

The Rock Bag

November 2009 Volume 47 Issue 11

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Oxnard, California



M. Tetreault

OGMS Editor

1134 Sunnycrest Ave.

Ventura, CA 93003

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

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The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization formed to increase our knowledge in geology, mineralogy and other such related fields in the earth sciences. We classify, cut, grind and polish rocks and minerals for our personal collections and to display at club shows. We learn from each other through club speakers, programs and monthly fieldtrips. We co-operate with other clubs to encourage others to participate in our activity.

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the State of California Federation of Mineralogical Society and the National Federation of Mineralogical Society.

Meeting held: 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Potlucks: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA (Thousand Oaks Room)

Dues: \$15.00 per adult; \$2.00 per junior member (age 12 to 18 years)

OGMS Officers for 2009

President	Kay Hara	kharaftdoc@aol.com	W 525-5415, H 525-7634
1 st Vice President (Programs)	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
2 nd Vice President (Show)	Norb Kinsler		644-6450
3 rd Vice President (Field trips)	Ron Wise	clintwise@hotmail.com	647-4393
Recording Secretary	Lee Leighton	ameritus@sbcglobal.net	647-4594
Treasurer	Stephanie Hagiwara	purplehawk@hotmail.com	986-2006

Appointed Standing Committee Chairs

Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Displays/Exhibits	Brett Johnson	bj9709@yahoo.com	822-3836
Editor	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Education Director	Donna Knapton	dnapton@hotmail.com	647-8762
Federation Director	Jim Brace-Thompson	jbraceth@roadrunner.com	659-3577
Historian	Open		
Hospitality	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Librarian	Karen Bialobreski		(707) 628-7634
Member at Large	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Membership Secretary	Anne Lewis		485-6356
Public Relations	Norb Tackman	ntack@sbcglobal.net	647-2538
Parliamentarian	Miriam Tetreault	editor_ogms@roadrunner.com	642-5779
Refreshments	Louisa Carey	big_L76@yahoo.com	(503) 309-6147
Sergeant at Arms	Larry Knapton	dnapton@hotmail.com	647-8762
Ways & Means	Jean Wise		647-4393

Classes: Silversmithing & Casting: Nancy Bogart, Albert Rubio & Jean Smith
Lapidary, Opal & Wirewrap: Kay Hara, Dan Gealy, Brett Johnson & Don Minster
Location: Durley Park, 950 West Hill Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

Editor: All members are encouraged to offer an article of interest or any suggestions as to what their interests are and what they'd like to see in the Rock Bag. Remember it is your bulletin! Articles can be submitted by an e-mail attachment or in writing by the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Thanks, Miriam

The Prez Sez...

Ursula LeGuin once said "It is good to have an end to a journey, but it is the journey that matters at the end." This last year it has been a great journey to be your OGMS president. We've had a lot of new challenges and accomplishments along this year's road.

I think of great projects like the educational rock boxes spearheaded by Donna and Larry Knapton and their committee, also the science boxes - What great dedication and contribution to our educational system in the county! The new website created by Stephanie Hagiwara - so much more in it and accessible to the public. The on going improvements for the up and coming 40th anniversary OGMS show by our very capable show chairman, Norb Kinsler. The great and beautiful posters, T-shirts, show cases and programs brought by Brett Johnson, assisted by Brett Bednorz. The vast improvement of our newsletter by Miriam Tetreault - available now by e-mail thanks to her efforts. The coordinated three society field trips handled for our society by Ron Wise. Our improved, organized library system brought about by A.J. Gonlin and carried on by Karen Bialobreski. The ongoing Durley Park classes which now occupy six days of the week with two classes on Saturday mornings, taught by dedicated instructors Lois Allmen, Nancy Bogart, Jean Smith, Albert Rubio, Dan Gealy, Don Minster and Brett Johnson - all volunteers! The re-vamping of our scholarship regulations thanks to the invaluable input by Jim Brace-Thompson and Donna Knapton.

Most of all I have enjoyed this journey because of the board members who made it easy and pleasant by their contributions and unfailing support - thanks a bunch gang!

It was great to see new members join and seeing visitors from the Ventura and Conejo societies at our meetings - welcome and come back!

This month your new slate of officers and chairpersons will be elected and appointed. We need to give our support and input for the coming year for more great things to accomplish in 2010. We can start ahead by contributing our help and time to our gem show this month - see you there! ~ Kay

November Program

Calling All Members! Calling All Members!

It's that time of year again, time to get ready and organized for our Annual Show this Nov. 21st & 22nd. We need all members to attend this general meeting on Wed., Nov. 4th at 7:30pm. We will be talking about Show set-up tasks and how you can help, where we will need you to help during the Show, what you can bring to the Friday night (Nov. 20th) dinner, and how you can make this one of the best Gem Shows around. So, come to the general meeting on Wed., Nov. 4th at 7:30pm, sign your name to some of the many duty rosters, and bring your smiles. It is always good to have your smiling face at the meetings.

December's general meeting will be our Annual Holiday Dinner. This will be in the Ventura Room at **6:30pm** on Dec. 2nd. This is a potluck dinner, with Turkey, Ham and beverages being provided by the Club. The entertainment will be the Tune Bandits as was last year, plus installation of 2010 officers.

Bring your appetite!

~ Brett, VP-OGMS

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2009 General Membership Meeting

- Call to order:** President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM., followed by the pledge.
- Hospitality:** There were 28 members present, with 10 guests. The guests were: Nick Duncan, Linda Demangelaere, Rob Sankovich, Dick Weber, Mary Pat Weber, Karen Newbill, Brian & Brett Miller & Mary Meeker. Guests were presented with a gift by the Club. Badge prices are going up the first of the year.
- Program:** Brett Johnson presented a program on rockhounding in Baja California. He gave a brief

summary of the history of the area. Then he described the village of El Rosario, located 200 miles south of the border, and all the old abandoned mines in the area. He had samples of the many types of rock, fossils, petrified wood & fluorescent minerals he had located there. He will lead a field trip to the area November 12 – 15. He described the accommodations available, what legal documentation you need, etc. If you are interested, please contact him, phone # 822-3836. Great presentation, Brett!

- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as printed in the Rock Bag.
- Old Business:** Membership approved the rules and regulations for the Scholarship program. They also voted to pay for new Genie wheels in the amount of approximately \$2,000. Brett will purchase 50 more shirts for the Show.
- Classes:** All classes are up and running.
- Show:** Need to have members sign up to help at the Show. Also get your exhibit form in to Lois or Brett!!!
- Federation:** Last chance for Paradise tickets, as Jim has to take them to Visalia. AALA has a membership drive going on. AFMS is trying to get the post office to print birthstone stamps.
- Field trips:** There will be a CFMS trip to Acton Canyon area the weekend of November 7.
- Education:** They need fossils, animal and flora, from Ventura County for the boxes at the county libraries. If you have any to donate, call Jim Brace-Thompson.
- Refreshments:** November goodies will be supplied from Laura Driskell & Norb Kinsler. Thank you!
- Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

~ Miriam Tetreault, Acting Secretary

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

- Call to Order:** President Kay Hara called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.
- Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written.
- Treasurer:** We are solvent. Income and expenses were discussed. A motion was passed to pay the bills.
- Membership:** We have 79 paid members at this time, and 2 Pebble Pups. Money is now being accepted for 2010 dues.
- Old Business:** A \$500 price cap was set for Brett on the T-shirts. A scholarship delegate was discussed. The Park and Rec. display cases were discussed. Jean Smith is the coordinator.
- New Business:** The progress of the Nomination Committee was discussed. The Friends of the Library is going to provide us a variety of books for the show. Carol Drescher is helping us there.
- Officer Reports:** 1st Vice President: Brett has lined up the Tune Bandits for the Christmas potluck, and will do the turkey for the dinner. The next program will be Show planning.
- Federation:** There are 2 trips in November, one to Acton Canyon. At that one there will be a morning wedding! Dec 12 and 13 there will be a trip to the north Cady Mountain area. It will be off Basin Rd. near Barstow. On Nov 6-8 there will be a federation meeting. There will be a Q&A session on insurance. ALAA membership for the Club was accepted by motion.
- Website:** Students are coming to the club from the website.
- Editor:** Submit articles!
- Classes:** Classes are doing well. The city communicated with Kay Hara, he provided them with the fall class schedules. 3 Junior's have signed up for class so far. New wheels are being installed. The restroom key is missing at the lab. The work on shelving is ready to proceed. Some items need to be moved for Shawn to proceed.
- Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 as there was no further business.

~ Lee Leighton, Recording Secretary

OGMS Nominees 2010

The members will vote on this slate at the November meeting

President:	Louisa Carey	Historian:	Open
Programs:	Brett Johnson	Hospitality:	Carol Drescher
Show:	Frank Boulch/Norb Kinsler	Librarian:	Abe Bar-Shai
Field trips:	Ron Wise	Member at large:	Kay Hara
Recording Sec:	Lee Leighton	Membership Sec:	Anne Lewis
Treasurer:	Stephanie Hagiwara	Public Relations:	Norb Tackman
Corresponding Sec.	Louisa Carey	Parliamentarian:	Lee Leighton
Display/Exhibits:	Brett Johnson	Refreshments:	Laura Driskell
Editor:	Miriam Tetreault	Sergeant at Arms:	Larry Knapton
Education Coordinator:	Donna Knapton	Ways & Means:	Jean Wise
Federation Director:	Jim Brace-Thompson		

Field Trip

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Ghost Sheet

November 2009

MLMS THANKSGIVING TRIP

“CO-OP MEMBER” FIELD TRIP TO INYOKERN/RIDGECREST, CA

WHEN –Thanksgiving Week, November 25, 26, 27, 28, 2009

TRIP LOCATION – Inyokern/Ridgecrest CA

Vehicle Access & Parking - #3-4 Desert soils vehicle access & parking good for most vehicles and RV's, no specific handicap parking Collection or View Site - #5 Desert hillsides, ¼ to ½ mile trail to site with moderate difficulty.

COLLECTION MATERIAL – various jaspers, petrified wood and other minerals

LEADER & CONTACT INFO – Please contact **by November 18th. Albert Troglin (209) 838-7725, e-mail shnalrokhound@yahoo.com**

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Arrive Wednesday Nov. 25th , collecting Thursday AM before turkey dinner.

Collecting Friday and Saturday, return home Sunday.

MEET – Group camp south of Inyokern on the Brown Rd., also known as the Inyokern Randsburg Rd. in the DeLorme Southern California Atlas.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP – From Hwy. 58 and Hwy. 14 at Mojave, CA go North on Hwy 14, 43 miles to Hwy 178.

Turn Right to Inyokern, go 4 miles to Brown Rd./Inyokern Randsburg Rd. [Brown Rd. parallels the railroad] Turn right go 6.5 miles on Brown Rd, look for CO-OP sign on Right side of road. Camp should be visible from the road.

VEHICLE REQ'S – All vehicles and RV's to campsite. High clearance vehicle needed for collecting areas.

CAMP/FACILITIES –This will be a dry camp. Facilities will be what you bring with you, no water or toilets.

TOOLS – Bring tools necessary to collect float as well as seam material. You can work as hard as you feel up to doing.

SAFETY CONCERNS – Rough desert, Eye protection, Gloves.

CLIMATE/WEATHER – November in the desert be prepared for warm, cold, windy and/or rain.

CLOTHING - Dress according to the weather.

OTHER REMARKS – This is planned as a fun get together to enjoy rock hounding, The MLMS will provide the turkey and dressing. You bring side dishes, desserts complimentary to turkey dinner. Provide your own drinks and finger food for social hours. Bring wood for camp fire, NO TREATED WOOD. Pets must be on a leash at all times, campground rules. Parents will be responsible for children safety at all times.

FEES – Friday AM we will get the opportunity to collect at Rainbow Ridge Claim. This is owned by the China Lakes Gem and Mineral club. There will be a \$5.00 fee per person to collect at the claim. We will have an opportunity to collect at a private collection. I've been told some material will be free, and some will be for sale. This is an old collection from areas now closed.

If you wish to go on this, be sure to contact Albert Troglin.

This is a courtesy to a fellow Rock Club. ~ Editor

***** Membership Dues *****

Membership dues are due by January 1, 2010. You can pay anytime now for 2010. Make checks payable to OGMS, or pay in cash at the meeting. 1 year is \$15.00

Or you can mail the check to: Anne Lewis
2231 Mono Street
Oxnard, CA 93036

Education

Hello, fellow club members!

I wanted to update you on what your Tri-Club Education Committee is up to. We are in the process of delivering our last 13 boxes in this bunch to schools in Simi Valley and Camarillo. Larry is to the point of putting the newest set of boxes together with the help of Kevin and Don from the Conejo Club. We will be having a work day, probably after the first of the year to fill the new boxes. These will finish up Simi Valley, take care of Mupu and Ocean View Districts and start on Conejo Valley. We are making slow progress but progress all the same!

