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◆ **The Council Reporter** ◆

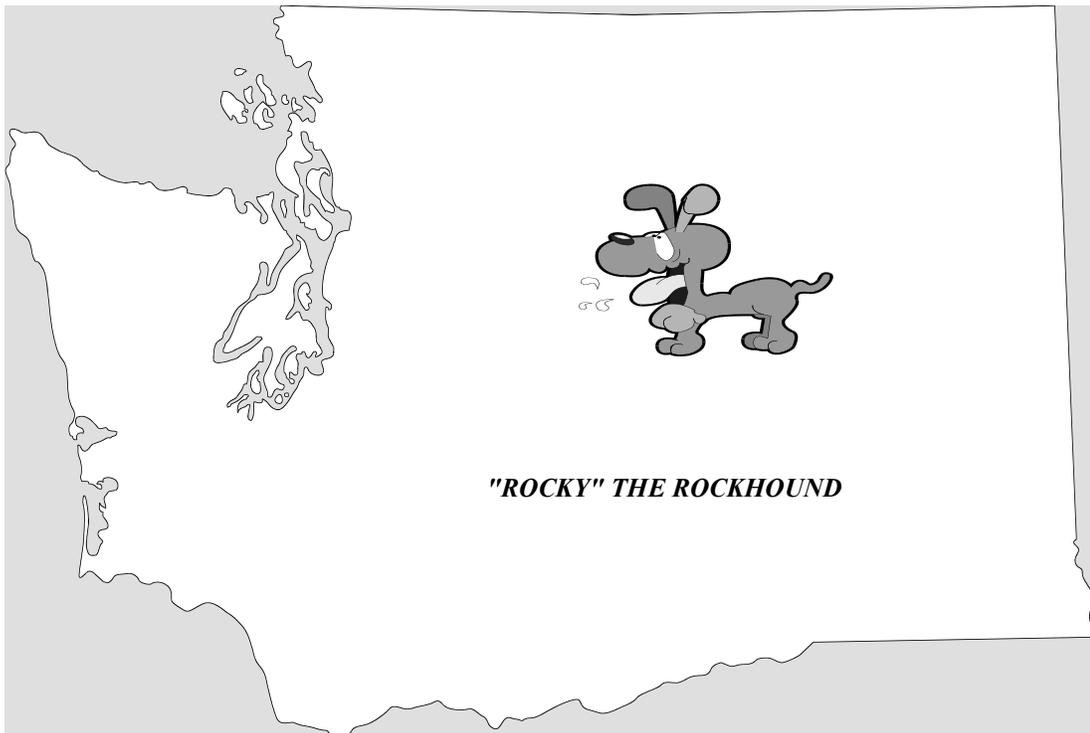
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**Official Publication of the  
Washington State Mineral Council**

**WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
2019 OFFICERS**

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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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The old URL [www.mineralcouncil.org](http://www.mineralcouncil.org) will continue to re-direct you to the new location.

**New e-mail address: [mineralcouncil@zoho.com](mailto:mineralcouncil@zoho.com). Please update your address books.**

**WSMC meeting October 9, 2021**

Aaron called the meeting to order at 9:40

Introductions of those in attendance:

Ed Lehman with the Marysville and Darrington Clubs  
 Bob O'Brian with the Marysville and Darrington Clubs  
 Jerry Wickstrom with Yakima Rock and Mineral Club  
 Howard Alexander with Yakima Rock and Mineral Club  
 Darrel Watkins with AFMS, NFMS, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club  
 Ronna Watkins with AFMS, NFMS and Yakima R & MC  
 Diana Horsfall with Cascade Mineralogical Society  
 Aaron Wigant with Spokane Rock Rollers

Due to Kathy's passing there was no Treasurers report. Ed and Diana will be working on getting this straightened out. Diana gave a Petty Cash report showing the money Ed collected from map book sales going into petty cash and what is remaining after expenses.

Wagon Masters report, Ed is still looking for someone to take over field trips and would like to show someone the Yellow Hill collecting site, the site at Sultan and Howard Rd, and Stubs Hill. Ed has offered to continue to do promo for field trips if someone will lead them. This month's field trip is October 16 to Skykomish for Picture Jasper, also November 13 there is a field trip to Blanchard Hill for Dalmation Stone. Please contact Ed for further information.

**2022**

General meetings for next year at Palace Café (check for covid restrictions) are going to be April 30<sup>th</sup>, June 11, and September 24<sup>th</sup> all starting at 9:30.

Spokane Rock Rollers are planning there show for March 25, 26 and 27.

NFMS midyear meeting will be May 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Lakeside Show.

AFMS, NFMS is still looking for a show to join with in 2022, if anyone knows a club that will host this meeting, please let NFMS know. The 2023 they will be in Billings Montana.

Submitted by  
 Diana Horsfall, Secretary

**Kathleen Ann "Kathy" Earnst**  
 1944 - 2021

As many of you know, Kathy was our treasurer for many years. As such, several times a year she took the time to travel from Sedro-Woolley to all the way Edmonds for the board meetings.

One of the things I remember about Kathy were her tales of the experiences with their exchange students. Sometimes the culture shock for those kids was quite amusing.

Kathy always brightened up our meeting and will be sorely missed.

**Westside Board Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

Opening of Meeting  
 Treasurer's Report  
     Diana Horsfall  
 Committee Reports  
     Wagonmaster -Ed Lehman  
 Old Business  
 New Business  
     Set meeting calendar for 2022  
 Open Comments  
 Adjourn

**Proposed Meeting Calendar for 2022**

West side board meetings:  
 01/18, 03/15, 10/18

General meetings :  
 04/30, 06/11, and 09/24

**Welcome Puyallup Valley**  
**Gem and Mineral Club**

The PVGMC has recently joined the WSMC. Tony Johnson (PVGMC field trip chairman) has been helping Ed Lehman over the last few years by leading field trips.

Thanks for joining and helping out.

**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.

**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 Diana Horsfall**

4316 NE 10th Street  
 Renton, WA 98284

The WSMC will be missing Kathy's helpful attitude and willingness to step up and do any task she was asked by the WSMC officers and membership.



BORN 1944  
DIED 2021  
FUNERAL HOME  
Lemley Chapel,  
1008 Third Street,  
Sedro Woolley,  
WA

Sedro-Woolley - Kathleen "Kathy" Ann Earnst, age 77, a longtime resident of Sedro-Woolley, Washington passed away Sunday, September 12, 2021. She was born May 9, 1944, in Mount Vernon, WA to Frank "Doc" and Patricia (Healey) Nicholson.

Kathy was married on June 13, 1964, to Kenneth Stuart Earnst. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a picnic in the park surrounded by a multitude of friends and family in 2014. Kathy worked as the clerk/treasurer to the town of La Conner, Washington for much of her adult life. As a youth & young adult, Kathy enjoyed horseback riding. Later, Kathy, along with her husband, Stu, became interested in rocks, gems, and minerals and for many years they were adult members (& later leaders) of the Northwest Rockies 4-H club, the Marysville Rock Club, and the Washington State Mineral Council. Stu & Kathy lived most of their married life in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. Stu & Kathy acted as host parents to four year-long international students and numerous short-term summer international students. As they neared retirement, and after, they enjoyed several month-long trips to Europe to visit their former students and their families and Kathy's genealogy work paid off in 2018 with the opportunity to meet some distant relatives in Italy. Upon retirement, Stu & Kathy purchased a motorhome and became "snowbirds", spending the winter months in Arizona and surrounding areas. They were also able to take a months-long motorhome trip to Alaska.

Kathy is survived by her son, Kenneth of Blaine; daughter, Janet and her husband, Doug, of Seattle; her honorary international children Vladimir (Russia), Robert (Germany), Alex (Germany), & Johanna (Germany); her grandchildren, Eric, Sarah, Anna, & Kelsey; and her sister, Denise of Lyman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank & Patricia, and her husband, Stu.

Kathy will be laid to rest with her husband at the Lyman City Cemetery. At this time no memorial service is planned. Share your memories of Kathy and sign the online guest register at [www.lemleychapel.com](http://www.lemleychapel.com).

From Skagit Valley Herald, 09/26/21



**Robert Pattie  
1937-2021**

Saturday, 10/23/21, Diana Horsfall informed me that her father, Bob Pattie passed away on 10/22/21.

Bob was a loving family man, he enjoyed sharing his love for rocks with each generation, his kids, grandkids, and great grandkids love showing him rocks they have found and asking them what kind of rocks they had, sometimes the answer is leaverites, that only worked until they got old enough to figure out it's a rock that should have stayed where they found it.

