

February 2024 Volume 64 Issue 1

# SKAGIT GEMS

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

## Next Meeting



**February 3, 2024 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center**

**Gem of the Month: Red Rocks!**

**Refreshments: Feel Free To Bring Snacks or Refreshments**



### Notice:

Please check to see that you are  
current with your dues!

This will be your last newsletter if your  
2024 dues have not been paid.



### Inside this issue:

Announcements	... Page 1
From the Editor	... Page 2
Field Trips	... Page 3
Meeting Minutes	... Page 4
Club Information	... Page 5
Upcoming Shows	... Page 6-7
Things of Interest	... Page 8-9

## 2024 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Schedule

January TBA – Installation Banquet

February 3 – General Meeting

March 2 – General Meeting

April 6 – General Meeting

May 4 – General Meeting

June 1 – General Meeting

July TBA – Annual Barbeque and Swap Meet

August 3 – General Meeting

September 7 – General Meeting

October 5 – General Meeting

November 2 – General Meeting

November TBA – Skagit Rock & Gem Annual Show

December TBA – Annual Meeting for the purposes of  
elections, Potluck and Gift Exchange

Bring your friends!

Everyone is welcome.



From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

Hopefully you all made it through that last freezing and long-lasting snow event! I'm not used to it 'sticking' around for so long!

I missed out on the luncheon as the pump to our well was frozen.

At least nothing broke! The past few weeks have been pretty crazy and now that it's warming up, we can start thinking about getting out and doing some rockhounding! Let's all welcome Bruce as our new Secretary! We are pretty lucky to have him, and people like him, who bring their experience and knowledge to our club!

Thank you, Bruce!

In the *Upcoming Mineral Council Field Trips* on the next page, I've listed what they are working on for future field trips and the one scheduled on February 17 at the Western Washington University in their Earth Science Lab. The number listed is for Ed Lehman. It looks to be an interesting and informative outing!

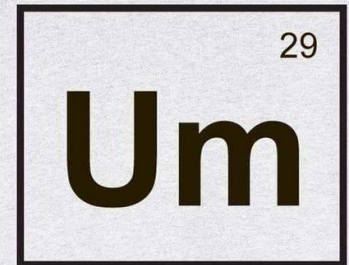
There will be a Suggestion Box at our meetings, so don't be shy about adding your questions, ideas, and suggestions, so we can discuss them at the meeting. I'm never sure when it's an appropriate time to bring up different questions or issues, so our new Suggestion Box will solve that problem.

Hope to see you all at the meeting, and remember if you haven't paid your dues, this will be your last newsletter.

Till next time—Keep Rockin'

*Charlene*

We are collecting names and payment for membership pins/ nametags. We need to order these in bulk, as the cost for a single badge has gone up to \$25.00 (!!!) plus tax, but if we order two to ten, they are \$12.50 (plus tax totals \$13.60 each). Members pay upfront, and when we have several requests the club will order them to get the lower pricing. Please let Dave know if you are interested in ordering one before or at our next gathering.



The element of  
**CONFUSION**

## 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

## UPCOMING Mineral Council Field Trips

02/17 Western Washington University Earth science lab

George Mustoe (retired Professor @ W WA U in Bellingham) has gone way out of his way to make this trip an educational, enjoyable outing. The E S Building (Earth Sciences) is 3 stories, with Labs and displays, wall to wall, all created by classes & Professors.

We will meet at Lot "C" see map, @ 9:30am, and walk (few 100 yards level) to E S Bld.

Parking is free, and we can't drive any closer. I am as lost as you are, so allow time. My cell # (425) 760 2786. For pre info, call my home phone (425) 334-6282. I will put you in a group, and if we get 45, that will be last accepted.

(Highlighted areas in yellow are Parking Lot C and Earth Science Building)



### Preliminary field trip list for 2024:

02/24 South Skagit area

03/16 Cherry Creek

04/20 Petrified wood

04/27 Fossils

05/18 Chert

06/15 Petrified wood

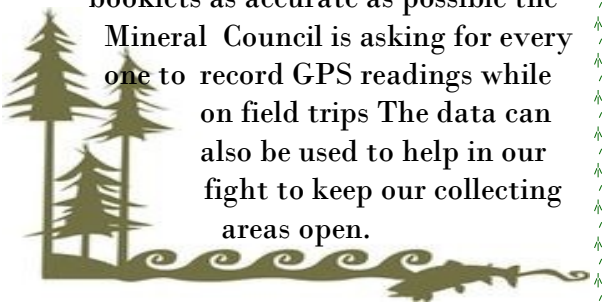
07/20 Travertine

The AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408-691-2655, Rockyfiv(at)aol.com

**Don't forget--Check out the WA State Mineral Council webpage for all the gem shows and field trips next year.**  
<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

### 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 every one 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.





## SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB MEETING MINUTES

There was no regular meeting in January.

A short business meeting was held during the Luncheon at Cascade Pizza in Sedro-Woolley on January 13, 2024.

There were eleven people at the luncheon/meeting

Bruce was voted in as Club Secretary

Red is the color for the stone to bring to February's meeting

Program in February is film on Rhodochrosite mining at Sweet Home Mine in Colorado

Suggestions for next November Show is to include a dark place for minerals that are fluorescent

Upcoming show: Whidbey Island Rock Show February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

There will be a suggestion box at our meetings where members can bring suggestions and questions for what they would like to hear and/or learn about in the upcoming meetings



A 7.94 ct rectangular step-cut rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home mine in Colorado's Alma Mining District. Photo by Robert Weldon; courtesy of Barker & Co.

Source: <https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/spring-2023-gemnews-sweet-home-mine-rhodochrosite-1888>

## 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](http://skagitrockandgem.com)

Email: [skagitrockandgem@gmail.com](mailto: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-Peggy Peterson, Kim Kellems  
Publicity-Open  
Sunshine-Open  
Swap-Vandenberg's

UPCOMING SHOWS



**Whidbey Island Gem Club**

presents their

**58th Annual**

*Sweetheart of Gems Show*

going on

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

**9am - 5pm**

and

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

**9am - 5pm**

Live Demonstrations • Educational Displays  
Rock Identification • Handmade Jewelry  
Door Prizes • Vendors • Games and  
LOTS and Lots of Rocks for Sale!

**Free Admission**

Bring your friends and family to  
"The Center" in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island  
51 SE Jerome Street • Oak Harbor, Wash. 98277  
for a day of fun, and  
explore our fascinating  
world of Lapidary Arts





## 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](http://EastKingCo.org)  
Photo and graphics by Bruce Kelley



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!

### 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/](http://www.lakesidegemandmineralclub.com/)





About the Northwest Rockhound Retreat



The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Society rents the facility to hold the Northwest Rockhound Retreat (NWRR). It is held every Labor Day Week (Monday thru Sunday) at OMSI's Hancock Field Station. The camp is owned and operated by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) 9 months of the year for Outdoor School, Stargazers and Parents & kids Weekend. Camp Hancock is private land surrounded by John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The National Monument is monitored and protected, no collecting or disturbing of the land is allowed. The address is 39472 Highway 218, Fossil, Oregon 97830.

The Camp was started in the 1950's with a few open-air structures. Berry Hall, where we eat all our meals was eventually enclosed, a kitchen area and women's bathroom and showers were added. The A-Frame sleeping buildings were added as time went on. These buildings sleep from 2 to eight individuals. A new unisex bathroom/shower facility was built in 2021 to replace the old men's bathroom and shower facility.

Each year the retreat is held, registration starts in March, the registration fee provides for food, lodging and instruction. The workshop fee is used to replace parts of the equipment such as grinding wheels, saw blades, sanding belts and other expendable items. The instructors create kits for the various classes ranging from \$20 to \$40 depending on the

materials required. Students usually complete 1 to 3 kits during the week.

In 2024 we are adding a new class, Chainmaille. The class was previously offered in the evenings as an option; however, increased demand has allowed us to offer this during the day. In the class students can make earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

Our Lapidary class is extremely popular. Here you learn to make cabochons from slabs of rock by sawing, grinding, sanding and polishing. These cabs can be made into necklaces, bracelets or earrings in the Silver Working, Metal Working and Wire Wrapping classes. NWRR also offers classes in Soft Stone Carving, Doublets and Triplets, Intarsia and Wire Wrapping/Weaving.

The Silver Working class is also very popular. Here students create jewelry using silver. They learn to saw, bend, and solder silver sheets to make pendants, earrings or bracelets with inset stones.

In Metal Working you work with soft metals using a variety of tools, or enameling to make jewelry.

The Intarsia class used various colored rocks that are cut, sanded then glued together to form a picture.

In the Soft Stone Carving class, you work with hand tools and handheld grinders to create a picture or statue in stone.

The Wire Wrapping/Weaving class teaches how to work with wire to create a bezel around a small stone to create pendants, earrings or bracelets.

We also teach a class in Doublets and Triplets where you sandwich a stone between layers of Quartz and a backing material. We have slices of Opal and other material available in the kits to work with.

We also offer evening programs with a rock-related swap meet, stump the experts with rock related questions, auction of items made in camp, collected and donated items and show and tell of the things the students have made during the week of camp.

Submitted by Walt Butler  
Chair NW Rockhound Retreat

Source:  
VOLUME 64, NO. 1 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies JAN/FEB 2024



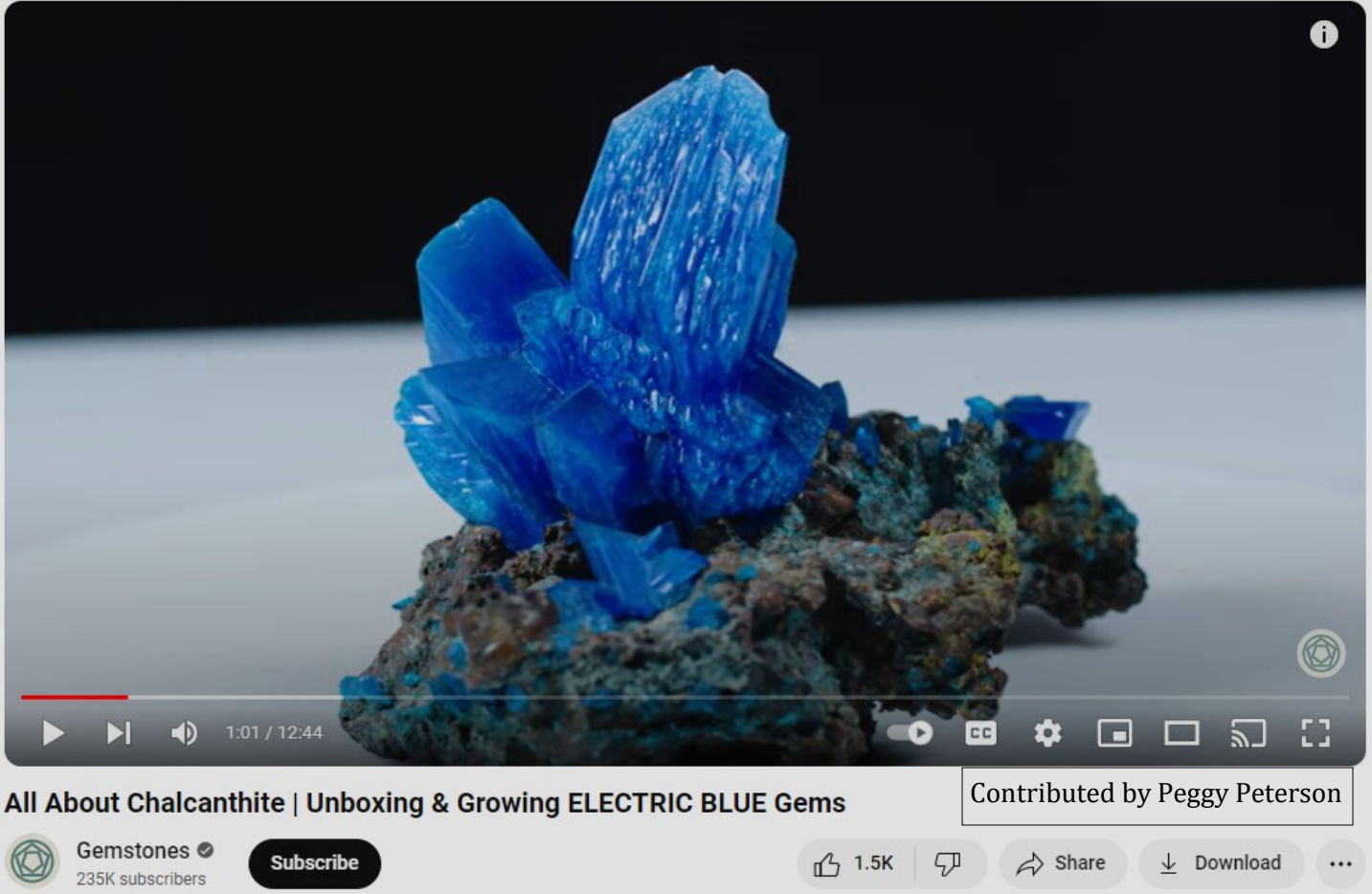
Contributed by Sandy Hansen



This is interesting.

How do you tell the difference between real and lab-grown gems?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZjSfgkxoGw>



On today's episode, we're checking out the BLUEST of minerals w/ both natural and synthetic specimens of vibrant blue Copper Sulfate. Find out how this forms, why it's considered deadly, and even how to make your own! [00:26](#) - What is Chalcanthite? [01:35](#) - Natural Copper Sulfate [02:13](#) - Deadly Gems? [03:28](#) - How to Grow Chalcanthite [05:32](#) - Finding Seed Crystals [07:28](#) - Evaporation Disaster! [08:45](#) - Making a Mineral Specimen [10:38](#) - Final Crystal Reveal! Subscribe to Gemstones.com: <https://bit.ly/subgems> Check out our Gemopedia: <https://www.gemstones.com/gemopedia> Gemstones.com is one of the leading experts on gemstones and is the best source on YouTube for all things gem related. Featuring gem history, the science behind the stones, gemstones in pop culture, and much more, you too can become a gemology expert by immersing yourself in the Gemstones.com channel. Rebecca, our host, is a Graduate Gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America and has an FGA from the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. Elizabeth has a degree in Geology and Environmental Studies, as well as an FGA from the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. Website: <https://www.gemstones.com?mcid=XSOyt> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gemstonesdot...> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/>

## The Rock I Threw Away

He picked up the stone I had cast aside,  
And I smiled with a tolerant smile;  
There was nothing I saw in that piece of rock  
For cutting, not really worth while.

He was new at the game, and perhaps did not  
know

What rocks could be polished right well;  
But I, an old timer, had hunted a lot,  
And the values of rock I could tell.

In spite of my kidding he treasured the stone,  
And said that he thought it was good;  
And I, patronizing, said sometime he would learn  
Of agate and jasper and wood.

He showed with considerable pride;  
It was sometime later I saw his display,  
The stones looked quite well,  
but one far excelled  
The others that lay by its side.

"And where, may I ask, did you get this fine rock?  
'tis the best that you have in the tray."

"Oh, that," and he hardly concealed a sly smile,  
"Was the stone that you once threw away."

- Charles G. Schweitzer



© Bosckator.net/vre.com

© Bosckator.net/vre.com



Skagit Rock and Gem Club

PO BOX 244

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

