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WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Installation Dinner and Christmas Party!!!



Moss Agate from near the WGMS Club Claim

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Thanksgiving dinner was great and probably you may have eaten too much. The fieldtrip was great, lots of material was collected and some may never have been found before.

This month, before Christmas we'll have a potluck on Saturday, Dec. 15th at the Turner's. Besides the installation of officers there will be great food and company, and of course a gift exchange. There will be the swapping of stories; the showing off of the newest pieces of jewelry created from gem material found on recent trips, all in all everyone will have a great time.

Before you know it the New Year will be here. And you'll have a new time to build memories; new rock gabbers projects and more rock trips. (If there is a destination for rock collecting you would like as a club trip let me know) It is my hope for the coming New Year we'll have the wet workshop working; cases built and start planning the next great show. Even though this might seem overwhelming, together as a club, all of us working together, these tasks can be accomplished.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Joe Goetz



Rockgabbers

Rockgabbers has been great fun over the last couple of years. The group gets together on a semi regular schedule and we have made some beautiful jewelry. We went to the CFMS show in Palmdale, and exhibited a case, and we also demonstrated to the public. I received several positive comments from other clubs about how successful our group was, and asking if they could attend our classes. One club even asked if we would set up and teach the class at their club.

The projects over the last year have included chains, necklaces and bracelets, earrings, fused dichroic glass, wire wrapping, bezels and metal texturing. The members of the class have purchased a rolling mill which we will be experimenting with in the New Year.

In the New Year, I plan on projects which involve 3-D shaping of metal, where we will learn how to hammer and form silver to make more complex shapes. I plan on projects which involve setting of stones. Some people have indicated an interest in casting, and there was a request to learn how to make obsidian needle wind chimes, so that will be the project for one month. There is always the hinged necklace and the locket projects for people who get bored with the simpler things.

As always, we are adaptable to anything that the group wants to try, so if there is a particular skill that you want to learn, let me know and we'll try and do something along those lines. As I started off saying, Rockgabbers is great fun, and we would like to invite everybody to come to the workshop and join in. If you are apprehensive because you have never done this type of work before, don't let that hold you back, We always have simple projects to get you going, and there are many people who will work with you to teach you what you need to know. We always have enough extra tools that you can borrow, so you have no excuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have helped me in making Rockgabbers what it is. Jerry and Kathy Turner have opened their home for our use, and have provided an elegant dinning area for our pot luck dinner. Kathy has also purchased supplies for the various projects for us. Art and Ginger have opened their lakeside resort for our wire wrapping class which Ginger taught. Sandie taught a class on dichroic glass. Jay has hounded me to write monthly reports to keep everybody posted on what's going on. And a special thank you to the people who come to the workshop, seeing all the finished work makes everything worthwhile.

Tony Fender

INDIAN PAINT ROCK
By Joan Abramson

Great Spirit placed a special talent
In our brothers of the west,
Indulged their fertile fantasies,
Imagination at its best.

To Zunis he gave power to fashion
Intricate inclusions rare,
Petit-point and tiny dendrites,
Delicate beyond compare.

Hopis splashed the rock with pigment--
Such capricious colors bright,
Swirling down receptive sandstone,
Capturing Kachinas' light.

Lagunas featured red and black
Delinations, sharp and fine.
Other tribes used muted earth tones,
Softening a harsher line.

Dappled ochre, tawny auburn,
Subtle shades all natural,
Compositions done in fresco--
Acomas' original!

Anasazis decorated
Shards that knew no potter's wheel--
Pseudo petroglyphs in stone
Before invaders from Castile.

Navajos were granted gifts
Of boldness as they made design--
Red and orange, incandescent
Sunset colors to enshrine:

Gaudy as a warrior's trappings,
Brilliant hues that snared the eye,
Garnishing the barren wasteland
Like a transient butterfly.

Great Spirit looked upon the paint rock,
Satisfied what whimsy wrought
And gave His blessing to the people
Who created, all untaught.

NOC NEWS, April 1993

Cleaning Seashells

"Just Murray": Hey, I wanna clean my seashells, what's the best way?
Soak in bleach water? Dishwasher? No way?

"Jim Bushnell": I've had good luck with using a mild bleach water solution.
It certainly takes away the smell.

Get it too strong, though, and it will bleach out colors...

