

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 30 No, 5

May 2011

## President's Message

*by Dave Swanston, President*

This year the Citrus Fair in La Habra I think was a great success. The fair which took place on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, was well attended by members of our club. I wish to thank those who participated in this community event. They are: Heather Bates, Don Eschbach, Don and Loretta Ogden, Frank Winn, Nancy Bird, Nancy and Richard O'Connor, and Fran Swanston. We had a great time and met with many community members. Many seemed interested in our events and classes, so we handed out a number of applications. This was a worthwhile event.

The final show committee meeting will be Tuesday May 3, at 7 pm. Our annual show will be the 4th and 5th of June, with our set up on Friday the 3rd. of June. We will need as many club members as possible to help set up the community center for this most important event of the year. We do hope that we can count on you for your help on Friday June 3rd., beginning at 8 A.M. We will have coffee and donuts for an eye opener. Friday night from 5 to 7 P.M. we will have an open house for our Chamber Members, City Council and other important officials. Please plan to attend and show your support. We also plan to present scholarships to several deserving young graduating students from La Habra High School and Sonora High School. The Show hours on Saturday and Sunday are from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Our General meeting for this month will be on Tuesday the 10th of May. Don has an excellent guest speaker you will not want to miss.

I hope everyone is doing much better now and all are on the mend. Hopefully, May will be a much better and healthier month for everyone.

Still need items for our Show silent auction and the Show raffle.

Please check the club roster to see if your information is complete and up to date, as Mary Ellen may be printing a new Club Roster this May to bring us up to date.

Hope to see you at our May meeting.

## NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting - TBD

Field Trip - TBD

Deadline for NOC News - May 17

Show Meeting - May 3 -7:00 p.m.

CFMS Convention & Show - May 13-15,  
Anderson CA

## Programs

*by Don Eschbach*

May 10 - Jamie Duncan — "Beads Around The World"

## Refreshments

*by Nancy O'Conner and  
Clyeda Tezak*

Thanks to Audrey and Barbary Woolfok for bringing the goodies to the April meeting. Kim Winn and Nancy Bird will bring the goodies to the May meeting.

## Members in the News

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

*Dennis Arp  
Bill Burns  
Izzie Burns  
Lucille Howe  
Jonas Ruzgy*

Your gemstone is Emerald  
Your flower is Lily of the Valley or Hawthorn

Welcome new members:  
Cohen Jann and Debi Salazar

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## Shows and Events

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### May 13-15 2011, Anderson CA

CFMS Convention & Show sponsored by  
Northern California Treasures  
Superior California Gem & Mineral Society  
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society  
Paradise Gem & Mineral Club  
Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, CA  
Near Redding, CA - Off Highway 273  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4  
Show Chairman: Steve Puderbough -  
steve@applyaline.com  
Website: [/www.superiorcal.com](http://www.superiorcal.com)

### June 4-5, 2011, La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Dave Swanston (626) 912-1531  
Email: swanni3@roadrunner.com  
Website: nocgms.com

### June 4-5 - GLENDORA, CA

Glendora Gems  
Goddard Middle School  
859 East Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
Email: [Ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell2@aol.com)

### June 3-5 - WOODLAND HILLS, CA

Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society  
Pierce College  
20800 Victory Blvd  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Gary Levitt (818) 993-3802, (cell) (818) 321-6290  
Email: [Show@Rockatomics.org](mailto:Show@Rockatomics.org)  
Website: [www.Rockatomics.org](http://www.Rockatomics.org)

### July 9-10 - CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterians Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver)  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5  
Robert Thirlaway  
Website: <http://www.CulverCityRocks.org>

### August 5-7, NIPOMO, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society  
St. Joseph's Church Recreation Hall  
298 S. Thompson Ave.  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Gloria Dana (805)929-6429  
Email: [info@onsinc.org](mailto:info@onsinc.org)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

### September 10-11 - DOWNEY, CA

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4  
Guynell Miller (562) 633-0614

### November 5-6 - LANCASTER, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Cheri George, (562) 243-8470  
Email: [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)



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## Beading Tip

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*via la rocks*

For anyone who does beading, I thought to send this tip along from thrifty tips, an online group that shares really handy tips on any and all subjects. Hope this one works.

(I can't personally vouch for its efficiency!)

Ken Jaffe

Here's today's tip...

### **Silicone Baking Sheet for Beading**

When stringing many beads together, use a silicone baking sheet. It's flexible and holds the beads in place. Using a large eyed stringing needle makes a perfect combination for fast beading without having the beads fall all over everywhere.

By Sandra from Montvale, NJ

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## Virtual Rockhounds

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*via la rocks by Jim Hunter*

I have decided to take the recent conversations on la rocks and do something about it. I have created a site just for us rockhounds that want to participate in this new rockhounding/Geo-Caching thing.

I haven't done too much with the site other than to get it going. If you are interested in this, please log on to the site and create an account for yourself and create a post letting others know about you and what you might expect from the site.

[www.VirtualRockhounds.com](http://www.VirtualRockhounds.com)

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## Would you believe it's Snow?

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*via la rocks  
by John Martin*



**ZZYX SNOW**

*They are bugs!*

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## In Memory of Charles O'Neil

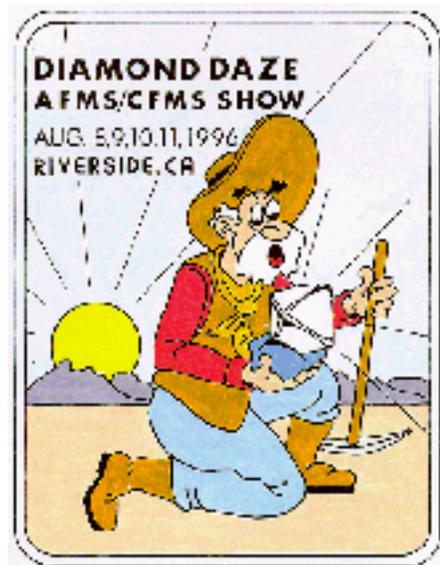
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*by Don Ogden*

Charles O'Neil passed away on the 31st of March in 2011. Charles became a member of the NOCGMS after his club the Autonetics Gem & Mineral Club disbanded.

We remember Charles and his wife Helen working with us on the 1996 Diamond Daze AFMS/CFMS show in Riverside California.

Charles made the little cart that transfers our big case. Following is a picture of Charles and his wife Helen at the Riverside show in 2000.



# April Education Report

*by Ofelia Warthen, Chair Person*

March was a busy month for two of our members, Don Eschbach and Dave Swanston. They were called to teach at Brea Country Hills Elementary School. And later in the month, again, they were called upon by Mayor Jim Gomez to do a presentation to the La Habra, Cub Scouts troop 871. So the word is getting around about our great education team performing a great earth science presentation. Our Club is proud of you!

Our April Jewelry class was successful with Don Warthen teaching a bead and wire necklace. Everyone went home with a finish product and very enthusiastic about our future class in September.

We continue to coordinate with the La Habra Scouts to get them their Geology merit badges at our Gem Show. We need volunteers.



# Cub Scout Troop 871





## Citrus Fair



# How are fossils formed?

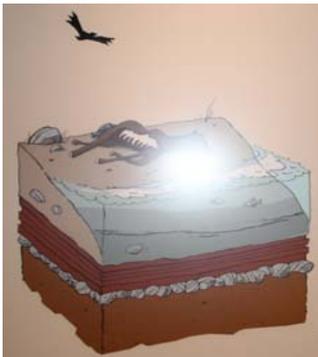
*via the walls at the  
Ray Alf Museum*

When an organism dies, most often it decays, or is eaten and destroyed. But if the remains of an animal are buried quickly before they are destroyed, fossilization can occur if the conditions in the sediment surrounding the remains are just right. Usually only the most durable parts of an animal, like teeth, bones, and shells become fossilized. Studying fossils allow us to determine which species lived when and where, what their environment was like, and what their food preferences may have been.

What parts of your body do you think would most likely be preserved by fossilization? These fossilized horse teeth were discovered near Barstow, California, which today is an arid desert. The environment today would not support the great diversity of animal life that existed there millions of years ago. We know about the variety of living creatures that once thrived there because of the fossils found in the area.

## **A horse's body lies decaying near a lake.**

Almost all fossil are preserved in sedimentary rock, which forms when layers of sediment such as clay, mud, silt, and sand are compressed and hardened over millions of years. These types of sediments are deposited in river channels, lakes, swamps, and oceans. This is one reason why most fossils are the remains of animals that lived in or near water.



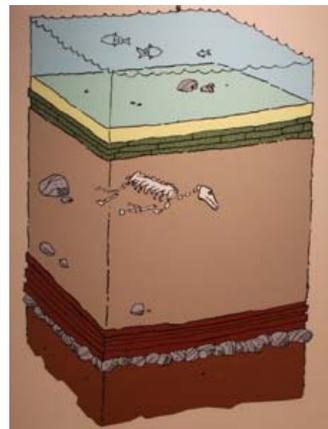
## **Wind or water deposits sand and mud covers the body of the horse.**

Only a fraction of all the animals that ever lived are preserved as fossils. This is because an animal must live in an area where sediment is accumulating rapidly so that after death its remains are buried quickly. Millions of years ago the Barstow area was a sedimentary basin that was rapidly filling with mud, sand, and gravel, so conditions for fossilization were favorable.



## **Over time, sand and mud harden into rock, and bones are fossilized.**

Using fossil evidence, we know that the types and numbers of animals that lived near Barstow were very different from those found there today. However, the true diversity of animal life may never be fully understood in this region. We can assume that many animals were not fossilized, especially those that did not live near water and thus would not be good candidates to survive as fossils.



## **Weathering and erosion exposes the bones of a fossilized horse skeleton.**

Fossils can be exposed after they have spent millions of years beneath the earth's surface. Paleontologists have collected and studied many fossils discovered in the Barstow area, including horses, camels, rhinos, proboscideans, bears, beavers, cats, rabbits, dogs, antelope, bear-dogs, deer, clams, snails, and tortoises.



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## **NOC General Meeting Minutes La Habra Community Center April 12, 2011**

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*by Nancy Bird*

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Swantson at 7 P. M. He led the salute to the Flag. Mary Ellen Ruiz was out ill so Bernie Ruiz reported 6 guests and 20 members present.

1st V. P. Don Eschbach introduced our speaker, Justin Zzyzx. Justin gave an enlightening talk with pictures on fake minerals, which was well received as always.

After the break the meeting was called back to order and we had the drawing. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Our treasurer, John Erskine, reported the bank account was sound.

The committee reports were given. Fran Swanston had a sign-up sheet for the Citrus Fair and then talked about the show. Ofilia Warthen, education, reported that there was a great response to the pearl seminar and up next will be a bead and wire necklace class.

Frank Winn talked about upcoming field trips. And for the Federation Report, Loretta Ogden had Nancy Bird describe her CFMS sponsored "Rockhound Retreat" at Zzyzx. Nancy brought stones found at a field trip and cabs she made.

Under old business membership cards and dues were discussed.

For new business, we voted in Frank Winn to fill the vacant spot on the Board of Directors.

Honorary life memberships for Roger Loest and Harry and Lucile Howe were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 P. M.

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## **Plastic Bags**

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*by Nancy Bird*

Nancy needs plastic bag to put the garden items in at the show.

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## **Library Display**

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*by Nancy Bird*

I was given the opportunity to put our display in the La Habra Library earlier this year, and used our theme of "Rocks for all Ages".

I made a "sandbox", had chalk and polished rock and the American federation Badge program for children.

For adults, I used pictures from Sunset for landscaping with rocks, some household goods like toothpaste using flourite, jewelry, and some minerals and fossils for collections.

For older adults, all I had was Phillips Milk of Magnesium and a note about body replacement parts. The head librian loved it all. Stop by to see it!

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## **Social Secretary**

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*by Nancy Bird*

What a hard start of the year for our members past and present.

Bob Cordero, who has been coming to recent meetings and bringing his silver work to show, is in hospice and hoping to go home with 24 hr. care. Some members have been to visit.

I called Barbara Steed and Chalmer is still on hospice but holding his own. They have 24 hr. care for him, also.

Kathy Eschbach has had her knee surgery and is expecting to be home after 10 days at Pres. She is in a lot of discomfort.

Kathy Valle is still recovering from pneumonia. She had a rough go with it.

And Mary Ellen Ruiz is still recovering.

And John Erskine lost a lot of weight from being ill and is still only back to work part-time.

# Searchers Show

*Photos by Don Ogden*



# Nancy's Flowers

*Photos by Don Ogden*



Getting Ready for the Show

## Barstovian Fossil Beds

Barstow, California

by Don Ogden

On Saturday March 26, 2011, Frank Winn and I went to the Ray Alf Museum of Palentology in Claremont California to see their exhibits that came from the fossil beds in Barstow.

On the way there, we also saw batmans car being towed.

Following are the pictures we took of the camels, bear-dog, and the largest flying animal ever known.

### Batman



### Camels and Horses



The most common fossil found in the Barstow Formation are horses and camels. Seen here are examples of horse (top) and camel (bottom) metatarsals and phalanges in the construction of the foot. Barstow Formation, Mojave Desert California, 15 million years old.

### Barstow Camel



A headless, articulated skeleton of a camel from the middle Miocene deposits in Barstow California.

It is the most complete specimen ever collected by the Alf Museum from Barstow.

Skeletons this complete and articulated are exceedingly rare.

The front legs are in another jacket in storage. The neck is twisted under the shoulder, with the skull having been eroded away.

### Camel



Skeleton like one above found at the fossil beds but not from there.



Jaws of a Camel that once lived in So. Cal.



### What are Bear-Dogs?

Bear-Dogs (Amphicyonids) were a family of mammalian carnivores that lived about 14 million years ago throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America. They are called bear-dogs because of their wolf-or-dog-like teeth and head shape, and their bear-like body, claws, and gait. Much like today's grizzly bears, they ate both plants and animals.

At nearly 7 feet long, with sharp, wolf-like teeth, Amphicyon would have been a fierce opponent for other creatures of its time. Bear-dogs were probably good hunters, built for short bursts of speed and power in an ambush, much like a lion.

On the trackway, the large print is a hind leg (the claws are visible here because the animal was pushing off with its hind legs in soft mud), while the smaller print is the front paw. The skeletal cast is a composite of a nearly complete bear-dog collected from Colorado in the 1930s by paleontologists from the University of California at Berkeley. This was combined with a skull, jaws, and a few limb bones from a skeleton collected in Nebraska.



### Bear-Dog



### Quetzalcoatlus



The wing length indicates that this reptile was the largest flying animal ever known.

### Frank Winn

