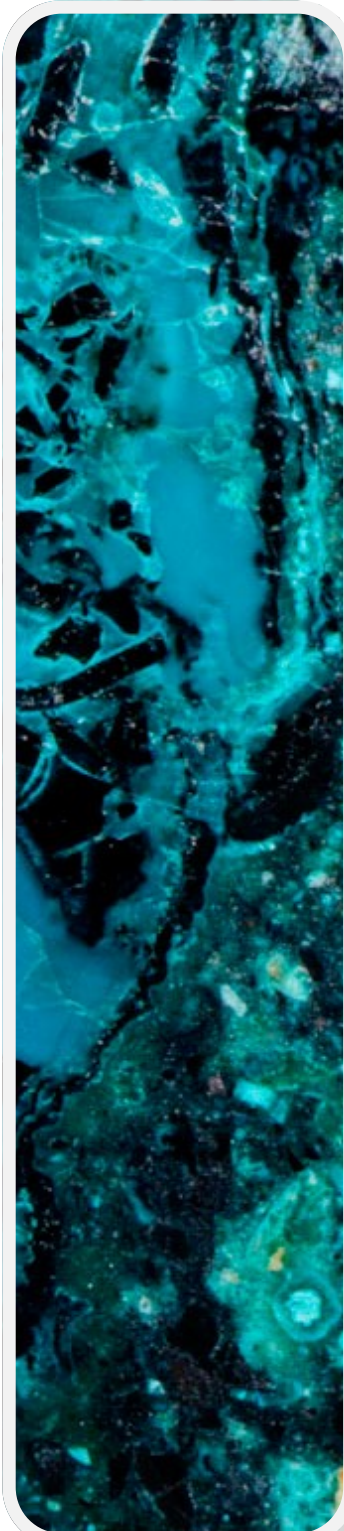




SKAGIT GEMS

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The Lapidary Shop by David Britten

Lapidary is the grinding, shaping, and polishing of gemstones. Lapidary enhances the unique colors and brilliance of stones. Our club is fortunate to have a shop containing the machines and tools to cut, grind, and polish. Our members can learn lapidary "hands on" and practice these skills.

Group and individual classes teaching lapidary will begin in the spring. I will have a step-by-step summary of lapidary technique for making cabochons available.

Cabochons (pronounced cab-o-shawn) are shaped stones (usually circular or oval, but any shape is possible) which are flat on one side and domed on the other. High domes are desired for translucent (light passes thru) stones. This brings as much light as possible into the stone to bring out its unique color and brilliance.



President's Message

Hello Rock Hounds,

I hope everyone is well. The weather has not been all that cooperative for getting out and looking for new material, but there are new shows coming up, the Mt. Baker clubs annual show and others around the NW.

We can always use help from the members for open shop days and other things like getting the gear organized for the show in November. We will need to get a work party together and do some maintenance on the stands for the displays after the weather gets better. Many hands make the load light and we can have some fun at the same time.

We will be having the shop open and classes this year so come to the meeting and signup or volunteer to help with a class or field trip of your own.

Thank you from your president, Wes Frank

Next Meeting March 4th 10am

Gem of the month:

Sparkly and Shiny Rocks

Program:

Origins of Life on Earth

Refreshments:

Jan Coffey, Debbie Frank





Intermediate Level Jewelry Class for SRGC Members

Class project is a ring with your own cabochon. Your design will depend on your choice of cabochon, clear or opaque, with prongs or bezel set. We'll discuss your designs individually. Those pictures are for reference only. The 2 on the sides are MCD designs and the pretty one in the middle is not.

Instructor: Marie-Claire Dole

Where: Club facility Shed at the Skagit Fairgrounds, entrance by the ball park behind the Senior Citizen Center.

When: Saturdays, March 11th and 18th

Time: From 10am to 4pm

Cost: 65.-

Material: **Bring you own cabochon.** Sterling Silver available for purchase in class if needed.

Tools: Bring your own basic tools. Limited tools available for purchase or to borrow from instructor.

Class Size: Min. 5 - Max. 8

Please sign up on March 4th with your tuition. Make check to SRGC.

For any questions: Call Marie-Claire at 360-336-3776 or email marieclairedole@frontier.com

YARD ART CLASS Instructor: Wes Frank

The metal forming class will be limited to 3 people per class (more classes will be scheduled if there is enough interest) and will be most likely be at my house in Burlington. This will allow use of more types of metal working tools that may not be available at other places.

Most types of projects can be completed in one day. I will have some supplies, and if you have a special project in mind let me know and I can locate the material for it. There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting. The tentative start is 3/18 Class Fee: \$25 for the day plus materials



Minerals on Planet Earth – Life Changes Earth (Article Five of Series) by David Britten

The conditions on early Earth were extreme. Volcanoes constantly erupted plumes of hot gas and silica “ash”. Great rivers of molten magma oozed from fissures in basalt and granite continents. Acid rains fell from the skies dissolving the rocky land masses. Dissolved minerals concentrated in the acidic oceans. How could life survive these conditions?

Only recently have scientists seen glimpses of the beginning of life on earth. Deep sea exploration has found volcanoes at the edges of our continental shelves. (Some are just 100 miles off the Washington and Oregon coasts.) These volcanoes do not produce liquid magmas, but rather they vent extremely hot mineral rich water. They are called “black smokers” due to the dense dark erupting plums. Scientists have found living organisms around these vents. Many of these life forms are familiar: shrimps, crabs, lobster, various corals, etc.

We have also discovered life surviving in locations like Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming where living organisms can thrive in extremely hot mineral concentrated waters. These conditions mimic those of early earth.

The first life used abundant sulfur, iron, nitrogen, phosphorous, and carbon compounds to survive and procreate. These microscopic organisms produced iron oxides that produced some iron-rich deposits in the deep oceans and rocky limestone outcrops in some shallow seas, but did little to add to the mineral diversity of earth.

Eventually, however, the microbes began to use the energy in sunlight to thrive and reproduce. These organisms combined water and carbon dioxide to produce simple sugars and oxygen. The sugars became a food source for other living organisms. The oxygen produced by these bacteria immediately combined with the dissolved iron in the oceans turning them the red of rust. The iron oxide settled to the bottom of the oceans. The largest iron ore deposits being mined around the world today were sediments laid down during this period of time. This was the Great Oxidation Event on Earth.

The progressive change in mineral concentrations allowed the formation of new rock. The first solidified magmas were olivine, which depleted magnesium concentrations. The next were basalts which locked up sodium, potassium, and aluminum (the feldspars). Then came the granites which used beryllium. Now the

Great Oxidation Event opened the doors to the great variety of minerals on the planet today. From a few hundred mineral compounds two billion years ago, earth now can boast over 4500 different minerals.



The rock above is a 2.48 billion-year-old banded iron formation from Australia that contains high concentrations of chromium, which scientists believe is evidence of a pivotal change in the Earth's atmosphere: the arrival of oxygen. Credit: Courtesy of Stefan Lalonde
<http://www.livescience.com/16714-oxygen-breathing-life-chromium.html>

Board Meeting Minutes February 4th, 2017

- Meeting called to order at 9:45
- Board Members present: Eric Self, Wes Frank, David Britten, Debbie Frank
- Meeting Minutes: Approved as printed in the newsletter
- Treasurer's report was read by Dave and approved
- The Scholarship Committee suggested awarding two scholarships this year as the scholarship fund balance could allow it and we had two qualified recipients. A motion was made to award two this year, and the Board voted unanimously in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:00

General Meeting Minutes February 4th, 2017

- Meeting called to order at 10:05
- We had many guests this month, they were all introduced and given prizes.
- Meeting Minutes: Approved as printed in the newsletter
- Treasurer's report: Read by Dave and approved.
- Sunshine: Noni has offered to be our Sunshine Person (sending cards to members that are ill or who are needing a little sunshine sent their way)
- The Gem of the month was February birthstones. We had lots of displayers this month. Thank you to everyone that brought something to share!!
- The program was an interesting video on the creation of diamonds and other gemstones.
- Refreshments: Thank you to Frank, Dave, Jan, Francie, Eric and Debbie
- Marie-Claire is offering to teach another Silversmithing in March. Wes will teach a class on metal working and participants can make a piece of yard art. More Details to Follow.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 Submitted by Debbie Frank

Mineral Council Field Trips

3/11/17 Marysville Club-Going to Cedar Ponds for Jasper. Meet at the Jack n Box E. end of Monroe 9:00am. Dig & Hard Rock Tools

4/15/17 Darrington Club-Going to Racehorse Ck for Fossils & Morell mushrooms. Meet at the IGA @ Nugent's Corner 9:00am. Dig & Hard Rock Tools

For more info go to www.mineralcouncil.org

Local Gem Shows

Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club 55th Annual Rock and Gem Show

March 25th 10am - 6pm, 26th 10am - 5pm

Bloedel-Donovan Park

2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club April Sale

April 8th 9am - 6pm 9th 10am - 6pm

Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse

8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA



Rockhound Soapbox

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee

This year will bring new challenges to the Recreational Rockhounding activities across the country. In the west there have been several new National Monuments created which have closed several very good collecting areas to any kind of material removal. There are new fossil collecting rules and regulations being created and implemented by the Public Land Managers of the BLM and USFS that will impact your ability to collect many of the fossils we have enjoyed collecting, owning, sharing and displaying over the years. These new rules may even affect the fossils collected on non-public lands.

The AFMS Legislation and Conservation Committee will strive to keep the Federation members apprised of legislation, rules and regulations that affect the ability to collect and enjoy our natural resources. We will attempt to inform the Federations and their members of new legislation, rules and regulations during the proposal process where each of you will have the ability and the right to voice your opinions and concerns on how these will affect the Recreational Rockhounding Community and your ability to enjoy your hobby. Information will be published in the monthly newsletters, on the Federation Websites and through electronic media where feasible.

Again, if you know of any pending legislation, Rules or Regulations that may affect your Recreational Rockhounding activities do not hesitate to contact the AFMS Legislation and Conservation Committee with your concerns and or questions. We can not do this alone, we are only seven and we need all of the eyes and ears for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies members to help in keeping Recreational Rockhounding a viable Activity. The contact information is: plac@antelecom.net. I look forward to receiving your inputs.



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

Officers and Committees

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President | Wes Frank |
| Vice President | Greg Hochmuht |
| Treasurer | David Britten |
| Secretary | Susan May |
| Fed Director | Virgil Keltz |
| Bulletin Ed | Debbie Frank |
| Past President | Eric Self |

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Banquet- The Men

Display Table-Open

Education Coordinator-Open

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Linda Keltz

Library-David Britten

Scholarship-Noni Avery, Joe Kantor

Mineral Council & PLAC-Open

NFMS Competition-Open

Nominating Committee-Executive Board

Program-Open

Publicity-Frank Isca

Stamps-Virgil Keltz

Sunshine- Noni Avery

Swap-Vandenburs

Ways & Means-Executive Board

Every Committee that
 says 'OPEN' is an
 opportunity
 to help!



Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Debbie Frank, Editor
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Burlington WA 98233

May love and laughter light
your days, and warm your
heart and home. May good
and faithful friends be yours
wherever you may roam...

Irish Proverb