



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff

VICE PRESIDENT: Terrie Fox

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP: Joe Greene

CLAIMS OFFICER: Claudia Wise

Meeting Minutes from June 22th, 2017

Call to Order: We all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

Attendance: After everyone had signed in, we had a total of **14**, including 3 guests: Bill Krause, Mitch Clasen and Sophia Cave.

Secretary's Report: (Claudia and Terrie had taken down the minutes from May's meeting). Everyone said they read the minutes from May. Claudia made a motion to accept the minutes, someone seconded. Motion was passed by all.

Treasurer's Report: Joe gave the report. Penny made a motion to approve the treasure's report, Claudia seconded. All were in favor.

Claims Report: Claudia reported on the Golden Digger claim: She has tied red flags at each corner boundaries of our claim. Her and Joe had been up there earlier in June, and she finished marking the posts during our Miner's Meadow camp trip.

-Claudia would also like for anyone that has spent time at any of our claims to fill out a Maintenance Report and give it to her before September 1, so she can include hours worked on the maintenance of the claim when she submits the Waiver of Maintenance Fee to BLM.

-The form to fill out will be emailed to all members as an attachment when this newsletter goes out.

On Our Website: M. Digger's membership is \$30.00, our website still shows the cost is \$20.00. Barb Ferguson (our web-host) needs to be notified to correct this.

-The Digger's email needs to be monitored and cleaned up now and then. Penny said she will do it.

Senate Bill 3 update: Delmon wanted to know where we are right now. Is there any dredging in Oregon? Claudia replied that the bill had passed and has been signed by the Governor. Now we are waiting for DEQ to write up the new permits. -So until those permits are made official, the current state laws are still in place.

MMAC update: Joe said that Ted Cruise wants to talk to MMAC. -He also talked about the "bastardization" of the NPDES permit. -And about the Rinehart pre-emption court case: if that court case wins, it then sets the precedence that the *state cannot override FEDERAL AUTHORITY*.

JOIN MMAC to Support All Mining Districts and get Pro-mining Bills through the Federal Legislature

www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org/USDMM-store.html

Millennium Digger Members can support MMAC with a Silver Membership of \$30.

Guest Speaker: Bill Krause (Secretary of North West Mineral Prospectors) gave us a great presentation on **flint knapping, and fossils**. He is an expert flint knapper, making arrowheads, spear points and knives from obsidian. His knowhow of this craft is all self-taught. He began by practicing while sitting alongside a river or lake, and because of his curiosity of the craft and persistence in getting it right. After years of practice, he has become a master of it! He does flint knapping at the Clackamas Co. Fair, in the "Old West Town" section, and sells some of his workings. He showed us some of his finished knives, with nice bone/antler handles. He does beautiful work. He also has pieces for sale at the Vista Gift Shop at Crown Point on the Columbia River Gorge.

He has also devoted much of his time studying fossils. His main focus has been on the flora (plant and tree) fossils of Meta-Sequoia Creek. These fossils are dated early Miocene, 23 million years old in siltstone in the Eagle Creek Formation of the Columbia River Gorge. He **wrote** a report of his findings, called "**The Miocene Metasequoia Creek Flora on The Columbia River in NW Oregon**" which was published in the 1999 issue of Oregon Geology. It is a sensational piece of work and ***must be read!*** (See information below). **Thank you Bill! We are so honored to have had you as our guest. You gave us a great presentation, and we truly admire your work.**

OREGON GEOLOGY

**"The Miocene Metasequoia Creek Flora on the Columbia River in Northwestern Oregon" by William F. Krause
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Volume 61, Number 5, September/October 1999**

[OGv61n05.pdf](#)



Break time and Raffle Ticket Sales:

Here sits our President Ken and our newly appointed Vice Pres Terrie. And just look at the array of raffle prizes to be won! Included are several metal detectors, several boxes of misc. parts and pieces that go with the detectors, and/or (mix and match?). On the table is a big wooden box, a couple gold pans with pay dirt, and a huge rock (agate?) that Tim Floyd won. Thanks to Delmon for providing so many great items for our raffles.



During break, David treated everyone to strawberry shortcake served with ice cream and topped it off with whip cream (I think there was also a cookie)! **For everyone!** Yum! Pretty custom, let me tell you, and very well received! So, break time was truly wonderful. Sophia looks on with glowing approval. This is the 3rd year David has done this for us, so June is the month you don't want to miss our meeting! **Thank you so much David!**

Recent Outings:

Memorial weekend- May 27th and beyond: SUNSTONES – Penny was the contact person for this outing. Her cell number is 503-508-6582, and home phone is 503-588-9251. Penny, Walt and Terrie went and will give a report at the June meeting.



