

SAN DIEGO MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY, INC.
A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization**THE PEGMATITE****1700 Village Place, San Diego, CA 92101-1651**

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Sister Club: Kingston Lapidary, Hull, England

The mission of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and earth sciences; to encourage the study of these subjects; to conduct classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; to conduct field trips for the collection and study of specimens; to encourage interest in mineralogy and lapidary arts among young people; and to procure and maintain a collection related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

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Submission Deadline: Third Monday of prior month (monthly Board Meeting).

Membership: Anyone 12 or older with an interest in minerals, fossils, lapidary, gems, or handcrafted jewelry may join the Society. See page 21 for more information.

Liability: The San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., is not and cannot be held responsible and liable for personal injuries, for damage or loss of property at any meetings, field trips, classes, shows, or any event sponsored or recommended herein.

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SDMG BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 16, 2002

Attendance: Lucia Barckley, Marvin Dillard, Charlene Everly, Bob Hancock, Jan Kunsu, Simon King, Oscar Lopez, Jim Mellos, Wayne Moorhead, Jim Parrish, Anne Schafer, and Gladys Walker. Guest: Roger Merk. A quorum was not present.

School Director: Bought 10 sets of diamond wheels for Titans and one 10 in. saw blade. Marvin Dillard to install before school resumes in January. Carl Shugart to replace corroded plumbing in shop and check water heater. Cab instructors to remind all students to remember to line up geysers directly under diamond wheels.

S.D. County Fair: Deadline for receipt of entries in the Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Dept. has been extended to Friday, May 2nd, 2003. Brochures due out in March.

Museum: Jim and Sally Parrish and Anne Schafer cleaned exhibits before Christmas on the Prado. Wayne Moorhead cleaned the insides and repaired the lighting in the Johnny Johnson verde antique carving exhibit and the fluorescent mineral exhibit.

Christmas Potluck: Attendance: 45. Net door prize income: \$167.61. Silent Auction income: \$318.90. Cost of food (ham, turkey, pies, coffee, punch, tea) and supplies: \$194.49. Net gain from Christmas Potluck: \$292.02.

Unfinished Business: Still need volunteer to head Lapidary Division. Nominating Committee to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Weds., Jan. 15, 2003, before the Board Meeting. The night of the next Board Meeting has been moved to Weds., Jan. 15.

New Business: After Board discussion, Chair Charlene Everly set Banquet ticket price at \$20 per plate. She requested a donation of 30 avocados from any SDMG member who grows avocados, to be added to the fruit basket centerpieces at the Banquet, scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2003. Roger Merk presented his idea for an educational Seminar Series to be sponsored by SDMG. The topic of the first seminar would be "Quartz" and would feature local experts. Date, time, location, speakers, and fees TBD.

[Any SDMG member may attend SDMG Board Meetings. Next one: Jan. 15, 7 p.m.]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2003

We made it again! Another whole year and the only thing we're guaranteed of are more rocks for the leaverite pile and taxes.

It is nice to have the cooler weather with rain on the coast and snow in the mountains. This is as close as we get to a real winter and the weather guys on TV are promising more rain than we've had in the last two years. That would be nice!

Christmas on the Prado, a.k.a. Balboa Park December Nights, went very well again this year, as did the Christmas Potluck. A sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to put it all together. This includes Gladys Walker, to whom I owe an apology for neglecting. Thanks, Gladys!

I hope all of you had a good holiday season and had some of your dreams and goals fulfilled this last year. I also hope you took the time to appreciate all the important people around you, especially family and friends.

This last year we had many generous donations of lapidary material and equipment. I'd like to thank all the donors and, of course, all the people who helped haul, sort and clean it for use by the club and its members.

It's important that we all continue participating and supporting the Society. I know I've said this before, but it's worth repeating! You are part of a great organization and you all have something to offer others. Please plan on attending and supporting our meetings; also, don't be afraid to step up and ask about volunteering. You might even enjoy yourself.

Below are some of the yearly fun things you won't want to forget: Quartzsite in January, Tucson in February, our annual banquet at Tom Hamm's Lighthouse in March, the Gem Diego show in late March, the Juniors' presentation of the General meeting in May, and, of course, the BBQ! Join us for a fun year.

Happy New Year,
Jim Parrish

THE AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

- I WILL respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
 - I WILL keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
 - I WILL, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
 - I WILL use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
 - I WILL cause no willful damage to property of any kind – fences, signs, buildings.
 - I WILL leave all gates as found.
 - I WILL build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
 - I WILL discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
 - I WILL fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
 - I WILL not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.
 - I WILL cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
 - I WILL practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected, and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure & benefit of others.
 - I WILL support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
 - I WILL cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
 - I WILL report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and for public educational, and scientific purposes.
 - I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
 - I WILL observe the “Golden Rule,” will use “Good Outdoor Manners”, and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere. (from *AFMS Newsletter* 05/01)
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CFMS News

reported by Anne Schafer

EARTH SCIENCE SEMINARS IN THE NEWS

The 17th Annual Earth Science Seminar at Zzyzx on April 6-13 is SOLD OUT! I hope that all of you who were interested in going signed up early. Otherwise, you will have to wait for next year, or consider attending Camp Paradise in September in north central California.

