



**The Pres Box—
July 2020**
Bill Brown, OMS President

We are having a period of June gloom, but it's starting to get brighter. Coronavirus is still with us and SLO County is "opening". Don't know if the number of new cases is increasing, but there doesn't seem to be anything that would stop that.

We still have a lot of limitations on what we can do. Most places seem to have a limitation on the size of group that can be accommodated.

If you missed it last month, the August show has been cancelled. The school is not available for the show and we don't have another location even if we could live with bringing that many people together.

I called Oasis senior center today and they are not allowing groups of more than 10 people. If that changes, we will consider whether or not we will hold the meeting at our Board Meeting. Check the web page and Bulletin for updates. We will also send out emails when/if the status of Oasis changes.

The Board Meeting will on Tuesday, July 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Building. The room is available, and we should be able to have an in person meeting:>).

We plan to hold our Semi-annual (picnic) Meeting on Saturday, August 1. (Subject to cancellation by Santa Maria Parks and Recreation.

We have the go-ahead for Highway Cleanup from Caltrans.. Participants have to read and sign off on about 4 pages of COVID instructions. Call or e-mail Wayne for further information. Our July Clean-up is Saturday, July 11 at 8:00 a.m. SE Corner 101/166 East.

Our July breakfast **scheduled** for July 25 at Little Bits in Grover Beach is cancelled.. Dine in restaurants are open in SLO County, but group size limitations are currently in affect. We plan to have the August Breakfast at Hometown Buffet in Santa Maria. We will have an update on the web page and in the August Bulletin.

Everybody stay well.

Bill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------|------|---|
| Joe & Lisa Azevedo | 7/08 | |
| Mike Henson | 7/17 | ☺ |

ANNIVERSARIES

***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 (May 2020)*

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR JULY Ruby

Text by Wayne Mills and as noted.
Picture Wikipedia.org



Ruby (Latin *Ruber* -red), is an aluminum oxide (Corundum) that is in the same “family” with sapphire. Interestingly, The name corundum was is taken from the Tamil word “kuruntam” which means “ruby”

(<https://gemsity.com/interesting-facts-ruby-gemstone>) Corundum is the second hardest mineral rating 9 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. The red color in Rubies come from the replacement of 1 in 5,000 of the aluminum atoms with chromium (Encyclopedia Britannica). Ruby is one of the Big 4, most desirable gemstones (Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds and Sapphires)..

Ruby has been found in few locations, most notably in north-central [Myanmar](#) (Burma), northeast of Mandalay, where the gemstone occurs in bands of crystalline limestone associated with granitic and gneissic rocks. Rubies have been found at several localities in [Thailand](#), in gravels with sapphires and spinels; and they are generally of dark color, often inclining to a deep reddish brown. Rubies found in the gem gravels of [Sri Lanka](#) are not usually of such good color as the Myanmar stones. (Encyclopedia Britannica). In America, Rubies have been found in North Carolina. Rubies occur with Zoisite (chrome mica) in Tanzania, however, these are NOT gem grade. Other locations claiming to have rubies—Arizona, Australia and the Cape of South Africa, have instead, fine garnets. .

LOCAL ROCKS-- XONOTLITE (Vandenberg Coast)

Text and pictures by Wayne Mills,
Ore-Cutts Editor,

Xonotlite is a calcium silicate mineral that (according to webmineral.com), forms in veinlets in Serpentine (a metamorphic rock), and contact zones. Many years ago, one of our OMS Legends, Ralph Bishop, found rocks with notable areas of pink in his forays onto the beaches of Vandenberg Air Force Base. Ralph made several other discoveries in that area, including **Aragonite pseudomorphs** after Halite



(Ore-Cutts, February 2020), and **Copper ore.** (Pseudomorphs – MEOW , Ore Cutts, November 2005). The Xonotlite at this location was verified by the mineral curator of the LA County Natural History Museum,

Tony Kampf, in 2009.

BITS AND BYTES

Beautiful pictures of gems and minerals
Finemineralphotography.com

Meteorite found containing the oldest material on Earth— 7 Billion year old Stardust

<http://www.geologypage.com/2020/01/meteorite-contains-the-oldest-material-on-earth.html?fb>

Lovely photos of 16 National Parks

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/travel-photos/beautiful-photos-of-underrated-us-national-parks>

The “Earth’s –Bullseye, a 30 mile wide ring structure found in Africa near Mauritania has long been thought to be a meteor crater— it isn’t.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/science/earths-bullseye-is-a-giant-geological-wonder-that-stuns-from-space/vi-BB14XvjV>

See “The Dinosaur Hunters on Discovery Channel starting June 19. Special edition featuring discovery of a Nano (bigger than the original) Tyrannosaurus.

<https://www.discovery.com/shows/dino-hunters/articles/new-series--dino-hunters>

IGNEOUS CHALLENGE—Last month, I challenged folks to see how many words they could make from the letters in the word “Igneous”. *Words are 4 or more letters. No plurals, 1 point per word, 1 point for each word related to geology or geography.*

Guess the next Challenge? “Sedimentary my dear Watson”.

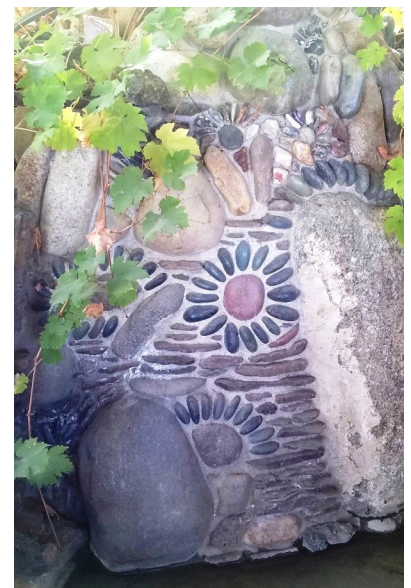
#	E	G	I	N	O	S	U	
1	EGIS	GUISE	INGO	NOSE	ONUS	SUNG	USING	
2	ENOU	GONE		NOISE		SING		
3		GENUS				SUING		
4		GENIUS				SINGE		
5		GENI				SONG		
6		GOES				SONE		
7						SIGN		
	2	6	1	2	1	7	1	20

ROCK CHUCK CONTINUED (From June Ore-Cutts)
 Commentary and photos by Barbara Bilyeu

I got a nice note back from Barbara Bilyeu of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds regarding Chelsea and John from Rock-chuck in Shurz, Nevada. Barbara said: “By the way, we know Chelsea and John from Rock Chuck and always enjoy seeing them. We’ve stopped at their very interesting shop near Schurz several

times, and its interior is a rock experience in itself.

John’s dad did some lovely stonework inside which gives the place a Zen throw-back atmosphere. **Do make it a point to stop in** if you ever go that way. They are a delightful couple, full of enthusiasm! “



KID'S PAGE —QUARTZ

Text by Wayne Mills

Quartz is one of the most abundant minerals at the Earth's surface. It is composed of two elements—Silicon and Oxygen (two atoms of oxygen for every atom of silicon), So its formula is SiO_2 . Quartz forms in the hexagonal crystal system, and depending on how and where it is formed, can occur in several forms including sceptered (on a stalk), double-terminated ("faceted" on both ends like Herkimer Diamonds), or attached to each other as this crystal group from Africa.



[Geology Wonders Facebook Group, from Geologyin.com](#). Quartz from near Karabib in Namibia, Africa

Quartz is one of the main "ingredients" in **Granite** (an igneous rock that forms inside the Earth from magma.) Other forms of Quartz include **Quartzite** (metamorphosed sandstone), **Chert and Flint**, and **Agate** (a sedimentary rock that sometimes forms by precipitation inside igneous rocks like these geodes from Brazil.



The largest agate geodes I have seen! From Jean Sissini Fithcen's post on [Rockhound Connection Facebook Group](#) 5/16/2020. Shown at the GSA Convention. I believe these are from Brazil Agates

Purple quartz is called **Amethyst**. Some green quartz is called **Chrysoprase**, and pink quartz is called "**Rose Quartz**".

DID YOU KNOW?

(From didyouknow.com)

85% of the Earth's plant life is found in the ocean.

Not entirely surprising because the Oceans cover 75% of the Earth!

Bears have 42 teeth!
(Adult people only have 32.)

Sharks have between 50 and 200 teeth placed in up to 14 rows. They can have up to 30,000 teeth in a lifetime. www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-teeth-do-sharks-have

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting
Teleconference
June 2, 2020

Members present:

Bill Brown (Pres.), Jeanne Brown (Pres. Elect), Wayne Mills (Secty), **BOARD:** Jan Ferguson, R. Suttcliffe

Absent: Betty Campbell, Dick Bazell, A.D. Hood, S. Griffith;

MINUTES: Wayne—Minutes of May Board Teleconference are in the Bulletin. No changes noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Betty was not present at meeting

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne) Letters from Salvation Army (2 envelopes for donations), State Division of Taxes and Fees (Wayne, sent to Jeannie's office for Betty). Wayne has not been paid for bills submitted in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin- Wayne has done a great job as usual. He has been asking for some help so anyone who has an article or information should get it to him.

CFMS- (Renea). Camp Paradise is cancelled for 2020. CFMS plans for a Director's Meeting in Visalia in October. The 2021 CFMS Show is in Lancaster, CA on April 16-18.

