

ROCK CHIPPINGS



The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.

Volume 52 Number 3
March 2011

Club Calendar

March 7

Business
Meeting

7:00pm at Thalia's
Home

March 12

Bead Knotting
Bracelet

10:00 am Thalia's
Home

March 19

FRA Meeting

10:00 am at
Thalia's Home

March 19

Pot Luck
Irish/Green
Food

6:30 pm

Program

Journey into
Amazing Caves

Refreshments:

Lillian Berwager

From your President

Another great meeting, members present, demonstrator showing off her creations and John survived again.

It would appear that everyone enjoyed the food, there was enough for everybody, including seconds for some of us. The essential portions of the meeting were short and sweet, but not much discussions. I was sure somebody would have plenty to say. Well better luck next meeting.

We would like to have somebody volunteer to be the program chair in order to schedule some entertainment and a demonstrator. I know that of a few of us are over the hill and the spirit is lacking to get started.

Our Editor of the monthly Bulletin has asked if we can have members submit written items that we can submit for all to share.

Thank you for all of your help.

John Noster



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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



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
March 26-27, 2011 - Sat/Sun 9am
Jamala, Lompoc CA
To be Led by Robert Sankovich and Adam Dean
CFMS Field Trips South Co-Chairs - 2011

Material to be Collected: Agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, travertine onyx and fossils

Contacts:

CFMS Field Trips South Co-Chairs:

Robert Sankovich 805-494-7734 rmsorca@adelphia.net

Adam Dean 909-489-4899 theagatehunter@verizon.net

Field trip Location: Our field trip will be to Jamala Beach. We will be looking for agate, jasper, petrified whale bone, travertine onyx and fossils. They can be found miles along the shoreline.

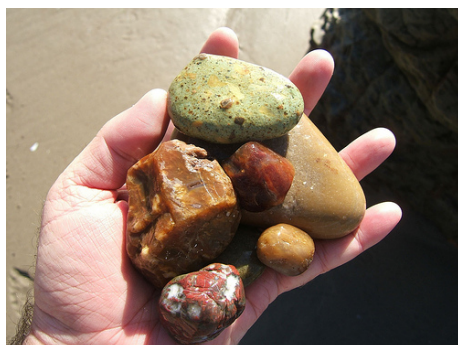
You can come up for the day or camp over night. Day us \$8.00 Dogs \$3.00 (current rabies vaccination required.) Camping \$20.00-\$30.00, with electric hookup \$30.00 campsites are assigned on a first, come first serve basis. One site to one vehicle. Limit 1 additional vehicle per campsite \$10.00. 98 campsites, all overlooking the ocean or beach front. Each site has a picnic table and BBQ, with hot showers, restrooms and water nearby. 29 sites offer electrical hookups, and dump stations are available. Robert will be camping. The weather can be windy, cold, wet, sunny so plan for all.

Directions: From Ventura head north on 101 past Santa Barbara, just past Gaviota as the 101 goes inland take the State Hwy 1 turn off, marked Lompoc/Vandenberg. Go north approximately 13.5 miles to Jamala Beach County Park turn off. Turn left, west, drive approximately 15 miles to Jamala Beach County Park. Approximately 122 miles from Thousand Oaks, 2.5-3 hour drive time.

Meeting: March 26th & 27th Sat/Sun morning, 9am 2011. Meet at my campsite, look for my campsite # on a sign near the park entrance and a CFMS sign on my white F250 Ford Pickup 4X crew cab. There will be a short briefing of the site. Please remember to sign a release form to participate in the field trip. We will then walk along the beach south of the parking lot, approximately 2.5 miles, to an area that has cement on the side of the hill. Along the beach you can find petrified whale bone, agate, jasper in shades of brown, honey, gold and clear. Travertine Onyx can be found north of the parking lot approximately 1.5 miles.

Tools: Collecting bags, buckets, day pack, digging tools, rock pick, pry bar, eye protection, gloves, trowels, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, newspaper for wrapping fossils, layered clothing, towels, change of clothes/shoes in case you get wet. Drinking water, lunch or snacks. Camping gear if you plan on spending the night. There will be a potluck Saturday night.

