



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 67 Number 5 May 2020

Calendar of Coming Events

May 26 General Meeting at 7:30 using Zoom with a presentation by Missy Fox on Agates

May 28 Board Meeting using Zoom

June 14 - Founder's Day Picnic

June 23- General Meeting at 7:30 probably by using Zoom

June 25 Board Meeting on Zoom or at board member's home, to be determined.

All of the events including Smithies will resume again when it is safe to do so. The schedule shown is tentative.

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General Information

President's Message

I am in a rambling mood today, so my message will reflect that mood. Maybe it is because I am sheltering in place, and eleven years ago today my father died. Well, he really died on May 1st, late in the evening, and by the time the coroner showed up, the official death was recorded as May 2nd. So I called Mom and had a chat with her about Dad and remembered him quietly. Dad was a crystal aficionado, especially those minerals and crystals that contained copper, and he climbed into the caves near Tucson and other locations to find what he wanted. So our family was always around desert dirt and rocks and wonderful scenery. He was the one who 'discovered' the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS) Gem and Mineral Show and took the whole family when I was 12, just a few years ago.

There are so many things we are all dealing with right now, and sometimes it seems like life will never get back to normal. And you are right, but we will get back to a new normal, and we will be able to go on field trips, have the Gem and Mineral Festival, and we will get together as a group in the Cabana clubhouse, have our meetings in person, and snack together. But even while we are sheltering, life goes on. Births, deaths, anniversaries, problems to be solved (my computer disconnected itself from the internet), and people to get together with, even though it is just a phone call. Stick with it everyone – don't give up!

I know a lot of you are cleaning up your geology collections – sorting and weeding out the stuff you no longer want (save them for our future Silent Auction please), tumbling rocks, polishing stones, making cabs, making jewelry, and all things that calm us and make us happy. I contacted one of my favorite vendors and asked for some 4mm carnelian and malachite beads. She is a perfect saleswoman and sent me pictures of many additional beads in her collection that she thought I would like, and had nothing to do with carnelian or malachite. So I bought carnelian, malachite, turquoise, lava, jasper, quartz, red and green garnets, obsidian, black agate, and more. If you have a favorite vendor that you always visit at the Gem and Mineral Festival, and you can remember their name, look them up on the internet and give them a call if you still want that beautiful slab, or gem, or fossil.

I had a great time at the General Meeting and hope that more people will join us by Zoom in May if we are still unable to meet at the Cabana Club. I called some SCVGMS folks and had some great talks. Don't be surprised if a SCVGMS board member calls you to see how things are going. Call a friend, call someone in the club, and check in with old friends you haven't talked to for a while. Contact with others helps to keep us sane in an insane world.

Stay calm, don't panic, smile, work on an interesting or long needed project, and wash your hands – with soap!

Thinking of all of you,
Madam President
Michele Smith
408-679-0202



A Tribute to our Festival Vendors and Demonstrators

We want to take this space to share our sadness that your beautiful specimens were not able to be shared with the Santa Clara Valley community and for the sales that you have lost during this time of Covid-19 shelter in place restrictions. You're a large part of the success of our festival and we are looking forward to seeing you at the 2021 Santa Clara County Gem and Mineral Festival. Here is a full list of the vendors and demonstrators that we want to honor for being a fantastic part of our past and future successes:

