



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIV Number 1

January 2008

January Come join us on **January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Mussell Senior Center, 510 E Park, Santa Maria.** Our program will be **“Fluorescent Rocks”** given by new member **Steve Riegel.**

The Display will be Central Coast Rocks, so bring anything you have found from Santa Barbara to Monterrey to the Central Valley. Please bring your finds and share them with us.

Dessert will be donuts provided by the club.

2007 Annual Meeting

By Wayne Mills

The December 2007 Annual Meeting is in the books. It was a well-organized affair held at Maria Del Sol Retirement Home in Santa Maria.

Our attendance was above normal; the speeches short, the company agreeable, and the quality of the food may even have exceeded previous years. We had several new guests, and some familiar faces that we haven't seen for a while. It was amazing to see how much Pete Dettelis's daughters have grown in the last year. It is always nice to see Pat Nuernberg, and it was educational listening to Alexis Van Natta talk about being born in Germany during WWII. After dinner was served about 12:30 p.m., the meeting seemed to go pretty fast with Debbie Hood reading her summary of the year's activities (see article later in



this bulletin), and giving out her special recognition to members who went beyond the call of duty during her term as president. Ralph Bishop won the *“The Dog Ate My Homework”* Award—a rattlesnake agate; Wayne Mills received the *“Shining Star”* Award—a Smoky Quartz earring; Sylvia Nasholm earned the *“If It's Too Hot In The Kitchen, Get Out”* Award—a Fire Agate necklace; and Wes Lingerfelt got the *“Well-Rounded Man For All Seasons”* Award—a sphere. Lovely and elegant gifts—Thank you Madame Prez, and all who made this an enjoyable affair.

Wes Lingerfelt gave the Treasurer's Report and presented our Budget for next year. The Budget was approved with minimal discussion.

Not much in the way of old and new business, then we went on to our entertainment. The board thought we would try something new this year. So we asked Gary Elem, alias Dr. Magic to entertain. Elem is a retired psychiatrist who worked for 27 years at California Men's Colony. He had a LOT of interesting cases there. Dr. Magic is a pretty substantial guy,

but his hands were slight, and he amazed us with all the stuff he pulled out of his hat, or his sleeves, it was hard to tell which.

After a little magic, we had the awards and recognition, and the Lingerfelts presented the old and new board members with a special treat brought from Oklahoma. It was a nice bottle of wine and a Cherokee doll (Jeannie is part Cherokee)—very thoughtful gifts Wes and Jeannie.



OOPS!

Your handy-dandy year at a glance calendar is not perfect (but we tried). Please make the following change in your Annual meeting copy. The Annual Meeting for December 2008 will be held on December 13, and our Field trip for December 2008 will be on December 6. The website calendar is correct.

After the installation of the new officers, Wayne Mills gave his vision of the year ahead talk (see article later in this bulletin), the table decorations were raffled off, and we adjourned about 3:00 p.m.

2007 Retrospective

Debbie Hood, Immediate Past President

- We endowed Cuesta College and Alan Hancock College with our annual scholarships.
- Our annual show was the most successful ever, allowing us to give larger scholarships than previous years.
- Our Abused Children's Fund gave \$500 in cash to Santa Barbara County Social Services Department.
- Wes and Wayne, from our Education Committee, gave a combined 8 rock-talks to local elementary school classes.
- We continued our support of Sun Valley (Arizona) Indian School by donating Campbell's Soup labels.
- We continued our support of Ronald McDonald House by donating aluminum pull-tabs.
- We cleaned-up our two mile stretch of Route 166 east of US 101 6 times this year.
- We helped feed our local homeless population by donating the more than 100 pounds of food, collected at our annual meeting, to the Salvation Army along with \$50.00 cash.
- We continued our beading group at Dee Dee Magri's home (call Dee Dee for information).
- We enjoyed several productive field trips.
- Several of our members won awards for their writing skills at the CFMS meeting in Lancaster. Awards include: Deborah Hood—2nd Best new Editor; Wayne Mills—Best Adult Advanced Article; Ralph Bishop—2nd place Adult Advanced Article; Sir Paul Howard—3rd place Adult Advanced Article; Wes Lingerfelt—Third Place Adult Article; Deborah Hood—Fourth Place Adult Article; Jeannie Lingerfelt—Sixth Place Adult Article; Sharon Duncan—Seventh Place Adult Article; Joseph Martinez—Fourth Place Junior Articles, Age 5-11. And that's just the CFMS awards!

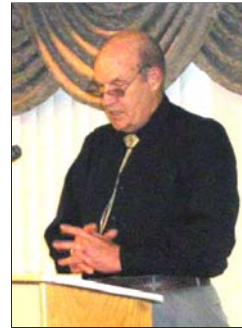
- The society lost two valued members this year and made donations in their honor to the California Federation of Mineral Societies Endowment Fund. The members are Mary Sausa, and Paul Patrick, the gem tree man. These members will be remembered for their generous support of our organization.

The Year Ahead

Wayne Mills, OMS President, 2008

As incoming President, I thanked Mrs. Hood for her able leadership in 2007. I noted that the presidency is a 3-year commitment, and that perhaps the hardest part is the first year as program chairperson. However, the society has challenges ahead, and perhaps the biggest of these is filing the large shoes of the Nasholms in the kitchen at our annual show.

I challenged the members present to use our page at a glance calendar placed on our website to plan for more and better participation in club activities this year including our meeting displays and refreshments, our highway clean-ups, breakfasts, and field trips.



I also asked members to remember to thank the board members and officers for their efforts to make OMS a fun group to belong to. Members can share their ideas for further improving the society either by talking to a board member, or presenting it at our monthly board meeting. Members are thanked for their enthusiastic participation in our activities, because *THAT's* what makes OMS a fun place to belong.

"A TRUE TALE OF THE MOREFIELD MINE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

- A TRIP REPORT BY DAVE LINES

"T'WAS THE DAY BEFORE THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE IN 2007.

CHILLY, BUT NO SIGN OF RAIN DESPITE THE FORECAST FROM CHANNEL 11.

ABOUT 40 ASSORTED ROCKHOUNDS HAD COME FROM FAR AND NEAR

TO EXPERIENCE THE MOREFIELD ON THE LAST OPEN DAY OF THE YEAR.

Ore-Cutts

AS A 'COMPLEX PEGMATITE', THIS MINE IS FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL AMAZONITE, MICA AND, OCCASIONALLY, BERYL. TO DATE, OVER 80 DIFFERENT MINERALS IN ALL HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE DUMPS FROM THIS OLD MICA MINE AND THEY SEEM TO FIND MORE ALL THE TIME. YOU SEE, THE MOREFIELD'S OWNER, SAM DUNAWAY, IS QUITE A NICE FELLOW; HE'S AN EX-HARDROCK ALASKAN MINING ENGINEER WHOSE LONG EXPERIENCE HAS MADE HIM REALLY MELLOW. TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE SHARON, THEY HAD A WONDERFUL VISION --- TO PROVIDE A MEMORABLE MINING ADVENTURE TO BOTH YOUNG AND OLD. WITH A WELL-MAINTAINED OPERATION THAT IS POSITIVE IN ALL RESPECTS, THE IDEA WAS ENSURE THAT EVERY VISITOR ACTUALLY FOUND AND TOOK HOME SOME GOOD ROCKS. IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, IT IS QUITE SIMPLE --- SAM AND HIS HELPER'S DRILL, BLAST, MUCK OUT, AND HAUL TO THE SURFACE FROM 60 FEET BELOW A FANTASTIC ASSORTMENT OF ROCKS AND MINERALS AND TWICE EACH DAY, THEY SPREAD SOME ON THE DUMPS FOR ALL CUSTOMERS THEIR BUCKETS TO FILL. NOW SAM AND SHARON ARE GETTING ALONG IN YEARS AND A COUPLE OF SEASONS AGO, THEY DECIDED TO PUT THE MOREFIELD UP FOR SALE. NO 'SOLD' SIGN YET, BUT EVERY ROCKHOUND'S SECRET FEAR IS THAT THE MOREFIELD WILL BE SOLD, AND CLOSED NEXT YEAR. MAYBE IT WON'T AND MAYBE IT WILL, BUT SAM IS NOT WAITING --- HE IS BUILDING A 'SEAL'. 64 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE HAVE ALREADY BEEN POURED INTO A HUGE FORM WITH REBAR, THICK I-BEAMS AND STRONG STEEL DOORS.

WILL THE MOREFIELD CLOSE FOR THE WINTER, OR PERHAPS, FOREVER? ... ONLY TIME WILL TELL. BUT ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN; SAM AND HIS MEN WILL HAVE HER READY TO SELL. WITH REGARD TO THE FIELD TRIP, IT WAS A LAST MINUTE THING --- I CALLED ALL OF THE FAITHFUL ONLY THE DAY BEFORE THE FLING. MOST COULDN'T MAKE IT, BUT LORNA COULD, SO WE DROVE TOGETHER, LEAVING LATER THAN WE SHOULD. WE ARRIVED AT THE MINE AT 10:22 --- ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER WE USUALLY DO. WE JUST KNEW THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE A VERY GOOD DAY AND THAT ALL WOULD FIND SOMETHING WELL WORTH THE PAY. SHARON GREETED US IN THE STORE AND MENTIONED THAT MUCH WAS ON SALE, BUT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO GET INTO THE MINE, SO WE PAID OUR FEE AND TOOK A PAIL. THE DUMPS LOOKED SUPER WITH LOTS OF SPARKLE WE COULD SEE FRESH CHIPS OF BLUE-GREEN AND MANY BOOKS OF MICA. WE STARTED IMMEDIATELY PICKING UP PIECES --- THE USUAL --- PLUS LESS COMMON THINGS LIKE FINE CRYSTALS OF TANTALITE AND SOME RARE EARTH MINERALS. THEY LET US INTO THE SECOND PORTION OF THE DUMPS AT NOON AND WE NOTICED MANY CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE SITE --- THE TREES ON THE OLD CLAY DUMP HILLS TO THE WEST WERE GONE AND THE FRESHLY BULLDOZED SOIL WAS LACED WITH AMAZONITE. THE FIRST "SPREADING OF GOODIES" FROM THE MINE WAS DONE AT 12:30 AND THOUGH WE ONLY HAD A SMALL CROWD, MOST OF THE BEST STUFF WAS PICKED UP IN A HURRY. AFTER THE CROWD THINNED, ABOUT 4 OR 5 OF US FOLKS WENT OVER THE AREA VERY CAREFULLY AND WE WERE REWARDED WITH SOME REAL SPECIAL SPECIMENS --- LIKE THE 2 BY 2 INCH YELLOW BERYL CRYSTAL I FOUND OFF TO THE SIDE. LORNA PICKED UP A GOOD DEAL OF LIGHT GREEN ALBITE

THAT WAS ALMOST TRANSLUCENT LIKE IT WAS
PART CLEAVELANDITE,
THEN I TOOK MY FIND TO THE STORE TO SHOW TO
SAM. HE WASN'T THERE, BUT
BETSY, A FRIEND FROM THE RICHMOND CLUB, WAS
AND SHE CONFIRMED MY PRIZE.
WHILE IN THE STORE LOOKING ABOUT, I
DISCOVERED THE REAL SURPRISE ---
SHARON AND SAM HAD GONE 'ALL OUT' AND
PLANNED FOR US A CHRISTMAS FEAST!
FREE FOOD FOR EVERYONE --- CAKES, FRUIT,
LEMONADE AND 10 PIZZAS --- AT LEAST!
AFTER TAKING TWO PLATES OF DELICIOUS LUNCH
BACK TO SHARE WITH LORNA,
I FOUND SAM WHO MARVELED AT THE BERYL AND
DECLARED IT A BONANZA.
THE SECOND "SPREADING OF THE GOODIES" WAS
DONE AT THREE
AND --- SINCE EVEN FEWER PEOPLE WERE THERE ---
EVERYONE FOUND ENOUGH TO MAKE THEIR VISIT
'FREE'.
GUESS WHAT? I FOUND ANOTHER PIECE OF BERYL
SIMILAR TO THE FIRST WHOPPA!
AND LORNA FOUND A 6 INCH LONG BY 4 INCH
DIAMETER COMPLETE CRYSTAL OF MICA!
WE HAD A GREAT DAY! EVERYTHING WAS RIGHT!
A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL, A GOOD
NIGHT!"

Editor's Note:

Even though Dave lives on the East Coast he has opportunities for some great collecting trips. Dave and Wes Lingerfelt have had some really wonderful times digging together after he flew out via Phoenix, AZ to join him at Quartzsite several years ago.

Geology of the Central Coast

(First in a series) by Wayne Mills, OMS

The Monterey Formation is one of the most widespread geologic formations in California. It represents the middle of the geologically recent Miocene Period dating from about 18 to 11 million years before the present. On the Central Coast, outcrops of the Monterey Formation are found from northern Monterey County to the south facing beaches of Santa Barbara County. It is here that we will focus this month.

In a talk given to the OMS General Meeting in November 2007, we showed slides taken by honorary

member Ralph Bishop of the coast near Gaviota. Below the marine terraces there, the Monterey Formation is exposed. As it is weathered by the relentless attack of the ocean, rounded concretions of calcite-cemented siltstone are exposed. Investigation of these concretions occasionally yields a paleontological treat. The Santa Barbara County Museum of Natural History has concretions from here that contain whale skulls. Ralph's pictures showed that they may contain individual bones, shark jaws (well, one did anyhow), and petrified driftwood. One of the rarest of the was *Fossil of the core of a palm frond* this one that showed the petrified core of a palm frond, indicating that during this period, the climate of the Santa Barbara Coast was more temperate than it is now.



In the same area, Monterey Formation shale's are exposed. Splitting these can reveal some highly detailed fish fossils. I split one that had perfect preservation from the neck back of a fish that was probably 14-inches long when whole. Since it wasn't complete, I left it for others to enjoy. I bet someone else enjoyed taking that puppy home.



Limb and whale vertebrae from concretions

While it is not permitted to collect inside a state park of which there are several in this stretch of coastline (Gaviota, Refugio, El Capitan), there are accessible areas

along this coast that are outside the state park boundaries.

New Years Resolutions

By Debbie Hood

It's that time of the year again, when we start a new year with all sorts of resolutions to lose weight, get fit, exercise more, be kind and patient with your spouse and all kinds of other stuff we know we're

never gonna do. Well, how about some resolutions that you *can* keep?

Resolve to be more active in the club, volunteer for a committee (that doesn't mean you have to be in charge, just help on the committee,) submit an idea for an improvement or some new thing we could do, attend more meetings, attend an occasional board meeting, write an article for the newsletter, bring some of your rocks to a meeting for all of us to see, develop a program you can give to the club, find a speaker for a club meeting, go on more field trips, come to more breakfasts. These are all *fun* things that you are much more likely to stick with anyway, so why waste your time trying to break those old, comfortable habits when you can make some new, fun ones? And you are *much* more likely to be successful at keeping these new habits, increasing your self-confidence, making your teeth gleaming white, your hair thick and beautiful your figure svelte, and making your whole life richer and more worthwhile. Well, more fun anyway.

CFMS NEWS

-Society Name Change

By Kirk Kegel - Director - SOCGEMS

The *Capistrano Valley Rock and Mineral Club* has received approval from the California Secretary of State and completed its name change and is now the ***SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY***. The club changed its name to identify more with their geographic area and also to better define their group as a non-profit educational resource in their community. The club is in the process of developing a Society web site and has planned a publicity campaign for 2008. A special "Thank You!" to **Mike Kokinos** for his patient and invaluable help in completing the necessary documentation.

Knowing Where You Are: Checking Land Status

By Dick Pankey

Last October Dave Muster, our FT-N chairman, conducted this seminar, which was received with rave reviews. Unfortunately the attendance was low. By popular demand this seminar is scheduled again for April 2008. The purpose of knowing where you are is two fold. All field trip leaders and collectors need to know where they are and where they should not be. While we may collect on public land - BLM and Forest Service land - we cannot collect on private or claimed land without permission. It is the responsibility of the collector to know the status of the land on which they intend to collect. It is the responsibility of the field trip leader to know the status of the land and

determine boundaries before people are led to an area with private land and/or claims.

This seminar addresses what you need to know about determining land status, choosing and reading maps, GPS and other tools.

The seminar will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg CA. An announcement flier with details and directions will be issued in early January. This seminar is for field trip leaders, and all rockhounds that enjoy collecting; all members and guests are welcome.

Mark your calendar now, watch for the announcement flier and plan to attend this informative seminar.

Promote Rockhounding
Display your sticker

8th Annual Petrified Wood Identification Seminar By Debbie Bunn

The Fossils for Fun Society, in cooperation with Sierra College, will present the 8th Annual Petrified Wood Identification Seminar, featuring Walt Wright, Paleobotanist, as lecturer.

