



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XL, Issue XII

December, 2005

## Agates in Munich 2005

By Sir Paul Howard, Member, OMS

What a unique experience to be invited as a guest to the biggest agate show ever assembled in the world at Munich in Germany on the last weekend of October 2005. Agate was the theme of this Gem and Mineral show, the second biggest in the world. The famous Hooded Owl Agate from Texas in U.S.A. was the symbol of the show (picture right).

Munich is a big modern city, re-built after the war and is about the same size as Brisbane. It was host to the 1972 Olympic Games. I found most prices of goods about one third to fifty per cent dearer than here in Australia because of our poor exchange rate with the Euro. Most Germans speak English or at least try to help you.



One of Paul's Queensland Agates that was on display

The weather was cool to cold, foggy every morning till about mid-day when a hazy sun appeared for several hours. This was early winter. My hotel was located about 10 kilometres away

from the show with a free bus shuttle to the show and you had to return by underground railway.

This show was huge, even by Tucson standards. It was held in three of the six halls of the Munich convention centre. Each hall had a floor area of about 6000 square metres. They used to be aircraft hangers to service the big passenger jet aircraft when this area was the International airport. They moved the airport several years ago. Each hall had between 700 and 800 traders and dealers from 22 countries as well as from every country in Europe.

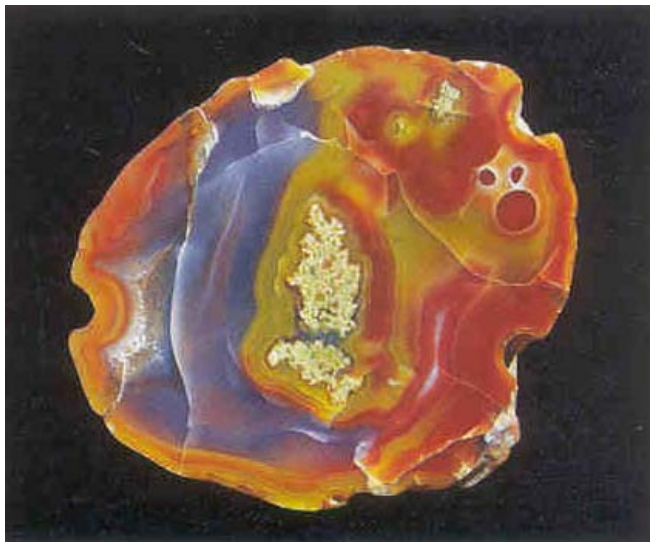
The catalogue was as thick as the Gold Coast telephone book. A first for this show and a precedent for all other shows in the future was the half price entrance fee for the last three hours on the Sunday. Over 60,000 people attended the show. A special display of worldwide agate specimens covered 1200 square me-



tres. It was set out in sections for Europe, U.S.A., Americas, and the rest of the world, which included Australia and Africa. All the best agates in the world, as well as the authors and scientists of the agate world were in the one place at the same time. (Editors Note: "Achat Träume" translates to "Agate Dreams")

Very high security prevailed. World famous museums throughout Europe and Russia made

magnificent displays of their most valuable and historic agate artefacts and specimens. I saw huge bowls, vases, boxes, animals and creatures carved from agate. One of the most unique showcases which included a video was of agates collected from the bottom of Lake Superior in Canada.



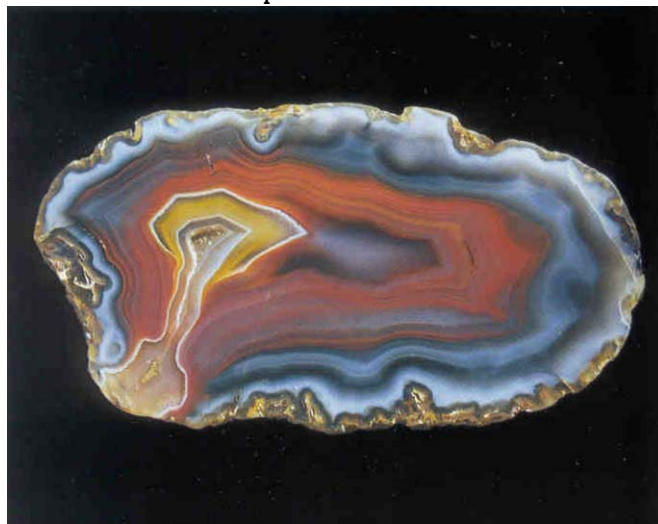
Another colorful Queensland Agate from Paul's display

My showcase of Queensland agates displayed 75 beautiful agates, 22 pieces of agate jewellery and 10 carved cabochons. This was a contribution from 10 private collections. I had one of my books tied to the front of the showcase so visitors could look through it. All my books available at the show were sold out on the second day. I saw huge polished agates up to 700mm across and spheres about 300mm in diameter, as well as thousands of smaller agate specimens. Entrance to the 3 day show and a 2 metre showcase to display Queensland agates was granted to me free of charge.

The latest book in the world on agates written by Professor Johann Zenz and Rainer Bode was available at many stalls throughout the show. It is a beautiful book of 656 pages with over 2000 colour photographs. It is printed in German and English and contains 24 pages on Australia and New Zealand. On my tour around the world last year with my research into formations and inclusions in agates and quartz gemstones, my 200 slide programme on the subject in Vienna, Austria, inspired Erica Zenz, wife of

the author of the latest book on agate to make bigger posters and framed photos of her similar research. She had a magnificent display which was much admired.

I enjoyed the show immensely, also the lectures and slide shows by specialists in their field. It was an opportunity of a lifetime; I would like to thank every one too numerous to mention by name that made it possible for me to attend.



A third display specimen from the Munich Show

Added from the Howard's 2005 Christmas letter:

"Today is November 15th, the anniversary of the day we set off from home on the Gold Coast in our motorhome to live our dream to travel Australia to see places we have never seen before. Our daily address is where we stop for the night. Our motorhome is called 'Rubbernecking Stickybeaks'. So far we have traveled over 30,000 kilometres through four states. Been as far west as Ceduna, near the West Australian border and as far North as Cairns in Queensland. We even visited Agate Creek twice. (In August, Paul purchased the only registered mining claim in the gazetted fossicking area of Agate Creek and intends to find a partner to mine it.) It has been great fun and interesting. We have made lots of new friends. The message board from the fence of Paul's property in Surfers Paradise is fixed to the motorhome. Last weeks message read, <Old age is when things wear out, fall out or spread out.>."

## A Night at Hancock

Wayne Mills, Board Member, Orcutt Mineral Society

In my capacity as Scholarship Chairman, I attended a reception for donors sponsored by the Alan Hancock Foundation on Thursday, November 10. My friend Susan and I found the Student Union after asking directions, and were greeted by soft guitar music, and friendly staff. At the wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, we were able to converse with other donors, and to hear the new college superintendent, José M. Ortiz, Ed.D, outline some of his goals for the college. Dr. Ortiz replaced Dr. Ann Foxworthy about 4 months ago. Dr. Foxworthy retired after 13 years on the job. One of Dr. Ortiz's big projects is to help the college sponsor an initiative to raise money for upgrading college facilities, including \$8 million dollars for a new mainframe for their computer system. The current system is 15-years old. My computer is a lot newer than that (and it is outdated)!

Before we left the reception, we had the opportunity to talk to Tim Flemming, executive director for the foundation. Mr. Flemming provided us the fascinating statistic that the California Community College system with 1.6 million students in 108 community colleges is the largest such institution in the world. And yes, I did the math, and that is about 14,000 students per campus. An additional notable fact from Mr. Flemming was that about 70% of the community college attendees are the first members of their families to do so.

Orcutt Mineral Society has provided annual scholarships to Earth Science Students at both Alan Hancock and Cuesta Community Colleges, and we can be justifiably proud of our contributions. Ten percent of the net profits from our annual gem show form the core of our scholarship program.

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November Speaker

### Fossil Turtle Talk

The November OMS General Meeting speaker, Wayne Mills, provided the members with a wealth of information about fossil turtles. Wayne is currently preparing an article for the

January 2006 *Ore-Cutts*, complete with illustrations and photographs. A few tidbits of information gleaned from the upcoming article are quoted below:

“All in all, there are about 59 bones in the typical turtle shell. It has been pointed out recently that the shell of turtles is made up of narrow ribs covered by dermal bone, not broadly expanded ribs as previously thought.”

“About the same time the Niobraran Seaway existed (70-80 million years BP), the coast of California ranged from San Diego in the south to near the middle of the state, near where Sacramento is today.”

“As previously mentioned, turtles appear to have weathered the catastrophic end to the Cretaceous period when a 6-mile wide meteor crashed into the earth off the Yucatan Peninsula. The immense size attained by some sea turtles seems little diminished by the disaster that wiped out about 80% of all species on earth. This fact is attested to by the fossil of an 8-foot long leatherback turtle relative that was recently discovered at Sharktooth Hill in Bakersfield. The skull of this creature measures about 14.5 inches by 12 inches.”

During the Fossil Turtle talk, Wayne displayed a partial skull cast he has borrowed from the Buena Vista Museum in Bakersfield. The massive skull was indeed impressive! Thank you, Wayne, for your presentation, and we look forward to your complete article next month.

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November Meeting Events

### Raffle Thanks

On behalf of the yet unformed raffle committee, Wayne Mills wish to thank Al Wilcox, Lucky Virgin, and Ralph “Dino Bone” Bishop for their thoughtful donations to the November Raffle. Al donated several nice slabs that were given out at the meeting, as well as the Bruneau jasper slab that Wayne made into a freeform cabochon for the November raffle. Lucky donated a large chunk of Travertine that will be a prize in a future raffle. Ralph donated numerous cabachons

of the dinosaur bone collection he recently purchased. Ralph and Wes Lingerfelt have promised to supply quality material to the raffle for the next year.

### The Wanderer

## Holiday Expectations

'Tis the season once again, time to head east for a visit with our family. It is with great expectation (and much planning) that we will trek to San Antonio. Each year it's the task of our daughters to choose appropriate field trips. They never fail to deliver an array of stimulating adventures that our grandsons enjoy.

Rumor has it that this year "the guys" will be hunting an old civil war battleground with metal detectors in search of bullets, belt buckles, and bits. Another adventure will be to "Cave Without a Name", close to the Boerne area.

While the womenfolk usually stay close to home, cooking piles of food for hungry hunters, we catch up on family news, and have our own (antique hunting) adventures. I hope to make another trip to the Llano Uplift, complete with a bountiful picnic basket lunch.



Incredible limestone formations in "Cave Without a Name", Boerne, TX

Traditions are such a special part of life. Things that I did with my grandparents, and parents, I now share with our kids and grandkids. Marzipan decorating competition, finding old-fashioned ribbon candy in your stocking, piles of smoked ham and yams, licorice allsorts, decorating gingerbread houses, and stringing popcorn & berries for the wild creatures.

What adventures will you have this holiday? Do you plan rockhounding trips, or will you share a meal with an old friend? Peace to you this holiday season!

Happy Hunting,  
Love, Bess

Check our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send email to [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

### Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting  
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA  
1 November 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President-elect Sharon Duncan. Board members present were: Sharon Duncan, Bess Shields, Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, Bob Bullock, DeeDee Magri, and Debbie Hood. Guests were: Dick Shields, Bill Hood, and Maida Williams.

**Minutes** of the previous General Meeting were approved as printed in the Ore-Cutts newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report** was not read since Wes Lingerfelt was absent.

#### Committee Reports:

**Abused Children:** Debbie Hood contacted Social Services to see what is needed this year for our OMS Christmas donation. Debbie is waiting for their return call.

**Bulletin:** Bess Shields is soliciting for member articles, and is completing submissions for CFMS Newsletter Competition.

**CFMS Director:** Wes Lingerfelt was absent. Dick Shields stated that he and Bess will attend the CFMS Director and Committee meetings next week, and Wes will represent us at the CFMS Directors Meeting.

**Membership:** in Wayne Mills' absence, Sharon Duncan read the application for membership from Dick Bazzell. Rob Bullock moved that Dick be ac-

cepted as a member. Motion was seconded by Debbie Hood. Motion passed.

**Sunshine:** Debbie Hood reported that Bill Hood sprained his neck while moving a heavy item, and is recovering. Lucky Virgin is still undergoing tests, and recovering from knee surgery.

### Correspondence:

The following newsletters were received: *Sun Valley Times*, *Dinny's Doin's*, *Rock Chips*, *Tumble Rumble*, *Lapidarian*, *Pick 'n Shovel*, *Sun Valley Indian School*, *Rock Writings*, and *The Agatizer* (damaged in the mail). An invitation was received from Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society for their November 26-27 Show, and a letter from Santa Barbara Mineral & Gem Society. Sir Paul Howard wrote about his world travels, and it will be printed in the December *Ore-Cutt*.

### Old Business:

1. Sharon Duncan will have the December Awards Banquet dinners sign-up list at the General Meeting, and will accept payment for reservations.

2. Maida Williams asked when poppy seeds will be scattered along our portion of Adopt-a-Highway on Hwy 166. Sharon Duncan will research the matter, and plans will be made to scatter seed if members support this project.

### New Business:

1. Sharon Duncan opened a discussion about how the Board can improve the General Meeting Raffle. Bess Shields read a statement from Lucky Virgin (in his absence) concerning his wishes in this matter. A long discussion about possible improvements was held. Debbie Hood moved that we accept Ralph Bishop's generous offer to supply dinosaur bone specimens each month for the next year, that members and guests be issued free raffle tickets when they sign in at the hospitality table, that a committee of Board members monitor the raffle, that we limit raffle items to no more than 20 per meeting, and that all items donated will be distributed or awarded the night they are donated. The new raffle is effective immediately. Rob Bullock seconded the motion. All raffle items must be rock specimens. Other donated items (i.e., jewelry, collecting bags, etc.) will go to either the Country Store or to the Treasure Chest for the 2006 Gem Show. Any specimens collected over the 20 items being raffled that night will be held until the next General Meeting, at which time they will be raffled. There will no longer be money collected for

the General Meeting Raffle. The Raffle should take 15 minutes to conduct. The Raffle Committee will submit a thank you for items donated (to be published monthly in the *Ore-Cutts*). Motion passed.

2. Debbie Hood will still conduct the Abused Children's Fund crystal fundraising raffle for a single quartz cluster at the close of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by President-elect Duncan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

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### Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting  
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA  
8 November 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Lucky Virgin. Flag salute was led by Bess Shields. Invocation was given by Mike Henson.

**Minutes** of the previous Board Meeting were approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report** was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

We had 27 members and 5 guests present. Guests were Mildred Senser, Laurie Duplancich, Merlin Meyer, Erica Erskine, and Kevin McKay.

Lucky turned the meeting over to Sharon Duncan, President-elect. Lucky is still recovering from serious medical issues.

### Committee Reports:

**Annual Awards Banquet:** The sign-up sheet is at the Hospitality Table. Please try to pay for your dinner ahead of time.

**Breakfast:** Ken Kreh reported that the breakfast was probably great, but he wasn't there.

**Bulletin:** Dick Shields reminded us that December is the last issue before articles are submitted for CFMS competition.

**CFMS:** Wes Lingerfelt was unable to attend the meeting in Visalia this year due to illness. Dick Shields represented OMS at the Directors' Meeting.

**Field Trips:** The November field trip will be to Avila Beach on 12 November, and will be dictated by inclement or good weather.

**Library:** Geary Sheffer brought a large assortment of books, and a newly donated ammonite video. All items can be checked out by members during the meeting.

**Refreshments:** DeeDee Magri thanked Al Wilcox, the Shields, the VonAchens, Margaret Henson, Jan Ferguson, and Don Nasholm.

**Sunshine:** Debbie Hood welcomed Lucky Virgin back after his recent medical procedures.

**Correspondence:**

See complete list under Board Minutes correspondence.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. By unanimous acclamation, the following were elected as the 2006 Board of Directors:

President	Sharon Duncan
President-elect	Bob Bullock
Secretary	Bess Shields
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt
Board:	Sylvia Nasholm
	Geary Sheffer
	DeeDee Magri
	Debbie Hood
	Wayne Mills

Swearing-in will take place at the Annual Awards Banquet in December.

2. Planting poppies along Highway 166 was brought up by Maida Williams. Wes Lingerfelt moved that we buy one pound of seed to spread. Lucky Virgin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Sharon asked if there was a volunteer to head the Highway Cleanup committee. There were no volunteers, and the next cleanup is on November 19th.

**New Business:**

1. Sharon called for discussion on the proposal concerning Raffle Improvements voted on at the last OMS Board Meeting. Wes Lingerfelt moved that the club accept the recommendations of the board, as written, and form a permanent Raffle Committee to improve, form guidelines, and enforce the raffle rules. Dick Shields seconded the motion. A discussion provided additional ideas from members: hold spare items (over the 20 items per meeting limit) until the next General Meeting where they will be raffled, 3 free tickets given to every person attending, make the raffle fair, quick & reliable so that everyone stands a chance of winning, have Board members and general members on the oversight committee. Motion passed.

Following refreshments, Wayne Mills presented an informative program on "Fossil Turtles". Displays this month were crystals.

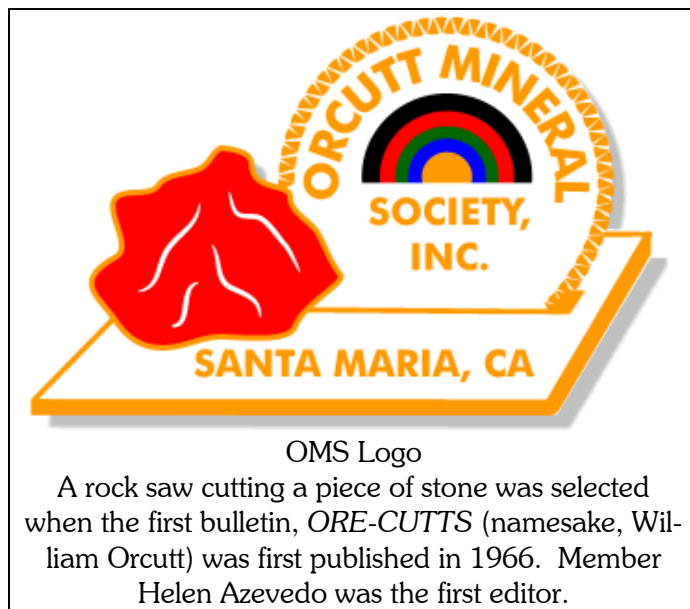
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by President-elect Duncan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Official Stuff

**OMS Purpose**

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a 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 purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



OMS Logo

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

2005 OMS Officers

President	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
President Elect	Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2005 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
DeeDee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2006 OMS Officers

President	Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
President Elect	Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2006 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
DeeDee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

Ore-Cutts Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: "Agate" photos by Paul Howard and "Wanderer" photos by Dick Shields.

OMS Membership dues are \$18 per year. Junior Membership is \$9.00. New membership dues are pro-rated from January 1<sup>st</sup> of the first year.

Notes

**Thank you**

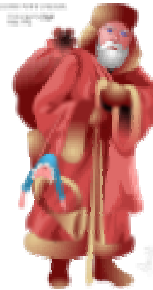
Thank you Al Wilcox, Jan Ferguson, and Helen Smith for recently donating small amounts of polished stone for our "Gem Show Grab Bags" project. The materials are mainly agates, but also contain some Bruneau jasper, obsidian, and brecciated jasper pieces.

It only takes a few donated pieces of polished stone, and a little pre-sewn grab bag to complete the project. We hand out grab bags at school and scout talks, and they are available at the August Gem Show. All proceeds go into our Abused Children's Fund. Love, Bess



**December 2005 Calendar**

Tuesday December 6, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Saturday December 10, 2005 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>Annual Meeting</b> -- Maria Del Sol, 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffet Luncheon                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Members \$7.25</li> <li>◦ Guests \$14.50</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President's Annual Report</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Installation of Officers</li> <li>• "Sweet Adelines" Christmas Performance</li> </ul> Bring canned goods for Goodwill and monetary donations for the Abused Children Fund Call Bill and Debbie Hood at 481-6860 for details.
Saturday December 17, 2005 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	<b>Field Trip to Refugio and Gaviota Beaches</b> – Meet at Mussell Senior Center. Entrance fee required for an all-day pass covering both parks. Bring a lunch - the beach concessions only operate in the Summer. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday December 24, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast</b> – "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria is cancelled. This happens too close to Christmas! Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.



**January 2006 Calendar**

Tuesday January 03, 2006 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday January 10, 2006 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: "Mega-Floods" by Dick Shields</li> <li>• Display: Mystery Rocks – stump the experts</li> <li>• Refreshment: Donuts (care of the OMS Board of Directors).</li> </ul>

Saturday January 14, 2006 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	<b>Field Trip to Jalama Beach --</b> We will depart Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot at 0830. A county park entrance fee is charged for each vehicle so carpooling is encouraged. Walk over beach sand and rock to a travertine outcropping. There is oil on the beach so bring old shoes for the walk. Bring a lunch or eat in the Jalama Café on the beach. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday January 21, 2006 8:00 AM -10:00 AM	<b>OMS Highway Cleanup --</b> Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday January 28, 2006 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast --</b> "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

	Bring a lunch and bottled water. Some hiking required. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday February 25, 2006 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast --</b> "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

**Web Sites of Note:**  
December 2005

<b>Australian agates:</b>
<a href="http://csd.unl.edu/agates/agatepage.asp">http://csd.unl.edu/agates/agatepage.asp</a>
<b>Paul Howard's new Agate Site (Jan 06)</b>
<a href="http://www.queenslandagate.com.au">http://www.queenslandagate.com.au</a>
<b>Quartzsite Gem Shows:</b>
<a href="http://www.quartzsitechamber.com/show_schedule.html">http://www.quartzsitechamber.com/show_schedule.html</a>
<b>Llano Uplift, Texas:</b>
<a href="http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/">http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/</a>
<b>Cave Without a Name:</b>
<a href="http://209.35.235.166/cwan/">http://209.35.235.166/cwan/</a>
<b>Fossil Turtles:</b>
<a href="http://sharktoothhill.com/turtles.html">http://sharktoothhill.com/turtles.html</a>
<b>California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:</b>
<a href="http://www.cfmsinc.org/">http://www.cfmsinc.org/</a>
<b>American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:</b>
<a href="http://www.amfed.org/">http://www.amfed.org/</a>

**February 2006 Calendar**

Tuesday February 7, 2006 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting --</b> Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday February 14, 2006 7:00PM – 9:00 PM	<b>OMS General Meeting --</b> Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: TBD</li> <li>• Display: Best Natural Heart-shaped Rock or Pink Rocks</li> <li>• Refreshment: Cakes, Cupcakes</li> </ul>
Saturday February 18, 2006 8:00AM – 5:00 PM	<b>Field Trip to Jade Cove --</b> Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Observational trip to a classic location.

Orcutt Mineral Society P.O. Box 106 Santa Maria, CA 93456
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED