

THE BULLETIN

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

What's Up?

Don't forget that Aug. 3 we will take a field trip to the SanBernardino County Museum to see their rock collection. See President's column for details.

Weekly calendar

Shop open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, noon-5 .
Instructors Meeting first Tuesday at 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 P.M.
Education night 3rd Tues.
General meeting and potluck 6 P.M. 4th Tuesday. Meeting at 7.

Petrified Pups first and third Saturdays 9-noon. .

August 3 field trip to San Bernardino County Museum ..

CLASSES TO BE ANNOUNCED

August Birthdays

Beam, Roger	Cook, Jonathan
Deer, Patti	Ehman, Clayton
Fosse, Jim	Gue. Zandra
Hemphi.II Robert	Holtcamp, Sasha
Laszlo, Tom	Mabon. Sharon
Osburne, Gary	Pomerenske, Don
Smith, Gary	Steen, Carol
Steen, Douglas	Swenson, Amy
Wen, May	

More birthdays, next page



Kyle Johnson with his two 1st place ribbons from this years San Bernardino county fair. His older brother Keith would not be here to collect his two 1st place entries. His two sisters Kenzie (L), & Kate collected his entries for him.

President's letter

Thanks for the help

Hello AUGUST,

First I want to thank everyone who stepped in to perform my duties while I recuperate from surgery. Thank you. Summer hours at the club are great, come in, stay late, stay cool. Lots of news. Our education night with Dr. Buchanan was very informative and for those of you who could not make it, you missed out. The club is going to have a field trip to the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, to see the new exhibit of minerals. Scheduled for August 3, we will meet at the Museum at 10 a.m. in the parking lot and we will go in as a group at a special \$5 rate per person. We will then go to the Mineral display on 2nd floor, After our time in that area, you can go through the entire museum at your leisure.

(See next page.)

Officers, Committees

President Sandy Skidmore (760)617-6001
 First Vice President Ruben Martinez
 Secretary Lynne Bradshaw
 Treasurer Dwayna Barron
 Board Member Don Pomeranke

INSTRUCTORS

Don Pomeranke, Lia Hamilton, Chris Koch, Dwayna Barron, Ruben Martinez, Cory Beck, Joyce DeGarmo. ,

Committee Chairpersons:

Sunshine, Displays, Don Pomeranke, Photographer, Dwayna Barron, Newsletter, Doug Arnold, CFMS Director, Ruben Martinez , Saw Maintenance , John Bradshaw.

This is a great opportunity given to us by Dr. Buchanan. Bring the family, especially our Petrified Pups, who will mark another requirement off for their badges.

We were very excited to see all that Dr. Buchanan talked about. A huge thank you to Dr. Buchanan for all he has done to teach people about our earth.

Our field trip to somewhere out there was a fun day, the kids had a great time being free in the outdoors. We had 20 people join in the outing. Plans for a fall trip is in the works.

The Petrified Pups had another great year at the fair. Ribbons galore, so proud of them and their beautiful work. Already working on projects for next year.

Our theme for August is picnic, bring a sack lunch, the club will provide desert and drinks. September will be Chinese, and October is fall.

- Remember to read the newly proposed by-laws, we will be voting on them at August meeting.

Keep cool, Sandy



Geodes and Nodules

The first part of this was in June’s bulletin.

Then, when water manages to get into this cavity, it carries any dissolved minerals along with it, and these can form crystals that grow toward the center of the geode. Some of these minerals, depending on their location, may have originated from ancient fossils of sea animals like diatoms and sponges. Some geodes even form alongside bituminous coal. Geodes that form in volcanic rock gas cavities are called amygdules, which contain bands of chalcedony and quartz,

More Birthdays

June	July
Bradshaw, John	Bradshaw, Lynne
Estes, Pat	Flores, Sammy
Flores, Enrique	Flores, Valary
Gibbons, Erin	Fowlie, Victoria
Gibbons, Mark	Hughes, Frances
Johnson, Mike	McMichael, Carol
Kauffman, Ron	
Robert, Arias	

as well as calcite crystals. It is amazing to think how pressure, temperature, evaporation and long periods of time create geodes. Nodules are formed in many different ways, usually from sediments weathered and exposed to various chemicals in groundwater over time.

How can you tell if a rock is a geode? Many geodes are roundish in shape, so choose rocks that look like this for further inspection. Others may look like squashed melons, or could even be partially collapsed. Find a location known to have geodes and bring along a bucket, a shovel, and a hammer, and look for likely candidates.

The only way to find out for sure if a rock is a geode is to break it apart by tapping it with a hammer, or have someone cut open the rock with a powerful saw. You'll know once you see the interior and whether or not there is a hollow or solid composition. The hollow ones are geodes, and as mentioned before, are often lined with crystals or layers of minerals. Some geodes are highly sought after and can be polished after being cut.

Geodes and nodules are two kinds of rock formed by different process over time. While similar, geodes have hollow interiors and nodules have solid interiors, both often containing crystals or other minerals. Geodes are rocks that are hollow inside, rather than solid all the way through. Geodes are generally round, though some are egg-shaped. They can range from the size of a nut to several feet. Most geodes are approximately the size of a basketball. When broken or cut open, geodes reveal a lining of crystals or other materials inside. Many of these crystals can be quite beautiful, such as the purple quartz known as amethyst. Some geodes even contain liquid petroleum. Calcite geodes contain white crystals, but sometimes these can be other colors, and under fluorescent light additional colors show up. Other examples of geode interiors include celestite, agate, smoky quartz and rose quartz. Chalcedony is a common mineral coating for many geodes, and it is permeable to water over time. Anhydrite geodes have interiors that resemble cauliflower. Other examples of minerals found in geodes include gypsum, calcite, dolomite, pyrite, ankerite, aragonite and goethite.

A nodule rock is a solid rock with no hollow center. So unlike geodes, the interior of a nodule rock contains no empty space. It does, however, contain minerals. Nodule rocks are harder than the rocks that surround them. They can be found in sandstone, shale or limestone. Some nodules contain iron. Pyrite nodules contain pyrite crystals. Others contain crystals or fossilized remains, even though their insides are not hollow. A quartz nodule, for example, contains an interior of quartz. Nodules can be concretions, which can reach many feet in diameter. These tend to be found alongside areas of erosion. Some nodules are septarian nodules, which are flatter and contain barite or calcite. Other nodules are called thunder eggs, and these are made of chalcedony. Some collectors like to cut open septarian nodules and polish them for display. While nodules are not as popular as geodes, they are still prized, particularly beautiful specimens like quartz nodules.

Geodes can form through various methods involving chemical and physical processes. They can arise in volcanic rock bubbles, in sediment bubbles or in hollows of limestone. For volcanic ash bubbles, water passes into them over long periods of time, and these eventually solidify. For limestone geodes, a cavity forms from either geological or biological processes. Then, when water manages to get into this cavity, it carries any dissolved minerals along with it, and these can form crystals that grow toward the center of the geode. Some of these minerals, depending on their location, may have originated from ancient fossils of sea animals like diatoms and sponges. Some geodes even form alongside bituminous coal. Geodes that form in volcanic rock gas cavities are called amygdules, which contain bands of chalcedony and quartz, as well as calcite crystals. It is amazing to think how pressure, temperature, evaporation and long periods of time create geodes. Nodules are formed in many different ways, usually from sediments weathered and exposed to various chemicals in groundwater over time. Geodes can be fun to collect. So how can you tell if a rock is a geode? Many geodes are roundish in shape, so choose rocks that look like this for further inspection. Others may look like squashed melons, or could even be partially collapsed. Find a location known to have geodes and bring along a bucket, a shovel, and a hammer, and look for likely candidates.

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- Instructors Meeting**—1st Tuesday 6:00pm
- Board of Directors**—1st Tuesday 7:00pm
- Education Night**—3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
- Potluck Night**—4th Tuesday 6:00pm
- General Membership**—4th Tuesday 7:00pm
- Club Clean Up Day**—4th Saturday 9:00am

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1947 as a 501(c)(4) Non-profit education club. Visitors are always welcome...

Our Objective and Purpose is 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.



SHOP DAYS:

- Wednesday & Thursday:** Noon—5:00pm
- Saturday:** Noon—5:00pm
- Instructor Days:** Mondays & Fridays.

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