

FEBRUARY

# DiABLO

*Costa  
Costa*  
Gen+Mineral Soc.



# Diablo Diggins -February 2003

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Due date for March  
 Diggins is February 18.

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 Mary Hicks, 2418 Larkin  
 Ct., Antioch, CA 94531

Articles are to be typed  
or printed, or if using a  
computer use 12 font  
 Times New Roman, no  
 other formatting, titles,  
 indents as this will be done  
 by the editor.

## President's Message

*By Ann Matthews*

Several of our members will be journeying south to AZ for the Rockhound gathering place called Quartzsite. If you haven't been there, I hope you can at least make it once in your lifetime. You just cannot explain Quartzsite to anyone except to say if you like flea markets, you will love it. If you don't like flea markets, you will still enjoy the experience. And then there is also Tucson where the mineral dealers from all over the world set up shop in the hotel and motel rooms with their finest wares. And of course you can't miss the really great Tucson show as it is well worth making the trip.

We have had our first Board Meeting of this year in January. We are in need of a Treasurer as Connie Klein has been so swamped at work she needs to resign from being our treasurer. If you know of anyone in our group who you think would make a good treasurer for our society, please contact

one of the Board members.

We had a good turn out for our January meeting. I enjoyed the program that our First Vice-President **Dave Kleesattel** put on for us and I know you did too. We can look forward to many good programs this year.

Thank you to everyone who took part at the meeting. We do need more people to participate in the Cab-of-the-Month contest, especially Novices. The cab you enter is voted on by the members and the Novice winner of the most votes at the end of the year becomes the Cab-of-the-Year winner and is presented with a sterling silver Diablo Dan prize to wear.

I hope you will sign up for the classes that **MaryAnn King** is arranging for us this year. And do go on the Field Trips. They are my favorite activity and you are guaranteed a good time. You may not find a rock that qualifies for the greatest museum but what you do find will be a treasure with fond memories for you.

After our meeting the Board had a short meeting so

we could vote in some new members. Welcome Nick and Sharla Cane, Irene and Bob Meginness, Mike and Sherry Leubke and Jim Hurst, Dave & Sue Zabaldano, John & Rana Owen. Join in and have fun.

Some of our members have been ill or lost loved ones. Hugs and Prayers for you.

There will not be a Board Meeting in February. Dick Pankey will preside at the meeting and any concerns or business we need to take care of will be handled by Dick.

## February Meeting

By Dave Kleesattle

The program is being presented by Barrie Bieler, at the General Meeting, second Friday of the Month, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The January program was very interesting-Why We Do Not See Quartz and Olivine Together by our member Dave Kleesattel.

Refreshments for the February Meeting are to be provided by the following members:

Jerry Theobald  
Chris Tomasello  
Donal Tompkins

Jeanette Travers  
Tom & Eva Umholtz  
Bob & Jean Vetro

## Spring Social

By Betty Pankey

I am in the process of planning a dinner outing at a local area restaurant for the Contra Costa M&GS Spring Social. The tentative date is Friday evening March 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday afternoon March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mark your calendar and plan on a fun time with your rockhound friends.

Members are welcome to bring their family or a friend. This is a special, fun evening. Join in the fun - dinner, entertainment, and door prizes. See you at the Spring Social.

## Membership

By Jim Bufton

## Treasurer's Dream

Via Napa Gems

*I fell asleep the other night  
And while I had my snooze  
I dreamed each member  
stepped right up  
And promptly paid his dues.  
But when I found it was a  
dream,  
I nearly had a fit.  
It's up to you to make it true,  
So won't you please REMIT.*

If you have not already paid you dues for 2003, you may do so **sending your check made out to CCMGS to Jim Bufton, 261 Santa Fe Drive, Walnut Creek, CA. 94598.** (Your prompt payment helps Jim process the dues efficiently and helps with the timely creation of the club rooster. ed)

## Birthdays

Birthstone for this month is the beautiful quartz variety amethyst. Color ranges from near colorless to a lilac to a rich purple. Most amethyst crystals show color zoning. The hardness of this stone and the fact it does not fracture easily makes it good for all jewelry uses.

Charlotte Bochra	2/9
Maxine Cameron	2/10
Molly West	2/11
Nancy Morris	2/22
Jeanie Russo	2/27
Linda Peterson	2/28

## Anniversary

Eric & Rosemary West	2/2
Glen Hubbard	2/6

**Library Report**

By Bill McKay

Book Title: *Economic Mineral Deposits*

Author: Alan Bateman

Library No.: 1

The first edition of this book appeared at the end of 1942. Since that time war and post-war readjustment has forcibly demonstrated the extent to which the materials of the mineral kingdom constitute the backbone of industrial life and peace time economic development of nations. Formerly bountiful supplies now show serious depletion, and nations of the world are looking farther and farther a field for those mineral supplies necessary to their subsistence.

This book deals with such mineral deposits, how they are formed, what they are, how and where they occur, and what they are used for. Its chief purpose is as a textbook, designed both for elementary and more advanced courses.

**Field Trip  
Chairman's Report**

By Dick Pankey

**Field Trip Calendar**

**March 1, NBFT Spring Meeting, Hayward, CA. Gem & Mineral Society of Castro Valley.**

**March 16, Oxbow, Foresthill, CA** for pyrite in slate, hornblende, serpentinite. Carmichael G & M Club. Contact: Marlin Stewart, (916) 781-8703, mwlstewart@yahoo.com

**April 6, Stories In Stones, Angels Camp, CA.** Contra Costa M&GS. Contact: Dick Pankey, (925) 439-7509, ickpankey@juno.com

**May 2-4, Snyder's Pow Wow, Valley Springs, CA.** Field trips for Moss Agate and Moss Opal - 5/2&3; YOTMC potluck & auction - 5/2; NBFT potluck - 5/3

**May 22-25, Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous, Texas Springs, near Jackpot, NV** for limb casts, bogwood, snakeskin agate, etc. CFMS/NFMS/RMFMS. Contact: Dick Pankey, (925) 439-7509 or dickpankey@juno.com

More information and details available from

**Dick Pankey** at the meetings or call 439-7509 or e-mail dickpankey@juno.com.

**Stories in Stone**

The Contra Costa M&GS will host an outing to **Stories in Stone** in Angels Camp, CA on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> for a lecture on rocks, minerals and fossils.

**Russ Shoemaker**, owner of **Stories in Stone**, will present a 1 ½ to 2-hour presentation on rocks, minerals and fossils. Russ and Pam Shoemaker have one of the most comprehensive geological displays of thousands of rocks, minerals and fossils in California. **Stories in Stone** was located in Murphy for many years but closed its doors when the building was sold about 4 years ago. The Shoemakers reopened their famous and fabulous rock emporium and educational facility in late 2000. They completed their impressive educational area and resumed giving presentations to school and other groups in 2002. Following this presentation you will have time to see the rest of their store and exhibits.

This can be a great one day outing or come to Angels Camp for the

weekend because there will be a lot to see and do.

The Calaveras show is at the fairgrounds just south of Angels Camp on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and has a nice RV Park with full hooks. The Mariposa G&M Club show is the same weekend just down Hwy 49 about 60 or so miles (about 1½ hour drive) at the fairgrounds in Mariposa. Another interesting attraction in Angels Camp is the Sierra Hills Stone, which has a vast selection of soapstone, carvings, tools and supplies.

The **Stories in Stone** presentation is **limited to the first 50 people** that sign up. This lecture is limited to the first 50 people that register. Children are welcome.

## NBFT Spring Meeting

The M&GS of Castro Valley will host the **North Bay Field Trips Spring meeting on Saturday, March 1**. This is the same weekend as their annual show. This business meeting is where we plan and announce future trips and events, report on past trips, hold a silent action, and generally have a great time meeting and talking with other rockhounds. All club members who are interested in field trips and rockhounding are invited and

encouraged to attend.

## Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Park

Opportunity for a do-it-yourself/do-anytime field trip: **Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Park**. In a recent Sunday edition of The Contra Costa Times was a nice article and map of this regional park near Oakland. The park offers a 3-mile/90-minute hike through lush green open spaces, interesting rock formations, volcanic rock quarry, and spectacular views. Parking is \$3 seasonal, weekends and holidays. I will post the article at our meeting.

Call a friend or two or take the family for this nearby outing.

### Field Trip Chairman

There are already a lot of field trips and activities on the 2003 calendar. Most COOP have already scheduled and announced 15 trips for 2003. Now is the time for all NBFT clubs to "get off the dime" and announce and schedule their trips and activities. The Contra Costa M&GS will host an outing to **Stories in Stone in Angels Camp, CA on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** for a lecture on rocks, minerals and fossils. This is the same weekend as the Calaveras

Show and we will also visit a **soap stone gallery and "quarry"**. Fliers will be available at the January meeting. The big trip this year will be the Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous to Texas Springs, near Jackpot, NV in May.

I look forward to being your field trip chair again.

Contact me for information and details on field trips and outings.

Remember to wear your name badge. Coop trips are rescheduled frequently! ALWAYS call before driving a long way for nothing! To assist, the Coop group has established a web site where their latest field trip information can be accessed. <http://www.coop.freecservers.com/coop-fieldtrips.html>

Thanksgiving Coop trip lead by Will Corey will be over by the time you read this.

Thanks from me, for the Grab Bags & Wheel of Fortune to **Glen Mackenzie** for polished rocks and to **Betty Jerde** for wire necklaces.

Here are the proposed field trips by Co-Op.

March 16, Oxbow, Foresthill, CA for **pyrite in slate, hornblende, serpentine**. Carmichael G & M Club.

Contact: Martin Stewart, 916-781-8703 or [mwlstewart@yahoo.com](mailto:mwlstewart@yahoo.com)

April 6, Calaveras Co. near San Andreas, CA for **bird's eye serpentine**. (Alternate date the 20<sup>th</sup>.) Amador Co. Club contact: Daryl Shelly, (209)296-0635 or [darylshelly@volcano.net](mailto:darylshelly@volcano.net)

April 20, Raindate, May 17<sup>th</sup> Soapstone Ridge near Coulterville, CA, for **soapstone**. Calaveras Co. Club. Contact: Will Corey, (209)383-5037.

April or May, Rattlesnake Bar, Folsom Lake, CA for **common opal**. Roseville Rock Rollers Club Contact: Jim Barton, (916)773-0458 or [geologist1@surewest.net](mailto:geologist1@surewest.net) or Bob Berg, (530)633-4612.

### **Board Meeting**

By Sharon Neuhauser

Meeting opened at 7:25 PM at President **Ann Matthews'** home, present were **Glen Hubbard, Betty and Dick Pankey, Sam and Hazel Woolsey, Dave and Kim Kleesattel, Matt Matthews, Bob Pevahouse, Mary Ann King, Connie Klein and Bill Mackay**, absent were Ron Frey and Jim and Mary Bufton.

Corrections to the December minutes; **Bob Pevahouse** won the Rockhound of the Year, the Education Through Sharing Award. A member

since 1973, he has been past President, Field Trip Chair, Federation Chair for 17 years, and has displayed at club shows with his demonstrating of cabbing; he has also taught at the monthly jewelry classes, and is well known for his jams and jellies which he donates to various club and to the old Timers auction. Correction; **Glen Hubbard** states he didn't help seal the trailer. We need to send best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Bruce Naylor, Dr. Carr**, and our deepest sympathy to **Gaylord and Betty Jerde** who lost their son recently. Also, to **Mary Bufton** who lost her sister last month. **Glen Hubbard** through out the idea of buying a \$257 to \$300 square box trailer cover. It was decided to wait.

President **Matthews** discussed the budget and Treasurer **Connie Klein** had a budget (report) which Past President **Joe Yarbrough** requested be put in our bulletin to members of our club only.

President **Ann** has named an audit committee composed of **Barrie Bieler, Glen Mackenzie and Jane Holcomb** to work with **Connie** on the audit. Treasurer **Connie Klein** requested the board find another treasurer as soon as

possible, as she has the need for less commitment at this time.

Sunshine Hospitality **Betty Pankey** thanked everyone for turning out and helping at the great Holiday Party in December. There will be a Spring Time outing March 21 or 22, possibilities were discussed. Our dinner at Sweet Tomatoes had one excellent turn out last year, hope we can duplicate the fun. We definitely need help with refreshments at our general meetings also if anyone knows of a members illness or hospitalization, please let Betty know.

Field Trip Chair **Dick Pankey** said the North Bay members will meet at the Castro Valley show Saturday, March 1, 2003 during the am hours of the show.

A trip to Angeles Camp is planned April 6<sup>th</sup> to hear "Stories in & Stones" with Calaveras and the whole area buzzing that weekend with rock shows and a soap stone trip.

1<sup>st</sup> VP **Dave Kleesattel** will give a program for our General Meeting on the association of minerals. Show Chair **Sam Woolsey** has made reservations for the 2003 Show, sent contracts our, and reserved the tables

and electrical equipment needed for the November 2003 show. We will leave the closing time at 5 pm, but we need to remind everyone helping tear down at the show, to leave time for all dealers to finish packing before we touch their tables.

President Ann suggested that Publicity e-mail to have our dates of show in newspapers and magazines.

New Librarian **Bill McKay** requested permission to buy a book shelf to store the many videos and books we've collected over the years and to assist any member in learning more about our hobbies. The motion was moved and seconded to buy a bookcase.

Federation Chair **Bob Pevahouse** discussed the new insurance and we made a motion and seconded it to buy insurance to cover the trailer and it's contents.

There are slides and videos available to rent 30 days in advance for use at our shows. Bob read the nice article written about him in the CFMS news letter and we all congratulated him. Bob also announced anyone wanting to put a competition case in the CFMS Show in June at Seaside, contact him for the new rules. Bob also helped to install officers in

another club 1st month, busy man and so devoted to our club.

**Mary Ann King** added when signing up new members, if she could be notified of their special interests and hobbies. We need a credentialed teacher for the Jewelry nights. Project nights for January are Wednesday 22 and 29, with slate carving on February 19 and 26. Don Tompkins will show us how to do napping. All classes free to members at the Pleasant Hill Adult Ed. President Ann discussed the need for children and junior members in our club, but they must be accompanied by a parent or adult family member or club member.

**Betty Pankey** brought up the point that we need to give a big thank you to Al Schlieff who donates the rocks given at the general meetings to a visitor and to a club member. Also the \$ he collects from missing badges he uses to buy a nice Holiday Rock to give. Thank Al you've been doing this for years and never forgot to bring a donation to our meetings. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM with refreshments following.

A short board meeting was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> after the regular General Meeting. At

9:10 PM a short board meeting, with all board members present, was called to order by President Matthews. Jim Bufton, Membership Chair, read a short synopsis on each, a motion was made and seconded to vote in **Nick & Sharla Cane, Jim Hurst, Bob and Irene Meginess and Mike And Sherry Lubeke**. Welcome to all you new members! Hope we will see and get to know you all better in the months ahead. This meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

### **General Meeting**

By Sharon Neuhauser

The meeting opened by President **Ann Matthews** and the flag salute was lead by **Glen Hubbard**. Hospitality Chair **Betty Pankey** announced guests; **Jim Hurst, Nicholes Cane, Mike Lubeke, and returning guests Bob & Irene Meginess**. Birthdays and anniversaries were also recognized. Betty is planning a spring social around March 22 or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our deepest sympathy to **Mary & Jim Bufton**. Mary's sister had <sup>passed</sup> away just prior to the holidays. Our thoughts also go to Gaylord and Betty Jerde upon the death of their son.

**Al Schlieff** collected for missing badges and he had

some nice rock prizes for winners **Bob Megiress** and club member **Dick Pankey**.

Field Trip Chair **Dick Pankey** announced a field trip to hear "Stories in Stones", in April. Lot's going on that weekend in Calaveras County, rock shows. North Bay will hold their meeting at the Castro Valley Show in AM, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Many different clubs participate and they plan trips for the year, all are welcome and they do have a good auction. Prior to memorial day, Dick Pankey will lead a field trip to Texas Springs, May 22-26.

President **Ann Matthews** encouraged all members to go to at least one outing this year. New members can get to know everyone better and love for digging and discovering you 1<sup>st</sup> great rock or mineral or fossil or agate.

Librarian **Bill Mc Kay** has books and videos, "Agates", "Geology of Arizona", "Mineral Prospecting", "Wire Wrapping", and "Making Spheres", are among the many available for the asking.

Ann Matthews has requested members update any phone numbers and e-mail addresses so other members

will be able to communicate better. So if you have had any changes in address, e-mail or phone #, let the **Jim Bufton**, Membership Chair know soon so he can correct the roster when updating for the 2003 membership listing.

Lee King discussed cab displays and still we need more novice work from members.

**Doug Rue** presented **Berrie Bieler** a faceting certificate and **Joe Yarbrough** the cab of the year certificate.

Education Chair **Mary Ann King** has dates set for Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for slate carving class and Napping in February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Northern CA Bead Society will be giving a glass class on January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Holiday Inn in Bay Area.

Federation Chair **Bob Pevahouse** encouraged all to attend the CMFS in Ventura CA June 5-8<sup>th</sup>. Also if interested in putting in a case, check with Bob for new rules and requesting for the show and camp ground. Coming up shows Feb. 22-23 Stockton, Angels Camp, Calaveras April 6<sup>th</sup>, Reno in May usually with an outing one day.

The President announced that Lou Hamilton was very ill in the hospital in Yuba City. He was a lapidary teacher for many years prior to his retirement from the Pleasant Hill High School and no body knows Wall Canyon like Lou.

**Connie Klein** is asking anyone interested in becoming Treasurer to please let her know. Past President Joe Yarbrough handed out bars to last years board. Those receiving these service bars are:  
Ann Matthews for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP,  
Hazel Woolsey for 3<sup>rd</sup> VP.  
Sharon Neuhauser, Secretary  
Connie Klien, Treasurer  
Bob Pevahouse, Federation  
Glen Mackenzie, Ecology  
Duaine Eggleston, Historian  
Mary Hicks, Editor  
Doug Rue, Displays  
Mary Ann King, Past President  
Joe Yarbrough, President

Membership Chair Jim Bufton requested a short Board Meeting after our General Meeting to elect new members.

**Dave Kleesattel** gave a program "Common Mineral Assemblages" Why we don't see Quartz and Olivine together. Good talk with interesting drawings and a table full of displays. The question and answer session following was very



informative too, Thanks  
Dave!

President Ann asked how many were going to Quartzsite, and quite a number of hands went up. She said Rock-a-mania was not open this year and encouraged everyone to put in for refreshments. Also Ann asked for help with refreshments, coffee and cold drinks, and encouraged members to vote on cabs.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.

### CFMS SHOWS

**February 14-23, Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Gem & Mineral Building (on the Fairgrounds), 46-350 Arabia Street, Hours 10 to 10. Don Grisham 909.795.7289

**February 22-23, Stockton, CA.** Co-hosts; Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club; North California Faceter's Guild; Scottish Rite Temple; 33 W. Alpine Ave., Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-4.

**February 28-March 2, Hayward, CA.** Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. Live auction Sunday at 2 p.m. Friday and

Saturday 10 am to 6 pm,  
Sunday 10 am to 5 pm.

**March 1-2, Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds, The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Ayers Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Hours 9 to 4:30 both days. Enter via the Arboretum. Jo Anna Ritchey 626.359.1624

**March 1-2, Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society; Seaside Park/Ventura Co. Fairgrounds; 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-2. Jim Brace-Thompson 805.659.3577

**March 8-9, Turlock, CA;** Mother Lode Mineral Society; Stanislaus County Fairgrounds; 900 N. Broadway; 9-5 both days. Bud McMillin 209.524.3494

**March 8-9, Bakersfield, CA.** Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P St., Bakersfield. 10 am to 5 pm both days. Lew Helfrich 661-323-2663

**March 8-9, San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society, San Morino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. Marlene Kyte 626.794.0519. Show theme is Gems,

Minerals and Jewelry of the Southwest.

**March 15-16, San Jose, CA.** Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose, CA. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. Chuck Boblenz 408.734.2473

**March 29-30; Torrance, CA.** South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society; Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.; Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5. Omer Goeden 818.353.9279

**March 29-30; Roseville, CA.** Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society; Placer County Fairgrounds; 800 All American City Blvd; 10-5 both days; Betty Soper-Arnold 916.969.6773

**March 29-30, San Diego, CA.** San Diego Mineral & Gem Society; Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road; Sat 9:30-5 Sun 10-4. Wayne Moorhead 858.586.1637

**April 5-6, Hacienda Heights, CA.** Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club; Magic in Rocks; Steinmetz County Park; 1545 S. Stimson Ave., between Gale Ave. and Halliburton Road. 10-5 both days; Bob Hess 562.696.2270

**April 5 and 6. Mariposa Gem and Mineral Society.**  
Mariposa County  
Fairgrounds, Hwy. 140  
South, Mariposa. 10 am to 5 pm both days. Dianne Mueller, 209-742-7625

**April 5 and 6, Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society.**  
Angels Camp, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm.

