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## October meeting

### Monday, October 21 at 7 pm

Scott Smith from the West Seattle Rock Club will speak to us about how to design a display of your rock collection for our November show.

If you like, choose a rock or two that you would feature if you created a display from your collection for the November show. Bring the rocks and tell us about them during Show and Tell.

If your last name begins with N - Z, please bring a snack to share.

## Juniors start at 5:30 pm

The Juniors have been having so much fun learning about rocks, that they decided they need more time each month. Now they start at 5:30 pm before the member meetings.

## Banner image

The banner photo is a display case that one rockhouser designed to highlight their collection.

## 2025 Board

### Looking for a Secretary

We have not yet found someone to serve as Secretary. This is an important executive position on the Board, but the responsibilities are ones that many would find familiar. The responsibilities include

- Taking minutes at Board and member meetings
- Updating the Bylaws document as directed by the Board and ushering changes through the approval process. This includes writing a short newsletter article telling members about the changes prior to the membership voting on those changes.
- Updating the Standing Rules document as directed by the Board.
- Asking someone else to take minutes when you will miss a meeting.



If you are comfortable taking meeting notes and maintaining official documents, please speak with Angela Vitense, Our Vice President at the October meeting. She can answer any questions you have about the position. Look at the list for the 2025 Board below; being part of that team would be a great experience!

### Board Candidates

We are excited about our new Board candidates for 2025. If the new candidates (shown in bold) are elected, our Board next year will consist of these people:

President: Chris Huffines

Vice President: Angela Vitense

**Treasurer: Lisa Rammell**

**Secretary: no candidate yet**

Members at Large: Paul Newby

Marion Richards

Nathan O'Brien

**Crister Sausler**

## Other nominations

Members may make other nominations for these open Board positions at the November meeting. After all nominations have been made, club members will vote to nominate a Treasurer, Secretary, and Member at Large.

## Vote in November

Our November meetings are always important, because that is when we elect our new Board members. Please plan to come to the meeting on November 18 at 7 pm so you can help choose the people who will be directing our club in 2025.

## Demos and Displays Show

This is our opportunity to share our passion for rocks, gems, and lapidary arts. Our one-day show on **November 9** will feature display cases of our members' rock collections. What fires you up about rocks? Is it rockhounding? Making cabochons? Polishing and finishing rocks to highlight their beauty? Would you like to create a display to spread the joy of rocks and to teach others?

At the October meeting you can sign up for a display case to showcase part of your collection. We also need a lot of volunteers to help set up, clean up, publicize the show, and perform other important tasks. Please sign up to help out at our October meeting.

## Wire Wrapping Class

Char Jorgensen will teach a wire wrapping class on November 16<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to sign up at the October meeting or by emailing Mel at [classes@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto:classes@maplewoodrockclub.com) with your name and email address.

Char will provide the materials, except you need to bring a cabochon to wrap. You will find more details on our website:

<https://maplewoodrockclub.com/classes/>



*Cabochon made of petrified wood and wire wrapped. This is not from one of Char's classes. Her designs are more beautiful.*

## Juniors

Amaryah Daniels

[juniors@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto:juniors@maplewoodrockclub.com)

Our juniors topic in September was geodes and thundereggs. We learned how they are formed, their characteristics and how they differ.



### Making and breaking geodes

The juniors split up into two groups and rotated through stations. The first group started outside, cracking open geodes and thundereggs with a hammer and chisel.

Meanwhile, the other group made their own homemade geodes using egg shells and a saturated solution of either sugar water or salt water. Juniors chose their crystalline concoction and made predictions as to which would form the best crystals. We'll check back in October to see how they have grown!



## Fun facts about geodes and thundereggs:

- Geodes are hollow rocks that form from air pockets, tree roots, or animal burrows in volcanic or sedimentary rock. Over time, groundwater seeps into the pockets, depositing minerals that build up into crystals. The larger the crystals, the older the geode.
- The largest geode ever found is the Pulpí Geode in Spain. This massive geode is 26.2 by 5.9 ft with an average height of 5 feet 7 inches. Inside the geode are large extremely pure selenite crystals, the largest being 6 feet 7 inches long. You can read more about this geode on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp%C3%AD_Geode): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp%C3%AD\\_Geode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp%C3%AD_Geode)
- The name "thunderegg" comes from a Native American legend that says the rocks were thrown by angry "Thunder Spirits" or "Gods". The legend says that the spirits lived on Mount Jefferson and Mount Hood in Oregon's Cascade Range and they would throw the rocks at each other during thunderstorms.

## Juniors display case

Check out the new juniors display case! Leo and Dorian Bailey created a unique presentation of a Lego rock display.





## October meeting

In October the Juniors will have a big show and tell which will be a chance for the Juniors to share any special rocks that they have found, share a lapidary project , or share about a cool field trip that they've gone on. A few of them have put together some really awesome presentations and poster boards for events like the state fair.



## Gold Panning

One of our Juniors, Maddox, recently went gold panning at Raging River in Fall City. His school had a Student Choice day, and Maddox decided to learn about gold panning. He visited Black Jack's in Renton for supplies, and then went to the Raging River to search for gold nuggets and dust.





## Beach Wonders at Wild Rialto

By Jim Miller

Many of us live within or near urban areas. Most of the time it's hard to get a feeling of Nature in our home environment. A sure cure for urban pneumonia is a visit to Rialto Beach on the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula, not far from Forks. Rialto Beach is part of Olympic National Park and is managed by the National Park Service (NPS). This wild and scenic gem is located just north of the mouth of the Quillayute River and about an hour west of Port Angeles.

The pounding surf is within a short walk from a paved parking lot with toilet facilities. The majesty of the Pacific Ocean greets you once you cross over the beach berm and the jumble of drift logs adjacent to the parking lot. The first photo below looks south along the beach toward James Island and the nearby Native American community of La Push. The second photo below looks northward along Rialto Beach, where beach walking beckons.







Walking northward on Rialto's dark-colored beach sand opens your senses to the sound and fury of the collision between water and land. This is raw geology in action! Rialto Beach is experiencing relatively rapid headward erosion from winter storm events and sea level rise. Huge trees get undercut by wave erosion and topple onto the beach, where they get battered by storm waves and eventually become skeleton drift logs at the upper crest of the beach. Storm waves move thousands of tons of beach sand and gravel along the shoreline, thus turning over the beach deposits frequently.

I have visited Rialto Beach numerous times, and beach conditions were different with every visit. Years ago I walked the beach during a howling storm. The surprising force of the wind, the loud roar of the surf, and the sting of raindrops on my face convinced me that we humans are no match for Nature's power.

During one of my recent visits to Rialto, I spotted an interesting greenish rock perched on the dark-colored sand (see photo below). This metamorphic rock comes from the central core of the Olympic Mountains and was carried by alpine glaciers and rivers to the shore. These spotted rocks can be found on many of the beaches between La Push and Port Angeles. For lack of a better term, I call this stone "frogskin rock."



Pockets of gravel and cobbles appear on the beach with further northward walking. The gravel patches move around with every storm event. The gravel is typically very coarse at the upper crest of the beach. The photo on the next page shows a gravel-covered section of beach. Note that most of the gravel is dark-colored (like the sand). The gravel consists mainly of gray to dark gray oceanic sandstone (also known as greywacke) and volcanic basalt. But you will also note the presence of lighter-colored gravel on the beach.



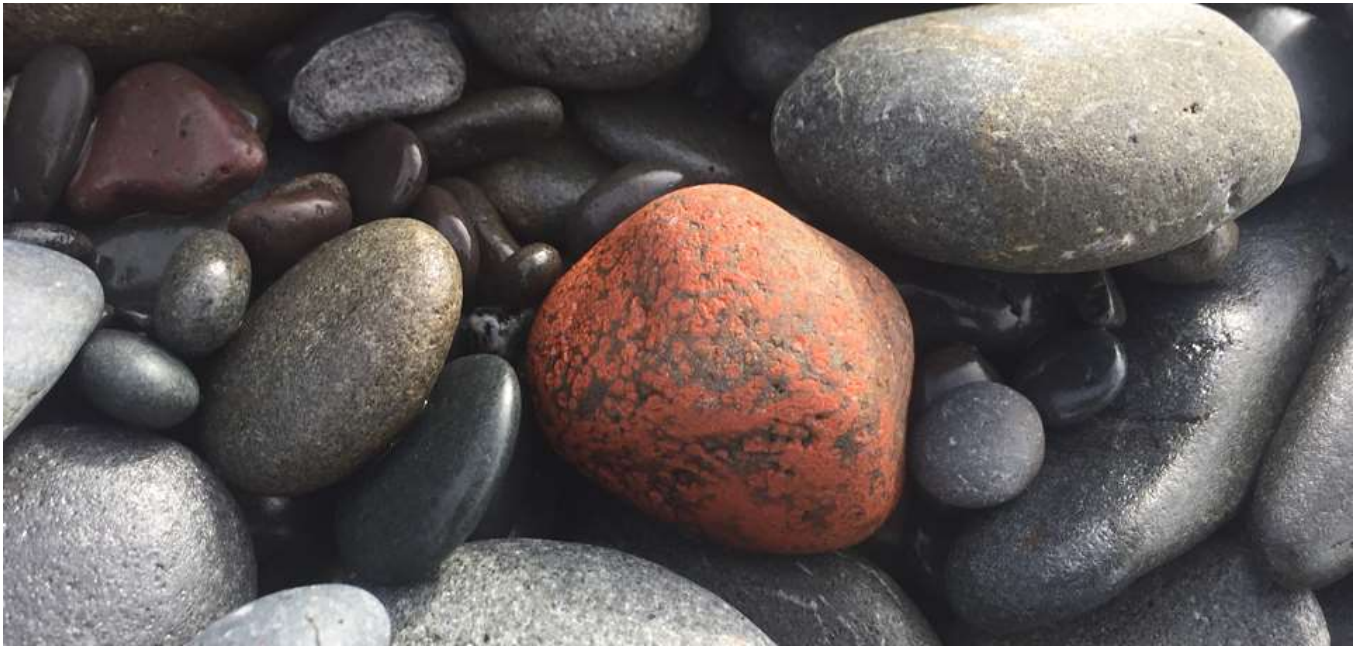


Besides the dark-colored gravel, Rialto Beach is host to a variety of interesting rocks. The lighter-colored rocks are definitely in the minority on the beach, but they show up pretty well because of the color contrast. Some of these rocks are wonderful for polishing in a tumbler. Because Rialto Beach is within a National Park, rock collecting is technically illegal. But I've heard it said that the NPS rangers don't get concerned if you pick up a handful of colorful treasures for your tumbler or rock collection.

Interesting tumbling rocks from Rialto Beach include quartzite, milky quartz, granite, greenstone, epidote, complex metamorphic rocks, and red jasper. Most of these rocks come from the Olympic Mountains, but some (like the granite and quartzite) call Vancouver Island home; they were carried southward across the Strait of Juan de Fuca by glacial ice and deposited in the northern portion of the Olympic Peninsula.



My primary target for rock collecting at Rialto is orbicular jasper. This stone is fascinating, with small orbs of blood-red jasper contained within a matrix of dark-colored hematite. Gravel-sized pieces of orbicular jasper are NOT common on the beach. But their color stands out very well when surrounded by dark-colored basalt and greywacke. The photo below shows an in-place piece of orbicular jasper surrounded by darker rocks. It was easy to spy this gravel-sized beauty, but typically the nice pieces are partly buried and only slightly visible.



The photo below shows tumble-polished pieces of gravel from some of my visits to Rialto Beach. Besides the orbicular jasper, some of the other interesting rock types are shown. Note the variation in the size and coloration of the spots on the orbicular jasper.



The two photos below show the detail in a couple of the pieces of polished orbicular jasper. Wow! This stone is amazing! Although large pieces of the orbicular jasper are rare, some are large enough for cutting cabochons.



A walk at Rialto is inspirational. You can feel and witness the energy of Nature with every visit. The famous "Hole in the Wall" rock outcrop is accessed with further northward walking at Rialto. The beach rocks are just a bonus!





## Jim Miller

Jim Miller is a geologist and member of our club. He has generously shared many of his articles about rocks and minerals with us over the years. If you have questions about obsidian or other rocks or minerals, ask Jim at a meeting. And, if you appreciate that he shares his knowledge with us, please let him know.

## Winter Bazaar

December 7 – 8 from 10 am to 5 pm

Pick up some flyers for your friends and neighbors to tell them about the Winter Bazaar – the perfect place to pick up holiday gifts. On December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> a host of vendors will be selling finished products that make excellent gifts for rock hounders and nearly everyone else.



The flyer features a green background with a white jagged-edged logo in the top left corner that reads "MAPLEWOOD ROCK & GEM CLUB". The main title "WINTER BAZAAR!" is written in large, white, hand-drawn letters. Below the title, the dates and times "December 7-8, 2024; 10am-5pm" and the location "8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, WA" are listed. A list of vendors is provided on the left side, including Addisea Gems, Heartwarming Crystals, Katy's Custom Gems, Triple A Rockhound, The Natural School, Martin Trust Stones, Grand Products, DandyLion Crystals & Jewelry, Mike's Rock & Lapidary, Pilchuck Minerals, Ixchel Crystals, Enis' Jewelry, and "& MORE!". On the right side, there are three images: a top photo of a jewelry display table with various items, a middle photo of two tree-shaped pendants, and a bottom photo of four different pendants on a red background.

MAPLEWOOD  
ROCK & GEM  
CLUB

JOIN US AT OUR  
**WINTER BAZAAR!**

December 7-8, 2024; 10am-5pm  
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds, WA

Addisea Gems  
Heartwarming Crystals  
Katy's Custom Gems  
Triple A Rockhound  
The Natural School  
Martin Trust Stones  
Grand Products  
DandyLion Crystals & Jewelry  
Mike's Rock & Lapidary  
Pilchuck Minerals  
Ixchel Crystals  
Enis' Jewelry  
& MORE!

## Cut and polish in the shop

As we head into fall it's time to dig out those unfinished cabs and chunks of rock you've been meaning to slab. Now is a good time to lock in your session in the shop. Make a reservation online. We have a new online signup form that makes it easy. If you have questions, contact the shop at [shop@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto:shop@maplewoodrockclub.com).

## 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.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Nov. 29 – Autumn Day



## Grit and oil

### Grit and oil for sale

The Shop Stewards have grit. When the shop is open you can buy grit or oil. Please email them a day ahead of when you will stop by to purchase grit: [shop@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto: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

Gallon of oil for \$20



## 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 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
<b>Classes</b>	Open	Find people to lead classes. Submit announcements about classes to the newsletter and Website Editor. Announce upcoming classes at meetings. Organize class enrollment.
<b>Cleaning</b>	Open	This could be a team of 6 or so. They will clean the interior of the building, purchase consumables like paper towels and cleaning products, and resupply the restrooms with paper towels and toilet paper.
Community Displays	Joy Wiley	Puts temporary displays in libraries and elsewhere in our community.
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	Open	Notifies things that need fixing or maintenance and either takes care of them or finds someone else to do them.
Field Trips	Marion Richards Open: <b>helpers needed</b>	Marion finds people to lead field trips. Help coordinate signups and getting waivers signed.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairs or Leaders</b>	<b>About this role</b>
Groundskeeper	Crister Sausler	Keeps the grounds looking nice by organizing an annual work party and by doing the regular upkeep.
<b>Historian</b>	Open	Maintains a store of historical copies of photos, donation records, and other data the club might want to retain.
Juniors	Amaryah Daniels	
Kitchen	Carla James	Organizes snacks for meetings.
Lapidary Shop	Rich Osborne, Bruce Samuels, Ashley Martin, Nathan O'Brien Marion Richards	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.
<b>Membership</b>	open	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.
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Open	Ensures we follow Roberts Rules of Order during meetings.
<b>Rentals</b>	Craig Kosovich, until someone else volunteers	Serves as the contact person for renters. Accepts rental contracts, checks to see that renters left the building clean.

Committee	Chairs or Leaders	About this role
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.
<b>Shows</b>	Two people	Plan and organize our Spring, Summer, and December shows.
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 Angela Vitense Mary Garvey	They process and organize donated items, as well as get estimated values, set prices, and record descriptions. The team manages the club's sale tables at each show.
Website	Lynz Taylor	Updates the website content and adds/removes features as needed. Pays the hosting and domain registration fees.



## 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 need to cancel your reservation. Each Thursday and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays we have two shop sessions available:

- Session 1: from 3:00 to 5:30 pm
- Session 2: from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

### How to cancel

If you sign up for shop time online and later realize you won't be able to make it, you need to cancel your reservation no later than two days before the session. So, if you are cancelling a Thursday time, you need to cancel by Tuesday at midnight. 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.

### What to bring

You need to bring \$10 (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  
Marion Richards

[Shop@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Nathan O'Brien.

## Image licenses

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

## 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](mailto: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
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 9	<a href="#">Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</a>	Community Demos and Displays Show
December 7 - 8	<a href="#">Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</a>	Holiday Gift Show

## Rock Candy

This photo of a gold nugget is by [frau-Vogel](#) and is published here under the Creative Commons License [BY-ND 2.0](#).





## Washington State Mineral Council

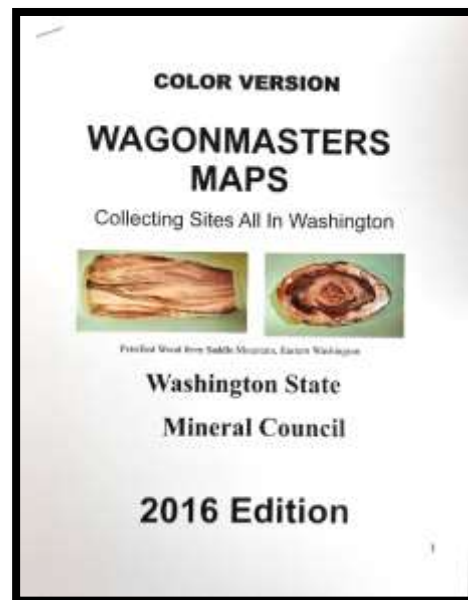
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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>. We email their newsletter to our members each month.

## 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](http://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](mailto:MRGC@nancysamuels.com).

### This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club News

Volume 10

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