



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 68 Number 8 August, 2020

Calendar of Coming Events

August 25, 7:45 General Meeting on Zoom - Our speakers are **Noel and Deb Runyan**. They will present - "Carving And Polishing Obsidian".

August 27, 7:30 Board Meeting on Zoom.

Send your photos to Michele Smith for things you would like to share with us during Membership Display Time!

Send your photos to Alan Achor for items you would like to enter in Bragging Rights contest. The topic is the letter R.

All of the events, including Smithies and DRC Sales, will resume when it is safe to do so.

Index

Page 1

Calendar of Coming Events

Index

Page 2

President's Message

Page 3 Bragging Right Winner and Next Month's Topic

Winning Photo

Other Bragging Right Entries Photos

Page 4

Member Displays

Photos

Smithies

Page 5

Our Speakers for our July and August General Meetings

Sunshine

Where Did the Snail Fossils Come From?

Page 6

Rockhound of the Month

Website Links

DRC

Page 7

Thank You, Valley Medical Center Employees

Page 8-9

Search for the Identity of the Pale Colored Rock from Alum Rock Park

Page 10

Bureau of Land Management Seeks Public Input

Page 11-12

Rockhounding for Glass

Page 13-14

Shop Suggestions-Slab and Trim Saws

Page 14

Awards

Page 15

CFMS Scholarship Honoree

Page 15-16

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Page 17

Board Meeting Minutes

Page 18

General Information

President's Message

You might have noticed that I try really hard to make sure that the acronyms we use are spelled out so that everyone, even the long time members, know what those letters mean. Now I know that the acronym for the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society is SCVGMS. But what I mess up all the time is the DRC, which I have called the Donated Rock Club. More than one person has corrected me, others just ignore the blooper, and still others just don't care. But I care. **DRC** is the acronym for **Donation Receiving Committee**. Yes, we get rocks donated, but we also get gems, minerals, crystals, grinders, saws, jewelry findings, jewelry, rock picks, shovels, shelving units, tables, cabochons, fossils, and on and on. So the next time you catch me making a blooper with an acronym definition, please correct me. You can even do a 'reply all' so that everyone knows and they can chuckle at my mistake while fixing it in their own brains.

Like most of you, I have been aching to get more rocks. I am not quite ready to go on a field trip that is safe and socially distanced from others, but I was drinking margaritas in my court with some neighbors and saw two small rocks that had a pretty green color.

Now can you just pick up rocks that you see and like? No. you have to ask yourself if they are 'tame' rocks or 'wild' rocks. I have actually used these terms in my family for decades. A tame rock is someone else's personal rock. It might be a boulder next to a library flag pole, or a border of fossils bordering a landscaped yard. In the library boulder example, the 'person' is the library. Nevertheless, those rocks are not free for the picking.

A wild rock is not in someone's yard, not in a state or national park (those rocks are half wild or feral), not part of a national monument or a church wall. It is very tempting, but you have to honor rocks that are guarded, protected, and watched over.

I have stopped by the side of the road in places that are so out of the way you have to use descriptions rather than a location or address. Go down Road 31, past the large prickly pear cactus, turn left on the next dirt road and drive about 515 feet. Then I picked up a great rock that I had seen the year before when I was visiting an aunt who lives 500 more miles away.

BUT it wasn't on National or State park land. It wasn't on an Indian Reservation. Be very careful with all of those boundaries. It wasn't on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property because I would have needed to make sure that the BLM land was open for rock collecting. And BLM land looks like wild rock land.

Okay, now what do you do? Because everything I just lined up is creating a long list of places that you can't go to pick up rocks. So you have to know the boundaries, pay attention to where you are and if you are on BLM land find out what you are allowed and not allowed to do. The internet and Stephen May and Rick Kennedy are just some of our resources that know it all.

Now let's get back to the two very small rocks I wanted while I was drinking my margarita. What did I decide to do? Well, the rocks are in someone's yard so I can't just take them. I will ask my neighbors if I can have them. If they say no, I will try to negotiate a trade. If they still say no I will enjoy them in passing. Respect others, respect the rocks of others. And your next rock finding field trip can really start in your own yard.

Madame President,
Michele Smith

Bragging Rights Winner and Next Month's Topic

Sabine Hessmer is the bragging Rights winner for July with her expertly crafted **Cabochon Pendant**. Not only did she make the pendant, but she also made the chain using the Viking Weaving technique.

