

Y2K Edition

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange
6:30 PM at Sorenson Park



DECEMBER 2000

ROCKHOUNDER

FROM THE DESK OF THE PREZ:

Greetings WGMSers,

Year 2000 is finally drawing to a close. There were no massive failures of computers on January 1, 2000 as the “experts” predicted (at least my computer survived and I’m willing to bet that yours did too). As far as I know, people are still arguing on whether or not this year was the start of the new millennium. We had several personal tragedies which saddened us. We put on one of our best shows in memory (in my opinion and my memory). We severed ties with the Pasadena Club and separated our field trips. One of our members, **Isabella Burns**, took over the reins as President of the AFMS in 2001. These are just a few of the many events which marked a very busy year.

At the November meeting, the Slate of Officers for 2001 was approved by the membership present and they are listed below. There are a lot of familiar names on the list. I want to personally welcome **Art Ragazzi** to the WGMS Board of Directors.

Our **Christmas Party/Potluck** will be held at **Sorenson Park at 6:30 PM on December 21st**. A Christmas ham will be provided thanks to a donation by **Les Roy**. Food will also be served (just kidding). As always, gifts of around \$5 value will be exchanged for those who wish to participate. Bring your favorite holiday entree or side dish and enjoy a feast with us!

JValle

WGMS Year 2001 Officers

- President:** Jay Valle
- 1st Vice-President:** Jack Zywoციenski
- 2nd Vice-President:**..... Kathy Turner
- Treasurer:**..... Dottie Jacobs
- Secretary:**..... Marcia Goetz
- Federation Director:** Bill Burns
- Directors:** Les Roy, Jerry Turner, Art Ragazzi

December 21st Christmas Party

Our annual **Christmas Party** is going to be held on **December 21, Sorenson Park at 6:30 PM**. Ham as a main dish will be provided, courtesy of a gift certificate donated by **Les Roy**. Please bring another entrée, side dish or dessert to share.

As usual, there will be a gift exchange. The gift should be worth around \$5.00 and please mark it as suitable for a man, woman or either.

A brief induction of the 2001 Club Officers will conclude the meeting.

Please come and enjoy the good food, and visit with your rockhound friends.

Jack Zywocki

November Meeting Notes

Isabella Burns was the featured speaker at the WGMS November General Meeting. Her topic was “My First 100 Days as President of the AFMS”. She talked of some of the issues which are being discussed in the Federation, and where she felt the AFMS and rockhound clubs in general needed to be going.

After **Izzy’s** discussion was complete, **Jay Valle** presented her with her **WGMS 1999 President’s Plaque** for her service as Past President of the WGMS.

Refreshments were provided by the current president.

The final discussion of the WGMS 2001 Slate of Officers was held and the officers (listed on page 3) were accepted by verbal vote of members present.

Les Roy donated a \$20.00 gift certificate to the WGMS for the purchase of food for the Annual Christmas Party. The members present decided on a ham entrée instead of a turkey dinner.

December Door Prizes

Grand Main Prize

**"The Complete Book of Rocks and Minerals"
(Donated by Jay Valle)**

Main Prizes

Prize	Donated By
Combination "fix-it" pliers	???????
Book, "Rockhounding in Montana"	Vern & Sylvia
Deluxe travel kit	???????
Pen & pencil set	???????
Glow-in-the-dark star finder with zodiac dial	Vern & Sylvia

*****Extra Prize*****

????? Mystery item ?????

Information About the December Door Prizes

Several members have donated valuable main prizes during the last four months. so, the December door prizes will all be excellent main prizes.

Plan on attending the December Christmas party in order to buy your tickets for the chance to win one or more of them.

The December door prizes list will be published in the December Rockhounder!

December is also the time when WGMS draws the winning name for the annual \$50 check. This gift is drawn from the names of members who have purchased 10 tickets for \$3 during the year and their names saved until the December Christmas party. If you haven't taken advantage of this offer, you will have one last chance at the December meeting.

