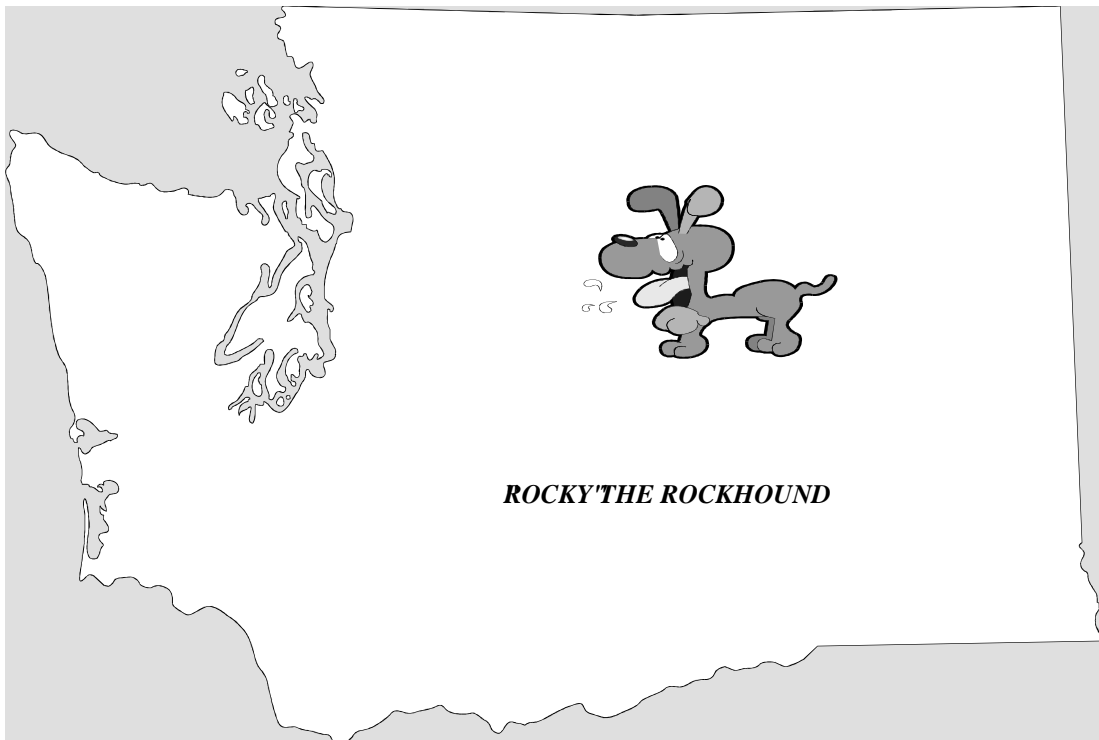

◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

Volume 36, Issue 3

March 2016



**Official Publication of the
Washington State Mineral Council**

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
2016 OFFICERS**

| OFFICERS | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| President | Vesta Bettinger | vestab.rocks@gmail.com | (206) 679-3142 |
| VP | Christopher Bechard | | |
| 2nd VP | Cheston Perry | chestonperry@live.com | (206) 931-2834 |
| Secretary | Diana Horsfall | dianahorsfall@comcast.net | (206) 818-9507 |
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| TRUSTEES --- EAST SIDE | | | |
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| Steve Townsend | srtrocks@aol.com | (16-17-18) | (509)-607-1446 |
| Dale Geer | P.O. Box 34, Moxie, WA 98936 | (15-16-17) | (509) 248-6975 |
| Dave Mastin | davemastin@yahoo.com | (16-17-18) | |
| Aaron Wigant | aaronwigant@rocketmail.com | (14-15-16) | (509) 263-3401 |
| Jim Landon | | (14-15-16) | |

| TRUSTEES --- WEST SIDE | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Gordon Lyons | gordlyo82@gmail.com | (13-14-15) | |
| Bob Pattie | 4316 N. E. 10th, Renton, WA 98059 | (15-16-17) | (425) 226-3154 |
| Glenn Morita | gmorita@seanet.com | (14-15-16) | (425) 743-6249 |
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| Wagonmaster | open | | |

The West Side Board meets the third Tuesday of each month between combined meetings, unless a special meeting is called. Usually no meeting in July and December dependent on Board action.

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<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com>
Editor's e-mail address
gmorita@seanet.com

Combined Board Meeting Minutes 03/19/16

Meeting held on March 19, 2016 called to order by Perry at 9:15

Everyone was welcomed and we went around the table introducing ourselves and what club we belong to.

Treasurers Report:

It was announced that raising dues is working we should have enough to cover Insurance in April and Walker Valley Lease in May. If your club hasn't paid please have them do so as soon as possible.

We are going to print more map books as we only have 5 books remaining, the cost will go up \$1.00 per book to help cover cost.

Kathy got notice, the off road group will be cleaning the trail April 8-11 at Walker Valley and they have asked that we not collect that weekend as there will be garbage bins set up in the collecting area.

Government Update/old business:

Bob has not meet with Olympia yet as they are all busy with trying to get the budget done for the year. He will try and get ahold of them this month and make the trip down there. The DNR year end report is on the internet. Bob brought a copy and parts of the budget were discussed. If you would like to look at the report you can get it on line at dnr.wa.gov and look for the 2015 Annual Report.

It was reported that the land between Ellensburg to Okanogan may be closing for Quad use. Also reported the state is talking about changing the land around the Olympic National Park to a monument, which would take away most of the uses we currently have.

Wagon Masters Report:

We reviewed what was in the last news letter. It was also brought up that there we should have someone on the field trips with medical or first aid training and there should be a defibrillator on hand, this is being looked into.

New Business:

It was decided that we should offer an Individual Membership into the WSMC at a cost of \$10.00. This was voted on and approved.

We are still looking for Trustees one for the East side and two for the West side.

April 19, 2016 Westside Board Meeting AGENDA

Opening of Meeting
Treasurer's Report
◇ Kathy Earnst
Committee Reports
◇ Wagonmaster -Ed Lehman
Old Business
New Business
Open Comments

Meeting Calendar for 2016

West side board meetings:
1/19, 2/16, **4/19**, 6/21, 8/16, 10/18

At 7:30PM at the
Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW, Edmonds

General meetings :
3/19, 5/21, 9/24, 11/05

All general meetings will be held at:

Palace Café
4th & Main
Ellensburg
Meeting @ 9:30 AM

GPS Co-ordinates Needed

The WSMC needs the GPS co-ordinates of any and all of the collecting sites in the state. In an effort to make the map booklets as accurate as possible the Mineral Council is asking for everyone to record GPS readings while on field trips. The data can also be used to help in our fight to keep our collecting areas open.

The Washington State Mineral Council web site has MOVED.

Please update your web browsers to the new URL
<https://mineralcouncil.wordpress.com/>

The move allows the website to use Wordpress without having to upgrade our web hosting account.

The old URL www.mineralcouncil.org will continue to re-direct you to the new location.

2016 WSMC SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

The Washington State Mineral Council plans guided fieldtrips to collecting sites. Open to member clubs, and the general public. Most trips are free. Included are the Pow Wow trips (must join to go on trips). Host clubs and contact persons will be set up as I gather info. For updated information, go to: mineralcouncil.wordpress.com, or contact Ed Lehman at wsmced@hotmail.com, or home (425) 334-6282 or cell (425) 760-2786.

ALWAYS contact host for updated info a week before trip !!!

| Date | Host | Site | Meeting Place & Time | Material | Tools |
|---------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1/16 | Marysville | Beaver Valley | 10:30 @ INFO center | Chert & Zeolites | Hard rock |
| 1/30 | Darrington | Walker Valley | 9:00 @ Big Lake Store | Geodes & Agate | Hard rock |
| 2/20 | Marysville | Cedar Ponds | 9:00 @ Monroe Jack n Box | Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 3/19 | Marysville | Cherry Creek | 9:00 @ Duvall Safeway | Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 4/16-17 | POW | Saddle Mt. | 8:00 @ Boat Launch | Petrified Wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 5/7 | Darrington | Racehorse Creek | 9:00 @ IGA @ Nugent's Corner | Fossils, Mushrooms | Dig & Hard rock |
| 5/21 | Ellensburg | Saddle Mt. | 9:00 @ Mattawa Lepricon Market | Petrified Wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 6/10-14 | Spokane | Succor Creek & McD | Call Host for Information | ThunderEggs & Agate | Dig & Hard rock |
| 6/18 | Darrington | FR 17 & 18 | 9:00 @ Darrington IGA | Jade, Serpentine, Hematite | Dig tools |
| 6/23-26 | POW | Madras, OR | 8:00 @ County Fair Grounds | Agate, T-Eggs, Petrified wood | Dig & Hard rock |
| 7/16 | DAR | Sweetwater | 10:00 @ Darrington Show (Grange) | Travertine | Dig & Hard rock |
| 8/20-21 | CAS | Greenwater | 9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station | Agate & Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 9/10-11 | POW | Teanaway | 8:00 @ Teanaway Camp | Geodes, Agate, Jade | Dig & Hard rock |
| 9/24 | CAS | Little Naches | 9:00 @ Enumclaw Ranger Station | ThunderEggs & Lilypad Jade | Dig & Hard rock |
| 10/15 | Marysville | Money Creek | 9:00 @ Money Creek Camp Ground | Ore & Picture Jasper | Dig & Hard rock |
| 11/19 | Mt Baker | Blanchard Hill | 9:00 @ I-5 Exit 240 Gas Station | Dalmation Stone | Hard rock |

HOST

CLUB

CONTACT INFO

Msvl = Marysville Rock Club
 Dar = Darrington Rock Club
 Pow = All Rockhounds PowWow Club
 Elb = Ellensburg Rock Club
 Spk = Spokane Rock Rollers
 Cas = Cascade Mineralogical Society
 HC = Hells Canyon Rock Club

Ed Lehman—wsmced@hotmail.com (425) 334-6282 (425) 760-2786
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 Mike Shaw—mikesshawmoose@yahoo.com (509) 244-8542
 Tony Johnson—(253) 863-9238
 Dan Cease—rockmangem@q.com (509) 254-1720

Keep updated on <http://www.mineralcouncil.wordpress.com>. Land management changes, and roads close regularly. There is a area on web page with tool category with pictures and names of tools.

Always have proper clothes and gear for conditions. Be prepared with safety, first aid, food, and drink.

A week before trips, I (Ed Lehman) will have a pdf file with map and info for that trip I can send you on request. I will do the same to trip host.

Try to be at meeting site at least 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas. There will be a display of rough and finished material for that trip. Some of the meeting sites are at eating places, join us for breakfast.

Many rock shows will have a WSMC booth with our WA St rockhounding maps for sale, and information. Map books are for sale at trip meeting. Sale of books finance WSMC, and buy the insurance to get us access to private land to collect.

Remember our code of ethics. Keep the lands open to rockhounding (remind or public guardians they are our employees, and it is our land).

We had a moment of silence to Stu, he will be missed

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30

Diana Horsfall
Sec-Pro-Tem

The new officers are as follows:

President: Vesta Bettinger
vestab.rocks@gmail.com (206) 679-3142

VP: Christopher Bechard

2nd VP: Cheston Perry
chestonperry@live.com (206) 931-2834

Secretary: Diana Horsfall
dianahorsfall@comcast.net (206) 818-9507

Treasurer: Kathy Earnst
earnstkk@comcast.net (360) 856-0588

Immediate Past Pres: Perry Gulsvig
sparry08@comcast.net (509) 290-1355

Trustees – East Side Changes

Steve Townsend will continue as trustee change his term to (16-17-18)

Dave Martin will also continue as trustee change his term to (16-17-18)

Trustees – West Side Changes

Take Tony Schackmann off the list.

Mineral Cleaning for Amateurs How to Use Oxalic Acid

By John H. Betts

Anything that has the word “acid” sounds ominous. But oxalic acid is easy to find and use, and the safest for the home. In fact it is found in many vegetables including spinach. It is used to dissolve the iron oxide (brown) stain on all minerals. To make this as simple as possible I will give step by step guide to its use. Do not take any shortcuts or make substitutions. Purchase a one pound box of Oxalic Acid (OA) powder at your local hardware store in the paint department or at a paint store. It is used as wood bleach and will be labeled as such. The most common brand is Rainbow.

Fill a plastic one gallon container $\frac{3}{4}$ full with **distilled** water. Pour in the OA crystals and stir for five minutes. Be careful not to inhale any powder when adding the crystals. Once the OA is dissolved, top off the container to a full gallon. Label the container and put out of reach of children or pets.

When you are ready to use it, place your specimens in a plastic container and add enough OA solution to cover. Set aside for several days. Heat speeds up the reaction, as does agitation. If you have a hot plate and can set up outdoors or in an area with good ventilation then repeat set 4, but heat the solution to bath water hot (110° F).

Never Boil! You will find that an hour in hot solution will usually do the trick. Best of all is an ultrasonic cleaner with built in heater. Sometimes only 30 minutes is necessary. But you should not put the OA directly into the stainless steel basin. Make a double boiler type of arrangement by partially filling ultrasonic cleaner basin with water. Then place your specimens and OA solution in a plastic container or heavy duty plastic bag that is suspended in the water. You can reuse the solution over and over. As it dissolves more and more iron it will get darker often taking on a green color. After it gets really dark I would discard it and mix a new batch. Safety is important. OA solution is highly toxic. It can be absorbed through the skin and builds up in your organs cumulatively. Same goes for the fumes, which is why you never boil the solution and always have proper ventilation when using the heated solution. Be careful not to spill the solution on porcelain and keep away from food preparation surfaces.

After the iron color has disappeared then you can remove the specimens (with gloves on) and wash under running water for three hours. NOTE: If you have hard water in your area, it is smart to use distilled water for the first few rinses to prevent the formation of insoluble oxalates that will stain the specimen yellow when dry. Then soak in clean water for a day changing the water as often as possible.

The best way is to place the rocks to be washed in a 5 gallon bucket. Drill a small hole in the bottom, then fill with water and adjust the flow of the water trickling in to equal the flow out through the small hole. Acid is heavier than water. It will settle to the bottom and flow out through the hole. The trickle in ensures that all specimens are covered with water.

In spite of the fuss, this is the best all-around method of cleaning minerals. I keep a large 5 gallon bucket with tight fitting lid filled and ready, I drop specimens in as I collect them. It always works and the large volume does not exhaust quickly. Mastering this technique will provide an important tool in your mineral cleaning and preparation. This article and others can be found at www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com

Via Carny Hound, 02/16, Clackamette Gem 1/16, Wasatch News and Views 12/15

A Little Iron Goes a Long Way

by Richard Knox

People are always searching for ways to counteract the effects of the rusting of iron and of iron rust stains. However, it was not always that way. Ancient peoples often used iron rust, or ocher, in their decorations.

Iron rust is very common in nature and the iron oxide (of which rusts consists) or sometimes iron atoms themselves, are often responsible for the coloration of some of our most important gemstones. Some minerals that are used for jewelry have iron as a principle constituent. Hematite is 70% iron, and pyrite (marcasite) is 40% iron. Most of the agate and jasper that contains yellow, brown, and red colored zones are colored by the iron that is included in them.

In some gemstones, however, very small traces of iron within the crystal structure of the mineral can produce dramatic changes in color. A few tenths of a percent of iron within the crystal can turn an ordinary looking mineral into a beautiful gem that has both esthetic and monetary value.

A few tenths of a percent of iron in the lattice structure of quartz produces both the citrine and amethyst. If citrine is irradiated, it becomes amethyst, and if amethyst is heated it is altered to citrine. This process is reversible.

Beryl is another gemstone in which traces of iron can influence the color. In aquamarine, a few percent of iron causes both the green and the blue color that can be found in the gemstone, depending upon where the iron atoms are located within the crystal lattice. The green color can be removed by heat, leaving only the blue color. This is more pleasing by present day standards. The green color can be replaced by irradiation if desired.

The color of golden beryl also is caused by a small percentage of iron atoms, in fact, the same atoms that sometimes make aquamarine look green. It can be bleached to a colorless beryl (goshenite) by heat and then returned to its golden hue by irradiation.

When one tenth to three tenths of a percent of the mineral corundum is iron atoms, it produces a yellow gemstone known as yellow sapphire. If a like amount of the metal titanium is also present, we have the more desirable and better known blue sapphire.

There are many other gemstones and minerals that owe their color to traces of iron, sometimes by itself and sometimes in combinations with other elements.

via CSM eTumbler, 02/16, The Rockhounder, 10/14; via Stony Statements, 1/10; via The Roadrunner, 8/06; via Glacial Drifter 3/96; from Tumble Rumble

JON SPUNAUGLE — MR. ROCKHOUND

Jon succumbed to cancer on Saturday, March 5th, while in hospice care at the home of his daughter in Kirkland, Washington. His family was by his side and his grandson, an opera singer, sang as he left this life. Jon was always ready to help.

Analytical and a stickler for detail - which showed in the years of his volunteering in the American Federation (AFMS), the

Northwest Federation (NFMS), the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) and most recently as Treasurer for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

President of West Seattle Rock Club in 1992, he enjoyed faceting and recently donated faceted stones to the club. Jon was NFMS President in 1991-1992, was our NFMS Regional VP to the AFMS in 2015, and currently he held the position of Financial Advisor of the NFMS Endowment Fund.

Jon will be missed not only because of his involvements, but because he was a friend.

Lyle and Audrey Vogelpohl

Via West Seattle Petroglyphs 03/16

FRUSTRATION

by, Belle Meyers

April showers bring May flowers,
We've often heard it said.
But if the rain keeps pouring down,
They'll all be drowned instead.

The garden's ready to be planted,
And we've bought lots of seed.
There's only one thing lacking,
It's warm sunshine we need.

The birds sing in the apple tree,
They know it's Springtime too.
They want to get started building nests,
So we've built them a house or two.

While we're waiting for the sun to shine,
And remove these stumbling blocks.
We'll put on our wet suits – jump in the car,
And go out and dig some rocks.

Via Carny Hound, 03/16

Attention: All Newsletter Subscribers

If you, or someone you know should be receiving this newsletter electronically and are not, please contact Bob Pattie or myself (Glenn Morita).

We are trying to keep our mailing list current and want to make sure that everyone who wants an electronic version of the newsletter gets one.

Dues are due

Download the PDF or Word version from the WSMC website in the Misc. Resources menu.

Please send the dues and form to Kathy Earnst

27871 Minkler Road
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

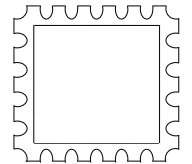
Local Area Shows for 2016

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| April 2016 8th 10am - 6pm 9th 10am - 6pm 10th 10am - 4pm | Yakima Rock & Mineral Club | Rockin Your World | Central Washington State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima ,WA 98901 |
| April 2016 9th 10am - 6pm 10th 10am - 5pm | Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society | 52nd Annual Show | Idaho Falls Recreation Center B Street Idaho Falls, ID |
| April 2016 15th 9am - 5pm 16th 9am - 5pm 17th 10am - 4:30pm | Willamette Agate & Mineral Society | Annual River of Gems Show | Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S. Pacific Hwy Rickreall, OR |
| April 2016 16th 9am - 6pm 17th 10am - 6pm | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Annual Spring Sale | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA |
| April 2016 16th 10am - 5pm 17th 10am - 4pm | Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club | Annual Rock & Mineral Show | Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA |
| April 2016 22nd 10am - 5pm 23rd 10am - 5pm 24th 10am - 4pm | Mt. Hood Rock Club | 59th Annual Rock and Gem Show | W.P. Jackson Armory 6255 NE Cornfoot Road Portland OR 97218 |
| April 2016 23rd 10am - 5pm 24th 10am - 5pm | West Seattle Rock Club | 50th Annual Rock Show | Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave. SW. Seattle, WA |
| April 2016 23rd 9:30am - 5pm 24th 10am - 4:30pm | Grays Harbor Geology and Gem Society | 48th Annual Earth Treasures Rock Show | Grays Harbor Fair Grounds 43 Elma-McCleary Road Elma, WA |
| April 2016 30th 10am—6pm May 2016 1std 10am—5pm | Everett Rock and Gem Club | 63rd Annual show | Everett Community College Walt Price Student Fitness Center 2206 Tower Street Everett WA |
| May 2016 7th 9am—5pm 8th 10am—4pm | Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club | Carnival of Rocks 46th Annual Show | Douglas County Fairgrounds I-5 Exit 123 Roseburg, OR |
| May 2016 7th 10am—5pm 8th 10am—4pm | Billings Gem and Mineral Show | Annual Show Adults \$3 Children under 12 free | Al Bedoo Shrine Auditorium 1125 Broadwater Avenue Billings MT |
| May 2016 7th 10am - 5pm 8th 10am - 4pm | Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club | Annual Rock Show \$3 adults, 12 & under free w/ adult | Gallatin County Fair Grounds 901 N. Black, Bldg. #1 Bozeman, MT |
| May 2016 14th 10am - 5pm 15th 10am - 4pm | Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society | Natures Treasures Under Foot \$3 | Hermiston Conference Center 415 S. Hwy. 395 Hermiston, OR |
| May 2016 21st 10am - 6pm 22nd 10am - 5pm | Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society | Annual Gem and Mineral show | Ravalli County Fairground First Interstate Center 100 Old Corvallis Road Hamilton, MT |
| May 2016 21st 10am - 6pm 22nd 10am - 6pm | | 10th Annual Mineral Mart | Lake City Community Center 12531 28th Ave NE Seattle, Washington |

Westside Board Meeting
April 19, 2016
7:30 PM

Maplewood Clubhouse
8802 196th St SW
Edmonds

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The
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WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL
27871 Minkler Road
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