

In this issue

Rocking the pancakes 2

Can you help? 2

Community Showcase 3

Designing a display 3

Can you help? 4

Natural Wonders in Joshua Tree National Park 5

Jim Miller 10

Calendar of Events 11

Slabs and Sunshine 12

Holiday Gift Show 14

A New Roof Polish! 15

Happy Birthday! 16

Rock lovers everywhere 17

Before you go
rockhounding 17

Rockhounding Hosts 18

Trips and shows 18

Grit and oil for sale 19

Washington State Mineral
Council 22

Maps for Rockhounds 22

About Us 23

Lapidary Shop 23

Connect with us 24

Our Board 24



September meeting

Monday, September 15 at 7 pm

Jim Miller will give a presentation about gold at the meeting.

At the Juniors' meeting, which begins at 5:30 pm, Jim will give lessons in gold panning. The meeting will be outside using the two kiddie pools as panning ponds. Don't we all wish we were kids again and panning for gold?

Paul Newby will have a silent auction with specimens you can bid on and add to your collection.

If your last name begins with A to M, please bring a snack to share.

Banner Image

The Banner image is a gold nugget photographed by Hans and published on Pixabay for others to use. His page is <https://pixabay.com/users/2/>

Rocking the pancakes

Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 to 11 am

By Michele McGraw

The weather is turning ...and it's time for ROCKIN' the PANCAKES, FLOODED with MAPLE SYRUP.



Join us as we all take a little journey back in time to another version of Maplewood Rock and Gem Club (a long time ago) when the club hosted an annual Pancake Breakfast!



That's right. Smell the bacon; savor the hot, fresh, coffee. Vision a "soft opening" for the November Showcase. Come enjoy the company of just our club members this time, but with the intention that if it's a big hit, this might be a fun way to engage with our surrounding community-at-large next year as we celebrate 75 years.

Before the Community Showcase begins homemade breakfast will be served to current club members who have pre-purchased a ticket (\$6 to defray our cost for groceries).

Join with other members for a light, delicious social morning plus support the club. Win/Win. Tickets go on sale at the meeting this Monday, September 15th at 7 pm. Cash, check, or Square will be accepted. Deadline to purchase tickets at this price is at the meeting on October 20th. Note: Any tickets sold after 10/20 are at the discretion of organizers and then cost \$12.

Can you help?

Flip buttermilk hotcakes on the griddle, crack eggs, and serve others. To help with food contact Michele McGraw: shows@maplewoodrockclub.com.

Community Showcase

Saturday, November 1 from noon to 4 pm

Our November show is all about our love of rockhounding, geology, rocks, and gems. We invite the neighborhood and wider community to come and learn about us and what we do.



Demonstrations

Some members will offer demonstrations of various aspects of lapidary art. Can you show how to wire wrap? How to select quality specimens for making cabochons or other items? How to identify rocks? Something else?

Displays

Members, like you, design and put together display cases to highlight one part of their experience with rocks. For example, one year a member showed how a cabochon is formed from a small slab to a polished piece of art with examples of cabs at several steps along the way. Another member showed many pieces of knapped blades and arrowheads. What is your passion? What topic would you like to display?

Shopping

We will have a table where you can shop for new treasures from Ways and Means to rebuild our piggy bank.

Designing a display

Here are some tips for designing a display case.

- Choose a theme, like a type of rock, a rockhounding location, or a process.
- Print a large title for your display.



- Have your name somewhere in the display.
- Make labels with a large easy-to-read font so people understand what they are seeing. The explanations are usually best when they are brief, more like phrases about what is being depicted rather than detailed paragraphs. If you need to provide sentences to explain something, give the label a heading.
- Design the layout to have different heights. That is, try to use the top half of the case by adding a shelf or pedestals to bring some specimens up higher.
- Add lighting.
- Cover the floor and walls with fabric or paper to improve the appearance of the case. Choose a color that enhances the color of your specimens. If the fabric is patterned, be sure it doesn't compete for attention with your rocks.

Can you help?

To volunteer contact Angela: President@maplewoodrockclub.com

Here are some ways you can help make this Showcase fun and interesting for visitors:

- Demonstrate your special skill during the Showcase.
- Display part of your rock & gem collection. (contact Angela: Vitense.Angela@gmail.com). Note: set up will be on Friday 10/31.
- Set up a day or two before the show and tear down afterwards.
- Manage the display case sign-ups. Create a list of who will be making displays and the titles of their displays. We will need separate lists for the Juniors and adults.
- Manage the prizes for displays. Create ballots with the display titles and checkboxes that visitors will use to mark their favorite Junior and adult displays. Provide a box where visitors can drop their ballots as they leave. Ask Ways and Means for two prizes we can give to the display case winners. At the end of the show, tally the votes, and give the winners their prizes.
- Assist others with getting display cases from the storage shed and with setting up their displays on Friday, Halloween, the day before the event.
- Help clean and prepare the building on Friday.
- Take a shift at the Ways and Means table where we will sell rocks during the show. Help set up and take down the Ways and Means table.

