

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

NOC NEWS

Vol, 25 No. 8

October 2006

President's Message

*by Loretta Ogden
1st VP*

Hello Everyone!

You may have heard by now that Nancy's Mother passed away Saturday September 24, 2006. We will all keep her in our thoughts and prayers during her time of sorrow.

The workshops are going well. The nominating committee has met. We are ready for the Childrens Museum Day. What else could there possibly be? Oh lets not ask but know that whatever it is we will handle it and our friends and fellow members will be there with us. We have a great club and I am proud and grateful to be part of this group. It has been so gratifying to see new members learning and enjoying the same things the old timers do. This is stimulating the club and helping it to grow even more. Tell your friends and anyone else you may run into about NOCGMS.

We can use more help for the museum day due to physical and monetary limitations. We are doing a unit on dinosaurs but wether or not you know or are interested in this subject does not matter. We need people to lead and direct the children. If you think you may like to help on Saturday October 7 please call Don Eschbach.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on October 7th & 10th

Refreshments

Jay and Kathy Valle will bring the goodies for the October meeting. Thanks to Don and Ofelia Warthen for bringing the goodies to the September meeting.

NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — Oct. 10, 6:00 p.m.
Field Trip — Oct., Whittier Club's Onyx Claim
Nov., Opal Mountains
Dates to be announced.
Deadline for NOC News — Oct. 17.
Jade Cruise — Jan. 19-22, 2007

September Meeting

Date: October 10
Time: 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Main Meeting
Place: La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Program: Rock Cartoon - Midnight Ride Down the
Rock Botton Road
Staring: Adam, RockO, and Bones
Virginia and Susan will bring rocks seen
in the Cartoon.
Sedimentary Rocks
Metamorphic Rocks
Intrusive Igneous Rocks

Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in October.

*Susan Hansen
Jennifer Hanson
Yolanda Schirer
Ofelia Warthen*

Your gemstone is Opal or Tourmaline.
Your flower is Calendula or Cosmos

Shows and Events

October 14 2006, West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
Eighth Annual Gem & Mineral Show
22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10 - 5
Virginia Rotramel (818) 790-7598
Email show@rockchippers.org

October 14-15 2006, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
"Gem-O-Rama"
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
Email jbfairchild@verizon.net

October 21-22 2006, Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Jay Valle (626) 934-9764
Email res19pnb@verizon.net

November 4-5 2006, Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
"Rock n Gem Roundup"
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Avenue H
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Susan Walblom (661) 943-1861
Rodney Shillings (661) 400-5198
Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com
Website: pgmc@antelecom.net

November 11-12 2006, Anaheim, CA

American Opal Society
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort
616 Convention Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Website: opalsociety.org
Jim Lambert (714) 891-7171
Email: jlamb777@yahoo.com

November 18-19 2006, Victorville, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 7th Street
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
Jo Ann McPurdy (760) 217-2628
Website: www.gbeal5084@aol.com

November 25-26 2006, Barstow, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Barstow Community Center
841 Barstow Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Gene Haines (760) 256-0595

June 15-17 2007, Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
Hours: 9-5 Daily
Email: pgmc@antelecom.net

1957 2007

PALMDALE GEM and MINERAL CLUB CELEBRATES
50 YEARS OF ROCK & GEMS
HOSTS of THE
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
TRI STATE CONVENTION
JUNE 15, 16, 17, 2007

PALMDALE GEM and MINERAL CLUB
50
YEARS
OF
ROCK N' GEMS
WE ROCK!!

ANTELOPE VALLEY
FAIR GROUNDS
Lancaster, California
HWY 14 EXIT AVE. H
09:00 am to 5:00 pm Daily

30,000 Sq Ft of Dealers – 20,000 Sq Ft of Displays and Demonstrations

SHOW ADMISSION \$5.00 per day or Advanced Sale 3 day pass for \$10.00
Fair Grounds Parking \$3.00 per day

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
P.O. box 900279
Palmdale, CA 93590
pgmc@antelecom.net
(661) 916-9479

- Field Trips / Seminars / Displays / Dealers
- Classic Car Show and RV Displays
- Lapidary Art Demonstrations
- 50 years of Lapidary Equipment Displays
- Metal Detecting and Gold Prospecting Displays.



