



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 66 Number 6 June, 2019

Calendar of Coming Events

June 13 to 19 - Virgin Valley /Prineville Field Trip

June 23 - Founder's Day Picnic

June 25 - Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45 Panel discussion on Virgin Valley/Prineville field trip.

June 27- Board Meeting at Stephen May's home

June 29 - Rock Sale from 9:00AM until Noon at 15851 Izorah Way, Los Gatos

July 23 - Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45 Kyle Van Woerkom Australia Trip.

July 25 - Board Meeting at Michele Smith's home

August 1-4 SCVGMS will have an Interactive Display at the Santa Clara County Fair. Details will follow in the July issue.

August 27 - Meet and Greet at 7:15 and General Meeting at 7:45 Alan Achor will discuss airplanes

August 29 - Board Meeting at Sonia Dyer's home

Note: There will be no Smithies classes for June and July.

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General Information

President's Message

By Michele Smith

It is officially summer! Well, at least as far as the evidence of the empty school near me and the neighborhood families packing up for their vacations. The weather seems to be cooperating, and there are always a lot of things to do.

Check out the field trips in the Breccia. So far there are six trips planned for June while May had six. The first two June trips happened in the first weekend. The trips visit mines, open fields, creeks, lakeshores, etc. You are out in nature, usually camping, with a group of people who will make sure you learn how to behave, have the right gear, get fed, and have a great time. Some of the field trips are managed by SCVGMS, and others are managed by other Gem and Mineral groups. For trip details look further in this issue.

Don't forget about the Founder's Day Picnic, held at the Cabana Club, on Sunday, June 23rd.

And it is official! **SCVGMS will have an interactive display at the Santa Clara County Fair, held from August 1st to August 4th. If you would like to help set up, volunteer, or tear down, let me know.** All volunteers will get a fair ticket and free parking for the day. We will have a touch table run by Jim Fox. Donna Kelly has agreed to demonstrate flint knapping. There will also be fluorescent display cases, rock tumbling, and possibly, a liquefaction table which shows one of the known earthquake effects. Our own Prospector Bob (Kout) will greet, talk about minerals, and give out rock samples to children.

All ideas are welcome and can be communicated to Michele Smith at MicheleSmith801@comcast.net or phone 408-679-0202.

Collecting Rocks

Poem and Illustration From the September 1972 Breccia

I think that there shall never be an ignoramous just like me,
Who roams the hills throughout the day, to pick up rocks that do not pay.
For there's one thing I've been told, I take the rocks and leave the gold.
Over deserts wild and mountains blue, I search for rocks of varied hue,
A hundred pounds or more I pack, with blistered feet and aching back.
And after this is said and done, I can not name a single one.
I pick up rocks where 'er I go, for reasons why I do not know.
For rocks are found by fools like me, where God intended them to be.

Author Unknown

Editorial Opinion

By Jo Borucki

My husband, Bill, our friend Gene, and I wanted to look for Opal at the Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine in the Virgin Valley area of Nevada on its opening day, May 24. We had been satisfied with the opal we found in 2011, and we wanted to enjoy the experience again, this time paying for a load of virgin material rather than searching tailings as we had in 2011.

It is over 500 miles each way between Sunnyvale, CA where we live, to Denio, NV, the town closest to the Virgin Valley opal sites. We left on Wednesday, May 22, and between then and May 24, the rain was heavy. We arrived at the mine only to learn that the mine was closed because of flooding. We had traveled so far, and in our disappointment, we searched for a mine that was open to visitors. Only the Royal Peacock Mine was open, and against our better judgement, we decided to give it a second chance. We had been there in 2011, paying our fee to search the tailings, and we had found nothing. This year, we also found nothing.

I searched the web to see how the mine sites were rated, expecting to find the Royal Peacock Mine rated poorly and Rainbow Ridge rated much better. I could find no ratings for either mine, so I simply wish to say that if you decide to go to the Virgin Valley Opal Mines, skip the Peacock Mine. It is not worth your money or your time. If you want to try the Rainbow Ridge Mine, check their website or call in advance to check that the mine has been reopened.

