



Vol. 65, No. 3

Diablo Diggins

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"

This newsletter is available by e mail - contact the editor



Concord, CA

March, 2017



March 2017 Presidents' Message



February was certainly a wet month! Let's hope that March comes in like a lamb.

I am looking forward to a great month of gem shows. Check my list of dates on Page 6.

Plans for our November show are already moving forward. The new Show Chairperson, Mary Hicks, is evaluating our dealer list and supplies along with our new Property Chairperson, Dave Kleesattel. We are looking forward to the help of our new Publicity Chairperson who will not only promote our show, but will also help with the growing of our club membership. As you are all aware, most gem and mineral clubs are beset with the issue of aging membership. As the old standbys we count on becoming less physically able. New members are needed who can grow with the club and someday take over the reins. If you know someone who might be interested in our fascinating hobby, bring them to a meeting (or several) and let's get them involved. We have lots to offer with our monthly displays, friendly competition, rocks & minerals for sale, trade board, field trips, and programs.

Speaking of programs, don't forget to bring in your samples of Burmese Jade and Rubies for show and tell. It will match up with our next presentation!

Kelly Plumb, President

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*



EARLY REMINDER FOR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

(Second Monday of March)

7:30PM at Centre Concord

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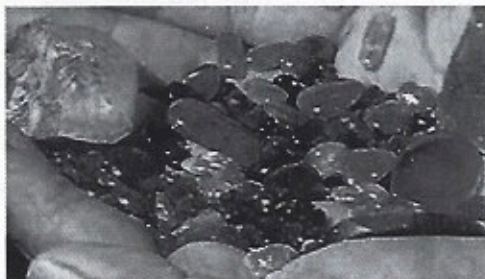
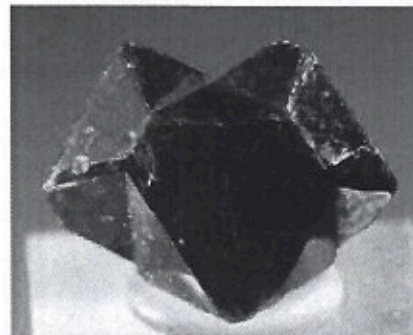
CCM&GS Program for March 13, 2017

Myanmar (Burma) Mindat Trek

Bountiful and Exotic Riches

Mindat.org is the world's largest public database of mineral information with an army of worldwide volunteers adding and verifying new information daily. Recently they organized a trek to Myanmar (Burma) to investigate first-hand the country's bountiful and exotic mineral and gem wealth. Myanmar continues to set the world standard for Jadeite, Ruby, Spinel, and many more items.

Barb Matz will present her experiences accompanying the Mindat trek – discussing the geology, minerals, gems, & fun to be had by all. Lot of specimens will be on display.



Dennis Freiburger, Program Chairman

Show & Board Meetings

March 5, 2017

Show Meeting 4 - 5pm

Board Meeting Approximately 5pm

Mary Hicks' House (more information page 5)

Articles for April *Diablo Diggins*

Due Date - March 19, 2017

February 6, 2017**CCMGS BOD 7:10 pm****Blevins residence, Concord, CA.**

Present: Dave Kleesattel, Kelly Plumb, Chuck Olsen, Mary Hicks, Mary Hanjes, Paul Black, Bonnie Eichler, Mary Jernigan, Debbie Blevins, Terry Caskey. Not Present: Dennis Freiburger, Cheryl Morgan, Naomi Morgan, Therese Clark, Harry Nichandros.

Minutes from the January 2017 BOD minutes were reviewed, Bonnie moved to accept, Paul seconded, all ayes. Bills were called for: Mary Jernigan had to purchase new membership cards.

No communication has been reported from the Club's Website by Web Master Harry.

Club's mail box had renewals for membership, the information and checks were provided to Mary Jernigan.

Committee Chair Changes. Current committee reports were read. Changes are: Property Dave Kleesattel, Newsletter Debbie Blevins, Show Chair Mary Hicks, Sergeant at Arms Naomi Morgan. Positions open are: Publicity, Hospitality, Ecology.

Committee Reports: Membership. Mary Jernigan. Long time member, Catalina Wright passed away, an obit was in the Contra Costa Times. The BOD signed a condolence card and it has been mailed to Catalina's family. Mary Jernigan recommended Robert Rigor's application be approved for membership. Chuck seconded. All ayes.

Property. Dave Kleesattel reported that Member Greg DeFabio donated a sizeable collection of mineral specimen which may be worth \$200 to \$300. The bags should go for \$2 to 3 per bag. A thank you note will be sent. Debbie will go through the bags and see if she can use any of the items for the mineral specimen's collections that are used for the Silent Auction for the 2017 show. Remaining bags will be offered for sale to club members at a General Meeting. **Treasurer.** Mary Hanjes reports check signers are herself, Dennis Freiburger, and Chuck Olsen. She handed out a proposed budget. After review some changes were made, a revised budget will be created. The revised budget was moved by Mary Hicks, 2nd by Bonnie, All Ayes. Only Officers and Chairpersons have authority to incur expenses (these are budgeted or a modified

budget that is the responsibility of the chair). If a General Member is directed to spend money by a Chair, the Chair is responsible to let the member know it may take over 30 days to get reimbursement. If needed, an advance can be requested, the expense documentation and any unused money must be provided to the club and it is the Chairs responsibility to explain the process to who ever is incurring the expense. Chairs can get checks signed at a General Meeting but it is the Chairs responsibility to arrange for this before the nights program starts. The cash assets were reported.

Education. No new classes to report at this time. Future classes: Joanne Caskey said this spring when the weather warms up she is willing to do another mosaic class. A couple other members have mentioned they are thinking about possible classes to teach. See newsletter. **Library.** Paul is working on getting books in memory of members who have passed. He has eight past members on his list. **Federation Director.** Dick will have his activities reported in the newsletter. He attended an ALLA meeting. **Editor.** Debbie is looking forward to this job. Moved by Mary Jernigan, 2nd by Paul, All Ayes. **Historian.** Debbie requested reimbursement for water tight boxes for club records. \$97.84 for 3 boxes. Mary Hicks moved, Paul seconded, All Ayes. **Secretary.** No report. **Field Trips.** Chuck said a person is working on a field trip to a new area at Fallon, NV. See more on the newsletter. **Show.** Mary Hicks volunteered when the Board Members determined a new direction is needed which will maximize club members in the planning and direction of the show. **Property.** Dave will be taking this job on. **Show Meeting.** Kelly reported she spoke with Harry and Therese about the change in the approach to organizing the show by the Board and that the Board had directed a new Show Chair be approved. Kelly said Harry and Therese voiced disappointment as they enjoyed supporting the club now for many years as Show Chair and Property. The club has appreciated their hard work but it is time to reinvigorate the show. The transfer of club show and property records, information, and access to property needs to be scheduled as soon as possible. Kelly requests a list of items and information to make sure all the club records, property, and other items are handed over to the club.

This list will be developed with input from everyone as soon as possible. Paul offered to help pick up items from Harry and Therese's residence. Access codes, keys for storage locker and trailer, and the PO Box key are needed asap. The Show Committee will be meeting monthly and putting a Monthly report in the newsletter. Twelve members have already volunteered to work on the committee.

Mary Hicks, end.

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society General Meeting Monday February 13, 2017

Meeting was led by President Kelly Plumb, starting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Alliance. There were two guests. Door prizes were awarded. The current vacant chair positions are: Hospitality, Ecology, Publicity, Dave Kleesattel is the new Property Chair. Contact Kelly or any other officer or chair to get information about these positions. Cheryl Morgan announced Barrie Bieler won the Facetor Award for 2016. Field Trip Chair Chuck Olson said there will be a trip to the Fallon, NV area. Field Trip information will be on hand outs, signup sheets, and in the news letter. Our new newsletter editor is Debbie Blevins. Terry Caskey has done a stellar job as editor for many years. Thank you to Terry for a great newsletter. Dick Pankey did not do a Federation Report tonight but there will be one in the upcoming newsletter. He did talk briefly on Quartzsite and the visit to Boron and the Borax mine museum and the mine dump. Bonnie did a brief education report, see the newsletter. Mary Hanjes reminded members we will need rocks for the Silent Auction, she stores rocks at her home. Make arrangements to deliver your donations. She also needs help with someone breaking rock up for tumbling for the show grab bags. She will provide you with tumbling rocks (either ready to tumble or rocks that need to be broken up) and grit for tumbling. She will bring supplies to the monthly meetings. Start tumbling now for the November show. Mary Jernigan announced two new members. Mary Hicks is the new Show Chair, appointed by the BOD. Though Harry was not at tonight's meeting, Mary said the club needs to recognize all the effort Harry has put into the club's shows for she believed 8 years. So thanks to Harry for all of his work for the club. The Board of Directors has decided to have the show go a new direction, energizing committee input. The Show Committee will be the foundation of developing the plan of the Education Show (November, first full weekend of the month, setup on 3rd, open to the public on 4th and 5th,

setup on 3rd, open to the public on 4th and 5th, teardown on the 5th). Club members are needed to be involved. There will be at least a monthly meeting for members have an opportunity and get involved. The meetings will be at Mary Hicks' home in Antioch, mostly on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm, before the BOD meeting which starts at 5:00 pm. A meal will be provided. The meeting will be on March 5th, Sunday. Mary's address is 2418 Larkin Court, Antioch, 925-779-0698. Please let her know if you are coming to either meeting. Come as early as 3:00 pm. There will be a self serve kitchen setup. It is important for members to decide how they wish to support the show. The show provides the money for almost all of our activities such as hall rental, classes, newsletter, programs, equipment, storage, etc. The dues we pay cover our CFMS dues and insurance expense. So come have fun, meet other members, have a home cooked meal. It is about 15 miles from the centre to the show meeting location. Kelly announced the Antioch Lapidary Club is having their annual education show this coming weekend on February 18-19 at the Contra Costa County fairgrounds in Antioch. The following weekend will have a Vallejo club show on February 25-26 at their county fairgrounds.

Vice President of Programs, Dennis Freiburger, started the Program part of the meeting. We answered questions and discussed continental drift, subduction, granitic zones deep in the earth, how zones get weathered out, access to plutons, where minerals form. More information can be found on MinDat.org, Geology.com and Wikipedia. What are pseudomorphs? The important mineral bearing area near San Diego was presented. The Ocean View Mine was shown, underground and above ground and the beryl material found there. Several members have gone to the fee dig, \$60 per day. Tourmalines, morganite, aqua, citrines and kunzite have been collected as well as other treasures. Dennis said the dvd will be in the club's library soon. He had specimens up front to see. The library also has a technical book about tourmalines. The program was over at 8:55 pm. Girl Scout cookies were in the back of the room. Members and guests enjoyed the snacks and beverages setup by Refreshment Chair Vikki Hotopp. End. Submitted Mary Hicks



*Thank you
Terry!*

A big 'Thank You' goes out to Terry Caskey for his many years of service to the CCM&GS as Diablo Diggins Editor. Your service and dedication did not go unnoticed.

BOD Meeting Information

The next BOD meeting is on Sunday, March 5 after the show meeting at Mary Hicks' House.

The Show meeting is from 4 to 5 pm.

The BOD meeting follows after a break, shortly after 5 pm.

Food will be in the kitchen for self serve anytime after 3 pm.

My phone number 925-779-0698.

Address: 2418 Larkin Ct., Antioch.

(Cross street is Kaiser. GREEN Element in driveway.)

**Diablo Diggins
Article Due Date**

I would like to continue with the 'newsletter due date' that the former editor, Terry Caskey, established. Based on his knowledge and the time it takes to work on the newsletter, along with spacing and timing issues, his input and experience are valuable tools for me.

Newsletter Articles for the Diablo Diggins are due on the 19th of each month, every month. If you would like to receive electronic reminders, I'll be happy to make every effort to do so each month. Please call me or send me your email address that is best suited for this reminder. My email address is ohb@astound.net.

Also, I'll be happy to work with you should you ever find yourself in a timing conflict. Please let me know *ahead of time*, and we'll work together for a solution. Larry and I go out of town from time to time and I will not have access to newsletter business.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Debbie Blevins
Diablo Diggins Editor



Upcoming Shows:

March 3 - 5: 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: showchair@mgscv.org, Website: www.mgscv.org

March 11 - 12: SPRECKELS, CA, Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club
Spreckel's Veteran's Hall, 5th & Llano Streets
Hours: 10 - 5 daily, Contact: Gary Beck, (831) 679-2896
Email: garybeckpca@yahoo.com, Website:
<http://salinasrockandgem.pagecloud.com> [Show Page](#)

March 11 - 12: TURLOCK, CA, Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 North Broadway
Hours: 10 - 5 daily, Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 484-4416
Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com, Website: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com
[Show Page](#)

March 18 - 19: SAN JOSE, CA, Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily, Contact: June Harris, (408) 265-1422
Email: info@scvgms.org, Website: www.scvgms.org [Show Page](#)

March 25 - 26: ANGELS CAMP, CA, Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 101 Frogtown Road
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Dave Muster (209-518-8795) or Anna
Christiansen (209-847-1173)
Email: annachristiansen7132@comcast.net, Website:
www.calaverasgemandmineral.org

March 25- 26: ROSEVILLE, CA, Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
Placer County Fairgrounds, 800 All American City Blvd (off Washington)
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Contact: Gloria Marie, (916) 216-1114
Email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com, Website: www.rockrollers.com
[Show Page](#)

Refreshments

Thank You to the Club Members who bring snacks to our General Meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting and your name is listed below, will you please contact another member and trade 'snack responsibility' places with them?

Currently we do not have anyone in charge of refreshments and members are filling in from time to time for assistance.

Mary Jernigan- Membership

March Refreshment List

Mike Fedoroff
 Alan Felker
 Joanna Fenton
 Brenda Flowers
 Dennis Freiburger
 Suzanne Garrett
 Mary Hanjes
 Donna Heath
 Don & Margaret Henrich
 Mary Hicks
 Mike Hopkins
 Vikki Hotopp
 Pat Howard

March Birthdays

If you are a current member and do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please drop me a note so I can update my record.

Thanks, Mary Jernigan

Happy Birthday!!

Sharon Neuhauser	3/2
Donna Heath	3/10
Matt Matthews	3/14
Edie Sandberg	3/18
Susan Dennis	3/25
Bonnie Eichler	3/31

**March Anniversaries****Happy Anniversary !!**

Joanne & Terry Caskey 3/17

The Lost Wax Casting Jewelry Class Tuition Reimbursement Scholarship

The Lost Wax Casting Jewelry class taught by Gary Casillas at the Mt Diablo Adult Education Pleasant Hill Center will begin its spring semester on or near April 12th & the cost will be about \$148 for 10 weeks. Registration can be done in person or online at: <http://register.asapconnected.com/courses.aspx?coursegroupid=5896> (then click on Basic Jewelry - Designed for the Hobbyist.) Online registration begins about 3-4 weeks prior to the class.

Members are not required to apply for the club's tuition reimbursement scholarship in order to take this class, but if you haven't been awarded the scholarship previously, there's no reason not to apply! The presentation requirement portion of the scholarship is minimal. The presentation does not have to be long – more like a 'show & tell' for a minute or two.

