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October meeting

Monday, October 20 at 7 pm

Our speaker this month is Merilee Krebs who will be talking about fluorescent rocks and minerals.

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

In your collection do you have rocks or minerals that fluoresce? If so, please bring them and a UV flashlight, if you have one, for Show and Tell.

How about fossils? Do you have good specimens? Jim Miller included a story (page 4) on collecting fossils. Others will enjoy seeing your fossils during Show and Tell.

If your last name begins with N to Z, please bring a snack to share.

Banner Image

The Banner image shows various fluorescent minerals taken under ultraviolet UV-A, UV-B, and UV-C light. The photo was taken by [Hannes Grobe](#) and is published here under the Creative Commons license [CC BY-SA 2.5S](#).

Pancakes and Showcase

Saturday, Nov. 1

By Michele McGraw

Pancake breakfast

9 to 11 am

Come enjoy the company of club members and their guests at a homestyle pancake breakfast made with kindness. Join us for a delicious start to the morning and support the club. Win/Win.



To get breakfast, you need to pre-purchase a \$6 ticket for yourself and any guests you plan to bring. Tickets for breakfast will be on sale at the meeting this Monday, October 20th at 7 pm. Cash, check, and Square payments accepted. After the meeting tickets will be \$12 each, and will be sold at the discretion of the breakfast organizers.

Community Showcase

Noon to 5 pm

The annual Community Showcase will follow the pancakes. Be onsite to enjoy the variety of demonstrations and display cases featuring our members' collections. Shop for new treasures at the Ways and Means table and help rebuild our funds.

You can sign up for space to share your special skill or expertise or to showcase your favorite rock and gem collection. There are only 3 spaces left, so let Angela know soon that you want to showcase your collection or skill. Contact Angela Vitense at president@maplewoodrockclub.com.



We provide the display cases for you to use. You will need to set up your case on Halloween, Friday, October 31st from 3 to 6 pm.

Holiday Show

December 6 and 7th from 10 am to 5 pm

By Michele McGraw

Come enjoy the glitz and glam of the Holidays for a fabulous clubhouse shopping experience.

We deck the clubhouse with cheery holiday decor and have selected vendors who bring their very best selection of gift giving ideas for the discriminating rockhound in all of us.

Shop eighteen spaces of rocks specimens to delight, jewelry and gemstones, carved animals, tumbled agates, and showy statement pieces. Gifts that are thoughtful (big or little), treasures hard to find, and specimens chunky and awesome. Always things geared for kids to take home, igniting curiosity and joy in the lapidary arts.



Invite your friends to come and check us out. Help us spread the word so it is a super success and a bang up way to end the 2025 year. Mark your calendar!

Fossils Galore on Lake Texoma's Shore

By Jim Miller

My wife and I drove to the Dallas area in 2010 for a National Specialty dog show. She has been raising and showing Belgian Sheepdogs since she attended high school. This show focused only on that breed, and she was an invited judge.

I can only handle so much of the dog show scene, so I bailed out for a couple of days to look for fossils, along with a rock-loving friend from Oklahoma. Our destination was the south shoreline of Lake Texoma, which straddles the Texas/Oklahoma state line and is located about 50 miles north of Dallas.

Lake Texoma is a large reservoir with its dam located near Denison, Texas. Wave erosion along some portions of the shoreline exposes the local limestone and the fossils within. The photo below shows limestone exposed at the shoreline a short distance west of the reservoir dam.



The limestone in this area was deposited in a shallow sea that occupied much of the Midwest when dinosaurs were roaming the land and swimming in the ocean. There isn't much in the way of limestone in Washington State, so I was anxious to see what we could find along the shoreline. Turns out that a large variety of fossilized sea creatures are contained in the limestone at Lake Texoma, and it didn't take much time to find some very cool fossils! The photos below show ammonite fossils eroding from the rocky shore.



Ammonites occur in limestone of this age throughout the world, with hundreds of different species to amuse paleontologists. Although ammonites resemble the modern chambered nautilus, they are not related. Ammonites went extinct along with the dinosaurs, about 65 million years ago. Some ammonite fossils are as small as a pea, while others can be very large. There was one broken ammonite fossil on the shoreline that, if complete, would have been as big as a truck tire and weighed several hundred pounds!



We had pretty good luck collecting ammonite and shell fossils. Pictured above are fossils of an ammonite and an oyster-type shell. Here is a better picture of one of the shell fossils.



I came home with several nice ribbed ammonite fossils, such as the hand-sized treasure in the image below.



We also found fossilized sea urchins (minus their spines!). Sea urchins are echinoderms and are related to sand dollars and starfish. Note the starfish-type indentations on the top of the sea urchin fossil below.



All in all, it was a successful search! The largest fossil that I brought home (see below) weighed 16 pounds and was quite a handful!



There are many places in the mid-continent area of the USA to collect marine fossils. But if you get a chance, this location is excellent for finding large ammonite fossils, with the opportunity to collect relatively uncommon sea urchin fossils.

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.

Lisa Rammel, Treasurer

Lisa Rammel is the club's Treasurer. She is married with two kids, 2 dogs, and a horse. Lisa is a native of the PNW and has lived a life embracing our great outdoors.

Growing up as the youngest in a family of hikers and climbers, she got a lot of exposure to many adventures and all of them ended with a pocket full of rocks. Skiing, snowboarding, hiking, camping, Search and Rescue, and horseback riding have been some of her favorite activities.

As a maker, she has done sewing, quilting, embroidery, beading, tooling, leatherwork, lapidary, and silversmithing. "I like to learn all the things; I just don't stick with anything long enough to make a business. The fun is in the learning and buying of tools."



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, eggs, 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

These minerals are in the [Halpern Mineral Collection](#), San Francisco. The photo was taken by [Eric Hunt](#). The photo is published under the Creative Commons license, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).



To rockhounds born in October

Happy Birthday!

Your birthstones are opal and tourmaline.



This blue and gold iridescent opal in matrix was discovered in Queensland, Australia. The photo was taken by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com and is published here under the license, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).

This is watermelon Tourmaline, Which has a red center with a green border. This photo is by [Anne Peterson](#) and is published here under the license, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/).



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
Nov. 1st	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Community 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.
Dec. 6 – 7th	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Holiday Show

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 gorgeous specimen of rhodochrosite which is part of the [Halpern Mineral Collection in San Francisco](#). The image was photographed by [Eric Hunt](#) and is published here under the Creative Commons license [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).



Washington State Mineral Council

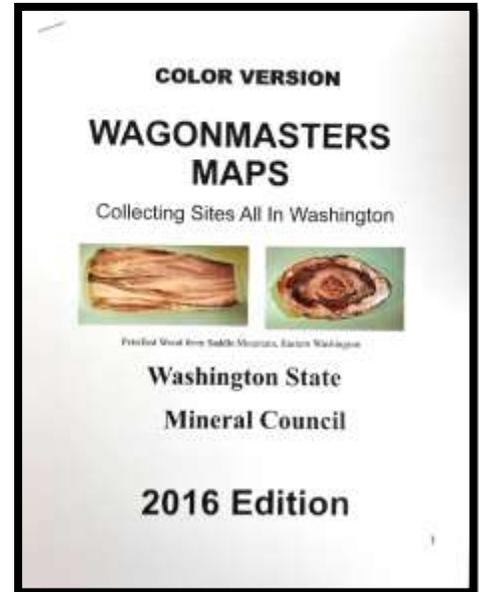
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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
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

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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

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