Natural Wonders in Joshua Tree National Park

By Jim Miller

This story isn't about collecting rocks. But it is about a very interesting place to look at rocks -- specifically, large masses of rounded granite in the fascinating high desert of southernmost California.



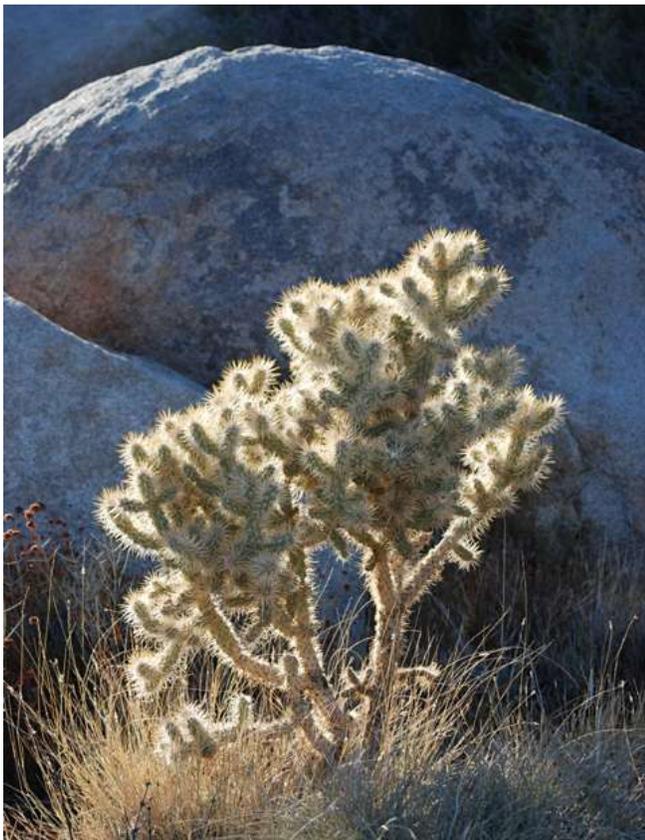
In August of 2011 my business travels took me to the southern end of the Mojave Desert, a short distance from Joshua Tree National Park. After a cool summer in the Pacific Northwest, I wasn't quite ready for the searing heat of the California desert. Each afternoon the temperature soared well above 100°F in scorching sunlight. Nevertheless, after the peak heat of the afternoon diminished somewhat, I made a three-hour loop drive through the Park, along with some short exploratory hikes. It was well worth the effort (but thank goodness for air conditioning in my rental car).

Joshua Tree National Park features the unusual and relatively rare Joshua tree as its main attraction. These trees stand like isolated, multi-armed statues with bayonet-shaped fingers. The Joshua tree is a variety of yucca plant, but it is a yucca on steroids. Reaching heights as great as 50 feet, they seem out of place in the dry environs of the Mojave Desert. The photo above shows a typical Joshua tree adjacent to a naturally rounded exposure of coarse-grained granite.

Being a true desert, the plant and animal life in the Park are specially adapted for hot, dry conditions. If you are lucky, you may see a roadrunner or a long-tailed lizard scurrying around on the sandy desert floor, like those pictured below.



Most deserts have a variety of cacti, and Joshua Tree National Park has its share. Of particular note is the Cholla cactus. These nasty plants have barbed cactus spines that are incredibly sharp. The locals sometimes call these plants “jumping Cholla” because the ball-like, spine-covered tips of the cactus arms can fall to the ground and bounce (“jump”) onto your leg. Once in your skin, it is really difficult to extract the devilish spines. The photos below show the Cholla cactus in all of its glory.



Beyond the interesting plant and animal life, the geology of Joshua Tree National Park is fascinating and picturesque. Many hills and ridges within the Park consist of mounds of rounded granite boulders that seem to have been placed loosely and randomly on the landscape. This photo gives an example of some of the rounded rock masses that make the Park famous.



Originally molten magma, the granite that now forms the interesting landscapes in the Park cooled very slowly more than five miles below the ground surface. Over a time span of approximately 100 million years, gradual uplift of the ground and erosion of overlying rock finally exposed the granite to wind, water, weather, and Park visitors. As shown in the photo below, some of the mounds of granite consist of nearly rectangular blocks that look like ancient fortifications. So, what formed these unusual accumulations of huge, rounded boulders?



While the granite itself is hard and durable, the rock mass in the photo above contains fractures oriented on a nearly rectangular pattern. Wind and water slowly decompose the granite along the fractures into sand and clay, which are washed out of the fractures. If you imagine an ice cube in a glass of water, the corners of the ice disappear quickly because melting occurs from three directions that intersect at the corners. As a result, ice cubes assume rounded shapes in a water glass after a relatively short amount of time. A similar process occurs with the blocks of granite, but at a much slower rate. Weathering and erosion along intersecting fracture surfaces gradually modify the blocks of granite into smooth, rounded shapes.

The best time to visit Joshua Tree National Park is not in the heat of summer. The spring, fall or winter months are great times to explore the miles of trails and primitive roads within this unique geologic area. I enjoyed my visit to Joshua Tree National Park so much in 2011 that I visited the Park again in January 2017. The skies were clear and hiking was much more comfortable in the wintertime. The photo below shows a view of one of the Park's natural granite formations during the winter.



I found that photography of the rock formations improves during the low light of late afternoon. The shadows help accentuate the interesting shapes of the exposed granite, producing dramatic images, as shown below. If you get the chance, go there!



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
Pancake Breakfast	November 1 9 – 11 am	We are cooking up homemade buttermilk pancakes, bacon, and coffee for our members.
Community Showcase	November 1 Noon to 5 pm	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.

Rock Candy

Here is a beautiful collection of minerals photographed by Antranias who publishes photos on [Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/).



Slabs and Sunshine

By Michele McGraw

Our August Summer Show was a Masterpiece!

All the key pieces were in place with 22 vendors utilizing 34 spaces (inside & outside). The weather cooperated, and the vendors started rolling in at 11am on Friday for setup as scheduled. The universe had another plan and Michele McGraw (interim Show Coordinator) was rear-ended on the way to the clubhouse. (OUCH)

Queue *awesome and *amazing. Sometimes when things go sideways, it's hard to move forward and recover. But not this group, not this time.



So many people stepped into the void that was created by this unexpected mishap; just like a well-oiled rock saw, this important fundraising event was bedrock solid and successful.



Drumroll please! Taking the lead, Raven Thompson-Happy stepped in and coordinated like a champ. Jim Miller did a stellar job of stepping outdoors for Ways & Means, including donating some very nice items to the table with ALL proceeds going to the club, and then, in his spare time, he managed to locate a yellow jacket nest at the back of the property the hard way. (OUCH)

Maiko Luckow was smiling and present on Saturday, and Paul Newby came on Sunday to assist with Ways and Means.



Lisa Rammell was on deck for inside Ways and Means plus slept over both Friday and Saturday in her camper as night security. Wavy Man waved and was later tucked safely away (thank you Nathan O'Brien and Paul Casey). A banner and signs were placed on the street (thank you Gary Kirschberger and Diane Marie). A fresh continental breakfast and lunch boxes were prepared with loving hands to nourish our vendors (kudos to Raven Thompson-Happy, Merilee Krebs, and other kitchen helping hands).



So many club members worked together before the show: identifying and pricing specimens, creating press releases and flyers, setting up tables, stocking the bathrooms, filling open volunteer shifts during the 2-day show, and then tearing it all down at the end of Sunday when butts were dragging and everyone was dog-tired out. It's impossible to list everyone but you know who you are, so please accept this WOW, and take a big, beautiful bow. The club appreciates your dedication, effort, and commitment to our event in a very BIG way!



It goes without saying that hosting a show does require a village. The early coordinating is with vendors. Communicating with them clearly, jurying their website & applications for quality of items & their commitment to professionalism. Contracts, fees, business details, & marking the spaces with paint before the show. These details are all important and ultimately reflect on our club's reputation in the rockhound community and the community at large. Our club relies on this income each year to sustain us. (Hats off to Gary Kirschberger for taking the lead on this important task and for a job well done!)

Vendors were given evaluations and they complimented our club, especially saying how gracious we are as event hosts and that was uplifting and affirming.

Holiday Gift Show

Save the date for our Holiday Gift Show on December 6 and 7. Preference is given to club members for vendor space if you apply early. As a member, consider helping the Maplewood Rock Club with your time and join the village if you can. It's actually a lot of fun, a great way to be a part of our community and honestly, our club cannot function well without volunteers to run the show. Your help, big or small, is very appreciated!

Contact: Michele McGraw:
shows@maplewoodrockclub.com or
shows.maplewoodrockngem@gmail.com



A New Roof Polish!

By Angela Vitense



If you've driven by our clubhouse lately, you've probably noticed it's looking a bit brighter these days. That's because our beloved building has a brand new roof!

Many of you came out to the August general meeting and voted YES to move forward with the new roof project for our Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse. We originally expected the work to happen at the end of September;

however, due to a scheduling change, Crown Roofing was able to finish the project before Labor Day.

The crew worked in sections, pulling up two layers of old roofing before replacing it with new underlayment and moisture barriers. The new roof is topped with attic and 'smart' venting, baked enamel roofing finishes, and algae-resistant, limited lifetime Duration Shingles. All of which will see us through many, many years in this treasured building.



This project is a wonderful reminder of our role as stewards of the community legacy we've inherited. The incredible dedication of our



volunteers and the support of our members made this possible. It ensures we can continue the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club's heritage for future generations. Thank you all for making this happen and for preserving our clubhouse for generations of rockhounds to come.

To rockhounds born in September

Happy Birthday!



Your birthstone is sapphire.



Your birth flower is aster.

Which day in September is your day? Apparently, there are quite a few days of celebration this month.

The whole month of September is National Happy Cat Month

September dates dedicated to a celebration:

7: Corn Moon (the full moon this month) and Grandparents' Day

11: National Hug Your Hound Day

13: Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day

19: International Talk Like a Pirate Day

22: Autumnal Equinox –night and day are about equal lengths

24: National Punctuation Day!!!

29: Michaelmas – the end of harvesting for ancient Celts.

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
Sept. 20 th 10 am	Puyallup Club Little Naches site Meet at the intersection of Hwy 410 and FR 92	Search for thunder eggs, fossils, lily pad 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	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Community Showcase

Date and Time	Host and Location	Details
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

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

Gallon of oil for \$20

Rock Candy

Here is a photo of the Logan Sapphire, one of the world's largest faceted sapphires at 423 carats. This beautiful piece resides in the National Museum of Natural History, and was photographed by Chip Clark, a Smithsonian staff member. You can read more about this gem on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logan_Sapphire) or the [Natural History Museum website](https://www.dsm.si.edu/objects/object/Logan_Sapphire/object.aspx).





2025 ROCK, GEM AND JEWELRY SHOW



FREE ENTRY

SEPTEMBER 20-21
Vern Burton Community Center
Port Angeles

Saturday: 9:00-5:00 & Sunday: 10:00-4:00

- MINERALS & FOSSILS
- FACETED GEMSTONES
- ROUGH ROCK AND SLABS
- POLISHED CABOCHONS
- LAPIDARY TOOLS
- GEMSTONE JEWELRY

**Don't miss Fast Burrito, Live Demonstrations,
Dollar Raffle & Rock Alley for the kids, too!**

Pacific Northwest Miner's Rally & Outdoor Show



with
KEEN's WindFall Ciderfest



CIDER-N-GOLD FESTIVAL

- Outdoor Vendors
- Beer Garden
- Mining Supplies
- Food Trucks
- Expert Speakers
- Gold Panning
- Live Music
- Gems & Minerals
- Camping
- Metal Detecting

October 10, 11 & 12, 2025

10am-10pm

1010 East 8th - Kittitas Valley Event Center - Ellensburg WA



swaukminingdistrict.org



keen-ycic.org

Washington State Mineral Council

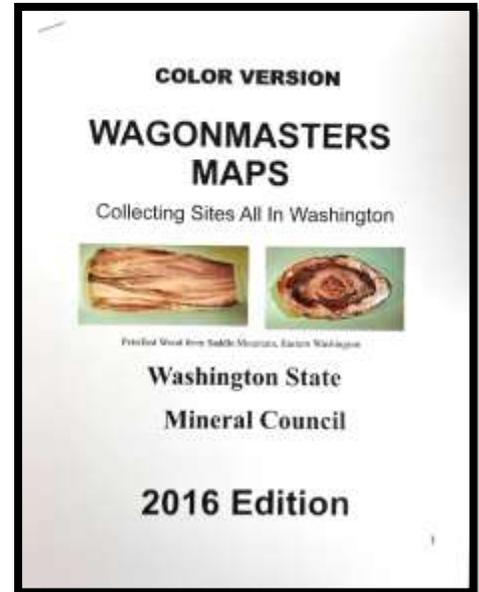
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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
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

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, 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 9

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