

Diablo Diggin's
Bonnie Eichler, Editor

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
(An educational non-profit organization)
PO BOX 4667
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

SAVE STAMPS for donation to Easter Seals

FIRST CLASS

Member of : American & California Federations of Mineralogical Societies.

**Next General Meeting of
the CCM&GS is:
Monday, June 16th, 2008.
(Third Monday this month)**

**Meeting is at 7:30 PM.
Please mark your calendars.**



Refreshments

This is a list of members who we request to please bring refreshments to share at the June General Meeting:

Scott & Sherry Pevahouse
Aaron & Elfie Pingree
Kelly Plumb
Alan Robbins
Lyle Roessler
June & John Rsosplach
Suzanne Rothstein
Doug Rue
Jeanie Russo
Al Schleif
Carol Seed
Mary Selmi

**Dress in your best "Flag"
Outfit for the Flag Day
BBQ and you could win
an award!!!**

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society



Bill Beiriger working with his sand display.

**June Program
Sands of the World**

Bill Beiriger knows sand. He studies sand, collects sand, and talks sand. And we can hear him talk this Monday, June 16.

Bill got his introduction to sand in 1955 at the Natural History Museum in Pacific Grove. "They had a remarkable collection of sand," he recalls, and that started my collecting fever. "By 1999 I had collected 120 samples. Now my collection numbers almost 2400."

"In 2006 I entered my sand display at the CFMS Show in Angles Camp. I won the Educational Trophy. In 2007 I entered the AFMS competition in Roswell. I won the National Trophy." Bill's educational display is designed to show the variety, uniqueness, distribution of sand.

Sand isn't just at the beach. Some of the most interesting sands can be found on mountain tops, deserts, and gravel pits, and even caves. Many sands contain micro-fossil, very tiny crystals, and shells. The beauty and the variety of colors, and texture make an admirable and surprising spectacle. One can enjoy a real sensual pleasure.

In his talk *Sands of the World*, Bill will discuss what sands are, what to look for in samples you collect, and why collectors have so much fun. His talk will be highlighted with magnificent images and micro-photographs of his collection.

Bill has been a member of the Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & mineral club for 40 years. He often gives talks to students in the Livermore valley.

Please note, this program is on the third Monday in June.

Harry Nichandros – VP, Program Director



Bill Beiriger's CFMS/AFMS award winning display case.

President's Message

What a great club we have. I enjoyed attending the May General Meeting, seeing many of our members in attendance, and looking at all the items of interest and beautiful cabs that were brought. I want to recognize and thank Refreshment **Chair Mary Bufton** and **Member Mark Bufton**, for organizing the refreshments and snacks we all enjoy after the program.

We have a lot of member interest in the **CCM&GS first Flag Day Rock Swap and BBQ** which will be at the **Morgan's Ranch, Morgan Territory Road, Clayton**, on

Saturday, June 14, 10 am to 3 pm. The signup sheet has 28 already signed up. If you were not at the May meeting or did not get around to signing up and wish to come, call **Naomi Morgan at 672-2458** or **me at 779-0698**, to add your name to the list. We need to know if you are coming and if you are bringing family or friends so we have enough hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks for everyone. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share (salad, dips, veggies, dessert). Bring some rocks to swap or other items of interest or some \$ to pick up some new specimens from fellow members. This is a good opportunity to find out where certain rocks were collected since many are collected by the member bringing them to the swap. There are some great BINGO prizes too!!

I have selected the **CCM&GS Club Case for the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies show**, "The Golden Bear Gem & Mineral Show" at the Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, in Ventura, CA, June 27-29. My mother, **Member Ophelia Hicks**, assembled a case of case favors that **Members Ann & Matt Matthews** have given to people who have displayed at our show. They have found or made the case displays gifts for our annual education show for many years and the favors have been thoughtfully provided over the years, vary each year, and are unique to our club event. This display case will be truly a CCM&GS club case at the Federation show. Make sure to attend this great show which features the very best in gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils and lapidary art and check out our club case.

Vice President of Field Trips, **Dennis Freiburger**, reminded us, with humor, of the many opportunities we have to enjoy our hobby. There are the field trips and shows he keeps us informed about, but his favorite show, **Cash and Treasurers**, on the Travel Station, was mentioned at the May meeting.

In fact, I am taking a break right now to go watch the program on Australia's Black Opals, Oh My!

I am back, the program was nice. The last item for my monthly message is to let everyone know the Board of Director meeting (none was held in May) will be Sunday, June 8th at 1 pm, at my home in Antioch. All members are welcome, just let me know if you are attending so I can arrange enough seats. A pot luck Sunday dinner will follow for anyone wishing to stay after the Board Meeting is adjourned.

