

The CMS Tumbler

December
2024

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

Christmas Party:
December 1, 2024
Set-up 11:30 a.m.
Eating 12 Noon

American Legion Hall
25406 97th PI S
Kent, WA

The club will furnish
Turkey and Ham.

Bring a dish or dessert
and your own silverware,
cups, plates, etc.

We will have a club auction.

Table of Contents

Calendar.....	5
Cartoon.....	5
Board Minutes.....	6
General Minutes.....	6
From the Top of the Rock Pile.....	6
Young Richard's Almanac.....	7
Young Tumblers News.....	10
Shows.....	12

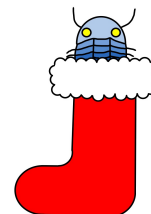
Connect with us!

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

This month remember to wish a Happy Birthday to



- Jim Cerenzie on December 4
- Nora Quinn on December 4
- Steve Thoreson on December 5
- Rebecca Waller on December 5
- Nan Li Merriman on December 8
- Rose Lopeman on December 10
- Michael Kelly on December 11
- Colin Owen on December 11
- Cindy Callahan on December 13
- Crystal Lawson on December 13
- John Cornell on December 14
- Jesse Brott on December 15
- Adrian Nelson-Wheatley on December 17
- Llewyn Severns on December 17
- Christy Forsythe on December 19
- Nik Brown on December 21
- Dave Nash on December 21
- Lauren Vitellaro on December 21
- Shannon Soliz on December 22
- Robert Brandl-Blake on December 27
- Bevin Brott on December 27
- Connie O'Neill on December 27
- Erik Richards on December 27
- Beverly Williams on December 29



and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Ken & Ann Jones on December 29
Pete & Beverly Williams on December 29 (42 years)

Except where otherwise noted, material from The Tumbler may be reprinted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the author(s) and source are acknowledged.

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.

Membership Mailing Address:
c/o Ananda Cooley
300 Lenora Street
PMB 6145
Seattle, WA 98121

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

2024 Elected Officers

President Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Vice President Noelle Barnes	206-914-0514	geonoelleb@outlook.com
Treasurer Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary Pete Williams	425-228-5063	petewill02@gmail.com
Director 1 – At Large Lee Oliver	253-878-2151	loliver4252000@gmail.com
Director 2 - Field Trips Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	roger.danneman@gmail.com
Director 3 – At Large Programs Paul Ahnberg	941-704-2063	runhikebird@icloud.com
Director 4 - At Large Richard Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
Director 5 - At Large Linda Jorza	206-478-1642	ljorza@gmail.com
Past President Malcolm Wheeler Sr.	253-569-5185	facetguru@aol.com
Show Coordinator		
Federation Representative Michael Blanton	425-271-8757	mblanton41@hotmail.com
Federation Representative Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Mineral Council Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	dianahorsfall@comcast.net
Mineral Council Ananda Cooley	206-683-7787	cascademstreasurer@gmail.com

2024 Show Committee Chairs

Cascade Coordinator Lee Oliver	253-878-2151	loliver4252000@gmail.com
Cascade Co #2 Michele Maidman	206-395-5270	maidmmm@yahoo.com
Cascade Co #3 Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Book Display Cases		
Show Display Cases Refurbish Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Mail Flyers		
Show Treasurer Pete Williams	425-228-5063	petewill02@gmail.com
Show Silent Auction Richard Russell	253-736-3693	richru1@yahoo.com
Pre-Show Raffle Case & Donation Requests Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Show Display Case Presenters		
Show Event Volunteer Recruiter		
Show Website Kat Koch	425-765-5408	vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Show Vendor Chairman Kat Koch	425-765-5408	vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org

2024 Committee Chairs

Club Historian Jim Cerenzie	253-638-1478	jcerenzie@yahoo.com
Donations Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Field Trip Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Health & Welfare Bev Williams	425-228-5063	britbev1957@outlook.com
Library Diana Horsfall	425-226-3154	dianahorsfall@comcast.net
Meeting Greeters Angie & Brian Bayer	253-569-0245	angiemc61@msn.com
Meeting Programs Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Membership Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Newsletter - Tumbler Editor Keith Alan Morgan	253-316-9935	greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com
Shop Instructors (Temp) Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	roger.danneman@gmail.com
Shop Reservations – <i>Winter Shop Closed</i>		
Public Relations Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
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 John Cornell	253-335-3617	outhouse2hole@gmail.com
Webmaster Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
Facebook Group Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	Roger.Danneman@gmail.com
Facebook Club Page Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
Instagram Gina Manso	425-281-3502	ginamanso51@gmail.com
All Other Social Media Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org

2025 CMS Dues are \$30 per year per family

Pay online, by mail, or at our meetings.

New mailing address: Cascade Mineralogical Society, c/o Ananda Cooley, 300 Lenora St. - PMB 6145, Seattle, WA 98121

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.

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

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

NFMS Needs Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Every year the NFMS collects postage stamps from its member clubs. They have a stamp company that buys them, and in turn, these funds are donated to cancer research. Every year NFMS donates around \$5,000.

On letters that you receive, tear the corner with the stamp off. Try to leave about 1/4" of the envelope around the stamp. Be careful not to damage the stamp. Place the stamps in a plastic baggie and bring them to the meeting. Our member, Mike Blanton, collects the stamps and turns them over to the NFMS at the regional rock and gem show. You can give them to Mike as often as you want throughout the year.

Collecting the stamps is another way we rockhounds give back to our community.



Don't Forget To Show Your Membership Card At These Retailers

JERRYS ROCK AND GEM
 804 WEST VALLEY HWY. KENT, WA. 98032
jerrysrockandgem.com jerrysrockandgem@msn.com

Follow us on Facebook **253-852-0539**



Black Jack's Metal Detectors
 Mining Equipment, Low Pressure Dive, & Rock Shop!
www.BlackJacksMetalDetectors.com
 Your place for Metal Detecting & Mining Equipment

101 Park Ave N,
Renton, WA. 98057
Store # 425-430-0290
Direct # 253-961-3095



SoDo Rocks

Friday thru Sunday
10 am to 4 pm

2700 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98121

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.



Access CMS Club Instagram page



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.

Access our CMS YouTube channel



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



Access CMS Facebook Groups



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
1 Xmas Party 11:30 Set-up 12:00 Eating	2	3	4	5	6	7 Maplewood Bazaar	
8 Maplewood Bazaar	9 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	 The Christmas Party takes the place of the General Meeting				

CMS Show Committee Meeting: ...Monday, December 9.....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, December 9.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 CMS Christmas Party:.....Sunday, December 1.....11:30 am (set-up) 12:00 noon (eating)

More Show info can be found on Page 12

Gifts For Rockhounds

by KAM



CMS Board Meeting Minutes November 11, 2024

by Pete Williams, 2024 Secretary

Attendees: Kat Koch; Linda Jorza; Pete Williams; Rich Russell; Mike Blanton; Paul Arhnberg; Roger Danneman; Noelle Barnes; Diana Horsfall; Ananda Cooley; Lee Oliver

Meeting called to order: 7:03

Our club now has 151 family memberships. Our Christmas party will be on December 1 at our meeting location. Rich will bring the club provided ham and turkey. The November program will be on glaciers and the January program will be on 2025 field trips. There was a lot of interest in our club at the Gem Faire in Puyallup. We handed out many brochures.

Next years gem show will be held only in the gym. We will not use the Green River Room. Kat showed a draft of the show flyer. A slight change will be made to indicated the \$2 admission is good for 2 days. Kat is interested in redesigning the club logo to spell out our club name.

Board members need to come up with ideas for programs for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46

CMS General Meeting Minutes November 14, 2024

by Pete Williams, 2024 Secretary

The general meeting was cancelled at short notice due to water damage to the flooring in our meeting room.

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

CMS had a courtesy booth at the Gem Fair from November 8th to 10th. Mike and I volunteered to cover the booth on Friday and Saturday. It was so much fun! In the three days, we handed out around 200 club information flyers. It was also the first time visitors came to the booth and said they had heard about our club. We also received compliments that they had heard we were very good and kind to families with kids on our field trips. Thank you to Roger and the members who make sure everyone is welcomed.



I also want to say thank you to Noelle for setting everything up and to the members that volunteered to cover our booth. Our club appreciates you, and it is because of your volunteering that our club is such a success.

Please seriously consider volunteering for events when needed. Don't always leave volunteering up to the same people over and over. We have another courtesy booth at the next Gem Fair, March 14-16, 2025. We will be handing out our Gem Show flyers for June 28 and 29, 2025, and telling everyone about our club. Come April and March, look for the sign-up sheet from Noelle.

If you're a new member, we're thrilled to have you join our fantastic rock club! Your presence at our monthly meetings is highly valued, and we encourage you to take the opportunity to introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you.

Welcome
New Members

Since our membership continues to grow weekly, I hope more members will attend our monthly meetings. The larger our meeting attendance is each month, the easier it will be to book quality speakers.

I look forward to seeing everyone on December 1st and enjoying dinner with you. There are more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

December 1st – Holiday Potluck Dinner, Election of Officers, and Club Auction.

