

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Send Exchange Bulletins to:
June Harris
107 Dell Way
Scotts Valley, CA 95066



Please Deliver Promptly

BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley
Gem and Mineral Society



All American Club

Volume 53
Number 6

San Jose, CA
June 2006

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: John Eichhorn
(408) 749-0523
Vice President: Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584
Secretary: Randy Harris
(831) 438-5150
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791
Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150
Federation Director: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195
Alternate Fed. Director: Frank Monez
(408) 578-7067
Directors:
Bill Gissler (408) 241-0477
Larry Moore (650) 941-4966
Pat Speece (408) 266-4327
Lynn Toschi (408) 353-3323
Jane Yamashita (408) 353-2982
Historian: Anna Windsor
(408) 926-8624
Parliamentarian: OPEN

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Field Trip Committee Coordinator:
Adam Yamashita
Field Trip Committee: John Eichhorn,
Randy and June Harris, Jennifer
House
Founder's Day Picnic Food:
June and Randy Harris,
Jane and George Yamashita
Founder's Day Picnic Raffle: Pat Speece
Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn
Hospitality: Rich and Niki Santone
Installation Dinner: Kathy McChristian
Juniors: Mark and Debbie Wartenberg,
Gary and Kathy McChristian
Librarians: June Warne and Nancy Boring
Member Display: Kelly Van Vleck
PLAC: (Public Lands Advisory Committee)
Frank Monez
Program: Bill Gissler
Refreshments: Claire Ferguson
Sargeant-at-arms: Hershall Boring
Show 2006: Marc Mullaney
Show 2007: OPEN
Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri
Social Committee:
June Harris, Claire Ferguson
Sunshine: Ernestine Smith
Trailer Custodian: Herb Vogel
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Webmaster: RK Owen

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

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 Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road.

Our next general meeting will be on June 27, 2006 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Our next board meeting will be on June 29, 2006 at Frank Mullaney's home at 5705 Begonia Dr., San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 266-1791 at 7:30 PM.

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

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

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published monthly. The deadline for most articles is the Sunday before the regular meeting. The Breccia Editor is June Harris, who may be contacted via email at juneconeyharris@yahoo.com or by phone at (831) 438-5150. The Breccia is proofread by Linda Spencer. Ruth Bailey and Bill Norton handle all aspects of mailing. Exchange Bulletins may be sent to June Harris at the following address: 107 Dell Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.

Study Group Leaders

For information on a study group, please call the leader(s) listed below

Carvers	Herb Vogel	(408) 247-1018
Cutaways	John Eichhorn	(408) 749-0523
Facet Cutters	Bill Norton	(408) 356-8254
Fossileers	Gail Mathews	(650) 962-9960
Juniors	Mark Wartenberg	(650) 568-6114
Mineraleers	Chuck Boblenz	(408) 734-2473
Smithies	Kelly Van Vleck &	(408) 262-8187
	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327
Stringers	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327

John's Note

We had a good turnout for the Clear Creek field trip. The weather was excellent, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I'm not bragging, but I came home with a huge piece of jade, thanks to some extra teamwork from my fellow club members (don't ever waste your money on cheap straps to move a big rock).

I would like to see this level of club activity continue, so please join in with the suggestions.

Don't forget about the USGS open house in Menlo Park. It's listed in the schedule with details, but don't forget June 3-4. If you would like to car pool, call me for a local pick up or meeting place. I can take a few people in my truck.

The lapidary workshop will be open on Saturday, May 27 and Saturday, June 3 at Shoup Park. Call me at 749-0523 to confirm.

The next meeting is a Barbeque and Silent Auction. I hope to see everyone there to take advantage of the great deals at the Silent Auction. Make sure you bring something to donate to the silent auction as well.

I hope everyone is signing up for the Founder's Day Picnic. It will be on July 16 at the Cabana Club. Make sure to reserve your place today.

**Important Notice:
Dues are due!!!
Please send your check
for \$10.00 per adult
member and \$3.00 per
junior member to:
SCVGMS Treasurer,
Frank Mullaney
5705 Begonia Drive
San Jose, CA 95124**

Look What's Happening at the June Meeting

Silent Auction & BBQ/Potluck

The barbeque/potluck will be at 6:30 PM, prior to the meeting, at the Cabana Club. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, drinks, paper plates, and flatware. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite potluck dish to share, either a side dish or dessert. We will be setting up at 5 PM, and anyone who would like to help with the barbequing, food preparation, or setting out the meeting room/silent auction is asked to come early. We will be eating outside because the silent auction will be set up inside on all the available tables. Come and share the meal with us.

The silent auction will be during the meeting. The silent auction items will be laid out on numbered tables. The auction will be opened at the first break during the meeting. After the break is over, two numbers will be drawn, and only tables with those numbers will be closed. This will continue throughout the evening until the last table has been closed. Everyone is asked to bring something to donate to the silent auction. It can be rock-related or not. The idea is to make your donation something appealing to generate a strong bidding war. You never know what that will be, so bring whatever you like. Remember to bring your competitive spirit and money so that you, too, can take advantage of the incredible deals the silent auction has to offer. Questions? Call John or Sylvia Palmieri at (408) 272-2369.

Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

MINERALEERS BY CHUCK BOBLENZ



Five people attended the May 15th meeting of the Mineraleers. The meeting convened in the Boblenz' backyard where three panning stations were set up. Member Frank Monez brought a number of different gold pans to discuss and to be used. Each member took the opportunity to pan for their treasures using black sand and standard BB's. The specific gravity of the BB's provided a good example of getting the sand out of the pan without losing the BB's. All did a second pan and found it to be really easy to do.

There were a number of extra useful items shown to aid in the finding and recovery of gold while on a stream or river. They were aptly described by Frank Monez.

As dusk arrived and the wind started to pick up, the meeting moved to the living room where there was further discussion about the expected action of gold as it progresses down a river or stream. A definition of black sand was provided along with a listing of the more likely minerals to expect in the black sand and their specific gravity.

Jeri served delicious refreshments as gold conversations continued in the kitchen.

It was decided that this would be the last meeting of the Mineraleers until September 11th. The topic for the meeting will be Mercury and Cinnabar. Further announcements will appear in future BRECCIA's.

Chuck Boblenz



Silversmithing by Pat Speece

We haven't decided on dates or skills for the next Smithies session. However, we have decided that it will be an Intermediate class. We have a list of interested people to fill the class already. However, if you are interested, email Pat at sparkylarky@sbcglobal.net, or call Pat at 408-266-4327. Sometimes a person high on the list can't attend on the selected dates.

