

**OREGON COUNCIL  
OF ROCK & MINERAL CLUBS  
NEWSLETTER  
JULY 2023**

I have been meaning to send along an update about Council events, but I must ask your indulgence for taking so long. Time seems to slip through one's fingers like water and before you know it Christmas is just around the corner. Anyway, below you will find a summary of Council activities since last fall.

**Council Membership**

First, our 2023 membership includes 17 clubs totaling nearly 2300 members from across the state. The higher our numbers, the more likely we are to carry some weight in discussions with our federal partners. This year we were very pleased when the Central Oregon Rock Collectors joined the Council greatly expanding our representation on the east side of the state. Together with the Hatrockhound Club in Hermiston, we now have a great presence where the thundereggs and petrified wood roam. Many thanks to Maureen Williams, our treasurer and membership chair, for keeping the Council strong.

On an unfortunate note, we said goodbye to Troy Smith and Linda Harvey during this past year. Both played significant roles in various Council, Federation and club positions. Most recently Troy served as a Council Director and Linda was our Secretary. Both were also active in organizing different shows including the Portland Regional. They were our good friends, trusted advisors and always made things better. Their absence will be dearly felt by all who had the privilege of working with them over the years. Troy's wife Lenora has relocated to Alabama to be with family. She served as Council Secretary and Information Officer for many moons and was instrumental in keeping the Council active. We wish her well in her new home. Pictured below are Council representatives at a meeting with the BLM in Prineville. Front row – Linda Harvey, Hidemi Kira, Susie Koppert; Back Row – Bill Harvey, Tomoko Kira, Troy Smith, Lenora Smith.



### Council Stewardship & Advocacy

Now for an update on the Council's stewardship and advocacy efforts with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Since 2019 the Council has partnered with the Prineville BLM on National Public Lands Day (NPLD) to sponsor a reclamation project at Hampton Butte. As you probably know, this collection site is famous for green petrified wood and has been extensively dug for many years. We spend the day working to fill and level excavated areas. Our 2022 work party was a big success with 24 participants. The Mt. Hood club took the award for best attendance with 14 members. Everyone felt their time and efforts were rewarding and very much appreciated by the BLM. A picture of the 2022 crew with their NPLD shirts is shown below. Also shown is a picture of Dave Williams, Troy and Lenora Smith at an earlier work party. The Council will again have a work party on NPLD at Hampton Butte on Saturday, September 23, 2023. All member clubs are invited and we hope for good weather and a good turnout. Details regarding this event have already been sent to club representatives with reminders to follow. Our work at Hampton has been widely recognized by the BLM as a great example of how recreational rockhounds can demonstrate good stewardship practices on our public lands.



We continue to work with BLM staff to explore options for the use of a small tractor or Bobcat at Hampton. Hopefully, we will have the necessary permits in time for our 2024 work party. It would also be great to identify another collection site that might be suitable for a Council reclamation project. We are still looking at installing informational kiosks at Hampton and Glass Buttes. Signage could describe the history of the site and recommend best rockhound stewardship practices (AFMS Code of Ethics). The BLM has also invited the Council to help prepare an exhibit of Oregon rocks for their public display case at the Prineville office.

As regards the Council's advocacy mission, we are very pleased that Susie Koppert (Council Director) was recently appointed to the BLM's John Day – Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The RAC's purpose is to provide the BLM with input from recreational, industry and public interest groups on land use management policies. Susie has long attended RAC meetings in eastern Oregon, so her selection will bring rockhounds much needed representation in advising the BLM on a variety of issues. Among other duties, Susie will be serving on a RAC subcommittee tasked with developing a recreational rockhound management plan. Clearly this plan is of great importance to our hobby's future. Ed Anderson, another Council Director, finished his tenure on the BLM's Western Oregon RAC last year. Our thanks to both Susie and Ed for helping keep the BLM informed about rockhounds interests and making the Council relevant.

### Capitol Display Case News

In other news, the Council's Capitol Case in Salem has been out of commission due to an ongoing seismic retrofit project. Our Capitol Case Agent, Vicki Johnson, is staying in touch with construction officials to see when we can again begin displaying collections of Oregon's rocks, minerals and lapidary arts. Council member clubs usually rotate exhibits every six months to help inform the public and legislators about our hobby. Many thanks to Vicki for coordinating all the logistics needed to keep our case a popular attraction at the Capitol.

### Oregon Trophy Update

Each year the Council awards the Oregon Trophy for the best display case of All Oregon Material collected and worked by the exhibitor. This year the Trophy was awarded to Debbie Shannon and Tara Baker from the North America Research Group. They won for an exhibit of fossils from the Oregon coast. Judging was done at the Portland Regional Show. Below is a picture of Linda Harvey presenting the trophy to Debbie and Tara. Congratulations to both recipients for a job well done. Please think about entering a case in this year's competition.





## Oregon Council Case

The Council now has a display case we can exhibit at club shows to help spread the word about our mission and projects. So far, we have had the case in the Portland Regional, Mt. Hood and Sweet Home shows. In 2021 the case won for “Best Display of Oregon Lapidary Material” at the Portland Regional. This was a separate award from the Oregon Trophy with judging by PDX show officials. The case has been very well received, and we look forward to more opportunities to deliver the Council’s message at future shows. Credit for the case goes to Hidemi and Tomoko Kira who proposed the concept and arranged the display. Our sincere thanks for their efforts in making this project a success. Below are pictures of the Council case.



## **Council News**

**The Council's fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show (October 6, 7 & 8). We will meet on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm at the Hillsboro Brookwood Library (2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy, Hillsboro). We are not able to meet at the show venue (Wingspan Event and Conference Center) due to room constraints. The library is about 1.5 miles from the Wingspan Center. You will probably want to print a Google map or use your GPS to navigate to the library.**

**Given recent untimely events, the Council is currently recruiting for the positions of Secretary, Director and Information Officer. I know folks who hold positions in their clubs and other organizations are already very busy, but if you or someone you know could sign on with the Council it would be greatly appreciated. Our work is very important for the future of recreational rockhounding.**

**I want to thank Karl Granzow, our Webmaster, without whom we would not have a presence on the internet. He keeps everything running smoothly and can actually make computers help us. Also, my thanks to Daniel Sampson for putting together our new Oregon Trophy. Dan's craftsmanship is second to none and he is always willing to help. Please send our newsletter to your club's newsletter editor for distribution to your membership. Below is a picture of the Council Board taken at the 2023 Sweet Home show. From left to right - Dave & Maureen Williams, Hidemi Kira, Linda Harvey and Vicki Johnson.**



**Again, many thanks to all who have helped the Council in so many ways.**

**Dave Williams,  
Oregon Council President**