



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and
Mineral Society

Volume 73 Number 11, Nov-Dec 2025

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Events

November 25, 7:30 PM: The General Membership Meeting will feature a **Silent Auction**, and the **Annual Election**. The Bragging Rights theme is "Pink". Sign up with Frank for the Holiday Dinner.

December 2: The Annual Holiday Dinner. (There is no General Meeting in December.) Members and their kids 12 and under 12 are free. Non-members are \$10. Please bring an unwrapped "Toys for Tots" gift.

December 3, 7:30 PM: Board Meeting on Zoom. All Members are welcome to attend. If you do want to attend, please contact [Jim Herbold](#).

January 27, 2026: The General Membership Meeting will feature **Michael Paone** talking about Silversmithing.

Editor's Message

I hope everyone is looking forward to the Holiday Season and all its celebrations!

Michael Paone is in charge of another great [Holiday Dinner](#) from Willow Street Pizza. I hope to see you all there December 2nd.

Margo Mosher and Frank Mullaney have jumped right into working on the [2026 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show](#).

I have included the first batch of photos from Sonia Dyer's slides from her presentation on the [Rocks and Minerals of Michigan](#).

If you want to contribute something to the *Breccia*, the deadline for submissions is the Sunday after the 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 Deb Runyan for her work on the *Breccia*.



Sunshine



There is nothing for Sunshine this month.

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

Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

November 15 (Saturday): Gold Bug Park & Mine, Placerville, CA, 3.3-hours and Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Coloma, CA 4-hours

Materials: Tours, Garnets, Pyrite, and real Gold Flakes.

Sponsors: Co-Op Field Trip, Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society

Leader: Pierre Espagnet, ccmgstreasurer@gmail.com, 415-521-9576.

For questions about the Co-Op field trip

Contact: Stephen May, Stephenmay0990@gmail.com

Phone: 669-248-3993 or 408-306-6782

Food-Related Smiles

I want to grow my own food, but I can't find bacon seeds.

Why does a chicken coop have two doors?

If it had four doors it would be a sedan.

Lord, give me the coffee to change the things that I can change, and the wine to accept the things that I can't.

If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. That's humerus.

Did you hear the song about the tortilla? Actually, it was more of a wrap.

They say every piece of chocolate that you eat shortens your life by two minutes.

I've done the math. It seems that I died in 1537.

Dove chocolates taste way better than their soaps.

Why did the miner take a can of beans into the mine?

To get some gas for his lamp.

President's Message

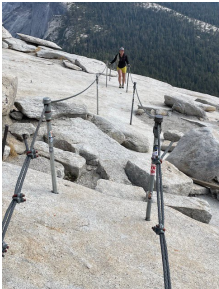
Hi, everybody! I hope that you are doing well and are excited by the change of seasons that is happening.

I've had an active month, climbing Half Dome with my wife and college roommate, and hunting for fluorescent minerals in Mono and Inyo counties.



The cables at the top of Half Dome. Steep at 45 degrees incline, I actually felt that I used my upper body more than my legs to get to the top.

Yosemite is an amazing place. The granite is majestic and the hikes are very steep and challenging. My wife and I got married at The Ahwahnee Hotel, which is an amazing place in its own right.



She made it!

Our most recent mineral hunting trip went well, with moderate temperatures, the inclusion of a fellow glow-hound that we've never been with in the field with, and as always, a new pile of fluorescent minerals to add to the collection.

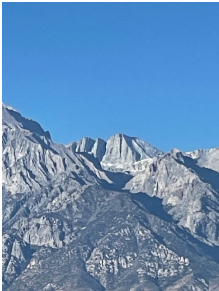


An ore loading station near the Snow Caps Mine in Inyo County.

(Continued on page 5)

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I have exciting news to share from our last board meeting. We have decided to increase the amount of each scholarship/grant that we will give out next year, from \$1500 to \$3000. I am very pleased that we have the funds to do this and the student grants are really the best way we can fulfill our club mission of promoting education and geology. We will again support students from Santa Clara University and San Jose State University, and we can all look forward to their presentations on their research in February.



