



the BEMS Tumbler

February
2008

The monthly newsletter of the **Boeing Employees' Mineralogical Society, Inc.** Seattle, Washington

Next Meeting:
February 14, 2008
7:30 p.m.

**Boeing Recreation
Activity Center**

Room B at
22649 83rd Avenue S.

Just off the Valley
Freeway (Highway 167) North
edge of Kent

The Program was not known at
press time

**First Place for Small Bulletins
in the 2007 NFMS Bulletin
Editors' Contest!**



*This month remember
to wish a
Happy Birthday to*

Richard Whiting on February 3,
Ronald Green on February 7,
Esther McKain on February 9,
Delbert Oxborrow on February 11,
George Boucek on February 16,
Peter Williams on February 18,
Ronald Houser on February 19,
Marcia Wollam on February 23,
Mike Brimmage on February 24,
Julianne DeLeo on February 25,
Sharon Berosik on February 28,



*and also remember
to wish a*

Happy Anniversary to
Ronald & Shirley Houser on February 11 (52 years),
William & Renee Farrow on February 20 (29 years)



This publication is an official bulletin of the Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society Inc. (BEMS) however, news items and editorial comment herein do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the BOEING COMPANY.

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Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

When on field trips this organization uses CB Channel 7.

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor

Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.

morgangraphix@yahoo.com

Officers & Directors 2008

President Malcolm Wheeler, Sr.
Vice President Mike Brimmage
Treasurer Richard Russell
Secretary Pete Williams
Director Bill Cook
Director Dick Morgan
Past President Mike Brimmage
Federation Representative Michael Blanton
Federation Representative Jerry K.F. Chilson
Mineral Council Bob & Jackie Pattie
Program Mike Brimmage
Refreshment Esther McKain
Membership Keith & Dick Morgan
Health & Welfare Steve Mackey
Library Charlotte Churchill
Raffle/Display Keith & Dick Morgan
Field Trip Bill Cook
Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan
Webmaster Keith Alan Morgan
Shop Operations Leslie Brooks
Shop Instructors:
 Casting Joe Poston
 Faceting Cliff Frome
 Jewelry Joe Poston
 Lapidary Dick Morgan

Club eMail address is
morgangraphix@yahoo.com

2008 BEMS Dues are \$15 flat rate Individual, Family, or Retired.

Send or deliver dues to:
Richard Russell

(or pay him at the meeting)

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the *Boeing Company*; the *American Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; the *Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies*; and the *Washington State Mineral Council*.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Dick Morgan

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to **morgangraphix@yahoo.com** Please put Tumbler and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month, (except December which varies).

The BEMS external website is <http://www.bemsonline.com>

Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan



Why do people try to make things difficult by believing that there are many races of humans when there is only one, and skin color, hair color & eye color are all characteristics of what makes each person a unique individual.

Wouldn't it be easier just to live life among all people as you do among your close friends?



February



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					Faceting Class	
	Lapidary Shop	Board Meeting 	Show Planning Meeting		Faceting Class	Whidby Island Show
Whidby Island Show	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry		General Meeting 	Faceting Class	West Seattle Show Everett Club Trip
West Seattle Show	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry			Faceting Class	Everett Show
Everett Show	Lapidary Shop	Lapidary Casting Jewelry			Faceting Class	

Lapidary Class Hours:.....Monday.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:00 pm

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 9
 More Show info can be found on Page 10

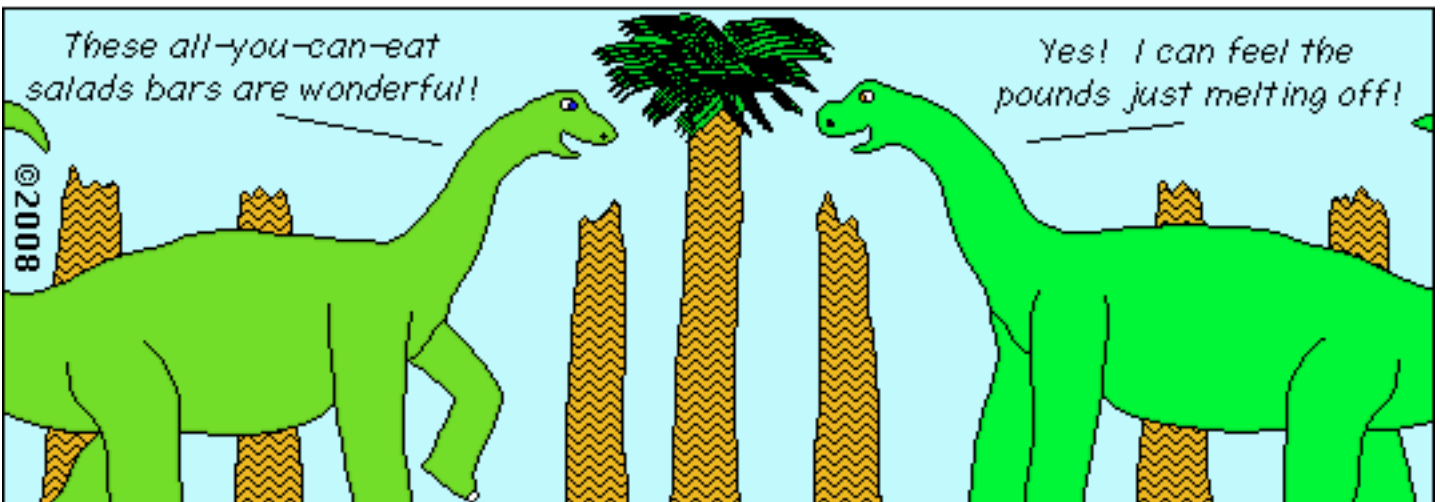
Jewelry Shop Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 Jewelry Casting Hours:.....Tuesday.....9:00 am to 6:30 pm (Casting Information All Day)

Faceting Class Hours:.....Friday.....4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

South Sound Show Planning Meeting...February 6.....11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 BEMS Board Meeting:.....Tuesday (9 days prior to General Meeting).....9:30 am to 10:00 am
 BEMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday.....7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Fossil Food Fun

by KAM



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

BEMS Board Meeting Minutes January 1, 2008

Cancelled.

From Atop The Rock Pile

By Malcolm Wheeler, Sr., 2008 BEMS President

WOW, it's February!

Amethyst is our purple haze to which we get dazzled...

Let's work in the shop and gear up to go on trips to collect near and far...

Thanks to those who helped with the kids again, another chance to pass on what we love to new rock hounds with open minds. I know we will be blessed, so we can refresh our selves by being selfless... think purple!

J. Arthur Risher Award

At the January meeting the 2007 J. Arthur Risher Service Award winner was announced - - - Paul Stewart. For his willingness to pitch in & help out when needed.

This prestigious award is to permanently honor a member of BEMS who, through his, or her, actions as a rockhound and a Club member, has embodied those principles that have been responsible for the continued success of BEMS. Selection of the recipient is done by the elected BEMS Officers, using the following criteria:

1. Club Loyalty

shall appreciate and be cognizant of the efforts of officers and other club members who act in behalf of the club.

2. Leadership

shall inspire others to action when the need arises.

3. Initiative

shall undertake tasks voluntarily that will be of aid to the club and its members.

4. Character

shall behave in a friendly manner toward old and new acquaintances alike.

5. Eligibility

must be a BEMS member who has not received the award previously or been a club officer during the year in question.

The J. Arthur Risher award winner maintains the perpetual trophy (with his or her name on it) for one year. At the next Christmas party the perpetual trophy is exchanged for a plaque which becomes the property of the awardee.

The first award was made in 1963. Since its inception the following BEMS members have been honored in this way:

<i>1963 Raymond Crow</i>	<i>1978 Martin Squires</i>	<i>1993 James Fleming</i>
<i>1964 Duard Jacobson</i>	<i>1979 Fred Thompson</i>	<i>1994 Herman Gelbach</i>
<i>1965 Charlotte Grossman</i>	<i>1980 Bob Pattie</i>	<i>1995 Les Brooks</i>
<i>1966 J. Arthur Risher</i>	<i>1981 Richard Morgan</i>	<i>1996 Charlotte Churchill</i>
<i>1967 Norman Steele</i>	<i>1982 Leonard Bahr</i>	<i>1997 Steve Mackey</i>
<i>1968 Donald Mellinger</i>	<i>1983 Ed Gerhard</i>	<i>1998 James Etwiler</i>
<i>1969 Pat Crow</i>	<i>1984 Will Messer</i>	<i>1999 Elliott Woodward</i>
<i>1970 Charles McOmber</i>	<i>1985 Everett Atkeson</i>	<i>2000 Joe Poston</i>
<i>1971 Vernon Mann</i>	<i>1986 Vera Gelbach</i>	<i>2001 Tod Stevens</i>
<i>1972 Marion Barbee</i>	<i>1987 Dick Straley</i>	<i>2002 Sue Neill</i>
<i>1973 Emmet Gallagher</i>	<i>1988 Jackie Pattie</i>	<i>2003 Pete Williams</i>
<i>1974 Walter Swift</i>	<i>1989 Jim Mayhall</i>	<i>2004 Dick Morgan</i>
<i>1975 Wilma Gaede</i>	<i>1990 John Haworth</i>	<i>2005 Bob Pattie</i>
<i>1976 Madelyn Mann</i>	<i>1991 Silvan Lidovitch</i>	<i>2006 Esther McKain</i>
<i>1977 Betty Swift</i>	<i>1992 Leslie Anderson</i>	<i>2007 Paul Stewart</i>

That so many of the listed awardees who are still living are also active in the club is an indication that the honor was given advisedly.

Editor's Notes

On the paper copy of the January Tumbler I accidentally omitted Kathleen Angell's name from the birthday list & duplicated Janet Tanaka's. Sorry. The problem happened because sometimes when copying something from Microsoft Word to Adobe Pagemaker, Pagemaker doesn't always recognize when a new copy command has been given & pastes the previous item. Usually I catch when this happens, but that time I didn't & didn't realize the mistake until after the paper version of the Tumbler was all printed. I did correct it for the eTumbler & oTumbler's, but I apologize for goofing up on the printed version.

Also, Marion Berglund's birthday was wrong; it should have been January 21.

BEMS General Meeting Minutes January 10, 2008

by Pete Williams, 2008 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

Minutes were approved as written. 59 members were in attendance.

Tumbler Editor's Report: The Tumbler is doing fine with no problems.

Webmaster's Report: Still waiting for pictures and a show report from the November rock show.

Treasurer's Report: Club has money and bills are being paid. The badges are in and waiting to be picked up. Reminder to each member to sign the release agreement. See Rich.

Shop Reports: Rich reported that the faceting class has started to rotate new members from the waiting list every 3 months. They are looking for someone to teach another class. Dick reported that attendance at the Monday night class is still good.

Library: Books are being returned. Someone did take out some wire wrap magazines in 2002 and has not returned them yet.

Health & Welfare: Cards should be sent to Esther and Les.

Federation Report: The mid-year meeting is in Kennewick on April 18-20. The Federation show will be in Ontario, Oregon, in June. Two field trips are being planned this year. One will be in Jackpot, Nevada, on Memorial Day for pink limb casts. Another is still being planned in conjunction with the show.

Field Trip Report: Nothing to report.

Mineral Council: The Wagonmasters will be meeting this coming Saturday at the Kent facility to plan 2008 field trips.

South Sound Show: There were 13 attendees at the last meeting. Assignments were made. Malcolm will be show chairman. At the show someone accidentally broke a case of light bulbs belonging to the Puyallup club. A motion was made and approved to reimburse the club with new lights. Malcolm awarded those in attendance that worked at the show who were not at the Christmas party with gifts. It was noted that several vendors said that our show was one of the best that they have attended. Next meeting will be the first week in February.

Old Business: Paul Stewart was awarded the J. Arthur Rischer award for his tremendous contributions to the club.

New Business: Karen reported that on January 22 there will be a home school field trip to the Boeing club. Help is requested. The Opal Club invited our members to attend a class on opal triplets next Wednesday at the Elks' club. Bob and Jackie volunteered to reserve a space for the club picnic next August.

Program: Diana Horsfall gave demonstration on preserving your rockhound heritage using scrapbooking.

Raffle: Tim Pinkerton won the special.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02.

Displays: *Jerry Chilson* - Agatized Florida coral; jade slabs from Orange River, Africa; Mexican geodes

Malcolm Wheeler - Graveyard Point moss agate; green bookends

Eric Chilson - Naturalite; fossil coral; Hart Mountain jasper; Carey plume; native copper; angel wing plume agate

Ed Laville - Smack'em rocks

Len Bahr - Faceted cubic zirconia, topaz & glass

Cindy Waters - Fluorite

Roger Glasscock - Faceted gems

Here are the badges to be picked up: Ed Aguirre, Tom Applehans, Monte Ballard, Gene Chantiny, Dan Clayton, Jane Davis, Rusty & Jim Etwiler, Frederick & Delores Geraldson, David & Veronica Gray, Ted & Jean Harrison, Geneva & Keith Heiser, Neil Hofgaard, Ronald & Shirley House, Ole & Thor Hopland, Stephanie Jurado-Smith, Alex Lane, Ed Laville, Kathy & Chris Ledbetter, Madelyn Mann, Terry Martin, Gene Merritt, Lynne Posner, Don Printz, Orlie & Nan Runyon, Tod & Judy Stevens, Carolee & Dennis Swensen, Betty Swift.

See the Treasurer at one of the meetings to pick them up.

The special for the February raffle will be a slice of picture jasper from Wyoming.

Cleaning a Contaminated Buff

Stones sometimes develop fine, threadlike scratches while being polished on a buff. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polish buff. One grain will do it. To clean, hold a strip of plywood or balsa wood firmly against the spinning buff. The grit will embed itself in the wood leaving the buff clean.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/08; via Carny Hound, 11/07; via SCRIBE CD, 2005; Santa Clara Valley G&M Society, 7/03; via Breccia

Treat wood dopsticks with a light coat of shellac. This prevents wood from absorbing water, which causes wood to swell and eventually crack the dop wax, thus loosening the stone.

via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/07; via Ozark Earth Science News, 4/04; Rock Chips, 6/03

2008 AFMS Program Competition by Marge Collins, AFMS Chair

The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video or digital presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" for "commercial" presentations.

- * Each program is judged on its own merits.
- * Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.
- * Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2008 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to "Excellence in Education" entries).

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2008

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

Class I -Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class 2 -Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class 3 - "How To Do It" - techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class 4 -"Just for Juniors" - any of the above for youngsters.

"Excellence in Education" entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)

- * accuracy of information / educational value
- * quality of photographs / visuals
- * completeness of story
- * narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next
- * presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- * title, credits and "The End" slides
- * phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For VHS VIDEOS, CD or DVD entries

- * submit a copy.
- * may be "live action" or static slides with narration.

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

- * must be 35mm, in standard mounts.
- * must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator

- * must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant's initials.
- * must be numbered to match script.

* a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) preferably typed, ready for duplication. (sample formats available upon request) Script on a "floppy" or CD is very helpful but not required.

AWARDS

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points), \$100 if score is 94 - 90 points, (for highest score) in each Class 1 - 4.

In addition, Winners receive national recognition.

A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Humble TX, September 26, 2008.

PROGRAM LENGTH

- Adult programs: 30 - 40 minutes is optimum
- Juniors - 20 minutes suggested maximum
- Suggested maximum slides - 138 (+ 2 Award Slides = 140)

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides are duplicated by a professional service then returned to producer. Arrangements will be made regarding video / CD-ROM duplicates. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Marge Collins, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107

phone: (269) 695-4313 email: <margaret@qtm.net>

continued on next page

2008 ENTRY FORM

I/we submit _____

(title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4 OR "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" (for programs produced "for sale")

Producer(s) _____

(your name/s)

Club: _____

Office (if club entry) _____ Federation _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone _____ e-mail _____

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No _____ Yes _____ Cost: _____

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/07-1/08

Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous And Field Trip

May 21 - 26, 2008

Texas Springs, Nevada

The Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV, over Memorial Day Weekend 2008 and all AFMS members are invited. The Texas Springs area is well known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as, other agate and petrified wood. Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of the town of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Directions: The Texas Springs area is located about half way between Wells, NV and Twin Falls, ID, south of Jackpot, NV, and east of Hwy 93. From the south, take I-80 to Wells and go north on Hwy 93. From the north take Hwy 93 south out of Twin Falls. About 2.5 miles south of Jackpot turn east on to the California National Historic Trail and follow the orange plates to camp.

Camp: Our camp will be located about 6 miles from Hwy 93 on Trout Creek. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motorhomes and trailers to campgrounds. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. We will set up camp starting Tuesday afternoon, May 20th. Please try not to arrive before Wednesday, May 21st; this is due to our BLM camp permit.

Schedule:

Wednesday, May 21 Arrive at camp.

Thursday, May 22 Daily Field Trips

Welcome potluck dinner and get together

Friday, May 23 Daily Field Trips

Tailgate displays

Saturday, May 24 Daily Field Trips

Tailgate displays

All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner

Sunday, May 25 Daily Field Trips

Monday, May 26 Break camp to head for home or other adventures

Plan on several potluck dinners, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify your respective Federation leader early, but no later than May 16, if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Dick Parks, Northwest Federation

<packrats2@msn.com>

360-892-3716

Yonis Lone Eagle, Rocky Mountain Federation

<rockmountainrockhounds@yahoo.com>

505-860-2455

continued on next page

Richard Pankey, California Federation
<dickpankey@juno.com
925-439-7509

General Information

1. Daily Field Trips:

All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Mountain Time), SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day's trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas.

All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability.

We will collect at 4 to 6 different sites: pink limb casts, small limb casts and bogwood, snakeskin agate, jasp/agate limb casts, geodes, and more.

We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day. Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a signup sheet each day for each site.

Much of the collecting will be float. Two sites involve some digging, but not too deep. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment and what ever else you usually bring.

High clearance vehicles highly recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them.

2. This trip is open to all members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and their guests. This trip is hosted by Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

3. There are two full hook-up campgrounds in Jackpot: Saguaro RV Park - 800-821-1103 and Spanish Gardens - 800-422-8233. There are several casino/motels also in Jackpot: Cactus Pete's - 800-821-1103, Western Star Resort - 800-655-0643, Four Jacks - 800-251-6313, Barton's - 93 - 800-258-2937.

4. We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday evening and the all Rendezvous Potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood.

5. Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite home collecting area to show and swap at the tailgate display. This will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings and information about your favorite home collecting areas.

6. This area of Nevada has a lot to offer rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts. Plan to spend some extra days after (or before) the Rendezvous. Some suggestions and information will be available at camp.

7. Gas in Jackpot can be expensive. Be sure to fill up your tanks and extra gas cans in Wells or Twin Falls.

8. Be prepared for a variety of weather. In 2003 we had sunny skies with the temperatures in the 70's and cool night in the 40's.

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/07-1/08

For the past 15 to 20 years warnings about the probability that legislation similar to the current Paleontological Resources Preservation Act now being considered by Congress was expected. The warnings have for the most part been ignored or arbitrarily dismissed and not passed on to the majority of our members. It seems that the prevailing mind set is "that someone else is suppose to take care of these types of problems". I know at the club level, legislative matters are so uninteresting and boring; after all there are so many much more important priorities like refreshments, field trips, programs, the annual shows, etc., that just have to be addressed. Most of our area federation and club editors don't even consider articles about pending legislation newsworthy enough to be included in their publications, not even when they are in a pinch for filler material. At best the legislative articles in the AFMS Newsletters and ALAA bulletins receive only a cursory glance most of the time.

So legislative matters are boring; well, while it's doubtful, let me see if I can generate a little interest. Lets go back to the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (Senate version S320 and House version HR554). First of all this proposed law is based on the premise that "all vertebrate fossils are rare". This is simply not true. Vertebrate fossils are found in abundance all over the world. The United States alone has billions of shark's teeth and Dr. Charles Love, a noted Paleontologist, estimated that in just a one-half mile area of the Green River Formation in southern Wyoming, there are enough fossil fish specimens to provide two for each man, woman, and child who live on this earth. Even the coveted dinosaur fossils are really not that rare and more are constantly being discovered. All museums large or small, public and private with an earth science interest have dinosaur fossils in whole or at least in part. I also understand that there are some institutions that have owned prize specimens for many years, yet have made no attempt to study or prepare them for display.

So the premise for this legislation is in principle based on a "lie" purposefully perpetrated by a small group of charlatans to cheat the American public out of their rightful heritage that insures the freedom of access to public lands they own and support. The really disturbing part of this ploy is that these charlatans were actually able to recruit legislative nitwits as sponsors. This sheer arrogance and unmitigated disregard for the rights of American citizens in this absurd legislative proposal is absolutely amazing! It makes you wonder what rock these esteemed members of our society crawled out from under.

continued on next page

Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

Some trips have fees to non club members, so they can be a day member, and be covered under club insurance. The usual fee is \$.50 a day.

Information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (<http://www.mineralcouncil.org>).

February 16 *Everett Rock Club - Cedar Ponds - Jasper* - Will need digging & light hard rock tools - Meet at 9 am at the Monroe Jack in the Box - For more info contact *Bob Johnson 425-231-0716, bobinevrt@hotmail.com*

If this proposed legislation is passed and enacted in its present form, a mechanism is going to be in place that could ultimately be used to restrict our access to public lands not only for hunting fossils, but for most any other kind of activity. Section 2 of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act as currently written allows "recreational or casual collecting using hand tools in certain areas". "These areas will be designated by the Secretary of the Interior" who happens to be a bureaucrat and more than likely will have no idea of where these areas are; so actually some local surrogate will ultimately makes the decision on the areas that will be available to the public. While these recreational or casual collecting areas sound good, in reality they are just going to provide some "crumbs" to dupe the public while most areas will be placed "off limits" except for the select few. Under Section 10 of this bill any sites that contain paleontological resources will be "kept secret" and since the proposed legislation does not provide for any type of public oversight, it makes you wonder what other discoveries might also be kept secret.

Sections 7 and 8 of the proposed bill establishes some pretty tough penalties. Pick up one of the billions of shark's teeth on federal lands and you could go to jail, pay a hefty fine, loose your vehicle and anything else you have with you including your underwear. PS: There are no requirements for the enforcement official that issues a citation to be an expert in paleontology or even be familiar with different kinds of rocks. The burden of proof is going to be on you, which means attorney's fees, other related cost, and the possibility of having your vehicle impounded for a prolonged period.

Another special added proviso contained in the bill is the "grandfather clause" in Section 7(d), which exempts owners of vertebrate fossils from penalty if the fossils were lawfully obtained prior to the date the proposed legislation is enacted. Now that is downright decent, except for one small legal technicality that I mentioned in the previous paragraph called "burden of proof". If you own any vertebrate fossils, be sure that you have absolute proof that you acquired them legally. Even with undeniable proof be careful, because the bill also contains a provision for rewarding snitches. Owning fossils of any kind and particularly vertebrate fossils may in the future result in a lot of heartburn and possibly a lot of expense.

Fossils are a substantial part of the businesses associated with our hobby. If this law is enacted, many of the rock shops around the country are expected to go out of business. Think about the dealers at your gem and mineral shows; while exclusive fossil dealers are few, most of the dealers offer some fossils for sale. They can only sell so much of the other items in their inventory, so how do you think they are going to make up for the slack? A lot of the exhibits at our shows are fossils. If enacted, this bill is going to affect you even if you don't have an interest in fossils.

These are the facts as I see them and have explained them to you in the above paragraphs. Who loses if this proposed legislation is passed? We do and many more like us. Okay, what are we going to do about it? Write letters to our congressional representatives or sit back and do nothing? If we do nothing, when the hammer falls so to speak, we will have no justification or reason to cry about, because it will be our own fault. Think about it!

from AFMS Newsletter, 2/08

Warning About Soybean Oil For Cutting by J. Cleve Flowers, RRC

A year and a half or so ago, someone in one of the Midwestern states wrote an article about using soybean oil for cutting rocks as it was clean and odorless and had no environmental effects. So I decided to try it.

It worked very well at first when the weather was warm in summer, but when cooler weather came in the fall, I noticed it started to thicken up. I figured this was only natural, but as time went on I found the carriage was getting harder to move back and forth and the cross feed difficult to operate. During last winter I didn't do any sawing, and when I was ready to resume this last spring, I found I could not move anything in the saw. Everything was coated with a very thorough film about 2 mm thick and semi-hardened.

When I proceeded to clean it up, I found nothing would touch it. After trying various solvents, cleaners, and even gasoline, I finally tried paint and varnish remover, and that worked. After a lot of hard work and expletives, I got the box and lid fairly well cleaned up but had no way to get to the threads of the cross feed underneath. So I loaded the whole thing up and took it to a steam cleaner. They worked on it for an hour or more, using different agents and finally got enough off so the cross feed could be cranked again.

So the bottom line is DO NOT use soybean oil in your rock saws. I hope none of you have tried it as I did. via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 1/08; via Carny Hound, 10/07; SCRIBE CD, 07; via T-Town Rockhound, 7/97; via The Post Rock, 4/97; via HyGrader



Shows

February 9 & 10: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Whidbey Island Gem Club & Pebble Pushers, 38th annual show "Sweetheart of Gems"
 Oak Harbor Senior Center
 51 SE Jerome St.
 Oak Harbor, WA

February 16 & 17: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
West Seattle Rock Club, 42nd Annual Show "President's Gemboree"
 Alki Masonic Temple
 4736 40th Ave. SW
 Seattle, WA

February 23 & 24: Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Everett Rock & Gem Club, 55th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show
 Washington National Guard Armory
 2730 Oakes Ave.
 Everett, WA

February 23 & 24: Saturday 10 am - 7 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Idaho Gem Club, Annual Show
 Expo Idaho
 5610 Glenwood
 Boise, Idaho



Internet Addresses

Crater of Diamonds State Park
<http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com>
 via West Seattle Petroglyphs, 11-12/07; from Rocky Trails, 12/06

The Tradeshop
<http://www.tradeshop.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.silversupplies.com/>

Cartier
<http://www.cartier.com/>

Creetown Gem Rock Museum
<http://www.gemrock.net/>

All About Gemstones
http://www.khulsey.com/jewelry/kh_jewelry_info.html

Designer Cabochons
<http://www.designercabochons.co.uk/>

Fossil Fish.com
<http://www.fossilfish.com/site/index.cfm>

Stone Bones
<http://www.stonesbones.com/choic3.htm>

