

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
June Harris
107 Dell Way
Scotts Valley, CA 95066



Please Deliver Promptly

BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley
Gem and Mineral Society



All American Club

San Jose, CA
May, 2012

Volume 59
Number 5

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Randy Harris
(831) 438-5150

Vice President: Rick Kennedy
(408) 529-9690

Secretary: RK Owen
(408) 377-5373

Treasurer: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791

Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150

Federation Director: Chuck Boblenz
(408) 734-2473

Alternate Fed. Director: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195

Directors:

Victor Gassmann	(408) 376-1721
David Lowe	(408) 720-9339
David Marshall	(408) 246-7681
Bill Simpson	(408) 559-0789
Sharon Updyke	(408) 515-8739

Historian: Michael Paone (408) 340-3258
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder
(408) 353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Donation Receiving Committee Chair:
George Yamashita

Field Trip Committee Coordinator:
Dean Welder

Founder's Day Picnic Food:
Art Pimentel and Michael Paone

Founder's Day Raffle: Frank Mullaney

Founder's Day Bingo: Randy Harris

Hospitality: Kathi Peverini

Installation Dinner: Nancy Reineking

Librarian: Jennifer House

Member Displays: Rick Kennedy

PLAC (Public Lands Advisory Committee): Bill Spence

Program: David Lowe

Refreshments: Ed Orekar

Secret Auction: Donation Receiving Comm.

Sergeant-at-arms: OPEN

Show 2012: Frank Mullaney,
Marc Mullaney and Randy Harris

Show 2013: OPEN

Silent Auction: Julaine Mullaney

Social: Jaquelyn Calderon

Sunshine: Ernestine Smith

Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

Webmaster: RK Owen

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

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 Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

Our next general meeting will be on May 22, 2012, at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Our next board meeting will be on May 24, 2012, at RK Owen's home, 5171 Leigh Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 at 7:30 PM.

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 are \$20.00 per year.

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published ten times annually. The deadline for most articles is the Sunday before the regular meeting. The Breccia Editor is June Harris who may be contacted by email at juneconeyharris@yahoo.com or by phone at (831) 438-5150. The Breccia is proofread by Randy Harris. Ruth Bailey handles all aspects of mailing. Exchange bulletins may be sent to June Harris at the following address: 107 Dell Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. 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 on a study group, please call the leader(s) listed below

Facet Cutters	Max Casey	(408) 227-0526
Fossileers	Gail Matthews	(650) 962-9960
Jewelers	Marc Mullaney	(408) 691-1584
Mineraleers	Chuck Boblenz	(408) 734-2473
Smithies	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327
Stringers	Naidu Sundari	(408) 265-6912

Randy's Ramblings

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to thank all of you that helped with the show. I think the show was a great success. The comments I heard were mostly positive. Many of us put in long hours. It could not have happened without your help. You should all be proud of the quality work that we put into our annual show, but I think we can do better! We have many ideas that we hope will improve the event next year. If you have any observations or ideas for next year, please let Frank or me know.

You probably haven't thought about it, but your annual dues are due at the end of this month. Dues are \$20 for adults and \$5 for juniors. There is a form to fill out and turn in with your payment. Please pay them promptly. Members are given a grace period, but it is so much easier if we don't have to send out delinquent notices.

The Board of Directors has approved a new addition to the Bragging Rights contest for the Juniors Group. The details are here in the Breccia.

The Founder's Day Picnic will be held on June 9th. I am sure Art and Carol Pimentel would appreciate help with some of the details. Please volunteer yourselves to help them. The more help they have, the easier it will be. The reservation form is here in the Breccia. Please send in your reservation by May 28th. It is always a lot of fun. I hope to see all of you there.

There are several interesting field trips coming up soon. The trip to Hallelujah Junction was a lot of fun. Many people found some very nice crystals. There is a listing of several upcoming trips here in the Breccia. Contact Dean Welder for information about them (E-mail is best). He is listed in the directory. As always, guests are welcome on field trips, with proper introductions.

Thanks again for your help in all of the things we do.

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Members' Display by Rick Kennedy

The program was on Arizona mineral collecting and Dennis Ewell brought a wonderful collection of Arizona thumbnail-sized minerals. I lost count, but there were a bunch of them and they were bright and well formed!

Jennifer House brought a number of different Jaspers including Polychrome and Red Crest Jasper. She even brought Peacock Jasper which she later identified as Marble!!

Lou Latronica picked up a couple of nice petrified wood rounds, but even more impressive were the bases he made for them, beautiful work!

Next month's program is on the California Blue Mine, feel free to bring anything you've collected or bought that came from Southern California.