Crystal clear morning sunlight on Mt. Whitney from across Owens Valley. It's the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states.

So I hope you took care of your neighborhood trick-or-treaters on Halloween. I wonder what percent of kids would be excited if I passed out sweet mineral specimens instead of candy. Probably pretty low, right??

Enjoy!

Jim Herbold
SCVGMS President

Federation Report

Stephen May will be attending the Fall CFMS Meeting in Visalia on November 8.

Smile

My kids say that they want a cat for Christmas. Normally, I do a turkey, but if that'll make 'em happy....

Jim Fox's Touch Table

Clear Creek Jade

The classification of jade includes two different forms: Jadeite and Nephrite. The two different types are sometimes hard to differentiate but they have different specific gravities and, under a microscope, different crystalline forms.



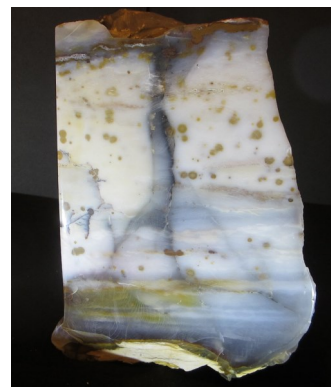
This stone is a jadeite and was found in Clear Creek, San Benito County, CA. The jade found in this area is usually a "brecciated" jade that contains not only a pretty green jadeite but also a highly prized "mutton fat" white jadeite. As you can note it will take a good polish.

The primary use of jade is ornamental with the highest valued stones being a beautiful bright translucent green.

Polka Dot Agate



This is an orbicular agate produced from the Priddy Agate Beds of central Oregon. It has an appearance that sounds just like its name. It is a semitranslucent agate with suspended round "dots" of contrasting colors. It is a favorite Oregon gemstone.



Polka dot agate's base color can be blue, white, pale yellow, brown, and, rarely, lavender. The dots can be almost any combination of yellow, orange, red, brown, or black. Nature has also marked some specimens with black dendrites. Other specimens are cross-cut by intrusions of brown jasper. The color and geometry of this stone makes it one of the most interesting and beautiful agates that you will ever see.

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The first people to mine polka dot agate were Native Americans. They valued the agate because it could be knapped into sharp tools such as scrapers, blades, and projectile points.

Most people really enjoy specimens of polka dot agate with a blue base color and have given it a cool nickname—"blue ice". The mine was closed July 31st 2025.

Pumice

Pumice is a wonderful, fun rock. It is an igneous rock that is formed when super-heated, highly pressurized rock is violently ejected from a volcano. The unusual foamy configuration of pumice happens because of simultaneous rapid cooling and rapid depressurization. The depressurization creates bubbles by lowering the solubility of gases (including water and CO₂) that are dissolved in the lava, causing the gases to rapidly exsolve (like a large amount of dissolved carbon dioxide in a sealed bottle of soda). If you shake the container, then immediately open the bottle, the sudden release of pressure allows the gas to come out of solution, and the beverage erupts from the container in a frothy mess. The trapped bubbles, or vesicles, make the pumice so light that it can float on water! This characteristic is unique in the rock world. This type of igneous rock formation is known as extrusive because the material is extruded out of the earth.



This piece of pumice was found near Mount Mazana, Oregon aka Crater Lake. That volcano's last eruption occurred around 5,677 BC, and was 42 times greater than the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. (Jim Fox demonstrating his strength.)

There are 3 types of pumice: **Rhyolite** and **Trachyte Pumices** are white; **Andesite Pumices** often yellow or brown; and **Pumiceous Basalts** (like on the Hawaiian Islands) are pitch black.

Information on Shows

November 14–16 – Santa Ana, CA

West Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil
Show – Fall

Holiday Inn – Orange County Airport
2726 South Grand Ave.

Hours: Fri & Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5

Web: www.mineralshowsllc.com

November 15 – Cabazon, CA

San Geronimo Mineral and Gem
Society

50171 Ramona St.

Hours: Sat 9–3

Contact: 951-963-6751,

peggyrichard@yahoo.com

Web: <https://sgmgs.org>

November 15–16 – Ventura, CA

Gold Coast Gem Show

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 N. Harbor Blvd.

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 9–4

Contact:

GoldCoastGemShow@gmail.com

Web: goldcoastgemshow.com

November 22–23 – Fresno, CA

Fresno Gem & Mineral Society

Elks Lodge, 5351 N. Diana St.

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4

Web: <https://fgms.rocks>

November 22–23 – Lakeside, CA

El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral
Society

Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584
Mapleview St.

Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 9–4

Contact: Palmer Taskerud,

ecvgms@gmail.com

Web: www.ecvgms.org

November 28–30 – San Mateo, CA

International Gem & Jewelry Show

Hours: Fri 12–6, Sat 10–6, Sun 11–5

San Mateo County Event Center, Expo
Hall 1346 Saratoga Dr

Web: www.intergem.com

November 29–30 – San Francisco, CA

Winter San Francisco Crystal Fair

Hours: Sat 10–6, Sun 10–4

San Francisco County Fair Building

1199 9th Ave - Golden Gate Park

Web: www.crystalfair.com

December 6–7 – Barstow, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society

The Harvey House, 681 N. 1st Ave

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Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5

Web: mdgms.net

2026

February 28-March 1 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
McCormic Hall, 900 Fairgrounds
Drive (Solano County Fairgrounds)

Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5

Contact: 707-644-9764,
vgms01@yahoo.com

Web: <https://vjgems.co/>

March 15 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St.

Hours: Sun 12-3

Contact: 760-728-1130,
info@fgms.org

Web: <https://fgms.org/>

March 21-22 – San Jose, CA

SCVGMS Annual Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Rd.

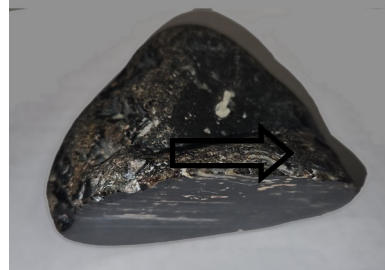
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Contact: 408-265-1422

Web: www.scvgms.org
or [www.facebook.com/
santaclaravalleygemandmineral
society](https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety)

Bragging Rights

October's Bragging Rights Theme
was "California Agate".



Oil Agate
from
Bolinas -
Neil Delfino



Berkeley Blue
Agate - Neil
Delfino

The winner is Neil Delfino's Berkeley
Blue Agate.

November's Bragging Rights theme
is "Pink".

So I was at Walmart earlier

A lady was looking at frozen turkeys, but
she couldn't find one big enough.

She asked the stock boy, "do these
turkeys get any bigger?"

He replied with a straight face, "No
ma'am, they're dead."

Made my week

Member Displays



Bruce Poehlman's Calcite/Willemite/
Franklinite from Sterling Hill



Dan Gehret's
Red Jaspers
from
Hanksville,
Utah

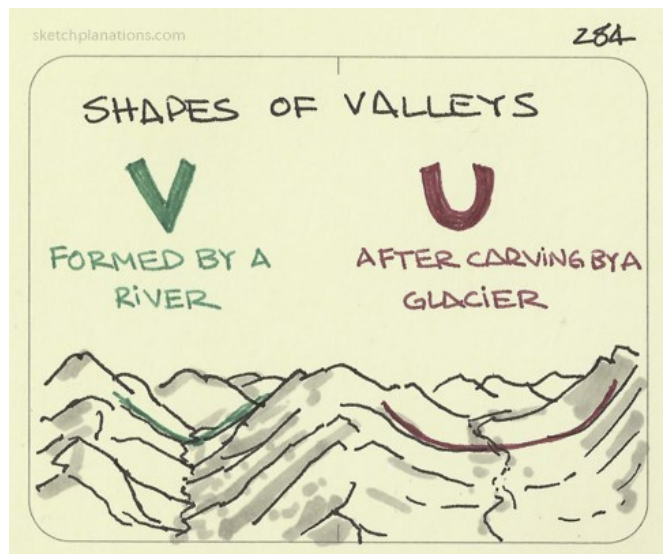
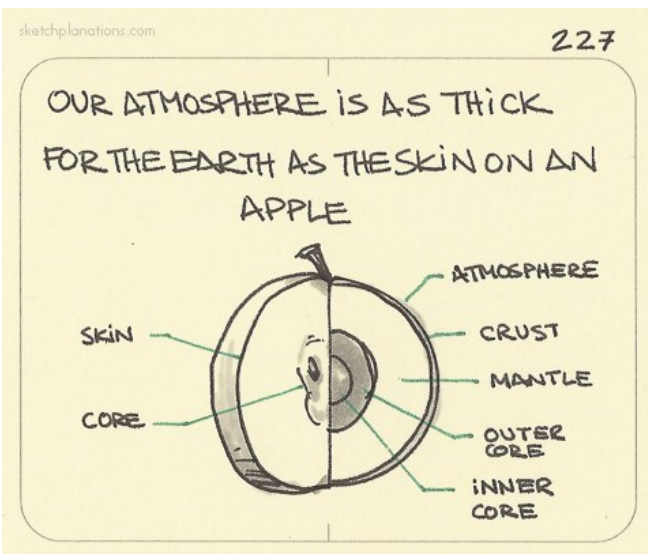


[Editor's note: I missed Joan Schramm's
Chert]

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.

Sketchplanations

[Editor's note: Click on the picture to go to the website.]



The 2026 Show

Good afternoon,

Those of you that attended the last club meeting know that I volunteered to be the 2026 Show Chairperson as well as Volunteer Coordinator.

I am extremely appreciative at the over whelming response from our members who attended the first meeting on November 7th at Mountain Mike's Pizza. The meeting was productive, informative and fun. The pizza was good, too.

- * **Anne Ruiz** graciously volunteered to put free ads into various online venues. Members are asked to list the show on Next Door.
- * Since the geode cracker was such a hit, another will be purchased. **Stephen May** will work it at the show and **Cathy May** will work the other one!
- * Discovery needs signs for the crackers. Discovery also needs a Square for receiving payments.
- * There are 32 cases available for displays. All members are welcome to set up a case, and **Stephen May** is arranging cases from other clubs.
- * The show will close Sunday night at 4pm.
- * I will also call for Volunteers in January.

Any questions feel free to call me.

Thank you,

Margo Mosher

408-439-5639

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

SCVGMS Website: <https://www.scvgms.org/>

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

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

American Lands Access Association (ALAA): www.amlands.org

BLM Rockhounding: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

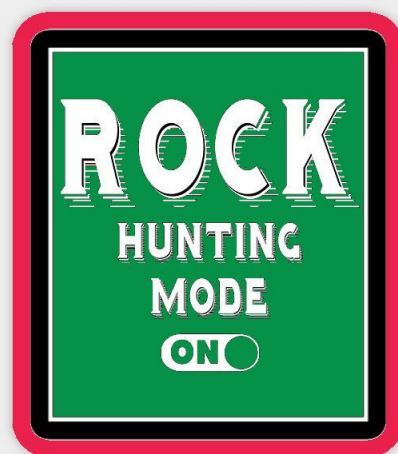
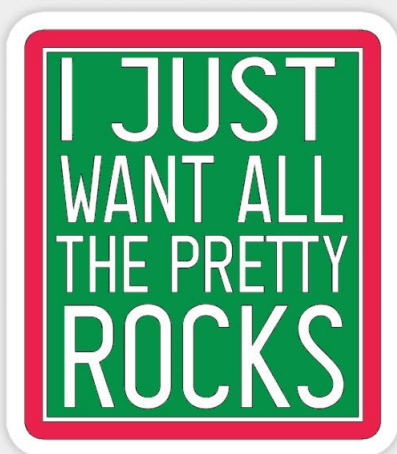
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS): <https://www.cfmsinc.org/>

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

GemKids: <https://gemkids.gia.edu/>

Smithsonian Science How Webcast Archives: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/school-programs/grades-3-5/smithsonian-science-how/smithsonian-science-how-webcast-archives>

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: <https://www.youtube.com/@nationalmuseumofnaturalhistory>



SCVG&MS Holiday Dinner 2025

Hello SCVG&MS Members:

I'd like to request an RSVP from you for the SCVG&MS Holiday Dinner 2025 to be held on December 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Setup will start at 6pm if you want to come early to assist.

Place: Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos

Deadline for reservations: November 25, 2025

This year the club is covering the cost for members and their children that are 12 or under. The cost for family members and friends (including their children) that are not club members will be \$10 per person.

We ask that you pay in cash or with a check at the November 25th General Meeting. Frank Mullaney will collect your money.

Similar to last year, dinner will be buffet style with the following options, although the restaurant may have minor modifications to the dishes:

- * Rotisserie Chicken
- * Baked Salmon
- * Mushroom Pesto Penne Pasta
- * Tequila Chicken Fettuccini
- * Romaine Salad with Gorgonzola
- * Sauteed Almond Broccoli
- * Bread and Butter
- * Caramel Apple Bread Pudding

We also ask that you please bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl to donate to Toys for Tots.

Thanks and we are looking forward to celebrating Stephen our new VP and thanking Bruce for his service over the past two years and also celebrating the holiday season with you!

Jim Herbold

Orange Stones

Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D.

Got a rock in your pocket? You might, and if you do, it might be orange. There are certainly a number of stones and crystals that are either primarily orange, or for which an orange variety can be found... stones such as cinnabar, calcite, and corundum. Crystals of topaz can also be orangish, and there is even an orange variety of halite. (See Fig. 1a to Fig. 1e. for images of specimens of cinnabar, calcite, corundum, topaz, and halite that are orange.)

I have addressed cinnabar, calcite, corundum, topaz, and halite in other essays in this compilation, so in this essay I will briefly discuss a few other, less common, stones that are orange. I will address carnelian, citrine (or "citrine quartz"), fire opal (a variety of opal), creedite, and the orange varieties of garnet, sapphire, and diamond. (Yes, there are, indeed, orange sapphires and orange diamonds... both of which can be fashioned into stunning gemstones!)



Fig. 1a.



Fig. 1b.



Fig. 1c.



Fig. 1d.



Fig. 1e.

Fig. 1a. A specimen of cinnabar. <https://geology.com/minerals/photos/cinnabar-sediment.jpg>

Fig. 1b. A specimen of orange calcite. <https://trulyexperiences.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/orange-calcite-crystal-768x509.jpeg>

Fig. 1c. An orange-colored crystal of corundum. <https://cdn.irocks.com/storage/media/31349/MD-261691a.jpg>

Fig. 1d. An orange crystal of topaz. https://www.mineralmike.com/cdn/shop/products/CrystalsMineralSpecimens16_5000x.jpg

Fig. 1e. A cubic crystal of orange halite. <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/beautiful-light-pink-mineral-halite-260nw-2030529965.jpg>

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Carnelian. While certain varieties of carnelian are a red or a reddish-brown rock, some specimens of carnelian are certainly orange. And as you can surmise from the specimen shown in Fig. 2., an orange carnelian is just about as orange a rock as you could hope to find.



Fig. 2. A specimen of (orange) carnelian. https://evolvemala.com/cdn/shop/articles/carnelian_healing_properties_1100x.png

You probably know that I am a fan of the etymology of words. So I am a bit disappointed to report that the etymology of “carnelian” is unclear. Some linguists have suggested that it is derived from the Latin word “corum”, meaning “cherry”, from which we get the name of the “cornelian cherry tree”. (As an aside, the name of the rock is sometimes given as “cornelian”, that is, with an “o” rather than an “a” after the “c”.) And yes, the fruit of this tree is deep red in color—this fruit looks very much like a cherry. (See Fig. 3.)



Fig. 3. The fruit of a carnelian cherry tree looks similar to a cherry. <https://plantura.garden/uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/cornelian-cherry-1024x683.jpg>

Another possibility for the etymology of “carnelian” is that comes to us from the Latin word “carne”, or “flesh”; the rock is somewhat the same color as flesh. Me, I favor “cherry tree”. I find it a bit more fanciful!

Carnelian is a variety of chalcedony, a mineral that is most often white or gray and sometimes grayish-blue or black. But when iron oxide impurities sneak into chalcedony as it is forming, the rock takes on an orange or reddish hue. Yes, iron oxide causes chalcedony to be orange or reddish: iron oxide is rust, and rust is... well, orange or reddish. And chalcedony that exhibits orange and reddish streaks... that is the stone we call “carnelian”.

I have to add a personal note about carnelian, one that has nothing to do with rocks and minerals. Years ago, not long after I moved from the East Coast to northern California, I took a young woman on what I hoped would be a

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spectacular date. We rode an elevator to the fifty-second floor of the Bank of America Building in San Francisco, and ate dinner in a restaurant called The Carnelian Room. The Carnelian Room was (oh, my!), a superb restaurant that combined a three-hundred-and-sixty-degree view of the city with excellent food. (Although (yikes!), the meals, back then, ran fifty to eighty dollars a person, which was (yikes!) a whole lot of money back then... especially for a poor graduate student!)

I was not aware, however—while my date and I were enjoying the food and the view—that “carnelian” is a rock. In particular, it is a rock that is the same color as the outer “cladding” of the Bank of America Building. And a rock, for that reason, that lent its name to the name of the restaurant: the name of that restaurant was intimately tied to the name of the stone. On a sad note, I must report that if you have the interest to visit The Carnelian Room, you will no longer be able to enjoy a fine dinner there. This restaurant shuttered its doors permanently a good number of years ago.

Citrine. This mineral is the orange (or yellow or brown) variety of quartz. The word “citrine” comes to us from the ancient Latin “citrinus”, meaning a lemon-yellow color... which seems about right. And, yes, our English word “citrus”, as in “citrus fruit”, comes to us from the same Latin root.

A specimen of quartz was one of the first pieces I put into my rock and crystal collection, and quartz was very possibly one of the first specimens in your own collection, too. But that first specimen of quartz in my collection was white (or colorless, really), not orange. Candidly, back when I first became interested in rocks and minerals, I did not even know that quartz could be found in any color other than white. This is why a specimen of citrine caught my eye at the very first rock show I ever attended—who knew quartz could be such a spectacular color?! Oh, my! That specimen of citrine quartz became the first rock I ever purchased at a rock show.

An aside on the color of citrine... Citrine that has formed naturally is light orange or light orange yellow in color; see Fig. 4a. If, however, you find a specimen of

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citrine for sale that is a deep orange in color... it is likely that the color of that stone was artificially enhanced. (A cluster of citrine quartz crystals the color of which has been artificially enhanced is shown in Fig. 4b.) This is most often done by exposing either amethyst or smoky quartz to radiation... radiation causes the color of the stone to change from purple (if the stone is an amethyst) or brown (if it is smoky quartz) to orange or yellow. Why would someone want to employ this color-changing trick? Ah! Orange citrine looks very much like orange topaz, especially when it is cut and faceted and used as a gemstone in jewelry. But while a piece of citrine might sell for only a few dollars, a high-quality topaz stone of similar size can cost ten to one hundred times more. Wow... Do you want an orange gemstone, or perhaps I should say, an orange "gemstone"? Save money and use citrine!



Fig. 4a. A specimen of naturally formed citrine quartz.

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0273/4214/3566/files/Untitled_design_-_2020-06-20T161859.325_1024x1024.jpg



Fig. 4b. A deep orange cluster of citrine crystals that has been artificially colored. https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/71AW-cy8h5L.AC_SX300_SY300_QL70_FMwebp_.jpg

By the by, how does a nominally whitish specimen of quartz become an orange citrine through natural means? A naturally colored specimen of citrine derives its color from a trace amount of iron scattered in and around the quartz molecules—the silica molecules—of which it is comprised. Just as in the case of carnelian, a bit of iron oxide scattered among the quartz molecules gives a specimen a reddish or orangish tint.

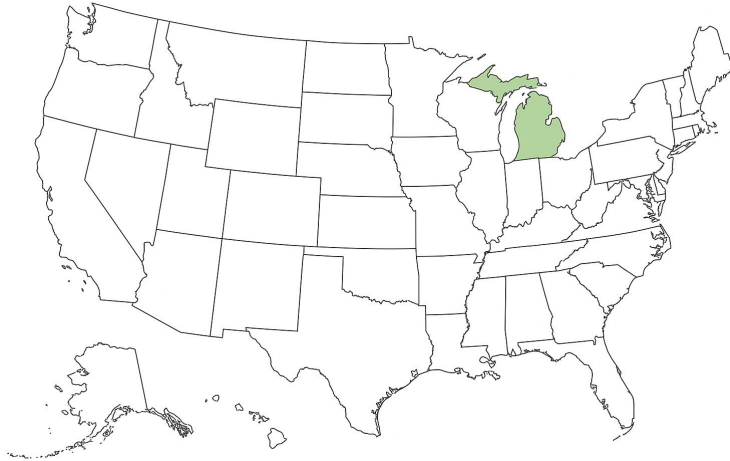
Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D., Department of Physics, Santa Clara University

(To be Continued.)

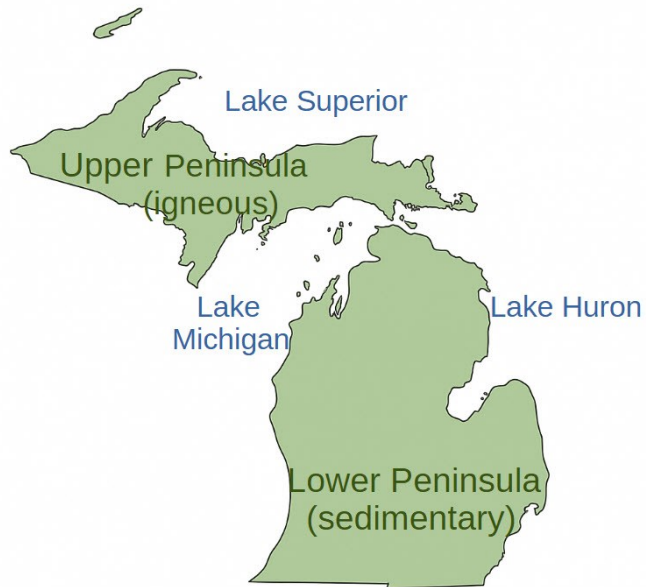
Rocks and Minerals of Michigan—Part 1

Sonia Dyer, Oct 28, 2025

Where's Michigan???



The Peninsulas and Lakes



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Native Copper



Copper Map



Copper Country Trail National Byway



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Iron (Specular Hematite)



from Menominee Iron Range, Iron County Michigan



Source: The Fossil Cartel

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Nickel



The Eagle Mine in Marquette County in the UP is the only operating nickel mine in the US.

Pentlandite, an iron nickel sulfide



The principal ore of nickel

Source: istockphoto.com

(To be Continued.)

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

Board Members at Large

Jo Borucki, 408-245-2881
Jim Fox, 408-356-7711
Missy Fox, 408-356-7711
Cathy May, 408-248-3993
Michele Smith, 408-374-1897
Stephen May, 408-306-6782 (Federation Director)
Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995 (Alternate Federation Director)

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

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

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

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

Website: www.scvgms.org

Email: inbox@scvgms.org

Phone Number [408-265-1422](tel: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.

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 editor@scvgms.org and by phone at 408-628-7789. The Breccia is proofread by **Pat Speece** and **Sonia Dyer**.

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