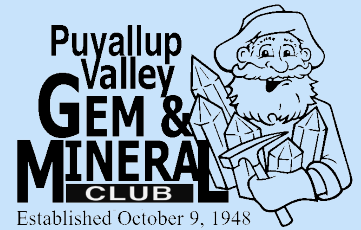


ROCK-A-TEER



Newsletter of the Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Jillian Higgins

Issue 103

Volume 153

July

2026

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President's Perspective

Glenn Rodrick

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the various areas at the Club Show held the first weekend in June. It was a huge success! We had a large turnout and the most vendors we have ever had. Setup and takedown went as smooth as it can and all the exceptional volunteers made it a fast process. Thank you all to all the volunteers again!

August is coming up and it is a very busy month for the club. Not to mention the State Fair is right around the corner so start thinking about volunteering for a time slot or two or more. A signup sheet will be being passed around at the next couple of meetings and emails will be sent out.

- August – Mike and LaVon's annual Sale 1st weekend
- August – Overnight Field Trip at Greenwater – 3rd weekend
- August – Club Picnic – 4th weekend (Saturday only)
- September – WA State Fair Starts – we will need volunteers
 - Email regarding these Volunteer sports will be sent around July 1st

Field Trip Report

July 18 – Pilchuck Creek

Meeting place - 10:00AM at Grocery Outlet, 123 E Bruke Ave, Arlington, WA 98223

Hunting for - Jade, Jasper, Serpentine, Rhodonite

Tools you need - Rock hammer, rubber boots or waders, walking stick, and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - Moderate climb up a steep road cut.

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers. Be prepared for ticks/mosquitoes

August 15 & 16 Overnight - Greenwater

This fieldtrip is with the Washington State Mineral Council - overnight camp out & pot luck

Meeting place - 9:00AM at the Enumclaw Ranger Station for those not camping out

Hunting for - Jasper, Agate, Petrified wood, common opal

Tools you need - Rock hammer, shovel, pry bar, hammer, chisel and a backpack/bucket for your treasures

Access - this area is fairly easy to access

Additional items - lunch/snacks and water, water, water. Dress in layers

Please remember that even though we love to meet new people, fieldtrips are a member benefit and part of your membership dues covers you for injury liability.

Though injuries are rare, and we do everything we can to avoid them, we are going out into nature, and uncontrollable environment.

All individuals attending field trips will have to sign a release of liability, and if you are bringing guests, we will try to entice them into join the club by having Membership applications available.

JULY 2026 CLUB HOUSE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
2	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Rennera Barnes
3	Friday				
4	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
5	Sunday				
6	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
7	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
8	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	Wire Wrapping	Club House	Diane Stangland
9	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Rennera Barnes
10	Friday	6:00PM	Club Board Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Dennis Batchelor
		7:30PM	Club Business Meeting	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
11	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Gem Trees	Club House	Dana James
12	Sunday				
13	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
		7:00PM-8:00PM	Opal Club Business Meet.	Club House	Tony Johnson
14	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
15	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
16	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Rennera Barnes
17	Friday				
18	Saturday	See Fieldtrip Report	Pilchuck Creek	Field Trip	Paul Haak
		10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
19	Sunday				
20	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
21	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
22	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
23	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Rennera Barnes
24	Friday	7:30PM	Club Program Night	Fruitland Grange	Glenn Rodrick
25	Saturday	10:00AM-2:00PM	To Be Announced	Club House	
26	Sunday				
27	Monday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Tasha Parker
28	Tuesday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Wes Ames
29	Wednesday	10:00AM-2:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Dennis Batchelor
		4:00PM-8:00PM	To Be Announced	Club House	Diane Stangland
30	Thursday	4:00PM-8:00PM	Members Open Access	Club House	Rennera Barnes
31	Friday				

For questions about a specific class or event, contact PVGAMC@gmail.com

Dennis Batchelor (360) 870-8741

Wes Ames (253) 376-7871

Tasha Parker (206) 291-8068

Rennera Barnes rsb1224@netscape.com

Paul Haak (253) 312-1743

Ed Knoll (253) 651-7453

*** **Membership Open Access** is the time when members can use the saws and cabling machines

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN TOWELS

This schedule is subject to change. Please check the club website for updated information.

