



**The Pres Box—
September 2020**

Bill Brown, OMS President

I think we've all heard too much about corona virus, so I won't say much. It's still with us and will be for a while yet.

We were not able to have our annual picnic as Santa Barbara County would not allow us to use the park. We did have a nice get together Saturday the 15th at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo with seven people showing up. Everyone was able to maintain social distancing and we had a great time. There were even free rocks!

The San Luis Gem club will be having their September 1 meeting via Zoom. The program is on the Geology of Oregon, and it is at 7-9 p.m. Don't know if Zoom would work for us, but we are invited, so take a look and see what you think. **PLEASE let Bill know** if you would be willing to attend a Zoom meeting of our own.

The Zoom address for the SLO Zoom meeting is : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7741357360?pwd=UFVLKy82ZE5RenUyckRwY3ZaaWRtZz09>
Meeting ID: 774 135 7360, Passcode: 1W3rNN

Oasis still shows on their website that all onsite activities are canceled. With things going downhill in SB county, we don't see that changing soon. We will contact them as meeting times approach to see if they anticipate opening. We will also send out e-mails when/if the status of oasis changes.

The board meeting will on Tue, Sept 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. This conflicts with the SLO Gems meeting. Our August board meeting was good (see Minutes) but we didn't have a lot of folks. I am hoping for a few more people for the next one, but people have to do what is comfortable for them.

We have started Highway Cleanup again. The next

highway cleanup will be held on September 12 on the eastbound Hwy 166 exit from Hwy 101. Please come. We will maintain social distance, and Wayne has 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 September will be at the Country Kitchen in Santa Maria on September 26 at 8:30 pm. It's still kind of questionable. We'll try to keep people informed as the date approaches.

Everybody stay well.

Bill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

Marshall Reeves	9/6	♈
Dyana Cridelich	9/16	♈
Sharon Willis	9/26	♎
Peter Dettelis	9/30	♎

ANNIVERSARIES

Dee Dee & Aldo Magri	9/16
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***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)*

BIRTHSTONE FOR SEPTEMBER SAPPHIRE

Text by Wayne Mills and as noted. Picture by Wayne Mills

The Traditional birthstone for September is Sapphire. Sapphire is in the Corundum family (Aluminum oxide), the second-hardest natural occurring substance (9 on the Mohs Scale). Gem-quality Corundum is called **Ruby** when it is red, and all other gem-quality varieties are called **Sapphire**. Sapphire occurs in a wide range of colors due to the presence of a number of different elements during its formation.

In the "United States, Sapphire can be found near Yogo Gulch in Montana, and at several locations in North Carolina.

This picture was taken during my 2009 trip to Brazil, and illustrates the range of colors that sapphire occurs in. (This picture is worth seeing in color. Check out our September 2020 Ore-Cutts at omsinc.org / Bulletins in .pdf format.



LOCAL ROCKS-- BRECCIATED JASPER

Text by Wayne Mills,
Ore-Cutts Editor. Picture: Pinterest.com

As suggested inside (page 3), Brecciated Jasper is widely distributed on the Central Coast due to the wide-spread tectonism that has taken place here, but it is relatively rare in the rest of the country. It can be found in various colors and patterns from Figueroa Mountain in Santa Barbara County to Parkfield in Southeastern Monterey County, and from See Canyon to San Simeon in Western San Luis Obispo County. The variety of colors and patterns (and its relative relative rarity outside the Central Coast make this a desirable material for spheres and pendants.

(Next column) Stone Canyon jasper from near Coalinga in Southeast Monterey County.



BITS AND BYTES

Great 6 minute video about where to find diamonds at Crater of Diamonds State Park.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxkviJrkmM&t=1s&fbclid=IwAR1J85VFiuoZL3RN61FrwoRO_ncg5JJtpqtVmN9P88gzyvkkRKkiUn8ZgA4

A brief intro to Geodes. What they are and how to find them.

<https://www.rockseeker.com/geode-rocks/>

Cool 6 minute 40 second video of flying over the San Andreas Fault. Includes a brief history and geological narration.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go9SnkFI_WA&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR10i2Q1UTHYHjTKC27zUPMvZlzyGAhgDkkFUFCKXE5BUnKFRuLQgE9SLU8

Photos of every (62) National Park in the United States.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/travel-photos/stunning-photos-of-every-national-park-in-america/ss-BB124pv5>

Victory Rock Garden at Arroyo Grande Home.

https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/central-coast-community-contributes-to-victory-rock-garden-outside-of-local-home?fbclid=IwAR2jITuHHRpPE4d9XIWyMOAPAOQAfILQ8Oddt_Dn-68cF-sDJk9IxzDUM

BRECCIATED JASPER (Ore—Cutts, June 2002)

From a talk by Ralph Bishop at the May 2002 General Meeting

Brecciated jasper is the most common semiprecious gemstone in our area. Because of that, people have taken it for granted for many years, thinking it is overly common. Because it is so abundant, people don't hold it in very high esteem (and I, at a younger age, fell prey to the same attitude). It is very rare in other areas of the world, although it is common in our area because of the faults on our continental plate boundaries. In the last several years I found that no other jasper, since I have become more familiar with this material, has a wider variety of color (blue, green, orange, yellow and red) and pattern. That, in itself, should attract a broad spectrum of people.

There are many local places to hunt brecciated jasper which include Figueroa Mountain, Parkfield, and Jalama Beach. Jasper and chert are both nothing more than silt or mud that has been silicified with silica agate (quartz). In the old days, it was said that if you liked it, "it was jasper", and if you didn't, "it was chert". But there is a difference between the two.

Chert is derived from marine sediments, and the silica that hardens it comes from the exoskeletons of radiolarians (microscopic plants). Whereas, jasper is derived from terrestrial silt transported with silica and other minerals from deep-seated hydrothermal waters. The source of the hydrothermal water is found in the deep faults, and is heated by magma that is close to the external mantle of the earth. This water is so hot that, as it courses through the rock formations, it picks up silica and other minerals such as iron, manganese, chrome, and other ferric minerals. As this hydrothermal water approaches the surface of the earth, it cools down so that, at certain temperatures, silica and some of the other minerals precipitate out, changing from a liquid to a solid state, leaving the water to continue on to the surface. This activity over a period of time continues to fill the fault with silicified silt, and other minerals. The best comparison to this process would be iron water pipes that slowly fill up with sediment until they are full. So the faults become filled with this siliceous silt. When this happens, the water takes another course. This silicified mud is usually a solid, single colored mass of jasper, probably in a plastic state, and quite brittle.

Somewhere along the line in the life of the fault, an earthquake occurs. This shatters the jasper, and often widens the fault. When this happens the jasper breaks (or brecciates). This allows the water to again course through the fault, carrying another load of silt or silica. The silica in this particular hydrothermal flush generally fills in the broken areas between the jasper cementing them together again. At the end of that process Brecciated Jasper has been formed. This process can happen on more than one occasion. Sometimes a person can see places where brecciated jasper has been cemented and re-cemented on several occasions.

So, take it from me, don't look down your nose at this humble stone!

Check out Ralph's Story "Dawg Gone" in the April 2004 Ore-Cutts. It deals with collecting Stone Canyon Jasper, the most sought-after Brecciated Jasper variety in California near Parkfield.— Editor



See Canyon



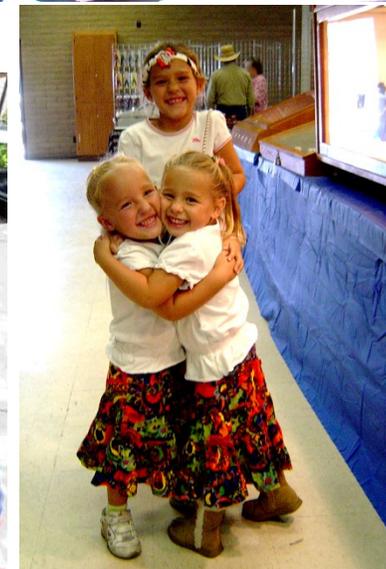
San Simeon Creek



Figueroa Mountain

OMS SHOW PICTRES

(Yes, no show in 2020, but these are from previous shows for nostalgia sake!)



KID'S (Of All Ages) PAGE —

Text by Wayne Mills

What can I do with the rock I just found?

You can:

- Carve it
- Display it.
- Facet it (this takes a LOT of patience!)
- Find a place for it in your yard.
- Glue it onto a board with other rocks to make a picture.
- Identify it (what is it, what is it made of, and where did it come from).
- Lick it (to see if it has a taste—like salt) (NOT recommended— some rocks are poison!)
- Make something out of it (Box, Cabochon, Sphere, or rock man (see below right)).
- Paint it.
- Polish it.
- Put it in a box (to look at later), or put it in a (clear plastic 1" x 1" box) for your Micromount collection.
- Skip it on the water (called “dapping”) See how many times you can make the rock “skip” on one throw.
- Spit on it (to see what it will look like when polished).
- Stack (or balance) it (Rock stackers build “cairns”).
- Test it to see what it is (cleavage, color, crystal system, density, fluorescence, hardness, magnetism, streak).
- Trade it for something you like better.



[Simple man from Pinterest.com](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

(From [didyouknow.com](#) and [Wikipedia](#))

- Almonds are members of the peach family
- A group of owls is called a parliament
- Gold never erodes.
- 85% of plant life is found in the oceans
- There is 200 times more gold in the world's oceans than has been mined ‘
- Scorpions glow under ultra violet light
- The rarest type of diamond is green
- The odds of being struck by lightning are 600,000 to 1
- Men are struck by lightning 7 times more often than women.
- Crocodiles swallow rocks to help them dive deeper
- The Moon's diameter is 2,159 miles
- The Earth's largest diameter (at the Equator) is 7,926 miles
- Over 500 meteorites hit the Earth each year
- 45% of Americans don't know that the Sun is a star
- Most dinosaurs lived to be more than 100 years old.
- The dinosaurs and about 75% of all plant and animal life on Earth died out suddenly 65 million years ago when a 6-mile in diameter meteor hit the Earth near the Yucatan Peninsula.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cretaceous-Paleogene_extinction_event



[Rockman from The Roickihound Connection](#)

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce
739 W. Tefft Avenue, Nipomo

August 4, 2020

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

Members absent: Board—Jan Ferguson, Debbie Hood

Called to Order at 7:15 pm.

MINUTES: (Wayne) See report of July Board Meeting in August Bulletin. No additions or corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Betty) Jeanne helped with State Sales Tax and non-profit forms for the state. We have paid our current fees. \$61.06 to Wayne for copying and mailing the August bulletin.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne) Not much, 2 letters from Salvation Army seeking donations,

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin- The bulletin is out and looks good All articles for the September 2020 bulletin must be to Wayne Mills by Aug. 20. No recent help with the bulletin except for the Prez Box.

CFMS- (Renea) Nothing to report except that the November BOD meeting may be cancelled and/.or conducted on Zoom.

Membership – Nothing to report.

Field Trip— Wayne asked Sally to talk to Wes about Ozena Trip. Wes said maybe after COVID dies down.

Adopt-a-Highway – Highway Clean-up September 12. We can use more help, especially since Sally is going o have hand surgery.

Annual Awards Banquet: Still on.

Breakfast on for August 22 (Lil' Bits Grover Beach) at 8:30 am.

Education None to report.

Library- (Alexis) No report.

Sunshine-- Sally is due for hand surgery on 8/26. Our good thoughts are with her. She is hoping

someone will take her place for the highway clean-up. THAT is dedication!

Scholarship (Jeanne) No report.

Show –No Show, (maybe next year). No contact with McDaniels yet on dispensation of the money we send for show insurance this year.

Old Business- August Picnic for Pioneer Park cancelled Alternative get together planned for Aug. 15 at The Mayor's Place in Nipomo. We will be on the patio between 3 and 5 pm, after the restaurant closes. Renee will check on the price and availability in the next few days. Anyone interested, call Bill Brown. So far, only the 7 folks from the board meeting (and 3 guests of Betty Campbell) have said they would come. Participants should bring rocks (for free), and a side dish or dessert.

New Business—Wayne mentioned to Bill that the header on our web page had “disappeared”. Bill said he would look into it, and he may revamp the page.

Adjourned at 7:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

General Meeting
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA

August 11, 2020

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

Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS

OMS COVID MEET-UP

After half a year of no meetings, a few of us got together for a nice Dupper (Dinner/Supper) at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo. Though it was advertised to the whole club, only 6 Board members plus Fred Campbell showed up. Gina, the Mayor's Place owner, set us up on the back patio, and barbecued chicken and steak for us. In addition, we had some great chili from Betty Campbell (who brought her husband Fred), and

Continued on page 8

OMS CALENDAR	
Check Bulletin for COVID Updates	
SEPTEMBER 2020	
Tuesday, September 9 7:00 p.m. Note change of date for SLO Zoom Meeti8ng	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, September 9	OMS General Meeting/Cancelled
Saturday, September 12	Highway Clean-up. SE Corner 101/166 East
Saturday, September 26 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— TBD
OCTOBER 2020	
Tuesday, October 6 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, October 13	OMS General Meeting/Cancelled
Saturday, October 24 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast— TBD

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

Check-out the OMS Web page at: 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.)

CFMS SHOWS

SEPTEMBER (2020)

None— Tehachapi cancelled..

OCTOBER (2020)

OCTOBER 10-11; GRASS VALLEY, CA **Check website after September 1. They are still hoping for a show!**

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds,
11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm
2020 Earth's Treasurers Show: Dinosaurs Rule –
Come see a life size T-Rex skull, plus other fossil
displays. 25+ vendors, gold panning activity, lap-
idary demonstrations, kids crystal dig, a Kids
Korner with lots of educational activities, as well
as 30 exhibitors. Lazy Dog ice cream, Top Dog
hot dog cart, and our 16-1 Mine 1/4 ounce of gold
raffle.

Website: <http://www.ncgms.org>

OCTOBER 11: FALLBROOK, CA **They are planning a reduced size show.** **Call phone number below before going.**

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St.

Hours: 9-4

Contact: **Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184**

Email: info@fgms.org

Website: www.fgms.org

OCTOBER 17 – WOODLAND HILLS, CA **They are planning on having their show.** **Check website below after September 1** **and before going**

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church
22700 Sherman Way, West Hills CA 91303
Hours: 10 am-5 pm
Free Admission and Parking
Silent auction, gold panning, rocks, books, find-
ings, minerals, opals and more

www.rockchippers.org

COVID Meet-up Continued from page 6

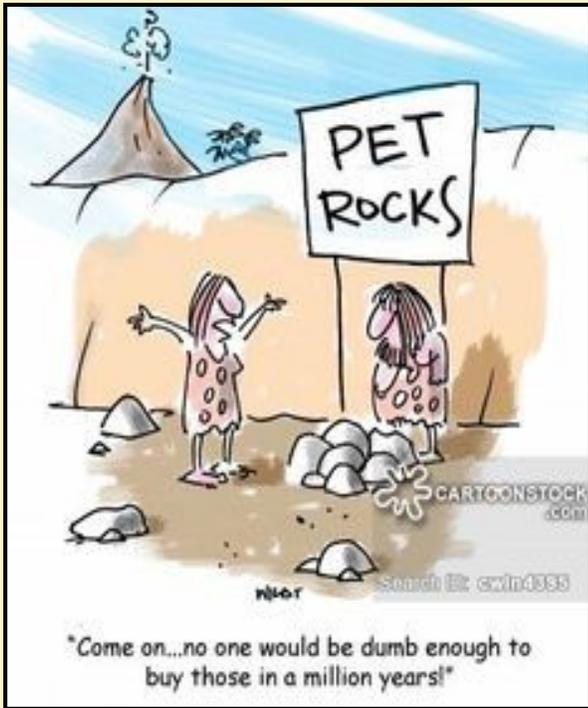
Veggies from the Bill and Jeanne Brown, Sally Griffith brought a tasty scalloped potatoes and a nice bottle of wine for Wayne (I didn't realize she only likes Red wine). Wayne brought a Lemon Jello cake made from his Mother's Recipe.

Renee Suttcliffe is to be thanked for setting the event up with the Mayor's Place. We had nice conversation while we waited for the meat to be done, and Wayne even got in some metal detecting in the back yard. Didn't find much though—two pennies and a brass valve.

Betty, Bill and Wayne brought rocks for the "Free the Rocks" table. I don't know about the other folks, but I got a couple of nice ones out of the rocks Bill brought—a nice phantom quartz crystal and a piece of (I think) Superior Agate. **See pictures below.**



ROCKHOUND HUMOR



Cartoonstock.com



Rockhound Connection 8/1/2020



Gemsandminerals.blogspot.com



Telegram-Tribune 7/24/2020

**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.