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The Earth Science Seminars plan on expanding! In our ongoing endeavor to better serve more members of the CFMS, the Earth Sciences Committee submitted to, and received approval from, the Executive Committee to engage in negotiations to hold another annual seminar. The present, tentative plans are to conduct it in the Big Pine, California, area, probably in August 2003. At present, both Zzyzx and Camp Paradise almost preclude participation by our school-aged members because of facility availability – April and September.

Our plan is to orient this event toward ages 8 to 18, and to conduct the classes with this in mind. They will possibly include, but not be limited to, soft stone sculpture, lapidary, wire artistry including Ming trees, bead stringing, baroque jewelry, rock painting, introduction to geology and paleontology, and collecting expeditions to accessible sites. Although we have this orientation, we will require that an adult accompany the participants; and will have some classes available for them. Meals and lodging will be provided and dry camping for RV's will be available on site. We will keep the cost as low as possible and, as projected, it will probably be in the \$175.00 per person range.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Earth Sciences Committee can proceed to establish some definite parameters, and costs, and will keep the CFMS membership updated.

(slightly edited version of article by Cal Clason, E.S.S. Chair, in *CFMS Newsletter* 12/02)

Upcoming Events...**Gems! Bowers Museum of Cultural Art
through Sunday, January 5, 2003**

There are only a few days left to visit this wonderful exhibit of big gem crystals and incredible gem sculptures. Tickets: \$14 for adults, \$10 for Seniors (over 62), \$8 for kids (ages 5-18). Location: 2002 N. Main St. in Santa Ana, CA. Tel: (714) 567-3600.

**SDMG Field Trip: Fossil Oyster Beds
Saturday, January 18**

Good news! Field Trip Leader Jim Mellos plans to actually reach this collecting locale this year, he's got 4WD! There are lot and lots of oyster shells, plus the occasional scallop shell or hunk of coquina. Please turn to p. 11 for more details.

Quartzsite: Bargain Lovers' Paradise

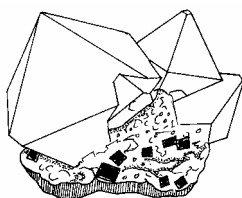
Desert Gardens: Jan. 1 – late Feb.
Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show: Jan. 3-12.
Q.I.A. Pow-Wow: Jan. 29 – Feb. 2.

**Show: Tucson Gem & Mineral Society
Thursday, February 13 through Sunday, February 17**

The Tucson Convention Center at 260 S. Church Street is home to the biggest mineral, gem, jewelry, and fossil show in North America. This is right around the corner, geographically speaking, so why not go be amazed? (Make motel reservations now.)

**SDMG's 69th Annual Birthday Banquet
Friday, March 7**

Chairlady Charlene Everly is planning another wonderful evening of celebration and we're all invited. Be sure to mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this traditional event. To learn more, please read Charlene's write-up on p. 27.



GENERAL MEETING

Second Friday Night, January 10th, 7 p.m.

President: Jim Parrish
Secretary: Wayne Moorhead
Treasurer: Bill Tirk
Door prizes: Jim Parrish and Simon King

In December, we didn't have the regular General Meeting, we had something better: the Christmas Potluck! About 45 or 50 people braved the weather, fearing the heavy rain threatened by the local forecasters (how often are they right?), but the evening was very mild and rain-free. We had even more wonderful food than usual, a great Silent Auction of high-grade faceting and lapidary rough that sparked vigorous bidding wars on several fronts, and a fun night of socializing. Thank you, everyone, for attending and helping to make the evening a success.

For January, we have scheduled a mining update report from foreign parts,

THE ROGERLEY MINE **in Frosterly, County Durham, England** by Honorary SDMG Member Cal Graeber

As many of you may know, Cal has a degree from the School of Mines and is a well-known, well-respected mineralogist, as well as an informative and entertaining speaker. Several years back, he negotiated a 20-year contract with the Church of England (the outfit that appears to own most of northern England) to mine an abandoned limestone quarry for high-quality fluorite specimens. He has been bringing out wonderful green cubes of Rogerley fluorite ever since, that glow a beautiful blue under longwave UV. Cal plans on showing slides and telling about the latest exploits at the Rogerley, so be sure to come down to hear what he has to relate.

Please bring any mineral specimens you might have from the U.K. to share with all our members. Also, a few goodies for the refreshment table would also be appreciated. As always, we will have some good door prizes and a fun time. See you all there.

CLASS SCHEDULE -- Winter 2002

<u>CABOCHONS:</u>	Tues.	9-noon	Oscar Lopez
	Tues.	7-9 p.m.	Jim Jarboe
	Weds.	9-11 a.m.	Bill Selby
		7-9 p.m.	Lucia Barckley
Thurs.	7-9 p.m.	Jim Jarboe	
<u>ADVANCED CABS:</u>	Fri.	9-noon	Oscar Lopez
<u>FACETING:</u>	Tues.	12-3 p.m.	Elbert McCune
	Weds.	9-noon	Bob Hancock
		12-3 p.m.	C. Don Hall
		7-9 p.m.	Elbert McCune
<u>SILVER FAB:</u>	Tues.	9-11 a.m.	Lois Lukasky
12-2 p.m.		Maria Fisher	
7-9 p.m.		Wayne Moorhead	
Weds.	12-3 p.m.	Gladys Hancock	
Thurs.	7-9 p.m.	Ellen Riceman	
<u>LOST WAX</u>	Mon.	9-11 a.m.	Dixie Showalter
<u>CASTING:</u>	Weds.	9-noon	Gladys Hancock
	Weds.	7-9 p.m.	Rich Yarbrough
<u>ADV. CASTING:</u>	Fri.	12-2 p.m.	C. Don Hall
<u>BEADWORK:</u>	Weds.	9-11:30 a.m.	Bonnie Zeranski
<u>BEAD STRINGING:</u>	Fri.	12-2 p.m.	Eva De Fur
<u>ROCK CARVING:</u>	Tues.	7-9 p.m.	Jan Kunsu
	Thurs.	9-noon	Bessie Olson
<u>JUNIORS:</u>	Sat.	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lois Lukasky

LAPIDARY SCHOOL INFO

You may start classes at any time of the month and learn at your own speed.

