



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Volume 72 Number 03, March 2024

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Events

March 16 & 17: The Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

From 10 to 5 at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds.

Free parking!

March 26: The General Membership Meeting will feature Dr. Phil Kesten talking about “**The Colors of Rocks**”.

The Bragging Rights theme is the “**Color Blue**”.

April 2: Board Meeting on Zoom.

April 23: General Membership Meeting will feature **Rick Kennedy**, on the Jackson's Crossroads 2023 dig and an American Museum of Natural History visit.

April 30: Board Meeting on Zoom.

See [Page 6](#) for field trip information.

Editor's Message

The big news for March is our annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, March 16 & 17 at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose. Volunteers are invited to sign up for a drawing for a chance to win tickets to Camp Paradise, see [SCVGMS Continuing Education Application 2024](#) for more information.

As usual, I am asking for contributions of articles from our members. You could contribute anything from a short "how-to" or "my favorite thing", up to 2 to 3 pages of whatever you think others would find interesting. Rock related photos are also appreciated. The deadline for submissions is the Sunday after each General Meeting.

Do you have anything that other members might enjoy?

Deb Runyan, Breccia Editor

editor@scvgms.org, 408-628-7789

Rockhound of the Month

Our rockhound of the month is **Margo Mosher**. She is well known for her ongoing volunteering and coordination.



Sunshine



A very active member of our club has passed away. We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Louis Latronica** in November. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. A very special dedication is happening in the spring for Louis's wonderful creations made of wood and rocks. South County Museum in the office of Education in Morgan Hill is dedicating a permanent area in which his works will be displayed. What an honor. We will miss his displays at our meetings and shows.

Joan Schramm is ill with an on going infection. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Jim Sugiyama's wife is very ill. Our thought and prayers are with her, Jim and the family.

Louis Schuesler is getting a new heart valve. We wish the best for him and a quick recovery.

Diana Nelson's daughter is battling cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with her, Diana and the family.

If you know of anyone needing some sunshine in their lives, please email **Margo Mosher** at margo-mosher@yahoo.com.

SCVGMS Continuing Education Application 2024

Filling out this application and returning it to the SCVGMS Board enters you into the Continuing Education drawing. The winner receives tickets for two people to attend one of two week-long stays at Camp Paradise at the end of August. The drawing will be held at the end of the May general meeting. The SCVGMS Board welcomes you all to fill out the application if you have met the eligibility criteria below:

- ♦ Attended three or more SCVGMS general meetings in the last year.
- ♦ Volunteered eight or more hours at the annual show or in preparation for the show.
- ♦ Have not been a winner and attended this camp or Camp ZZYZX in the last three years.

Name _____

What is the best way to contact you? Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please tell us what interests you about this opportunity. We like to hear what inspires people in this hobby. If you are a winner, we would like to share your words with the club members via the Breccia newsletter. Don't worry. We'll edit for spelling and punctuation.

Why would you like to attend Camp Paradise this coming season? _____

What is your favorite part of our hobby? _____

Things you need to know:

- The drawing will be held at a society general meeting, the date of which will be communicated at the upcoming society meetings and in the Breccia. You do not have to be present to win.
- Up to five names will be drawn. If for any reason the winner is unable to attend the camp, the second person will be contacted, and so forth.
- The winner is responsible for his/her transportation to/from the camp and any additional material fees for special classes. The tickets include accommodations and meals.
- To assure your accommodations and attendance in one of the camps, you must contact Marion Roberts, CMFS head of Earth Science camps to make arrangements by July 1. Contact information for Marion Roberts can be obtained from Missy Fox, Continuing Education Chair.

The winner will share his/her camp experience with the club by taking some photos, doing a show and tell at a meeting, and writing a short article for the Breccia.

The deadline for submitting the application for the drawing for Camp Paradise is the May meeting.

Mail or turn forms into Missy Fox, 16344 Shady View Lane, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Open to member and nonmembers alike.

Week 1: August 18 to 24, 2024

Week 2: August 25 to 31, 2024

Questions??? Contact Missy Fox (408) 356-7711 or jfox152@comcast.net

March 2024 Breccia Prez Message

Hello SCVGMS Members and Friends!

I'm hoping that you all have had a wonderful February. It's busy times for the Club with our annual gem and mineral show right around the corner. We have nearly 40 vendors this year, and online ticket sales have been strong now that one can transact with Paypal. If you have not volunteered yet to help at the event, it's not too late! You can reach out to **Margo Mosher** to let her know that you are interested in helping. I hope that you can make it and am very thankful for all the volunteers that make this event so well-run and so much fun for everyone.



In case any of you thought that I only collect fluorescent minerals and dinosaur fossils, the pictures I am sharing this month will prove otherwise. Here's two pieces of gemmy rhodonite from Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Our February General Meeting was held on the 27th. The highlight of the meeting was the DRC Mini-Sale. The DRC (Donation Receiving Committee) sold about 40 rock and mineral specimens to attending members, and the event was very well received. I will venture to say that the DRC will be having Mini-Sales again in the future, and the Board will discuss this topic soon. Overall attendance at the February meeting was strong with 39 members and 5 guests joining in person. Next month our program is a presentation from **Dr. Phil Kesten** titled "The Colors of Rocks". Dr. Kesten is a professor of physics at Santa Clara University, and he joined the club last year. Thanks in advance, Dr. K! If any other members are interested in presenting to the club in a future meeting, please let me know!



Two zeolite examples from India. The first is a spray of scolecite in a vug lined with druse quartz. The second specimen has orange thomsonite balls that are covered with very fine mesolite needles, and this piece is from Deshagon, Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India. I've been eyeing this material for years, and I found a vendor with about 20 examples for sale in Tucson, AZ.

Several new initiatives are underway with the Board of Directors. We have formed a Capital Planning Committee to identify new ways to support club goals and the interests of members. We also have started a By-Laws Review Committee. In both cases the committees will be meeting to discuss ideas and make proposals for the Board to consider. I will keep everyone updated over the next many months as things progress.

(Continued on page 5)



Agates are fun! Here's an Argentinian Condor agate with a floating fortification in the center, and a teardrop-shaped piece from Brazil with pastel-colored banding.

I'm delighted to announce that **Lucy Nuñez** will be our new Social Media Coordinator. This is a vital and impactful role that helps drive event awareness and also appeals to potential new members of all ages! Thanks, Lucy, and I'm looking forward to working with you!



I brought back a bit of the Arizona sunset in this piece of labradorite.

I'll see you at the Annual Show!

Jim Herbold
SCVGMS President

Senior Commandments

1. The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.
2. Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.
3. When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.
4. Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough".
5. Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.
6. If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.
7. Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags or is it just me.
8. I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.
9. Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.
10. Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.
11. So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

April 14, Sun: Sonoma Coast State Park, Bodega Bay, CA, 2.5-hour drive

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

Talk by geologist about local rock formations followed by beach combing, small Ziploc bag only. Must have proof of membership.

Karol Deasy: 707-696-9282 Text preferred or karol@deasy-opus.com

April 19 – 21, Fri – Sun: Hauser Geode Beds, Palo Verde, CA, 9.5-hour drive

CO-OP (Field Trip Chairmen's Association)

Geodes, Porcelain Jasper

Contact: Jim Barton, (916) 847-7321, geologist1@surewest.net

Website: <https://www.co-opfieldtrips.com>

May 29 – June 2, Wed – Sun (1 single day in this time-frame, TBD): Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, Denio, NV, 9-hour drive, with tolls

3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per scoop. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 7, Fri: Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, NV, 8.5-hour drive with tolls.

3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per spot. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 13 – 16, Thu – Sun: Prineville, OR, 10-hour drive.

Pow Wow Field Trips.

A 4-day Rock Show and 3 Field Trips, Fri (6/14), Sat (6/15), Sun (6/16). Locations to be announced.

August 3 – 9, Sat – Fri: Delta, UT, 11.5-hours drive through Reno; 13-hours through Las Vegas

Dugway Geodes, Topaz Mountain, Drum Mountain agate, Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings

2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely, NV, on the way home.

Proposed for a time in the future: Ocean View Mine, San Diego Area, 7- to 8-hour drive

Tourmaline and Quartz

Bragging Rights

February's Bragging Rights Theme was **"Bone"**.



1. Carved Bird Ivory Tusk—**Noel and Deb Runyan**



2. Ox bone Carving—**Sonia Dyer**



3. Sauropod Femur—**Jim Herbold**



5. Bone with embedded shark tooth—(Editor's note: I could not find out who submitted)



4. Big Dino Bone—**David and Margo Mosher**

The Winner

The March Bragging Rights theme is **"Color Blue"**.

Please text (408-561-8815) or email (woodnbus@yahoo.com) a photo of your Blue treasure to **Cesar Nuñez** by 4:00PM on Monday, **March 25** to have it included in the contest. **Please be sure to include your name so we can recognize all submitters!**

Cesar Nuñez-Bragging Rights Chairman

Member Displays

The February General Meeting included:



Jim Herbold - Thomsonite & Mesolite from India



Noel and Deb Runyan - China Hollow Jasper/Agate from Oregon.

These are 4 of the rough rocks for the 2024 Worldwide Rock Tumbling Contest.

Each year [Feather River Rocks](#) has a contest for rock tumbler. If you want to join in, be sure to enter early in January!



Dean Welder - Display box of rings

Editor's note: I apologize for not getting photos of the following:

Lynn Toschi - Dinosaur Gem Bone

Bruce Poehlman - Quartz with Calcite

Kyle Van Woerkom - Stony-Iron Meteorite from Kansas

Please email a photo of the items that you wish to display to [Michele Smith](#) by the Sunday before the general meeting, so that the people who attend the meeting on Zoom rather than in person can view your items. **Please bring your items with you to the Cabana Club, if you are attending the meeting.**

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, or anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who are attending. Show off what you love, so that we can enjoy it with you.

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

Click on any links below for sites you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <https://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.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS): <https://www.amfed.org>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS): <https://www.cfmsinc.org/>

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

Mindat.org (world's largest open database of minerals, rocks, meteorites): <https://www.mindat.org/>

SCVGMS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

Senior Commandments - Part 2

12. Old age is coming at a really bad time.
13. If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.
14. Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
15. Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?
16. I don't need anger management. I need people to stop irritating me.
17. My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.
18. "On time" is when I get there.
19. Even duct tape can't fix stupid—but it sure does muffle the sound.
20. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free...and three sizes smaller.
21. "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

Words of Wisdom from Children

Never trust a dog to watch your food. - Patrick, age 10

When your Dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him. - Michael, 14

Never tell your mom her diet's not working. Michael, 14

Stay away from prunes. - Randy, 9

Information on Shows

March 8-10 – Victorville, CA (Stoddard Wells area)

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
48th Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
Contact: (760) 243-2339, president@vvgc.org
<http://vvgmc.org>

March 9-10 – Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society of CA
58th Annual Turlock Rock & Gem Show. Our theme this year is JADE.
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 North Broadway
Hours: Sat and Sun 10 AM – 5 PM
<http://www.turlockgemshow.com/>

March 16-17 - San Jose, CA

SCVGMS Annual Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Rd.
Hours: Sat and Sun 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: 408-265-1422
<https://www.scvgms.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

March 16-17 – Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society
Lemoore Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St.
Sat 10–6, Sun 10–4
Contact:
https://facebook.com/events/999726084444006/999726087777339/?active_tape=about

March 17 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 West Alvarado St., Ste B., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: 12–3
Contact (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <https://fallbrookgemandmineralsociety.wildapricot.org/>

March 22-24 – Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
748 Rodeo Drive, Clovis, CA
Hours: Fri and Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Website: <https://fgms.ocks>

March 23-24 – Angeles Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society 2024 Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale
2465 Gun Club Rd.
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Contact: (209) 736-4892, dbrooks49@att.net
Website: <https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/>

April 6-7 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Contact: info@vistarocks.org
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/>

April 13 – Lake Elsinore, CA

4th Annual Lake Elsinore Rock & Craft Show
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10–4
Website: www.facebook.com/groups/530281757337262/

April 13-14 – Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd.

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

<http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 13-14 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4 PM

Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org

<http://edcmgs.org>

April 20-21 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park, 190 N. Reino Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: (805) 209-3173

Contact: conejogemandmineral@gmail.com

Website: <https://cgamc.org>

April 27-28 – Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society

307 Church St., Santa Cruz, CA

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: scruzmgms@gmail.com

Website: <https://scrockngem.org>

April 27-28 – Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

Brookhurst Community Center

2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4:30

Contact: Nancyjbird68@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org>

May 3-4 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Yucaipa Blvd near Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA

Hours: Fri 5–10, Sat 12–9

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

May 4-5 - Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club

2551 W. Ave. H

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com

May 24 - 26 - Ventura, CA

CFMS/AFMS Combined Show and Convention

Seaside Gems at Ventura

Hosted by Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Words of Wisdom from Children - Part 2

Never pee on an electric fence. - Robert, 13

Don't squat with your spurs on. Noronha, 13

Don't pull dad's finger when he tells you to. Emily, 10

When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair. - Taylia, 11

Never allow your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment. - Traci, 14

Don't sneeze in front of mom when you're eating crackers. - Mitchell, 12

Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac. - Andrew, 9

Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time. - Kyoyo, 9

You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. - Amir, 9

Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts. - Kellie, 11

Talc

By Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D.

Now leading off, on the Mohs Hardness Scale, is talc. (For you New York Yankees fans, please read the previous sentence in the voice of Bob Sheppard, the Yankees long-time, legendary public address announcer.) Talc is the softest mineral known, right at the base of the Hardness Scale at a hardness value of 1. Soft, yes, but also incredibly versatile. Talc is used in making ceramics and plastics. Talc is an important constituent of paper and cosmetics. And talc—relatively high-grade, relatively pure talc—is finely ground to make talcum powder.

Talc, the mineral, can be a white or light green crystal. Typically, however, a specimen of talc is amorphous. Talc is, essentially, a relatively nondescript chunk of rock. Easy to overlook? Not so!

Talc is a moderately complex molecule, known to chemists as hydrated magnesium silicate. It contains magnesium (Mg) atoms, chemically bonded silicon (Si) atoms and oxygen (O) atoms—these are at the heart of the “magnesium silicate” part of the name. In addition, there are also atoms of hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O) connected to the magnesium silicate; hydrogen and oxygen atoms in talc account for the “hydrated” descriptor. “Hydrated” connotes having or absorbing water - water is H₂O). The chemical formula for the molecules in talc is Mg₃Si₄O₁₀(OH)₂.

But talc is not simply an assembly of Mg, Si, O and H atoms—a crystal of talc is composed of layers (or “sheets”) of Mg, O, and H atoms connected together, and sandwiched between layers of Si and O atoms connected together. (See Fig. 1.) That inner layer of the sandwich is composed of O atoms and OH pairs grouped around a central Mg atom; the Si and O atoms in the surrounding layers form clumps of four-sided pyramids connected together.

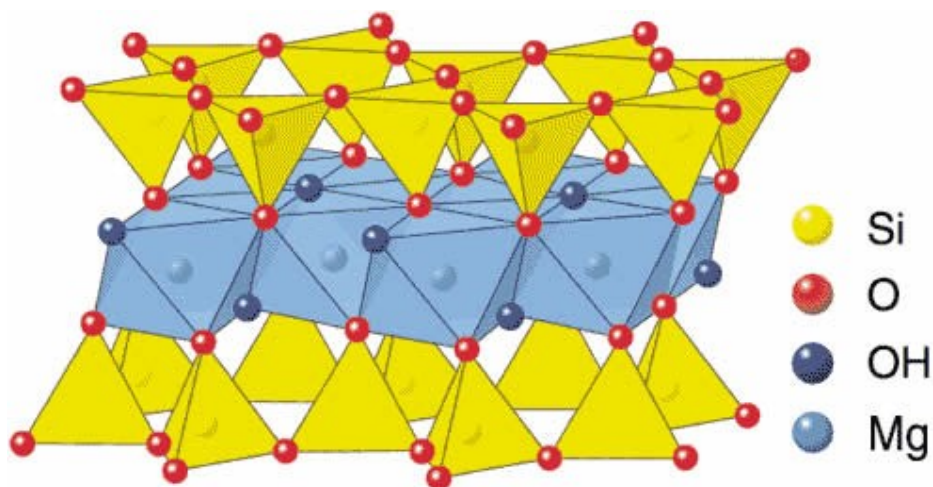


Fig. 1. Talc is composed of layers of magnesium (Mg), oxygen (O), and hydrogen (H) atoms connected together sandwiched between layers of silicon (Si) and oxygen atoms.

<https://www.etf.com/sites/default/files/hai/stories/Talc%20Molecule.jpg>

The sheets of atoms that comprise talc are held together by an interatomic attraction known as the Van der Waals force. This force is hundreds, to as much as thousands, of times weaker than the other kinds of bonds that hold atoms together to form molecules, and it is this weak bonding between molecular layers in talc that accounts for its softness. (Hooray for the Mohs Hardness Scale!). And

because the layer-to-layer bonding is weak, the molecular layers in talc are easily separated; talc can be cleaved into very thin sheets. This weak inter-layer bonding also allows the layers of molecules in talc to slide easily one relative to the next, making talc an excellent lubricant. And finally, the layer-upon-layer composition of talc gives this mineral its characteristic soapy, almost greasy, feel. One variety of talc is known as soapstone for this reason.

So yes, talc is soft. And because bits of talc can easily slide one against another, talc can be an excellent lubricant, especially in powdered form. But of more interest, perhaps, at least to those who want to make use of the properties of talc, is that talc is relatively inert. The outer sides of the layers that form talc contain no ions, so even in powdered form, talc does not react when in contact with most other substances. Talc is also safe to ingest, and it is also almost completely insoluble in water... and even in weak acids.

So talc is inert, it is safe, and it is insoluble... These properties make talc versatile! In powdered form talc is used, for example, as an anti-caking agent in the production of animal feed. Anti-caking? Adding powdered talc to granulated feed prevents it from forming clumps, making the final product easier to package, transport, and even consume. Talc is also used to coat such diverse food products as chewing gum and cured meats, in order to prevent bits and pieces of these foods from sticking together. And powdered talc is used to stabilize the clumps of bacteria in wastewater. Because talc is inert, this results in no bacterial loss, thereby preserving the value of the treated wastewater—that is, the sewage sludge—as fertilizer.

Where else might you find talc? It and its relative talc(um) powder, is commonly used in cosmetics. Talc is often used, for example, in makeup and skin care products. And talc is mild, in terms of interacting with skin, and it keeps skin relatively dry... ideal for making baby powder. Yes, putting some talcum powder on a baby's bottom is great to prevent diaper rash! And because the layers in talc slide against each other smoothly, including powdered talc in cosmetics gives makeup products, such as blush and eye shadow, a certain silkiness. Talc can also provide "beauty creams" with a desirable sheen, and can allow bars of soap to glide more smoothly on your skin.

So yes, our direct contact with talc is likely through it being a component of powders and cosmetics. But the main industrial application of talc is in the production of plastics. Talc also finds its way into the production of ceramics, paint, and paper. Indeed, seventy-five percent of the talc used in the United States goes into these four applications.

Talc serves as a filler in the production of plastics, materials such as polypropylene, polyethylene, and vinyl. Talc makes these materials smooth. Talc can also increase the stiffness of these plastics. In addition, because talc is so soft, machines that process plastics experience less wear and tear when talc is added.

Talc is an important ingredient in creating ceramics. Ceramic tiles and pottery, yes, but also bricks, concrete, and even the porcelain insulators used to support long, high voltage (power) transmission lines. Ceramics are created by heating ("firing") soft clay until it becomes hard. Clay is a natural soil material rich in aluminum and silicon ions bonded together in thin layers, which are then connected by oxygen and hydroxide ions. (Similar to talc, yes?!) Adding talc to clay before it is fired reduces the temperature required to turn the soft clay into a hard ceramic, and it also makes the final product

more resistant to cracking should the ambient temperature change.

Adding talc to clay also makes the resulting ceramic material impervious to water. This process, known as “vitrification,” makes it possible for ceramic urns to hold liquid, and also prevents bacteria from penetrating into the ceramic material. No bacteria? That is a good thing if you want to use a ceramic urn to store food or water.

Another common application of talc? Talc added to paint. Most paints are suspensions of various minerals in a liquid. The liquid makes the paint easy to apply, but after the paint is applied to a surface and after the liquid evaporates, it is the minerals left behind that account for the color and texture of the painted surface. Adding a bit of powdered talc to paint helps keep those minerals in suspension when the paint is in liquid form, and helps maintain a uniform distribution of those minerals within the liquid as the paint is applied to a surface. In this way talc gives a painted surface a smooth, even coloring, and as an added bonus, because powdered talc is typically bright white in color, adding talc to paint brightens the color of the paint.

And finally, there is talc in most paper products. Cellulose fibers, most commonly in the form of a pudding-like pulp made from ground-up wood, are the primary constituents of paper. When talc is added to wood pulp during the process of producing paper, it fills the gaps between the fibers, making the final product smoother and less transparent. Talc also reduces the number of blemishes that would otherwise be introduced in the paper production process. Finally, talc improves how receptive paper is to having ink laid down on it in a printing process.

Talc. Yes, it is soft, amorphous, and nondescript. But talc is a most versatile mineral, so do not overlook it. If you do not have a specimen of talc in your collection, add one!

Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D., Department of Physics, Santa Clara University

Words of Wisdom from Children - Part 3

If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse. - Naomi, 15

Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick. - Lauren, 9

Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat. - Joel, 10

When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone. - Alyesha, 13

Never try to baptize a cat. - Eileen, 8

Puns

What do you call a rock musician who's also a geologist?

A rockologist.

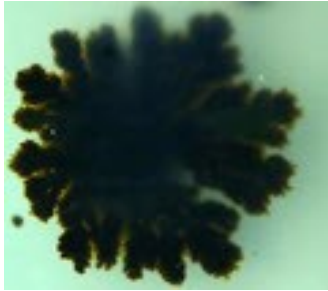
Geologists don't wrinkle, they show lineation!

AGATES - Part 2

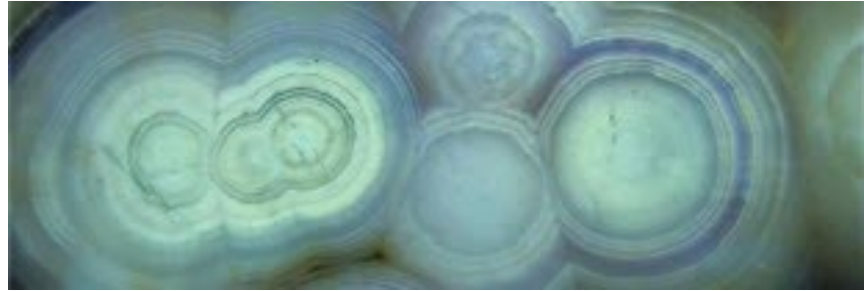
Presented by: Missy Fox

(Continued from the February 2024 issue of the *Breccia*.)

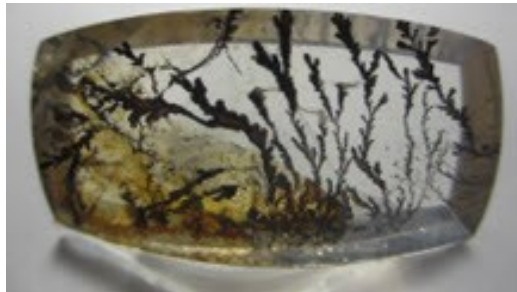
The colors of agates are caused by “impurities”, or chemical elements and compounds. Some of the mineral coloring agents include iron oxide (red, orange, yellow, brown, black), manganese (pink, purple, black), chromium (green, yellow), titanium (blue), nickel (green) and copper (blue or green). Light refraction can also produce colors in agates.



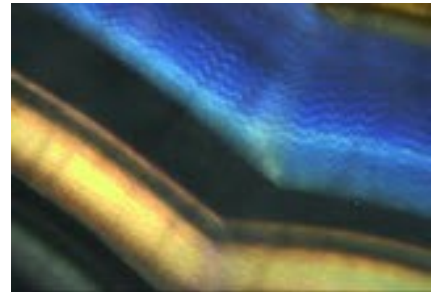
Moss



Luna



Dendritic



Iris



Rutlated



Laguna

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Agates are named in a number of ways. It can refer to the location where the agate is found (Agate Creek agate which is found in Agate Creek, Australia, or Brazilian agate from Brazil); a physical characteristic of the agate (Polka Dot, Blue Lace, or Snake skin agate); or something completely different (Dryhead agate which is named after a method of buffalo processing used by American Indians who would stake a buffalo head up until it was dry).



Laguna



Moss



Carey Plume



Dendritic



Botswana



Dryhead

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

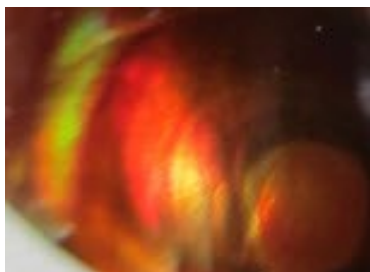
The uses of agates are many. Nero had an agate goblet, 10th century Anglo-Saxons made charms and used them for protection against evil spirits, and during the Renaissance era agates were used to make bowls and vases. Mosaics from agate pieces are found in Florence, Italy, and Asian specialties included statues and snuff bottles. Agates have been cut into jewelry, bowls, weapons, tools, bookends, marbles, and many other useful and beautiful items.



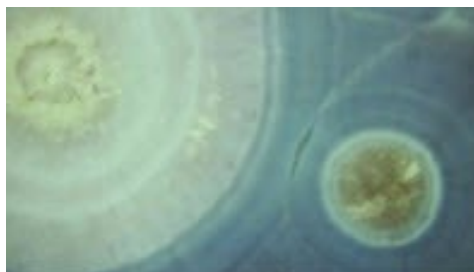
Dendritic



Laguna



Fire



Luna



Brazilian



Iris

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

There are a number of agate patterns. They can occur as concentric rings (fortification), tree-like (dendritic), feathers or flowers (plume), bush-like (moss), sprays (sagenitic), flames, iris, or tubes.

(To be continued in the April 2024 issue of the *Breccia*.)



Flame



Dryhead



Laguna



Luna



Amethyst Sage



Woodward Ranch

February 27, 2024 - SCVGMS General Meeting

Pre-meeting DRC Mini-Sale

Setup at 6:45 pm

Bidding begins 7:00 pm

Call to Order - 7:31pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Program for the evening: DRC Mini-Sale Silent Auction, AZ gem shows review

New Members (Cynthia Porter): None

Member Displays

Members to present any specimens if any were brought. 2-3 minutes per person.

Jim Herbold - Thomsonite & Mesolite from India, Lynn Toschi - Dinosaur Gem Bone, Bruce Poehlman - Quartz with Calcite - Kyle Van Woerkom - Stony-Iron Meteorite from Kansas, Deb and Noel Runyan - Jade Agate China Basin Oregon

AZ Shows Updates

Margo, Dean, Karen, Frank and Jim Herbold gave updates and highlighted show-and tell specimens

Volunteer Roles that need to be filled

Refreshments for March 26, 2024 general meeting, \$100 reimbursement with receipts. Please bring something sweet, something savory, and something vegetable (Cal Hansen)

Social Media Coordinator - Website, Insta, FB, Reddit, Meetup. We really need help here. (Lucy Nuñez)

Raise of hands - who uses Facebook? Insta? I need you!

Mostly for meeting and Annual Show announcements, maybe some cool rock pics...

Email president@scvgms.org if interested, but I'm now targeting people :-)

Calling for Member Presentations at monthly general meetings!

We want to recruit people to present on interesting mineral and lapidary topics. Show off parts of your collection!

Currently we have openings for Aug 27 and Oct 22.

Suggested timing: anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes. You can create a presentation deck to use, or not. Bring in specimens to show off. Think of this as one or two steps deeper than what we do with Member Displays each meeting.

Email president@scvgms.org if you are interested to present.

Update on Annual Show planning (Michele Smith): Magnetic Car Stickers available

Margo has demonstrations area going

Friends who would like to volunteer for the show (free admission for volunteers)

Good selection of dealers (Goal of 40) currently 2-3 short of goal

Discovery zone and silent auction area

Florescent Room

Insurance covered

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Hospitality table

Name tags?

Pat Speece Photographer

Would love to have more display case volunteers, see Stephen May

New Banner, Skirt, and Geode Cracker

Frank showed banners, and table cloths

Lon demonstrated the geode cracker several times

Annual Show call for volunteers (Margo Mosher)

Break for snacks/food/beverage and bidding on DRC Mini-Sale, Silent Auction format. Items from the recent donation from Joe Abramski, and various pieces from Michele's back yard. Thanks for supporting the DRC and the Club and enjoy your new specimens! Provide initial 15 minute warning, then 5 minute warning, then 1 minute warning. Brought in about \$1,282.

Correspondence (Frank Mulaney)

Field Trips (Stephen May)

February: Fossil Discovery Center, Chowchilla, Rained out. To be re-scheduled, February.

June 3 (Monday): Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, 3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per spot. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 13 – 16, Prineville Or. Pow Wow Field Trips: A 4-day rock show and 3 Field Trips, Fri. (6/14), Sat. (6/15), Sun. (6/16). Locations to be announced. Drive time 8 hrs. 42 min.

August 3 (Sat) – 9 (Fri), Delta Ut: -Dugway Geodes-, -Topaz Mountain-, -Drum Mountain agate-, -Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings-. 2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely NV, on the way home.

Rock Hound of the Month from January 2024

Bruce Poehlman, for helping run the January meeting while I was away. Thanks!!

Bragging Rights (Cesar Nunez)

For this month of February the theme is "Bone". Specimen review and voting.

For March, **Cesar** is nominating the following topic: "Color Blue". Send pictures to Cesar at wood-nbus@yahoo.com or text to 408-561-8815.

1. Carved Bird Ivory Tusk—Runyans
2. Ox bone Carving—Sonia Dyer
3. Sauropod Femur—Jim Herbold
4. Big Dino Bone—Moshers
5. Bone with embedded shark tooth

Winner: Jim Herbold 40lbs too big to bring in person

Hospitality: Introduce Guests; 39 Members and 5 Guests in attendance. John Sutter, Duwayne Bell, Marlene, Stephanie

Sunshine (Margo Mosher)

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Lewis Letronica passed away last November. The South County Office of education will have a permanent display in his honor.

Joan Schramm is ill.

Jim Sugiyama's wife is very ill.

Randy Harris is moving to Utah to retire

Federation Report (Karen Welder)

Coming in March

Annual Show!!!!!!

General Meeting on March 26, with Phil Kesten presenting on "Colors of Rocks"

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

SCVGMS Board Meeting, March 5, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm

Roll call: Jim Herbold (President), Bruce Poehlman (Vice President), Cynthia Porter (Secretary), Frank Mullaney (Treasurer), Noel Runyan (Board), Jim Fox (Board), Missy Fox (Board), Stephen May (Board), Michele Smith (Board), Deb Runyan (News Editor), Dean Welder (Parliamentarian), Karen Welder (Federation Director), Paul Kidman (Alternate Federation Director)

Absent: Stephen May, Dean Welder, Karen Welder

Reading of the Minutes from 1/30/2024 board meeting (Cynthia Porter): Minutes M/S/P Frank Mullaney/Bruce Poehlman

Revisions to the Minutes: None

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney): CFMS Newsletter and trailer insurance (Paid)

New Members (Cynthia Porter): None to report

Treasurer's Report (Frank Mullaney): see posted report

Gift cards for bragging rights? \$25 each to be used for DRC sales or silent auction M/S/P Cynthia Porter/Bruce Poehlman

Federation (Karen Welder): May 24-26, 2024 AFMS/CFMS show in Ventura

Field Trips (Stephen May): No changes

Show 2024 (Michele Smith): Name tags getting template from Jim Sugiyama.

Old Business

Permanent Zoom link created (Bruce)

Capital Planning Committee: First meeting held 02/20/2024. Jim and Bruce have questions for Frank.

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By-Laws Review Committee: Update: Constitution and Bylaws have been scanned and digitized, file is distributed and under review by the committee. Meeting scheduled for March 12, 2024. Issues/ action items noted in New Business section.

Founder's Day Picnic - August 11, 2024 (Sunday) is reserved at Cabana Club

2024 Scholarships/Grants

Michele connected with Jon Miller at SJSU - he provided 4 candidates per Michele request. Michele asked for four qualifying students from Jon but we last approved \$1500 to only 3 students at the January Board meeting. Requires post-facto board approval: Motion to approve to 4 students for this year only M/S/P Jim Fox/Paul Kidman

Michele to communicate with the 4 students ASAP regarding Show volunteering or delegate as she sees fit.

For next grant cycle starting September: Jim proposes sourcing candidates from SCU, Stanford, and SJSU. 1 student per school. SCU has an environmental science and environmental studies majors. Stanford has geology and earth sciences majors. Jim will work on establishing contacts.

Dean to review brief version of Roberts Rules?

Social Media Coordinator volunteer has been secured: Lucy Nunez. Jim question Cesar's wife, yes? Anyone have her contact info?

Club safety deposit box access: Frank Mullaney, Jim Herbold, Stephen May: still outstanding. Per By-Laws, it should not be Stephen and backups, it should be VP and Secy. Frank to update, or we change the By-Law. We need to access the box soon to make a copy of the original 1955 Articles of Incorporation for By-Laws review.

Club check signatories: Frank Mullaney, Jim Herbold, Bruce Poehlman, Cynthia Porter: still outstanding. Correct per By-laws. Frank to update. Motion: Frank Mullaney or Michele Smith to be approved to authorize changes to signatures on the bank account. M/S/P Noel Runyan/Paul Kidman

New business

Nomination of Rockhound of the Month for February 2024: Margo Mosher, for her ongoing volunteering and coordination

Quick review of DRC Mini Sale held last week at the General Meeting. What worked well, what did not? Continue? Hold to fewer (10-15? 20?) rocks, but have frequently. 3 more, hold onto 45 Abramski minerals and the rest go to the next yard sale. Jim Fox to coordinate the holdbacks with Bill Spence.

New Vetted Email List: This will be the spreadsheet that Jim H. updates with new members and folks who have asked us to keep in touch. The active member email list matches the Directory file that Frank has updated.

Dodge & Cox vis-a-vis bank account. Frank is the only signatory? Jim Sugiyama as well. Need two deep. What type of fund is Club money invested in? Is there a risk of a balance decrease? Rebalancing makes sense? Board to review annually? Annual report/update form for Dodge & Cox, needs to

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be filled out and submitted to update Dodge & Cox.

Early red flag results of By-Laws review - 3 hot topics and 2 points of decision are requested:

Need to file Statement of Information to the state ASAP. We are delinquent and our incorporation can be canceled. Board needs to vote on new mailing address and new Person of Contact. Right now it is Frank's address and Jim Sugiyama. Discussed. Frank's address and Frank Mullaney as Person of Contact. FYI: We must add officer indemnification to the By-Laws. D&O Insurance is not sufficient.

We did not have the Audit Committee last year, right? This needs to happen ASAP as we are in violation of our By-Laws. Volunteers requested to join Jim, Frank, and Paul.

Board needs to decide and vote regarding overall approach to By-Law modifications: 1) hire a lawyer (small project but expensive), 2) use NoLo (~\$100), or 3) just use Paul's edits. M/S/P Name/Name

Does anyone have access to a printed version of the original Club Articles of Incorporation from 1955? We need to see them as part of the overall By-Laws review. In the Safety Deposit Box?

Who keeps the sign-in forms from the General Meetings? Jim will add to our email list going forward.

Camp Paradise - how to choose winners. Active volunteers or lucky drawing. Keep existing combo of both: all Show volunteers with 8 hours fill up a form go into a hat, then lucky draw.

Deb: Pat Speece pointed out that the Minutes in the Breccia were not signed. We probably need Cynthia to say "submitted by", maybe by making them read-only?

Upcoming Business

Set first month to hold Member Swap Meet before a monthly meeting (different from DRC Mini-Sale): MONTH.

Dodge & Cox vis-a-vis bank account. Frank is the only signatory? Jim Sugiyama as well. Need two deep. What type of fund is Club money invested in? Is there a risk of a balance decrease? Rebalancing makes sense? Board to review annually? Annual report/update form for Dodge & Cox, needs to be filled out and submitted to update Dodge & Cox.

Upcoming Programs:

Program schedule for 2024 General Meetings

March 26 - Phil Kesten - Colors of Rocks

April 23 - Rick Kennedy - Jackson's Crossroads 2023 dig and AMNH visit report

May 28 - silent auction with member contributions

June 25 - Phil Kesten - Tungsten

July 23 - ice cream social

August 27 - Open

September 24 - Open

October 22 - Open

November 26 - silent auction

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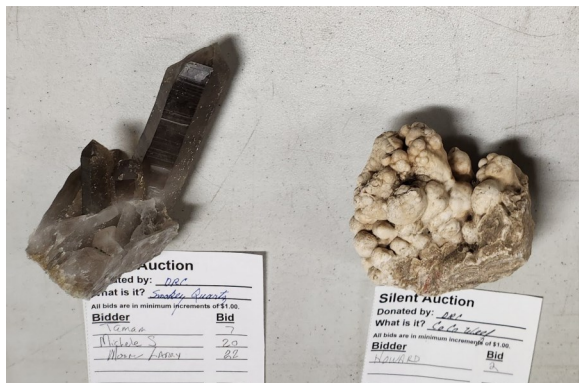
December 3 Installation Dinner 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 9:13 pm (Motion to adjourn Frank Mullaney)

The February DRC Mini Sale

The DRC (Donation Receiving Committee) sold about 40 rock and mineral specimens to attending members, bringing in about \$1,282.

Here are photos of a few of the specimens that were sold.



SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jim Herbold, 650-743-3254
Vice President: Bruce Poehlman, 818-912-1866
Secretary: Cynthia Porter, 408-978-5848
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney, 408-691-2656
Editor: Deb Runyan, 408-628-7789
Federation Director: Karen Welder, 408-353-2675
Alternate Fed. Director: Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox, 408-356-7711
Missy Fox, 408-356-7711
Stephen May, 408-306-6782
Noel Runyan, 408-866-7564
Michele Smith, 408-374-1897
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder, 408-353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Cesar Nuñez
Donation Receiving Committee Chair: Michele Smith
Show Chairpersons 2024: TBD
Fairgrounds Booth Chair: Michele Smith
Fairgrounds Liaison: Frank Mullaney
Fairgrounds Volunteer Coordinator: Margo Mosher
Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Jim Herbold
Founder's Day Raffle: TBD
Founder's Day Bingo: TBD
Hospitality: TBD
Installation Dinner: Tamara Bell, and Michael Paone
Member Displays: TBD
Refreshments: TBD
Silent Auction: TBD
Sunshine: Margo Mosher
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Librarian: Deb Runyan

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: info@scvgms.org

Phone Number 408-265-1422

Like us on Facebook:

<https://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 held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:00 followed by the meeting at 7:30 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 on March 26 at 7:30 at the Cabana Club and also available on Zoom.** The Next Board Meeting is at 7:30 on April 2 on 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).

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published 11 times annually. The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after each general meeting. The Breccia editor is Deb Runyan who may be contacted by email at Deb4Rocks@gmail.com and by phone at 408-628-7789. The Breccia is proofread by Noel Runyan, Pat Speece and Sonia Dyer.

Exchange bulletins may be emailed to Deb4Rocks@gmail.com. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.