Bob has been a hard-working member of the WSMC since 1972, just 2 short years after the Mineral Council was formed. He took on the challenge of keeping track of what the government was doing and how it impacted rock collecting, including keeping tabs on the lands we could use. He was even checking on government activity the day before his death. He also held offices along with this task, from President to mailing out the printed newsletters.

Bob was a teacher before going to work at Boeing. He loved sharing his knowledge and passion for both rocks and Mathematics. Educating the government on rockhounding was a project he enjoyed, as he made many trips to Olympia advocating the importance of rockhounding in the state.

He also liked to go to local Schools and talk about rocks, how mountains were formed and the many different types of rocks. Bob enjoyed telling the kids that if they ever picked up a rock and stuck it in their pocket, they were considered a rockhound. He would bring different rock samples for the kids to pick up, hold and look at. He always had a bucket of samples so each child could have a piece of petrified wood for there own collection, explaining the petrified wood was the state rock.

From Diane Horsfall

Bob was also responsible for the original map of rock, mineral and fossil collecting sites in Washington that the Department of Natural Resources published in the '80s.

Bob's contributions to the WSMC and hobby in general are incalculable. His knowledge and leadership will be missed by all.

### November Birthstones - Topaz and Citrine

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of



colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer. Most topaz and citrine birthstones are affordably priced, as good-quality gems are not as rare as for many of their counterparts. This means that those born in November have many options to choose from. Your challenge will be deciding which one to pick.



The variety of topaz hues includes colorless, light blue, yellow, orange, pink, violet, brown and, very rarely, red. The vast majority of blue topaz seen today is the permanent result of treating colorless topaz with irradiation and heating. The rainbow

effect seen in "Mystic Topaz" is created by coating colorless topaz with a thin artificial film.

Some believe the word "topaz" comes from the Sanskrit word tapas, which means "fire." Others trace it back to the Greek topazos. This November birthstone was long thought to have many benefits. The ancient Greeks believed that topaz gave them strength. From the 1300s to the 1600s, Europeans thought it could thwart magic spells and dispel anger. For centuries, many people in India have believed that topaz worn above the heart assures long life, beauty and intelligence. The distinctly pinkish orange Imperial topaz has aristocratic cachet. It is commonly believed that the name originated with the Russian royal family's insistence on keeping the finest colors of this gem, which was mined in Russia's Ural Mountains, exclusively for their use. An alternate explanation, especially popular in Brazil, is that it dates from an 1881 visit by Brazilian Emperor Pedro II to Ouro Preto—the town closest to Brazil's most productive topaz mines - and the gift of a reddish topaz to him.



Blue topaz is the gem of the 4th Wedding Anniversary, and Imperial topaz is the gem of the 23rd Wedding Anniversary. Topaz can be mined in Utah on public lands west of Delta at Topaz mountain. There is also a claim where you can dig your own for a fee.

From Hard Rock News, 11/21, via Golden Spike News, 11/20

### DANGERS OF ROCK DUST

by Glen Kuban

[Reprinted from PALEO FOOTNOTES VOLUME 16 , NUMBER 8 AUGUST 2021 First published in the December 1997 Paleo Footnotes and republished to inform a new generation of members. ]

Many collectors use a mechanical rock saw to cut, trim, or abrade rocks and fossils in the field or lab. Dangers of this activity include flying rock chips, wounds from the blade itself or broken blades, and rock dust, which is extremely dangerous to inhale. Always read and understand the proper operation of any mechanical tool before using it. Whenever cutting or grinding rock, wear protective eye goggles. Also wear a good respirator, or use a dust collection system, to avoid inhaling rock dust which accumulates in the lungs and can cause a variety of serious illnesses.

For those not convinced that rock dust is a serious danger, or that they can get away with not wearing a respirator or working under a hood (if working indoors), I encourage you to read the message below:

The original message was posted on 7-14-97 in the Rocks and

Fossils News groups, and my reply was sent to that list as well as the Dinosaur List, VrtPaleo and Fossil Nuts.

The original message I am responding to was posted in Rocks and Fossils, but I am sending my response to the other paleo related lists as well, because I feel this is an important safety issue. It affects anyone who even occasionally cuts rocks or fossils, or does fossil preparation work. It will be very worth-while if it prevents even one person from suffering lung problems or dying prematurely. With that deliberately onerous introduction, let me quote the post that prompted my response:

Peter's Post: "Last night I spent an hour cutting sandstone sidewalk blocks with composition blade made of fiberglass and carborundum grit. This is a dry saw and it was a still night and clouds of dust were all around. Some of it hung in the air for minutes. I am not really concerned about a one-shot exposure, but it did make me wonder if this is the size of silica which DOES represent a health hazard. Of course, I do not know for sure that the fine dust was silica, as opposed to calcium carbonate (the cement in the sandstone) or material from the new blade..."

