

# MAPLEWOOD ROCK AND GEM CLUB

2020  
APRIL



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## Message from our Board President

Please read the message from Sandra, our Board President on page 2 of this newsletter.

## General meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our general meetings have been cancelled until it is safe to gather again. We hope all of you stay well and are able to avoid this highly contagious and dangerous virus. It will be wonderful to see you all again. Please, stay safe.

## Rock of the Month

Now is a good time to think about giving a Rock of the Month presentation later this year 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.

## Message from our Board President

*Dear friends and club members,*

Times are uncertain and somewhat frightening for many of us. It is not sure, when we can resume our meetings and other club activities.

This is a wonderful club and I miss seeing all of you in person. Our activities are cancelled, but we are not!

Our club has a history of supporting each other. Let's keep it up and keep going. Let's reach out to our friends from the club and make sure, they are okay. Let's communicate with each other and stay in touch. Let's chat about rocks and maybe even other things.

I have been thinking about things I could do to keep some kind of club life going. I'd like to post rocks of the week, informational material etc on facebook, maybe once a week or so.

Maybe somebody is interested and willing to do a YouTube version of "rock of the month?" Should we be thinking about virtual meetings (Zoom etc)?

If you are not using facebook but still like to get my posts, please make sure I have your e-mail address and I will keep you in the loop. If you have anything you'd like to share with us, please do!

I will not post my e-mail address on the website, but if you send an e-mail to our newsletter at [mrgc@nancysamuels.com](mailto:mrgc@nancysamuels.com), and Nancy will forward it to me.

I would love to hear from you! Take care of yourself and each other, stay safe and keep rocking!

Best,

Sandra (President)



## Connect with us

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



## Board meeting

All club members will be welcome once again at the board meetings when the worst dangers of the pandemic are behind us. Until then our board is holding discussions in a virtual space.



## Suggestions for future articles

Is there a topic you would like the newsletter to cover? For instance, would you like to see an introduction to crystal shapes? Do you have a favorite rock hounding term that we could use as the Word of the Month? Nancy, the news editor enjoys learning about rocks and minerals, and she would have fun digging just a bit into a topic to provide a brief write-up.

## Calendar

Date	Event - all events are cancelled for now
May 18 at 7 pm	Meeting Rock of the Month presentation: open
June 15 at 7 pm	Meeting Rock of the Month presentation: open
July 20 at 7 pm	Meeting Rock of the Month presentation: open
Aug. 8 - 9	14th Annual Rock and Mineral Sale
Aug. 17 at 6:30 pm	Meeting: BBQ Potluck and Meet and Greet
Sept. 21 at 7 pm	Meeting Rock of the Month presentation: open
Oct. 19 at 7 pm	Meeting Rock of the Month presentation: open
Nov. 14 – 15	Annual Fall Show
Nov. 16 at 7 pm	Meeting: Rock of the Month presentation: open
Dec. 5 – 6	Annual Winter Bazaar
Dec. 14 at 6:30	Meeting: Holiday Party

## 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.

Until we resume our monthly meetings, please share your Show and Tell stories 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](mailto:mrgc@nancysamuels.com).

### Rock Shows

**All are cancelled until further notice**

Check out the [January news](#) for a long list of rock and gem shows around our region in 2020.

## Looking for something to do while stuck at home?

Staying at home day after day is a new experience for us. At times it feels great to check off some of those projects from our to-do lists. We can still walk in our neighborhoods and get sun in the yard. Still, there are times we feel a little stir-crazy.

Here are some ideas for breaking the monotony.

- Walk on the beach (if it's not closed) looking for pretty stones — or just enjoy the herons, gulls, and waves.
- Paint a rock or two to decorate your front porch or garden.
- Leave painted rocks on trails where others will be surprised and happy to find them.
- Look around your home for a special rock or mineral you would like to share as a Show and Tell feature in this newsletter. Email a photo of your rock with a paragraph or two about it to the newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at [mrgc@nancysamuels.com](mailto:mrgc@nancysamuels.com).
- Think about your area of expertise and plan a Rock of the Month presentation.
- Sort and organize your rocks and minerals. Can you find a place in your home to display some?
- If you have a home lapidary shop or rock workshop, make things that you can give to friends or neighbors to brighten their days of staying home. Or, make items to sell at our next show.
- Look for 10 similar rocks or minerals that you would like to donate to the Juniors program. They like to have enough so every child can keep one on the day they learn about that rock.
- Consider donating a nice piece of pictured jasper or some other beautiful stone for the silent auctions and raffles we hold at our meetings.
- Get an ebook or audio book from the library and delve into a topic you've been wanting to learn more about. Or, enjoy a novel!
- Watch [YouTube videos](#) to learn how to do something you have been wanting to learn.
- Learn a new recipe: [Rock Cakes](#), [Rocky Road](#), [Grilled Rockfish](#), or [Rocket and Parmesan Salad](#).



## Birthstone – diamond

Happy Birthday, to those born in April! Your birthstone is the gorgeous diamond. Today, diamonds are well loved as a birthstone, 60th wedding anniversary gift, and engagement rings.

The first diamond engagement ring was received by Mary of Burgundy in 1477. Medieval Italians called a diamond the “Pietra della Reconciliazione” (stone of reconciliation) because it maintained harmony between a husband and wife. Diamonds were set in wedding or engagement rings not for their beauty, but for their power. You will find more about diamond lore in [Wikipedia](#).



The popularity of diamonds was not new in Medieval times; they have been treasured for thousands of years. Lewis Spence in his 1960 book, *An Encyclopaedia of Occultism* (University Books, Inc.) lists some interesting old lore about diamonds:

- Those who bind a diamond to their left arm will achieve victory over their enemies.
- Diamonds deprive lodestones and magnets of their virtue (i.e., the ability to attract iron).
- A diamond’s hardness can only be broken by smearing it with fresh goat’s blood.
- Panics and pestilences fly before it.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could wear diamonds rather than face masks to protect ourselves from getting coronavirus?

*Natural diamonds usually occur in octahedral or cubic shapes*

These diamond images are from the Flickr page of [James St. John](#), a geologist and paleontologist at Ohio State University.



*Octahedral (double pyramid shape) diamond*



*Fibrous diamonds in a cubic morphology*

## Field trips – All trips are cancelled for now

The Washington State Mineral Council lists many field trips for this year. At this time all trips have been cancelled. However, some may be rescheduled when the travel and gathering restrictions for the pandemic have been lifted. For updated information about field trips check out the website for the [Washington State Mineral Council](#).

### *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

- Food and drinks for the day
- Appropriate clothing for any possible weather
- Cash if there are fees
- Tools
- Map and directions
- First aid kit

## Word of the Month

### *Mineral*

A mineral is a naturally-occurring, solid, inorganic, crystalline substance having fairly definite chemical compositions and physical properties.

Currently, there are over 5500 named and described minerals.

Major categories of minerals are: elements, sulfides, oxides, halides, carbonates, sulfates, phosphates, and silicates.

The element carbon occurs naturally as graphite or diamond. This means they have the same chemical makeup, yet in physical characteristics they are dramatically different.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Rock or Mineral</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
5/9	Talc, listwonite, etc	Cascade River	Host: Darrington Rock Club small fee 9 am Marblemount, left turn Tools: hardrock
5/23	Rainbow chert, concretions	Red Bridge Verlot	Host: Darrington Rock Club 9 am Verlot Ranger Station Tools: light hardrock
6/23 – 6/28	Agate, jasper, thunder eggs, petrified wood	Madras, OR	Host: All Rockhounds Pow Wow 8 am Jefferson Fair Ground Tools: dig and hard rock
6/27	Petrified wood, maybe opal	Saddle Mt	Host: Marysville Rock Club 9 am Mattawa W Mattawa Lep Re Kon Market (Harvest Foods) Tools: dig and hard rock
7/20	Travertine, Sauk R bars	Sweetwater	Host: Darrington Rock Club 11 am Darrington Rock Show Tools: dig and hard rock
8/15 – 8/16	Agate, jasper, opal, and petrified wood	Greenwater	Host: Dennis Bachchelor 360-870-8741 BBQ on Saturday 9 am Enumclaw Ranger Station Tools: dig and light hard rock
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



<b>Date</b>	<b>Rock or Mineral</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
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

## 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.

## 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](https://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](mailto:mrgc@nancysamuels.com).