



Diablo Diggings

"We Dig Rocks"
Since 1950

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

November, 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Fall and Show Season! Ours is this weekend, November 2-3! Be sure to join in all the fun and activities! If you want to participate and haven't already signed up, contact Mary Jemigan at m10jemigan@yahoo.com

We have a newly-elected slate of officers who will be sworn in at our December holiday party. There's a lot of positive energy and we're looking forward to making a few tweaks to make your membership more fun and educational than ever before!

We still have a need for a few members to step up and participate in the management of the club activities. We're especially looking for someone to do our monthly newsletter. It involves gathering reports submitted by several sources in the group including the announcements of the upcoming program, and put them together in a newsletter. Newsletter experience is nice, but not necessary. We have an automatic program to send them out by email.

We also need someone to manage our website: www.contracostaminalandgemsociety.org it involves updating it at least monthly and posting items from members as necessary.

Both of these positions give you a seat on the board of directors where you can enjoy being a part of club direction and decisions. Your input is wanted and valued.

Best, Donna Albrecht

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday November 11, 2019

The **Bonanza King** author Gregory Crouch will discuss John Mackay, who got his start in the United States as a destitute Irish immigrant brought here when he was 9 years old. Mackay grew up in New York City's Five Points slum ("The Gangs of New York neighborhood), came of age amid the violent mayhem of the California Gold Rush, and rose to manhood in the deep, rich, and outrageously dangerous mines of the Comstock Lode beneath Virginia City, Nevada.

(continued on page 4)



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2019, 7:31pm- 8:55pm

President- Donna Albrecht welcomed the members and guests attending the General Meeting. Everyone was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Donna informed the membership that she would announce the 2020 Slate for the Board of Directors with nominations also being accepted from the membership. Donna announced each office separately and requested the Membership to vote by voice on each nomination. The Membership voted and the 2020 Officers for Board of Directors were accepted.

President- Donna Albrecht

1st Vice President/ Programs- Elizabeth Tanner

2nd Vice President/ Fieldtrips- Mario Milhalik
(nominated & accepted open position)

Secretary- Mary Jernigan

Treasurer- Mary Hanjes

Federation Director- Dick Pankey

Donna also announced the Committee positions and asked for interested members to contact her or any BOD member for more information. Donna asked if there were members interested in having a Club vest made for them. She also asked for volunteers to sew the vests. No one has yet offered to help with this task.

Hospitality- Kelly Plumb read the October birthdays and anniversaries. Kelly drew the door prize tickets for members and guests to choose their rock specimen. Display- Cheryl Morgan invited members to cast their vote for the monthly Display competition of cabs and jewelry designs. Membership- Mary Jernigan welcomed new member Aaron Pardini to the CCM&GS Family. Mary reminded everyone **"Our Club still needs members to volunteer as next year's CCM&GS Newsletter Editor and Website Master. We need your expertise!"** Mary reminded everyone to sign-up as volunteers for the Club Show. We need everyone's help to make our 2019 Show a great Success! There are lots of activities and tasks to be completed. Membership Dues are due in November for the 2020 membership year. Dues are Adults \$20 and Juniors \$10 (under 18 yrs old). Mary will be contacting CCM&GS members about volunteering for the Club Show and Membership dues renewal.

President- Donna Albrecht introduced the evening's program speaker, Sheahan Stephen. Sheahan educated us about the importance and responsibilities to have a clear "chain of custody" in the sale of gemstones. He shared an intriguing presentation and photos on the gemstone mining trades from Sri Lanka and Madagascar. He captured our attention providing us with an insightful journey about sapphire mining, identification, cutting, treatments, sales and the exporting of these precious gemstones. We

learned that a gem quality stone is typically sold within 24- 48 hours after it is taken from the ground. Educating and supporting the local mining communities to become self-sustaining in the gem trades is one of Sheahan's true passions. This was another incredible presentation greatly appreciated by everyone!

- Mary Jernigan, Secretary/ Membership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2019, 6:21pm- 7:35pm

The Board of Directors meeting was held at Donna Albrecht's home. Present: Donna Albrecht, Johanna Fenton, Mary Jernigan, Dick Pankey, Mike Hopkins, Caryl Taraldson and member Taylor Thompson. Prior BOD meeting minutes had been resent to the BOD for review. Reviewed were BOD Meeting Minutes September 4, June 3 minutes and June 25 brief meeting. (August 7- No BOD meeting or minutes, July- No BOD meeting minutes taken) Donna moved to accept the BOD minutes. Johanna seconded. A vote was taken, minutes approved.

Show- Mike Hopkins met with the person referred by Cheryl Morgan to help with the Show food service set-up. Mike moved to accept the food service coordinator (person's name -Mike to confirm). Terry seconded. A vote was taken and approved. More food choices were added to the menu. Nachos and fruit cups were requested. Mike has obtained the food service permit. Students are scheduled from Concord High to help with food service.

Display cases- Dick Pankey has ordered a plaque for the winner of the Peoples' Choice Award, favorite display case at the 2019 Show. Everyone attending the Annual Show will be asked to fill out a ballot for their favorite display case. Who will be the 2019 Show winner? So far, Dick has received seventeen applications for display cases. Dick will be contacting previous exhibitors to submit a display case. Dick brought Betty's pattern for the Club member vests made several years ago. Donna will pick up similar vest patterns and ask Club members if someone is willing to sew vests for interested Club members.

President- Donna Albrecht will announce at the General meeting, the nominated Slate of Officers for the 2020 Board of Directors and ask if there are any additional nominations from the membership. Committee positions will also be announced. CCM&GS Activity Schedule - The BOD will discuss items that need to be calendared with timeline dates. Treasurer- Mary Hanjes and Secretary- Mary Jernigan will work together on this schedule. U.S. Post Office box rental is due at the end of November. Mary Jernigan will follow-up on the annual rental fee and payment. Mary J. has received the insurance certificate for the Show Event. The insurance for the Board of Directors is pending completion and should be completed

by next week. Mary J. has submitted the 2018 Raffle Report to the State. Donna will be ordering the service triangles and bars for the BOD and Committee members.

Newsletter Publisher / Website Master- Johanna Fenton uses Publisher software for the newsletter. Word or other software may also be used to publish the newsletter. **The Club really needs a member to take over the Diggins' Newsletter Editor and Website duties for 2020.** Johanna needs to pass the baton onto the next Editor. Please contact Johanna or any BOD member for information. Articles for the November newsletter to be submitted by October 25th or preferably earlier.

The BOD discussed the need for a protective case to transport the Club's program equipment and laptop. Newsletter Editor- Johanna Fenton moved to allocate up to \$200 to purchase a hard sided rolling case to transport the computer and Club equipment. Dick seconded. A vote was taken and motion approved. Donna will research the appropriate case needed. Librarian- Caryl Taraldson asked about access to the library kept in the Club storage unit. Caryl will make arrangements with Mike Hopkins to check out the library books and videos. Federation Director- Dick Pankey informed the BOD that sadly NorthBay Fieldtrips was officially disbanding. NorthBay Fieldtrips group will continue with their yahoo group. Dean Weilder maintains that yahoo group.

Publicity- Mike Hopkins talked about the **Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Facebook page. Yes, type it out to avoid other unauthorized sites.** Check it out for other Rockhound info and events. Share with your contact lists. Links to blogs may also be available or articles with credit given from other sites. Mike is purchasing kids' California Minerals booklets to have at the Show Membership table. Quantities will be limited. Johanna mentioned that other literature/pamphlets may be available from the U.S Geological Survey as outreach to teachers and educa-

tors. Club Holiday Party- Kelly Plumb (not present) will be coordinating the Club dinner for December and requesting volunteers. Next Show Meeting will be Tuesday October 15th, 6pm at the Caskeys' home. The next BOD meeting may be held just before the General meeting on November 11th to address any business required. President- Donna Albrecht moved to close the BOD meeting. Johanna seconded.
- Mary Jernigan, Secretary

