



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



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Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

July 2008

Tri Federation Field Trip

By Patty Amos NFMS President



Digging for Onyx

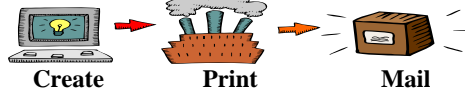
If you did not make the Tri Federation Trip, we had a great time. We had somewhere around 125 people coming and going. The weather wasn't real good to us most of the time. We arrived on Tuesday along with Dick Pankey and a few other people. Our first night we had a howling dust storm, which lasted for a good ½ hr or more before it finally left us with high winds. Wednesday we had cold and I mean cold winds. We went up to Opal springs and marked the area for a field trip while Dick Pankey went and marked other areas. We did some digging while up there and found some nice pieces of paisley agate and jasper. We had at least 2 and sometimes 3 field trips going out each day. Our trips included Classic Pink limb & the small pink limbs, Onyx, Rich's hill wood, Opal Springs, Paisley Agate and Jasper, Contact eggs and Rabbit Springs eggs. Our weather did not get any better, and we didn't have any heat in the trailer for the first couple of nights, and the temperatures were in the 30's at night and most of the day. We went on a field trip Thursday, which took us to the wood area. It hailed and snowed most of the day. And again we had the winds making it a lot colder. We were going to have a potluck and a Thursday night speaker, but he was sick and it was so cold and windy no one went outside. So we postponed the potluck until Friday night. We had a nice day for the most part Friday, and then when we got back to camp the hail (and it was big) came. Then we had a huge rainstorm so you guessed it no potluck again. We did finally manage to have a campfire Friday night after it had quit raining which we had wanted to have but due to the high winds was not possible. Saturday we started out with blue skies, but it is getting cloudy as I write this article. The rain held off and we were able to have our potluck with a lot of good food to share.



Sunday, most of the people went to Contact and Rabbit Springs and then on to Cactus Pete's for their buffet. The rains hit later in the evening so we were able to rockhound most of the day with just a few sprinkles. We started losing members from the camp on Sunday and a few more of them left today (Monday). Most of us will leave on Tuesday to head back home. Some people went out on a field trip Tuesday, and of course it was raining again. The NFMS was well represented at the gathering; thank you all for those participating. (Additional pictures are on page 3.)

Circulation Chairman

Publication Department Northwest Newsletter



The new Circulation Chairman is Tom Burchard. He replaces Bev Schroeder, and this change becomes effective immediately. Tom is past President of the Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society of Ogden UT. If you add a new member to your club, or a member has a change of address, or delete member, please inform Tom of these changes by contacting him via:

Tom Burchard
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or
Roxhund@aol.com

If you keep Tom updated on your current membership, then the proper people will receive the Northwest Newsletter, the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS).

*****NEWSLETTER NOTICE*****

The Northwest Newsletter will not be published the month of August (next month). Your editor needs a break. In addition, the bylaws specify only 10 issues per year and an August issue would make it 11.

Articles for publication in the September Issue are due to the editor by August 10th. This will give those responsible for submitting all the information about awards from the annual show an extra few weeks.

What's Inside

NFMS Information.....2
 Officer & Committee Reports.....3-4
 NW Fossil Forest.....3
 Rockhound of the Year.....3
 Part II Future Rockhounds of America..4
 Butte Annual Rendezvous.....4
 AFMS Club Survey Request.....5
 Junior Rockhound6
 National Forest Access Issues.....7
 Show Calendar.....8

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

August 10, 2007

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www.amfed.org/nfms

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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: TBD

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

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
Endowment Fund Treasurer is an open position. Should ask Edna Nelson who she wants the funds to be sent to.

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions

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: To Be Determined

To **ALAA** Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to **ALAA**
Send to Norman W. 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.)

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For the Sept 2008 Issue
(No August Issue)
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COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tri-Federation Field Trip Pictures



Heading Out for the Big Dig



A Rock Swap



Digging for Opals



And It Was COLD Too!



Submitted by Evelyn Cataldo, 2nd Vice President

In the photo above, I am with three Pebble Pups who are working their way towards becoming full fledged Rockhounds via the Future Rockhounds of America's Merit Badge Program. These Pebble Pups attended the sponsoring club's meeting to receive their earned merit badges and to report on what they did to earn the badges. The Merit Badge Program is a wonderful system developed by the American Federation to support youth groups. The program is modeled after the Boy and Girl Scout Merit Badge system. The 15 merit badges are Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, Leadership, Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art and Rocking on the Computer. It is a creative program with great flexibility. The Pebble Pups love it! If you are not using the program with your youth group and want more details, check out the "Kids Corner" section of the AFMS web site: www.amfd.org. I think you will be glad you did. The site has a 155 page guidebook describing and outlining requirements and activities for each of the 15 merit badges.

Have a fun and safe Fourth of July.

Fossil Forests of the Northwest

By Betty McLin Hare, Idaho Gem Club member

There are many examples of the extensive forests that covered the northwest several times during the past. There is the Petrified Forest in Yellowstone Park, the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Oregon, the Clarkia or Latah floras of northern Idaho, Succor Creek along the Idaho/Oregon border and the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado. Each place concentrates on a different type of preservation or vegetation because each exemplifies a different environmental region or time.

Utah hosts the second largest petrified forest in North America, probably in the world. It is in the Circle Cliffs portion of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. However, because of its remote location few people have even heard about it, let alone visited it. The Wolverine Petrified Forest in Utah has fossil *Araucarioxylon* trees buried in the ground and exposed by erosion. These trees grew during the Jurassic period along with the dinosaurs. (An excellent article online can tell you more about this little known petrified forest.)

Washington has the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park near Vantage. Forests of mixed deciduous trees and conifers once covered land that now can only support sagebrush, shrubs, and grasses. Volcanic eruptions that covered southeastern Washington during the Miocene epoch preserved the wood, providing evidence of these ancient forests.

Alaska has research going on at several places: Axel Heiberg Island where *Metasequoia* (dawn redwood) and *Gyptostrobus* (swamp cedar) are found, Ellesmere Island where the finds are proving a warmer ecosystem in the past, to Malaspina Glacier where rain forest palm tree remains are coming out of glacial ice!

Idaho's Clarkia & Latah floras of the Panhandle region are preserved in ash nodules that look like cobble stones, but can be cracked in half to reveal leaves. Most nodules still show the carbon that the leaves held within their systems. Succor Creek along the Idaho/Oregon border also yields numerous leaf fossils.

The John Day Fossil Beds cover a period of time from 44-8 million years ago. Forty-four million years ago, central Oregon was a hot, wet, semitropical place filled with a wide diversity of plants. Many of the fossils were preserved in volcanic ash or "lahar" mudflows made of volcanic ash.

The Florissant Fossil Beds of Colorado have a very well-developed visitor's area. Much can be learned there. The fossils preserved at Florissant are a wonderful snapshot of a nearly complete Eocene forest ecosystem with plants, herbivores and their predators. The preservation is great! Large palm fronds still exist in the shape that they were so many years ago!

Petrified wood is especially well known in Wyoming's Yellowstone Park, and visitors can see a petrified tree stump in front of the Albright Visitor Center, a fenced-in tree stump in the Tower area and petrified wood in the foundation of the Roosevelt lodge. Although collecting petrified wood in the National Parks is illegal, to the north Petrified Gallatin Forest offers 26,000 acres to collect from inside the Gallatin National Forest.

There are too many more leaf fossil and petrified wood sites to list. Half of the fun is learning about the sites, what age and composition the sediments are and what plants and animals make up the fossils. Near home is a good place to begin. Check at your local library to start learning about the leaf fossils near you!

2008 AFMS Rockhound of the Year

Submitted by Howard S. Walter, Jr., NFMS Fed. Dir.

"On behalf of the Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, Inc., I nominate as our candidates for Rockhound of the Year, **Peggy Williamson** and her cohort **Bonny Connel**. Both have served in many club offices diligently, but this is not their greatest achievement. They established and organized the junior's, "The Dirt Diggers" junior's program. Through collaboration on their parts they were able to put together a program similar to that provided by the AFMS's FRA (Future Rock-hounds of America.) An achievement completed by the kids was rewarded by receipt of a badge like those provided by the FRA. All this was completed before the FRA program was put into effect. In addition to all the other duties provided by these individuals, I think the kids program will be the most rewarding. The future of our hobby and the lapidary arts in particular lies in the hands of our youth. Therefore, I submit the above individuals as most deserving of this honor."

PART II - CLEARING UP MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE AFMS FRA PROGRAM

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Program Chair

The Number One goal of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America program is to reach out to as many kids as possible to fan whatever budding interest they may have in rocks, fossils, and lapidary arts. In messages I've received via email, in talking with folks at gem shows and annual Federation meetings, and via the grapevine, I've become aware of a number of misperceptions about the AFMS/FRA program, and some of these are standing in the way of our goal. I'd like to clear up several of the more common misperceptions I've heard and encourage you to actively enroll each and every child in each and every club into FRA.

Misperception 1: *To sign your juniors and pebble pups into FRA, you must have a whole group of kids, a youth leader, and a formal, structured youth program within your society.* Not so! I constantly hear from folks that their society doesn't have enough kids to start the FRA program, or that their board of directors resists starting a youth group (that one always turns my head!). We want the program to be as inclusive as possible, and you don't need a big, formal group. If your society has just one child, sign that child up! We'll send an FRA membership badge, and they'll have a stronger sense of belonging to the community of your club. You don't need to wait until you have a whole roomful of kids and a youth leader. Start the ball rolling with a single child!

Misperception 2: *To be in FRA, you actively need to implement the Badge Program.* Not so! The badge program was set up to provide just one source of structured activities, but you don't need to use it at all to enroll your kids into FRA. In working with kids in your society, you can use your own activities or commercial sets of activities (like the great packets developed by Diamond Dan or activities sold by Ward's or Edmund Scientific), or simply have your club's kids participate in the regular workshops, shows, and field trips your club undertakes in its normal course of business. The Badge Program is simply meant to serve as one option among many to utilize with your kids.

Misperception 3: *To use the FRA Badge Program, you need to set up a formal schedule and arrange group activities with all the kids in your club.* Not so! A lot of folks tell me they'd like to use the badge program, but it's just too hard to schedule times when all the kids can get together, especially between after-school soccer, band, baseball, etc. I encourage you to be as flexible as possible with the Badge Program. A number of the activities are a lot more fun if done within a group, but don't let the inability to schedule a time get in the way. Allow for individual "independent study" and "home-schooling" for motivated juniors. The back-up pages in the Badge Manual were developed to give folks with minimal background what they need to guide kids through the activities, and these back-up pages can be shared with parents to work with their kids on their own at home. So give parents a copy of the manual and encourage them to sit down with their kids to pick out activities they'd like to do. All we need in order to send a child a badge is a responsible adult—a parent or designated club member—to sign off to indicate successful completion, and a badge will be on the way to mark that child's accomplishments with a colorful, tangible reward.

Misperception 4: *To use the FRA Badge Program and award badges to your kids, you must follow the manual to the letter.* Not so! When they've received the manual, some folks have said its size looks daunting, that the badge program seems designed for the "Eagle Scouts" among their junior members, and that some of the activities may be too involved for younger members. But, as I note in the Introduction to the manual, you're encouraged to adjust the level of each activity to best match ages and abilities of your club's kids. You don't need to follow each activity exactly as laid out. *Modify*, where necessary *simplify*, but above all *utilize* the program! Feel completely free to make any activity as accessible as possible for the kids with whom you're working. The goal is to help kids have fun while learning, so if you see a different spin on a particular activity that'll work better with your kids, by all means, take that spin, and then let's reward the kids with badges.

Misperception 5: *If a society doesn't have any kids, the society can't do anything with the FRA program.* Actually, this seems pretty self-evident, and I myself held this misperception—until a couple of local societies showed me the way. One society in Texas lacks junior members, so they went to where the kids are! They're using the FRA Fossils activities and badges with local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, hoping it might serve to attract kids to the club. Another society sponsors a geology club in one of their local schools that now uses the Badge

Program. I personally have found such examples of resourcefulness inspiring!

So my basic message? Let's not make things complicated nor let misperceptions get in the way. Rather than looking for reasons *not* to enroll kids into FRA, let's follow the example of those clubs that went to where the kids are and get creative with a program that's been set up for every club, even those with just a single child member, or, apparently, even those with no children at all! Don't have "enough" kids? Don't want to begin until you hold endless debates at board meetings about starting a juniors group? Don't know if you want to use the Badge Program? Don't know how to get started? Well, "don't" isn't exactly an inspiring word; in fact, it's a word often used to beat down the inner child within us all. Don't let "don't" get in the way of that key first step toward inspiring our children. I urge one and all to call me today (Jim Brace-Thompson, 805-659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com) to sign up each and every child. It's the first step toward bringing along the next generation of rockhounds while, as always, having fun!

Editor's Note: Part I was published in the May 2008 issue of this newsletter and Part III will be published in the September 2008 issue.

Butte Mineral & Gem Club 3rd Annual Rendezvous (Rock Collecting Field Trip)

Things that can be found are Rhyolite (Montana Wonder Stone), Garnet, Corundum (star sapphires), Conversation, Carnelian Agate, Quartz, and other related gems and minerals. A pot luck dinner is scheduled on August 17th.

Date: August 17th to August 22nd.

The Rendezvous will be held on private land and next to the sweetwater stream. This will be a dry camping with no hookups. The fee will be \$25.00 for the five days which will be used to help off-set the cost of the chemical toilets that will be brought in. **All are welcome!!!** For more information, contact:

Tim Hoff
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406.782.4326
ttinker9742@bigskyhsd.com

Editor's Note: Tim sent me a map to be printed in the Newsletter, but the map is not printable. You might contact Tim for a copy.

FAR WEST LAPIDARY & GEM SOCIETY

ANNUAL ROCK AND GEM SHOW

AUGUST 2nd & 3rd 2008

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AFMS Participation Survey

1. Club Publication (Bulletin Editors' Contest)

Have you participated in the past? Yes No

Plan to participate in the future? Yes No

Should this program be eliminated? Yes No

Should this program remain the same? Yes No

If you have not participated in this program, why not? _____

2. Program Competition

Have you participated in the past? Yes No

Plan to participate in the future? Yes No

Should this program be eliminated? Yes No

Should this program remain the same? Yes No

If you have not participated in this program, why not? _____

3. Uniform Rules and Competitive Exhibiting

Have you participated in the past? Yes No

Plan to participate in the future? Yes No

Should this program be eliminated? Yes No

Should this program remain the same? Yes No

If you have not participated in this program, why not? _____

4. AFMS Rockhound of the Year

Have you participated in the past? Yes No

Plan to participate in the future? Yes No

Should this program be eliminated? Yes No

Should this program remain the same? Yes No

If you have not participated in this program, why not? _____

5. Education - All American Award

Have you participated in the past? Yes No

Plan to participate in the future? Yes No

Should this program be eliminated? Yes No

Should this program remain the same? Yes No

If you have not participated in this program, why not? _____

Additional Comments _____

Club Name _____

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL NFMS MEMBERS

I am serving as a member of an Ad hoc Committee for the AFMS whose purpose is to poll members about the lack of interest or participation in some of the programs offered to AFMS members. This is being done in each Regional Federation.

If participation is found to be poor, or there is a lack of interest, perhaps some programs can be modified, or, if really not used enough to warrant their expense, discontinued. This would mean a savings in AFMS expenses and also free a Committee Chairman for more meaningful work.

The programs in question in particular are:

- 1. Club Publications - Bulletin Contests
- 2. Program Competition - Slide/Video Programs
- 3. Uniform Rules - Competitive Exhibits
- 4. Two special AFMS Competitions:
 - a. Clubs Rockhound of the Year
 - b. Education - All American Club

There are other programs that may need to be reviewed so feel free to comment on any AFMS programs (projects) you have an opinion about. Following is a survey I would like to have clubs complete. Consult with your club members regarding their opinion and return the poll to me.

Dorothy Lee
 704 SW 31st St.
 Pendleton, OR 97801
 Ph 541-276-2365

We would appreciate any comments you wish to make. The more information we have the better decisions we can make. If your Club was represented at the NFMS Midyear Meeting your delegate received a copy of this information. This will serve as a reminder to fill out the form and return to me if you haven't done so already. My thanks to those who have completed the form.

(This survey was compiled by Bob and Kathy Miller, Ad Hoc Committee members of the Midwest Federation. I thought it was a good idea and have used it for the NFMS. My thanks to Bob and Kathy)

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

"News Flash July 2008"



**Juniors
Chairman**

Gary Buhr

Summertime we enjoy the full swing of Field Trips and discovery. One other special event that is always a welcome celebration comes with the addition of a new NFMS Juniors Rock Club. The new Juniors Club is in the North Seattle area and named North Seattle Rocky Trails Junior Rockhounding Club. Yep, they are already organized and have 31 Junior Members thanks to the diligent work of their three Juniors Advisors: Daryl and Petrie West of Monroe, WA and Christina Morrissey of Bothell, WA. The AFMS Merit Badge Program is their first new priority, and our immediate priority is to wholeheartedly WELCOME all their Junior Members and their three Juniors Advisors into the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



Pictured above is Everett Rookie Rockhound ALEX CARRINGTON (pic left) preparing the layout for his very first Competition Display with the guidance of his father and fellow Rockhound Doug Carrington (pic right). These two guys have been in the Everett Rock and Gem Club less than three years and ALEX has put fabulous displays in the Annual February Gem and Jewelry Show in 'Juniors Row' every year, and Doug is the Show Chairman already--this is the kind of participation that brings success to your Rock Club!! ALEX will enter this Competition Mineral Display in the 2008 NFMS Annual Show and Convention at Ontario, Oregon. Through a membership in the Mineral of the Month Club, ALEX has developed brilliant expertise in mineral ID, along with a very detailed database in his personal library. Besides his academic achievements, ALEX is also a hands-on Rockhound with the experience of over 50 Field Trips where he has personally mined mineral crystals for his extensive collection that makes his bedroom seem more like a 'Rock Room'!

One of the 2008 NFMS Junior Achievement Award Winners has also written an instructive article about one of her Field Trips with her family:

'An Unexpected Discovery'
by ZOE TOLBERT, Junior Rockhounder

I just finished reading another Magic Tree House book. I enjoy these books very much. This one

involved Dr. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895). Dr. Pasteur, in addition to being an awesome scientist, was famous for saying that 'in the fields of observation, chance favors only the prepared mind.' With help from mom and dad--and school--I'm working on the 'prepared mind.' And, with rockhounding, there often is plenty of chance.

Although both mom and dad enjoy rockhounding with me, I've noticed some differences between them. One big difference is our trips. While dad tends to focus on the destination, mom reminds dad and me that 'it's the journey, not the destination.' She also reminds dad and me to take time to enjoy the sights. That can be tough to do when we're looking for neat rocks. Tougher still when I have a bet with dad as to who will find the best specimen.

But, the journey also is important.

Recently, after getting snowed out of an agate site we were exploring, we decided to look for some concretions. We have been researching Pacific Northwest concretions and found some information about a site on the Chehalis River in Western Washington. This site, which has a trail to the river, is about 200 feet past milepost 31 on Highway 6, approximately 20 miles west of Interstate Five at Exit 77.

We found some concretions. They are quite a bit different from some of the other concretions that I've found in the Northwest--such as clay concretions, 'crab balls,' siderite, etc.

This part of the Chehalis River has changed since last year. This area is near the historic floods that occurred in December 2007 (possibly a 500 year storm/flood event) west of Adna, Washington. We saw some evidence of the extraordinary power of nature. We also took time to play a game of 'pooh sticks' (from Winnie the Pooh) on a gravel bar. It was there, that mom's advice about enjoying the journey helped me make a chance discovery.

To find a better place to toss our sticks in the river for the Pooh Sticks race, we wandered down to the end of the gravel bar. There, something caught my eye. Not a concretion, but something black and shiny. Closer observation revealed that it was a good-sized rock but, unlike all of the other rocks in the area, this one had a layer of coal on it. The rest of the rock, on closer inspection, turned out to be petrified wood. And, a pretty decent sample.

The rock weighs about 62 pounds (which is 13 pounds more than I weigh). It was a bit of a chore to move it across the river, up a cliff, and across a meadow. But, that's part of the adventure of rockhounding. And, after that adventure, dad and a few of our local rock club (Washington Agate & Mineral Society) members are sharing tips on portable rock hauling devices other than dads and donkeys.

Below is a picture of the rock we found by chance, as well as the concretions. More pictures are on my rockhounding website, www.gatorgirlrocks.com



This trip was also a great example of why it is important to enjoy the journey, be informed and knowledgeable, and position yourself for chance.

P.S. I won the game of Pooh Sticks.



**Darlene's
Doodles**

**NFMS Bulletin
Aids Chair**

Where has the time gone? It will be Halloween before we know it, & followed closely by Thanksgiving, then New Years.

Are we all getting remiss on helping others with our monthly articles for club bulletins or Northwest Newsletter? I know we all are busy with yard work, gardening, remodeling/renovating, etc. But, with the price of gas, food & the like, probably plans for going out to our favorite rock digging spot are put on hold. What do you think needs to be done? How about this?

For your next club meeting, have a ROCK SWAP. We all have more rock (at least most of us do) than we will ever be able to slice, tumble, make into jewelry or use in a display. Each member bring a special (good) rock to swap with another member, tell what it is, where & when you got it & maybe a suggestion what can be done with it. Now, perhaps this should NOT be that 30lb rock you can hardly lift, but a fist-size one. Then after the meeting, write, type, E-mail an article telling all about the "Swap". Send it in to the NW Newsletter. It's just that "EZ", right?

Until next month, keep up all your good work & take care. THANK YOU Editors who are sending their club bulletins to me, I really appreciate & enjoy them all. NFMS BULLETIN AIDS, Darlene Denton, 5830 Haddon Ln, Anacortes, WA 98221.

National Forest Access Issues

For some time, there has been a concerted effort on the part of the USDA and its subordinate agency, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), to dramatically reduce both access to our Forests and off-road/off-trail use of motorized vehicles (ATVs, trucks/cars, motor bikes/motorcycles, snowmobiles). The results have already been dramatic in those Forests that have either revised their older Forest Management Plans or developed and published separate "Travel Management Plans" – either as separate, stand-alone plans or as amendments to their Forest Management Plans. Within the Gallatin National Forest here in the Bozeman-West Yellowstone-Big Sky-Livingston-Gardiner-Red Lodge areas, motorized vehicle access has been permanently reduced by about ½ in the last year!! Obviously, these reductions adversely affect our ability to prospect, recreate, or collect in the Forests without resorting to access only by foot, horse, or bicycle (this one is also being reduced).

It has been painful watching the ease with which the USFS' relentless attacks on motorized access are proceeding thus far without truly integrated and coordinated rebuttal positions being voiced by the "rock-hounding" communities through the formal Federal-agency requirements outlined (primarily) in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, and the implementing USDA/USFS regulations, rules, procedures, and handbooks that guide the public document review, comment, and appeal processes for these access-change proposals.

It would take a much more detailed article to fully outline these processes (perhaps a follow-on article), but there are a few starter points that can be made that might spur each of us to become actively involved in effective review and comment on individual Forests' current or upcoming draft changes to travel- or access-related documents:

WHAT MAJOR DOCUMENT REVISIONS ARE BEING PROPOSED OR PLANNED? For the "big-picture" answer for 13 National Forests or National Grasslands within N. Dakota, northwestern S. Dakota, Montana, northern Idaho, or northeastern Washington, you'll need to contact the USFS "Northern Region" or the individual Forest or Grassland Offices listed at the Region's website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/>). This is a pretty sparse website (compared to other USFS Regional sites) as far as Plan revision schedules are concerned, but you can access the individual Forest websites from there by clicking on the "Contact Us" title, and then clicking on the individual National Forest or Grassland of interest to you in your area; once there, make a call to the Public Affairs or Supervisor's Office number listed at the "Contact Us" title prompt, or simply visit the Forest's office address and ask staff about draft Forest Plan or Travel Plan revision proposals and schedules for public meetings and comment periods, as well as for copies of key documents. At the individual Forests' websites, the recent or programmed Plan revisions are most often shown by clicking on the "Programs & Plans" title prompt (some Forests use the title "Plans and Projects"). The quarterly status of the most current Plan Revisions and other projects are then shown in a spreadsheet format called the "Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)," copies of which you can request be mailed to you as well. For example, did you know that the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest has published an Environmental Assessment (EA) under NEPA for withdrawal from mining of 390 additional acres of land adjacent to Crystal Park? (Township 4 South,

Range 12 West, sec 8 E1/2,SE1/4; sec 9 SW1/4, sec 16 NW 1/4, sec 17 NENE) (see pg 7 of B-DL Forest SOPA at website <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/reports/sopa-110102-2008-04.pdf>). For Travel Plan/Forest Plan revisions for the 26 National Forests and "Special Areas" within the USFS' Pacific Northwest Region (Washington & Oregon), go to website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/r6nf.htm> and click on the map outline footprint for the Forest of interest.

Individual Forest Plan revisions, etc., are listed on their "Projects & Plans" and then SOPA sub-titles. For example, did you know that the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are combining efforts to revise their Land Management Plans -- also referred to as Forest Plans?
(see website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/).

ATTEND ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS; PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED AND GROUP 'SUBSTANTIVE' REVIEW COMMENTS ON 'SCOPING' DOCUMENTS, 'DRAFT EIS' (OR EAs); AND APPEALS OF THE FINAL EIS "RECORD OF DECISION" (OR 'FONSI' FOR AN EA) IF YOUR COMMENTS ON DRAFTS WERE NOT RESPONDED TO PROPERLY. This is where it gets complex since different types of draft documents require different public notice formats when they become available for review and comment. Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) require both Federal Register "Notice of Availability (NOA)" PLUS local "Newspaper of Record" announcement in the Legal section of the paper, while EAs only get "Newspaper of Record" notice. Public review/comment periods and format for the content of comments also vary, so read the NOA or newspaper Legal section directions carefully. "Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)" citations are usually given for the details of commenting substantively or for appealing final decisions. Read the CFR citations and/or ask for help from one of the many organizations that are also fighting for the continued open access by motorized vehicles. One such group in the Rocky Mountain west is Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU) headquartered in Bozeman (see website: http://www.citizensforbalanceduse.com/cbu_supporters.php). "I might suggest that NFMS might consider affiliating with such groups to increase its influence for keeping access open, for educating members, and for sharing information on what has proven to be effective commenting and appeal actions by other groups and individual.

BE AWARE OF THE LATEST TRAVEL MAPS AND TRAVEL PLANS THAT GOVERN ACCESS IN INDIVIDUAL FORESTS. Here, the USFS is in a mess currently in many places. For the most recent "Travel Plans" being published, the Summer and Winter "Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM)" specify -- in an arcane and bewildering format for the Gallatin for example) -- those trails and roads that are "open" for different vehicle types and periods; it is these MVUMs that trigger enforcement action now. Thus, many of the other typical commercially available maps -- and even many earlier products by the USFS -- are becoming obsolete as new Travel Plans of Forest Plan revisions are published. Yet, they have --- so far -- been of poor quality, and are often inconsistent with the access-related details in the Final EIS and its Record of Decision (ROD) that cover the Plan revision. The poor quality of the 3 Summer Use MVUMs for implementing the 2006 Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan, for example, ended up being discussed in Federal Court last year and the GNF is about to publish completely revised versions (late June '08). It remains to be seen if their quality has improved.

Dr. Kenneth Zahn, Colonel, U.S. Army (ret.)
Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club

Note: Dr. Zahn has 23 years experience implementing the NEPA for Federal projects of the Department of Defense and Department of Energy; He currently informally advises CBU on NEPA matters related to USFS proposed plan revisions.

2008 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
June 6-8 Fri 12-5 Sat 10-6 Sun 11-4	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show	Fruitland Grange Hall 112th and 86th Avenue East Puyallup, WA	info@puyallupgemclub.org or Puyallup Valley Gem Club P.O. Box 134 Puyallup, WA 98371-0014
June 7-8 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4	North Idaho Mineral Club Annual Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show	Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Bob Bockman 208 773-5384. Bockbb@aol.com.
Jun 13-15 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4:30	Oregon Coast Agate Club Gem and Mineral, 46th Annual Gem and Mineral Show	Lincoln Co. Fairgrounds, 633 NE 3 rd St., Newport, Oregon Directions: http://www.co.lincn.or.us/fair/index.html	Juli Dahl, 541-563-7495 jdahl2@casco.net. PO Box 2439 Waldport, OR 97394
June 14-15 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Butte Mineral and Gem Club Show	Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Ave Butte MT	Pete Knudsen 406-496-4395
Jun 20-22 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	68 th Annual NFMS Show & Convention, Up & Coming in Ontario	Ontario Fairgrounds, Convention Center Ontario Oregon	Margaret Stallknecht 208-365-1653 mestalknecht@yahoo.com
Jul 26-27 Sat 9-6 Sun 9-5	WA Agate & Min. Soc. (WAMS) & Tenino Rock Cruisers, 14th Annual	Parkside Elementary School, Stage Street, Tenino, OR	Daniel De Boer (360) 866-3940 keylock@comcast.net
Aug 2-3 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Far West Lapidary's Rock and Gem Show	North Bend Community Ctr. 2222 Broadway North Bend Oregon	Don Innes, 541-396-5722 Carol Leaton 541-269-0542
Aug 16-17 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
Aug 30-31 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Stallknecht-Morgan Museum Gem & Mineral, Letha Gem Show	West Idaho Boulevard at the Park, Letha, ID	Margaret Stallknecht 208-365-1653
Sep 6-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4:30	Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club, Annual Show "Rocks Under Foot"	Douglas County Fairgrounds Douglas Hall (1-5, Exit 123) Roseburg, OR	Dave Snyder 541-679-7553 dwilliams@mesi.net
Sep 13-14 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc, 39th Annual Show	Walla Walla Co. Fairgrounds Comm. Ctr. Bldg, 9th St. & Orchard, Walla Walla, WA	Warren Rood 509.525.0101, ext. 578 wrood@coffeyscomm.com
Sep 19-21 Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Far West Lapidary's Rock and Gem Society South Coast Rock and Gem Fest 2008	4 th St. Parking Lot, Across from Outdoor-In Family Restaurant, Coos Bay Oregon	Don Innes 541-396-5722
Sep 20-21 Sat 10-6 Sun: 10-5	Hellgate Mineral Soc. 14th Annual, "Rockhounding In The Rockies"	Ruby's Inn & Conv Center 4825 N. Reserve Missoula, MT	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday Lane, Missoula, MT 59801 (406) 543-3667
Sep 20-21 Sat 10-6 Sun: 10-4	So. WA Mineralogical Soc. Annual Rock & Gem Show	Castle Rock Fairgrounds Castle Rock, WA	Diane Thurston 503-728-4274 spuds@clatskante.com
Sep 26-28 Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	The Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show "The Beauty Within"	Portland Metropolitan Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland OR 97217	Mary Bolton 503-760-5176 philmary@comcast.net Josh Heater 971-570-5456 j.frankray@hotmail.com
Oct 11-12 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Marysville Rock & Gem 34th Annual Gem/Mineral Show (Rocktoberfest)	Totem Middle School 7th. Street & State Ave Marysville, WA 98270	Ken Metz (425) 422-8575 Ken_metz@hotmail.com Rocky McCall 360.629.2515 rm711@tgi.net

2008 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Oct 11-12 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Billings Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show	Billings Hotel & Conv. Ctr 1223 Mullowney Lane Billings Montana.	Vern Watson, (406) 652 5958 2511 Olson Dr. Billings MT. 59102
Oct 18-19 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Hells Canyon Gem Club, Inc. Annual Show	Nez Perce County Fair Grounds, Lewiston, ID	Jack Edwards 509-529-3673 edwardsj@wwtcs.com
Oct 25-26 Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, Earth's Hidden Treasures 2008	Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4 th Ave Canby, Or	Rick Mauier (509) 691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Oct 25-26 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Bellevue Rock Club Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Blvd SE Bellevue, WA	Marjorie McKinley, POB 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009-1851 bellevuerockclub@comcast.net
Oct 31-Nov2 Fri 12-7 Sat 10-7 Sun 11-4	The Springfield Thunderegg Club of Eugene, OR, Rock & Gem Show	Oakway Center 112 Coburg Road Eugene, OR	Jim Nelson 541 687-8100 or Bob Smith 541 741-0060
Nov 8-9 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-5	Skagit Rock & Gem Club, "Treasures of the Earth" Annual Show	Sedro Woolley Comm. Ctr. 720 State Street Sedro Woolley, WA	Tina Anderson, (360) 299-8224
Nov 22-23 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Kitsap Mineral & Gem Club "Fall Festival of Gems"	Kitsap County Fairgrounds President's Hall, 1200 Fairgrounds Rd. Bremerton, WA	Gerry Alexander 360-876-4543

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