

DiABLO



*Contra Costa
Mineral & Gem Society*

September 2006

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Next General Meeting of the CCM&GS is: Friday September 8th 2006 at 7:30 PM. Please mark your calendars.

September Board of Directors Meeting

There will be NO Board of Directors Meeting in September in observance of Labor Day.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday October 9th at 7:30 at Dave & Kim Kleesattel's house.

Refreshments

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

Don Thompkins
 Jeanette Travers
 Bob & Jean Vetro
 Gary Walls
 The West Family
 Ken & Jean Williamson
 Ken and Nancy Whitlatch

President's Message

Summer is rapidly coming to a close, hope everybody got out and did some worthwhile rockhounding this summer. At least here in California we have a couple of extra months of good weather in case we (like me) didn't make the time to get out and kick some rocks. I did spend last weekend at the Sacramento Mineral Society's Open House, BBQ & Tailgate. Plenty of good rocks there. I set up a seller's booth and sold off some rocks that had been donated to our club. For the 4-hour event, we made \$37.00 for our club (every little bit helps).

Our club was very fortunate to receive a very gracious donation from Ms. Faye Levitz of Rio Vista, California. Faye donated her late husband's, Jack Levitz, mineral collection to us for inclusion into our permanent collection. The mineral collection contains over 300 mineral specimens from all over the world. Each of the major rock forming mineral assemblages is included in the collection. Most of the specimens are "hand-size", but there are several large specimens too. This collection will be a great addition to our existing

collection that is available for display and educational purposes. And with that in mind, I am looking for somebody to volunteer to set up a display case at our November Show to highlight the Levitz Collection. This is a great opportunity for those of you who would like to try setting up a display case. It's easy to do, and you'll get a very nice prize for doing this. If you're interested, please let me know.

I received an email from Bill McKay this past month. He is doing well in Illinois and is adjusting to his new job, wife and kids.

Hope to see everybody at the September General Meeting. Take Care.

Dave Kleesattel, President

IT'S ALMOST PICNIC TIME AGAIN !!!

Our group picnic is scheduled for Sunday OCTOBER 8th. The picnic will be from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. Mark it on your calendars now.

The picnic will be in Baldwin Park in Concord (Bonafacio and Port Chicago Highway across from the former Mt. Diablo Hospital). Our picnic is a Potluck affair, so bring a dish to share with others. We will provide the beverages. You'll also need to bring your own plates and utensils.

We also ask that you bring a small gift (rock related or otherwise) for a gift exchange or for prizes for BINGO.

If you need more information, please contact **Sharon Neuhauser**.

CCM&GS August Board of Directors Meeting Monday August 7th, 2006

Present: Dave & Kim Kleesattel, Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Sharon Neuhauser, Matt & Ann Matthews, Mary Hicks, Terry & Joanne Caskey, Connie Klein, John Owen.

No BOARD MEETING in SEPTEMBER.

President Dave Kleesattel handed out a copy of the minutes from the July Board of Director meeting for review. The secretary will send copy of the BOD minutes to BOD members who have provided e-mail address before the BOD meeting. Newsletter articles are due to **Dave Kleesattel** for the September Bulletin by the 20th of August.

Membership Chair Kim Kleesattel had two new members, **Dave Thompson** is interested in field trips, has mechanical and electrical skills; and, **Lide-Marie Haitisma**, she is a photography buff and is interested in field trips, fossils and mineralogy. She was at the last meeting and enjoyed Member **Barrie Bieler's** 3-D photography presentation. The club has 128 members and seven juniors. New **Member Pam Harris** is looking at doing blue vests, by looking into the cost for each vest.

Past President Ann Matthews is sending out announcements about the club meeting. She is continuing to work with the local newspapers and cable station. Several persons present reported on seeing information in their local newspapers.

Treasurer Connie Klein had several bills to issue checks for. **Property/Show Chair**

Sam Woolsey had made a deposit for the show.

Education Chair Joanne Caskey will be putting information together for classes. Critters are coming up on August the 16th Field Trips for beginners class is being offered by Federation Chair Dick Pankey's.

Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser reported the club picnic first weekend in October 8, 10-5, in Concord. Mark your calendar for this fun pot luck and rock bingo event. There may also be a tour of the Black Diamond regional park in Antioch that weekend too. Folks needing a get well card are **Members Mary Ann King, Genie Russo, Ed Miller, and Pat Bon.**

Secretary Mary Hicks will not be at the September General Meeting and thankfully, **Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser** offered to take the minutes. Remember no board meeting in September since it lands on Labor Day. State of California, Secretary of State, Statement of Information with the Filing Fee of \$20 is due October 31, 2006. The form contains the names and complete addresses of the officers. The paperwork was handed over to the Treasurer.

Display Chair John Owen is asking for novice cabs, very nice show and tells have been happening.

Historian Hazel Woolsey has put together an article for the Bulletin about the club forming August 24, 56 years ago. Check this out in the newsletter. Speaking of history, the 2006 education show coming up in November is the 47th show for our club.

Property Chair/Show Chair Sam Woolsey had no news in property. The show planning committee, all members are welcome, happens the Wednesday before

the General Meeting at the **Matthews'** home in Martinez. Call for more information. The show flier says \$1 off with the flier presented at the door. Fliers will be sent to Co-Op and North Bay clubs. A big item of interest for the show is a fantastic jade boulder owned by Member Tom Francis. Sign up sheets for volunteer positions will be out at the August General Meeting. Old Timers club will have a table at the show too.

President Dave Kleesattel called for approval of the minutes for the July BOD, these were accepted as written. BOD members are reminded to e-mail telephone items to by August 20th anything for the next bulletin to **Dave**. Next month the nominations for 2007 officers will be announced and accepted from the floor. Meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

CCM&GS General Meeting August 11th 2006

The meeting was called to order by **President Dave Kleesattel** at 7:35 pm. The pledge of allegiance was said. **Hospitality Chair Sharon Neuhauser** announced guest, birthdays and anniversaries. **Ann Matthews'** cousin and her husband were visiting from Oregon. **Sharon** read a list of suggestions on how to stay young. **Member Sherb Brown** collected fines for missing badges. The door prizes for the evening were two geodes and a books donated by **Member Barrie Bieler** about ghost towns

and field collecting. Ann Matthews cousin **Eileen** got the Dugway geode. The member ticket was **John Owen** and he got a nice geode too. I missed who got the books.

Field Trip Vice President **Dennis**

Freiburger reported on trips, first he wanted to know how we all were going to make up to Lake View Oregon by morning time! There are all sorts of field trips coming up each month. He also has news about a 2007 Brazil trip, there are handouts on the side counter, this is the trip he went on and presented a program about to the club. **Dennis** announced he will also be doing presentations for the Castro Valley and Marin rock clubs on his Brazil trip. **Historian Hazel Woolsey** will act as the Field Trip Chair while **Dennis** travels to Sri Lanka. More shows than field trips so read about these fun activities in the bulletin. There is a trip to Black Rock Desert next month, September 8th to 10th. Contact information for **Hazel** is in the back of the Bulletin.

Membership Chair **Kim Kleesattel**

announced there are two new members. She also has the nice yellow and black Rock Hound stickers at 50 cents each.

Display Chair John Owen announced the displays. **Assistant Display Chair Rana Owen** handed out voting slips. **John** introduced Show and Tell time. There were flower mosaics pots decorated with stones and shells from **Education Chair Joanne Caskey's** July education class. There were free rock slabs and the Silent Auction to enjoy. Next month the cabochon stone shape will be round. **Member Barrie Bieler** announced that he brought in a stereo viewer and a photograph he made at the last General Meeting. The subject of the special photograph is a carved serpentine bear by

that was created in **Member Ophelia Hicks'** carving class.

Show Chair and Property Chair **Sam**

Woolsey stated the show is getting closer and closer, so it is getting busier and busier. There are tasks that need to have members sign up for, these time slots are for an hour or more, members need to volunteer. Sign up sheets are on the side counter. The show has 19 dealers, 10 demonstrators, is happening in a beautiful venue, but we are always struggling to get the attendance up so there will be courtesy passes to buy at the September General Meeting. **Secretary Mary Hicks** with her brother in law and sister, **John and June Rosploch**, will provide workers a free lunch during set up Friday. There is also a free dinner provided by the club for Friday night. Everyone working at or supporting the show is invited to the dinner, the dinner bell will ring at around 5:30 pm, until about 7:00 pm when clean up for the evening must happen. The primary staff involved so far are **Member Charlie Bon** who is in charge of unloading and loading items from the trailer. **Member Mary Jernigan** is over seeing placement of items in the main room and **Member Matt Mathews** is in charge of the back room and **Treasurer Connie Klein** over sees the fluorescent area.

Past President Ann Matthews is organizing the display cases, she only has 20 people signed up to put in displays and there are 50 cases to fill. The club provides the cases, so plan on putting a display in the show. Contact any of the experienced members about of to do a display (just ask another member or officer) for tips on how to get involved in putting together a display. **President Dave Kleesattel** says the club has mineral collections and bequeathed displays that need volunteers to set up for the show.

Give him a call to volunteer to handle one of these for the club.

Critter night is on the 16th, next Wednesday at 6:30 to dusk next Wednesday at **Treasurer Connie Klein's** barn. Critters are fun and zany rock animals the members assemble to have as prizes for the kid's Wheel of Fortune. Join in on this fun annual club activity.

Education Chair Joanne Caskey was unable to make the meeting, but **Secretary Mary Hicks** announced the field trip class being offered by **Federation Director Dick Pankey**.

A **Past President Joe Yarbrough** talked about the Mt. Diablo Senior class that is held on every Tuesday, each week in the same meeting room used by the club. The class is from 8 am to 1 pm, this includes a lunch time. Many of the volunteers for this senior activity have come from this club. So he is asking for volunteers to help on Tuesday mornings on a regular basis. Call him for more details @ 682-3894.

Property Chair/Show Chair Sam Woolsey asks everyone to enjoy **Historian Hazel Woolsey's** September Diggins' article. Learn about the first meetings that happened during the formation of this club.

The program for the evening was a DVD, *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea* by Cameron. **Treasurer Connie Klein** provided the DVD. Fossil patterns in rock from the shore of Spain presented a mystery that was the goal to solve for this researcher. It was suspected that the fossil traces were burrows of animals that lived in the mud before the dinosaurs walked the earth. We visited the benthic sea floor in the Pacific and in the Atlantic. The research vessels took scientists to the sea floor to survey the life

forms living where hot water comes up out of the earth. Limestone pillars were found growing from the hot water vents, fields of pillow lava were seen, and many animals living in this remote dark environment were found. The explorers found hexagonal patterns in the mud floor of the mid Atlantic Ridge that matched the fossil traces in the Spanish ocean shore strata. Samples of the patterned ocean floor sediment were collected, but alas, the animal that makes these structures were not found on this trip. The mystery is only partially solved, an adventure remains for a scientist in the future.

Refreshments were enjoyed after the program, bids were made on the Silent Auction items and everyone enjoyed the displays.

Mary Hicks, Secretary

September Program

The program hasn't been confirmed at the time of press, but Sharon Neuhauser asked to give a talk on emergency preparedness. We also have DVDs on Glaciers and on Brazilian minerals, so I'm sure we'll have a full program at the next meeting.

Membership

We have 2 new members this month. Please join me in welcoming:

Dave Thompson. Dave is interested in field trips, and has mechanical and electrical skills. Dave has attended the past several

meeting and we are very happy to have him as a new member.

