

March 2024 Volume 64 Issue 2



SKAGIT GEMS

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

Next Meeting

March 2, 2024 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Green Gems or to be more specific, Malachite as a nod to Spring when the grass turns green and plants begin to awaken from their winter dormancy.

Also, it's a nod to shamrocks of St Patrick's Day!

Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments

GOOD
luck



March Contest

How many green colored stones can you name?

Bring your list to the March meeting to see who can name the most!

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Calling all Volunteers

We will be moving our equipment out of the shop at the fairgrounds before the end of March. If you are able to help with labor or a truck, be sure to come to the March meeting for more information on dates and times you could help out.



Bring your friends!

Everyone is welcome.

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Notice:

If you arrive after the meeting begins and have rung all the doorbells and still get no answer, please go to the north window and try to get our attention!

Most of us have our phones turned down or off for the meeting and will not receive you t text or call till later.

From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!



The days are getting longer, just a bit warmer, and there's lots of bulbs breaking ground. It's starting to look like Spring! Hence the theme of our Gem of the Month, suggested by Donna Davison.

When I got home from our February meeting, I realized we hadn't named a gem of the month for March so I reached out to Donna and asked her to suggest one. She responded that she'd like to choose green gems or to be more specific, Malachite as a nod to Spring when the grass turns green and plants begin to awaken from their winter dormancy. Also it's a nod to shamrocks of St Patrick's Day. Thanks Donna!

This month we will be zeroing in on dates to move our shop from the fairground to its new location by the end of March, so let us know if you are available to pitch in with that.

The upcoming Mineral Council Field Trips and the contact information is out and I'm sharing the information from their website. If any of you are lucky enough to join in on any of these trips, please put together a paragraph or two with some pictures of your finds and adventures for Skagit Gems. We'd love to see and hear of your journey and explorations.

There are lots of things going on now so be sure to show up to the meetings to keep up with everything!

Till next time—Keep Rockin'

Charlene

Welcome New Members!

Josh Anderson

Niel Nielsen



Mineral Council Field Trips Contact Information

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	" " " "	" " " "
MSVL = Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com	(509)-670-0630
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	vessel3755@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.

UPCOMING Mineral Council Field Trips

2024 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 Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282 Cell# (425) 760-2786. Pow Wow Dues are \$7.50 each or &15 a family. They supply 3 free breakfast's on trips (what a deal).

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

DATE	HOST	SITE	MEET@	MATERIAL	TOOLS
01/20	MSVL	Walker Valley	9am Big Lake	Agate	Sm shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammer, chisel, bar
02/17	MSVL	WWU Tour	9:30 WWU Parking Lot C		Camera
03/16	MSVL	Cherry Creek	9am Duval & Cherry Valley Rd	Jasper	Rock hammer, wading boots
04/20	POW	Saddle Mt	8am Matawa Boat Launch	Petrified Wood	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
05/18	DAR	Bailey Trail	9am Verlot Ranger Station	Chert	Rock & large hammers, pry bar
06/15	MSVL	Saddle Mt	9am Matawa Grocery	Petrified Wood	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
07/20	DAR	Sweetwater	11am Darrington Rock Show	Travertine	Rock & 3# hammers, chisel, sm pry bar
08/17-18?	PV	Green Water	9am FR 70 @ washout	Agate, Jasper, Opal	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
08/24	MSVL	Lake Wenatchee	9am Lake Wenatchee Park	Garnets	Sm shovel, 1/4" mesh box screen & tweezers
09/7-8	POW	Red Top	8am Teanaway Campground	Agate, Jasper, Geodes	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar, chisel
09/21?	Opal	Little Naches	10am Highway 410 & FR 91	T-Eggs, Fossils-Lilypad	Bend shovel, sm pick, rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
10/19	DAR	Index	9am Highway 2 & Index Rd	Picture Jasper	Rock hammer, wading boots
11/16	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	9am I-5 & Alger Rd Gas & Go	Dalmation stone	Heavy hard rock tools & safety glasses

See CONTACT INFO on previous page and remember to contact host for updated information a week before these field trips!

You can also check The Washington State Mineral Council's website

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/> for more information on field trips and more!

Skagit Rock and Gem Club Minutes February 3, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am.

Officers and Board Members Present: Eric Self, Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Charlene Rhodes

Guests: Josh Anderson and Buzz Mersereau

Treasures report read by Dave Britton. Motion to accept Treasurer's report seconded and accepted

November Show: It was brought to our attention that someone has rented the Sedro-Woolley Community Center every Sunday for 2024 where we hold our annual Rock Show. There will be more research into this, and if true, we will check out and follow up on alternate location options for our November Rock and Gem show.

Old Business: We need to remove all the Rock Club's equipment and rocks out of the fairground building by the end of March. Ray has offered to store equipment at his property on Calhoun Road, Mount Vernon and we may possibly be doing workshops there once the weather is better. A sign up sheet will be posted for moving help next month.

Program: Video from Peggy on mining Rhodocrosite crystals in Colorado on Mt Alma

New Business:

Scholarship Committee: Shelley Van Pelt volunteered to help with the Scholarship Committee.

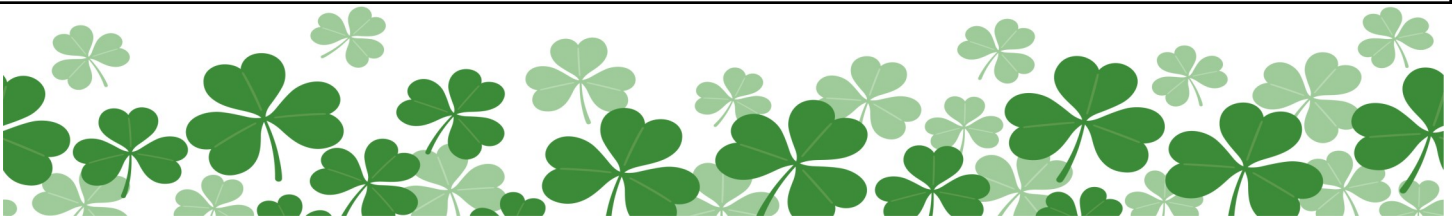
New Shop Location: Discussion requesting help moving the shop to Ray's and getting a sign up sheet for volunteers at our next meeting

New Rates for Membership Dues: Discussion about raising membership dues from \$15.00/year to \$20.00/year for single membership, \$30.00 for family membership, and \$25.00 for single plus kid(s) membership, starting in September 2024.

Suggestion Box: There is now a suggestion box at the meetings and suggestion was made to have slide shows of field trips.

Upcoming Shows: Whidbey Island Gem Club Show, February 10th and 11th in Oak Harbor

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 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 \$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, Mount Vernon WA 98273



2024 Officers

President	· Eric Self 360-366-6118
Vice President	· Peggy Peterson 425-299-4123
Treasurer	· David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	· Bruce Hurley 702-336-0395
Fed. Director	· Open
Past President	· Wes Frank 360-757-6276
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

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 2024

2-3—ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON: Annual show; East KingCo Rock Club; Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Avenue NW, (by Costco); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$1 general admission, kids 12 & under free; 30 Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral dealers; Gem & Mineral Displays; Stone Sculpture Exhibit; What's My Rock?; Door Prizes; Silent Auction; Kids' Activities; contact Kathy Frank; Email: frogsPk@gmail.com; Website: www.eastkingco.org

15-17—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc; Washington State Fair Events Center, 110 9th Ave SW; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Buy directly from wholesalers & importers. Jewelry repair, cleaning & ring sizing while you shop; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: www.gemfaire.com

April 2024

20-21—KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON: 27th Annual Gem and Mineral Show; Lakeside Gem and Mineral; Benton County Fairgrounds, 1500 South Oak; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 (good for both days) 14 and under free with paid adult admission; Collectors' exhibits; Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Dealers; demonstrations including cabochon fashioning, gemstone faceting, gem trees, sphere making, silversmithing, wire wrapping and jewelry fabrication; silent auction; Kids' Korner Crafts and Games; door prizes; raffle; Fluorescent display; contact Larry Hulstrom, (509) 308-8312; Email: rockhound132@charter.net; Website: Lakesidegemandmineralclub.com

27-28—WEST SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: 56th Annual Rock and Gem Show; West Seattle Rock Club; Alki Masonic Temple (West Seattle), 4736 40th Avenue SW; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free; Vendors, Silent Auction, Activities for Kids, Demonstrations, Food; contact Annette Nelson; Email: show@westseattlerockclub.org; Website: www.westseattlerockclub.org

May 2024

18-19—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Brittany Burkhardt-Elemental Endeavors; Hangar 30 @ Magnuson Park, 7400 NE Sand Point Way, 6870 W Skokomish Valley Rd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Free admission and parking; Open to the public. Door prizes & food trucks. Over 60 dealers (including over a dozen PNW miners) of minerals, fossils, gemstones, jewelry, mineral art and more; contact Brittany F Burkhardt, (360) 489-5607; Email: seattlemineralmarket@gmail.com; Website: www.elementalendeavors.com

June 2024

29-30—KENT, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Cascade Mineralogical Society; Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave N; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission & Parking; A great Event for families. Free polished rock for every child. Silent auction & spinning wheel for polished rocks. All kinds of rock, amazing rough to incredible cabochons, jewelry, beads, slabs, and more Fantastic minerals, gems, fossils & metaphysical specimens; contact Katherine Koch, (425) 765-5408; Email: president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org; Website: www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org

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

UPCOMING SHOWS

2024 East KingCo
Rock & Gem Show

March 2-3, 2024
10 to 6 (Sat), 10 to 5 (Sun)

Pickering Barn
1730 - 10th Ave. NW (by Costco)
Issaquah, WA 98027

Admission: \$1
(Kids 12 and under: Free!)

30 Gem, Jewelry
& Mineral Dealers
Gem & Mineral Displays
Stone Sculpture Exhibit
What's My Rock?
Door Prizes
Silent Auction
Kids' Activities



EastKingCo.org



Photo and graphics by Bruce Kelley

North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club's

Free! 68th Annual

Rock & Gem Show

April 13-14, 2024
10 AM - 5 PM

Family
Fun

Crown Hill Center

9250 14th Ave. NW, Seattle 98117



Junior Activities ❖ Displays ❖ Dealers
Demonstrations ❖ Door Prizes ❖ Silent Auction

NorthSeattleRockClub.org – a non-profit organization

27th Annual Lakeside Gem & Mineral Show -
04/20/2024

Start Date: April 20, 2024 Hours: 10:00-5:00
End Date: April 21, 2024 Hours: 10:00-4:00



Venue: Benton County Fairgrounds
Address: 1500 South Oak Street
Kennewick, WA

www.lakesidegemandmineralclub.com/



WEST SEATTLE ROCK CLUB
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 56TH

Rock & Gem Show

APRIL 27 & 28, 2024

FREE ENTRY

2024 Rock & Gem Show by West Seattle Rock Club

Come join us for our 56th annual rock & gem show! We'll have rock displays, minerals, fossils, geodes, gemstones & crystals. There will be live demonstrations of jewelry and lapidary techniques. We will have dealers selling: gems, minerals, lapidary tools, fossils, geodes & more.

Free parking!
Door Prizes!

Our Silent Auction is a great way to start or expand a collection.

We even have a kid's only auction!
Lots of fun activities for kids!
Food and drinks available.

Malachite

Used as an ore of copper, a pigment, a gemstone, and a sculptural material for thousands of years.

Article by: [Hobart M. King, PhD, RPG](#)

Malachite is a green copper carbonate hydroxide [mineral](#) with a chemical composition of $\text{Cu}_2(\text{CO}_3)(\text{OH})_2$. It was one of the first ores used to produce [copper](#) metal. It is of minor importance today as an ore of copper because it is usually found in small quantities and can be sold for higher prices for other types of use.

Malachite has been used as a [gemstone](#) and sculptural material for thousands of years and is still popular today. Today it is most often cut into cabochons or beads for jewelry use.

