



The Rock-It

March/April 2011

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Sunshine Person: Barbara Brandt (503)-658-3690
Juniors Leader: Steve Nelson, and Kala Wellman
Refreshments Book: Libby Adcock
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"The Rock-It" is the official club publication of the Mt. Hood Rock Club. The news deadline is the first day of every month, for that month's publication. The contents of "The Rock-It" may be reprinted if credit is given to "The Rock-It" and the author.

Meetings: Mt. Hood Rock Club meets the second Tuesday & the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gresham. The Church is located at 620 NW 8th St, Gresham, OR. Regular meetings start at 7:00 pm. Juniors are welcome!

Mt. Hood Rock Club: Phone No. (503) 760-1825
Dues are due before January 31st if you want to be included in the club's roster for that year.

Dues: \$10.00 per adult, juniors \$1.50 family membership same household \$15.00.

Oregon Council Web site:
www.oregoncouncilrmc.org

Mt. Hood Rock Club is a proud member of the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association, Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Oregon Council Rock Mineral Clubs.

Website: check us out on our new web site.
<http://www.mounthoodrockclub.com/>



March Birthday's

Don Brandt
Merlia Tilgner

April Birthday's

Barbara Brandt
Bill Mitzel
Dan Rokosz
Chuck Sonner
Kala Wellman



March & April's Recipe

Easy to make and take on field trips.

No Bake Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

½ cup butter (1 stick)
2 cups sugar
½ cup milk
4 tablespoons baking chocolate squares
(or 4 baking squares)
½ cup peanut butter
3 ½ cups quick oats; uncooked
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

Method:

1. In a 4 quart saucepan, add first 4 ingredients. Bring to a rolling boil and hold for 1 minute. Remove from heat.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients and drop by tablespoonfuls on waxed paper.

3. Cool until set.

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Baking Time: 1 minute

The schedule for the Shop:

Tuesday 10 am - 2 pm

Host: Steve Nelson

Wednesday 6 pm -10 pm

Host: Lee Boehner

Thursday 6 pm -10 pm

Host: Jim Crismon

Friday 6 pm-10pm

Host: 1st and 3rd Rick Beehler

Host: 2nd & 4th Dan Espeland

Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

Host: Ellis Valenter

2nd Saturday 1pm-6pm

Host: Rick Beehler

We invite all MHRC members to come see the Lap shop and are encouraged to sign up to participate if they want- \$7 per session, 3mo \$90, 6mo \$150, 1yr \$250 \$.40 per lineal inch cut on 16", 18", 24"

We've Been Forgotten

You loaned us to the club for display at Rice Museum during the first half of 2009. We didn't have our owners name with us and we weren't identified on any inventory list. Our owner was searched for but not identified. So, please pause for a moment and think of 'sunstones' that you once loaned for display and forgot. If you remember us please contact Michael Brown and describe.



Federation News

In July the Federation show will be held in Chehalis, WA we are looking for Demonstrators for the show we want show the people in the area what can be done with the rocks they find. If anyone is interested in demonstrating please contact me and I will sign you up. You can email me at packrats2@q.com. We would like to find some ice cream buckets or small tubs for slabs to use at the show. We have a new email address. We also need good rock we can auction off in the oral auction and rock for the silent auction also. Anyone who would like to help at the show please contact Dick or Patty and we can give you any other further information you may need.

Our Beach Trip

While at the beach this past week we got to visit with some of our friends. Fred and Rita from Canada and Bill and Carol Mitzel. They came and spent part of the week with us. The following pictures are ones I took while down there.



This guy was on the post out front of our condo. They`e not afraid of you so I could get pretty close to him.



Dick and Fred doing the wave dance! It was beautiful the first 5 days we were there. The boys were trying to bring in some big waves for us to take pictures of.



One of the many things that wash up on the beaches.



These cobblestones were interesting to look at they were at the Yaquina Head lighthouse. The surf has rolled them around and smoothed the edges if you were close to them they made interesting sounds as the tide washed over them.



These guys were being lazy on the beaches across the bay from where we were rockhunting and were swimming in the water but never could catch one at the right time to take his picture when he was swimming by.



Yaquina Head Lighthouse out of Newport, OR.



Octopus Tree

The info to follow was on a sign at this tree. It was really a sight to see if you ever get to the coast you should go to The Cape Meares Lighthouse and see this tree.

The forces that shaped this unique Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) have been debated for many years. Whether natural events or possibly Native Americans were the cause remains a mystery. The tree measures more than 46 feet in circumference and has no central trunk. Instead, limbs extend horizontally from the base as much as 16 feet before turning upward. It is 105 feet tall and is estimated to be 250 to 300 years old.

Designated and Oregon Heritage Tree
April 2009

Tsunami



While at the beach Dick and I got to be a part of the Tsunami. We were awakened around 6am and told we had to leave our condo. They put us on a bus and sent us to a school in Lincoln City. We were there until around 2pm. While there we were fed breakfast and lunch by the Red Cross they did a pretty good job making you feel comfortable. Didn't have enough time to take much with us so had limited things we could do but talk to people and read a little. There were around 200 people in the school. After we were sent back we went to the lighthouse in Newport. We thought we would go and see the tide pools but they were closed due to the surf. While there we talked to a BLM volunteer and she pointed out the levels of the surf there was around 3 hours before high tide and

the surf was already at the level of what the high tide would have been at 3 hours early. For the most part it was an interesting day and was I glad it didn't turn out worse than it did. Channel 12 did come in and take pictures and talk to some of the people in the school. The local paper took pictures and also talked to some of the people there. We didn't talk to anyone which was fine with me. I don't really want to go through that again.



Some of the set up especially the food area for the potluck!



A group of kids waiting for the Thunderegg hunt it was a muddy mess out there I got my shoes muddy just taking a few pictures. I do believe most of the kids had a good time.



Bill and Phil demonstrating I'm not sure they even noticed me taking their picture.



My egg case for the kids!



Doug Miller he got interested in carving from Linda Bergeson about 4 years ago



Member sales table I do believe that is the most I have seen on those tables in years.



The Oral auction.



A small group at the kids corner I wasn't able to get any pictures when it was busy but they did a great business over there.



2 trouble makers!

Peoples Choice Awards

Member Award-Don and Barbara Brandt

Guest Award-Jim & Libby Spencer

Junior-Paul Coulter

We had a lot of very nice cases this year. Hope to have more next year thanks to everyone who put in a case at this years show.

Is there something inside my rock?

Many times lapidaries, rockhounds and mineral collector have a nodule, concretion, septarian, geode or some spherical or partly spherical or disk shape rock and wonder what it contains, if anything.

If the rock is metamorphic or igneous, it probably contains agate, as Brazilian agate for example, or some other form of silica. If the concretion was formed as sedimentary rock, it may be from an inch or less in diameter to many feet across and it may be spherical, ellipsoidal, flat, ring shape or some other odd or fantastic shape and contain one of a number of many substances.

Concretions form in sedimentary rock generally are an accumulation of mineral matter that forms after the sedimentary deposits are laid down. Generally the concretions is composed of one of the minor constituents of the enclosing rock.

In chalk and limestone these concretions consist most often of silica and form flint nodules, etc. In sandstone they consist of iron oxide or calcium carbonate and form calcite, aragonite, etc. In shale's they are calcium carbonate or iron sulphide. Manganese nodules partly encrusting sharks teeth have been dredged from the ocean bottom. Indeed, many concretions contain a fossil at their center which was the nucleus causing it to harden a little more than the surrounding country rock. Indeed, most often concretions are a little harder than the enclosing matrix rock and thus they may weather out of it. From the Mineralog and may others.

The Annual Awards Presented!

Gemstone of the Year-Richard Shellhammer

Project of the Year-Richard Shellhammer

Silver Pick of the Year-Ruth Zurcher

Jewelry of the Year-Mary Bolton

Cabochon of the Year-Dominic Senarsky

Fossil of the Year-Greg Gentry

Congratulations to everyone! Its not to early to start on this years project.

Good Luck!!!!!!

Hello fellow Rock Club Members,

The **Washington Agate and Mineral Society of Olympia** will be holding our **17th annual Rock and Gem Show**, Saturday and Sunday **July 23rd & 24th 2011**. **You are invited.**

It will be held at the **PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** on **STAGE STREET SOUTH** in Tenino just out of Olympia, Washington, and it will be held on the same weekend that Tenino has its Oregon Trail Days Celebration. It will be a tailgate show with a room for display cases, and demonstrations. The show hours will be from 9:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday, July 23rd and from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday, July 24th.

Lapidary



GRINDER	GRIT
INVESTMENT	JEWELERS SAW
LOST WAX	POLISH
ROUGE	SILVER SHEET
ROUND-NOSE PLIERS	SOLDER
TRIM SAW	TUMBLER
SAW	SQUARE
DIAMOND CUPS	CABS
SPHERE MACHINES	FREE FORM
SHAPED	LEATHER WHEEL
SILVERSMITHING	MATERIALS
TEMPLETS	

Working amber:

Amber can be worked very easily. It can be filed to shape and then sanded with an aluminum oxide paper of finer and finer grades, (200,400, and 600 grit) until a polish step is necessary. Amber can be polished by the use of: (1) tripoli with oil; (2) aluminum oxide; (3) tin oxide;(4) Linde A; (5) rouge, applied dry .Dip the amber piece into the lubricant (oil or water) and then dip the piece: into the polishing compound then rub vigorously on a smooth surface such as a leather strop, or a chamois attached to a hard board. The people in Europe and Mexico used wood ashes as a. polishing agent. Faceting Amber can also be faceted if the lap speed is reduced. Suggested cutting angles are: Cutting angles Cutting lap Cutting speed Culet - 43 degrees Fine - extra fine 100 RPM Crown - 42 degrees Polishing Lap - wax speed - normal agent - Linde A Polybern - Amber in plastic.

Amber can also be embedded into plastics or resins to make beads or ornaments. Commercial plastic resins are available - simply follow their casting procedures .from Coalmont / Blakeburn via The Geode

BLADE	BURRS
CABOCHON	DRILL
DIAMOND PASTE	FILE
FLAT LAP	FLEX SHAFT



Do you have yours there \$.50.

Tools of the Trade

Essentials:

- **Rock hammer** - Don't leave home without it. There are two types of rock hammers. A *standard point* rock hammer, or geologist's pick has a hammer on one end that is good for breaking rock and a pointed tip on the other end that is good for digging. The second type of hammer is a *chisel point* rock hammer. This type has a hammer on one end and a flat, chisel shaped tip on the other ideal for splitting sedimentary layers in search of fossils. The standard point hammer is probably the best to start out with and is most versatile. If you are serious about the hobby you should have both. Buy a good quality hammer. They cost more than a cheap one but will far outlast others and are well worth the few extra dollars. Estwing and Plumb are two good brands.
- **Safety Glasses** - Always wear safety glasses when breaking and splitting rock.
- **Pack** - Bring a small backpack or fanny pack to bring the good stuff home in.

Accessories:

- **Crack Hammer** - A crack hammer is a small one-handed sledge hammer. These are useful when you have to split open large boulders or bedrock in order to get at the mineral deposits.
- **Chisels** - Used in conjunction with a rock or crack hammer for heavier work. The standard flat chisels are used to separate bedding planes while the gad point chisels are handy to split open crevasse.
- **Pry Bars** - These can come in very handy when working the crevasse.
- **Jewelers Loupe** - A small hand-held magnifying glass to examine small crystal specimens.
- **Tissue Paper** - This is a must if you are collecting delicate specimens. Wrap them in tissue paper before putting them into your pack.

Land Status

This is very important! Be aware of the land status of the area you are collecting in. While most collecting areas are on public lands, many popular areas (especially old mines) are on private lands. In the case of old mining areas, if they are not posted or fenced, it is likely that they are open to the collector. If we act in a responsible manner, chances are good that they will remain that way.

Be aware that some public lands are also off limits to collecting. State and National Parks, and National Monuments are some examples of this. Other public lands have special collecting regulations. For example, collecting is allowed in wilderness and wilderness study areas as long as there is no discernable surface disturbance.

Listed below are just some of the things that we must strive to avoid on both public and private lands:

- Littering
- Driving off designated roads

- Bulk sampling/commercial collecting (without proper permits)
- Vandalism
- The destruction or removal of items of historical/archeological significance

Safety

Weather: Be sure to check the forecast for the area you intend to visit beforehand and bring the appropriate clothing and footwear. High elevations in Utah can see snow at any time of the year. Many back roads and stream crossings can become impassable during and after rainstorms.

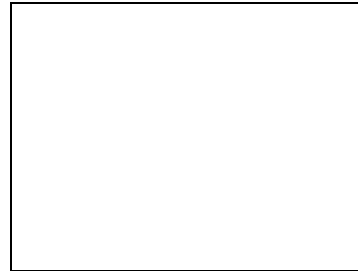
Natural Hazards: Most collecting areas in Utah are pretty wild places. There are many ways that the careless can be injured or even killed. Rough terrain, exposed cliffs, lightning, flash floods, heat, cold and wild animals are just some of the dangers to be aware of and prepared for.

Mines: Many of the best collecting areas are in old mining districts. This presents the rockhounder with several unique hazards. Open mine shafts are everywhere. Be very careful around them. One misstep could be your last. Do not enter old mine tunnels. Cave-ins and uninhabitable atmospheres are just two of the things that could do you in underground. Sometimes discarded explosives are left at old mining areas. If you happen to come across some, do not disturb it in any way. Dynamite becomes very unstable with age. Don't let these perils keep you from collecting at mines. Old mine dumps present the collector with some of the greatest specimens. Just be extra cautious and remember the do's and don'ts.

Emergencies: Lets face it. Schist happens. Not only is it more enjoyable to go rockhounding with friends, it is also safer. If you can go with a buddy do it! Be sure to tell someone back at home where you and your group intend to go also. Keep in mind how far off the highway you are traveling to reach your destination. Ensure

that in the event of a breakdown you can safely reach the highway on foot. If this is a significant distance, that means having food, water and adequate clothing. Just remember that your chances of getting into serious trouble increase proportionately with how far into the back country you travel. The further into the wild you go, the more prepared you have to be. Ensure also that your vehicle is in top shape before any rockhounding adventure.

Thunder Eggs



Thunder Egg From Friend Ranch, OR.

Are you ready to find a treasure that will give you plenty of surprises? Unlike most treasures once you've found them the real surprises and adventure is over, but with this one they may be just the beginning. Because once you open it you see what you've really got.

So you're wondering what I'm talking about, well I'm talking about thunder egg hunting of course.

What is a Thunder Egg

You may be wondering, what is a thunder egg and is it any different than a geode? Although that may seem easy to answer, you will probably be surprised at the answers you're about to get.

To be honest there seems to be no firm answer to these questions, so all you see here is just some generally accepted answers, there are many exceptions to these, and they should not be judged as the final or even full answer.

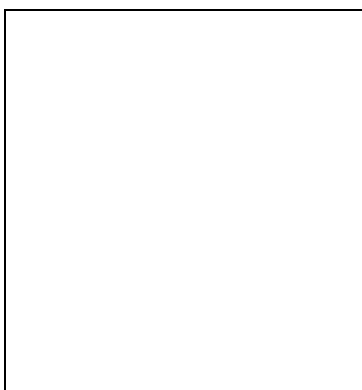
How is a Thunder Egg Formed

A thunder egg is formed inside of bubbles that were formed in the magma that flowed over several parts of the world many millions of years ago. Over the many millennia that followed, water that had quartz suspended in it would fill into these voids in the lava, and as the water evaporated it would leave the quartz behind.

In the case of a thunder egg the quartz that was left behind eventually filled the entire void with either agate or jasper. The way the thunder eggs were filled over the years, the colors you will find, and the patterns of those colors are almost endless, and will depend on where you find them. When you find one thunder egg you will almost always find others because they usually form in what are called beds. In some areas many beds can be within only a few hundred feet of one another, but when you compare a thunder eggs from each bed you will find that they can be amazingly different.

The differences in the thunder eggs from each bed is due to many things, such as the minerals that seeped into the voids, the depth that they formed at, or the pressure they were formed under.

How to Identify a Geode or a Thunder Egg



Red Fire inside a thunder eggs from France. The outside of your thunder egg or geodes will be covered with whatever the surrounding matrix is made of, but you will be able to readily identify them by their round or peanut shape, and the fact that

they will be much harder than its surrounding material.

So how is that different from a geode? Well geodes are usually formed in sedimentary rock, such as sand stone, and they generally are not completely filled in. Most geodes still have a void inside of them and will often be filled with very beautiful quartz or amethyst crystals.

How do I identify a geode as compared to a thunder egg? The best answer for this is you can't until you cut or break it open. You were hoping for a better answer? Sorry there really isn't one.

You may be wondering where the name thunder egg comes from well it comes from the lore of the local Indians in the Northwest US. They believed that thunder eggs were projectiles that the gods would throw at one another from the tops of mountains during thunderstorms, thus the name thunder eggs.

Where Are Thunder Eggs Found

So where should you go for your treasure hunting vacation to find thunder eggs? [Richardson's Rock Ranch Madras](#), OR Valley View Thunder Eggs Mitchell, OR Black Agate Thunderegg Mine Blythe, CA

LOWERING THE NOISE

A simple way to cut down the noise when you're hammering on your mini anvil or bench block is to place it on an old mouse pad or other similar rubber material.

Save Those Stamps: Save stamps for **NFMS**. These stamps are cleaned and resold to dealers (mostly overseas) and the money earned is sent to cancer research facilities. Please do not remove the stamp from the envelope and try to retain at least 1/4" of the envelope around the stamp.