

NOC NEWS

**NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**

**ALLAMERICAN CLUB**

**1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992**

*A member of the*

*AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES*

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**Meetings**

**Day and Location:**

**With the exception of December,  
meetings are held at 6:45 p.m.  
the second Wednesday of the month at the  
La Habra Community Center,  
101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra.**

**The La Habra Community Center  
is located west of Euclid on La Habra Blvd.**

**For current meeting information,  
please call (714) 342-1227**

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**North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
Box 653  
La Habra, CA 90633-0653  
<http://www.nocgms.com>**



**<http://www.cfmsinc.org>**

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March 2017**

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol. 36 No, 3

March 2017

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## President's Message

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### *March Madness 2017*

Welcome to March 2017, this month means a lot of things to many different people, lol the basketball people love the craziness. College basketball is truly there amongst the top.

Then you have the people wanting their taxes done to get that sweet return back from the government, or people who want to buy that boat so they can sail down their street from all the rains lol.

Me, you ask? I am looking forward to field trips. Yes, that's right, can you imagine all the topsoil that has washed away and all those beautiful rocks that have been uncovered. And don't forget the minerals too. I am truly looking forward to some gold mining.

Richard Sprowls has a list of our fieldtrips that are coming our way so don't wait to the last moment to sign up for one of our trips coming up. He can be contacted at RichSprowls@gmail.com.

Next order of business is membership dues are now due and everyone needs to get their dues in so that we may have a good head count of our members new and old.

We also need to know if any of our members are missing their name tags and their membership patch, I understand there is many of our members that did not receive their name tags and we want to correct this as soon as possible.

It is very nice to see all our members with their name tags and their official patches on their vests or aprons. If you do not have a vest or apron let us know we can get them for a very good price for you.

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## NOC Club Activities

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Board Meeting - 6 p.m. 3rd Wed. at La Habra Community Center (none in Jul & Aug)  
Field Trips - March TBD

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## Programs

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March program TBA

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## Refreshments

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Rose and Armando will bring the goodies to the March meeting.

**Date:** Wed. March 8

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.

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Jann Cohen is our membership chair you may contact her at jannc418@gmail.com .

Next up is our donations that we are looking for. We would like to ask our members if they could help our donation drive, this drive will cover our general meetings and our big show coming up in June. We need all the help we can get,

And finally, I would like to thank everyone for your support of me and this club it is very heartwarming to work with you all. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at nocgemsociety@gmail.com .

Thank you

Kevin Smith

President NOCGMS

## Shows and Events

2017

### **MARCH 4 - 5: ARCADIA, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds  
L.A. County Arboretum & Botanical Garden  
301 N. Baldwin Avenue  
Hours: 9-4:30 Daily  
Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624  
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com  
Website: www.Moroks.com

### **MARCH 4 - 5: VENTURA, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 W. Harbor Boulevard  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5: Sun 10-4  
Contact: Terry Wilson (805) 312-8464  
Email: info@vgms.org  
Website: www.vgms.org

### **MARCH 11 - 12 SAN MARINO, CA**

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
San Marino Masonic Center  
3130 Hunting Drive  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5: Sun 10-5  
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com  
Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org

### **APRIL 8 - 9; MARIPOSA, CA**

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
Hours: Sat & Sun 10 - 5  
Contact: (209) 742-7625  
Email: rocksmuseum@gmail.com  
Website: CAMineralmuseum.com

### **May 6- 7; ANAHEIM, CA**

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10 -5 ' Sun 10 - 4:30  
Contact: Margaret Hogarth (909) 815-3045  
Email: hogarth.m@gmail.com  
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

### **JUNE 2 - 4: LA HABRA, CA**

Game of Stones  
North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: Fri: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Sat & Sun 10 - 5  
Contact: Armando Pedroza (909) 444-2727  
Email: ForestandSUN@yahoo.com  
Website: www.nocgms.com

### **JUNE 9, 10, & 11: VENTURA, CA**

Ventura Rocks The Nation!  
2017-CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention  
Hosted by Ventura Co. Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 West Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Contact: Diana Cook, (805) 312-8467  
Email: info@vgms.org  
Website: 2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com

### **JULY 8 - 9: CULVER CITY, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-6: Sun 10-5  
Contact: Janice Metz, (310) 850-4398  
Email: janicemtz@yahoo.com  
Website: www.culvercityrocks.org

### **AUGUST 4 - 6; NIPOMO, CA**

Rainbow of Gems  
Orcutt Mineral Society  
Nipomo High School  
525 N. Thompson Ave.  
Hours: Fri 10 - 5, Sat & Sun 10 - 4  
Website: www.omsinc.org



**FOREST & SUN ARBORIST**  
DESIGNERS • LANDSCAPERS

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## Get out your pans: Oroville Dam erosion may yield a tiny gold rush

Katie Dowd | on February 28, 2017

**Looking for gold? Click ahead to read about some of the best spots to pan for gold in Northern California.**

Your dream of becoming a part-time prospector might have gotten a boon thanks to recent storm erosion.

[CBS San Francisco reports](#) that months of rain have exposed gold flakes all over Northern California, creating a tiny gold rush. One miner who lives near Jamestown in Tuolumne County says he's seen more gold on his property than usual, and he expects the area around the Oroville Dam to be particularly fruitful.

Water roared from the Oroville Dam's spillway and emergency spillway for weeks, pounding the surrounding area. The Bureau of Land Management told CBS that the erosion removes rock and soil, concentrating the gold in the area.

Weather of the opposite sort made gold country a renewed spot of interest in previous years. During the drought, long-waterlogged areas became exposed and allowed gold seekers to access new sources. It's been almost 170 years since gold was discovered in California, so any new spots — uncovered by water or a lack thereof — can yield long-hidden gold. Don't quit your day job yet, though. The most you're likely



## MARCH'S BIRTHSTONE: Aquamarine

Aquamarine was first discovered in India more than 2,000 years ago. Since ancient times, people have credited both paranormal and divine properties to it. The Greeks were the first to use aquamarine gemstone around 480 to 300 BCE. However, it only became popular after larger samples from Brazil surfaced in the market in 1910. Show someone with a March birthday how special they are with this glorious blue-green gemstone!



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### Begining Techniques Class

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*by Loretta Ogden*

Class was attended by:  
Kevin Smith, Beth Smith, Jann Cohen, Teri Huer,  
Loretta Ogden, inda Chu, Maeilyn Kline.



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## BLM Meeting

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*Submitted by Don Warthen*

A meeting with the BLM advisory committee was scheduled for March at Needles CA. But on February 22, 2017, we were notified the meeting was rescheduled to Feb. 24 & 25 in Barstow. We felt this meeting was important to attend, so we rescheduled our clients and went to Barstow on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Advisory committee met at the Amboy Crater at 8:00 am on Friday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. We arrived at the Crater and found they were dedicating the crater as the new part of the Mojave Trails National Monument. After a short meeting and a dedication ceremony we moved on to the Marble Mountains for a tour led by Land Manager, Kyle Sullivan from the BLM. He spoke of land management and keeping sites open for future generations. The Marble Mountains are a treasure-trove of non-vertebrate fossils which are open for casual collecting with some restrictions (we'll talk about the restrictions at a later date). Later we went to the Pisgah Crater for a look at some new life form living in the volcano lava tubes.

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> we participated in meeting with the "District Advisory Council" starting at 8:00 am at the Ramada Inn. The "Desert Renewable Energy and Conservation Plan" was fully discussed along with mapping of baseline disturbances, agenda as follows;

### ***DRECP Implementation - Accomplishments to Date***

- A conservation and management action (CMA) checklist has been developed for categorical exclusion and environmental assessment level plan conformance.
- Field office staff trainings are complete for all California Desert District Offices (CDD) and Bishop Field Office (BIFO).

- The BLM published a notice in the Federal Register December 28, 2016 to begin the withdrawal process for 1.3 million acres within high priority CDNCLs.
- The BLM revised and distributed Appendix C of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) to harmonize it with the selected alternative in the ROD.
- The BLM has convened a cultural workgroup to develop Appendix G of the PA. This workgroup has met twice and the BLM is developing a draft of the appendix. Appendix G develops a regional mitigation fee process to address cumulative adverse effects from proposed future projects.
- The BLM has met with San Bernardino and Inyo Counties. The BLM is scheduling meetings with the other counties.
- Baseline disturbance mapping is ninety percent complete in the West Mojave and is underway in the two new national monuments. The BLM has secured funding for all baseline mapping.
- A DRECP DAC Subgroup has been approved.
- The DRECP Implementation Coordinator and District Manager has begun meeting with environmental and recreational groups.
- The DRECP contractor is developing a list of actionable items within all DRECP documents.

We have a full discussion on these items at a later date.

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

Your gemstone is Bloodstone or Aquamarine.  
Your flower is Daffodil or Jonquil.

# February Exploratory Field Trip with Jay and Frank



## Shaping A Cabochon

### Adapted From The Meader Method

By Glenna M. Stephens  
Mineral And Gem Society Of Castro Valley

When a new member comes into the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, he is entitled to three free lessons on cutting and polishing a cabochon, plus a slice of agate. The club maintains a fully equipped shop with experienced instructors on hand to assist the beginner. Instructors volunteer to teach one evening each week which keeps the shop open five evenings. Saturday morning is reserved for juniors.

The instructors got together and worked out uniform instructions based on the Meader method and copies of these instructions were printed for use in the shop. The following procedure is the result of their combined efforts:

1. Quality of material - always select good quality material with nice patterns. Agate is recommended for beginners. Examine it with a magnifying glass when it is dry and avoid cracks, pits and soft areas.
2. Marking a cabochon - with a sharp aluminum pencil, mark the outline of the cabochon on the back of the slab. Also, outline the shape of the stone with straight lines as shown

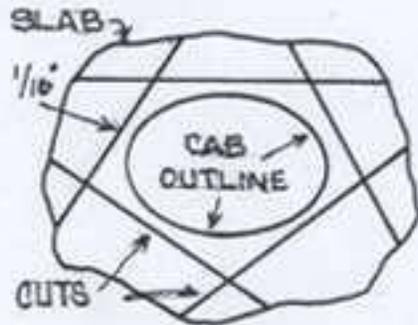


Fig. 1

in Fig. 1 to aid in cutting it to its approximate shape with a trim saw. In sawing, stay clear of the cabochon outline to prevent chipping.

3. Rough grinding (100 grit) - mark the back of the stone with an X and with the X facing up, grind out the shape on the coarse wheel, making the sides at an angle of 7° to 12° (Fig. 2) to the bottom. Check size

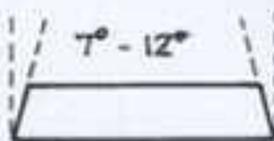


Fig. 2

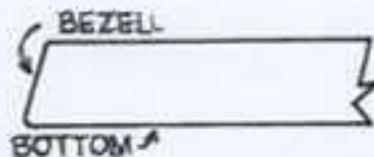


Fig. 3

of the stone against the template or intended jewelry mounting. Note: some may prefer to dop the stone after grinding to the outline and prior to grinding the 7° to 12° bezel.

From the bottom edge, grind a very small, rounded chamfer (Fig. 3) which prevents chipping. Use a 220 grit grinding wheel, 220 drum sander or finer, depending on the hardness of the material.

Mark the top of the stone into thirds as shown in Fig. 4 and outline the central third. In the very center



Fig. 4

place a dot which will be at the top of the finished gem.

Around the periphery of the stone, make a line parallel with the bottom about 1/3 the distance from the bottom to the top (Fig. 5).

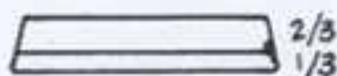


Fig. 5

5. Dopping -- attach the stone to a dop stick (Fig. 6) The stone's size will determine the diameter of the dop stick. Use extreme care in heating the stone before placing it on the stick. Do not burn or boil the dop wax.

Grind away all the material between the line on the side of the stone and the outline around its central third. Do not grind continuously in one spot on the wheel; this will groove the wheel. Work the stone back and forth across the wheel's face. Hold the stone low on the wheel so that you can see the line of contact easily. Don't lose sight of the line around the side and remember the location of the outline of the central third of the stone. Grind slowly and check

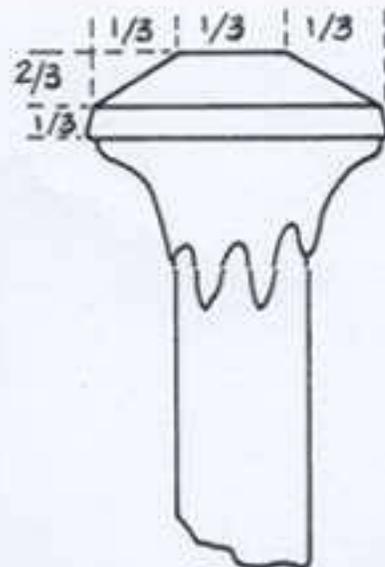


Fig. 6

frequently with a magnifier. When this rough shaping is done, the stone is flat topped with straight sides (like a truncated cone) down to the line around the side. Below this line is the remainder of the bevel. Now wash your hands and the stone thoroughly and proceed to the 220 grit wheel.

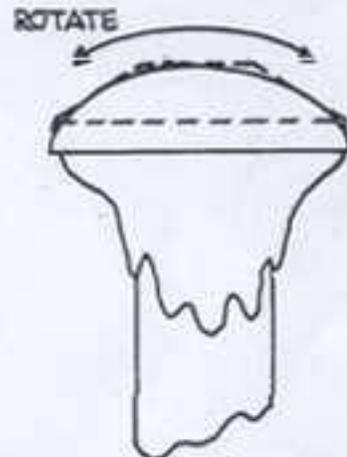


Fig. 7

6. Fine grinding (220 grit) - grind curves from bevel to bevel (Fig. 7), making each an arc of a circle so that light will be reflected evenly at every point. Use a sweeping motion, taking off the shoulder at the edge of the flat portion of the top. Sweep lengthwise on one side, turn the stone 90° and sweep across the end, turn 90° and sweep lengthwise on the second side, then turn 90° and sweep across the other end. Stop often and inspect, holding the stone up to note the development of the curves. Be careful to keep the contact of stone and wheel in sight. The dot is the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

## SHAPING A CABOCHON . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

highest point on the stone, the apex of all curves, and it is taken off by the last sweep. In addition, grind off the top edge of the bezel line so that it curves and blends into the top arc of the stone. Always check the top arc with a straight edge (Fig. 8), looking for flat spots. The straight edge should roll freely across the arc in any direction.

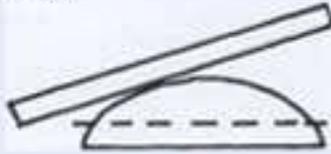


Fig. 8

6. Sanding - sand wet on 220, 400 and 600 grit checking with a magnifying glass at each step and spending as much time as needed to remove all scratches from the previous sanding. Remove all grit from your hands, stone and dop stick between each change of grit.
7. Polishing - polishing is done on leather with tin or cerium oxide mixed with water. This mixture may be kept in a plastic squeeze bottle with a small hole as a nozzle so that only the small amount needed is directed precisely where it is needed, and the contents do not become contaminated. A bottle for the application of hair dye makes a good container. For a 6- to 8-ounce bottle, use 1 rounded teaspoon of cerium (a little less of tin) oxide, 1 or 2 drops of detergent and fill with water.

### Helpful Hints

1. Always use good material.
2. No short cuts
3. Sharpen the marking pencil each time it is used. This is important in producing a cabochon that is true to size.
4. Always wash the hands, stone and dop before changing grits.
5. Keep a piece of agate near the wheel while grinding. If the wheel becomes a little rough, work the agate back and forth across its face. This prevents dressing the wheel which is costly and wasteful.
6. Always move the stone back and forth across the wheel to prevent grooving.

Results of the lessons taught by the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley will be seen at its 21st annual show, *Quartz Fantasy*, which will be held March 1 and 2 at the Castro Valley High School, 19400 Santa Maria Avenue, Castro Valley, California. There will

be many displays, demonstrations, food and prizes. Admission is 50c for adults, 25c for children and under 12 will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. The show chairman is Aileen Bergesen.

This society will also host the 1970 convention and show of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies. It will take place June 5, 6 and 7, 1970, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California. Alice Rahn is show chairman. Any correspondence regarding these shows may be directed to P.O. Box 21, Castro Valley 94546.

## MICRO NEWS

### MICROMOUNTS

#### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

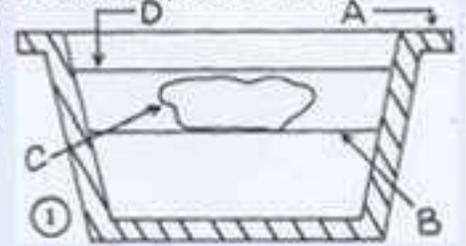
Sometime ago, a few of the mineral dealers were offering mineral specimens of beautiful clean arborescent copper embedded in selenite from the Mission Mine, Pima County, Arizona. The only trouble with the specimens, that we saw, was that the outside of the selenite was somewhat bruised, possibly because this mineral is rather soft. In spite of this, several small specimens suitable for micromounts were purchased with the idea that, since selenite cleaves readily, a top layer could be peeled off and a nice clean surface obtained through which the embedded copper would be visible.

When the time came to prepare micro-mounts out of these specimens, the thought occurred to us that they might be suitable for a different type of mount. We had in the collection an interesting piece of quartz from Brazil that was apparently broken off a larger piece and the surfaces were badly bruised. However, this specimen had embedded in it quite a few nice sprays of rutile needles that looked like they grew out of little black crystals which were probably ilmenite. While it was large enough to make several micromounts, it did not seem possible to break up the specimen without destroying all of the rutile sprays. Yet, because of the bruised surfaces, it was difficult to appreciate the beauty of the inclusions.

In this case, it was decided to embed the whole specimen in polyester resin which is sold in various rock and hobby stores for making plastic ornaments. This turned out to be a practical solution because the plastic concealed the bruises on the surfaces of the quartz and the inclusions became clearly visible. Actually, because the refractive index of the quartz is quite close to that of the plastic, the quartz is practically

invisible and the inclusions appear as though they are swimming in the plastic.

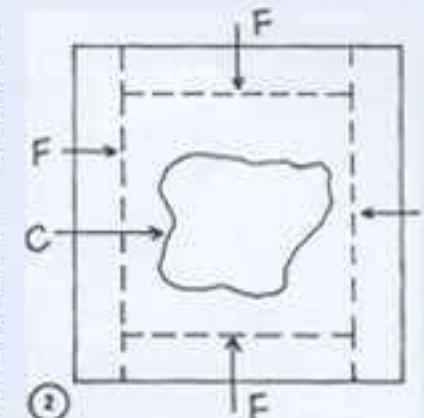
The selenite appeared to present the same sort of problem and, since the refractive index of selenite is also quite close to that of the plastic, we decided to embed the specimens in the same way. The following procedure was used:



In Fig. 1, A is a plastic mold such as is sold in hobby shops. This particular one is out two inches square with tapered sides. A small amount of the plastic liquid is poured into the mold so that it fills to height B. A few drops of plastic hardener are added to this liquid and it is left until it becomes tacky.

The selenite specimen (C) is then placed upon surface B. If the liquid placed in the bottom of the mold is not allowed to harden until it becomes tacky, the selenite will sink to the bottom of the mold. Additional plastic liquid is poured over the selenite to cover it to level D, and a few drops of hardener are added. The resin around the selenite may have some air bubbles in it and these should be worked out with a pin.

The mold with the specimen should be placed in a box or protected in some way to prevent dust and lint from being deposited on the top of the plastic. It should be left to harden for several days before being removed from the mold and handled. If the plastic is handled before it is completely set, finger marks may be left on it.



After the plastic is hard, it is trimmed along lines F (Fig. 2) on a jig saw so that it will fit into the one-inch micro-mount box G (Fig. 3). The trimming



## NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

By Don

Much of the Brazilian agate seen today has been found in volcanic cavities. It was formed when a mixture of saline water and gas bubbles formed within cooling lava, which explains the intricate patterns and unique designs on these stones.

Agate is a form of silica, composed of very fine intergrowths of quartz and moganite. Chalcedony has a waxy luster, and may be semitransparent or translucent. It can assume a wide range of colors.

The name *chalcedony* comes from the Latin *chalcedonius*. The name is probably derived from the town Chalcedon in Asia Minor. The Greek word *khalkedon* (χαλκηδών) also appears in the Book of Revelation (Apc 21,19).

Agate is a variety of chalcedony characterized by either transparency or color patterns, such as multi-colored curved or angular banding. Opaque varieties are sometimes referred to as jasper. Agate shows exceptional iridescence when light (especially pinpointed light) is shone through the stone. Landscape agate is chalcedony with a number of different mineral impurities making the stone resemble landscapes.



we're connected  
LA HABRA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



March 2, 2017, 7:44 PM

The program for this month will be on Lavic  
Siding Jasper's and Agates

This is an area where we still have the good  
fortune to collect. There is an upcoming field  
trip Saturday the 18th of March to this site.

Patric Keagan will be our presenter.

Patric has just gotten back from scouting  
the area and will have a lot of information for  
our benefit has it will prepare us for the  
upcoming field trip.