The CMS Tumbler

November 2025

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

Next Meeting:
November 13, 2025
7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
25406 97th Pl S
Kent, WA

The Program is Glen Ripper on Obsidian

The Show & Tell Theme is Obsidian

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Connect with us!

Website: https://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.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
Ellie Brott on November 2
Wayne Oguri on November 3
Paul Vitellaro on November 4
Julie Redl on November 13
Malcolm B. Wheeler on November 14
Mrs. Anderson on November 19
Fernando Munoz on November 19
Paul Wasley on November 19
Dave Abergel on November 22
Venessa Lubach on November 22
Peggy Shashy on November 23
James Starke on November 23
Fred Funk on November 25
Gina Manso on November 25
Larry Clark on November 27
Dian Davis on November 28
Myles Brott on November 29
Alyssa Hjeltness-Werre on November 30
and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Britni & Vincent Larson on November 4
Ariyana Bennett & Fernando Munoz on November 10
Jim & Xuyen Cerenzie on November 14
April & Mark Marter on November 18

Membership Mailing Address:
Cascade Mineralogical Society
c/o 4762 Whitworth Pl S #P104
Renton, WA 98055

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

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Shop Reservations – *Shop is closed as we are building an indoor shop*		
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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 4762 Whitworth Pl S #P104
Renton, WA 98055

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 Lands Access Association; and the Washington State Mineral Council.

Our Club is a Member of these Federations and Associations

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/

Washington State Mineral Council

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 side. 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.

We Need Your Canceled Postage Stamps

Our club is going to continue to collect canceled postage stamps. Even though we are no longer members of the NFMS, we will continue to collect them and turn them over to the NFMS. They have a stamp company that buys them, and these funds are donated to cancer research. Every year NFMS donates around $2,500.

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 will turn them over to the NFMS. 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

These three retailers are huge supporters of our club. Please seek them out when looking for lapidary items and supplies.

Don't forget to show your membership card and receive a 10% discount on most items!

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.

Scan Me

For quick access, you can scan the following codes.

