

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 58  
Number 11

San Jose, CA  
November, 2011

## SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Randy Harris  
(831) 438-5150  
Vice President: Carol Pimentel  
(408) 489-4761  
Secretary: Rick Kennedy  
(408) 529-9690  
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney  
(408) 266-1791  
Editor: June Harris  
(831) 438-5150  
Federation Director: Ruth Bailey  
(408) 248-6195  
Alternate Fed. Director: Chuck Boblenz  
(408) 734-2473  
Directors:  
Maxie Casey (408) 227-0526  
David Lowe (408) 720-9339  
Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584  
Michael Paone (408) 340-3258  
Art Pimentel (408) 593-7903  
Historian: Michael Paone (408) 340-3258  
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder  
(408) 353-2675

## SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Donation Receiving Committee Chair:  
George Yamashita  
Field Trip Committee Coordinator:  
Dean Welder  
Founder's Day Picnic Food:  
Art Pimentel  
Founder's Day Raffle: Pat Speece  
Founder's Day Bingo: Amy DeMasi  
Hospitality: Winnie Moore  
Installation Dinner: Michael Paone and  
Nancy Reineking  
Librarian: Jennifer House  
Member Displays: Rick Kennedy  
PLAC (Public Lands Advisory Committee): Bill Spence  
Program: Frank Mullaney & June Harris  
Refreshments: Ed Orekar  
Secret Auction: Donation Receiving  
Comm.  
Sergeant-at-arms: OPEN  
Show 2012: Frank Mullaney,  
Marc Mullaney and Randy Harris  
Show 201: OPEN  
Silent Auction: Julaine Mullaney  
Social: June Harris  
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](http://www.scvgms.org)

Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto: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 November 22, 2011, at the Cabana Club, 100 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95032 at 7:45 PM.***

***Our next board meeting will be on November 22, 2011, immediately following the general meeting.***

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 \$20.00 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](mailto:juneconeyharris@yahoo.com) or by phone at (831) 438-5150. The Breccia is proofread by Randy Harris. Ruth Bailey handles 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

Facet Cutters	Max Casey	(408) 227-0526
Fossileers	Gail Matthews	(650) 962-9960
Jewelers	Marc Mullaney	(408) 691-1584
Mineraleers	Chuck Boblenz	(408) 734-2473
Smithies	Pat Speece	(408) 266-4327

## Randy's Ramblings

## What's in this issue?

I invite all of you to come out to the Cabana Club on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for a "Play Day". We will be working on preparations for the show next April. There are many things to do, including: stuffing rock bags, breaking larger rocks into smaller ones, cutting Thundereggs for the scholarship booth, and several other fun activities. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

The November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be elections and Silent Auction. Please bring items to donate for the auction. It is always a fun time with some spirited bidding for a lot of the items. Proceeds go to the club general fund to offset the costs associated with running the club and for scholarships that we give out at the show.

The nomination committee has given their report on the candidates for the upcoming election which will be held at the next general meeting. There are several committee positions open that are fairly easy to do and don't take much time. Please take some time to consider how you can help. The new president will be calling each of you. This is your club. It works better when many people work together.

The Board has reserved the Cabana Club for our annual Installation Dinner on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We are having it catered by Willow Street. The cost will be \$10 per adult, \$5 for children under 12. The food will be very good and you can't beat the price. Please send in your reservation to Nancy Reineking and Michael Paone so we can order the proper amount of food. The deadline for reservations is the November meeting. We will be having a "Toys for Tots" collection drive, as we have in past years. Please bring an unwrapped gift per person to donate. Let me know if you would like to come early to help decorate the Cabana Club. I hope to see all of you there.

The Field Trip Committee is working on a bus trip, and other trips. Keep checking the Breccia for new information about these and other trips. As always, you can contact Dean Welder by E-mail for more information. There are also several rock sales and shows coming up. These are a great way to enhance your collection without having to go very far.

Randy Harris, President

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## Member displays by Rick Kennedy

There were a number of interesting and varied show and tell this month. David Lowe brought a sample of Galena, Siderite and Pyrite from Leadville, Colorado, courtesy of one Jack Crowley of Reno, Nevada. Jay Rasmussen brought some lovely Jade perfume bottles. Jacquelyn Calderon brought a lovely piece of Blue Jasper. Rick Kennedy brought a very large specimen of Benitoite that will be a heck of a fluorescent specimen. Lynn Toschi brought a sculpture by Big Sur legend Don Wobber. Dennis Phelpse brought a display of cabochons and slabs of Jade from around the world and one of our Juniors, Jason, brought a display he had made for the Science Fair that described and had examples of Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary rocks, great work! November's meeting is a Silent Auction, so bring great rocks, but don't expect to bring them back home with you!! Instead, buy new ones at the auction!

## Rockhound of the month for the month of October was Rick Kennedy

For outstanding service to the organization as an officer and program speaker.

## Braggin' Rights

The theme for October was Jasper.

**Ed Orekar** won the *People's Choice Award* for his Poppy Jasper collection.

**Bill Simpson** won the *Judge's Award* with his intarsia work.

**Next Braggin' Rights contest will be in January and the theme will be the color 'green'.**

## Sunshine

If you know of a society member who has been or is ill, had a death in the family, or has had a great event happen in their life, please contact Ernestine Smith with the news. Ernestine's phone number is (408) 395-5035, or email her at ebotts@juno.com.

