

November 2024 Volume 64 Issue 9

SKAGIT GEMS

**Official Publication of the Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961**

Photo credit: <https://www.birthstone.guide/november-birthstones>

Next meeting:

November 2nd, 10am @ the Mount Vernon Senior Center

Gem of the Month: Bring Your Favorite Mineral, Rock, Crystal

Refreshments: Feel free to bring a snack!

November Rock & Gem Show Needs You!

The club still needs donations for raffle prizes and door prizes - remember, our raffle benefits our geology scholarship fund. The donations can come from your personal collection of rock, gem, and mineral-related items, and/or jewelry you have made. The donations of smaller items will also go to hourly door prizes. We're looking for eye-catching items that people will want to buy raffle tickets for!

You can also donate your left-over Halloween candy for the kids games at the show.

We can also use volunteers! So many things to choose from! Raffle ticket sales, Door Greeters, Kids Crafts, and the Spinning Wheel. Helping out with the Set-up and Teardown is always welcomed and the more, the merrier! All you talented Demonstrators are always needed and welcome to show off your skills! This is a great opportunity to get the community interested in the club and attract more members. Sign up sheets will be at November meeting.

Let's all pitch in to make this show a success!

Inside this issue:

Announcements	... Page 1
Dues, New Members & More!	... Page 2
Club Information	... Page 3
Meeting Minutes	... Page 4
WSMC Field Trips	... Page 5
Stilpnomelane @ Blanchard Mt	... Page 6-7
Upcoming Things To Do	... Page 8-9

Remember!

The location of our November Rock and Gem Show has changed!

The new location will be:

Sedro-Woolley Eagles

1000 Metcalf St

Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE



[https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones#:~:text=Both%20November%](https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones#:~:text=Both%20November%20)

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer. Most topaz and citrine birthstones are affordably priced, as good-quality gems are not as rare as for many of their counterparts. This means that those born in November have many options to choose from. Your challenge will be deciding which one to pick.

**Welcome Our
New Member!**

Steve Hayes

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

*Sign up at our November meeting to join in the fun at our Annual Show coming up in November at the new location.
Sedro-Woolley Eagles!*

*I am not a
Rock Hoarder.
I am the curator of an
Extensive Private
Geological
Collection*

Reminder that Dues are due!

Time flies and if you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time to renew. Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from September 1st through August 31st.

Please pay dues if you would like to continue your membership and receive the newsletter. Membership dues must be paid to use the club shop.

New Membership Forms are available at every meeting. Invite your "rockhound" friends to be a guest at our next meeting. They can become a member after attending one meeting.

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.

Payment can be made by cash or check at a meeting.

If you are renewing your membership, you can mail in your payment to the address below:

Dave Britten
PO Box 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month
(except for Jan, July and Dec) 10:00 am at the

Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center

1401 Cleveland St.

Mount Vernon WA 98273



The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens.

We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council.



We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Dues are \$20.00 for single membership, \$30.00 for family, and \$25.00 for single, plus kid(s) under age 16.



Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com

Find us on Facebook

Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO BOX 244

Mount Vernon WA 98273



2024 Officers & Board Members

- President · Eric Self
 360-366-6118
- Vice President · Peggy Peterson
 425-299-4123
- Treasurer · David Britten
 360-755-0741
- Secretary · Bruce Hurley
 702-336-0395
- Fed. Director · Open
- Past President · Wes Frank
 360-757-6276
- Bulletin Editor · Charlene Rhodes
 360-333-2156

Committees

- Annual Show Chair.....Eric Self
- Facilities/Field Trips..Dave Britten
- Greeter.....Peggy Peterson
- Scholarship.....Kim Kellems
 and Shelley Van Pelt
- Publicity.....Open
- Sunshine.....Open
- Swap.....Vandenberg's

SKAGIT ROCK & GEM CLUB

Meeting Minutes, October 5, 2024

President Eric Self called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Board members present: Eric Self, Peggy Peterson, Bruce Hurley, David Britten. Bulletin Editor Charlene Rhodes was absent.

Twelve members were in attendance plus two guests, Kerrick Mainrender and Steve Hayes. Steve Hayes joined the club as a new member.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The Skagit Rock & Gem Club 2024 Show will be held at the Sedro Woolley Eagles Hall at 1000 Metcalf Street on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. Show setup will be all day on Friday, November 8, and show hours will be 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday. Takedown will follow the show closing on Sunday.

Shelley VanPelt volunteered to run the November Show Raffle.

Members discussed the Display Cases: size & what goes in them.

David Britten asked members to see if they might have any items to donate for Raffle and/or Silent Auction materials. David also talked about the status of the shop, which is now set up, and gave a quick review of using slab materials to make cabochons.

The theme for the October meeting was orange and black rocks and minerals. A number of members brought in examples of both types to discuss. It turns out that orange materials are more abundant than probably expected. The theme for the November meeting will be "Bring Your Favorite Mineral, Rock, Crystal."

Eric adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Mineral Council Field Trips Contact Information

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip !!!

HOST	CLUB	CONTACT INFO
MSVL = Marysville Rock Club	Ed Lehman	wsmced2@outlook.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786
DARR = Darrington Rock Club	" "	" "
MSVL = Nique Wicks	nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com	(509)-670-0630
SPOK = Spokane Rock Rollers	Mike Shaw	mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 251-1574 or (509) 244-8542
N O A = Tony Johnson	ynotopals@outlook.com	(253) 863-9238
PVGMC = Dennis Bachchel	(360) 870-8741	
POW = All Rockhounds Pow Wow	Larry Vess	vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Keep updated on <http://www.mineralcouncil.zoho.com> Land management changes, and roads close regularly. There is a area on web page with tool category in pictures and names of tools.

Always have proper cloths and gear for conditions. Be prepared with safety, first aid, food and drink.

A week before trips I (Ed Lehman) will have a pdf file with map and info for that trip I can send you on request. I will do the same for trip host.

Try to be at the meeting site 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas.

Use code of ethics, keep our lands open to rockhounding.

The Final Washington State Mineral Council Field Trip is November 16, 2024.

The location is Blanchard Hill—the mineral is stilpnomelane

The meet up with host is I-5/Alger Rd Gas & Go

Be sure to contact the host for updated information a week prior to the trip.

The Washington State Mineral Council is dedicated to the location and conservation of rock and mineral sites of interest to the rockhounds of Washington state.

The Council is also committed to the Rockhound's Code of Ethics and to educating the general public about the benefits of the lapidary, rock and mineral collecting, and fossil collecting hobbies as family oriented activities in which people of all ages may participate.

Through its Wagonmaster arm the WSMC conducts field trips several times a year. These trips offer the rock hound the opportunity to collect material with experienced guides.

The WSMC is made up of the representatives of over 25 rock and mineral collecting / lapidary clubs spanning the state. Further information may be obtained by email (mineralcouncil@zoho.com) or by snail mail at: 4316 N. E. 10th, Renton, WA 98059

2024 W S M C FIELD TRIPS UPDATE 3/21/24 (add 4/20 trip)

The WA St. Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public. Most trips are free. Included are the Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For updated info, go to mineralcouncil.zoho.com or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or h ph# (425) 334-6282 Cell# (425) 760-2786. Pow Wow Dues are \$7.50 each or &15 a family. They supply 2 free breakfast's on trips (what a deal).

DATE	HOST	SITE	MATERIAL	Meet @	TOOLS
01/20 or 27	MSVL	Walk Vly	9am Agate	Blg Lake Store	Sm shovel, sm pick, Rock & 3# hammer, chisel, Bar
02/17	MSVL	W W U	9:30 Tour	WWU Park lot "C"	Camera
03/16	MSVL	Cherry Ck	9am Jasper	Duvall @ Cherry Val Rd	Rock hammer, Wadeing Boots
04/13 & 14	Pow	Saddle Mt	8am Pet Wood	Matawa Boat Launch	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
04/20	MSVL	Racerorse Ck	9am Fossils & Mushrooms	Sunset Hwy 10mi East I-5	Bellingham Rock splitting tools
05/18	DAR	Bailey Trail	9am Chert	Verlot Ranger Station	rock & large hammers, pry bar
06/15	MSVL	Saddle Mt	9am Pet wood	Matawa Grocery Store	Shovel, rock hammer, sm pick
07/20	DAR	Sweetwater	11am Travertine	Darrington Rock Show	Rock & 3# hammers, chisel, sm pry bar
08/24	MSVL	Lk Wenatchee	9am Garnets	Lake Wenatchee Park	sm shovel, 1/4" mesh box screen & tweezers
08/17 & 8 ?	P V	Green Water	9am Agate-Jasper-Opal	F R 70 @ washout bend	shovel, sm pick, Rock & 3# hammers, sm pry bar
09/7&8	POW	Red Top	8am Atgate-Jasper-Geodes	Teanaway Camp Grnd	same as above & chisel
09/21 ?	Opal	Lt Naches	10am T-Eggs Fossils-Lilypad	Hwy 410 & F R 91	same as 2 above
10/19	DAR	Index	9am Pic Jasper	Hwy 2 & Index Rd	Rock hammer, wading boots
11/16	MSVL	Blanchard Hill	9am Dalmation St	I-5 @ Alger RD gas&go	Heavy hard rock tools & safety glasses

Stilpnomelane at Blanchard Mountain, Skagit County

By Dave Tucker March 3, 2010 Source: <https://nwgeology.wordpress.com/the-fieldtrips/stilpnomelane-at-blanchard-mountain-skagit-county/>

A road cut on Blanchard Mountain allows easy access to an unusual exposure of the mineral stilpnomelane. This is a striking black mineral crystallized as shiny rosettes in or near white quartz veins, which in turn cut beautiful green chert. The chert is bedded between phyllite exposures to east and west. The entire outcrop is steeply dipping. The rocks are part of the Easton Metamorphic Suite, best known for the Darrington Phyllite and Shuksan Greenschist rock units in the North Cascades, which formed during subduction of latest Jurassic – earliest Cretaceous seafloor sediments. See the [field trip](#) to the nearby Oyster Dome and Bat Caves to learn more about the geology of this suite of rocks. This outcrop is popular with mineral collectors, and shows a fair amount of wear and tear.



Black rosettes of stilpnomelane in quartz.

Before you smash the rock for a sample, look around in the plentiful talus at the base. BE VERY CAREFUL HAMMERING THE GREEN CHERT! This rock is very brittle and breaks up into tiny glassy shards. Similar rock has been used for tool points- “flint” is a dark variety of essentially the same stuff.



Stilpnomelane is an iron-rich mineral; these minerals are structured as weakly bonded sheets of silica. Minerals with this structure are in the phyllosilicate class, which you will of course remember if you took mineralogy. You may recognize the suffix *phylon*, Greek for ‘leaf’. Chlorite and the mica minerals biotite and muscovite are more familiar minerals in the phyllosilicates. The mineral’s descriptive name is also derived from the classical Greek that all academic geologists use in their daily conversations when they don’t want their students to hear them: *stilpnos*, ‘shiny’, and *melanos*, ‘black’. For more on the mineralogy, including photomicrographs, see George Mustoe’s paper (available online) listed in the references.

White quartz veins cut green chert on Blanchard Mountain

[Chert](#) is a microcrystalline rock that is primarily silica (SiO_4). Two origins for the chert on Blanchard Mountain have been proposed. Dragovich (1998) suggests that since the sediments that formed the rocks of the Easton Suite are derived from a volcanic island arc, at least some of the nearly pure silica that comprises the chert fell as fine volcanic ash on the seafloor. Gallagher and others (1988) holds to a classical origin for the siliceous sediment as a [radiolarian](#) ‘ooze’, deposited on a shallow ocean floor by the rain of radiolarian tests (‘shells’) when these planktonic protista died. Rapid burial by more tests or muddy sediment trapped the silica, which eventually lithified to form the chert. The phyllite that sandwiches the chert is derived from lithified mud.

The seafloor sediments were subjected to high pressure but relatively low temperatures as they were eventually subducted and metamorphosed to the rocks we see today on land. Mustoe (1998) speculates that the stilpnomelane crystalized during hydrothermal activity, which introduced iron into the surrounding chert in sufficient amounts to enter silicate structures and become stilpnomelane.

Getting there: The simplest route is via I-5. Exit at Bow Hill Road, exit #240. Head northwest on Lake Samish Road. Mileages are given from the end of the southbound off ramp. In 0.4 miles (0.6 km) turn left (west) onto Barrel Springs Road, which curves due south. 1.1 miles from I-5, turn right on gravel road B-1000, signed "Blanchard Trail". Follow this curving gravel road past a major trail head (the 'lower' trailhead to the Blanchard Mountain Trail ; at 2.6 miles, pass 30-foot-high cliffs of mangy-looking Darrington phyllite on the right. Just beyond, turn left at 2.7 miles on a road with a yellow gate (usually open, and sometimes signed B-2000) to "Samish Overlook". (If you continue straight rather than taking this left, arrive shortly at the upper Blanchard Mountain trailhead). It is 0.4 mile from the yellow gate to the stilpnomelane outcrop (3.1 miles from I-5), an obviously different looking 60-foot-long by 15-foot-high greenish road cut cliff on the right.

If you want a really spectacular view, continue beyond the stilpnomelane outcrop 1.9 miles to the Samish Overlook, (5 miles, 8 km, from I-5). Here is a great view out over Samish Bay to the San Juan Islands, the Samish River delta, the Olympics on a fine day. A trail goes north from here 0.3 miles to join with the [Oyster Dome/Bat Caves](#) geology field trip, which you'll join a few hundred yards before the 'stretched pebble conglomerate' outcrop. The road to the overlook passes through phyllite and semischist of the Easton Suite.



Phyllis (curved foliation right of hammer) and the contact with the massive green chert, cut by white quartz and black stilpnomelane



The stilpnomelane/chert outcrop. Bob Mooers looks for a nice sample in the talus.



The view southwest from the end of the road. Plumes are refineries at Anacortes. Samish River flats at far left.

Essential reference:

Mustoe, G.E., 1998, Stilpnomelane at Blanchard Mountain, western Skagit County, Washington: Washington Geology, vol. 26, no. 4, p. 3-7. This article is available in full online [here](#).

Also cited:

Gallagher, M.P., Brown, E.H., and Walker, W., 1988, A new structural interpretation of the western part of the Shuksan blueschist terrane, northwestern Washington: Geological Society of America Bulletin, vol. 100, no. 9, p. 1415-1422.
 Dragovich, J.D., and others, 1998, Geologic map and interpreted geologic history of the Bow and Alger 7.5-minute quadrangles, western Skagit County, Washington: Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources Open File Report 98-5, 80 p., 3 plates.

Upcoming things to do!

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER
STILL AVAILABLE!

Skagit Rock & Gem Club Presents

A Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

New
Location for
2024!

Nov. 9th 9 - 5

Nov. 10th 10 - 4

Sedro Woolley Eagles Hall · 1000 Metcalf St.



Hourly door prizes · Vendors · Demonstrations

FREE ADMISSION

Raffle · children's activities

skagitrockandgem@gmail.com · skagitrockandgem.com

Washington Rock & Mineral Shows

Skagit Rock & Gem Show - NEW LOCATION - 11/09/2024

Start Date: 11/09/2024

End Date: 11/10/2024

Hours: Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Sedro-Woolley Eagles Hall

Address: 1000 Metcalf St
Sedro-Woolley Eagles Hall
Sedro-Woolley, WA

Website: <https://www.skagitrockandgem.com/>

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club Annual Show - 11/09/2024

Start Date: 11/09/2024

End Date: 11/10/2024

Hours: 10:00-5:00

Venue: Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse

Address: 8802 196th St SW
Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse
Edmonds, WA

Website: <http://www.maplewoodrockclub.com/home>

Fall Festival of Gems - 11/23/2024

Start Date: 11/23/2024

End Date: 11/24/2024

Hours: 10:00 - 5:00

Venue: Kitsap County Fairgrounds - The President's Hall

Address: 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd
Kitsap County Fairgrounds - The President's Hall
Bremerton, WA 98311

Website: <https://www.kmgsrockclub.com/>

Parade of Gems - 04/25/2025

Start Date: 04/25/2025

End Date: 04/27/2025

Hours: Fri 10:00-4:00 Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Central Washington State Fair Grounds

Address: 1301 South Fair Avenue
Central Washington State Fair Grounds
Yakima, WA <http://www.yakimarockclub.com/>

Website: <http://www.yakimarockclub.com/>

Source: <https://www.rockandmineralshows.com/location/mineral-shows/washington>

Skagit Rock Club November Show Schedule: November 8 – 10th, 2024

<u>Friday, Nov 8th, MORNING</u>	Set up and prepare tables for dealers. Set up and prepare tables for club activities. Set up modules and cases for raffle and club displays.
<u>Friday, Nov 8th, AFTERNOON</u>	Dealers will prepare their areas. Club members will organize activities areas. The Greeters Table will be set up at the entrance Case displayers will fill their individual display cases.
<u>Saturday, Nov 9th, 9am to 5pm</u>	<u>SHOW TIME</u> Help needed all day. Sign up for times that you are available to help at Greeters, Critter Table, Spinning Wheel, Auction & Club Sales.
<u>Sunday, Nov 10th, 10am to 4pm</u>	<u>SHOW TIME</u> Same as Saturday
Sunday – <u>After</u> RAFFLE PRIZES AWARDED Usually 430pm/5pmish	Dismantling and Cleanup



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Charlene Rhodes, Editor
PO BOX 244
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