Upcoming Meeting Programs

May:

Rick Kennedy will be presenting an "Update on the California Blue Mine Aquamarine Dig".

June:

Dick Pankey will be presenting a program on the Texas Springs limbcast area.

July:

David Lowe will be presenting on New Mexico mineral collecting.

Sunshine

Our sympathies and condolences are offered the following members:

Chuck Boblenz's mother passed away on March 19th and services were held on the 24th in Bella Vista, Arkansas. She was 98 years old.

Suzi Bahr's sister passed away.

If you know of a society member who has been or is ill, had a death in the family, or has had a great event happen in their life, please contact Ernestine Smith with the news. Ernestine's phone number is (408) 395-5035, or email her at ebotts@juno.com.

Just for Juniors Junior Bragging Rights Contest

Rules:

1. Juniors may enter one item or group of items if they fit the theme.
2. All club members and guests will be allowed one vote per meeting.
3. Voting will need to be done by the beginning of the meeting.
4. Winners will be announced during the first 15 minutes of our general meeting.
5. Prizes will be awarded immediately.
6. Juniors will be able to talk about their winning rock when winner is announced.

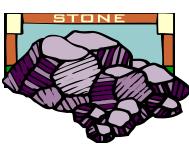
Rockhound of the Month for the month of April was

Sundari Naidu

for becoming our new stringers study group leader. She is new to the club and is eager to work with the study group.
Congratulations !

Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

Mineraleers by Chuck Boblenz



The Mineraleer's will meet on Wednesday, May 9th, at the Larry and Winnie Moore's home. The meeting topic will be the McDermitt Caldera. If you have any material from this area please bring it to share.

Please RSVP to Larry or Winnie if you plan to attend and to get directions to their home.



Stringers by Sundari Naidu

The Stringers meet on the last Monday of the month from 6-8 pm at Sundari Naidu's home. Please call Sundari at (408) 265-6912 for directions and more information about this group. We started on Noriko Romanko's Apple Blossom Necklace. In May we will learn to finish the base and start embellishing the base.

Next DRC Rock Sale May 26, 2012 9AM - noon

WHERE: In the Speece backyard:
2357 Loma Park Court, San Jose.
Near Leigh and Curtner.

We are also planning for this summer a clearance sale at 10 cents per pound, and also a fancy obsidian sale.
More details later.

At the last DRC sale in April, we sold about 132 pounds of rocks.
Netting \$265.00.

It was a lovely day.



Smithies by Pat Speece

Smithies Schedule 2012

All workshops are from 7 to 10 pm at the Speece's home on the second Monday of each month. November and December meeting might be cancelled later on due to the holidays.

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

If we need to cancel a date, we will send out an email as soon as possible. If you would like to be on our Smithies email list, please let me know.

Email: pat.speece@sbcglobal.net

Though we have equipment and materials for your use, you are welcome to bring your own.



Faceters

To learn the art of faceting, please call Max Casey to make an appointment. Max's phone number is (408) 227-0526.

He can answer your questions and give you more information about this topic.

SCVGMS Directories are available to all members. Please pick one up from the society secretary, RK Owen, at the next meeting.

New Members Welcome

Bob Ingold is interested in cutting and polishing rocks, silversmithing, and field trips.

Michael Wheatley is interested in cutting and polishing rocks and silversmithing.

Pamela and Chase (a junior member) Tomac are interested in Collecting, fossils, geology, minerals, and field trips.

Lets make them feel welcome. Looks like there could be some new members added to some study groups.

Bragging Rights and new Junior Bragging Rights

For the month of May, the contest theme is the color **“White.”** So entry must be primarily white in color.

Adults can enter in one of two categories, either judged or people's choice. The judged category is for items or specimens that you have found/purchased and done something to “improve”. People's choice is for specimens or items you have purchased. Both categories have prizes that will be awarded at the next meeting.

Juniors can enter in just the people's choice category. The Juniors entries will be on a different table and voting will be need to be done by the beginning of the meeting. More information is available on page 4 of this month's Breccia.

April Winners: We would like **Sundari Naidu** to bring her “judged” entry, and **Bill Simpson** to bring his “People's choice” entry to the May meeting to show off their entries. They are the winners of our Bragging Rights contest in the month of April.

Junior Rockhounds by Sharon Updyke

Our club's Junior group had some great experiences in April. During the annual show, the juniors were able to work on earning badges in the kid's area, as well as showing their favorite rocks among two display cases; eight kid's participated. At our April meeting, there were four juniors who came and shared ice cream, strawberries, and cake with our club members.

In May, before the general meeting, our junior group will start at 6:30pm. We will be learning how to dig for Trilobites in rocks. Michael Paone has generously donated the rocks and has volunteered to help the kid's learn the best techniques to find the fossils in the stones. Anyone is welcome to join our junior activities.

Do you know where our military headstones come from?

This is very interesting and beautiful!
Our military headstones definitely do not come from China.

www.imdb.com/video/cbs/vi826318105/

A great story I found this to be interesting and I think you might, too.

Have you nominated a member for Rockhound of the Month?

Please give your recommendation to Randy Harris. You can contact him at a meeting or by email at randysparky234@netscape.net. Please include a short note about what this member has done in support of the society.

I wonder who will be the next Rockhound of the month. Could it be you?

2012 SCVGMS Calendar



May 14th Smithies workshop from 7-10 PM at Pat Speece's home.

May 17th Show wrap up meeting at Ruth Bailey's home at 7:30 PM.

May 22nd General meeting at 7:45 PM

May 24th Board meeting at 7:30 PM at RK Owen's home.

May 28th Stringers meeting at 6 PM at Naidu Sundari's home.

June 9th Founder's Day picnic at the Cabana club. RSVP form on page 11 of this issue of the Breccia.

June 11th Smithies workshop from 7-10 PM at Pat Speece's home.

June 13th Mineraleer's meeting at 7:30PM Locations to be determined.

June 25th Stringers meeting at 6 PM at Naidu Sundari's home.

June 26th General meeting at 7:45 PM

June 28th Board meeting at 7:30 PM at Dean Welder's home.

July 9th Smithies workshop from 7-10 PM at Pat Speece's home.

July 24th General meeting at 7:45 PM

July 26th Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

July 30th Stringers meeting at 6 PM at Naidu Sundari's home.

August 13th Smithies workshop from 7-10 PM at Pat Speece's home.

August 27th Stringers meeting at 6 PM at Naidu Sundari's home.

August 28th General meeting at 7:45 PM

August 30th Board meeting at 7:30 PM at Sharon Updyke's home.

September 24th Stringers meeting at 6 PM at Naidu Sundari's home.

September 25th General meeting at 7:45 PM

September 27th Board meeting at 7:30 PM at Randy and June Harris' home.

October 23rd General meeting at 7:45 PM

October 25th Board meeting at 7:30 PM at Chuck Boblenz' home.

November 27th General meeting at 7:45 PM

Field Trip Schedule

For more information about the field trips below, please contact Dean Welder at fieldtrips@scvgms.org

May 19th-20th Silver Springs & Yerington areas, NV for agate, jasper, verdi antique, copper minerals, selenite crystals.

May 25th-28th Bend, OR area, Buchanan Thunderegg fee dig (not a CFMS club trip).

May 26th Ludlow, CA for Lavic Siding jasper (sponsored by CFMS field trips south) More information in the CFMS May newsletter page 9, or online at www.cfmsinc.org or use the address below <http://www.cfmsinc.org/newsletter/news2012/005may12/newsmay12.pdf>

May 27th Wildwood, CA area, Spider Mine for rhodonite

June 9th Virgin Valley, NV for opal

June 23rd Malakoff Diggins SHP for a guided tour, gold panning. Date changed from June 16th.

June 23rd Monitor Pass for crystals in rhyolite

June 24th Cerro Gordo for minerals, see article on page 12.

August 4th-5th Monitor Valley, Pete's Summit near Austin NV for fossils

It is Time to Renew Your Membership

For those of you who wish to be ahead of the game, you may remit your 2012-2013 dues now. Please use the form below when you pay your dues. We hope that this form will help catch changes in your address or email.

Dues are due by May 31, 2012. They are past due on June 1st, 2012.

Membership renewal form

Please provide the following information along with your dues payment.

Please "print clearly"

Name(s):_____

My address and email address is correct in the 2012 directory Yes No

Street Address or P.O. Box #:_____

City, State, Zip Code:_____

Phone Number(s):(_____) _____ (_____) _____

Email Address(es):_____

Type of membership: #Adult @ \$20.00 #Junior @ \$5.00 (8-17)

Dues renewal fee	\$ _____
Total remitted	\$ _____

Checks must be made out to: SCVGMS

**Please turn in or mail this form and your payment to:
SCVGMS Treasurer, C/O Frank Mullaney, 5705 Begonia Dr., San Jose, CA 95124**

Youth Activity

Meet the Quartz-Crystal Family

by Bonita Harris, SFMS Youth Resources Co-Chairman
via SFMS LodeStar, April 2007

For this lesson, the teacher should have a reasonable sample of each of the following quartz specimens:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Clear quartz crystal | 2. Milky quartz |
| 3. Rose quartz | 4. Amethyst |
| 5. Smoky quartz | 6. Citrine |
| 7. Ferruginous quartz | 8. Phantom |

A very special family of quartz crystals decided to release their family history to the media. This is the news article:

Consenting to an interview Papa Mama Quartz-crystal explained that they belong to a very large mineral family. Their last name, Quartz-crystal, sets them apart from their cousins of Agates and Jaspers. These cousins are also Quartzes, but not of the famous crystal shapes, Mama Quartz explained that her correct name is "Rock Crystal", but Papa had a very special name for her, "his little Herkimer diamond". Now why do you think he called her that? Her family came from Herkimer County in New York State.

