



# Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Newsletter June 2020

President's message:

Hi All,

With the beautiful weather, I've been spending a lot of time in my mini-shop in my garage. Hope you're able to indulge in something about rocks that you love! If you have some you haven't been able to identify, check out my latest blog post at [www.LapidaryWhisperer.com](http://www.LapidaryWhisperer.com)

I just heard from Centre Concord that we will not be able to have our June meeting. As much as we'd like to get back to having our regular meetings, it's more important to protect one another so we'll all be there when we can restart.

The Centre will not make any commitment about our show yet, but your board is working to make sure that if it becomes possible, we'll be ready.

Over the years, I've heard a lot of rock-related poetry, and liked much of it. Mindat.org has a page just for poems at <https://www.mindat.org/mesg-229016.html> Here's my favorite. It's a limerick by Mike O-Toole:

There once was a rock from Nantucket

From the shore a collector did pluck it

As was often his plight

It's the dreaded leaverite

In the end he decided to chuck it!



He's a little off in his pacing. A limerick has 3 beats in the first, second, and fifth line and they rhyme. The third and fourth lines have two beats each and they rhyme with each other.

Let's see how much hidden poetic talent there is in the club. Read the poems from Mindat.org and pen one or two of your own. Then send them to me at [Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com](mailto:Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com). Every person who enters gets a prize! We'll publish the limericks in an upcoming newsletters.

Until next month,  
Donna Albrecht

# Club News



Another note from your editor...still looking for contributors!

I would love your input for the Newsletter. Would someone like to write a article about tumbling, or how they became a Rock Hound, what your favorite mineral is and why? If there is anything you'd like to share I'd be happy to hear it. Send it to me at [koliver@astound.net](mailto:koliver@astound.net)



Is there a topic related to minerals, gems, or geology that you are interested in? Let our librarian know and maybe she can find a book for you in the club library:

Caryl Taraldson, Librarian

## Upcoming Meetings-

**TONIGHT**

**Board of Directors- on Zoom**  
Wednesday, June 3, 7:00pm.  
Contact Donna Albrecht for information

**Cancelled**

**General Meeting-**  
Monday, June 8

**Cancelled**

## CCM&GS Board Minutes for May 6, 2020

The meeting was held at 7:00 pm on the Zoom platform to preserve social distancing. Kelly Plumb, Terry Casky, Caryl Taraldson, Elizabeth Tanner, and Donna Albrecht were in attendance.

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society bylaws require six board members in attendance in order to form a quorum and conduct business. We did not have a quorum. There was a free-ranging discussion of Society issues, but no decisions could be made.

Our next board meeting will be on June 3, at 7 pm. Board members will automatically receive the log-in information. Other members who wish to attend can contact Donna Albrecht for that information.

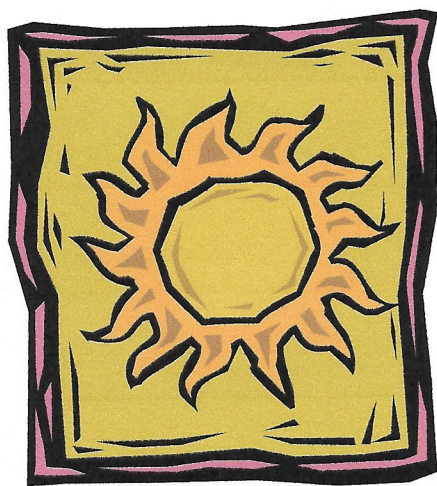
Meeting report by Donna Albrecht, President

### Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club

Rockin' Tailgate Rock Swap

Saturday June 6, 10 am - 5 pm

@ Mariposa Fairgrounds



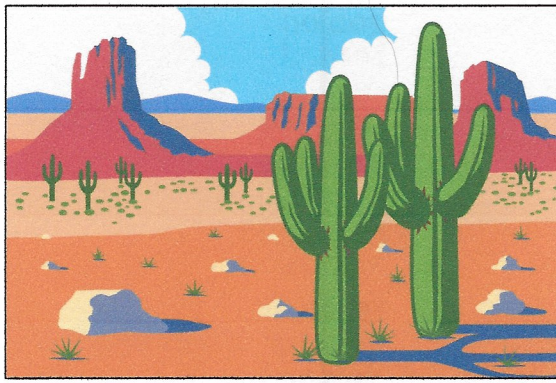
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equipment...

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e-mail [mgmc@sti.net](mailto:mgmc@sti.net) OR

call Nikki West 209-742-4234



## The American Lands Access Association

By Dick Pankey, Ambassador, California

The American Lands Access Association is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the rights of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

ALAA is the organization that is present wherever there are hobbyist and recreational users of our public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level. It represents over 50,000 members of 630 societies of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the many, many millions of unaffiliated rockhounds.

ALAA advocates for and supports sound land management that offers adequate protection for the environment while protecting public access to public lands. ALAA believes that environmental protection and recreation can co-exist with proper land management and reasoned accountability.

ALAA accomplishes its goals through the involvement, effort and participation of our members and all concerned rockhounds.

ALAA supports and advocates the multiple use concept for the management of public lands – BLM and FS managed land.

We believe that **Use is not abuse.**

The Contra Costa M&GS has been a Society member of ALAA for about 10 years. I am the ALAA contact for our society and get the ALAA Newsletter, Alerts, and many e-mails concerning legislation, regulations affecting access, land use and collecting. Please contact me for more information about ALAA and to learn more about the issues affecting rockhounding, access and use of our Public Lands. If you are interested I can forward an electronic version of the ALAA Newsletter. Just send me an e-mail requesting a copy

# THE GOLDEN BEAR NUGGET

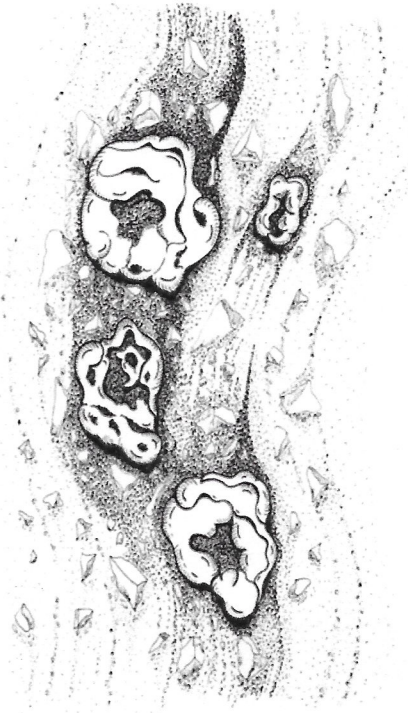


The "Golden Bear Nugget" is a crystallized nugget of native gold that is  $2 \frac{1}{4}$  inches high and  $1 \frac{5}{16}$  inches wide. It weighs a little over 1 troy ounce. ("Troy" weight is a special system of weighing gems and precious metals. It is universally used all over the world. For our young collectors who know the metric system of measurements, a troy ounce is equal to 31.1 grams.)

The history about this wonderful gold nugget is not exactly clear. The story goes that a 14 year old girl picked it out of a sluice box around 1857 at the Georgia Hills Mine in the California town of Jim. She treasured her interesting gold nugget and took good care of it all her life. She lived to be 75 years old. When she died her brother became the owner of the nugget. He had some money troubles, though, and had to borrow money from a friend. He promised that if he didn't pay the money back, the friend would get the gold nugget. Guess what? He didn't pay the money back. The friend took the gold nugget and decided to sell it; he wanted or needed the money more than he wanted the gold. In 1937

a man named C.D. Woodhouse bought this nugget for \$300. He showed it to people in the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (the CFMS) and they decided to purchase the nugget. They bought it from Mr. Woodhouse for . . . \$300. Today you can see the Golden Bear Nugget at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Notice that this wonderful nugget also has many octahedral crystals on its surface.

Thousands of gold nuggets have been discovered in California. Gold nuggets are rounded because they have been carried by rivers and rolled around in river sand for hundreds of years before they were discovered. Even today, gold hunters use pans to sift through the sand of many of California's rivers and streams to find gold nuggets of any size.



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# The Rockhound Sticker™

Dick Pankey, California Ambassador



Rockhounds have an easy way to identify ourselves to other, whether at meetings or in communications: the **Rockhound Sticker™**. The Rockhound Sticker is the recognized emblem for rockhounds everywhere. The bright yellow sticker is easy to spot on vehicles and readily identifies that there is a rockhound in that vehicle. Its purpose is to identify rockhounds to each other, to the general public and to BLM, Forest Service and other land managers. It is the way for us to show government official and the public who we are and who is using our public lands. When writing to our elected officials or to the regulators, use the *little* Rockhound Sticker. The use of this sticker on our correspondences attracts attention and immediately identifies it as being from an interested rockhound. The more that it is used, the more it will be recognized and remembered, and the more impact it will have. Wide spread use of the little Rockhound Sticker will add continuity to our message and show that we are a coordinated force not just random individuals.

Wear a Rockhound sticker button when you attend meetings with BLM, USFS and other land managers. Use of this sticker should start with ALAA. We all should use it and promote its use to others who write to their elected officials. We then should promote its use to our local Federation PLAC Committees and all of our Federation members.

If you don't have a Rockhound Sticker, would like more or other Rockhound Emblems I will have them available the next time we get-together.

**Promote rockhounding. Proudly display your Rockhound Sticker**



### **Tumbler for Sale**

Covington Triple 1-Gallon Barrel Tumbler. \$150. Retail \$493 (not including extra barrels).

Works great. Comes with extra barrels, some grit, polish, pellets, ceramic cylinders.

Call or text Mary Hanjes at 925-765-2741 if interested.

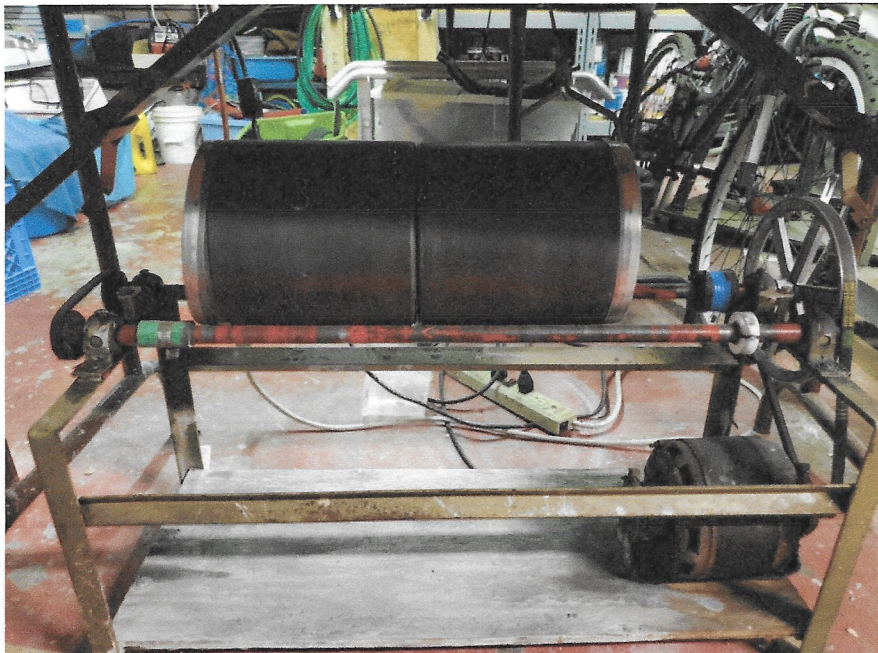


### **Tumbler for Sale**

Possibly homemade Double 1-gallon tumbler. \$150. Works great.

Comes with extra barrels, some grit, polish, pellets, ceramic cylinders.

Call or text Mary Hanjes at 925-765-2741 if interested.



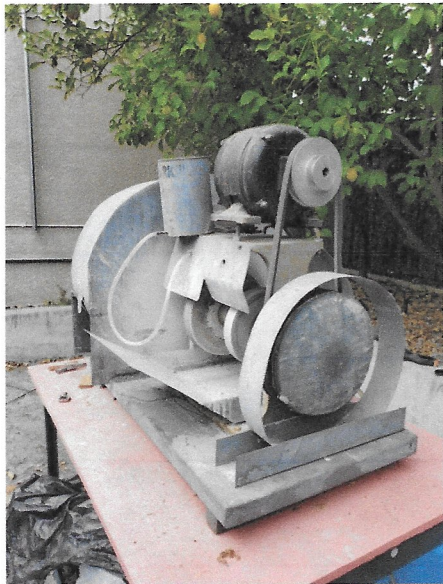
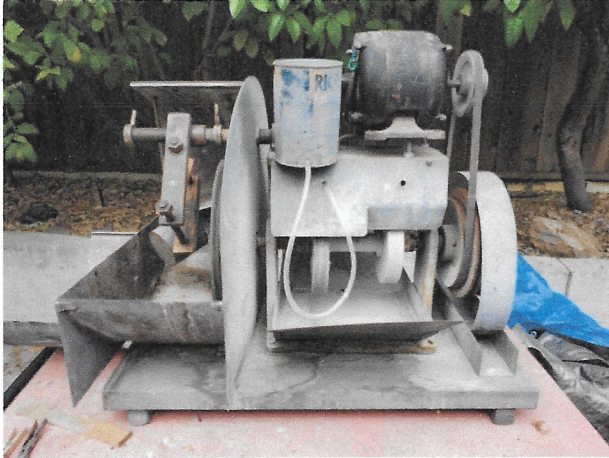


## Rock Saw/Grinder for Sale

New \$125 saw blade, comes with 2 grinding wheels and polishing pad. \$150. Works fine.

Comes with cart; can be wheeled around.

Call or text Mary Hanjes at 925-765-2741 if interested.



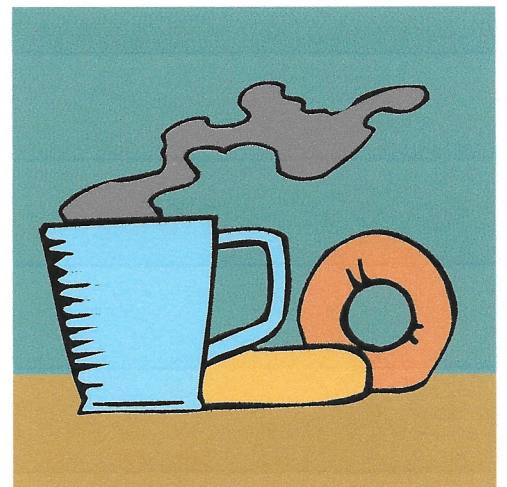
# Members News

## June Birthdays-

Steven Ward 6/4  
Cheryl Morgan 6/6  
Barrie Bieler 6/17  
James Waters 6/28

## June Anniversaries-

Mary Hanjes 6/6  
Richard & Shannon Merrill 6/19  
Dick Dennis 6/23  
Bob Rigor 6/24



# CCMGS 2020 Board Members:

## 2020 Elected Officers:

### President:

Donna Albrecht  
donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

### 1stVicePresident/Programs:

Elizabeth Tanner  
eatanner2@yahoo.com

### 2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:

Mario Mihalik  
Mario.Mihalik30@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Mary Jernigan  
(925) 852-1133  
m10jernigan@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Mary Hanjes  
925-765-2741  
mrhanjes@gmail.com

### Federation Director:

Dick Pankey  
(925) 439-7509  
dickpankey@juno.com

## 2020 Appointed Officers:

### Annual Show:

Mike Hopkins  
mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

### Display:

Cheryl Morgan  
cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com

### Hospitality:

Kelly Plumb  
(510) 693-9075  
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

### Librarian:

Caryl Taraldson

### Membership:

Mary Jernigan  
(925) 852-1133  
m10jernigan@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor:

Karen Oliver  
koliver@astound.net

### Past President:

Kelly Plumb  
(510) 693-9075  
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

### Property:

Terry Caskey

### Publicity:

Mike Hopkins  
mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

### Refreshments:

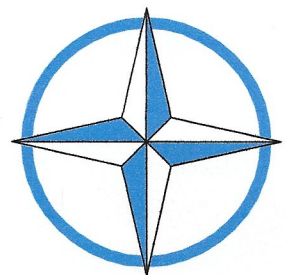
Vikki Hotopp  
(925) 566-8588

### Sargent of Arms:

Naomi Morgan

### Web Master:

Johanna Fenton  
johfenton@yahoo.com



Diablo Diggins  
Newsletter of the  
Contra Costa Mineral  
and Gem Society



Like us on Facebook!  
CCMGS

Website:

[www.contracostamineraland  
gemsociety.org](http://www.contracostamineraland<br/>gemsociety.org)

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was  
formed in 1950 to encourage the study of  
minerology, lapidary arts, and field collections.

\*\*\*\*\*

General meeting on the 2nd Monday of each  
month at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road,  
Concord, CA 94521 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center  
between Ygnacio Valley Road and Balhan Drive  
next to Clayton Valley Bowl.

CCMGS  
P.O.Box 842  
Concord, CA 94522-0842

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