October 15, 2019, 8:19pm- 8:24pm

A brief BOD meeting was called after the Show Meeting since a quorum was readily available. Meeting was at the Caskeys' home. Present: Donna Albrecht, Mary Hanjes, Mary Jernigan, Mike Hopkins, Terry Caskey, Chuck Olson, Cheryl Morgan. Membership- Mary Jernigan moved to accept new Membership application of Georgia Floyd-Skaggs. Georgia attended the last General meeting with Cheryl and Naomi Morgan. Georgia is interested in cabbaging, casting, fossils and geology. Cheryl seconded the motion. A vote was taken and membership accepted. Mary J. moved to accept the reinstated membership application of Brenda Flowers. Brenda has been a past CCM&G member interested in many aspects of the Rockhound hobbies also participating in jewelry making and casting. Great to have you back with us, Brenda! Mike Hopkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and membership accepted. Please welcome Georgia and Brenda at our upcoming Show and meetings! Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm
- Mary Jernigan, Secretary



MONTHLY DISPLAY COMPETITION

Members are eligible to enter these competitions and win recognition. As long as there are two or more items entered in the area of competition, the winner is eligible to win a cash prize!

- ◆ **Faceted Stones**
- ◆ **Wearable Art**
- ◆ **Cabochons:** We have three categories for you to compete in:
 - NOVICE:** Any member who has not won the "Pro" designation in previous years.
 - PRO:** Any member who has won the "Pro" designation in previous years.
 - SHAPE OF THE MONTH:** Pros and Novices compete side-by-side.

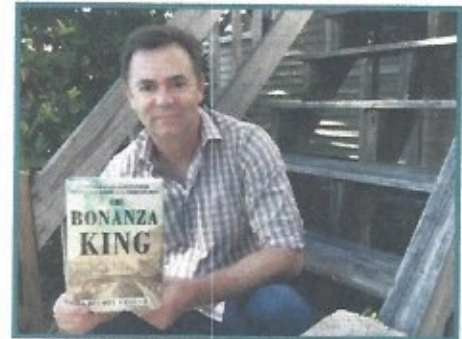
Upcoming shapes are: **November:** oval, **December:** no competition.



(November program, continued from page 1)

On the Comstock, Mackay worked his way up from nothing, battling the pernicious "Bank Ring" of California capitalists who'd monopolized the lode, and struck the legendary Big Bonanza, a stupendously valuable body of gold and silver ore buried 1,500 feet below the center of the town. The extraordinary wealth Mackay extracted from the Comstock Lode drove wild stock market frenzies in San Francisco. When John Mackay died in 1902—with a personal fortune equivalent to about \$50 billion modern dollars—front page obituaries all over Europe and the United States hailed him as one of the most admired Americans of the age.

Gregory Crouch is a writer who specializes in adventurous and historic subjects. He is the author of the Comstock epic, *The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West*, the World War II flying adventure *China's Wings: War, Romance, Intrigue, and Adventure in the Middle Kingdom*. In 1988, Gregory Crouch graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he studied military history. During his active service, he completed U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools and led two infantry platoons.



FIELD TRIPS

Nov. 16, 2019

Georgetown, CA
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
For Crystals.

Contact John Dolman (530) 272-3752, john95670@yahoo.com.

Jan. 16, 2020

Ye Old Timers Mineral Club's Quartzite Camp.
These are a great and fun bunch of folks to camp with.
It's dry camping, with amenities nearby, and open to all
Rockhounds and guests.

Approximately 5 miles north of Quartzite,
right on Plomosa Rd.
Watch for YOTMC signs on the right side,
about 1.1 miles in.

Jan. 16-20 2019

Quartzite, AZ
Quartzite Improvement Asso.
Powwow Road Trips.

The association sponsors two different field trips a day.
This is an area rich in material. And these are well lead

trips.

No further details yet, but keep checking with them at, <http://www.qiaarizona.org/PowWow.html> And search around on the site for, "Pow Wow Road Trips."

ALWAYS CONTACT THE FIELD TRIP LEADER BEFORE THE TRIP!!!

Let me know if you'd like more information on these, or anything else.

So as long as We're within range of a Cel. signal, I'm here, or there, to share any information I have, at olson86@yahoo.com, or (925) 890-7116.

Rockhounding With Sally!



Upcoming Field Trips

****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.**

Mary Jernigan- Membership

CCMGS MINERAL & GEM SHOW & SALE NOVEMBER 2-3, 2019



MINERAL & GEM SHOW & SALE

Saturday & Sunday

Nov. 2-3

10 AM - 5 PM

**\$1
OFF**
with this
card

Gems • Jewelry • Minerals
Fossils • Meteorites
Flourescent Room
Beads • Findings
Tools • Equipment
Demonstrations • Displays
Kids Activities
Door Prizes • Raffle • Auction
Snacks • Food • Drinks

Centre Concord

5298 Clayton Rd., Concord
behind In-Shape Fitness
next to Clayton Valley Bowl

Admission \$6

Under 16 FREE with adult.

Scouts in Uniform FREE

Military & First Responders
FREE with ID

WE DIG ROCKS

BE PART OF THE CLUB CASES AT THE SHOW!

Something new this year for our show. We are having two CLUB CASES to show the depth and breadth of all the great stuff we do. If you would like to contribute an item for display, we will be setting up on Friday.

During the setup for the show on Friday our Club Cases will be open to receive items from 2 -6 p.m. James Waters or Mike Hopkins will photograph the items with the person holding the item. Members will get back their item after closing on Sunday. I or someone on the committee will compare the item to the photo to release the item. Only the person dropping the item will be allowed to pick up the item. Kelly has offered to set up the cases.

ITEMS NEEDED for the ROCKHOUND RAFFLE & MEMBERSHIP TABLES

Rockhound Raffle & Membership need your donations for our 2019 Show!
If you have interesting specimens, jewelry or other Rockhound items of interest to donate, just let me know before the Show. Rockhound & Jewelry magazines are also requested for our Membership table as giveaways. Let's show everyone how CCM&GS Members really ROCK!

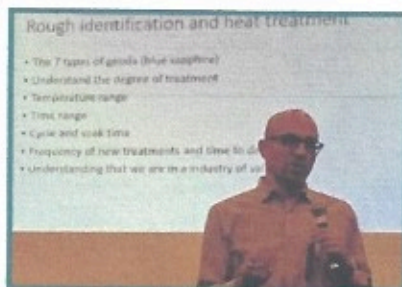
- Mary Jernigan (925) 852-1133



OCTOBER PROGRAM NOTES & PHOTOS

Article and photos submitted by Mary Jernigan

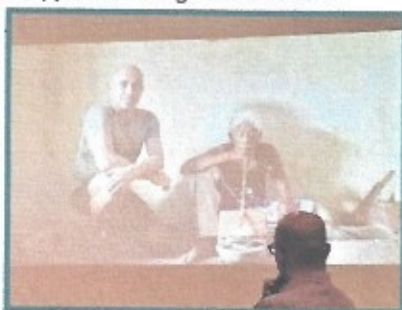
10/14/19 Guest Speaker- Sheahan Stephen presented a captivating program on Sapphires from Sri Lanka. Sheahan definitely believes in educating the local miners in the gem trades to ensure sustainability. With increased knowledge and experience, the Sri Lanka miners are able to help support and take care of their communities.



Sapphires—rough identification



Sapphires—miners



Sapphires—heated to lighten color



Faye, Naomi & Joe - Long time CCM&GS Club Members

NORTH BAY FIELD TRIPS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

North Bay Field Trips was founded January 5, 1974. On September 21, 2019, by vote of the Officers and Directors, it was disbanded. The end came slowly; decline in hosted field trips, low to very low attendance at our Spring and Fall meetings, culminating with not being able to get a host society and canceling our Spring 2019 meeting. The excitement for NBFT, the interest in NBFT and apparently the need for NBFT was gone.

I called our final Board meeting to Order and welcomed the 4 Officers, 4 Directors, and 3 Committee Chairs. Betty, NBFT Secretary/Treasurer, passed out the minutes of our last meeting on September 22, 2018, and our final Treasurers'. An Audit committee was appointed. There was no old business. We moved into New Business. The motion was made to disband NBFT and disburse the funds in the Treasury equally between CFMS Endowment Fund and ALAA. Motion passed. It was that simple, that easy and 45 years of sharing field trips, seminars, Spring and Fall meetings, potlucks, and silent auctions passed into history. All that remains are memories.

Dean Welder has agreed to continue the NBFT Yahoo Group for as long as it is being used. He will contact the Group Members through NBFT Group site.

When I sat down to write this last Presidents Message I thought that there would be more to say, more that needed to be said. But this is all that needs to be said.

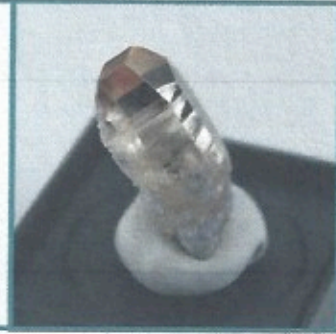
Keep on rockin', *Dick Pankey*

NOVEMBER'S BIRTHSTONE: TOPAZ

Learn about topaz from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) here:

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones>

Photo: topaz crystal (c) J. Fenton.



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Daylight Saving (end) <i>Fall Back</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day General Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Field Trip
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30
		Notes				

MEMBER NEWS



BIRTHDAYS:

Dennis Freiburger	11/3
Douglas Rue	11/5
Shannon Merrill	11/14
Michael Fedoroff	11/27
Renard Perucho	11/28
Betty Pankey	11/30

ANNIVERSARIES:

Barbara & Daniel Maco	11/12
Joe & Faye Yarbrough	11/21



NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS

The following members are scheduled to bring refreshments to the November General Meeting. If you are listed and are not planning to attend, will you trade snack responsibility with another club member?

Thank you for your thoughtfulness!, Mary Jernigan- Membership

Dick & Betty Pankey
 Aaron Pardini
 Renard Perucho
 Kelly Plumb
 Bob Rigor
 Alan Robbins
 Lyle Roessler
 Bill Schaub
 Edie Sandberg

Howard Shamy
 Diana Skibiel
 Elizabeth Tanner
 Caryl Taraldson
 Steven Ward
 James Waters
 Hazel Woolsey
 Joe Yarbrough



IMPORTANT: Effective January 1, 2019, renters of City Facilities are **prohibited** from serving food or beverages on/in disposable foam polystyrene (Styrofoam) food and beverage containers.

CCMGS 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

2019 Elected Officers:

President:
 Donna Albrecht

1stVicePresident/Programs:
 Donna Albrecht
 donna@lapidarywhisperer.com

2ndVicePresident/Fieldtrips:
 Chuck Olson
 (925) 890-7116
 olson86@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer:
 Mary Hanjes
 925-765-2741
 mrhanjes@gmail.com

Federation Director:
 Dick Pankey
 (925) 439-7509
 dickpankey@juno.com

2019 Appointed Officers:

Annual Show:
 Mike Hopkins
 mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

Display:
 Cheryl Morgan
 cherylmorgan09@yahoo.com

Hospitality:
 Kelly Plumb
 (510) 693-9075
 kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Librarian:
 Paul Black
 (925) 826-6716

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

Newsletter Editor:
 Johanna Fenton
 johfenton@yahoo.com

Past President:

Kelly Plumb
 (510) 693-9075
 kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

Property:
 Terry Caskey

Publicity:
 Mike Hopkins
 mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net

Refreshments:
 Vikki Hotopp
 (925) 566-8588

Sargent of Arms:
 Naomi Morgan

Web Master:
 Johanna Fenton
 johfenton@yahoo.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors
No November meeting.

For more information, contact Donna Albrecht

General Meeting

Monday, November 11, doors open 6:30 p.m., program 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA

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

General meeting on the second Monday of each month at Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA 94521 (Clayton Fair Shopping Center between Ygnacio Valley Rd. and Balham Dr. next to Clayton Valley Bowl.)

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

We're on the web!
www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org

We're on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the
Contra Costa Mineral
and Gem Society

Editor:
Johanna Fenton

Send reports/articles/
pictures by the 25th
of the month to:
[johfenton@
yahoo.com](mailto:johfenton@yahoo.com)

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Member of American and California
Federation of Mineralogical Societies