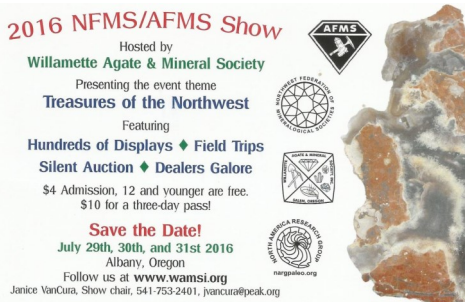
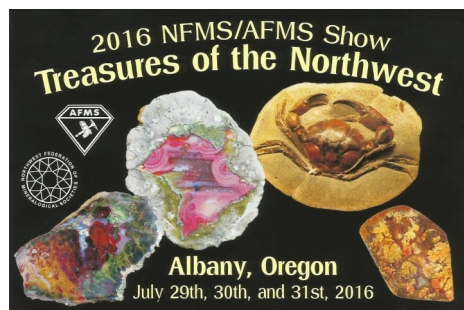
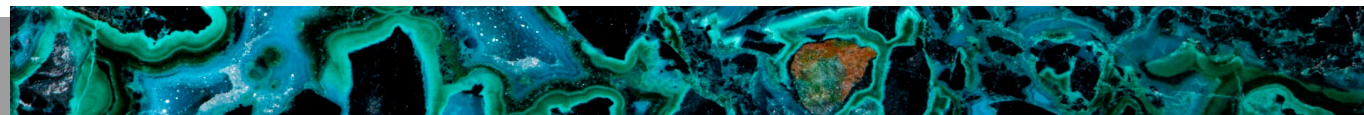


SKAGIT GEMS

April 2016
Volume 56, Issue 3



The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society invites you to come see the "Treasurers of the Northwest" The AFMS meeting will be held on Thursday the 28th before the show opens on Friday the 29th. It is being held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Building in Albany, Oregon just off I-5. All meetings and events will take place at the Fair Grounds. We expect to have lots of vendors, over 200 display cases, lectures, silent auction and daily field trips to local petrified wood for your enjoyment.

The Best Western Prairie Inn nearby has agreed to reserve a block of rooms at a discounted rate for those coming to the event. You can call them directly at 541-928- 5050 and ask for our group name "NFMS Rock & Gem Show". This discounted rate and block of rooms will only be held until July 12th so please reserve early. The Holiday Inn Express (541-928-8820) and the Comfort Suites (541-928-2053) right next to the Fairgrounds do not have rooms reserved, but will provide a discount if you mention that you are there for an event at the Expo building. You will need to ask for the "Expo rate". There are also RV parks in the area that are available. There are a few spots at the Fairgrounds you need to contact them directly and mention you are with the rock show. The Knox Butte RV Park (541-928-9033), The Blue Ox RV Park (541- 926-2886), The Albany RV & Trailer Park (541-928- 8532), and The Albany/Corvallis KOA (541-967- 8521) are all close by.

We really recommend that if you are planning to attend that you make sure to get your room in advance because the same weekend is also the multi-day Country Music Festival in nearby Sweet Home and rooms and RV parks tend to fill up. For your long range planning the Multi-Federation Field Trip is the week after the show out of Prineville Oregon. So come for both events and really see some of the Treasurers of the Northwest. Janice Van Cura, Show Chair 541-753-2401

Events this month

April 2nd Gen. Meeting 10:00
Gem of the Month: Pyrite

April 16&17 Field Trip
Saddle Mtn for Petrified Wood

April 16&17 Gem Show
Maplewood Club, Edmonds

April 23&24 Gem Show
West Seattle Club, Seattle WA

April 30, May 1st Gem Show
Everett Club, Everett WA

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President's Message

Hi Rockhounds,

It was nice turnout for the March meeting. The weather is getting warmer so we can get out rock hunting soon. Getting new members every month has been great. Hope to see you at the April 2nd meeting and don't forget your fool's gold!

---Eric Self

Next Meeting

April 2nd 10am

Gem of the Month: Pyrite

Bring your specimens to share!

Program: Greg Hochmuht, club VP, will demonstrate the art of flint knapping.



One common form is a cube with six square faces, as shown in this picture of pyrite crystals in schist.

Pyrite is perhaps the better known to the general public as fool's gold. Although it is much lighter than gold, its brassy color and relatively high density have led many novice prospectors into disappointment. Its name is derived from the Greek word 'pyr' (fire) because pyrite emits sparks when struck by iron.

Pyrite belongs to the mineral group the Sulfides and it's a form of iron sulfide. It commonly forms in cubes, but other shapes can be found. It can also be massive, granular or nodular. Pyrite forms under varied conditions including in hydrothermal veins and from magma. The mineral is found in many sedimentary rocks, such as limestone, shale and coal, as well as in metamorphic rocks like schist. It is a very common mineral in ore

deposits, where it is found along with other metal-containing minerals, including gold. And yet pyrite is not mined for its iron, as the metal is difficult to extract from it. Nodules of pyrite have been discovered in prehistoric burial mounds although the suggestions that they were used to make fire is questionable since iron was unknown in antiquity. The sunlight color of pyrite would probable been enough to insure value.

On some rocks, usually shale, pyrite forms pyritized fossils, where the pyrite replaces shell material inside the fossil.

Submitted by Eric Self, excerpts from study.com



An example of a pyritized fossil is shown in this picture of a cephalopod fossil.

Rocks and Minerals Word Find

Find the following words in the grid. They can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or reversed.

ALEXANDRITE , AMBER , AMETHYST ,
CALCITE , CARNELIAN , DIAMOND ,
EMERALD , GARNET , JADE , MALACHITE ,
OPAL , PERIDOT , RUBY , SODALITE , SPINEL ,
TALC , TOPAZ , TURQUOISE

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R X B P B D K W C U B T Q N E D P J
D Z I M E K E J G A Q R J J K B M A
V B A C J R C I T U R Q U O I S E D
K B L P D E I B X Q T N I I J F N E
V Z G L O Z R D E T Z A E L T O F D
Q S G Z X T F A O W R G R L M V Q W
Z W A M E T H Y S T H Q X A I Z N R
F S J E O V G O S U C V I B C A U L
T D C T P D P Y D Q P D X A P X N M
A T T I A L S O D A L I T E O V K O
L Y H C L R Z O R E B M A Z F R G O
C P C L E T I R D N A X E L A D A L
B I V A S R U B Y A C Q A P L A R E
T V T C J C A L X O S I R L J C N N
L E M E R A L D U I R G H I I T E I
R M N E S I O U Q R U T T L I P T P
C C J L M B E T I H C A L A M V U S
J G K X C J K W R V Q N U B I J V Y
  
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Gem Shows and Field Trips this Month

Field Trip with Pow Wow Club

April 16-17-Saddle Mt. for Petrified wood
Meet at 8:00 @ Boat Launch Dig & Hard
rock tools needed. contact: Larry Vess
vessel3755@gmail.com (253) 473-3908

Gem Shows:

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club
Annual Spring Sale
April 16th 9am - 6pm 17th 10am - 6pm
Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse
8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA

West Seattle Rock Club 50th Annual Show
April 23rd 10am - 5pm 24th 10am - 5pm
Alki Masonic Temple
4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA

Everett Rock and Gem Club 63rd Annual
April 30th 10am-6 May 1st 10am-5
Everett Community College
Walt Price Student Fitness Center
2206 Tower Street Everett WA

@@@For more info and a full list of Gem
Shows and Field Trips go to the club's website:
skagitrockandgem.com

Refreshments	Schedule	
February	Debbie Frank	Eric Self
March	Francie Hansen	Jenny Miller
April	Peggy Peterson	Janet Garner
May	Nona Avery	Marie-Claire Dole
June	Greg Hochmuht	Linda Keltz
July	Potluck & Swap	
August	Susan May	Frank Isca
Sept	Violet Munion	Margo Perry
Oct	Marion Melville	Lee Tennefoss
Nov	Joanie Self	David Britten
Dec	Xmas Potluck	
Bringing snacks not mandatory, only if you're able		

Board Meeting Minutes March 5, 2016

- President Eric called the meeting to order at 9:05
- **Members Present:** Eric Self, Greg Hochmuht, Debbie Frank, Dave Britten, Virgil Keltz, Linda Keltz
- **Members absent:** Susan May
- **Board Meeting Minutes:** Approved as printed in the newsletter
- **Treasurer's report:** Read by Dave and approved
- **Gem of the month for April:** Pyrite- Eric volunteered to write an article for the newsletter
- **Program for April:** Greg will demonstrate flint knapping
- **New Member applications:** Four new members were accepted- Kevin Munion, Carmen Gonzalez, Joseph Cobain, Marnie Haworth.
- **November Gem Show:** Vendor space is full. The club will purchase new/used 8ft. tables for the show. Flyers need to be printed in time to be displayed at the Everett show.
- **Club Truck:** Eric will tow the old truck off the Bever's property and use the box. The truck can then be sent to scrap.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:50

General Meeting Minutes March 5, 2016

- President Eric called the meeting to order at 10:10
- **Guests:** Julie, Merrilee, Gayle, Christina and Andrea. Julie received a guest prize.
- **New Members:** Kevin and Carmen were present and introduced. Welcome!
- **Meeting Minutes:** Approved as printed in the newsletter
- **Treasurer's report:** Read by Dave and approved.
- **Sunshine:** Our Secretary, Susan May, has had surgery and will be recouping at her sister's for awhile. The club has sent her a card and flowers.
- **Program:** Video on the Oso landslide.
- **Display Table:** David, Eric, Debbie, Greg, Kevin, Janet, Gayle, Christine, Bev, Peggy, Virgil, Frank, Brian, Francie. Gayle, Francie and Brian won a prize. Thank you for sharing!
- **Birthdays:** Christina and Gayle
- **Refreshments:** Thank you to Jenny, Peggy, Francie and Carmen!
- **Field Trip:** Joe is willing to have another group over to his house to see his mineral collection. He is unsure which Saturday but will let us know on the day if it works to go after the meeting.
- **Stamps:** Virgil reminded everyone to bring in their cancelled stamps to donate for cancer research. Please leave 1/2 in border around each stamp.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Submitted by Debbie Frank



The Vandenberg Canary Mine: A Short History

The Vandenberg Canary Mine is north of Sedro Woolley on what is now known as Fruitdale Road. The mine is not far north of the Fruitdale-Mosier junction, on the west side of the road. The main tunnel is about 20 feet above Hansen Creek set back from the creek about 200 feet. The entrance to the main tunnel, a short stretch of refurbished rail bed, and a workable ore cart are the only remaining signs of a once robust operation. The mine's contribution to the local economy was significant a short 80 years ago.



Brief, inconclusive reports relative to discovery of ore-bearing rock in the Hansen Creek drainage began to appear in regional mining periodicals such as Seattle's Mining Journal in the late 1880's. Mining was not a noteworthy subject among the local population, already fully occupied with getting timber to and into the Skagit River. The coming and going of prospectors went without notice. Accordingly, there is no local history of early stages of mine development.

State publications indicate that a Chicago-financed mining Group undertook to establish the mine in 1898. This group had intensively prospected Hansen Creek and localized the source of the ore specimens in the two years previous. They were able to sustain the interest of their absentee backers with small shipments of specimens showing values in copper, silver, and gold. Minor amounts of lead and iron were noted.

Backing was liberal, as evidenced by robust development activity in 1899 and 1900. By 1901, almost a mile of tunnel had been driven in hard rock after boring through unsafe and fund-eating sediments, including sand and gravel. A concentrator and stamp mill of moderate capacity were reportedly in use. Concentrated ore was hauled by mule and horse teams to Woolley for shipment to Everett. State reports and the report by Spurl in 1901 (USGS) indicate that the ore was free of the arsenic that plagued the Monte Cristo ore deposits.

The mine at that time was known as the Woolley Mammoth Mine. The mine apparently reached its peak production in 1912. Over 14,000 feet of horizontal tunnels had been driven. Numerous vertical shafts connected tunnels at various levels, all designed to gain access to the richest and largest ore bodies. Cavernous areas created by removal of the more extensive ore bodies were back-filled as work progressed. (This explains the lack of tailings in the area) Most notably, new machinery included concentrators and crushers that were among the largest in Washington. Also, standard-gauge rails connected the Woolley Mammoth to Woolley.

Although records are not complete, it is likely that 400 or more miners worked the Woolley Mammoth at its peak. Basic housing was provided, but the camp never took on the aspects of a town. Miners routinely were provisioned by the well-equipped denizens of Sedro Woolley. It seems surprising that so few artifacts remain. However, buildings were hardly substantial. All of the machinery was sold when the original developers decided to end operations. The present whereabouts of the goliath machines is unknown, but there is some evidence that at least some of the equipment was to be taken to the Cascade Pass area. Continued on next page...

...Continued from page 5

Activity at the Woolley Mammoth decreased steadily after 1912. Rich ore became progressively harder to reach. The high cost of running the large machines for smaller quantities of ore drained profits. The mine closed in 1921.

Ownership changed hands in 1923. The new owner surmised correctly that the Woolley Mammoth was extinct. He changed the name to Canary Mine. This name seems to be without basis until it is learned that all the canaries taken into the mine died in less than an hour. Activity was resumed without canaries when it was discovered that the amount of ore extracted by a canary was not significant.

Operation under the new owner was kept at a low key. Only the richest ore bodies were worked, largely to avoid investment in replacement machinery. Sorting and reduction were done by the most crude methods. By 1925, it became apparent that not one miner who had worked the mine to that date could be found alive. Wives had been waiting most faithfully and anxiously for loved ones who neither came home nor sent illicitly high-graded gold ore. The owner buried completely all the secondary tunnel entrances and abandoned the property. It is now understood that the mine had accumulated lethal levels of radon.



In the 1930s, the property became home to a claim jumper. The interloper had no interest in the mine itself. Instead, he intended to capitalize on the Canary Mine name. He established a complete aviary (the Woolley Mammoth Canary Mine Aviary, described in a March 1934 issue to the Bellingham Herald). He eventually shipped thousands of twittering birds to major canary outlets across the United States. Some people will remember the Saturday noontime radio program featuring the so-called Hartz Mountain canaries. It can now be told that most of these warblers were actually Woolley Mammoths.

The mania for canaries went south during World War II. It can only be guessed what happened to Sedro Woolley's canary man. The only surviving copy of a catalog offering Woolley Mammoth canaries had been donated to the soon-to-open Sedro Woolley Museum. Dan Vandenburg bought the property in 1950. Mr. Vandenburg has an active interest in preserving local history. He has assiduously searched brush piles and pits for artifacts. He has restored the mine entrance and laid enough rail to complete a short spur across a wooden pier towards Fruitdale Road. The sole remaining ore cart prominently takes its rightful place on the pier. The cart is loaded with the few ore samples that remained. Canary seed remaining from aviary days has been planted around the mine entrance.

Efforts at preservation can be viewed. The grand opening will be April 1st (a date most suitable for reading articles such as this). Ray Claude, 8 Feb '93

This article was submitted by Dave Britten. It was originally printed in the March and April 1996 edition of the Skagit Gems when he was editor.

Officers and Committees

President	Eric Self
Vice President	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Susan May
Fed Director	Virgil Keltz
Bulletin Ed	Debbie Frank
Past President	Linda Keltz

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Banquet- The Women

Display Table-Open

Education Coordinator-Open

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Linda Keltz

Library-David Britten

Scholarship-Nona Avery, Joe Kantor

Mineral Council & PLAC-Open

NFMS Competition-Open

Nominating Committee-Executive Board

Program-Open

Publicity-Frank Isca

Stamps-Virgil Keltz

Sunshine-

Swap-Vandenburs

Ways & Means-Executive Board

Every Committee that says
'OPEN' is an
opportunity to help!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS

WELCOME

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center 1401 Cleveland St. Mount Vernon WA 98273

- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
- Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com
- Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273





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JOSEPH BRIAN

MARNIE

GAYLA JULIE

MERRILEE