

The CMS Tumbler

December
2025

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

Christmas Party:
December 7, 2025
11:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
25406 97th PI S
Kent, WA

The club will furnish
turkey and ham.

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

There will be elections
and a club auction.



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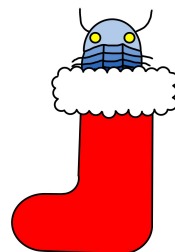
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Connect with us!

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

This month remember to wish a Happy Birthday to

Winnie Hutton on December 1
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
Willow Hutton on December 9
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
Niki Raney on December 25
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
Brynne Mittleider on December 31
and also remember to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Ted & Jacquelyn Reinhart on December 17
Wayne & Roxanne Oguri on December 20
Ken & Ann Jones on December 29
Pete & Beverly Williams on December 29 (43 years)



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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.

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Renton, WA 98055

Keith Alan Morgan, Editor
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Postal, or Email, Exchange
Bulletins are welcome.
Email preferred.
greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com

2025 Elected Officers

President Kat Koch	425-765-5408	president@cascademineralogicalsociety.org
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Director 2 - Field Trips Roger Danneman	425-228-8781	roger.danneman@gmail.com
Director 3 – At Large 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
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Mail Flyers		
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Supplies & Food Angie Bayer	253-569-0245	Text to her number (no email)

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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>Shop is closed as we are building an indoor shop</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 Jarrod Da	425-306-2501	jarrod.da@comcast.net
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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

2026 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/>

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

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.

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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

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
 AND MINING EQUIPMENT!

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

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.



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



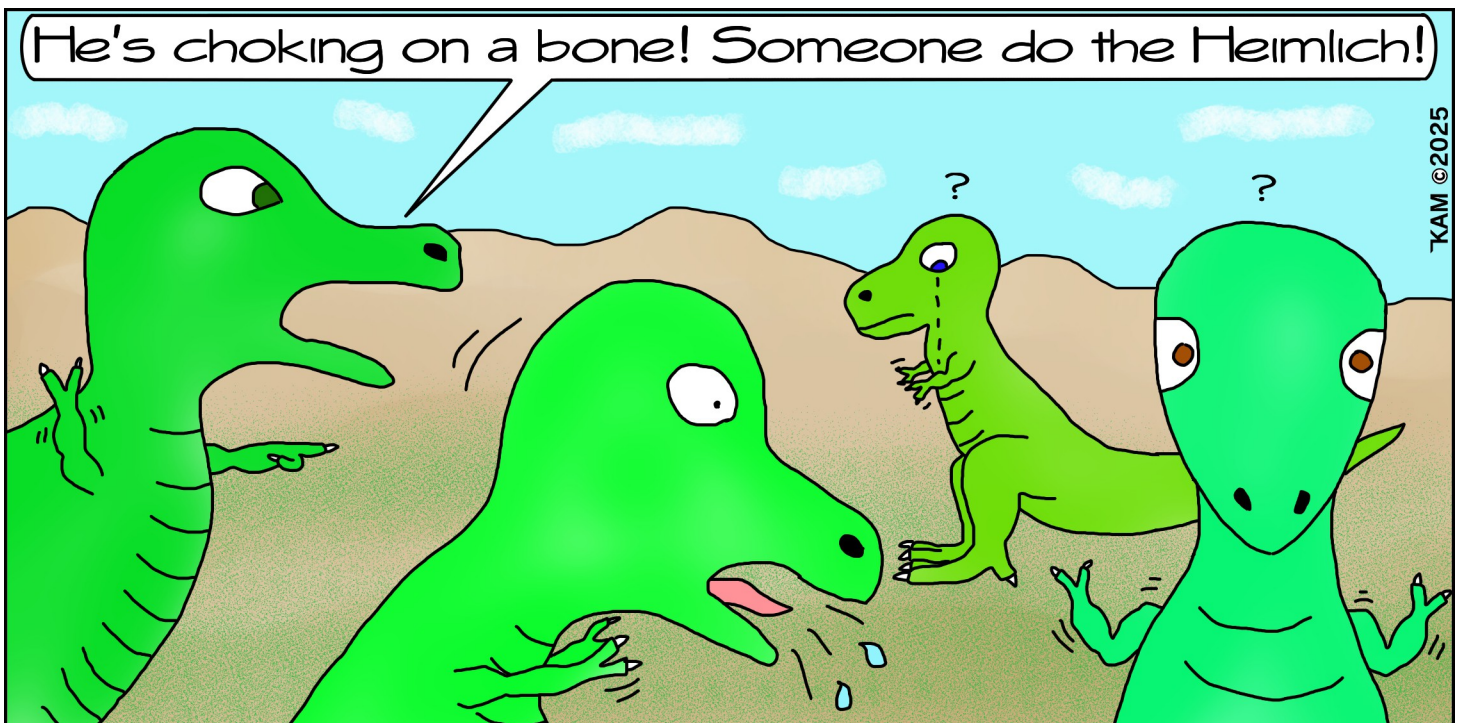
December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Maplewood Show
7 Xmas Party 11 am - 4 pm	8 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	9	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 regular meeting!		

