

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 44, Number 8

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

August 2010

## President's Message by Jan Longacre

The picnic was good and we had a good turn out. I missed the fieldtrip, but everyone said it was good. Anita gave a talk to the Jr. Club about Petoskey stones. We all turned into young ones again!! My grandkids were very interested about rocks after we got



home, so we're going to go to Crystal Peak later in the month or first of next. I've got vacation coming, going to a family reunion this weekend. See you in August. This summer sure is flying.



Jan

## Highlights of the 2010 CFMS Show

The combined AFMS/CFMS Show and Directors Meeting took place in La Habra, CA, June 16 - 20, 2010.

As your Federation Director, I attended the show and activities that took place during the show. On Friday evening I went to the Cracker Barrel meeting, which is an informal get-together and social gathering. Saturday morning early was the Directors Meeting, which is the CFMS Business meeting that all Federation Directors are supposed to attend. It got over fairly early in the afternoon, so I had a chance to see some of the show. Saturday evening was the combined AFMS/CFMS banquet that included speeches and awards. Sunday morning I made it to the Editors Breakfast before heading home. During the Editors Breakfast, awards were presented for bulletin and web site winners.

A written report of the Directors Meeting will be available at the August meeting.

- Jon North

#### Junior Rockhounds Meeting

Our July Junior Rockhound meeting was very informative. Anita Wald-Tuttle showed 5 members and 4 guests her special interest in Petoskey Stones from Michigan.

We met outside during the annual picnic and had a lot of competition from the traffic, the roaring creek, the singing birds and the fun time the adults were having together. We all had a great time and enjoyed the day very much.

Melba Sagaser

#### August Program

We are in for a treat with the Junior Rockhounds giving a talk about their favorite rocks. Yes, they have collections and go on field trips too.

#### Good Times at the Annual Picnic



Every year we throw all those official meetings out the window and congregate for our Annual Picnic. This year was no exception...see story on page 4.

## August Calendar of Events

August 3 Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

August 3 General Membership Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

August 15 CO-OP Meeting in Citrus Heights

August 24 Newsletter Deadline



Deadline for the September 2010 Newsletter is August 24, 2010

#### Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Board Meeting and General Meeting July 2010

July was our picnic month and our club doesn't normally have any official meetings Therefore, there are no minutes for July 2010.



Due to the lack of Sunshine Reports, our very own Sunshine Lady, Mary Tucker has placed her name in the Sunshine Update Box! Mary suffered a minor stroke and was admitted to the Sierra Nevada Hospital. She is doing well and by the time you read this, she will be in rehab and hopefully back home. Get well soon Mary, we miss you.

Mary Tucker is our Sunshine reporter. Mary would like any news you would like to share with our members reported to her by calling (530) 265-8320 or you can also contact Jonathan North, editor at (916) 768-0137.

### August Birthstone is Peridot

Peridot is the gem variety of olivine. Peridot, pronounced "pair-uh-doe," gets its name from the Arabic word faridat meaning "gem." It is also known as chrysolite, which comes from the ancient word chrysolithos,



meaning "golden stone." Until the eighteenth century it was called topaz. No matter what you call it, peridot is a special stone.

Peridot is unique in that it is a volcanic gem. You can find small crystals of peridot in volcanic rock like basalt, gabbro, and material that is explosively thrown out of a volcano like pyroclastics. It is also an "extra-terrestrial" rock, found in meteors that fall to earth.

Peridot is a silicate of magnesium and iron. Its color ranges from green to yellow-green, are very rarely, brown. It has a hardness of 6.5 to 7 and is found in orthorhombic form, usually glassy rounded grains, and rarely in crystal form. Peridot found in crystal form is usually kept as mineral specimens rather that being cut, because of their value. It has an oily look that looks something like olive oil. Its cleavage is imperfect and is brittle.

Peridot was called "evening emerald" by the Romans because its color didn't darken at night. The color was still visible when viewed by artificial light. It was believed that peridot had many powers that could ward of evil spirits. It was also powdered and used to treat asthma, and was held under the tongue to lessen thirst during a fever.

Peridot comes from numerous places around the world, including Burma, Egypt, Norway, Kenya, Mexico, and the United States. Much of the Peridot mined in the U.S. comes for the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico and Arizona.

So, those of you that have a birthday in August, can be assured that others will be "Green" with envy to know that your birthstone is Peridot!

By Jonathan North

Next CO-OP Meeting
Sunday, August 15, 2010
Coco's Family Restaurant
7887 Madison Ave.
(NW corner of Sunrise Blvd./Madison)
Citrus Heights, CA

### CO-OP August Meeting Sunday, August 15, 2010

The August CO-OP meeting will be held in Citrus Heights, hosted by the Modesto Club. Check in at 11:45 a.m.

<u>LOCATION</u>: Coco's Bakery Restaurant, 7887 Madison Ave., Citrus Heights, (916) 966-0707 (Northwest Corner of Madison Ave. and Sunrise Blvd.) (South of Sunrise Mall area)

#### **AGENDA:**

Check in:11:45 a.m. at Coco's Restaurant. Lunch: 12 noon. Order from their menu. Business Meeting to follow.

#### Driving directions from the Grass Valley area:

**Take Highway 49 Southbound** to I-80. Proceed Westbound (towards Sacramento). In the Roseville area, exit Douglas Blvd. and Sunrise Blvd. Take Sunrise Southbound. Go 5-6 miles. After crossing Greenback Lane, get into Right-hand lane, turn Right at Madison Ave. and Sunrise. Turn Right immediately, into the Coco's Restaurant parking lot.

PLEASE RSVP by Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> to: Florence Brady, (916) 961-6868 <a href="mailto:fhbrady@jps.net">fhbrady@jps.net</a>

Submitted by Florence Brady, CO-OP Secretary

## Tips & Hints

Working soft stone — When working a soft stone such as onyx or marble, soak the stone in water for a couple of days before cutting. The absorbed water will keep the saw oil from being absorbed and will result in a higher polish.

From Gem-n-i via Pick & Pack, 3/09

Large Slabs - A good way to tell how solid a slab might be is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures in the slab, every one will soon be lined with water. Mark the lines with a pencil to orient the slab for your project.

From TTown Rockhound, 3/9 via Pick & Pack 3/09

Cleaning Petrified Wood - To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface use Mr. Clean. Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen.

From TTown Rockhound, 3/9 via Pick & Pack 3/09

#### CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2010/2011

Sept. 4, 5, 6 Austin, NV for fluorite, snakeskin agate, other minerals El Dorado Co. Club, Barbara Terrill

Date TBA Minnesota Mine for minerals, Sac ramento Mineral Society, Joe Shook.

Oct. 2 Griffith Quarry, Penryn, CA for a tour of the quarry, Lincoln Hills Club, Ron Clawson

Oct. 9, 10 Fernley, NV for various minerals, Sutter Buttes Club, Gerry Hill

Oct. 23, 24 New York Cyn., NV for epidote, copper, minerals, microcline, RRR Club, Jim Hutchings

**Nov. 7** Black Butte Reservoir for jasper, El Dorado Co. Club, Ron Stone

Nov. 24-28 TBA, Mother Lode MS, Al Troglin

Jan. 5-22, 2011 Tanzania, East Africa for sapphires, other gems & minerals.
North Bay Field Trips, Contra
Costa Mineral & Gem Society,
Dennis Freiburger. (For contact information, contact your club's field trip leader or editor.)

7th version, June 21, 2010, Co-Op



#### How to Remove a Tick

This is good to know no matter what season it is!

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for 15-20 seconds. The tick will come out on its own and will be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.

From The FACETS, 9/9 via Pick & Pack, 10/09

## Last Month was Our Annual Picnic

The weather turned a nice day for a picnic into a great day for a picnic!

The day started out with a field trip to the home of Gladys Eckhardt. Gladys wanted to get rid of lots of rocks that she and her husband Ben had collected over the years. Those that went on the trip said they found some great rocks.

Then a little later, was the picnic at the Glenn Jones Picnic area at the North Star Mining Museum in Grass Valley. There was a pretty good turn-out and plenty of food for everyone.

To top the day off, Anita Wald-Tuttle showed off her collection of Petoskey stones to the Junior Rockhounds and others that were interested.



There was a great spread of delicacies to choose from leaving no excuses for still being hungry.



It's okay Dad, I'm just checking to make sure you got enough to eat! Photos by Rudy Thompson

#### AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting



## CFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Grow the Federation! By Fred Ott

Now that another Federation show is part of CFMS history, we can once again turn our attention to those **best practices** used by many CFMS societies that others may consider when working to 'grow' their organization.