Glen's Response: "It's funny, or really not so funny, that you should write now. I'm suffering a chronic lung irritation, and seeing doctors now, because of the results of a similar incident. In short, yes, one or a few exposures to significant amounts of freshly-cut rock dust can cause serious problems. Silicosis is only one of the many lung problems that can be caused by rock dust, many of which (like fibrosis) can occur no matter what the composition of the rock. Wearing a good respirator or hood with dust collector if working indoors is a must. If you don't have the proper safety equipment, don't cut the rock!

Unfortunately, I found out the hard way, I hope everyone learns from my mistakes. About a year ago our fossil club went to Ontario to collect trilobites, and we took along a diamond rock saw. I only sawed out a few trilobites for fellow members (without wearing a mask, I forgot to bring one) and I tried to not inhale the dust. However, large clouds of it were kicked up each time, and it was impossible to avoid inhaling quite a bit of it. By the next morning I had significant lung irritation, and have had it ever since - some days worse than others. I have frequent coughing and uncomfortable sensation in my upper chest. After this went on a few weeks, I went to a doctor, not knowing if I had contracted a bacteria, fungus, or other microbe at the quarry, or just had accumulated too much dust in my lungs. An x-ray was clear, but that is not unusual in such cases (it sometimes takes years for fibrosis, TB, cancer and (other diseases to develop). Apparently, the rock dust itself is the cause of the current lung irritation, and it may never get better. In fact, it may worsen into other conditions, as explained below.

Many people assume years of exposure to rock dust is needed to cause serious problems, and this is generally true when dealing with wind-blown, low concentration dust, which usually has already weathered to some degree. But not so with freshly cut rock. After I started having my problems, I began talking to doctors and doing lots of reading. I also talked to an uncle who used to work in a quarry, and is now dying of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 55. I am now going to his doctor.

It turns out that not only do rock particles of any composition tend to stay and accumulate in the lungs, but freshly cut rock is the worst, and extremely pernicious. Even one or a few incidents of significant inhalation of such dust can cause long irritation and start a process of increasingly serious lung damage. The micro-

scopic particles are like millions of razor-edged shards that damage lung tissue directly, as well as create conditions promoting the development of TB, micro plasms, fibrosis, and cancer. Experiments with rats and other animals have shown that inhalation of fresh cut rock dust is far more damaging than worn rock dust of any composition, and leads to far greater rates of several diseases, including pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer. But even accumulations of worn rock dust in the lungs greatly increases chances of lung disease.

I've also made many fossil molds and casts over the years, and although I often wore a mask while working with plaster, sometimes I did not. I may well have accumulated plaster in my lungs as well, which may have contributed to or aggravated my lung condition. Plaster hardens when in contact with moisture, wherever it occurs, including one's lungs. But I did not have the constant lung irritation until after the Ontario trip using the rock saw (on hard shales and siltstones), and have had it ever since.

I have another appointment with a pulmonary doctor on Thursday, but from what I have learned, such damage is generally irreversible, and the best I may hope for is to have my condition not get worse. I may have to live with lung irritation and chronic cough for the rest of my life, plus increased chances for the serious conditions I listed above.

So PLEASE, whenever you are cutting or grinding rock of any kind ALWAYS wear a respirator (not just a cheap dust mask). If working indoors, use a dust collecting hood, or don't do it. Your health is not worth any rock or fossil.

There are serious inhalation dangers in the lab also, including solvents, urethanes, glues, and other chemicals used on prep work. These too can have accumulated effects, and lead to a variety of health problems. Work with such chemicals only with very good ventilation, or under a hood, or don't do it. Again, a rock or fossil is not worth your health. If I scared anyone, I can't feel too bad, because I wish someone had scared me before I did what I did, and now may have to pay the price the rest of my life.

Pete, in your case, I hope you do not have any problems, and can only urge you not to do it again, at least not without wearing a respirator. The dust you created by cutting sandstone probably included a mixture of siliceous sand particles, calcium carbonate particles (from the cement between the grains), and fibers from the fibrous saw blade. All could be dangerous to inhale.

