

# BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society



All American Club

Volume 52, Number 7 San Jose, CA , July, 2005

# Breccia

## Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS)

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)  
Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Phone Number (408) 265-1422

### 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 at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (The Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032. Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill between Leigh Avenue and Harwood.

**Society Purpose:** The inculcation of a love of rocks and minerals by the furtherance of member's 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

**Membership Requirements:** Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months. This society is a member of California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Dues are \$10.00 per year.

**General Meeting:** will be July 26, 05 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM

**Board Meeting:** will be July 28, 05 at 7:30 PM at Lynn Toschi's home, 18134 Santa Ana Rd, Redwood Estates 95044 (408) 353-3323

### Study Groups

**Stringers:** Meet on the Second Thursday of the month. Group led by Pat Speece. For info call Pat (408) 266-4327

**Facet Cutters:** Meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Group led by Bill Norton, call for info (408) 356-8254.

**Carvers:** Will start meeting on the third Monday of each month. Contact Herb Vogel (408)247-1018 for information and details about joining this group

**Cutaways:** meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Shoup Park Lapidary Shop. Group led by John Eichhorn for more info call (408) 749-0523.

**Mineraleers:** Meet on the Second Monday of the month. Group is led Chuck Boblenz, call for info (408) 734-2473

**Silversmithing:** Beginning and Advanced classes are led by Kelly Van Vleck and John Bahr. Call Kelly for info (408) 262-8187.

**Juniors:** are led by Mark Wartenberg. Outings and get together's are announced at general meetings and via email. Contact Mark Wartenberg for more info, (650) 568-6114.

**Fossileers:** will be meeting quarterly for an outing and a study session. For more info call Gail Matthews (650)962-9960.

# John's Note June's Jabberings

I hope everyone enjoyed the BBQ/potluck dinner and silent auction.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC (OUR SUMMER BAR-BEQUE) JULY 17, see the notice in this month's Breccia. Be sure to bring Bingo prizes.

Let's keep the idea's coming ! We need your suggestions on how to improve our club. A wish list has been printed in the Breccia along with new member survey forms, which are available at the hospitality desk. Turn them in!

There are a lot of interesting sites on the web related to rocks and geology for adults and kids. Here are a few:

<[Picacho.org](http://Picacho.org)> , the Clear Creek area information, history, and BLM ( bureau of land management) updates and information.

<[mindat.org](http://mindat.org)> , Everything you ever wanted to know about every mineral. Just ask by name or pick from the list.

<[consrv.ca.gov/CGS/index.htm](http://consrv.ca.gov/CGS/index.htm)> , California Geological Survey home site.

The state government site for all geology, natural resources , and they have a KID'S GEO ZONE, with learning and activities geared for kids.

<[enchantmentlearning.com](http://enchantmentlearning.com)> , A large assortment of subjects, including dinosaurs, geology, volcanoes. Everything to teach big and little kids.

See you at the picnic!

Thank You, John Eichhorn

Dues were Due on June 1, 2005

Adults: \$10.00 Juniors \$3.00

Send Your Check to:

SCVG&MS Treasurer

Chuck Boblenz

655 Santa Coleta Court,  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Make your checks payable to SCVG&MS

I'd like to encourage everyone to write an article for the newsletter. It can be on anything relating to gems and minerals. Juniors are encouraged to submit articles. Find something that interests you and tell us about it. Anyone who submits an article is eligible to compete in the CFMS bulletin article competition which is held yearly. I have information for anyone who is interested. Also if you have any tips and hints you'd like to pass on, I'd love to print them.

I'd also like to know what people are interested in seeing in the Breccia. Do you want articles about particular stones or fossils? Jewelry making tips? More tips and hints? More CFMS or AFMS news? In other words, what are you looking for in our newsletter? I get lots of newsletters with lots of great articles on a wide variety of topics, if you have a particular interest, let me know. If I can't get the article in the Breccia I can get the article to you for your personal information.

My job is to bring you information, I just need to know what information you are interested in reading.

Thank you,  
June



Founder's Day Picnic

July 17, 2005

Meal at noon

Bingo and raffle to  
follow. Remember  
to bring your dish  
to share and bingo  
and raffle prizes  
to donate.

# Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

## Faceters

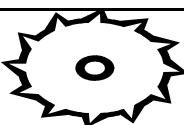


The Faceters will be meeting in August at Bill Norton's home on August 2 at 7:30. For more information, call Bill at (408) 356-8254. Everyone is welcome.



## Silversmithing

Kelly VanVleck and John Bahr have developed a wonderful curriculum for beginning and intermediate silversmithing and the board has just approved the purchase of some much needed equipment for the classes. The next beginning class will start on July 25 and is the usual 4 week class which meets twice per week. The following class will be an intermediate class. To sign up for either of these classes, call Kelly VanVleck at (408) 262-8187. Please be aware that there is a waiting list for these popular classes, but hopefully in the near future the class size will be expanded from four to six students per session.



## CUTAWAYS

The Cutaways will next meet on August 6 at Shoup Park from 10-12. If you are interested in learning how to cut and polish rocks, this is the study group for you. Call John Eichhorn for more information, (408) 749-0523.

