

SKAGIT GEMS

Official Publication of the Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961

In lieu of meeting in July—Annual Swap Meet and BBQ Saturday July 8

Next meeting:

August 5th, 10am @ the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Rocks of Many Colors

Refreshments: Feel free to bring a snack!

Annual BBQ and Swap Meet

RAIN OR SHINE!

WHEN: Saturday, July 8th -The swap starts at 10 am! Club members can bring items from their own collection to share, sell or trade.
or come at Noon for the BBQ! Bring a dish to share.

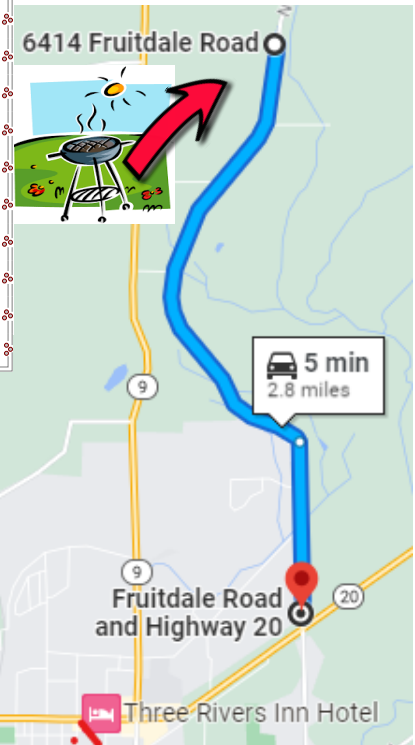
WHERE: 6414 Fruitdale Road, Sedro-Woolley

Show up at 10:00 for the swap meet!

Directions: From Hwy 20 in Sedro-Woolley, head North on WA State Route 9, after 2.2 miles, turn right on Mosier road, in .4 miles, turn left on N Fruitdale Road. **Or** going North on Fruitdale Road from Hwy 20, go 2.8 miles. 6414 Fruitdale Road will be on the left.

When you pull in the driveway, head straight up the hill to find the parking area. Have fun!

**SUMMER
SWAP
MEET**



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From the Editor:

Summer is just around the corner and hopefully, we will be out doing what we love doing—enjoying the outdoors, visiting new places, revisiting familiar digs, and working and gathering specimens to add to our collections! If you are lucky enough to get out and do some rockhounding this summer, please take a little time and write a small article to share with those who weren't so lucky. It's nice to hear about where everyone is going and what they are finding! Send in your pictures, too!

We're still in the process of securing the new building on the Westside of Mount Vernon for our club work shop and could use some help with organizing and moving the equipment to our new building. Please consider helping if you are able!

The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips .The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.

Have a great time at the Swap and Barbeque and keep Rockin'!

Charlene



Time Again for 2024 Dues!

Club dues will give membership thru August 2023. Please pay dues if you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter. Membership dues must be paid to use the club shop.

Membership forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next one!

Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 2023 through August 31st, 2024. Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$5.00 for those under age 16.

Payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting or by mailing the form and payment to address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

2023 WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS—from *The Council Reporter June 2023*

The WA St. Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public.

Most trips are free. Included are the Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set

up as I gather info. For updated info, go to mineralcouncil@zoho.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282

April—(Late in month) Racehorse CK.—Fossils & Morel Mushrooms

April 15 & 16—Pow-Wow—Saddle Mt 8am @ Buckshot Boat Launch. Dues required Pet. Wood—Larry Vess (253)-473-

3908 or vessel13755@gmail.com

May 13 —Rainbow Chert @ Verlot, 9am

June—Saddle Mt Wood & Diatom Opal @ 9am, Harvest Foods

July 22nd 11am from Darrington Rock Show July 22 & 23 10am to 5pm Travertine & Sauk River Bars.

Aug 19 & 20 Greenwater @ 9am Enumclaw Ranger Station Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Sept—9 & 10 Pow-Wow—Teaway Community Camp 8am Agate, Jasper & maybe Jade . Same info as April 15 & 16.

Sept 16 10am @ Hwy 410 & F R 19 Thunder Eggs, Fossils & Lilypad Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238

Oct - Money Ck Camp 9am PICTURE Jasper

Nov— Blanchard Hill 9am @ I-5 & Alger Exit gas & go Dalmation Stone & Green Chert

From Ed Lehman: I am retired from trips, shows, and map books (my age, health and family}. I can help with computer work and trip info e-mailings.

The trips in green are locked in. the others are flexible. I won't drive after dark anymore.

100 % of map booklet sales goes to Walker Valley lease, insurance for access to private property and general operation of WSMC

Many trips need Discover Pass, Trailhead Pass & Forest Pass. Ask when you inquire about trip

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip !!!

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

MSVL = Marysville Rock Club Ed Lehman wsmced2@outlook.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

DARR = Darrington Rock Club “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ :

SPOK = Spokane Rock Rollers Mike Shaw mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 251-1574 or (509) 244-8542

N O A = Tony Johnson ynotopals@outlook.com (253) 863-9238

PVGMC = Dennis Bachchelor (360) 870-8741

POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow Larry Vess vessel13755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Keep updated on <http://www.mineralcouncil.zoho.com> Land management changes, and roads close regularly. There is a area on web page with tool category in pictures and names of tools.

Always have proper cloths and gear for conditions. Be prepared with safety, first aid, food and drink.

A week before trips I (Ed Lehman) will have a pdf file with map and info for that trip I can send you on request. I will do the same for trip host.

Try to be at the meeting site 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas.

Use code of ethics, keep our lands open to rockhounding.

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Meeting Minutes June 3 2023

Meeting was called to Order at 10:10

Board Members present: Eric Self, Dave Britten, and Charlene Rhodes

Guests: Casey Jackson, Dan and Ameer Barber and Torrey Troxel

Treasurer's report read by Dave Britten and approved as read.

Show and Share: The Last Rock I Found - Members brought an assortment of different rocks to share with the Club

New Business: Dave has not talked to the city lately about the move to our new building in West Mount Vernon. The Club will need to set up a time for a work party to organize and move our equipment to the new building.

The city has provided a dumpster and has offered to help with the move. It has been suggested that we pick a time during the week to begin the move. A member has volunteered a large box truck with a lift gate that can be used to move our large equipment.

An email will be sent out when a work party is planned.

February Birthdays acknowledged.

Field Trips: Mineral Council field trip for June will be to Saddle Mountain in Eastern Washington.

July 22 - 23rd will be the Darrington Rock Show. They will be offering field trips to the surrounding area during the rock show.

Program: PBS video on mineralogy called *Life's Rocky Start*

Sunshine: A Get Well card was sent around for Norma, who is recovering from surgery.

Next Meeting: There is no meeting in July, instead, on July 8th will be our Clubs picnic and swap meet. Swap meet starts at 10:00 and picnic will begin at noon

Our next Club meeting will be August 5th, 2023. Rocks of Many Colors for Gem of the Month

Meeting adjourned 11:20



VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center
1401 Cleveland St.
Mount Vernon WA 98273

The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens.

We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$5.00 for those under age 16

Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 244

Mt. Vernon, WA 98273



Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Peggy Peterson

Scholarship-Peggy Peterson, Kim Kellems

Publicity-Open

Sunshine-Open

Swap-Vandenberg's

2023 Officers

President	· Eric Self 360-366-6118
Vice President	· Peggy Peterson 425-299-4123
Treasurer	· David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	· Norma McDonald 206-612-3113
Fed. Director	· Virgil Keltz 360-424-6525
Bulletin Editor	· Charlene Rhodes 360-333-2156
Past President	· Wes Frank 360-757-6276

Washington State Gemstone or Gem

Petrified Wood

Adopted on March 12, 1975.

Petrified Wood is the US State Gemstone of Washington. It was adopted on March 12, 1975. Most of the petrified wood in Washington grew during the Miocene Epoch, some 5 -12 million years ago, when the state was swampy and mild, and played host to vast forests of cypress, oak, elm, and ginkgo trees. You can see petrified wood at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park in Vantage, Washington. Petrified wood is also the state stone of Texas, and the state fossil of North Dakota and Louisiana.



The geological history of the state has encompassed many great changes, one of them being the many lava flows from volcanic fissures. Centuries ago, the interior of Washington was swampy and mild with many trees growing in wet areas. Layers of logs were preserved with each new lava flow, and as the layers grew deeper, many of the logs became waterlogged and lay protected in deep water - by any means which would exclude oxygen and thus prevent decay. A number of mineral substances (such as calcite, pyrite, marcasite) can cause petrification, but by far the most common is silica. Solutions of silica dissolved in ground water infiltrate the buried wood and through a complex chemical process are precipitated and left in

the individual plant cells. Here the silica may take a variety of forms; it may be agate, jasper, chalcedony or opal. The beautiful and varied colors of petrified wood are caused by the presence of other minerals that enter the wood in solution with the silica. Iron oxides stain the wood orange, rust, red or yellow. Manganese oxides produce blues, blacks or purple.

