



# The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the  
Sacramento Mineral Society  
Sacramento, California

# SMS

March 2006  
Volume 66, No. 3

## Wire-Wrapping With Kevin Behuhl

SMS member Kevin Beguhl, co-owner of *Katerina's Treasures* in Fair Oaks, sells his beautiful wire-wrapped pendants in not only his own store, but also in other shops in the Sacramento area. You might have seen some of Kevin's creations at the SMS Silent Auctions. Kevin will share his techniques with other SMS members during a class in wire-wrapping at the clubhouse beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2006.

Participants will be creating their own designs using a standard tight binding or a continual wrap. Kevin will discuss how to select and measure wire and will share some insights on the benefits of wrapping various shapes. He will also talk about prong setting.

Fee for the class will be the \$7.00 shop fee plus a materials fee of \$8.00. Silver or gold-filled wire will be provided. Please bring a cabochon of your choice – any shape, freeform or standard. Also bring any tools you might have (pliers, cutters, etc.). There will be some tools available, both for use in the class and for sale. If you'd like to supply your own wire, please bring 22 ga. square and 18 and 22 ga. half-round wire.

There is no limit to the class size, but you must sign-up in advance. Call Kevin at 459-7556 to let him know you're interested.

## Mineralogy Class Update

**Please note:** As of this writing, dates have not yet been selected for Dan Brown's Beginning Mineralogy class(es). The current intended start date is now sometime towards the end of March or the beginning of April.

If you've already notified Dan of your interest in attending, he will be contacting you once the dates have been confirmed.

But if you haven't yet signed up, there's still time. Contact Dan Brown by phone at (209) 296-6466, by email at [danbrown666@msn.com](mailto:danbrown666@msn.com), or by dropping him a note to the following address: P.O. Box 664, Pioneer, CA 95667-0664.

A description of the course and a materials list was provided in the February issue of *The Matrix*.

*"Artists are magicians... having an ability to turn ordinary rocks into jewels." Anonymous*

## March Educational Meeting

### Mike Hunerlach — The Cady Mountains

Please join us on Thursday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. for a presentation by Mike Hunerlach on the Cady Mountains of southern California.

The northwest side of the mountains, an area commonly known as Afton Canyon, was made famous back in the 50's for its prolific agate resources, and it has not slowed down since. There is a myriad of colors, shapes, and sizes that one may find in the area including fortification, moss, and sagenite agate. Mike will share with us his collection of material from the area including both rough and polished pieces.

Mike will be leading a field trip to the area in May, the exact date of which is yet to be determined. The area is about 25 miles north of Barstow, approximately 8 miles off of I-15. There is a BLM campground in the area. A poll will be taken at the meeting to see who might be interested in joining him and help define the perfect dates for the trip.

Please join us for what is expected to be an inspiring evening. And be sure and bring a friend to introduce them to the club!

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**Sacramento Mineral Society**  
 P.O. Box 160544  
 Sacramento, CA, 95816

Founded February 1936 ♦ Colors: Blue & Gold

Member of:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 CO-OP Field Trip Association

**Location and Meeting Times:**

SMS Clubhouse  
 4205 LeMay Street, Rancho Cordova, CA

Business Meeting:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Educational Meeting:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m.

**Visitors are always welcome**

Shop open Saturday and Wednesday  
 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Shop fee: \$7.00

Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year

Web Site: [www.sacmineralsociety.org](http://www.sacmineralsociety.org)

**Mission Statement**

The Sacramento Mineral Society is dedicated to promoting interest in and increasing knowledge and understanding of mineralogy and the related sciences and lapidary and the related arts; to promote and organize field trips, to encourage the study of geological formations and the collection and preservation of minerals as they occur in nature.

**SMS Goal**

The goal of the Sacramento Mineral Society is to gain and maintain an active membership of adults and juniors who are interested in mineralogy and the related sciences, and lapidary and the related arts, and who will eventually carry our club into the future. Our club is about learning and teaching. We all have something to learn and each of us has something to teach. We share our passion for minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts.

**President's Message**

Hi Rockhounds!

Spring is getting closer and we have a lot of exciting activities planned for the next several months.

Dan Brown will be having his beginning mineralogy class around March. Be sure to get in touch with him if you are interested at (209) 296-6466 or by email at [danbrown@volcano.net](mailto:danbrown@volcano.net). *Snyder's Pow Wow* will soon be upon us. The dates of the gathering are May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please call Stan Henneman at 363-5011. Mike Hunerlach will be leading a field trip into the Cady Mountains. If you want to find out more about it, come to the educational meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Shop Committee has done a very nice job getting the shop cleaned up and ready for the silversmithing classes. Watch *The Matrix* for future dates for the class.

Remember, don't get spring fever, just get Rockhound Fever!

Have a great year!!

-- Sheldon Shuper

**Call to All Writers in the SMS**

As I've mentioned before, I'm interested in having more input from SMS members and members of other societies. Putting the monthly newsletter together is a fun way for me to remain involved in the Society, but I'm constantly searching for new and different items to include to make the newsletter more interesting to its readers.

Stories relating personal tales or adventures of our members are always enjoyable and inspiring. How about sharing a story about one of your rock hunting adventures or discoveries? Or share your knowledge of a particular creative talent by writing a how-to article on your favorite technique. Believe me, if you're interested in a certain topic, there are others interested as well — otherwise we all wouldn't be part of the SMS in the first place!

I'm also in need of on-going "reporters" for events and details of the goings-on around the shop and clubhouse. I'm not always available to attend the Thursday night Educational Meetings and would really appreciate a volunteer to submit a monthly review of the presentation each month.