Penny, Walt and Terrie (and Lodi) at Ana Res, Summer Lake during our sunstone camp trip.



Ana River, Summer Lake



Sunset is upon us while we enjoy the open air space and panoramic vistas of Summer Lake Valley. Off in distance (south) a thunderstorm is building.



The sunsets are so fantastic, one just can't take enough pictures!



.....And the thunderstorm moves closer



We had to duck into a low spot and huddled as we braced ourselves against the onslaught of the storm. I got these shots only because we were so many lightning strikes! Whamo! One after another. Man! I told Terrie I was scared to look up for fear that my nose would attract the lightning! Thankfully the storm just brushed us. I figured we were going to get drenched, but we only got a little wet. But it was quite the highlight of our trip and we were thoroughly pumped up from it.

REPORT on Hampton Butte June 6th , 7th - to look for jasperized/petrified wood: Ken, Claudia and Joe went on this outing. Joe and Claudia camped overnight; Ken went for just that day. They ran into Scott Atkinson when they pulled into the Prineville Res. Campground! They found some nice pieces of green petrified wood and some limb casts.

REPORT on Old Miner's Meadow Camp Trip and Potluck from June 12th thru 14th: Claudia, Tim and Christoph with his girlfriend Sophia arrived on Monday and braved the rainy weather that day and night. The rain stopped right about the time that Penny, Walt and Terrie arrived Tuesday morning. So Tuesday and Wednesday were beautiful days. We did some panning and metal detecting both days.



The treasure trove of relics Claudia found while metal detecting and Christoph found 19 pennies!

-Tuesday, the 7 of us we drove up to Dry Gulch to check out our new claim, the **Golden Digger**. On the way there, Walt and Penny, along with Christoph and Sophia (riding in back of our truck) saw a **baby black bear!** It took off running without looking back. We knew its mama couldn't have been far!

-Claudia drove her quad up to the claim and tied red flags on the corner boundaries. She also gave each of us a ride up the narrow, steep and rugged road that led to her and Joe's new claim. Whee! That was fun!

-Penny and Walt found a couple of unusual rocks in the dry creek bed that crosses the road. The host rock (or parent rock) appears to be composed of quartz as well as the lumpy, elongated nodules that we busted out of the rock. On broken cross sections, some showed a central core with tiny crystals. My mind didn't have to stray too far before comparing them to "other familiar things" we all know and love. (I won't elaborate here). I have since given a sample to Tom Bohmker and Don Esch. Further study should reveal just how these rocks formed and is there a common name for them?



Little crystals in center of broken cross section of some nodules.



Here are some broken out of host rock.



Impression left in rock after breaking nodules out.

So we had a grand total of 15 at this outing; 7 of us were campers and the other 8 showed up the day of the potluck. We all had a great time; now good memories to share and recall. The friendship bonds grow ever stronger because of outings like this. What a neat grouping of individuals!

We gathered for a group photo shoot the day of the potluck. Aren't we cool?



Pictured here from bottom right to left: Karen, Joe's grandson Spencer, Penny, Terrie and Brodie (Karen's grandson)
Top row right to left: Joe, grandson Blake, daughter Carrie, Claudia and Walt (Lodi too)
Missing from photo is Ken O., Tim F, Christoph S, Sophia and David S.; they left before I could grab them for group shot.



Quartzville Creek at Miner's Meadow.



Quartzville Creek-looking down from road upstream from Miner's Meadow

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We all agreed the the outing to **Miner's Meadow** was a success and we should plan to go next year also. Claudia said reservations need to be made a year ahead of time, so we came up with a date: **Scheduled for June 2018: Arrive on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> thru to Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.**  
 -Joe made a motion to **reserve Old Miner's Meadow for a group camp trip on these 4 days.** The cost is \$180.00. Tim seconded and all said yes in favor.

**June's Letters were "I and J":** Penny brought violet-blue **iolite**, faceted and set in silver necklace and earrings. \*The stone has very distinctive "dichroism" (directional change in color- literally "two colors"), changing from violet-blue to grayish as it is turned. **-It has been suggested that this mineral was used in the Norseman's Atlantic navigation to locate the sun's position in cloudy weather (the strongest polarization of sky light and the bluest hue in the iolite is at 90° from the sun)** -It is valued as a geological thermometer and used as a guide to the grade of metamorphism. \*taken from Peterson Field guide to rock and Minerals,author Frederick H. Pough, page 294, under Cordierite  
 (There were other rocks and treasures, but I cannot remember who or what they brought. Sorry. -Penny)

**July's Letters are "K and L"**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS Thursday July 27th @ 7:00pm Be There!**

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

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