If you are interested in the beginning group, let Pat know. We have several people on that list.

Faceters

Max Casey is heading up the Faceters group. He is currently trying to establish a list of people who are interested in learning how to facet stones. He is considering having a workshop on a weekend to teach the art. Contact Max if you are interested in this group. (408) 227-0526.

CUTAWAYS

John Eichhorn will be opening the Shoup Park lapidary workshop on May 27 and June 3 from 10-12. He will be helping anyone who would like to learn how to make a cabochon or cut smaller rocks. Stop by, visit John, and check out the facility. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised at the variety of equipment available.

**Were you impressed with
the Filigree Jewelry displayed
during our April Program.
Would you like to learn
how to make it?
Contact Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584 or
geologistm@aol.com
Yehuda Tassa has agreed
to test a class.
Cost \$150.00
Class dates to be determined
Class will be 6 weeks in length.**

Member Displays By June Harris for Kelly Van Vleck

Randy Harris brought his collection of Oregon Thundereggs to share this month. They were a nice addition to our show.

Frank Monez brought in information on the United Prospectors Group. They are a gold prospecting group with gold claims throughout California. He is a member and spoke about gold panning with this group. He suggested that members check out their website, <http://www.unitedprospectors.com> for more information about their club.

Ted and Kathi Peverini shared some of their latest finds from the Clear Creek field trip. Ted showed a piece of Magnesite that he collected at one site. He also showed a cut piece of Plasma Agate that Kathi found on the field trip.

Larry Moore brought a box of thundereggs that he collected from southern California, Central Oregon, and Nevada. Many were cut but not polished. He also brought in some Jasper that he collected in Tuladad Canyon.

There will be no member displays at the June Meeting. We will be having the Silent Auction instead. Please bring something to donate to the Silent Auction, and don't forget to bring your money. There are always some great deals to be had.

Founder's Day Picnic Raffle

Our annual FREE picnic is July 16, 2006. We always have a raffle. Raffle tickets are 50 cents each, with a maximum per person of two for \$1. However, we need raffle prizes to award! Can you bring something you think somebody would want? It does not have to be rock-related, but that would be quite nice. Either bring your item to the general meeting or to the picnic and give it to Pat Speece. Thanks.

Member News

Welcome to our newest member, Art Pimentel. His address is 6647 Catamaran St., San Jose, CA 95119. Email address is acpimentel@earthlink.net. Phone number is (408) 229-2320. He is interested in fossils, carving, minerals, and field trips. Let's welcome him into a couple of study groups.

SUNSHINE

Eva Surrell has recently had 3 surgeries to implant electrical probes to help diminish the symptoms of her Parkinson's Disease. We wish her well and pray that her surgeries have been successful. Cards and calls are welcome.

Winnie Moore is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Larry indicated at the last meeting that she is walking well, but needs to work on flexibility.

If you have information concerning any member who is ill, hospitalized, or has had a death in the family, please contact our new sunshine person, Ernestine Smith, (408) 395-5035.

**Founder's Day Picnic
Date: July 16, 2006
Place: Cabana Club
Turn in your reservation
form by the
June 27 meeting
to June Harris
Forms available in
May Breccia, online,
and at the club meetings**

May Program Reviewed by Marc Mullaney

Those Fabulous Thundereggs, Part 2, (CFMS Video #V116) was the May program. This video shows the incredible variety of Oregon Geodes known as Thundereggs. Members Larry Moore and Randy Harris brought in some of their collections of Oregon Thundereggs. Marc Mullaney took a few minutes to talk about the deposition and crystallization of agates in geodes. Frank Mullaney also took a few minutes to talk about cutting and polishing of geodes. Next month will be the Silent Auction in lieu of a regular program.

SCVGMS Calendar



June 3 Cutaways meeting at Shoup Park 10-12

June 3-4 USGS Open House at Menlo Park 9-5

June 9-11 CFMS Show in Angels Camp

June 10 Club Bus Trip to CFMS Show reservations required.

June 14 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

June 27 *BBQ and Potluck 6:30 /Regular business meeting and Silent Auction 7:45*

June 28 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

June 29 Board meeting at Frank Mullaney's home (408) 266-1791.

July 12 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

July 16 Founder's Day Picnic, reservations required. Reservation form on the Website www.scvgms.org Deadline June 27 meeting

July 25 *Regular business meeting*

July 26 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

July 27 Board meeting at Bill Gissler's home (408) 241-0477.

August 9 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

August 22 *BBQ/ Potluck at 6:30 Regular business meeting at 7:45*

August 23 Stringers meeting at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 (408) 266-4327

August 24 Board meeting at Larry Moore's home (650) 941-4966

September 11 Mineraleers meeting at Chuck Boblenz home (408) 734-2473

September 26 *Regular business meeting*

September 28 Board meeting at Lynn Toschi's home (408) 353-3323

October 24 *Regular business meeting*

October 26 Board meeting at Frank Monez's home (408) 578-7067

November 28 *Regular business meeting and Silent Auction at 7:45*

November 30 Board meeting at John Eichhorn's home (408) 749-0523

Clear Creek Field Trip Report

By Marc Mullaney

On May 20, 2006, the SCVGMS had a trip to Clear Creek. 17 members and guests participated. We visited 3 collecting spots. The first was the Plasma Agate location which was an old cinnabar mine. We collected Plasma Agate, and Druzy Quartz, and we found some veins of Magnasite. At the second location we collected calcite roses and quartz crystals. The final location was Jadeite Mining. We found the hard rock location on the ridge, and Randy Harris dug out a couple of 50-pound pieces. Some good material was found still attached to the outcrop. John Eichhorn found a 100+ pound piece in the creek which we were able to drag out. Not to be outdone, one of our guests found a nice 150-pound piece of Plasma Agate in the creek, broke it up, and dragged it out of the creek. All of the vehicles were sitting lower on the way home.

Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

Contact Adam Yamashita (831) 335-9460 or John Eichhorn (408) 749-0523 for information about the below field trips. Adam or John will make the appropriate introductions for you to be able to attend.

June 10 SCVGMS Bus trip to CFMS Show in Angels Camp. Signup with Herb Vogel.

