



# SKAGIT GEMS

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

November 2018  
Volume 58, Issue 9

Next Meeting: November 3rd, 10am  
Gem of the Month: Any Red Rock  
Refreshments: Feel free to bring something



**Nov. 9th 10am: Gem Show Set-up**

**Nov. 10 & 11 Skagit Rock and Gem Club Show:** We still need your help during the show. Sign up sheets will be at the next meeting. We also need donations for door prizes and raffle items, please have them be rock related.

**December 1 @ Noon:** Club Christmas Party at Little Mountain Estates Clubhouse, 2610 E. Section Mt. Vernon. More info to come in the December newsletter. There is NO meeting at the senior center.

**January 2019: Date TBD** NO Regular Meeting, We meet for lunch at a local restaurant and have an initiation ceremony if there are any new club officers.

Thank you so much to Ken Davis and Willy Evans for their donations to the club. Willy gave us a scrapbook from her in-laws that were involved in rock-hounding in the 1930's. The scrapbook included a poem written by her mother-in-law that I have posted here ➡

## Welcome New Members!

Suzanne and Madelyn Santino

Christine Plecki

Heather Pippin

Brett and Kiesan Pinney

Ray and Barbara Pinney

## The Club Needs YOU!

Would you like to serve as a club officer for 2019? The club is still in need of a Secretary. This is an easy way to help support the club. The main duties are taking minutes at the meetings and getting them to the newsletter editor, checking the mail from the PO BOX and attending the Board meetings. You can sign-up even if you think you might miss a meeting or two- we can cover you!

## Rock Nuts

1. In a busy, western city,  
In Seattle by the Sound,  
There's a crowd of crazy people,  
Old and young are gathered round;
2. They are looking at the agates,  
Polished fine and shaped with care;  
Sour faces are in other places,  
Friendly greetings fill the air.
3. Pick and shovel, bar and hammer,  
These are always in the car,  
When we wander o'er the hillsides,  
Seeking gems from near and far.
4. In a wheatfield, down in Adna,  
When the farmer's work is done,  
You will find us busy digging,  
Digging rocks, -- it's lots of fun.
5. In the mountains, in the valleys,  
In the fields and on the shore,  
We can find the lovely jasper,  
Treasured there since days of yore.
6. In the caverns, in the canyons,  
There are crystals gleaming bright,  
Shining garnets, quartz and fluorite,  
Red and blue and green and white.
7. Picture wood in Arizona,  
In the desert places bare,  
Fiery opals in Nevada,  
Crystal geodes here and there.
8. In the morning, in the evening,  
In the daytime at our tasks,  
We are dreaming of vacation,  
Thru the winter's chilly blasts.
9. And in summer, when we're roving  
Over highways near and far,  
We recall the winter evenings'  
Grinding wheels and diamond saw.
10. Rocks are piled in every corner,  
In the basement, in the shed,  
In the parlor and in the attic,--  
Soon we'll find them in our bed!

-- J. Evans 11/10/1938  
Sing to tune "Clementine"



## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, October 2018 newsletter

Beth Heesacker

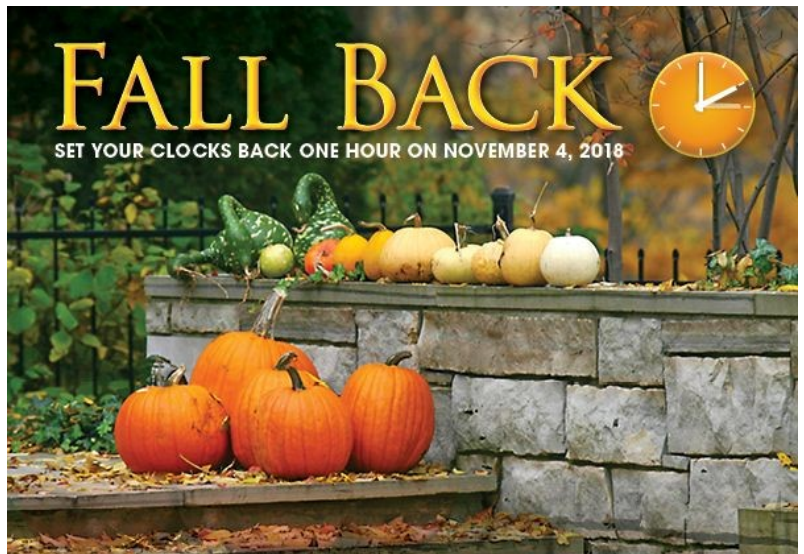
<http://northwestfederation.org>

In my last article I tried to define what a volunteer is. The portion of the definition that I liked best was “expresses a willingness to undertake a service”. Note that it does not say “someone who is asked to undertake a service” although that is what happens many times.

The best kind of volunteer is someone who, when they see a need, steps up to “undertake a service”. Now even before this happens, a person needs to have a clear view of what their gifts, their abilities, are. So, what can you do? Do you run a household, plan and make meals, balance a budget, manage a group, coach a sport, start your own company, etc. Each of these activities have given you experience that is not only valuable to your family or company but is also of value to your club.

From another viewpoint what do you want to learn? Volunteering for your club can be a way to expand your experiences. Planning, budgeting, managing, coaching, etc. are all abilities that can be grown and expanded by volunteering for your club. I know of one teenager that volunteered for a club as Field Trip Chair. He did a wonderful job and it gave him a wealth of experience. He had the “willingness” and put it to good use.

So, what do you do when your show chair asks for help, or your nominating committee announces an opening in your club Board or Officers? Usually any one of these opportunities, these “services”, do not require much in the way of time. There of course are some that require more time and commitment, such as a show chair or newsletter editor, but these do not have to be your first “service”. Start small, get the experience, enjoy being of service. Each club has different needs. You have different skills. Look around in your club and find a match. Don’t wait to be asked but “express[es] a willingness”.





**Ant Hill Garnets.** These are beautiful bright red chromium pyrope garnets with a very high color saturation.

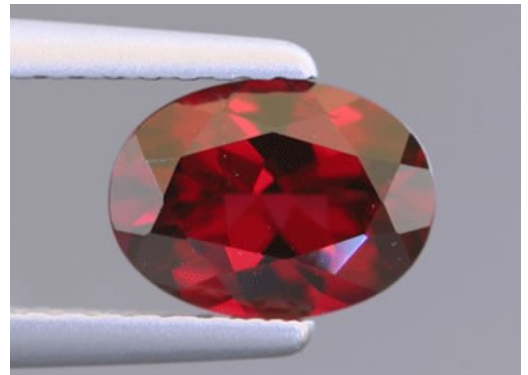
Some gemstones derive a large portion of their appeal because they are found in an unexpected locality or have an unusual origin. "Ant hill garnets" are one of the more interesting of these "novelty gems."

They are called "ant hill garnets" because they are found on and around the margins of ant hills. The ants encounter the garnets while excavating their underground passages. The ants haul the stones to the surface and discard them. The rain washes the garnets clean and moves them down the flank of the ant hill, where they can accumulate in large numbers. This concentrates the little gems and makes them easy for people to collect. Their brilliant luster and red color contrasts strongly with the surrounding soil. A few areas in Arizona are well known for ant hill garnets. The Native Americans discovered them long ago and marveled at their color and beauty. They regarded them as special and sometimes sewed them into ceremonial rattles or gave them as tokens of appreciation.

Today, Native Americans and rockhounds collect the garnets and sell them in parcels to lapidaries who cut them into cabochons and faceted stones. The finished stones and attractive pieces of rough are sold to gem collectors and mounted into jewelry. The novelty origin of the stones adds to their appeal and can elevate their price to a higher level than what is paid for similar-quality stones from other localities.

The typical ant hill garnet is a tiny stone - almost always less than one carat when cut into a cabochon or faceted stone. The ants are smart enough to excavate around larger stones rather than haul them to the surface. This small size can actually be a blessing because many of the stones have a very high color saturation. If they were larger in size, the stones would have a very dark, almost black appearance; but in small sizes, enough light passes through them to reveal their desirable deep red color.

Info found on [geology.com](http://geology.com)





## Silversmith Class Oct 13 &14

We couldn't have asked for a nicer weekend for our class. We were able to open the big door in the shop and enjoy the sunshine while we worked. Everyone learned some new skills and made beautiful pieces. Marie-Claire is always a patient teacher and we truly appreciate her will-  
ingness to share her time & talents!



**Skagit Rock & Gem Club  
Board Meeting  
October 6, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Vice President Greg Hochmuht.

Board Members present: Debbie Frank, David Britten, Greg Hochmuht, Virgil Keltz, Eric Self

Members present: Frank Isca and Linda Keltz

The board discussed the advertising plans for our November show. It was agreed to have Frank do a Facebook advertisement with a budget of \$50.00.

The date and time of club meetings was discussed. The question being whether or not it would improve attendance if the meetings were moved to a weeknight. This will be discussed further at an upcoming regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am

Submitted by Debbie Frank, Acting Secretary



**Skagit Rock & Gem Club  
Regular Meeting  
October 6, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice President Greg Hochmuht.

Introduction of Guests: Each guest received a mineral specimen.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the Sept 1, 2018 meeting as printed in the GEMS.

Treasurer's Report: David Britten, Treasurer, reviewed the financial statement and a motion was made seconded and passed to accept the report as given.

Field Trips: Greg reviewed the upcoming field trips listed in the newsletter and reminded everyone to check with the field trip leader regarding the date and time.

Upcoming Show: Our show is November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> with setup on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on helping to setup and with the various stations at the show. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting. If you would like to display and have questions or need help in organizing your display the board members and others with display experience will be happy to help you. The show is our only fundraiser each year. Frank will check to see if the food vendor from last year is available.

Display Table: The gem of the month was Ugly Rocks. There were lots of displayers. The prize went to Heather for an artfully painted rock.

Refreshments and Conversation. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. Next Meeting: Nov. 3, 2018. The Gem of the month will be Red Rocks.

Submitted by Debbie Frank, Acting Secretary



## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at  
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 \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: [skagitrockandgem.com](http://skagitrockandgem.com)
- Email: [skagitrockandgem@gmail.com](mailto:skagitrockandgem@gmail.com)
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

## 2018 Officers

President	Wes Frank
Vice President	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Open
Federation Director	Virgil Keltz
Bulletin Editor	Debbie Frank
Past President	Eric Self

## Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self  
Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten  
Greeter-Linda Keltz  
Library-David Britten  
Scholarship-Noni Avery, Joe Kantor  
Publicity-Frank Isca  
Stamps-Virgil Keltz  
Sunshine- Noni Avery  
Swap-Vandenburs





Skagit Rock and Gem Club  
Debbie Frank, Editor  
20379 Aliston Ln.  
Burlington WA 98233

## Field Trips

11/17/2018 Blanchard Hill. Meet @ I-5 Exit 240 Gas Mart 9:00am.

WA Dalmatian stone & Chert. Bring Hard rock tools

Contact: Ed Lehman wsmced@hotmail.com h# (425) 334-6282 c# (425) 760-2786

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

## Local Gem Shows

November 2018 10th 9am - 5pm 11th 10am - 5pm	Maplewood Rock and Gem Club	Annual Fall Show	Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA
November 2018 10th 9am - 5pm 11th 10am - 4pm	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Treasures of the Earth	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific St Sedro Woolley WA 98284

