

Rock-It



APRIL 2002

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Program.....	You got one see Alva	Oregon Council Rep.....	Betty Bohall
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Membership....	Velna Dunn360-573-2769	Custodian.....	Randall Vessels
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The "ROCK-IT" is the official club Publication of the Mt. Hood Rock Club. The news deadline is the Monday before the first regular meeting of the 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.

MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB meets the second Tuesday and the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church in Gresham. The Church is located at 8th and Norman. Regular meetings start at 7:00pm. Juniors are welcome!!

CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL Rock Room is open October - May Wednesday Nights 7-9pm Non members & members. Thursday nights 7-9pm Members only. \$2.00 Fee covers Saw & Polishers, Instructors. Jewelry Classes October to April Wed nights. School is located off of 181st between Division & Powell.

MT Hood Rock Club PHONE NUMBER 503-760-1825

Monthly Social Notes & Comments

Have you ever felt like you never left home when you go out for dinner? Are you the picky person that just has to have the steak cooked a certain way or the shrimp sautéed just right? Well, you are not alone. As it turns out, the very reason that Mount Hood Rock Club has continually returned to Sir Lion's for dinner socials is because Sir Lion's has been able to satisfy our fussy taste buds.

The most popular dish was the Halibut. Nearly every other person ordered the Halibut and it came highly recommended by veteran picky taste buds, so one could not refuse to try it. Mount Hood Rock Club has had so many social dinners there that it felt like going home for dinner at grandma's house or to a favorite aunt's. There was a certain aura of hominess that an observant guest cannot overlook. The servers were not only attentive, but also well mannered and pleasant. When one of our servers was a bit behind on refilling our water glasses, he apologized so humbly and so sincerely. A person just cannot ignore such polite manners. Growing up in Kentucky, I thought the Great West was void of public politeness and good manners. It is nice to see that the West is not all that wild.

Many times, places give you too much food and you end up embarrassingly unbuttoning your pants towards the end of the meal just so that you can breathe. Not so at Sir Loin's. The servings were just perfect – enough for one meal. Well, maybe not enough for everyone (a couple boxes were requested). They had in-store coupons for each couple so that made dinner very reasonable. Hhhmmmmnn. Reasonable prices, pleasant and attentive servers, polite, well-mannered staff... Anyone want to come join us at Sir Loin's next time? ☺

Resident Rockhounds Don & Barbara Brandt, OR

Once upon a time, there was this little girl who was so loved by her father. He took her fishing and he took her hiking and all those wonderful places out-of-doors. She fell in love with the woods and the beauty of nature. While other little girls of her age were collecting dolls and pink sashes, this little girl was collecting agate and petrified wood and other marvels of nature. By and by, this little girl grew up and got herself married. Found herself a downright honest and big-hearted Prince Charming too. Well, the little girl (who is now a proud grandmother) might disagree with the author on this, but she is not writing this. ☺

Barbara had always liked collecting rocks and enjoyed it in general from her childhood. Barbara introduced Don to the art of collecting rocks and digging for rocks. Don and Barbara's involvement with Mount Hood Rock Club began with an introduction by a co-worker of Don's who was a member of Mount Hood Rock Club. They started showing up to the meetings and liked the people well enough to want to stay. "We enjoyed the people and we enjoyed going and everything that was connected with it. It was like we instantly knew everybody," Barbara commented.

If you should notice at our club show and the regional show, Mount Hood Rock Club has a number of loaner show cases and a number of showcases that are used exclusively for the club's use. Don and Barbara were among the early club members who worked on putting those club cases together. In the early years of the club, Barbara shared; the club was very active and did many things as a group. The Brandts are

just so glad that even though the club has grown so much over the years, the level of activity has not diminished. There is usually always someone willing to try something or to do something for the good of the club and for the good of the hobby so that every new member to the hobby has been able to find various ways to participate. That is a good thing.

The Brandts are lifetime members and are still very active in the hobby. When asked about what areas of the hobby they are active in, Barbara replied with a smile and a light chuckle, "I find them, he does them." Don does a little of silverswork, faceting and lapidary. Don and Barbara have a variety of premium rock and gem pieces that they have collected over time. Don has turned many of the rough gem pieces into beautiful cut pieces set in silver. He also made a beautiful petrified wood lantern. When the light bulb was turned on, the natural wood grains showed through so magnificently, it was just breath taking. They started making jewelry and working with silver when they were taking classes from Linda and Gary Bergeson, also active club members. Barbara showed a beautiful silver chain made from braiding silver wires.

