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## August Ice Cream Social

**Monday, August 18 at 6 pm**

We’re mixing things up this year with a sweet twist! In place of our usual August meeting and BBQ potluck, we’re keeping it cool and casual with an Ice Cream Social. We will start an hour earlier than our usual meetings - at 6:00 pm.

You will find more about this party on page 2.

## Summer Show

**This Saturday and Sunday  
from 10 am to 5 pm**

This weekend is our biggest show of the year. Dozens of vendors will be inside and out selling slabs, raw rocks, crystals, and finished polished or carved pieces. The banner image above shows our outside table from a previous year where they sold a lot of slabs and unfinished rocks.

Who are you bringing to the show? A friend? Your neighbor? A sister or brother? Let them know that the sale is This Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

## Ice cream social

**Monday, August 18 at 6 pm**

**By Merilee Krebs**

We're mixing things up this year with a sweet twist! In place of our usual August membership meeting and traditional BBQ potluck, we're keeping it cool and casual with an Ice Cream Social. We will start an hour earlier than our usual meetings - at 6:00 pm.

With a smaller volunteer crew this summer, we're keeping things simple—but definitely not skimping on the fun. Expect cool treats, friendly faces, and great conversation. Join us for a relaxed evening to beat the summer heat, connect with fellow members, and enjoy a scoop (or two) of your favorite frozen treats. 🍦

This won't be a potluck—no need to bring a dish. The club will provide everything needed for a banana-split-style dessert: ice cream, bananas, fudge and classic toppings. If you'd like to bring sprinkles or a favorite topping to share, feel free!

### Short but important meeting

We will be holding a vote on much-needed roof repairs, so it's important that voting members attend. Please read *Roof Project* on page 4.

Whether you're new to the club or a long-time member, this is a great opportunity to connect, share stories, meet new faces, and celebrate our shared love of rocks, gems, and community. This will be the day after our big summer rock sale weekend (Aug 16 & 17). Hope to see many of you at both events.

**Come chill with us—we'd love to see you there!** 🍦 🌞



Maplewood Rock and Gem Club

# SUMMER ROCK & GEM SHOW

Saturday & Sunday  
10am to 5pm

August 16 & 17, 2025

Discover handcrafted jewelry creations with unique natural stones and beautiful display pieces to add to your collection. We're here for seasoned collectors, budding enthusiasts, or anyone simply looking for a fun family outing.

8802 196<sup>th</sup> St SW, Edmonds, WA

[www.maplewoodrockclub.com](http://www.maplewoodrockclub.com)

## Roof Project

### Important Vote at the August meeting

By Angela Vitense

As we've discussed in recent general meetings, our beloved Clubhouse is in need of a new roof. This is a significant undertaking, and as per our By-Laws (Sec 6.06) and Standing Rules (Sec 3.A), the Board is required to inform the Membership via our monthly newsletter when proposing an expenditure of 50% or more of our account balance. Following this communication, Membership will be asked to vote on the proposal at the subsequent monthly General Meeting. For the project to proceed, it must receive a 'Yes' vote by a two-thirds majority of those in attendance.



*The clubhouse with the current roof.*

After carefully reviewing several bids, the Board has decided to partner with **Crown Roofing**, a reputable company based right here in Edmonds' Perrinville neighborhood, for this important project. Crown Roofing, founded in 1999 by a Shoreline local, impressed us with their transparent and highly detailed quote,

outlining every step and material involved. They utilize advanced roofing software for precise dimensional readings via satellite, which helps them purchase materials with minimal waste – ultimately saving us money. We encourage you to learn more about Crown Roofing by visiting their website: <https://www.crownroof.com>

The roofing material chosen by the Board is the number one recommended product, with only a \$615 difference from the mid-level specification. This slight increase in investment provides us with '**Duration Shingles' featuring High Performance 'SureNail Technology'**. This 'Duration' product offers an impressive 130 mph wind warranty, a 25-year algae resistance limited warranty, and a Class 3 impact resistance rating, which is particularly important given our local weather conditions. For exact specifications, please feel free to explore the product on the Owens Corning website: <https://www.owenscorning.com/en-us/roofing/duration-series-shingles>

Regarding the financial aspect, we explored various options, including 50% down payment with financing, and using credit cards. Unfortunately, without a personal guarantor, we found that we do not generate sufficient income to qualify for a loan or a significant credit line. However, we are pleased to report that the past year has been financially positive for the club, with our bank account balance increasing almost every quarter. The Board is confident that we can manage the full invoice using our current funds on hand, while still maintaining enough cash reserves to cover our monthly expenses for at least a year.

The total bid for the comprehensive scope of work from Crown Roofing is **\$26,298.00 plus tax**. As an added bonus, they have also agreed to repair the small hole in the container roof at no additional charge.

