

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club

February 23



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February meeting

Monday, February 20th

6:15 pm for Juniors and 7 pm for everyone

Kids, bring a rock that you want to turn into jewelry. During the member meeting Rich Osborne will give a presentation on obsidian. The Board is excited to tell you that a member, Lynz Taylor and her friends have offered to paint a mural on the clubhouse walls. At the meeting you will have a chance to vote for your preferred hues. Here is a draft of her design.



Banner image

The photo at the top of the page is from one of the slot canyons in Antelope Canyon on Navajo land east of Lechee, Arizona.

Spruce Ridge crystals

Spruce Ridge, located in King County, Washington, is known internationally for the astounding quality of its quartz and pyrite mineral associations. Learn about this fantastic mineral deposit and see photos and video from a trip to the claim in August, 2022. Jim Johnson will talk about his trip to the claim at our March club meeting.



Less than \$2 a month!

Our dues are small — only \$1.67 per month — but they provide a vital source of funds to keep our club open. Your dues help maintain the roof and provide heat for the clubhouse as well as help pay for our lapidary shop. Only those who have paid their dues can sign up for the shop. If you haven't paid yet, please bring a check or cash to the meeting:

- Individual: \$20
- Student: \$15
- Family: \$45



Join the Juniors

Our Juniors program, led by Holly White, is for school-age kids with a curiosity about rocks and minerals. They get together each month to learn and to have fun together. Kids who are members of the club are eligible to participate. Why do kids join? Here are some of the reasons.

- Learning: Kids learn about the properties of rocks and minerals, how they formed, and their uses through hands-on activities and presentations.
- Field trips: In the warmer months field trips are a fun way to collect specimens and explore natural areas.
- Lapidary: Kids learn how cabochons are cut, polished, faceted, and wire-wrapped.
- Socializing: Kids meet others who have similar interests, and they make new friends.
- Show and Tell: Kids can show off their collections and learn from others.
- Access to resources: Kids can borrow books and ask questions of knowledgeable adult members.
- Shows: Kids might have an opportunity to participate in club-sponsored shows.



At the February meeting

Kids, you won't want to miss the Juniors program this month. The group will get together at 6:15 pm before the general meeting on February 20. Paul Strawn, one of our Lapidary Shop Stewards, will introduce us to the different machines in the shop and tell us what they do. He will bring a piece of jewelry he made and tell us about the many steps it took to take it from a rock to a finished piece. **Please bring a rock that you want to turn into a piece of jewelry.**

Kids in the Lapidary Shop

When parents sign up for time in the Lapidary Shop, kids can come along to watch. We care about the safety of our youngest members. Those under 18 years old may not use the equipment, because we don't want them to get hurt.

Juniors – Rockhounding

Let's go rockhounding! This month we have a maze with rocks hidden along the way. Can you find all seven rocks? The specimens for you to find are amethyst, citrine, hematite, fluorite, opal, tourmaline, and emerald.

Amethyst

This is the birthstone for February. Ancient Egyptians carved amethysts into animals; we don't know why. Some speculate that the animals were religious icons believed to impart powers to people around them. It also seems likely that back then (just like today) a lot of people simply liked carved purple animals.



Citrine

Citrine usually starts out as smoky quartz or amethyst. When those crystals are intensely heated, they can become citrine. So, magma near some quartz crystals can transform brownish gray quartz or purple amethyst into yellow or orange citrine. Of course, people can also do this with specialized ovens.

Hematite

Hematite is heavy because it's made of 70% iron. The name comes from the Greek word for blood, because it's often red. There are different types of this mineral: specular iron ore with a metallic luster, micaceous hematite with scales like mica, and red ochre in a fine-grained form like dirt. Red ochre is used as a pigment for paint.





Fluorite

Fluorite is usually purple; this pink specimen is a rarity. Under UV light, fluorite fluoresces. In fact, the word *fluorescent* was named for fluorite, one of the first minerals discovered to have this feature.

Opal

There are two types of opal, precious and common. Precious opal is somewhat translucent and has iridescence like a peacock feather. This picture shows an opalized thunderegg, which is a common opal. Common opal is often gorgeous but doesn't have the sparkle of iridescence.



Tourmaline

This is a picture of watermelon tourmaline, red on the inside and encased in a dark green rind. This gemstone comes in almost every color, and some people call it the rainbow gemstone. The crystals grow in three-sided prisms; no other mineral does that.

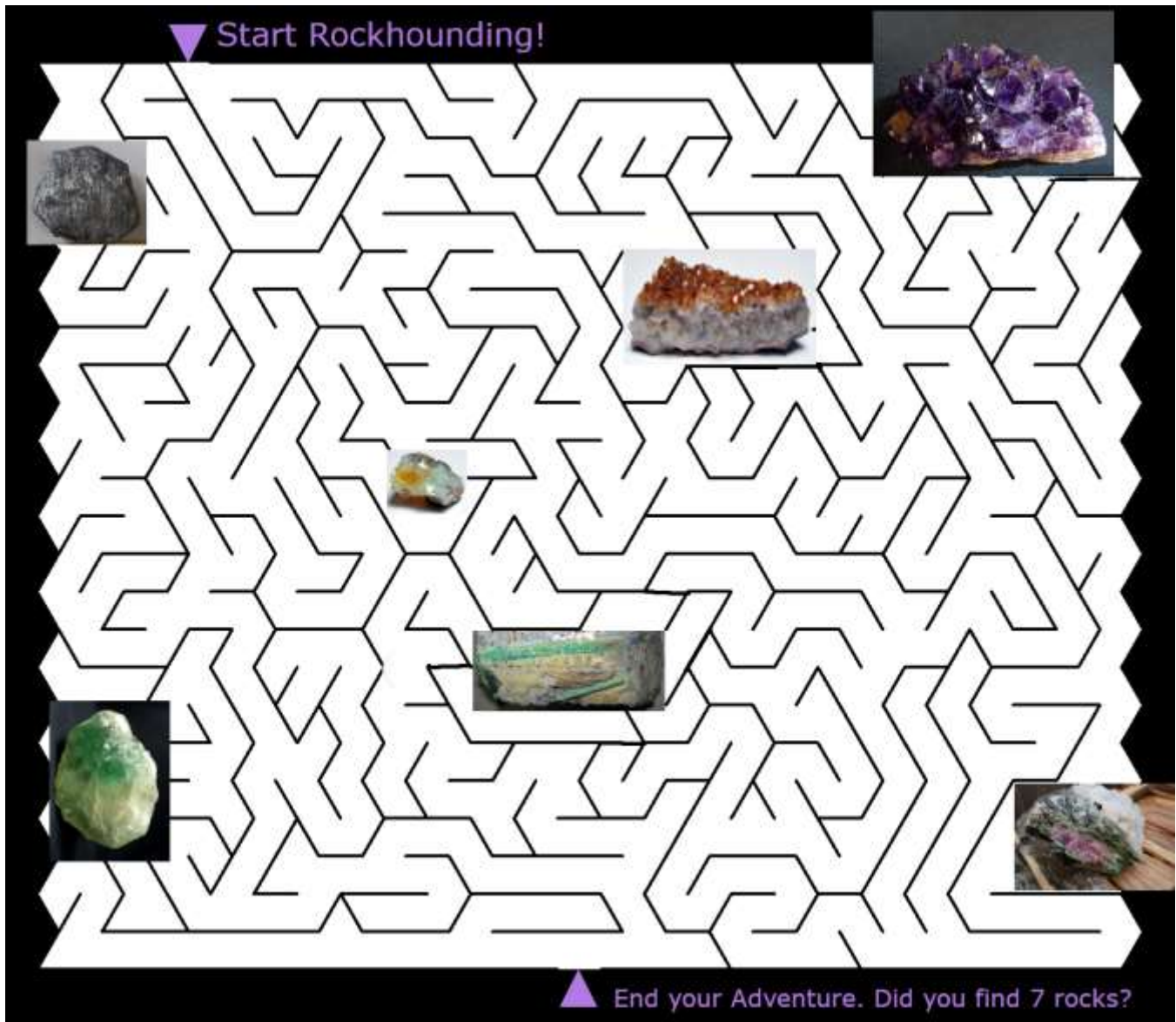
Emerald

Emerald is one of only four precious gemstones. The others are ruby, diamond, and sapphire. Emeralds have been mined for thousands of years. The earliest mines were from 1500 BCE in Egypt. The Egyptian queen, Cleopatra, loved emeralds above all other gemstones.



Can you find seven rocks and finish the maze?

Wind your way from the start to the end. Along your route you will need to take side paths to reach the seven rocks.



The answer is on page 15. Good luck!

Navajo Sandstone



Antelope Canyon, Navajo land, Arizona

Navajo sandstone is a geologic formation — one of four formations comprising the Glen Canyon Group. It is found in southern Nevada, northern Arizona, northwest Colorado, and especially Utah. Popular sites in several national places are made of Navajo sandstone: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Zion National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Canyonlands National Park.

Navajo Sandstone often lies above Kayenta sandstone, and the two layers sometimes intermix in fingers. This creates vertical columns and cliffs of over 2000 feet. On top of the cliffs is often a layer of gently rounded light pink or white Navajo sandstone.

This is a sedimentary rock which began as sand deposited at the bottom of a shallow sea. Over time the sand came to be buried deep underground, and iron-oxide slowly coated the quartz crystals. Later, a reducing fluid of water and hydrocarbons permeated the stone dissolving the iron and often bleaching the sandstone white.

Navajo sandstone comes in many colors and patterns which are affected by how porous it was and on whether it had certain other rock features like fractures when minerals filtered through it. Solutions containing hematite, goethite, and limonite changed the color of the sandstone as it filtered through. The resulting colors can be black, brown, pink, red, orange, salmon, peach, gold, and yellow.



Navajo sandstone cliffs above the Virgin River in Zion National Park

Lapidary Shop

Our lapidary shop is reserved for members who have paid their dues. Inside are five slab saws, three CabKing™ machines for polishing cabochons, and two trim saws.

Sign up for shop time

All shop users must sign up for a time slot at least a day before the session. On their first visit, new shop users will be trained on shop procedures and safety before being able to use any equipment.

You can [sign up for shop time online](#). The system will send you a confirmation email which you should save until after your session. You will need the email if you want to cancel your reservation. Each Thursday we have shop sessions available:

- Session 1: 3:00 to 5:30 pm
- Session 2: 5:30 to 8:00 pm (except on the first Thursday of each month)

How to cancel

If you sign up for shop time online and later realize you won't be able to make it to the session, you need to cancel your reservation no later than the day before the session. This enables someone else to sign up. If you do not cancel, you will be charged for the session. To cancel, click the link in the confirmation email you received after you signed up.

What to bring

You need to bring \$7 (cash or check) to pay for the session. Additionally, you might like to bring these:

- Face mask to not breathe rock dust or for Covid protection
- Hearing protectors

Before you leave the shop

The shop stewards are volunteers who generously give 6 hours a week to enable us to use the tools. Before you leave a tool station, please wipe it down and leave it in the same condition as you found it. If you discover a problem with a saw or tool, please let the Shop Steward know.

Shop Stewards

Paul Strawn
Rich Osborne
Bruce Samuels

Email:
Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com



To everyone born in February,

Happy Birthday!

May your day
be filled with all your
favorites from family to fun!

Your birthstone is amethyst. Unlike other gemstones, the value of amethyst is based on the intensity of its color, not its weight. The rarest shade is "Deep Russian" for which the price is determined by demand when it is sold.

Wish you could get paid for cleaning?



The Board is looking for someone who would like to receive a little money for cleaning our main room, the bathrooms, and kitchen, if needed. This would involve sinks, floors, and toilets, and whatever else is needed to bring the space back to how we like it. Usually, it takes about 3 or 4 hours, and we will pay \$60 per cleaning session, rather than by the hour.

We would like the cleaning to be done soon after big events, like our December Party or the shows. We need to be sure that the building is ready for renters. Our member, Paul Anderson, has been taking care of this for us without pay for many years, and we are all grateful. Everyone appreciates coming into a clean building.

If you think you might be interested, please contact us at info@maplewoodrockclub.com.

Rock shows

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Feb. 11, 9 am – 5 pm Feb. 12, 9 am – 5 pm	Whidbey Island Gem Club The Center in Oak Harbor 51 Jerome St. Oak Harbor, WA	
Feb. 25, 10 am - 6 pm Feb. 26, 10 am - 5 pm	Idaho Gem Club Expo Idaho 5610 Glenwood Boise, ID	

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Mar. 4, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 5, 10 am – 5 pm	East King County Club Pickering Barn 1730 10 th Ave. NW Issaquah, WA	
Mar. 4, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 5, 10 am – 5 pm	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society O’Conner Field House 2207 Blaine Caldwell, ID	\$5 adults Kids under 11 are free!
Mar. 3, 10 am – 5 pm Mar. 4, 10 am – 5 pm Mar. 5, 10 am – 5 pm	Tualatin Valley Gem Club Forest Grove National Guard Armory 2950 Taylor Way Forest Grove, OR	\$1 adults Kids 12 and under are free!
Mar. 3, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm Mar. 4, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm Mar. 5, 9:30 am – 5 pm	Oregon Agate and Mineral Society OMSI 1945 SE Water Ave. Portland, OR	
Mar. 10, 9 am – 6 pm Mar. 11, 9 am – 5 pm	Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Stevens County Fairgrounds 317 West Aster Colville, WA	
Mar. 11, 9 am – 6 pm Mar. 12, 10 am – 5 pm	Northwest Montana Rock Chucks Flathead County Fairground Expo Building 265 North Meridian Road Kalispell, MT	\$2 high school and up
Mar. 18, 9 am – 6 pm Mar. 19, 10 am – 5 pm	Hellgate Mineral Society Hilton Garden Inn 3700 North Reserve St. Missoula, MT	\$3 Kids under 14 are free with an adult!

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Mar. 24, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 25, 10 am – 6 pm Mar. 26, 10 am – 4 pm	Rock Rollers Club of Spokane Spokane County Fair and Expo Center N. 604 Havana Spokane, WA	\$8, adults \$7, seniors & military Scouts in uniform and kids under 12 are free!
Mar. 25, 10 am – 5 pm Mar. 26, 10 am – 5 pm	SE Idaho Gems & Mineral Society Bannock County Fairgrounds 10588 Fairground Dr. Pocatello, ID	\$3 12 and under are free with an adult!
Apr. 1, 10 am – 6 pm Apr. 2, 10 am – 5 pm	Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society Sweet Home HS Activity Gym 1641 Long St. Sweet Home, OR	
Apr. 14, 9 am – 5 pm Apr. 15, 9 am – 5 pm Apr. 16, 10 am – 4 pm	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S. Pacific Hwy Rickreall, OR	\$5 11 and under are free with an adult!
Apr. 21, 10 am – 4 pm Apr. 22, 10 am – 5 pm Apr. 23, 10 am – 4 pm	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club Central Wash. State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima, WA	\$6 Students: \$2 12 and under are free!
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm Apr. 30, 10 am – 4 pm	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds Building 2 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA	\$5 12 and under are free!

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm Apr. 30, 10 am – 5 pm	West Seattle Rock Club Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40 th Ave. SW Seattle, WA	
Apr. 29, 10 am – 5 pm Apr. 30, 10 am – 4:30 pm	Grays Harbor Geology & Gem Society Grays Harbor Fair Grounds 43 Elma-McCleary Road Elma, WA	
May 13, 10 am – 5 pm May 14, 10 am – 4 pm	Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center 1705 East Airport Road Hermiston, OR	\$3 12 and under are free!
May 19, 10 am – 5 pm May 20, 10 am – 5 pm May 21, 10 am – 3 pm	Mt. Hood Rock Club Kliever Memorial Armory 10000 NE 33 rd Dr. Portland OR	
May 27, 10 am – 6 pm May 28, a	Everett Rock and Gem Club Evergreen State Fairgrounds 18359 Cascade View Drive Monroe, WA	
June 16, 10 am – 5 pm June 17, 10 am – 5 pm June 18, 10 am – 4 pm	Lower Upmqua Gem & Lapidary Society Reedsport Community Building 451 Winchester Ave. Reedsport, OR	

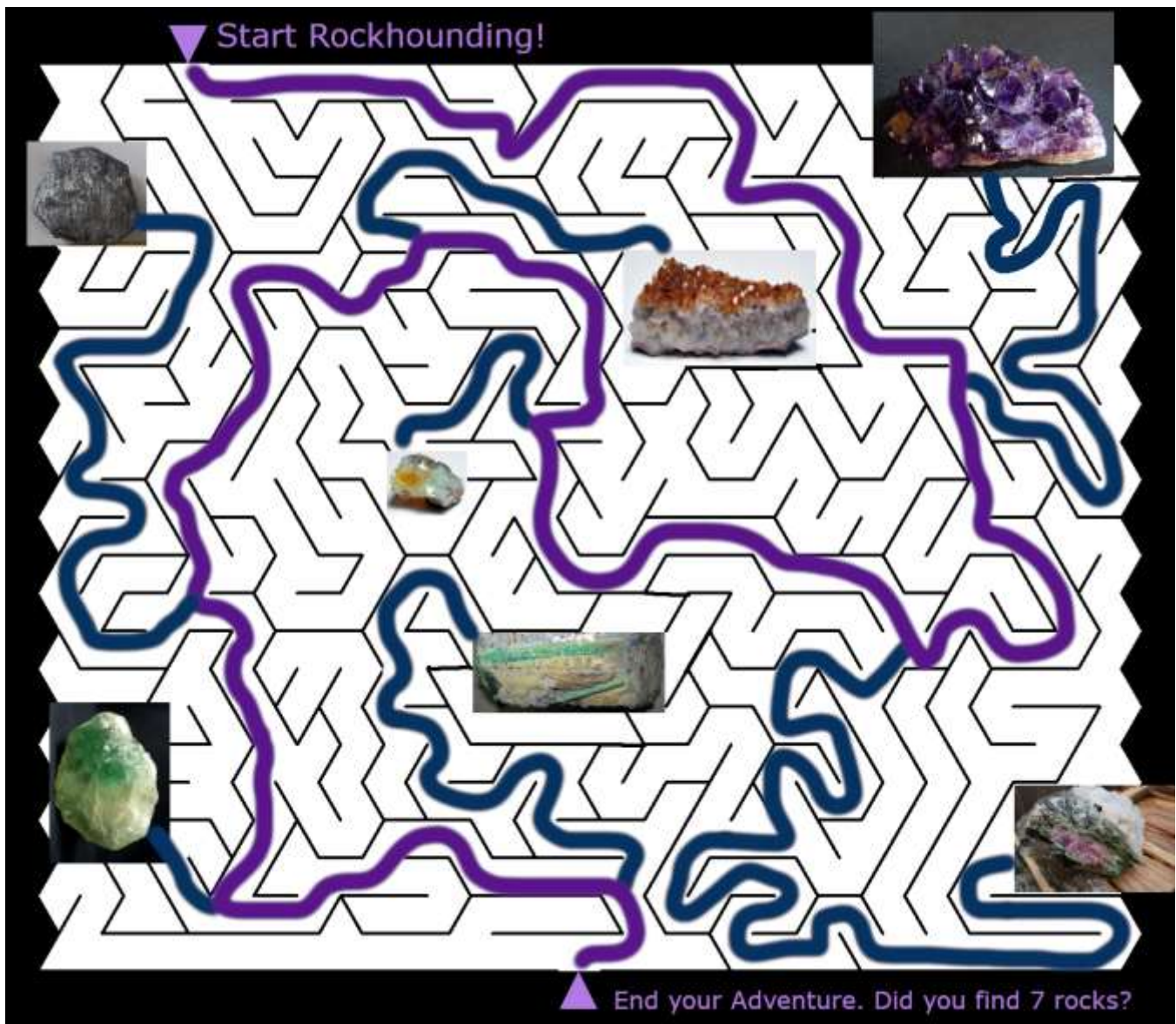
Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Aug. 3, 10 am – 5 pm	Billings Gem and Mineral Club	\$5/day or
Aug. 4, 10 am – 5 pm	Billings Hotel & Convention Center	\$15 4-day pass
Aug. 5, 10 am – 5 pm	1223 Muldowney Lane	Kids under 12
Aug. 6, 10 am – 4 pm	Billings, MT	are free with an adult!
Aug. 18, 9 am – 5 pm	Willamette Agate & Mineral Society	
Aug. 19, 9 am – 5 pm	Polk County Fairgrounds	
Aug. 20, 10 am – 4 pm	520 S. Pacific Hwy. Rickreall, OR	
Sep. 9, 9 am – 5 pm	Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association	
Sep. 10, 10 am – 4 pm	Vern Burton Community Center 308 East 4 th St. Port Angeles, WA	
Oct. 6, 10 am – 6 pm	Portland Regional Rock and Gem Club	\$7
Oct. 7, 10 am – 6 pm	Wingspan Event Center	Kids under 12
Oct. 8, 10 am – 5 pm	801 NE 34 th Ave Hillsboro, OR	are free with an adult!
Oct. 7, 10 am – 5 pm	Marysville Rock and Gem Club	
Oct. 8, 10 am – 5 pm	Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg. #500 14405 179 th Ave SE Monroe, WA	

Field Trips

Field trips in our area are published on the [Mineral Council website](#). Click *Field Trips* in the left column.

Juniors – Maze solution

How did you do? Here is the solution to the maze. The purple line shows the path from the beginning to the end. The dark teal side paths show how to get to each specimen. Can you identify each one? By following the purple path you would collect the rocks in this order: amethyst, tourmaline, opal, citrine, hematite, fluorite, and emerald.





Classified Ads

Our website now has a Classifieds page for members to post items for sale, items they want to buy, and helpful tips and information. If you would like to share a link to a favorite rock shop or post a notice about a tumbler you are selling, check out the [Classifieds page](#) on the website.

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

Read their latest [Newsletter](#).

Grit for sale

The Shop Stewards sell grit on Thursdays when the shop is open. Please let them know a day ahead that you will stop by to purchase grit.

To contact the Shop Stewards, email shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

Each grit package is \$4, and this is what they sell:

- 1 lb of 60/90
- 1 lb of 120/220
- ¾ lb of pre-polish
- ½ lb of polish

Rock candy

If eye *candy* is a picture of something beautiful to look at, then these pictures are *Rock Candy* for your enjoyment.



Petrified National Forest; by Bruce Samuels



Willis Creek Slot Canyon in Escalante National Park; by Bruce Samuels



*Picture sardonyx by [Captain Tenneal](#)
License: [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)*



Garnet by [Andrew Gustar](#); License: [CC BY-ND 2.0](#)

Connect with us

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

Facebook page: Maplewood Rock & Gem Club

Facebook group for members: MRGC Sales and Trades

Email us: info@maplewoodrockclub.com

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

Our Board

Our club is run entirely by volunteers; and we are grateful for the time, energy, and expertise they give to our community.

President: Ali Rizvi

Secretary: Carla James

Treasurer: Bruce Samuels

Members at large: Nancy Ross, Rich Osborne, Nancy Samuels, and Michelle McGraw



Image license attributions

We use abbreviations in the license attributions. Here are the definitions.

CC: Creative Commons license

BY: attribute the author, link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.

SA: share alike - If you publish the image, you must use the same license.

ND: no derivatives - You may not alter the image.

NC: non-commercial use - You may not use the image for commercial use.

3.0 or other number: version of the license

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 the eastern section into the ocean 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.



News to share?

Did you go rockhounding? Have you acquired a beautiful new specimen? Please send stories, images, or simply ideas for articles that Nancy would write to the newsletter editor, Nancy Samuels at MRGC@nancysamuels.com.

This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club
News

Volume 2, Publication year: 72