Thank you, Glen Kuban,

AFMS Ed: Given the current health issues resulting from Covid, this story can alert us to dangers we may tend to ignore when we are enjoying our shops. We should all consider keeping those annoying masks on when we are using lapidary equipment or sawing, soldering, or buffing silver and copper or doing torch work. Just for example, my own brother-in-law used to build futon frames in his garage. The work involved a lot of wood dust from some of the exotic woods he used, but he refused to wear a respirator—too hot, too clumsy, too sissifying. Some years later he, who had never smoked a day in his life, died of inoperable lung cancer.

*From West Seattle Petroglyphs, 10/21, via AFMS News, October 2021*

## Local Area Shows for 2021/22

DATE & TIME	CLUB	SHOW	LOCATION
November 2022 20th 10am - 5pm 21st 10am - 5pm	Kitsap Mineral and Gem Society	Fall Festival of Gems <b>CANCELED</b> <b>Due to COVID</b>	The President's Hall 1250 NW Fairgrounds Road Bremerton, WA
February 2022 12th 9am—5pm 13th 9am—4pm	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Annual Gem Show	The Center in Oak Harbor 51 Jerome St. Oak Harbor WA
March 2022 5th 10am - 6pm 6th 10am - 5pm	Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society	68th Annual Rock and Gem Show	O'Conner Field House 2207 Blaine Caldwell, ID
March 2022 11th 10am—5pm 12th 10am—5pm 13th 10am—5pm	Tualatin Valley Gem Club	62nd Annual Rock and Mineral Show \$1 Adults, 12 & under free	Forest Grove National Guard Amory 2950 Taylor Way Forest Grove OR
March 2022 12th 9am - 6pm 13th 10am - 5pm	Northwest Montana Rock Chucks	Gold, Gem, and Mineral Show	Flathead County FairgroundsExpo Building (next to grandstands) 265 North Meridian RoadKalispell MT
March 2022 12th 9am - 4pm 13th 9am - 4pm	Magic Valley Gem Club	Annual Show	Twin Falls County Fairgrounds 215 Fair Ave. east of Filer on US Hwy. 30
April 2022 21st 10am - 5pm 22nd 10am - 4pm	Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club	25th Annual Rock & Mineral Show \$5 adults, 12 & under free	Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds 1500 S. Oak Kennewick, WA
April 2022 9th 10am - 6pm 10th 10am - 5pm	Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society	56th Annual Show \$3 adults, 12 & under free	Idaho Falls Recreation Center Corner of Memorial Drive and B Street Idaho Falls, ID
April 2022 22nd 10am - 4pm 23rd 10am - 5pm 24th 10am—4pm	Yakima Rock & Mineral Club	59th Parade of Gems Adults—\$6 Students—\$2.00 12 & under free	Central Washington State Fair Ground Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima ,WA 98901
May 2022 28th 10am—6pm 29th 10am—5pm	Everett Rock and Gem Club	67th Annual show NEW LOCATION	Evergreen State Fairgrounds (East Entrance) 18359 Cascade View Drive near Monroe, WA.

## 2021 ROCKHOUND ACTIVITIES

8/21 & 22 @ 9am Enumclaw Ranger Station to **Greenwater Field** trip.

9/? P V Rock Club Show in the woods

9/18 10am Hwy 410 & F R 19 Little Naches for **Thunder Eggs, Lily Pad Jasper & Fossils**

10/16 9am Money Ck Camp off Hwy 2 before Skykomish for **Picture Jasper**

11/13 9am I-5 exit 240 @ Gas Mart to **Blanchard Hill Dalmation Stone (stilpnomelane in quartz)**.

## Contact

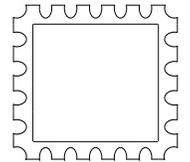
Ed Lehman at wsmced2@outlook.com or (425) 334-6282 or (425) 760-2786

**Many trips need Discover Pass, Trailhead Pass & Forest Pass. Ask when you inquire about trip**

Westside Board Meeting  
November 16, 2021  
7:30 PM

**Maplewood Clubhouse**  
**8802 196th St SW**  
**Edmonds**

COUNCIL REPORTER, Monthly publication of The  
Washington State Mineral Council



WASHINGTON STATE MINERAL COUNCIL  
27871 Minkler Road  
Sedro Woolley, WA. 98284