Comments from a Newby

by Richard and Yolanda Schirer

My wife and I joined the North Orange County Mineralogy Society in July, 2006 and have found the experience to be both interesting and enlightening.

Being new to the field, left us with no materials to work with and we started with the cabochon workshop at Loretta Ogden's home that is held on each Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 PM, unless there is a meeting or other workshop scheduled. Loretta and Don have been very gracious in donating stones with which one can make cabochons from, as this is the first step in jewelry making. In their garage, they have a variety of tools that one can use to make lovely stones that one can then mount or wire wrap. Most importantly, Loretta is most generous and patient with training novices and after a few sessions, I became competent at cabochon making.

Using the cabochons from the initial workshop provides the stones to be used in the Wire wrapping Classes. Don Eschbach is a highly trained specialist and spearheads the wire wrapping classes. Not only does he provide excellent guidance, in the various workshops, training is given into wrapping different styles of stones.

The end result is some very lovely jewelry, for a minimal cost. Both Don's (Eschbach and Warthen) walk around among the students at the workshops and provide one-on-one assistance as needed.

The end result is that my wife and I now have some very nice jewelry and more importantly, the satisfaction of making the items ourselves. Thus, I highly recommend that each member participate in as many workshops as possible.

Field trips are of interest to me also and I plan to preview sites with Jay Valle and Don Ogden, so that perhaps we can get a field trip set up for each month. Any ideas and/or suggestions are welcomed. Thank you.

Wire Wrap Classes

by Don Eschbach

Wire Wrap Class, Tuesday October 24 at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the La Habra Community Center.

This class will be open to wire wrap your own Stone or do a class project to be announced. If you don't have a stone, let me know and I will provide you with one. Please call me at (562) 943-8736 if you are planning to attend.

Cabochon Classes

by Loretta Ogden

Cabochon workshop at the Ogden's home is held on each Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m., unless there is a meeting or other workshop scheduled.

Please call Loretta at (909) 598-2456 if you are planning to attend.

Field Trips

by Don Eschbach and Jay Valle

In October we will have a field trip to the Whittier Club's Onyx Claim, (East of Barstow), for Onyx, Agate, Jasper, and Palm specimens. (Date to be announced.)

November's field trip takes us to Opal Mountain, (West of Barstow), for various colors of opal specimens and agate. (Date to be announced.)

Lapidary Equip for Sale

18 " Slab Saw - Highland Park

New Saw blade in box

10" - 8" - 6" Saws

Grinders Polisher, etc.

Joe Ishida 562 914-8330

Call for Prices

NOC Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2006

by Pat Felix, Secretary

Nancy Bird, President, opened the board meeting at 6:10 p.m., with other board members Don and Ofelia Warthen, Don and Kathy Eschbach, Floyd Allen, and Pat Felix present.

The first item brought up for discussion was that the word “workshop” has been used to mean both the Tuesday night open shop at the Ogden’s house and the classes being offered at the La Habra Community Center. The schedule for each will be put in the newsletter. The open shop nights at the Ogden’s are from 6-9 every Tuesday night except for the second Tuesday of the month, when the general membership meeting is held. The classes on wirewrapping, to be held at the LaHabra Community Center from 7-9 p.m. are scheduled for September 26th and October 24th. Don Eschbach will make up two flyers on these classes, and at least one will be put in the LaHabra Community Center lobby. It was agreed that if anyone wants to attend the wirewrap classes, they should call Don Eschbach so he knows how much to have available in the way of supplies, and if anyone plans to go to the Ogden’s on a Tuesday night, they should call Loretta ahead of time to let her know. It was also noted that the wirewrap classes will be open to the public, and that we cannot charge a different price for members than we do for non-members. (The only cost for the classes will be for materials, which will be supplied by the club.)

Don Warthen said the club had received a letter from assemblywoman Mimi Walters in Laguna Beach advertising a workshop on writing grant applications, to be held at the Irvine Marriott from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday, 9/29/06. The invitation has been extended to 100 nonprofit organizations and will be limited to 200 participants, one per organization. Don Warthen has registered himself and put Ofelia’s name on a waiting list, if there is space. He felt this could be very helpful to the club if applying for grants for upcoming projects, such as a lapidary museum for La Habra.

On September 29th, there will also be a field trip in conjunction with the Whittier club to the Owens Valley about three miles south of Lone Pine to look for ammonites, beryl, etc.

The Delvers show is next week in Downey.

NOC General Meeting Minutes September 12, 2006

by Pat Felix, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with ___ members present. The program centered around a sharing of summer accomplishments by members.

Two couples, the Eschbachs and Warthens, brought what they had made at Camp Paradise. This was the first time there for the Eschbachs, and Kathy explained how she was not planning to go, as she had never done anything “craftsy” in her life, but Don persuaded her to come along just to keep him company, and she ended up learning to facet, wirewrap, and make glass beads! She displayed a sparkling faceted clear CZ, which they will set. She was wearing a stunning opal ring which she had wirewrapped in gold-filled wire. (Don had cut and polished the opal.) And she displayed a very pretty pair of wire-wrapped earrings suspending little pearls, that she had made. She was wearing a pair of gold wire-wrapped earrings with small dark blue stones that Don had made. Don Eschbach was wearing a striking black jade ring set in silver, which he had cast at the camp by the lost wax method. Don Warthen had two tourmalines that he had faceted in step cuts. He also showed everyone something new called straw casting, using broomstraws, which yielded a very striking silver piece that will become a bola. Ofelia showed two carved pieces, one very smooth and beautiful soapstone bear, and a larger serpentine “wave-like” piece which she said was very hard stone!

Camp Paradise was described as a CFMS-sponsored retreat for rockhounds (about 70 are accepted) to learn different skills. It is located in northern California near Clipper Mills, which is about two hours from Yuba City, in the Las Plumas National Forest. There are “couples” cabins and “dormitory-type” rooms for singles (for the swingers, someone said!). The food is purportedly excellent. The cost for room and board Sunday through Saturday is \$250 person (going up to \$300 next year.) Class instruction is free except for materials. There was also a gold-panning field trip.

The other CFMS-sponsored rockhound retreat at Zzyzx in the Spring was also described because registration for that will open up in November on the CFMS website and newsletter. There are two

separate weeks for this event, but registration fills up within the first month, so if anyone is interested in applying, they can ask Don or Loretta Ogden to let them know when registration opens up.

Bob Cordero displayed three pendants with remarkable silver work.

David Miller wore gorgeous cufflinks he had made from jasp-agate cabochons he had cut and polished at the Ogden's Tuesday evening instructional workshops. Richard Schirer, who just joined the club in July, said the instruction he received at the workshops was excellent, and he has learned a great deal. Nancy Bird has cut and polished stones for the first time in her life at the Ogden's open workshops. Loretta herself showed several necklaces she had made this summer. And new member Melody Hansen was wearing a pendant she had wirewrapped herself in one of Don Eschbach's classes. Kathy Valle showed a woven-wire bracelet with entwined stones, made from jump rings that Jay had made. All of these accomplishments are an inspiration and motivation for all members.

The Autonetics Gem and Mineral Club offered a sphere-making machine to the NOC for the workshop at Ogden's, and it was greeted with enthusiasm. It will probably be delivered by the end of the year.

Regarding the Pearl Seminar this summer, the general consensus was that it was a good time, but there were either too many people or more teachers were needed. One suggestion was to do it in a two-day presentation, with the second day being for instruction only. It was also announced that someone left a woman's size 8 black blazer on a chair at the seminar. Nancy Bird has it, so call her if you know who it belongs to.

Don Ogden said he will put the Tuesday night open-shop schedule in the bulletin, along with directions to their house.

Don Eschbach announced the wire wrap class to be held from 7-9 p.m. on September 26th at the La Habra Community Center. He will bring 21-gauge gold-filled wire which can be purchased for about \$5-\$6. He will also bring odd-shaped stones for wrapping. Please call Don Eschbach if you want to attend the class. There will be more information on the 10/24 class later. He said they came across a lot of new ideas at Camp Paradise.

There will be a field trip to the Owens Valley the weekend of 9/29-10/1 with the Whittier Club. They will be visiting the Cerro Gordo ghost town (mineral collecting is not allowed in that area). They will be

looking for ammonites at Union Wash. Motels are three miles away in Lone Pine. Call Jay Valle for details.

The club has volunteered to teach children about fossils on Saturday, 10/7/06, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the La Habra Children's Museum. Bill and Izzy Burns, Floyd Allen, Ginny Grafton, and Loretta and Don Ogden have volunteered to be there for that.

The Treasurer's report was given for the months of June, July, and August, 2006.

Show Chairman's Report: Don Warthen will be "it" for 2007. The first show meeting may be around the first of October, 2006. Anyone with ideas for next year should come.

Federation Report: Loretta has the Podium People book for next year's programs. She will give it to Ofelia. She will also give to Ofelia for the club library the CFMS Society roster, which has information on all the clubs in California.

The AFMS newsletter carried an article about Don Ogden and his most important contributions to the NOC club and to the AFMS. Nancy Bird nominated him.

The nominating committee for 2007 officers will consist of Loretta Ogden, Ofelia Warthen, Kathy Eschbach, Don Eschbach, and Richard Schirer. At the October general membership meeting, the committee will report the nominations for President, first Vice President (Programs), and two directors. These will be voted on the November general membership meeting. The November meeting will also be the auction, silent and regular.

Everyone was informed about the Fallbrook club's show on Sunday, 10/1. Reportedly, half of their members are dealers and they have wonderful prizes.

Everyone was reminded to donate items to our raffle person, Loretta Ogden, to be raffled off at meetings.

On October 26-29, there will be a rockhound tailgate near Temecula; see LARocks.com for information.

At the Christmas dinner in December, Gaetano's restaurant will cater the meal. New Officers will be installed. Everyone is asked to bring canned food and unwrapped gifts for kids.

One last notice for members: the Calendar of Fine Agates and Jaspers for 2007 is available for \$11.95 + \$2.00 S/H by contacting www.thegemshop.com or The Gem Shop, Inc., W64 N723 Washington Ave., Cedarsburg, WI 53012.

A Magic Rock Club

*From Napa Gems, 1978 (month not known),
via Amador Nugget 1/98.
via CFMS Newsletter 9/06*

“The following article was written in 1978 by Joe Meade as a President’s Message for the Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club. It is just as fresh and current today as it was then. Perhaps it will give you something to remember when you are asked to do a job or help out at a club function...or, do you believe that you, too, belong to AMAGIC ROCK CLUB?”

Once upon a time, in a beautiful valley, there was a magic rock club, or at least many of its members thought it was. Why did they think so? Because many strange and wondrous things happened in their club. After all, they only had to bring themselves to the club meeting once a month, and they found at the beautiful meeting hall their chairs all lined up neatly for them, the place ablaze with light, the big coffee pot perking away, the cookies and many other delicious “goodies” all set out and ready for them. The microphones were all hooked up and buzzing quietly, and the President, Secretary and Treasurer’s tables all set up. It was indeed wondrous. The members need only to sit down, and soon they were told all the bills had been paid, correspondence answered, and problems solved. They were brought up to date on what was happening, not only in their area but something called “The Federation” always took care of defending their favorite collecting areas. They didn’t know much about this “Federation”, but they did know somebody in their club always looked out for their interests and they were content.

This indeed was a wondrous club as there was hardly ever anything to argue about during the short pesky thing they called the “business meeting”. Somehow the problem, whatever it might be, was solved whether they paid attention to what was happening or not. After all, if they all said “Aye” to whatever motion was being made, and they all always did, they could gripe about it later when they really found out what they had voted on.

(A Magic Rock Club Continued)

Anyhow, they were anxious to get on to the rest of the meeting that they liked so well, like the passing out of beautiful and wondrous pieces of gemstone or finished jewelry as door prizes. Though many had been members for years, they were not sure exactly where these prizes came from, but it was probably more magic since they always appeared.

But that was not all, as some liked the “committee reports” because some of them were really interesting. They could find out about a forthcoming field trip; find out how much money their club had in the bank; find out what the next program would be; about the latest news on their big annual show; and many other interesting thing. During the parts they were not interested in they could always talk to their neighbor, but if anyone talked during the part that they were interested in, they could always shush them.

But the best part was when they could have all the goodies and crunches and hot tea or coffee that was ready for them. Then they could visit with their friends and enjoy the program that was always something interesting. There were film, there were slide, there were knowledgeable speakers, there were bingo games for gemstones, there were “silent auctions” where slabs of gemstone from the four corners of the world could be had for a few pennies, and there were picnics and pot-lucks. Many were only vaguely aware of how these things came about, but after all, wasn’t it a magic rock club?

Ah, it was indeed a fortunate thing to be a member of this club many members felt. The telephone would ring, and they would be told of anything of interest to them regarding the club. They all knew that if a member was ill, flowers, cards and messages from their club would appear to express their concern for them. If they wanted to go on a field trip, and many did, the location was already surveyed for them, and they knew what gems they might find, how to find them, what they looked like, whether they could park, what to bring and everything they needed to know.

(A Magic Rock Club Continued)

Not only did many members feel lucky to be a part of a magic rock club, but they were also proud! After all, didn't they often see their club mentioned in the newspaper, hear it discussed on the radio, and wasn't it always a feature of the Fair? People would come from far and near to ooh and aah at the beautiful gems in the cases with their club's name on them. Many never even bothered to go see for themselves, as they knew that the cases would always appear at the appointed time. The building would be available; the kitchen would be clean, the electric wiring would like up and test itself; the big heavy tables would march into place; and a 1001 other things would somehow happen whether they were there or not.

But that was not all! Every month a newsletter would suddenly appear in their mailbox. This was really a wondrous thing. Many were amazed at how the news, articles of interest, and other things would assemble themselves, type themselves, run themselves through reproduction, staple, address, stamp and mail themselves too! The members knew that if they had not paid attention or even come to the last meeting, everything that happened would be in their club paper. However, there was one long standing mystery in this magic rock club that had never been solved by any President or Chairman.. This was the strange thing that happened every time the word volunteer was mentioned! Practically the whole membership would suddenly find something immensely interesting on either the floor or the ceiling and commence to gaze intently at them for long periods of time. However, there were always certain members who knew there was really nothing there to see, just as they had learned the truth about Santa Clause long ago, so one of them would say "I volunteer" and immediately the other members lost interest in whatever had intrigued them about the floor or ceiling.

If you really want to know the real secret of this magic rock club, you can find the name of nearly all the magicians listed on the inside of the cover of your magic (substitute your club name) newsletter. Of course all are not listed there, because many of them have quietly and unheralded "made things happen"

Nominate Your Officers (Magicians) for 2006

by the Nominating Committee

Loretta Ogden - Chair
Don Eschbach
Kathy Eschback
Ofelia Warthen
Richard Schirer

The Nomination Committee officers nominations for 2006 are:

President - Don Eschbach
1st VP - Nancy Bird
2nd VP - Kathy Eschbach
Treasurer - Don Warthen*
Secretary - Jay Valle
Director - Ofelia Warthen*
Director - Don Ogden
Director - Bill Burns*
Director - Izzie Burns
Director - Frank Winn*
Director - Richard Schirer
Federation Director- Loretta Ogden*
* identifies office as mid term

There will be nominations from the floor at the November business meeting.

Voting shall be by secret ballot at the November business meeting.

Each of the above nominations is for a two-year term.

In November of 2006, we will need to nominate a President, Treasurer, and 3 Directors.



Field Trip to Owens Valley

By Don Eschbach

The September 29 - October 1 Field Trip to Owens Valley was a joint Field Trip with the Pasadena Club (PLS), the Whittier Club, and the NOC and lead by Dave Kelty with the PLS.

NOC members in attendance were Jay Valle, and Don & Kathy Eschbach. Saturday morning, we left for the Owens Valley Visitor's Center to meet up with other club members that were attending in the field trip. Next, we were off to Cerro Gordo, (located at 8,700 elevation), which is a Ghost town that is being refurbished to bring it back to it's original state as much as possible. We found out that the mine's there were the largest silver producing mine's in California and they along with city leaders were largely responsible for the development of Los Angeles. The tour cost \$5.00, and was well worth it to hear about the history of the town.

After the tour, we headed for our next nearby stop to have lunch followed by looking and collecting fossils. The view was beautiful and the weather was great with blue skies and moderate temperatures. We had a great potluck followed by a relaxing evening around the campfire.

On Sunday morning after a hardy breakfast, we headed out to a place called "Haystack" to search for Beryl. We had to park quite a long distance from the collecting area, so we had plenty of exercise getting there! The material was a little hard to find at first, but we all managed to come away with some samples. The color was a sort of "ski blue." When we got back to the cars, we had lunch, a brief rest, and then off to Union Wash to collect Ammonites. We all found a few samples of Ammonites which were black in color. Kathy and I (Don Eschbach) want to thank Jay Valle for letting us ride with him and for sharing his vast knowledge of various aspects of minerals and the geology of the area.

It was a terrific Field Trip with terrific weather, beautiful scenery, and wonderful company.

Show Report

By Don Warthen, Show Chairman

With a lot of help, we had a great show this year. I can't list all the people that pitched in and did more than their share of work. I get compliments from all aspects of the community on the great shows we have. "The best in southern California" and I want to thank everyone who showed up.

I know it seems early to start working on next years show, but we need to start planning again. I would like to know what you think or what you want to see in the show next year.

We will have our first show meeting on Thursday October 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the La Habra Community Center. Everyone is welcome and please bring your ideas. We want to make this show even better than before.

Black Light

*from The Agatizer via "Exchange Bulletin Gems", 10/83
CFMS Bulletin Editors' Workshop*

If you look directly at a black-light lamp it could cause eye damage. So says an eye specialist. The ultraviolet rays from black light are greater than those from the sun and caution is urged.

Fall Business Meeting

By Loretta Ogden

The CFMS annual Fall business meeting and election of officers will be held November 10-12, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park, off Hwy 198 on W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA.

Room reservations at the Holiday Inn may be made by phone at (559) 651-5000. To receive the special rate of \$72 per night, you must tell them you are with CFMS. Cutoff date for the rate is 10/28/06. Add 10% room tax.

For more information, call Loretta at (909) 598-2456 if you are planning to attend.

NOC Wire Wrap Class

By Don Eschbach

The first NOC Wire Wrap Class was given on July 25, 2006 at the La Habra community Center.

Don Eschbach was the principal teacher with the help of *Jay Valle*, and *Don Warthen*.

The students were: *Yolanda Schirer*, *Richard Schirer*, *Randi Hetrick*, *Melody Hanson*, *Marilyn Kline*, *Ofelia Warthen*, and *Loretta Ogden*.



La Habra Day Camp

July 24, 2006

By Don Ogden

Geology at the La Habra Day Camp at the La Habra Veterans Center was hosted by the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society. Principal teachers were: Don & Kathy Eschbach, Bill & Izzie Burns, Don & Ofelia Warthen, Don & Loretta Ogden, and Nancy Bird President. The children learned how to make cabochons (precious stone cut in a convex shape), and created jewelry with them. They also had an introduction in Geology.



ORTHO CERAS

FOSSIL PINE CONE

SHARK TEETH

PETOSKY (CORAL)

Show Report!

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Again, Thank you, Don Warthen, Show Chairman

Mojave Rockhounding

By John Martin, PLAC South

California's geological forces have created one of the widest varieties of rocks and minerals found in any state. This rock and mineral wealth has long been recognized by rockhounds, even before the gold rush days.

Early rockhounds were prospectors looking for valuable minerals and gemstones for commercial purposes. Eventually, however, more people were drawn to rockhounding for recreational purposes, mainly for the beauty that rocks and minerals provide. By the 1930s, interest in rockhounding increased significantly and it was during this period that rockhounding groups were formed and collecting areas in the desert were publicized.

With increased popularity of rockhounding, some rockhounds regarded certain areas as their own and feared that other collectors would deplete their rocks and minerals. This led to substantial amounts of material being removed and an increase in mining claims. By the 1960s, the government saw a need to regulate the collection of rocks and minerals on public lands.

Visitors to the Mojave Desert often ask where they can rockhound. Perhaps the best source of information is rock, gem, and mineral groups found in communities throughout southern California. Libraries, bookstores, and "gem and mineral shows" are also very good sources of published information. Although any hill, mountain, or wash can provide some wonderful rock and mineral discoveries, the following listed areas [be patient, they're at the end of the article—ed.] are some of the well-known sites visited by rockhounds in which good samples can still be found.

Many rockhounding sites require hiking or driving to remote areas on sandy or rocky roads where there is a possibility of getting stuck. It is always a good idea to travel in a group and to bring plenty of drinking water with you when traveling in the desert. If you must travel alone, be sure to let someone know of your plans. Remember to stay on designated open roads. Cross country travel is illegal, as is driving in designated Wildernes Areas.

Rules and Regulations: Part 8365 of Title 43 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) provide for the collecting of "reasonable quantities" of rocks,

minerals, semiprecious gemstones, and invertebrate and plant fossils of non-scientific importance, for personal use. With respect to rockhound material, the Field Office considers a "reasonable quantity" to be not more than can be carried in a daypack. Regulations do not allow collecting on "developed recreation sites and areas", or where otherwise prohibited or posted. Care should be exercised not to collect minerals on mining claims. Most claimants will allow rockhounding if the individual interested in rock collecting first asks permission. Remember, it is your responsibility to determine if an area is open to collection or if you are on private land.

Petrified Wood: The collection of petrified wood on public lands is governed by regulations found in Part 3622 of Title 43 CFR. Persons may collect petrified wood for non-commercial purposes without charge, from public lands. There is a limit of 25 pounds per person per day, plus one piece (to avoid breaking a large piece) to a maximum of 250 pounds per year.

Vertebrate Fossils: The collection of vertebrate fossils is illegal on public lands without a paleontological permit. Violators will be prosecuted under the "theft of government property" provision of 18 USC (United States Code), Section 641, and may face a minimum fine of \$1,000 and a year in jail, and up to \$10,000 and 10 years in jail. Permits to paleontologists are available from BLM State Offices.

Prehistoric Artifacts: Virtually all sources of colored silica (agate, chalcedony, jasper, obsidian, etc.) have been historically used by Native Americans in the building of weapons and other tools. The collection of any artifacts, including projectile points, ovate bifaces, cores, flakes, and all other material worked by prehistoric cultures and now found on public lands, is prohibited by the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, without an archaeological permit; such permits may be obtained from BLM State Offices.

Rock for Decorative Purposes: With respect to the collecting of decorative veneer stone, the Barstow Field Office considers a "reasonable quantity" to be not more than can be carried in the trunk of a car.

Mining Claims: The requirements for location of mining claims on public lands for commercial mineral development is contained in various Federal Regulations.

The information is also available in an easily readable publication entitled "Discovery, Location, Recordation, and Assessment Work for Mining Claims in California." This publication can be purchased at any BLM office. BLM field offices maintain a record of location for active and abandoned mining claims in the LR-2000 computer system.

Maps: Desert Access Guide Maps showing the distribution of public and private lands are available for sale at any BLM office:

California Desert District Office, 22835

Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno
Valley, CA 92553. (951) 697-5200

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Rd.,
Barstow, CA 92311. (760) 252-6000

Needles Field Office, 101 W. Spikes Rd.,
Needles, CA 92363. (760) 326-7000

Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond
Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555.
(760) 384-5400

Palm Springs South Coast Field Office,
690 W. Garnet Ave., N. Palm Springs,
CA 92258. (760) 251-4800

El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th, El
Centro, CA 92243. (760) 337-4400

If you would like additional reading material on rockhounding, please visit the California Welcome Center, Tanger Way, Barstow, CA 92311. Tel: (760) 253-4813.

Rockhounding Locations in the Mojave:

Opal Mountain, Black Mountain - 5 mi. N of
Fossil Bed Road via dirt road. Jasper,
nodules, opal.

