

Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVII, Issue V

May 2002

Field trip to Jalama Beach - April 20, 2002

Travertine City by the Sea

Wayne Mills

OMS Field Trip Chairperson

On a sunny and windy day, 15 OMS adventurers headed for Jalama Beach. Members and guests present were Merle Austin, Sharon Duncan, Bob Bullock, Salty and Kelly Tapper, Jere and Kelli Clements, Wes Lingerfelt, Ralph Bishop, Dick and Bess Shields, Robbin and Jim Cooper, Joan Day and Wayne Mills. After driving through Lompoc, and enjoying some of their many murals, we arrived at Jalama about 1030.



Southernmost Travertine Outcropping

After loading our collecting gear, we headed north along the beach into a cold and blustery wind that soon had everyone

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Field Trips and Shows

Wayne Mills

OMS Field Trip Chairperson

May 4-5 2002, Bakersfield, CA

Kern County Mineral Society

Kern County Fairgrounds / Hours: 10-5 both days

Herm Rogers (661) 589-3348

Sunday morning, Wes will lead a few of us to a shark's tooth location. Most of the teeth we get will go to the prospecting activity for kids at the Dana Adobe (June 8), and our Club Show on August 9-11. You can keep the best ones you find though!

Also, Roy Freeman, freeroy@earthlink.net, announced that he will sell 8, 10, 12, 12 and 18 inch saws polishers and laps and rocks at his house 4408 Parkwood Ct., Bakersfield from 8 AM to 12 PM on May 4 and 5.

June 15-16 2002, Cayucos, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club

Cayucos Vets Hall at the Pier / Cayucos Drive.

Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5 / George Moore
(805) 772-2321

June 28-29, there is a field trip opportunity to Cerro Gordo a famous mining district in Inyo County. The trip will be sponsored by the Lone Pine Club. Call or e-mail France Pedenau, Franceem@juno.com, for more information. Or call Wayne Mills or Wes Lingerfelt, we can get the information.

August 3 - 4 2002, Arroyo Grande, CA

Central Coast Treasure Hunters Assoc.

15th. Annual Treasure Hunt

Brush Poppers Arena / John (805) 489-1079 or

Frank (805) 438-3125

August 9-11 2002, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society

St. Joseph's Church / 298 S Thompson Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 daily / Dick Shields (805) 937-0357 /
shields6@ix.netcom.com

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in jackets and long sleeves. About ½ way to the travertine location, Ralph found a nice piece of whalebone, and soon after that, Joan, a biologist by training, found a tide-pool alive with thousands of baby sand crabs. The exhausted sand crab parents were scurrying around like crazy. The sand was alive with the little buggers, for a long way down the beach.

As people walked up the beach, they found occasional "treasures" including shells and driftwood, and I saw a few of the agates and brecciated jasper that they picked up. Jerry Clement found a really pretty fist sized piece of a poppy type jasp-agate that I am anxious to see cut and polished. Ralph and Wes each found big pieces of Marcasite agate, and several of the adventurers got nice pieces of the brown travertine that forms cliffs about 1.5 miles north of the parking lot.



Collecting near the Travertine Wall

As pleasant as the rock-collecting was the renewing views of nature we enjoyed. Though the sea and bird life was minimal, we did see a little group of semi-palmated plovers playing in the surf, pelicans, cormorants and seagulls over head. When a group of us hiked over the rocky headland where the travertine occurs, we came across a pretty little stream and waterfall (about 12 feet tall) that flowed along a green path to the ocean. Much of the green turned out to be wild celery and watercress! Also in this area was a small type of (native) ice plant that appeared to have hardened dew drops all over it in close inspection. On the way into Jalama, we saw a lot of yellow flowers including Wild Mustard, and a Black-eyed Susan relative, as well as purple lupine and orange poppies.

About 3:30 PM we got back to the cars, unloaded our treasures, and headed for the Jalama Store for refreshments and Jalama Burgers. We left about 4 PM, and a few of us stopped at the road-cut we had identified earlier as Cretaceous aged Jalama Formation (65-80 million years old!) It was verified when Wayne broke open one of the concretions and found the internal cast of a bacculite. Joan walked up on the top of the cut, and said she had found some rusty hog-wire in the sand, but that turned out to be the trace fossils of sea creatures who had burrowed in the Mesozoic sands while they were still covered with ocean.



Sharon at the Travertine Wall

Also on the road-cut we found some tasty little wild strawberries. After everyone departed, Joan and Wayne headed home via San Antonio Creek Road where we found the sand dollar deposit (*Dendraster ashleyi*), and as we left, got a nice view of a Marsh Hawk resting in a roadside tree. We got home as dusk was falling, and felt like we had enjoyed a full and lovely day. ✍️

The Wanderer

Spring has arrived, so grab your rock hammer and camera for a day trip up Figueroa Mountain. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to collect local brecciated jasper and serpentine, you can find excellent deposits just north of Lake Cachuma in the Figueroa Mountain area, and in streambeds to the south of the mountain.

The adventure starts at the junction of Highway 101 and Highway 154 (the back way to Santa Barbara via San Marcos Pass). Travel two miles on Highway 154 toward Los Olivos, and turn left on to Figueroa Mountain Road. The complete circuit is about 40 miles long and goes up the western slope of Figueroa, over grassy meadows at the crest, down the steep slopes on the backside, across the Santa Ynez foothills, and once again returning to Los Olivos. We try to start our trip in Los Olivos around 9:00 a.m., and usually don't finish until suppertime.

The brecciated jasper in this locale is usually ochre and dark brown with white seams and fissures (although some of the material is lighter liver-spot or deep, mottled red and white). The Figueroa Mountain area brecciated jasper is unlike material found on Vandenberg AFB, which is a pure, dark honey color.

Serpentine is readily available on Soapstone Hill, and in the streambeds. Colors range from light moss green to dark gray/green. The serpentine has fantastic potential for carvers and is plentiful in the entire region.

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OMS PURPOSE

Founded in 1958, and is 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, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the LaBrea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a 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 purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2002 Elected Officers in the Orcutt Mineral Society are as follows:

- President Dick Shields (805) 937-0357
- President Elect Wayne Mills (805) 481-3495
- Secretary Bess Shields (805) 937-0357
- Treasurer Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788
- Immediate Past President Glenda Reeves (805) 733-2775

CFMS Representative Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-3788

- Board Members: Bill Hood (805) 481-6860
- Debbie Hood (805) 481-6860
- Don Nasholm (805) 481-0923
- Sylvia Nasholm (805) 481-0923
- Marshall Reeves (805) 733-2775

Society Logo:

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, ORE-CUTTS (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

Numerous side roads branch off of Figueroa Mountain Road to the overlook at Zaca Lake, one to Catway, and Sunset Valley Road leading down to the Davy Brown campground area. Toward the end of the day's drive, streambed pieces of jasper, serpentine, and agate can be found along Happy Canyon Road and Base Line Avenue to the east of Los Olivos. This is where we have found well-worn, cow-spot colored jasper, and harder serpentine cobbles.

Picnic areas and restrooms are available at each of the campgrounds. Beware of poison oak, rattlesnakes, and biting gnats. Cell phone coverage is intermittent in this area. There are NO grocery stores except in Los Olivos and at Cachuma Campground (south of Lake Cachuma). An Adventure Pass is necessary since a good portion of the route is located in the Los Padres National Forest. Take along sunscreen 45, plenty of drinking water, a first aid kit, and a picnic lunch.

Local Chumash Indians used jasper to create beads, and other carved items. A fine collection of artifacts can be seen at the Nature Center located just inside Lake Cachuma Campground, and at the Santa Ynez Mission near Solvang.

If you're a camera buff, springtime flowers you may wish to photograph include chocolate lilies, Mariposa lilies, lupine fields, and hillsides covered with California poppies. Red-tailed hawks, scrub jays, California condors, and hummingbirds are frequently spotted.

For more information, the following may be helpful:
Geologic Map of the Figueroa Quadrangle, DF-43, Thomas W. Dibble, Jr., 1993.
 Santa Maria Historical Society: central coast geologic resources and history (614 S. Broadway, SM).
 Santa Barbara County Recreational Map series
 Our own web page
 (http://pw1.netcom.com/~shields6/oms_2001.html), and photos of Ralph Bishop's jasper collection
 Los Padres National Forest web page: www.r5.fs.fed/is/lospadres/

Happy hunting!

Love, Bess

OMS Gem Show

There are numerous opportunities for OMS members to help out before the Gem Show in August. Here is a list of contact people if you can assist:

- Marshall Reeves** has Treasure Chest tickets.
- Wes Lingerfelt** has set-up projects to accomplish before the show starts.
- Sylvia Nasholm** needs kitchen help.
- Don Nasholm** heads up the barbeque crew
- Bess Shields** needs volunteers for the Welcome booth, assembly of pokesacks, and donations for the Treasure Chest.

Refreshments

We were treated to a vast array of cookies at the April General Meeting. Our thanks are extended to Geary Sheffer, Lucky and Lynda Virgin, Bill and Debbie Hood, and the Shields for the assortment of tasty treats. The refreshments for our May General Meeting will be cake and cupcakes.

May Program

Ralph Bishop will deliver a talk on "Origin and Types of Jasper" at the May General Meeting. Ralph will show us part of his extensive collection of jasper, and answer questions about local collecting sites.

ROCK-Talks

Wes Lingerfelt and Marshall Reeves will participate in the Nightingale Elementary School "**Eagle Extravaganza**" on May 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. by delivering Rock-Talks to groups of students. Other OMS members are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile community educational program.

Wayne Mills invites OMS members to participate in the Dana Adobe Open House in May. He has a rockhound activity planned for children attending the event.

POKE SACKS

We have the 40 pound rock tumbler going nonstop in our backyard, and will have plenty of tumbled material ready for poke sacks. We sold over 400 poke sacks last summer at the Gem Show, and expect to sell even more this year. For those of you who know how to use a needle and thread, we need your assistance in sewing the poke sack bags. The circles are already cut, the yarn is the proper length, and we'll even give you a big needle. All we ask is for a bit of your time. With each of us doing a little, the burden will be light.

We will get together for a Poke Sack Stuffing Party in July to put them together, then stuff our faces with a well-deserved reward in the form of dessert!

Wear your **name badge** to the General Meeting, or face off with the Sheriff – Bill Hood. If you get caught, he'll let you get off for a 25 cent 'donation'.

Grow plants for the Gem Show

I have clipped back the pelargoniums, pruned the spider plants, and dug up some volunteer baby jade plants to pot for the upcoming OMS Gem Show. If you are like me, a little planning ahead can result in big bucks for the club during our show. It only takes a little time now to plant your donations, and the proceeds will be for a worthy cause.

Club Breakfast

Come for a cup of hot brew, or for a full meal to our next OMS Breakfast at The Girls Restaurant (1237 Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande 473-1069) on May 25th, 8:30 a.m. We'll swap collecting site information, and lay plans for new adventures. Call Dick Shields for further information at 937-0357.

Highway Cleanup

Remember that Highway Cleanup will be on May 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. or so, followed by coffee and muffins at Omelets and More in Nipomo. Meet at Highway 166 east and Highway 101 junction at 8:00 a.m. for this community service opportunity.

Locker Cleanup

Many thanks to the individuals who helped with the recent locker cleanup and inventory on April 13 at Fortress Storage. The 8 volunteers assessed what we have for the Gem Show, and what we still need to purchase or repair.

Campbell Soup Labels

Remember to save those Campbell soup labels, and give them to Wes Lingerfelt at General Meeting. He sends the labels on to Sun Valley Indian School. Ask Wes sometime about our small contributions, and how the school reaps the benefits.

**Orcutt Mineral Society
Board Meeting
Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria CA
April 2, 2002**

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:00 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Dick and Bess Shields.

Minutes of the March 5th Board Meeting were approved as read. Minutes of the March 12 General Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Debbie Hood gave each Board member a list of the OMS Telephone Tree, and explained how it will function.

Wes Lingerfelt began circulation of the CFMS Publicity Manual. Each board member will read this in preparation for our Gem Show. The manual will then become part of the OMS library.

Marshall Reeves reported that the Highway Cleanup was accomplished. OMS is responsible for the cleanup every other month along Highway 166, east of Highway 101.

Wes Lingerfelt announced a speaking opportunity at Nightingale Elementary School on May 24 (Friday) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He will conduct 20-minute presentations to small groups of students, and invites other club members to participate in the event.

