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July meeting

Monday, July 20 at 7 pm

Jim Miller will be talking about listwanite at our meeting in July. As a geologist with many years of experience rockhounding, Jim always offers interesting presentations. You won't want to miss it.

Do you have any listwanite? If so, our members would enjoy seeing it during Show and Tell. Or, bring something else from your collection to tell us about or to ask our expert members to identify it.

Paul Newby will offer many specimens for sale at the Silent Auction.

If your last name begins with a letter from A - M, please bring a snack to share with the members.

Banner image

This listwanite heart was made by Bruce Samuels.

PROUDLY CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ROCKHOUNDING IN EDMONDS



Maplewood

ROCK & GEM CLUB

Since 1951

19th Annual Rock & Mineral Sale

AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026

SATURDAY

10am - 5pm

SUNDAY

10am - 5pm



Rocks & Gems
Minerals
Crystals & Fossils



FREE ADMISSION

OVER 20 DEALERS

8802 - 196th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Our Clubhouse is located just 3 miles west of I-5.

www.maplewoodrockclub.com

www.facebook.com/MaplewoodRCG



Trunk Trades

We are starting up the Trunk Trades again. Both before and after the meeting, those who want to trade rocks or just *Oooh* and *Ahhh* over other people's rocks will meet in the parking lot. If you want to trade, bring some specimens.

The Trunk Trades will continue each month through September. After that, it will be too dark to see what we are trading.

Can you help?

Our club needs people to help get ready for the summer show. This event is our biggest show of the year, and it helps us pay the bills. We don't have paid staff, so our members make everything happen! How can you help? Volunteering is the best way to get to know other members – we love to chat while we work. If you can help, contact Angela Vitense at shows@maplewoodrockclub.com.

August 7 – 9

Our summer show is August 8 – 9, and we will be setting up on Friday, August 7. The set-up and clean-up activities include setting up tables, preparing/serving snacks to vendors, marking booth sites, marking parking spots, putting up signs, and cleaning. During the show we need people to staff the sales table and serve as vendor support. The specifics of the tasks will be identified by the Shows committee.



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 summer celebration 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
How to Clean and Prep Stones	July 23 6:30 – 8 pm	Class
Summer show	August 8 - 9	Show
75 th Anniversary BBQ	August 17 6 pm	Celebration of summer and our 75 th anniversary
Community Open House	November 7	Display cases and demos
Holiday show	December 5 - 6	Show
Holiday Party	December 14 at 6 pm	Potluck dinner and party instead of the December meeting

Thank you for working with rocks



When you joined Maplewood Rock Club, you were probably looking forward to working with rocks more. Last week a handful of members met at the clubhouse and helped Lisa Rammel work the rocks, but not as a lapidary art. Instead, a load of gravel had been delivered, and several generous members showed up to help rake it in needed areas of the driveway and parking area.

That was hard work. Thank you!

Class in Lapidary Arts

How to Clean and Prep Stones

July 23

from 6:30 to 8 pm

The discussion will focus on a handful of methods to clean quartz, epidote, pyrite, and other materials we find locally in the Pacific Northwest. There will be samples of before and after. The discussion will include chemicals needed and related safety.



Don Wilcox

Don has been a member of Maplewood Rock and Gem Club for over 18 years. He has served on the board including 2 terms as president. He has been creating art for over 25 years and is a member of the Northwest Stone Carving Association. He created Tundrafox Designs as his business where he makes and sells lapidary items, pushed glass, sculptures, and more. You can find Don and his work at Etsy https://www.etsy.com/shop/TundrafoxDesigns?ref=shop_profile&listing_id=1657011904 And on the web <https://tundrafoxdesigns.com/>

Here are two of Don's sculptures.



Colorful Listwanite near Marblemount, Washington

By Jim Miller

First green rock discovery

Several decades ago, I provided geologic consultation for the installation and testing of five new water supply wells for the Marblemount Fish Hatchery, which is located along Jordan Creek, near the mouth of the Cascade River. While examining the aging hatchery surface water intake on Jordan Creek, I noticed some unusual brown-colored boulders in the creek channel and on the creek banks. Some green streaks were visible on the surface of some of the brown boulders. With my trusty rock hammer, I broke open some of the brown rocks to discover amazing green coloration inside, as shown in the example below. If you look carefully on the brown surface of the rock shown below, you will see some of the green streaks on the exterior of the stone.





What is Listwanite?

I had no idea what this colorful stone was, or why it had a brown rind on the outside of each boulder. I initially thought that the green mineral in the boulders was a variety of jade. With further research I learned that the boulders I found were listwanite (aka listvenite). Listwanite is a relatively uncommon metamorphic rock created by heat, pressure, shearing, and alteration of peridotite deep below the Earth's surface. Jordan Creek is located along the trace of the Straight Creek Fault, which is a major structural element of the Cascade Mountains, extending southward from British Columbia

to the vicinity of Easton, Washington. The tortured and somewhat chaotic mixture of greens, grays, whites and blacks in the Jordan Creek listwanite probably resulted from shearing along the Straight Creek Fault about 45 million years ago.

The listwanite boulders typically have a rough, brown weathering rind that extends a fraction of an inch to several inches into the rock, with deeper staining along fractures. It is necessary to break off pieces from the edge of a promising rock to determine if prime green listwanite is present inside an otherwise ugly brown-colored boulder. Not all of the brown boulders in Jordan Creek contain a lovely green interior. Most of the boulders have little or no green inside. The boulders with streaks of green on the exterior of the rock are the best candidates for collection, although boulders without green also have interesting interior texture. The photo above shows a sliced boulder of listwanite that exposes both gray and green coloration.

Fresh listwanite is far from homogeneous and consists of a variety of minerals. I've asked several professional rock sellers if they could identify the green-colored mineral in the stone. I got a different answer from each person. On-line research wasn't much help either. Apparently, the eye-catching green mineral in the stone could be one or more of these minerals: chrome diopside, variscite, chrysoprase, serpentine, nephrite, green agate, or a nickel silicate mineral. For convenience, I won't assign a name to the distinctive green mineral within listwanite from Jordan Creek.



Along with the eye-catching green and gray zones with the rock, numerous white-colored lines and veins are usually present in the stone. The gray to dark gray areas in the rock are mainly quartz, whereas the white veins are softer carbonate minerals like magnesite and dolomite. The green mineral and quartz are relatively



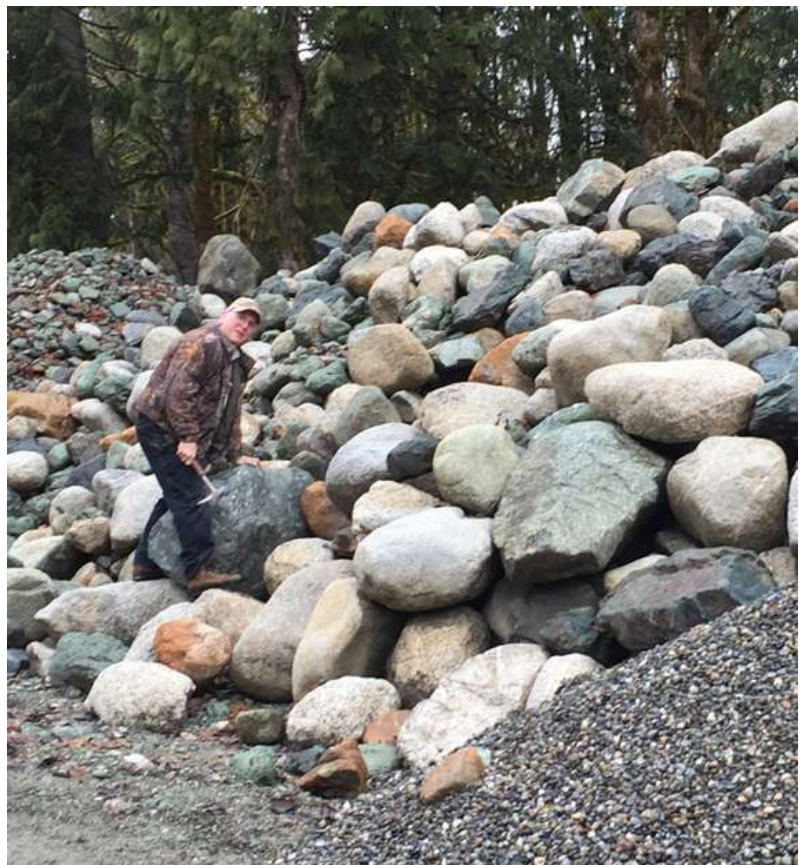
hard and take a good polish, whereas the softer carbonate minerals create zones of weakness that can result in breakage along the white veins within the stone. I cut some really nice slabs out of prime boulders, an example shown here. Prime listwanite will even take a decent polish from tumbling, also shown above.

Why are Listwanite Boulders Brown?

The brown rinds on the surface of listwanite boulders result from the weathering of minor amounts of iron pyrite in the stone. The mineral iron pyrite consists of one part of iron combined with two parts of sulfur. During weathering, the iron within the pyrite combines with oxygen and water to form several hydrated iron minerals that collectively form rust (hence the brown color). The sulfur in the pyrite combines with oxygen and water to form sulfuric acid! The rough texture on the exterior of the brown listwanite boulders results from dilute sulfuric acid etching and dissolving the softer carbonate minerals in the stone.

Boulders Galore!

The surface water intake for the hatchery needed updating, and I provided geologic consultation for design of a new surface water intake for the facility in 2015. With a friend, I returned to Jordan Creek in 2017 during construction of the new surface water intake to search for some nice boulders of listwanite. Based on past experience, I came prepared with waders and a digging bar, ready to do battle with brown boulders on the bank of the creek. Wow, was I surprised to find that construction work for the new surface water intake had produced a mother lode of boulders at the construction site. As shown here, my friend and I could drive right up to the boulder piles without getting our feet wet!



I came home with about 300 pounds of boulders from that visit to Jordan Creek, including one beastie boulder that tipped the scale at 106 pounds!

MRGC Field Trip

Based on this successful visit, I arranged for a field trip to Jordan Creek in April 2018 for the Maplewood Rock & Gem Club (MRGC). I showed off a large rectangular block of listwanite to motivate the participants, as shown here in Don Wilcox's hands. That impressive rock block came out of the 106-pound boulder that I had collected the prior year.

After sufficient motivation, about a dozen of us hardy MRGC rockhounds traveled to the site of the new surface water intake on Jordan Creek and roamed through the boulder piles to see what we could find.

Everyone found some nice samples to bring home. Club members James and Kimberly Henry show off some of their treasures below.



December 2025 Mega-Flood

Not long after the MRGC field trip, construction of the new surface water intake for the hatchery was complete. The piles of boulders were no longer waiting for attention. But the mega-flood of December 2025 changed Jordan Creek dramatically. Workers at the hatchery said they could hear boulders bouncing down the creek at the peak of the flood. The bridge over Jordan Creek on



Rockport-Cascade Road was completely destroyed. This bridge was only a short distance upstream of the hatchery and ended access to the fish hatchery from the west via the Rockport-Cascade Road. The missing bridge location is shown here (photo taken during my field visit in late April 2026). Note the abundance of boulders in the creek bed.

The damaging impacts of the flood weren't all bad news for rockhounds. Listwanite boulders are now accessible in several areas upstream and downstream of the now-missing bridge. I visited the Marblemount Fish Hatchery and vicinity again in June 2026. Several hundred yards upstream of the missing bridge there is a gravel bar next to the creek that boasts huge boulders, including numerous brown boulders, some of which have lovely green interiors. The upstream boulder bar is seen here, with me for scale.





Also shown here is a listwanite boulder with green showing. I carried out a 44-pound boulder in my backpack from that boulder bar.

Another productive collection area is at the outlet of Jordan Creek, where it empties into the Cascade River. I found the green-streaked cobble in the photo below in this area. There is a trail from the north end of the hatchery's fish rearing raceways to the mouth of Jordan Creek.

Listwanite Collecting Remains Possible at Jordan Creek!

Although it is no longer possible to find listwanite boulders that have been piled up for convenient access by a vehicle, nice examples remain available upstream and downstream of the missing bridge. These areas are accessed only on foot, with some necessary scrambling over boulders and



flood-rafted trees.



The boulders are heavy, so getting them back to your vehicle will test your strength and endurance. But, if you feel motivated, give it a try and see what you can find! Hopefully, you will be able to collect a quality boulder large enough to make some nice cabochons or a beautiful polished sphere like the own shown here.

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.

Tax included

Our club's CPA has told us that we need to collect sales tax on more things. Beginning on August 1, the costs you pay will include sales tax and so they are going up a little. You will be able to pay for shop fees, grit, and oil with a credit card and your smart phone. Here are the new costs:

- Lapidary Shop session: \$12
- Grit: \$5
- Oil: \$22
- Clubhouse rental by a member: \$200
- Clubhouse rental by a non-member: \$400

Rock Candy



Synthetic ruby sphere. By [James St. John](#). License: [CC BY 2.0](#)

Who doesn't like *free*?

In 2026 Washington public lands agencies have chosen the following days when you don't need a Discover Pass to park at

- state parks
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources land
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land

A Discover Pass costs \$45 for a year of parking on state land listed above. The pass covers two vehicles.

The Discover Pass funds significantly help the state agencies provide

- recreation opportunities
- conservation of forests and seashores
- clean bathrooms
- trail maintenance



The free days in 2026 are

Friday, June 19 – Juneteenth

Sunday, Aug. 9 – Smokey Bear's Birthday

Saturday, Sept. 26 – National Public Lands Day

Saturday, Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Happy Birthday to everyone born in July!

Your birthstone is ruby!

*At 9 on the Mohs scale of hardness, ruby is second only to diamond.
It is a durable gem that you can wear every day – and why not?!*

Natural ruby crystal from Tanzania.
By Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com.
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Synthetic rubies are being put to a variety of surprising uses. The hardness along with low thermal and electrical conductivity make them useful in many applications.

Bearings – They are used as smooth, durable, frictionless bearings in precision instruments like compasses, watches, meters, and aerospace instruments. Below is a photo of ruby bearings in a watch. It was taken by [Hustvedt](#) and is published here under the Creative Commons license [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).



Lasers – In 1960 the first laser used a synthetic ruby rod. When hit with an intense beam of light, the chromium inside lit up and produced a red beam. Ruby lasers are still used for removing tattoos and for drilling holes through diamonds.

Abrasives – Because it's so hard, it's a great choice for grinding wheels and polishing powders for metal and glass.

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 America the Beautiful pass, as required.
- ☐ 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	Paul Haak	pvhaak@gmail.com (253) 312-1743
Washington State Mineral Council	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com (425) 334-6282
	Nique Wicks (contact information is above)	
NW Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Doug True	dtruefossils12@yahoo.com (406) 670-0506

Trips and shows

Date	Host and Location	Details
Aug. 8 - 9	Maplewood Summer Show	Our biggest show of the year! Volunteer and then bring friends to shop from 10 am to 5 pm both days.
Aug. 15 - 16	Puyallip Greenwater	Search for agate, jasper, opal Bring digging tools, chisel, small pry bar, rock hammer.

Date	Host and Location	Details
Sept. 12 – 13	Pow-Wow Red Top	Search for agate, jasper, geodes. Bring digging tools, chisel, small pry bar, rock hammer.
Sept. 19	Puyallip Little Naches	Search for lily pad jasper, fossils, thunder eggs. Bring digging tools, hard rock chisels, pry bar, 3# hammer, rock hammer.
Oct. 11	Marysville Walt Bailey	Search for rainbow chert. Bring hard rock chisels, rock hammers, pry bars.
Nov. 7	Marysville Blanchard Hill	Search for Stilpnomelane (dalmation stone). Bring hard rock flat chisels, hammers, pry bars.
Nov. 7	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Community Open House
Dec. 5 – 6th	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: shop@maplewoodrockclub.com

Each grit package is \$5, 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 \$22 (Bring your own container.)

Washington State Mineral Council

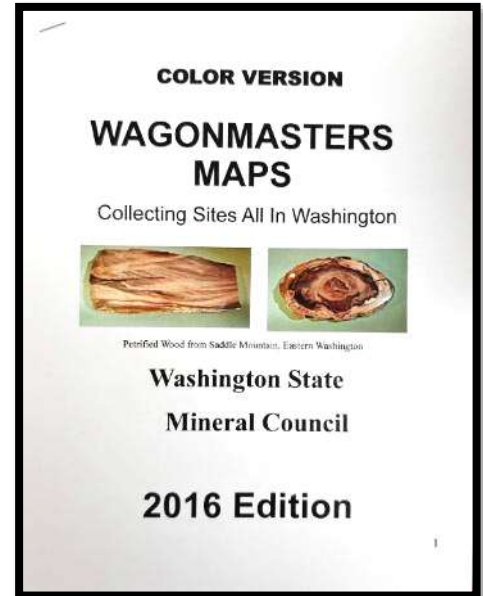
Our club, along with many other rock and gem clubs in the state, is a member of the Washington State Mineral Council. This organization helps us by

- 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 \$12 (cash, check, or credit card) 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
Nathan O'Brien
Dirk Sierag
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: open

Past President: Angela Vitense

Members at large: Paul Newby, Mark Tomas, Nathan O'Brien, and Craig Kosovich.

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 07

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