



Riablo Riggins

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa
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President's Message



HI All !!!

February is already here, and it has finally stopped raining. For me, with the sun comes working in the yard trimming and catching up on the weeding. Our tangerine tree produced a ton of incredibly juicy fruit, and the sweet lemons are loaded. I think we lost one of our Arbutus (Strawberry Tree) and some of the tart lemons are aging. The rainy days were spent sorting and organizing my rock and mineral collection. I feel better to have a little more control of the organized chaos.

Your Board of Directors has also been busy organizing your club for the next year. We have secured a meeting place for our club and BOD meetings. We are working on a booth for the Clayton Art and Wine Festival and a display case at the community library later in the spring. And our club has been asked to put in a showcase at the Newark / Hayward show in March. Members are also participating in other club shows as demonstrators and volunteers. Our outing chair, Allen, will be announcing upcoming trips and outings at the next meeting. The BOD will be discussing having a presence at the CFMS show in Lodi. If you take a class or participate in any activity with another club, please let me or Cheryl Morgan know so we can get it in the Newsletter. We are also working on our entry in the 2023 All American Club competition. Anyone who has experience putting scrap books together would be greatly

appreciated. Our entry will be electronically entered. I and other board members will help to put the book together.

We will have our first Show Committee meeting after the BOD meeting, Feb.4 at the Clayton Library at 11 am. All are welcome to both meetings. We need a volunteer(s) for refreshments at our club meetings (Not at BOD).

✦ Our 'sister' club in Antioch show is February 18-19. I hope to see you all at the show. ✦



We are Artists

The word "lapidary" usually refers to the creation of small objects from stones (not large objects like Michelangelo's statues). This is the focus of our newsletter for the next year, so an overview of the subject seems in order. In this article, we will look at the traditional lapidary arts; tumbling, cabbing, faceting and carving. We will also include some newer forms of the lapidary art: mineral collections. painted and garden rock sculpture.

Gemstone Tumbling

The simplest form of lapidary, gemstone tumbling requires minimal equipment. You put rough gem material into a tumbler, a revolving barrel with abrasives. Progressively finer abrasives are used until the gem obtains a polish. This process closely resembles what happens to rocks in a stream or on the beach. However, tumbling produces much higher polish levels. Rock tumbling are a number of ardent followers, and once the basics are achieved, there are a lot of techniques that take the hobby one step further. There are a lot of crafts that can use tumbled stones, from beading to mosaics



Cabbing

Cabbing or cabochon cutting is probably the most common form of lapidary arts., and maybe the oldest. Cabochons or "cabs" are gems cut with a flat bottom and a curved or domed top. They are commonly used in Jewelry, but can become intarsia and other decorative arts. Time and modern technology has greatly enhanced what can be done to

make a cab. Bu the basic technologies of, saws, capping machines and polishers are widely and commercially available and within the reach of many, Cabbing can be profitable. Depending on the gem material you use, cabochons can have significant resale value. Thus, cabbing can make a very rewarding hobby, especially however, cabbing machines do cost more than tumblers. While cabochon cutting is more complex than tumbling, you can become proficient with a little practice. A mentor can be very helpful as well. A word of warning: cabbing can be highly addictive!



Faceting

Faceting is the most commercial of all the lapidary arts. In fact, diamond marketing is a subject of study and many business schools because it is a unique and well-developed model of marketing. Faceting is putting a series of flat polished surfaces on a stone, preferable a hard crystal. The design of such stones is a series of faceting angles, with the stones being ground very precisely on a flat lap. Geometrically arranged, each of the flat surfaces is called a facet.

The purpose of faceting, traditionally, is to bring out the brilliance of a gem. The bottom facets reflect the light entering the stone and return it to the viewer. (Don't confuse brilliance with dispersion or "fire," the multicolored flashes you see coming out of diamonds and some other gems).

There are also many kinds of faceters. Faceting is an art, but you don't need some esoteric "artistic sense" to engage in it. Machinists, engineers, and those with a knack for math often excel at faceting.