We have a book program starting soon. The "Books for Schools" program is being paid for, again, by API, American Petroleum Institute—Coast Chapter. We couldn't have a better sponsor. These are the same people who pay for the materials for the Earth Science Kits (Rock Boxes) and the Fossil Kits that are in the libraries. One science book will be given to each county school—heavy on rock and fossil books. Hopefully this will become a yearly project. There is a new kit on the way to the libraries also. Jim Brace-Thompson and Rob Sankovich have been working on three "Ventura County Fossil Kits" that will also be available at the libraries. These are kits that have fossils only from Ventura County. We need some help here folks; Jim has come up with several from his own collection and all the documentation, Rob has added petrified wood, now it is your turn. What fossils do you have three of that you are willing to part with for the education of Ventura County kids? Does anyone have three each of plant fossils, some brittle stars, or some interesting fossil shells that come from the county? Do you have some whale bone (maybe polished on one side to show the cells)? Get in touch with Jim and see if they can find a home in this collection! Remember, as Brett says with a quivery voice, "It's for the Children"! Does everyone notice how much work Jim does on this kind of project? We are so lucky to have him. Can you imagine how much he would get done if he didn't have to go to work every day?

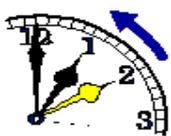
As the time grows near for the Oxnard Show, I would like to tell you a story about how we can touch lives with our hobby that we never even realize. I was at a private school in Camarillo that had inquired about our Earth Science Kit program. Private schools are on our list also, but won't receive boxes until after all county public schools have theirs, so it will be years before they get boxes. I told them if they could get someone to build a box that I would give them the rocks and literature to fill it. As Larry and I were being shown their teaching program (they specialized in kids with ADD) the director of the school came out to meet us. We were wearing our Oxnard badges and she asked how the club was connected to the boxes. After we explained, she told us this story about her daughter. Her daughter had ADD and did no good in school at all. Mom didn't want to put her on medications, so she had taken her out of school for homeschooling. It was very difficult to keep her interested in anything for more than a few minutes at a time. She brought her daughter to Oxnard's show hoping to keep her occupied for a while. To her surprise, her daughter looked at all the cases (asking a million questions), all the demonstrators, played all the games and got some of the rocks at the silent auction and bought a grab bag. One of the members sat down with her when they saw her at a table with all the rocks out in front of her and told her what the rocks were, where they came from and something about how they were formed. Her daughter stayed at that table for 25 minutes talking to the lady, (which her mom said was a miracle) wiggling and hopping all the time, but listening! But that is not the end of the story. She made her mom take her home to get her whole savings, about \$28. She came back and bought grab bags. Her mom said every birthday party she went to thereafter, the present had a little bag of rock tied on the ribbon, all the Christmas presents had rocks with them

(better rocks to her favorite people) and her best friend was given rocks often and joined her in her interest. Her mom bought science books and she would wander all over the house hopping and twisting, but with an open book in her hands. She had a never ending thirst for what volcanoes did and where they were, why glaciers moved and how a rock changed from one to another. As she grew up, her ADD got much better. She went to college, majoring in Geology, did grad work specializing in planetary geology and went to work for JPL. Her mom told us that she is now working on the Mars project looking for salt on the red planet. All of that was from a grab bag and one person who took the time to sit down and talk to a wiggly kid for a few minutes.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is why Jim, Mitty and I do education for the clubs and the schools. That club member never knew what happened to the wiggly kid and I want to have one or two of those to my credit someday. Look around at your show and your meetings. There may be a wiggly kid or a scout you can help! ~Donna Knapton – Education Chair

November 2009

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																							
1  Fall Back!	2 9:00 AM Silver Class	3 7:00 PM Silver Class	4 9:00 AM Silver Class 7:30 PM Club Mtg.	5 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Class	6 6:30 PM Junior Lapidary Class	7 9:00 AM Opal Class 9:30 AM Wire-wrap Class																																																																																							
What can "you" do for the Show? See Norb K.																																																																																													
8 CFMS Meeting 6 - 8	9 9:00 AM Silver Class ends	10 7:00 PM Silver Class ends	11 9:00 AM Silver Class 7:00 PM Show & Bd. Mtg.	12 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Class	13 6:30 PM Junior Lapidary Class	14 9:00 AM Opal Class 9:30 AM Wire-wrap Class																																																																																							
Remember Kay at the donation booth																																																																																													
15	16 9:00 AM Silver Class starts	17 7:00 PM Silver Class starts	18 9:00 AM Silver Class starts	19 7:00 PM Adult Lapidary Class starts	20 Show set-up day 8:30AM until done!	21 9:00 AM Galaxy of Gems Show																																																																																							
Gather up small items for the kids booth																																																																																													
Do you have any good rough rock or slabs for the auction?																																																																																													
22 10:00 AM Galaxy of Gems Show 4:15 PM Take-down until done!	23 9:00 AM Silver Class	24 7:00 PM Silver Class	25 9:00 AM Silver Class	26  Thanksgiving	27 Happy Holiday !!! Field trip- Rainbow Ridge!	28																																																																																							
29 Dues are Due!	30 9:00 AM Silver Class Remember to feed the kitty!	October <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	December <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
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10" Star Diamond Saw

The drive seems to be missing a part, but the saw works great. With motor and two extra blades, one new. Would like \$125, but am open to bids. Miriam Tetreault, Ph. 642-5779

Definition of the Month

"A Billion Barrel Field" - A term used in the petroleum industry in reference to an oil field that has produced in excess of 1,000,000,000 barrels of crude oil. A standard measurement of a barrel of crude oil equals 42 U.S. gallons. One billion barrels is a sizable volume of energy resource (42 billion U.S. gallons of crude oil). The Ventura Oil Field's cumulative production of crude oil will total one billion barrels this year. This is estimated to occur sometime in the fourth quarter of 2009. The cumulative production of natural gas for this same period will exceed 2,055,717,000 MCF (over *two trillion* MCF). "MCF" of natural gas is a standard unit that equals 1,000 cubic feet of gas. At the end of 2008, the cumulative production from the Ventura Field amounted to approximately 994,198,000 barrels of crude oil and 2,053,507,000 MCF of natural gas. The Ventura Oil Field is located in the hills north of Ventura (also known as the City of San Buenaventura). It is a huge field that extends east to west over 11 miles. There are over a thousand wells in the field. The Ventura field was discovered by Shell Oil Company in 1919. Initially it was named the "Ventura Avenue Field," as a result of its proximity to the road which bears that name. The discovery of the field spread east and west from the Ventura Avenue. This oil field is known as a deep field, with some wells extending directionally over a depth of three miles. Fluid temperatures are about 220 F within the petroleum reservoir. Only six other oil fields in California have exceeded the one-billion barrels mark. Here is a list: Two Billion Barrel Fields One Billion Barrel Fields: Midway-Sunset (Kern County), South Belridge (Kern County), Wilmington (Los Angeles County), Elk Hills (Kern County), Kern River (Kern County), Huntington Beach (Orange County)

~ Source: California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, 2008 Annual Statistics. Text written by Steve Mulqueen, 9/2009. The "Definition of the Month" features words related to geology, paleontology, mining and desert history. Via Rockhound Rambling 9/09

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

Membership Drive

By Shirley Leeson,

ALAA 1st Vice President



We need each of you to talk up ALAA and have your club members and those of surrounding clubs join. We're a member of the Blue Ribbon Coalition, a group working to keep the roads to our collecting sites open to us. We have a real deal for you: new members can join now, and their membership will be paid through December 31, 2010. **Dues are \$25 for individuals or couples and only \$50 for your whole club.**

We are focusing on working with those people who are "managers" of the land we want to collect on. In the West, that is usually Forestry, Bureau of Land Management and State Parks. We need to know the person in charge, his/her address, phone and email. What we want to do is have a working relationship with each person and his/her crew who manages the land we collect on and the roads we travel to get there.

In the East, managers are usually property and quarry owners, as well as Forestry, BLM and State Parks. If they allow collecting by a club, we would like to know that. However, this information will be on a database and not released to the public or other clubs. If a club is interested in a particular quarry, we can search our database, and if listed, we can refer the interested club to the club who works with the quarry owner. If the quarry is not open to collecting under any circumstances, then we'd like to know that, as well. We want to be good rockhounds and have a reputation of working with the proper authorities.

In this time of short budgets for those entities, we may be able to help them. If they need help with road management, we may be able to help as well. With this stated, we need your help to make our organization grow and be recognized.

