

# The Rock Slab News

APRIL 2007 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 4

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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

Dear Friends and Fellow Searchers,

This message may come as a surprise to some of you, to others a disappointment, a few may be angered, some may not care either way, and a small few of you have seen this coming for some time now. I have exhausted all other options I could think of and spent a great deal of time trying to find some way to make things work out without having to come to this decision, only to come up empty handed. I've spent even more time trying to figure out a nice way to tell you all what I must tell you without hurting or upsetting any of you in the process, but failed miserably at that as well.

I have found myself at a crossroad in my life where I have to put personal feelings aside and do what is best for me rather than what I enjoy doing, if that makes any sense. I have come to a point where certain obligations must take priority over others as I have been overwhelmed for some time now, and I have no choice but to eliminate those obligations which do not take priority in my life at this time. So it is with a heavy heart that I must bring you this news at this time, but as I said before, this has been building for quite some time now. One year ago almost to the day I decided not to go through with this decision and the pressure has been building at a steady, consistent rate since that time. Now I find myself at the breaking point where I must finally give in to the pressure and tell you all "April Fools"!

Ah, life is good. I feel so much better having that out in the open. Now I can tell you all honestly that even if I had too much on my plate and had to cut back on certain duties, it would not be this club that I would be ejecting from my life. After all, my obligation to this club is what's keeping me grounded these days, my one link to sanity, if you will.

Now on a serious note, to date nobody has come forth to volunteer to take care of putting together a case for the Orange County Fair which is just around the corner. This is far too valuable to our club as an advertising tool to end up a wasted opportunity. Our show brings in a few new members each year, yes, but let's face the facts, people, we don't hold a candle to the amount of people who pass

through those gates at the fair in a single afternoon. Any case entered in the fair is viewed by literally thousands of people from our own community as well as neighboring communities, and that's a lot of people who many not ever know of our existence if this opportunity is lost. If you owned your own business and were handed a marketing tool as valuable as this free of charge, you wouldn't waste it, would you? Why then would you waste it for your club? I was not joking when I said I cannot do it this year, and this is not another April Fool's prank. If someone does not step forward and volunteer soon, it will be a wasted opportunity.

If you have an interest but are not volunteering because you aren't sure what to do or how to do it, I will be more than happy to help you. And don't be intimidated by any notion that you are expected to win or even place in your category. The important thing is that we make a showing, let people know we still exist and welcome them to join, and how and where to reach us if they care to. If we should attract only one new member by entering a case, we've already won something far more valuable than their ribbons anyway.

If I sound irritated, I'm not. Anxious, yes, because time is not standing still while we wait for a volunteer. Irritated is what I would be if I saw the day that a club of nearly 200 extremely talented members could not come

up with a single entry at the Orange County Fair this year. That would be a sad note. So please come forward and help us out here and let's get something together. It's not that time consuming of a task; I did it in only a couple of days without a clue what I was expected to do last year. It's not rocket science. If need be, I will work with you every step of the way, but I cannot put it together where I live, and I will not be here to take it to the fair for setup, or to pick it up afterwards. Please don't wait till the last if you expect help with it either, because my time is very limited. So we'll need to get on it right away.

Enough said. For those of you going to State Line Field Trip, have a great time, be safe, and be sure to have someone else hold your gasoline funds while you're in Whiskey Pete's! In the event you feel you are not strong willed enough to do that, at least think ahead enough to stash a tow rope in your vehicle just in case!

I don't think we have any serious gamblers in our group, but if you do hit the tables, good luck anyway. I'm not a gambling man myself, but I have been known to use "one arm bandits" as exercise devices from time to time. It helps if you suffer from ripped rotor cuffs, don't you know. Actually, I think I feel that coming on as we speak. I may have to go on this field trip after all just for the medical benefit aspects of it. Hmm. . . I must meditate on this further. Anybody have a tow rope I could borrow?

## NOTICE

Membership dues were due on January 1, 2007. To keep your membership in good standing and to continue to receive your newsletter by email and/or snail mail, please pay your dues. The dues are still the same old rates: \$20 for individuals, \$25 for couples and \$2 for children under 17. Can't beat that! You will **NOT** receive anymore newsletters after this if your dues have not been renewed by the April meeting.