When remembering those earlier days of typewriters, carbon paper and erasers, I continue to marvel at the advances made in technology that we now take for granted: computers, spell-check, email, and database management tools, just to name a few. What an amazing transformation!

And, while it's understandable that we are often apprehensive about replacing the 'old' with the 'new', a modern rock and gem society cannot operate in today's environment without incorporating these new advances into our respective societies' activities, and it's **so easy to do!** 

As with any successful business, a rock and gem society needs to communicate effectively and efficiently with its clientele (that is, the members of our societies). What does it take? Very simply: a computer (to replace the typewriter, carbon paper and erasers), access to the Internet and the use of a database management tool (such as Microsoft Access). If your society doesn't already have these tools, it is vital that these items be acquired as soon as possible. With these tools, your society can do each of the following in only **minutes** (instead of **hours**):

- Update your roster as members are added and deleted in only moments
- Produce an updated membership roster immediately thereafter
- Print mailing labels for each member
- Determine the birthdates for each member for "this month's newsletter"
- Send an email to everyone in your society

- Maintain ALL of your society's important information on a single flash drive (instead of storing thousands of pages of paper files in filing cabinets).
- Update and print copies of all your society's files, records and reports in moments!

And the list goes on! What previously took hours and days can now be achieved in only minutes!

If you're unfamiliar (or uncomfortable) with these new 'tools', rest assured that those 'growing' societies in the Federation are **happy** to share their knowledge and skill with you. Just ask!

Remember: rockhounding is MORE than a hobby; it's a PASSION!

- Fred Ott, President 2010



#### A CO-OP "MEMBER FIELD TRIP" TO AUSTIN, NEVADA

- This trip is open to all CFMS affiliated rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.
- CO-OP website has information: www.coop.5u.com

TRIP LOCATION - Austin, Nevada

#### TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE

**Vehicle Access & Parking** - # 8/9 4x4 or high clearance w/posi-traction or all wheel slip prevention...4x4 required due to unknown & possible difficult roads & trails. Road quality varies each year due to winter weather **Collection or View Site** - #5/6/7 - collecting can be ½ to 1 mile from parking area, moderate difficulty with hills, brush, creeks & ravines

**WHEN** – September 4, 5, 6, Saturday through Monday (Labor Day Weekend - Holiday)

SPONSOR CLUB - El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society & the Amador County Mineral & Gem Society

**MEMBER'S GUESTS** –Restricted to 26 people -**Members of a gem & mineral club only** – sorry, no guests this time!

**COLLECTION MATERIAL -** Snakeskin Agate, Fluorite, Daisy Agate, Leaf Fossils – maybe something new!

**LEADER & CONTACT INFO** - Privacy info.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Some locations still to be scheduled. First day fluorite & daisy quartz

**MEET** - Rock Shop/Jason's Gallery, Downtown Austin 9:00 am Saturday Morning – will leave as soon as signups finished!

**VEHICLE REQ'S** - High clearance 4x4 a must for daisy quartz— can do limited carpooling — fluorite & snake-skin requires high clearance only.

**CAMP/FACILITIES** - Forest Service Camp Grounds available 5 miles out of town to the south, Austin RV Park (sorry no phone number) and KD's Pony Canyon Motel (775) 964-xxxx. For more facilities info access the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce at chamber@austinnevada.com

**TOOLS** - Rock pick, chisel, small pry bar, small shovel, buckets, backpack – some locations there is a hike! Daisy quartz you can collect BIG stuff so be prepared if you want large (i.e. dolly, pry bar!).

**SAFETY CONCERNS** – can be **HOT** so be prepared with hat and sunscreen – layered clothing – also snakes and scorpions so have high top boots. Good gloves a must! Hillsides are rocky and sometimes steep. Bring lots of drinking water.

**CLIMATE/WEATHER** - variable but mostly very warm with cool nights

**CLOTHING** - layered with long pants, lightweight long sleeves if susceptible to sunburn. Good boots, hat.

**OTHER REMARKS** - Please bring walkie talkie type radios set if you have them – when we are ready to go on to another location we want to be able to get you in, in a timely manner. And if you find something great, we all want to know.!!!!

**FEE** – No site set at this time is fee collecting – things can change or be added however.

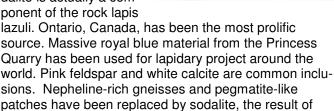
#### Sodalite

By June Culp Zeitner From Gem and Lapidary Materials For Cutters, Collectors, and Jewelers

Since it is blue and opaque to translucent, this stone is often mistaken for lapis lazuli, and is sometimes substituted for the more expansive material. When it is almost transparent, it resembles blue corundum. Although sodalite has a similar hardness to lapis lazuli, the colours never quite reach the intense blue of the top quality lapis lazuli.

Sodalite occurs in metamorphic calcareous rock and nepheline syenites. Closely related to hauyne, nosean, and lazurite, it has been found in meteorites. Sodalite is actually a component of the rock lapis

hydrothermal action.



Canadian geologist Anna Sabina writes that the vast deposit was discovered over a hundred years ago and is worked now as an open-pit mine. An official wedding gift to Princess Diana from Canada was a gold brooch set with sodalite.

Sodalite is also found in the provinces of British Columbia and Quebec. The Quebec Ministry of Mines notes that sodalite from the Poudrette Quarry at Mont Ste. Hilaire, Quebec, has been cut into world-class faceted stones for this species. Sodalite is also mined in Brazil, Norway, Namibia, India, and Bolivia. The Bolivian mine has been producing evenly coloured translucent material, but not in great quantity, since the mine is at an elevation of 14,000 feet. It is recovered by hand and packed by Llamas to the nearest road.

Locations in the United States include Colorado, South Dakota, and Maine. The variety hackmanite is found at

Magnet Cove, Arkansas, and also a Mont Ste. Hilaire, where a light yellow faceted stone of 15.33 carats originated.



Cabochons are polished with tin oxide on felt after fine sanding. Sodalite is currently available in large pieces and is often advertised.

From Pebble Press June 2009



## CFMS FIELD TRIPS - NORTH By Jonathan North

The field trip to the Austin, Nevada area was a great success! There wasn't a large turnout, probably due to its being just a week before the AFMS/CFMS Show. We couldn't have waited any longer as the high desert gets pretty hot in the summer and weather on the trip was perfect. The first day we collected Green and Purple fluorite that was easily found in old tailing piles. Whoever it was that mined the fluorite originally wasn't interested in the colored material and to our delight that is what we wanted. Later we made the trek to where snakeskin agate is scattered over a large area. The most work involved in collecting the snakeskin agate is to bend down and pick it up. Some large specimens were found and we ended the day with everyone satisfied with their bounty. The next day we stopped to collect Blue chalcedony in the Mt. Aerie area. That was another easy one where pieces of the agate have weathered out of the mother rock and are just scattered on the alluvial hillside below a claim on the hilltop. After a weekend of collecting, everyone headed back home with lots to talk about and to show for their time in the desert.

I plan on setting up another trip that would work for a large group, most likely after the summer heat. Suggestions are welcome. Meanwhile, if you are out on a field trip or just out hunting on your own, please be careful. Be sure to take all the supplies and water you need to survive on your own if you get in trouble way out somewhere. That in itself is a reason to go with others.

- Jonathan

## CENS 2010 SHOWS

#### August 6, 7 & 8 2010, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society St. Joseph's Church 298 S. Thompson Ave.

Hours: 9-5 daily

Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788 Email: Rocks4u@prodigy.net Website: www.omsinc.org

#### August 7 & 8 2010, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society San Francisco Co. Fair Bldg. (Hall of Flowers) 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park

Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5

Carleen Mont-Eton (415)564-4230 Email: <a href="mailto:publicity@show.sfgms.org">publicity@show.sfgms.org</a>

Website: www.sfgms.org

#### August 21-22 2010, Orangevale, CA

Treasure Trove of Gems
Orangevale Community Center
6826 Hazel Ave.

Hours: Sat 10-6 Sun 10-5

Admission: \$4 per day or \$6 for weekend - Children under 12 yrs. Free with adult

John Moulder (916) 290-3193

Email: <u>info@treasuretroveofgems.com</u>
Website: <u>www.treasuretroveofgems.com</u>

#### September 3, 4, 5 & 6: Fort Bragg, CA

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society

Town Hall

Corner of Main & Laurel Fri.-Sun. 10 am - 6 pm; Mon. 10 am - 4 pm

Don McDonell (707) 964-3116 Jane Webb at ejwebb@mcn.org

From CFMS Website July 2010



# Bee Alert, Bee Prepared! By Bural LaRue CFMS Safety Chairman



Bee Alert, Bee Prepared! (Part 2)

