

THE GEODE

Volume 33, Issue 3

March 2007

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Meeting

March 7th at 7 pm

Program: Video

Bragging Table: Something you polished or favorite agate

Refreshments:

Judi Allison, Jerry Sorensen, Linda Spinner

Juniors Meeting:
March 13th

Show committee meeting:
at 630 pm

Board of Directors meeting:
730 pm
on
Mar 19th



2007



GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Presented by:

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club

Benton County Fairgrounds, Kennewick Washington

Saturday, April 21 - 10 am to 5pm
Sunday, April 22 - 10 am to 4 pm
(tailgating - Sunday - 9 am to noon)

EVENT WILL HOST:

- *MINERALS, FOSSILS, JEWELRY DEALERS
- *COLLECTORS EXHIBITS
- *GEM FACETING DEMONSTRATIONS
- *SPHERE MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS
- *GOLD PANNING DEMONSTRATIONS
- *BEAUTIFUL FLUORESCENT DISPLAY
- *SILENT AUCTIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
- *KID'S KORNER - GAMES AND FUN
- *GREAT DOOR PRIZES



Adults \$3.00 (ages 14 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult, good for both days).

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LAKESIDE JUNIOR CLUB

NEXT MEETING

March 13th
Banner Bank, 203 W. First Ave
Kennewick, WA

Officers:

President : Jeffrey Spinner
V. President : Michaela Coleman
Secretary : Ashley Engleman

Advisors:

Steve Shoemaker
Leona George
Amy Coleman
Maria Weis

Lakeside Junior Rock Club Minutes

On February 13, 2007 the junior club held their meeting. This month we helped Scout Pack #117 earn their geology badge. We first learned about volcanoes. There are three general types of volcanoes; cinder cones, shield volcanoes, and strato volcanoes. A lot of the local minerals we collect come from volcanoes. We also had a recap of MOHS scale of hardness for the Cub Scouts.

Remember: when testing rocks for hardness, BE CAREFUL! Next we learned that there are different types of mountains; a dome (which is usually a volcano), folded mountains (which occur when tectonic plates fold over each other), and block mountains. We also learned that fossils are hardened minerals left over from decaying plants or animals.

Usually it is carbon that is hardened to become a fossil.

Thanks to Mrs. Spinner and Mrs. George for their wonderful presentations. Thanks to the adult club for providing specimens for us to take home.

If you were not at this months meeting, please bring three dollars for dues next month. For anyone who is interested, there is a field trip to the Saddle Mountains to look for Petrified Wood on Saturday March 17th. We will meet in the McDonalds parking lot (the one by Fred Myers in Richland) at 8:30 AM. We will be going on this trip with the adult club so there will be many experience rock hounds around. Parents: please come with your children on this trip. Bring good shoes, gloves, shovel, water, safety glasses, sack lunch, pick, jacket, rock hammers, bucket, and anything else you need to keep yourself safe.

Please remember that it is still cold and we will be on the top of a mountain. If you have any questions call Steve at (509) 521-5623.

Next month our meeting will be about ammonites. Don't miss it.

-Secretary Ashley Engleman

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Minutes Wednesday, February 7, 2007

In the president's absence, Vice President, Steve Shoemaker presided over the meeting. Guests for the evening were Darren Edelen, Lucinda Stroud, Mike Aronson and his son, Cain.

April Show: There are now chairpersons for all the committees. Next month there will be sign up sheets for helping and displaying. Fliers are made up. Please take some and distribute them.

Fair: Steve announced that at least six people are needed to sign up with cases to display at the fair or we may need to drop this activity. The fair participation by the club will continue for another year. Steve will let the fair board know that we will be renewing our contract.

Field Trip: Dom Cataldo again spoke about the field trip to the Virgin Valley in Nevada June 8-11th. It might be extended to the 13th with a stop at the Bruneau Wood Pile in southwestern Idaho. Reservations need to be made in advance, so please let Dom know if you are planning on going by April 1.

Steve also spoke about the possibility of putting together a field trip committee that would facilitate getting some trips going.

Miscellaneous Business: Members have always been able to do some "horse trading" in the parking lot. The executive committee informally okayed the addition of a silent auction by individual members. However the following guidelines will be applied: individual members may bring items to unobtrusively set up and sell at a meeting. It is their responsibility to man the sales, and all proceeds will go to the individual. Sales will close out at refreshment time. The club membership voted in favor of these rules.

Marcia Monthley shared a couple of books she had found useful and told about a rock shop north of Yakima. If anyone would like to know how to get there, she will be glad to tell you.

Door Prize: Yvonne Legare was the lucky winner tonight.

Bragging Table: A few members brought their favorite resource books to share with others. Kevin Newcomb brought That Big Black Boring Rock by Stephen Reidel. It can be purchased at CHREST. Reidel even gives mention to the club in a couple of places. Evelyn Cataldo has found her favorite resource books at Costco, and Jerry Sorensen found the information in his favorite book to continue to be helpful, even though it was an older book.

Program: Thanks to Jerry Sorensen and Evelyn Cataldo for setting up our "Name that Rock" and "What's that Rock?" activities for the evening. "What's that Rock?" featured rocks that members brought in that they could not identify. There were papers for others to help in identification by writing down what they thought it might be. The other part of the activity tested members knowledge. People were provided a paper with two columns; one for names and one for location. Everyone had an opportunity to try to identify thirty-five items. Of those taking part, in the process, Larry Hulstrum had the most correct names (minus the proper locale). He and two others with much lower scores were allowed to pick out a prize from the door prize collection. People learned something about some items and all enjoyed the activity.

Secretary, Judi Allison

Show Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2007

Present: Dave Westland, Steve Shoemaker, Larry Hulstrom, Dom and Evelyn Cataldo, Mary Lou Olmstead, Floyd and Leona George, Chris and Jerry Sorensen, Linda Spinner, and Pat Richardson.

Dave discussed dealers, building layout, advertising, brochures, signs needing to be made, liability insurance for the fairgrounds, name badges, and library displays. Larry spoke about the Federation mid-year meeting which will run concurrently with our show. The plans are made and everything is order for the meeting.

Special exhibits for the show will be presented by Jim Bowen. He will have displays of paintings on petrified wood. Dave will speak with the Ice Age Institute about setting up a display at the show. The sound system for the show will be repaired by Dom Cataldo. The Georges will provide a sign for the outside of the building.

The March meeting will have sign-up sheets for working the show, setting up displays, and other activities needed for the show.

-by Patricia Richardson

Board Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2007

Present: Steve Shoemaker, Mary Lou Olmstead, Larry Hulstrom, Evelyn and Dom Cataldo, Floyd and Leona George, and Pat Richardson

Old business: August fair was discussed. Those individuals who were in favor of it will be in charge of it.

More discussion of sales at the general meeting occurred. A chairperson is needed to coordinate and limit to a single table in the back of the meeting. Table tops need protecting and will have coverings. Rules will be posted for sales.

The club needs more material and higher quality material for the silent auction at the show. Please make contributions!

New business: The landlord at the storage unit needs to have the lights on. The lease should be checked and renewed.

There was discussion about the need for the board to have subscriptions for the American Federation newsletter. The board approved this item.

We need a field trip chairman, The intent is to have members each lead a field trip of their own interests. Steve announced that the Juniors will be going to Bickleton--probably May 5th. Evelyn is planning on going to Virgin Valley and Bruneau in June. The Pow Wow goes to Saddle Mountain in April. If you are interested in other trips please mention these to the board.

-by Patricia Richardson

Fluorescent lights

Some of the bulbs currently being sold as “black lights” emit NO ultraviolet light - they are simply conventional light bulbs with purple glass. I suppose there is no legal definition of “black light”, so the vendors are free to call them that, and they’re useless for mineral fluorescence. I’ve tried some of the brightest LW fluorescent minerals (hyalite, fluorite, sodalite) with these things and have seen no response whatsoever. Be careful what you buy. In particular I suggest you stay away from party stores and instead go to a hardware or lighting store and purchase either Philips or GE BLB tubes - those are the real thing.

Earl R. Verbeek, Resident Geologist
Sterling Hill Mining Museum

Wanted Donations for Silent Auction

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please set aside pieces for the silent auction for the club show. This year, members will be allowed to sell with a percentage of the sales going to the club. Contact Jerry Sorensen (chairman) for more information 392-1363.

Starting a rock collection

Q: I am recently retired and would like to get into rock collecting as an outdoor pastime. The problem is, I don't know where to start.

A: The very first thing to do is clear everything off of the mantle in the living room. You will need the space to put your first collections. The next thing is to empty out the den, second bedroom, back porch and laundry room. You will need the space to put your second round of collections. The third thing to do is empty out the living room, the bedroom, and the kitchen. You will need the space to put your third round of collections. The fourth thing to do is buy a second home. Do not bother to furnish it.

David Bear
Tempe, AZ

Did you know?

March 1, 1872 marks the birth of the world's first national park: Yellowstone National Park (cited in www.wikipedia.org)

The Right Place To Be

By Maryann M. Benny

Several years ago, before I discovered rockhounding, I was into baseball and other sports. I was a big fan, attending many major league games and some minor league games. I collected baseball cards, got hundreds of autographs, and I knew many of the players personally through my hobby. At that time, it was a dream and goal of mine, to visit every major league ballpark in the U.S., and attend a home game in each one of them. Now, my closet is full of baseball cards and autographed memorabilia, and I have many great memories.

Three years ago I discovered rockhounding. I have learned a lot about rocks and collecting sites. I have collected a variety of crystals, geodes, thundereggs, petrified wood, agates, some fossils and a large variety of “leaverite.” I have attended several shows where I have seen some awesome displays and specimens. I have met many wonderful people and learned something from all of them.

My garage is now full of rocks, my back yard is full of crates filled with rocks, my deck is full of buckets of rocks, and even the inside of my house is full of rocks. They just seem to pile up and take over. I’ve been so busy “hunting” rocks the past two years that I forgot to label my finds or take notes in the field. Now I don’t remember what a lot of it is, especially the minerals. So, each time I walk outside I cringe, realizing how much work I have in store.

I feel overwhelmed so I do what any sane, rational person would do. I go back inside, not wanting to deal with it, and I start planning my next collecting trip!

My neighbors have seen me in my driveway, year round “washing” my rocks, only to be stored in crates or buckets to collect dirt all over again. I must admit I get a little embarrassed when I’m outside in the dark, with a lantern, rinsing my tumblers and my neighbors drive by. Especially when I’m still there two hours later when they drive by again! Many walk by, out for a stroll, but few ever stop to ask what I’m doing. I can see that some are curious, especially when they see me week after week doing the same thing. I can only imagine how crazy they think I am. Those that dare to stop are very pleased by what they see and learn. They are the ones that now smile and wave, and don’t have that “You’re crazy,” look on their faces anymore. So, instead of ballparks, now I dream of collecting in each state in the U.S. There are so many wonderful gems and minerals all over the U.S., and the world. I read my Rock & Gem magazine, cover to cover, and go to bed dreaming about rocks. Sometimes I think I should have stuck with baseball as that collecting took up so much less space. But, each time I look at all the beautiful “finds” I have, I smile and know that I am in the right hobby!

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A view from Sourdough Ridge trail of Mount Rainier, a stratovolcano.
Picture by Henry Flower (www.wikipedia.org).