



THE GEODE

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. (LGMCI)

Web Site: www.lakesidegemandmineralclub.com

E-mail: lgmgeode2025@outlook.com

Facebook: Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club

Instagram: [lakesidegemandmineral](https://www.instagram.com/lakesidegemandmineral)

Volume 199, Issue 01

January 2026

Purpose: To promote activities of mutual interest for collecting and displaying gems and minerals.

Address: Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., PO Box 6652, Kennewick, WA 99336-0603

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GEODE Submission Deadline:

19th of each month for member articles & photos

E-mail: lgmgeode2025@outlook.com

Membership: Annual dues are due in October. Please pay at the monthly meeting or remit to LGMCI, PO Box 6652, Kennewick, WA. 99336-0603.

Membership Forms: Link to form can be found on the club web site.

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Club Meetings & Upcoming Events

Club Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. At the Seventh Day Adventist Church, at 7105 W. 10th Ave., in Kennewick. Doors open at 6:30 pm for social. Meetings begin at 7 pm.

Jan 6th– General Club Meeting. 6:30 – gather before meeting 7:00 pm general meeting

Jan 13th Junior Club Meeting at the REACH, Columbia Park, 6:30 until 8 pm.

Jan 19th Board Meeting. 6:30 pm.

A Note from the President . . .

Happy new year! I hope everyone has had a great holiday season, got to enjoy friends and family and eat way too much at least once. With the new year many people plan to advance their skills in the lapidary field. one of the better places for this is the Hancock camp in September. Our club is offering a scholarship for the tuition there, similar to last year. More information about this and applications should be in this issue with the geode. Rock bingo is our program this month so remember to bring 3 to 5 rocks to add to the bingo table then. See everyone in January Dave Westland.

Upcoming Meeting

It's that time of year again – time for Rock BINGO! Be sure to bring 3-5 rocks for prizes.

Coming in February will be a presentation by last year's scholarship winner to the Northwest Rockbound retreat, Rhea Bowerly. There is still time to get your application for this coming years NW Retreat held at the Hancock Camp in Oregon. Applicants must not have attended before and must be 18 years old by the date of the retreat. It's a great place to go to learn multiple lapidary skills as well as silversmithing, carving, layering, wire wrapping and chainmail. It's a full week of uninterrupted classes, lodging, and meals, and of course the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Be sure to bring any tools needed for wire wrapping and materials for classes and cabbing are purchased separately, and found on site or you are welcome to bring your own.

Coming in February, we will also distribute or provide location on line to complete a member's survey. This will help us with finding what you would like to see or where we can improve to better meet our member's needs. We have seen a number of new members join as well as long time members who might like to see something new. It can provide us input to where we can make improvements and where we are getting it right. It's your club, so your input is important to us.

We are considering a possible field trip to the Rice Museum of Minerals in Portland, Oregon for March. The club would charter a bus to provide transportation to and from the museum. There will be a signup sheet on the back table, If you would be interested in joining, please provide you name, contact info and how many would be in your party. This will allow us to know if we will need more than more than one bus and provide a head count for the meseum.

Classes, Gatherings, Field Trips, and Groups

Field trip to: Index for , Meet at No trips scheduled for December

Headed up by: Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com or (509) 670-0630

Social / Crafting Gathering Dates (Could change as needed)

This is a great opportunity to get together with friends and work on a project. There is no charge for these gatherings. Class times for all dates are from 1 until 4 PM.

2026 Dates

- Social Crafting Group: Jan 11th, 25th
- Social Crafting Group: Feb 1st, 15th
- Social Crafting Group: Mar 8th, 22nd

These classes will be held at Mickee Madden's workshop in Kennewick. To join the fun, call her at 509-438-5798 to sign up or for more information. Look for future classes offered by Sandra Bryant, you can also check out her selection of classes offered at The Downtown Mercantile. **Classes offered by Sandra will be in red.**

Flat Lap Cabbing Class Dates (Could change as needed)

Flat Lap Cabbing classes are going great guns. Following are the class dates Mondays thru Wednesdays, 6-8 pm and Saturdays 1-3 pm.

