



# Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Newsletter April 2020

Happy April!

You probably already know that our April meeting has been cancelled. The City of Concord has closed Centre Concord, and it's other public meeting spaces due to the coronavirus through May 1.

Like many other gatherings, many rock and gem shows are also cancelled or postponed. If you are planning to go to one, please check with their web site for current information. It's a very dynamic situation and anything I write today is likely to be different in the near future.

Not having meetings doesn't mean we can't enjoy our hobby. I, for one, will be trying to better organize my mineral collection and get some of my cabochons organized for possible sale. Others may want to reread old Rock & Gem magazines (it's amazing the things you spot the second time around!) If you have access to FaceBook, take a few minutes to check out Rough Rock & Mineral Identification at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1981830708568816> or Lapidary Tips & Tricks at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/774419732663040> There are many other mineral/lapidary/gem site on the web and I enjoy checking them out. Try it! We hope to be back to regular meetings in May, but we have no guarantees. So instead of keeping our fingers crossed, let's keep our hands washed. (And faces, we often touch them without realizing it).

Stay safe and healthy.

Rock On!  
Donna Albrecht  
President



## April 13th Meeting Cancelled

# Club News

Another note from your editor...

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



Got a sticker like this!?!

Put it on your vehicle! You never know who the Rockhound next to you in the gas station might be.

Next meeting let's see how many vehicles in the meeting parking lot are sporting their Rockhound Pride!

## Upcoming Meetings-

**Cancelled**

### **Board of Directors-**

Wednesday, April 1 6:00pm.

Contact Donna Albrecht for information

**Cancelled**

### **General Meeting-**

Monday, April 13, program

7:30pm, Doors open 6:30pm  
Centre Concord- 5298 Clayton

Rd., Concord

**Cancelled**

CCM&GS Board of Directors Meeting- March 9, 2020 7:15- 7:20pm

A brief Board of Directors meeting was held at the Centre Concord before the General Meeting. Present: Donna Albrecht, Mary Jernigan, Mary Hanjes, Dick Pankey, Caryl Taraldson, Mike Hopkins, Kelly Plumb, Terry Caskey. The BOD reviewed the February 5th BOD minutes. Secretary- Mary Jernigan moved to approve the minutes as written. Hospitality- Kelly Plumb seconded. A vote was taken and minutes approved. Federation Director- Dick Pankey moved to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Plumb seconded. Meeting adjourned.

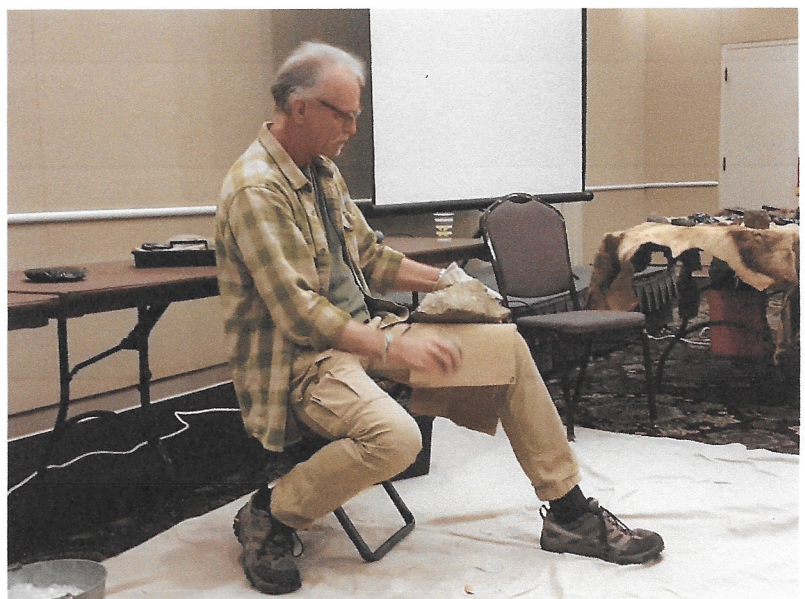
Submitted by Mary Jernigan- Secretary/Membership

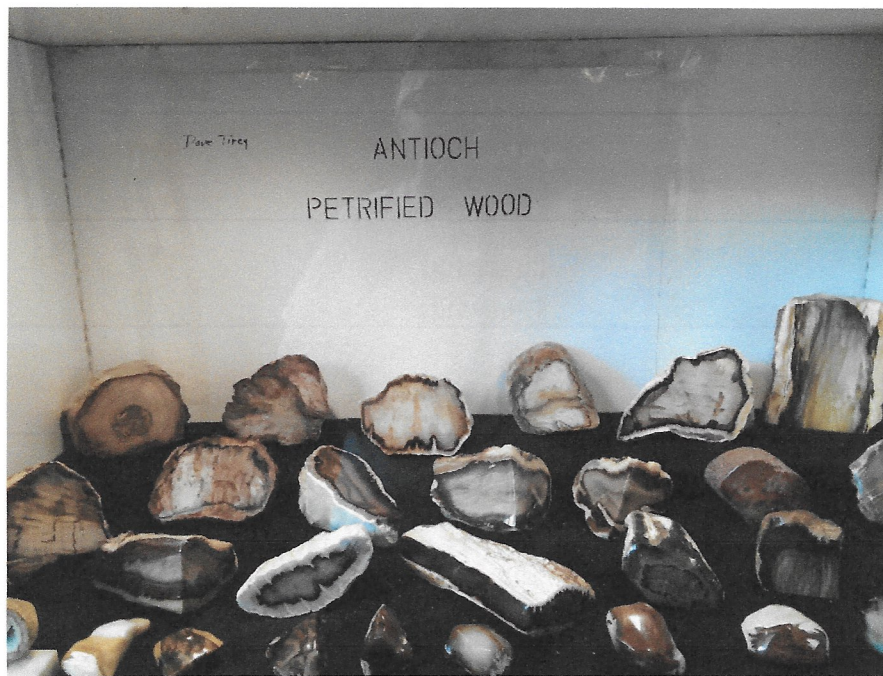


CCM&GS General Meeting Minutes- March 9, 2020 7:35-- 8:55pm

President- Donna Albrecht welcomed our members and guests. Donna lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Hospitality- Kelly Plumb drew door prize tickets and welcomed the winners to choose a mineral prize. 2nd Vice President/Fieldtrips- Mario Mihalik reminded members to sign up for the fieldtrip on March 28th Atlas Sand Mines at Black Diamond Mines in Antioch. The tour fee is \$5 per person. No Display competitions tonight- Cheryl Morgan not present. Kelly Plumb informed everyone about the passing of Si Frazier, long time vendor at the CCM&GS Annual Shows. We send deep sympathy to Ann and the Frazier family, wishing them wonderful memories. Donna Albrecht informed members that she was searching for a 2-3 inch sphere to become "ice cream" in her lapidary case. Contact Donna if you have an interesting sphere for her. 1st Vice President/Programs- Elizabeth Tanner introduced our program speaker, Ken Peek on Flint Knapping. Ken's background as an Agricultural Biologist provided us with detailed information as he demonstrated the artful techniques of flint knapping. Thank you, Ken, for a very interesting program!

Submitted by Mary Jernigan- Secretary/Membership





## Antioch Lapidary Club's Annual Rockswap and BBQ

By Dick Pankey

The Antioch Lapidary Club annual Artisan Jewelry and Rock Sale (previously known as the Rock Swap) will be held on Saturday, May 9th, 2020 from 10 til 4. It always is a great rockhound time. CCM&GS members are always looking for events that are close by. Here is a perfect one: a great silver pick field trip with food.

Rockhounds from everywhere are invited to the Antioch Lapidary Club's Artisan Jewelry and Rock Sale to buy, sell and trade. Bring your rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, jewelry, extra equipment, etc. and do your own "horse trading." If you wish to set up a table or two, bring them along. There is no admission charge. Over the years many CCM&GS members have been regular participants in this fun event. Betty and I will be there as we have been for many years.

This rock sale is for rockhounds from around the Bay area and central California to get together to buy, sell and trade rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, jewelry, lapidary works, rock art, extra equipment and more. Whether you are an avid collector or just have a casual interest and especially if you enjoy the wonders of nature, you are sure to find this rock swap interesting and fun.

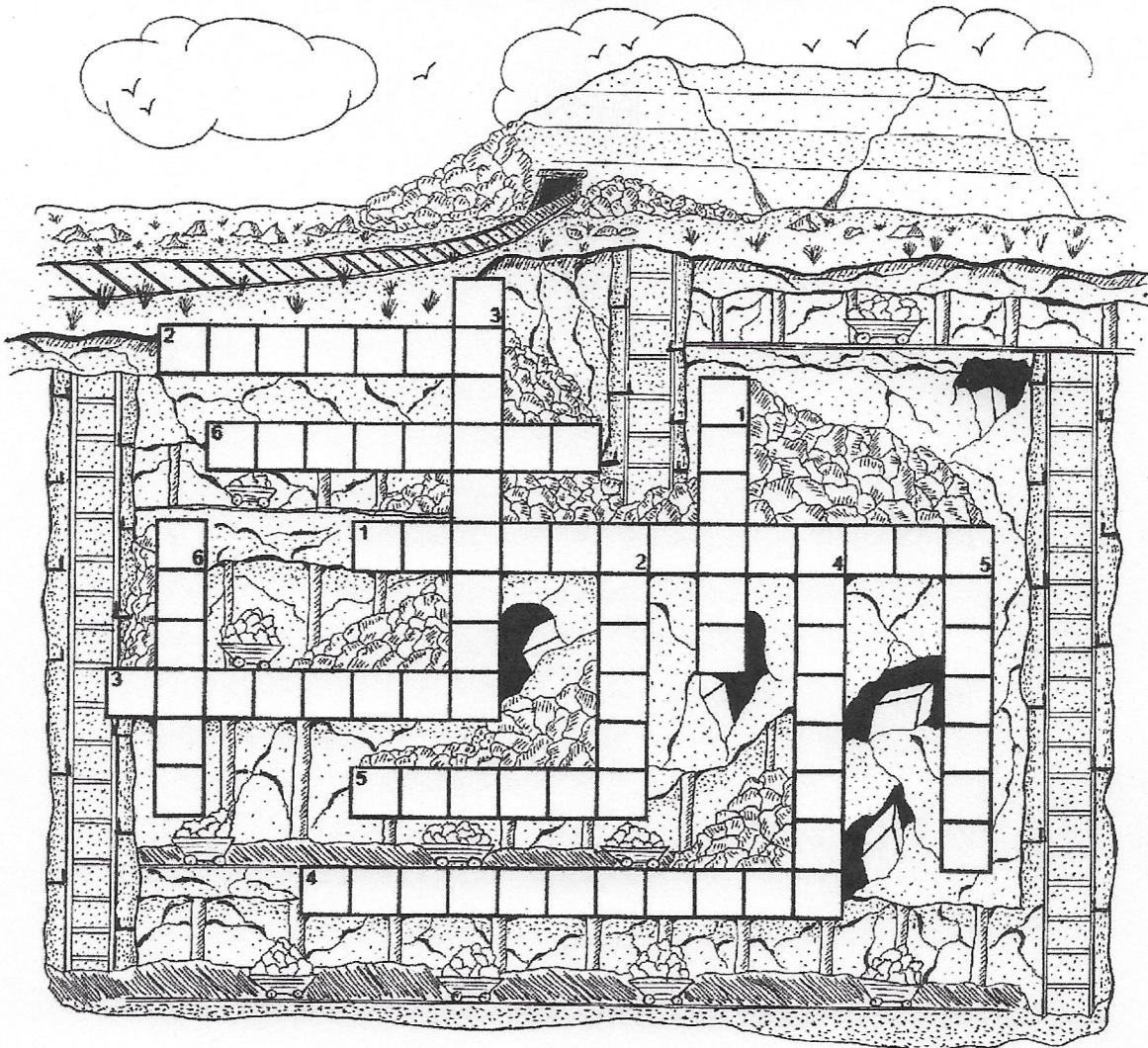
The Rock Swap is held in the large parking lot of the Club House, Shop and Museum, which will be open for all to see. The BBQ area overlooks the wild life sanctuary and the Sacramento River. The Bar-B-Que will be served at 12:30 PM. Menu: Hamburgers with all the trimmings, Potato Chips, Dessert and can of soft drink. Cost -- \$5.00 per plate.

The Antioch Lapidary Club's Club House, Museum and Workshop are located at 425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., in Antioch, CA.

Directions. Take Highway 4 to Antioch, get off on A Street and go north, towards the water. Turn right on E. 18th St., go approximately 3/4 mile, then turn left on Cavallo. Take Cavallo past Wilbur Ave.; you now are on Fulton Shipyard Rd Follow the signs to the Rock Swap. Or, exit Hwy. 160 (near Antioch Bridge) to Wilbur Ave., West. Go west on Wilbur Ave. to Fulton Shipyard Rd. and turn right. Follow the signs.

For more information and details call Gary Casillas at 925-458-4076

# MINING FOR WORLD CLASS MINERALS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Across

1. The Sweet Home Mine was mined for Silver, but it is famous for this mineral.
2. A Copper mineral. Light blue and dark blue.
3. A green mineral that looks a lot like Emerald...but it isn't!
4. An ore of the element, zinc.
5. Found as thick bundles of wires in Kongsberg, Norway.
6. A bright orange-red ore of the element chrome.

## Down

1. This world-class mineral from Herkimer, New York is sometimes called 'Diamonds,' but they are another mineral species.
2. A metal that occurs as a Native Element.
3. The only mineral that crystallizes in the ditrigonal-dipyramidal class of the hexagonal system.
4. A steel-gray metallic mineral. Excellent crystals were found in Japan.
5. The green variety of Beryl. The best in the world are found in Colombia.
6. A metallic mineral that forms a special crystal form that is commonly called 'pyritohedron.'

# Recognition and Membership

**By Dick Pankey, Federation Director**

The CFMS and AFMS have a number of programs that recognize individuals, members, and societies. Every year CFMS, and by that I mean the societies and their 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 Rockhound of the Year Award, CFMS Scholarship Honoree, AFMS Scholarship Honoree, and Golden Bear Award for service to the Federation, Bulletin and author competition, and Website competition; I am sure I am missing some others. Unfortunately CFMS struggles every year to get nominations for these awards. It is so easy to make a nomination: select a deserving person or couple to be honored, write a letter of nomination with the reasons they are deserving of the award and submit it to our president for action by our board of directors. After approval by the board the letter of nomination is mailed to the appropriate CFMS committee. We have many deserving members. It is that easy and will make someone very proud and honored to be thought of as deserving by our society. Saying "thank you for your service" is so easy and it doesn't cost the society anything and the rewards are great for everyone.

Every year each society of the CFMS can select one adult and one junior member as their "Rockhound of the Year". The criteria for this award are for current and/or past service to the CCM&GS. A letter of nomination is sent to the Chairman of the Rockhound of the Year committee that is published in the CFMS Newsletter. This letter is then sent to the AFMS newsletter for publication. The selected members get a certificate from the CFMS and a Rockhound of the Year pin to wear. Rockhound of the Year is not a competition but is a recognition and thank you to one of our members. CCM&GS has been participating in this program for many years.

The CFMS awards undergraduate scholarships each year for \$2000. Many years ago the CFMS established a Scholarship Endowment Fund with contributions from individual members and societies. Only the earnings from this fund can be used for scholarship awards. Awarding a scholarship is a 2 step process. First a society nominates a person that they wish to recognize for outstanding service to the educational pursuits of the society. If selected by the CFMS this Scholarship Honoree selects a college or university in California or Nevada and participates with that school to select a qualified student majoring in Geology, Earth Sciences or Jewelry Arts. CCM&GS has only nominated 1 of our members as a Scholarship Honoree. Dr. Walt Carr was our Scholarship Honoree in the early 2000's. In years past the CFMS has awarded as many as 5 scholarships in a year, but in the last 10 years only 1 or 2 scholarships have been awarded due to the lack of Scholarship Honoree nominations from a society. No honoree, no scholarship award. The money stays in the Scholarship Fund and a deserving student does not get any money.

The All American Club competition is recognition for our whole society. It is so easy to do, just collect articles, stories, letters, pictures, etc. and make a scrapbook. In reality this is a competition of "Brag Books." It records and documents the activities and accomplishments of our society for the year. Our club historian is 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 our 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

continued...

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 their club's activities and accomplishments. These books are a great membership tool. When a guest or prospective member asks, "what does CCM&GS do?" your All American Club "brag book" has the answers. We have participated in the past and already have the 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. Now is the time to start working on our All American Club book.

A few more words about 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 CCM&GS recognizes their contribution. This can help with member retention. People like to be part of an organization that recognizes and appreciates its members. I have the information about all the CFMS honors. We have members who deserves a **Big Thank You**, who should we recognize and honor this year?



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

Caryl Taraldson, Librarian



# Members News

## April Birthdays-

Mary Jernigan 4/1  
Larry Blevins 4/10  
Richard Merrill 4/15  
Carey Ballard 4/17  
Karen Oliver 4/19

## April Anniversaries-

Ann & Matt Matthews 4/3  
Betty & Dick Pankey 4/25





# CCMGS 2020 Board Members:

## 2020 Elected Officers:

### President:

Donna Albrecht  
donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

### 1stVicePresident/Programs:

Elizabeth Tanner  
eatanner2@yahoo.com

### 2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:

Mario Mihalik  
Mario.Mihalik30@gmail.com

### Secretary:

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

### Treasurer:

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

### Federation Director:

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

## 2020 Appointed Officers:

### Annual Show:

Mike Hopkins  
mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

### Display:

Cheryl Morgan  
cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com

### Hospitality:

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

### Librarian:

Caryl Taraldson

### Membership:

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

### Newsletter Editor:

Karen Oliver  
koliver@astound.net

### Past President:

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

### Property:

Terry Caskey

### Publicity:

Mike Hopkins  
mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

### Refreshments:

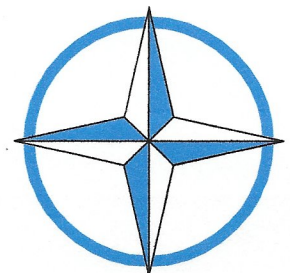
Vikki Hotopp  
(925) 566-8588

### Sargent of Arms:

Naomi Morgan

### Web Master:

Johanna Fenton  
johfenton@yahoo.com



Diablo Diggins  
Newsletter of the  
Contra Costa Mineral  
and Gem Society



Like us on Facebook!  
CCMGS

Website:  
[www.contracostamineraland  
gemsgsociety.org](http://www.contracostamineralandgemsgsociety.org)

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

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

CCMGS  
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Concord, CA 94522-0842

FIRST CLASS  
Member of the American and California  
Federation of Mineralogical Societies