Take a closer look at her. What do you see? That is right—She looks like a diamond—beautiful, clear, and sparkly, except her shape is natural. Let's count her sides— one, two ... six. Six sides! Isn't she beautiful? You can see why Papa is so proud of her.

In this interview, Papa Quartz consented to allow us to check him out, too. He looks similar to Mama Rock crystal, but there is something that makes him look quite different. First let's check out how they look alike Do you remember how many sides Mama Rock-Crystal has? That's right, six. Guess the number that Papa has. Now, let's count Papa's sides ... 1, 26! He has the same number as Mama Quartz crystal. Yet as we look at him more closely, we see that although he has the same shape as Mama, He doesn't sparkle. His color gives away his name, "milky". Yes, Papa's name, "Milky Quartz", describes him well. He is milky or cloudy because of many bubbles of gas and liquid in the crystal.

As you can imagine, Papa and Mama Quartz have quite a large family of children. Let's take a look at some of them:

Here's "Rose Quartz". Isn't she a pretty rosy pink? Her pink color draws a lot of attention! So even though Rose didn't get her Mama's nice shape... I would say she is rather dumpy... she is still very attractive. Because of her pretty color, no one cares much about her shape. How do you suppose she got her rosy-pink

color? Well, she probably had a healthy diet of titanium, iron, or manganese when she was a baby crystal. Perhaps you remember these elements on the Periodic Table of Elements. Rose Quartz is sometimes carved into a very attractive ornamental stone of spheres, figurines, and ornate statues.

Rose Quartz's sister, Amethyst, is such a beautiful color of purple that she has won many hearts. Amethyst was blessed not only with a nice color, but also she took after Mama with her lovely six-sided shape. Look at her clear color. Doesn't she look like the color of pretty purple flowers? This color came from her diet as a baby crystal which was quite different than Rose's. Amethyst apparently soaked up ferric iron impurities and aluminum, which gives her the pretty lavender color. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/amethyst>

Brother, Smoky Quartz, had quite a different diet. Doesn't he look like he had been in a fire with his grayish color? The cause of the color of Smoky is in question, but it is almost certainly related to the amount of exposure to radiation. http://www.galleries.com/minerals/gemstone/smoky_qu/smoky_qu.htm As you can see, he takes after both Mama and Papa with his somewhat clear and nicely shaped crystal form.

Smoky quartz is also popular as an ornamental stone. Sometimes he is called "Smoky Topaz"; and then used as a semi-precious gem in jewelry.

Little Citrine Quartz started out to look just like one of her sisters. Guess which one ... Was it Rose or Amethyst? I'll give you a hint; she got overheated and her original color was changed to this deep yellow. So was she purple or rose first? Here's another hint: look at how clear she is... Originally she was lavender or purple, but she didn't mind her color change at all. It sets her apart from her sister, Amethyst. Little Citrine is a favorite semi-precious gem for jewelry. Sometimes she is even confused for the expensive yellow topaz.

The Quartz-Crystal family had another brother whose name is quite complicated. Ferruginous Quartz. He is nicknamed Ferry. This quartz brother is usually massive and opaque more like rose Quartz. His red color gives him his name. Do you recognize the first part of his name Ferrum (Latin) - iron Right! Just like his sisters, he had a special diet as a little crystal. For him, iron was his favorite meal. So Ferruginous is red, brown, or yellow colored by inclusions of hematite or limonite. Some people think that he is not very pretty, but what do you think?

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Continued from page 9

There is one more family member and what a name he has! Let's take a closer look at this member of the crystal family and see why he is called Phantom Crystal. At first, he looks just like Mama Quartz-Crystal. But if we look more closely, we see that there is something very different. Take a closer look inside the crystal.

What do you see? Another crystal ... Did you know that a phantom Crystal has a "ghost" crystal hiding inside? See how he earned his name. "Sometimes such crystals are found after they ave been rolled in the beds of mountain torrents until they have become entirely opaque, but when the surfaces are polished, the "phantom" or "ghost," appears with wonderful beauty." <http://www.jjkent.com/articles/ghost-crystal-quartz.htm>.

What a family they are! Papa Quartz does quite ordinary things, but Mama Rock Quartz is used for optical purposes. Little Rose, Amethyst, and Citrine Quartz-Crystal all can be lovely jewels. Smoky and Ferruginous do ordinary jobs just like their dad. Gems, ornaments, and grinding and polishing material. Now you see why the Quartz-Crystals are so important.

(It would be nice to help the children start their own quartz-crystal collection.)

Why Gold Discolors

From Thomas from the Orchid Digest; via El Gambrino, November 2010; via Gem Cutters News, November 2011.

The Most common reason gold will turn different colors is due to chemical reactions with the alloyed metals mixed with the gold when it is exposed to a caustic element. Some of these chemicals are present in common household products. Swimming pool chlorides and Clorox® based household cleaners will definitely cause gold to change to an ugly gray. Mercury from a broken thermometer can literally dissolve the gold right out of a ring leaving a burned black spot of hole.

Copier ribbons contain xylem, which can cause yellow gold to turn white, and some ink stamp pads contain a medium, which will do the same thing. Smog fumes, perspiration, saltwater, or even certain fruit juices can all cause a discoloring effect on gold.

Whenever you are going swimming in chlorinated water or will be working with solvents or cleaners it is best to remove your jewelry. If you get any of these chemicals on your jewelry, clean it with a mild solution of baking soda and rinse well before wearing it again or take it to your local jeweler for a professional cleaning.

The most common reason gold will discolor your skin is metallic abrasion. Many cosmetics contain compounds harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds in the cosmetics will wear away microscopic particles of gold, which will collect in the pores of your skin. Very fine metal particles always appear black, not metallic.

When the particles stick to your skin in Quantities, they will form a black smudge. To prevent this you should remove your jewelry when you apply cosmetics where the jewelry is to be worn. Changing cosmetic brand may also help.

Gold itself will not corrode, but the primarily alloys that are mixed with 10 and 14 karat gold will. They are copper and silver. Under moist conditions, a person's perspiration, which contains fats and fatty acids, can cause corrosion in karat gold jewelry.

The level of corrosion will differ based upon each individual's unique body chemistry. Things that you can do to prevent your jewelry from tarnishing or turning your fingers black are: remove all jewelry before using soaps, perfumes, or cosmetics, and have your jewelry cleaned frequently. You will be amazed at how nice it will look when kept free of oils and dirt.

Eighteen karat gold jewelry is less likely to change because of the lower alloy content and platinum jewelry is nearly impervious to chemical corrosion. Of all the different types of jewelry, it will wear the best and give the least amount of trouble, especially if you experience constant problems with discoloration and black smudges.

SCVGMS

Founder's

Day Picnic

June 9, 2012



Who: All members and their guests

When: Lunch served at Noon

Where: The Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 95032

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

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 by May 28

To: SCVGMS Founder's Day Picnic
6647 Catamaran St, San Jose, CA 95119

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-children:	
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 ! ! !

AFMS Scholarship Honorees Announced

by Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President,
via AFMS newsletter, May 2012

It's my pleasure to introduce you to the AFMS Scholarship Honorees for 2012. You will know many of these names. This year, except for one regional federation, all the honorees are rockhounds and known throughout the U.S. for their activities within the rockhound community.

California: Jim Brace-Thompson Known for his successful Junior Program via the AFMS and Immediate Past President of CFMS.

Eastern: Carolyn and Steve Weinberger Known for their work both at the EFMLS and AFMS. Steve is a Past President of EFMLS, and AFMS. Carolyn has been editor of EFMLS and AFMS for centuries.... and are also involved in the famous EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres.

Midwest: Judith and John Washburn Known for their work in the Midwest and John's work as All American Chair. Both are Past Presidents of MWF.

Northwest: Jon Spunaugle Known for his work for the NFMS and the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. John is a Past President of NFMS, AFMS Scholarship Foundation and ALAA.

Rocky Mountain: Dr. James Kirkland Dr. Kirkland is with the Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT

South Central: Paul and Margaret Good Paul and Margaret have been the duo SCFMS Editor/Assistant Editor, since their move to Texas many years ago. They put educational exhibits in schools and libraries throughout the state.

As soon as the honorees select their schools and students we will bring this information to you. Remember: each Honoree will choose a school and two graduate students in Earth Science, Geo-Science, or Geology, and each student will receive \$4000. for the coming 2012 Fall Semester.

ROCKHOUNDING WORLD CLASS SMITHSONITE at CERRO GORDO

via CFMS newsletter, May 2012

WHEN: Sunday, June 24

MEET: Leave from Lee's Frontier Chevron, South end of Lone Pine @ 8:30 a.m.

WHAT TO BRING: High Clearance Vehicles recommended. Graded mountain dirt road, 9 miles. 5000' elevation gain, rock bag or bucket, rock pick, hand rake, squirt bottle, sun screen, hat, gloves, camera? **This is a fee dig @ \$5.00 per person, 2 gallons of drinking water minimum and 6 pieces of firewood.** More of each will be welcome.

Mineral collecting at this site can be quite rewarding. Cerro Gordo is world renown for:

anglesite, anhydrite, argentite, atacamite, aurichalcite, azurite, barite, bindheimite, bouronite, calcite, and caledonite, cermrgyrite, cerussite, ceruantite, chrysocolla, dufrenoysite, fluorite, galena, eothite, greenockite, hemimorphite, hollosite, hydrozincite, jamesonite, leadhillite, limonite, linerite, liroconite, malachite, mimetite, plumbgumite, pyrite, quartz, silver, smithsonite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite, willemite and wulfenite.

*Of special interest to rockhounds is the **smithsonite**, which is world class.*

Nestled high in the Inyo Mountains east of the Sierra Nevada, at an altitude of 8,500 feet, Cerro Gordo, Fat Hill, was discovered to be rich in silver deposits by a group of Mexican miners led by Pablo Flores. The year was 1865. By 1866, Victor Beaudry, a French Canadian, now a merchant at Fort Independence in Owens Valley, realized there were opportunities at the Cerro Gordo mining camp, and opened a general store on the mountain. He began acquiring mining properties in lieu of overdue accounts and by January of 1868 arranged with Pierre Desormeaux to build ore furnaces. By April of 1868, Beaudry acquired more properties which included the richest claims on the hill, the Union, the San Lucas, the San Felipe and more.

That same April, Victor Beaudry claimed more and more properties around Cerro Gordo, Mortimer Belshaw came in to town. He became part owner of the Union Mine, as well. June 1868, Belshaw processed ore in one of the Mexican furnaces, then brought the first wagon load of silver into the sleepy pueblo of Los Angeles. He built the Yellow Grade road from Owens dry lake to Cerro Gordo, in July of 1868, so equipment could be taken to the mines, and the ore taken down the mountain. He also built his own smelters to process that ore, in much larger volumes than Victor Beaudry was capable of. By December of 1868, regular shipments of silver bullion were going to Los Angeles. Silver ingots 18 inches long, and weighing 85 pounds, were worth from 20-35 dollars. Cerro Gordo was being hailed as another Comstock.

For more information about the field trip, call Dana @ (760) 876-5020. You may have to leave a message or call Francis @ (760) 876-4319.

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair
via CFMS newsletter, May 2012

New Edition of the AFMS/FRA Badge Manual and Safe-guarding Children

I'm pleased to report I've finally completed my latest update and revision of the Badge Manual for the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. This includes five new badges covering Special Effects (magnetism, asterism and cat's eye, double refraction, crystal phantoms, etc.), Fluorescent Minerals, The World in Miniature (miniature, thumbnail, and micromount minerals and fossils, and sand collecting), Reaching Across Generations (encouraging kids to partner and work with seniors in their clubs—a unit suggested and designed by a junior!), and Maps.

I've had some youth leaders ask me if I could send them the new badge units and just the updated pages for older units. However, I've made revisions throughout the manual. I found recommended web sites had evaporated into the ether and needed to be replaced where possible, I added activities here and there based on suggestions from clubs using the program, I've modified other activities, I've added additional info to tables, etc., etc. So it's best if you simply download an entirely new manual from the AFMS web site. But in doing so, be sure to have an ample supply of paper on hand: it comes to 223 pages, in all! I've also printed a limited number of hardcopy manuals for anyone who absolutely can't access it electronically.

Another change to the manual involves advice on safeguarding children. I didn't address this at all in the first edition of the manual in 2004. One youth leader subsequently advised that I should say something, so a few indirect words were included in the Introduction to the second edition in 2008. However, since then, many people have advised that this point needs strong emphasis. If starting a youth program in your local club, you should select youth leaders who are well known by all for sound moral values. The vast majority of adults are moral, reliable, responsible, and eager to help as best they can in efforts to educate and nurture our kids in a positive, wholesome environment. Regrettably, though, one very unfortunate aspect of the world in which we live is that there are some who would abuse the natural trust of children and who should not be left alone with kids. Some societies require background checks for any members volunteering to work with kids, and this is a good policy to explore with your own club board.

Still, even with all that, we see stories in the news every day about trusted priests who abuse, or incidents

such as the Penn State football program scandal, so the second point emphasized in the new manual is the importance of having multiple adults on hand when working with kids, including parental involvement. Always have multiple adults, and, as a group, prevent any sort of abuse, whether physical, sexual, mental, emotional, or verbal. Any obvious or even suspected abuse should be reported and dealt with through proper legal authorities.

For further guidance on this issue, I recommend all Federation-affiliated society board members and youth leaders read the excellent and thorough "Youth Protection" section on the web site of the Boy Scouts of America: <scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>. This is one aspect of working with kids that can be difficult to discuss, but it's a discussion that absolutely must be held within any club or society endeavoring to start and/or maintain a youth program. The safety of our youth is paramount!

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Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
General meeting minutes
April 24th, 2012

The April meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 7:42 pm at the Cabana Club. The minutes from the March meeting were approved as printed in the Breccia.

Announcements: Thanks to all for their help with the show! Dues are due next month. The April board meeting will be at Ruth Bailey's home, hosted by Rick Kennedy.

New Members: Jill, Brian and Annie Borders and Stephany Walty received their new member packets and were welcomed into the society.

Awards: The Rockhound of the Month Award for April was awarded to Sundari Naidu for her volunteerism. Braggin' Rights contest winners for February were Bill Spence (Judged) and Rick Kennedy (People's Choice)

Field Trips: Please check the Breccia for a full list of upcoming field trips. There is a Turquoise dig in Tonopah, Nevada scheduled for May 5th and 6th. There is a thunderegg dig in Buchanan on Memorial Day Weekend. June 23rd is a dig at Monitor Pass. Rick Kennedy has filled the May 4th Field trip to Peterson Mountain (Hallelujah Junction) to collect Quartz. On the morning of May 4st, the participants will meet Rick Kennedy and be prepared to leave by 9:00AM from the gas station at Hallelujah Junction (Hwy 395 at Hwy 70).

Member Displays: The program was on Arizona mineral collecting and Dennis Ewell brought a wonderful collection of Arizona Thumbnail sized minerals. I lost count, but there were a bunch of them and they were bright and well formed! Jennifer House brought a number of different Jaspers including Polychrome and Red Crest Jasper. She even brought Peacock Jasper which she later identified as Marble!! Lou Latronica picked up a couple of nice petrified wood rounds, but even more impressive were the bases he made for them, beautiful work! Next month's program is on the California Blue Mine, feel free to bring anything you've collected or bought that came from Southern California.

Program: David Lowe and Stan Bogosian gave a program on mineral collecting in Arizona and showed a number of interesting sites to collect, mostly within an hour or so from Tucson. They also shared a number of fun collecting stories which make every trip unique and special.

Study Groups: Cutaways and Carvers: Looking for a new leader. **Stringers:** Sundari Naidu is the new leader, they are working on Japanese weaving technique. **Smithies:** At Pat Speece's home the May 14th. **Faceters:** on a limited basis, contact Max Casey. **Mineraeers:** May 9th at the Moore residence, the topic is the McDermitt Caldera. **Fossileers:** No report.

DRC Report: There will be a sale April 28th from 9:00 – 12:00 at Pat Speece's home. There will be another sale on May 26th, check the Breccia for details.

Hospitality: 45 members and 4 guests were in attendance.

Founder's Day Picnic: Will be June 9th, reservation forms are in the Breccia.

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy presented flyers for the Santa Cruz Show and for the Pow Wow in September.

Federation Report: No Report.

PLAC: No Report

Sunshine: Chuck Boblenz's mother passed away at the age of 98 on March 9th. Pat Phelps's mother passed away. Randy Harris' Aunt passed away last month

2012 Show Report: Thanks to all who helped and participated at this year's show. The show simply does not happen without our volunteers. Show wrap up meeting May 17th at Ruth Bailey's home.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54PM

Respectfully submitted, Rick Kennedy, acting SCVGMS Secretary

SCVGMS Board Meeting - Apr 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:29pm at the home of Ruth Bailey, hosted by Rick Kennedy . Meeting was concluded at 8:41pm . Reopened at 9:00pm, closed at 9:12pm.

Board meeting notes were submitted by Secr. R.K. Owen.

Roll Call:

The following board members were present: Pres. Randy Harris, VP Rick Kennedy, Secr. R.K. Owen, Treas. Frank Mullaney, Editor June Harris, Fed.Dir. Chuck Boblenz, Alt.Fed.Dir. Ruth Bailey, Directors Sharon Updyke, David Lowe, David Marshall, Bill Simpson.

The following were absent: Director Victor Gassmann, Hist. Michael Paone, Parl. Dean Welder.

Prior Board Minutes: Read and approved the minutes from the Mar 29, 2012 board meeting (Frank M., Chuck B.).

New Members: Bob Ingold; Pamela and son Chase Tomac; Michael Wheatley (Ruth B, Bill S, P)

Correspondence: No new correspondence since general meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Frank Mullaney. M/S/P to pay the bills as presented (Ruth B, David M.).

Committee Reports:

Juniors Group: (Sharon Updyke) - 5 Juniors worked on badges at show field trip.

Show 2012: Show close out meeting at Ruth Baily's on May 17 @ 7:30pm. Discussed Richard Wade programs for next year - how many Dino/Volcano demonstrations? Discussed closing time for Saturday evening (5 or 6pm). Discussed Steve Yvaska, and Donna Kelly. The dealers were generally happy with the show.

Field Trips: quick review of upcoming trips.

Old Business:

1. Upcoming general meeting programs: May - Rick Kennedy, California Blue Mine 2.0; June (*changed*) - Dick Pankey, Texas Springs limb casts; July - David Lowe, New Mexico minerals & collecting.
2. Founder's Day Picnic (June 9): reservation form will be placed in the May Breccia.
3. County Fair Booth (see Mar 29 board meeting, old business #3): Still contingent on other issues - Frank M. will likely do the fair.
4. Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge Day (see Mar 01 board meeting, new business #5): discussed - probably in Oct or Nov if the local Boy Scout council provide merit badge counselors.
- 5.

New Business:

1. Breccia Ads (June Harris): No motion needed to amend the Dec 6th, 2007 board meeting motion to allow dealers to advertise in the Breccia. Clarified that a dealer need not be a show dealer or club member.
2. Bragging Rights Contest for Juniors: Motion to add a *Juniors Bragging Rights contest and that winners get a \$15 gift certificate, their judging will close at the general meeting start and will be the same topic as the adult bragging rights contest, effective with the coming general meeting.* (Frank M, David M, P).
3. Moving the Chase bank deposit box: Motion for the treasurer to check the availability of a wide bank deposit box (approximately 3"x10") at the Blossom Hill Rd and Almaden expressway Chase branch and acquire it if less than \$10/month (R.K., David M, P).

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society Treasurer's Report
April 25, 2012

Beginning Balance:	\$34,366.37
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Receipts

Returned change from show cash boxes	\$ 1010.00
Show 2012 Kids Area	\$ 2143.50
Show 2012 Scholarship booth	\$ 2484.92
Dues	\$ 450.00
Initiation fees	\$ 24.00
Show 2012 Dealer fees	\$ 5585.00
Show 2012 Admission ticket sales	\$ 8328.75
Interest	<u>\$.24</u>
Total Receipts	\$20026.41

Disbursements

Show 2012 insurance	\$ 482.00
Show 2012 Radio advertising	\$ 2050.00
Show 2012 change for cash boxes	\$ 1010.00
Show 2012 Richard Wade	\$ 1398.38
Show 2012 Judging	\$ 50.00
Show 2012 Scholarship– Donovan Shiveley	\$ 1000.00
Show 2012 Scholarship– Jessica Castro	\$ 1000.00
Show 2012 Scholarship– Stephanie Nale	\$ 1000.00
Show 2012 Steve Yvaska	\$ 500.00
Show 2012 Donna Kelley	\$ 500.00
Show 2012 Trailer moving fee	\$ 200.00
Show 2012 Trailer moving fee	\$ 100.00
Show 2012 Food for show workers	\$ 320.08
Breccia postage	\$ 52.20
Show 2012 Door prize 2nd prize	\$ 50.00
Show 2012 Door prize 1st prize	\$ 100.00
Newsletter copying –April issue	\$ 41.66
Show 2012 Fairgrounds fees	\$13189.00
Show 2013 Building deposit fairgrounds	\$ 1050.00
Show 2012 Trailer maintenance	\$ 19.00
Show 2012 Parking refund– Larry Moore	\$ 16.00
Show 2012 Hospitality/Ticket booth pens	\$ 8.10
Show 2012 Dealer refund	\$ 15.00
Show 2012 Kids Area copying	\$ 99.82
Show 2012 Sand for flags	\$ 19.86
Show 2012 Show advertising	\$ 44.44
Editor's Expense	\$ 59.66
Show 2012 Dealer expense	\$ 9.85
Show 2012 Kids Area expense	<u>\$ 160.06</u>
Total disbursements	\$24861.52
Ending balance	\$29,531.26