**April 26 and 27. Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society; corner of Center & Church St's; 10-5 both days. Hubert & Elanor Drake at hmdrake@packbell.net**

**Snyder's 29<sup>th</sup> Pow Wow show and field trips. May 2 through 4. Valley Springs, field trips-also, 209-772-1265 or www.valleyspringspowwow.com or snyders@caltel.com**

**AFMS/CFMS SHOW-2003 June 5-8; Ventura, CA.**  
Del Air Rockhounds presents: "Seaside Gemboree 2003"  
Seaside Park (Formerly Ventura Fairgrounds) 10 W. Harbor Blvd. this is a beautiful time to visit Southern California.

There will be special field trips for the rare Nipomo Agate and more. Sign up early for the special activities.

Come to the show and celebrate America's rocks and minerals from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Also, attending the show is the only way you will see the life-size Triceratops that will be on exhibit.

**Bob Backus (818)347-2056. GemboreeBiz@aol.com**  
Or the Del Air Rockhounds Publicity Committee at ohmarin@earthlink.net

**Faceters Symposium 2003 At the Seaside Gemboree, AFMS/CFMS Convention & Show in Ventura, June 6-7-8.** You are invited to participate in the Faceters Symposium 2003 which will be held at the Seaside Park (Ventura Fairgrounds) at Ventura. There will be ten speakers, hospitality hour on Friday evening, and a Saturday Awards luncheon. Contact **Glenn Klein** at [glennklein@yahoo.com](mailto:glennklein@yahoo.com)

### Other regional shows.

**South Central**-Feb 22-23, Pasadena, TX

**Rocky Mountain**-July 11-13, Casper, WY

**Northwest**-Aug. 1-3, Kennewick, WA

**Midwest**-Aug 15-17, Cottage Grove, MN

**Southeast**-Oct. 5-6, Jacksonville, FL

**Eastern**-TBA

### Tucson Show Schedule-2003

Partial list and tentative dates. From the Marin Mineral Society-Tumbler

American Gem Trade Asso. 2/5-10  
American Indian Exposition 2/16  
Arizona Mineral & Fossil Shows 2/1-15  
Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers 2/1-14  
La Quinta Group 2/1-14  
Mineral & Fossil Co-op 2/1-14  
Tucson Gem & Mineral Society 2/13-16  
More listed at [www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/](http://www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg/)

### Utah's Septarian Nodules

Via the Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club, Napa Gems.

\* Utah's septarian nodules started in Southern Utah 100 million years ago in the Gulf of Mexico at the time when decomposing sea life attracted sediment, forming mud balls. These were rolled around by tidal action; this increased their size. When the sea receded, the balls dried and cracked at the same time the benitonic clay in them shrank. Then

the ocean returned and dissolved calcite, from sea life, was carried into the cracks where crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite formed into aragonite, dividing the clay exterior from the calcite centers. This dividing wall, septa in Latin, gave them the name "septarians." They occur in Tropic Shale in Long Valley near Mt. Carmel and Orderville, Utah.

### **An Invitation—Newry Mineral Park**

From Woody Thompson, Maine Geological Survey via the American Federation Mineral Society Newsletter, February, 2003

An invitation to mineral collectors, science teachers, and everyone interested in Maine's natural history to help establish the Newry Mineral Park.

A new State property that will include several of Maine's most famous mineral localities, including the Dunton tourmaline mine, in a beautiful mountain setting!

The Oxford Hills in western Maine are known throughout the world as a prolific source of gems such as tourmaline, amethyst, and aquamarine, as well as many rare mineral species. Thousands of people come to Maine every year to

search for these minerals in the rock piles left behind from earlier mining operations. Historic mining for feldspar and gem tourmaline in the town of Newry opened up several deposits rich in uncommon minerals, these mines are located on a scenic mountaintop that also offers great opportunities for hiking geologic studies, and other outdoor recreation.

Many popular mineral collecting sites in Maine have been closed to the public in recent years due to encroaching development and other factors. But the State of Maine now has the opportunity to acquire a 100-acre tract of land in Newry that encompasses the famous Dunton tourmaline mine and six other neighboring quarries.

