

Hatrockhound Gazette 2020

PO Box 1122, Hermiston, Oregon 97838



Meetings at 6:30 on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month
First Christian Church of
Hermiston:
775 West Highland
(go to back of church)

Officers:
President – Bill Shipp
V. Pres. – Mike Filarski
Secretary – Rita Watterson
Treasurer – Mel Lambert
Member at Large – Laura
Tiffany & Doug Gill

Newsletter/Website – Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th St, Hermiston, OR 97838 541-720-4950



Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society is Affiliated with:

The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
And The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



AFMS Rockhounds “Code of Ethics”

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials

on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Hatrockhound Gazette - April 2020 Issue

**April Meeting: Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, our meeting is cancelled.
We will keep you informed as we know more.**

Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2020

General Business: Bill and Rita have been having some health issues and asked to be relieved for a time, so Mike and Judi led the meeting.

Since we had discussed these things before, we again took up the question of whether it would be beneficial to continue our membership with the Chamber and renew our membership with ALAA.

With a statement from the Chamber that Mike had received, including a nonprofit discount, our cost would be \$211. Mel Lambert moved to pay for the Chamber and Louise Lambert seconded the motion. With a show of hands the motion was passed by a majority who voted.

Doug Gill made a motion to renew our membership with the ALAA and Mel Lambert seconded. This motion also passed with a show of hands. Mel will pay the bills.

Annual Show: Mike said the bill has been paid for the show - \$2100. He has received about a half dozen contracts back so far. Mike let the membership know that Russ Wentworth, of Wentworth Rock and Gem had passed away this winter. He was one of our cornerstone dealers. Mike said he does have a replacement. Judi will send the family a sympathy card.

Announcements: The picnic will be held in McKenzie Park on Saturday, August 22nd. Judi had a few calendars available with the corrected date.

The Umpqua Show will be May 2-3. The Lakeside Show is April 18-19.

Show and Tell:

Mike showed off a couple of gem trees he had worked on. He had added some unique features including some bare branches.

Hope true to her form, brought a variety of rocks. As Mike helped her identify the different ones, she commented that the petrified wood looks like a boot.

Don shared a cut palm nut from Alamo Lake, Arizona. The center was quite intriguing.

Randy brought Missoula Flood rocks. He had three slabs: green granite, orange granite and a black and green piece. All had lovely patterning. He had made some of his coasters from them.

Door Prizes: Don and Anita again generously contributed three door prizes, so we had additional drawings. Sophia won a fossil animal, Anita an agate geode, Laurie a bow tie, Judi a world map and sun screen, Gordon, a necklace, and Chris a small gem tree.

Program: Judi jumped the gun on the programs, as the rock painting was scheduled for April – which no one noticed: so we painted rocks.

Executive meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 at Judi's. Everyone is welcome

APRIL MEETING: 6:30 pm, April 14th

ROCK JEOPARDY: Since Judi jumped the gun on the rock painting, I guess she will have to come up with some new questions for the ROCK JEOPARDY game.

WEBSITE: jall23.wixsite.com/hatrockhounds

Judi Allison, Acting Secretary



*Diligent
workers,
all!*



As you can see, our members were working diligently to create painted rocks for the Kids' Corner as the Show. Last month, gem trees were sculpted as door prize gifts for the Mothers on Sunday of the Show. At this time the show has not been cancelled. We will continue to update you as time draws nearer. In the event we are able to have the show, we will need to have a lot of people come together in a last minute effort to pull it off. We will be counting on you and we know you can do it! Let's all hope for the best! Continue social distancing, stay safe and well.

Amazing Scientific Discovery



(The following information has been passed around through many mineral club and society newsletters. The original reporter is not known.)

Nearly every mineral collector can give the chemical formula for quartz without even looking it up in a book. Quartz is Silicon Dioxide (SiO_2). HOWEVER, recent studies with the most sensitive scientific equipment have revealed that this is not true. Quartz is, as the ancient Roman scientist, Pliny the Elder, claimed, petrified Dihydrogen Oxide (H_2O). Do you recognize that chemical formula? Dihydrogen Oxide is . . . WATER! Scientists around the world are stunned, and embarrassed, to learn that quartz is indeed water that has frozen so hard for so long that it actually became stone. (Simple proof of this fact can be made if you touch a quartz crystal on the hottest summer day, you will instantly feel that it is *cool to the touch*.)

Publishing companies around the world are scrambling to reprint their field books and textbooks with this new information. College professors are offering extra lectures to clear up this confusion with their students. Mineral collectors around the world are making new labels for all their quartz specimens.

This new information teaches us three things:

1. Science is always growing and developing and new discoveries can happen at any time.
2. Scientists must always be ready to work with new information, even if that information completely changes our understanding of the world around us. AND

3. Don't believe everything you see in writing. APRIL FOOL'S!!!! I know this is a little late, but thought I would include it anyway. Mini Miner April 2020

Here's an Idea for a Fun Time in the Rock World One Rockin' Weekend

Are you 18 or older and want to experience the fun that you remember having as a kid at summer camp? Maybe you never went to summer camp in your youth, but still want memories like that. Well, the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake is offering a chance for you to be a kid again. Come join us this summer for one rockin' weekend!

Camp Details

This fun-packed weekend includes a few hours of classroom instruction at the picturesque Montana Learning Center, where you'll learn basic Montana rock and mineral identification and rock hounding techniques, followed by opportunities to apply what you learned over the rest of the weekend.

The classroom instruction will be held after you check in Friday night. Saturday will include a 12-mile boat ride down Canyon Ferry Lake to White Earth, where you'll dig for and collect agate. That evening, you'll wash, cut and polish your very own agate to keep. Sunday includes the opportunity for you to sift through gravel to find your own Montana sapphires and/or garnets. Experienced MLC instructors will be available to provide you with guidance every step of the way.

This three-day overnight camp is for adults over the age of 18.

The cost is \$350 per camper, and includes housing, meals, supplies and all activities.

Camp Dates: August 28th-30th

For more information: montanalearning.org

All proceeds from this event go toward supporting our summer learning camps for kids!

Inspired by Noble Serpentine

Carrying on a Tradition and 'Living the Dream' at Wild Turkey Mine



Jim takes a fresh scoop of noble serpentine out of the ground, showing just how this material is being found.

By Stuart "Tate" Wilson

Jim and Jennifer Sahli, owners of the Wild Turkey Mine, are a true American success story. Everything from the rich local mining history to their current involvement in producing a fantastic new semi-precious lapidary gem material makes this a great addition to the history books.

In 2018, I made the trip to the Colville River Valley of eastern Washington to interview the Sahlis. I was able to see first-hand the local geology, which produces the loveliest glowing green serpentine while spending the day mining with this couple. I also learned what it takes for this gem to make it from mine to market.

Show Connection

I met this couple more than eight years ago at a small gem and mineral show in western Washington. We were neighboring vendors, and it was one of the first shows they had attended. I was doing business as "Washington Treasures" and they as "Washington Rocks!" Naturally, we hit it off. We both shared the passion for digging Washington state material. Over the years, we've watched one another grow and discover amazing material. I've also had the opportunity to see these wonderful folks turn a passionate hobby into a profitable and enjoyable business.

While the Sahlis owe most of their success to a ton of hard work and a fair bit of luck, it is also important to realize and acknowledge the rich mining history of this area and more than a century's worth of labor, done by those whose memories and artifacts are all that remain. If it were not for all of the work laid out by those of the past, we would not know about or have access to these localities now.

Enchanted By Noble Serpentine

Noble serpentine tumbled stones hold the light so well they appear to glow.

If the idea of 'love at first sight' extends to rockhounding, then that's exactly what happened to the Sahlis. They quickly recognized the beautiful noble serpentine as an exciting and widely unrecognized semi-precious gem material with market appeal. At first, they collected small amounts here and there for tumbling material and yard rock. The softness of the stone made it wonderful for tumbling, and it came out shiny and beautiful. The tumbles they produced



were given as gifts to family and friends, and the response was great. Everyone loved this glowing lime-green stone.

Next, the couple sold noble serpentine at occasional gem and mineral shows in the region, as well as the Quartzsite Improvement Association Pow Wow Gem & Mineral Show. It was during the Quartzsite event they realized how much interest there was in noble serpentine. Each year they participated in the show, they would sell out of the material before the show concluded.

Unfortunately, at the same time market interest for noble serpentine was rising, access to the deposit closed, and any small production came to an end. The Sahlis had foreseen this happening and wisely tried contacting the landowners to lease or buy the land. However, their attempts were futile. The owners of the land lived across the country and did not respond to any of the Sahlis requests. The couple's dream of opening a mine, and seeing its full potential come to fruition was starting to dissipate quickly.

Then out of nowhere, not even six months after land access ended, they received a call from the out-of-state landowners who had heard they were being summoned. The Sahlis gave a huge sigh of relief when they learned the owners were more than happy to sell the property to them and at an unbeatable price. Their dreams of owning the mine were back on track and in a better way than ever. Their minds were once again able to run wild with ideas of how they could turn mining for noble serpentine into something that could support them fully while providing the gem and mineral world with a fantastic new stone.

Basic Methods Prove Successful

The Wild Turkey Mine is still in its infancy, so mining methods are basic. Upon entering the mine, we collected anything and everything that looked good. The entire mine is made of noble serpentine, so it's plentiful pickings. However, I soon realized there is a lot more to it than I thought. The serpentinite rock forms in horizontal layers and each layer is a dramatically different variety of serpentine. After just a few years, the Sahlis have discovered numerous varieties. However, there is certainly plenty of the typical dark green variety of serpentine that is a much harder and excellent material for carving. Right below this primary layer, begins the classic noble serpentine variety that we have come to recognize. It has a gorgeous lime green, semi-translucent color with streaks of white throughout.

It will be exciting to see the future of the Wild Turkey Mine as new material is uncovered and lapidary ideas come to creation. I had a great time visiting these two wonderful people and receiving an in-depth tour of this century-old mine. While magnesite was the main concern in this area a century ago, the old-timers most certainly came across this deposit as a result. I can't help but wonder what they thought of this stone and its most lovely green color.

For more information about Wild Turkey Mine and noble serpentine, to connect with owners Jim and Jennifer Sahli, or to purchase some of this remarkable material, visit www.washingtonrocks.net.

(I have shortened this article from the original. You can find the entire thing at rockngem.com Judi)