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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members and happy August!

This is the month of our Annual Club Picnic! I'm so excited to say that we're going to try something new this year. The McGeough's have graciously offered to host the picnic! Their home is in Corona, has lots of open space and things to enjoy. We will be doing the pot luck as usual, as well as games and fun for all! Look further in the Slab for details and sign up sheets. Veronica Purpura is coordinating the event with the McGeough's, so please reach out to Veronica if you have any questions. We also have a great field-trip coming up over Labor Day Weekend to Burro Creek. Those of you that have been there know what a fantastic collecting area this is. Look further along in the Slab for more information on that as well!

On a different note - The Searchers are fortunate to have several wonderful speakers join us each month at the general meetings, but we also have many amazingly talented and knowledgeable members right in our club. We would like to ask those that are interesting in sharing their skills, knowledge and abilities to sign up to be a speaker at one of our general meetings. Members talented and knowledgeable in collecting, lapidary work, gemology, even photography of rocks, etc (anything related to rocking really) sign up and share! What a great opportunity to pass down your knowledge with your fellow Searcher Members!

Tery-Lynn Wheeler

AUGUST BIRTHSTONE

Peridot

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.

The origin of the name "peridot" is uncertain. The Oxford English Dictionary suggests an alteration of Anglo-Norman pedoretés (classical Latin pæderot-), a kind of opal, rather than the Arabic word faridat, meaning "gem".

The chemical composition of peridot is $(Mg, Fe)_2SiO_4$, with Mg in greater quantities than Fe.



Size: 32.54x26.88x22.38 mm
Weight: 155.46 Carats
Origin: Suppat, Pakistan

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Board Meetings: 7PM, 3rd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Workshop: Thursday, 6 - 10 PM, free wire-wrap class, Saturday, 3 - 7 PM

Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies)

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

Membership Dues: Individual- \$25, Couples- \$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:

Yery Camacho, 13900 Studebaker Rd, #4, Norwalk, CA 90650

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council

Web Site: www.searchersrocks.org

FIELD TRIPS

| FIELD TRIPS 2012 | | | |
|------------------|--------|------------------------------|---------|
| Date | Leader | Location & Material | Status |
| September 1-3 | | Burro Creek, Arizona | planned |
| November TBD | | Buffington Pockets in Nevada | planned |
| | | | |

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org

Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

Other websites of interest:

www.firemountaingems.com

www.southsunproducts.com

www.pioneergem.com

www.route66goldminers.org

www.auctionmasters.com

CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012

| Date | Presenter | Subject |
|-------------|--|--|
| November 13 | Cabinet member elections and pie party | Cabinet member elections and pie party |
| December 1 | Christmas/End of Year Banquet | Marie Calendars, 6pm |

UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS**August 31 - September 3: FORT BRAGG, CA**

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society
Town Hall, Corner of Main & Laurel Street
Hours: Fri-Sun 10 - 6; Mon 10 - 4
Jerry Sommer, (707) 937-1833

September 8 - 9: DOWNEY, CA

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
Woman's Club of Downey
9813 Paramount Blvd.
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Jon Fults, (714) 856-7548,
(714) 287-5743 cell
Email: jhfults@verizon.net

September 15 - 16: BORON, CA

Mojave Mineralogical Society

Boron Community Park & Building

27177 - 20 Mule Team Road

Hours: 8 - 4 daily

Contacts: Steve Breckenridge (760)

559-0872, Rock5b@starband.net

David Eyre, (760) 762-6861,

david_eyre@mail.com

September 15 - 16: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Pioneer Park & Museum

2010 Riverside Avenue

Hours: 9 - 5 daily

Contact: Dale Conrad, (805) 226-0719

Website: www.slrockhounds.org

September 15 - 16: REDWOOD CITY, CA

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society

Community Activities Building

1400 Roosevelt Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Mary Lou Froese, (650) 755-8753

Email: mfroese@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://sgms.driftmine.com>

September 21 - 23: SAN BERNARDINO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball
Park

6707 Little League Drive

Hours: 9 am to Dusk daily

Contacts: Frank Gerny, (909) 381 0089

Bigfoot999@ca.rr.com

Steve Williams, (909) 389-8680

ironelk@ymail.com

Website:

<http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

September 22 - 23: CHICO, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral
Society

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds

2357 Fair Street

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

John Scott, (530) 321-6331

Email: jweazel@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.rovillerocks.com

September 29 - 30: MONTEREY, CA

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds

2004 Fairgrounds Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311,
cell (831) 521-8226

Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.cvgms.org

September 29 - 30: SANTA ROSA, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

Wells Fargo Center for the Art

50 Mark West Springs Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5

Jolene Coon, (707) 849-9551

Email: coons@sonic.net

Website: www.srmgs.org

September 29 - 30: STOCKTON, CA

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

Scottish Rite Masonic Center

33 W. Alpine Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dorothy Tonnacliff (209) 603-
4539 or Jan Bradley (209) 629-3878

Email: slmcsow@juno.com

Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

SEARCHERS-WHO WANTS A SHOT AT GLORY?

Dearest Searchers,

We need to indentify a show chairman, or preferably 2 co-chairs. This person(s) will facilitate the pre-show meetings, and arrange for the assignment of show committee members etc. Those of you who have participated in the shows in the past know that the shows are a bit of a challenge, but also a lot of fun, and a great way to great to know your other club members. The quality of the Searchers show is something we can all be proud of. There are quite a few members with experience as show chairs, and I am sure they will be willing to assist the new chair(s), that is if they don't volunteer themselves☺ Also there is a lot of documented information on what is required for the show.

So...if you are an experienced show chair and wanted to volunteer again we will be happy to have your help. And if you are not an experienced chair but think it would be an exciting challenge and would like to give it a try we would also be happy to have your help. So if you are willing please email Norbert or I and we will figure out where we go from there.

Thanx and best regards,

Steve Duncan, wsd@iteris.com

PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

By Kim Campbell Erb, Rockhound Activist

There is much going on currently within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other government agencies that will likely have a significant impact on our future ability to collect gems and minerals in the deserts of Southern California and beyond. This includes the West Mojave ("WEMO") Route Plan, the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, and the federal government's proposed solar energy program, just to name just a few.

It is now necessary that each of us become activists if we want to keep rockhounding alive. We all need to monitor the BLM's and other government agencies' websites to keep abreast of what programs have been proposed that would deny us or restrict access to yet another collecting area, and we need to respond with valid well-reasoned, articulate comments to be sure that our voices are heard.

What I have learned from some of the activists representing other recreational interests that I have had the pleasure to become acquainted with is that we will be taken far more seriously by the government agencies if we develop relationships with them. The best way to develop relationships with them is to become partners with them in a variety of ways that will educate them regarding who we are and what we do, and show them in a real way that we care about the land, the local species and their habitat in the areas where we collect. In doing so, we will gain recognition and respect, and will gain credibility with those making decisions about the public lands where we collect gems and minerals.

There are several ways we can partner with them:

- (1) Loan educational display cases to their field offices and visitors' centers with [labeled] gem and mineral specimens from the geographic areas over which they have jurisdiction. This would include specimens of gems and minerals we are no longer able to collect because they occur in areas that have been closed to rockhounding. These could be changed from time to time to keep them fresh and interesting. They should be locked to prevent theft.
- (2) Organize work days for area clean-up, route/trail maintenance, or even habitat restoration at popular collecting areas, in coordination with agency staff. These could be advertised on LA Rocks and other groups to get a high level of participation. This would really get the attention of the agencies, and there is probably no better way to show that we care. A press release could be issued following the event to publicize and get public acknowledgement for rockhounds and your club.

This might best be accomplished by establishing a committee to spearhead this effort, and organize and keep records regarding which club "adopts" which field office or visitor center, and provide information regarding who to contact, the amount of space available for a cases (or cases) and what type of work days are most needed and in which collecting areas.

I would suggest that any group or society start by contacting their local BLM field office to seek out that office's interest in participating with their club. Stress earth science education and BLM's current Great Outdoors project, but be willing to do basic chores like clean-ups if that is what they need most.

Active clubs can begin by identifying gems and minerals collected within the district of a specific field office. Stress to the BLM (or other government agency) that these are uniquely occurring gems or minerals, i.e. natural resources, found within their district. If the field office manager is agreeable, your group can organize, plan out, fund and create it's case. Seek out members who have relevant material: rough, specimens, lapidary art and even jewelry. It would be helpful if you could also include material that we are no longer permitted to collect, too. Include educational information about each gem or mineral, a club brochure, and even a

mention about the particular individual who created any displayed lapidary art or jewelry. Mention to your members that this is a good opportunity to showcase your club as well as the individual lapidary or jewelry artist.

Schedule an "event" for the installation of the case, and issue a press release. Most agencies issue their own press releases regarding these events, too, so coordinating these events well with the agency will benefit everyone and generate greater recognition for rockhounds in general, your club and your individual contributing members.

It behooves us all to develop a good working relationship with the BLM and other government agencies. They are the stewards of vast acres of public land and are charged with the responsibility to monitor and maintain it. We rockhounds need to remind the stewards that they work for all Americans, not just the most vocal special interests, and we need to show them that we appreciate what they do and give them a reason to appreciate and respect us, too.

Upcoming Meetings or Comment Deadlines

Please try to attend the following public meetings or send letters to inform the public agencies of your concerns or to comment on specific proposed actions:

WEMO (West Mojave) Route Plan Subgroup Meeting: Travel Management Area (TMA) 4 will be studied at this meeting.

August 14, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Barstow Field Office, 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311

Phone (760) 252-6000

Public Scoping Workshop for Input of Management for the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wilderness Areas

August 7, 2012, 6 to 8 p.m.

BLM's Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Desert Advisory Committee Meeting: Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 a.m.

Los Angeles County Fair (or vicinity)

Marines' 29 Palms Expansion – FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement)

Comments due by August 27, 2012.

Please view the information at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/LAS/Pages/default.aspx>

They have chosen the most extreme expansion plan, which would add a good portion of Johnson Valley to their area.

CALLING ALL TUMBLERS

The grab bags were a great success at the 2012 show, outselling all previous year's sales. Thanks to everyone who contributed both material & time. The 2013 show is right around the corner. Anyone who can donate tumbled stones for the 2013 grab bags will contribute to your club's continued success.

Don't wait, tumble now! All donations for grab bags are greatly appreciated. Bring your donations to the monthly meeting, the lapidary shop, or contact Lydia to arrange pickup (714) 453-8186.

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 gauge fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.



A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It's also colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !

LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls, silver and gold, as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Just put the scrap on a solder pad and melt it with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

The only problem is if you need to make all the balls the same size. For that, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time, and the only way I know to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.



But there's an easier way to get a supply of well-formed balls. Simply pick them out of your stash of casting grain. But before you grab for your magnifying glass and tweezers, you may want to do what I do.

Just pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit and watch all the round ones roll to the bottom. Then pick out the good ones and pour the rest back into your bag for casting.

In addition, here are a couple news items that might be of interest to you:

BUTTERFLIES

There's an exquisite collection of butterfly brooches on display now at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. The collection was created by Buzz and Bernardine, who have a passion for rare gemstones that they have chosen to share through unique jewelry pieces. Buzz faceted most of the main gems and Bernardine designed all except for the "Ninja" butterfly, which is Buzz's creation. All the metalwork is done in 18kt gold.

<http://nhm.org/site/research-collections/mineral-sciences/temporary-displays>

SHAPING A BENCH PIN

What does your bench pin look like? New ones need some modification to best support the work you do. My feeling is that a bench pin that's not drilled with holes, marked with gouges, or sawed at odd angles is just not working for you.

Take a look at this short video from the GIA that shows some changes to a standard bench pin that

makes it efficient for stone setting. It may give you some ideas about changes you could make to your own pin that would let you do your work faster and avoid mistakes that waste time and effort.

<http://www.ganoksin.com/benchtube/video/774/Ergonomics-for-Bench-Pin-Modifications>

WANTED

CFMS competitive style display case (4'x2'x2') for use in future Searchers and CFMS shows. We can pick it up. Contact Jay or Kim Erb at 714-533-1593

PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181

Classes, jewelry, faceted stones, rocks, slabs and minerals.
Now open Wednesdays 11am-4pm and during classes and events.
Check the "Calendar" on our web-site for schedule.

www.ptcreations.net

THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>
342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866
Ph. 714-633-1549

Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

Club members show your ID card and receive a 10% off purchases over \$100
Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors
5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)
714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm