

# *Millennium Diggers Club News*

*Volume 6, Issue 2*

*Date May 9,2005*

Richardson Ranch In The Rain



**Officers:**

**Presidents: Ted Staley,  
Ed Johnston**

**Reminders Calls:**

**Lynn Baustian**

**Treasurer: Ouida Staley**

**Secretary: Robin Callander**

**Meetings:**

**2nd Tuesday Each Month**

**7pm – 9pm**

**Keizer / Salem Senior Center**

**930 Plymouth Drive NE**

**Keizer, Oregon**

The Meeting April 12,2005 was attended by 17 members.

The Topic was the outing at the Richardson Rock Ranch. Weather permitting.

There was a talk given by L'aurie Jusme. That followed her write up on the same subject.

See Article Below:

Joe Greene gave an update on the 700 J permit.

We did not have a meeting raffle as I forgot the box with all our information and tickets.

I refuse to let everyone go to Arizona and leave me in charge. HAHA

Thank you all for being so understanding and patient. ☺

L'aurie, Thank you for your talk and article I am sorry that it did not get out in a timely fashion. I am still having computer trouble. I got the thing fixed and all seemed to be going well. Then a noise that would make the dead roll over. My motherboard fried. Please bear with me as I am trying to get all things done by hand and using a mixed up bunch of information I was able to retrieve from my computer using a "jump drive" given to me by my son.

Thank you everyone,

☺uida Staley

## **Richardson Ranch Outing**

### **Rained Out.**

Ron Dixon & Deanna, Gibby, Lucy & Mackenzie, Ted, Ouida & Shay, Delmon Ray Diehards

Delmon did find us some information to free diggings around Prineville, He supplied maps to the club and I have copies for anyone that may want one.

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## Thundereggs By Laurie Jusme

Thundereggs...Oregon's state rock, but found all over the world under various names, and sizes. Ours are nicer.

Simply put a Thunderegg is: A hollow, usually spheroidal rock with **parallel bands of silica** lining the inside wall,

A geode (jē'ōd), is : A hollow, usually spheroidal rock with **crystals** lining the inside wall  
Only a geologist can get so picky and enjoy it. Moving on...

Renton (1936) gives credit for the term thunder egg to the Warm Springs Indians in Oregon, whose legend recounts the angry spirits of Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson hurling spherical rocks at one another, accompanied by thunder and lightning; stray rocks became known as "thunder eggs," which, as noted by Brown (1957), were ostensibly robbed from nests of "thunder birds."

Now for the fun part.

Geologists **are not** in agreement about its formation, size, shape... and leave a lot of unasked questions, so I will skip it. It does require some form of silica rich volcanic rock that has decomposed quite a bit...that means it breaks easily, to being crumbly and very hard to identify on sight.

I have found from experience and research that a thunderegg does form under the surface and has a hardened silicious outer "rind" that for the most part is knobby to rather smooth...as far as "rocks" go. Inside it has some parallel banded layers in it, somewhere, and this layering is inside a dirty looking reddish brown muddy looking mass.

If you get a prized one, you also get some crystals inside the banded layerings. These can be amethyst, clear or smokey quartz, calcite, hematite, chalybite, zeolite or opaline. I have yet to come across a theory of how the crystals get inside, to the middle, if all the inside is supposedly filled with these banded layers...some sort of dissolving going on?

There is also one, if not more, access "points" from the outside that allowed the solution to the inside.

From what I can see from my research is that the "eggs" are found in silicious volcanics of some sort that have decomposed a bit plus/minus various other silica rich rock. This is good, as this is found around the Richardson's Ranch, which is also in some alluvial deposits, debris flows, various volcanics, and various sand, silt, mud, claystones and some waterlain rocks. If this wasn't enough there are also some fossils (remember them?), and decomposed glass—commonly known as obsidian. Ha!!

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## **Memorial Weekend Sunstone Outing In Plush Oregon.**

**May,29,30,31,**

We will be camping on the BLM area. This is a no fee Sunstone area.

There is a restroom but no water. So bring plenty.

Saturday night will be **"The Potluck"** bring a dish to share that will feed five.

The club will be providing Hotdogs and Hamburgers, and all the condiments.

We will be mining at the "Dust Devil Mine" Most stones are free but colored stones may cost

The amount will depend on the quality of the stones.

The Dust Devil Mine is about 1 mile from the camp area.

Bring plenty of water to drink and sun screen.

Tools: Hammer, Small Pick, Shovel, Small Pry bar, A bucket for your sunstones. Ted made a Classifying Screen last year. The Mine provided shaker tables on a first come first serve.

### **Directions to Plush from Lakeview:**

Drive North about 6 miles Turn Right on Hwy 140. This intersection is well marked for the Warner Mt Ski area and Adel. Drive 16 miles east on Hwy. 140, Then turn left on CR 3-13 toward Plush. This intersection is well marked for Plush, Where you should top off your fuel tank and pick up ice. Beverages and snacks before continuing north on CR 3-10 also known as Hogback Road. It is the main roads running through Plush. The pavement will end after 5.5 miles. Drive another 5.5 miles to the intersection with CR 3-11 and turn right Go ½ mile and turn left at the intersection with BLM 6155, Which is marked by a decaying sign that once read SUNSTONE. Drive 7 miles and turn left at the intersection with BLM 6115 which is well marked by a sign pointing this way to the Sunstone Collecting area.

### **Directions North On 395:**

When traveling from the north on Hwy 395, turn left on Hogback Rd. Milepost 64. During dry weather with high clearance vehicles turn left after 7 miles on unmarked Nasty Flat Rd. Drive 7 ¼ miles then right on BLM 6115. In wet weather or in low ground clearance vehicles travel about 20 miles south on Hogback Rd. then left on cr-3-11. Then left at the intersection with BLM 6155 and left again at the intersection with BLM 6115. Travel 5 miles to the mine.

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Map to Plush  
"Dust Devil Mine"

