

Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter January 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – January 2020

Welcome to 2020! I hope you all had wonderful holidays and are ready for an exciting new year. I like to think our show in November opened Show Season, the cooler months when most clubs have their shows and the amazing shows in Quartzsite and Tucson take place (Jan./Feb.) Whether your interest in minerals is as specimens, lapidary objects, or beading, you'll be amazed at what you can find and learn about at shows.

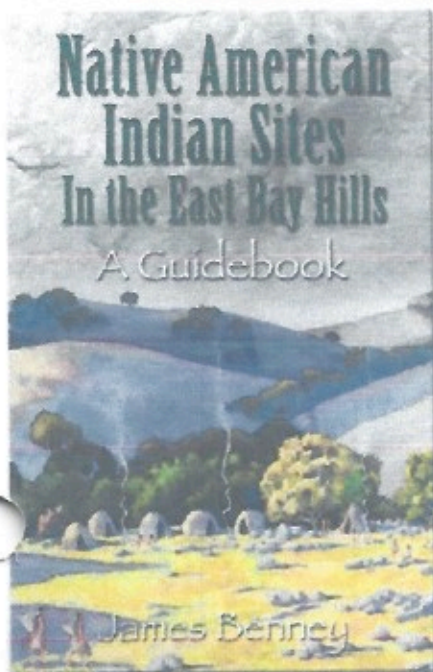
Make a note on your calendar right now to attend our sister club, Antioch Lapidary Club's, show Feb. 16-17 at the County Fairgrounds.

The next board meeting will be at my home on January 8 at 6 pm. If you have anything you'd like to present to the board, please get in touch with me at Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com

Donna Albrect



January 13th Meeting Speaker - James Benney



In 2006 James Benney published the guidebook *Native American Indian Sites In The East Bay Hills* and set up the website www.eastbayhillpeople.com not realizing at the time that the subject and information were off limits to Park and Water District managers, archaeologists, and many Native Americans.

Then and now he does not agree with their concerns and feels that their stance has contributed to the general public's lack of interest in and awareness of this important 10,000 years of local history.

Since then he wrote a short novel "Kaaknu The Volvon" describing the value he perceives of the Volvon tribe which may have been settled in the Black Hills and controlling access to the sacred areas of Mount Diablo for many of those 10,000 years.

We have located over 80 village, camp, and food processing sites in Volvon Territory and published detailed articles on "The Lost City" and Volvon Bedrock Mortars as well as promoting the concept of Volvon National Park.

The Board of Directors meeting was held at Donna Albrecht's home. Present: Donna Albrecht, Elizabeth Tanner, Mary Jernigan, Dick Pankey, Johanna Fenton, Caryl Taraldson, Terry Caskey and Kelly Plumb. Member guests were Betty Pankey and Taylor Thompson. BOD minutes for October 14th and October 9th were previously sent out to BOD for review. No BOD meeting was held in November. Secretary- Dick Pankey moved to accept the BOD minutes as written. Donna Albrecht seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes approved. Secretary- Mary Jernigan noted the correspondence received. Bank of America statement will be delivered to Treasurer- Mary Hanjes (not present). Mary J. paid the Club P.O. box fee \$140 for rental 12/1/19 to 11/30/2020 US Postal Service. Federation Director- Dick Pankey attended the CFMS meeting in November held in Visalia and is working on the meeting report. There was a large donation of cancelled stamps collected. NorthBay Fieldtrips' remaining funds were donated to CFMS and ALAA. The Co-op Fieldtrip chairman is trying to keep an email exchange going. In January, the annual ALAA \$50 renewal application will be due to American Land Access Association. Insurance payment to CFMS from CCM&GS will be due based on CCM&GS' membership as of 12/31/2019. Dick will be submitting his proposed expenses for 2020 Federation Director meetings. CFMS meetings will be held June in Lodi and November in Visalia.

Property- Terry Caskey informed the BOD that the Club storage locker is full. The Show trailer is back in storage. Hospitality- Kelly Plumb said that member Allen Felker is donating about ten (10) buckets of rocks and minerals. Storage space will need to be considered. The stained glass Diablo Dan made by Lee King, past member, may be at the Pankey's home. Terry will be talking to a Club member interested in being the Property chairman. Incoming 2020 1st Vice President/Programs- Elizabeth Tanner informed the BOD that the January speaker is pending confirmation. Elizabeth advised promoting more about the Club on social media platforms like CCM&GS website, Facebook, Nextdoor and others. Mary Jernigan asked BOD members to also give Elizabeth contacts or suggestions for future programs. President/Programs- Donna Albrecht will provide Elizabeth with more details regarding the Club's program equipment. Dick will find contact info on Rick Kennedy's Amethyst Mines program. Hospitality- Kelly Plumb is organizing the December Holiday Dinner on 12/9. Doors open at 6:30pm, Potluck dinner served at 7pm. Terry Caskey will confirm set-up time with Centre Concord. Club members will be contacted via phone tree by Joanne Caskey, Pat Howard and Kelly. The ladies are cooking up ham, turkey and mashed potatoes. Club members will be asked to bring main dishes, sides and desserts. Member- Betty Pankey has created stained glass bells to add to the table center décor. Mary Jernigan will send out an email reminder about the Holiday Potluck Dinner. Kelly Plumb and Vikki Hotopp will also continue as the 2020 hospitality and refreshments committee. **Thank you, Ladies!**

Newsletter Editor- Johanna Fenton uses Publisher software to create the Diggins' newsletter, but other software is also available. Johanna has offered to forward past files to the next editor. A new editor has not yet been confirmed, but interest as Editor has been mentioned. **Thank you, Johanna, for being our Diggins' Newsletter Editor this year!** We know that it has been a very busy year for you and greatly appreciate your commitment to our Club. President- Donna Albrecht recently received the updated Centre Concord contract for meeting dates. Contract will be reviewed, then returned. Donna emailed and distributed copies of the CCM&GS Income/Expense report through 11/27/2019 and BOD To Do Calendar prepared by Treasurer- Mary Hanjes (not present). Items were discussed and to be reviewed again by the BOD members. Request addition of Website renewal to calendar. **Thank you, Mary Hanjes!** New business- Future days for BOD and Committee meetings may be alternating days on Tuesday evening or Sunday afternoon. At this time, BOD meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays at 6pm. Social Media contact- BOD discussed more involvement through social media sources to promote CCM&GS' Club programs/speakers, meetings, fieldtrips and activities. Education- We need an Education chairperson to organize classes. BOD discussed shared effort by BOD with Club members to help find/schedule potential instructors and classes. Metal embossing and petrified wood classes were mentioned as possibilities. Donna moved to adjourn the meeting. Johanna seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next BOD meeting to be on Wednesday 1/8 6pm at Donna's.

Mary Jernigan – Secretary/Membership



NBFT Donation to ALAA and CFMS Endowment Fund

Dick and Betty Pankey

North Bay Field Trips disbanded this past September and we performed our last official duties as President and as Secretary/Treasurer. Betty wrote the final 2 checks to the CFMS Endowment Fund and to ALAA; each for \$318.09. I presented the checks to Sharon Rogow, Chair of the CFMS Endowment Fund and to Frank Mullaney, the ALAA Treasurer, during the CFMS Directors' meeting in early November at Visalia.



STAMPS STAMPS STAMPS

Dick Pankey

I had a hiatus and missed 3 CFMS Directors' meetings in 2018 and 2019 but the CFMS Stamp Snippers just kept on snipping and saving. I warned the directors that I would attend the Visalia meeting and to bring their stamps. My own society, the Contra Costa M&GS, kept bringing in their stamps to me and several other societies made special deliveries to me over the last few months so by the time I left to Visalia I had a substantial load. When I announced that the "stamp donation door was open" I was overwhelmed by the many directors that brought their societies' stamps. We received the most stamps that I have ever seen; 3 boxes and 8 gallon zip lock bags full. We overloaded Debbie this year.

So a big THANK YOU to the CFMS Directors and their societies who 'snipped' and brought in their stamps; to Debbie Bunn who takes our donated stamps to Sacramento and conveys them to the Easter Seal Foundation. If you were unable to participate this year we will do it again next November. If you have questions and need more information please contact me.



CFMS Fall Director's Meeting

By Dick Pankey, Federation Director

The second weekend in November brings our annual trek to Visalia for the CFMS Director's business meeting. In addition to all of the business, the activities and the energy of the CFMS Directors' Meeting, the weekend is the opportunity to see friends and colleagues again that you may see only once or twice a year at these meetings. The mid-year meeting is held as part of the annual Show and Convention. The fall meeting is devoted to the business of the Federation including adopting next year's budget, election of officers, committee reports and the like. And this year was no different. Some of what we do is a bit dry but it is important and necessary for a strong and affective Federation. In addition to the Directors' meeting I attended Long Range Planning Committee meeting made up of all CFMS Past Presidents, the Cracker Barrel, and the installation banquet.

Friday evening there was the Cracker Barrel which is an informal get-together for socializing and sharing of ideas with other directors. Following the introductions of past CFMS and AFMS presidents, all military veterans were honored for their service. There was a discussion of ideas for advertizing and promoting club shows. Also discussed was the need for societies to host future CFMS Shows. We had a live and silent auction of donated slab, rocks and jewelry for the benefit of the CFMS Endowment Fund.

Following the introductions of past CFMS and AFMS presidents all veterans were invited to introduce themselves with name, rank, serial numbers and years of service. We had about 10 veterans in attendance. A fitting tribute because Veteran's Day was Friday. Jim Brace-Thompson presented a Power Point presentation on his trip to Scotland for a wedding sightseeing and agate collecting.

The main purpose the banquet on Saturday evening was to install the 2020 officers.

Saturday morning registration for the Directors' meeting started at 8:00. I go early to meet and greet old friends from around the state that I typically see only a few times a year. The meeting started at 9:00.

Directors' Meeting highlights:

- The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge to the Flag, the Invocation and the In Memoriam to recognize departed members. Each society is given an opportunity to give the names of departed members from their society.
- Following the introductions of past CFMS and AFMS presidents, all military veterans were honored for their service. We had about 10 veterans in attendance. A fitting tribute because Veteran's Day was on Saturday.
- There was a fair turnout of directors; 43 directors representing approximately 104 societies; all 5 officers and about 25 committee chairs. When a society does not have a director present their society does not have a voice in the business of the Federation. The number of societies in CFMS and the number of directors that attends this meeting continues to decline
- There were no delinquent society and 1 disbanded societies and no new member applications.
- The Treasurer's report was received and accepted. The 2019 budget was a deficit budget but current projections indicate we will finish the year with a lower deficit than projected.. The 2020 budget was presented and passed. The last few CFMS Budgets were deficit budgets but the proposed budget for 2020 is in the black. Fortunately, there is the CFMS Endowment Fund to fall back on if we have a short fall.

- The 2019 Show was put on by the Pasadena society. Besides being a great show it was financially very successful earning \$3000 for the Federation.
- No society volunteered the 2020 Convention and Show so it will be put on by the Federation at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, CA. At this time plans for the 2021 show are pending.
- The officers for 2020 were elected: President - Marcia Goetz, 1st VP - Juanita Pardun, 2nd VP - Jim Barton, Ellen Ferrell, Treasurer - Bob Rush and Secretary -. Kimberly Fiala. Being an officer in the CFMS is typically a 5 year commitment of "going through the chair".
- There will not be an increase in dues or insurance for 2020. The dues are \$1.25 to the CFMS and \$.75 to the AFMS per member. The insurance is \$6.00. Total due to CFMS is \$8.00 per member which is the same for the last few years.
- I was appointed to the 2020 Nominating, Membership and Golden Bear Committee.
- Again this year there were no entries in the CFMS All American Club. This is a great competition where the society prepares a scrapbook of the year's activities and accomplishments. CCM&GS has not entered since 2003. We have a strong, active and involved society and could score well. We just need someone willing to assemble our book.
- The CFMS Endowment Fund is well funded and has strong earnings and donations.
- Membership in the CFMS is declining, both societies and individuals. Society membership is declining and it is becoming increasingly difficult getting members to become officers and committee chairmen. The Membership Committee is developing ideas to address these issues. One suggestion is to have each officer and committee chair to present to the membership what their position entails at a meeting and in the newsletter.
- There were no CFMS Scholarships awarded in 2019 because the local societies did not nominate any honorees. No honoree = No scholarships. The \$2000 CFMS Scholarships go to undergraduate students. The CFMS Scholarship fund has over \$106,142 available for scholarships but can not be awarded unless a local society (our society?) nominates an honoree to help select and present a scholarship to an undergraduate student. CCM&GS can nominate an honoree. There are sufficient funds for scholarships but they can only be given out by an honoree nominated by a CFMS society. The CCM&GS may nominate an honoree to recognize the service of one of our members to education.
- The following forms were passed out for CCM&GS to complete and return: Ad Hoc Electronic Communications, Officer Change Form, Dues and Insurance form, Order sheet for Bars and Triangles (service awards), Video Programs Order Form, and Show Dates Form. These forms are available from me and on line.
- I accepted stamps from the directors, See report and picture elsewhere in this newsletter. Debbie Bunn will take these stamps to Easter Seals Society in the name of CFMS. Thanks to all of you that saved and gave me stamps over the past year. Saving stamps has been an ongoing project of the Federation, which is a moneymaker for the Easter Seal Society. It is easy to help; just cut any and all stamps from you mail, put them in an envelope or zip lock bag and give them to me

NBFT Donation to ALAA and CFMS Endowment Fund. See report and pictures.

The CFMS Newsletter is available on line at www.cfmsinc.org. I hope that you take the time to read it or at least scan through it. There is something of interest for all of us. .

If you want to know more about the CFMS and this recent directors meeting I have the complete meeting packet that has the agenda, minutes of the November 2019 meeting, committee reports, Treasurer's report and other Federation business. I will have it available at the next few Board meetings and general membership meetings or give me a call.



"2020 Membership Dues are Due by February 1st"

****Important CCM&GS Membership 2020 Dues Notice****

CCM&GS Membership dues - Adults \$20, Juniors \$10 effective for 2020 membership year.

2020 Membership dues are due and payable beginning November 1, 2019.

Membership renewals are due by February 1st. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for being part of our Rockhound Family!

Mary Jernigan- CCM&GS Secretary & Membership
(925) 852-1133



Members News

January Birthdays-

Mary Hicks 1/1
Kim Kleesattel 1/3
Mary Hanjes 1/7
Alan Felker 1/10
Howard Shamy 1/17
Mark Blackman 1/20
Lyle Roessler 1/28
Paul Black 1/28

January Anniversaries-

Dave & Kim Kleesattel 1/1

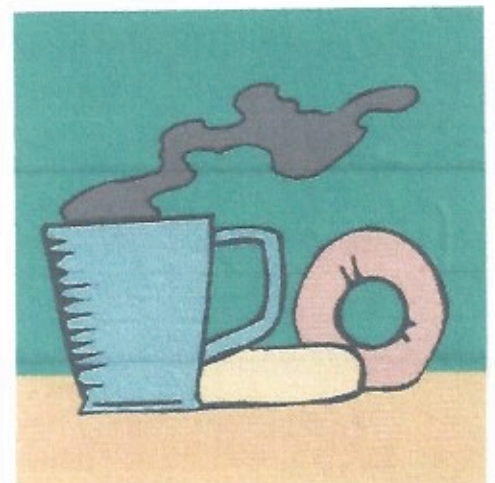
January Refreshments-

The following members are scheduled to bring refreshments to the January General Meeting on 1/13.

If you are not planning on attending, please trade snack responsibility with another Club member.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness! Mary Jernigan- Membership

Donna Albrecht
Kathleen Baird
Carey Ballard
Barrie Bieler
Paul Black (if You are in Cal)
Larry Blevins
Mark & Mary Bufton
Gary Casillas
Joanne & Terry Caskey
Gregory Defabio
Dick Dennis
Bonnie Eichler
Cheri Elliott
Mark Ellsberry



Visiting Vasco Caves Regional Preserve – submitted by Mary Jernigan

On 11/24/19, we took a guided tour with the East Bay Regional Park District to visit the Vasco Caves Regional Preserve near Brentwood. Karen Oliver found the description of the Vasco Caves and its' limited tour dates, so we definitely had to make reservations for another interesting roadtrip! Visit website www.ebparks.org/parks/vasco. The Preserve is not open to the general public in order to protect its' sensitive sacred cultural and natural resources. Only digital and film cameras were allowed to take pictures to prevent GPS tracking with smart phones. Participants were asked to follow and honor this important request.

EBRPD Naturalist Kevin Dixon took us on a four mile adventure hiking through the Vasco Caves area viewing the mysterious rock outcroppings of Arkose sandstone. Arkose, a sedimentary rock, is coarse sandstone containing at least 25% feldspar. High concentrations of quartz with mica are also found in this area. Ancient mortar bowels were discovered carved into the rock. Giant concretions, sphere shaped rock masses, strangely seemed to emerge from the formations. Wind caves, the hollows in the rock formations, were used by the Native peoples as stone homes. We viewed ancient sacred petroglyphs with binoculars. Native Folklore told stories of Shaman rituals honoring Nature's connection to their people. The petroglyphs revealed many winged Spirit images possibly depicting the golden eagle, red tailed hawk, prairie falcon or screech owl seen soaring in the skies. The Native peoples survived by studying the plant life, using horn hound herb for sore throats and elderberry for alertness. Native plants and seeds have long roots to survive in the dry areas of the rain shadow.

Through Kevin's teachings, we learned more about the fragile ecosystem including the kit fox, coyote, dusty footed mouse, ground squirrel, endangered red-legged frog, tiger salamander, Gilbert salamander, elusive badger and fairy shrimp. The endangered fairy shrimp are found in limited habitats of vernal pools in Oregon and California. Swimming upside down, the fairy shrimp feed on algae in the vernal pools. The fairy shrimp have an interesting adaption for survival. The eggs called cysts are encased in a hard protective shell to survive in the soil when the vernal pools evaporate. The eggs are revived and hatch when the new rains arrive. New beginnings, more new adventures to experience! Check out the East Bay Regional Park District activities calendar. We highly recommend EBRPD nature activities, especially tours lead by awesome Naturalist Kevin Dixon. We heard that Black Diamond Mines/Hazel Atlas Sand Mine Tours in Antioch are planning to reopen in March 2020. Let's go explore the underground caverns together!



Creative People!

Monthly Display Contests! Bring your creations to the General Meeting.

Categories include: Faceted stones, Wearable art, Novice cabochons, Pro cabochons, and Shape of the month cabochons.

Upcoming shapes of the month: January—irregular, February—heart, March—round.

Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem Rock Show

Saturday, February 15, 2020 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies,
Auction, Grab Bags, Exhibits and
Hands on projects for kids

Admission: \$6.00

Children 12 & under / Scouts in uniform – Free

Active Military with ID – Free

Info: Brenda Miguel 925-301-6957

brenda.miguel@yahoo.com

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1201 WEST 10th STREET
ANTIOCH, CA

\$1.00 Off Admission With This Flyer

55th Annual Vallejo Gem & Mineral Show

February 22 -23, 2020

Solano County Fairgrounds

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo CA

Info: vjgems.org

Other Shows

CCMGS 2020 Board Members:

2020 Elected Officers:

President:

Donna Albrecht

1stVicePresident/Programs:

Donna Albrecht

donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:

Mario Mihalik

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Treasurer:

Mary Hanjes

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Federation Director:

Dick Pankey

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2020 Appointed Officers:

Annual Show:

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Display:

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Terry Caskey

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Naomi Morgan

Web Master:

Johanna Fenton

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