## 2012 Slate of SCVGMS Officers and Directors

**President:** Randy Harris

**Vice President:** Rick Kennedy

**Secretary:** RK Owen

**Treasurer:** Frank Mullaney

**Editor:** June Harris

**Fed. Director:** Chuck Boblenz

**Alt. Fed Director:** Ruth Bailey

**Director:** (5 openings available)

Sharon Updyke, David Lowe,  
David Marshall, Victor Gassmann,  
Paul Beaubier

**Historian:** Michael Paone

**Parliamentarian:** Dean Welder

## Silent Auction throughout the November meeting

**Please bring donations of rocks,  
minerals, fossils, jewelry, books, maps,  
plants, or anything else that you think  
will sell well.**

**Questions? Call Julaine Mullaney  
(408) 266-1791**

# Check out what our study groups are doing!!!

## Mineraleers by Chuck Boblenz



The Mineraleer's met on Oct. 11th at the home of Larry and Winnie Moore with six members attending. The history of Specific Gravity and how it is used in the identification of minerals and cut stones was discussed in detail and provided much discussion. A commercial balance beam measurement system was loaned to the group by Bill Gissler and was demonstrated and various specimen were measured. A listing of 90+ different minerals ranked by their Specific Gravity was passed out and copies of an article showing how to make your own balance beam system were made available.

The meeting adjourned and discussions continued in the kitchen where delicious refreshments were served by Winnie. My thanks to the hosts, Winnie and Larry Moore, and to Bill Gissler for the loan of his balance beam Specific Gravity measurement system.

The next Mineraleer meeting is scheduled for Nov. 8th at the home of Ted and Kathi Peverini at 7:30 PM. The topic will be about ONYX.

Hope to see you there.

## Smithies by Pat Speece



**What do the Smithies do?** We make jewelry using a torch, saw, files, polishers, et al. We teach you how and when to use the tools. You are welcome to use our tools, materials, and help. Beginners are always welcome.

Here is our meeting (social workshops/labs) schedule for the rest of the year. Basically, it is the second Monday and following Friday of each month. Time is always 7 to 10pm

November 14 & 18

December 12 & 16

If we need to cancel any of these days, we will email you. If you want to be on the Smithie email list or have any questions, email me.

Thanks, Pat



## Faceters

The Faceters meet on the first Saturday of the month from 9 AM—noon at Max Casey's home. Please call Max at (408) 227-0526 for directions and more information about this group.

## Fossileers

If you have a particular interest in fossils and would like to continue this study group, please contact Gail Matthews at (650) 962-9960 or [glassrockwood@aol.com](mailto:glassrockwood@aol.com).



## Next DRC Rock Sale

### November 12

### 9 AM to noon

2357 Loma Park Court,  
San Jose, CA.

### Lots of new rock material

# 2011 SCVGMS Calendar



**November 14th** Smithies workshop open at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 PM.

**November 18th** Smithies workshop open at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 PM.

**November 22nd** General meeting at 7:45 PM and Board meeting immediately following general meeting. Silent Auction throughout the evening. Please bring items to donate to the silent auction. They can be rock-related or not. Election of 2012 officers and board of directors throughout the evening. Board meeting immediately following the general meeting.

**December 6th** Installation Dinner at the Cabana Club

**December 8th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM, hosted by Randy Harris.

**December 12th** Smithies workshop open at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 PM.

**December 16th** Smithies workshop open at Pat Speece's home from 7-10 PM.

**January 24th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**January 26th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**February 28th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**March 1st** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**March 27th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**March 29th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**April 24th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**April 26th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**May 22nd** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**May 24th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**June 26th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**June 28th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

**July 24th** General meeting at 7:45 PM

**July 26th** Board meeting at 7:30 PM Location to be determined

## Field Trip Schedule

For more information about the field trips below, please contact Dean Welder at [fieldtrips@scvgms.org](mailto:fieldtrips@scvgms.org)

**Nov 24-27 Wiley Wells, CA** - Annual Thanksgiving Rockhound Round-up, Material to be collected: Fire agate, geodes and a large variety of miscellaneous fossils, limestone, jasper, petrified wood, agates and very old stromatolites. Also, we plan to search for the paisley agate beds, black agates and nodules.

## NATURALS FROM THE EARTH SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOME SHOW

**DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH**  
**FROM 10 AM - 4 PM.**

**1819 RONIE WAY,\***  
**SAN JOSE, CA 95124**

(\*RONIE WAY IS OFF OF CAMDEN AVENUE, NEAR CAMDEN/  
BRANHAM LANE/HI 85 INTERSECTIONS.)

WE ARE INVITING YOU, YOUR FAMILY,  
AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US  
FOR THIS SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW.

IT'S SPECIAL BECAUSE WE'RE  
**CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR IN BUSINESS**  
**AND WE'LL GIVE 20% DISCOUNT ON ANY**  
**AND ALL PURCHASES OVER \$20!!!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!  
(IF YOU GET "LOST,"  
CALL US: 408 267 5343/C.P.408 667 6682.)

FRED FISHER AND JOE LATTUADA, CO-OWNERS

# Let's visit a show

## CFMS Club Show Calendar



**November 5-6: CONCORD, CA**, Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society, Centre Concord, 5294 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.), Hours: 10 – 5 Daily, Harry Nichandos, (925) 289-0454, Email: [brs@ccmgs.org](mailto:brs@ccmgs.org)  
Website: [www.ccmgs.org](http://www.ccmgs.org)

**November 5-6 - LANCASTER, CA**, Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club, Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14, Hours: 9-5 daily, Cheri George, (562) 243-8470, Email: [lizardwoman3@yahoo.com](mailto:lizardwoman3@yahoo.com),  
Website: [www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)

**November 5-6 - RIDGECREST, CA**, Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Desert Empire Fairgrounds (Mesquite Hall), 520 West Richmond Road, Hours: 9-5 daily, John DeRosa (760) 375-7905, Email: [IndianWellsGems@hotmail.com](mailto:IndianWellsGems@hotmail.com),  
Website: [www.indianwells.weebly.com](http://www.indianwells.weebly.com)

**November 5-6 - SAN DIEGO, CA**, San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, Hours: Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4, Bob Hancock, (619) 461-5783, (619) 889-6886 cell, Email: [rhhobhancock@cs.com](mailto:rhhobhancock@cs.com),  
Website: [www.sdmgs.org](http://www.sdmgs.org)

**November 11-13: SACRAMENTO, CA**, Sacramento Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Hours: Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4, Stanley Henneman (916) 363-5011, Email: [Lakota27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lakota27@sbcglobal.net),  
Website: [www.sacramentomineralsociety.org](http://www.sacramentomineralsociety.org)

**November 12-13 - YUBA CITY, CA**, Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds (Franklin Hall), 442 Franklin Ave., Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4, Erik Anspaugh (916) 567-9750, Email: [rocks@hughes.net](mailto:rocks@hughes.net),  
Website: [www.sutterbuttes.net](http://www.sutterbuttes.net)

**November 19-20 - OXNARD, CA**, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Hours: Sat 9–5; Sun 10–4, Norb Kinsler, (805) 644-6450  
Email: [show\\_info@oxnardgem.com](mailto:show_info@oxnardgem.com)  
Website: <http://www.oxnardgem.com>

**December 3-4: BARSTOW, CA**, Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society, Barstow Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Hours: 10–5 daily, Gene Haines (760) 256-0595, Email: [vhaines@san.rr.com](mailto:vhaines@san.rr.com), Website: [www.mdgms.org](http://www.mdgms.org)

### 2012 CFMS club shows

**February 17-26: INDIO, CA**, San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1, Arabia Street, Hours: 10-10 daily, Bert Grisham (915) 849-1674, Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

**March 2-4: NEWARK, CA**, Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Avenue, Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5, Cathy Miller, (510) 887-9007, Email: [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org), Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

**March 5-6: ARCADIA, CA**, Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc., LA County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Hours: 9 - 4:30 daily, Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624, Email: [joannaritchey@gmail.com](mailto:joannaritchey@gmail.com),  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

**March 3-4: VENTURA, CA**, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4, Rob Sankovich, (805) 494-7734, Email: [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net), Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**March 10-11: TURLOCK, CA**, Mother Lode Mineral Society, Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 North Broadway, Hours: Hours 10 - 5 daily, Terry & Bud McMillin, (209) 524-3494, Email: [bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com](mailto:bud.mcmillin.b7y@statefarm.com),  
Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

**March 10-11: SALINAS (Spreckels), CA**, Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club, Veteran's Hall, Spreckels, CA, 5th & Llano Streets, Hours: 10 - 5 daily, Robert L. Braun, (831) 771-2089

**March 24-25: ANGELS CAMP, CA**, Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Calaveras Co. Fairgrounds (Frog Town USA), 101 Frogtown Road, Hours: Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4, Tak Iwata, (209) 928-5579, Email: [Tak2me@msn.com](mailto:Tak2me@msn.com), Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

**April 20-22: SAN JOSE, CA**, Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 334 Tully Road, Hours: Fri 9 – 5; Sat & Sun 10 – 5, Phone: (408) 265-1422, Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org), Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**April 28-29: LANCASTER, CA**, Antelope Gem & Mineral Society, Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West, Hours: 9 - 5 daily, CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092, [cjq\\_62@yahoo.com](mailto:cjq_62@yahoo.com), Rod Skillings, (661) 400-5198 [rodneyskillings@ymail.com](mailto:rodneyskillings@ymail.com),  
Website: [www.avgem.weebly.com](http://www.avgem.weebly.com)

**June 30-July 1: CULVER CITY, CA**, Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave (Overland & Culver), Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5, Robert Thirlaway, (310) 462-2269, Email: [fiestaofgems@gmail.com](mailto:fiestaofgems@gmail.com),  
Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org)

### 2012 Federation Shows

**Eastern Federation** show, September 15-16, 2012 in Harrisburg, PA

**AFMS and Midwest Federation** show, July 26-29, 2012 in Wayzata, MN

**Northwest Federation** show, May 18-20, 2012 in Kennewick, WA

**California Federation** show, July 13-15 in Riverside CA

### 2013 Federation Shows

## **Your Collection (Installment #3)**

### **By Chuck Boblenz**

Now that we have progressed this far, are you ready for another installment? If so, then let us get started.

I hope you took the earlier suggestion to set aside a 2 foot by 4 foot section of a table or work bench. This area shows you what amount of space you will have available in a club show case. This is an excellent place to set out your collection and arrange it to best show your choices.

The suggestion to place this somewhere out of the normal day-to-day travel area of your home is so that you can make changes as you might walk by and decide that something needs to be better located elsewhere; then you can change it and see if your idea was correct. If not, then you can immediately put it back and consider other places that may be more appealing.

Once you feel comfortable with the cases layout I further recommend that you make a sketch on a piece of paper that you may have at hand. In fact, a faster way would be to take a digital picture of it. Much faster than drawing, much more accurate and can be updated rapidly, don't you agree?

Next let us address whether labels are needed or not.

If your collection is entirely carved giraffe's, then maybe a label is not needed; but, if your case has a variety of different giraffe carvings, it might be nice to label what the material that the carvings was made of. Something to guide the casual viewer about your case.

Now labels can be made as simple and as complicated as one wants. That is, you can hand write this information onto a sheet of printer paper and place it into the case alongside your specimen; however,

the lighting in the case is provided by 150 watts of light. There is enough heat generated by these bulbs to cause printer paper to curl. Let me tell you, they can really curl; and just when and where you do not wish them to.

Poster paper is a good material to use. It is sturdier and resists curling, can be written on and/or can have a typed label rubber glued to it and look extremely well in your case and provide the information we are speaking of.

Another style of label is to print your information and rubber cement it to matt board. Make sure to press and/or roll the paper to the board and let it dry overnight. Then use a Xacto knife to cut out the label. If you are making a large number of labels, then you may find your arm gets tired with all the cutting and that there are muscles that you forgot you had there. But, your labels will look very neat and orderly and professional and will add a lot in presenting your collection.

The method of making and using labels for your display are numerous and can be limited only by your imagination; so give it some thought and you may have some other ideas that will work well with your collection.

Now, one last thing, take your freshly made labels and place them where you wish on your layout space with your specimen.

It looks nice and you are seeing fruits from all your thoughts and efforts.

Your case will be an excellent addition to our show and one you will be very proud.

I hope to see your case there.



# 1st AFMS JUDGES TRAINING SEMINAR AT A REGIONAL LOCAL SHOW

Dee Holland, AFMS Judges Training Chair  
beauholland@centurytel.net  
via CFMS newsletter, 11/11.

This will be the first AFMS Judges Training Seminar in a local regional setting.

At Syracuse, 2011, the Directors approved a three year program to "take it to the Regional Federation club show". Because of the rising cost of transportation for many of those who would like to attend this program, it was decided to try a different approach.

The Reno Gem & Mineral Society, of Reno, Nevada stepped up and offered their show site for this program for May, 2012. You will have two options when attending this event. You can stay at the Holiday Inn, Sparks/Reno Hotel. Call or contact the Hotel at: (775) 358-6900 – tell them you are with the AFMS Judges Training Seminar – for a total cost of \$75. per night for a king room or 2 queen room which includes taxes. Or you can make arrangements for camping space at the Reno club's show site, Reno Events Center. This is a separate application and will be up on the amfed.org website as soon as the club has it ready (there is no camping at the hotel site, per city regulations)

If attending, you may bring an exhibit, once again, a separate application from the Reno club is pending, and will be on the amfed.org website as soon as possible (this Reno application may be on one application page with camping). The club has a LIMITED SUPPLY OF EXHIBIT CASES, but are on a "first come, first serve" basis.

As in the past, one person from each Regional Federation will receive a stipend of \$350. to offset their expenses. The person receiving this will be determined by the Judges Training Chair from the applications received. This will not be paid until after the end of the class. All others who wish to attend will have to pay their own expenses. Everyone attending will have to pay \$20. for the classes and includes lunch Friday and Saturday. The Holiday Inn has a restaurant on the premises for breakfast and dinner. We are fortunate in having Jay Bowman, who has done the class instruction since the inception of these training programs again be the instructor. Jay brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to this special event.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 16, 2012 All applications received, will be confirmed by Dee Holland.

## SAFETY

by Bill Buckner

From AFMS Newsletter, 6/2003; via CFMS newsletter, 11/11.

Concerns of safety issues in our shops, studios, or whatever we call our places where we work with lapidary concerns and jewelry making.

**Ventilation:** either have enough room or have some way to get enough fresh air that there is no danger of breathing problems.

**Eye safety:** a pair of safety glasses (either prescription or goggles) are needed when using machinery and rocks or minerals. In breaking stones, sawing stones, grinding stones, or polishing stones small pieces of rock could hit your eye and cause damage.

**Chemicals that we use:** care should be taken to be extremely safety minded when we use these toxic chemicals. Follow directions on the containers. Most chemicals that mix with water should be mixed into water, not water added to the chemicals.

**Storage of chemicals:** they should always be stored in a safe place with a good cover on them and out of reach of small children. I try to store mine in a wood rack with wooden dividers between the bottles or containers. They should always be labeled properly.

### A few DO NOT'S:

- **Do not** store gasoline or use it in a room where there is a gas water heater or any gas appliances with pilot lights.
- **Do not** haul acetylene in a closed trunk or car or truck cab without at least two windows open at least two inches. When there is an acetylene leak enough gas might build up to cause an explosion.
- **Do not** try to use tools or torches when you are drowsy from medication. In fact it is a good idea to rest a little while before you go into your shop if you feel tired or sleepy.
- **Do not** forget ventilation.

### Some DO'S:

- **Do** be careful.
- **Do** have a good time.
- **Do** good work.
- **Do** be available to help someone who needs it.
- **Do** share your love of your hobby with others.

Be careful and do good work.

## **Dendrites vs. Moss Agate: Orbicular Jasper vs. Polka Dot Agate**

from The Petroglyph, June 2003; via Palomar Gem, February, 2011; via Gem Cutters News, March 2011

We are usually delighted, but not surprised to find inclusions in crystal, eg. Quartz of one color or another, rutile, sagenite and "stars". The appearance of inclusions is obscured, our imagination takes hold.

Chalcedony (clear to cloudy), agates, (clear but usually banded) are all variations of silica oxides, with hardness between 6 and 7, which makes them very suitable for polishing. They may all have included material, and the nature of the inclusion is dictated by the composition of the host rock material and the manner of rock formation.

Dendritic chalcedony and moss agate are terms of names frequently applied to the same material. They are basically similar, but dendrites can form not only in chalcedony and agate, but also on limestone and soapstone and some sandstones. The dendrites form on a surface and are two-dimensional, like snowflakes or frost crystals on a windowpane. If the rock is chalcedony, the dendrite forms on the surface, but more chalcedony may entomb it. The dendrites are usually earthy, black, brown, or reddish, but near Four Corners, in the eastern Mojave, near the junction of Hwy 58 and Hwy 395, rockhounds reportedly find blue.

The "mosses" of moss agate, not organic material at all but chlorite or celadonite are visible impurities in agate. Scientists attempt to distinguish between the two by determining, if possible, whether the dendrite/moss or the material rock formed first. The moss forms while chalcedony is still gel like and can then form three-dimensional shapes with the stone. Moss agate, also widely distributed, can be a variety of colors, green, black, white, red, orange, and tan. It

is widely used in jewelry, and polishes beautifully, if care is taken not to cut into and pluck the moss.

Multi-colored balls can appear in rhyolite flows. Rhyolite is a fine grained igneous rock, if it contains sufficient silica to take a brilliant polish, and is sometimes called jasper. Orbicular material usually appears as a mass of rhyolite that has silicate. As the rhyolite cools, sometimes excess silica starts to precipitate out of the magma, forming spherical balls. The ball shape is the form that is extremely concentrated silica (cristobalite) takes, as opposed to the crystal form in diluted concentrations. However any material that by composition or consistency is immiscible (not mixable) with the host magma will also form balls.

Regional metamorphism can also form orbicular jaspers. We hear. Names like Rainforest Jasper from Australia, Leopard Skinned Jasper from Mexico, Poppy Jasper from California, and Ocean Jasper from Madagascar. We may find one color surrounding another, or bands of balls, veils of lighter colors straining the background. Polka Dot Agate, from Oregon, has iron rich spheres floating in a snowy, extremely fine grained jasper, along with veils of golden brown. The material is so fine-grained it is almost chert and resembles porcelain.

The rock distinction of jasper and chert is: if it's attractive, it's jasper; if it's dull, it's chert. Some jasper represents replaced limestone or dolomite, some occurs as nodules, and sometimes it is part of gangue of mineral deposits by hydrothermal or metasomatic processes.

Agates are translucent and usually banded, with sub-vitreous luster; Jasper is opaque with a dull to pearly luster; to a rockhound, jaspagate is a fine mixture of the beautiful oxides.

## Do You Know Your State Stones?

By Dolores E. Rose, Grand Island Earth Science Society member, via GI Nugget, 10/2004.

At the MWF convention banquet, in April of 2004, we played a game of "Rockhound Jeopardy." One of the categories was "State Stones." Everyone groaned when we all learned this was a category. It seems we were all a little bit "rusty" on this subject. As a result, not many points were scored in this category, except for the few questions that were asked to members that were present from those states. I decided research was in order to find out what the state stones were. I discovered that it was quite intimidating trying to remember all this information. I decided to break it down into more digestible bites by learning the state stones from each federation, starting of course, with my own federation, the Midwest Federation.

The **Midwest Federation** consists of eleven states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (eastern portion of state), North Dakota (eastern portion of state), Ohio, South Dakota (eastern portion of state), and Wisconsin.

**Illinois** has no state rock, only a state mineral, which is **Fluorite**. **Indiana** has a state rock, which is **Limestone**. **Iowa** has a state rock, the (Keokuk) **geode**. **Michigan** has a state rock, the **Petosky Stone** and a state gemstone of **Chlorastrolite** (also known as Greenstone or Isle Royal Greenstone). **Minnesota's** state gemstone is the **Lake Superior Agate**, and they do not have a state rock. **Nebraska's** state rock is the **Prairie Agate**, and their state gemstone is the **Nebraska Blue Agate** (also known as Blue Chalcedony). **North Dakota** has no state rock or gemstone, only a state fossil, **Teredo Petrified Wood**. **Ohio** has only a state gemstone, **Ohio Flint**. **South Dakota** has a state gemstone, the **Fairburn Agate**, and a state mineral, **Rose Quartz**, but no state rock. **Wisconsin** has a state rock, **Red Granite**, and a state gemstone, **Ruby**.

The **Rocky Mountain Federation** consists of ten states: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska (western portion of state), New Mexico, North Dakota (western portion of state), Oklahoma, South Dakota (western portion of state), Utah, and Wyoming. We already learned the state stone of Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as they were learned in the MWF section. That leaves seven new states to learn from this federation.

**Arizona** has no state rock but a state gemstone of **Turquoise** and a state mineral of **Fire Agate**. **Colorado's** state rock is **Yule Marble**, a state gemstone of **Rhodocrosite**, and a state mineral of **Aquamarine**. **Kansas** has no state stone, mineral or gemstone. **New Mexico's** state gemstone is **Turquoise** but has no state rock. **Oklahoma** has a state rock, the **Barite "Rose"**. **Utah's** state rock is **Coal**, its state gemstone is **Topaz**, and its state mineral is **Copper**. **Wyoming** has a state gemstone, which is **Nephrite Jade**, but no state rock or mineral.

The **Northwest Federation** consists of five states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington. **Alaska** has a state gemstone of **Jade**, a state mineral of **Gold**, but no state rock. **Idaho** only has a state gemstone, which is **Star Garnet**. **Montana** has two state gemstones, **Montana Agate**, and **Yogo Sapphire**, and not state rock. **Oregon** has only a state gemstone, which is **Sunstone**. **Washington** has only a state gemstone, **Petrified Wood**.

The **California Federation** consists of three states: California, Hawaii, and Nevada. **California's** state rock is **Serpentine**, its state mineral is **Native Gold**, and its state gemstone is **Benitoite**. **Hawaii** has only a state gemstone, which is **Black Coral**. **Nevada** has **Sandstone** as its state rock. It has several state gemstone: **Nevada Turquoise**, **Peridot**, **Virgin Valley Opal**. Its state mineral is **Silver**.

*continued on page 12*

continued from page 11

The **South Central Federation** consists of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. **Arkansas** has a state stone, which is **Bauxite**, a state gemstone, which is **Diamond**, and a state mineral which is **Quartz**. **Louisiana** has only a state gemstone, the **Louisiana Banded Agate**. **Texas** has a state stone, **Petrified Palmwood**, and a state gemstone, **Blue Topaz**.

The **Southeast Federation** consists of seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. **Alabama's** state stone is **Marble**. Its state gemstone is **Star Blue Quartz**, and its state mineral is **Hematite**. **Florida's** state stone is **Agatized Coral**, and its state gemstone is **Moonstone**. **Georgia** has no state stone, but has a state gemstone, **Quartz**, and a state mineral, **Staurolite**. **Mississippi's** state stone is **Petrified Wood**. **North Carolina's** state stone is **Granite**, and its state gemstone is **Emerald**. **South Carolina's** state stone is **Blue Granite**. The state gemstone is **Amethyst**. **Tennessee** has two state stones, the **Agate** and **Tennessee Limestone**. It also has a state gemstone, the **Tennessee Pearl**.

The largest federation of all is the **Eastern Federation**, which consists of fourteen states: Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. The District of Columbia is also included in the Eastern Federation, but is not considered a state, and therefore, has no state stone. **Connecticut** does not have a state rock, only a state gemstone, **Garnet**. **Delaware's** state rock is **Sillimanite**. **Kentucky** has a state stone, which is the **Kentucky Agate**, and a state mineral, **Coal**, as well as a state gemstone, **Freshwater Pearl**. **Maine** has only a state gemstone, **Tourmaline**. **Maryland** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **Massachusetts** has a state stone, **Roxbury Pudding Stone** (Jasper), a state gemstone,

**Rhodonite**, and a state mineral **Babingtonite**. **New Hampshire's** state stone is **Conway Granite**, its state gemstone is **Smokey Quartz**; and its state mineral is Beryl. **New Jersey** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **New York** has no state rock but has listed several state gemstones: **Garnet**, **Button Tourmaline** and **Moonstone**. It has a state mineral, **Hematite**. **Pennsylvania** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **Rhode Island** has a state rock, **Cumberlandite**, and a state mineral, **Bowenite**. **Vermont** has several state stones listed: **Marble**, **Slate**, and **Granite**. It also has a state gemstone, **Grossular Garnet**; and a state mineral, **Talc**. **Virginia** has no state stone, gemstone, or mineral. **West Virginia** has only a state gemstone, **Lithostrotionella**.

The learning experience of discovering state stones also led me to a better understanding of the layout of all the federations; a twofold lesson. I discovered that it was much easier to study by taking them in the smaller groups and digesting all the information in small bites. We have two federations with only three states, the South Central and California. All that information will be easier to memorize. The Rocky Mountain Federation has one state with no state stone, gemstone, or mineral, and that is Kansas. Remembering all the Eastern Federation state stones will be a greater challenge; however, the Eastern Federation has Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia that have no state stones, gemstone, or mineral. That brings the total states to learn down to nine instead of fourteen, a much easier bite to digest. I feel much more confident now if a game of rock-hound Jeopardy is played with the category of "State Stones."

References: <http://www.amfed.org>  
[http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors\\_corner/offmin.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/offmin.htm)  
<http://www.jewelrystore.com/stategems.html>

## Red Quartz and Blue Quartz

by Steven Wade Veatch, from Pick and Pack, September, 2009; via Gem Cuttters News, March 2011

Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) is a common mineral found in all three classes of rocks (igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary) in many environments, and in a range of colors. Rose and blue quartz are less common than some of the other varieties. Rose Quartz has a pale pink to rose red color thought to be caused by trace amounts of titanium that absorbs all colors except pink. This may account for its rosy color. In a laboratory experiment, samples of rose quartz from several localities were carefully dissolved in acid. The remaining insoluble residue consisted of thin microfibrils. These fibrils may also be responsible for the color of rose quartz.

Well-formed rose quartz crystals are rarely found in nature. Rose quartz is generally found in massive chunks associated with pegmatites. The term pegmatites refers to exceptionally coarse-grained crystalline granite. Since rose quartz is cloudy, it is not popular as a faceted gem, but it is commonly formed into cabochons, rounded into beads for necklaces, or carved into various objects.

Rose quartz has been named as South Dakota's official state mineral. Here rockhounds have a good chance to find specimens ranging from shades of light pink to rose-red. Some rose quartzes from South Dakota have a distinctive asterism, a star shaped display of light on the polished surface.

Blue quartz, with a deep to sky blue color, is packed with tiny grains such as rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ) and ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ). Other inclusions might include tourmaline, crocidolite, magnesioriebeckite, zoisite, and several others. Some researchers hypothesize that the blue color comes from the Rayleigh scattering of light by these microscopic inclusions. Rayleigh scattering selectively scatters visible light of the shorter blue wavelength. However, the cause of the blue color still remains uncertain. Blue quartz has a waxy luster and sometimes displays asterism.

Blue quartz occurs at a number of localities. In Llano County, Texas, blue quartz is found as small, doubly-terminated crystal in a rhyolitic porphyry informally called Llanoite. The crystals

weather out of the host rock and can easily be collected. Blue quartz is also found in a diorite near the Dairyland Power Dam near Tony, Wisconsin. Blue quartz was recently discovered in the Cushing Point Formation at Peak's Island, Maine. The specimens there have inclusions with the chemistry of biotite. In the past, biotite has not been listed as a possible inclusion. Research now suggests that the inclusion of biotite on Peak's Island may be responsible for giving crystals its blue color. Blue quartz is associated with pegmatites of the Cape Ann Granite at Andrew's Point in Rockport, Massachusetts. The author has found blue quartz at two Colorado locations: Park County near Hartsel and on the tailings of the Bull Domingo Mine in Custer County north-east of Silvercliff. A famous site - Antequera- near Malaga, Spain yields translucent crystal of intensely blue quartz.

While some varieties of quartz are well-known, such as amethyst and smoky quartz, blue quartz is a lesser known variety. The sapphire-blue quartz is wonderful to behold and exciting to find in the field. The rich blue colors hold your attention and move you to plan a collecting trip. The variable rose colors beckon the collector to cut and polish slabs of rose quartz rough. Both varieties of quartz truly deserve a spot in your collection.

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## Shop Hints Vinegar, Not Just for Salads

via Rock Chip Reporter, 8/2011

One way to remove carbonates such as calcite from quartz and amethyst is to cover the specimen with fresh vinegar and allow to stand overnight. Repeat if necessary. Wash and then place crystals in washing type ammonia for 8-12 hours. Remove, rinse thoroughly, wipe and air dry. *from Rock pile, via del Air Bulletin 9/07.*

When using chrome oxide for polishing jade, mix it with a solution of 1/2 water and 1/2 vinegar. *from crystal gaze, via Del Air Bulletin 9/07.*

For the gloss finish on tiger eye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let it stand for a few minutes, then give it a second polish. *from Rock Lore, via Del Air Bulletin 9/07.*

If you have sore hands from hard rock mining, soak your hands in warm vinegar water and the swelling and soreness will disappear. *from Chips and Facets, via del Air Bulletin 9/07.*

Dark Household vinegar will dissolve epoxy glue by soaking overnight. *from golden spike, via Del Air Bulletin 9/07*

*Beware: Carbonate minerals, such as dolomite or calcite are attacked by acids, leaving only a pile of mud where your stone was. Malachite is copper carbonate and is therefore subject to a corrosive effect, caused by even a weak acid. If unsure, test with a less valuable piece before using any acid, even vinegar on a stone. Via Del Air Bulletin, 9/07*

## Polishing Tips

via Rock Chip Reporter, 8/2011

Using material of equal hardness, and high quality stones will give you the best result. After first coarse run, remove any stones with pits or those not completely shaped. Run these again with coarse grit run. Hard material 80—100—220—400; Medium hard material 100—220—400; or soft 220—400—600. Wash everything thoroughly between each change of grit. *via MLMS Ghost Sheet 5/2010.*

### Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society General meeting minutes October 25th, 2011

The October meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 7:45 pm at the Cabana Club. The minutes from the August meeting were approved as printed in the Breccia.

**Announcements:** The Installation Dinner is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>. Reservation forms are due by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a play day on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 3:00 at the Cabana Club.

**"Bragging Rights"** contest: The theme for October was Jasper, we had numerous entries for both the People's Choice and for the Judges Award. The results will be printed in the Breccia. The theme for January is "Green". Let's see what we can do with that! The November meeting will be a Silent Auction and elections. The October board meeting will be at Dean and Karen Welder's home, hosted by Dean Welder.

**Correspondence:** Rick Kennedy brought discount passes for the Sacramento Gem Show.

**Awards:** The Rockhound of the Month Award for September was awarded to Rick Kennedy. The People's Choice winner from September's **Bragging Rights** contest was Lynn Toschi and the Judge's Award went to Rick Kennedy

**Nominating Committee:** Jennifer House submitted the committee's recommendations for the different Board positions for 2012.

**Sunshine:** June Harris' knee replacement surgery was

a success, she was even at the meeting to report it. Frank Mullaney had a brief hospital stay.

**Study Groups: Juniors:** Had their first meeting before our general meeting and several of the juniors got up in front of the general meeting to talk about rocks they had brought. **Jewelers:** On hiatus. **Cutaways and Carvers:** Looking for a new leader. **Stringers:** Starting up in January with a new leader. **Smithies:** At Pat Speece's home the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday and following Friday of the month (Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) from 7:00 – 10:00PM. **Facifers:** At Max Casey's home, October (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>). **Mineraleers:** Next meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at Ted and Kathy Peverini's home. The topic is Onyx

**DRC Report:** There will be a Rock sale on October 29<sup>th</sup> and another sale planned for November 12<sup>th</sup>. The DRC has received lots of new rocks and also some very nice pieces of equipment.

**Hospitality:** 62 members and 11 guests were in attendance.

**PLAC:** Presented by Bill Spence. "In a nutshell, it's Alt D; RoD in December; implementation in January 2012. No off-roading; street-legal vehicles only. Also the town of New Idria has become a Superfund site, which will likely end access to the CCMA from that direction.

**Federation Report:** Presented by Ruth Bailey. There will be a fall business meeting November 11 - 13, held in Visalia.

**Field Trips:** There will be the annual Thanksgiving trip to Wiley Wells. Also, the Peninsular Gem and Geology Society will be having a field trip on November 5-6 to the Black Butte Reservoir area and will collect a few localities. Please check the Breccia for a full list of upcoming field trips. Dean Welder would appreciate email correspondence rather than phone calls during the day

**2012 Show:** Business cards, posters and post cards are available. We need everybody's help! Email or call Frank Mullaney or Randy Harris to let them know how you can help... and if you don't know, they are quite resourceful and will be happy to find ways in which we all can help!! Also, don't forget to sign up to show off your favorite rock related stuff by putting up a display case!

**Member Displays:** There were a number of interesting and varied show and tell this month. David Lowe brought a sample of Galena, Siderite and Pyrite from Leadville, Colorado, courtesy of one Jack Crowley of Reno, Nevada. Jay Rasmussen brought some lovely Jade perfume bottles. Jacquelyn Calderon brought a lovely piece of Blue Jasper. Rick Kennedy brought a very large specimen of Benitoite that will be a heck of a fluorescent specimen. Lynn Toschi brought a sculpture by Big Sur legend Don Wobber. Dennis Phelpse brought a display of cabochons and slabs of Jade from around the world and one of our Juniors, Jason, brought a display he had made for the Science Fair that described and had examples of Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary rocks, great work! November's meeting is a Silent Auction, so bring great rocks, but don't expect to bring them back home with you!! Instead, buy new ones at the auction!

**Program:** Dave Edlunds presented a very entertaining program about Jade Cove. For those of us who feel that some of our classic Central California collecting areas are picked thin, Dave and his friend showed a treasure trove of fantastic Jade, all collected in the last four of five years! Very impressive.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 9:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kennedy SCVGMS Secretary

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### SCVGMS Board Meeting October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM at the home of Dean and Karen Welder, hosted by Dean Welder.

**Roll Call:** All board members were present except Marc Mullaney and David Lowe. M/S/P to accept the September 29<sup>th</sup> minutes as read (F. Mullaney, R. Bailey)

**New Members:** No new members

**Correspondence:** Letter from Chuck Boblenz Re: Lifetime membership for Jim and Diana Nelson

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Frank Mullaney. M/S/P to pay the bills as presented (R. Kennedy, R. Bailey).

**Committee Reports: Re: Nominations:** Marc Mullaney (Past President) has been unable to attend board meetings, his position is declared vacant and will be filled in the general election. **Show 2012:** The Facebook page for the club is up and running. There will be a show meeting at the November 20<sup>th</sup> Play Day and the club will be buying Togo's sandwiches for those who attend the Play Day. 130 – 140 pounds of geodes were

purchased from the Frank Monez sale for the Scholarship Booth. Frank Mullaney has received the ticket blanks and will be having them printed soon. M/S/P for the club to buy flashlights (9 LED) to give to the people who enter displays at our show (R. Bailey, D. Welder). Max Casey has been investigating different camera systems for security purposes. He gave a report and will continue his research.

**Field Trips:** There was discussion of possible sites for the club to host a NBFT collecting trip.

**Old Business:**

**Bragging Rights Contest Update** – Results of the October’s **Bragging Rights** contest: People’s Choice: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Ed Orekar. Judged: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Bill Simpson. There were several entries in each category. There will be no contest in November or December, January’s theme is “Green”.

**Science Fairs – Savings bond info:** Shelved for the time being

**Juniors Program:** Sharon Updike is looking for volunteers to assist with the Juniors program. October was the first month for the Junior’s to meet and it was a very successful meeting with many Juniors and their parents.

**New Business:**

**Lifetime Membership:** M/S/P to award lifetime membership to Jim and Diana Nelson (F. Mullaney, R. Bailey)

**Nominating Committee:** M/S/P to reinstate three members who were dropped in error (F. Mullaney, C. Boblenz).

**Awards:** Frank Mullaney picked up the trophy for the Char Choate Award.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM (D. Welder)

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kennedy, SCVGMS Secretary

SCVGMS Treasurer’s Report  
October , 26, 2011

Beginning Balance: \$20,464.77

Receipts

Initiation Fee	\$ 5.00
Gum Ball Machine	\$ 40.50
Dues	\$ 115.00
2012 Dealer deposit	\$3,945.00
Interest	\$ .15
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$4,105.65</b>

Disbursements

Phone Bill	\$ 13.60
2012 show posters	\$ 27.48
Advertising	\$ 75.58
Show tickets	\$ 32.70
Tickets for show	\$131.90
Cakes for October meeting	\$ 35.98
October meeting speaker	\$ 50.00
Website fees	\$119.88
Phone Bill	\$ 15.43
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$502.55</b>

Ending Balance \$24,067.87