Membership – Nothing new

Field Trip— Jeanne will call Sally to see if she has any ideas.

Adopt-a-Highway – California Highway Department is allowing our Highway Clean-ups starting in July on the condition that participants read and sign a paper concerning safety and social distancing. Call or e-mail Wayne if you are interested in participating. Clean-up is July 11 at 8:00 am at 101/166 East.

Annual Awards Banquet: Still scheduled for December 12.

Breakfast- Restaurants are only allowing 10 folks at a table at a time. We will not have a Breakfast in July, but plan to have one in August at hometown Buffet in Santa Maria.

Education: None to report.

Library- (Alexis) Alexis. Nothing

Sunshine- Truman Burgess is under the weather. He needs someone to get the Barbecue wood for our Picnic (that may happen) in August 1. Renee said she would get the wood. Dick Bazzell is still with us. He is planning to come to the Annual Picnic.

Scholarship (Jeanne) No report

Our show has been canceled this year due to loss of our venue at the high school. Jeanne Brown will check with McDaniel Insurance about rolling our show insurance over to next year.

Old Business- None

New Business- June BBQ Meeting has been postponed as Santa Maria Parks has canceled our permit in June. They had some slots open for August, so we have rescheduled our picnic for the first Saturday in August (1). Our July Board meeting will be back in the Nipomo C of C building on July 7.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
General Meeting
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA
June 9, 2020

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

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

OMS PICNIC—2016



OMS CALENDAR

Note: Schedule is tentative based on COVID 19 Virus measures

JULY 2020

Check June Bulletin for COVID Updates

Tuesday, July 7 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. All members are welcome at this meeting.
Saturday, July 11 8:30 a.m.	Highway Clean-up SE Corner 101/166 East Read and sign COVID Release form from CT . Bring mask and disinfectant.
Tuesday, July 14	No General Meeting
Saturday, July 25 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— CANCELLED

AUGUST 2020

Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates

Saturday, August 1 11:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pioneer Park,	OMS Semi-Annual Meeting/ Picnic. Pioneer Park. Bring side-dish, utensils, table cloth (mask, etc., rocks for silent auction.
Tuesday, August 4 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. All members are welcome at this meeting.
Saturday, July 25 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— Hometown Buffet, Santa Maria

2020-OMS OFFICERS

President	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS

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

CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. **OMS Membership Chairperson is: ?**

OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org>
or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org.

Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher

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Check-out the OMS Web page at :omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.

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

CFMS SHOWS

JULY (2020) —

Due to COVID 19, many shows have been cancelled, but have not notified the CFMS Website. Check given reference before going.

July 4 & 5, 2020

Roseville Rockrollers **Annual Gem Show**
Placer County Fairgrounds,
800 All America City Blvd., Roseville, CA
Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM
Money Saving Coupon Available at Website:
<http://www.rockrollers.com>

AUGUST (2020)

August 15 – 16; TEHACHAPI, CA
Maybe—awaiting confirmation from TVGMS.

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Senior Center
500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: (661) 972-1117
Web site: <http://www.tvgms>
Annual gem, mineral and jewelry show (~30 Dealers).
We have a wide variety gems, minerals and jewelry
plus kids activities and much more.



PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS OMS GEM SHOWS (OMS Archives)

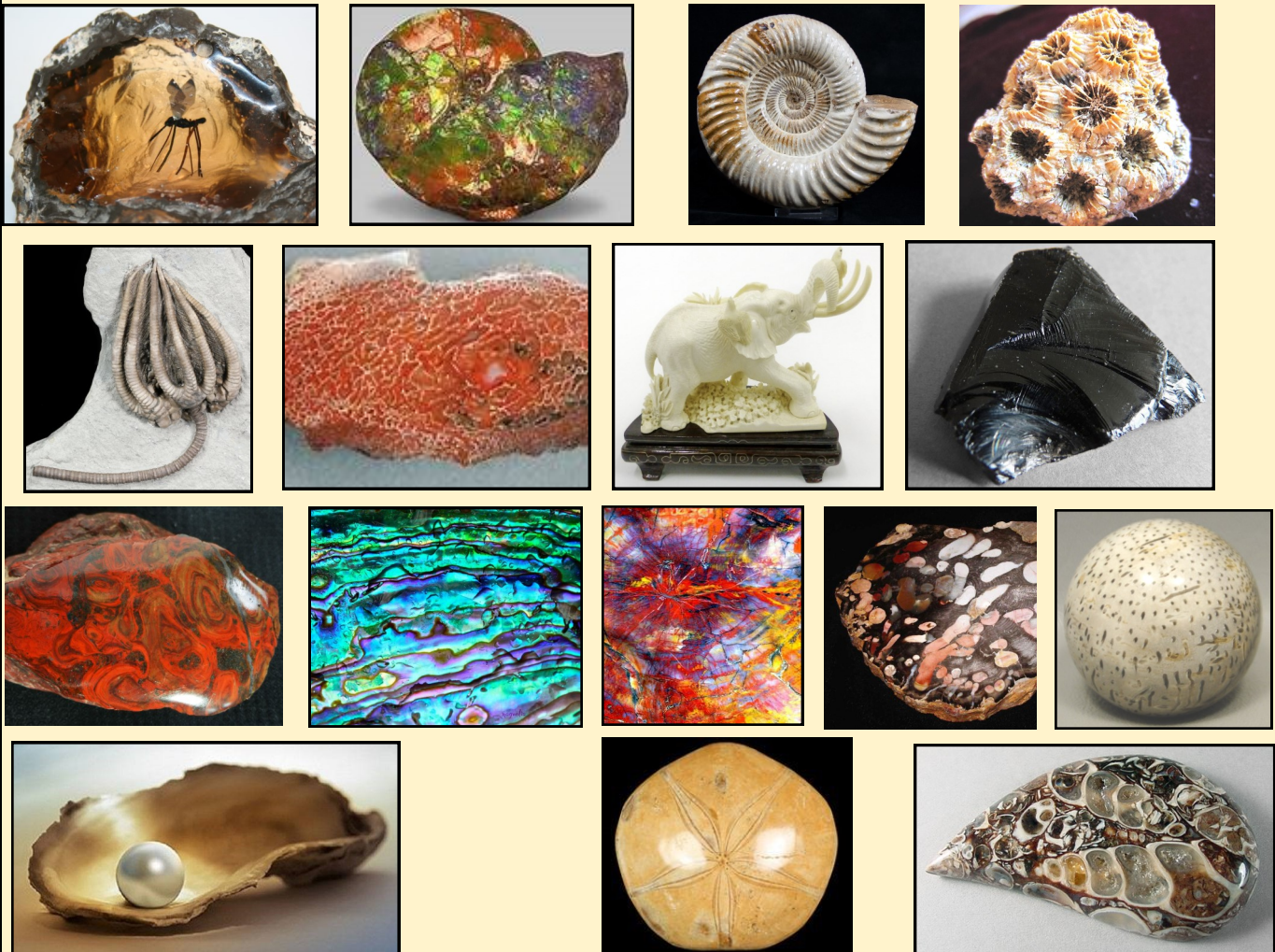


What are Organic Gems?

<https://geology.com/gemstones/organic-gemstones> Via SLO Gems Newsletter, June 2020

Although most **gemstones** are **mineral** materials, a number of organic materials are also considered to be gemstones. The most common of these are: pearl, bone, amber, coral, jet, and ivory. These are materials, produced by organisms, that have been cut into gems and other ornamental objects. There are also organic materials that have been mineralized (replaced and infilled by chalcedony, opal, calcite, aragonite, pyrite, or other mineral material). Although the material itself is not organic, it does preserve an organic structure. Examples include: petrified wood, fossil coral, dinosaur bone, and other fossilized organisms or parts:

1. **Amber** (fossilized tree resin),
2. **Ammolite** (opalized ammonite shell)
3. **Ammonite** (an extinct group of marine invertebrates),
4. **Coral** (colonial organism, fossilized),
5. **Crinoids** (fossilized marine invertebrates related to Sand Dollars),
6. **Dinosaur bones**, petrified
7. **Fossilized Coral and Bryozoans**,
8. **Ivory** - from tusks of elephants and other mammals,
9. **Jet** - petrified coal
10. **Mary Ellen Jasper**, 2 billion years old,
11. **Mother of pearl** (nacre—substance secreted by marine molluscs to line their shells or to cover irritants (sand grains)),
12. **Opalized and petrified wood**,
13. **Peanut wood** (fossil wood preserving insect burrows),
14. **Petrified palm**
15. **Petrified wood**,
16. **Pearls**
17. **Sand Dollar, agatized**,
18. **Turritella Agate** (fossilized fresh-water snail shells)



1. originalprop.com ,
2. Fossilrealm.com ,
3. Fossilera.com ,
4. Etsy.com ,
5. Fossilera.com ,
6. Bonemasters.com ,
8. Ivoryandart.com ,
9. hibiscusmooncrystalacademy.com ,
10. pinterest.com ,
11. wallpapersafari.com ,
12. gem-coach.com ,
13. outbackmining.com ,
14. oakrocks.net ,
15. fashionlady.in ,
17. Fossilera.com ,
18. samsilverhawk.com ,

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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.