

Diablo

Costa
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Gem & Mineral Soc.

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Diablo Diggins

June 2002

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Program for the June General Meeting

By Ann Matthews, Vice
President of Programs

The June Program will be
about the Green River
Formation.

James B. Stichka grew up in Ontario, California, where he began collecting rocks and minerals in the early 1930's. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in mathematics and from Cal Tech in engineering, served as Chief Engineer on a destroyer during World War II, and completed 34 years employed by the Chevron Corporation.

A lifelong interest in plant fossils led to his discovery of an unusual structures from Sperry Wash that Professor

W.D. Tidwell later reported as a new species of grass which he named *Tomlinsonia stichkana*. Jim's compilation of a long history of studies of the Cretaceous fern tree *Tempskya* (back to 1824) and his large collections of that genus prompted Dr. Tidwell to name a new Utah species, *T. stichkae*.

A large collection of petrified woods from Wyoming led to Jim's study of the "Green River Formation", one of the most prolific sources of plant and animal fossils of Eocene age, which will be the subject of his talk to our group on June 14.

Thank you to Mr. Shelley for his interesting presentation at the May meeting. We send on condolences on the passing of Mrs. Shelley.

Refreshments

Members identified to bring treats to the June General Meeting are:

Dave & Kim Kleesattel
Connie Klein
Anne Lesko
Howard Lederer
Glen & Betty Mackenzie
Doug & Kevin Malby

If you can not make the meeting contact another member and swap.



Snyder's Pow Wow 2002

By Dick and Betty Pankey,
Wagon Masters

Sunny skies. Temperature in the 70's. And spending the weekend with a great bunch of Rockhounds. We had fun Happy Hours each day and 2 delicious potluck dinners. We enjoyed all the sights and sounds of the Snyder's Pow Wow. **Betty and I** arrived on Wednesday and staked out the camp sight for the combined group of North Bay Field Trips and Ye Old Timers Mineral Club. We camped together this year because of declining attendance by both groups. Most of the 35 people that camped with us arrived on Thursday and Friday with a couple of stragglers coming in on Saturday. We had 26 NBFT members (15 of these people were Old Timers) and 7 guests.

The Old Timers started out with a Margarita Happy Hour on Friday in honor of Cinco de Mayo followed by their potluck dinner that was attended by more than 75 people. After dinner the Old Timers held their annual auction. We had a spirited bidding from over 100 people that attended. Highlights of the auction was

a carving by **Dick Friesen** from Livermore and a 100+ pound piece of Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper donated by Clarence and Maria Turner from Lodi. **Bob Peveahouse** and **Dick Pankey** were the auctioneers.

The Margarita Happy Hour was so good we repeated it on Saturday. Over 35 people attended the NBFT potluck dinner Saturday evening. After dinner we had the Grab Bag exchange. Only 7 people participated but we exchanged 15 grab bags.

All three days of the Pow Wow 19 NBFT and YOTMC members helped direct traffic and people at the entrance gate. This "work" earned each organization \$75. A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped out.



Show Corner

By *Sam Woolsey, Show Chair*

We've started enlisting Committee Chairs and will be starting our monthly meetings – better known as the goodie-raid on Ann's Pastry Shoppe – on June 12th. (Regularly set for the Wednesday before the monthly club meeting.)

As usual, we will try to keep the discussion time to a minimum, but the round-table

discussions of current developments – and a few war stories - will keep us all abreast of both the progress and the glitches as we approach show-time.

Right now – I can tell you that **Dave Clesaddle** needs rocks – big rocks - for the silent auction, Hazel will gladly accept material for making grab bags, and we will need as many polished stones as we can get for filling those bags. If you have a tumbler, I'll have crushed stones and grit to pass out at the June meeting for tumbling. All we ask for in return is half your output.

And my personal thanks to all the "volunteers" for volunteering.

SAM WOOLSEY,
Show Chair
ph: 925-837-3287
fax: 925-837-0846
e-mail: kr6at@ARRL.net.



Field Trips

By *Hazel Woolsey, Vice President of Field Trips*

Remember to contact the field trip leader to make sure the trip is still planned and to let the leader know you are expecting to be there.

June 15 Cache Creek, CA for Jasper. Roseville & Sutter Buttes. Contact: Charlie

Brown, 916.652-4240.
cbbrown@wizwire.com
 June 22 & 23 Elko, Nevada
 for Fossils. Fossils for Fun.
 Contact: Debbie Bunn,
 916.929-6665.
fossilsff@aol.com

June 30 Stifle Claim near
 Georgetown, CA/Clean up,
 collect brown grossular
 garnet, green grossular garnet
 and serpentine. El Dorado
 Co. Club. Contact: George
 Rausch, 530.626-1595

July 12, 13, 14 CFMS Show
 in Placerville at the
 Fairgrounds.

July 27 Gold Panning, El
 Dorado Co. Club. Contact:
 Steve Elliot, 530.647-9641.

August 17& 18 backup date
 for Garnet Hill, CA for
 garnets. El Dorado Co. Club
 Contact: Fred Ott, 530.677-
 8440
fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com

August 23, 24, 25 Virgin
 Valley/Badger Flat, Nevada
 for Opal (fee dig) and
 petrified wood. El Dorado
 Co. Club Contact: Fred Ott
 530.677-8440
fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com

August 31 and September 1
 and 2 Cederville, CA for
 petrified wood, agate,
 obsidian. Fossils for Fun.
 Contact: Debbie Bunn,
 916.929-6665
fossilsff@aol.com



Education Report

*By Dick Pankey, Education
 Chair*

Fifteen people participated in the April beading class and they also had 4 observers for this popular class taught by Ophelia Hicks. The first night the class strung a hematite necklace and earrings using a granny knot between each bead. On the second night the project was a crackle berry bead necklace strung using 2 needles and threads using square knots for this double thread technique. Ophelia prepared individual kits with instructions, beads, thread and other supplies for each night's project. The class also learned how to make a needle out of wire. Ophelia says: "It was a very enjoyable group". A BIG THANK YOU to Ophelia

Mary Ann King will repeat her Project Night class in June so that the "slow" folks can finish their project and so more people can learn and make this interesting and attractive seed bead and stone point pendant. Everyone who started a pendant at the February "Project Night" is automatically signed up to finish his or her pendant. Additional spots in the class

will be available up to a total of 14 people. Sign-up at the June meeting. The class will meet on Wednesday, June 19th and 26th, in Room 208, at the Diablo Valley Adult Education Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., in Pleasant Hill at 7:00 PM.

For July, Glen Mackenzie will give another one of his fine classes on Wire Art Jewelry. The project for the first night is a pendant and a ring or bracelet on the second night. Glen will give more details at the meetings. Sign-up starts at the June meeting. Preference will be given to "first timers".

Our classes are designed and planned to serve several purposes. The primary purpose is to introduce our members, old and new, to a wide array of lapidary arts, jewelry making and related craft techniques. The classes are designed to teach techniques and procedures which is accomplished through making a project item for that class. Many of the classes are introductory, some are intermediate and advanced. Some classes are project nights, typically simple crafts, with the purpose making a particular item. We now are in our sixth year of these classes and some are repeats because of high interest and popular demand. In most repeat classes, sign-up preference is given to first timers, i.e. people who have not taken the class before. If a particular class does not fill up with first timer then "repeaters" may take the class. In most cases we have to put a restriction on class size. Class size is restricted

due to availability of specialized tools and supplies, classroom space, and mostly on the practical limits of how many people an instructor can teach at one time.

Our schedule of classes is announced well in advance. Details for each class are published in the Diggins' each month. Class sign-up starts the month before the class is scheduled and is available at the general membership meetings. If you are unable to make it to the meeting and you are interested in a class you may call me for details and to sign-up.

The new "class year" for the Mt Diablo Adult Education classes starts July 1. That means that everyone that attends our classes must fill out a registration form; you only have to fill out one per year no matter how many classes you take. By registering as a student in the Mt Diablo Adult Ed. Program we get free use of the classroom. Also, each person attending a class must sign the Attendance Sheet each night.

Calling all club members: Tumble polished rocks, slabs, "crafty" artists and ideas are needed for our "Critter Nights" in August. We always need a good supply of interesting shapes and colors of polished rocks and slabs for our critters.

A reminder to old and new members: If you sign-up for a class please attend. If you can't attend be sure to call the instructor (or me) so that an alternate can

take your place. When you are a "NO SHOW" you deprive one of our other members the opportunity for a class and learning experience.

DON'T BE A "NO SHOW"!!



The Reading Room

By Marlow Hicks, Librarian

The Art of Flint Knapping, by D.C. Waldorf. #286.

Flint working is part of our human heritage. It is the one thing that all the races of man the world over have in common.

As the author has matured in his craft, he started when he was 16, so flint knapping has grown to become an accepted tool of research by experimental archaeologists trying to uncover the past by recreating it. Knapping meanwhile has grown much faster as a hobby.

Stone of the Month

By Douglas Rue
Apologies, Editor lost report.

Gem of the Month

Traditional stone for June is Pearl, the flower rose. Pearl forms inside lining tissue of mollusks in subtropical waters. Pearls most commonly grow in oysters but do also occur in conches,

and some freshwater clams and mussels. Pearls range in color from white to silver-white, cream, yellow, pink, greenish, bluish, and black. Their size may vary from less than 1/4" to 2 inches.

Pearl has a hardness of 3.5 to 4. It is translucent, has a pearly luster with a weak, rainbow iridescent sheen, no cleavage, and breaks with an uneven fracture. In natural pearl, the fluorescence is sky-blue and variable; in cultured pearl, it is greenish-yellow and variable.



Membership

Birthdays

Jerry Theobald 9
Brownie Cameron 11
Mary Bufton 17
Barrie Bieler 17
Gene Holcomb 17
Judy Brown 19
Margaret DeWilde 24

Anniversaries

Elfie & Aaron Pingree 6
Mary Ellen & Sam Johnston 6
Sherry & Scott Pevahouse 12
Anne & Bob Pevahouse 17
Mary Ellen & Duiane Eggleston 21
Susan & Richard Dennis 23
Althea & Barrie Bieler 25



In Memory

Member Jim High passed away in May. Our condolences go to Jim's wife, Connie and his family. Jim has been an active member of the club for many years and will be missed.

Snyders Pow Wow

By Ophelia Hicks

It was a beautiful sunny spring day when we parked in the John Snyder Ranch pasture on Thursday May 2, 2002. The North Bay Field Trips and Ye Old Timers camped together this year. Dick & Betty Pankey and Dick & Joyce Friesen were already settled in with their trailers. We made up the other side of the common area where the pot lucks and auction are held. The wild Iris, blue sweet clover and other wild flowers carpeted the area. In the next pasture the long horned cattle placidly moved along each day, slowly grazing as they moved.

Marlow and I had fun browsing the 200 booths. New this year was an Indian

encampment whose members put on drumming, signing and dancing. Also new was a frontier village and solders.

Friday night was the Old Timers potluck (50 people) and later the auction. Saturday night was the North Bay Field Trips pot luck. Both were well attended with the area lit with Dave Rosen's poles and lights. Bob Pevahouse and Joe Yarbrough stopped at Dave's home in Sacramento on their way to the Pow Wow to pick up the lights. At night (without the lights) the stars were unbelievably close in the dark night sky.

As in the past, the North Bay and Old Timer's shared the task of Traffic Control.

All in all it was an ideal campout; well attended and enjoyed by many. If you couldn't make it this year, maybe next year you can. Valley Springs is only 85 miles from Concord so this can be a nice day trip if that is all the time you have.



Flag Etiquette

From The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Nothing evokes such strong emotion as seeing the flag, either a ceremony honoring a

great event or draped over a coffin as a sign of mourning for a hero or loved one. It signifies the commitment made by our fallen comrades who battled bravely to defend the honor of this sacred emblem-our American unity, our power, and our purpose as a nation, and it exemplifies the devotion of our leaders who continue to uphold its promise of liberty, justice and freedom for all.

DISPLAYING THE FLAG

When displaying the flag, it is important to remember certain guidelines of proper flag etiquette.

They are:

When on display or carried in a procession with other flags, the flag should be positioned to its own right. Also, it should be placed to the right of a speaker or staging area, while other flags are placed to the left.

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally from a windowsill, balcony, or building, the stars of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

The flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When the flag is displayed either vertically or horizontally against a wall, the stars should be placed at the top of the flag's right and the observer's left.

During a time of national mourning, the flag can be flown at half-mast by order or proclamation of the President of the United States. When flown at half-mast, the flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be raised to the peak before it is lowered at the end of the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at the half-mast until noon, then raised to the top of the staff and flown until sunset. Local customs regarding the lowering of company, city or other flags to half-mast are directed by the executive officers of those service areas.

When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be placed with the stars at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or be allowed to touch the ground.

RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

The Flag Code, a national guideline on ways in which the flag is to be respected, states that no disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. Specific ways, in which the flag should not be used, according to the code, are:

The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing, and can be flown upside down only as a distress signal.

The flag should never be used for advertising purposes. It should not be embroidered,

printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, paper napkins, boxes, or anything that is design for temporary use. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a flag's staff or halyard.

No part of the flag should be used as an element of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be worn on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, and members of patriotic or other national organizations, such as the uniforms of veterans service organizations or Scout uniforms.

When lowering the flag, make certain that no part of it touches the ground. It should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, ceremoniously fold it lengthwise in half, then repeat with the blue field on the outside. Finally, while one person holds it by the blue field, another then makes a triangular fold in the opposite end, continuing to fold it in triangles until only the blue shield shows.

When a flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

It is proper to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on all days which weather permits. The flag may also be displayed at night if illuminated by a light.



May Board Meeting

By Sharon Neuhauser,
Secretary

May 6th meeting called to order at 7:30 PM at President Joe Yarbrough's home, in attendance: Bob Pevahouse, Glen Hubbard, Connie Klein, Matt & Ann Matthews, Sam & Hazel Woolsey, Jim & Mary Bufton, Dick & Betty Pankey, and Marlow Hicks.

Joe discussed the return of Betty Jerde and we were glad to hear she's doing well. Now Gaylord, he's still out there on the road somewhere driving toward home!

Dick Pankey said May will be Connie Klien's dicromic glass classes. June we will finish Mary Ann King's seed bead class. July will be Glen Mackenzie's wire wrap class and in August the tumblers should be running for the rocks to be used in grab bags at the November Education Show.

Ann Matthews discussed speakers for May and June.

Hazel Woolsey gave information on new trips, call before you go on any trip to make sure of the plans or any changes.

Sam Woolsey confirmed all money is in for the November show. It is

educational, fun, a great way to make friends, and a big money maker for our club. Flyers and handouts will be at the next meeting so people can start advertising the show. Anyone who wants to put a case in our show will receive a great Rock for this year, better than last year.



Glen Hubbard printed up a list of all supplies in our trailer. He will inventory all items stored in Connie's barn.

Librarian **Marlow Hicks** had no report.

Connie Klein treasurer gave a financial report. She will finalize report and give copies at the next meeting.

Jim Bufton had 3 new applications for membership, these being **Debra Goulart**, **Ardean Goulart** and **Carol Ann Kreulish**. The board approved all three.



Mary Bufton read the thank you letter from the Food Bank. At Christmas we donated 83 pounds of food.

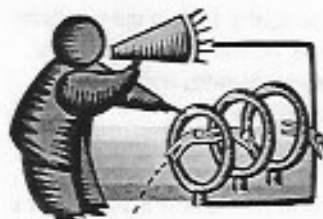
Mary asked if anyone see's an advertisement for our show in a paper or magazine or hears it on the T.V. or radio to please let her know. Clip article out and give to her.

Bob Pevahouse announced the California Federation Show July 12, 13, and 14 in Placerville. Hope all of you are planning to attend.

Applications are here for anyone wishing to attend the Paradise Earth Science week. First week is full, from September 8-14, but a few more openings for the second session, September 15-21 are available.

Betty Pankey says there will be ice cream social July 12th, in Placerville. Friday at 2 PM for the Ol' Timers.

It was discussed as whether to phone people who signed up for the Wednesday Jewelry classes, also to remind people to bring refreshments.



May General Meeting

By Louise Gilley, a member who graciously scribed the meeting minutes.

President **Joe Yarbrough** called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, the flag salute began the meeting. **Al Schleif** collected for missing badges. Hospitality was announced by **Bev Martin**, giving the anniversaries and

birthdays for May. Popular Month. Our Guests were **James B. Strichka**, **Steve Pittman**, **Lorna Moore**, and **Tom McWilliams**, Mr. & Mrs. **Dennis Shelley**.

The guest drawing for the door prize was for Christmas Agate to **Mrs. Dennis Shelley**. The member drawing was obsidian won by **Jim Bufton**.



Hazel Woolsey, Vice President of Field Trips, had the counter full of rock field trips. Handouts, tons of choices.

Connie Klein, Treasurer, announced we are solvent.

Glen Hubbard will be doing a complete inventory of club equipment for insurance purposes. He needs the serial number from the equipment, please contact him if you have a crusher, tumbler, lights, etc. Thank you!

Marlow Hicks, Librarian, brought numerous videos and books to be checked out. Among the books are Rocks & Minerals of California, and Simple Enameling. The videos included The First Steps in Lapidary and other enticing videos.

Glen Mackenzie, our Ecology Chair offered a word of caution; please check with the Bureau of Land Management first to see if the roads, land is open in the

section to which you are planning a trip. It is nesting season and migration season for certain species, several environmental groups are suing the BLM to protect endangered species, this is having an impact on access.

Ophelia Hicks gave an excellent bead knotting class attended by 15 beaders and 4 observers, (who kindly helped with the run away bead retrieval). Very successful and enjoyable class, the creations sparkled on the display table.

Doug Rue, Display Chair, had two examples of fine cabbing under the lights for viewing.

Jim Bufton brought a double terminated quartz crystal from New York.



Dr. Carr was selected to contact the California Mineralogical Society to select a student in earth sciences to get a \$2000. Scholarship, hopefully awarded to a junior to help toward the senior year's expenses. He contacted **Matt James**, an Invertebrate Paleontologist at Sonoma State University and a committee was convened. Sixteen students were accepted for consideration, this narrowed to four

applicants, and they were interviewed last Thursday. **Beth Weiser** was selected to be the recipient. She is thirty-three years old, went back to school, she attended two years at Marin City Junior College and is finishing her junior year at Sonoma State University. The award's banquet will be in July.



Vice President **Ann Matthews** announced our popular speaker, Dennis Shelley with his enthralling talk on gold. The value of gold has been going up for a year, while the stock market has not. Many people have been buying gold because they think it is a safe haven, the internet has impacted the stock market and gold. The price can change minute to minute-this information can be accessed at kitco.com and msm.com. A good search engine is "Google" and Alta Vista. Charts for London, New York, Asia with all metals is readily viewed.

Gold is a commodity. It is sold on the world market. The government of Japan has been buying a lot of gold, on the other hand the Soviet Union sold 300 tons.

There are many uses for gold, it is non-corrosive and extremely ductile. Uses are currency, jewelry,

electroplating, computers, aerospace, space station, dental, and automobiles in the catalytic converters.



ABX Corporation can produce gold for \$40 an ounce in Peru, Canada, Indonesia, Russia, and Africa.

Hedge books are contracts the gold companies have to sell gold in the future. Lately hedge books are reducing the amount of gold in the supply line, stockpiling gold there are numerous political, international dynamics affecting the price constantly.

The liquidity of gold has always made it attractive. You can buy from a dealer, a refinery, or go through an intermediary. Coins are shipped registered mail.



Mutual Funds: the CSI in Canada trades in gold. It's stock is up 190% in the last

year. Stock in ABX a year ago was \$13, today \$21.75. The value appreciates on gold coins set in jewelry. There are many places in California to learn about gold; Sutter's Mill, Grass Valley, Nevada City, also, Alaska, Nevada, and Montana.



Wells Fargo Headquarters back in San Francisco, downtown, near Montgomery Street, has a fascinating museum, topological maps show details of areas in California, they also have specimens of gold in quartz, cinnabar, flakes and different colors. The California Mining Museum in Mariposa is very interesting. The Auburn Courthouse (guided by the Giant Miner with Gold Pan, visible from the highway going to Reno, is excellent.

Theodore Roosevelt commissioned the Augustus Saint-Gaudens Cain in 1848 to create the most beautiful coin in the United States-\$20 and \$10 gold coins. Lady Liberty standing with an Indian war bonnet.

It is recommended that not more than 5-10% of your portfolio be in gold and gemstones.

24 carat is pure gold, 24k. If alloyed down, 18k is 18 divided by 24 = 750 or 3/4. 14k is most common in this

country. 14k divided by 24 = 585, stamped .585 in Europe. Gold is usually alloyed with silver, copper and nickel. People who came back from Saudi Arabia had 21 and 22 k stamped 916. Sterling silver is .925

Some people electroplate metals and pass off as gold 14k GE=electroplate. GF is gold fill, base metal and 1/20 surface layer is gold. KP is karat plum+14k



or better. 14k is stamped in US can be 13 1/2 by law. Herringbone chain in stores is light, not durable, breaks easily. For garage sale shopping, use a magnet, gold in not magnetic.

Straight household ammonia is a good cleaner for metal, pearls need extra caution, after wearing, clean with 10% solution of Joy and water and dry before putting away.

We all enjoyed the program.



July Bulletin due date is June 18th.

Submit news and articles in WRITTEN TYPED FORMAT.

The correct e-mail address is maryhicks@attbi.com.

Mailing address is—
2418 Larkin Court,
Antioch, 94509



Interested in being a bulletin editor? All you need is interest and a computer and printer.

The editor gets input from other members, other club newsletters, and anywhere else it appears. Taking this information the monthly newsletter is put together.

One copy of the draft newsletter is then provided to Mary Bufton. Mary takes the master copy and gets it duplicated, and then mails the newsletter to members and contacts in other clubs.

You can step in as vacation relief to learn more about the job, contact Mary Hicks at 779-0689, e-mail at maryhicks@att.bni.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Board and Committee Members 2002

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Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

PO Box 4667, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

General Meeting: 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, 1965 Colfax Street, Downtown Concord
(Corner of Salvio & Colfax)

Free parking at the City of Concord garage located across Salvio

Visitors are Welcome! Bring a Friend.

Membership fees: Initiation \$5; Regular member \$10; Associate \$5; Junior \$1.

1031 Pierce St
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Fairfield, CA 94533

Time Value

Save Stamp
for CCMGS



Diablo Diggins' Editor
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Soc.
PO Box 4667
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

"DIABLO DIGGINS"

Official Bulletin & Meeting Notice

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

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



Member of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies