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## Holiday Party!

**Monday, December 18 at 6 pm**

This month's meeting is a Holiday Party! Although we might miss hearing committee reports and a presentation on rocks, we will enjoy being together and having the luxury of an evening of socializing.

After we share a potluck dinner, we will have our traditional gift exchange. The gifts fly around the circle while one of our members reads *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. At the end of the poem, we each keep the gift in our hands.

Note that this meeting starts an hour earlier than usual. Read more about the party on the next page.

## Banner image

The banner photo is a beautiful blue tanzanite gem set in silver.

## December Holiday Party

**Monday, December 18 at 6 pm**

Our December member meeting will be a holiday party. We won't have a Rock of the Month presentation or conduct our usual business discussions and announcements. However, we will have a Silent Auction. Photos of some of the auction items that will be for sale are shown below.

The highlights of the party will feature a gift exchange and a potluck dinner. **Please bring** a dish to share and a wrapped rock related gift costing less than \$10; the gift could even be a rock from your collection. The gifts will be randomly given out while *Twas the Night Before Christmas* is read.



If you were born in December  
**Happy Birthday!**

In the depth of winter,  
I finally learned that there was in me  
an invincible summer.

~  
Albert Camus

May you discover your inner strength  
this December.

Your birthstones are  
blue zircon, blue topaz, and tanzanite



Blue zircon crystal by from  
Ratanakiri Cambodia; by [Martin  
Heigan](#); CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Zoisite variety of Tanzanite  
from Merelani Hills  
(Mererani), Lelatema Mts,  
Arusha Region, Tanzania; by  
[Géry Parent](#); CC BY-ND 2.0



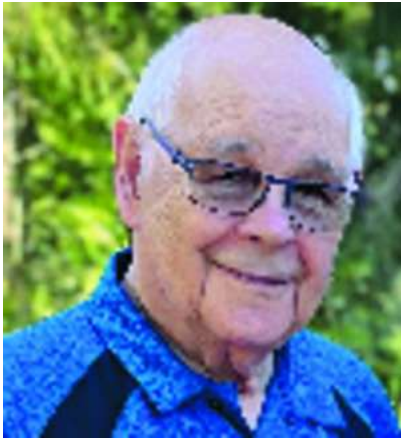
Blue topaz from Minas Gerais,  
Brazil; 9,381 carats; by [Hans  
Hillewaert](#); CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



## Remembering Dereld Borth

**1940 – 2023**

[Published on November 5, 2023 in the Seattle Times.](#)



It is with deep sadness that we share that Dereld Borth passed away on October 18, 2023. He is survived by his loving wife Beverly Masar Borth, daughters Kim (Borth) Freeman, Sharon Borth and Susan (Borth) Kreiman, brother Dennis Borth and brother-in-law, John Thomas and Beverly's daughter Michelle Leary. His grandchildren are Josh Freeman, Heather Freeman, Crystal Beasley, Levi Kreiman, Beau Kreiman, Kayla Medlock and Sydney Leary and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister MarLe Thomas in January 2023.

Dereld was born in Olympia, WA and grew up in the Northgate area. He attended Roosevelt High School. Dereld was a quiet, kind, gentle man with a quick wit.

Dereld owned and operated Borth Dump Trucking. He was active in the Washington Dump Truck Association.

In his retirement Dereld and Beverly traveled in their RV to many states, spending most of their time with friends and family in Arizona. They treasured their travels to Italy, Germany, Australia and Mexico, and enjoyed cruises to the Western Caribbean and Alaska.

He was a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, an original member of the Demasco Mutual Association, Elks and Teamsters member. Dereld was an active member of the Maplewood Rock Club for many years - he loved rockhounding with family and friends.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to your favorite charity.

## Juniors

The Juniors program is starting up again on January 15<sup>th</sup>! Each month the kids will meet at 6:15 before the member meeting for an activity and chance to learn about rocks. Amaryah Daniels is leading the program and will be finding others to share their knowledge with the kids.

Do you have a niche of experience and knowledge in rocks or rockhounding? Please consider sharing your love of rocks with our young members. Contact Amaryah to learn more about making a presentation to the Juniors at one of their meetings.

Michele McGraw will be telling the kids about Washington State's Gem, petrified wood, at their first meeting in January.



*Boy on a rocky beach  
by [sophie & cie](#); License [CC BY 2.0](#)*



## Holiday Gift Bazaar

Our Holiday Gift Bazaar was a tremendous success! We added about \$1,900 to our funds available for fixing building problems, like leaking roofs.

We especially appreciate Heather Martin for planning and signing up 17 vendors; Michele McGraw for taking charge the week of the bazaar and for being the coordinator for

vendors and visitors over the weekend; and Linda Willemarck and Marion Richards for managing and running the Sales table.

Many other volunteers made this event possible by helping in other ways, like printing flyers, bringing food for the vendors, putting out signs, setting up,

cleaning up, and bringing friends to shop. The numerous volunteers who swiftly and joyfully stepped in to help include Bob Plant, Douglas Wittinger, Randy Peterson, Diane Marie, Craig Kosovich, Brendan King, Ashley Martin, and Raven Thompson-Happy.

Thank you to everyone!

After the show the vendors were asked to complete a survey about how it went for them. We were delighted that the vendors gave positive reviews and feedback .We hope they come back for our next show this spring.



Here are some photos of vendors at the Holiday Gift Bazaar.

*Mike Collins*











## Kudos

### Michele McGraw

Michele stepped into our President position and led us forward when we needed some leadership help. She has been a wizard identifying areas that were disorganized or overlooked, and she found people and drafted processes to solve the problems.

Michele will be stepping down as President in January, but she leaves the Board with our club much stronger and on a better path than when she began. We are deeply grateful to Michele for her excellent steering at the helm. And, as a bonus, Michele was a joy to work with.



### Randy Peterson

Randy volunteered to be our Facilities and Maintenance Chair in November. This is a crucial position because we need to keep our building in good shape. At the time we didn't know that we would need him for a critical problem so soon.

This month someone noticed a leak where water was seeping in from the ceiling. In the photo at the left you can see drip lines on the green paint.

Randy began troubleshooting the problem without delay. He discovered the cause and fixed it quickly. Pine needles, cones, and leaves combined with torrential rain are a recipe for unhappy surprises. Randy is very much appreciated for his prompt response on a busy holiday weekend. We offer a special thank you to Facilities Chair, Randy Peterson



## Rich Osborne and Randy Peterson

Volunteering for various work parties is vital to the success of the club. Messy but necessary. Thank you to Randy Peterson and Rich Osborne for their attention to cleaning the lapidary shop floor and work areas prior to the November Community Outreach Demo and Display show.

As you can see in the photo, the floors had a lot of oil and rock dirt under the mats before they were scrubbed cleaned. Rich and Randy are very much appreciated.



## Rock Candy



If eye candy is something beautiful to behold, this is rock candy for you to enjoy.

This image was taken at the December Holiday Gift Bazaar. These are some of the gorgeous opals offered for sale by Aregawi, the opal vendor.

## Dues are Due!

On January 1 the annual club dues are due. Please pay by the January meeting, so we can get our membership list updated. After well over a decade at this dues amount, the Board has decided that we need to increase the dues. Those who renew or join in March or later will pay a new higher rate.



## Parker Wells' Gift



Parker Wells, a distinguished long-time rockhound from Arlington, WA, generously donated 40 heavy-duty stacking crates. These are metal banded for strength and reinforcement. We will use them to organize and efficiently store specimens in our storage container. This generous gift will save our club lots of money! Cardboard moving boxes just don't hold up to the weight and shifting of rock specimens.

## Floyd Duncan's Gift

Floyd Duncan thoughtfully donated this rock tumbler to the Juniors for their use. The kids will likely take a shine to this tool and have fun turning dull rocks into polished treasures. Thank you, Floyd!



## Phyllis Jewell's Gift



Phyllis Jewell was a beloved member of our rock club community until she passed away in 2011. For those who didn't know her, "she was always so pleasant and her laugh was contagious", according to her friend, Sally Messex. She was a warm person and who was filled with gratitude toward others. She considered her friends at Maplewood Rock Club to be like family. We are sad to no longer have her smile and laughter among us.

Phyllis' rock slabs and specimens have been in storage since she passed, and her family has generously donated them to our club. This gift is a legacy of her love of rocks and gemstones.

We will benefit from this outstanding gift through the Juniors' program, new displays of specimens for our clubhouse, educational examples, and some sales. The income from sales will help us pay the bills and will enhance the lapidary shop and other benefits we provide our members.

Phyllis' gift was so vast, we had a team of volunteers sorting through it for hours to identify how each piece could best benefit our club. Thanks to Michele and Linda for heading up this work. Others who lent a hand were





- Unboxing and receiving the donation: Paul Newby, Nancy Ross (some books for the library were in the donation), Marion, and Randy.
- Sorting, cleaning, and repacking in clean paper and stronger boxes: Michele, Linda, and Marion
- Identification and pricing: Christina from another club and Mike Collins.



We are grateful to Phyllis' heirs for reaching out to us and giving us this tremendous collection. These thoughtful people are Phyllis's sons, daughter, and granddaughter: Gerry Jewell, Larry Jewell (and his wife, Sue), Robin (Jewell) Williams, and granddaughter Andrea (Jewell) Robinson (and her husband Jonathan).



## Club Dues

The club's organizing documents (bylaws, standing orders, etc.) are very clear that all club dues should be paid by January 1 of that year. In addition, payments received, after a deadline, have a \$10 late fee added to them.

In past years (for a variety of reasons) some members have paid ahead by many months. And it's also become a tradition for new members to pay for a single year if they joined late in the previous year (i.e. someone who joined in August 2023 wouldn't need to pay dues until January 1, 2025). It's clear, in conversation, that this has become confusing for everyone.

The board has discussed this and is committed to getting annual dues back into compliance and alignment with the current rules. We deeply appreciate your cooperation in helping us achieve this goal.

All dues for 2024 will be due January 1, 2024.

For right now, as a transition, if you are a new member who joined in the last few months of 2023, we'll stand by our past tradition for this year, and you will be marked as paid for 2024 (but, if you want to support the club by paying 2024 dues anyway, please do so).

Moving forward, new members will pay dues for either a full year (if they join January-June), or a half year (if they join July-October).

If members join during November-December, their next year dues cover the current year (i.e. someone who joined at our December meeting would pay 2024 dues only, but would be a member as of December 18, 2023).

If there will be a hardship because of this change, or if you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Michele or Chris.





## Rags needed!

When the oil-cooled saws are cleaned, the volunteers use rags and then throw them away. They need a continual supply of old towels they can use and dispose of. Any size towel is appreciated.

Please donate any old towels you can spare. Just bring them to a member meeting and give them to one of our shop Stewards: Rich Osborne, Bruce Samuels, Ashley Martin, and Nathan O'Brien.

## Tulip City Rock Swap

In April Bruce Samuels coordinated our efforts for a rock swap with the [Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club](#) in Michigan. Bruce collected specimens from our members and then sent a full box to Tulip City. Soon after we received a box of rocks from their area. Michele McGraw and Marion Richards placed those rocks with labels in a display case at our clubhouse.

Next time you are in the building look for the display of unique rocks and minerals from Michigan.





## Lighting up the Darkness

Our shed has light! Randy Peterson has lit up the darkness inside and outside the new shed.





## Our Maplewood Club

### Rock of the Month

At the monthly meetings we usually enjoy a 20–30-minute presentation about rocks, minerals, or lapidary. We call this the Rock of the Month presentation. Members and people from the community can give this presentation; it's nice to have a mix of topics and knowledge bases.

What is your arena of expertise or skill? Our president, Michele McGraw, has been talking with various members about sharing their knowledge with our members by giving a Rock of the Month presentation. If she asks you, please consider giving a short talk at a meeting. If she hasn't asked you yet, please talk with Michele or a Board member to explore how you can enrich the club experience for our members.

Do you know of an outside expert who might speak at a meeting? Please tell a Board member about them.

### 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.

### Silent Auction

Paul Newby chooses about 10 rock or mineral specimens for the silent auction at the meeting each month.



### Spread some sunshine

Nancy Ross is our Sunshine committee. If you are aware of a member who might be cheered by a get-well card, please contact her, and she will write and send a card.

## 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](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

## Help us out

Occasionally, someone asks for volunteers to help get some job done for the club, and probably you sign up and help out. Volunteering for a one-time work party or a project that might take several weeks or more is important because that's the only way this club gets things done. We have no paid staff. We all chip in to help out.

We have a few important jobs that need volunteers right now. If you would like to learn more about these jobs, ask a Board member. Please consider taking on one of these or get a friend to share the work. Currently, we need

- Vice President
- Ways and Means Chair – Sell rocks at our shows
- Rock of the Month presenters – Only sign up for one month
- Speakers for the Juniors program – Just take one month
- Building Housekeeping Team (Custodians) to check the building before rentals and meetings
- Lawn and Grounds Keeper



## 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](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: Michele McGraw

Secretary: Carla James

Treasurer: Bruce Samuels

Members at large: Nancy Ross, Rich Osborne, Linda Willemarck, and Nancy Samuels.



## 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

### Washington State Mineral Council

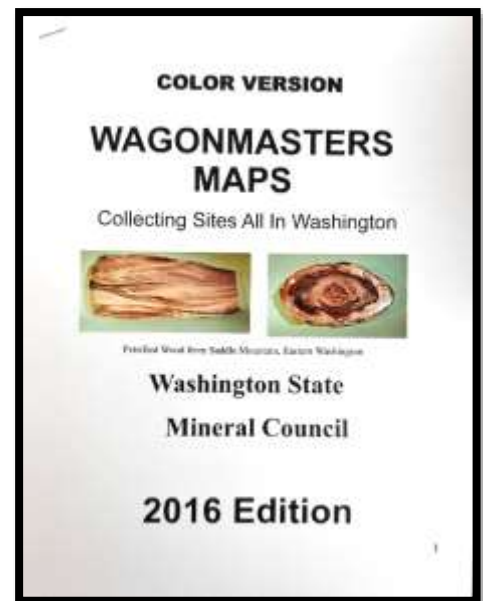
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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](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 12, Publication year: 72