



# NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 48 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2007

## 2007-2008 NFMS OFFICERS



Betty Luke (on the far right) swears in the new officers (Executive Board) for the 2007-2008 season During the banquet at the NFMS show in Butte Mt. From left to right are Patty Amos – President, Paul Heesacker- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Evelyn Cataldo –2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lyle Vogelpohl – Treasurer, and Joan Day – Executive Secretary. In the back-ground (at the Head Table) are Evan Day, Dick Parks, Bill Luke, and Richard Berg – Curator of the Mineral Museum.

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**NFMS WEBSITE**  
[www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)

## MORE PICTURES AND A COUPLE OF AWARDS AT NFMS SHOW IN BUTTE



Joe Slouber wins a trophy for Masters in Minerals & the Sweepstakes award. Chuck Sonners made the presentation and Barbara Jacobsen made the

announcement for all case awards. Dee Holland is in the background looking over all the awards.



Gary Buhr's case display of magnificent calcite crystals. He won the Lester Zeihen Award for minerals. See Gary's picture on page 10.



"The Strickettes", an entertainment group between the banquet dinner & the awards ceremony won all awards for laughter and humor one could handle in one evening. Here they are acting out "The

12 Days of Christmas". There were 15 lip-sync songs in all. I might add that the person in the white coat on the left is 92.



Pat Snyder dances to "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison as the Strickette announcer lip-syncs to the tune. Obviously, it was enjoyed by all.

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY

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Bryan Schroeder, Editor  
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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, govern-  
ment regulators and public lands managers. Your annual member-  
ship fee of \$25.00 helps support their activities. Contact: TBD

The **AFMS NEWSLETTER** is published monthly except Jan-Jul-  
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The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the  
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usually published ten (10) times per year. This publication is  
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**SHOW COORDINATION.** Your Federation provides a free  
service for NFMS members by listing your show in this Newsletter,  
on the NFMS website, and three magazines (Rocks and Minerals,  
Rock and Gem, and 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 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 monies generated from the  
sale of these used (cancelled) stamps is then donated to Cancer  
Research. The collected stamps can be sent to the **STAMPS  
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Annual Show or given to your Federation Director in your club.

**ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS:****Where to send your money:**

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  
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To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions

Make check payable to **AFMS Scholarship Fund**.  
Send to Ella Cox (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

(See this page for address, phone, or e-mail)

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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  
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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  
background will look gray in the ad. 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  
SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**For the October 2007 Issue  
509 371 1572**

**BRYAN SCHROEDER  
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
[nfmsnews@verizon.net](mailto:nfmsnews@verizon.net)**



## COMMENTS, THOUGHTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Butte Show & Federation Meeting Comments:

by Jack Edwards - President Hells Canyon Gem Club  
Past NFMS President 2004 – 2005

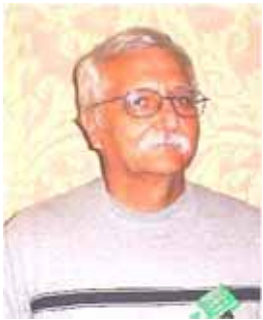
I want to congratulate the Butte Club President Bill Luke, Secretary Betty Luke and Show Chairman Pete Knudsen and the Club members for their effort put into the Show and Federation support activities. The facilities, displays and dealers were all excellent.

I hope that those who attended the three field trips were as pleased as Charlene and I were. Not only were they educational, but plenty of material was available to collect.

The Federation Past Presidents luncheon, Annual banquet and Editors breakfast were each supported by excellent food and service with the attendance for each more than expected from what I was told.

Chuck was able to provide an Annual meeting that was one of the shortest I have attended while still having sufficient discussion on the subjects to be voted on. Even the food during the break was excellent.

I was especially pleased that our Club had ten members present at the Banquet. To top that, two of our members won top competitive awards for their cases. Member Linn Enger finished first, and member Jerry Blimka received a blue ribbon for second place for their Intarsia cases. Our Editor, Caren Fowler, received second place in the New Editor category for our Federation, and we understand an award from the AFMS is due. The entertainment was outstanding and unforgettable. It was a very enjoyable evening.



**Chuck Sonner**

**NFMS Past President  
2006-2007**

This September, I will be the outgoing NFMS President. The last three years have been an education. I am pleased

to say we are stronger and continue to respond to the needs of our members and member clubs. What the Federation needs is what I asked for at the annual meeting. That was to have at least one member from each club participating on a committee or board position. This is the only way our Federation will continue to grow.

You will find ideas in this newsletter on how to make your club stronger. I ask that if your club has a program that is working for you please share. A simple outline or report to the newsletter will reach all the members. Only through growth at the club level can we keep our hobby strong.

My position for the next year will be finding people to step forward and help contribute to the Federation. Again, one person volunteering from each club will make this job easy.

### AFMS NATIONAL SHOW

By Barbara Jacobsen  
Rules & Awards Chair

The National Gem & Mineral show was held in Roswell, NM, June 8-10. I attended as a member of the AFMS Rules & Awards Committee. The name of G-10

was changed to **Petrified Wood, Wood Casts, and/or Petrified Plant Life** to reflect the original intent that collectors need not have all three types in their display. The meeting was completed in record time – 10 minutes.

There were 131 displays and 10 dealers – an interesting ratio! Forty of the displays were competitive. I'd have to say that competition is certainly alive and well in the Southwest. The competitive displays were lapidary, minerals, fossils, fluorescents, jewelry and petrified wood. I was assigned to judge seven lapidary cases with two judges from Indiana. It took all morning, but we were pleased that the next day, after we met the competitors, there were no nasty confrontations, just good conversations.

Northwest members won four national trophies: Steve Gustafson was awarded two trophies for his cabochons, Pat Snyder won for her petrified wood, and Don Snyder won for his fluorescent display. Also attending from the NFMS were Patty Amos, Frank & Darlene Posthuma, Dee Holland, Shirley Leeson, Bev and Carroll Dillon, Dick & Bonnie Glismann, Joan & Evan Day, Ed Romack, Bob Jacobsen, Bill & Janet Smith, Bob Carlson, and others I am sure I missed. At the banquet, Bev Dillon took her annual picture of the Northwest attendees. Wonder what she does with all those photos?

This show was not the best attended – Roswell is a long way from anywhere – but was surely one of the friendliest. The Chapparal Club members were excellent hosts who went out of their way to see that we were welcome. Bob Jones, editor of Rock & Gem, was in attendance for the entire show, so it was easy to sit down and have a conversation with him.

The town of Roswell is tree-shaded, 3700 feet in elevation, with lots of history. It is the home of the New Mexico Military Institute, a spiffy prep school. And, it is also the home of the Goddard Museum – the Goddard who is the pioneer of rocket propulsion. The field trips featured Pecos diamonds (double terminated quartz crystals of orange to brown coloration). We did take our own field trip to the Carlsbad Caverns, an 80 mile trip one-way over hot, windy, dusty roads. But, the Caverns were cool and stunning in their beauty.

Next year the AFMS national show will be in Texas, near Houston, on September 25-28. I hope to be there and maybe I'll see lots of people from the Northwest.



**Margaret  
Stallknecht**

**2008 Show Chair**

I have just returned from the 2007 Show in Butte, Montana. It was wonderful! The weather was smoky but not too hot.

The field trips were nice - a lot of good materials were found by all. Cases were great! The dealers had a wonderful variety of things for sale. The response over the 2008 Show was wonderful. There will be lot of nice onsite camping for the

inside and outside dealers. We have 20 signed up so far. They are bringing awesome stuff! We are putting information on the website. We will print up information in the Newsletter next month.

We are on the lookout for demonstrators of all kinds and people to do workshops (and lectures). More later!