Subject to approval from the General Membership, we plan to sign Crown Roofing's proposal and schedule the roofing work for September or October, depending on their availability.

A vote will be held via paper ballots at our **August Ice Cream Social on Monday, 6pm, August 18th**. Members will be asked to cast their vote as 'Yes,' 'No,' or 'Abstain.' Votes will be counted, and the decision will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting. Should you require any additional information prior to this important vote, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Angela Vitense at [president@maplewoodrockclub.com](mailto:president@maplewoodrockclub.com).



## Meet Raven Thompson-Happy

Secretary of the Board



*Raven with a sunflower in Edmonds*

The secretary plays a vital role in recording discussions and actions of the Executive Board as well as any committee members or general members who have chosen to be present during Board meetings. Additionally, the secretary facilitates the execution of actions required of the board and the planning of activities that benefit the club and its members.

My upbringing has taught me to be self-reliant and creative in problem solving. As a young person I enjoyed exploring the flora and fauna of nature; in Texas I collected toads, lizards, and snakes, and in San Diego, California I spent long hours at the ocean shore exploring tide pools and collecting interesting shells and rocks.

In my early career days, I worked in the healthcare industry as a nursing assistant in a wide range of settings and roles.



*Raven: : "A rock I found in my cousin's yard in California; my cousin said that his son brings rocks to the yard from all over. I hope he does not miss it."*



*My cherished pup, Inde, in her super soft, double-layer bed (not spoiled at all).*

In 2006 I joined a startup company that distributed natural stone slabs and tiles on a wholesale basis; this company eventually built a manufacturing plant in Egypt where much of the material was sourced.

Since moving to Washington from Maryland in 2011 I have held several administrative positions.



*One of my orchids in bloom; I am a green thumb and have been enjoying keeping orchids for a while, now.*

Over the years I have also worked with a national non-profit organization both at a chapter level and at a national level. With this organization I served as a board member and organized events, wrote and submitted news releases, and conducted activities that served the membership as well as public relations.

What brought me to Maplewood Rock & Gem Club was the rock shows/sales. I have always enjoyed collecting interesting rocks, but the club has given me a place and a community to further develop my interest and to gain knowledge related to rocks and gems.

Values that are important to me are trust, accountability, consistency, creativity, and community building.

## Magic in an Agate

Lapidary is an art, mineralogy is a science, and collecting is ... collecting, and what do they have in common? The love of nature and natural beauty, the desire to explore and find the treasure of the earth. There is magic in an agate as surely as in an emerald.

By Lillian Haddock

## Container – Strong once again

Would you store your rock collection on this water-damaged floor? Perhaps we should ask whether you'd even want to walk on it. For a long time, perhaps years – no one knows for sure – the back corner of the container had a leaky roof.



We still have that small leak on the roof from a tree branch, but don't worry, that'll get fixed with the upcoming replacement of the clubhouse roof. Meanwhile, a little FlexSeal should do the trick!

While the spongy floor and leaky roof were primary reasons to start the container project, we had other important problems to solve. For instance, over the decades the rocks, tools, and other stuff in the container had become disorganized and over-crowded. Since the project began in June, we have moved a ton of rocks (no joke!), sorted them, and 'kind of' put them back.

Just last week, we finished the new floor, replacing the rotten section in the back. Here are some photos of the new solid floor.



Cost: only \$250 for materials and pizza. A generous friend of the club, who isn't even a member, stepped up and volunteered their time and fixed the floor at no charge.



Inside the container, our final tasks are putting up new shelves in the back and getting the last of the rocks stored and organized properly. Here is a peek inside the container now. More shelves will be added in the back.



If all goes well, we'll have everything wrapped up around the end of summer! This is a HUGE win for the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, and it wouldn't have happened without our amazing volunteers who go above and beyond for our club.

A massive THANK YOU to everyone!



## Exploring Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains

By Jim Miller

If you watched the classic musical Oklahoma, you may recall some scenes with mountains in the distance. Well, isn't Oklahoma pretty much flat with rolling hills in some areas? There aren't any mountains in Oklahoma, right? Well, not so fast! In the autumn of 2016 I visited my friend Neil in Oklahoma City, and he suggested that we go hiking in the Wichita Mountains. I consented, and chuckled a bit. After all, how rugged can "mountains" be in the flatlands of Oklahoma?

We drove southwestward from his home, and after a drive of two hours or so, we spotted several bison with some hills in the distance (see photo below). Neil commented that the distant hills were, in fact, the Wichita Mountains.



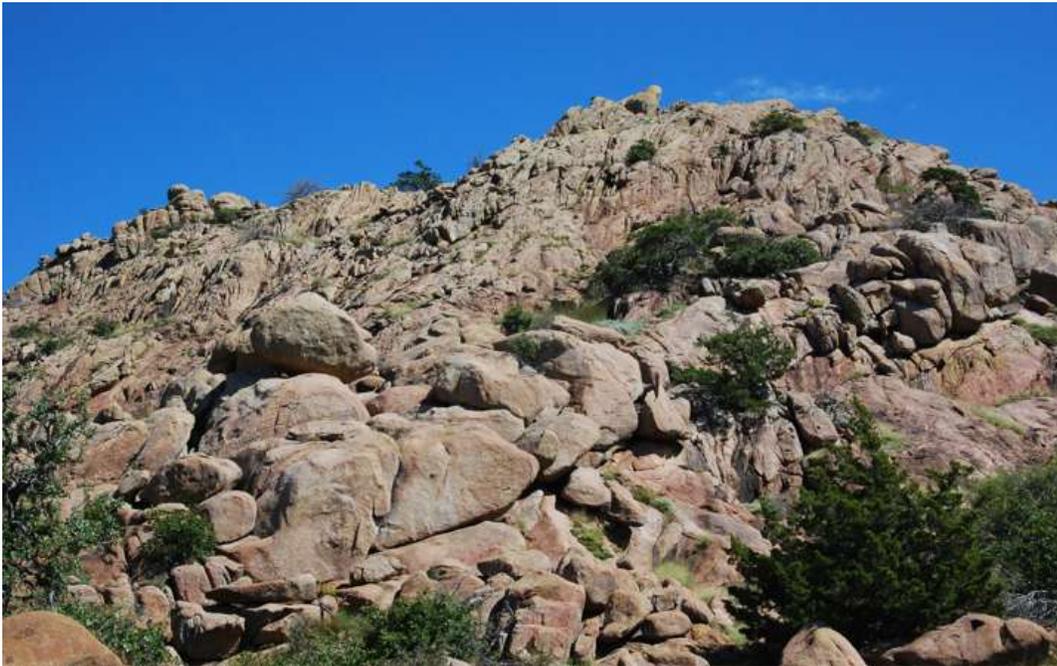
As we drew closer, I could see that these were not just cow pasture hills; they were respectable mountains with rocky slopes and summits!



Neil and I took a 5-mile loop hike through this interesting wildlife refuge. Although there are trails available, all of our hiking was off-trail. Sometimes the walking was rough and brushy, but generally we could pick our way through the varied terrain fairly easily. The photo below shows Neil making his way through a relatively open area.



The rocky hills in the Wichita Mountains consist mainly of coarse-grained granite that is about 500 million years old. Weathering of fractures within the solid granite produces the interesting rounded shapes of the exposed rock, similar to the picturesque granite in Joshua Tree National Park. The photo below shows a typical granite slope in the area we hiked.



Our hiking area was within a wildlife refuge, and there was plenty to see. We saw numerous bison – some from a distance and others fairly close. I got quite close to the pair of bison in the photo here, being careful to identify an “escape route” if they took offense to my proximity.



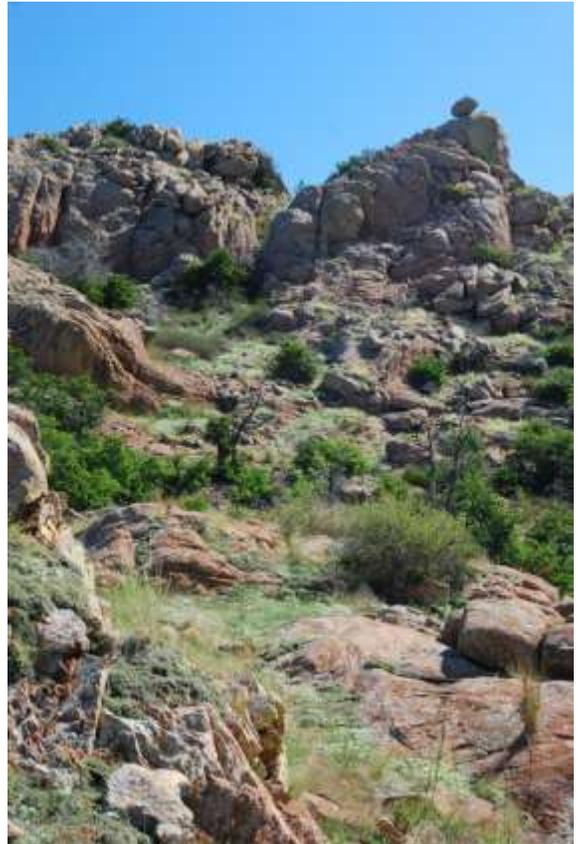
Then in one area our route took us next to a huge bison (photo below). I was quite happy that the beast showed no interest in us two-legged hikers. What a great profile on that guy!



Besides bison, we saw numerous elk in full rut, with bull elk bugling for the attention of females. I didn't have my big telephoto lens with me, but I got close enough to capture a bull standing in a clearing (shown here). We must have seen a half dozen of these magnificent animals in the vicinity of that clearing. We sat down on a rock and watched the animal show for about 15 minutes.



The animal life was fascinating and the plant life was interesting too. If you get the chance to visit this relatively unknown part of Oklahoma, you will enjoy it!



## 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.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>What's happening</b>
Summer Show	August 16 and 17	Show
Summer Ice Cream Celebration	August 18 at 7 pm	Ice Cream Party and Celebration
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.

## Rockhounder's Estate Sale

**August 17 from 10 am to 2 pm**

**Cash only**

The Everett Rock and Gem Club is hosting an estate sale for a longtime rockhound. The tools and items for sale include these: Lortone saws, Prismatic faceting machines with manuals, Diamond Pacific Genie, Richardson Ranch sander and polisher, Viking vibratory tumbler, Lortone vibratory lap, flat laps and polishing discs. Sale includes rough rock, faceting rough, turquoise, tumbling rock, large mineral specimens along with agate and crystal. Location:

Cedar Valley Grange  
20256 52nd Ave West, Lynnwood, WA 98046

To rockhounds born in August

**Happy Birthday!**



Your birthday is in the hottest month of the year, so you can enjoy celebrating a sunny birthday at the beach or at a backyard BBQ. If heat isn't your thing, perhaps one year you can celebrate your day down south in the southern hemisphere.



## 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	<a href="mailto:wilcox.don@comcast.net">wilcox.don@comcast.net</a>
Marysville Club	Nique Wicks	<a href="mailto:nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com">nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com</a> (509) 670-0630
Pow Wow	Larry Vess	<a href="mailto:vessel3755@gmail.com">vessel3755@gmail.com</a> (253)473-3908
Puyallup Club	Nate White	<a href="mailto:nate.white77@gmail.com">nate.white77@gmail.com</a> (206)349-7054
Washington State Mineral Council	Ed Lehman	<a href="mailto:wsmced2@outlook.com">wsmced2@outlook.com</a> (425) 334-6282
	Nique Wicks (contact information is above)	

## Trips and shows

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
<b>Aug. 16th and 17th</b>	<b>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</b>	<b>Summer Show</b>
Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 10 am – 5 pm 17 <sup>th</sup> 10 am – 4 pm	NW Stone Sculptors Association Evergreen Arboretum, Everett, WA	Fresh Paint 2025 Everett Arboretum Sculpture Walk <a href="https://www.schack.org/fresh-paint">https://www.schack.org/fresh-paint</a>

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup>	NW Stone Sculptors Association Kubota Garden, Seattle, WA	Kubota Garden Sculpture Show and Sale
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 am	Marysville Club Meet at Index, WA	Search for picture jasper. Bring a rock hammer.
<b>Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</b>	<b>Member Showcase</b>
Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> 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](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

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

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Host and Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
August 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> 10 am – 4 pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Center, Aldergrove, BC	Annual show

## Washington State Mineral Council

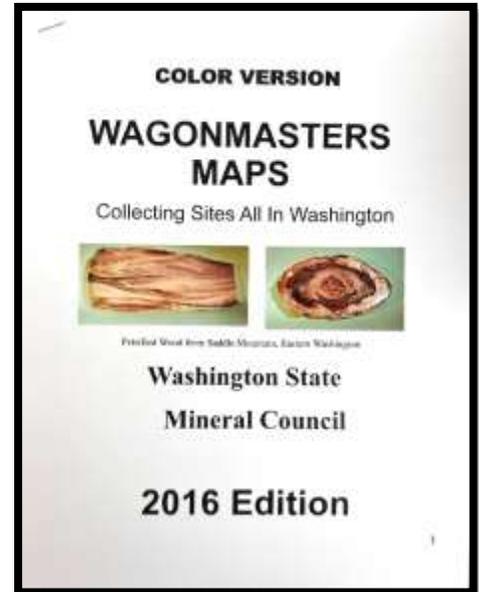
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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 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, 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  
Maiko Luckow  
Dirk Sierag



## 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: Angela Vitense

Vice President: open

Treasurer: Lisa Rammell

Secretary: Raven Thompson-Happy

Members at large: Paul Newby,  
Nathan O'Brien, Michele McGraw,  
and Bruce 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

## News to share?

Did you go rockhounding? Have you acquired a beautiful new specimen? Contact Nancy Samuels, the Editor at [MRGC@nancysamuels.com](mailto:MRGC@nancysamuels.com).

### This issue

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club News

Volume 8

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