"Sbogolian": Try a bleach solution only if there is organic matter still in
the shells. Otherwise, light dishwashing detergent works
fine. Use a soft bristle toothbrush.

If the shells are beach-worn, colors can often be revived by
application of baby oil after the shells have been washed
and dried. Let the oil soak in, then wipe away excess.
Repeat this process every few months to revive the colors.

I used this method on shells I collected earlier this year on
Isla Mujeres and it worked well.

"Clyde Gilbert": Good old Elmer's Glue mixed 50/50 with warm water
works wonders at maintaining that "wet look" on all types
of materials, including most shells. Just brush it on and let
it dry- if it gets dusty or dulled simply soak it in warm
water and reapply. I learned this technique from one of my
mentors when I wanted to display some petrified wood that
looked great when wet but looked like a plain old rock dry.

From the Yahoo Group, "Rock Collecting and Field Trips"

**C.F.M.S. field Trip to Boron
December 1st, 2007**

Due to the large turn out at this field trip last October a number of people have asked to go out again to Boron and Kramer Junction. There were also people unable to go so this would be a great trip to end the year. I know many of you are up to your ears in jasper but there is always one more just a bit prettier or bigger than what you got last time.

Where: Kramer Junction HWY 395 and 58, Gephart Road Hwy 58.

Materials to Collect: At Boron - Jasper, agate, chalcedony (pink , blue and the famous purple if you are lucky). Comb the old stage coach ruins dump for old relics. Kramer Junction - Agate, dendritic opal, palm root (last time peridot and green opal were found).

Road Conditions: Regular vehicles will make it to all sites. Some places are a bit sandy and we will cross one or two washes. This field trip is designed for elderly, as well as special needs and young kids. We will be right on the jasper and agate and chalcedony fields where hounding is easy.

What to bring: Plenty of water, snacks, food, a bucket or tote, rock hammer, a camera for pictures; a hat and good hiking boots or shoes, proper clothing for desert hounding, coat or jacket.

Where to meet: We will meet up at Gephart Road off of Hwy 58 between 8:30 and 9:00 A.M. . Go 395 to Kramer Junction. Take 58 towards Boron/Mojave to Gephart Road.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All participants must sign a **C.F.M.S. RELEASE OF LIABILITY** prior to going on this trip. No Guns or alcohol.
2. We will be on a tortoise preserve. We might see some as well as horned toads, lizards and maybe a rattler or two. **DO NOT TOUCH OR GO WITH** In 10 feet of these creatures . The tortoise as well as the horned toads are protected and if you get too close to the tortoise it will pee causing it to dehydrate and possibly die.
3. No Alcohol and no fire arms.
4. A good time is mandatory. This is one of the fun trips we do every a year where every one brings home lots a goodies.

If you have any questions please e-mail me at lewsrocks@bak.rr.com or call (661)323-2663

Hope to see you there,
Lew Helfrich

**C.F.M.S. Field Trip for Whale Bone
Jan 19th 2008**

Where: Refugio, Gaviota, and El Capitan State Beaches.

Location/Directions: Refugio SB is located 20 miles West of Santa Barbara on Highway 101 at Refugio Road.

Materials to Collect: Fossil Whale bone, chert, fossil horse teeth have been found in creeks, agates, jasper.

Cost: Parking fees: \$8.00 per vehicle, fee good for all locations on same day.

You will need: Water ,shoes, sandals, or old sneakers, old clothes you don't mind getting sandy and a towel or 2; Dry clothes for trip home, a variety of warm garments (sweatshirts, jackets, etc.) - temperatures could be anywhere from 45° to 75°, citrus based hand cleaner for tar removal (there are natural seeps in the Santa Barbara Channel); Food and/or beverages NO ALCOHOL.

Meeting Place & Time: The day will start at **Refugio State Beach** at approximately **11AM**. With low tide at 2:13 PM, this will give us about 2 hours of collecting time here before moving to Gaviota or El Capitan for the low tide period. Refugio has rock beds which are exposed during mean tide periods where whale bone can be found.

This can be quite an eventful trip, depending on weather, wildlife and civilians. (in January 2006,we collected over 200 lbs of bone as a group.) This is a good trip for rock hounds of all ages, and for scout troops, etc.

Please E-Mail me for further information and number of participants going in your group at Meredith@flashercrew.net, or those leaving from Bakersfield contact Lew at lewsrocks@bak.rr.com.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All participants must sign a **C.F.M.S. RELEASE OF LIABILITY** prior to going on this trip. No Guns or alcohol.
2. These trips are designed to be fun for both young and old. Profane language or disorderly conduct will not be tolerated and dealt with accordingly.
3. Every day we are losing rock hounding places due to abuse and neglect. Please pack out more than you packed in. Take what you need and if you dig when you are finished fill it in.

Hope to see you there,
Jon Meredith & Lew Helfrich

The Petosky Stone

It can be assumed that most people who have read this article have encountered, at least once in their lives, some sort of trinket or something made out of a polished Petoskey stone. But what exactly is a Petoskey stone, and why is it called what it is? Actually, in this case, legend, geology, and history are intertwined to give the definition of what the Petoskey stone actually is. The study of the geology of the Petoskey stone also gives one quite an idea of how life was in Michigan during the Devonian time.

Why is it called the Petoskey Stone?

The name Petoskey Stone likely came about because it was found and sold as a souvenir from the Petoskey area. The name Petoskey appears to have originated late in the 18th century. Its roots stem from an Ottawa Indian legend.

According to legend, a descendant of French nobility named Antoine Carre visited what is now the Petoskey area and became a fur trader with the John Jacob Astor Fur Company. In time, he met and married an Ottawa (or Ojibwa) Indian princess. Carre became known to the Indians as *Neaatooshing*. He was eventually adopted by the tribe and made chief.

In the spring of 1787, after having spent the winter near what is now Chicago, Chief *Neaatooshing* and his royal family started home. On the way, the party camped on the banks of the Kalamazoo River. During the night, a son was born to the Chief. As the sun rose, its rays fell on the face of the new baby. Seeing the sunshine on his son's face, the Chief proclaimed, "His name shall be *Petosegay*. He shall become an important person. " The translation of the name is "rising sun," "rays of dawn," or "sunbeams of promise".

In the summer of 1873, just a few years before the death of *Petosegay*, a city came into being on his land along the bay at Bear Creek. The site was a field overgrown with June grass. Only a few nondescript buildings existed. The population was no more than 50 or 60. The city was named Petoskey, an English adaptation of *Petosegay*. Thus they honored someone who gave his land, name, and the heritage of "sunbeams of promise".

Today, Petoskey is a growing city with all of the comforts of modern life and

an appreciation of the past. Here is where Petoskey Stones are most commonly found. For those who look, Petoskey Stones are along the beaches, inland in gravel deposits, and sold in gift shops.

How was the Petoskey stone formed?

So, what is a Petoskey stone? It is a fossil colonial coral that lived in the warm Michigan seas during the Devonian time around 350 million years ago. *The name Hexagonaria (meaning six sides) percarinata* was designated by Dr. Edwin Stumm in 1969 because of his extensive knowledge of fossils. This type of fossil is found only in the rock strata called the Gravel Point Formation. This formation is part of the Traverse Group of the Devonian Age.

During the Devonian time, Michigan was quite different. Geographically, what is now Michigan was near the equator. A warm shallow sea covered the State. This warm, sunny sea was an ideal habitat for marine life. A Devonian reef had sheltered clams, cephalopods, corals, crinoids, trilobites, fish, and many other life forms.

The soft living tissue of the coral was called a polyp. At the center of this was the area where food was taken in, or the mouth. This dark spot, or eye, has been filled with mud or silt that petrified after falling into the openings. Surrounding the openings were tentacles that were used for gathering food and drawing it into the mouth. The living coral that turned into the Petoskey stone thrived on plankton that lived in the warm sea.

Calcite, silica and other minerals have replaced the first elements of each cell. Each separate chamber, then, on each Petoskey stone, was a member of a thriving colony of living corals. For that reason the Petoskey stone is called a colony coral.

Where can you find the Petoskey stone?

The Petoskey stone can be found anywhere in the state from the Traverse City area across the state to Alpena. They can be found in gravel pits, and on road beds. However, the biggest influx of stones are found on and around Little Traverse Bay, in the town that gave the stone its name, Petoskey.

(Continued on page 12)

Pleistocene glaciers (about two million years ago) plucked Petoskey stones from the bedrock and spread them over Michigan and surrounding areas. This is why Petoskey stones can be found in gravel pits and along beaches far from the Petoskey area.

The best time to find the Petoskey stones is early spring after the ice on Grand Traverse Bay has melted along the shore. Each year as the ice is broken up and the winds push the ice in different directions, it pushes a new crop of Petoskey stones towards the shores. The best time to find the stone in the summer is after a wind storm or a misty rain, when the wetness will make the fossil pattern of the stone more visible. However, finding a stone might require some time and patience, especially considering the influx of other tourists seeking out the stones as well!

The picture below illustrates the six sided formation left from the living coral colonies found on the Petoskey stone. These stones are polished and therefore display the fossilization even better. However, the wind and waves and sand cause a polishing effect, and for this reason stones found on the shores of the Bay have a more polished look naturally.



However, when Petoskey stones are found inland, they are unpolished and therefore less defined.

How to Polish Petoskey Stones by Hand

And now for the real fun! Petoskey stones are made up of calcite, and therefore are a good candidate for hand polishing. Calcite is soft enough so that it can be easily worked, but dense enough to take a nice polish.

What You Need to Polish the Stones:

- Petoskey stone
- Sandpaper (220, 400, or 600 grit)
- A thick towel or newspaper
- A piece of corduroy or velvet
- Polishing powder
- Water

Once you have found the stone you want to polish, sand it down with the 220 sandpaper mentioned above. After rubbing, rinse the stone down and dry it off. Examine the stone for scratch marks, and if there are any, keep on sanding! All scratch marks should be gone! Next, sand again with 400 grit sandpaper. This should remove any coarse spots. Once again, rinse, dry and check. Now sand the stone with the 600 grit paper to make sure that the stone is smooth and scratch free. When you think it looks perfect, continue sanding for another 10 minutes, just to make sure. At this point, it is time to polish.

Sprinkle the damp corduroy or velvet with polishing powder. A short, rotating rubbing will polish the stone. However, if scratches appear, start from the beginning with the 220 grit paper to remove them! When you're finished with the polishing, simply rinse the stone off in clean water, and dry.

Now you have your own, hand polished Petoskey stone!

Source Unknown

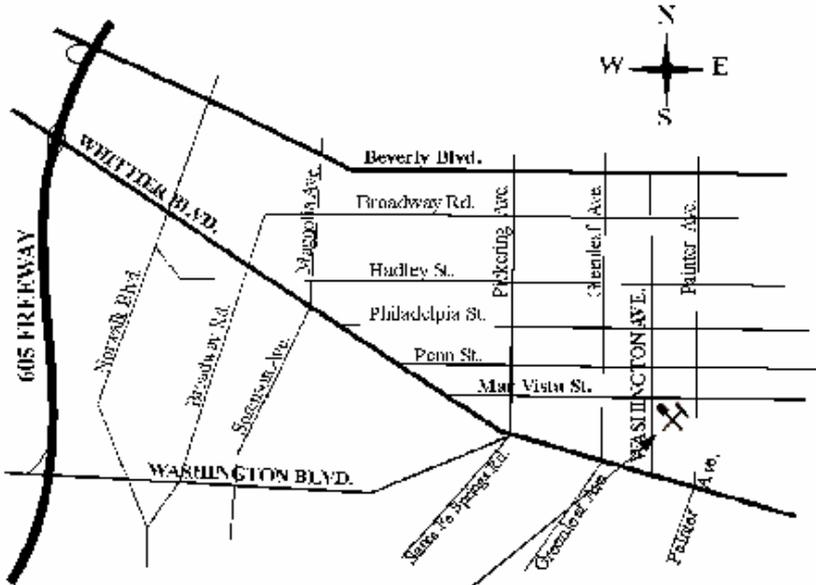
Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Dec 1-2** **Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Dec 8-10** **San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society Inc.
Rudy C Hernandez Community Center
222 North Lugo Ave (2nd and Sierra Way)
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

2008 Shows

- Feb 15-24** **Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
46-350 Arabia St.
Hours: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Mar 1-2** **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar 1-2** **Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Avenue
Hours: Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4
- Mar 1-2** **Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Seaside Park, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
- Mar 8-9** **San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Temple
3130 Huntington Dr.
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
- Apr 4-6** **Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society
Indoor Show/Outdoor Tail Gate
Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street
Hours: Fri. 9 - 8; Sat. & Sun. 9 - 5

WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier



MAR VISTA & WASHINGTON AVE.  WHITTIER COMMUNITY CENTER

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Location: Jerry & Kathy Turner's Home
(see page 4 for info)