

# THE BULLETIN

## *Official Newsletter of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral*

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Presidents Letter August 2017

,It is hard to believe we are on our way to fall, especially when it is 103 degrees outside. :Hope everyone is staying cool, and by the way, the club is open and cool.

The cabochon 101 class was really informative and I got started on my first cab, so you can't make fun of me for that now. The second class will be just as great at next month's education night, (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month)

The Petrified Pups are working on their badges and doing great, the leaders are doing a wonderful job and the parents are learning right along with them. For those members who have not been able to be here, we wish you well and hope to see you soon.

We have a new instructor, Corey Beck, who will be instructing every other Saturday. The pups and Ruben and Dwayna on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays. Lia is on Wednesdays, at this time, waiting for Don Pomerence to recuperate from his procedure, with Chris Koch on Thursdays, so please come on in and do the wonderful things you do

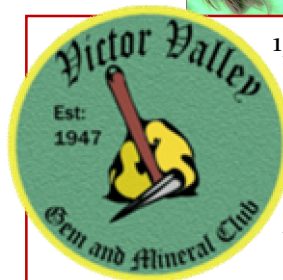
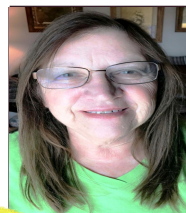
Our potluck/general membership meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, bring a dish but if you can not, bring yourself anyway.

Please think about ideas for our Christmas/ installation party, and bring them to the meetings or put in the suggestion box. The suggestion box is not just suggestions, but ideas and thoughts of what you would like to have or do at the club.

Sad to report that we have lost another long-time member, Mary Damiani, who has been ill for a couple of years, Our condolences to her family and friends.

See you at the meetings,

Sandy Skidmore, President



15056-B 7th Street  
Victorville, CA 92395

Founded in 1947 as a 501(c)4  
Non-profit educational Club.  
Visitors are always  
welcome...

Our Objective and Purpose:  
To disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences. To encourage study in these subjects through various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparation, publication and distribution of articles pertaining to these fields. The encouragement of interest of young people and fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts.

### **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Please help me by sending any information or pics for the Bulletin as soon as you can. Feel free to call me. Leave a message and I will do my best to do whatever I can to include it. It is very difficult for me to have this newsletter ready on time without your assistance. We all get busy, so anything you can do to help me would be greatly appreciated! I would love some pics and even stories from you! We can benefit from your contributions and the knowledge you have gained! Thanks so much! Dawn Mearig

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

President	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
1st Vice President-Membership	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
Recording Secretary	Val Costello	760-998-6394
Treasurer	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Corresponding Secretary	Vacant	
Board Members:	Corey Beck	760-221-5738
	Ruben Martinez	760-868-8689

## SUNSHINE WISHES

Don Pomeranka, Ed Skidmore, and Marie and Francis Gramata are in need of our thoughts and prayers. Please keep Joyce DeGarmo in your thoughts as the loss of her sister will be a burden heavy to bear w/o friends to share her pain.

Sincere condolences for the loss of a long time member, Mary Damiani. Sandy may have info should you want.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, our thoughts and prayers, please contact our Sunshine Lady, Marilyn Pomeranke

760-868-5264

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Education		
Gem Show		
CFMS Representative	Ruben Martinez	760-868-8689
Wagon Master	Various Volunteers	
Petrified Pups	Gabby Martinez	
Historian	Lynne Bradshaw	
Librarian	Lia Hamilton	760-780-7937
Newsletter	Dawn Mearig	760-245-9134
Sunshine	Marilyn Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Displays	Don Pomeranke	760-868-5264
Auctions (Donations)		
Photography	Dwayna Barron	909-234-5533
Hospitality		
Security	Sandy Skidmore	760-617-6001
Webmaster	Jim Fosse	760-245-8644
Technology	Michael Fosse	760-245-8644
Tailgate	Brett Ward	760-948-1232

**Our Instructors:** Don Pomeranke, Chris Koch, Lia Hamilton, Ed Skidmore, Ruben Martinez, Dwayna Barron and Corey Beck

Your contributions make our club successful!

Club Website—[www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org)

If you find errors or are having technical difficulties with the website please contact our webmaster Jim Fosse at [webmaster@vvgmc.org](mailto:webmaster@vvgmc.org) so he can fix it or assist you. For THE BULLETIN archives go to: [www.vvgmc.org/newsletters](http://www.vvgmc.org/newsletters).

## Education Night

### July—September

Cabochon Making 101  
Corey Beck and Dwayna Barron

Cabochon cutting or cabbing is challenging and yet the most popular form of gem cutting. Although it may require a bit of skill, some patience and a fair amount of practice almost anyone can master the art and technique.

Night one will be trimming, marking, dopping and shaping your stone. Night two in August will be focused on completing your cabochon project with the final polish.

What to bring night one: A slab of your choice ( 1/4" to 3/8" thick) to make a 40x30mm cab (recommended for newbies) preferably an agate or jasper. If you need a slab, the club will supply you one. If you have safety glasses and an apron, please bring them.

September we will learn to wire-wrap your stone. Materials list to follow in next newsletter.

# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Petrified Pups 9am Workshop 12-5
6	7	8 Instructors @ 6pm BOD @ 7pm	9 Workshop 12-5	10 Workshop 12-5	11	12 Workshop 12-5
13	14	15 Education Night @ 7 pm	1 Workshop 12-5	6 17 Workshop 12-5	18	19 Workshop 12-5
20	21	22 Potluck @ 6pm Gen. meeting @ 7pm	23 Workshop 12-5	24 Workshop 12-5	25	26 9-12 Clean-up Workshop 12-5
27	28	29	30 Workshop 12-5	31 Workshop 12-5		

**Volunteers are the life blood of this club!**  
**Even if you don't think you have anything to contribute, ASK!**  
**You may be surprised!**

**July clean up was done by only 4 people. I know I wasn't one and that's my bad. As we all get busy with our summer activities it's important to remember to make every effort to assist in the monthly clean up. I am certainly chastised when I know that Val was stacking chairs without assistance. I will be making more of an effort myself. Thank you so much for all that you can do!**

Happy Birthday to everyone whose special day comes in August

Sherry Williams, Gary Osborn  
Jim Fosse, Patti Deer, Roger  
Beam, Christy Marxsen,  
Marie Gramata, Dom Pomer-  
enke  
Rob Hemphill, Frank Dunkin  
Susan Brouwer, Nick Fracul  
Carol McMichael!



Please let the editor know if there were any  
errors or if anyone was left out of this list!

**Hope every day is special, but we all should celebrate the  
day you were born and keep celebrating all year long!**



## DID YOU KNOW? Fossils are interesting...

The **fossil record** is the **record** of life on Earth as it is preserved in rock as **fossils**. The **fossil record** provides **evidence** of when and how life began on the planet, what types of organisms existed and how long they persisted, how they lived, died, and what the climate was and how it changed.

Fossils can be divided into two categories, **fossilized body parts** (bones, claws, teeth, skin, embryos, etc.) and **fossilized traces**, called **ichnofossils** (which are footprints, nests, dung, toothmarks, etc.), that record the movements and behaviors of the dinosaurs.

The four types of fossils are:

- **mold fossils** (a fossilized impression made in the substrate - a negative image of the organism)
- **cast fossils** (formed when a mold is filled in)
- **trace fossils** = **ichnofossils** (fossilized nests, gastroliths, burrows, footprints, etc.)
- **true form fossils** (fossils of the actual animal or animal part).  
There are six ways that organisms can turn into fossils, including:
  - **unaltered preservation** (like insects or plant parts trapped in amber, a hardened form of tree sap)
  - **permineralization=petrification** (in which rock-like minerals seep in slowly and replace the original organic tissues with silica, calcite or pyrite, forming a rock-like fossil - can preserve hard and soft parts - most bone and wood fossils are permineralized)
  - **replacement** (An organism's hard parts dissolve and are replaced by other minerals, like calcite, silica, pyrite, or iron)
  - **carbonization=coalification** (in which only the carbon remains in the specimen - other elements, like hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen are removed)
  - **recrystallization** (hard parts either revert to more stable minerals or small crystals turn into larger crystals)
  - **authigenic preservation** (molds and casts of organisms that have

The Geologic Time Scale						
Era	Period	Epoch	Years Before the Present (approximate)		Life-forms	Physical Events
			Began	Ended		
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Recent	11,000		Humans dominant	West Coast uplift continues in U.S.; Great Lakes form
		Pleistocene	2,000,000	11,000	Primitive humans appear	Ice Age
	Tertiary	Pliocene	7,000,000	2,000,000	Modern horse, camel, elephant develop	North America joined to South America
		Miocene	23,000,000	7,000,000	Grasses, grazing animals thrive	North America joined to Asia; Columbia Plateau
		Oligocene	38,000,000	23,000,000	Mammals progress; elephants in Africa	Himalayas start forming; Alps continue rising
		Eocene	53,000,000	38,000,000	Ancestors of modern horse, other mammals	Coal forming in western U.S.
		Paleocene	65,000,000	53,000,000	Many new mammals appear	Uplift in western U.S. continues; Alps rising
Mesozoic	Cretaceous		145,000,000	65,000,000	Dinosaurs die out; flowering plants	Uplift of Rockies and Colorado Plateau begins
	Jurassic		208,000,000	145,000,000	First birds appear; giant dinosaurs	Rise of Sierra Nevadas and Coast Ranges
	Triassic		245,000,000	208,000,000	First dinosaurs and mammals appear	Palisades of Hudson River form
Paleozoic	Permian		280,000,000	245,000,000	Trilobites die out	Ice age in South America; deserts in western U.S.
	Pennsylvanian		310,000,000	280,000,000	First reptiles, giant insects; ferns, conifers	Coal-forming swamps in North America and Europe
	Mississippian		345,000,000	310,000,000		
	Devonian		395,000,000	345,000,000	First amphibians appear	Mountain building in New England
	Silurian		435,000,000	395,000,000	First land animals (spiders, scorpions)	Deserts in eastern U.S.
	Ordovician		500,000,000	435,000,000	First vertebrates (fish)	Half of North America submerged
	Cambrian		570,000,000	500,000,000	Trilobites, snails; seaweed	Extensive deposition of sediments in inland seas
Precambrian			4,600,000,000	570,000,000	First jellyfish, bacteria, algae	Great volcanic activity, lava flows, metamorphism of rocks. Evolution of crust, mantle, core



In speaking to Gabby Martinez, the petrified pups are studying fossils and the dinosaurs! I am sure they are having a great learning experience. I have chosen to leave the fossil page in this newsletter. There is so much to learn about the past and the discoveries just keep coming! If you ever get a chance and haven't visited the La Brea Tar pits, it's well worth the trip!

One thing I learned was that it isn't actually tar coming up from the ground, it is actually asphalt! So the asphalt is what is used to make the tar that is used in many products and projects!

If I get anymore info from the petrified pups group, I will add it to this news letter. Hopefully, the groups will get used to sharing their experiences with me so I can add them to the newsletter. Getting young people involved in this group is a great way to help your community.

There is an unbelievable amount of knowledge in this group and many are very happy to share that knowledge. The instructors are always very informative and give so much of their time and experiences to those of us who are learning from them.

Thank you all so much for stepping up and helping us to learn! Don't forget to give the instructors a "thank you" whenever you can!



Lake Meade is ringed by mountains! There was a rough rail road line around 4 miles to get the workers and materials to the Hoover Dam site. Lake Meade is the water reservoir in the united states as far as water capacity! It is located near Henderson Nevada.

Along with the workers, some families established rough campsites. There are still tunnels that you can walk through built through the mountains that were in the way of the rail road. It is a great place to explore and see the natural mountains along with the beautiful reservoir!

**Upcoming CFMS Club Shows**For more shows visit [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)**JULY**

**July 8 - 9: CULVER CITY, CA**  
 Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
 Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
 4117 Overland Blvd  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5  
 Contact: Janice Metz, (310) 850-4398  
 Email: [janicemt看@yahoo.com](mailto:janicemt看@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org)

**AUGUST**

**August 4 - 6: NIPOMO, CA**  
 Orcutt Mineral Society  
 Nipomo High School  
 525 Thompson Avenue  
 Hours: Fri-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4  
 Contact: Wayne Mills, (805) 481-3495  
 Email: [wwmills50@hotmail.com](mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com)  
 Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

**SEPTEMBER**

**September 23 - 24: LODI, CA**  
 Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club  
 Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
 413 East Lockford Street  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411  
 Email: [jeroldkyle@yahoo.com](mailto:jeroldkyle@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

**September 23 - 24: MONTEREY, CA**  
 Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
 Monterey Fairgrounds  
 2004 Fairgrounds Road  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311  
 Email: [janis12@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janis12@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

**OCTOBER**

**October 7 - 8: BORON, CA**  
 Mojave Mineralogical Society  
 Boron Community Center  
 26998 John Street  
 Hours: 9 - 4 daily  
 Contact: Bruce Davies, (760) 338-8829  
 Email: [daviesb@yahoo.com](mailto:daviesb@yahoo.com)  
 Web Site: [Facebook page](#)

**October 7 - 8: VISTA, CA**  
 Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
 Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
 Contact: Kelly Hickman, (760) 639-0447  
 Email: [kellyahickman@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyahickman@hotmail.com)  
 Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

**October 8: FALLBROOK, CA**  
 Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
 Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building  
 123 West Alvarado Street  
 Hours: 9 - 4  
 Contact: Janice Bricker, (760) 728-1130  
 Email: [fgms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fgms@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.fgms.org](http://www.fgms.org)

**October 14 - 15: TRONA, CA**  
 Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
 Gem Show Building  
 13337 Main Street  
 Hours: Sat 7:30 - 5; Sun 7:30 - 4  
 Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356  
 Email: [slgms@iwvisp.com](mailto:slgms@iwvisp.com)  
 Website: [www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub) [Show Flyer/Details](#)

**October 21: WEST HILLS, CA**  
 Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
 First United Methodist Church  
 22700 Sherman Way  
 Hours: 10 - 5  
 Contact: Virginia Rotramel, (951) 403-2634  
 Email: [ginigemi@gmail.com](mailto:ginigemi@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.rockchippers.org](http://www.rockchippers.org) [Show Page](#)



## VVGM CLUB SCHEDULE

### SHOP DAYS:

Wednesday & Thursday: Noon—5:00pm

Saturday: Noon—5:00pm Sunday by appointment

Instructor Days: Mondays & Fridays.

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Instructors Meeting—1st Tuesday 6:00pm

Board of Directors—1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Education Night—3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

Poduck Night—4th Tuesday 6:00pm

General Membership—4th Tuesday 7:00pm

Club Clean Up Day—4th Saturday 9:00am

THE BULLETIN is the official monthly newsletter published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club and is distributed free of charge electronically to members and non-members or by mail to the members without email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB. The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

15046-B Seventh Street