

WASHINGTON COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS COMMUNIQUE



About the Washington County Gem and Mineral Society (WCGMS)

WCGMS is the home of the Washington County Rockhounds. WCGMS meets the first Saturday of every month except July and September. The meeting begins at 10:30 AM. The goal of WCGMS is to provide information and education about earth science and the rockhounding hobby. To find out more about WCGMS please visit its Facebook page, Washington County Gem and Mineral Society – Maine. WCGMS is a 501(c)(3) and a Member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, Inc.

WCGMS Officers

President – Theresa Peek

Vice President – Nancy Tintle

Secretary – Jean Lombardo

Treasurer – Chris Peek

WCGMS Contact Information

WashingtonCountyGMS@gmail.com

207-417-0524

Rockhound Communiqué Monthly Features

President's Message

Greetings, and thank you for reading our third newsletter!

Since we started our newsletters in April, I believe I have kept up my promise made in the Summer 2019 newsletter – we won't have four newsletters in 2019 but will have one for every season since the **WASHINGTON COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS COMMUNIQUÉ's** inception.

This year, my second living full time in Maine, has proved to be eye-opening. As a newcomer in Downeast Maine, I have gotten myself involved in many things. In all honesty, too many things. In 2020 I hope to focus on what I've decided my priorities are: our business, economic development for Eastport and the surrounding area, and WCGMS.

Thank you for being patient with me and thank you for being part of WCGMS. For our club to continue and grown, we need your help as well. Please take a moment to read the **Treasurer's Report** so you know what is going on financially with **WCGMS, Club News and Information**, which covers 2020 dues, the election of officers, etc., and **Upcoming Meetings** so you know what's coming up.

Theresa Peek

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 3th, 2019

Location: Pembroke Library

Presenter: Ed Clop

Topic: Care & Feeding of a Mineral Collection

New Business: No formal business meeting

Presentation: Ed Clop from Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society reviewed aspects of managing a mineral collection, including learning about minerals (knowing what to look for, what you have once you find it, and how to take care of it); ways of acquiring specimens (field collecting and various kinds of "silver pick" collecting); the importance of labeling and record keeping; and ideas for housing and sharing a collection (keeping the specimens safe while providing for access and display).

The meeting ended about 12:30 PM

Date: October 5th, 2019

Location: Machias Bay Chamber of Commerce

Presenter: Chris Peek

Topic: Petrified Wood – Texas, Arizona, and Beyond

Due to lack of publicity and other conflicts, the meeting was cancelled

Date: November 2nd, 2019

Location: Washington County Community College

Our presenter, a granite sculptor from Canada, cancelled last minute due to issues bringing material into the US.

Treasurer's Report

We are still waiting on our Maine incorporation approval. At this time, we are holding \$248 in bank checks made out to WCGMS. Once we are officially incorporated in Maine, we will open a bank account at The First in Eastport.

I and our club president have funded the 2019 and 2020 fees to the Federation, the IRS, the State of Maine, and for the Way Too Cool flashlights (a total of \$992.54). Fundraising (the flashlights and a raffle) has generated \$557. Theresa and I have a two-person membership and have purchased two flashlights, which have offset part of what WCGMS owes us. We have also kept cash payments to WCGMS. As of this newsletter, WCGMS owes us \$356.54. This outlay of funds was made to get the club started and can be paid back in time. I will update membership of the status of our financial outlay in each of the newsletters.

Chris Peek

Club News and Information

- 2020 Membership Renewals – All current club members are in good standing until December 31st, 2019. There will be no formal communication about renewing your membership for 2020. If you want to renew (and we hope you do), please pay for your 2020 membership between October 1st and January 4th. If there is no change to your membership (no additions or deletions of people, change in contact information, etc.), you do not have to complete a new application. If there are changes, please submit a new application so we can update our records. You can pay by check, money order, or cash. Check and money orders, made out to Washington County Gem and Mineral Society, may be mailed at WCGMS, PO Box 65, Eastport, ME 04631, brought to meetings, or dropped off at Seaside Stones. Cash may be brought to meetings. There will be no change in dues for 2020. Individual membership remains \$12, two-person membership remains \$20, family membership (up to four people) remains \$24 (additional people remain \$6 per person). If you have any questions, please contact Chris Peek.
- 2020 Officers – Since the October meeting did not happen, voting will be done via ballot at the December meeting and online via SurveyMonkey. Any members not in attendance at the December meeting should look for an email – please vote by December 15th.
- Fundraising – The WCGMS raffle is still ongoing. The last day to buy chances will be at the December meeting; the winner will be drawn at the meeting. We have Maine and Canadian specimens for sale; all money goes to the club. These are available at Seaside Stones and will be available at both the December and January meetings. We also have Way Too Cool UV flashlights for sale; all profits from these sales go to the club. They are available at Seaside Stones and will be available at both the December and January meetings.
- 2020 Field Trips – We are working on a field trips to the Perry Agate Beach, Big Hill mine in Pembroke, the molybdenum mine in Copper, gold panning locally, Jasper Beach in Machias, the Maine Mineral Museum in Bethel, etc. If you would like to be involved in the planning of the field trips, please email washingtoncountygms@gmail.com.
- We need your help! – We are looking for donations of specimens and help with ongoing club activities. Donations will be used as door prizes, for youth giveaways, or for fundraising. Donations can be dropped off at Seaside Stones or brought to the December and January meetings. (We'll take monetary donations as well 😊) If you are interested in writing an article for this newsletter, helping us finding speakers, being a speaker (we even have presentations from the Federation that you can use), etc., please email washingtoncountygms@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