Also, to help keep members informed of all the goings-on in the club, I'm asking that each committee designate a member to write and submit a brief synopsis of what you all have been doing. The membership cares and we want to know.

So... who will volunteer? Please send an email to me at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net) at any time to let me know or give me a call at (916) 451-4806. I'd even be willing to help write the articles if you just give me the details. All submissions are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

**2006 Board Members**

President: Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153  
 Vice President: Carl Zimmerman (916) 739-1279  
 Secretary: Carolyn Davis (916) 482-1345 [bb1doc@hotmail.com](mailto:bb1doc@hotmail.com)  
 Treasurer: OPEN (Sheldon Shuper, Acting Treasurer)  
 Federation Director: Barbara Foscett (916) 685-4111 [ifosback@aol.com](mailto:ifosback@aol.com)  
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 Past President: Les Clark (916) 421-4752  
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 Lana Paulhamus (916) 372-5117  
 Directors 2005-2006: Mike Hunerlach (916) 989-4653 [mphunerlach@comcast.net](mailto:mphunerlach@comcast.net)  
 Richard Davis (916) 482-1345

**Committees and Chairs**

By-Laws: Sheldon Shuper  
 Barbara Foscett  
 Les Clark  
 Display: Carl Zimmerman  
 Field Trip Coordinator: Rolf Zschoernig  
 Shop Foreman: Mike Hunerlach  
 Groundskeeper: Carl Zimmerman  
 2006 Show Coordinator: Sheldon Shuper  
 Librarian/Historian: Frank Fawcett  
 Greeters: Linda Baglin  
 Sheldon Shuper  
 Scholarship: Lisa Hammersley  
 Mike Hunerlach  
 Sheldon Shuper  
 Shop Advisor: Stan Henneman  
 Membership: Barbara Foscett  
 Webmaster: Tarance & Kevin Beguhl  
 Mailing: Tony & Millie Ivanovich  
 Juniors: OPEN  
 Advertising: Janice Marzolf  
 Publicity: OPEN  
 Sunshine: Carl Zimmerman  
 Dan Brown

## Happy Birthday to All March Babies! March's Birthstone: Aquamarine or Bloodstone

**AQUAMARINE**—In Latin, Aquamarine means “water of the sea”. It was said to originate in treasure chests of the mermaid and is a talisman for sailors to keep them safe and prevent seasickness. It has long been associated with harmony and trust. Since early times, it has been believed that Aquamarine endows the wearer with foresight, courage and happiness. It can increase intelligence and make one youthful. As a healing stone, it is said to be effective as a treatment for anxiety, and Roman physicians prescribed it to treat overindulgence, headaches, neck problems and water retention.

Aquamarine is a blue form of Beryl, closely related to the Emerald. It generally has a high degree of clarity, and although usually faceted, when it is cut as a cabochon, Aquamarine will sometimes display a cat's eye effect or a six-rayed star.

It can be found on all continents, but is primarily mined in Brazil. The largest stone ever mined was more than 240 pounds and 16 inches in diameter. Aquamarine can be found in the U.S. in Colorado, Connecticut, California, North Carolina and Maine. The stone ranges in color from an almost colorless pale blue to a blue-green or teal. The most sought after stones are those with an intense aqua blue color and less of a greenish color. Most stones used for jewelry are heat treated to bring out the blue. Aquamarine is brittle and sensitive to pressure. It is 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale of hardness.

**BLOODSTONE**—Bloodstone, also known as Heliotrope, is a dark green chalcedony quartz with red spots. In Greek, it's known as “sunterner”, derived from Greek words meaning “sun” since bloodstone with red spots implies reflection of sun in an ocean.

The green shade appears due to chlorite content in the composition. The spots on the surface are usually red, but can be brown or multi-colored. Scientifically, these spots occur due to the presence of iron oxide. Bright shine is one of the characteristics to identify the natural gemstone. It is non-porous and opaque in nature. It is easily cut into different shapes, and cabochons are common.

Ancient history reveals that the Bloodstone first occurred when, at the time of crucifixion, a few drops of Christ's blood fell and stained the jasper stone lying down near the foot of the cross. The stone has since been ascribed special magical and healing powers, and people have worn the gemstone to cure all blood-related diseases.

Bloodstone is mainly found in India, but deposits can also be found in Australia, Brazil, China, South America and the U.S. (Wyoming). A 7 on the Mohs hardness scale, it should be protected from sharp blows and scratches. Household solutions and cosmetics can also spoil the natural beauty of the stone. Extreme temperature changes should be avoided. Bloodstone should always be kept dry as moisture could ruin the polish of the gem.



## Letter From Manti

I feel that I am living in a new home. Thanks to the help and hard work of many members, the shop, meeting room, and rest room are clearly well cared for. Floors are clean, items have been picked up and put in an appropriate place and everything looks neat and ready for some intensive instruction in the art of working with rocks, gems and minerals. I was pleased to see such a good turnout at the meeting for knapping. It was so entertaining that I found I could not take a nap.

I noticed that the casting class loves to gather near the casting oven. I guess that it has something to do with the cold weather we are experiencing. The casting group is so enthusiastic. I hope they share their work with all of us at the next Education Meeting.

See you soon.

~ Love, Manti

## CO-OP Annual Seminar—March 4, 2006

The annual Field Trip Chairmen's Association (Co-Op) Seminar and Auction will be on Saturday, March 4th, 2006. The event will be at the El Dorado Bonsai, 3201 Newtown Road, Placerville.

The schedule begins at 9:00 a.m. with check-in and refreshments. George Wheeldon, a geology and mining history instructor at Folsom Lake College, will then give a presentation, followed by the auction. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., and the Business Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.

The auction will give you a great opportunity to add to the variety of your collection by benefiting the Co-op. Please bring some special items for our auction from your field trip collections or related items. The auction is our only fund raiser, so let's make it a huge success!

