



BRECCIA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral
Society

Volume 72 Number 5, May 2024

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September 10

Special Meeting at 6 PM

Gabriela Farfang, a former SCVGMS scholarship recipient, who is now Curator of the Smithsonian Gem and Mineral Collection, will present to the club at a Zoom meeting Tuesday, Sept 10 at 6 PM PDT. We will record the session and make it available to everyone at the regular September meeting on the 24th.

See the [Editor's Message](#) for the Zoom meeting information.

Events

May 28: The General Membership Meeting will feature a **silent auction with member contributions**. The Bragging Rights theme is "Purple".

June 4: Board Meeting on Zoom.

June 25: General Membership Meeting will feature **Phil Kesten**, talking about Tungsten.

July 2: Board Meeting on Zoom.

Smithies resuming soon!

Contact Pat at 408-332-6665 (text/phone) or pat.speece@comcast.net.

Editor's Message

Hi All,

I had hoped to be able to write up the SJSU Students' presentations, but time has conspired against me. As **Jim Herbold** says in his [Prez Message](#), the presentations were great! All four students obviously know and enjoy what they are doing; and express themselves very well.

Jim has scored a victory for the club! Gabriela Farfang, a former SCVGMS scholarship recipient, who is now Curator of the Smithsonian Gem and Mineral Collection, will present to the club at a Zoom meeting Tuesday, September 10, at 6 PM PDT. We will record the session and make it available to everyone at the regular September meeting on the 24th. All who can, please join on September 10th:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81038472632?pwd=ajZHNL5pbaD3yp4ZqKI9aotAeHfE0h.1>

Meeting ID: 810 3847 2632

Passcode: 781416

Do you have anything that other members might enjoy?

Deb Runyan, Breccia Editor

editor@scvgms.org, 408-628-7789

Rockhound of the Month

Our rockhound of the month is **Cathy May**. There was a never ending line of people wanting to have their geodes cracked, and she continued to crack them with only one quick break. She was great with both the kids and the parents, with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She was also very helpful when it came to the tear down.



Smiles

Did you know that overweight female rockhounds survive longer than male rockhounds who mention it?

Carrots may be good for your eyes, but booze will double your vision.

Did you know muffins spelled backwards is what you do when you take them out of the oven?

How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.

Sunshine



Steven May's Son, Alan was in a truck accident. Luckily he and 3 friends are all OK, but Dad's truck was totaled. Glad you're OK Alan, but you'll have to buy your Dad a new truck!

Kelly Van Vleck 1990 and **Chuck Boblenz** 1977 were both long time active members. Chuck was also a lifetime member. Chuck gave the most detailed presentations that I had ever been to. He was also very rock knowledgeable. Kelly loved pearls and had made a lot of jewelry with them and other interesting beads, which I was lucky enough to see. Chuck and Kelly were always willing to volunteer for our annual Shows. They were great guys and they will be missed by all who knew them. Our thoughts and prayers to the families.

The following is a tribute written by **John Bahr** who knew them both very well.

Kelly, A great friend

Taught basic and more of silver smithing / stone setting / etc. to me and many others.

Kelly got a big kick out of the finished products that his students completed.

We met on quite a few rock adventures.

My first Quartzite.... I got there just in time for dinner and was very surprised to see a tablecloth on the table in the middle of the desert on Kelly and Jan's table!

Kelly's hot links were great!!

Kelly, thanks for the fun and the memories!!

Chuck

As a newB rock collector, Chuck taught me Rock Collecting -- 101

He was down to earth and interesting.

One of the many collecting "Chuck Facts" that has always stuck with me when I am collecting –

The important characteristic beginning collectors may miss besides the obvious is 'Heft' – the heavier / denser the rock is – the more likely it is to be better material than lighter material for lapidary.

I also really liked Chuck's collecting stories!

Thanks, Chuck

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

Field Trips

Note: Driving times are from Campbell and are approximate.

June 3, Mon: Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, Denio, NV, 9-hour drive, with tolls
3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per scoop. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 7, Fri: Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, NV, 8.5-hour drive with tolls.
3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per spot. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 11 – 23: “Co-Op Member” Field Trips to Central Oregon

June 11: Optional trip to Plush, OR, for sunstones

June 12: Opal mine fee dig near La Pine, OR, for honey-colored opal

June 13 – 16: See the Pow Wow info below.

June 17: Visit The John Day Fossil Beds (museum only, no collecting) well east of Prineville, the Biggs Jasper (which is a fee dig at \$5 per pound) and Fossil (right behind the high school)

June 18 – 19: To Be Determined.

June 20 – 23: Madras, OR show fieldtrips.

Contact: Kevin Kirschman (kkirschman@prodigy.net).

June 13 – 16, Thu – Sun: Prineville, OR, 10-hour drive.

Pow Wow Field Trips.

A 4-day Rock Show and 3 Field Trips, Fri (6/14), Sat (6/15), Sun (6/16). Locations to be announced.

August 3 – 9, Sat – Fri: Delta, UT, 11.5-hours drive through Reno; 13-hours through Las Vegas
Dugway Geodes, Topaz Mountain, Drum Mountain agate, Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings

2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely, NV, on the way home.

Proposed for a time in the future: Ocean View Mine, San Diego Area, 7- to 8-hour drive
Tourmaline and Quartz



Special Award

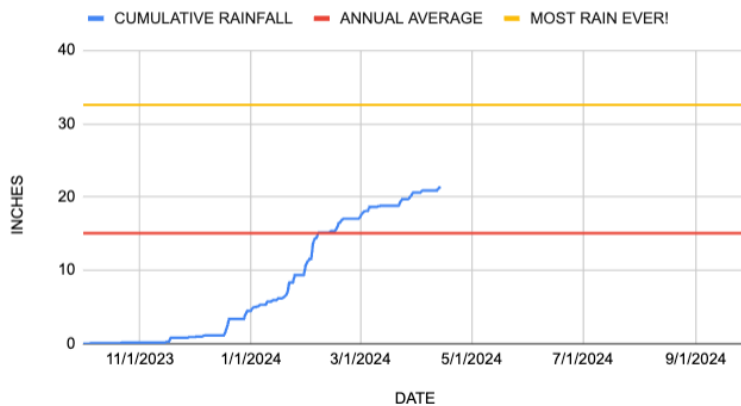
Frank Mullaney presented **Michele Smith** with a large crystal cluster with an attached plaque thanking her for all the hard work creating a great show in 2024.

May 2024 Breccia Prez Message

Hello, SCVGMS Members and Friends!

I love spring in California. Many of us perk up with spring's increase in sunlight and warming temperatures and all the greenery. But I do enjoy winter's last few low pressure fronts, with their colder Arctic air and spring showers that will likely be the last we see until October. I have a rain gauge in my yard, and I can tell you with absolute accuracy that my personal microclimate received rainfall at 141.55% of average this rain year. Last year was 206.43% of average in my backyard, so that makes two drought-busting winters in a row. I will also reveal that I really enjoy driving by reservoirs when they are full. Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos is full and that makes me smile. And there's not many water lines left around the top of the San Luis Reservoir - I saw that one recently driving over to Interstate 5 to head south to LA. I looked up San Luis Dam levels today - it is 86% full right now and is the only major reservoir in California that is not above 100% of historical average right now.

Jim's House, San Jose, CA - '23/'24 Rain Season



Rainfall tracking and graphing is fun, and I love wet winters and data that goes up and to the right.

I really enjoyed the general meeting that we had on April 23rd, and I heard nothing but positive comments from members after it was held. I was told by many that this was the best-ever set of presentations from scholarship/grant recipients. I want to congratulate each of the students for their impressive and varied work in geology, and say how happy I am that the Club gives out grants to students like these. Here's a run down of what we heard about:

Suzy Brookshire: Second Year Grad student researching West Fork Carson River and the installation and environmental benefits of Beaver Dam Analogs.

Frankie Gutierrez: Undergrad Senior studying volcanic glass samples taken from core samples in the Antarctic.

Derek Mena Godoy: Paleontologist who has worked at the La Brea Tar Pits, and now studies changes in the marine fossil record in Mississippi.

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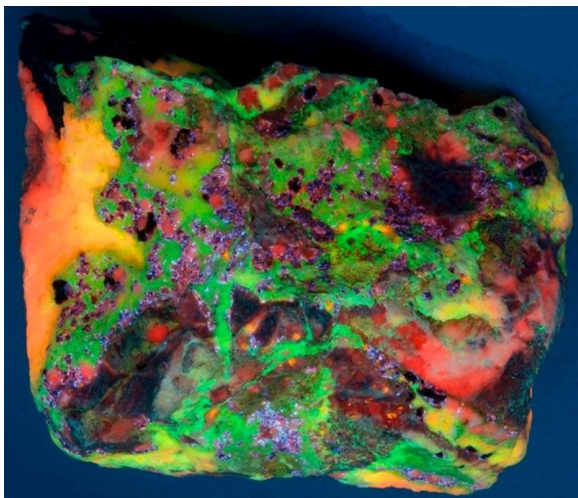
Melissa Schott : Undergrad Senior in hydrogeology studying hot and cold springs in Henry Coe State Park, submarine volcanos off the coast of Oregon, and deep sea minerals

The students cited their sources, showed plenty of supporting data, presented with energy and enthusiasm, and all received an A+ from us on these presentations! Bravo!



My new backpacking sleep setup: new tent, new sleeping pad, and new sleeping quilt. I've got some big trips planned this year, so new gear was required. You may see some pictures in future issues of Breccia. P.S. that's the same backyard that got soaked with 141.55% of an average rain season this year!

The spring gem and mineral show in Santa Cruz just happened, and I believe it is the very first show where I did not spend a single dollar on rocks. I'm not sure how I came home empty-handed - I was hoping to find some fun fluorescent specimens but that didn't happen. Regardless, I had a chance to chat with several friends from the club and also the dealers that I've begun to know pretty well by now. My plan was to provide you with some pictures of new pieces from Santa Cruz, so I'll have to dig into my vast archive of rock pictures on my phone instead.

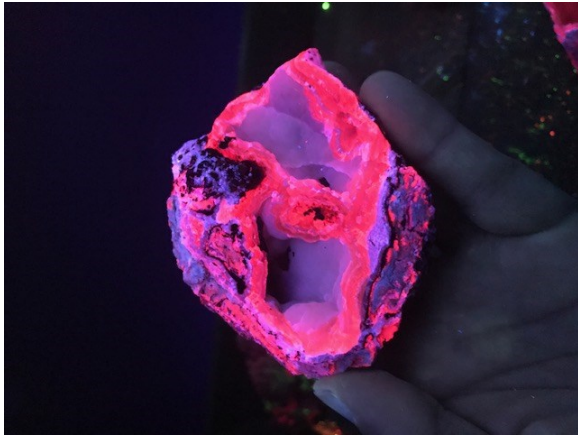


This specimen is from Franklin, NJ, and is the piece that dramatically increased my interest in fluorescent minerals. It is composed of hydrothermally-altered calcite (red-orange-yellow LW), willemite (green LW), sphalerite (blue LW) and dolomite. The yellow reaction in the calcite is notable, and the blue after-glow in the sphalerite is outstanding after it has been bathed in longwave UV light. The piece comes from the collection of Mark Isaacs of the Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society.