The Carvers and Mineraleers will resume meeting in September. For more information call:  
Carvers-  
Herb Vogel (408) 247-1018  
Mineraleers  
Chuck Boblenz (408) 734-2473

## Stringers



Stringers 1 This group of new stringers will first meet at a mandatory pre-meeting 1:00pm, Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the Speece home, 2357 Loma Park Court, San Jose, 95124. Actual classes begin September 8, 2005, and will be held the second Thursday of each month from 7 – 10 pm. There will be a possible wind-up Munchie Meeting in February 2006. People on the signup list will be called soon. Projects will include single-string and double-string bracelets that use bead tips, seedbead attachments, French coil, and knotting; lapel/hat pins using beads, spacers and bead caps; and earrings using beads, headpins, French wires, and spacers.

Stringers 2 This is a new group of continuing Stringer 1 learners. There will be a pre-meeting in August. Starting in September 2005, classes will meet monthly through December 2005, with a possible wind-up Munchie Meeting in January 2006. People on the signup list will be called soon, and given firm dates. Projects include earrings (theme and variations), chain and bead bracelet, crimp bead bracelet, and a bracelet watch.

Regarding both groups: a schedule of projects will be given to each member, along with a list of needed materials and tools. Samples of every project will be shown, and experimentation will always be encouraged. Some of the tools and materials will be furnished by the club. Class members will be expected to furnish others. There most likely will be a nominal materials fee. Since this was just approved by the board last meeting, the details still need to be sorted out. Class members will be notified as to the materials fee, what they need to bring and what will be furnished. Questions? Call Pat Speece at 266-4327.

## Fossileers

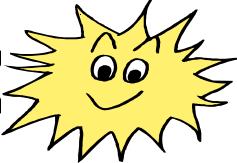


The Fossileers are meeting quarterly, but the next meeting has not been set. If you are interested in participating in the group, call Gail Matthews at (650) 962-9960.

## Member Displays

The following members are on the schedule to bring in a member display to the July meeting: Marc and Anne Marie Mullaney, Jim and Diana Nelson, Bill and Margaret Norton, Paul Nowicki, RK, Knut, and Kris Owen, John and Sylvia Palmieri, Suzi Papineau, Ted and Kathi Peverini. Anyone who has been on a recent collecting trip, made jewelry, or picked up an interesting new specimen is also invited to bring member display. Let us know what you are doing. We really like to hear about it.

# SUNSHINE



Nancy Boring has three more weeks of radiation therapy. She is hoping to be back in school this September. Frank Scelzi and Jennifer Raff were recently married and have moved to Washington State. David Windsor had surgery last month and has recovered. Best wishes to all.

If you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact our own Suzi "Sunshine" Papineau, (408) 267-1620

## New Member News

Let's welcome four new members this month.

1. Claudia Peterson, 1907 Margot Place San Jose, 95125 (408) 266-0250. Claudia is interested in collecting, fossils, facetting, geology, and minerals. Her email is gorapeterson@earthlink.net
2. Marsha Owen, 5171 Leigh Ave. San Jose 95124 (408) 377-5373. Marsha is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, and silversmithing. Marsha's email is marsha@owen.sj.ca.us
3. Ramona Heimlick, 730 Chapman Dr., Campbell 95008 (408) 399-8111. Ramona is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, silversmithing, minerals, and beads.
4. Zachary Yamashita Turner (Junior) 2450 Paul Minnie Avenue. Santa Cruz, 95062 (831) 479-3737. Zachary is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, and minerals. Zachary's email is jidlzac2@aol.com .

Let's make them feel welcome and how about inviting them to join a study group?

July Program  
Scenic National Parks  
The parks that will be covered in this video are the Grand Canyon, Everglades, Petrified Forest, Hawaii Volcanoes, Great Smokies, Carlsbad Caverns and Yosemite.



# SCVGMS Calendar



July 17 Founder's Day Picnic at Belwood Cabana Club. Meal served at Noon.

July 25 Beginning silversmithing course begins. Course runs for 4 weeks and meets twice per week.

July 26 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

July 28 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Lynn Toschi's, 18134 Santa Ana Rd. Redwood Estates 95044 (408) 353-3323

August 2 Faceters meeting at Bill Norton's 7:30 PM 276 Belblossom Way, Los Gatos, 95032 (408) 356-8254

August 6 Cutaways meeting at Shoup Park from 10-12. For more information and directions, call John Eichhorn, (408) 749-0523.

August 23 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

August 25 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Pat Speece's home 2357 Loma Park Court, San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 266-4327

August 27 Stringers 1 meeting mandatory pre-meeting 1:00pm, at the Speece home, 2357 Loma Park Court,

San Jose, 95124.

Sept 8 Stringers 1 meeting from 7-10 PM at the Speece home, 2357 Loma Park Court, San Jose, 95124

September 27 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM Nominating committee appointed

September 29 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at John Bahr's home, 4991 Corbin Ave. San Jose, 95118 (408) 267-1620.

October 25 General Meeting at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM Nominating committee submits 2006 board member nominees.