Here are some tips to help you stay safe avoid contact with the Africanized Honey Bee (AHB):

- Check your property regularly for bee colonies. Honey bees nest in a variety of places, especially the AHB. Look for bees in work areas before using power tools. Check animal burrows, overturned flower pots, trees and shrubs.
- Keep pets and children indoors when operating lawn equipment. Attacks can occur when a person is mowing the lawn or pruning shrubs and accidentally strikes a nest.
- If you encounter a swarm, run in a straight line from the bees. Do not flail your arms since this can further annoy them. Get to the nearest house or car.
- Because bees target the head and eyes, cover your head as much as you can without slowing your escape.
- Don't jump in the water. Bees can wait longer than you can.
- Avoid excessive motion when near a colony. Bees are much more likely to respond to an object in motion than a stationary one. If you're attacked:
- Call 9-1-1 only when emergency medical services are needed; if someone is stung many times or has an allergic reaction, call 9-1-1.
- Call if someone has becomes trapped in a building or car with many bees.
- Don't call 9-1-1 to have a hive removed. Call a pest control company.

Most reactions to bee stings are mild, but severe allergic reactions lead to 40-50 deaths each year. An allergic reaction to a bee sting can occur even if a person has been previously stung with no complications. Symptoms can include swelling in the face or an area other than where the sting occurred, hives or rash, itching, difficulty breathing and shock. Reactions usually happen within the first few hours. If you have ever had an allergic reaction to a sting, experts recommend carrying epinephrine, a prescription hormone given by injection to support blood pressure, increase heart rate and relax airways. If you or someone else experiences severe allergic reactions call 9-1-1 especially if you know you are allergic to bees and get

Source: Riverside County Open Spaces District Handout.

CFMS Newsletter, 8/2010

stung.



## Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society



#### **2010 ELECTED OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
DIRECTORS
Jan Longacre
Dan Chaplin
Julie-Anne Lay
Todd Lawson
Kim Moore
Snakes Hoffmann

Terry Bartels
2010 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

FEDERATION DIRECTOR
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS

Vicki Black
Tony Kampitch
HISTORIAN

Fmma Lay

HISTORIAN Emma Lay
HOSPITALITY Melba Sagaser
LIBRARIAN Alex Lay
MEMBERSHIP Jonathan North

PARLIAMENTARIAN Vacant

CLUB PICNIC
JUNIOR PROGRAM CHAIRMAN
JUNIOR PROGRAM ASST.
PROGRAM
ANita Wald-Tuttle
Jennifer Wren
Melba Sagaser
Dan Chaplin

PUBLICITY Robert & Joyce Emerson

Kim Moore

**REFRESHMENTS** Birthday Honorees

SHOW CHAIRMAN
SHOW CHAIRMAN, ASSISTANT
SHOW DEALER CHAIRMAN
SUNSHINE

Kim Moore
Marty Patton
Joyce Emerson
Mary Tucker

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jonathan North (916) 768-0137 <u>jonnorth@comcast.net</u>

1440 Musgrave Dr. Roseville, CA 95747-6257

WEBMASTER Jonathan North (916) 768-0137 <a href="http://www.ncgms.org/">http://www.ncgms.org/</a>

#### **Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings**

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society holds two meetings every month with certain exceptions. The membership is informed of exceptions during meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting:**

First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Building 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA



**General Membership Meeting:** 

First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

Membership Dues: Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$20.00 for singles and \$25.00 for families. For more information or an application, contact Membership Chairman Jonathan North (916) 768-0137. \*Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email\*

#### NCG&MS is a non-profit organization that has these objectives:

- to promote the study of mineralogy, geology and fossils.
- to encourage the collection of minerals and gems.
- to foster the study and practice of the lapidary arts.
- to provide field trips to mineral localities.
- to promote good fellowship, education and recreation.



NEVADA COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY IS A PROUD MEMBER OF: AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (AFMS) CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (CFMS)



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Please send Exchange Newsletters & Newsletter Submissions to: Jonathan North, Editor 1440 Musgrave Drive, Roseville, CA 95747-6257 or Email: jonnorth@comcast.net



First Class Mail





August 2010



## **General Membership Meeting**



Tuesday, August 3, 2010 7:00 p.m. Golden Empire Grange 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley



## **August Program**

Our Junior Rockhounds will be putting on the Program. They will be talking about their favorite rocks.

\*\* Bring a Friend! \*\*