Have some rock fun and I hope to see you on Flag Day at the rock swap and BBQ.

Mary Hicks - President

WANTED: A Librarian. The CCM&GS needs a member to take care of the club's library, support members checking out and returning books and tapes, purchasing replacement or new books, promoting the use of the Library in the monthly newsletter. To volunteer contact Mary Hicks at maryhicks@comcast.net or 779-0698.

CCM&GS ROCK SWAP AND BBQ, June 14th is Flag Day

When this summer's social event was being planned by **Social Chair Naomi Morgan**, the date that was settled on, June 14th happened to be the perfect Saturday. This year, this Saturday happens to be Flag Day and so the theme of this first ever CCM&GS Rock Swap was found. Wanting to know more about this special day, the following history was gathered from the National Flag Day Foundation web site.

The "Stars and Stripes", the official National symbol of the United States of America was authorized by congress on Saturday, June 14, 1777. The journal of the Continental Congress states, "Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be Thirteen stripes alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The father of Flag Day is **Bernard J. Cigrand**. He was first and foremost an American patriot. From the 1880's through the 1930's, he preached respect and honor for the nation and its flag. In 1885, while attending college to become a dentist he also began promotion of the flag. He spoke to the Sons of America in June of 1888 where he emphasized the good that would come from a flag holiday. The organization published a magazine called the "American Standard" to inculcate reverence for American emblems and Cigrand was the editor-in-chief. In the years that followed, Cigrand authored many articles advocating recognition of the June 14th adoption of the Stars and Stripes. By 1916 flag ceremonies on June 14th had become so prevalent that **President Woodrow Wilson** issued a proclamation establishing Flag Day as an annual national event. **President Harry S. Truman** signed the legislation in 1949 and June 14th was properly designated Flag Day.

CCM&GS SUMMER SOCIAL BBQ & ROCK SWAP

WHEN: FLAG DAY, Saturday, June 14th, 10 am to 3 pm.

WHERE: Bill & Naomi Morgan's home, 6040 Morgan Territory Road, Clayton.

WHY: Let's get together and celebrate the birth of the flag and our right to be rockhounds AND to have a rockhound good time swapping rocks and rock stories AND to

enjoy a great BBQ (hamburgers/hot dogs/beverages provided). There will be Bingo prizes too.

HOW TO SIGN UP: call **Social Chair Naomi Morgan 672-2458** or **President Mary Hicks 779-0698**.

WHAT TO BRING: Sun screen, shade hat, table for your rocks, a chair, rocks to swap or other items of interest, some \$ to acquire a new find, and a side dish to share.

WHAT NOT TO BRING: No PETS please!

COLOR OF THE DAY: RED, WHITE and BLUE, or course.



General Meeting Minutes, May 12th

The meeting was called to order by President **Mary Hicks** at 7:35 pm. Mary asked for people to please turn their cell phone to vibrate mode. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by **Dick Pankey**. Sergeant of Arms **Sherb Brown** (and professional duck caller) collected 25¢ from members not wearing their name badges.

There was no Board of Directors meeting in May. The Next Board of Directors meeting will be in June. All club members are invited, just let Mary Hicks know if you would like to attend.

Hospitality Chair, **Naomi Morgan** announced Birthdays and Anniversaries, and introduced about 10 visitors to our club meeting. **Gary Castillas** won the Member Door Prize.

Bonnie Eichler, Newsletter Editor, reminded people that if they would like to receive their newsletter via email, please let her know.

Education Chair, **Rana Owen**, was not present but requests ideas for classes you would like to have next year. Please see Rana about the monthly "Bead -In" for all you beaders. Next Bead -In night is May 23. See the newsletter for class schedule.

Dick Pankey, Federation Director, reminded us about the upcoming Federation show (June 27-29). Dick also thanked everybody who volunteered their time and help at the Field Trip seminar we hosted last month. See the CFMS website for sign up forms and information. The Tri-federation field trip to Texas Springs is coming up. See the newsletter for details. **Mary Hicks** is organizing the Club's display case for the CFMS show. Please contact Mary to see how you can help.

Dennis Freiburger, 2nd Vice President and Field Trip Chair, reminded us to read to newsletter to find out about many upcoming shows and trips (there is at least one-a-week for the next few months). There are 3 trips planned to the Virgin Valley (Nevada) to hunt for Black Opal. Also, watch the Travel Channel (Cash & Treasures) for great shows on gem & mineral trips.

Therese Clark is looking for members who can help local teachers present short talks on the earth sciences. Please see Therese if you can help.

Mary Jernigan, Publicity Chair, let everybody know that the club plans to have a club promotion booth at the Solano Flea Market (Concord) on June 22 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. If you have any material to donate for the flea market, please contact Mary Jernigan.

Terry Caskey, Display Chair, introduced the Items of interest. Terry announced that for this Month's competition there are many cabs to look at and vote for. Please vote for your favorite. Next month's Shape of the Month will be "Triangle." See the newsletter for details about the display items presented this month.

Sam Woolsey, Show Chairman said that the show planning is coming along fine. Critter day, when we get together to make rock critters for the wheel of fortune will be August 23 for 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at **Connie Klein's** house.

Kelly Plumb announced that the Antioch Lapidary Club Annual Tailgate rock sale and BBQ will be on Saturday June 7. Come for the fun.

Barbara Brown, Treasurer, announced for several members to pick up their prize checks for winning the monthly cabochon contest.

Harry Nichandros, 1st Vice President and Program Chair introduced the program – Beads of Stone...Beads of Glass, by guest speaker Mary Sue Bucher. Mary Sue displayed hundreds of examples of beads she has collected throughout the years. Mary Sue gave a very good talk on the history and uses of beads form plastic, glass, and natural beads.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Refreshments were enjoyed after the program (thank you **Mary Bufton**) for organizing the treats). Members voted for their favorite cabs and faceted gems, and looked at the display items and material brought in by our speaker.

David Kleesattel, Secretary

June Birthdays

Ken Whitlatch	6/9
Brownie Cameron	6/11
Loren Hill	6/15
Mary Bufton	6/17
Barrie Bieler	6/17
Gene Holcomb	6/17
Judy Brown	6/19
Horace Young	6/21
Stephen Mayberry	6/25

June Anniversaries

Elfie & Aaron Pingree	6/6
Mary Ellen & Sam Johnston	6/6
Harry Short	6/8
Gary Walls	6/9
Sherry & Scott Pevahouse	6/12
Ken & Jean Williamson	6/12
Loren & Lynne Hill	6/14
Richard & Shannon Merrill	6/19
Pam Harris	6/22
Susan & Richard Dennis	6/23
Althea & Barrie Bieler	6/25

Membership Report

Because there was no Board of Director's meeting in May, we were unable to vote in several new members who submitted their applications. So keep your eyes open for the announcement of several new members next month.

The 2008 roster with all the members' contact information was distributed. Please check your information and make sure it is correct. Let me know if I need to update any information. Updated membership rosters are available throughout the year upon request.

Pins, Patches, Decals

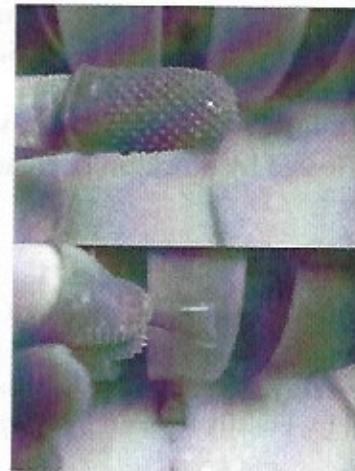
I have Diablo Dan lapel pins and cloth patches, and the rockhound decals for your vehicles available for sale. The lapel pins are \$2.50 each, the patches are \$3.00 each, and the decals are \$0.50 each. Please see me at the next meeting. These are great ways to show off our club and to identify yourself as a rockhound.

Kim Kleesattel, Membership Chair

Cabbing Tip

In the winter I am one of those guys who always has splits at the top of my finger tips. Some days when I want to cab, the thought of my fingers brushing against the diamond wheels prevents me from cabbing. I also do not use dop sticks, I prefer to work the stone with my fingers, it is more comfortable and gives me a sense of the stone. So I decided to try those rubber finger tip things, people use when filing or perhaps sewing. The ones I found in a stationary store are called Machine Quilting Finger Grips; they sell for about 25 cents each...and a pack of a dozen for less than \$3.00. They take a little getting used to, but they do work, and they allow me to work on days when I might not have taken a chance. They may also help if you have just had your nails done, (I assume this would apply to the women ?) and want to keep from scratching your nails. One thing, as the stone is almost done and the polish is getting close to a finish, the stone definitely slips out more often, so be careful towards the end. Hope this helps, give it a try.

Rich Kelly – Owner of South Fork Mining & New Member



The finished product, a beautiful piece of Happy Camp Jade!

Field Trip Calendar

June 6, 7. Virgin Valley, NV and Sunstone region, OR. To collect opal and sunstone. Hosted by El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society.

June 7, 8. Virgin Valley, NV. To collect opal. Co-hosted by Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Societies.

June 7 – 19. Series of four locations. (Fallon, NV; McDermitt, NV; Lake View, OR; Davis Creek, CA. To collect, rhyolite, agate, petrified wood, fossils, picture jasper rainbow obsidian, and sunstone. Hosted by Mother Lode Mineral Society.

June 14. Spider Mine (Red Bluff), CA. To collect rhodonite. Hosted by San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society.

June 16 – 19. Virgin Valley, NV. To collect opal. Hosted by Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Society.

August 30, 31; September 1. Austin, NV. Hosted by El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society.

Labor Day Weekend. Cedarville, CA. Hosted by Fossils for Fun Society.

For more information about these trips contact Dennis Freiburger.

Various Shows & Events

June 7. Antioch, CA. Tailgate Rock Swap and BBQ. Hosted by Antioch Lapidary Club. 425 Fulton Shipyard Road.

June 27 – 29. Ventura, CA. California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show. Ventura County Fairgrounds.

July 2 – 6. Madras, OR. Fourth of July Pow Wow. Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

August 2, 3. San Francisco, CA. San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society Show. San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way.

August 29 - September 1. Fort Bragg, CA. Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society Show. Town Hall, Main and Laurel.

October 10, 11. Big Sur, CA. Jade Festival. Highway One, opposite Sand Dollar Beach,

October 25, 26. Los Altos, CA. Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Show. Los Altos Civic Center, One San Antonio Road.

More listings at Rock and Gem Magazine website: www.rockngem.com/showdates

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Taken from an e-mail tip.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke... Totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking four simple questions:

Ask the individual To SMILE. If the person cannot smile with both sides of their mouth, it is likely they experienced a stroke.

Ask the person To TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

Ask him or Her to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If they cannot lift both sides equally, that is another possible sign of a stroke.

Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. A tongue

that is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other indicates a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the Symptoms to the dispatcher and tell them specifically the person is showing signs of a stroke and when the signs began

It is extremely important for care to begin immediately! Too often people brush off the symptoms and ignore the signs until it is too late.

Submitted by Sam Woolsey



Some Surefire Signs You're a Rockhound:

Internet source: *Bob's Rock Shop*

You sob uncontrollably watching "How the West was Won" at the part where the farmers are clearing rocks and casting them off.

You bring a catchers mitt and a hand lens to a rock fight.

Your son hits his hand with your rock hammer, your wife screams it broken, and you reply it's a fracture, it has good cleavage, and has produced some unusual streaks in your son's underwear.

You've been found guilty of trespassing on BLM land. The judge sentences you to 10 years' hard labor breaking rocks. You fall to your knees and beg him, "Please, your honor, let it be in Franklin, New Jersey!"

Submitted by Joanne Caskey

Display Report

For the May meeting we had 2 competitions.

Remember, the winners are chosen by your vote. Please try to vote so we can have full club representation in the results. We had 37 votes this time.

This is the highest vote total in some time!!

Novice Cab: Gary Castilas was the only one to enter this competition. He entered a nice cab made from pyrite in quartz.

Pro Cab: Four entries, Joe Yarbrough (Gravyard agate) (winner), Terry Caskey (Arizona sandstone), Dave Kleesattel (chrysocolla), and Barrie Bieler (freeform agate)

Shape of the Month: Four entries, Dave Kleesattel (condor agate) (winner), Joe Yarbrough (Brazilian agate), Barrie Bieler (turquoise), and Vivian Kuhl (Malachite)

Faceting: Barrie Bieler (square princess cut CZ)

Shape of the Month for June - Triangle (Three acute angles)

Items of Interest: The following persons displayed items of interest Lyle Roessler – Texas Springs limb casts both pink and red, and the Bead in Buddies displayed a number of necklaces made in their monthly meetings.

Terry Caskey - Display Chair



2008 Shape of the Month

January	Any shape
February	Heart shape
March	Oval
April	Round
May	Pear (Teardrop)
June	Triangle (Three acute angles)
July	Freeform (No symmetry)
August	Rectangle (Or square)
September	Marquis (Cat eye)
October	No competition (Auction night)
November	Any shape
December	No competition (Christmas party)

In addition to the competition, please bring any rock or jewel related items, including photos, to share with every one.

Terry Caskey - Display Chair

**Don't Forget the June 22
CCM&GS Club Promotion -
Solano Flea Market**

Education Report

The May Bead-In-Night will have already happened by the time you get the newsletter. This activity on May 23rd was on a number of the member's schedules and I am sure a good time was had by all.

The Concho Bead Necklace class is set for June 21st at President Mary Hicks' home in Antioch, 1 to 3 PM. Call her at 779-0698 or sign-up at the June General Meeting. Enjoy the summer solstice afternoon and take home a completed necklace.

The May class for Precious Metal Clay (PMC) is being rescheduled to June 28, 10 am to 3

pm. There are still open slots for students in this interesting class where clay art is turned to beautiful silver pieces after it is baked in a kiln and polished by the student. Contact Jeanie Russo at 687-0278 for information or to be added to the sign-up sheet. Sign up sheet will be at the June General Meeting.

It looks like Member Donal Tompkins is planning a stained glass class in July. This class is two days, Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 pm. First class is theory and cutting of glass. The second class is assembly and completion of your project. The dates will be set on the sign-up sheet at the June General Meeting. Contact Don if you have any questions, 228-1544. Class size limit is 4 students.

The June Bead-In-Night will be June 27th at 6:30 at Joanne Caskey's home.

President Mary Hicks for Rana Miller-Owen - Education Chair

SHOW CORNER

OUR YOUTH PROGRAM:

I recently learned that our show's youth program is poorly understood and woefully under appreciated. This Show Corner will try to correct that error and extol its virtues.

Hazel & I have attended virtually every NBFT and Co-Op club show from Santa Cruz to Auburn to Turlock -- and a half dozen or so in Southern California. Only Turlock -- housed two large county fair barns and with a local junior college for additional staff -- equals or exceeds the youth program we offer, and no other club show program even comes close.

Cheryl Morgan's Rock Painting program is the

most popular activity in our show -- or any other show -- by far. She always has 3-4 children wielding brushes and paints at her tables -- and 6-8 at times. The Grab Bags and Wheel of Fortune are always popular. Hazel sells out of her bags by Sunday afternoon every year, and took an order for 20 more last year (a teacher for her class). Betty Pankey makes -- and helps make -- her bead rings for a slew of "kids" of all ages. Dick Pankey provides his take-home rock and mineral identification cards to a steady stream of visitors. And Connie Klein hosts a fluorescent viewing box in the Fluorescent Display area where kids can view dollar bills, scorpions, glowing minerals and rocks, and even try out their Grab Bag treasures.

And then there's the Youth Table -- not a Scout Table -- in the front lobby. When youths of any age -- Scouts or "civilians" -- show up at the admissions table (accompanied by an adult!), they are given a single ticket and directed to the Youth Table, which is staffed by Scouts.

After several unsuccessful attempts at hosting our own events in a Centre Concord classroom, we offered the room to Linda Minnich for a Scout program. With it, Linda draws Scouts (younger Cubs and older Scouts) and Scouters (adults as chaperones) from a wide swath of the East Bay, from as far away as San Jose and Vallejo. In exchange, Scouts serve our show in several ways. Scouts run the Wheel of Fortune full time -- and have for years. They also "fill-in" for special tasks when requested. For example, on occasion older Scouts will take our "Arrow" sign out and "flag" passing cars on Clayton Road. Scott Pevahouse lures them into Diablo Dan Cafe' service with promises of free food! And then there is a Scout dedicated display case.

But the Scouts' larger task is to staff the Youth

Table in the lobby. When a young person -- Scout or otherwise -- appears at this table, the Scouts staffing it have an extensive array of age-relevant hand-outs (a dozen or so) to proffer -- all the way from "color between the lines" pictures and rock related information sheets to geology-related crossword puzzles to research and complete. They identify and direct the kids to all the youth-related events the show offers, including how to get a free rock in exchange for their admission ticket before leaving, as well as earning other prizes.

Without a doubt, we have one of the best, if not the best show in all of Northern California. And the same can be said of our Youth Program. It is a stellar addition to our show. We owe a great deal of thanks and credit to Cheryl, Hazel, Betty, Dick, Connie -- and to Linda and her Scouts who serve us so ably and well.

Sam Woolsey - Show/Property Chair

CRITTER DAY!

Sat., Aug. 23, 10:a.m. - 3: p.m. Connie's Barn

One of the more popular show features is the Wheel of Fortune. For 50 cents, the kids spin the wheel, and every spin wins a prize. Among the most favored prizes are our hand-made "rock critters." We will gather together and make a couple hundred of these strange, imaginative, and sometimes scary "critters" on August 23rd.

To make these prizes, we glue rocks together, glue sticks on rocks, paint rocks, decoupage rocks, and ?? -- whatever your imagination commands.

We provide lots of rocks, paint, glue, glue

guns, and all the other other stuff -- even refreshments -- everything but the hands, fingers, and ideas. And for a quick lunch (if wanted), the great Diggers' Diner is just around the corner.

This is a really fun activity, and a great way for new members to get acquainted with us veterans, and at the same time start contributing to our November show.

Sign-ups and directions at the June, July, and August meetings.

Hazel Woolsey - Grab Bags & Wheel of Fortune

Snyder's Pow Wow

The pace at the Snyder's Pow Wow was a little more relaxed this year; or maybe because of the great weather it just seemed nicer. As is our plan, Betty and I arrived at the Snyder's Ranch on Wednesday morning and staked out our camp and had time for lunch before the first of our group started to arrive. A few get there on Wednesday, most arrive on Thursday and Friday. This year we had 24 camping units (trailers, motor homes, tents and pick-ups/vans), with 49 people. This was a very good turn-out. Ours is a combined camp for YOTMC and NBFT. Every afternoon about 4:00 we assembled for Happy Hour with beverages and snacks. This is a great time to socialize and share the great finds we picked up from the dealers.

We had 2 great potluck dinners this year. On Friday, 65 plus people attended the YOTMC potluck with 3 tables full of delicious salads, hot dishes, side dishes, and deserts. After dinner was the YOTMC Auction held under the lights and attended by over 100 people. Saturday evening was the NBFT potluck.

This was a smaller group of about 30 people, but the food was just as delicious.

Week helped direct traffic and people at the entrance gate again this year. We had 21 different people working 1-hour shifts; some working 2 or 3 shifts over the 3 days of the Pow Wow. The NBFT and YOTMC split \$150 for helping out. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped out.

The big speculation and the subject of a lot of mis-informed rumors were of the future of the Pow Wow. Snyder's Pow Wow is continuing, but under new management. This was the last year that Betty and the Snyder family is hosting and managing the Pow Wow; a 34 year run. Two women, long associated with the Pow Wow, are assuming leadership. They are Diana Gigliotti and Jeannene White. The Pow Wow will continue to be held in the same location for the next 2 years. Betty will continue to have an active part and the undisputed queen of the Pow Wow. There is change but the greatest Rockhound weekend in California will continue.

The date is set; the fliers are out, so mark your calendar now for the 2009 Snyder's' Pow Wow on May 1, 2, & 3. Hope to see you there. We will be there!

Dick Pankey - Wagon master



Dick Pankey at the Ye Ol Timer's Auction.



Federation Director's Report

So what's happening with the CFMS? A lot! The fastest and easiest way for you to learn about the Federation and all that it is doing and all that is going on is to log onto the CFMS web site: www.cfmsinc.org. On the web site you will find the current and past CFMS Newsletters, reports and pictures from some past field trips and Earth Science Studies Camps, CFMS manuals, links to the AFMS and other Federations, other links to rockhound related sites, and much more. You could subscribe to the CFMS Newsletter for only \$5.50 a year to get your very own hard copy.

Or you can wait for me to condense and highlight CFMS news each month. Our Federation is active and involved. Many dedicated people are working, mostly behind the scene, doing the work and activities of the Federation for the benefit of the member societies.

Federation highlights:

Dot Beachler, All American Club Chairman, says it is time for all clubs to start planning for this year's entry. The earlier you start the easier the preparation of your book. Throughout the year she gives tips on preparation and on the rules. Our club needs someone to volunteer to do our scrapbook for this year. See me for details.

Several articles in the May Newsletter dealt with the upcoming CFMS show in Ventura. There were continued calls for competitive cases, non-competitive cases, and club cases.

(Mary Hicks is doing the CCM&GS case). The Junior's Chair, Silent Auction Chair and Endowment Fund Chair are all looking for donations of rock, minerals and specimens for the Show. If you have items to donate call me for details. If you are interested in being a demonstrator or a demo-dealer at the show let me know. The Editors Breakfast is on Sunday morning.

Fred Ott is seeking nominations for the AFMS Scholarship Honoree. Barrie Bieler received this honor 2 years ago.

Signups for Camp Paradise are now being taken. I have fliers and details.

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for next year's officers.

The CFMS Show and convention will be held in Ventura on June 27 - 29. This is the Big One for the Federation. If you would like to attend and put in a display case see me for forms and details. The Conejo, Ventura and Oxnard G&MS are running the Silent Auction. The proceeds will be donated to the CFMS Endowment Fund in Memory of Ray Meisenheimer. Ray conducted sales and silent auctions for the benefit of the Endowment Fund for many years. They are looking for donations of suitable, good auction materials - rocks, slabs, minerals, fossils, petrified wood, geodes, etc. If you have any material to donate please let me know. If you are not going to the Show in Ventura I can take your donation for you.

For more information or questions about the Federation please give me a call.

Richard Pankey - Federation Director



This Month's Birthstone – Alexandrite or Pearl



Information derived from internet on Wikipedia & www.alexandrite.net.

Alexandrite

The **alexandrite** variety displays a color change (*alexandrite effect*) dependent upon light, along with strong pleochroism. Alexandrite results from small scale replacement of aluminium by chromium oxide, which is responsible for alexandrite's characteristic green to red color change. Alexandrite from the Ural Mountains in Russia is green by daylight and red by incandescent light. Other varieties of alexandrite may be yellowish or pink in daylight and a columbine or raspberry red by incandescent light. The optimum or "ideal" color change would be fine emerald green to fine purplish red, but this is exceedingly rare. Because of their rarity and the color change capability, "ideal" alexandrite gems are some of the most expensive in the world.

According to a widely popular but controversial story, alexandrite was discovered by the Finnish mineralogist Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld, (1792 -1866) on the tsarevitch Alexander's sixteenth birthday on April 17, 1834 and named alexandrite in honor of the future Tsar Alexander II of Russia. Sometimes, Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld

is confused with his son, Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (1832–1901), also a famous Finnish geologist, mineralogist and arctic explorer who accompanied his father to the Ural Mountains to study the iron and copper mines at Tagilsk in 1853. However, Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld was only two years old when Alexandrite was discovered and only ten years old when a description of the stone was published under the name of Alexandrite for the first time.

Although it was Nordenskiöld who discovered alexandrite, he could not possibly have discovered and named it on Alexander's birthday. Nordenskiöld's initial discovery occurred as a result of an examination of a newly found mineral sample he had received from Perovskii, which he identified as emerald at first. After the discovery of emeralds in the roots of an upturned tree, the first emerald mine had been opened in 1831, not long before Nordenskiöld had received this particular sample.

Confused with the high hardness however, he decided to continue his examinations. Later that evening, while looking at the specimen under candlelight, he was surprised to see that the color of the stone had changed to raspberry-red instead of green. Later, he confirmed the discovery of a new variety of chrysoberyl, and suggested the name "diaphanite" (from the Greek "di-", twi- and "aphanès", inapparent).

The name of the first person to actually find this stone has been lost in the mists of time. However, the first person to bring it to public attention, and ensure that it would be forever associated with the Imperial family was Count Lev Alekseevich Perovskii (1792-1856.)

The finest alexandrites were found in the Ural Mountains, the largest cut stones being in the 30 carat (6 g) range, though many fine examples have been discovered in Sri Lanka

(up to 65 cts.), India (Andhra Pradesh), Brazil, Myanmar, and especially Zimbabwe (small stones usually under 1 carat (200 mg) but with intense color change). Overall, stones from any locale over 5 carats (1 g) would be considered extremely rare, especially gems with fine color change. Alexandrite is both hard and tough, making it very well suited to wear in jewelry.

The gem has given rise to the adjective "alexandritic", meaning any transparent gem or material which shows a noted change in color between natural and incandescent light. Some other gem varieties of which alexandritic specimens have been found include sapphire, garnet, and spinel.

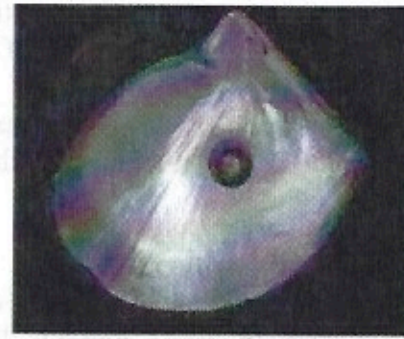
Some gemstones described as lab-grown (synthetic) alexandrite are actually corundum laced with trace elements (e.g., vanadium) or color-change spinel and are not actually chrysoberyl. As a result, they would be more accurately described as simulated alexandrite rather than synthetic but are often called Czochralski Alexandrite after the process that grows the crystals.

Synthetic alexandrite is used as an active laser medium. Alexandrite laser crystals tend to be round, with a pale brown tint.

Genuine alexandrite is one of the most expensive gemstones available commercially, with the stronger color changes being more highly valued.

...and the alternative June birthstone:

Pearl



A **pearl** is a hard, roundish object produced within the soft tissue (specifically the mantle) of a living shelled mollusk. Just like the shell of mollusks, a pearl is composed of calcium carbonate in minute crystalline form, which has been deposited in concentric layers. The ideal pearl is perfectly round and smooth, but many other shapes of pearls (baroque pearls) occur.

The finest quality pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries, and the word pearl has become a metaphor for something rare, fine, and admirable.

Almost any shelled mollusk can, by natural processes, produce some kind of "pearl" when an irritating microscopic object becomes trapped within the mollusk's mantle folds, but virtually none of these "pearls" are considered to be gemstones.

True iridescent pearls, the most desirable pearls, are produced by two groups of molluscan bivalves or clams. One family lives in the sea: the pearl oysters. The other, very different group of bivalves live in freshwater, and these are the river mussels; for example, see the freshwater pearl mussel.

