Nuggets From The Prez

Here we are again. What a time we’ve had since my last letter. There have been more cases of COVID-19 reaching almost 400+ how awful. I hope that you’re all wearing masks not just for the virus but also for the smoke in the air. Talking about smoke what about the Jones Fire up here? I sure hope that all of you were protected from it and all turned out well. If not, I’m very sorry to hear about you.

John has been doing his field trips. During one of his trips, I fell out of bed and hit something hard with my head, ouch. When I touched my head and it was wet, yes it was blood. Do I call someone? But then it will take them a while to come and at 11pm. So, I did my normal thing, Yep, I drove myself to the ER where they CScan my head, Dr. glued my head back together and sent me home. My instructions were to rest and sleep which I did. I had plans I wanted to do while John was gone. I was going to work on my second carving, well you know that didn’t happen. House nice and quiet. John didn’t find out about me until he came home.

Well, September will be upon us, and did you know that Sept 24 to Oct 23 is Libra, the Scales, sort of a weighty subject, Oh bad pun. The stones are Opal, Sapphire, and Diamond.

Next up is Oct 24 to Nov 22 and here we have Scorpio, the Scorpion, and your stones are Topaz, Malachite, and Onyx. May I suggest that you be careful when picking up those rocks to put on the scales because you just don’t know what that Scorpio will be hiding under. That’s all that I could come up with, sorry I’m getting over a concussion.

Friends please be careful and take care of yourselves. It’s been so hot, stay cool and try and keep dehydrated by drinking water or liquid of your choice and I don’t mean Hi Balls and such. l o l.

Remember John has some field trips near and not too far away.

- Edwina, President

In this issue:

- Nuggets From the Prez
- Minutes (none for August)
- 2020 Earth Treasures Show
- Editor’s Notes, News, and Updates
- Field Trips and Trip Notes
- CFMS Updates & Shows
- World’s 10 Most Deadly Minerals
- September birthdays and sapphires
- Poppy Jasper
- Emergency Planning
Greetings, I hope this finds all of you well and maintaining your lifestyles as best you can. This is an update on what is happening in regards to our 2020 Earth’s Treasurers Show:

The Nevada County Fairgrounds, a State of California facility, is still closed and will remain so until a Stage Four level is attained in regards to current lock down requirements.

Some you may wonder why the Roseville Rockrollers, were able to put on their show? That reason is this, The Grounds, where their show was held, is a privately-owned facility, encompassing 90,000 square feet. I attended their show as a demonstrator as well as an exhibitor. The social distancing requirements at their show would be impossible to attain at our show, with the current square footage of the Main Hall at the Nevada County Fairgrounds and our historical show set-up. Those requirements were 6 feet between persons in the ticket line, barriers in most face to face transactions, a 60 foot long raffle area, 6 feet social distancing at their Kids Area as well as between exhibit cases, easily a 75’ X 40’ Silent auction area, vendor booths that ran in straight lines (meaning no u-shaped booths as at our show) and 40 feet between each vendor row (front and back). The Rockrollers had a hard time manning volunteer positions.

If the Fairgrounds were to open any time soon and up to September 1st we might still be able to put on our show. One option is to scale back the area of the Kids Corner and moving it outside, eliminate the Silent Auction, increasing the Raffle area and sales, move more of the show to the outside area, scatter the exhibit cases around the show more, eliminate the free ticket for filling out the questionnaire at the front door, moving all of the tables and chairs in the rest area outside, etc. Another option is to move the entire show outside. The entire outside area is available, and I have the fairgrounds checking to see if a rented chain-link fence to enclose that area is a possibility. Better social distancing and lower infection risk is associated with outdoor events. I am not sure if the tables would be included in that rental, as this is another item that will need to be run by fair management. Power would be available. Exhibit cases would be problematic. Weather would also be a consideration. One major problem with either scenario would be, the caution many of our members would have volunteering to work the show. Many of our members are in the higher risk categories. We need at least a minimum of fifty of our members to participate, in putting on our show.

Currently I have seven confirmed vendors and three cancellations. I will be holding spaces these vendors and any other vendors who cancel, for next year’s show. I have four confirmed demonstrators, and ten exhibitors. I will be checking with all of other vendor’s status, including Doug True who has committed to bring his T-rex skull. Food vendors are also confirmed. The last possible date for confirming our show and submitting paperwork with the California State Fire Marshall, Nevada County Environmental Department, and the Nevada County Fairgrounds is September 1st, 2020.