Raffle Tickets: Marshall will bring the Gem Show raffle tickets to the General Meeting next week for issuance. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each, or a packet of 7 for \$5. Wes Lingerfelt suggests a competition for selling the most tickets with the winner receiving a sphere or other valuable prize.

Debbie Hood will be contacting the Abused Children's Service to investigate what is needed, and plans to spend the accumulated funds on clothing.

Sylvia Nasholm gave each board member a copy of the Exhibit and Demonstration Application for the Gem Show, and explained its purpose. The form will be printed next month in the Ore-cutt.

Correspondence:

A copy of Mineral Messenger from the San Luis Obispo Gem Club.

A copy of Petrograph from the Peninsula Gem and Geology Society.

A copy of Breccia from the Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society.

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.

Old / unfinished business:

Wes Lingerfelt announced that three scholarships were awarded this year: one to Cuesta College for \$400, one to Hancock College for \$450, and one to Hancock College for \$300.

A discussion about the Ore-Cutt was held, and Marshall Reeves will discuss the suggestions with Glenda Reeves, the current editor.

The Lapidary Room Committee reported that there is adequate equipment available to supply the workroom, and there are volunteers available to teach. Beading, silversmithing, faceting, and lapidary arts should all be able to utilize the room. The \$1,300.00 made on the sale of the big saw will be used for initial set-up of the facilities. It was suggested that any additional equipment should be offered first to club members, then the excess can be sold at the summer Gem Show. A full report on recommendations and proposals from the Lapidary Room Committee to the Parks Department will be available for members to review.

We are getting a lot of response to our web page reported President Shields. One gentleman from Solvang found our club via the web, and will be at next week's meeting to check us out.

Locker cleanup will be on April 13th. More information will be given at the General Meeting next week.

New business:

none.

Program for the General Meeting next week will be "Egg Making" by Marshall Reeves.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

**Orcutt Mineral Society
General Meeting
Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria CA
April 9, 2002**

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Dick Shields.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on 'People are like Islands'.

Flag Salute was led by Sylvia Nasholm.

Lynda Virgin reports that 24 members and 7 guests are present.

Minutes of the April 2 Board Meeting were approved as read. Minutes from Board and General Meetings for the months of January through March were included in the April issue of Ore-Cutt.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: Dick Shields reported that the Ore-Cutt is undergoing changes, and he will update us next month on developments.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood was absent due to illness.

Refreshments were provided by Geary Sheffer, the Virgins, the Hoods, and the Shields.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills invites everyone to the Jalama field trip on April 20th. Meet at Mussell Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. Ralph Bishop reported on the collecting trip to Jalama last weekend with the Santa Lucia club, and brought back good travertine. Bakersfield show will be on May 4 & 5. Wayne is organizing an information booth relating to rock and local geology for the Dana Adobe event next month. OMS has been asked back to the Garden Show at El Chorro Park on May 4 & 5 to provide central coast residents with rock related and OMS information. OMS is invited to join the Santa Lucia club on another Lucy Tunnell and collecting field trip on April 27. A reminder that the CFMS Show will be on July 12 at Placerville.

CFMS: no report.

Show preparations: Raffle tickets will be issued beginning tonight. Marshall Reeves will have additional tickets available. Wes reported that all inside spaces are sold, and most outside spaces are sold/confirmed.

Library: Bess Shields reminds members that items from our book and video library can be checked out for one month. A complete list of items available is at the front desk.

Correspondence:

(Show fliers and notices announced under correspondence are at the hostess table following the business portion of the meeting, during refreshment time, for members to view.)

Breccia, the Rock Club newsletter of San Jose CA.

Petrograph, the Rock Club newsletter of the peninsula.

Mineral Messenger, the newsletter from San Luis Obispo club.

The Dunes newsletter

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter of their activities.

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that the Lapidary Room proposal is being presented to the Parks Department tomorrow morning. Marjorie of Mussell Senior Center has already reviewed the report, and her suggestions were added. Wes Lingerfelt explained the insurance aspects of this endeavor.

Locker clean up will be on 13 April, 9:00 a.m., at Fortress Storage (Hwy 1 and Willow). We will be inventorying display cases and determining if we need additional show supplies.

New business:

Wes Lingerfelt reminds the members that we have tee shirts, OMS pins, and other club paraphernalia available for purchase. Also, two vests have been donated to the club and are for sale.

Lucky and Lynda Virgin donated a box of beads to OMS with proceeds going into the treasury. Many thanks for their generosity.

Wes Lingerfelt reported that he and Marshall Reeves will participate in "Eagle Extravaganza" at Nightingale School in Orcutt. They will be giving talks about geology every 20 minutes to different groups of students (the event is 4 hours long!).

Dick Shields is seeking a volunteer to take over the refreshment cart and setting up refreshments at the meetings.

Following the break for refreshments, Marshall Reeves demonstrated "How to Make an Egg". He took us through the various steps involved in turning a chunk of rock in to a rock shaped object using a lapidary wheel. Between steps, members shared information on local collecting sites. The finished eggs will be raffled next month at the General Meeting.

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

EXHIBIT AND DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION FOR OMS 35th Annual Rainbow of Gems Rock Festival

Aug 9-11, 2002
SHOW HOURS 10 AM to 5PM

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
298 S. THOMPSON AVE
NIPOMO, CA. 93444

DEAR FRIENDS:

The Orcutt Mineral Society will be honored to have you exhibit at our 35th annual show. Those of you joining us last year will recall what an enormous success you helped create of our first combined indoor/outdoor Festival. We eagerly look forward to your participation this year, and welcome newcomers to our event.

Set up time will be 1-8 PM on Thursday, August 8, 2002, prior to 10AM, or after 5PM on Friday, August 9, 2002. For those of you who cannot arrive until later on Friday, please advise me what time you will be arriving so that I may reserve your case display area. We highly encourage those of you who normally participate in both our events to please continue to do so. Cases must remain intact during show hours. In the event of an emergency, a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society must accompany you if your case is opened or removed.

Dry camping will be available, and we ask that you vacate the camping area prior to 8AM on Monday, August 12, 2002.

Dinner will be served to exhibitors, demonstrators, and all dealers from 5:30 to 6:30 Thursday evening. We ask everyone participating to stop by the Hospitality table to pick up your welcoming packet. The Orcutt Mineral Society does not carry insurance for the loss or damage to your exhibits. Your homeowners insurance should cover this. The OMS will not be responsible for any loss.

Please indicate below if you can demonstrate your special talents to the public at our show. Your participation has made our show a very special event over the years, and we thank you for your continued support! Please complete the form below, and return to: SYLVIA NASHOLM, 1205 POMEROY RD. ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420 Telephone 805-481-0923 Email: 72153.170@compuserve.com

I WILL EXHIBIT _____ CASE(S) _____ I WILL DEMONSTRATE

NAME _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

My outside dimensions are Length _____ Depth _____ Height _____ Upright _____ Slant _____

Wattage not to exceed 150 WATTS

Description of Exhibit: _____

The Orcutt Mineral Society is a public benefit non-profit corporation

Colored Pine Cones

While sorting out my recipes, I ran across this one from the '60s when I was a camp counselor. If anyone else has similar gems, please contact us at the Ore-Cutt, and we can share interesting bits of trivia. The page originally came from the T-Town Rockhound, and the writer states that he/she "doesn't know where it's published; no information was given":

In a plastic bucket, mix together one gallon of water, and one of the following. Mix well. Add pinecones, sticks, newspaper "flowers", or tightly rolled sheets of newspaper – use your imagination!

½ pound borax or boric acid – light green
1 pound copper sulfate – blue green
½ pound calcium chloride – orange
1 pound lithium chloride – crimson

1 pound table salt – yellow
½ pound potassium chloride – violet
1 pound copper chloride – blue

Soak thoroughly, and dry.

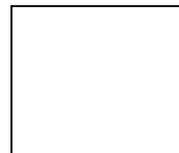
OMS Library

The Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce at 614 South Broadway is the place to pick up your copy of the "**Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties Hiking Guide**" for \$4.00. This recently published gem provides information on many frequently visited, and some unique hiking locations in our central coast area. A copy has been donated to the OMS library, and can be checked out by members.

Thank You, Glenda!

Glenda was editor of the Ore-Cutt for a number of years, and deserves a big thank you from OMS for the wonderful, monthly labor of love she provided. Glenda is past President of OMS, and will continue to support the club as time allows.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED