

# The CMS Tumbler

May  
2022

The monthly newsletter of the Cascade Mineralogical Society, Inc., Kent, Washington

Next Meeting:  
May 12, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall  
25406 97th PI S  
Kent, WA

The Program is the  
Salt Domes of Iran

The Show & Tell  
Theme is rocks  
you bought.

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## Connect with us!

Website: <https://www.cascademineralsociety.org>  
 Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CasMinSoc/>  
 Facebook Groups: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168207926650075>  
 Show Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cascadegemandmineralshow>  
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cascaderockclub/>  
 YouTube Channel (Please like and subscribe):  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFatV\\_JjgZRm9ESA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFatV_JjgZRm9ESA)

This month remember to wish a Happy Birthday to

Shelley Bonczek on May 1

Brian Bayer on May 2

Julie Zander on May 2

Megan Wasley on May 4

Hollis Diamond on May 6

Megan Herndon on May 6

Katy Stevenson on May 7

Dan Pederson on May 8

Kelly Berge on May 9

Isaiah Fu on May 11

Alex Danneman on May 12

Jennifer Russell on May 16

Angelina Dillon on May 19

Christine Waddell on May 19

April Ness on May 20

Lauri Miles on May 23

Russell Loperman on May 24

Catherine Petty on May 27

and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to

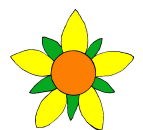
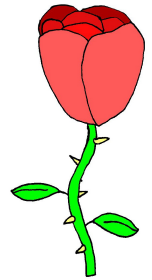
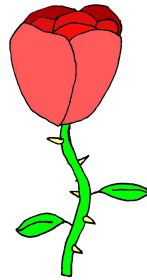
Jennifer Jean & Dexter Dillon on May 3 (14 years)

Lloyd & Charleen Shoemaker on May 4 (37 years)

Lauren & Mr. Walker on May 5 (5 years)

Peggy Shashy & Paul Ahnberg on May 24 (19 years)

Robin Santos & Shelley Opel on May 28 (24 years)



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For commercial use, the author(s) must be contacted for permission; if no contact information is given, contact them via the editor.

Tips, suggestions, recipes and experiments printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea.

New Club Mailing Address:  
Cascade Mineralogical Soc.  
C/O 1207 N Landing Way #1051  
Renton, WA 98057

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor  
3802 W Tapps Dr. E  
Lake Tapps, WA 98391

Postal, or Email, Exchange  
Bulletins are welcome.  
Email preferred.  
[greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com](mailto:greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com)

**2022 Elected Officers**

Title	Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Kat Koch	425-765-5408	<a href="mailto:president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org">president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org</a>
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(Shared Position)	Garry Hartzell	425-681-7162	<a href="mailto:santacruz1@yahoo.com">santacruz1@yahoo.com</a>
Director 2 - Field Trips	Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	<a href="mailto:roger.danneman@gmail.com">roger.danneman@gmail.com</a>
Director 3 – Programs	Paul Ahnberg	941-704-2063	<a href="mailto:runhikebird@icloud.com">runhikebird@icloud.com</a>
Director 4- At Large	Richard Russell	253-736-3693	<a href="mailto:richru1@yahoo.com">richru1@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Malcolm Wheeler Sr.	253-569-5185	<a href="mailto:facetguru@aol.com">facetguru@aol.com</a>
Show Chairman	James Starke	206-496-5368	<a href="mailto:james.a.starke@gmail.com">james.a.starke@gmail.com</a>
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Mineral Council	Jacquie Pattie	425-226-3154	<a href="mailto:dianahorsfall@comcast.net">dianahorsfall@comcast.net</a>

**2022 Show Committee Chairs**

Cascade Show Chairman	James Starke	206-496-5368	<a href="mailto:james.a.starke@gmail.com">james.a.starke@gmail.com</a>
Cascade Show Co-Chair #1	Kat Koch	425-765-5408	<a href="mailto:president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org">president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org</a>
Cascade Show Co-Chair #2			
Show Treasurer	Pete Williams	425-228-5063	<a href="mailto:petewill02@gmail.com">petewill02@gmail.com</a>
Show Silent Auction	Michael Blanton	425-271-8757	<a href="mailto:mblanton41@hotmail.com">mblanton41@hotmail.com</a>
Show Raffle Case & Donations			
Show Demonstrators			
Show Load In/Out			
Show Display Case Presenters			
Show Kids Activities			
Show Road Signs			
Show Event Volunteer Recruit			
Show Refreshments for Vendors & Volunteers			
Spinning Wheel	Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)