*****Holiday Potluck Dinner:***** The club will provide ham and turkey. Angie and Brian will contribute mashed potatoes and gravy. We ask that members bring side dishes, rolls, desserts, and drinks. If you cannot bring anything, please join us anyway; your company is what matters most. We always have plenty of food!



Election

*****Board Election:***** After dinner, we have the election of Officers for 2025.

*****Auction:***** We will conclude the evening with our club auction. Our auctions are an excellent opportunity to find holiday gifts, birthday presents, anniversary surprises, or anything else you might need. The prices are always much lower than retail or a gem show.

We encourage our Young Tumblers to save the "Rock Bucks" they receive for our auctions. They can use the "Rock Bucks" like real money to purchase items they desire.



Mark your calendars now! Let's enjoy a delightful dinner together, catch up with one another, and engage in some "rock talk." You can also grab some fantastic bargains at our auction

January 9th - Field Trip report of 2024 and what lies ahead for 2025.

Our Field Trip Guide, Roger Danneman, will review our 2024 field trips and what was found, then look ahead to what is planned for 2025.

Our field trips are great fun for friends and family. Come spring when the weather permits, and plan on rockhounding with us!

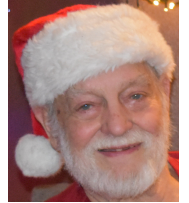
Show 'n Tell: Something you found on a field trip, your yard, beach, a hike, etc.



Young Richard's Almanac by Dick Morgan

Christmas is near and the cold weather is upon us again, but the season is warm with friendly wishes as friends meet for holiday get-togethers.

Young people should write their life experiences when they experience them. Then they don't have to try to remember it years later when they write their memoirs.



Rockhound Hospitality Never Goes Out of Style by Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

I came across an interesting segment in a 1961 Rocks and Minerals Magazine titled, Visiting Rockhounds Welcome. Apparently, any subscriber to the magazine could submit their name and address in the monthly publication for free, if they were interested in having traveling rockhounds come for a visit as they were passing through the area. In that issue, there were seventy-one rockhounds from all across the United States who were interested in saying hello.

In the early days of our clubs, rockhounds traveled a lot, eager to visit other collecting areas they read about in the magazines and in the AFMS federation newsletters. It was quite common for them to stop and visit with other rock and mineral clubs. They would arrive as guests at the club meetings to a hearty welcome. If the timing was right, they could enjoy a good field trip with the club or be given the directions to the best spots to explore.

Hospitality never goes out of style, and I would say it has always been a rockhound virtue that has always been a part of who we are for generations. It is something others always notice about us.

Club meetings can get busy each month with business to cover, programs and silent auctions to enjoy, and there's always the clean-up time after refreshments. With all the busyness, a warm welcome to club guests makes a huge, lasting impression. Try and take the time to personally introduce guests to some of your officers or chairmen. Introducing them to some of your long-time members or to those who are wearing what they've made with the rocks they found, is a really nice thing to do. All of these gestures will help people get to know each other better and help everyone feel right at home.

from AFMS Newsletter, 10/24

AFMS Rockhound of the Year: A Round of Applause by Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair

There is still time to give a round of applause to those hard working, yet quiet, folks who have gone out of their way to do something above and beyond for their club this year. It can be done so simply. Just submit a short write-up of the person's special contribution to your Regional Rockhound of the Year Chairperson. (See list below). It is great fun! And you are encouraged to include a photo, as we enjoy seeing our fellow rockhounds! This honor can be bestowed on an individual or couple. You may also submit an accolade for one of your Junior members. Remember, they are an important part of our clubs, too.

This is not meant to be a life's biography. It is a paragraph or so honoring the person(s) for a special contribution during the specific year. An example might be giving credit to "Joe" who attends every monthly meeting, shows up to quietly help with all aspects of the show, graciously passes on his door prize when he wins one (usually to a child or new attendee), brings ice cream as an extra treat for the potluck. With his quiet demeanor, Joe doesn't want to be an officer, but without his contributions the club would be lacking something special.

I am sure every club has persons who have given a great deal to their club; both those who have been officers, chairpersons and heralded other activities and the "Joe's" of the club. You get to decide who you honor. Just remember, like a round of applause, it is a special honor for your member.

