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Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society (SCVGMS)

P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103-0054
Website: www.scvgms.org
Email: info@scvgms.org
Phone Number (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 April 26, 05 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway. Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM

Board Meeting: will be April 28, 05 at 7:30 PM at the home of RK Owen, 5171 Leigh Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 377-5373.

Study Groups

Stringers: Meet on the Second Thursday of the month. Group led by Pat Speece and Mary Lu Ferrara. For info call Pat (408) 266-4327

Facet Cutters: Meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Group led by Bill Norton, call for info (408) 356-8254.

Carvers: Will start meeting on the third Monday of each month. Contact Herb Vogel (408)247-1018 for information and details about joining this group

Cutaways: meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Shoup Park Lapidary Shop. Group led by John Eichhorn for more info call (408) 749-0523.

Mineraleers: Meet on the Second Monday of the month. Group is led Chuck Boblenz, call for info (408) 734-2473

Silversmithing: Beginning and Advanced classes are led by Kelly Van Vleck and John Bahr. Call Kelly for info (408) 262-8187.

Juniors: are led by Mark Wartenberg. Outings and get together's are announced at general meetings and via email. Contact Mark Watenberg for more info, (650) 568-6114.

Fossileers: will be meeting quarterly for an outing and a study session. For more info call Gail Matthews (650)962-9960.

John's Note

I hope everyone enjoyed the pot luck dinner and Walt Wright's petrified wood lecture. If time had allowed, we could have listened for another hour. The annual show is here, and everyone can help in some way. Thursday, March 31, at 9AM starts the show set up. Your participation makes the job go fast, and Friday is easier on all of us. Don't forget about the tear down on Sunday evening after the show.

The sign up help list still has openings, so does the demo area. The demo area is our "show and tell" chance to get the public interested in our club activities.

If you read this after the show, your participation is what made it a success.

THANK YOU EVERYONE !

John

**Founder's Day Picnic
Date has been set.
Mark your calendars
for July 17 at Noon.**

Did you leave a white 1 1/2 quart corningware casserole container at the last meeting. Contact Montella Lopez to get it back.

June's Jabberings

I hope that everyone realizes that I'd like our monthly newsletter to reflect our club's interests. If there is a subject that you'd like to see covered in our newsletter, please contact me. We all have diverse interests. If you come across an article or would like to write an article that you think other's would be interested in, please send it to me.

I have been collecting lots of articles on a variety of subjects. If you have an interest in a particular subject, but have had trouble finding information, let me know and I'll look through the information I have and copy anything that you might like. Or I do bring the binders to the monthly meetings periodically and you are welcome to peruse the binders and I can make copies of anything you wish to have. During the last 15 months I've developed quite a stash of articles. I have articles on equipment that you can make yourself, metalsmithing projects, faceting, carving, wirewrapping, cutting and polishing, field trips all around the US, and of course many articles on fossils, rock, minerals, and geology. There are more subjects than those listed above, those were just off the top of my head.

I hope that you too will take ownership in our club and help make the newsletter better. I'd like to be able to send articles to those people who are interested in particular subjects. Many times there have been articles in other newsletters that I have sent to people who have expressed an interest in a subject. I can do that for you as well. I have collected more information than I'll ever be able to use in the newsletters, so feel free to browse the binders whenever you'd like.

The Silent Auction is coming up at the June 28 Meeting. It's time to start thinking about what you'd like to donate for it.

Check out what the study groups are doing!!!

MINERALEERS



The Mineraleer's March meeting was cancelled, but the next meeting will be on April 12 at Chuck Boblenz's (408) 734-2473.



Carvers

No meeting for the month of April. If you are interested in this study group, please contact Herb Vogel (408) 247-1018.

Faceters



The next meeting for the Facet Cutters will be meeting on May 3 at Bill Norton's home at 7:30 PM. Call Bill for more information at (408) 356-8254. Everyone is welcome.



Silversmithing

We met for the final time for this class on Tuesday night, March 15th. We have had a great class and all the participants completed most projects. Those who didn't complete their last project said, they would complete them at home. Some very nice pieces were fabricated during this class and we all had a great time.

