



Ore-Cutts

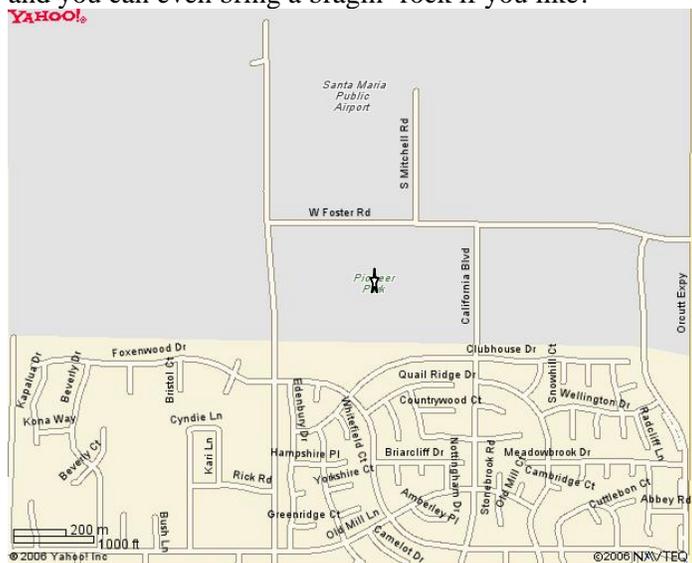
Volume XL111 Number 6

June 2006

Annual Bar-B-Q & Potluck, June 10

11:00a.m. till 3:30 p.m., at Pioneer Park 1000 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria Bring a dish (side dish, salad or desert,) to share, and your plates and tableware, and an old tablecloth (the birdies leave us little surprises.) The OMS provides the meat and bread free to members and guests are \$5.00. Don't forget to bring rocks for the silent auction, and a little cash! This is a great time to get to know other club members better, the food is wonderful and you can even bring a braggin' rock if you like!

YAHOO!



Kathy Collison, the Los Alamos Rock Lady

Interview by Wayne Mills, your man on the street

Kathy, a relative newcomer to OMS has the largest collection of rocks in our club, and probably one of the largest in the state. In fact, her business **is** rocks!

She began her business, the **Rock Depot** about 4 years ago. It is located at 515 Leslie Street, just off Highway 101 in the quaint village of Los Alamos. The town is located about half way between the two Santa's, Barbara and Maria. As far as landscape and decorative rock, if

you can imagine it, Kathy probably has it from pea gravel to boulders, and from limestone to flagstone.

Kathy's rock yard is well worth seeing. Not only does she have representatives from the three major rock groups—Beatles, Stones and Turtles, I mean— Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary, but she has “weeping rocks”. Ask to see them. She also has several landscaped water features as examples of what can be done with her rocks. Her yard is a veritable “fountain” of ideas...

Kathy, and her husband Gregg, has been married 8 years. They have a daughter Claire (4), and son Neal (6) who is an aspiring archaeologist (he likes to dig stuff up). Kathy was born and raised in the Northridge area, and graduated from Cal State University at Northridge (Go Titans) with a degree in Accounting. She met Gregg on a blind date in Buellton after she moved up to this area. About 4 years ago, she started the rock yard, and shortly thereafter, was introduced to OMS by John Von Achen who asked her if she wanted to buy some petrified wood. She has been making the monthly drive from Los Alamos to our (second) Tuesday night meetings ever since. Kathy became a member of the club in 2003, but due to her workload, has not been able to go on a field trip yet.



However, Kathy has had some pretty neat field trips of her own. On a recent trip to buy flagstone (any flat landscape rock) in Lompoc, she watched the Mexican laborers splitting the stones (diatomite shale from the Middle Miocene aged marine Monterey Formation). When one of the men opened a slab containing a 7-inch long fossil herring (*Xyne grex*) and asked Kathy if she wanted it, she said “heck yes”, and bought it on the spot. Another of her treasures is a sphere of Ocean agate that she acquired from Ralph Bishop. She says that the spheres that Wes has on consignment in the Rock Depot

office “jazzes up the place”. Spoken like a true rockhound!

President’s Corner

My fellow Rock hounds, here we go into yet another month. What mysterious weather awaits us this time? Shall the earth quake; will the flowers ever bloom? Boy, I’ve seen the fields to the east turn brown in total contrast to our emerald green hills. Even though the mustard and lupine is blooming in some areas, the vast array of nature’s colors has not awakened to date. Oh well, the high grass will give one a thought to step with care so as not to disturb the crawly critters. I’ve been told so far this year to use caution in rock picken as the snakes of all kinds are about. Hopefully this won’t deter us much and a field trip can be had. June is open for suggestions, our picnic is on Sat. June 10th and National Trail Days is Friday. June 30th, (free pass day into the National Forrest). Oh, before I forget, I will bang my head for not remembering the roadside clean up. BANG! Also, I would like to bang my drum a little; I won the **Longest Beard** category in the Elk’s Beard-O-Reno contest, YAHOO! Take care one and all. Your President.

