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Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961

# Skagit Gems

## You Are Needed!

By Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary ---northwestfederation.org

## Make A Difference



Here's hoping that things are opening up for each of your member clubs. This past year has been difficult for our hobby relative to getting to see our fellow rockhounds and enjoying the fellowship and goodies from the individual shows. Let's hope that things will gradually open into the ability to again enjoy the face to face connections we all enjoy so much. In the meantime, as we work toward that end, rest assured that your executive board is working diligently behind the scenes to keep everything afloat.

Because of various reasons, we are losing a number of key committee people. I know your President, Beth, will be addressing all these needs, but I would like to add my "two cents" by suggesting that you consider what position you might be able to fill. A number of the positions don't take a great deal of time but they do give one the opportunity of becoming more involved in the Federation and understanding just what "the Federation" does. It can also give you the opportunity to meet more rockhounds. I know the Endowment Committee is in need of a Chairperson and Secretary.

The Financial Director and Treasurer have a good handle on the workings, but some added assistance with the leadership and minute taking are needed. If you have ever wondered why the Endowment funds are in existence, service on this committee would probably give you some answers. Perhaps you are a techie who enjoys historical things. The Historian position could use a person who can perhaps digitize some of the memorabilia for future generations. If you enjoy the World Wide Web, by becoming the Website Contest Chairperson, you could have a hand in honoring those who work to create a site for communicating with their clubs and the public. If displays are your bag, join the Rules and Awards Committee and become Judging Director or Registrar to learn the processes of competitive displaying. If you really want to learn about all the clubs in the Federation and become more intimate with the Bylaws and other items you will find housed there, volunteer to become the Directory Chair. We would be happy to further explain the duties of each of these positions.

Even though you may not think you are qualified or have time, I would wager you would enjoy the endeavor once you took it upon yourself. Volunteerism really is fun and rewarding. It gives one the sense of accomplishment and helping others. And it gives you a sense of being needed. Is that ever true! We need you!!! So give it a shot. Remember, volunteering can be a reward in itself. Contact: [nfmssec\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec(at)gmail.com)


*In Memoriam*


Leo Paul Wendelyn Waldschmidt passed away peacefully on March 31st, 2021 with his wife and son by his side.

Born to Helen and Gerhart Waldschmidt in Park, Kansas on October 27, 1928. The fourth of five siblings. The family later moved to Garden City, Kansas where he attended school. He learned early to fish for food. Thus beginning his love for the outdoors. The one enjoyable thing he did was sing. As a young boy he was hired to sing once a week on the local radio station. He was thrilled when his payment was a bowl of ice cream.

Times were difficult during the depression and Kansas dustbowl. So, with the help of relatives who lived in Bellingham, WA in 1943 they packed up and moved. He graduated from Bellingham High School in 1946. He spent 10 years in the Naval Reserve joining while attending high school. He loved roller skating and hitch-hiked to Birch Bay, Ferndale and Burlington skating rinks. It was there he was attracted to a cute young brunette named Glenyce Cornish.



After high school he hitch-hiked to Everett to the YMCA and was proud to say he was hired by Mr. Weyehauser himself to work in the lumber yard. He then was hired to work on the high-rise towers going up the Skagit River to the dam. He and Glenyce were married May 6, 1949. He then bought a trailer house and went booming from town to town in Eastern, WA, Idaho, and Oregon, with his little family. He would start either baseball or basketball teams in every town he worked.

Daughter Leanne was born in 1952, daughter Cheri in 1955. Soon they decided to settle down and bought property with 17 acres in Burlington where son Randy was born in 1962.

He had to build a road to get to his property. The city said it needed a name. So it became Waldschmidt Acres. He went to work for Puget Sound Power and Light where he retired in 1991 as a foreman. He also raised Poled Hereford Cattle on his property.

In the 80's, he and Glenyce joined a dance troupe and had fun performing in Everett and Seattle. They were chosen to teach dancing on a cruise ship, which they enjoyed. He loved being a fisherman, hunter and rock hound. They traveled to Quartzite, AZ many years where he hunted for geodes and other treasures. Also in Eastern Washington. After nearly 38 years of marriage Glenyce passed away in 1987 and left a void in his heart. For many years he hosted a Waldschmidt family reunion in his backyard. Relatives came from as far away as California.

In 1998 he met a new dance partner and it was love at first sight. First date was watching Superbowl on January 25th at Mount Vernon Elks. We were married two years later on January 25th. He sold his acreage and we continued the family reunion for several years in my backyard. Our home became Waldschmidt ¼ Acre. We took many trips in our motorhome. Often going to Puerto Penasco, MX, Arizona, and California. Had many great trips on cruise ships, through the Panama Canal, Alaska, and the Carribean. More recently we went on river-boat cruises on Duoro River in Portugal, Danube River, and Mississippi River. Our favorite place was Branson, Missouri where we met Mel Tillis and Mickey Gilley. We went on a cruise with Moe Brandy and Jim Stafford.

Upgrading motorhomes we joined an RV Club and made lifelong friendships. He loved the competition of the outdoor games. The challenge of playing cribbage and card games.

He was a member of Skagit Golf & Country Club. He played golf until all his friends passed on. He bowled for many years in leagues and we bowled together on the Seniors day time leagues.

Leo loved life and his family, was a great story-teller and everyone loved him. He loved taking his boat out in the sound and pulling up his crab pots. Always the rock hound, he purchased a rock cutter and spent many hours cutting and polishing rocks.

We were on the Bellingham Class of '46 Reunion Committee and until the pandemic, met with his classmates once a month for lunch. The few remaining enjoyed reminiscing about the "Good Old Days". He even enjoyed playing Bunco with my Red Hat Ladies.

Always a perfect host for our many summer and Christmas parties.

He was a life Elk member, was a trustee at Mount Vernon Lodge 1604, now a member of Bellingham Lodge 194. Also belonged to Skagit Valley Eagles 3242 and Moose Lodge 1640. Member of Skagit Rock and Gem club. He just received his 70 year pin from IBEW local 77.

He said he always enjoyed every day he went to work.

He was predeceased by his parents, sister Marcella Brown, brother-in-law Darrel Brown, sister Johanna Murphy and brother Denny Waldschmidt, sister-in-laws, June Waldschmidt and Vera Waldschmidt.

Survived by his wife Sharon at family home, daughter Leanne Wiseman (Darrel) of Burlington, Cheri Fiedler (Bob) of Mount Vernon, Randy Waldschmidt (Cindy) of Bow, brother Jim Waldschmidt of Roseville, CA. Grandchildren Alicia Schemm (Jesse) of Mount Vernon, Jessica Baldwin (Travis) of Mount Vernon, Dean Fiedler (Angela) of Missoula, MT, Neil Fiedler (Kristin) of Naples, ID, Callie Waldschmidt, of Deming, Evan Waldschmidt, Trevor Waldschmidt, of Bow. Greatgrandchildren, Taine Hudson, Lincoln, Jackson, and Harrison Fiedler. Special nephew Ron Brown (Sharon) of Sedro-Woolley, brother-in-law Larry Murphy of Olympia. Special friend Roy Frazier. Numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Stepchildren, Joni Rea (Ron), Warren Cole, Garret Cole, (Geri). Step grandchildren Brandy Neil (Chris), Casey Jean Cole (Josh Libby), Wesley Cole, Chase Cole (Carly), Canon Cole. Great-grands Anthony Heiniken, Landon Moore, BrookLynn, Oakley Hubbard and Leonard Libby, Cain and Natalie Garcia, and Harlie and Dakota Cole, sister-in-laws Candis Kellar of Blaine & Genee Kay (Bruce) of Ferndale, Brother-in-law, Wynn Haws (Lori) of Blaine.

We would like to thank the nurses and doctors who cared for him his last few days. At his suggestion you may give contributions to Waldschmidt Scholarship at Skagit Valley College Foundation Mount Vernon or charity of your choice.

There will be a private family graveside service and a Celebration of Life at a future date. Please sign our guest register at Goskagit.com.

## 2021 ROCKHOUND ACTIVITIES

- 5/15 9am @ Marblemount at bend, with 2 mini marts. To Andre's place for TALC, LISTWANITE and others.
- 6/5 & 6 PVROCK SHOW @ Bonney Lk 6/19 @ 9am Verlot Ranger Station Rainbow Chert.
- 7/17 & 18 Darrington Rock Show and field trip(location to be announced)
- 8/21 & 22 @ 9am Enumclaw Ranger Station to Greenwater Field trip.
- 9/? P V Rock Club Show in the woods
- 9/18 10am Hwy 410 & F R 19 Little Naches for Thunder Eggs & Lily Pad Jasper & Fossils
- 10/16 9am Money Ck Camp off Hwy 2 before Skykomish for Picture Jasper
- 11/13 9am I-5 exit 240 @ Gas Mart to Blanchard Hill Dalmation Stone.

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

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## AFMS Field trips June 16th, 21st and 22nd

The Local Club will have a Petrified Wood collecting trip on June 16th to an area north of Farson, Wyoming.

On June 21st there will be a trip to the Blue Forest. We will travel south about 55miles to the dig site. Easy access. High dessert about 7000 ft elevation, no snakes, some cacti, sagebrush and sand. Bring a shovel, rock pick and a steel rod probe if you have one. Several of us will have one. Bring water and lunch and then the fun begins.

On June 22nd there will be a trip to a fossil fish quarry to collect 35 million year old Fossil Fish. This is a fee dig, a whole day for \$50. You will find lots of fish. They will furnish tools for splitting the rock. Bring Newspaper to wrap your catch. Bring lunch and water. This trip is approx. 70 miles south and then about 15 miles west. We will leave from the parking lot in front of show entrance at 8 am for all trips.

Doug True [dtruefossils12@yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils12@yahoo.com) 406-670-0506



**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME!**

**Meetings on hold  
until 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](http://skagitrockandgem.com)

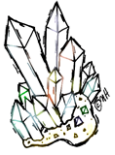
2020 Officers

- President · Wes Frank 360-757-6276
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- 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





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## Are you going to the Annual Rockhound Convention in Wyoming June 18-20? Check out Hot Springs State Park

Just outside of Thermopolis, Hot Springs State Park features world-famous mineral hot springs. The vibrant travertine deposits and surrounding “red beds” are also well known. A new Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS) pamphlet highlights these geologic features and more in and near the park.

“The Hot Springs State Park information pamphlet is the final in our series about geology found in state parks across Wyoming,” WSGS Director and State Geologist Erin Campbell said. “These parks are truly state treasures, and I hope these free pamphlets help residents and geotourists alike to fully appreciate our parks’ beauty and fascinating geologic history.”

Hot Springs State Park’s uniqueness begins with water from the Owl Creek Mountains south of the park. The water travels deep into the ground, where it is heated by geothermal processes before returning to the surface, creating the natural warm and hot springs and travertine deposits.

The pamphlet includes two maps — one depicting the geology in and around Hot Springs State Park and a second locating named hot springs. Geologic history and additional hydrogeology are also described in the pamphlet.

Pamphlets are free and are available online <http://sales.wsgs.wyo.gov/publication-type/information-pamphlet/>

