

**Place:**  
Arden Community Hall  
636 Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



**Club Meetings:**  
Third Tuesday of The  
Month at 6:00PM

## The Panorama Prospector

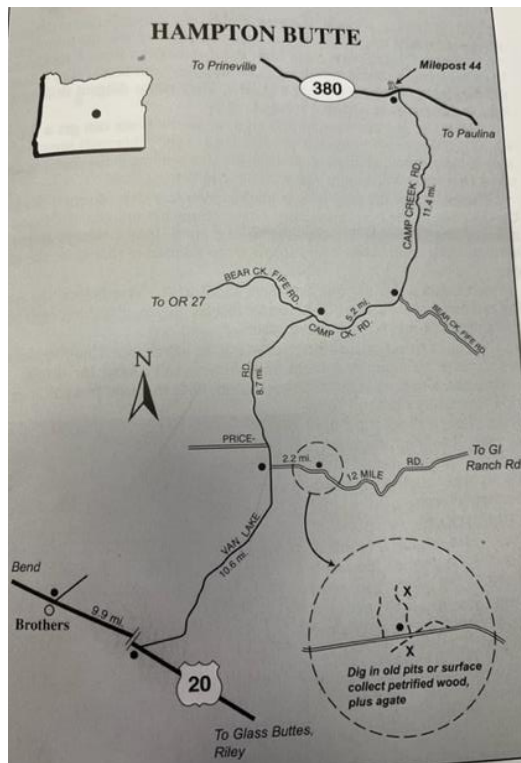
November 2022

### Green Petrified Wood at Hampton Butte, Oregon

By Jim Peters

This green petrified wood comes from a geologic formation at Hampton Butte in Oregon. The 120-acre rockhounding area is located 12 miles northeast of Highway 20 near Brothers, Oregon. The site is frequently visited by rockhounds, but you may still find small tumbler-size material on the surface. More enthusiastic rockhounds may find larger pieces of wood by digging 1 to 3 feet below the surface with shovel or pick.

Hampton Butte Wood comes in a variety of colors – White, gray, black, and yellow, red, but the most prized is the dark green, which is very rare elsewhere. The site is widely known for this unusual green petrified wood. The dark green was probably caused by iron or copper inclusions and the wood appears as petrified wood or limb casts where the original structures were replaced by agate, jasper, or common opal. Most of the pieces I found were dark green with others being brown, red, turquoise, and white.



Petrified wood is fossilized through the process of permineralization of the organic matter being replaced by minerals. When woody logs and limbs are buried in wet sediments with dissolved minerals with lack of oxygen to slow decay and allow

minerals to replace the organic matter in the cells and still show growth rings it becomes petrified rock.



Limb casts are formed when the branches of a tree are covered by hot ash and burn away. The space left from the branch is filled with agate, jasper, or opal type material forming cast of the tree limb. Some casts show the bark and wood textures of the original limb.

At Hampton Butte, this wood was laid down 30-40 million years ago. The over burden is only a couple of feet thick and is very easy to dig.

Remember this location is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and their rock collecting rules apply. You can collect up to 25 pounds per day, with a maximum of 250 pounds per year.



The last time I was there, one person was there also. He showed me a rock of dark green the size of a basketball. He had a steel rod he used to poke in the ground to locate the pieces of petrified wood. If you go there bring water, it is hot and dry. There is good camping in the area with shade. It is worth the trip, and you will find some green if you work at it.

## Johnie's Jabber

By Johnie Pitman

Well, it's that time of year again Nov. is our annual rock and misc. auction, so bring something to auction off if you want to donate, if not that's ok. Save a little cash for the auction just in case you were bidding someone up and then it was dumped on you. It's always a lot of fun.

It's also time to renew your dues if you haven't recently.

This month's meeting is also officer elections so that those elected can take office in Dec.

The December meeting is our Christmas Party.

I will get the dealer contracts out this month in preparation for our Rock Show, which will be the second weekend in March again this next year.

A couple of weeks ago I finally received the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies publication for 2021-2022 which we should have had months ago. It has a listing of all the clubs in the Federation with a list of all the club's memberships. There is also a listing of programs that can be used for club meeting programs, and they are free except for shipping. However, at this time there is no Librarian to communicate with in order to get one mailed to us. I'm hoping that by the time we need a program next year they will be available.

Also, Jim Retzer our newsletter Editor expressed a desire to retire from this position, so if anyone of you have the skills on the computer to do this job, please

let us know. Thanks Jim you have done a great job as editor.  
Johnie

## Upcoming Events in Our Area

### February 2023

2/11/2023 2/12/2023  
**Sweetheart of Gems Show**  
Whidbey Island Gem Club  
The Center in Oak Harbor  
51 SE Jerome St  
Oak Harbor, WA

### March 2023

3/4/2023 3/5/2023  
**East King Co Rock Club**  
Pickering Barn  
1730 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Issaquah, WA  
Website: EastKingCo.org

### Identify the “Rock or Mineral”

#### Last Month’s Rock or Mineral:



**Realgar** – It is an arsenic sulfide mineral with the chemical formula of  $As_4S_4$ . It is very soft with a Mohs hardness of 1.5 to 2. It is a sectile mineral occurring in monoclinic crystals but is also found in granular, compact, or powder form.

Realgar is often found in association with its related mineral, orpiment ( $As_2S_3$ ). It is orange to red in color and gives an orange-colored streak.

In the past realgar was used by firework manufacturers to create the color white in fireworks. It is still used in combination with potassium chlorate to make contact explosive for some torpedoes. Its toxic nature led to its use as a weed, insect, and rodent killer. Also, it was used in leather manufacturing to remove hair from animal pelts. Today it is rarely used for any of these purposes due to the development of more effective and less toxic substitutes.

Its crystals can look like red gemstones which gives it the names “ruby sulfur” and “ruby arsenic”.

#### This Month’s Rock or Mineral:



#### Note From the Editor

##### Again, our newsletter is a little short.

I would like to thank those of you who have submitted articles and items for input to our club’s newsletter. Without your contributions we cannot have the outstanding newsletter this club is noted for. Remember this newsletter is a reflection of our club and a representation of our outstanding members.

The recent months contributions from our members, which have made putting out the newsletter a lot easier, have been outstanding. I look forward to more articles from our members. Remember our members varied interests add to the diversity of this newsletter.

## Membership Dues:

\$20.00 per household per year is due to the club Treasurer Frank Stratton on the third Tuesday of November for regular members. Dues can also be sent to: Panorama Gem and Mineral Club c/o Johnie Pitman, 701 B Williams Lake Rd, Colville, WA 991114.

Webpage: <http://panoramagem.com/>

Facebook Group: [Panorama Gem & Mineral Club](#)

We, The Panorama Gem and Mineral Club, are a multi-faceted group of mineral-minded people. Our proud members include some real gems, a few fossils, and even some diamonds in the rough. A few have lost some of their marbles, but they know where to get more! A few need to polish their coordination because they are always tumbling! And some are miners who use the “silver pick” as their tool of choice! It should be crystal clear, that we all enjoy this unique conglomeration and above all else we strive to **HAVE FUN**. And we never throw stones (away).

## A Quick Note from The Editor

*It is a pleasure to note we are back in full swing. All meetings and outings are back to normal. Thanks to all for their support and participation during the pandemic.*

*On another note, we are always looking for newsletter inputs from our members. If you have an idea for an article, please forward it to Jimrocks@recycledhistory.com*

## Refreshment Schedule for 2021

Last names that begin with the letters posted bring refreshments for that month

January – N, O, P  
 February – Q, R, S, T  
 March – W, A, B, C  
 April – D, E, F, G  
 May – H, I, J  
 June – K, L, M  
 July – N, O, P  
 August – Club Picnic  
 September – Q, R, S, T  
 October – W, A, B, C  
 November - D, E, F, G  
 December – Christmas Party

## Panorama Gem and Mineral Club: Organizational Chart

### Officers

President:	Sheila Stratton	skstratton@hotmail.com	509-207-8506
Vice-President:	Bob Bristow	bristow71@outlook.com	509-935-4375
Secretary:	Glynis Hull	gghull@comcast.net	
Treasurer:	Frank Stratton	frstratton@outlook.com	509-207-8503
Trustee 1:	Jim Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
Trustee 2:	Scott Jackson	free2rockhound@yahoo.com	509-680-4896
Trustee 3:			

### Committee Chairs

Program Coordinator:	Sheila Stratton	skstratton@hotmail.com	509-207-8506
Hospitality:	Betty Peters	jimnbetty17@gmail.com	509-992-6921
Historian:			
Newsletter:	Jim Retzer	jimrocks@recycledhistory.com	509-738-2503
Show Chair	Johnie Pitman	jpgpitman@outlook.com	509-684-8887