



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIV Number II

February 2010



**Come join us on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center at 510 E. Park Street, Santa Maria for a program by Ralph Bishop on**

### ***Central Coast Fossil Concretions***

The **display theme** is, ***Central Coast Rocks or Heart-shaped rocks***, but as always, you may display any mineral related items you like.

The **refreshments** will be **Pies** provided by Roger Lehman, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Sandy Berthelot & Sylvia Nasholm. If your name is not on this list and you feel compelled to bring something, or something else, go for it!

Guests of all ages are always welcome to attend any of our meetings! The meeting includes a speaker or demonstration, social time, a door prize, and refreshments. Meetings are always interesting and educational.

### **Prez Box**

WOW that was a fast month! I want to begin by thanking each and every one of you who brought their treasures for the display. It was a generous turnout, and my goodness; they were all beautiful. Thank you. I can't wait to see what you come up with in the heart shaped category!

Brian Schull was amazing, his points beautiful. He seems to have the "touch", the "knowing" of exactly where each piece needs a snap and what each piece should best become. A few of his stones held a surprise for him but not many. My only question of this safety conscientious Knapper is – why always the short pants?!? He nicked his shin during the demonstration. Ouch!! Thanks also to Ralph Bishop for the commentary and help he provided Brian. It's a difficult program at best. Since we had no

volunteers for the Breakfast Club leader, I will take on the duty. My plan is to rotate between the Girls in Arroyo Grande and the Hometown Buffet in Santa Maria, maybe the Golf course grill from time to time. Mull it over, I'll ask for your input at the meeting on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Also, the posted time to arrive is 0900 but the Hoods and the Nasholms walked in the door of the Girls at 0845 and we were the last to show up. So, if you get hungry earlier, Wes and Jeanie and a few of the others will always be there to welcome you, so feel free to show up earlier. Stan and Brenna Ferguson won the prizes, a set of condor agate beads and a set of charoite in matrix bead both sets could also be set as cabs. We had thirteen members and one quest. (Wes & Jeanie, Paul & Sandy, Bill & Debbie, Don & Sylvia, Stan, Jan & Brenna, Lucky, Gloria and Sylvia's brother Nick) Everyone seemed to enjoy their meal and I hope the same will hold true when we revisit the Hometown Buffet in Santa Maria on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, in the words of Lou Holtz: "Attitude is a choice, attitude is everything!" See you all on the 9<sup>th</sup> and please feel free to join us at the Board Meeting if you would like.

Sylvia Nasholm, President OMS

### **Welcome**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to new members Jeanne & Bill Brown, and Donna Lehman!

### **FRENCH CONNECTION**

**By Ralph Bishop**

During my half century of being a rockaholic I have evolved from a cute innocent pebble pup to the rather weather worn crusty old skutler I am today. During this evolutionary period my journey has been guided by a diverse group of personalities. From the most genteel demur ladies that ever graced the earth to the most obnoxious hell-bound Neanderthals that

ever slunk out of the devil's lair. There was a wild-eyed homosexual anarchist who carried automatic assault rifles and a fire breathing Southern Baptist preacher, capitalist pigs to communists, thieving numb-nutters to PHD'ers (sometimes one and the same), Rednecks to tweed attired "Fellows" and a rocket scientist thrown in for good measure. But this true story concerns my "French Connection". Two exceptional individuals from Provence, France: Rolan, a 50'ish gentleman anarkeest, one of the most advanced "fosseel" collectors in France and his lovely lady of 30 years, Veronique.

Rolan and Veronique were sponsored in part by the National Museum of France on worldwide expeditions and they did exceptional preparation work for that institution. They were of course, French and considered their culture as superior to the otherwise barbarian population of the earth. These two "Frogs" (one early French flag sported the image of a frog) and this barbarian were quite compatible though as they had a great sense of humor and were real "Fosseel experts," and I was a "Production specialist." Many summers we plundered (Oops! I mean casually collected) "fosseels" in many western states. I am proud to say when they were married her wedding ring was graced by a stone I cut of the highest quality Holly Blue agate. When I asked how they had come to be together, Rolan piped up, "I had a fosseel shop in a small village in Provence and thees young women came to work for me. I am very much the gentleman you know but then she "Seeduce" me..." (whispering out loud like Pepe La Pue.) Veronique bolted to her feet incredulously blasting him with rapid-fire French invectives. After a few calming words from Rolan, Veronique settled back down and explained that she was the "Seeducee". "He was a handsome older man who promised to show her the world away from her boring village." (Boring: Mediterranean coastal village with castles, surrounded by fields of lavender and grapes, azure seas on one side, the Alps on the other). "So he takes me to desert in Morocco, Libya and now "these" oil field in Coalinga" (Ladies, does this sound familiar?). Then she smiled and said, "But I love these "dirty old man," (to be fair he *was* dirty from digging all day). "You are also a dirty, not so old man, maybe I should introduce you to my "seester." Do you like French girls?" she asked, with a coy smile. Does a Salmon

swim upstream, I thought, but I said, "Does she like "Fosseels?"

We were digging at the time at Monocline Ridge in the sediments of the Middle Miocene Temblor Formation where fossils of a once great inland sea comparable with the Shark Tooth Hill location existed. Here, though, the strata on the west side of the San Joaquin was tilted into a near vertical position by the San Andreas Fault that was only a few miles to the West. Here lay the premier location of one of the most rare Miocene marine mammals in America, *Desmastylus Hesperus*, commonly called a "Sea Cow" and its cousin *paleoparadoxia*. These creatures were more like a marine hippopotamus than today's Sea Cow and ate mollusks (clams,), which they shoveled out of the sandy ocean bottom with elephantine tusks. As a matter of fact it was this type of animal that evolved into Elephants. The prize specimens were the tusks and teeth as the bones were usually degraded. All age groups were found here which pointed to a rich breeding and calving zone. Outside of a strata of *ostrea vesperana* (Oyster) and a few sand dollars, the ridge was barren of fossils except for a 2 foot wide strata of crushed shell, *Coquina*, about 90 yards long on a steep incline.

The tusks looked like miniature elephant's tusks up to 2 ½ inches long and the teeth were exceptionally strange columnar cusps clustered together with substantial roots. While most "desmo" teeth from other locations are cream to white in color these were jet-black ivory due to the manganese content of the sediment. They are striking!

Because the strata was near vertical we would cut a bench into the *Coquina* strata and then trench in on either side until we had a large block exposed. We would then drive wood wedges at the back of the block, and roll out substantial pieces. These then would be rolled onto the tailings bench and Veronique would carefully take apart the blocks and extract matrix specimens. These were striking jet black, shiny ivory tusks and molars in snow white crushed shell *Coquina*. Veronique's expertise was second to none...and...she would sing to the warm spring breeze "Somewhere in the Night," in French, while working. The San Joaquin valley had never before or since heard such alluring sound.

Unfortunately, at lunch I broke the cultural spell. I pulled out a can of chicken soup as I often did, and ignoring etiquette, cut the lid off with my knife and guzzled the contents, wiped my chin with my dirty

shirt sleeve and tossed the can down the tailing pile; clang! tink, tink, tink, (it was a long tailing pile) tink, clunk and then let out a well-tuned basal, Burrrrrrp!

“Rolan!” Veronique said, “Ralwh eat can! “Oy yoy yoy, Ralwh, you are Barbosa, worse than Spaneesh! I can no longair meet you with my seester!” Oops! My culturally challenged green house gases dashed all hopes of international relations.

A year later we were in Wyoming for a couple of months digging fossil fish in the famous green river shales. One time we took a couple of days off to visit the Bad Lands to the south of the quarries. They are quite extensive rolling hills of Bentonite (the main ingredient of drywall) derived from fine ash falls that landed in the Eocene lake Goshute. They are mostly buff white but at intervals there are red and green bands, the mineral remnants of lush aquatic vegetation. The environment was much different in these 40 million year old formations. Instead of high desert plains there were a myriad of lakes, a tropical area with palms, alligators and garfish probably similar to Florida. Very often at these color interfaces exceptional fossils can be found peeking out of the Bentonite. As we drove we noticed one particular set of hills with coloration and soon came to a dusty ranch road leading into the area. Rolan said, “I wonder if “ranchair” would let us hunt fosseels” and he smiled at Veronique. Veronique replied, “You give me 5 minutes with “ranchair” I get “permizzion”, 10 minutes, I own zee ranch!” and she disappeared behind the curtain in the motor home.

As we drove down the long ranch road Veronique was singing in French. Just before we drove up to the ranch house she again appeared. Gulp! *She own zee ranch!*

She exited the motor home like a spring breeze and slowly sauntered (that’s a French term, there are no words in English to describe it) up to the weather beaten ranch house. There on the porch was the Ranchair; 6’ 2” and an axe handle at the shoulders, with a tattered hat with 10 sweat rings and obviously chewing a large wad of tobacco. He was leaned up against a porch support.

I could not make out the words but it sounded somewhat like a spoken version of “Somewhere in the night” as this petite “dove” looked up at this mountain of a man. He seemed a little nervous, looking to one side and then to the other. Where to spit his tobacco juice in the presence of a French goddess? And then it happened, Veronique reached

up and put her hand on his bronzed forearm (“a thank you gesture”, Rolan said). Rolan and I could plainly see his Adam’s apple move up and down. Gawd! He’d swallowed the tobacco juice and the expression on his face showed marked distress. Veronique walked back to the motor home and upon entering said, “we own zee ranchair, he swallow grasshoppier juice! Redneck Oui! Oui! Oui!

As we drove toward the color banded bad lands I said, “You can tell if you are a Redneck if your after dinner entertainment is drinking a case of beer and watching a bug zapper”. “What is a boog zapier?” they asked. It took me a while to explain, and as we pulled up to a knob of Bentonite they shook their heads wondering if “Cowboy Bush” had boog zapier?

As we climbed to the green zone we found black shiny triangles from ½ to 1” in length from a armored garfish. As we traveled along the color change, more garfish scales appeared along with badly weathered turtle shell platelets and alligator bones. In some areas you could see where an entire turtle had “melted” out of the Bentonite completely bleached white by the sun and, disarticulated, had been strewn down slope.

Rolan reminded me not to waste time looking at these but, instead, to look for 1 piece sticking out of the Bentonite with no other bones or shell platelets around. This is where you might find the fossil under the surface, hopefully complete. Although it was difficult not to bob and weave picking up platelets and vertebrae here and there, he was right, so I tried to ignore the naturally destroyed fossils. Rounding a corner, a small gray triangle stuck out of the soft weathered Bentonite. I brushed away the decomposed Bentonite. There was a section of shell stuck to it. Bentonite is a strange rock. It is extremely hard clay-like rock until it gets wet. Then it expands and turns into a slurry and runs like melted ice cream. When it dries it turns into a powder like dirt. Another 5 years of weathering and this turtle would have melted, been bleached by the sun and been destroyed by the freeze and thaw action of the weather.

It took me about 2 hours to carefully chip around the shell, leaving about 6 inches on all sides, so I ended up with a flat oval of matrix that weighed about 50 pounds. This was a trionyx or soft-shelled turtle the locals called a raindrop turtle because of the many small round cups in its shell. Except for around the “head” of the shell triangular broad spikes protrude from the sides of the shell. This one was

about 20" long and 1' wide. This was a baby. We had seen one earlier that must have been 5' in diameter, that once composed the top of a small knob. The weathering had destroyed it as the Bentonite above and around it had turned to slurry and the trionyx broken up by the freeze-thaw was strung over a 25' diameter area in thousands of pieces. This once museum piece was now a crying shame. If we had been hunting on BLM land, collecting would be a felony punishable by fine and/or 5 years in Federal prison. These laws initiated by museum lobbying efforts allow millions of bad land fossils to be destroyed by weather. But to their misguided thought and greed, that is OK, as long as they have the power to "protect" the fossils exclusively for themselves.

As I was carrying the turtle to the motorhome, Veronique cried out from the top of a high knob. "Alligator! 3 Alligator!" Rolan and I hurried up to the knob and we all looked over a moon like landscape. Below was a broad oval flat sink about 200 yards in diameter. There in the middle of the sink were the "shadows" of 3 large alligators in the white Bentonite. We rushed down into the sink to the alligators. Upon arrival we found 3 ten-foot alligators laid out flat in a cluster. Rolan was almost in tears, Veronique dropped to her knees, carrying the bones, with a French lament. Rolan said, "Oh Alligatore, Alligatore, you have died twice!" The shadows we had seen were just that. The weathering had splintered the three museum pieces into tens of thousands of pieces. We three saved 2 trionyx and 4 pond turtles that day. Veronique found the best, a "beebee" only 4" by 3."

As we drove back to town through miles of BLM badlands Rolan talked politics. How many fosseels die twice on people's land? This could not happen in France and we are socialists. How can Republican Cowboy president let BLM be so communist?

As we drove into town Veronique asked Rolan, "We do theater about Redneck and French girl?" Rolan agreed. It seems that the fossil collectors were also thespians who, when they returned to their culturally superior homeland, would perform comedy routines about their interactions with the less culturally advanced barbarians. It was all in good fun though, and being a joker myself, I was interested. When we got to town we stopped at a second hand store and they bought some used clothes, tall cowboy boots and a large worn felt cowboy hat. It looked so ridiculous on Rolan I knew their performance would

be a hit. Add to that the oversized cowboy boots and the culturally significant overalls, I was laughing already, as was the owner of the store. In one corner of the store he also had T-shirts that said, "You know you are a redneck if:" and listed 9 different degradations, including the Bug Zapper, which I bought for Veronique. The last thing I asked for was a Bug Zapper, and to the frogs delight one was available.

For the next two weeks they rehearsed after working hours at the fish quarry. Rolan made a fake snooze wad out of a tea bag filled with coffee. He didn't have a big Adam's apple, so 1/2 of a walnut shell was painted to his skin color. Veronique exaggerated her walk and the allure of her voice. After rehearsal we invited the 4 Wyoming redneck fish diggers for a preview. The beer and the Everclear was passed around the early camp fire, and they all hooted and whistled like a good barbarian audience. They all wanted to peek behind the curtain during the part where Veronique changed clothes, and when she appeared, the "Yee-haws" and whistles echoed off the quarry walls. They almost fell into the fire when Rolan appeared in his oversized Redneck attire. At the end of the theater we all came front and center; Rolan and I took a deep bow, and Veronique curtsied. The howls registered 20 on the Richter scale and then the serious drinking began. Big John asked, "Where is this ranch?" When we told him he said, "That's my uncle Coy!" Veronique asked why he had the name of a Japanese fish? The howling began again. After all the DUI barbarians drove off, we three agreed that the theater was a big hit.

During the lunch break next day, I asked about cultural differences in the world. They thought that American Redneck was amusingly barbarian. I then asked if there were any more barbaric cultures. Yes they said, Islamic Morocco and they told me an interesting story. It seems they have spent quite a bit of time buying trilobites from one village to another. They said the people are hopelessly poor. A rich man had a door on his mud house and a rug. In one village they dropped quite a few francs so the headman invited them to dinner. They showed up on time and were warmly greeted by 6 men. There was a rug on the floor and a large round table a couple of feet off the floor. Dinner was served by a woman who came from behind a curtain. It was in a single large wok like bowl and set in the middle of the table. The woman then retired behind the curtain. The men sat

on the floor around the table and chatted in Moroccan.... until Veronique sat down. Then there was a hush and the headman asked Rolan to step outside. It seems that women were not allowed to eat with the men, and were allowed only to eat whatever the men left. Veronique would have to go behind the curtain and wait to eat until the men had finished. Rolan then called Veronique outside to explain the situation. Imagine a beautiful petite French thermal nuclear device detonation. Veronique told me "I tell Rolan I go tell women to poison all zee male pigs. No more \$ for trilobite, not 1 Franc, never"! The headman must have understood as he went back in and soon returned to say it was OK for Veronique to eat, but not talk. Rolan had a hard time getting her back into the house. They sat down and there was dinner, a large bowl with goat meat, cabbage, onion and a skinned goat head in the middle with tongue and eyes. Veronique said, "most disgusting". Eating for the Moroccans was a free for all of grabbing semi-solid material and stuffing past their beards, and cupping soup in their hands, the latter dripping on their beards. Veronique said "I no stick my hand in "Pig Bowl." Rolan reached in, but Rolan is left-handed! And when he stuck his left hand in the "Pig Bowl" of goat stew... Veronique related, "All pig stop their slopping." All the Moroccans were aghast. You see ladies and gentlemen, in Islamic Morocco, the left hand is used for only 1 thing and that procedure is at the opposite end of the digestive tract. The dinner was thereby cut short and the "Goat Slop" sent back to the women to eat. Veronique said, "We no more eat with Islamic's." "So," I said, "American Redneck culture is superior to Islamic's?" "Oh yes," said Rolan "American Rednecks are most amusing."



### Sunshine

We have not heard of anyone being ill, we hope that means you are all being good and staying well.

### GemFaire

*Moksha Badarayan*

You may already be aware of this, but I just thought you might be interested in the Gem Faire at the Earl Warren Show grounds in Santa Barbara from Feb. 19-21, 2010 (you can get 2 for 1 coupons online: <http://www.gemfaire.com/locations/index.php?location=52> and the entrance fee covers the entire weekend). Once you're on their mailing list, they'll mail you coupons for free & discounted entrance

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fees. They have lots of booths selling beads, but also lots of other mineral specimens - spheres, fossils, etc. They also have an exhibit hall where they have displays & also sell stuff for displays, polishing, and teach classes throughout the event. They hold Gem Faires several times a year at various locations. The last one (in Santa Barbara) was in December & the next one after February is May 21-23, 2010).

### Crystals

By Paul Brethelot

'Tis said Crystals cast magic spells  
'Tis thought inside them tapestries of enchantment dwells,  
For like the stars that at night tyme shine  
Crystals with the moon forever entwine.  
Keepers of Records some think they may be  
Magic Healers in them some say they see,  
Others that the Wisdom of the Ages in them is found  
Or that to a Crystal Muse Tyme's Secret dances round.  
Tapestries weave paintings from the their celestial light  
The sacred tales told by Elestials with enchanted delight,  
And if you hear sweet music faintly ringing in the night's aire  
'Tis the faeries singing to the Crystals in voices faire.  
The Ancients say the Seekers of Knowledge are those who are wise  
Questioning crystals at the twilight's dawning rise,  
And see the painting's tapestries weave by the sacred light  
To learn from the crystals the Earth's secret delights.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Celebrating birthdays in February are Alma DeFreitas, Glenda Reeves,

& Alexis Van Natta. A very **Happy Birthday** to you all!



Celebrating wedding Anniversaries this month are Peggy Johnson and her husband, we wish for you many more!

Lapidary equipment soon to be for sale:  
Diamond Pacific Genie with 6 wheels in excellent condition – Facetron in excellent condition includes lots of extras for more information,  
Contact Sylvia Nasholm at 481-0923.

**Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting,  
Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa  
Maria, Ca. 93454 January 5,  
2010**



Those in attendance: Sylvia Nasholm, Gloria Dana, Don Dana, Mike Henson, Sandy Berthelot, Sharon Duncan and Debbie Hood.

The meeting was called to order by President, Sylvia Nasholm at 7:00 p.m.

There were no minutes for the previous Board Meeting. They will be published in the bulletin and read at the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** was read by Debbie Hood as Wes Lingerfelt, Treasurer, was in Quartzsite. The report was accepted as read.

**Committee Reports:**

**Field Trips:** Debbie Hood reported that Bob Bullock, field trip chairman, has set field trips for the year and has selected November for a tentative trip to Clear Creek. Our Field Trip for this month will be to See Canyon on January 16.

**Highway Clean up:** will be on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter is complete and should be on line shortly. Hopefully by Wednesday, January 6, 2010.

**Refreshments:** Margaret Henson will be purchasing donuts for the General Meeting.

**Show Information:** Wes is handing out applications and information at Quartzsite regarding our upcoming show in August.

**Sunshine:** Margaret and Mike Henson's daughter, Tammy, passed away. She was the mother of Jesse, who was a great help to us at our show last August. Our prayers go out to the family. Al Wilcox is recovering slowly, but may have to remain in the place where he is currently residing.

**Old Business:**

Sylvia noted that our General Meetings would now be held in the smaller of the two rooms at Mussell Center so we will have to come up with a layout plan for set-up.

Build a Shop Committee: Consisting of Jan Ferguson, Debbie Hood, Joe Azevedo, Don Dana, John and Elaine Von Achen. They are in process of setting up a time to get together to discuss a plan of action.

We are still looking for a Junior Leader.

Gloria is looking for someone to take her place in planning the Saturday breakfasts.

Sandy Berthelot asked about the cost of yearly dues to which Sylvia reported as follows:

Individual - \$24.00

Couples - \$34.00

Juniors - \$5.00

One time only Initiation Fee - \$10.00

Debbie is currently putting the fees on the last page of the bulletin.

Tee Shirts - Sharon will be working on this, making sure the inventory is up-dated and will be following up on "new" V-neck designs for the ladies of the club. She will also create a certificate for a "give-away" at the Saturday breakfast. The person who wins will be able to pick a tee shirt in their choice of color and size.

**New Business:**

Wes Lingerfelt will be working on arranging vendor spaces in the social hall of the church as they have erected sound barriers since our last show.

Sylvia went over each committee to see if the committee chairs still wanted to be responsible for their particular committee. So far there are no changes.

Sandy Berthelot, Sharon Duncan and Gloria Dana, Board Members unable to attend the General Meeting swearing in, were sworn in by Debbie Hood.

January's general meeting program will be given by Flint Knapper Brian Schull.

The display for January will be Blue Rocks.

Gloria suggested we bring "Heart shaped rocks" for the February meeting instead of "Rocks from the Central Coast".

The meeting was adjourned by President, Sylvia Nasholm at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Duncan for Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**Orcutt Mineral Society General  
Meeting, Elwin Mussell Sr.  
Center, Santa Maria, Ca.  
January 12, 2010**



President Sylvia Nasholm called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Sheriff, Bill Hood, said everyone had badges.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous board and general meetings were approved as published in the January 2010 newsletter.

**Treasurer's report:** Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as given.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Committee Reports:**

**Abused Children:** Jan Ferguson reported the evening's prizes for the January drawing as a fossilized fish donated by Steve Riegel and won by Truman Burgess, an Aquamarine Specimen won by Jeanne Brown, an Amethyst Scepter won by Brenna Ferguson and a piece of Mookaite won by Bill Brown.

**Breakfast:** January's breakfast will be held at the Girls Restaurant in Arroyo Grande on Grand Avenue on January 23, 2010.

**Budget & Audit:** None.

**Bulletin:** None.

**CFMS:** None.

**Door Prize:** Bob Bullock reported that many items were purchased by Jeannie and Wes Lingerfelt on their recent trip to Quartzsite. Everything was divided up into ten bins, for the ten meetings in 2010, with 20 items in each bin. The 2009 reconciliation has been completed and turned in. \$691.00 has been rolled over into 2010.

**Education:** Wes Lingerfelt would like to take a well-deserved break from giving classes educating children and would like someone else to step in. Moksha Badarayan has agreed to be our new "Educator". Wayne Mills will continue to give classes when asked.

**Historian:** None.

**Hospitality:** Sharon Duncan reported 33 members and 10 guests. Guests were Hunter Bullock, Bob Bullock Sr., Joe Azevedo, Kyanne Skelton, Alisha Taff, Barney Skelton, Kathy Badrak, Karen Osland, Josh Simonson and Brian Shull. Guests were greeted and thanked.

**Field Trip:** Bob Bullock announced the January field trip will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and will be to See Canyon. Members will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Mussell Sr. Center and will caravan to the canyon. The trip will be cancelled if it rains.

**Highway Clean up:** None.

**Library:** None.

**Locker Clean up:** None.

**Membership:** Elaine Von Achen welcomed Bill and Jeanne Brown as new members.

**Political Action Committee:** None.

**Property:** None.

**Refreshments:** Margaret Henson provided donuts for our first meeting of the new year. She has the sign-up sheet for refreshments for this year and will pass it around again in case some members have not had the opportunity to sign it.

**Scholarships:** None.

**Sunshine:** None.

**Old Business:**

Sharon Duncan is working to get new tee shirts ordered for both men and women. She has some great deals on our old stock.

Wayne Mills noted that we had received a check from San Luis Obispo High School for the rental of our club tables along with an extra fee for gas to pick-up and deliver. The gas money went to Wes Lingerfelt and the rest will go into the Abused Children's fund.

Don Dana has set a meeting for Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for the Building Committee. He would like to meet at 718 E. Chapel, Santa Maria.

**New Business:**

Wes Lingerfelt noted that the fees to rent the Pioneer Park facilities for our annual June Barbeque have increased.

Sylvia noted that there will be a Gem Faire Show in Santa Barbara the weekend of February 19<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvia reported that we need a new Chairman for our Monthly Breakfasts.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Sylvia Nasholm at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**Dendrites vs. moss agates:**

**Orbicular Jasper vs. Polka Dot Agate**

*via Rock Chip Reporter, 4/08; via Petrograph, 6/03; ref: Calumet Gem.*

We are usually delighted, but not surprised, to find inclusions in crystals, e.g., quartz of one color or another, rutile, sagenite, and 'stars'. The appearance of inclusions in microcrystalline varieties of quartz, however, have a mysterious ambiance that brings out the name making propensities of collectors. When our vision of inclusions is obscured, our imagination takes hold.

Chalcedony (clear to cloudy), agates (clear but usually banded), and jasper (opaque) are all

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variations of silica oxides, with hardness between 6 and 7, which makes them very suitable for polishing. They may all have included material, and the nature of the inclusion is dictated by the composition of the host rock material and the manner of rock formation. Dendritic chalcedony and moss agate are terms or names frequently applied to the same material. They are basically similar, but dendrites can form not only in chalcedony and agate, but also on limestone and soapstone and some sandstone.

The dendrites, so called from the Greek *dendron*, or tree, are branching structures of mainly manganese and iron oxides, in or on the host material. Dendrites occur in many places in the world, basically whenever water rich in oxides flows across rocks. The dendrites form on a surface and are two-dimensional, like snowflakes or frost crystals on a windowpane. If the rock is chalcedony, the dendrite forms on the surface, but more chalcedony may entomb it. The dendrites are usually earthy, black, brown, or reddish, but near Four Corners, in the eastern Mojave, near the junction of Hwy 58 & Hwy 395, rockhounds reputedly find blue.

The 'mosses' of moss agate, not organic material at all but chlorite or celadonite, are visible impurities in the agate. Scientists attempt to distinguish between the two by determining, if possible, whether the dendrite/moss or the mineral rock formed first. The moss forms while the chalcedony is still gel like and can then form three-dimensional shapes with the stone. Moss agate, also widely distributed, can be a variety of colors, green, black, white, yellow, red, orange, and tan. It is widely used in jewelry, and polishes beautifully, if care is taken not to cut into and pluck the moss.


Multi-colored balls can appear in rhyolite flows. Rhyolite is a fine-grained igneous rock, if it contains sufficient silica to take a brilliant polish, and is sometimes called jasper. Orbicular material usually appears as a mass of rhyolite that has silicated. As the rhyolite cools, sometimes-excess silica starts to precipitate out of the magma, forming spherical balls. The ball shape is the form that any extremely concentrated silica (cristobalite) takes, as opposed to the crystal form in dilute concentrations. However, any material that by composition or consistency is immiscible (not mixable) with the host magma will also form balls. Regional metamorphism can also form orbicular jaspers. We hear names like Rainforest Jasper from Australia, Leopard Skin

Jasper from Mexico, Poppy Jasper from California, and Ocean Jasper from Madagascar. We may find one color surrounding another, or bands of balls, veils of lighter colors staining the background. Polka Dot Agate, from Oregon, has iron rich spheres floating in snowy extremely fine-grained jasper, along with veils of golden brown. The material is so fine-grained it is almost chert and resembles porcelain.

The rock distinction of jasper and chert is: if it's attractive, it's jasper; if it's dull, it's chert. Some jasper represents replaced limestone or dolomite, some occurs as nodules, and sometimes it is part of the gangue of mineral deposits by hydrothermal or meta-somatic processes.

Agates are translucent and usually banded, with sub-vitreous luster; jasper is opaque with a dull to pearly luster; to a rockhound, Jaspagate is a fine mixture of the beautiful oxides.

### February 2010 Calendar

Tuesday February 2, 2010 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
 Tuesday February 9, 2010 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program- Ralph Bishop on <i>Central Coast Fossil Concretions</i></li> <li>• Display-<i>Heart shaped rocks &amp; Central Coast Rocks</i></li> <li>• Refreshments <i>Pie</i></li> </ul>
Saturday, February 13, 2010 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Field Trip Willow Creek, meet at Mussell Senior Center. Bring lunch and water.
Saturday, February 27, 2010 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-at Home Town Buffet in Santa Maria
March 2010 Calendar	
Tuesday March 2, 2010 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-at Mussell Senior Center All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday March 9, 2010 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program-Steve Pavlock will</li> </ul>



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	<p>give of <i>Uranium Mining Part II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display- <i>Red Rocks</i></li> <li>• Refreshments-<i>Cake</i></li> </ul>
<p>Saturday March 13, 2010 8:00 a.m. to ??</p>	<p>Field Trip to Carrizo Springs- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Bring lunch and water. Short hikes possible. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.</p>
<p>Saturday March 20, 2010 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.</p>
<p>Saturday March 23, 2010 9 to 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>OMS Monthly Breakfast-Sunrise Grill in Santa Maria.</p>

### CFMS SHOWS 2010

#### February 12-21, 2010, Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
Gem amp;& Mineral Building Bldg #1  
46-350 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm  
Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674  
Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

#### February 26-27 2010, Northridge, CA

Del Air Rockhounds Club  
United Methodist Church  
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)  
Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. -9:30 p.m. - Sat. 10-5  
Julie Marin (818) 886-7190  
Website: <http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com>

#### March 5-6-7 2010, Newark, CA

Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Avenue, Newark, CA 94560  
Hours: Fri & Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Larry Ham (510) 887-9007  
Email: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org)  
Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

#### March 6-7 2010, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.  
Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 9-4:30  
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624  
Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://www.Moroks.com)

#### March 6-7 2010, Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds  
10 W. harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4

Andy Anderson (805) 987-0043  
Email: [vgms\\_editor@roadrunner.com](mailto:vgms_editor@roadrunner.com)  
Website: [vgms.org](http://vgms.org)

#### March 13-14 2010, Spreckels, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club  
Veteran's Memorial Hall  
5th & Liano Streets  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Ernie DeFever (831) 422-3422  
Email: [minimad64@comcast.net](mailto:minimad64@comcast.net)  
Website: [salinasrockandgem.com](http://salinasrockandgem.com)

#### March 13-14 2010, Turlock, CA

Mother Load Mineral Society  
Stanislaus Co. Fairgrounds  
900 N Broadway  
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-5  
Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494  
Email: [terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

#### March 20-21 2010, Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary society  
Kern County Shrine Club  
700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Lewis Helfrich Home (661) 323-2663  
Cell: (661) 378-4450  
Email: [lewsrocks@netzero.net](mailto:lewsrocks@netzero.net)

#### March 20-21 2010, Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem & Mineral Club  
Army National Guard Armory  
304 Park Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4  
Van Lynch (760) 749-4164  
Email: [michellandvan@hotmail.com](mailto:michellandvan@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

#### March 20-21 2010, Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society  
Vallejo Elks Lodge  
2850 Redwood Parkway  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Phyllis Malacki (707) 745-3255  
Email: [Vgms01@yahoo.com](mailto:Vgms01@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.iwired.org](http://www.iwired.org)

#### March 27-28 2010, Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club  
Lemoore Trinity Hall  
470 Champion Street, Lemoore CA  
Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Judy Pereira (559) 924-4052  
Email: [lemooregemshow@yahoo.com](mailto:lemooregemshow@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.lemooregems.org](http://www.lemooregems.org)

Dues are due and must be paid by the March meeting to be included in the Redbook. \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 Per Couple, \$ 5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5.00 for Juniors under age of 18.

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**OMS Webmaster** - Wes Lingerfelt –(805) 929-3788.

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

**OMS Membership** \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5.00 Juniors under age of 18, \$10.00. One time initiation fee for new members. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

### 2010-OMS Officers

Pres.	Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Pres. Elect	Gloria Dana	(805) 929-6429
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

### 2010-OMS Board Members

Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Don Dana	(805) 929-6429
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

ORE-CUTTS (named after, William Orcutt) was published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was 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, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, 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



### OMS Editor

Exchange bulletin requests/submissions of other gem and mineral societies are welcome. Send requests/submissions to:

Debbie Hood | (805) 481-6860 | [debilhood1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debilhood1@sbcglobal.net)