Mule Canyon - 3 mi. N of Yermo. Agate,
borax, celestite, jasper, olivine, petrified
wood, satin spar, silver, travertine.

Alvord Mine - 7 mi. N of Manix via dirt road.
Agate, calcite, chalcedony, jasper, pyrite.

Pisgah Crater - 1 mi. S of 1-40 off of Historic
Route 66. Lava, volcanic bombs.

Cady Mountains - 6 mi. N of Pisgah via dirt
road. Agate, chalcedony, geodes, jasper.

Afton Canyon - 1 mi. SE of Afton off-ramp via
dirt road. Agate, calcite, chalcedony,
jasper, nodules.

Broadwell Dry Lake - 6 mi. N of Ludlow via
Crucero Road; west to hilly area. Banded
agate, moss agate, geodes, jasper, onyx.
Halloran Spring - Turquoise Mountain, N of
Halloran Springs. Azurite, turquoise.

*(from California-BLM Newsletter available at
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/barstow/rock.html>, via
CFMS Newsletter 08/06)*

Tips For Contour Polishing Petrified Wood as Related by John Dahnke

From The Pegmatite 8/04, via Rock Rollers 3/05, via Delvings 6/06, via The Rockhouser, 8/06

So you've got a rough piece of petrified wood, a nice full round. What do you do? Step one is get out all the big steps and divots as quickly as possible. Put a diamond blade on your angle grinder, a respirator over your nose and mouth, and using a fairly low angle so *you* don't cut slots into the wood, drag the diamond blade sideways over the problem areas. This is a dry operation, and sure moves a lot of material fast. To finish the shaping, use a Barranca or similar wet contour grinder with a coarse diamond wheel.

After shaping, the fresh surface may want to fracture or peel, so it's necessary to fill the fractures to hold it together. The best way to do this is to use 330 2-part epoxy thinned down with acetone. Keep adding acetone and stirring the mixture until its as clear as water the mixture should be thin and runny. Use a teaspoon to carefully drip the thinned epoxy into the wider cracks. Then use a toothpick to fill those cracks the rest of the way, and to fill in tiny cracks (this gets the cracks filled without trapping air in the bottom of them.)

After the whole piece has been treated, let it sit in the sun for several days to cure (Art Riggle puts his pieces in the oven on low temp.) Now you *are* ready to proceed with the rest of the usual wet grinding and polishing step! with the Barranca.

Black Light

*from The Agatizer via "Exchange Bulletin Gems", 10/83
CFMS Bulletin Editors' Workshop*

If you look directly at a black-light lamp it could cause eye damage. So says an eye specialist. The ultraviolet rays from black light are greater than those from the sun and caution is urged.

Untried Shop Tips

from Ted Robles in Lapidary Digest at
<http://www.lapidarydigest.com>,
via The Tektite 02/01 via The Pegmatite 9/06

Polishing chalcedony roses: My wife and I had collected a lot of small chalcedony roses at the foot of the Cady Mountains. They were wind-polished, but that was all; I thought I would try an experiment. I put them into the 1/2 gallon Lortone tumbler, with tin oxide and very little water. I let them go for two weeks, picking the thing up occasionally and shaking it to see if the stones were still moving, thinking to add water if they stopped, but they never did.

After two weeks of polishing without grinding, I took them out – my test piece looked good, so I washed them all. After drying, they were the most incredibly beautiful chalcedony roses I had ever seen! I think the old-fashioned ways are sometimes the best, and the polish without grinding is the neatest trick I ever came up with! In chalcedony roses, especially, carborundum gets into the small seams, and you can't get it out. Try the stunt – you might be amazed.

Fall Business Meeting

By Loretta Ogden

The CFMS annual Fall business meeting and election of officers will be held November 10-12, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park, off Hwy 198 on W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA.

Room reservations at the Holiday Inn may be made by phone at (559) 651-5000. To receive the special rate of \$72 per night, you must tell them you are with CFMS. Cutoff date for the rate is 10/28/06. Add 10% room tax.

For more information, call Loretta at (909) 598-2456 if you are planning to attend.