

# The Rock Slab News

JUNE 2006 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 6

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## The Purpose of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

*By-Laws, Article 1, Sec. 2*

*This society was formed for the purpose of banding together a group of congenial persons for the purpose of studying mineralogy and the earth sciences by means of association with other mineralogical societies and with their members; presentation of public exhibitions, lectures, and similar programs; field trips for exploration, study and collecting of specimens; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of interest in mineralogy and the lapidary arts; the procurement and maintenance of collections of minerals, mineral products and related pictures, writings and other information thereof; and all other means which are appropriate to the accomplishment of the primary objectives above set forth.*

*This organization is not formed for profit and none of its assets shall be used for the pecuniary gain or profit of any individual who is or may become a member thereof.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Clarke Benich*

Hello Again Fellow Searchers,

Well, here we go again! We've now got the show behind us, had a few weeks in which to rest up, relax, and seek medical attention for our newly acquired symptoms of high blood pressure, angina attacks, and sudden flashes of light which seem to come from nowhere! Life is good!! Just in time to go see Betty Nelson or Kathy Clark and get signed on for our next show in 2007. On a serious note however, I have to say I had more fun with this year's show than any others I'd been involved with in prior years, which I believe had everything to do with the quality of the people involved in putting it together. For those of you who have not heard, Betty Nelson will be the next show chairperson, with Kathy Clark as co-chair. With Betty's many years experience with our shows, along with having been the showchair twice herself, next year will definitely be a well-planned and organized show. But what about her co-chair? Does she come with any special skills to offer? Any references? I believe the lady showed her caliber in the way she came through in the kitchen as well as putting on the Friday Night Dinner. What most of you were not aware of was that she accomplished all that while dealing with 2 major family crises simultaneously, getting our newsletter out on time, and membership chairman's duties to boot! Kathy has a way of making work seem more like play, so if you're into having fun, don't hesitate...get signed up to work in our 2007 show!

With the final wrap-up meeting coming this Wednesday, I'm sure we'll have a financial report put together in time for the General Meeting the following Tuesday evening, which will quite possibly be a meeting many of you won't want to miss. There will be a silent auction, however, it will not be what you are used to seeing on the tables. Instead of the normal menu of rocks and mineral samples, or should I say "in addition to" the regular stuff you're used to bidding on, there will also be...well...tell you what, just show up and you'll see.

*[Continue on page 4]*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule! [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

- General Meetings:** 7 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Board Meetings:** 6 PM, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, Jan - Nov
- Workshop:** Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.  
Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays (schedule varies).
- No workshops:** Nov 23 & 25.
- 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](http://www.searchersrocks.org)
- Membership Dues:** Individual \$20  
Couple \$25  
Junior (17 & under) \$2  
Valid Jan 1 – Dec 31, not prorated.
- Bulletin:** Submissions due 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month via e-mail to: [editor@searchersrocks.org](mailto:editor@searchersrocks.org).  
Bulletin distributed 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editors:  
Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
N. Tustin, CA 92705-2144
- Charter Date:** June 20, 1958
- Affiliations:**
- California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
  - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## SEARCHERS BOARD

### Officers

|                                    |                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| President                          | Clarke Benich      | 714/552-7336 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. (Programs)    | Virgil Talbott     | 714/871-7900 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips) | Steve Duncan       | 714/532-4703 |
| Director                           | Karen Fox          | 714/832-3580 |
| Secretary                          | Lorri Renck        | 714/397-3584 |
| Treasurer                          | Patricia Underwood | 562/864-4195 |
| Federation Delegate                | Virgil Talbott     | 714/871-7900 |

### Committee Chairpersons

|                       |                               |                              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Anaheim Arts Council  | Margaret Neeley               | 714/535-2030                 |
| Editor                | Jenny Stavreva<br>Kathy Clark | 714/736-4345<br>714/639-9927 |
| Historian             | Beth Pelfrey                  | 714/774-2754                 |
| Hospitality           |                               |                              |
| Library               | Maggie Vigil                  | 714/288-2072                 |
| Membership            | Kathy Clark                   | 714/639-9927                 |
| Monthly Drawing       | Anastacio O'Campo             | 714/490-0416                 |
| Phone Tree            | Audrey Nichols                | 714/827-8345                 |
| Phone Tree Asst. 1    | Sharon & Bob Burson           | 562/860-5938                 |
| Phone Tree Asst. 2    |                               |                              |
| 2006 Show             | Beth Pelfrey                  | 714/774-2754                 |
| Show Co-Chair         | Anastacio O'Campo             | 714/490-0416                 |
| Sunshine              | Carlene Blake                 | 714/549-0099                 |
| Veteran's Coordinator | Larry Richey                  | 714/846-3573                 |
| Website               | Karen Fox                     | 714/832-3580                 |
| Workshop              | Herb Beckman +?               | 714/778-1496                 |
| Rock 'n' Kids         | OPEN                          |                              |

## JUNE EVENTS

- 4 11 am – 4 pm Heritage Day  
 7 7 - 9 pm Show meeting  
 13 7 - 9 pm General Meeting  
 17 Field Trip,  
 15 Rock Slab News bulletin  
 28 6 -7 pm Board Meeting

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

| Date    | Location                    | Leader                        | Details      | Status  |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| June 17 | East Fork of St Gabriel Mts | Virgil Talbott & Steve Duncan | Gold Panning | Planned |

## TENTATIVE JULY FIELD TRIP

By Steve Duncan

The Searchers are making tentative plans for an extended trip to Northern CA and Oregon the first week of July. Details and final dates are TBD. Jimmy Peterson has knowledge of this area and is currently tentatively planning on going, as am I with some of my family. Robert Burson has expressed an interest, but his schedule is still uncertain. I would love to here from any of you that are interested and knowing what locations capture your interest. We can then plan to try a trip based on our shared knowledge and interests. Approximate length of the trip is one week. Current collecting thought leans towards obsidian in the Lassen area, thunder eggs in Oregon, and others TBD. Please email me, Steve Duncan, at [wsd@iteris.com](mailto:wsd@iteris.com) or call me on my cell at 714/724-7102 if you are interested.

## JUNE PROGRAM

By Virgil Talbott

Our June speakers, Tony and Sandie Fender, will be here to tell us about Mount St. Helens before and after its 1980 eruption.

Tony and Sandie, who are both teachers, are members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, and the Monterey Park Gem Society. Sandie has been in the hobby her entire life, while Tony has been active for about 20 years. They enjoy many different facets of the hobby including fused glass, beadwork, cutting cabs and silverwork, but especially enjoy field trips and exploring new and old areas of the desert. Both have special loves for Mount St. Helens which originated independently. Tony was living in Washington State when the mountain blew and had many trips to the area prior to the eruption. Sandie passed the mountain shortly after the eruption on her way to Alaska and witnessed the devastation firsthand. Since 1980 the Fenders have made countless trips to the area and watched the way nature has let the mountain heal itself.

This is a great opportunity to hear from actual witnesses of a natural phenomenon that took place in our lifetime in our own state of Washington which made history and atmospheric effects around the world. I'm sure this will be a very informative and exciting evening. Please join us.

**President's Message***[Continue from page 1]*

Don't forget your wallets, no credit cards please.

Awesome field trip coming up! June 17<sup>th</sup> to the east fork of the San Gabriel River, panning for gold!! It's only about an hour's drive from Anaheim so I hope to see some old familiar faces as well as some new Searchers possibly. If I heard correctly, we picked up about a half dozen new members through the show this year, and as a bonus, 2 old members have returned! Welcome back Joan & Darren!

One last thing I would like to give you all an update on is that I spoke with Jeri Frank a few days ago. Her surgery went well, she had some chemotherapy and has one more session to go before she will know for sure if they got it all. To me she sounded 100% better than when we last talked and her attitude was much more positive and optimistic. But until she gets a clean bill of health I'd like to ask all of you who believe to please keep praying for her.

See you at the meeting!  
Clarke

\* \* \*

**SUNSHINE REPORT***By Kathy Clark*

A past member of Searchers who occasionally still goes on field trips with us and is a long-time friend of Robert Burson, Chris Caliendo, or "Cal" to those of us who know him, is once again battling cancer. He started chemo treatments Thursday, May 25. Please keep him in your prayers.

\* \* \*

**LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM***By Kathy Clark*

There is gold in Orange County!!! Our May speaker, James Klein, spoke to us about the fundamentals of prospecting, where to look for gold, and related some stories from the old gold rush days.

The basic tool for prospecting is and always has been your gold pan. We saw and held numerous samples of the different gold pans on the market today. We learned that small pans are easier to handle just because they don't hold as much material as large pans and you don't get tired as fast. In the old days the metal gold pans were used for everything—panning gold, cooking over a fire, and as a dish from which to eat.

Rockers or rocking the cradle involves shoveling material onto the screen, ladle water onto it, and rock it. The finer material goes down the sluice and is trapped on miner's moss or rubber mats. One theory regarding "The Golden Fleece" was that a sheepskin was used in place of miner's moss in a rocker thus filling the fleece full of gold.

The California gold rush was the first free man's gold rush which meant that you could work where you wanted, what you wanted, and how much you wanted. In those early days in the beginning everywhere was so rich. An amazing number of well-known names in California got their start with goldmining.

Sluices, dry washers, and electrostatic separation which is a dry washer that charges the gold so it can't get out of the box are some other prospecting tools. There are all kinds of contraptions out there for gold prospecting so you have to be wary of scams.

*[Continue on the next page]*

Nugget shooting is very popular. This is gold prospecting with a metal detector. Metal detectors have become to sophisticated that they are capable of telling you what denomination a coin is and how deep it is. Some detectors even talk. There are black sand detectors and where you have black sand there generally is gold. There is one computerized detector that uses a scanner and a computer with a monitor that is worn like a harness. It tells you everything that is buried in the ground. It sells for \$13,000.

The San Gabriel River is the most popular spot for gold prospecting in Southern California. You can sell your gold to goldsmiths and gold prospecting stores. Nuggets and jewelry rock sells for at least double what gold bullion sells for on the market.

**Gold is durable, beautiful, recyclable and valuable. That's why we're out there prospecting!**

Motorhome for sale

*25' Shasta, Class C, 1995  
Ford engine, 84,240 miles,  
\$16,500.00*

*If you are interested please call  
Faye McDowell at  
562-597-7684*

**JUNE FIELD TRIP**

June 17, 2006

By Virgil Talbott & Steve Duncan

The June field trip will be a one-day field trip on June 17<sup>th</sup> to the east fork of the San Gabriel River in the San Gabriel Mts. To get there from Orange County go to the 210 Fwy. and take Hwy. 39, Azusa Blvd. North. You will come to a "Y", take the left road and follow it into the San Gabriel Cyn. To East Fork Rd., turn right and follow it past Williams Camp to Oaks Picnic area. The distance is about 45 miles from Fullerton, an hour drive. Since this a one-day trip and we will miss our traditional potluck Saturday night dinner, bring something simple (that can be eaten cold) for a potluck lunch that we can all share. We want the lunch to be quick to that we can get back to prospecting. There are barbecue grills in the picnic area, so some might want to linger for dinner and there is also a restaurant at Camp Williams. Bring drinking water. There are restrooms available. Dress for warm-to-hot and sun. Wear foot gear that can get wet or high enough to keep your feet dry. Expect to get wet! THIS is a SWIFT WATER RIVER, so you should be able to SWIM!!! If not swimming, consider wearing a PFD if you plan on working in or near the water. The same goes for children. Equipment: gold pan, classifier ¼-inch and/or ½-inch, shovel, 5 and/or 2-1/2 gallon buckets, small vial, sluice if you have one. Gold dredge o.k., too. I will be bringing my sluice and set it up as a community effort; those that help get their share of the gold. Keep your day job. If you need supplies, I suggest Pedersen's at 2521 N. Grand Ave. in Santa Ana, (714) 771-6463. Please R.S.V.P me, Virgil Talbott at (714) 871-7900 or [virgiltalbott@adelphia.net](mailto:virgiltalbott@adelphia.net), so I have an idea of how many of us to expect.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

*By Kathy Clark*

*Catherine O'Campo was recently selected to participate in Nationals' 2006 Miss Teen Anaheim pageant competition that will take place on June 4, 2006.*

*Cathy will be competing for her share of over \$5,000.00 in prizes that include cash scholarships, prizes, and specialty gifts that will be distributed to contestants in all divisions. She will be in the Miss Teen division competing in modeling routines which include casual and formal wear, but most importantly Cathy will display her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Anaheim judging panel. Personality is the number one aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.*

*Through sponsorship by community businesses, organizations, and private individuals Cathy will receive all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support which will allow her to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year's Anaheim Pageant.*

*Cathy, we all wish you the best of luck!*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Kathy Clark

Due to situations beyond our control I filled in as the Kitchen Person at our 2006 Show. No kidding, it was a lot of work especially at short notice, but I had a ball at the Show and it was for a very good cause: all of us who are members of Searchers Gem & Mineral Society. I would like to thank these Searchers without whom the Kitchen would not have succeeded: Linda Torres, Donna Johnson, Toni Callaway, Kendall Despain, Jason (Floyd and Margaret Neeley's grandson), Helen Schleiderer, Marcia Duncan, Margaret and Floyd Neeley, Clarke Benich, Beth Pelfrey, June Okita, Karen Martinez, Pat Lynch, Grant Miller (provided lemon juice for the lemonade), Evelyn Nissan, Jimmy Peterson, Ester Reynolds, Bob Gilland, and Carol Beckman. Thank you so much for giving so generously of yourselves and for making my job easier and very enjoyable. And thank you, Clarke, for the kind words in your President's Message this month. Next month we will publish the pictures taken at the 2006 Show.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please note the following changes:

### NEW MEMBERS

Bernette & Jesse Garza  
4242 W. Franklin Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
714-523-2353  
[51rjmgarza@sbcglobal.net](mailto:51rjmgarza@sbcglobal.net)

Kent & Sandra Waters  
4637 Ladoga  
Lakewood, CA 90713  
562-421-4337  
[olmudyh20@yahoo.com](mailto:olmudyh20@yahoo.com)

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Jolande Leigh  
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714-832-5253  
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Yonel & Maritza Medina  
Jr. member, Mary Jo  
7550 E. Calle Granada  
Anaheim, CA 92808  
714-685-0955  
[info@rocktraders.com](mailto:info@rocktraders.com)

Joan Macomber & Darren Hansen  
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562-425-5426  
[stargal@comcast.net](mailto:stargal@comcast.net)  
[lakewoodkid@comcast.net](mailto:lakewoodkid@comcast.net)

Deanna Finnan  
1577 W. Crone Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92802  
949-244-4930  
[Deanna.finnan@conexant.com](mailto:Deanna.finnan@conexant.com)

Tim Wilson  
2101 S. Standard Ave. "Q"  
Santa Ana, CA 92707  
714-546-6775  
[Tio-Jesus@yahoo.com](mailto:Tio-Jesus@yahoo.com)

### CHANGES

John Ward  
P.O. Box 2775  
Anaheim, CA 92814  
714-663-0113

*Happy Birthday to all Those Searchers' who celebrate their birthdays in June!*

## JUNE CALENDAR

| Sun                                   | Mon       | Tues                                 | Wed                                   | Thur   | Fri       | Sat  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
|                                       |           |                                      |                                       | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>3-7 PM<br>lapidary,<br>silversmithing              |
| <b>4</b> 11am-4 pm<br>Heritage<br>Day | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                             | <b>7</b><br>7-9 PM<br>Show<br>Meeting | <b>8</b> 6-10 PM<br>lapidary, wire-<br>wrap class  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>3-7 PM<br>lapidary,<br>silversmithing             |
| <b>11</b>                             | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> 7 PM<br>General<br>Meeting | <b>14</b>                             | <b>15</b> 6-10 PM<br>lapidary, wire-<br>wrap class | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> 3-7 PM<br>Field Trip;<br>lapidary,<br>silversmithing |
| <b>18</b>                             | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b>                            | <b>21</b><br>6PM                      | <b>22</b> 6-10 PM<br>lapidary, wire-<br>wrap class | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> 3-7 PM<br>lapidary,<br>silversmithing                |
| <b>25</b>                             | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b>                            | <b>28</b> 6 pm<br>Board<br>Meeting    | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b> |  |

### SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Kathy Clark  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144  
714-639-9927  
hanky1panky3@yahoo.com  
*Please Print!*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Jr. Member 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday: Month** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday: Month** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day** \_\_\_\_\_

2006 dues are valid January 1 through January 31.

Individual: \$20  
 Couple: \$25  
 Junior members (17 and under): \$2

Please indicate the club activities that interest you:  
 Minerology ( ) Geology ( ) Lapidary ( ) Fossils ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Meet other Searchers and volunteer to help a committee(s):  
 Anaheim Arts Council ( ) Historian ( ) Library ( ) Website ( )  
 Membership ( ) Monthly Drawing ( ) Phone Comm. ( )  
 RSN Editor ( ) Sunshine ( ) Veteran's Workshop ( )  
 Hospitality ( ) Workshop ( ) Rock'n'Kids ( ) Annual Show ( )  
 Silent Auction ( )



# The Rock Slab News

Volume 41 Issue 6

June 2006



## TRADITIONAL JUNE BIRTHSTONE - ALEXANDRITE

Alexandrite was originally discovered and mined in Russia, and is also found in Ceylon, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Brazil. Very rare and expensive, most alexandrite exhibits color changing properties and will appear green in natural lighting, and red/purple under artificial lighting. For alexandrite, the quality of the color change is paramount. While the “holy grail” is a gem whose color changes like a traffic light from green to red, such a stone has yet to be found. In fine examples, the change is typically one from a slightly bluish green to a purplish red. The quality of color change is often referred to by dealers in a percentage basis, with 100% change being the ideal. Stones that display a change of 30% or less are of marginal interest and are arguably not even alexandrite. Significant brown or gray components in either of the twin colors will lower value dramatically. Alexandrite was discovered in 1830 in Czarist Russia, and named after Czar Alexander II for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Alexandrite is considered important for gamblers. When worn near the heart it is to bring luck in love, and said to have a positive effect on the nervous system and glandular system.



Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark, *Editors*  
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