



# THE BULLETIN



AUGUST 2024

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**LET'S HAVE A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBER.**

**AUGUST 2024**

**GLORIA STRICKLAND**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING & EVENTS!**

**COME ON IN AND SHARE OUR POTLUCK LUNCHEON, JOIN IN WITH THE COMRADERY WITH NEW FRIENDS.**

**LISTEN IN ON NEW CLUB NEWS, EVENTS, GOINGS ON WITH OTHERS IN THE CLUB, AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE US THE BEST CLUB IN THE HIGH DESERT AND SURROUNDING AREAS.**

**PICK UP SOME ROCKS WHILE YOU'RE THERE, AND GET SOME ROCK WORK DONE AFTER 2:30PM, THE WORKSHOP IS OPEN**

## President's Message for August

**Greetings to all our fabulous members and rockhounds everywhere.**

**August is here and cooler weather will be here before you know it.**

**Meanwhile, here are somethings you could do while waiting for the heat to abate:**

Go collecting at the beach. Several of our SoCal beaches are known to have collectable material, and who doesn't want to be at the beach in August?

Go to the Alf Museum of Paleontology in Clairmont. They have lots of fossils and great displays. In fact we are arranging for a behind the scene tour for our club. Stay tuned!

Go to the San Bernardino County Museum. Among many other things, they have a great mineral collection (Including Fluorescent minerals). One thing that stuck with me is their collection of different colors and varieties of Smithsonite. I never knew Smithsonite comes in so many colors.

Work on your Lapidary and Jewelry skills. We have a great shop that is well equipped with just about everything you need. And, even better, there are always other members and instructors willing to share their knowledge during your visit.

**Please stay safe in this heat. We read about hikers dying in this heat all the time. And they aren't even carrying rocks!**

*Dave Duncan, President*

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS FROM WAGON MASTER SCOTT GRAY

**There will be no VVGMC field trips during the heat of summer. We're sure Scott will have some exciting excursions planned for the Fall.**



Scott Gray

### ***Rocks, Minerals and Today* By Cristiane Stoll.**

#### **Discover the Wonders of Copper: A Fascinating Element!**

Hello Copper Enthusiasts!

Today, we're diving into the vibrant world of copper, a metal that's not only essential but incredibly interesting! Whether you're a science buff, a history lover, or just curious about the materials that make up our world, copper has a story that's sure to captivate you. Let's explore some fascinating facts about this versatile element.

A beautiful pendant of Fire Opal created by Odi Oriva a fellow club member.



**1. The Ancient Marvel** Copper is one of the first metals ever used by humans. Our ancestors discovered its malleable properties over 10,000 years ago, making tools, jewelry, and even the first coins. That's right – copper was used for currency long before the invention of paper money!

**2. A Conductor Extraordinaire** When it comes to conducting electricity, copper is a superstar. Its high conductivity makes it the go-to material for electrical wiring and electronics. Next time you flip a switch, remember it's copper that's helping to light up your world!

**3. Colorful Chemistry** Unlike most metals, copper boasts a distinctive reddish-brown hue. But it doesn't stop there – when exposed to air, it forms a beautiful green patina, the same one you see on the Statue of Liberty. This natural tarnishing not only protects the metal but adds a touch of elegance and history.

**4. Health Hero** Copper isn't just useful in industry; it's vital for our health too. Our bodies need copper to function properly, aiding in the formation of red blood cells and maintaining healthy bones, nerves, and immune systems. Plus, copper's antimicrobial properties make it a popular choice for hospital surfaces and medical devices.

**5. Sustainable Superstar** Good news for the environmentally conscious: copper is 100% recyclable without any loss of quality! In fact, almost 80% of all the copper ever mined is still in use today. Recycling copper saves energy and reduces the need for mining, making it a win for both us and the planet.

**6. A Touch of Luxury** Copper's appeal extends to the world of interior design. Its warm tones and shiny finish add a touch of luxury and sophistication to any space. From kitchenware to decorative accents, copper is making a chic comeback in modern homes.

**7. Musical Magic**

Did you know copper plays a key role in music? Brass instruments like trumpets, trombones, and tubas are primarily made from copper alloys. These instruments wouldn't have their rich, resonant sounds without this amazing metal.

**8. Copper in Technology**

Copper is crucial in renewable energy technologies, such as wind turbines and solar panels. As we move towards a greener future, copper's role in sustainable technology will only continue to grow, making it a hero in the fight against climate change. So, the next time you see a shiny penny, an elegant copper pot, or the green patina of an old building, take a moment to appreciate the remarkable journey and incredible properties of copper. It's not just a metal; it's a vital part of our history, our technology, and our future.

Stay curious and keep exploring the wonders around you!



Copper is a soft pliant metal able to hold the most intricate of patterns.



Often used by jewelry makers to highlight the stones they are using.



Chalcanthite included Calcite in Copper. Africa From the collection of John Alcorn, Editor

*Education night with Lia Hamilton.*

On Tuesday August 13, 2024 6:00pm, Lia Hamilton will introduce some knowledge from her bank of experience, talking wire wrapping your stones. Also she will introduce Pam Trozera our two-year VVGMC Board Member, and Ody Oriva VVGMC's California Federation of Mineral Society liaison who graciously said he would come in as well.

I have not seen any of Pam's Work, but have been assure she has a lot of talent, which we have seen before in cabochons and other creations.

Ody Oliva's work, I have seen online, Facebook. Very talented artist in a number of fields. Below is a piece of his wire wrapped fire opal.

Lia says there are many types of patterns for wire wrapping. We have seen others before from by Corey and then, Vilma, Sasha are also very talented. Should be an enjoyable evening. Hoping many members will show up.



## California Federation of Mineral Societies Show Dates

For the month of August closest to our location

### August 2-4, 2024 – Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444

Hours: Friday 10 AM-5 PM, Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4 PM

56th Annual Rainbow of Gems: Over 60 rock, gem and fossil dealers including food trucks. Kid's booth, Treasure Chest with Raffle at 3:00pm on Sunday.

Contact: (805) 929-2783, nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com

Website: <http://omsinc.org>

### August 17-18, 2024 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F" St., Tehachapi, CA 93561

Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Both Days

Tehachapi Valley 18th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Mountain Festival weekend.

Fun for the whole family, activities for the kids, raffles, and more.

Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com

Website: <http://tvgms.rocks>

### August 24-25, 2024 – Arcadia, CA Pasadena Lapidary Society Arcadia Masonic Lodge,

50 W. Duarte, Arcadia, CA 91007 Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Contact: (626) 260-7239, marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

### October 12-13, 2024 – Long Beach, CA

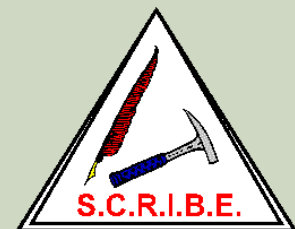
Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society

Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

2024 Gems on the Hill

Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com





**BOARD MEMBERS, CHAIRS, INSTRUCTORS.....**

**President.** / Dave Duncan, EMAIL : [president@vvgmc.org](mailto:president@vvgmc.org)

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

**2nd Vice President: Education.** Lia Hamilton

**3rd Vice President: Tailgate Chairman, Junior Rockhounds Chairman, Mark Lantz** EMAIL [marklantz53@gmail.com](mailto:marklantz53@gmail.com)

**Recording Secretary /** Mark Lantz (temporary) / EMAIL: [recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@vvgmc.org)

**Treasurer /** Janalee (Jan) Arnold

**Corresponding Secretary /** Jake Brouwer

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

**Board Member /** Sara Arnold, Past President

**Board Member /** Cory Beck

**Maintenance /** Temporarily unavailable.



**COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....**

**CFMS /** Ody Oriva

**Wagon Master /** Scott Gray

**Librarian /** Algot Stephenson

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

Editor in training John Alcorn : [john.alcorn42@outlook.com](mailto:john.alcorn42@outlook.com)

**Photography /** Temporarily unavailable .

**Webmaster / Tech /** Jim Fosse / EMAIL: [info@vvgmc.org](mailto:info@vvgmc.org)

**Facebook /** Stina Smith



Send your articles in by the 23rd of Each month!  
[John.alcorn42@outlook.com](mailto:John.alcorn42@outlook.com)  
 THANK YOU!



**INSTRUCTORS:**

Janet Fletcher Mary Lou Fletcher Dwayna Barron Chris Koch Stina Smith

Mark Lantz Dave Duncan Lia Hamilton Gayland Graves Beka McNeil Lorie Cunningham

**ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS** Algot Stephenson. Ann Musik



The grading crew hard at it to produce a bright, new parking lot.

## A Trip Report From George and Sue Sutton

Greetings fellow rock hounds. When George & I took a 7 week trip to Spain, Austria, Italy, & Germany, we missed out on some good classes at the club, but we were never far from some beautiful rocks.

The most interesting to me were the hairy crystal rocks in a Bolzano museum, never saw that before. Hiking in the Alps was a treat, too. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I'll end with wishing you an enjoyable time looking at the photos which complete this letter to y'all. See you later, Sue Sutton



## Education Night with George Ast

Fellow Rock hounds and Fossil Hunters. Below is a photo of Mr. George Ast, from our Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club. George sells at a number of Fossil Shows primarily in the Southwest and on the West Coast.

George started collecting after going to a museum when he was 8 years old. After a stint in the United States Navy and Cal State college where he studied geology, he spent many years combing the deserts for fossils, often times with his friend John Alcorn, our newsletter editor.

Some, like the Villars took extensive notes as their children are home schooled and took advantage of the talk on fossils. His talk was interesting, and with added humorous stories of collecting, he kept the education seekers, engaged. Before you knew it two hours had passed.

Thanks so much, George Ast for the air conditioned adventure! Check out George online at [Fossils Inc.](#)





**Welcome all club members to our potluck luncheon** for August 17, 2024 starts at 12:00pm. Birthday cakes for those celebrating this month will be needed for deserts. We ask all, that you bring with you an entrée, side dish, salad or fruit to the luncheon. The meeting will start with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to remember members and friends that are no longer with us. The General Meeting will start after tables are cleaned up. Try to make it, as in these meetings we discuss state of affairs for the club, planning, and other news. Afterwards there are door prizes of rocks, and minerals, and other items. Tickets will be passed out at the door. Extra tickets are available. We will also have rocks on display to enjoy and to have some fun with exciting rocks, gems, fossils and other related items available to members. Once the meeting is over those that wish to work in the shop may start. New for August; Batting Cages, volunteering, workshops



**AUGUST BIRTHSTONE:**

**Peridot**

Known as the **stone of compassion**, peridot is believed to bring good health, restful sleep and peace to relationships by balancing

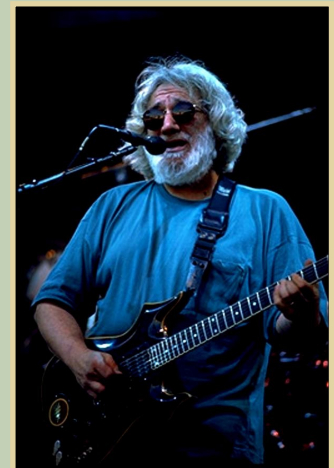
emotions and mind. This friendly bright green stone also has the uncanny ability to inspire eloquence and creativity; it also brings delight and good cheer.

**August Birthdays**

- GEORGE AST
- JIM FOSSE
- LISA SMITH
- STEVE HARRIS
- DEBBY BENTON
- SASHA GRAY
- PATTI DEER
- LORIE ROBERTS
- CYNTHIA RUIZ
- EMILY MASON
- ROBERT HEMPHILL
- CYRIL STELLMACH
- MARTIN DEPEDRO
- ABBIE ROSENTHAL
- GOLDIE CROCKET
- SUSAN BROUWER

**ROCK STAR BIRTHDAY *Jerry Garcia* August 1 (1942-1995)**

Jerome “Jerry” Garcia was one of the most successful, accomplished and beloved musicians of his era. Best known as principal songwriter, lead guitarist and vocalist for the Grateful Dead and the Jerry Garcia Band, he had an eclectic musical career that ranged from folk to rock to bluegrass.







*Making your own knapping tools can be a fun, educational journey in its own right. I certainly learned many ways to make inferior tools before I settled on what I use now.*

## Tools for Direct Percussion

By Ken Villars

Hammer Stones are the first tools to add to your kit that you won't have to make, and you may even have some in your yard already. Hammer stones can vary in size and shape, but start with several round stones from racquetball size down to about 1" in diameter. For the smaller ones, a flattened oval might be easier to hold. Sand stone is perfect for obsidian. For tougher knapping material like chert or jasper, solid river cobbles without visible cracks will hold up longer than sandstone, but they will work better if they have a grainy or rough texture.

Hammer stones can double as an abrader, which is a tool used before every flake.

Lead Filled Copper Boppers take some trouble to make, but can give excellent results.

**CAUTION: MOLTEN LEAD EMITS TOXIC VAPORS, ASIDE FROM THE DANGER OF BURNING YOURSELF. USE A FAN TO BLOW THE VAPORS AWAY FROM YOU AND WORK OUTSIDE.**

You need some copper plumbing caps of various sizes. I prefer 1 1/4", 1 1/2", and 1 3/4" (with the latter mainly for taking larger flakes and spalls), and 1" and 7/8" can sometimes be useful. Set a box end wrench of the appropriate size vertically and securely in a vice, place the copper cap over the round end, and rotated it as you tap with a hammer until you have a dome. It is tedious but you may be surprised how quickly you can get one ready. Then you just have to melt lead in the cap, leaving room for the copper to grip a wooden handle, and epoxy it all together (if the lead comes loose from the copper cap, epoxy it in place as well). I've had a lot of success by carefully placing a bolt or lag screw in the molten lead in the cap, as perpendicular as possible. The lead cools quickly, securing the screw in place. By center drilling a slightly over sized hole in the handle, the epoxy will have more surface area. Without that step, a cap may occasionally come off before it is worn out. The copper will be soft after the molten lead, but it will work-harden as you use it. It is a good idea to tap the face of the bopper with a hammer every now and then when it gets too rough. A uniform surface helps with taking more predictable flakes.

## A Visit to The Raymond Alf Museum of Paleontology

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology with Corey Beck and Dave Duncan. The Alf Museum, in Claremont is situated in a building that is a two story circle, all of the exhibits are displayed on the inside or outside of it. Fascinating specimens of different trackways of various fossil animals are predominate, as that was Alf’s main focus. Some fossils from the Barstow area are shown.

The Director of the museum, Andrew Farke, spotted our president, Dave, in his club shirt and struck up a conversation with him. Out of that conversation; Andy has made himself available to visit the club on education night and also said a group of club members would be welcome to visit the museum for a “behind the scenes” tour. More on that later.

The Alf Museum is close by and easily visited in a morning or afternoon. There is a small fee for entry and, since it is a high school campus, you will be checked for security. Go and enjoy yourselves. *By John Alcorn*



Above: The evolution of Horses  
 Across: Dave Duncan and Andy Farke Phd.

## THANK YOU!!!

In this section we would like to of someone who deserves an extra thank you, please send them here. Thank you!

**JANET**, Thank you for assisting George Robles with the repair work on the big saw. You do, of course, more than that and The Bulletin hopes to do an article soon featuring you, your adventures and contributions.

**GAYLAND**, Thank you very much for the donation of treat the club sells during workdays. Your intarsia is beautiful, and we thank you for

## Grinding news

The Genies have all had their 80 Grit wheels replaced.

## Corey and Chris do a tutorial about the proper cutting of Tiger's Eye



It takes a bit of knowledge of the rock. Whether it is in the proper aspect for good results. Cutting against "the grain" is important otherwise you loose the effect you are trying to display.



\*\*\*\*\*Please have any articles , notes, photos or anything else you would like to see or feel is necessary news to John by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month\*\*\*\*\*

**This is a fine report from Jack Villars about his experiences in the Junior program.**

My name is Jack Villars, and my sister, Darla, and I are new members that have been enjoying the Junior Rockhounds Program. This program's main focus is to teach children skills that the average rock hound should have. It meets about twice a month, generally on Saturday, at nine o'clock in the morning, and is taught by Mark Lantz.



Jack Villars

One of the skills we learned is making a cabochon, using a trim saw, dop pot, lapidary grinder/polisher, and polishing wheel. It was harder than I thought, but it was worth it.

Another thing that we learned was map and compass skills. The reason this is important is because if you want to find rocks, you need to first know where they are and secondly how to get there. You also need to know north, south, east, and west without a compass.

Other things that we do are field trips and walks. These are few and far between, but they are fun when they occur. They are usually small and simple, but entertaining nonetheless.

We are enjoying spending time with our fellow junior members. They are very fun to be around and we have some great friendships now. In the junior program, there's no greater pleasure than completing something. Being there makes you feel content. It's awesome.

Jack, thank you for your fine article. You are learning quite a bit in a year, and you have badges to prove it. Congratulations on your first piece published for public view. Being able to communicate what you have learned is a very important skill as you grow.

*Enjoy yourself! Best wishes from Jake Brouwer, and new Editor John Alcorn, who being a teacher with 30 years experience was quite pleased with what you wrote.*

**Hello club members, and others.** Mark Lantz spent 33 years in education on the 6th - 12th grade level in geology and earth sciences. Just one of his hobbies is lapidary work. When Mark volunteered for this position with the club, he studied for many hours honing his skills with the CFMS, and AFMS guidelines on teaching their programs for Junior Rockhounds. We all are so grateful to have him working with the youth in our community. What these children are learning here with the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club is something you will not find in many schools these days. So much has been cut from education in areas of the arts, music and in this case geology, earth sciences, and a hobby known as lapidary arts. Many families like the Villar's are home schooling their children. Think about how this could help your family and give the club a call and see how you can join with your family. *Editor* PS, summer is a great time to learn in the shop! AC! Give the club a call for your appointment and bring your children. and see the wonders we offer!



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 though 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.

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS**

**SHOP DAY:TUES 13, 20, 27, 2024 12:00pm - 5:00 pm**

**SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 2:00pm- 8:00**

**SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS—12:00pm-5 pm**

**SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 12:00pm - 5 pm**

**CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TUES, AUGUST 6, 2024,**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: AUGUST 6, 2024**

**EDUCATION NIGHT: AUGUST 13, 2025 6:00 PM**

**GENERAL MEETING: - AUGUST 17 20, 2024. 12:00 - 2:00 pm, followed by our tradition door prizes, and more. Shop work resumes APPROXIMATLY 2:00 -5:00 pm.**

**JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS: AUGUST 10, AUGUST 24, 2024 - 9:00 AM TO 11:45 AM**

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

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