



Rockonteur

Volume 30, Issue 4

April 2020



NAME THAT ROCK

The banner photo (above) changes each month - can you identify what type of rock it is? Answer is on last page but don't peek until you've tried to guess!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all my rock-obsessed family!

I'm sorry you have not heard much from me the past couple of weeks. I hope this message finds each of you doing well in heart, mind, and body. These are trying times and in such times we find out who we truly are both individually and as families, communities, and more broadly as a society.

Given what has been happening across our state, nation, and the world, it has been hard for me of late to think or care much about club activities and duties as they pale in importance relative to all that is at stake. However, my writing this message to you has stirred my passion once again to get back to work for you in a pursuit that, while not all that important in the grand scheme of things, can be a useful outlet and distraction while we endure the

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Photo by Club member Kathy Clarke



Santa Lucia Rockhounds (SLR)

is a non-profit public benefit corporation with the specific purpose to promote the study of mineralogy, including (but not limited to) the fields of lapidary, metal working, jewelry design and fabrication, geology and conducts field trips for collecting and education. We encourage learning and good citizenship in a congenial atmosphere. We respect both private and public property, and we strive to protect natural resources. Meetings are held during the third Monday of each month, except December, at the Templeton Community Center.

We are a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and affiliated with the American Federation on Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Inc. is also a member of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA).

Annual dues are \$20 for the first adult and \$8 each for every additional member of the same household. Annual dues are payable between August 1 and the third Monday of December, in person at Club meetings or by mail to P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

The Rockonteur

This is the official monthly newsletter of the SLR and an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of SLR and of interests to its members. Circulation is approximately 100 copies per issue.

Member submissions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the SLR. Submissions may be edited as needed without consent. Deadline are due by midnight of the last day of the month but early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged.

Newsletter Editor/Publisher:

Amy Phillips | amyphillips18@hotmail.com

Website: www.slrockhounds.org

Birthstones

DIAMOND

Natural diamonds are a rare and thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe. Adopted from the Greek work adamas, meaning "invincible," diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the type of impurities that are present in the stone. For instance, yellow stones have minuscule traces of nitrogen while blue ones contain boron.

It's uncertain how the specific months became connected with the various stones. However, some speculate that the origins of birthstones dates back to biblical times when the breast-plate belonging to a priest was decorated with 12 assorted colored gems. As time wore on, the 12 gems became associated with the zodiac and the months connected to it. This started the tradition of wearing a colored stone each month as a sort of good luck charm. Initially people wore all twelve stones, rotating according to the month of the year to derive the greatest benefit of each stone.

Believing that the various gems held magical powers for the individual born within a given month, people started to wear the stone associated with their birth month for the entire year. In 1912, the American National Association of Jewelers designed a list dedicating different gems to various months. What was once thought to be controversial based on its commercialism is now widely accepted as the official birthstone list.

Learn more: <https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/diamondhistory>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from front page

COVID-19 pandemic and resulting society-wide quarantine and disruption.

I remind you all that you can indulge your rock-related hobby online for free via Facebook, Reddit, and Instagram and other such social networking platforms. For those of us who still have jobs and a little play money, one can indulge the rock-hounding/lapidary hobby by way of online purchases. All of us, employed or not, can go out by ourselves or as families and go rockhounding in the hinterland or over at the coast provided we adhere to responsible social-distancing practices.

I strongly encourage members of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds (SLR) to remain active in our rock-based hobbies throughout this pandemic disruption. On that note, please send rock-related content to Amy Phillips <amyphillips18@hotmail.com>, be it images with captions or be it an account of a rock-related adventure or be it a How-To/DIY explanation of a lapidary art procedure/project. Of specific interest to Amy is the theme of "Your favorite rockhounding moment."

Wrapping up our March affairs, I hope you all visited the Paso Robles Library before March 19, the day the world stopped, and viewed the agate display there put together by our very own Barbara Bilyeu. I truly regret that the Rock Mafia Dons, Don Pierce & Don Huntington, received their just recognition as Rockhounds of the Year for 2020 (really a Lifetime Achievement Award) from the SLR just as that recognition got upstaged by the COVID-19 Pandemic. I felt Jason Martines' poignant tribute to his late friend and mentor, and esteemed Santa Lucia Rockhound, Ron Rusconi was beautiful. All three of these things are prominently featured in the March 2020 Rockonteur. If you missed reading it, I strongly urge you to go to our

website and read it.

This month's board meeting and general meeting are both cancelled by virtue of order of the governor, county health department guidelines, and just good common sense and consideration for ourselves and others. I am currently working on getting Zoom but am having difficulty as they are overwhelmed with new clients and hacking problems. Once I have it established, your club board will meet for a board meeting online, hopefully in the next week. These are the sorts of struggles that clubs across the state and nation are contending with and adapting to. May meetings will probably also not happen in person. I'm interested in perhaps attempting a May general meeting via Zoom after I get some practice with it this month.

As announced last month, our 2020 show is cancelled, as are all other rock shows across the state and nation through to the start of Summer. Undoubtedly, more will follow. The SLR spent a great deal of coin right before the quarantine closed down civilization. With it we purchased yard signs, banners, postcards, and mini-posters promoting our show. We now have these products in our club storage unit. I challenge all club members to create and contribute sound ideas for salvaging these items for next year's show provided they can be altered and used in a way that does not look tacky and is ineffectual. This year's show dates were April 18-19th. Next year's show will be April 17-18th. As you can see, we only have to alter two numbers to make this year's show materials become next year's show materials. I await your responses on this. Please help me out!

Kim Noyes
President

Photo by Club member Kathy Clarke

CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Per the San Luis Obispo
County Health Department all
club meetings are postpone
until further notice.
Stay safe, and follow CDC and
State guidelines to protect
yourself and family.**

FOR THE JUNIORS



The world is very old and made of many layers. Each layer (rock type) is like a page of history. Here's a great puzzle that tells the story piece by piece. Available for purchase here: <https://standardsinpuzzles.com/collections/science-puzzles/products/geologic-time-scale>

2020 OFFICERS

President
Kim Noyes
805-610-0603
kimnoyes@gmail.com

Senior Director
Lisa King
805-467-0062
anoldcowhand@gmail.com

VPs Membership
Kathy Clarke
ladykatphotos@sbcglobal.net
Assisted by
Karen Hilchey
805-296-4183

VP Education
John McCabe
805-464-0528
mccabewest@aol.com

VP Communications
Don Barton
805-434-1557

dsbarton
@charter.net

Secretary
Jacque Hughes
559-359-5016
Jacque93257@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Tina Russell
831-254-2115
stuartina@att.net

Junior Director
Caleb Willis
541-274-9071
Calebwillis11@gmail.com

Past President
Tina Clark
805-305-0246
tdkclark@sbcglobal.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auctioneer
Pete Duckworth
805-467-3413
Jasperjunkie1@yahoo.com

CFMS Director
Wayne Mills
805-481-3495
wwmills50@hotmail.com

Drawings
Deb Mecham

Field Trips
Richard Smithen
(805) 440-1496

Historian
Mark Nelson
mnelsonair@aol.com

Hospitality
VACANT



Library/Museum
Barbara Bilyeu
805-434-2708
bbilyeu2001@yahoo.com

Merchandise
David Nelson
805-434-2708
Bbilyeu2001

Newsletter Editor/
Publisher
Amy Phillips

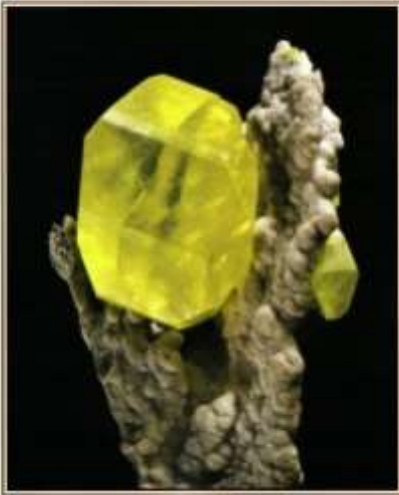
Program
Coordinator
VACANT

Rock & Gem Show
Chair
Kim Noyes
805-610-0603

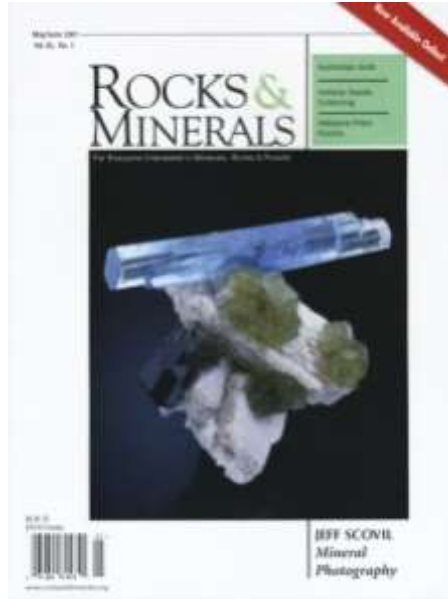
STUCK AT HOME

Here are some popular gem and mineral sources to fill in your leisure time:

THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD



One of the top journals for mineral collectors worldwide. This bimonthly periodical also features special issues focusing on specific localities, minerals, etc. <https://mineralogicalrecord.com/>



One of the top 2 bimonthly journals for mineral collectors worldwide - covers special issues such as show reports, localities, minerals, and more. This magazine first started Dr. Robert Lavinsky's passion for minerals when he was only 13 years old! <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/vram20/current>

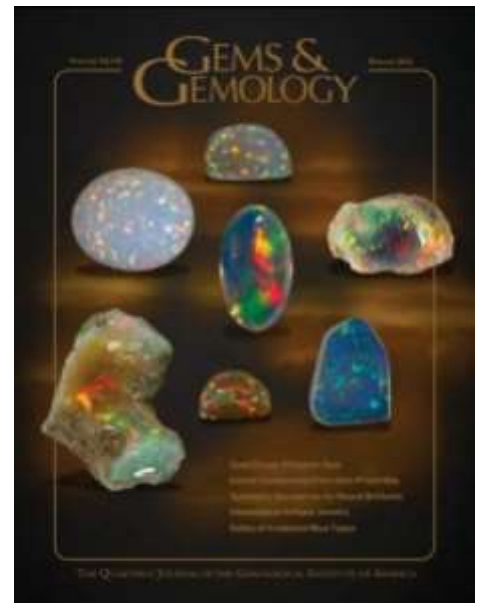


<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/chinese-minerals/>

Source: <https://www.irocks.com/recommended-reading>



Since 1971, Rock & Gem has been the leading magazine for the lapidary and mineral hobbyist. Not a trade journal and not a scientific dissertation, it speaks to the average rockhound, providing a great blend of entertainment and satisfying information. <https://www.rockngem.com/>



The journal of the Gemological Institute of America features articles on gemstones and gem localities. Published quarterly, the journal covers field collecting, museum exhibits, lab notes, jewelry, and more. <https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology>

DATING THE OLDEST CRATER ON EARTH

Excerpt from Rock & Gem website: <https://www.rockngem.com/earth-science-in-the-news-dating-the-oldest-crater-on-earth/>

Story by Jim Brace-Thompson

The state of Western Australia is home to the so-called **Yilgarn craton**, considered one of the oldest intact pieces of Earth's crust. Due to plate tectonics, water, and weathering, our crust is constantly being recycled and reshaped. While you may be able to see a billion-year-old crater on the surface of the Moon or Mercury, here on Earth such ancient structures are more likely than not to have been morphed, subducted, or erased long ago and eroded beyond recognition.

In the January 2020 issue of the journal *Nature Communications*, researchers reported the crater is a whopping 2.229 billion years! They made the determination by dating rocks that recrystallized after impact. And the story gets even more interesting.

Given the size of the crater, as much as 200 trillion kilograms of water vapor and dust could have been shot into the atmosphere, warming our entire planet. It just so happens that the newly calibrated date of 2.2 billion years puts the impact right at the end of a global period of glaciation known as the Huron **Ice Age**. Did the bolide that carved out Yarrabubba also end an ancient Ice Age?



PRECIOUS METAL CLAY AND CABS

Silver and stone merge into colorful critters.

Excerpt from Rock & Gem website: <https://www.rockngem.com/precious-metal-clay-and-cabs/>



Story and Photos by Ellen J. Cole

Like all artists, I have arrived at this place because of various life influences and artistic experiences. I certainly never thought I would be as busy as I am in retirement years, practicing my art and meeting people through social media who admire my work and are eager to purchase it.

My father introduced me to rocks and stones; consequently, rocks and fossils have always been a love of mine. I have picked them up all over the country. Dad was an earth-moving contractor who built roads and foundations. Our home was built in 1948 from pink granite brought from the coast of Maine.

Today, our family home still stands as a restaurant in Hampden. On Sundays, my father took my siblings and me for long walks in the woods. We would sit on logs, enjoying the sunshine and the quietness. I loved watching the small creatures: frogs, dragonflies, butterflies, and all bugs. I admired the tiniest flowers. I realize that I now incorporate those elements into my jewelry.

Continued on next page

In 2014, I contracted Lyme disease. The joint pain and fatigue hindered me from continuing to throw pots on the pottery wheel, and necessitated a change in my artistic work. I began to experiment with stone carving; however, the Lyme disease prohibited me from doing heavy work with stone. For therapy, I also experimented and perfected skill in cloth weaving, making colorful wraps, shawls and scarves. Fortunately, over time and with proper medication, my Lyme disease was brought under control.

At about the same time, the local art center advertised classes to learn how to work with precious metal clay. As I considered yet another direction, I believed the precious metal clay work was, well, suited to me at that time. I was fortunate to have a talented teacher who trained me well.

I began creating small, intricate silver pendants, rings and earrings. I shared my enthusiasm with others as I taught classes in Maine and Florida. It was gratifying to share my newfound craft and see what each student would complete. One day, an artist friend encouraged me to put color into my creations. That was magical advice that propelled me in a new and current direction.



MARCH 11, 2020 EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call: Kim Noyes, President; Lisa King, Senior Director; John McCabe VP Education; Tina Russell, Treasurer; Don Barton, VP Communications; Jacque Hughes, Secretary.

This emergency meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm at Round Table Pizza in Atascadero to discuss the impact on the coronavirus on our annual rock show. It was noted that several shows in the Bay area have already been cancelled, either by the state or by the clubs themselves. We've also had several club members that will not be volunteering to help with the show based on their own health and immunity issues that can leave them vulnerable to the virus.

The members discussed the risks vs. benefits at length and determined that it would be best to cancel the show before more financial investments are incurred. Currently, we have spent \$3000 on banners, posters and postcards. Kim noted that were some very nice fossils and minerals from the Griselle estate that are too nice for the gravel pit and could be used in a more "deluxe" version of our drawings to help recoup some of the money lost. This may encourage more members to participate in the drawings and silent auctions at the general meetings. Cliff's annual tailgate event could also potentially be used to earn some money, as the club could have a booth there.

Tina Russell made the motion to cancel the SLR 2020 Gem and Mineral Show and John McCabe seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Don Barton will inform the webmaster to post the cancellation on the website. Members will remove any posters advertising the show and Lisa King would like to see if she can alter the date on the banners to reflect the 2021 show date of April 17-18th.

Tina has 10 checks that she will void and return to vendors along with a letter explaining the show cancellation and explaining that it was not just an impulsive decision. Kim will notify members via email. Barbara Bilyeu's beautiful display at the library will need to be altered to reflect these changes as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Jacque Hughes,
SLR Secretary



P.O. Box 1672

Paso Robles, CA 93447

AMETHYST, CALCITE

Specimen found by Stuart Wilensky in February 2016 at Fengjiashan, a former Chinese government-owned copper mine now privately held and worked for wallstonite.

Source: <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/chinese-minerals/#detail315>