2026 dates

- Jan 12th, 13th, 14th, & 17th, 26th, 27th, 28th, & 31st
- Feb 7th, 9th, 10th, & 11th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, & 28th
- Mar 9th, 10th, 11th & 14th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, & 28th,

If you're interested in learning how to make cabochons please call Mickee at 509-438-5798 to sign up or for more information. For newcomers to cabbing, you are given material to get you started. I am willing to add Wednesday and Friday nights on the same weeks I do our usual weeks classes. For those new members and older members who may be interested. Will bring a sign-up sheet to October meeting for those interested

These classes are for adult club members only. No children please. Please do not bring thunder eggs, geodes or any thick material to cut. An assortment of slabs will be available. Beginners are certainly welcome!

The first visit is \$10. After that, the club charges \$2 an hour, which is to be paid at the end of each class. The fees go to replenishing the materials used for the class. (\$10 fee is an annual fee)

Information on other Field Trips that are offered by groups outside of our club

Date	Host	Site	Mineral	Meet time/Place	Tools
				No trips planned for this month.	Will watch for 2026 listings to post.

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

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

HOST CLUB CONTACT INFO

Msvl - Nique Wicks nwhoppyfrog41@gmail.com or (509) 670-0630

Pow Wow -Larry Vess vessel3755@gmail.com or (253)473-3908

Puyl Nate White (206)349-7054 nate.white77@gmail.com

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

Always have proper cloths 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 for trip host.

Try to be at the meeting site 30 minutes before trip time for details and instructions with a full tank of gas. Use code of ethics, keep our lands open to rockhounding.

For those of you who missed the opportunity to go to the Poka-Dot mine last week, you have until the end of July to visit it before they close it down. Partners have parted ways, so they are closing the mine down.

For those of you looking for a good app to identify public vs private land, owner's info, tracking your location, etc. for rockhounding, check out the following app. Can be found for both apple and android phones: **Onx hunt app**

For those of us who like the thrill of the hunt and the excitement of the find, there are rules and regulations we must follow on public lands. Yes folks, like private land, public lands to have rules and regulations, not just to protect us, but also the land so that future generations can also enjoy the same . Go to <http://armlands.org>. There you can see how the public land is divided up and who oversees each. There are links to each of these organizations and the rules and regulations that apply to each as to where, when, how, and how much or what you can or cannot collect. If special permits are needed, where and how to obtain them and whether or not you can use a metal detector. Metal detectors are not allowed is some areas. Importantly, Public land does not mean a free for all, they have rules and regulations that we must follow

General Club Meeting Minutes December 2-2025

Meeting was called to order by Dave Westland at 7:05 pm

No corrections or additions to last month's minutes – accepted as printed in the Geode

Old Business

Christmas Party

New Business

Membership

Remember that Membership dues are due in October and must be paid no later than January to remain an active member.

Membership

For you old timers in the club that aren't already a lifetime member I am hoping you can help me. If you have been a member of the club for at least 15 years and have turned 70 years old please let me know. I am attempting to go through our membership roster to determine who qualifies this year. Rather than me pulling what little hair I have left it would be much easier if you just told me that you think you qualify. I can then check the rosters I have that go back at least 15 years. So if you want to admit that you are 70 (or if you are getting close!) let me know. The club will pay your membership dues when you become a lifetime member. Larry Hulstrom

The upcoming holidays and New year around the corner, this is the time to reflect on the year that passed and look forward to the new year coming. Times shared with our families and friends, both old and new, the memories shared and created. For its these times that make each day special. I look forward to the new year and the new friends to meet and good times to be shared, and the new adventures to be found. May we all find that special rock that makes your eyes light up and the story to be told about it's finding. Every day is special, and each day offers new opportunities, so don't waste them, put down that phone or tablet, unless of course it is your map or directions, and get out there and find that new adventure, make that new friend, and discover that treasure that is life.



Below is a letter of thank you to all of our members for all you do to make our club what it is from Patrick, but is also shared by rest of us. For it reminds us that it's the little things that count, and all them together that make a big difference. Thank you again for all that you do. Old minds can't remember all names, so if you do not see yours, it's not that we meant to leave you out, it's just that old minds can't remember all the names, and the thank you, includes you too.

When I was interviewed for the Member of the Month, I said something about how it can be difficult to get volunteers, and I'd wished more folks would step forward to help out the club. Well, I realized I was saying something without really thinking it through, and I want to make it clear that we do have a generous and supportive membership. This is a non-profit hobby club, not a service club, and I know when y'all signed up to join, you were more interested in learning more about the hobby than volunteering to sit at a table for three hours on a Thursday afternoon. But, we're all rockhounds or appreciators in one fashion or another, and I've seen it in every venue that we can't get enough rock talk. So, with that, I figured I needed to revisit my *a priori* and consider the ways members contribute to the club, which comes in many shapes and forms. It may be a one-off event during the year, or a recurring theme of service. In no particular order:

- Thank you, Larry, Angel (and son), Wayne, Marty, and Dave for a great RiverFest.
- Thank you to everyone for your help during the annual club show. I don't have names for all the volunteers, but I wouldn't be surprised to find out more than half our membership was involved in set-up, running, hosting vendors, and tear-down.
- To Jane, Wayne, Kathy, Judi, Jerry, Marc, and Mike, thank you for a great Picnic and Auction. And to everyone who brought food and supplies to complement the great spread by Mike.
- To Kathy, Judi, and Sharon, for spearheading a fun Christmas Party.
- Field trips are a major draw for the public, so thank you to Mike for taking the role of field trip liaison, and to Wayne and others for leading the Polka Dot mine trip.
- The Benton-Franklin County Fair is a major way of sharing our club - it's amazing how many folks we get every year expressing surprise that there's a rock club in the area! So thank you to the many volunteers who helped make it a success, from set-up and teardown to hosting cases, and volunteering at the booth. There were twenty-six volunteers who staffed the table during the show.
- Rockhounding is great, but many people find their real passion is working with rocks. It's amazing that we have places where folks can go and learn real lapidary skills from experienced craftspeople. Thank you to Mickee for hosting the cabbing classes and the social club, and for opening her space for outside classes like the KittyKat Wire Wrapping course. And thank you to Mike Z for teaching faceting and evangelizing the use of 3D printed machines to help introduce more people into the hobby at reasonable price points.
- The club prides itself in its programs and presentations, and that wouldn't be possible without members volunteering their time and expertise to share with the club. Thank you to Marty, Larry, Julian, and Mike for your presentations this year.
- The membership at large is kept abreast of club activities thanks to the Geode. Thank you to Vickie for editing and distributing the newsletter, and for Mark for ten years of mailing out the physical copies. And thank you Lisa for organizing the mailing list and maintaining our membership roster to make sure everyone receives their copies.

- Don and Pat Snyder need a special shout-out here for their major contributors of rock and even some equipment to the club. They provide free rock for folks to learn to work amazing material, and donate a variety of material for grab bags, the silent auction, and the club annual auction and show. They've also donated equipment like a cabbing machine and a very impressive set of fluorescent minerals and display setup, including shortwave lights, to provide a fluorescent display for our show for years to come.
- Thank you to Jane for housing door prize materials, handing out tickets and running the door prize drawings each month.
- To those who provide unique, interesting items for sale at the silent auction table each month, thank you for broadening our rockhounding and jewelry horizons.
- Thank you to Pauline for integrating the Junior Club with the REACH and revitalizing it after the pandemic shutdown. I know Chris has helped with a number of activities for the Juniors as well.
- And last, but not least, thank you to the board for the extra time they put into the club, from organizing the finances, to running the meetings, and making sure all the boxes are checked to keep things running smoothly year after year. As a group, there are too many aspects of the positions to note here, but a curious member could glance at the By-Laws to browse through the pages of documentation to see some of what each member does on a monthly basis. Thank you to my fellow members that served on the board in 2025: Dave, Sharon, Debbie, Wayne, Bert, Larry, Vickie, and Enrique.

Many apologies if your name is not listed on here and should be. Putting this in writing helps make it more evident that we have a very active membership. That's what kept the club thriving in 2025, and I have no doubts the membership will continue to do so in years to come.

-Patrick Donohue

Members of the Month

Vickie Elkins

The new year wouldn't be as bright without highlighting our hardworking Geode Editor. Vickie jumped in to learn the Geode editing basics when we abruptly lost our editor in November 2024. Mickie Madden, who is a long-time past Geode editor, assisted Vickie to set up a new email system and get the newsletter formatted and quickly delivered. Since then, Vickie has shown a