Barbara has a green thumb and, subsequently, has surrounded her home with a variety of trees and shrubs and plants. She and Don have such a way of decorating and complimenting the greenery with their rock collection that makes you feel like there is a piece of heaven on the east side of Portland. They are also active with Vista House, a place where visitors go to when they want to explore the Columbia Gorge. They get to meet people from all over the world and direct them to interesting sites and places around and in the Gorge. They just have an over-sized warm-living heart that bubbles with all the shades of compassion. Allow the author to share with you a story that will illustrate this (to which she believes every reader will agree with since it is a true trait among every rock hound).

One time we rescued [a] boy. We were down in Duck Flats down in northern California. There were 12 rigs of us. We had been there before and it was just this big flat space in the middle of the desert. There was nothing there. We saw this big motor home sitting there.

When we pulled up, we did not go near them. We stayed in our little area and circled the wagons. We sat down after settling down and passed around some homemade wine. Nobody ever got drunk. Never, ever!! After dinner, we came out and had our polish campfire, which consisted of a Coleman lantern. It was too dangerous to have a real campfire.

Then there came this woman from the direction of the motor home. She walks in and takes a look at us and says, "Oh my, I am so glad that you are not a bunch of hippies."

She can see that we were good people. She continued, "My son has been missing since noon." Here it was after dark already or close to getting dark.

The woman continued, "He is diabetic. He took his motor scooter and bow and arrow and went out hunting. He is [14 or 15] years old. He was supposed to come back, but he did not come back. I am worried."

I said, "Okay. Don't worry about a thing, we'll find him."

The guys jumped in their rigs and off they went. Everyone had a CB and lights. They went up and down and around that sagebrush making more noise than ever. They were keeping the noise and the lights up and going just as much as they could.

Pretty soon, this boy hears all this. He stands up. He was lying down in the sagebrush thinking he would camp there for the night since his motor scooter broke down. It was cold out there in the desert. They found him and brought him back home to his mother.

She wanted to pay us. We did not want to be paid, but she was insistent and said, "Go and buy the club something."

When we got into town, we went to Kentucky Fried Chicken and bought a huge bucket of chicken for everybody and had a picnic."

What else can I say other than rock hounds some of the best people in the world? We are so proud to have the Brandts' story here to illustrate that the depth of our love for rocks and the hobby has never lead us astray. Barbara and Don are very active in the club and you can see them at the meetings as well as club functions. Do stop and say, "Hello." You'll find they are just about a couple of the best people in the world.

Tualatin Valley Gem Club Show

Tualatin Valley Gem Club had a well-organized club show held on Washington County Fairgrounds in March. If any of you had a chance to go, it was very likely that you had a great time meeting and catching up with old friends and making new ones at the same time. There were a number of notable member exhibits. The layout was easy to understand and navigate with wide aisles and lots of room to move. If you were one of the few that were not able to go to the Tualatin Valley Gem Club Show, you had better make sure that you are there next year. You missed a really nice show.

The Zen of Digging

(Submitted by Keene Clay,
Mount Hood Rock Club)

I am a digger! I enjoy the challenge of removing rock from places that do not want to give it up. I seek petrified wood with 6 feet of overburden. "Graveyard" agate between walls of solid basalt or a new spot what promises thunder eggs. I like to get dirty. I like to make dirt and rock chips fly. I make big rocks into little rocks. I am not rational and I am not alone.

In my other life, I am an Optometric Physician. My day is spent with questions and examinations working with a wide variety of people in a dark little room. It is clean, quiet and meaningful and full of time pressures. Digging gives me a chance to work out my frustrations in the most physical manner.

As a child I spent endless hours digging tunnels, forts, holes, bridges and barricades out of dirt. I was a digger then also. Rock hounding has simply returned me to my childhood play.

This article is the first in a series of short reflections and lessons on and from digging. It is not about having rock. It is about the rewards of getting rock and the processes that make it fun and possible. It is about a low-tech island in a high-tech world.

