

# Pacific Northwest Chapter FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

October 2005 Bulletin



[www.pnwfm.org](http://www.pnwfm.org)

## 31st Annual Symposium Minerals of Mississippi Valley-Type Deposits October 14 - 16, 2005

The Symposium is just days away. Please contact Aaron at 503.284.5361 if you need information. Below are a few additional details:

**Contests:** We have three contests this year and they are:

1. Best Display—all displays are automatically entered. Best Display will be determined by popular vote.
2. Best Galena in Show—all galena specimens are automatically entered, including those on display or even in a dealer's stock. Best Galena will be determined by popular vote.
3. Mineral ID Quiz—a short mineral id quiz with the winner determined by contest chairperson.

Let's see your best specimens!

**Auctions:** As always, our annual benefit auction is what helps keep us in the black, so please bring a special specimen or two to help keep our Chapter financially sound!

## Rice Museum Northwest Gallery Grand Opening October 22, 2005

At long last, after navigating numerous zoning laws, building codes, and various trials and tribulations, the Northwest Gallery at the Rice Museum is finally opening! The Grand Opening is scheduled for October 22nd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. As museum members, all PNWFM members are invited. Following the event, the gallery will be open during regular museum hours.

The collection consists of specimens already in the Rice Museum collection, numerous donations including much of Rudy Tschernich's collection, and many loaners from northwest collectors and PNWFM members. Many of the specimens have never or rarely been on public display, and some of the most spectacular specimens had not even been cleaned before being loaned to the museum.

At the "pre-opening" Rudy will be presented with a plaque in appreciation of his lifetime devotion to the collection and preservation of mineral specimens. In addition, the northwest gallery will officially be named "The Rudy Tschernich Gallery." The plaque will be mounted in the new gallery.

Through direct donations earlier this year, donations from the PNWFM table at the Summer Fest, and specimens on loan from members, PNWFM has had a direct impact on the success of the Northwest Gallery. PNWFM members are encouraged to take the earliest opportunity to visit the NW Gallery and appreciate what our local chapter has helped build. Also, please say thank you to long-time members Sharleen Harvey and Rudy Tschernich who have both dedicated an enormous amount of time, effort, and resources to making the Northwest Gallery a success. There are so few places where a large concentration of Northwest specimens from such diverse and interesting localities can be viewed in one place.

### Pacific Northwest Chapter FM 2003 - 2005 Board Members

Aaron Wieting  
President  
[pdxpounder@hotmail.com](mailto:pdxpounder@hotmail.com)

Wes Gannaway  
Vice President  
[debnwes@comcast.net](mailto:debnwes@comcast.net)

Karen Hinderman  
Secretary  
[gkmhind@comcast.net](mailto:gkmhind@comcast.net)

Bill Dameron  
Treasurer  
[baritebill@aol.com](mailto:baritebill@aol.com)

Jim Etwiler  
Director of the Board  
[kd7bat@arrl.net](mailto:kd7bat@arrl.net)

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# President's Message

Amazing how time flies; summer's almost over, the Symposium's fast approaching, and my term as President is almost up. As always, there never seems to be enough time to do everything we want to do, but it's still been a lot of fun and I've had the opportunity to work with some committed, capable, and enthusiastic mineral collectors.

As many of you may have noted, Symposium fees increased; this was entirely to offset insurance costs which we had to pay again this year. This increase still did not cover all of the expense of insurance but we'll re-evaluate after the 2005 Symposium to see whether or not registration fees are appropriate.

One of the items we will be addressing at the business meeting on Sunday of the Symposium is whether or not to continue membership in the Rice Museum. Our membership goes through next April but this is the only time we have most of the membership together so it's the best time to have a vote. Membership is \$500 per year and is (in my opinion) a good show of support and a small price to pay for the benefits. Great effort has been put into showcasing northwest minerals and there is hardly anywhere else one can view so many northwest specimens in one place.

As outgoing President, I'd like to say thanks to the many people who have helped make the last few years successful. My wife, Jade, is first on the list, of course. She has contributed an inordinate amount of time, and has taken many difficult tasks, simplified them, and completed them quickly and efficiently. When you have the opportunity, please take the time to say thanks to the officers and others who have assisted with the Symposium over the years. There have also been many others who have volunteered their time, often without complaint or reservation.

However, ultimately, in order for FM to be sustainable, grow, and meet our objectives, more participation by FM members is needed.

Volunteers are golden since officers don't have time to call every member to encourage donations of time and effort. Without volunteers, we end up relying too much on those that have previously provided support.

At this point, both Jade & I are looking forward to a break so we can spend more time on personal projects, including documenting & writing about Oregon mineral localities, working on house projects (including collecting yard rock from across Oregon & Washington), and enjoying other recreational pursuits. I am still working on the Oregon Mineral Locality Index, so please pass on any new or unusual locality information to me.

We are looking forward to a great Symposium, and I hope to see as many members there as possible.

Aaron Wieting, Out-going President



Japan-Law Twin Quarter over 12" tall, Denny Creek, King Co., Washington. Lew Landers specimen currently on display in the Rice Museum's NW Gallery. (See grand opening information on page 1)

## PNWFM Meeting Minutes - June 11, 2005

Submitted by: Karen Hinderman, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President, Aaron Wieting. Members present: Jade Wieting, Karen Hinderman, Don Phillips, Lorna Goebel, Dick Rantz, Jim Etwiler, George Gerhold, and Don Newsome.

Announcements of the summer's activities.

### Financial Report:

Information provided by Aaron. Finances are stable with around \$12,000 in the treasury. However, last symposiums speakers still have not been paid because there has been no bill presented, despite occasional reminders from last year's Symposium Committee. Our annual symposium seems to be breaking even; however, we will need to factor in the symposium insurance fees this time and they may put us in the red.

### Old Business:

Website status was provided by our webmaster, Jim Etwiler. [www.PNWFM.org](http://www.PNWFM.org) Please contact Jim if you have questions or suggestions for the website. Also, thank him for all the excellent work he has done on getting this website up to date and looking good.

Electronic newsletters are coming soon. In fact, National FM would like members to contact them individually and let them know that you will receive your newsletter via email. Jade is working on issues related to our group receiving electronic newsletters. Obviously, our club would save money in copying and mailing by using email. Details will be available soon.

Symposium registration fees will rise to help cover the cost of insurance.

Educational outreach claims and how are we meeting these! Lorna Goebel has been working on the ABC case and the accompanying mineral bingo game. She donated everything needed for 1 complete case. Lorna is willing to take the material to the Seattle Regional, Portland Regional, and NW Federation Shows. She really needs other members to step up and assist her. By being more visible at local shows, we expose mineral enthusiasts of all ages to our organization. Also, it was suggested that we have a standard card with club information available to place in our own showcases at local shows.

### New Business:

Rice Museum Update – We have paid our PNWFM membership fees to the museum. All members may now visit the museum free of charge. Rudy is working on the NW Gallery.

Message Board is up and running. Anyone going on a rock trip may advertise and invite others along on an informal basis.

Aaron is working on an Oregon locality index.

Suggestion to survey members at the symposium about other locations they would be willing to travel to for the annual symposium. The idea was to find something more centrally located and reasonably priced.

Meeting adjourned followed by a wonderful presentation of Oregon Mineral Collecting presented by Aaron.

## RICE MUSEUM FUND-RAISER A SUCCESS!

The Rice Museum Summer Fest was held August 20-21 at the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals in Hillsboro, Oregon. The event was introduced last year as a fund-raiser for the Northwest Gallery, an expansion to the museum focusing primarily on the wide variety of interesting, unusual, and spectacular mineral specimens that have been collected in the Northwest. This year, PNWFM participated in the event by sponsoring a dealer table with stock provided primarily by FM members.

Sales from the PNWFM table resulted in a direct donation of \$968 to the museum. Of the material sold from the table, \$900 of the earnings came from Aaron and Jade Wieting's collection. As such, we were able to double this donation to the Rice Museum by making the donation in Jade's name and benefiting from her employer's charitable contribution matching program. Therefore, the PNWFM benefit table resulted in a total donation of \$1,868 to the NW Gallery.

