

# The Rock Bag

October/November 2010 Volume 48

Issue 9

**Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Oxnard, California**



M. Tetreault

OGMS Editor

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**Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society**

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The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization formed to increase our knowledge in geology, mineralogy and other such related fields in the earth sciences. We classify, cut, grind and polish rocks and minerals for our personal collections and to display at club shows. We learn from each other through club speakers, programs and monthly fieldtrips. We co-operate with other clubs to encourage others to participate in our activity.

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the State of California Federation of Mineralogical Society and the National Federation of Mineralogical Society.

**Meeting held:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Potlucks: 6:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA (Thousand Oaks Room)  
**Dues:** \$15.00 per adult; \$2.00 per junior member (age 12 to 18 years)

**OGMS Officers for 2010**

President	Louisa Carey	<a href="mailto:big_L76@yahoo.com">big_L76@yahoo.com</a>	(503) 309-6147
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Programs)	Brett Johnson	<a href="mailto:bj9709@yahoo.com">bj9709@yahoo.com</a>	822-3836
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Show)	Norb Kinsler		644-6450
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Field trips)	Ron Wise	<a href="mailto:clintwise@hotmail.com">clintwise@hotmail.com</a>	647-4393
Recording Secretary	Lee Leighton	<a href="mailto:ameritus@sbcglobal.net">ameritus@sbcglobal.net</a>	647-4594
Treasurer	Stephanie Hagiwara	<a href="mailto:purplehawk@hotmail.com">purplehawk@hotmail.com</a>	986-2006

**Appointed Standing Committee Chairs**

Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Carey	<a href="mailto:big_L76@yahoo.com">big_L76@yahoo.com</a>	(503) 309-6147
Displays/Exhibits	Brett Johnson	<a href="mailto:bj9709@yahoo.com">bj9709@yahoo.com</a>	822-3836
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Federation Director	Jim Brace-Thompson	<a href="mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com">jbraceth@roadrunner.com</a>	659-3577
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Hospitality	Carol Drescher		
Librarian	Abe Bar-Shai		(818) 991-7735
Member at Large	Kay Hara	<a href="mailto:kharafdoc@aol.com">kharafdoc@aol.com</a>	W 525-5415, H 525-7634
Membership Secretary	Anne Lewis		485-6356
Public Relations	Norb Tackman	<a href="mailto:ntack@sbcglobal.net">ntack@sbcglobal.net</a>	647-2538
Parliamentarian	Lee Leighton	<a href="mailto:ameritus@sbcglobal.net">ameritus@sbcglobal.net</a>	647-4594
Refreshments	Laura Driskell	<a href="mailto:driskellmom@yahoo.com">driskellmom@yahoo.com</a>	485-2983
Sergeant at Arms	Larry Knapton	<a href="mailto:dknapton@hotmail.com">dknapton@hotmail.com</a>	647-8762
Ways & Means	Jean Wise		647-4393

**Classes:** Silversmithing & Casting: Nancy Bogart, Albert Rubio & Jean Smith  
Lapidary, Opal & Wirewrap: Kay Hara, Dan Gealy, Brett Johnson & Don Minster  
Location: Durley Park, 950 West Hill Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

**Editor:** All members are encouraged to offer an article of interest or any suggestions as to what their interests are and what they'd like to see in the Rock Bag. Remember it is your bulletin! Articles can be submitted by an e-mail attachment or in writing by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Thanks, Editor

## **Your Prez sez.....**

Hey, Hey, Hey! Is it me or is it hot in here? Oh no wait, that would be our August in September weather. I spend my days in an air-conditioned building, literally chill'n in the lab. It is strange being in long sleeves with a space heater on year round. I don't like fake cold air, lucky for me I am also surrounded by wine. I have pictures of the great outdoors and a few choice rocks at my desk and like to think of all the rock hounds out there. As my eye wanders over the keyboard to a piece of ethereal quartz, I wonder why I am so drawn to it. What makes us collectors of certain items? Why do some people go straight for the fossils, or the thumbnail, some go all in with one type of material like malachite, and others find the shape of the sphere appealing? Of course I like a color medley in any shape or size. In the next couple months I encourage you to hone in on your interests. Really check out what is in your collection. What is missing? Check with the kids in your life, see what they are into. It is easy to be overwhelmed with so many beautiful wonders of the world and being prepared is a big part of what makes a great rock hound. Then come on down to the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, the third week of November, to the annual Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society show. It is bound to have just what you are looking for.

~ Louisa, your prez

## **OCTOBER PROGRAM**

Members, we would like to invite you to our October 6th general meeting for a discussion of **"Petrified Wood – How it came to be."**

We will be hosting a visit from Walt Wright, Southern California's foremost expert on petrified wood. He will present a basic knowledge of these fascinating fossils, explain what turns ordinary wood to stone, where most petrified wood is found in California, and how to become a successful collector like himself.

The meeting will be held in the Thousand Oaks room of the Oxnard Performing Arts Convention center (800 Hobson Way, Oxnard) at 7:30pm. The presentation will start after some brief announcements and guest greetings.

So, come join us for a wonderful and informative discussion of Petrified Wood with Walt Wright and stay for the refreshments and fellowship.

See y'all then, Brett VP-OGMS

## **NOVEMBER PROGRAM**

Calling All Members! Calling All Members! It's that time of year again. Time to get ready and organized for our Annual Show this November 20th & 21st.

We need **all** members to attend the November 3rd general meeting, so we can talking about Show set-up tasks and how you can help, where we will need you to help during the Show, what you can bring to the Friday night (Nov. 19th) dinner, and how you can make this one of the best Gem Shows around.

So, come to the general meeting on Wed., November 3rd at 7:30pm, sign your name to some of the many duty rosters, and bring your smiles. It is always good to have your smiling face at the meetings. See y'all then, Brett VP-OGMS

## Minutes of the September 1, 2010 General Membership Meeting

- Call to Order:** President Louisa Carey called the meeting to order at 7:35P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were amended as written. (Not brass book plates)
- Membership:** We have 79 paid members at this time.
- Hospitality:** There were 32 members and 7 guests present. The guests were: Kieth Perteet, Rob & Deb Sankovich, Mary Meeker, Averi Diner, Alan Monteath, and Jeanette Veronica.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed.
- Correspondence:** Show notices and ads were put out on the table. We are ordering bars and triangles for officers wishing them. The Santa Barbara show was discussed.
- Ways and Means:** The guests were given gifts.
- Business:** Business was suspended for the Silent Auction.
- Program:** Tonight's program was a silent auction.  
**1<sup>st</sup> VP-** Walt Wright, a petrified wood expert was asked to speak in October.
- Officer Reports:** **2<sup>nd</sup> VP-** There will be a show meeting. Volunteers are needed for the show. The volunteer sign-up sheets were put out. Items are needed to sell at the Nov. show. (Nov 20-21)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> VP-** See Rock Bag for field trips.
- Federation:** Serpentine was discussed. There is a raffle for spots at Camp Paradise. (\$350 prize). The price is 1 ticket \$5. 5 tickets sell for \$20. The workshop for ZZYZX is on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. ZZYZX dates have been re-negotiated. We discussed the guidelines for the All America Club application.
- Editor:** Officers are needed. If you can help, talk to a Board Member.
- Library:** Ask the librarian about checking out books and tapes.
- Display Cases:** The Fair case was excellent. Other displays need to be done. If you can help, volunteer.
- Classes:** Jr. Lap and Wirewrap classes start this week. The schedule for the Silversmithing class was discussed. All new students need a firm start date. The Adult Lapidary class and Opal class are on going. The Enameling class will start about the same date as the Silversmithing classes.
- Refreshments:** Marie and Norb in **October**. Laura and Lena in **November**.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. by Pres. Louisa Carey.  
 ~Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

## Minutes of the September 8, 2010 Board Meeting

- Call to Order:** President Louisa Carey called the meeting to order at 7:35P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were accepted as written.
- Membership:** We have 79 paid members at this time.
- Hospitality:** Averi Diner was accepted as new member #79.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed. A motion was passed to pay the bills.
- Correspondence:** The mail was fliers.
- New Business:** Nominee Amber McCauley and the scholarship were discussed.
- Old Business:** The audit was discussed. The 3<sup>rd</sup> member on the committee needs to be picked.
- Officer Reports:** **1<sup>st</sup> VP-** Walt Wright was discussed to do a program.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP-** There will be a show meeting. Volunteers are needed for the show. Show security was discussed. Watch for shoplifters. Contacts were also discussed.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> VP-** See Rock Bag for field trips.

- Federation:** Serpentine remains as the state rock of California. ZZYZX regained their spring date for at least 2 more years. Camp Paradise will revert to September. Our show fliers are needed for the board of directors meeting in Visalia.
- Editor:** All entries need to be submitted as quickly as possible due to an upcoming absence.
- Website:** Brett discussed Face book entries, OGMS fans. Meeting dates are being put into the website. New dates for the classes are needed.
- Education:** Teachers want to know about Serpentine. Look at the AFMS website. Book delivery and the work on the Rock Boxes is proceeding. The books are being delivered to the the county schools. Teachers are asking for posters.
- Classes:** The Instructors met and discussed safety and procedures for Silversmithing. New equipment was discussed (Titans). The shipping would be \$200. It would be cheaper to pick it up at Barstow. We should talk to the city about installing GFI plugs. Tucson or Quartzsite might have good prices on units. New equipment will help get and keep new members. MSDS sheets need to be displayed. A list of substances is needed. Bilingual signs were discussed. A CPR course for the instructors was discussed. Jeremy is checking into the CPR classes.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. by President Louisa Carey.  
~Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

### **GALAXY OF GEM SHOW 2010**

Once again, a plug for all members to dig deep and get out some of your BEST items for all our activities. **1.** We need rocks for silent auction, **2.** Items for sale at the country store, including books. **3.** Plants for Anne at the plant sales. **4.** Tumbled rocks for the game table. **5.** We will still need quality items for the raffle prizes. Look hard and help out in this area. **6.** Get your displays ready & organized for an outstanding presentation of your work and efforts for education.

Dealers and demonstrators are being handled. All activity has been covered by the booth chairmen, and I would like to see members available to relieve them for a brake during the day.

A good deal of work has been accomplished by the board members in preparation. There are (2) two months to go for the show time, and I am looking forward to a VERY SUCCESSFUL SHOW.

Thanking all of you in advance for your generous help of time and effort, for I know you will be there to give it your ALL. ~Norb Kinsler, Show Chair

**THERE IS STILL TIME.....** to get those plants repotted or planted. Hopefully we'll get some days of warmer weather before the show.

Lots of plants are needed. Do you have something different – maybe poinsettias, succulents, orchids (ha- ha), something blooming? Anything is appreciated. ~Anne Lewis, Plant Booth

.....  
**Welcome new member**  
Averi Diner  
.....

## Arranging a Case

By Lois Allmen

Rock Bag 10/97

**LINERS:** Many cases do not need liners. The inside of the case has been stained or painted to blend pleasingly with the contents. If the liner is needed a piece of material may be draped in the case or PIECES of masonite or veneer can be cut to fit the sides and back of the case then covered with a lightweight material. This material is cut with enough material on the edges to fold neatly over the back of the board and taped down. Material should be of a neutral color so your display is the first thing your eye sees rather than the color of the box.

**RISERS:** Risers are used to raise parts of the display to different levels to make individual parts outstanding. Styrofoam may be cut and used across the back of the case – usually two or three inches thick and draped or covered with the same material as the liners. Rounds or squares may also be cut out from cardboard and covered also to emphasize your pieces.

**HOW MANY THINGS SHOULD I PUT IN THE CASE:** From 5 to 35 depending on the size of the articles. If they are quite large only 5. It is better to have too few than too many. If the contents have a cluttered look, the eye will slide right over your case and not really see anything. (The Ventura Fair rules state 10 -35 items).

**HOW DO I ARRANGE THE PIECES:** Keep away from straight lines. Again, the eye will slide right over the line and not stop at anything. Keep your largest, your darkest, or your heaviest looking for your center of interest. Center of interest is usually center back of case but it can also be to one side or the other and the rest of the exhibit arranged accordingly. Keep an item on one riser, don't drape it from one riser to another. Keep jewelry off the back of the case.

Arrange your case so it looks balanced on both sides. Such as a large piece on one side and a corresponding mass on the other.

Arrange your pieces so the eye is led from one article to another. For instance, if you have three rows, arrange the items so the eye is led from a bottom article to the second row up to the top in a diagonal line. Arrange all your articles in this manner so no matter which item you see first it will lead you on a diagonal line of the three.

**LABELS:** Every item should have a label, every label spelled correctly. Size about 2.5" long x .5" to 1" wide. The first things one's eye should see in the case are the items you are displaying. If your eye sees the label first, our label is too prominent.

**Lapidary** – Name the material in capital letters.

Where it came from. Only first letter of words in caps.

**Beads** – Name of items in caps

Name material, only first letter of each word in caps.

Name location of material if known, 1<sup>st</sup> letter of each work in caps.

**Jewelry** – Name item in caps

Name technique used, 1<sup>st</sup> letter of each word in caps.

Name gem material if any used. 1<sup>st</sup> letter in caps.

**Minerals** – Species name in caps.

Variety 1<sup>st</sup> letter in each word in caps.

**Fossils** – Common or scientific name in caps.

Location if known 1<sup>st</sup> letter of each word in caps.

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated with a lot of fervor and merrymaking. Celebrated the fourth Thursday in the month of November every year, it is a time for communal thanksgiving, feeling gratitude and lavish feasts. It is a time to remember the pilgrims. The original pilgrims celebrated the autumn harvest with a feast of thanks.

The feast popularly known as the 'First Thanksgiving Day Feast' was held as a gesture of thanks to almighty God. It was celebrated in the year 1621. After the United States gained independence, Congress recommended one yearly day of thanksgiving for the whole nation to celebrate.

Until recently, people believed Thanksgiving Day to be a celebration of pilgrims, offering food to Indians. It however is a day marked as a gesture of thanks and gratitude to Lord Almighty for his blessings. It is also a celebration to mark the respect towards Indians for teaching the pilgrims how to cook. Pilgrims could not have survived without the help of the native Indians.

~ Via The Lapidarian 11/2009

## Field Trips

### **Field Trips Upcoming:**

Please let us know if you are going to go on the field trip. The weather can change, if we don't know you're going we won't be able to contact you if the field trip is cancelled. There will be maps and flyers at the club meetings. There are still people who show up for the field trip without notifying Mike or I, you can still be part of the field trip, but it is important that you let us know your going to attend. **Please let us know if you're going to attend, e-mail or call us.** I have new truck, it's a white Ford F250 four wheel drive, crew cab, if you're looking for me, look for my truck.

**Contacts:** Robert Sankovich Conejo/Ventura Clubs 805-494-7734, [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

Mike Miller Conejo Club 805-498-9586, [rockfndr@att.net](mailto:rockfndr@att.net)

Ron Wise, Ventura/Oxnard Clubs, 805-794-0737 [clintwise@hotmail.com](mailto:clintwise@hotmail.com)

**October 16th Sat Ant Hill Area, Bakersfield, CA, 10am-3pm** Tri club field trip.

Our October field trip will be to the Ant Hill area, near Bakersfield California. Come out for a fun day of digging for shark teeth fossils, the weather should be nice, cool. The dig site is a walk of 500 yards over semi flat ground, then up a hill 100 yards. Once you are there most of the time you'll be digging in small area. This time of the year there is always the chance of rain, bring the necessary clothing. If it is raining, we won't be digging.

**When:** October 16th. Sat. 10am-3pm

**Directions:** 5 Freeway North, to the 99 Hwy North, off at 178 Hwy East, near Bakersfield, go 8.3 miles to the Harrell Hwy, turn Left/North. 3.5 miles on the Harrell Hwy from the 178 Hwy. Site is on the Left/South side of Hwy, by the hills. My white Ford F-250 truck will be there, with a CGMC/VGMS sign in the window. We will be about 2.5 miles East of Hart Park. You should see an asphalt bike path going up the hill. Then you know you're at the right spot. Ant Hill is 136 miles from my house in Thousand Oaks, drive time 2 to 2.5 hours.

**Tools:** Rock pick/hammer, gad pry bar, hand sledge, sifter, large pry bar, shovel, pick, eye protection, newspaper to wrap your fossils in, collecting bags, wide brimmed hat, suntan lotion, lots of water, lunch, There is no shade morning, afternoon, and it can be hot, but it will probably be cool, so dress accordingly, layers. After 1pm or so the dig site will be in the shade as the sun moves to the West, the holes are East facing. I would recommend a day pack, to put your tools in. It's a bit of a walk and it will be easier carrying your gear.

**Material to Collect:** Shark teeth fossils, many types, sizes, from the Miocene Epoch 10-15 millions years ago. There are other fossils, bone fragments, teeth to be found. The fossils are found in a layer about 3', you will see the exposed holes from previous digs. They are in semi-soft clay that you will dig out the biggest pieces you can, then carefully break apart to find the fossils. I usually use a gad pry bar to dig out bigger pieces of the clay, about golf ball to baseball size or so, If I see any sign of a shark tooth or fossil, I'll wrap it into newspaper and later I will use dental tools or dremel motor tool to remove the clay to reveal the tooth. I keep some of the teeth still in the matrix, it makes a nice display. The main thing is patience when working with fossils.

**Contact:** CGMC/VGMS Robert Sankovich 805-494-7734 [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net) CGMC Mike Miller 805-498-9586 [rockfndr@att.net](mailto:rockfndr@att.net) VGMS/OGMS Ron Wise 805-647-4393 [clintwise@hotmail.com](mailto:clintwise@hotmail.com) Please let us know if you are going to go on the field trip, the weather can change, if we don't know your going we won't be

able to contact you if the field trip is cancelled.

### **October 9th, 10th Sat/Sun, Trona Gem O Rama**

**Field Trip:** Trona, Sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society, on Oct.11-12 there will be an Outstanding Show with free admission. The Show starts Sat. from 7:30AM to 5PM and Sun 7:30AM to 4PM. Come join us at the SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building - 13337 Main St. on the corner of Main & Trona Road (see map). There will be 20+ Dealers, 50 exhibits, Geode cutting and sales, Demonstrations, Games, Gem

