

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce, POB 728, Yachats, OR 97498-0728

### **YACHATS TO HOST AGATE FESTIVAL**

The central Oregon coast's picturesque village of Yachats will host its *first ever* Agate Festival on Saturday and Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Yachats Commons, Hwy 101 & W 4<sup>th</sup>. The event is free.

Known as the "Gem of the Oregon Coast," Yachats has an international reputation as a mecca for agate hunters. Winter is the ideal time for combing the beaches for agates and other treasures, according to Donna Hirschman, coordinator of the event. "Storms and high winds draw out the sand and expose rocks you would not see at other times of the year," says Hirschman. "We want to encourage people to visit the coast during the off season, when the pace is a little slower, and storm watching and beachcombing opportunities are at their best," she adds.

In addition to agates, there will be minerals, gems, crystals and fossils on display at the Yachats Commons. The many vendors who will participate are expected to show raw specimens as well as finished products of jewelry and polished artifacts.

Presenters during the weekend event will include James Chatters, Ph.D., RPA, Archaeologist / Paleontologist; Lori Robertson, Director of Cape Perpetua Visitors Center / Interpretation Specialist; Mr. Jerry Hughes, Delta One Lapidary, offering demonstrations and hands on instruction; and beach safety experts (via ongoing video).

The Yachats Agate Festival is meant to be a family-fun and hands-on event.

**FESTIVAL HOURS:** Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Presenters and Demonstrations:**

**Saturday, 1/21/2012**

11:00-11:45 a.m. James Chatters, Ph.D., RPA, Archaeologist / Paleontologist

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lori Robertson, Cape Perpetua Director / Interpretation Specialist

2:00-2:45 p.m. James Chatters, Ph.D., RPA, Archaeologist / Paleontologist

**Sunday, 1/22/2012**

Mr. Jerry Hughes, Delta One Lapidary, Demonstrations and hands on instruction

FMI, including where to stay in Yachats, please contact the event sponsor, the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce, at 800- 929-0477, Email [info@yachats.org](mailto:info@yachats.org), or visit [www.yachats.org](http://www.yachats.org).