The theme for August is something beginning with the letter **R**. Please submit a photo of your entry to Alan Achor at kayakb@sbcglobal.net by the Sunday, August 23, just preceding our next general meeting on August 25.

Alan Achor-Bragging Rights Chairperson



Other Bragging Right Entries



← Wire Wrapped Aquamarine By Jo Borucki



Wire Wrapped Picture Jasper By Missy Fox →



← Precious Metal Clay, Pure Silver Butterfly by Jim Fox



→ Rhodonite Earrings and Napkin Rings by Howard Young

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. Email a photo of your display item to Michele Smith by the Sunday before the general meeting so that she can display it on line for you during these times when our meetings are on Zoom. She will send out an email with details before the meeting.

Ana Papadopoulos showed a specimen of fluorescent Calcite, keeping in line with the theme of the presentation. **Rick Kennedy** showed off a fluorescent Willemite and Carpathite, then also showed off three specimens he recently mined from Hallelujah Junction. **Jim Herbold** gets honorable mention for having a fluorescent display in the background, behind his desk!



Ana's Fluorescent Calcite



Rick With Fluorescing
Willemite



Rick With Scepter From
Hallelujah Junction

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

Smithies

Smithies are on hold until Covid-19 has been tamed and we can meet safely. We'll keep you informed.
Thanks, Pat

Our Speakers for our July and August General Meetings

Howard Heitner presented a fascinating lecture on fluorescence, describing its history, the science and scientists involved in its discovery, and after showing the importance of fluorescence in medicine and commercial endeavors, the application in rockhounding. He had many accompanying illustrations. The enthusiasm was so great that the questions after the presentation had to be limited. Howard was using Zoom and since he was actually in New York, he was generously making his presentation and answering question until after midnight, his time. Thank you, Howard.

Our program for our **August 25** meeting will be a presentation by **Deb and Noel Runyan** on “**Carving and Polishing Obsidian**”.

Sunshine

Rick Kennedy's father died on July 9th after an 8 year bout with Alzheimer's. We sympathize with Rick in his loss.

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

Where Did the Snail Fossils Come From?

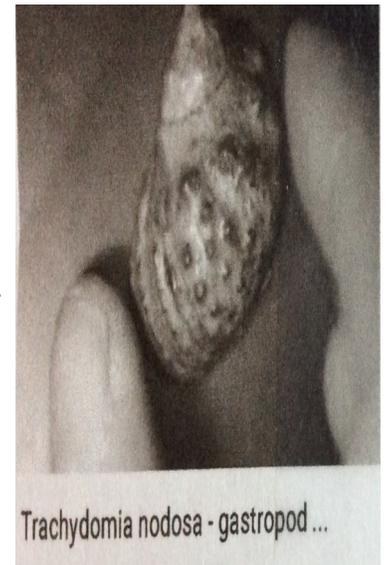
By Jo Borucki

I received this letter in the mail requesting the exact location of some snail fossils bought at one of our festivals. The writer said that she bought them at the scholarship booth, and she needs to know where they were found. Do you know? Contact me, Jo Borucki, at joborucki@yahoo.com.

Her letter says:

“A few (to several) years ago, a SCVGMS member donated a small bag of (25) *Trachydomia Nodosa* fossil snails to be sold at the Scholarship booth during your yearly gem and mineral show at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. I purchased these, but there was no label indicating where these particular specimens were specifically collected. I need to know for scientific purposes.

Trachydomia Nodosa is a fossil snail no bigger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and it is densely covered with lots of spherical bumps (nodes) all over.”



Trachydomia nodosa - gastropod ...



Rockhound of the Month

Our July Rockhound of the month is **Jim Sugiyama** for his quiet and continuous willingness to help in all aspects of SCVGMS activities. Recent contributions include his help with the rock saw auction, with moving all the DRC material from Billie Gordon's to Pat Speece's back yard, and his participation as one of the instructors for the Smithies's class.

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](#)

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

DRC

Our first sale will be a clearance sale to make room for new material. More details will be provided when we can actually set a date.

We auctioned off an eighteen inch rock saw in July. Jim Fox won the bid, and DRC is \$1200 richer as a result.

Until then, wash your hands. Stay well!

Pat



Jim Loading His Saw Into His Truck

Thank You, Valley Medical Center Employees

By Michele Smith

At the April Board meeting, your Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS) Board voted to do something special for medical workers that are fighting a daily battle against the Corona Virus. We decided that we would pay for three meals that would cover one whole day's worth of shifts for one group of personnel that work with the patients that have contracted the virus and need hospitalization. We also chose the hospital that is in the front lines of the epidemic – Valley Medical Center.

