First Class Mail

May 2019

Program: “New Discoveries at “The Blue Mine, an aquamarine site in Southern California."

Tuesday May7
7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Guild
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

** Bring a Friend! **
Happy May Day to Everyone.

I don’t know if you ever gave little baskets of flowers to neighbors and friends on May Day. It was done years ago in various parts of the United States. I’ve done it may years ago. I was wondering what other days that are being celebrated during this month and guess what I found. Sure we all know about Mothers’ Day and Cinco de Mayo but have you ever heard of Loyalty, Mother Goose, World Press Freedom, Free Comic Book, Special and Wacky, Hug Your Cat, and Brother and Sister to only name a few days.

I smelled my apple tree blooms and I “paid” for doing so because I think I got a nose full of pollen. Need, I say that I was miserable for a few days with a runny nose and several sneezing fits? Point of information be careful what you smell.

While we’re outside let me tell you about some Field Trips that are being planned for this month. May 4 - 5 there’s a wonderful trip to Nevada for Nevada Lapis. Don’t let the name mislead you because it’s a pink and green rock. It’s not a blue stone. Why it was named Lapis I don’t remember, but it is pretty.

May 18 - 19 Fallon, Nevada for Petrified wood, Agate, Jasper, Wonderstone, and many various rocks at different sites.

May 24, 25 and 26 at Mariposite for the beautiful blue stone.

John will be bringing many samples to show you. He will talk about these at our May meeting.

I like cute little kittens and puppies but it’s been brought to my attention that cute baby lambs and other animals are being brought to the meetings. Please people don’t bring any more animals of wool, fur, feathers and etc. They don’t belong at the meeting. I know that you will understand and leave them home or in the cars or trucks. Thank you for understanding.

Remember what goes around comes around.

Edwina,
President
Vice President’s Message ---May 2019

Greetings fellow members. I should have some updated info for the club on the proposed addition of getting 4 new cases built. Then we’ll take it from there.
I had ordered a CFMS program on Sedimentary and Vein Agates, but it didn’t arrive last month in time for our meeting. I scrambled and was able to find a fascinating video discussing and showing little known microbial life in certain caves that were responsible for cave expansion. I hope those in attendance found it informative and enjoyable.
For May, I had planned and arranged for a local geologist to come speak to us about his explorations and discoveries on the plateau where Angel Falls is formed in Venezuela. He may be out of the country at the present as I’ve been unable to contact him.
So, I’ve managed to arrange for another geologist (who is just in the USA for a few weeks). His name is Ian Merkel. He’s involved with the Eagle’s Nest Gold Mine as the project geologist here in California. Additionally, he’s also the project geologist for the Pederneira Tourmaline mine in Minas Gerais, Brazil where he spends a considerable amount of time working there. With his knowledge and experience, speaking on either of these places would be of interest to the club…..
But…..he won’t be speaking about these locations………………instead…..He’ll be discussing and illustrating on our screen about one of his new explorations and acquisitions.
It’s an Aquamarine mine in southern California called “The Blue Mine.” As an owner and active miner at this site, he’ll be sharing with us lots of details on a miarolitic granite pegmatite found not long ago in the Mojave Desert. A host of other minerals besides aquamarine is also found at the site. (I’ll let him tell you more about these personally at the meeting).
Ian has a Master’s and a Bachelors degree in geology and lots of in field experience to share with us, so please be sure to attend for his fascinating presentation at our May program called **New Discoveries at “The Blue Mine, an aquamarine site in Southern California**.

Hope to see you there.

David Phillips

NEVADA FIELD TRIP

**When:** May 4-5 2019
**Collecting material:** Nevada Lapis
**Sponsoring Society:** El Dorado
**Field trip Leader info.:** John Dolman, (530)272-3752, john95670@yahoo.com
**When & where to meet:** 09:00 am, At the Wellington Nv. ,Baseball fields-see map
**Proposed schedule:** Convoy to collecting site from Wellington NV.
**Directions to meeting place:** From Carson City, NV. go south on HWY 395, turn left onto HWY 208, go to Wellington stay on 208 NB to baseball park on your right.
**Vehicle requirements:** High-clearance 4 X 4 the last 1-1/2 mi.
**Site facilities:** none/dry camping
**Tools:** 2-pound sledge/chisels/buckets/tote bags
**Clothing:** Wide brim hat/sun screen/layered long sleeved shirt-pants
**Safety concerns:** Safety goggles/gloves
**Climate/weather:** Sunny/warm to hot maybe windy
**Other items:** Plenty of water, your lunch for each day

**Fees:** none

Thank you, Oliver Beetham, Christie Harris and the NCG&MS membership
NEVADA COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES 4-2-19

Meeting called to order 5:47 pm

Minutes of last meeting not taken

Treasurer’s Report: given, list of checks written and audit reported almost finished.

Membership: Anita mentioned that she has someone in mind to help with membership. Frank sent out more packets.

Field Trips – Twelve to fifteen people attended Blaze’s trip for Yuba Blue rocks.

Federation: Camp Paradise will next for this year. The CFMS show for next year will be in Lodi.

Show Chairmen: Trailer cleanup was still stalled by weather. Food vendors are on line and the popcorn paper work is completed. The gold panning area will be expanded. Ten vendors have signed up and money is in bank. Four foot tables will be available to do demonstrations. Fluorescent vendor is bringing his own fireproof tent. Postcards – David is working on them. Suggested making four more cases and to make some new ones each year. We have 26 cases now. Funds need to be requested at general meeting. David would make one new one as a sample to address price. Need all information to present to membership.

Next month’s program – David Lawler, geologist to present Cloud Plateau.

Old Business: scholarships information sent to Anita; no scholarships were given last year so need to follow through with Joyce. Report on Science night, program was well received.

New Business: Rich Cross presented special reader lamps; magnifier. It is called “visualizer” from Amazon. Rich will follow up on it.

Notes: Rock crusher – Rick Cross will take it, build a base and tarp it.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm.
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society

General Meeting Minutes April 2, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance – 7:05 pm

Welcome and introduce guests – 27 members, expected guests were late

Sunshine – Jan had a tree fall on her trailer last month and has found housing elsewhere.

Treasurer’s Report – Paid rent, postage, program for computer, contributed $100 to Grange counter top, stipend for business meeting and Franchise Tax Board.

Membership: Dues are now past due. Sue volunteered for membership chair.

Field trip – The weather was great and members were joined by others from Reno and Paradise clubs.

Federation: Had the annual show in Pomona last month. The next show will be in Lodi next year. Camp Paradise will be open for reservations soon.

Show Chairmen: The show is officially on Oct 5th – 6th. The Banner places in town have been reserved. Vendors – see board meeting notes, fill out forms for display cases if you wish to enter, contract with fairgrounds to be signed in June. Cases, David to check with cabinet shops, check on materials and prices and present to group. The board recommended making four new cases this year. Grange planning to put up new parking light. Storage units brought up; voted to rent a secure container for many of the items that don’t fit in our cupboards and will get damaged in the basement.

Program: There was a change in the program and David presented “Mysterious Life of Caves”. The business meeting was lengthy so meeting went overtime and not all were able to see the end of this presentation. The caves discussed by this movie were beyond just the basic leaching procedure through limestone and tackled extreme forces with carbonic acid, sulfuric acid, enormous bacteria colonies, microbes in oil deposits and the deepest cave in continental US.

Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2019. Please bring your membership fees to meetings or mail them in NCG&MS, P.O. Box 1686, Grass Valley, Ca. Membership renewals must be received by March 5th, 2019, to continue your membership to the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society. If you do not pay dues by next meeting you will have to join again.

Thank You,
Frank Van Hecke, Acting Membership Chairman
Dear CFMS Societies,
The West Mojave Route Network Project Final California Desert Conservation Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the California Desert District, was released today. This is the final ruling on the roads in all of WEMO (9.4 Million Acres) that we will have to live with for the next 25 years. This is the last chance to make any difference in Recreational Rockhounding. This is not a "Comment" period to add or remove anything, that was last time. This is just a comment period to protest a legal issue or a non-compliance with some regulation. I really doubt if we, Rockhounds, can have any effect on any more changes. This is it"... We win or lose on what was previously submitted......

Attached are links
Final versions of the SEIS and the Plan Amendment (23 pdf files) posted at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/docset_view.do?projectId=93521&currentPageId=139661&documentId=171245.

Good luck to us all, and thank you to the societies and individuals who participated over these last several years to protect our collecting site areas on this BLM Planning project.

John Rockhound Martin

CFMS NEWS

Camp Paradise applications will be available at the front table at the May meeting. Many of our members have attended Camp Paradise which is week-long lapidary workshop. The camp is less than forty miles from Grass Valley, lodging and meals are provided, and there is a pool. The cost is only $400 and this includes the lodging, meals, all instruction and some materials.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Van Hecke, CFMS Director
Happy Birthday to Daniel C., Marge K., Aeron D., Polly M., Jim L., Danielle M., Debe T., Izaiah L. As is our club tradition birthday celebrants bring a treat to share with their fellow members

EMERALD—MAY BIRTHSTONE

From Egyptian pharaohs to Inca emperors, emerald has enchanted royalty. Cleopatra was known to have a passion for emerald and used it in her royal adornments. The legendary Crown of the Andes, fashioned in colonial South America, is one example of how the Spanish revered the May birthstone. According to lore, its largest stone—now called the Atahualpa emerald—was taken from the last Inca emperor, Atahualpa, by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. The emerald and gold treasures recovered from the sunken 17th century Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de Atocha represent a small fraction of the colonial riches sent to Spain from the New World.

The word “emerald” comes from smaragdos, ancient Greek for a green gem. Roman author Pliny the Elder, who died in the 79 CE eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, wrote in his encyclopedic Natural History that “nothing greens greener.” He also stated that the May birthstone had therapeutic properties that helped gem cutters: “(they) have no better method of restoring their eyes than by looking at the emerald, its soft, green color comforting and removing their weariness and lassitude.” Science now proves this belief: The color green relieves stress and eye strain. The green birthstone was also thought to have magical powers. By placing it under the tongue, one could see into the future. Some believed it made one an eloquent speaker and exposed lovers who made false promises. Some believed it made one an eloquent speaker and exposed lovers who made false promises.

Colombia has been the source of the finest emeralds for more than 500 years, and Colombian emeralds are the standard by which all others are measured. Three mining sites in Colombia are particularly noteworthy: Muzo, Chivor and Coscuez. Each locality produces a range of colors but, generally speaking, darker tones of pure green emeralds come from Muzo. Emeralds that are lighter in tone and slightly bluish green are associated with Chivor. Slightly yellowish green emeralds are unearthed in Coscuez. The May birthstone is also found in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. One of the most productive sites for the green birthstone is the sophisticated Belmont mine. Capoeriana is another important locality, a rugged region worked largely by independent miners and small-scale operations. Emerald is a 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness, so it is more susceptible to scratching than a diamond, which ranks 10 on the scale. The May birthstone is often treated to improve its color or clarity. The emerald birthstone requires some special care: Avoid exposure to heat, changes in air pressure (such as in an airline cabin) and harsh chemicals. Never put an emerald in an ultrasonic cleaner, as the vibrations and heat can cause the filler to sweat out of fractures. Filled emeralds can also be damaged by exposure to hot water used for washing dishes. The safest way to clean emeralds is to gently scrub them with a soft brush and warm, soapy water. Excerpted from gia.edu
Dear CFMS Societies,

The West Mojave Route Network Project Final California Desert Conservation Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the California Desert District, was released today. This is the final ruling on the roads in all of WEMO (9.4 Million Acres) that we will have to live with for the next 25 years. This is the last chance to make any difference in Recreational Rockhounding. This is not a "Comment" period to add or remove anything, that was last time. This is just a comment period to protest a legal issue or a non-compliance with some regulation. I really doubt if we, Rockhounds, can have any effect on any more changes. This is it"... We win or lose on what was previously submitted......

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John Rockhound Martin

Upcoming Field Trips

May 4-5  Nevada Lapis
May 24,25,26 Mariposite

6/1/19 - 6/2/19 Taylorville, CA  rose quartz
6/29/19 - 6/30/19 Morningstar Mine, Monitor Pass tbd crystals in rhyolite
7/20/19 - 7/21/19 Washington  serpentine, jasper, chalcedony
7/28/19 - 9/29/19 Tulead Canyon, NV  agate, petrified wood
August? Foresthill Divide
Rich Cross 530.401.7066 ammonites, quartz crystals

Melba Wren has once again graciously offered to sew bags for our Kids Corner grab bags and is already busy doing so. These bags are beautifully done and showcase Melba's talent. She plans on making five hundred bags and has requested that any members who have any scrape fabric to bring them to Frank Van Hecke at next months meeting for collection.

Show Committee Chairs
Committee chair people are needed now to get the 2019 Earths Treasurers Show up an running. A show chairs sign up board will be available at the general meetings.
May 5-6: Jackson, CA
Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
Kennedy Mine 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd (off Hwy 49/88)
Hours: 10 - 4 daily
Contact: Cheryl Smith, (209) 296-4061
Website: www.amadorgemandmineral.org

May 3, 4, 5: Yucaipa, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Yucaipa Music and Arts Festival
Yucaipa Blvd and Adam Street
Hours: Fri 6-10, Sat 12-10, Sun 12-6
Contact: Chuck Barlick, 813-767-6718
Email: chuckbarlick@gmail.com
Website: www.yvrgms.org

May 4-5; Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Ave
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4:30
Contact: Margaret Hogarth 909-815-3045
Email: Hogarth.m@gmail.com
Website: www.searchersrocks.org

June 7, 8, 9: La Habra North
Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center
100 W La Habra Blvd
Hours:
Friday 5-8, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: Armando Pedroza 909-598-2456
Email: forestandsun@yahoo.com
Website: www.nocgms.com

June 8-9, Glendora, CA
Glendora Gems
Goddard Middle School 859 E. Sierra Madre Ave
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, 626-963-4638
Email: ybidwell2@aol.com

June 29-30; Culver City
Culver City Rock and Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium 4117 Overland Ave
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
Contact: Janice Metz 310-850-4398
Email: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
Website: www.culvercityrocks.org/feria.html