

May 2025 Volume 65 Issue 4



SKAGIT GEMS

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

<https://www.vecteezy.com/free-photos/emerald-gem>>Emerald Gem Stock photos by Vecteezy

Next Meeting

May 3, 2025 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center

Program: Faceting Presentation by Micah - Sunstone!

Gem of the Month: Foliated Metamorphic Rocks

Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments

Foliated Metamorphic Rocks

Foliated metamorphic rocks are formed within the Earth's interior under extremely high pressures that are unequal, occurring when the pressure is greater in one direction than in the others (directed pressure). This causes the minerals in the original rock to reorient themselves with the long and flat minerals aligning perpendicular to the greatest pressure direction. This reduces the overall pressure on the rock and gives it a striped look.

Foliated metamorphic rocks are identified on the basis of their texture:

Slate = formed at very low temperatures and pressures, rock breaks along nearly perfect parallel planes; used in pool tables and as roofing material

Phyllite = low to intermediate temperatures and pressures; slightly more crystallized which gives the rock a shiny appearance; layers may also be wavy or crinkled

Schist = intermediate to high temperatures and pressures; crystals are larger with the grains aligned in parallel to subparallel layers

Gneiss (nice) = very high temperatures and pressures; coarse grained texture of alternating light and dark mineral bands

<https://min4kids.org/foliated/>



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Reminder - The Everett Rock & Gem Club 69th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show is the same weekend as our May meeting.

May 3rd & 4th, at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. It's hours are 10-5, both days, so there will be plenty of time to check it out after the meeting!



From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

What a great time of year! With the weather getting nicer, there are so many shades of green and so many things out there blooming, it's the perfect time to get out and enjoy your passion for rocks!

Our club shop is now open and ready to use, with machines available for shaping cabs and slabs. Contact Dave or Rick at least 24 hours in advance to make an appointment. There is a small fee and you will need to know how to safely use and maintain the equipment before using, but there will be someone there to help you with that, if needed.

If you are interested in faceting, come to our May meeting where Micah will be sharing his passion for faceting sunstone!

Coming up in June, our club will be sponsoring a table at the Skagit Garden and Art Fair, at the fairgrounds, next door to where our club meets. This will be a great opportunity to let people know about our club and show off and sell your goods. You can also bring rock and garden items, or even plant starts if you have them. Several people have already signed up, but there is still room for a few more. This should be a fun event! Sandy will have the sign-up sheet at the May meeting. We may also have our new QR code for the club by then, thanks to Shelley!

The Everett Rock & Gem Club will be at the Monroe Fairgrounds May 3rd & 4th, so you can head out there after the May 3rd meeting and make a day of it!

The Washington State Mineral Council has three events coming up in May: Racehorse Creek for fossils and morel mushrooms, Wild Turkey Mine for Noble serpentine, and Walt Bailey Trail for rainbow chert. The information for these and all their guided fieldtrips can be found on page three of this newsletter and at their website: <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

See you at the meeting! And Keep Rockin'!

Charlene



Membership Information

Skagit Rock & Gem Club's yearly dues are due in September. Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 1st through August 31st.

If you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter, you must be current with your dues. Membership dues must also be paid to use the club shop.

New Membership Forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to be a guest at our next meeting. They can become a member after attending three meetings.

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

Payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting.

If you are renewing your membership, you can mail in your payment to the address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

2025 WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

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 Nique Wicks at nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630 or Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282

Date	Host	Site	Material	Meet Time/Place	Tools
01/18	MSVL	Walker Valley	Blue agate	9am Big Lake Store	Dig & light hard rock tools
02/22	MSVL	Cedar Ponds	Jasper & fossils	9am Sultan Park 1 mile hike on road	Dig & light hard rock tools
03/08	MSVL	Cherry Creek	Jasper	9am Park & North end of Duvall Wading in creek, bushy	Rock hammer light hard rock tools
04/12	Pow-Wow	Saddle Mt	Petrified wood	8am Boat launch SW of Mattawa	Dig & Light hard rock tools or just pick up smaller pieces
05/10	MSVL	Racehorse Creek	Leaf fossils, morel mushrooms	9am 1-5 exit 240 Mini Mart	Shovel & rock splitting tools
05/24	MSVL	Wild Turkey mine	Noble serpentine	9am @ 3515 Waitts Lk Rd. Valley, WA Pay dig	Hard rock or surface picking
05/31	MSVL	Walt Bailey Trail	Rainbow chert	9am Verlot Ranger Station Collecting along roadside	Hard rock tools
06/21	WSMC	Saddle Mt	Petrified wood & opal	9am Harvest Foods, Mattawa	Dig & Light hard rock tools or surface picking
07/26	MSVL	Lake Wenatchee	Garnets	9am @ rest stop just West of Lake Wenatchee Hwy 2	Shovel, screen container for Garnets
08/16-17	Puyl	Greenwater	Agate, jasper, opal	9am Ranger Station in Enumclaw	Dig & Hard rock tools
09/06-07	Pow-Wow	Red Top	Agate, jasper, geodes	8am Teanaway Camp Ground	Dig & Hardrock tools
09/20	Puyl	Little Naches	Thunder eggs, fossils, lily-pad jasper	10am @ intersection of Hwy 410 & FR 92	Shovel, small bar
10/01	MSVL	Index	Picture jasper	9am @ Index	Rock hammer
11/08	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	Stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone)	9am @ 1-5 exit 240 Mini Mart Collecting on road shoulder	Hard rock tools

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 - Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com Or (509) 670-0630

Pow Wow -Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Puyl Nate White (206)349-7054 nate.white77@gmail.com

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 April 5, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:04 by club president Rick Van Pelt

Board Members present: Rick Van Pelt, Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Jennifer Ross, and Charlene Rhodes.

Attendance: 17 members and 5 guests, Emily McQuarrie, Laura Shomshak, Gilberto Sanchez, Gary Hoffman, and Richard Greenup

Minutes of last meeting were approved and seconded.

Treasurer report as given by David Britten was accepted and seconded.

Old Business

Name tags for those members who purchased them were distributed.

The bucket of polished stones is starting to fill. The bucket will be at each meeting.

As discussed, Sandy Hansen has arranged a table at the Skagit Garden and Art Fair for the club to reach out to the public and promote the club. The event will be held at the Skagit County fairgrounds on 6/21 and 6/22, from 9 AM to 4 PM both days. Members are needed to staff the table, two for each shift. The signup sheet will be at our next meeting.

Mary Jane Heller produced four different versions of the poster for the rock and gem show in November. These were passed around for review and some suggestions were made for revisions. Mary Jane will continue to work on the poster.

Please contact Dave Britten or Rick Van Pelt to schedule time in the rock shop. They need 24 hours notice but are available most days. There is a \$ 5.00 fee. At this time members are supervised in the shop until they demonstrate proficiency and safety with the machines.

New Business

Debra Blaurock offered to provide a jewelry soldering demonstration in the future.

Rick again expressed interest in a field trip to Swift Creek, weather permitting.

Program: Julie Curry presented "Inner Life of Crystals".

Show and Tell

The rock for April was "crystals". Members brought a variety of crystals, including halite and hanksite, "pink amethyst", quartz crystals, Herkimer diamonds (naturally faceted, double-terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York), and an amethyst geode.

Rick Van Pelt brought a "strange stone" that was the focus of speculation but no determination. Please see the photo at right.



Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



Meetings are on the **FIRST Saturday** of the month
(except for Jan, July and Dec) **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 \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO BOX 244 , Mount Vernon WA 98273



2025 Officers & Board Members

President	• Rick Van Pelt 360-708-2737
Vice President	• Peggy Peterson 425-299-4123
Treasurer	• David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	• Jennifer Ross 360-610-1227
Fed. Director	• Open
Past President	• Eric Self 360-366-6118
Bulletin Editor	• Charlene Rhodes 360-333-2156



Committees

Annual Show Chair	Eric Self
Facilities/Field Trips	Dave Britten
Greeter	Peggy Peterson
Scholarship	Kim Kellems and Shelley Van Pelt
Publicity	Open
Sunshine	Open
Swap	Vandenberg's

METAMORPHIC ROCKS IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS



Metamorphic rock creates a zebra striped pattern in the canyon walls of Marble Canyon. Death Valley National Park, California and Nevada.
NPS photo by Dan Kish.

Introduction

Metamorphic rocks form when high temperatures and pressure act on a rock to alter its physical and chemical properties (metamorphism means 'to change form'). These conditions often stretch, twist and fold the rock as it cools. In metamorphic rocks some or all of the minerals in the original rock are replaced, atom by atom, to form new minerals. Types of metamorphic rocks include gneiss, quartzite, marble, schist, soapstone, and phyllite.

Parks with examples of metamorphic rocks include

Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Death Valley National Park, California and Nevada [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Shenandoah National Park, Virginia [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Key Terms

- Contact Metamorphism: A type of local, thermal metamorphism caused by the intrusion and extrusion of magmas; takes place in rocks at or near their contact with a body of igneous rock.
- Parent Rock: Rock from which soil, sediment, or other rock is derived.
- Regional Metamorphism: A type of metamorphism that affects an extensive region, as opposed to local metamorphism that is effective only in a relatively restricted area.

Foliated Metamorphic Rocks

As pressure squeezes on a parent rock during recrystallization it causes the platy or elongated minerals within the rock to become aligned, or foliated. Foliated rocks develop a platy or sheet-like structure that reflects the direction that pressure was applied in. Types of foliated metamorphic rocks include slate, schist, and gneiss. Gneiss records the ancient beginnings of the Appalachian Mountain belt at:

Antietam National Battlefield, Maryland [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, District of Columbia, Maryland, and West Virginia [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]



Foliated metamorphic gneiss.
NPS photo by Tim Connors

Non-foliated Metamorphic Rocks

Not all parent rocks have platy or elongated minerals and when these rocks undergo metamorphism the individual mineral grains do not align. Types of non-foliated metamorphic rocks include marble, quartzite and hornfels. Soapstone was used by the American Indians for tools and implements, and is found in:

Rock Creek Park, District of Columbia [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]

Extensive quartzite deposits are well-known from:
City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho [[Geodiversity Atlas](#)] [[Park Home](#)]



Non-foliated metamorphic soapstone.
Photo courtesy of Tina Kuhn

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/geology/metamorphic.htm>

2025 Calendar of Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Shows

Name	Start	End	Location
Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club Show	04/26/25	04/27/25	Benton County Fairgrounds - Building #2, 1500 South Oak, Kennewick, WA 99336
Yakima Rock & Mineral Club Annual Gem & Mineral Show	04/25/25	04/27/25	Central Washington State Fair Grounds, 1301 S. Fair Avenue, Yakima, WA 98901
Grays Harbor Gem, Geology, Rock & Gem show	04/26/25	04/27/25	Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds, 43 Elma-McCleary Road, Elma, WA 98541
West Seattle Rock Club Annual Gem Show	04/26/25	04/27/25	Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington 98116
Everett Rock & Gem Club 69th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show	05/03/25	05/05/25	Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 18359 Cascade View Dr., Monroe, Washington 98272
Seattle Mineral Market	05/17/25	05/18/25	Hangar 30 Building @ Magnuson Park, 7400
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show	06/06/25	06/08/25	Swiss Park, 9205 198th Ave. E., Bonney Lake, WA 98391
Cascade Gem and Mineral Show	06/29/25	06/30/25	Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave N, Kent, Washington 98032
Darrington Rock & Gem Show	July 2025 TBD		Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Avenue, Darrington, WA 98241
Washington Agate & Mineral Society Rock & Gem Rendezvous	07/25/25	07/27/25	Tenino City Park, 300 Park Ave. W., Tenino, WA 98589
Port Townsend Rock & Gem Show	08/08/25	08/10/25	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 4907 Landers Street, Port Townsend, Washington 98368
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show in the Trees	08/08/25	08/10/25	Tacoma Sportsmans Club, 16409 Canyon Rd E., Puyallup, Washington 98375
Maplewood Rock & Gem Club November Show	08/16/25	08/17/25	Maplewood Rock & Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th St., Edmonds, WA 98026
Shelton Rock & Mineral Society Tailgate Rock Sale & Swap	08/16/25	08/16/25	Mason Area Recreation Park, 2100 E Johns Prairie Road, Shelton, Washington 98584
Seattle Mineral Market November	November 2025 TBD		Everett Mall, 1402 SE Everett Mall Way, Everett, Washington 98115
Skagit Rock & Gem Club Show	11/08/25	11/09/25	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific St. Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284



<https://xpopress.com/show/state/Washington>



YAKIMA ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

PRESENTS

62nd "PARADE OF GEMS"

April 25, 26 & 27, 2025

CENTRAL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR PARK

Modern Living Building 1301 Fair Ave. Yakima, WA. 98901

Special Display

"Fossils of the Northwest and Beyond"

Raffle Door Prizes Silent Auction Kid Activities

Demonstrations, Gold Panning, Trash Can Volcano

Ellensburg Blue talks Saturday & Sunday

Vendors' have: rock & mineral specimen's, jewelry, jewelry making supplies, lapidary equipment

Friday April 25, 10 am to 4 pm	Admission:
Saturday April 26, 10 am to 5 pm	Adult \$7. Student \$2.
Sunday April 27, 10 am to 4 pm.	Under 12 free with
Free parking at Gate 5	paid adult

Discount Coupon: \$1. off Adult Admission Limit One

THE WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB
PRESENTS OUR 57TH

ROCK & GEM SHOW

APRIL 26 - 27, 2025

10 AM TO 5 PM

ALKI MASONIC HALL
4736 40TH AVE SW, WEST SEATTLE

- VENDORS
- DEMONSTRATORS
- SILENT AUCTION
- ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

FREE ENTRY

WWW.WESTSEATTLEROCKCLUB.ORG

EVERETT ROCK & GEM CLUB

70th Annual

GEM, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • MAY 3 & 4, 2025

70th year!

SAT & SUN 10-5

70th year!

Evergreen State Fairgrounds

USE EAST ENTRANCE & WATCH FOR SIGNS

18359 Cascade View Drive
Monroe, Washington, 98272

CABOCHON MAKING
CRYSTALS & GEODES
DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS
JEWELRY MAKING
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
KIDS' ACTIVITIES
FACETING & STONE CARVING



FOSSILS
SILENT AUCTION
SILVERSMITHING
CLUB SALES TABLE
EDUCATIONAL INFO
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES
GEM & JEWELRY DEALERS

FREE ADMISSION

Free Parking Disabled Access Snack Bar ATM



everettrockclub.com



*Sea otters have a favorite rock they keep
at all times for cracking open seashells.
They even have pockets
near their chest to store it.*

Did you know?

Sea otters have a little pouch
where they keep their favorite rocks.



Formation



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Charlene Rhodes—Editor
PO BOX 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