CMS Board Meeting:.....Monday, December 8.....7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

CMS Christmas Party:.....1st Sunday, December 7.....11:00 am to 4:00 pm

More Show info can be found on Page 16



The Tumbler has received One-Time Rights to publish this cartoon

CMS Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

by Noelle Barnes

In attendance: Kat Koch, Roger Danneman, Noelle Barnes, Lee Oliver, Linda Jorza, Paul Ahnberg, Rich Russell, Ananda Cool

The meeting began at 7:03pm.

Membership: We currently have 142 families, first time we have fewer families year over year, had 146 this time last year.

Shop: We need to scale down what we currently have in the shop.

Should we scale down the older books and VHS tapes by putting them out at the holiday party and letting members take them?

We have the money to get nice new machinery – should we put all of the equipment up for sale?

Rich mentioned that old equipment is often better quality than newer equipment so we need to evaluate the current pieces to see how well they can be refurbished

We may want to get a cabbage machine to save on bench space, but the soft wheels can often get abused and can be delicate

We will need classes to train people on the equipment.

Board Elections: We have someone running for every position except Treasurer – Ananda has graciously agreed to stay on until someone comes along to fill the role (thank you!).

Show: Same price as last year - \$4400

We have proactively asked for a discount if the economy gets worse

We may ask for lower booth fees, but we need to assess whether the lower profits are worth it

Our cost was lower than Everett or Pickering Barn

Paul proposes we need to have goals around this to help us make decisions

For example, increasing audience sizes so we can justify the vendor booth charges would lead us to not charging admission and to doing research on other shows

Prices need to be locked by late December

Noelle will do research on the booth costs for other rock shows locally

Holiday Party: We will do elections

Ananda to confirm that the first Sunday of the month is not the holiday party for the American Legion

Is it worth personally inviting former members to see if they want to come back?

Programs: January – Fossils - February – Roger

Funding: The board approved a \$3000 fund to Roger for use in setting up the utilities for the shop. Roger will keep an itemized list of receipts against the fund.

The meeting ended at 7:55pm.

CMS General Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

Had not arrived by print time.

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. You can volunteer for any Director position, but 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.

As most of you know by now, I am not running for reelection this year. After 11 years, I am handing over things to Noelle Barnes and Vice president is going to be Michelle Maidman. I feel confident that both Noelle and Michelle will continue to grow the club. It is always good to have fresh ideas and new goals.

I want to thank everyone that volunteered during the past 11 years to make our club and gem show a huge success. I could not have lead the club to accomplish the things that we have without a great team.



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!

This is my last President's message. Signing off.

Welcome
New Members

2025 Meetings

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.

Let's make the drive a huge success as there are many families in need this year!



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.



Field Trip Report for October 18th at Swift Creek / Baker Lake by Roger Danneman

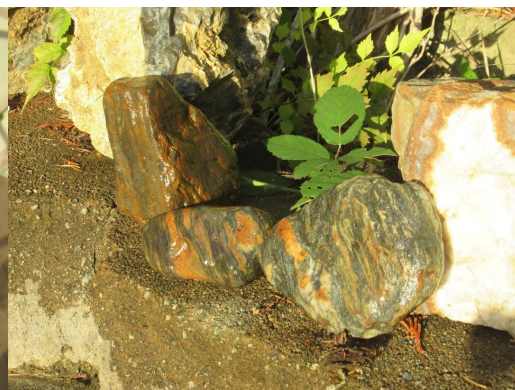
Due to early season snowfall in the mountains I had to make some decisions regarding our last scheduled field trips. We ended up going to Swift Creek on the east side of Mt. Baker for our Oct. 18th trip and cancelled the trips to Crystal Mtn. and First Creek. Other things that factored into the decisions were the Labor Mtn. fire closure taking away our Red Top site and the efforts to finish the shop and get the equipment moved from Diana's.

Despite forecasted rain we had 7 of us on this trip for Baker Blue Agates, jaspers, and gneiss. The reservoir was

low and the gravel beds were accessible. Beautiful fall colors and Sockeye Salmon were running up the creek apparently assisted by transport around the dam into Baker Lake. It was fun to see them swimming up the low stream levels. The weather stayed nice until after we left around 3:00 at which time the rain moved in.

Joining me on this trip were Noelle B., Scott & Lauri M with sister Dani, Chris V. and new member Venessa L.

These pictures are from what I collected, but there were some nice agates and rocks collected among the group. There is also some small pyrite inclusions to be found here. Baker Blue Agates don't come easy and when you find one it's a great feeling. The extra red and green colors attached give them a unique look.



CMS Shop Update by Roger Danneman

Many of you know that I've been building a new shop on my property in Renton for the purpose of housing and utilizing our club's equipment and storing our display cases. We owe so much to the Bob Pattie family and Diana for keeping club equipment and material in their garage and under backyard canopies for many years, but it was just a matter of time when we would be faced with having to move everything to a new and secure location. In July of 2024 I decided to take on the project. My goal was to build a 12x16 structure with windows and a double door and plenty of attached deck space for multiple lapidary activities as well as storage. A tiny house by appearance and super functional in nature. I've been rockhounding for over 10 years now and it's exciting to find a really nice rock in the field, but my greatest joy with the hobby is bringing out the beauty of that rock or utilize it in a form of artistic creation. I want to bring more lapidary arts capability to the club.

The project started in August 2024 when I started clearing a brush pile and preparing the site. By October I had a level platform ready on pier blocks and started the stud walls and roofing in December. The roof panels were a difficult task and I couldn't have done it without the help of my buddy Van, who also helps with getting our display cases to the Gem Show and back.

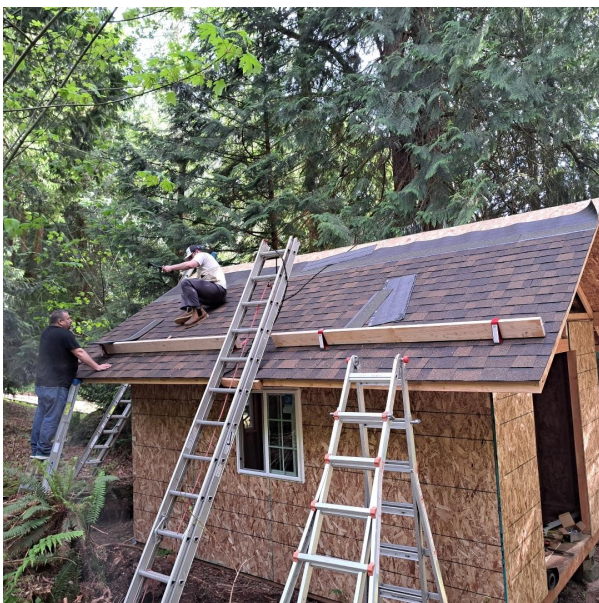
In March, April, and May, the wall sheathing, shingling, and windows/doors were completed, with much needed help from Scott Miles, Laurie's son Matt, Aaron DeSelms, and my son Alex. By the time of our Gem Show in June, we could store our display cases inside the structure.

In August, the next milestone was to build a ramp up to the door. I used landscaping blocks for the side walls and waste rock/gravel as fill, then a cement mixing/pouring/finishing party gave the entrance ramp a nice permanent surface over the top of the fill. It took 45 bags of concrete mix. Thanks to John and Dave Cornell, Michelle Maidman, and my son Alex we were able to get that task done. With each sub-project completed, I felt a sense of accomplishment and relief.

In Sept and Oct we had 3 work parties to work on the wall wrap, siding and decking. Chris & Nathan Vitellaro, Michelle Maidman, Greg Parker, Jeanie Light, Aaron DeSelms, Will Cummings, and Jarrod Da all provided valuable help on those days.

With Diana's move to Nevada getting closer we started prepping equipment. Saws needed to be drained at Diana's and a group comprised of Dave & John Cornell, Ben Kaufman, Aaron DeSelms, Will Cummings, Scott Miles & nephew Troy, Jeff Cook and myself moved the heavy equipment on Oct. 11th.

On Oct 22nd Dave, John, and I finished at Diana's with getting the remaining cabinets from her garage and backyard. The club owes so much to Dave and John for all their expertise on the equipment and especially the heavy lifting



needed to accomplish the move from Diana's. It was a big deal but I'm glad to say it's done.

Right now we are on the last stretch of the project with getting the electrical figured out, some of the remaining siding and roof joist blocking and general organizing and cleaning up the job site remains to be finished.

The CMS Board still needs to address things like shop rules/procedures, scheduling, fees, shop stewards, equipment decisions, and so forth. We have promised free shop time to those who have volunteered for our events. Thanks for reading this writeup. I wanted to acknowledge all of the helpers that made this happen and give you an update on progress.



Mary Ellen Jasper (Fossilized Stromatolites) by Kat Koch

Some stromatolite fossils come from the Mary Ellen Mine in Minnesota, commonly known as Mary Ellen Jasper.

Stromatolites are ancient layered rock formations that provide some of the earliest evidence of life on Earth, dating back approximately 3.5 billion years. They form through the metabolic activities of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), which trap and bind sediment particles while precipitating calcium carbonate on their sticky surfaces. These structures are significant not only as fossils but also for their role in modern geology, where they aid in the creation of hydrocarbon reservoirs and geologic mapping. Living stromatolites can be found in diverse environments, from hypersaline waters like Shark Bay in Australia to the alkaline hot springs of Yellowstone National Park. The organisms that create stromatolites have remained relatively unchanged over billions of years, showcasing a remarkable evolutionary stasis. Fossil stromatolites are abundant in Precambrian sedimentary rocks, highlighting a time when blue-green algae dominated aquatic ecosystems. Despite their historical abundance, modern stromatolite-building algae are now less common due to the rise of grazing invertebrates. Overall, stromatolites offer valuable insights into early life on Earth and the conditions that supported it.

Bibliography: EBSCO-research database, Wikipedia, NPS.gov.



**How Stromatolites Grow
Sharks Bay, Australia**



Stromatolite Fossils



**Stromatolite Fossil
Slice**



Mary Ellen Jasper



**Stromatolites, Shark
Bay, Australia**



Stromatolite Fossil

From Boxes to Beauty—A Collector's Path to Public Impact by Johan Maertens

What do you do with a large private rocks and minerals inventory when the moving boxes pile up, it is time for restructuring, and the passion still burns strong? In this personal account, I share how I systematically reshaped my accumulation to a collection and meaningful public displays. This story shows not only how a structured approach brings clarity and space, but also how exhibitions contribute to education, networking, and cultural heritage.

How a Personal Collection Gains Value Through Exhibiting

My family moved long distance several times. One of the best ways to get involved and meet new people is through volunteering. Over the years, I participated in seventeen mineral and fossil clubs, serving as committee chair, treasurer, board member, and president. I currently serve as webmaster, newsletter editor, federation liaison, field trip organizer, year-end party organizer, exhibit coordinator, and educational volunteer at regional mineral shows.

From Moving Boxes to Display Cases

Over the years, I have built up an impressive "mountain" of rocks and minerals, gathered both in the field and through purchases. Most is packed in aging moving boxes and crates.

I started converting the "hoarded pile" to a collection.

My approach:

- Select by quality: only 1 to 3% is selected for display: what visitors come to see.
- Declutter strictly: up to 50% is donated: it has value for beginners and thematic collectors
- Sort carefully: the balance is evaluated for study, sale, or trade

Exhibits Drive the Process

A major catalyst in this effort has been participating in exhibitions at mineral shows. My local Cincinnati Mineral Society show Geofair is the largest within a 600-mile radius, offering fifty showcase cabinets—built by volunteers—free to exhibitors.

Exhibits offer far more than beauty:

- Educational: they make geology tangible and understandable
- Inspirational: they spark scientific curiosity in young and old
- Community building: they connect collectors, scientists, and enthusiasts
- Cultural and artistic: they highlight natural beauty and human craftsmanship
- Awareness raising: they highlight sustainable mining and heritage preservation

My Journey into Exhibiting

I bought three used Cincinnati Mineral Society style display cabinets and began setting up test displays. Each case grew from unpacking the moving boxes, sorted by locality. That way, I could decide what to keep, display, or give away right on the spot. A practical and sustainable method:

- Donations go to club meetings or educational raffles
- Specimens for study stay in the working inventory
- Top pieces earn a place in the collection and future exhibits

Results: Knowledge, Visibility, and Space So far, I have created four public exhibits:

- Two on specific U.S. localities
- One on U.S. Midwest
- One blending art and mineralogy

Each public exhibit makes my private collection visible to a wide audience. They lead to valuable conversations, visitor feedback, and networking opportunities. Often, they result in a presentation, a publication, and image contributions to Mindat.org.

Each annual mineral show forces me to keep making choices—so I continue making progress in reducing my inventory. And that creates more space—both literally and figuratively.

By exhibiting, a private inventory becomes a collection and a public source of knowledge and inspiration.

A passion for calcite, when refined through thoughtful selection and exhibiting, becomes something many others can appreciate.

About the Author Johan Maertens is a citizen scientist mineralogist who has volunteered for over 35 years with mineral clubs. He has a special interest in field collecting, the mineral calcite and making private collections accessible to the public.

from The Quarry, 11/25

Desert Roses: Barite and Gypsum by Claire Christensen

One of the more striking crystal formations is the desert rose, a term that can refer to several different bladed minerals. The main two minerals that can form into desert roses are barite and gypsum. While these two structures share significant visual similarities, their chemical makeup differs, as well as their locations and some physical characteristics.

Barite roses are almost exclusively found in Oklahoma (where they are the state rock), along the Garber Sandstone outcropping. The Garber formed during the Permian Period, roughly 300 to 250 million years ago, when a shallow sea retreated from western and central Oklahoma. Permian sandstone is relatively common throughout the world, so some other feature of the area contributed to the barite rose growth. The exact cause has not been identified, but the most popular theory is that deep groundwater containing barium and sulfide moved upward through cracks in the sandstone. When it came into contact with oxygen, the sulfide oxidized to sulfate, leading to the precipitation of barite, which is water-insoluble. In other words, a chemical reaction led to the barite leaching from the water and depositing in open pores in the sandstone.

The presence of sandstone or non-lithified sand is vital for the formation of a desert rose. In the case of barite roses, the formation is made of disc-shaped barite crystals, along with angular medium quartz sand and a small amount of hematite, which gives it the characteristic rusty hue. Gypsum roses also contain quartz sand, but the barite is of course replaced with gypsum. In addition, barite is a harder, denser mineral, while gypsum has a Mohs rating of 2, meaning it is quite fragile and can be scratched with a fingernail. If the rose is heavy for its size, it is likely a barite rose.

Both gypsum and barite roses are found in arid, sandy environments, such as a sandstone formation or shallow salt basin. They both are evaporite minerals, meaning they form when water evaporates enough for remaining salts and minerals to saturate the remaining water and precipitate out. Other bladed evaporites such as celestine can also form desert roses, though these are much less common.

Gypsum roses have sharper edges than barite roses. The classic image of a desert rose is a gypsum rose, but they do not naturally occur with the iconic white edges. This can happen through sun bleaching, but the rose is usually heat-treated with a blowtorch to achieve the look. The treatment is for aesthetics only, but severely dehydrated gypsum turns into anhydrite (though this transformation is reversible).

Gypsum roses are distinct from gypsum flowers, which can be found in relatively dry caves. Flowers are

speleothems, which is the umbrella term for formations made by mineral deposits in caves. Stalagmites and stalactites are also speleothems. Flowers differ from stalactites because they grow from the base, rather than the tip. Similarly to gypsum roses, gypsum flowers form from water flowing through cracks and pores in the rock. Dissimilarly, this rock is usually calcium carbonate, like lime, rather than sandstone, and the water is somewhat pressurized. Changes in pressure cause the flower formation's "petals" to curve.

The desert rose is an iconic mineral formation, and though barite roses are mostly localized to Oklahoma, gypsum roses can be found in arid climates all over the world. In Qatar, the desert rose is so beloved that the national museum is modeled on one. In Tunisia, desert roses around the seasonal salt lake Chott el Djerid contain an unusually high amount of salt, making them appear more crystalline. These are often sold dyed unnatural colors such as red, blue, and green, but the natural color is arguably more beautiful because the unique structure can be appreciated unadulterated.

Sources:

Desert Rose, Mindat.org; <https://shorturl.at/eGx0z>

Gypsum Flowers, National Speleological Society; <https://shorturl.at/hWF1c>

Network topology of the desert rose, Sigmund Mongstad Hope et al.; <https://shorturl.at/U78vJ>

Rose Rock, Oklahoma Historical Society; <https://shorturl.at/mZHYH>

Rose Rocks, Oklahoma Geological Survey; <https://shorturl.at/caWla>

from Rocky Trails, 11/25

Safety Matters: Got a Second?

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps to clarify, this second is not a second as a fraction of a minute, but a second person or a back-up person. The question being addressed here is whether or not one has a back-up plan, a second person to assist where needed.

We have a hobby filled with creativity, exploring collecting sites, building better gem and mineral shows, teaching others, encouraging new members and many, many other activities. We also tend to push our limits, try new things, do our best, and reach farther than we did yesterday. If we feel we have planned sufficiently well, we are willing to take a few more risks, and this is the place to seriously consider having seconds with us, or nearby.

It has long been known to go rock collecting with a second person as a just-in-case back-up person. To have a second person help us with a heavy lift. To have a second person hold the ladder as we install the club banner at a show. As we push our limits, it would be wise to also consider the wisdom of having a second person with us, or nearby, as a measure to insure a successful outcome.

When we break or lose our glasses, it is wise to have a second person who can read the information on the bottles of our medications. A second person is helpful when we grab our chest during the too-steep hike up the hill to the mine. A second person is helpful to look in on us when we have tripped and fallen in the lapidary shop. A second person is helpful to navigate as we drive to a confusing destination. There are countless instances where having the aid of a second person can be a life-saving, time-saving, effort-saving or a reputation-saving presence. As we push ourselves to do more, be more, reach more, take more risks, having that second person is even more important.

Think of that person with a sudden and violent allergy reaction - having that second person can be vital in saving seconds (the time ones) to dig through car, truck, back pack or medical kits to locate that all-important rescue medication. It is the wise thing, the safe thing, the important thing to have a second (or more) person with one to keep the hobby the great one we share together.

One more important thing to consider is that having a second person with us permits us to share our hobby with another person - and that is a substantial and enjoyable part of our grand hobby- that of sharing it with others.

Please consider that your safety matters, as does that of the seconds (the persons with us.)

from AFMS Newsletter, 10/25

Garnet

by Jessica Himple

Garnet, a group of silicate minerals known for its rich colors and crystal forms, has captivated mineral collectors for centuries. While commonly associated with deep red hues, garnets can also appear in shades of green, orange, yellow, and even rare blues. Collectors prize garnet for its well-formed dodecahedral and trapezohedral crystals, which can range from tiny grains to large, gem-quality specimens. Notable localities for highquality garnet crystals include the famous garnet mines in New York, the Jeffrey Mine in Canada, and the Spessartine garnets from Namibia. Its durability and striking beauty make it a standout addition to any mineral collection.

Historically, garnet has been used as both a gemstone and an industrial mineral. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans carved garnets into jewelry and talismans, while medieval European warriors wore garnet -studded armor, believing the stone offered protection in battle. Beyond its decorative use, garnet's hardness and abrasive properties have made it valuable in sandpaper and waterjet cutting tools. For collectors, garnets with vibrant color, transparency, and sharp crystal faces are especially desirable, with certain varieties like green demantoid garnets commanding high prices in both mineral and gemstone markets.

Garnet's diversity and accessibility make it a favorite among both novice and experienced collectors. While small almandine garnets can be found in riverbeds worldwide, rarer varieties like spessartine or uvarovite require more effort to obtain. Specimens with perfect crystal shape, deep color saturation, or unusual inclusions are especially sought after. Garnet's combination of beauty, history, and variety ensures that it remains a staple in the world of mineral collecting, offering endless possibilities for those seeking both aesthetic and scientific value.

from Northwest Newsletter, 3/25

Young Tumblers News

Rock Bucks

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

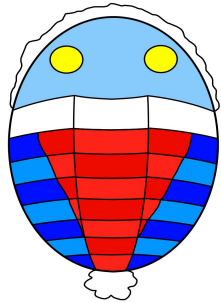
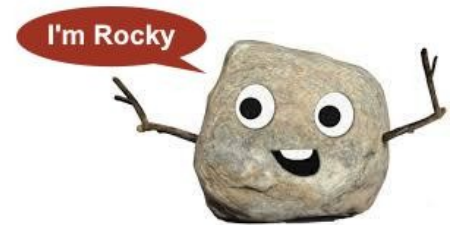
Earn \$3 "Rock Bucks" to attend a meeting.

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!



One of the problems of making word searches is making a list of words. However I was going through the August issue of the Hard Rock News and saw the puzzle Mixed-Up Gemstones and thought, "There's a list!"

So I concocted a double puzzle. Unscramble the scrambled gemstones, then find them in the word search.

Words can be found forward, backwards, up, down, and diagonal.

Have fun!

Answers will be printed next month.

Two Puzzles In One

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. IRPEPASH _____ | 7. TQIEUOUSR _____ | 13. RBYU _____ |
| 2. XYNO _____ | 8. EPASRJ _____ | 14. AIEUAQMNRA _____ |
| 3. ERLPA _____ | 9. GTANER _____ | 15. AETAG _____ |
| 4. DAIMNDO _____ | 10. OAPTZ _____ | 16. SORE TRQUZA _____ |
| 5. PTRDEIO _____ | 11. YEMTSHAT _____ | 17. NXDARTLAEEI _____ |
| 6. POLA _____ | 12. MDAREEL _____ | 18. RZCONI _____ |

2025 Field Trip Summary by Roger Danneman

This past year we successfully completed 11 field trips. It was an active first half of the year, but in the fall we were limited by wild fire activity and then early mountain snowfall. I finally got caught up on field trip reports on our web site if you want to review them. <https://www.cascademineralsociety.org/field-trips/trip-reports/>

February 22nd was to Ole One Lane Bridge in the north Cascades for Dunite and Gneiss. 20 people.

March 29th was to Saddle Mtn for petrified wood. 25 people.

April 29th we went to Saddle Mtn again. 12 people.

May 4th was to First Creek. 12 people

May 17th was to Rufus, Oregon for Biggs/Beers Mtn Jasper. 12 people

June 7th was to Little Naches for thunder eggs, Lily Pad Jasper, and leaf fossils. 26 people.

July 12th was to Greenwater for black agate, tan/red/green jaspers, and opal. 24 people

July 19th was to Crystal Mtn north of Ellensburg for geodes, crystal plates, and jasper/agate. 22 people

September 6th was to Frost Mtn south of Cle Elum for jasper/agate/crystal. We had a small group of 7 on this trip, likely due to smokey air from the Wild Cat fire burning just to the south near Bumping Lake.

September 26-28th was our Teanaway Campout. The Labor Mtn. fire closed our path to the Red Top sites so we went to Yellowhill nearby for jasper/agate with a group of 13.

October 18th was to Swift Creek / Baker Lake for jasper, gneiss, and Baker Blue agates. 7 people.

The last two dates on our schedule were cancelled due to weather and my bum hip. The one site we didn't get to this past year was Red Top.

For our meeting program on February 12th, 2026 I'll be talking about the field trip schedule for 2026 and showing photos of sites and material found on past trips.

CMS Tumblers for sale at the Holiday Party Dec. 7th

Dave and John Cornell have tumbling equipment for sale that they purchased from Thumler's Tumbler in Auburn as he was closing down his business and retiring. These are being offered to club members at half-price or better, compared to retail. They have a lot of rotary barrels, vibratory bowls, motors, bases, parts, etc., for setting people up to polish rocks and they also will build custom made rotary tumbling frames with motors for running multiple barrels. The attached picture was from the Nov. meeting when they brought examples of the equipment they have for sale. They will bring the display again to the Dec. 7th Holiday Party. Prices are listed below.

Cerium Oxide polish : 1lb - \$15 2lb - \$30

UV-mini vibratory tumbler - \$75

UV-10 vibratory tumbler - \$120

UV-mini bowl - \$20

UV-10 Bowl - \$50 blue stripe

complete 15lb metal tumbler barrel - \$75

Thumlers Tumbler Model B's complete running setup for - \$150

Thumlers AR12 12lb barrel + 2 3lb barrels complete setup - \$100

Thumlers dual 3lb tumbler complete setup - \$40

Mini-sonic MT-4 4lb vibratory tumbler with 2 bowls - \$200



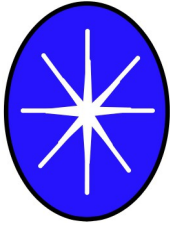
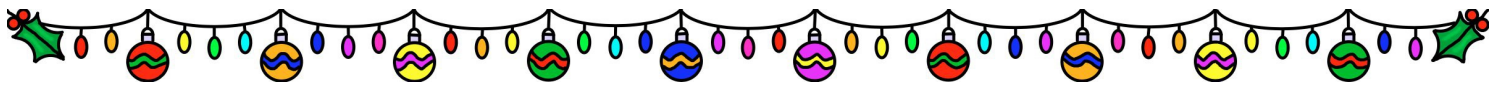
Kat and The Tumbler by Keith Alan Morgan

Since I've been editor most presidents usually left me alone, unless I made a mistake. Kat, on the other hand, had lots of suggestions, which threw me off a bit since I'd never experienced that before, but I realized that she just wanted to help make the Tumbler the best it can be. So thank you, Kat, for all the help with the Tumbler.

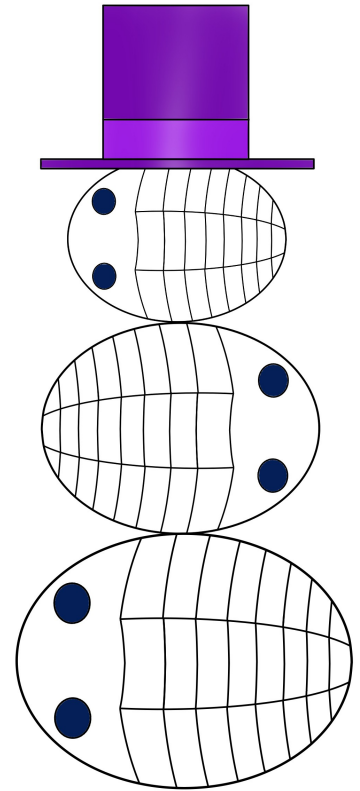
Thanks also for your articles, which were also liked by other club editors and used in their newsletters. So hopefully you can still contribute the occasional article.



Sanctacaris uncata is a fossil from the Middle Cambrian period, informally called Santa Claws when it was found and its Latin name means "saintly crab claws".



Happy Holidays



Shows

December 6 & 7:

Saturday & Sunday 10
am - 5 pm

**Maplewood Rock and
Gem Club**

*Annual Holiday Gift
Show*

Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW
Edmonds, WA



*Holiday Potluck Dinner,
Auction and Food Drive*

Dec 7th - 11 to 4

American Legion Hall

*Let's make the drive a huge
success, as there are many
families in need this year!*