



Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Newsletter October 2020

President's Message

A very few trees have begun to turn to their fall colors. They remind me of the red, orange, and brown jaspers that are so much fun to work in the lapidary shop.

The kids in my neighborhood have taken to painting smallish river rocks with flowers or encouraging words and placing them in people's yards near the sidewalk so everyone can see them. It's really an upper to see the kids reaching out to cheer up their neighbors!

We had a nice gathering at our September meeting on Zoom, so we'll be doing another program for October. I don't know what the program will be yet, but there will be one and we'll have time to talk with one another. Your personal invite is on the next page. You can join the meeting from your computer, ipad, phone, etc. If you have any questions, please contact me at: Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com, sooner rather than later. I'll likely be too busy to answer many questions during the meeting.

If you have ideas you want to share with the group, we'll have time for that.

Your board continues to take care of the business of the club, including necessary governmental filings, insurance, etc. We're all looking forward to meeting in person as soon as it is safe.

Rock on,

Donna Albrecht



ZOOM Meeting Log In Information

Keep this information handy to log into the meeting. NOTICE EARLIER STARTING TIME OF 7 PM
Donna Albrecht is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CCM&GS mtg

Time: Oct. 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88979676715?pwd=ZmY3WGJES2czcVVub0JYU1NjMndzZz09>

COPY & PASTE THIS LINE THIS INTO YOUR BROWSER TO COME TO THE MEETING. COPY AND PASTE THE PASSWORD (PWD) IF NEEDED.

YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN A 'WAITING ROOM'. FROM THERE I WILL LOG YOU INTO THE MEETING. OTHERWISE, YOU WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE MEETING.

If you haven't used Zoom before, you will notice some icons on the lower left. If there is a line across the camera, no one can see you, if there is one across the microphone, no one can hear you. Please have them on so it will feel like we're actually together.

Meeting ID: 889 7967 6715

Passcode: 266414

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,81786568874#,,,,,0#,,669800# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,81786568874#,,,,,0#,,669800# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 889 7967 6715

Passcode: 266414

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbzui4aPdK>

CCM&GS General Meeting Minutes- 9/14/20 on Zoom 7:00pm- 7:46pm

Our September General Meeting was held on Zoom. This was a different meeting format for our CCM&GS members. We will be utilizing this online format for future meetings until we are able to occupy the Centre Concord. Thank you to everyone who joined us online!

President- Donna Albrecht welcomed and thanked the CCM&GS members who joined the meeting. Donna explained that our Club's General Meetings would be on Zoom because the Centre Concord was still not available for meetings due to Covid19 restrictions. After wrist surgery and wearing her new cast, Donna managed quite well connecting our members for the meeting.

Secretary- Mary Jernigan reminded BOD members to submit any reimbursement requests as soon as possible. Vikki Hotopp is our interim Treasurer assisting with those tasks. Thank you, Vikki.

Mary announced the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2021 CCM&GS Board of Directors. Any CCM&GS members who are interested in being part of the proposed Slate of Officers, please contact Mary Jernigan or another BOD member. Club members will be contacted by email or phone call when it is time to vote.

Proposed Slate of Officers- 2021 Board of Directors Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society:

President- Donna Albrecht

1st Vice President/Programs- Elizabeth Tanner

2nd Vice President/Fieldtrips- Mario Mihalik

Secretary- Mary Jernigan

Treasurer- Vikki Hotopp

Federation Director- Dick Pankey

Federation Director- Dick Pankey reported that the CFMS executive committee has been meeting by Zoom, preparing for their upcoming elections. This year the CFMS Visalia meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting.

Website- Johanna Fenton is looking for a replacement as web-master.

1st Vice President/Programs- Elizabeth Tanner created a power point to share with us: "My Favorite Mineral" was compiled of photos and submissions by CCM&GS members. Send in your favorite rock stories to be added to future programs with Elizabeth at: Eatanner2@yahoo.com. Due to technical difficulties, the second video program was not available.

There was discussion about our latest Rockhound projects: Greg DeFabio bought 700 lbs of Montana Agate from the guy in San Jose! In October, Greg- aka Mr. Black Rock, is hopefully planning a trip to Black Rock Desert, Nevada. Stay tuned for stories about the lava beds and Playa, alkali flats.

Share your photos and articles with us in the CCM&GS Diablo Diggins' newsletter. Editor Karen Oliver welcomes your input. Email Karen at cockroach1454@gmail.com.

Monday October 12 th at 7pm is our next CCM&GS meeting via Zoom.

Submitted by Mary Jernigan- Secretary/Membership

There was not a BOD Meeting in September

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

Serving Amador, Mariposa, Tuolumne Counties and More!



TAILGATE ROCK SWAP & SALE

PUBLIC WELCOME!

GIFTS!

ROCKS!

LAPIDARY!

JEWELRY

GEMS!

AND MORE!

ART!

2549 Meacham Ranch Rd.
Angles Camp, Off Hwy 49
CalaverasGemAndMineral.org

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020

9 am - 4 pm





Isometric fluorite crystal.

THE LYMAN MUSEUM

Taking in the Splendor and Intriguing History of
One of the Top 10 Best Mineral Collections

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DONNA ALBRECHT

Like many of you, when I plan a vacation, I want to learn about the area's rocks and minerals I may encounter. My 2019 cruise to Hawaii was no different, minus the fact that I would not be collecting. This response is partly due to understanding that collecting is not always appreciated in various areas of the islands, partially because of Pele's Curse and because much of the geology is basalt.

Despite that, I wouldn't be doing much digging to collect; I made a wonderful discovery in the Lyman Museum and Mission House on Hilo. This facility is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, having declared this collection one of the ten best mineral collections in the United States. This facility is the Hawai'i only natural and cultural history museum carefully curated and displayed in over 20,000 square feet of galleries. Knowing this, I was certain this would be a special place, and I was right.

When our group arrived at the museum, we were greeted by Gladys Suzuki, the education assistant of the museum, who graciously

showed us around and shared the history.

The museum was founded by Orlando Lyman (1903-1986), the great-grandson of David and Sarah Lyman, missionaries who came to Hilo in 1832. Mr. Lyman's great-grandparents collected and displayed natural "curios," sparking his interest in the natural world. When he was a boy, his family took an automobile tour of the mainland.

"When we camped in the mountains and sagebrush country, I took early morning strolls and found all manner and types of colored rocks..." Lyman stated in his writings. "I have kept looking for minerals ever since."

Originally, the museum was the ancestral family home, but after many years, it had deteriorated. Then in 1931, descendants of the Lyman family saved the structure from demolition and incorporated the Lyman House Memorial Museum, which showcases family and island history.

Lyman continued to gather geological specimens throughout his life, ultimately amassing a collection of more than 30,000 items through collecting and

THE LYMAN MUSEUM



A specimen of monoclinic linarite on display at the Lyman Museum



A nearly fanciful design, this is an example of monoclinic gypsum at the museum.

purchasing desirable specimens from dealers located around the world. As part of his writings, Lyman also recalled, about his collection, "...it became so large that my wife protested for the space it required." As a result, the new Lyman Museum building was constructed in 1971, next to the Mission House.

ORGANIZING THE COLLECTION

In the early years, the collection was organized using the Dana System of Chemical Classification created by James Dwight Dana, an American geologist, mineralogist, and zoologist. The initial publication of the reference took place in 1837. In the Dana System, minerals are divided into these basic classes; native elements, silicates, oxides, sulfides, sulfates, halides, carbonates, phosphates, and mineraloids. Then each is organized by the atomic structure or symmetry of the atomic arrangement.

According to information on the Cleveland Museum of Natural History website, "Collections arranged by Dana's System are referred to as 'systematic collections,' and when examples are stored or exhibited next to each other they show subtle changes of color as the dominant chemical component changes in one sample to the next." Many museums still use this system to help visitors understand the mineral world.

The Dana's System was used in the Lyman Museum, until 2001, when the museum was revitalized, the radical decision was made to reorganize the collection by crystal systems. According to www.gemsociety.org, the shape of the mineral's crystal is the primary factor in aligning groups. The system is based on the following factors:

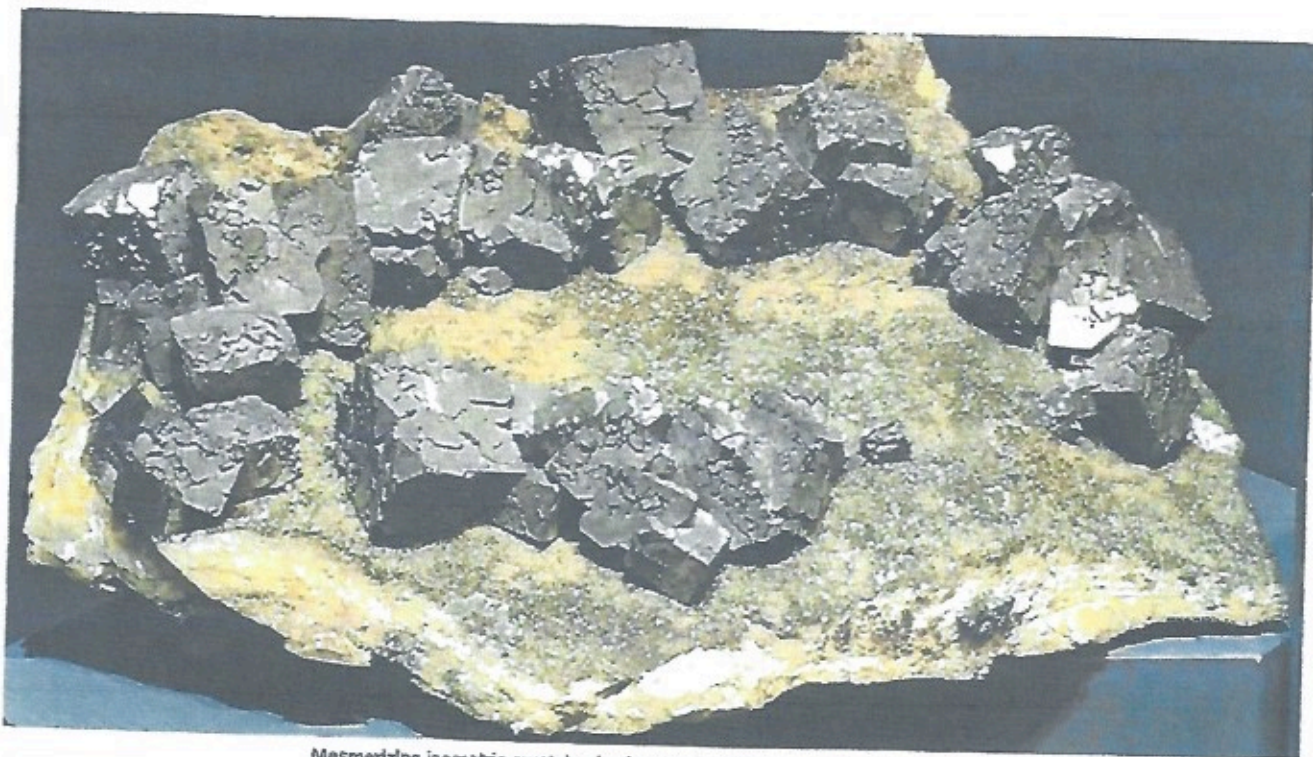
- How many axes are present in the crystal.
- Lengths of the axes.
- Angles at which the axes meet.

An axis is a direction between the sides. The shortest is A. The longest is C, and there is a B axis as well and sometimes a D axis. For example, isometric minerals are where all the sides are identical. For instance, the minerals fluorite and galena, which are visually very different, would be grouped under the crystal systems.

The seven major crystal systems featured at the Lyman include, followed by an example:
ISOMETRIC – All sides identical; Pyrite
HEXAGONAL – Six-fold symmetry; Beryl
TRIGONAL – Three-fold symmetry; Elbaite
TETRAGONAL – Patterns repeat four times; Wulfenite.

ORTHORHOMBIC – Patterns repeat twice, and it may have many right angles; Celestite
MONOCLINIC – Patterns repeat twice with

THE LYMAN MUSEUM



Mesmerizing isometric crystals of galena add such dimension to this specimen.



Mesmerizing isometric crystals of galena add such dimension to this specimen.



A tetragonal wulfenite crystals.



Significant in size is this example of monolinic dolomite, on display at the museum.

THE LYMAN MUSEUM



In addition to minerals, the Lyman Museum features items of historical relevance, such as this selection of Hawaiian seashells



Mollusk display greets visitors at the museum.

few right angles, and one plane is inclined concerning the others: Linarite, Gypsum

TRICLINIC – No repeating patterns, axes of different lengths, only one center of symmetry; Feldspar

The main displays in the Lyman Museum are like small glassed-off rooms, each featuring a particular crystal system and an educational write up, such as Hexagonal, three equal axes of 60 degrees, and one axis of 90 degrees of variable length. Minerals of six-fold symmetry, often crystallize as six-sided prisms known in geometry as hexagons. Minerals in this system include beryl, zincite, apatite, pyromorphite, tourmaline, quartz, and diopside.

The Museum also features what officials claim is the only known specimen of the mineral orlymanite.

In 1987, after Lyman died, researchers going through his collection found this silicate that did not match known minerals. After two years of research, it was declared a new mineral. However, if you check online, you will find pictures of orlymanite, some claiming it to be a very different looking dark brown. They all seem to agree it is from South Africa.

While minerals were my primary interest while visiting the Lyman Museum, there are other amazing sections, including seashells and the Islands' natural history. There are cases of the amazing items that volcanoes have spit out.

Last but not least, next door to the museum is the Mission House. This building is the oldest wood-frame structure on the island. It is a masterfully built and refurbished example of the authentic 19th-century craftsmanship that David and Sara Lyman built of local Hawaiian materials to remind them of their New England upbringing. Docent-led tours are available, and it's recommended you call ahead to make reservations. Tickets are available at the Mineral Museum. ☎

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lyman Museum and Mission House
276 Haili Street | Hilo, HI 96720
808.935.5021 | www.lymanmuseum.org

Virtual Hikes, Fieldtrips & Links to Enjoy with East Bay Regional Parks District
-submitted by Mary Jernigan

Connect with these links to share in the Outdoor Adventures with EBRPD

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NngR6_PMevY

Ironhorse Railroads- History at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=east%20bay%20regional%20park%20district&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park- Sandstone Boulders

<https://www.facebook.com/EastBayParks/videos/295108771768740/>

East Bay Regional Parks District

https://www.ebparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm

https://www.ebparks.org/activities/hiking/trails_challenge.htm

California Brown Tarantula

<https://www.facebook.com/EastBayParks/videos/3169363766447576/>

Bats

<https://www.facebook.com/EastBayParks/videos/2635142713408960/>

Bat Monitoring

<https://www.facebook.com/EastBayParks/videos/354349912351934/>



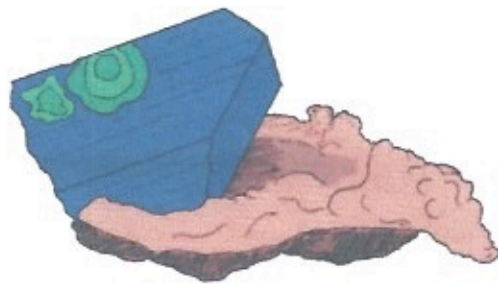
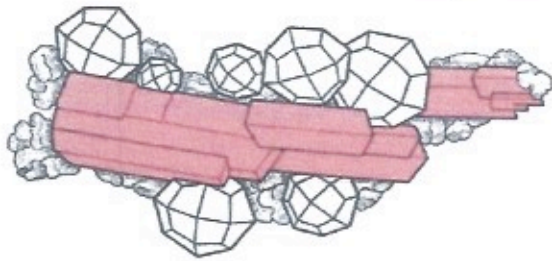
DIAMOND DAN'S "ONLINE MINERAL SCHOOL"

You will be doing a lot of schooling at home and online this year. When you need a break from Math and Social Studies, check out Diamond Dan on YouTube for some fun videos about minerals, mineralogy and mineral collecting.

On YouTube, search for

MINI MINERS WITH DIAMOND DAN

Every few days we'll have a new video for you. They will have tips for successful collecting, fun mineral facts, mineral uses, mineral books and magazines, and much, much more.



"Mini Miners with Diamond Dan" goes live on
September 15! Stay tuned...

Club & Members News & Notes

CCM&GS September Birthday-

Greg DeFabio 9/13 *apologies for
missing your day

CCM&GS October Birthdays-

Louise Gilley	10/4
Christine Henningsson	10/5
Elizabeth Tanner	10/13
Richard Dennis	10/26
Richard Dudley	10/30
Aaron Pardini	10/30

CCM&GS October Anniversaries-

None



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

Upcoming Meetings-

Board of Directors- on Zoom Wednesday, Oct. 14,
7:00pm. Contact Donna Albrecht for information

General Meetings-

2nd Monday of the month
on Zoom! See page 2.

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:

Vikki Hotopp
hotoppvikki@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 -Cell
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Librarian:

Caryl Taraldson
lynn@taraldson.net

Membership:

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

Newsletter Editor:

Karen Oliver
Cockroach1454@gmail.com

Property:

Terry Caskey
tcaskey@comcast.net

Publicity:

Mike Hopkins
mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

Refreshments:

Sargent of Arms:

Naomi Morgan

Web Master:

Johanna Fenton
johfenton@yahoo.com



Diablo Diggins
Newsletter of the
Contra Costa Mineral
and Gem Society



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Contra Costa Gem and
Mineral Society

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

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

General meeting on the 2nd Monday of each
month at Centre Concord, **Cancelled due to
COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay connected for
updates.**

CCMGS
P.O.Box 842
Concord, CA 94522-0842

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