June 17 Sawmill Peak to collect Rhodonite

June 25 Rush Ranch, Suisun City for rock sale/swap

July 15-16 Elbow Junction CA, for petrified wood and agate

August 12-13 Lakeview OR, Tallman Show and Field trips

August 20 Spider Mine for rhodonite

Aug 21-23 Virgin Valley NV for opal

Sept 2-4 Cedarville CA, for petrified wood, fossil leaves, agate, and obsidian

Sept 8-10 Black Rock Desert for geodes, Christmas Jasper, Black Rock Agate, petrified wood, and fossil leaves

Oct 2-6 Petrified Forest National Park AZ

Oct 7 Soapstone Ridge CA, for soapstone

Oct 14-15 Searles Lake, Trona, CA for halite, hanksite, and other minerals

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

June 3-4 2006, Glendora, CA Glendora Gem & Mineral Show 859 E. Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638 Email: YBidwell2@aol.com

June 3-4 2006, La Habra, CA North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Jubilee of Gems Show La Habra Community Center 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: 10-5 both days Don Warthen (626) 330-8974 Email: warthen@earthlink.net

June 9-11 2006, CFMS Show at Angels Camp, CA Calveras Gem & Mineral Society Calveras Co. Fairgrounds Hours: 10-5 daily Website: calaverasgemandmineral.org

July 1-2 2006, Culver City, CA Culver City rock & Mineral Club Culver City Veteran's Memorial Complex, Culver City Veteran's Memorial Auditorium 4117 Overland Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Website: CulverCityRocks.org Richard Shaffer (310) 391-8429 Email: maryellenandrick@aol.com

August 4-6 2006, Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society "Earth's Treasures" St. Joseph's Church 298 South Thompson Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 daily Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788

September 16-17 2006, Paso Robles, CA Santa Lucia Rockhounds Pioneer Park and Museum 2010 Riverside Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Joyce Baird (805) 462-9544 Email: illoysee@charter.net

September 23-24 2006, San Diego, CA San Diego Lapidary Society Bernado Winery 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte Rancho Bernardo Hours: 10 - 4 both days Kim Hutsell; (619) 294-3914 Website: www.sandiegolapidarysociety.org

September 23-24 2006, Downey, CA Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Woman's Club of Downey 9813 Paramount Blvd Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4 Teresa Widdison (562) 867-1521 Email: twiddison72@aol.com

September 23-24 2006, Monterey, CA Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society Monterey Fairgrounds 2004 Fairgrounds Road Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Sky Paxton (831) 755-7741 Email: sky@familystones.net

October 14-15 2006, Grass Valley, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Earth's Treasures Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 MC Courtney Road Hours: 10 - 4 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

October 14-15 2006, Trona, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society "Gem-o-Rama" Searles Lake Gem & Mineral 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4 Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356 Email jbfairchild@verizon.net

October 21-22 2006, Whittier, CA Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 both days Jay Valle (626) 934-9764 Email res19pnb@verizon.net

October 21-22 2006, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta District Fairgrounds Hours: Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 Alex Stoltz (530) 474-4400

October 28-29 2006, Stockton, CA Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club San Joaquin County Fairgrounds 1658 Airport Way Hours: Sat. 10 - 5;

*Sun. 10 - 4 Jim Dunlap (209) 478-0747
www.Stocktonlapidary.com*

Show Website:

October 28-29 2006, Vista, CA Vista Gem & Mineral Society 1200 Vale Terrace Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Mary Anne Mital (760) 758-4599

November 4-5 2006, Lancaster, CA Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club "Rock n Gem Roundup" Antelope Valley Fairgrounds 2551 West Avenue H Hours: 9 - 5 both days Susan Walblom (661) 943-1861 Website: pgmc@antelecom.net

November 4-5 2006, San Diego, CA San Diego Mineral & Gem Society Al Bahr Shrine Center (behind Hampton Inn) 5440 Kearny Mesa Road Hours: Sat. 9:30 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Wayne Moorhead (858) 586-1637

November 4-5 2006, Concord, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre Concord; 5298 Clayton Road Hours: 10 - 5 each day Bill McKay (925) 439-8195 Email: williammckay@hotmail.com

November 4-5 2006, Ridgecrest, CA Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society Desert Empire Fairgrounds Call (760) 375-8000 for RV parking 520 S. Richmond Road Hours: 9 - 5 both days John De Rosa (760) 375-7905

November 11-12 2006, Yuba City, CA Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds (Franklin Hall) 442 Franklin Avenue Hours: 9 - 4 both days Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

November 10-12 2006, Sacramento, CA Sacramento Mineral Society 64th. Annual "Harvest of Gems" Scottish Rite Center 6151 H Street Hours: Fri. 9 - 5; Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4 Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153 Email: jfosback@aol.com

November 18-19 2006, Livermore, CA Livermore Valley Lithophiles The Barn; 3131 Pacific Avenue Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Joyce & Dick Friesen (925) 447-8223 Email friesenjoyce@ixinet.com

November 18-19 2006, Oxnard, CA Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society Oxnard Performing Arts Center 800 Hobson Way Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Norb Kinsler (805) 644-6450 Show website: www.ogms.net

November 25-26 2006, Victorville, CA Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club San Bernardino County Fairgrounds 14800 7th Street Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Joe Kosik (760) 241-0894 Website: www.gbeal5084@aol.com

December 2-3 2006, Orangevale, CA American River Gem & Mineral Society Orangevale Grange 5805 Walnut Avenue (near Madison Avenue) Hours: 10 - 5 both days Evelyn Tipton (916) 372-3452 Email ektipton@charter.net

AFMS Show Southeast Federation (SFMS) August 14-20
Nashville, TN Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society Convention 15 - 20 - Show 18 - 20 Hotel Preston - 733 Briley Parkway Tennessee State Fairgrounds Creative Arts Bldg; Wedgewood Avenue Show hours: Fri./Sat. 9 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 Lewis Elrod (615) 893-8270 Email lfelrod@yahoo.com

Stone Trails welcomes you to our Rockhound's Tools List

<http://www.stonetrails.com/index.htm>

Stone Trails has put together this short list of tools which can be used at the locations we list on our website. Pick the type of mining you wish to do, and there is your list of recommended tools.

Golden Rules:

1. Always, always, always bring plenty of fresh drinking water.
2. Bring an appropriately stocked First Aid Kit.
3. Allergic reaction to bites/stings? Bring emergency medication. Make sure someone knows how to help you, should you require it.

Light Tools: Can include items from "Specialized Light and Fossil Tools" below.

1. small gardening shovel
2. collection/ carrying container
3. rock hammer
4. prospectors pick/shovel
5. labels and marker pens
6. screwdriver
7. 10x or 20x loupe
8. zip-loc bags

Specialized Light and Fossil Tools: Can include items from "Light Tools" above, plus:

1. dental picks
2. whisk broom
3. tarps
4. trowel
5. center punch
6. small chisels
7. 1" paint brush
8. butter knife
9. steel scratch awl
10. fingernail polish or shellac
11. outdoor spatula
12. masking tape

Medium Tools: Includes tools listed in "Light Tools" above, plus:

1. small sledge hammer
2. center punch
3. rock hammer

4. medium chisels
5. midsize shovel

Heavy Tools: includes tools listed in "Medium Tools" above, plus:

1. yard shovel
2. large sledge hammer
3. heavy center punch
4. heavy chisels
5. spike, chisel, and pry bars

via The Rockhouser, May 2006

Build a Safe Rock Garden

Do not use any of the following rocks or mineral in your rock garden.

Antimony- a bright white mineral, contains arsenic

Cinnabar- a vivid red mineral, contains mercury

Galena- a silvery shiny mineral, contains lead

Fluorite- a violet or yellow mineral, contains fluorine

Realgar- a vivid red mineral, contains mercury

Malachite- a green banded mineral, contains copper

Kaolin- smooth and white, absorbs water and then expands.

Obsidian- a dark and glassy material, spalls off in sharp needles

Alabaster- a white or gray material, is water soluble

Gypsum- a clear and shiny material, is water soluble

via The Trilobite, May 2006; via the Rockfinder, 9/99

BE SAFE – BE WELL

What Is In The Bottle?

*Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman
Via SFMS Lodestone May/June 2006*

In your shop, studio, garage or barn have you ever asked yourself this question? Well, I have, and one situation sticks in my mind. I was putting the finishing touches on a home-built trailer that I needed to transport our basic household necessities to my first duty station when I entered the Army. A close friend came by to bid us farewell and brought with him his two-year old son and his wife. While we admired the trailer, the little boy spotted a coke bottle sitting on one of lower beams in the garage and walked over and took a swig. The little kid choked and sputtered and cried because he wanted coke. The father then asked the question, "What is in the bottle?". I really wasn't sure other than I thought it was a mixture of penetrating oil of some sort. My first thought was "stupid kid", and my second thought was that I was the stupid kid for having an unknown, unmarked substance in the wrong container. The best part of the story was that the kid was fine, and his mother eventually spoke to me again. It really did not have to turn out that way, and I felt so fortunate. Now I always try to label things.

During a recent "clean up campaign" in the silver studio where we teach, I discovered several unknown solutions that I promptly threw away. Metalsmiths are notorious for trying new and/or different fluxes, pickle solutions or cleaners, or most anything else that promises improved performance. It is absolutely imperative that we do not tolerate any unknown or unmarked material. We are always positive that we will remember exactly what we mixed up or repackaged and put up on the shelf.

In the last class we taught, I saw that a student was having a terrible time setting a cabochon in a simple piece of jewelry. After asking a few questions, I learned that the student was using a strip of silver that he brought to class and assumed it was fine silver bezel material. It wasn't! It was sterling, which we all know is more rigid and more difficult to set around a stone, particularly for a beginning student. The converse of this situation has also occurred when a student made prongs for a setting from fine silver when the project called for sterling silver. The setting was too flexible and would not hold the stone properly. Gremlins are always among us, and miss-marked material can jump up when we least expect it.

Other prime areas for surprise include:

- Mixing or using the wrong solder.
- Confusing permanent markers with dry-erase markers.
- Mixing jewelry saw blades – coarse and fine.

Well, what can we do to avoid the type of problems we have been discussing? I really do not have a fool-proof solution except for attention to detail and constant alertness. What ideas do you have?

Sphere Making Tips

—By Dan Imel

First Tip:

From a recent trip to another club show, I picked up the following tip: One of their club members had told a member to use a ball chain in a loop long enough to reach into the cup of slurry below with a little sitting on the bottom.

It sits on the sphere at the front of one of the cups. As the cups rotate, so does the chain. It drags the slurry back up to the cups. That seemed to work really well, but I suspect you have to wait until you have a slurry actually started. This has an advantage over machines with an automatic grit feed because it uses the grit over; there is not so much waste.

Second Tip:

They had accidentally allowed grit to run back along the motor shaft and ruin a motor when it got into the gears. I was thinking about the problem and came up with the following solution. I love laundry detergent bottles, especially the 300 ounce size because they have a fairly large flat area you can use. Either by hand with a utility knife or using a hole saw like you'd use to install a door lock (it can be much smaller), cut three circles of plastic from the detergent bottles, one for each shaft on a three-motor sphere machine, with a center hole slightly smaller than the shaft on the motors.

Remove the cups on the sphere machine. Take an O-ring that's tight on the shaft and push it on ahead of the plastic washer you've made. Leave a slight gap in front of the motor.

Place the washer on, then another O-ring to lock it in place and help seal things. No glue is necessary. If the shaft is inclined so the grit runs down the shaft, the washer and O-rings will block it from getting to the motor, much like a collar on a bird feeder helps stop squirrels from climbing up to the food. The spin of the motor will prevent the grit from getting back to the shaft on the other side of the washer.

This solution shouldn't affect cooling of the motor either and, since the washer spins with the shaft, it shouldn't wear at all. The detergent bottle plastic doesn't readily degrade with use and is very durable. If you use a hole saw to cut your washers, use a block of wood as a backer for the saw to cut through to.

From Rock Collector, April, 2006; via Shin Skinner News, May, 2006

Question of the Month - Jade

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
Via Chips and Chatter 5/2006

From the March issue: What is JADE?

Jade is Nephrite. Jade is Jadeite. But until 1863, jade was just jade. It wasn't until 1863 that it was determined that there really were two forms of jade. In 1863 the French mineralogist Alexis Damour, while studying Chinese jade pieces, determined that there were really two forms of jade, jadeite (also called hard jade) and nephrite (also called soft jade).

Chemically the two forms of jade are really quite dissimilar. Jadeite is a form of pyroxene, its chemical composition is $\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$. Nephrite is a form of amphibole, its chemical composition is $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$. Neither form of jade is found in crystalline form.

When I think of jade, I think of China. 5000 years ago jade was venerated in China as YU (玉), the royal gem. For most of the 5000 years, the Chinese works of art were formed from nephrite. It is only in the last 400 years that jadeite was imported from Burma to China where it was carved into works of art. During the California gold rush days, many of the miners wondered why many Chinese workers were seen hauling large boulders of green rock rather than panning for gold, but to the Chinese the California nephrite was much more valuable than gold.

When I think of jade I also think of the Aztec and earlier cultures and their fascination with jade. While the predominate type of jade artifacts from China were made from jadeite, the jade artifacts of the early South and Central American cultures were made from nephrite. Many jade artifacts and tools are found in Aztec and earlier ruins. The Olmec artisans were carving jade items over 3000 years ago. To the Aztec people, jade was only worn by royalty, and only on certain occasions. Jade was a symbol of life and purity. It was only recently that a major source of the Aztec jade, known as blue jade, was re-discovered in Guatemala.

Today when I think of jade I think of British Columbia. Massive quantities of nephrite jade have been discovered in British Columbia and are now being actively mined. Jade is also found in California, South America, China, and Burma. If you want to look for jade in Texas, your best bet is to visit your favorite rock shop, watch for displays of Chinese

jade at local museums, or visit some of the markets in the China-town areas of Dallas and Houston. My research does not indicate that either form of jade has ever been found as a raw material in Texas.

Ref:

Jade, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jade>

Jade Source, <http://www.jademart.com/source.htm>

Gem by Gem, Jade, <http://www.gemstone.org/gem-by-gem/english/jade.html>

Official Symbols of British Columbia, <http://www.gov.bc.ca/bcgov/popt/bcfact/default.htm>

Re-discovery of Olmec blue jade, <http://www.hgs.org/en/articles/printview.asp?49>

Chinese Jade, <http://www.rightreading.com/writing/jade.htm>

Jade in Mesoamerica, http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/jade2/hd_jade2.htm

Tips and Hints

Opalized Wood is extremely brittle. Clamp it and slab it with care, exerting as little pressure as possible. This is a heat sensitive material and should be kept wet and cool at all times while working. A drum sander or horizontal lap works better for removing saw marks than grinding wheels. Cerium oxide, tin oxide, or Linde A on a moist, felt buff will bring a mirror polish. Opalized Wood is not usually precious opal, but do remember that opalized wood is opal.

via BEMS Tumbler, 5/06; via Rock Rollers, 2/06; via Sooner Rockologist, 10/05; from Lapidary Journal, 2/98

Diamond Mines Aren't Forever

When two Dutch brothers, Johannes and Diederik de Beer, bought land in 1871 on the bleak North Karroo plateau, they soon gave up farming after they found a handful of diamonds. Word spread, and within a few years, 50,000 prospectors and their families descended on the area, creating a tent settlement that grew into the town of Kimberley. Prospectors dug with picks and shovels, creating the Big Hole, a gigantic crater some 750 feet deep which remained the world's largest manmade hole for the next century.

On March 27, 2006, DeBeers announced that it had concluded the closure process of its underground operations in Kimberley. After negotiations with the mineworkers union, DeBeers agreed to retrain almost 700 workers and to create non-mining jobs. Production will continue above ground, reprocessing the dumps with new technology to find missed gems, resulting in the recovery of an estimated 2 million carats per year.

(summarized from articles in www.telegraph.co.uk/news and www.miningweekly.co.za/min from The Pegmatite, 4/06) via The Rock Collector May 2006 edition

Minerals Of The Ancient World by Vivien Gornitz *The Roots of Civilization*

Long before the dawn of civilization, our human ancestors made hunting tools and weapons from chert, flint, quartzite, and obsidian. Axes and mauls for hammering, pounding, and grinding were shaped from tough, hard, massive rocks like basalt (or diabase), diorite, gneiss, granite, and jade. Powdered hematite, ochre, and manganese oxides (or charcoal) served as pigments for realistic and well-executed Ice Age cave paintings. Mineral resources contributed greatly to the development of ancient technology. Starting with the Bronze Age, metals, initially derived from the native elements - gold, silver, copper, and meteoritic iron - and later from various ores, were crafted or cast into tools, weapons, jewelry, and coins. Clays were molded and fired into pottery and ceramics. Quartz sand and other naturally-occurring ingredients were fused into glass. Attractive, colorful crystals and stones were used for adornment, healing, and status.

Ancient Gemstones

Gemstones, such as chalcedony, carnelian, sard, agate, amethyst, quartz, as well as the more exotic lapis lazuli, turquoise or hematite were polished into beads and other ornaments. Gem seals were intricately and skillfully engraved with mythological scenes using hard abrasives, such as corundum and magnetite. Ancient lapidaries avoided unnecessary cutting in order to preserve the weight (and value) of the stone and its presumed mystical powers. Color often held greater significance than the actual stone itself. Much of King Tutankhamen's magnificent gold jewelry, for example, is inlaid with colored glass or faience — a bluish-green ceramic material — instead of genuine stones. To the ancient Egyptians, red (carnelian, jasper, or red glass) variously represented fire, blood, sun, hence life itself, but also anger, destruction, and the desert. Blue symbolized heaven, the primordial flood, water, thus life, rebirth, and fertility. Lapis lazuli was the primary blue gemstone, often simulated by blue glass or faience. Green (malachite, bluish-green turquoise, amazonite) indicated vegetation, life, and resurrection. Yellow (gold, electrum - a gold-silver alloy, also ochre or orpiment pigments) signified the sun. White (chalk, gypsum, shell) symbolized purity. Black (obsidian) stood for the night, death, destruction, and the underworld, but by association with the dark, fertile soil of the Nile Valley also connoted fertility and resurrection. Hematite amulets and seals, to the Assyrians and Babylonians, gave power over one's enemies, presumably because of hematite's red streak that evoked blood and fire. However, hematite (and ilmenite) slabs were polished into mirrors in Pre-Columbian Mexico.

Altered or manufactured stones have a long history. The Romans, by heating light-colored chalcedony, converted the limonite or goethite inclusions in microcrystalline silica to a darker, more desirable reddish-brown hematite (a treatment still performed today). Agates and other porous stones were dyed by boiling in acidic honey, a precursor to the sugar-acid process perfected in Idar-Oberstein, Germany in the 19th Century. The Egyptians baked steatite (soapstone or talc (H 1)), transforming it into enstatite (H 1), for scarabs and other amulets. Egyptians, and later Romans, frequently substituted glass

or faience for turquoise and other gemstones.

Precious minerals were traded over long distances. For over 5,000 years, nephrite jade derived from sources near Khotan and Yarkand in central Asia made its way into China. Lapis lazuli from Badakhshan, Afghanistan spread across the Near East from Mesopotamia to Egypt. Deposits in the Sinai Peninsula supplied ancient Egyptian turquoise. Persian turquoise was extensively used throughout the Near East and India. In the Americas, turquoise from Cerrillos, New Mexico and other southwestern U.S. deposits traveled far to the south into Mexico. Jadeite from the Motagua Valley, Guatemala appeared throughout - Mesoamerica. The Romans acquired diamonds from India, sapphires from Sri Lanka, emeralds from "Cleopatra's mines" in the Sinai and Habachtal, Austria, peridot from St. John's Island in the Red Sea, zircon from India, and pearls from the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.

Metals and Ores

Native metals, such as gold, copper, silver, and more rarely iron, attracted attention because of their shiny luster and malleability. These were the first metals to be exploited, initially from placer deposits. Over 3,000 years ago gold deposits were being worked in the Taurus Mts., Anatolia (modern Turkey), also the Eastern Desert, Egypt, and Nubia (Sudan), and much later by Celtic and Roman times in Ireland, Brittany, southwestern France, and Iberia (Spain). The Sican culture in Peru (700-1400 A.D.) created many gold objects, including masks and knives. The Incas and Aztecs also fabricated many beautiful gold artifacts, most of which were melted down for bullion by the Spanish conquistadors.

Some of the oldest silver mines include Beycesultan, Anatolia and Tepe Sialk, Iran (5th millennium B.C.), Siphnos Island in the Aegean Sea, and Mahmutler mine, Anatolia (3rd millennium B.C.). Silver was also utilized in ancient Egypt for millennia. Laurion, Greece was a major classical source of silver, which as at many other deposits was derived from lead ores, such as galena, PbS. The Romans worked lead-silver mines at Sierra Morena, Spain, also other deposits in Asia Minor, the Danube region, and Pampailly, France, where silver occurs as minute inclusions of argentite, Ag₂S, in galena. In the New World, major silver deposits were found in Mexico and Peru. In North America, indigenous peoples made tools from native copper deposits in the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan and Coppermine River, Canada. The first widespread use of metals for tools and weapons appeared in the Bronze Age. Pure copper is too soft and therefore is alloyed with other metals, such as tin, to make bronze. Curiously, many of the oldest known bronzes from Europe through India, with few exceptions, contain significant quantities of arsenic, with trace amounts of lead and nickel. Other than the relatively rare occurrences of native copper, the red metal was probably extracted from minerals such as tenorite, cuprite, malachite/azurite, which were fired at fairly low temperatures in a reducing atmosphere, using charcoal. These minerals are typical of secondary (oxidized) deposits, which may have also contained copper and other base metal arsenates. At a later date, sulfide vein deposits supplied copper ores.

Cassiterite, SnO₂, is the main tin ore. Tin was added to copper to produce bronze. The famous deposits of Cornwall, England, and Iberia (Spain) furnished much of the tin used by the Romans. Northern Bolivia was the source of tin in local copper al-

loys. Shan bronzes, containing up to 5 percent tin, were derived from ores at Zhen Zhou and Anyang, Henna Province, China.

Native iron is extremely rare in nature. Iron may have initially been derived from meteorites. By the 3rd millennium B.C., iron was being smelted in Alaca Höyük, Turkey, although its use became more widespread after 1000 B.C. Early iron technologies also developed in Southeast Asia, China, and central Nigeria. The major iron ores were (and still are) hematite, goethite/limonite, magnetite, and siderite. While charcoal was mixed with iron ore in primitive smelters, yielding a low-grade steel, true steel appeared much later by -1000 A.D., and the blast furnace developed by the 14th century.

Lead is another metal with a long pedigree. Galena beads were recovered from ruins at Catal Höyük, Turkey, dating to 6500 B.C. Lead artifacts of comparable antiquity were collected at Yarim Tepe, Iraq, and somewhat younger lead objects surfaced in Iran and Egypt. Laurion, Greece and Rio Tinto, Spain were classic lead mines. The Romans found multiple applications for lead, including inscribed tablets, coffins, coins, pewter, glass, weights, and even as preservatives and sweeteners in wine, undoubtedly provoking serious medical complications.

Ceramics, Glass, and Pigments

Non-metallic minerals served as the foundation for ancient ceramic, glass-making, and pigment industries. Pottery dates back over 8,000 years in the Old World, and around 4,000 years in the Americas. Clays, such as kaolinite, illite, and montmorillonite provide the raw materials for ceramics. Before firing, the clay is tempered by addition of coarser-grained materials like quartz sand, rock or shell fragments, calcite, mica, volcanic ash, and even crushed potsherds. Glazes, consisting of silica and a flux to hasten fusion, comprise sodium or potash salts (e.g., NaCl, KCl, natron (a hydrated sodium carbonate), or alkali oxides). Additives of iron, manganese oxides and copper carbonates provide color). Alumina (Al₂O₃) helps stabilize and bind the flux to the clay. A deep cobalt blue glaze (probably derived from cobalt arsenates, e.g., erythrite) was common throughout the Near East into China by the Middle Ages. Porcelain, first discovered in China around 2,000 years ago, is manufactured from pure kaolinite and feldspar, and fired at high temperatures.

The oldest glass, from ancient Egypt, dates back 7,000 years. Glass is made from silica (sand) and a flux, usually sodium, potassium, calcium, or lead oxides, with additions of transition metals for color (e.g., manganese (purple to brown), iron (green), cobalt (deep blue), copper (blue-green), chromium (green)). Faience, a ceramic material made from quartz, lime, potash, and soda was produced in Egypt and the Near East, starting around 6,000 years ago.

via BEMS Tumbler, 5/06; via AFMS Newsletter, 11/05; from the Bulletin of the NY Mineralogical Club, 5/04

Tech Talk

By Val Carver, MNIC Member

This Month's Article: TYPES OF SAWS

There are 3 basic classifications of lapidary saws, these are:

- A. Faceter's Saw
- B. Trim Saw
- C. Slab Saw

Faceter's saws are primarily used to prep small chunks of rocks for faceting. Faceter's saws can sometimes be used for **VERY LIGHT** trim saw work. Usually they have blade sizes in the 4" to 5" diameter range and are usually manual feed. These types of saws are tabletop mounted units. Prices for faceter's saws are normally in the \$200.00 to \$300.00 range. Most faceter's saws are designed to be used with water and water based lubricants.

Trim Saws are used to reduce the size of a chunk of rock. This type of saw is normally used to cut cabochon pre-forms from materials that have been slabbed. They can also sometimes be used for light slab work or to cut a rock in half. Most trim saws are manual feed; some have vices to chuck up a rock. Trim saws usually come in blade diameters (sizes) of 6", 8" and 10".

These saws are tabletop mounted units. Prices for trim saws range from \$400.00 for the 6" size to \$975.00 for a 10" sized unit. Depending on the construction of the saw, they will require either water-based lubricants or oil lubricants. Into this classification of saw can be included saws like ring saws, diamond band saws, and scroll saws.

Slab saws are the big boys of the saw world. They are used to take large chunks of rocks and normally make slabs out of them. A slab is defined as a piece of rock cut with parallel surfaces. Slabs are typically cut 1/8" thick to several inches thick. Normally slabs are cut 1/4" to 3/8" thick for cabbings. Slab saws come in blade diameter sizes of 10", 12", 14", 16", 18", 20", 24", 30" and 36". The 10" through 14" units are normally tabletop units while the 18" and larger are stand-alone units. Price ranges for new slab saws are from \$900.00 for a 10" unit to \$15,000.00 for the 36" size. The function that makes a slab saw a slab saw is that the rock is chucked up in a vice and is fed into the rotating blade by some type of a feed drive mechanism. The slab saw also has a transverse table feed so that after you have cut a slab, you back the rock out and, without unchucking the rock, move it over with a crank on the table to cut another slab. ALL slab saws should ONLY be used with oil lubricant.

From The Rock Rustler's News, 4/05; via Strata Gem, 12/05; via T-Town Rockhound, 5/06

Botryoidal, Oolitic, Pisolitic, and Renaform— “How to Read” Rock and Mineral Literature.

By Zeb William Rike III, Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society via The Pineywood Rooter 4/2006

We read the Report by Masters and Johnson, and our son (high school age) asked us how we could read it. Our answer was “with one finger in the glossary, another in the dictionary.” Perhaps we can rest our fingers if we review some of the terms used with rocks and minerals. The subject of the article was suggested when I read about the Catahoula formation (source of East Texas petrified palm wood), and the title was mandated by the March club meeting.

In reference to the Catahoula formation (1), the deposit is described as being ‘pyroclastics interbedded with fluviatile deposits’, ‘tuffaceous’ varying from ‘unindurated’ to highly ‘indurated’ ‘silicified porcelanite’ rock, in some places cemented by opaline silica to the extent that the rock would be classified as quartzite, breaking with a conchoidal fracture. [Not bad—in one sentence, eleven valid rock-related terms not included in the Microsoft spelling check dictionary].

The following list is, of course, not exhaustive, but I hope it will be helpful:

Acicular— needle like crystals, as rutile in quartz, or “rutilated quartz”

Aeolian—referring to deposits by the winds

Amorphous- “without form”, glassy, no crystalline form

Botryoidal- aggregates of globules resembling “cluster of grapes”

Concretionary- formed by deposition of a mineral around some initial nucleus

Cleavage- refers to tendency of most minerals to break along definite planes.

Conchoidal- break looking like the shape of a shell, characteristic of quartz and obsidian.

Cryptocrystalline- ‘hidden crystals’, very finely crystalline, appearing amorphous

Drusy- surface covered by very fine crystals, usu-

ally quartz

Fluviatile- refers to river deposits

Foliated- minerals that are easily cleaved into flakes or scales, the extreme being micaceous cleavage of mica

Fracture- refers to breakage of a mineral that does not have cleavage

Gneiss- a laminated or foliated metamorphic rock corresponding in composition to granite.

Hacky- fracture to give a broken surface resembling broken wood

Igneous- derived from molten rock, magma. Lava is magma minus dissolved gases.

Indurated- hardened to give a rock

Lacustrine- referring to deposits in lakes

Loess- fine grained aeolian deposits of clay, very fine sand and mica flakes, calcareous material, etc. (pronounced ‘luss’)

Luster- refers to the surface appearance of a mineral under reflected light; includes:

Metallic- luster of metals and many metal ores, opaque on thin edges (pyrite)

Sub-metallic- glassy-metallic look, hard to describe (as columbite or wolframite)

Non-metallic- luster of a mineral transparent on thin edges and light colored

Vitreous- looks like glass (quartz)

Resinous- appearance of resin

Greasy- oily appearance (nepheline)

Pearly- appearance of mother-of-pearl (talc)

Silky- like silk due to fibrous structure (asbestos, satin spar)

Adamantine- brilliant (like diamond) (but note that a diamond crystal has a greasy luster)

Mammaform, mammillary- shape reminiscent of the mammary gland (look it up in the dictionary, kids)

Metamorphic- rock changed in form by heat, pressure, and perhaps superheated water.

Microcrystalline- crystals too small to be seen with the unaided eye.

Oolitic– resembling small eggs; limestone made of globular concretions the size of fish eggs

Pisolitic– referring to limestone made up of globular concretions about the size of a pea

Pumice– upper layers of obsidian (volcanic glass) containing numerous, very fine bubbles; usually light enough to float on water

Pyroclastic- refers to rock fragments ejected by an explosive volcanic eruption

Renaform– kidney shaped

Scoria– the upper layers of lava with larger, more isolated cavities from gas bubbles.

Sedimentary– deposits laid down by transport by water, wind, ice, or landslide.

Schistose– having the character or structure of a schist

Stalactitic– in form of a stalactite

Streak– color of powdered mineral as observed by scratching a specimen across a “streak plate” of unglazed porcelain; it is more characteristic than the color of metallic minerals

Till– completely unsorted debris shoved downhill and dumped by a glacier; it contains everything from fine clay and ground rock dust to boulders, some with flat, polished faces from being in base of glacier and ground along bedrock.

Tillite– the most heterogeneous of all rocks as it is consolidated till

Tuffaceous– related to or resembling tuff

Tuff– volcanic ash, a fine grained pyroclastic ejecta consisting of pumice, broken volcanic rock, and volcanic glass. Volcanic ash is misleading as ‘ash’ refers to a residue from burning

Unindurated– loose, not consolidated to rock.

References:

(1) Bulletin 3232, ‘Stratigraphic Geology of Texas’, The University of Texas.

Rest of the terms found by browsing in:

(2) Field Book of Common Rock and Minerals, F.B.

Loomis, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, New York and London, 1948

(3) Mineralogy, John Sinkankas, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1964

(4) Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged; Philip Babcock Gove, G. C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Mass., 1976 (a fascinating book with lots of characters but no discernable plot; a teacher once told us that ‘-ology’ on the end of a word meant ‘knowledge of’ or ‘study of’, and I read from the beginning, until I found 100 examples of this)

A Memory Helper - Source Unknown

Via Rock, Pick, and Chisel 3/2006

Planets-a-go-go

Sometimes we just need to know such things as the names of all the planets - in order. I don’t remember them.

But, here’s is a way to help you remember them. Just use the first letter for each planet and make up a silly saying. A simple one is “My very educated mother just served us nice pickles.” That will get you: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

Nice. Now, when a name is selected for the newest planet, we will have to find another word to add on.

From the Bottom Up

You can use the same method for remembering the geological periods. Try this one: Camels often sit down carefully. Perhaps their joints creak. Early oiling might prevent permanent rheumatism.

Now all you have to remember are those strange names, in this order: Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, Recent. Got that?

Tips and Hints

Real or fake diamonds can be differentiated by using a magnet. Synthetic diamonds will stick to a magnet, but natural diamonds will not. (Source: The Pick and Dop Stick, 5/2006; via The Opal, 4/06; via Pica Pick, 2/06)

Diamond saw tips—double the life of your diamond saw by keeping the oil clean and feed low. Add 1/4 to 1/2 cup of liquid detergent to the oil as a coalgulant and it holds the grit to the bottom of your reservoir. This also helps to keep your window clean for viewing. (Source: The Rockpile, 12/05; T-town Rockhound, 4/03; Orange Coast Gazette, date unknown)

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting minutes
May 23, 2006

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM at the Belwood Cabana Club in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. Minutes were approved as printed in the Breccia. The Board meeting will be at Jane Yamashita's home on Thursday May 25th at 7:30 PM.

Dues: It is time to pay dues for the next year of membership.

Correspondence: We received show fliers from other clubs, an email from Shannon Leslie thanking us for her scholarship, three letters from Hazel Woolsey regarding NBFT and Co-op field trip information, a letter regarding a \$25 donation to AFMS Scholarship foundation in memory of Carl Schultze, and a flier from Beautiful Agates, LLC, about a book on Banded Agates they are selling at a 40% discount to rock clubs.

New Members: There were no new members present.

Hospitality: There were 34 members and 9 guests in attendance tonight.

Sunshine: See details in the Breccia.

PLAC: See details in the Breccia

Field Trips: See details in the Breccia. The bus trip to the CFMS show in June still has openings. 17 people enjoyed the field trip to Clear Creek last weekend.

Study Groups: See details in the Breccia.

Federation Report: Ruth Bailey gave a report on the CFMS show and Camp Paradise.

Scholarship: John Eichhorn awarded checks to Nikkii Bechtold and Shannon Leslie as our scholarship recipients from San Jose State. Both are majoring in Geology.

Program: The program for tonight was a video about Oregon Thundereggs. Marc Mullaney gave a brief talk after the video. Randy Harris spoke on cutting and polishing Thundereggs and showed some examples. Larry Moore also brought in some Thundereggs for everyone to see.

Member Displays: Ted Peverini brought in some of the specimens he collected on the Clear Creek field trip. Randy Harris and Larry Moore brought in some Thundereggs in support of the program.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Members and guests enjoyed refreshments after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Harris, Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Board Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2006

President John Eichhorn called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the home of Jane Yamashita. All board members were present except Bill Gissler and Lynn Toschi. Parliamentarian remains vacant. Also present were George and Adam Yamashita. Minutes for the April 27, 2006 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: M/ S/ P to pay the bills.

New Members: M/ S/ P to accept Arthur Pimentel for membership.

Communications: None.

Field Trips: See details in the Breccia. There was discussion about a trip to Stone Canyon, and on October 21 another trip to Clear Creek. The group campsites were not available for Thanksgiving weekend at Plaskett Creek. It will be first come, first served for the regular campsites. There will also be trips on September 30 to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, and in January, 2007, to the De Young Museum in San Francisco.

Show Report: Marc Mullaney gave a brief report on the 2007 show. We have reserved the April 14, 15 weekend at the Fairgrounds. There was discussion about doing a three-day show and a Youth area for kids catering to Scouts and schools. Marc will give a report on the 2006 show next month.

Scholarship: There was discussion about what kind of participation we expect from the scholarship recipi-

ents. They have not come through the last couple of years.

Unfinished Business: There was discussion about the lapidary shop at Shoup Park.

Bus Trip: M/ S/ P to request donations for a gratuity for the bus driver. The club will subsidize the amount, if necessary, to make sure it is at least \$100.

Filigree Class: Yehuda Tassa will put on a filigree silver class. The cost will be \$150 per person. Materials and tools will need to be purchased in addition to the class fee. The class will be limited to the first six people to sign up.

Finance Committee: M / S/ P to accept the proposed bylaw changes presented by the Finance Committee. The changes will be read at the June regular meeting and voted on at the July regular meeting.

New Business: June Harris, Larry Moore, Frank Mullaney, Jane and George Yamashita will make up the committee to define policies regarding donations to the club. We do not currently have a policy.

M/ S/ P to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Jane Yamashita served delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Harris

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Treasurer's Report
May 24, 2006

Beginning Balance \$16,838.38

Receipts

Dues and Initiation	\$ 5.00
Bus Trip	\$120.00
Dues	\$136.00

Total Receipts \$271.00

Disbursements

McDaniel Insurance	\$ 250.00
Fairgrounds 2007 Show Deposit	\$1,050.00
Show postage	\$ 8.19
Show setup items	\$ 56.67
Show Decorations	\$ 20.00
Breccia Postage	\$ 53.55
Show Dealers	\$ 44.04
Two Scholarships	\$1,500.00
Show Hanging Banners	\$ 228.00
May Breccia	\$ 48.50

Total Disbursements \$3,258.95

Ending Balance \$13,850.43