

Place: **Union Hall**
Meyers Street
Next to Campus Life
In Kettle Falls



Time: 7:00 PM
Third Tuesday
Each Month
(Jan.-Nov.)

The Panorama Prospector

November 2005

Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for October 18, 2005

As noted by Joe Barreca

Steve White and Rex Barrans related great success finding crystals up Trout Creek on their September field trip. **Sylvia Petty** found crystals with purple phantoms inside them on the same trip and read a description she composed about it. Very nice!

Various members related their concerns about the rising cost of the Golden Age Pass and potential legislation regarding collecting fossils and asked for more information about that in the newsletter (Be careful what you ask for – it's in this issue.)

Gladys Porath requested that we make her an honorary member and waive her newsletter costs. We agree that we should do this for her and perhaps others on a per request basis. We also instituted a membership level for people who just want to receive the newsletter. Full membership is \$15/yr per family. (Newsletter only should be \$9.00/yr the cost of making this newsletter and mailing it.)

The Rock Show is now scheduled for April 1st since Spring break begins April 3rd in 2006. It will run Friday March 31st 8:30 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday April 1st 9 AM to 5 PM. Since the show is on April Fool's Day, we elected to make the theme of the show "**Fool's Gold**". So get your pyrite collections together.

The **Christmas Party** is Tuesday December 20th at the American West Bank, 106 S 2nd East in Chewelah, 5:00 decorate, 6 PM eat, optional gift exchange and possibly a Christmas Poem. Mable Barrans wants us to think about what we will bring to eat. Mark items for the gift exchange as "ladies", "gentlemen" or both. A **Rock Auction** will be held at the November meeting benefiting the scholarship fund. Tape a note to your rocks telling about them.

Officer Nominations are: President, Johnie Pitman, Vice-P, Steve White, Secretary, Luci Bristow, Treas – Sylvia Allen, Trustee: Joyce Dawson. Show Chairs: Johnie Pitman (2006), Diane Lentz (2007) and Bill Allen (2008).

Bev Bockman brought a great video called Agates of the World and Bob Bockman narrated for us.

Passes and Paleontology

By Joe Barreca

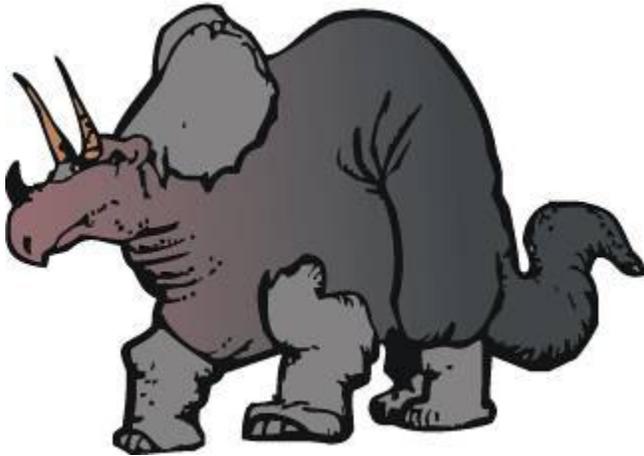
This month we get fossils in the story by Bob Bristow and in this political research. As we shall see, neither comes easy. On the next page we also have a summary of the different kinds of current passes to federal lands. Let's start however with S. 263, the Senate Bill passed on July 26th this year as part of the 109th Congress. Also called the "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act". This bill has been introduced and passed by the Senate in most of the recent annual sessions of Congress and has been sent to the House of Representatives, where it has so-far, consistently died from lack of action.



As written, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to write rules and regulations for the collection of vertebrate fossils on federal land. It specifically exempts "casual collecting" which means "the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use." The main opposition is from the "Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences", a group whose members collect and sell fossils commercially.

This is not to say that there isn't anything to worry about here. The Secretary's rules may turn out to be outrageous. The penalties can include confiscation of vehicles and equipment as well as huge fines and jail time. There is yet no definition of "reasonable amount" or a very specific way to determine if a fossil has been collected before these laws could be passed.

There is some need of more comprehensive laws. Current regulations do not provide direction or funding for an inventory of fossil resources or uniform and complete coverage of them by all federal agencies. An example is in Oglala National Grassland in Nebraska where between 1991 and 1996 one third of all fossil sites inventoried "were found to have been vandalized and as a result valuable data was lost to science and to the public." (Elizabeth Estill, Forest Service.)



Knee-jerk reactions by either side are premature. When and if the House passes a corresponding bill, the two would have to be reconciled and signed into law. The Secretary of the Interior would have to draft the rules and present them to the public for comment. Even after such rules were instituted, court cases would doubtless arise that would further define and determine how they would apply.

I think the best stance for our club and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is to monitor the proposed rules and situation closely and to provide input on how they would affect what we do. The literature clearly recognizes the role of clubs such as ours in instilling interest and fostering education about fossils in our members, in youth and the public in general. In that position, if things began to go awry, we would have access to inside people and information that could turn the situation our way in a more public venue. With any luck that situation would never arise and we would be able to carry on our hobby with a minimum of interference and confusion.

Passes and Fees:

There is a good article on this by Jon Spunaugle in the October issue of the AFMS Newsletter. He points out that for most purposes most National Forest lands are open and free of charge. In Northwest Forests, there is a \$5 Forest Pass that applies to parking at trailheads with restroom facilities. It can be extended to a whole year for \$30. This is an example of a "Recreation Fee" and that program has been in place for several years

There are also several variations of the "Golden Eagle Pass". As you can see from the following chart (stolen from the USFS Internet site) this pass and it's companions cover a multitude of uses. And if you are over 62 or have a disability, it is very inexpensive or free. It covers a whole family. It hits young families the hardest since they do not qualify for discounts and need to renew it each year (\$65). If you have traveled on the East Coast where most natural wonders are privately held, this expense seems reasonable.

On the horizon however is the "Adventure Pass". Spunaugle describes its use in four California forests. There is also some discussion on the Internet about providing these kinds of passes free to compensate volunteers who help clean up or watch over camp sites in national parks and forests. Not much is available about the proposed cost of this kind of pass, that would be necessary for any vehicle anywhere on federal land. If, as rumored, this pass costs \$100/year per vehicle, it would certainly hamper the average rock hound from pursuing a healthy and otherwise pretty inexpensive hobby. It would also institute multiple layers of bureaucracy and tracking of personal information to an already overburdened Forest Service.

The BLM has special use permits for camping, parking etc. in improved sites. These are very similar to the USFS permits. There does not seem to be any overall pass required just for driving and walking on BLM land. Many of the most interesting mineral resources in Northeast Washington are on BLM land. It would be a big hindrance to us to have to ask permission or look over our shoulder every time we

went to visit them. Again, I think the best policy is to keep our ears to the ground. Luci Bristow has composed a letter (last page of this newsletter) that we can send to our representatives expressing our concerns.

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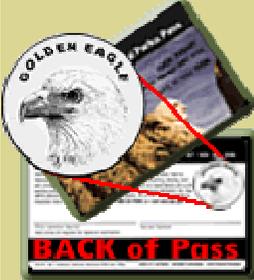
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Pass Type	Who Is It For?	Cost	Admits	Benefits
<p><u>Golden Eagle Passport *</u></p> 	Anyone	\$65 Annually	<p>Admits pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle.</p> <p>At per-person sites, admits cardholder, spouse, children and parents.</p>	<p>Honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Services, and US Army Corp of Engineers sites charging entrance or day use fees.</p> <p>Frequent visitors of multiple federal agency lands may save money by buying a Golden Eagle Passport.</p> <p>Eighty percent of the purchase price is retained to support local recreation opportunities.</p>
<p><u>Golden Age Passport **</u></p> 	Citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are 62 years of age or older.	\$10 Lifetime	Same as Golden Eagle Passport.	<p>Honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish & Wildlife Services, and US Army Corp of Engineers sites charging entrance or day use fees.</p> <p>Receives a 50% discount at campgrounds (does not include hookups for water/sewer/electricity), highly developed boat launches and swimming sites and for specialized interpretive services.</p>
<p><u>Golden Access Passport **</u></p> 	Citizens or permanent residents of the United States who have a medical determination and documentation of blindness or permanent disability.	Free Lifetime	Same as Golden Eagle Passport.	Same as Golden Age Passport
National Parks Pass	Anyone	\$50 Annually	Same as Golden Eagle Passport.	Honored nationwide at all National Park Service sites charging an entrance fee.

				
<p><u>Golden Eagle hologram</u> *</p> 	<p>Anyone with a National Parks Pass</p>	<p>\$15 Same expiration as National Parks Pass it is affixed to.</p>	<p>Same as Golden Eagle Passport.</p>	<p>Same as Golden Eagle Passport.</p> <hr/> <p>Visitor must already have a National Parks Pass to affix hologram to.</p> <hr/> <p>Visitors who have a National Parks Pass and visit other federal agency lands may save money by buying a Golden Eagle hologram to upgrade their National Parks Pass to be equal to a Golden Eagle Passport.</p>

An Ohio Trilobite Whistle
by
Bob Bristow

I had always wanted to find a trilobite. I think every collector has wanted to find one of these ancient bugs. I had looked around road cuts in Ohio and found lots of nice coral and other fossils, but no trilobites. Then we got a new man by the name of Les Crow in the area where I worked who was from Wright-Paterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. One day he brought his trilobite collection to work. It was outstanding and I drooled all over them. He told me about his favorite spots and how he hunted them. The next time I went to Dayton on business, it was snowing. However, there were clear areas between patches of snow. That evening, after the last meeting, I hurried out past Xenia to the best road cut. Alas, it was covered by fresh snow. I then went on down the Miami River and crossed a dam to a large cut where the fill for the dam had been removed. The cut was over a mile long and was on both sides of the highway. I tried one side and picked up a number of excellent specimens of *streptelasma rusticum*, commonly called cup or horn coral. I put them in the car and tried the other side. I picked up a few more specimens and a sample of chalcopyrite crystals (Figure 1) and headed back to the car. A man in uniform was waiting for me. He said he had seen me climbing the cliff, which was illegal. I said the highest I had gotten was on top of a three feet rock to see what was on the one next to it. He said that was considered climbing and I had an illegal pick. I said, "You mean this rock hammer?" He said yes, "You are allowed to dig by hand only. Also, you are allowed hand specimens only. You will have to put that big thing back." He continued to explain that by hand specimen, he meant one no bigger than a hand. Mine was about 5-inches in diameter, which was a little wider than my hand. I asked where I should put it. He said anywhere. I tossed it in the ditch by the road and asked if that was OK. He said that was fine. I would have been upset about having to destroy that horn coral specimen except that I already had a good supply in the car. I was certainly glad he didn't look in the back seat!



Figure 1. Chalcopyrite Crystals



Figure 2. Typical Trilobite

The next trip to Dayton, I stayed far away from the Miami River dam. The weather was nice so I parked in the roadcut recommended by Les and walked up the side of the cut. The fossils were so thick that it was impossible to keep from stepping on some. There were brachiopods, gastropods, cephalopods, bryozoans and coral fossils. Finally, under a bush I spotted my first trilobite. It was a nice *flexicalymene meeki*, a variety that rolled up like a sowbug when disturbed (Figure 2). I went on to find eight more trilobites in the next two hours. When I got back to my office, Les was flabbergasted at all the trilobites I had found. He said it had taken him two years to find that many! He looked unhappy for a moment and then brightened up as he said, "Hey everybody, come see all the trilobites. I loaned Bob my trilobite whistle and look how great it worked!" Someone brought

a magnifier from the lab to look at the small specimen shown in Figure 3. Soon there was a group of men taking turns looking through the magnifier. When they finished looking, they began laughing and making jokes. A lady engineer came over to see what was so funny. The men moved aside to let her take a look. She looked for a long time without changing expression. She turned away still looking expressionless and said, "At least they died in ecstasy!"

I later identified all of the fossils and found that they are from the Ordovician period, 438 to 605 million years ago. Following is a complete list of the fossils I identified:

Trilobites

Flexicalymene Meeki
Isotelus Maximus

Horn Coral

Streptelasma

Brachiopods

Rafinesquina Alternata
Resserella Emacerata
Platystrophis

Gastropod

Cyrtolites Ornatus

Cephalopod

Endoceras Proteiforme

Bryozoan

Stomafopora Arachnoidea

Coral

Protarea Richmodensis

On my last trip to Dayton, I was about to retire and was taking my replacement to meet my Air Force customers. He decided he would like to try his hand at finding trilobites so I took him out to Les's favorite road cut. Since the shoulder was very wide, I pulled well off the roadway and parked. We were both high on the bank when a policeman pulled up behind my car. I immediately went down to see what the problem was. He told me that I couldn't park here. I asked, "Why? The shoulder is certainly wide enough and there aren't any no-parking signs." He drawled, "You see, this road belongs to all of the people of Ohio so it wouldn't be fair to let an individual use it." I stifled a laugh because he not only sounded like the sheriff in the TV series, "The Dukes of Hazzard," but he looked like him too. He took both my driver's license and that of my friend to his car and spent at least 15 minutes on the radio. It was very apparent that what he really wanted was an excuse to call his office and let them know he was working.

All this was fine. I wrote it off as another adventure and a rather humorous one at that!

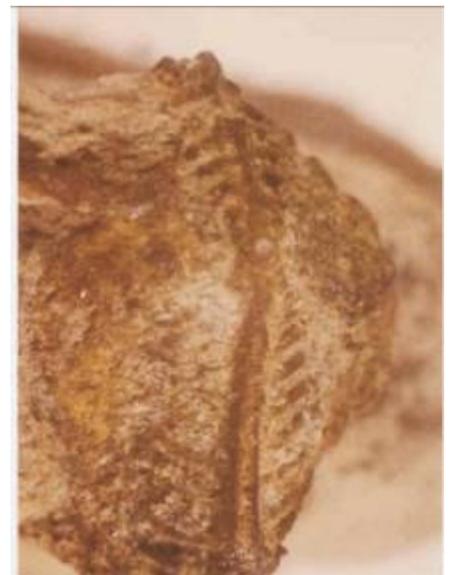


Figure 3. Mating Trilobites



Mineral Identification
Mineral/Mine Locations

Bristow Enterprises
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Chewelah, WA 99109
Bristow@theofficenet.com
www.minrls.com