



The Matrix

Official Newsletter of the
Sacramento Mineral Society
Sacramento, California

SMS

September 2007
Volume 67, No. 9

"We're All Students and We're All Teachers..."

We've all heard that line before. We know it's true. But do we live those words?

The SMS is an educational organization. Its part of one of our by-lines – *Education Through Sharing*. But where is all that education and sharing???

It's not only youngsters who are being "educated" through obligatory attendance in school for twelve-plus years. Every person alive has boundless opportunities to learn something new every day. Each of the things we have come to use during our daily lives has had some learning attached to it. But how about learning a bit more about the subjects we come into contact with as being part of a rockhound society?

There's a lot of value in the simple exchange of information between one person and another. The books you've read to discover new information, technique, skill, and experience are all things that can be a huge benefit to others when you SHARE that little bit you know.

As an educational organization, the club needs teachers just as much as we need students. We have plenty of students – it's the most popular reason people join the club in the first place. But where are the teachers???

Our shop stewards share the basics of cab making (not all of them are experts, you know); other members share what they've learned with newer members that come in. And in fact, it's often through simple chit-chat that this information is shared.

Many of our more seasoned members have had the privilege of being taught different skills and craft techniques of jewelry making by members who were willing to share their time and pass on their skills. But now many of those instructors are no longer available or have retired from their craft. Where are those people to replace them? Are YOU one of the privileged that now has the skill and knowledge to pass further down the line?

Kevin Beguhl, and in the past **Janice Marzolf**, have shared their skills in wire wrapping to help many members advance beyond "novice". And by continuing to attend the workshops those "students" share their experiences thorough discussion and hands-on "show and tell" with others. Kevin has also begun sharing what he's learned about dichroic glass, and some members with past experience in the media have brought their ideas to share. These Saturday workshops throughout the past year have been one of the most successful "learning experiences" the club has offered in some time.

And how about a few new topics? What is it that YOU know that can be shared to educate other members? Aren't your skills, experiences and knowledge worth talking about? (Ah, com'on... we know many of you BRAG about them!)

The SMS needs teachers in many areas. Do you have a special craft? Do you do bead work or weave? Have you experimented with carving rock? Have you played with precious metal clay yet? How about 'playing with fire' and making your own silver bezels to set your shiny cabochons? Have you made rock mushrooms or gem trees or rock critters? And just consider all that knowledge stuffed in your brain that sneaks out when someone shows you a rock and you immediately start vocalizing facts about what it is and how you identify it. (Now *that's* skill!)

Pick a topic. Any topic. And share a bit about it. We'd all appreciate it. Let a board member know and we'll get the word out. If you enjoy it, someone else in the club will too – and we'll all be the better for it. Students AND teachers.

Turquoise Hunt

Bisbee Mining Museum in Arizona hosts its annual Turquoise Hunt on

Dump #7 on October 5 and 6, 2007. For \$15.00 you get a bus ride from Old Bisbee over to the No. 7 Dump where most of the good Bisbee Blue Turquoise is found. Each \$15 ticket gets you three hours up on the dump and everything you find is yours to keep.

Call the Bisbee Mining Museum at (520) 432-7071 or visit www.bisbeemuseum.org for additional information.

Hurry, tickets go fast.

Via CO-OP 8/12/07



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2	September Shop Steward Schedule
Page 3	President's Message August Business Meeting Minutes
Page 4	Yolo Rock Chronicles, Episode Four: Rockhound Spirits
Page 5	Lapis Lazuli—"Alternative" Birthstone Let's Get Gemstones on U.S. Stamps
Page 6	Federation News: Inter-Regional Field Trips
Page 7	Slag Glass
Page 8	Molecular Expressions—Sapphire Agatized Coral
Page 9	August Educational Meeting SMS Calendar
Page 10	Precious Opals Here in the USA?
Page 11	Geology of the San Andreas Fault
Page 12	CO-OP / Field Trips Building a Zen Rock Garden
Page 13	Shows & Events



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:
2nd Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m.
- Educational Meeting:
3rd 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/Juniors \$1.00

Web Site: 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.



The right to copy is freely granted to all AFMS-affiliated clubs and its members with proper credit given to *The Matrix*. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise noted.

Deadline for submission of items is the 25th of each month preceding publication. Submission of items by email is preferred and should be addressed to: sms-editor@pacbell.net. All other items should be mailed to the attention of the editor at the SMS address:
P.O. Box 160544, Sacramento, CA 95816

2007 Board Members

- President: Kevin Beguhl (916) 459-7556 webebeguhl@aol.com
- Vice President: Frank Fawcett (916) 967-5809 fffawcett@aol.com
- Secretary: Joy Fergoda (530) 756-5859 jafergoda@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Sheldon Shuper (916) 383-9153
- Federation Directors: Dan Brown (209) 296-6466 danbrown666@msn.com
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- Editor: Kris Jarusevicius (916) 451-4806 sms-editor@pacbell.net
- Past President: Les Clark (916) 421-4752
- Directors 2006-2007: Linda Baglin (916) 685-8132 LollieLinda@yahoo.com
Dixie Christenson (916) 455-0421 gildedcat@sbcglobal.net
Lana Paulhamus (916) 372-5117
- Directors 2007-2008: Carl Zimmerman (916) 739-1279 cz4744@netzero.net
Tarance Beguhl (916) 519-2590 t1beagle@aol.com

Committees and Chairs

- By-Laws: Tarance Beguhl
- Shop Advisors: Stan Henneman
Carl Zimmerman
- Frank Fawcett
- Shop Foreman: Tarance Beguhl
- Kris Jarusevicius
- Juniors: Bill Elkins
- Display: Carl Zimmerman
- Custodian: Joy Fergoda
- Field Trips: Dan Brown
- Webmaster: Kris Jarusevicius
Tarance Beguhl
- Groundskeeper: OPEN
- Historian: Frank Fawcett
- Scholarship: Kim Hofer
Sheldon Shuper
- Librarian: Frank Fawcett
- Membership: Frank Fawcett (Temp)
Meg Zbierski
- Newsletter Mailing: Meg & Frank Zbierski
- Club Publicity: Tarance Beguhl
- Audit: OPEN (2)
- Business Advertising & Corporate Sponsorship: Kevin Beguhl, Sheldon Shuper

2007 Show Committees and Volunteers

- Show Chairs: Kevin Beguhl
Frank Fawcett
Kris Jarusevicius
- Show Food Chair: Linda Baglin
- Show Print Advertising: Janice Marzolf
- Show Mailings: Janice Marzolf
- Dealer Contracts: Kevin Beguhl
Sheldon Shuper
- Exhibits: Sheldon Shuper
- Juniors Activities & Spinning Wheel: OPEN

August Shop Steward Schedule

Saturday		Wednesday	
Sept. 1	Stan H.	Sept. 5	Ron S.
Sept. 8	Tarance B.	Sept. 12	Carl Z.
Sept. 15	Kevin B.	Sept. 19	Stan. H.
Sept. 22	Sam L.	Sept. 26	Craig M.
Sept. 29	Craig M.		

Stewards: Please contact Stan Henneman at 363-5011 if you are unable to cover your assigned shift.

Reminders:

- Glasses are always required while working in the shop.
- Be sure to sign in before using shop equipment.
- Report any problems to the Shop Steward of the day.
- Rock cutting is to be performed by Shop Stewards only.
- Please be sure to clean up your work area and your machine before leaving for the day.

President's Message

Hello everyone—

This has been a busy month so I would like to highlight some of the things that have happened. First the board took a very attractive step (I'd say) in making an effort to reward the people that put forth a great deal of time and effort to help the club with all of the events that it is involved in each year. They have set up a system so you can get credit for time that you volunteer for certain events and redeem it at the club for shop time or rocks. They've also approved funds to replace a great portion of the wheels on the *Genies*.

On a different note, we had an info table at the *Gem Faire* and need to thank **Stan Henneman** for coordinating this and all the time that he volunteered. On the same weekend, we held our summer tailgater and open house. The reason we held it this weekend was so we could combine it with hosting of the CO-OP field trip club's meeting. We did not get the normal turn out of vendors and guests, but all in all it went well and we did get some new members from the show and open house.

I have been enjoying having the wire wrap and dichroic glass workshops on the Saturdays a lot. But due to the fact that several of our members are taking classes at local colleges and will not be out of class until around 2:00 p.m., I am going to start the workshops at the normal 10:00 a.m. time so people can work on their projects, but I will be staying around the clubhouse until around 6:00 p.m. There are a couple of things that this will allow: first, I will be able to work on some of my projects; and the members that are tied up in the morning will still be able to stop by and maybe work on a project. I will try this in September and see how it works out.

On a pleasant note, **Jim Foskett** is doing well in his health battle and we look forward to him getting well and back out to the shop.

On a less pleasant note, a long-time member that has donated a large amount of time and effort to the club has tendered his resignation due to personal reasons. This is **Stan Henneman**. So if you see him during September, please let him know how much his input has been appreciated..

Well go have fun and cut a rock.

~Kevin Beguhl, SMS President 2007

Business Meeting Agenda for September 13, 2007

Committee Reports – Treasurer's Report, CFMS, Membership, Field Trip, Correspondence, Shop, Show

Agenda Items

- Promoting presentation of display cases by club members
- Club Membership Renewals (new proposal)
- Nominating Committee Status
(Post in October / Vote in November)
- Status: Holiday Dinner

Business Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order by **Frank Fawcett** followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance*. A quorum of board members was present plus a dozen (or so!) regular members.

Copies of the Treasurer's report were handed out and posted in the clubhouse.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming BBQ—We still need vendors.

Show—Dixie Christenson has been doing a GREAT job cleaning up the club's exhibit cases. **Kevin Beguhl** has coordinated the donation of all paint and primer for the cases. Help will be needed soon to do the painting. We currently have commitments from most of our vendors.

Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers—We are still in need of a restaurant facility. So far we've had NO suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer compensation -- There was considerable discussion on how to compensate SMS members who volunteer their time for designated SMS events. As a result, it was MSA that members will receive one 'credit' for each hour they volunteer for a designated SMS event. Each credit can be redeemed for an hour's shop time and/or class time or \$1.00 toward rock purchases from the yard. Credit will be determined by verified sign-up sheets presented by the event organizer to the Board for approval at a subsequent business meeting and awarded at next education meeting. This compensation will begin with the November Show.

Genie wheel replacement -- **Kevin Beguhl** reported that all the shop *Genies* need to have their wheels replaced and suggested that we rotate replacement – replacing half of the wheels every six months (cost of \$2,200). He also suggested we add one expandable drum onto two *Genies*. A motion was MSA for the above.

Scholarship Committee report -- (Kim Hofer & Meg Zbierski). **Kim Hofer** requested that SMS make several revisions to our scholarship application and the following date changes: September 30 deadline for submission; October 30 deadline for notification to winner; November 11 awarding of scholarship to recipient during the SMS show. The informational sheet, application, and deadline modification requests were MSA.

Nominating Committee — **Kevin Beguhl** suggested we form a Nominating Committee to prepare for the 2008 officer and board member elections. **Joy Fergoda** and **Kim Hofer** volunteered and would appreciate hearing from other members who would like to work on this committee. The by-laws state the Committee should be represented by three individuals, so only one more volunteer is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Fergoda, Secretary

Yolo Rock Chronicles

Episode Four: Rockhound Spirits

—By Gilbert Gonzalez

Finding beautiful rocks and incredible mineral specimens is part of the adventure of rockhounding. It is a treasure hunt; the value of what you find is in the hands of the beholder. I have found many man made artifacts while searching for petrified wood in western Yolo County.

One special spring day I was headed home after spending a few successful hours collecting some outstanding pieces of Yolo petrified wood on old Bob Kessler’s section of Goodnow Slough. As I approached the main livestock gate of my sheep ranch, I saw my neighbor, old Bob, working on the windmill that pumped water for his thirsty white-faced cattle. There was no wind that day, so he was attaching a pump jack to the wellhead and would power it with a gasoline motor. Nearby was his water storage tank which could hold about five thousand gallons of precious water. The tank rested on a wood platform supported by twelve concrete block columns, each on about six feet high.

All around the area were the rustic remains of the original Kessler homestead. Fred Kessler, old Bob’s uncle, had built a classic California homestead here in the 1900’s. About one hundred ancient eucalyptus trees form a huge wind break along the entire northern boundary of the site. To the east are about forty very old almond trees, also a grove of enormous elderberry bushes, a couple of beautiful date palms, and numerous golden fig trees.

The crumbling concrete foundation of a once stately two-story farm house with a deep basement and screen porches all around is near the eucalyptus trees. To the west were a chicken house and chicken pens; also an old tool shed and a large bunk house for seasonal workers. To the south of these old relics were the concrete foundations of three long forgotten hay barns, once the

center of activity on the farm. A wild land forest fire had swept through here in the past and left mostly ashes. To the southeast are the remains of the dairy shed and a fenced five acre dairy cow pasture. Towards the west was a series of cattle corrals and holding pens used by old Bob to work with his beef cows.

In the center of the homestead were the well and windmill and the charred remains of a huge tank house that had burned long ago. I asked Bob if he had any old photographs of his uncle’s homestead in its heyday when it was alive with people and all the buildings were here. Well he said “no”, but he proceeded to tell me what it was like when he worked for his uncle as a teenager. Originally it was a dryland vineyard of about one hundred and sixty acres of mostly zinfandel grapes, five hundred acres in dryland barley and wheat, and two hundred acres of blue oak forest rangeland. There were three hand-dug wells each about one hundred feet deep with windmills.

When prohibition of alcohol happened in the 1920’s, the local wineries shut down and there was nowhere for Fred Kessler to sell his grapes. So he created two large underground wine making cellars, one under the dairy shed and one near the main house. Each was eight feet deep and well hidden. The Kessler winery flourished during prohibition, supplying much needed zinfandel wine to the citizens of the San Francisco bay area.

Then prohibition ended and the price of wine fell as fine wine was now legal to be produced on a large scale and imported by the shipload. So in 1935, Fred Kessler decided to close the winery and concentrate on cattle ranching. Before the wine cellar near the house was filled in, Bob had helped his uncle Fred place two cases of their finest 1935 zinfandel wine in the very bottom of the cellar, and then it was covered with eight feet of earth, becoming a time capsule to rest for fifty years.

Old Bob Kessler inherited the homestead and waited until 1985 to attempt to recover those two cases of zinfandel wine. He dug

(Continued on page 7)

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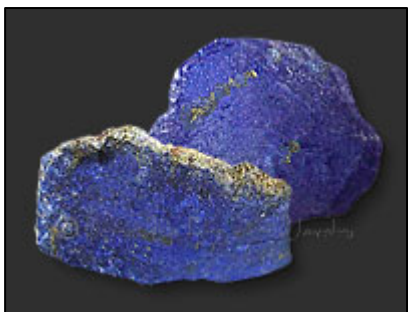


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Birthstones are a fun way to celebrate one's birth. The list of modern birthstones currently accepted in the U.S. was developed in 1912 by the American National Association of Jewelers; a different list is maintained in Germanic countries. The gems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



Lapis Lazuli

Lapis Lazuli is said to have existed since "before time was born," and has been likened to the night sky bedecked with stars. It has adorned the ceremonial robes of the Hebrews, and legend tells of King Solomon being assisted by

an angel who gave him a special ring made of lapis which allowed him to control the legions of demons he used to build the temple. It was also used by the Egyptians to color cosmetics, by the Assyrians and Babylonians for seals, and ground into powder by Renaissance painters to produce bright blues. It is said that the legendary city of Ur on the Euphrates plied a keen lapis lazuli trade as long ago as the fourth millennium B.C., the material coming from the famous deposits in Afghanistan. In other cultures, lapis lazuli was regarded as a holy stone. In the Middle East, it was thought to have magical powers. Countless signet rings, scarabs and figures were wrought from the blue stone which Alexander the Great brought to Europe. There, the color was referred to as 'ultramarine', which means something like 'from beyond the sea'.

Top quality lapis lazuli comes from Afghanistan. It is also found in Siberia, Chile, the U.S., Pakistan, and Canada. The name is derived from the Latin *lapis* which means stone, and from the Persian word *lazhward* which means blue rock.

Lapis lazuli, 5 to 5.5 on the Mohs scale, is one of the most valuable semi-opaque stones. It is mainly lazurite and diopside, that may contain white (calcite) or gold (pyrite) colored inclusions. The stone's value decreases with the presence of white patches, while small veins of pyrite are often prized. It crystallizes in masses, cubes and dodecahedral crystals. It came into being millions of years ago during the metamorphosis of lime to marble. It has been used to create jewelry for more than six thousand years and is often carved into vases and sculptures, and used to make beads.

Lapis is known to the rock-cutter for the smell emits during working; an experienced cutter can often tell from the odor how intense the color is. When polishing this stone, it should be handled gently and not subjected to much pressure. It is often sealed with colorless wax or synthetic resin; as long as it is not mixed with any coloring agent, the sealing process simply has the effect of improving the stone's wearing qualities. However, it should

always be protected from acidic substances, and it should not be exposed to too much sunlight.

Lapis is considered the "stone of total awareness," promoting wisdom, insight and intellectual capacity, influencing spiritual thinking and psychic abilities, and enhancing the inner self. It strengthens the awareness and helps to expand one's viewpoint and remain objective, and enhances creativity and ESP. It stimulates emotional, mental and physical purity and clarity; and can assist in organizing one's life and day-to-day activities. Carried in an amulet bag or worn as an amulet, lapis is believed to enhance one's power, wisdom, ensure loving relationships, and bring cheer. It has also been known to protect the wearer/carrier from physical danger.

As a healing stone, it has been used to assist the emotions, helping to overcome depression and enhancing self acceptance. It is said to help relieve symptoms of insomnia, vertigo and dizziness and to aid in treating disorders of the throat, skeleton, bone marrow, thymus, and the immune system.

Lapis lazuli is the zodiac stone for Libra. It is also the accepted gem for the seventh and ninth wedding anniversary.

Display Case Tip: Line the inside of your case, but don't use bright colors or patterns as they take attention away from your display items. Off-white is usually used, but some other pastel shade may be more to your liking. Just be sure that the color you select does not compete with what you are displaying.

Source: Northwest Fed Newsletter, 11/01, via *The Pegmatite*, 03/05

Let's Get Gemstones on U.S. Stamps

—By Wendell Morh, Commemorative Stamp Chair

Persistence pays, and in the competitive atmosphere of getting stamp subjects into print, we believe that it is very important to continue to endorse our request for gems on stamps. It is a first-class idea, really an extension of the "Our Mineral Heritage" theme of the two prior mineral stamp sets issued in 1974 and 1992. It's a gem of an idea! We think that the stamps would be beautiful and welcomed by not only gem and mineral collectors, but also postal customers as well. Did you send a previous request to the *Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC)*? Help by sending another. Persistence pays.

Perhaps a more persuasive approach would be for each of us to send a personal letter rather than a form which might just be disregarded. I realize it now costs \$0.41 per letter to do this, but hopefully we can stick 'em (formerly lick 'em) on envelopes in the near future.

Send your letters to: The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development, US Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn Street, Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432.

AFMS Newsletter, 09/07

AFMS www.amfed.org

Federation News

CFMS www.cfmsinc.org

Introducing a New AFMS Program: Inter-Regional Field Trips

—By Dick Pankey, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

At the conclusion of the 2003 *Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous* to Texas Springs, NV, the frequently asked question was, "Where are we going next year?" This *Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous* was the brainchild of Shirley Leeson and Dee Holland, who in conjunction with Dean Richardson, involved me in a really great rockhound happening. It wasn't just the collecting – it was great! It wasn't just because it was big – we had about 200 people! It wasn't about the food – an unbelievable Dutch oven dinner and two potluck dinners! It was the people. Rockhounds from three federations, 13 states and 56 clubs all with the shared interest and love for this beautiful country of ours.

This *Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous* was a great, fun, rewarding event. It was more than a field trip, it was a coming together of rockhounds to do and share all the things we like to do. We had a great time together. We met and got to know a lot of wonderful rockhound friends. We collected some interesting rocks. We learned a little history. We enjoyed the beauty and majesty of this great land of ours.

But our AFMS President Elect, Shirley, couldn't let a good idea flounder and asked me what I thought about the idea of an AFMS Inter-Regional Field Trip Coordinator to promote and conduct inter-federation field trips and similar events. I said, "Count me in!" And that is what she did.

At the AFMS meeting at Roswell, her proposal for an Ad Hoc committee for Inter-Regional Field Trips was accepted and I was appointed the first chairman. The purpose of the committee is to promote relations between regional federations and to facilitate individuals and/or clubs to come together under a regional trip leader for the purpose of collecting and fellowship. The committee is to be made up of a Chair and one person from each regional federation to be selected by the Chair. Over the next few weeks I will be contacting each Federation for their recommendation of their representative on this committee.

It is my objective to have articles in each issue of the AFMS newsletter promoting inter-regional events, how-to articles, and announcements about at least one scheduled inter-regional field trip. To make all this work, I am counting on local field trip chairmen/leaders for ideas and help, for bulletin editors to help get the word out, and participation from rockhounds. Now let me introduce myself. I have been a rockhound since I stated collecting fluorite in my grandparent's gravel driveway in southern Illinois. I became a "card carrying" rockhound in 1989 when I joined the *Contra Costa M&GS* in Concord, CA, and became involved in field trips and shows. My wife, Betty, also enjoys collecting and camping. I soon became the field trip chairman, and have been leading trips ever since. And Betty is right there helping; I organize and lead the collecting trips and she arranges and coordinates the potluck dinners and happy hours.

When asked what I do in this rockhound hobby, my response is, "I collect and I lead field trips." We also enjoy exhibiting our display cases and going to shows. Currently I am President of the California Federation and have attended all of the AFMS shows and meetings starting with Port Townsend, WA, in 2002. It has been a wonderful experience to meet and make rockhound friends from all of the federations around the country.

I look forward to working with each federation to conduct multi-federation "rendezvous where rockhounds come together to do and share all the things we like to do."

AFMS Newsletter, 09/07

Excerpt from: The President's Corner

—By Dick Pankey, CFMS President

A "Show" is probably the biggest undertaking that a club does each year. It is an outreach to their community and to other rockhounds. It is a chance to show off our talents, interests, and what we do. It is a showcase of our hobby. Also, it provides an educational experience for children and adults alike. For most clubs it is how they earn the money that sustains the other activities of the club. Therefore, the success of a show is often measured by the profit that is made. For me, an even greater measure of success of a show is attendance and the people that we reach.

Another benefit is that it brings the club together with a united purpose. A show requires the efforts of many, of the entire club. Very often the Show Chairman and the "usual dedicated few" do most of the work. And here is the conundrum - many members are slow to volunteer and "it is easier to do it myself than to keep asking for help." But with a little encouragement many members who stand back and wait until show time do end up participating. Why do they stand back? Why are they reluctant to participate and commit? The answers are many and probably different for each person and each club. However, if we can get them involved we will have a stronger club, and they will be more interested and active in the future. It is worth the effort.

CFMS Newsletter, 09/07

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(Rockhound Spirits, continued from page 4)

three deep holes where the thought the wine was located, but found nothing. He was so disappointed, he didn't bother to fill in the holes he had dug, they are still there. Three huge craters, each about 15 feet across and three feet deep.

I told Bob, "Since it was liquid, maybe I could find it with my brass water witching rods." He said, "Try it". So I walked over to my ole 4x4 truck and grabbed my well-worn witching rods and proceeded to scan the areas where Bob had not dug craters. At a spot between the old house foundation and the nearest crater, my witching rods gave me a slight but definite signal. So I told Bob that I thought this was the spot, but he said, no, that spot was too close to the house and it was not there, but if I wanted to dig there, go ahead.

The next day I returned with a pick, shovel, water, and a chisel bar. The ground was hard; they call it red gravel soil. After the winter rains it dries to half the hardness of concrete. Each swing of my old, weathered pick only chips off a one-inch deep piece of earth. Progress was slow. The first twelve inches took forever to dig, but it was only the top twelve inches of soil that had hardened to form a crust. Below this hard dirt was a fine, sandy dirt that Fred Kessler had filled the cellar with and it was so easy to dig. I was soon down about six feet when I heard the clink of glass. Using my leather gloves, I carefully began removing the sand and exposed the tops of twenty-four wine bottles. As I was removing sand, I heard a vehicle approaching on the gravel road. It was my friend, Roger, and his beautiful lady, Pamela. I asked if they wanted to help me dig up this old wine treasure. They did. The three of us proceeded to slowly remove the bottles. Nineteen were perfectly preserved and still sealed with wine inside; five had lost their seals and were only half full. Those amber wine bottles were 950 ml bottles with cork-lined metal caps. The cardboard box and the labels had long ago disappeared to nature. We celebrated with some ice cold beer that Roger had in an ice chest. It was Easter Sunday and what a good Easter hunt that was!

Bob Kessler was happy that I found the wine and asked for just one of the good bottles, which I gave to him. The remaining bottles I took to the R.H. Philips winery, located just north of Esparto, and talked to one of the owners, Carl Giguire. I showed him the bottles and he took me to see his head winemaker. With much difficulty and care, the wine master was able to remove the metal cap that time had welded to the glass. He slowly poured some into a decanter and did a few tests on the sample, then he declared that it was still wine -- fifty-eight year old zinfandel. We all got to taste that well-aged brew from the old gangster days. The flavor of the wine is proof of its age; the taste of charcoal and sulfur is evidence that is consistent with wine making practices of the 1930's. At that time, the inside of the oak wine barrels were charred with hot coals and treated with sulfur powder to prepare them for the wine fermentation process. The resulting wine carried a slight charcoal and sulfur taste. The inside of the bottles were stained by the color in the wine, except for the small area at the top of the bottles. The wine is now a pale, pink color.

I took six bottles of this wine to the UC Davis wine department to ask about its historical value. I got to see the head wine maker and he was kind enough to check over the bottles. He told me that the bottles had all indications of being very old wine, mostly because of the staining of the inside. But since the bottles had no labels and there is no documentation that a winery existed in Yolo County during prohibition, they have no value if compared to documented old wine. He said the best thing to do was to donate the remaining seventeen bottles to the university, where they would do documented research on this old wine.

I returned my remaining 17 bottles of 1935 zinfandel wine to a spot in my garage next to all the other things I consider small earth treasures.



Slag Glass

—By Joy Fergoda

My newest lapidary interest is slag glass. It's all SMS member, **Jim Christian's**, fault! If he hadn't brought in hunks of beautiful, multi-colored, opaque glass to grind and polish, I probably would have been satisfied working with fluorite (which I still adore!) and other natural stones.

You may be asking, "What the heck IS slag glass?" And that's a good question, because when you look it up on the internet, you'll find "slag glass" listed as opaque, pressed glass collectibles, often with colored streaks, NOT the remnants of glassware manufacturers which is what Jim and I have been working with. I can't find any information on exactly how the remnant glass is poured off and/or mixed with other colored remnant glass. Nor can I find any information on what is it poured into or what is done with it ... Dumped? Sold to glassblowers? It is available at some out-of-state rock shops. It ranges in size from tiny pieces to large chunks weighing 10 lbs. or more. I have found significant amounts of transparent, single-color slag, but opaque is difficult to find.

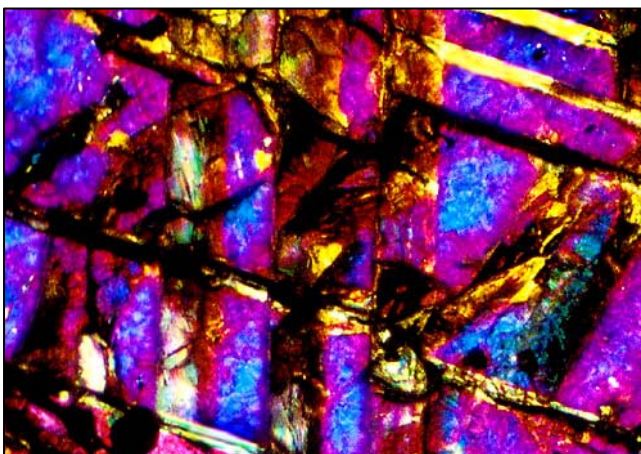
That said, let me tell you the beauty of working with slag glass. It has a Mohs hardness scale rating of 5, so it is fairly soft and easy to work with (similar to obsidian which is natural glass and the result of volcanic activity). It is the perfect material for both beginners and more advanced lapidary workers/artists. It slabs easily and polishes up beautifully. It comes in so many colors and color combinations and can be so unusual; it can have stripes, blotches, or swirls of different colors in one piece. You rarely see cabs or jewelry made with slag glass and so it makes for a unique gift.

If anyone has any information on slag glass, please contact me. Or if you want to try your hand at cabbing a piece, contact me at jafergoda@yahoo.com or (530) 756-5859 and I'll give you a piece to try. Catch the slag glass "bug"!

Molecular Expressions – August Birthstone

An interesting website called *Molecular Expressions* literally gets to the core of gemstone study. The site features photo galleries that explore the fascinating world of microscopy – photographs taken through an optical microscope. Maintained by Florida State University in collaboration with Optical Microscopy at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the site displays a series of images entitled *The Birthstone Collection* containing digital images made from photomicrographs of mineral-thin sections that contain the select gems. Some images display the surface of impure and uncut stones, while others display crystallites formed from dissolved minerals.

Use of images and information contained in this series of articles has been granted by the website's owners. Many of the images in the collection were made from crude specimens and the team is in search of better specimens to examine and photograph. If you have such samples you feel they might be interested in and would like to see them photographed, please visit the website and follow the link to send them an email with your offering. You may visit their website directly by going to: <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/birthstones/index.html>.



Sapphire

The blue brilliance of the sapphire has been treasured for thousands of years, its color thought to represent heavenly or celestial qualities. The ancient Persians believed that the earth rested on a giant sapphire and that its reflection gave the sky its blue color. Jewish tradition holds that Moses was given the Ten Commandments on tablets of sapphire, making it the most sacred of gemstones.

Sapphire is a form of the mineral corundum, a crystalline form of aluminum oxide and one of the most durable minerals that exists; only diamonds are harder. Trace impurities of iron and titanium are responsible for the deep blue color most people associate with sapphire. The gem also occurs in a variety of blue shades. Several other colors of corundum, such as yellow, reddish-orange, and violet, are also classified as sapphire. Red corundum crystals are called rubies. When cut into a

cabochon, some specimens of sapphire exhibit asterism; that is, a six-rayed star can be seen in the interior of the stone. Such stones are called star sapphires.

A primary constituent of many igneous rocks, the hardness of the sapphire makes it useful for industrial applications as well as for jewelry. Synthetic sapphires have been produced commercially since 1902 and are used for scratch-resistant watch crystals, optical scanners, and for a variety of other instruments. They are also used in scientific and industrial applications where transparency to ultraviolet irradiation and strength are important.

The sapphire has long symbolized truth, sincerity, and faithfulness. The ancients regarded star sapphires as an extremely powerful talisman, a guiding star for travelers and seekers of all kinds. These stones were so powerful, they were said to continue to protect the wearer even after being passed on to someone else.

Today, sapphires are most commonly found and mined in Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Africa. Some deposits have been found in the United States (in Montana and North Carolina), but these occur primarily in alluvial deposits in rivers. Underground deposits are known to exist in Montana, but the rock has been too hard, and expensive, to mine thus far.

Sapphire is the birthstone for September, the month when the most babies are born, and the zodiac sign Virgo.

Used with permission from Michael W. Davidson, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Florida State University

Agatized Coral

Coral is the outside skeleton of tiny ocean animals called polyps, which live in colonies attached to hard underwater surfaces. When alive, polyps combine their own carbon dioxide with the lime in warm seawater to form a limestone-like hard surface, or coral.

Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a "pseudomorph," meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original form. In 1979 agatized coral was designated the official state stone for Florida. Agatized coral is found in three main locations in the state: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee river beds.



Found on the Internet at: <http://www.flheritage.com/facts/symbols/symbol.cfm?page=2&id=16>

Education Meeting Minutes, August 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order by **Frank Fawcett** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The evening's speaker was **Dan Brown**, SMS and *Fossils For Fun* member. He described the May 2007 Co-Op trip to Glendive, Montana, to collect marine fossils. If you know Dan, you know that he and **Alma DeShazer** don't do anything halfway. Although the actual site visit was only a few days, Dan and Alma s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d it out to about a 30-day trip, including visits to other interesting geological sites.

Prepare yourself for an 'armchair adventure' across much of the Western U.S.!! Pulling their trailer behind them, Dan and Alma spent their first night in Wells, Nevada, near Angel Lake. Night two found them in Madison Campground in East Yellowstone Park where they saw grizzly, moose, elk, deer, ravens and a bald eagle. From there they went to Mammoth Hot Springs and then on to the petrified forest.

They reached the Co-Op trip site, Glendive, Montana, where they found Pierre Shale containing marine fossils: ammonites, bivalves, and baculite (squid-like with shells). They also found Yellowstone Agate (moss agate) NOT in the rivers (because the water was too high) but in the edge of the roadbeds which were paved with river rock!!

From Glendive, Dan and Alma traveled to Roosevelt Park, North Dakota, and then a new state campground in South Dakota. No time to rest! Next they went to the Homestead Gold Mine, Deadwood, and Mill City, South Dakota, where they took a two-hour steam train ride thru the Black Hills spotting pegmatite dikes, mica and beryl crystals. A short trip took them to the ever-evolving Crazy Horse Monument (which is scheduled to be about five times larger than the Mt. Rushmore carvings).

So, do you think they were winding down their trip? NO! From Crazy Horse they headed to Devil's Tower, Wyoming -- a solidified volcanic neck that pushes into the clouds. Then back to Montana, where at Billings they were greeted by a snow "white-out"! Then on to Bozeman to visit the *Museum of the Rockies*. They stopped in Alder, Montana, to look for garnets but Ruby Lake was too high so they went on to Crystal Park, Montana, where you can find smoky quartz and quartz crystals.

The final leg of their trip took them to Texas Springs, Nevada, where long ago volcanic ash covered a juniper forest and you can find limb casts (pink, clear, and mahogany in color).

Are you tired yet? No, well, good. Because they headed to Tuskarorra, Nevada, to find petrified wood and then faced a twister and sandstorm in Lovelock, Nevada, before heading back to Sacramento.

So, if you really want an adventure and have plenty of time to wander-with-a-purpose, follow Dan and Alma's trailer. You can't go wrong!!

Thanks, Dan & Alma, for a wonderfully inspiring adventure.

—Joy Fergoda, Secretary

SMS Calendar

All events held at the SMS clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

September

- 1st thru 3rd—
Saturday thru
Monday SMS-sponsored CO-OP field trip to Plush, Oregon for Sunstone. See additional information on the CO-OP website.
- 8th—Saturday Craft Workshop with Kevin Beguhl
Wire Wrap or Dichroic Glass (Take your pick.)
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee
- 13th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!
- 20th—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Fred Ott on the topic of
How to Arrange Display Cases
- 22nd —Saturday Craft Workshop with Kevin Beguhl
Wire Wrap or Dichroic Glass (Take your pick.)
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., \$7.00 + materials fee

October

- 11th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!
- 18th—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Topic TBD

November

- 8th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Scottish Rite Center
All members welcome!
- 9th thru 11th—
Fri. thru Sun. SMS "Golden Harvest of Gems, Jewelry & Minerals"
Show at the Scottish Rite Center
- 15th—Thursday Educational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Silent Auction
Topic TBD

December

- 13th—Thursday Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
All members welcome!
- 20th—Thursday SMS Holiday Dinner and Installation of 2008 Officers
(Facility still to be determined.)

**Shop open every Wednesday and Saturday
from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Spread the word and bring a friend!**

Plastic bottles with a flip-top make excellent dispensers of polishing compounds to your laps, wheels, and tools. Add water to the polish compound of your choice, in the proportion you desire. Then add a small stone or some buckshot to the bottle to act as an agitator. Shake well and squirt the solution on the felt, canvas, or leather lap. There's no waste and no contamination.

Via Chips & Tips, via Yuba Sutter Gems 11/01, via Golden Frog, 11/05

Precious Opals Here In The USA??

When most of us rockhounds hear "opal" we have visions of *Lightning Ridge* and *Cooper Pedy* in Australia. For years my husband and I thought we'd have to spend a fortune to gather the precious gems. That was until we discovered Virgin Valley, Nevada! Tucked away in a remote northwest corner of Nevada are some of the richest opal deposits in the world. While most of us see Nevada as a dry desert, about 15 million years ago the Virgin Valley area was a large lakebed thick with flora and fauna. Over the millions of years of volcanic eruptions and the trees eventually giving way to the new climate, the conditions were right to create some of the most unique and spectacular opals. Silica and minerals gradually replaced some of the organic material creating brilliant colors of red, blue, green, purple and yellow. It is very common to find whole limbs of precious opal in both crystal and the coveted black base. If any of you were fortunate enough to see the Travel Channel's *Cash and Treasures* episode earlier this year (<http://travel.discovery.com/tv/cash-treasures/toolkit/opals.html>), you would have seen fiery opals of all shapes and sizes including some weighing well over 30 lbs!

We spent several years doing fee digging in the Virgin Valley area (about a 4-hour drive from Reno, Nevada) and were lucky enough to have met up with some very nice folks at the *Bonanza Opal Mine*. We were already hooked on opals but after digging in the tailings at *Bonanza* and finding a pine cone seedling that was full of fire and even had the individual cone sections still intact, we knew there was no going back. We found so much gorgeous treasure at the *Bonanza* that we got on a waiting list for a rarely available share of the mine itself. I can't tell you the fun and relaxation our new-found hobby has brought us... Not to mention some of the most beautiful opals you can imagine!

The Virgin Valley has been producing opals since the early 1900's, when it was immortalized in the newspaper writings of Flora Lockhead (a.k.a Loughhead). Her love of the area and of the opals it produced started a rush that ended up with the *Bonanza* mine being purchased in 1954. In 1992, it was incorporated and today we are fortunate enough to own one of the 100 shares in the mine.

The entire Virgin Valley area is part of the *Sheldon National Wildlife Reserve* and a visit there has no shortage of incredible things to do outdoors. There are several natural hot springs in the valley with a cozy FREE campground that has a natural hot springs pool and shower. There are several mines in the area which offer fee digging in both the tailings and the actual virgin banks/scoops themselves. While we had our best digging at *Bonanza* and think our opal is the brightest, there are numerous places to choose from. Try your luck in all of them! There are endless opportunities for other rockhounding (the petrified wood is incredible, including a protected area that has whole petrified trees), fishing, and nature watching. The sunsets and night sky in the desert are uniquely spectacular.

For more information about *Bonanza Opal Mines* and some history of the area, visit our website (www.bonanzaopals.com) to

view some of our beautiful opals and to find out more information on the area. My husband and I have lived all over the US and I can honestly say that my rockhounding heart has found its home here in Nevada. I hope to see some of you here! If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Carol Roberts,
th4roct@highlandswireless.net

Reno, Nevada
Bonanza Opal Mines, Inc.

BONANZA OPAL MINES, INC.

www.bonanzaopals.com

Millsite Phone Number:
(775) 941-0111 (May thru Sept)
After Sept and before May,
contact Don and Nadine Carey
Home Phone: (541) 383-1700, Email: nadine1700@aol.com



Discover your own precious opals at the Bonanza Opal Mine! Unique to the Virgin Valley in Nevada, opals from this area are world-class and are even showcased at the Smithsonian Institute. The Bonanza opals are some of the best in the region and our diggers have found opalized tree limbs, pinecones and other prehistoric organic material. We provide fresh new material at our tailings digging site several times during the season so there is always new opportunities for finding your own incredible, fiery opals!

OUR MATERIAL IS FRESH FROM OUR OWN MINING OPERATIONS AND HAS NOT BEEN SCREENED!

2007 Season Digging Fees: \$45 per person
(Kids 12 and under are FREE with paid adult)
Discounts available for groups of 10 or more
RESERVATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY!

The only tool required is a small hand rake and these are available for rent or purchase at the digging site.

Hours of Operation (May 23-Sept. 30): 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Daily

Don't want to spend the time finding your own opals? We have dry opals ready for cutting that can be purchased onsite ranging in sizes and grades to suit your requirements! We also have wet opal for specimens.

Directions: From Winnemucca take Hwy 95 North approximately 33 miles to Hwy 140 West which will take you to Denio Junction (about 66 miles). At Denio Junction, turn West onto Hwy 140. Go about 24 miles to the graded dirt road on the left. You will see several signs along the way advertising the opal mines in this area. Two miles down the dirt road is a FREE campground with incredible hot springs. As you pass through the camping area, take the right fork in the road following the signs to the Bonanza Mine. Go 4.5 miles to another dirt road on the right which will take you up a slight hill. You will see signs guiding you to the Bonanza Mine. Continue up the dirt road past the Opal Queen mine continuing straight through the gate for the Bonanza Opal Mine. Follow the road to the left as you pass through the gate up to our digging site where our experienced miners will educate you on finding opals in our large digging area.

From Lakeview, Oregon take Hwy 140 East approximately 83 miles. When you pass highway Rest Area on your right, you are about ½ mile from the graded dirt road on your right. Follow the directions above from the graded road.

The BLM and Buena Vista Museum of Natural History
 Presents
**GEOLOGY OF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT
 HOLLISTER TO CARRIZO PLAINS**
 Saturday & Sunday, September 29-30, 2007



This 2-day field conference examines the segment of the San Andreas Fault between Hollister and Wallace Creek in the Carrizo Plains. On Saturday the field trip commences in Hollister. We will hike the Pinnacles at the National Monument, see the New Idria mercury mining district, and explore the hot springs near Coalinga. Saturday evening we will camp in Coalinga. On Sunday we go on to the Baker Oil Museum, Parkfield, "Earthquake Capitol of the World", look at fault scarps in Cholame Valley, and end the day at Wallace Creek, a world-famous off-set steam that is shown in all geology textbooks.

Stops and topics include: Hollister fault traces, Alcalde Hills, Coal Mine Canyon, Baker Oil Museum, Coalinga Mineral Baths, Coalinga Hot Springs, Priest Valley, Off-set streams, Sag Ponds, Pressure Ridges, Evolution of the Central Coast Ranges, Geothermal Energy, Earthquakes and Earthquake Prediction, San Andreas Fault, Volcanoes, Coalinga Oil Field, Pinnacles National Monument, Mercury and Asbestos Mines.

In-Service College Credit

One unit of credit is available for \$35.00 per unit through the Extension and Regional Studies Division of California State University.

Registration Required

Registration is \$25.00 per vehicle per day. Call the Museum at (661) 324-6350 to pay with a credit card. In addition to registration, participants must pay an entrance fee to Pinnacles National Monument and the Baker Oil Museum.

If you have any questions about registering for this field trip, contact Gregg Wilkerson at (661) 391-6081 or contact the Museum directly at (661) 324-6350. You will be asked to sign a "Hold Harmless" agreement before the field trip begins.

NOTE: Museum vans are no longer offered for these trips due to their high cost and liability issues associated with using the vans.

Via CO-OP 8/13/07



KATERINA'S TREASURES

FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS

**SILVER & GOLD JEWELRY ~ SCREAM BODY JEWELRY ~ BLACKHILLS GOLD
 LOOSE GEMS ~ MONTANA SILVERSMITHS ~ CANDLES ~ FINDINGS ~ CELTIC JEWELRY
 BEADS ~ MOUNTINGS ~ WIRE WRAPPING SUPPLIES TOOLS ~ LOOSE CABOCHONS
 HAND MADE & WIRE WRAP JEWELRY
 NATURAL STONE CABOCHON JEWELRY ~ STAINLESS STEEL AND TITANIUM
 CUSTOM ORDER JEWELRY & REPAIR**

25% DISCOUNT TO ALL SMS MEMBERS

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Field Trips

CO-OP

www.coop.5u.com

Due to CO-OP privacy concerns, details of CO-OP sponsored trips can no longer be published in *The Matrix*. Contact the SMS filed trip leader, Dan Brown, at (209) 296-6466 or danbrown666@msn.com for further information and/or revisions. Information on field trips may also be obtained from the "members only" section of the CO-OP website at www.coop.5u.com.

Reminders: 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 safety rules. Always use common sense.

- Sept. 1-3 **Plush, OR** for gem grade sunstone (feldspar). Sponsored by the *Sacramento Mineral Society*, members' guests allowed. Contact Dan Brown, (209) 296-6466 or danbrown@volcano.net. Dry camping in BLM collecting area. Map and directions may be obtained from trip leader. BLM digging area is free; there are two mining claims nearby that have fee digging available.
- Sept. 1-3 **Austin, NV** for snakeskin agate, fluorite, daisy agate, leaf fossils and maybe something new! Sponsored by *El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society*, trip is limited to members to CO-OP clubs. Contact: Barbara Terrill, (530) 676-2375 or membership@edcar.org. See the CO-OP website for information, including vehicle needs and accommodations.
- Sept. 1-3 **Cedarville, CA** for petrified wood. Sponsored by *Fossils For Fun Society*, trip is open to members of CFMS clubs or those willing to join the FFF. Contacts: Debbie Bunn at (916) 929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com, Carole Lockhart and Keith Lindholm at (916) 638-2314 or cjlockhart@softcom.net or keith_lindholm@hotmail.com. See the CO-OP website for additional information including camping/motel availability, tools and safety concerns.
- Sept. 23-29 **Southern Utah** for petrified wood, agate, fossils. Sponsored by *Fossils For Fun*. Contact: Carole Lockhart & Keith Lindholm at (916) 638-2314 or cjlockhart@softcom.net. Please review details noted on the CO-OP website for further information.
- October 6 CFMS Seminar for Field Trip Leaders in Los Altos. Details forthcoming.
- October 7 **San Andreas, CA** for serpentine ranging in color from black to dark green to yellow-green, found along the side of the road in piles. Also a visit to *Stories in Stone Emporium* in Angels Camp for an educational earth-science presentation. Sponsored by *Sun City Lincoln Hills Gem & Mineral Society*, members' guests are allowed. Contact trip leader, Ronald Clawson at (916) 543-0065, (916) 384-7266 (cell) or cearon1@yahoo.com if you plan to attend as the *Stories in Stone* presentation is limited to 50 people.
- Oct. 27-28 **Kettleman Hills, CA** for fossils. Limited to 30 attendees. *El Dorado Mineral & Gem Society*.
- Nov. 21-24 **Lavic Siding, CA**, east of Barstow, CA, for Lavic jasper, agate, fossils, copper minerals, others. *Mother Lode Mineral Society*. Al Troglin, (209) 838-7725 or shnalrokhound@yahoo.com.
-

Building a Zen Rock Garden

Pebbles or decomposed granite gravel can represent streams and small lakes in a dry landscape if raked into wave-like patterns. Many gardens contain two separate but adjacent stone 'islands' which represent a tortoise and a crane respectively. The tortoise and the crane are both traditional symbols of longevity in Japan.

Shrubs, moss and trees can be used along with stones, trimming the growth of green things to maintain balance between plantings and rocks. Flowering shrubs such as azaleas are acceptable, although flowers are not usually planted in rock gardens. In dry landscape gardens, low plantings can heighten the illusion of flowing water. The placing of 'turning stones' on a stream bank to curve and change the course of a 'river' is followed in the dry garden.

