



Vol 62, No. 10



## Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Since 1950

"We Dig Rocks"



Concord, CA

October 2014

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor



### Presidents Message

Welcome to our October Newsletter!

We're in the most exciting time of the year for our Society, our Show season. Through the month of October we'll be putting the finishing touches on everything that needs to be accomplished to make our annual show a tremendous success. This year it will be held **November 1 & 2, at Centre Concord**. In many ways, it is so much more than just a show. It is:

- How we raise the money that subsidizes your dues as well as rental for our monthly meeting sites, insurance for our club, storage fees for our "stuff", and a wide range of other expenses.
- Our opportunity to share our interest in all things "rock" with the community.
- Access vendors who specialize in the very things that interest us!
- Share the comradery of making it happen.

If you haven't already signed up to participate, you'll find information in this newsletter on how to get involved. People are needed to sell tickets at the door, sell raffle tickets (and how about donating something we can raffle off?), host children's activities, demonstrate cabbing, wire-wrapping and other skills, and even filling a display case with your collection.

Very importantly, we need people to set up on Friday, October 31 and tear down on Sunday, November 2 when the show closes. Again, look for information about volunteering in this newsletter or contact our show chair, Harry Nichandros (925) 674-7055.

We'll be rocking the show,

Donna Albrecht  
CCM&GS President

# It's Show Time!!

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday, October 13, 7:30 PM**

**Centre Concord**

October Program

**Spenceville Mine – No Longer an  
Environmental Disaster**

## October Program

# The Spenceville Mine – No Longer an Environmental Disaster



**Spenceville Stream Before Reclamation. Photo by S Reynolds**

Imagine enough battery acid to fill 625 swimming pools and enough toxic mine waste to fill 10,000 dump trucks. Now imagine having to clean that up!

Kit Custis and Steve Reynolds of the California Geological Survey helped do just that at the Spenceville Mine in Nevada County. As a result, the California Department of Conservation was honored with a Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

The Spenceville mine is an abandoned mine located in Nevada County. It was opened in 1860 and mined copper until it closed in 1918. The land is now part of the Spenceville Wildlife Refuge.

For much of the 20th century, the mine was a secluded swimming hole, beckoning to people unaware beneath its inviting surface was an acid-filled pit of toxic legacy.

Removing the hazards, cleaning up, and revegetating the mine fell to project leader, Stephen Reynolds. Reynolds will talk of the challenges and success of this project at the October meeting.



**Spenceville Stream After Reclamation. Photo by S Reynolds**



**October Speaker Steve Reynolds**

“We looked hard at the geochemistry,” said Kit Curtis, senior engineering geologist. The site puts acid into the “swimming hole” and metals into the streams – and that kills fish. Basically, there was no soil left there. “What was there looked like the stuff you have in the bottom of your barbecue.”

They did a number of studies to see what it would take to neutralize the pit and grow plants. The solution involved treating the acid waste stream with another waste stream – sugar beet waste. “It’s just like putting Tums in your stomach” said Curtis.

Stephen Reynolds is a Senior Engineering Geologist with the California Geological Survey. He is a Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist. He has 35 years experience in environmental geology.

It’s a fascinating story. And it’s all here. Join us Monday October 13 to hear the full story of the *Spenceville Mine: No Longer an Environmental Disaster*.

By Harry Nichandros  
Program Chairman

**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.

**Novice Cabs** – No entry this month

**Pro Cabs** - Three entries

B – Barrie Bieler - Rhodonite

C – Donna Albrecht – Picture Jasper

D – **Paul Black** – **Opalized Wood (winner)**

**Shape of the Month – Marquis** - Two entries

A – Barrie Bieler – Black Agate

B – **Paul Black** – **Dendritic Agate (winner)**

**Faceted Gems** – Two entries

III – Barrie Bieler – Yellow Tourmaline

IV – **Donn Law** – **Aquamarine (winner)**

In the 'special lapidary project' category, Kelly Plumb's wire-wrapped cabochon focal bead earns our appreciation plus \$5.

Kelly also displayed some rough material garnered from her field trip to Montana, including Montana agate, lepidolite, petrified wood and Hill agate.