Maps: E-mail us and we will send you maps to Jamala Beach.



FRA

We will be meeting on March 19th to continue our work on the Rocks and Minerals badge. Bring your crystal models we made last month so we can make a mobile with them. We will start at 10AM.

Thalia Goldsworthy FRA Advisor



CLASSES

Knotted Bead Stringing Bracelet 10am to 2 pm

We have full sign up for this class (Shirley, Mary Beth, Virginia, Antonia, Kathy, Jason, Myrna & Steve). Call Thalia to get on the waiting list in case anyone cancels. Class fee is \$10.00. Thalia will have kits available for \$6.00 (beads, thread, bead tips and clasp). You may bring your own beads if you wish 6-8 inches of unstrung beads. Thread, bead tips and clasps will be available separately if needed. No special tools are required. Bring an optivisor or head magnifier if you are bringing small beads. Beverages available bring a snack or lunch.

Virginia Rotramel, Class Coordinator



CLASSES FOR 2011

- Feb. 12th - Tree of Life Pendant
- March 12th - Bead Knotting
- April 23, 30, May 7 - Silversmithing - band ring project
- June 11 - Gemstone ID
- July 9 - Wire Wrapped Earrings
- August 13 - New Prong Ring
- September 24 - Grab Bags
- November 12 - Dichroic Glass Fusing



LAPIDARY LAUGHS

A cannibal goes into a restaurant, sits down, and starts reading the menu. The menu says: Broiled Accountant, \$5.95 per plate. Fried Engineer, \$7.95 per plate. Toasted Teacher, \$7.95 per plate. Roasted Rockhound, \$29.95 per plate. The cannibal calls a waiter over and asks, "Hey, why does the Roasted Rockhound cost so much?" The waiter answers, "Are you kidding? Do you know how hard it is to clean one of them?"

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MINERAL TERMS

Match the Term (on the left) with the Description (on the right). Ready? Set? GO!

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Adamantine | A. resistance to abrasion or scratching |
| 2. Alluvial | B. formed of slender bundles of fibers |
| 3. Amorphous | C. Composed of closely packed grains |
| 4. Amygdaloid | D. almond-shaped cavity, such as agate forms in |
| 5. Asterism | E. splitting in a definite plane |
| 6. Botryoidal | F. mineral shell filled with crystallized minerals |
| 7. Brittle | G. brilliant luster like that of diamond |
| 8. Chatoyant | H. firmly united |
| 9. Cleavable | I. Having definite crystal structure |
| 10. Compact | J. fracture surface covered with sharp points |
| 11. Conchoidal | K. composed of crystals so tiny their form is invisible |
| 12. Conglomerate | L. star-like effect of rays of light on gem surface |
| 13. Crypto-crystalline | M. deposits made by running water |
| 14. Crystalline | N. shaped like a bunch of grapes |
| 15. Cubic | O. cube-like, applied to crystals |
| 16. Dendritic | P. crystalline igneous rock formed mainly of quartz & feldspar |
| 17. Fibrous | Q. formed of thin layers or sheets |
| 18. Foliated | R. without crystal structure |
| 19. Fracture | S. reflecting light in a pattern like that of a cat's eye |
| 20. Geode | T. appearance of broken face of mineral |
| 21. Gneiss | U. metamorphic laminated rock |
| 22. Granite | V. rock made up of worm fragments cemented together |
| 23. Granular | W. having tree-like patterns |
| 24. Hackly | X. fracture surface curved like that of a sea shell |
| 25. Hardness | Y. easily fractured. |

New York Spas Now Rub Crushed Gemstones on Patrons in New Facial Treatments

[from nymag.com](http://nymag.com)

Gemstones are the hot new ingredient in spa treatments popping up around the city. Apparently emeralds, rubies, pearls and even gold, plump, lift, brighten, purify, what have you (or so they say). Here are three. At [Townhouse Spa](#), the jewel of choice is amethyst, which the aestheticians claim reduces skin inflammation and radiates infrared rays in order to stimulate healthy cell growth. The \$275 Amethyst Purifying Gem Facial begins with a thorough cleansing, followed by penetration of an amethyst serum with an LED light, and finished with an eye cream aided by a sonic frequency device. The final step is a mask containing 63 percent amethyst powder. The skin is supposed to be instantly firmer and brighter.