Advertising our show, would entail a blitz during any time we may have proceeding our show. Radio and print media needs a least a month, a much heavier presence on social media, signage as usual with the addition of more lawn signage, an order for color window flyers and cards for dispersal around town from a local vendor, etc. One of my original fears was the public would not attend a high volume show such as ours in the current climate. Attendance seemed good at the Roseville Show and monies were being spent. Most vendors I spoke to, had made their table fees and for some sales, were good. A general consensus was that things were down from previous Roseville shows.

All in all, we are still at a 50/50 percent odds that the SHOW WILL STILL GO ON!!! At this point it does not look like the fairgrounds will be reopening, there is widespread concern within the Board of Directors about hosting a show, and there is quite a lack of alternate sites available to even put on a show. I will be contacting the Veterans Building as that is the largest with adequate parking as a backup venue. A tailgate is a possibility and I will contact the management at KMart venue center to see into the feasibility of that site for a one day show. I will keep the membership advised of any final decision through the NCG&MS contact email list.

Thoughts anyone? -Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, Show Co-Chair @ 575-4252
**Editor’s notes**

**Camp Paradise:** Reminder, Camp Paradise Lapidary Camp has also fallen victim to COVID-19 cancellations and will not happen this fall. For more information go to [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org).

**Rock shows:** Most have cancelled, only two possibly left in NorCal for 2020: Nevada County and Yuba City.

**Suiseki Contest:** John Dolman is looking to have a Suiseki contest at a fall meeting with prizes, so start looking for that winning rock now! Besides it is a good safe/solo activity! And (hint hint) he is looking to maybe do another similar for naturally-found heart shaped rocks – maybe for February meeting – who knows!

**Davis Creek Obsidian (pic left):** The Davis Creek collection area will open up 6/15 through 9/15/2020. One must get a permit in Altrusa at the USFS office, and only two day-dig permits, per year. USFS office open week days only. Collecting two 5-gal buckets only -- you will be checked by the USFS for compliance.

**Lapidary Shop at the Grange:** Frank discussed this topic at a Grange Board meeting last year. The Grange was receptive to having a small lapidary shop set up on their grounds. Are there any members who would be willing to do follow-up on looking at the feasibility of using the Grange property for a shop. Contact Frank Van Hecke @ 575-4252 for more details and a synopsis of previous discussions with the Golden Empire Grange Board of Directors.

**A Request from Dawn Ackerman, geology instructor at Sierra College:** Come fall, all geology classes will be solely online. Sierra College doesn’t have the resources to provide rock and mineral kits to each student taking Physical Geology Laboratory. So rather than have the students learn about rocks and minerals from photographs, we’re collecting as many specimens as possible this summer to build laboratory kits to be loaned out for the fall term.

I’m interested in knowing if you, or your colleagues at the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society, would like to donate rocks and minerals to help us build laboratory kits. We’re building four laboratory kits; minerals, igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, and sedimentary rocks. Ideally, we’d like about 15 specimens per kit. And we hope to build 75 kits. So, come late August, each geology laboratory student would pick up four bags, containing 60 different specimens. It’s an aggressive goal but I think our students are worth it. Sincerely, Dawn. [dackerman@sierracollege.edu](mailto:dackerman@sierracollege.edu)

**Elections are soon, PLEASE consider a position!** Please take time to volunteer, step in to fill a role, if even for just one year or on a committee. If we all pitch in a little, it is not too much burden for a small few, and the club will benefit from your unique perspective and experience.
NCGMS 2020 Field Trips (please double check before the trip to ensure it is still planned):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Trip Leader/Contact/Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible: 29 Aug. Anyone up for a soapstone dig near Clipper Mills, Ca., in Strawberry Valley?</td>
<td>Call John Dohlman to confirm: meet 8:30 am in front of Camp Paradise, on the frontage road. John Dohlman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 5–6 – Crystal Peak (Verdi) NV: Quartz Crystals, some quite large</td>
<td>John Dolman (overnight camping possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 19, 20 – So. Markleeville, Ca: Crystals in Rhyolite,</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 25-28 – Davis Creek CA, Geodes, Petrified Wood, Crystals</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/dry camping or hotels in Alturas CA or Lakeview OR.</td>
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</tbody>
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Field Trip Report (Submitted by John Dolman)

Tuledad agate & petrified wood trip Aug 22-24: I had 2 show from EDCMGS Paul & Karen Z. we arrived on Aug 21 to set up camp. After lunch we went out looking, Paul & Karen tromped all over the hills. I picked up 10 pounds of agate, they about 8 pounds. We quit for dinner.

Next day went out by 09:30 found petrified wood, wished we had some more diggers we might of found a log or two, but none to be had. Found more agate. Went to a spot of mine dug some black agate right on the road. One chunk was about 400 pounds, and most of it is still there. Paul zig-zagged up the hill not finding what he was looking for.

Aug 23, a nice cool overcast day we went over to Lost Creek Rd. for 14 plus miles. Came across some Apache tears in the road cut, north side. Drove another 12 miles to a pass with a stone fence, Quaking Aspen, and trout in the creek, Paul took a lot of pictures. Went feather to the east to find petrified wood in two cages. Something Arron B. and I could not find in 2007. We turned around at that point for camp. At 2:00pm or so looked in the saddle up from camp found more material of the same as the day before. We had lighting, strong wind gusts, the ones you lean in to so as not get blown down, rock pick on head to hold hat on. We stopped looking and, returned to camp to find belongings every, bent awning, my tent took flight. My chair got tossed out through the side of tent. My things left a trail eastward. Paul and I chased it down, he stood on the remains of my tent to keep it from flying anymore. Then I parked my truck to block the wind and stuffed my busted tent into my camper shell, this put me without a tent. It was too late to drive home, we left in the morning for Cedarville and gas. Stayed the night at camp/motel . Headed for home in the morning on the 25 th.

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Updates

Camp Paradise: “With the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty of what the future holds we believe that it is necessary to cancel Camp Paradise for this year, for more information go to www.cfmsinc.org.

General: Please keep clipping any used stamps from your mail. Long time CFMS member Dick Panky, Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society, collects bags of stamps from member societies at the annual CFMS Directors meeting, in November. These stamps are donated to the Easter Seal Society, which sells them to dealers and collectors as a fund raiser for Easter Seals. Please bring your stamps to any future meeting and give them to Frank Van Hecke. -Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, CFMS Director
All cancelled club shows removed. Those listed were still planned as of 29 Aug 2020

**Fall**

**September 10 – 11; TRONA, CA**
Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society
13337 Main St., Trona
Gem-O-Rama Hours: Sat 7:30 am – 5 pm, Su 7:30 am – 3 pm
Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356
e-mail: slgms@iwvisp.com
Web site: http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/

**October 10th and 11th**
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm
2020 Earth’s Treasurers Show: Dinosaurs Rule – Come see a life size T-Rex skull, plus other fossil displays. 25+ vendors, gold panning activity, lapidary demonstrations, kids crystal dig, a Kids Korner with lots of educational activities, as well as 30 exhibitors. Lazy Dog ice cream, Top Dog hot dog cart, & 16-1 Mine 1/4 ounce gold raffle.
**Website:** http://www.ncgms.org

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e-mail: slgms@iwvisp.com
Web site: http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/

**October 11:** Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St
Hours: 9-4
Contact: Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184
Email: info@fgms.org
Website: www.fgms.org

**November 14 – 15: YUBA CITY**
Hours: Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. 10 – 4
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991
Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net
Show web site: http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org
29th Annual Festival of Gems & Minerals: Raffle, silent auction, kids table, door prizes, exhibits and 14 dealers.

**Check websites or call to ensure shows and field trips are still planned during the 2020 CORVID-19 crisis**

**2021 Shows**

**March 13-14, Arcadia CA**
Pasadena Lapidary Society
“Inspiration Unearth”, 62nd Annual Tournament of Gems
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381
Email: ellenbf207@aol.com
Website: pasadenalapidary.org

**Homeschooling and other interesting links:**

Beginning September 15, you can find videos about minerals, mineral collecting and mineralogy on a brand new YouTube channel, "Mini Miners with Diamond Dan." There is a single, short video uploaded, just to make sure the site works. And it does! Go check out young "Diamond Dan" making a mineral joke. He thinks he's so funny!!

The goal of the videos is to give your young mineral enthusiasts fun and educational videos that will help them not only with their collecting hobby, but also be beneficial to their Earth Science/Rocks and Minerals sections of their school work.

**Amazing mineral photos:**
https://www.mindat.org/article.php/2976/Visit+to+the+Natural+History+Museum+of+LA+County+

**Geology/homeschooling:** https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/com/homeschool-lesson-plans/geology/
The World’s Ten Most Deadly Minerals
http://www.geologyin.com/2015/01/killer-minerals-worlds-10-most-deadly.html
Precious minerals make the modern world go ‘round—they’re used in everything from circuit boards to tableware. They’re also some of the most toxic materials known to science, and excavating them has proved so dangerous over the years, some have been phased out of industrial production altogether. Listed below are the 10 most deadly minerals on earth. These rocks do not need to be thrown to hurt you!!

Chalcantite is a hydrated water-soluble copper sulfate. The mineral is used to ore copper, however it’s necessary to keep the environment dry as the mineral can easily dissolve and recrystallize in a wet environment. It is water soluble and will crystallise out again from solution. The copper in this mineral is very bio-available and is toxic to plants and in high quantities toxic to humans.

Stibnite is a toxic antimony sulfide mineral with an orthorhombic crystal lattice and a source of metalloid antimony. Stibnite paste has been used for thousands of years for cosmetics to darken eyebrows and lashes. The mineral was also used to make eating utensils, causing poisoning from antimony ingestion.

You have likely heard of the mineral asbestos and associate it with lung cancer. Asbestos is not one mineral but six defined separate minerals. Unlike the other minerals in the top 10 deadliest. This silicate mineral grows thin fibers crystals that can easily break off and form dust particles. And it was once widely used for a variety of commercial and industrial applications thanks to its strong, fire-resistant, and flexible nature—from ceiling tiles and roofing materials to flooring and thermal insulation. The fibers can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis.

Torbernite is a dangerous mineral composed of hydrated green copper, phosphate, and uranyl. The mineral is often found in granites that contain uranium and is dangerous due to its radioactive nature. The mineral releases radon naturally and can cause lung cancer if exposure is long enough. This is one mineral you do not want on your display cabinet shelf.
Cinnabar is a deep red mercury sulphide mineral that provides much of the world's elemental mercury. When oxidized, this element will produce methyl mercury and dimethyl mercury, two toxic compounds that cause irreparable harm to the nervous systems of children. It is deadly in small concentrations and can be absorbed through the respiratory tract, intestines, or skin.

Galena is one of the most abundant and widely distributed sulfide minerals. Galena is the principle ore of lead, and forms glistening silver cubes with almost unnaturally perfect shapes. Although lead is normally extremely flexible, the sulfur content of galena makes it extraordinarily brittle and reactive to chemical treatment. It's not as bad as mercury, which will kill you immediately outright, but lead doesn't get flushed out of your system. It accumulates over the years, eventually reaching toxic levels. Once that happens both you and your kids pay the price, as lead toxicity is carcinogenic to you and is teratogenic (causing severe birth defects) to your offspring.

Hutchinsonite is a form of arsenic sulfide with thallium and lead that can be found in hydrothermal vents. Thallium salts are nearly tasteless and highly toxic and have been used in rat poison and insecticides. The thallium inclusion in this arsenic sulfide combines two extremely dangerous and deadly minerals. Exposure to this mineral can potentially lead to death.

Orpiment is another arsenic sulfide mineral with a stunning orange-yellow color. The mineral is found naturally in hydrothermal vents, hot springs, and fumaroles. Strangely, this mineral was once used medicinally in China despite its toxicity and in alchemy in search for a way to create gold. The arsenic, especially if it is allowed to oxidize, will lead to arsenic poisoning if handled incorrectly.

The finely fibrous variety, known as Crocidolite, usually originates from altered metamorphic rocks. It was once widely used for a variety of commercial and industrial applications thanks to its strong, fire-resistant, and flexible nature—from ceiling tiles and roofing materials to flooring and thermal insulation. The fibers can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis.

Arsenopyrite is an iron arsenic sulfide with a brilliant steel metallic color often found in hydrothermal vents and pegmatites. The arsenic leads to a number of environmental and human damages and can sometimes be associated with gold deposits. Oxidation of arsenopyrite leads to soluble arsenic in water and subsequent acid mine drainage.
Sapphire Overview

Happy birthday to Debbie B., Quentin B., Sandy D., Michael J., Don K., SanDee M., Chris M., Cynthia P., Leo S. one of your birthstones is the sapphire!

Although sapphire typically refers to the rich, blue gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, this royal gemstone occurs in a rainbow of hues. Sapphires come in every color except red, which instead earn the classification of rubies.

Trace elements like iron, titanium, chromium, copper, and magnesium give naturally colorless corundum a tint of blue, yellow, purple, orange, or green, respectively. Sapphires in any color but blue are called “fancies.” Pink sapphires toe a fine line between ruby and sapphire. In the U.S., these gemstones must meet a minimum color saturation to be considered rubies. Pinkish-orange sapphires called padparadscha (from the Sri Lankan word for “lotus flower”) can draw higher prices than some blue sapphires.

The name “sapphire” comes from the Latin sapphirus and Greek sappheiros, meaning “blue stone,” though those words may have originally referred to lapis lazuli. Some believe it originated from the Sanskrit word sanipriya which meant “dear to Saturn.”

Sapphire gems are found in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, Brazil, Africa, and North America (mainly Montana – article photos). Their origin can affect their value as much as color, cut, clarity, and carat size.

The remarkable hardness of sapphires, which measure 9 on the Mohs scale, is second only to diamond. They aren’t just valuable in jewelry, but also in industrial applications, including scientific instruments, high-durability windows, watches, and electronics.

Sapphire History

September’s birthstone, the sapphire, has been popular since the Middle Ages. The celestial blue color of this gemstone symbolized heaven and attracted divine favor and wise judgment.

Greeks wore sapphire for guidance when seeking answers from the oracle. Buddhists believed that it brought spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus used it during worship. Early Christian kings cherished sapphire’s powers of protection by using it in ecclesiastical rings. Ancient Hebrews believed that the Ten Commandments were engraved on tablets of sapphire, though historians now believe the blue gemstone referenced in the Bible may have been lapis lazuli.

Classical violet-blue sapphires traditionally came from the Kashmir region of India between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The world record price-per-carat for sapphire was set by a gemstone from Kashmir, which sold at auction for $242,000 per carat (more than $6.74 million total) in October 2015.

Famous star sapphires, like the 1404.49-carat Star of Adam, the 563.4-carat Star of India, and the 182-carat Star of Bombay, came from Sri Lankan mines. Australia was a significant source of sapphires until deposits were discovered in Madagascar during the 1990s. Madagascar now leads the world in sapphire gemstone production.

In 1902, French chemist Auguste Verneuil developed a process to make synthetic sapphire. The abundance of synthetic sapphire unlocked industrial applications spanning integrated circuits, satellite communication systems, high-durability windows, and scientific instruments. Sapphire became a symbol of royal love in 1981 when Britain’s Prince Charles gave Lady Diana a 12-carat blue sapphire engagement ring. Prince William later gave this ring to Kate Middleton when he proposed in 2010.

Today, top-quality blue sapphire remains one of Mother Nature’s rarest gemstones.
Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper

Who wears a jasper, be life short or long,
Will meet all dangers brave and wise and strong.
(Tiffany & Co., 1909)

Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper is a famous, but increasingly rare orbicular jasper with red and yellow dots of "poppy flowers". It is a brecciated jasper, meaning it probably came from sun-dried and oxidized iron-rich clay. The cracks were filled in by other substances. There are different types of Jasper and the variety of Poppy Jasper found in our area is a “brecciated jasper.” What the heck does THAT mean? Great question! Well, “breccia” is a rock made up of sharp fragments embedded in clay and sand. Poppy Jasper is often found in areas with seismic and tectonic activity. Sound like any place we know? As this type of jasper forms, there are tiny cracks and fissures that open in the stone and then fill-in again over time with indigenous materials. As the stone repeats this process, it shatters and “heals-through” many times over, lending to the crackled and speckled look often associated with the stone.

The red colors prized by Poppy Jasper collectors are often a result of red hematite crystals embedded in the rock. It is also thought that iron-rich clay impacts the coloration. From deep reds and vibrant orange tones, to golden hues and earthen greens, Poppy Jasper is always a visual delight! Unfortunately these days most of the local Poppy Jasper found on is on private property, leaving rock-hounds and local enthusiasts alike, increasingly frustrated by the lack of access to new specimens.

Jasper is from the chalcedony/quartz group. It is a microcrystalline variety of quartz that contains up to 20% foreign material. These materials are what determine the color and appearance of the stone. Also because of the foreign materials, jasper is rarely uniform in color, it is usually multicolored, striped, and/or spotted.

Jaspers of all kinds have long been attributed magical powers in just about every culture known to man. Jasper was used in Ancient European times as a "rain bringer" and it is interesting to note that the word for jasper in some American Indian cultures also meant, "Rain Bringer".

Folklore, Legend, and Healing Properties:

Poppy Jasper acts somewhat like adrenaline, waking up and energizing areas of the body that appear to be sleeping. It is believed to encourage a deep connection with the life of the Earth. It inspires a positive, joyful attitude and gives the motivation and energy to take creative action.

Jasper was thought to drive away evil spirits and protect against snake and spider bites. Jasper derives is name from the ancient Persian word yashp, meaning “spotted stone”. In the past bloodstone was called heliotrope. In ancient Egypt red jasper was a symbol of Isis, the goddess of marriage and fertility. An amulet made of red jasper promised protection. In Victorian times, dreaming of jasper foretold of long life and love returned. As a gift for the Russian Empress Alexandra Carl Fabergé made an charming red jasper dancing bear with diamond eyes. Jasper has also been used to adorn buildings, such as the Saint Wenceslas Chapel in Prague.

Color and Pattern

Jasper runs between 6.5 and 7 on the Mohs scale. Morgan Hill poppy jasper is found in the area of Morgan Hill, California, USA. Other popular jaspers are found in Germany, India, Russia, Pakistan, France and the USA as well as many other countries.
Jasper is technically a form of microcrystalline quartz, like carnelian, but unlike carnelian and other forms of microcrystalline quartz, jasper may be found in many colors and patterns.

In fact, jasper’s defining characteristic is that it is formed in an amazing array of colors and fantastic patterns. There are a couple of reasons why jasper has so many colors and patterns. One reason is that jasper may contain up to 20% foreign materials. It is the foreign materials that determine jasper’s many colors. Another reason is that jasper is formed in many geologic steps. It is the different steps used in the formation of jasper that cause its many patterns.

All jaspers are formed in at least two steps. Fine particles first settle in layers, then the layers are “glued” together, usually with a liquid silica solution, like agate. Jasper may go through many more steps in its formation. For example, a jasper formation may crack or break into pieces, and then the spaces may be filled in again with another solution.

**Varieties of Jasper**

Much jasper is formed in massive slabs of solid colors. Examples of solid color jasper are red jasper and yellow jasper.

Mookaite (aka Australian Jasper) is generally creamy to pink or reddish, sometimes mustard yellow or brown. Mookaite comes from the Mooka Station area in Western Australia.

Bloodstone, which in ancient times was referred to as heliotrope, is a variety of jasper that has bright red spots on a deep green background. See the bloodstone page for more information.

Orbicular jasper is a term that refers to jaspers that form with spotty, circular formations. A few common varieties of orbicular jasper are leopardskin jasper, ocean jasper and poppy jasper.

Landscape jasper, scenic jasper and picture jasper are terms for jaspers that appear to be small scenes or landscape paintings, with amazing details that look like plants, rocks, mountains, lakes and even skies and clouds.

Brecciated jasper is a term that refers to fragmented jasper naturally cemented together in a grayish material.

**Regional Jaspers**

Deschutes Jasper is a landscape jasper from the Deschutes area in Oregon.

Misty Mountain jasper is a landscape jasper found in the Misty Mountain region near Boise Idaho.

Morgan Hill Jasper is a poppy jasper from the Morgan Hill area in California.

Owyhee Jasper is a landscape jasper with many complex forms from the Owyhee River gorge area in Malheur County, Oregon.

Stone Canyon Jasper is a brecciated jasper from the Stone Canyon area, near San Miguel, California.
Fires, Rockhounding, and Emergency Preparations

Fall is here, and with it the annual PG&E fire season plus other fire ignition sources. These are made worse as the winter storms start passing over Oregon and Idaho and north winds kick in as the storms move east – without California getting any rain. These are the wind events that have burned up so much of northern California. Fire season got an early start this year with an unusual dry lightning bust west of the Sierras all the way to the coast.

When moisture comes, and access is safe, many of these areas may yield easy rockhounding for a few years. For example, the entire Peterson Mountain Range, famous for quartz crystals and scepter crystals, burned the first week of August. It should be good hunting after the first rain and before snow.

Emergency Preparation

Everyone in our region must have evacuation planning to include a “go list” and pet carriers and leashes, and a list of contact numbers. Pack “go bags” with a couple changes of clothes, emergency items like a headlamp and water, medications for a few days, and other small items like a backup cell phone charger, proof of address, etc.

Make a list of “must takes” if you have to run: (cell phone, go bag, keys, wallet/purse, etc, maybe laptop --only what you can carry and run with fast), what to pack if you have a couple hours (all important papers, cash and other items of wealth, important art, family mementoes and pictures), and what to pack if you have a day or more warning (small heirloom furniture, art, firearms, all cords and chargers, first aid and toiletries).

Organize your home. Make “must take” 15 minutes to evacuate, “List A” (1-2 hours), and “List B” (1+ day) evacuation notice lists, expedite by organizing your home. For example, if you have memento shelving in your living room, organize one shelf to be all “List A” items to grab and go quickly. Be reasonable in your expectations, it will be hot, you will be stressed, confusion will set in, and you will not be able to take as much as you think. Staging bags, boxes & tape, padding for wrapping things is also a good idea so you won’t have to look for them. The IKEA bags are compact for storage and hold a big volume, and blankets are great for rolling artwork into a burrito.

Plan what vehicles to take (if you have a camper, it can hold a lot of stuff and may be needed if a home burns) and where to meet (big parking lots like Kmart or family homes). Wear good shoes, pants, hat, and long sleeve when evacuating.

Clear around your home, firewood, boxes, and other flammable stuff against the house or leaves on the roof. It is basically too late after July to use power tools for weed and brush clearing, but do that in the spring.

We all have heard of the tragedies from the PG&E Paradise Fire, including losses of many rock collections. Lapidary rough may be safe away from the house, and keep a box and padding by your specimen cabinet for a few key treasures.

A few useful local links:

https://www.mynevadacounty.com/1182/Office-of-Emergency-Services
https://yubanet.com/featured/now/
https://yubanet.com/fires/
https://www.weather.gov/sto/
https://www.kvmr.org/
https://knco.com/
https://www.theunion.com/

Never forget, your life is much more important than any objects to take.
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1686, Grass Valley, CA 95945

2020 Elected Officers

PRESIDENT          Edwina Swenson
VICE PRESIDENT      Keven Clark
SECRETARY           Vacant
TREASURER           Frank Van Hecke
DIRECTORS           Christie Harris
                    Eric Trygg
                    Christy Busch

2020 Committee Chairpersons

FEDERATION DIRECTOR Frank Van Hecke
TREK LEADER          John Dolman
HISTORIAN            Beverly Glenn
HOSPITALITY         Vacant
LIBRARIAN            Beverly Glenn
MEMBERSHIP           Charles Lindquist
JUNIOR PROGRAM      Vacant
CLUB PICNIC          Lori Woodhall
REFRESHMENTS         Birthday Honorees
SUNSHINE             Lori Woodhall
NEWSLETTER EDITOR    Blaze Baker (Acting)
WEBMASTER            Charles Lindquist
2020 SHOW ORGANIZER  Frank Van Hecke
                    Dan Chaplin
SCHOLARSHIP         Joyce Emerson

* Call if sending email

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society meets monthly with few exceptions. Membership is informed of exceptions at meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

General Membership Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building, 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

NCG&MS is a non-profit organization with the following objectives:

• To promote the study of mineralogy, geology & 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

Membership Information

Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for families. *Deduct $5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email* For information or an application, email our Membership Chairperson Charlie Lindquist at gvrunner99@yahoo.com

Check out our website at: http://www.ncgms.org
Program: Likely cancelled

First Tuesdays Monthly at 7:00 p.m.
(no meeting in July - Picnic)
Golden Empire Grange Guild
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

** Bring a Friend! **

2020 Membership dues
Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for families. Deduct $5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email. Dues are annual and payable in January.