



Ore-Cutts

Volume LI Number 12

December 2017



The Pres Box— December 2017

Wayne Mills, OMS President

Well, we almost made it through 2017. We have our Annual meeting at Madonna Inn (December 9) to look forward to, and then we can surge into the excitement of the Holiday Season —

assuming that your Thanksgiving dinners have worn off by now.

We had a great program from Jim Mills at our November meeting, and I am going to try to convince him and Beth to come back next year. If any of you readers have an idea for a program, or feel like giving one, PLEASE contact me at the e-mail address or phone number given on page 9.

As my (5th) term as your President comes to an end, I want to thank our hard-working Board for all their help and support (and a little nagging) throughout the year. Many or all of the current Board will be back in some capacity next year. Please join me in thanking them **sincerely** for all they do, and have done to make our club and our gem show as highly respected as we are (it is). Sylvia will have several chair positions to fill to make next year another stellar one. **PLEASE** consider volunteering to help with or assume one of the available positions. Remember, you get out of a thing what you put into it—sometimes more!

Here's wishing you a happy holiday (which ever one you celebrate), and a prosperous, adventurous, happy and healthy New Year! Rock on!

Wayne



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Brown	12/1	♈
Truman Burgess	12/6	♊
Renaee Sutcliffe	12/15	♋
Peggy W. Johnson,	12/22	♏

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob (and Rosie) Bullock	12/9
Sir Paul (and Lady Marie) Howard	12/10

***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 (April 2018)*

CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

It is time for our Annual Christmas gift exchange during our Luncheon at the Madonna Inn. As a reminder, participation is voluntary. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped ROCK related \$10.00 gift. You pick a number when you enter. First up chooses a gift and opens it for all to see. Second person called can choose a gift and open it OR steal the first gift chosen, which sends that person back to the pile. And so it goes down through the list. The strategy comes in play when you understand a gift **may only be stolen twice** before it is out of play.

Whether you choose to participate or not, watching it all play out is a lot fun. See you at the Madonna on December 9th!

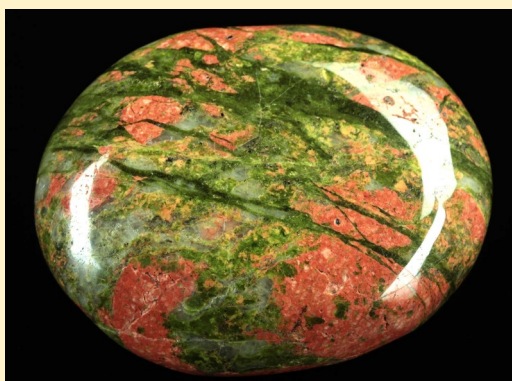


MINERAL OF THE MONTH— Unakite

*Text by Wayne Mills (from Wikipedia).
Photo from majesticquartz.com*

Alright, it is not a mineral (it is an igneous rock), but **it is** green and red in honor of Christmas— (mistletoe and holly and all that). Also called “green granite”, it is, in fact an “altered” granite that was first found in the Unakas Mountains of North Carolina, but is not limited in its distribution area to the United States. (It occurs in South Africa, Sierra Leone, Brazil, and China.) The material is also found on the slopes of Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and on the Shores of Lake Superior.

The main minerals present in Unakite are Epidote (green), Orthoclase Feldspar (Pink), and Quartz (generally colorless). Good specimens of Unakite take a great polish and are considered a semiprecious stone, being used in beads, cabochons, sculptures and eggs among other forms.



LOCAL ROCKS--BICONOIDS

Wayne Mills, Ore Cutts Editor, text by Wayne Mills



*Biconoids from Templeton.
Collection of Ralph Bishop*

halves are approximately equal. They look kind of like the stereotypical UFO. **Biconic** means “two cones” which, in fact, describes the perfect biconoid—two squashed cones joined in the middle. These sedimentary quartz rocks apparently weather

When they were first discovered near Templeton, scientists thought they were a new form of fossil clam. **Biconoids** have a similar bi-lateral symmetry to clams (two equal halves), but they are also **bi-radial** (meaning that if you cut them perpendicular to their midpoint, both

out of rhyolite (an igneous rock) like those found on Highway 46, about Post Mile 8. Many biconoids are found weathered out of their matrix off Las Tablas Road near the Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton.

The January, 2003 issue of the Ore-Cutts has a nice article about Biconoids written by Bea and Sherm Grizelle, former members of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds. The same issue has an article about geodes and biconoids by Ralph Bishop, honorary member of OMS. The Grizzelle’s article was first published in the June 2001 edition of Rock and Gem Magazine.



Biconoid from Templeton atop Multiconoid from Oregon. Collection of Ralph Bishop.

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR DECEMBER

Story *compiled from Wixom’s Jewelers.com, Brilliant Earth.com and <https://www.jewelsforme.com>.*

According to the American Gem Society, there are three stones for December. These are all blue, perhaps reflective of the iciness that we typically associate with that month. The stones are **Turquoise**, **Tanzanite** and **Zircon** (though it comes in other colors, blue is the overwhelming favorite).

Turquoise (Photo [com-monswikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)), is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune



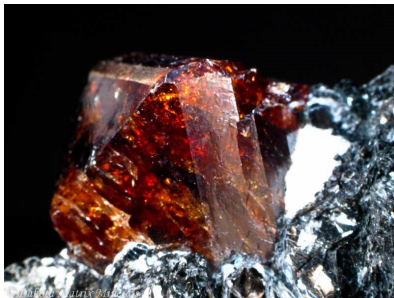
and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.



Tanzanite (Photo javaherb-inia.com) is a one-of-a-kind gemstone and can only be found in one place on Earth, the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. This gem possesses an exotic velvety blue with a rich overtone of purple, a color unlike any other gem. Tanzanite is a member of the Zoisite family, and was discovered in 1967 by a prospector named Manuel d’ Souza who thought they were sapphires. Since they are a relatively recent discovery, not much folklore has been built up around them, but it is thought to have the power to transform negative energies into positive ones. It assists in man-

ifesting your own self rather than being influenced by others or trying to conform to the norm.

Although **Zircon** (Photo dakota-matrix.com) isn't as well-known as some other gems, this stone is a celebrity among geologists. The oldest rock ever discovered was a zircon found in Australia dating 4.4



billion years, nearly as old as the planet itself (the oldest diamonds are 3.3 billion years old). **Zircon** can be found in a rainbow of colors, including blue, brown, green, orange, yellow, red and even clear. Clear zircon is one of the most brilliant non-diamond gems, and was often used as a diamond alternative in the nineteenth century (though **zircon is different than cubic zirconia**, a type of imitation diamond). According to the American Gemological Society, folk wisdom says that zircon has the power to relieve pain, protect travelers and prevent nightmares.

The Birth signs for December are: **Sagittarius** (11/22-12/21 and **Capricorn** (12/22-1/9). Read about Sagittarius in the November Ore-Cutts.

According to <http://astrologyk.com>, the traditional stone for Capricorn is **Garnet** (Photos geology.com, navneetgems.com) as it is used in many ancient calendars as the stone for January when most Capricorns are born. "Capricorn is a zodiac sign where the mystery of the darkest night and the glory of the light merge. The birthstone Garnet symbolizes the crossing of the bridge of darkness before one can reach the radiation of the great white light. It is the conquest of the monster of the self that is the ultimate goal of the Capricorn."



HARD WOOD

By Beth Meyer from a talk by Jim Mills, November 14, 2017

Jim Mills, expert collector of petrified wood and owner of Mills Geological in Creston, gave an educational talk/slide show about how petrified wood becomes petrified. We learned what is required for petrified wood to form - tree or shrub, anaerobic environment, and minerals. Is it rare? No. Does it take millions of years to petrify? No. In the aftermath of a stratovolcanic explosion, wood buried by volcanic ash is penetrated by mineral-laden water, which may fill in the empty spaces of the cells to color the silicon dioxide. Some minerals, such as iron, can produce a myriad of colors in petrified wood. Jim gave us some ideas about where to hunt for petrified wood based on the geologic history he explained, he graciously helped several of our club members identify their own treasures, and he provided the attendees free samples of fascinating petrified wood character pieces.

BITS AND BYTES

Discussion of Lab versus mined diamonds in the jewelry industry

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/nerdcore/will-your-next-diamond-be-from-a-lab>

Virtual tour of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

http://naturalhistory.si.edu/vt3/NMNH/z_NMNH-016.html

KID'S CORNER— ROCK CANDY

Mini Miner's Monthly Volume 8, Number 12

By Elizabeth LaBau, About.com Guide: http://candy.about.com/od/hardcandyrecipes/r/rock_candy.htm. Photo: tiphero.com



Ingredients:

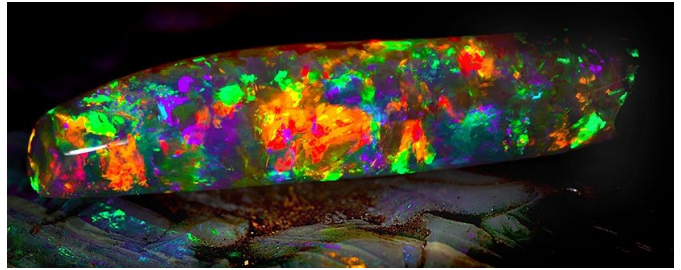
2 cups water

4 cups granulated sugar
1/2-1 tsp of flavoring extract or oil (**optional**)
Food coloring (**optional**)
Glass jar
Skewer or thread (see below)

1. Prepare your materials: wash a glass jar thoroughly with hot water to clean it. Cut a length of thick cotton thread a few inches longer than the height of the jar, and tape it to a pencil. Place the pencil across the lip of the jar, and wind it until the thread is hanging about 1 inch from the bottom of the jar. Attach a paper clip to the bottom of the thread to weight it and ensure it hangs straight down. Alternately, you can use a wooden skewer as the base of your rock candy, and use clothespins balanced across the top of the jar to clip it into place.
2. Wet your thread or wooden skewer, and roll it in granulated sugar. This base layer will give the sugar crystals something to “grab” when they start forming. Set the thread or skewer aside to dry while you prepare your sugar syrup.
3. Place the water in a medium-sized pan and bring it to a boil. Begin adding the sugar, one cup at a time, stirring after each addition. You will notice that it takes longer for the sugar to dissolve after each addition. Continue to stir and boil the syrup until all of the sugar has been added and it is all dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat.
4. If you are using colors or flavorings, add them at this point. If you are using an extract, add 1 tsp of extract, but if you are using flavoring oils, only add ½ tsp, and make sure you don’t stand right in front of the pan—the scent can be very strong as it rises in the steam. Add 2-3 drops of food coloring and stir to ensure even, smooth color.
5. Allow the sugar syrup to cool for approximately 10 minutes, then pour it into the prepared jar. Lower the sugared string or skewer until it hangs about 1 inch from the bottom.
6. Carefully place your jar in a cool place, away from harsh lights, where it can sit undisturbed. Cover the top loosely with plastic wrap or paper towel.
7. You should start to see sugar crystals forming within 2-4 hours. If you have seen no change to your skewer or thread after 24 hours, try boiling the sugar syrup again and dissolve another cup of sugar into it, then pour it back into the jar and insert the string or skewer again.
8. Allow the rock candy to grow until it is the size you want. Don’t let it grow too large, otherwise it might start growing into the sides of your jar! Once it has reached the size you want, remove it and allow it to dry for a few minutes, then enjoy or wrap in plastic wrap to save it for later.

OPALPHOBIA

Barbara McCondra From the September, 1998 Ore-Cutts and the American Opal Society’s “Opal Express”, June 1998. Photo cnet.com



The McCondra Report is addressed to the opal wusses of the world that stand stoop-shouldered at the opal dealer’s booths at rock and gem club shows. They look sad and whine as they shift their weight from one foot to the other and tell me of their “fear” of opal. I understand for about two seconds, then launch into my tirade that tells of legitimate fears: drive by shootings, car wrecks, earthquakes, and the IRS. Then I scoff at fearing to touch opal to the wheel. I share my favorite story. I learned to polish Yowah Nut opal specimens with no other instructions than I give here. I turned on my little Pixie lapidary cutting machine and held the stone (in order from left to right) against each wheel for about 15 seconds each, turning the stone 90 degrees for each wheel, and rinsing with clear water after each wheel. I had a reasonably polished matrix opal nut specimen. Where is the mystery? Where is the challenge that so many would-be customers express to the dealer about their fear of cutting opal? Where is the basis for the terror my customers have been known to express to me?

It was a piece of bolder opal, but the same holds true of all opal. The basics are exactly that, basic. Is the fear really concern that you will blow the money you spent? If this is the case, choose inexpensive opal. Some pieces cost only 1 to 3 dollars. If you can’t afford this, you need to take your pleasure in long walks in the park, or cutting found rock, not bought rock. Look at the experience as the goal. Lapidary work is growing, experiencing, and learning. The final finished product is a bonus. I can only suggest that you play with what you can afford. Go for it. Put the rough to the wheel after you have looked at it and thought about it. Just give it a try. However, **rub (grind) it a little, look a lot** is the basic directive here. Do some reading—there are quite a few articles and books out there these days. Then again, put the rough opal to the wheel.

The key here is your expectations. If you fear that

your 3 dollar to 20 dollar purchase will not get you a \$1000 opal, then your fears are **not** ungrounded. I know you think “that’s easy for her to say, she can go dig one out of her mine if she messes up the cutting.” Excuse me, but I have messed up many. It took thousands of dollars, time, blood, sweat and tears to acquire the opal rough. The terror I often felt in the deep underground mining experience had to be walked (in this case climbed) aggressively past, and the dirt had to be moved. The opal eventually came. So it is with cutting opal. A stone will come of your efforts; it is you expectations that can get in the way. I reckon you too can get past that by always buying rough that you can afford that can be expected to get you a stone, and then just get down to bringing out the color. I didn’t dig in my Arizona back yard to find opal, I dug in the middle of an opal field in Australia. You can’t get a finished gemstone of opal if you can’t see the color bar. Cutting an opal to find the color bar is like shoveling through the earth to find the opal.

Repeatedly, the meek lapidary tells me it is so easy to rub (grind) past the color bar. Yes, if the colorbar is microscopically thin, and the wheel is incredibly rough grit, or your pressure on the wheel is extreme. Rub a little, look a lot. Cut your opal as though you were shaving the face of a friend but remember, cutting the opal is not life or death. With instruction, demonstration and encouragement, Clark Kent opal cutters can become Superman. Patience. Follow the basics; enjoy the moment, the birthing of a stone, the learning experience. Enjoy the feel of opal on the wheel from the rough matrix grinding away to the smooth whine of the final polish stages. Freeform shapes are much easier to achieve than trying to force a flawless cabochon shape onto a clay-filled, unevenly-barred stone. Cutting an opal is not crossing a freeway blindfolded. The stone reveals itself to you as you cut or grind, and commonsense decisions can then be made—not with trepidation, but with curiosity.

I believe the popular comparison here is that it is not rocket science. The challenge comes later with more experience when your expectations can grow and you attempt to achieve superb polishes as opposed to acceptable ones. Secrets and tips both researched out or accidentally stumbled upon become part of your expertise. Learning to listen to the stone as it tells you how it should be cut and possibly malleably stretching it to achieve a little more with your skills on the wheel born of past experience. This experience, I might add, was born of experimenting without fear, but with respect for the characteristics of the opal. Let the fun of learning be your goal and raise your expectations and quality of rough a bit at a time. Come on guys, maybe you can never cut that piece of rough in the jar of water because it is so gorgeous to look at in the rough form. Get yourself enough pieces to hang onto the meditative jar specimen. Several practice pieces, and then the “cutter”.

Very young grandchildren of lapidaries show remarkable results because they haven’t had years to build up these fears and objections on how they can fail to cut and opal. Toss that procrastination aside, put the rough to the wheel and enjoy!

*The photo shown at the top of is article is the **Virgin Rainbow**, a \$1,000,000 opal called the finest ever unearthed. Found in Coober Pedy, Australia in 2003, the Rainbow is an opalized cephalopod mollusk called a Belemnite that lived during the Mesozoic Era. The specimen measures 2.5 by 0.56 inches.*

TYPES OF OPAL

Read more at <http://geology.com/gemstones/opal/#precious>



This picture from Geology.com illustrates some of the different types of opal. **Row 1 (l to r)—Precious Opal, Dark (or black) Opal, Fire Opal** (may or may not have play of color), **Crystal Opal** (Lightning Ridge, Australia). **Row 2 (l to r)—Pinfire Opal** (Constellation Mine, Spencer, Idaho), **Contra-Luz Color Play Opal, Harlequin Opal** (blocky fire patches), **Boulder Opal** (Australia). **Row 3 (l to r)—Fire Opal** (may or may not have play of color), **Peruvian Blue Opal** (no fire), **Cat’s Eye Opal** (Spencer, Idaho), **Morado (Purple) Opal** (Mexico). **Row 4 (l to r)—White Opal** (Coober Pedy, Australia), **Matrix Opal** (Andamooka, Australia), **Common Opal** (Mexico), **Synthetic and Assembled** (doublet and triplet) **Opals**.

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce
November 7, 2017**

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm. Board members present were: Wayne Mills, Jan Ferguson, Sharon Duncan, Jeanne Watkins Brown, Dyanna Cridelich, Sylvia Nasholm, Sally Griffith, Debbie Hood and Renea Sutcliffe. Alexis Van Natta was absent. Dick Bazzell was our guest.

Minutes: Minutes from general meeting are printed in the newsletter. No additions or corrections. Accepted as printed.

Treasurer's report: Jeanne Watkins Brown presented the Treasurer's report. Checking and savings total over \$25,000. Tax return is due on November 15 and is taken care of. The Abused Children's fund has \$688.62 and is on target for the goal of \$750.00. A motion was made by Debbie Hood to give the Salvation Army a \$50.00 donation. It was seconded by Jeannie Brown and passed by the board. Treasurer's Report was accepted as given.

Correspondence: No correspondence as yet this month.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: The Bulletin is out. It is looking good. Sylvia Nasholm is a great editor. No corrections or additions.

CFMS: There is a Federation meeting on November 11. Wayne Mills will be attending. In 2018, there will only be one week instead of two at Zyzx and Camp Paradise. There may not be a CFMS show next year because no one has come forth to sponsor it.

Field Trips: A field trip to Cliff Brewens' is scheduled for November 18th from 8:00 am till 2:00 pm. If you want to tailgate and sell, please show up at 7:00 am. The address is 6384 Monterey Road in Paso Robles. More information is on page 9 of the November Bulletin.

Highway Cleanup: Our next Highway cleanup will be held November 11, 2017 at 8:00am. Members will meet on the Southeast corner of Highways 101 and 166 East.

Membership: Dyanna Cridelich has given out a number of membership applications and hopes to get them back soon.

Refreshments: November is cookie month. Sally Griffith says that cookies will be brought by Debbie Hood, Truman Burgess, the Azevedos and Dick Bazzell

Sunshine: Alexis Van Natta is a little under the weather but is getting better quickly.

Scholarship: Nothing this month.

Breakfast: November 25th at Denny's in Santa Maria at 8:30 am.

Education: Tina Clark, the President of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds, asked Wayne Mills if he would cut some rocks for Oceano Elementary School. That project turned into a talk on Tuesday, November 7. Wayne brought his box of rocks and proceeded to talk about the Life of a Rock, the rock cycle and several other interesting topics for 40 second graders.

Library: Alexis Van Natta said she wanted to update the OMS library since we have many VHS tapes that not many people can play. She asked Wes Lingerfelt if he knew of a way to transfer the VHS tapes to DVD's and he said yes. After the holidays, they will transfer these VHS tapes to a form the club can use in our programs and that members can check them out and watch at home.

Show: Sharon Duncan is working on upgrading our dealer contracts for next year. Sharon said that Scott may rent canopies for our next show. That would include helping set them up and take them down. The details have not been finalized as of yet. Possibly \$50.00 for the 3 days would be fair with a small donation coming back to the OMS. Sharon will check into this and let us know.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting/ Madonna Inn Luncheon will take place on Saturday, December 9th, 2017. It will begin at 12:00 noon and go until 3:00 pm. Last month OMS members voted for the entrees they would like to have. We will be having your choice of Roast Turkey Breast, Petite Monterey Salmon Filet or Portobello Mushroom (for the vegetarians). For dessert, we will be having the Black Forest Cake with Cherries.

The cost of the meals are as follows: The Roast Turkey and the Portobello Mushroom will cost members \$12.00 and non-members \$24.00. The Salmon Filet will cost members \$14.00 and non-members \$28.00. ALL Reservations and Monies must be given to Dyanna Cridelich by December 1st. If you have a question or a problem, please contact Dyanna.

Those of you who want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a rock-related gift that is worth \$10.00 and don't forget to bring a can or two for the food drive.

Old Business:

Report from the Nominating Committee: Sharon Duncan (Chair), Sylvia Nasholm and Elaine Von Achen. Nominations: President: Sylvia Nasholm, President Elect: vacant, Secretary: Dyanna Cridelich, Treasurer: Jeanne Watkins Brown, Past President: Wayne Mills. For the Board, 7 members: Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Debbie Hood, Bill Brown, Dick Bazzell, Alexis Van Natta and Renea Sutcliffe. We need a Bulletin Editor.

Wayne Mills will help with the monthly programs if no one steps forth for the President Elect position.

It was decided that we will have a paper ballot for all the positions in case anyone wants to write in a person's name. We will vote at the November general meeting.

New Business:

Jim Mills will be giving the program for November. He will be speaking on the Formation of Petrified Wood. Since Jim and his wife are coming from a considerable distance, we will ask for a change in the order of business so that Jim goes first.

The display for November will be Petrified Wood.

Wayne Mills picked up a big box of Rocks from Jon of Orcutt, and also has been given rocks from Wes Lingerfelt to use as door prizes.

The Santa Lucia Gem Club will be having a program with the "Rock Stacking Lady" at the Templeton Community Center on the third Monday of November (20th) at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Debbie Hood wanted to give a head's-up about a nasty new flu (H2N7) and to remind us all to get flu shots.

President Wayne Mills adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary, OMS

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
General Meeting
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA
November 14, 2017**

President, Wayne Mills, called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Mike Henson gave the invocation. Wayne Mills gave the flag salute.

Greetings to members and guests: 25 members present and 5 guests. Guests are Wes Wilson, Laura Barthow, Jim Mills, Beth Myers and Sharon Willis.

Due to the distance travelled by our speakers and guests, we voted on a meeting order change. We proposed that the program be presented first and the general meeting afterward. Debbie Hood made the motion, Renea Sutcliffe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Program for November is presented by Jim Mills of Mills Geological, Creston, CA. He will be speaking on the Formation of Petrified Wood.

Minutes: Minutes for the Board are published in the Bulletin.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer was not at the meeting. No report submitted.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Refreshments: Sally Griffith said that tonight is cookie night. Many thanks to Debbie Hood, Truman Burgess and Dick Bazzell.

Annual December Luncheon: December 9th at 12 Noon is our annual membership meeting at the Madonna Inn.

Last month we voted for the entrees and the winners were: Roast Turkey Breast and Petite Monterey Salmon Filet. The Vegetarian entrée will be the Portobello Mushroom. The Dessert will be the Black Forest Cake with Cherries.

We had planned to charge a higher price for guests, however Wes Lingerfelt said that it may not be legal to have different prices for members and guests. It was decided to charge the same price for all attending. The cost for the Roast Turkey and the Portobello mushroom will be \$12.00 and the cost for the Salmon Fillet will be \$14.00. Please get your reservation and monies to Dyanna Cridelich by December 1st. If you have any problems, please call or drop Dyanna an email.

If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a rock-related gift worth \$10. Don't forget to bring a couple of cans for the can drive.

Breakfast: Bill Hood says that the November breakfast will be at the Denny's in Santa Maria at 8:30AM on November 25th, 2017. **This is the last club breakfast of the year.**

Bulletin: Please submit any rock related articles by the 20th of the month to Wayne Mills. Elisabeth Nybo has volunteered to take over doing the Bulletin for the coming year. Thank you so very much.

Door Prizes. Renea Sutcliff has a wide array of wonderful items; Tonight's prizes are from Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills and Sylvia Nasholm.

Field Trips: Cliff Brewen's Rock Sale. It will feature Nipomo Agate, Sagenite, Marcasite (Bob Baker Collection). It will be on Saturday, November 18th at 6384 Monterey Road, Paso Robles. Vendors set up at 7. It is open from 8-3.

Highway Cleanup: Our last Highway clean-up was held Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 8:00am. There were 6 members present. Geary Sheffer won a crystal sphere.

Membership: Dyanna Cridelich says that we still need to get the badge to Moniah.

CFMS: Wayne Mills gave a report on the CFMS Director's Meeting in Visalia.

Scholarship: none to report

Sunshine: All seems well.

Education: (Wayne Mills) Wayne gave a talk to 2nd graders at Oceano Elementary.

Property: (Gearsy Sheffer) Nothing now

Library: (Alexis Van Natta) No One has asked for any books or tapes this month.

Show: Sharon Duncan will be show Dealer Chair for the 2018 show

Old Business: None

New Business:

Voting for the board members (Ballot)
For President—Sylvia Nasholm
For President Elect—Vacant
For Secretary—Dyanna Cridelich
For Treasurer—Jeanne Watkins Brown
Choose 5 for the Board—Sally Griffith, Alexis Van Natta, Dick Bazzell, Debbie Hood, Renea Sutcliffe, Bill Brown, Jan Ferguson

The voting took place and the results for the Board are:

Sylvia Nasholm for President
Dyanna Cridelich for Secretary
Jeanne Watkins Brown for Treasurer
Board Members:
Dick Bazzell, Bill Brown, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith and Debbie Hood

The December Board Meeting is both incoming and outgoing Boards.

We had 5 members display their favorite petrified wood: Wayne Mills had a beautiful large display. Sylvia Nasholm displayed lovely wood from Tuscarora, 9-1-1998. Alexis Van Natta displayed a really nice piece of wood that she collected. Dyanna Cridelich displayed a firewood sphere from Holbrook. The Ferguson's displayed a nice collection of wood from Africa, India, South America and Antarctica.

Thank you to everyone who displayed.

Wayne Mills will be helping with programs for 2018. Please get your suggestions to him and let him know if you will help with a "Four Folks, Four Field Trips" program. One night will be a show and tell, so be thinking about what you want to show.

President Wayne Mills adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary, OMS

OMS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2017

Tuesday, December 5 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. (Meeting for both incoming and outgoing Boards). All members are welcome at this meeting.
Saturday, December 9 12:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting Madonna Inn. Awards, Installation and gift exchange.
Tuesday, December 12	Happy Hanukkah!
Monday, December 25	Merry Christmas!
Tuesday, December 26	Happy Kwanzaa!

JANUARY 2018

Tuesday, January 2 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. All members are welcome at this meeting.
Tuesday, January 9 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting—Luis Oasis Senior Center. Program—Agates! Display—Agates Refreshments—Donuts—Club provides
Saturday, January 13 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up at southeast corner 101/166 East
Saturday, January 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast—Denny's, Santa Maria

SANDY BERTHELOT COLLECTION AT SPHEREHEAVEN

Sandra Berthelot's collection of rocks and crystals is for sale on Wes Lingerfelt's web site:

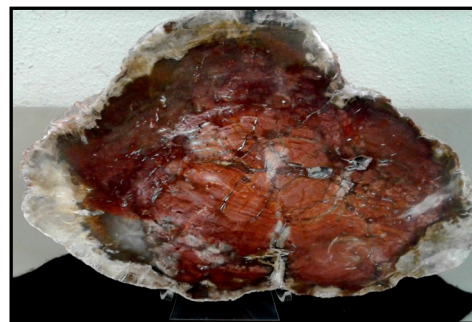
Sphereheaven.com. Look for "Sandy's Treasures". There are a LOT of them, and at very reasonable prices. Please check the pages out! More specimens added each day.



2017-OMS Officers		
President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
President-Elect	Sharon Duncan	805) 478-9359
Secretary	Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
Treasurer	Jeanne Watkins	(805) 481-1811
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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 Dyanna Cridelich (805) 937-4347		
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 .		
Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	wwmills50@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER MEETING DISPLAYS

Photos by Wayne Mills



Sylvia Nasholm, found at Tuscarora, Nevada 9/1/1992



Wayne Mills, Pet Wood Collection



"Fire wood" Holbrook, Arizona, by Dyanna Cridelich



Display by Jan Ferguson

CFMS SHOWS DECEMBER

December 9 - 10: RIALTO, CA
 Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
 Near Rialto City Hall Lot
 105 South Palm Avenue
 Hours: 9 - Dusk daily
 Contact: Jessica Pierson, (909) 381-0089
 Email: OBMSTailgateInfo@gmail.com
 Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

JANUARY (2018)

January 20 - 21: EXETER, CA
 Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
 Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building
 324 N. Kaweah Avenue
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
 Contact: Margaret Buchmann, (559) 799-6034
 Email: margaretbu03@gmail.com
 Website: www.tulegem.com



Display by Jeannie Beattie

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106**

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.