Saltwater pearls can grow in several species of marine pearl oysters in the family Pteriidae. Freshwater pearls grow within certain (but by no means all) species of freshwater mussels in the order Unionida, the families Unionidae and Margaritiferidae. All of these bivalves are

able to make true pearls because they have a thick inner shell layer composed of "mother of pearl" or nacre. The mantle of the living bivalve can create a pearl in the same way that it creates the pearly inner layer of the shell.

Fine gem-quality saltwater and freshwater pearls can and do sometimes occur completely naturally, but this is rare. Many hundreds of pearl oysters or pearl mussels have to be gathered and opened, and thus killed, in order to find even one pearl, and for many centuries that was the only way pearls were obtained. This was the main reason why pearls fetched such extraordinary prices in the past. In modern times however, almost all the pearls for sale were formed with a good deal of expert intervention from human pearl farmers.

A true pearl is made from layers of nacre, by the same living process as is used in the secretion of the mother of pearl which lines the shell. A "natural pearl" is one that formed without any human intervention at all, in the wild, and is very rare. A "cultured pearl", on the other hand, is one that has been formed on a pearl farm. The great majority of pearls on the market are cultured pearls.

Imitation or fake pearls are also widely sold in inexpensive jewelry, but the quality of the iridescence is usually very poor, and generally speaking, fake pearls are usually quite easy to distinguish from the real thing.

Pearls have been harvested, or more recently cultivated, primarily for use in jewelry, but in the past they were also stitched onto lavish clothing, as worn, for example, by royalty. Pearls have also been crushed and used in cosmetics, medicines, or in paint formulations.

Pearl is considered to be the birthstone for June.

Submitted by Bonnie Eichler

ROCK HOUND RECEIPES

This is a recipe I grew up with that is a family favorite and is great for summer BBQs!

Grandma Eichler's Cucumber Salad

Ingredients needed:

Sliced Cucumbers
Sliced Onions (Red or White)
Mayonnaise
Sweet Pickle Juice
Pepper & Kosher Salt
Sugar (Optional)

The amount of "marinade" you make depends on how large of a salad you need. Mix mayonnaise (I usually start with 1 cup of mayonnaise) with pickle juice until you get a soupy consistency, add pepper and kosher salt to taste – if too tart or tastes too much like vinegar – add sugar to cut the tartness. Pour the mixture over the sliced veggies (it does not have to cover them completely, you just need to stir them occasionally while they are marinating.) Chill for 2 hours and then serve.

**You also can soak sliced cucumbers & onions in salt water for 30 minutes before rinsing and adding the marinade.

Submitted by Bonnie Eichler



Show Exhibitor Form

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

PO Box 4667

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

OUR SHOW WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 1-2, 2008, 10AM TO 5PM
SET UP ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, AFTER 2PM UNTIL 8PM AND 9AM UNTIL
10AM ON SATURDAY.

The location of the show is Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA

Exhibitor

NAME: _____ Phone: ()-

ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I will exhibit _____ I have my own case _____ I will borrow a case _____

The club has a limited number of cases to loan. Please apply early if you would like to use one. The club cases are the standard upright cases 2 ft. x 4 ft. by 2 ft. The club does not have liners or risers for these cases. If you want to bring a liner, the inside measurements are 22 in. sides (need 2), bottom 46 in. and back 46 in. The new club case sides and back are a finished light wood.

NOTE: NO TAPE, STAPLES, TACKS OR ALTERING A CASE. EXHIBITS ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED UNTIL SUNDAY AFTER THE SHOW CLOSES UNLESS YOU MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EXHIBIT /SHOW CHAIRMEN.

ONCE THE SHOW HAS STARTED DO NOT OPEN YOUR CASE WITHOUT THE EXHIBIT/SHOW CHAIRMEN. (PROTECTS YOUR EXHIBIT).

Description of your case

Width: _____ Height: _____ Depth: _____

Case Front: Upright / Slant Wattage _____

Material to be displayed

Crystals: _____ Minerals: _____ Lapidary: _____ Fossils: _____

Educational: _____ Fluorescent: _____ Jewelry: _____ Faceting: _____

Novelties: _____ Carving: _____ Other: _____

Background color of your display _____ Display items out of case _____

Any details that will help us place it at its best advantage in the display area:

Number of people for complimentary dinner Friday night served about 5:30 pm _____

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to exhibitor's property or items displayed at the show, however 24 hour security will be provided.

Please return application as soon as possible and no later than September 30, 2008.

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

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 Martinez, CA 94553
 (925) 229-0836 e-mail: glmlam@jps.net

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m., except Third Monday in June

**Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Tel: 925-671-3466
 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road)**

Cross street is Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Bowling Alley, Free Parking,

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Associate \$5, Junior \$1

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

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