

May 2024 Volume 64 Issue 4

# SKAGIT GEMS

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

## Next Meeting

**May 4, 2024 10:00 a.m. @ Mount Vernon Senior Center**

*If you arrive after the meeting begins, have rung all the doorbells, and still get no response, please go to the north window and try to get our attention! Our phones are off during the meeting.*

**Gem of the Month: Agates**

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

### May Meeting Notice:

As many members have expressed an interest in going to the Everett Rock & Gem Club Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show in Monroe at the Evergreen Fairgrounds following our May meeting, we will try to keep our meeting brief to accommodate them.

**Bring your friends!  
Everyone is welcome.**

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### 2024 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Schedule

January 13 – 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

**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/>**

From the Editor:

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

What a relief to be finished with the move. It sounds like there has been great progress on getting the library organized. Now all we have to do is get the lighting rigged and the water system set up to run the equipment! I can't wait to learn some new skills! I'm so grateful to Ray for his generosity in providing this space for the club to expand their skills in the lapidary arts!

We changed up the format of our Show & Tell at our April meeting and it was great to hear everyone talk about their treasures! We'll just have to keep our tales brief at our upcoming meeting, as we have a full agenda and are hoping to keep the meeting from ending late so those who wish, can head south to check out Everett Rock & Gem Club's 69th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. And speaking of Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Shows, check out the pictures from the Bellingham Rock & Gem Club's March 2024 show in Ferndale! There are some great display cases from Eric, Violet, Zoie, and Ziva, who just happen to be members of both our club and theirs. Thanks for the pictures, Peggy!

Don't miss out on the article David Britten wrote for this newsletter on May's gem of the month—agates! He'll also be doing a presentation at our upcoming meeting on agates, too. It's sure to be very informative.

Till next time—Keep Rockin'

*Charlene*

Welcome

**Welcome New Members!**

Ben Abbott-Scott  
Emerett Abbott-Scott  
Jennifer Abbott-Scott  
Julie Curry  
Kristy Johnson  
Kira Ottenbreit  
Matthew Ottenbreit  
Brad Raspet  
Molly Rooney  
Jennifer A Ross



**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

from Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER VOL.64 NO. 2      MAR/APR 2024

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

## 2024 W S M C FIELD TRIPS UPDATE 3/21/24 (add 4/20 trip)

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](http://mineralcouncil.zoho.com) or contact Ed Lehman at [wsmced2@outlook.com](mailto: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 2 free breakfast's on trips (what a deal).

DATE	HOST	SITE	MATERIAL	Meet @	TOOLS
01/20 or 27	MSVL	Walk Vly	9am Agate	Blg Lake Store	Sm shovel, sm pick, Rock &3# hammer, chisel,Bar
0 2/17	MSVL	W W U	9:30 Tour	WWU Park lot "C"	Camera
03 /16	MSVL	Cherry Ck	9am Jasper	Duvall @ Cherry Val Rd	Rock hammer, Wadeing Boots
04/13 & 14	Pow	Saddle Mt	8am Pet Wood	Matawa Boat Launch	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
04/20	MSVL	Racerorse Ck	9am Fossils & Mushrooms	Sunset Hwy 10mi East I-5	Bellingham Rock splitting tools
05/18	DAR	Bailey Trail	9am Chert	Verlot Ranger Station	rock & large hammers, pry bar
06/15	MSVL	Saddle Mt	9am Pet wood	Matawa Grocery Store	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
07/20	DAR	Sweetwater	11am Travertinene	Darrington Rock Show	Rock & 3# hammers, chisel, sm pry bar
08/24	MSVL	Lk Wenatchee	9am Garnets	Lake Wenatchee Park	sm shovel, 1/4" mesh box screen& tweezers
08/17 & 8 ?	P V	Green Water	9am Agate-Jasper-Opal	F R 70 @ washout bend	shovel, sm pick, Rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
09/7&8	POW	Red Top	8am Atgate-Jasper-Geodes	Teanaway Camp Grnd	same as above & chisel
09/21 ?	Opal	Lt Naches	10am T-Eggs Fossils-Lilypad	Hwy 410 & F R 91	same as 2 above
10/19	DAR	Index	9am Pic Jasper	Hwy 2 & Index Rd	Rock hammer, wading boots
11/16	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	9am Dalmation St	I-5 @ Alger RD gas&go	Heavy hard rock tools & safety glasses

### Mineral Council Field Trips Contact Information

#### HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

MSVL = Marysville Rock Club Ed Lehman [wsmced@hotmail.com](mailto:wsmced@hotmail.com) h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

MSVL= Nique Wicks [nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com](mailto:nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com) (509) 670-0630

DARR = Darrington Rock Club " " " " " " :

Opal= Tony Johnson (253) 863-9238 [ynotopals@outlook.com](mailto:ynotopals@outlook.com)

PVGM=Dennis Bachelor (360) 870-8741

POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow Larry Vess [vessel3755@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip!!!**

## Skagit Rock & Club Meeting Notes, April 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice President Peggy Peterson. Thirty people were in attendance.

Officers and Board Members present: Peggy Peterson, David Britten, Bruce Hurley, and Charlene Rhodes.

A number of visitors attended the meeting, and Peggy asked them to introduce themselves and describe their interest in rock materials. These visitors included Ben, Jennifer & Emerett Abbott-Scott, Kristy Johnson, Ken & Nancy Henderson, Molly Rooney & Jim Legg, Matt & Kira Offenbreit, Brad Raspert and Jennifer Ross.

Meeting minutes approved as published from March newsletter.

The treasurer's report was read by Dave Britten and approved and seconded as read.

Scholarship Committee: Shelley and Kim met and suggested renaming the scholarship to 'Skagit Rock and Gem Scholarship', questioned if the scholarship could be split, and updating the scholarship applications and website. The Board will meet up to discuss and vote on the changes in the near future.

New Business: Sandy will begin to keep track of maintaining the refreshment bin for future club meetings, beginning in May.

Old Business: A new location for the Skagit club rock shop has been procured just west of Mount Vernon. Moving in will be ongoing, with relocation of the club library being the first priority. Installation of the club lapidary equipment will then be carried out by volunteers over the next few weeks. We also need to work on getting lighting over the work areas and the water system set up.

The nature of future meeting programs was discussed. Increasing the price and quality of minerals for future club events were also mentioned.

Minerals which are yellow in color and interesting specimens found on the local beaches were the program for the April meeting. A number of both kinds of materials were displayed, with a couple of specimens fitting into both categories. Peggy displayed an especially pretty piece of crystallized native sulfur crystals, and several of the beach rocks were interesting head-scratchers.

It was noted that the date of the Everett Rock & Gem Show has been moved up to the first weekend in May this year. The show will be held Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5, at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds just west of Monroe, beginning at 10:00 a.m. each day.

After a short break, the meeting resumed to determine May's Gem of the Month to be agates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 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](http://skagitrockandgem.com)

Email: [skagitrockandgem@gmail.com](mailto:skagitrockandgem@gmail.com)

Mailing address: PO BOX 244, Mount Vernon WA 98273



### 2024 Officers & Board Members

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

## Agates

Agate is composed primarily of silica (silicon dioxide). Silicon dioxide molecules form a very tight bond with other silicon dioxide molecules. This bond makes agate very hard and durable - around seven (7) on the Mohs scale. Minerals included while the molecules are crystallizing give the agate different colors. Agates are transparent or translucent. Large amounts of mineral inclusion will block light from passing through. The resultant rocks are called jaspers.

The main source of silica is silica rich volcanic material – primarily basalt. Water coming into contact with the hot magmatic materials deep in the earth dissolves the minerals out of the basalt. The silica rich water then cools and deposits crystal in the cracks or voids in the surrounding cooled rock forming the agate.

Masses of cooling and dehydrating silica which form more rapidly are called micro-crystalline. Silica, which is formed more slowly, allows the crystalline structures to form into their typical hexagonal faceted aspect.

When large amounts of water are included in the crystalline structure the result is called opal. Opals are not as hard or durable as agates, but the included water can give the resulting rock various forms of iridescence and rainbow flashes.

Agates with distinctive mineral inclusions are given names describing their colors and textures – or they are named after the localities in which they are found. Montana agate is known for its black dendritic inclusions resembling miniature forests of trees. Moss agates are so called because it looks like moss is growing within the agate. Moss agates can be found in many colors. Aventurine agate gets its green color from included microscopic mica. Larger crystals of mica give it sparkly golden flakes.

Chalcedony is another form of silica which includes iron and/or aluminum. It is micro-crystalline but has the visual aspect of botryoidal or mammillary. Desert rose agate, chrysocolla (a copper silicate), prehnite, and some carnelians are examples of this type of crystal growth.

I will have examples of different forms of agate at our meeting on Saturday.

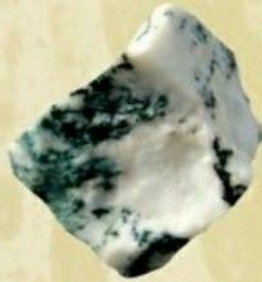
Submitted by David Britten



# Easy Agate Identification



Crazy Lace  
Agate



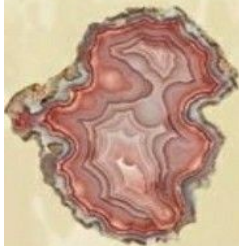
Tree (Dendritic)  
Agate



Blue Lace  
Agate



Fire  
Agate



Laguna  
Agate



Turritella  
Agate



Plume  
Agate



Botswana  
Agate



Holly Blue  
Agate



Moss  
Agate

[PSYCHICMEDIUMREBECCA.WIX.COM/ANGELSGIVEUSWINGS](http://PSYCHICMEDIUMREBECCA.WIX.COM/ANGELSGIVEUSWINGS)

**In case you missed it:**

Here's just a few show cases from the Bellingham Rock & Gem Club's March 2024 show in Ferndale.

Our club members, Ziva, Zoie, Violet, and Eric, who are also members in the Bellingham Club, put in three days hard work helping to make the show a success in addition to creating their displays.



Above photo:  
Eric's and Ziva's  
display case

Left photo:  
Zoie's display case



Right Photo:  
Violet's  
display case





Above: Very informative display

Below: Another attractive display



Photos courtesy of Peggy Peterson

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### 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' 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

### May 2024-June 2024

**31-2**—BONNEY LAKE, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Swiss Park, 9205 198th Ave. E.; Fri. 12-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-3; Free Admission; With vendors both inside and outside you'll find a vast selection of rough and finished "treasures" on display. Inside, watch demonstrators show you "how it's done" and see the many displays presented by PVG&MC members. Convenient parking and disabled access; contact Jillian Y. Higgins, (253) 355-3146; Email: PVGAMC@gmail.com; Website: www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com/shows

### 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@cascademinerlogicalsociety.org; Website: www.cascademinerlogicalsociety.org

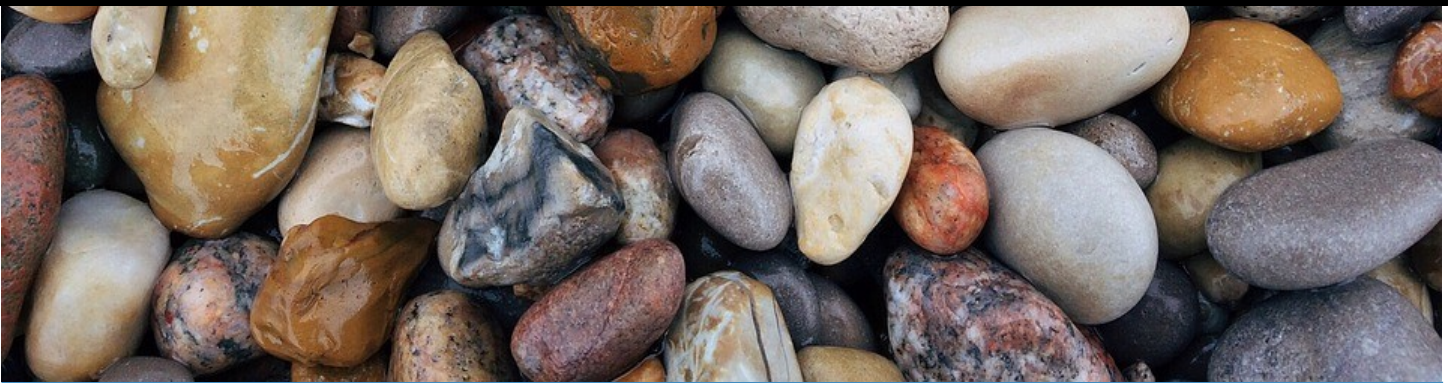
### August 2024

**9-11**—PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Tacoma Sportsmans Club, 164709 Canyon Road East; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; PVG&MC is hosting its 5th Gem Show in The Trees. Convenient parking is available. Vendors will be offering selections of crystals, minerals, fossils, beads, findings, lapidary equipment, cabochons, geodes, and jewelry, just to name a few things to add to your collection; contact Jillian Y Higgins, (253) 355-3146; Email: PGVAMC@gmail.com; Website: www.puyallupvalleygemandmineralclub.com/shows

**17-17**—SHELTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Shelton Rock and Mineral Society; MCRA park, 2100 E John's Prairie Rd; Sat. 9-5; Free admission and parking; Rocks, minerals, fossils, rock crafts and equipment. Food concession, raffle, demos, display and games. Vendor spaces available; contact Susan Perrault, (360) 275-9432; Email: srms242@yahoo.com

### November 2024

**23-24**—BREMERTON, WASHINGTON: Annual show; Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society; Kitsap Fairgrounds & Event Center, 1250 NW Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free admission; Come for our Silent Auction, Junior's Activity tables, Demonstrators, Raffle Prizes and so much more; contact Danielle Foss; Email: kmgsfallshow@gmail.com; Website: www.kmgsrockclub.com



UPCOMING SHOWS



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.



**EVERETT ROCK & GEM CLUB**  
**69th Annual**  
**GEM, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY · MAY 4 & 5, 2024

**New Times** SAT & SUN 10-5 **New Dates**

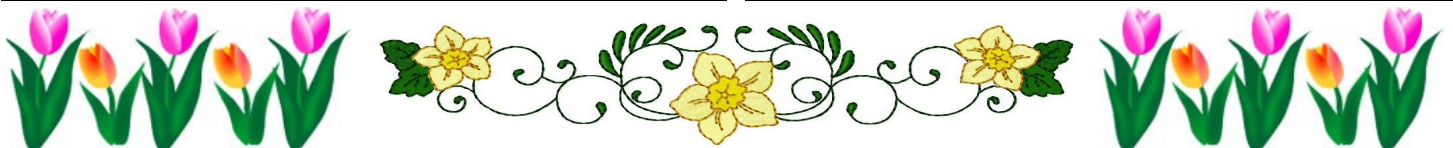
Evergreen State Fairgrounds  
USE EAST ENTRANCE & WATCH FOR SIGNS  
18359 Cascade View Drive  
Near Monroe, Washington, 98272

CRYSTALS & GEODES		FOSSILS
DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS		BOOKS & MAPS
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT		SILENT AUCTION
KIDS' ACTIVITIES		CLUB SALES TABLE
DEMONSTRATIONS		HOURLY DOOR PRIZES
JEWELRY MAKING		GEM & JEWELRY DEALERS

**FREE ADMISSION**

Free Parking ❖ Disabled Access ❖ Snack Bar

 everetttrockclub.com 




*16th Annual*

# Seattle Mineral Market

May 18 & 19, 2024  
Hangar 30 @ Magnuson Park  
Sat 10am-6pm Sun 11am-5pm

FREE Admission & Parking  
Family-friendly, Educational, 60+ Exhibitors  
Find out more @ [www.ElementalEndeavors.com](http://www.ElementalEndeavors.com)

Chalcedony pseudomorph after melanophlogite from Washington. Collected and photographed by Nick Carlson.

# Agate



Bamboo Leaf



Black Agate



Agate Dragon



Black Agate - OM



Blue Band Agate



Blue Crazy Lace



Brown Banded



Green Moss Agate



Grey Agate



Indian Agate



Matte Red Agate



Silver Crazy Lace



Tibetan aZi Agate

**Agates are grounding stones, bringing about an emotional physical and intellectual balance.**

**They aid in centering and stabilizing physical energy.**

**Agate has the power to harmonize yin and yang, the positive and the negative forces that hold the universe in place.**

**A soothing and calming stone, agate works slowly but brings great strength.**

**Its multiple layers can bring hidden information to light.**



STARTING A METEORITE COLLECTION  
WAS GOING TO BE SO MUCH EASIER  
THAN CHRIS COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED



Skagit Rock and Gem Club

PO BOX 244

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

