



Diablo Diggin's  
Bonnie Eichler, Editor

SAVE STAMPS for donation to Easter Seals

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

FIRST CLASS

Member of : American & California Federations of Mineralogical Societies.

## Next General Meeting of the CCM&GS is: Monday, April 14th, 2008.

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 April General Meeting:

Pam Lewis & Herb Clark  
Mike & Sherry Luebke  
Cindy Luke  
Glen & Betty MacKenzie  
Loretta Mason  
George & Ann Matthews  
Barbara Matz  
Christine McKay  
Shannon & Richard Merrill

### March 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

The CCM&GS Board of Directors met on March 2, in Mary Hicks' home. The meeting began at 7:03 pm and was attended by **Mary Hicks, Dave & Kim Kleesattel, Dick Pankey, Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Terry Caskey, Mary Jernigan, and Barbara Brown.** Mary started the meeting by asking for new or old business items to be added to the agenda. **Hazel Woolsey** made a motion to accept the Board of Directors' meeting minutes as presented in the February Diablo Diggin's (there was no Board meeting in February). **Terry Caskey** seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

### Committee Reports:

**Sam Woolsey**, Show Chair and Property Chair. Sam said that 8 of the show vendors have paid, six in full.

**Harry Nichandros**, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Program Chair. Harry was not present, but has told Mary that the scheduled program had cancelled. Dick Pankey volunteered to give a presentation on his Texas Springs field trip if needed. Dick and Mary will discuss with Harry.

**Dennis Freiburger**, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Field Trip Chair. Dennis was not present. The trip to the Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper collecting area was cancelled. See newsletter for other field trip info. Antioch Annual rock swap is June 2, 10 am to 2 pm.

**Barbara Brown**, Treasurer. The audit for 2007 was performed, a report is pending. The audit committee recommended a new deposit form, which is now available from Barb. We discussed buying a new computer to be dedicated for the Club's financial records. The Club has opened a new checking account with Bank of America (former account was with Washington Mutual). The Club will need to fill Form 990N with the IRS by May 15.

**Kim Kleesattel**, Membership Chair. Kim presented membership applications for Mary Selmi, Christine McKay, Rosalie Bayliss, Paul Olkin, Jolene Olkin, and Donna Albrecht. **Dick Pankey** made a motion to accept the new members; **Hazel Woolsey** seconded the motion, and the motion passed. We decided to give guests at our meetings temporary Guest Name Badges to help introduce them to the membership. If you see a guest, please introduce yourself and get to know them. The 2008 Membership rosters are available and

will be sent. Notices to past members who haven't paid their 2008 membership dues have been sent.

**Dick Pankey**, Federation Director. The CFMS Show will be 27-29 June in Ventura. Mary Hicks wants to do a club case, but has had no response from members. Mary has the form. If any individuals want to enter a display case, see Dick for a form. The CCM&GS will be hosting the "know where you are" class on April 12. We need some help setting up. Please contact Dick for info. We are looking for people to put together and submit an "All American Book" which highlights our club's activities. We have done this before and won awards with our submittals. Please see Dick or Mary Hicks if you are interested in helping this year.

**Sharon Neuhauser**, Ecology. Not present.

**Mary Jernigan**, Publicity. The club's information pamphlet has been revised to show our new meeting time and location. Copies are available for distribution. We discussed that it would be OK to send email notices to members for "out of ordinary events", but not for routine events such as monthly meetings. We want to avoid "spamming" our members. Mary announced that her daughter Taylor had received an Honorable Mention for her rockhound-related science fair project.

**Terry Caskey**, Display Chair. Terry thanks Joe Yarbrough for filling in for him during the past two months. The Cab-of-the-Month shape for March is Oval. See the newsletter for shapes in coming months.

**Hazel Woolsey**, Historian. Present but no report.

**David Kleesattel**, Secretary and Past President. Present but no report.

Rana Owen, Education, Arts & Crafts Chair. Not Present. Read the newsletter for upcoming classes. We need people to teach classes this year. Please contact Rana.

**Bonnie Eichler**, Newsletter Editor. Not present. Articles and information for April Newsletter is due by March 18.

Old Business: A proposed budget for 2008 was presented by President Mary Hicks. The budget was based on amounts for previous years. Sam Woolsey motioned that we accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Jernigan. We discussed whether we really needed to allocate \$850 for a computer for the Treasurer's use. We decided that was the best way to protect and store our financial files. At Dick Pankey's request, we reviewed each budget line item. After our review, the Board voted and passed the 2008 budget as presented by Mary Hicks.

New Business: Club correspondence was distributed by the Secretary.

Mary Hicks announced that our Flag Day social activity will be a rock swap and sale at Naomi & Bill Morgan's place on June 14. Setup will be in yard, not a "tailgate." Details will be provided.

We formed a Website committee to help establish internet communication, define the purpose/objectives of the website, and prioritize its content. The committee will liaison with the web master. The committee is: **Barb Brown** (Chair), **Terry Caskey**, **Mary Hicks**, and **Harry Nichandros**. Others are welcome to join.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

**David Kleesattel**, Secretary

## President's Message

What a wonder springtime we are having. Flowering trees and green grasses and blankets of vibrant yellow mustard fields. It is time to plan field trips and VP Dennis Freiburger keeps us informed by posting information in the newsletter. Make use of this opportunity to get out of the house and out in Mother Nature.

Last weekend I attended the Fossil for Fun sponsored Petrified Wood Identification workshop held at Sierra College in Rocklin. It was very educational and the two pieces of Antioch wood I took along are from Beech trees. I also have a piece of Antioch wood that is a piece of White Oak.

The temporary WEB site is up and working, though it has limited features, the activity page and show page may be of interest and use for members. I know that the March newsletter did not post well but I didn't have time to work further on it. The temporary WEB site is

<http://home.comcast.net/~contracostamineralandgem/site/>

This site is temporary pending work by the committee which is chaired by **Barbara Brown**. Let her know if you are interested in working on developing the policy and procedure and content for the final site.

Oh, and a quick note on the June Flag Day Rock Swap, that is a SWAP not a TAILGATE. Tailgate is taken to be sitting next to your truck tail gate for the activity. We will be in the yard with tables and chairs, so it is a Rock Swap!!!! Hope to see you all there. Start looking around your yard and garage now for material to swap.

Keeping the club moving forward requires help of all members. Please think about what you can do for the club. Say yes if you are approached to help the club in some way, or to fill a job, or put together a class. Many hands make work light. In fact, why wait? Come forward and volunteer.

**Thank you, 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. Call me if you have question or can support this club position. To volunteer contact Mary Hicks at [maryhicks@comcast.net](mailto:maryhicks@comcast.net) or 779-0698.

## March 10th General Meeting

### **General Meeting Minutes, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting was called to order by President **Mary Hicks** at 7:38 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by **David Kleesattel**.

President **Mary Hicks** started the meeting with some introductions and thanked everybody for coming to the meeting. Mary reminded attendees that as a courtesy to others, cell phone should be turned off during the meeting, and if a call is necessary, please go outside to make the call.

Mary made several announcements:

- We are forming a committee to create a club website. Anybody interested should contact **Barb Brown**.

- If you want to receive your monthly newsletter by email, please let **Bonnie Eichler** know.
- **Taylor Thompson**, one of our active junior members, received an Honorable Mention from the Silverwood Elementary School for her science fair project about rocks. Taylor brought her project to our meeting tonight for display.
- Mary presented the 2007 Cabochon Award to **Terry Caskey**. Terry now moves from the Novice class to the Pro Class.

**Dennis Freiburger**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Field Trip Chair, reminded us to read to newsletter to find out about many upcoming shows and trips. He also informed us about a GPS class at the local REI store.

**Dick Pankey**, Federation Director, reminded us about two upcoming programs (March 15 and April 12) please read the newsletter for details.

**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.

**Rana Owen**, Education Chair, requests ideas for classes you would like to have next year. Please see Rana about the monthly "Bead -In" for all you bead-ers. Next Bead -In night is April 25.

**Sherb Brown**, Sergeant of Arms, collected 25¢ from all members not wearing their name badges.

**Kim Kleesattel**, Membership Chair. Kim announced that we have 6 new members (see the membership report below for details).

Hospitality Chair, **Naomi Morgan** announced Birthdays and Anniversaries, and introduced four visitors to our club meeting. **Mark Bufton** won the Guest Door Prize (Mahogany Obsidian), and **Rana Owen** won the Member Door Prize (Petrified Wood).

**Mary Jernigan**, Publicity Chair, has revised the Club's pamphlet and copies are available on the front table.

**Harry Nichandros**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program Chair introduced our very own **Dick Pankey** as tonight speaker. Dick gave a great presentation on the Texas Springs Rockhound Rendezvous (A Tri-Federation sponsored trip). There were about 200 rockhounds on the trip and they went to several areas to collect pink limb casts, jasperized wood, Bog wood, Snakeskin Agate, and contact geodes. Dick also brought in many specimens to look at. This was a great presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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

## April Birthdays

Mary Jernigan	4/1
John Owen	4/1
John Wright	4/3
Richard Merrill	4/15
Al Schleif	4/16
Joann Kilpatrick	4/16
Sharla Cane	4/17
Elaine Brown	4/26
Ardean Goulart	4/26
Bobbie Littlefield	4/27
Catalina Wright	4/30



## April Anniversaries

George & Ann Matthews	4/3
John & Rana Owens	4/3
Alan & Joann Kilpatrick	4/6
Charles & Brownie Cameron	4/19
Richard & Betty Pankey	4/25
Glenn & Joyce Young	4/26
David & Cathy Clayton	4/28

## Membership Report

The club is growing by leaps and bounds. I am very pleased to announce 6 new members this month. Please join me in welcoming the following new members, and if you can help them with their interests, please let them know:

**Mary Selmi.** Mary is interested in Casting, Enameling, and Faceting.

**Rosalie Bayliss.** Rosalie is interested in Field trips, Fossils, Geology, and Mineralogy. Rosalie can sandblast rock & glass for carving.

**Christine McKay.** Christine is interested in Casting and Geology. She has a 4-wheel drive, so it sounds like she may be ready for some serious rockhounding.

**Paul & Jolene Olkin.** Paul and Jolene are both interested in Bead Stringing (make sure you get to the monthly "Bead-In". Paul is also interested in Enameling, Field Trips, and Mineralogy.

**Donna Albrecht.** Donna is interested in Field Trips, Geology, Mineralogy, and Rock Carving.

The new roster with all the members' contact information has been distributed. Please check your information and make sure it is correct. Let me know if I need to update any information.

### 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**

## Future Meeting Program Calendar

April's Program: "The Geological Evolution and Mining of the Mount Diablo Coalfield."

**Harry Nichandros – VP, Programs**

## Field Trip Calendar

**April 5. Lovelock, NV.** To collect fossils and petrified wood. Hosted by Fossils for Fun Society.

**April 12. Pittsburg, CA.** Seminar for field trip leaders and attendees. "Checking land status, practical GPS, and personal responsibility." Community Presbyterian Church, 200 East Leland Road.

**April 19 (Rain date May 17). Stonyford, CA.** To collect solid orbicular jasper. Hosted by Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society.

**April 26. Pulga, CA (North of Oroville).** To collect Idocrase (Pulga Jade). Hosted by Paradise Gem & Mineral Society.

**May 3. Carson Hill, CA.** To collect various minerals. Hosted by Sacramento Mineral Society.

**May 17, 18. Fairview, NV.** To collect agate, geodes, and wonderstone. Hosted by Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society.

**May 21 – 26. Texas Springs, NV.** To collect pink agate limb cast, agate, and petrified wood. Hosted by Tri Federation.

**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 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.

For more information about these trips contact Dennis Freiburger.

## Various Shows & Events

**April 4 – 6. San Jose, CA.** Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society Show. Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road.

**April 4 – 6. Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society Show. Kern County Fair Grounds Carnival lot, 1142 South P. Street.

**April 12. Pittsburg, CA.** Seminar for field trip leaders and attendees. "Checking land status, practical GPS, and personal responsibility." Community Presbyterian Church, 200 East Leland Road.

**April 26, 27. Santa Cruz, CA.** Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral Society Show. Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, Center and Church Street.

**May 2 – 4. Bishop, CA.** Eastern Sierra Rock & Gem Society Show. Bishop Fairgrounds.

**May 2 – 4. Valley Springs, CA.** Snyder's Pow Wow.

**May 3, 4. Bakersfield, CA.** Kern County Mineral Society Show. Kern County Fairgrounds. Ming Avenue and P Street.

**May 10, 11. Reno, NV.** Reno Gem & Mineral Society Show. Reno Livestock Event Center, Exhibits Hall, 1350 North Wells Avenue.

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

More listings at Rock and Gem Magazine website: [www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)

**Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman**



## Some Surefire Signs You're a Rockhound:

**Internet source:** *Bob's Rock Shop*

The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.

You accessorize your black & white cat with a collar that you made from the most FABULOUS snowflake obsidian for "dressy" days... then there's the turquoise for "casual" walks, carnelian and leopardskin jasper for "outdoorsy" fun... and don't forget the rose quartz, chrysoprase and blue lace agate for picture day!

The severe sunburn acquired on your last vacation was a one inch wide strip of skin at the gap between the tail of your shirt and the top of your pants.

Submitted by Joanne Caskey

## Display Report

For the March meeting we again had 4 competitions and 4 winners!

**Remember, the winners are chosen by your vote. Please try to vote so we can have full club representation in the results. We had 29 votes this time.**

**Novice Cab:** Four entries, MartinWharton (winner) (tiger agate), Vivian Kuhl (moss agate), Gary Casillas (tiger eye), and Mary Hicks (jasper)

**Pro Cab:** Three entries, Dave Kleesattel (winner) (Montana Agate), Joe Yarbrough

(Maury Mt. agate), Terry Caskey (Montana moss agate)

**Shape of the Month:** Four entries, Joe Yarbrough (winner) (Graveyard plume agate), Vivian Kuhl (Obsidian), Dave Kleesattel (Burro Creek agate), Terry Caskey (Howlite).

**Faceting:** Two entries, Glen MacKinzie (winner) (amethyst), John Rosploch (Red glass)

## April Shape of the Month - Round

**The following persons displayed items of interest:** Dick and Betty Pankey - Specimens from Texas Springs, NV., Taylor Thompson, Jr member - Award winning science fair project, Mary Hicks, Gem trees, Harry Nichandros, Mariposite and Purple Mariposite, and Serpentine, Glen Mackinzie, wire wrapped spinel.

**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

## EVENT CALENDAR

- April 2 Board Meeting  
 April 12 CFMS Field Trips-North Seminar, sponsored by CCM&GS  
 April 14 April's GENERAL MEETING, Centre Concord, Activities Room  
 April 26 Class-Learning Basic Gem Tree Techniques  
 May 12 May's GENERAL MEETING, Centre Concord, Madrone Room  
 May 17 Class-Precious Metal Clay  
 June 14 Social Event-Flag Day Rock Swap  
 June 16 June's GENERAL MEETING, Madrone Room (*third Monday*)  
 June 21 Class-Concho Pony Bead Necklace

## Ecology Report

With interest rates dropping, gas, oil, and food prices rising, who has time to worry about California ecology?

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies has some good information this month. Be Aware on your spring, summer and fall field trips or outings; Federal lands, gates and other structures, may block your entrance. Many parks, camp sites and trails are being closed. The Mariposa Gem & Mineral Museum is set for closure.

With reduction of federal funds, the U.S. Forest Service has been placing millions of acres off limits to the public. In October 2007

the Forest Service in Washington D.C. announced a plan for 2007-2012. Ultimately, it means less public land for our rockhound outings. Also, 4-wheelers, hunters and campers will be displaced.

**The take away of public access to federal lands, without public approval or hearings, will continue unless we take a stand. Keep yourself up dated on land issues in our area.**

*(Information taken from AFMS newsletter & Contra Costa Times Newspaper)*

Ecology Chair, Sharon Neuhauser

## Junior Rockhound Wins a Ribbon

Taylor Thompson, Junior Member of CCM&GS won an Honorable Mention Ribbon for her "Rockhound Collection", at the Silverwood Elementary Science Fair in late February 2008.

Competition for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class was quite exciting, with many interesting projects displayed. Taylor's project exhibited a collection of rocks, minerals, crystals, and fossils. Children and parents enjoyed the "hands-on" display of geodes, thunder eggs, agate, amethyst & rose quartz crystals, petrified wood and turrutella- fossilized shells.

Taylor has been 'Rockhounding' with her parents, Mary Jernigan & Mike Thompson, since she was a little Pebble Pup. As Taylor says, "A Rockhound is a person who loves rocks!!" Be sure to look for Taylor's Junior Rockhound case at the November CCM&GS Show with many more adventures to share.

Submitted by Mary Jernigan

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem

Way To Go  
Taylor!!!



Taylor Thompson with her award winning science project.

## North Bay Field Trips NBFT Fall Meeting

Betty and I picked up the doughnuts and got to the church social hall about 7:30. We unloaded what seemed like a ton of stuff – potluck stuff, stuff for the silent auction, cups, napkins, plates, coffee, etc. and started to get organized for the event. Betty started the coffee and setting up the goodies and I went out to post the orange paper plates with arrows to direct the NBFT attendees to the parking and social hall. A little after 8:00 the Contra Costa helpers/set up crew arrived and set up the tables and chairs for our meeting. A **BIG THANK YOU** to Betty Pankey for running the kitchen for the coffee, goodies and potluck lunch. And a **BIG THANK YOU** to Mary Jernigan and her daughter, Taylor, Louis Gilley and Hazel Woolsey. Around 8:30 people started arriving for the meeting loaded down with silent auction donations, and potluck food. After greeting everyone and signing in they grabbed a cup of coffee and a doughnut and set to work laying out the silent auction table. We had 3 plus tables full of rocks, slabs, geodes, minerals, jewelry and other miscellaneous rockhound stuff. There was really good material that went for really cheap prices: a great silent auction. The silent

auction is how NBFT pays the for cost of our meetings.

At 9:30 President Heinz Dreier, called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Barb Matz conducted the roll call of officers and clubs, and we then had self introductions. All 4 officers and the 3 of the 4 directors were present, and 10 of the 18 NBFT clubs were represented. In total there was only 15 people present; about the same as the last few meetings, but down from the 40 to 60 people that attended just 4 and 5 years ago. There were reports on a few field trips since our Fall Meeting. I reported on the Contra Costa M&GS trip to Wiley Well Dist. in January and about our Quartzsite activities and field trips. In addition to the Snyder's Pow Wow May 2 – 4, near Valley Springs, several other field trips were announced. Dennis Freiburger will have the list and the details. Several ideas for one day trips around Napa and other local spots were discussed and are being developed.

After lunch Bob Kanagaki, Naturalist at Black Diamond Mines Regional Park gave us a digital presentation about the mine, the geology and the history of the area. The mine tours were expanded and will resume in April.

The NBFT Fall meeting will be held in Napa on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Richard Pankey, Inter – Regional Field Trips





## This Month's Birthstone – Diamond

Information from:

<http://mineral.galleries.com/>

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is well known that Diamond is the hardest substance found in nature, but few people realize that Diamond is *four times harder* than the next hardest natural mineral, corundum (sapphire and ruby). But even as hard as it is, it is not impervious. Diamond has four directions of cleavage, meaning that if it receives a sharp blow in one of these directions it will cleave, or split. A skilled diamond setter and/or jeweler will prevent any of these directions from being in a position to be struck while mounted in a jewelry piece.

As a gemstone, Diamond's single flaw (perfect cleavage) is far outdistanced by the sum of its positive qualities. It has a broad color range, high refraction, high dispersion or fire, very low reactivity to chemicals, rarity, and of course, extreme hardness and durability. Diamond is the April Birthstone.

In terms of its physical properties, diamond is the ultimate mineral in several ways:

- **Hardness:** Diamond is a perfect "10", simply the hardest substance known by a wide margin.
- **Clarity:** Pure diamond is completely colorless and transparent over a larger range of wavelengths (from the ultraviolet into the far infrared) than is any other solid or liquid substance - nothing else even comes close.
- **Thermal Conductivity:** Diamond conducts heat better than anything -

five times better than the second best element, Silver! This characteristic is the basis for "diamond tests", as it is simple and cannot be faked.

- **Dispersion:** Diamond has a relatively high optical dispersion which gives diamond the "fire" that makes it so desirable.

Diamonds may be nearly any color in the rainbow plus browns, grays, and white. Shades of yellow are most common, followed by colorless. Blue, black, reddish, and greenish are more valuable (some extremely so).

Diamonds are found in a type of rock called "Kimberlite", which comprises the core of certain volcanoes over especially thick portions of the earth's crust. This hard stone is mined and then crushed between giant steel rollers. The kimberlite is reduced to fine gravel, yet the extremely hard diamonds come out unharmed! Water is added and a grease covered roller sorts the diamonds from the gravel, as the diamonds stick to the grease. Typically, a single carat of diamond is recovered from a ton of ore.

Diamonds are found in many areas including South Africa, Russia, and even in Arkansas in the USA. In all cases, diamonds formed deep within the earth's mantle, and were brought to the surface in volcanic eruptions. In many cases, the diamonds weathered out of the kimberlite by natural processes, and were transported downstream by water. Many diamonds are mined in the resulting alluvial deposits in areas such as along the coast of South Africa.

**Submitted by Bonnie Eichler**

**Website for Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas:**

<http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/digging-for-diamonds/>

## SAFETY TIP

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car alarm. This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator.

Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. **Test it.** It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the criminal won't stick around... After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there... This is something that should really be shared with every one. Maybe it could save a life.

This would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. An older woman has suggested her husband carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she'll know there's a problem.

Also, if you loose your car in the parking lot or parking garage it will help with finding it.

*(Received in an e-mail from my Great Aunt in Texas)*

**Submitted by Bonnie Eichler**



## Seminar Reminder

The CFMS Field Trips – North Seminar will be hosted by the Contra Costa M&GS on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Community Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Leland, in Pittsburg, CA. Registration, with coffee, begins at 8:30 AM and the seminar starts at 9:00. This seminar is for all people that go on or lead field trips. All club members are encouraged to attend. Cost of the seminar is \$5.00, which includes coffee, and a lunch of hot dogs with all of the trimmings, chips and a beverage. Since our club is hosting this seminar we will need help from our members to set up, take down and clean up after the seminar. We will also need help in the kitchen with the coffee and with the lunch. If you can help please call me and plan to arrive at 8:00 AM for set up. The more help we have the easier and faster it goes. Please give me a call or an e-mail to let me know that you will be there to help.

This seminar addresses what you need to know about determining land status, choosing and reading maps, GPS and other tools. Three presenters are scheduled to speak:

- Dave Muster will talk about 1.) Types of Land; 2.) Using Visuals and Compasses; 3.) Finding Markers; and 4.) Finding Townships, Section and Range.
- Dennis Freiburger will talk about – Practical GPS and Digital Maps – A user-friendly approach to using the Global Positioning System.

- Dick Pankey will talk about Personal Responsibility on Field Trips.

This seminar addresses what you need to know about determining land status, choosing and reading maps, GPS and other tools. This seminar is for field trip leaders, and all rockhounds that enjoy collecting; all members and guests are welcome.

Please reserve your place at this seminar by notifying Dick Pankey at [dickpankey@juno.com](mailto:dickpankey@juno.com) or 925-439-7509, no later than April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Richard Pankey

## AFMS President's Message

### BIRTHSTONE STAMPS

The plan to get Mineral Heritage/Birthstone Stamps has had a huge boost! For those of you who have seen the February, 2008 Rock & Gem Magazine, on page 104 & 105, our own Bob Jones has a wonderful article on our AFMS project.

**YOUR CHALLENGE:** First, if everyone one in a club throughout the U.S. would contact one school class and ask the help of the teacher and students, we could make this work in a nano-second! You can go to the AFMS Website: <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)> select WHAT'S NEW - on that page there are three items on Commemorative Stamps: Birthstone Stamp Promotion Flyer; Tent Sign for Flyers; and FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANT: TEACHER, STUDENT INFORMATION PAGE. This two page item can help you work with a teacher or teachers to give students the incentive to write to the Postal Service.

Second: contact your Senators and Congressman and ask for their help, especially those clubs in states who have the beautiful gemstones we want to see on the stamps.

Here are the birthstones and those states where many of them are found:

**January, Garnet** - Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Idaho, Georgia, Montana and California

**February, Amethyst**- Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and Nevada

**March, Aquamarine** - Colorado, California and Idaho

**April, Diamond** - Arkansas and Colorado

**May, Emerald** - North Carolina

**June, Pearl** - Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana

**July, Ruby** - North Carolina and Montana

**August, Peridot** - Arizona

**September, Sapphire** - Montana

**October, Opal** - Nevada and Idaho

**November, Topaz** - California, New Hampshire, Colorado, Texas, Utah

**December, Turquoise** - Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah.

**WRITE LETTERS YOURSELF.** Please take the time at your club meeting to ask the members to write individual letters (a petition letter is only counted as one letter, no matter how many signatures - also mention your birthstone in your letter and that we are way behind other countries who have already issued gemstone stamps, but that ours would be spectacular!) send to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamps Development, U.S.

Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn St. Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432.

**Remember: NOTHING HAPPENS, UNLESS YOU THE MEMBERS TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.**

**By Shirley Leeson, AFMS President**  
*Excerpt from President's Message via AFMS Newsletter, Feb 2008*

## Federation Director's Report

It is hard to try and distill all of the information that comes to me by and about the CFMS and AFMS so that you, our members, are informed, and inspired, but not bored or overwhelmed. I get both newsletters and visit both websites a couple of times a month. The best way would be for all of you to get both newsletters, but the cost to the Federations (and ultimately the members by way of dues); to mail "hard copy" is prohibitive. But if you have internet access you can get both newsletters. However, I will continue to select, distill and report CFMS and AFMS activities, events and news.

Thanks to all of you that have been cutting and collecting canceled stamps and bringing them to me. These stamps are donated to the Easter Seal program in Sacramento. It is easy to do; when you get your mail each day just cut the stamps off of the envelopes and stick them in a Ziploc bag or envelope. When the bag is full bring it to me at a meeting. In the past I have taken our donations to the CFMS meeting in November. We have such good participation that I will have a load for the June meeting.

And while we are talking about stamps I want you to read Shirley Leeson's article on the USPS commemorative stamp initiative that is

in this issue of the Diggins' and do what you can to help. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to obtain Birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by sending letters or notes to the USPS

One of the many outstanding programs of the CFMS is the Earth Science Studies Program that is dedicated to the promotion and the education of the Earth Sciences, and directed strongly toward the lapidary arts and various disciplines pertaining to it. The session at the Desert Studies Center near Baker, Ca. on Zzyzx road, was held in March. The next session is the two 1-week programs at Camp Paradise, which is just out of Clipper Mill, Ca. north of Marysville Ca. in September. The registration forms will be issued in April. This costs of \$300 per person per week, which includes instruction, room and board. Instruction includes classes in lapidary (cabochon making), silver fabrication, wire art, soft stone carving, hard stone carving, field trips, copper enameling, silver and gold casting, glass bead making along with other disciplines as the cycles change. If you are interested don't delay in registering because this session fills up fast. Forms are available on the CFMS web site at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) under Forms. If you have any questions about the sessions at Camp Paradise please contact me. The Earth Science Studies program at Zzyzx is scheduled for March 23 - 30, 2008. Deadline for registration is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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.

**By Dick Pankey, Federation Director**

## ROCK HOUND RECEIPES

The following recipe has been known to "perk up" the crankiest, hard workin' rockhound-type and put a smile on his/her frowny face.

### HEAVENLY AMBROSIA

... make an "angel" out of ya ☺ Try it!

11 oz can mandarin oranges, drained  
 15 oz can pineapple tidbits, drained  
 8 oz can fruit cocktail, drained  
 1 + 1/2 cups mini marshmallows  
 1/2 cup coconut, shredded  
 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped  
 1 cup sour cream

Combine ingredients and let set overnight in fridge.

Serves ten angels



**Mary Hicks demonstrating Gemstone Trees at the Castro Valley Show, 2008.**

## Editor's Notes

Rock hound and fellow club member Ken Whitlatch shared with me a website where he purchased some rock hound chisels he found at a great sale price. I sent an e-mail to them and told them I was the editor of our club's newsletter and wanted to share this sale

information with our club members and asked if the sale prices would still be in effect the first week of April. I received a response from Glade Gunther, Geological Tools and Outfitter, LLC. They said "We do our best to keep our customers happy and our prices as low as we can... As far as I know, I will have the same prices going into April." So check out their website at [www.geo-tools.com](http://www.geo-tools.com) or call them at (435) 225-8665 and ask about their chisel sale. One chisel in particular Ken mentioned that was a "must have" for a serious rock hounder was the Eastwing ERC – 8 Rock Chisel. This particular brand's chisel is top notch. If you are in need of a new chisel, and someone else you know is also, you could always make your order together and save on shipping.



**Bonnie Eichler, Editor**

E-mail articles and reports to Bonnie at [BonnieE1969@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BonnieE1969@sbcglobal.net)  
Remember the deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 Newsletter can be read at <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>



**Brownie Cameron demonstrating Slate Carving at the Castro Valley Show, 2008.**

**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**  
**PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m., except First 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 Valley Bowl, Free Parking,

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

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!**

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