

Diablos



**Contra
Costa**

MINERAL + GEM SOC.
WALNUT CREEK, CA



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Next General Meeting of the CCM&GS is: Friday May 12th 2006 at 7:30 PM. Please mark your calendars.

CCM&GS May Board of Directors Meeting.

The May 2006 CCM&GS Board of Directors Meeting will be Monday May 8th at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Dave & Kim Kleesattel's house.

President's Message

I want to start out this month with a big Thank You to those members who helped out at the trailer and storage barn on April 22. I really appreciate your time and effort getting our equipment in order. **Sam Woolsey** is doing a great job as Property Chairman and keeping our property in good condition. And for those who haven't heard, Sam is also taking over as Show Chair again this year, so Sam is a very busy person, we really appreciate his help.

We had a great meeting last month. It was really fun helping **Al Schleif** celebrate his 90th birthday. Thanks to **Jeanie Russo** for getting the cake and reminding everybody about Al's birthday. Al joined the CCM&GS in 1954, and has held most, if not all, official positions in the club.

I think spring is finally here and maybe the rain will stop so we can get back out there collecting rocks. There are plenty of local rock shows to go to, so keep an eye on the calendar in the newsletter. The big rock Pow Wow at Synder's Ranch in Valley Springs is coming up (May 5 - 7). If you plan on going, check with other members to see if you can share a ride. There are some of our members who would like to go, but can't drive. So please help out if you can.

Please Help! We are in need of a new place to keep our library books (and we also need a member to volunteer to be the librarian). Our club has about 2 to 3 shelves of books, videos, and DVDs. These books are such a great asset of our club. The librarian is an easy position in the club, plus you'll never run out of reading material. If you're interested, please let me know.

We're looking into having new Club Vests made for those members who don't have one (myself included). Many of you new members may have noticed some of the club members wearing those "stylish" blue vests. If you have interest in having a vest, please let me know so we can judge the level of interest and figure out the details.

Hope to see all of you at the May meeting.

Dave Kleesattel, President

Refreshments

We ask the following members to please bring a treat to share during our social period at the **May** General Meeting.

Glen & Betty MacKenzie
Ann & George Matthews
Barbara Matz
Lee McIlvaine
Bill McKay
Shannon Merrill
Ed Miller

We appreciate your generosity.

CCM&GS General Membership Meeting April 2006

CCM&GS General Membership Meeting
April 2006

The April 14, General Meeting opened by members saying the Pledge of Allegiance at about 7:40 pm. **President Dave Kleesattel** welcomed everyone and announced that

Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser is feeling under the weather so he read the monthly Birthday and Anniversary news. **Past President Joe Yarborough** led us in singing Happy Birthday to **Member Al Schlieff** who is celebrating his 90th Birthday. **President Dave Kleesattel** reported that the Spring Social Dinner last Sunday at Sweet Tomatoes Buffet in Pleasant Hill, that **Sharon** organized, was well attended. The meeting Guests were introduced, **Catalina Wright's** grand daughter and her grand-daughters girl friend from Clayton were happy to receive the guest door prize, Dugway Geodes each. Two junior visitors received geodes too. **Member Sherb Brown** collected fines for members who were not wearing their badge. Members were told that the money collected from badge fines was used to purchase a nice door prize for the December Holiday meeting.

Display Chair John Owen was absent because he was not feeling well, his wife **Rana**, stepped up and handled the display tables. **Rana** informed the attendees that there was a light showing of cabachons for competition and there was a single faceted stone. Members are asked to think about making a beautiful cab or faceted stone for competition at the May General Meeting. **Property Chair/Show Chair Sam Woolsey** displayed an impressive selection of completed and unfired PMC jewelry. **Members Catalina Wright and her son John** had stained glass items, a frog and an angel, from **Member Betty Pankey's** class. Two students from **Member Dick Dennis' Alabaster class, Secretary Mary Hicks and Member Jeanie Russo**, had samples of their sculpted art displayed and there were also pictures from the class for the history book.

Fossil preparation class is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, at **Treasurer Connie**

Klein's barn. For members attending this class, there is a \$10 fee. The club is subsidizing each student to the tune of \$10. The specimens cost \$20 each. Sign up at tonight's meeting or call **Education Chair Joanne Caskey** and let her know you want to attend. There will be a bear soap stone carving class by **Member Ophelia Hicks** in June.

President Dave Kleesattel announced the Silent Auction items from last month were ready for pick up and new items were laid out for the evening's bidding. Remember to pay and pick up your items at the next meeting.

Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel handed out membership cards for the California State Mining & Mineral Museum which is located in Mariposa, California. The membership is a benefit for members of our club. The club supports the museum to help retain, care for, and display the specimens in this important collection. The card provides for free entry and discounts at the Gift Shop. Also, remember to pick up your 2006 Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society membership card as this is needed for some field trips and special events. **President Dave Kleesattel** announced an estate sale in the Castro Valley area that will only allow members of local clubs to enter, so keep your card in a safe place..

Field Trip Chair Dennis Freiburger spoke about the Mariposa mineral show this weekend which is hosted by the local Mariposa club and the California State Mining Museum. See the side board for more information on field trips and shows and always check the Bulletin and call **Dennis** if you have field trip questions. There are a lot of trips in May so there is a lot of opportunity to get out of the house and go someplace fun. Set a goal to go to one

field trip or show in May. **Federation Chair Dick Pankey** said he and his wife **Betty** are going to be the Old Timer's Wagon Masters at up coming Snyders Pow Wow, so come camp with them and enjoy the Friday night and Saturday night pot lucks, there will be over 200 dealers and demonstrators, mountain men demonstrations, a small Indian encampment, and much more. This is ranch meadow camping or drive up for the day. There will be field trips to collect Valley Spring moss agate and moss opal. Everyone is welcome to come to Church in the barn Sunday morning.

CFMS Federation Director Dick Pankey reported California Federation of Mineralogical Society (CFMS) news. The CFMS newsletter has information and can be read on line. The big annual CFMS Education Show will be June 9-11 at Angel Camp, CA. There will be special exhibits from the Smithsonian, the Los Angeles County Museum, presentations, an appearance by **Bob Jones** from Rock and Gem magazine, and much more. There will be a field trip to visit the Carson Hill mine which is near the fairgrounds. This old gold mine is a great location to collect hi-graded mineral specimens. Examples of material that may be collecting are prized pyrite-cubes in shale.

On another note, **Federation Chair Dick Pankey** shared there were only 3 clubs out of about 130, which entered the CFMS All American Club competition. The competition is for a club scrap book that documents the club activity for a year. Besides competing, this is a good way to captures the history of the club. Our club has had members develop an All American Club book twice; another one would be great to have. If you are interested in doing this activity for this year, contact Dick to

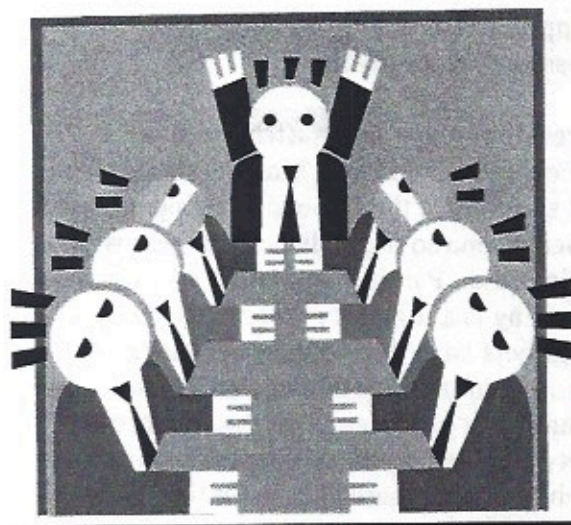
great to have. If you are interested in doing this activity for this year, contact Dick to start now. The CFMS June show also has space for more enthusiasts to enter the Competitive Exhibit category, this is another fun activity to get involved in, see Dick for details.

Property Chair Sam Woolsey is also the **Education Show Chair** for the November event. He is looking for volunteers for setup; tear down, demonstrators, kitchen help. There is a work party date for Saturday, April 22nd at **Treasurer Connie Kleins** to organize the storage trailer and the barn.