Here's what each of you can do. Bring in at least one new member/couple. Get your clubs and those surrounding you to join us. In addition to your membership, we're looking for clubs and people who are also willing to be active in our endeavor, especially those who enjoy field trips. In order to keep everyone informed of what's going on, we need to have an e-mail contact for everyone. We are searching for those people who are willing to work with the bureaucracy of each state or federal entity within each state. In addition we need someone who will be willing to coordinate the clubs in that state. Please go to our website, <amlands.org> and see the states we already have covered. I encourage you to join us in preserving our collecting sites and the roads to them!

~ Shirley

Thirteen Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)

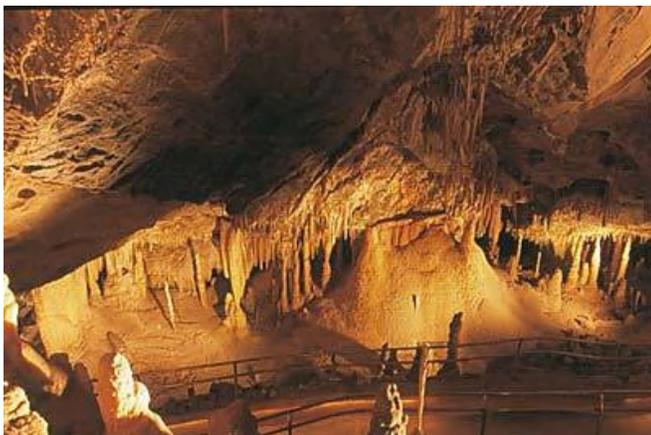
Eight More Things a Burglar Won't Tell You

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: *Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky*; security consultant *Chris McGoey*, who runs *crimedoctor.com*; and *Richard T. Wright*, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*. Submitted by **John R Martin, Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society**. Via **Rockhound Rambling 9/09**

Kartchner Caverns, Benson Arizona



"The "Big Room" at Kartchner Caverns"

before opening the forward door. The idea is to keep the dry desert air out of the humid (98%) cave. There are also misting systems within the cave. The trail is designed to keep human hands away from the more delicate formations. Evidence of prehistoric life has also been found in the cave, including the skeleton of an 80,000 year old Shasta ground sloth. The cave is also home to about 1,000 female bats from April to September. The bats give birth to their pups here, nurse them and then return to Mexico for the winter. **Via Rockhouser Review 10/09**

Kartchner Caverns State Park, opened in 1999, is one of Arizona's newest wonders. Kartchner Caverns is a stunning limestone cave system considered one of the top ten in the world. Discovered in 1974 by explorers Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen, and not revealed until 1988, the opportunity existed to preserve the caverns in near pristine condition. Kartchner is a living limestone cave. An adequate supply of ground water percolates through the limestone, leaching out calcium carbonate. It is then re-deposited into all manner of exquisite formations. The calcium carbonate formations, glistening with water, resemble marble. However the cave is extremely fragile. Exposure to outside air can dry out the cave and terminate its growth. Human handling can easily break delicate formations or ruin them with skin oils. Many well-known caves have suffered on both counts. As you enter the cave, you pass through a series of hermetically sealed doors. Each rear door is closed

OPALIZED WOOD

. . . is Extremely Brittle: Clamp it and slab it with care, exerting as little pressure as possible. This is a heat sensitive material and should be kept wet and cool at all times while working. A drum sander or horizontal lap works better for removing saw marks than grinding wheels. Cerium oxide, tin oxide, or Linde A on a moist felt buff will bring a mirror polish. It is not usually precious opal, but do remember that opalized wood is opal.

~ Ref: *Bems Tumbler*, 6-09; *Lapidary Journal*, 2-98; and many more, **Via Golden Spike 10/09**

Upcoming Shows

November 7-8 2009, Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Susan Chaissin-Walblom (661) 943-1861
Email: SLChaisson@yahoo.com
Website: palmdalegemandmineral.com

November 7-8 2009, Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
John DeRosa (760) 375-7905
Email: schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us

November 14-15 2009, Victorville, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Society
San Bernardino Co. Fairgrounds
17800 - 7th Street
Hours: 9-5 daily
Vigil Melton (760) 900-0507
Website: www.vvgmc.org

December 5-6 2009, Barstow, CA

Mojave Gem & Mineral Society
Community Center
841 Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 daily
Gene Haines (760) 256-0595
Email: janetwentz@earthlink.net
Website: www.mdgms.org