FLOWER ROCKS?

By Wayne Mills, roving reporter

Ralph Bishop did an admirable job filling in at the last minute for his gnarly friend Brian, who was supposed to be the speaker for our May OMS general meeting. Brian was to give a presentation on flint-knapping, but apparently, he tried to imitate the movie “Super size Me”, and his gastritis kicked in. Our condolences go out to Brian.[Ed.’s Note: Brian is recovering and we hope to reschedule him later this year.]

The topic President-Elect Debbie Hood had picked for our May display was “Flower Rocks”, (now I get it – Mother’s Day, flowers, right?) and they brought out a variety of ideas on what that topic meant to some of our club members. Among the flower rocks brought in by members were Chalcedony roses from the Mojave Desert, Barite roses from Oklahoma, and Selenite roses from Mexico, a Chrysanthemum Stone from China (a metamorphic rock), and I mentioned Poppy Jasper from Morgan Hill, but didn’t get much support on that one. “That is orbicular Rhyolite” I was told. Sure, and your point is? How do YOU define flower rock? New member Robert Cochrane brought in another winning flower rock. It was a large (about 10” x 30”) landscape intarsia project featuring flowers made of different colors of rocks. A picture of that one will appear in the July Ore Cutts, along with an interview of Robert and his son Kevin. I am also recalling a piece of material I collected in Nevada a few years ago called “Daisy Agate” that was composed of radiating clusters of quartz crystals.

Well, Ralph decided that “Flower Rocks” was a suitable topic for his fill-in talk, and it was! Ralph began his

presentation by showing some lovely Chrysacolla-stained and veined quartz rock from Mexico. He is helping a friend market the material, and graciously donated a large chunk to the raffle. He also gave a beautiful piece of the material to our newest Pebble Pup, Shelly Dana. He also displayed another recent acquisition, the “flower” of Willow Creek botryoidal jade specimens. This piece, about 10-inches in diameter was hand cleaned over a period of about 6 years (but that is another story).

Ralph displayed pieces of Nipomo Sagenite, Montana Moss Agate, and Priday Ranch Plume Agate as examples of flowers in rock. He eloquently explained the near-organic origin of these awesome agates from a seed of mineral in a womb-like cavity in basaltic rock. And they are most often found in association with volcanic rocks. As Ralph explained, the volcanic eruption leaves an atmosphere heavy with gasses in the cavities (gas bubbles) in the basaltic rock. From these gasses, minerals like aragonite, marcasite, millerite, and zeolite like Stilbite, natrolite and analcime begin to form. Depending on the supply of nutrients and the size of the cavity, the minerals continue to grow until the nutrients are exhausted. At some later time, and repeatedly, the cavity is filled with water containing dissolved silica and other minerals. As these waters evaporate, they leave a coating of microcrystalline quartz (chalcedony) and other minerals on the crystals and cavity lining until the “whole” is filled-up, or the supply is cut off. Pure silica is colorless. Admixtures with other mineral impurities may cause a layer to be red, orange, white, or bluish.

There is disagreement between Ralph and other experts as to whether or not the water supplying the silica is hydrothermal (hot water), or if room temperature (rain and runoff) water could dissolve and re-precipitate silica. Ralph presented a strong (and humorous) argument for hydrothermal processes, but remember that sugar is NOT a mineral, sodium chloride and other salts (think Searles Lake) that are minerals, and calcium carbonate (calcite) ARE dissolved and re-precipitated essentially at room temperature. Also remember that water is a universal solvent since it is seldom found in its pure state with a

neutral pH of 7.

By contrast, Coca Cola is pretty acidic with a pH of about 2.



On the display table at our meeting were other member's ideas of what "flower rocks" are. Chalcedony roses are an obvious choice because of their flower-like appearance (and name), as are desert roses. Ralph explained the creation of chalcedony roses that are widely scattered in the Mojave Desert (at least from Afton Canyon to Wiley Wells in my experience) as products of hydrothermal steam venting through tiny holes at the earth's surface, and rapidly cooling into the wonderful forms taken on by these siliceous wonders. Oklahoma is famous for the barite roses (also called Desert Roses or Cherokee Roses) that crystallize in the sands near Norman, Oklahoma. In fact, they are the state rock of Oklahoma. Their red color comes from the presence of iron and barite in the sands that they crystallize from. One reference to the formation of these unique rocks that I found is from the University of Delaware. It says "The barite roses are found only in the upper, weathered part of the Garber sandstone where they are being deposited by the groundwater." The article goes on to say "this piece (desert rose) is more sand than it is barite, like some of the gypsum and calcite sand specimens are". These latter forms are apparently found worldwide.



