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March meeting

Monday, March 18

General meeting at 7 pm

Juniors meet at 6 pm

"How do they do that? The role of the fossil preparer" is the title of the Rock of the Month presentation.

Kelsie Abrams, Fossil Preparation Laboratory Manager at the Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture at the University of Washington will give the Rock of the Month presentation.

The Juniors will be learning about polishing and tumbling rocks with a presentation by Rich Osborne.

Paul Newby will have a silent auction set up for you to bid on items for your collection.

If your last name begins with a letter from A to M, please bring food to share.

Banner image

The banner photo is an aquamarine taken by [Eric Hunt](#) and published under the license [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).



Juniors

Amaryah Daniels

Juniors@maplewoodrockclub.com

In February, we had a great time exploring luminescent rocks! Big thanks to Michele McGraw for teaching the juniors about why some rocks luminesce, and Diane Marie for donating luminescent rocks for the juniors to take home.

We took the group outside after dark to see what rocks would light up around the clubhouse with our UV flashlights. How cool to see all the different colors that glowed!

Congrats to our juniors who earned their Fossils badge last month!

Addi Safronoff
Antha Huffines
Debbie Wood

Dorian Bailey
Leo Bailey
Maddox Daniels

Nico Sophinos
Powell King-Jahnke
River King-Jahnke



March meeting

We are looking forward to learning from Rich Osborne as we discover the world of rock tumbling and lapidary arts at our next meeting!

Can you help ID rocks?

We're looking for a few people to help with our April meeting, specifically with helping the juniors ID their rocks. please reach out to Amaryah if you can lend a hand: amaryah@gmail.com.



Juniors Display Case

The lower right shelf of the wooden display case holds collections of individual Junior members.

Maddox Daniels (7) has his rocks on display this month, and Debbie Wood (9) will be setting up at our March meeting.



Antha in front of the display case

Earth's Largest Lava Flow

Can a state that's pretty flat and doesn't have any volcanoes have a massive lava flow? Apparently, yes! Michigan has one of the world's largest lava flows – the Greenstone Lava Flow – from a Canadian volcano that erupted hundreds of millions of years ago. There was so much lava that the river of lava was likely molten for thousands of years. You can read more and see photos and illustrations at the website for WRKR, a Rock 'n Roll radio station:

<https://wrkr.com/earths-largest-lava-flow-ever-was-in-michigan-despite-not-having-a-single-volcano/>

If you were born in March

Happy Birthday!



“I adore wearing gems, but not because they are mine. You can’t possess radiance, you can only admire it.”
~ Elizabeth Taylor

Aquamarine gems are your birthstone, if you were a March baby. This gem is about 7.8 on the Mohs scale, so it is durable enough to cut into jewelry. The photo at the right is by [Mauro Cateb](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0).

This gem is nearly always blue or greenish blue. The darker the color, the higher its value. By heat treating this gem, people can intensify the blue.



Looking for help

We have some important volunteer openings for lone wolves and those who prefer working in pods. Without paid staff, we rely on the generosity of our members to oil the saws and sweep the floors. Later in this issue is a list of all our committees, some of which are looking for help.

Here we are focusing on finding people to step into several critical positions.



Building Maintenance

We need a person to be in charge of fixing things around the building and doing ongoing maintenance. Are you handy? Know how to change a furnace filter and smoke detector batteries? Please ask a Board member about helping out with this job.

Web Editor

Mel Milnes, our current Web Editor, is ready to pass on the Web duties to someone. Mel was a key designer and developer on our current website, and she has managed the content for many years.

The basic webmaster skill requirements begin with being familiar with

- WordPress
- the Elementor plugin

If you are interested in learning more about this important role in our club, please contact Mel Milnes or Carla James who is our Web Administrator.





Sparkle

The Board set up a new committee and is looking for a team of people who want to work together. This new Sparkle committee will work together to plan how they share the job. They might organize work parties of club members to get some work done, like a spring garden cleanup. They might choose to divvy up the tasks and have a couple team members share each one. It's up to the team.

The Sparkle Committee will handle these tasks:

- Clean the building once a week. This includes floors, bathrooms, kitchen, and the main room.
- Clean the building before rentals. This can be the weekly cleaning.
- Purchase bathroom, kitchen, and cleaning supplies as needed.
- Have a system for occasionally purchasing supplies for other committees, like getting paper towels for the Lapidary Shop.
- Mow the lawn and maintain the grounds.

Ways and Means

We already have an experienced person on Ways and Means, Linda Willemarck; we only need a couple more to make it a pod. This is a perfect job for a team of people who enjoy working with others. This team will

- Maintain an inventory list of the specimens that can be sold. Try to identify the items and their values.
- Set up and staff the sales table at our shows or find volunteers to do so.
- Use Square to take credit card payments.
- Fill out Income Forms to tell the Treasurer exactly what the money collected was for.



Fossil Fishing in Wyoming

By Jim Miller

Who needs water and bait to get a mess of fish? Well, I guess it depends on what you are going to do with the fish. The fossil fish that I found in Wyoming definitely are not edible, but they are incredible.

In May of 2016 my wife and I made a short visit to the commercial Fossil Safari quarry in southwest Wyoming, near the small town of Kemmerer. This open-pit mine quarries the layered limestone of the Green River Formation, which is world famous for the fossil fish and other organisms that are contained in the stone. The tan-colored limestone of the Green River Formation was deposited about 50 million years ago in three huge lakes that once existed in parts of Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. Although fossils can be found in the sedimentary rock that accumulated in all three lakes, the most abundant fossils are found in the limestone lake deposits that occur near Kemmerer.

We were a couple of weeks early for the fossil collecting season (the quarry doesn't officially open to the public until Memorial Day weekend). However, we were quite fortunate to find the quarry operator at the site, which is quite remote and accessed by driving seven miles on sometimes rough gravel road. The quarry operator at the quarry, and he was kind enough to guide us through an hour of collecting fossil fish. I was much relieved to get an hour of collecting, since our visit to the quarry (pictured here) was a major reason for our detour through southwestern Wyoming. The quarry operator was very cordial, knowledgeable and helpful.



It turned out that collecting fossil fish was really fun and surprisingly easy. Flat layers of limestone from the quarry are turned on edge and supported on the ground. Then you position thin chisels near the center of an edge and tap gently until a thin crack appears. By moving the chisel a few inches away, in line with the crack, the crack can be extended around the flat piece of limestone until the rock splits through the middle, parallel to the natural layering in the stone. Most of the time, there are no fossils exposed on the rock surfaces that are exposed by splitting the stone. However, after a few splits, you will get lucky and find the fossil of an ancient fish that perished some 50 million years ago! Luck plays an important role. Most of the fossil fish I found occurred at the edge of a piece of stone, so most of the time I didn't expose a complete fish. But every now and then the stars align and an entire fish smiles up at you!



In an hour of splitting rock, I ended up with about ten limestone slabs containing one or more nice fish fossils. Each slab weighed up to about 12 pounds. I wrapped the slabs in newspaper and stacked them on edge in the back of our vehicle. It's a good thing that I didn't have more than an hour for fossil fishing. I wouldn't have had room for all the rock slabs in the back of our rental car. It seems that I caught my limit of fish in only an hour!



After this collecting adventure, my wife and I left the quarry and drove a few miles west of Kemmerer to visit Fossil Butte National Monument. It is a MUST SEE for anyone traveling to southwest Wyoming. The Visitor Center has great exhibits of the huge variety of fossils found in the Green River Formation. Besides more than 20 varieties of fish, the former lake sediments have produced fossils of crocodiles, birds, snakes, turtles, insects, crawfish, bats, and plants. You can also visit the famous Fossil Butte quarry, where many amazing fossil specimens have been found over the last 150 years.

Once you get your fish-laden rock slabs home, more careful work awaits you to better display your treasures. Some of the fossils are only partly exposed and are "buried" beneath a thin skin of brittle limestone. A vibratory needle or dental pick is needed to remove the rock and better expose the fish. In addition, the rock surrounding the fossils needs to be trimmed away to center the fossil in a smaller piece of stone. The trimming can be done with a skill saw equipped with a masonry-cutting blade. This is a dusty process, so wear a dust mask!





If you ever get the chance to go fossil fishing near Kemmerer, I strongly encourage the effort. It was a blast! And I don't have to worry about getting fish slime on my hands when I clean these fish!



Jim Miller

Our Maplewood Club

Committees

Our club could not provide benefits to our members without the generosity of volunteers giving their time and talents to plan, organize, lead, communicate, and more.

Most of our committees are humming along under the leadership of members who have stepped up to help. But there are several committees without chairs and others have chairs who are want to form teams to accomplish their jobs. Look for the bold committee names below. Will you step into one of these openings?

Committee	Chairs or Leaders	About this role
Classes	Open	Find people to lead classes. Submit announcements about classes to the newsletter and Website Editor. Announce upcoming classes at meetings. Organize class enrollment.
Community Displays	Joy Wiley	Puts temporary displays in libraries and elsewhere in our community.
Facilities	Open	Maintains the building.
Field Trips	Marion Richards Open: helpers needed	Marion finds people to lead field trips. Help coordinate signups and getting waivers signed.
Historian	Open	Maintains a store of historical copies of photos, donation records, and other data the club might want to retain.
Juniors	Amaryah Daniels open: two assistants and people to speak to the kids each month	The assistants would help Amaryah organize the lessons and get monthly speakers.

Committee	Chairs or Leaders	About this role
Kitchen	Carla James	Organizes snacks for meetings.
Lapidary Shop	Rich Osborne, Bruce Samuels, Ashley Martin, Nathan O'Brien	They serve as shop stewards, maintain the tools in the shop, and organize work parties to clean the shop.
Library	Nancy Ross	Tracks borrowing, buys books, and organizes the library.
Membership	Linda Willemarck	Welcomes new members, orders name badges, manages member applications and renewals.
Newsletter	Nancy Samuels	Writes and emails the newsletter to all members in the week before our general meetings.
Publicity	Marion Richards	Advertises for shows on Facebook and fliers.
Parliamentarian	Open	Ensures we follow Roberts Rules of Order during meetings.
Rentals	Craig Kosovich	Serves as the contact person for renters. Accepts rental contracts, checks to see that renters left the building clean.
Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Shows Liaison	Nancy Samuels	Our club, the North Seattle Rock Club, and the West Seattle Rock Club are members of this organization. Together we own the shed where we store shared display cases for shows.
Shows	Heather Martin Open: assistants	The new team members would help recruit volunteers before shows and oversee operations during shows.

Committee	Chairs or Leaders	About this role
Sparkle	Open	This will be a team of 6 or so. They will clean the interior of the building weekly, purchase consumables like paper towels and cleaning products, and keep the lawn and gardens kept up.
Sunshine	Nancy Ross	Sends cards to members who are ill or who would be cheered by a card.
Washington State Mineral Council	Nathan O'Brien	Our club, and nearly all rock clubs in Washington are members of this organization. Nathan represents our club at their monthly meetings.
Ways and Means	Linda Willemarck Open: team members	We need a couple people to work with Linda as a team to organize and oversee sales and to keep our specimen inventory organized.
Website Admin	Carla James	Pays the hosting and domain registration fees.
Web Editor	Open-ish	Mel Milnes has been maintaining the web content for many years and is ready to pass it on.



Eye Candy

This carved jade dragon is from Bruce Samuels' collection.



Open Studio

Do you ever have a hard time finding time for your lapidary projects? Join the club! That is, schedule some time for your project by coming to Open Studio. Lynz Taylor is offering this studio time where you can bring your lapidary projects and work on them while chatting with other members. The CabKing machines will be available for use, but not the saws.

Pack up your wire wrapping tools or throw some unfinished cabochons in a baggie and come to Open Studio. The cost is \$15 for 6 hours per month. Please bring the \$15 on your first visit each month. Here are the dates for March:

- March 13 and 27 from 3 to 6 pm

Just Once

Members often ask how they can help. People feel good knowing they are contributing to our community, and as an added benefit volunteering is the best way to get to know others. Here are some ways you can help without an ongoing commitment.

- Rock of the Month presenters – Give a presentation about some aspect of rocks, minerals, or gems during a monthly meeting.
- Speakers for the Juniors program – Tell the kids about lapidary arts, rockhounding, rocks, or minerals.
- Offer a class in lapidary arts.
- Write a short article for the newsletter – You might write about a mineral that fascinates you or tell us about a recent rockhounding trip. You could take photos at one of our shows or events and contribute those.
- Volunteer to help at a show, like acting as the host for the vendors, which might include bringing them coffee or giving them short bathroom breaks away from their booths.

Grit and oil for sale

The Shop Stewards have grit. On Thursdays when the shop is open you can buy grit. 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

They also sell saw oil at \$16 for a gallon.

Rock Candy



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

Rich Osborne
Bruce Samuels
Ashley Martin
Nathan O'Brien

Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com



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: Chris Huffines

Secretary: Nancy Samuels

Treasurer: Bruce Samuels

Members at large: Linda Willemarck, Paul Newby, Marion Richards, and Randy Peterson

Image licenses

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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

Rock lovers everywhere



Trips and Shows

Here are many shows and field trips in our area. If you know of a show or field trip not listed here, please contact Nancy Samuels at mrgc@nancysamuels.com.

We have copied field trip information from the [Mineral Council website](#). However, you should check their website for updates. Please contact the person at the club hosting the field trip to let them know you are coming and to learn of any changes to the information given here. Many trips require a Discover Pass, Trailhead Pass & Forest Pass. Ask the host about required parking passes.

Contact information for the clubs:

Club	Contact person	Email	Phone
Cascade Mineralogical Society	Roger Danneman	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com	
Marysville	Ed Lehman	wsmced@hotmail.com	H (425) 334-6282 C (425) 760-2786
Marysville	Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com	(509) 670-0630
Darrington	Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com	(509) 670-0630
Opal	Tony Johnson	ynotopals@outlook.com	(253) 863-9238
Puyallup Valley	Dennis Bachelor		(360) 870-8741
All Rockhounds Pow Wow (small fee)	Larry Vess	vessel3755@gmail.com	(253)473-3908

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
March 16 9 am	Marysville Rock Club Cherry Creek site Duvall and Cherry Valley Road	Field trip for Jasper Bring: Rock hammer and small pick
March 23	Cascade Mineralogical Society Mt. Baker	Field trip for Agate, gneiss, jasper
April 6 – 7 10 am – 5 pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club 8802 196th St. SW, Edmonds	Show
April 6 – 7 10 am – 5 pm	<u>East King County Rock Club</u> Pickering Barn 1730 10 th Ave. NW Issaquah, WA 98027	Show Vendors are signing up now: shows@maplewoodrockclub.com
April 20 8 am	All Rockhounds Pow Wow Saddle Mountain site Matawa Boat Launch	Field trip for petrified wood Bring: Shovel, rock hammer, small pick
April 20	Cascade Mineralogical Society Biggs Junction, OR	Field Trip for Jasper and agate
April 21	Cascade Mineralogical Society Saddle Mountain	Field trip for Petrified wood
April 28	Cascade Mineralogical Society Saddle Mountain	Field trip for Petrified wood
May 11	Cascade Mineralogical Society First Creek	Field trip for Agate, crystals, and geodes

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
May 18 9 am	Darrington Rock Club Bailey Trail site Verlot Ranger Station	Field trip for chert Bring: rock hammer, large hammer, and pry bar
May 19	Cascade Mineralogical Society First Creek	Field trip for Agate, crystals, and geodes
June 8	Cascade Mineralogical Society Little Naches	Field trip for Thunder eggs, lily pad jasper, and leaf fossils
June 15 9 am	Marysville Rock Club Saddle Mountain Matawa Grovery	Field trip for petrified wood Bring: shovel, rock hammer, small pick
June 15	Cascade Mineralogical Society Red Top	Field trip for Agate, jasper, and geode fragments
June 29-30	Cascade Mineralogical Society Kent Commons	Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show
July 20 11 am	Darrington Rock Club Sweetwater	Field trip for travertine Bring: rock hammer, 3-pound hammer, chisel, small pry bar
Aug. 10 – 11 10 am – 5 pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Show
Aug. 17 – 18 9 am	Puyallup Valley Green Water FR 70 at the washout	Field trip for jasper, opal Bring: shovel, small pick, rock hammer, 3-pound hammer
Aug. 24 9 am	Marysville Rock Club Lake Wenatchee State Park	Field trip for garnets Bring: small shovel, ¼" mesh screen box, tweezers

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Sept. 7 – 8 8 am	All Rockhounds Pow Wow Red Top Teaway Campground	Field trip for agate, jasper, geodes Bring: shovel, small pick, rock hammer, 3-pound hammer, and chisel
Sept. 21 10 am	Opal Little Naches Hwy 410 & FR 91	Field trip for thundereggs, fossils, lily pad Bring: shovel, small pick, rock hammer, 3-pound hammer, and chisel
Oct. 19 9 am	Darrington Rock Club Index Hwy 2 and Index Rd	Field trip for picture jasper Bring: rock hammer, wading boots
Nov. 16 9 am	Marysville Rock Club Blanchard Hill 15 and Alger Rd Gas and Go	Field trip for dalmation stone Bring: heavy hard rock tools, safety glasses
November	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Community Demonstration Show
December	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Holiday Gift Show

Discover Pass Free Days

Normally, you need a Discover pass to park at Washington state parks, Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife land, and Natural Resources (DNR) land. But, on the following days, you don't need a pass.

Jan. 1 – First Day Hikes; New Years Day	June 9 – Free Fishing Day
Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	June 19 – Juneteenth
March 9 – Billy Frank Junior's Birthday	Sept. 28 – National Public Lands Day
March 19 – State Parks' 111 th Birthday	Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day
April 22 – Earth Day	Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
June 8 – National Get Outdoors Day	Nov. 29 – Autumn Day

Rock Candy



Purple Jade. From Bursa Province (probably near Akpınar in southern Bursa Province), northwestern Turkey; 10.2 cm at its widest. Late cretaceous metamorphism. Photo by [James St. John](#). License: [CC BY 2.0](#)

Washington State Mineral Council

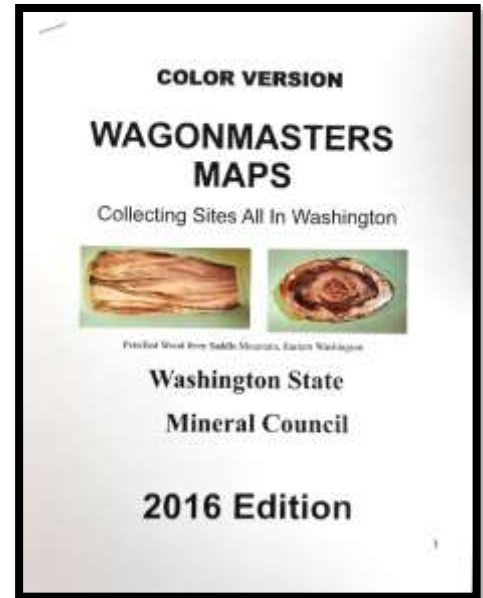
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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](#).

Maps for Rockhounds

The Washington State Mineral Council has put together a 62-page booklet with maps for finding rock hounding sites. You can buy a copy for only \$20 at the meeting.



Seattle Regional Gem and Mineral Shows Committee

Our club is a member of a Seattle area organization of rock clubs. Together we share wooden display cases that we use at our shows. These cases are stored in the new shed behind our building. The other member clubs are the North Seattle Lapidary Gem and Mineral Club and the West Seattle Rock Club.

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Our club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies: <http://Northwestfederation.org>.

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 3, Publication year: 73