

SKAGIT GEMS

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Attention Members: Unfortunately, it has been decided to cancel all meetings and events for the rest of 2020. This includes our gem show in the fall. I will still send out a newsletter each month. We hope to see everyone back when we can resume safely! Please contact us with any questions. Phone #s on pg 5.

Skagit Rock & Gem Club

Special Board Meeting

July 18, 2020

- The Special Board Meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by President Wes Frank. Board members present were: David Britten, Debbie Frank, Virgil Keltz and Linda Keltz
- The meeting was held outside adhering to the current restrictions. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss our upcoming November show. After brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to cancel the show due to the COVID 19 restrictions.
- The board also discussed our regular meetings and it was decided we would suspend all meetings through the end of the year. A decision will be made at a later date regarding 2021 meetings and show.
- Treasurer David will refund any deposits made by our vendors and will contact the City of Sedro-Woolley to notify them of the cancellation. Our damage deposit will be refunded.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Keltz, Secretary



Picture: Quick clay landslide at Lyngseidet, September 3, 2010 (220.000 m³). The landslide was likely triggered by loading of fill along the shoreline. Photo: Andrea Taurisano, NVE

Quick clay (and other types of sensitive clay) is formed in Norway in areas where clay was deposited in a saline marine environment, and subsequently lifted near or above sea level due to post-glacial uplift. Groundwater flow has gradually washed out the electrically charged particles from the sediment pore water. These particles helped to stabilize the loose grain structure, so the leaching leads to instability. Quick clay develops in pockets or layers in marine clay, preferably where there is or has been large groundwater flow. This can happen, for example, where the clay is above or near fractured bedrock, or where there are aquifers in or near the clay (for example a sand layer). Leaching can also occur near the soil surface, and where the groundwater has a high pressure or large gradients. Leaching can even occur below sea level if fresh groundwater flows upwards. In some cases, quick clay has been found in the seabed, 100 m from shore. In many places clay is not leached and is therefore stable. Dry Crust Clay is clay that is close to the soil surface and, through weathering, drying and cracking, has changed its properties and become firm. Dry Crust clay is often more brown than the more gray or blue clay underneath.

Quick clay is generally quite firm as long as it lies undisturbed, but flows like liquid if it is overloaded or stirred, causing the loose grain structure to collapse. Quick clay landslides can develop rapidly when the firm clay liquefies. This can happen due to overloading or digging, and can be triggered either by nature itself, for example by river erosion, or by human activity. A quick clay landslide can develop in different ways depending on the terrain, the location of the clay within the ground, and its relation to other deposits or bedrock. The flowing mass can also have devastating effects outside the actual landslide area, for example by damming streams or rivers. Smaller quick clay landslides occur almost every year in Norway, while larger landslides are less frequent. Info found on www.ngu.no

Youtube videos of quick clay slides in Norway: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q-qfNIEP4A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK584ol5zNk>

Rockhounding While Sheltering in Place

by Jo Borucki

During these times of sheltering in place, it is not so easy to look for rocks and minerals at your favorite rockhounding site, but you can have the rocks come to you.

Purchasing Gravel from Sapphire Mines: There are several online sites in Montana that sell bags of material scooped from their mines and bagged. Gem Mountain is the one that I have ordered from, but there are others such as Spokane Bar or huntforgems.com. I can't vouch for either of these two, but I have enjoyed finding small sapphires in abundance from the Gem Mountain website. The fun is in the looking through the gravel, but unless you are luckier than I am, you will not find many, if any, that are large enough to facet. Searching this gravel is simply an enjoyable treasure hunt with the thrill of finding some sapphires.

Cleaning the Gravel: The bags contain dirt, extraneous rocks and pebbles of varying size, some dried vegetation, and hopefully, sapphires. Begin the process of sorting through the gravel by cleaning out as much of the debris as you can. Use screens with a variety of mesh sizes. Stack them with the screen with the smallest mesh on the bottom and getting ever larger mesh with the screen with the largest mesh on top. Dump some of the gravel in the top screen. Pick out the obvious rocks and debris and spray and shake it over the other screens so that nothing escapes. Now that the large screen has been sprayed and all the little stuff has gone through to be caught by smaller screens, look it through, and spray it with a good strong hose stream. Put the whole assembly over a bucket and spray and shake the screens side to side. Be an optimist and check each screen from the one with the largest holes on down. Who knows? Maybe you'll find a really big sapphire.

Searching the Cleaned Gravel for Sapphires: Sapphire really show up beautifully when the gravel is cleaned, placed in a glass dish with a little water in the dish, and the dish is placed over a light source. My husband, Bill, has this really nice frame that he built that has a light bulb in it. He uses it to light the his microscope, but it works great for lighting up the bottom of my Pyrex baking dish so that I can search for sapphires. Via CSM Tumbler, 06/20, from Breccia, 5/20



WRAPPING A SHARKS TOOTH OR WRAPPING THE TRIANGLE

Our technique for making a wire wrapped pendant is described here. The way we modify the technique is that instead of wrapping spiral coils of wire from bottom to top of the shark's tooth or other triangular shape, you would wrap the spiral coils $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the triangular shape and then wrap the wire around behind the triangular shape horizontally to the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point on the opposite side of the triangle. In the picture, you can view how you would begin with the spiral at the bottom (Point 1) and continue wrapping the wire to the $\frac{1}{2}$ way point (Point 2).

From Point 2 to Point 3 in the figure, the wire is essentially horizontal, behind the tooth. At Point 3 you change the direction of the wrap to securely hold the top of the shark's tooth and wrap up toward the center of the top of the tooth (Point 4).

From Point 4 to Point 5, the wire is wrapped diagonally, behind the shark's tooth. The wrap is completed by wrapping the wire from Point 5 to Point 6. At Point 6 the wire is bent horizontally and wrapped around the middle wire of the spiral, running up the center of the back of the tooth. After this wrap is completed, the excess wire is cut and the cut end is squeezed flat.

At this point you would have about 1-1/2" of wire remaining from the central wire in the spiral. This wire is first bent 90 degrees, then a loop is made at the bend and finally the loop is wrapped closed.

Fossil Club of Lee County, April 2010





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
- Email: skagitrockandgem@gmail.com
- Mailing address: PO BOX 244 Mt. Vernon 98273

2020 Officers

President	• Wes Frank 360-757-6276
Vice President	• Greg Hochmuht 360-223-5453
Treasurer	• David Britten 360-755-0741
Secretary	• Linda Keltz 360-424-6525
Fed. Director	• Virgil Keltz 360-424-6525
Bulletin Editor	• Debbie Frank 360-853-6883
Past President	• Eric Self 360-840-8342

Committees

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self
Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten
Greeter-Linda Keltz
Scholarship-Noni Avery & Linda Keltz
Publicity-Frank Isca
Stamps-Virgil Keltz
Sunshine- Noni Avery
Swap-Vandenburls



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

2020 State Parks Free Days

- Aug. 25 —
National Park Service
104th Birthday
- Sept. 13 -- Make-up
Spring Day/ Girl Scouts
Love State Parks
Weekend
- Sept. 26 — National
Public Lands Day
- Oct. 10 -- World Mental
Health Day
- Nov. 11 — Veterans
Day
- Nov. 27 — Autumn day



Deception Pass State Park has great beaches for rock hunting