Following is a list of minerals and related color hues:

- Copper - green/blue
- Cobalt - green/blue
- Chromium - green/blue
- Manganese - pink
- Carbon - black
- Iron Oxides - red, brown, yellow
- Manganese Oxides - black
- Silica - white, grey

The most famous petrified wood site in the state is Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park near Vantage, and Saddle Mountain, and Yakima Canyon in Eastern Washington. Many types of wood are preserved at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park, but the abundance of ginkgo wood gave the park its name. Ginkgos are gymnosperm trees (non-flowering plants in the same grouping as pines, spruces, and cycads) that were thought to have gone extinct at the end of the Mesozoic Era until living specimens were discovered in China in the last century. Ginkgos are now widely cultivated in North America and the Far East, and are called "maidenhair trees" after the resemblance of their leaves to those of the maidenhair fern.



Despite its abundance, there are few published records of the history of petrified wood in the state. Two published reports of fossil wood from Western Washington did appear in the *Mineralogist* (Anonymous, 1936) and *Mineral News* (Beck 1941). They both tell of a collection of fossil woods from the Chehalis Valley gathered by Hugh Brown and studied by the renowned pioneer of Washington's petrified wood, Professor George Beck, from Washington State College. Quoting Prof. Beck from the articles "...examples of red-to buff-colored silicified wood, mostly water worn pebbles... The absence of palm wood argues against earliest Tertiary for the Chehalis woods... These Chehalis woods match fairly well the lists from the old classic forests of Amethyst Mountain, Yellowstone..."



Is there a scientific name for petrified wood?

It depends on what form the petrification took. Silicified wood is the best known (popular), however, the petrification may be the result of other mineralisations such as calcite, dolomite, barite etc. The species names depend on the tree, or plant that has been petrified.

Washington Law

The law designating the Petrified wood as the official Washington state gem is found in the Revised Code of Washington, Title 1, Chapter 1.20, Section 1.20.090.

Chapter 1.20 RCW
Title 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

RCW 1.20.090
State gem.

Petrified wood is hereby designated as the official gem of the state of Washington.

[1975 c 8 § 1.]

<https://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-gemstone/washington.html>

Emerald Creek Garnet Area

There are only two places in the world you can find Star Garnets - India and right here on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests! The garnets found here are called "star garnets" because of a unique property that causes some of them to display a reflection like a four or six pointed star. India is the only other place in the world where star garnets like these are found in any quantity.

[Garnet Area Brochure](#)

The 12 sided (dodecahedron) or 24 sided (trapezohedron) crystals range in size from sand sized particles to golf balls or larger, and often have 4- or 6-ray stars when cut en cabochon by a lapidarist.

The Forest Service has developed the Garnet Area as a place where the public may collect these unique gems in a safe and environmentally friendly way. In the past, people would dig in the stream bed in search of the garnets. Now, due to concerns for water quality, aquatic habitat, and public safety, the Forest Service provides a stockpile of garnet bearing gravels from which people can gather material to run through one of two sluice boxes in search of garnets.

Tickets to the Garnet Area will be by reservation only through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). No tickets will be sold on site.

Current Conditions: The Emerald Creek Garnet Area is now open by reservation only. No walk up permits will be sold. Reservations will become available 90 days in advance of the reservation date on [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or by calling (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 833-6777.

Area Amenities: Accessible, Picnic tables, Toilets, Parking

Fees: Permits can be purchased online at <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/10086846?tab=info> or by calling (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 833-6777 Adults: \$15 Children ages 6-12: \$5 Children under 6: Free. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 processing fee on each transaction A mineral permit is issued for each individual. Limit of 2 lbs of garnet per person; 1 permit per person per year.

Usage: Heavy

Restrictions: Trained Service Animals Only (no shaded parking for cars with pets)

Closest Towns: Clarkia, Idaho

Water: None - bring your own drinking water.

Restroom: Outhouse



Credit: Christine Plourde

Upcoming things to do!

STONEROSE FOSSILS ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, June 24, 2023 5pm-8pm

Patterson Park, Downtown Republic

Join us to support science, education & this amazing fossil resource!

Silent and Live Auction!

Serving heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine

Entertainment by Hannah Jackson

\$45 per person

\$50 per person after June 10th

Seating is limited, get your tickets early!

Tickets are available online

www.stonerosefossil.org

or at Stonerose Interpretive Center

15 N Clark Ave (corner of 6th & Clark)

509-775-2295 stonerosefossils@gmail.com

Marysville Rock and Gem Club

www.marysvillerockclub.com



47th Annual Rocktoberfest 2023

Join us for a weekend of fun, family and shopping!

October 7-8, 2023

Saturday and Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm

Evergreen State Fairgrounds

Display Bldg #500

14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe WA

(Off Hwy 2, Just West of Monroe, WA)

Free Admission!!

DISPLAYS:

- Gemstones
- Minerals
- Fossils
- Rocks

GREAT SHOPPING:

- Mineral Specimens
- Petrified Wood
- Fossils
- Handmade Jewelry
- Gems
- Rock Art & Carvings

ALSO FEATURING:

- Lapidary Demonstrations
- Children's Activities
- Raffles
- Hourly Door Prize Drawings
- Grab Bags
- Food Vendors

Rock, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Sale

July 1 - 2, 2023

Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM

Free Admission

Skagit Valley Grange Hall
21273 Cook Road
Burlington, WA

Featuring

- ◊ Fossils
- ◊ Agates
- ◊ Geodes
- ◊ Minerals
- ◊ Carvings
- ◊ Gems
- ◊ Jewelry
- ◊ Lapidary rough
- ◊ Specimens



THE PUYALLUP VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

2nd SHOW IN 2023

"Come Rock with Us"

August 11th, 12th, & 13th, 2023 10am to 5pm daily

The 2023 Gem Show in The Trees

Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

16409 Canyon Road East, Puyallup, WA.

GPS Co-ordinates Needed

The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips. The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.

Upcoming Washington Rock & Gem Show Dates

July 2023

21-23—TENINO, WASHINGTON: 2023 Rock & Gem Rendezvous; Washington Agate and Mineral Society; Tenino City Park, On Park Avenue, (next to the Quarry swimming pool); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free; Rock and Gem Show held during Oregon Trail Days in Tenino WA. Featuring: Dealer Booths and Demonstrators Learn how to polish rocks, make gem trees, make jewelry, make arrowheads, knives and spear points; contact Daniel De Boer; Email: keylock1@live.com ; Website: wamsolympia.com

August 2023

11-13—PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Port Townsend Rock Club; Port Townsend WA, 4907 Landes; Fri. 10-8; County Fair admission: \$8 adult; \$6 senior; \$2 for children; contact Joan Zimmerman, (360) 809-2097; Email: jzim@gci.net

12-13—EDMONDS, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Maplewood Rock & Gem Club; Maplewood Rock & Gem Club, 8802 196th St SW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; FREE; Indoor/Indoor Show & Sale Rocks, gems, jewelry, slabs, cabochons, beads, rough, minerals, specimens, fossils, and more... Each one unique! Family friendly. All ages encouraged to come. Free event. Free Parking. ADA accessible; contact Linda Willemarck, (425) 772-6711; Email: lindaatsea@yahoo.com; Website: maplewoodrockclub.com

19-19—SHELTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Shelton Rock and Mineral Society, Shelton WA; Mason County Recreation Area, 2100 E. John's Prairie Rd; Sat. 9-5; Free admission and parking; Rocks, minerals, fossils, rock crafts and equipment. All rock hounds and vendors are invited to participate. Food concession, raffle, demos, games and entertainment, restrooms Vendors \$40 per tailgate space; contact Susan, (360) 275-9432; Email: SRMS242@yahoo.cp

September 2023

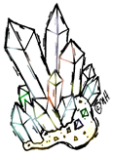
8-10—LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Southern Washington Mineralogical Society; Cowlitz County Fairgrounds, Event Center, 1900 7th Avenue; Fri. 11-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free; Dealers, Member Display Cases, Food, Door Prizes, Gem Dig, Demonstrators, Spin Table, free parking; contact Crystal Teel, (360) 355-6424; Email: swmineralogicalsociety@gmail.com

9-10—PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association; Vern Burton Community Center, 308 East 4th Street; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free; family-friendly event; contact Kathy Schreiner, (360) 460-0827; Email: kmsjes@olympen.com; Website: sequimrocks.org

9-10—WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society; Walla Walla County Fairgrounds, Community Center Building, 831 Orchard St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$3 children under 12 free (last year); Show has cases, dealers, silent auction, kid's area, raffle drawings and demonstrations; contact Warren Rood ; Email: warrenrood@yahoo.com

16-17—AUBURN, WASHINGTON: Cascade Gem and Mineral Show; Cascade Mineralogical Society; Green River College, Phys. Ed. Facility, 12401 SE 320th Street; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free; You will find everything from rough to finished gemstone jewelry! Free polished rock for every child and free kids activities. Great Family Event. Free Parking. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending; contact Kat Koch, (425) 765-5408; Email: vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org; Website: www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org

<https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=WA>



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
PO BOX 244
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