Regional Chairpersons for AFMS Rockhound of the Year

California: Chris Ward, <chris_ward678 at yahoo.com>

Eastern: Ellery Borow, PO Box 47; Waterville, ME 04903-0047, <rocknellery at fairpoint.net>

Midwest: Jeanine N. Mielecki (312) 623-1554, <jaynine9 at gmail.com >

Northwest: Laurie Ellis, PO Box 3326; Irrigon, OR 97844, <nfmsroy at gmail.com>

Rocky Mountain: Chris Whitney-Smith <ask.chrisws at yahoo.com>

South Central: (open) send to Judi Allison, <jms46 at outlook.com> or <nfmssec at gmail.com>

Southeast: Marty Hart, 4935 Olivia Dr. Antioch, TN 37013, <admin at gemizo.com>

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/24

All American Club — Last Call! by Mary Boesdorfer, AAC Chair

Happy Holidays! I just wanted to remind everyone the deadline for the All-American Club awards is coming up on

February 1st. If you've ever wanted to create a snapshot of your club's activities for the past year, here's your chance! These yearbooks are a great way to showcase your clubs' activities, members, events, show, etc. The nice thing about these awards is you're not competing against anyone else, simply trying to make the best yearbook you can.

This yearbook is covering 2024 so look back and see what amazing things your club did this past year! Events, social gatherings, workshops, and community support are all ways to showcase your club in the yearbook. And just a word of advice, pictures and screenshots are your best friend as the biggest way you'll get deductions is not having the corresponding evidence. If you're computer savvy the yearbook can be created as a PDF. But you're also welcome to make a physical book, if you'd rather have a big scrapbook making party!

I understand a project like this takes a lot of time and effort so it can be daunting to take on. However, I would love to get the number of entries to keep going back up as it's such a fabulous way of bragging on your club. So, I would be curious to hear of any suggestions you have to try and make this more accessible or more fun to participate in.

The entry forms are on the AFMS website. I look forward to seeing your amazing entries! If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know at writteninwood@gmail.com or contact your regional chairs.

from AFMS Newsletter, 12/24

Flint What is it? by Jennifer Ross

Flint, also referred to as flint stone, is a sedimentary rock consisting of microscopic, nearly undetectable (cryptocrystalline) crystals of the mineral quartz (SiO₂). (1) Flint is a variety of chert that occurs primarily in chalk. (3) Flint's fracture pattern is conchoidal, like glass, and allows extremely sharp edges to be created. (9)

How does it develop? Flint formation occurred largely during the Cretaceous Era, 145 mya to 66 mya, when sea levels were at nearly the highest level in the Earth's history. Marine life was abundant. Chalk, calcium carbonate, was first laid down through the deposition of the skeletons of sea creatures. Acidic conditions due to bacterial activity allowed for chalk to dissolve and silica to precipitate in nodules, layers and lenses. (3)

Where is it found? Flint is found anywhere that has chalk. Chalk is widespread globally with notable formations in the British Isles, United States midwestern states, Egypt and in Europe. (4), (5) Neolithic pit mines are found in these and other areas around the world.

Why is it important? Flint, as well as chert, obsidian and tektites, was an important resource to early hominids and humans. Flint and other knappable stones were mined, traded and worked all over the world until the end of the Stone Age, approximately 2000 BCE. (7). The earliest evident for flint tool manufacturing ("knapping") by a member of the genus Homo is 2.6 million years old and was discovered at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. (8) Conchoidal fracturing allowed knappers to make tools that had a sharp cutting edge. (9) Modern uses for flint include building and paving material, for fire making and in early firearms.

References

1) Ohio Department of Natural Resources. "Flint". <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/rock-minerals/fossils/minerals/flint>

2) Attribution: Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint>

3) Lane, Amanda "Flint Formed in Chalk". <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Education-and-Careers/Ask-a-Geologist/Earth-Materials/Flint-Formed-in-Chalk>

4) Nature News. 1/25/24 "Earth Treasures, Flint Stone". <https://naturenews.africa/earth-treasures-flint-stone/>

5) Ohio Department of Natural Resources. "Flint". <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/rock-minerals/fossils/minerals/flint>

6) Attribution: Richard Milton, 2018. Museum of The Stone Age. <https://www.stoneagetools.co.uk/what-is-flint.htm>

7) Classifications: Prehistoric Eras. <https://harvardartmuseums.org/tour/2/slide/3>

8) Flenniken, J. Jeffery. "The Past, Present, and Future of Flintknapping: An Anthropological Perspective." Washington State University. 1984 <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.an.13.100184.001155>

9) "Conchoidal Fracture: A Lucky Break", Rock and Gem Magazine, 3/4/2024. <https://www.rockngem.com/conchoidal-fracture-lucky-break>

via The Hard Rock News, 9/24; from Skagit Gems, 9/24

Topaz by Will Postell

Topaz is perhaps one of the most popular and diverse mineral groups in the world of gemstones today. Without a doubt the most common and popular color of topaz today is blue. The thirst is so great that the manufacturers have developed blues within the blues, in shades ranging from a light to darker sky blue, on to some descriptions such as Caribbean Blue, to Electric Swiss Blue, and finally the darkest and costly form, that being London Blue topaz. The London Blue takes one full year to cool and stabilize. Most blue-colored topaz seen today started out as a white (or colorless) variety. The stones gradually turn blue only when a carefully controlled process of heat and irradiation is applied. There is a natural blue topaz that is found in the Ural Mountains of Russia, but this expensive variety will seldom be seen at the retail level, rather more will be found in museums or private collections.

Topaz occurs in many colors and different hues from a white (or colorless) color to include purple, pink, gray, sky blue, orange, and a multitude of shades of brown (some golden or sherry-colored), green, and yellow. One of the naturally-colored varieties of topaz (known as "champagne"), a light-to-medium shade of brown, is costlier than most heat-treated varieties and is found in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, but seldom seen at conventional retail outlets. Imperial topaz is

generally recognized as the birthstone for November. Imperial topaz is widely considered to be the most sought after of all natural topaz. It comes in a rich golden color that is generally not enhanced by heat or any other treatment process. An impressive deep color and red influence can command prices of \$500 per carat or more at wholesale. Imperial topaz is also known as sherry topaz or simply golden topaz. Much of the supply for this gemstone hails from Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais in Brazil. Sri Lanka produces some beautiful specimens, as well. The natural pink topaz is also quite a beautiful gem, but it is somewhat costly, and is seldom seen at the retail level. The vast majority of pink topaz seen today is a yellow variety that has been heat-treated to turn pink. The clear colorless topaz when faceted has a glassy luster and a very slick feel that makes it an unusual gemstone and can resemble a diamond. Other locations of topaz are numerous.

Sources: Rocks, Gems, & Minerals by Zimm & Shaffer; Rocks & Minerals by Jones; Rocks & Minerals by Brobst; Gems by Dennis; Firefly Guide to Gems by Oldershaw

from Lowcountry Diggings, 11/24

Safety When Mineral Collecting Near Old Mines

In Colorado, old mines provide a wonderful place to search and collect a wide variety of minerals. But these old mines can also be a dangerous place to be, if you are not careful.

As reported by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) on <https://www.msha.gov/sosa>, there are approximately 14,000 active mines and 500,000 abandoned mines throughout the nation. Active and abandoned mine sites pose serious risks to people untrained and unfamiliar with the site. Each year, explorers, hikers, and off-roaders are injured or killed while exploring, swimming, or playing on a mine property.

Stay Out, Stay Alive is a nationwide public awareness campaign by MSHA to educate children and adults about the hazards of exploring and playing at active and abandoned mine sites. Furthermore, the safety initiative's primary mission is to remind people of the one and only key safety practice when encountering an active or abandoned mine site. That is: STAY OUT - STAY ALIVE.

The MSHA website has these examples of hazards at active and abandoned mines:

Explosives and Chemicals

Active and abandoned mines may be housing explosives. These materials can become unstable overtime and explode spontaneously. Explosive housing containers can also leak toxic chemicals.

Underground Tunnels

Many mines contain miles of underground tunnel. Without proper lighting, people can easily become lost and disoriented while inside. Publicly available maps are oftentimes outdated.

Gases and Lack of Oxygen

Thousands of gas wells penetrate coal seams at active and abandoned mines. An inadvertent intersection with one of these wells could inundate the mining section with methane, carbon dioxide, and other deadly gases. These gases can displace oxygen with no visible sign, causing suffocation.

Decayed Support and Unstable Rock

In a mine tunnel, roof and rib frameworks can decay over time, creating fractures. This weakens the support from unstable rocks and can cause the tunnel to collapse.

Open Shafts

Many vertical shafts can be hundreds of feet deep and completely unprotected or hidden by vegetation, mine debris, dirt, rock, and water.

from Flatirons Facets, 9-10/24

Abalone are large gastropod mollusks that inhabit the cold waters of California. While other species live elsewhere across the world, there are seven abalone species in California: white abalone, black abalone, red abalone, green abalone, pink abalone, pinto abalone, and flat abalone. These highly sought-after mollusks have been ingrained in Californian culture for centuries.

The earliest users of abalone were the Native Americans who left the earliest middens (piles of abalone shells) about 12,000 years ago. Many Native American tribes, including the Chumash, the Valley Yahi, the Hupa, the Yokuts, the Ohlone, and the Wiyot tribes valued and utilized abalone. For many of these tribes, abalone hold deep spiritual meanings, or meanings which can only be understood through ceremonies, songs, or stories, passed down over generations.

In modern times, many have come to believe that abalone shells are filled with calming energy. They can be very soothing and bring great healing energy. Abalone Shells are believed to bring guidance, and calm emotions. Abalone Shells are a sacred symbol of the sea. They can help strengthen love within relationships and foster interpersonal harmony. Abalone Shells aid in releasing any negative feelings and ease stressful situations, which may be why they're often incorporated into sage-burning practices.

from Rockhound Ramblings, 9/23

You might be a rockhound if:

- your spouse asks you to stop identifying the mineral occurrences in roadcuts at 70+ mph. Or,
- you visit yard sales and estate sales looking for rocks and minerals.

from The Geode, 6/24

Young Tumblers News

Woolly Mammoths by Kat Koch (Cascade Mineralogical Society Kent, WA)

Woolly mammoths roamed the Earth for at least half a million years, coexisting with humans for millennia before finally going extinct some 4,000 years ago. That's a long time but a short time in the grand scheme. For perspective, consider the fact that woolly mammoths were still alive when the pyramids of Egypt were being built. That speaks to how long one of history's most famous empires lasted — Egypt existed for more than 3,000 years, making it 15 times older than the United States — and how relatively recently the Woolly Mammoth existed.



If your mind still isn't sufficiently blown by ancient Egypt's longevity, remember that Cleopatra lived closer to the moon landing than she did to the construction of the Great Pyramids of Giza. Woolly mammoths, meanwhile, were impressive in their own way, even if they weren't as big as you might imagine — they were about the size of a modern African elephant. Nevertheless, these creatures still loom large in the collective imagination millennia after their extinction, which was long thought to have been caused by humans hunting them. More recently, a consensus has emerged that the true culprit was climate change: The planet warmed too rapidly for them to adapt, as melting icebergs wiped out the vegetation they existed on.

Great Pyramids – These were built in approximately 2,600 BCE.

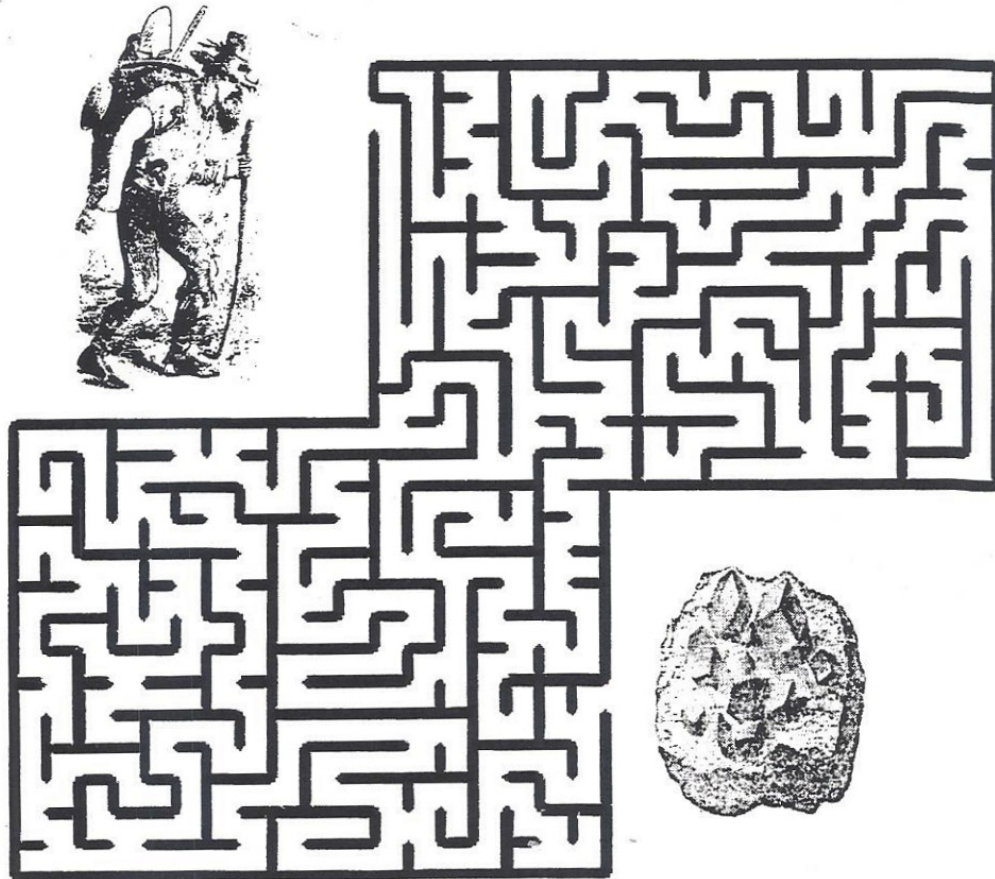
Woolly Mammoth – Lived from 800,000 years ago until the last died about 2,000 BCE years ago on the remote island of Wrangel, Russia, west of the Arctic Ocean.

Cleopatra – She lived from 69/70 BCE to August 30, 30 BCE

Moon Landing – Man first landed on the moon in 1969 CE.

Bibliography: Britannica, Wikipedia, Science Daily, History.com.

Can You Help Rocky Rockhound Find The Rock?



Reminder

Sunday, December 1st
CMS Holiday Dinner

Just a reminder of our holiday party on Sunday, December 1st.
 Potluck dinner, election of officers and club auction.

Set up at 11:30 am with dinner at 12 noon.

American Legion Hall, Kent, WA

The club is providing the turkey, ham, water and coffee. Angie & Brian are providing punch, mashed potatoes and gravy.

We still need stuffing, yams, rolls & butter, cranberry sauce, vegetable side dishes and salads. We can't forget desserts and whip cream.

We would appreciate you letting Angie know what you intend to bring. Text her at 253-569-0245.

This is always such an enjoyable get together. We are able to enjoy a nice dinner together and visit with one another. We generally have 45 to 50 people. Guests, kids, grand kids, friends are all welcome. See you Sunday!

Questions? Text Angie

**Humboldtine**

Humboldtine is a rare authigenic organic mineral occurring on fracture surfaces in coal deposits and rarely in granitic pegmatites and hydrothermal mineral deposits. As a rarely occurring mineral from the mineral class of "organic compounds," it is a water-containing iron oxalate or the iron salt of oxalic acid. It contains carbon, hydrogen, iron and oxygen.

Humboldtine crystallizes in the monoclinic crystal system, but only rarely develops well-formed crystals with a sheen on the surfaces. It is mostly found in the form of botryoidal or fibrous aggregates and crusty coatings that are dull yellow to brownish or amber yellow in color. It can be transparent to opaque and can form from hematite in oxalic acid.

The Mohs hardness is only 1.5 to 2, so humboldtine is one of the softest minerals and can be scratched with a fingernail.

Etymology and History

Humboldtine was first discovered in a coal deposit in the Czech Republic in the early 1800s and named after naturalist, explorer, and scientist Alexander von Humboldt. The mineral was already known and characterized when the IMA was founded in 1959. Accordingly, humboldtine is listed as an officially recognized mineral.

Occurrence

The mineral is known to be found in 30 localities, including Germany, Brazil, the U.K. and Canada. Recently an old letter was found in a university archive describing a mineral found in a coal mine in the 1940s. The sample was analyzed and found to be Humboldtine. This discovery doubled the amount of the mineral known so far.

Uses

Humboldtine is an important synthetic intermediate and also a key building block for the preparation of various advanced materials.

from Grindings, 2/24

GeoWord of the Day: Mantle Plume

(a) A rising pipe-shaped volume of mantle that is abnormally hot or wet or both, such that during decompression it partially melts. The geochemically distinct basalt that segregates from the plume is called oceanic island basalt and forms oceanic island chains like the Hawaiian Islands.

(b) A vertical cylindrical part of the Earth's mantle, hotter than its surroundings, within which larger-than-normal amounts of heat are conducted upward to form a "hot spot" at the Earth's surface.

via The Mineral Newsletter, 11/24; via the American Geoscience Institute: from the Glossary of Geology, 5th edition, revised

Hunting Season Is Open

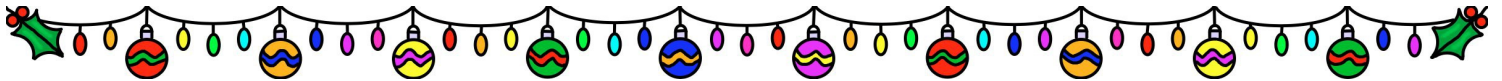
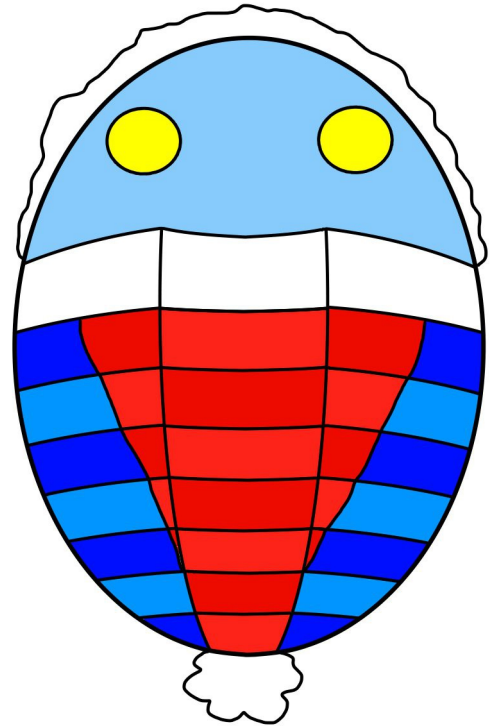
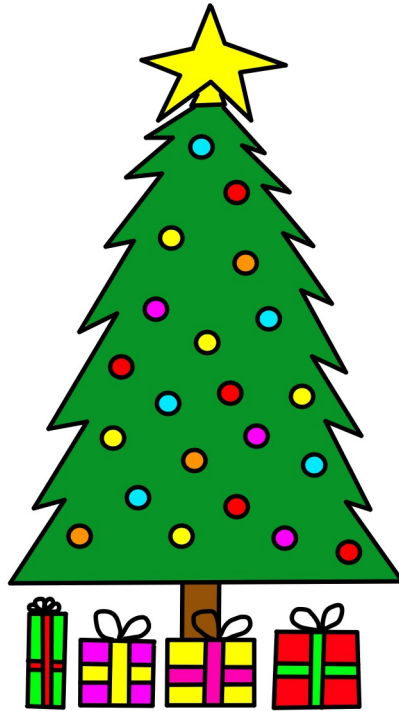
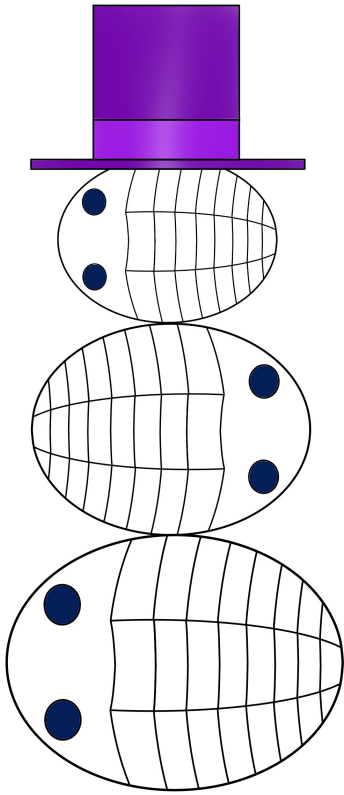
People are out hunting more than rocks at this time of year, and hunting with more than hammers and shovels. Be careful, and wear plenty of orange clothing so you cannot possibly be mistaken for a game animal, even from a hundred yards away!

from Rockin' Around, 11/24

Moss agate, especially the dark colored black Montana variety, often has small pits that may appear on the finished polished piece. Our light colored polishing powders such as tin or cerium oxide, often pack into these small pits and become difficult to remove. These filled pits often show up as white spots, distracting from the appearance of the finished stone.

To remedy the situation, try rubbing a small bit of black India ink into the spotted area, and then rub off the ink. The white spots will disappear.

via Lowcountry Diggings, 11/24; via Gem Cutters News, 11/11; from Pick 'N Pack, 12/09



Shows

December 7 & 8: Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 5 pm
Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, Annual Winter Bazaar
Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse
8802 196th ST SW
Edmonds WA

Did You Know? Platinum by Gerald Losser

Colombian aborigines were apparently the first people to find platinum which they made into ornaments. When introduced in the 18th century, platinum was not regarded seriously. In fact, counterfeit coins were made using crude platinum and then coated with gold. Platinum was discovered in Russia in 1819. The country was the main producer of the metal for almost a century. At one time, the Russian government authorized genuine platinum coinage.

In Virginia, there are two reported localities that platinum has been found – Fauquier County (as an accessory mineral in chlorite schists) and in Pittsylvania County (in chlorite schist near Danville). In California, platinum has been reported to have been found in small scale mining of black sands along the coastal beaches.

via Lowcountry Diggings, 6/24; via The Hound's Howl, 6/01; from The Virginia Pen

A rockhound's favorite restaurant is the Hard Rock Cafe.

from Breccia, 5/24

CONTENT DISCLAIMER: This publication is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including, but not limited to, fitness for a particular purpose; the technical data was derived from other sources, and the author has no way of knowing their accuracy.

This publication could contain technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. Changes are periodically added to the information herein; these changes will be incorporated in future revisions of this publication. The author, editor, or the Cascade Mineralogical Society shall not be liable for any incident or consequential damages, lost profits or data, or any indirect damages caused by using this publication's information.