



Lake City Rockhound News

NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB

APRIL 2011

P.O. Box 1643 Hayden, ID 83835

Meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:15 PM — Public Welcome

See the NFMS web site at www.amfed.org/nfms

See OUR web site for the club at www.northidahomineralclub.com

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011

WE WILL BE MEETING AT
LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER

1916 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

667-4628

For those who do not know this location. Drive south on Northwest Blvd to the first traffic light by the Riverstone development, turn left at the light and go up the hill about a block. The Senior Center is on the right. We can get into the Center by 6:15 6:15 to 8:15 Meeting and Program)

**PROGRAM AT THIS MEETING WILL BE A PRESENTATION BY
DEAN YONGUE ON**

“PROSPECTING WITH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION”

QUESTIONS GLADLY ANSWERED.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY JACOB KEUTER AND BERTHA McPHERSON

MARCH 17, 2011 Minutes of the meeting of North Idaho Mineral Club

Warren gave a warm greeting to members and guests and thanked everyone for a good turn out. Tonight's theme is Petrified Wood. There are numerous samples to see.

Marie McDonald came to tonight's meeting and is feeling much better. She also announced she is moving to Otter Rock Oregon near Agate Beach. All are welcome to visit. She also brought a basket of rocks up for grabs.

Minutes of last month's meeting were approved. Mike gave the Treasurer's Report with balance and expenses. Bev will need help with the construction of the case liners. There is enough material for 6 cases. She has offered her home for the Volunteer day to build them. Bob will work on the lighting.

SHOW REPORT: April 30th is the cut off for entries. Payment has been received from 22 vendors except from 2 of them; so we have received full or 1/2 pmts for tables. Demonstrations will be given at the show scheduled for June 4 & 5- We are still in need of volunteers to help at the show.

FIELD TRIP: Bob has volunteered to lead a group to Saddle Mountain on the 30th of April. A second field trip to hunt for thulite: Mike Shaw from the Rock Rollers has invited our club to the Okanogan Valley near Riverside. This is near Omak and on the other side of Coulee Dam.

OLD BUSINESS: Warren asked for a vote to continuing renting the room at the Senior Center in Coeur d' Alene. A vote was taken and approval was given to continue at this location instead of the Post Falls location. It will cost \$50.00 a month, same as the old location. Since we are paid a year in advance we will need to get a refund from Post Falls center. This center does not have an available television and DVD, so Mike was given authorization to purchase one for the club.

Also, new wording for the by-laws is needed. Everett has some experience. Articles of incorporation and filing/non profit. Average balance allowed to remain a non profit is \$50,000.

The possibility of a donation was once again discussed. This will be after the show in order to gauge a correct amount to be given to possibly 2 scholarships to 2 college students of geology. Warren will check with NIC. Much discussion will precede this decision.

Bev brought up placing a display at the college and library 2 weeks before the show to be removed once the show is over (next day) ... we will have to make the request for next year at NIC. The Libraries may still be available. Warren will check this out. Everett already has a display with labeled rocks. New specimens in any form may be added, like intarsia and PMC etc.

NEW BUSINESS: The Forest Service starts hearings on the 21 from 1-4 at Panhandle Forest Service: 3815 Schreiber off Kathleen. Per Tom: new planning rules on land management. This will be the 4th or so version for roads and access process.

Bev gave out 3 sets of booklets on wood identification compiled by Juanita Scott—a self taught and highly respected paleobotanist (Petrified Wood) and brought in some books and samples to look at. SHOW & TELL: Warren has wood to ID.. Possibly is Birch.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05

SNACKS for next meeting: Bertha McPherson and Jacob Keuter. **Thank you for volunteering**

Follow up on some of the above. Warren has gotten permission for a display of our work (without advertising our show but “advertising “ our club) at the Post Falls Library. Joan Gundlach made contact at the Cd'A library but it will have to be next year. Warren has also arranged for there to be advertising for our show at Post Falls Days and we will advertise their event also. This is good news. He will fill us in at the April meeting.

From the editor: Bob and I have come back to earth after strenuous days at the Panorama and Rock Rollers shows. I was blessed with a bad cold just after the Colville show and it made the jobs at Spokane quite difficult at times, but the last banking was done by Tuesday of this week. It was a good show in spite of the date change, and members I had never met before came through like angels to help with the many jobs. (I made special examination of the case liners, and many are made of cardboard similar to what we intend to use, and if they are carefully handled and stored they might last a few years.) Saw quite a few of our club members in Spokane, and also in Colville!! Good!!

I have made some liners out of the cardboard collected by Warren, and it is going to work OK, but is very hard to cut. I used box cutters and it took a long time. My thumbs are not what they used to be. There are more to make.

It would be wonderful if we could construct some like they use at the Panorama club, which will never bend or wear out as they are made of light weight paneling.

I have purchased some items to make things for the ring toss prizes, but we need ideas for more. Haven't talked to Mike and Diane yet about what they might have come up with. We will be busy in May. Plan to help as much as you can. Bev

The 2011 NFMS Mid Year meeting will be April 16 and Federation Director Everett will have a report for you at the meeting next week. Bev will also be going as delegate and both attending the ALAA meeting in the afternoon. (Hope we'll have a chance to look at the show. It's always good.)