1. Cabochon class is a prerequisite for all other classes, except beading classes.
2. Silver Fabrication is a prerequisite for Casting class.
3. Fee: \$2.00 per class, collected at first class meeting each month for entire month. Note: New students who start class mid-month only pay for actual classes taken.
4. Junior fee: \$.75 per class.
5. To enroll: Please call instructor for more info and to find out if space is available.
6. Everyone must show proof of membership on their first day of class, either:
 - (a) a current SDMG membership card, -or-
 - (b) a Village Silversmiths' receipt for dues paid, plus a picture I.D.

UNTRIED TUMBLING TIPS

Adding padding: By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard round plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polish cycle.

(from *The RockCollector* 4/01, via *The Rockhounder* 11/02)

How to burp a tumbler: If you're running a tumbler and it keeps burping out gas and making a mess in your shop, here's a tip that I discovered several years ago. I even got it published. The burping is due to gas generated by acids and metals. A common example is the iron in a stone (say, bloodstone) reacting with the weak acids formed by grinding other rocks. Simply drop a couple of antacids in the tumbler and the problem will be reduced or go away. Tums for the tumbler, so to speak!

(from *Canaveral Moonstone* 4/00, via *The Rockhounder* 11/02)

Save trim saw scraps: Most tumblers produce better results if there are small bits and pieces of rock of the same hardness in with the bigger ones you are trying to polish.

LAPIDARY MEETING

Third Friday, January 17, 7 p.m.

Chairman: Anne Schafer

Treasurer: Wayne Moorhead

Door prizes: Anne Schafer & SDMG Members

Here we are, at the start of a new year! Happy New Year, everyone. I hope that you all gave (and received) a few gifts this year that involved lapidary, metal, faceting, casting, or the equipment to do some of our favorite things. I always replace the lump of coal that Santa puts in Wayne's Christmas stocking with something nice like sheen obsidian, rhodochrosite, or a Lake Superior agate. There's just not much one can do with coal.

For our January meeting, we're going to hear about another of our favorite things:

THE QUARTZ FAMILY **by Roger Merk**

Now, this is not a presentation about Mr. and Mrs. Quartz and all the little Quartzes. Roger is going to give us the low-down on our favorite lapidary material in its various forms – agate, chalcedony, and so on. As you may know, Roger is the current first-year instructor for the Gemological Society and an authority on jade, so you can be sure he knows his stuff! Even better, he's going to share it with all of us. If you ever wondered what put the "crypto" in cryptocrystalline or if you need a refresher on the proper pronunciation of "chalcedony", this is the meeting for you!

I strongly suspect that Roger will also discuss his plans for an upcoming seminar series, which should kick off this spring and feature "Quartz" as the first topic.

Please remember to bring refreshments to share after the meeting. Everyone is also invited to cart in one or more show'n'tell items of up to 100 lbs. that involve quartz in any of its wonderful forms. Door prizes will include some members of the Quartz Family, of course! I hope we have a good turnout to welcome Roger. See you there.



MINERAL DIVISION MEETING

No meeting this month.

Chairman: Katie Taylor

Treasurer: Al Lehmann

Door prizes: Simon King & Gladys Walker

Our December meeting was a big success! I was really impressed with the efforts so many of our members made to select mineral and other specimens to give to the Magnolia Elementary School in Carlsbad. I went home with four big boxes of labeled specimens to give to them, which were much appreciated, since they are starting out from nothing! There were also very generous donations of books and magazines.

The Magnolia Elementary School has a very active PTA, which was responsible for obtaining the grant from the Smithsonian Institute. The grant essentially provides for free display cases and free project materials for each elementary school level, but here's the catch: the school is supposed to purchase specimens from the Smithsonian's catalog! This takes a lot of money, so this is why they were delighted with our assistance. They have written a very nice thank-you letter to us, which I will have published next month for everyone to read.

Our annual Pie Night was well-received, as always! The pie was great, and Byron Blaha brought in wonderful chocolate-covered strawberries. Yum! Thank you, Byron, for the special treat, and to all for the sweets.

Our next meeting will be the third Friday night in February. Please bring in the best of all the new and wonderful things you have found recently, or purchased at Quartzsite and Tucson, to share with everyone. I know we would all enjoy seeing your new acquisitions. See you then.

Metamict is a term that is applied to radioactive minerals or ones that have substituted radioactive elements in the crystal lattice that leads to disruptions in the crystal lattice and atomic arrangements within the crystal although the crystal retains its original shape.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK REVIEW & THANK YOU

Many people helped to make the Christmas Potluck a fun evening. New members **John** and **Georgene Kruzel** arranged tablecloths, snipped pine boughs, and artistically arranged the pine, tinsel, pine cone, and candy cane table decorations. **Patti Miklik, Allen and Betty Graham**, and others set out the Silent Auction items, and Patti even decorated the Silent Auction tables! **Simon King** and **Gladys Walker** arranged the door prizes and handled the drawing. **Jim Parrish** and **Wayne Moorhead** were bankers for the Silent Auction. **Bessie Olson** assembled her green felt Christmas tree and conducted the Christmas Ornament Contest. Marvin Lindner's friend **Rose** helped with the punch and coffee. **Steve Riggs** set out plates, napkins, and silverware, proving that marriage has domesticated him. Many, many members brought delectable food items to share, and we all ate too much! Lovely door prizes were contributed by the following: ceramic vase by **Doug Snyder**; black and pink carving material by **Chris Rose**; road runner hand towel and pair of mounted geodes by **Mildred Johnson**; turquoise and silver ring and turquoise and silver necklace by **Oscar Lopez**; CZ necklace, rose pin, and jewelry music box by **Gladys Walker**; glow-in-the-dark candle and Fred Rynerson's book "Gems and Gold in the West" by **Simon King** and **Gladys Walker**; bracelet by **Inge Bonn**; Hickory Farms gift pack by **Jim and Sally Parrish**; quartz crystals from Deep Springs by **Byron Blaha**; glow planet poster by **Martin Wormser**; Christmas Cheer basket by **Anne Schafer** and **Wayne Moorhead**; and polished petrified wood slab by the **Lapidary Division**. Thank you, all! We wish Potluck Chairman Betty Hanson could have attended, and hope she has a safe trip home.

*A Special Report...***SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR
Annual Exhibitors' Meeting
Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Dept.**

The Dec. 4th meeting was chaired by Greg Anderson. Although the sheer volume of attendees made it difficult, we were able to get through the agenda and answer the multitude of questions and concerns. The SDCF will run from June 13 through July 6. The "test run" for Monday closures last year was deemed so successful that the Fair will close all three Mondays in 2003. Also, opening time ALL days will be 10:00 a.m.

Theme: "Commotion in the Ocean" Gem: Garnet Fossil: Shark Tooth

Eliminated Class: Enameled Jewelry.

Added class this year, in support of theme: Pearl Jewelry, single piece. Piece may have other gems in it, but pearl(s) to be central focus. Pearls may be cultured or native, but not modified (dyed, faceted, etc.). Because of theme, it was suggested that pearls be marine only. However, I believe the freshwater pearl was deemed acceptable (call Greg if you plan to submit to the class and wish to use freshwater pearls). If there is any question of pearl modification, the piece will be placed in the "Art Jewelry" Class.

Also added this year: Half-case "Commotion in the Ocean" theme display, 3 to 5 pieces of jewelry using ocean materials (pearls, shell, coral, mermaids, etc.).

Entry form postmark deadline: Friday, May 2nd. (As noted by one exhibitor, dropping an entry in the mailbox on the afternoon of the deadline doesn't guarantee a same-day postmark. If you're up against it, take it to the post office counter and ask for a hand-stamped postmark).

Exhibit deliveries: June 7 & 8. Judging: June 10. Exhibit pickup: July 7. (Note: if you are picking up ONE piece only, you may do so on the evening of the 6th. Warm smile and "Please" suggested!)

There will be added individual Special Awards. See Brochure for new awards. Note: these awards are judged solely by the award givers and are given at their discretion and are not connected with the general judging procedures. Thus, a Special Award could be given to a piece or case that did not otherwise place in the general judging.

Again, there were discussions regarding Pro vs. Amateur, Beginner vs. Advanced vs. Master. It was felt that while the rules are clear, the process requires the integrity of exhibitors. If, however, one could document an improper submission, a letter to the Fair Board of Directors will be both welcomed and carefully considered.

See you all next year, right? (Right.)

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Kunsu



JUNIOR DIVISION

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
SDMG Building, Balboa Park

Sponsored by Lois Lukasky and Marvin Dillard

Hello! It's another new year already.

Christmas on the Prado was a fun time and the Juniors were a big help in the Lapidary Room. Thank you, guys. There seemed to be more people visiting the shop on Saturday night. We sold grab bags and small fossils and made \$101.05 for the Junior Fund. Good job. I hope that everybody had a great Christmas vacation.

The Junior's next class will be Saturday, January 11th. We will be working towards our Juniors display case to be put in our upcoming Gem Diego Show.

Now is the time for me to thank all the members, the parents and the great instructors for their support of the Juniors all year long. I hope to see all the Juniors in class.

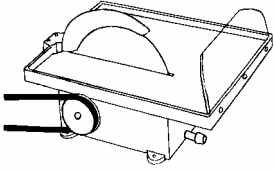
-- Lois Lukasky, Junior Counselor

SUGILITE

Sugilite is named after a Japanese geologist, Kenichi Sugi, who discovered the first tiny specimens in Japan in 1944. It is a rare ore, potassium sodium iron lithium silicate, ranging in color from pink to purple. The primary gem deposit was found in 1979 at the 3,200 ft. level in the Wessels Manganese Mine, 14 miles northwest of Hotazel, South Africa, in the Kalahari Desert. Smaller deposits occur in Brazil and Canada.

Sugilite usually occurs in pegmatites of alkaline magmas and crystallizes into opaque masses. It occasionally occurs as small crystals or inclusions within quartz, and very rarely, in a translucent gemmy form known as "gel". It is frequently found in combination with manganese [black streaks], Bustamite, a calcian variety of rhodonite [orange/brown areas], and sometimes with Richterite [blue].

(information from various websites, based on article in *Rock Rollers* 11/02)



SDMG SCHOOL NEWS

by Wayne Moorhead,
School Director

Happy New Year!

Lapidary students, we have a first-class gift waiting for you when you return – NEW DIAMOND WHEELS! Yes, all the Titans have brand new 80 grit and 220 grit wheels. I'm asking everyone to be extra gentle with them, because it will be to all students' benefit to have the wheels last as long as possible. Your society spent over \$2,500.00 for these wheels, so please take care of them.

As most of you know, new diamond wheels cut like a hot knife through butter, and a light, gentle pressure is all that is needed, even for the hardest agates and jaspers. If you see (or hear) someone pressing too hard, please politely correct them. The water squirter should be centered under the bottom of the wheel, and providing plenty of water. If you see a white streak on the wheel while cutting, the wheel is not getting enough water, so check the squirter position, and let your instructor know if the pump is weak or the hose is cut. The diamond must be kept cool by the water or it can fracture and break off, quickly wearing out a wheel.

Not everyone has the same knowledge of lapidary or equipment usage, and generally our newer members are very appreciative if you experienced students offer helpful tips. Work with the person next to you if they are unfamiliar with the equipment, or they seem to be confused about their next step. The shop will probably be overflowing with students anxious to use the new wheels, so please be aware of people waiting to use equipment and remember to share. As in "don't hog the trim saw" – putting it bluntly.

Have fun, and make lots of really good projects this year!

IS THAT JADE? Korean Jade is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine. Transvaal Jade is a massive variety of green grossular garnet. Amazon Jade is aventurine. Australian Jade is chrysoprase. Colorado Jade is green microcline. Flukien, Manchurian, and Honan Jades are all soapstone. Mexican Jade is green-dyed marble or calcite. Oregon Jade is dark green jasper. (from *Rock Writings*, no date given, via *The Tumbler* 03/02)

SDMG'S ANNUAL BANQUET 69th ANNIVERSARY

Friday, March 7, 2003
Tom Ham's Lighthouse
2150 Harbor Island Drive

Adjustment Hour: 6 p.m.
Dinner: 7 p.m.

Come join us for our 69th Anniversary Banquet! That's when we celebrate our Society's illustrious history, honor our Past Presidents, enjoy a great speaker and have an all-round good time! All SDMG members and their guests are welcome to attend.

The price for dinner this year will be \$20 per person. As in the past, the Society will pick up the rest of the tab. Your entrée choices will be:

- Sliced Roast Top Sirloin of Beef, served with baked potato and vegetable;
- Filet of Halibut sautéed in butter and almonds, with rice pilaf and vegetable; or
- Vegetarian Plate.

The speaker has not been determined yet, but we will have an excellent, entertaining program lined up, you can count on it!

Tickets will go on sale on Saturday, Feb. 1st. Check next month's *Pegmatite* to find out where you can get them.

Please mark your calendar now for Friday, March 7th! See you there!!

-- Charlene Everly, Hostess

The cannibal goes into a restaurant, sits down, and starts reading the menu. The menu says: Broiled Accountant, \$5.95 per plate. Fried Engineer, \$7.95 per plate. Toasted Teacher, \$7.95 per plate. Roasted Rockhound, \$29.95 per plate. The cannibal calls a waiter over and asks, "Hey, why does the Roasted Rockhound cost so much?" The waiter answers, "Are you kidding? Do you know how hard it is to clean one of them?"

Friendship and Who's News

by *Bessie Olson*

Walt Abramson has been having problems with his blood sugar because of diabetes. He spent time in a care center to get it stabilized. We hope that you were home for the holidays, Walt.

I talked to **Inez Fink**, she sounded cheerful and said **Bud** was outside puttering around, as there is always something to do. Both send Christmas greetings.

Micky Tirk was back in the hospital again for the second time in the last few weeks. Hopefully she will be home soon. **Bill Tirk's** brother, **George**, came down from Murrieta on Thanksgiving Day, but was so sick we took him to the hospital. They sent him home, but the next day, we took him back to the hospital and then they sent him to the California Urgent Care Center for recuperation. He has been released now and is going home with his wife.

Dolores Wheeler has had some trouble after cataract surgery but by now we hope she is much better. She missed a few carving classes because of it.

Whitney and **Louise Hindes** had a lovely Thanksgiving and they hope that their daughter will be down from Oregon to go with them to Borrego where they usually spend Christmas. An unexpected visit by old friends occurred for Whitney's birthday early in December.

Christmas Potluck results: This was the seventh year that a contest was held for homemade Christmas ornaments. Four people entered a total of six ornaments, several mineral or organic. Starting this year, the Society offered two prizes, \$10 for first place, \$5 for second place. There were 37 votes cast by the people who were present. **Dolores Wheeler** won first prize, **Rich Hansing** took second place. We hope that more people will respond next year and make it more interesting for all.

Speaking of **Rich Hansing** and more interesting, he and wife **AnnaLisa Lauer-Hansing** will be expecting Baby Boy Hansing in April 2003. Congratulations!

A-hunting we will go...**One-Day SDMG Field Trip**
FOSSIL OYSTER BEDS
Saturday, January 18th

Field Trip Leader: Jim Mellos.

Meeting time: Check in at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, see sample fossil oyster shells, and sign required liability waivers. Trip departs at 9 a.m. sharp.

Meeting place: 76 gas station parking lot on south side of Interstate 8 at the Ocotillo Exit, about 80 miles east of San Diego. (Rumor has it that the Desert Kitchen Restaurant is now closed, so don't count on it for breakfast this trip.)

Collecting site: Fossil oyster beds in Yuha Desert on public lands.

Material: Fossil oyster shells, singles and pairs. Coquina (naturally cemented together bits of shell and sand, sometimes with whole scallop shells, etc.). Other marine fossils. Most of what we will find dates back 5 to 15 million years ago.

Equipment: Broken oyster shells are scattered over the hills and washes, and it does not require any equipment to pick them up. However, the real payoff is digging in the soft dirt at the top of certain hills to recover unbroken pairs of oyster shells. All you need is your rock hammer, a bit of care and luck, some old newspaper to wrap your specimens in to keep them from breaking, and a back pack or bag to carry them out. Gloves and long pants are recommended. Simple, huh?

Getting there: Everyone will caravan from the 76 gas station parking lot in Ocotillo to the collecting site in the Yuha Desert. It is not far away, but does involve driving over desert roads that have potentially deep sandy spots. High clearance vehicles are required, and four-wheel drive is recommended, though may not be necessary.

More stuff to bring: Lunch, water, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, jacket, Snickers bars for the Field Trip Leader, sense of adventure, and a love of the outdoors.

Note: Parents or guardians have full responsibility for their children, and vice versa.

QUARTZ FAMILY SEMINAR

Have you ever wondered: What is the difference between agate and jasper? Why does a polished Brazilian agate half-geode cost less than a tenth of the price of a similar Mexican Laguna agate? How does one get a perfect polish on a flat slab? How is petrified wood formed? What causes the fire in fire agate and the rainbow in iris agate? These questions and more will be covered at a proposed seminar to be offered by the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society.

The study of the quartz family (crystalline, quartzite or crypto-crystalline/chalcedony including petrified agate, jasper and related chert and flint) provides a comprehensive review of the fundamentals of crystallography, the formation of gems and mineralogy. In fact, quartz gems are the perfect gem to study gemology in general, and are convenient as well, since quartz is often the main stone worked by the lapidarist.

This proposed seminar will cover crystalline quartz and its important gem varieties—amethyst, citrine, smoky and rock crystal—and the numerous colorful inclusions of epidote, tourmaline, rutile and hematite. Chalcedonies will be discussed next, including agates. This is an enormous challenge, since agates alone are classified into thousands of distinct sub-varieties with such names as Carey plume, dendritic, fortification, golden moss, and iris. Yet the effort is worth every minute, since the rewards of cutting and polishing these stones expose the beauty of the variety of color and pattern.

The seminar will be given mostly by experts who are members of our Society and will cover not only the physical and optical properties of quartz, but the process of cutting and polishing, identification of location and evaluation criteria. Not all varieties will be discussed, however, special attention will be made to cover those varieties most commonly found in the western United States and Mexico.

We would like to determine the interest level among our members for this seminar series, for planning purposes. A starting date was suggested beginning in early April and lasting two sessions of about six hours each. If interested in the Quartz Seminar, or in the whole seminar series, please email or call and leave a message for Roger Merk at merksjade@cox.net. Also, you may suggest a few additional topics that would be appropriate for this seminar series.

POLISHING TALC

by Richard Chappell, Jr., Houston Gem & Mineral Society

The natives of Brazil have used the talc found there to make common utensils such as cooking appliances. Professional talc carvers from Anapolis-Goles, Brazil, showed me this quick method when they visited Houston, Texas, in a nation-wide tour.

1. CUT the talc into size desired with hand saw (even the pros didn't use any electric equipment except a lathe for hollowing out bowls and pots). Sometimes this step may be skipped if the piece is of the correct size.
2. CARVE the talc into approximate shape with a knife.
3. SAND with 220 or 400 grit sandpaper.
4. SMOOTH with quadruple zero (0000) steel wool, the finest available.
5. HEAT in strong sunlight or warm oven until slightly warm to the touch.
6. RUB with clear paste wax while the talc is still hot, and you have got yourself a finished carving.

Reasonably pure talc is required, but impurities give it a delightful marking or pattern. This method may be used for cabs, statues, or anything else. The finished product may surprise you, as you can't tell how it will turn out until the paste wax is on.

(original source unknown, via *eolap News*, 3/99)

MEETING NOTICES

Change of date: For one month only, the SDMG Board of Directors' meeting has been moved from its usual night, the third Monday night of the month, to Wednesday night, January 15th, at 7 p.m.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee will have its first meeting directly before the January Board of Directors' Meeting, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15th. There will be two main agenda items: first, learning what the Nominating Committee is supposed to do, and second, assigning tasks to committee members. Please be on time, so we can end on time! Thank you.

-- Anne Schafer

Always thinking...**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN !****by Keri Dearborn**

Over the past few years, core drillings in glacial ice and tree rings have been proven accurate natural documentation of climate through history. Now, two researchers from the University of New Mexico have found another natural weather record, but this time it is mineral. Can you think of a mineral formation that is formed in rings like a tree?

If you guessed cave formations, you are absolutely right. Victor Polyak and Yemane Asmerom have found that the rings in stalagmites in Carlsbad Caverns provide a detailed record of precipitation from year to year. Wide calcite bands depict seasons with high moisture; more rain water percolating down through the limestone to drip onto the stalagmite and add to its growth. Thin bands, likewise, record drier periods and eventually drought. The exciting thing is that the record in Carlsbad Caverns goes back nearly 4,000 years.

Amazingly, it seems that no one ever thought of cave formations as a record of prehistoric climate before. As more caves and their formations are examined, the record of prehistoric climate may be vastly increased and cross-checked with other known records. Keep your eyes open, you may see something in a way that no one else has thought of before.

(from *Del Air Bulletin* 03/02, via *Golden Spike News* 4/02)

NOSE NEWS

After decades of dinosaur reconstructions, scientists have come to the conclusion that the noses are in the wrong place. Typically, the nostrils of dinosaurs have been placed towards the back of the nasal opening in the skull and up, a practice which is thought to have started when it was believed that sauropods (Brontosaurus-like dinosaurs) lived in water and would have had the nostrils as far up on the head as possible so the animal wouldn't have to stick its head out of water that far to breath. After studying living creatures' nasal passages, the revised picture is that dinosaur nostrils were toward the front of the head, near the mouth.

(from *The Tumbler* 3/02, via *Golden Spike News* 4/02)

President	Anna Gerhart
Vice President	Shirl L. Woolley
Treasurer	Shirley K. Woolley
Secretary	Cathy Davis
School Director	Pansy Kraus

RECENT NEWS AND FUTURE PLANS

December 2, 2002: We had a good turnout for our Holiday Potluck, with about 25 people from both the Gemological Society and SDMG in attendance. There was a great selection of food and hearty hors d'oeuvres, and everyone had a good time socializing.

Program for January 6, 2003: The topic for the evening will be

LITERATURE OF JADE

Roger Merk, with his great love of books and jade, will lead the discussion.

February 2003: As is our tradition, the Gemological Society will be dark in February, which allows our members plenty of time to visit the various shows in Tucson, Arizona.

March 3, 2003: We will meet again in March. The program is still to be determined.

TANZANITE

A blue-to-violet variety of zoisite -- $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}(\text{OH})$

Crystalline zoisite is found in various colors: colorless, brown, yellow, blue, purple, green, and pink. The best-known variety is tanzanite. This gem was first promoted by Tiffany and Company in the late 1960s. It is often heat treated to exhibit saturated purple/blue. Many inclusions have been identified in tanzanite, including calcite, gypsum, graphite, hematite, ilmenite, staurolite, rutile, titanite, zircon, quartz, diopside, and tremolite-actinolite. Fluid inclusions have been found in healed "feathers". The inclusion of the trace element vanadium is responsible for the purple/blue color of tanzanite. R.I.=1.691-1.700. Specific gravity=3.35. Hardness=6.5-7. Orthorhombic. Very strong pleochroism: violet-blue, brown. (from *Chips & Facets*, 2nd quarter 1997)

SDMG CLASSIFIED ADS

Deer mice are the most widespread rodent in North America, occurring in almost every habitat type in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. They look cuddly, are easily handled, but don't touch them. They are the primary host of Hantavirus, plague, and Lyme disease.

*** * * R E M E M B E R * * ***

Please tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the Pegmatite!

**Cloud's Jamboree – Jan. 10-19, 2003 – at several hotel/casinos in Laughlin, NV
– Jan. 3-Feb. 2, 2003 – Avi Hotel & Casino, south of Laughlin**

To see lists of vendors at each site, go to the website: www.cloudsjamboree.com.

Sleep cheap! The Riverside Resort has 1400 rooms and is offering special room rates to event participants: Sunday through Thursday, \$25 room rate. Friday or Saturday, \$49 room rate. Call 1-800-227-3849 to make reservations and be sure to mention that you will be attending Cloud's Jamboree.

Answers to Test Your Knowledge: 1-G; 2-M; 3-R; 4-D; 5-L; 6-N; 7-Y; 8-S; 9-E; 10-H; 11-X; 12-V; 13-K; 14-I; 15-O; 16-W; 17-B; 18-Q; 19-T; 20-F; 21-U; 22-P; 23-C; 24-J; 25-A. Extra credit: pronounce 4, 6, 8, 11, and 21 properly!

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MINERAL TERMS

Match the Term (on the left) with the Description (on the right). Ready? Set? GO!

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Adamantine | A. resistance to abrasion or scratching |
| 2. Alluvial | B. formed of slender bundles of fibers |
| 3. Amorphous | C. Composed of closely packed grains |
| 4. Amygdaloid | D. almond-shaped cavity, such as agate forms in |
| 5. Asterism | E. splitting in a definite plane |
| 6. Botryoidal | F. mineral shell filled with crystallized minerals |
| 7. Brittle | G. brilliant luster like that of diamond |
| 8. Chatoyant | H. firmly united |
| 9. Cleavable | I. Having definite crystal structure |
| 10. Compact | J. fracture surface covered with sharp points |
| 11. Conchoidal | K. composed of crystals so tiny their form is invisible |
| 12. Conglomerate | L. star-like effect of rays of light on gem surface |
| 13. Crypto-crystalline | M. deposits made by running water |
| 14. Crystalline | N. shaped like a bunch of grapes |
| 15. Cubic | O. cube-like, applied to crystals |
| 16. Dendritic | P. crystalline igneous rock formed mainly of quartz & feldspar |
| 17. Fibrous | Q. formed of thin layers or sheets |
| 18. Foliated | R. without crystal structure |
| 19. Fracture | S. reflecting light in a pattern like that of a cat's eye |
| 20. Geode | T. appearance of broken face of mineral |
| 21. Gneiss | U. metamorphic laminated rock |
| 22. Granite | V. rock made up of worm fragments cemented together |
| 23. Granular | W. having tree-like patterns |
| 24. Hackly | X. fracture surface curved like that of a sea shell |
| 25. Hardness | Y. easily fractured. |

Answers above.

(from *Quarry Quips*, 11/02)

ON THE GO TO A SHOW...

JANUARY

- 1/1 - QUARTZSITE, AZ Desert Gardens Rock & Gem Show**
2/28? South of I-10 at Exit 17. Free admission, free parking. Many of the long-time Cloud's Jamboree dealers decided to come here rather than go to Laughlin. Gems, minerals, fossils, rough, tools, equipment, jewelry, all the good stuff you could want!
- 3-5 MESA, AZ Arizona Mineral & Mining Museum Foundation Show**
 Mesa Community College, NE corner of Dobson and U.S. 60. 9-5 daily. Free. Ray Grant, (480) 814-9086.
- 3-5 YUMA, AZ Colo-Gila Kiwanis Club 30th Annual Show**
 Yuma Co. Fairgrounds, 2520 E. 32nd St. Fri-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. (928) 782-9043.
- 3-12 QUARTZSITE, AZ Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show**
 South of I-10 on west side of Hwy. 95. Free. 350+ selling spaces. (928) 927-6364.
- 10-12 PHOENIX, AZ Arizona Rockfest and Earth Science Fair**
 Mineralogical Society of Arizona. Tempe Diablo Stadium, I-10 exit 153. Fri-Sat 9-6, Sun 9-5. 100+ dealers. 50+ organization science fair. Gold panning, metal detecting, demos, exhibits. W.R. Ross, (602) 923-7802. azrockfest@hotmail.com.
- 17-19 GLOBE, AZ Gila County Gem & Mineral Society**
 Gila County Fairgrounds. 9-6 daily. Dealers, demos, door prizes. (928) 473-3775.
- 17-26 QUARTZSITE, AZ Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama**
 West of Hwy. 95, south of I-10. 850+ selling spaces. Some rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, lapidary, beads, tools. (928) 927-6364. www.tysonwells.com.
- 18-26 QUARTZSITE, AZ The Main Event**
 North of I-10 at Exit 17. Some rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry. (Mostly not rock.)
- 1/29- QUARTZSITE, AZ 37th Annual Quartzsite Pow-Wow**
2/2 QIA Building and Grounds, located two blocks south of the I-10 Business Loop, east of Mesquite Drive. (Take either Exit 17 or Exit 19 off I-10.) Food served daily, cafeteria style, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission. Parking: cars, \$3; motorhomes and trailers, \$5. Exhibits inside. 100+ dealers, everything rock-related. (928) 927-6325. E-mail: qia@redrivernet.com Website: www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com

FEBRUARY in Tucson

[check rockhound magazines for lots more
show listings]

- 1-9 Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show.** Martin Zinn Expositions. Vagabond Plaza Hotel (formerly Ramada Inn), 1601 N. Oracle Rd. 10-7 daily. Free.
- 2-15 Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show.** Martin Zinn Expositions, three locations: Best Western Executive Inn, 333 W. Drachman; The InnSuites Hotel, 475 N. Granada; and The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd. 10-7 daily. Free.

- 7-10 Rio Grande “Catalog in Motion” Show.** Tucson East Hilton,
7600 E. Broadway Blvd. (800) 545-6566. info@riogrande.com.
- 13-17 Tucson Gem & Mineral Society Show.** Tucson Convention Center,
260 S. Church St. Thurs-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. (520) 322-5773. tgms@tgms.org.

FEBRUARY elsewhere

- 8-9 SPRECKELS, CA** Monterey Bay Gem & Mineral Society of Salinas
Veterans Mem. Bldg., 5th & Llanos Sts. Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free. (831) 449-6242.
- 14-23 INDIO, CA** Riverside Co. Fair & National Date Festival (includes gem show)
46-350 Arabia St. 10 to 10 daily. Don Grisham, (909) 795-7289.
- 2/28- HAYWARD, CA** The Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
3/2 Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd. Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Adults \$5. Under 13,
free with adult. 40+ dealers. Exhibits, demos, raffle, auctions. Cheryl Archer, (510)
889-7808. Website: www.mgscv.com.
- 2/28- IMPERIAL, CA** Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
3/9 Imperial Valley Expo, Gem & Mineral Building, 200 E. Second St. Sat-Sun 12-10,
Mon-Thurs 4-10. Adults \$6. Seniors & children 6-12, \$3. Under 5, free.
Diana Steward, (760) 355-1888 or dsteward@ioce.k12.ca.us.
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*** End of January 2003 Pegmatite ***