October 27 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Frank Monez's home, 407 Bluefield Dr, San Jose, 95136(408) 578-7067

November 22 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM 2006 Board elections, Board Meeting immediately following general meeting.

December 5 Installation Dinner at 3 Flames Restaurant. Remember "Toys for Tots" gift.

December 8 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM Place TBD

## 2006 Show Report

The 2006 show report is off to a good start. The first thing is a contest for the show name with a prize of \$50 to the best name. The show will be on April 1 and 2, 2006 so if there is some way to work that in, it would be great. I need any entries in by the July general meeting (7/26).

I have most of the committees filled with a few exceptions. Some of the things that we are working on for this year are: 1 or 2 people for publicity jobs, guest exhibitors, printed program/flyers, program speakers, tickets and touch and feel. We will also be looking for volunteers to have signs put on their car windows the month before the show. For Hospitality this year I want to get a team of people that will staff Hospitality for the weekend. The things that I want hospitality to do this year is to capture more interest from the public. A list of these things are emails from interested people, advertisement of the next three to six meetings with a list of speakers, talking to people and steering them toward their interests and handing out more club info. Also we will have study group sign ups with the demonstrators and we are going to look at having info blurbs with the decorations. For advertising we will double the ad budget to include more newspaper and add radio ads. Also I want the members to have greater visibility to the public at the show to include more club vests or shirts. We are looking into polos and possibly getting more vests. Those are my thoughts for now, I am looking for your input and ideas to make the show the best we can. Thanks to all of you for the work that you have and will do.

Marc Mullaney 408-971-6651  
Show Chairman geologistm@aol.com

# CFMS Show Schedule

**Changes to this calendar are printed in italics. For the latest version of the CFMS Show Schedule go to [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)**



**August 5, 6, 7 2005**, Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph's Church 298 S. Thompson Avenue Hours: 9 – 5 Daily Lucky Virgin (805) 929-4525 Email: [lvirgin@impulse.net](mailto:lvirgin@impulse.net)

**August 6-7 2005**, San Francisco, CA San Francisco Gem & Mineral Soc. San Francisco County Fair Building Ninth Ave. & Lincoln Way Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Ellen Nott (415) 564-4230 Email: [ellen\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_nott@yahoo.com)

**September 2-5 2005**, Fort Bragg, CA Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society Town Hall at Main & Laurel Hours: Fri., Sat., & Sun. 10 - 6; Mon. 10 - 4 Don McDonnell (707) 964-3116 643 N. McPherson; Fort Bragg, CA 95437

**September 17-18 2005**, Paso Robles, CA Santa Lucia Rock-hounds Pioneer Park and Museum 2010 Riverside Park Hours: 10 - 5 both days Joyce Baird (805) 462-9544 Email: [liloy-see@webtv.com](mailto:liloy-see@webtv.com)

**September 17-18 2005**, Redwood City, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society Community Activity Building 1400 Roosevelt Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Carol Corden/Preston Bingham co-chairs Carol (650) 776-5990 Email: [ccorden@earthlink.net](mailto:ccorden@earthlink.net) Preston (650) 368-6351

**September 17-18 2005**, Jackson, CA Fossils For Fun Society 5th Annual Tailgate Gemboree Kennedy Mine in Jackson, CA Hours: Both days 9 - 5 Dan Brown (209) 296-6466 Email: [danbrown@volcano.net](mailto:danbrown@volcano.net)

**September 23-25 2005**, San Bernardino, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society - Tailgate Western Regional Little League Park 6707 Little League Drive Hours: Fri., Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4 Mike Woolery (909) 882-6806 Email: [ROCKPIK98@aol.com](mailto:ROCKPIK98@aol.com)

**September 24 2005**, Los Altos, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Rancho Shopping Center Corner of Foothill Expressway & Springer road HOURS: 9:30 - 4:45 Dave Smith (650) 967-7392 E-MAIL: [rdsmeke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdsmeke@sbcglobal.net)

**September 24-25 2005**, Downey, CA Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Downey Women's Club 9813 Paramount Blvd, Hours: Sat. 10 - 6 Sun. 10-4 Earl Liston (562) 865-1348 Email: [ejliston5@juno.com](mailto:ejliston5@juno.com)

**September 24-25 2005**, Monterey, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Soc. Monterey Fairgrounds 2004 Fairgrounds Road Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Sky Paxton (831) 755-7741 Email: [sky@familystones.net](mailto:sky@familystones.net) Web Site: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

**September 24-25 2005**, San Diego, CA San Diego Lapidary Society Bernardo Winery 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte Hours: 10 - 4 both days Kim Hutsell (619) 294-3914 Email: [sdlapidary@yahoo.com](mailto:sdlapidary@yahoo.com)

**October 2 2005**, Fallbrook, CA Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum 123 W. ALVARADO STREET Hours 10 - 4 FGMS Board (760) 7281130 EmailL: [FGMS@tfb.com](mailto:FGMS@tfb.com)

**October 8-9 2005**, Grass Valley, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society The Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 McCourtney Road Main Exhibit Hall Hours: 10 - 5 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

**October 8-9 2005**, Lakeside, CA EL Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Lakeside Rodeo Grounds Hwy. 67 & Mapleview Street Hours: 10 - 5 both days Peggy Bowery (619) 561-1823 Email: [Docsgirl9@aol.com](mailto:Docsgirl9@aol.com)

**October 8-9 2005**, Trona, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral So-

cietry 13337 Main Street HOURS: Sat: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Sun. 7:30 - 4 Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356 E-MAIL: [jbfairchild@verizon.net](mailto:jbfairchild@verizon.net)

**October 15-16 2005**, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta District Fairgrounds Five Miles South of Redding Hours: 10 - 5 both days Alex Stoltz (530) 474-4400

**October 15 2005**, West Hills, CA Woodland Hills Rock Chipper First United Methodist Church 22700 Sherman Way, at Falbrook 101 Fwy off at Fallbrook - North & Right on Sherman Way Hours: 10 - 5 Virginia Rotramel (818) 790-7598 Email: [show@rockchippers.org](mailto:show@rockchippers.org)

**October 15-16 2005**, Long Beach, CA Mineralogical Society of Southern California Long Beach Convention and Expo Center 300 East Ocean Blvd. Hours: 10 - 5 both days Jason Butts Email: [msscshow@hotmail.com](mailto:msscshow@hotmail.com)

**October 15-16 2005**, Whittier, CA Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Ave. Hours: 10 - 5 both days

**October 22-23 2005**, Santa Rosa, CA Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Veterans Memorial Auditorium 1351 Maple Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Shirley Mottson (707) 795-1730

**October 22-23 2005**, Stockton, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club 54th Earth's Treasures Show San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 2 1658 South Airport Way (corner of Charter Way & Airport Way) Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Laurie Haines (209) 838-0108 or Jim Dunlap [jimsopals@comcast.net](mailto:jimsopals@comcast.net)

**November 5-6 2005**, Ridgecrest, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds Mesquite Hall; 520 S. Richmond Rd. Hours: 9 - 5 both days John DeRosa (760) 375-7905

**November 11-13 2005**, Sacramento, CA Sacramento Mineral Society Scottish Rite Temple 6151 H Street Hours: Fri. 9 - 6; Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 George Sterpka (916) 984-9730 E-mail: [sterpka@comcast.net](mailto:sterpka@comcast.net)

**November 12-13 2005**, Lancaster, CA Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club Lancaster Fairgrounds@ 2551 west Ave. H Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 John Martin (661) 916-9479 Email: [pgmc@antelecom.net](mailto:pgmc@antelecom.net)

**November 12-13 2005**, Yuba City, CA Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society 442 Franklin Avenue Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Barbara & Charlie Brown (916) 652-4240 Email: [cbbrown@wizwire.com](mailto:cbbrown@wizwire.com)

**November 19-20 2005**, Livermore, CA Livermore Valley Lithophiles "The Barn" 3131 Pacific Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Dick & Joyce Friesen (925) 447-8223 Email: [friesenr@ix.netcom.net](mailto:friesenr@ix.netcom.net)

**November 19-20 2005**, Victorville, CA Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club San Bernardino County Fairgrounds 14800 Seventh St. Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Mavis Mushaney (760) 241-8282

**November 26-27 2005**, Barstow, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Barstow Community Center 841 South Barstow Road Hours: 10-5 both days Bob Depue (760) 255-1030



# Field Trips for 2005

By Jennifer House

North Bay Field Trip and CO-OP Coordinator

If you are planning on attending any field trips listed below please contact the person for that field trip and be sure to wear your name tag when you attend.



## Age of Ambers

Amber has long been appreciated and traded by the Syrians, Phoenicians, and even the Vikings. The Greeks believed it was solidified sunshine, considered it a precious stone, a jewel, but called it Elektron for its ability to attract bits of material if rubbed on cloth. Nero, emperor of Rome, sent expeditions to buy Baltic amber, to cut as gemstones or to powder for medicine to treat inflammations and muscle spasms. Amber is a polymerized compound of hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon and contains varying ratios of succinic acid, several resins and brown volatile oil (amber oil). Polymerization is the process wherein the molecules of sticky resin are linked into larger molecules. This is unlike the fossilization or lithification process of other organic materials. Amber has a hardness of 2, a specific gravity of 1 and can be melted at 100 degrees C. It can be cooked down to black colophony, or amber pitch. Amber varies in color,

being found in blue, red, black, green and honey colored. The trees, *Pinus succinifera*, producing amber resin existed through the Miocene Age, but not all amber is the same age. Amber occurs in sedimentary rocks, or is weathered out of them.

Bavarian— 225 million years old  
Lebanese—115-135 million years old  
Siberian— 80-115 million years old  
British Columbia—100 million years old  
New Jersey—90 million years old  
Alaskan— 80 million years old  
Canadian—70-80 million years old  
Arkansas—60 million years old  
Dominican Republic— 25-40 million years old  
Baltic— 40 million years old

( From many sources via Lapidarian 11/99 and The Benitoite, 11/99, via T-town rockyhound 10/01 via SCRIBE CD, via The Pineywood Rooter 6/05

## PALeO BILL NEWS — SENATE BILL S-263

from Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson Article from the June 2005 AFMS Newsletter

The Paleo Resources Bill is still floating around in the Senate. If you've not done so, it is imperative that you and your club members write to your Senators and Representatives expressing your views on a) the effort to fast track the legislation without debate and b) the legislation itself.