We were able to contact the person who handles this type of request and she was very pleased. She also let me know that any food had to be individually packed and that the best type of meal would be able to be held in one hand and eaten without plates or utensils.

I went to El Amigo Burrito on Stevens Creek Blvd. and arranged for a variety of 50 breakfast burritos, a variety of 50 lunch burritos and a variety of 50 dinner burritos to be prepared and delivered to Valley Medical Center. The owner of this restaurant, Jose Grimaldo, gave me a bill for the amount that the board agreed on, which was \$1000. I then found out that the real amount was about \$400 more. The owner also came in very early and is staying later than their normal hours to make and deliver the burritos. The 150 burritos are being delivered today, with the earliest delivery leaving at about 7:30 and the latest delivery at midnight.

The words you see below, on the signs we sent with the food, reflect the SCVGMS appreciation to the Valley Medical Center employees and also include El Amigo Burrito in this team participation. There is little we can do to help out with this COVID-19 threat except to follow the CDC guidelines, but it is nice to be able to recognize and show our appreciation to those people who put their lives in danger as they care for those patients infected with this terrible virus.

IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

THESE BURRITO MEALS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU BY

THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

&

EL AMIGO BURRITO

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF THESE PATIENTS!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DO TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE!

Thank you for the love and support you give to the community.

Search for the Identity of a Pale-colored Rock from Alum Rock Park

By William Borucki July 17, 2020

When Jo and I go hiking, we often wonder about the composition and history of the rocks that we see. Jo will often pick up some unusually colorful or lovely rocks. I tend to pick up a selection of rock types and then take them home to learn something about them. Alum Rock Park has a wide variety of volcanic, seafloor, fossilized, and bedrock material.

On a recent trip to Alum Rock Park I picked up several small samples. One piece had a darkish covering, but some yellowish material showing. My standard procedure is first to wash the rock and then examine the outside. Unless there is something special on the outside, the rock is then smashed with pestle and mortar that I made from heavy iron pipes. This provides a view of a clean unweathered inner surface. The fresh surface showed the rock to be a fine-grained yellowish rock with imbedded tiny glassy grains. I assumed that it must be rhyolite from the volcanic material that was transported north along the San Andreas Fault or possibly from some ancient local activity. Alum Rock Park is noted for water vents of many different compositions that are associated with recent thermal activity.



An examination of the rock with my binocular microscope showed that one of the surfaces was covered with a thin glassy translucent layer. The layer didn't glisten like that of quartz or a feldspar, so I guessed it might be a glaze of calcite than had been injected into a crack of the surrounding rock. Calcite is calcium carbonate; the same composition as that of limestone.

I examined the glaze under ultraviolet light and saw that it produced a modest glow. That fluorescence was consistent with calcite, but it was not a proof. When I added a drop of dilute hydrochloric acid, the layer actively bubbled and fizzed. That result is very typical for calcite. I then tested its hardness with my knife and found that it was easily carved. My hardness testers showed that it had a hardness of 3; i.e., the standard hardness of calcite.

I was delighted; the combination of test definitely identified the glaze as calcite, but now I wanted to identify the composition of the pale-colored background material. Again I used the acid test on the background material, and again it produced a strong response of bubbles and fizzing action. I was amazed; I expected that the background material was rhyolite a common type of volcanic rock and one that is completely impervious to the acid.

I measured a density of the material; 2.38; i.e.; nothing special, but rather low for calcite (which is 2.7). I checked for fluorescence by shining ultraviolet light on the sample. It showed only very weak fluorescence. That result is consistent with small amounts of calcite in the background material.

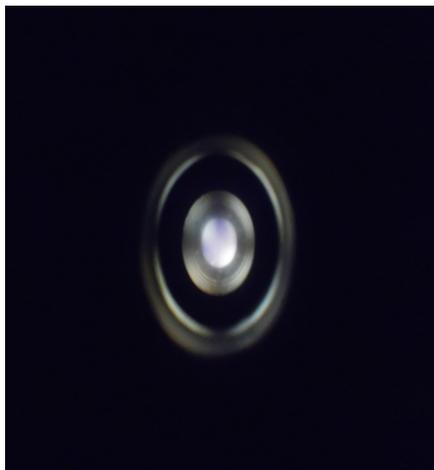
Next I checked for thermo-luminescence after heating to red heat with a blow torch, but found none. Limestone is often formed on the ocean bottom from tiny calcareous shells and diatoms. The famous Cliffs of Dover were formed in that way. If this rock formed in the bottom of an ocean, then the shells of the organisms might still be present.