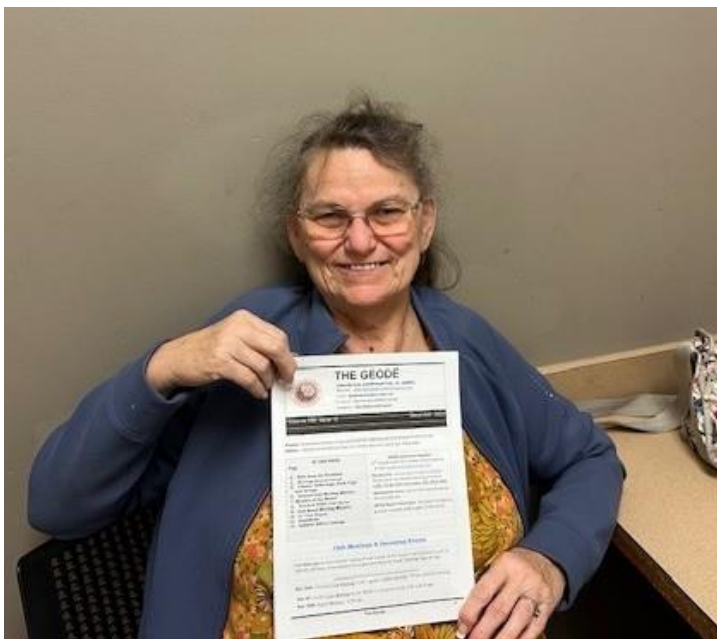
remarkable talent for increasing the Geode content to include instructions for upcoming events, guides to rockhounding in the Pacific Northwest, club field trips, classes available with class schedules, a classified section, to name a few. Recently, she has reached out to other clubs, including internationally, to share some of what we are doing and to learn what other clubs can teach us.

Vickie grew up in Centralia and attended college intermittently as time, funds, and work allowed. She married Doug in 1981, and they moved from the westside to the Tri-Cities in 1986. Here Vickie worked for a company that was a US. Dept. of Energy sub-contractor; she began as an administrative assistant and at retirement in 2016, was a subcontract administrator.

During this period, she returned to school at Columbia Basin College and graduated with a BA in Business Management and attained an AA Degree in Project Management. Vickie's husband, Doug worked in power plant security at Energy NW.

Vickie joined the club in 2023; as a kid, she remembers spending lots of time hanging out at a rock shop near the family home. She has always been drawn to creative endeavors. She draws, paints, does sewing, needlepoint, crochet and knitting. At one point she lived above a ceramics store where she was able to learn to do ceramics and lived near a couple of gals who did and taught making porcelain dolls, and was able to participate in learning to make porcelain dolls. Her personal goals include continuing to increase her gem and mineral knowledge and identifying more rocks and gems. As the Geode editor, she enjoys exploring and looking at other clubs to find areas of interest to share with fellow members. She is particularly interested in seeing some Junior members stay engaged in the club until they join the adult members group. She hopes that our juniors will consider applying to the Federation (NWMS) grant to create a video of rock identification if offered.

Vickie states she hopes that sometime in the future the club will have their own facility and that we will have more places to display our lapidary and jewelry making pieces, but also offer classes and teach lapidary skills from in addition to those currently offered that this can create a closer connection to our community. She really encourages members to attend classes, where the benefits of going include not only the learning and skills building but also the face-to-face interactions that build relationships. Thanks for all you do for the club and our members Vickie! Happy New Year!!



2025 Selected NFMS Club Shows - Schedule

The Shows listed below are a subset of the complete list of club shows provided in the Northwest Federation Newsletter. More complete and specific information can be found in the NFMS Newsletter or online at:

[The Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Society welcomes a new President, Give a big welcome to Michael Rhodes](#)

Feb 14 th & 15 th Sat 9-5 Sun 9-5	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Oak Harbor Senior Center 8851 SE Jerome St. Oak Harbor, WA	Victoria Lovett Vicorama@hotmail.com Info@maplewoodrockclub.com
Mar 21 st & 22 nd Sat 9-5 Sun 10-5	Hellsgate Mineral Society 2026 NFMS Show	Hilton Garden Inn 3720 North Reserve St Missoula, MT 59801	Neil A. Meier (406) 546-6013
April 10 th – 12 th Fri 9-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4	Mt. Hood Rock Club and Gem Show	Jackson Armory 6255 NE Comfoot Rd. Portland, OR	Robert Hanson (503) 449-3543 Shane Gerrad (971) 322-6263 Mthoodrockclub.com
April 10 th – 12 th Fri 9-6 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4	Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society	Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fairgrounds 1000 N 1200 W. Ogden, UT	Margie Miller (385) 205-9187 Goldenspikegem.org
April 25 th & 26 th Sat 10-5 Sun 105	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40 th Ave. SW West Seattle, WA	Annette Nelson show@westseattlerockclub.org westseattlerockclub.org

Club Board Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Dave, Sharon, Patrick, Wayne, Larry, Debbie, Pauline, Lisa, and Vickie

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's report: Solvent –Pushed back annual audit until December.

Membership – 199 Members – Reminder for those who have not yet paid your annual dues, all those who have not paid after the first of the year, will be dropped from the mailing list. If you are in need additional time, please contact Lisa Noland before January.

Old Business

Looking for feedback on the Christmas party, what you liked or didn't like, and what you would like to add.

We raised \$246.00 in donations at the party. They were provided to the local food bank where there was much need

January – Rock Bingo, February – Presentation by Rhea Bowerly, our 2025 Retreat winner.

Pauline is helping with setting up the members survey to be completed on line, watch for in February. Information and link will be provided prior to.

We will be needing to the secretaries position, as Enrique has been unable to continue in. If you know of a member that you feel would be a good fit, please contact one of the board members.

Update Inventory of Club equipment and Materials, etc. Will be done in December

We will be moving forward with having new banner made to identify the demo and silent auction area at the show.

NEW Business

With the resignation of Board Director Bert Kae Je', we will need to nominate and vote for a replacement. We would like to thank Bert for her time and dedication to the club and board.

We will issue certificates and take a picture of the winners of this years, yearend projects.

Look for new application for 2026 NW Rockhound Retreat Scholarship on the clubs website in near future and on the back table at the next meeting.

Clubs 2026 Annual Show – Larry has informed us that Steve Shoemaker will not be participating in next years show, and that he will be looking to find a new vendor to fill that spot.

Those of you who did not get the info and link for the NFMS Endowment Fund Leadership survey emailed to you, will get it in your Geode mailed to you. Please complete, put your name on and give to one of the board members to input for you.

Jr. Club Report – December 9th 2025

We had a great time at the Juniors holiday party in December. We had pizza and treats, one of the families created carnival games with prizes, and everyone went home with a goodie bag and door prize. Two of the members were awarded badges for their educational work: both Juni and Ahziah earned a badge for Gemstone Lore & Legend and Showmanship. Both of these juniors have created displays at the club show as well as in the display case at the REACH Museum in the past few years. They will help with an upcoming program about how to create a display case.



At the January 13 meeting (6:30 pm at the REACH Museum) it's back to basics with a program on mineral identification. Juniors will practice analyzing minerals on color, luster, streak, and hardness, and another month will learn about crystal structure, fracture, and other identifying characteristics.

Classifieds

Mike Zinski's Workshop is available for any and all lapidary arts. Contact Mike at: gemmakermz@gmail.com or at 509-783-9337. (The email address for Mike is new, old one no longer good)

Tumbling Grit is available to Club members through Mickee Madden and is sold in 2 pound bags only. Please have exact change at pick-up. Club members can contact Mickee at 509-438-5798.

- 60/80 grit \$5.25
- 220 grit \$6.55
- 600 grit \$8.00
- Cerium oxide polish powder \$18.30

NOTE: For every ten pounds of tumbled rock you donate to the club, you receive a 2-pound bag of 80/90 grit or 220 grit. Please, no river rock. Thank you.

Saw Oil is once again available to Club members. Cost is \$15 per gallon (bring your own container). Contact James McLean via Text at 509-989-1087 to schedule an appointment for pick-up on Wednesdays and weekends only. A limited number of small containers will be available for transfer at the General Club meetings

WANTED: inexpensive slabs for sale. They can be seconds, any size or material, cast offs, pieces that didn't turn out as expected, unpolished, etc. I want to use them for rock wrapping, so mostly I am looking for a goodly quantity of them at a reasonable price. Are there members of your group who would have such things available, even if they aren't normally what they might sell? Contact: Peggy Hamilton (509-521-0199) or hamgarn@gmail.com

Reminder: Club Membership forms are available online at:

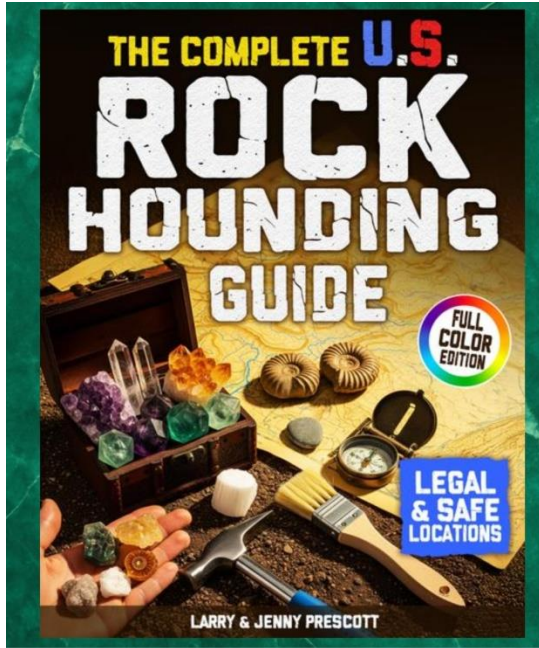
<https://www.lakesidegemandmineralclub.com/officers---new-members-info.html>

New American Federation of Mineralogical societies Website.

The AFMS has updated its website. It has a new look and is very usable. Check it out at: <https://www.amfed.org/>.

- ***You might be a rockhound if*** . . . You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.

Members, If you have any equipment to other items related to club interest, submit to have included with monthly newsletter. Great way to advertise to those looking and getting your item, or items sold.



This is a book that I was given an opportunity to review. It consists of 150 pages of useful information. That is beneficial whether you are just new to the hobby, as well as those who have been doing it for a while. Everything from a little history, to how to identify, not just the material, but the type of area you are apt to find what you are looking for. It identifies tools, and their use. Breakdowns on identifying many of the rocks with color pictures of what they would look like in the wild. And lastly it lists different locations to find different rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils by state. You can find it on Amazon in both hardback and paperback or digital. A good one for your library.

Like to tumble rocks? Like to compare yours to others? Then this contest might just be for you. The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society holds a tumbling contest yearly. It costs \$39.00 to enter. They provide the material, so all the entrants are entering the same material. Interested? **Go to**

featherriverrocks.org/rock-tumbling-contest for link to application, and contest rules, cut off date, is June 1, 2026 and they will start shipping material as early as January 1, 2026 for those whom they have received of application and payment. You are shipped 3lbs of tumbling material. And you have until August 15, 2026 to submit your best pieces for judging. This year's material is going to be something called Camel Jasper, you can look it up on the internet to find pictures of what it looks like. It appears to come in different colors. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes, and it looks like you get a trophy too. See pictures of the camel jasper and it looks pretty cool. They also list a site and webpage where you can find all sorts of information on rock tumbling of every kind and for different types from rolling to vibrating. The web address is <http://rocktumbler.com>. You can find all sorts of information from the different types of grit to use on different rocks, what works best for different rocks. To information on the different types of tumblers, (rotary vs vibrating) and which ones work best for different stones. This is a world-wide held contest, so you will be going up against contestants from around the world. So a win in any level is no small thing.

Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers Email: lakesidegemandmineral@yahoo.com

President	Dave Westland	Director(^x)	Wayne Larson
Vice-President	Sharon Louise	Director(^y)	Vacant
Secretary	Debbie Muller	Federation Rep.	Larry Hulstrom
Treasurer	Debbie Muller	Junior Club Leader	Pauline Schafer
Past President	Patrick Donohue	Bulletin Editor	Vickie Elkins
Program Director	Vacant	Librarian	Denise Williams
Membership	Lisa Noland	Webmaster	John Wenskovitch
Sunshine	Vacant	Historian	Mickee Madden

By-Laws specify two year elected terms for Board Members, beginning in November. President, Vice-President and

One Director begin terms in even(^y) numbered years. Secretary, Treasurer, and a Second Director begin terms in odd(^x) numbered years. The Federation Representative, Junior Club Leader, Bulletin Editor and Committee Chairs are Board- approved volunteers. By-laws can be found at: www.lakesidegemandmineral.com.

Rockhound Legislative Advocate

When notified by the AFMS, the NFMS, ALAA or club members about legislative issues that will affect rockhounding activities, we will forward that information to club members via email lists.



Club Affiliations:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS)
American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

<http://www.amfed.org>
<http://www.amfed.org/nfms>
<http://www.amlands.org>



Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club is a proud member of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau.

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Volume 199 Issue 01

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