## 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:** 7 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)	Walter Mroch	714/826-2132
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. (Field Trips)	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Director	Robert Burson	562/860-5938
Secretary	Lorri Renck	714/397-3584
Treasurer	Pat Lynch	909/393-2186
Federation Delegate	Virgil Talbott	714/871-7900

### Committee Chairpersons

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714/535-2030
Editor	Jenny Stavreva Kathy Clark	714/736-4345 714/639-9927
Historian	Beth Pelfrey	714/774-2754
Hospitality	Patricia Underwood	714/293-2940
Library	Maggie Vigil	714/288-2072
Membership	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Monthly Drawing	Anastacio O'Campo	714/490-0416
Phone Tree	Audrey Nichols	714/971-6789
Phone Tree Asst. 1	Sharon & Bob Burson	562/860-5938
Phone Tree Asst. 2	Karen Martinez	562/423-2832
2007 Show	Betty Nelson	714/530-1365
Show Co-Chair	Kathy Clark	714/639-9927
Sunshine	Carlene Blake	714/549-0099
Veteran's Coordinator	Larry Richey	714/846-3573
Website	Steve Duncan	714/532-4703
Workshop	Herb Beckman	714/778-1496

## APRIL EVENTS

- 10 7pm General Meeting
- 14 3pm Grab Bag Stuffing Party at the Workshop (Everyone)
- 18 7pm Show Meeting (last one, be there)
- 25 7pm Board Meeting (new time)

### Liquidation Sale

(approximately 13 tons of rocks!)  
 13542 Olympus Drive  
 Westminster, CA 92683  
 Call Tony 714-282-0186 for more info  
 April 13, 14 & 15, 2007 and April 20, 21 & 22, 2007  
 8 am to 5 pm (Refreshments available)

## APRIL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Leader	Details	Status
Apr 14,15	Chuckwalla Mountain	Robert Burson	Amygdules, sagenite	Planned

## LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

By Walter Mroch

The March program was on fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals by Walter Mroch, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Searchers. He gave a general discussion on what causes minerals to exhibit these properties and also held a colorful demonstration with some ultraviolet lights. Many of the minerals glow brilliant green or orange including some geodes.

## APRIL PROGRAM

By Kathy Clark

Our April program will be a one-hour presentation by Helga and Werner Wagener on the "Introduction into the Basics of Identification of Petrified Wood." They will be explaining the wood structure and difference in conifers and dicots which are leaf-bearing trees by using a microscope. Discussion will continue with how petrification may occur, age of different formations, particularly in the western United States, plus some oddities of fossilized wood.

Helga Wagener says, "My husband and I joined the South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society in Torrance in the summer of '89. A presentation on petrified wood by Walton Wright the following spring hooked me on petrified wood. I have been collecting and trying to identify it ever since. At the present I have over 90 species of identified trees and over 1,400 pieces catalogued as to species and, if available, the locality and age. My husband has cut and/or polished most of our collection. Our "Museum" is open to people who are interested in this hobby. In the meantime, I have also collected unusual pieces or, as I call them, 'Character Pieces'."

If you love petrified wood, have a curiosity about it, or simply do not know anything about it, this program sounds like it should fill all those needs. Please join us Tuesday night, April 10, for a fascinating and informative evening.

## IN OUR MEMORIES

By Beth Pelfrey

*Some of you have not heard as yet, but Floyd Neeley passed away Thursday morning, March 29.*

*Floyd's passing will leave a large hole in the Searchers' web of friendship. He was one of the nicest men I knew. He always had a kind word, cheerful smile and was more than willing to share his knowledge of the world of lapidary.*

*On field trips Floyd was helpful to anyone at any time, cooperative about any and all group decisions and always funny and sweet. He knew an awful lot about a great many things. I learned about farm irrigation one year on a field trip, because Floyd had been raised on a farm. Such a loss to our whole world.*

*As an active participant in every single Searcher show, Floyd's contribution was always an unparalleled success, whether it was as a committee chair, a demonstrator or a worker in the kitchen area. Needless to say, Floyd's ability at faceting will forever be legendary.*

*Please keep Margaret and their family in your thoughts.*

*A service will be held Monday, April 2, at Hilgenfeld Mortuary on Broadway east of Anaheim Boulevard in downtown Anaheim. The time of the service will be 12:30 PM, at the lunch hour with a small reception following. There will be a closed casket visitation Sunday, April 1, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.*

*Please be generous and let any other of our friends know these details since there are many folks not on the world wide web. A good old fashioned telephone call will do the trick.*

*If you wish, please make a donation to your favorite charity in Floyd's name. The charity will notify Margaret of the donation with a simple note or card.*

*Let me know if you any questions, I am at the same ol' place.  
Beth Pelfrey (714) 774-2754*

## APRIL FIELD TRIP

APRIL 14 & 15, 2007

By Robert Burson

Our April trip will be to St. Augustine Pass and Black Hills in the Wiley's Well/Chuckwalla Mountain. St. Augustine Pass is in a secluded pristine area. I am hoping for assistance from nature to bring a good bit of rain so one can journey with a camera in-hand. There are many amygdules. Some are solid, some have many colors of the rainbow, some have sagenite. There are some other seam agate materials as well. This portion of the trip is a bit challenging, although my wife negotiated this terrain with a small stock pick-up truck. I just want to give a heads-up for those of faint of heart. There are many other areas to choose from for those who many not wish to drive in to the pass. One location that we will travel to is the Strawbeds in the Black Hills. This again is a fairly long dirt road. I would rate this a moderately good dirt road with only a few tough spots. There should not be any problems with soft ground, only a matter of clearance. This is a remote beautiful location. It is an intact geological area. This allows for the instruction of what a geode bed looks like before it has been heavily excavated. There is still much material on the surface and a choice of many places to discover a valuable find. The hike many be considered somewhat strenuous. It is recommended that protective clothing, sunglasses, hat, good hiking shoes, hiking stick, a backpack and water be taken on the trip. The lighter you travel the further you can hike into the hills. This can be a fascinating place to explore.

Camping at Geode Road is approximately 1/2 mile west of Wiley's Well Road. The location is at Imperial County line. Motels are numerous in Blythe and a few in Palo Verde approximately 20 miles away.

Start time is 9:00 AM from base camp both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night will be the usual campfire and potluck. Field Trip contact phone number is 562-706-2054.

NOTE from editor:

The map will be provided at the general meeting on Tuesday, April 10.

## SHOW REPORT

By Kathy Clark

The Searchers 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Show “Gem Roundup” is May 5 & 6, 2007. It is only 4 weeks away! Please, please sign up to help at the Show. Each committee chairman needs folks to volunteer for 2-hour blocks. None of the jobs require a brain surgeon or a rocket scientist, but we’ll gladly sign them up, too. Plan to spend a few hours at the Show browsing the tables, and then volunteer a couple hours to your club. It’s easy and fun.

The Grab Bag Stuffing Party is Saturday, April 14, starting at 3:00 PM in the Workshop. This event is open to **everyone**. Please participate so we can get this job checked off our list in a timely and enjoyable manner. Also, at this time any of the committee chairmen coming up against obstacles might want to consider being here to get the help they require before the last Show Meeting.

**TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** The last Show Meeting is on April 18 at 7:00 PM at the Anaheim Downtown Center. All Committee Chairs need to be there.

Show setup is Friday, May 4, all day. We need help. Also, bring your homemade pies, cakes, cookies and cupcakes to the kitchen. After setup the Friday Night Dinner will be provided by Patricia Underwood. There will also be a Friday Night Dinner Raffle.

**TO ALL SEARCHERS WORKING THE SHOW:** Wear your name badges. Badges ready for immediate wear are available at the Membership table (Kathy Clark) for \$5.

Let’s all work together to make this Show memorable.

## SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

By Norbert Bernhardt

It is getting to be that time of year again! Show time!

We need some good materials for the Silent Auction for our 2007 Show. Suggested items for the Silent Auction are rocks, minerals, faceted stones, jewelry or lapidary tools, jewelry (not custom jewelry), slabs, lapidary-related books and beads. Please identify your item as to where it comes from or what it is.

Please call me, Norbert Bernhardt 714-734-9665, ASAP so we can coordinate picking up or having you drop off any items that you would like to donate. I want to have everything labeled and ready to go by the beginning of March. I am trying to have a variety of items that appeal to men, women, kids, and dealers.

## SHOW SECURITY

By Larry Richey

### CASES

#### For your Safety and Protection

Please remember that we do not allow any display case or exhibit to be opened or removed during Show hours.

Sunday at the close of the Show everyone will leave the exhibit hall until Security has cleared the building. This should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. Then you will be allowed back into the exhibit hall to remove your case, or open it to remove your things.

If you need help or have a problem, please let myself, Larry Richey, or Show Chairwoman, Betty Nelson, know. This is for your safety and protection.

### NAME BADGES

Remember to wear your club name badge to the Show this year. Sunday when the Show closes everyone will be required to leave the show exhibit room to insure only those involved in the Show breakdown activities will be allowed back into the exhibit room, this should take 5 to 10 minutes with your help. After the room has been cleared of all unauthorized people or leftover guests from the Show, you will be allowed back in if you are wearing your Searcher name badge.

If anyone is in need of help with your display and you will need help from someone other than a club member or any non-club members picking up exhibits at the close the Show Sunday **will need a special badge**. Please see me Friday during set up, Saturday during the Show or early Sunday, so I may see that they have a badge or proper pass before the close of the Show.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathy Clark

Please welcome the newest members of the Searcher's family:

#### New Members:

Cynthia Baker & Leonard Brazitis  
4638 Orange Grove Avenue  
Orange, CA 92869  
(619) 347-3385  
[cynthiadew1@aol.com](mailto:cynthiadew1@aol.com)

Dodie Nelson  
342 E. Lomita  
Orange, CA 92867  
(714) 289-2855  
[cyclodoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cyclodoe@sbcglobal.net)



***SUNSHINE REPORT***

*By Kathy Clark*



*Long-time Searcher member Marjorie Wease, who is now 93 years old, fractured her wrist in December. She is unable to attend our meetings but still loves to receive her newsletters. Let's all keep Marjorie in our thoughts and wish her a complete recovery.*



***Happy Birthday***

***to all those Searchers' members who celebrate their  
birthdays in APRIL!***

**APRIL CALENDAR**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		10 7-9 pm General Meeting	11	12 6-10PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	13	14 3-7 PM Grab Bag stuffing; silversmith
8	9					14 3-7 PM Grab Bag stuffing; silversmith
15 FIELD TRIP	16	17	18 7 PM Show Meeting	19 6-10 PM lapidary, wire-wrap class	20	21 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
22	23	24	25 6 PM Board Meeting	26	27	28 3-7 PM lapidary, silversmithing
29	30					

## SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

*Please Print!*

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

2007 dues are valid January 1 through December 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 ( )  
 Annual Show ( ) Silent Auction ( )



Jenny Stavreva & Kathy Clark, *Editors*  
18661 Silver Maple Way  
North Tustin, CA 92705-2144



# The Rock Slab News

Volume 42 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2007



## APRIL BIRTHSTONE – DIAMOND

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is well known that diamond is the hardest substance found in nature, but few people realize that diamond is four times harder than the next hardest natural mineral, corundum (sapphire and ruby). But even as hard as it is, it is not impervious. Diamond has four directions of cleavage, meaning that if it receives a sharp blow in one of these directions it will cleave, or split. A skilled diamond setter and/or jeweler will prevent any of these directions from being in a position to be struck while mounted in a jewelry piece. As a gemstone, its single flaw (perfect cleavage) is far outdistanced by the sum of its positive qualities. It has a broad color range, high refraction, high dispersion or fire, very low reactivity to chemicals, rarity, and of course, extreme hardness and durability. Diamond conducts heat better than anything – five times better than the second best element, silver. This characteristic is the basis for “diamond tests,” as it is simple and cannot be faked. Diamonds are found in a type of rock call “kimberlite,” which comprises the core of certain volcanoes over especially thick portions of the earth’s crust. This hard stone is mined and then crushed between giant steel rollers. The kimberlite is reduced to fine gravel, yet the extremely hard diamonds come out unharmed. Water is added and a grease-covered roller sorts the diamonds from the gravel, as the diamonds stick to the grease. Typically, a single carat of diamond is recovered from a ton of ore.