



**JULIAN GRAY**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
26385 NW Groveland Drive  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124  
503-647-2418  
ricenorthwestmuseum.org  
info@ricenorthwestmuseum.org

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To engage, inspire, and educate generations on the splendor and complexities of our Earth.

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM**

**Name:** The museum is named for two of its founders, Richard and Helen Rice. The full name of the museum is the "Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals." This may be abbreviated as "Rice NW Museum" but never the "Rice Museum" to avoid confusion with other museums of that name.

**Location:** The Rice NW Museum is located 15 miles west of Portland, Oregon in Hillsboro, Oregon. Hillsboro is the county seat of Washington County, Oregon. The museum's physical address is:

26385 NW Groveland Drive  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

### **How to contact the museum:**

- Phone: 503-647-2418
- Email: [info@ricenorthwestmuseum.org](mailto:info@ricenorthwestmuseum.org)
- Website: <http://ricenorthwestmuseum.org>
- Google+: <https://plus.google.com/103642198616436722769/about>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiceNWMuseum>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RiceNWMuseum>

### **Hours of operation:** Public hours of operations:

- Wednesday through Friday, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Office hours (when staff may be reached):
  - Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
  - Other times by appointment

## ANNUAL MUSEUM EVENTS

**Mystery Mineral Day:** Generally the last Saturday in February. Free with regular admission. Experts in fossils, minerals, rocks, gems, and meteorites are on hand at the museum to identify objects for visitors.

**Thunderegg Stravaganza:** Always the Saturday before Easter Sunday. Reduced admission. Hunt for plastic eggs on the museum grounds and exchange these for real thundereggs, the Oregon state rock. Museum staff will saw open the thundereggs to unlock the rock's inner beauty. Lectures on the origin of thundereggs.

**Meteorite Day:** Generally the last Saturday in May. Reduced admission. Educational activities and lectures on meteorites.

**Summer Fest:** Always the first weekend of August. Reduced admission. A two day outdoor event with dozens of vendors selling rocks, minerals, gems, and jewelry. Gold panning. Jewelry making demonstrations. Live music. Food available for purchase.

## KEY STAFF

**Executive Director:** Julian C. Gray

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Cell: 770-490-7006

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**Museum Curator:** Leslie Moclock

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Cell: 603-988-6344

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals grew out of a passion for rock collecting of Richard and Helen Rice, the museum's namesakes. The Rices began collecting in the late 1930s in their home state, Oregon. They quickly became avid collectors of rocks, minerals, fossils, and gems. The minerals and mines of the Southwestern United States and Mexico were particular favorites of the Rice family.

The Rices were instrumental in founding the Tualatin Valley Gem and Mineral Club in nearby Forest Grove, Oregon. They were also active members of most area rock clubs as well as the Northwest and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies.

The current Rice Museum building is actually the former residence of Richard and Helen Rice. In 1952 the Rice family began building their dream house in rural Hillsboro, Oregon. One major design criteria was a room with built-in cabinets and lighting to showcase the Rices' growing gem and mineral collection. Construction of the sprawling four-bedroom ranch house included rare myrtle wood and quilted maple in the interior, both materials native to Oregon. Sandstone from Arizona was used for exterior walls and some interior design elements. Local craftsmen were used to design and build the Rice residence. The uniqueness of the house, both its design and its use of native and natural building materials, led to its listing on the National Register of Historic Homes in 2006.

Richard and Helen Rice invited school children to their home to tour their mineral collection. Area rock collecting clubs used their home for meetings, workshops, and special events. During this period when the Rices were actively involved in this informal museum no admission fees were collected. The collection grew and bedrooms became display galleries. Realizing the need to preserve their collection and displays in the Rice home as an educational and scientific resource for future generations, Richard and Helen founded the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals.

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals officially began operating as a public museum in 1996. The Rice family was granted status as an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit as a private foundation. Richard and Helen Rice both passed away within a few months of each other in 1997. Today the Rice Museum serves as their permanent legacy to the community.

From modest beginnings as the personal rock, mineral, and gem collection of Richard and Helen Rice, the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals is now recognized as one of the premier mineral museums in the United States.

**The buildings and grounds:** The Rice NW Museum is situated in a beautiful park-like setting on a 23 acre wooded lot that can be seen on the north side of Highway 26. The main museum building is a rambling ranch-style home, which is the former residence of Richard and Helen Rice. This building was constructed using indigenous woods: myrtle and maple. The exterior of the building is covered by a salmon-colored sandstone quarried in Arizona. Special exhibit cases were built into one of the rooms on the lower floor. These cases house the museum's main collection. Exhibit cases were added to other rooms throughout the house to exhibit more of the collection as it expanded. The museum gift shop occupies the former garage building. A third building houses the Northwest Gallery featuring regional gems and minerals.