**2022 Committee Chairs**

Club Historian			
Donations	Kat Koch	425-765-5408	<a href="mailto:president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org">president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org</a>
Field Trip	Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	<a href="mailto:Roger.Danneman@gmail.com">Roger.Danneman@gmail.com</a>
Health & Welfare	Bev Williams	425-228-5063	<a href="mailto:britbev1957@outlook.com">britbev1957@outlook.com</a>
Library	Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	<a href="mailto:dianahorsfall@comcast.net">dianahorsfall@comcast.net</a>
Meeting Programs	Paul Arhnberg	941-704-2063	<a href="mailto:runhikebird@icloud.com">runhikebird@icloud.com</a>
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Shop Reservations	Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	<a href="mailto:dianahorsfall@comcast.net">dianahorsfall@comcast.net</a>
Public Relations	Kat Koch	425-765-5408	<a href="mailto:president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org">president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org</a>
Refreshment	Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)
Raffle Master	Roger Pullen	206-387-3214	Phone calls only. No email or texting.
Show & Tell	Michael Blanton	425-271-8757	<a href="mailto:mblanton41@hotmail.com">mblanton41@hotmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Gina Manso	425-281-3502	<a href="mailto:ginamanso51@gmail.com">ginamanso51@gmail.com</a>
Facebook Groups	Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	<a href="mailto:roger.danneman@gmail.com">roger.danneman@gmail.com</a>
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All Other Social Media	Kat Koch	425-765-5408	<a href="mailto:president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org">president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org</a>

2022 CMS Dues are \$25 per year per family

Pay online, by mail, or at our meetings.

New Mailing Address: Cascade Mineralogical Soc., C/O 1207 N Landing Way #1051, Renton, WA 98057

*You can pay your dues via credit card!! We now accept all cards through our website or at the meeting.*


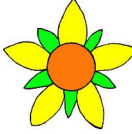

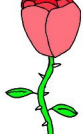
You can renew your membership or enroll as a new member and pay your dues all in one shot online. You will find it under the "Membership" tab on our website. <http://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org>

The object of the Society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts and related subjects.

This Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies; the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies; and the Washington State Mineral Council.

Every member of the club should be receiving a copy of the Northwest Newsletter. If you are not receiving a copy contact Mike Blanton in person or by telephone at (425) 271 -8757 or by computer at [mblanton41@hotmail.com](mailto:mblanton41@hotmail.com)

To get information to the Tumbler via the Internet send it to [greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com](mailto:greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com) Please put the word "Tumbler" and subject in the Subject Line. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11	12 General Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14 First Creek Trip
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Kennewick Show
22 Kennewick Show	23	24	25	26	27	28 Everett Show
29 Everett Show	30	31				

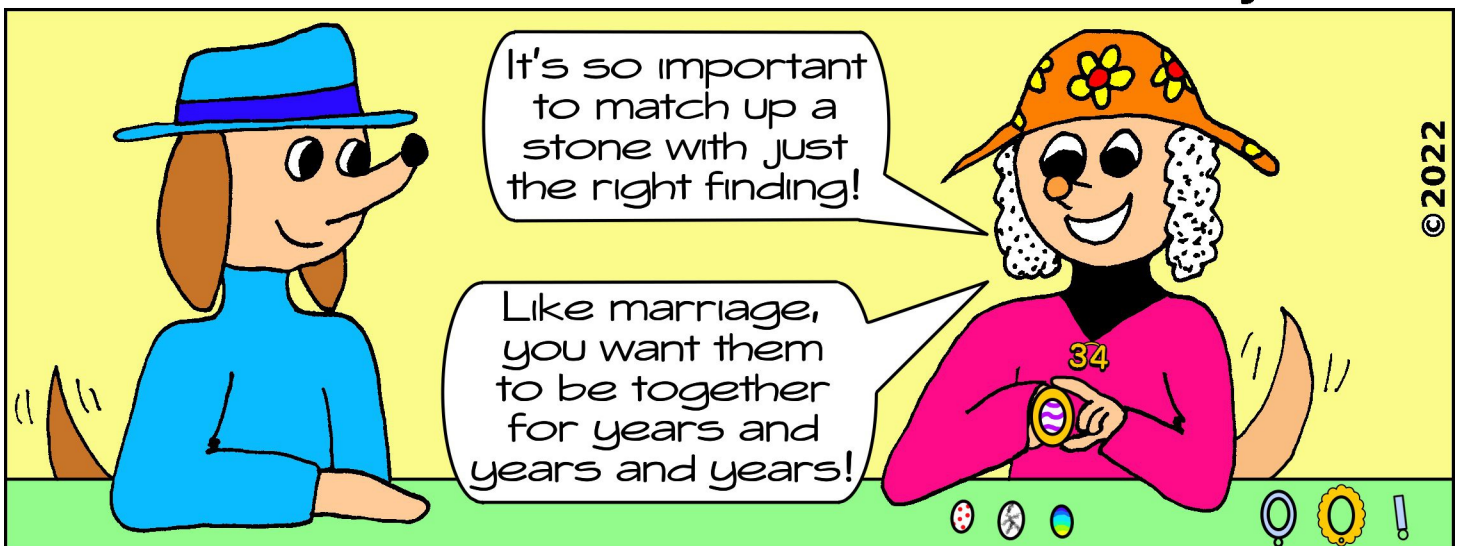
CMS Show Committee Meeting:....Monday, May 9.....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
 CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, May 9.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
 CMS General Meeting:.....2nd Thursday, May 12.....7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Lapidary Class Hours:.....By appointment, call to set a time & day for your lesson (425) 226-3154  
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....Most Tuesdays..... 2:00 pm to 5:00 p, call ahead (425) 226-3154  
 Lapidary Shop Hours:.....3rd Saturday..... by appointment only (call a few days ahead to set time)

More Field Trip info can be found on Page 11  
 More Show info can be found on Page 12

# Mr. & Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM



## Our Club is a Member of these Federations and Associations

**AFMS:** The AFMS governs our Northwest Federation. <http://amfed.org/index.html>

The bulletins are published quarterly. You can find the news bulletins at <http://amfed.org/news/default.htm>



**NFMS:** The Northwest Federation is our home federation. To keep up on the goings-on in our own backyard. <http://northwestfederation.org/>

The link for the news bulletins is <http://northwestfederation.org/Newsletters.asp>



**ALAA:** The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the rockhounding interests of 325 gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 States and the District of Columbia.

The association's purpose is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting, and mining. The use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. They also carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators, and public land managers. <http://amlands.org>

The front page also has a lot of current news, rockhounding restrictions or lack of, etc. <http://amlands.org>

ALAA also publishes a quarterly newsletter. To keep up on the news and lobby efforts on our behalf, check out <http://amlands.org/>



**Washington State Mineral Council:** 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. <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

You can find local rock and gems shows and planned field trips. It's a great resource if you want to plan on an outing.

Also check out "Misc. News" for all the latest updates on collecting sites around Washington.

<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/news-updates/>

When the weather is good, they have regular monthly field trips. So take advantage of these great outdoor rockhounding adventures! The field trip details are under "Field Trips" on the left side of the site. Check out the link for additional information for the time and place to meet and the field trip leader.

You can find all this information and a whole lot more about what is happening in our state at <https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>



## Rockhounding Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

from the AFMS website

Four states, Kansas, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania, do not have any kind of state rock, state stone, state mineral, or state gem.

## CMS Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

by Pete Williams, 2022 Secretary

*Attendees: President – Kat Koch; Vice President – Linda Jorza; Treasurer – Travis King – Secretary – Pete Williams; Show Chair – James Starke; Directors – Roger Daneman; Rich Russell; Paul Ahnberg; Kathy and Gary Hertzler; Federation – Mike Blanton; Mineral Council – Diana Horsefall*

Show Committee meeting called to order: 6:33

There are 12 booths remaining to be sold. It is getting hard to find more vendors due to the Puyallup and Shelton shows on the same weekend. We now have 4 demonstrators committed to the show.

There is still a need for someone to coordinate the raffle for the show. This includes setup, calling numbers at the show, and distribution of items won. Donations are requested from the vendors as well as quality items from our storage. The show cases, especially the federation cases, need to be repaired. Roger will coordinate. There will be room for 5 cases for displays. There were 5000 flyers printed and some will be available at the general meeting for people to pick up and hand out.

Board Meeting called to order at 6:52

There are now 68 family memberships. Many have not renewed yet and are waiting for the field trips. The preliminary schedule for programs is as follows: April – Rock bingo; May – Jerry's Rock Shop presentation on salt domes; June – History of Green River and collecting available; July – annual picnic; August – Jim Cerenzie and Vug Meister You tube channel and the Show. Zach Pratt volunteered to live stream our general meetings and will be doing a practice run at the April meeting.

Kat and Mike will be attending the NW Federation Show in May in Kennewick. We were allotted a free booth at the Puyallup Spring Fair, but Kat had to decline due to insufficient volunteers. We now have 400 followers on Instagram. Washington State will soon be providing free Discover passes for use at parks and museums to all libraries. They would be for 5 days and can be scheduled.

The Board decided to revise the policy set in place last September form reimbursing officers for some expenses. The mileage rate was raised from 14 to 23 cents per mile. This applies only for leading field trips, and attending Mineral Council meetings. Mineral Council lunches and Tumbler mailing costs are also reimbursed. This policy will be reviewed again next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46

## CMS General Meeting Minutes April 14, 2022

by Pete Williams, 2022 Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:13

There was a brief business meeting prior to the program. There are now only 10 booths at our August show remaining to be sold. If any member wants space at the show, contact Kat as soon as possible. The cost is \$14 per linear foot. A volunteer sign up sheet was available at the meeting. Many volunteers are needed.

The next field trip is the weekend of April 23 to Saddle Mountain.

**Program:** Over 30 people had a fun night playing rock bingo.

## From the Top of the Rock Pile.... by Kat Koch, 2022 CMS President

Thanks to Zach Pratt's efforts, our general meetings are on YouTube.

Our show plans are well underway. The booth spaces are almost sold out. We need a load of volunteers for this event. James will have a sign-up sheet listing the positions he needs help on at the meeting. So be prepared to step up and volunteer. The show will be held at the Green River College gym on August 20 & 21, 2022.



### Need Another Volunteer

Now I am looking for someone to volunteer to take pictures (with your cellphone is fine) at our monthly meeting, including the Show 'n Tell portion. Then write a short article with photos for our Tumbler each month. If you are hesitant about your writing abilities, I would be more than happy to proofread your article before submitting it to Keith, our editor. The publication deadline is the 18th of each month.

### Please Help Us Find A New Shop Location

The club is still looking for an indoor space for our lapidary shop. If you know of a location that might be able to financially assist us or physically support our club with warehouse space, please let me know. The club can afford to pay utilities and possibly a small rent.

Our club owns a lot of incredible equipment, and we have members willing to maintain it and teach us how to use it. We need an inexpensive location of about 1,000 to 1,500 square feet with electricity, heating, and water.

Also, if you have a contact or relationship with someone on the Kent City Council or King County Council, please let me know. I want to approach someone on either council about possibly using excess space they may have. Our club has been a part of Kent for 74 years! Hopefully, they will be open to supporting us in some manner.

Contact Kat Koch at: [president@cascademineralsociety.org](mailto:president@cascademineralsociety.org)

We continue to get new members every month. Once again, we are approaching a membership of 100 families. So if you are a new member, please be sure to come up and introduce yourself at our meeting. That way, I can tie your name to your face.



**General Meeting – May 12th – Thursday @ 7 pm**

*Topic:* Joan and Glenn from Jerry's Rock and Gem Shop in Kent will be with us. Joan is going to speak on the very colorful salt domes of Iran. Glenn does the technical stuff, following along on his laptop with the visuals.

*Show 'n Tell:* Show something you bought at Jerry's Rock Shop, another rockshop, or a rock and gem show.



**General Meeting – June 9th – Thursday @ 7 pm**

*Topic:* Our member, Zach Pratt, will be giving a presentation on the history of the Green River and what can be found in the river. Zach is also a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society.

*Show 'n Tell:* Something you have collected from a river, stream, or beach.



Green River Rail Crossing

**General Meeting – July 9th – Thursday @ 7 pm**

*Annual Potluck Picnic in the Park & Auction*

Please note we have changed our annual picnic from a Sunday to a Saturday to accommodate our members that attend religious services. Our potluck picnic is held at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum, Maple Valley. It is on Saturday, July 9th; setup time is 11 am, and lunch is at noon.

The Arboretum provides a beautiful shaded spot on the lawn, picnic tables, and free parking. You will need to bring a potluck dish or food item, your table settings, and plates. Also, it would be much appreciated if you would like to donate something to the auction. All funds raised from the auction help cover the club costs and keep our dues low.



Following lunch and having enjoyed some "rock talk," we will hold our annual summer club auction. It is an excellent opportunity to pick up some great bargains. Our Young Tumblers can also spend the "Rock Bucks" they have collected throughout the year.

The Arboretum is next to Lake Wilderness Beach. So you can take the family swimming afterward.

**General Meeting – August 11th – Thursday @ 7 pm**

*Topic:* Our Cascade Gem and Mineral Show will be in 1 week. James Starke, Show Chairman, will speak on the plans for the show. It will also be the last call for volunteers.

Then Jim Cerenzie and his son Adian will tell us about their rockhounding adventures and their YouTube channel Vug Meister.

*Show 'n Tell:* Something you found rockhounding.



**You Can Now Enjoy Our Meetings On YouTube**

Due to the efforts of our new member, Zach Pratt, we are now going to be live streaming our general meetings on YouTube. Starting with the May 12th meeting at 7 pm, you will be able to watch our meetings live or at your convenience. They will be always available for viewing on our channel. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFAtV\\_JjgZRm9ESA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGIJxaWFAtV_JjgZRm9ESA)

or you can scan this QR code and go directly to our channel.

Be sure to like and subscribe!

We really want to thank Zach for making this all possible.



## If You Are Looking For A Good Rockhoundingers YouTube Channel & Website

Check out the YouTube channel "Currently Rockhounding" <https://www.youtube.com/c/CurrentlyRockhounding>

This channel is a little different than most other rockhounding channels in that it's a mixture of rockhounding, lapidary, and geological education. He is located in Spokane, WA, so he also does a lot of videos of stuff in our state.

On his website, you will find a lot more interesting information. <https://currentlyrockhounding.com>. On the website, you can find podcasts, a library, field trip information, and so much more.

## How Pete Williams Became A Rockhound

*Pete Williams is our club Secretary. He has held this position since the mid to late 1990s. I asked him to tell us how he got into rockhounding. - Kat Koch*

### How I Got Into Rockhounding by Pete Williams

Having been born and raised in Hawaii, there were few opportunities to find pretty rocks lying around. Sometimes we could find tiny green olivines on the beach, but not much else. So instead, we would go to the beach and pick up shells or sea glass. Yes, you could actually find shells on the beach back then. My appetite for pretty rocks probably began with my Aunt Gloria bringing me some rocks back from one of her many trips abroad.

My interest in rocks was put on hold for many years with college, work, marriage, and kids. But it was still buried within me. When our club (actually our former club, the Boeing Employees Mineralogical Society) held an open house sometime in the mid to late 90s, I went down to their shop in Kent with my wife and 2 young boys. Dick Morgan, a long-time club member, gave us the tour. And then I was hooked. We all became members and took cabbing classes at the shop. Fred Thompson, another long-time member of the club, taught the classes.

I went on as many field trips as I could, mostly with my oldest son. That continued until the smell of perfume and gasoline lured him away to other things. By then, my youngest son was old enough, and we would go on the field trips together. But eventually, he would succumb to the same smells. Injuries and work would keep me away from most field trips. However, pre-pandemic, my wife Bev and I go to the Oregon coast each year to look for rocks and fossils. We would take the boys too when they were younger. Reluctantly, I have to admit, Bev holds the family record for finding the largest beach agate.

My cabbing days ended when Boeing let the lease expire on the building, and our club left Boeing and became the Cascade Mineralogical Society. I had purchased a tumbler early on and still tumble rocks today. Bev is a teacher assistant in a kindergarten class, so each year, I donate rocks and fossils to the school and our annual show. Dinosaur week at the school would not be the same without those fossils. Bev, being much more creative than me, thinks of different ways to use the pretty polished rocks.

Since I knew very little about rocks, I knew I had to get more involved with the club to start my learning. I was tapped to be club treasurer early on for 4-5 years. Shortly after that, I became secretary and have done that for many years. I have learned that rockhounds are some of the friendliest and nicest people you could meet. We are all hooked on finding the "treasure" that lies just around the corner!



A days find of Oregon Beach agates



Found large buoy on Oregon Beach

## Mount Erebus, A Volcano That Erupts Gold by Kat Koch Cascade Mineralogical Society Kent, WA

Mount Erebus is a stratovolcano located on Ross Island, Antarctica. It is the highest active volcano in Antarctica at 12,448 ft. Mount Sidley, a nearby dormant volcano, is the highest, at 14,058 ft.

Mount Erebus is part of the McMurdo Volcanic Group, located in the Terror Rift, and part of the West Antarctic Rift System. Erebus is the most active southern volcano, with a swirling lava lake of magma many miles deep. The lava lake temperature hovers around 1,700°F and has been erupting for approximately 1.3 million years.

Mount Erebus spews out tiny particles of gold. The particles range in size from .1 micrometers to 20 micrometers. (There are 25,400 micrometers to the inch!) About 80 grams a day of these tiny dust-sized gold pieces are scattered around in the snow. The unique thing about this gold dust is it's emitted in a metallic form. This puzzles geologists as it is the



only volcano known to do so. Other metals expelled are zinc and copper.

Erebus is unusual with its daily relatively low-level stromboli eruptions. This volcano gives volcanologists the opportunity for long-term studies of a stromboli eruption system.

There have been other volcanoes that have spewed gold. For example, in 1993, Mount Galeras, Colombia, erupted depositing 45 pounds of gold a month on its rocky interior walls. The eruption also killed nine people, six of them were scientists attempting to take gas samples.

Definitions:

Stratovolcanoes have relatively steep sides and are more cone-shaped than shield volcanoes. These volcanoes are formed from viscous, sticky lava that does not flow easily. The lava, therefore, builds up around the vent forming a volcano with steep sides.

Quote from British Geological Survey

Strombolian eruptions are moderately explosive eruptions of basaltic magma with moderate gas content. Strombolian eruptions consist of intermittent, discrete explosive bursts which eject pyroclasts as high as hundreds of feet into the air in firework-like incandescent rooster tails. The discrete blasts in this eruption style are caused by vesiculation of the lava at the vent. A sustained eruptive column is not developed.

Strombolian eruptions are louder than Hawaiian eruptions and generally are of more viscous magma.

It was named after the Island of Stromboli, known as the "lighthouse of the Mediterranean" for its dazzling eruptions.

The Strombolian style is common during the eruptions that build cinder cones.

Typical magma composition: basaltic to basaltic-andesite

Description: Severe

Eruption Products: cinders (volcanic bombs and lapilli), volcanic ash

Quote from the US National Park Service Website

*Bibliography: Wikipedia, New Scientist, Smithsonian Institution – National History Museum – Global Volcanism Program, Easy Science for Kids, Ohio State University, Deseret News*



## April Field Trip Report by Roger Danneman Field Trip Guide

For April we did a 2-day trip to Central and SE WA. We were really blessed with gorgeous weather both days. On Saturday, April 23rd, we went to Saddle Mtn for petrified wood. We met in Mattawa for the trek up the bumpy Saddle Mtn road. 11 vehicles and 20 people. There was another group on the ridge where we went, but it's such a wide area with lots of pits so it wasn't a problem. Within the first 15 minutes of digging, I found the nicest piece of petrified wood I've ever uncovered there. The rest of the day I found a few nice smaller pieces, and everyone was finding nice material. Afterwards, a few of us went to the diatom pits at Beverly for opal. Found some beautiful pieces there and a renewed curiosity for how they formed.

I had to refresh my memory on the differences between agate and opal, because some of the petrified wood is agatized and some is opalized, and the diatom pit opal can be as nice as agate in appearance. So here's a quick study. Numbers vary slightly depending on the source of information.

Agate/Jasper/Quartz are a structure of tiny crystals with a Moh's hardness of 7-7.5 and a specific gravity (density) of about 2.6. Opal is a structure of tiny spheres with a Moh's hardness of 5.5-6 and a specific gravity of about 2-2.25. Opal also has more water content. Both are formed from mineral rich water (silica + other minerals) seeping into the ground or bedrock and settling in cracks or pockets. Variations in climate, heat, pressure, rainfall, mineral content, etc., add to the variations found in the rocks we collect and take millions of years to form. That's a condensed version of what I read today.







Part 2 of our April field trip was at Fir Road north of Pasco on April 24th. I've been watching social media posts of Carnelian being found there and I wanted to check it out. Due to the distance, I thought it would be good to combine it with the Saddle Mountain trip. We stayed at various hotels and campgrounds in the Tri-Cities area. Fir Road is about 18 miles north of Pasco and contains an immense wall of river rock next to the Columbia River. I'm guessing related to the glacial floods that impacted central WA. Our experience was that Carnelian was hard to come by, though a few pieces were found by the group. But there is a lot of quartz and quartzite type rocks that will tumble and polish nicely. Many having well defined layered lines, similar to agates, but I think it's a grey area. I suspect sedimentary and metamorphism. Agates and jasper should be microcrystalline and very glass like, but most of these when broken open have visible crystal structures (quartz and quartzite). I wouldn't recommend a special trip over just for this site, but I think it's a good spot if you're in the area and desire tumbling material. Pasco is 225 miles from Kent/Renton. We certainly had fun and enjoyed the weather.

Our next field trip is on Saturday, May 14th, at First Creek. This is a 2 mile hike on good road bed to the sweet spot, where we find agate nodules and partial to full crystal filled geodes. Details will be sent out the weekend before the trip.



## Fossil Cleaning Tips

In most cases, when a fossil is cleaned, the surface is usually left with a dull or chalky look, even if you're careful. This is caused by the abrasion of the tool against the fossil's surface.

In an effort to make the fossil look better, some collectors use the quick method, and cover their specimens with clear plastic sprays to bring out the details and lessen the scratchy appearance. These collections are easy to recognize because every specimen looks as if it is wet or dipped in plastic. The trouble with this method is that it puts an unnatural, glossy appearance on the fossil, as well as the matrix, giving your specimen poor contrast.

In their natural state, fossils are not usually glossy, and professional museum preparatory will tell you that making a fossil something it never was, is poor practice. Clear sprays have a tendency to become cloudy over time, and the temptation to spruce up the collection by re-spraying specimens becomes a habit, which only puts more cloudy layers on the specimen. These coatings make photographing fossils difficult, they are very hard to remove and will sometimes render specimens useless for scientific study.

A simple and common sense way to get around these problems is to use an alcohol soluble, clear shellac. Just mix two part shellac to eight parts alcohol, the ratio can vary slightly to suit personal tastes. This mixture will leave a pleasing, natural matte finish.

When using this method, make sure the fossil is clean of dust. With a small artist's brush, carefully coat only the fossil with the diluted shellac. This will reveal the specimen's actual color and allow the fossil to stand out against the natural matrix, giving excellent contrast. The more attention you give to coating delicate structures, the more beautiful the specimen will be. If you accidentally use too much, or if it is on the matrix, just dip the brush in alcohol and whisk the coating away. It dries in seconds.

Make no doubt about it, fossil collecting has become very sophisticated in recent years, and collections quickly prepared by obsolete or improper methods are now readily noticed by other collectors. For a good book on fossil preparation, I recommend *The Practical Paleontologist* by Steve Parker and Raymond L. Berner, Printed by Simon and Schuster. via Breccia, 3/21; from Maps Digest, 7/9/95

## Young Tumblers News

### State Rocks

Twenty-one states have State rocks, some more than one. (Some names have been simplified for the puzzle.) Find the state rocks by looking left to right, right to left, up down and diagonally. Have fun!

B A R I T E R O S E P T J Y W  
 G P W U H V E D O E G H X K S  
 G E U D B I P A Y Z Q Z F H L  
 E T I D N A L R E B M U C R A  
 R V H G D L F G S A Q D E Y T  
 E F X K G I E X K L Z I V E E  
 D R S O F M N T R V A U K T N  
 N C J D A E E G A R R J I I I  
 U O Z R W S L Y S G C N H K T  
 H A B N O T S U J T A D X R N  
 T L H Y V O O W M R O F S A E  
 E S E F R N N H G Y L N U Z P  
 Y G W D S E I Y W J P R E O R  
 K J B H U X T Z X H G Y W M E  
 B A U X I T E N O T S D N A S

**Agate** – Kentucky & Nebraska

**Barite Rose** - Oklahoma

**Bauxite** – Arkansas

**Coal** – Utah, & West Virginia

**Cumberlandite** - Rhode Island

**Geode** - Iowa

**Granite** - New Hampshire, North Carolina, Vermont & Wisconsin

**Limestone** - Tennessee

**Marble** – Alabama, Vermont, & Colorado

**Mozarkite** - Missouri

**Nelsonite** – Virginia

**Puddingstone** - Massachusetts

**Sandstone** - Nevada

**Serpentine** - California

**Slate** - Vermont

**Thunderegg** - Oregon

### Field Trips

The club or clubs sponsoring the field trips are shown in italics. When known I have listed a phone number and contact person for each sponsoring club below the listed trips. If you are not a member of the sponsoring club, you should phone and ask permission to go on their field trip.

**May 14** *Cascade Mineralogical Society - First Creek - Agate, crystals, geodes*  
*Roger Danneman roger.danneman@gmail.com 425-757-3506 cell and text*

### Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

As you age and your body enters a slower phase you realize how much friends mean to you. As you age you need companionship and should you be alone, a senior center becomes your place for meeting people with similar circumstances. Any meetings of similar type people will work as well.

As people age and get dementia, one of their ways of showing their needs is to hold hands or lay their head on your shoulder. Do not push them off. This is their lifeline and they do need you more than you need them, although it doesn't seem like it, sometimes.

### Don't Forget To Show Your Membership Card

You can pick up your membership card at the in-person March meeting. If it's not picked up it will be mailed to you. The following businesses are loyal supporters of our rock club.

Show your membership card at the following stores and get a 10% discount on all purchases.

*Jerry's Rock Shop* – 804 W Valley Hwy, Kent, WA 98032

Minerals, rough or polished rocks, lapidary machines, lapidary supplies, polishing grit, fossils, rock hounding tools, beautiful display specimens, jewelry, and much more.

Jerry is a great supporter of our club. They make it possible to have nice door prizes at our meetings.

*Blackjack Metal Detectors and Mining Equipment* – 101 Park Ave N, Renton, WA 98057

They sell beautiful mineral specimens, fossils, books, metal detecting and gold panning equipment and supplies. Chris Holden is a CMS member!

### New for Members Only – New Texting Service

We are busy and often forget that CMS has an upcoming meeting or event. Therefore, we have a texting service to remind members of CMS meetings and events.

Everyone is automatically entered into this service. You can opt out anytime by responding with STOP.



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.



Access CMS Club Instagram page



Access our CMS YouTube channel



Access our CMSclub website for the latest on meetings and club events



Access CMS Facebook Groups

## Gypsum by Jo Borucki

Gypsum is a common and plentiful mineral that has a variety of purposes. The walls in your house, apartment, or most commercial buildings built after 1930, most likely have walls called drywall where one of the ingredients is gypsum. Plaster of Paris is often used as a hobby material, for example, as a child, I filled small rubber molds with a mixture of powdered plaster of Paris mixed with water, waited for the mixture to harden, with the results being small statues that I could paint. Or if you like crime shows as I do, often clues such as tire tracks or shoe prints left at the crime scene, are preserved as evidence by filling the track or imprint with plaster of Paris, thus obtaining a permanent cast. If you broke a bone, your break may have been protected with a cast made of plaster of Paris. If you are a gardener, you may use gypsum, a source of Sulphur, as a soil conditioner, or if you need a new sidewalk, the Portland cement will contain gypsum. If you enjoy sculpting, you may use a massive, fine grained form of gypsum known as alabaster.

One of the most common usages, though is as an ingredient in drywall. In 2011, the bottom fell out of the gypsum market because not so many homes were being built. The result had economic and social implications. No place felt it more than the little company town of Empire, Nevada, created by the U.S. Gypsum Corporation to house its employees as they worked mining and processing gypsum. In its heyday, Empire had a church, public swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, gas station, post office, convenience store, and an airport. All that ended in 2011, and the employees were without jobs or housing, and the town was deserted. In time, it even lost its zip code. Without the gypsum mine, there could be no town. If you enjoy movies, rent or get the movie, "Nomadland" It is a story about a woman named Fern, now homeless once she lost her job and home as a result of the 2011 Empire Mine closure.

The town of Empire has reopened as a much smaller town than when it closed in 2011. The reopened mine employs fewer people, but Empire's economy has expanded to serve tourists bound for the nearby Black Desert or planning to hunt, and those participating in the annual Burning Man Festival depend on it because it has the closest gas station and grocery store.

The presence of gypsum and selenium in enough abundance can become a tourist destinations as it has in White Sands National Park located in New Mexico. It is an enormous park of 145,762 acres covering 227.8 square miles. White sand dunes composed of gypsum crystals cover about 41% of the park. The crystals about 30 feet deep with dunes towering at 60 feet. Around 12,000 years ago, the climate warmed, and rain and snow dissolved the gypsum from the surrounding mountains carrying it into the basin. The gypsum dried and formed selenite crystals. The strong winds broke up many of the crystals to form the white gypsum sand seen today.

We rockhounds enjoy gypsum in its crystalized form as Selenite or when it occurs in flowerlike forms called Desert Rose. Selenite is an interesting term because it implies that it contains selenium, but it doesn't. The ancient Greeks called it selenite because the word, selenite, to them, was the word moon. It's easy to see that this translucent, whitish material could remind them of the moon.

This rather lowly, soft material known as gypsum has made its impact on the world. I no longer think of it as not very interesting, as just the mineral representing Hardness 2 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. It holds its own as an important building material, and also as a force in the world of artists, rockhounds, and tourists, and it has its social implications as it did to the citizens in Empire, Nevada.

from Breccia, 2/22

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**May 6-8:** Friday & Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 10 am – 3 pm

**Mt. Hood Rock Club, Rock and Gem Show**

Kliever Memorial Armory

10000 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Dr., Portland Oregon

**May 14 & 15:** Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

**Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, Rock Show**

Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center

1705 East Airport Road, Hermiston Oregon

**May 21 & 22:** Saturday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

**Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock & Mineral Show**

Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds

1500 S. Oak, Kennewick WA

**May 28 & 29:** Saturday 10 am – 6 pm; Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

**Everett Rock & Gem Club, 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**

Evergreen State Fairgrounds (East Entrance)

18359 Cascade View Drive, near Monroe WA

**May 28 & 29:** Saturday 9 am – 6 pm; Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

**Clackamette Mineral & Gem Club, 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**

Clackamas County Fairgrounds

694 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canby Oregon

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