

Skagit Gems

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

February 2020
Volume 60, Issue 1

Next meeting: Feb 1st 10am

Gem of the month: Bring the favorite piece from your collection

Refreshments: Open

Rockhound Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Local Gem Shows

Whidbey Island Gem Club 55th Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show

February 8th 9am—5pm

February 9th 9am—4pm

Oak Harbor Senior Center • 51 SE. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA

North Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club 66th Annual Rock and Gem Show

February 29th 10am -5pm

March 1st 10am -5pm

***New Venue

Crown Hill Center • 9250 14th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98117

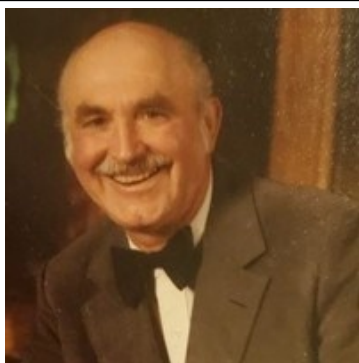
Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club 59th Annual Rock and Gem Show

March 28th 10am -6pm

March 29th 10am -5pm

Bloedel-Donovan Park • 2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA

In Memoriam



Clarence Katwijk passed away at the home of his son Carl on November 27, 2019. He joined his wife Marjean who passed in 2011. The Katwijks were members of the Skagit Rock & Gem Club for over 30 years.

Clarence was an active member who participated in many club activities. He enjoyed teaching a class in stained glass where he utilized slices of brazil agate. Clarence was the lead contractor and foreman of a crew of club volunteers to remodel, enclose, and insulate our club lapidary shop on the Mount Vernon ballfield.

Clarence was gracious and always upbeat and helpful. His loud-voiced jocular and tales of misadventures will be missed.

Here is a link to full obit at Hawthorne Funeral <https://www.hawthornefh.com/obituary/clarence-katwyk-katwijk>

From the 1st VICE PRESIDENT's Desk...

---NFMS 12/2019 Newsletter

What a great meeting of the NFMS in Lewiston, Idaho! Saw many old friends and new. Did a bit of shopping (more than I should have). Attended numerous meetings including the Annual Meeting, Awards Dinner, Editors' Breakfast and a couple of NFMS Board meetings. A very busy weekend. Then we headed home, repacked and went to help our club put on our rock show. Another very busy and productive weekend. We came home exhausted but happy.

It always seems that winter shuts down rockhounding in the Northwest. There are fewer rock shows scheduled, fewer field trips to go on, etc., because the weather changes. It is hard to find pretty rocks when there is snow on top of them.

So, what is one to do? Sort out the buckets of rock that you brought home during the summer. Fire up the rock saws, the sphere machines, the grinders and the faceting machines. Wire wrap or mount cabochons to make exquisite jewelry. Lots of things to do while the cold winds blow and the rain or snow falls. Some of us are into the mineral side of the hobby, like me, and I am making plans on heading south to Quartzsite, to the Southern California Micro-mineral Conference and then on to Tucson (weather and fires permitting). I also hope to sort and catalogue more of my collection when I am home. I guess what I am getting at is that rockhounding can be a year-round hobby.

This time of year is also your chance to investigate ways you can help your rock club. Think of presentations that you can give at your meeting. Maybe you took pictures during a field trip. Use them in a PowerPoint presentation so the group can reminisce about the trip or use them to excite others to go on the next year's trips. Maybe bring some great pieces that you collected and exhibit them on a display table, if your club has one. Otherwise, just have them on the table in front of you and talk about them. Maybe some cabs or slabs that you have made can be on exhibit too.

These type of simple volunteer efforts can help make your meetings more exciting. AND you will learn more about your rocks. If your club has a show, they probably are starting to gear up for it during the winter. Volunteer to help. You will learn so much and your show chair will be so grateful!

Remember, you will get more out of volunteering than you give.



**Beth
Heesacker**

2020 Fee-Free Days

Fee-free days for 2020 at Washington State Parks, national forests, national parks and other public lands have been announced. These are dates where you can park at trailheads or recreation facilities without hanging a Northwest Forest Pass or Discover Pass or paying an entrance fee.

Feb. 17 - Presidents Days
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service

Mar. 19 - State Park's Birthday
Washington State Parks

April 11 - Spring day
Washington State Parks

Apr. 18 - First day National Parks Week
National Park Service

Apr. 22 - Earth Day
Washington State Parks

Jun. 6 - National Trails Day
Washington Fish and Wildlife free fishing
Washington State Parks

June 7 - Free fishing day
Washington Fish and Wildlife free fishing
Washington State Parks

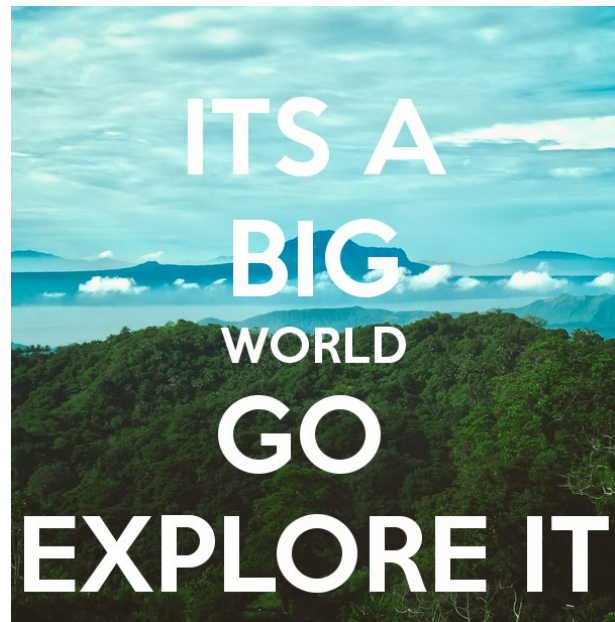
June 13 - National Get Outdoors Day
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service
Washington State Parks

Aug. 25 - National Park Service birthday
National Park Service
Washington State Parks

Sept. 26 - Washington Public Lands Day
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Forest Service
Washington State Parks

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Forest Service
Washington State Parks

Nov. 27 - Autumn free day
Washington State Parks



VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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 360-630-7893
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

2020 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. For updated info, go to mineralcouncil.wordpress.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282 Cell# (425) 760-2786.

Date	Host	Site	Meeting Place and Time	Material	Tools
02/15	MSVL	Walker Vly	Big Lake Store 9am	Geodes & Agates	Hard rock tools
03/21	MSVL	Beaver Vly	Beaver Vly Rd Info Center	Geodes, Zeolites & Calcite	Hard Rock