The FM table also served as a superb outreach opportunity. A large percentage of the attendees were children with their parents and the large quantity of \$5 and under specimens were

very popular with the kids. The kids & parents were equally intrigued that nearly all of the specimens for sale at the table were field collected by those that donated them. Stockpiles of past newsletters were quickly depleted, PNWFM and the 31st Annual Symposium were promoted, and already one new member has joined the local chapter.

The PNWFM table was a success due to the contributions of specimens & mineral-related items from FM members the Wietings, Dick Rantz, and John Li, and from NW field collector Kris Dennis. Of course, thanks also go to all those who purchased specimens, including various FM members, PNWFM supporter Earth's Treasures, Rice Museum family members and volunteers, and the numerous youthful future rock scientists and parents (except for the kid who asked how old my trilobites were, because he didn't buy anything...). Also of note, PNWFM member Taylor Hunt had a table at the Summer Fest with proceeds also benefiting the museum.

We hope next year will be even more successful! As the Wieting stockpiles have been seriously depleted, this will certainly require the efforts of more FM members to high-grade their own collections!

## Richardson's Ranch Trip Report

by Aaron Wieting

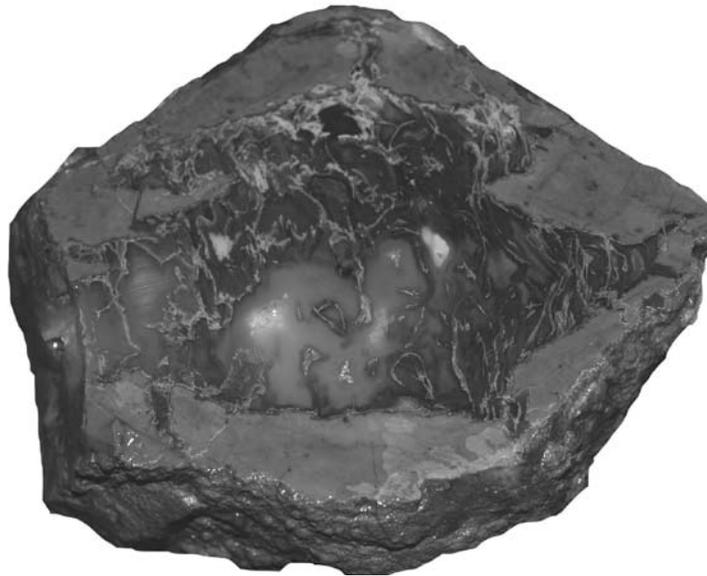
Several collectors met at the Richardson's Ranch north of Madras, Oregon on Saturday, September 24, 2005 for a day of collecting at one of Oregon's classic localities. Weather was perfect; clear and sunny and about 40 degrees cooler than last year's trip when temperatures reached 100 degrees by noon. I had good luck at the Priday Moss beds last year and figured out how to approach the digging so I decided to try my luck again.

There are two pits at the Priday Moss beds; the first is more of a rounded pit, and just past it is a benched pit, similar to the Red Beds, though much less extensive. The second, benched pit is where I've had good luck so far. The deposit here is similar to other beds at the ranch and consists of an upper layer of perlite exposed in the pit wall, a middle layer of weathered rhyolite with scattered small thundereggs, and a lower layer approximately one foot thick of densely packed thundereggs.

The top of the lower layer is exposed in the floor of the pit and requires heavier tools than other thunderegg beds at the ranch. Many of the thundereggs are fractured and larger thundereggs are less common in this bed, so digging requires a strategic approach. One method I have found effective is box trenching using a pickaxe, hammers, gads, and heavy prybars. Typically, I try and bar out large chunks of the lower layer, then break the chunks up on the surface to try and recover complete, unbroken thundereggs. A more effective and less exhausting method is to be there on the rare occasion that Mr. Richardson is working the bed with a backhoe.

I have not yet found a pattern of occurrence in this bed similar to other beds yet; hollow eggs occur throughout the layer, good agate and moss-filled thundereggs occur at the top and the bottom of the layer, and opal-filled thundereggs also occur throughout (at

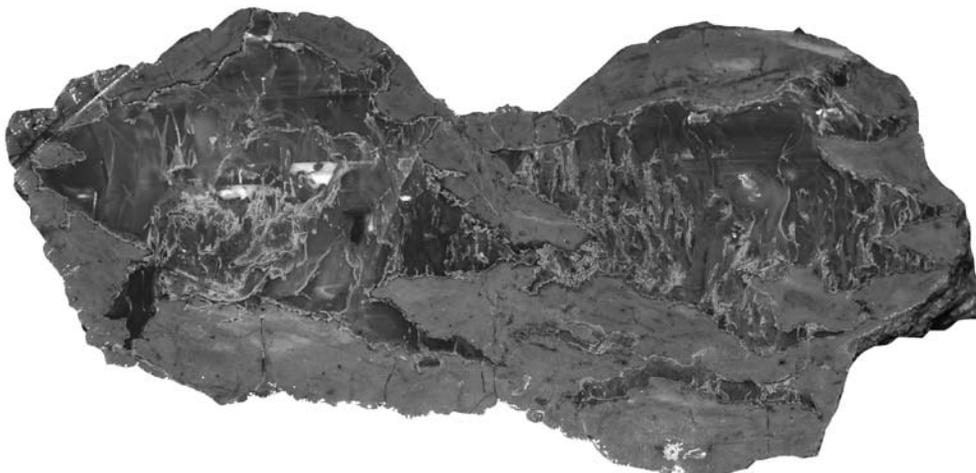
least in the spot I've been digging...). The thundereggs tend to be flattened and less egg-shaped than thundereggs from other beds. Some field observations can be made to gauge which thundereggs are most likely to be worth cutting. Opal-filled and hollow thundereggs tend to be lighter and the shells of the opal-filled thundereggs tend to be reddish-brown in color. Agate-filled thundereggs typically have at least some moss in them and can be recognized by greater density and dark brown shells.

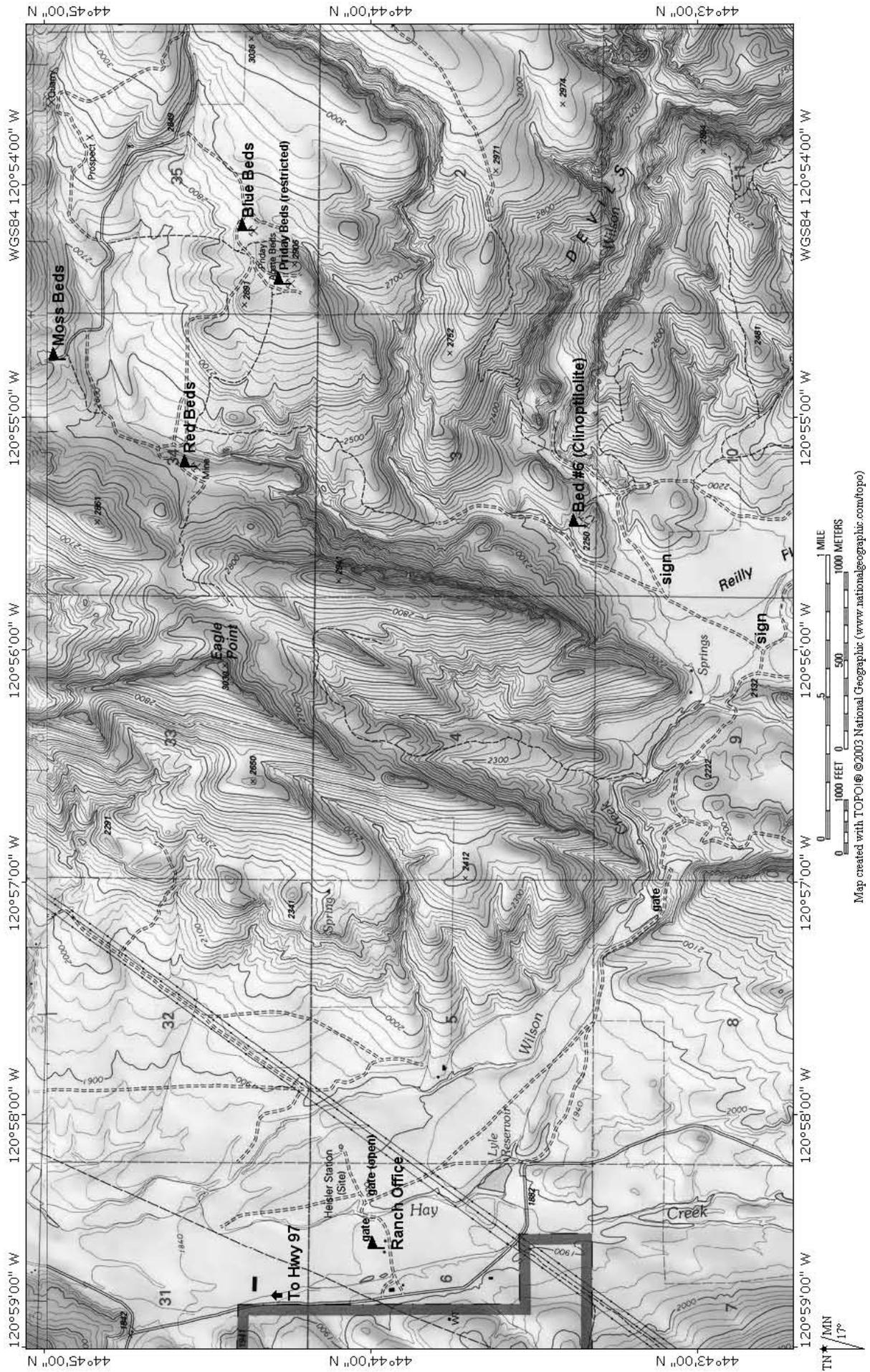


Last year's thundereggs from the Priday Moss beds had been sitting out in the garage for over a year, so I brought them along to have them cut while out digging. Since I wasn't sure what to expect, I had them all cut, and virtually all of them turned out to be worth cutting. Most were agate and moss-filled with one larger thunderegg filled with mostly red moss (photos).

One of the other interesting localities, though not visited on this trip, is the old Bed #6, or clinoptilolite bed. This is located near the main road on the way up to the main thunderegg area (see map on p. 5). After turning north towards the thunderegg area, instead of heading to the thunderegg beds, take a right at the "Y" towards the opal beds (2nd sign). At the next "Y", take a left, again towards the opal beds. Immediately past the second "Y", watch for a faint, overgrown road on the left heading across a dry wash and towards the low ridge on the left (west). Depending on condition of the wash, the spur road may or may not be passable,

even in 4WD, without doing some roadwork. Follow the spur road to the west up the low ridge, turning south towards the summit of a knoll. The abandoned bulldozer marks the location of Bed #6. Pits are immediately east of the bulldozer and small, hollow thundereggs lined with orange clinoptilolite are abundant.





Map created with TOPOi!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

## **PNWFM Ballot**

The following candidates, recommended by the nomination committee, have agreed to run for office. We realize time is limited, so please contact Karen Hinderman by Thursday, October 13th either via e-mail at [gkmhind@comcast.net](mailto:gkmhind@comcast.net) or phone at 360-380-2035. Alternatively, hand deliver your ballot to Karen, or drop off at the registration desk, no later than 6:00 p.m., Saturday, October 15th, at the annual symposium.

### **President**

- Wes Gannaway  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
write in candidate

### **Secretary**

- Karen Hinderman  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
write in candidate

### **Vice President**

- Lorna Goebel  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
write in candidate

### **Treasurer**

- Bill Dameron  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
write in candidate

## **Pacific Northwest Chapter FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**

editor: Jade Wieting, 1841 NE 58th Ave., Portland, OR 97213