



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

July 2023

July Editorial provided by *Melissa Bronson- OIAA Board Member*

Regardless of the type: sand, rock, gravel or mineral, quarries provide recreational opportunities for surrounding populations. Obviously, the ownership of these quarries, public or private, and the legal uses of these sites, is a discussion for another day. Swimming in the settling ponds, riding an ATV, climbing on rock faces, and target shooting are major activities that come to mind. However, there are also prospects for another type of recreationalist: “Fossil Hunters.” Specifically, over the last decade, both amateur and professional Paleontologists/Archeologists, have discovered monumental finds within the bounds of various, once operational (assumed non-operational as neither article discloses the status of the quarries), quarries across Europe.

Ashley Strickland wrote for CNN in July of 2021 about the discovery of mammoth bones and Neanderthal tools in a Swindon, UK quarry that date back more than 200,000 years, providing an in depth look at Britain during the Ice Age. Woolly Mammoth remains as well as a species of steppe mammoths were uncovered at this dig site along with the original discovery of an axe handle in 2017.

As recent as July of 2023 “Fossil Hunters” on a “Fossil Walk” found a mammoth tusk protruding from the ground within a rock quarry east of England. The tusk was determined to belong to a steppe mammoth. Side note, the steppe mammoth (a smaller version of the Woolly mammoth) is believed to have shrunk in size as a reaction to climate change- Ice Age.

Sands and gravels provide an environment for the deposition of fossils that allows bones to bury easily. So maybe this is why these discoveries keep happening in quarries? On the other hand, maybe it is because a quarry, by definition, is a place of material extraction – so we dig and that is how these discoveries are occurring. Alternatively, it could be because the act of quarrying is a relatively “new” industry as compared to the Ice Age.

Whether or not the occurrences continue in quarries, fossils and tools from prehistorical times will continue to be discovered by curious folks alike.

Sources:

Price, K. (2023, July 18). *400,000-year-old mammoth tusk found sticking out of the ground in English Quarry*. LiveScience. <https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/fossils/400000-year-old-mammoth-tusk-found-sticking-out-of-the-ground-in-english-quarry>

Strickland, A. (2021, December 29). *Fossil discovery of 5 mammoths along with Neanderthal tools reveals life in ice age*. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/29/world/mammoth-fossils-neanderthal-tools-scn/index.html>



Summer Safety

Preventing Heat Illness:

Educate Employees

About the hazards leading to heat illnesses and how to prevent them

How to recognize symptoms

To immediately report symptoms

To know how to tell if they are properly hydrated

About proper clothing (e.g. clothing that allows for dissipation of sweat, the difference between cotton and lightweight blends)

Water

Provide fresh water, close to the work area

Remind employees to frequently drink small amounts of water (about 1 cup every 15 – 20 minutes)

Ensure water is available when working in remote areas

Rest / Shade

New employees should gradually increase their workload or take more frequent breaks for the first week

Take more breaks when performing heavier work in high heat and humidity

Schedule frequent rest periods with water breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas

Monitor

Weather reports daily

Work activity. Set up a buddy system when possible

Workers to ensure they are drinking water, resting in shaded areas

Symptoms to ensure employees are not showing signs of heat related illness



Mark your calendars

Our 2024 training dates have been confirmed

Albany Fairgrounds – March 12, 2024

Douglas County Fairgrounds – March 13, 2024

Newsletter and Training Notification email address updates

These past few years have brought many changes to some of our member companies. If you have had a change in personnel or added new personnel that you wish to receive this newsletter and information regarding our annual training please contact our secretary Kellie Ramar @ memberreply@oraggregate.com



Don't forget to spread the word to your family and employees about our scholarship. Forms are now available on our website. **Deadline is September 15, 2023**

Attention OIAA member contacts

Please keep us updated on contact changes and email changes for your company.

Is there someone in your company that you would like to receive this newsletter? Please send information to memberreply@oregonaggregate.com

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Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27th 10 AM
KPD office conference room in Springfield, Oregon

Our meetings are open to all our members. We would love to hear what is happening at your company and if there is anything you would like to share with the association.

Remember your association can only be as good as you help make it.

memberreply@oraggregate.com.