

11/07/09 Combined Board meeting minutes

Ed Thomas opened the meeting

Kathy gave the treasurer's report

Old business:

Nomination of officers

President Brian Waters

1st VP Ed Brandstoetter

2nd VP open

Secretary open

Treasurer Kathy Earnst

Westside Trustees Ed Lehman, Bill Mosier

Eastside Trustees Andy Johnson in place of Jerry ? Walter ?

Bob or Glenn has letter nominating these people for eastside, I didn't keep a copy

New business:

A meeting place for the Wagonmaster trips for 2010 is needed since we cannot use the Boeing site this year. Kathy Earnst will check on availability of the Maplewood Club House for January 9.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Council Reporter.

Stu Earnst reported that Mary Foster had passed away and her graveside service will be Monday, Nov. 9. Upon motion by Bob Pattie, second by Andy Johnson, WSMC will send flowers with cost not to exceed \$75.00.

President Ed Thomas stated that there is need for a wagonmaster.

The next field trip is November 14 to Blanchard Hill.

Bob Pattie reported that there will be a meeting November 18 at 6:30 pm at the Monroe High School Commons to discuss the Reiter Hills. There is a meeting also on the Walker Valley ORV Park. DNR cannot charge a fee for using its land for recreation. The Forest Service and National Parks can charge. Go to www.dnr.wa.gov for information on these meetings and hearings that are of interest to rockhounds.

There was discussion of Rod Cook and his authority and did he overstep his authorization to contact Weyerhaeuser in an effort to reopen Lucas Creek site to collecting by posting it all on Cash & Treasure's wiki site which is now hosted by someone else. Stu Earnst suggested working on rules for rockhounds similar to that with BLM for petrified wood. Andy Johnson requested that no work be done on regulations for private land, only for public lands. Some rockhound behavior has been bad but WSMC has no enforcement authority. It is only responsible for its own fieldtrips and not for what happens to the site later. Dave Eckert stated that limits on amount collected is fine, no one needs hundreds of pounds of any material. Bob Pattie said that WSMC speaks for the hobby because no one else will and we need to better police our own members.

Bob Pattie moved to have President send a letter to Rod Cook saying that the wiki website posting is beyond the scope given him at the westside meeting. The letter should be drafted but Mr. Cook should be called first so he isn't blindsided. Letter and phone contacts should be sent to wiki site. This will be done prior to December 2. Stu Earnst seconded the motion which carried.

Bob Pattie moved to have President contact Mr. Cook prior to website notification. Stu Earnst seconded the motion which carried.

President Ed Thomas asked that everyone who took notes send him a transcript by Monday night.

There will be a full report on this issue at the March full Board meeting.

The next board meeting is March 27. There should be 4 meetings a year. Three are March, May and November. One will be scheduled between May and November at the March meeting.

One last recommendation was made to set the dates of 2010 general meetings at the next March 2010 meeting and inform Glen Morita of this asap so that meetings would not be automatically scheduled without input from the Eastside reps. All concurred.

Final directions were given to all reps to send notes to Glen Morita regarding meeting, notes to Ed Thomas regarding and info re Rod Cook and last meeting, and I indicated that I would pass on any contact info. Most of this has been side stepped in light of communications already made. Meeting adjourned around 11:15 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kathy Earnst and Christina Morrisey

Green Diamond Resource Company Lands Closed to Collecting

I (Glenn Morita) recently received an e-mail from Patti Case at the Green Diamond Resource Company. Green Diamond Resource Company owns about 320,000 acres of timberland in Western Washington. Much of their land is open to walk-in activity year-round and open to motorized vehicles during this season for hunting.

She said, "Recently, on one of our blocks of timberland, a visitor reported seeing someone mining agates out of a stream with a post hole digger. Upon further investigation, we learned that this was a "meth head" who was expecting commercial gain from his activities. I'm wondering whether your members have heard/witnessed similar activities. Dare I wonder what's next?"

If you have any insight you could share, I would certainly appreciate it. We unfortunately have had to post "no trespassing" signs in the area and are hoping that legitimate rock hounds don't accidentally stumble over someone up to no good."

This e-mail re-iterates the need for us to be looking out for suspicious or illegal activity when we are out collecting. Never confront anyone you suspect but instead report them to the local law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

DNR Sustainable Recreation Work Group meeting on 10/29 reported by Bob Pattie

"Work group to put finishing touches on recommendations for sustainable recreation on state lands. Group to send report to legislature in December

OLYMPIA – The Sustainable Recreation Work Group will finalize recommendations for sustainable recreation on lands managed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at a meeting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 29, at the Washington State School Directors' Association office, 221 College Street N.E. in Olympia.

The work group's recommendations address sustainable funding for recreation and improving public access to DNR-managed lands. The final recommendations will be presented to the Washington State Legislature in December.

At the meeting, the work group will review a summary of input from public meetings held earlier this fall and from an online survey related to recreation issues. Since the work group began meeting last year, they have gathered and considered public comments and opinions at various stages of the process in developing their recommendations.

Work group members will be discussing the recommendations further and will also determine the best way to present them to the legislature in a final report.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

Directions to the meeting:

wssda.org/wssda/WebForms/En-US/AboutWSSDA/OlyDrivingDirections.asp

To review the draft recommendations, go to: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_rec_srwg_preliminary_recommendations_09-28-09.pdf

[wa.gov/Publications/amp_rec_srwg_preliminary_recommendations_09-28-09.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp_rec_srwg_preliminary_recommendations_09-28-09.pdf)

The Sustainable Recreation Work Group

The Sustainable Recreation Work Group is the result of legislation passed in 2008 to establish policy recommendations and a collaborative vision to ensure outdoor recreation is safe, enjoyable, accessible, environmentally responsible, and sustainably funded now and into the future."

We need YOUR help! Read the newspaper article below, and then contact your Congressional Representative and Senators and ask them to press Interior Secretary Salazar to not interfere with congress's work on H.R.1925 and S.799. Utah's delegation is fighting as hard as they can to oppose the extravagant provisions of the "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act". But they can't do it alone, since all of the sponsors of the bills are from outside of the Rocky Mountain and Desert Southwest states!

Sincerely,
Evan Day,
Utah Director, American Lands Access Association

Ogden (UT) Standard Examiner, 11 Nov. 2009, p4B

Lawmakers urge Salazar to protect Utah wild lands

by Joan Lowy
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Eighty-nine House members sent a letter Tuesday to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar asking him to protect 9.4 million acres of red rocks lands in Utah while Congress works on legislation.

The letter also asks Salazar to rescind an agreement reached between the Bush administration and the State of Utah that prevents the Bureau of Land Management from designating new wilderness study areas.

The wilderness study designation discourages uses of the land that might alter its natural character.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a New York Democrat sponsoring the Utah wilderness bill, said that a consensus has developed that millions of acres within the state should be protected even if there remains disagreement on how to do that.

"It makes sense for the Interior Department to step in and temporarily protect these lands while Congress and state officials sort out the best way to protect these precious acres for this and future generations of Americans to enjoy and admire," Hinchey said in a statement.

Kendra Barkoff, a spokes-woman for Salazar, said the department is reviewing the letter.

The bill has 151 co-sponsors, but only seven are Republicans. It is opposed by the Utah congressional delegation, who say decisions on which lands should receive the protective wilderness designation are best made locally.

"Since they can't achieve their goal of locking up millions of acres of western land through an open and transparent democratic process, they're now trying to use back door, undemocratic regulations to lock up public lands," Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said in a statement. "If Congressman Hinchey was serious about protecting lands in Utah, he should try to work with Utahans instead of trying to go around us."

At a hearing before a House Natural Resources Committee subcommittee last month, some witnesses from Utah said the bill would prevent development of the lands, hurting the state's economy. However, former Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and a Utah outdoors equipment maker told the subcommittee that protecting the lands will draw more visitors to the state, boosting the economy.

2010 Wagonmaster Field Trip Planning Meeting

The 2010 Wagonmaster Field Trip Planning meeting will be held at the Maplewood Club House, 8802 196th St SW, in Edmonds on January 9, 2010 starting at 10AM. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

BC Wagonmasters' report, Fall 2009

At the recent BC Society meeting, the BC Wagonmasters mapped out several field trips for the fall – winter season!

Sunday October 4 was a trip to "Black Tusk" which is between Squamish, and Whistler north of Vancouver. At this location are quartz crystals, some clear, some covered in chlorite, and some just dusted with chlorite. The trip was attended by over 50 people, 27 cars, and a number of new rockhounds out on their first trip! Weather was fabulous, and a big thank you to Cam Bacon for taking us out to a great spot!

November 25, Saturday

Our first Fraser River bar trip of the fall season to Peg Leg Bar, which is near Chilliwack. This is an easy to get to gravel bar, very flat, small gravel, and great for kids, and folks who may not be able to walk on rough ground, or for long distances.

The meeting place to gather everyone together is the Tim Horton's coffee shop south of highway #1 on the Vedder Road exit, 9:00AM sharp. The Tim Hortons is behind the Shell gas station about one block from the freeway. This trip will be led by Gordon Pinder. 604-870-4779

As per usual, if there is a snowstorm covering the ground, stay home. If it's just raining, we're going to the gravel bar. Materials found at this bar are jasper, agate, serpentine, granite, and a wide variety of other materials including the elusive jade. Tools to bring would be a rock hammer, and a squirt bottle. Dress warm, in layers, as the gravel bars are often windy! A good idea would be to bring some snacks, and warm beverages!

For December we have no scheduled trips.

The following is the list of trips proposed for 2010:

Sunday January 10, Yale Bar

This will be a Fraser River gravel bar trip, so the appropriate tools are a rock hammer, squirt bottle, and something to carry your finds! For clothing, dress warm, in layers, with the expectation of rain, and wind. Good hiking boots are strongly suggested for walking over the rocky gravel bars. A thermos of your favorite warm beverage is also a good idea. As this is the winter time, we may get snowed out, so if it's snowing, stay home. If there is no snow we will probably go to Yale bar, or perhaps a downstream bar if the Yale bar is covered. Finds on this bar can be Jade, Serpentine, Sillimanite, jasper, agate, and other assorted rocks.

Meeting place will be the Bridal Falls Coffee Shop at 9:00AM. From Vancouver, use exit #135 and follow signs to Bridal Falls....if you miss the exit, just take the next one, and drive back along the frontage road to the Shell Station & Coffee Shop.

Official leader for this trip is Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289.

February 21, Sunday

Wahleach Bar, or perhaps Yale bar if we get snowed out in January. The meeting place will again be the Bridal Falls Coffee shop at 9:00AM, and the tools, and potential finds are the same as the above Yale bar trip.

Official Field Trip Leader is Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289.

March

March will be a trip to the east side of Harrison lake for Garnets. No date is available for this trip, as the trip leader will be verifying that roads are open and passable later this fall. Please see the BC Lapidary web site for updates on this and other trips

April 25, Sunday

The annual spring trip to the west side of Harrison Lake for fossil collecting. This is a great trip for the kids as there are lots of fossil clams to find, as well as some additional less common belemnites, and ammonites.

The meeting place for this trip is the Sasquatch Inn parking lot in Harrison Mills. This is on highway #7, at the turnoff for the Hemlock Valley Ski area. If you do not know where this is, please refer to a map. DO NOT go to the town of Harrison Lake! This trip is 30+ Kilometers from the Sasquatch Inn, so please fuel up ahead of time, and have snacks & beverages! Cars are OK, but this is 30+ KM over gravel roads. Tools to bring are rock hammer, and larger cracking hammers and chisels. You only need tools for breaking open rocks, many specimens are collected by picking them up off the ground. Walt and Gordon Pinder are leading this trip. 604-460-0969 & 604-870-4779

May

May is the annual rockhound "Rendezvous" over the May long weekend, and for 2010 it will be based in Lillooet BC. See the BC Lapidary web site for more details <http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/rendez.html> Always a great time with multiple field trips, rock auction, bucket raffle & dinner!

As always, Canadian Rockhounds may join the US Wagon Master trips, and we also invite the US rockhounds to join any of our BC trips!