



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVIII, Issue IX

September, 2003

## Rainbow of Gems Show Another Winner

Wayne Mills, President, OMS

The 36th Annual Rainbow of Gems show was a fine success. This fact is attested to by many satisfied dealers who say they'll be back next year, by dozens of the people who visited our show, by the 50 or so children who enjoyed the prospecting adventure, and by our treasurer, who said the show made a nice profit!! The barbecue Saturday night will be talked about until next year (hope we can get that corn again). Marshall and crew served up delicious Harris Ranch Beef, mouthwatering corn, tasty pinquito beans, salad and garlic bread. The large contingent of OMS members and friends who helped are to be sincerely thanked for their help.



Sharon and Dee Dee with their exhibit

As usual, Sylvia and her crew performed miracles in the kitchen, keeping the hundreds of people who visited the show well supplied

with sandwiches, cold drinks, pie, coffee, and salad. They also did a great job with the Thursday night chicken dinner for the dealers, demonstrators, displayers, and the people who worked tirelessly to get the show set up that morning and afternoon. We always wonder how we're going to get it all done with our meager sign-up lists, but somehow it always seems to get done. But I am sad to say, if Wes Lingerfelt ever takes a year off, we're going to be in a world of hurt!



Rick Kennedy demonstrating benitoite etching

We had some great demonstrators including precious metal clay (PMC), glass beads, wire wrap, benitoite etching, wet polishing, and John Von Achen's sphere machine. We had about 40 fine displays thanks to Bess Shields organizational and diplomatic skills. We sold a record number of raffle tickets thanks to Dee Dee Magri's cheerful canvassing of the dealers, and her efforts at selling tickets before the show. These efforts won her the travertine sphere that Marshall Reeves made and donated as the raffle ticket prize for the most tickets sold by an individual. We had about 54 prizes for

the raffle this year, and I want to thank all those who so generously donated the prizes, and Ralph Bishop, Wes Lingerfelt and Marshall Reeves donated the “prize inducer” spheres.

The displays were graphic reminders of the talent that exists within the OMS. Some of the highlights to me were Wes Lingerfelt’s marcasite spheres, Dick Shields’ Fluorescent Room, Debbie Hood’s beadwork, Don Nasholm’s silver work, Sharon Duncan’s wire-wrapping, the Ferguson’s beautiful quartz crystal collection, and Ralph Bishop’s awesome collection of agates, not to mention his mammoth space fillers of whale vertebrae, petrified trees, and his mortality slab of Green River herring (*Knightia* sp.). Other clubs too provided lovely cases, including members from the Santa Lucia Club, Kern County Club, and Dick Knox with his 3 varied cases, and his traveling geology lesson. I think I liked the “Ugly Rocks?” display the best!



Dick Knox talking about igneous rocks

These are just my reflections a couple of weeks after the show. I didn’t mention everyone who contributed to our show’s success, but please know that your participation and help with the show is greatly appreciated. It seems like each year at our Nipomo location is better and better. We look forward to seeing you all next year at the 37th annual Rainbow of Gems show.

## OMS Pays Respects to Lynda Virgin

Wayne Mills, President, OMS

On Tuesday, August 5, several members of Orcutt Mineral Society attended a memorial service for our member Lynda Virgin. The upbeat service was presided over by Steve Carr, pastor of Calvary Chapel in Arroyo Grande, where Lynda and her husband, Lucky have been members for the past 15 years or so. The Virgins have been married for 45 years. They met in southern California as teenagers, and have been happily married for 45 years. Lynda’s activities included crafts and her prayer group. The Virgins had owned a craft store in Grover Beach for about 10 years.



Lynda’s grandchildren sending their prayers for her heavenward.

Lynda was born in Bell, California April 28, 1940, and passed away at the Virgin’s home in Nipomo on July 31, 2003. Lynda is survived by her husband Lucky, her daughter-Chirelle, her son- Marshall, and several grandchildren. Her consistent good humor and dry wit will be missed at our meetings. The Virgins have been

members of OMS since 2000 and served on the 2003 Board. The OMS Board voted unanimously to send \$100 in Lynda's name to the Federation Memorial Fund.

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## Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussel Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

5 August, 2003

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Wayne Mills. Board members present were Sharon Duncan, Debbie and Bill Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, and Bess Shields.

**Trip reports:** Wayne Mills reported on his recent trip to Minnesota, and finding Superior Agates. Wayne also reported on his trip last week to the diatomaceous earth mine in Lompoc (Monterey formation).

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

**Minutes of the previous Board Meeting** were approved as published.

### Committee Reports:

**Bulletin (Ore-Cutts):** Bess Shields reported that the *Ore-Cutts* was mailed and emailed already.

**CFMS:** Wes Lingerfelt reported that David G. We-nall, Jr. of the Sequoia and Fresno Gem Societies passed away on June 25, 2003.

**Education:** Wayne Mills reported on the rock talk he presented at New Life Presbyterian in Pismo Beach for a group of Italian students.

**Library, Books, Videos:** Bess Shields reported that she has donated a copy of "The Complete Metalsmith with Tim McCreight" on video to our club library for checkout.

**Refreshments:** Wayne reported that cookies will be baked by Lisa Dabbs, Debbie Hood, and Truman Burgess for the meeting next week.

**Scholarship:** Wayne Mills received a thank you letter from award winner, Tracy Curry. He also received a certificate of thanks from Hancock College. An appreciation letter was sent to us from Cuesta College. Bonnie Williams, wrote a thank you letter for her OMS scholarship award.

**Show: Advertising:** Wes Lingerfelt has placed ads in the Adobe Press, Santa Maria Times, Easy Ad, and community calendar information spots on TV.

**Sunshine:** Debbie Hood attended Lynda Virgin's memorial service today along with DeeDee Magri, Don Nasholm, Bill Hood, Cameron Dyas, and Wayne Mills. Debbie also reported that Pat Nuernberg has been in the hospital, and is home now.

### Correspondence:

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

- *Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds.*
- *Lapidarian newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.*
- *Tumble Rumble from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.*
- *Tule Smoke Signals from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.*

### Old / unfinished business:

Wayne Mills will write an article about Lynda Virgin for the *Ore-cutts*. The Board voted to donate \$100 to CFMS in honor of Lynda. Her name as a patron will be engraved on a special CFMS plaque.

### New business:

1. An application for membership from Christine Clason was received and approved
2. Wayne reminded members that the September meeting will be held in Mename Center instead of Mussel Senior Center.
3. Wes Lingerfelt needs members on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to help lay out the Gem Show grounds. He needs volunteers on Thursday morning, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to set up tables, and displays.

The August Program is being presented by Tiffany McCoy Eckhardt on "Beadmaking". Members are asked to bring their displays of "Amazing Agates".

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

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Check our OMS web site at the new location,  
**<http://omsinc.org>** or send email to  
**[oms@ix.netcom.com](mailto:oms@ix.netcom.com)**.

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## Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting  
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA  
12 August, 2003

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Wayne Mills.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Open Hearts". Flag Salute was led by Christine Clason. Fred Summerson reported that 26 members, and 2 guests were present. Guests were Elaine Von Achen and Joyce Filbert.

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

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as read.

### Committee Reports:

**Breakfast:** Dick Shields reminded members of the OMS Monthly Breakfast at Baker's Square in Santa Maria on the 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

**Bulletin (Ore-Cutts):** Bess Shields is seeking articles from members about their rockhounding adventures. Also, there will be a reminder in the *Ore-Cutts* that the September General Meeting will be at Miname Center.

**Education:** Wayne Mills reported on his recent Rock Talk.

**Field Trips, Safety:** Dick Shields announced that there will not be an August field trip. September field trip is to "Beaches in Cayucos", and in October we will visit Gaviota and Refugio beaches.

**Library, Books, Videos:** Bess Shields invites members to visit our collection of books and videos which are currently available in her home. Members can check out materials for one month. She will continue to bring a selection of books and tapes to the General Meetings.

**Property:** Geary Sheffer sold all of the excess club equipment that was advertised last month.

**Refreshments:** Wayne Mills thanked Debbie Hood, Lisa Dabbs, and Truman Burgess for their cookie donations tonight.

**Sheriff:** Bill Hood reported that since there were no paper nametags available, there will be "no fines tonight".

**Sunshine:** Debbie Hood reported that Pat Nuernberg was well enough to attend the Gem Show.

### Correspondence:

(Show fliers, exchange bulletins, and notices announced under correspondence are at the front ta-

ble following the business portion of the meeting, and during refreshment time, for members to view.)

- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Tumble Rumble* newsletter from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.
- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- *Tule Smoke Signals* newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Rockonteur* newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.

### Old / unfinished business:

Wayne Mills thanked everyone for their participation in the Gem Show. He has already drafted a big thank you to run in the September *Ore-Cutts*.

Marshall Reeves presented Dee Dee Magri a Franciscan marble sphere as a reward for selling the most Gem Show Treasure Chest tickets during the past 4 months.

Chuck Ferguson reminded members of the Jade Festival on October 11th and 12th. He will lead jade hunting, and soapstone gathering trips.

Bess Shields turned 50 extra OMS lanyards over to Dee Dee Magri for sale to members. These were the display case "thank you" gifts for exhibitors. These will cost \$5.00 each, and will be available at meetings until the supply runs out.

### New business:

Wayne Mills reminded members that the September General Meeting will be at the Minami Center, and directions will be printed in the September *Ore-Cutts*.

Following the break for refreshments, Wayne Mills began the "Agates Show and Tell". Participants who exhibited their materials were Wayne Mills (Lake Superior agates), Ralph Bishop (HUGE Brazilian agate slab, polished marcasite slab, and angel wings agate), Wes Lingerfelt (sagenite from San Simeon Creek), Sharon Duncan (fire agate, and pudding stone in wirewraps), Rob Bullock (Nipomo agate, and a few pointers about Los Berros pressure ridge collecting), Chuck Ferguson (sagenite), Dee Dee Magri (Avila Beach agate, bubble gum agate), and Bess Shields (lace agate, and fire agate). Dick Shields then presented a short

fluorescing segment, and invited members to view their agates under fluorescent light. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

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### **Santa Lucia Rockhounds Annual Gem and Mineral Show**

September 20-21, 2003  
At Pioneer Park and Museum  
2010 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles  
(next to the Mid-State Fairgrounds)

If you wish to exhibit at their show, call Gene & Barbara Bilyeu at (805) 434-2708 or email at [gbilyeu@tcsn.net](mailto:gbilyeu@tcsn.net).

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### **The Wanderer Show Me!**

OMS members should be proud of our combined efforts during the August Gem Show in Nipomo. Together we put on a wonderful show, and had fun in the process. With so many hands at work, the burden was light, and the rewards were great.

Getting together with friends, neighbors, and other rock club members of the central coast is always a treat! This is our chance to teach, demonstrate our special skills, and share "all things rock-related". For old time rockhounds, it affords us the opportunity to compare information about hunting locations, and formulate plans for "another collecting road trip".

I found myself standing in awe at the creations in each display case, and was amazed at how adept the demonstrators were at their individual skills. It's such a learning environment. The mini-workshops served to wet the appetite for more training, and new friendships/mentoring opportunities developed.

Speaking of food!, the barbecues and snack bars always please the palate! Plentiful portions, and excellent combinations of flavor keep me coming back year after year for more.



Our skilled serving crew kept pace with demand

A special "thank you" to John Mock for his inspiration to donate 10 dozen ears of delicious corn for the Saturday BBQ feast. He raised the standard for excellence at our traditional event.



David Austin with the benitoite declaration

After Rick Kennedy's afternoon talk on Sunday, we were pleasantly surprised to meet author, David Austin. His published family history, "The Benitoite Story", documents the effort to have benitoite designated the California State Gemstone. He is about to issue new copies of his book on benitoite.

We shared hugs, kisses, giggles, and smiles. But, we also offered condolences, sympathy, and understanding at the passing or misfortune of those we have grown to love.

I pray that rockhounds keep holding Gem Shows, that we will have our special places to reconnect, time for forming new bonds, learning new skills, and sharing with one another. Paso Robles, here we come! Care to join us?

Happy Hunting,  
Love, Bess

**Replacement Tent Covers**

If your rock equipment is located under a Costco “special” 10X20’ shelter (like us), then you are probably also looking for replacement fabric.



Replacement time at the Shields’ shelter

These are extremely durable tents (the posts are metal and will probably last for many years) but the fabric wears out in about 3 years, even in the gentle Santa Maria breezes. So, we began quizzing Costco and the manufacturer’s representative about replacement parts. The latest news we can offer is that OSH sells the panels and top separately, and after several attempts to order only the replacement panels, we succeeded! Wes reports he finally got an end panel from the manufacturer through their web site.

Official Stuff

**OMS Purpose**

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals.

The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



OMS Logo

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

2003 OMS Elected Officers

President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
President Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2003 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

*Ore-Cutts* Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

**Web Sites of Note:**

September 2003

Ventura Gem & Mineral pages:
<a href="http://www.vgms.org">http://www.vgms.org</a>
Optical mineralogy:
<a href="http://www.gly.bris.ac.uk/www/teach/opmin/mins.html#minid">http://www.gly.bris.ac.uk/www/teach/opmin/mins.html#minid</a>
Ophiolites of California:
<a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/sixthmars2003/pdf/3146.pdf">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/sixthmars2003/pdf/3146.pdf</a>
Southern California Fault Index:
<a href="http://www.scecdc.scec.org/Alphadex.html">http://www.scecdc.scec.org/Alphadex.html</a>
Great Web Sites for Kids (Geology and Earth Science):
<a href="http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ALSC/Great_Web_Sites_for_Kids/Great_Web_Sites_Geology.htm">http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ALSC/Great_Web_Sites_for_Kids/Great_Web_Sites_Geology.htm</a>
USGS National Geologic Map Database:
<a href="http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngm_catalog.ora.html">http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngm_catalog.ora.html</a>
Amber Depot:
<a href="http://www.amberdepot.com/">http://www.amberdepot.com/</a>
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:
<a href="http://www.amfed.org/">http://www.amfed.org/</a>
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:
<a href="http://www.cfmsinc.org/">http://www.cfmsinc.org/</a>

**September 2003 Calendar**

Tuesday September 02, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center All members are welcome at this business meeting
Tuesday September 09, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Miname Community Center, 600 West Enos. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program: Ralph Bishop on "Rock Treatments"</li> <li>Display: Crystals</li> <li>Refreshment: Cake and Cup Cakes</li> </ul>
Saturday September 13, 2003 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	<b>Field Trip to Morro Bay and Cayucos</b> -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Observational trip to a classic location. Bring a lunch and bottled water. Some hiking required.
Saturday September 20, 2003 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>OMS Highway Cleanup</b> -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Omelets and More" in Nipomo. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday September 27, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call

**September 2003 Calendar**

Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

**October 2003 Calendar**

Tuesday October 07, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Saturday October 11, 2003 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	<b>Field Trip to Gaviota and Refugio Beaches</b> -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Entrance fee required for an all-day pass covering both parks. Bring a lunch and bottled water.
Tuesday October 14, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program: Wayne Mills on "Mining Minnesota"</li> <li>Display: Rocks from 2001-2002 Field Trips</li> <li>Refreshment: Pies</li> </ul>
Saturday October 25, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- Baker's Square, Santa Maria Restaurant, Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

**November 2003 Calendar**

Tuesday November 06, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Tuesday November 11, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program: Debbie Hood on "Getting Wrapped Up in Wirewrap"</li> <li>Display: Best cabochon (bring 1-4)</li> <li>Refreshment: Cookies</li> </ul>
Saturday November 15, 2003 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>OMS Highway Cleanup</b> -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 After the cleanup we are congregating at Ralph Bishop's (see below). Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday November 15, 2003 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	<b>Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's Collection</b> -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot after Highway Cleanup Ralph has been known to accept cookies, brownies, or lemon bars. After all, he's talking, not digging.
Saturday November 22, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande. Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

## What the Heck?

No, you are not seeing things. We wanted you to have a "cut out" reminder to put on the fridge as a reminder to keep the date open!

### 37th Annual OMS Gem Show

Earth's Treasures - Rocks - Minerals - Gems  
Exhibits - Tailgaters - Demonstrations - Lapidary  
Equipment

St Joseph's Church  
298 South Thompson Avenue  
Nipomo, California

3 Big Days! 10 AM-5 PM  
August 6th, 7th, 8th 2004

ONE-OF-A-KIND CRAFTED STONE MER-  
CHANDISE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.  
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES! RAFFLES!

PRIZES!

FOOD ON SALE!

MONSTER SANTA MARIA STYLE BBQ ON SAT-  
URDAY NIGHT ONLY \$7.50 FOR ADULTS, \$3.50  
FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER.

Free Parking – Free Admission!

## Meeting Place Change

Our September Meeting is NOT at Mussell Senior Center, but is at the Minami Community Center at 600 West Enos. As indicated on the map, follow 101 to the Stowell exit. Follow Stowell toward the west. Turn left (south) on Broadway, then right (west) on Enos.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED