



Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society





"We Dig Rocks"





March 2013



This Newsletter is available by E Mail - contact the Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year is off to a great start. Our committees are getting exciting things organized for the year. Keep in touch about coming events thru the newsletter, the website: http://ccmgs.org/events/ and at the general meetings.

Thank you to this year's audit committee. All records were found to be in good order. Any questions that came up were easily answered. Thank you to Mary Hanjes for keeping such organized records. The audit committee was Terry & Joanne Caskey and Mary Hicks. Many grateful thanks to each of you.

There are still a couple of committee positions open at this time. If you would like to get more involved, know your club members better, and increase the fun factor, please let me know.

If you went to the Antioch Show this past month you were lucky to enjoy the great fun, friends, and wonderful vendors. Coming up in March are many, many shows. Check out the website or the newsletter for all of the latest information. The Mother Lode Show is well worth the drive to the Turlock Fairgrounds - lots of kids, education, vendors, displays, rock hounds, and tons of fun. Join in the fun of show season.

Therese Clark President



Highlights of the Dallas Fine Mineral Collecting Symposium

Mary Hicks

Next General Meeting Monday, March 11 7:30 PM March Program

Dallas Fine Mineral Symposium



Mineral cleaning and preparation and Burma's ancient valley of gems and rubies will be featured this month in presentations from the 2012 Dallas Fine Mineral Collecting Symposium.

The Dallas Symposium is one of the finest mineral shows in the country. This unique event is of unusually high interest to the mineral collector. The show has numerous presentations and programs of interest to the rockhound.

No problem if you could not be there. CCM&GS member Mary Hicks has reviewed them all, and selected two topics of particular interest for the March meeting.

"Mineral Cleaning and Preparation Technology" with Jon Voelter, a longtime mineral preparatory, runs a dealership for mineral prep work and sales based in Texas. He shares some of the processes used in evaluating specimens for cleaning and preparatory work, to familiarize new collectors to the basics.

"Travels to the source in Mogok: Burma's Ancient Valley of Gems and Rubies" with Bill Larson has been among the leading American gem and mineral dealers for over 35 years, and a collector for nearly 60 years. He became a pioneering mineral dealer in Burma, teaching the miners to extract and bring to market the specimens that otherwise would have been ignored or cut for gems.

Mary has a knack for finding exciting and interesting events. Her programs are always top notch and appreciated.

Come to see it all, Monday March 11.

Harry Nichandros Program Chairman

> New Articles for April Diablo Diggins Due Date March 18, 2013

> > **Board Meeting** Friday March 8, 6:30 pm

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Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society March 2013

CCM&GS General Meeting - February 11, 2013.

President- Therese Clark opened the General Meeting at 7:33pm welcoming Club members and guests. Therese led the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary- Mary Jernigan collected quarters for missing badges.

Therese welcomed new CCM&GS members Elaine Devlin and Jack Goldsmith.

Therese warned members not to leave valuables like purses and laptops in their cars. Unfortunately, there had been a car break-in during January's Club meeting.

Hospitality- Pam Harris welcomed six guests to the meeting. Tickets were drawn for guest and member door prizes of jade and an agate slice.

Education- Donna Albrecht announced upcoming classes-Dave from Jade Carvers- Learn about Carving Tools, Naomi Morgan- Trip to a Rockyard. If you have a class you would like to teach or take, please contact Donna with your ideas.

Newsletter articles to Terry by Feb 18th Fieldtrips- Kelly Plumb (out ill) See the Newsletter for fieldtrips and shows.

Member- Gary Casillas announced Antioch Show dates 2/16 & 2/17, 10am - 5pm at Antioch Fairgrounds

Display- Paul Black asked everyone to check out the interesting items brought in by Club members.

Jr. Member- Kylie Hunter 'Benitoite Kid' -specimens of benitoite, the state gem stone, Barrie Bieler- Stereo mineral & fossil images, Dick & Betty Pankey- Travertine, Pecos diamonds. Also vote for the stones shaped & faceted by our Club members including lace agate and Brazilian agate.

Federation Director- Dick Pankey, no updates at this time. Member Jennifer Haley- There are competition categories for the CFMS Show, please see Jennifer or Dick if you have any questions. An article will be in the newsletter.

Membership - Mary Hicks collecting dues and passing out membership cards at the Membership Table.

Next Board of Directors Meeting- March 8th, 6:30pm at Theresa & Harry's home. Next General Meeting- March 11th doors open at 6:30pm, Centre Concord

Program- Harry Nichandros introduced the evening's speaker, Larry Gotuaco "Images in Stone". Larry introduced his support team, his wife, Pat and his son, Ken. Larry shared his hobby of collecting and photographing magnificent stone specimens.

Meeting adjorned at 8:50 pm. Mary Jernigan - CCM&GS Secretary

Spare Rocks and Minerals

I am still in the process of collecting rocks and minerals for the rock/mineral identification kits for our Silent Auction at this year's Annual Show to be held in November. If anyone is interested in donating golf-ball size specimens to the club, I'm interested in collecting them and adding them to the kits. 13 of each specimen will be fantastic, but if you don't have 13 of each that is fine. Each kit does not have to be exactly the same. (Sadly, you'll have to be able to tell me what they are because I am severely challenged in rock identification.)

A Big "Thank You" to those who have already contributed. They are very nice specimens and the kits are going to be amazing. I can already tell.

Please contact Debbie Blevins at 925-680-6562 or OHB@Astound.net if you would like to contribute or if you have questions.

Thank you very much. Debbie Blevins

Display Report

There are four competitive categories each month. Everyone is invited to vote on the entries in each category. The winner in each category receives a prize of five dollars, and the person who has won the most competitions for novice cab during the year will advance to "pro" status and be awarded a Diablo Dan silver pin. Reggie Moore has been advanced to pro status this year. Congratulations.

Pro Cabs - Six entries

A - Barrie Bieler - Picture Jasper

B - Paul Black - Graveyard Point Agate (tied for 1st)

C – David Kleesattel – Crazy Lace Agate

D – Donna Albrecht - Jasper

F - Joe Yarbrough - Brazilian Agate (tied for 1st)

G - Donn Law - Picture Jasper

Shape of the Month - Heart - Four entries

A - Barrie Bieler - Lace Agate

B - Joe Yarbrough - Brazilian Agate (winner)

C - Donna Albrecht - Poppy Jasper

D - Paul Black - Fossil Stromatolite

Faceted Gems - Three entries

I - Terry Caskey - Sunstone

II - Donn Law - Danburite (winner)

III - Barrie Bieler - Cubic Zirconia

Special interest items. Dick and Betty Pankey shared samples of Travertine from north of Quartzsite, geodes from north of Palos Verdes, and Pecos 'Diamonds' (quartz) from Roswell, New Mexico. Kyle Hunter, the Benitoite Kid, displayed Benitoite, Juaquinite, and Neptunite. – Paul Black.

2011 Shape of the Month Cabs

January - Irregular

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June - No competition (Auction night)

July - Freeform (No symmetry)

August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October - Rectangle (or Square)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Christmas party)







Our Public Lands

By Dick Pankey, PLAC-North Committee

The establishment and management of our public lands is a complex process. Congress develops the legislation that designates the public lands and provides an outline to the land management agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS), on how the management of those lands is to be established. The regulations are established by the Federal Code Regulations (CFRs) and are different for the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. The BLM follows regulations established in CFR43 and the USFS follow regulations in CFR36. Legislation dictates how these regulations are to be established. Land Use Plan for both the BLM and USFS are updated about every 10 years. The BLM Bakersfield District plan is in the final stages and will be implemented soon. The BLM Hollister District which includes Clear Creek is just starting their update. Both the BLM and USFS are required to have public input at all stages of a Land Use Plan. The BLM and USFS are to manage the land for which they are responsible for the benefit of the public and for the protection of all natural resources. The Land Use Plans (LUPs) are how the BLM and USFS establish how our public lands will be managed for protection of all natural resources and for recreation, travel, commercial and other uses. That is where we, the rockhounds, the users and recreationists of public lands come in – We are the Public. We have a right and obligation to express our ideas and our wishes on how the land is to be managed and used.

How can we participate and be involved? We can write letters and e-mails responding to other people's ideas; often those of conservationists/preservationists, people who want to restrict access and use. Or we can be proactive and we can get involved directly in the regulatory process. To do this we need you, the rockhounds and users of our public lands, to get directly involved with each and every BLM and USFS district and/or field office. Many of us and every society lives within 100 miles or less of a BLM or USFS office or we often drive past one. The next time you see an office stop and go in. Ask to speak with the Recreation Officer, Land Use Planner or Geologist. Ask about things you are interested in: collecting, camping, road access/closures, and ask about their Land Use Plan. This is a start to being involved with the regulators.

How can you get involved? It is easy. First check out the BLM and USFS web sites: www.blm.gov or www.blm.gov or www.fs.fed.us and the location of the District and Field Offices. These sites will have information about the current Land Use Plans, about the area that they manage, and sometimes information about permitted uses and access. And most of all there will be information about pending Land Use Plans and proposed changes. If you see that there is pending new or changes to their Land Use Plans, it is time to take action and get involved.

Contact the specific office and tell them you want to be put on the contact list for the LUP and ask for the planning schedule and schedule of meetings. Inform your American Lands Access Association State Representative or any ALAA officer or director, the CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committee, your society and other rockhounds and interested people about the plans for updating the LUP and get them to attend meetings with you. We want to be part of the development of a LUP, not responding to somebody else's ideas. It is easier to have our ideas and wishes incorporated as a plan is developed than try to have unfavorable wording removed from a finalized "Draft Plan."

The Land Use Plans that are being developed will affect how we will be able to use and have access to these public lands for the next few decades! How do you want your public land managed, by the users or by the preservationists?

The CFMS PLAC-North is holding the "Land Use Planning Seminar" - How to effectively participate in the land use planning process that is required for the management of ALL public land on April 27, 2013 at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock, CA. The seminar is hosted by the Mother Lode Mineral Society. See the February CFMS Newsletter for the announcement with the details

For more information and to reserve your spot at this important seminar or if you have any questions, e-mail me at <u>dickpankey@juno.com</u> (preferred) or phone me at 925-439-7509 no later than April 24th.

ALAA CLEAN-UP AT QUARTZSITE A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

The 1st Annual ALAA Quartzsite Clean-up went off without a hitch on Sunday, January 27, 2013. Working closely with the Yuma BLM office this event took some planning. Working with John MacDonald, Field Manager and Bill Alexander, Park Ranger, the location was planned and the clean-up executed.

What ALAA got out of it was tremendous publicity and recognition. The BLM in both Arizona and California put the successful event with the above picture on their facebook page.

This event was so special on so many levels.... The ROCKHOUND IMAGE!

What our group accomplished in a short period of time. Think what we could have done with twice the size of those who turned out. Think what we can accomplish in the future. A new movement by rockhounds. There will be a 2nd Annual Quartzsite Clean-up in January 2014, won't you be part of it?

The reasoning for this event was simple, over the past few years, in going to BLM meetings, it was evident that rockhounds had been deemphasized as far as BLM was concerned. Attending meetings found BLM employees noting, "this is the first time we've seen rockhounds attend meetings, we thought rockhounds were a dying group."

What to do, fight back. Let everyone know we are a viable group by doing something positive. Make ALAA (rockhounds) known to government employees by helping them with a clean-up.

- OUR IMAGE Giving back, cleaning up the environment. Show everyone that we care about our public lands.
- Creating a movement, ALAA will lead the way. I have already been in contact with several BLM Field Offices regarding official clean-ups.
- Encourage ALL rockhounds to do clean-ups in their areas as part of their field trips. This doesn't mean they haven't always, but make it "official" with assistance by BLM/Forestry

I am asking each and everyone who reads this to go back to your club and propose a clean-up on public lands, be it BLM, or Forestry. Tight budgets by government entities makes it an attractive project for either BLM or Forestry to participate in.

Blueprint for a successful Clean-up:

Contact the office that oversees the proposed campsite field trip.

- Propose a day and time so the office has it on their calendar
- On the day of the event, someone from the office will be there to sign you all in, to give you an overview of what to pick up and what to watch for: snakes, bees, etc. They will have trash bags. And they will haul everything away in the end.
- What you need to bring: hat, sensible shoes, long sleeve shirts, long pants, GLOVES, equipment: garden and lawn rakes, broom sticks with a nail in the end, plastic "grabbers" and WATER.
- And ALAA red/orange trash bags,(contact me and I'll send you some) and a CAMERA. You don't need many trash bags but arrange them at the front of the trash heap. Pictures of the group and pictures of the trash heap. If the BLM doesn't bring a camera, offer them pictures of the event.
- Once you are home, write an article for your club and your regional federation. Put them up on your website and facebook page.

With your help, ALAA will lead the way contact me, I want to know your thoughts and ideas. Your president, Shirley Leeson president@amlands.org



Pictured: Lauren & Shirleen Williams, Idaho Falls, ID; Marion & Vivian Roberts, Modesto, CA; Steve Kissner, South Dakota; Tom & Brenda Burchard, Ogden, UT; John & Susy Martin, Lancaster, CA; Marty & Linda Daugherty, Long Beach, CA; Ted & Paula Magee, Modesto, CA; Kim & Jay Erb, Anaheim, CA; Ralph & Penny Luther, Hamilton, MT; Dennis Huggins, Taft, CA; Dee Holland & Shirley Leeson, La Mesa, CA; and the only Ye Old Timer -Peggy Morrison, Carson City, NV. Shirley was leader and John Martin was the photographer.

Federation Directors Report

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

There were three honoree nominated for the 2012-2013 year and enough funds to say yes to all. First, is Don Buchanan with the San Bernardino Valley College and the Southern California Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy. He has guided field trips to Death Valley and the Eastern Sierras as part of the college's earth science curriculum. His long range projects include encouraging his students to explore the hobby side of the earth sciences with highlighting trips with the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society each October as a particular favorite. Secondly, is the "Dynamic Duo" of Dean and Karen Welder with the Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society. Along with juggling full time jobs, supporting local clubs like the North Bay Field Trip organization, acting CFMS directors, they still find time to build their own collections from sites throughout the western US. The more nominees that we receive the more scholarship could be awarded. For each Honoree there will be a student selected who will receive a \$2,000 scholarship from CFMS.

A student has been chosen from Stanford University for this year's Diedrick Scholarship. His name is Daniel Trugman. He has a 4.1 GPA which is rising, and is looking towards a career in numerical modeling of geophysical phenomena, most likely earthquake rupture behavior. He has so much to offer! If the name sounds familiar it may be because two years ago Anna Trugman, his older sister was the Diedrick scholarship recipient.

In his Presidents message this month, Bud McMillin, the CFMS President, is looking for feedback from the membership. He asked us to "Tell me what you really think." In the next few issues of the CFMS Newsletter he will ask us a couple of questions each month on a variety of topics. Since my top three goals for this year are getting societies to sign up to sponsor a CFMS show in 2014, 2015 and 2016, I thought we could start with a couple questions about a CFMS show.

His first 2 questions are about CFMS Shows: What are your thoughts about your society sponsoring a CFMS show? The second question is about exhibiting at a CFMS Show: What are your thoughts about entering a competitive case in a CFMS show? If you would like to provide

feedback to Bud you may e-mail him at bud.mcmillin.b7yi@statefarm.com or bud.mcmillin@me.com. You can read Bud's entire President's in the February issue of the CFMS Newsletter on the CFMS web site at www.cfmsinc.org.

If you have something you would like to tell our CFMS President about these questions or any other topics feel free to contact him or contact me with questions about the CFMS.

EDUCATION

It's always fun to come up with ideas for new education classes and we've got some exciting new classes coming up!

ROCK CARVING TOOL CLASS

March 23, 1-4 pm, Connie's Barn

Dave Clayton of Jadecarver.com and purveyor of incredible hand-made jade items and carving tools at our show, will be teaching an introductory class in rock carving tools. This includes your basic dremel (what the heck do all those tips really do?) and a variety of other tools that you've probably never even seen. If you've ever thought about carving stone for jewelry, decorative items, etc., this is the class you absolutely must have first. If you don't know the tools, you won't be able to do your best work. Limited space still available.

ROCK YARD TRIP

Date/place tha

Love to rockhound but don't always have the energy or time to go on a field trip? This will make it easy for you! We'll be going to a local rock yard that handles landscaping rocks. You'll be surprised at the variety of rocks and minerals you'll see and you can pick out some to take home! I hope to have a firm date and place by the March meeting.

Also coming:

FIELD TRIP ETTIQUITE ROCK IDENTIFICATION or IDENTIFYING INCLUSIONS IN ROCKS WIRE WRAPPING BEGINNING BEADING And more!

Questions or ideas for a class? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna-at-albrechts.com

ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!



Kelly Plumb

Field trip season is here again!

Our first announced field trip of the year to the Capitola Beach had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the Basic Carving class which was scheduled for the same day. The tentative new date is Saturday May 18th. There is a public parking lot several blocks up the street from the beach. We will meet at the beach at 10:00 am, an hour and a half before the low tide. Low tide is at 11:36 am. The

alternate date is June 1st. We can still follow the tide out and have some good collecting time. Materials include whale bone and fossilized sea shells.

Hazel Woolsey plans to join me at the Rockhound Field trip Fanatics dig March 2nd. If the material is as good as they say, I will lead a field trip there later this year. One problem I have been noticing as field trip chairperson is that my Saturdays are very busy. Is anyone interested in doing Sunday day trips? I will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting form the Capitola trip (and a firm date,) as well as a separate sheet for everyone who just wants to be kept in the loop about field trips. I would like to get email addresses so I can communicate more easily with those who want to go on field trips.

Show season is in full swing! The Antioch Lapidary Club Show was a big success. Many CCM&GS members attended and many also participated. Extra thanks to Dick and Betty Pankey. Theresa Clark, Donna Albrecht, Mary Hicks, Cheri Elliott and Mary Ann King (CFMS display) who had displays. Harry Nicandros helped with guest check in. Betty Pankey did her usual wonderful job entertaining kids and adults alike, with her wire wrap rings. Cheri Elliott and Gary Casillas ran the silent auction, and Cheri made sure all the booths had change when they needed it. Many CCM&GS members are also members of the Antioch club. The cooperation and interaction between the two clubs has been a win-win for both clubs! Other nearby shows this month include the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley show at the Newark Pavilion, and the Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society show at the Solano County Fairgrounds. Check out the information below for details.

Shows:

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Newark Pavilion 6430 Thornton Avenue, Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Cathy Miller, (510) 305-4196

Email: Cdmiller59@gmail.com Website: www.mgscv.org

March 2 - 3: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, The Arboretum & Botanic Gardens 301 Baldwin Avenue (Ayers Hall), Hours: 9:00 - 4:30 daily Contact: Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624 Email: <u>joannaritchey@gmail.com</u> Website: www.Moroks.com

March 8 - 10: VICTORVILLE, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society Stoddard Wells Road Tailgate 12 miles East of I-15; last 7 miles graded dirt road Hours: 9 - 5 daily Tele: (760) 243-2330

March 9 - 10: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club, Spreckels Veterans Hall 5th & Llano Streets, Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Karin Salomon, (831) 375-5233 Email: kcbakcs27@yahoo.com Website: www.salinasrockandgem.com

March 9 - 10: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 North Broadway Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494

Email: terry memillin@yahoo.com Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 16 - 17: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society, Solano County Fairgrounds 900 Fairgrounds Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Dan Wolke, (707) 745-1816, cell (707) 334-2950 Email: dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

March 23 - 24: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Calaveras County
Fairgrounds

101 Frogtown Road Hours: Sat 10 â€" 5; Sun 10 â€" 4 Contact: Robin Williams, (209) 728-8277 Email: amy95247@yahoo.com Website: www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 23 - 24: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers, Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds

800 All American City Blvd Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Gloria Marie, (530) 367-2262

Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com Website: www.rockrollers.com

April 13 - 14: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club, Mariposa County Fairgrounds Hwy 49 South (1.8 miles south of Mariposa), Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Chel, (209) 742-7625, Email:

mineralmuseum@sti.net

April 13 - 14: PARADISE, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Society, Elks Lodge 6309 Clark Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324

Email: mmpg@att.net ,Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 20 - 21: THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Borchard Park Community Center 190 Reino Road (at Borchard Rd.), Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734, Email:

rmsorca@adelphia.net Website: www.cgamc.org

April 20 - 21: SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara County

Fairgrounds

334 Tully Road, Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Frank Mullany, (408) 265-1422

Email: info@scvgms.org, Website: www.scvgms.org

Fluorescent Collectors

Do you have Fluorescent Rocks?

If you have interesting fluorescent minerals, we invite you to display them this November at our first annual club display case for fluorescent rocks and minerals. Interested? Please read on.

At our annual gem show, the club provides some 45 display cases - and not one of them has a fluorescing mineral. Well, it stands to reason. The displays have been in brightly lit rooms and illuminated by 100-watt floodlights.

What has not been possible, is now to be done.

Our November 2013 Show will feature a display case in the fluorescent room especially dedicated to our members' fluorescent minerals.

If you have a few, or a lot, of fluorescent specimens, we'll set you up.

This is a group case, so we will have to coordinate the placement and lighting. We will be working out the details over the next few months.

So, if you are interested in participating, please give me a call or email and tell me what you have.

Harry Nichandros Show Chairman

Mother Lode Mineral Society Rock and Gem Show

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds March 9 & 10, 2013 10 am - 5 pm 900 N. Broadway, Turlock

ROCK SALE

MLMS is happy to announce that the Rock Sale will be back!

Material is from the estate of Bill Aprile, an active rockhound during the 70's & 80's. Much of the material is no longer available. Plan to leave a happy camper!

FOSSILS, FOSSILS!

Neal Larson will be joining the show as a fossil dealer.

Neal is the paleontologist, geologist, author, and, lecturer who led the expedition that found 'Sue' the T. rex. Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet chat with Neal.

Dealers, beads, tools, books, demos, fossils, rocks, minerals, food, 12 x 24' fluorescent tent, free parking. Large children's area and kids speaker on volcanoes, dinos & fossils.

www.turlockgemshow.com

Chairman: Bud and Terry McMillin 209-524-3494