Good luck
Vern Cliffe

November Door Prize Winners

MAIN PRIZES:	Donated By	Won By
Musical Streetcar	Joe & Marcia Goetz	Les Roy
Aventurine Rough	Jerry & Kathy Turner	Jack Zywoციenski

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

Prize	Donated by	Won By
Rhodonite rough	?????	Jerry Turner
“Rocks and Minerals”	Joe & Marcia Goetz	Kathy Piechota
Utility Knife	Jack Zywoციenski	Kathy Turner
Insulated Drink Holders	?????	Les Roy

EXTRA PRIZE – MYSTERY ITEM:

Won by Dottie Jacobs: Bolo Tie Set, Petrified Wood and Agate

Vern Cliffe

**Thanks to all who contributed door prizes
over the last three years.**

I'd like to thank everyone who donated items that could be used for the Door Prize Drawings that were held each month. It saved me a lot of time by not having to purchase prizes as well as saving the club money by not having to buy them. Thanks one and all!

Vern Cliffe

Common Rockhound Ailments

Cabochon **Convulsions:** Fits that are commonly associated with grinding of the fingertips and the nuckles.

Faceter's Fever: Denoted by an uncommon brightness of the eye, characterized by symmetrical refraction of the light emitted therefrom.

Community News

Christmas Party

- WHERE:** Boys and Girls Club of Whittier
7905 Greenleaf Avenue
Whittier, CA
- WHEN:** Friday, December 8th
- TIME:** 3:00 PM Setup time, 4:00 PM Doors open for kids to start program. Program is 2 hours long. Doors close at 6:00 PM.

I would like each person that has volunteered to bring a hot glue gun if available. We will need at least four. I will bring glue sticks of standard size. If anyone has small polished stones to donate, it will be helpful. At present, I have about 50 – 18”, 20” and 24” chains, 50-75 bell caps of varying sizes, and 25-50 key rings. I hope to have stands made for the small people. If anyone has additional ideas or materials to donate it would be appreciated. We can play this by ear as we go along. Please call me on anything you think we can do or any thoughts you have. It must be something we can do in a hurry so we do not hold up the line.

Thanks. Les Roy (562) 943-8634

Common Rockhound Ailments (continued)

Lapidary Lament: Also known as *Post Polishum Depression*. Brought on by the rude discovery of a heretofore unseen fracture after the cab is complete.

Stone Tumbler's Tinnitus: A persistent ringing in the ears, curable only by the permanent removal of the rock tumbler from the premises.

Hobby Pocket: This is the most common ailment of all, one that is rapidly becoming endemic. It is a deep-seated emptiness brought on by over-exposure to rock shops, supply catalogs, and gem and mineral shows.

Original Source Unknown, via The Pegmatite 11/00.

Study finds decline in hiking, biking, climbing

From: "Scott Silver" <ssilver@wildwilderness.org>

The following article is interesting because it speaks of the dramatic DECREASE in participation in NON-MOTORIZED outdoor recreation that is starting to worry the outdoor recreation industry.

Much of the message presented in this article is standard industry-fare aimed to promote increased participation (consumption), especially amongst minority persons. What is unusual is that this article shows the recreation industry is becoming worried that the customers are staying away and are not buying what they have to sell. The article even puts some of the blame for reduced interest upon "costs" and "fees", though nowhere is the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program mentioned.

Two things come to mind.

Firstly, how much of a role has fee-demo had upon bringing about this decline in participation in the Great Outdoors? Before fee-demo was introduced in 1996, there was (we were told) rapidly growing interest in outdoor recreation. I don't know about you, but since fee-demo, my own participation in outdoor recreation has plummeted... and there is a direct connection.

Secondly, why is the USFS developing an Recreation Agenda based upon rapidly expanding participation in outdoor recreation when the trend is in the opposite direction --- at least for backpacking, road bicycling, mountain bicycling, dirt road cycling, camping, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rafting, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, telemark skiing, snowshoeing and trail running (-- according to industry sources)?

Is it possible that the USFS Recreation Agenda is simply misguided or is the USFS Recreation Agenda a deliberate effort to pump life into what may actually be a market in decline?

Scott

<http://insidedenver.com/business/1107out6.shtml>

**Youths not exactly rushing to explore the so-so outdoors
Study finds decline in hiking, biking, climbing**

**By Gil Rudawsky
Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer**

Representatives of the outdoor recreation business got a hard lesson Monday from their next generation of customers: Outdoor activities are losing to the indoors.

A youth panel at the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America's regional meeting - held at REI's store in downtown Denver - gave a variety of reasons that they are not participating in outdoor recreation or buying outdoor gear. The reasons primarily had to do with weather, cost and competing urban activities.

"I don't like to get cold or get my shoes dirty," said East High School student Jason Fordham, 17. "Plus, it's too complicated and too expensive."

Kent Denver student Iman Haynes, 17, gave a less traditional but equally emphatic answer: "That Blair Witch thing - my friends and I are scared to go into the woods."

Haynes added that she doesn't like to go out of cellphone range or into areas where she has to pay roaming fees.

The seven panelists, ages 17 to 24, included high school students, a college student and two bicycle messengers. As part of a sweeping ORCA-sponsored study on participation in outdoor recreation, youths around the country will be surveyed on their habits, and findings will be presented to the organization's 1,100 business members.

"This is ground zero for the industry," said Frank Hugelmeier, president of ORCA. "If we lose this market, we lose the business and we possibly lose their votes to protect these outdoor activities."

A preliminary study found that youth participation is declining in 13 of 14 outdoor recreational activities. The categories include backpacking, road bicycling, mountain bicycling, dirt road cycling, camping, kayaking, canoeing,

**January Field Trip to Quartzsite
January 26 - 28, 2001**

The field trip committee decided to publish the January field trip dates at this time so club members and field trippers can make their plans for the event. (See the Quartzsite show dates for the different shows.)

We plan on camping at the usual place, the BLM campground, about 3/4 of a mile east of exit 19 on the south side of the freeway.

In addition to the shows, we are planning a field trip to an area we that has some readily available material.

So plan on joining us for a great trip. More details in the January Rockhounder.

Joe & Marcia Goetz and Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

Show Schedules For Quartzsite 2001

Jan 1 - Feb 15	Desert Gardens Gem, Mineral & Rock Show.
Jan 15 - Feb 15	Cloud's Annual Show (Smaller this year according to Sue Hickman)
Jan 19 - Jan 28	Tyson Wells Sell-a-Rama
MAIN EVENT	Generally held on the last Weekend of January

Vern Cliffe

Thanksgiving Field Trip Report November 23rd - 26th

In spite of a slow start to the trip, a flat tire Wednesday afternoon and a “hippie” like character showing up at 7:00 am on Thanksgiving morning looking for help in getting two stuck vehicles out of a ravine, the rest of the trip was great. The weather was perfect, sunny clear skies, warm days and cool nights.

Everyone found some red agate at the location near camp while the Paul Bunyan agate was by-passed due to the amount of work to get down to the vein. The trip to the Calico locations was interesting and the field trippers congratulated Dottie Jacobs on her introduction to discovering how easily her vehicle made it up and down all those dirt roads north of Mule canyon. We now know which areas to by-pass on our next go-around in that area. While we were exploring we made the acquaintance of a father and son, both named Carl, who were out looking for agate. They go out quite regularly and we couldn't help but notice on how closely the young Carl resembled Jason Badgley. There were a couple of differences however, Carl is only eighteen and he will leave Jason behind when it comes to climbing hills! The two Carl's and Jason live over in the same direction so we'll make sure they get to meet one another. The two Carl's joined us for potluck and the next day's trip. Other field trippers with us for part or all the weekend were Art & Ginger Ragazzi, Dan & Diane Stevens and Vince & Ruth Jarrell.

The “new-to-us” (a month ago) palm root area turned up some nice specimens and Joe & Marcia lead the way to the red palm area, again “new-to-us”, courtesy of the Barstow club. We were so involved at those two areas that we didn't have time to visit Jason's place and the petrified wood area. Well, we'll save those for next time.

Due to the possibility of heavy traffic Sunday afternoon, the group decided to visit the Barstow club show in the late morning and head home after a very successful and entertaining four days.

Joe & Marcia Goetz and Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

Here are some hints and tips that are a little bit different from those usually published in the Rockhounder . Please note that the Rockhounder has not actually tried out any of these hints, so try them at your own discretion. Hope you enjoy. Ed.

Laundry Hints

Soft fluffy blankets: 2 cups of white vinegar added to a washer tub of water will make a good rinse for both cotton and wool blankets - leaves them free of soap odor and their nap is soft and fluffy as new.

Scorch marks: Lightly rub white vinegar on fabric that has been slightly scorched. Wipe with a clean cloth.

Deodorant stains: To get rid of stains left by deodorants and antiperspirants on washables, lightly rub with white vinegar and then launder as usual.

Sharper creases: For a sharper crease in knit slacks, dampen them with a cloth wrung out from a solution of one-third white vinegar and two-thirds water. Place a brown paper bag over the crease and press.

Setting colors: When you are color dyeing, add about a cup full of white vinegar to the last rinse water to help set the color.

After alterations: When you remove a hem or seam and have holes from thread showing, dampen a cloth with white vinegar, put it under the material and press.

Via <http://www.versatilevinegar.org/>

Have You Ever Wondered?

Here is a staple from your pantry shelf - economical, always at hand, ready to serve in a variety of ways. One bottle of white distilled vinegar contains a whole shelf's worth of specialized cleaners.

Household Hints

Removing Stains: An equal mixture of salt and white vinegar will clean coffee and tea stains from china cups.

Loosen tough stains: To loosen hard-to-clean stains in glass, aluminum or porcelain pots or pans, boil 1/4 -cup of white vinegar with 2 cups of water. Wash in hot, soapy water.

Brighter stainless steel: Spots on your stainless steel kitchen equipment can be removed by rubbing the spots with a cloth dampened with white vinegar.

Soaking pots and pans: Soak normal food-stained pots and pans in full strength white vinegar for 30 minutes. Rinse in hot, soapy water.

No cooking odors: Boil a teaspoon of white vinegar mixed in a cup of water to eliminate unpleasant cooking odors.

When handling onions: A little white vinegar rubbed on your fingers before and after slicing onions will remove the odor of onions quickly.

Removing fruit stains: To remove fruit stains from your hands, rub them with a little white vinegar and wipe with a cloth.

Painting strategy: Absorb odor of fresh paint by putting a small dish of white vinegar in the room.

Oven tip: Dampen your cleaning rag in white vinegar and water and use it to wipe out your oven.

Clean tea kettles: If you get lime deposits in your tea kettle, gently boil 1/2-cup of white vinegar to a pot of water. Then rinse well.

Via The Polished Slab 12/00

Palygorskite to be Displayed at CFMS 2001 Show

By Bea and Sherm Griselle

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Yes, Palygorskite is a mineral, but you have to see it to believe it. Mountain Leather is the common name given to Palygorskite and it looks like fluffed-up newspaper papier-mâché. It is described, along with its chemical formula, as hydrous basic silicate of calcium and aluminum in Minerals of California.*

Palygorskite is a rare actinolite formation which develops in white to gray leather-like open clumps or in matted masses. Mountain Leather is composed of flexible interlaced fibers. This structure is rare as actinolite usually forms as solid masses of inter-growing crystals, such as nephrite jade.

Mountain Leather is metamorphic in origin and generally results from alteration of siliceous dolomites. It is often found in contact zones of metamorphic rocks. The specimen to be displayed is the uncommon fibrous form prized by collectors.

The specimen of Mountain Leather to be displayed was found at the Mammoth Mine, Metaline Falls, Washington. It is an excellent example of actinolite formed in open fibrous sheets and clumpy masses. It is difficult to realize that Palygorskite is really a mineral as its appearance is unlike the solid rocks and minerals rockhounds are accustomed to seeing. It's an incredible natural wonder and you can see it at the CFMS 2001 Show in Paso Robles, June 22-24.

Editors Note: The Santa Lucia Rockhounds are hosting the CFMS 2001 Show and invites all society bulletin editors to carry this article in their newsletter.

*California Division of Mines and Geology, Minerals of California: Centennial Volume (1866-1966), Bulletin 189, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California, 1966,p.67.

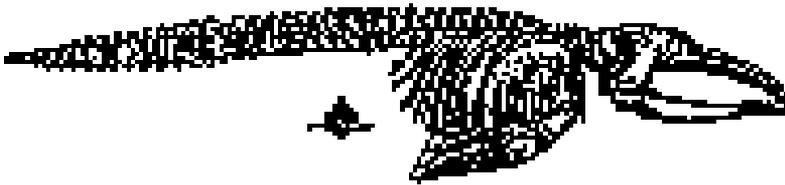
Via CFMS Newsletter 12/00

**Huge Fossil Whale Vertebrae
to be Displayed at CFMS 2001 Show**

**By Bea and Sherm Griselle
Santa Lucia Rockhounds**

The vertebrae from an ancient whale was discovered northwest of San Miguel, California. The vertebrae dates from the Middle Miocene Epoch and is 10-12 million years old. - The vertebrae was found in a Monterey Shale Formation which is the remains of the ocean floor of an ancient marine environment.

The vertebrae is one of the largest ever discovered. Whales during this time averaged 15 feet in length. It is estimated that the whale from which this vertebra came measured over 72 feet in length. Paleontologists did not believe whales of this epoch lived to reach this great length until discovery of the skeleton from which this vertebrae came.



The whales of this epoch swam in huge lagoons and deep bays. They shared these water bodies with the largest predator shark to ever live, the giant *Carcharocles Megalodon*, a distant cousin of the present "Great White". Ancient *Megalodon* sharks reached a length of 60 feet or more. It is remarkable that this whale survived to reach its great length in such dangerous waters.

The vertebrae will be on display during the CFMS 2001 Show in Paso Robles. Come to the show and be amazed by this huge and rare fossil discovery.

Editors Note: The Santa Lucia Rockhounds are hosting the CFMS 2001 Show and invite all society bulletin editors to carry this article in their newsletter.

From CFMS Newsletter 11/00

CFMS Earth Science Studies

March 25 - April 1, 2001

Zzyzx Road, Soda Springs, California

A CFMS Earth Science Seminar will be held at Soda Spring (Zzyzx) which is located 50 miles northeast of Barstow on I-15 at Zzyzx Road.

These desert studies offer instruction in our hobby/craft, field trips to historical and collecting sites, and discussion of flora and fauna of the area. Our primary goal is to provide a congenial learning experience.

The facilities are rustic with dorm style rooms and rooms with double beds or cots. Rest rooms and showers are provided in a separate building nearby. No pets are allowed.

Register for this educational and fun filled week by completing the form below, with a check for \$220 per person by March 1, 2001. An administrative fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for any cancellation prior to March 1. There will be no refund for cancellation after March 1 unless you can provide a replacement. The fee includes instructions, quarters and meals.

Send form and payment made out to CFMS to:

Florence Meisenheimer
101 N. Wake Forrest Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003-2246
(805) 642-3155

Cal & Dee Clason (661) 589-4189

Ray & Florence Meisenheimer (805) 642-3155

(Continued on Page 18)
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hiking, rafting, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, telemark skiing, snowshoeing and trail running.

The only area that showed a slight increase was kayaking.

Craig Mackey, public-policy liaison for Outward Bound USA, pointed out to the panelists that a day at Six Flags/Elitch Gardens can cost as much as a day of skiing at Vail.

"That may be true, but I've never seen a Vail ad directed at me or my friends," Fordham responded. "They are probably going after the white, rich market."

More than one panelist pointed out that of the approximately 75 participants at the meeting, few, if any, were minorities.

Mackey conceded that fact.

"We have to reach out to a younger, more diverse market to keep outdoor recreation vibrant," Mackey said. "This should be a wake-up call for people in the room."

Hugelmeyer said one solution would be to encourage outdoor recreation businesses to do a better job of bringing outdoor recreation to the urban environment.

Panelist Wendell Gibbs, 18, said he has tried the climbing wall at Elitch Gardens but wouldn't consider going to the mountains to rock climb.

After the panel concluded, an ORCA member had Gibbs climbing REI's indoor climbing wall.

"I really like this," Gibbs said. "I might have to try this outdoors."

Contact Gil Rudawsky at (303) 892-2562 or rudawskyg@RockyMountainNews.com.

November 7, 2000

Submitted by Vern Cliffe

Untried Shop Tips

Fight back: Rust is the worst enemy your lapidary equipment has. Lots of otherwise functional lapidary equipment gets tossed out every year because of rust damage. Now, finally, there is a product that lets you repair and restore even severe cases of rust-out. It is a paint called POR-15. (Call 1-800-457-6715 for a free catalog from Rustomotive Laboratories, Inc., in Morristown, NJ.) POR stands for "paint-over-rust" and that is exactly what you can do. Just get out all the rock dust and make sure there is no oily residue left on your equipment. Clean the metal with a wet SOS pad and rinse clean. Let it dry, and if there are any holes, stick a piece of masking tape on the underside. Paint on the POR- 15 with a cheap brush, level the equipment, and let the POR-15 flow out smooth. POR-15 will close up any holes nicely when it cures. This is a permanent fix. Rust will not penetrate POR-15. A pint of POR-15 should be more than enough for most water pans. It cures rock hard and shiny, but is meant to be an undercoat. Ultraviolet light (a.k.a. sunlight) will cause it to deteriorate. So scuff the surface of the POR-15 slightly with an SOS pad and paint on a coat of enamel, and you are set for a long time.

From Breccia 7/00, via The Pegmatite 11/00

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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

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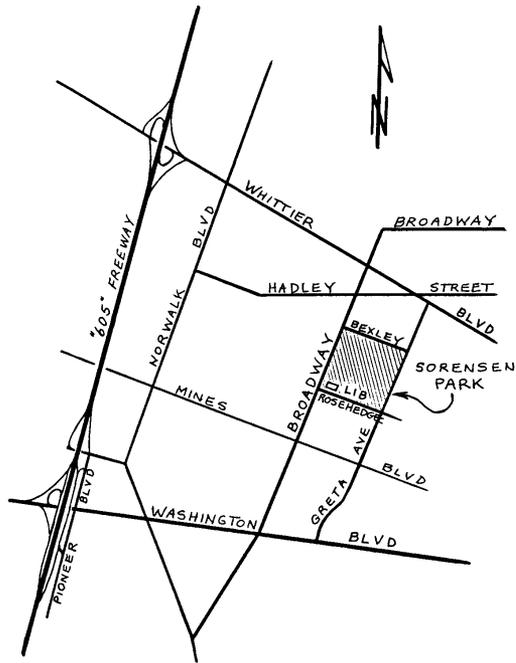
Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Meeting Date: **December 21st at 6:30 PM**
Location: Sorensen Park (See Map)