dig, free parking, Snacks & drinks, Grand Prize Drawing, and Hourly door prizes. I would recommend checking out the links below, lots of information and photos. The Show will have several Field Trips put on by the SLG&MS: The Mud Trip is an early start with check-in/sign-up at 7:30 to 9AM on Saturday at \$10.00 per car and departure at 9:00AM. This trip is fun for everyone in the family. We will get to dig in the briny, black mud for the world famous Hanksite barrel crystals. Most of the crystals are fist size and larger. A cluster of large Hanksite barrels is easy to find. This is dirty fun, so wear your ragged and tattered clothes that you don't care much for. Brine washing troughs will be on site to wash your crystals and fresh water trucks to wash yourself. The Blow Hole will be held at 2:30PM on Saturday at \$10.00 per car. This is a great show as the Miners will demonstrate how they 'Blow' the crystals up from the lake bottom to the surface for you to find. Here we will find many different mineral such as: clear and clean Hanksite, halite, borax, and sulfohalite. This a prefect opportunity to add to your mineral collection. The Pink Halite trip will be held on Sunday morning 9am with a cost of \$15.00 per car. We will drive out the Brine pools, where you can 'hunt' around for the beautiful halite clusters that are pink to raspberry in color. This is a safe and fun trip for everyone in the family. The kids love to poke around in the salty crust and the adult are amazed by the size and beauty of the salt crystals.

**When:** October 9th, 10th Sat/Sunday. Saturday two field trips, Mud Trip-7:30-9am sign up 9:00am departure \$10 per car. Blow Hole-2:30pm \$10 per car. Sunday Pink Halite-9am, \$15 per car.

**Directions:** Valley Wells Recreational Area (5.3 miles north of the show building) \$5/vehicle (dry camp, no resv.) Flush toilets and out side shower. <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/valley-wells.htm>

**Tools:** Old clothes and shoes, rubber boots, rubber gloves, pry bars buckets, brush, boxes, newspaper, sunscreen There is no shade, and it can be hot. If you're staying the night, camping gear.

**Material to Collect:** 1. Mud Trip - hanksite cluster and barrel crystals, fist size and larger, trona, borax.

2. Blow Hole - clear and clean hanksite, halite, borax, and sulfohalite.

3. Pink halite

**Links:** Main Menu: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/FLYER.htm>

**Motels:** <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Motels.htm>

**Collecting Information:** <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Collecting.html>

#### **Field Trip information:**

Mudsite: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Mud-Digging.htm>

Blow Hole: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Pipe-Prep.htm>

Pink Halite: <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/Lake-Collecting.htm>

**Contact:** Searles Lake Gem & Minerals Society

13337 Main St. Trona, CA

[slgms@iwvisp.com](mailto:slgms@iwvisp.com) 760-372-5356

### **Field trips done:**

**August 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Fri – Sun  
Greenhorn Mountains**

Rose quartz, garnets, epidote were all located. Another great turnout with 38 rockhounds showing up. Deb and I got there Thursday, the weather was nice, but it got cooler each day. Sat night was in the low 40's. The days were perfect for collecting. We went to the rose quartz site several times throughout the days. We found some nice rose to

lavender rose quartz. Friday night we went to the Tungsten mine collecting sheelite a fluorescing mineral. We didn't collect garnets. There will be much better specimens at the Bishop trip in Nov. Larry Knapton found some

*Members of several clubs swarm  
over the rose quartz at Greenhorn Mtn.  
- Robert Sankovich*



epidote that he gave to other rockhounds. Sat. night we had a potluck with lots of good food and a nice warm campfire. A few friends of mine and some rockhounds drummed around the campfire, playing hand drums. Attending, Deb & I, Jeff Miller, Ron & Jean Wise, Norb Kinsler, Miriam Tetreault, Don Jenson, Donna & Larry Knapton, Dave, Sumi Fisher, Craig & Kathy Polliard, Terry, Teresita Vasseur, Stephanie Garcia, Bunny, Cristen, Aden Shank, Mark Woolsey, Greg Atuna, Barbara Black, John Kerl, Stephanie Hagiwara, Jim Beon, Carol Flummer, Kevin, Diane, Danielle Grizard, Luther, Angela Brown, Phillip Veronie, Donna & Argus Sweet. Several people had a hard time finding the campsite but eventually they found it. I'd recommend a GPS unit to help in finding field trip camp sites. I had several maps that I gave out, but I can't put every dirt road or intersection that would be the wrong way. Next time the directions will be only the asphalt way. I apologize for anyone who had difficulty.

**September 25 Sat 9am-Acton-**We had a good turnout, 30 rockhounds attended. The weather became keeps changing weekly. It was hot at Acton the later part of the day, but it was nice the early part of the day when we were collecting agate and agate nodules. We went to three different sites collecting nodules with fortification, saginite agate, moss agate. The 2nd site had a lot of float material (on the surface) Everyone went home with agate. Lowell Foster took us to the third site for moss agate and nodules. Thanks Lowell. By 1pm we were done before it got really hot. Attending: Myself, Mike Miller, Jeff Miller, Andy Anderson, Steven Withice, Angela & Luther Brown, Rex Nishimura, Manuel Valdez, Calvin Smith, Sid, Andi Valluri & their daughter, Abe & Esther Bar-Shai, Yujal, Tal, Yael, Danny Weatts, Carl, Barbara Wheeler, Matt Boeck, Patrick Cunningham, Phillip, Jeanette Verollici, John Burn, Lowell, Becea Foster, David, Sam Beltran. If I misspelled any names it's because I couldn't read your name on my waiver. We had a fun, see you at the next field trip.

### **Upcoming Field Trips 2010:**

The field trips listed below are tentative, they might change. All are Tri Club field trip with either: Conejo, Oxnard or Ventura leading. Each month there will be information in the bulletin, and a flyer/map at the club meeting.

**Nov** - Wiley's Well, nodules, geodes, agate fire agate, petrified wood

**Dec** - Open

The field trip to Bishop will not be happening this year. I'm changing it to 2011 spring/summer. April/May depending on weather. The previous 2 Ant Hill field trips were canceled because of rain. I moved Ant Hill to a better month for weather.

The Field Trip e-mail list is working, members have current, new information as I finish it. I get field trip information from other clubs at different times during the month, some with to short of notice for me to put in our bulletin. I will send direct monthly information, maps on club field trips, and updates on weather, other last minute factors that can effect field trips. If you want to sign up, no e-mail addresses will be printed, posted anywhere. Send me your e-mail addresses to mine below. I also updated the field trip information on the Conejo web site [www.cgmac.org](http://www.cgmac.org). The information is current and I'll keep updating as I add field trips. The next months the weather will be getting cooler so we will go earlier or to places that are warmer. The field trip to Bishop will not be happening this year, I'm changing it to 2011 spring/summer, April/May depending on weather. The previous 2 Ant Hill field trips were canceled because of rain. I moved Ant Hill to a better month for weather. I don't have a field trip for December at this time.

Make sure we know you will be going, this applies to all field trips. I'd like members to let me know of places they'd like to go to? Were going to go to sites we've been to, but were going to have new sites. I do have several in mind. The weather seems to change a lot and the economy can control our field trips, the dates above are fixed where there is a date the others I'm working it out. There's going to be a field trip for everyone, we'll have some close to home, and out of state trips. Easy and harder field trips requiring chisels, sledges, something for everyone hopefully. Most of the time I make sure I check out the sites, so when it finally becomes a field trip it can save time. Check out the website for updates. We've been getting good turnouts of rock hounds for all our field trips, the upcoming field trips offer a diversity of collecting. October and on, the weather will be cooler, then we will be heading out to the desert for collecting. Field trips are great fun and you will find some nice specimens and make new friends. I find most people on field trips are friendly and nice willing to share in their knowledge and experiences.

See you there. Robert Sankovich, 805-494-7734

VP Field Trips Conejo/Ventura Clubs

[rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

## Nominations for 2011

President:	Louisa Carey	Corresponding Secretary:	Louisa Carey
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. Programs:	_____	Displays/Exhibits:	_____
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Show:	Norb Kinsler	Editor:	Miriam Tetreault
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Pres. Field trips:	Ron Wise/Jennifer Flatten	Education Director:	Donna Knapton
Recording Secretary:	Lee Leighton	Federation Director:	Jim Brace-Thompson
Treasurer:	_____	Public Relations:	Norb Tackman
Historian:	_____	Parliamentarian:	Lee Leighton
Hospitality:	Carol Drescher	Refreshments:	Laura Driskell
Librarian:	_____	Sergeant at Arms:	Larry Knapton
Member at Large:	Kay Hara	Ways & Means:	Jean Wise/Jennifer Flatten
Membership Secretary:	Miriam Tetreault		

## Upcoming Shows

### October 3 2010, Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility  
123 West Alvarado Street  
Hours: 10 - 4 Daily  
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130  
Email: [ikonmiming@gmail.com](mailto:ikonmiming@gmail.com)

### October 9-10 2010, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Searles Gem & Mineral Show Building  
13337 Main Street  
Hours: Sat; 7:30-5; Sun. 7:30-4  
Jim & Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356  
Email: [iwvisp.com](mailto:iwvisp.com)  
Website: [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

### October 9-10 2010, Vista, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Sante Fe Avenue  
Hours: Sat; 20-5; Sun. 10-4  
Fred Wilson (760) 433-8446  
Lois Harr (760) 724-0395

### October 16 2010, West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way  
Hours: 10-5  
Loraine Taneja xyz123@linkline.com  
Email: [info@rockchippers.org](mailto:info@rockchippers.org)  
Website: <http://wwwrockchippers.org>

### October 16-17 2010, Cayucos, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club  
Cayucos Vets Hall (next to Cayucos Pier)  
100 Placerville Drive  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Mike Lyons (805)610-0757  
Email: [jadestar@charter.net](mailto:jadestar@charter.net)

Website: <http://www.slogem.org>

### October 16-17 2010, Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
Whittier Community Center  
7630 Washington  
Hours: 10-5 both days  
Jay Valle (626) 934-9764  
Email: [res19pnb@verizon.net](mailto:res19pnb@verizon.net)

### October 30-31 2010, Lakeside, CA

El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds  
12584 Mapleview Street  
Hours: 10-4 both days  
Carolyn Boland (619)561-7498  
Email: [carolynboland@juno.com](mailto:carolynboland@juno.com)  
Website: [ecvgms.com](http://ecvgms.com)

### November 6-7 2010, Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Ave. H & Hwy 14  
Hours: 9-5 both days  
Susan Chaisson-Walblom (661) 406-0143  
Email: [sichaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:sichaisson@yahoo.com)  
Website:  
[www.palmdalegemandmineral.com](http://www.palmdalegemandmineral.com)

### November 6-7 2010, Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society  
Desert Empire Fairgrounds  
520 south Richmond Road  
Hours: 9-5 both days  
John DeRosa (760) 375-7905

### November 13-14 2010, Victorville, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
San Bernardino Co. Fairgrounds  
14800 – 7th Street  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4  
Cyndy Mandell (760) 508-1080  
Email: [cynmandell@yahoo.com](mailto:cynmandell@yahoo.com)

## Qualifications for Being a Good Rockhound

**Cheerful** – Smile, even if every muscle and bone in your body aches.

**One leg shorter than the other** – it helps on the side of hills.

**Adventurous** – daring to take a road, even if it looks like it goes straight up.


**Determination** – a willingness to go again after you swore you never would.

**Imagination** – visualizing a beautiful gem cut out of a plain rock.

Via Del Aire Bulletin 10/-8; Chips 1-/06; Rock Rollers 7/06; Rock Slap 7/09; The Nugget 5/10

## October 2010



*Monthly Planner*

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## Education Station September 2010

### Books for Schools 2010—Oxnard Show---Our State Rock Under Attack

Hello, Educators! You have probably settled into the new school year's routine by now. Someone from our organization has most likely been by your school in the month of September to give you a present to welcome you back.

The books from our "Books for Schools 2010" program have been mostly delivered. Simi Valley is the exception. They, along with the schools where the principles were not available to accept the donation, are the only ones who have not received the three Smithsonian Books, *Earth, Rock and Gem and the Fossil Handbook*. These last books will not be delivered until early November. They have been very well received. Most of the Principles have been surprised at the quality of these fine books. Hopefully, your Principle has presented them to you at a staff meeting so you have had a chance to "get acquainted" with them. These books are meant to give you something of a "reference core" for your earth science studies. Take some time to look them over to see how they can help you in your classes. These three books are joining our 2009 book selection delivered last March. We are looking at one book and a couple of CD's as our next year's possible selection.

As is true of our Earth Science Kit (rock box), that many of you already have in your schools, the funds have been provided by the Coastal Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute. They are very generous to us, helping get you what you need to teach Earth Sciences to your students. If you have any requests as to how we can better help you teach the Earth Sciences feel free to email me. The book program was conceived when a teacher was showing us her classroom books—the newest one dated 1962. API and our committee want Ventura County kids to have the best Earth Science Education in the State!

### Teacher Feature

Our next topic is the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Show coming up on **Nov. 20 & 21, 9:00 to 5:00 Sat. and 10:00 to 4:00 Sun. at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center**. For directions and more information, [http://oxnardgem.com/html/gem\\_show.html](http://oxnardgem.com/html/gem_show.html) Here's what we have for you and your students there! Remember parking and admittance to the Gem Show are both FREE!!

### Free Stuff for Teachers

- We have 6 posters to give out to you (4 are brand new).
- The teacher theme packet will be on "Volcanoes", a hot topic, to be sure. The packet was the idea of Jim Brace-Thompson, the author of the Manual that goes with the Earth Science Kit, for the Ventura Show last March. We have all our information on the subject gathered together in the packet, with *the two new volcano posters*. There are, also, some handouts from the U.S. Geological Survey and a CD with lots of volcano pictures, models of volcanoes, info on Icelandic, Hawaiian, Cascadian and our own Conejo Volcano among other things. There are at least 75 volcano packets with posters for teachers. Be sure to bring your Teacher I.D. or something to prove you are home schooling your kids! You can't get a packet without an I.D.
- More than 900 pieces of 21 publications that you can look over and choose what you would like to take.

### Free Stuff for Kids

- 58 full sets of free Dino cards for the Dino Discovery--36 different cards available. All the kids have to do is to go to a booth offering a card and read the Dino Fact and they will be given a dinosaur trading card.

- Pebble Pup Challenge—10 question “scavenger hunt” with the answers found in the display cases. Prizes include quartz crystals, copper minerals, sharks teeth and dino pencils among other things they can choose.
- Coloring pages for the younger kids, dinos and crystals to color.

### **For Everyone**

- Touch rocks and Ugly Rocks (Cinderella Rocks) Everyone, especially kids are invited to touch, feel and lift rocks and crystals
- Fossils from Ventura Gem & Minerals Museum--How big was the Tyrannosaurus Rex head or a dino leg bone?
- Guests including the Ventura County Library, Women in Mining, and David Mautz showing how to clean fossils.

### **Paid Activities** (The most expensive should still fit in a child’s allowance)

- 270 Dino Dig molds--This brand new activity is our most expensive activity at \$2. The child (or adult) chooses their piece that has one of 12 different dinos buried in it. They can be a paleontologist -- take it home or dig it at the show with a toothpick. There is a piece of the dino, such as a foot exposed to show them where to start. Lots of fun (I have dug a dozen myself). We are considering doing teacher pack of 10 each at a reduced rate. We will let you know before the show if we have enough to do that. If so, they will be limited to probably a hundred. They will go early—these things are addictive!!
- Make a Fossil—Our most popular activity in years past. The kids pick out the “fossils” they want in their cast, and then imprint them in a mold for their own fossil to take home. This activity is \$1. If you have scouts, this is one of their badge activities.
- Egg carton rock kits—These kits contain 6 different rocks and cost \$1. We will have at least 180 of these. Over 200 of them sold out by early Sunday last year. Lots of teachers bought them for their classes. This year we will have a volcanic set and possibly more. More in the next newsletter.
- Diamond Dan publications—These \$1 books are great for kids and a big value for their price.
- Dove Books “Rocks & Minerals” \$1.50 good for the budding rockhound.

All of this in addition to the 60 or 70 cases of gems, minerals, fossils and meteorites on display plus a whole room full of dealers next door. Don’t forget the Ventura County Ballet Company will be performing the Nutcracker in the big auditorium across the sidewalk from us! A great day for you and your kids! Parking and entrance to the Gem show are both free both days. Can’t beat that for value!

### **California State Rock on Rocky Ground**

Serpentine, California’s State Rock, is a rock that in the new age vernacular helps you find “inner peace”. That is not what has been happening for the past 6 month for those geologist and “rock people” following Senate Bill 624 through our legislature. My interest in the bill was mainly due to the serpentine rocks included in our school rock kits and given away to teachers and kids at our rock shows. So should I tell all of you to take your serpentine out of the boxes and put it in a hazardous waste container?

When Sen. Gloria Molina first brought the bill before our State Senate it pertained to composting. After it

passed the wording was changed to repealing Serpentine as the state rock because it contains “asbestos”. After the explosion of criticism directed at her and still raging on the internet. The wording was again change to just say “It is the intent of the Legislature to remove serpentine as the state rock and lithologic emblem”. Then the bill died in committee.

Serpentine is found almost nowhere else but in California. It is a metamorphic product, mostly of the sea floor. 42 of California’s 58 counties have serpentine and soils derived from it cover a great deal of our state. Most of it is in the Coast range and Sierra foothills where island arcs were slapped up against the continent in times past. It comes in beautiful colors. It is easily carved and has a nice smooth “greasy” feel even in its natural state. This would recommend it for “State Rock” position. Why would it suddenly come into question? 2,500 die each year from asbestos related cancer in the U.S. The vast majority of these cases are caused by job related exposures, followed by environment related exposures such as asbestos tiles, shingles, paper, car parts etc. The cancers develop from breathing the fibers. Relatively few are thought to be from any naturally occurring asbestos that is free in our air. Serpentine is really a “family” of related rocks. One of these many rocks contains chrositile. So there is some small amount of foundation for the allegation, but with the chrositile bound in the rock is there much of a risk?

U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes, speaking on the great importance of the type of legislation that is keeping California from passing a budget said about the battle “Keep in mind, geologists and scientists aren't the ones making the cancer risk claim. Trial lawyers and activists are. They see this law as the only cow they value – a cash cow. Once signed into law, they will be able to file lawsuits across the state – and not just against businesses that have used the rock for landscaping, jewelry or other purposes. Anyone with the rock on their property will be open to litigation.” So that would mean that if you own land with serpentine on it, which is most of California, that anyone downwind from you could sue you.

Well, politics is not my “soapbox”, education is. So I have double checked with our geologist contacts at both the California Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management and both concur. As long as you aren’t grinding it up and breathing in the dust (under that application, the windows in your classroom are even toxic substances!), your serpentine samples should not be a problem for your students to handle. Rep. Molina says she will get this legislation passed. Should you hear of it coming to life again—remember that you have a bunch of geologists on your payroll already. Call one at the State Geological Survey in Sacramento, the United States Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service, even. These people are there for you and by the way all have educational websites for teachers and kids. (That’s where I get my best activities!)

We are off on a trip across the U.S. and I will try to bring back some interesting rocks for you. See you at the show the weekend before Thanksgiving!

~ Donna, Education Chair

\*\*\* Editor: Sorry, this article arrived too late to be included in the printed version of the Rock Bag.