Mark your calendars for March 14th through 19th, 2008 for this extremely popular seminar, which will be held at Sierra College, Room 101, Sewell Hall, in Rocklin, CA. This is your opportunity to learn about the complex and beautiful world of petrified wood. Become more knowledgeable about the woods in your own collection and about what and where to collect and buy. Learn about fossilization of wood: it's age, origin, and occurrence, and how to identify kinds of petrified wood with simple tools.

Seminar Schedule:

Friday, March 14	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 15	8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 16	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On Monday, March 17th, Walt will lead an optional field trip, which will be open to seminar attendees only. For more information, contact: Debbie Bunn at (916) 929-6665 or Carole Lockhart at (916) 638-2314.

How to Write an Article for Your Club's Bulletin In Twelve Steps

BY, Terry Yoschak,

Roseville Rock Rollers Bulletin Editor Based on "Getting Your Club to Write," by Dennis Westman, *Minnesota Mineral Club*, in *S.C.R.L.B.E. Newsletter*, Oct-Dec 2004 and *On Writing*, by Stephen King, *Simon & Schuster*, 2000. This was written by Terry and used as a handout for the Editors' Breakfast at the 2005 CFMS Show which was hosted by her club in Roseville, CA. Taken from the *CFMS Newsletter* 9 / 2005 and *Rocky Mountain Federation News* 1 / 2007

Step 1. Pick a subject that interests you. It could be a story about something you've done (collecting agates, panning for gold), or it could be research about something

Ore-Cutts

you've never done (digging up dinosaur fossils in Antarctica).

Step 2. Map it out. Planning is everything. You have to figure out how to get from A to Z in your story. Outline with pencil & paper the bare bones of your story. Jot down important things you "must have" in the article (where the collecting took place, how many gold nuggets you found). Keep in mind the five W's of journalism: Who, What, Where, When, Why. Your outline should include all of them.

Step 3. Start writing. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation. That's what editors are for. Refer back to your outline, use your own voice, and let the story flow naturally, as you would tell it to a friend. With your outline, you won't forget all those exciting tidbits you might have left out if you were just spouting off to your friends.

Step 4. Plot, characters, scenery, and dialogue. If you were submitting a movie script, you'd be kicked out of the producer's office for leaving any of these items out. A story can't be a story without them; it won't "sell" to the audience. Let's cover those four items in the next few steps.

Step 5. Plot. Writing is not rambling. The ideas of Beginning, Middle and End are universal to all stories. Usually a normal timeline is followed, where "what happened next" is the rule. The most common exception to this rule is a flashback ("The saber-toothed cat plunged into the sticky tar pit, unaware that his fossilized bones would be left for us to find 20,000 years later.")

Step 6. Characters. The people who are in the story: it's your job to describe them, from height, age, hair color and clothing, to habits and attitude. Simply writing, "Jake drove us as far as Mesquite," is not the same as writing, "With Jake's spiky green hair and his crazy attitude towards other drivers on the road, we feared we'd never make it to Mesquite." Strictly, only people can be characters, but no one will complain if animals, plants and rocks have personalities in your story as well.

Step 7. Scenery. The setting of the story, including the natural landscape and the man-made objects in it (roads, tools, vehicles, buildings, etc.) This is where you can really get imaginative with descriptions, since no one wants to describe a yellow crystal as "lemony" or an empty desert as "filled with the promise of geological secrets," it's up to you.

Step 8. Dialogue. What the characters say in the story. Though many stories are written without dialogue, it's usually more interesting if you include some. Writing that "Julie was excited about her fossil find," is less interesting than writing, "We all heard Julie yell, 'I think I found a complete tooth!'"

Internal dialogue – describing your thoughts and emotions -also adds to a story, making it more compelling than a "just the facts, ma'am" report.

Step 9. Go back and revise. You've written your story by now, following Steps I through 8. But it's pretty rough; it could be better. Go back over it, maybe read it out loud to a friend, add a few things you forgot, or cut out some unnecessary sentences. Substitute a better word or phrase for the ones you wrote originally. Polish it. Rockhounds all know that most everything looks better with a good polish on it.

Step 10. Give your story a title. A catchy title is always a plus, and will draw readers to your story. "Titanic" is a better title than "An Interrupted Ocean Voyage." But don't go overboard! A simple, appropriate title is still better than a contrived, overly cute one.

Step 11. Space is a consideration. Everyone who writes for publication in print (bulletins, newspapers, magazines) must deal with space limitations. Cutting your work is often necessary. Writer Stephen King says that you should always cut out or condense at least one third of everything you've written. It's like over packing for a trip: when you return home, you realize that you didn't need to cart around all that extra baggage. In the real world, an editor will have to cut your story if you don't do it yourself.

Step 12. Prepare for next time. If you weren't entirely happy with your first story, think about future possibilities. Carry a small notebook with you and jot down observations about people, scenery, conversations, etc. You'll be surprised how easily this will guide you in completing Steps 1 through 8.

Gem Shorts

A Noble Find: Zoisite

By Debbie Hood

A hydrous silicate of calcium and aluminum, $[\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)\text{O}(\text{OH})]$ zoisite is a member of the epidote group. Baron Sigismund Zois Von Edelstein first discovered the gem and realized that this was an unknown mineral when the mineral dealer Simon Prešern brought it to him. A Slovenian nobleman, Edelstein was a collector, and a mineralogist. Initially, Edelstein named the stone 'saualpite' for the Austrian Sau-Alp Mountains in Carinthia where he came upon it, but in 1805 zoisite was renamed after Edelstein when it was found to be a distinctly individual mineral.

Pure zoisite is colorless, however, there are gray, brown, pink, yellow, blue or green colored varieties due to the presence of impurities. Crystals are orthorhombic and flattened in an acicular manner, and may be fibrously curved. It has perfect cleavage in one direction, uneven to conchoidal fracture, and a vitreous to pearly luster on fracture surfaces and is said to be brittle. It is Moh's scale

6.5 in hardness, with a white or colorless streak. Zoisite is birefringent and dichroic- or pleochroic with a refractive index of 1.69-1.70.

<http://www.jewelryexpert.com/catalog/Tanzanite-Gemstone-1.htm>

The most precious of zoisite varieties; tanzanite was not discovered until 1967 in Tanzania by an Indian prospector named Manuel de Souza. Tanzanite is a purple-blue color due to the presence of vanadium, and it is because of this that Souza originally thought that he had discovered a sapphire deposit. Yellow and green zoisite also occurs in Tanzania.



Thulite, discovered in Norway 1967 near Thule is another variety of zoisite and is a pinkish-red due to the presence of manganese.

When viewed in incandescent light, the violet color of tanzanite will become slightly deeper. When heat-treated to 400 to 500 degrees, the yellow and brown tints in the stone disappear, and the blue color increases. This heat treatment is a common practice for stones on the market. Tanzanite cats eye can also be found.

Another very valued stone discovered in Tanzania in 1954, is zoisite with inclusions of black hornblende, and ruby. This stone is called in the native language, Masai, anyolite (green), and is called by some simply anyolite, or ruby-zoisite. Scientifically it is called zoisite-amphibolite. Transparent material is fashioned into [gemstones](#) while translucent-to-opaque material is usually carved into sculptural works. The latter is sometimes shot through with ruby crystals, which are completely opaque and unsuited to use as gems, yet are well colored and contrast strikingly against the green matrix of the zoisite. Sources of zoisite include [Tanzania](#)

([tanzanite](#)), [Kenya](#) ([anyolite](#)), [Norway](#) ([thulite](#)), [Switzerland](#), [Austria](#), [India](#), [Pakistan](#), and [Washington](#) in the USA. A. [Zoisite-ruby rock carving](#) (height - 19 cm) made from Tanzania material. Betty Llewellyn collection. (© photo by Jeffrey A. Scovil)



Since Zoisite is of such recent discovery there is no extensive mythology connected to it beyond that used to market it.

A stone sometimes confused with zoisite is clinozoisite. While these two stones share the same component elements and proportions exactly, only their crystal structures differ. Zoisite is orthorhombic in its symmetry, while clinozoisite is monoclinic in its symmetry. Zoisite can be imitated by glass, colorless spinels glued together with colored glue, and can be confused with sapphire and rhodonite.

Bits & Bites

By Wayne Mills, Webster

-Check this site out for cool fossil pictures. It is a Creationist site, however it does not appear to dispute the antiquity of the fossils.

<http://www.fossil-museum.com/fossils/fossil.php>

-A gentleman in San Diego offers an x-ray diffraction service for identifying hard to identify minerals. The cost is \$40, and it only takes a rice-grain sized sample of the mineral. Industry charges \$100 for the service. You can get your report promptly by mail or e-mail. Contact : John Attard (Attard's Minerals), PO Box 17263, San Diego CA 92177. Telephone (619) 0275-2016, or see the X-ray Diffraction page at http://www.attminerals.com/x-ray_diffraction_service.htm

-If you buy minerals, either online or at rock shows, you should probably read this:

<http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugfakes.html>

-Here's another great page:

<http://www.fakeminerals.com/>

There are some entirely new scams out there to be aware of!

-The Palomar Gem and Mineral Society is sponsoring a class to learn to identify rocks. The class consists of 6 sessions each 2-hours long. Cost is \$42 for members, \$62 for non-members (includes club dues-clever!) For more information, contact Eugene Ciancanelli, Registered Professional California Geologist by e-mail at gene100@mac.com or by telephone at 760-489-0969.

New Diamond Discovery Center Opens At Arkansas Crater Of Diamonds State Park

http://diamonds.blogs.com/diamonds_update/2005/08/new_diamond_dis.html

August 30, 2005— Murfreesboro, Arkansas. The latest improvement at Arkansas's diamond site, the Crater of Diamonds State Park, is a new 3,900-square-foot Diamond Discovery Center, a \$965,069 structure that now serves as the gateway to the park's 37½-acre diamond search area and an in-depth introduction to the adventure of searching for diamonds. The Diamond Discovery Center is a diamond search area-based, interpretive facility that is designed to enhance the visitor experience at the park by helping park visitors understand diamonds and how to search for them at the site.

The exhibits include the diamond hunters' hall of fame, and feature information about the many notable diamonds that have been unearthed here since those first diamond discoveries in 1906.

Along with the exhibit gallery, the two level barrier-free building features a refreshment facility, digging equipment rental, restrooms/bathhouse/changing rooms, office, and storage on the lower level. The building's

Ore-Cutts

upper level features a 1,600-square-foot classroom. The building sports an architectural design reminiscent of old mining buildings. This mining-theme is carried into the interior with the look of the exhibits and furnishings. Located in southwest Arkansas, the park is the world's only publicly operated diamond site where the public is allowed to search and keep any gems found, regardless of value. Visitors search over a plowed field, the eroded surface of the earth's eighth largest diamond-bearing deposit in surface area. Other semi-precious gems and minerals found here include amethyst, garnet, peridot, jasper, agate, calcite, barite and quartz. The park staff provides free identification and certification of diamonds. Park interpretive programs and the exhibit gallery in the park visitor center explain the site's geology and history and offer tips on recognizing diamonds in the rough.

In 2007, 1000 diamonds were found in Crater of Diamonds State Park. Over 75,000 diamonds have been found there since the first ones were found by John Huddleston in 1906. The largest diamond ever founding the Unites States was found here in 1924. It is the 40.23 carat white Uncle Sam. This is one of the places I have to go before I hit that big rock pile in the sky –Wayne

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Maria Del Sol, Santa Maria, Ca. December 8, 2007

President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Debbie Hood led the flag salute.

Debbie welcomed guests Pat McKay, Claire Collison, Donna Lehman, Marty Lingerfelt and Betty Gunn.

Debbie gave the president's annual report with highlights as follows:

We were able to give \$1,000.00 for scholarships in 2007. Cuesta College and Hancock College each received \$500.00 scholarships.

Jan Ferguson purchased WalMart gift cards and we donated a total of \$500.00 to the Department of Social Services for the abused children.

Between Wes Lingerfelt and Wayne Mills there were eight programs presented to schoolchildren in 2007.

The Orcutt Mineral Society Bulletin was recognized by both the CFMS and the AFMS and members received a total of 14 awards for articles and poetry this year.

We presented the Salvation Army with canned goods and a check for \$50.00.

We lost two members in 2007, Mary Sausa and Paul Patrick.

Debbie presented the following awards:

"The Dog Ate My Homework Award" went to Ralph Bishop for the most original excuse for missing a bulletin deadline.

"The Shining Star Award" was presented to Wayne Mills for all of his work in helping with articles for the bulletin.

The **"If It's Too Hot In The Kitchen, Get Out Award"** went to Sylvia Nasholm for all of her wonderful efforts in running a great snack bar for the annual show.

"The Well Rounded Man Of All Seasons Award" was presented to Wes Lingerfelt for all of the things he does to keep the club running smoothly.

Debbie thanked her elected officers and board for their efforts in making 2007 a great year.

Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurers report. Lucky Virgin made a motion to accept the report as read. Sylvia Nasholm seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wes Lingerfelt read the proposed budget for 2008. A motion was made by Elaine Von Achen that we accept the proposed budget. Motion was seconded by Jan Ferguson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Debbie Hood that we resolve to remove Debbie Hood's name from the signature card at Rabobank and add new president, Wayne Mills' name. The motion was seconded by Mike Henson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Don Dana to amend the Standing Rules & Operating Regulations, 8.1.1 Gem Show & Tailgate Committee – b. Show Committee Chairperson – That said person shall have the authority to expend Society funds in the exercise of their duties with the limit of \$5,500 per gem show event to \$6,000 per gem show event. The motion was seconded by Truman Burgess. Motion passed.

Wes Lingerfelt swore in the following slate of officers for 2008: President, Wayne Mills, President Elect, Debbie Hood, and Secretary, Elaine Von Achen. Debbie Hood swore in Wes Lingerfelt as Treasurer for 2008.

The following board members for 2008 were sworn in my Wes Lingerfelt: Sharon Duncan, Dee Dee Magri, Mike Henson and Sylvia Nasholm.

Wayne Mills awarded the prize for the highway cleanup for November to Marty Lingerfelt.

Old Business: None

The program for the afternoon was a magic show presented by Gary Elem "Dr. Magic" who followed up with balloon animals for the kids.

Wayne Mills raffled off the beautiful poinsettias that were being used as table decorations.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Wayne Mills at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

OMS January 2008 Calendar

Wednesday January 2, 2008 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-At Wayne Mill's home. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday January 8, 2008 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: Steve Riegel presents "Florescent Rocks." • - Display: Central Coast Rocks • Refreshments-Do-Nuts
Saturday January 12, 2008	Field Trip To Be Announced
Saturday January 19, 2008 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up. Meet-101/166 E. After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday January 26, 2008 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast at "Pappys" Restaurant at 1275 E. at Betteravia Road in Santa Maria

OMS February 2008 Calendar

Tuesday February 5, 2008 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday February 12, 2008 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- How to make a sphere • Display- • Refreshments Cake
Saturday, February 23,2008 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast at "Denny's" Restaurant at 1019 E. Main Street, Santa Maria
Saturday February 16, 2008 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.	Field trip to Jade Cove -Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Observational trip to a classic location. Bring a Lunch and water. Some hiking required. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.

CFMS SHOWS 2008**January 19-20 2008, Exeter, CA**

Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemboree
 Veteran's Memorial Bldg.
 On Highway 65
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
 Marshall Havner (559) 562-4133
 Email: mdhavner@verizon.net

January 25-27 2008, Redlands, CA

The Mineralogical Society of Southern CA
 43rd. Pacific Micromount Conference
 San Bernardino County Museum
 2024 Orange Tree Lane (exit North on California St. from I-10)

February 15-24, 2008, 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

February 22-23, 2008, Northridge, CA

Delair Rockhounds
 United Methodist Church
 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)
 Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Julia Marin (818) 886-7190
 Email: jomarin@disextreme.com

February 29 - March 1-2 2008, Hayward, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
 Centennial Hall.
 22292 Foothill Blvd.
 Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10-5
 Larry Ham (510) 887-9007
 Email: mdhavner@verizon.net
 Website: www.MGSCV.org

Humorous One-Liners

- _ A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.
- _ Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- _ A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.
- _ Without geometry, life is pointless.
- _ When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.
- _ Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- _ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- _ Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- _ When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- _ What's the definition of a will? (Come on, it's a dead giveaway!)
- _ A backwards poet writes inverse.
- _ In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes.
- _ A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- _ If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
- _ With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- _ Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you a flat minor.
- _ When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds

Ore-Cutts Editors	
Deborah Hood, Senior Editor	(805) 481-6860
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2008-OMS Officers

Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Pres. Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
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

2008-OMS Board Members

Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308

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.

. Photographs used in this bulletin were taken by Bill Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, and Wayne Mills except where noted

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OMS Membership (dues) are \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for new members for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

Orcutt Mineral Society

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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, 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