Clubhouse report

Wes Ames

With all the events last month, the Clubhouse ran on schedule. Members are reminded to bring their own towel as recent policy change on towels is now effective, also to bring exact change for fees.

Parts for out of order saw are on back-order as soon as they arrive; saw will be repaired. A big thanks to Paul Haak for cleaning the two 12-inch saws on Monday the 22nd.

Wes

Associations Director Report – July 2026

Hello rockhounds, pebblepup, and rock enthusiasts.

Summer has officially started with longer days and warmer days. Outdoor rock activities are in full swing whether you are strolling along the beach or joining one of our club's field trips great adventures await you.

Nothing going on legislatively with either the federal government or the state. As for the Mineral Council we voted to have a meeting this month to try and finish up some business. Normally we take July and August off. The meeting will be on Tuesday July 21 at the Maplewood Rock and Gem Club clubhouse in Edmonds. The meeting starts at 7 pm. We should have resolved the Zoom meeting issues by then. The log will be emailed out in a group email. Hopefully some of you will join us either in person or through Zoom.

Next up I would like to mention that our club is looking for volunteers to help out with all the functions we do. Our club has a lot of opportunities. You could come to the meetings a little early to help set up tables and chairs, bringing snacks to share at our meetings, helping out at our shows or taking a shift at our booth at the fair. We have a small cadre of people who volunteer all the time but we could use more help. You get out of the club what you put in. Help us stay strong and thriving. If you have any questions about volunteering just reach to anyone on the board.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mark Baumann,
Associations Director

Field Trip Recap

Paul Haak

The field trip to Red Top was a great success. We had 28 people attend this dig. Due to the large number of people and the limited parking at our normal site, we gave everyone the choice of going to our normal club site or to the Red Top Meadows to dig for Crystals. I need to give a big shout out to Jon Reiber for his help in leading the larger group to the meadows. Lots of people came away with great stuff, but I did see one member bring out a monster of a crystal about the size of a basketball.

It was a great time and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next field trip to Pilchuck Creek.

Paul Haak
Field Trip Coordinator.

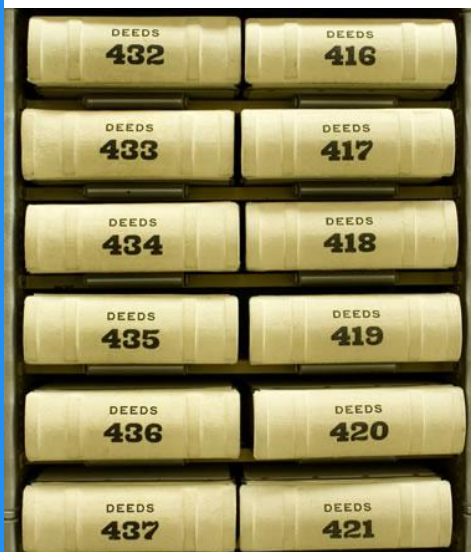
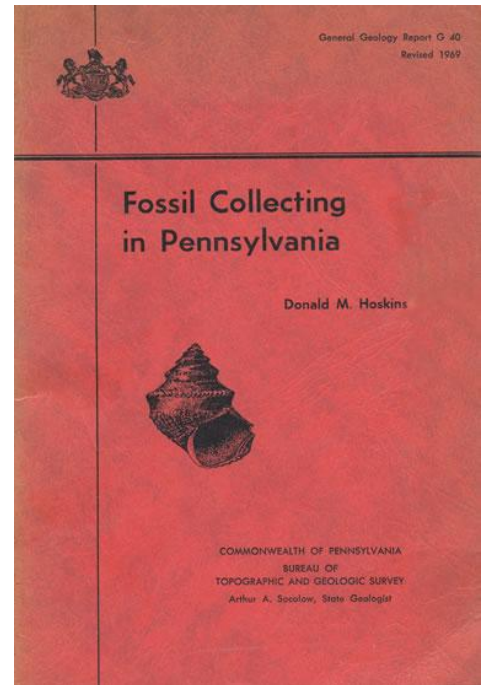
Legal Aspects of Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Collecting – Part 2

By Timothy J. Witt, J.D.

Collecting Publications: Many state geological surveys in the United States have published collecting guides for fossils, rocks, and minerals. These guides often provided the locations of sites where nice specimens have been found in the past. The sites were often on private property and caused problems for some landowners. As a result, some surveys stopped distributing these publications.

The Necessity of Permission or Consent

When considering the legalities of rock, mineral, or fossil collecting, the foremost principle is that a collector cannot legally take rocks, minerals, or fossils without the permission or consent of whoever has a legal right to those rocks, mineral, or fossils. Admittedly, this framework may seem overly technical and complicated when applied to small, loose, easily-taken stones located on the surface of land. Surely, it might appear, there would be no real harm or illegality in taking a few loose stones for personal use from unused, natural land when out on a brief hike. Nonetheless, this framework is the one in which questions of the legality of collecting even small, loose stones would be answered if such legal questions are raised. In every state taking the property of another, which would ostensibly extend even to rocks and other specimens, could violate criminal theft or larceny laws and serve as the basis for a lawsuit for civil liability against the person collecting the rocks from the land of another without permission. Many criminal laws are written in terms of wrongfully taking or exercising control or possession over property belonging to someone else.⁸ With such broad language, it becomes easy to see how property owners and law enforcement officials could interpret and apply these criminal laws to rocks and other specimens located on private property. One man from Michigan, who was arrested for taking stones placed in a road median for his garden and ended up paying in excess of \$1,000.00 in fines and fees, provides one such example. Another Michigan man who took landscaping rocks from restaurant property was similarly charged with larceny and fined. The three people charged with stealing rocks from a levee in Arkansas are yet another example. There is no shortage of instances where people have been criminally or civilly charged for taking rocks and other specimens from the property of others.



Deeds are legal documents that detail the ownership of property or rights.

Part 2: Determining Rock, Mineral, or Fossil Ownership and Possession

So how does a rock, mineral, or fossil collector figure out who owns particular specimens of interest and from whom permission may be needed? The answer would likely be found in a number of different legal documents and relationships, a non-exhaustive list of which is provided below.

1. Deeds.

Deeds are of primary importance in determining the ownership of land and the rocks, minerals, and fossils located on it. Despite the various types (e.g., general warranty, special warranty, quitclaim) and names (e.g., deeds, indentures), these documents transfer and evidence ownership of property and are usually recorded in the local courthouse or public records repository. For anyone, not the least of which are collectors, looking to determine the legal owner of property, the information in the current, most recent deed may quickly and easily contain the answer by clearly identifying who owns the property. Deeds must describe the property owned and being transferred in some manner and, therefore, should identify whether ownership includes the surface land or some other mineral or stone interest.⁹ In some cases, deeds evidencing ownership of the surface land will also expressly indicate that ownership includes the mineral or stone interests in the property as well. In many cases, however, deeds evidencing ownership of the surface land will also do the opposite; they will expressly indicate that the mineral or stone interests in the property were previously transferred, removed, or severed (oftentimes referred to as being “excepted,” “reserved,” or “retained”) and now belong to someone else. In many cases, deeds for surface lands do not clearly indicate that someone else owns the mineral or stone interests. In those cases, a collector would only be able to confirm who owns the mineral or stone interests by performing or obtaining what is called a “title search” on the property. A title search on the property typically includes a review of prior recorded documents and identifies the current owner of the mineral or stone interests based on those documents.¹⁰ The specific language within a deed and the interpretation of that language may also be determinative of ownership or possession rights to particular specimens. For example, a deed transferring ownership of mineral and stone interests may or may not generally cover surface rocks depending on the specific wording used.¹¹

Vial of gold flakes typical of what prospector. The gold in this vial would Removing it from private land would be However, if you are in compliance with allowed to keep it, if found on many properties. BLM image.



might be found by an amateur easily be worth hundreds of dollars. theft - unless you have permission. government regulations, you would be Bureau of Land Management

2. Leases.

Leases are similar to deeds in many respects. In some cases, legal documents that function more like deeds in transferring legal ownership of mineral or stone interests are actually called leases. In most cases, however, leases only give someone a right to possess and use property for a particular purpose and for a limited duration.¹² For example, a property owner might lease mineral interests to a mining company, enabling the mining company to enter on the land to mine and take out minerals for ten years. The mining company would not own the surface land and may not own minerals that it does not mine and that remain in the ground or on the property. As with deeds, the specific language within a lease agreement and the interpretation of that language may affect ownership or possession rights to particular specimens.

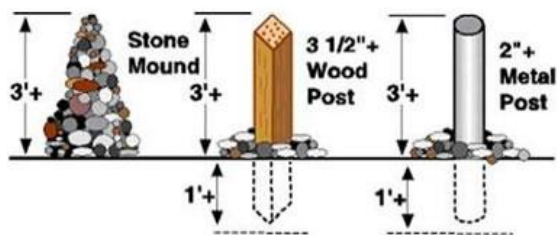
3. Conservation Easements and Agreements.

Easements and conservation agreements generally transfer an even more limited interest in property. These legal documents are intended to limit the use of the land in order to conserve its natural state. Oftentimes these conservation easements and agreements are granted to non-profit and government agencies with the goal of environmental protection and natural resource conservation and preservation. Accordingly, any use that is inconsistent with conserving land in its natural state are severely restricted or altogether prohibited. For example, conservation easements may permit hiking and other recreational activities, but would likely prohibit

mining, quarrying, and, in some cases, even farming. Rock, mineral, and fossil collectors must keep in mind, however, that a conservation easement granted for the surface of land may not cover or be applicable to mineral or stone interests in the property that were previously transferred to another person. In instances where conservation easements and agreements are in place, the entity receiving the easement or agreement to ensure conservation controls the use of the property, including its use for specimen collecting

4. Land Patents and Warrants.

Land patents and warrants establish someone's right and interest in land previously owned or controlled by the government. In the American legal system, governments assumed initial ownership or control of land that was considered otherwise unowned and unclaimed. In order to incentivize the use and development of such vacant land, oftentimes for homesteading and ranching purposes, governments offered to grant patents and warrants for finite portions of that land to persons who satisfied certain requirements (usually related to occupying and developing that land). In cases where lands are still subject to patents and warrants and, in particular, for which no deed has ever been issued, those patents and warrants establish ownership and possession rights for those surface lands. Consequently, land patent and warrant holders would, therefore, hold ownership and possession rights for specimens on those surface lands. Many such patents and warrants, however, contain reservations to the government for the mineral and stone rights for those lands. Thus, the government would retain the ownership and possession rights for subsurface rocks and minerals. Additionally, prior to 1994, many other patents were issued specifically for mineral interests in property, thereby transferring to those mineral patent holders ownership and possession rights for subsurface rocks and minerals. While it is not impossible to happen across property still subject to a patent or warrant in the eastern portion of the United States, patents and warrants are much more common in the western regions of the country as a result of more limited development and various congressional acts to promote the use and development of the large expanses of land in those areas. In cases where property is subject to neither a deed nor a patent or warrant, the federal government typically holds control and possessory rights to such property.



Recognizing a mining claim in the field: Mining claims are required to be marked by conspicuous and substantial monuments. If you see stone mounds, wooden stakes, or metal posts in the field, they could be on the boundaries of a mining claim. The person who holds a mining claim has the exclusive right to develop and remove materials from the site. These

areas should be avoided when you are searching for rock, mineral or fossil specimens. BLM image.

Here, someone has used a wooden stake to mark their mineral claim. BLM image.

5. Mining Claims.

Mining claims are granted on federal lands for mining locatable minerals under the General Mining Law of 1892. Mining claims require that persons locate and claim areas with valuable mineral deposits for mining purposes by following identification and location criteria and other management requirements mandated by the federal government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management.¹³ Someone with a mining claim has possessory rights limited to developing and extracting the claimed mineral deposit. Those possessory rights could include rocks and other specimens located on either the surface or subsurface of the land. A person



holding a mining claim does not own the land subject to the mining right, which in most cases continues to be held by the federal government.¹⁴

Obtaining Permission or Consent for Rock Collecting

After determining who owns or possesses the rocks, minerals, or fossils in question, a collector should try to determine from whom permission or consent is needed. Obtaining sufficient permission or consent for collecting involves two requisite components: 1) approval to enter onto the land to search for rocks, minerals, and fossils; and 2) approval to take the specimens. With both of these permissions, the rock, mineral, or fossil collector will not be trespassing, stealing, or a running afoul of a number of other crimes and civil wrongs.

Unfortunately, determining from whom permission or consent should be sought can become complicated. If an individual person is the title owner or possessor of the rocks, minerals, or fossils, it may be as simple as contacting that individual person and requesting permission to enter on the land and collect specimens. What if, however, multiple individuals are identified as the joint owners or possessors of the specimens? What if a company, nonprofit organization, or government or governmental entity is determined to be the owner or possessor?

Joint Ownership

In most states, where property is owned jointly, permission or consent to enter upon the property to search for rocks, minerals, and specimens in a non-damaging and non-invasive manner need only be given by one joint owner. Likewise, permission to take a few small specimens of little value would likely only need to be granted by one of the joint owners. If, however, the search for rocks, minerals, or fossils would be damaging or invasive, or rocks of substantial value or volume are to be taken, permission from all joint owners would likely be appropriate or legally required.

Organization, Company, or Government Ownership

Where a company, nonprofit organization, government, or governmental entity owns or possesses the property, permission or consent should be sought from an authorized representative, officer, or employee of the owner or possessor. In most cases, officers and management-level employees have the authority to grant permission or consent. In many other cases, other administrative employees may have been given the power to grant permission or consent as well.

Government lands present interesting questions regarding permission and consent to collect rocks, minerals, or certain fossils. In many cases, government lands are administered by particular governmental agencies. Oftentimes, for public lands, these governmental agencies are park or forest services. For federal lands, the most significant governmental agencies are the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the National Park Service. For many of these governmental agencies, formalized procedures have been adopted and implemented for making requests to enter and collect specimens. Likewise, specific local branches of these governmental agencies have been given the authority to grant needed permissions in accordance with their management and administration responsibilities.¹⁵

Implied Permission to Search or to Take

Rock, mineral, and fossil collectors should note that in many instances, permission to enter upon public lands to *search* for specimens is implied and no additional permission is necessary or must be specially requested (e.g. national and state parks).¹⁶ Simply because someone has implied permission to enter public lands does not, however, mean that the collector also has permission, implied or otherwise, to search for rocks, minerals, or fossils in a damaging or invasive manner, let alone to take or remove specimens from those public lands.

Collectors should confirm whether implied permission or consent to take or remove rock, mineral, or fossil specimens has also been given as well. In many cases, applicable laws and regulations specifically prohibit removing rocks and other specimens from government lands.¹⁷ If implied permission or consent to take or remove specimens has not been given, collectors should specially request that permission. These same legal principles also apply to private lands subject to public recreational use under various laws.¹⁸ Even where permission or consent to enter upon private lands for recreational purposes, including searching for specimens, is implied, specific permission to actually take or remove rocks, minerals, or fossils should still be sought from the private land owner or possessor.

One particularly important example of there being permission to search for specimens but not permission to remove them is government land administered by the National Park Service. On such lands, federal law prohibits possessing, removing, gathering, or digging rocks and other specimens without a necessary, restricted permit.¹⁹ Typically these permits are limited to scientists and researchers who are permitted to collect and take rocks and other specimens subject to substantial conditions. Indeed, in recent years, stealing rocks and other specimens has become recognized as a problem in some parks, like Acadia National Park, that additional rangers have been hired to catch thieves.²⁰

Multiple or Split Ownership

Rock collectors should also note that permission or consent may need to be obtained from multiple people. As described earlier in this article, it is not uncommon that the surface land and the mineral or stone interest associated with a particular property are each owned or possessed by different people. Accordingly, permission should be obtained from anyone whose rights would be affected by the anticipated rock, mineral, or fossil collecting activities.

Is Written Permission Necessary?

Understanding the gravity and importance of permission or consent (and the potential negative consequences of failing to obtain it), rock, mineral, and fossil collectors may ask how best to protect themselves. Do they need to obtain formal permission or consent in writing? While written permission affords the strongest protection against being charged with a crime or being sued civilly, it is, admittedly, impractical or might come across as unseemly to request written permission in certain instances. Imagine wanting to collect rocks on the land of a friendly elderly gentleman who happens to be a friend-of-a-friend. He could be offended or become unnecessarily reluctant or apprehensive if asked to provide written permission. Accordingly, in many instances, particularly where property is owned by individual persons, obtaining written permission is not crucial. Instead, obtaining verbal permission will oftentimes be sufficient protection against being charged with a crime or being sued civilly. Collectors should, nonetheless, note from whom and when permission was obtained. In other instances, obtaining written permission may be highly recommended or even required. For example, rock collecting activities on certain government land must be approved through a formal permitting process from which a written permit is issued; collecting rocks on those government lands without the necessary written permit is illegal. Similarly, written permission should oftentimes be obtained, as a practical matter, when entering or collecting on land owned by companies or organizations where the representatives that grant permission for rock, mineral, or fossil collecting activities are not the same representatives that monitor or patrol the land. Being able to produce written permission, upon request, in such situations generally avoids misunderstandings, awkward situations, and potentially dangerous confrontations. In some cases, written permission is required by certain laws even when verbal permission has been given by the landowner. For example, under Pennsylvania's Cave Protection Act, it is unlawful for someone to remove or take rocks and other specimens from a cave without the express written permission of the landowner.²¹

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



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804 West Valley Hwy, Kent, WA 98032
<http://jerrysrockandgem.com/>

FROM THE BENCH

Do you have material that you love, but can't work with it because it is too soft or crumbly? I know I do, and I would prefer to turn it into usable material rather than just leaving it as a display.

How do you go about this? Is there a process? What is it called?

These are all the questions I asked myself when I came across some outstanding chrysocolla but it was way too soft for me to use. It just kept breaking into pieces when I went to preform or cab it. Asking around the club, people told me I needed to stabilize my stone. That's what the process of taking a soft material and adding a hardening agent to it to make it more stable.

Awesome... having a name is half the battle, now the Google and I can figure out the rest. Have you every typed into a search engine "How do I stabilize a rock for lapidary use?" Try it and see what happens. Needless to say there is a tone of information out there and lots of products to help keep your rocks from breaking apart.

Again I went to the membership, and you guys pointed me to a product called "Hotstuff". Said it works wonderful. I have been too busy (scared) to try it but I am positive it works.

If you have any tips or techniques that you would like to share, pass the info along to J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com and I will put it in the next newsletter.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH



Do you recognize this gorgeous crystal? If you do, and if you have a piece(s), I would love to see them. This is one of my favorite minerals, Diopside.

Like most beautiful green/blue minerals, diopside is a copper based cyclosilicate mineral. It is a little on the soft side, only having a Mohl of 5, but can be anywhere from transparent to translucent depending on the purity of the mineral it is composed from. All diopside has a brilliant luster due to the crystal structure.

Diopside forms in a trigonal structure that doesn't form in long crystal structures but in gathered clusters that can be long collectively, but not individually.

It is named after the Greek words "dio" and "optos" meaning to see or thought. It can be found all over the world, but the best examples are found in Russia, China, Chile, Botswana, Namibia, and Arizona.



Volunteer Spotlight -

This is a new segment of the newsletter to help the membership see where there are opportunities to volunteer.

Club Show volunteers: too many to list. Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered for making this the best show ever.

June clubhouse volunteers:

Sheri St.John, Roxanne and Steve Gary, Dennis

Gem Faire volunteers:

Mark Baumann, Tony Johnson, Wes Ames, Richard Holl, Dennis Batchelor, Carl Carlson, Mary New, Glenn Roderick.

Thank you to everyone for their help!

We will be needing volunteers to help with the Club Picnic setup in August 2026 and grill management. This is a potluck, and more information will be coming out in an email.

We will also be emailing out a list of volunteers needed to help with our booth at the WA State Fair. This is our heaviest volunteer load, so any assistance would be greatly appreciated. All volunteers get free parking and entrance to the fair. Added Bonus, you get to give free rocks to kids and watch their faces light up.

Local Area Shows for 2026

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
June 2026 27th 9am - 5pm 28th 9am - 5pm	Cascade Mineralogical Society	Annual show	Kent Commons 525 4th Ave N Kent, WA
July 2026 24th 9am—6pm 25th 9am—6pm 26th 9am—5pm	Washington Agate and Mineral Society	2026 Rock & Gem Rendezvous	Tenino City Park 300 Park Ave W Tenino WA
August 2026 8th 10am - 5pm 9th 10am - 5pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Annual Summer Rock and Mineral Sale	Maplewood Clubhouse 8802 196th St SW Edmonds, WA
August 2026 15th 9am—4pm	Shelton Rock and Mineral Society	16th Annual Tailgate Rock Sale and Swap Meet Tailgate spots \$40	MCRA 2100 E Johns Prairie Rd Shelton, WA
September 2026 19th 10am – 5pm 20th 10am – 4pm	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	60th Annual show	Cowlitz Co. Fairgrounds Events Center 1900 7th Ave Longview, WA
September 2026 19th 10am – 4pm 20th 10am – 4pm	Fraser Valley Rock and Gem Club	Annual show	Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Center 26770 29th Ave Aldergrove, BC
October 2026 3rd 10am - 5pm 4th 10am - 5pm	Marysville Rock and Gem Club	50th Anniversary show	Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg #500 14405 179th Ave SE Monroe, WA



From Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, 04/26

Mineral of the Month: Diopside

Diopside is a rare, vibrant emerald-to-bluish-green copper cyclo-silicate mineral ($\text{CuSi}_2(\text{OH})_2$) highly prized by collectors for its intense color, glass-like luster, and prismatic crystals. Primarily found in arid, oxidized copper deposits (notably Tsumeb, Namib-

ia), it is fragile (Mohs 5) and mainly used for display specimens, metaphysical healing, and occasionally as a pigment.

Color & Appearance: Vivid emerald green to dark bluish-green, ranging from transparent to translucent.



Formation: It is a secondary mineral that forms in the oxidized zones of copper ore deposits.

Uses: Primarily a high-value collector's mineral specimen. It is used in metaphysical practices for heart chakra healing, emotional detoxification, and overcoming past trauma. Rarely, it is used in, or as a source for, pigments.

(Continued on page 3)

2026 SHOW & TELL THEMES and PROGRAM NIGHT EVENTS

MEETING	DATE	SHOW & TELL THEME	PROGRAM NIGHT EVENT
January - 1st Meeting	January 9, 2026	Tiger's Eye or any field trip finds	
January - 2nd Meeting	January 23, 2026	Lace or any field trip finds	Field Trip Finds
February - 1st Meeting	February 13, 2026	Heart shaped or any field trip finds	
February - 2nd Meeting	February 27, 2026	No Show & Tell	Carl Carlson
March - 1st Meeting	March 13, 2026	"Sham" rocks or any field trip finds	
March - 2nd Meeting	March 27, 2026	No Show & Tell	Jerry's Rock Shop
April - 1st Meeting	April 10, 2026	April Fools Gold or any field trip finds	
April - 2nd Meeting	April 24, 2026	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
May - 1st Meeting	May 8, 2026	Flower rocks or any field trip finds	
May - 2nd Meeting	May 22, 2026	No Show & Tell	Chris Herrera
June - 1st Meeting	June 12, 2026	Fancy Slabs & Fossils + any field trip finds	
June - 2nd Meeting	June 26, 2026	No Show & Tell	Tailgate Party @ Grange Parking Lot
July - 1st Meeting	July 10, 2026	Red, White, & Blue or any field trip finds	
July - 2nd Meeting	July 24, 2026	No Show & Tell	Jerry's Rock Shop
August - 1st Meeting	August 14, 2026	Carnelians + any field trip finds	
August - 2nd Meeting	Saturday, August 29, 2026	No Show & Tell	Picnic & Tailgate Party at club house on Saturday
September - 1st Meeting	September 11, 2026	Crystals + any field trip finds	
September - 2nd Meeting	September 25, 2026	No Show & Tell	Mini Demonstration
October - 1st Meeting	October 9, 2026	Wood + any field trip finds	
October - 2nd Meeting	October 23, 2026	No Show & Tell	Auction/Potluck
November - 1st Meeting	November 13, 2026	Thundereggs & Geodes + any field trip finds	
November - 2nd Meeting	November 27, 2026	No Show & Tell	BINGO Night
December - 1st Meeting	Saturday, December 12, 2026	No Show & Tell	Holiday Banquet/Officer Installation on Saturday
December - 2nd Meeting	No Meeting	No Show & Tell	

2026 Elected Officers

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President:	Glenn Rodrick	(253)820-4402	glennrodi10@gmail.com
Vice President:	Dennis Batchelor	(360)870-8741	hobbyhorse51@gmail.com
Secretary:	Mary New	(253)307-1389	marynew59@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Association Director:	Mark Baumann	(253)310-5891	rocksnreptiles4me@gmail.com
1 Year Director:	Richard Yang	(208)596-8340	ryang0711@gmail.com
2 Year Director:	Brett Lawrence	(253) 584-1319	bandslawrence@comcast.net
1 Year Trustee:	Paul Haak	(253)312-1743	pvhaak@gmail.com
2 Year Trustee:	Wes Ames	(253)376-7871	ameswa@msn.com

2026 Committee Chairs

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Clubhouse Coordinator	Wes Ames	(253)376-7871	ameswa@msn.com
Club Show Coordinator	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Field Trips Coordinator	Paul Haak	(253)312-1743	pvhaak@gmail.com
Web Master	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Editor/Communications	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Membership	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Sunshine	Glenn Rodrick	(253)820-4402	glennrodi10@gmail.com
Newsletter	Jillian Higgins	(253)355-3146	J.Y.Higgins@gmail.com
Outreach Coordinator	Mark Baumann	(253)310-5891	rocksnreptiles4me@gmail.com



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL

The Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the American Lands Access Association and the Washington State Mineral Council. You can find more information about the ALAA at: amlands.org or the WA Mineral Council at: mineralcouncil@zoho.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 2026

Ryan Armstrong – 1st
 Larry Clappitt – 1st
 Abbey Ennis – 1st
 Michael Day – 3rd
 Shirley Whitman – 3rd
 Carrie Charpentier – 4th
 Noah Caffey – 4th
 Cannon Benson – 5th
 Chloe James – 5th
 Jessie James – 5th
 Kristen Weiss – 5th
 Mary New – 5th
 Daimy Mitchell – 6th
 Gary Burgess – 7th
 Lillith Higgins – 9th
 Jack Lancaster – 9th
 Ramon Nunez – 9th
 Buck Crane – 10th
 Florence Harris – 10th
 Michelle Cooper – 11th
 Debbie Overman – 11th
 Richard Yang – 11th
 Max Irvin – 12th
 Lois Knoll – 12th
 Jennifer Smith – 12th
 Ariel Cooper – 13th
 Mya Nixon – 13th
 Sandy Hoffman – 13th
 Becket Carlton – 14th
 Jennifer Harrell – 14th
 Timothy Jackson – 14th
 Rackel Paquin – 14th
 Fred Welcher – 15th
 Juella Gibson – 16th
 Kaden Cook – 17th
 Luis Herrera – 17th
 David Jackson – 17th
 Victoria Fulmer – 18th
 Justin Johnson – 21st
 Jessica Baker – 23rd
 Rain Scipper – 26th
 Stacy Gordon – 28th
 Taylor Karnes – 28th
 Samantha Sidorak – 29th

A SOFTER TOUCH (MOH'S 1-3.5)

V A N A D I N I T E T I N B I T S
I W A N L R E T I N E G S O H P H
V A X M U U I L E T I U L D B U O
I V W U L F E N I T E T I R A B W
A E A S E L E T I S S U R E C R L
N L G T X U O L W D P E S A M I I
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T I V M T O T S C O L E C I T E E
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L I G Y P S U M D U A H N O S L Y
G T E R I T S E L A C N E X A I R
N R O U C H J E T T S A L G N M E
A A Z U R I T E T I N R E B R O T

1. ADAMITE
2. ANGLESITE
3. ANHYDRITE
4. ARTINITE
5. AZURITE
6. BARITE
7. BORAX
8. CERUSSITE
9. ERYTHRITE

10. GALENA
11. GYPSUM
12. HOWLITE
13. MILLERITE
14. ORPIMENT
15. PHOSGENITE
16. SALT
17. SCOLECITE
18. SIDERITE

19. STIBNITE
20. SULFUR
21. TALC
22. TORBERNITE
23. ULEXITE
24. VANADINITE
25. VIVIANITE
26. WAVELLITE
27. WULFENITE

Jeanine Crijns – 30th
 Sharnel Divona – 30th
 Jolynn Brookshire – 30th
 Paul Supplee – 30th
 Jeremiah Johnson – 31st
 Holden McClusky – 31st

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ROCK-A-TEER

Newsletter of Puyallup Valley

Gem & Mineral Club

P.O. Box 134

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