Arrow Head Demonstrating (Donna Kelly)
Petrified Wood Display (Walt Wright)
Fluorescent Rock Display (Mike & Chris Whittier)
Amber America (Urszula Tomasik)
Beverly Marynak's Handmade Jewelry (Beverly Marynak)
Buddha Gems & Minerals (Rupesh (Robert) Gartaula)
Casa de Lumbre (Sal Chavez)
Chaos Glassworks (David & Heather Hopman)
Chuck's Bead Lair (Chuck Tonnacliff)
Crystal Monster (Miao & Tom Yang)
Daggett's Jewelry & Stoneworks (Jack Daggett)
Earth's Treasures (Rick Kennedy)
Enlightened Stone's & Designs (Jen Green & Richard Whitehead)
Elizabeth Lynn Moon Original Art Jewelry (Elizabeth Lynn Moon)
Elkhorn Trading Company (Carla & Rusty Fairey)
Faultline Trading (June Harris)
Freedom Valley Gems and Minerals (Fahim Bagzad)
Gabriel Mosesson Jewelry (was **Ethiopia Imports**) (Gabriel Mosesson)
West Rock Co (Sue Wu & Jun Lin Ho)
Gray Designs (Claudia Gray), **Jade & Crafts** (Wilson & Yan-Wen Lai)
Jade and Jewelry (Mark & Sandra Mendoza)
Jasper Mountain Lapidary (Joe & Jean Shook)
JC Cristals & More (Jeff & Cindy Chastain)
Jewelry By ME (Paul Kinyon)
Jeweltrain (Ben & Ellen Nott)
John Garsow Gems & Minerals (John Garsow)
Lee Chavez (Lee Chavez)
Love Harmony Inc (Alain Bloom)
Making Jewelry (Mary Ann King)
MARE Meteoritics (Mike Martinez)
Moon & Star Gem and Mineral (John Barrett & Victoria LeJeune)
N C Nagle Gemstones (Nancy & Brian Nagle)
Naturals From the Earth (Joe Lattuada)



A Tribute to our Festival Vendors and Demonstrators Continued

Pauls Custom Cabs (Paul Rose)

Peregrine Rocks and Trading Post (Dean & Karen Welder)

Pine Tree Jewelry (Dan Clark)

Pameer Gem & Jewelry (Abdullah Azizi)

Rock Your World (John Gardner)

Rocks in a Hard Place (Mike & Chris Whittier)

Rocky Five (Frank Mullaney)

Too Few & Precious (Mike Shirey)

Vision Within (Sarah and Christine Wrathall)

Justin Weber (Justin Weber)

FIVE LIONS GEMS (A Wali Beekzad)

Wonderworks (Richard & Cheryl Sittinger)

A Note from your Editor

As I put this Breccia together, I am thinking of what a remarkable group of people make up the membership of SCVGMS. I have the honor of working with many of them. In this time of social distancing and meetings via Zoom, the spirit of comradery and cooperation is alive and well. I wondered if I could actually construct a Breccia when there were no General and Board meetings or special activities where I could enjoy being with SCVGMS members, but it has not been a problem at all because people work together remotely as well as they did face to face.

I volunteered to be the editor about three and a half years ago, because I had some writing experience and because I was comfortable working with computers having once been a computer software specialist, but my knowledge of minerals was pretty scanty. I loved being outside, I had always loved rocks, and I loved being with my husband, Bill, and our friend, Gene, as we went on rockhounding expeditions to various parts of the United States, but I loved it for these reasons only and not because I was very knowledgeable about minerals.

I am learning a lot as I help with DRC, participate in Smithies, go to meetings, and edit this newsletter. Participating in SCVGMS activities has become one of the most enjoyable things I've ever done. Join this group and participate. You will enjoy it, I am sure.

Jo Borucki - Breccia Editor

Smithies

SMITHIES will resume where we left off as soon as it is safe to do so. Since our sole pickle pot quit, we now have two new bigger pots (1.5 qt and 6 qt) that will accommodate our cuff bracelets and other larger items.

I've been working on Viking Chains, the simple ring and other things. I have missed our workshops and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Stay well!

Thanks, Pat pat,speece@comcast.net

DRC NEWS

The DRC (Donation Receiving Committee) will resume operations as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions allow.

We are moving operations back to my backyard. It was a pleasure having the sales for the last several years at Billie's home, but it is time to move back and I am looking forward to having them here again.

Prior to the move, we will have a big CLEARANCE/MOVING sale at Billie's. Jim Sugiyama, Michele Smith, and I will be coordinating the sale and the move. We will keep you posted.

Until then, wash your hands!

Take care,
Pat

Founders' Day Picnic

The annual Founders' Day Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 14 at the Cabana Club. This is subject to change as conditions warrant.

Sonia Dyer—Chairperson

Members' Displays (Show and Tell)

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.

Stephen May brought a cut block of Ocean Jasper and some cut plasma agate. **Michele Smith** brought some carnelian beads that she purchased over the phone from one of the dealers who would have been one of our vendors at our Festival had it taken place, and **Rick Kennedy** spoke of a rare mineral, Jonesite that he has been working on. Rick also showed off a base he recently made for a Hallelujah Junction scepter.

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

Rick Kennedy– Chairperson

Bragging Rights

Sabine Hessmer won the April contest for her beautiful Rhodochrosite cabochon that she cut and polished.

The theme for the May meeting is Fossils. The meeting will be on Zoom so send pictures of your entries to Alan Achor, kayakb@sbcglobal.net



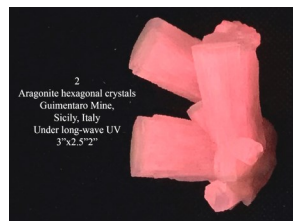
3
Rhodochrosite Cabochon
Made from purchased slab

The Bragging Rights contest entries were submitted as photos sent to Alan. He created really beautiful labels for them and then displayed them one by one during our Zoom meeting so that we could vote. Here are the other four entries:



1
Rhodochrosite on
Quartz with Pyrite
Hedgehog Pocket
Sweet Home Mine
Purchased

Rhodochrosite
on Quartz with
Pyrite



2
Aragonite hexagonal crystals
Guimantano Mine,
Sicily, Italy
Under long-wave UV
3" x 2.5" x 2"

Aragonite Hexagonal
Crystals



4
Spodumene Crystal, Variety Kunzite.
2.8 x 7.3 x 22 cm. Wt: 1.91 Kg.
From Konar Province, Afghanistan

Spodumene Crystal



5
Limb Cast
W 4" x L 3 1/2" x D 1 1/2"
Found at Texas Springs, NV
May 25, 2009

Limb Cast

Alan Achor - Chairman

Fossils

By Jo Borucki

The Bragging Rights theme for our May general meeting is fossils. I saw a David Attenborough documentary, “Attenborough and the Giant Dinosaur” on PBS, and I learned so much about the information that can be gathered and inferred from fossils and from the location where the fossils are found. I gained great respect for fossils from viewing this documentary, and I wish to share it with you. Think about it as you view whatever Bragging Rights entries are entered in our contest at our May meeting.

One of the richest areas in the world for fossils is the Cerro Barcino Formation in Chubut Province, Patagonia, Argentina. My understanding is that through time, wind erosion swept away layers and layers of dirt, finally exposing this rich fossil bed, with fossils so dense that it is difficult to avoid stepping on them as you walk around. Among the beautifully preserved fossils such as whole fossil dinosaur eggs and mineralized skin, was the lower thighbone of a young adult Titanosaur (Patagotitan Mayorum) that was 121 feet long. How could such a massive animal survive?

The titanosaur required a circulatory system that could nourish his whole body including the lower extremities. The scientists looked at one of our largest land mammals, the African elephant, to see how it managed this. It was done by thick fat pads on the feet and thick elastic skin above the feet, which worked together, as it walked to help pump the blood back up to the four chambered heart for reoxygenation.

Why did the titanosaur grow so huge? Much of the titanosaur is long neck and long tail that balances the neck. The long neck enabled the titanosaur to sweep its head through the tops of tall trees and to eat all that was required to nourish its huge body. The teeth where the upper and lower teeth met were like the opposing blades on a pair of scissors that when brought together could snip and shred the branches. The long neck and body contained a long gut where the food took ten days to digest.

Much more was learned as the scientists examined fossilized remains. But there were other questions to be answered, not an easy task, because these fossils were from animals that lived about 131 million years ago. For example, as the dig progressed, some layers had fossilized remains, and other layers did not. Between the layers was evidence of volcanic ash. Over time, the volcanoes erupted and killed all the creatures and then in time when the volcanoes were quiet, the animals returned. The cycle repeated itself many times. So why did the area become repopulated again and again? The answer was that it was an area with plenty of water, an area hospitable to life.

This is part of what I learned as I watched this program, and it gave me an renewed respect for fossils and their importance to us in understanding our world. The fossils have a story to tell us about our earth long ago, in this example, the early part of the Cretaceous period.

I had the opportunity to dig for fossils on a ranch in Montana. Among the fossils that I found, were beautiful, perfect teeth, one from an Ankylosaur and one from a Tyrannosaur. Both are too small to be impressive to the eye, but they are 65 million years old! What a beautiful way this was for me to see a little of the past.



As you decide what fossils to enter into the Bragging Rights contest for our May meeting, try to learn a little about them and the era in which the plant or animal lived. It will make you value your fossil even more than you do now.



Apache Tears

By Michele Smith

When I was a little girl, maybe eight years old, my family went to the Apache Tears just south of Superior, Arizona on the way to Miami, Arizona. As you drove down the highway and looked very carefully, you would see a small metal sign, rusted, about four feet off the ground right at the road entrance that said 'Apache Tears'. If you knew where it was, you started slowing down, making all the cars behind you irritated, and then you turned abruptly onto the narrow dirt road. I don't think there was any road sign, but if you followed the road there was an area you could park in to the right and get out and find small obsidian rocks, only needing a fine grit polish and a final shine tumble to finish them up. I actually liked the chunks of obsidian that were wrapped with perlite and where the obsidian peeked through the white outer cover. These were just lying on the ground, easy to pick up and put in a pocket or small bucket.

If you traveled down the road a little more, there was a perlite cave like area that had been turned into an Apache Tears concession, where buckets and rock picks were rented out and you could go into this almost cave perlite structure and pick apache tears out, fill your small bucket and when you were tired, and take them home. No eye protection was offered, and I remember rock grit flying into my face and sometimes into my eyes. You quickly learned to look away when you picked.

The first picture shows the current Apache Tears Mine location, fenced off and looking pretty precarious to stand under. The active mine is private and you are not allowed to mine there. The second picture shows all that remains of my collection of Apache Tears from the Apache Tears Mine. Someone in my family decided that the Perlite should be removed. Arghh!



Apache tears originate from siliceous lava flows, lava domes, or ash-flow tuffs, often in close association with or embedded in, gray perlite. The spherules occur as cores within perlite masses that typically exhibit texture of concentrically curved, onion-skin fractures. Formation is apparently related to differential cooling and various alkali and water contents. Excessive water present during cooling and quenching of rhyolitic lava causes obsidian to hydrate (i.e., Water entering the obsidian glass converts it to perlite). Where perlite is incompletely hydrated, fresh obsidian cores remain as pebbles of marekanite or Apache Tears. (ref. Wikipedia)

Apache tears are well known from tertiary volcanic terrain in numerous localities throughout the western United States, particularly Arizona. Several districts in western Nevada also have yielded abundant marekanite eroding from tuff beds. (ref. Wikipedia)

As a child, I was told the about the origin of the name "Apache tear". As legend has it, in the 1870s, some Apache Indians and US Cavalry fought on a mountain overlooking what is now Superior, Arizona. The outnumbered Apache warriors rode their horses off the mountain to their deaths rather than be killed or captured by the cavalry. The wives and families of the warriors cried when they heard of the tragedy, and their tears turned into stone upon hitting the ground. For those of you who might be gullible, no this can't be true, and it is a very sad story anyway. Due to the origin of the legend, only marekanite from the area near Superior, AZ can be called Apache Tears.

Sunshine

Good news! No one reported anyone needing sunshine so all is well as we shelter in place. To report someone needing sunshine, email **Margo Mosher** - margomosher@yahoo.com

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites
Click on the blue area of whatever site you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <http://www.scvgms.org/>

Note: 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.

Link to CFMS Shows and Festivals: [CFMS Society/Club Shows](http://www.cfmsociety.org/shows)

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies: <http://www.amfed.org>

CFMS Bulletin: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

To access the news from the **American Lands Access Association:** www.amlands.org

Greetings from Bob Kout

Best wishes to everyone sheltering in place. It is time to put the genie to work on a piece of Chevron Amethyst. With good luck it will look like wax having radiant chisel cuts. This was not a bad project on the day that would have been the first day of our festival. Another shelter in place activities that I am doing is tumbling large rocks, one per barrel. The rocks being tumbled are Crazy Lace Agate and Petrified Wood from Utah and Arizona.

Shown in the photos to the right are Chevron Amethyst, Stone Canyon Jasper and Aventurine. The Aventurine is shown on the next page.

Chevron
Amethyst



Stone Canyon
Jasper



Geographed

By Michele Smith

Clouds subdue a daylight glow,
Mountains floating far below,
Valleys cut through rock and earth;
Dust, wind, water, shape the world,
Earthquake lifted, lava hurled,
Canyons cut by river curled,
Glaciers die and lakes give birth.

Land well worn some billion years
Mountain grows, and disappears;
Absorbed back into the core;
Rock upheavals rip the plain,
Forests searing, lost in pain,
Soil swept with the tumbling rain,
This world, cycles through, once more.

Aventurine ➡



SCVGMS Field Trips

May 16th, Saturday: Mariposa Mineral Museum
This trip has been cancelled.

June 7th-June 13th, Sunday-Saturday
Delta UT, Dugway Geode Beds, Drum Mountain. Agate, Obsidian, Malachite, Azurite
Other areas to be determined.
Drive time is about 11 hours.

June 18th-June 24th, Thursday-Wednesday
Prineville Pow Wow, rock show and field trips
Drive time is about 9 hours.
Followed by Virgin Valley, Rainbow Ridge, Opal
Drive time is about 5 hours.
Drive home drive time is about 9 hours.

Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May Email: Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

Garnets-January Birthstone

Ted Robles

This article originally appeared in “The Mountain Gem”, the December issue of December 2003 issue of “The Mountain Gem”, the newsletter for the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

Garnet is not a mineral - it is a family of minerals. Mineralogically, they are classed as Nesosilicates, which means that the silicate tetrahedrons are isolated, and the properties of the mineral are largely determined by what else is present. The various garnets range from valuable gemstones to “Leaverites,” and are of many colors. While usually thought of as being “Red,” some of the most valuable are green, rivaling emerald in the beauty (and cost!) The main use for commercial grade garnet is as abrasive; many tons of garnets annually are crushed to produce a durable grade of ‘sandpaper’. Crystallographically, garnets appear as dodecahedrons, trapezohedrons, hexoctahedrons, and massively. One of the problems with garnets is that in forming from the magma as it cooled, they crystallized first, and the rock solidified around them, putting literally tons of pressure on the crystals. As a result, when the crystals weathered out of the rock, they did so in the forms of shards and splinters. Relatively speaking, few large crystals of garnet survived. Chemically, (and for the Rockhound), the family is as follows:

Almandite (Almandine); Iron Aluminum Silicate. Dark red, brownish red to purple. The best specimens are from Wrangell Island, Alaska, where the local Boy Scout troop has a monopoly on their collection. They are also to be found in Connecticut, Michigan, and Idaho, where some exhibit asterism (Star Garnets).

Rhodolite; Iron Magnesium Aluminum Silicate Rose-red to purplish-red. The type locality is Macon County, North Carolina; they can also be found in Africa and India. The unique rose-colored stone characteristic of the Macon County locations is among the most beautiful of garnets.

Pyrope; Magnesium Aluminum Silicate. Deep Red, fiery red to purplish. This is the stone commonly thought of as “garnet”. The type location is Macon County, North Carolina. It is also found in Kentucky, Arkansas, Arizona, and New Mexico, but most of the gem quality stones come from Bohemia and Africa.

Spessartite; Manganese, Aluminum Silicate. Orange, red, orange to deep purple. Where it occurs, it is frequently large enough to cut into interesting gems. Gem quality material is to be found near Amelia, Virginia and Garnet Hill, Near Ely Nevada; and it is also to be found in Brazil and Madagascar.

Grossularite; Calcium Aluminum Silicate; When it is transparent, it can be a valuable gem. The variety “Tsavorite” rivals Emerald in beauty and price, and excels it in durability. It is a much sought-after gemstone, and is mostly found in Africa. Massively, grossularite varies from translucent to opaque, much of the latter being found on the northern California and southern Oregon coasts. It also frequently occurs as microcrystalline crust on limestone and amphiboles.

Andradites; Calcium Iron Silicate. Ranges from yellow-green to black. The transparent variety is a gemstone of some interest; the black is very black. There is a fine example of the latter in our museum. It is found from California to Pennsylvania, from Italy to Russia, and from India to Brazil;

Uvarovite; Calcium Chromium Silicate. When large enough to cut, it is an attractive gemstone; nevertheless it is probably (because of its rarity) more valuable as a museum specimen. It is found in Quebec, Oregon, California, and Russia, but usually as druses. The largest crystals, but of less than gem quality, are found in Finland.

Kimseyite; Calcium Zirconium Titanium Magnesium Iron Niobium Aluminum Silicate. This is a ‘curiosity’; found only in one locale in Arkansas, it rivals Tourmaline as the ‘garbage gem’. It is a dim brown. Scarcely a gemstone, it is notable mostly because of its complex composition. It is a garnet because it looks like one, Crystallizing in trapezohedron-modified dodecahedrons. It is interesting mainly because of its rarity. Even though January may not be your birth month, garnets are attractive gems, probably less valued than their beauty calls for because of the relative abundance. If you own a handsome piece of garnet jewelry, wear it. It is no less a gem because it is more abundant than ruby it may superficially resemble. So, don’t apologize saying, “It’s only garnet,” rather, announce it! “It’s Rhodolite!” Or “It’s Spessartite!” Garnets are gems, and should be worn with pride.



Rockhounding While Sheltering in Place

By Jo Borucki

During these times of sheltering in place, it is not so easy to look for rocks and minerals at your favorite rockhounding site, but you can have the rocks come to you.

Purchasing Gravel from Sapphire Mines: There are several online sites in Montana that sell bags of material scooped from their mines and bagged. Gem Mountain is the one that I have ordered from, but there are others such as Spokane Bar or huntforgems.com. I can't vouch for either of these two, but I have enjoyed finding small sapphires in abundance from the Gem Mountain website. The fun is in the looking through the gravel, but unless you are luckier than I am, you will not find many, if any, that are large enough to facet. Searching this gravel is simply an enjoyable treasure hunt with the thrill of finding some sapphires.

Cleaning the Gravel: The bags contain dirt, extraneous rocks and pebbles of varying size, some dried vegetation, and hopefully, sapphires. Begin the process of sorting through the gravel by cleaning out as much of the debris as you can. Use screens with a variety of mesh sizes. Stack them with the screen with the smallest mesh on the bottom and getting ever larger mesh with the screen with the largest mesh on top. Dump some of the gravel in the top screen. Pick out the obvious rocks and debris and spray and shake it over the other screens so that nothing escapes. Now that the large screen has been sprayed and all the little stuff has gone through to be caught by smaller screens, look it through, and spray it with a good strong hose stream. Put the whole assembly over a bucket and and spray and shake the screens side to side. Be an optimist and check each screen from the one with the largest holes on down. Who knows? Maybe you'll find a really big sapphire.



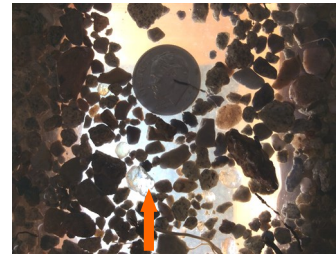
Searching the Cleaned Gravel for Sapphires: Sapphire really show up beautifully when the gravel is cleaned, placed in a glass dish with a little water in the dish, and the dish is placed over a light source. My husband, Bill, has this really nice frame that he built that has a light bulb in it. He uses it to light the his microscope, but it works great for lighting up the bottom of my Pyrex baking dish so that I can search for sapphires.



This view is looking down on the box showing the light bulb assembly built into the box. The holes in the box are to ventilate the box and keep it cool.



This view is looking at the front of the box with the glass baking dish sitting on the box. To use this, pour a very small amount of water into the dish and then spread a small amount of cleaned sapphire bearing gravel on the left side. Using your fingers drag small amounts of the gravel across to the right, checking continuously for sapphires. They have a cool, frosty translucence unlike anything else.



A Sapphire

This view is looking down on the dish with the gravel in it as the gravel is dragged across the dish to be illuminated by the light. The sapphires allow the light to travel through them and are therefore easily seen in the opaque gravel. The big looking disk is a dime to show the size of the gravel and the sapphires.



Rockhound of the Month

The April Rockhound of the month is **Margo Mosher** for her work to recruit and organize volunteers to work at the SCVGMS Festival. With her charm, cheer, and persistence, she organized a great crew. Unfortunately, because of the Corona Virus, the festival was cancelled, but Margo showed that it is volunteers like herself that make these events happen. Thank you, Margo

March Board Meeting

April 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM via the Zoom application so that the board could be in compliance with the governor's stay at home order.

Roll Call: All board members were present except for Billie Gordon, Paul Kidman and Dean Welder.

Reading of the minutes from the February 27th Board Meeting: M/S/P to approve the minutes as read. (J. Fox, M. Fox).

New Members: No new members.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Missy Fox.

M/S/P to have the fairgrounds hold our payments and apply them to the 2021 Festival (M. Fox, F. Mullaney).

Audit: M/S/P to postpone the audit until the stay at home order is lifted (F. Mullaney, S. May)

DRC Sales Insurance: McDaniel's Insurance will be called to clarify.

Chase CD: M/S/P to roll the CD over for the next time period (S. Dyer, F. Mullaney).

Committee Reports:

Federation: Stephen May reported that the Federation Show in Lodi has been canceled.

Festival 2020: Jim and Missy Fox reported that the festival was canceled due to the Coronavirus and the directives by the Santa Clara County Board of Health and the Stay at Home order by the State of California.

Field Trips: Stephen May is keeping tabs on which field trips are being canceled and which ones will still happen. Please refer to the Breccia for the most up to date information.

Old Business:

Website: In progress, Michele Smith has sent Jeffrey Bettencourt two emails about suggested changes, Jo will follow up with Jeffrey.

Installation Dinner: The December 15th date was taken, so the Installation Dinner will be held on December 16th.

New Business:

Founder's Day Picnic: Sonia Dyer will at least co chair and the date is set for June 14th.

Demonstration day: That has been moved off to October 17 due to the coronavirus.

Programs: Here is a list of the upcoming programs:

April – Bill Borucki: NASA and the Moon Mission

May – Alan Achor: Antarctica

June – Silent Auction or Missy Fox: Agates

July – Noel and Deb Runyan – Carving and polishing Obsidian

April Board Meeting: Will likely be done on Zoom again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kennedy

SCVGMS Secretary

General Meeting

April 28th, 2020

The April meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 7:45 pm on the web application Zoom as the club continues to comply with the stay at home order.

Announcements: Welcome! The audit will be postponed until the stay at home order is lifted.

Camp Zzyzx was canceled for 2020. Most of the people scheduled for Camp Zzyzx rescheduled for 2021. Depending on how many open slots for 2021 remain, the Board will make a decision about the 2021 drawing for Camp Zzyzx at some point in the future.

The Board Meeting will be held on Zoom this coming Thursday.

The annual Founder's Day picnic is scheduled for June 14, but may be rescheduled later in the summer.

This June is our silent auction, we also have one in November.

We are extremely disappointed that our Gem and Mineral Festival was canceled this year. Many thanks to Margo Mosher for her work gathering volunteers. If there are vendors you would normally buy from, contact them, we're sure they could use the sales.

The DRC is going to be moving the rocks from Billie Gordon's house to Pat Speece's house. There will be a moving sale at some point, then we will need volunteers to help with the move.

New Members: No new members. If you want to join the club, one must attend at least two club meetings and have two sponsors from the club, it is easy to do!!

Board Meeting: Will be at on Zoom at 7:30.

Member Displays: By Rick Kennedy. Stephen May brought a cut block of Ocean Jasper and some cut plasma agate. Michele Smith brought some carnelian beads she purchased over the phone from one of the dealers who would have been vending at our Festival, and Rick Kennedy spoke of a rare mineral, Jonesite that he has been working on and showed off a base he recently made for a Hallelujah Junction scepter.

Bragging Rights: This month's theme was "Pink" and the winner was Sabine Hessmer for her cabochon of Rhodochrosite. Next month's theme is "Fossils".

Rockhound of the Month: Margo Mosher won for her work as the volunteer coordinator.

Camp Paradise winners: Missy Fox announced the results of the drawing:

1. Jose Sul
2. Jo Borucki
3. Missy Fox
4. Jim Fox

Field Trips: Stephen May talked about several upcoming trips and is closely watching which ones are still being held and which ones are being canceled. Please check the Breccia for updated field trip information.

Study Groups:

Cabbers: In search of a new leader.

Smithies: The Smithies will be run as classes for the near future, please check the Breccia for times and places of these classes.

Hospitality: 20 members and 1 guest were in attendance.

ALAA: Nothing new.

DRC: There will be no new sales until the summer.

Federation Report: The 2020 CFMS Show has been canceled due to the Covid19 pandemic.

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy reported no new correspondence, he will check the PO Box before the board meeting.

Sunshine: Margo Mosher informed Michele that there is no new news.

Program: NASA and the Moon Mission, presented by Bill Borucki. Bill put on a great presentation discussing the heat shield work he did for the Apollo missions.

All Future Meetings: There will be a meet and greet with refreshments from 7:15 – 7:45 before our General Meeting, unless the stay at home order has us meeting online again..

May program: Alan Achor will give a presentation on Antarctica.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary

April Board Meeting

April 30, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM via the Zoom application so that the board could be in compliance with the governor's stay at home order.

Roll Call: All board members were present except for Billie Gordon, Paul Kidman and Dean Welder.

Reading of the minutes from the April 16th Board Meeting: M/S/P to approve the minutes as amended. (S. May, J. Borucki).

New Members: No new members.

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy reported that the club received statements from Chase and from Dodge and Cox.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Missy Fox.

The fairgrounds have been called about deposits that will need to be returned to the club after the Festival cancellation

Smithies: M/S/P to authorize \$29.70 for a new pickle pot (J. Fox, S. May).

Committee Reports:

Federation: Stephen May reported that there is nothing new.

Festival 2020: Jim and Missy Fox reported that they are waiting on a few of the entities we paid deposits to for the Festival to return them due to the cancelation of our Festival.

Field Trips: Stephen May is keeping tabs on which field trips are being canceled and which ones will still happen. Please refer to the Breccia for the most up to date information.

Old Business:

Website: In progress, Jeffrey has made requested changes, the membership is being called upon to make further suggestions that would improve the quality and ease of use of our website.

Installation Dinner: The Installation Dinner will be held on December 16th.

Founder's Day Picnic: Sonia Dyer will at least co chair and the date is set for June 14th. Michele will talk to the Cabana Club about possibly rescheduling in July or August.

Demonstration day: That has been moved off to October 17 due to the coronavirus.

New Business:

Demonstrator's idea: There was discussion about inviting people who attend our Festival to visit our Demonstrator Days.

Community outreach: M/S/P to spend up to \$1000.00 for meals for first responders at Valley Medical Center after Michele contacts them to find out specifics about making such a donation (F. Mullaney, R. Kennedy).

General Meetings on Zoom: It was discussed and agreed that the most recent general meeting held on Zoom was a success. We will work to improve the quality and to get more people involved.

Membership discussions: There were discussions about ways that the Board can reach out to the membership during this unprecedented time.

Programs: Here is a list of the upcoming programs:

May – Alan Achor: Antarctica

June – Silent Auction or Missy Fox: Agates

July – Noel and Deb Runyan – Carving and polishing Obsidian

April Board Meeting: Will likely be done on Zoom again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kennedy

SCVGMS Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Michele Smith (408)374-1897
 Vice President: Billie 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 at Large

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
 Historian: Jacquelyn Calderon (408)995-5211

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

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

Note: Some of these committee heads may change. Michele Smith and Stephen May are working to fill all positions.

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>

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 scheduled for May 26.** The **Board Meeting is scheduled for May 28.** **Whether the meetings will be using Zoom or at our usual place for the general meeting and a home for the board meeting will be determined at a later date. This will be announced when we know what to do.**

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

Cabbers: We need a leader. Can it be you?