Rocks are not placed or piled, they are 'rooted'. A rock must always look as though it is a natural outcrop and has been there forever. Even numbered groupings are almost never used. Two

rocks may be set as one, with a subordinate. The number three is symbolic of infinity, so two smaller rocks always supplement a master, continuing its ridgeline and expanding its base.

Paths of stepping stones can be laid out if parallel ropes are laid along the line of the path and the foundation is well-tamped earth or gravel. The stones are footed to about one-third of their thickness with their surfaces about two inches above the ground. Slabs of five or six sides are favored; stones of less than sixteen inches on a side are called 'one-foot stones'; those over sixteen inches on a side are called 'two-foot stones'. If two one-foot stones are used, a two-foot stone should follow. A space of about ten inches is left between stones. Concave sides of a stone face the convex sides of its neighbor to avoid 'confrontation'. Paths should branch at an obtuse angle, usually from the outside of a curve.

A Zen garden tends to be small, not a 'strolling path'. As viewed from a veranda or window, it is an object of quiet contemplation only, a setting for fruitful meditation.

Petrograph, 01/03, via The Tumble Rumble, 09/06

Upcoming Shows & Events

- August 31–
September 3
September 15
September
15-16
September
15-16
September
20-23
September 22
September
22-23
September
29-30
October 3-7
October 7
October 13-14
October 13-14
October 13-14
October 20-21
October 20-21
October 20-21
Nov. 3-4
Nov. 9-11
Nov. 10-11
Nov. 17-18
- Fort Bragg, CA.** *Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society.* Town Hall, Main & Laurel. Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4. Don McDonell, (707) 964-3116.
- Fiddletown, CA.** *The Rockhound Saloon's "2nd Annual Rock Tail-Gate"* in conjunction with the Fiddletown Fiddlers' Jam and Street Fair. Hours: 10-5. Vilia, (209) 245-3912.
- Jackson, CA.** *Fossils For Fun Society's 7th Annual Tailgate Gemboree.* Kennedy Gold Mine, 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd, Hours: 9-5 both days. Dan Brown, (209) 296-6466, fossilsforfun@hotmail.com.
- Redwood City, CA.** *Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society's 41st Annual "Harvest of Gems and Minerals".* Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Hours: 10-5 both days. Carol Corden, (650) 248-7155, ccorden@earthlink.net, www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm.
- McDermitt, NV,** *4th Annual McDermitt Rock & Gem Show & Rockhound Rendezvous* at the Diamond A Motel and inside the McDermitt Community Hall, US Hwy 95. Info: (775) 532-8551 or 532-8088, rocks@diamondamotel.com.
- Los Altos, CA.** *Peninsula Gem & Geology Society's "Recreation with Rocks".* Rancho Shopping Center, Foothill Exp. and Springer Road. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.. David Muster, (408) 245-2180, colleen.mcgann@hds.com.
- Downey, CA.** *Delvers Gem & Mineral Society.* Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. Steve Miller, (562) 633-0614, email: guynellallen@sbcglobal.net.
- Stockton, CA.** *Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club's "Earth's Treasures".* Scottish Rite Temple, 33 W. Alpine St. Hours: 10-5 both days. Nettie Meissner, (209) 858-2263, www.stocktonlapidary.com.
- Joshua Tree, CA.** *The 32nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Crafts Show.* 6225 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree. Hours: M-Sat. 8-5, Sund. 8-3. Over 50 dealers of gems, rock minerals, crafts, lapidary and rock polishing equipment. Raffles, Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Classic Car Display, Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue Demonstration, Flag Raising Ceremony. All proceeds go to: *Sportsman's Building Fund* and *TLC (Tender Loving Christmas)*. (760) 366-2915.
- Fallbrook, CA.** *Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society's "Fall Festival of Gems".* FGMS Museum, 123 W. Alvarado. Hours: 10-4. Mary Fong-Walker, (760) 723-3484, mrwizard@tfb.com, www.FGMSORG/organization/orglocations/html.
- Grass Valley, CA.** *Nevada Country Gem & Mineral Society's "Earth's Treasures".* Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Road. Hours: 10-5 both days. Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752.
- Lakeside, CA.** *Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society.* Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview. Hours: 10-5 both days. David Newton, (619) 390-5054, email: jontom@netthere.com.
- Trona, CA.** *Searls Lake Gem & Mineral Society's "66th Annual Gem-O-Rama".* Searles Lake G&M Society, 13337 Main Street. Hours: Sat. 7:30-5, Sun. 7:30-4. Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356, email: jbfairchild@verizon.net. Website: www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html.
- Placerville, CA.** *El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society.* El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive. Hours: 10-5 both days. Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975, jacobcer@directcon.net, www.eldoradomineralandgem.org.
- Anderson, CA.** *Shasta Gem & Mineral Society.* Shasta District Fairgrounds. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Bill Steward, (530) 365-8641.
- Santa Rosa, CA.** *Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society.* Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1351 Maple Avenue. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Shirley Mattson or Tom Dering, (707) 795-1730 or (707) 564-4537, email: squirilly48@yahoo.com or farmarch@sonic.net. Website: www.gem-n-i.org.
- Concord, CA.** *Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society.* Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road. Clayton Fair Shopping Center. Hours: 10-5 both days. Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287.
- Sacramento, CA.** *Sacramento Mineral Society's "65th Annual Golden Harvest of Gems, Jewelry & Mineral Show".* Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento. www.sacmineralsociety.org.
- Yuba City, CA.** *Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society's "Festival of Gems".* Grace Franklin Hall, 442 Franklin Avenue. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4. Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752.
- Oxnard, CA.** *Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society.* 800 Hobson Way. Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Miriam Tetrault, (805) 642-5779. Website: www.ogms.net.

Show off your membership in the Sacramento Mineral Society by remembering to wear your SMS name badge and/or your SMS t-shirt when visiting shows and rockhounding events!

September is...

September 16 is Collect Rocks Day

- Apple Month
- Baby Safety Month
- **BE KIND TO EDITORS & WRITERS MONTH**
- Chicken Month
- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Children's Good Manners Month
- Cholesterol Education Month
- Classical Music Month
- Coupon Month
- Ethnic Foods Month
- Eye Health & Safety Month
- Fall Hat Month
- Food Education Safety
- Healthy Aging Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Jazz Month
- Honey Month

- Library Card Sign-Up Month
- Little League Month
- Marriage Health Month
- Mushroom Month
- Organic Harvest Month
- National Alcohol & Drug Abuse Recovery Month
- Rice Month
- Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month
- Self Awareness Month
- School Success Month
- Self-Improvement Month
- Sewing Month
- Sports and Home Eye Safety Month
- Southern Gospel Music Month
- Tiger Month
- Women of Achievement Month
- ... **HOT!!!!** (Keep cool and enjoy.)

September 2 is National Beheading Day

It's also a good time to consider what you can do to be an active participant in YOUR club in 2008. Share your talents! Contact a Board member or Nomination Committee member to let them know where you can be of service.

SMS

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

The Matrix

September 2007