We hope you have a chance to enjoy the beautiful grounds at El Dorado Bonsai before or after the meeting. Be sure to see their Suiseki rocks while there.

Lunch will be \$8.00 and the menu will consist of sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please RSVP by March 1st, to Jim Barton, (916) 773-0458; email: [geologist1@surewest.net](mailto:geologist1@surewest.net) with a cc to Florence Brady at [fhbrady@jps.net](mailto:fhbrady@jps.net).

**Directions:** Go east on Highway 50 towards South Lake Tahoe. In Placerville, proceed through the traffic light intersections and take **Point View/Newtown Road** exit. Turn right at the end of the off ramp, then left onto the frontage road (Newtown Rd.). After the “Deer Crossing” sign, look for 3201 on the left. A stone entry says, “El Dorado Bonsai”. If the gate is closed, there is a phone pad on the left in the stone wall; push the call button. If the gate is open, go right and park behind the second building or above on the gravel area. Look for the CO-OP meeting signs. Owners are Fred and Dolly Fassio.

## Business Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Sheldon Shuper at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge was said. A quorum of the board members was present. The previous meeting's minutes were read by Kris and approved as read.

Last year we had 177 members and to date we have 98 members. We will continue to have rock auctions monthly.

The *Gem Faire* will be held in April and August. Our annual show will be held in November on Veteran's Day weekend.

Stan and Frank will try to get rid of extra equipment. We will evaluate what new equipment we need for the shop such as a first aid kit and better fire extinguishers.

The treasurer position is temporarily being held by Sheldon and the books are up to date.

Communications: None from the Board.

The shop will be cleaned prior to inspection by the fire marshal on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chemicals will be moved to the trailer during inspection. The saw room floor must also be cleaned prior to inspection.

All members working in the shop should be wearing goggles. We may consider what to do about having eye cleaner available.

We will have a field trip to the desert in April or May led by Mike Hunnerlach. The trip will be to the Cady Mountains near Cody, about 13 miles east of Barstow. More information later.

Shop organization: Needs are being assessed and some of the wheels on the Genies need to be replaced. The possibility of tapping into the talent that exists in our club to teach new people in the shop was brought up. We discussed using these people as shop assistants and possibly reducing their fees in return. The shop will take precedence over sawing and Shop Stewards must be actively keeping an eye on new members, so extra help is desirable. There will be no shop on March 18<sup>th</sup> as it conflicts with the Mather Air Show.

Is there anyone in the club who would like to design a program for our juniors?

*Gem Faire* will be held April 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to work our table at the show and a list will be put together in the beginning of March. We will have an open house/barbecue the following week. We need volunteers for this activity as well and will be recruiting help in March for such tasks as manning the barbecue. Linda and Sheldon have agreed to be greeters. We also have *Snyder's Pow Wow* in May.

November Show Update: Sheldon will be the Coordinator and he's in need of leads. Linda Baglin has agreed to oversee the food. Kevin Beguhl has agreed to lead the set-up functions on Wednesday. Carolyn Davis will lead the dealer setup on Thursday. Overseers for each of the show days and another for take down coordination are still needed. Kris has agreed to design a flyer for the show and Stan will begin sending these out to dealers shortly.

The scholarships will be given out at the annual show and the

## February Educational Meeting By Barbara Foskett

The Educational Meeting held on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful education for all of us. The program was presented by Harrison Jack, a long time member, and John Szabo, a new member. Their approach to the program was very unique. Many of us have watched knapping demonstrations with all the mess and danger from flying pieces of material. Harrison and John presented the knapping instruction through a video that clearly showed the steps to successful knapping.

Harrison discussed his travels and showed some of the wonderful pieces of obsidian he has obtained during these tours. He told us about the areas in California where obsidian is or was available. An interesting aside was that one mountain of obsidian now has a restaurant and wine cellar at its base. Harrison showed his collection of ancient artifacts and then the collection that he has knapped. The items were exquisitely hand crafted. He also discussed the history of the art and was rewarded with many questions and participation of the audience.

### Refreshments for the Educational Meetings

A list has been posted in the meeting room where you can sign up to bring refreshments to our monthly Educational Meetings. Over the years we have been happily surprised by some of the items that members bring. There are only three slots left on the sign-up list, so we hope that you will surprise us by signing your name and providing something great for approximately thirty-five people.

**Thank You** Don Tadlock and Barbara Foskett for providing the refreshments for the February meeting. Oatmeal cookies, dried fruit cookies, and brownies were served.

February Business Meeting Minutes, cont.

winners will be giving talks but dates have not been set. We are still attempting to set dates for talks by our scholarship winners from 2005.

The web site is not currently working and this is being addressed so information may be updated.

Next week's topic for the Educational Meeting will be flint-knapping. Thanks go out to Kevin for donating two of his wire-wrap pieces for the Silent Auction. He will be donating two items each month for the auctions.

The club has agreed to sell the rock crusher to the El Dorado Club for \$200.00.

One or two mineralogy classes will be given by Dan Brown. The necessary items needed for the class are listed in the January *Matrix*.

Barbara gave the CFMS report and there may be some changes needed. More information in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
—Carolyn Davis

## Editor's Scribble

More and more lately I've been thinking about study groups. No, I haven't found myself returning to college cramming for exams, but I have been exploring many creative endeavors that all revolve around common club topics and interests. And I find myself searching for a way to focus on some of those explorations on a more consistent basis.

Many of my Saturdays in January and February were filled with participation in the first class on casting, *Fast Start in Silver Casting*, led mainly by Ted Yuzuk. While not everything went as planned, part of the purpose of setting out to do the course was to help the club define the flow, structure and needs of such an offering for our members. What did we discover?

1. The club doesn't have all the necessary supplies and tools needed to do this at "any" time. At least at the present, the ability to work on casting projects would rely on sharing of equipment by our more experienced members.
2. This isn't something that can be done by "one person on one Saturday or Wednesday". To be cost effective and efficient would require multiple individuals working on projects at the same time. Our novice experiences also showed that it's often helpful to have a second set of hands!
3. Assistance and advice given by Richard Spradlin and Stuart Dubois – and Ted's ever-present guidance – show us that there are members experienced in the process and techniques needed for casting. And there are probably others out there who have yet to share their knowledge and expertise. Add to that the six new casting addicts (including myself) who are not only anxious to explore the process more, but could be resources to help true beginners along.

Though the plan was to complete *Fast Start* in three sessions, it ultimately ended up being five. I have absolutely no regrets about that, however. I learned a lot during these gatherings and had a great time experimenting. I had a very basic concept of the process before the class began, but participating truly helped me to know a few things. There's nothing to compare to actually doing something as a means of learning it. Read all the books you can find on a subject, but until you do and share with others, you don't KNOW.

But then I wonder just how feasible it is to continue to do this on a more regular basis. I know I *really* would like to experiment more, but I'm not anxious to invest in all the equipment before I've played around a bit more. Are the other five participants thinking the same things?

I would hate to see the effort put out in this explorative class simply die before it has had a chance to blossom and grow. So what I propose is a study group.

Instead of simply trying to schedule more structured "classes", a study group would give individuals interested in the process more opportunity to practice the craft at whatever level they are comfortable with. Participants could all get together at designated times to work on projects, share with

others, and continue learning and experiencing. While I haven't worked out all of the details, some of my thoughts include the following:

- ✓ Could we open the shop another day (Sunday perhaps)? Or would a member possibly be willing to sponsor a study group at their home?
- ✓ Members would be able to attend at any scheduled session. We wouldn't just have three "classes" on three specific dates, but meeting "sessions" where an individual could choose to attend just as they choose to head to the shop to use the cabling equipment on a Saturday or Wednesday.
- ✓ We could select days/dates to meet regularly. (Twice a month maybe?)
- ✓ Some sessions could have specific projects or a particular focus – wax carving one day, investing another.
- ✓ We could coordinate shopping for supplies and we could be sharing tools and equipment so the cost is not prohibitive to individuals. And who knows... maybe some day we can acquire the necessary equipment at a club level like we do the Genies.

So, to the others that took the class – and to all the other members of the SMS – what do you think? Would you be interested in spending some focused time in this way?

These are only my thoughts and suggestions. While reading this, there may be many of you who have other ideas, thoughts or corrections to my ideas that are more realistic. Those of you who have been in other rock clubs: how did your club handle the projects? Please share your ideas and experiences, for they could be the selling point of this idea.

Not only could we put together study groups for casting, but for any of our other endeavors as well – wire wrapping, beading/stringing, dichroic glass, carving... Pick a topic and I'd bet there would be enough interest in it to form a group to study it further. After all, isn't that what we are essentially doing with cabling? The SMS can offer so much more to their members than simply learning to shape rock. Let's focus on expanding our options to truly give our members multiple creative avenues to choose from. This could be an incredible selling point for catching the interest of potential new members as well.

If you're interested in this idea and would like to form a study group on casting or any other subject, let me know. I'm willing to gather up names and put people together to come up with some specific plans. Experienced or novice – if you're interested in a particular craft or topic shoot me an email at [sms-editor@pacbell.net](mailto:sms-editor@pacbell.net) or give me a call at (916) 451-4806 and let me know what area you would like to see a group formed around and would be willing to participate in.

Let's keep that creativity flowing!

~ Kris.



AFMS [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

Federation News

CFMS [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org)



## Summer "Camps" Await

Four of our Regional Federations sponsor workshops for their members. Although priority is given to members of clubs within the regional federation sponsoring the workshop, members of clubs outside the area are usually accepted on a "space available" basis. Here is some information on the workshops for 2006. We encourage you to take advantage of one or more of these unique educational and fun experiences this year.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) will offer five, week-long workshops during 2006 at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia and at the Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina. The following schedule has been announced: Session 1 at Wildacres – April 13-20, 2006; Session 2 at William Holland – June 11-17, 2006; Session 3 at Wildacres – August 21-27, 2006; Session 4 at Wildacres – September 18-24, 2006; and Session 5 at William Holland – October 8-14, 2006.

SFMS registration started on January 17, 2006, and members of other federations may submit registration forms on or after March 17<sup>th</sup>. Workshops offer a wide variety of classes in both lapidary and jewelry-making crafts. In general, students will spend four and a half days in class with an optional half-day off in midweek. Evenings and a free afternoon are devoted to extra curricular activities that may include guest speakers, demonstrations, field trips, and an auction. The week concludes with show-and-tell. Anyone may tail gate when classes are not in session during the last half of the week. Lodge accommodations including meals are \$310 per person, double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for \$470. There will be lab fees and charges for supplies and materials. The expected cost is published in class descriptions in the *Lodestar*, the monthly newsletter of the SFMS. Electronic copies of the *Lodestar*, as well as detailed workshop and course descriptions are available on the internet at: [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms). A special supplement to the *Lodestar* is published in the November issue with all of the workshop details for the following year.

The California Federation offers three weeks of workshops at Camp Paradise and Zzyzx. Both facilities offer rustic sleeping facilities, but attendees may bring their RVs if they prefer. All meals are included plus a variety of hands-on classes and field trips. The dates for 2006 are: Zzyzx – March 19-26, Camp Paradise – September 3-9 and September 10-16. Cost for a workshop is approximately \$250 per person plus materials fees for classes. For more information, visit the CFMS website at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org).

The Northwest Federation began its workshop endeavor in 2005 at OMSI, Camp Hancock, which is located in the John Day Fossil Bed area of Oregon. Although dates and details for 2006 have yet to be announced, information can be obtained from NFMS President Frank Posthuma. See the Northwest Federation website for details, [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms).

The Eastern Federation sponsors two one-week workshops at the Wildacres Workshop facility in Little Switzerland, NC (near Asheville). The facility is first class with modern rooms, all with private bath, well equipped classroom/labs, a beautiful, restful, private campus. Each week features an "expert-in-residence" who presents illustrated talks on his or her specialty, a variety of hands-on classes, plus lots of other activities including tail gating, an auction and a fun night evening. Dates for 2006 are May 22-28 and September 11-17. Tuition for the week is \$320 per person which includes room and board. There is a modest fee for materials that varies with classes chosen.

The EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres have been selected for the AFMS Judges Seminar, the fourth session of which will be held in May. For information on the EFMLS workshops at Wildacres, including classes being offered and an application form, visit the EFMLS website: [www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls).

*AFMS Newsletter, March 2006. Edited for content and space limitations.*

## Earth Sciences

By Cal Clason, CFMS Chairman

Were it not for procrastination, I wouldn't have anything going for; but that only delays the inevitable, you must do it, or as I recently read, "If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging." Oh well...

When this is published, Zzyzx will fast be approaching and we are anticipating, weather cooperating, another successful seminar. As usual all reservations were quickly filled so we have 60 people who are pleased, and fortunately I haven't had any irritated phone calls, so on that front things are going quite well. I received a notice from the University Consortium that beginning July 2006 the occupational rate will increase by one third, possibly making our use of the venue prohibitive without a significant increase in the fee we collect to enable our continued sponsorship of the seminars. As a committee we have yet to discuss this but will do so in the near future. Several remedies are possible. I would appreciate some help, especially if anyone knows of a facility that would meet our needs and be available. I would welcome the information and will try to arrange an inspection and get the needed information to make a decision.

Things do look a little better from the other end of the state—Camp Paradise. As most everyone knows there was concern that with the change in ownership, we would not have access to the camp. In telephone conversations with Don Younce, the camp director, we have a verbal commitment for ongoing success although a slight change in the time element. I have requested an ongoing commitment in writing, but as yet have not received one. In the past we preferred not to encompass Labor Day, but

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Earth Sciences, continued from page 6)

their schedule precluded that so we have the first two weeks of September this year — September 3-9 and September 10-16. I feel that the majority of the traffic is on the previous Friday and Monday leaving a two day window to make our journeys less stressful. Jack Williams will be the coordinator for the seminar and day to day operation. I'm sure he will have things well organized, offering our most popular classes and the possibility of something new. The registration forms will be released in the May issue of the Newsletter and the Web page about the same time. Although we are not so restricted in numbers, I urge early registration. At the present time everything seems to be shaping up for another successful year in the Earth Science Studies. We will keep you posted.

CFMS Newsletter, March 2006

### The Richness of Color in Minerals

By Chuck DeFlorin, Minnesota Mineral Club, 12/99

Color is the most obvious and attractive feature of any mineral. The intense red of cinnabar, the rich green hues of malachite and the vivid blue of lapis always deserve a second look. Generally speaking though, color is not a very good property when identifying a mineral. Many minerals have several different colors and it is important to understand what causes color in minerals in order to understand minerals themselves.

Agents in minerals responsible for their color are called *chromophores* or transition elements. These elements contain atoms with electrons that produce the color. Some minerals are always a certain color because these elements are part of the mineral's chemical makeup.

When a mineral's own structure and composition are the sole agents of its colors, it is said to be *idiochromatic* or self-colored. Examples of this are peridot, which is always green, and gold, which is always a golden color. Minerals of variable color caused by trace amounts of transition elements are referred to as *allochromatic* or other-colored. It is the infusion of different impurities that allows fluorite to come in every hue of the rainbow. Even tiny amounts of these elements can deeply color minerals. Some people think that certain elements or impurities cause only certain colors, but a single transition metal can be responsible for a variety of colors based on its oxidation state.

Minerals can also get their color from minute air bubbles which cause different colors to be seen. Some minerals are referred to as *pseudochromatic* or false-colored when neither their mineral nor atomic properties are responsible for their colors. Instead they contain layers or films which create colors by light interference. Moonstone and opal are good examples of this effect. Another color effect is *pleochroism* which occurs among minerals that demonstrate refraction. This effect causes a light beam to split in half and directs the two halves into different directions. As a result, each part is subjected to different amounts or types of color absorption depending on the path and vibration of the light. When viewing from different angles against a light, you'll notice a change in either the color or the depth of color. When there is a



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difference between the colors, the phenomenon is referred to as *dichroism*. Other minerals, such as smoky quartz and blue halite, owe their color to radioactivity which distorts the crystal lattice and permits the absorption of light that would otherwise be transmitted.

The deep Prussian blue of azurite, bornite with its spectacular iridescent purple-blue, the shining green of chrysacolla, blue-green of malachite—all get their colors from the transition metal, copper. Cobalt gives erythrite its violet-red color, calcite a pretty pink color and roselite a delicate pink luster. The hyacinth orange-red of crocoite and the green of uvarovite are both produced by chromium. Reddish-brown hematite, yellow ochre of limonite and even the violet color in amethyst are due to iron.

Manganese gives rhodochrosite its brilliant deep pink color and is also responsible for the pastel pink of rose quartz and the purple-red color of richterite. Uranium gives us the yellow-green color of autunite and the pearly emerald green of tobernite. Vanadium produces the fine red color of vanadinite and the butterscotch color of wulfenite.

There are many more elements that could cause color in different minerals. The next time you pick up a pretty mineral, try to determine what element contributed to its color. It is easier to find related minerals if you know what caused the coloring.

Via Rollin' Rock, 01/06 via Gneiss Gnews 8/03

## Now Let Us Praise Some Famous Stones

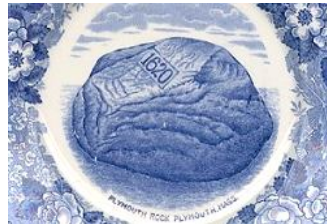
By Andrew Alden

### Introducing some noteworthy and historic rocks.

Certain stones started out as dumb common boulders, like all the rest. But one day they got a lucky break, and now they're genuine rock stars. Here's a few of them.

Family pride leads me to start with Plymouth Rock, that icon of American strength and faith. It's a large piece of Dedham Granodiorite that, according to legend, was sitting on the ground where John Alden of the original Plymouth Colony first stepped on American soil in 1620. That great man is my ancestor thirteen generations back, but I didn't learn this legend from the mouth of my father, John D. Alden; instead I read about it on some Web site. And the legend isn't, strictly speaking, actually true either. In fact Plymouth Rock is a fraction of its old self, having suffered the hammers of souvenir gatherers and other indignities during its up-and-down history.

So let me present an idealized image of the stone in its better days, from a souvenir plate purchased at the *John Alden Shop* in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Surely no humbler-looking object has ever been depicted by the porcelain artists at Jonroth & Co., England, unless they made a plate to commemorate mashed potatoes (which would be a good idea, by the way).



Plymouth Rock looks better on this commemorative plate than in reality.

Somewhat more exalted, if only in being physically higher off the ground, is the Blarney Stone, set in the battlement of Blarney Castle in Cork, Ireland. Kissing the stone gives you the gift of persuasive speech. Legend, again, has it that this boulder is half of the Stone of Scone, awarded to the great Cormac McCarthy for his support of Robert the Bruce in the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. A proper geologist recorded his judgment that the Blarney Stone is no different from the rest of the castle, which is made of limestone (a lower Carboniferous biomicrite, to be more precise) from a local quarry. I swear it's true, but the last time I went to the Web page documenting that, it had mysteriously vanished—something that almost never happens on the Web! Was the geologist himself talking blarney? I'm not sure, because another



The Stone of Destiny

legend has it that the true Blarney Stone was taken away, which means the geologist was looking at a sham stone. Is the truth out there somewhere? The Stone of Scone itself is the rock upon which the kings of Scotland were crowned, and the Scots know it as the Stone

of Destiny. The English took it in 1296 and, having themselves become the rulers of Scotland, had the stone built into the royal coronation chair to keep the tradition alive. (The stone was returned to Scotland in 1996, but can be taken back whenever it's time to crown a new monarch.) You see already that if the English took it in 1296, then Robert the Bruce could not have given half of it to Cormac McCarthy in 1314.

The Stone of Destiny is a block of yellowish sandstone of uncertain geologic origin. Legend traces it back to Biblical times as the stone upon which Jacob laid his head in Genesis chapter 28, and thus it is a solid symbol of the Promised Land. But there's a legend that the stone the English took in 1296 was a fake! That would solve the discrepancy with the Blarney Stone—if we assume that one is also a fake.

Perhaps the most exalted rock in every sense is the Black Stone of the Kaaba, a dark boulder set in gold on the outer wall of Islam's central shrine, the Kaaba, in Mecca. Muslim sites make it clear that the Black Stone is not worshipped like an idol. It's merely a much-loved marker, the "official" starting point of the walk around the Kaaba that forms the core of the holy pilgrimage called the hajj. For instance, the Black Stone was once taken away for a period of years, and the hajj was not affected. Perhaps the royals of the British Isles could learn from this.

The Black Stone has just one legend, and it's a good one. It's said that when Abraham and Ishmael, patriarchs of the Arab people, were building the Kaaba, the stone was delivered to them by an angel from heaven. That story suggests that the Black Stone is a meteorite, and indeed meteorites have been prized and revered by many different peoples around the world. But I wouldn't ask any Muslim, even a geologist, to waste one second of their hajj examining the stone to satisfy my curiosity.

Scientists too have given names to stones—even geologists, who you might think know better. My current favorite example is the roster of 162 sliding rocks of Racetrack Playa, in the California desert. Each of them is being mapped with GPS technology by geologist Paula Messina of San Jose State University, and each of them bears a woman's name. In fact each stone has its — I mean, her — own Web site, and if that's not fame I don't know what is. Every year the stones are found sitting on their vast dry lakebed, but not in the same position. Behind each one is a shallow track in the cracked playa mud, proof that some rare combination of wind, water and physics animated them when no one was there to see. That's no legend ... merely a mystery.



Johanna, one of 162 named rocks on Racetrack Playa in the Mojave Desert. Paula Messina, San Jose State University.

Found on the internet at: <http://geology.about.com/library/weekly/aa032600a.htm>

## Upcoming Shows & Events

- Mar. 3-12 **Imperial, CA.** *Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Show.* IV Expo 200 East. Jeep (760) 344-6230, [itsjeep@earthlink.net](mailto:itsjeep@earthlink.net).
- Mar. 3-5 **Hayward, CA.** *Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley.* Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd, Hayward. Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Ron Miller, (510) 887-9007, [mgscv@yahoo.com](mailto:mgscv@yahoo.com). Show website: [www.mgscv.com](http://www.mgscv.com).
- Mar. 4-5 **Ventura, CA.** *Ventura Gem & Mineral Society.* Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, (805) 659-3577. Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org).
- Mar. 4-5 **Arcadia, CA.** *Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.* Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden, 1 block south of I-210, Foothill Freeway near Santa Anita Race Track, 301 North Baldwin Ave. Hours: 9-4:30 both days. Janie Duncan (626) 358-8157; email: [j.ritche@verizon.net](mailto:j.ritche@verizon.net). Website: [www.moroks.com](http://www.moroks.com).
- Mar. 10-12 **Hillsboro, OR.** *Tualatin Valley Gem Club.* Washington County Fair Complex, Main Exhibit Hall South, 873 NE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. & Sun. 10-5. Ed Kristovich (503) 681-0728.
- Mar. 10-12 **Victorville, CA.** *Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club.* Stoddard Wells (11 miles east of I5). Hours: Fri. & Sat 8-5, Sun. 8-2. Joe Kosik, (760) 241-0894.
- Mar. 11-12 **Escondido, CA.** *Palomar Gem & Mineral Club.* Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue. Hours: Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-5. Van Lynch, (760) 749-4164, [michelleandvan@hotmail.com](mailto:michelleandvan@hotmail.com); website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org).
- Mar. 11-12 **San Marino, CA.** *Pasadena Lapidary Society.* San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Hunting Drive. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. (626) 355-6964 or (626) 914-5030.
- Mar. 11-12 **Salinas, CA.** *Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club Annual Show.* Spreckels Veterans Memorial Bldg., 5<sup>th</sup> and Llano Streets. Hours: 10-5 both days. Jim Bassett, (831) 758-5830, [jbmssc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbmssc@sbcglobal.net).
- Mar. 11-12 **Turlock, CA.** *Mother Lode Mineral Society Gem Show.* Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway; Highway 99, Fulkerth exit. Hours: 10-5. \$5.00. Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494, [www.motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://www.motherlodemineralsociety.com). \$1.00 off admission if you print their flyer from the website.
- Mar. 11-12 **Klamath Falls, OR.** *Rock & Arrowhead Club.* Klamath County Fairgrounds, 3531 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.; Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Mark Winters, (541) 850-3733, or Roy D. Ford, Sr., (541) 882-6087; [mailfayeroy2@ccountry.com](mailto:mailfayeroy2@ccountry.com).
- Mar. 18-19 **Bakersfield, CA.** *San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Rock & Mineral Rendezvous".* Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street at Bell Terrace. Hours: 9-5 both days. Contact Lew Helfrich, (661) 872-8230, [lewsrocks@netzero.net](mailto:lewsrocks@netzero.net).
- Apr. 1 **Porterville, CA.** *Porterville Gem & Mineral Society's Play Day* hosting *Diamond Pacific Tool Corp.* 318 N. Kessing St. Hours: 10-4. Rob Milner, (559) 359-6174, [rdmilner@verizon.net](mailto:rdmilner@verizon.net).
- Apr. 1-2 **San Jose, CA.** *Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road. Hours: 10-5 both days. Marc Mullaney, (408) 971-6651, [geologist@aol.com](mailto:geologist@aol.com).
- Apr. 7-9 **Sacramento, CA.** *Gem Faire, Inc.* Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. Building D. Hours: Fri. 12-7, Sat 10-7, Sun. 10-5. General admission \$5.00 weekend pass. [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).
- Apr. 8-9 **Paradise, CA.** *Paradise Gem & Mineral Club.* Veteran's Memorial hall Skyway & Elliott Road. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Jim & Shirley Thompson, (530) 872-1846, [shirley1846@comcast.net](mailto:shirley1846@comcast.net).
- Apr. 15-16 **Mariposa, CA.** *California State Parks Mining & Mineral Museum and Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Mountains of Minerals".* Mariposa County Fairgrounds. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. Free admission. Contact: California State Mining & Mineral Museum, (209) 742-7625, [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net).
- Apr. 21-23 **Grants Pass, OR.** *Rogue Gem & Geology Club.* Josephine County Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri. 9-4, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Free admission Friday, \$1.00 Sat. & Sun. Contact: Sue (541) 956-4101, [rockmominor@hotmail.com](mailto:rockmominor@hotmail.com).
- Apr. 22-23 **Lancaster, CA.** *Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club.* Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 West Avenue. Hours: 9-5 both days. Pamela Birge, (661) 264-3502, [birgep@att.net](mailto:birgep@att.net). Show website: [www.geocities.com/av\\_gem](http://www.geocities.com/av_gem).
- Apr. 29-30 **Santa Cruz, CA.** *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society's "Treasures of the Earth".* Center and Church Streets. Hours: 10-5 both days. Sallee Brumbaugh, (831) 336-5662.



**44<sup>th</sup> Annual  
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## Field Trips

**Reminder:** Call the field trip leader in advance to verify details – climate and weather, tools, safety concerns, clothing, vehicle requirements, etc. Wear your name badge and sign in with the leader. All participants must sign a *Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability* form upon arriving at the meeting site and non-CFMS members must show proof of personal liability insurance. Obey the AFMS Code of Ethics, Land Use Policy, and practice safe rockhounding. Always use common sense. Additional information may be obtained on the CO-OP web site.

- Sat.-Sun.,  
April 8-9     **Nevada City, CA** for Petrified Wood, possibly some gold panning. Hosted by the *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society* and sponsored by the *North Bay Field Trip Club*. All participants must be members of a CFMS-affiliated club. Meet in the *Ralph's* grocery store parking lot just off Highway 49/20 in Nevada City (Brunswick Road exit #183). Park nearest the intersection of Brunswick and Sutton. Call for details on meeting time. Schedule: Saturday – caravan to the collecting site, a canyon east of Nevada City; Sunday – Tour of the Empire Gold Mine (a small fee may be required and is TBD). Bring tools for surface collecting—containers, small shovels or rakes. There are some minor water crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. There are no facilities at or near the collecting site. Bring water and lunch. Lodging is available in Nevada City and Grass Valley. Camping is available at Scott's Flat Lake (approx. 6 miles from Nevada City) or Malakoff Diggins State Park (approx. 26 miles from town); we will attempt to arrange a group camp spot at one of the two locations if there is enough interest. Contact: Dean or Karen Welder, (408) 353-2675, email: [wdeanwelder@yahoo.com](mailto:wdeanwelder@yahoo.com).
- Saturday,  
April 15     **Sawmill Peak, CA** for Rhodonite. Sponsored by the *Paradise Gem & Mineral Club*. Participants must be a member of a CFMS Club. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Building on the corner of Skyway and Elliot Road in Paradise, CA. Approximately an hour's drive, participants will caravan to the site. Vehicles should have high clearance and 4WD is necessary for the last mile. There is limited parking at the site. Bring hard rock tools and safety glasses. The trail is steep for the last 100 yards and there is poison oak in the area; dress appropriately in full cover. Camping is available at Lake Oroville, and motels in Paradise and Chico. Led by Mike Egglestone, (530) 343-0894, email: [mikeeggy@aol.com](mailto:mikeeggy@aol.com).

### Upcoming Rock-Related Events

UC Berkeley Cal Day (Open House) will be on April 22, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Start at the Life Science Building and the museum of Paleontology and continue through the many other departments on the campus. Included are some really neat dinosaur exhibits. For more information, visit the website at: [www.berkeley.edu/calday](http://www.berkeley.edu/calday).

The United States Geological Survey's Open House will be in Menlo Park on June 3-4, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be many exhibits and activities, all related to geology, maps, collections of specimens. Seek out additional information by visiting their website at: <http://openhouse.wr.usgs.gov/>.

Via Breccia 02/06

### March Shop Steward Schedule

Wednesday		Saturday	
March 1	Carl Z.	March 4	Kevin B.
March 8	Stan H & Jim C.	March 11	Stuart D.
March 15	Ron S.	March 18	CLOSED due to Air Show
March 22	Mike H.	March 25	Kevin B.
March 29	Carl Z.		

**Reminders:**

- Glasses are always required while working in the shop.
- Saws are to be operated by designated personnel only.
- Cutting fees are now required for all slab saw cuts.

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## LAPIDARY ITEMS FOR SALE:

- HP 14" Slab Saw with 16" Blade, motor—\$600.00.
- 10" Wet Tile saw, adapted for lapidary use, sliding tray, water sprayer—\$175.00.
- Flat Lap with multiple pans—\$250.00
- 10" Table Delta table saw—\$150.00.

Contact Dave Fisk at: (916) 434-0747, or email at: [df022745@yahoo.com](mailto:df022745@yahoo.com).

## Miscellaneous Hints n' Whatnot

*These tips were gathered primarily from the bulletins and web sites of other clubs. Use them with caution as some are untried and others may not be tried and true. Just ideas!*

**Porous Rocks.** When cutting porous rocks under hardness of 5, soak the material in water for a week or more and you will have no problem with stone soaking up the oil.

*Via Rock Chips, via Yuba Sutter Gems 11/01 – Via Calvaras Golden Frog, 11/05*

**7-Up** can be used to clean gold and silver findings. Dip, rinse and rub with a soft cloth. Use separate solutions for gold and for silver.

*Via Rock Rollers via Rockonteur 04/96 via Breccia 97, Yuba Sutter Gems 01 – Via Calvaras Golden Frog, 11/05*

Need a way to keep pliers from marring your wire? Try "Plast-Dip". It's a liquid rubber coating that's available at *Home Depot* and comes in a variety of colors. Just dip the nose pieces of your pliers into the liquid, pull out, and let dry. It is very durable and when it becomes worn just peel off and redip.

*Via The Agatizer 12/05, via Pegmatite.*

**Display Case Tip:** Arrange your display items so the eye easily goes from one piece to another, or from one group to the next. If arranging groups of items, one large specimen can be balanced by a group of smaller ones. The eye is trained to read in a straight line or follow a curved, graceful line. The case should look uncluttered and uncomplicated. Large items should go toward the back, the more spectacular specimens towards the center, and small items in the foreground.

*Northwest Fed Newsletter, 11/01 via Gem Cutters News 9/04 via The Pegmatite, 03/05*

## New Members

We had five new members join our club in February. They are: Chi Chen, Mark Moore, Susan Ruff, Chuan Weng, and Minchi Wong. We welcome these new members and hope to see them on many weekends and at our Education Meetings.

We already have six applications for March. We hope all six applicants will be able to attend the Education Meeting on Thursday, March 16th to receive their membership materials. Mike Hunerlach will present the program and it should be very interesting.

## SMS Calendar

### March

- 9th—Thursday March Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11th—Saturday Wire-Wrapping Class with Kevin Beguhl
- 16th—Thursday March Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Mike Hunerlach—Cady Mountains  
Silent Auction! Bring a friend!

### April

- 13th—Thursday April Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15th—Saturday SMS Open House & Barbecue  
Bring your friends and family out to the clubhouse and introduce them to the SMS!!
- 20th—Thursday April Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Jim Christian—Stone Carving  
Silent Auction! Bring a friend!

Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday from 10-2.

**Spread the word and bring a friend!**



Sacramento Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 160544  
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# *The Matrix*

March 2006



## *SMS-Sponsored Field Trip Coming Soon!*

Join us at the Educational Meeting  
at the Clubhouse on Thursday, March 16th  
to find out more details.

