

ROCK CHIPPINGS



The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.

Volume 53 Number 1
January 2012

Club Calendar

January 10th
Business
Meeting
7:00pm at Thalia's
Home

January 14th
Class
Ming Tree
10am-Thalia's
Home

January 21st
Pot Luck
Dinner
Bring your
favorite dish
6:30 pm

Program
Sand Casting

Refreshments

Mary Beth

From the President....

A big thank you to John Noster who stepped up last year when we needed a President. And also, thank you to all those who served on our Board of Directors. Without their help we would have "closed the store." Here comes a new year and with it the opportunity to look at where we are and where we would like to be by the end of 2012. Can we hope for increased membership and with it active participation of all our members?

A new location for our shop is required. Let's keep eyes and ears open to possible sites. Active use of our shop is an asset to our club members that would be a shame to lose.

Filling our chairmanships is my first task as President. Helping members understand the responsibilities of each role and following through with the details so our efforts are maximized is my number one priority. I have noticed over the passing years, when the same people hold the same jobs for long periods of time the organization tends to stagnate. We need newer members to step up and assume a small job, become part of the business end of our activities; bring us new ideas and alert us to the changing needs of our membership. Check out the Jobs Description section on our web site for the full description of all the areas where club members can assist in running our program.

(Continued on Page 2)

Bulletin Index

Page 2...From the President (Continued), Birthdays & Anniversary's

Page 3...FRA & Classes

Page 4...Gem & Mineral Shows

Page 5...Rockhound with Stories to tell

Page 6,7,8 & 9...Forensic Geology, Collecting Crime evidence from Earth, Murder and the pond

Page 10...General Meeting Minutes

Page 11...Elected Officers, Directors & Chairpersons

Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Larry Bradbury at info@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at info@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:30PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at:
Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Ave. Canoga Park

Visit our website www.rockchippers.org

WHRC Editor: Mary Beth Pio P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, 91365

(Continued from Page 1)

These are open positions as of this writing:

Programs - to arrange our monthly presentations at our general meetings. Resources are available to assist in finding programs.

Refreshments - to keep our kitchen cupboard supplies current with our needs, to do beverages for meetings and pot lucks.

Community Outreach - to arrange and coordinate our show case exhibits at libraries and other club show. To coordinate our participation at Pioneer Day and other community events.

Assistant Show Chair - to help the current show chair with this year's show, and then to work towards eventually being show chair.

Alternate Federation Director - to attend the CFMS Directors meetings to learn the ropes and eventually become Federation Director.

Let me know your interest and what job you'd like to do this year.

Thanks, Thalia



BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY



Mary Beth Pio 6th
Virginia Rotramel 29th

Future Rockhounds of America

We are in the process of establishing a day and time that will work for all our youth. Sunday afternoon is a consideration. Our January meeting will be the postponed Holiday Party Rock Bingo session with prizes from donated mineral and rock specimens. Watch the calendar on our website for an update.



Thalia Goldsworthy, Advisor.

Classes

The class for January will be held on the 2nd Saturday, the 14th, from 10am-2:00pm at Thalia's home. This will be a class on making gemstone trees using brass, copper or craft wire and small seed beads or chip beads. The completed tree will be glued to a piece of your rough rock to make a display item. Basic cost for the class is the usual \$10.00 class fee plus cost of materials. Thalia has wire, seed beads, some chip beads at cost - \$5-10 depending on what you need. You will need to provide a rock on which to glue your tree. Class limited to 8 people, call to reserve space. Bring your lunch or snack, beverages provided.

Tentative WHRC Class Schedule 2012

January	Ming Tree - Wire with seed or chip beads
February	Dichroic Glass Pendants
March	"Man" Wire Wrap for Dichroic Pendants
April	Spaced bead knotting necklace
May	Bail and décor for donut shaped stones
June	Silver-smith series, pendant
July	Continuation of silver-smith classes
August	Copper etching ala Dale Keel
September	Copper bead enameling
October	Non-solder jump ring chains
November	Continuous strand necklace bead knotting
December	No class



Gem & Mineral Shows

January 27 - 28*: REDLANDS, CA

Mineralogical Society of Southern California/Micro-Mineralogists



Pacific Micromount Conference

San Bernardino County Museum

2024 Orange Tree Drive

Hours: Fri. 4 - 10 Sat. 8 - 10



***Field Trip on Sunday, January 29**

Contact: Dr. Robert Housley, (626) 697-4435

Email: rhousley@its.caltech.edu

Website: www.mineralsocal.org/micro/index.html



Rockhound with stories to tell

Sunday, November 27th, 2011 | Posted by [PD staff](#) |

By ANDREA -GRANAHAN



Is Graton geologist author Sarah Andrews primarily a scientist or mystery writer? Both, she insists. “I am a field thinker,” she said. “I don’t think in a linear fashion. I have to think in four or five dimensions.”

Sarah Andrews worked as a geologist for two decades before becoming an author. She draws on her knowledge of geology for her novels, which feature a forensic geologist named Em Hansen. (Christopher Chung / PD)

Not many would have predicted that the woman born to an academic and artistic family in New England would find her niche chipping rocks in the Rockies. Nor would the oil field roughnecks have predicted that the geologist they sometimes tormented would capture them in gripping novels as she sat at her desk in Northern California.

Andrews’ first book “Ten mile,” a mystery involving forensic geologist Em Hansen, was published in 1995. St. Martin’s has now published 11 of her novels, and she is working on the twelfth.

While growing up, Andrews was the underachiever of her family. Dyslexic, she had a hard time reading and needed special help.

“I couldn’t learn from texts. My sister did well at school, but I just got mediocre grades,” she recalled.

Since she liked to draw, it was assumed she would be the “artistic one.” Her father was an artist, a graduate of the Black Mountain College, where he studied with Josef Albers. Her mother was a Phi Beta Kappa at Vassar.

Both parents taught in their respective fields. Her grandmother was a professional child psychiatrist, so expectations ran high in her family.

Andrews had a fifth grade teacher who took the class on geology field trips. She fell in love with rocks and drew pictures of geological features that impressed her teacher and family. A great aunt who taught at Vassar liked geology and encouraged her. Her mother bought her first mineral hammer.

Instead of attending art school after high school, she went to Colorado College. Trying to get requirements out of the way, she took a geology course.

“It was electrifying,” she said. She had found a place where her field thinking could make sense of the world. And after graduating, she went to work for the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado.

“I was just an office grunt, but one day this funny little old man came to me and said he had seen how I had done some drawings. Could I help him with some illustrations he needed? And I did. After that I began doing a lot of work for him.”

Sarah Andrews’ last novel, *In Cold Pursuit*. Her next book, *Rock Bottom*, is due out in June 2012.

One day she was startled to learn the little old man was talking on his phone to astronauts in space through a communications patch NASA had arranged. He was Dr. Edwin D. McKee, aka Mr. Grand Canyon, a legendary geologist who had written the texts on the natural wonder. He became her mentor.

“He taught me much about the scientific method, how to give talks, how to be a professional. He essentially took a lump of wax and formed it into a geologist,” said Andrews.

After McKee’s death in 1984, she left the USGS and went to graduate school. An oil boom was under way in Colorado, and she got a job in the oil fields.

“I was an environmentalist, and here I was in exploitation geology. I discovered a lot of real science was going on out in the fields.

“A new oil drilling generally only gets about 30 percent of what’s down there to the surface. It was my job to increase that percentage. People brought me data. I made millions for the corporation,” she said.

“It was hog heaven. If I wanted a 300-foot core done, all I had to do was ask for it. But the corporate culture is very secretive. It doesn’t share knowledge. It has no god. It institutionalizes greed. You are stupid if you are not greedy.”

After five years the boom ended with a crash. Because of her environmental concerns, Andrews had always been seen as suspect by field crews, she said. “One boss said he hired me because he was afraid to let me work for anyone else.”

She was laid off and began writing.

“I can’t read, but I can write,” Andrews said. “It uses a different part of the brain. I can understand narrative. I can organize information into stories.”

She met and married a geologist named Damon Brown and they moved to California, where she began writing a series of mysteries starring forensic geologist Em Hansen that now has 11 titles.

“Yes, there are such people. The FBI employs three of them,” said Andrews.

She began lecturing at Sonoma State University and also gave birth to Duncan, who is now 17 and a student at Analy High School. “He’s another field thinker,” she said.

At geology conferences, Andrews found that her colleagues were eager to share their fields of expertise to use as material in her novels. M. Lee Allison, Arizona’s State Geologist, encouraged her to keep writing and put her in touch with other scientists who

would open doors for her. She said he considers her novels excellent for public relations for the earth sciences. Her 2007 mystery "In Cold Pursuit" (St. Martin's, 2007) was set at McMurdo Station in Antarctica, where she spent two months doing research on a grant from the National Science Foundation. The book she is currently writing, "Rock-Bottom," takes readers to the Grand Canyon.

Future plans include a memoir, a biography of Dr. Edwin D. McKee and more time spent piloting the Beechcraft airplane she and her husband own. They don't include a move any time soon.

"I loves Graton's diversity," she said. "It has all the flavors of life. There's so many things going on at once."

Forensic geology

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Forensic Geology is the study of evidence relating to minerals, soil, petroleum, and other materials found in the Earth used to answer questions raised by the legal system. Ray Murray first encountered forensic geology in 1973 when he was teaching geology at Rutgers University. An agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms walked into Murray's office with a bag of dirt, looking for answers. Since then, Murray has worked as a forensic geologist and, with then fellow Rutgers professor John Tedrow, in 1975 published the first textbook on the science, Forensic Geology.

Murray served as vice president and professor of geology at the University of Montana from 1977 to 1996 and continues to work in forensic geology. His latest book "Evidence from the Earth--forensic geology and criminal investigation" has been published by Mountain Press.

Early use of Forensic Geology

According to prospective Forensic Geologist, Ray Murray, Forensic Geology began with acclaimed [Sherlock Holmes](#) writer, [Sir Arthur Conan Doyle](#). The character Sherlock Holmes claimed to be able to identify where an individual had been by various methods including his having memorized the exposed geology of London to such a degree that detecting certain clays on a person's shoe would give away a locale.

COLLECTING CRIME EVIDENCE FROM EARTH

Raymond C. Murray Geotimes January 2005

As with so many other types of criminal investigation, forensic geology began with the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote the Sherlock Holmes series between 1887 and 1927. He was a physician who apparently had two motives: writing salable literature and using his scientific expertise to encourage the use of science as evidence.

In 1893, Hans Gross, an Austrian forensic scientist, wrote the book Handbook for Examining Magistrates, in which he suggested that perhaps the dirt on someone's shoes could tell more about where a person had last been than toilsome inquiries.

It was only a matter of time before these ideas from an author of fiction and criminalists' handbook would appear in a courtroom.

A century later, the use of geologic materials in criminal and civil cases is common-place. Public and private laboratories for analyzing soils and related materials include the FBI laboratory in the United States, La Polizia Scientifica in Italy, the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto, the National Institute of Police Science in Japan, Microtrace in the United States and many others.

Forensic geology studies vary in scope. A common type of investigation involves identifying a material that is key to a case - for example, examining pigments in a painted picture or material in a sculpture when authen-

ticity or value is at issue. Identification is also important in questions of mining, mineral or gem fraud to determine if the material is what its sellers claim it to be. And identification of fire-resistant safe insulation on a person or individual's property may provide probable cause for further investigation.

Beyond identification, forensic geologists can also look at the origin of particular material. Here the examiner needs a broad knowledge of the geology and the best geologic and soil maps to answer questions. For example, if the soil on a body does not match the location where the body is found, from where was the body moved? Similarly, examiners can compare two samples, one associated with the suspect and the other collected from the crime scene, to see if they had a common source: Does the soil on the suspect's shoe compare with the soil type collected at the crime scene, for example?

Another new developing area of forensic geology is its use in intelligence work. A person, for example, may claim to have never been to a particular location, but is then found with rocks from that spot, thus linking the individual to a geographic location. Remember the outcrop you saw behind Osama bin Laden on TV after September 11. What was the location? A geologist who has done field work in the area would be able to locate that outcrop, and that actually happened: Geologist John Shroder was able to identify the region where bin Laden had been sighted in Afghanistan in 2001 (see *Geotimes*, February 2002). Geologic evidence rarely provides a unique solution for which the geologic mind cannot imagine another possibility. But there are some exceptions, as illustrated by the following case.

MURDER AND THE POND

The murder of John Bruce Dodson produced one of the most interesting cases in the entire history of forensic geology. Here, the geologic evidence is unequivocal in that it tied the suspect directly to the crime and eliminated the suspect's alibi. Most importantly, the investigator of the crime recognized the potential importance of the geologic evidence and arranged for the examination of that evidence. The testimony of the forensic geologist was critical to the prosecution of the case. The case began on Oct. 15, 1995, when John Dodson was found dead while on a hunting trip with his wife of three months, Janice. The scene was a crisp autumn morning high in the Uncompahgre Mountains of western Colorado.

At first glance, it appeared to be a hunting accident. However, the autopsy revealed two bullet wounds to the body and one bullet hole through John's orange vest. Western Colorado District Attorney Frank Daniels points out in his book on the case, *Dead Center*, that if there had been only one bullet, there never would have been an investigation and the death would have been ruled an accident.

The investigation showed that the Dodson's were camped near other hunters, one of whom was a Texas law enforcement officer. He responded to Janice's frantic call that her husband had been shot. She was standing about 200 yards from the camp in a grassy field along a fence line. The officer determined that John was dead and started the process of getting help. Prior to calling for help, Janice had returned to her camp and removed her hunting coveralls, which were covered with mud from the knees down. She later told investigators that she had stepped into a mud bog along the fence near camp. Investigators found a .308-caliber shell case approximately

60 yards from the body. In addition, they found a .308-caliber bullet in the ground on the other side of the fence, which created a direct line from the location of the case to the body to the bullet.

Janice's ex-husband, J. C. Lee, was also camped three-quarters of a mile from the Dodson's. Janice knew the site was his favorite camp location. He naturally came under suspicion. However, Lee was hunting far away from camp with his boss at the time of the shooting. Most importantly, Lee reported to investigators that while he was out hunting, someone had stolen his .308 rifle and a box of .308 cartridges from his tent. Winter comes early at 9,000 feet in the Umcompahgre, and little more could be done at the scene. However, investigators Bill Booth, Dave Martinez and Wayne Bryant returned during the summers of 1996, 1997 and 1998 and searched for the rifle and other evidence. They tried to search every place a weapon could have been hidden. They combed the entire area, including ponds, with metal detectors in hope of finding the rifle; it has never been found. During the final search of the pond near Janice's ex-husband's camp, Al Bieber of NecroSearch International (a nonprofit consulting company for law enforcement agencies) commented that the mud in and around a cattle pond near Lee's camp was bentonite, a clay that someone brought to the pond to stop the water from seeping out of the bottom. That evening, Booth and Martinez were camped near the crime scene. They were discussing the evidence in the case when investigator Booth said, "The mud." He was referring to the dried mud that was found on Janice Dodson's clothing. If Janice had obtained the rifle from Lee's camp, she would most likely have stepped or fallen into the bentonite clay that drained across the road from the cattle pond. Remembering Janice's statement that she was returning to camp on the morning of the crime and stepped into a mud bog near her camp, Booth and Martinez decided they needed to obtain dried mud samples from the bog near the Dodson's' camp, the area around a pond nearby the camp, and the human-made pond and runoff near Lee's camp.

Booth and Martinez packaged the dried mud from each location and sent the samples along with the dried mud that had been recovered from Janice's overalls to the laboratory section of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in Denver, where it was examined by Jacqueline Battles, a forensic scientist and lab agent. Battles is a highly respected forensic scientist with considerable geologic training, who, like many of the others in the profession, got her early training with Walter McCrone. She concluded and later testified to the fact that the dried mud found on Janice Dodson's clothing was consistent with the dried mud recovered from the pond near Lee's camp. The dried mud that had been recovered from Janice's overalls was found not to be consistent with the mud bog or the pond near her camp. This was a breaking point in the case that allowed Booth and Martinez to put Janice Dodson in her ex-husband's camp around the time his rifle had been stolen. There are no other bentonite-lined ponds in the area and no bentonite deposits.

Booth and Martinez went to Texas and served an arrest warrant on Janice. She was extradited to Colorado, tried in court and convicted in the murder of John Bruce Dodson. The jury understood the results that followed Booth's insightful "mud" exclamation. Janice is now serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole in Colorado's state prison for women. The mud samples collected from Janice's clothing are still in the sheriff's office evidence room where they have been since 1995.



A pond with bentonite in the Uncompahgre Mountains of western Colorado revealed key geologic evidence that incriminated Janice Dodson in the murder of her husband John Bruce Dodson

The New Years Resolutions of a Rockhound

By Mary Beth Pio

Lose weight....by removing the seven five gallon buckets of rocks in the back of the truck.

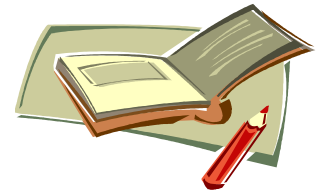
Exercise more....by refilling the now empty seven five gallon buckets with new material from that agate vein that you found in the Calico Mountains last year.

Stop Smokey Quartz buying....try Clear Quartz.

Spend more time with the family....take them to Jamala Beach. There is volleyball, but first we will have to find some large petrified whale bone to hold down the cords for the volleyball net. There is snorkeling, if the current is just right there will be some nice pendant size jade that may have been carried down from Jade Cove and what is a sand castle without the jasper and agate rock garden.

Do those little jobs around the house that you have been putting off....cover the hole in the side of the house that the local raccoons, opossums or rodents chewed through with that really nice full round of Arizona Petrified Wood. Cover the torch burn marks on the kitchen table with a beautiful set of polished agate coasters and the missing wood shingle on the side of the house, that Hampton Butte Petrified wood slab has the same grain and coloring, heck that slab will out last the house itself.

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes,
December 17, 2011



President John Noster, called meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Larry led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

John took a moment to “Remember our Troops.”

Membership Chair-Larry: Welcomed all members and three guests. Introduced: Jane Larson, David Buetow and Jaime Jamison,. Virginia made a motion to approve Novembers minutes as written: Kathy seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer-Barbara : All accounts are in order as of Nov. 30th. Bank error-\$200.00 was placed back in our account.

Auditor-Virginia: Virginia requests the books for her audit.

New Business: John thanked all of 2011 officers for their work– he also thanked all the cooks for their contribution to the Holiday Party.

John introduced the new 2012 officers:

President-Thalia Goldsworthy

Treasurer-Barbara Bradbury

Secretary-Lisa Evidon

Corporate Administrator-Mark Evidon

Directors at Large:

Larry Bradbury

Antonia Jensen

Kathy Turner

Gene Berwager

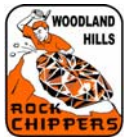
Virginia made a motion to accept the introduction of new officers for 2012. Kathy seconded motion. All in favor-unanimously approved.

John will be working on Presidents Award-He will present the award in January.

Thalia will conduct the present give away game after meeting. Meeting adjourned 7:51 pm. Present Game and refreshments followed.

Submitted by Lisa Evidon, Secretary

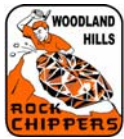
It is the policy of the W.H.R.C. Board that no minutes from the monthly Business Meetings are to be published in the Bulletin. The Business meeting minutes may be reviewed by contacting the society's Secretary.



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated



Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.



Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Potlucks are at 6:30 p.m.



Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.



Membership is open to interested applicants after they have attended at least 2 meetings. Annual dues are due in November for the following year. Membership fees are currently \$25 for one adult, \$15 for a second adult at the same address, juniors (ages 10-18) and pebble pups (ages 4-9) \$5 each. New members pay an additional \$6 initiation fee per person. Late joining new members may have lower dues as they are prorated after mid-year.

We are a member society of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Elected Officers/Directors

President	Thalia Goldsworthy	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Kathy Turner
Secretary	Lisa Evidon	Director At Large	Larry Bradbury
Corp. Adm.	Mark Evidon	Director At Large	Antonia Jensen

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Librarian.....	Barbara Bradbury
Bulletin Editor	Mary Beth Pio	Library Displays.....	Open
Classes/Workshop.....	Open	Membership.....	Larry Bradbury
Courtesy/Hospitality...Lillian Berwager		Parliamentarian.....	Open
Custodian.....	Jason Peterson	Programs.....	Open
Display/Education.....	Open	Publicity.....	Loraine Taneja
Federation Director....	Virginia Rotramel	Shop	Jean Buetow, Bob Meyers, Mary Beth Pio
Alternate Fed Director.....	Open	Club Show Chair.....	Mary Beth Pio
Field Trips.....	Committee	Ways and Means.....	Virginia Rotramel
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		



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