

Breccia

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS)

P.O. Box 54 San Jose, CA 95103-0054
Website under construction
Email Address to be announced soon
Phone: (408)265-1422

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. General meetings are normally held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:45 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (The Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032. Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill between Leigh Avenue and Harwood.

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

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

General Meeting: will be Nov. 23, 04 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Board Meeting: will be Nov. 23, 04 immediately following the general meeting.

Study Groups

Stringers: will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, November 11, 2004 at the Speece home from 7 to 9pm. For directions and information call Pat Speece (408) 266-4327.

Facet Cutters: Next meeting will be February 3, 2005. Place and time to be determined. Call Bill Norton for more information, (408) 356-8245.

Mineraleers: The next meeting is November 9 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ray Woods. Call Chuck Boblenz for more information and direction to Ray's Home (408) 734-2473

Silversmithing: The next silver smithing

class will begin in Feb. Sign up with Kelly Van Vleck, (408) 262-8187. More info in article on page 4.

Juniors: Meetings are announced at general club meetings and via email. For more information call Mark Wartenberg (650) 568-6114

Carvers: Have not announced next meeting.

Cutaways: Have not announced next meeting.

Fossileers: Have not announced next meeting.

Marc's Message

The end of the year is coming up. Our next meeting we will be electing our new officers and having the Silent Auction. I hope to see lots of you there. We also have our Installation Dinner on December 7 and then our combined Board meeting for 2004 and 2005 on December 9. I need to remind everyone that the January Board meeting is our "annual" meeting where we need to have oral or written reports from all officers, board members, and committee chairs. This does not have to be more than a few sentences, so please be prepared. Lastly, I want to thank everyone for helping this year and remind the membership that your participation in running this club and keeping the study groups active is what makes this club one of the best in California. See you on November 23.
Marc

Nominating Committee's Panel of SCVG&MS Board Member Nominees for Year 2005

President: John Eichhorn
Vice-president: Pat Speece
Secretary: Randy Harris
Treasurer: Chuck Boblenz
Editor: June Harris
Federation Director: R.K. Owen
Alternate Federation Director: Frank Monez
Board of Directors (5)
1 John Bahr
2 Lynn Toschi
3 Jane Yamashita
4 Marc Mullaney
5 Don Cox
Historian: Anna Windsor
Parliamentarian: not filled
Thank you to the nominating committee for their hard work filling these positions. The nominating committee was Pat Speece (chair), Anna Windsor, and Bill Gissler.

June's Jabbering

This last year has been very educational for me. I have worked hard to make sure that I complete my job as editor to the best of my ability and have tried to keep the best interest of our organization in the fore front of my mind. There have been some changes. I believe that all have been for the better. I'm still looking for anyone who would like to write any articles for the Breccia. The article can be anything from a book review to an educational article on a subject that interests you. It can have a historical perspective, or maybe you have traveled some where and would like to share about what you did and saw. Also if you come across an interesting article in the newspaper, magazine, internet, newsletter, etc and would like to share it, just email or mail it to me. I'd like to print what interests you. If there's a subject that you think would be of interest to our group let me know and I'll try to find some information on it. Knowledge that's not shared, is usually lost.

Thanks,
June

SECRET AUCTION

JOHN EICHHORN WAS THE LUCKY BIDDER AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING. HIS BID WAS \$27.50 AND HE WENT HOME WITH A FOREDOM. WAY TO GO JOHN.

INTERESTED IN HOW THIS AUCTION WORKS? SOMEONE IN THE CLUB DONATES A PIECE OF MATERIAL OR TOOL, AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE PIECE, PLACES A SECRET BID. HIGHEST BIDDER IS ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT MONTH'S BRECCIA AND MAY PICK UP AND PAY FOR THEIR PRIZE AT THE NEXT MEETING. THE NEXT SECRET AUCTION WILL BE IN JANUARY, AS WE HAVE THE SILENT AUCTION IN NOVEMBER AND THE INSTALLATION DINNER IN DECEMBER.

Check out what our study groups are doing!!



MINERALEERS

The Mineraleer's met at the home of Pat and Daymond Speece and the attendees heard a slide presentation about the Polarizing Microscope. Some of the concept was hard to understand, but was concluded with slides showing the response of the measurement of thin section samples which drew it all together.

The next meeting will be at the home of Ray Woods on November 9th, a Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The topic of the evening will be Fluorescence: What it is, How it occurs and Examples to see. Plan now to attend.

Silver Smithing



The next silver smithing class will begin the last week of February. The class meets twice a week and for 3 hours per night. The class is four weeks in duration and is a beginners class. Also Pat Speece is opening her home on Saturday Afternoons to anyone who wishes to do silver smithing work. You must have your own hand tools and call Pat prior to Saturday to confirm openings. Pat has larger tools available for everyone to use.

Stringers



We've made a change. The stringers will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, November 11, 2004 at the Speece home from 7 to 9pm. Pat will bring a sample of Project 1 to the general meeting.

Project 1 is a single strand bracelet using needle, thread, glue, jewelry tweezers for one end knot, beads, spacers, bead tips and a clasp.

During our first, intro to stringing, meeting, we went over the basics of types and considerations of needles, threads, attachments (bead tips, wee beads, French coils), clasps, tools, beads and spacers. Mary Lu and I showed our stash of the above, and what was available in the catalogs. We're on our way

Facet Cutters



The Facet Cutters will not be meeting again until February 3, 2005. Place and time to be determined and announced in the December Breccia. Everyone is welcome and invited to these meetings. Skill level is not important.

October Program
was a display by
many of our
study groups.

Members were
encouraged to visit
and join a study group.
We currently have the
following study groups.
Facet cutters, Fossileers,
Mineraleers, Juniors,
Stringers, Carvers,
Cutaways, & Silversmithing

Safety Hint

Epoxy Resin when burnt,
gives off a gas that causes
INSTANT PNEUMONIA.

Aroidite and other instant
glues adhering to metal being
welded or soldered, will give
off this gas! Make sure that
all metal is clean and that your
bench does not have any glue
adhering to it.

Author unknown, source Gem City Rock News, Gem
City Rock Club, Quincy Illinois, April 2004 Via Quarry
Quips, 10/04, via The Rockcollector 11/04

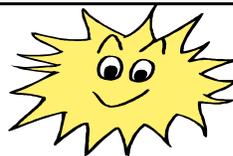
Member Displays

We really had a mixture of members sharing and what the study groups are doing on our tables this time. The member sharing was mixed betwixt and between. Pat Speece brought a clipping of a cabinet that is for sale if anyone is interested. It is covered with the gems that we love and is only \$15,000,000.00. It is a nice size and would fit in anyone's home. Let her know if you're interested. The Yamashita's brought some information about Elderhostel trips that are geared towards Rockhonding. They had a display of some of the items collected on their Utah trip. A great display of beads and pearl jewelry was brought by Nancy Borning and June Warne. What a creative team. The rest of the items were brought by different club members who are actively participating in the Study Groups. Since we're having a silent auction at our next meeting, there will not be any specific folks for member sharing however, any thing you would like to share is always welcome. Thanks, Jane and George.

Don't Miss the Installation Dinner!!!

Get your reservation form from your Oct. Breccia. Be sure to have it in by the November Meeting. Forms will also be available at the Nov. Regular Meeting

SUNSHINE



Our condolences go out to Mary Andersen's Family. She was a past vendor at our annual show as well as a past CFMS president. Also Sylvia Palmieri has been in the hospital with internal bleeding. As of this publication, no diagnosis has been found. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sylvia and John.

If you know anyone in our club that is ill, hospitalized, or has had a loved one pass away, Please call Suzi, (408) 267-1620

Member News

Let's Welcome two new members: Larry and Winifred Moore They are interested in cutting, polishing, collecting, geology and minerals. Hopefully they can get involved in some of our study groups. Lets make them feel at home. Their address and phone number is: 15 Rock Point Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024 (650) 941-4966 Or contact via email at w60D@softcom.net.

**SILENT AUCTION
NOVEMBER MEETING IS
A SPECIAL NIGHT.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
FOR 2005,
AND A FUN NIGHT
AT THE SILENT AUCTION.
BRING SPECIAL ITEMS
FOR AUCTION.
COME EARLY FOR SET-UP
BEFORE MEETING.
BRING MONEY!
LET'S TOP 2003!
JOHN AND SYLVIA
408-272-2369**

SCVGM&MS Calendar



November 9 Mineraleers meeting at Ray Woods' Home. Call Chuck Boblenz for direction and information, (408) 734-2473.

November 11 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's Home 7-9 PM. Call Pat for more information and directions, (408) 266-4327

November 23 General Meeting, Election of Officers, and Silent Auction at the Cabana Club (100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos) 7:45PM Board

meeting immediately following general meeting.

December 7 The installation dinner at the Three Flames Restaurant at 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, (408) 269-3133 Time 7:00 PM Remember to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

December 9 Board Meeting at Ruth Bailey's home, 2857 Addison Place, Santa Clara (408) 248-6195 at 7:30 PM.

Enhanced, Treated, Heated, Dyed, Stabilized, Created, Irradiated Fake? by Deborah Pfianz

Gemstones and semiprecious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them 'more' colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them 'fake'; however one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

Heat Treated this is the most common treatment and is as old as fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem material to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye is turned blue or red. Carnelian turns orange-red Aquamarine may go from green-blue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned a deep blue. It is also used to enhance the 'color change' gems such as tanzanite.

Dyed this is also a very common practice. Agate is dyed to get fancy pinks, purples, oranges, and blues—eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is sold as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charite. Turquoise and Jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

Irradiation while topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

Stabilized Opals are often stabilized—either

by filling such as with Opticon resin (similar agent) or by capping either as a doublet or triplet. Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for filling and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon, which are more permanent than the natural oils were. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

Created - this is a touchy subject for some folks. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl just helped to grow by a human. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones. They just weren't grown in the earth.

So what is the answer: Real or FAKE? This 'real vs. fake' can be argued with all sides being technically correct.. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been 'helped along' by the human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gemsmith, jeweler, or craftsman know what you are using?

The beauty and art that we create with these stones is being helped along by our touch, much as it was to first get our attention. There is beauty in the knowing—be sure to share that with those around you.

Rock Chipp 6/01, via The Quarry 10/04, via The Rock Collector 11/04

Field Trips for 2004

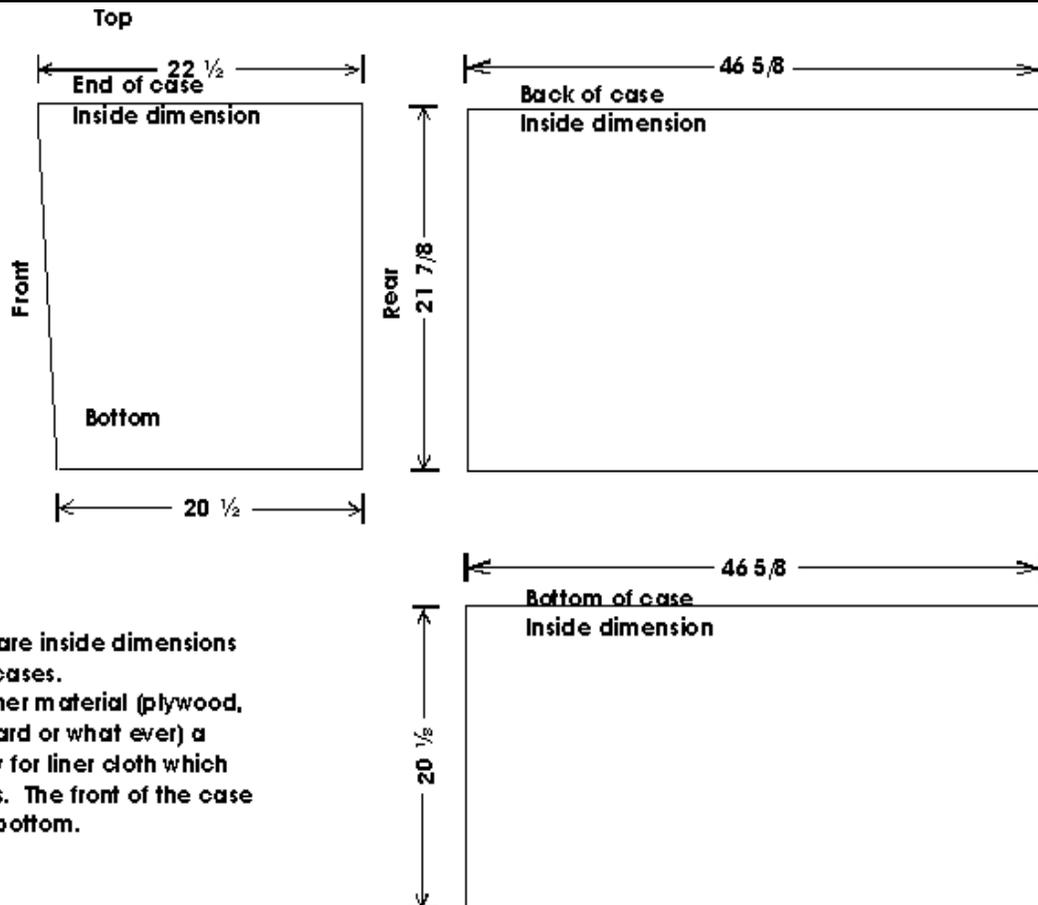


By Bill Gissler, North Bay Field Trip and CO-OP Coordinator

SCvG&MS through its participation in the North Bay Field Trip Group (Primarily Greater San Francisco Bay Area Clubs) and the CO-OP plan to go on any of these trips, Group (Primarily Sierra Foothill Clubs) has access to an outstanding field trip program for 2004. If you please call the listed field trip leader beforehand for further information. With planning this far in advance, things do change. Remember to wear your name badge, sign in with the leader, and share your experience with our club. New additions to this listing are listed in bold italics

Nov 24-28 Annual Thanksgiving Trip Sites to be determined later. Mother Lode Club Contacts: Marion Roberts (209) 538-0197 mvroberts@bigvalley.net or Al Troglin (209)838-7725 shnalrokhound@yahoo.com

Nov 24-28 Annual Thanksgiving Field Trip to Wiley Wells Area, CFMS Field Trip South, Contact Bob Fitzpatrick (951) 845-3051 or RUROCKY2@aol.com.



Please note - these are inside dimensions of our club display cases. You must cut your liner material (plywood, cardboard, hardboard or what ever) a little smaller to allow for liner cloth which folds over the edges. The front of the case slopes inward at the bottom.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY Club Display Case Dimensions

CFMS Shows Schedule

Changes to this calendar are printed in *Italics*. For the latest version of the CFMS Show Schedule go to www.cfmsinc.org

Nov 12-14 Sacramento, CA Sacramento Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. Fri 9-5 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-4, Boyd Lasater, (916) 455-7075. Fosback@aol.com

Nov 13-14 Palmdale, Ca Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club, Palmdale Elks Lodge, 2705 E. Ave Q Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4 Gail Becker (661) 285-3958

Nov 13-14 Yuba City CA The Sutter Buttes Gem and Mineral Society, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Rd. 9-5 Charlie and Barbara Brown (916) 652-4240 cbbrown@wizwire.com

Nov 20-21 2004, Livermore, CA, Livermore Valley Lithophiles, The Barn - (next to Civic Center) Pacific Ave. at So. Livermore Ave. Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun.: 10 - 4 Joyce Friesen (925) 447-8223

Nov 20-21 2004, Victorville, CA, Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club San Bernardino County Fairgrounds 14800 Seventh St. Victorville, CA Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun.: 9 - 4 Mavis Mushaney (760) 241-8282

Nov 27-28 2004, Barstow, CA Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Barstow Community Center 841 South Barstow Road Hours: 10 - 5 both days Bob Depue (760) 255-1030

Dec 4-5 Orangvale CA, American River Gem & Mineral Society, Orangvale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave, Hours 10-5 Evelyn Tipton/ e.k.tipton@wordnet.att.net

Dec 4-5 2004, San Bernardino, CA Orange Belt Mineralogical Society 58th annual Rocks Galore in 2004 San Bernardino Woman's Club 503 W 31st Street; 31 St. & E Streets Hours: 10-5 both days Pat Wind (909) 381-0089 or (909) 792-0668

February 18-27 2005, Indio, CA San Geronio Mineral & Gem Soc. Date Festival - Gem & Mineral Bldg #1 Riverside County Fair & Date Festival 46-350 Arabia St. Hours: !0:00 am - 10:00 pm Bert Grisham (951) 849-1674

February 19-20 2005, Stockton, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club 54th Annual Earth's Treasurers San Joaquin County Fairgrounds 1658 South Airport Way - Buildings 4 & 5 Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4 Laurie Haines (209) 838-0108 E-mail lhaines99@aol.com

March 4, 5 & 6 2005, Hayward, CA The Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Hours: Fri, & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Ron Miller (510) 538-2397 Email: mgsev@yahoo.com

March 5-6 2005, Ventura, CA Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Seaside Park (Ventura Co. Fairgrounds) 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Jim Brace-Thompson (805) 659-3577 Email: jbraceth@adelphia.net

March 12-13 2005, Turlock, CA Mother Lode Mineral Society Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 N Broadway Hours: 10- 5 Bud McMillin (209) 527-8000 (Wk) or 524-3494 (H) E-mail: Bud.McMillin.b7yj@StateFarm.com

April 9-10 2005, San Diego, CA San Diego Mineral & Gem Society Al Bahr Shrine Center 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd. Hours: Sat. 9:30 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Wayne Moorhead (858) 586-1637

April 9-10 2005, Hacienda Heights, CA Puente Hills Gem & Mineral Club Steinmetz County Park Recreation Building 1545 S. Stimson Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Paula Hess (562) 696-2270 E-mail: rphess@adelphia.net

April 23-24 2005, Lancaster, CA Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H Hours: 9 - 5 both days Armin Nimmer (661) 945-5769

April 23-24 2005, Santa Cruz, CA Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium Hours: 10 - 5 both days Contact: Hubert Drake (831) 688-8086 E-mail: hm Drake@pacbell.net

June 10-12 2005, Roseville, CA CFMS & Roseville Gem & Mineral Blast Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds 800 All American City Blvd (916) 630-1000 Web Site: www.rockrollers.com

**Retraction Notice: Erroneous Information
in " How to Survive an Heart Attack while Alone"
This article was pulled another club's newsletter and
I was unaware that the article was unsubstantiated by
the majority of the medical community. While the
internet has doctors who have said that the coughing
action may work in a very few cases, many sources
state that it has not been substantiated by clinical
studies and therefore it is not a method that is advised.**

Holiday Safety

by Bill Klose AFMS Safety Chair

The Holiday Seasons seem to come earlier every year, so it is appropriate to review some of the safety tips that are associated with them to keep our members, their families and collections safe.

Smoke Detectors— Make sure that there are a minimum of one in each bedroom and one at the top of the stairwell. Test each one or replace the battery to ensure they are operational

Food Preparation— Properly thaw out (in Refrigerator or under cold water— no air thaw), wash and cook meat and prepare other foods IAW package instructions. Do not leave cooking food unattended. Refrigerate leftovers as soon as possible in approved airtight containers. Do not leave out at room temperature.

Fireplaces and Wood burning stoves— Check for cracked mortar, check the operation of the damper and the spark screen on the roof. If you burn soft or green wood or have a build up of soot or creosote, have the chimney cleaned. Do not have combustible material within three feet of the fireplace or stove.

Evacuation Plan— Implement and practice an emergency home escape plan.

Heaters—Inspect the heating system and change filters. Have your system serviced annually. Install a carbon monoxide detector.

Extension Cords— Use UL or CSA approved cord, preferably the type with an ON/OFF switch and overload protection, or a remote or foot operated switch. Do not exceed the rating (WATT) or outlet capacity of the cord. Keep the cords clear of walking areas and do not cover with rugs, packages, or other items that could cause them to overheat. Inspect for damage or frayed wires prior to using and replace if required.

Gift Wrapping Paper and Boxes— Dispose of wrapping paper and boxes immediately in the trash or recycle bin. Due to the highly flammable nature of these materials and high burning temperature (due to additives) do not burn in fireplaces or wood burning appliances.

Smoking— Ensure all cigarettes and matches are completely extinguished before discarding. Before going to sleep, check all furniture and waste bins for smoldering embers.

Drinking— Drink in moderation or use a designated driver

Christmas Trees— The National Safety Council states that there are over 400 residential fires and 40 deaths each year involving Christmas Trees. To avoid tree fires, consider an artificial tree that is fire resistant and if lighted, UL approved, or a live tree that can be planted outside after the holidays. If

you decide on a live tree, pick one that is fresh and not dried out. Check the tree for insects and shake or blow out before bringing indoors. Xmas tree farms may color trees prior to shipping, so check the tree for dried out spots, leaves falling off, or dry branches that snap when bent. Pick a tree that is not too tall for the room, leaving space for ornaments and that will be well clear of walking areas and heat sources. Cut off the trunk 1 to 2 inches from the base of the tree at an angle and place in a sturdy, water holding tree stand. Keep the stand continuously filled with water containing a mixture of two cups Karo syrup, two pinches of Epsom Salt, one teaspoon of Boraxo, two ounces of liquid chlorine and one teaspoon of chelated iron for each two gallons of hot water to ensure that the tree stays waterlogged (more than 800% of a live tree) and fireproof. Tie the tree to the wall or ceiling with a wire or nylon cord to prevent it from being knocked over After the holiday remove the branches and use in the garden to mulch for protection of your plants from the cold. Do not burn the tree in the fireplace.

Tree and House Lights— check lights for broken sockets and frayed wires and replace if required or if the string is over 5 years old. Outdoor lights burn hotter than indoor, so only use them outside. Indoor lights are not waterproof and should only be used indoors. Do not exceed the WATT rating of the lowest rated string or extension cord when connecting them together (usually no more than three). Turn OFF lights when going out or retiring for the night. Do not use lighted candles on trees. Do not use light strings on artificial trees, but light with spot lights or floodlights that are placed a suitable distance from the tree to avoid the lamps heat. Remove outside lights as soon as the season is over to prevent damage from the weather.

Ornaments— Use flame resistant ornaments. Place glass ornaments or those with small parts out of reach of small children and pets. Do not use popcorn chains or candy on trees when small children are present to avoid their climbing into the tree for them. Use approved step stools or ladders to reach high places when trimming the tree or installing outside decorations. Do not use cellophane as it can not be made fireproof. Use an approved flame retardant on cotton batting, paper decorations, and Santa suits.

Candles— Burn Candles in sturdy containers away from combustible materials and out of reach of children and pets. Never leave candles burning when you are not in the room.

Have a great Holiday season and New Year

From the November 2004 AFMS Newsletter

PLAC Report

Reprint of Loud and Clear

from the AFMS November 2004 Newsletter

This must be my last "Loud and Clear" Column. I must resign as Chair of the Conservation and Legislation Committee. That My law practice (Patents and Trademarks) continues to grow is good news, the bad news is that the passing years have reduced the amount of energy I am able to bring to my work. If and when I retire, I would love to return to the fray.

Since I started writing "Loud and Clear" more than 10 years ago, we have lost hundreds of collecting sites due to incorporation into newly designated wilderness areas and national monuments, the latter being established by President Decree invoking the somewhat dubious authority of the Antiquities Act. Further, those collecting sites which remain theoretically "open" became progressively more difficult to access by reason of an aggressive policy of road closure adopted by the last administration. The trend has definitely been toward exclusion of the public in general and rockhounds in particular, from public lands. However, I now see several promising developments. Consider the following Macro-trends.

Macro Trend #1—Judiciary—Use and Abuse of the Judiciary to Change Land Use Policy.

While most Americans may believe that major policy changes should be effected through the legislative process, environmental groups have shown great adeptness in furthering their objectives through the use of the judiciary. However, we now see some encouraging signs that our Judiciary Branch of government is moving toward limiting the ability of such groups to further their agendas through use of the judiciary.

Much of the impetus toward management of public lands in a manner restricting human use and access derives from litigation brought against the federal land use agencies by activists environmental groups with seemingly limitless budgets. The Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division stated this past summer that there were 7100 active environmental lawsuits then being litigated at that time in the United States. However, help is on the way.

This past Summer the United States Supreme Court unanimously (9-0) dealt a severe setback to use of the judiciary by environmental groups in pursuit of their agenda. In Norton, Secretary of the Interior et al v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance et al, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected all three claims of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance against the U.S. Department of Interior acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

Plaintiffs first claim charged the Department of Interior with violations of the Wilderness Act. The Utah lands in question in this case have been designated as wilderness study areas pursuant to the statutory mandate that land having "Wilderness characteristics" be identified and inventoried. However, once so identified a wilderness study area (WSA) remains in limbo until if and when Congress enacts legislation establishing wilderness status. The statute commands that such lands, while in this limbo, shall be managed "in a manner so as not to impair the suit-

ability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, "the so-called" anti-impairment requirement". Unfortunately, such a WDA can remain as such indefinitely even if the Secretary of the Interior determines that the land is not in fact suitable for wilderness designation.

The Plaintiffs alleged that the anti-impairment requirement of the Wilderness Act mandated total exclusion of off road vehicles use as impairing "the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness." The plaintiff's claim was denied, the court holding that the non-impairment requirement of the Wilderness Act is an objective but that the Act leaves the BLM "a great deal of discretion in deciding how to achieve" (that objective). The court noted that the provision "only agency action that can be compelled under the APA is action legally required" is designated "to protect agencies from undue judicial interference with their lawful discretion and to avoid judicial entanglement in abstract policy." In view of the discretion allowed the BLM in such matters, the court found that total exclusion of ORV use cannot be judicially mandated.

The second claim asserted by the Plaintiff was to the effect that the BLM had not complied with its own land use plan. The Court denied this claim also, finding that "a land use plan is generally a statement of priorities; it guides and constrains actions, but does not (at least in the usual case) prescribe them." "A statement by the BLM about what it plans to do, at some point (in the future) ... cannot be plucked out of context and made the basis of a suit under Section 706 (1) (of the Administrative Procedure Act, "APA")."

Plaintiffs third claim was to the effect that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required the BLM to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement given evidence of increased ORV use. However, the court found that such a supplemental statement is required only in circumstances where major federal agency action is ongoing. The court held that there was no requirement for a supplemental environmental impact statement in the adoption of the plan is an action completed when the land use plan is approved.

Summarizing, the court's decision in Norton, Secretary of the Interior et al v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance et al, severely curtails the ability of private entities to compel land use decisions in furtherance of their objectives. While the extent of ORV use may be the subject of legitimate debate, the Court's decision goes well beyond that issue and curtails, in general, access to the judiciary as a route around the more democratic legislative process and rule-making process of the executive branch—a welcome development, at least in the view of this writer.

Macro Trend #2—The Executive Branch

Roadless Management rules adopted late in the Clinton Administration ran roughshod over the interests of local government and the statutory right of the public access via preexisting roads, the so called RS2477 roads. A case in point involved, a federal initiative to close a road through the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. Probably the same road I once traveled, through a forest fire. En route to

Continued on page 11

PLAC Report "Loud and Clear"

Continued from page 10

the Southern Illinois fluorite district. I received a telephone call from an Illinois state attorney inquiring about RS2477 rights and how the county and state might rely upon same in order to prevent closure of the road or roads in question. One concern was that the proposed closure would make it exceedingly difficult to travel from one end of the county to the other.

However, help is on the way. By an Executive order issued August 26, 2004 President Bush ordered Federal Agencies to adopt a more cooperative (less confrontational) approach in implementing laws relating to the environment and natural resources, "with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in federal decision making.

H.R. 2416 (S546) -Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

The U.S. House of Representatives website shows no movement of this legislation subsequent to referral to several subcommittees on June 19, 2003. Accordingly, the legislation can be expected to die in committee at the end of this current Congress.

It has been hard work, but enjoyable.

George Loud

How to Work Amber by author unknown

Use wet/dry sandpaper, sand amber wet. Start with 100 grit. Take off all the outer coating. Dip in water, and then hold against a strong light to locate possible insects. Shape and or round off corners with a file. Using 200 grit sandpaper, sand wet, until all deep scratches from 100 grit are gone. Finish sanding with 600 grit, wet. Use circular motion to prevent long scratches. Let piece dry. Check finished piece closely to find bad spots and remove them before going on. Put regular toothpaste on a wet washcloth. Make a paste and rub amber to polish. (Gel type toothpaste doesn't work, as it isn't abrasive.)

Original source Delvings date unknown, taken from Rear Trunk, Nebraska M&G Club Omaha Nebraska, May 2004 via Quarry Quips, 10/04, via The Rock Collector 11/04

Tips

Purify indoor air with spider (airplane) plants. NASA has found that in 24 hours they will remove formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide from the air. It has been said that 8 to 10 plants will purify the air of the average home.

From Rocky Review 2/94, via Stoney Statements, 1/99, via The Rock Collector 11/04

Show Report

A show meeting was held at Frank & Julaine Mullaney's home on October 21.

Items that were discussed were:

- We cannot get Library cases.
- Putting the Touch & Feel in the center of the room was discussed.
- Advertising is shaping up good.
- Have a drawing of the trailer layout posted so upon loading the loaders know where things go.
- A small group will get together and study revisions on the layout.
- Next show meeting will be announced but will not be until after the first of the year.

Frank Mullaney

Your help is needed to make our show a success!

1. Ruth Bailey needs everyone to be on the lookout for good case display at other club shows. She would like you to get the following information from the displayer so that she can invite them to our show: She needs the displayer's name, address, phone number, and a description of the case you enjoyed.
2. Jane Yamashita has flyers for the show that need distribution. Contact Jane if you have somewhere you can distribute these flyers. How about you neighborhood?
3. Pat Speece needs 4 more people to enter information on websites for advertising. All that is needed is a computer with web access. This is an important facet of our advertising.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Member Display Case Application
Annual Show - April 2 & 3, 2005

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

I WILL FURNISH MY OWN CASE: _____ **I WILL NEED A CASE:** _____

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBIT: _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS (space, lighting, etc.): _____

COMPETITIVE CASE: _____ **NOM-COMPETITIVE CASE:** _____

COMPETITIVE CASE INFORMATION
(Case to be judged by AFMS Uniform Rules)

Sub-Division: _____ **Class:** _____

Entry Level: Master _____ **Advanced** _____ **Novice** _____

Junior _____ **Society** _____

Return this application on or before March 10, 2005 to:

Member Display Chariman
Lynn Toschi
PO Box 461
Redwood Estates, CA 95044

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
October 26, 2003**

President Marc Mullaney called the meeting to order at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos at 7:48 pm. After the pledge of allegiance, members and guests were welcomed and invited to stay for refreshments and the opportunity get to know everyone. The minutes of the last general meeting stand approved as printed in the Breccia. The board meeting will be October 28 at the home of Randy & June Harris.

STUDY GROUPS: New meeting dates were announced. See Breccia for dates.

CORRESPONDENCE: Flyers for upcoming shows of other clubs.

SUNSHINE: Sylvia Palmieri is in the hospital; look in the Breccia for details.

FEDERATION REPORT: See the Breccia for details

SHOW CHAIRMAN 2004: The 2005 Show is coming together, some of the committee chairs asked for help in different areas.

HOSPITALITY: There were 31 members and 2 guests present. The guests were introduced and invited to stay after the meeting for refreshments.

INSTALLATION BANQUET: Installation Banquet will be December 7th at the Three Flames Restaurant see the October Breccia for the application and menu.

PLAC: See the Breccia for details.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S: The following are the Nominations for the 2005 officers & Board

President:	John Eichhorn	Directors:	John Bahr
Vice Pres:	Pat Speece		Lynn Toschi
			Don Cox
Secretary:	Randy Harris		Mark Mullaney
Treasurer:	Chuck Boblenz		Jane Yamashita
Editor:	June Harris	Historian:	Anna Windsor
Federation Director:	R.K. Owen	Parliamentarian:	
Alt Federation Dir:	Frank Monez		

PROGRAM: The study groups talked to members one on one during the program with items they brought for display

MEMBER DISPLAYS: See the Breccia for details of the Member Displays

SILENT AUCTION: Next month will be a silent auction during the election of officers.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:15 pm and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted: Frank Mullaney

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
October 28, 2004**

Vice President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at June & Randy Harris at 7:44 pm. Absence was Bill Gissler, Frank Monez, John Bahr, Chuck Boblenz, also present was Randy Harris and Ann Marie Mullaney.

Minutes: The minutes of the September board meeting were approved as corrected, in Treasurer's report to: travel to Alameda to print the Breccia.

President Marc Mullaney took over the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report of October 27, 2004 was noted and filed. A motion was made seconded and passed to drop the delinquent members, a motion was made for Ruth Bailey to order Triangles and Bars for the Officers, this was seconded and passed.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

New Members: It was moved seconded and passed to accept the application of Larry L. Moore & Winifred Moore for membership into the society.

Field Trip: John Eichhorn attended the NBFT meeting

Sunshine: See the Breccia.

Show Meeting: There will be a meeting in January or February. There will be a small group meeting to go over the layout.

Silent Auction: There will be a silent auction at the November meeting.

Installation Dinner: The last day for sign up for the installation dinner will be at the November meeting.

Unfinished Business: There was a motion that was seconded and passed authorizing RK Owen to get a web site for the Society for \$10 to 15 per month, he is to try and get the URL as www.scvsgms.org, if he cannot get this he should get something close. Pot Luck will be prior to the February meeting. The report from the financial advisory committee was discussed; this will be passed on to the new board. The survey submitted by Jane Yamashita and will be used with some minor changes all the board members felt it was a good survey. The annual report is due by all committee heads and officers in January this is stated in By Laws, Article IV, Meeting of the Society, Section 1. States: The Annual Meeting shall be the January meeting and the Committee Heads and Officers shall give an annual report at that time.

New Business: No new business

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting it was moved seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm delicious refreshments were served by June Harris. The location of the November Board Meeting will be immediately after the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Mullaney

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Treasurer's Report October 27, 2004

Checking account balance September 29, 2004 \$11,270.77

Receipts

2005 Show Dealers	\$4,631.50	
Projects	\$ 35.00	
Dues	\$ 23.00	
Initiation Fees	\$ 10.00	
Interest	<u>\$ 1.50</u>	
Total Receipts		\$ 4,701.00

Disbursements

Application Fee (501 (c) (3)	\$ 500.00	
Breccia Expense	\$ 50.00	
Prepaid Expense	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 800.00</u>

Checking Account Balance October 27, 2004 \$15,171.77

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society 2004

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584

Email: mmullaney@ensr.com

Vice President: John Eichhorn
(408) 749-0523

email: johneichhorn@earthlink.net

Secretary: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791

email: rockyfiv@aol.com

Treasurer: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195

email: Rba51825@aol.com

Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150

email: Juneconeyharris@yahoo.com

Federation Director: Bill Gissler
(408) 241-0477

email: wgissler@juno.com

Alternate Fed. Director: Frank Monez
(408) 578-7067

email: Frankm2@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

John Bahr- (408) 267-1620

Chuck Boblenz (408) 734-2473

Don Cox (408) 294-0872

Montella Lopez (408) 248-6195

RK Owen (408) 377-5373

Historian: Mary Lu Ferrara
(408) 246-6251

email: mlferrara@aol.com

Parliamentarian: Bill Norton
(408) 356-8254

COMMITTEE HEADS

Field Trip Coordinator: OPEN

Founder's Day Picnic: June Harris and Suzi Papinaeu

Hospitality: Frank Scelzi and Jennifer Raff

Installation Dinner: Kathy McChristian

Juniors: Gary and Kathy McChristian,
Mark and Debbie Wartenberg

Librarians: June Warne and Nancy Boring

Member Display: George and Jane Yamashita

PLAC (Public Lands Activities Committee)
Frank Monez

Program: Bill Gissler

Refreshments: Knut and Kris Owen

Sargeant-at-arms: Hershhal Boring

Show 2004: John Eichhorn

Show 2005: Frank Mullaney

Silent Auction: John and Silvia Palmieri

Sunshine: Suzi Papineau

Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel

Trophies: Frank Mullaney

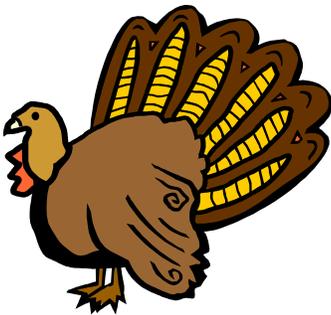
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Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

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Scotts Valley, CA 95066

PRSRRT STD
US Post Paid
Campbell, CA
Permit 1060



Please Deliver Promptly

Deserts

Whenever we think of deserts, we usually picture a really hot place where the sun is blazing down and there is no water. In reality, there are four different kinds of deserts ranging from the blazing hot Sahara to the frozen wasteland of Antarctica. Deserts are found on every continent. The only thing they have in common is that they receive less than ten inches of rain a year.

Four factors influence the formation of deserts. The most important one is high pressure. This type of desert is usually found between 15 degrees and 30 degrees latitude. Back at the equator, the air is heated and rises. Then it cools, condenses and rains before it sinks back down toward the earth. Because the air mass has already lost its moisture, no clouds form and no rain falls. The Sahara is an example of a high pressure desert. Another high pressure desert but very different from the Sahara is found at the South Pole. Antarctica is the driest place in the world. It is even drier than the Sahara.. It is so cold there that the air is unable to hold any moisture.

Cold, up welling ocean currents along the western coasts of continents cause the second type of deserts. Here the air is so cool that it won't hold much moisture and no rain reaches the land.

The third cause of a desert is the rain shadow effect. The Mojave and Death Valley are the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. As the air rises to get over the mountains, it cools, condenses and rains on the western side of the mountain. By the time the air gets over, no moisture is left.

The fourth and last type desert is found in the middle of continents. By the time the air mass reaches here, most of its moisture has already been lost so a desert forms. The Gobi desert in China and the Australian Deserts form this way

Wind and water are the main forces that sculpt the deserts. During the few storms that do occur in deserts, water, moving with great force, carries soil, rocks, and other debris and dumps it in cone shaped alluvial fans. This is a great place to go rock hunting.

Wind is responsible for the beautiful sand dunes found in most deserts. Bryce Canyon in Utah was formed from huge dunes piled up by wind 200 million years ago. Wind has since eroded the sandstone layers into dramatic forms. Many of our beautiful land formations out west were formed this way.

Via Rockwood Rockhound News, Via Gem Rock 12/98, Via The Glacial Drifter 9/01, Via Coastal Waves 8/04