

CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP

P O Box 4667 Walnut Creek CA 94596

03 01 03

BAIRD, Kathleen	1387 Davis Av Concord 94518	(925) 687 4057
BIELER, Barrie	737 Wiget Ln Walnut Creek 94598	939 6272
BOCHRA, Charlotte	965 Veterans Dr Martinez 94553	370 0886
BON, Charles & Pat	1554 Thorn Dr Concord 94521	689 0451
BROWN, Darrel & Elaine	953 Chanel Ct Concord 94518	685 1179
BROWN, George & Judy	156 Calle Nogales Walnut Creek 94596	946 9899
BROWN, Sherb	245 Rheem Blvd Moraga 94556	376 0658
BUFTON, James & Mary	261 Santa Fe Dr Walnut Creek 94598	935 2081
CAMERON, Charles & Brownie	1777 Danesta Dr Concord 94519	685 1489
CAMERON, Maxine	1280 Walden Dr Walnut Creek 94596	934 6062
CANALES, Dick	19747 Porto Fino Rd Tuolumne 95379	-
CANE, Nicholas & Sharla	1930 Marta Dr Pleasant Hill 94523	687 1670
CARPENTER, Betty	3240 Quandt Rd Lafayette 94549	935 3724
CARR, Walter & Gayle	2043 Mohawk Dr Pleasant Hill 94523	938 2251
CAUDEL, Ken	1149 Harris Ct Martinez 94553	228 5770
CUNNINGHAM, Dave & Kathleen	1556 Siskiyou Dr Walnut Creek 94598	842 2983
DENNIS, Richard & Susan	19 Sky Terrace Danville 94526	837 6577
DeWILDE, Margaret	1439 Toyon Dr Concord 94520	676 8190
DUNCAN, ROBERT	321 Gladys Dr Pleasant Hill 94523	682 1947
EGGLESTON, Duaine & Mary Ellen	2112 Ann St Concord 94520	682 4881
FRANCIS, Tom	115 Jackson Way Pleasant Hill 94523	798 1265
FRAY, Ron & Leslie	1723 Bishop Dr Concord 94521	685 8248
GILLEY, Louise	175 Tam Ct Martinez 94553	228 5704
HAMILTON, Lou	1516 Germaine Av Yuba City 95991	(530) 755 1949
HICKS, Marlow & Ophelia	1560 Apple Dr Concord 94518 e mail opheliambhicks@aol.com	685 7625
HICKS, Mary	2418 Larkin Ct Antioch 94531 e mail maryhicks@attbi.com	779 0698
HOLCOMB, Gene	1722 A Sapling Ct Concord 94519	686 6154
HOLCOMB, Jane	4996 Salem Concord 94521	798 0402
HUBBARD, Glen	131 Church St Martinez 94553	228 9131
HURD, Jim & Teresa	P O Box 23832 Pleasant Hill 94523	682 7499
HURST, Jim	2086 Essenway Av Walnut Creek 94597	933 3615
JERDE, Gaylord & Betty	1456 Delwood St Vallejo 94591	(707) 552 2324
JERNIGAN, Mary	1031 Pierce St Fairfield 94533	(707) 425 7286
JOHNSTON, Sam	1882 Green Valley Rd Alamo 94507	837 2081
KANUCK, Harry	3142 Windsor Pl Concord 94518	686 3958
KING, Lee	3000 Santa Paula Dr Concord 94518 e mail icanjet@msn.com	686 3927
KING, MaryAnn	2525 Oak Rd Walnut Creek 94597	947 1550
KLEBSATTEL, Dave & Kim	2361 Rockne Dr Concord 94518	798 8240
KLEIN, Connie	1885 3/4 Farm Bureau Rd Concord 94519 e mail connieklein@astound.net	798 8240
KRULISH, Carol Ann	1484 Azores Cir Bay Point 94565	709 7018

LEDERER, Howard	5239 Lodato Ct	Concord 94521	(925) 682 6172
LESKO, Anne H.	143 Moraga Way	Orinda 94563	254 1909
LUEBKE, Mike & Sherry	3515 Cranbrook Wy	Concord 94520	825 9429
MACKENZIE, Glen & Betty	527 Osborn Ln	Pleasant Hill 94523	689 4589
	e mail macgem@worldnet.att.net		
MALBY, Doug	5304 Paso Del Rio	Concord 94521	672 4315
MARTIN, Beverly	3718 Oak Park Ct	Concord 94519	682 9623
MATTHEWS, George & Ann	540 Blue Ridge Dr	Martinez 94553	229 0836
MATZ, Barbara	P O Box 7086	Petaluma 94955	(707) 762 4930
MEGINNESS, Bob & Irene	1311 Magnolia Dr	Concord 94520	798 4259
MILLER, Edgar	22 Harvard Ct	Pleasant Hill 94523	682 3251
MORGAN, Bill & Naomi	6040 Morgan Territory Rd	Clayton 94517	672 2458
NAYLOR, Bruce	118 Opal Ct	Hercules 94547	799 6402
NEUHAUSER, Sharon	1613 Ruth Dr	Pleasant Hill 94523	687 7816
NEWMAN, Barbara	1457 Rhode Island Ct	Concord 94521	672 5688
OWEN, John & Rana	1624 S. 5th St	Concord 94519	827 0471
PALLOTTA, Donald & Sheila, Nora	3610 Sunrise Ct	Martinez 94553	229 1975
PANKEY, Richard & Betty	4310 Kingsly Dr	Pittsburg 94565	439 7509
	e mail dickpankey@juno.com		
PEVAHOUSE, Robert & Anne	914 Dartmouth Wy	Concord 94518	689 4676
	e mail rockmanrob@aol.com		
PEVAHOUSE, Scott & Sherry, Joey	1537 Windwood Ct	Martinez 94553	372 9421
PINGREE, Aaron & Elfie	1027 Brown Av	Lafayette 94549	934 6885
PITTMAN, Steve	P O Box 1145	Clayton 94517	408 1694
ROBBINS, Alan	58 Chaucer Dr	Pleasant Hill 94523	939 1979
ROESSLER, Lyle	157 Hookston Rd	Pleasant Hill 94523	938 8225
ROUZE, John & Sandy, & Thomas, Katelyn, Daniel	4038 Burbank Dr	Concord 94521	685 0974
RUE, Douglas	2128 Noth Sixth St	Concord 94520	-
RUSSO, Jeanie	$ San Bruno Ct	Concord 94518	687 0278
SCHLEIF, Al & Shirley	4137 Calaveras Dr	Concord 94521	682 0951
SLAZAS, John	4031 Little Dr	Concord 94521	689 5883
SODESTROM, Sody	12 Richard Ct	Orinda 94563	254 4428
SONNENTHAL, Eric, Nate	3206 Woodside Meadows	Pleasant Hill 94523	944 4873
THEOBALD, Jerry	4339 Kingswood Dr	Concord 94518	825 1556
TOMPKINS, Donal	532 Palm Av	Martinez 94553	228 1544
TRAVERS, Jeanette	P O Box 5694	Walnut Creek 94596	947 0169
UMHOLTZ, Tom & Eva	4449 Yellowood Ln	Pittsburg 94565	473 1477
WASHBURN, Rollie	965 Veterans Dr	Martinez 94553	370 0886
WEST, Eric & Rosemary, Molly, Anthony	5514 Likins Av	Martinez 94553	229 1443
WILLIAMSON, Ken & Jean	8 Casey Glen Ct	Clayton 94517	672 8491
WOOLSEY, Sam & Hazel	14 Creekwood Ct	Danville 94526	837 3287
	e mail Kr6at@arri.net		
WORLEY, Mark	P O Box 5843	Concord 94524	437 1439
YARBROUGH, Joe	1693 Joelle Dr	Concord 94521	682 3894
YOUNG, Horace	4751 Olive Dr	Concord 94521	825 1277
ZABALDANO, Dave & Sue	2890 Crystal Ln	Brentwood 94513	516 0651
ZEHRUNG, Joe & Bonnie	2246 Krueger Dr	Concord 94520	685 8873

Area Code - All (925) except those noted

DiABLO



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MARCH 2003

*Contra
Costa*

Diablo Diggins -March 2003

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Due date for April Diggins
is March 18.

maryhicks@attbi.com or
Mary Hicks, 2418 Larkin
Ct., Antioch, CA 94531

Articles are to be typed or
printed, or use 12 font
Times New Roman, no
other formatting, titles,
indents as this will be done
by the editor.

President's Message

By Ann Matthews

We are home from our trip. Had a great time. Now to get back to the normal (?) routine, clean the trailer, unload the rocks, etc. We spent the last 4 days in Riverside using the camping discount for the Riverside County Parks we picked up at the RV show in Quartzsite. Made a great base for us to visit relatives. It POURED down there.

Fun to go on a trip but also good to be home. Eva Umholtz has agreed to take over the Treasurer duties from Connie Klein for the rest of the year. Thanks Eva and a big THANK YOU to Connie for your faithful service to our club.

Do you realize we have a great Gem and Mineral Club because we have such wonderful members? Rockhounds are truly special people.

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, March 10, 7:30 PM at my home. Everyone is welcome. The General Education Meeting is on March 14. I hope everyone can attend.

March Program

Lavic Siding

By Dave Klessattel

The planned program for March 2003 will be a CFMS slide show of the popular Lavic Siding collecting area located about 45 miles east of Barstow, CA. I know many of the club members have spent time collecting in this area. Please bring your favorite Lavic Siding specimens and stories with you to the meeting. After the slide show, we'll have a "Show & Tell" about Lavic Siding collecting.

Refreshments for the March Meeting are to be provided by the following members:
Mary Jane Walker, Rollie Washburn, Eric & Rosemary West, Ken & Jean Williamson, Sam & Hazel Woolsey.

Patience is the ability to let your light shine after your fuse is blown.

Spring Social

By Betty Pankey

We are all set for a great lunch on Sunday, March 23rd at 3 pm. The place is Fresh Choice, 486 Sunvalley

Mall Road, Concord (next to JC Penney at Sunvalley Mall). There is plenty of parking and you have plenty of choices to choose from. Also they do not prepare anything with MSG. The price is right, with a coupon out of the Sunday paper, the lunch is only \$5.99 for all you can eat, at our age, how much can we eat? The buffet has fresh salads, soup, pasta, pizza, bakery & dessert bars.

There will be one more sign up at the March meeting, we do need a head count, so please sign up or call me at 439-7509 at least one week before.

Members are welcome to bring their family or a friend. This is a special, fun afternoon. Join in the fun – lunch, entertainment, and door prizes. See you at the Spring Social.

March Birthstones

Natural-Aquamarine

Beryl when a blue to blue-green color are aquamarines. The color of aquamarine may vary from pale blue to a rich and deep blue or blue-green. A lovely blue color may also be produced by heating some greenish-yellow beryl. In ancient times beryls "the color of the sea" were considered the most desirable, but today's fashion demands the deeper blue stones. These are in great demand and the price of fine aquamarine has risen steadily in recent years.

Very subtle differences in shade and depth of color

accompany radical differences in cost. Extensive familiarity with beryls and experience in handling aquamarine is needed to accurately appraise gems and gem rough. In general, the deeper the color of a beryl, the greater its value.

Artificial-Synthetic spinel

The first synthetic spinel was produced accidentally when some magnesium oxide was added to the feed powder in making synthetic Verneuil corundum. Spinel was not considered an especially valuable gem, however, so more than 20 years passed before synthetic spinel was used commercially in quantity. Natural spinels are not commonly encountered in the gem trade, but synthetic spinels are seen almost everywhere. These gems are widely used to imitate other gems that are considered more desirable, such as emerald, aquamarine, and tourmaline. Synthetic spinel is normally made by the Verneuil process, and boules in a tremendous variety of rich colors can be grown. These colors are due to the addition of chemical impurities because pure spinel, as with pure sapphire, is colorless. In addition, spinel powder mixed with cobalt oxide and fused in an electric furnace produces a dense, deep-blue material that strongly resembles lapis lazuli. A spinel that resembles moonstone was introduced in 1957. Some spinel has also been made by flux fusion, but this material has not been used much as gems.

Synthetic spinels may not show the curved growth lines seen in synthetic Verneuil corundum. But they can be identified as spinel, and the colors of the synthetic gems are usually sufficiently different from those of natural spinels to make identification possible.

Membership

By *Jim Bufton*

Lou Hamiton

Lou Hamilton died at Marysville, Ca., on Friday evening, Feb. 21, 2003. He was 83 years of age, would have been 84 on March 25. His wife Ruth and his son Louie were with him at the time of his death. He has been in the hospital and then the nursing home for over a month and his death was not unexpected since he has been experiencing heart failure and his cancer was spreading. After services Lou was transported to the Veterans Cemetery at Santa Nella, Ca., for burial. Lou was a long standing member of our club and will be missed by many.

Birthdays

Sharon Neuhauser	3/2
Bob Duncan	3/5
Sherry Luebke	3/6
Lorna Moore	3/7
George Matthews	3/14
Betty Mackenzie	3/14
Ron Morris	3/19
Lou Hamilton	3/25
Susan Dennis	3/25
Dai We Kim	3/25
Barbel Schnoor	3/25
Harold Schnoor	3/28

Anniversary

Charles & Pat Bon 3/2
Steve & Darlene Pittman
3/23

Field Trip

Chairman's Report

By Dick Pankey

NBFT Spring Meeting,
Hayward, CA. Gem & Mineral
Society of Castro Valley.

March 16 Oxbow,
Foresthill, CA for pyrite in
slate, hornblende, serpentine.
Carmichael G & M Club.
Contact: Marlin Stewart, (916)
781-8703,
mwlstewart@yahoo.com

April 6 Stories In Stones,
Angels Camp, CA. Contra
Costa M&GS. Contact: Dick
Pankey, (925) 439-7509,
dickpankey@juno.com

April 6 Calaveras
Co., CA for Bird's eye
serpentine. Contact Daryl
Shelly, 209-296-0635,
darylshelly@volcano.net

April 20 Soapstone Ridge,
Coulterville, CA for
Soapstone. Contact Will
Corey, 209-383-5037

April 20 Rattlesnake Bar,
Folsom Lake, CA for
common opal. Contact Jim
Barton, 916-773-0458,
geologist1@surewest.net

May 2- 4 Snyder's Pow Wow,
Valley Springs, CA. Field trips
for Moss Agate and Moss Opal
- 5/2&3; YOTMC potluck &
auction - 5/2; NBFT potluck
- 5/3

May 11 Clearlake area, CA
for a geology study trip.
Contact Daryl Shelly, 209-
296-0635,
darylshelly@volcano.net

May 22-25 Tri-
Federation Rockhound
Rendezvous.
Texas Springs, near
Jackpot, NV for limb casts,
bogwood, snakeskin agate,
etc. CFMS/NFMS/RMFMS.
Contact: Dick Pankey,
(925)439-7509 or
dickpankey@juno.com

More information and
details available from Dick
Pankey at the meetings or call
439-7509 or e-mail
dickpankey@juno.com.

Field Trip Chairman's Report

Stories in Stone

The Contra Costa
M&GS will host an outing to
Stories in Stone in Angels
Camp, CA on Sunday, April 6th
for a lecture on rocks, minerals
and fossils. Russ Shoemaker,
owner of **Stories in Stone**, will
present a 1 ½ to 2-hour
presentation on rocks, minerals
and fossils. **Russ and Pam
Shoemaker** have one of the
most comprehensive geological
displays of thousands of rocks,
minerals and fossils in
California. **Stories in Stone**
was located in Murphy for
many years but closed its doors
when the building was sold

about 4 years ago. The
Shoemakers reopened their
famous and fabulous rock
emporium and educational
facility in late 2000. They
completed their impressive
educational area and resumed
giving presentations to school
and other groups in 2002.
Following this presentation you
will have time to see the rest of
their store and exhibits.

This can be a great one
day outing or come to Angels
Camp for the weekend because
there will be a lot to see and do.
The Calaveras show is at the
fairgrounds just south of
Angels Camp on April 5th & 6th
and has a nice RV Park with
full hooks. The Mariposa G&M
Club show is the same weekend
just down Hwy 49 about 60 or
so miles (about 1 ½ hour drive)
at the fairgrounds in Mariposa.
Another interesting attraction in
Angels Camp is the Sierra Hills
Stone, which has a vast
selection of soapstone,
carvings, tools and supplies.

The **Stories in Stone**
presentation is limited to the
first 50 people that sign up.
This lecture is limited to the
first 50 people that register.
Children are welcome.

NBFT Spring Meeting

The M&GS of Castro
Valley will host the North Bay
Field Trips Spring meeting on
Saturday, March 1. This is the
same weekend as their annual
show. This business meeting is
where we plan and announce
future trips and events, report

on past trips, hold a silent action, and generally have a great time meeting and talking with other rockhounds. All club members who are interested in field trips and rockhounding are invited and encouraged to attend.

Snyder's POW WOW

It's not too early to start thinking about and planning for **Snyder's Pow Wow**. The POW WOW at the Snyder's ranch near Valley Springs is coming up again on May 2 - 4. Betty and I will be up there Thursday to set up camp. This is a great rockhound weekend. Beside all the dealers there is a lot to see and do -- field trips, potlucks, happy hours, music and entertainment, Ye Old Timer's auction and more. It would be great to have a big NBFT turnout for this fun weekend. This is a great opportunity for all NBFT club members to get together. Hopefully many of you can make it, at least for a day trip. In the past there was always a big NBFT turnout for the Pow Wow. But we have had fewer and fewer campers the last few years. There is plenty of room for a big turnout, so plan now to join us for the weekend. The Snyder's ranch is in Valley Springs, which is an easy drive for a one-day outing, but it is a lot more fun to go for the whole weekend.

As we did last year we will be camping with Ye Old Timers Mineral Club. All club members are invited and encouraged to camp with

YOTMC/NBFT. This is "dry camping" in the pasture immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the Dealer area. Camping is \$10/night but by camping with NBFT it will only be \$8/night. Stop at the registration tent and tell them you are camping with NBFT, and then follow the signs back to our camping area. We will sign you in and collect your money.

We will have two potluck dinners during the weekend. The Ye Old Timers will hold their annual potluck dinner at 6:00 and auction at 7:00 on Friday evening. The NBFT potluck dinner will be on Saturday evening at 6:00 PM. People that come out for the day only are invited to stop by the YOTMC/NBFT encampment to relax, visit and sit a "spell".

The Grab Bag Exchange is a lot of fun, however, for some reason we don't have a lot of participation. Everyone who camps with us or stops by for a visit is invited to participate in our Grab Bag exchange. The rules are simple -- you have to give-one-to-get-one. You can give and take 2, 3 or more if you wish. Use a small paper bag (approx. 4" x 8") or any other suitable bag, fill it with rocks, minerals or fossil specimens, or something you have made. Please identify where the material came from and include your name if you wish. Don't be skimpy -- make sure it would be something you would like to receive. The Grab Bag table will be set up

all the time during the POW WOW for the day-trippers. The campers will have their exchange at a "happy hour" on Saturday.

For the past several years NBFT and YOTMC members have helped direct traffic around the Registration Tent. This is a fun and easy way for NBFT and YOTMC to earn \$150 with just a little effort. Unfortunately, we have had a hard time getting volunteers and it ends up falling on the shoulders of only a few. One of the reasons for the discount camping fee is because we help out. We will direct traffic on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 to 3:30 and need at least 2 people per 1 hour shift. Anyone who wants to help should call me or see me at the POW WOW.

Please announce to all of your club members and encourage them to join in at the **Snyder's Pow Wow**. So come on and join in this great Rockhound event -- Come to **Snyder's POW WOW**.

Board Meeting

No Board Meeting this month.

General Meeting

By Sharon Neuhauser

Knock, knock, the 7:30 pm meeting was called to order per **Dick Pankey 2nd V.P.** & flag salute was given by all.

Hospitality Chair **Betty Pankey** introduced **Mark**

Blacken and Pat Pankey as guests. (Sorry if misspelled ed.) Birthdays & Anniversaries were announced. Good wishes & fast recovery were sent to **Gene Holcomb** who had recent hip surgery. Our sincere condolences to **Lyle Roessler** on losing both parents recently.

Pretty colorful heart stones were given in the drawing for guests & club members.

Field Trip Chair **Dick Pankey** gave info on the NBFT spring meeting to be held Sat. March 1st, 9 am at the Castro Valley Show. There is a silent auction and show admission will be charged, everyone is welcome. Sunday March 16th, is Foresthill outing for pyrite in slate-April 6th, "Stories In Stones", tour of museum & collection for sale, Angels Camp, Calaveras County & surrounding areas. May 1-4, Snyder's Pow Wow in Valley Springs. May 22-26, Tri Fed trip to Texas Springs in Nevada for limb cabs, petrified wood, and many other rocks.

Federation Director **Bob Pevahouse** encouraged all to attend the combined AFMS & CFMS in Ventura June 5-8th. Camping near the beach & outstanding displays & the weather should be just perfect.

Hospitality & Sunshine Chair **Betty Pankey** announced a spring social at "Fresh Choice", Sunday March 23rd at 3 pm. Cost approximately \$5.99 + tax & Drink. Bring the family & friends. Everyone pays their own; there will be fun & door prizes.

Jim Bufton Membership announced new members but none were present. We would like to meet you new members, please join our Fri. monthly meeting for a program & refreshments. All dues are due Now. If paid you will be on the new membership list.

Publicity Chair **Mary Bufton**. Again asked to please save any announcement you may see in a paper or mag, of our club. Mary also has raffle tickets for a beautiful opal pendant to be raffled at the Castro Valley Show Feb. 28-March 2.

Glen Mackenzie Ecology Chair had no news, but he did receive a lg. bundle of information in his mail, so, we will be hearing more from him in the near future.

Librarian **Bill McKay** had many books to borrow among them "Indian Silver Smithing." Bill's phone # will be in the new lists of membership & our Diablo Diggins news letter so give him a call & use our free library.

Education Chair **Mary Ann King** was unavailable; so **Dick Pankey** gave the Ed. Report. **Brownie Cameron** had a little problem with mixing up rooms for her January slate class, but it's been straightened out. Feb will be **Don Tomkins** knapping Feb. 19th & 26th. March 19-26 will be 2 project nights. **Al Schleif** will teach copper enameling & **Bob Pevahouse** will make an easter pin. Anyone interested in hosting a 2 nite class please let **Mary**

Ann King know as April to July are free. Aug. **Ophelia Hicks** will teach ming trees.

For displays **Lee King** announced 3 pro cabs and 2 facetings. We need more novices, make a stone & exhibit, you'll get recognized & it's fun!

Past Pres. **Joe Yarbrough** announced **Lou Hamilton's** health was poor & we need to keep him in our prayers. Joe asked if anyone could remember the Presidents of our club in 60's, 70's to let him know, as he's trying to help the Historian with the history of our club.

Barrie Bieler was introduced & gave a moving talk on "Plat-tec-tonics". The history or concept of motion of things on earth. His map, over lay, & slides, gave us a more informative knowledge of how our earth has developed, land have divided, & mountains have risen over billions of years.

Acting Pres. **Dick Pankey** encouraged sign ups for classes, project night, remember to vote for cabs, stone etc., meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm followed by refreshments.

CFMS Class By **Dick Pankey**

Announcing The Fossils For Fun Petrified Wood Identification Seminar On March 7, 8, & 9, 2003 at Sierra College in Rocklin by **Walt Wright**.

Attendance will be limited to 35 on a pre-registered basis. Cost to be \$40.00 per person paid in advance. Seating will go fast as there is a great interest in this field.

On Friday March 7, 2003 the starting time is 6:00 P. M. until 9:00 P. M.

On Sat. March 8, 2003 the starting time is 8:00 A. M. until 9:00 P. M.

On Sunday March 9, 2003 the starting time is 8:00 A. M. until noon.

This seminar will cover a lot of ground and will be an advanced class with more emphasis on actual identification. This is only the third time to be offered here in central California.

There is lodging close by as well as a campground. Here is your chance to learn to identify your petrified wood close to home. Walt Wright has probably identified more petrified wood than anyone else in the world.

You should plan on bringing a good 10X or 15X magnifying lense & your study handout guide from your last seminar.

A Hoadly Wood Identification book is usually available at the seminars for about \$40.00. Also Tiddley has a book on Wood Identification and should be purchased at the seminar or prior.

For more information and to pre-register send your check payable to Fossils for Fun to:

Daryl Shelly
P. O. Box 651
Pioneer, CA. 95666-0651

Phone (209) 296-0635 E-mail - darylshelly@volcano.net

**Fossils For Fun
2003 Petrified
Wood Seminar
Registration**

**Reservation
Name** _____

Address _____

**Phone
Number** _____

**E-
Mail** _____

Circle if you wish Walt to provide ID Books in class. Hoadley &/or Tiddley Number Attending _____ X
\$40.00 = Check amount\$ _____

All Cancellations must be made at least 3 days prior to the seminar in order to receive a refund.

CFMS SHOWS

March 1-2, Arcadia, CA.
Monrovia Rockhounds, The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Ayers Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Hours 9 to 4:30 both days. Enter via the Arboretum. Jo Anna Ritchey 626.359.1624

March 1-2, Ventura, CA.
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society; Seaside Park/Ventura Co. Fairgrounds; 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-2. Jim Brace-Thompson 805.659.3577

March 2, Stockton, CA. Field Trip Chairman's Asso., Annual Seminar & Rock Auction. Gianone Community Center, 2885 East Harding Way @ Golden Gate. Sunday 9-4, luncheon \$5.00.

March 8-9, Turlock, CA;
Mother Lode Mineral Society; Stanislaus County Fairgrounds; 900 N. Broadway; 9-5 both days. Bud McMillin 209.524.3494

March 8-9, Bakersfield, CA.
Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P St., Bakersfield. 10 am to 5 pm both days. Lew Helfrich 661-323-2663

March 8-9, San Marino, CA.
Pasadena Lapidary Society, San Morino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. Marlene Kyte 626.794.0519. Show theme is Gems, Minerals and Jewelry of the Southwest.

March 8-9, Vallejo, CA.
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society, Solano County Fairgrounds, Highway 37 and Highway 80, across from Six Flags Marine World. 10 to 5 both days. Ed Hoffmark(707)642-8754.

March 8-9, Spreckles, CA.
Monterey Bay Gem & Mineral Society, Veteran's Memorial Hall, 6th & Llanos Street. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5.

March 15-16, San Jose, CA.
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds,, 344 Tully Road, San Jose, CA. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. Chuck Boblenz 408.734.2473

March 29-30; Torrance, CA.
South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society; Torrance Recreation Center; 3341 Torrance Blvd.; Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5. Omer Goeden 818.353.9279

March 29-30; Roseville, CA.
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society; Placer County Fairgrounds; 800 All American City Blvd; 10-5 both days; Betty Soper-Arnold 916.969.6773

March 29-30, San Diego, CA.
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Al Bahr Shrine Center; 5440 Kearny Mesa Road; Sat 9:30-5 Sun 10-4. Wayne Moorhead 858.586.1637

April 5-6, Hacienda Heights, CA. Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club; Magic in Rocks; Steinmetz County Park; 1545 S. Stimson Ave., between Gale Ave. and Halliburton Road.

10-5 both days; Bob Hess 562.696.2270

April 5 and 6. Mariposa Gem and Mineral Society.
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 140 South, Mariposa. 10 am to 5 pm both days. Dianne Mueller, 209-742-7625

April 5 and 6, Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society.
Angels Camp, Calaveras County Gem & Mineral Club, Calaveras County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 49 just south of Angels Camp. Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm.

April 11-13, San Mateo, CA.
Gem & Jewelry Show Inc., San Mateo County Expo. Center. Fri. 12, Sat. 10-6 Sun. 11-5.

April 26 and 27. Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society; corner of Center & Church St's; 10-5 both days. Hubert & Elanor Drake at hmdrake@packbell.net

Snyder's 29th Pow Wow show and field trips. May 2 through 4. Valley Springs, field trips also, 209-772-1265 or www.valleyspringspowwow.com or snyders@caltel.com

AFMS/CFMS SHOW-2003 June 5-8; Ventura, CA.
Del Air Rockhounds presents: "Seaside Gemboree 2003" Seaside Park (Formerly Ventura Fairgrounds) 10 W. Harbor Blvd. this is a beautiful time to visit Southern California.

There will be special field trips for the rare Nipomo Agate and

more. Sign up early for the special activities. Come to the show and celebrate America's rocks and minerals from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Also, attending the show is the only way you will see the life-size Triceratops that will be on exhibit.

Bob Backus (818)347-2056.
GemboreeBiz@aol.com
Or the Del Air Rockhounds Publicity Committee at ohmarin@earthlink.net

Faceters Symposium 2003 At the Seaside Gemboree, AFMS/CFMS Convention & Show in Ventura, June 6-7-8. You are invited to participate in the Faceters Symposium 2003 which will be held at the Seaside Park (Ventura Fairgrounds) at Ventura. There will be ten speakers, hospitality hour on Friday evening, and a Saturday Awards luncheon. Contact Glenn Klein at glennklein@yahoo.com

Other regional shows.

Rocky Mountain-July 11-13, Casper, WY

Northwest-Aug. 1-3, Kennewick, WA
Midwest-Aug 15-17, Cottage Grove, MN

Southeast-Oct. 5-6, Jacksonville, FL

Eastern-TBA

We Enjoyed Quartzsite

By Ophelia Hicks

Club members I saw who attended the huge Quartzsite, AZ shows and trips were **Bob Pevhouse, Mary Ann King, Mary Hicks, Connie Klein, Sharon Neuhauser, Gaylord and Betty Jerde, Ann & George Matthews, Dick & Betty Pankey, Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Bob & Sallee Brumbaugh, and of course Marlow Hicks.** There may have been other CCM&GS people there but I didn't see them.

New changes in Q are sidewalks from the main intersection to the Firehouse on Highway 95 (to Parker) and South to Tyson & Rice turn off. What was really nice were working traffic lights that helped the flow of traffic. There was an increase of vendors at Desert Gardens, QIA had many empty spots. Tyson Wells was missing a few of my favorite dealers. Main event was flourishing and Rice Ranch expanded and of course there were more dealers around the other areas. Prices were a little higher this year.

Out near MM 113 people had decorated a tree with shoes. They also started one with caps but the Highway workers undecorated it. I heard someone had complained about it. Wonder what they did with all the caps. The shoe tree was left untouched.

As usual the dump collection station was open Sunday through Wednesday from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. Parking was still \$3 at the shows. The Patrol was busy writing tickets for parking infractions. Water didn't change—it was 5 cents a gallon. The weather cooperated with warm sunny days and mild nights. The usual spectacular sunsets brought out the camera buffs. The sunsets are incredible in the desert. We even observed two coyotes looping through the long-term north La Paz Campground early one morning.

We attended some field trips with the Old Timers while at Q and then the Woolseys, Matthews and Hicks traveled to Deming, New Mexico for more rock hunting. Deming is at 4100 feet elevation and cold. We realized it was winter but one forgets that fact when basking in 87 degree sunshine in Arizona.

We did some hunting that involved miles of dirt, rough trails. The Mexican border is close and one of our trips took us near to it and when we returned to the main road the Boarder patrol was waiting for us. I was glad to see them doing their job! After talking to him and explaining what we were doing he kindly told us where we could get where we wanted to be. We had turned off the road about 10 miles too soon.

After four days we awoke one morning to SNOW. We packed up and left and drove through a snow storm, sleet and

rain before emerging to sunshine in Arizona. Marlow and I did make it to the Blue River Indian Casino at Parker and gave our donation.

Four weeks after leaving Concord found us on the road home looking forward to hot running water, flushing toilets, clothes washer and dryer, microwave oven, mail delivery, hair dryer and coffee cup warmers. It was a great trip.

Oregon Fossil Proposed

By Guy DiTorrice via the Klamath Falls, Rock & Arrowhead Club's Dusty Rocks.

Greetings: I am working with the Oregon Paleo Board to get legislation introduced to declare an official "State Fossil". The proposed candidate is the leaf-impression of the plant *Metasequoia* found in central Oregon.

Your assistance in the form of letters of support, petitions and/or spreading the word is appreciated. I am in the process of preparing a fact sheet to be distributed to each state legislator with a riker-mounted specimen. My wife is financing the riker boxes and I am prepping the mounts from collected specimens from the high school location in Fossil, Oregon. Any other resources appreciated. Thanks!

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www.OregonFossilGuy.com

Top Ten Reasons to try Micromounting

By **Tim Jakela, Jr.** from the Marin Mineral Society's Tumbler.

For those unfamiliar with the term, micromounting is the study of minerals that require magnification for best appreciation. Micromounters generally use low-power (10-60x) binocular microscopes, and painstakingly mount the specimens in micromount boxes which are about 20 mm on edge. You know you're a micromounter when you find yourself mounting a half millimeter crystal on a toothbrush bristle. Sound cool? Read on.

Storage – While you probably can't fit a thousand micromounts on the head of a pin, you can sure fit them in a small box under your bed, making micromounting ideal for apartment dwellers or anyone who has heard the immortal phrase "Get those rocks out of here!"

Easy Collecting – Field collecting superb 10 cm crystals of a rare mineral isn't particularly easy, but the micromounter can find something of interest almost anywhere.

Perfection – Micro crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more often than cabinet specimens. They are the peak of aesthetics.

Variety – There's only a few hundred minerals out there that come in nice big crystals, and almost no new species are found in sizeable crystals. Go to any mineral show and what do you see- table after table of aquamarine, quartz, and fluorite. Micromounters work with far more species than hand-specimen collectors, and are familiar with far more rarities.

Low Prices – The average price of a micromount is \$3. Really expensive ones are \$20. The initial expense of a good scope and proper light is pretty steep, but after that you are set.

No Fakes – When a lot of money is changing hands for a fine cabinet piece, one has to be wary that the specimen has not been altered or faked in some way. Faking micromounts is not only extremely rare, it is nearly impossible, as a microscope easily reveals glue where it should not be.

Cheap Shipping – Sending 100 micromounts by airmail to Europe is far more affordable than 100 cabinet pieces.

Year Round Fun – A large part of what drives field collectors is the thrill of discovery. The micromounter with a good hoard of material does not have the constraints of a field season – no matter what the weather is like he can pull some rocks out of storage, trim them down, and find fantastic crystal-filled vugs never before seen by man. The micromounter can delve through his stock of material

and find new stuff any day of the week, and he can go collecting in his basement even if it is 2 AM and 20 degrees below outside. It is a year round hobby.

Weird & Wonderful – The micromounter sees things that are not even imagined by 'macro' collectors. Things like spiral millerite crystals, Sweet Home Mine rhodochrosite rhombs with moving bubble inclusions, or minerals like rutile, pyrite, and boulangerite in ring crystals, to name a very few of the bizarre things seen by the micromounter.

Free Stuff! – Last time you went to your average, garden-variety mineral show, did they have tables filled with fine cabinet specimens free for the taking? At micromount symposia, give-away tables loaded with interesting stuff are standard practice. Micromounters are a very generous bunch!

Source: Canadian Rockhound, Summer/Fall 1999, www.canadianrockhound.com/summer99/

Hollowing Out Cabochons

By **Larry McCoy** in Stoney Statements 1/02 via January The Rollin' Rock of the Roseville Rock Rollers.

Hollowed out cabs used to be referred to as "Carbuncles", it is a very effective way to

lighten up materials like garnet and amethyst that are too dark. Almost any stone that comes out too dark when finished can benefit from this. I use a Foredom tool to grind out the material and then wooden dowels to finish it. You don't always want to polish the hollow; sometimes a matte finish looks better as it doesn't cause the eye effect in the cab. This is a good way to keep a nice high dome on a too dark stone. Give it a try; it doesn't take long to do.

History of Plumas Eureka Mines-Part One

Compiled by **George Ross**,
State Park Docent.
Submitted by **Sherb Brown**,
Contra Costa M.& G.S.

Historians who wrote of the California Gold rush ran out of words long before they got to Jamison City, Plumas Eureka Peak, and the excitement of a gold strike in this remote corner of a new state.

The fact is, the history of Gold Mountain is almost as tough to dig out as was her gold, mostly tiny bits embedded in veins of quartz buried under tons of rock for untold millions of years.

While gold was being discovered early in 1848 at Sutter's Mill on the American River, and while thousands of would-be miners were trudging across the plains and over the forbidding Sierra Nevada in 1849, this corner of the

California frontier remained as it had been for many long centuries—unknown, unsuspected, untouched, unexplored.

Only the Maidu knew our mountain. None of the Spanish explorers, French trappers or British navigators nibbling along the edges of a new world came this way.

The 49ers didn't either. They followed the few routes then known: Donner Trail, Carson Pass, Johnson Cutoff, Walker Pass and a few others. Nor did they linger to explore. Their task was to get across the Sierra as quickly as they could, and for two good reasons: The mining was along the Mother Lode, near the base of these granite peaks, and winter would soon be nipping at their heels by time they made it this far across the wide continent.

The closest they got to Eureka Peak was more than 50 miles away, if they came by Peter Lassen's new trail, angling across Nevada toward Oregon, forking off about where Alturas now stands, then following the Pit River watershed into the valley.

Lassen's roundabout trail crossed Big Meadow—now Lake Almanor—which is as close as any of these pioneers were to get to Eureka Peak.

But in that late Fall of 1849 something strange took place, a historical anomaly that introduced our Plumas Eureka history in a roundabout way.

Another weary wagon train trudged along Lassen's trail and stopped in Big Meadow to rest and feed the livestock, and a 49er named Stoddard messed up.

He and another man whose name we don't know went hunting and promptly got lost. The wagon train went on without them.

The two greenhorns wandered for several days, Stoddard later related, until they stumbled upon a small lake and discovered gold, lumps and chunks of it, free for the taking. They filled their pockets before moving on. Winter was coming, and they were hungry and still lost. Getting rich would have to wait.

The next day, according to Stoddard, they were jumped by Indians and ran for their lives. Stoddard never saw his companion again and later showed a scar on his ankle he said was made by an Indian arrow as he fled for his life.

For months, through that winter of 1849-50, Stoddard visited the gold camps of Nevada City, Grass Valley, Downieville and elsewhere, retelling the story of his escape and showing the gold samples to support his story of a lost Gold Lake up here in the high country, waiting to be found and to make somebody rich.

The story passed from miner to miner and from camp to camp, creating what history now calls "The Gold Lake Excitement."

Let's pause here to speculate that it was at least partly a hoax and that Stoddard may have been part Munchausen and part fraud. Some claimed that the story of a lost Gold Lake ringed with nuggets came from an old Indian legend. Some remembered two distinct versions of Stoddard's oft-told tale. Some even recalled he had said the scarred ankle was a souvenir of his younger days as a sailor in action with the Royal Navy. Some reported that, quite simply, Stoddard was crazy.

Nevertheless, by the early Spring of 1850 Stoddard had hand-picked a party of 25 miners to accompany him on a trek along Maidu trails back into the high Sierra trying to find his lost lake and its gold.

Behind Stoddard and the 25 miners and their mules came another 500-to-1,000 more straggling up the watershed between the Yuba River and Feather River canyon. If there really was a lost Gold Lake, no one wanted to be left out if Stoddard was right.

This horde of miners wandered and wandered, searched and searched behind their unreliable leader, following him for nearly a month, crossing the Sierra divide and our Lakes Basin country in to Sierra Valley, poking into every likely lake along the way. Come June the weary miners lost faith in Stoddard, and began to suspect he was, indeed, chasing the old Indian legend and using them to find—what?

They got to Humbug Valley—and named it for him. They got to an unnamed creek, and a name came to them as they told him around a campfire.

“Stoddard, this is your last chance. If we don't find your Gold Lake by tomorrow night, we're going to hang you from a limb of the nearest tree.”

With that unfriendly ultimatum Stoddard fled Last Chance Creek well before sunup and this time he didn't get lost running down the mountain to safety.

All of this roundabout, roaming soon had a lot to do with the unfolding Gold Rush history of the High Sierra. For, as the unhappy horde of prospectors hiked back across the ridges and down the canyons, many stopped to pan for gold in the sand and gravel of the creeks along the way.

And they hit it! Many were soon rich, as the hapless Stoddard had promised.

High up in the mountains, far above the rich gold camps of the Mother Lode, gold indeed existed in abundance. They found rich colors in Nelson Creek, in Hopkins Creek, in Poorman's Creek, in Four-bits Creek. They hit it big at Rich Bar on the Middle Fork of the Feather on sand bars where a single pan-full or two could bulge a miner's eyes and fill his buckskin poke.

For the first time in the California gold fields, the mountain tops proved worth a

passing miner's while. Yes, indeed.

Too soon, that wild summer of 1850 passed and winter was upon miners ill-equipped to tough it out in the high country. They packed their belongings on their mules and on their backs and moved down the trails.

These, then, the unhappy followers of a Gold Lake dream, became the first miners to open up what was to become Plumas County—but they still hadn't found the richness that awaited them on our own Eureka Peak.

They found that the following Spring, in one fabulous lucky day. A party of nine miners followed those who had staked out claims in 1850, didn't find much room for panning along Nelson Creek, and struck out across the crest. They likely came through Solari Meadow and down Jamison Creek to set up camp in the shadow of Eureka Peak.

Two members of the party were sent up the steep mountain side to see what they could see of the surrounding terrain.

And there, only about 1,500 feet above Jamison Creek and today's Plumas Eureka State Park Headquarters, they found gold almost beyond their comprehension.

The two miners, Merethew and Peck, the only names history knows of the nine who got here first, struck it big that 21st of

May, 1851, halfway up Gold Mountain.

A rich ledge, an outcropping of rose-colored quartz high in decomposed sulfides of gold, with visible color upon its surface, must have dazzled their eyes. It was about 20-feet wide and slanted uphill for 400 feet, standing four feet high above base rock. This was to become the famous Plumas Eureka Gold Mine. What Merethew and Peck had really discovered was the exposed top of Eureka Gold Mine. What Merethew and Peck had really discovered was the exposed top of Eureka Chimney, a subsurface deposit of gold-bearing quartz that wouldn't be worked out until 1865, by which time it would have given up more than \$2 million in gold, with some silver thrown in.

The lucky nine discoverers sent word of their great strike back to Nelson Creek to recruit friends to open the mine on Gold Mountain. Within days, on June 5, they formed the Eureka Company of 36—and touched off a stampede to the banks of the Jamison.

Behind the 36 came 76 more to locate another outcropping for the Washington or Seventy-Six Mine, 40 more to stake out a claim a half mile south which they named (prophetically), the Rough and Ready Mine. About 80 more formed the Mammoth Mine to the immediate north of the Eureka. All were digging dirt and blasting rock from their claims within days of the

Eureka strike. Where were the historians?

The 200-odd newcomers first threw their weight around. Where the Eureka miners had staked 30-foot claims, the newcomers called for a miners' meeting—the law of the land in mining camps—and voted in 20-foot claims. The Mammoth Company, in fact, sunk a shaft into the virginal Eureka Chimney; it slanted under their claim, theirs to mine.

But the four mines that started with such a rush that May/June of 1851 were far from instant successes. Seventy-Six went from boom to bust in a year. The company had invested a lot of its capital in a 16-stamp mill on the flat near Jamison Creek, and built a wooden chute 1,500-feet long to bring the ore down the steep mountainside. It was a lamentable failure. They also laid out a town site, naming it the City of 75. They started up their water-powered stamp mill the next spring and ran 42 tons of rock through it for a paltry \$200 in gold. The company broke up and scattered, the mill was torn down, and the parts sold for salvage. The 'city' was stillborn.

Only Bill Elwell and a handful of others of the company remained to work the claim.

The Rough and Ready had it mostly rough. They also put a lot of resources into a 12-stamp mill. The mine was worked until 1854, suspended operations until 1857, and shut

down again, to remain idle for many years.

Both the Eureka and the Mammoth stayed with it and eventually prospered.

Part two of this three part series will be in the April Diggins.

Mother Lode Field Trip Report

By Jim Barton of the Roseville Rock Rollers' the Rollin' Rock.

On Saturday, January 18, twelve RRR members and their guests met at the Sutter Gold Mine off Hwy. 49 near Sutter Creek for a guided underground tour of the mine. We descended a 12 per cent grade in an open mine buggy about a quarter mile and 400 vertical feet into the workings. From there, we hiked up a series of stairs and through a tunnel, where we viewed the contact of the Melones, AKA "Mother Lode" Fault. We viewed visible gold ore, Mariposa Formation slate and schist, and Mariposite – a pale green chromium phengite, or high silica muscovite mica.

Upon our return to the surface, and as a special favor to the club, mine operations staff provided cored rock samples of the Mariposa Formation. Afterwards, we traveled to Jackson and the Kennedy Mine, and toured the surface workings of an abandoned vertical shaft mine with surface structures undergoing restoration. Docent Dee Davis entertained us with many hours

of stories about local mines and miners of the Mother Lode District. We finished the day visiting three road cut geologic sites in Almador County, where serpentine is available for collecting along the western Melones Fault system.

Serpentine is a regional, low-grade metamorphic rock and a mineral, which is a part of the zeolite and upper greenschist facies. The road cuts exhibited progressively higher grades of the metamorphism as we traveled north.

Thanks to all attendees for participating in this interesting field trip. My special thanks to Geologist Mike Flynn, who provided assistance through his contacts at Sutter Gold Mine, maps with excellent directions, and staked the geologic road cuts. Mike is the principal and manager of the Geotechnical Research and Development office in Sutter Creek.

More Tips from the Frequent Flyer Rockhound:

Joe Iannucci, from the Livermore Lithophiles, he has some suggestions for those who would like to enjoy their hobby while traveling, but who may not be quite so adventurous.

Museums: This almost seems too easy to include. Just add a few hours to your itinerary (or take advantage of early meeting conclusions) by visiting world-class rock museums at your destinations. Great candidates are the Smithsonian in DC, the

Field in Chicago, and the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, the Houston Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum in LA. All are downtown and easy cab or metro rides from almost anywhere. The Smithsonian is especially convenient since it has no lines, no admission fee and will allow photography (no tripods, but perhaps a monopod if you are friendly and unobtrusive).

Museum photography is a special category which can be accomplished only with a serious allotment of time. I have photographed at most of the urban mineral museums, and it is well worth the effort, but five minutes per case is a minimum, especially if the museum has other guests. You will wish to record the types and locations (which frequently are not in the case per se), and you want a case-wide and individual specimen field of vision.

A little more remote from big cities are the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts in Elmhurst, Illinois and the Colorado School of Mines Museum in Golden, Colorado.

Mine Tours. Franklin, New Jersey is not just a historically great place for minerals; it has the most entertaining and organized mine tour I have ever taken on a business trip. The Sterling Hill tour starts and ends on time, which is a big plus if you are between meetings or locations.

The only mine I have toured in a three-piece suit is the 3000-foot descent into a working gold mine in Johannesburg, South Africa. Not far from Golden and Denver is a wonderful gold mine in the Georgetown, Colorado area.

Rock Shops: Be prepared. You never know when you will find a great rock shop, whether you are in a rural area or downtown. I always enjoy the rustic flavor of a remote rock shop (Fallon, Nevada; Moab, Utah and Burns, Oregon come to mind instantly), but some cities have excellent urban shops: Boulder, Colorado, Albuquerque, New Mexico, etc. I'm sure you can add many more to the list.

Recipe of the Month

Submitted by **Lynne Whelan**, Clark County Gem Collectors, Las Vegas, The Polished Slab.

Chicken in a Garden

1 piece uncooked, deboned chicken
 1 medium potato, raw, sliced
 1 medium tomato, peeled
 ½ onion, sliced
 6 mushrooms
 2 slices green pepper
 2 tbs. rice
 1 tbs. white wine
 salt, pepper, & paprika

Place all ingredients for one person in double thickness of aluminum foil, folded. Then place in a shallow pan. Bake in 450 degree oven. Turn at 30 minutes. (No time is given for total cooking time. Try first time use one packet for checking for time.)

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, downtown Concord
(corner of Salvio and Colfax)

Free parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio
Membership fees: Initiation \$5; Regular member \$10; Associate \$5; Junior \$1.

Visitors are welcome! Bring a Friend

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