Vice President of Programs Lee McIlvaine was visiting family and so **President Dave Kleesattel** introduced the Evening Program on Agates. The program was a 2005 award winning presentation in DVD format. The program took us from a South Dakota agate rich valley to far reaching areas of the world. The South Dakota location had agate exposed as the result of a large forest fire that had burned the area four years earlier, this allowed for erosion that exposed the limestone bedrock and beautiful agates. The program was focused on uncommon agate which comes from sedimentary rock. **Doug Moore** put the show together and **Susan Moore** narrated it. The photographs were spectacular and there were numerous oohs and ahhs about the room during the parade of dramatic images of sedimentary agates. Refreshments and birthday cake were enjoyed after the program.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

April Board Meeting



Present: **Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Matt & Ann Matthews, Dick Pankey, Connie Klein, Dennis Freiburger, Dave & Kim Kleesattel, Mary Hicks.**

The meeting was at **President Dave and Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel's** home in Concord and **Dave** called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The April Bulletin was accepted as written. The President said that Office Depot in Concord has very good prices and good service for duplicating, collating, and stapling documents and that is where the bulletin is published.

A letter addressed to **Member Mary Bufton** was received from the Contra Costa Food Bank thanking the club for donating 189 pounds of food donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank.

Club volunteer positions opened are the **Librarian and Display Chair**, these positions do not demand a lot of time but enrich our club experience. Consider getting active in the club, being involved is a

lot of fun and a great way to get to know other members. Thank you to **Members Bill McKay and John Owen** for their support of the club by holding these positions, respectively.

President Dave Kleesattel stated he received a note from a Member requesting all speakers at the General Meeting use the microphone so the audience can hear what is being said. Parking Issue for the General Meeting is a topic of concern. Many members have developed a new habit of parking in the City of Concord Public Garage. It was stated that the distance between the church parking lot and the public parking garage is about the same. However, since the parking garage is multi-floored, some members and guest may feel more secure by walking together to the garage after the meeting.

Past President Ann Matthews is working on getting announcements about the club meetings in the local newspapers. She asks members to bring in copies of the local newspaper you read if you see the club meeting information. This information helps her determine what areas she needs to follow-up with the newspapers to get our announcements published.

Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel reports that **Bonnie Eichler** sent in her application and she was enthusiastically accepted as a new member.

Field Trip Chair Dennis Frieburger asks members to check the Bulletin for field trip and show information. Call him for details. **Historian Hazel Woolsey** attended the most recent North Bay Field Trip meeting.

Treasurer Connie Klein reported there is \$13,797.06 in checking and CD's in the

amount of \$19,419.26 and \$8,585.80, giving the club total cash assets of \$41,802.12.

Federation Director Dick Pankey reminds everyone about the big CFMS show in June. Contact him if you want more information, advance registration for camping, or want to put in one of your fantastic displays. He also had information about club vests. He has the pattern and other information for member who wish to make vests. These vests are a sky blue color with yellow bias tape trim, with two handy pockets. Sew one for yourself or if you are handy with the sewing machine, offer to make some extras. Other less talented members will be happy to pay the cost of materials to get a club vest. Contact: **Federation Director Dick Pankey** for a pattern and information.

Show Chair Sam Woolsey said that 19 show contracts have been sent out and \$2400 has already been received from dealers. **Sam then put on his hat as Property Chair.** He reports one of the extra display cases was purchased. We have 50 new show cases in storage for use at the show. Our sister club in Antioch will be happy to receive the collection of mineral and gem magazines donated to the club by the **Pevahouse** family and a tub of surplus electrical cables may be of use to the Antioch club too. A work party is being organized for Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 am to organize club materials stored in **Connie Klein's** barn and the club's trailer. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided to volunteers. Bring gloves and A-frame ladders if you can, to help with the lights. But most important come and help in any way you can, the more members make the work go quickly and allow for some visiting. See your directory for **Connie's** address or contact **Sam Woolsey**.

The work party will also get the barn prepared for the **Saturday, May 13 class on Fish "pickin" Fossil Preparation**. Lights need to get hung up in the barn so students can work inside if the weather is poor that Saturday. **Connie Klein** has the sign up sheet for this exciting class because the **Education Chair Joanne Caskey** is unable to make the meeting.

Secretary Mary Hicks and Historian Hazel Woolsey did not have reports.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm and refreshments were enjoyed.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

May Program

The program will be announced at the meeting on Friday

Membership

Please join me in welcoming **Bonnie Eichler** as a new member to the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society. Bonnie works as a Child Support Legal Specialist and is in Dan Howlett's jewelry casting class (she has done many arts and crafts). Bonnie is interested in all aspects of lapidary arts and crafts. Bonnie is also interested in photography (digital and film).

We also received membership applications from **Marty Wharton, Pam Harris, and Kelly Plumb** last month. We will be presenting the applications for these people at the May Board meeting for review and approval.

I still have many of the 2006 membership cards, so if you haven't received yours,

please see me at the next meeting or let me know. I also have some name badges for new members. If you haven't received your name badge, please let me know.

We also have, at no cost to you, Membership Cards for the California State Mining & Mineral Museum Association. In support of this Association, the CCM&GS purchased memberships for each of our members to this museum. These membership cards will give you free admission to the California State Mining & Mineral Museum in Mariposa. The card also gives you a 10% discount on all purchases from the Museum Shop. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Please see **Kim Kleesattel** to get your membership card to the California Mining & Mineral Museum, and plan a trip to see the displays.

I hope to see all the new members at next month's meeting.

Membership Chair, Kim Kleesattel

May Birthdays

Ann Matthews	5/4	
Joe Zehrung	5/7	
Madison Teta	5/11	
Joe Yarbrough	5/12	
Dick Pankey	5/19	
Michele Roma	5/20	
Elfie Pingree	5/21	
Donal Tompkins		5/22
Connie Klein	5/26	
Thomas Rouze		5/26

May Anniversaries

Dick Canales	5/25
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Hospitality Report

Thanks to all who attended our Spring Fling dinner at Sweet Tomatoes restaurant. The food is always fresh and making one's own salad is satisfying. Their soups are hardy and tasty too. Let me tell you we have a lot of desert lovers in our club!

Treats, rocks and rock related items were drawn from an Easter basket and everyone got their pictures taken. Thanks for the camaraderie.

Sorry I missed a few meetings this year, haven't felt up to par, but do hope all of you are staying healthy!

Hopefully less rain is coming and we can get out on a field trip for some fun rock hounding. Maybe I'll see you at Snyder's Pow Wow in May.

Sharon Newhauser, Hospitality

CCMGS Recognizes Al Schleif on his 90th birthday

At its most recent regular monthly meeting (April 9, 2006) the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem society recognized long time member Al Schleif of Concord on his 90th birthday. Al has been an active member of the CCMGS since 1954. Over his fifty years with the organization, Al has served as President, Field Trip Chairman, Show Chairman and Display Chairman.

For the past twenty-two years, Al has given generously of his time, energy and expertise as a craft instructor of copper enameling at

the Tuesday morning Senior Activities group sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Adult School that meets at the First Presbyterian Church. Even at age 90 this remarkable individual remains an active participant and contributor to both organizations. Our hats are off to Al Schleif!

Recognition and Membership

The CFMS and AFMS have a number of programs that recognize individuals, members, and clubs and societies. Every year CFMS, and by that I mean the clubs/societies and the members, have several opportunities to recognize, thank and honor one of their members or a non-member who makes a contribution to our hobby and goals. There is the Education Through Sharing Award, CFMS Scholarship Honoree, AFMS Scholarship Honoree, Golden Bear Award for service to the Federation, Bulletin and author competition, and I am sure I am missing some others. Unfortunately we struggle every year to get nominations for these awards. It is so easy to make a nomination: select a deserving person or couple that your club wants to honor (every club has many deserving members), write a letter of nomination with the reasons they are deserving of the award and mail it to the appropriate committee. It is that easy and you will make someone very proud and honored to be thought of as deserving by their club. Saying "thank you for your service" is so easy and it doesn't cost the club anything and the rewards are great for everyone.

The All American Club competition is recognition for the whole club. It is so easy to do, just collect articles, stories, letters, pictures, etc. and make a scrapbook. In

pictures, etc. and make a scrapbook. In reality this is a competition of "Brag Books." It records and documents the activities and accomplishments of your club for the year. Your club historian is (or should be) collecting much of the needed documentation already. The best time to start this project is at the beginning of the year by getting the forms and the rules from the All American Club Chairman. Plan out the information to be collected and assign photographers and reporters. Collect and file this information throughout the year. Prepare your book in December and January then submit it by the end of February. It is that easy!

A special committee evaluates and scores each book against the criteria outlined in the forms, not against each other. Certificates are awarded based on the score: 70 to 79 points, Bronze Award, 80 to 89 points, Silver Award and 90 to 100 points, Gold Award. After the CFMS judging the books are sent to AFMS for judging. AFMS awards certificates and medallions based on the same scoring system.

For some reason very few clubs participate in the All American Club competition. A couple of clubs enter regularly every year or two. These clubs have a great record of the club's activities and accomplishments. What do all the rest of the clubs have? These books are a great membership tool. When a guest or prospective member asks, "what does your rock club do?" your All American Club "brag book" has the answers. If your club has been participating you already have your resource. Don't hide it away in the library or someone's bookshelf. Bring it to all of your meetings to share with the members and guests. With the interest and emphasis on membership this coming year every club should start working on their All American Club book. This will make your

membership chairman happy and will make Dot Beachler, All American Club Chairman do cartwheels (extremely happy).

A few more words about our member recognition. All the hard working dedicated members do what they do for the club, because they enjoy what they are doing not for medals and certificates. However, a thank you is probably well deserved and appreciated and it helps fight "burnout." And a nomination for one of the CFMS honors really says that the club recognizes their contribution. This can help with member retention. People like to be part of an organization that recognizes and appreciates its members. Have your Federation Director get the information about all the CFMS honors and review your members to decide who deserves a **Big Thank You**, who you should recognize and honor.

Richard Pankey, First Vice President

Club Publicity

The club is renewing its publicity effort. Publicizing our club in the community is important to keep our club growing and thriving. Most local newspapers have weekly sections about various community events and organizations. We like to know which newspapers you read and be able to contact the appropriate editors for club publicity purposes. Bring us a copy of your local newspaper's weekly events section - including the editor's name. Give the newspaper to Ann Matthews, Dave Kleesattel, or Dennis Freiburger.

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society meets the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Activity Center, First Presbyterian Church at 1965 Colfax St., downtown Concord (corner of Salvio and Colfax.) Free parking is in the city garage across Salvio. Activity reports, displays, informative programs and refreshments following. Next meeting is May 12, 2006. Visitors are always welcome.

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Organization whose members enjoy rock collecting and all aspects of lapidary arts. Member of both the American and California Mineralogical Societies, North Bay Field Trip Association, and the California State Mining and Mineral Museum located at Mariposa, CA.

For more information: 925.229-0836

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Estate Sale

The Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley would like to invite you to our Estate Sale.

This collection has been untouched for the last 30 years from retired dealers - Just acquired.

Lots of Minerals - Mexican
Lots of Rough - Prices vary 10 cents - \$3 a lb.
Shells and some slabs

June 17th
10AM - 4PM NO EARLY BIRDS!!
- Club Membership Cards Required -

Location: 20948 A Corsair Blvd. See website for Map
<http://www.mgscv.org>

Questions: info@mgscv.org or call the shop 510-887-9007

OPEN TO CLUB MEMBERS ONLY - NO PUBLIC!

Please post this in your newsletter and post at your meetings/shop so any members interested can attend.

Thank you,
Jane Panico
President

Emerald -The May Birthstone

Emerald, the May birthstone is a form of Beryl as was aquamarine, the March birthstone. The name is derived from the Greek word "smaragdus" meaning green. Emeralds were mined in Egypt since around 330 BC. The mines, called Cleopatra's Mines were developed on the earths' surface and in crude underground workings.

Cleopatra and other monarchs of the era adorned themselves with the highest quality emeralds. The mines were eventually lost in time, forgotten for centuries and became thought of as legends. The mystical mines were rediscovered by a man named Cailliaud in excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum and were reopened in 1819.

Cailliaud's mining venture failed but at a later date buckets of emerald bearing rock were found, where the ancient miners had apparently left them near an area known as Wadi Chamal. Two groups of old mines were found 15 miles from there about 10 miles apart. Hundreds of old shafts had been driven into a hard, dark mica schist (metamorphic rock) in the hills. Many were large enough to hold 400 men that supposedly were criminals or slave laborers.

The emerald variety of beryl contains various shades of green and is a complicated silicate of beryllium and aluminum. Its beautiful green color is derived by a small amount of chromium oxide within the mineral structure. Its hardness is 7.5 to 8, has an index of refraction from 1.57 to 1.60 with a specific gravity of 2.75 to 2.80. Emerald crystallizes in the six sided hexagonal system with poor cleavage in one direction.

Emeralds and beryl are usually found in granitic rocks or associated pegmatite dikes. New England, North Carolina, the Ural Mountains in Russia and Brazil have produced numerous beautiful emerald specimens. The finest emeralds come from Columbia.

In ancient times the emerald was held in great esteem because it was believed the pretty colored stone sharpened person's eyesight and mind. Early engravers kept emeralds on their workbench to gaze on to rest their eyes and travelers believed the emerald protected them from the hazards of travel. Its' also been said that colorful emeralds have the ability to uplift a persons' spirit on sight and gave the wearer power of insight into the future; brought good fortune, youth and rebirth. Thus, this gemstone is a gift to be treasured forever and ever for its beauty and purported mythical powers.

Harry W. Short, CCMG

Field Trip Calendar

May 13. Ludwig Mine (Smith Valley, Yerington, NV). To collect chrysocolla, malachite, selenite, pyrite, and turquoise. Hosted by Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society.

* **May 20. Agate Beach, Bolinas, CA.** To collect clear agates, black chalcedony, shells, and petrified whalebone. Hosted by Antioch Lapidary Society.

May 27 - 29. Coaldale Junction area, NV (the Sump). To collect petrified wood, opalite, selenite slabs, chalcedony, agate, and jasper. Possibly also a fee dig. Hosted by El Dorado Mineral & Gem Club

May 27 - 28. Benton Springs, CA. To collect garnet, scheelite, quartz, epidote, and fluorescent minerals. Hosted by Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society.

May 27 - 29. Delta, UT. Fee dig for trilobites & other fossils. Museum / rock shop tour. Other sites to be determined. Hosted by Fossils for Fun

July 15 - 16. Elbow Junction, CA. To collect petrified wood and agate. Hosted by Carmichael Gem & Mineral Club.

For more information, contact Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman, CCM&GS

Various Shows & Events

May 5 - 7. Valley Springs, CA. Snyder's Pow Wow. A large outdoor rock & mineral show. Near where Highways 12 & 26 meet. Website www.ValleySpringsPowWow.com

May 6 - 7. Lockeford, CA. Fossil and Mineral Exhibition. 12470 Locke Road.

* **May 13 - 14. Vallejo, CA.** Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society Show. Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo across from Marine World at I-80.

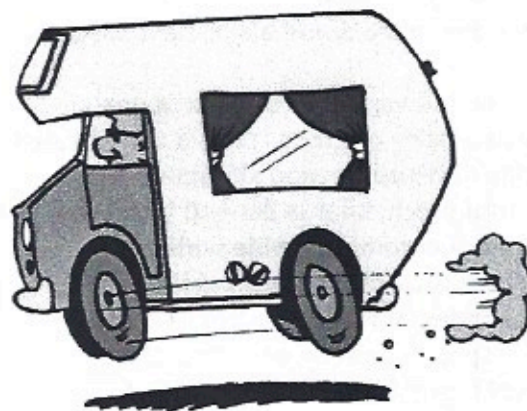
May 13 - 14. Reno, NV. Reno Gem and Mineral Show. Reno Livestock Events Center, Exhibit Hall, 1350 N. Wells Ave.

* **June 3. Antioch, CA.** Antioch Lapidary Club Rock Swap, Sale, and BBQ. 425 Fulton Shipyard Road.

June 4. Menlo Park, CA. United States Geologic Survey (USGS) Open House. Many exhibits and activities related to geology, maps, and collections of specimens. 345 Middlefield Road.

June 9 - 11. Angels Camp, CA. California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Hosted by CFMS and Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society. Calaveras County Fairgrounds

* **June 25. Suisun City, CA.** Rock Sale & Swap. Hosted by Fairfield Lapidary Society. Rush Ranch, Grizzly Island Road (south off Highway 12)



Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

Education Report May 2006

ONGOING CLASS

CCM&GS's very own **Betty Pankey**, stained glass artist, teaches the *copper foil stained glass* method at Pittsburg Adult Education. Club members can join the class at any time for beginning instruction. Call Betty first to discuss. You will be registered with PAE to attend the entire semester, and can enroll at any time. Members 55+ pay no fee; those younger pay \$20 to PAE. The CCM&GS donates materials for your first two projects. Expect to have a great time getting to know the other students and PAE's certified stained glass instructor, **Fred Turner**. Beautiful stained glass creations will surround and inspire you. Do yourself a favor and go for it! Evening and day classes are both available.

COMING UP

May 13, 2006: Fossil Preparation w/ Greg Johnson

You will want to be in on this action – It's got to be a first for the club! **Greg Johnson** will be teaching a class on hand preparing a Green River Formation fossil fish. These fish fossils (as you may remember if you attended the January 2006 meeting) are approximately 51 million years old and come from the fossil quarries near Kemmerer, Wyoming. A fossil fish kit will be provided to each of the students at the class. The kit will contain an unprepared fossil fish, and a small pick. By-the-way, Greg is **Dave Kleesattel's** partner in case you didn't know!

Each student should bring safety glasses, a small paint brush (to wipe away the dust from the fossil), and a "gum" eraser.

Several pneumatic tools (like the professionals use) will be available for you to try. *There will be a \$10 fee for this class* to help the club pay for the fossil kits (a \$20 value). Sign-ups will be taken at the April 14th meeting, and directions will be available at that time. (for more information talk to Dave at the meeting). **Connie Klein** is hosting the class, so plan on being at her place at: 1885 ¾ Farm Bureau Rd., (at Willow Pass Rd) Concord, on Saturday, May 13, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.. Bring a lunch or dine at the local hamburger joint. Beverages are furnished.

June 10 & June 17, 2006: Soapstone Carving w/ Ophelia Hicks

Must sign up for both weekends! - Adults only. It is finally here ... Soapstone carving! Learn to carve like the pros! I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait for it. Our "*Queen of the Soaps*" makes it sound like "party time", and I know it will be. These classes are getting to be so much fun. The time is 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Hicks house in Concord. Bring a lunch and plan on being outside. You will need eye protection, a lap towel, and a swim suit too! Sign-ups will be taken at the May 12th general meeting; required tool list and directions will be given out at that time.

NEEDED:

- If any of our club's cab experts are interested in getting together in the name of education and holding a weekend outdoor workshop for new members who are interested in learning to make cabs - getting "hands on" instruction -

- please let me know. We will work something out!
- If anyone in the club is interested in instructing a class this year, please let me know.
 - If anyone in the club can think of a class they would like the club to schedule, please let me know.

Joanne Caskey, Education Program
Chairperson

April Secret Auction Results

We had some really nice mineral specimens for auction in April. Most of these specimens were donated to our club by Howell Lovell, Jr. several years ago. The specimens that we are including in our Secret Auction are those that were either duplicates of specimens that we have kept for the CCM&GS permanent collection, or those specimens that were unlabeled and not suited for our collection and display at the show. All of the proceeds from the Secret Auction are used to support the club's expenses and educational meetings.

The winning bids for the April Secret Auction are:

1. **Connie Klein** Chrysoprase & Carnelian Cabs
2. **Harry Nichandros** Rough Sapphire pieces
3. **Doug Ellis** Belt Buckle with Fiber Optic Cab
4. **Harry Nichandros** Celestite Specimen
5. **Mary Hicks** Belt Buckle with Black Onyx Cab
6. **Hazel Woolsey** Box of Misc. Minerals & Crystals
7. *Quartz Specimen ... No Bid*
8. **Charlotte Bochra** Glauberite Specimen
9. *Calcite Crystals ... No Bid*
10. **Michael Ludwig** Pyrophyllite Specimens
11. **Mary Hicks** Herkimer Diamond in Matrix
12. **Kathy Stark** Selenite Roses

Thank you everybody for bidding on these specimens. We'll have more items next month including a small rock tumbler.

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: Second Friday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

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

Free Parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio

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

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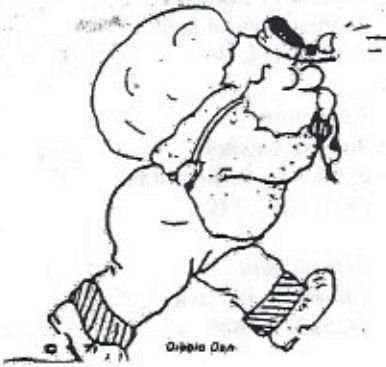
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A nonprofit organization whose members enjoy rockhounding
and the lapidary arts.



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