

September 2021

Volume 61, Issue 7

Skagit Gems

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

Gem of the Month

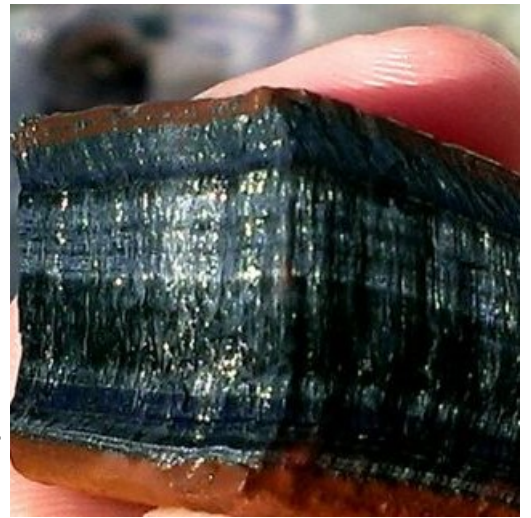
Blue Tiger Eye

If you've ever heard someone mention their hawk's eye or falcon's eye gemstone, they were probably talking about blue tiger's eye. This dark blue stone is composed mostly of silicon dioxide and is part of the trigonal crystal system. It ranks between four and seven on the Mohs scale. You can find deposits of blue tiger's eye in the United States as well as in Mexico, India, Australia, and South Africa.

Much like the tiger's eye healing crystals you may have in your collection, blue tiger's eye has the same characteristic banding and chatoyancy. Its cat-eye-like effect is stunning in the light and is a result of a unique process that unfolds with the crocidolite and quartz that form in the crystal.

After crocidolite appears during crystal formation, quartz copies crocidolite's fibrous nature (these fibers are where the banding in tiger's eye comes from). As a result, quartz slowly replaces the crocidolite in the stone. The quartz then forms columns and when the light catches them, coupled with the fibers from the crocidolite, you see the cat-eye effect in the stone.

But how do we end up with two differently colored gemstones? The difference between blue tiger's eye and the regular tiger's eye stones you typically see has to do with aging and time. The crocidolite begins to break down while iron oxides stain those columns of quartz, resulting in a chestnut-colored stone.



Letter from Dave Britten, Club Treasurer

Skagit Rock Club Updates for September 2021:

Danny's Place – It was good to see club members at Danny's Place August 7th . (Thank You, Danny!) I've talked on the phone to many of you over the past year, but it's much more satisfying to communicate face to face and talk about rocks. Violet brought her "murder hornet" to show and tell too. I was much relieved to find the hornet not so big as it seemed on television footage!

Meetings??? Unfortunately, due to the changing health environment, the Mount Vernon Senior Center room is not currently available for our use just yet. We have renewed our facility rental agreement with the Mount Vernon Senior Center and will continue there when possible.

We have the Burlington Library Display Case for this October. We can display specimens to advertise our show for next year. Contact me if you wish to participate.

Stay Healthy!

Dave had the great idea to throw together an impromptu meeting at Danny's. I took the meeting minutes...sort of

Skagit Rock and Gem Club - General Meeting - August 7th, 2021

President Wes called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Board members present: Wes Frank, Dave Britten, Debbie Frank, Eric Self

Guests: Maryanne & Doug, Micah & Elisha, Sherry. Welcome!

Dues: Dues are on hold until we begin meeting regularly again. Resuming meetings is still undecided

Danny has been donating rocks from his collection every week to the Humane Society Thrift Store in Mt. Vernon. He said they have been selling really well so hurry on over to get your own piece.

Show and Tell: Zoie & Zeva, Ray, Micah, Dave, Mary, Wes, Maryanne and Violet all brought treasures to show.

Danny had the fire going and there were lots of yummy treats. Franks's coffee cake was the big hit.

The meeting casually adjourned as Nate invited everyone to go to the creek and go thru the pile of rocks to find some goodies to take home.

Submitted by Debbie Frank

Upcoming Mineral Council Field Trips

9/18: Meet @ 10am Hwy 410 & F R 19. Little Naches for Thunder Eggs & Lily Pad Jasper & Fossils

10/16: Meet @ 9am Money Ck Camp off Hwy 2 before Skykomish for Picture Jasper

11/13: Meet @ 9am I-5 exit 240 @ Gas Mart to Blanchard Hill for Dalmation Stone.

Contact: Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786

Upcoming Rock Shows

Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club Annual Rock and Gem Show

September 11th 10am—6pm 12th 10am—5pm

Pioneer Pavilion 2007 Cherry Street Ferndale, WA

Clallam County Gem and Mineral Society Show

SEPTEMBER 11th 8 – 5 12th 10 – 4

Vern Burton Community Center 308 East 4th Street Port Angeles, WA

Visit us at : SEQUIMROCKS.ORG



 *In Memoriam* 

Nona Margaretha Gross Avery passed away at her home on August 19, 2021 in Burlington, Washington at the age of 94. Nona was born in Edmonds, Washington on August 5, 1927 to William & Marjorie Gross. She spent her childhood in Olympia, Washington attending primary schools in Shelton and Olympia, later attending Stevens College in Missouri and the University of Washington.

On August 26, 1949 she married Paul J Avery in Olympia, Washington. Throughout her marriage Nona was a loving, supportive wife to Paul, following him through his career as an educator in California, Illinois, Europe and finally settling in the Skagit Valley, where she lived for over 40 years.

It was her love for the Skagit Valley that allowed her to become active member of the LaConner Civic Garden Club and The LaConner Museum. She was instrumental in the restoration of Gaches Mansion, also assisted in establishing LaConner Friends of the Library and finally was an active member of the Burlington Senior Center.

She was a master gardener, known for her beautiful flowers and bountiful vegetable gardens, she was an avid reader throughout her life and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Nona is survived by 3 daughters and 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and her sister.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Paul, her wonderful parents and brother William Gross.

Nona will be dearly missed by her family. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Burlington Senior Center.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings still on hold til further notice



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

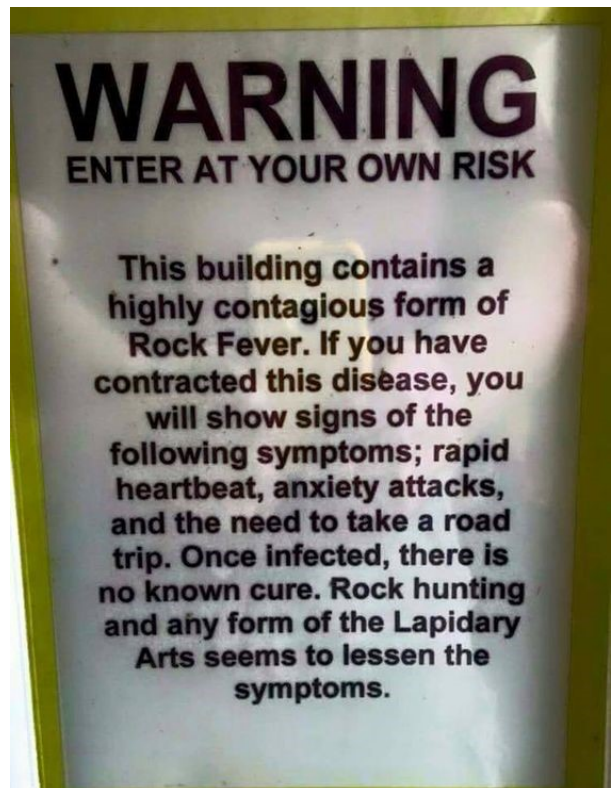
- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
- Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com
- Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

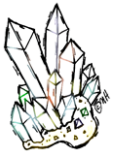
2020 Officers

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| President | • Wes Frank 360-757-6276 |
| Vice President | • Greg Hochmuht 360-223-5453 |
| Treasurer | • David Britten 360-755-0741 |
| Secretary | • Linda Keltz 360-424-6525 |
| Fed. Director | • Virgil Keltz 360-424-6525 |
| Bulletin Editor | • Debbie Frank 360-853-6883 |
| Past President | • Eric Self 360-840-8342 |

Committees

- Annual Show Chair-Eric Self
- Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten
- Greeter-Linda Keltz
- Scholarship-Noni Avery & Linda Keltz
- Publicity-Frank Isca
- Stamps-Virgil Keltz
- Sunshine- Noni Avery
- Swap-Vandenburgs





Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Debbie Frank, Editor
20379 Aliston Ln.
Burlington WA 98233

Murdock Research Laboratory Central Washington University Geology Department

Dr. Angela Halfpenny who is the director of the instrumentation lab in the geology department at CWU has been conducting research along with Carl Carlson and others on well known NW agates. Her research is designed to see if it is possible to tell the difference between different varieties of blue agate (Ellensburg blue, Holley blue, Redtop blue, and others) using a Bruker Tracer 5i Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Device (XRF). This instrument analyzes the elemental makeup of the different types of agates. Preliminary results are very promising. Stay tuned for future developments.



Ellensburg Blue



Holley Blue