



# THE BULLETIN

AUGUST 2023

POT LUCK 8-19-23

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## LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS.

**1 NEW MEMBER,  
AUGUST/2023**

**JOHN ALCORN**

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND UPCOMING EVENTS. COME IN TO THE SHOP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN LAPIDARY ARTS. EDUCATION NIGHT, TUESDAY AUGUST 8, 6:00 PM. WITH CORY BECK SHOWING A WIRE WRAPPING TECHNIQUE. POT LUCK LUNCH ON THE 19TH , 12:00 PM WITH DOOR PRIZES & OTHER GOINGS ON. ALWAYS A GREAT TIME TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, MEET OLD FRIENDS, MENTORS AND GET A FEW LAUGHS IN AS WELL.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Greetings Lithophiles!

It's August, and it's definitely too hot to go out rockhounding around here! But the good news is the cooler weather of late September and October are just around the corner. Can't wait to get out there with all or you again!

Meanwhile, we are pleased to announce the return of the Junior Rockhound program. Mark Lantz has been working hard to come up with a curriculum that will keep the young ones interested while learning about our hobby. The Juniors will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month starting at 9AM in the clubhouse. Dates are Aug 12, Aug 26. 9:00am - 11:45 + 15 minute Clean up.

But we need kids. Please spread the word. You can contact Mark directly with questions and suggestions at [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

Finally, I want to thank you for all you do to keep this club great. I receive many comments from returning members that our club is the most welcoming and friendly it has ever been. That's because of you! Keep up the good work and keep spreading the word.

*Dave Duncan*  
President



*FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY*

**LOST, FOUND AND LOST AGAIN The Crown Jewel Mine:** Investigated by Scott Gray Wagonmaster with research assistance from Mine Data.

Is it luck that leads one to a treasure? Is it fate? Hard work? In the case of David Bernstein and The Crown Jewel Mine it was all three. Nestled in the San Bernardino National Forest southeast of Hemet, CA the discovery of The Crown Jewel was a circumstance every one of us hopes to experience: finding our own treasure chest.

It all started in March 1990. Bernstein, an amateur prospector, decided to explore Bautista Canyon looking for potential gem bearing pegmatite outcrops. He was in the right place, with gem quality aquamarine found in the Cahuilla's to the west and watermelon tourmaline to the East on Thomas Mountain Bautista canyon had long been known for having the potential for additional gemstone discoveries. Bernstein decided to explore along the Alessandro Trail, a well known hiking and dirt bike trail. Finding the terrain a little steep and rough he instead headed upstream on the seasonal Bautista Creek from its intersection with Alessandro Trail. Within several hundred feet of the trail, and less than a 1/4 mile from Bautista Cyn Rd, he spied what he took to be a pegmatite within a few feet of the creek. With a pick and other hand tools he managed to get a crack started in the outcrop where a tree was growing out of it. Finding the rock unyielding to much more than that crack David decided he could probably get his 4x4 Jeep up the creek bed and use the winch mounted on it to further exploit the crevice he started. It was the right move. After encircling the cable around the boulder entangled in tree roots, he managed to make progress. Hearing a sound like "a cork popping out of a champagne bottle" the tree and adjoining rock pulled apart and in the exposed debris were smoky quartz crystals, some up to a foot long.



The following month he staked a claim and The Crown Jewel was born. While no aquamarine or tourmaline was found Bernstein did uncover many pounds of fine gem quality smoky quartz crystals. Also found in the deposit were a few gemmy blue apatite crystals, a rare and unusual find indeed for this area. His work on the outcrop continued intermittently for 4 more years and additional, but smaller, pockets of quartz crystals were found until the deposit was depleted.

What I find most amazing about the Crown Jewel was it's discovery by one of us; a rockhound. This area was extensively prospected and there are still active gold and gemstone claims in the canyon. Even the state geologists, who mapped the area and made notation of marble outcrops just a few yards away from the mine, didn't realize was literally right under their own feet. I visited the canyon regularly in the early 90's and had even hiked up the Alessandro Trail trying to locate crystals of my own. We had even taken the kids up to the creek to play in the water and cool off, never realizing 600' away from us was a little known gem producer. I visited the site a few years ago after learning of it and the only signs showing something of value was here were the scattered pieces of graphic granite and a rotting 4 x 4 post with "Crown Jewel" stenciled on its side. Every time I'm out rock-hounding now I think of the crown jewel. Maybe, just maybe, with Lady Luck smiling down on me and a little hard work I will find my own Crown Jewel.



**GET YOURS NOW, LIMITED EDITION OF 200 ONLY!!**

The board has approved the design which is titled the Bucket Brigade showing a woman rockhound with bucket, and pick in hand, with a desert background, club name and Est. 1947. Nice job Steve! Come by the shop to pickup a few.

The design is large on the back of a quality tee shirt, in an off white color that matches the theme of the design. The design is repeated on the front left breast area.

All shirts will be \$25.00. Payable in CASH or CHECK made payable to VVGMC. No credit cards

**Sizes are:**

- SMALL
- MEDIUM
- LARGE
- XTRA LARGE
- DOUBLE XL
- TRIPLE XL



We also have stickers the design for \$1.00 each

# VVGMc'S MISSION, VALUES & VISION STATEMENTS



**Mr. President Dave Duncan**, showing some of his Rock Collection in the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club's display case for all to see.

You too can display your rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry or design your own idea for the case. Volunteers Wanted. August brings in Pam Trozera. Let's all wish Dave a safe and healthy recovery from his recent surgery!

I thank Dave just about every time I see him, for all he does and has done to help make this one of the best clubs in Southern California. We have some of the best instructors as well. If you agree, please let others know how to become a member. Contact Becka McNeil VP of Membership. [vp@vvgmc.org](mailto:vp@vvgmc.org)

## MISSION

The purpose of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences.

To encourage study in these subjects, arrange field trips for exploration and the collection of specimens.

To promote the interest of young people and foster classes in mineralogy and lapidary art, through all means which are appropriate for these objectives.

## VALUES

We value the **welcoming** of all who come through our doors.

We Value **communication, collaboration** and **teamwork** for the sake of the club's greater good.

We value **camaraderie** with one another while having fun.

We Value **integrity, honesty** and **respect** as the highest standards in all that we do.

We value **Educational opportunities** for the young and old alike.

We value the **facilitation of creativity through inspiration** and words of **encouragement**.

We value the **quality** performance and work over that of quantity.

We value passing on our knowledge, leaving a **legacy** for future generations

## VISION

The vision of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club is to be the High Desert's foremost mineralogy, Earth Sciences, and Lapidary arts club.

Remember folks this club has been around for 75 years and soon to be entering the period of it's 76th. The Mission, Values, and Vision are as first visioned by it's founders and now part of the clubs values, and mission to retain and honor as time passes, and we grow.

Your support is always appreciated, and needed to make our / your club a success.

## California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the months of July, August & September closest to our location

### August 19-20, 2023 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
 Annual Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Show  
 500 East "F" Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561  
 Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM  
 Gems and minerals, jewelry, activities for kids and much more. Free admission.  
 Contact: (661) 972-1117, [travis462@outlook.com](mailto:travis462@outlook.com)  
 Website: <https://www.tvgms.rocks>

### August 26-27, 2023 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
 Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007  
 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
 Contact: (626) 260-7239  
 Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

### September 16-17, 2023 – San Luis Obispo, CA

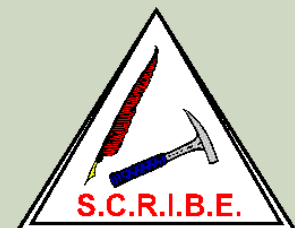
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club  
 San Luis Obispo Veteran's Memorial Building, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
 Gems by the Sea Show. Admission: \$5, Children 12 and under Free. Free parking.  
 Contact: [2023show@slogem.org](mailto:2023show@slogem.org)  
 Website: <http://slogem.org>

### October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA

Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society  
 Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755  
 "Gems on the Hill" Annual Show  
 Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM = 4 PM  
 Contact: (562) 253-1390, [lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com)  
 Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

### October 14-15, 2023 – Redwood City, CA

Penninsula Gem and Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society  
 Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Rosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061  
 Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM  
 Contact: (650) 575-3144, [cci@pacbell.net](mailto:cci@pacbell.net)



**BOARD MEMBERS.....**

**President.** / Dave Duncan, PH: 831-406-0214 / EMAIL : [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

**Vice President / Membership.** Becca McNeil / EMAIL: [vp@vvgmc.org](mailto:vp@vvgmc.org)

**Vice President II / Education.** Annie Nelson

**Recording Secretary /** Dwayna Barron / EMAIL: [recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org)

**Treasurer /** Cory Beck [treasurer@vvgmc.org](mailto:treasurer@vvgmc.org)

**Board Member /** 2 Year term - Lorie Cunningham, Pam Trozera

**Board Member /** 1 year term - Mark Lantz

**Board Member /** Lia Hamilton

**Maintenance /** George Robles, [Thanks for all you do George!](#)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

**CFMS /** This position of great responsibility has been claimed by long time member Dwayne Barron. [We can expect good things ahead!](#)

**Wagon Master /** Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Algot Stephenson / [Welcome aboard!](#)

**Newsletter /** Jake Brouwer / EMAIL: [jakelsdg@verizon.net](mailto:jakelsdg@verizon.net)

**Photography /** Ross Quinn

**Junior Rockhound Program:** Director Mark Lantz

**Tailgate Chairman:** Mark Lantz / email [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

**Webmaster / Tech /** Jim Fosse, PH: 760-245-8644 / EMAIL: [info@vvgmc.org](mailto:info@vvgmc.org)

**INSTRUCTORS.....**

Janet Fletcher                      Mary Lou Fletcher                      Dwayna Barron    Chris Koch                      Steve Rucker  
Mark Lantz                      Dave Duncan    Lia Hamilton                      Gayland Graves                      Blaine Witte

**FLOATING INSTRUCTOR** Blain Witte.

**ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Beca McNeil, Ross Quinn, Lorie Cunningham. Also introducing **Stine Smith** who has completed training to become an Associate Instructor. [Congratulations and thank you Stine and all the rest for your help!](#)



## VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB Junior Rockhounds Program

Brought to you by the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club by Committee Chairman Mark Lantz. Mr. Lantz has been a club member for 3 years. He is also a board member and Chairman of the Annual Tailgate Rock and Gem show at Stoddard Wells each year. Mark joined the club, looking for something to do. "I enjoyed the field trips, lapidary work, and jewelry making as well as meeting people and sharing successful and unsuccessful projects. Lots of good coaching."

Mark Lantz taught 6th - 12th grade Earth Science, and Geophysical Science for 33 years. Prior to that he directed YMCA resident camps, day camps and afterschool "latchkey" programs. He is also an Eagle Scout as were his 2 sons. Scoutmaster for 5 years and also a counselor.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Future Rockhounds of America is a nationwide program within the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that develops and delivers quality youth activities in the earth sciences and lapidary arts in a fun, family environment. Our underlying goals are to foster science literacy and arts education through structured activities that are engaging and challenging and by which kids - and the adults who mentor them - learn while having fun.

**JUNIOR MEMBER GUIDELINES:** Age's of members will be 8 years to 17 years. Upon the 18th year a junior member may join the adult members with all of it's privilege's with the regular membership process.

Junior members 8 - 10 years old can only use the following motorized equipment; Glass Grinder, "All You Needs," and tile saws. Ages 10 - 14 can use all the equipment in the saw room, grinding room and common areas of the club. In the silver room they can use the polisher, the drill press, and bench grinder. They cannot use any silver working equipment. **All junior members must be constantly supervised by their parent or guardian (standing right next to the junior member. The parent or guardian must be certified on the equipment being used. They must also be a member of the club.** Members from age 14-18 can use all the equipment stated in the proceeding paragraph only if they are certified on the equipment but not necessarily next to them. No Junior Member may use the silver processing equipment which includes, burn out ovens, mold making equipment or any torches.

All Junior Members must have Parent or Guardian with them during any and all other club activities like Pot Luck luncheons, Meetings and Field Trips, etc.

All Members must follow the direction of any Club Instructor (even if they are not on duty>)

All Members must follow all of the Club's Safety Rules.

Aside from learning about rockhounding, collecting, Junior Members will earn badges in up to 20 categories pertaining to all things rock and mineral relate subjects.

Lastly, at this time the group membership for Junior Rockhounds is limited to 12 new members. Depending on turnout, we may, in time expand the number.

**FIRST TWO MEETINGS ARE AUGUST 12, 2023 AND AUGUST 26, 2023**  
**Educational Classes start at 9:00am - 11:45am, Cleanup 11:45-12:00pm**

## Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club



Invites kids and their parent to join us as we present  
**the Junior Rockhound Program**

This program is created by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). The program is designed to reward youth with a series of badges, or patches upon completion of a topic. The program includes topics such as;

***Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils,  
Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Field Trips, and much more.***



**Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday of each month 9:00 – 11:45**

**Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club**

**15056 – B 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Victorville, CA 92395**

**760-243-2330**

**If you are interested, contact:**

**Mark Lantz**

**[marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)**



## Education night! July 17, 2023 Tuesday. Recap

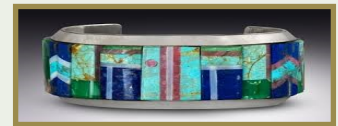
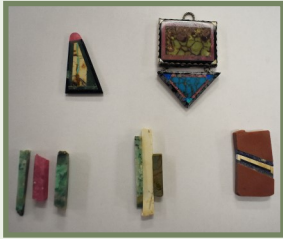
Tuesday the 17 of July the club held a demonstration on lapidary intarsia, presented by club member and instructor Gayland Graves. Gayland first displayed samples of some of his intarsia pieces and passed them around the room. Many wondered as did I as to how this feat is accomplished. Sara Arnold also brought in some pieces that made the rounds in the photo on the right.

What is stone or lapidary intarsia? Stone, or lapidary intarsia is **the technique of combining different pieces of stone into patterns, often combining them with metals.**

Gayland also laid out materials that were suitable for intarsia projects. There were synthetics in amazing colors like the lime green and bright blue pieces he used for his interpretation of surfboard pendant for a next chain. In addition were simple left over pieces from other projects that appeared to be perfect for future projects.

The first steps were picking pieces and getting them into proper shapes. Some discussion was made regarding sanding / grinding stones so there was no light between any pieces before gluing together. Gayland recommended Lock Tite Super Glue. Members asked questions about how to remove the glue; sanding and nail polish remover were suggested.

On the left is a machine that was used and demonstrated by Gayland. It was for making the special angles needed in some intarsia pieces. On the right, speaker and instructor Gayland Graves adds water to the machine to keep the machine running smooth! THX Gayland!



## Education night! August 8, 2023 @ 6:00pm

A presentation, by means of demonstration by our Treasurer, Board Member, Past President **Corey Beck**. This will be the second class by Corey, his first was an introduction to wire wrapping, which had a great attendance of people wanting to know how wire wrapping is done.

This will be a demo on doing a different type of wire wrapping. No supplies or materials are needed, but be sure to bring pen and paper to take notes.



Mr. Cory Beck, on right side of table, with a group of members wanting to add to their knowledge, another facet of lapidary arts, wire wrapping.





## FROM THE BOOK CORNER

**Books you should know about!** By Scott Gray, Wagon master & Newsletter Contributor.

### ***Collecting Agates And Jaspers Of North America* by Patti Polk:**

Do you like agates, jaspers, and chalcedonies in all their colors, variations, and myriad of inclusions? How about figuring out where those half forgotten dusty slabs in the corner of your garage may have come from? Or are you like me and too cheap to spend \$250 bucks on a coffee table sized book that has the worlds greatest agates ever found in it but still want to look at beautiful pictures of mouthwatering slabs and display pieces? If any of this describes you, then you just may want to pick up *Collecting Agates And Jaspers Of North America* by Patti Polk.

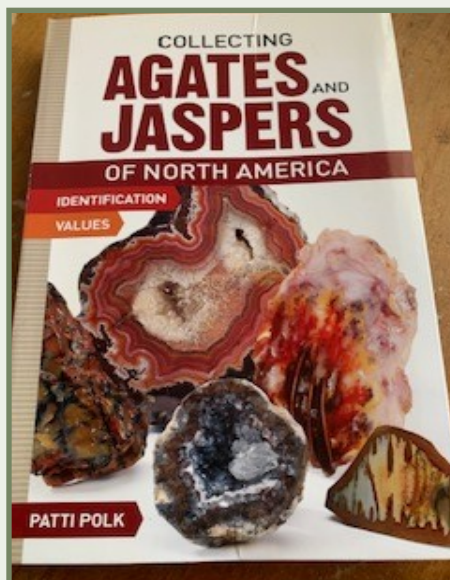
While at first glance this may seem like just a catalog of the various quartz family gemstones found throughout our geologically rich continent, upon further scrutiny you realize this is a ode to agates and jaspers, flints and cherts, with a liberal sprinkling of chalcedonies, geodes, and thunder eggs added throughout. Polk loves agates and her love of these banded beauties becomes more apparent the deeper you dig into her guide. Starting in Alabama USA and ending in Zacatecas Mexico, Polk covers all the big hitters and many lesser known materials alike. Each section on a particular state or province starts with a brief geology lesson on the environments the particular stones for that place are found in then continues with beautiful full color pictures that pop right out of book! I found myself trying to grab a Horse Canyon Agate and a Hornitos Poppy Jasper right off the page! Patti has one heck of a collection and reading this will make you want to add yours, whether through trade, purchase, or good old collecting out in the field. Fairburn's Nipomo's, L.S.A's, Graveyard Point's; whatever your favorite flavor of agate or jasper is, it's here.

I've found this book extremely helpful in identifying unlabeled material I've purchased at

flea markets and yard sales, like the gorgeous piece of Stone Canyon Jasper I picked up for next to nothing!

Also I could finally put a face, so to speak, to all those names I'd heard of over the years but have yet to run across in person! With a extended introduction that includes lots of handy info on folklore, lapidary history, terminology, and a value guide this is definitely a neat addition to anyone's rock related library. C

***Collecting Agates And Jaspers Of North America*** can easily be found on Amazon and other online retail book sellers and retails for \$22.99 but can usually be purchased for around \$17 bucks.



Members, Just so you know, Scott Gray, Wagonmaster, rockhound, explorer, club newsletter contributor and general all round good guy, has been working on finding new leads for the fall season of field trips. Some old favorites and hopefully getting clearance to some spots to find new material. Last year we had some fun trips, lots of rocks collected and shared at club meetings and workshops.



Recently in print in the Los Angeles Times was an article titled "Rockhounds fight for access to their jewel in the Desert:"

#### **The Mojave Trails National Park.**

Published July 16, 2023.  
Written by Louis Sahagun With Photography by Iran Khan, both on teams winning a Pulitzer Prizes with the L.A. Times.

The writers speak of Gregor Lossen, A dyed-in-the-wool rockhound as he takes you to his favorite mineral hunting grounds in the Mojave Desert. It's in the Cady Mountains. But, that might not be the case much longer.

The article brings to light the problems with the BLM stating it could declare rock collecting a form of mining and ceasing collection of rocks.

How will thousands of rockhounds be able to continue their pastimes, and not be considered criminals?

Will legal challenges, win out or are we going to be like most other National Monuments, barred from rockhounding? Check out the link below.

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2023-07-16/rockhounds-fight-for-access-to-jewels-of-california-desert>

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1947, as a 501/C4 non profit education club. Visitors are always welcome.

Our objective and purpose is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects through various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparations, 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.

**QUIET SHOP DAY, THURS. 10am-2pm**  
**SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00**  
**SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—NOON—5 pm**  
**SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 2:00pm - 5 pm**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS**

**INSTRUCTORS MEETING - MONDAY AUG 1, 3pm**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MONDAY AUGUST 1, 2023. 4:30pm**  
**CLUB CLEAN UP DAY, Saturday, August 5, 10:00am**  
**EDUCATION NIGHT: AUGUST 8, 2023 6:00pm**  
**GENERAL MEETING - AUG 19, 12:00 - 2:00 pm,**  
with Pot Luck, Silent auction & Door prizes.  
Shop work resumes 2:00 -5:00 pm.

**THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER...**

Published by the Victor Valley Gem & Mineral club and is distributed free of charge electronically to the members by email. Views expressed by authors in the articles appearing in THE BULLETIN do not necessarily reflect those of the VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB The editor publishes content as presented with minor changes for continuity.

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**Articles and pictures are due by the 25-28 for July.**

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