**2014 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)

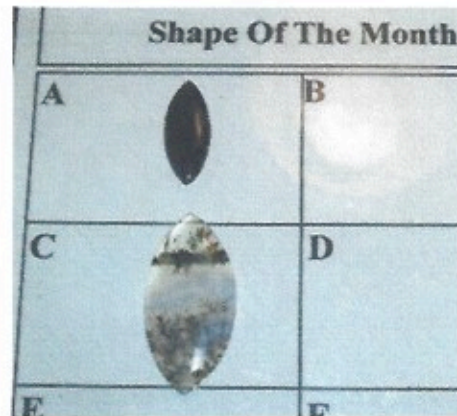
August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October - Rectangle (or Square)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Christmas party)



## Rockhounds on a Roll



The big news this month is the Valley Springs Powwow. The Powwow has been one of the big Rock-hound events in our part of California for the past 39 years. This year the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Powwow will run from October 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. Come for the day or camp on

site. Thursday will be Dealers buy and sell day with lunch by "Quilts of Honor" and a chili Cook-off. Friday is children' Day Friday, Saturday and Sunday Boy Scout troop 353 will have breakfast and lunch available for purchase, and there will be displays of Native American dancing, Mountain Men and Early Gas Engines. Speaking from personal experience, the American Indian Dancers (and especially their interaction with the Mountain Men) is especially entertaining. Ladies, hold on to your husbands or you are likely to find them sold to highest bidder. Sunday includes a non-denominational Church Service and ends with a special dinner (buy your tickets at the registration tent. For more information and great pictures of previous Powwows go on line to: [www.valleyspringspowwow.com](http://www.valleyspringspowwow.com).

Also, don't forget the Reno Gem and Mineral Society's' Craft show on October 10 – 12. There are plenty of Shows in driving distance this month although, as you can see, the field trips season is winding down. I am still waiting for final plans on the annual Wiley Wells Thanksgiving trip, which looks like it will be the week before Thanksgiving this year if it comes together. Keep your eye on next months' newsletter for more information.

Next Month starts with the most important show of the year. OURS! Now is the time to set aside November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (and October 31<sup>st</sup>) not just to enjoy another gem show, but to insure that the show that supports this club is a rousing success! YOUR help is needed! We need folks to help set up on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. On Saturday and Sunday people are needed to man the front desk, the silent auction, cafeteria, security, and many other positions. Please sign up at the meeting or contact show chairman Harry Nichandros. Also needed are people to do cases showing off their personal take

on rock-hounding! Please don't think your cab/slabs, minerals, painted rocks, carvings etc. are not good enough. Many a happy exhibitor had to be talked out of that thinking their first time too. If you need Styrofoam for your case risers let me know. I can get it for you. I will have some at the next meeting. If you have a special talent you would like to show off as a demonstrator, see me at the meeting. I need another cabbing demonstrator and a beading demonstrator. Do you do chainmail or wire wrap? The possibilities are endless! See everyone at the set up and at the show!

### OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5 2014 Valley Springs Pow Wow

For more information and great pictures of previous Powwows go on line to: [www.valleyspringspowwow.com](http://www.valleyspringspowwow.com).

### October 10 - 12: RENO, NV, Reno Gem & Mineral Society

Craft Show, Reno Town Hall, Corner of Peckham & So. Virginia Street

Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3, Contact: Theresa Langhans, (775) 475-0842

Email: [theresalanghans@yahoo.com](mailto:theresalanghans@yahoo.com), Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

### October 11 - 12: ANDERSON, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society

Shasta County Fairgrounds, Briggs Street

Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Steve Puderbaugh, (530) 604-2951

Email: [steve@applyaline.com](mailto:steve@applyaline.com), Website: [www.shastagemandmineral.com](http://www.shastagemandmineral.com)

### OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2014, GRASS VALLEY, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, 46th Annual Show

Nevada County Fairgrounds Main Exhibit Hall , Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM & Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM <http://www.ncgms.org/>

### Oct 18 - 19 El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society Show, Placerville

[www.rockandgemshow.org](http://www.rockandgemshow.org)

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2014, LOS ALTOS, CA 94022  
6th Annual Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Gem Show  
Civic Center, One North San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94022-3000, Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm  
<http://pggs.org>

**November 1-2, Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society, Concord, CA**

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA  
Saturday and Sunday, 10:00am to 5:00 pm  
Email: [showinfo@ccmgs.org](mailto:showinfo@ccmgs.org) Website:  
<http://ccmgs.org>

Nov 8 – 9 Sacramento Gem & Mineral Society Show,  
Sacramento [www.sacramentomineralsociety.org](http://www.sacramentomineralsociety.org)

NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2014 SANTA CRUZ, CA  
95062  
*3rd Annual Winter Rockin' Show!* Santa Cruz Winter  
Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Sale  
10 am to 5 pm, Live Oak Grange Hall, 1700 17th Ave.,  
Santa Cruz 95062  
<http://www.scmgs.org>



**Lunch time at the NBFT meeting**

**Photo by Chuck Olson**



**Mary Hicks at the NBFT auction table**

**Photo by Mary Jernigan**



**Silent auction table at NBFT meeting**

**Photo by Chuck Olson**

September 2014

# Show Express...



## What's Happening at the Concord Gem Show

*Show Express...* is often published August through December to keep club members informed of their upcoming Gem & Mineral Show in November. Articles to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Show Chairman, Harry Nichandros at 674-7055, [nichandros\[at\]juno.com](mailto:nichandros[at]juno.com)

## Show Chairman Message

### The Home Stretch

Looks like we are on the way to another terrific Gem & Mineral Show November 1 & 2.

The Front Door tables are nearly fully staffed, as are the Silent Auction and the Membership tables. Most display cases have been reserved, but there are still a few available. If you are interesting in preparing a display, call Therese while we still have spaces.

The Setup and Tear Down teams are doing well, but we will need more volunteers come Friday morning. So even if you haven't signed up, give us a hand. Friday morning is critical to the success of the show. We really need everyone we can get – especially at 7:00 am. With a good team, we can get the bulk of the work done by noon. It's a good feeling.

This year we are short on staffing for the Friday Lunch and Dealer Dinner, 11-1 pm and 3-7 pm Friday. There is very little cooking here – mostly heating lasagna, tossing salad, and organizing plates. Please volunteer for this. The chefs need help!

We have specific openings for the tasks below. For these, please give me a call at 674-7055 or email [nichandros\[at\]juno.com](mailto:nichandros[at]juno.com).

- Ballon pickup Friday
- Rock pickup and/or return, Friday & Sunday evening (silent auction)
- Kitchen help Friday afternoon and evening for the Worker Lunch and Dealer Dinner
- Directional Sign placement Saturday morning
- Sign & Banner placement throughout the week (before the show)
- Front door staffing, Sunday 10am and 2pm
- Trailer pick up and return

## Display Case Trophy Can You Make the Plastic Base?

Do you have a table saw? Can you cut Lucite sheets?

We are looking for someone to make sixty trophy bases for our November 2014 Show. Each year the club presents a trophy to each of the display case preparers to recognize and thank them for their display case presentation at the Show.

Last year Matt and Ann Matthews made the trophies as shown in the photo. They have retired to Oregon, and we are looking for someone to carry on for this year's Show.



The club provides the all the materials. We need someone who can cut and sand the 2"x3" plastic bases. If this is something you can do, give me a call or email. (By the way, you are not alone; Matt is still available by phone to share his expertise.)

Thanks, Harry  
Show Chairman

## Join Our Fluorescent Display

This year, the club will sponsor a fluorescent display case of members' rocks, minerals and fossils at the show. Club members are invited to display a few of their nicest rocks in a special display case designed with long and short ultraviolet lighting (UV-a & UV-c).



We will consider anything you think would be useful, interesting, or novel – as long as it lights up in the dark. (Well, almost anything. Live scorpions are out for this year).

Bring your rocks to the next general meeting with a tag with your name and a description including whatever you know of the rock, eg fluorescing minerals and location found. We will return them to you at the November meeting.

If you are interested, contact Harry.