



# Ore-Cutts

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May 2008



Come and join us on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Mussell Senior Center to hear another fascinating talk by Ralph Bishop. This time he will be speaking to us

about the formation of some local collectibles, ***Marcasite & Sagenite In Agates.***

The Display will be local agates.

Refreshments will be *Pies!*  
Brought to us by Jan Ferguson, Jeannie Lingerfelt, & Sandy Berthelot.



## April Program On Volcanoes of Southern Italy

At the April meeting Steve Riegel gave us a photo show of he and his wife's trip to see the volcanoes of southern Italy while they were stationed in Italy in the service. The pictures were great and the commentary was quite informative as he is a geologist. Many of the terms geologists use to describe volcanoes, including the term "volcano" come from studies of those in southern Italy and they form the "Type" used to describe various sorts of volcanic activity. Many of us came away from this program hoping to someday make that trip! Thank you, again Steve, from all of us!

## Figueroa Mountain, Geodes, Brecciated jasper, and Serpentine

By Wayne Mills

Figueroa Mountain has been one of OMS's favorite collecting places for years. Not only does it rest far above the floor of the Santa Ynez Valley, and overlooks the now vacated Neverland Ranch, but it has some lovely sights in its own right. Spring is a great time to visit the peak, when the poppies and lupine are out in all their

splendor. Near the Ranger station, one hillside is often a fantastic purple and orange floral tapestry.

And there are rocks there too! Perhaps the most abundant collectible rock is brecciated jasper, which occurs widely on the Central Coast, while it is relatively rare in the rest of the country. Also found on Figueroa Mt. are geodes (off Davy Jones Road-ask Ralph about these...), aragonite crystals, serpentine, and reportedly soapstone, although this rockhound has never seen any. Believe me, I looked all over Soapstone Hill, and only found Serpentine.



According to the *Geologic Map of the Figueroa Mountain Quadrangle, Santa Barbara County, California* (Thomas Dibblee, 1993) the top of the mountain is at the axis of the Zaca Syncline, a great fold in the Middle Miocene aged Monterey Formation. Figueroa Mountain is 4528 feet above Mean Sea Level (at least it was in 1993...). South of the road level between Figueroa Camp and Junction Camp, the Monterey Formation is in fault contact (Camuesa Fault) with the serpentized rocks of the Jurassic-Cretaceous aged Franciscan Formation. This contact is in turn, covered by a large landslide of Monterey Formation material.

As Figueroa Mountain Road leaves the Alamo Pintado Creek bed, and starts climbing the mountain, you cross the Little Pine Fault that marks the contact between the Quaternary aged, terrestrial sediments of the Paso Robles Formation, and serpentized portions of the Franciscan Formation.

The Franciscan Melange is a duke's mixture of meta-sedimentary rocks including chert, greywacke, argillite, sandstone, greenstone, blue schist (largely glaucophane), and "gray prehenite dioritic rock" (whatever that is). The serpentized (subject to low temperature, low pressure metamorphism) rocks formed from "partial to complete hydrothermal alteration of ultramafic (high iron) igneous rocks" that intruded as sill-like masses into the

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Franciscan Formation and part of the Cretaceous-aged Espada Formation. These rocks include serpentinite with minute specks of magnetite, serpentized peridotite or dunite with scattered veinlets of asbestos, and serpentized diabase.

I know, this list doesn't include brecciated jasper, but remember we did mention chert and hydrothermal alteration, and faults. Since chert and jasper are mineralogically the same, and physically similar in appearance, and since this is fault country, the appearance of brecciated jasper here is not unexpected. (Actually, it is not unexpected anywhere on the Central Coast!)

Though the April Field Trip to Figueroa Mountain was been put on hold, that is no reason to delay seeing this place when it is cloaked in its Spring finery. Later on in the year its vegetation gets brown, and it can get plain hot!

**Source:** *Geologic Map of the Figueroa Mountain Quadrangle, Santa Barbara County, California* (Thomas Dibblee, 1993.)

## The Locker is Clean!

By Wes Lingerfelt

The weather was perfect! Our mission was to empty out the storage locker of its contents and try to get a handle on the total inventory stored there. We had a very good crew show up including Sharon Duncan, Mike and Marge Henson, Bob Bullock, Geary Sheffer, Steve Reigel, Gary Slate (possible new member), Erica Erskine, Keith McKay, Don Nasholm and yours truly, Wes Lingerfelt. Every one was enthusiastic and eager to "Git'er Done!" We set up some of the tables from inside to use as work tables and began the unloading at 9AM sharp. As soon as room was made inside Geary and I began the difficult task of making a list of the items on the shelves. We had no idea there was so much stuff. The work went smoothly and the ladies re-folded the skirting



while the men took on the task of marking a number on each and every display case with a Magic Marker. We conned Mike into taking home the last huge and heavy display

case to make more room for the ones we use during the show. Thanks, Mike! We appreciate it!

By 11:30 we had completed the chore and headed over to the newly opened Creek Side Cafe in Nipomo's Adobe Plaza for a little refreshment and relaxation. Several people had to head for the barn and missed out on the festivity. Those that made it over to the restaurant found

it a pleasant and friendly place. I highly recommend it for one of our monthly breakfast visits. We enjoyed the iced tea, muffins, cinnamon rolls, bagels and fruit cups provided with very friendly service. Thanks to all those that made the effort to help the club. We really appreciate it!

## Field Trip To The Beecham Ranch

By Bob Bullock, Fieldtrip Chairman

Well, here we went again. On a cold blustery Saturday morning the troops were mustered up and headed out to the Beecham Ranch



out off of Clark Valley Rd. in Los Osos. After a short dirt road drive we parked our wagons at Dorothy Davidson's residence next to the creek, where there were several large

other fine stones. 21 people showed up to help Dorothy and we collected \$632.00 for her to help with clean up costs ordered by the County of San Luis Obispo. This trip was aided by Tim Fielder, of the SLO Co. Code Enforcement Team who helped us in getting to this location and knew Dorothy needed help. Everyone looked like they found their prize piece from local jasper, to the imported rhyolite. Mother nature even presented us with her bounty of plants along the creek bed: Poison Oak, Nettle, Mugwort, Fox Glove and many more than you can shake a stick at, the bane and cure both, per Gloria Dana. The only thing missing was a good hot cup of coco.

After the majority of folks left Tim invited the remainder of us for a quick trip up the mountain to the old Magnesium mine. This was a very unimproved short road trip and the Marines lead the way, Tim's son who just got home from the big sand pit (IRAQ) was point. Walking wasn't easy but we did make it to the mine. This spot had been in the far past a very hot and active geologic area. A seam of jaspers and magnesium cooked together, along with phosphorus to form this spot. Later it was mined for its contents during WWII. Well, it was a day, and thanks to Wes, his County friends and



Dorothy, I do believe we had a good time of it. I did pick up a few ticks and scrapes, and, Ralph; I do hope your finger is better.

## March Breakfast Report

By Gloria Dana

The Orcutt Mineral Society's monthly breakfast for March was held at Jocko's restaurant in Nipomo on March 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

OMS members in attendance were Gloria and Shelly Dana, Wes, Jeannie and Marty Lingerfelt, Stan, Jan and Brenna Ferguson, Lucky Virgil, Debbie and Bill Hood, Erica Erskine, Keith and Pat McKay and Don and Sylvia Nasholm.

All members attending enjoyed good conversation and excitement over the morning's door prizes. Marty Lingerfelt won a book on the "Northern Calif. Trails of Rock Hounding". Don Nasholm won a book on crystals and Pat McKay won a beautiful pair of Swarovski earrings donated by Jan Ferguson.

April's breakfast will be held at CJ's Restaurant on April 26, at 9:00 a.m. CJ's is located on Grand Avenue in Arroyo Grande. Coffee will be piping hot and our waitress will greet us with a smile. Please contact Gloria Dana for directions.

## Rock Class At Oceano School

By Wes Lingerfelt

On April 21<sup>st</sup> I responded to a teacher at Oceano Elementary School for the third year in row. Teacher Jill Zamek has always found my presentation informative and beneficial to her class and that is a real good feeling. It's always nice to know that you are doing something to encourage the children to learn about rocks. I arrived at the school a little early to have time to set up for the 1 PM session scheduled in room 32. I was informed there would be 31 students in each of two classes I would be teaching for a period of 45 minutes each. Luckily the teacher had made plans for the students to change rooms so I would not have to pack and repack my rocks and minerals. I found that very considerate of her. The main thrust of the presentation is to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> graders involved by asking probing questions and then surprise them with the answer. For example, I hold up a milk carton along with a piece of Calcite and ask them "How do you suppose this rock gets into this carton of milk?" I always marvel at the imaginations of the little ones and some of their answers are quite colorful. For the most part they always appear to believe that everything in life is found in the grocery store but have no idea how it got there. Many times I've discovered that the teachers learn quite bit along with the students.

I finished the first session on time and passed out a small bag of Fool's Gold to each one as they passed by the table during the hands on period of the presentation. I

so enjoy this part of session as the kids are really wide eyed as they pick up the meteorite or the "Dino Poo". I was careful to over emphasize the need to keep their new treasure away from any of their little brothers or sisters at home. At 2:15 PM I started the second session of another 30+ students. I had double pleasure this day.

Before the end of this school year I will try to get two more sessions in two additional schools that have requested my program. It's not easy to find the empty periods in my schedule to accomplish the task but well worth the effort. You folks out there (I'm talking to you club members) don't know what you are missing!

## The Pres Box

By Wayne Mills, OMS President

I missed the locker cleanup on April 12, because I had a previous commitment to lead a group of hikers to the wildflowers on Shell



Creek Road and to Painted Rock. The "group" turned out to be two folks, but we had a nice time. Painted Rock is

reverence- inspiring, especially in the Spring with all the wildflowers out, but it loses a bit when 50 folks are there at the same time. I'm sure the Prairie Falcons who [Bear and Coyote paintings](#) are nesting on the rock this

time of year would agree. Anyhow, many thanks to Geary and Wes for staging the locker cleanup and to all the other OMS folks who helped "get 'er done."

Let the record show that I WAS at the March OMS breakfast at Jocko's. I know I was there because Gloria tantalized me with two of the three nice prizes she bought for the attendees. She called #49 and #51, and I had #50. Darn. But it was a nice breakfast, and well attended. Congratulations to Gloria for doing a great job setting up the venues, and arranging the prizes and the announcements at our meetings. Next time we go to Jockos for breakfast, someone remind me to bring candles...

Steve Riegel did a really nice job on our April meeting; he made those volcanoes seem almost alive! We are looking forward to meeting his wife one of these days, and to future presentations from them both.

Show season is upon us. The Bakersfield Rockhound Rendezvous (Southern San Joaquin Club) was on the first weekend in April, the Bakersfield Club show is the first weekend in May (3-4); the San Luis Club Show at the Vet's Hall in Cayucos is coming up in June; as is the CFMS Show in Ventura (27-29). The really important



one (but I am prejudiced,) is our show coming up on August 1-3. Please reserve those dates. We are going to need a LOT of help to preserve our reputation of putting on a great show.

There are many things you can do starting now to help us prepare for the "Big Shew". These include keeping your eyes out for rock-related prizes for our Treasure Chest, or any other "good stuff" that we can sell in our Country Store. Think about getting one of the few remaining (unclaimed) club cases from Wes to get ready for the show. Exercise your creativity in making a nice case liner to match your display of whatever "facet" of the rockhound realm you want to share with us. For the liner, light, neutral colors are recommended—plaid is not (see Ore Cutts April 2008). Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan on displaying in August.

## Sunshine Report

Kay Vollmer has been in and out of the hospital several times lately with a variety of problems, but is getting better at her new home in Santa Maria (To contact Kay, please consult Debbie Hood at 481-6860.)



Gloria Dana experienced a spontaneous fracture of the spine...it is just plain eerie to see Gloria so quiet...hope you are back in the pink soon!

Wes Lingerfelt got a piece of Marcasite deep into his arm while hammering on a rock with his geology hammer. It required removal by a surgeon as it was very close to an artery. He is healing well, but *it is a reminder to us all of the importance of always following safety practices such as wearing goggles!*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



A big "Happy Birthday" to everyone who celebrates a birthday in May: Stan Ferguson, Kelly Tapper, Christine Clason, Kay Vollmer, & Ken Kreh.

Anniversary congratulations go out to those who have one in May: Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt, & Kathy Colison and her husband, we wish all of you many, many more!



## Bits and bytes

By Wayne "I don't bite very hard" Mills

Rockhounds are reminded to check out the California Federation of Mineral Societies web site at <http://cfmsinc.org>. The CFMS bulletin has lately had a lot of interesting information in it. Perhaps you want to download an application for Camp Paradise, to be held August 31 through September 13 (two one-week sessions) of this year. Or to check on upcoming shows, or look at the CFMS display competition rules.

Newspapers recently announced the oldest human remains found to date in the United States date to about

14,000 years BP, based on feces found in an Oregon Cave. Among the previous oldest verified human remains in the US was Arlington Springs Woman from Santa Rosa Island, at about 13,000 years BP. The Clovis Paleo-Indian Culture that is unique to North America dates to about 13,000-12,000 years BP. Clovis type points have not been found on the Channel Islands, suggesting perhaps a coastal migration as well as a more inland route from Asia to the Americas.

Recently an article appeared on MSN News about the oldest necklace ever found in the Americas. The necklace was found in a tomb Near Lake Titicaca, Peru, and consisted of 9 pounded and rolled gold tubes about 3 centimeters (about 1.2 inches) long, alternating with disc-shaped, green stone beads.

We have long been told to judge faceted stones by the four C's--cut, color, carat weight and clarity. Now the diamond industry has made another breakthrough. They are marketing poor color (brown) diamonds as "chocolate" diamonds, and they are now "a hot new, "spring trend" according to MSN news.

## The River That Raised a Mountain

By Phil Berardelli

Science NOW Daily News; 10 January 2008

If you think erosion always wears down mountains, think again. Researchers now report a case in which a river created a new mountain, a dramatic example of how climate, plate tectonics, and erosion can affect each other.

To say that the Yarlung Tsangpo River flows through the Himalaya Mountains of Tibet is a little like saying Tyrannosaurus rex tiptoed through the world of the Cretaceous. The Yarlung Tsangpo is the highest and one of the roughest rivers in the world, and its total drop of about 3000 meters--more than twice that of the Mississippi River in less than half the length--makes it an extraordinary excavator. In one section, the river pushes past a mountain named the Namche Barwa-Gyala Perimassif and has cut a gorge nearly 5 kilometers deep. Here, researchers think they have made a startling discovery. Although most of the Himalayas along the Yarlung Tsangpo's length have been rising at a uniform rate during the past 50 million years, the massif has shot up tens of times faster. Parts of it have reached more than 7700 meters in less than 2 million years, an international team concludes in the current issue of the Geological Society of America's GSA Bulletin. The event, which geologists call a tectonic aneurysm, occurred because the river removed so much material during that time frame from a corner of the Indian crustal plate. This lightened the plate enough to allow a small part of it to lift more rapidly than the rest, thrusting Namche Barwa-Gyala Peri above the surrounding landscape.

"There's very compelling evidence" that erosion has allowed the mountain to grow, says geologist and lead author Noah Finnegan of Cornell University. A feedback

loop is also involved in this phenomenon, Finnegan says. The rise of the Himalayas has trapped much of the seasonal moisture blowing to the northeast off the Indian Ocean. That captured moisture provides India with its annual monsoon rains, but it also deposits a lot of snow on the mountains, which when melted boosts the Yarlung Tsangpo's flow. The process shows that "you can make weather by uplifting mountains," he says. And that weather, sometimes, can generate more uplift. The paper makes a convincing case that erosion and mountain building can be tightly coupled, says environmental scientist Cameron Wobus of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

### Agatized Fossil Coral



Contrary to common perception, Agatized Fossil Coral is collected from pits and trenches dug in the jungle and along streambeds, not from the sea where beautiful live coral thrives. In most jungles the underlying coralline limestone

has been weathered away leaving only the hard agate replaced upper crust of the ancient reef as cobbles and boulders in soil. The fossilized coral appears as small "flowers" and designs on the stone. A porous layer is normally cut away and the well-agatized fossil portion is sawed producing high quality, high yield lapidary slabs for export. Small slabs are set aside for custom bead and cabochon orders. Some fossil coral can be heated to enhance the color and contrast in the fossil pattern. Fossilized coral can be found in brown, gray, black, white, yellow and red. Success in heating is dependent on mineral content, oven temperature and luck!

### AFMS/CFMS NEWS: WORDS OF CAUTION by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair

There are two major bills, which at present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to public owned lands: The first one is HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System. If passed, this bill will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system, which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. This bill could also open the door for BLM under the influence of special interest groups to add millions of additional acres in years to come. More information on this bill can be found online at: "Lands Rights Network" <alert@landrights.org>. Subject: House Mark-Up, Wednesday 3-12, On National Landscape Conservation System. (For more information go to American Land Rights Assoc. website - <www.landrights.org>). The

second bill that we should be concerned about is HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a Blue-Ribbon Coalition Action Alert, dated Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Subject: Shades of things to come?, <bralerts@sharetrails.org>, "the bill would designate just about 500,000 acres of Wilderness in West Virginia, Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands; the Redwood Mountain Grove in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park; the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico; Oregon's Copper Salmon area and the South Fork of the San Jacinto River Canyon in Riverside County, California." With these lands being designated as "Wilderness Areas" public access will be almost completely eliminated. (For more information, go to the Blue-Ribbon Coalition website <www.sharetrails.org>).

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR 2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not to distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR 5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look but not touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

While we rest on our laurels, our adversaries are very diligently working to have public lands placed "Off Limits". They know that this is an election year and "Green" is definitely a popular theme with politicians lately. Who knows, perhaps they think there could be another Oscar or Nobel Prize waiting out there. Remember, we also have a vote and should certainly let our desires be known.

*Deadline for CFMS Non-competitive Exhibits is June 13<sup>th</sup>; for Competitive Exhibits is June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008*

### LET'S GET BIRTHSTONES ON STAMPS!

by Wendell Mohr, Commemorative Stamp Committee

Have you taken the time to write the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee requesting that birthstones be used on our US stamps? There are over



50,000 members of our AFMS affiliated clubs and if every one of us wrote to the CSAC we believe our requests would be hard to ignore. Involve your friends and non-rockhounding friends too. Pictured at right is the poster that was displayed at the Tucson show this year.

Although these images are photos of gemstones in the Smithsonian Institution collection, imagine how attractive stamps featuring ruby, topaz, peridot, garnet, pearl, amethyst, aquamarine, emerald, sapphire, turquoise, diamond and opal would be! Address your letters (no petitions please as these get counted as only one letter regardless of how many signers there are) to:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
Stamp Development  
US Postal Service  
1735 N. Lynn St, Room 5013  
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

## Humans Force Earth into New Geologic Epoch By Robert Roy

Humans have altered Earth so much that scientists say a new epoch in the planet's geologic history has begun.

Say goodbye to the 10,000-year-old Holocene Epoch and hello to the Anthropocene.

Among the major changes heralding this two-century-old man-made epoch: Vastly altered sediment erosion and deposition patterns, major disturbances to the carbon cycle and global temperature, wholesale changes in biology, from altered flowering times to new migration patterns, acidification of the ocean, which threatens tiny marine life that forms the bottom of the food chain.

The idea, first suggested in 2000 by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen, has gained steam with two new scientific papers that call for official recognition of the shift.

In the February issue of the journal *GSA Today*, a publication of the Geological Society of America, Jan Zalasiewicz and Mark Williams of the University of Leicester and colleagues at the Geological Society of London argue that industrialization has wrought changes that usher in a new epoch. Scientists of the future will have no trouble deciding if the proposal was timely. All they'll need to do is dig into the planet and examine its stratigraphic layers, which reveal a chronology of the changing conditions that existed as each layer is created. Layers can reflect volcanic upheaval, ice ages or mass extinctions.

"Sufficient evidence has emerged of stratigraphically significant change (both elapsed and imminent) for recognition of the Anthropocene — currently a vivid yet informal metaphor of global environmental change — as a new geological epoch to be considered for formalization by international discussion," Zalasiewicz's team writes. The paper calls on the International Commission on Stratigraphy to officially mark the shift.

In a separate paper last month in the journal *Soil Science*, researchers focused on soil infertility alone as a reason to dub this the Anthropocene Age. (The term

"age" is sometimes used interchangeably with "epoch" or to indicate a transition period between epochs.)

As an example, they said, agriculture in Africa "has so degraded regional soil fertility that the economic development of whole nations will be diminished without drastic improvements of soil management."

"With more than half of all soils on Earth now being cultivated for food crops, grazed, or periodically logged for wood, how to sustain Earth's soils is becoming a major scientific and policy issue," said Duke University soil scientist Daniel Richter.

Richter's work was supported by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Earth's 4.5-billion-year history is divided into major eras, then periods and finally epochs. The Holocene Epoch began after the last Ice Age.

As early as the late 1800s scientists were writing about man's wholesale impact on the planet and the possibility of an "anthropozoic era" having begun, according to Crutzen, who is credited with coining the term Anthropocene (anthropo = human; cene = new) back in 2000. That year, Crutzen and a colleague wrote in the scientific newsletter *International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme* about some of the dramatic changes:

"Urbanization has ... increased tenfold in the past century. In a few generations mankind is exhausting the fossil fuels that were generated over several hundred million years."

Up to half of Earth's land has been transformed by human activity, wrote Crutzen and Eugene F. Stoermer of the University of Michigan. They also noted the dramatic increase in greenhouse gases and other chemicals and pollutants humans have introduced into global ecosystems.

The epochal idea has merit, according to geologist Richard Alley of Pennsylvania State University.

"In land, water, air, ice, and ecosystems, the human impact is clear, large, and growing," Alley told *ScienceNow*, an online publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "A geologist from the far distant future almost surely would draw a new line, and begin using a new name, where and when our impacts show up."

## Board Of Director's Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca. April 1, 2008



The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Wayne Mills.

Board members present were Debbie Hood, Wayne Mills, Wes Lingerfelt, Dee Dee Magri, Sylvia Nasholm,

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Sandy Berthelot, Mike Henson, Sharon Duncan and Elaine Von Achen. Guests included Bill Hood and Paul Berthelot.

Minutes of the March 2008 general meeting were approved as published in the April, 2008 newsletter.

**Correspondence:** Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from the Sun Valley Indian School, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society, San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society and South Orange Co. Gem & Mineral Society. We also received a thank you from Cuesta College for our \$500 scholarship donation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Wes Lingerfelt read the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as read.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Adopt-A-Highway:** Wayne Mills noted that our next clean up would be May 17 from 8:00 to 10: a.m. We will meet at the intersection of Highway 101 and Highway 166.

**Newsletter:** Debbie Hood noted that the newsletter was on the web and the printed copies were ready to be mailed.

**CFMS:** Wes Lingerfelt reported that CFMS is trying to have the golden bear w/gavel award made out of some metal besides gold, as the cost of gold is so high. They will let us know what they come up with.

**Annual Gem Show:** Wes said applications are still dribbling in and that he has about 35-36 signed up so far, which is about average.

**Membership:** Elaine Von Achen brought up the possibility of giving new members the OMS pin that goes on the engraved nametags. Discussion followed and she is going to look into a local shop, which does engraving, as to cost, etc.

**Telephone Tree:** Debbie Hood will start working on a telephone tree now that the red books have been completed.

**Sunshine:** Maida Williams and Kay Vollmer have both been under the weather.

**Old Business:** Elaine Von Achen said that she had talked to Dr. Magic and he has the date still open for our Christmas luncheon entertainment if we choose to go that way. A motion was made by Elaine to save the date and was seconded by Sylvia Nasholm. After some discussion the motion was tabled. Elaine is going to check and see if we can get a reduced rate. We may have the Sweet Adeline's again.

Sharon Duncan will be in charge of a club case for the gem show. It will include one of the sets of Australian agates donated by Sir Paul Howard.

### **New Business:**

Wayne brought up the possibility of having a "Member of the Year Award" selected by the president. That persons name would be engraved on a plaque attached to Sir Paul Howard's Australian agates as a roving trophy. Everyone agreed that that was within the powers of the presidency and he could go ahead with the plan

It was noted that the field trip on April 19<sup>th</sup> to Figueroa Mountain has been changed. We will announce, at the April general meeting, the change to Beecham's Place in Los Osos on Clark Valley Road.

April's general meeting program will be "Volcano's of Southern Italy" given by new member Steve Riegel.

Display for April is a favorite rock treasure.

Refreshments will be cookies donated by Elaine Von Achen, Debbie Hood, Truman Burgess and Shelly Dana.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by President, Wayne Mills.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

## **Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca. April 8, 2008**

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Bill Hood led the flag salute.

Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the April 1st Board Meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

**Correspondence:** Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from Sun Valley Indian School, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society and San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society.

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

### **Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality:** Sharon Duncan announced 37 members and 8 guests. Guests included Rod Ness, Joe Martines, Laura Gebhart, Betty Kern, Pat McKay, Bruce Cooper, Annette Dehate and Nacomi O'Neill.

**Abused Children:** Jan Ferguson noted Epidote, Chalcopyrite, Spessortite, Garnet and Smokey Quartz as this evening's ACF door prizes.

**Adopt-a-Highway:** Sylvia Nasholm won a piece of Chrysoprase in a drawing for the March 15 clean up.

**Monthly Breakfast:** Gloria Dana reported that the March breakfast was held at Jocko's restaurant in Nipomo on Saturday, March 22nd. Winners of the door prizes were Marty Lingerfelt, who won a book on

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”Northern Calif. Trails of Rock Hounding” and Don Nasholm who won a book on crystals. Another winner was Pat McKay who won a pair of Swarovski earrings donated by Jan Ferguson. Next month’s breakfast will be held on April 26 at 9:00 a.m. at CJ’s Restaurant on Grand Avenue in Arroyo Grande.

**Bulletin:** Debbie Hood said the bulletin is now on the web site as well as having been mailed. If you did not receive yours, contact Wes Lingerfelt.

**CFMS:** Wes Lingerfelt encouraged members to check out the CFMS web site as they have lots of good information on rocks, shows, etc. Address is www.cfmsinc.org

**Field Trips:** Bob Bullock reported that the April field trip to Figueroa Mountain has been cancelled and that we will be going to Los Osos. Members will need to meet at the Elwin Mussell Sr. Center at 8:00 a.m. We will be going to Jim Beecham’s ranch where we will be able to purchase Jasper for 25 cents/pound and Rhyolite for 50 cents/pound.

**Gem Show:** Wes stated that contracts are still dribbling in. Wayne will be indoor display chairman. He has 10 cases left and he has applications as well.

**Refreshments:** Dee Dee Magri reported the night’s refreshment is cookies donated by Sharon Duncan, Dee Dee Magri, Elaine Von Achen, Truman Burgess and Debbie Hood.

**Public Land Access Committee:** Dick Bazzell urged members to contact their representatives and be heard before more public lands are closed to collectors.

**Locker Cleanup:** Gary Sheffer reminded members that we will clean out the locker on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at St. Joseph’s Church in Nipomo.

**Door Prizes:** Bob Bullock reported a travertine sphere, obsidian, amethyst, geodes, cut glass diamond, Orthoceres and volcano rocks donated by Steve Riegel for the evenings drawing.

**Sunshine:** It was reported that Kay Vollmer was back in the hospital.

**Year Book:** Wes Lingerfelt has the yearbooks available tonight and would like members to come up to the front and sign your name and you will be given the 2008-year book.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

It has been requested that officers make a list of property in their care that would need to be turned in when they no longer hold their office.

The program for the will be given by Steve Riegel on “Volcano’s of Southern Italy”. Display will be “a favorite rock treasure”.

The meeting was adjourned by President, Wayne Mills at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

May 2008 Calendar	
Tuesday May 6, 2008 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday May 13, 2008 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of Marcasite &amp; Dendrites in Agates By Ralph Bishop</li> <li>• Display: Appropriate to topic or surprise us!!!</li> <li>• Refreshments-Pie</li> </ul>
Saturday May 10, 2008 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 	<b>Field Trip to Figueroa Mountain-</b> Meet at Mussell Senior Center parking lot. Explore old jasper trails, serpentine outcroppings, and wildflowers in full bloom. Fill your gas tank (no services on the mountain,) and bring a lunch and water. <b>Adventure pass required.</b> Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday May 17, 2008 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday May 24, 2008 9:00 to 10:00a.m.	OMS Breakfast at <i>Shirley's Diner</i> in Grover Beach at 151 N. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
June 2008 Calendar	
Saturday June 7, 2008 11:00 am. to 3:00 p.	Semi-Annual Meeting & BBQ at Pioneer Park bring a dish to share and rocks for the silent auction.
Saturday June 21, 2008	Field Trip to be announced
Saturday June 28, 2008 9 to 10:15 am.	OMS Monthly Breakfast at CoCo's in Pismo Beach at 411 Five Cities Drive.

**Show Schedule 2008**

**May 2, 3 & 4 2008, Bishop, CA**

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society



## Ore-Cutts

Tri County Fairgrounds  
Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. 9:30 - 4; Sun. 10 - 4:30  
Jeff Lines (760) 937-4498

### May 3-4 2008, Bakersfield, CA

Kern County Mineral Society  
Ming Ave and P Street  
Kern County Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10-5 both days  
Ishmael Sanchez (661) 301-4609

### May 3 - 4 2008, Anaheim, CA

2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 4:30 both days  
Betty Nelson (714) 530-1365  
Searchers Gem & Mineral Society  
Email [betty@azteche.com](mailto:betty@azteche.com)  
Website: [www.searchersrocks.org](http://www.searchersrocks.org)

### May 10-11 2008, Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Reno Livestock Events Center  
1350 N. Wells Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
John Peterson (775) 356-8820  
Website: [www.renorockclub.com](http://www.renorockclub.com)

### May 17-18 2008, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center  
34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475  
Email: [bjm2285@aol.com](mailto:bjm2285@aol.com)  
Website:  
[www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html](http://www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html)

### May 17 - 18 2008, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Bochard Park  
190 Reino Rd., Newbury Park, CA  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4:30  
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734  
Email: [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)  
Website: [www.cgmac.org](http://www.cgmac.org)

### May 31 - June 1 2008, Glendora, CA

Glendora Gems  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
Email: [YBidwell2@aol.com](mailto:YBidwell2@aol.com)

### May 31 - June 1 2008, Woodland Hills, CA

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society  
Pierce College  
Victory and Mason  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Louise Gerik (818) 347-1234  
[rockatomics.com](http://rockatomics.com)

### June 7-8 2008, La Habra, CA

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974

Email: [warthen@earthlink.net](mailto:warthen@earthlink.net)

Website: [nocgms.com](http://nocgms.com)

### June 27, 28, 29 2008, Ventura, CA

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10-5 Daily  
Bural LaRue (909) 874-5664  
Email: [bplarue@earthlink.net](mailto:bplarue@earthlink.net)

### July 12-13 2008, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Culver City Veteran's Memorial Auditorium  
4117 Overland Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5  
Website: [CulverCityRocks.org](http://CulverCityRocks.org)  
Phone: (310) 391-8429  
Email: [maryellenandrick@aol.com](mailto:maryellenandrick@aol.com)

## Shop Helps & Tips

### Tip of the Month

**Brighter Brights:** If you have some Copper or Chrysocolla and would like to bring out the blue and green, put it in liquid bleach, at full strength for as long as it takes. This really works and will get some good colors.  
*7/07 Tumble Rumble*

Is it a CZ or a Diamond? If the stone is loose, turn it upside down on its table and slide it over a thin black line on a piece of paper. When looking straight down through a CZ you will see a circle in the center of a stone. A diamond won't do this. *HGMS 5/07*

Acupuncture is a job well done.

\_ When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

\_ Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.  
\_ Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

*From the Internet via the Rockhound Record - June 2006*  
CELEBRITY QUIP Housework is a treadmill from futility to oblivion with stop offs at tedium and counter productivity. -- Erma Bombeck

YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS? I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

FAVORITE QUOTE There are two ways of exerting one's strength; one is pushing down, the other is pulling up. - Booker T. Washington,

CELEBRITY QUIP All things in moderation, including moderation. -- Entertainer Milton Berle,

FAVORITE QUOTE Leadership is getting someone to do what they don't want to do, to achieve what they want to achieve. -- Tom Landry, former football coach,

OFFICE LIFE A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.... what more can I say? --

## Ore-Cutts

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Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send e-mail to [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).  
**OMS Webmaster** - Wes Lingerfelt - (805) 929-3788.

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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

### 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

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



. ORE-CUTTS (named after, William Orcutt) was published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was named after William Orcutt, a geologist and Civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District manager for Union oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship, and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies

### OMS Editor

Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860	<a href="mailto:debihood1@sbcglobal.net">debihood1@sbcglobal.net</a>
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