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~~December meeting~~ Party

Monday, December 9 at 6 pm

Our holiday party is replacing our usual meeting this month. On page three you will find more details about this holiday tradition.

Also, this is the time to renew your membership for 2025. Please bring a completed Membership Application and the fee: \$30 for an individual or \$60 for a family.

Banner image

The banner image is polished moonstone by [James St. John](#). Moonstone is iridescent whitish-gray feldspar. St. John describes this specimen: "The bluish-white shimmering effect is the result of light being split along the boundaries between closely intergrown feldspars having varying sodium content." The photo is published here under the license [CC BY 2.0](#).

Winter Bazaar

December 7 – 8 from 10 am to 5 pm

Tell your friends and neighbors to about our Winter Bazaar – the perfect place to pick up holiday gifts. On December 7th and 8th a host of vendors will be selling finished products that make excellent gifts for rockhounds and nearly everyone else.

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!

December Party

December 9 at 6 pm

Rather than having a December meeting, we will have a Holiday Party. Our members have enjoyed this tradition for many years, because this is their chance to get to know other rockhounds and lapidary artists. Please come and get to know the new people you haven't had a chance to meet yet and enjoy those others whom you already call *friend*.

December can be so busy! So, we will meet on the 2nd Monday instead of our usual 3rd Monday.

Potluck dinner

Please bring a dish to share at the potluck dinner. You may bring a salad, main dish, dessert, or any of your holiday favorites.



Gift exchange!

Please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or less. Of course, the gifts should be rock-related.

Kids and adults have fun as they watch the presents work their way around the room, and each of us hopes our favorite stops at us.



Renew your membership

December is the time to renew your membership in our club. Please bring a completed [Membership Application](#), which you can download from the website. If you don't have a printer, no worries! We will have a blank form for you. You can pay the membership fee (\$30 for an individual or \$60 for a family) with a check, cash, or credit card. If you want to get through the line faster and return to the party, plan to bring cash or a check.

Juniors

Amaryah Daniels

juniors@maplewoodrockclub.com

Our juniors dove into the world of "Earth Processes" in November, with a closer look at the rock cycle and specifically Igneous rocks. A big thank you to Bruce Samuels for leading the kids in a presentation about these beautiful volcanic specimens. The kids especially liked the huge floating (pumice) rock!





The juniors brought creative and thoughtful 3D models of volcanos and we had a lot of fun making them erupt, after taking a guess on what type of volcano each was. Shout out to Keldan Hosken (5) for the 'biggest explosion' with his clay model. Maddox Daniels (8) won 'most creative volcano' with his Lego replica. Lastly, Madeline (9) and Harper (7) Corning won 'biggest volcano' with their gigantic paper maché volcano that was perhaps half their height! In the end, we attempted our own "elephant toothpaste" eruption to show the kind of force a stratovolcano might exhibit.

We had at least 22 kids at our juniors meeting in November. We are excited to welcome our new families!



Check out the juniors display case this month for a beautiful collection by Debbie Wood (9).

This month, we celebrate our year with a holiday potluck! We'll be making agate ornaments and polished rock frames, playing games and having a fun gift exchange. We'll also reflect on all the juniors have accomplished this year, as well as look ahead to what we want to learn about next year.



Parents, *please have each junior bring a small rock related gift, \$10 or less, as well as an appetizer to share.* As always, the juniors will be meeting on the third Monday of the month at 5:30. Not to be confused with the general club holiday party, which is meeting on the second Monday this month.

In January we're hoping to continue our study of the rock cycle with a closer look at sedimentary rocks. We are looking for a club volunteer to speak to the juniors about this topic and share their specimens.



Snowflake obsidian, photo by Bruce Samuels

Owyhee Country Wonders

By Jim Miller

In late September 2024, my son Evan, his dog Huck, and I visited the remote Owyhee region of far eastern Oregon. Formed by volcanic activity about 16 million years ago and then eroded into fantastic shapes by water and weather, the Owyhee area is both dramatic and fascinating. The wide-open landscapes seem to go on forever, as captured in this image.



The three of us explored two crown jewels of this wild region: Succor Creek and Leslie Gulch. Both are located in Oregon very close to the Idaho state line. We camped two nights at a pleasant campground bordering Succor Creek. The campground is nestled in the trees within a rugged canyon of rocky spires and cliffs, as seen here.

The terrain of the Succor Creek area displays very complex volcanic rocks and sediments. By volume, most of the geologic deposits consist of light gray, fine-grained volcanic ash that is quite erodible. The thick ash deposits have been intruded locally by basaltic lava, and silica has cemented some portions of the ash. These harder rock units are more durable than the ash, and as a result stand up as abrupt cliffs or ridges within the ash deposits. A light-colored ash deposit below a ridge of harder volcanic rock is shown below.



Volcanic rocks of the type found in the Owyhee area are very complicated and messy. It is quite difficult to trace a single unit of hard rock across the landscape. This results in highly heterogeneous exposures of resistant rocks that have been weathered into fantastic shapes over long periods of time. The jagged rock wall adjacent to the Succor Creek campground is a spectacular example of differential erosion, as shown here.





The gravel road within the Succor Creek valley is generally graded and fairly trafficable. There are potholes to dodge in places, some filled with water. Besides the great scenery, the road has some challenges with many blind corners and some eye-popping scenes, as captured at the left.

In addition to awesome scenery, the Succor Creek area is well known by rockhounds for its collectible agate-filled thundereggs. Evan and I did not search for these round treasures, but a group of rockhounds in the campground had collected there for many years and knew the area well. They had an ATV and accessed the thunderegg bed somewhere in the hills high above the campground.

In a single day they filled a five-gallon bucket with thundereggs about the size of large golf balls. They also had a smaller bucket with larger "eggs." The rockhounds gave me a couple of the small thundereggs to play with (see below). They are a little small for cutting, so I think I will run them through my rock tumbler and see what happens.



A half-hour drive from Succor Creek brought us to another scenic gem in the Owyhee region – Leslie Gulch. The rugged and rocky volcanic scenery in Leslie Gulch is similar to that in Succor Creek. The road within Leslie Gulch extends to a dead end at Owyhee Reservoir (shown here).



Around every corner in Leslie Gulch is another dramatic view of volcanic rock complexity, as shown below and on the next page.





There are several hiking trails that intersect Leslie Gulch. The photo below shows Evan and Huck on the Juniper Gulch trail, which boasts bizarre and almost grotesque rock formations. While this trail is really amazing, be careful. There are isolated patches of poison ivy along the trail that can make you miserable if you don't watch out. And I suspect that rattlesnakes are at home in this area too.



Some of Mother Nature's crazy rock formations along the Juniper Gulch trail are shown below.



This remote region has numerous four-wheel-drive roads that seem to go on forever. Days of roaming and exploring off the main roads are possible here.



The wide-open spaces of the Owyhee region are blazing hot in the summer. By the time of our visit in late September, the landscape was parched and dry. It would be interesting to visit this region in April through May. The gravel roads may have more water-filled potholes, but the grassy hills would be green with patches of wildflowers.

The amazing views within the Succor Creek and Leslie Gulch recreation areas are definitely worth a visit. But if you don't like hot days, go in the Fall or Spring!

Jim Miller

Jim Miller is a long-time member of Maplewood Rock & Gem Club. He is a retired geologist and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geological engineering, as well as a Master of Science degree in environmental geology. Jim has loved rocks, fossils, crystals and the natural world since grade school. He enjoys rock tumbling and is an accomplished flintknapper. In 2006 Jim wrote and published a CD book on the types of stone used for knapping arrowheads and stone knives. He enjoys technical writing and has had several of his articles published in Rock & Gem magazine.

November Show Recap

By Michele McGraw



Maplewood Rock & Gem Club is a unique oddity in the landscape of the hilltop connecting Lynnwood and Edmonds. This weathered building, once a Community Club for the Maplewood tract, is a reminder of a time long ago when the rock club was just one activity of many that met here. It was considered the gem of the neighborhood back then: a place to connect, learn, and enjoy the company of others who lived nearby.

Mid-century, the onsite rock club was offered the opportunity to take over the building with social club status as a resource to the community. Maplewood rock & Gem Club was born!

The neighbors around us drive past the building and wonder who we are, and what we do here. As part of a requirement of our 501(c)7 status, every November we host a free demonstration show as a community outreach to showcase just that.

This year, we pulled it together and it was a really nice show: Good foot traffic flow all day, many questions answered, curiosity for the art of rockhounding sparked, and treasures for sale to take home at a fair price. At the right is a photo of the sales table with Chris Huffines and Angela Vitense.





The Juniors put this display case together. It highlights specimens from several of the kids.

Antha Huffines, who is in the Juniors program, created the display (at the right) about rock knapping.



Heather Martin demonstrating the art of wire wrapping.





Michele McGraw's display on slabbing



Mike Collins talking about rock tumbling

Thank

you to everyone who participated by doing a demonstration of craft: Marion Richards (pine needle basket weaving with stones), Heather Martin (wire wrapping), & Mike Collins (tumbling). It was super fun that the Juniors group, Rookie Rockhounds, was able to create a display case of their own: thank you Amaryah Daniels for spearheading this endeavor.

Thank you to Angela Vitense & Michele McGraw for hosting a Ways & Means section to sell items that benefit the entire club. Chris, Raven and Crister were on deck to lend a hand. A special thanks to Mike Collins for his expert help with specimen ID and pricing for this section.

Additional volunteers helped with the banner, signage and facility set up: all of these important details helped to make this event a success: thank you if you were one of these members who stepped up to lend a hand. You are so appreciated!



Nancy Ross' display on wire wrapping

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
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.
Cleaning	Raven Thompson-Happy One more person needed	They 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.
Building Maintenance	Open	Notices things that need fixing or maintenance and either takes care of them or finds someone else to do them.
Field Trips	Marion Richards Open: helpers needed	Marion finds people to lead field trips. Help coordinate signups and getting waivers signed.
Groundskeeper	Crister Sausler	Keeps the grounds looking nice by organizing an annual work party and by doing the regular upkeep.

Committee	Chairs or Leaders	About this role
Historian	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.
Membership	Bruce Samuels	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, 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.
Shows	Need 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	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.

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

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

1 lb of 60/90
1 lb of 120/220

$\frac{3}{4}$ lb of pre-polish
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of polish

Gallon of oil for \$20

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 1st and 3rd 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



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
Past President: Michele McGraw
Members at large: 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

There aren't any shows left this year, except ours on December 7 and 8.

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
December 7 - 8	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Holiday Gift Show

Chrysoberyl



These specimens are chrysoberyl, a variety of alexandrite. The photo on the right was taken under UVL light showing a strong fluorescence. Both photos were taken by [Géry Parent](#), and they are published here under the Creative Commons license [CC BY-ND 2.0](#).

Spunky's Crystals Shop

By Michele McGraw



One of the great things about rockhounding is the people you get to meet!

Club member, Mike Collins, had recently shared business cards about a new little shop he had found on the Oregon Coast, Spunky's Crystals. A week

later, while vacationing down south, I had the opportunity to pop in, introduce myself, and a friendship between three rock loving people was instantly formed.



Angela Dugas and Nicole Stillmaker, of Spunky's Crystals



Spunky's Crystals is the creation of Angela Dugas and Nicole Stillmaker who reside in Garibaldi, Oregon. Their fun little shop is located on the main street as you pass through town and features a lovely selection of specimens of rock, crystal formations, geodes and one-of-a-kind gift items that will delight novice to experienced rock collectors. A cozy retail space filled to the brim with rocks, including an entire selection of rocks that luminesce.

Rockhounds are like magnets to other rockhounds. Angela & Nicole clearly love what they do and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others. Next time you head for the beach, pop in and say hi!

Spunky's Crystals is easily found on Facebook, Instagram, and Yelp.

spunkyscrystals@gmail.com

401B Garibaldi Ave , Garibaldi, OR 97136

Washington State Mineral Council

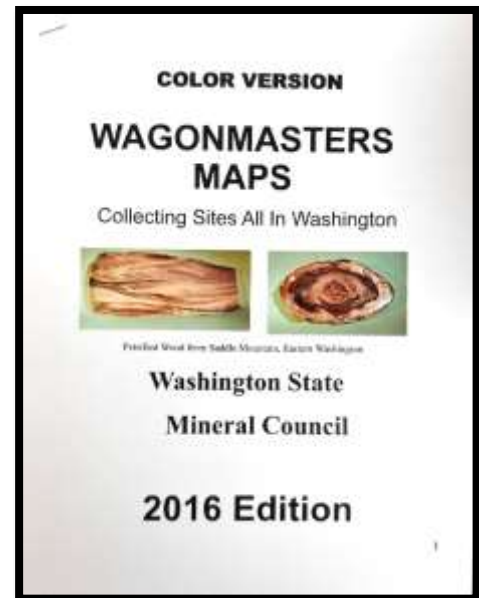
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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

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 12

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