I invite others to send in their tips, reflections, stories and experiences. Do you have a story about an interesting individual? Why do you do the things that you do and what tricks have you learned? Do you have technical tips about finding and removing or preparing rock? Our hobby is made stronger and more interesting by sharing. This is our chance.

Happenings in April

- 4/2 Board Meeting (Clay)
- 4/5 SETUP for CLUB SHOW
 - Potluck is at 6:00 p.m.
- 4/6-7 MT. HOOD ROCK CLUB SHOW
 - Club show dinner is at Chinese Gardens (the same place as last year).
 - Dinner has to be paid for before we get there so please forward your money to Barbara Brandt.
- 4/8 Regional Meeting
- 4/9 Regular Meeting
- 4/22 Regular Meeting
 - Demonstration & Info Night
- 4/24 CWFG Auction at the Monarch Hotel off I-205. (Call Faceter's Guild for more information.)
- 4/24-27 CMAG Show at Forestry Center (by the Zoo). Free Admission.
- 4/27-28 Gray's Harbor Geology & Gem Club Show, Grays Harbor Fairgrounds, Elma, WA
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

For Sale: 1 Trim saw with 6" blade for \$175.00
1 11" Leather final polisher for \$75.00
1 Pop-in pad machine for \$35.00
Call Betty Bohall at (503) 201-6660 if you are interested.

For Sale: 1998 12 ft. flatbed custom-built 4000 Trailer for \$500.00
1985 S 15 Chevrolet ¾ ton pick-up, V6 automatic, Engine oil cooler, overdrive, cruise control, AM/FM radio, new upholstery and paint, has 6 ply tires with 7½-foot box. It is in excellent condition. Gets up to 20 mpg with the cruise control
+ 1978 Perris Valley Camper, has refrigerator, new furnace, in excellent condition. Together with jacks and cable. Will sell for \$4000.00. Complete.
Call Richard Johnson at (503) 289-5326 for an appointment if interested.

Jewelry and Rock Sale by APPOINTMENT ONLY:

Rough rock – mostly cut, stand-up specimens.

Polished specimens.

Equipment – saws, grinders, laps, etc...

Jewelry rock – sold by pound or gram:

Agate	Chrysocolla (sp?)	Jasper	Azurite
Opal	Sunstone	Chrysophrose (sp?)	Rose Quartz
Black Jade	Picture Jasper	Rhudnite	Varasite
Turquoise	Clear Quartz	Rutilated Quartz	

If interested, call Richard Johnson at (503) 289-5326 to make an appointment.

Thank you Steve Armstrong & Show Committee Chairpersons!!

Our club show is this coming weekend, April 6-7, 2002. I was reading through the list of committee chairpersons and relating back to my notes on what are all the duties involved for each person behind the scenes, I realized that these unfortunate souls go unappreciated most of the time. A lot of what goes on is not seen by the general membership until the actual club show. Please extend much kudos to our club show chairman, Steve Armstrong, and the various club show committee chairs when you see them.

Newsletter E-mails

Remember you can get your Rock-It newsletter by e-mail if you have access to e-mail. Please send requests. Thank you for those of you who gave feedback. It does feel great knowing our club is doing a little something to help make your lives a little easier and understandable. I appreciate the feedback and I enjoy sending them to you.

New club website

The new club website is up and running. Last time I checked, 103 people have viewed the website since it was up on March 15. The club website is <http://www.geocities.com/mounthoodrockclub/>. Bookmark the website (add it to your "Favorites" toolbar) so you can visit it as often as you like without having to type all that in on the URL address line. New improvements are added as new ideas are generated so please visit often.

The Magic of Gems

R O C K H O U N D D I S C O V E R I E S

Wearing jewelry is a tradition as old as the caveman. Excavations of ice-age archeology sites in the Ukraine have revealed that men and women were using mammoth tusk beads to show off their status, and the more “affluent” wore elaborately jeweled garments decorated with up to 4,000 ivory beads.

Beyond status and decorative value, our ancient ancestors believed strongly in the magical power of jewelry. Excavated from the earth, precious metals and gemstones were believed to possess the power to avert evil and bring good fortune. In modern culture, there are many that continue to believe in the healing power of certain gemstones. The chakra system underlies the theory that certain crystals—when held or placed on or around the body—can rejuvenate the body and mind and can help particular health conditions. Following is a brief list of various gemstones and their particular healing properties:

Garnet (January’s Birthstone)—The dark red garnet offers its wearer cheerfulness and the ability to hold one’s own in the world. According the legend, Noah used Garnet’s inner fire as a lamp on his bow as he cast about on the ocean. Though the Garnet comes in a rainbow of colors, the deep red Bohemian Garnet is traditionally associated with January.

Amethyst (February’s Birthstone)—The “Gem of Royalty”, Amethyst’s distinctive purple hue sets it apart from the rest of the quartz family. Amethyst is said to enhance courage and creativity, promote intuition, psychic development and self-esteem, deflect anger, and protect the wearer against evil.

Aquamarine (March’s Birthstone)—The pale blue beauty of Aquamarine

captures the beauty of the sea. Neptune, the King of the Sea, gave Aquamarine as a gift to the mermaids. In addition to offering love to those who possess it, Aquamarine also promises calming and balancing benefits.

Diamond (April’s Birthstone)—The Greeks believed diamonds were teardrops from the gods, and the Romans thought they came from the falling stars that tipped the arrow of Eros, the god of love. In any event, any girl will agree that diamonds *are* divine! Italians from the Middle Ages called the diamond “the stone of reconciliation” and believed it maintained harmony between husband and wife.

Emerald (May’s Birthstone)—Long regarded as a symbol of fertility, rebirth and springtime, Emerald’s vibrant green hue is unmatched in nature. Believed by the ancients to empower the owner with foresight into the future, Emerald is regarded as an amulet for good fortune and has been known to cure such ailments as a low I.Q.!

Pearl (June’s Birthstone)—Cultured Pearls come in a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes and their classic, understated elegance has long been recognized as an emblem of modesty, chastity and purity. They have also come to symbolize a happy marriage.

Ruby (July)—This vibrant red stone has been a prized possession of emperors and kings. Wearing this passionate red stone is supposed to aid romantic relationships and circulation and is also been believed to hold protective powers which are intensified when set in jewelry and worn on the left side.

Peridot (August’s Birthstone)—The green of Peridot resembles a new spring day and possesses the powers to protect against nightmares and ward off evil. For this reason, Peridot was the gemstone favored by pirates!

Sapphire (September's Birthstone)—Ancient Persian rulers believed that it was Sapphire's reflection that gave blue color to the heavens. It has been credited with profound powers such as the ability to protect the wearer against poisons and evil spirits and to give the wearer the power of prophecy.

Opal (October's Birthstone)—Opal's flashes of fire have ignited man's imagination for more than 2,000 years. Opal comes in more variety of color and versatility of wear than perhaps any other gemstone and they symbolize hope, innocence and purity.

Topaz (November's Birthstone)—The name Topaz is derived from the Greek word meaning "to shine" and also implies "fire". Topaz holds the distinction of being the gemstone with the

widest range of curative powers. It gives strength, cools tempers, restores sanity, cures asthma, relieves insomnia and wards off sudden death.

Turquoise (December's Birthstone)—During the 16th Century, turquoise was used as a currency by the Southwest Indians. They believed the gemstone could bring spoils to the warrior, animals to the hunter, and happiness and good fortune to all.

When purchasing gemstones, one must be aware of the various heating processes that are often used to bring out the brilliance in certain stones. Though an accepted industry practice, heating treatments often affect care and cleaning of jewelry.

This month's segment of Rock Hound Discoveries is the beginning of a series of articles on the histories and standardization of each birthstone. It is a collaborative series with The Jewelry Information Center (JIC). The Jewelry Information Center (JIC) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1946 to provide public relations for the entire fine jewelry industry. Through its work with national and local media, it provides consumers with information about fine jewelry, how to buy, how to care for it, its history, and new product trends.

JIC is funded by its members, comprising a wide range of retailers, manufacturers, suppliers, and other organizations related to the jewelry industry. JIC is headquartered in New York City, near the heart of the jewelry industry.

The above information can be found, among others, on their website <http://jic.polygon.net/>. Many thanks and appreciation to Michelle Orman at JIC for her work in providing this information to be published in the Rock-It.

LARGE PRINT EDITION OF ROCK-IT IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.