Margaret Stallknecht  
P.O. Box 171, Letha, ID 83636-0171  
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**New Rock Club  
Launched**  
Dixie Reale, Editor  
and President  
Petrified Watermelon  
Pickers Club

This first issue of "Petrified Watermelon Pickings," the newsletter of the Association of Petrified Watermelon

Pickers, chronicles the launching of the new rock and gem club.

Back in the 1950s before the interstate crossed southern Idaho, humorous Fearless Farris Stinker Stations signs broke up the monotony of travel. On Highway 30 near King Hill was a field of lava bombs about the size of watermelons with a sign located right in the middle that said, "Petrified Watermelons, take one home to your mother-in-law." That sign disappeared years ago, then was rediscovered recently by new owners in the garage of a house in town. With the blessing of the Stinker Corporation, the sign has been repainted, restored and returned to the watermelon patch.

As a club member you will rockhound gemstones and watermelons. For more information contact Dixie Reale, P.O. Box 402, King Hill, Id. 83633.



**In Memory of**

**Roger Allison**

Roger Allison, member of Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society and Lakeside Gem and Mineral Clubs, passed away

Saturday, June 23 in Richland, WA. Roger and his wife, Judi, developed and designed the NFMS Web Site. He also acted as webmaster for five years before deteriorating health forced him to hand over the helm to our current webmaster, Jack Eads.

Even though he was unable to actively participate in the hobby in recent months, he truly enjoyed the friendships he developed and the opportunity to revel in nature's bounty that it provided.

## Saw Coolant

Tired of the high cost of oil for your big saw, or little saw? Well, we hear all sorts of things to use so I might as well add another.

I have been using a concentrated water additive in my 18 inch Highland Park and my 24 inch Hillquest. It is called Cimcool. It is a Metal working fluid and you mix it with water 1 to 25. The product is alkaline so disposing of the sludge does not become a problem. My Highland Park has a metal lid and, if I do not have enough coolant to keep the blade cool and a mist rises in the tank, the hood may appear to form small rust spots. So, I make sure that my coolant level is about 1/2 inch up on my blade. My Hillquest is fiberglass and plastic so I do not have that problem but I still keep my blade in approximately 1/2 inch of coolant. I find in my small trim saws that it makes my work a lot easier to clean so I have a better polish. The best part I believe is that I can use my saws in my basement and not have the smell of oil in my house. I can also move my saw into my driveway after I have removed the rock sludge and clean it with my garden hose.

Another great factor is the costs. Instead of \$11.00 a gallon, try about \$2.00. If you are interested, e-mail me at [ rm711@tgi.net ]. Be sure to make the subject line say Saw Coolant, so I don't throw you out with the bath water .

By Rocky McCall  
Marysville Rock & Gem Club

## Effective Fossil Fish Tool

Editor's Note: The following article is in reference to the Fossil Fish Field Trip that Evan Day and his crew took this summer (and appears elsewhere in this newsletter).

I went to Harbor Freight in Ogden and bought one of their \$9.95 Electric Engravers. It worked beautifully to remove rock from over most of the fish that our family collected. Not as fancy as my AirScribe and other expensive tools, nor as durable, but is several hundred dollars cheaper! It is great for occasional use and much faster and easier than dental picks. WalMart, KMart, Target, etc. probably have similar engravers. If you have a lot of rock over the fish, a Dremel tool with used drills from your Dentist works fast for an initial preparation -- then use the engraver. Harbor Freight also had a 4" water-cooled Tile Saw on sale for \$59.95 which nicely squares up the finished specimens; just be sure you spray the fish with 2-3 coats of hair spray to protect them from the water. It does not affect the matrix if you dry the specimen promptly, and there is no change in color. An abrasive blade in your circular saw works very well, too, but creates a huge cloud of dust. So does a small cutoff blade in a Dremel or Foredom tool.

By Evan Day  
Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society

## NFMS 2007 Case Competition Results

There were nine competitive cases in the annual NFMS show at Butte, MT , August 2007: five Masters, one Society , one Junior, one advanced, and one novice. All of the displays scored very well. The following gives the details on trophies, awards, and ribbons.

### Master's Competition:

Joe Slouber, Minerals unlimited by size, BU-1, Trophy 2  
Linn Enger, Jewelry –sized intarsia, CW-6, Trophy 31  
Jason Hulstrom, Thumbnail minerals, BT-1, Trophy 8  
Carol Cimolino, Wirewrapping, DST-6, Trophy 25  
Mt Hood Rock Club, Petrified wood cabs, G-3, Soc. Trophy 22  
Jerry Blimka, Jewelry sized intarsia, CW-6, Blue Ribbon

### Junior Competition

Laura Cimolino, Educational (minerals), EGC-1, Jr. Trophy 28

### Advanced Competition

Gary Buhr, Minerals, A-1, Adv. Plaque

### Sweepstakes

Master's, Joe Slouber  
Junior, Laura Cimolino

### Memorial Awards

Rod Smith-All Northwest Material, Pete & Renee Knudsen  
Ted Hedin-Petrified Wood, Mt Hood Rock Club  
Lester Zeihen-Minerals, Gary Buhr  
Isabel Mattison-Best Junior, Laura Cimolino

### Novice Competition

Dana James, Gem trees, A-9, Nov. Rosette

### Traveling Society (large)

Mt Hood Rock Club

### Judges

Russell Snook, Phil Bolton, Rudy Tschernich, Larry Hulstrom, Robert Carlson, Barbara Jacobsen, Rocky McCall, Shirley Leeson, Lamar Tilgner, Edna Nelson, Joe Slouber, Tom Burchard, Dee Holland, Gary Buhr

## International Jewelers Workshop 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**September 22 & 23, 2007 -- Mount Vernon Senior Center  
1401 Cleveland St., Mount Vernon, WA--advanced registration only**

**Sponsored by Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Workshop Coordinator, Vi Jones, P.O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-7841 ph. 360/424-8340 Cost: \$25 per person (2 days) in advance or \$15 (1 day) \$20 per person at the door. Box lunch, in advance \$6.50 (day). Demonstrations and/or classes: Precious Metal Clay, Torch enameling, Metal Etching, Silversmithing, Glass Lampworking, Chain-making, Gemstone Carving, Faceting, Kaleidoscopes, Wire-wrapping, Knotting techniques, Kumihimo, Intarsia, Fimo applications, many more..Sign up for classes & learn something exciting! Costs are determined by instructor plus the cost for the workshop. Call Vi Jones for info or e-mail: rocks1x1vi.george@verizon.net for registration form.**

### Advance Registration for 2007 International Jewelers' Workshop

Cost: \$25 per person (2 days), \$15 per person (1 day), \$20 per person at the door.

Advance cost of lunches served on site: \$6.50 per person per day. Deadline Sept. 14, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # including area code \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: Advance registration \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch(es) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Skagit Rock & Gem Club--Please check what day attending: Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

You will be provided with a registration packet : name badge, lunch tickets, etc. Sept. 22 Sept. 23

If you would like info regarding classes offered, please call . Instructors determine costs per session.

Mail to: Vi Jones, Workshop Coordinator, P. O. Box 2841, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-7841 USA



**Darlene Denton  
NFMS Bulletin Aids**

**2006 Editors and Authors Awards  
and  
Congratulations to all the editors & authors for 2006**

**NEW EDITORS**

**1st Place: None Eligible**

- 2nd Place: CAREN FOWLER-Boulder Buster, Hells Canyon Gem, Lewiston, ID  
3rd Place: DAN ZAISS-Emerald Gems, Eugene Mineral Club, Eugene, OR  
4th Place: MICHELLE ERNSBERGER-Golden Spike News, Ogden, UT  
5th Place: CHRIS SORENSEN-The Geode-Lakeside Gem, Kennewick WA  
6th Place: PEG BURDGE-Springfield T-Egg News, Springfield OR  
7th Place: DOUGLAS TANKERSLEY-Hatrockhound Gazette, Hermiston OR  
8th Place: HOPE RANELL-Hellgate Breezes-Hellgate Mineral Soc, Missoula MT

**MINI BULLETINS**

**1st Place: None Eligible**

- 2nd Place: DICK WENDEL-A Stone's Throw-Bozeman G & M, Bozeman, MT  
3rd Place: JOSEPH BARRACA-Panorama Prospector/G&M, Kettle Falls, WA  
4th Place: M J HUETTER-Wash Agate & Min News-Olympia, WA  
5th Place: HELEN DOMBROVSKIS-Magic Valley News/Gem, Twin Falls ID  
6th Place: PATTY AMOS-Notes from Jasper-Col. Gorge Rockhound, Corbett OR  
7th Place: G & M TOMLINSON-SEIGMS Searcher, SE Idaho G & M, Pocatello  
8th Place: RALPH LUTHER-Bitterroot Conglomerate/G & M, Hamilton MT  
9th Place: LEE DOUGHERTY-Rock Note-Whidbey Island Gem, Oak Harbor WA

**SMALL BULLETINS**

- 1st Place: KEITH MORGAN-BEMS Tumbler-Boeing Employees Min, Seattle**  
2nd Place: T & M ARROWOOD-Rock Scoop, So Douglas G & M, Myrtle Crk OR  
3rd Place: ALENE INNES-Rock Chip Rep.-Farwest Lap & Gem, Coos Bay, OR  
4th Place: BRENDA BRITTON-Umpqua Gem-Umpqua G & M, Roseburg, OR  
5th Place: CAROL WILLEY-Coastal Waves-Oregon Coast Agate, Newport OR  
6th Place: BOB JIMENEZ-Pebble Trails-Whidbey Pebble Pushers, Langley WA  
7th Place: AMANDA NEWNHAM-Dusty Rocks/Arrowhead, Klamath Falls OR  
8th Place: KATHY REIMERS-Hard Rock News-Kitsap M & G, Bremerton WA  
8th Place: NANCY BURKHOW-Clackamette Gem/M & G, Oregon City OR  
9th Place: SANDY BAKER-Stone Age News-Marysville R & G, Marysville WA  
10th Place: ELOISE GLASS-Yakima Gem & Mineral News/Club-Yakima, WA  
Honorable Mention-MIKE SMITH-Nisqually Rockhound-Yelm WA

**LARGE BULLETINS**

**1st Place: DOUG RENKEN-Grindings-Idaho Gem Club, Boise, ID**

- 2nd Place: SHAWN VAN DER PUTTEN-Pebbles-Everett R & G, Everett, WA  
3rd Place: P. DAVIS/F. WOLF-Carny Hound-So. WA Min, Longview WA  
4th Place: JERRY BARTLEMAY-Facets-Col. Willamette Faceters-Portland OR  
5th Place: PATTY AMOS-The Rock-It-Mt. Hood Rock Club, Gresham OR

**ARTICLES by ADULTS**

- 1st: MARY NEWELL, "Rock Hunting Therapy", So. Doug. G/M, Myrtle Crk,**  
2nd: DICK WALKER, "Beryls", Columbia Willamette Faceters, Portland OR  
3rd: JULI DAHL, "This is Roughing It" Oregon Coast Agate, Newport, OR  
4th: R RIDENOUR "Our Members Adventures", Grindings, Idaho Gem, Boise OR  
5th: W. STRICKLAND, "Labrea Tar Pits" Pebbles-Everett R & G, Everett, WA  
6th: CAROLYN DEMETZ, "Petrified Pine Cone", Coos Bay OR:  
7th: M. AUSTIN "How I Became A Rockhound", Clackamette M & G, Or. City  
8th: E/M RINGERING, "Sleepless in Succor Creek", Lakeside G & M, Kenn. WA

**ARTICLES by JUNIORS**

- 1st: Alexandra Wall(12), "Cabbing With Lyle", W. Seattle Petro. Seattle**  
2nd: Brand Charland (17), "Lapidary Dream", Oregon Coast Club, Newport OR

**POEMS by ADULTS**

- 1st: KAROL CAWTHON, "Still Rocking", Grindings, Boise, ID**  
3rd: J. PITMAN, "Dreamer's Field Trip", Panorama Prospector., Kettle Falls, WA

All members, please encourage & help your editors by presenting Articles & Poems you have written yourselves, to your editors. Don't make or let the Editors do all the work. This is a GROUP effort. See you all in 2008 at Ontario, OR with the 2008 Awards. Darlene Denton, Bulletin Aids, Anacortes WA 98221.

**Club Building**

By Chuck Sonners

Is our club easy to find?

This is a question that should be a question asked by every club. If a family moves into your community, how easy is it to locate your club? The following is a list compiled from clubs in the NFMS. It is not complete but will give you a general idea. If you are doing all of the following, you should be easy to find.

- Many states have their own association and make that list available to the public.
- Do you belong to the local Chamber of Commerce?
- Do you have a web site? Remember the header that no one sees but the search engines. Make sure the city (cities), county, community, and areas of interest (minerals, lapidary etc) are listed to make sure the engines pick you up.
- Are you listed in the community event calendar of the local newspaper(s), TV and Radio Stations?
- Are you in the phone directory? Some clubs have answering machines hooked up to phone numbers.
- Most local libraries will let you put in displays.

Remember, the more you expose the club to the public, the easier it is to be found.

**PORTLAND REGIONAL GEM  
& MINERAL SHOW**

**SEPT. 28-30, 2007**

10 to 6 Fri and Sat, 10 to 5 Sun.

**PORTLAND EXPOSITION CENTER  
2060 MARINE DRIVE, Portland, Or.**

39 dealers, 125 displays, demos, Silent & Oral consignment auction & more. For more info & exhibit forms.

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**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$7 (3 DAYS)  
STUDENTS \$5 (3 DAYS)**

[One dollar (\$1) off with this add]

**Geology Symposium  
"Northwest Fossils",  
9 a.m-1p.m Saturday**

Featured Speakers include: Bill Orr, PhD, Jeffrey Myers, PhD, and Ellen Morris-Bishop, PhD.

Admission Adult \$18 and Student \$11.  
Includes show admission.



**Editor's Note:** The following article was first brought to my attention by Evan Day via an e-mail message. I received permission to re-print the article from the author provided I did not change anything. Therefore, I will leave the typo in the last sentence unchanged. Also, tell me what you think of the article regarding style of writing, the double spacing between statements or sentences, etc.

## Digging ancient history

Monday, July 2, 2007

**By Bryce Petersen Jr.**  
Standard-Examiner staff

'... Nobody's seen these fossils but you and God'



KEMMERER, Wyo. -- Evan Day drove right past one of Wyoming's great trout fisheries -- the Hams Fork River -- to a dusty, waterless plateau high above the river. But his recent fishing trip went just fine. "A lot of people go fishing and come home with

8 pounds of fish. My dad comes home with 800 pounds of fish," said Michelle Ernsberger, of Brigham City.

He catches them all with railroad spikes, butter knives and a hammer. He preserves them with cheap hair spray and cleans them with a glorified dental pick.

These fish are roughly 65 million years old, encased in oil shale and found in ancient lake beds that extend from about Flaming Gorge to Fontenelle Reservoir in southwestern Wyoming.

The shale is stacked in a series of thin layers. Fossil hunters softly tap a chisel -- Day often substitutes a small railroad tie or a cheap butter knife -- around the edge of a block of shale, splitting it into thin layers.

Often, a 3-foot-by-2-foot plank will split cleanly into layers less than an inch thick.

Joan Day, Evan's wife, has a different take on the fishing metaphor.

"When you split open the first rock and you see a fish, you're hooked," she said. "You don't hook the fish. They hook you."

When a layer opens, it's common to see three or four people leaning in, hoping to catch a glimpse of something amazing.

"Oh my gosh!" shouted Judith Brigham, of Ogden, after finding her first fish. "Yeah!"

It's like being the first to turn a page from an enormous, ancient stone book.

"The thing I love is, nobody's seen these fossils but you and God," said Joan Day.

The Green River Formation, as the rock is known, was once home to a system of lakes that evolved over about 15 million years, beginning about 65 million years ago. Sometimes, the lakes held fresh water; other times, the water was as salty as the ocean.

The variety made the lakes suitable to a wide variety of species.

Leaves, nuts, palm stems, crocodiles, stingrays, bats, bugs, little fish, big fish -- even big fish in the act of eating little fish -- have all been found by fossil hunters.

"You can see the whole ecosystem," Day said.

Day and his family have been visiting the Green River Formation for more than 30 years, since not long after Fossil Butte National Monument's 1972 creation.

The monument showcases characteristic and unique fossils from the area and offers tours, hiking trails and visits to a scientific quarry each Saturday and Sunday throughout summer.

But the park does not allow fossil collection. Visitors who want to take home their own fossil fish can visit one of several private or privately leased quarries in the area.

On his recent trip, Day led a group from Ogden-based Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society to state lands leased by Warfield Fossils. The commercial fossil-extraction company charges visitors to search for fossil fish and allows them to keep all common species they find.

Rare species, such as birds and gars, stay with the quarry.

With a group of 19, Day spent much of the trip responding to the shouts of his excited guests.

"Evan!"

"Mr. Day!"

"Grandpa!"

"Dad!"

To Day, the constant paging just meant things were going well.

"It's fun to share my hobby," he said. "I just want everybody to have a good time."

Everyone found a few fish worth taking home, and several people pried apart layers with multiple fish exposed. Rob Hyde, of Richfield, found four fish between one layer in his first rock.

The fish are plentiful. Typically, most people find the fish they want in the first two hours of digging.

More persistent diggers may be rewarded with larger or more unusual finds.

### Learn more

The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society meets monthly in the Dumke Room at Union Station, 25th Street and Wall Avenue, Ogden. The group takes frequent field trips to search for gems and fossils throughout the region.

### If you go ...

\* Stop first at Fossil Butte National Monument, nine miles west of Kemmerer, Wyo., on U.S. 30. A visitor center displays fossils and information on the area's geology. Visitors can hike or, on Saturday and Sunday, help with a scientific fossil dig. No fossils can be removed from the site. [www.nps.gov/fobu](http://www.nps.gov/fobu).

\* Warfield Fossils is one of several private companies extracting fossils from layers of the Green River Formation. Visitors can dig for fossil fish for \$25 an hour, \$50 for four hours or \$75 for a full day. Children younger than 12 can dig for half those prices. The quarry is about 10 miles northwest of Kemmerer on Bureau of Land Management dirt roads. See [www.fossilsafari.com](http://www.fossilsafari.com) for directions and more information.

The Standard-Examiner is published every morning by Ogden Publishing Corporation. Our business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.

*Syracuse resident Dean Bennett searches for fossils with a group from the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society at the Warfield Springs rock quarry in Kemmerer, Wyo., in late June. BETH SCHLANKER/Standard-Examiner*



**Our Trip to Roswell  
New Mexico 2007**  
By Patty Amos  
NFMS President



No, we didn't see any aliens but we did have a great time. We made some new friends and saw some old ones. As most of you know, I went to the AFMS show in Roswell. We had the annual AFMS meeting on Wednesday. I hope that I learned something from the meeting. It was very interesting since it was my first meeting. They are trying to put together an AFMS field trip with all of the Federations getting involved. The last trip was held at Texas Springs. There were around 200 people on that trip. So, they will be letting you know what is going on with the preparations for the trip. It will probably be held sometime next year.

We went to the show on Thursday and out on the field trip to gather up some Peso diamonds. We had around 30 people on that field trip. We came home with quite a few them. We also collected some gypsum on the way out. It was rather warm so we came back around 3:00 p.m. and went back to the motel and air conditioning. **THANK GOD FOR AIR CONDITIONING.** Even though we were told the weather was cooler than normal, I still wasn't going to complain since it was in the 80's and 90's most of the time we were there. I wouldn't like to be there when it is hot if this is an unusual summer. One of our club members put two cases in competition and did great. Steve Gustafson scored 100 on one and I think 99 on the other one. Great job Steve.

We went to the UFO museum, which is a very neat place, and if you ever go to Roswell that is the place to go. We took these alien pictures on the wall at Wal-Mart.

Sunday we went to Carlsbad Caverns and spent over five hours there, part of our time with Evan and Joan Day. I took over 200 pictures down there. We stayed an extra 3 days and went on the field trip that was planned after the show. We went to Socorro, NM on Monday but on the way we stopped at the Blanchard Mine about 30 miles out of Socorro which



has been closed for years. The owner took us in and it was great. We collected Fluorite, Linarite, Azurite, Galena and several other minerals. This picture is of Dick (Parks) in his hole in the mine. He said it was a little cramped in there.



other pockets to be explored outside.

(Sunshine Mine No. 3)  
This first mine only had a door about 3'x3' about half way up the wall. That was the way to crawl into the mine; then you had to get back out and the trip out was harder than getting in. Since you don't see any pictures from inside you can guess I didn't go in this one but there were

We spent the night in Socorro and then the next morning we went to the Luis Lopez Manganese deposits. We were not able to go into those mines but got some great samples of the mineral deposits there. The velvet-like

samples they call Rats Tail are beautiful. You had to do some walking to get down to the collecting areas. There were other minerals in the area. The history of the mines was very interesting, and Virgil Lueth who is also the Geologist at the New Mexico Tech Mineral Museum told us several stories of the area.



Wednesday we went to the Kelly Mine at Magdalena where we looked for Smithsonite and other minerals; we did find a couple of small lavender-colored samples but none of the blue which is what is most prized. We found some nice samples of pyrite and galena and silver samples.

This sample is in the NM Tech Mineral Museum

**Horsehair Pottery- one the way home**

Horsehair pottery is made using the hair from the tail and the mane of horses. A special technique is used during the firing; the white ceramic clay is used to create the pottery and, then toward the end of the firing, the kiln is opened. While the pottery is still hot, the horsehair is thrown onto the pottery and as the hair singes, it wraps itself around the pottery. The fine lines are created by the hair from the mane and thick lines by the tail. This unique process is very hazardous and time-consuming. After the pot is completely fired, it will be either rock polished or glazed. The finished pottery looks like marble stone and is very beautiful. We picked up one of these when we visited the Four Corners area. They are beautiful pieces. For those of you who do not know what the Four Corners area is; it's where Utah, NM, AZ and Colorado meet. From there we headed to Canyonlands and then on to Arches National Park.



While on the trip down we also went to Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Now those guys were true Rockhounds and they didn't even



know it. If you could have seen how far these buildings were built off the ground and the way they had to get up to them, we don't have anything on them. At least they were well protected since they were so high off the ground. Some of the ruins you could go into, but we were unable to go on the tour. This picture is of one of the

sites, showing how they built with the tools they had to use hundreds and hundreds of years ago. In some of the areas on the drive tour, you can see where they cut handholds & toeholds in the rock to allow them to climb up and down on the cliffs. We got home Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> and were back to work after having so much sun; it sure was a let-down to come home to clouds and cooler weather.

## PARTICIPATION

By Bill Luke, Past President, NFMS

### (1st of three in a series)

Ever since my year as Northwest Federation President in 2001-2002, I have been thinking of writing on this subject. It continually comes to mind as I read and hear things regarding our rockhounding hobby. Many recent articles in the Northwest Newsletter remind me that this might be the time to do it.

After retiring at the end of 1994, Betty and I wanted to do some traveling, to see some of the many wonders of the USA. One of the things that determined where and when to go on our trips was to attend the AFMS Shows and Conventions at each of the regional Federations that were hosting them. We planned itineraries to and from these shows that included visits with family and friends and tourist attractions such as National Parks and other areas of interest. Each trip took from a few weeks, to two months, and, in one case, all winter. This did give us opportunity to see a lot of the USA, many interesting sights along the way, and to do some rock collecting, too.

We did go to every AFMS Show in all of the Regional Federations from Boise in 1995 to Pt. Townsend in 2002. We went to most of the meetings at each of the Conventions, learning a lot from others about the various things the Federations have to offer.

During 2001-2002, we decided not to go to the Southwest for the winter, but, instead, to stay in the Northwest. I wanted to visit every NFMS club, if possible. That didn't happen, but we did meet with over 50 clubs by going to meetings or shows during the year. And, we have been to many other clubs during our 25 years of being active in the NFMS. We have listened to many of the usual problems concerning clubs- and not just rockhound clubs. Many members, friends and family, who also belong to other organizations, tell of the same problems whenever you have an organization consisting of people- they all do!

This introductory background leads me to the title of the article. All of this time, in all of these conversations, there was one common theme that I came to realize and have summarized in a word - PARTICIPATION! (Or lack of.) Most of the problems clubs have are because no one participates; most of the successes come when the members do participate!

Rockhounding can be defined as having three phases: collecting, preparing, and showing. We learn these things from each other, all rockhounds. We get the opportunity to do so through our clubs. Clubs need purpose, organization, and leadership which means they need officers and committee leaders. We can PARTICIPATE by holding an office or by accepting an appointment to a committee. But, more importantly, as members, we must PARTICIPATE in the club activities (field trips, classes, shows, etc.) when others provide the opportunity for us to do so. Many opportunities have been provided; several will be pointed out in this article.

We expand our opportunities to learn from other rockhounds by joining organizations such as State Councils and Regional Federations. When I was Editor of the Northwest Newsletter (a couple of times) and of the AFMS Newsletter, I included articles by several different authors about, "What the Federation is", "What it does for us", "Why we should belong", etc.

There have been MANY such articles written over the years. We won't go into that in this article, except to say that these articles are of no value if our members don't want to PARTICIPATE. While we were visiting the clubs, representing the NFMS, one of the topics I spoke about was, "What does the Federation do for us?" I said that I can answer some, or most of what the Federation does, but the "for us" part was up to "us". It seems that most of "us" don't care. Most, if not all, Federation Directors will tell you that the club members don't care to listen to their reports at meetings. Instead, members should be curious to find out about those things that are offered for their PARTICIPATION.

Many years ago I was our club representative to the Washington State Mineral Council. Over the years, I have attended a couple of Oregon Council meetings in the Portland area. Currently, I am a Director of the Montana Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs and, as such, wrote an article for the Council Reporter about whether there will be a future for the Council. All of these Councils are, and have been, struggling over the years. They were begun by interested rockhounds for specific reasons. Now, many years later, we ask: Why do they exist? For what purpose? Do they have a future? Only your PARTICIPATION will answer these questions.

Many coalitions exist that share our interest in the outdoors, in access to public lands, in keeping areas open for us. Different outdoor recreation, amateur, hobby, sportsmen, organizations must and do band together. We should investigate and join any and all that share this common interest. If nothing else, support them with dollars where their dollars are well spent, with results!

Next month we'll continue with some ways in which we can participate. Without all of us taking an active part, our clubs will die, as so many have over the years. Each of us should at least PARTICIPATE in that one thing we joined the club for. Then, for most of us, we will find other interesting things going on. Consequently, we will all find more enjoyment, pleasure and satisfaction in belonging to our club and will want to PARTICIPATE even more.

## Cinch Mounts and Skipping Down Memory Lane

By Gene Gangle  
Willamette Agate & Mineral Society

At the April WAMS Club meeting, where our program was on cinch mounts, I remembered - - - afterwards, of course - - - an episode at the beach a few years ago that involved cinch mounts. My wife and I had invited a couple we know over to the beach to rock hound and beach comb. We went to Lost Creek, pretty much an annual WAMS field trip in February. The last few years the gravel beds have been covered by sand, unfortunately. But, I digress. This particular year the gravel beds were visible, uncovered, productive. Our friends listened to my exposition of what we were finding: agate, jasper, and if I didn't know what it was - --jasp-agate.

I explained that, with jasper at the beach, I look to see if it's relatively smooth, not pitted or rough, because that will be an indication of how solid the stone is or is not inside. Then, I found a flat yellow and red earth-colored piece of jasper the size of a quarter, about one-quarter inch thick. Perfect for cinch mount, a calibrated 30 x 22 stone. The size and shape of a "skipper". Guys would try to see how many times they could make the stones "skip" and girls would try to bounce the stones off of our heads. That's the way I remember it.

Following this idea of throwing things, I remember the time a friend, who worked at the same summer cannery job I did, went with his sister, her girlfriend Jan and me to Crater Lake for a camp-out on our day off. At night we all settled down in our sleeping bags, the two guys about twenty feet from the two girls. Soon after, Jan gently threw a small cone which hit my sleeping bag. I tossed a cone back. With vigor. After a couple moments hesitation, Jan threw another small cone. So I tossed a whole bunch of cones back. After a short hesitation, a whole bunch of cones came flying back at me.

Ten years later, I'm driving down the road, I remember that moment at Crater Lake. All of a sudden I realize how dumb I had been. Jan wasn't wanting to toss cones. She was trying to send me a signal. Her bold, assertive effort was wasted on me. A couple months after this camp-out, I had heard that Jan had joined a convent. True story. My wife knows the story and she assures me that sensitivity was not then, nor is it now, my strong suit. But, I digress. Maybe even regress.

Back to the Lost Creek episode - - - I showed the jasper that I found on the beach to the other couple and told them I would shape, sand, and polish the stone and set it in a cinch mount that she could wear as jewelry. Two days later, we got together at their house and I gave her the cinch-mount pendant. To go from a rock on the beach to a piece of jewelry in two days - - well, they were impressed. I was so gratified; my cinch mount was the key to making it all happen so quickly.

I still occasionally throw "skippers", just not cinch-mount "skippers". And, I smile to myself when I think of those high-desert-plateau small cones.

## Buying a Lead Acid Battery?

Are you buying a car, RV, or trailer battery? Take you voltmeter with you and buy the battery with the highest voltage. Why? Because it is likely to last longer. When a battery sits on the shelf, sulfation occurs which can shorten the life of a battery. Via the Editor, NW Newsletter



## Northwest Fossil of the Month

By Betty McLin Hare, Idaho Gem Club member

Montana's state fossil - *Maiasaurus* and Montana's Dinosaur Abundance

A few years ago Boise State University was honored by a visit from noted paleontologist Jack Horner. I was present at a lecture given by him and was thoroughly captivated. He had written a book entitled *Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky* detailing some of the paleontology of Montana (such as formations and other displays) and especially the dinosaurs and their habits. It covers the information in a way that is enjoyable for the amateur and in depth enough for the seasoned. The many pictures of locations, remains, and maps will delight you. The detailed account of what each formation holds: plants, dinosaurs, and other fossils is fascinating because it gives you the bigger picture of what the areas were like so long ago.

It was Dr. Jack Horner who had brought to us the wonder of the *Maiasaurus*, the "good mother" lizard and her nests of eggs. Montana held the first proof of colonial nesting, parental care of babies, and the first dinosaur embryos! Dr. Horner's team has discovered many different kinds of dinosaur eggs! Dr. Horner has been curator of the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman since 1982. Museum of the Rockies is an amazing place to get up close and personal with the many dinosaurs that Montana holds.

Montana has such a treasury of dinosaurs that it will be hard to encompass all of the different places to visit! So here's an incomplete list of interesting places to visit to learn more about Montana's abundance of fossils:

- Montana's Dinosaur Trail is a route to drive to visit many of the displays and digs around the state. You can find details at [www.mtdinotrail.org/](http://www.mtdinotrail.org/).
- Fort Peck Interpretive Center in Fort Peck has many skeletons of dinosaurs on display.
- The Carter County Museum in Ekalaka displays the skeleton of an *Anatotitan* and the skulls of *Triceratops* and other dinosaurs found in Carter County.
- The Makoshika State Park in Glendive has a *Triceratops* skull and several other fossils found in the park.

Montana has a variety of places where you can see dinosaurs being dug out of the ground such as the Nature Conservancy's Egg Mountain Nature Preserve in Choteau. There are several Pay-to-Dig sites as well near Choteau. Montana State University in Havre has a program where you can assist on an actual dig and assist ongoing research! This article has just scratched the surface of the wealth of knowledge about dinosaurs that is held in Montana. If you want to know more, I suggest checking out Jack Horner's book and visiting the Montana's Dinosaur Trail website. There is more information than I can even hint at!

## Virgin Valley Here We Come (or The Great Opal Hunt)

By Max L. Hatfield and Pat A Lambert  
Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club

(This article is in reference to a Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club field trip hosted by Dom and Evelyn Cataldo to Virgin Valley and Bruneau wood pile.) Our caravan left June 11, 2007, from Kennewick, Washington. The weather that day and throughout our trip was, to say, outstanding; sunny, blue skies, not too hot or too cold. Our first day of travel took us to Rome, Oregon, a small but pleasant spot to stop and spend the night. We all rose early the next day and continued the trip to Virgin Valley opal mines. The desert scenery was spectacular - the mountains always looming in the distance over the flat sagebrush dominated flats. We soon arrived at Denio Junction where we turned to the west to complete our trip to Virgin Valley.

The campground was a dry camp that was occupied by people from all over the United States. Virgin Valley is a popular spot. The camp had a natural spring, swimming pool, shower, and a freeze-proof valve. You can thank a local boy-scout troop and their hard work for helping to restore this valuable resource for you and I to use for free.

The next day it was decided that we should work the tailings at the Bonanza Opal mine. The fee was \$45.00 each and a \$2.00 fee for a rake rental. I personally would not recommend wasting your money or time there as the tailings are so poor that I found only a small handful of broken chips in about four hours of work. I did not see any others that were doing better except for one person who found one small piece with color in it. I would assume that the tailing piles are not replenished on a



one ounce gold bottle.

The following day we proceeded to the Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine. Our field trip leaders Dom and Evelyn Cataldo had the good sense to reserve our load piles on the first day reservations were available in the spring. Dom and Evelyn have been coming here since the early seventies and their experience was appreciated. Some visitors at the campground waited more than a week for a chance at finding a beautiful opal from a delivered load. Each day

10 loads are delivered at \$400.00 a pile. Those not wanting to take a chance at this cost, can work the tailing piles for a fee close to that of the Bonanza and find much more in a shorter time. In my opinion, take the chance of the delivered load cost. If you are really lucky, you will be rewarded with a fantastic find that can provide you with glimmering reds, greens, and blues flashing in the sun light as you examine your prized specimen. Please be aware that you still take a chance that your pile may not produce that desired specimen that you had in mind, but most did that day.



The young owners of the Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine are courteous and very helpful and should be given credit for a well run business that could provide the excitement of a find. There was a comment made that since the Cash and Treasures TV show, they have had a problem with some people thinking that they can spend \$400.00 and come away with thousands of dollars of precious opal and complain when they don't. The owners are thinking about closing

for an undisclosed amount of time. This would be a loss to those wanting a great place to recreate.

Early the next morning found us back on the road headed for Bruneau, Idaho and the Bruneau Wood Pile (Lake Bonneville). We stayed at a very nice newer park on the Striker Reservoir located near the Snake River for 12 dollars a night. The very short drive the next day provided us with many good finds of petrified wood located below four feet of rock hard ash. This means you work for what you get. The surface still provides small wood float, fish vertebra, small fossil bones and a good chance to see many small and large lizards and, if you are lucky, an occasional horned toad. These petrified finds are aged at about 14,000 years; (see the history of Lake Bonneville).

The trip had now come to an end for most of the caravan as they had to return home. We stayed a few more days and enjoyed the Bruneau sand dunes and the Bruneau Overlook at Bruneau Canyon. Northern Nevada and Southern Idaho provide a memory of natural beauty that will draw you back. I know I will return and explore new areas to rockhound and recreate in.

Thanks to our hosts for a trip of a life time.



## NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

## "News Flash September"

**Juniors  
Chairman****Gary Buhr**

THANK YOU Butte Mineral & Gem Club for a superb 2007 NFMS Annual

Show and Convention! Montana was a welcome place to meet the best of the best Rockhounds, Lapidaries and Mineral "Nuts". We all had a full share together in the flawless gatherings of the Showplace, Demos, Dealers, Field Trips, Seminars, Luncheons, the wild time at the Awards Banquet and the friendships that last forever.



Chief 2007 KIDS CORNER operators JORDAN, NICHOLAS, LAURA, VERONICA.

The 2007 NFMS KIDS CORNER churned out three days of fun, games and prizes. JORDAN PETERSON, NICHOLAS ERNSBERGER, LAURA CIMOLINO and VERONICA MIREAU were the principal crew for operating the Critter Making, Sand Gem Panning, Wheel of Fortune and Junior Achievement Trust Raffle, again we really missed the golden presence of legendary Toby Cozens.

The Montana Mineral Council had an adjacent Nerf Ball Toss for rock prizes so we really filled up the corner. Mineral Mogul Lorna Goebel was stationed at her Mineral Bingo Game for the full show. Saturday morning we sang "Happy Birthday" to Lorna for her special day. Saturday afternoon we were saddened by the passing of MR. MEOW who was Lorna's precious fifteen pound, fourteen year old feline companion. MR. MEOW always grabbed attention with his big beautiful cat's eyes and jet black coat that seemed like "royalty". So, Sunday morning we presented Lorna with a colorful flower bouquet from the Awards Banquet as a Memorial for our furry friend MR. MEOW.



Mineral Mogul Lorna Goebel ready to play her Mineral Bingo Game.

LAURA CIMOLINO, Carol Cimolino, Gary Buhr and Mel Buhr had the opportunity to visit the world renowned Mineral Museum at Montana Tech Campus of the University of Montana in Butte, where Show Chair Pete Knudsen is Dean of School of Mining and Engineering.



LAURA, Carol, Gary, Mel enjoying the smile of the Amethyst vug.

The Mineral Museum is packed with an awesome mineral and fossil collection of local material, mining memories, classics, fluorescents and teaching specimens, plus there is a seismic "recording studio" and laboratory adjacent to the Museum. GB had the distinct honor of speaking with Mr. Ed Drabant who had worked inside most of the mines near Butte. Ed showed a fine display case of specimens and can recall the exciting and dangerous experiences of mining that cannot be duplicated in text; he makes the stories "come alive". Did you try eating "a letter from home", which the miners called pasties? They are a very wholesome meal.

Donations are what fuel the fun at the Annual NFMS KIDS CORNER. All the Juniors appreciate your generosity!! Alpha Supply, Bremerton, WA; George Anderson--Skagit Rock & Gem; Roger Beck--Eureka Rock & Gem, Intermountain Faceters Guild; Mike Blanton--Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Bob and Bev Bockman--Rock Rollers, Panorama Gem & Mineral, North Idaho Mineral; Gary Buhr--Everett Rock & Gem, Everett Rookie Rockhounds; Mel Buhr--Everett Rock & Gem, 50+ year Life Member(!); Butte Rock & Gem Club (MT); CKS Lapidary, Anacortes, WA; Evan and Joan Day--Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society; Intermountain Faceters Guild; Everett Rock & Gem Club (WA); Georgia's Gems, Butte, MT; Gil and Joanne Gilpatrick, Lewistown, MT; Richard and Bonnie Glismann--Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, Intermountain Faceters Guild; Lorna Goebel--Friends of Mineralogy/Seattle Chapter, Everett Rock & Gem; Vi Jones--Skagit Rock & Gem, North Puget Sound Faceting Guild; Glenn and Dorothy Lee--Oregon Trail Gem & Mineral Society; Fritz Mack--Everett Rock & Gem, transported heavy or bulky KIDS CORNER props; Mac's Gems, Missoula, MT; Joe Peterson, Tacoma, WA, 50+ year Rockhound; Margaret Stallknecht--Stallknecht-Morgan Museum Gem & Mineral Society and 2008 NFMS Show Chair; Vern and Leona Tovrea--Everett & Skagit & Marysville Rock Clubs, North Puget Sound Faceting Guild; Lyle and Audrey Vogelpohl--West Seattle Rock Club; Derek and Amy Whitmarsh--Skagit & Everett Rock & Gem; and all of the wonderful parents, guardians or grandparents who made sure their kids enjoyed the 2007 NFMS KIDS CORNER. Yes, we were in "happyland" and we look forward to seeing you next June at the 2008 NFMS KIDS CORNER in Ontario, Oregon.

The Awards Banquet was huge for top Junior Rockhounds. Next month the three 2007 NFMS Junior

Achievement Award Winners will be highlighted in your Northwest Newsletter and Website. ALEX MILLER from West Seattle Rock Club, Seattle, WA won 2nd Place in Age 12 & Under Category; ALYSSA CARNES from Rock & Arrowhead Club, Klamath Falls, OR won 1st Place in Age 12 & Under Category; ALYSSA also attended her third consecutive NFMS Annual Meeting as a non-voting Junior Delegate; and COLIN ROWE from Everett Rock & Gem Club, Everett, WA won the First Place 2007 Junior Achievement Award. It was magnificent to have ALYSSA and COLIN present to accept their Awards in person. Audrey Vogelpohl received the Award for ALEX MILLER because she is his Juniors Advisor in West Seattle.

VERONICA MIREAU of Everett Rock & Gem Club, Everett, WA placed a very first display of her Vermont Minerals and "Part of My Collection" as one of the 89 displays. LAURA CIMOLINO of Everett Rock & Gem Club, Everett, WA was a triple winner for her competition Educational Display of Pyrite and other Sulfides. Her article follows:

"The Road to Success" by LAURA CIMOLINO. Who knew a hobby would earn so much... Ever since our family started with the hobby of Rockhounding, I have always loved the mineral pyrite. After a while we became members of some Rock Clubs where my dad and I started displaying at the annual show they had. As the years passed, my collection of pyrite grew and grew. At the last four Everett Rock and Gem Shows I have displayed a pyrite case. At the last show the Juniors Advisor of the North Seattle Rock Club saw my pyrite case. She later called me and asked if I would do a program for their Junior Club. After I had done the program I had been reading the NFMS Northwest Newsletter and I saw that the Annual Show was coming up. I then decided that I'd like to enter an Educational Pyrite Case in the Show. My mom, Gary Buhr, Mel Buhr, and I drove to Butte, Montana to the show where my case won 1st Place with 80 points. At the Awards Banquet I found out that not only had I won the Blue First Place Ribbon and the First Place Plaque, but I had also won Best Junior Case in the Show and the Isabelle Mattison Memorial Award for Best Junior Competition Case of the Show. The rest of the show was quite fun because we all saw a lot of people that we had not seen in a long time. The road trip was also another one of the most fun times because there were so many jokes! This included the 10 finger clap, the curb, the disappearing Rock Shop, star throwing, following Gary (?), the girly-girl thing, the hollow head, the matching lemon aid, no carrollite!, yay rain!, Broom & Brush-switch stuff, Yabba Dabba Dooo, the adapted sappy-clap, "what's with your grilled chicken!" and "dody", "zoty", "tody".



LAURA CIMOLINO receiving one of her three Competition Awards from President Chuck Sonner, left back is Exhibits Director Joe Slouber and right back is Judging Director Dee Holland.

## Reinventing the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show

For 27 years, the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association has been the most complete and diverse Gem and Mineral show in Portland, Oregon. We are changing with the hope to continue to excite our old friends while we expand our audience.

In the last few years, we have moved to a larger and more central location, added our popular geology symposium, added a new sponsoring club and, this year, we are adding a consignment oral auction for the first time.

### New Location:

**Portland Metropolitan Expo Center  
2060 Marine Drive  
Portland, Oregon**

Last year, after many years at the Hillsboro Fairplex, we found it necessary to find a new location. The Expo center gives us 15,000 additional square feet of floor space, a huge improvement in lighting, and a more central location for people coming from Portland and out-of-town. It makes it easier for you to see and enjoy our show. It is like the show has finally taken a step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are looking forward to our second year at the new location and hope you will come enjoy it with us this year.

### We Welcome NARG (North American Research Group)

New members are the lifeblood of any organization. For the first time in many years, we have added a new sponsoring club. NARG is a new club dedicated to fossils and paleontology. They have a strong commitment to field trips and are well connected with the educational and research facilities in the area. Our new website and the excellent slate of high quality speakers at the Symposium are the direct result of their involvement. This show will feature an expanded collection of Northwest fossils. We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership. For more information on NARG, contact [abland@narg-online.com](mailto:abland@narg-online.com)

### Our First Consignment "Oral" Auction! (Sunday at 9 a.m.)

Do you have high quality lapidary material you would like to sell (\$40 or greater in value)? We expect to have a variety of fine lapidary material, equipment, and jewelry for the public to bid on. The person donating oral auction items will receive 60% of the sale and the Portland Regional Show will keep 40%.

Individuals, estates, dealers, and clubs may submit items for auction. Portland Regional reserves the right to accept or reject items.

All of the items that are up for auction will be available for preview on Friday and Saturday during show hours. It is important that all items provided for the auction be identified by **name and location**. You can contact us at 360-574-7195 or e-mail us at [twofilm@hotmail.com](mailto:twofilm@hotmail.com) for more information. Thank you, Pam and Kirby Harris. .

### Third Annual Geology Symposium (Northwest Fossils)

Our Symposium is becoming recognized as a high-quality, educational event that has information for people of all levels of interest and understanding about geology. This year the Symposium will feature "Northwest Fossils" as they relate to geology. We have an excellent group of speakers including Jeffrey Myers, Ph.D., Professor of Geology and Paleontology at Western Oregon University, William Orr, Ph.D., Professor of Geology at University of Oregon, and Ellen Morris-Bishop, Ph.D., author, photographer, and lecturer. The Symposium is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult admission is \$18 and students \$11. Admission includes show admission for "3" days. Check our website for more information and late-breaking news regarding additional speakers. [www.portlandregionalgemandmineral.org](http://www.portlandregionalgemandmineral.org)

### We haven't lost our universal interest!

What we haven't changed is the quality and variety of our 40 dealers or our 150 competitive and noncompetitive displays. We still have our excellent silent auction, raffle, hands-on demonstrators and the shared enjoyment of seeing one of the best gem and mineral shows in the Northwest. Don't miss the wonders nature provides.

Plan now to join us on September 28-30, 2007. It's a great place for a church group, scout troop, retirement center outing, or organized field trip. It is a perfect place for kids to take their parents, parents to take their children, and grandparents and grandchildren to go together. We have something of interest for everyone. We have made the changes, now all we need is you.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION ANYONE?

Editor's Note: I received the items in the mail as shown in the picture below. I thought the best way to communicate Norval Kane's message was to publish it in the newsletter. I do know that we paid for electrical usage when we had the Federation show in Pasco in 2003. The content of Norval's message follows.

Dear Friends,

I am sending you, in two containers, one of the lighting setups that we have used in our showcases for some years. The 24-inch spacing may be different than other clubs use. The first thing we did was to paint the inside top of the cases white. The sockets we got at Lowes, but an electric supply store should have them available.

I used regular extension cord for the wiring. It is important to cover the terminals after you have installed the wires. I used Silicone II in Clear though there is no reason you cannot use White or Black. Be sure that there is no chance of a short or a shock.

The circular fluorescent bulbs work very well. However, there are no more compact spiral bulbs in stock which might be even better. I have not been able to try these yet but will do so at our two day show after the November meeting of the Alaska Miners Association at the Sheraton Hotel. If the Spiral bulbs stick down too far, I am going to make up a mounting using two short pieces of the 1 x 4 placed vertically which will allow the spiral bulbs to be mounted horizontally.

I do think that the Philips bulbs are best since they have smaller and more compact coils. The number for a four pack unit is 148041. They are 23 Watts and equal to 100 watts. Light output is 1600 Lumens. I do not have one to spare as they are sold out but have put in one of another make which might be O.K.

I used one 9-foot lamp extension cord on the sample I sent you. You may not need that much cord on the plug end so make up whatever suits you. The multiple plug-in setup is just right for our use. They each have six to eight receptacles. This means that if you have a double row of cases back to back, you can plug in four, use one for plugging in the next unit and still have at least one more receptacle available. These units also contain an on and off switch and some are even protected from shorts.

You do not have to return the things I am sending you. I just hope that this may HELP IN PRODUCING GOOD LIGHTING and help in making a lighter electrical load at club shows.

Norval M. Kane, Chugach Gem & Mineral  
3140 W 79th Ave.  
Anchorage AK 99502





## 2007 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Sep 8-9 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4-30	Umpqua Gem & Min. Club Annual Show "Wonders of the West"	Douglas Co. Fairgrounds 15 Exit 123 Roseburg, Oregon	Dave Snyder (541) 679-7553 dyoung1953@msn.com
Sep 8-9	Hellgate Mineral Society	Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, 4825 North Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59801	Bob Riggs, 14 Holiday Lane, Missoula, MT 59801 (406) 543-3667
Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	"Rockhounding Around Missoula		
Sep 14-16	Far West Lapidary & Gem Society, So. Coast Rock & Gem Fest 2007	4 <sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot across Family Restaurant Coos Bay, Oregon	Carolyn DeMetz 541-267-5008 czdemetz@earthlink.net
Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Dealers & Tailgaters		
Sep 15-16	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Soc. 38th Annual Show	Walla Walla Co. Fair- grounds, Comm. Ctr. Bldg., 9th St & Orchard	Jack Edwards 509-529-3673 edwardsj@wwics.com
Sep 15-16	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	Castlerock Fairgrounds Cowlitz River @ A St Castle Rock, WA	Diann Thurston (503) 728-4274
Sun 10-4	42 <sup>nd</sup> Rock & Gem Show		
Sep 28-30	Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, Geology Symposium (Sat 9-1), & Oral Auction-Sun @ 9 a.m.	Portland Exposition Center 2060 Marine Drive Portland, Oregon	Patty Amos 360-892-3716
Fri 10-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5			
Oct 5-7	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Soc "Earth's Treasures"	Carrie Blake Park Guy Cole Convention. Ctr. 202 N. Blake Rd. Sequim, WA	Bill Dettmer, gsi@goal- sys.com, Wanda Power fvp@tenforward.com (360)681-2323
Fri 9-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 9-2			
Oct 13-14	Marysville Rock and Gem Club, 33rd Annual Show "Roctoberfest"	Marysville Jr. H S Cafe 7th St. and State Ave., Marysville, WA	Rocky McCall 360-629-2515
Sat 10-5			
Oct 20	Eureka Gem & Mineral Show	Senior Citizen's Center 1000 N. 3 <sup>rd</sup> East Mountain Home ID	Margaret Stallknecht 208-365-1653
Sat 10-4			
Oct 20-21	Hells Canyon Gem Club, 41st. Annual Show	Nez Perce County Fair Building, 1229 Burrell Ave Lewiston, ID	Jacque Dabritz 208-843-5545 djdabritz@msn.com
Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5			
Oct 27-28	Clackamette Min & Gem, "Adventures in Stone 2007"	Clackamas Co. Fair-grounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, Oregon	Rick Mauer (503) 691-6395 tallerricardo@juno.com
Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5			
Oct 27-28	Bellevue Rock Club Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show	3560 W.Lake Sammamish Blvd. SE; Bellevue WA (exit 13, I-90)	Bruce Himko Brucebecky@comcast.net P.O. Box 1851, Bellevue WA
Sat 10-5			
Nov 2-4	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club, 50th annual Rock & Gem Show	Oakway Center, 112 Coburg Rd, Eugene, OR (exit Coburg Road off Hwy. 126)	Jim Nelson (541) 687-8100
Fri 12-7 Sat 10-7 Sun 11-4			
Nov 9-11	NW Opal Assoc. & BEMS 3rd Annual South Sound Gem, Opal & Mineral Show	Expo Hall, Puyallup Fair- grounds, Meridian St. S. & 9th Ave. SW, Puyallup, WA	Steve Mackey 253-759-8903 smackey@harbormet.com
Fri 10-5 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4			
Nov 9-11	Chugach Gem and Mineral Society and Alaska Miners Association Annual Rock and Mineral Show	Sheraton Anchorage Hotel 401 East 6th Avenue, 2nd floor, Anchorage AK	Andres Macias, 907-274- 2204, sheilam@super70s .com; Anita Williams, 907- 345-2541, awilliam@alaska.net
Fri 5-9 pm Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5			
Nov 17-18	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society's "Fall Festival of Gems" Show	Kitsap County Fairgrounds 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd. Bremerton WA	Dave Reimers, 360-275-5986 dnkreimers@earthlink.net
Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5			

## 2008 Gem & Mineral Show Calendar

Date	Club/Show Name	Show Location	Contact Person
Feb 9-10 Sat 10-5 Sun 10-5	Whidbey Island Gem Club 38th Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA	Keith Ludemann 360-675-1837 rock9@whidbey.net
Feb 23-24 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5	Everett Rock and Gem Club 55th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show	WA National Guard Armory 2730 Oakes Avenue Everett WA	Fritz Mack (425) 232-0809 PO Box 1615 Everett, WA 98206
Feb 23-24 Sat 10-7 Sun 10-5	Idaho Gem Club Annual Show	Expo Idaho 5610 Glenwood Boise ID	Charlie Smith 208- 628-4002 PO Box 1264 Riggins, ID 83549

### Fourth Annual

# McDermitt Rock & Gem Show

Come have fun -- again -- at the Rockhound Rendezvous at the

## Diamond A Motel

(in the parking lot out front)

US Highway 95, McDermitt, Nevada

**September 20 - 23, 2007**

Rooms Available -- or Just Come Up for the Day!

For information: • call: (775) 532-8551 or 532-8088  
• fax: (775) 532-8552 or 532-809  
• email: rocks@diamondamotel.com

A large selection of agates, jaspers, opals, petrified wood, jewelry and other rock-hound related items will be available for sale from many dealers!

Field trips are planned!

**FREE ADMISSION!**

Show Promoted by the Nevada Commission on Tourism and the Community of McDermitt

*Advertised Worldwide*