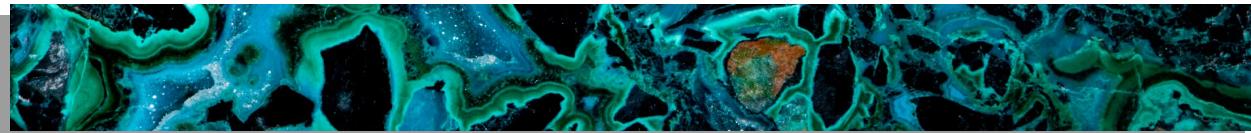




SKAGIT GEMS

Skagit Rock and Gem Club skagitrockandgem.com · skagitrockandgem@gmail.com



February 2016 Volume 56, Issue 1

Amethyst

is a semiprecious stone and is the traditional birthstone for February.

Amethyst is a purple variety of quartz (SiO_2) and owes its violet color to irradiation, iron impurities (in some cases in conjunction with transition element impurities), and the presence of trace elements, which result in complex crystal lattice substitutions.



The name comes from the Ancient Greek *a-* ("not") and *méthystos* ("intoxicated") a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness. The ancient Greeks wore amethyst and made drinking vessels decorated with it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication.

Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglio engraved gems. Up until the 18th century, amethyst was included in the cardinal, or most valuable, gemstones (along with diamond, sapphire, ruby, and emerald). However, since the discovery of extensive deposits in locations such as Brazil and Africa it has lost most of its value.



Natural amethyst is dichroic in reddish violet and bluish violet, but when heated, turns yellow-orange, yellow-brown, or dark brownish and may resemble citrine, but loses its dichroism, unlike genuine citrine. When partially heated, amethyst can result in ametrine.

Roman intaglio engraved
gem of Caracalla from 100 A.D.

(Continued on page 6)

Events this month

Jan 30: Field Trip to Walker Valley See pg 5

Feb 6: Meeting 10am

***Field Trip right after the meeting to Geologist Joe's House

Feb 13 & 14:

Whidbey Gem Show
Oak Harbor See pg 3

Feb 20: Field Trip to Cedar Ponds w/
Marysville Club
see pg 5

What's inside

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Pres. Message | 2 |
| Meeting info | 2 |
| Gem Shows | 3 |
| Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| Rockhounding News | 4 |
| Field Trips | 5 |
| Federation News | 6 |
| Club Info | 7 |

President's Message

Hi Rockhounds,

I hope everyone had fun for the holidays and a Happy New Year. If anyone has an idea for a fun rock trip let us know. I am working on ideas for local field trips where everyone can go.

Thanks everyone for all your support last year and the year to come, Eric Self

Next Meeting February 6th 10am

Gem of the Month: Amethyst

Club Field Trip - *right after the meeting on the 6th

If you loved the mineral case that was up for raffle at our gem show than this trip is for you!

We have been invited to our members Joe and Linda's house to see Joe's collection of mineral samples that he has amassed over his long career as an economic geologist. Joe is certified as a QP "qualified person" in the industry and works as a consultant to mining companies and banks. He evaluates mining operations to insure that work was done correctly and that the findings are accurate. He has worked in open pit as well as underground mines and assessed gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and many others.

Joe's collection includes samples from field trips and from the sites he has worked all over the world such as Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Australia and China. He has cases filled with examples of gold and silver, copper, crystals and fluorescent minerals to name a few.

There will be maps at the meeting if you need one. We can also carpool if anyone would like a ride.

Minutes for Dec. 5, 2015

Debbie and Wes Frank offered to set-up and run a website for the club. Cost is approximately \$13.00 per month for the website and \$25.00 per year for the domain name. Paying 12 months at a time offers a discount. Debbie and Wes will pay what is needed to get the website up and running and then be reimbursed from the club. A motion was made to go forward and allocate club funds for a website. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted.

There were no new nominees for club officers so your 2016 Officers and Board Members continue to be:

President - Eric Self

Vice-President - Greg Hochmuht

Secretary - Susan May

Treasurer - David Britten

Bulletin Editor - Debbie Frank

Federation Dir. - Virgil Keltz

Past President: Linda Keltz



LAST
CALL!
Dues are Due

This is the last call to pay your dues if you would like to stay on the roster and continue getting the newsletter each month.

This is a story about an outing of two former Skagit Rock Club members – Earl Hardin and Art Gadbois. The tale was related by Earl at a meeting many years ago. Here it is as I remember it.

One summer morning, Art and Earl headed out to a site they'd heard of that sounded promising. They rode in Art's pick-up truck. The truck was named "Coyote". Art named it so because it would go anywhere. It was a good choice, as the road they were following was not maintained and was very rough.

They arrived at what looked like an old rock quarry. Big boulders lay randomly around. Earl and Art pulled up next to one that looked promising. They noted many holes in this rock and thought that was a good sign. Visions of crystal-lined pockets danced in their heads.

The boys grabbed their sledge hammers and chisels and other implements of destruction. They commenced to pounding on that boulder, which proved to be quite resistant to their attack.

After quite a while of pounding with chips flying, the rock finally yielded. A good chunk split off and rolled to rest. Earl and Art stood frozen, staring at the broken pieces. Instead of the crystals they expected, what they saw was remnants of cord and what they simultaneously recognized as a stick of dynamite.

Earl looked at Art. Art looked at Earl. Without saying a word, they each grabbed their tools and jumped into the pick-up. They exited that quarry as fast as Coyote would go. With much extreme jolting and jerking, Coyote jumped down that rough, rocky road in half the time it took to come in. Sighs of relief only came at finally reaching paved road again.

This story is humorous, of course, but it could have ended badly. Be aware of your surroundings. I myself have found remnants from explosives on the side of a Forest Service road! Submitted by David Britten



Local Gem Shows

Whidbey Island Gem Club

51st Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show

February 13th 9am—5pm, 14th 9am—4pm

Oak Harbor Senior Center

51 SE. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA

Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club

54th Annual Rock and Gem Show

March 26th 10am - 6pm, 27th 10am - 5pm

Bloedel-Donovan Park

2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA

West Seattle Rock Club

50th Annual Rock Show

April 23rd 10am - 5pm, 24th 10am - 5pm

Alki Masonic Temple

4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA

Everett Rock and Gem Club

63rd Annual show

April 30th 10am-6pm, May 1st 10am-5pm

Everett Community College

Walt Price Student Fitness Center

2206 Tower Street Everett WA

***For a full list of Gem Shows go to:

skagitrockandgem.com

| Refreshments | Schedule | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| February | Debbie Frank | Eric Self |
| March | Francie Hansen | Jenny Miller |
| April | Peggy Peterson | Janet Garner |
| May | Nona Avery | Marie-Claire Dole |
| June | Greg Hochmuht | Linda Keltz |
| July | Potluck & Swap | |
| August | Susan May | Frank Isca |
| Sept | Violet Munion | Margo Perry |
| Oct | Marion Melville | Lee Tennefoss |
| Nov | Joanie Self | David Britten |
| Dec | Xmas Potluck | |
| Bringing snacks not mandatory, only if you're able | | |



There is currently a bill in the House to increase rock collecting opportunities on state land. We can show our support of this bill by either emailing or writing to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee that will vote on this.

To email each committee member: <http://leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/AGNR/Pages/MembersStaff.aspx>

Or to comment on the bill: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/bill/1271>

Brief Summary of House Bill 1271

Creates an optional \$5 annual endorsement to a Discover Pass that entitles the holder, and the holder's immediate family members, to collect up to 50 pounds a day of rocks, minerals, and other naturally occurring objects from land managed by the state recreation agencies for personal, non-commercial use using non-explosive hand tools such as shovels and picks.



| |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Vincent Buys (R) 465 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7854 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

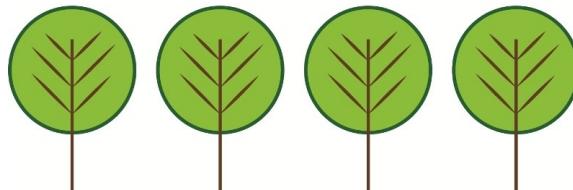
| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Brian Blake (D) 437A Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7870 | Representative Brady Walkinshaw (D) 328 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7826 | Representative Bruce Chandler (R) 427B Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7960 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Joel Kretz (R) 335A Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7988 | Representative Tom Dent (R) 411 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7932 | Representative Kristine Lytton (D) 368 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7800 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Ed Orcutt (R) 408 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7990 | Representative Christopher Hurst (D) 320 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7866 | Representative Eric Pettigrew (D) 434B Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7838 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Representative Joe Schmick (R) 426B Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7844 | Representative Brady Walkinshaw (D) 328 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7826 | Representative Derek Stanford (D) 304 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7928 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Get Outside



2016 WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

The Washington State 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 information, go to: mineralcouncil.wordpress.com, or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com or home (425) 334-6282 or cell (425) 760-2786.

| Date | Host | Site | Meeting Place & Time | Material | Tools |
|---------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1/16 | Marysville | Beaver Valley | 10:30 @ INFO center | Chert & Zeolites | Hard rock |
| 1/30 | Darrington | Walker Valley | 9:00 @ Big Lake Store | Geodes & Agate | Hard rock |
| 2/20 | Marysville | Cedar Ponds | 9:00 @ Monroe Jack n Box | Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 3/19 | Marysville | Cherry Creek | 9:00 @ Duvall Safeway | Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 4/16-17 | POW | Saddle Mt. | 8:00 @ Boat Launch | Petrified Wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 5/7 | Darrington | Racehorse Creek | 9:00 @ IGA @ Nugent's Corner | Fossils, Mushrooms | Dig & Hard rock |
| 5/21 | Ellensburg | Saddle Mt. | 9:00 @ Mattawa Lepricon Market | Petrified Wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 6/10-14 | Spokane | Succor Creek & McD | Call Host for Information | ThunderEggs & Agate | Dig & Hard rock |
| 6/18 | Darrington | FR 17 & 18 | 9:00 @ Darrington IGA | Jade, Serpentine, Hematite | Dig tools |
| 6/23-26 | NWOS | Madras, OR | 8:00 @ County Fair Grounds | Agate, T-Eggs, Petrified wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 7/16 | POW | Sweetwater | 10:00 @ Darrington Show (Grange) | Travertine | Dig & Hard rock |
| 8/20-21 | NWOS | Greenwater | 9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station | Agate & Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 9/10-11 | POW | Teanaway | 8:00 @ Teanaway Camp | Geodes, Agate, Jade | Dig & Hard rock |
| 9/24 | NWOS | Little Naches | 9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station | ThunderEggs & Lilypad Jade | Dig & Hard rock |
| 10/15 | Marysville | Money Creek | 9:00 @ Money Creek Camp Ground | Ore & Picture Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 11/19 | Mt Baker | Blanchard Hill | 9:00 @ I-5 Exit 240 Gas Station | Dalmation Stone | Hard rock |

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

HOST CLUB

Msvl = Marysville Rock Club
 Dar = Darrington Rock Club
 Pow = All Rockhounds PowWow Club
 Elb = Ellensburg Rock Club
 Spk = Spokane Rock Rollers
 Nwos = Northwest Opal Society
 HC = Hells Canyon Rock Club

CONTACT INFO

Ed Lehman—wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 (425) 760-2786
 Ed Lehman—wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 (425) 760-2786
 Larry Vess—vessel3755@gmail.com (253) 473-3908
 Steve Townsend—sitrocks@aol.com (509) 933-2236
 Mike Shaw—mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 244-8542
 Tony Johnson—(253) 863-9238
 Dan Cease—rockmangem@q.com (509) 254-1720

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

Always have proper clothes 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 to trip host.

Try to be at meeting site at least 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas. There will be a display of rough and finished material for that trip. Some of the meeting sites are at eating places, join us for breakfast.

Many rock shows will have a WSMC booth with our WA St rockhounding maps for sale, and information. Map books are for sale at trip meeting. **Sale of books finance WSMC, and buy the insurance to get us access to private land to collect.**

Remember our code of ethics. Keep the lands open to rockhounding (remind or public guardians they are our employees, and it is our land). Ed

(Continued from page 1)

As amethyst is readily available in large structures the value of the gem is not primarily defined by carat weight; this is different to most gemstones where the carat weight exponentially increases the value of the stone. The biggest factor in the value of amethyst is the color displayed. The highest grade amethyst (called "Deep Russian") is exceptionally rare and therefore, when one is found, its value is dependent on the demand of collectors.



"The Empress of Uruguay"

MINERAL: Quartz CHEMISTRY: SiO_2 COLOR: Purple REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.544 to 1.553 BIREFRINGENCE: 0.009 SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.66 MOHS HARDNESS: 7

Info found on <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/amethyst.aspx> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>



Federation News

Excerpts taken from the November 2015 issue of the NFMS Northwest Newsletter

2016 NFMS-AFMS Show Update

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Show in Albany Oregon in July. We would really like to showcase northwest material since this is the AFMS show and it would be great to show the other Federation members what we have in the Northwest. We are hoping to have over 200 display cases. So please consider either competing or putting in a non-competitive display.

As a reminder the show dates are July 29th through the 31st, with the AFMS meeting on the 28th. The week after the show will be a multi-federation field trip out of Prineville. See you all there. For more info see our club webpage <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/> Janice Van Cura, Show Chair

Competitive Cases by Lauren Williams

It is time to start getting your Competitive Case ready for Competition in Albany next July. Remember, it is you and the Rule Book. You do not compete against other people. It is how well you can follow the rule book and being consistent in setting up your case, such as case liners and labels. Take the extra time on the workmanship of your pieces and the setup of your case. The AFMS is coming to town so if you get a score of 90 or above by the NFMS judges your case will automatically 'fly up' to the AFMS level and will be judged again by the AFMS judges to make you eligible for both NFMS and AFMS trophies.

Officers and Committees

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

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Banquet- The Women

Display Table-Open

Education Coordinator-Open

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Linda Keltz

Library-David Britten

Scholarship-Nona Avery, Joe Kantor

Mineral Council & PLAC-Open

NFMS Competition-Open

Nominating Committee-Executive Board

Program-Open

Publicity-Open

Stamps-Virgil Keltz

Sunshine-Susan Conta

Swap-Vandenburgs

Ways & Means-Executive Board

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

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





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

Our new website
skagitrockandgem.com

Skagit Rock and Gem Club

About us

Newsletters

Events

Resources

Collection Sites



Check it Out!