

MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB

2020
SEPTEMBER



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General meeting: September 21

We hope you will join us at our September meeting which will be Monday, September 21 at 7 pm on Zoom. Members will receive a Zoom link in an email. If you have never used Zoom, you might find [this video introduction](#) helpful. Do you have questions about the meeting? Contact our Board President, Sandra:
ask.sandra@yahoo.com

Field Trips are happening again!

Are you eager to get back out there to see and collect some interesting and beautiful rocks? Check out the upcoming field trips. There are two in September, and you will find the details on [page 4](#). Of course COVID-19 is still out there and is highly contagious, so if you go on a field trip, wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet away from others.

About the banner photo

The banner image is natural sapphire mined in Sri Lanka. The photo was taken by [James St. John](#) and is reproduced here under the Creative Commons license, [CC BY-ND 2.0](#).

September Birthstone – Sapphire

Happy Birthday to all who were born in September! We hope your birthday is fantastic. You are lucky to have a precious gemstone as your birthstone: sapphire. Sapphire's sister gem in the corundum family is Ruby. Red corundum stones are called rubies, and all other colors are called sapphires. Blue sapphires are most coveted, and those with pure blue (no secondary colors) and are vivid.

Sapphire glass

Synthetic sapphire is sometimes used as window glass in specialty applications because it is highly transparent within and well beyond the range of human visible wavelengths of light. As the third hardest natural

substance (9 on the Mohs scale), it is extremely scratch resistant. In some applications, the unusually high melting temperature, 2030° C, is also a benefit.

Sapphire basics

Categories: oxide mineral of the corundum family

Formula: Al_2O_3

Crystal system: trigonal

Color: usually blue, but can be other colors

Mohs: 9.0

Cleavage: poor

Fracture: conchoidal and splintery

Luster: vitreous

Streak: colorless

Diaphaneity: transparent to nearly opaque

Pleochroism: strong

At the right is a single crystal sapphire boule which was grown using the Kyropoulos method. The diameter is about 8" and it weighs about 66 lbs. To make window glass the boule would be sliced, shaped to the desired size, and polished.

Sapphire windows are used in a variety of products:

- watch crystals
- grocery store barcode scanners
- end-glass on high-powered laser tubes
- shatter-resistant windows in armored vehicles
- high pressure and vacuum chambers for spectroscopy



Raw sapphire
Photo by [James St. John](#)
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By [WhiteOakTree](#)
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[Own work](#)

Juniors - State rocks, gems, and fossils



Arizona Petrified Wood
By Bruce Samuels

Washington state chose petrified wood to be its state gem. Other states also honor petrified wood as a state fossil (Louisiana, North Dakota, and Arizona), stone (Mississippi), and symbol (Texas).

Unfortunately, Washington got it a bit wrong — petrified wood is a fossil or stone, not a gem.

The 400 pound piece of petrified wood shown at the left is from the DoBell Ranch near Holbrook, Arizona.

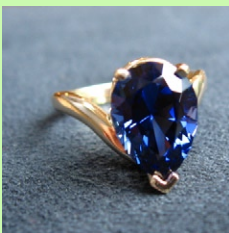
Gemstone color

The color of a gemstone is described by its hue, saturation, and tone.

Hue - the color, like blue or red.

Saturation - the vividness or brightness of the hue

Tone - the brightness from light to dark.



Washington has not designated any mineral or fossil as state emblems. What gem, stone, and fossil would you nominate to represent Washington?

Just to the South of Washington, Oregon named Oregon sunstone as their gem, and for their official stone, they chose thunderegg. They designated two minerals to be the official state minerals: Oregonite and Josephinite.

To the East of our state lies Idaho. Their state gem is Star Garnet, and their motto is "The Gem State." The Idaho star garnet is more rare than star rubies and star sapphires. The Idaho gem is usually dark purple with four rays.



Labradorite Oregon Sunstone

By [Astynax](#)
Own work, Public Domain

Upcoming field trips

Geodes, agate, jasper, and jade

September 12 and 13

Larry Vess from All Rockhounds Pow Wow is leading field trip to search for geodes, agate, [jasper](#), and jade. Meet at Teanaway Campsite (47.254700, -120.893502) by 7:30 am on September 12. The rockhounding excursion begins at 8 am.



Jasper
by [James St. John](#)
license: [CC BY 2.0](#)



Nephrite jade
by [James St. John](#)
license: [CC BY 2.0](#)

Bring your camping gear and spend the night at this free and newly improved campground in the Teanaway Community Forest. Google maps does not show the road into the campground from West Fork Teanaway Road. The turnoff is just west of the fire station and before you cross the Teanaway River.

You will need a shovel, long pick, and hand pick.

Please call Larry to let him know you are coming by September 11. Normally, Larry provides a BBQ for everyone, but this year the pandemic restrictions will probably make that impossible, so Larry is waiving the fees for this field trip.

Thunder eggs, Washington lilypad, and fossils

September 19

Tony Johnson is leading a field trip to look for thunder eggs, Washington lilypad jasper, and fossils on September 19. If you would like to go meet at 10 am at the intersection of Hwy 410 and FR 19 (46.989482, -121.096270). The meeting place is near the Little Naches Campground. Bring your tools for digging and excavating from both light and hard rock: shovel, long pick, and a hand pick. If you have questions, call Tony at 253-863-9238.

Picture Jasper

October 24

Ed Lehman has organized a trip to Money Creek Campground to find picture jasper. Bring a pick and tools for digging and meet at the campground at 9 am.

Field trips in 2020

The [Washington State Mineral Council](#) offers many field trips. The trips were cancelled in the last few months, but with Washington state opening up again, the field trips are resuming. However, people must stay 6 feet apart when possible and wear masks when closer than 6 feet.

Contact the host a week before the trip

At least a week before the trip, please contact the host and ask about

- New or updated details about the scheduled trip
- Whether you will need a Discover Pass, Trailhead Pass, or Forest Pass
- Fees
- Maps and directions

Club contact information

Marysville Rock Club and Darrington Rock Club
Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com
home: 425-334-6282
cell: 425-760-2786

NOA club: Tony Johnson 253-863-9238

Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club: Dennis Bachchelor 360-870-8741

All Rockhounds Pow Wow
Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com
253-473-3908

Bring with you on the trip

Arrive at the meeting place 30 minutes before the start time, and bring

- Mask to protect from COVID-19 transmission
- Food and drinks for the day
- Appropriate clothing for any possible weather
- Cash if there are fees
- Tools
- Map and directions
- First aid kit

Get inspired for a rockhounding adventure

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources offers a plethora of [rockhounding](#) information. If you are curious where gems, fossils, and petrified wood can be found, check out their [map](#).

Many of the sites on the map are not places you can collect specimens. Their site warns us:

"Before you set out, determine land ownership of your area of interest, learn the permissible collection activities and that owner's rules governing where you can collect, what you can and cannot collect, and how it may legally be collected."

Still, the map is fun to explore while searching for your favorite rocks, gems, or fossils.

Date	Rock or Mineral	Location	Details
9/12 -9/13	Geodes, agate, jasper, and jade	Red Top/ Teanaway	Host: All Rockhounds Pow Wow 8 am Teanaway at Middle Fork Campground Tools: dig and hard rock
9/19	Thunder eggs, WA Lilypad, and fossils	Little Naches	Host: Tony Johnson 253-863-9238 10 am Hwy 410 and Forest Road 19 Tools: dig and light hard rock
10/24	Picture jasper	Money Creek Skykomish	Host: Marysville Rock Club 9 am Money Creek Campground Tools: dig and river bar pick
11/21	WA dalmatian stone, chert	Blanchard Hill	Host: Darrington Rock Club 9 am I-5 exit 240, Gas Mart Tools: hard rock

Calendar

Date	Event
Sept. 21 at 7 pm	Meeting
Oct. 19 at 7 pm	Meeting
Nov. 14 – 15	Annual Fall Show
Nov. 16 at 7 pm	Meeting
Dec. 5 – 6	Annual Winter Bazaar
Dec. 14 at 6:30	Meeting: Holiday Party

Looking for a party venue?

The Maplewood Clubhouse is a great venue for gatherings. If you are planning a family reunion or a party that would overflow your home, consider renting the Clubhouse for a day. Members get 50% off the daily rate of \$350. For more information or to schedule a date, contact Mary Ann Collins at 650-383-7625.

Rock of the Month

Now is a good time to think about giving a Rock of the Month presentation when our meetings resume. Do you have expertise in geology, rock hounding, or some other topic that would interest our members? It might be fun to take some time now and plan a presentation. Contact a Board member to propose your idea.

Washington State Mineral Council

Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by advocating for access to public lands and for beneficial land use policies compiling and sharing maps and other information publicizing shows and field trips so members learn about events at other clubs.

The Council has a new website address:

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com>

Their email address has also changed. You can contact them at

mineralcouncil@zoho.com.



Show and Tell

Do you have a couple rocks or minerals you'd like to share with us? They might be interesting rocks you found on a rock hounding trip or specimens you saved long ago because they were beautiful or interesting.

You may share your Show and Tell stories during the zoom meeting or here in the newsletter. Send a photo and a short blurb about what makes these rocks interesting to newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at

mrgc@nancysamuels.com.

Board meeting

The board is holding email meetings until it is safe for them to meet again. If you have questions for the board, you are invited to ask our Board President, Sandra.

Connect with us



Rockhounding Coordinates Needed

The Washington State Mineral Council needs the GPS coordinates 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 everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips

The data can also be used to help in our efforts to keep the collecting areas open.

Please email coordinates you have to the Mineral Council:
mineralcouncil@zoho.com



Visit our web site:

<http://www.maplewoodrockclub.com/>

Connect with us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaplewoodRCG>

Our address is
8802 196th St SW,
Edmonds, Washington
98026

Join our two new Facebook groups

Join us in a new group:
[MRGC Sales and Trades](#)

[MRGC Zoom](#)

Sister club in Australia

Our sister club in Australia is the Atherton-Tableland Mineral & Lapidary Club in Tolga, Queensland. Connect to them on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/197340266987276

One hundred million years ago the eastern edge of the Australian continent extended much farther to the east. Tectonic forces broke off and submerged into the ocean the eastern section while a rising mantle caused the remaining land to lift.

Beginning 4 million years ago large basalt flows filled river valleys and formed a relatively flat landscape. Following that period the volcanoes became more gaseous spewing lava in violent eruptions. This landscape is now called the Atherton Tablelands. You can learn more on Wikipedia.



This issue

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Club News

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News to share? A suggestion? A correction?

Please send news ideas and images you'd like to share to the newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at mrgc@nancysamuels.com.