Amethyst Purifying Gem Facial, \$275, at Townhouse Spa, 39 W. 56th St.; 212-245-8006.

The [Pierre Michel](#) will introduce the \$275 Cornelia Lumina Facial on May 1. Emeralds are used to correct skin tone imperfections; rubies and gold are supposed to hydrate and smooth; citrine is supposed to plump lips; and sapphire is supposed to lift. The gems are mixed with anti-aging pentapeptide and the treatment is supposed to leave a shimmer on your skin.

Cornelia Lumina Facial, \$275, at Pierre Michele, 135 E. 57th St.; 212-755-9500.

Lastly, [Dorit Baxter Day Spa](#) uses pure pearls smashed into a paste to exfoliate. "Pearls are also known to contain amino acids, vitamin B complex, and calcium," says Baxter, "and they prevent dark spots on the skin by slowing down the growth of melanin."

Natural Pearl Exfoliating Facial, \$120, Dorit Baxter Day Spa, 45-47 W. 57th St.; 212-371-4542.



Photo Courtesy of Townhouse

TUMBLING TIPS



Adding padding: By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard round plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polish cycle.

(from *The Rock Collector* 4/01, via *The Rockhounder* 11/02)

How to burp a tumbler: If you're running a tumbler and it keeps burping out gas and making a mess in your shop, here's a tip that I discovered several years ago. I even got it published. The burping is due to gas generated by acids and metals. A common example is the iron in a stone (say, bloodstone) reacting with the weak acids formed by grinding other rocks. Simply drop a couple of antacids in the tumbler and the problem will be reduced or go away. Tums for the tumbler, so to speak!

(from *Canaveral Moonstone* 4/00, via *The Rockhounder* 11/02)

Save trim saw scraps: Most tumblers produce better results if there are small bits and pieces of rock of the same hardness in with the bigger ones you are trying to polish.

MORE TIPS



TIP: Is it a Cubic Zirconium or a Diamond? If the stone is loose, turn it upside down on its table and slide it over a thin black line on a piece of paper. Then looking straight down through a Cubic Zirconium, you will see a circle in the center of the stone. A diamond won't do this.

Don Ashbwy in Gemrock 4-99 via Chips N Splinters 11-01



TIP: To finish soapstone carvings as the Chinese did, heat the finished piece in the oven to 200 degrees for an hour then remove and apply a coat of paste wax and polish. A jade effect results from this method.

Via Emerald Gems 6/99 via Mineral Memos 6-07

Gem & Mineral Shows

March 5-6 Arcadia

Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.

Los Angeles Co. Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

301 Baldwin Ave.

9-4:30 daily

March 5-6 Ventura

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd.

Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4

March 11-13 Victorville

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Tailgate at Verde Antique Quarry (Stoddard Well)

Bell Mtn./Stoddard Well exit from I-15

8-5 Daily

March 17-20 San Bernardino

Orange Belt Mineral Society Tailgate

Little League Western Region Headquarters

6707 Little League Drive

Thu 12-5 Fri 9-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 9-3

March 26-27 Torrance

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society

Ken Miller Recreational Center

3341 Torrance Blvd.

Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4



Helpful Rock Hounding Tips



To remove fingerprints from polished stones, use eyeglass cleaning tissues treated with silicone.

Toothpaste with fluorite penetrates stone, ceramics, brick, and terra cotta and flushes the dirt to the surface, where it can be rinsed off with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York's most famous arts and antique restorer, Sigmund Rothschild.

To clean desert roses immerse in a solution of "Axion" for about 12 hours. Brush lightly, rinse in clear water. It is the safest, easiest method.

Many professionals use ultrasonic cleaners and like them. In case you aren't aware, some stones shouldn't be cleaned in them including opal, malachite, agate, lapis, pearls, topaz, turquoise, coral, mother-of-pearl, tourmaline, and emerald.

To clean fluorite, do not wash in hot or even warm water. The luster will vanish and be gone forever. It can be placed into muriatic acid to remove calcite, then washed in cold water.

Clean pyrite with DuPont #7 radiator cleaner at 1 Tablespoon per quart water. Rinse with solute ammonia and then clean water. This oxalic acid based product will also clean quartz and other silica.

Remove algae and lichen from your specimens with a soak in ammonia and water.

See inside stones before faceting by immersing them in oil of cinnamon or oil of cassia. These are sold in most drug stores. Their refractive index is near that of most gemstones, so surface irregularities of the stones will vanish and you can see flaws and inclusions.

A good place to keep saw blades for silver smithing is in a used, transparent "Bic" ballpoint pen. Birdie Nichols of Chagrin Falls, OH, removes the used pen filler by grasping the metal tip with pliers. The empty pen will hold a package of 12 saw blades which can be kept clean by replacing the plastic cap. A label marker will help identify which size blade is stored. Small drills can also be stored this way.

For field tripping in areas with no water, carry a can of shaving cream, push-button type, for cleaning hands. A squirt, a washing motion of the hands, then wipe off. Presto! Clean hands!

When you get too much solder on a spot when making silver jewelry, and try to file it off, the process takes quite a while. To get rid of the excess solder without filing, take a narrow strip of silver 1/8 inch wide by 3/4 inch long and cut a slit in one end. Heat the piece with excess solder on it and touch the cut strip to the excess solder, which will flow up the cut.

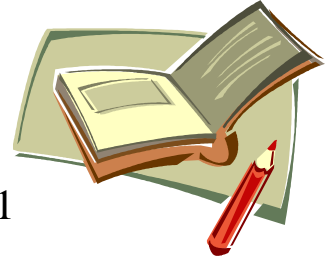
Anyone who works with flat silver in making jewelry will soon realize that sooner or later every scratch in metal has to be removed. Common transparent contact paper, the sticky kind with removable backing paper is the answer. Place it on each side of the silver sheet for protection. Moreover, it accepts and holds India ink pen lines and will not pull loose when you are sawing through it and the silver.

From the Santa Ana Gem & Mineral Club Website under Rockhounding



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.

General Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2011



Called to order by John Noster, President. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Guests were introduced: Walt and Meryl Wegner and Janet Van Zandt.

Present 19 adults and 1 junior.

Our guest speaker, Shirley Brown, was introduced. She gave us a presentation and demonstration on Silver Art Clay. After her interesting talk, the meeting was reconvened.

Treasurer Report, Barbara Bradbury, the accounts are all in good order as of January 31st, 2011.

Membership Report, Larry Bradbury, presently there are 39 members. Last year there were 47 members, to increase our members he recommended that we bring our friends to a meeting.

Standing Rules Committee, Thalia Goldsworthy, the committee has been reviewing the Standing Rules and Policies. A handout was passed out so membership could look it over to see the proposed deletions and additions. Discussions will be open and a membership vote on this next month.

Classes, Virginia Rotramel, March 12th will be a beading knot tying class, six seats are available. Please see the sign up sheet.

Old Business, Antonia, would like to put the faceting machine back on Ebay for sale.

New Business, John needs a new program chair for this year. See John if you would like to volunteer for the job.

Mary Beth needs more articles for the monthly Bulletin.

Thalia needs material for the showcase, the theme is Gold. The material is needed by the end of the month. The display case be assembled up in Ventura, March 5th.

Next meeting in March we will be having the Irish theme for the Pot Luck.

Antonia showed us her "Tree of Life" pendant she made in class on February 12th. Very nice.

Announcement: John Noster has a friend, Art Mendoza, who is having a show of his Cymbidium Orchids (open house) March 25th, 26th & 27th. Plants will be available for sale. Call John for more details and for the location.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Refreshments and the Raffle followed.

Submitted by Lisa Evidon, 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	John Noster	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Bob Meyers
Secretary	Lisa Evidon	Director At Large	Larry Bradbury
Corp. Adm.	Thalia Goldsworthy	Director At Large	Myrna Barton

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Librarian.....	Barbara Bradbury
Bulletin Editor	Mary Beth Pio	Library Displays.....	Open
Classes/Workshop.....	Virginia Rotramel	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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