The Maine Geological Survey (of the Department of Conservation) has launched a fundraising drive to purchase the Newry mines for a permanent park whose principal use would be for recreational mineral collecting. Partners in this effort include the Maine Mineral Symposium Association, the Federation of Maine Mineral and Gem Clubs, and the Threshold to Maine Resources Conservation and Development Commission.

All mineral hobbyists, earth science students, educators, and outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from the Newry Mineral Park. The Land for Maine's Future board has made a generous pledge toward the purchase price, but most of the funds to acquire the property must be raised from other sources. The Maine Geological Survey is committed to this effort, and we are asking mineral clubs and individuals to help by donating to the park acquisition fund.

Contributions are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a special recognition certificate! Donations can be made to:

Newry Mineral Park  
c/o Maine Geological Survey  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Visit the Maine Geological Survey's website for further information at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/nrimc/mgs/mgs.htm> More from the February issue of the AFMS newsletter.

### **So You Think You Know All The Answers...!**

Kitty Starbuck is a pack rat!  
Just ask AFMS President-elect and husband Marve.

Kitty has been editing newsletters since the 1960's and has saved all the exchange bulletins she's received. Recently she spent time going through some of these and has found a treasure trove of good and useful material in the form of puzzles and brain teasers.

Here is an example of one of the brain teasers.

How many rocks and minerals can you find hidden in the following paragraph?

In his latest crime bulletin, Police Inspector Litescal cites current problems: "We need new legal enactments to stop all these hoodlums who plead innocent. Some of them are real cool items who insult cop persons. I have been called a skin-flint and a gyp, summing up their opinion of me. I think I'm a fair one, but after being called a spineless serpent, I nearly am berserk. It's no who-dunit, even now I am in total control. However, we're having a crime epidemic and I have less ardor for the job. I'm getting old and I am on duty too much. It's time for me to retire with a soda, lite beer, etc. and go fishing. Maybe I'll catch a marlin that will make you rub your eyes."

By Erston Barnhart, Sept. 1990 from Rock Buster

News, bulletin of the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club.

### **Teachers Can Get Free Materials**

From Steve Weinberger, AFMS Past President

Teachers interested in obtaining materials for their earth science classrooms should be aware of an organization called Mineral Information Institute. Found on the website at [www.mii.org](http://www.mii.org) the organization offers a wide variety of materials, many of which are sent to teachers at no cost.

### **From the Kitchen**

#### **Popcorn Cake**

By Ruth L. Johnson  
Via Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto club's Ghost Sheet.

6 quarts popped popcorn  
½ lb cocktail peanuts  
1 lb gumdrops cut up,  
remove the black gumdrops  
¼ cup vegetable oil  
¼ lb margarine, or one cube  
1 lb marshmallows

Melt the vegetable oil, margarine, and marshmallows and pour over the popcorn, peanuts and gumdrops. Mix well. When mixed, press into a buttered angel food cake pan or some other pan. I put the popcorn mixture in a small roaster

pan. I like to make a day ahead of time.

#### **Fantasy Fudge**

By Barbara Snook  
Via Napa Gems, Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club

3 cups sugar  
¾ cup cubed margarine  
2/3 cup (5 1/3 fl oz can) evaporated milk  
1-12 oz pkg semi-sweet chocolate pieces  
1-7 oz jar Kraft Marshmallow Crème  
1 cup chopped nuts 1 tsp vanilla

Combine sugar, margarine & milk in heavy 2 ½ qt sauce pan. Bring to full rolling boil, stirring constantly (mixture scorches easily). Remove from heat; stir in chocolate pieces until melted. Add marshmallow crème, nuts and vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13x9 inch pan. Cool at room temperature; cut into squares. Makes 3 pounds.

Variation. For peanut butter fudge, substitute 1 cup of creamy or chunk style peanut butter for chocolate pieces. Omit nuts.

#### **Answers for "So You Think..."**

Slate, tin, spectrolite, calcite, galena, opal, lead, oolite, copper, flint, gypsum, iron, spinel, serpentine, amber, dunite, talc, mica, sardo, gold, diamond, sodalite, marl, ruby.

# Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

**P.O. Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**General Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:30 pm

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.

**Visitors are welcome! Bring a Friend**

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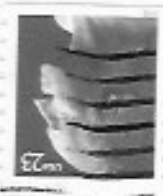
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Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

## Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

A non-profit organization who's members enjoy rockhounding and lapidary arts



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