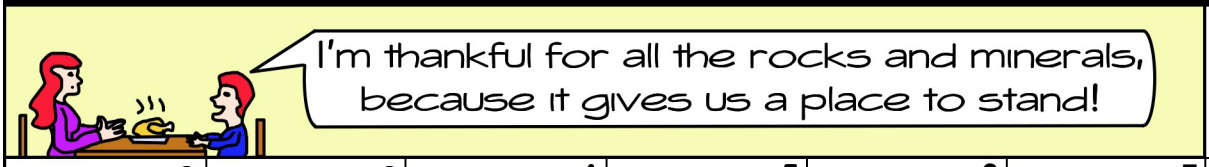
Access CMS Club Instagram page

Access our CMS YouTube channel

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

Access CMS Facebook Groups

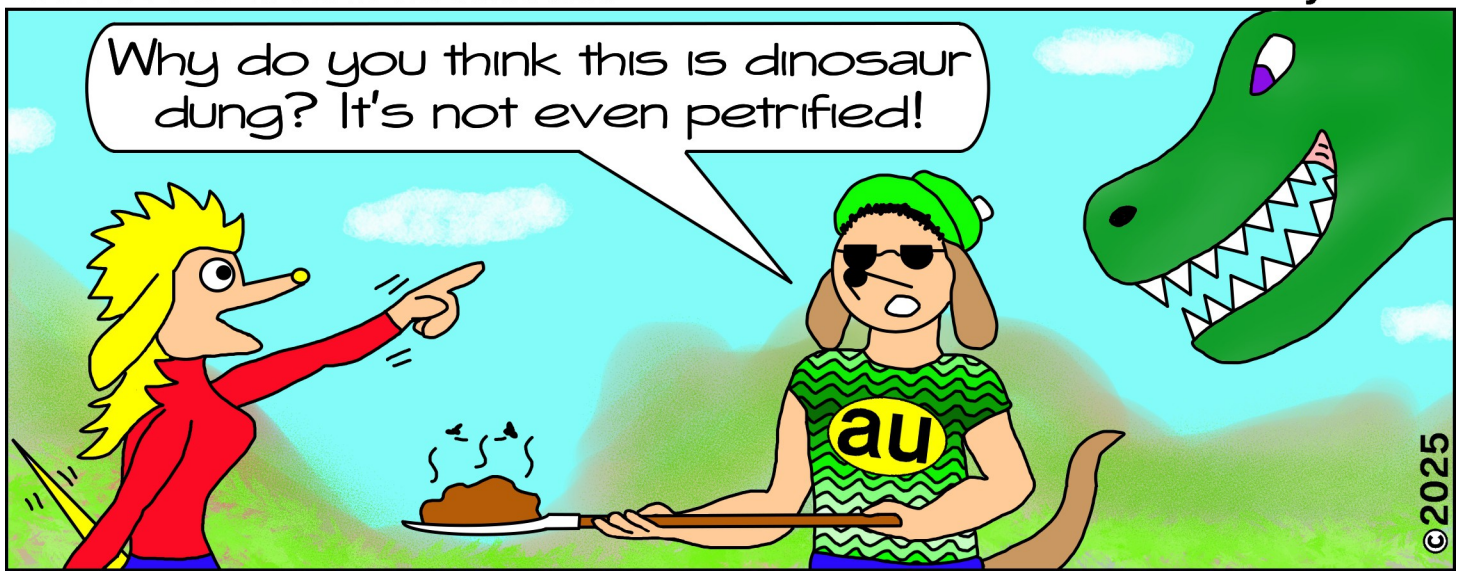
November

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

CMS Show Committee Meeting:…Monday, November 10…….....6:30 pm to 7:00 pm
CMS Board Meeting:……....Monday, November 10…….....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
CMS General Meeting:……....2nd Thursday, November 13……7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

Son of Mr. & Mrs. Rockhound **by KAM**



CMS Board Meeting Minutes October 6, 2025

by Pete Williams, 2025 Secretary

The Board meeting was cancelled.

CMS General Meeting Minutes October 9, 2025

by Pete Williams, 2025 Secretary

Called to Order: 7:14

CMS now has a new mailing address. Check the Tumbler or website for the correct mailing address.

Longtime club member, Board member, and Washington State Mineral Council officer is moving out of state. Our club shop and equipment storage area has been at her families house for 13 years.

The next club field trip is to Crystal Mountain or Swift Creek on October 18 depending on the weather. The November program will be about obsidian.

The club Christmas dinner will be on December 7. There will be election of officers as well as an auction. In particular, a treasurer is needed.

Program: Geology and Changing Coastline of Washington State by Maureen Carlisle

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 Followed by show and tell and the raffle.

From Atop the Rock Pile

by Kat Koch, 2025 President

Please consider volunteering for a board position as we near the election of officers at our holiday dinner on December 7th. We really need a treasurer. Things are much simpler since Ananda has automated so many tasks, and we no longer have to submit reports to NFMS or AFMS.

As our club continues to grow, we always welcome new volunteers with fresh ideas. If you would like to run for any board positions or serve on a show committee, please get in touch with Kat or Pete.

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.

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

When planning your estate, we invite you to consider donating to our club. We accept various types of gifts, including cash, stocks, real estate, and other assets. All property and monetary donations will be held in our savings account to help us acquire and operate an indoor shop and a space for monthly club meetings. I appreciate your support!

2025 Meetings


California Rainbow Obsidian

November 13th - Glen Ripper on Obsidian

Glen is a leading authority on Obsidian. He is a walking encyclopedia, which should make this an enjoyable and educational meeting.

Show 'n Tell: Obsidian - let's see your colors.

December 7th – CMS Food Drive, Holiday Potluck Party, and Club Auction

We start the day off with a potluck holiday meal. The club provides roasted turkey and ham. Members fill in with their favorite holiday potluck dish.

We follow our meal with the election of officers for the coming year.

Our final activity is our club auction. It is a great time to pick up great bargains on rough rocks, polished rocks, slabs, fossils, opal, etc. Our Young Tumblers can use their Rock Bucks to purchase auction items.

We always welcome donations to the auction.

This meeting is also our semi-annual food drive for the Kent Food Bank. Please remember to bring something. The Food Bank has informed us that they need feminine hygiene products and grape or strawberry jelly. People donate loads of peanut butter but never jelly. They also receive very few donations of feminine hygiene products.

2026 Meeting Calendar

January 8th - Tom Prang on Archeology & Geology

Many of our members may recognize Tom as a vendor from our gem show and many other shows. His booth is "A Point in Time."

I have given him free rein to talk about whatever he wants. He is always so interesting to stand at his show booth and listen to him talk. This meeting should be fascinating.

Show 'n Tell: A fossil of any type.

February 12th – Field Trips Planned for 2026 by Roger Danneman

Roger is going to go over the field trips he has planned for this year.

Show 'n Tell: Your Best Rock Find Of Last Year.

Learning from Fossilized Feces – Coprolites by Claire Christensen

It takes a certain kind of rockhound to hunt for dung, but coprolite, or fossilized feces, is surprisingly valuable in the quest to learn about the past. It can tell us about long-extinct animals and their diets, as well as the movements of prehistoric humans. Coprolites are considered trace fossils, which is a fossil record of activity, but not the biological remains of an organism itself. They are usually found in sedimentary rock, such as limestone or shale.

Coprolite was first noted in 1824 by legendary fossil hunter Mary Anning in Lyme Regis, southern England. She found unusual rocks, which she referred to as bezoar stones, in the abdominal region of several ichthyosaur skeletons. Breaking them open, she found fossilized fish skeletons and scales. However, as a woman, Anning was not eligible to join the Geological Society of London, and William Buckland, the president of the Society, formally described and named coprolites in 1829.

Most coprolites are from marine animals, not dinosaurs, because it takes specific conditions to prevent the generally rapid decay of organic material. Specimens have been found from as early as the Cambrian period, which started 538 million years ago and lasted nearly 52 million years. However, it can be difficult to identify which animal exactly produced the sample. In some instances, the physical shape of the coprolite can help narrow down the animal it came from, such as ichthyosaur coprolite being spiral-shaped, much like a modern shark's. In the case of the ichthyosaurs, the answer was rather obvious. But most coprolites are not found sitting neatly in the abdominal cavities of the skeletons that made them. Thus, they are far more valuable for learning what animals were eating, like specific plants and sometimes smaller animals.

In fact, coprolite analysis led to the discovery that grasses existed and had diversified during the Cretaceous period. Before the discovery in 2005, it was assumed that dinosaurs lived in environments with no grass at all. And the discovery of a large amount of beetles in a coprolite associated with Silesaurus indicates it was an insectivore, which was not previously known.

Coprolites, notably, are different from paleofeces, though the latter are sometimes referred to as coprolite as well. Coprolites contain very little organic matter, as through the fossilization process most of the original form is replaced with minerals like silicates or calcium carbonates. Paleofeces, in comparison, still retains its original makeup, and is usually found in arid climates suitable for preservation. Because it has not been mineralized, DNA can sometimes be extracted. (In fact, it is a more reliable source than skeletal DNA.) In 2008, mitochondrial DNA analysis of paleofeces from Oregon indicated that people were in North America 1,000 years earlier than previously thought— the researchers found fourteen paleofeces in caves near Paisley, Oregon that were a DNA match to two of the five Native American haplogroups.

Radiocarbon dating of animal bones found in the caves indicate the site was occupied roughly 14,000 years ago, earlier than the estimate for the Clovis culture (long thought to be the first people in the Americas) by 1,000 years. The coprolites were reexamined in 2017, and the findings were confirmed. The coprolites remain the oldest directly dated human remains in the Americas.

And finally, some rapid-fire facts about coprolites:

• Coprolites are part of a larger group of trace fossils, called bromalites. These are the fossilized remains of the contents of a digestive system. Coprolites are the most well-known type, but there are also regurgitalites, cololites, and gastrolites. Cololites and gastrolites are found in their respective organs (the intestines and stomach).

• In 1842, John Steven Henslow found coprolites in Suffolk, in eastern England, and upon analyzing their composition, found them to be a valuable source of phosphate when first treated with sulfuric acid. There then proceeded to be a fairly large operation to mine for coprolite and convert it into fertilizer for local farms. The mines mostly closed by the 1880s, but there was a brief resurgence during World War I.

• Since 1939, coprolite-like specimens have been found in the Wilkes Formation near Toledo, Washington, northwest of Mt. Saint Helens. They were often sold as coprolites, but a 2008 study revealed that it is more likely they came from clay and organic-rich silt forcefully injected into hollow wood fragments. Over time, fragments of wood within the clay were replaced with siderite, an iron carbonate.

• The largest collection of coprolites in the world is at the Poozeum in Williams, Arizona (west of Flagstaff). It was opened in 2024 by George Frandsen and contains over 8,000 individual coprolites, including the largest known carnivore coprolite, which weighs in at over 20 pounds. The museum is free to visit.

Sources: British Coprolite Industry, Bernard O'Connor; https://shorturl.at/dtIlD
The Coprolites That Aren't, Patrick K. Spencer; https://shorturl.at/yjl4E
Dung Fossils Suggest Dinosaurs Ate Grass, Nicholas Bakalar; https://shorturl.at/9cwrY
DNA From Pre-Clovis Human Coprolites in Oregon, M. Thomas P. Gilbert et al.; https://shorturl.at/JkwZv
Paisley Caves study uncovers a new scoop on ancient poop, Kristin Strommer; https://shorturl.at/SE3Ko
Poozeum.com

from Rocky Trails, 8/25

"Jurassic Poop" by Jim Fox

Coprolite is fossilized dung or feces. Besides being interesting and novel to the collector, coprolites provide scientists with information on the diet and sometimes on the digestive system of a prehistoric animal. Size can range from a fraction of an inch to well over 2 feet. The original fecal material has been replaced with agate, jasper or calcite. Scientists can use an electron micro-scope to identify plant material and sometimes broken bones or scales have been found in the Coprolite indicating that the predator animal was a carnivore.

via The Council Reporter, 9-10/25; from SCVGM Breccia, 10/25

Pineapple Opals

Pineapple opals are pseudomorphs—minerals that have replaced another mineral while preserving the original crystal shape. In this case, opal replaces ikaite (a hydrated form of calcium carbonate).

-Ikaite forms only under specific conditions—low temperatures, high alkalinity, and elevated pressures—typically in deep marine or cold sedimentary environments.

-Over time, as environmental conditions shift, the unstable ikaite decomposes and is replaced molecule by molecule by silica-rich fluids, forming opal.

-The original crystal habit of ikaite, which features radiating spear-like formations, is preserved—resulting in the iconic spikey "pineapple" shape.

Opal pseudomorphs are created by the deposition of opal in casts (molds) of fossil bone, teeth, shell, belemnoids (ancient relatives of cuttlefish), crinoids (sea lilies), wood, fir cones and even skeletons of large prehistoric animals. Many of these fossilized forms contain exceptional quality noble opal. White Cliffs is the only place where these marvelous (and very rare) pseudomorphic opals have been found.

White Cliffs is a small town in outback New South Wales in Australia, in Central Darling Shire. White Cliffs is around 255km northeast of Broken Hill, 93km north of Wilcannia. At the 2021 census, White Cliffs had a population of 156.

To the objective observer White Cliffs is really a single purpose town. Miners started coming here (the local Aborigines found it far too hot for permanent settlement and occasionally visited the place as they traveled to and from the Darling River) in the 1880's and, apart from its minor function as a service centre for the surrounding properties, it remains a town driven by opals.

The summer temperatures, typically over 40°C (104°F), forced the miners underground. The 100 million years old sandstone conglomerate in which the opal seams were buried carried two advantages. It was remarkably stable (no one has ever died from a mine collapse in White Cliffs) and it was relatively easy to dig. By around 1900 miners were burrowing into the hills in an attempt to find opals and escape from the heat. The real way to see White Cliffs is from the air. It appears like a strange moonscape with an estimated 50,000 disused diggings.

Fewer than a few hundred authentic pineapple opals have ever been documented, making them one of the rarest opal types on Earth. Their scarcity, combined with their bizarre and beautiful form, makes them highly coveted by mineral collectors and museums. Top specimens can command very high prices in the collector's market.

Reference Material:
www.geologyin.com
Wikipedia
www.aussietowns.com.au/town/white-cliffs-nsw
www.whitecliffsopal.com/

via AFMS Newsletter, 11/25; via Breccia, 1025; from The Opal Express, 9/25

Sphalerite by Jessica Himple

Sphalerite, the primary ore of zinc, is a fascinating mineral for collectors due to its brilliant luster, range of colors, and complex crystal forms. Typically found in shades of brown, yellow, red, black, and even colorless, sphalerite can exhibit an impressive resinous to adamantine shine. Transparent varieties, especially the vibrant orange to red "ruby sphalerite" from Spain's famous Picos de Europa mines, are particularly prized among collectors and lapidaries. Found in hydrothermal veins and limestone-hosted deposits, sphalerite often forms alongside minerals like galena, pyrite, and calcite, making for attractive and diverse specimen combinations.

Historically, sphalerite played a key role in the industrial revolution as the main source of zinc, used for galvanizing steel and creating alloys like brass. The mineral was once called "blende," a German term meaning "to deceive," because its metallic appearance misled early miners who confused it with valuable lead ore. While its economic importance continues today, collectors value sphalerite for more than its industrial uses. Large, well-formed crystals from localities

such as Elmwood, Tennessee and Naica, Mexico are known for their clarity, size, and sharp crystal faces, making them standouts in any display.

Sphalerite's high dispersion, greater than diamond, gives transparent specimens a fiery sparkle under the right lighting, which adds to its appeal for collectors and gem enthusiasts alike. Because some varieties contain iron, which darkens the crystals, collectors often seek the more rare and brilliant low-iron sphalerites. Whether admired for its optical properties, crystal structure, or association with classic mining districts, sphalerite holds a respected place in the world of mineral collecting.

from Northwest Newsletter, 6/25

Definition Of A Member

A member is the most important person in an organization.
A member is not dependent on us–we are dependent on him/her.
A member is not an interruption of our work. He/she is the purpose of it.
A member is someone who is doing us a favor. We are not doing him/her a favor by just “serving” him/her.
A member is part of our club–not an outsider.
A member is not a cold statistic–he/she is a fresh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.
A member is not someone to argue or match wits with.
A member is a person who brings us his/her wants–it is our job to fill those wants.
A member is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give him/her.
A member is the person that makes it possible to keep our club growing.
A member is the life blood of this and every other organization.

via CFMS Newsletter, 8/25; via Hygrader, 1/84; from Chips & Tips, 10/93

An Ideal Club Member’s Alphabet by Myrtle Griffith

A–ALWAYS attend meetings.
B–BRING someone with you.
C–COMMUNICATE
D–DEVELOP mutual understanding and respect.
F–FRIENDSHIP--cherish and nurture this valuable community.
G–GENEROSITY, GOALS, GENTLENESS--use when needed.
H–HONESTY--use it regularly.
I–IDEAS–share with other members.
J–JEALOUSY–avoid like the plague.
K–KNOWLEDGE–help promote it.
L–LABOR–donate when and where needed.
M–MISTAKES–correct yours, overlook others.
N–NONSENSE–use frequently–breaks monotony.
O–ORDER–help maintain at all meetings.
P–PATIENCE–develop as much as possible; rockhounds need a large amount.
Q–QUARRELS–never indulge. They serve on good purpose.
R–ROCKS–study, hunt, collect, work, polish or build with them.
S–SHARE your talents, energy, knowledge with others.
T–TALENT–use and improve as much as possible.
U–UNITED–help the club stay that way.
V–VALUE friends, members. yourself and the organization.
W–WORK–an important ingredient; be willing to help carry the load.
X-RATE all gossip, malice, petty peeves and negative attitudes.
Y--YESTERDAY–leave it where it belongs–in the past.
Z–ZEAL–be generous with it, encourage others to do likewise.

via CFMS Newsletter, 8/25; via The Glacial Drifter, 9/90; from The Roadrunner, 2/89

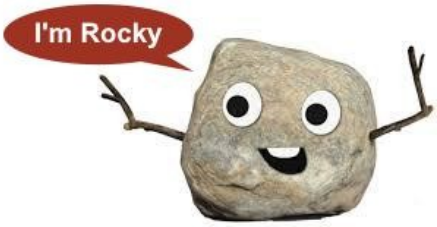
California State Gem, Benitoite by Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Benitoite (ben-EE-toe-ite). A rare blue barium titanium silicate mineral, found in hydrothermally altered serpentinite. Benitoite fluoresces under short wave ultraviolet light, appearing bright blue to bluish white in color. The more rarely seen clear to white benitoite crystals fluoresce red under long-wave UV light. It was first described in 1907 by George D. Louderback, who named it benitoite for its occurrence near the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California.

Benitoite occurs in a number of sites, but gemstone quality material has only been found in California.

from CFMS Newsletter, 3/25

Young Tumblers News



Rock Bucks

Just a reminder that all Young Tumblers under 15 can easily earn "Rock Bucks."

Earn $3 "Rock Bucks" to attend a meeting.

You can earn an additional $5 in "Rock Bucks" if you bring something for Show 'n Tell and tell us about your item.

The "Rock Bucks" can be spent like real money at our meetings or club auctions.

You can save your "Rock Bucks" during the year and spend them just like cash on auction items you would like, or you can buy raffle tickets at our monthly meeting.

Join us at our meetings and build your rock-buying piggy bank!

Weathering and Erosion by John Peters

For as long as the Earth has existed, nature has helped shape the landscape. Weathering is the process of wearing away rocks and soil. Water is often the main cause of weathering, either as rain or ice. Rainwater can easily enter cracks in rocks or sidewalks. If this happens during cold months, the water may freeze and expand in the crack. Working as a wedge, the ice splits the rock. Many times, road crews have to patch up potholes caused by weathering from ice. Wind can also cause weathering. Over long periods of time, wind can wear away rock. This can create amazing landscapes, such as rocks that look like mushrooms. Sometimes living things can cause weathering. Plant roots can wedge their way in between small cracks in rocks. As the plant grows, the roots increase the size of the crack little by little. Eventually, pieces of the rocks break off. For as long as the Earth has existed, nature has helped shape the landscape. Weathering is the process of wearing away rocks and soil. Water is often the main cause of weathering, either as rain or ice. Rainwater can easily enter cracks in rocks or sidewalks. If this happens during cold months, the water may freeze and expand in the crack. Working as a wedge, the ice splits the rock. Many times, road crews have to patch up potholes caused by weathering from ice. Wind can also cause weathering. Over long periods of time, wind can wear away rock. This can create amazing landscapes, such as rocks that look like mushrooms. Sometimes living things can cause weathering. Plant roots can wedge their way in between small cracks in rocks. As the plant grows, the roots increase the size of the crack little by little. Eventually, pieces of the rocks break off.

As pieces of the Earth are broken down by weathering, they are carried away in a process called erosion. Water is a common way that pieces of the Earth are moved to a new location. Wind also contributes to erosion by blowing the particles away. Glaciers can pick up pieces of the Earth and drag them to new locations. They are slow, but powerful. Although erosion has helped shape some of the most amazing features on Earth, it can be harmful to the environment. When soil is washed away from one place to another, it can carry harmful materials like chemical fertilizers or pesticides. These dangerous chemicals can pollute our water supply.

It is important to remember that when weathering happens, tiny pieces of the Earth do not disappear. They are moved through erosion and deposited somewhere else- called deposition. It could be very close, only a few feet away, or it can be many miles away such as when the tiny pieces were washed into a river. The deposited materials can also create new landforms. For example, in Hawaii, black sand from eroded lava is deposited on several beaches.

We see the effects of weathering and erosion every day. Splits in roads or sidewalks are caused by the expansion of ice, or the daily heating and cooling of the ground. Sand on the beach is created from ocean waves pounding on rocks and eventually creating sand. Sometimes erosion can happen very quickly like with mudslides. Mudslides are caused by moving water and gravity, and happen in only minutes. Most weathering, however, is a slow process that happens over thousands or millions of years. The speed at which weathering and erosion take place depends on the type of material that is being worn away. Some hard rock, like granite, wears away slowly, while softer rock like limestone, wears away much more quickly.

Source: https://www.generationgenius.com/videolessons/weathering-and-erosion-video-for-kids/

via The Quarry, 10/25; via The Rockpile, 10/25; from MMS Conglomerate, 9/25

Why Did the Triceratops Wear a Bandage?
He Had a Dino-Sore.

from The Rockytier, 8/25

Why did the rockhounder throw his ore samples away?
He took them for granite.

from CBRGC Newsletter, 2/28/25

What did the nautilus say to the clam that wouldn't share his lunch?
You're shell-fish.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/25

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.
Some information from the Washington State Mineral Council webpage (https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com).

November 8 *Cascade Mineralogical Society* - **First Creek** - Agate, Jasper, Crystal, Geodes.
Difficulty Rating 5. This is a 2-mile hike on good road bed. Collecting on steep slopes to reach dig areas and rock slides.
Roger Danneman roger.danneman@gmail.com; 425-757-3506 (texts ok)

November 8 *Marysville Rock Club* - **Blanchard Hill** - Meet before 9am @ 1-5 exit 240 Mini Mart – Stilpnomelane (Dalmation stone) - Collecting on road shoulder - Bring hard rock tools
Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com Or (509) 670-0630

Safety Matters: Why Rock Safety? by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Why Rock Safety? It's not a long story, but it does take some background. Safety concerns abound in most everything we do. Take breakfast for example - we want our foods to be safe. We are careful not to touch the hot cooking surfaces. We try to cook the foods the correct way. We use special caution when fishing the toast out of the uncooperative toaster. We carefully wash the eating utensils afterward. We may not think excessively about making sure breakfast is safe, but we do want it to be a safe and healthy activity.

All around us are activities that are in need of constant safety interaction. We get in an airplane, and we receive safety instruction. People who work in an automobile repair shop are reprimanded if their effort does not follow safety protocols. Where would we be if no drivers followed the safety rules of the road? Many people who are employed in grocery stores are schooled in how to safely lift heavy loads. Even working in an office has its safety concerns - using scissors, office machinery safe operation, being careful of pinch points, break room health safety, and so on. A great many of the products we purchase come with a set of operating instructions, and those invariably begin with a set of safety guidelines. Yes, the manufacturers of those products want you to be safe and have a great user experience with their product. Safety matters abound.

People engage in an astoundingly diverse number of hobby interests and activities - every one of which has its own safety concerns. Being a race car driver, rock climber, quilter, bee keeper, oil painter, you name it, and there are, no doubt, safety concerns. Even stamp collectors have matters of safety in their activities. The rock, mineral, fossil, bead, lapidary and jewelry activities are no exception to having safety matters of concern to us.

In the rock and mineral hobby we engage in numerous and very different kinds of activities, each with its own safety concerns. Here is a short list of our major activities: driving to our events, collecting, working in rock quarries and mines, putting on shows, mineral cleaning, stone cutting, jewelry work, working with ultraviolet light, lapidary effort, rock trimming, and lots and lots of lifting.

All of these activities have a laundry list of safety concerns unique to the activity. Lest one be discouraged from participating in the mineral hobby due to too much concern with matters of safety, being safe can be as simple as:

- Try not to not work on something while one is tired — take a break if tired
- Pay attention to what one is doing
- Have sufficient lighting
- Ask for help if a project needs an extra set of hands or opinions
- Read the directions for proper use of machinery and chemistry
- Think before acting

*** That's TTPHART for short! These and more are the essence of being safe in most any activity.

from AFMS Newsletter, 9/25

Bertrandite by Jim Fox

Bertrandite, commonly called Tiffany Stone, is composed of predominantly Opalized Fluorite (the blues, purples and whites) often mixed with any other minerals such as quartz, chalcedony, dolomite, rhodonite, manganese oxides (blacks) and beryllium (the whites, yellows or pinks). Fine quality tiffany stone has purple coloration and can even be a pure dark, translucent purple color.

Tiffany Stone is a beautiful and very rare stone. Tiffany Stone is only found in Utah, specifically at the Brush Wellman Beryllium Mine near Delta, Utah. The mine is no longer open for collecting and all of this beautiful material is now ground up for beryllium ore. Beryllium is lighter than aluminum and stronger than steel. Bertrandite 5 is a beryllium sorosilicate hydroxide mineral that was discovered by a French minerologist Emile Bertrand.

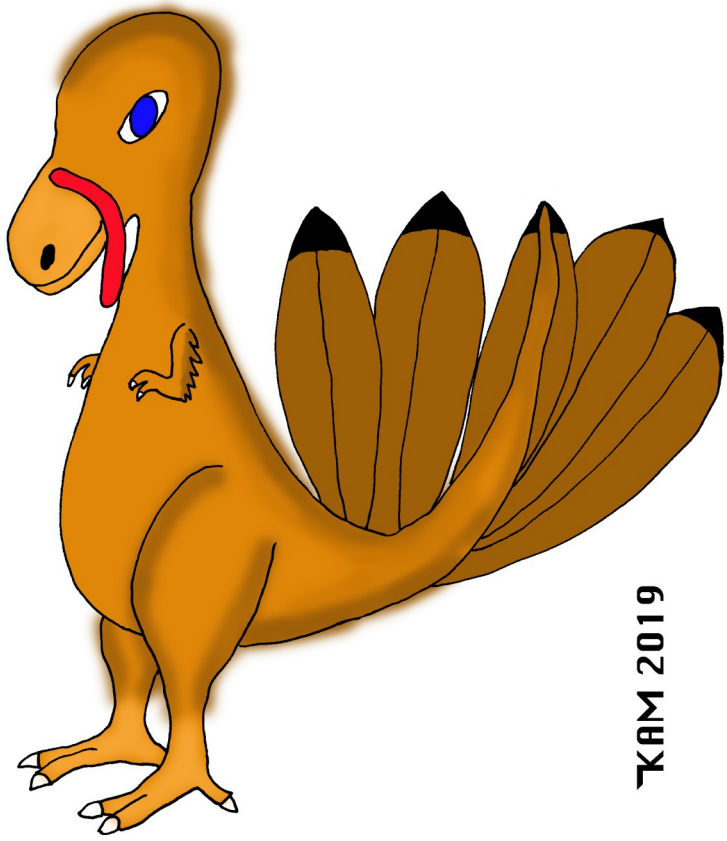
Many opalites can contain some fractures, as does the opalite in this tiffany stone. Some uneven hardness can be encountered in this material, but tiffany stone generally cuts easily and takes a fine polish with diamond, tin or cerium oxide. Mohs hardness is 5 to 6. It fluoresces bright green under a (shortwave) UVC light.

via The Council Reporter, 9-10/25; from SCVGM Breccia, 10/25

Chrysocolla by Jessica Himple

Chrysocolla, a vibrant copper-bearing mineral, is highly sought after by collectors for its striking blue and green hues. Often found in botryoidal, massive, or fibrous forms rather than distinct crystals, chrysocolla is commonly associated with other copper minerals such as malachite, azurite, and turquoise. Major sources of high-quality specimens include copper mines in Arizona, Peru, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Collectors prize chrysocolla for its rich coloration and unique formations, particularly when it occurs in polished nodules or as an inclusion within quartz, creating the stunning "gem silica" variety.

Historically, chrysocolla has been recognized for its use in pigments and decorative carvings. Ancient civilizations, including the Egyptians and Greeks, ground it into powders for use in art and cosmetics. Despite its softness compared to other minerals, chrysocolla remains popular in lapidary work, often stabilized with quartz or resin to enhance its durability for jewelry. Its formation within copper deposits gives it an interesting geological background, making it an appealing specimen for both mineral enthusiasts and geologists.



For collectors, chrysocolla's variety in form and color offers endless appeal. While some specimens display vibrant sky-blue hues, others blend seamlessly with malachite's deep green or azurite's royal blue, creating striking mineral combinations. Because of its relative softness, proper handling and storage are essential to preserving its beauty. Whether displayed as raw specimens, polished cabochons, or as part of a larger copper mineral collection, chrysocolla remains a favorite for those who appreciate both color and geological diversity.

from Northwest Newsletter, 4/25

Shows

November 1 & 2: Saturday and Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Maplewood Rock and Gem Club, *Community Outreach And Demonstration Show*
Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW
Edmonds, WA

November 22 & 23: Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm
Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society, *Fall Festival of Gems*
The President's Hall
1250 NW Fairgrounds Road
Bremerton, WA