The scenery in all of Virgin Valley though, was spectacular with its ever changing cloud patterns that turned the hills beneath to shades of black, silver, and gold. As we did in 2011, our last trip to the area, we stayed at the six room motel at nearby Denio Junction. The motel was closed for a while but has reopened under new ownership and management as has the restaurant. We find the motel rustic and in need of repairs, but comfortable. So while we did not get any opal, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in the area. SCVGMS is sponsoring a field trip that includes the Virgin Valley Opal mines. It is scheduled for June 13-19 and is led by Stephen May. Phone: 669-248-3993 or Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com.

Bragging Rights

There was no Bragging Rights for our May meeting because of the Silent Auction, but at the **June meeting, the theme will be Quartz** so bring your specimens. You may be the winner and receive a coupon toward ice cream, dinner, or a movie.

Alan Achor - Chairman

Rock Sale!

Slabs, rocks, big rocks, mineral specimens

Saturday, June 29, 2019

9:00am until noon

**SALE SITE is at the home of Billie Gordon.
15851 Izorah Way (corner of Izorah Way and Placer Oaks
Road), Los Gatos near Blossom Hill and Los Gatos Blvd
(aka Bascom).**

Enter the backyard from Placer Oaks.

Wear sturdy shoes (sale on grass and garden area).

Bring your bucket.

Come for fun, great selection, and bargains.

Questions? pat.speece@comcast.net



The Rocks cartoon is by Steve Breazeale.

In case you haven't signed up yet and wish to go, here is the form to fill out.

**SCVGMS
Founder's Day
Picnic
June 23, 2019**



Who: All members and their guests

When: Gathering at 11 am and lunch will be served at noon

Where: The Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos

What: Lunch, Bingo, Raffle and Swimming if you'd like.

Request: Help is needed for this event. Please contact Stephen May to volunteer.

Please Bring Lawn Chairs & Serving Utensils for the Potluck Dish You Bring to Share

To Attend the Event

YOU MUST

Fill out the form below and mail it to

SCVGMS Founder's Day Picnic, c/o Stephen May

1092 Candlewood Avenue, Sunnyvale, 94089

SCVGMS Founder's Day Picnic Sign Up Form

Name:	
Address:	
Number of Adults attending:	
Number of Juniors attending:	
Number of Chicken meals:	
Number of Tri-tip meals:	
Number of Hot Dogs:	
Will you be swimming?	Yes or No
Dish you will bring to share?	Salad or Dessert (for 10-12 people)

Looking Forward to Seeing Everyone There !!!

Dues

Your dues were due by June 1.

Forget the hasty, unkind word;
Forget the slander you have heard;
Forget the quarrel and the cause;
Forget the whole affair, because
 Forgetting is the only way.
Forget you're not a millionaire
Forget the gray streaks in your hair;
Forget you even get the blues

But don't forget to pay your dues!!!

The above poem is from the Breccia, Volume 19 #9, September 1972, and it was originally taken from the San Jose Lapidary Bulletin published around the same time period.

Dues are dues no matter when
A year has passed, they're due again.
This is how much dues to pay.
Please pay it now and don't delay.
Thank you. (by Jo Borucki)

Our dues are a bargain. Some of the many items paid by them are our extensive refreshments during our general meetings, additional cost over that paid for tickets for the Founder's Day Picnic and the Installation Dinner, rent for our use of the Cabana Club, and many other expenses.

Juniors - \$5
Individuals - \$20
Households - \$30

Missy Fox is our treasurer, and will be available at our general meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month. You can also mail a check to:
Missy Fox
16344 Shady View Lane
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Show and Tell

Members' Displays

All members are asked to display at least one time per year, but you may display as many times as you like. There are no displays in meetings when Silent Auctions are scheduled. There are no displays in December because there is the installation dinner in lieu of our regular meeting.

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who attend the meeting.

Information about those who showed us their specimens at the May general meeting will be in the next (July) issue of the Breccia.

Show off what you love so that we can enjoy it with you.

Rick Kennedy– Chairperson

Sunshine

There were no new reports of people needing some sunshine in their lives due to illness or other reasons. No news is good news.

To report someone needing sunshine, email Margo Mosher - margomosher@yahoo.com

Silent Auction

We had our semiannual silent auction at our May meeting. There was a big variety of items including rocks, mineral specimens, tools, jewelry, and much more.

When all the bidding was done, and the items paid for, we found that we had brought in \$667.50. All those who worked, contributed items, and bought items helped to make the auction a success. Thanks to all of you who participated in making our auction a success.

Rockhound of the Month

Michelle Powers received this month's nomination as rockhound of the month for her many contributions to the club throughout the years. For example, it is her tireless and smiling efforts at our festival ticket table, not only selling tickets, but providing concise information about the show booths and other features that helps make our show the success that it is. Thank you, Michelle.

DRC

DRC (Donations Receiving Committee) accepts rocks, slabs, tools, machines etc. from members and the general public to sell to members and the general public for the benefit of our club.

Donations are always welcome. Items donated bring money to the club, a great opportunity buy rocks, minerals and other items for bargain prices, and enjoyment for all who participate.

Though the years our rock sales have brought in over \$70,000. With this success in mind, we will have our **first rock sale of 2019 on Saturday, June 29**. Please see page 4 for details.

Pat
pat.speece@comcast.net

Links to Shows Calendar and CFMS Websites

To get a full listing of **CFMS shows**, go to the CFMS shows website by clicking the following link: [CFMS Society/Club Shows](#)

To access the **CFMS Bulletin** click on: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Link to Our SCVGMS Website

Click on the following link: <http://www.scvgms.org/>

After you click on the above link, if you want to see the Breccia and other news items, scroll down and click on "Download", shown under the Newsletter option.

2019 Festival Wrap Up and the Coming Interactive Display Weekend

We are planning a second event at the **Santa Clara County Fair Grounds**. It will be held **during the Santa Clara County Fair from August 1 through 4** and will be an interactive display of mineralogical and geological information. Mineralogical displays will include flint knapping, rock tumbling, and fluorescent minerals. Hopefully, we will also have a liquefaction display showing the effects of an earthquake on what seems to be solid ground, but when shaken by an earthquake shows what the results would be to any roads or buildings sitting on the liquified ground. **We will need volunteers for set up on July 31, for take down after the show, and demonstrators for all four days.**

As we look forward to this new event, we also celebrate some of the displays and volunteers who made our festival a resounding success this past March. One area not yet covered in previous issues of the Breccia is that of door prizes offered at the festival. Volunteers are required for this effort. Pictures of Michele Smith, as announcer and Howard Young, as the person in charge of the prizes are displayed below. There is some degree of gambler in most of us; this hope to win something unexpectedly. That's what makes a chance at a door prize so much fun. People fill out their ticket stubs and put them in the hat box used as our container for the drawings, and then they hope, and some win prizes, often of minerals or tools related to rockhounding.

Information and pictures about agates and petrified wood are shown on the following pages.



Michele Smith, the Prize Drawing
Announcer



Howard Young, the Prize Distributor

Agates

Agates

This wonderful family of rocks is one of the most popular due to the amazing variety of colors and patterns displayed by the stones.

The basic material of agates is chalcedony which is quartz (silicon dioxide or SiO₂) in the form of microscopic fibrous crystals.

The colors of agates are caused by "impurities" or chemical elements and compounds. For instance iron oxide might color the stone red, orange, yellow or black. Nickel or chromium might color it green and if titanium is present the color would be blue. There are literally hundreds of possible elements or compounds that can color agates.

The shape of the agate depends on the shape of the void that is being filled by the chalcedony solution. Some of the shapes that agates can assume are "amygdale" which is spherical or oval shaped, "vein" which is flat, "polyhedroid" meaning many sided or "fossilized" where the agate takes the shape of or replaces the fossil plant or animal.

The patterns of agates are fascinating. They can be shaped like concentric bands (fortification), trees (dendritic), feathers (plume), flames, iris, landscapes (picture), eyes, moss, tubes or sprays (sagenitic).

Agates are named in a number of ways. It can refer to the location where the agate is found (e.g., Agate Creek agate which is found in Agate Creek of Australia), a physical characteristic of the agate, (Polka Dot, Blue Lace, or Snake Skin agate), or something completely different like Dryhead agate which is named after a method of buffalo hunting used by American Indians who would stake buffalo heads until they were dry.

The uses of agates are many. Nero had an agate goblet, 10th century Anglo-Saxons used them for protection against evil spirits, and during the Renaissance agate was used to make bowls and vases. Mosaics from agate pieces are found in Florence, Italy and Asian specialties included statues and snuff bottles. Today agates are used as knife-edge bearings, pendulums, leather burnishing tools, decorative jewelry, ink stands, seals, bookends, cups, bowls and even church windows.

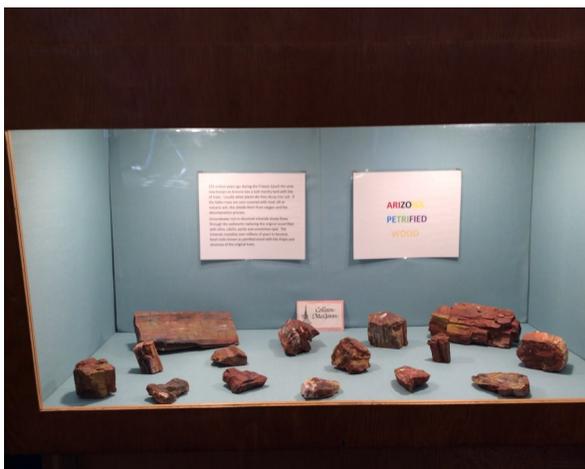
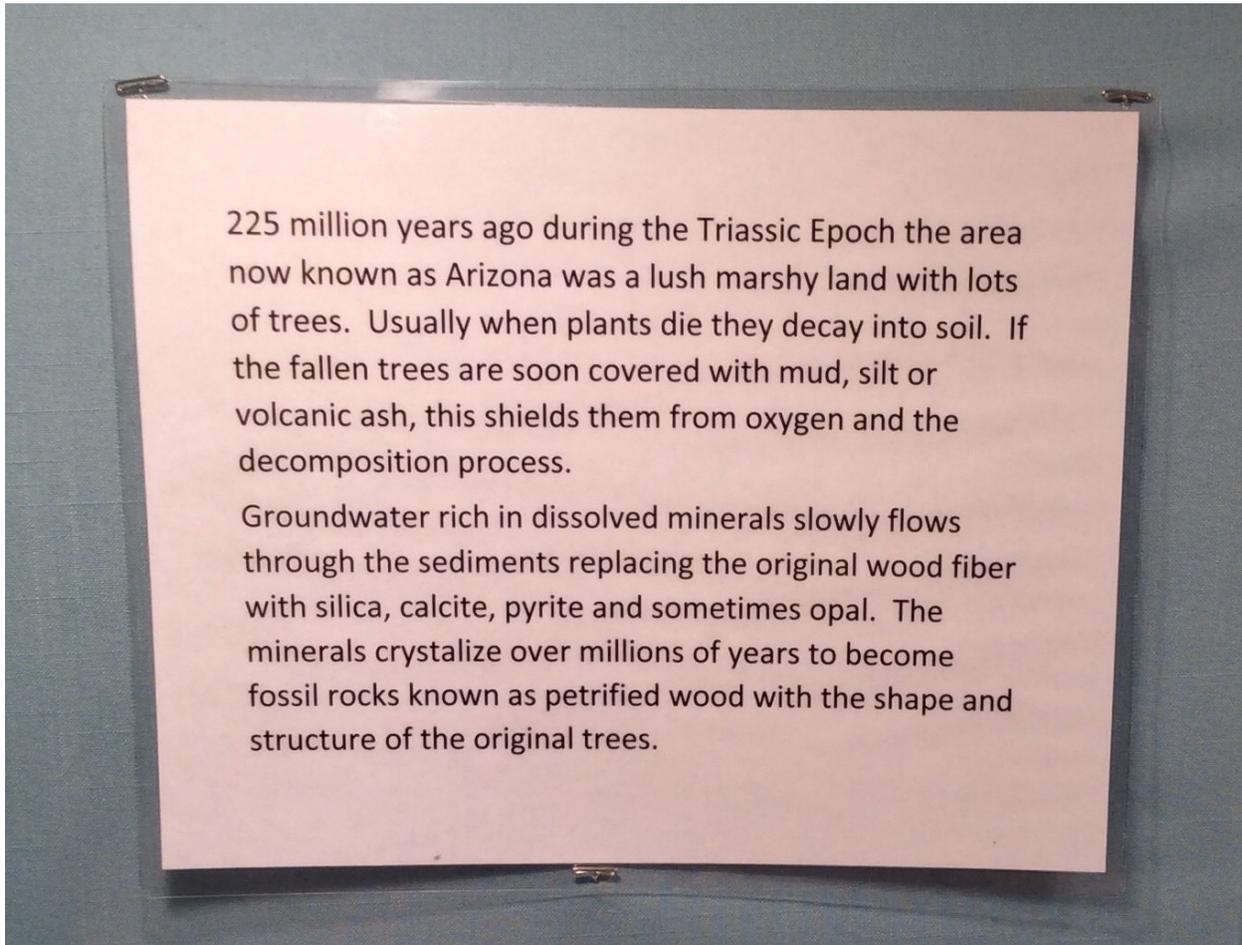


Display by Cesar Nunez



Display and Description by Paul Bunyan

Petrified Wood



Display and Description by Richard Pankey



Display by Colleen McGann



Smithies and Pat Speece

There will be no Smithies classes in June and July. Pat has headed Smithies for many years, but needs a break. Later this summer, she will decide what she wants to do about August. Pat is taking a much deserved rest. I will miss her wonderful class. It is not only very informative, with the chance to pick up excellent jewelry smithing skills, but I find it to be a friendly and fun time as well.

Pat joined SCVGMS in 1990 and has been a lifetime member since 2006. Pat does or has done many things for the club. Just in this past year, she has been a member of the nominating committee that finds candidates to run for our offices, has organized and facilitated our silent auction, headed some of the efforts for setting up for our festival, and has been in charge of DRC (Donation Receiving Committee). In talking with her, I learned that she was the Breccia editor for a number of years, and now she proofs the Breccia for me. It is important to have a good proof reader, and Pat is excellent. I started writing the Breccia in October 2016 and was completely clueless as to what SCVGMS did. She has been a huge help in educating me as to the functions of and people in this club. My guess is that I have barely scratched the surface of the list of her efforts for the club. My hat is off to you, Pat, and we extend our gratitude to you and best wishes for you this summer.

Field Trips

Tuesday-Wednesday, June 11-12, Virgin Valley, NV
Virgin Valley Opal, Hosted by Prineville Pow Wow field trips

Thursday-Wednesday, June 13-19, Virgin Valley, NV
Virgin Valley Opal, Hosted by Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: **Stephen May** 669-248-3993 Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30, Morningstar Mine, Monitor Pass
Crystals in Rhyolite, Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21, (Town of) Washington. Argillite,
Contact: John Dolman 530-272-3752

August?: Foresthill Divide, Ammonites, quartz crystals,
Contact Rich Cross 530-401-7066

Saturday-Sunday, September 28-29, Tuledad Canyon, NV. Agate, Petrified Wood,
Contact John Dolman 530-272-3752

Field Trip Coordinator: **Stephen May** 669-248-3993 Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

**General meeting minutes
May 27, 2019**

The minutes were not made available for publication. They will be printed in a future issue when they have been made available to the editor.

**Board Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:33 (scheduled for 7:30 pm)

Roll call: Jo Borucki (News Edit), Sonia Dyer, Jim Fox, Missy Fox, Cal Hansen, Paul Kidman, Stephen May, Frank Mullaney, Michele Smith, and Dean Welder were present. Alan Achor, Billie Gordon, and Rick Kennedy were absent.

Reading of the Minutes from the April 25th board meeting: A motion was made (Stephen May, Cal Hansen) and passed to read the April 25th minutes at the June meeting, due to the lack of the minutes at hand.

Correspondence: Stephen May. A bill from the State of California Franchise Tax Board was received, but has already been paid by Missy Fox on April 29th, for \$25.00. A Notice from IRS regarding our filing of tax exempt status is up to date and will be due for documentation in October. No action required. A notice regarding Yellow Pages listing for SCVGMS. A motion was made and passed to drop the Yellow Pages (Frank Mullaney, Cal Hansen) Passed.

New Members: Missy Fox presented Joseph Cotton for membership. (Michele Smith, Dean Welder) Passed

Treasurer's Report: Missy Fox

- Moved to pay Margo Mosher \$100.00 to reimburse for the last 5 years of cards and stamps for Sunshine. (Frank Mullaney, Jim Fox) Passed.
- Previous CD closed. Missy and Michele made efforts to assess new rate, lots of issues and difficulties with Chase. Need to modify to add Missy as a signatory. Motion to allow Missy and Michele to investigate best interest rate and roll the funds into the new CD (Frank Mullaney, Dean Welder) Passed.
- David Mosher requested approval to spend \$500.00 for parts, bearings, and other items required to repair the rock tumblers. The board discussed buying new equipment vs. maintaining and repairing current tumblers. The conclusion was to invite David to the next board meeting to discuss the options, asking him to provide a list of parts needed to repair the tumblers.
- Festival 2020 requests for approval – fluorescent banner. (See 2020 Festival.)
- Flint Knapper payment for State Fair demonstration - \$500 (Missy Fox, Michele Smith) Passed.

- President and Vice President now have check signature authority, in addition to Rick Kennedy.
- Safe Box signatures updated – Rick Kennedy is signatory, and other names have been removed. Verify with Rick. Frank is still on the Signatories list. Michele and Billie added.

Committee Reports:

Federation: Stephen had nothing to report.

2020 Festival – Jim and Missy Fox are co-chairing the 2020 Festival and will have their first meeting sometime in July or August. Suggestion for an added group will be addressed in New Business. Jim Fox will look into replacing the flashing lights display for the fluorescent booth. Frank will look into a Generic Sign for the fluorescent booth, which could be used for the County Fair, or our Mineral Show.

Old Business:

Library: Stephen will come in early for the June general meeting to reorganize, and maybe find different storage for some of the non-library items, so that the books can be better organized, and the bookcase can close easier.

Computer was put in the library on May 28th – Jo Borucki

New Business:

Rock Hound of the Month – Ariel was chosen again because she wasn't at the general meeting in May to receive the award. Michelle Powers was awarded Rock Hound of the Month for May.

Festival: SCVGMS is willing to share vendor lists, but Dean explained why it should be rejected, due to complicated book keeping and resolution of cost and profit splitting.

Discussion of adding the Santa Clara Coin Show to the SCVGMS Gem and Mineral Festival – Dean Welder. This is open to comments.

Programs:

May: Silent Auction (Pat Speece)

June: Stephen May to cover the results of the Hallelujah Junction, Prineville Pow Wow, Virgin Valley Field Trip.

July: Kyle Van Woerkom will talk about his trip to Australia.

August: Alan Achor will discuss airplanes.

Later Meeting: Jim Fox will discuss computer attachments for the microscope.

June Board: June 27th is at Stephen May's home

July 25th, 2019 at 7:00 pm, will be held at Michele Smith's home.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephen May, acting in Rick Kennedy's absence

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number (408) 265-1422

Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Michele Smith (408)374-1897
Vice President: Billy Gordon
(408) 356-3406
Secretary: Rick Kennedy (408) 529-9690
Treasurer: Missy Fox (408) 356-7711
Editor: Jo Borucki (408) 245-2881
Federation Director:
Stephen May (669) 248-3993
Alternate Fed. Director:
Paul Kidman (408)356-4995
Board Members
Jim Fox (408) 356-7711
Sonia Dyer (408)629-5735
Alan Achor (408) 749-0771
Frank Mullaney (408) 691-2656
Cal Hansen (408) 394-4642
Parliamentarian:
Dean Welder (408) 353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Alan Achor
Donation Receiving Committee Chair: Pat Speece, Missy and Jim Fox
Festival Chairman 2019: Frank Mullaney
Festival Chairpersons 2020: Jim and Missy Fox
Field Trip Committee Coordinator:
Stephen May
Founder's Day Picnic Chairman:
Stephen May
Founder's Day Raffle: Pat Speece
Founder's Day Bingo: TBD
Hospitality: Pat and Louis Schuesler
Installation Dinner: Rick Kennedy
Member Displays: Rick Kennedy
Refreshments: TBD
Silent Auction: Pat Speece
Sunshine: Margo Mosher
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Webmaster: TBD

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. General meetings are normally held the **fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:15 followed by the meeting at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. The next **General Meeting is on June 25.** The **Board Meeting is on June 27 at Stephen May's home.**

Our Society's Purpose: The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of members' interests in the earth sciences and by education in all facets of related educational activities with the promotion of good fellowship, proper ethics, and conduct.

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Dues per year are \$5.00 for Junior, \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for the household.

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published ten times annually. **The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after the general meeting.** The Breccia editor is Jo Borucki who may be contacted by email at joborucki@yahoo.com or by phone at (408)245-2881. Leave a message if no one picks up the phone. The Breccia is proofread by Pat Speece. Exchange bulletins may be sent to Jo Borucki, 1196 Sesame Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.

Study Group Leaders

For information, please contact the leader listed below.

Smithies: Pat Speece 408- 266-4327 pat.speece@comcast.net
Note that there are no classes for June and July
Cabbers: We need a leader. Can it be you?