



**The Pres Box—
August 2020**
Bill Brown, OMS President

Well, coronavirus is still with us. SLO county is still “opening”, but we are on the governors watch list and I don’t know what will happen. What I hear on the news does not look good.

The news from Santa Maria is not good either. They have just let us know that we will not be able to hold our picnic this August. Even with the outside venue, they don’t want big groups meeting. Good news is they reserved Pioneer Park for us on June 5, 2021.

I don’t know at this time what our next event will be. We are still planning our awards banquet in December, and should be able to hold it by then. We don’t know about monthly meetings, but I am hoping for September or October.

Oasis still shows on their site that all onsite activities are canceled. With things going downhill in SB county, we don’t see that changing soon. We will contact them as meeting times approach to see if they anticipate opening. We will also send out emails when/if the status of Oasis changes.

The board meeting will on Tue, August 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. Our July board meeting was good (see Minutes) but we didn’t have a lot of folks. I am hoping for a few more people for the next one, but people have to do what is comfortable for them.

We have started Highway Cleanup again. The next highway cleanup will be held on September 12. We meet at the SE corner of the intersection of eastbound Hwy 166 at Hwy 101.

The breakfast for August will be at Little Bits in Arroyo Grande. They have tables outside, so we should be able to keep our distance and still be able to say hi.

Everybody stay well. *Bill*

OMS Picnic “postponed” until June 5, 2021

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in **August**

BIRTHDAYS

Sylvia Nasholm	8/9	♂
Debbie Hood	8/10	♀
Bill Brown	8/18	♂
Wes Lingerfelt	8/23	♂
Tara Machin	8/31	♀

ANNIVERSARIES

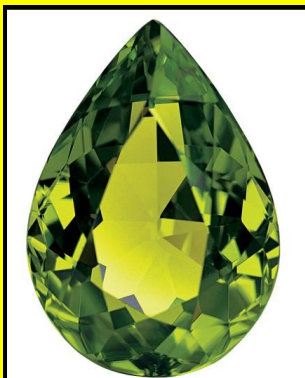
Gearly Sheffer	8/20
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***Congratulations!** If you don’t see your name here when you should, then the information is not in The Red Book. Please write your important dates down and give them to **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (May 2020)*

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR AUGUST

Text by Wayne Mills and as noted. (Peridot picture: kids.nationalgeographic.com), Olivine picture by Wayne Mills

The Traditional birthstone for August is Peridot, the gem version of the mineral Olivine, a Magnesium, Aluminum Silicate. The finest Peridot comes from St. John's Island in the Red Sea. In California, Olivine can be collected at Dish Hill near Ludlow in San Bernardino Co. Small specimens of Peridot can be found in the United States in New Mexico and Arizona.



(Audobon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals).



Olivine from the Hawaiian basalts (Note: Hawaiian Volcanic national Park Quarter for size comparison)

LOCAL ROCKS--MARCASITE AGATE

**Text and pictures by Wayne Mills,
Ore-Cutts Editor,**

In 2017, the Ore-Cutts featured a different local mineral each month (except for January and April). After reviewing those articles and those from 2020, we chose **Marcasite** as the local rock for August, because it has not been discussed in the last 4 years, because it is a desirable rock, it is found in a couple of different locations on the Central Coast, and I have a few pieces. Most notably, Marcasite, (an iron sulfate mineral akin to Pyrite) is found in agate in Miocene aged volcanic rocks in the hills behind Nipomo. It is also found in agate from the Tranquillon Peak Volcanics at Jalama Beach, and mixed with the agate in the interstices of DeeDee-ite—a brecciated rhyolite (see February 2017 Ore-Cutts). at Avila Beach.

Imagine the pyrite plumes growing in veins in the volcanic rock, then being encompassed by hydrothermally deposited silica (chalcedony) to create the stunning agates we find (if we are lucky) in the Creeks and fields of Nipomo.

Marcasite sphere from the Wayne Mills Collection. Distribution information from Ralph Bishop, noted expert on Central Coast rocks..



BITS AND BYTES

See “The Dinosaur Hunters on Discovery Channel starting June 19. Special edition featuring discovery of a Nno (bigger than the original) Tyrannosaur.

<https://www.discovery.com/shows/dino-hunters/articles/new-series--dino-hunters>

Rocks from in and around Crater of Diamonds State Park (Arkansas)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsQj_DiwFPY&t=1s&fbclid=IwAR0wkLC_77qGV_gyXJD8_vVP_DGVmiJ3PgP6Prj6O6kjbDAEwinQmAOUg1H4

2.73 Carat diamond found at Crater of Diamonds State Park (July 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEALt5YuOs&fbclid=IwAR2NtpZWA2WLD1G6R-HaAgyjWYe3nCXfaWAFpCpT8jvE3NA4vbKTSuZpJ4>

That Camping Couple digging quartz in Arkansas

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ThatCampingCouple?fbclid=IwAR0uyk8GPWtY4qDLmZgwsou-Zqjr2n5koscMGEnNKUv3H3gAcCSc1-iHpdU>

Ten Amazing Virtual Museum Tours

www.virtualiteach.com/single-post/2017/08/20/10-amazing-virtual-museum-tours

A Field Trip to the Oceanview Mine, in the Time of Covid -19 – by Dale Harwood from the July, 2020 Delver's Gem & Mineral Society "Delvings"



I was out at the Nevada Mineral and Book store on June 4th, talking with the owner Walt Lombardo about a field trip he was to lead June 7th to the Oceanview Mine in Pala, when Guynell Miller and Charles Walker walked into his shop. After talking with Walt, all three of us decided to sign-up for his trip.

So on Sunday, Guynell, Charles and I met and car-pooled down to Pala in Charles' pickup. We met with Walt and the rest of the participants, about 18 people in all, and drove up to the Oceanview Mine. Guynell and Charles sifted and washed mine dump material for the various minerals, which include schorl and elbaite (tourmalines), beryl (variety aquamarine), spodumene (both ordinary and variety kunzite), mica (both muscovite and lepidolite), quartz (clear and smoky), and feldspar (both albite and orthoclase). What they found was "thumbnail" to "miniature" (1/4" to 3") in size. Guynell in particular really got into it and was very dirty by the time she was done; Charles kept a bit cleaner. I myself spent most of the time talking with the mine owners about the geology, minerals, and their mining methods. Walt and I also went around identifying the minerals people were finding. An advantage of joining Walt on one of his trips is that the owners will take you underground to see the workings where the gem pockets have been found (but no collecting there). I had been looking forward to this. Unfortunately, this day the mine had water in some of the drifts and it was felt unsafe to take visitors underground. We were kind of disappointed, but these things happen. Guynell supplied lunch and as we sat eating we discussed our finds so far. The mine owners have converted two storage trailers into a gift shop, restrooms, and office space, and there is a shaded area with tables and benches to eat and rest.

The owners of the Oceanview Mine also own the Pala Chief and the Elizabeth R. mines which adjoin each other. Among the rare minerals found in the Pala District is amblygonite – a lithium aluminum phosphate which is massive, white in color, and might be confused with massive quartz or feldspar. The owners had recently found a pod of amblygonite in the Elizabeth R. Mine while following the pegmatite. I asked if I could get some samples for my collection: not only did I get them, but one of the owners took me to the Elizabeth R. and led me underground to collect the amblygonite, so I got to examine a portion of the workings. I went home with about ten pounds of amblygonite and also samples of lepidolite mica from the same workings. After returning to the Oceanview Mine site, I was shown a rock sample with a yellow coating in areas. This I identified as a rare bismuth carbonate mineral called beyerite. I asked if they had a smaller sample for testing, but instead I was given the entire sample. So now I have a fine sample of beyerite from the Pala Chief Mine. Meanwhile, Guynell and Charles had been working at sifting material, looking for more specimens. The weather was clear and in the 70's. We stopped work about 3 PM. I also bought thirty pounds of lepidolite mica for resale at shows (it sells for about \$3 per pound); some of the chunks are large enough for cutting or sphere-making. We thanked Walt and the mine owners for the fun time we had and left for home. I think Guynell and Charles enjoyed themselves and were quite happy with the specimens they found. I know I got my money's worth, as I now have ten pounds of amblygonite, and had gotten to go underground to collect it. If you haven't been to the Oceanview Mine, it is worth the time and fee (\$75) to visit. If you do go, talk to Walt Lombardo at Nevada Mineral and Book Company: it is more fun to go as part of a group. But you can go by yourself. So, as you can see, even during Covid-19 you can still go on a field trip: by yourself, or even more fun with good friends.

SIX LOCATIONS TO DIG FOR GEMS IN CALIFORNIA Geologyin.com

[Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande District, California](#)

The Himalaya Tourmaline Mine is located near Santa Ysabel, CA at Lake Henshaw in the beautiful Mesa Grande. Visitors can dig at Lake Henshaw Resort where they will dig and screen through ore from the world famous Himalaya Mine. Many minerals can be found including **pink and green tourmaline, black tourmaline, quartz crystals, spessertine garnet, lepidolite, clevelandite, and a variety of others.** **Adult Dig \$75, youth 13 years old to 15 years old half price (\$37.50), children 12 years old and under are free with paying adult.**

[The OceanView Mine, San Diego County, California](#)

A visit to **the Oceanview Mine** allows you a unique view of the only actively working underground mine in the world famous Pala Gem mining district and a chance to find your own gems—**tourmalines, kunzites, morganites and more.** **Fees: Adults \$75 each, Under 11 years old \$60 each. 20+ Member Group Discounts.** Address: 37304 Magee Rd, Pala, San Diego, California

[The Pala Chief Mine, San Diego County, California](#)

The deposits here were discovered in May 1903, and the mine produced large amounts of **tourmaline.** **It was also the primary discovery site of the purple gem variety of spodumene known as kunzite, and the first true source of gem-quality kunzite.** **Fees: Adults/Children \$75 each.** Address: 37304 Magee Rd, Pala, San Diego, California

[Opal Hill Mine, Mule Mountains District, Riverside Co., California](#)

[Opal Hill](#) is well known for its beautiful and rare **fire agate, opal eggs and quartz crystals.** When one thinks of a mine, images of deep shafts or dark tunnels usually come to mind. The mine consists of rock outcroppings and holes

where agate has been extracted. The Mine is located on BLM land which is an open area for camping.

[California State \(Benitoite\) Gem Mine, New Idria District, California](#)

The Benitoite Gem mine is famous for its rare and unique gemstone, **benitoite.** The Benitoite Gem mine is located on a small mining claim (the Dallas claim) in San Benito County, California, about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. **Pricing: \$70 per person, Kids 12 and younger, only \$20.**

Address: The Historic Old Road Camp, 48242 Los Gatos Rd. Coalinga, CA 93210

[Gold Prospecting Adventures, Jamestown, California](#)

For over 40 years Gold Prospecting Adventures has offered an exciting **variety of gold mining adventures.** Located three hours east of San Francisco. Gold Prospecting Adventures is a great introduction for anyone, any age, who wants to find gold and learn something new.

Address: 18170 Main St, Jamestown, CA 95327



Preserved in Siberian ice, this Scythian women's boot is decorated with tin, pyrite crystals, gold foil, and glass beads. And it's over 2,300 years old.

Picture: [artifacthub./](https://www.artifacthub.com/) Twitter
More at: rnr.co/WhoaArchaeology

KID'S PAGE —

Carrots, Carats and Karats

Text by Wayne Mills

A **Homonym** is a word that sounds the same as another word, but has a different meaning. One example from the rock world is **Gneiss** (a metamorphic rock), and **nice** (something that we should **ALWAYS** try to be— to ourselves AND to each other)

A triple example of a homonym is: **Carrot** (an orange, crispy vegetable), **Carat** (a measurement of the weight of a gem stone = to 200 milligrams or .0063 troy ounces), and **Karat** (a number that tells us the percent of gold in a particular item. 24 Karat gold is pure gold, while 12 Karat gold is only 50% gold. Add to this **Caret** (^) a proofreaders mark meaning to add content at a certain point in text, and things start to get confusing!

Karats:

A piece of gold that is:

10 Karats is 10/24 or **41.7%** gold

12 karats is 12/24 or **50%** gold

14 Karats is 14/24=**58.3%** gold

16 Karats is 16/24=**66.7%** gold
(most dental gold is 16 Karat)

18 Karats is 18/24=**75%** gold



Hope Diamond , World's most famous diamond (45.552 Carats) or .287 troy ounces.

<https://cashfordiamondsusa.com/blog/2012/06/the-history-of-the-hope-diamond>

DID YOU KNOW?

(From didyouknow.com)

When lightning strikes it can reach up to 30,000 degrees celsius (54,000 degrees fahrenheit). (When lightning strikes the ground, it can fuse the affected area into a glassy like material called a **Fulgerite**.)

Lightning strikes the Earth 6,000 times every minute. (THAT is a lot of Fulgerites!)

The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia. (Australia also has some of the oldest rocks in the world.)

The Amazon rainforest produces half the world's oxygen supply. (Oxygen is one of the most abundant elements at the Earth's surface. It better be abundant, because every animal needs to breathe it!)

Brazil covers 50% of the South American continent. (A lot of amazing gems come from the Pegmatites of the Minas Gerais (General Mines) province of Brazil)

if you filled a matchbox with gold it could be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court. (That is because gold is quite "**Malleable**", meaning that it can be hammered out into thin sheets). Oh, and ...**The human body of a 70 kg (154.3 pound) person contains 0.2 mg (.0000064 troy ounces) of gold.**

Pearls melt in vinegar . (Pearls are made of Calcium carbonate (the same mineral found in Calcite and Seashells.)

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce
July 7, 2020

Field Trip— Jeanne will call Sally to see if she has any ideas. Will Wes lead the trip to Ozena anytime soon?

Adopt-a-Highway – California Highway Department is allowing our Highway Clean-ups starting in July on the condition that participants read and sign a paper concerning safety and social distancing. Call or e-mail Wayne if you are interested in participating. Clean-up is July 11 at 8:00 am at 101/166 East.

Annual Awards Banquet: Still scheduled for December 12.

Breakfast- Restaurants are only allowing 10 folks at a table at a time. We will not have a Breakfast in July, but plan to have one in August at hometown Buffet in Santa Maria.

Education: None to report.

Library- (Alexis) Alexis. Nothing

Sunshine- Truman Burgess is under the weather. He with us. He is planning to come to the Annual Picnic.

Scholarship (Jeanne) No report

Old Business- None

New Business- June BBQ Meeting has been postponed as Santa Maria Parks has canceled our permit in June. They had some slots open for August, so we have re-scheduled our picnic for the first Saturday in August (1). Our July Board meeting will be back in the Nipomo C of C building on July 7.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
General Meeting
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA
June 9, 2020

The July General Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus shutdown.

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

A ROCKHOUND PROPOSES—What a rock! Sources—[Rockhound Connection](#) (geode box), [ohsoperfectproposal.com](#) (proposal)



OMS CALENDAR	
Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates	
AUGUST 2020	
Saturday, August 1	OMS Semi-Annual Meeting/ Picnic has been postponed by Santa Maria Parks. New date is June 5, 2021.
Tuesday, August 4 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, July 25 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— Lil' Bits, Grover Beach,
SEPTEMBER 2020	
Tuesday, September 2 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, September 9 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center	OMS General Meeting/ Maybe — We will check with Oasis Center before the September Bulletin goes out.
Saturday, September 12 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center	Highway Clean-up. SE Corner 101/166 East
Saturday, September 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— TBD

2020-OMS OFFICERS		
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President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS		
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Jan Ferguson		(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith		(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood		(805) 481-6860
Renea Suttcliffe		805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. OMS Membership Chairperson is: ?		
OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811 Check out our OMS web site at: http://www.omsinc.org or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org .		
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Check-out the OMS Web page at :omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.

Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcutt Mineral Society in Facebook Search.)

CFMS SHOWS

AUGUST (2020)

Due to COVID 19, many shows have been cancelled, but have not notified the CFMS Website. Check given reference before going.

SEPTEMBER (2020)

September 19-20 (Maybe); TEHACHAPI, CA
Show confirmed. Check date before going.

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Senior Center
500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: (661) 972-1117
Web site: <http://www.tvqms>
Annual gem, mineral and jewelry show (~30 Dealers).
We have a wide variety gems, minerals and jewelry plus kids activities and much more.

DEFINE GRAVEL...

Posted in Rockhound Connection (7/12/2020)
from Ken Quarrie (of course!)



SPEAKING OF HIGHWAYS...

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway guy (Story and picture)

Saturday morning July 11, 4 of us met at the corner of Highways 101/166 East for Highway Clean-up. Wes and Marty Lingerfelt and Sally Griffith, (**fresh from hand surgery!**) joined me for what I was afraid was going to be a tough clean-up, and I was right!

The highway had not been cleaned for 4 months, and man was it dirty. Wayne got stuck with the Park and Ride Lot and the first ½ mile east and back to the parking lot. I filled three bags of trash, and had a ¾ full bag of cans for Wes. I think the other folks experienced similar loads. My prizes were a flattened spoon and a 25 or so foot long 2 pronged electrical cord. My booby prizes were 3 or 4 "trucker bombs".. Oh yeah, after I left the site to do some detecting in Santa Maria, I picked 4 ticks off me. Wes said that Marty had 7 on him, and Wes got 4 too!

Before we left the site, Wes showed the clean-up prize he brought—a lovely 13.7 carat faceted (Synthetic) Alexandrite. Wes and Marty bowed out of the drawing because they have been successful in the recent past. Luckily, yours truly won the coin toss. Sorry Sally!

It took about an hour and a half to finish all our areas. Thankfully, Marty worked his way east from the Park and Ride lot to meet me on the home stretch. Man, was I beat! As I have said before, we should have at least 6 folks to do the highway job.

I was (of course) disappointed that more of our folks did not show up. It was also disappointing that the Santa Maria Restaurants are closed again, so no treats.



SEDIMENTARY CHALLENGE—Last month, I challenged folks to see how many words they could make from the letters in the word “Sedimentary”. Words are 4 or more letters. No plurals, no adding a d (ed is OK), 1 point per word, 1 point for each word related to geology or geography. I understand there are over 1000 possibilities, but we have limited space. Here is the list I came up with:

	A	D	EE	I	M	N	R	S	T	Y	
1	ADIT	Date	Emend	Idea	Mete	Name	Rate	Stair	Tear	Yean	
2	Admit	Dement	Emit	Inter	Merit	Nasty	Raise	Stere	Tare	Yare	
3	Admire	Dairy	Emir	Instead	Mean	Nastier	Raid	Stead	Tire	Yard	
4	Aide	Diary	Eden	Irate	Meant	Need	Read	Staid	Tier	Year	
5	Airy	Dime	Endear	Iter	Mint	Neem	Rite	Stay	Thin	Yenta	
6	Amen	Dame	Enter	Item	Made	Neat	Ream	Site	Tired	Yearn	
7	Amend	Dent	Entire		Maid	Neater	Rind	Satyr	Tarn	Yarn	
8	Amide	Demean	Edit		Maiden	Niter	Rand	SAND	Train		
9	Ante	Dream	Entry		Mind	Near	Rani	Said	TRAM		
10	Ardent	Dram	Ester		Media	Neared	Ride	Stare	Trade		
11	Arid	Dirt	Entire		Main		Reed	Steer	Terse		
12	Arty	Dirty	Eider		Mien		Rime	Sere	Tame		
13	Aired	Deem	Edam		MINE		Retain	STAR	Tamer		
14	Aimed	Dense	Earn		Mere		Retrain	Stray	Trim		
15	Armed	DENSITY	Erne		MINER		Rise	STRIAE	Team		
16	Arisen	Dean	Ermine		Mead		Risen	Seat	Tirade		
17	Arise	Dine			Marine		Resent	Seated	Tread		
18		Deride			Myriad		Resin	Sate	Time		
19		Dainty			Merest		Rend	Stein	Timer		
20		Dries			Miter			Stain	Teem		
21		Dire			Mist			Stamen	Teen		
22		Dint			Mister			Stir	Tide		
23		Diner			Miser			Stride	Tidy		
24		Diet			Mast			Siren	Trendy		
25		Dietary			Mate			Sandy	Tardy		
26		Deist			Meat			Sinter	Tried		
27		Deism			MARIA			Stride	Tries		
	18	28	16	6	30	10	19	30	27	7	191

WE COULD GO ON, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA (I HOPE!)

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.