



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

- *PRESIDENT: Ken Orndorff***
- *VICE PRESIDENT: Terrie Fox***
- *TREASURER: Yvette Burkett***
- *CLAIMS OFFICER: Claudia Wise***

Meeting Minutes from February 28th 2019

Call to Order: Terrie presided as president, Ken was unable to attend. We all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Terrie called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Attendance: After everyone had signed in, we had a total of **13** in attendance, including 1 guest and new member Mike Turcotte.

Secretary's Report: Penny had sent out January's minutes earlier, before the meeting. A motion was made to accept minutes as stated, was seconded and passed by all. A card was passed around for all of us to sign to send to Ken as moral support during his time away caring for his wife Charlie.

Treasurer's Report: Yvette, our new treasurer, read the report, our bank account looks good. A motion was made to accept and passed by all. Collection of membership dues is ongoing. Yvette laminated 2019 MDiggers membership cards and gave out to each who paid.

Claims Report: Claudia was not present.

Old Business: Bohmker Case – Letters to send to Pres Donald Trump and 2 others had been emailed to everyone asking that we print and sign them and mail to the addressee. Several members had followed through with this request.



-We asked Joe to give us a talk about the new venture he and Claudia are involved in. Called "Rivers of Gold", a new mega mining production is in the works in Alaska. Claudia and Joe have been asked to assist with looking into the permitting process and have been invited on board in this project. We were captivated by all he had to say.

We'll hear much more about this as the news comes in.

-Then it was Don's turn to fill us in on his recent trip to Arizona and the annual Quartzite event, where he met up with the mining folks he has partnered with from Alaska. He had a lot to say as well! Great stories!



-The Trommel, parked at Penny and Walt's now for about 5 or 6 years has always been available to use. It would be nice to have it parked at someone else's place and USED! Last time it was used was on the South Umpqua River in 2012.

-Also, the club's metal detector has been returned, and it is now at Penny & Walt's. It is a **Minelab Explorer II**. We will bring it along for anyone to use at some of our outings. Or if any members request to use it, please don't hesitate to call: 503-508-6582 (cell)

-Yvette says she has several sluices she wants to donate for our members to use.

Upcoming Events:

March 30th -GPAA Gold Show Portland

April 20th and 21st "River of Gems" Rock Show (Willamette Agate & Mineral Society), Polk Co Fairgrounds, Rickreall

April 27th and 28th Glass Buttes -Contact Don Esch

May 4th Saturday Metal Detecting @ Polk Co Fairgrounds, Rickreall (join with Willamette Valley Miners)

June 20th thru 24th Miners Meadow

August 3rd and 4th Rice Museum

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We discussed some **suggestions for outings and guest speakers** (will make decisions on dates and times at March meeting when more members will be present and offer their suggestions).

Here are some tentative ideas:

-For a Guest Speaker: Invite Jared Ritchy (Sweethome Ranger District) to come to a meeting and update us on the status of the Quartzville area and the impact of the recent hazardous logging by our claims. -Penny said she would contact him soon.

-Ask Claudia if she would give us a presentation on Mercury.

-Metal Detecting/Suggested Outings:

-Pioneer Park in Stayton

-Albany Parks: Bowman Park, Bryant Park, old picnic area by 3 Lakes

**Letters for February "C and D":** Penny brought rocks from her collection: **Cinnabar** (mercury sulfide), **Calcite** (calcium carbonate), "Gastroliths" from crawfish (calcium carbonate), (see explanation below), **Chrysoprase** (apple green [nickel stained] chalcidony), **Chrysocolla** (basic copper silicate), **Celestite** (strontium sulfate), native **Copper** (dendritic crystal form) and native **Copper** crystals in Selenite ( [gypsum] calcium sulfate), Amethyst with **Cacoxinite** (iron aluminum phosphate) , **Coke** (carbon fuel), and **Danburite** (calcium boro silicate)

**Read about "Gastroliths from Crawfish":**



From W. Australia Museum/Aquatic Zoology “Why Freshwater Crayfish Don’t Need Milk for Healthy Bones” from Andrew Hosie’s Blog:

*As it turns out these particular ‘stones’ have actually come from inside the stomach of a freshwater crayfish and are called gastroliths (literally stomach stones). Not to be confused with the gizzard stones found in birds which are used to help grind and digest food, crayfish gastroliths actually represent a remarkable physiological process to conserve calcium.*

*Much like people require calcium for strong and healthy bones, so too does a freshwater crayfish to maintain its armor. The calcium provides strength to the exoskeleton so that it can support the animal’s body, give the claws their pinching power and to protect it from predators. As crayfish (indeed all crustaceans) grow bigger, they must periodically shed the exoskeleton and form a new one. To start a new exoskeleton from scratch would require large amounts of new calcium.*

*The hormones that drive moulting (referred to as ecdysis) trigger calcium carbonate to be removed from the exoskeleton and starts forming a pair of these gastroliths in the stomach. After the crayfish has moulted, the gastroliths are reabsorbed and used in the strengthening of the new exoskeleton. Only freshwater crustaceans form gastroliths because unlike seawater, freshwater has very little dissolved calcium salts, so in an effort to retain calcium, crayfish form these little gastroliths, or even eat the old exoskeleton.*

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**Comment from Penny:** Yes, I have found a lot of these, and have a couple small jars full of them. I have discovered that only after the crayfish has been eaten by a predator (say a raccoon or great heron), and has gone all the way through their digestive tract (and out), that these gastroliths will resist breaking down. They will have become hardened and keep their smooth, white attractive finish. Otherwise, when I find them in a dead crayfish, the gastroliths soon break down; resulting in a rough and crumbly lump not worth saving. I assume that when eaten and digested by the predators, the enzymes within their digestive tract act as a "catalyst", giving the "expelled" gastrolith a new hardness. Now, I don't know for sure if this is "fact"; this is only from my personal deductions. -There are certain locations I visit periodically; where raccoons leave their "deposits", and it seems they have been using these areas for many many years. You can see the crayfish remains scattered all over the big boulders. I seek these deposits out and can spend an hour or so collecting the gastroliths; they really stand out!

**Letters for March “E and F”**

**Breaktime and Raffle**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Our next meeting is March 28<sup>h</sup> at 7:00**