THE CMS TUMBLER

November 2026

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

Next Meeting:
November 12, 2026
7:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
25406 97th Pl S
Kent, WA

The Program is
Living in the Age of
Wildfires

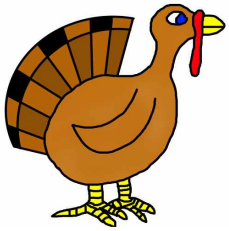
The Show & Tell
Theme is Something
you found from a place
impacted by floods
or wildfires

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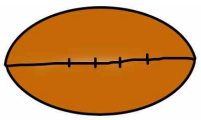
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Connect with us!

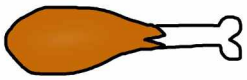
Website: https://www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Club Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CasMinSoc/
Facebook Groups: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168207926650075
Show Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cascadegemandmineralshow
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cascaderockclub/
YouTube Channel (Please like and subscribe):
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaGlJxaWFAtV_JjgZRm9ESA



This month remember
to wish a Happy Birthday to
Wayne Oguri on November 3
Paul Vitellaro on November 4
Truxton Badziong on November 6
Julie Redl on November 13
Malcolm B. Wheeler Sr. on November 14
Paul Wasley on November 19
Mrs. Anderson on November 19
Venessa Lubach on November 22
Peggy Shashy on November 23
Fred Funk on November 25
Gina Manso on November 25
Larry Clark on November 27
Dian Davis on November 28
Alyssa Hjeltness-Werre on November 30
and also remember
to wish a Happy Anniversary to
Allison & Mr. Morrell on November 5
Hunter & Mrs. Reed on November 11
Jim & Xuyen Cerenzie on November 14
April & Mark Marter on November 18









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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

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Email preferred.
greenrockdraggin@yahoo.com

2026 Elected Officers

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2026 Show Committees

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2026 Committee Chairs

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Shop Reservations – ***Shop is closed as we are building an indoor shop***		
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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 purpose of the association 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 a database of local rock and gems shows and field trips. It's a great resource if you want to plan on 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 details for 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







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.



For quick access, you can scan the following codes.

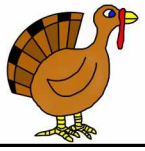
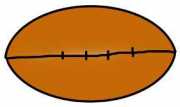
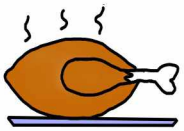
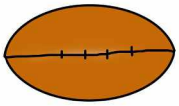
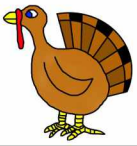
Access CMS Club Instagram page

Access our CMS YouTube channel

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

Access CMS Facebook Groups

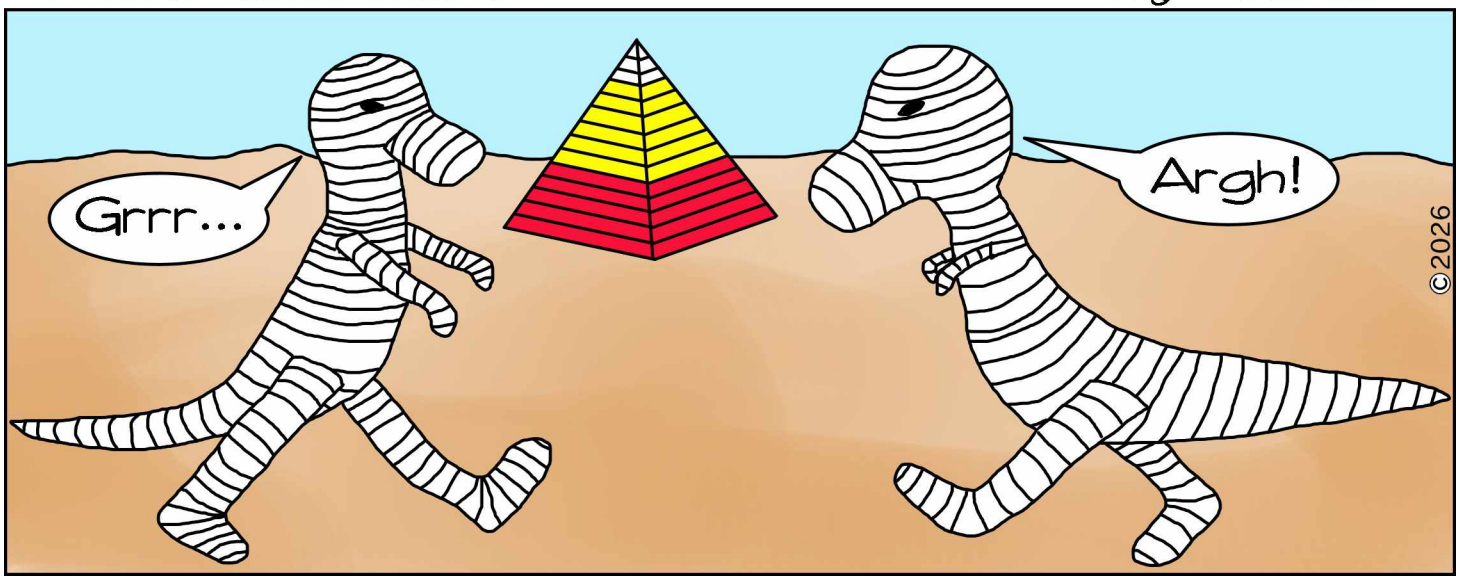
NOVEMBER

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

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

Dino Mummies by KAM



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

CMS Board Meeting Minutes October 5, 2026

by Pete Williams, 2026 Secretary

Attendees: Noelle Barnes, Pete Williams, Roger Danneman, Michelle Maidman, Ananda Cooley, Rich Russell, Paul Ahnberg

Meeting Called to order: 7:05

The new club webmaster, Scott Miles, is now getting access and training on updating the website. Roger reported that the pergola over the shop deck has been installed to help protect equipment from the weather. The new 8" cabbing machine arrived in 3 boxes. A work party will be needed to finish the siding on the shop and to assemble the cabbing machine. The November field trip will be to First Creek, weather permitting.

The October meeting program will on how to use Gaia GPS for rockhounding. Programs for next years meetings are in work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36

CMS General Meeting Minutes October 8, 2026

by Pete Williams, 2026 Secretary

Called to order: 7:09

Roger reported on the shop that the pergola over the deck was installed, the saws are working, the siding needs to be finished, and the new 8" cabbing machine was received. The new cabbing machine needs to be assembled and the old one put under the pergola.

The next field trip will be at Crystal Mountain on October 17. A free virtual digital prospecting class is being offered by Mike McWilliams.

Program: Using GAIA GPS as a Rockhounding tool by Noelle Barnes

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 followed by show and tell and the raffle.

The President's Message did not arrive at press time.

September 25-27 Field Trip

by Roger Danneman, CMS Field Trip Guide





On Friday-Sunday Sept 25-27th we had our annual campout at the Teanaway Neighborhood Forest Campground and went to nearby Red-Top mountain for agate, jasper, and crystal. The campground has ample parking, a large area for dispersed tents, fireplace rings, and vault toilets. This year I added a heated throw blanket and a Jackery power supply for night-time warmth. Temps dropped below 40 at night. Dinners were coordinated via a sign-up page and was probably the best part of the campout experience. We did get some rain on Friday during the day but Saturday and Sunday were beautiful. With a combination of campers, hoteliers (in Cle Elum), and day trippers, we had a total of 24 participants as follows:

Venessa & Ryan L. & dad Terry, Michelle M. & Gerry P., John C., Peggy S., Norma M. & Kevin (Guests), Jeanie L. & Curtis, Ananda C., Becky P., Christina V., Scott & Laurie M., Dani B. (guest), Alexis W. & David B., Noelle B., Nicole & Ryan A., Terry F., and of course me. We did both the lower dig as well as the meadow. We had so much good food and conversation. Thanks everyone for your contributions and thanks Lauri for all the nice pictures.

Our next scheduled outing will be on Oct. 17th at Crystal Mtn north of Ellensburg.













October 17 Field Trip by Roger Danneman, CMS Field Trip Guide

On Sat. Oct 17th we went to Crystal Mountain north of Ellensburg for geodes, crystal plates, jasper, and agate. We spent the entire outing at what we call Geode Hill. The day started out cloudy and cool but the sun prevailed and turned it into a beautiful weather day. Thankfully the side of the hill that we were working on was protected from the wind. Amazing geodes and crystal plates were found in the basalt layer as well as surface agate and jasper further down the hill.

The group consisted of 21 people in 13 vehicles:

Peggy S., Jeff C. & dog Cooper, Venessa L. & dog Lily, Terry F. & Bonnie, Steve F., David L. & Mike, Kacey O., Chris V. & Nathan & Ren, Arleaha W. & Don, Philip T., Michele M., Scott & Lauri M. & Dani, Matthew C., and me.

The days are getting shorter and colder. The last trip of the year is scheduled on Nov. 7th to First Creek and is weather dependent including driving conditions over the pass.

















Opal by D. W. Webb Varnum

There are three types of Opal—precious opal (e.g. black, boulder), common opal (opaque, splintery), and fire opal (red, orange, yellow), all composed of Si02- nH2O. It has a white streak and a conchoidal or sometimes a splintery fracture, a Mohs hardness of 5.5-6.5 and a specific gravity of 1.9-2.3. It is brittle and transparent to translucent with a vitreous, waxy, greasy, or dull luster. Precious Opal is best known for its variety of color which can flash red, yellow, orange, green, blue in a white, black, or brown background. It is most often found in altering volcanic tuffs, basalt and deep water sediments formed at low temperature and pressure. The gem variety has considerable value as a semi-precious gemstone. Opal is found in several places in Australia, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and the US. Fire opal has been found in Oregon and Louisiana, in addition to Mexico, and black opal occurs in Nevada. There are several mines in northern Nevada where collectors can dig for a fee, and opal has also been found in the Tonopah region.

Opal is the birthstone for October, and if we are lucky enough to have an opal, there are steps to take to safeguard it. If our opal is a solid stone, it will not be damaged by water, but it can be fragile, so avoid activities where it might be knocked. Opal for jewelry is frequently used as a doublet or triplet, and those stones can be damaged by prolonged exposure to water. Clean an opal with a soft cloth and mild detergent. If your opal becomes dull, take it to a professional for polishing. To store your opal, protect it from contact with other jewelry by keeping it in a cloth bag. If it is to be stored for a length of time, “place our opal in cotton wool with a few drops of water, then into a sealed plastic bagjust to be safe. The water is not intended to soak into the stone (as opal is impervious) but will prevent water coming out of the stone if it is exposed to very low humidity environments.”

Sources, Mindat, Gemdat, Opals Down Under, and personal knowledge

via The Quarry, 10/20; from The Conglomerate, 10/20

Prairie Agates

Designated as the Nebraska State rock by the 1967 State Legislature, the prairie agate is not a true agate. This rock grades into banded or layered chert rather than agate.

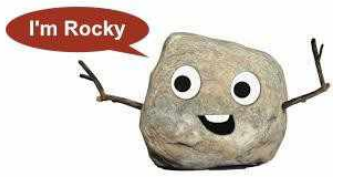
Prairie agates are found in northwest Nebraska, southwest South Dakota, and northeast Wyoming. Since these are the same areas where the much-sought-after Fairburn agates are found, many rockhounds mistake some of the banded prairie agates for Fairburns. These are referred to as “Nearburns” by the more knowledgeable.

Although ignored by many of the natives of the area where they are found, prairie agates lend themselves very well to lapidary. Because of the coloration of these nodules, which runs from bright yellows and reds to subdued pastel shades of pink, lavender, blue, tan and grey, many beautiful specimens can be cut and polished. The fascinating blend of colors also can be captured in cabochons to make attractive and novel jewelry pieces.

Using the same procedure as used when working true agate, the lapidary is rewarded with a brilliant polish on any piece of prairie agate he works with.

via AFMS Newsletter, 9/20 ; from The Glacial Drifter, 1/91 & 2/20

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!



When were rock puns funniest? During the stone age.

You didn't think these were good puns? Of quartz they were!

What should you do when you hear a joke about rocks? Take it with a grain of basalt.

What did Sherlock Holmes say when Watson asked what type of rock he was holding?
“Sedimentary, my dear Watson.”

Did you see the geologist towing a crate of rocks behind his car? He had a wide lode sign.

from Pick & Shovel, 7/26

Why was the gemstone scared for his exams?
He thought he wasn't going topaz.

Why can't you purchase minerals by the gallon?
They only come in quartz.

Which rock group is composed of four men who can't sing?
Mount Rushmore.

from Pick & Shovel, 11/26

Looking For Holiday Gifts? 5 Children's Books About Fossils

Check out these 5 children's books about the joys and discovery of fossil hunting (Summaries from Apple News.)

Will You Become a Fossil? by JD Savage - Illustrated by Mariano Epelbaum

Take a whistlestop tour of fossils and learn about how they were formed, the thrill of their discovery and the big ideas they've revealed about the history of our planet. Along the way you'll learn facts about everything from mysterious “ghost forests” to the remains of sea creatures that were once believed to be fossilised lightning bolts.

The Fossil Keeper's Treasure by Amy Atwater - Illustrated by Natalia Cardozo

Discover ancient creatures from dinos and fish to our human ancestors, in this beautiful book. Written by a leading palaeontologist (a person who studies fossils), it's presented like a scrapbook with a treasure trove of illustrations and intriguing information. It even had some embossed fossils that you can touch.

The Fossil Hunter by Kate Winter

Mary Anning was one of the most important fossil hunters in history. Collecting seashells and fossils on the beaches of Lyme Regis, she had a huge influence on our understanding of fossils. This award-winning book tells the story of her life and legacy.

Stones and Bones: Fossils and The Stories They Tell by Rob Wilshaw - Illustrated by Sophie Williams

Over four billion years, life on Earth has evolved from tiny single-celled organisms to an enormous variety of plants and animals. In this engaging book, you'll learn everything there is about fossils and how they could help us protect the planet in the future.

Eyewitness: Fossil by Dr Paul David Taylor

If you want to delve even deeper into the subject, this illustrated reference book is packed with photographs, detailed diagrams and a wealth of information. Part of the Eyewitness series, it also features fascinating first-hand accounts from experts working in the field of fossils.

from Florida Fossil Hunters, 11-12/26

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 7 *Cascade Mineralogical Society* – **First Creek** (if weather permits) – Meet at 9:45 am at the First Creek Trailhead – Agates, jaspers – Bring digging tool, possibly hard rock tools – Be in good shape
Roger Danneman roger.danneman@gmail.com cell # 425-757-3506

November 7 *Marysville Rock & Gem Club* - **Blanchard Hill** – Stilpnomelane - Hard rock tools, flat chisels, hammers, pry bars
Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com (509) 670-0630

Sunstone by Leslie Malakowsky

What better mineral to feature this time of year than sunstone? Sunstone is a plagioclase feldspar with the formula (Ca,Na)((Al,Si)2Si2O8). Feldspars are a group of rock-forming aluminum tectosilicate (having a three-dimensional framework of silicate tetrahedra) minerals. The most common members of the feldspar group are the plagioclase feldspars. (Plagioclase that contains sodium or calcium is called oligoclase, while plagioclase that contains potassium is called orthoclase.) Plagioclase is a major constituent of Earth's crust, making it a useful diagnostic mineral for identifying the composition, origin, and evolution of igneous rocks. Fun fact: Plagioclase is also a major constituent of rocks on the Moon and Mars!

Sunstone is aptly named after the largest object in our solar system - the Sun (or Sol from Latin meaning 'the sun' or 'sunlight'). This mineral can be colorless, orange, yellow, red, green, blue, or brown. The color tends to be darkest in the center of the mineral and lightens toward the outer edges. Sunstone has a Mohs hardness of 6 to 6.5 (not quite as hard as quartz), a vitreous (glassy) luster, and crystallizes in the triclinic system (featuring 3 axes of unequal length and 3 oblique angles). Sunstone's most well-known characteristic is its distinctive glittery appearance when viewed from different angles. This optical effect
is due to light reflecting from copper, hematite, or goethite inclusions. The inclusions occur as minute hexagonal, rhombic or irregularly-shaped scales oriented parallel to the principal cleavage plane of the mineral giving it an appearance similar to aventurine (a type of quartz) called aventurescence. This type of sunstone is known as 'aventurine-feldspar' or 'oligoclase sunstone'. Fun fact: In a variety of labradorite feldspar known as 'Oregon Sunstone', reflections from native copper inclusions create a shimmering metallic sparkle known as schiller. (For more information on the properties of sunstone, please consult your favorite mineral reference.)

The best localities for finding sunstone in the United States are Middleton Township, Pennsylvania; Plush, Oregon; Statesville, North Carolina; and Sunstone Knoll, Utah. At Sunstone Knoll, sunstone occurs in Pleistocene basalt flows (the Pleistocene is a geologic epoch that lasted from about 2,580,000 to 11,700 years ago). The "orthoclase sunstone" variety is found near Crown Point, New York, Virginia at Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania. The Oregon Sunstone variety is found in Harney County, Oregon and at Amelia Courthouse, and in eastern Lake County North of Plush. This variety is unique because the native copper crystal inclusions can be as large as 3” wide! The presence of copper causes various colors when the stone is rotated. The more copper within the stone, the darker its complexion. Fun fact: On August 4, 1987, the Oregon State Legislature designated Oregon Sunstone as its state gemstone. Internationally, the best place to find sunstone is Southern Norway, where masses of the mineral occur embedded in veins of quartz running through a metamorphic rock called gneiss. Other international localities
include Sweden, Siberia, and South Australia.

The finest gem quality sunstone comes from Oregon. These stones are never heat treated, irradiated, or colored; they're left completely natural. They have a deep red color similar to ruby or spinel. The next best quality has a green secondary color. But the most commonly affordable sunstones are colorless, yellow, orange, or brown. A tip for identifying authentic sunstone is that its color is stable and won't fade when exposed to light. (Always buy from a reputable source.) Peach moonstone, another feldspar mineral, can look similar to sunstone. You can tell them apart because they reflect light in different ways. Peach moonstone has a soft, billowy under-the-surface glow The finest gem quality sunstone comes from Oregon. These stones are never heat treated, irradiated, or colored; they're left completely natural. They have a deep red color similar to ruby or spinel. The next best quality has a green secondary color. But the most commonly affordable sunstones are colorless, yellow, orange, or brown. A tip for identifying authentic sunstone is that its color is stable and won't fade when exposed to light. (Always buy from a reputable source.) Peach moonstone, another feldspar mineral, can look similar to sunstone. You can tell them apart because they reflect light in different ways. Peach moonstone has a soft, billowy under-the-surface glow while sunstone has a metallic glittery sparkle. In medieval times, sunstone was used for orientation and navigation. One medieval reference mentions that sunstone was used to locate the sun in an overcast or snowy sky by holding it up and noting where it emitted, reflected, or transmitted light. Today, sunstone is a popular gemstone for making jewelry (e.g., faceted stones, beads, and cabochons), decorative objects (e.g., spheres and prisms), and tumbled stones.

References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org

from Rocket City Rocks & Gems, 8/26

The Field(s) of Mineralogy, A Layperson's Observations by Angie Guzman

I suppose you could say there are many "facets" to mineralogy. First is the "Eureka!" moment of discovery followed by study of the raw material - to see what it's made of. Generally, next comes large scale processing of ore along with experimentation to find logical uses. Eventually, design of synthetics comes into play; then studies of minerals found deep within the earth's richness. Ultimately, the search leads to the heavens for asteroids, meteorites and other celestial bodies (moon rocks, for example).

Recall that first time you spotted something that caught your eye to awaken your interest in minerals? It could have been a plain or odd-looking rock that may have contained hidden "gems"; or was it something that glistened, something you couldn't possibly avoid giving your attention to? Using our natural curiosity, just leaning over the object gives rise to an unearthing of a world you hadn't previously known existed, mineralogy. Close inspection of the treasure using just your naked eye, reveals colors, shapes and the naturally occurring beauty that attracted you to it in the first place. That is the "aha moment"!

Studying your find, looking at it under a microscope or other detail device, you spot definitive forms, they're crystals! You realize it's not just a rock but a mineral that appears unique. But wait, it has other things under and around it, a different looking crystal, other colors and a "matrix". Before you know, you've opened the door for more research and knowledge. And so it goes.

Others dig deep into the surface of our planet and bring up ore to be processed. "Ore dressing" is a process that extracts minerals from commercial ore. Usually, ore dressing is done on a huge scale. In reality the process goes back centuries to around 970BC. There are phases and procedures for sizing, sorting, classification, etc., of the ore. Once the minerals are extracted, they are further studied for appropriate uses. At some point, someone said something like, "…I think we can make this in the lab!" Thereafter, synthetic gems popped out of labs by the hundreds. Many synthetics are virtually equal in chemical formulation, optical structure and physical appearance to their original, natural counterpart. These synthetics have a thriving marketplace in technology, for industrial uses and in jewelry. They are, however, less valuable than natural gems and, for that very reason are "grown" under extremely strict guidelines. An old adage comes to mind, "Let the buyer beware."

Discoveries are not limited to Earth. Outer space is abundant with minerals. Near-Earth asteroids are silicate rock made up of oxygen and silicates. Nickel, platinum, gold, magnesium and other precious metals make up metallic asteroids. There are few asteroids that are a combination of silicate and metallic. But, not to be outdone, the near-Earth asteroid Itokawa consists of olivine and pyroxene and is similar to the meteorites that had pelted Earth in the past. In fact, Hayabusa, a Japanese robot spacecraft, landed on Itokawa in 2005 and returned collected materials to Earth in 2010.

There are many fields of mineralogy. In learning about mineralogy, we increase our understanding of minerals. And so it is, many people study minerals to see why one is red or blue, some collect them, others employ spiritual meanings, some trade or sell theirs, many display theirs, some craft theirs into jewelry and some just dig 'em up for profit and/or fun. No matter the reason, minerals are a part (medicinal, too) of our daily lives. When we find that special mineral, whether here on this planet or out there in outer space, we're thrilled. I know I am!

Our quest for knowledge is insatiable. The more we know the more is our understanding and appreciation.

Be safe. Be well.

via The Council Reporter, 1/21; from MSSC Bulletin, 5/20

Shows

November 7 & 8
Skagit Rock & Gem *Show*
Sedro-Woolley Community Center
703 Pacific Street

November 21& 22: Saturday & Sunday 10 am – 5 pm
Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society, *The Annual Fall Festival of Gems*
Kitsap Fairgrounds and Events Center, Presidents Hall
1250 Fairgrounds Rd. NW
Bremerton, WA

You Might Be A Rockhound If...

The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
You can find Quartzsite on a map in less than 5 seconds.
You are thinking about giving out rocks for Halloween.
The rock pile in your garage is over your head.
You watch the scenery in movies instead of the actors.

from Pick & Shovel, 10/26