

Combined board meeting minutes 06/09/07

The June 9, 2007 meeting of the Washington State Mineral Council was called to order by President Diane Rose.

The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Kathy Earnst.

The minutes were approved as presented in the last newsletter.

The two action items from the west side board meeting were mentioned. Bob Pattie was to get a price on 100 color map booklets and Bruce Hinko was going to check on another source. Neither Bob nor Bruce has gotten their actions completed.

Wagonmaster Report

Contact Mike Messenger for information on Mt. Higgins trip in July.

Diane Rose reported that she needs pre-signup for Emerald Creek garnets. There are 6 spaces still open. There will be no trip in September as the area is closed after Labor Day.

The North Idaho Club is rebuilding screens for Emerald Creek use. This is building good relations with the Forest Service and should be applauded. The site is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, closed Wed/Thurs, 9-5 for a cost of \$10 per day.

The Saddle Mtn. trip was a success and everyone was able to collect and they were in the proper area for collection. It seemed to go well.

Old Business:

We had a discussion about the old letters regarding Saddle Mtn. Most of those in attendance were not familiar with it's past history, so it was getting a number of people up to speed on what has happened in the past.

It was recommended that collectors go only on set aside area. Bob Pattie wants to push for a decision on the rest or else we will lose rights to whole area. There was discussion of getting a copy of the Mattawa Court Action and then approach BLM.

It was decided to ask for a speaker from BLM at our September meeting. Ed Lehman, Bob Pattie, Diane Rose and Mike Messenger will contact them and give them a prepared list of questions so that they will not be caught unawares. Discussion, also, about having one spokesman from WSMC asking the questions. Bob Pattie was suggested as a good spokesman.

Kalama/Green Mountain sale is progressing and it is closed for now. That means even on foot or motorbike. All should respect this closure. There was discussion of building relations with new owners and importance of reducing minefields, covering holes and respecting private property.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kathy Earnst and Bob Pattie

BC Wagonmaster Field Trip Report May 2007

Upcoming Field trips for the BC Wagonmasters, as of the recent meeting in Abbotsford at the annual gem show.

June 16 & 17 Buse Lake for Blue Agate. This is a claimed area, so this is an excellent opportunity to dig for that fabulous deep blue agate that is similar to the south African "blue-lace" agate that is actually grey-blue. The Buse Lake blue agate is indeed blue.

The location is a few miles outside of Kamloops on easily accessible back roads with a crossing through some private ranch lands. The meeting place is the PetroCanada gas station, a few miles east of Kamloops on highway #1, at the Barnhartvale road exit, 9:00AM.

Tools for this location are digging tools, such as shovel, small pick, spray bottle, and rock hammer. You can pick up the odd surface piece, but digging in the loose gravel is essential!

For those with self contained RV's or tenting, there will be a dry camp not too far from the location (away from the barnyard for sure!)

For motel dwellers, there are a number of hotels in Kamloops, only 15 or so minutes drive. For dry camp information, please e-mail Win Robertson at winrob@shaw.ca Win Robertson is also the field trip leader. 250-376-4878

July 14 Hill 60 Vancouver Island for Rhodonite. Hill 60 is a long time Rhodonite mine no longer in commercial production, and we have a field trip organized to visit the mining claim, by permission of the claim holder. Hobbyist amounts of rhodonite can be collected at no charge. The claim overlooks lake Cowichan. The meeting place is at the gas station at the intersection of the Island Highway, and Highway 18, 10:00AM.

It is not recommended to bring a car, nor low pickup. The roadway into the location is barely a road, more like a smooth creek bed. Pickup

or 4-wheel drive is recommended for this location.

Tools for this are boulder cracking tools. There are a large number of rhodonite chunks laying around, but all are oxidized to black. You will need a hammer and chisel to chip corners to look for the best pink color, and bigger boulder bashing tools if you need to break up large pieces or to work at the main exposed rock face.

The leader for this trip is Bob Morgan from the Surrey Club 604-599-6938

August 6-10 (the week after the long weekend) is the annual "summer camp" this year held at Tsingkut Lake which is about a ½ hour drive south of Burns Lake. This will be HQ'd at the Beaver Point Resort. This area has a number of interesting rocks from agates, to jasper, t-eggs, and even some fire opal. Bring the kids, your fishing pole, and have a great week with lots of fresh air, and rockhounding!

The primary contact for this is Win Robertson with her band of field trip leaders from the local area. The Beaver Point resort has camping spots for tenters, or RV's, and a couple of cabins for rent. For motel dwellers like me, you could stay in Burns lake and drive out to meet the group each morning.

Also in August is the GMFC show this year held in Winfield! Dealers, Displays, and demonstrators. This will be held at the Winfield Memorial Hall o August 18 and 19.

September 9 is a new event hosted by the BC Lapidary Society: Tail Gate sale at the Hastings Center parking lot near the corner of Renfrew and Hastings street in Vancouver.

This event is a new one, so please come out and sell some rock related items as a vendor, or come out to see what everyone has as surplus goodies! There will be a minimal charge for a "space" with partial proceeds to go to the Hastings center for the use of the parking lot. Further details will be released over the next couple of months. ...start thinking about that surplus rock, minerals, crystals or finished items or tools you would like to unload! The tailgate sale is also open to dealers as well! Please RSVP if you plan to sell items at the tailgate sale.

This is being organized by Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289, harley.waterson@hp.com

September 23: MacAbee fossils. Gordon Pinder is leading a trip to the Macabee fossil location, which is between Cache Creek and Savona. The meeting place will be the Husky parking lot in Cache Creek at 10:00AM. Tools are a hammer, brush, knife, and packing materials for your finds. Don't bring newspaper, as the ink may rub onto your specimens. Gord: 604-870-4779.

Adam Villabazo from the Surrey club is willing to go on exploratory trips. Contact Adam if you have a location to explore, or want to go out on a weekend to check some areas! 604-599-5495 theguardian@shaw.ca

No trips are yet planned for October, and the WagonMasters will have a planning meeting at the Richmond Gem Club show in October. Likely a Fraser river trip will be organized for October.

For updated information, please visit the BC Lapidary Society Web site at: <http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/>

As always, any BC society member is welcome on field trips, as all are covered by the insurance through the GMFC. US club members in good standing are also welcome on our field trips!

Our neighbors to the south in Washington state also invite the Canadian rockhounds to join their field trips! Please visit the Washington State Mineral Council web site for info on trips: www.mineralcouncil.org

For example, they are organizing two trips to the Idaho Emerald Creek star garnet location. For June 16 & 17, and September 22 & 23. They also have a rhodonite trip to Mt Higgins, which is near to Mt Vernon on July 15.

Another significant get away for Canadians are the July long weekend events in and around Madras Oregon.

You can spend a whole week visiting the show-sale in Prineville, followed by the get together in Madras for tail-gating and field trips, with another tail-gate sale in Sisters Oregon. Side trips to the local rock shops, plus Richardson's ranch for the thunder egg mine. For those more adventurous, there are sunstone digs in southern Oregon, near a town (?) called Plush. Just across the border into Nevada are some fee-dig opal mines! Book your own loader scoop of fresh opal gravel, and scratch away for the rest of the day!

Submitted by Harley Waterson, BC Wagonmasters

Forest of Stone

A forest of petrified trees has been unearthed in Central Washington, still standing where it was engulfed in lava and preserved more than 15 million years ago.

About 200 hickory, elm, maple, and sweetgum trees were discovered by Clyde Friend, of Terrace Heights, who used a 90,000 pound excavator, a hammer, and a chisel to uncover the forest.

Petrified wood has been found in Central Washington before, but most of the other fossil wood groves in the Columbia River Basalts are log rafts, transported to their resting spots between 17.5 and 6 million years ago by volcanic mudflows, said Thomas Dillhoff, a paleobotanist who examines fossil plants.

Scientists, rock enthusiasts, and students from across the West have come to see Friend's discovery, which is rare for both quality and variety of trees.

Finding so many types of hardwood trees standing upright is uncommon. "What is different is the type of trees that are standing there," said Dillhoff, who has spent about three years examining the trees. The study was paid for by the Evolving Earth Foundation of Issaquah, a small non-profit group that promotes education and research on Earth Science. Central Washington was a humid marshland when the trees lived, Dillhoff said, much like modern-day Florida.

The small forest occupied a dried lake bed 15.4 million years ago, but was submerged by water when the lake refilled, according to studies. Lava flows preserved the forest's growth.

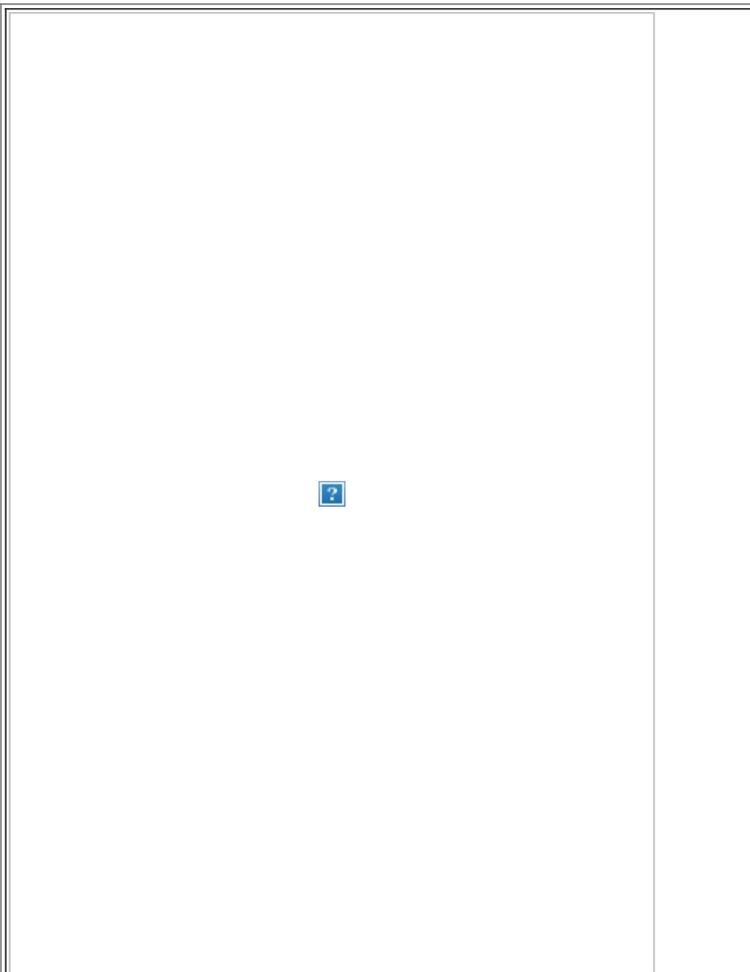
Friend, 50, has been looking for the petrified trees on his property since moving to the area in the late 1970's. He finally found them five years ago embedded in sand-colored rock and mostly unremarkable.

Excavating one tree would take Friend a few days to a week, but when sliced and polished, the interiors revealed growth rings and bold colors.

"The wood is phenomenal", said Friend, who works as a road excavator. "Every tree is different. I'm like a kid in a candy store".

Friend has filled three storage units with the trees. He's sold some of the pieces to the Yakima Valley Museum, including an elm trunk that stands five feet tall. The tree will be included in a permanent exhibit planned for next year. "It's incredibly high quality material", said John Baule, museum director. "The color, the density of the wood, the fact there are so many species represented on that site is unusual. I'm so glad he was able to work with us."

From Spokesman Review, 04/07, via Rock Rollers, 05/07, via The Petrified Digest, 05/07



Hickory (*Carya* sp.) log encased in basalt flow.
From Evolving Earth Foundation website



Clyde Friend is unearthing a forest that's more than 15 million years old from his Yakima area property. The trees, now petrified wood, are rare for both their quality and variety. Friend holds a section of a tree limb found on his property.

From Seattle Times 05/04/07