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July meeting

Monday, July 21 at 7 pm

Our July meeting will include all the favorites: announcements to keep you up to date on what's happening; Show and Tell to talk about one or two pieces in your collection; a silent auction where you can acquire some new rocks; and delicious snacks. If your last name begins with A - M, please bring snacks to share.

Have you been rockhounding this summer? Perhaps you would like to share something you collected this summer or last summer during Show and Tell.

Our summer show is on August 16th and 17th! How can you help the club with this important fundraiser? We need everyone to be generous with their time in large or small ways. Talk to Crister about how you'd like to help us with this event.

The first way you can help is to tell your family and friends about our show. Mention that it's a fun way to spend a couple hours looking at interesting specimens and talking to people who get excited when talking about crystals, minerals, or rocks.

Meet Crister Sausler, Vice President



My fascination with the mineral world began in childhood after my dad returned from an Arizona trip with a desert rose, a piece of vibrant rainbow hematite, and a striking piece of leopard skin jasper.

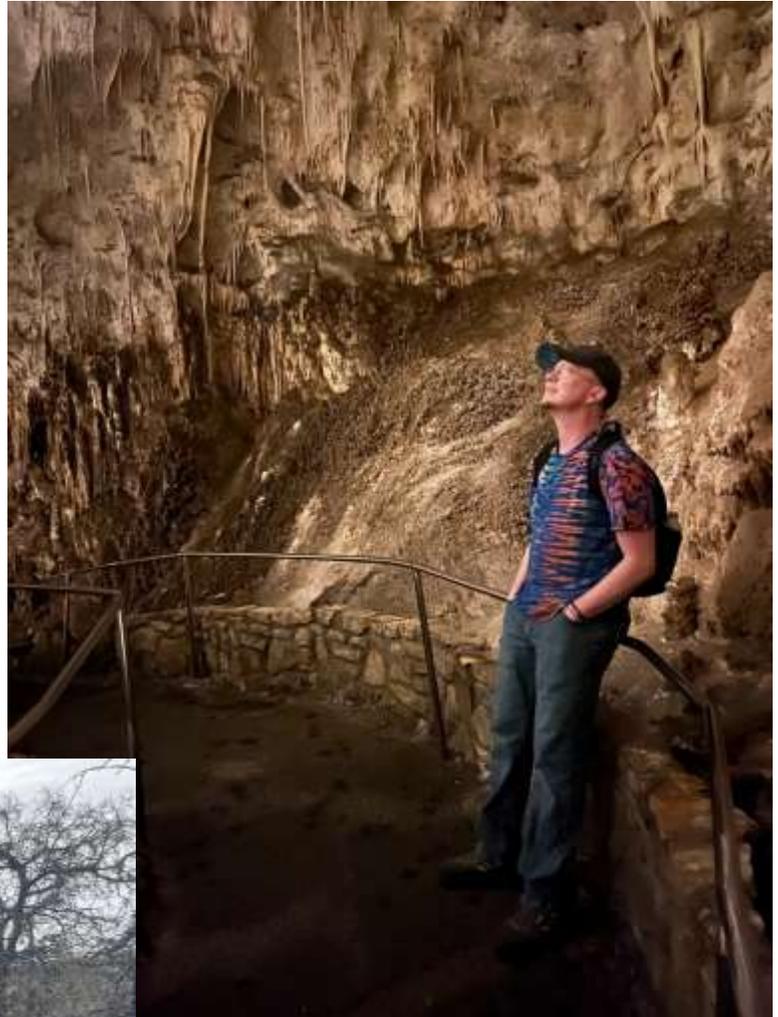
That early exposure sparked a lifelong passion for collecting.



These days, you'll most likely find me hunting for the captivating patterns of jasper and agate, especially in the peaceful settings of local creeks. I'm rarely seen returning from a hike without a considerably heavier backpack!

When I'm not out rockhounding, my time is happily spent cooking up new dishes, tending to the garden, engaging in a lively board game, or enjoying a good movie. I share my Edmonds home with my wonderful wife, Caroline, and our energetic Husky/Border Collie mix, Shelby.

Criostoir (Crister/Chris) Sausler



Summer Show

August 16th and 17th



Our summer show is coming up! This is a large show with vendors selling everything from raw rocks and minerals to finished products. Shoppers will find plenty of rocks to take home where they can apply their lapidary skills turning the rocks into cut and polished finished pieces. There will also be beautiful raw specimens to place on display.

At the summer show the vendor tables are both inside and in our yard, making a large destination for rock hunters. Our club will have one or two tables for selling rocks and minerals from our collection.

Helping out

This is one of the largest shows of the year, and an important fundraiser for our club. We need our membership to pitch in and help with all aspects of putting on this show. Some jobs are small, just a couple of hours.

Please be generous with your time and talents to help our club with this event.

November Showcase

On November 1st and 2nd we will have our annual Member Showcase for our Edmonds community and for anyone who wants to learn more about us and rockhounding. Any member (Junior or adult) who wants to show part of their collection is invited to sign up for a display case.

Sometimes we ask visitors to vote for their favorite display and their favorite Junior display. The winners would be given a prize, most likely a coveted rock or mineral specimen. The planning team will decide whether we will have a *Best Display* competition this year.



Designing a display case

Please consider putting together a display case to show others what you love about lapidary arts, geology, rocks, and minerals. Every case ends up showing visitors a different aspect of working with and just marveling at rocks. Together, the myriad cases show the breadth of passion found in our club.

In designing your display case, here are some things to consider:

- Fabric or paper to cover the floor and walls of the case
- Add a shelf
- Labels so people understand what they are seeing
- Choose a theme, for example
 - steps in a lapidary process
 - examples of a type of rock or mineral
 - explain and illustrate a mineralogical concept
 - examples of one lapidary art, like cabochons

Volunteering

We will be asking for volunteers to help. As usual, we will need people during the show as well as setting up and cleaning up. Our whole club community comes together to make these shows happen, and it gives you a chance to get to know other club members better as you work side by side.

Jade Festival



By Austin Moya, Hounds of the Rock Table

Hounds of the Rock Table, is proud to be collaborating with Maplewood Rock and Gem Club and Marysville Rock and Gem Club, to present the first ever Darrington Jade Festival!

This three-day festivity is open to the public, with free admission. Taking place at The Darrington Community Center, August 1st-3rd, this event brings together Jade miners, experts, collectors, artists, and other enthusiasts, for Washington's premier celebration of Jade Culture. Discover the wonders of Washington's own Nephrite and Jadeite, other PNW Jade materials, and Jade from around the world!

Darrington Jade Festival features:

- A cultural exhibition of Jade art, history, carvings, artifacts, and examples of low environmental mining practices used by local miners
- 25+ Vendors offering handmade Jade jewelry, carvings, specimens, slabs, rough materials, and much more!
- Local Jade experts sharing their knowledge of this marvel of nature
- Electroforming, lapidary and carving demonstrations
- Local food and live music
- Jade Hunting maps of the Darrington area





For more info, and to see our roster of vendors, visit www.darringtonjade festival.com, join our [Facebook](#) group, or follow [@darringtonjedefestival](#) on Instagram.

To contact us about vending or volunteering email us at <mailto:darringtonjedefestival@gmail.com>
All volunteers receive a complimentary T-shirt!



Molybdenite: An Uncommon Mineral Right by the Road

By Jim Miller

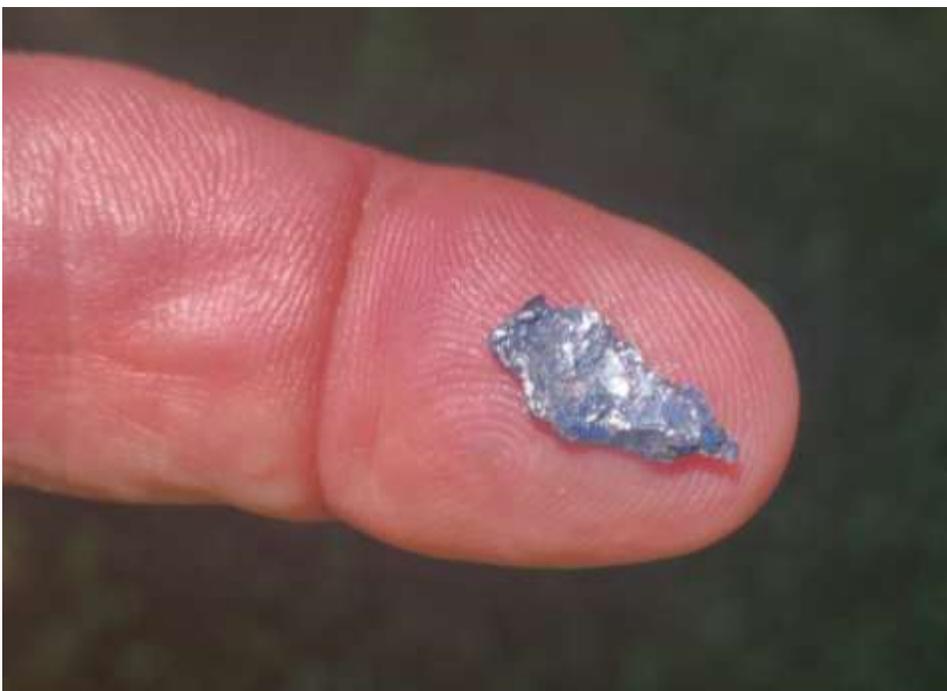
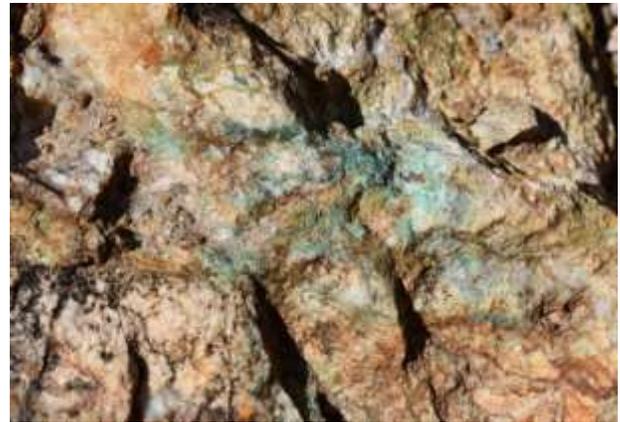
The mineral molybdenite is quite uncommon, but we are fortunate to have a collecting location close at hand. Molybdenite is a shiny silver-gray mineral that can be found with diligence at its source location. I have stopped to search the outcrop site for molybdenite several times over the past 40 years; most recently in early July 2025.

Reaching the collecting site is easy. Drive US Highway 2 eastward a few miles beyond Gold Bar and turn left on the Index Galena Road. Drive 8.5 miles from the junction with Highway 2, and you will see a very obvious outcrop on the left side of the road. A small parking area (large enough for only about two vehicles) is present next to the collecting site. As shown below, the outcrop consists of a jumble of large boulders with no vegetation. Note the loose rubble below the boulders. The angular rubble is a result of decades of rockhounds breaking apart the bedrock in search of molybdenite within the host rock.



Molybdenite is a sulfide mineral that consists of one atom of molybdenum bonded with two atoms of sulfur (technically molybdenum disulfide). It is the primary ore for the element molybdenum. Molybdenite forms in granite-like rocks and is often associated with quartz-rich intrusions or dikes. Despite its metallic luster, molybdenite is very soft and its crystals break apart into extremely thin sheets. It is only somewhat heavier than typical sand grains of similar size.

The battered bedrock outcrop includes numerous pockets of quartz and occasional glimpses of green copper minerals (see below). However, I didn't observe molybdenite on the surfaces of the exposed rocks during my most recent visit.



The easiest way to find molybdenite is to gently scrape away the loose rubble with your gloved hand. Pieces of molybdenite are mixed within the rubble. With a little patience, you can find flakes of molybdenite in essentially all of the loose, gravelly soil at the site. I found the shiny piece shown below within a few minutes after my arrival.

Although scraping off thin layers of rubble by hand can be fun and effective in finding flakes of molybdenite, I tried something a little more aggressive during my last visit. I shoveled the surface rubble into a bucket that contained a 1/4-inch screen. Rocks retained on the screen were discarded. The process is shown below.



This photo shows the dirt that passed the 1/4-inch screen.



I took the dirt that passed the 1/4-inch screen home for additional screening through a kitchen strainer. I washed the material that was retained on the strainer and carefully collected the larger flakes from the washed sand, placing them in my green plastic gold pan. As shown here, a nearly full 5-gallon bucket of screened dirt produced many pieces of molybdenite. Most of these were very thin and weighed almost nothing.