If we remain silent on this legislation all of us will lose our right to collect. Although this bill deals with fossils, other collecting possibilities may be threatened next.

One important note: In the last AFMS Newsletter, Jon Spunaugle gave an incorrect bill number in his "Truth and Some Consequences" article. [The correct number for the bill is S-263.](#)

Here is a good sample letter that might serve as a guideline for your own letter to your legislators.

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

United States House of Representatives (or Senate)

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Washington, DC

Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_:

As one of your most loyal and long-time supporters, and a resident of Congressional District Number 24 of California, I am writing to ask for your help to defeat **Senate Bill S-263, a supposed Paleontological Resources Preservation Act**. It has already passed through committee without amendment for action on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

As a Registered Geologist and amateur gem and mineral collector, I can attest that S-263 is a very bad piece of legislation, and I ask that you do what you can to block passage of this Bill by a no vote or any other means available to you. There are many good reasons why this poorly conceived legislation is a detriment to this country and its citizens, and they boil down to this:

1. This bill masquerades as protecting fossils and academic inquiry. IT DOES NOT. To the contrary, it inhibits knowledge and inquiry. The majority of what is known about fossils has been gathered by commercial and amateur collectors, and most museum collections are the result of non-commercial or amateur finds.

2. The Secretary of the Interior asked that academic, amateur and commercial fossil collectors be consulted in the preparation of potential legislation regarding fossil resources on public lands. To my knowledge, the commercial collectors were not consulted, input from amateurs was not solicited, and there was never an opportunity for any to testify.

3. This legislation is the product of a few academics alone, in concert with a small group of managers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service. Such collegiate and government personnel have, through aggressive tactics pushed their own skewed agenda. An agenda that is not good for the true science of paleontology, and would be a tragic mistake if enacted.

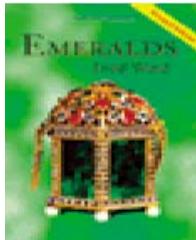
This Bill (S-263) must be stopped, or at the very least scrapped, as it serves neither the resource nor the public. I believe I can speak for all amateur collectors, and ask that our rights as citizens not be infringed upon, nor should we live under the fear of being arrested simply because we picked up a bone, shell, or fossil of some sort.

Please do what you can to shut down and eliminate Senate Bill 263.

Best regards,

*Editor's note: If you don't personalize your letter, it may not get counted. In other words, don't copy the above letter verbatim, put your letter in your own words. If you're going to the trouble to send a letter, make it count!!!*

## Fred Ward Gem Series



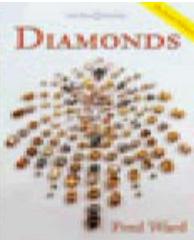
Emeralds



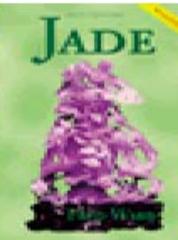
Pearls



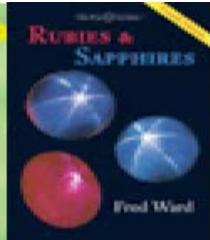
Opals



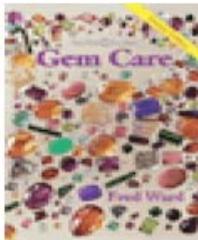
Diamonds



Jade



Rubies and  
Sapphires



Gem Care

### 7 New Books In Our Library

Revised editions (since 2000) Reviewed by Pat Speece

*Emeralds, Pearls, Opals, Diamonds, Jade, Rubies and Sapphires*, and *Gem Care* are the titles of information-packed 65-page volumes that will delight the eye of any rockhound. Author/photographer/Graduate Gemologist Fred Ward presents the history, geology, lore, and sources of each gem.

*Gem Care*, the slim one at 33 pages, tells how to care for popular gems and metals. More detail is given to types of opals, pearls, topaz, tourmaline, and turquoise. With each gem comes an explanation and color photos of the varieties available and of unique jewelry. Information on cleaning is given in bold chart-form at the end of each discussion: Ultrasonic, steamer, hardness, heat, toughness, what to avoid, what's OK, and light.

Specifically, *Diamonds, Emeralds, Opals*, and *Rubies and Sapphires* clearly explain lab-grown and simulant varieties.

*Pearls* differentiates between cultured saltwater and cultured freshwater pearls, mother-of-pearl and shell products, imitation pearls. Clear photos show how to determine pearl quality.

*Jade* makes clear the differences between Nephrite and Jadeite historically, and as different silicates. It also unravels the confusion over how we came to have two different rocks called Jade. Chapters on China, Mesoamerica, the Maori and elsewhere explain the changing view of the two jades.

Though the series omits an index, it would be hard to miss something in the 65 pages. The only thing I could wish for in this series is free samples.

### Mineral Terms Quiz Answers from pg 12

1-G, 2\_m, 3-R, 4-D, 5-L, 6-N, 7-Y, 8-S,  
9-E, 10-H, 11-X, 12-V, 13-K, 14-I, 15-O,  
16-W, 17-B, 18-Q, 19-T, 20-F, 21-U, 22-P,  
23-C, 24-J, 25-A

### Clean Saw Oil

The next time you clean your slab saw, line the bottom with a double layer of burlap. When it's time to clean it again pick up the liner by the corners and let it drain overnight on the carriage. Most of the sludge will be trapped inside the burlap and easily disposed of. The oil left is much cleaner. And may probably be used again.

From Las Vegas and Gem Time via Green Valley Rocker, The Rocky Reader, and The Golden Spike News, via Rock chips 12/98 via SCRIBE CD 2005, via Pineywood Rooter 6-05

Real Stories of the Non-Technically Inclined  
contributed by Pat Speece Taken from the internet 8/14/98

I worked with an individual who plugged their power strip back into itself and for the life of them could not understand why their computer would not turn on.

My friend called his car insurance company to tell them to change his address from Texas to Vermont. The woman who took the call asked where Vermont was. As he tried to explain, she interrupted and said, "Look , I'm not stupid or anything, but what state is it in?

Tech support: What does the screen say now?

Person: It says, Hit enter when ready.

Tech Support: Well?

Person: How do I know when it's ready?

# SAFETY FIRST - HAND TOOL SAFETY

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

Reprinted from April 2005 AFMS Newsletter

## CHISELS & DRILLS

Chisels and drills are used with hammers. Flat chisels are used to form and cut cold metal and not work with rock. Rock hounds should use brick chisels that have a double beveled point at an inclined angle of 80 degrees and brick sets with a single beveled point with an inclined angle of 45 degrees to split rocks. Star drills are used for making holes and have all cutting edges with inclined angles of 70 degrees.

Hold chisels and drills with a loose fist, keeping the fingers relaxed in order to minimize the chance of being hit by a glancing blow of the hammer. A sponge rubber pad forced over the chisel or drill above the hand and a glove will also provide protection for the hand. If some one else is holding the chisel or drill, it is best to use a set of tongs or a chisel holder as a guide. Gloves and protective clothing consisting of long sleeve shirts, long pants, and aprons, eye protection (safety spectacles, safety goggles, and face shields), and safety shoes should be used to protect both individuals from glancing blows and flying chips.

The following safe practices apply to chisels and drills:

1. Protect cutting edges by installing protective covers.
2. Store in rack where they will not be chipped or broken.
3. Regrind broken or chipped chisel edges before using. cool in water often to protect the temper of the metal. Drill cutting edges should be hand filed. Replace chisels and drills with mushroomed heads to prevent shards of metal from breaking off and causing injury.
4. Lubricate with light oil before storing and wipe off the oil before striking with a hammer.

## CROWBARS, PINCH BARS, AND WREAKING BARS

Crowbars, pinch bars, and wrecking bars are favorite tools of rockhounds. Be sure to pick the proper size of tool for the job, with a point or toe that will grip the object to be moved and a heel that will act as a pivot or fulcrum. Use of a block of wood under the heel will also keep the bar from slipping and causing hand injuries. Store bars secured upright so they will not fall or cause tripping hazards. Never hit a bar

with another tool and do not try to pry an item that will cause the bar to bend.

## KNIVES

According to the National Safety Council, knives are responsible for more disabling injuries than any other hand tool. Only use knives for the purpose intended, not splitting rocks with a hammer. Keep the knife blade sharp and cut away from the body, avoiding jerky motions. Use knives with retractable blades whenever possible. If the item to be cut is held in the other hand, wear cut resistant gloves. Always wear a sheathed knife at the hip towards the back, never on the front part of a belt. This prevents severing an artery or vein in a leg as the result of a fall. Wipe knives with the sharp part of the blade turned away with a separate cloth, not on clothes or with fingers. Wash knives separate from other utensils. When not in use keep knives in sheaths or knife racks to guard their edges and to protect people. For long term storage, apply a rust preventative compound on all metal parts and store in a dry spot out of reach of small children. Avoid horseplay, such as "fencing", when using knives and allow plenty of room so you won't bump into anything.

The 18" machete is used to cut tall grass, vines, and small brush. It is heaviest and widest near the pointed end with a handle shaped to fit the hand on the opposite end. When using a machete, always make sure no one is close enough to be injured before swinging the tool. Always clear the swing path so as not to deflect the blade. Do not use a dull or defective tool. Store properly in a sheath when not in use. For prolonged storage, coat metal parts with light oil.

## AXES

Axes are designed for cutting, felling, trimming, notching, and splitting wood and soft material. A narrow blade is for hard wood and a wide blade for soft wood. A single bit ax may also be used for driving wooden stakes, NOT CHISELS and BITS! Never strike an ax against metal, stone, or concrete. Never use an ax with a worn or damaged handle. Use steel wedges with a maul or sledge hammer when splitting wood, never a single bit ax. Keep ax blades sharp. A dull blade may glance back and cut

continued on page 12

## Safety First

continued from pg 11  
the user. Always wear safety shoes, eye protection, and long pants when using axes. Before swinging an ax, ensure you have a path clear of vines, brush, etc., and that no one is standing nearby. During the swing, let your hand slide down the handle towards the other hand near the end. Have your weight distributed evenly with your knees set, but not tense. The body should be relaxed and free to swing and bend at the waist. For a right handed person, the left foot should be closer to the work. Protect the ax blade(s) with a sheath or metal guard when not in use. Carry axes at your side-single blades pointed down. Axes, like knives, should be kept sharp by honing.

## MATLOCK

Double bedded matlock and pick matlocks are designed for digging and cutting. The use and safe practices are similar to those for axes.

## SHOVELS AND SPADES

Long handles shovels are used for digging in open areas and "D" handled shovels are for light digging in confined areas. The spade is for heavy digging in confined areas. The post hole digger is used to bore holes for posts, explosive charges, etc.. Shovel blades should be kept well trimmed and the handles in good shape and free of splinters. Wear heavy safety boots with sturdy soles and use the ball of the foot, not the arch, to press the shovel into the ground. If the instep is used and the foot slips off the shovel, the sharp corner of the shovel may cut the shoe and the foot. Keep legs well separated with spring in the knees-the leg muscles should take much of the load while shoveling. Dip the blade in water often or coat the blade with wax or grease to keep the shovel free of sticky material and caking. Treat the handle with linseed oil occasionally to avoid cracking and splinters. Store shovels against or hanging on the wall in a rack or shovel box.

## Mineral Terms Quiz

Test your knowledge of Mineral Terms. Match the term (on the left) with the description (on the right)

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Adamantine         | A. resistance to abrasion or scratching                               |
| 2. Alluvial           | B. formed of slender bundles of fibers                                |
| 3. Amorphous          | C. composed of closely packed grains                                  |
| 4. Amygdaloid         | D. almond-shaped cavity such as agate forms                           |
| 5. Asterism           | E. splitting in a definite plane                                      |
| 6. Botryoidal         | F. mineral shell filled with crystallized minerals                    |
| 7. Brittle            | G. Brilliant luster like that of a diamond                            |
| 8. Chatoyant          | H. Firmly United  |
| 9. Cleavable          | I. Having definite crystal structure                                  |
| 10. Compact           | J. Fracture surface covered with sharp points like that of cast iron  |
| 11. Conchoidal        | K. composed of crystals so tiny their form is invisible               |
| 12. Conglomerate      | L. star-like effects of rays of light on gem surfaces                 |
| 13. Cryptocrystalline | M. Deposits made by running water                                     |
| 14. Crystalline       | N. Shaped like a bunch of grapes                                      |
| 15. Cubic             | O. cube-like, applied to crystals                                     |
| 16. Dendritic         | P. Crystalline igneous rock formed principally of quartz and feldspar |
| 17. Fibrous           | Q. Formed of thin layers or sheets                                    |
| 18. Foliated          | R. without crystal structure  |
| 19. Fracture          | S. reflecting light in pattern like that of a cat's eye               |
| 20. Geode             | T. appearance of broken face of minerals                              |
| 21. Gneiss            | U. metamorphic laminated rock   |
| 22. Granite           | V. rock made up of worn fragments cemented together                   |
| 23. Granular          | W. having tree-like patterns  |
| 24. Hackly            | X. fracture surface curved like that of a seashell                    |
| 25. Hardness          | Y. easily fractured   |

See answers on page 10

From Opal Express 5/05, via Flatiron Facets 7/03, via Quarry Quips 11/02

### Lapidary (Nail) Polish Uses

If you are like me and no longer see as well as you once did you may find that fingernail polish can be a big help. In faceting, applying a coat of fingernail polish prior to cutting makes it a lot easier to see the facets and almost guarantees against missed facets.

In Cabbing, the polish makes it easier to see where you have cut and helps avoid flat spots.

When using a trim saw it helps to see the trim line if you lay down a coating of nail polish after scribing the line.

Via The Sooner Rockologist 4/05, via Angelic Gemcutter 10/98, via Lapidary Chatter 1/98

**Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**June 28, 2005**

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. The minutes for May 24, 2005 were approved as printed in the Breccia.

**New Members:** Mike Perry, Howard Perry, Linda Spencer and Dan Gehret were presented with their new member packets.

**Executive Board:** Meeting will be Thursday June 30, 2005 at Jane Yamashita's home.

**Hospitality:** Guests were introduced and welcomed. There were 32 members and 3 guests last year and 40 members and 10 guests in attendance tonight.

**Correspondence:** none.

**Sunshine:** details in the Breccia

**PLAC:** details in the Breccia.

**Study Groups:** details in the Breccia.

**Founder's Day Picnic:** Please fill out the sign up sheet and give it to June tonight.

There was a 10-minute break to allow bidding for the silent auction.

