.

Portland Regional is comprised of five area clubs: Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild, (CWFG), Mt. Hood Rock Club (MHRC), North American Research Group (NARG), Oregon Agate & Mineral Society (OAMS) and Tualatin Valley Gem Club (TVGC). These clubs get together each month to plan ways to improve each year's show.

There will be FREE PARKING; general admission has been lowered to \$5.00 a day. Children 12 and under will be admitted free with an adult. This should make it more affordable for everyone who wishes to attend the show. Camping is available at the fairgrounds and reservations can be made by contacting the Fair Complex at 503-648-1416 or visit their web site at www.faircomplex.com.

This show has had the reputation of one of the biggest and best shows in the Northwest, and we hope to live up to that reputation by having over 130 displays, demonstrators and 35 to 40 dealers with supplies and equipment for sale.

We hope to see many of our friends from the Northwest Federation at our "Rockhound Revival" **September 18-20, 2009**. The hours on Friday and Saturday are 10 am to 6 pm, and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. The Fair Complex is located on Cornell Road across from the Hillsboro Airport (873 N.E. 34th Avenue). For more information, go to our web site: www.portlandregionalgemandmineral.org, or call or email me at 503-648-3989 or dmsnook28@yahoo.com.

Russ Snook, President



Robert Lee Scott

May 16, 1928 - Apr 25, 2009

Bob was born in Roaring Springs, Texas, May 16th, 1928 to Martha A. Green and

Frank Leslie Scott. Bob was raised on the farm near Morton, TX, moving to town shortly after his dad died in 1937. He joins his beloved wife of fifty-nine 1/2 years, Juanita, who passed away in December of 2006. Dad and Mom were printers by trade, having owned or worked for newspapers and print shops, including the Spokesman Review, all over the west for 36 years. He was a member of the Typographical Union. Printers by trade, rockhounds by heart, thanks to all the wonderful rockhound friends who helped provide them with endless hours of pleasure. Bob and Juanita were members of the Spokane Rock Rollers Club. Scholarship donations may be made to EWU Geology Department, 127 Hargreaves Hall, Cheney, WA 99004-2413.

Submitted by Jana Johansson, Noxon, MT

NEW ROCK COLLECTING BOOKS

The Eugene Mineral Club's next meeting features a casual discussion about rockhounding with Garret Romaine, the author of the new Gem Trails of Oregon and Gem Trails of Washington. These new editions are a great improvement over the previous versions. In the new editions, Garret describes 100 sites in Oregon and 80 in Washington, and each site description includes at least one waypoint (a GPS location) and a map of the general area. Garret is a technical writer by profession, an instructor of English at Portland State University in the evenings and an avid rockhound on the weekends.

Tim Fischer, author/owner of the OreRockOn website, praises the new edition of Gem Trails of Oregon as "... the best guide to rockhounding in Oregon that has ever been written. It is a vast improvement over the previous versions since Garret started from scratch, checked out and revised ALL of the sites in the second edition and discarded those sites (and there were many) which never contained worthwhile materials or have never been or are no longer accessible to Joe Rockhound. Then, he personally visited and added a whole slew of new sites that offer opportunities for the rockhound to visit places that have generally not been picked over." Tim also says that the Gem Trails of Washington "is the best guide in the series that has ever been written. Many sites are for the casual or beginner rockhound, but the seasoned rock veteran will also find challenging sites to explore. This book is the best, up to date, and only guide to Washington rockhounding that 95% of casual rockhounds will ever need." Via Springfield Thunderegg Rock News, 4/09

Your Congressman Will Likely Vote On Land And Water Grab (S 787)

If this bill becomes law it will put more restrictions and control on the public lands we now enjoy for Rockhounding and collecting specimens for our hobby. Even if you do not Rockhound, Fishing, Hunting and even Hiking areas are affected by this bill. Please read the following, consider the outcome and please contact your elected official and make your voting voice be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

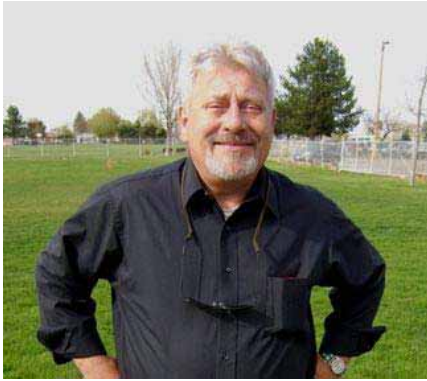
John Martin
ALAA Internet Committee
AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee

-----Do you want the Corps and EPA in your backyard?

-----Do you want the EPA and Corps to control your water?

-----Do you want the Corps and EPA to control all your watersheds that means all your land too?

-----That's what will happen if the new Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) (**S787**) passes Congress.



PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY

Andy Johnson

A BONE TO PICK

You may have read about it, possible seen it on the TV news or may have even stumbled upon it while surfing the internet as I did. What I'm talking about is the real

life story of Nathan Murphy, a commercial fossil hunter slash amateur paleontologist, who rocked the scientific community and public at large by unearthing perhaps the best preserved dinosaur in North America back in 2000. He now stands convicted in Federal Court of stealing fossils from public lands (BLM) in Montana.

His claim was that it was an honest mistake. The Federal prosecutor's claims were accurate, that this wasn't his 1st dance with the government and the laws of the land, that his willful disregard of the laws should qualify him to become the poster boy for the BLM.

Let there be no mistake among the public that the government and the legions of agencies which reputedly seek to preserve, protect and manage our right, title, and interest in our public lands will not tolerate the *For Profit Resource Hunting* by amateurs or professionals alike.

Although I believe in playing by the rules, it is becoming increasingly difficult for amateur rock hounds to know exactly what those rules and regulations are beyond the often ambiguous and loosely defined terms and definitions associated with our hobby and in some instances our livelihood. This issue is complicated even further by geographical and regional differences in our country and the various management agencies involved in obtaining accurate information and or permits. Policy decisions often are left to the regional or district administration.

One only has to read of the above or the article in last month's newsletter entitled "This Can Happen To You" or the article in the July issue of *Rock&Gem* titled "CONFISCATED!" to know the war has begun right here in America.

Editor's Note: See page 7 for more information on this subject

FEE FREE

With the summer season in full swing now, it is my hope that you have taken time out to recreate upon our Public Lands in some fashion whether rockhounding, fishing, boating, camping etc.... If for some unexplainable reason, you have not yet enjoyed your public lands and the great outdoors, consider the following.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is waiving all day-use fees at more than 2400 Corps operated recreation sites nationwide between August 1st and August 9th this year. The C.O.E. encourages all Americans to take part in our abundant outdoor recreation. The agency is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor and water-based recreation, hosting hundreds of visitors a year at more than 400 lakes and river projects.

Another opportunity to enjoy your public lands is to take advantage of the U.S. National Park services *fee-free weekend*, August 15&16th, at more than 100 National Parks that usually charge entrance fees. More information can be found at the following:

www.nps.gov -----

<http://www.usace.army.mil/CEPA/News/Pages/Home.aspx>

BLM Announces Adjustments to Mining-Related Location and Annual Maintenance Fees

The Bureau of Land Management has published in the *Federal Register* a notice that it is adjusting for inflation its fees for the location (or "staking") and maintenance of unpatented mining claims, mill sites, and tunnel sites. The location fee will increase from \$30 to \$34 and the maintenance fee will rise from \$125 to \$140 for such unpatented claims, in which no Federal land has been transferred to the individual or company staking the claim.

The adjusted fees are due on or before September 1, 2009. Mining claimants must

pay the new location fee for any mining claim or site located after the effective date of this final rule, which is today (June 29, 2009). Those who have already submitted maintenance fees for the 2010 maintenance year will be given an opportunity to pay the additional amount without penalty upon notice from the BLM.

Since Fiscal Year 1993, mining claimants staking new claims or sites have been required to pay a one-time location fee. Claimants must also pay an annual "maintenance" fee in lieu of performing annual assessment work and making annual filings.

In accordance with the Mining Law of 1872, as amended, and in light of recent related regulatory actions, the BLM is announcing today a new final rule that establishes a regular schedule for adjusting mining-related location and annual maintenance fees. Specifically, the new rule authorizes adjustments to these fees to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index every five years after August 10, 1993, or more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines an adjustment to be reasonable.

The BLM has not adjusted location and maintenance fees since 2004. The adjustments made in this final rule are based on the change in the Consumer Price Index from December 31, 2003, through December 31, 2008, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The link for this final rule in the *Federal Register* is:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-15248.pdf>

TEMPSKYA --- SO UGLY!

Submitted by Gene Gangle, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society



Our Willamette Agate and Mineral Society in Salem has a Show and Tell feature for members. We choose a letter each month and present rocks/minerals/gems beginning with that letter. The August letter is "T". I'm presenting tempskya, which, although it has been found outside Oregon, is a very unusual and scarce fossil in the Oregon fossil record period.

The first thing that needs to be addressed is the pronunciation. It is pronounced "temp-skee". I know. What happened to the "a"? Why spell it the way they do? I don't know. And I realize that, as I say that, I am violating the unofficial mantra of the rockhound when I say, "I don't know". (The unofficial mantra of the rockhound is "what we don't know, we make up").

The second characteristic of tempskya has to do with its color, which is a brown butterscotch or "baby-poop brown". Take your pick. I have only actually seen tempskya from Oregon, but I read an article about the tempskya that is found on the East Coast in the Carolinas, and they describe the color as "creamy, with pastels". The morphology and cell structure are the same as in Oregon material, but, evidently the minerals present in the silica-rich water in the petrification process were different than in the Oregon material, which is the aforementioned consistent, rather prosaic, brown. Sort of ugly.

Continued on page 5

TEMPSKYA (continued from page 4)

Which reminds me of a story.

In my career as an educator, my contacts with the nearby community were often along the lines of concerns or complaints. A lady who sounded elderly called to say that, during lunchtime, a young man who she thought was one of our students walked across her lawn and tossed a partially-consumed milkshake on her lawn. She wanted to know if we could do something about that. I responded by saying we had a responsibility for our students from the time they left for school until they were back home. I followed that statement up by asking if she knew the boy in question. She started to say, "You know", then she hesitated, then added, "I don't know how to say this", and she paused, then continued, "but he's the ugliest kid I've ever seen." We had 1600 students at Sprague High School. I knew who it was. Instantly.

Once you have seen a sample of tempskya, you will know it when you see it again. Almost instantly. The color is distinctive, if not ugly. As I understand where tempskya stands in the fossil record, it is in between a fern and a palm tree. It has a rough, bark-like exterior, with "eyes" scattered across the organic material inside, which represent the vascular bundles used to transport water and nutrients. I should add that Dr. C.A. Arnold, a paleobotanist at the University of Michigan, stated that "several species of tempskya have been described from North America, but the Greenhorn material represents a form different from any of the previously-known ones". (October, 1940, Mineralogist). Thus, Oregon tempskya appears to be unique.

The third thing that attaches significance to Oregon tempskya is not only where it stands evolution-wise in the fossil record, but also when it occurs in the fossil record. It is a cretaceous-period fossil. In reading the literature on tempskya, I found that the occurrence was in an alluvial (water-worn) deposit near the town of Greenhorn, which is on the Baker/Grant County line, at about the 7,000 foot level. (This is what I've read. I've not been there).

So, I called up Aaron Currier, who was sort of connected at the hip (that may be a fossil phrase) with fossils. I asked him if he knew about tempskya. He said he had heard of it, but really didn't know much about it. I said, "It's a cretaceous plant". Aaron said that sounded right. I asked, "How can that be?" and went on to tell Aaron what he already knew, that the cretaceous period started 135,000,000 years ago. Oregon didn't exist until 45-55,000,000 years ago. Then, when I researched the tempskya story, I found out that the North American continent, western coast, 135,000,000 years ago, was somewhere around Idaho and the Greenhorn deposit occurred on islands, 6-7,000 feet high, off the Idaho coast. Thus, the alluvial deposit at Greenhorn.

So the tempskya story illustrates an unusual time in fossil/plant transition from fern to tree and highlights an Oregon fossil that flourished before Oregon was Oregon. Metasequoia, our state fossil, occurs in California, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. Oh, and Oregon. Because it is so unusual and rare, I believe tempskya has a stronger claim to be the Oregon state fossil. I should have campaigned when the legislature made its choice. I guess the message is, "Don't hide your light under a bushel". Rocks either.

The Rice Museum in Hillsboro has some wonderful samples of tempskya, including a highly-prized variation which shows scarlet streaks on transverse cross-sections.

Yes, I know tempskya is kind of ugly, but it holds a rather unique place in the Oregon geologic and fossil record. So ugly, so special.

Thulite at Tunk Creek

by

Bob Bristow

Can you recognize blue schist? Neither could I, but I had decided to see if I could find some of the famous thulite in the blue schist of Tunk Creek near

Riverside, Washington. This was during my first visit to NE Washington. I was spending a week going from one mineral site to another with my son, Dale, and my brother and his wife. We stopped near the bridge over Tunk Creek and prepared to climb down under the bridge and search downstream. As we were putting our packs on, a car stopped and the driver very seriously warned us to not go down the stream. It was full of rattlesnakes and we were sure to get bit!



Figure 1. Blue Schist of Tunk Creek

Blue schist is rare in most places, but is famous in the coast range of California as the home for several rare minerals. It is believed to have formed in California as plate scrapings. Not dinner plates, but tectonic plates. The whole North American continent is being pushed west by the opening Atlantic Ocean. The continent collides with plates in the Pacific. When these plates ram into each other, the boundary must give. In California, one of the oceanic plates was driven under the continental plate. As the dense basalt of the oceanic plate slid under the lighter granite of the continental plate, the material that had collected on the ocean floor slid off into a huge "windrow" under water. Later, the Pacific plate ruptured further out in the ocean and the old windrow was heated and pressurized until new, and sometimes exotic, minerals formed. Later yet, the whole windrow was lifted up and now forms the Coast Range.

That is California. How about Washington? The blue schist of Tunk Creek probably formed the same way. The old North American continent edge is approximately along the edge of Idaho. The land west of this line is mostly made up of a series of islands that "docked" with the continent. As each island was "rafted" in and docked, a new subduction zone formed further out to sea. The schist of Tunk Creek was probably formed at one of these subduction zones. When you walk down the creek, the rocks you see were formed from goo in the bottom on the ocean.

The blue schist of Tunk Creek is a gray, soft schist that erodes easily. Actually, much of the rock you see along the creek is not schist, but a course-grained gray rock composed of zoisite. In places, the gray turns to dark green and here and there it is colored pink. It is this pink variety that is called "thulite." The books I had read on Tunk Creek said that there are blue sapphires associated with the thulite. The books also reported that on the hill south of the creek is located a pegmatite in which a small crystal of gem-quality aquamarine had been found.

Meanwhile, back at the Tunk Creek bridge, I smiled at the gentleman who had tried to discourage us from getting off the road and said, "Not to worry!" as I strapped on my revolver. Without a word, he disappeared down the road. Figure 1 shows the members of my family making their way through the water-sculptured schist of Tunk Creek.

We worked our way down the creek bottom looking for pink. It seems many people had had the same idea, and little of the thulite was left. It was late summer and the creek was hardly flowing. However, there were large pools with many large fish. We began to think that we should be fishing rather than rock hunting! We eventually reached the edge of the Omak River canyon. At this point Tunk Creek tumbles down the steep cliffs through a series of small pools. We didn't see any thulite, but the uppermost pool was occupied by a man and two women skinny-dipping. Since the temperature was over 100 degrees, a dip in the water sounded pretty good. We decided to "fat dip" on the way back up. (We jumped in with our clothes on and let them dry as we walked up the narrow canyon.)

One of the last pools before the creek dropped into the Omak River held what we were looking for, a large chunk of pink thulite. However, it was far too big to carry out and the thulite was so tough we gave up and left the whole thing there. Figure 2 shows Dale fat dipping around the thulite boulder.



Figure 2. Dale with Thulite Boulder

Continued on page 6

Thulite (Continued from page 5)

There was plenty of light pink thulite, but I wanted some of the bright pink material that has made the area famous. As we worked our way back up the stream, I climbed up on a ledge and spotted a small bit of pink. When I broke open the rock, I found the beautiful specimen shown in Figure 3. I also found some very good material with a mixture of pink and green. I broke off several pieces and felt I had made a good haul. However, after I got home and turned over one of the green chunks, I discovered a large red ruby on the back side. Unfortunately, I had managed to hit the ruby dead center with my rock hammer and it was shattered. At any rate, I had found a ruby, which must be rare. I have heard of blue corundum (sapphire) being found but not red corundum (ruby).



Figure 3. Thulite Specimen

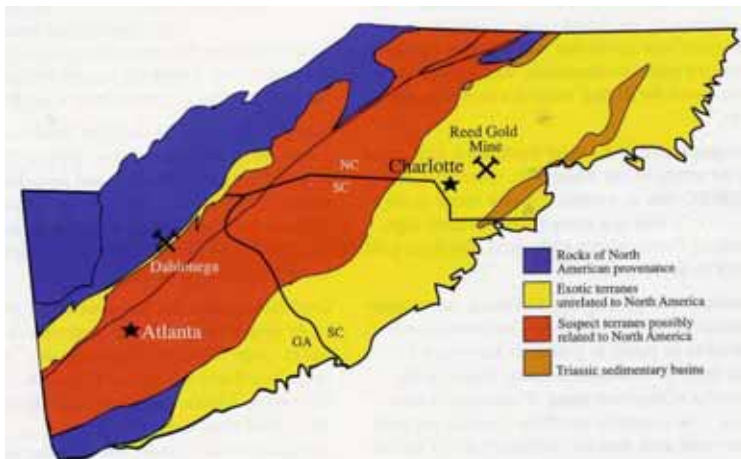
North America's First Gold Rush

In any epidemic there is an index patient, the first to exhibit the symptoms. If gold fever may be considered a disease, the first outbreak occurred in 1799 in North Carolina, spreading in 1829 to Georgia and to California in 1849. Like any epidemic, it began slowly in an isolated area and built in intensity until it was completely uncontrollable.

The goldfields of the Southeastern United States are spread throughout the Piedmont, from Virginia to Alabama, and in the eastern Blue Ridge of Georgia. The roots of North Carolina and Georgia gold rushes run deep into the Earth's crust and into geologic time. The eastern edge of North America is a patchwork of terranes: exotic terranes unrelated to North America and suspect terranes that may or may not have originally been North American real estate. These terranes were packed onto the edge of North America by the tectonic collisions that built the Appalachians. These terranes are piled, faulted and crumpled like automobiles in a multi-car collision.

Not From Around Here

The Carolina terrane, a remnant of a Proterozoic volcanic island arc similar to modern-day Indonesia, extends from Virginia to Georgia. Its geologic history can be summarized in the regional euphemism for a newcomer: *not from around here*. The fossils of this island arc are unrelated to North American fauna of the same age. While the Carolina terrane was forming in a compressional setting somewhere nearer to Gondawana, what was then the edge of North America was accumulating sediments in a passive margin similar to today's Atlantic Coast. Geochemical studies of its igneous rocks have supported the widely accepted conclusion that the Carolina terrane is exotic to North America. Although not as regionally extensive or as well studied, the Dahlongega belt of Georgia is interpreted as another exotic island arc of Ordovician age.



In North Carolina all of the parts of the volcanic islands are found: Proterozoic shallow igneous bodies, volcanic plumbing systems, ash flows and all of the sediments shed from the volcanic edifice. The heat from these volcanoes drove the hydrothermal systems that are essential to concentrate gold. Around the volcanoes, circulating hot water scavenged gold and silica, concentrating them into gold-bearing quartz veins. Behind the arc and the continental margin, possibly in an extensional setting, hot fluids spewed out into cold ocean water and precipitated as volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits. The entire Carolina terrane was later metamorphosed, a process that may have acted to remobilize and further concentrate its gold. Weathering freed the gold from the rock, and water concentrated it into placers. The human story begins with those placers.

Onset of the Gold Bug

Though Dahlongega is a corruption of the name *Da-lo-Ne-Ga*, meaning *yellow*, that the Cherokees gave to the Georgia gold region, there is only insubstantial evidence of Native American or Spanish mining in the Southeast, and not for gold but for mica. Hernando de Soto traced a thin line through the Southeast in his quest for gold and narrowly missed the rich deposits. Gold from Guilford County, North Carolina made its way to Governor Josiah Martin in 1774, and in 1781 Thomas Jefferson mentioned a Virginia gold discovery "of extraordinary ductility". In 1790 Benjamin Franklin observed, "Gold and silver are not the produce of North America, which has no mines".

Just nine years after Franklin made that statement, Conrad Reed became the index patient for the epidemic of gold fever. Conrad's father John Reed deserted from the Hessian Army in Savannah in 1782 and moved to remote, rural North Carolina. John Reed's reward for desertion was magnificent: in 1799 Conrad discovered a 17 pound nugget in the Little Meadow Creek in Cabarrus County (Knapp & Glass, 1999).

Piedmont farmers have a strong sense of practicality. The Uwharrie Meteorite (NCSM#308) first found use as a barnyard anvil, and Conrad's gold nugget served for three years as a doorstep in the Reed home. It was identified as gold by a Fayetteville jeweler who purchased it for US\$3.50. Gold mining on the Reed property proceeded in a practical way as a means to augment farming income. When state geologist Denison Olmsted visited the farm in 1821, he noted that many small pits pockmarked the floodplain for a quarter mile up and down Little Meadow Creek.

This supplementary mining income included a 12.7 kilogram (28 pound) nugget found by a slave named Peter in 1803. Assuming 0.99 fine and a price of around \$380 per ounce, that nugget would be worth \$155,000. Five nuggets, ranging from .45 to 4 kilos (1 to 9 pounds), were found in 1804. At \$350 per ounce, these five nuggets would have a bullion value of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 each.

Full-Blown Infection

Placer mining spread rapidly throughout the region. Mathias Barringer mined placers on his farm in Stanly County, then moved upstream to the point at which no more gold could be found. In 1825 he located the quartz vein that was the source of the gold nuggets, and he began hard-rock mining. Barringer's discovery in conjunction with the continuous flow of news of other placer finds brought a flood of newcomers, interested solely in the gold, to the region. Eventually, mining professionals from as far away as Germany and England appeared in North Carolina to follow the gold underground. At the Reed mine, underground mining began in 1831.

Late in 1828, gold discoveries sparked a placer mining boom in Burke County, North Carolina, with farmers discovering more gold by February of 1829. By Fletcher Green's account, the mid-1820s saw miners in Mecklenburg County pulling \$2,000 worth of gold per week from the mines. Newspapers and correspondences from both counties record the mania surrounding the gold finds. The Reed and Barringer properties were not far from South Carolina, and modern geologic maps show the areas to be very similar. Prospectors of the time were somewhat aware of the similarities, but persistence, astute observation and luck proved more important than formal education. In 1827 placer gold was discovered at the Haile mine in South Carolina. It, along with the adjacent Brewer mine, became one of the major producers of gold in the Southeast.

Reference: Gold, The Noble Mineral, extraLapis English No. 5, North America's First Gold Rush, Page 16, by R. Chris Tacker

Editor's Note: Today, gold is about \$950 per troy ounce and 12 ounces = one pound

Paleontologist gets 60 days for stealing bones

(Compliments of: helenair.com)

By MATTHEW BROWN - Associated Press - 06/02/09

BILLINGS — Amateur paleontologist Nathan Murphy, a commercial fossil hunter whose discovery of the world's best-preserved dinosaur brought scientific acclaim, will serve 60 days in jail for stealing an ancient raptor fossil from private land.

Sentencing in a separate federal case involving Murphy's theft of at least a dozen more fossils is scheduled for July 9.

Since he was charged with felony theft last year, Murphy has argued a series of honest mistakes led to the joint federal-state criminal investigation that brought his conviction. But in an interview Monday with The Associated Press, he acknowledged concealing the truth about where the raptor bones came from — and suggested he was not the only fossil hunter to make false claims.

"I understand my responsibility and I hope others who were involved in it will take it to heart," he said. "The investigation created a poster boy. They're going to have Nate Murphy to hold up to the public and say, 'Don't pick up nothing on public land, and know where you are at.' They needed somebody like me."

The self-taught owner of a Billings business that lets people pay to dig for fossils, Murphy, 51, was convicted in March on the state charge. Investigators say he secretly removed the bones from a ranch in the Malta area and later claimed they came from elsewhere.

Murphy's work includes unearthing a mummified duckbill dinosaur dubbed Leonardo, considered the world's best-preserved fossil. The bones of the turkey-sized prehistoric raptor at the heart of his theft conviction were found by one of his workers in 2002.

A former colleague said Murphy's fall from the pinnacle of the paleontological world was deserved, given his preference for profit over science.

"Nate was truly gifted," said Joe Iacuzzo with the Leonardo Project, an organization set up to promote the fossil that brought Murphy fame.

"Very few people have discovered what he discovered, but he was compelled to lie about it. He unequivocally was taking fossils from various sites, including the Hammond ranch (where the raptor was found), and selling them," Iacuzzo said.

Murphy must serve his 60 days at some point during the next 6 months. He said Monday that he is likely to conduct another dinosaur dig in the interim.

At the sentencing Wednesday, District Judge John C. McKeon ordered him to pay a \$2,500 fine and \$650 in restitution. A possible five-year jail term was deferred, with the paleontologist to remain on probation.

Murphy's attorney, Michael Moses, said jail time had not been expected under the terms of Murphy's guilty plea. But he said the judge made a fair decision.

"What Nate did wasn't good," Moses said. "The judge recognized the significance of it. You don't get to put your hand in the cookie jar, take out a cookie and then 6 months later put the cookie back in."

A spokeswoman for the Montana attorney general did not have an immediate comment on the case.

Law enforcement officials and other paleontologists have said the case shed light on the chronic problem of fossil theft, which is driven by the increasingly high prices that rare specimens bring on the open market.

More than 200 law enforcement incidents involving fossils were tallied by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over the last decade, federal officials say.

The bones of the raptor that Murphy stole were initially nicknamed "Julie" after the sister of an Australian, Mark Thompson, who found the bones while working with Murphy's son on a ranch in Phillips County in August, 2002.

Thompson was asked to keep quiet about the find, according to court records. Later, after Murphy gained possession of the fossil, he gave it another nickname, "Sid Vicious," and said he had found it in 2006 near Saco, Mont.

By then, Murphy had sought to have molds of the fossils made that could have brought up to \$400,000, through the sale of casts on the retail fossil market.

He was convicted in April on a separate federal charge of theft of public property, for stealing more than a dozen fossilized dinosaur bones from BLM land near Malta without having a permit. His July sentencing will be before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon.

While he awaits his time in jail, Murphy said he plans to continue leading dinosaur excavation tours, with a month long expedition scheduled in the summer near Grass Range.

Murphy resigned from his job as curator of the Judith River Dinosaur Foundation, a private museum in Malta, in June 2007, as the federal-state investigation into his activities began.

He said his conviction had hurt his fossil excavation business, and that most of this summer's participants will be student workers who will not bring in any money.

"I'm going to just move on," he said. "I have a lot of people that have supported me over the years that have continued to support me."

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2009 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Jul 30-Aug 2 Thur 10-5 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun: 10-5	NFMS/AFMS Combined Show hosted by Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 51 st year	Holiday Inn Grand Montana 5500 Midland Rd Billings MT	Doug True 406-670-0506 dtruefossils@yahoo.com
Jul 31-Aug 2 Fri 9-5 Sat 9-5 Sun: 10-4	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society, Annual Rock and Gem Show	North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway North Bend, OR	Rocky Pribble 541-572-8301 Greg Solarz 541-756-3957
Aug 15-16 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	The Nisqually Valley Rockhound Society's Annual Show	Yelm Middle School Hwy 510 Yelm, WA	Mike Smith 360-458-8747 msmith2012@ywave.com
Sep 12-13 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society Show	Walla Walla County Fair, 9th St. and Orchard, Comm. Center, Walla Walla, WA	Warren Rood 509-522-2330 wrood@coffeycomm.com
Sep 18-20 Fri 8-6 Sat 8-6 Sun 8-5	29th Annual Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, "A Rockhound Revival"	Fair Complex (across from Hillsboro Airport) Hillsboro, Oregon	Russ Snook 503-648-3989, dmsnook28@yahoo.com
Sep 18-20 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society ANNUAL GEM FEST	4 th St. Parking Lot (across from Outdoor Inn) Coos Bay, OR	Rocky Pribble 541-572-8301
Sep 26-27 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Hellgate Mineral Society 15th Show, GOLD (50 Yrs) Rockhounding	Ruby's Reserve Street Inn, 4825 N. Reserve Missoula Montana	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday LN, Missoula Montana 59081 (406) 543-3667
Oct 2-4 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Society "Earth's Treasures"	Clallam County Boys/Girls Club 400 West Fir Street Sequim, WA 98382	Foster Thompson, 360-670- 1405 or 360-681-7981 Sonia Zachman 360-452-8588
Oct 10-11 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marysville Rock & Gem Club Annual "Rocktoberfest" show	Totem Middle School 7th Street & State Ave Marysville, WA 98270	Bill Moser, 425-238-8222 bill-ji@comcast.net or Rocky McCall 360-629-2515
Oct 16-18 Fri 12-7 pm Sat 10-7 Sun 11-4	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club 52nd Annual Rock and Gem Show	Gateway Mall 3000 Gateway Street Springfield, OR	Bob Smith 541-741-0060 John Randall 541-683-2661 sweetbottom@juno.com
Oct 17-18 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	43rd Annual Hells Canyon Gem Club Show "Hidden Treasure"	Nez Perce County Fair Building 1229 Burrell Ave Lewiston, Idaho	Rick Westerholm (208) 746-2101 rkwest@cableneer.net
Oct 24-25 Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5	Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, "Nature's Beauty in Stone 2009"	Clackamas Co Fairground Pavilion Bldg, 694 NE 4th Ave., Canby, Oregon	Rick Mauzer 503-691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Oct 24-25 Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5	Belleuve Rock Club "Octoberfest of Gems"	Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE Bellevue, WA 98008	Marjorie McKinley, PO Box 1851, Bellevue, WA 98009, 206-633-1421
Nov 6-8 Fri 5-9 Sat 10-5 Sun 11-4	Chugach Gem & Mineral Society & Alaska Miners Assoc. 8th Annual show CGMS' 50 th Anniv.	Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 2nd floor, 401 E. 6th Ave Anchorage, Alaska	Anita Williams (awilliam@alaska.net) Sharon Cox at 907-563-9229

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Nov 13-15 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4	South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral 5th annual show (BEMS & NOA)	Puyallup Fairgrounds Exposition Hall, Meridian Street S and 9TH Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371	Lyle & Char Jorgensen 425-483-0557 mechanix@comcast.net
Nov 14-15 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-5	Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Annual Show "Treasures of the Earth"	Sedro Woolley Community Center, 720 State St. Sedro Woolley, WA	Lois Stone Clear Lake, WA (360) 856-1190
Nov 21-22 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society Show "Fall Festival of Gems"	Kitsap County Fairgrounds 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd (Pres. Hall), Bremerton, WA	Gerry Alexander (360) 876-4543

2010 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Feb 13-14 Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4	Whidbey Island Gem Club 45th Annual Sweet- heart of Gems Show	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 S. E. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA	Keith Ludemann 360-675-1837 rock9@whidbey.net
Feb 27-28 Sat 10-7 Sun 10-5	Idaho Gem Club Annual Show	Expo Idaho 5610 Glenwood Boise, Idaho	Charlie Smith (208) 628-4002

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