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The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 8



AUGUST 2019

The President's Message

Dear SEARCHERS

We have entered the height of summer, at least the weather implies we have. Please be sure to be careful during this time when outdoors- wear sunscreen, stay hydrated, and always make sure someone knows where you are and where you're going.

We have great events and activities coming up this month, please be sure to come to our member meeting, or checkout our website, for details.

I'm sorry my new jobs have kept me from being more active with the organization, but I still enjoy hearing about all your fun adventures. I can still be found every other Saturday at workshop, come by and say Hi sometime.

Good luck in all your endeavors and have a great rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Monica Dekany- Beeker

Searchers President 2019



***Please remember to bring any slab donations for the vets.**



**Join the Searcher picnic this month
August 3rd. See page 9 for details.**

Searchers Club Meetings and Presenters

Board Meeting- Tues. August 6th at 6 pm, 2nd VP Lydia's house

Member Meeting- Tuesday August 13th at 7 pm, Anaheim Community Center

Lake Superior Copper Agates



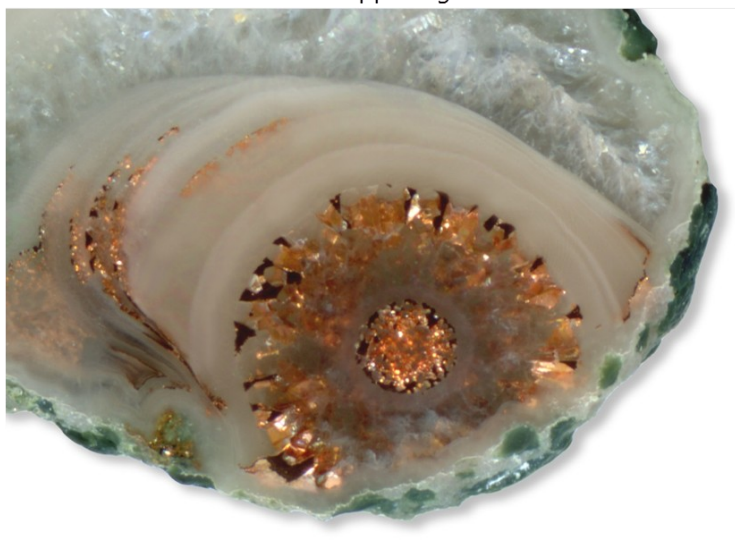
This month Jack Hobart will be our guest speaker... Fifteen years ago, the agate community became aware of spectacular agates from a few 100-year-old mine tailings. They are unique in the world of agates, full of exotic minerals including crystals, geodes and even chlorastrolite, Michigan's state gem. However, the feature that makes them so special is occurrence of pure copper in the form of particles, masses and most important: banding which can fill the entire agate nodule. Some even have agate bands etched within solid masses of copper. Others have pure silver areas within them. Eye agates abound, often with patterns and inclusions not seen in any other agates. Mineral nodules coexist with these agates, featuring complex crystal growths, some even growing into regions that are now pure

copper. The talk will feature close-up images from the largest collection of these agates. It now numbers about 10,000 images, mostly comprised of cut pairs.

Jack Hobart is a physicist who spent a career in Aerospace systems engineering, including nuclear weapon effects, advanced weapon systems, space and missile system defense and concealment technology. For 40 years, he has also photographed geysers and exploding mudpots in Yellowstone, the Salton Sea and throughout the world. About 20 years ago, he started collecting and compiling close-up images of Mexican fire opals, Lake Superior agates, and the rare copper agates from the Keeweenaw in Northern Michigan. Each of these 3 compilations now numbers about 10,000 high resolution images. He has published 7 photo-filled books about these subjects, including one introducing copper agates and another about copper eye agates. Four more books about copper agates have been compiled, but not yet published. These are the only books about this fascinating subject. Jack's biography and excerpts from his collection are also included in the book, Agates III.

Come meet Jack at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 13, at 7pm.

**Please remember to
bring a rock or slab
for the Vets!**



Field Trips

July & August – No field trips scheduled due to the summer heat.



For field trip
information
contact:
Lydia
Pattison Field
Trips,
Searchers
Gem and
Mineral
Society,
lpattison@so
cal.rr.com

Confusing Rockhound Definitions

BARIUM –What to do with your clothes after encountering a skunk.

CORAL –A place to keep horses.

FIELD TRIP –An impossible trek to an inaccessible place for nonexistent specimens.

MICROMOUNT –A very small horse.

ROCKHOUND –A person who scolds his little boy for picking up a piece of candy that was dropped in the dirt, but will lick a piece of agate to see if it will polish.

The Glacial Drifter, 4/19

Rockhound Retreats

Hi Friends-

One of the great benefits of being in the CFMS is going to what I call their Rockhound Retreats. They have 2 one week opportunities in the fall up north and 1 week in the spring at Zzyzx. I've been to Zzyzx twice and loved it. You are immersed in leaning which-ever lapidary field your want + field trips every day all for \$405, which covers room & board.

All with about 70 other like minded folk. I know they have rooms for married couples at Zzyzx and probably do at Camp Paradise, too. Otherwise, it's great dorm living. But it's a walk to the bathroom & showers.

Did you ever see that Huell Hauser segment on Zzyzx? It's really wonderful there. It's now operated by the CSUF Earth Science Desert Studies, and the live-in people give talks, too.

There is an application for Camp Paradise in the May & June CFMS newsletter. The other great thing is that newbies have priority!

I highly recommend going-you'll get hooked!

Nancy Bird, Federation Director



"Collect Rocks Day" offers opportunity for inspiration

By [John Copeland](#)

I have been intrigued by rocks since I was a kid. In fact, as I write these lines I am surrounded by rocks I have collected over the years. On my window sill is a piece of shale containing several preserved ammonites, obsidian from Iceland, dolerite from Tasmania, and a sedimentary rock bearing fossilized sand ripples attesting to former currents along the western edge of the Western Interior Seaway, which stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic during the late Mesozoic.

Sept. 16 is National Collect Rocks Day, which has only been commemorated since 2015. I have not found any reference to who first observed this day or why, but that does not really matter. It offers a good excuse to celebrate Earth and science, to indulge your inner geologist, and to learn fascinating things about the material that makes up Earth's surface.



Rocks seem to have always drawn the interest of humans and have been a valuable resource throughout human history. Starting hundreds of thousands of years ago, ubiquitous rocks served as tools for our hominin ancestors. Some of the earliest weapons and musical instruments were made from rocks, as were building materials and jewelry. The first geologists were prospectors looking for valuable minerals and gemstones, and mining rock has made it possible for humans to use metals and other materials in developing technology.

Today, while an interest in rocks draws some people to geology as a profession, it brings many more to the field as a hobby, mainly for the beauty of rocks and minerals. My grandparents were avid rock hounds who made treks to the California desert in search of geodes. They collected beautiful specimens and spurred their grandchildren's interest in rocks. We all had rock collections growing up — and some of us still do. (Who says you have to give up your rock collection when you become an adult?)

Rock collecting is a great endeavor, for kids and adults alike, for many reasons. Anyone can participate, anywhere. And it's highly individualistic. Although there are of course rock and mineral guides, there are no books telling you specifically what rocks you should collect or listing values for each and every rock specimen. When it comes to rock collecting, beauty is indeed in the eye of the beholder. This brings me back to Collect Rocks Day — and inspiring young minds.

Many of the earth scientists I know and have worked with on natural science documentaries over the years became interested in rocks, fossils and minerals when they were young, and their interest stayed with them into adulthood. I still remember the first time I held a piece of shale with the fossil of a trilobite embedded in it. For a moment, I felt transported into the deep past of our planet and marveled at what this strange creature's life would have been like. An experience such as this can be life-altering for a curious mind. Collect Rocks Day is an ideal opportunity to help spark the interest of a young person in what may become a lifelong pursuit. There are endless possibilities for celebrating Collect Rocks Day: Take a trip to a fossil-filled beach in search of rocky treasures, or to a rock and mineral shop, or even just to a nearby roadside outcrop to scout for interesting specimens and structures.

Many of today's pressing issues involve the geosciences, from climate change to managing natural resources. That is why it is so important to encourage children's interest in science and the natural world. There is a myth that we have to convince children that science is fun. For young learners, science is just an extension of their everyday world. We don't have to teach young children how to wonder and ask questions, or how to discover and explore through play, because they do it naturally.

Continued on Page 5

Although I did not pursue a career in earth science, I have had an interest in it since childhood. And I have been very lucky to be able to combine filmmaking with science, meeting a whole host of earth scientists and continuing to learn about the planet's interconnected systems in the process.

This Sept. 16, take a young person out to collect rocks. You never know where their curiosity and wonder will lead them on life's journey.

John Copeland



Copeland is a filmmaker in California who has produced television programs ranging from "Babylon 5" to "Faces of Earth" (produced with the American Geosciences Institute). Copeland also works with MIT's Experimental Study Group to instruct undergraduate science and engineering students in the art of visual communication and storytelling. The views expressed are his own.

<https://www.earthmagazine.org/article/geologic-column-collect-rocks-day-offers-opportunity-inspiration>

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Mindat.org



[Mindat.org: https://www.mindat.org](https://www.mindat.org)

Mindat.org is the world's leading authority on minerals and their localities, deposits, and mines worldwide. A 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, Mindat has been collecting, organizing, and sharing mineral information since October 2000. Information is reviewed by a team of 50 mineral experts. Even for beginners it is interesting and fun to explore. For example, before we went to Clear Creek, I wish I had looked up the Clear Creek mining district. The description tells me what a unique and special place it is, and, using the mineral list down on the page, I can look at gorgeous specimens of something I may be lucky enough to find. It is even helpful after the fact! Look up Lavic in San Bernardino County and see all of the information there. Under the list of localities (linked to mineral lists, with coordinates), there is a list of minerals recorded nearby. It is a good way to learn about minerals and rocks. Other searches you might want to try that are familiar to Searchers:

Boron, California

Pala mining district

Bagdad-Chase

Look up something like turquoise or quartz and learn all about its properties, chemistry, varieties, common associates, reference articles, and more.

Under the Learning tab, there are introductory articles and more on many, many mineral-related topics. Explore the photo galleries where members have posted eye-popping photographs of specimens or collections, or look for a favorite topic on the message board. Enjoy the myriad, fascinating beauties on this site!

Margaret Hogarth

Searcher's Stuff

How Can You Help the Searchers?

Did you know that Searchers is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization completely run by volunteers? In addition to your dues, a club like ours needs other donated support and help from our members to succeed. And, in terms of accepting help, we are an equal-opportunity club! Here are some ideas:

- Everyone should know of our effort to supply slabs or other materials for the Long Beach Veteran's Hospital lapidary shop. Cut one, donate one.
- Gather quality materials and donate to the annual show's Silent Auction (the first weekend of May)
- Help set up and take down the workshop
- Make a rock-related prize and donate it to the show
- Invite a friend to a meeting
- Help at least two hours each day of the show; there are a variety of ways to help, including stations where you can mostly sit!
- Take photographs and/or videos on field trips and share them with the newsletter and website
- Donate a door prize to a monthly meeting or to the Hospitality table at the show
- Pick up sparkly or interesting items for kids' prizes for the Wheel of Fortune
- Offer someone a ride in your 4-wheel drive vehicle on a field trip
- Share your knowledge at meetings, on field trips, and in the workshop
- You may be still learning yourself, but do you know a knowledgeable person who can present at the meetings?
- Donate something for the Searchers to sell at the show
- Write an article for the newsletter or website
- Distribute fliers for the show
- Run for a club office
- Promote, attend and support the show
- Lead (or help lead) a field trip
- post Searcher activities to social media

Searchers' gifts and earnings help support the Long Beach Veteran's Hospital lapidary program, the club's workshop, and scholarships. As part of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, we also have insurance and other costs to cover. Think about how you can support the club; we need you!

Keep on rocking!

Margaret Hogarth



Upcoming 2019 CFMS Gem Shows

AUGUST

August 2, 3 & 4: NIPOMO, CA
 Orcutt Mineral Society
 Nipomo High School
 525 Thompson Avenue
 Hours: Fri-Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Wayne Mills, (805) 481-3495
 Email: wwmills50@hotmail.com
 Website: omsinc.org

August 3 - 4: SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, S.F. County Fair Bldg.
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
 Contact: Ellen Nott
 Email: ellel_nott@yahoo.com
 Website: sfgems.org

SEPTEMBER

September 21: LONG BEACH, CA
 Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
 Expo Arts Center
 4321 Atlantic Avenue
 Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
 Contact: Carol Kron and Karin Alvarez,
 (562) 577-9044
 Email: lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com

September 21 - 22: CHICO, CA
 Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
 Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
 2357 Fair Street
 Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5; Sun 9:30 - 4
 Lori Millard, (530) 533-2968
 Email: lorimillard58@yahoo.com
 Website: www.featherriverrocks.org

September 21 - 22: MONTEREY, CA
 Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
 Monterey Fairgrounds
 2004 Fairgrounds Road
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311
 Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net

Website: cvgms.rocks

September 28 - 29: LODI, CA
 Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
 Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
 413 East Lockford Street
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Contact: Mike Mathis, (510) 301-3612
 Email: mmathis@nwp.org
 Website: stocktonlapidary.org [Show Page](#)

OCTOBER

October 5 - 6: GRASS VALLEY, CA
 Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
 Nevada County Fairgrounds
 11228 McCourtney Road
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Mitchell Frank Van Hecke, (530) 575-4252
 Email: 4vanclan5@att.net
 Website: ncgms.org [Show Page](#)

October 12 - 13: TRONA, CA
 Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
 Trona Gem Building
 13337 Main Street
 Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5:00; Sun 7:30 - 3:00
 Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356
 Email: slgms@iwvisp.com
 Website: iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 19: WEST HILLS, CA
 Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
 First United Methodist Church
 22700 Sherman Way
 Hours: 10 - 5
 Contact: Virginia Rotramel,
whrc@rockchippers.org
 Email: whrc@rockchippers.org
 Website: rockchippers.org [Show Page](#)

October 19 - 20: PLACERVILLE, CA
 El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
 El Dorado County Fairgrounds

100 Placerville Drive
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Contact: Debbie Winterson
 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org
 Website: eldoradorocks.org [Show Page](#)

October 19 - 20: SANTA ROSA, CA
 Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
 The Veterans Memorial
 1351 Maple Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Jolene Coon, (707) 849-9551
 Website: jolene4srmgs@gmail.com
 Website: srmgs.org [Show Page](#)

October 26 - 27: SACRAMENTO, CA
 Sacramento Mineral Society
 Scottish Rite Temple
 6151 H Street
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Alyssa Meiszing, (916) 205-4441
 Email: webad-min@sacramentomineralsociety.org
 Web Site: sacramentomineralsociety.org
[Show Page](#)

NOVEMBER

November 2 - 3: ANAHEIM, CA
 American Opal Society
 Business Expo Center
 1960 S. Anaheim Way
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
 Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959
 Email: info@opalsociety.org
 Website: opalsociety.org/ [Show Page](#)

November 2 - 3: CONCORD, CA
 Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
 Centre Concord
 5298 Clayton Road
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily
 Contact: Mike Hopkins
 Email: mhopkins@ironhorsesdesign.net
 Website: contracostamaterialandgemso-ciety.org [Show Page](#)

November 9 - 10: YUBA CITY, CA
 Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
 Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Franklin Hall
 442 Franklin Blvd
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Karen Horita, (916) 677-6696
 Email: horita@comcast.net
 Website: sutterbuttesgemmin.org

August Birthstone: Peridot



For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site: www.cfmsinc.org

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

www.searchersrocks.org

General Meetings: 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Board Meetings: 6PM, 1st Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Workshop: Thursday 5:30 to 9:30 PM and Saturday 2:30 to 6:30 PM

Location: Anaheim Downtown Community Center
250 East Center St.
Anaheim, CA 92805

Mailing Address: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O Box 3492
Anaheim, CA 92803

Website: www.searchersrocks.org

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

Bulletin: Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: editor@searchersrocks.org.

Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:

Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

P.O. Pox 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Aloha!

You're invited...

To the Annual Searchers Summer Soiree...

Let's Luau!

Wear your best Hawaiian Aloha shirt, or a grass skirt and coconut bra, or your most tourist-y socks and sandals. Tropical fun awaits!...

*Location: Yorba Regional Park,
7600 E. La Palma Ave
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807*

Area: Site #6 by Parking Lot #2

*Date and Time: Saturday,
August 3rd from 11am to 3pm*

Parking: \$5 fee (no free re-entry)

Contact: Heather hkjaeckels@gmail.com or 310-686-8145

There will be:

- *Terrific food - main dish proteins will be provided by our resident chef/food stylist, and all Searcher members are asked to bring something "potluck" style. See Heather for the sign up options: hkjaeckels@gmail.com or 310-686-8145.*
- *Fun & games for all ages - cornhole, kids ring toss, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, tropical photo backgrounds, "hula" hoop, and more.*
- *Prizes & Contests - win prizes for best Aloha shirt, best tropical wear, & bring slabs for the vets. Each slab gets a ticket for a chance to win a prize. The more you bring, the better your chances of winning. Be generous.*
- *Live music from an all Veteran band that play at the VA Hospital. Get ready to rock with some Beach Boys, Jan & Dean, Dick Dale surf guitar & more.*

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