Although you can become skilled at faceting with minimal experience, you'll never run out of new challenges



The newest trend in faceting is the use of computers to accurately cut each facet, and to calculate the best cut very a raw stone. But the human component makes each stone a work of art.

Carving

Many think that carving is the most challenging of the lapidary arts, but like the rest of lapidary, modern technology has made it much easier. Ancients carve soft rock with chisels...hobbyists today have diamond bits and hand grinders. Today they are carving much harder stones, To succeed at gem carving, you do need a distinctive artistic sense and a thorough understanding of lapidary principles. The good news is that everyone has a distinctive artistic sense, and every expression of that sense is art. More so than wood or metal, gem material presents definite limits to what you can carve.

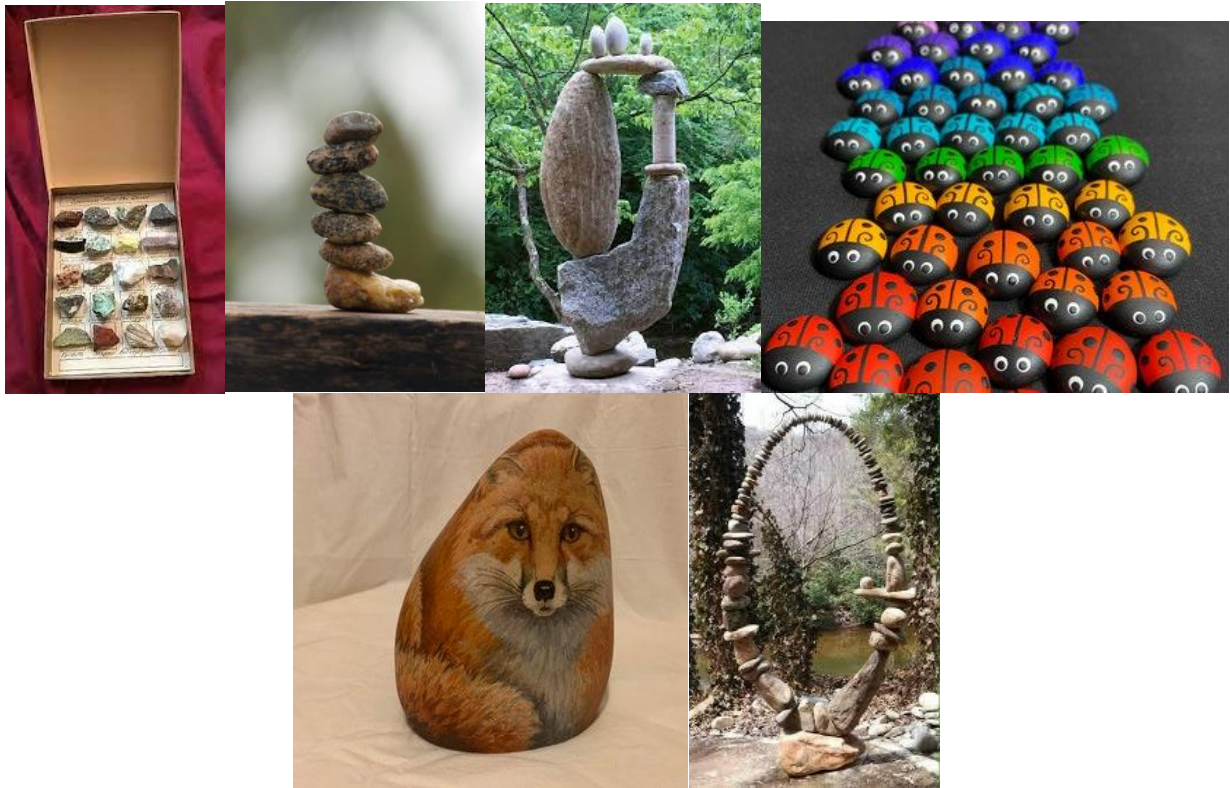
There are several types of gem carving. One of the best known forms is cameo. Gem carvers usually cut them from sea shells or agates. However, almost any material may work. Slate and soapstone are popular choices because the stones are readily available and worked with hand tools. Cabochons are often carved, too. If the design is cut into the top of a cab, it's called an intaglio or relief carving. If the design is carved on the back, it's a reverse intaglio. Some carvings aren't designed to be used in jewelry. Carvers cut these stand-alone carvings simply for their beauty. Our club members do this in obsidian, agate, and jade.



Other Choices

More choices to pursue the lapidary art includes mineral collections, painted, home décor, and garden rock sculpture. In a past we have discussed the storage and artistic display of a mineral collection. The details of how to store your minerals depends on the focus and purpose of the collection. Some focus on how the stones are collected, like a memory book, others label each stone by it's chemical or gemstone attributes. Some even collect stones based on their florescence. One use I have seen for fluorescent rocks is to place them as a collection in a disused fireplace with a black light on them from the chimney. Every collection is unique and a work of art. The only limitation is your taste. Garden rock sculpture is another example of lapidary art. Rocks are artistically arranged, made into fountains, pillars or even pavement with the overall presentation in the garden is art too. Finally, rock painting is another artistic endeavor. I will not go into the detail here, since most have seen it at rock shows. It is a low skill, low cost, and low impact version of a lapidary hobby that can bring in new members to our share passion of rock hounding. That passion is the ties that bind

our group together. So in the next year of newsletter we will explore all these aspects. If you want to add your personal experience to this compilation, you are invited and welcome. This is who we are. Please tell me about your version of this art.



References:

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/introduction-lapidary-arts/>

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/collect1/collectgip.html>

<https://rockology.net/blogs/news/7-quick-tips-to-start-a-rock-collection>

<https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/rock-collection-as-decor-36945117>



**“We Dig Rocks”
Since 1950**

CO-OP Seminar Is Just Around The Corner!

Date is March 4th, 2023, held at the Woman's Thursday Club 10625 Fair Oaks CA 95628.

We welcome our CO-OP Society members to attend!

Check in is between 9:30 am 9:50 am. Coffee and breakfast snack will be provided. Donation toward costs appreciated! Guest are welcome to bring an Auction item if they so wish, (our only fund raiser).

Meeting to start right at 10:00 am.

Our speaker will start around 10:15. Jim Hutchings is our speaker.

The topic will be "Chemistry and Origins of Gold". We will then have a short break then the Live Auction!

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Business meeting after lunch. Open to guest if they would like to stay and attend.

Field Trip Leaders Orientation followed by Business meeting.

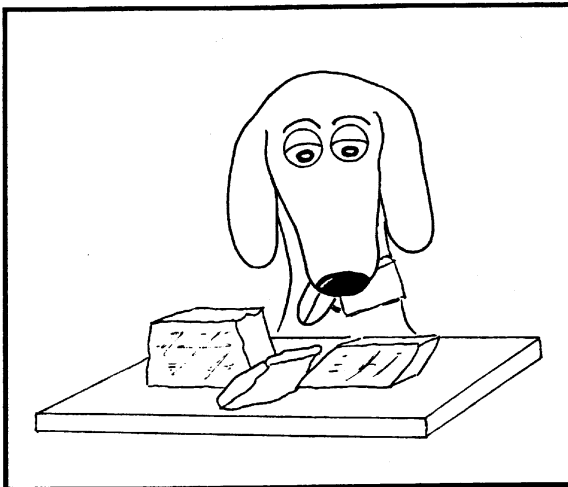
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We please ask you to RSVP! Please rsvp to mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com. or text to (209)480-3176.

We have limited space at the facility and limited parking.

*

2022 WAS OUR 50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY!



A mineral collector's best friend:
a Labradorite Retriever



"And this one I picked up from where we buried Vinny."