**Committee Reports:** Marc Mullaney gave a report on the 2006 show. See details in the Breccia.

Rick Kennedy gave a brief report on the closing of the Benitoite Gem mine.

**Field Trips:** details in the Breccia.

**Federation Report:** Ruth Bailey reported on the federation meeting she attended at the Roseville Show. She picked up a plaque honoring Mark and Debbie Wartenberg for their work on scholarships. Congratulations to June Harris for winning first place in the new editor competition for 2004!

**Member Displays:** There were no member displays due to the silent auction.

**Secret Auction:** Secret auction was not held due to the silent auction.

**Program:** Tonight's program was the silent auction.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Harris, Secretary

**Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 30, 2005**

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM at Jane Yamashita's home. All board members were present except for Chuck Boblenz and R K Owen. Minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** M/ S/ P to pay the bills. 2005 Show numbers were presented. M/ S/ P to advance \$300 to June Harris to cover Founder's Day Picnic expenses.

**New Member Applications:** M/ S/ P to accept Marsha Owen, Claudia Peterson, Ramona Heimlick, and Zachary Yamashita (junior) for membership.

**Correspondence:** None

**Sunshine:** details in the Breccia.

**PLAC:** details in the Breccia.

**Field Trips:** Marc Mullaney would like to set up a trip to Jade Cove for Thanksgiving weekend. M/ S/ P to have Marc reserve the campground.

**Founder's Day:** The annual Founder's Day picnic will be July 17. About 40 people have signed up to attend. Raffle winners need not be present to win.

**Federation Report:** none.

**2006 Show:** Marc Mullaney will be the show Chairman. He would like to increase the advertising budget to draw more people in and is talking to people about committees. Discussion was held on how to use the website to better promote the show. See details in the Breccia.

**Unfinished Business:** Discussion of Chris Cox's website. Kelly Van Vleck will be calling to remind people when it is their turn for member sharing. Trailer inventory is on hold until the weather cools. Pat Speece bought books for the library and wrote a review on them for the Breccia. The "Got Rocks" flier is being worked on. Jane reported on some of the member surveys she has received. There are some good ideas coming from the surveys. There was discussion of having a quarterly workshop at the Cabana Club.

**New Business:** M/ S/ P to buy \$1520 in tools and materials for the silversmithing class. This amount is to be reduced if they can get donations or find used tools. M/ S/ P to buy \$350 in tools and materials for the Stringers. Both of these classes are to charge a nominal fee for replacement of materials.

M/ S/ P to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

Jane Yamashita served delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Harris, Secretary

### **SCVGMS Treasurer's Report** **June 26, 2005**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$11,760.36</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
<b>Receipts Sub-total</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
<b>Breccia Printing</b>	<b>\$158.91</b>
<b>Disbursements Sub-total</b>	<b>\$158.91</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$11,681.45</b>

# Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society 2005

## ELECTED OFFICERS

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Parliamentarian: Ruth Bailey  
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email: rba51825@aol.com

## COMMITTEE HEADS

Field Trip Coordinator: Jennifer House

Founder's Day Picnic Food: Randy and June Harris, and Jane and George Yamashita

Founder's Day Picnic Raffle: Pat Speece

Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn

Hospitality: Kris and Knut Owen

Installation Dinner: Kathy McChristian

Juniors: Gary and Kathy McChristian,  
Mark and Debbie Wartenberg

Librarians: June Warne and Nancy Boring

Member Display: Kelly Van Vleck

PLAC (Public Lands Advisory Committee)  
Frank Monez

Program: Marc Mullaney

Refreshments: Montella Lopez

Sargeant-at-arms: Hershal Boring

Show 2005: Frank Mullaney

Show 2006: Marc Mullaney

Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri, &  
Adam Yamashita

Sunshine: Suzi Papineau

Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

Webmaster: RK Owen

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## Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Send Exchange Bulletins to:

June Harris  
107 Dell Way  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

### **Please Deliver Promptly**

#### **More Pricing of Opal By Eugene LeVan VP Via Opal Express 5/2005**

First rule is looking down on stone it must look good without any aids, just your eyes using natural light.

Brightness level	Name	Description
1	Faint	Shows play of color only under direct sunlight and even then the fire is faint
2	Dim	Shows some color under low light but even under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp the fire is dim.
2.5	Somewhat Bright	Shows better color with fire having a little more life than dim
3	Bright	Shows fair color under low light and very nice fire under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp
3.5	Quite bright	Shows very nice color under low light, good color under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp
4	Very Bright	Shows good color under low light and exceptional color under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp.
4.5	Extremely Bright	Shows very good color under low light and exceptional color under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp
5	Brilliant	Shows exceptional bright crisp mirror-like color under indirect sunlight or the grading lamp and often show even brighter in subdued light.

After you weigh your opal stone grading using the chart above, a price per level of brightness will give you guidelines to the value of your stone. For example: Brightness level one could be \$25.00 per ct. while level five could be \$1500.00 or higher per ct. There is more to follow next month on pricing using the Gem Appraisal Software (GAS) program. If you want a free program disk e-mail me at [fineblackopal@sprynet.com](mailto:fineblackopal@sprynet.com).