



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

May is upon us. Corona-virus is still with us and while we seem to be “flattening the curve”, there are still too many people getting sick.

Our board meeting will on Tue, May 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. **Unfortunately, it will again be by tele-conference.** The Chamber of Commerce said that the room will be unavailable in May and June. I will send out an email with the same numbers as last meeting as we get closer to our teleconference (May 5).

We have not been able to have a General Meeting since February due to the shelter at home order. San Luis County has had a fairly low incidence of COVID, and is starting to open up a few businesses. Santa Barbara County has not started that way yet. **Luis Oasis Senior Center is closed until further notice according to their web site. Therefore no General Meeting in May.** We will check again for the June Bulletin.

Caltrans issued a letter noting that the Adopt-A-Highway is suspended until further notice, so no Highway Clean-up in May. Wayne has a call in to Caltrans for our July and beyond clean-ups.

Since restaurants are closed until the Governor lifts the stay at home orders, our April breakfast, scheduled for April 23 at Country Kitchen in Santa Maria did not happen. We can hope for

some relief in May, but don't count on it! Wes says that he does not want to go to Ozena unless he can get a hamburger and a beer, so **we will postpone our May field trip to a later month as well.**

Wayne has talked to the High School about our August Show. We hope to have some information back from the High School in time for our May (teleconference) Board Meeting.

For what it is worth, we hear the San Luis Obispo Club cancelled their October Show, and the San Luis Obispo Mid State Fair scheduled for late July to Early August has been cancelled as well. So much for having fun in 2020!

Everybody stay well.
Bill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

Stan Ferguson	5/6	♂
Sally Griffith	5/12	♀
Lisa Azevedo	5/19	♀

ANNIVERSARIES

Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt	5/20
Jeannie & Bruce Nybo	5/29

***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)*

MINERAL OF THE MONTH—

Flowering tube onyx —Utah

Text and picture by Wayne Mills

April showers (loavely, right) bring May flowers, so we pick this variant of Calcite (calcium carbonate) from Levon, Juab Co., Utah. I just happen to have a couple of pieces, and I think it is beautiful! I call this one “Galaxies on End”



LOCAL ROCKS--SOAPSTONE

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

I LEARNED HOW TO CARVE SOAPSTONE at Camp Paradise. They have their own supply on the “campus”. Sometime after returning home I found out that there was soapstone (talc) in the Big Sur area where it is part of the low-grade metamorphic (Green Schist” facies) of the Franciscan Formation.



[Soapstone from Willow Creek, Monterey Co. \(green\), and Clipper Mills, Yuba Co., \(white\).](#)

Two places that I have collected this material in the Big Sur area are on the ridge between North and South Jade Cove, and at Willow Creek. I think the Willow Creek Soapstone is the prettiest I have ever worked with. In the Big Sur area, soapstone is closely related to actinolite, serpentine and jade. And it is relatively easy to carve. See my article on Soapstone Carving in the June 2003 Ore-Cutts. (view at: [omsinc.org/](http://omsinc.org/bulletins) bulletins in pdf format).

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR MAY

Wayne Mills, OMS Editor text partly from Wikipedia.

Picture by Luciana Barbosa, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=50318371>

The traditional Birthstone for May is **Emerald**.

Emerald is green Beryl, (Beryllium aluminum silicate). The green color comes from the addition of chrome in the formation of the crystal. The most famous location for emeralds is Muzo, Colum-



bia, but they occur at other locations, including North Carolina. The rarest form of emeralds (which is quite rare in itself, is **trapiche**, where the emerald demonstrates a 6-rayed pattern along its C-Axis. The cause of this formation is not well understood. Trapiche Emeralds are mostly found in Columbia, but they have also been found in Brazil and Madagascar.

BITS AND BYTES

Beautiful pictures of gems and minerals

Finemineralphotography.com

Golden vesicles in volcanic rock

<https://www.geologyin.com/2017/06/believe-it-or-not-this-is-actually.html?>

Don Wobber (the Jade Guy) underwater jade collecting at Jade Cove

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdxwydDg4pA>

ROCK PUZZLE — The answer is a real gem! See page 9 for answer

E	J	E	W	E	L	S	V	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
R	T	B	O	A	G	A	T	E	H	E	S	S	A	P
I	O	I	L	O	L	R	M	U	N	I	T	A	L	P
H	P	C	L	U	S	T	E	R	C	O	N	Y	X	N
P	A	D	E	O	E	K	A	V	N	O	R	E	O	O
P	Z	S	Y	P	D	G	C	E	L	E	S	C	S	I
A	P	B	A	A	K	O	W	O	B	I	R	T	H	S
S	U	H	R	F	L	N	H	M	R	I	S	T	O	A
R	S	K	A	O	E	L	I	R	Z	I	C	E	P	C
A	N	C	R	Y	A	N	T	P	I	E	G	S	L	C
E	I	I	E	P	E	G	E	W	L	N	E	I	E	O
L	P	P	O	R	A	N	I	L	O	N	G	P	N	K
C	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	O	F	I	H	O	A	R	O

Clues :

Agate, Beryl, Blue, Clear, Cluster, Collect, Color, Cost, Dark, Garnet, Gift, Gold Hope, Inherit, Iolite, Jade, Jewels, Lapis, Light, Loan, Look, Mineral, Mines, Money, Occasion, Onyx, Opal, Origin, Pass, Pick, Pink, Platinum, Quartz, Rare, Rhodolite, Ring, Rocks, Ruby, Safe, Sapphire, Setting, Shape, Shine, Shop, Show, Silver, Stone, Topaz, Value, White, Yellow, Zircon.

Rules:

Circle each letter of the word found and cross it off the list. Words are placed forwards and backwards both vertically and horizontally. When you have found all the words listed the remaining letters will spell out the 6 letter Word.

(Thanks to Alexis Van Natta for this submission)

ONE WAY TO DISPLAY A ROCK COLLECTION by Phillip Elliot of Butte, Alaska
(Shared from Facebook—Northwest Federation of Gem and Mineralogical Societies)



Specimen hangers are made of bent, 12-gauge electrical wire. Philip's mother designed the hangers.

KID'S PAGE

ROCK CANDY By Elizabeth LaBau, [About.com](http://about.com)

Guide: http://candy.about.com/od/hardcandyrecipes/r/rock_candy.htm.

From *Mini Miner's Monthly* Vol. 8 No. 12

Ingredients: □ 2 cups water □ 4 cups granulated sugar □ 1/2-1 tsp of flavoring extract or oil (optional) □ Food coloring (optional) □ Glass jar □ Skewer or thread (see below)

1. Prepare your materials: wash a glass jar thoroughly with hot water to clean it. Cut a length of thick cotton thread a few inches longer than the height of the jar, and tape it to a pencil. (Or use a similar sized stick.) Place the pencil across the lip of the jar, and wind it until the thread is hanging about 1 inch from the bottom of the jar. Attach a paper clip to the bottom of the thread to weight it and ensure it hangs straight down. Alternately, you can use a wooden skewer as the base of your rock candy, and use clothespins balanced across the top of the jar to clip it into place.
2. Wet your thread or wooden skewer, and roll it in granulated sugar. This base layer will give the sugar crystals something to "grab" when they start forming. Set the thread or skewer aside to dry while you prepare your sugar syrup.
3. Place the water in a medium-sized pan and bring it to a boil. Begin adding the sugar, one cup at a time, stirring after each addition. You will notice that it takes longer for the sugar to dissolve after each addition. Continue to stir and boil the syrup until all of the sugar has been added and it is all dissolved. Remove the pan from the heat.
4. If you are using colors or flavorings, add them at this point. If you are using an extract, add 1 tsp of extract, but if you are using flavoring oils, only add 1/2 tsp, and make sure you don't stand right in front of the pan—the scent can be very strong as it rises in the steam. Add 2-3 drops of food coloring and stir to ensure even, smooth color.
5. Allow the sugar syrup to cool for approximately 10 minutes, then pour it into the prepared jar. Lower the sugared string or skewer until it hangs about 1 inch from the bottom.
6. Carefully place your jar in a cool place, away from harsh lights, where it can sit undisturbed.

Cover the top loosely with plastic wrap or paper towel.

7. You should start to see sugar crystals forming within 2-4 hours. If you have seen no change to your skewer or thread after 24 hours, try boiling the sugar syrup again and dissolve another cup of sugar into it, then pour it back into the jar and insert the string or skewer again.
8. Allow the rock candy to grow until it is the size you want. Don't let it grow too large, otherwise it might start growing into the sides of your jar! Once it has reached the size you want, remove it and allow it to dry for a few minutes, then enjoy or wrap in plastic wrap to save it for later.



Photo from orientaltrading.com



Photo from howtocookthat.net

Kids (or Adults): If you have a picture of a specimen you would like someone to TRY to identify, send it to: info@omsinc.org. We may use your picture in our newsletter.

INSECT FOSSIL DISCOVERED IN OPAL, NOT AMBER

The 5-7 million year old find was made on the island of Java which is part of Indonesia. The discovery is unlike any previous discoveries of fossil insects that are most often preserved in Amber (fossil tree sap).



<https://www.geologyin.com/2019/02/fossilized-insect-discovered-not-in.html?fbclid=IwAR2Hg5r-1ooCnSpY4mpx5kkaG97lxLn2MI-QuAo26Roium4xjBy1rkjRRSIA>

LARGEST DIAMOND EVER FOUND IN NORTH AMERICA

The 552-carat yellow gem was found at the Diavik mine in the Northwest Territories in October, 2019 and is almost three times the size of the next largest stone ever found in Canada.



<https://www.geologyin.com/2018/12/largest-known-diamond-in-north-america.html?>

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting
Teleconference
April 7, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Bill Brown. (Thanks to Bill for setting up the teleconference)

Members Present were Bill Brown, Jeanne Brown, Betty Campbell, Debbie Hood, Sally Griffith Wayne Mills and Renae Sutcliffe. Absent were Jan Ferguson and Dick Bazzell.

Minutes of the March Board meeting were accepted as printed in the Ore-Cutts. **No General Meeting** was held in March (due to rain), and there will be **no April General Meeting** due to COVID 19.

Treasurer's Report (Betty) 22 members have paid their 2020 Dues. We have received show contracts from 15 dealers—Betty will soon deposit these checks.

Correspondence— Salvation Army, Rockonteur (Santa Lucia Club Bulletin), AFMS Bulletin, Notice of McClatchy Newspapers Chapter 11, Trump's Coronavirus warning card.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin (Wayne) is out, and looks good. Contact Wayne Mills with any questions or delivery problems. Submit all articles for the May Bulletin by April 20.

CFMS—(Renae) The Lodi Show and CFMS Director's Meetings are cancelled or postponed due to COVID 19. Many mid-year shows have been cancelled due to COVID 19.

Membership—(Wayne) 22 members have paid their 2020 dues.

Field Trip—(Sally) The March 21 Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's Museum was cancelled due to health concerns. **The May field trip is cancelled.** The Santa Lucia Gem Show scheduled for April 18-19 has been cancelled

Adopt a Highway (Wayne) **May Clean-up is cancelled**

Annual Awards Banquet (Dyanna) Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Madonna Inn.

Breakfast—**The March and April Club Breakfasts have been cancelled due to Coronavirus..**

Education—(Wayne) No report.

Library—(Alexis) No Report

Sunshine—(Margaret Henson and Dyanna Cridelich) No report.

Scholarship—(Jeanne Watkins Brown) No report.

Show—(Bill Brown) Show dates are August 7-9,

2020. Additional insured for Lucia Mar School District costs have been sent to Nipomo High School. Wayne was asked to delay printing of the show cards until after the **May 6** Board Meeting. Bill has received about 15 of 60 contracts for our show. Betty will pick-up and deposit the checks within a week.

Old Business—Our Semi-Annual Meeting is June 13 at Pioneer Park. We are all set with Parks and Recreation pending notice that the parks are reopen from COVID 19 shutdown. Wes and Jeannie said they would do the beans and Meat.

New Business—Debbie Hood is working on a new phone tree in case of sickness. Debbie asked Wayne to send her the phone and address information from the 2020 Red Book.

Continued on page 9

OMS CALENDAR

Note: Schedule is tentative based on COVID 19 Virus measures, Check May Bulletin Updates

MAY 2020

Tuesday, May 5 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Tele-conference. Watch e-mail for details
Saturday, May 9 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up – CANCELLED
Tuesday, May 12 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting—Luis Oasis Senior Center. CANCELLED
Field Trip—Ozena?	Watch for details in May CANCELLED
Saturday, May 23 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— CANCELLED

JUNE 2020

Check June Bulletin for COVID Updates

Tuesday, June 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Teleconference. Watch e-mail for details
Saturday, June 12:00 a.m.—3 p.m.	Semi-Annual Meeting Pioneer Park, Santa Maria
Saturday, June 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast—

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

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495 wwmills50@hotmail.com
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SAVE THE DATE
(Maybe— Depends on COVID 19)

May 16-- OMS Field Trip to Ozena CANCELLED

August 7-9— OMS 53rd Annual Gem Show plan to help set-up August 5-6 and clean-up August 9-10.

CFMS SHOWS

MAY (2020) —

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

May 1-3; YUCAIPA, CA
CANCELLED

May 2 – 3; JACKSON, CA
CANCELLED

May 2 – 3; ANAHEIM, CA
CANCELLED

JUNE (2020) —

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

June 6-7; GLENDORA, CA
Glendora Gem & Mineral Society
Goddard Middle School,
859 E. Sierra Madre Ave.
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm; Sun 10 am – 4 pm
Displays, dealers, demonstrations, kids activities,
silent auction, food, free entry and parking.
Contact: 626 963-4638, ybidwell2@aol.com

June 13-14; Escondido
Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts
340 N Escondido Blvd, 92025
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm.
Admission \$5.00 for adults, Discounted admission for Seniors and Military. 32 vendors from all over California and Arizona.
High class show in downtown Escondido with restaurants within walking distance. There are two large rooms in an art gallery facility with security and comfort facilities.
Contact: Toni Floyd 1 (425)281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com
Website: <http://palomargem.org/annual-gem-mineral-and-jewelry-show/>

June 23-28; LODI, CA

CANCELLED

June 27 – 28, CULVER CITY, CA
CANCELLED

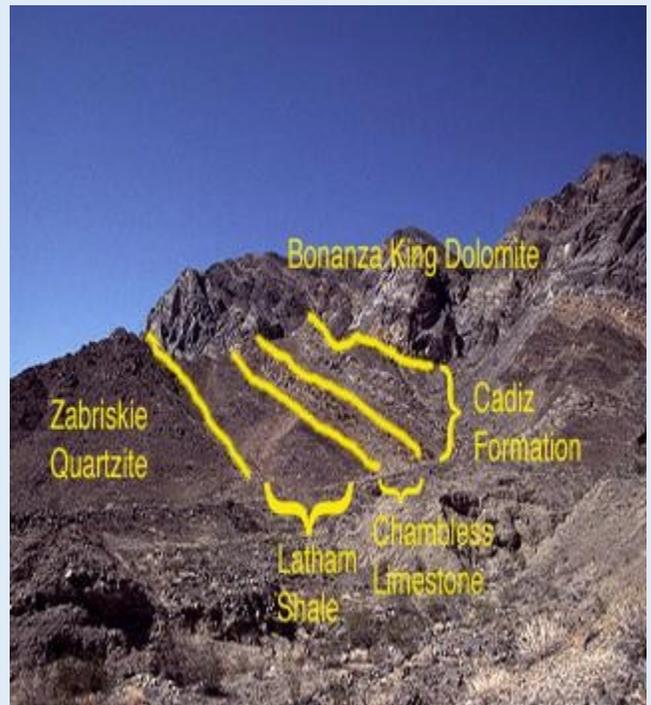
MOUNTAIN MARVEL

Wayne Mills 4/2/2020

Mighty mountain worn to sand
Reassembled and pushed up again
Containing animals and plants
Once numerous as ants.

Seashells from the mountain top
Now in kitchen countertops
And the age of these behold
Not weeks, but millennia untold.

Each rock or tree or being
An ordered universe divine..
Of particles revolving, evolving
and dissolving to the beat of time.



Photograph of Marble Mountains near Cadiz, San Bernardino Co., CA from Cabrillo.edu

A PLEA TO OUR MEMBERS Updated for May

Due to the ongoing Corona Virus problem, the Ore-Cutts requests your submissions of fun / interesting / educational projects for our readers. We ran this in our April Edition, **here are some additional ideas:**

1. How about assembling a hardness kit? (Hardnesses 1-9 are not too hard to find). Add a piece of unglazed tile to check-out the streak color of metallic elements.
2. There are seven major crystal systems. Put together a collection with a specimen from each system (isometric, cubic, hexagonal,
3. **Write a poem about an Earth-Science related topic.** If you like, you can illustrate it with a drawing or photograph. **(Go ahead! I dare you!** I did one— see page 8)
4. Create a cairn (rock stack) somewhere in nature (take a picture of it). See the February, 2020 Ore-Cutts (page 3for inspiration.

If you haven't checked out our Facebook page yet, you should. Elisabeth does a great job maintaining it with fun articles, pictures and rock-related activities. Search for **Orcutt Mineral Society on Facebook.**

Also, Check-out our web pages at omsinc.org for our old bulletins back to 2002, pictures of recent shows. a bibliography of our past bulletins, and lots of other finds in our archives.

**OMS April Board Meeting (Teleconference)
continued from page 7**

Wayne was asked to delay passing out the **Red Book** until the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

**APRIL GENERAL MEETING WAS CANCELLED
DUE TO COVID.**

**Answer to Rock Quiz ON PAGE 3—
PEARL**

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.