John Bahr was a participant in the Television Program of silver smithing that was recently aired. He said the program was about 25 minutes in length and he enjoyed doing it. I hope we all get to see it at some later time, as it was airing on the night of our last meeting and we were unable to see it.

On our final night of class we all enjoyed a sort of potluck "Munchies" snack time, with each person contributing some sort of delicious food. We all partook of the offerings, including the decadent chocolate cake someone provided.

John Bahr, Pat Speece and I are now talking about another class in the summer months, probably around the 1st of August. This is not set in concrete yet, but if any of you would like to participate, During the April meeting, we will put out sheets for sign-ups for both beginners and intermediate classes. We have discarded all previous lists and will start anew.

Stringers



The Stringers met and made a variety of lapel pins. Jennifer House brought samples of jewelry she had made in a local class.

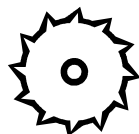
The next meeting will be on the second Thursday, April 14, 2005, from 7 to 9PM at Pat Speece's home. We are going to tie knots between the beads of a single strand bracelet. Bring beads, bead tips (or French coil), a clasp, jeweler's tweezers, and needle and thread. See you there! Pat



Fossileers

For the 2nd quarter's Fossileer adventure, let's take a trip to the Natural History Museum at Sierra College in Rocklin on Mother's Day, 8 May. The Museum has fantastic exhibits and will be holding its 5th Dinosaur Day with many activities. This day is free for moms and children under 4 year old. If you are interested in attending this fossileer's field trip contact Gail Matthews (650)-962-9960 or glassrockwood@aol.com. If you would like more information on this museum, check out their website www.sierra.cc.ca.us/museum/dinosaurday.html.

CUTAWAYS



The Cutaway's will be skipping the April meeting due a conflict with our annual show. The next Cutaways meeting will be May 7. They will be meeting at 9 AM at Shoup Park in Los Altos. Call John Eichhorn for more information and directions, (408) 749-0523.

March Program Reviewed
by Gail Matthews
Program given by Walt Wright
Evolution - Cambrian to the Present
(Actually became
Cambrian through Cretaceous)

Walt started his talk with a quick review of time frames such as the earth forming at 5.6 bbp (billion years before present), 1st life at 3.8 bbp, 3.0 bbp to 2.0 bbp the blue-green algae thrived, with 2.7 bbp to 2.4 bbp being the time of the laying down of most of the banded iron formation deposits as mats and stromatolites.

Eventually the oxygen and ultimately the ozone in the atmosphere were sufficient to allow colonization of the land. He then asked what was needed for life outside the water, with the basics such as water, nutrients, UV protection, carbon dioxide, oxygen, and sunlight being discussed. After that, environments were described based on the various plants and animals that were present and sequentially changing to take advantage of niches of the land.

During the upper Silurian, land plant life included *Baragwanathia*. The little *Cooksonia* soon populated the land with small herbivores following, followed by scorpion-like carnivores chomping the herbivores. He showed specimens of the 1st petrified plant *Rhynia* from the Rhynie Chert of Scotland, lower Devonian at 394 mbp (million years before present). The vascular structure was pointed out. This structure enabled plants to survive when they were no longer in a water environment. The large size of the upper Devonian *Callixylon* trees and the large Carboniferous horsetails, scale trees, seed ferns and ferns were highlighted with specimens. Mammal-like reptiles such as the *Dimetrodon* ruled the Permian amid the tree ferns, *Dadoxylon* and horsetails. "Cycads", *Ginkgo*, *Araucaria*, *Schilderia*, *Dadoxylon*, and *Woodworthia* were the base of the food pyramid of the Mesozoic, serving as food for the huge herbivorous dinosaurs while the herbivores became food for the huge carnivores. Samples of all the plant types were passed around.



No news is good news.
If you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact our own Suzi "Sunshine" Papineau, (408) 267-1620.

Member News

New Member: Anne Ruiz, 447 Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose, 95123 (408) 972-2317
anne.ruiz@intel.com Anne is interested in fossils, faceting, cutting and polishing, and collecting. Sounds like some study groups might have a new member.

Marc Mullaney has corrections to the membership directory. His phone number is (408) 971-6651. He also has a new email address at geologistm@aol.com

April Program called
"Mind your Business"
Topic: SCVGMS
50th Show
and Organization

Member Displays

No one brought anything to share for the March meeting. The following people are scheduled to bring something to share at the April 26 Meeting: Colleen Haggerty, Randy and June Harris, Jennifer Olsen House, Dick and Kit Hultquist, Rick Kennedy, Larry Knutson, Nancy Kortright, Montella Lopez, and John Martin.

Please remember that everyone is encouraged to share on their assigned months, but anyone may bring in anything to share with the club at anytime.

SCVGMS Calendar



March 31 and April 1 Setup for the Show 9-5 at Santa Clara Fairgrounds.

April 2-3 SCVG&MS 50th Annual Show at Santa Clara Valley Fairgrounds, 10-5 both days.

April 12 Mineraleer's Meeting at Chuck Boblenz

April 14 Stringer's Meeting 7-9 PM

April 26 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

April 28 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at RK Owen's home, 5171 Leigh Ave, San Jose 95124 (408) 377-5373

May 3 Faceter's Meeting at Bill Norton's home 7:30 PM

May 7 Cutaway's Meeting at Shoup Park 9AM

May 24 General Mtg at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

May 26 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Randy Harris' home, 107 Dell Way, Scotts Valley 95066 (831) 438-5150.

June 28 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

June 30 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Jane Yamashita's home, 24320 Mt Charlie Rd. Los Gatos, 95033 (408) 353-2982.

July 17 Founder's Day Picnic at Belwood Cabana Club

July 26 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

July 28 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Lynn Toschi's,

August 23 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM

August 25 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Pat Speece's home 2357 Loma Park Court, San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 266-4327

September 27 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM Nominating committee appointed

September 29 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at John Bahr's home, 4991 Corbin Ave. San Jose, 95118 (408) 267-1620.

October 25 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM Nominating committee submits 2006 board member nominees.

October 27 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Frank Monez's home, 407 Bluefield Dr, San Jose, 95136(408) 578-7067

November 22 General Mtg at the Cabana Club 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos 7:45 PM 2006 Board elections, Board Meeting immediately following general meeting.

How to Cut Obsidian

From the Golden Frog 2/05, via Mineral Memos 02/01, via the Owyhee Gem 2/99, via Pseudomorph 6/87

GOLD SHEEN: To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to un stuck them. Watch for "fire spots" in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opal-like colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

IRIDESCENT: There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get effect. To get rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximate 15 degree angle across the bands.

MIDNIGHT LACE: Lace patterned obsidian should be

cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce. Though obsidian is comparatively soft, it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try cerium oxide on lucite, but keep it wet.

RAINBOW OBSIDIAN: Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an overhead single lamp bulb. As these are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.

Continued on page 9

CFMS Show Schedule

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



April 9-10 2005, Paradise, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral Club Veteran's Memorial Hall Sky & Elliott HOURS: Sat: 10 - 5; Sun: 10 - 4 Anita Carter (530) 876-9466 Or (530) 872-1983

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: hmdrake@pacbell.net

April 23-24 2005, Bakersfield, CA Kern County Mineral Society Kern County Fairgrounds Hours: 10 - 5 both days Nichelle Sebresos (661) 809-4705

May 7-8 2005, Reno, NV Reno Gem & Mineral Society Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall 1350 N. Wells Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Jennifer Rhodes (775) 356-8820

May 7-8 2005, Anaheim, CA Searchers Gem & Mineral Society Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W. Crescent Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4:30 H. Walter Mroch

May 7-8 2005, Bishop, CA Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society Tri County Fairgrounds Sierra Street & Fair Drive Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Jeff Lines (760) 872-6597

May 14-15 2005, Yucaipa, CA Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Yucaipa Community Center 349 Oak Glen Rd. Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4 Lee Peterson (909) 794-0731 Email: res09ayd@verizon.net

May 14-15 2005, Newbury, CA Conejo Gem & Mineral Club California Gems & Minerals Borchard Park Community Center 190 Reino Rd. Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-5 Bob Stultz (805) 498-4220

May 20-22 2005, Anderson, CA Superior Calif. Gem & Min. Association Shasta County Fairgrounds Five Miles South of Redding Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Steve Puderbaugh (530) 365-4000

May 28-30 2005, Weaverville, CA Trinity Gem & Mineral Society Lowden Park Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10 - 5; Mon.

10 - 4 Jack Jennewein (530) 778-3786

June 4-5 2005, La Habra, CA North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Jubilee of Gems Show 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: 10-5 both days Don Warthen (626) 330-8974 Email: warthen@earthlink.net

June 4-5 2005, Glendora, CA Glendora Gems Goddard Middle School 859 E. Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4 Bonnie Birdwell (626) 963-4638 Email: YBidwell2@aol.com

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

August 5, 6, 7 2005, Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph's Church 298 S. Thompson Avenue Hours: 9 - 5 Daily Lucky Virgin (805) 929-4525 Email: lvirgin@impulse.net

September 17-18 2005, Redwood City, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society Community Activity Building 1400 Roosevelt Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Carol Corden/Preston Bingham co-chairs Carol (650) 776-5990 Email: ccorden@earthlink.net Preston (650) 368-6351

September 24 2005, Los Altos, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Rancho Shopping Center Corner of Foothill Expressway & Springer road HOURS: 9:30 - 4:45 Dave Smith (650) 967-7392 E-MAIL: rdsmeks@sbcglobal.net

October 8-9 2005, Trona, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society 13337 Main Street HOURS: Sat: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Sun. 7:30 - 4 Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356 E-MAIL: jbfairchild@verizon.net

October 15-16 2005, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta District Fairgrounds Five Miles South of Redding Hours: 10 - 5 both days Alex Stoltz (530) 474-4400

October 22-23 2005, Santa Rosa, CA Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society Veterans Memorial Auditorium 1351 Maple Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Shirley Mottson (707) 795-1730

October 22-23 2005, Stockton, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club 54th Earth's Treasures Show San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 2 1658 South Airport Way (corner of Charter Way & Airport Way) Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Laurie Haines (209) 838-0108 or Jim Dunlap jimsopals@comcast.net

November 11-13 2005, Sacramento, CA Sacramento Mineral Society Scottish Rite Temple 6151 H Street Hours: Fri. 9 - 6; Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 George Sterpka (916) 984-9730 E-mail: sterpka@comcast.net



Field Trips for 2005

By Jennifer House

North Bay Field Trip and CO-OP Coordinator

If you are planning on attending any field trips listed below ,
please contact the person for that field trip and be sure to
wear your name tag when you attend.



Federation News

By R.K. Owen



Reading through the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) monthly newsletter, I'm impressed by the contributions of many of our local members such as Ruth Bailey, Montella Lopez, Bill Gissler, Frank Monez, Frank Mullaney (forgive me if I overlooked anyone).

However, reading through the newsletter I also become aware and alarmed that there are groups out there, particularly the environmental extremist groups and special interest lobby groups, that are ceaselessly and tirelessly working to block or deny access to the public lands, which are held by our government in trust for the people ... the very people these acts or laws are attempting to deny access to.

The March issue, which can be viewed online at www.cfmsinc.org has an alarming article regarding a little nugget found in the last FY2005 omnibus appropriations bill, a politicians favorite hiding place for "pork barrel" projects and other "riders" that could not stand the light of day. There is a patriotic sounding addendum, that was included at the last minute and was never debated or even discussed the 'America the Beautiful' card. With a stroke of a pen this provision cancels any legislation that covers the Golden Age or Golden Access passes, and other senior access card, in favor of the 'America the Beautiful' card, which could cost \$100 to \$200/year, to grant access to any USFS, BLM, or unimproved National Park lands. Failure to produce such a card on demand

could result in a fine of up to \$5,000 and 6 months in jail. Since the USFS and BLM do not have sufficient staff to enforce this, it could and has been outsourced to private patrols. This provision not only affects rockhounds, but a school or church picnic on the wrong lands could result in disastrous financial penalties if carried out to the draconian extreme. The full text of the act may be found at: <http://www.wildwilderness.org/docs/therat.htm>
The following links provide much background information: <http://www.sespewild.org/HR3283analysis.html> http://www.planetjh.com/klobnak_2004_12_01_pay.html http://www.traditionalmountaineering.org/News_FeeDemo_Permanent.htm <http://www.americantrails.org/NewsAction/feedemo04.html> <http://www.aznofee.org/aznofee/home.php>

What can be done? The best approach is to contact our elected officials and to let them know the wishes of their constituents. The CFMS newsletter has more details and an example letter template. Be sure to write these letters in your own words. Frank Mullaney has rolls of rockhound stickers that can be purchased. These 1 in stickers can be affixed to letters, such as these, to let your elected officials know that you are part of a large and organized block of voters. A brief description and these web links will be posted at our club website at www.scvghms.org.

How to cut obsidian (continued from pg. 6)

SAFETY TIP: after obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

GRINDING OBSIDIAN CABS: Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a "Shattering" experience as obsidian fractures conchoidally, and this is a sure way to do it.

POLISH ON OBSIDIAN: Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing will result in blisters and scratches.

Obsidian is relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and soft. With proper understanding of its glassy properties you can obtain some beautiful results.

Shop Hint: Denim Patches Did you know that denim iron on patches make excellent polishing disks? They will adhere to surfaces when ordinary glues will not. Obtain the largest ones you can to fit your wheel disks, and cut to fit. Via Rock Roller 6/04, via Chips and Tips, via Agatizer 11/01

Paleo Preservation Bill S 263

By Marion Zenker, Black Hills Institute, South Dakota

Article from CFMS April 2005 Newsletter

Once again a Paleontological Resources Preservation Act has been introduced into the U. S. Senate (we are watching for reintroduction in the U. S. House as well). The number of the Senate bill is S 263 and was sponsored by the same senators as the bill introduced in the 108th Session of Congress with Prime Sponsor being Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources who has already passed it out of committee without amendment for action on the floor. We have alerted our entire Congressional delegation in South Dakota about this introduction and hope passage by the Senate this time by a simple voice vote. This is most certainly the planned strategy. The best defense at this time is to immediately (today) alert the Senators from your state to watch for this strategy and request their help in blocking any passage by voice vote on the floor of the Senate. If enough Senators are alerted this move can be averted and then we have an opportunity to provide some testimony in committee and possibly block Senate passage. It is certainly worth a concerted effort. So ask as many people as possible to contact your Senators at once with this request.

I have not read this through yet but looks to be nearly identical if not completely so to the bill introduced into the 108th Congress in 2003. We need to rally the troops to try to stop this in the Senate if possible.

Sponsors of this bill are: Feinstein of California, Durbin of Illinois, Roberts of Kansas, Baucus of Montana, and Inouye of Hawaii. As you can see Diane Feinstein is a sponsor. PLEASE relay this information to all you know. If we can shower her with emails regarding the passage of this bill, maybe it will help. Ask her for the opportunity of testimony in committee and not a voice vote on the floor. Remind her that it has been "amateurs" who have found many of the major fossils through the years and now we will be charged with a crime and our vehicles impounded if we collect any

kind of fossil. National Forest and BLM personnel will be making uninformed decisions on what are vertebrate fossils. You might suggest that along the California coast school children collecting shells could be subject of arrest. (This might get her attention)

I would suggest that not only should people send emails but also make calls to the nearest Congressional Field Office of Senator Feinstein and ask those staff people to inform Ms. Feinstein of their concerns about S 263 as well as request her support in ensuring that this bill be returned to committee for open hearings with testimony from those in the amateur fossil collecting community before any further action is taken. Senator Feinstein has Field Offices in San Francisco (ph: 415-393-0707), Fresno (ph: 559-485-7430), Los Angeles (ph: 310-914-7300) and San Diego (ph: 619-231-9712).

(Ed. Note: We just received this. It is urgent you tell your club members and anyone else you can think of. Please include this in your newsletters.

To Contact Senator Feinstein use the below address. This office takes concerns from Northern California residents.

**Office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Jim Molinari, State Director
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
415/393-0707
TTY/TDD: 415/249-4785**

To find your district representative in the House of Representatives, go to the following website. This site offers mailing address, phone number, as well as email access. <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Do not use Washington DC addresses because of extreme mail delay due to 9/11 precautions and threat

Shake, Rattle and Roll By June Harris

Are you prepared for the next big earthquake?

What type of food do you have put away?

How will you prepare that food?



Food is as important as water for post quake survival. Maintaining a normal and healthy diet can help lessen the emotional trauma of surviving a large earthquake. It's recommended that people consider storing food that is as similar as possible to their regular diet.

Make sure that the food stored is actually food that you like and also consider what method of preparation is needed to prepare the food you have stored. During times of emotional stress, warm meals can help restore your physical and mental health. Cold food for three or more days is unappealing. Below is a list of possible foods to store away in case of an emergency. The list is not a shopping list but rather to give you ideas.

Lastly make sure that your food is stored in a cool dry place and is rotated every six months. Heat and moisture will deteriorate your food faster. The previously stored food need not be thrown out, it can be used still. Nothing has to go to waste.

During an emergency remember to use what you have in your refrigerator first and then what you have in your freezer, then your stored goods.

BEVERAGES

Soda

Coffee, Teas, instant cocoa— remember that drinks with caffeine in them will move water through your body faster, so you might consider storing 1/2 again as much water.

Powdered Beverages as desired—Don't forget, these will require extra stored water to make

Fruit, Tomato and vegetable juices

Sports drinks, such as gatorade

GRAIN PRODUCT

Multi-packages of individual serving breakfast cereal

Instant Hot cereal in the paper packages

Pancake mix— get the type that requires water only

Bread— store in freezer

Pasta

Flour

Corn meal

Soda crackers

Rice

PROTEIN SOURCES

Canned meat: bacon, spam, sausages, meat spreads, chile con carne

Canned Poultry; chicken and turkey

Canned fish: tuna, salmon, sardines

Cheeses: Hard wax wrapped cheese last longer

Dried Eggs

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Canned berries, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, citrus fruit

Canned Vegetables

Dry peas

Instant potatoes

Dry packaged beans

STAPLES

Salt, sugar, baking soda, honey

Cooking oil, shortening

Seasonings and spices (remember that spicy food increases fluid consumption)

SNACKS AND OTHER FOODS

Nuts

Peanut Butter

Hard Candy

Dried Fruit, Jerky

Dry Soup Mix, Canned soup

Cooking after an earthquake is much like cooking on a camping trip. All of the tools needed are regular camping or outdoor cooking equipment. Do not use a fireplace for heating or cooking until it has been video inspected by a professional. Unseen damage can result in a structure fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

COOKING EQUIPMENT

Camp stove (have plenty of fuel)

Backpacking stove (have plenty of fuel)

Barbeque, charcoal, starter fluid, matches (use out doors only)

Sterno stove with fuel

Cooking utensils - pots, pans, plates, cups, glasses, forks, knives, and spoons. Manual Can opener, barbequing tools.

Large pot for boiling water for dish washing and sanitary purposes. Paper plates and plastic utensils save time and water on clean up, but make sure you have an adequate supply for a week.

Information for this article was derived from the Los Angeles City Fire Department's Earthquake Preparedness Handbook.

NC State Paleontologist Discovers Soft Tissue in Dinosaur Bones

NC State University News Services 3/24/05
http://www.ncsu.edu/news/press_releases/05_03/075.htm

Conventional wisdom among paleontologists states that when dinosaurs died and became fossilized, soft tissues didn't preserve – the bones were essentially transformed into “rocks” through a gradual replacement of all organic material by minerals. New research by a North Carolina State University paleontologist, however, could literally turn that theory inside out. Dr. Mary Schweitzer, assistant professor of paleontology with a joint appointment at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, has succeeded in isolating soft tissue from the femur of a 68-million-year-old dinosaur. Not only is the tissue largely intact, it's still transparent and pliable, and microscopic interior structures resembling blood vessels and even cells are still present.

In a paper published in the March 25 edition of the journal *Science*, Schweitzer describes the process by which she and her technician, Jennifer Wittmeyer, isolated soft organic tissue from the leg bone of a 68-million-year-old *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Schweitzer was interested in studying the microstructure and organic components of a dinosaur's bone. All bone is made up of a combination of protein (and other organic molecules) and minerals. In modern bone, removing the minerals leaves supple, soft organic materials that are much easier to work with in a lab. In contrast, fossilized bone is believed to be completely mineralized, meaning no organics are present. Attempting to dissolve the minerals from a piece of fossilized bone, so the theory goes, would merely dissolve the entire fossil. But the team was surprised by what actually happened when they removed the minerals from the *T. rex* femur fragment. The removal process left behind stretchy bone matrix material that, when examined microscopically, seemed to show blood vessels, osteocytes, or bone building cells, and other recognizable organic features.

Since current data indicates that living birds are more closely related to dinosaurs than any other group, Schweitzer compared the findings from the *T. rex* with structures found in modern-day ostriches. In both samples, transparent branching blood vessels were present, and many of the small microstructures present in the *T. rex* sample displayed the same appearance as the blood and bone cells from the ostrich sample. Schweitzer then duplicated her findings with at least three other well-preserved dinosaur specimens, one 80-million-year-old hadrosaur and two 65-million-year-old tyrannosaurs. All of these specimens preserved vessels, cell-like structures, or flexible matrix that resembled bone collagen from modern specimens. Current theories about fossil preservation hold that organic molecules should not preserve beyond 100,000 years.

Schweitzer hopes that further research will reveal exactly what the soft structures isolated from these bones are made of. Do they consist of the original cells, and if so, do the cells still contain genetic information? Her early studies of the material suggest that at least some fragments of the dinosaurs' original molecular material may still be present. “We may not really know as much about how fossils are preserved as we think,” says Schweitzer. “Our preliminary research shows that antibodies that recognize collagen react to chemical extracts of this fossil bone. If further studies confirm this, we may have the potential to learn more not only about the dinosaurs themselves, but also about how and why they were preserved in the first place.”

The research was funded by NC State, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and the National Science

Utah Emerald

A man found an irregular stone in the Uinta Mountains near Hanna, Utah, about 50 miles north-east of Provo. Eventually it was identified as a 30 carat emerald by Jeff Keith, a geology professor at Brigham Young University. He was skeptical that it had formed naturally, so he and a graduate student checked out the area themselves. They did not find emeralds, but did find a huge vein, estimated at 170,000 tons of fibrous calcite. The calcite, some of which has been used for carvings and other decorative collectibles, could be worth \$120 million. The abundance of the fibrous calcite indicates there are deposits of emeralds buried deep in the Uintas. The area is similar (more than 20 similarities) to the Villeta Formation in Columbia from which come the most valuable emeralds in the world. The Utah emerald is now in the possession of the finder's mother, but it has little market value. Eventually people may discover more emeralds in the Uintas.

Excerpted from an article in the Denver Post 2/14/99, via the Mineral Mite 3/99, via Rock Chip Reporter 2/2005

Ironing a Duck

(via Delvings 11/04, via Del Air Bulletin 9/04) Rebecca Clarren in the July/August Audubon magazine writes that scientists at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia have reported it may be possible to use super-fine, nontoxic iron dust and powerful magnets to remove up to 98 percent of oil and contaminants from bird feathers. In the past, ducks, penguins and other birds covered in the sludge from oil and fuel spills have been cleaned by hand with liquid detergent—hard on the birds, hard on the rescuers. This process, if successful, is much more environmentally friendly than using phosphate-based detergents which can act like a fertilizer and cause destructive, deadly algal blooms.

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
General Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2005

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed.

The minutes for February 22, 2005 were approved as printed in the Breccia.

New Members: Jesus Ruiz was presented his new member packet.

Executive Board: Meeting will be Thursday March 24, 2005 at Chuck Boblenz's home.

Hospitality: Guests were introduced and welcomed. There were 48 members and 8 guests in attendance.

Correspondence: Show fliers from Roseville, Santa Cruz, Trinity, Mariposa Clubs and Snyder's Pow Wow. A letter was received from Joe Eburno regarding a book he wrote called "Facts About Fluorite". A notice was received from the Antioch Club rock swap/sale and Barbeque on June Fourth. Notice of a rock sale on April Ninth at 1851 Altair Ave., Livermore. Contact Pat Iannucci for more info at (925) 443-6122. Membership cards were received from Cal. State Mining and Mineral Museum Assn.

Sunshine: details in the Breccia.

Program: Walt Wright spoke on the subject of petrified wood. See Breccia for more details.

Bylaws: M/ S/ P to change the Articles of Incorporation as recommended by the Board of Directors and printed in the Breccia.

PLAC: details in the Breccia.

Field Trips: details in the Breccia.

Study Groups: details in the Breccia.

Committee Reports: Frank Mullaney gave a report on the upcoming show. Help is needed in several areas. The show is coming up fast, only two weeks away.

Member Displays: No one put out any member displays

Pot Luck: The potluck dinner served before the meeting. Everyone that participated seemed to enjoy the food and camaraderie.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Harris, Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Board Meeting
Minutes March 24, 2005

Vice-President Pat Speece called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM at Chuck Boblenz's home. All board members were present except for John Eichhorn, John Bahr, Ruth Bailey and Jane Yamashita. Also present was Jeri Boblenz.

Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: M/ S/ P to pay the bills.

New Member Applications: M/ S/ P to accept Anne Ruiz for membership.

Correspondence: None

Sunshine: details in the Breccia.

PLAC: details in the Breccia.

Founder's Day: The annual Founder's Day picnic will be July 17.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion about a questionnaire for new members and current members was tabled until next meeting.

There was discussion of dates for the 2006 show. M/ S/ P to schedule the show for April 1 and 2, 2006 at Santa Clara Fairgrounds.

Marc Mullaney and Pat Speece will head up a committee to gather information on holding the 2007 show at Santa Clara Convention Center. They will be meeting in May.

The current status of the website was discussed.

Ruth will be continuing in her pursuit of 501(c)(3) status.

New Business: contact information for Marc Mullaney is incorrect in the Directory. See Breccia for corrections.

M/ S/ P to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Chuck And Jeri Boblenz served delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Harris, Secretary

SCVGMS Treasurer's Report
March 23, 2005

Beginning Balance			\$15,553.70
Receipts			
Dues	\$15.00		
Show Dealers	1370.00		
Secret Auction	10.50		
Subtotal		\$1395.50	
Disbursements			
Dues	\$5.00		
Breccia	67.20		
05 Show Layout	21.72		
05 Show Publicity	204.55		
Potluck Supplies	27.03		
Cabana Rent	110.00		
Subtotal		\$435.50	
Ending Balance			\$16,513.70

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society 2005

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Parliamentarian: Ruth Bailey
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COMMITTEE HEADS

Field Trip Coordinator: Jennifer House
Founder's Day Picnic Food: Randy and June Harris, and
Jane and George Yamashita
Founder's Day Picnic Raffle: Pat Speece
Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn
Hospitality: Kris and Knut Owen
Installation Dinner: Kathy McChristian
Juniors: Gary and Kathy McChristian,
Mark and Debbie Wartenberg
Librarians: June Warne and Nancy Boring
Member Display: Kelly Van Vleck
PLAC (Public Lands Advisory Committee)
Frank Monez
Program: Marc Mullaney
Refreshments: Montella Lopez
Sargeant-at-arms: Hershhal Boring
Show 2005: Frank Mullaney
Show 2006: Open
Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri, &
Adam Yamashita
Sunshine: Suzi Papineau
Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Webmaster: RK Owen

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Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Please Send Exchange Bulletins to:

June Harris

107 Dell Way

Scotts Valley, CA 95066



Please Deliver Promptly

April 2-3 SCVGMS Annual Show
at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
10AM -5 PM

All hands on deck

Come one! Come all! Your help is needed!

Setup on March 30 9-4, April 1 9-4

Scholarship booth needs old lapidary magazines, books, etc.

Decorations needs your plants, dolls, rocks, etc

Lucky Dip needs your donations, contact Roselies Vogel

Bring your donations on Thursday or Friday at setup.

Volunteers are still needed to help run booths; contact

Suzi Papineau if you can help (408) 267-1620