Another interesting specimen that I have in my collection is the Chrysanthemum Stone from Hubei Province in China. It is a piece of dark limestone with prominent flower-like crystals of aragonite (a form of calcite). The age of this material is about 270 million years before present according to one scientific article I read on the subject (Grace Hill and Lance Kearns *Chrysanthemum Stones* at the following website—
<http://www.jmu.edu/geology/042806symposium.shtml>.
 The article suggests that the "flowers", 3-dimensional radiating crystal masses of Celestite (strontium sulfate) form in a depleted (marine) shelf environment before the limy sediments are lithified. After lithification, the crystals may be replaced with calcite, quartz or strontianite (strontium carbonate). And I thought they were products of contact metamorphism.

There is other "flower rocks" that could be included in this discussion. Daisy agate from Lander County, Nevada comes immediately to mind. (But it is not agate at all; rather it is an aggregate of spherical agglomerations of quartz crystals). Poppy jasper is another candidate. It is a meta-sedimentary rock found in association with the Franciscan Formation near Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County. It is becoming quite scarce, and is a lovely rock with red, orange and yellow orbs set against a chalcedony gray background.

A final "flower rock" that was mentioned by Ralph is the flower or fern-like dendrites made of pyrolusite (manganese dioxide) that occur on the fracture planes of shale and other rock materials. These are often confused with fossils, but they are not. I just happen to have a piece of soapstone from Texas (I think) that has some pretty



little dendrites throughout. This is a brief overview of a fascinating portion of our hobby- finding the many ways that Nature has of imitating herself. We welcome

pictures and stories that further expand on this topic.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ralph Bishop, June Apperson, Kathy Collison, Geary Sheffer, Maida Williams, John Belzel & Paul Morris is celebrating their birthday this month. Anniversaries for June include Bert & Louise McIntosh, Bill & Debbie Hood, and Stan & Jan Ferguson.

Show Report – Bishop/Lone Pine Fairgrounds May 6-7 2006

By Wes Lingerfelt

The Marine Layer had been hanging around all week and Jeannie was feeling depressed. She is a "Sun" person and hates the June-Gloom typical of the Central Coast this time of year. So we were looking forward to a trip to the Eastern Sierra and the friendly people there putting on their third annual Gem Show. We left Nipomo at 5:30 a.m. in the low fog using windshield wipers. As we drove east it began to clear up and get warmer once we traveled past Cuyama some 55 miles East on CA166. Jeannie was feeling better already. We arrive in Tehachapi and decided to have breakfast at the Denny's restaurant just off Mill Street exit of CA58. I wanted to check the price of Gas at the Texaco station next door. OH! My Gosh! It's \$3.51 a gallon for regular! I thought, "surely there's

something cheaper in town”. We had a good breakfast (the senior special) and went looking for cheaper gas and found a Circle K with \$3.42 a gallon gas. I wince at the pump as it finally shuts off at \$50.00 thinking to myself that we may not make much on this trip. The next 4 hours of travel heading North on CA14 and on to US395 was a very pleasant and scenic drive. The flowers were blooming along the Highway and the temperature was steadily climbing making Jeannie very happy. We pulled into the Best Western motel at 11 a.m. and were told we couldn’t have our room until 2 p.m. On to the Fairgrounds we went to set up our selling booth. We had reserved 6 tables for this show and the truck was packed full. I pulled the truck into the building and parked right next to my space. How convenient! We spent the next 5 hours unloading and setting up. I looked around and realized I had the largest display of the entire show. Hopefully the wide range of merchandise would make for a good show. We wrapped tables with the covering tarps and went back to the motel. The room was comfortable however the bed was very springy. Knowing how I can’t sleep in the first night in a strange bed, I hoped Jeannie would be able to survive my tossing and turning.

The next morning was bright and warm so we went to the famous Shepherder’s bread factory to get sandwiches for lunch. Unfortunately it didn’t open until 9 a.m. I would have to make a lunch run from the Fairgrounds later. We arrived at the Fairgrounds around 8 a.m. looking forward



to a busy day. There was a swap meet and a Home Show taking place at the Fairgrounds along with the Gem and Mineral show. Sure enough

there was a very huge crowd that came through the show. The only problem was that nothing over a dollar was selling. I had set up a cigar box of finished cabochons for 50 cents each. Also, a box of miscellaneous findings for 50 cents each was included. These items sold like crazy. I had a cigar box full of finished stone hearts at \$1.50 each or 3 for \$3.00. I sold about half of these. At the end of the day I counted the till



and was a little disappointed. I thought to myself, “It must be the gasoline prices making people wary of spending anything”. We

returned to the motel and waited for my friend Jeff Lines to arrive for a scheduled dinner engagement. He recommended the Las Palmas Mexican food restaurant just down the street. I said, “Lead the way” and we were off. The food was good but the Miller Genuine Draft was better. I was really ready for “Miller Time” this night. Jeff invited us over to his place for a tour of his mineral displays and to see the petrified wood he had collected in Holbrook, Arizona. He had found a very rare small round limb about 3 inches in diameter. He was rightfully proud of his good luck. He had found several nice rounds and many chunks for making spheres that were of very high quality. Not bad for a novice.

We spent another fretful night of tossing and turning and awoke to another bright and sunny day. This time we went to the Von’s grocery store and ordered sandwiches at the Deli inside the store. I didn’t want to lose my parking place again like yesterday. The show opened at 9 a.m. and not a person was visible in the building except the dealers. Well, after all, it’s Sunday and church is in session. Perhaps afternoon will be better. We waited, we waited, and we waited! Jeannie read her book. I spent the day pricing cabs in the Ricker mounts. I recall counting up to about ten the number of visitors to the show that came by our booth. All sales were to other dealers this day. Around 2 p.m. I noticed a couple of dealers were folding up their tables and heading home. I was tempted to do the same but out of respect for the sponsoring club I decided to tough it out. About 3:15 p.m. Jeannie said, “Let’s start packing!” I said, OK! The show closed at 4 p.m. anyway and there was nary a soul around. At 4 p.m. I pulled the truck into the building and began loading. By 5:30 we were loaded and heading out of town. As I looked at the snow topped mountains for the final time I thought, “It could have been worse!” It could have been pouring rain or freezing cold with blowing snow. We had a good time visiting with friends and got out of the routine for a weekend. We had no troubles on the road such as neither breakdowns nor accidents. Yes, It could have been worse and you know? I’ll probably do it again next year!

Career Day at Dana Elementary – 18 May 2006

By Wes Lingerfelt

For several years now I’ve had the pleasure of participating in the annual “Career Day” at Nipomo’s Dana Elementary. The cafeteria is reserved for several companies and local businesses to set up a display on tables and classes are lead in to visit them. The purpose of the exercise is to expose the students to professionals and tradesmen with the idea of informing the students of requirements for a given job in a particular industry. The students are very enthusiastic about the learning experience, especially when it comes to rocks, minerals and flashy jewelry items. It takes them all of 10 seconds to find the box of free rocks (tumbled stones) I always bring

to the event. The many teachers involved prepare the students with specific questions to ask the industry personnel present so as to get them involved and get a dialog going. I look around the room and see the huge number of students hovering over the rock box and wonder how many of the other visiting professionals are jealous of my display and the attraction it has with the students. It is not hard to out-draw a Banker or a Lawyer sitting at a near by table when you have a sparkling array of rocks and minerals spread out along with a box of free rocks. At this years event I included a Black Light Flourescent display, which also was a very big hit with the students. My favorite question is; what would you change about your job? My answer, "I would make the rocks lighter or perhaps start collecting stamps or feathers. Rocks are so heavy sometimes!"

The sessions last from 1 p.m. to around 3:15 p.m. and the kids really love my display and rocks. Many have said, "I want to be a geologist someday!" That is music to my ears!

Highway Cleanup – 20 May 2006

By Wes Lingerfelt

There was heavy dew on the grass this Saturday morning and a heavy fog just starting to burn off. The telephone rang at 7:30 a.m. with Chuck on the other end telling me he was too sick to lead the crew this morning. I loaded up the supplies along with Marty & Jeannie and arrived at US101 & CA166 sharply at 8:00 a.m. to find John Von Achen, Geary Sheffer, Lucky Virgin and a guest volunteer Laura Kasteal waiting for the supplies. Don Nasholm arrived shortly after and we gathered up the bags, hats, vests, gloves and pick-up sticks needed for the job. We all knew our regular cleanup areas so off the crew went to tackle the messy highway. We finished in short order as the road was badly over-grown with weeds and it was hard to see any trash. We didn't see any of the poppies we scattered earlier in the year either. We finished the job and proceeded to the reward at Francisco's Restaurant on North Broadway. The crew of 8 had their fill of coffee and rolls (some had pie) and called it a day. It was a good day of fellowship and fun and I hope more of our members will pitch in on the next cleanup.

CUB SCOUT ROCK CLASS

By Wes Lingerfelt

On April 29th I had the pleasure to entertain and visit with Cub Scout Troop 95 and their leaders. Stacie Begg arrived with her troop at 10 a.m. at my workshop for a session on the "Benefits of Rocks". I gave the same presentation that I



give to local schools which engages the kids in a dialog about what different rocks are used for in our daily lives. As always the young ones were captivated and participated in a lively discussion of all the minerals and rocks I had pre-arranged on the table in my front yard. I must say I think the leaders learned a few things about rocks as well. The same holds true for the teachers in the schools. No one thinks about what makes our lives so functional until you hold up a piece of Galena or Gypsum and ask, "What is this used for?" We spent an hour and 15 minutes with the kids who appeared to really enjoy talking about rocks. It was extra thrilling to hear the "UUh's and AAH's when I turned on the Black light box and displayed the many fluorescent rocks inside. Each child received a bag of rocks along with a show flyer to take home with them.

