

MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB

2020
DECEMBER



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December 2020

As we wind up 2020, we remember many good experiences we shared this year: Zoom meetings, online auctions, a virtual sale, parking lot deals, a break on dues for 2021, and a videotaped version of *Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

Next General meeting: January 18

We hope you will join us at our January meeting which will be Monday, the 16th at 7 pm. 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

Online auction begins January 18

Watch for the first online auction of 2021 on our [Facebook page](#).

A gift from the Board

The due date for membership fees is coming up and the board decided to do membership a little different this year.

Since Covid 19 took pretty much all our club activities away from us, we are not going to charge current members dues for 2021.

The dues you paid for 2020 are going to be carried over.

Giving back, if you can

In lieu of membership dues and if you wish to and can, please consider making a donation in the amount of your membership fee to help our club pay bills such as building upkeep.

Since the silent auctions and grit sales are our only sources of income right now, donations are greatly appreciated. Checks can be sent to the club and be made out to "MRGC". The club address is

8802 196th Street SW
Edmonds, WA 98026

Bidding on items in the silent auction is a way to give back to the club with a win-win outcome. You get a gorgeous specimen of rock or mineral and the club has a little more money for paying bills. All the items available in the silent auction were donated, so even before you bid, people have already generously supported our club.

When bidding, remember that this is a fundraiser where you might get a huge bargain or you might pay a fair price. Don't be afraid to bid up on something you like. The previous bidder, might respond in kind to your bid.

Facebook

Our [facebook page](#) has up to date information about what is happening at our club. When we have online auctions, they happen on our page.

We also have a Facebook group — [MRGC Sales and Trades](#) — which is open to members of our club.



December Birthstones – Turquoise, Zircon, and Tanzanite

We hope that everyone who was born in December had a wonderful birthday! December has three birthstones, all quite different from each other, yet all beautiful.

The piece of turquoise shown here is unusually blue. It was mined in Sonora, Mexico.



Blue Turquoise
by [Mike Beauregard](#)
License: CC BY 2.0



Zircon from Pakistan
by [Rob Lavinsky](#), [iRocks.com](#)
License: CC BY SA 3.0

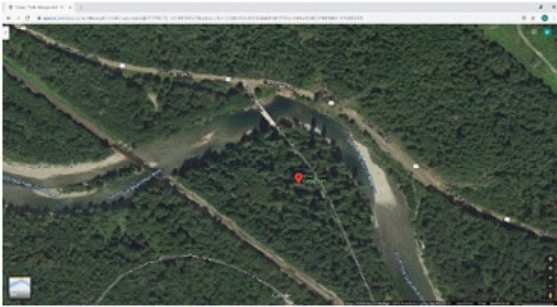
Rob Lavinsky's description of this zircon stone: "This is a lustrous, gemmy, cognac-colored crystal of zircon perched on a sugary, tan matrix of calcite. The tetragonal form of the almost, 1.0 cm zircon crystal, is very evident."



Tanzanite from the Lelatema Mountains, Arusha Tanzania
by [Didier Descouens](#)
License: CC BY 3.0

Picture Jasper field trip

by Douglas Wittinger



On October 24, 2020, members of the Maplewood Rock & Gem Club met at the Money Creek Campground on a cool Saturday morning to find picture Jasper!

We left the campground, led by Ed Lehman of the Washington State Mineral Council and drove a few miles south along Miller River Road (also known as Forest Service Road #6410). The road paralleled the East Fork of the Miller River until we reached our destination.

After parking our vehicles, the dozen or so group members gathered our gear and made the long, 50-foot hike to the collecting area! Ed Lehman explained what we should be looking for and also showed us some samples of rocks he had found, cut and polished. Then it was off to the races!



The collecting area is located in a dry creek, which is surprising for the time of year. Where is the water? More about the creek later.

There were a lot of leaves that had fallen and that meant we had to brush aside leaves to find the treasures beneath.



Beacons of a good day rockhounding — orange collecting pails!

After the leaves were brushed aside — jackpot!

Some of the jasper we found had obvious striation, and other samples were less obvious.



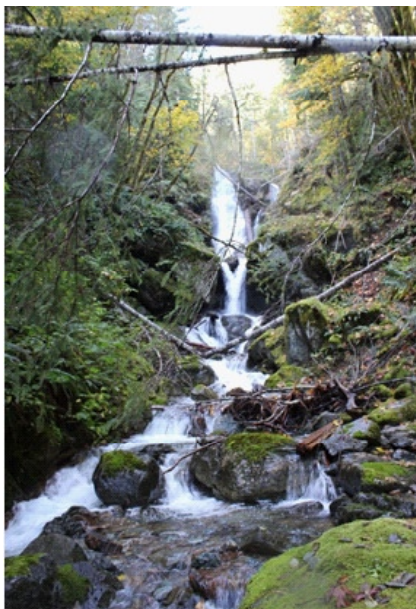
When we get these samples to the rock shop and cut them open, we will have real treasure to see.



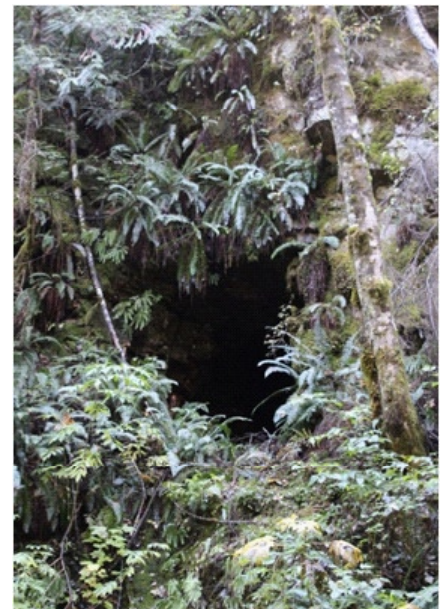
After we had collected our share of the jasper booty, Hunter and a couple members headed upstream to find a waterfall and old mine that Ed mentioned. Along the way we encountered some plant life. We encountered lots more picture jasper. We also encountered water!



From the collecting area near the road, we hiked up hill, through the stream bed approximately 1,000 feet and we encountered a small volume of water. When we first saw the water, it was barely a trickle. As we hiked farther upstream, the volume of water increased. At the top, the water volume perhaps reached around 1,000 gallons per minute.



We found the waterfall that Ed spoke of, and the mine as well. It is fascinating to literally see this amount of water disappear into the ground as we descended from our hike. Clearly the ground is fractured or so porous that the water no longer collects along the surface and disappears – possible into an aquifer.



This adventure was a lot of fun, close to town and very, very accessible for all who may choose to collect here. See you on the next field trip – and thanks for leading us Ed!

Picture Jasper - site 2

After hunting for picture jasper in the creek bed, the field trippers went to another collection site; this one on the Skykomish River. Thank you, Diane for these photos.



Word of the Month

Skykomish

The Native Americans who lived in the Skykomish River Valley, were called the Skykomish. The name derives from two native words, "skaikh" meaning "inland" and "mish" meaning "people".

The Skykomish River begins near Index and flows 29 miles to Monroe where it becomes the Snohomish River

Board meeting

Until it is safe for the Board to meet again, their meetings are on Zoom. If you have questions for the board or if you'd like to attend a meeting, please email our Board President, Sandra: ask.sandra@yahoo.com



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
- advocating for beneficial land use policies
- compiling and sharing maps and other information
- publicizing shows and field trips so members learn about and can participate in events at other clubs



Connect with us

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

Facebook page: [Maplewood Rock & Gem Club](#)

Facebook group for members: [MRGC Sales and Trades](#)

Address:
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, Washington 98026

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.