December 7th – Machias Chamber of Commerce – 10:30 to noon – Holiday Event

This will not be a formal meeting – we will have activities geared to children, including mineral and fossil identification (fun for the adults too!) and make a trilobite (everyone’s favorite bug-looking fossil). We will also have rock-related giveaways for the kids. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Additionally, there will be a rock-related white elephant gift exchange (aka Yankee swap) for the adults and we will have fluorescent rocks on display. You MUST RSVP for this event so that we have enough supplies for the children and so we can provide details on the gift exchange. Please RSVP via this event or by emailing the club (washingtoncountygms@gmail.com) or calling 207-417-0524.

January 4th – Pembroke Library – 10:30 to noon – Topic and presenter: Art in Rocks by Theresa and Chris Peek

Theresa and Chris will talk about the art found in rocks. A similar version of this presentation was done last January at the Eastport Arts Center. If you missed that presentation or if you want to see the new art in rocks that they've found, come to this meeting. The presentation will include a slide show of Art in Rocks and a display of Art in Rocks. Besides their involvement in WCGMS, the Peeks own a rock and mineral business, Seaside Stones. They are also members of the Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club and Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society. WCGMS requests that you RSVP for this event (in case we have a weather related cancellation) – you can do that via Facebook (Washington County Gem and Mineral Society – Maine), by emailing the club (washingtoncountygms@gmail.com), or by calling 207-417-0524.

Rockhound Communiqué Special Features

From the Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society's Rockin' Around – January 2019

Collecting Agates at Loring Cove, Perry, Maine

by Clayton Carkin



After enjoying a nice Thanksgiving meal in Eastport, Washington County, I thought that it would be nice to get some fresh and cold air (10° F!) while collecting some agates in Perry, Maine. Perry is a small town just north of Eastport on Route #1. Peter Cristofono describes this agate collecting locality in his book *Rockhounding New England*. In the past, proper protocol for a collector desiring to collect agates was to get permission from the owner of Loring Auto Body Shop on Gin Cove Road. I had done this before and found the owners of the property to be very friendly and accommodating: they mowed a path across their field to the beach and would even guide you across their property to the collecting site. Mind you, this site is a low- to mid-tide collecting locale!

On this late autumn collecting trip to Loring Cove I was surprised to find a newly made road to a parking lot with an information kiosk as well as a new trail to the beach. It appears that collectors no longer need to ask permission to collect specimens on the beach! After some research and phone calls I found out that the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) bought the property adjacent to the Loring Cove Auto Body Shop and turned it into public preserve last summer. MCHT purchased 12 acres in 2016 to create an access point for fishermen and, of course, rockhounds. Walt Loring and Susan Plachy donated an acre of their land

for the access road. Prior to the MCHT purchase of the property, Walt had allowed people to park on his land to access the beach. Thank you for your generosity!

This 2018 Thanksgiving Day collecting outing turned into a pleasant surprise for me. The sun was out, the tide was low, and millions of pebbles of agate, amethyst, bloodstone, carnelian, chalcedony, jasper, and conglomerate were just waiting for me! The Perry conglomerate

fluoresces orange—the pebble bonding mineral is calcite! The book *Collecting Agates and Jaspers of North America* by Patti Polk describes the following agates found at Loring Cove: large banded beach agate, fortification beach agate, lattice agate, carnelian, and banded jasper/agate. There is a price guide, too!

Even with multi-layers of clothing the cold temperature with a wind chill kept my collecting time to a minimum. I found all I needed in 30 minutes and departed before the intertidal stream rose any higher. What a wonderful Thanksgiving Day memory in downeast Maine!

Thank you to Deidre Whitehead of MCHT for her valuable details.



GEOLOGY HUMOR

Q: Did you hear the one about the geologist? | A: He took his wife for granite so she left him.

Q: What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano?

A: I Lava You!

Q: Why did the geologist take his girlfriend to the quarry? A: He wanted to get a little boulder.

Q: How did the geology student drown? A: His grades were below C-level.

Watson: Holmes! What kind of rock is this? Holmes: Sedimentary, my dear Watson.

Q: If H₂O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice? A: H₂O cubed.

Q: Did you hear about the geologist who was reading a book about Helium? A: He just couldn't put it down.

Q: What element is derived from a Norse god? A: Thorium.

Q: What do you do with a dead geologists? A: Barium.

Q: What weapon can you make from the elements potassium, nickel and iron? A: A KNiFe.

Q: Anyone know any jokes about sodium deposits? A: Na

source:

<http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/schooljokes/geologyjokes.html> via *The Rockhound* 6/18

WASHINGTON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Membership Application for 2020

Please select one:

Individual membership (must be 18 or older) - \$12 _____

Two-person membership (one person must be 18 or older) - \$20 _____

Family membership (up to four people - one person must be 18 or older) - \$24 _____
additional people may be added for an extra \$6 per person _____
Number of additional people _____

Household Information:

Mailing Address _____

Town or City, State _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone No. _____

Member Information:

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<i>Age (if under 18)</i>
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Make checks payable to: Washington County Gem and Mineral Society (WCGMS)

Mail application and dues to: WCGMS, PO Box 65, Eastport, ME 04631