The Amethyst Surprise

A "True Story" By Ralph Bishop

Early March of this year Mom and I were blessed by a visit with old friends Jim and Rose Sehuer. Jim was my partner at the Dryhead Agate Mine during the past century. During the few days they spent here we caught up on old history, new history and the hopes for the future. Jim offered up a "True Story" which I would like here to pass on. (The term "True Story" has another story to be told that originated the term "True Story" and Jim was a prominent participant in that event. So we always laugh about a "True Story"). It seems Jim and Rose are consummate Snowbirds, spending months on end at Quartzsite while the sleet blows horizontal on Ohio's Lake Erie where they make their home in the Spring, Summer and Fall. During winter it's Quartzsite. Over the years Jim and a Brazilian fellow by the name of Jose have become close compadres. So this year Jim spots Jose uncrating a number of stunning Amethyst "Cathedrals". These astounding Geodes are thin-walled and filled with brilliant purple Amethyst crystals. I saw the first of these a dozen or so years ago. Previous to these emerging on the market the only Amethyst geodes were found in hollow Brazilian Agates and the Amethyst was usually lavender instead of the dark purple points of the "Cathedrals". Jim and Jose were recapping the previous years news. The wives were fine, kids still kicking, etc., etc., etc.



Now Jose had uncrated a real whopper of an Amethyst geode. Instead of the normal tall and lanky cathedral look, this one was almost a perfect bathtub, long, deep and much wider than usual. As their banter continued they noticed a well-dressed gentleman saunter up to the Amethyst "bathtub". While their conversation casually continued Jim noticed the gentleman pulled out a tape measure and begin to measure the interior of the "tub". While Jim

described what sleet was to a man from the tropics, the gentleman continued to measure the depth, the length and the width, one end to the other. After a minute or two he walked over to the edge of the tent and picked up a white 5-gallon bucket. He then walked back over to the big geode and placed the bucket down, bottom up and proceeded to step up and, horror of horrors, climbed into the geode. Jim said as Jose saw this he could hardly gag as his hands flew skyward and then a flurry of Portuguese burst forth into the desert air. He was .001 degrees from total vapor lock. The blue Portuguese air was met with these words; "It's OK, It's OK!" "I want to buy it! It's OK!" "It's just the right size. I'll buy it!" Jose stammered, " Bu-Bu-But you know not the price! The gentleman climbed out of the fragile geode and attempted to calm Jose's shaken countenance. "Sir, what is your price?" the gentleman calmly asked. Gathering a lung full of air "9,000 dollars" said Jose. "That will be acceptable, Sir," "that's a better price than that thieving mortician quoted me for a coffin". Jim said you could have knocked them over with a feather. While their mouths were still open the gentleman said, "Here's my MasterCard. Could you arrange to have it shipped to #1 Circle Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona?" "This is to be your coffin?" Jose stammered. "Yes", said the gentleman in a hush, "but don't tell anyone. They might want to dig me up!" A smile crossed the gentleman's face. " Look what they did to old king Tut!" Jim said the card was placed into Jose's hand and Jose, talking to himself in Portuguese, walked as if in a trance into the tent to swipe the card and consummate the sale. Amethyst crystal geodes coffin...hmmm, not a bad idea!

A Weekend With Ralph

Wayne Mills, Reporter at large

I am in awe of Ralph Bishop. I am proud that he was made an honorary member of our club while I was president. He is a legend in our club, and through out the California Federation of Mineral Societies, and beyond. One of our members talked about going to Skagway, Alaska and commenting to her husband in a rock shop "that looks like something that Ralph would collect", and the sales lady came over and said "do you mean Ralph Bishop?" And they did! One of Ralph's many friends sent him the following accolade "*He is a Storyteller of the aboriginal kind. Among his many diverse talents, Ralph possesses a credible and spontaneous knack to spin every day happenings into a festival of the English language. Enthusiastically mingling reality with terminology his stories are unadulterated and irresistibly entertaining!*" Belinda Peck, Miss Alaska, Fellow Aboriginal. Mrs. Peck and her husband Lance are noted wild life photographers. Neither she or Ralph are aboriginals in the anthropological sense of the word, but in their unadulterated enjoyment of the out of doors, and of the mysteries of life that Mother

Nature has so quixotically left us clues to. "Many are called, but few answer". Ralph is one of the few.

I have been privileged to be on 5 trips (that I can remember) with Mr. Bishop. They were all notable, but this "True Story" will focus on two trips that occurred on a particular weekend about 2 years ago. My friend Phyllis had shown me a terrific time when I stayed with her for 10 days in Baja California. She came to Arroyo Grande to visit for a weekend, and asked about where we could go to find some rocks and maybe see some birds. So I called Ralph. He agreed to accompany us on Friday and Sunday.

Friday we picked him up at his house, and toured his private museum. It was the best private collection I had seen until I visited the Crater Rock Museum in Center Point, Oregon that Ralph told me about. After seeing his collection, we drove north to Cayucos where we looked at the "Fig Tree" beach. Finding not much there, we proceeded to Willow Creek where we searched the gravels north of the creek for jade. After 10 minutes or so, Ralph called to Phyllis "you might want to look over here". I went over to where he was and noticed some shiny jade pebbles in a pool at Ralph's feet. Then Phyllis came and said "you put these there as she picked up a dark, polished piece of jade. " Would I do that?" demurred Ralph. After one more similar exchange, a rogue wave came in, knocked us all over, and tried to drag us off the beach. Ralph grabbed Phyllis, Phyllis held onto her jade, and I fended for myself. After we drip-dried for a while, we decided to try Limekiln for Rhodonite. As we walked into the park, a ranger cautioned us about picking up rocks. That was enough motivation for a certain aboriginal to pick up a nice white chunk of marble and offer to carry it out for Phyllis. So, no Rhodonite for us at Limekiln. We decided to drag our damp behinds up Nacimiento-Ferguson Road into the Salinas Valley where we would probably dry out a lot faster. About half way up Nacimiento-Ferguson, we stopped and hiked back in to the redwoods. There we found a nice stump to sit on, and had our lunch, surrounded by coastal redwoods. We were starting to dry-out, and enjoyed the comforting peace of the stately trees, and the magnificent views of the coast. The beach had put a damper on our rock collecting for Friday. But the highlight of the day was Ralph's stories. He told usually funny, well-crafted, "true" stories from the time we left his house until the time we dropped him off about 6 hours later. And he never told the same story twice.

Sunday, we picked Ralph up at Wes's house. We drove south on Thompson a short distance, and parked to watch the antics of 6 white tailed kites of uncertain relation swooping and hovering with abandon in the large field south of St. Joseph's Church where we have our annual show. Phyllis is also a birder, and she had never seen a display like this. From there, we drove up the freeway to Arroyo Grande's Grand Avenue, and headed for Lake

Lopez. On the way into the park, we stopped and dug *Pecten discus* from a place in the Monterey Formation that Ralph knew about. These are cute 1.5 to 2 inch scallops that are pretty well preserved for being 15 million years old. Next, we showed Phyllis the large slab near the Boy Scout Camp where you can find Miocene Aged crabs and fish, also from the Monterey Formation. And we did—find some fossil crabs. The difficulty was in extracting them, as the shale they are in is pretty well silicified. Ralph promised to go out there with his concrete saw the next time Phyllis was in town. After that, we decided to mosey up Lopez Canyon behind the lake, and we did, crossing the creek about 12 times in the process. My old Bronco did well getting us over the sometimes rough road. Then we parked, and ate our lunch beside the flowing creek, probably 8 miles away from the Ranger Station at Lopez.

After a pleasant lunch, and a short hike exploring the rock exposures near the creek, we got back in the Blazer, belted up, and cranked the ignition. No spark! I patiently waited and tried the engine again, still nothing. Dang! It is getting late, I'm 8 miles up the creek, and my "boat" is dead in the water so to speak. After one more unsuccessful attempt to start the engine, I decided to hitchhike in to the Lopez ranger station to call a tow truck. I did not like my chances, but could think of no other option. So I caught a ride, and was dropped off at the ranger station near the main gate. As I was talking to the ranger lady, asking about towing service to remote areas around the lake, a familiar voice says "here you are trying to make time with the young ladies, Wayne". Astounded, I turned to face Ralph and Phyllis. Ralph had finally managed to start the engine of my old Blazer, and had driven out of the canyon to find me at the ranger station. This was a serendipitous occurrence, because my chances of getting a tow truck out there were slim, at least.

As we left the parking lot at the ranger station, we came upon a magnificent grainery tree, something that Phyllis had never seen. It was a huge old Coast Live Oak that woodpeckers had filled full of holes and had cached acorns in for their future use.

All the way back to Ralph's house, as he had the rest of the day, he kept us entertained and laughing with his often outrageous, but usually true stories. Unfortunately, Phyllis has not been back so we could go back to Lopez for her fossil crabs.

OMS Presents Scholarship at Hancock

By Wayne Mills, Scholarship Chairperson

On May 25, Debra Hood, our President Elect, and I traveled to Alan Hancock College to present the 2006 OMS Earth Science Scholarship Award. After a nice tri-tip dinner, we sat through about 2/3 of the awards before I was able to present a \$700 scholarship to Adriana Rosales, a continuing student at Hancock

who hopes to eventually get a Masters in Marine Biology. I also managed to get in a plug for our show that supports the scholarships. 10% of the net profits from our annual show go towards the scholarships that we present each year at Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria, and Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

In all, \$287,000 dollars in scholarships were presented to 210 students. Two of the scholarships were in the amount of \$10,000. Adriana is a personable young woman who said she would like to come to one of our meetings. Maybe she will visit us in August. We'll look forward to her visit.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA May 2, 2006

In the absence of President Bob Bullock Vice President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Board members present were: Wayne Mills, Elaine Von Achen, Debbie Hood, Lucky Virgin, Gary Sheffer, Wes Lingerfelt, Jill Nelson and Dee Dee Magri. Guests were Bill Hood and Marshall Reeves.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published in the May 2006 newsletter.

Correspondence:

Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from the following: Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club, San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society and Sun Valley Indian School. Letters: a thank you from the Sun Valley Indian School and an announcement of the next meeting of the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Advisory Council to be held June 23-24 in Ridgecrest from the Bureau of Land Management.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read. Treasurer, Wes Lingerfelt, announced that the rent on our storage locker has been raised effective June 1, 2006 from \$145.00 per month to \$150.00 per month. He also reported that he had issued a check for \$50.00 to the Secretary of State Franchise Tax Board for a late filing fee, which was due by May 1, 2006.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: Debbie Hood reported that the bulletin was done and mailings had gone out.

Education: Wes Lingerfelt read thank you letters from Laura Rice, Grover Beach Elementary as well as individual thank you letters from students; Mrs. Elliott, Nipomo Elementary; Mrs. Ungefugs, Nipomo Elementary and Lea Ojeda, Nipomo Elementary for talks and demonstrations he gave to the students.

Federation report: Our August show is listed in the May 2006 issue.

Membership: Elaine Von Achen read applications from Gloria Dana, Don Dana and Maddy Belzel. Wayne Mills made a motion to accept these applicants as members. The motion was seconded by Wes Lingerfelt and passed.

Highway Cleanup: The next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday May 20, 2006.

Library: Gary Sheffer said he could use two tables for library supplies at the next meeting, as one table was just not enough to hold everything. It was mentioned that only members could check out materials.

Refreshments: Cake will be served at the May general meeting.

Scholarships: Wayne Mills read a thank you from June Stevens, Cuesta College, thanking us for our \$400.00 scholarship

Show: Wes said that the raffle tickets are almost completed. He hopes to have them ready for the May general meeting.

Sunshine: Happily everyone is well!

Old Business:

Wes Lingerfelt announced that locker cleanup has been moved to June 17th from 9:00 to 11:00.

New Business:

The Santa Maria Historical Society is holding "Santa Maria History Week" in September and has issued an invitation to the Orcutt Mineral Society to participate. Elaine Von Achen volunteered to be the liaison between the two organizations. It has been noted that Sharon Duncan has already agreed to head this project up and so Elaine will give help if needed.

The program for the May meeting will be a talk and demonstration on Flint Knapping given by Brian Shull.

Wayne said he would like to have a "Stump the Experts" event at one of our meetings where members would bring an unusual rock or one they couldn't identify and a panel of two or three would try to figure out what it is.

There was some discussion on our money market and savings accounts and the possibility of putting some of our funds into a program where we would receive a higher rate of interest. We also discussed the feasibility of obtaining a credit card, as there are some occasions when something needs to be paid in that manner. Currently Wes uses his personal card and then is reimbursed by the club. It was suggested that Wes look into this and get back to the board with information.

Vice President Debbie Hood adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA May 9, 2006

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Shelly Dana led the flag salute.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

We had 32 members and 3 guests present. Guests were Jane Kametani, Joe Martinez and Shelly Dana.

Minutes of the May 2, 2006 board meeting were read by Elaine Von Achen and approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

Correspondence:

Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from the following: Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club, San Geronimo Mineral & Gem Society, South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society and Sun Valley Indian School. Letters: a thank you from the Sun Valley Indian School and an announcement of the next meeting of the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Advisory Council to be held June 23-24 in Ridgecrest from the Bureau of Land Management.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Elaine Von Achen welcomed new members Don and Gloria Dana and Maddy Belzel.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills announced a trip to Cerro Gordo, a historic ghost town and silver mine, on June 25, 2006. The Lone Pine Gem and Mineral Society host this annual event. There will be a \$5.00 fee.

It was also noted that our May field trip to Big Sandy had to be cancelled due to some problems with the land.

Refreshments: Dee Dee Magri reported that tonight's refreshments would be cake, which has been provided by Sharon Duncan, Dee Dee Magri, Sandy Berthelot and Elaine Von Achen.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood noted that Jan Ferguson was not in attendance this evening as she has been having pain in her knee and will possibly be having surgery. She also welcomed Kay Vollmer, tonight, who has not been with us for some time due to health issues.

Abused Children's Fund: Debbie Hood announced that we would have two items for tonight's raffle, an amethyst crystal and 6 mineral specimens.

Raffle: Wayne Mills thanked Ralph Bishop for his donation of Dinosaur Bone and reported that we also have a small sphere, some jasper, some crystal and much more.

Federation Report: Wes Lingerfelt made mention that we finally got our August show listed in the upcoming events in the AFMS newsletter. As an aside he noted that the Right of Eminent Domain has struck again! Betty Sheffler of Alexandria, Missouri has a well-known rock shop and house of history that is to be taken to build a highway. The headline read "**Highway Claims Famed Rock Shop**".

Old Business: None

New Business:

Tonight's program, given by Ralph Bishop, will be "Diverse and Flowery".

Raffle tickets are available for our August show and each member is encouraged to take at least one packet for sale.

June 10, 2006 is our annual Bar-B-Q and potluck to be held at Pioneer Park in Santa Maria from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Members are free and guests are \$5.00 per person. You need to bring your own table set-up and either a salad or dessert to share. The meat, beans, bread and soda will be provided. Also, don't forget to bring rock donations for our silent auction.

President Bob Bullock adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS



A 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. 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 1989, 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 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.

2006 OMS Officers

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Pres | Robert Bullock | (805) 928-6372 |
| Pres. Elect | Debbie Hood | (805) 481-6860 |
| Secretary | Elaine Von Achen | (805) 929-1488 |
| Treasurer | Wes Lingerfelt | (805) 929-3788 |
| Immed. Past Pres | Lucky Virgin | (805) 929-4525 |
| CFMS. Rep. | Wes Lingerfelt | (805) 929-3788 |

2006 OMS Board Members

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Geary Scheffer | (805) 925-8009 |
| Sylvia Nasholm | (805) 481-0923 |
| Dee-Dee Magri | (805) 595-2755 |
| Wayne Mills | (805) 481-3495 |
| Jill Nelson | (805) 925-2550 |

Ore-Cutts Editors

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Deborah Hood | (805) 481-6860 |
| Wayne Mills | (805) 481-3495 |

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt -(805) 929-3788

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills.

OMS Membership (dues) is \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

June 2006 Calendar

| | |
|--|---|
| Tuesday June 6, 2006 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting. |
| Saturday, June 10, 2006 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | OMS Annual Bar-B-Q- Potluck at Pioneer Park 1000 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria |
| Saturday, June 17 2006 9a.m. 11a.m. | OMS Locker Cleanup |
| Saturday, June 24, 2006 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749. |

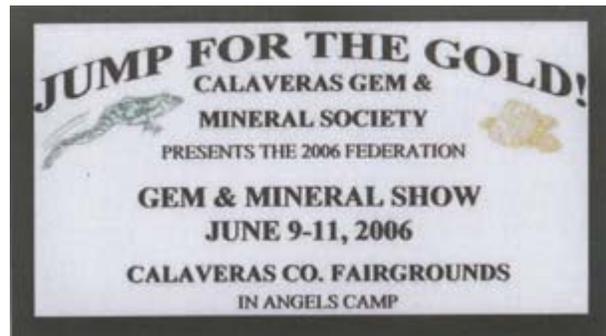
July 2006 Calendar

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| Tuesday July 4, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rescheduled due to holiday | OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting. |
| Saturday July 8, 2006 8:00 a.m. to?? p.m.. | Field Trip To be announced |
| Tuesday July 11, 2006 6:00-p.m. to 7:00p.m. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | OMS Board Meeting OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. • Program-Richard Sittinger, Mineral Dealer • Display-Local Rocks • Refreshments-Pies |
| Saturday July 15, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. | Roadside Clean up After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. |
| Saturday July 2, 2006 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. | OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749. |

August 2006 Calendar

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|--|---|
| Tuesday August 1, 2006 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting. |
| Thursday August | Show set up at St Joseph's Church 298 |

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|---|--|
| 3, 2006 8:00 a.m. till complete | S. Thompson Ave. Nipomo. All members are cordially invited! |
| Friday, Saturday & Sunday August 4, 5, & 6, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | OMS Rainbow of Gems Show Post show victory dinner 7:00 p.m. at the Golden Dragon Restaurant, 151 Dana St. Nipomo |
| Tuesday August 8, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. Program- Show wrap up Display- Show acquisitions & Foreign rocks. |
| Saturday August 26, 2006 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749. |



June 9-11 2006, Angels Camp, CA

Calveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calveras Co. Fairgrounds

Hours: 10-5 daily

Website: calaverasgemandmineral.org

September 16-17 2006, Paso Robles, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park and Museum

2010 Riverside Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 both days

Joyce Baird (805) 462-9544

Email: liloysee@charter.net

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED