Rock-It

MARCH 2002

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Club Historian.....……..…Esther Lively
Librarian.....Steve Armstrong & Joe Holas
Program……....You got one see Alva
Display Table.....…...…….....Ken Thomas
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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

In the middle of drenching rain and high winds, a lone motorist crawls alone through traffic North on I-5, takes a hop and a skip, that feels like a century-long endeavor, over the Marcum Bridge, tactfully engages in snail-like maneuvers weaving in and out of paper-thin spaces between motor vehicles going East on I-84, would it be safe to simply say a few individuals were a tiny bit "late" for dinner? ☺

Thanks for saving a space for me. (The reason for such a short segment for this issue.)

Our monthly social dinner for February was at Izzy's in Gresham. We had a very nice showing and it was a very pleasant gettogether.

If one had ever suspected Izzy's was the place for pizza, suspect again!! The selection of main dishes ranged from pizza to baked chicken to pot roast, various side dishes to choose from, a wide selection of cookies and muffins, a healthy salad bar and the best thing of all – we were served our drinks. You cannot help yourself, but go for seconds (and thirds). For the ones who feel dinner is not dinner without ice cream, rest assured, there were plenty to go around with lots of condiments. In addition to good food, there was good company…and for that we are grateful.

Club Display Case in Rice Museum

Mount Hood Rock Club has had a club case on display in the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals for the past several months. A very appreciative and much deserved "Thank-you" to all those who contributed their materials for our first display. Lamar Tilgner coordinated and monitors the display. Steve and Edna Nelson, along with Chris Dwyer, assisted in setting up. A bit thank-you to all of you.

The museum is concerned about keeping the display case airtight to prevent dust from settling on the display pieces. The display case was taken down for some refinishing on February 15th. It will be ready for setting up on April 1. That is the same time club members must put in a new display in the case.

In the previous rock club meeting, it has been decided that our next display theme will be Oregon Thunder Eggs. The club, as an entity, strongly suggests anyone who has material made from Oregon thunder eggs (or a nice polished thunder egg) and would like to display your work, please contact Lamar.

Please have as much detailed information about your display piece as possible when you submit your piece for display. You will need to get your display piece to Lamar at the last club meeting in March so it will be at the museum in the display on April 1. The last club meeting in March is March 25, 2002. Do not worry if you are not able to submit any material this time. Our club will rotate the display every 6 months so get yours ready for the next rotation.

The Rice Museum is comparable to the likes of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. and other major museums throughout the United States. Having our local discoveries on display is such a wonderful experience.

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals is located at 26385 NW Groveland Drive, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124. The museum can be reached at (503) 647-2418. It is open to visitors from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Group tours are available by appointment. Admission is $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for students. Children under 6 are free.

The best way to get to the museum, from the East, is to take Highway 26 West, Exit 61 North, take the first turn West onto Groveland Drive. Groveland Drive is parallel to Highway 26 West.

Resident Rockhounds

Lamar Tilgner, OR

A casual observer would not know the Tilgner's were rock hounds. Even your average rock hound would not know the Tilgners were rock hounds. That is, if all you see is their front lawn. However, allow the author the pleasure of directing your attention to what is hidden on the OTHER side of the driveway to the "so-high" pile of mixed rocks. After which, you must direct your attention to what is hidden INSIDE the gate leading to the door of their house. There, ANY observant will know that the Tilgner's are die-hard rock hounds. These are not your ordinary garden variety "rocks". They are various collections of obsidian, petrified wood and agate, to name a few. One would be safe to guess that they are outside because Lamar does not wish to alter the natural beauty of the specimen. That's my guess and you can't take it. Make your own guess. ☺

The afternoon at the Tilgners' was spent around the dining area where Lamar had laid out some of his work to discuss. Asked what was the most difficult material he worked with, he hesitated for a bit then replied, "You work with a dinosaur bone on a high-speed sander, and the high-speed sander plugs up instantly because of the cell structure [in the bone]. It's softer and it gums up [the] sandpaper on the high-speed sander so you're not cutting anything. Now the most difficult [material] that I ran into is probably something like this. I also ran into Jade that does what they call "orange peel".

"It has *almost* a flowing surface. You won't notice an orange peel until when you get down to just about a final polish. When you're polishing a stone, you will notice how warm it gets. When [it gets warm enough], a very micro layer begins to flow on that stone, you're actually getting enough heat to make that stone flow on the surface…part of it is flowing and part of it isn't so it creates this ripple effect. That is what an orange peel is. When working with Petrified Wood or Agate or Obsidian, you will get a total flow and you will get a class finish, but you get something like the dinosaur bone, you will not get that total flow. Because of how Jade is formed, and it's structure, it does not flow smoothly either. Not all Jade is like that. I have worked with Jade that polished perfectly fine and I have worked with Jade that has that orange peel effect."

On the flip side, "A sunstone is pretty easy to work with. It polishes up nicely. I enjoy sunstones. When you start working with colored sunstones, you can give some of the prettiest gifts."

Lamar has interest in other areas of the rock hound hobby such as wire-wrapping, lapidary and polishing, cabochons and faceting. "I have not done any faceting for a number of years now simply because it takes a lot longer time to map the stone than it does a cab. Maybe I have not done it enough to be proficient at it, but I have gotten away from [faceting] in the last few years." Do not let his humbleness fool you. This story about a set of obsidian earrings that Lamar shared just had to be passed on to illustrate Lamar's skills.

> The funniest thing about this whole thing was I cut those stones. I told Merlia, "I'll have to go down and get some earrings to mount them in." We went down to Ed's House of Gems.
>
> I handed him the stones and I said, "I'd like a pair of earrings and make 'em gold-filled." He takes them and he goes over to his light and looks at them. He comes back to me and said, "Are you sure you don't want those mounted in gold?"
>
> I told him, "No, I think gold-filled is fine."
>
> He walks right back over to the light and looks at them again.
>
> He comes back, looks at me and said, "Are you sure you don't want those in gold?"
>
> It was then that I realized he was trying to tell me something, but he wasn't going to open up.
>
> I looked back at him and said, "I had not planned on it. Why should I mount it in gold?"
>
> He *looked* at me and asked, "Do you know what you have here?"
>
> I answered him with a question, "Yeah, I think I do. What do you think it is?"

He said, “These are black sapphires. You should mount them in gold.”
I replied, “Is that right?”
Knowing I had just cut them out of a piece of obsidian, I did not lead him on.
“I just finished cutting them. It’s obsidian.”
He just stood anchored there and his chin dropped as he stared on.
He walked back to the light and took this funny glass out and looked at them again.
He shook his head and spoke as he walked, “Ok, I’ll put them in gold-filled for you.”
I don’t think he believed me.

The Tilgners’ interests in the rock hound hobby do not stop with Lamar. In addition to sewing, Merlia does magnificent work with beads to make matching necklaces and earrings. She has an eye for color. The wonderful thing about Merlia is she has the ability to mentally see what the necklace will look like with the combination of beads she has before she lays them out. I was most impressed with the combination Pearl and Malachite necklace and earring set. When asked if she would be inclined to join Lamar downstairs in the shop, she warmly replied with a giggle, “I keep thinking one of these days I would give it a try.”

Lamar and Merlia are the newest Lifetime Members in the club. They are still young and active so maybe we might be looking at a “two-time” Lifetime Member award for them when the next 30 years arrive. Lamar looks forward to sharing his interests and skills with new members as well as refining his skills networking with other veteran club members. You cannot miss Lamar and Merlia at the club meetings and at club functions. They are always ready and willing to give a hand. Give a wave. Say, “Hi.” You’ll find that they are exceptional people as well as exceptional rock hounds.

Happenings in March

3/8-10 TUALATIN VALLEY GEM CLUB SHOW
- For more information call Russell in Cornelius (503) 648-3989

3/11 Regional Meeting

3/12 Regular Meeting
- Dealer/Member DEADLINE
- Application for Table at Club Show
- Stuff Easter Eggss

3/14 Social Dinner – Sir Lion’s 8025 NE Sandy Blvd at 6:30 p.m.

3/19 Critter Party – Lenona’s 7-9PM ***Tentative*** (Call for details.)

3/23 Potluck at Keene Clay’s place
- Wash rocks for Silent Auction (for Club Show) starts at 1:00 p.m.
- Prepare for Easter “Thunder” Egg Hunt (for Club Show)
- Label on mailer flyers, if time permits
- Potluck is scheduled for 5:00 p.m.

3/25 Regular Meeting (incorrect date on 2002 Club Calendar – it incorrectly has 4/24 printed)
Finalizing Show preparations

3/25-29 SPRING BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED – The lapidary shop will be closed.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

2 Tanned Full Elk Hides For Sale

If you are interested, please call Richard Markee at (503) 771-6835 for more information.

Thank you Velna!!

I want to extend a personal blessing and appreciation to Velna Dunn for all her work in getting everyone's name, address, phone number and e-mail correct for our club roster. At one of the meetings, Velna informed me that she HANDWRITES all the names and addresses on postcards to members who have not paid their dues. I stood there in total awe (if anyone grew up in the automated '80's, you know what I mean). Please extend your "Thank-you's" to Velna when you see her. It is a phenomenal task and she deserves the appreciation for her hard work.

Newsletter E-mails

As I was assisting Velna by entering the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails into a database, I ran across several members who have e-mail addresses. I notice that many of these members with e-mail addresses usually do not make it to the meetings whether it is distance, illness or schedule conflicts. To these members, I would love for you to e-mail me at pajntsa@qwest.net if you would like your copy of Rock-It e-mailed to you.

New club website

There has been some feedback that the club website URL is too long and making references to it is confusing. I appreciate the honest feedback and suggestions. The new club website will be moved to www.geocities.com/mounthoodrockclub/ by March 15. The newsletter website will continue to be www.geocities.com/mounthoodrockclub2000/. By that time, the January, February and March issues of Rock-It will be up for everyone to read.

Apologies

I truly apologize for the previous issues of Rock-It. There were inaccuracies in dates that may have caused inconvenience for some members. I sincerely appreciate the feedback. Please be assured that every effort will be taken to provide you with the most precise information in future issues. As Editor, my goal is to publish THE best club newsletter that is a valuable information resource for our members. I will depend on you, the readers, to make sure that it remains that way by informing me of anything out of the ordinary.

Large print edition of Rock-It Newsletter is available upon request.

POLISHING INGREDIENT

The following excerpt is from the October 2001 issue of *Rock-It* as per special request from club members. The author of the article is Al Nutlile and it was originally published in Rock and Arrowhead Club's Aug. – Sept. 2001 issue of *Dusty Rocks*. Rock and Arrowhead Club is located in Klamath Falls, OR.

We know some will argue against our method, but here goes. Don't wash your stones at all after each week of tumbling with grit. Start with #50 grit. Tumble a week. Then DO NOT EMPTY THE TUMBLER. Add 5 teaspoons of new grit (one step finer) to the mixture in a three-pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, #320 and #600 grit. Now finally, thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before final polish.

For a really glossy finish, after washing out the polishing powder, add three spoons of sugar and one level spoon sf Cascade or All or any non-sudsing detergent and about 10 drops of muratic acid. Let stand one minute – close tub and tumble for a week.

We have run 11 tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for the extra final steps, you save three washes and getting rid of the slurr each time. Saves time, work, mess and still gets a better polish.

RockHound Discoveries

Did you know…..

Mount Hood's last major eruption occurred in the 1790's not long before Lewis and Clark's expedition to the Pacific Northwest. In the mid-1800's, local residents reported minor explosive activity, but since that time the volcano has been quiet. Someday, however, Mount Hood will erupt again. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are studying the volcano's past eruptive behavior to better anticipate and prepare for future eruptive activity.

Mount Hood is more than 500,000 years old. The volcano has grown in fits and starts, with decades to centuries of frequent eruptions separated by quiet periods lasting from centuries to more than 10,000 years. In the recent past, Mount Hood has had two significant eruptive periods, one about 1,500 years ago and the other about 200 years ago.

Unlike its neighbor to the north, Mount St. Helens, Mount Hood does not have a history of violent explosive eruptions. Instead, lava flows, rarely traveling more than 6 to 8 miles from their source, have built up the flanks of the volcano one sector at a time. Sometimes, instead of flowing slowly downhill, lava piles up over its vent forming a lava dome many hundreds of feet high. On the steep upper slopes of Mount Hood, growing lava domes have repeatedly collapsed to form extremely hot, fast-moving pyroclastic flows. Few of these pyroclastic flows have traveled more than 8 miles. But because they are extremely hot, such flows can melt significant quantities of snow and ice to produce lahars that flow down river valleys, often far beyond the flanks of the volcano. Over the past 30,000 years, growth and collapse of lava domes and generation of lahars have dominated Mount Hood's eruptive activity.

Throughout Mount Hood's history, rapid landslides, called debris avalanches, of various sizes have occurred. The largest ones removed the summit and sizable parts of the volcano's flanks and formed lahars that flowed to the Columbia River. Large debris avalanches occur infrequently and are usually triggered by eruptive activity. But small ones not associated with eruptive activity occur more frequently. Small avalanches can occur when rocks, altered and weakened by acidic volcanic fluids or by weathering, such as freezing and thawing, fail spontaneously.

Lahars are often associated with eruptive activity, but they can also be generated by rapid erosion of loose rock during heavy rains or by sudden outbursts of glacial water. On Christmas Day 1980, an intense rainstorm rapidly melted snow and triggered a small landslide in fragmental debris in upper Polallie Creek. The resulting lahar moved down valley at 25 to 35 miles per hour. At the mouth of Polallie Creek, the lahar spread out, killing a camper and temporarily damming the East Fork Hood River. Flooding [afterwards] destroyed 5 miles of highway, three bridges, and a state park—at a cost of at least $13 million. Small lahars such as this occur every few years at Mount Hood, but few have been as destructive.

Two past eruptions at Mount Hood provide perspective on the impact of future large events. Both were associated with eruptive activity that triggered debris avalanches and were accompanied by lava extrusion, pyroclastic flows, and lahars. One represents a truly catastrophic event.

About 100,000 years ago, a large portion of the volcano's north flank and summit collapsed. The resulting debris avalanche transformed into a lahar that swept down the Hood River valley. At the river's mouth, where the town of Hood River now stands, the lahar was 400 feet deep. The lahar crossed the Columbia River and surged up the White Salmon River valley on the Washington side. Since that time lava has filled in the scar left by the debris avalanche.

Rock Hound Discoveries

On the south side of the volcano, the scar from a 1,500-year-old debris avalanche is still visible, forming the amphitheater around Crater Rock. A lahar formed by this event traveled the length of the Sandy River valley, depositing boulders as large as 8 feet in diameter, 30 feet above present river level where the towns of Wemme and Wildwood now stand. The lahar spread out over the delta at the mouth of the Sandy River and pushed the Columbia River to the north. This event, although large by Mount Hood's standards, was only about one-tenth the size of the 100,000-year-old event.

Today Mount Hood shows no signs of imminent volcanic activity, but hot steam vents, or fumaroles, near Crater Rock attest to heat below. On clear, cold, windless days, a steam plume is often seen rising from the fumaroles. Visitors to Mount Hood frequently smell the "rotten egg" odor of the fumarole gas, whose composition indicates that magma lies a few miles below the summit.

Scientists expect the next eruption to consist of small explosions and the growth and collapse of lava domes, generating pyroclastic flows, ash clouds, and lahars. Lahars pose the greatest hazard because more people live downstream in lahar-prone river valleys than live on the volcano's flanks. Thus, it is important to know where one lives, works, and plays in relation to Mount Hood's hazard zones. (Please see the attached page for explanation of hazardous zones.)

Renewed activity at most volcanoes begins with increasing numbers of earthquakes beneath the volcano as magma moves towards the surface. Since 1977 the University of Washington's Geophysics Program and the USGS have continuously monitored earthquakes at Mount Hood. Typically, one to three small earthquake swarms (tens to more than one hundred earthquakes lasting 2 to 5 days) occur every year. What scientists are looking for as a sign of renewed activity is for a swarm to persist, for the number of earthquakes to increase dramatically, or for the depths of earthquakes to become shallower. Such signs of reawakening might also be accompanied by changes in composition or temperature of fumarole gases, or by deformation of the volcano's flanks.

Scientists can generally detect when a volcano becomes "restless," thereby providing some warning to officials and the public. But they cannot say precisely when an eruption will begin, how big it will be, or how long it will last. Thus, we will all have to confront many uncertainties when Mount Hood reawakens. Recent eruptions around the world reveal that lava-dome eruptions, like those typical of Mount Hood, can begin after weeks to months of restlessness, last for time periods of months to years, and generate tens to hundreds of pyroclastic flows and lahars of varying size. Unfortunately, the end of an eruption doesn't always mean the end of eruption-related problems. New deposits of rock debris on the volcano's slopes and in river valleys can be reworked to form lahars for many years after an eruption ends.

Scientists do not know when Mount Hood will erupt again or whether it will erupt in our lifetimes, but, as Mount St. Helens taught us, it is best to be prepared. Scientists continuously monitor Mount Hood for signs of unrest and are in communication with responsible local, State, and Federal agencies.

Special thanks to the U.S. Geological Survey, David A. Johnston Cascades Volcano Observatory for this month's segment of "Rock Hound Discoveries". The Observatory is located in 5400 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. For more information, you can contact the Observatory at (360) 993-8900.

* With the rock-hounding season approaching, this segment is a good reminder that our natural landscape is very fragile in the larger scheme of things so please be cautious and be safe.