The scholarship is open to all members in good standing with the club. (The only exception being prior winners of this particular scholarship; they cannot re-apply.) This is an outstanding opportunity for our membership. The winner of the reimbursement scholarship will be selected at the April Board meeting. **Application submission deadline is March 31, 2017.** Send applications to the board at P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522 or submit to the Education Chair in person at the March general meeting. You'll find the scholarship application on the next page.

Get a jump start on your holiday presents or making components for your jewelry pieces. You can create your own designs or purchase wax patterns already made. (You can even alter pre-made wax patterns to suit your needs.) If you have questions about the class, don't hesitate to ask. It's a casual environment (we're not graded) and everybody helps each other when needed. It's a lot of fun, get a friend or two to take the class with you!

Bonnie Eichler
Education Chair

Education Corner

Don't be afraid to use the internet to look for patterns make your next jewelry project. Many sites that sell jewelry supplies and beads often have patterns or tutorials right on their website. You can also find patterns on Pinterest or by doing a search on the world wide web itself. I did a quick search and found a few websites right away:

<http://beaddiagrams.com/gallery-free-beading-patterns/>

<https://czechbeadsexclusive.com> (go to Tutorials and Patterns)

<https://www.allfreejewelrymaking.com> (go to DIY Jewelry)

You can also throw in your own twist to the patterns and make change ups where you want to make it just to your liking. You're only limited by your imagination.

Bonnie Eichler

Education Chairperson

Mother Lode Mineral Society's

ROCK & GEM SHOW

MARCH 11-12, 2017

Saturday & Sunday 10 am-5 pm
Admission \$6.00 - 12 & under free

- *Huge Fluorescent Display!!*
- *Dinosaur & Fossil Exhibits*
- *Kids Activities*
- *Demonstrations*
- *Great Food*
- *Gem & Mineral Dealers*
- *Educational Exhibits*
- *Jewelry, Beads & Tools*
- *Speakers for Children*



Stanislaus Fairgrounds

900 North Broadway Turlock CA

www.turlockgemshow.com

Contact: Bud & Terry McMillin 209-524-3494

**Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Reimbursement Scholarship Application
Mt Diablo Adult Education – Basic Jewelry Designed For The Hobbyist**

**Spring Session: Begins (approximately) April 12, 2017 (10 weeks, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm)
Pleasant Hill Education Center (Near Pleasant Hill Library)**

**Scholarship is for class tuition reimbursement only. The student is responsible for the cost of any supplies used & will decide which type of metal they want to use. Information will be provided at class on where metal can be purchased.*

*****YOU MUST REGISTER FOR CLASS SEPARATELY, CCM&GS DOES NOT REGISTER PARTICIPANTS*****

Register Online at: <https://register.asapconnected.com/courses.aspx?coursegroupid=5896>
and click on: Basic Jewelry - Designed for the Hobbyist

Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Submission Deadline March 31, 2017. Send applications to the board at P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522 or submit to the Education Chair in person at a general meeting. Unsigned applications will not be considered.

Acknowledgment:

If chosen for this scholarship I agree to do a short 5-10 minute presentation for the club during a general meeting within 2 months of the completion of the class sharing what I have learned at the class & a small submission of a photo of a project completed during class with a short write up/description for the club newsletter. I agree to a minimum attendance of 70%. Members may only be awarded this scholarship once. This scholarship is a reimbursement that will be paid at the conclusion of the class/reimbursement requirements.

Signature of Acknowledgment _____ Date _____

Please write a paragraph telling us why you would like to be selected for the scholarship.

Rockhounding With Sally!



Hi Folks, Hey Folks,

It's Feb. 21st, and It's Still Raining!

A few weeks ago, the weather broke just enough for us to head south / east, of San Jose,

to check out the Anderson Dam Reservoir, for Jasper, Agate and or, Magnesite.

It turned out the water level was so high, we couldn't traverse more than a few yards, on either of the reservoir's banks. And It sure looks like it'll be a long time, before that water recedes enough to allow access to any of the collection sites.

On the way home, we stopped at an excavation site. And got all muddy, finding a single, little piece of Poppy Jasper. It's a pitiful piece, but there are a few Poppies in it!

So the trip wasn't a complete wash. And Sally got her first taste of mud.

The good news is that with all this rain, we're watching the run off on Saint Helena, and Putah Creeks, up north. I've seen some nice Jasper wash out there, some good Agate too. And a mix of that stuff, we've found at area 54.

Down south, the Salinas River is running high and hard. And there's talk of Gold Panning the Black Sand washing down Willow Creek, south of Big Sir.

We'll let you know how those are looking, once the rain stops, and the mud settles.

Now The Big News!

The Antioch Lapidary Club is sponsoring a Field Trip to Fallon, Nevada! And we're all invited! So mark your calendars, for March 18!..... Weather Permitting. We'll have a better idea of the weather, by the time of our next Club Meeting.

This might be our last trip to the Navy's sites, for collecting Jasper, Quartz, Quartz/ Jasper, Jasper/Quartz, Petrified Wood and some really spectacular Amethyst that has been hauled out of there too.....And with a leader and group, who really know this area well.

Wonder Stone Mountain is also within easy reach, as well as some Petrified Wood sites, I plan to explore just south of Fernley, Nv.

All of these sites are on even terrain. And easily accessible.

If you're looking for a campground, you're invited to camp with us at the Lahontan State Recreation Area, off I-50. You'll also find reasonable room and R.V. rates, at the Nugget Casino in Fallon.

I spoke with A.L.C.'s Field Trip Chairman, Dave Tyre, last weekend at the Antioch Show. And he is leading the trip. And both of us will arrive a few days early. We'll have Cel. service so watch the weather, and check with either of us, if it looks like rain.

For more information, call Dave at (925) 783-5195. And I'm here too, at (925) 890-7116.

PS. I just got word, we're on this weekend, for Middletown. Rain or shine, 'cause we're persistent!

More Up Coming Field Trips:

March 4, 2017

Fair Oaks, Ca.

The Cooperative Field Trip Chairmen's Association ("Co-op").

CO-OP's Annual Field Trip Seminar. Hosted by the Sacramento Mineral Society.

For more information, contact Misty Watson, mistywatsonc21@hotmail.com, (209) 480-3176.

Saturday March 11th at noon

Canyon Drive, Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Mining Supplies and Rock Shop

9565 C Ave. Suite K

Hesperia, Ca. 92345

Hollywood Zeolites, Prehnite, Calcite, Natrolite and more! Meet us in Hollywood for a tour of a couple locations in this mineral wonderland. Yes, Hollywood is built on ancient volcanic rock, rock that has pockets of crystals! Analcime, Calcite, Prehnite, Natrolite and more will be available for collecting!

This is a rock shop that sponsors monthly field trips, lead by Justen Zzyzy. They charge a fee of \$40.00 per six field trips. For further information, contact Cyndy Mandell at cyndymandell@me.com, (760) 244-9642.

I haven't been on a field trip with these Folks. But they've been doing this for sometime. And have an impressive schedule, for the next few months.

View their website at, <http://www.miningsuppliesandrockshop.com/index.php/public-guided-field-trips/>

April 8, 2017

Vallejo, Ca.

North Bay Field Trips

The Vallejo G&MS is hosting North Bay Field Trips Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 8 at their Club House and Shop. For more information, contact Dick Pankey, dickpankey@juno.com, (925) 726-5914, or Chuck Olson, olson86@yahoo.com, (925) 890-7116.

April 8-16, 2017

Mariposa, Ca.

Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics

This is the Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics, yearly Central Ca. Rockhounding Odyssey. I haven't been on any of their field trips, but I've heard good things about them.

As I recall, this is announced as a five day field trip. And the first two days originate at the Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society's show. So you might want to check the schedule to see if there are field trips leaving from the show.....or if two of the five days, are visiting their show. For more information, contact Kris Rowe, (559) 250-5057. And visit their website at, <http://www.rockhoundfieldtripfanatics.com/>

2/21/17 Update: This is a new web address for them. So if you've signed onto the old site, you'll have to register again on this site.

April 15, 2017 (Approximately)

Baron, Ca.

Lew Helfrich

Twice a year, Lew Helfrich leads a, Discovering the Mojave Desert, field trip. Collecting Jasper, Petrified Wood, Palm Root, Green Opal, Travertine, Chalcedony, Dendritic Opal and Agate. His next trip will be sometime around the Easter Holiday. The size of the group, will be limited. So get your reservations in early. For more information, contact Lew Helfrich at, lewsrocks@att.net, (760) 762-5000.

I spoke with Barb Matz, of the San Francisco Club, at our January General Meeting. She confirmed that we could look forward to another S.F. Club, sponsored Field Trip, open to all North Bay Field Trips Member Clubs, (that's us!), this coming season.

The Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society is rumored to be planning a future trip to Black Butte Lake and Stony Creek, in the near future. I'll let you know if they'll be sharing this trip with N.B.F.T. member clubs, as more information becomes available.

And as long as I'm within range of a cel. signal, I'm here, or there, to pass on any further information I have, at olson86@yahoo.com, (925) 890-7116.

Chuck Olson

Field Trip Chairman



Left: Bob Kout of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, dug this rock out of the bank of Saint Helena Creek. And cut it in half. Bob hasn't decided whether the pattern of it's Agate, looks like a snake or a mouse. I see a dragon in it. It's just occurred to me, I haven't asked him what he's going to do with the other half.

North Bay Field Trips President Message

North Bay Field Trips was founded January 5, 1974 by 15 societies from around the San Francisco Bay Area. Seven of the Charter societies are still active members. North Bay Field Trips was established to:

- 1.) Enhance the quality of field trips,
- 2.) Economize on the time and effort, and expense in organizing and leading field trips, and
- 3.) Promote goodwill and fellowship.

With our objective of promoting fellowship we now share field trips and outings with the COOP. As with many rockhound organizations NBFT is declining in membership and participation. In less than 5 years we have declined from 22 societies to 14 societies. Attendance at our meetings and events has declined also.

Our member societies are:

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Soc.
Garage Grinders
Livermore Lithophiles
Lodi Mineral & Gem Soc.
Mineral & Gem Soc. of Castro Valley
Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Soc.
Peninsula Gem & Geology Soc.
Salinas Valley Rock and Gem Club
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Soc.
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Soc.
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Soc.
Sequoia Gem & Mineral Soc.
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Soc.

I attended my first NBFT meeting in February 1991 and got hooked. It is a great bunch of people who have fun and interesting meetings and best of all go on great field trips together. If your club has a new FT Chair this year make sure he or she gets the word about NBFT and our Spring meeting and be sure to encourage them to attend. Don't forget to invite and encourage other members of your club to come to this meeting. I encourage all club members who are interested in field trips (that includes just about all of your members) to attend NBFT meetings and to join in the fun and be active in NBFT events. We have interesting meetings with fine programs, great silent auctions and wonderful potlucks that should appeal to all members. Make plans to attend our Spring meeting to be hosted by Vallejo G&MS on April 8.

Keep on rockin',
Dick Pankey

March Gem Fairs

Our Club was given permission to publish this information in the Diablo Diggins. Although the content is not exactly as it appeared in the original message that was sent to me, it was modified as instructed.

You may print a 2 for 1 admission coupon or sign up for a free pass on their website at www.gemfaire.com.



March 3, 4, 5
Del Mar, CA | [details](#)

March 10, 11, 12
Pleasanton, CA | [details](#)

March 17, 18, 19
Reno, NV | [details](#)

March 24, 25, 26
Salt Lake City, UT | [details](#)

Mar. 31, Apr. 1, 2
Puyallup, WA | [details](#)



*Fine Jewelry :: Crystals :: Gems :: Beads
Minerals :: Fashion Accessories :: Gold & Silver
Tools & Supplies :: Fossils & More!*

- ALL UNDER ONE ROOF -

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*



Jade - Confused? Here's Why

Reprinted by permission of Johanna Fenton, www.mochisgifts.com

I'm often asked if I make jade jewelry. The answer is yes... and no. That's because there are two different gemstones that can correctly be called jade. They are similar in hardness and can sometimes be difficult to tell apart visually, but they are very different chemically. Both have been used for thousands of years for tools, decorative carvings and jewelry.

Things that ARE jade:

Nephrite Jade:

chemical formula $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5(\text{OH})_2$. Nephrite is found in many countries including along the west coast of North America (sometimes called Canadian or B.C. jade) and also in Australia and New Zealand where it is often used for carved pendants. I've most commonly seen it in bright medium and dark greens to almost black but it can also be grayish or brown as well. Nephrite is generally more affordable than jadeite. Here's an example of one of my recent pieces incorporating nephrite:

Jadeite Jade:

chemical formula $\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$. Jadeite is also found in the US and Canada, parts of Europe, and Myanmar. This is the jade that comes in colors including apple-green, white, and pale purple. It often has a mottled appearance. It is available as beads but tends to be very expensive.

Jadeite is commonly treated and has been categorized into 3 types based on this:

Type A – Natural, untreated, may have a surface coating of wax; "true" color.

Type B – Chemically bleached to remove impurities then impregnated with wax or polymers.

Type C – Dyed to enhance color; often chemically bleached and/or impregnated with wax or polymers.

Gems that can be confused with jade:

Adventurine:

A quartz that gets its green color from inclusions of green chlorite mica. Aventurine is harder and significantly less expensive than either type of jade and has beautiful color. I often use it in my jewelry. Unfortunately, some gemstones are given trade names that are descriptive rather than accurate. Some trade names are intended to make a stone sound more expensive or desirable. Here are a few examples with their actual identity:

African Jade: grossular garnet

Australian Jade: chrysoprase

Malaysia Jade: dyed translucent quartz

Mountain Jade: dyed high-grade dolomite marble

New Jade: serpentine

Olive Jade: serpentine

Buyer beware – don't pay jadeite prices for nephrite, aventurine, or any of the other stones I've listed above. Proper gemological testing can easily identify these gemstones.



CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY www.ccmgs.org

P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord,
 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles northwest on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road) Cross street
 Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Valley Bowl, free parking

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Junior \$1
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*Happy
 St. Patrick's
 Day*



March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 Newark Gem Show	4 Newark Gem Show Fair Oaks Field Trip
5 Show Meeting BOD Meeting Newark Gem Show	6	7	8	9	10	11 Hollywood Field Trip Spreckels & Turlock Gem Shows
12 Spreckels & Turlock Gem	13 General Meeting 7:30 Centre Concord	14	15	16	17	18 San Jose Gem Show
19 San Jose Gem Show Diablo Diggins Articles Due	20	21	22	23	24	25 Angels Camp & Roseville Gem Shows
26 Angels Camp & Roseville Gem Shows	27	28	29	30	31 Lost Wax Casting Class Applications Due	

First Class

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Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

www.ccmgs.org

Editor- Debbie Blevins

Send reports/articles to ohb@astound.net

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

Members meet the second Monday of each month (third Monday in June) at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, Ca 94521 (Clayton Faire Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Rd and Balham Dr, next to Clayton Valley Bowl).

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!