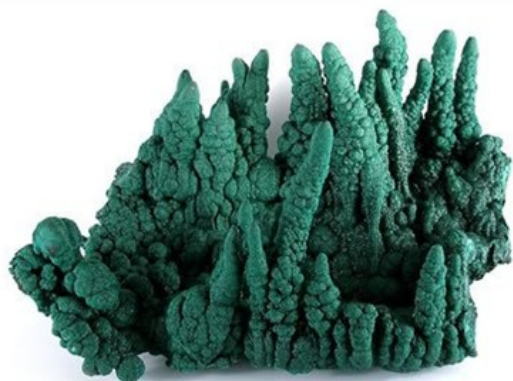
Malachite has a green color that does not fade over time or when exposed to light. Those properties, along with its ability to be easily ground to a powder, made malachite a preferred pigment and coloring agent for thousands of years.



Botryoidal Malachite: Close-up of botryoidal malachite in a seafoam green color from Bisbee, Arizona. This view spans an area of the specimen about 5 millimeters wide and high. Specimen and photo by Arkenstone / www.iRocks.com.

Malachite is a mineral that forms at shallow depths within the Earth, in the oxidizing zone above copper deposits. It precipitates from descending solutions in fractures, caverns, cavities, and the intergranular spaces of porous rock. It often forms within [limestone](#) where a subsurface chemical environment favorable for the formation of carbonate minerals can occur. Associated minerals include [azurite](#), [bornite](#), [calcite](#), [chalcopyrite](#), [copper](#), cuprite, and a variety of iron oxides.

Some of the first malachite deposits to be exploited were located in [Egypt](#) and [Israel](#). Over 4000 years ago, they were mined and used to produce copper. Material from these deposits was also used to produce gemstones, sculptures, and pigments. Several large deposits in the Ural Mountains of [Russia](#) were aggressively mined, and they supplied abundant [gem](#) and sculptural material in the 1800s. Very little is produced from these deposits today. Much of the malachite entering the lapidary market today is from deposits in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#). Smaller amounts are produced in [Australia](#), [France](#), and [Arizona](#).



Stalactitic malachite: A specimen of stalactitic malachite from the Kasompi Mine, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The specimen is approximately 21 x 16 x 12 centimeters in size. Specimen and photo by Arkenstone / www.iRocks.com.

Malachite's most striking physical property is its green color. All specimens of the mineral are green and range from a pastel green, to a bright green, to an extremely dark green that is almost black. It is typically found as stalactites and botryoidal coatings on the surfaces of underground cavities - similar to the deposits of calcite found in caves. When these materials are cut into slabs and pieces, the sawn surfaces often exhibit banding and eyes that are similar to [agate](#).

Malachite is rarely found as a crystal, but when found, the crystals are usually acicular to tabular in shape. The crystals are bright green in color, translucent, with a vitreous to adamantine [luster](#). Non-crystalline specimens are opaque, usually with a dull to earthy luster.

Malachite is a copper mineral, and that gives malachite a high specific gravity that ranges from 3.6 to 4.0. This property is so striking for a green mineral that malachite is easy to identify. Malachite is one of a small number of green minerals that produces effervescence in contact with cold, [dilute hydrochloric acid](#). It is also a soft mineral with a [Mohs hardness](#) of 3.5 to 4.0.

Painting with Malachite: Pietro Perugino (c. 1446-1523) used malachite pigment when painting the green garment colors in his Nativity (c. 1503). He used "Verona green earth" pigment for the grass. The deeper green color of malachite gave the garments a contrasting and more vivid appearance.



Malachite has been used as a pigment for thousands of years. It was one of the oldest known green pigments to be used in paintings. The mineral malachite is an excellent material for producing a powdered pigment because it can easily be ground into a fine powder, it mixes easily with vehicles, and it retains its color well when exposed to light over time.

Alternative names for malachite pigment include copper green, Bremen green, Olympian green, green verditer, green bice, Hungarian green, mountain green, and iris green. Malachite pigment is found in the paintings of Egyptian tombs and in paintings produced throughout [Europe](#) during the 15th and 16th centuries. Its use declined significantly in the 17th century as alternative green colors were developed. Today, malachite pigment is sold by a few manufacturers who specialize in providing materials to painters who practice historically accurate techniques.



The vivid green color, bright polished luster, banding and eyes of malachite make it very popular as a gemstone. It is cut into [cabochons](#), used to produce beads, sliced into inlay material, sculpted into ornamental objects, and used to manufacture [tumbled stones](#). Small boxes made from slices of malachite are attractive and popular.

Some of the most spectacular gem-quality malachite involves intergrowths, inclusions, and admixtures of malachite with other copper minerals such as [azurite \(azurmalachite\)](#), chrysocolla, [turquoise](#), and pseudomalachite (eilat stone).

Malachite's use as gem and ornamental stone is limited by its properties. It has perfect cleavage and a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4. These limit its use to items that will not suffer abrasion and impact. It is also sensitive to heat and reacts with weak acids. These properties further limit its use and require care during cleaning, repair, and maintenance. Malachite is sometimes treated with wax to fill small voids and improve its luster.

Synthetic malachite has been produced and used to make jewelry and small sculptures. Poorly done synthetics are often recognized by their unnatural color. The better synthetics can usually be recognized because their banding and eyes do not have a natural geometry. An experienced person can identify most of the synthetic and imitation materials on sight.

Condensed from original article.

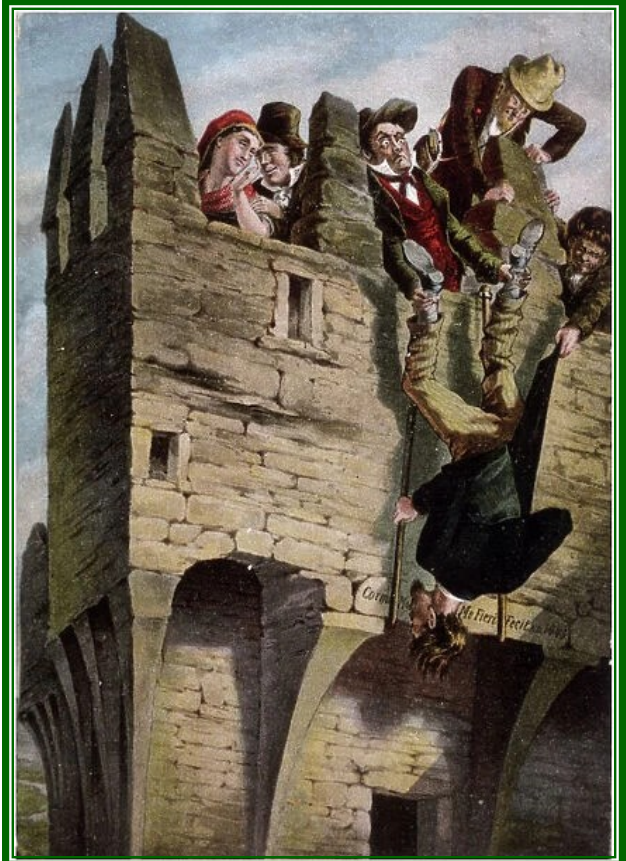
Source: <https://geology.com/minerals/malachite.shtml>

The Blarney Stone

Most people who come to Blarney are here for one reason – to kiss the legendary [Blarney Stone](#) and hope its magical properties will grant them the gift of eloquence and persuasion, or, in simpler terms... “the gift of the gab”.

There are a whole host of theories, stories and myths surrounding the origins of the stone, from it being a gift from the goddess Clíodhna to it being a reward for saving a drowning witch. It's even been said that the stone is a chunk of Scotland's Stone of Destiny, brought back to Ireland by the King of Munster, Cormac McCarthy, in the mid-15th century.

Whatever its provenance, this famous rock is a must-do Ireland experience. You'll find it at the top of the castle, set in the wall below the battlements, and if you're planning on giving it a peck, you just lean backwards (assisted by a guide) while holding on to a handrails. All that's left to do is to try out your newly acquired skills. Good luck!



Analysis indicates the Blarney Stone is a limestone, made of the mineral calcite, and containing recrystallized and slightly deformed fragments of fossil brachiopod shells and bryozoans.



Skagit Rock and Gem Club

PO BOX 244

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

