

Paleo Press

Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site Newsletter November 2020

Stonerose Happenings



Stonerose Board Looks Toward the Future

As reported in the December 2019 newsletter, the Friends of Stonerose Board of Directors purchased a large building right in the heart of Republic on May 1. An ambitious fundraiser, the “Hop, Skip and a Jump” campaign sought \$20,000 in order to complete the initial financial commitment. With help from our wonderful supporters, we surpassed the goal!

As it would happen, it was none too soon, as the onset of Covid certainly changed how we needed to operate. The building where you have seen us for over 30 years was much too small to host more than 2 people at a time, while observing a healthy 6-foot distance between employees and visitors. With the 4000-square foot facility now available for our use, we were able to open safely for visitors as soon as mandates allowed, July 1.

While the new building is nowhere ready to be what we envision for the future, at least it was an alternative to not being able to open this summer at all. A record number of people stopped in just to see our new space, unfinished or not.

The work on a state-of-the-art Interpretive Center and Education Center has started with a Capital Campaign Consultant. The program offerings and visitor experience will be greatly enhanced and set Stonerose up for the next 30 years of service to visiting students, fossil diggers and scientists.

More “Happenings” on page 3...



Partial view of the temporary retail and orientation area. More photos on page 3

2020 Membership Weekend Cancelled

The popular Stonerose Membership Weekend was forced to cancel this year. In a normal year, we have an attendance of about 50 members, many of whom travel from out of the area.. We hope that 2021 will allow the event to resume.

Member Weekend is one of the benefits of being a Stonerose Member. We encourage anyone who isn't a Member to join in order to participate. It is held the last full weekend in April.

Stonerose is Washington State's world class citizen science fossil site with the mission to connect the public, scientific, and local communities through our fossil resource and educational programs.

Greetings from the Director



Greetings from Republic, the home of Stonerose Fossils!

November 2020

"The unimaginable always becomes the unforgettable." Geoffrey Beene

The New Normal. Unprecedented. The Time of Covid. Pivot. Reach Out, Circle Back. Zoom! If 2020 was a Bingo card, it would be a complete blackout. Buzzwords aside, we at Stonerose feel incredibly fortunate to be impacted minimally this year. If you were affected, our heart goes out to you and your loved ones, your community, your businesses. I think we are all "done" with this year, and have hopes for a brighter new year.

Speaking of being "done", this is my seventh and final year at the helm of our beloved Stonerose. I am officially joining the ranks of the retired at the end of this year. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Stonerose and the new Fossil Center!

Summer Season Re-cap: We had around 3250 visitors to Stonerose in 2020, down from 7,000 last year. Considering that our season was shortened by 2 whole months, AND our other events were cancelled, we still feel fortunate. Boot Hill yielded plenty of finds and diggers were very happy.

Partially discovered in July by a visitor from Olympia, this probable Eosalm was subsequently excavated by 3G in order to preserve it as much as possible. Work continues on this fairly rare specimen. Photo by Andy Brockett

The site was manned this year daily by Lifetime Member and volunteer extraordinaire, Gregg Wilson (3G). Gregg has made Ferry County his home this year, and we are grateful for his presence on Boot Hill and the guidance he has provided to our diggers.



This year we were not able to host the many school students from around the region. In May we usually have schools, almost daily, take their annual field trip to Republic just to give kids a hands-on history lesson. Stonerose gives visiting students and their chaperones a reduced rate on admission and tool rental, to offset their cost of traveling here. We hope to be able to see students again in 2021.

2020 also ruined our always-fun **Membership Weekend**, when we get to see many of our members, old and new. Keep your fingers crossed for a wonderful 2021 event, always held the last weekend in April. Membership Weekend is a great benefit of being a member, with the site open exclusively for you!

Other casualties this year were the July **Annual Auction**, and a **"Wes-Fest"** in May, featuring Professor Nick Zentner. Some of you "old timers" know this, but for our new subscribers, Wes Wehr is considered the "Father of Stonerose". Again, keep your fingers crossed that we can resume with ALL of our events in 2021.

So many chose to support us financially this year, Covid or not. We welcome your support any time, either with a membership, a monetary donation, or by meeting one of our other needs. We are moving forward with our Strategic Plan goals, and count on donations to remain open and staffed year round.

We hope that you'll visit us during 2021. As always, contact us with your ideas!

Katherine Meade, Director

We are funded by admissions to our fossil site, retail sales, educational programming, donations, grants and agency contracts. Personal and business donations provide critical support for our operations and our education outreach.

Stonerose appreciates your help. Talk to your accounting professional about the tax advantages of planned giving and please remember us in your estate planning. We are able to accept donations of real and personal property, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, life insurance policies, and gift annuities.

Friends of Stonerose Fossils is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 31-1274608.



Many thanks also to everyone who helped us open safely and in time for a shortened, but successful season.

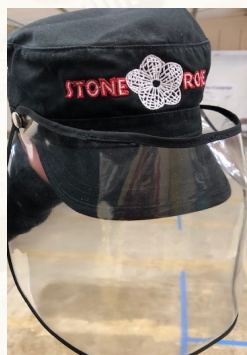


Joann Marshall and Liz Bremner lent their artistic skills to the building to draw attention to our presence. They painted directional signs, our *Florissantia*, other common *Stonerose* fossils, and a bit of whimsy on our windows.



Supporter Jill Starr, co-owner of Pearl's Smokehouse in Republic, generously offered to build some nice "sneeze guards". The beautifully wood framed acrylic shields are for the registration desk and Identification tables.

Nancy Odell stepped up to the plate when I pondered face shields for staff. She craftily constructed snap on vinyl guards for our logo corps hats. She also generously donated a restored, hand painted chair and table for a raffle.



Grant Activity

Thanks to many COVID related grants, Stonerose was able to open safely, with proper distancing, supplies and equipment.

Washington Humanities provided \$5,000 to be used towards payroll and facility expenses. This helped immensely to open in the new location!

The Washington State Library provided \$500. for additional protection supplies, like sanitizer, wipes, and soap. An additional \$3,000 was given for outreach. We used that to produce a video that takes the visitor from the front door, to the digging, and finally the identification of their finds. This will be shared with schools as a precursor to their visit.

Innovia Foundation generously sent several life-lines:

Innovia Community Response and Recovery Grant was received in June. \$6,500 was used for supplies that also helped us reopen in the temporary location. The new Center now has touch-less faucets, soap dispensers, sanitizer dispensers, and credit card dock in addition to other protective supplies.

With help from another generous grant from the Innovia Foundation, we offered 393 youth free admission, free tool rental, and a bonus water. There's something positive about this crazy year! A great incentive for families who were able to travel.

Ferry County Sunrise helped our bottom line with a \$10,000 check to cover loss of revenue.

Washington Federal, in conjunction with the Small Business Administration gave us a \$17,000 loan for payroll, which is forgivable under COVID guidelines.

WE APPRECIATE ALL THE HELP!

Thanks also to Karl Volkman, who consistently volunteers his time every year; to Bruce Bedell for patiently working with our staff and board to produce a new orientation video; and to our Seasonal staff...Joleen, Madison, Hannah, and Liam...you stood in and did a great job for us this year when we weren't even sure anyone would be traveling!



STONEROSE INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND EOCENE FOSSIL SITE

P. O. Box 987
15-1 N. Kean Street
Republic, WA 99166



PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 42
REPUBLIC WA

www.stonerosefossil.org

stonerose@frontier.com

509-775-2295

find us on



Things to watch for next year!



IF we are able...

* April 23-25, 2021 Membership Weekend

* July 10, Stonerose's **Funding Fabulous Fossils Auction**

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMISSION RATES

Rates effective January 1, 2020.

Daily Admission

	Age	All Day Rate
Adult	18-61	\$15.00
Senior	62 +	\$10.00
Youth	5-17	\$ 5.00
College Student w/valid ID	18 +	\$10.00
Youngsters	0-4	FREE
Family (2 Adults/2 Youth)		\$35.00

Memberships

Individual	\$ 45.00
Senior (62+)	\$ 30.00
College Student or Educator (with valid ID)	\$ 30.00
Dual	\$ 60.00
Dual Sr. (at least one 162+)	\$ 50.00
Family (2 Members and 4 Youth)	\$ 75.00
Corporate (2 principals, 4 guests and web link)	\$ 250.00
Sustainer (2 Members and 10 guest passes)	\$ 500.00
Lifetime (includes up to ten guests per visit)	\$ 2,000.00