



**The Prez Box—  
February 2021  
Bill Brown, OMS President**

Hi all! Well, we've made it to February.

The good news is that the governor has ended the stay at home order. We still are in purple status so we are still limited, so I am afraid we will have to continue with phone conferencing for the board meeting for February.

A Covid vaccine has been released by two companies, and it looks like a third company will soon be releasing a vaccine. I'll be getting vaccinated as soon as they'll let me. I hope everyone will get the vaccination so that we can get back to normal.

The board has decided that we will hold the current slate of officers until after we have had two regular meetings (one for Officer nominations, and one for voting). I hope we'll be able to have a meeting in March, but that will be determined by the State deciding to open everything back up.

We will be having the scheduled board meeting on February 2, 2021. We will still have to meet remotely (teleconference). Call **1-612-746-7377**. When the machine answers, it will ask for a conference code. Enter **323428**

The general meeting for February is canceled due to Covid shutdown. It's not really looking good for March, but we will continue to hope!

I hope that everyone will get vaccinated as soon as possible. A newsletter section (suggested by Sally), will be contain information about vaccination availability and how to get vaccinated. They are still only doing 75 and older, but they

should move to 65 and older this month.

The breakfast for February is scheduled for the 28th at the Country Kitchen in Arroyo Grande. I believe that they still have outdoor dining, and since the stay at home has been lifted, we should be able to have our breakfast again.

Highway cleanup will be held on March 13 at the SE corner Route 101/166 East at 8:00 am. I am hoping that we can have a good turnout.

With the vaccines out, and the government pushing to get them out to people, I am hoping that we will be able to get things going!

Be healthy and take care of yourselves. We will make it through to a better 2021.

*Bill*

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**DECEMBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Glenda Reeves	2/08	≈
Jan Ferguson	2/16	≈
Alexis Van Natta	2/20	✕

**ANNIVERSARIES**

None this month

***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 (January 2021)*

## BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR FEBRUARY AMETHYST

Story compiled from GEOLOGY.COM, Wikipedia,

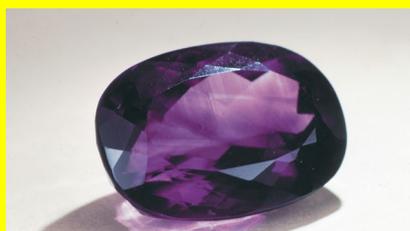
[Amethyst](#) is the birthstone for February. It is the world's most popular purple gem - and that enhances its status as a birthstone. The purple color of amethyst can be so light that it is barely perceptible, or so dark that a faceted gem can be nearly opaque. The color of amethyst spans a range from violetish purple, to purple, to reddish purple. Four Peaks Mine in Maricopa County, [Arizona](#) is the most important amethyst mine in the United States.



Picture from [bestbirthstoneguides.com](#)

<b>Category</b>	Silicate mineral
<b>Formula</b>	Silica (silicon dioxide, SiO <sub>2</sub> )
<b>Crystal system</b>	Trigonal
<b>Crystal class</b>	Trapezohedral (32)
<b>Impurities (for color)</b>	Iron + possible transition metals.

The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle in the belief that amethysts heal people and keep them cool-headed.<sup>[17]</sup> Beads of amethyst were found in Anglo-Saxon graves in England. Anglican bishops wear an episcopal ring often set with an amethyst, an allusion to the description of the Apostles as "not drunk" at Pentecost in Acts 2:15.<sup>[19]</sup>



Amethyst commonly shows zones of darker and lighter colors.  
Photo by Mike Havstad/GIA.

## Did you KNOW?

OMS has a facebook page. Elisabeth Nybo created it for us. You can reach it by entering [HTTPS://www.facebook.com/OrcuttMinerals](https://www.facebook.com/OrcuttMinerals).

Here's some pictures from facebook.

### ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL RAINBOW OF GEMS SHOW



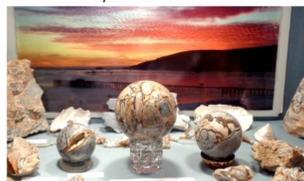
Brecciated Jasper—San Simeon

Friday-Sunday  
August 3-5, 2018

Nipomo High School,  
525 N. Thompson Ave,  
Nipomo, CA



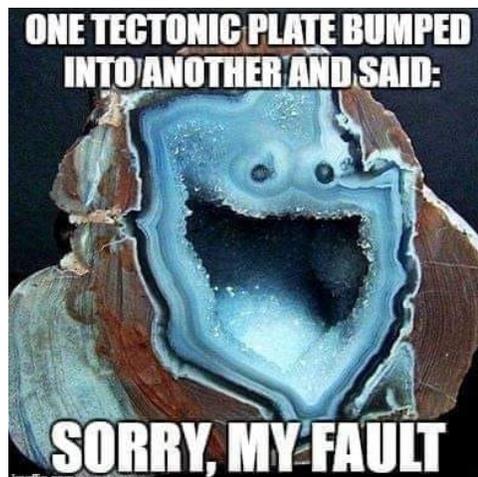
Marcasite Agate—Nipomo



Deedeeite —Avila Beach



Sagenite Agate—Nipomo



## BITS AND BYTES

### QUARTZITE GEM SWAPMEET TO BE OPEN FOR 2021...maybe.

Follow link below for possible show schedule:.

<https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

**CFMS SHOWS THAT ALL SHOWS CANCELED UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL** For updated California Show information check out the CFMS website.

<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>

### The Geology Page—

<https://www.GeologyPage.com>. This appears to be a great site. There are some free courses including:

- Planet Earth and You.
- Science of the Solar System
- The Dynamic Earth: A Course for Educators
- Big History – From the Big Bang until Today
- Mountains 101

Pictures and news articles with a geology flavor. Take a look!

## Remote Sensing Downloader

RS Downloader offers access to satellite image data pools. Via web interface the user is able to search and download specified satellite images.

This version is an alpha and while running stable, currently only retrieves products from NASA's LP DAAC data pool. Further versions will include updated parsers and spatial selection UIs to access other available sources.

### License

GNU General Public License version 3.0 (GPLv3)

Download: [RS Downloader V0.1.2 Files](#)

<https://remotesensingdownloader.sourceforge.net/>

From geologypage.com

This should be really neat as it lets you download raw satellite feeds.



[www.reddit.com](http://www.reddit.com)



It looks like someone's been busy!!



[Bruce Siegfried](#) saved to [Rock Cartoons & T-shirts](#)

## Tips to make working with rocks easier:

More stuff from ROCKHOUND SOAP BOX in the various CFMS newsletters. I'm kind of cherry pickin' what I find interesting. There is a lot more information there, so you can look at the newsletters at <https://www.cfmsinc.org>!

Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975 San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society

Cold dop with Elmer's Glue. It is always ready and will dry enough to begin work in 30 to 40 minutes. It seldom lets loose, even on a rough wheel. The warmer the stone gets, the tighter it holds. To remove the stone from the dop stick, drop it all in water and leave for several hours. ....The Agatizer

As a CLEANER for Lapidary SANDING CLOTH, Crepe rubber is excellent. It is the same as used for the shoe soles. A small thick sheet of crepe rubber held against the sanding cloth, while in motion, acts as an eraser to remove the accumulation of debris and expose the abrasive cloth for better work. ....The Agatizer

A SMALL HAND SANDER can be made from a safety razor. Remove the blade and wrap sanding paper around the curved blade holder. Tuck ends under the teeth and tighten handle. Ideal for sanding small surfaces, especially if they are curved. ....The Pegmatite

To keep your tools from rusting, simply spray them with "PAM" — then wipe with a dry cloth to remove excess. ....CFMS Newsletter

If you find scratches on your cabochons, DON'T COMPROMISE! Go back to grinding or sanding steps and make the stone perfect. Check the stone with the image of the light bulb off to one side so you are not blinded by the reflection. Stones should be polished until they are like a mirror and you can see yourself in the polished surface. ....Spit and Polish

A good way to tell how solid a slab is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately after

being removed from the water. If there are holes or fractures in it, every one will soon be lined in water. These can then be marked with a pencil and used to orient your cab. ....Rockhound's Rag

Keep a piece of agate near the wheel while grinding. If the wheel becomes a little rough, work the agate back and forth across the face of the wheel. This prevents dressing of the wheel, which is costly and wasteful. ...CFMS Newsletter

STORE CABOCHONS IN PLASTIC NOTE-BOOK LEAVES USED BY COIN COLLECTORS. Each sheet has 20 individual compartments and can be kept in a regular note-book. ....LOESS Bulletin

It is ILLEGAL to have any MINERAL DETECTOR in YOUR POSSESSION while in a NATIONAL PARK. ....The Rockhound's Rag

Try using a potato peeler on a stone to REMOVE THE DOP WAX instead of a knife. The peeler will follow the curvature of the stone. ....Strata Gems

For CLEANING COPPER, try "Toni" Wave Lotion. It is a simple, inexpensive method, and specimens will remain clean for a long time. .... The Agatizer

Don't remember seeing this, but it's from Ore-Cutts  
TUMBLE ABALONE SHELLS in fine quartz sand, and enough water to barely cover for 24 to 36 hours. Wash out thoroughly and dry. Replace shells in tumbler, with 1 pound of Tripoli for each 50 pounds of shells, tumble for 12 to 15 hours. Wash tumbler and shells and dry well. Next fill the drum to half full and add enough hardwood sawdust to keep the shells from bumping. Add polish of your choice, in the ratio of 1 pound to 50 pounds of shells. Run this mixture DRY for 2 or 3 hours. Wash well and discover beautifully polished shells. ....Ore-Cutts News Bulletin

Oil of cinnamon or oil of cassia, sold by the ounce in drug stores, have a refractive index near that of most stones. When you submerge a stone in the oil, the surface irregularities vanish and you can see the flaws and inclusions. ....The Rockhound's Rag

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING**  
Teleconference  
Jan 5, 2021 (7:00 p.m.)

**Members present:** Bill Brown, Jeanne Brown, Wayne Mills. **Absent:** Dick Bazzell, Jan Ferguson, Debbie Hood, Sally Griffith, Renea Sutcliffe

**Order at 7:01 p.m.**

**MINUTES:** (Wayne) published in the January Ore-Cutts. No comments

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Jeanne) No report. Jeanne hired a lady to help keep track of the treasury.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (Wayne) No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bulletin-** Bill got his first bulletin out. He did a fine job.

**CFMS-** (Renea) After the meeting, Wayne picked up two certificates and 1 award from Renea. Elisabeth got a First place in CFMS for Small Bulletin, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Adult Articles for her Preparation for (Jim Mills) talk on Scotland article. Wayne got a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Adult Advanced Category for his "Amazing Agates (Part II)" article. Wayne has passed and mailed out the officers and boards pins and bars from 2020.

**Membership –(Wayne)** has had little input from our existing members.

**Field Trip – (Sally)** None planned. We were invited to an informal field trip with the Santa Lucia Club to San Simeon Beach on January 16 at 10 a.m.

**Adopt-a-Highway –** Highway cleanup planned for Saturday January 9 was cancelled due to a misunderstanding. Sally and Wayne did show up, but it was cold and windy!

**Annual Awards Banquet:** Wayne reserved Madonna for 12/11/2021.

**Breakfast-** No breakfast this month

**Education** None to report.

**Library-** (Alexis)

**Sunshine-**Anyone?

**Scholarship** (Jeanne)

**Our show** Bill and Wayne will put in an application to rent the High School. The District office said that we should "check back in a month or so...", or they will contact us when they have some word. We have it on the calendar to check back in February.

**Old Business-** Officers and Board for 2021. WE checked with existing board members on their willingness to continue into 2021. Dick, Renea and Sally have agreed to stay. We have not heard back from Jan and Debbie.

**New Business-** Both San Luis and Santa Barbara Coun-

ties have had a COVID surge and have returned to purple status. Stay home and stay healthy! No face to face meetings until further notice.

Adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne W. Mills, OMS Secretary

---

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY**

General Meeting January 12, 2021

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

---



PINTEREST—Geology Page



<b>OMS CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates</b>	
<b>February 2021</b>	
<b>Tuesday, February 2</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Tele-conference. See Prez Box.</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 9</b> 7:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center	<b>General meeting (Canceled due to COVID)</b>
<b>Saturday, February 27</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast—Country Kitchen Arroyo Grande.</b>
<b>March 2021</b>	
<b>Tuesday, March 2</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room or Teleconference.</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 9</b> 7:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Center	<b>General Meeting. I'm putting this here because I'm Optimistic. May be Canceled</b>
<b>Saturday, March 13</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Highway Cleanup SE Corner Hwy101/166 Junction.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 27</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast-Hometown Buffet—Santa Maria</b>

<b>2020 / Interim 2021-OMS OFFICERS</b>		
<b>President</b>	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>President-Elect</b>	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>Secretary</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>Treasurer</b>	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>2020 / Interim 2021 -OMS BOARD MEMBERS</b>		
	Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
<b>CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR</b>		
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
<b>Copyright 2017 Orcutt Mineral Society.</b> Material in this newsletter may be duplicated provided that credit is given this publication and the author(s). For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted. Editor may be contacted c/o OMS, P.O. Box 106, Santa Maria, Ca. 93456-0106, or via club web site <a href="http://omsinc.org">omsinc.org</a> .		
<b>OMS Membership</b> \$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. <b>OMS Membership Chairperson is: Jeanne Brown</b>		
<b>OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811</b> Check out our OMS web site at: <a href="http://www.omsinc.org">http://www.omsinc.org</a> or send e-mail to: <a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a> .		
<b>Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher</b>		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	<a href="mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com">wwmills50@hotmail.com</a>

Well, this is #2. Publisher software is fighting me, and it's late, but here it is! Please remember that I would be happy if anyone wanted to take a shot at it. Until then, I'll try to keep up something that we can at least use.

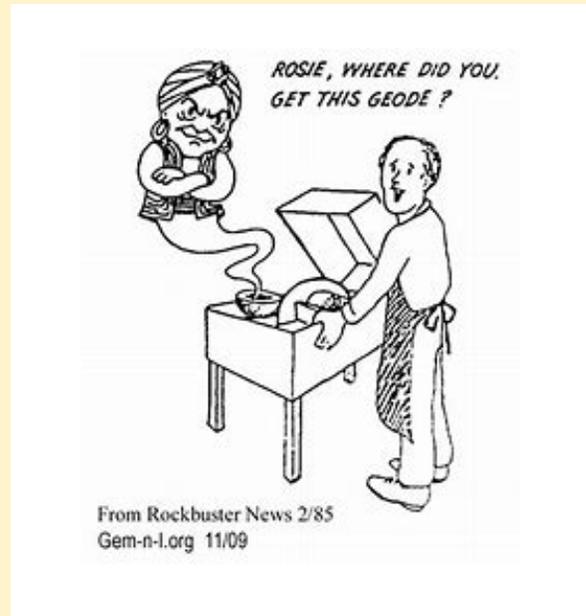
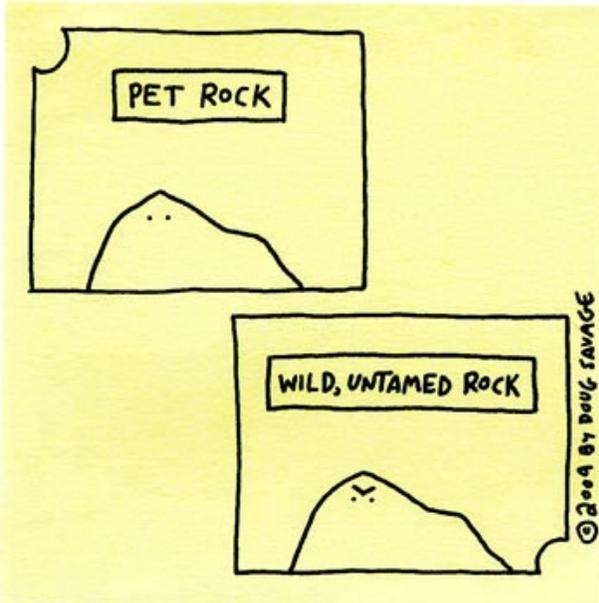
**Note: If you want to contribute to the Abused Children's fund, I'm sure Jan would appreciate you sending donations via US Mail!**

**Check-out the OMS Web page** at: [omsinc.org](http://omsinc.org) for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

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

Strange Creatures

by Doug Savage



**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.