Lide-Marie Haitzma. Lide-Marie is interested in photography and photographing minerals. She is also interested in field trips, fossils and mineralogy.

Please introduce yourselves to Dave and to Lide-Marie and make them welcome to our group.

I have the "Rockhound" stickers if anybody wants one. These stickers make great bumper stickers to identify yourself as a rockhound. See me at the meeting if you want one or more (they are 50 cents each). We also getting Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society patches and lapel pins (hopefully we'll have them by the next meeting).

Kim Kleesattel
Membership Chair

September Birthdays

Marlow Hicks	9/2
Nancy Whitlatch	9/4
Dick Canales	9/6
Harry Short	9/8
John Rouze	9/9
Barbara Bown	9/12
Dave Zabaldano	9/14
Glenn Young	9/14
Sam Woolsey	9/16
David Current	9/17
Joey Pevahouse	9/19
Naomi Morgan	9/21
Aaron Pingree	9/25
Betty Carpenter	9/28
George Brown	9/29

September Anniversaries

Dave & Kathleen Cunningham 9/15

Sapphire -The September Birthstone

The blue brilliance of the September birthstone sapphire has been treasured for thousands of years. Its color was once thought to represent heavenly or celestial qualities. Ancient Persians believed the earth rested on a giant sapphire and that its reflection gave the sky its blue color. Jewish tradition holds that Moses was given the Ten Commandments on sapphire tablets. The sapphire reportedly symbolizes truth, sincerity, and faithfulness. The ancients regarded star sapphires as powerful guiding stars for travelers. It's been said that sapphires are so powerful that they continued to protect the wearer even after being passed on to someone else.

Sapphire is a form of the mineral corundum, a crystalline form of aluminum oxide and one of the most durable minerals that exists. Most people relate to sapphire's deep blue color which is caused by trace impurities of iron and titanium. Several other colors of corundum include yellow, reddish-orange, red, pink, golden, green, peachy orange, purple and violet. When cut into a cabochon (convex form), some sapphires show a star (asterism) in the interior of the gemstone and it's often used in engagement rings. The hardness of the sapphire makes it useful to use in jewelry. Its hardness of 9 places it next to Diamond (10), making it an excellent choice of jewelry for daily wear.

It's thought by many scholars that the tradition of birthstones arose from the Breastplate of Aaron described in the Bible (Exodus 28, 15-30). The breastplate was a ceremonial garment set with twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel, the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve months of the year.

White or colorless sapphires display a great deal of brilliance, are attractive, durable, and difficult to obtain. White sapphire is a natural precious gem and stands on its own merit as a precious gemstone. Brilliant and clean colorless sapphires are gaining popularity as a collector's gemstone and in some instances sapphires have been substituted for diamonds.

Today, most sapphires are mined in Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Africa. The finest all-round sapphires come from Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Sapphires of lesser value are found in Australia, Thailand, Colombia, Cambodia, Kenya and Tanzania. Some also occur in alluvial deposits in Montana and North Carolina in the United States.

Harry W. Short, CCM&GS

Field Trip Calendar

September 2 – 4. Cedarville, CA. To collect petrified wood, fossil leaves, agate, & obsidian. Hosted by Fossils for Fun Club.

September 8 – 10. Black Rock Desert, NV. To collect geodes, jasper agate, petrified wood, & fossils. Hosted by Marin Mineral Society.

October 14 – 15. Searles Lake, Trona, CA. To collect halite, hanksite, & other minerals. Associated with Trona Show.

June 26 – July 9, 2007. Minas Gerais, Brazil. Gem, Mineral, & Mining Tour. Sponsored by Gem & Mineral Council / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Information at www.nhm.org/gmc/brazil Contact Jean Brandt at email jbrandt@nhm.org or telephone (213) 763-3326.

For more information, contact Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman, CCM&GS. During the month of September, contact Hazel Wolsey, Historian CCM&GS.

Various Shows & Events

September 9 – 10. Roseburg, OR. Umqua Gem & Mineral Club Show. Douglas County Fairgrounds, exit 123.

September 15 – 17. Coos Bay, OR. Far West Lapidary Club Show. 4th Street parking lot.

September 16 – 17. Redwood City, CA. Harvest of Gems & Minerals. Hosted by Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society. Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue.

September 16 – 17. Jackson, CA. Tailgate Gemboree. Hosted by Fossils For Fun Society. Kennedy Gold Mine, Highway 49.

September 16 – 17. Paso Robles, CA. Rockhound Roundup. Hosted by Santa Lucia Rockhounds. Pioneer Park and Museum, 2010 Riverside Avenue.

September 23. Los Altos, CA. Recreation with Rocks. Hosted by Peninsula Gem & Geology Society. Rancho Shopping Center,

Foothill Expressway at South Springer Road.

September 23 – 24. Monterey, CA. Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Show. Monterey Fairgrounds.

October 11. Hayward, CA. "Gem, Mineral, and Mine Tour of Minas Gerais, Brazil" Slide Show and Talk by Dennis Freiburger of CCM&GS. Hosted by Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley. 7:30 PM, Mount. Eden Presbyterian Church, 26236 Adrian Avenue.

October 14. Santa Cruz, CA. North Bay Field Trips Association Fall Meeting. Hosted by Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society. Location to be determined.

October 14 - 15. Trona, CA. Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society Show. Web site at: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 21 – 22. Placerville, CA. El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society Show. County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive.

October 24. Novato, CA. "Karakoram Highway from Pakistan to Central Asia" Slide Show and Talk by Dennis Freiburger of CCM&GS. Hosted by Marin Mineral Society. 7:30 PM, Church, 375 Calle Arboleda.

October 28 – 29. Stockton, CA. Earth's Treasures. Hosted by Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club. San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 1658 Airport Way.

November 3 – 5. Eugene, OR. Springfield Thunderegg Club Show. Oakway Center, 112 Coburg Road.

November 4 – 5. Concord, CA. Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Show. Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road.

November 4 – 5. Ridgecrest, CA. Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Show. Deseret Empire Fairgrounds, 520 South Richmond Road.

November 10 – 12. Sacramento, CA. Sacramento Mineral Society Show. Scottish Rite Center. 6151 H Street.

November 11 - 12. Yuba City, CA. Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society Show. Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Avenue.

November 11 – 12. Anaheim, CA. American Opal Society Show. Clarion Hotel, 616 Convention Way.

November 18 – 19. Livermore, CA. Livermore Valley Lithophiles Gem & Mineral Club. The Barn, 3131 Pacific Avenue.

November 18 – 19. Victorville, CA. Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show. San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th Street.

Does This Ranch Really Raise Rocks?

Some of you could already have been to a ranch that raises rocks – not I. Recently I made my first visit to Richardson's Rock Ranch.

This ranch is about 11 miles north of Madras, Oregon and has been a rock hound destination for quite a while. There is a large store selling rocks and lapidary equipment. (The Richardson's vertical dry sander is made on site.) An added bonus is the user-friendly fee dig sites – featuring thundereggs or ledge agate material. You

choose the color and type of agates you desire to collect and they give you the "secret map" to it's location on the ranch. There is an impressive assortment of agate types around the ranch. (Choose from blue, red, moss, flat.) For those of us who haven't yet learned how to "lapidary," you can even have the ranch saw you findings. All details can be found at www.richardsonrockranch.com or telephone (541) 475-2680.

Since this trip to Oregon was more of a family, mom says you can't get dirty trip, I only purchased a specimen. My purchase is a 4 inch Priday Moss Agate Thunderegg. I'm aware that some fellow club members are avid fans of Montana Moss Agate, but this Oregon egg is still a nice one anyway.

Dennis Freiburger, Field Trip Chairman

Black Diamond Mines Open House ... **LET'S GO!!!!**

East Bay Regional Park has set aside October 7 and October 8, 2006 as a "free weekend" for the public to come out to enjoy this beautiful historic park and all its amenities. Hours are 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Interpretive Rangers will be available for short talks and questions & answers inside and outside the mine area. The tour which is normally guided will be self-guided. A "plus" ... much more of the mine tunnel will be revealed and accessible to visitors. Spotting a tarantula is a "bonus".

FYI: Children under seven years of age are allowed in the Visitor Center area only. Hard hats and flashlights are issued and required for everyone going into the mine tunnel. The mine tunnel area is not wheelchair or walker accessible, although the Visitor Center is. A light jacket is recommended as the mine tunnel

temperature is a constant 55 degrees. Snacks and beverages are available in the Visitor Center.

If you would like to visit Black Diamond Hazel Atlas Mine and Great-house Visitor Center on **Saturday, October 7th** with some of the other members in the club, tell Dick Pankey or me! We can work on arranging some carpooling. Maybe go for ice cream after?? A sign-up sheet will be available at the September membership meeting.

This information was printed in the August newsletter, but in case you didn't read it, here it is again ☺

A REGIONAL PRESERVE

The East Bay Regional Park District began acquiring land for Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in the early 1970s. Today, most of the mining district is within the Preserve's nearly 5,717 acres. The area is an ideal location for hiking, picnicking and nature study. Naturalists conduct a variety of programs relating the Preserve's natural and historic resources. For information phone (925) 757-2620.

ROSE HILL CEMETERY

Although little remains of the coal mining communities, a historic cemetery serves as a monument to the lives of the former residents. Buried here are children who died in epidemics, women who died in childbirth, and men who died in mining disasters. Although over 10 nationalities resided in the mining area, Rose Hill Cemetery was a protestant burial ground, and many of the people buried here were Welsh.

GREATHOUSE VISITOR CENTER

The Greathouse Visitor Center, open Saturdays and Sundays from March through

the end of November, is located in an underground chamber excavated in the mid-1920s. View the workings of a 20th-century sand mine and learn about the lives of 19th-century coal and sand miners. The center contains displays, photographs, videos, brochures and artifacts depicting the park's coal and sand mining eras.

HAZEL-ATLAS MINE TOUR

From the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s, the Hazel-Atlas Mine produced silica sand to make jars, bottles, and other glass items. Tour participants take a 400-foot walk back into the mine to see mine workings, the office of the shifter (mine boss), ore chutes, and ancient geological features.

HISTORY - INDIANS

Native Americans have lived in the greater Bay Area for thousands of years. Black Diamond was located in the back country between three tribes: Chupcan (Concord), Volvon (Clayton) and Ompin (Pittsburg). All three nations spoke the Bay Miwok language.

With the arrival of Spanish, Mexican and American settlers after 1772, the Bay Miwok way of life changed rapidly. However, in spite of pressure to the contrary, many California Indians still practice the traditions of their ancestors.

RANCHING

Until the discovery of coal, cattle ranching was the major industry in this area. After the mines closed, some miners found a new career in ranching. Abandoned mining town buildings became barns, railroad ties were used as fence posts, and boilers were converted into water troughs. Descendants of original mining families still graze cattle in the Preserve.

COAL MINING

From the 1860s through the turn of the

century, five coal mining towns thrived in the Black Diamond area: Nortonville, Somersville, Stewartville, West Hartley and Judsonville. As the location of California's largest coal mining operation, nearly four million tons of coal ("black diamonds") were removed from the earth. The residents of the mining towns were from all over the world, and their life was characterized by hard work and long hours. Occasional celebrations and a variety of organizations and social activities served to alleviate the drudgery of daily existence.

The coal mines had a significant impact on California's economy. By the time operations ceased due to rising production costs and the exploitation of new energy sources, much of California's economy had been transformed from a rural to an industrial base.

SAND MINING

In the 1920s underground mining for sand began near the deserted Nortonville and Somersville townsites. The Somersville mine supplied sand used in glass making by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland, while the Nortonville mine supplied the Columbia Steel Works with foundry (casting) sand. Competition from Belgian glass and the closing of the steel foundry ended the sand mining by 1949. Altogether, more than 1.8 million tons of sand had been mined.

NATURAL FEATURES

VEGETATION

The Preserve's 47 miles of trails traverse areas of grassland, foothill woodland, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, stream vegetation and exotic plantings. Notable among the latter are several tree species introduced by the coal miners. These include the black locust, pepper tree, almond, eucalyptus and tree of heaven.

Black Diamond is noted as the northernmost location of Coulter pine, black sage, desert olive and dudleya. In addition, several species that are restricted to the Mt. Diablo area occur here, including the Mt. Diablo globe lily, Mt. Diablo helianthella and Mt. Diablo manzanita. In the springtime, the hills are covered with some of the most remarkable wildflower displays in the Bay Area.

WILDLIFE

Black Diamond supports a healthy wildlife population, and it is not uncommon for the observant hiker to see the tracks of raccoons, skunks, opossums, rabbits and deer. Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and coyotes are occasionally spotted, while birds of prey soar overhead. Over 100 species of birds have been seen, from the rare golden eagle to the ever-present meadowlark. The side-blotched lizard has its northern limit in the Preserve, and two rare animal species have been found here--the white-tailed kite and the Alameda whipsnake.

TO REACH THE PRESERVE - Black Diamond is located in Contra Costa County, south of Pittsburg and Antioch. Take Highway 4 to the Somersville Road exit in Antioch, then drive south (toward the hills) on Somersville Road to the Preserve entrance.

Education, Arts & Crafts Report August 2006

WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

August: No class was scheduled for this month, but there was "Critter Night"!

Some awfully cute "critters" were conjured up by about seven of our members on August 16th. I was there and brought a few rocks to life, myself! You can see these "works of art" and more at the spinning wheel game in the kids' area. Got a quarter? Own one!

Coming up this month!

September 23rd (Saturday): Going on a field trip. What do I need to take?

w/Richard Pankey

A class all CCM&GS "newbies" should take, this class is all about learning which equipment and supplies you will need to have on hand for all kinds of field trips, **plus** anything else you ever wanted to know about field trips. Dick will gladly discuss and demonstrate what you will need to know. He is a "seasoned" prospector and leads many field trips each year. Find out all about that! Hopefully you will be charged up enough to follow up with a rock collecting field trip (see Dennis Freiburger for that). Interested? The class will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be at Dick Pankey's house in Pittsburg (close to Kirker Pass Rd). Signups will take place again at the September general meeting. The class is still open, so please sign up for this interesting and informative class! No tool list. A map to Dick's house will be available.

Upcoming Classes!

October 22nd (Sunday): XX Knot Bead Class *w/Ophelia Hicks*

A wonderfully creative lady, Ophelia will be on hand at the September meeting to tell us about her latest class offering ... teaching eight of us how to make this wonderful craft. I could take a stab at trying to explain to you what she is planning to teach, but I think I will leave that to her. Please be at the September meeting to find out what XX

knot beading is all about. Sign-ups will begin on that date. Class location is the Hicks' residence at 1560 Apple Drive, Concord, on October 22nd, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November: No classes scheduled. The CCM&GS show rules the month!

December: No classes scheduled at this time ... how about one of you holiday elves volunteering to teach a class?

Submitted by *Joanne Caskey, Arts & Crafts*

SHOW/PROPERTY CHAIR REPORT

August, 2006

Planning for the annual CCM&GS show moves right along. All of the Show Staff positions have been filled by volunteers – albeit some with gentle encouragement. Two members of the Antioch club will demonstrate cabbing for us – **Gary Casillas** and **Gary Coggiola**. Many, many thanks to the Antioch Club, and to these two guys in particular. The other demonstrators and dealers remain the same. One new innovation for set-up and tear-down will be welcomed by all – we will have the table rental company do the heavy lifting by setting-up and taking-down their rental tables! (Our own tables – near 40 in all, and all the cases -- remain our responsibility, so don't sluff off thinking no real work remains!) Key players in this set-up/tear-down drama will be **Charlie Bon** in our trailer, **Mary Jernigan** honchoin' the ballroom set-up, and **Matt Matthews** likewise in the Activity Center, with **Betty**

Pankey marshalling the table-skirting and **Joe Yarborough** working the show cases.

Applegate Lapidary will display their 50-70 thousand year-old, **Siberian Ice-Age fossils** – including their 9-foot tall cave bear! And **Tom Francis'** 2 1/2-ton, hand-polished, California jade boulder will be out front to wow the crowd.

And **Mary Hicks** will again serve a free lunch – didn't think there was such a thing? – to the Friday set-up staff! And **Scott, Sherrie, and Joey Pevahouse** will again host the world-famous Diablo Dan Café featuring the finest cuisine this side of the Mississipp!

Sign-up work sheets will be available during the regular club meetings. Both **Hazel Woolsey** and **Sharon Neuhauser** will call around to fill up the blank spots before show time. If you want to choose your place and time – sign up, yourself, early!

Sam Woolsey, Show/Property Chair.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

August, 2006

On August 25, 1950, fifty-six years ago this month, a meeting was held at the Alamo home of **A. E. Davies** to form a non-profit organization in Contra Costa County for persons interested in mineralogy and the lapidary arts. The following month, September, 23 people held their first meeting at the **Alamo School**, formally inaugurating the Society. The next month (October), another 14 joined, with these 37 considered to be the "charter members."

November's meeting was at the **Episcopal Church** in Walnut Creek. Finding it difficult to secure a fixed date for their meetings at either the church or school, the group then moved to the **Coast Counties Gas and Electric** auditorium. This space was soon outgrown, and a wide search was conducted before securing a permanent meeting place at the clubhouse of the **Walnut Creek Women's Club**. On March 24, 1954, the **Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society** became a member of the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**.

The Christmas season of 1950 saw a dinner party at the **Las Palmas Hotel** in Walnut Creek to celebrate the recently formed club. What the group lacked in size at this event was made up in zest and enthusiasm. The Society's first field trip was to **Covelo** in 1951. It's a bit uncertain, but this may have been a joint affair with **Bob Diedrich's** academic classes. The second Christmas party, 1951, was held at the **Adobe Restaurant** in Concord. By then the still enthusiastic crowd had grown considerably in size. Today, the club reports 128 adult and 7 junior members.

Hazel Woolsey, Historian

AUGUST SECRET AUCTION RESULTS

We had another great auction in at the general meeting in August. If you weren't there, you sure missed a great opportunity to bid on some very nice specimens. The winning bidders are:

1. **Marty Wharton** Onyx Bar

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. <i>No Bid</i> | AZ Petrified Wood |
| 3. Mary Jernigan | Turtella Fossil |
| 4. Rana Miller-Owen | Qtz Crystal Cluster |
| 5. Mike Luebke | Plume Agate |
| 6. Connie Klein | Banded Agate |
| 7. Mary Jernigan | Pet. Wood Bookends |
| 8. Rana Miller-Owen | Large Quartz Crystal |

The winning bidders can pick up their specimens at the September meeting (after paying, of course). Checks can be made payable to the CCM&GS.

REMINDER FOR NEXT MONTH'S (OCTOBER 13, 2006) ANNUAL AUCTION

Just a quick reminder, at NEXT month's meeting (that's in October) we will be having our annual auction. We donate all of the proceeds from the auction to the **Detriech Educational Scholarship Fund** administered by the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)**.

What we need from the club members (that's you) are donated items for auctioning, rock or lapidary-related items are nice, but certainly not required. Just bring your donations to the meeting on October 13 and get ready for a wild & crazy auction. This is always a lot of fun for everyone, and it helps out a great cause.

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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September 2006