Board Meeting Minutes, Redacted,

Full edition available at the general meeting and upon request.

12:54pm President Mike Hopkins calls meeting to begin 7 Members in attendance

Elected 2023 Officers recognized as following ...President - Mike Hopkins, VP1 - Kelly Plumb, VP2 - Al Graff, Secretary - Barbara Roderick Treasurer - Vicki Hotopp, Federation Director - Dick Pankey (2022)/Kelly Plumb (2023)

2023 Committee Chairs: Historian- OPEN, Librarian – Caryl Taladson, Property - Terry Caskey, Hospitality- OPEN, Publicity – Mike Hopkins, Display – Cheryl Morgan, Membership – Taylor Thompson, Show – Mike Hopkins, Public Land Advisory – Al Graff, Education – OPEN, Newsletter – Cheryl Morgan, Website Master OPEN.

Temporary Bylaw Review Committee approved to review for updates to bring the bylaws to current standings. Committee includes President Mike Hopkins, VP1 Kelly Plumb, VP2 Al Graff, Secretary Barbara Roderick. All BOD members are encouraged to review and bring any concerns to attention of committee. Temporary committee to set meeting date for further discussion and review.

Committee Reports

Membership Taylor Thompson asked to find an assistant to fill in if she is not available. Membership Chair Taylor to notify members who are unpaid by end of January. Club Membership list is being compiled into ONE list and attendance are regular meetings taken.

Treasurer End of year receipts due. No receipts for holiday, please turn in.

Newsletter deadline date for articles and committee reports is the 25th each month.

Webmaster NEED NEW WEB MASTER

No unfinished business s from past year to address.

- **New Business**

- President Mike Hopkins appoints Secretary access to PO Box.
- Temporary Treasurer Audit Committee appointed for this year's audit.
- Separate raffle item in front of show discussed
- Clayton Art & Wine Festival: Cheryl Morgan to follow up with additional information. Possibly having a display table representing the Club,
- Future Club activities [MH] Display case at Clayton Library

BOD Calendar BOD approved calendar for BOD meetings 3 months in advance. February 4, March 4th, April 1st. Meetings start at 11AM Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Road, Clayton 94517 [MH]

Cheryl Morgan Motion to adjourn. Naomi Morgan second. Meeting adjourned 3:32pm Thursday 1/5/2023 CCMGS BOD meeting minutes by Barbara Roderick CCMGS Secretar

One of our main purposes as a club has been community outreach and education. We were not as able as we would have liked to be at accomplishing this during the first years of the COVID epidemic. Now, with the reopening of library's and other in person meeting places, we are starting to reach out again. I will be speaking about local geological and rockhounding clubs, what they do and the many different ways to appreciate our rockhounding hobby. I will be reaching out to inform our communities as to how they can get involved in our great hobby and study what we all love. These talks will be held at the El Sobrante Library at 2:00 pm on Saturday February 11th and at the Rodeo library at 5:30 PM on Thursday February 16th.

Upcoming Programs for CCM&GS

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on February 13th at Endeavor Hall in Clayton. To encourage field tripping we will be hearing about members' field tips to a gold mine in California, (Mike) and to the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta Canada. Fossils abound at the Royal Tyrrell! Next month we will be hearing from Matthew Knight about radioactive minerals, their proper handling and storage. These should be exciting talks. See you there!

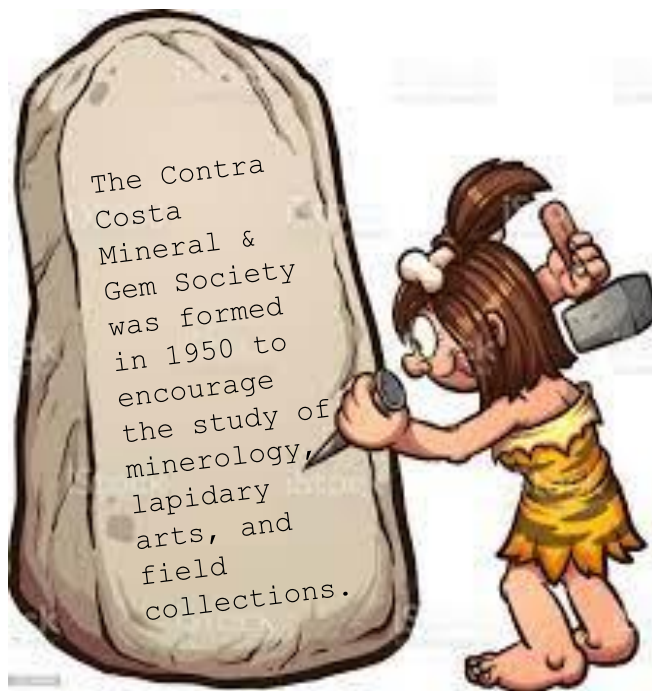
Going Rockhounding? What you need to take

- 1) First decide, is this a day trip or will it be overnighter? If you are planning to stay overnight or longer, you will need to decide if you will be camping (which means you will need camping gear, food, fuel and cooking equipment), or will you be staying at a hotel or motel and eating at restaurants. If you plan to stay at a motel, make sure there is one and make reservations well in advance.
- 2) Rockhounding equipment can be as simple as your rock pick and a carry bag, depending on what you are looking for, how difficult it is to get and how much work you are prepared to put into getting it. Many rockhounds also take buckets (some with wheels,) sledge hammers, chisels, scoops, spray bottles of water (to better see what hose rocks are going to look like). Others load up gold panning equipment. It all depends on the material and location you are going to. If you are going with an organized field trip your field trip leader should be able to give you a good idea of the appropriate equipment.
- 3) Clothing: Do not neglect proper clothing! In general, you want to dress in layers so you are comfortable as the day gets hotter or colder. Even if the day is scorching hot, you may want long sleeves to protect you from sun burn. Always wear a hat to protect your head. The best ones are the ones with a flap across your neck to protect from sun burn. Most Important! Good boots! No sandal or slipper! Even good tennis shoes are questionable. Nothing protects from a rattlesnake bite better than a high boot top made of good leather.
- 4) Sunscreen and insect repellent. Lots of places we go have nasty little bugs that like to bite us and nobody wants to get melanoma. With all the time we spend outside in the lovely warm sun. Protection from those UV rays is essential.

- 5) Snack: Take something salty and something sweet. You don't want to have your blood sugar drop when you are a mile from your vehicle digging out the best rock ever and you are not sure you can find your way back to it if you leave.

Antioch Show

Our sister club, The Antioch Lapidary Club, will be holding their annual Show February 18h and 19th at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds in the flower building from 10:00 am to 5:00 PM. We are sister clubs for many reasons, both for our similarities and our differences. Obviously we all love rocks and are very nearby each other. Many of us are members of both clubs. CCM&GC has regular programs on gem, mineral and rock related subjects. Antioch has a fully functioning cab, shop, silver shop and saws with shop foremen (and women) on hand to teach newbies how to cut, polish and set gem stones. Pick up your discount tickets at the next club meeting.



Word Search

G	N	I	T	N	I	A	P	U	U
D	U	E	S	O	Y	B	B	O	H
T	L	A	P	I	D	A	R	Y	I
A	U	B	I	T	M	E	G	A	N
T	E	M	S	C	A	B	S	L	T
E	R	B	B	E	A	D	S	P	A
C	V	P	A	L	N	E	E	S	R
A	D	R	S	L	E	O	D	I	S
F	T	R	A	O	S	R	T	D	I
O	E	M	A	C	S	W	A	S	A

art	facet
beads	gem
bit	hobby
cabs	lap
cameo	lapidary
carve	panting
collection	saws
display	slab
dues	stones
	tumbler

Once all the words are found the remaining letter form a secret phrase.