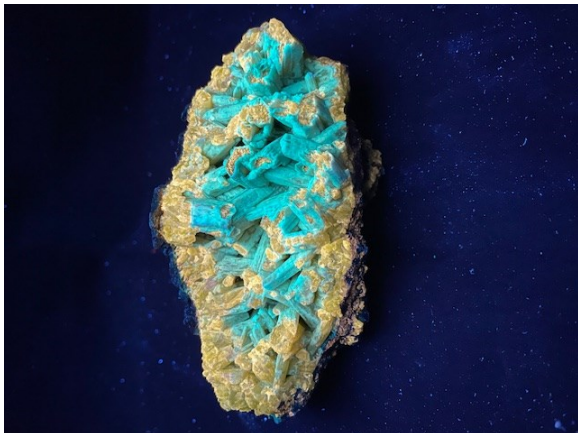
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I have previously mentioned that we have three initiatives underway with the Board of Directors. **The Capital Planning Committee** has now taken on tasks that the Audit Committee has passed to it, mostly related to the management of our financial accounts. **The By-Laws Committee** is looking into some things that we need to confirm before we produce a draft set of updates to our by-laws. We will share information with you well in advance of any voting on any proposed changes - that's probably a few months away. **The Audit Committee** has completed its work - all is good with our finances, and we passed the audit. A report has been provided to the board and a public-facing version is available upon request - please email me directly if you would like to see a copy. The last thing I will add is that **Paul Kidman**, SCVGMS board member, has put in a lot of work on all of these things, with an amazing degree of professional acumen. I want to thank him very much for everything that he is doing to help the Club right now in these various committees.



Smithsonite is generally not fluorescent, but elevated levels of manganese can cause glow like what is seen in this specimen from the Buena Tiera Mine in Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, Mexico.



I love plumbogummite after pyromorphite under mid-wave illumination! Pseudomorph specimens like this only came from the Yangshuo Mine in Guangxi, Yanshuo, China. This material hit the market in late 2014 and is quite hard to find these days.

That's it for this May edition of the President's Message. Enjoy spring, and I'll see you soon!

Jim Herbold
SCVGMS President

Bragging Rights

April's Bragging Rights Theme was "Your Favorite Piece".



Navajo Carved Fetishes
Cesar Nuñez



Jade on Copper Wrapped Rods,
Noel Runyan



Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper
Lynn Toschi



Crystalline Gold
Sonia Dyer



Graveyard Point Plume Agate
Jim & Missy Fox

The winner is **Sonia Dyer** with her Crystalline Gold.

The program for the May General Meeting will be a Silent Auction so, there will be no Bragging Rights.

June's Bragging Rights theme is "**Purple**".

Please email Bruce Poehlman (bwpoehlman@gmail.com) a photo of your **Purple** treasure by 4:00PM on Monday, **May 27** to have it included in the contest.

Cesar Nuñez-Bragging Rights Chairman

Punishment

A rockhound's favorite fruit is the pome-granite.
A rockhound's favorite restaurant is the Hard Rock Cafe.

Member Displays

Editor's Note: I apologize for not being to associate all photos with the correct people/specimens. I will try to get photos before they are all mixed up in the future.



Bruce Poehlman: Calcite and Brown Jasper

Bob Kout: Ruby on Zoisite from Tanzania, Chert, Aventurine "I like Green rocks!"

Margo Mosher: Clear Creek Plasma Agate cabs, slabs and rough

Stephen May: Green and Quartz , Red and Quartz

Jim Fox: Polished Obsidian (Bluish Purple) from Lassen Creek or Glass Butte

Cesar Nuñez: Box of Carved Navajo Fetishes

Please email photos of the items that you will display to Michele Smith by the Sunday before the general meeting, so that people who attend the meeting on Zoom rather than in person can view your items. Also, please email them to editor@scvgms.org so they can be correctly identified in the Breccia! Please bring your items with you to the Cabana Club, if you are attending the meeting.

Don't know what to display? Any type of rock, mineral, or fossil (identified or not), your latest project, information on a field trip, ideas for a display case, or anything to do with rocks is appreciated. Sharing items helps to educate all who are attending. Show off what you love, so that we can enjoy it with you.

Website Links

Your Window to the World of Important Websites

Click on any links below for sites you want to visit!

Link to Our SCVGMS Website: <https://www.scvgms.org/>

Note: After you click on the above link, if you want to see the Breccia and other news items, scroll down and click on "Download", shown under the Newsletter option.

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

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

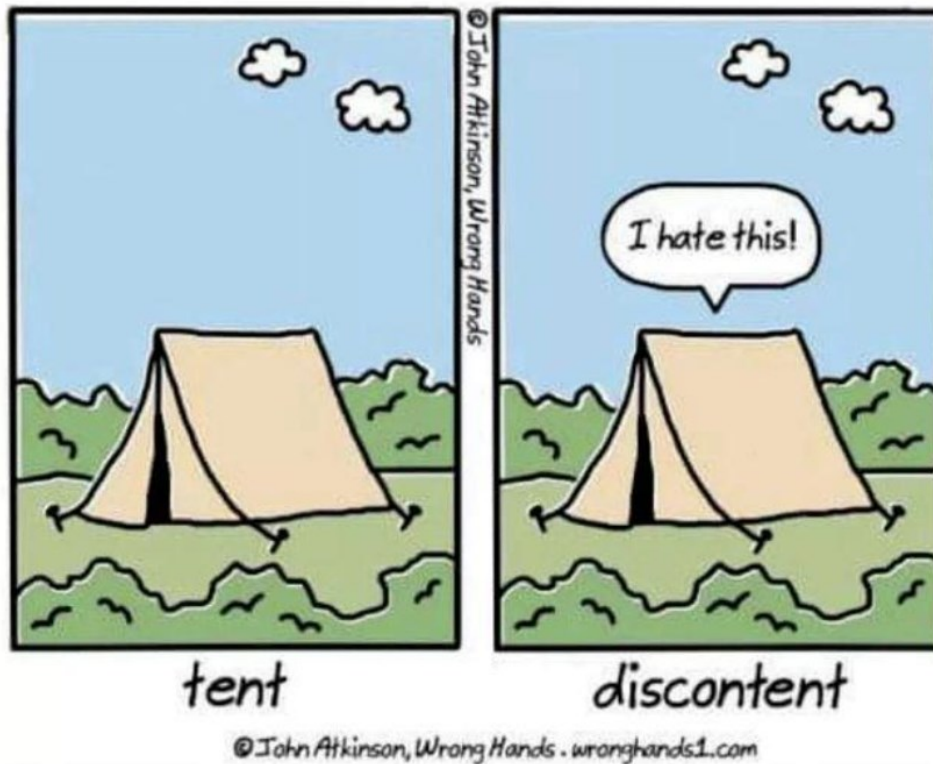
BLM's Website For Rockhounding: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

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

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

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

Smile



Information on Shows

May 3-4 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Blvd near Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA
Hours: Fri 5–10, Sat 12–9
Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

May 3-5 – Santa Ana, CA

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show
Holiday Inn-Orange County Airport
2726 South Grand Ave.
Hours: Fri & Sat, 10–6, Sun 10–5 (wholesale
closes at 4pm on Sunday)
Contact: mineralshowsllc@gmail.com
Web: <https://www.mineralshowsllc.com/>

May 4-5 – Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
2551 W. Ave. H
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com

May 11-12 – Jackson, CA

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
Gem and Crafts Faire
Kennedy Mine, Highway 49/88
Hours: 10–4

May 18 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society Tail-
gate Rock Swap Sale
Banner Grange
12629 McCourtney Road
Hours: 8–3
Contact: ominerals@gmail.com

May 24-26 – Ventura, CA

CFMS/AFMS Combined Show and Convention
Seaside Gems at Ventura
Hosted by Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura Fairgrounds
10 Harbor Blvd
Hours: Fri, Sat 10–5; Sun 10–4
Website: <https://2024cfms-afms.com/>

May 25 - 27 – Julian, CA

Julian Rocks Gem Show
Julian Town Hall
2129 Main St.
Hours: Sat & Sun 10–6, Mon 10–5
Website: <https://visitjulian.com/julian-gem-show/>

June 1 – Carmichael, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Tailgater - Rock Swap - Sale
Carmichael Elks Parking Lot
5631 Cypress Ave
Hours: 8–4
Contact: Martha Nichols 916-798-0235
Website: www.rockrollers.com



Fluorite (Mohs 4), Part 1

By Prof. Philip R. Kesten, Ph.D.

Got a rock in your pocket? You might, although you probably are not carrying around any fluorite. But if you are a collector of rocks and minerals, you likely have a specimen of fluorite—or more than one!—in your collection. (I certainly do.) And truth to tell, although I enjoy both holding and looking at, oh so many varieties of rocks and crystals, fluorite is my absolute favorite. It can be found in many colors, and it can be found exhibiting many crystal habits (shapes).

Up front: the most common colors of fluorite include green, purple, and yellow (Fig. 1a., Fig. 1b., and Fig. 1c.). But fluorite can also be found as a blue (Fig 1d.), a pink (Fig 1e.), a red (Fig 1f.), and an orange (Fig. 1g.) crystal... and black, white, and colorless fluorites are also not uncommon. And it gets better: on display in a specimen of so-called “rainbow fluorite” (Fig. 1g.) are bands of many or all of these colors. So all the colors of the rainbow? Check.



Fig. 1a. A specimen of green cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1b. A specimen of purple cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1c. A specimen of yellow cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1d. A specimen of blue cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1e. A specimen of pink cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1f. A specimen of red fluorite.



Fig. 1g. A specimen of orange cubic fluorite.



Fig. 1h. A specimen of rainbow fluorite.

Editor's Note: See the end of the article for the links to photos 1a through 1h and 2a through 2c.

(Continued on page 13)

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The most common shape of a fluorite crystal is cubic (see Fig. 2a.), that is, cubes, or cubes embedded in other cubes. Fluorite is therefore “isometric”, isometric crystals have three mutually perpendicular axes of equal length. But an octahedral crystal—two four-sided pyramids, back-to-back—is also isometric, and fluorite that exhibits this crystal shape is not uncommon. An octahedral crystal of fluorite is shown in Fig. 2b. However, one of the aspects of fluorite that makes it my favorite is that it forms crystals in many variations of the cubic and octahedral shape. Fluorite crystals are found as cubes with beveled edges, cubes with cutoff corners, and cubes with hexagonal sides (see Fig. 2c.), for example. So many crystal shapes? Check, again!



Fig. 2a. A specimen of fluorite displaying a cubic crystal shape.



Fig. 2b. A specimen of fluorite displaying an octahedral crystal shape.



Fig. 2c. A cubic fluorite crystal with hexagonal sides.

So let us explore fluorite. We will start by addressing the question of color... and to do that, we need to consider the chemical, or elemental, composition of fluorite.

Pure fluorite is composed of molecules of one calcium (Ca) atom bonded to two fluorine (F) atoms, or CaF_2 . Pure CaF_2 , that is, pure calcium fluoride, is transparent... it has no color. How, then, does the fantastic array of colors in fluorite arise?

Nature dictates that electrons in atoms be clumped together in a set way, a way that is always the same. Two electrons occupy the innermost layer (or “shell”) of an atom. Two clumps of two and six electrons, for a total of eight, fill the next one. In the third shell out from the nucleus there are clumps of two, six, and ten electrons... and on and on as atoms get bigger and bigger. Having all of the electrons paired up, and in clumps of these sizes, makes an atom stable, and having fewer or too many electrons makes an atom less stable.

There is a fluorine atom in a calcium fluoride molecule. In that atom there are nine electrons... two electrons in the innermost electron shell and seven in the next shell out. A fluorine atom is therefore one electron short of having all of its clumps of electron clumps. (Full would be two plus two plus six, or ten.) A fluorine atom, then, is not as stable as it could be; it would be more stable if it could borrow one electron from another atom to fill its outer shell.

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There is a calcium atom in a calcium fluoride molecule. A calcium atom has twenty electrons: two in its innermost electron shell, eight in its second electron shell, and ten in its outermost shell. A calcium atom therefore has two more electrons in its outermost shell than would be required to make it most stable. (Full and most stable would be two, plus two plus six, plus two plus six, or eighteen.) That makes those outer two electrons relatively weakly bound to the atomic nucleus... a calcium atom therefore has two electrons that it can easily share with another atom. Either two electrons with one other atom, or one electron each with two other atoms.

So then, calcium fluoride... When a calcium atom shares one electron each with two fluorine atoms, the result is a configuration far more stable than when the three atoms are each off floating around the world by themselves. Hazzah—CaF₂ is born!

But yes, pure CaF₂ is clear and transparent... and colorless. When light enters a crystal of pure fluorite, it encounters molecules that are organized in a regular, “lattice”, structure. The atoms are all tightly bonded to each other, and in particular, the electrons in those atoms are all tightly bonded to their respective atomic nuclei. Tightly bonded: the incident light cannot set those electrons into wiggling, which in turn means that the light cannot easily be absorbed by the calcium and fluorine atoms. Because it cannot be easily absorbed, light which is incident on a pure calcium fluoride crystal simply passes through the lattice of atoms.

The incredible array of colors on display in fluorite specimens results from one of two ways that incident light can be absorbed and then remitted by the crystal. One is due to how light is affected by small quantities (“impurities”) of atoms of elements other than calcium and fluorine in crystals, impurities that introduce either extra electrons or an absence of electrons at some locations in the lattice. This difference in the number of electrons at those locations allows some light to be absorbed and then reemitted, as it passes through. Another way that light can be absorbed and remitted as it passes through a crystal is by irregularities in the otherwise regular location of the atoms. When a fluorine atom has become moved out of its regular position in the calcium-fluorine lattice, it can leave an electron behind in the gap that the atom had previously occupied; this electron will absorb and then reemit, light incident on the crystal.

So sprinkle, say, a few iron atoms into the calcium-fluorine mix, and the result is a crystal with an orange or red hue. (Orange or red... think rust!) (Iron impurities can also cause fluorite to be yellowish.) A small number of copper atoms in a CaF₂ crystal gives it a blue or green color. (Green... think malachite!) And when radiation or heating causes some fluorine atoms to move from their regular lattice positions, fluorite takes on a deep purple hue. That is the color of light that is absorbed and then re-emitted by the electrons left behind when fluorite atoms are displaced. Many fluorite crystals are deep purple for this reason.

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

To be continued in the June issue of the *Breccia*.

(Continued on page 15)

Links to Figures

Fig. 1a. <https://assets0.fossilera.com/sp/576288/fluorite/fluorite.jpg>

Fig. 1b. https://www.crystalsandcleavage.com/cdn/shop/products/PurpleSugarCubeFluoriteonDruzyQuartz3.2_590x.jpg

Fig. 1c. https://i.etsystatic.com/14978878/r/il/798a67/3622793670/il_794xN.3622793670_c5zt.jpg

Fig. 1d. https://i.etsystatic.com/16350695/r/il/09f128/4683301178/il_1140xN.4683301178_nb6a.jpg

Fig. 1e. <https://cdn.irocks.com/storage/media/100285/conversions/sz22-33c-wm-Edit-WM-iRocks-UPDATES-2-2-large.jpg>

Fig. 1f. https://www.deepearthtreasures.com/cdn/shop/products/P1410434_1024x1024@2x.jpg?v=1525780036g

Fig. 1g. https://i.etsystatic.com/8197575/r/il/1c7b10/5204399521/il_1588xN.5204399521_fm09.jpg

Fig. 1h. <https://www.geologypage.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Why-Fluorite-Comes-in-Different-Colors-GeologyPage-696x619.jpg>

Fig. 2a. <http://www.zearths.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/DSCF3828.jpg>

Fig. 2b. <https://www.crystalage.com/img/products/green-fluorite-healing-crystal.jpg>

Fig. 2c. <https://i.pinimg.com/564x/16/7e/fb/167efbd3cef242ff2c6ddd00f4bb5719.jpg>

Airbus 380 vs. Fighter Jet

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight, at the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs and says: "I got up, stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

The moral of the story is: When you're young, speed and adrenaline seems to be great. But as you get older and wiser, you learn that comfort and peace are more important.

This is called S.O.S.: Slower, Older and Smarter.

Dedicated to all my senior friends ~ it's time to slow down and enjoy the rest of the trip.

Author Unknown

AGATES—May

06-23-2020

Presented by: Missy Fox

(Continued from the April 2024 issue of the *Breccia*.)

Plume Agate

Plumes are formations in agates that can resemble feathers, ferns, or flowers. Plumes are usually three dimensional and are typically black, red, yellow, or white but can be any color of the rainbow.

Black plumes tend to be crystals of goethite, hematite, or one of the manganese oxide minerals.



Carey Plume Agate



Carey Plume Agate (Magnified)

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(Continued from page 16)



Priday Plume Agate Cab



Priday Plume Agate (Magnified)



Priday Plume Agate (Magnified)

(Continued on page 18)

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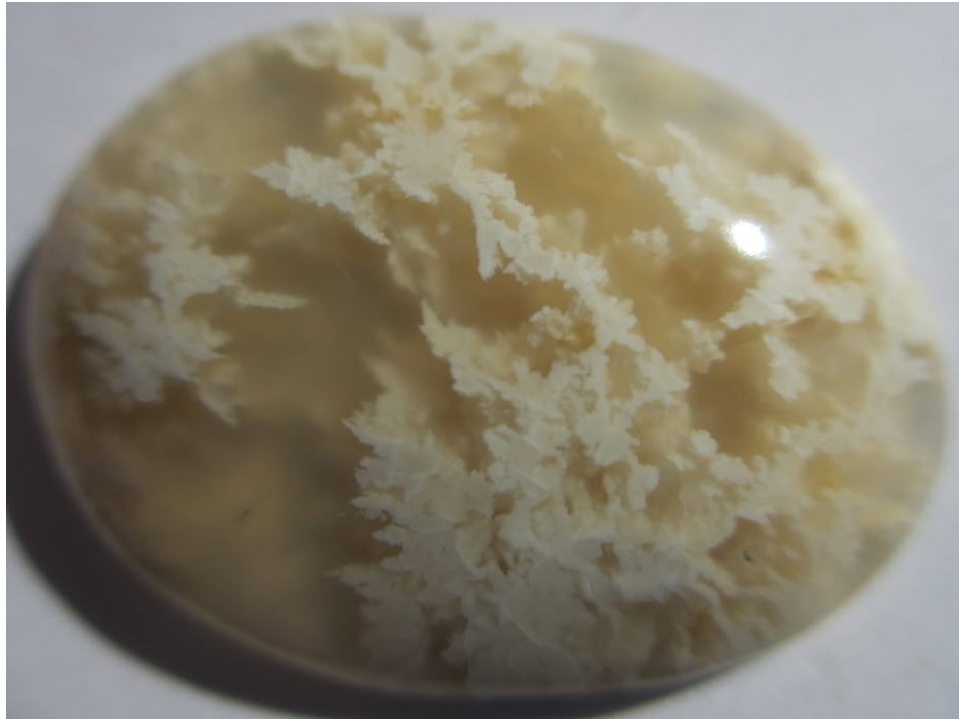
Graveyard Point Plume Agate



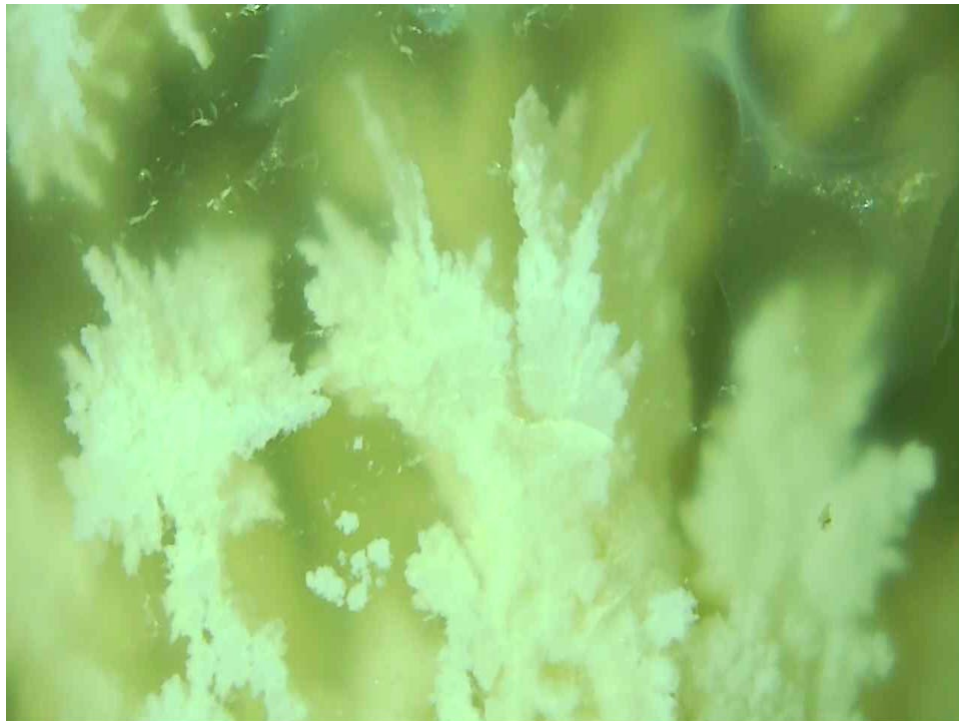
Graveyard Point Plume Agate (Magnified)

(Continued on page 19)

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Stinking Water Plume Agate Cab



Stinking Water Plume Agate Cab (Magnified)

(To be continued in the June 2024 issue of the *Breccia*.)

April 23, 2024 - SCVGMS General Meeting

Call to Order - 7:32 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Program for the evening: SJSU grant recipients

New Members: (Cynthia Porter): none

Member Displays:

Members to present any specimens if any were brought. 2-3 minutes per person.

Bruce Poehlman: Calcite and Brown Jasper;

Bob Kout: "Gutter Grade" Ruby on Zoisite from Tanzania, Chert, Aventurine "I like Green rocks!";

Margo Mosher: Clear Creek Plasma Agate cabs, slabs and rough;

Stephen May: Green and Quartz, Red and Quartz;

Jim Fox: Polished Obsidian (Bluish Purple) from Lassen Creek or Glass Butte.

Volunteer Roles that need to be filled:

Thanks to **Stephen May** for bringing snacks this time.

Secure volunteer who is responsible for snacks for the May 28, 2024 general meeting

\$100 reimbursement with receipts

Please bring something sweet, something savory, and something vegetable

Cesar Nuñez for May meeting

Volunteer coordinator for County Fair

Jul 25-28, Aug 1-4

Volunteer: ?

4 Cases available for displays (Contact Stephen May)

Program for the evening: SJSU grant recipients

Frankie Gutierrez: Undergrad Senior studying volcanic glass samples taken from core samples in the Arctic

Melissa Schott : Undergrad Senior Hydro Geology: Henry Coe State Park (Hot and Cold springs in the park), Volcanology and Sedimentology: Submarine volcano off the coast of Oregon, Deep Sea Minerals

Suzy Brookshire: Second Year Grad student: Researching West Fork Carson River and the installation of Beaver Dam Analogs.

Derek Mena Godoy: Paleontologist

Break for snacks/food/beverage

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney): CFMS Newsletter, AFMS Newsletter

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Field Trips (Stephen May)

April 19-21 Hauser Geode Beds: update 4WD needed

Sat May 4 Clear Creek \$5 permit for vehicle and \$6.95 for person

May 18th Tailgate Rock Swap Nevada County Club

June 3 (Monday): Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine, 3 scoops available, up to 3 adults per spot. \$900.00 fee dig.

June 13 – 16, Prineville Or. Pow Wow Field Trips: A 4-day rock show and 3 Field Trips, Fri. (6/14), Sat. (6/15), Sun. (6/16). Locations to be announced. Drive time 8 hrs. 42 min.

August 3 (Sat) – 9 (Fri), Delta Ut: -Dugway Geodes-, -Topaz Mountain-, -Drum Mountain agate-, -Copper varieties, multi-colored druzy and fine crystals, mine tailings-. 2 travel days, 5 collecting days. Potentially, Garnet Hill, Ely NV, on the way home.

Rockhound of the Month for March 2024: Cathy May. There was a never ending line of people wanting to have their geodes cut, and she continued to cut geodes with only one quick break. She was great with both the kids and the parents with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. She was also very helpful when it came to the tear down.

Bragging Rights (Cesar Nuñez):

For this month of April the theme is “Your favorite piece”. Specimen review and voting.

Submission 1: Navajo Carved Fetishes, **Cesar Nuñez**

Submission 2: Jade on Copper Wrapped Rods, **Noel Runyan**

Submission 3: Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper, **Lynn Toschi**

Submission 4: Crystalline Gold, **Sonia Dyer**

Submission 5: Graveyard Point Plume Agate, **Jim & Missy Fox**

Winner: Crystalline Gold / **Sonia Dyer**

For June, Cesar is nominating the following topic: “Purple”. Send pictures to **Bruce Poehlman** at: bwpoehlman@gmail.com

Special Award (Frank Mullaney)

Frank presented **Michele Smith** with a large crystal cluster and a plaque for all the hard work she did on the 2024 show.

Hospitality:

32 Members and 8 Guests in attendance

Sunshine (Margo Mosher):

Chuck Boblenz passed away (member since the 90's)

Federation Report (Karen Welder):

Camp Paradise drawing (Missy Fox): At general meeting in May

Coming in May:

AFMS/CFMS Gem and Mineral Show in Ventura: May 24-26

General Meeting on May 28

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Silent Auction: DRC Items and Member contributions

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM

SCVGMS Board Meeting, April 30, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm

Roll call: Jim Herbold (President), Bruce Poehlman (Vice President), Cynthia Porter (Secretary), Frank Mullaney (Treasurer), Jim Fox (Board), Missy Fox (Board), Stephen May (Board), Michele Smith (Board), Deb Runyan (News Editor), Paul Kidman (Alternate Federation Director)

Absent: Noel Runyan, Michelle Smith, Dean Welder, Karen Welder

Reading of the Minutes from 4/2/2024 board meeting (Cynthia Porter):

Revisions to the Minutes: M/S/P Bruce Poehlman / Paul Kidman / Passed

Correspondence (Frank Mullaney): Letter from bank about safe deposit box fee due on the 15th of May to renew it. Dodge and Cox statement

New Members (Cynthia Porter): Steven Nguyen M/S/P Frank Mullaney / Bruce Poehlman / Passed

Treasurer's Report: (Frank Mullaney): APR'24 Treasurer's Report
Frank to talk to Eric to add online payment to website for dues payment

Federation (Karen Welder):
May 24-26, 2024 AFMS/CFMS show in Ventura

Field Trips (Stephen May): no updates
20 scheduled to go to Clear Creek

Old Business:

Capital Planning Committee: added post-audit items to this group

Frank to be nominated Assistant Secretary so he can make changes to bank account going forward (bank regulation). M/S/P Jim Herbold / Stephen May / Passed

Jim to buy fireproof safe and the Prez keeps the safe with the contents. Cancel the Safety Deposit Box subscription to save \$125 per year. M/S/P Cynthia Porter / Stephen May / Passed

Financial accounts: Dodge & Cox transfer - Paul Kidman to partner with Frank on this. Next step: Set up Vanguard ETFs with brokerage account to hold our CD funds. Transfer CD funds there when available. M/S/P Bruce Poehlman / Paul Kidman / Passed

Jim to visit Chase on May 30 to prevent CD from auto-renewing M/S/P Frank Mullaney / Stephen May / Passed

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FYI: Club checking account signatories: Done: now Frank Mullaney, Jim Herbold, Bruce Poehman, Cynthia Porter

By-Laws Review Committee: Paused while Paul meets with our tax person to assess if we can remain a public charity or if we must become a private foundation. This affects By-law changes substantially. Paul to update.

Paused: Draft sent to board

Paused: Present to membership at future Gen Meeting

Paused: Solicit/incorporate membership feedback

Paused: Board to vote

Paused: Membership to vote

Audit Committee: Report for the board/membership has been drafted/shared by Paul Kidman.

Board reviewed the financial statement that Paul prepared

Discuss how to best make available to membership - Jim to send email asking for request to come to him by email, he will share the report (done)

New business

Nomination of Rockhound of the Month for April 2024. Paul Kidman

Gabriela Farfang is willing to present to club but we need to add a new date and time to accommodate her. Zoom meeting Tues, Sept 10th at 9 pm EDT/6PM PDT replaces Tues Sept 24, 7:30 PDT. Publicize this heavily. She's a former SCVGMS scholarship recipient and now curator of the Smithsonian Gem and Mineral collection. We can record the session and make it available to anyone who cannot shift dates.

Need new volunteer coordinator for Santa Clara County Fair. Need by end of June. Get admission to Fair, free parking. Contact Frank.

Review proposals from Frank about county fair participation in relation to Fairgrounds commitment for 2025 for the Annual Show.

Jul 25-28, Aug 1-4

4 Cases available for displays (Contact Stephen May)

Upcoming Business

Set first month to hold Member Swap Meet before a monthly meeting (different from DRC Mini-Sale): MONTH.

Paused until August/September: Next group of scholarship/grant recipients

Upcoming Programs

Program schedule for 2024 General Meetings

May 28 - silent auction with member contributions

June 25 - **Phil Kesten** - Tungsten

July 23 - ice cream social

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August 27 - **Rick Kennedy** - Jackson's Crossroads 2023 dig and American Museum of Natural History visit report

September 24 - **Gabriela Farfang** - move up to Sept 10 special date

October 22 - **Sonia Dyer** - "Meteors, Meteorites, and Tektites"

November 26 - silent auction

December 3 Installation Dinner 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 8:44 pm (Motion to adjourn Frank Mullaney)

Rockhound Problems



SCVGMS ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jim Herbold, 650-743-3254
Vice President: Bruce Poehlman, 818-912-1866
Secretary: Cynthia Porter, 408-978-5848
Treasurer: Frank Mullaney, 408-691-2656
Editor: Deb Runyan, 408-628-7789
Federation Director: Karen Welder, 408-353-2675
Alternate Fed. Director: Paul Kidman, 408-356-4995

Board Members at Large

Jim Fox, 408-356-7711
Missy Fox, 408-356-7711
Stephen May, 408-306-6782
Noel Runyan, 408-866-7564
Michele Smith, 408-374-1897
Parliamentarian: Dean Welder, 408-353-2675

SCVGMS COMMITTEE HEADS

Bragging Rights Chair: Cesar Nuñez
Donation Receiving Committee Chair: Michele Smith
Show Chairpersons 2024: TBD
Fairgrounds Booth Chair: Michele Smith
Fairgrounds Liaison: Frank Mullaney
Fairgrounds Volunteer Coordinator: Margo Mosher
Field Trip Coordinator: Stephen May
Founder's Day Picnic Chairman: Jim Herbold
Founder's Day Raffle: TBD
Founder's Day Bingo: TBD
Hospitality: TBD
Installation Dinner: Tamara Bell, and Michael Paone
Member Displays: TBD
Refreshments: TBD
Silent Auction: TBD
Sunshine: Margo Mosher
Trophies: Frank Mullaney
Librarian: Deb Runyan

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

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety>

An Invitation

This society is pleased to invite guests to attend general meetings, study groups, and field trips. **General meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month with meet and greet time beginning at 7:00 followed by the meeting at 7:30 PM at 100 Belwood Gateway (the Cabana Club), Los Gatos, CA 95032.** Belwood Gateway is just south of Blossom Hill Road between Leigh Avenue and Harwood Road. **The Next General Meeting is on May 28 at 7:30 at the Cabana Club and also available on Zoom.** The Next Board Meeting is at 7:30 on **June 4** on Zoom.

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

Our Membership Requirements: Attendance at two general meetings within twelve months.

This society is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).

Our Newsletter, the Breccia, is published 11 times annually. The deadline for all articles is the Sunday after each general meeting. The Breccia editor is Deb Runyan who may be contacted by email at Deb4Rocks@gmail.com and by phone at 408-628-7789. The Breccia is proofread by Pat Speece and Sonia Dyer.

Exchange bulletins may be emailed to Deb4Rocks@gmail.com. Permission to copy is freely granted to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) affiliated clubs when proper credit is given.