



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

Corona virus is still coming on strong. San Luis Obispo county has gone from purple to red, but our infection rate is going up and don't know if we can

hold at red. Please stay safe and infection free!

The board has been discussing what to do since we haven't been able to hold meetings since March. The club has been unable to meet and it has been difficult to get anything going for the nominating committee. We are currently considering holding the current officers and Board until we can have two meetings of the general membership. The first meeting would be to nominate officers, and the second to hold a vote. If anyone has objection to this or has a better idea, please contact me or any member of the board. I can be reached via [president@omsinc.org](mailto:president@omsinc.org). Other officers and board members have e-mails in the Red Book.

The current officers and board would remain as caretakers until the nominations and elections can be held. There would have to be a couple of changes. Wayne has indicated that he would continue as Secretary, but that it has become too hard to continue as bulletin editor. Wayne has done a wonderful job, but Secretary and Bulletin Editor are both very heavy jobs and he doesn't feel that he can continue to do both satisfactorily.

I would love it if someone would be willing to take over the Bulletin Editor position. It is a heavy load, but I know we have creative people who could carry on the job. If we are unable to find anyone, I will attempt to carry on. I am not the communicator that Wayne and Elizabeth have been, and I have much less knowledge of rocks and geology. I will probably end up publishing the minutes, the calendar and republishing articles from our old bulletins. I think we would be much better off if one of our creative people took the position.

I would like to thank Wayne for his efforts. We have had a great bulletin this year, and his hand in the bulletin will be sorely missed. Hopefully he will be available to help the person who takes over. Whoever takes the position will have big shoes to fill (no Wayne, I'm not implying you have big feet). Thanks again for The wonderful bulletin and the support you have given to the club over the past several years.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

Moniah Marquez	1	♈
Joe Azevedo	8	♈
Dee Dee Magri	21	♈
Wayne Mills	21	♈
Brenna Ferguson	27	♏
Dick Bazzell	30	♏

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Bill & Jeanie Brown	9
Marshall & Glenda Reeves	18
Mike & Margaret Henson	19

***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 (December 2020)*

## BIRTHSTONE FOR NOVEMBER TOPAZ

*Text and picture by Wayne Mills*

Topaz is one of the hardest naturally occurring minerals. At a hardness of 8 on the Moh's scale, it is harder than most other minerals. Topaz is an aluminum fluoro-silicate and comes in a variety of colors depending on the impurities present during its formation. The main colors of the material are red, pink, green, blue to sherry to golden and clear.

Topaz comes from a Sanskrit word "nama tapas", meaning **fire**, perhaps referring to the high refraction from a faceted stone. Not only is Topaz the birthstone for November Birthdays, but it also represents the 4<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. One of the most famous collecting locations for topaz in the U.S is at Topaz Mountain in Utah about 40 miles northwest of Delta in Millard County, Utah. The most desirable topaz at this location is Sherry colored, that fades to clear upon prolonged exposure to sunlight.

Minal Gerais, Brazil is world-famous for the topaz mined there. Here are blue and Imperial Topaz specimens I picked-up in Brazil in in 2009. The bases are 1" square.



(These pictures are worth seeing in color. Check out our November 2020 Ore-Cutts at [omsinc.org/Bulletins](http://omsinc.org/Bulletins) in .pdf format.)

## LOCAL ROCKS--

### Plasma Agate from Clear Creek

*Text & Picture by Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor*

Though it is not EXACTLY local to our area, Clear Creek in San Benito County is within a half-day's drive of our area (Santa Maria to Paso Robles, CA). One of the sought-after rocks in this area is Plasma Agate with its' green coloring coming from Chryso-prase (green quartz), and its' cloudy white to tan color coming from magnesite (manganese carbonate). The rock is a product of metamorphism, and contains serpentine, jade or jadite, chromite, cinnabar, and various other minerals.

Clear-Creek has been closed for many years due to the presence of asbestos, but is now reopened to collecting with a permit from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



## BITS AND BYTES

Man finds 9 carat diamond at Crater of Diamonds (9/23/2020)



As of Wednesday, 246 diamonds have been registered at Crater of Diamonds State Park this year, weighing a total of 59.25 carats. On average, people find one or two diamonds there daily.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/man-finds-9-carat-diamond-in-arkansas-state-park-after-initially-thinking-it-was-glass>

This article from **National Geographic** talks about our updated knowledge of dinosaurs . Mentions a “fierce but fluffy” T- Rex!

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/reimagining-dinosaurs?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=dino2020::add=Dino\\_SpecialEdition\\_20200928&rid=561140C2E7BD4FC07E448E0D1](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/reimagining-dinosaurs?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=dino2020::add=Dino_SpecialEdition_20200928&rid=561140C2E7BD4FC07E448E0D1)

Video about making gold leaf

<https://www.facebook.com/dw.euromaxx/videos/350809179471137>

New Human Species discovered in the Philippines— different from any known species.  
**67,000 years old.**

<https://sciworthy.com/new-ancient-human-species-bones-uncovered-in-the-philippines/>

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OMS MEMBERS:

**PLEASE contact Bill Brown or Wayne Mills if you are interested in attending a face-to face meeting at the Madonna Inn, or an alternate venue. Our contact information is in the Red Book.**

### PREZ BOX Continued from page 1

Oasis still shows on their site that all onsite activities are canceled. I think that Santa Barbara County has also changed from purple to red, so although some restrictions are lifted, Oasis is not re-opening (yet).

The Board Meeting will on Tue, Nov 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. We had Sally at the October board meeting via teleconference with the remaining board attending in person. That seemed to work well and we still continue to offer call-in attendance for people who don't feel comfortable meeting in person.

We have started Highway Cleanup again. The next highway cleanup will be on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Please plan on coming as it will be pretty dirty. We will maintain social distance, and there is a Covid agreement that you will need to sign. We will have it with us so you can sign before you start working.

The breakfast for November will be at the Denny's in Santa Maria on November 28 at 8:30 am. It's still kind of questionable. We'll try to keep people informed as the date approaches.

Everybody stay well. We will get through this!!

*Bill*

**What do You See?** From current edition of **Rock and Gem Magazine** (October 2020)



This edition of **“What Do You See?”** features an agate from the collection of Richard Nass, the Rock and Gem Community Member who coordinates the images for “What Do You See?” posts. Images of agates are primarily the subject of the interactive posts which appear every Thursday on the Rock and Gems Social Media feeds, and create a variety of intriguing responses from community members.

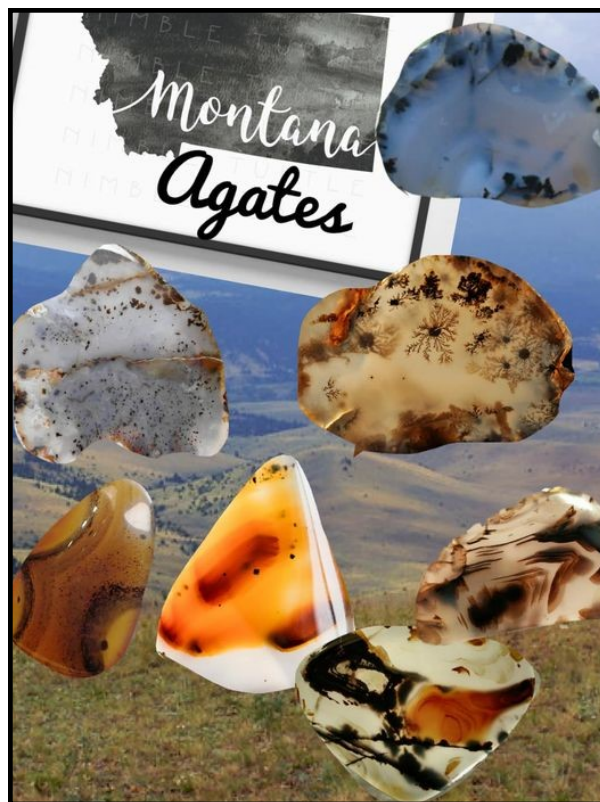
The featured agate (today) is a “pom-pom” variety, aptly named given the bright bursts, often Aragonite crystals, present. This example was discovered in Needle Peak, Texas, which is located in southwestern Texas. As always, we invite you to send an e-mail to managing editor Antionette Rahn at:

[arhan@beckett.com](mailto:arhan@beckett.com) with your thoughts about the images you see emerging from this agate view. .



**5-foot tall sphere of fluorite** found in Inner Mongolia took 3 years to grind into this shape. Called “Chintamarii” in China, these “pearls” are wish-fulfilling gems in the Buddhist Religion. They are also fluorescent and thermoluminescent. For 88 million pounds, it can be yours!

Read more at: <http://www.geologypage.com/2016/10/worlds-biggest-pearl-found-china.html>



**Variety in Montana Agates** from [Rock-hound Connection](#) September 19, 2020, Cheryl Mannerow-Tucker

# MAKING A ROCK PLANTER EXPLAINED BY ELAINE VON ACHEN

By Wayne Mills, OMS from a summary by Elaine Von Achen. Pictures by Elaine Von Achen and Maria Ramirez

On an outing to Cambria with her friend Sheri, the ladies stopped at a roadside shop where a gentleman was selling plants and Elaine noticed an unusual planter made from rocks. When she questioned the owner, he explained how he made the planter and Elaine bought it with the idea of making some of her own. After her initial try, she invited some friends over for a "Planter Party". As can be seen by the attached pictures, they had a great time.

The hardest part of making the planter is selecting the rocks to glue together, then figuring out how to arrange them.

The rest is easy:

1. Assemble a variety of sizes and colors of rocks along with a flat rock for a base.
2. Starting at the bottom glue the rocks together using **super glue** (from Harbor Freight) and using an accelerator so they dry quickly.
3. Just the fact that the rocks are all different shapes, when gluing them together there will be some cracks and crevices making drain holes near the base.
4. If desired, add glue or resin to the finished planter to make it "shiny".
5. Add plants and enjoy



## KID'S (Of All Ages) PAGE —

### NATURE IMITATING NATURE

Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor

**Mother Nature is the supreme artist.** She even appears to have a sense of humor when she mimics herself (and her creations) in images found in her rocks and minerals. One example seen in these pages this year is **heart-shaped rocks** formed by erosion. Another example is **cross-shaped rocks** formed through crystallization .(see Staurolite and Chrysanthemum stone). More complicated imitations are found in agates and jaspers that create scenes of mountains, lakes, caves and forests, among others.

### SOME EXAMPLES FROM MY COLLECTION

Add your own captions....



## ROCK LICKING—DINO BONE STICKS TO YOUR TONGUE!

Seen on the Rockhound Connection Facebook Group



<https://www.facebook.com/BuzzFeed/videos/2748670392117637>



**Australian gem dinosaur bone.** *Photo by Sean Eckle/ Eckel Lapidary from Amazing Geologist.*

**Rocks on left clockwise from upper left:** Purple Sage Agate, Nevada; Owyhee Picture Jasper, Oregon; Rhodonite, CA; Selenite, Morocco; Sagenite Agate, Nipomo, CA.

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY**  
Board Meeting  
**Nipomo Chamber of Commerce**  
739 W. Tefft Avenue, Nipomo

October 6, 2020

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**Members present:** Bill Brown (Pres.), Jeanne Brown (Vice Pres), Wayne Mills (IPP, Secy), Betty Campbell (Treas.), **Board**—Dick Bazell, Sally Griffith (by phone, Renee Sutcliffe.

**Members absent:** Board—Jan Ferguson, Debbie Hood

**Called to Order at 7:00 pm.**

**MINUTES:** Wayne—Minutes of September Board Meeting were published in the October Bulletin. No comments.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Betty. We need our Club President to have his signature on file at Mechanics Bank. Betty will not be Treasurer next year. The Board voted to hire Jeanne Brown's Associate to do the job for \$50 per month. Betty has paid our bills to date, and we are still solvent.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Wayne—Letters from Salvation Army (seeking \$\$), AFMS Newsletter, and McClatchy (on their bankruptcy)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bulletin-** No additions or corrections to the bulletin.

**CFMS-** See new business (Renea). Wayne mailed requests for pins ad bars (and was reimbursed). CFMS November meeting will be by Zoom.

**Membership** – Wayne requested members to check in with him or Bill as to their COVID activities. Only 4 folks did so far.

**Field Trip** – Sally No report

**Adopt-a-Highway** – Our next highway cleanup will be on **November 14**. You will need to sign the Coronavirus instructions to participate. They will be on site.

**Annual Awards Banquet:** We don't know if we will be able to hold our banquet or not due to corona virus. WE should have info from Madonna Inn by Mid-November. **PLEASE CONTACT BILL OR WAYNE AHEAD OF TIME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A FACE-TO-FACE ANNUAL MEETING.**

**Breakfast-** Our October breakfast will be at Country Kitchen in Arroyo Grande on October 24 at 8:30 a.m.. Give it a try

**Education** None to report.

**Library-** (Alexis)

**Sunshine-**many members seem to be "hanging in there". Member Sharon Willis is moving to Oregon. We wish her well. Krystal Rose's boyfriend may be de-

played soon. We wish them both well.

**Scholarship** (Jeanne) No scholarship will be awarded until next year. Our annual scholarship depends on our show revenue. **Our show was canceled this year due to Coronavirus.**

**Old Business-** We discussed our annual meeting. Wayne will check with Madonna Inn on availability of our room (Madonna said they will not know until mid-November). Betty Campbell offered her home as an alternate venue. The Board voted to accept Wes Lingerfelt's proposal to advertise his rock-related materials on our website, in exchange for his giving the club a percentage of the profits.

**New Business-** The Board voted to keep the same officers as in 2020 until we can have 2 face to face meetings next year for Nominations and Elections. The CFMS Director's meeting in November will be held by Zoom. 2020 bulletin contest submissions to CFMS are due by **January 10**.

**Adjourned at 7:56 pm**

**Respectfully submitted, Wayne Mills,**  
**OMS Secretary**

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**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY**  
General Meeting  
October 10, 2020

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

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**CFMS SHOWS**

**NOVEMBER (2020) —Due to COVID, check with host before going to show.**

**November 14 – 15: YUBA CITY**

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society  
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds

442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991

Hours: Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm

Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net

Show web site: <http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org>

29th Annual Festival of Gems & Minerals: Raffle, silent auction, kids table, door prizes, exhibits and 14 dealers.

**DECEMBER (2020)**

None listed on the CFMS website.

<b>OMS CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>	
Tuesday, November 2 7:00 p.m.	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room.</b> Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
<b>Saturday</b> , November 9 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Cntr	<b>OMS General Meeting/ Maybe — We will check with Oasis Center before the September Bulletin goes out.</b>
<b>Saturday</b> , November 12 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up. SE Corner 101/166 East
<b>Saturday</b> , November 28 8:30 a.m.	<b>OMS Monthly Breakfast—</b> Denny's, Sana Maria
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>	
Tuesday, December 3 7:00 p.m.	<b>OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room.</b> Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
<b>Saturday</b> , December 12 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Oasis Senior Cntr	<b>OMS Annual Meeting/ MAYBE — We will check with Madonna Inn about mid-November</b>
<b>Saturday</b> , December 26	<b>No Monthly Breakfast in December</b>
<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS OF THE ORE-CUTTS. We made it!</b>	

<b>2020-OMS OFFICERS</b>		
<b>President</b>	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>President-Elect</b>	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>Secretary</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>Treasurer</b>	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS</b>		
	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
<b>CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR</b>		
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
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<b>OMS Membership</b> \$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. <b>OMS Membership Chairperson is: ?</b>		
<b>OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811</b> Check out our OMS web site at: <a href="http://www.omsinc.org">http://www.omsinc.org</a> or send e-mail to: <a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a> .		
<b>Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher</b>		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	<a href="mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com">wwmills50@hotmail.com</a>

**Check-out the OMS Web page** at :[omsinc.org](http://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.)



# ROCKHOUND HUMOR



6-6  
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Bl  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

"It's not a mess. It's my rock collection."

## A PET ROCK MAKES A LOUSY BEST FRIEND.



But it's pretty good in a fight.

Shutterstock.com

[Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

[Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)



KAM 2015

[Cartoonstock.com](https://www.cartoonstock.com)

### HAPPY FACT: PENGUINS MATE FOR LIFE AND THEY "PROPOSE" WITH A PEBBLE.



[Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

**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.