If I tried this effort again, I would use a 3-step screening process. First, I would screen the excavated rubble through a 1/2-inch screen in the field and discard the large rocks retained on the 1/2-inch screen. Second, run the material that passed the 1/2-inch screen through a 1/4-inch screen, retaining the coarse material retained on the 1/4-inch screen. Third, run the material that passed the 1/4-inch screen through a kitchen strainer, keeping the fraction retained on the strainer. Wash the material that was retained on the 1/4-inch screen and on the strainer and then remove the visible pieces of molybdenite from each size category. The material retained on the 1/4-inch screen could hold larger and heavier pieces. The material retained on the strainer should hold flakes like those pictured above in the gold pan.

Finding shiny flakes of molybdenite is fun and offers a unique experience for local rockhounds. Over the decades, the subject outcrop has been bashed and battered in an effort to collect molybdenite crystals within the granitic host rock. I didn't see any molybdenite on exposed surfaces of the bedrock during my latest visit. But the larger pieces of rubble could also contain visible molybdenite. With patience and a little luck you may be able to find examples like those below, which I found on earlier visits to this location.



You may wonder whether molybdenite has ever been mined commercially in Washington State. Between 1897 and 1912, the Crown Point Mine produced molybdenite at a site a few miles west of Holden (near Lake Chelan). I have never been to the abandoned mine site, but the old mine dumps are reported to contain nice crystals of molybdenite. Historically, several mines in the northeast part of the state also targeted molybdenite.

Molybdenite has been used as a dry lubricant owing to its soft, greasy character and low frictional resistance along crystal layers. Molybdenum (the element refined from molybdenite ore) is used as an alloying agent to produce very strong varieties of steel. It is also used in solar cells and microwave ovens.

The molybdenite collecting site adjacent to the Index Galena Road is an interesting place to search for a relatively uncommon mineral. There is a rough campsite on the back side of the outcrop, for those wishing to stay a while. Great views of the North Fork Skykomish River await you at several locations within a few miles of the outcrop.

Go there and have fun in the dirt! Be sure to take a picnic basket for a relaxing lunch by the river.

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.

Calendar of Events

Here are some important dates for your calendar. Parties and social time are such valuable ways we get to know each other that we dedicate two meetings a year to them. In August we have a BBQ and in December we have a holiday party. All our other meetings are on the third Monday at 7 pm.

Event	Date	What's happening
Summer Show	August 16 and 17	Show
Summer BBQ	August 18 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of a member meeting
Annual Showcase	November 1 and 2	Demonstrations and displays for the community
Holiday Show	December 6 and 7	Show
Holiday Party	December 8 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of the December meeting. Please note it's on the second Monday, not the usual third.

To rockhounds born in July

Happy Birthday!



One of the rarest gems, ruby, is your birthstone. This brilliant red gem is the second hardest with a Mohs number of 9. This makes them more scratch resistant than nearly all other gems and a great choice for jewelry worn daily.

During the middle ages Chinese noblemen wore rubies to protect them and to enhance their strength. In the 1939 movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy's ruby red slippers similarly protected her from evil. Some people have encased rubies in the foundations of their houses to protect their families through the years.

Rock lovers everywhere

Before you go rockhounding

Rockhounding is fun to do with a group. Join one of the trips listed below and meet other local rockhounders. If you plan to go, please contact the host a week or so ahead to let them know you are coming and to find out if anything has changed.

As you get ready for the trip, we recommend that you go through this checklist:

- Contact the host a week before the trip.
- Plan your driving time so you arrive 30 minutes before the meeting time.
- If needed for parking, get a Discover Pass or bring money for a trailhead or forest pass.
- Collect your tools and containers for the rocks:
<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/photos-of-collecting-tools/>
- Prepare a first aid kit.
- Plan appropriate clothes, boots, gloves, snacks, and water.
- Gas up your vehicle.
- Review the Rockhound Code of Ethics. It's important to follow these so that the lands remain open for rockhounding.
<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/rockhound-code-of-ethics/>



Rockhounding Hosts

Here is the contact information for hosts of the rockhounding trips:

Maplewood Club	Don Wilcox	wilcox.don@comcast.net
Marysville Club	Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630
Pow Wow	Larry Vess	vessel3755@gmail.com (253)473-3908
Puyallup Club	Nate White	nate.white77@gmail.com (206)349-7054
Washington State Mineral Council	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282
	Nique Wicks (contact information is above)	

Trips and shows

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
July 26 th 9 am	Marysville Club Lake Wenatchee site Meet at the rest stop just West of Lake Wenatchee on Hwy 2	Search for garnets. Bring a shovel and a screen container for the garnets
August 8 th and 9 th 10 am – 5 pm	Puyallup Valley Gem and Mineral Club Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club	2025 Jim Christian Memorial Show in the Trees
10 th 10 am – 4 pm	16409 Canyon Road East, Puyallup, WA	
Aug. 16th and 17th	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Summer Show

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Aug. 16 th and 17 th 9 am	Puyallup Club Greenwater site Meet at the Enumclaw Ranger Station	Search for agate, jasper, and opal. Bring tools for digging and hard rock.
Aug. 16 th 10 am – 5 pm 17 th 10 am – 4 pm	NW Stone Sculptors Association Evergreen Arboretum, Everett, WA	Fresh Paint 2025 Everett Arboretum Sculpture Walk https://www.schack.org/fresh- paint
Sept. 6 th and 7 th 8 am	Pow Wow Group Red Top site. Meet at the Teanaway Campground	Search for agate, jasper, and geodes. Bring tools for digging and hard rock
Sept. 20 th d 10 am	Puyallup Club Little Naches site Meet at the intersection of Hwy 410 and FR 92	Search for thunder eggs, fossils, lilypad jasper. Bring a shovel and small bar
Sept. 27 th and 28 th	NW Stone Sculptors Association Kubota Garden, Seattle, WA	Kubota Garden Sculpture Show and Sale
Oct. 1 st 9 am	Marysville Club Meet at Index, WA	Search for picture jasper. Bring a rock hammer.
Nov. 1st and 2nd	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Member Showcase
Nov. 8 th 9 am	Marysville Club Blanchard Hill site Meet at I-5 exit 240 at the Mini Mart	Search for stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone). Bring hard rock tools. Collecting on the road shoulder.

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

¾ lb of pre-polish
½ lb of polish

Gallon of oil for \$20

Shows farther afield

Who wouldn't enjoy a weekend in British Columbia, Oregon, or the sun zone east of the Cascades?. These shows offer a chance to see some places you might not have visited yet.

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
August 10 th 10 am – 4 pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club Aldergrove Legion 26607 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove, BC	Annual tailgate
August 20 th and 21 st 10 am – 4 pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Center, Aldergrove, BC	Annual show

Washington State Mineral Council

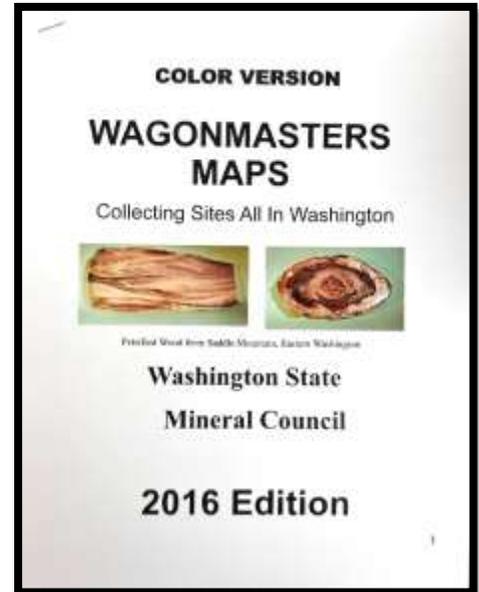
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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.

About Us

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, please bring these:

- Eye 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
Scott Higson

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: Angela Vitense
Vice President: open
Treasurer: Lisa Rammell
Secretary: Raven Thompson-Happy
Members at large: Paul Newby, Nathan O'Brien, Crister Sausler, and Michele McGraw.

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

News to share?

Did you go rockhounding? Have you acquired a beautiful new specimen? Contact Nancy Samuels, the Editor at MRGC@nancysamuels.com.

This issue
Maplewood Rock and Gem Club News

Volume 7
Publication year: 74