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 54
Number 6

San Jose, CA
June, 2007

SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Randy Harris
(831) 438-5150
Vice President: Marc Mullaney
(408) 691-1584
Secretary: John Eichhorn
(408) 749–0523
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney
(408) 266-1791
Editor: June Harris
(831) 438-5150
Federation Director: Ruth Bailey
(408) 248-6195
Alternate Fed. Director: Gail Matthews
(650) 962-9960
Directors:

Rick Kennedy	(408) 529-9690
Larry Moore	(650) 941-4966
Dean Welder	(408) 353-2675
Matt Wood	(408) 744-9402
Jim Ziegler	(408) 528-4907

Historian: Linda Spencer (408) 997-7319
Parliamentarian: Bill Gissler (408) 241-0477

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Donation Receiving Committee Chairman:
George Yamashita
Field Trip Committee Coordinator:
Dean Welder
Field Trip Committee: Randy and June Harris, John Eichhorn, Marc Mullaney
Financial Advisory Committee: Ruth Bailey, Chuck Boblenz
Founder's Day Picnic Food: Carol Pimentel
Founder's Day Picnic Raffle:
Founder's Day Bingo: John Eichhorn
Hospitality: Claire Ferguson
Installation Dinner: Open
Future RH: Gail Matthews & Marsha Owen
Librarian: Pat Speece
Member Displays: Jim Ziegler
PLAC: (Public Lands Advisory Committee)
Frank Monez
Program: Bill Gissler
Refreshments: Marsha Owen and Denise Osterback
Secret Auction: Donation Receiving Comm.
Sergeant-at-arms: John Eichhorn
Show 2007: Marc Mullaney
Show 2008: Open
Silent Auction: John and Sylvia Palmieri
Social Committee: June Harris and 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 26, 2007 at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.

Our next board meeting will be on June 28, 2007 at Matt Wood's home, 1220 Vienna Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 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 ten times annually. The deadline for most articles is the Sunday before the regular meeting. The Breccia Editor is June Harris who may be contacted by 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	Frank Mullaney	(408) 266-1791
Cutaways	Frank Mullaney	(408) 266-1791
Facet Cutters	Max Casey	(408) 227-0526
Fossileers	Gail Matthews	(650) 962-9960
Future Rockhounds	Gail Matthews &	(650) 962-9960
	Marsha Owen	(408) 377-5373
Jewelers	Marc Mullaney	(408) 691-1584
Mineraleers	Chuck Boblenz	(408) 734-2473
Smithies	Kelly Van Vleck &	(408) 262-8187
	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327
Stringers	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327

Randy's Ramblings

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

I would like to welcome all of the new members who have joined the club. I invite you to take advantage of the many study groups and upcoming trips that are planned for the near future. If you are planning on going on field trips sponsored by other clubs, please contact Dean Welder for information. He is listed in the club directory and here in the Breccia.

The Founder's Day Picnic will be held on June 23rd. I am sure Carol Pimentel would appreciate help with some of the details. Please volunteer yourselves to help her. The more help she has, the easier it will be. Also, anyone planning on attending should fill out a reservation form and mail it to Carol. The deadline has passed, but I believe she is still taking reservations. You can download a reservation form from the Website: www.scvgms.org or call Carol Pimentel. This is a fun event where you can visit with other Rockhounds, eat good food, and win some nice prizes in the raffle and playing Bingo. New members and guests are also welcome.

The club has a need for someone willing to serve as Show Chairman for the 2008 show. There is someone thinking about it, but I am sure he would appreciate a co-chair to take on some of the work. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Randy Harris, President

Rock Sale
June 16, 2007
9AM - Noon
Pat Speece's home
2357 Loma Park Court
San Jose, CA 95124

Dues are past due.
Please send your dues to:
SCVGMS Treasurer
Frank Mullaney
5705 Begonia Drive
San Jose, CA 95124
Adult dues are $10.00
Junior dues are $3.00
Please pay promptly.

**COME ONE,
COME ALL!**

**SILENT AUCTION
at the June Meeting
Bring ANYTHING that
you would like
to donate. Rocks
and rock-related stuff
is great, but anything
else is welcome, too.
Don't forget your
wallet or checkbook
YOU'LL LOVE WHAT
YOU FIND THERE.
Questions? call
John Palmieri
(408) 272-2369**

Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

MINERALEERS BY CHUCK BOBLENZ

Nine members joined the Mineraleers for their meeting. The topic was Field Identification of minerals and rocks. Color, luster, hardness, and streak were discussed in some detail, and a large number of samples were passed around for each to try some of these tests. Lastly, the use of muriatic acid was demonstrated to show its use in identifying carbonates. The meeting adjourned to the kitchen for delicious refreshments served by Jeri, and discussions continued there.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:30 PM at the Boblenz' residence, and the topic will be a continuation of Field Identification. Each attendee will have the opportunity to perform tests on items brought with them from home and/or specimens provided by the hosts. Please RSVP to Chuck or Jeri at (408) 734-2473.
Hope to see you here.
Chuck

Two New Study Groups Information Below

The Cutaways Lapidary Group and the Carvers will be starting again. If you are interested in participating in either of these groups, contact Frank Mullaney at (408) 266-1791 or email him at rockyfiv@aol.com.

ATTENTION MING TREE MAKERS (and anyone who would like to learn to make a Ming tree) by Diana Nelson

Our first meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, June 16th, at 1:00 PM. Please bring 24 gauge wire, wire cutters, and small beads. All members are welcome to attend. Call me at (408) 274-2181 if you have questions or need directions to our house.

Jewelers by Marc Mullaney

Our next Jewelers meeting will be at the Belwood Cabana Club at 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, California on June 7, 2007 from 7 PM to 10 PM. Bring your chain and pendant projects for wrap up or assistance. We will have a short demo on rings made with the rolling mill to texture the silver as our next potential project. Call Marc Mullaney at 408-691-1584 or email Marc at geologistm@aol.com for more information.

Stonedawgs by Gail Matthews

VESTS--Direct from Australia!!! While down-under, my thoughts were often on our group, and I found navy blue fisherman type vests that we can use for the merit badges and rock collecting. These are available for $15 each.

Our next meeting will be at Marsha Owen's from 10 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 23rd. As always, we will discuss rock and fossil specimens, and you can get a vest. The special project will be a Geologic Timeline.

Thanks to all those putting aside egg cartons. I will gladly receive those already saved, and that will be sufficient for a while. I just received some larger egg cartons--the mega ones with 18 spaces--so if you need a little more space for your specimens, let me know.

Fossileers by Gail Matthews

As we have done for the last 2 years, there will be a walk around talk about the fossils on display and for sale at the CFMS show on Saturday, June 16th at 3PM. Contact Gail (650-962-9960, cell 714-403-4104) if you are going to the show and are interested.

Member Displays
By Jim Ziegler

Thank you to those of you who participated. We saw some impressive things. Most of all, we all learned that we've been hunting in the wrong places. See below where Knut Owen picked up his prize.

Diana Nelson brought along some example Ming Trees. She is offering to teach how to make them on June 16th at her home. She says that she currently has eight people signed up, and she has room for more.

Gail Matthews, just returned from New Zealand and Australia, brought along some unusual agate material, fossils, opals (of course), books, and more.

The Stringers exhibited some fine beadwork. Ann Ruiz, Suzi Bahr, Jennifer Le and I have been learning the fine art from Pat Speece for several weeks now.

Carol Pimentel brought some exquisite and nicely displayed examples of opals--wood, yaweh nut, clam, pink beads, a butterfly, and Andamooka Opal.

The Owen family brought their favorites. RK brought several unusual items, including spheres of selenite, rose quartz, a quartz dodecahedron, and more. Marsha brought a find from Clear Creek and a most unusual beach pebble. Knut had the big find. He had a hefty septarian nodule with a deep crystal-lined pocket—from the flea market—for $5.

Rick Kennedy—always dependable for his benitoite specimens—brought us some…uhhh… opal. Thanks, Rick.

Other items on the table included impressive specimens of opal for the night's program. Jennifer House, Adam Yamashita, and Steve Jobe furnished them.

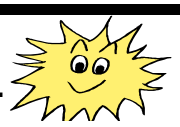
And…last but not least…I've announced that I am establishing a new tradition: the **MYSTERY MINERAL** table. Do you have a rock or a specimen that you can not identify? I've got many of them. Bring it along and put it on the table.

We'll let the whole club take a shot at it. It will sharpen our wits and it will satisfy your curiosity.

Did I forget anyone? Not to worry. Your contribution was noted and appreciated by all in attendance.

Next month we take a break from member displays. Be careful not to bring anything for display. It might get sold in the Silent Auction.

SUNSHINE
BY ERNESTINE SMITH



Sylvia Palmieri has had a recurrence of her cancer, and is undergoing treatment. She has gone to the hospital twice for treatments, and another treatment is scheduled. Fortunately, John's shoulder has healed well, and he is pain free. His doctor told him he can use it normally now, as long as he does not lift extra weight.

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

May Meeting Program Reviewed

by June Harris

Jennifer House, with the help of Adam Yamashita and Steve Jobe, gave a presentation on opal. Jennifer covered the many areas where opal is found and the history of each area. She passed around maps, books, and specimens for everyone to examine. She also showed a portion of a video that was about digging for opal and the valuation of opal.

Meet Our New Members

Approved at the May 2007 Board Meeting

Nancy Reineking and Micheal Paone, 229 Massol #1, Los Gatos, CA 95030, (408) 892-3917. Nancy is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, and silversmithing. Michael is interested in cutting and polishing, silversmithing, minerals, and field trips.

Michael Bowker, 20015 Northwind Square, Cupertino, CA 95014, (408) 366-2063. Michael is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, fossils, geology, and minerals.

Kate and Robert Payne, 11112 Firethorne Dr. Cupertino, CA 95014, (408) 773-1854. Kate is interested in cutting and polishing, collecting, stringing beads, and geology. Robert is interested in cutting and polishing.

SCVGMS 2007 Calendar

June 5 Mineraleers study group meeting
June 7 Jewelers study group meeting
June 16 Rock Sale at Pat Speece's home from 9AM to noon.
June 16 Ming Tree Lessons at Diana Nelson's home 1 PM.
June 23 Stonedawg's meeting at Marsha Owen's home from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.
June 23 Founder's Day Picnic, meal at noon, Bingo, and raffle, RSVP required.
June 26 Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM with a Silent Auction throughout the meeting.
June 28 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Matt Wood's home.
July 24 Potluck/BBQ before meeting at 6:30 PM, Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM at the Cabana Club. The evening's program will be on Idar-Oberstein with displays by Bill Gissler and Linda Spencer.
July 26 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Jim Ziegler's home.
August 11 Demonstration Day at the Cabana Club
August 28 Potluck/BBQ before meeting at 6:30 PM, Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM, both at the Cabana Club.
August 30 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Frank Mullaney's home.
September 25 Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM at the Cabana Club. Nominating committee elected.
September 27 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at June Harris' home.
October 23 Potluck before meeting at 6:30 PM, Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM, both at the Cabana Club.
October 25 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM at Marc Mullaney's home.
October 27 Demonstration Day at the Cabana Club.
November 27 Regular Meeting at 7:45 PM at the Cabana Club. Election of Board and Silent Auction throughout the meeting.
November 29 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM. Location to be determined.
December 4 Installation Dinner at the Cabana Club.
December 6 Board Meeting at 7:30 PM. Location to be determined.

July General Meeting will have a barbeque at 6:30 PM before the meeting. The club will provide the burgers, condiments, buns, and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to share.

DRC Report by Jane Yamashita

The DRC is alive and kicking. We just received a donation via Howard Perry. He received the donation from Ed Brown who is planning on being a future member of our club. We thank them both for sharing this donation with us. It consists of 36 milk crates of various rocks, geodes, and slabs. We will be spending some time getting the donation ready for sale at our June 16th sale. The sale will be at Pat Speece's house from 9 AM to noon. The prices will be 50 cents a pound for rocks and $1.00 per slab. Some of the new slabs are huge. This donation comes from an old collection. Come and join us and get some material to cab, polish, and enjoy.

2007 Show Report

by Marc Mullaney

The show wrap-up meeting was held on May 15, 2007. Reports were given for those in attendance. Several written reports were mailed or delivered. Financials looked promising for this past show with several expenses not yet received. A complete show report with some budget analysis will be forthcoming. The show seemed to do really well this past year. Some of our changes and trials to get more people worked, some had un-anticipated consequences, and some did not work as well as expected. Attendance was up dramatically, most of which was directly attributed to the Kids Area. I want to thank everyone again for all their hard work for a successful show. See you in June.

Safety First: Vehicle Safety

Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair, EFMLS News, May 2007; via The Virginia Pen, May 2007 edition

Every Spring it is important to review Summer Vehicle Safety before venturing out for vacations, field trips, and other outings.

Prior to leaving on a trip:

1. Service the engine by having a tune up and oil change to improve reliability, engine performance, and mileage.
2. Have the brakes inspected and worn pucks or pads replaced and rotors turned or replaced if required.
3. Check tire wear and air pressure, including the spare or "donut." If the tires show wear, rotate or replace them. A wheel alignment and balance may be prudent if it appears misalignment is responsible for uneven tire wear. If you are going to be traveling over long distances without services or on rural roads, especially rutted dirt roads, it would be advised to replace the "donut" with a full sized spare tire that will allow for higher speeds, longer range, better ground clearance, and load capacity. Keep the tires fully inflated. Soft tires may give a smoother ride, but will heat up and may fail in hot weather. Do not exceed the manufacturer's tire, spring, or towing load limits.
4. Make sure your windshield, rear windscreen, and headlight wipers are in good working order and the inside and outside of all windows and the rear view mirrors and light lenses are clean. Adjust your mirrors to reduce the "blind zones". Avoid buying vehicles with tinted windows that can impair visibility.
5. Adjust the headrest to the level of your ears, not to the lower area of your head or curvature of your neck.
6. Ensure that the seat belts and children's safety seats are in good working order and properly installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and state laws.

Check the supplies in your vehicle:

1. Bottled water and emergency food, such as energy bars or trail mix, that will last for several days or more.
2. Tire iron, lug nut key if antitheft lug nuts are installed, and a heavy duty jack, including the jack handle.
3. Extra windshield washer fluid, engine oil, transmission fluid, and brake oil.
4. Flashlight with spare batteries
5. Emergency flashers, flares, and triangle.
6. Emergency tool kit.
7. Cell phone with replacement battery and/or in vehicle battery charger.
8. A change of clothes, shoes, blankets, and a warm coat.

Prior to heading out:

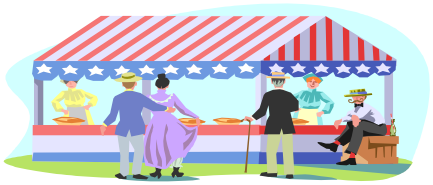
1. Plan your trip in advance so you can concentrate on driving and not navigating. Have maps and travel guides available in the vehicle, and have someone else in the vehicle familiar with them to aid in navigation if the need should arise to reduce driver distraction. AARP recommends that "if you are planning to take an unfamiliar route at night, try making a trial run during daylight". Avoid driving in heavily traveled or high speed areas during rush hour and bad weather. Check weather, fire conditions, and sun screen requirements for the day(s) of the trip.
2. Make reservations in advance and plan the trip so each day's activities will not exhaust the driver.
3. Provide for frequent rest stops to rest the driver and, if possible, share the driving responsibilities.
4. Make sure your prescription glasses are current and that you have both clear and tinted lenses with you, as well as any prescription medicines.
5. Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you should return. Give them your cell phone and accommodation phone numbers so you can be contacted in case of emergencies.

Once you are on the road:

1. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead for the speed you are driving. Do not "tailgate".
2. If you are going to change lanes, signal well in advance and look in the inside and outside rear view mirrors as well as over your shoulder before making your move to avoid not seeing a vehicle in the "blind area" of the rear quarter of your vehicle. When passing, provide adequate space and use your turn signals prior to pulling back over into the travel lane. Do not travel in the passing lane.
3. Do not talk on the cell phone, eat, play the radio loud, or engage in any other activity that will distract you or keep you from having both hands on the steering wheel.
4. Use your headlights at least one-half hour before sunset and until one half hour after sunrise, when visibility is poor, when it is raining, and in construction zones. Have your car's running lights on if installed whenever the engine is running. Use your emergency flashers when parked on the side of the road or broken down.
5. Always use your seat belts and child safety seats, and keep at least 10 inches from your vehicle front air bags.
6. When traveling with trucks, drive so that you can see the truck's rear view mirror, to ensure the driver can see you. When stopped at a traffic signal or stop sign, especially on up grades, stay back from the vehicle ahead to allow for possible roll back when starting out, which is especially common with standard transmissions or inexperienced drivers.
7. If you should have a flat tire or other casualty, get as far off the pavement as possible; put out a flare, flasher, or emergency triangle; and turn on your vehicle flashing lights so other drivers can see you. It is better to drive a short distance on a flat tire to get the vehicle safely out of traffic danger. If it is not safe to change the tire or repair the vehicle yourself, call for help.
8. Do not encourage "road rage" by making gestures, looking at other drivers, or exhibiting aggressive driving habits. If you are pursued by another driver, proceed to a populated area, preferably a police station. Do not go to your home or get out of your vehicle.
9. Always be alert for the unexpected.

via The Virginia Pen, May 2007 edition

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 2-3 2007, Glendora, CA Glendora Gems 859 E. Sierra Madre Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638 Email: YBidwell2@aol.com

June 2-3 2007, La Habra, CA, North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Hours: 9 - 5 both days Don Warthen

June 15-17 2007, Lancaster, CA Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
Hours: 9-5 Daily Email: pgmc@antelecom.net

July 14-15 2007, 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 Phone: (310) 836-4611

August 3-5 2007, Nipomo, CA Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph Church 298 S. Thompson Ave. Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788

August 4-5 2007, San Francisco, CA, San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society, San Francisco County Fair Bldg., Ninth Ave. & Lincoln Way, Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5 Ellen Nott (415) 564-4230

August 31 - Sept. 3 2007, Fort Bragg, CA Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society Town Hall, Main & Laural Hours: Sat. & Sun 10-6; Mon. 10-4 Don McDonell (707) 964-3116

September 15-16 2007, Redwood City, CA Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society, Community Activities Building, 1400 Rosewood Ave., Hours: 10-5 both days, Carol Corden (650) 248-7155, Email: ccorden@earthlink.net
Website: sgms.driftmine.com

September 22 2007, Los Altos, CA Peninsula Gem & Geology Society Recreation with Rocks Rancho Shopping Center Foothill Expressway & Springer Road Hours: Sat. 9:30am - 4:30pm David Muster (408) 245-2180 Email: colleen.mcgann@hds.com

September 22-23 2007, Downey, CA, Delvers Gem & Mineral Society, Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd., Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4, Steve Miller (562) 633-0614, Email : guynellallen@sbcglobal.net

October 7 2007, Fallbrook, CA Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society "Fall Festival of Gems" FGMS Museum 123 W. Alvarado Hours: 10 - 4 Mary Fong-Walker (760) 723-3484 Email: mrwizard@tfb.com

October 13-14 2007, Grass Valley, CA, Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, "Earth's Treasures", Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road, Hours: 10 - 5 both days, Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

October 13-14 2007, Lakeside, CA, Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview, Hours: 10-5 both days, David Newton (619) 390-5054, Email: jontom@nethere.com

October 13-14 2007, Trona, CA, Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society,"66th Annual Gem-O-Rama" , Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society, 13337 Main Street , Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4, Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356 , Email jbfairchild@verizon.net, Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html

October 20-21 2007, Anderson, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society, Shasta District Fairgrounds, Hours: Sat. 9-5: Sun. 10-4 Bill Seward (530) 365-8641

October 20-21 2007, Placerville, CA El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10 - 5 both days Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975 Email: jacbobcer@directcon.net Website: eldoradomineralandgem.org

November 3-4 2007, Concord, CA, Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society, Centre Concord - 5298 Clayton Rd. Clayton Fair Shopping Center, Hours: 10 - 5 both days Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287

November 3-4 2007, Lancaster, CA, Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society, 2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14, Hours: 9 - 5 both days, Susan Chaissin-Walblom (661) 943-1861, Email: SLChaisson@yahoo.com , Website: pgms@antelecom.net

November 10-11 2007, Yuba City, CA, Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society, "Festival of Gems", Grace Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Avenue, Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4 Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

November 17-18 2007, Oxnard, CA, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, 800 Hobson Way, Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4, Miriam Tetrault (805) 642-5779, Website: www.OGMS.net

Donations of
cotton fabric, thread,
and yarn are
needed for a
Girl Scout
Gold Award project.
We have an offer
from a Girl Scout
to make rock bags
for our upcoming
'08 show.
Contact June Harris
if you have anything
you would like to donate.

Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

Contact Dean Welder (408) 353-2675
for information about the below field trips.
Dean will make the appropriate introductions

June 3-10, Virgin Valley and Black Rock Desert. For more information, call Jennifer House at (408) 243-7025.
June 9 Babcock Mt., Taylorsville CA for rose quartz
June 23-24 Hallelujah Junction, CA for rose quartz
June 24 CFMS Field Trip Cerro Gordo Mine for Smithsonite and 50 other different types of minerals. $5.00 fee
June 30-July 1 Elko NV for fossils, petrified wood, brachiopods, crinoids, horn coral.
July 28-29 Fairview (east of Fallon NV) for agates and geodes
August 4-5 Edward's Crossing, Yuba River, North San Juan/North Bloomfield area for gold panning.
August 11 Sutter's Gold Mine
August 20-24 Virgin Valley, NV for opal fee digs
August 24-27 Echo Mt. Stone, CA for volcanic material, fee dig.
August 27-31 Davis Creek. Lassen Creek for obsidian.
September 1-3 Cedarville, CA for petrified wood
September 24-October 1 Southern Utah for petrified wood.
October 6 San Andreas area for serpentine and to Stories in Stone, presentation by Russ Shoemaker.
October 27-28 Kettleman Hills, CA for fossils

Lincoln's Marble Leaks

Did you know the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, is sprouting stalactites and stalagmites in its basement? This phenomenon is caused by water seeping through the marble. Though the Memorial is a little over 55 years old, the formations have grown several feet in length. When the Memorial was built, engineers sank 122 cylinders to bedrock 50 feet underground on a rectangular platform, thus forming a cavernous space beneath the floor. This is where the stalactites and stalagmites are growing.

via Rolling Stones Beacon, 4/07; Cutting Remarks, 4/06; Rockhound Ramblings, 2/06.

BLM to Enforce Dry Season Use Restrictions in the Clear Creek Management Area

The Bureau of Land Management Hollister Field Office will enforce dry season use restrictions effective June 1 on 30,000 acres in the Clear Creek Management Area to protect public health and safety.
The temporary restrictions, which run through October 15, are in response to concerns and data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about health risks from exposure to naturally occurring asbestos.
The dry season use restrictions will restrict public access to registered street-legal vehicles on county roads and specific primary access routes in the management area to reduce potential public exposure to the asbestos. All other routes will be closed.

Overnight camping will only be allowed outside the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern in Oak Flat Campground, Condon Peak, and Wright Mountain. Hiking, rockhounding, hunting and similar activities on foot will be allowed within the Serpentine ACEC during the closure period. Maps reflecting open routes are posted on-site and are available at the Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, Calif. 95023.

BLM Hollister Field Manager Rick Cooper said the temporary restrictions will affect about half of the 75,000-acre CCMA, within the Serpentine ACEC, an identified hazardous asbestos area. He said the restrictions will apply to all public land users, but exemptions will be granted for those with valid access rights, such as emergency personnel, private property in-holders, and others.

Cooper said BLM will post signs, maps and related information at kiosks and other visitor locations to inform the public of the restrictions. Information also will be provided on potential health risks related to asbestos exposure during the dry season, as identified by EPA in its February 2005 "Human Health Risk Assessment Technical Memorandum." The memorandum, which is available from EPA in San Francisco and BLM in Hollister, is part of an on-going health risk assessment by EPA that could affect future management of the area.

The public is invited to call the Clear Creek Hotline at (831) 630-5060 for up-to-date information or the Hollister Field Office at (831) 630-5000, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

News Release: May 10, 2007 Hollister BLM office

How are Gemstones Classified?

via The Palomar Gem, 4/2007; via John Miller, www.finegemcutting.com and www.tradeshop.com

Chemical Composition—A gemstone may be a pure chemical element (diamond is essentially pure carbon), a relatively simple chemical compound (quartz is silicon dioxide, SiO^2), or a more complex mixture of various compounds and elements (the garnet family includes a highly variable mix of iron, magnesium, aluminum, and calcium silicates). The great majority of familiar gem materials are oxides or silicates (i.e., they contain oxygen and perhaps silicon) and formed as crystals during the cooling of the earth's crust over past millenia.

Crystal structure– Gemstones may be formed in single or multiple discrete crystals (such as diamond), in massive collections of microscopic crystals (cryptocrystalline) (such as chalcedony) or in amorphous (non-crystalline) masses (such as opal). In general, larger crystals were formed in areas of slow cooling of molten rock, and smaller crystals in areas of more rapid cooling. There are several classes of crystal structure based on symmetry of the resulting crystals, and there are also non-crystalline (amorphous) minerals used as gem materials. In addition, there are some organic materials (such as shell and bone) that have been used traditionally as gem materials.

Crystal systems

Cubic– Crystals in the cubic, or isometric, system have three mutually perpendicular axes of equal length. Common forms in the cubic system are the tetrehedron (4 faces), the cube (6 faces), the octahedron (8 faces), the dodecahedron (12 faces), the trapezohedron (24 faces), and the hexoctahedron (48 faces). Gemstones occurring in cubic crystal forms include diamond, the garnets, pyrite, and spinel.

Hexagonal– Crystals in the hexagonal system have four axes, three of which are of equal length and intersect at 60- degree angles within a plane, and the fourth of which is perpendicular to the plane of the other three. Gemstones occurring in hexagonal crystals include beryl, corundum, quartz, and tourmaline. Some crystallographers further identify two subdivisions of hexagonal crystals: trigonal (corrundum) and rhombohedral (quartz).

Tetragonal– Tetragonal crystals have three axes intersecting at 90-degree angles, two of which are of equal length. Examples include zircon, rutile, and scapolite.

Orthorhombic– orthorhombic crystals have three axes at 90-degree angles, all of which have different lengths. A typical example is topaz.

Monoclinic– Monoclinic crystals have three axes of unequal length, two of which intersect at an angle other than 90 degrees, and both perpendicular to the third. Jadeite and nephrite are common examples.

Triclinic—Triclinic crystals have three axes, all of unequal length and intersecting at angles other than 90 degrees. Examples include labradorite and microcline feldspar.

Optical Characteristics– Optical characteristics of gemstones are primarily derived from their chemical composition and crystal structure.

Color– Color is the apparent result of selective absorption or transmission of different frequencies of visible light. Hue is a function of the frequency of light and is described by familiar terms such as red, orange, yellow, blue, green, indigo, and violet. Tone is variation from very light to very dark. Intensity is a measure of saturation, or purity, of a color. The typical human eye can identify approximately 150 pure hues, but around one million colors. The differences among colors may be immediately obvious or so subtle that direct comparison under controlled conditions is required to discern them. Color acuity is also highly affected by fatigue, diet, and other factors, so it is unwise to attempt judging subtle color difference in gemstones such as diamond without attention to the physical and emotional condition of the observer, as well as properly graded comparison stones and careful control of lighting conditions.

Pleochroism is the apparent change in color of a doubly refractive gemstone when viewed through different directions of the crystal structure. In most cases, the color variations are not obvious to the unaided eye and must be viewed through a polariscope or dichroscope, but in some cases, the pleochroic colors are strikingly obvious. For example, many green tourmalines appear black through the c-axis of the crystal, and iolite shows a striking combination of blue-violet and near colorless. Dichroism refers to the display of two ("di") pleochroic colors in a gemstone.

Alexandrite-like color change, or photochroism, is the marked change in perceived color of a gemstone under different lighting conditions. As the name implies, the most famous example appears in alexandrite, a form of chrysoberyl that typically appears blue or green in daylight and red or purplish in incandescent light, but similar color changes may be observed in sapphire, garnet, and tourmaline. The phenomenon is due to selective absorption of different wavelengths of light, and the predominance or absence of those wavelengths in the prevailing light (incandescent light has proportionately higher quantities of reddish wavelengths and less of blue or green).

Optic Character– Gemstones may affect the passage of light differently through directions in the crystal structure. If the velocity of light is constant through all directions in the stone, the stone is said to be singly refractive, or isochroic, and has one refractive index. This is characteristic of isometric crystals. If the velocity of light varies with direction, the stone is doubly refractive, or anisotropic, and has two refractive indices. In anisotropic materials, light is separated into two polarized components, the ordinary ray and the extraordinary ray. Anisoptropic materials can be further characterized as uniaxial, biaxial positive, and biaxial negative.

Amorphous (non-crystalline) materials, such as opal, amber, and glass, may scatter light in unusual directions due to internal stress and display a phenomenon known as anomalous double refraction.

continued on next page

Refractive Index– Refractive index, or R.I., is the ration of the velocity of light in air to the velocity of light through a transparent material. If light passes from air into a transparent material at an angle of incidence other than a 90-degree angle, it is deflected at a different angle (coincident angle) according to the R.I. Gemstones with higher R.I. are generally more brilliant than those with low R.I. For example, diamond has an R.I. of about 2.4; quartz, about 1.54-1.55. The R.I. of most gemstones is easily measured using a simple optical instrument known as a refractometer.

Birefringence– Birefringence is the difference in value between the highest and lowest refractive indices in a doubly refractive (anisotropic) material. Depending on the orientation of a faceted stone, this can result in a "fuzzy" appearance and apparent doubling of facets viewed through the stone.

Dispersion– Dispersion is the ability of a gemstone to separate light into its component colors; that is, the quality of passing different wavelengths of light at different velocities. Dispersion is the quality in a diamond that produces sparkles of color in an otherwise colorless stone. Quartz, which has a dispersion of 0.013, shows much less of this effect than diamond, which has a dispersion of 0.044. Diamond, in turn, shows much less color play than sphalerite, which has a dispersion of 0.156.

Fluorescence– Many materials are fluorescent. That is, when exposed to ultraviolet lights or x-rays, they transform some of the incoming energy into visible light. The color and intensity of the fluorescence is often indicative, but not conclusive, of the identity of the material. For example, natural yellow sapphires from Ceylon show a distinctive apricot-colored fluorescence, while synthetic yellow sapphires generally show no fluorescence or a dull red when exposed to long-wave ultraviolet (UV) light. Most natural emeralds are inert (non-fluorescent) under long wave UV, and most synthetic emerald show moderate to strong red fluorescence. Because of the prominent exceptions, this test alone is inconclusive.

Phosphorescence– If a fluorescent material continues to emit light after the exciting UV or X-ray light is removed, it is said to be phosphorescent. This phenomenon usually lasts only a few seconds, but may occasionally persist for much longer periods. This is a relatively rare characteristic in gemstones.

Clarity– Gemstones can vary from complete opacity to lucid clarity and may contain few or many inclusions such as crystals of other materials, gas– or liquid-filled cavities, or even insects! (Large, perfectly preserved insect specimens in amber are highly prized.) In some gemstones, such as emerald, certain inclusions are highly distinctive and can be used as reliable indicators of identity. A gemological microscope (a binocular microscope with a typical magnification of 10X to 40X) is one of the most useful tools in identifying many gemstones, as well as grading them on a relative clarity.

Grading and Pricing of Gemstones

Years ago, the world generally referred to two types of gemstones– precious and semiprecious. Diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires (and sometimes opals and pearls) were considered precious, and all other stones, semiprecious. Today this distinction is obsolete and meaningless, since poor examples of the so-called "precious" stones can be bought for just a few dollars per carat. While fine specimens of so-called "semiprecious" stones such as tsavorite (a green garnet) or tourmaline (especially Paraiba tourmaline) may sell for thousands of dollars per carat. Clearly, the old terms are inappropriate in such situations. (Besides, the term "semiprecious" always seems to have a connation a of "semi worthless" and seems disrespectful of gemstones that are highly desirable in their right.) Today, the gem market is roughly divided into two separate domains– diamonds and colored stones. Even this distinction is arbitrary and misleading, since many diamonds are colored and many "colored stones" are not. However, the same basic principles are involved in grading gemstones of both types.

You have undoubtedly heard of the "4 C's"— color, clarity, cut, and carat weight. Organizations such as the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) and CIBJO (*Confederation Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfevrerie, des diamants, perles, et pierres precieuses*) have well established, widely respected standards for judging these qualities in diamonds. However, there are no similarly accepted standards for judging other stones, although several systems enjoy limited success.

One major difference between the diamond and colored stone market is that the diamond market is largely controlled by one organization— De Beers Consolidated Mines. Through their near-monolithic control of diamond mining and distribution, this company has done much to create a fairly stable market for diamonds, and relatively small diamonds are readily available in a wide variety of qualities. In contrast, most colored stones are mined with more primitive methods, by much smaller companies, and supplies are much more variable. Many colored stones are much rarer than diamonds of comparable size and quality and are often unavailable. A sizeable deposit of a stone may be discovered and quickly distributed to the market, only to become scarce again in a couple of years. Such uneven supply and less regulated distribution often contributes to wide price variation.

The following general rules apply to all gemstones:

Vivid saturated colors are more highly prized than subdued or grayed-out colors. Deeper colors are more highly prized than lighter ones, unless the depth of color is so great as to make the stone appear blackish. The best color for any gemstone should be obvious from several feet or even several yards away. For example, a ruby should be intensely red from across a room, and a blue sapphire should be obvious blue, not black. The exception to the rule occurs when the extremes are desired - truly colorless diamonds are valued more highly than those with pale colors, and a truly black diamond would be worth more than one that is merely dark gray.

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1. Larger stones are more highly prized than small ones, although stones too large for use in jewelry tend to have lower per carat prices.
2. Gems with fewer and smaller inclusions are more highly prized than those with more numerous and larger inclusions, unless the inclusions contribute in a positive manner to the appearance of the stone. For example, insect inclusions increase the value of amber. Fine inclusions that cause star or cat's eye effects increase the value of stones such as corundum or chrysoberyl. Quartz containing large included crystals or rutile or tourmaline is often more valuable than quartz without. Characteristic "horsetail" inclusions are preferred in demantoid.
3. More durable stones are generally more prized than those of lesser durability.
4. Rarer stones are more highly prized than more common varieties. However, if the stone is so rare that it is essentially unknown to the general public, its value suffers and it is relegated to the status of a "collector stone".
5. Well cut stones of good symmetry are more prized than those lacking in personal history.
6. Pairs or suites provenance are more prized than those lacking in personal history.
7. Stones that have been enhanced in color or clarity by artificial means are worth considerably less than unaltered stones of the same appearance.
8. Some gemstones are occasionally more in demand due to their use by well known personalities or due to intensive marketing, such as the various television shopping networks. Such increases in demand are faddish in nature and tend to be fairly short-lived.

Inca Indians Used Solar Power to Cut Stones

via The SMS Matrix/The Petrified Log, 4/01; via Rock Scoop, 7/06; Coastal Waves, 4/07.

An Earth Science professor who has visited and done research at several sites in Peru, where the Incas lived 1000 years ago, believes he has the answer to a mystery that has puzzled archeologists for years. "The Incas used solar power, not manpower, to cut the huge stones that they used to build their massive cities," said Dr. Ivan Watkins of St. Cloud University of Minnesota.

Watkins said his theory supercedes all previous theories because they do not account for all the evidence. He believes that is enough circumstantial evidence in the preserved Inca traditions to support his idea. The sun was important to the Incas and was venerated in an annual festival, he noted. Some cultural records indicate that the Indians renewed an eternal flame by lighting a torch with the sun's rays reflected from a priest's bracelet. "There is no doubt in my mind that they know how to do it; everything points to it," Watkins said.

Watkins believes that Incas used gold dish shaped or parabolic reflectors to concentrate the sun's energy to carve rocks with a beam of light. "They had the technology 1000 years ago," he said. "Every Inca temple contained a golden dish."

Watkins believes the dishes were probably cut up and destroyed when the Spanish Conquistadors conquered the Incas in the 15th century. Additional evidence to support the theory can be found in the Gold Museum of Bogota, Columbia. Four small dishes appear to have the shape needed to focus the sun's rays. A parabolic dish looks like a TV satellite dish. "When sunlight is reflected on a parabola, the focused energy can be directed by moving the dish," Watkins explained.

"The dishes used by the Incas were 'two men across.' That's a pretty big dish, and it could burn a lot. It would be large enough to cut rock easily. The huge dish allowed the Incas to cut rocks in a precise fashion. The stone blocks are so closely matched that a knife blade cannot be inserted between them," he noted. Previously, scientists have theorized the massive stones of Inca cities were hammered with other stones; broken with wooden or metal wedges; etched with organic acids; or sanded with grains of sand and water. But Watkins noted that some of the rocks are carved with sharp inside corners and that there are clean edges of cut rock near stress fractures in the rocks. Crude stone hammers could not be used to achieve those kinds of results. Watkins said his theory evolved after he noticed a glaze on the wall of a cave that had Inca stonework in it. "In order to get a glaze, what you have to do is heat the rock, fire it up. What happened in this cave is that they had heated the rock quite severely."

The Inca villages were rediscovered in 1911. The capital of the Inca Empire was near the Peruvian town of Cuzco, but the most famous of the sites is Machu Pichu in the mountains of south-central Peru.

The professor conducted experiments on his theory at the Federal Bureau of Mines in the twin cities and found that rock could be cut with a 100-watt laser. A huge dish like those Watkins believes were used could generate 6000 watts of energy.

Watkins has been awarded a patent for a solar dish similar to those he believes the Incas used. He plans to test the dish on red granite in the St. Cloud area, since it is the same (type) as that found in the mountains of Peru. He plans to take a sabbatical next year to detail his dish theory and three other theories. He also hopes to learn how the Incas transported the rocks from the quarries, miles away, to the village sites.

Safety (Think health)

This is from Dr. Shealy's newsletter

by Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman, 2007

Each Monday you can tune-in and talk online with Dr. Shealy at Voiceamerica.com. Check Health & Wellness channel, March 19, at 11 AM, Central Time. The call-in number is: 866-472-5792

UN-EQUAL © by C. Norman Shealy, M.D., Ph.D. ©

One of the many karmic debts of our ex-Secretary of War is his fostering aspartame on the world. EQUAL is anything but equal, as if being equal to sugar is good!! And of course the FDA is a co-conspirator in the crime of allowing this potentially poisonous material over the counter. Aspartame UNEQUIVOCALLY worsens:

- Hypertension
- Migraine
- Epilepsy
- Obesity

Taken together, these 4 major illnesses affect well over two-thirds of Americans. Other than the known biochemical damage in patients with the first 3 of these illnesses, aspartame contributes to excess weight and obesity because it artificially:

- Stimulates your appetite
- Increases carb cravings
- Stimulates fat storage and weight gain!

Indeed, drinking a can a day of ''diet'' pop provides the average consumer an opportunity to add about 15 pounds per year. Indeed, the calories in one can of regular ''Coke" (139) will also add only 15 pounds per year. But since people think diet is good, they are more likely to drink even more of this toxin. Now instead of a can of junk pop, you could enjoy the following for approximately the same number of healthier calories:

- One banana
- Two and a half apples
- 7 ounces of whole milk, and skim would be better!
- 4 teaspoons of butter
- A whole grain roll
- A container of yogurt
- 1 ounce of Bailey's Irish Cream (still better than pop!!)

The next great hoax, according to a recent news report, is the planned introduction by Coca-Cola in the spring of diet coke with added vitamins! JUNK IS JUNK, and no amount of vitamin supplementation will make it healthy! Of course all ''artificial'' sweeteners have the same effect of fooling your hypothalamus and stimulating appetite, carb craving, and increased fat storage. We do not know yet whether the latest scam, Splenda, will have the additional harmful effect of worsening hypertension, migraine, and epilepsy. But it has no health value. Real food is the answer.

I'm a New Member or Visitor

I see you at the meetings,
But you never say "Hello"
You're busy all the time you're there
With those you already know.

I sit among the members
And yet I'm a lonesome guy
The new fish are as strange as I
But you old fellows pass me by.

But remember you asked us in
And you talk of fellowship!
You could step across the room,
But you never make the trip.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello"
Or stop and shake my hand.
Then go and sit among your friends.
Now THAT, I would understand.

I'll be at your next gathering,
My time there I'll spend,
Do you think you could introduce yourself?
I want to be your friend.

Author unknown,
via the Shasta Gem Roc Toc, 6/06;
via many other exchange bulletins.

Hint:

Drop a small stone or bead on the carpet? Can't find it? Place a nylon stocking over the vacuum hose. The stone will adhere to the nylon without going up the hose. Bare feet work well, too. If the rug is a shag, get out the comb or forget it.

via the Rolling Stone Beacon, 4/07; via Cutting Remarks, 4/06; via Leaverite News.

Chrysoprase

Birthstones are a fun way to celebrate one's birth. The list of modern birthstones currently accepted in the U.S. was developed in 1912 by the American National Association of Jewelers; a different list is maintained by Germanic countries. The gems now associated with each month have only a slight relationship to ancient beliefs, however. Throughout history, different lists have reflected a variety of stones connected to ancient lore and different cultures. This series of articles is an attempt to share some of these old beliefs and will hopefully give us a chance to learn about a few more of the "gems" that catch our fancy. I hope you enjoy it.

Chyrsoprase is a gemstone variety of chalcedony (a fibrous form of quartz). Consisting almost entirely of silicon dioxide, its apple-green color is caused by the presence of nickel, reporttedly occurring as platelets of the talc-like mineral willemsite. In view of its green color, it is often referred to as Australian Jade. It has been used by the Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians in jewelry and other ornamental objects. It is cryptocrystalline, which means that it is composed of crystals so fine that they cannot be seen as distinct particles under normal magnification. The stone has a hardness rating of 6.5-7 on the Mohs scale and has a tendency to fade in heat and sunlight.

The word chrysoprase comes from the Greek *chrysos*, meaning gold and *prason* meaning leek. The best chrysoprase is found in Queensland, Australia, but it is also found in Austria, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Russia, and the U.S. (California and Arizona). In the Australian deposits, chrysoprase occurs as veins and nodules with grown geothite and other iron oxides in magnesite-rich saprolite.

Known in the past as the "victory stone" and used for spiritual protection, in the 1800's it was said to help thieves escape execution by causing them to become invisible when the stone was held in the mouth.

It yields a gentle, soothing, friendly protection and is said to prevent depression and increase equilibrium. It instills a state of grace, facilitating compassion and clemency; and provides for non-judgmental attitudes and acceptance of others and the self. It is said to help one to understand the patterns of growth. It can reduce both superiority and inferiority complexes. A balancing stone, it can help one extricate oneself from states of imperfection and encourage the maximum beneficial outcome of situations by facilitating adaptability. It also encourages fidelity in business and personal affairs.

It has been used to treat disorders of the heart, increase absorption of vitamin C, increase dexterity, and as a stimulant to increase fertility.

via The SMS Matrix, 5/07

Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners

by Betsy Martin

via The Franklin County Rockhounder, 5/07; via Gem Cutters News, 4/07; via The Collecting Bag, 12/06.

Safety:
Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid)- Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.
2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) Dissolves calcite rapidly. *** after treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.
3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).
4. Calgon—Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.
5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - Will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above)
6. Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.
7. Bleach– Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.
8. Hydrogen peroxide– Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.
9. Citric acid- Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.
10. Windex (with ammonia) A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.
11. Distilled Water– Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:
On moderately hard minerals– use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.
On hard minerals– use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.
On calcite (including bruised places)- quickly dip in vinegar or ***Lime Away*** and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools:
Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

Operating Regulations Changes that were approved at the May 2007 Board Meeting.

Section 3 Revolving Funds
Adjust Librarian Expense to $25.00, Add Donation Receiving Committee $25.00
Section 6.7 Librarian
Adjust fine for late books and videos to $1.00 per month.
Section 6.14 Show Chairman (add to last paragraph of Show Chairman's description) "The Show Chairman shall be responsible to see that all monies collected during the annual show are turned over to the Club Treasurer daily. All pre-paid money from the annual show shall be turned in to the Club Treasurer on a monthly basis."
Section 12.5 Intra-Society Groups/Organizations (Study Groups) (add to the end of the paragraph) "Each Study Group will be issued a sign-in journal, a pad of reimbursement vouchers, and a receipt book. All monies received are to be receipted and turned over as soon as possible to the Club Treasurer, who will issue a receipt to the study group. The receipt from the Club Treasurer shall be attached to the page in the sign-in journal, which notes the meeting date, time and all attendees. Duplicate receipts from the receipt book shall be attached to the sign-in book page to reflect all payments made. Any monies spent for expenses are to be listed on a voucher and presented to the Club Treasurer for reimbursement. The sign-in book must be available for review by a club officer during the months of October or November of each year. An inventory of all club property held by the study group shall be submitted to the Club Treasurer by November 15 of each year.

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2007

President Randy Harris called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Belwood Cabana Clubhouse in Los Gatos. Members and guests were welcomed. Minutes were approved as printed in the Breccia. The board meeting will be at Dean Welder's home, May 24th, 7:30 PM.
CORRESPONDENCE: Letters from: NBFT/CO-OP field trips; dues and card from Mary Brown in Castle Rock, Wash.; letter to newspaper editor from Andrew Sicree.
NEW MEMBERS: Cliff Loog was presented with his new member packet.
SUNSHINE REPORT: See details in the Breccia.
HOSPITALITY: There were 52 members and 13 guests in attendance tonight.
STUDY GROUPS: See details in the Breccia for all groups. A Ming Tree group is forming, contact Diana Nelson. The Stonedawg group now has vests, thanks to Gail Matthews.
DEMO DAY: Next day will be August 11, 2007 at the Cabana clubhouse, 10 AM to 3 PM. Come see the variety of study group demonstrations.
DONATION RECEIVING COMMITTEE: See details in the Breccia. Howard Perry organized a donation.
PLAC: See details in the Breccia. Watch for the Clear Creek BLM area road closures.
FEDERATION: See details in the Breccia. Ruth Bailey has applications for Camp Paradise and the CFMS show. Ruth and Montella will be attending the AFMS show.
FIELD TRIPS: See details in the Breccia. Current local events: Benitoite Gem Mine Field Trip, June 2nd, fee dig, contact Rick Kennedy. Virgin Valley, Nevada for opal and various side trips. June 2nd, contact Jennifer House.
MEMBER DISPLAY: See details in the Breccia. New item this month, "The Mystery Rocks", this will be an area of the table for unidentified rocks, and everyone is invited to give an opinion.
PROGRAM: Jennifer House gave a talk and movie on opals. Steve Jobe and various members talked about opals in their collections.
SECRET AUCTION: Four rocks were sold.
FOUNDER'S DAY: Sign-up flyers were available. The picnic is June 23, 2007. June 8th is the deadline to sign up.
DUES ARE DUE: The Treasurer, Frank Mullaney, is collecting.
Respectfully submitted,
John Eichhorn, Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2007

President Randy Harris called the meeting to order on May 24th at 7:45 PM at the home of Dean Welder. All board members were present except for Marc Mullaney, Ruth Bailey, Larry Moore, Jim Ziegler, and Parliamentarian Bill Gissler. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the April 26th, 2007 board meeting as read and corrected. Guest was Karen Welder.
Correspondence: Letters from: NBFT/CO-OP field trip notices, dues from Mary Brown, Andrew Sicree ad to newspaper editor.

New Members: M/S/P to accept Nancy Reineking, Michael Paone, Michael Bowker, Robert Payne, and Kathryn Payne as new members.
Treasurer's Report: M/S/P to pay bills. Frank Mullaney will be absent next month.
Unfinished Business: Frank Mullaney will ask fairgrounds about next year's fair date, display cases, and advertisements. John Eichhorn has the case for BLM display and will pursue specimens and information on the area to be covered by the display. Frank Mullaney will print labels. M/S/P to purchase a new brief case for the treasurer.
New Business: M/S/P to have June Harris purchase newsletter for the junior's.
M/S/P to accept new operating regulations for meeting transactions. Recommend a meeting to educate study group leaders. A page of updates needed for the operating regulations was distributed to the board.
Matt Wood, Rick Kennedy, Gail Matthews, and Dean Welder will review operating regulations and suggest updates to the board .
June Harris would like to know how the club wants to continue the Kid's Area at the show. M/S/P to mail flyer's to teacher groups.
M/S/P to have Frank Mullaney purchase a combination grinder for a raffle at club functions. Rick Kennedy would like to know if the school parking lot can be purchased for the show.
M/S/P to adjourn at 9:25pm.
Respectfully submitted,
John Eichhorn, Secretary

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
May Treasurer's Report
May 24, 2007

Beginning Balance			$14,919.62
Receipts			
Initiation:	$ 25.00		
Dues	$468.00		
Stringers	$ 30.00		
DRC	$229.85		
Interest	$ 1.64		
Total Receipts		$754.49	
Disbursements			
Breccia copying	$ 48.50		
Show Brochures	$782.65		
Show Tickets and flyers	$193.23		
Show Mementos	$101.21		
Show New Signs	$506.58		
Show Awards Ribbons/Chairman's Award	$ 54.13		
Show Security Hats	$ 64.95		
Show Give Away Bags	$452.05		
Show Post Cards	$312.00		
Show labels for postcards and tickets	$123.36		
Show Kids Area Patches	$330.99		
Meeting Refreshments	$ 26.18		
Meeting Refreshments	$ 3.54		
Show Door prize mailing expense	$ 47.17		
Kids Area	$ 6.50		
Breccia postage	$ 34.80		
Breccia postage	$ 22.68		
Show banner hanging expense	$228.00		
Total disbursements		$3,338.52	
Ending Balance			$12,335.59