I checked for diatoms with my microscope, but found none. That was a point against its formation on the ocean bottom. I placed the rock in a beaker of hydrochloric acid to isolate the small embedded crystal grains that I had seen in the microscope. The acid caused substantial bubbling, but did not dissolve a significant portion of the rock. It was clear that the material must contain very little calcite.

Next I crushed the rock, screened out the larger material, and then examined the small fragments to search for crystalline material. I found only one tiny (300 micron) calcite crystal, some fragments of a clear glassy-like composition (quartz?), dark grains formed in spherules, and a few small flakes of dark mica; probably biotite. However a microscopic examination of the flakes did not show any clear circular spots like those caused by radioactive zircons that are often found with biotite.

I considered the possibility that the background material was magnesium carbonate instead of calcium carbonate. However when I put my tongue on a fresh surface of the rock, it did not stick. The measured density (2.4) was much too low for magnesite (3.0-3.2) and the measured hardness ($5 < h < 6$) was higher than expected for magnesite. I concluded from those tests that the rock could not be calcite not magnesite ($MgCO_3$).

Next I re-considered my original hypothesis; i.e., that the material is rhyolite; material from a volcano. My examinations showed that rock sample has all the characteristics of rhyolite; a fine, light-colored mass, with many speckles. Distributed throughout the sample were tiny pieces of crystalline materials (called phenocrysts) such as quartz and feldspar, dark hornblende, and stacks of thin flakes of mica. Using a hat pin, I picked out a tiny piece of dark-colored mica. The mineral is dark colored rather than clear like other micas because it contains iron and magnesium atoms. I pulled off some flakes with scotch tape, pasted the tape to a glass slide, and examined the flakes with a polarizing microscope. Although the sample of biotite was tiny and was not of standard thickness necessary for a proper examination, nevertheless it showed the characteristic interference pattern for such material.



Interference Pattern of Biotite Using a Polarizing Microscope

Comparison of Rhyolite Samples



Ji-Elle, Wikipedia (2012)



From Alum Rock Park



Michael C. Rygel, Wikipedia (2014)

Therefore the rock sample must be rhyolite; an igneous rock associated with flows of rock erupting from the Earth; although not necessarily from a volcanic area. Rhyolite is an igneous rock that has cooled at a moderate rate. If it had cooled quickly upon extruding to the Earth's surface, it would have turned into a volcanic glass called obsidian. On the other hand, if it had cooled very slowly, then the tiny crystalline material (phenocrysts) would have become much larger and the rock might have become granite. The figure compares my rhyolite sample with similar samples from Europe and demonstrates their similarity.



Bureau of Land Management Seeks Public Input

BISHOP, California. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input for the future management of the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine in Inyo County. Today's release of an environmental assessment lays out three proposed alternatives and begins a 30-day public review period that ends on August 7, 2020.

Set between the jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and the Owens Valley, the Alabama Hills are a unique formation of rounded rocks and eroded hills that encompass more than 29,000 acres of public land that is well known for its mix of scenic, cultural, geological, educational, biological, historical, recreational, cinematographic, and scientific values.

In March 2019, President Trump signed Public Law 116-9 (P.L. 116-9), also known as the [John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), which designated 18,745 acres within the Alabama Hills as a National Scenic Area. The BLM is currently preparing a management plan for the Scenic Area and adjacent public lands in the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area.

Implementing P.L. 116-9 is a top priority for the Department of the Interior as we work to strike a proper balance for land and resource management, increase access for hunting, fishing, and recreation, and create economic prosperity, while protecting and preserving America's treasures.

"We welcome continued public engagement in our effort to develop a comprehensive plan for management of the area," says Bishop Field Manager Steve Nelson. "We also look forward to completing the plan and working with the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group, the local tribe, and the Lone Pine community to implement management strategies that will ensure the long-term protection, conservation, public access, and responsible use of this magnificent landscape."

To facilitate public review and encourage public participation in the Alabama Hills planning effort, the BLM will host two virtual meetings in late July. Public meeting materials will be available on the project website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1502669/570>. Virtual meetings will be conducted on the following dates and times: Wednesday, July 22, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and Thursday, July 23, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

To register for one of the virtual meetings, go to the [project website](#). Once registered, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting. These instructions will also include an option to call into the meeting using a traditional phone line.

Written comments on the proposed alternatives in the environmental assessment can be submitted via email to: blm_ca_alabama_hills_planning@blm.gov; by fax: 760-872-5055; or by mail to: BLM Bishop Field Office, Attn: Alabama Hills Management Plan, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514.

Before including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information in a comment, commenters should be aware that the entire comment, including personal identifying information, could be made publicly available at any time. While the public may ask the BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

For specific questions, please call Project Manager Monica Buhler at 760-872-5000.

Rockhounding for Glass

By Jo Borucki, July 14, 2020

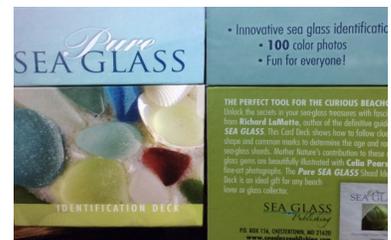
Glass! You may wonder, “Why would I write about glass in a publication for a gem and mineral society. Nature makes glass, and we collect it and value it. We also value some of the glass that is manmade.

Nature creates glass in the forms of **Tektites** (glass formed when terrestrial rock is melted during a meteor impact where the force of the impact throws it into the air and it quickly cools as it descends, **Moldavite** is a example of this. When the lava is not thrown into the air, but as it flows, it cools so quickly that no gas bubbles are formed, **Obsidian** is the result. **Apache Tears** are nodules of obsidian that nature has tumbled and polished. **Helenite** is also a result of volcanic activity, but in this case, it is a man-made obsidian. While workers were cleaning up after the Mount St. Helens eruption in 1980, they were using acetylene torches to salvage damaged equipment and noticed that nearby volcanic ash and rock was turning a greenish color from the heat. Jewelry companies saw a new opportunity for an artificial gemstone. So they melted the rock and dust particles at 2700 degrees Fahrenheit producing artificial emerald colored obsidian which they called Helenite. All of the above are example of nature's glass, in the case of Helenite, nature and man worked together.

Humans have made glass since at least as far back as 3600 BCE. The earliest objects were beads made, perhaps accidentally, during the heat produced in working metals or tin glazed pottery where the surrounding sand (main component silica) was melted and a glass was the result.

We cooperate with nature to make sea or beach glass when we dump glass on beaches and in the water. In time, water action works on the glass resulting in sea or beach glass. Sea glass and beach glass differ in that sea glass is found on salt water beaches where, because of the chemical action of the salt on the glass, it is frosted, while beach glass is found on fresh water beaches and is less frosted or unfrosted. Much of the sea or beach glass is kelly-green, brown or white (clear), the result mainly, of discarded bottles. Less common colors in order of more to less common include other greens, soft blues, amber, and other colors with red, black, yellow and gray being among the rarest of all.

It takes thirty or so years before sea glass is worn smooth by wave action and frosted from the chemical action of the salty water. Sea Glass Publishing in Chestertown, Maryland produces and sells a boxed deck of cards with all sorts of information helpful to the sea glass collector. Also the website, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_glass has good detailed information and is a great site to visit.



My first acquaintance with sea glass was around the year 2000, when my daughter, Joy, and her five year old daughter, Georgia, frequented the Davenport Beach, which is about ten miles north of Santa Cruz, where on the cliff above it, there is the Lundberg Studio. In the 1970s, heavy rains made the Vicente Creek overflow washing glass from behind the studio onto Davenport Beach. When the ocean is calm and the tide is low, this beach is accessible. With luck and some digging, one can find really lovely hunks of glass. Joy found a golf ball sized piece, but Georgia had the best luck. A man had been digging near where we were looking. He walked up to Georgia and handed her a big handful of beautiful glass. Georgia then said to me, “Gramma, sometimes it pays to be little and cute”.

We were neither little nor cute, when friend of mine named Lynn and I went to Sea Ranch together several successive spring times. We rented a house at Sea Ranch, shared the cooking efforts, hiked the coast, beach combed, and drove to Fort Bragg to search for sea glass at the glass beach. The beach areas were the sites of Fort Bragg's dumps from about 1906 until 1967, where as when one location filled up, the dump was moved each time further north so that by 1949 there were three dump sites. In 1967 the last dump site was closed to dumping, but as time went on, everything rusted, rotted, was hauled away or burned, or otherwise disappeared until pretty much all that remained was broken glass which was polished smooth by the ocean surf. In time, instead of viewing sandy beaches, one viewed colorful beaches comprised of colorful sea glass. Lynn and I visited the northern most beach which is adjacent to McKerracher Park. We both loved to beach comb, and we spent hours crawling around on the beach carefully gathering beautiful pieces of sea glass.

In later years, I took several of my grand daughters to Fort Bragg to stay at the Beach House Inn on Pudding Creek, to feast at the nearby Denny's that they loved so much, and to search for beach glass. One doesn't really think of eating at Denny's being a feast, but when you're cold, hungry, and accompanied by much loved grand-daughters, it is. It was my chance to be shamelessly grandmotherly so I let them eat whatever they wanted as we sat in a booth, sharing and talking about our sea glass finds, our cherished gems. While technically, sea glass is not a gem stone or mineral, but in a way it is a manmade gem. In fact, there is the glass museum at 303 North Main Street, Fort Bragg where you can view a wonderful display of sea glass and you can buy jewelry made using it. Click on <https://internationalseaglassmuseum.com> or <http://www.glassbeachjewelry.com/history.html>.

I am adding yet another type of glass which I will call dump glass, and it is created when the discarded glass simply sits on the ground and is subject to the sun and wind. It can be quite beautiful. Exposure over time to the sun, etches the glass creating an optical interference much like the rainbow effects of an oil slick. The glass irregularities scatter the light into misty rainbows showing on the surface of the glass. It has a beauty all its own.

And so you see, while discarded glass in itself is worthless, but once the water, salt, and or sun has worked on it, the result is a gem-like beauty. We, with the help of nature make gemmy glass, and all of it, whether natural or manmade glass, adds another dimension of beauty to enrich our lives.



A View of the Glass Beach



A Handful of Glass from the Glass Beach



SHOP SUGGESTIONS-SLAB and TRIM SAWS

Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975
San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society

For a LUBRICANT in SLAB AND TRIM SAWS, radiator antifreeze can be used as a COOLING AGENT. It has no odor, and will not rust your saw or evaporate. In addition, it lubricates well and being very soluble in water, is easier to clean from the rocks and your hands.

From ALAA newsletter: When CLEANING OIL FROM YOUR SLAB SAW, put a shopping bag inside another one and put them into a five gallon can. DRAIN THE OIL into the sacks. After a day or two, the oil will filter through the bags and will be clean and ready to re-use.

From Chips and Facets: Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your GUTTING OIL, — if your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time you have been able to see through the top after cutting your slab.

From The Tumble Rumble: After slabbing or trimming, all OIL should be removed from material by soaking in a strong solution of DISH-WASHING DETERGENT. Laundry detergents should never be used, since they all contain bleaches that will effect the color of many gemstones. Dishwashing detergents do NOT CONTAIN BLEACHES which can cause film and dullness, but rather they are made to break down oils, fats, and greases.

From Strata Gems: When working with soft stones such as marble, onyx or Howlite, SOAK IT IN WATER a day or two before cutting it in oil. THE OIL WILL NOT SOAK IN and this will result in a much better finish when the polishing is done. When CUTTING FOR "SHEEN" ON OBSIDIAN, cut at an angle of about 50 degrees to the stripe of flow lines to insure a good sheen in the finished product.

From Rockhound's Rag: Because JADE does not have the abrasive quality of some material, it DOES NOT WEAR AWAY THE METAL BOND ON DIAMOND SAW BLADES. Consequently the BLADES GLAZE when you cut jade, and it becomes necessary to clean and dress the saw blade by cutting through a building brick or a piece of discarded 200 grit wheel.

From Chip 'N Tumble: There are three ways to CUT PALM ROOT and each one will give a different effect. All palm root seems to have a ring of agate around the eye and a colored center. First, you can cut it right down the center. This gives the palm root a wood-grain effect that is striking but it does not show the eye. Second, you can cut squarely across the grain and bring out the round eyes. Lastly, you can cut it diagonally and get an elliptical eye effect. All will give patterns that make showy cabs.

From The Polished Slab: Save wear and tear on your expensive diamond TRIM SAW BLADE, and cut your agate or jasper slab with a glass cutter. Use one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten, and put a, good handle on it so you can bear down hard. Use pliers to break the slab along the scored lines

From The Agatizer: TRIM SAWING: Instead of pushing the slab into the blade and letting the oil spatter all over you — turn the whole unit around so that the saw blade rotates AWAY FROM YOU. Then stand to the back side of it and PULL THE SLAB INTO THE BLADE. You can see what you are doing better and your goggles do not get all oil splattered.

From The Agatizer: When your wheel has worn down quite a bit, INCREASE the R.P.M. of THE MACHINE. In doing this you will compensate for wheel wear, there by maintaining grinding efficiency.

From The Tumble Rumble: One excellent method used to SHARPEN SAW BLADES is to mix cement — No Sand —and water in a milk carton. Let harden and cut three or four slices to clean and sharpen the blade.

From The Diggers Digest: When CUTTING PETRIFIED WOOD, cut across the grain for beauty. Sanding should always go with the grain to avoid tearing. If the grain is badly mixed, it is necessary to hand rub to polish. You can produce an excellent finish with dry crocus cloth and about an hour of hard rubbing before polishing.

From Strata Gems: In SAWING GEODES or AGATE-FILLED NODULES, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome, and it is likely you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw length wise in order to obtain the best exposure.

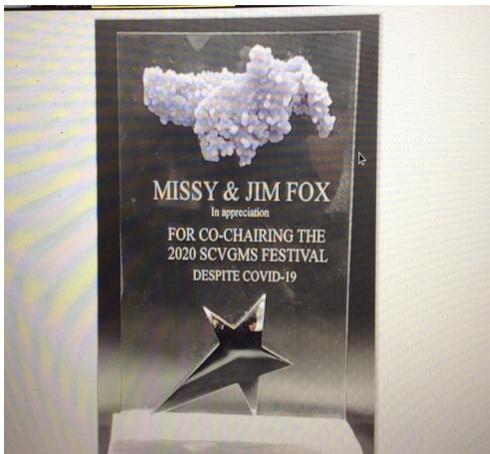
From Rocks and Gems: Keep your DIAMOND SAW BLADE ROTATING in the SAME DIRECTION and occasionally to SHARPEN it make a couple of cuts through a piece of Obsidian.



Awards

Missy and Jim Fox were presented with an award for all of their hard work getting the club and dealers ready for the 2020 Festival. Due to Covid-19, we were one of the first clubs that had to cancel an event, but they had everything ready and did a great job.

Stephen May was presented his award as the 2020 CFMS Scholarship Nominee. He will pick out a deserving student to receive a \$2000.00 scholarship in his name as a result of the many hours he has worked and many hats that he has worn.



CFMS Scholarship Honoree

September 26, 2019

To the CFMS Scholarship nominating committee,

It is with great pride that the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society nominates Stephen May as the CFMS Scholarship honoree. Stephen has been a member of our club for five years. From the beginning of his membership, Stephen has been an active member at many levels. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the last four years and is our current CFMS representative. At the meetings, he has shown great exuberance for many aspects of the rock, mineral and gemstone world that we all love. He has been both a great cheerleader for the club and a valuable behind the scenes person, taking on many different tasks (Nominating committee, audit committee, annual picnic, etc. the list goes on...) when he saw there was a need. He also just loves to talk rocks. What very few people notice is that Stephen is also one of the last to leave meetings, making sure we have cleaned up properly and left the meeting room in the proper condition.

As someone who has spent time with Stephen in the field, I can personally attest that his excitement and exuberance does not stop at our meetings. He keeps a positive attitude and welcoming personality out in the field that helps make field trips enjoyable for all who attend. As one of his many hats, he is also our field trip chairperson.

Stephen has also opened his home to the club for Board meetings and has been incredibly giving with his time, both as a Board member and as a club member.

When it comes to our annual festival, there are few people who work as hard as Stephen. For the past few years he has taken on the thankless job of "Exhibits" and he has done a great job going to other shows and talking to people who exhibit there, trying to persuade them to show their displays at our festival. He has also taken on the equally thankless job of overnight security some nights.

For the reasons above and so many more, I feel that Stephen is an excellent choice for this honor, so I formally request that Stephen May be honored as the CFMS Scholarship honoree.

Rick Kennedy and the SCVGMs Officers and Board of Directors

General Meeting Minutes

July 28th, 2020

The July 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.

Program: We had a guest speaker from New York!! Howard Heitner presented: Fluorescence, History, Mechanism and Applications. The program was very informative and stimulated some great conversation.

Announcements: Reminder that the Board Meeting will be held on Zoom this Thursday.

The Donated Rock Club (DRC) has moved from Billie Gordon's back yard back to Pat Speece's back yard. Many thanks to all who helped, as well as to Pat and Billie for the use of their yards. We will be having a moving sale as soon as we can, and still meet the county requirements. The three "No's": There

will be no drawings for Camp Paradise, Camp Zzyzx and there will be no dues collected for the 2020 year. New members do have to pay for their first year.

Award presentation #1: Missy and Jim Fox were presented with an award for all of their hard work getting the club and dealers ready for the 2020 Festival. Due to Covid-19, we were one of the first clubs that had to cancel an event, but they had everything ready and did a great job.

Award presentation #2: Stephen May was presented his award as the 2020 CFMS Scholarship Nominee. He gets to pick out a deserving student to receive a \$2000.00 scholarship in his name as a result of the many hours he has worked and many hats that he has worn.

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. Ana Papadopoulos showed a specimen of fluorescent Calcite, keeping in line with the theme of the presentation. Rick Kennedy showed off a fluorescent Willemite and Carpathite, then also showed off three specimens he recently mined from Hallelujah Junction. Jim Herbold gets honorable mention for having a fluorescent display in the background, behind his desk!

Bragging Rights: This month's theme was "Something you made" and the winner was Sabine Hessmer with a lovely wire wrapped pendant. Next month's theme is "R".

Rockhound of the Month: Jim Sugiyama won for all his hard work helping move the DRC materials from Billie Gordon's home to Pat Speece's home.

Field Trips: Stephen May reported on his trip to Utah and Virgin Valley. His family dug Wonderstone, Dugway Geodes, Septarian Nodules, Obsidian and Opals.

Study Groups:

Cabbers: In search of a new leader.

Smithies: The Smithies are not meeting right now in accordance with the stay at home order.

Hospitality: 26 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

ALAA: Nothing new.

DRC: There will be a sale when the stay at home order is lifted and when the club thinks it is appropriate and safe.

Federation Report: Rick Kennedy reported on the success of the Roseville Show over 4th of July weekend.

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy reported that the club received the Chase statement, Dodge and Cox statement and discount tickets for the Roseville Show.

Sunshine: Rick Kennedy reported about the death of his father on July 9th after an 8 year bout with Alzheimer's.

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.

August program: Noel and Deb Runyan will present – "Carving and Polishing Obsidian"

Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM

Respectfully submitted, Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 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 Dean Welder.

Reading of the minutes from the June 26th Board Meeting: M/S/P to approve the minutes as amended. (F. Mullaney, S. May).

New Members: M/S/P to accept the application of Ana Papadopoulos upon the receipt of her application and fees (S. May, R. Kennedy).

Correspondence: Rick Kennedy reported that there was no new correspondence since the General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Missy Fox. M/S/P to pay \$22.29 for tumbling supplies for David Mosher's continued tumbler work for the club (R. Kennedy, J. Fox) M/S/P to reimburse Frank Mullaney \$5.60 for postage (R. Kennedy, S. May).

Committee Reports:

Federation: Stephen May reported that the best way to keep up with all the changes due to the Covid-19 situation was to keep monitoring the CFMS website.

Field Trips: Stephen May also mentioned that the CFMS website is still the best way to check status on field trips.

Old Business:

Website: In progress, result have been very positive so far.

Festival: There was discussion about looking into possible dates in the case that our 2021 Festival may need to be rescheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community outreach/ Hero's Award: Was a complete success, many essential workers were fed, El Amigo Burrito got some needed business and exposure and the club served the community in a substantive way.

New Business:

DRC possible upcoming sale: M/S/P to not hold a sale in August (F. Mullaney, J. Borucki). In the discussion about sales and Covid-19, there was unanimous concern about safety, especially considering the age and preexisting conditions of many of our members.

DRC auction: There was a remote auction held for an 18" Highland Park saw. It sold for \$1200.00. Well Done!

Breccia: Jo Borucki reported that the copies of the Breccia she is mailing out to members who requested this is such a low quantity that she is doing them from home instead of going to Vasona Press. The Board acknowledged this and asked Jo to track any additional expenses so that she can be reimbursed.

Programs: Here is a list of the upcoming programs:

August - Noel and Deb Runyan – Carving and polishing Obsidian

Future programs: Rick will reach out to Jonathan Miller from SJSU and see if he has any programs he would like to give. Several members of the Board are interested in seeing a program on Volcanology

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 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 Sugiyama
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 August 25 at 7:45**, and the **Board Meeting is scheduled for August 27 at 7:30**. Both will be held using Zoom.

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?