For updated information on the Inter-regional Rendezvous contact Doug True at dtruefossils@yahoo.com. If you have not done so—please download the Northwest Newsletter for complete info on this event and also the Rock hound Retreat in the fall. www.amfed.org/nfms. If you do not read the newsletter you will miss out on a lot of good stuff.

The Public Lands Advisory by Andy Jackson in the April NFMS Newsletter is very important, and we have been following it since the announcement of the WILD LANDS POLICY signed by Dept. of the Interior Secretary Salazar in December just before the Christmas break for congress. (Sneaky, Sneaky!!) I have half a ream of downloaded info about this matter from many sources, but the best is the last—See page 4 of this newsletter for more.

Field trips Bob will lead a **field trip to Saddle Mountain Saturday APRIL 30. At least 4 people** must sign up— and plan to car pool so the gas money may be split among several people. Bob knows where to dig, but won't be doing much actual earth moving. Bring rock hammer, bucket, small shovel and gloves. Wear boots if you have them and tuck your pants into them as it is beginning of tick season, though the grass up on the mountain is not high. Bring lunch and water, and anything else you need may be purchased at the store in Mattawa.

We have been invited by Mike Shaw to go with the Rock Rollers on a **trip in June to Riverside, WA. to get thulite** It is a private claim and the owner will lead us in. The thulite is \$1 per pound. It is really pretty and takes a nice polish.—pink and green. The date has not yet been finalized—we'll keep you posted.

The Rock Rollers have quite a few field trips planned this year, and we always are welcome to join them if Mike knows ahead of time. (Bev can be your inside agent as to where and when.)

Also, the Panorama club in Colville welcomes us on their outings which occur about 3 times a month, starting in mid April and depending on the weather. We'll try to get a list, so we can plan.

In May—PREPARE TO VIEW SOME **BEAUTIFUL OPALS**—AND HEAR A REMARKABLE PRESENTATION BY **MIKE FURNER** FROM SPOKANE. He is a true opal "hunter" and has many specimens that you will never have seen. His talk is very interesting and informative—so be there!! May 19-2011

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 1, 2011 -

Today at a Natural Resources Committee hearing, Republican Members soundly rejected the Obama Administration's new "Wild Lands" order. This Secretarial Order, issued without public consultation, attempts to designate Wilderness areas without Congressional approval. Numerous state and local officials testified at today's hearing that this order could lock-up public lands, destroy American jobs, block recreational opportunities and prohibit American energy production.

" This hearing, and the testimony from elected officials today, exposes and begins to address the detrimental impact that the new public lands designation will have on western jobs and livelihoods," said National Parks, Forest and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-O1).

"This new policy will significantly impact many existing and planned activities on BLM lands, including mining, grazing, oil and natural gas development, motorized, and other forms of recreation.

These restrictions ... will hurt all Americans who enjoy recreational outings on our national lands. This arbitrary order should be rescinded immediately to restore the delicate balance between development and preservation of federal lands that Congress intended when it passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act," said Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (CO-O5).

"Our country already suffers from excessive government regulations. The Administration's Wild Lands order will restrict our economic development by preventing access to valuable public lands and sources of energy, timber and minerals, and will hinder our ability to create jobs in areas with record high unemployment," said Congressman Jeff Denham (CA-19).

"Secretarial Order 3310 promises to make an intolerable situation even worse, by locking up even more BLM land, creating de facto wilderness areas without Congressional action or oversight, and without the support of local communities that will be adversely impacted. This Order will not only prevent consideration of normal forestry, it will eliminate recreational uses such as snowmobiling, trail biking, motorcycling and other motorized access. The elderly and handicapped will be shut out entirely. Order 3310 is elitist and exclusive, rather than inclusive," said Dennis C.W. Smith, Jackson County Commissioner (Oregon).

Washington Department of Fish and Game Officials have temporarily shelved plans to seek increased enforcement authority pertaining to public conduct on lands which the agency controls or manages.

Currently the WDFG prohibits the collecting of rocks, minerals; fossils etc on WDFG lands and seek criminal and monetary sanctions against the public for such conduct. The Washington State Mineral Council, ALAA and other organizations and individuals have successfully voiced opposition to this plan and requesting that they be placed in the communication loop as stakeholders

YOUR ALAA WORKS FOR YOU. GET INVOLVED!

- **Opal** (prepare for next month) bb
By Dave Jacobson for *Canaveral Moonstone*
June 2010

This month our featured mineral is opal, SiO₂·nH₂O, hydrated silicon dioxide. Opal is a variety of silicon dioxide which usually contains water typically in the range of 5 to 10%. Opal is a tectosilicate, low temperature hydrothermal mineral. It is commonly precipitated from silica-rich solutions. It sometimes replaces the skeletons of marine organisms. It occurs as nodules, seams and botryoidal crusts. It often impregnates porous rocks and sediments.

Some of the more common varieties are following. Common opal: colorless and not translucent. Fire opal: reddish to orange-red translucent material. Precious opal: can be any hue which displays shifting flashes of intense color which can be red, blue, orange, green, purple and more. Colorless, transparent opal is hyalite. Hyalite is usually found in botryoidal (grape like) crusts. Hydrophane is a white, opaque, sometimes barely translucent opal which absorbs water. Wood opal replaces the mineralization in fossilized wood without destroying the structure of the material.

Opal is never found in crystal in form. It is brittle material with no cleavage plane, but has an excellent conchoidal fracture, which can be very lustrous. Hardness ranges from 5.5 to 6.5. Specific Gravity ranges from 1.99 to 2.25. The more porous material has the lower specific gravity. The gravity will increase as the opal absorbs water. When tested on a streak plate, the streak is white. It has a bright glassy to waxy luster. The color shift in precious opal is thought to be caused by the interference of reflected light due to grids of cristobalite spaced at regular intervals in the specimen.

Opal is a common mineral and is found in many locations in the world. Most of the black precious opal comes from Australia. Mexico is a source of fine fire and precious opal. In the United States precious opal is found in Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. Excellent wood opal specimens have been found in the western United States.

Opal takes its name from the Sanskrit word *upala*, meaning "precious stone" or "gem" and the Latin word *opalus*, meaning "precious stone."

The following reference materials were used in preparing this article:

[Mineralogy For Amateurs](#) by John Sinkankus.
[Simon & Schusters Guide to Rocks And Minerals.](#)
[Gemstones Of The World](#) by Walter Schumann.

Article via The Mountain Gem, July 2010

2011 ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTH IDAHO MINERAL CLUB, INC.

PRESIDENT WARREN PRICE 457-8226

VICE-PRESIDENT BILL JOHNSON (771-2687 C)—765-3099

SECRETARY YOLANDA ROSALES 667 70973

TREASURER MIKE BURTON (818-6317 C)

FEDERATION DIRECTOR EVERETT HEADRICK 772-7643

FEDERATION DELEGATE BEVERLY BOCKMAN 773-5384

WSMC DELEGATE **OPEN**

REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN **OPEN**

HOSPITALITY BOB BOCKMAN 773 5384

FIELD TRIP **OPEN**

MEMBERSHIP BOB BOCKMAN "

SHOW 2011—WARREN PRICE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—BEV BOCKMAN "

PROGRAMS—BEV BOCKMAN AND Club Members

WEBMASTER—MIKE BURTON 818-6317



A bad picture of a **beautiful** object...a dragonfly created by intarsia expert from Shady Cove, OR.—Barbara Jacobsen. The iris agate wings are incredible! As is the insect body done in tiny sections. Of course, opal eyes.

If you detach your ego and desires from the outcome in others lives it frees your mind of expectations, which almost never get met anyway. This frees your heart from the pain of those unmet expectations. "Be who you are and say what you feel. Because those that matter don't mind, and those that mind don't matter"

My philosophy moment for the year. BB

How to Saw Montana Agate

Author unknown

People not familiar with working with Montana agate have, perhaps, wondered how to set up to saw the first nodule they acquire. Most Montana nodules are found in 2 shapes, flat and slightly curving or round and elongated. As this material has rolled hundreds of miles down turbulent streams nearly all of it is cracked, so take this into consideration when sawing to get the largest slab free from fractures.

First, look into the rocks with a strong light to determine which way the moss or banding layers lie. Light cuts can be taken of an end or a side, at right angles to the layers that will then reveal whether you should slab from end to end or side to side. Many people who are used to sawing thundereggs get used to sawing each nodule through the center to expose the pattern. While this method works well with nodules it cannot be used to best advantage with Montana material. It will probably ruin the best sprays as the largest and best ones usually lie towards the center. Sawing across them will render them valueless. Only a very few specimens carry fine large sprays so do not be disappointed if the first few do not have them. About the time you are ready to give up one of the poorest looking pieces may have the fine spray you are looking for.

Grindings, et. al; West Seattle *Petroglyph 5-05*, Via *Strata Gem* 9-2006 (SCRIBE) via Mountain Gem July 2010

Lake City Rockhound News

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CLUB WEB SITE

www.northidahomineralclub.com

Save ALL your cancelled stamps for cancer re-search-bring to meeting, and give to Everett H.

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THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

S.C.R.I.B.E.



2011 ROCK AND GEM SHOWS IN WA., OR., ID., AND MT.

APRIL 23-24 GRAYS HARBOR GEM—ELMA, WA.

APRIL 30-MAY 1- WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB—SEATTLE, WA

MAY 7-8 BOZEMAN GEM AND MIN CLUB, BOZEMAN MT.

MAY 14-15 BITTERROOT GEM AND MIN, HAMILTON, MT.

MAY 21-22 HATROCKHOUNDS- HERMISTON, OR.

JUNE 3-5 PUYALLUP VALLEY GEM—PUYALLUP, WA

CONSULT www.amfed.org/nfms for show details.

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW ROCKHOUNDS AND CLUBS