

MOROKS

DECEMBER 2012

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



DECEMBER 2012 MOROKS NEWSLETTER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Board Mtg. @ Janie's 2pm	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 6 PM Party Max's	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MOROKS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



Club Information Our Website is www.moroks.com

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
VICE PRESIDENT – Cal Matthews	(626) 798-7481
SECRETARY – Michele Silcock	(626) 357 8425
TREASURER – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
AUDITOR – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
FEDERATION – Jo Anna Ritchey	626) 359-1624



CHAIRPERSONS

HISTORIAN – Nancy Hamrick	(626) 357-4106
BULLETIN – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
CUSTODIAN – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
PICNIC – Donald Sneberger	(626) 941-6214
SHOW – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
WEBSITE – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
ROCK RAFFLE - Louise Stack	(626) 966 0350
FIELD TRIP – Ray Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
PHOTO – Donald Sneberger	(626) 941 6214
FELLOWSHIP/cards – Louise Stack	(626) 966-0350
REPRESENTATIVE – Gail Parks	(626) 359-6811
REPRESENTATIVE – Camille Rutkowski	(626) 289-2621

Membership: Annual donations are \$15.00 per member and \$5.00 per each additional member at the same address. \$10.00 per name badge is payable on the date of initiation.

Meetings: MOROKS meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. At 7:00 pm, in the basement of the United Methodist Church of Monrovia, located at 140 E. Palm Ave. Monrovia CA 91016. The building is on the corner of Ivy & Palm Ave. We use the door where there is handicapped access in the alley on the west side of the building. Do not try to enter from the front of the building. Guests are always welcome at our General Meetings. Please come and share our love of rocks.

Information: Monrovia Rock Hounds Inc. was founded August 28th, 1957. The club colors are green & white. The club is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing knowledge of the lapidary arts, geology, mineralogy, and other related fields. Members enjoy slide shows, lectures, demonstrations, displays, lapidary classes, our club library as well as field trips for exploration, study and collecting specimens.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Permission to reprint is granted if acknowledgement is given.

We reserve the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

**Monrovia
Rockhounds
December
Birthdays**

Norma MacFarland 10
Veronica Ramirez 19



Field Trip Schedule 2012

This is a combined Schedule from the Whittier, Pasadena, North Orange County and Monrovia Clubs. Each club sponsoring a trip will have a form to sign before each trip with the person leading that trip.

This link is the waiver.

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms10/waiver/waiver.pdf> Websites for these club may have maps and detailed information. Call Ray Ritchey or Cal Matthews for more help.

Dec 8 Pinto Mountains copper minerals
Jan 19-20 Quartzsite

Advice For Rockhound Watchers via Shanee Slate

Can you spot a rockhound? The species isn't rare.
You can tell him by his honest face, and his willingness to share.
You can tell him as he saunters by, his eyes glued to the ground.
No matter where he goes, he's sure there's gemstones to be found.
You can tell him by his friendly smile, he's an all-round pleasant guy;
But the sure-fire way to spot him, is the flashy bola tie!!

The Trivia Vug by RJ Harris VIA Gem Cutters News.

Marie de Medici, a member of that famous Italian family and a 17th-century queen of France, had expensive tastes in clothes. One special dress was outfitted with 39,000 tiny pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and cost the equivalent of twenty million dollars at the time it was made in 1606. She wore it once.

- In medieval times, rock-crystal-filled geodes were associated with fertility and child-birth. It was suggested that women wear geodes to attract love and avoid miscarriages.
- A diamond will not dissolve in acid. The only thing that can destroy it is intense heat.
- A chunk of granite, small enough to hold in one hand, is key evidence that Australia and parts of Antarctica were once attached to North America.
- Paleontologists digging in a brickyard in southern Poland have discovered the remains of a dinosaur they say is a previously unknown ancestor of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. They nicknamed it "The Dragon."



PREZ SEZ

The Christmas party at Max's Mexican Restaurant in Duarte this year! I am looking forward to not having to decorate or clean up! The food there is great and fairly priced! We have room there for guests. Don't forget to bring a \$10 wrapped gift for the gift exchange game and one for each guest.

Janie Duncan



VICE PREZ SEZ

The November Program with Walter Lombardo was very interesting. Our Christmas party is December and I hope to see you all there. Jay Valle will do a January program on how the American Lands Access Association works.

Cal Matthews

November 1st

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING

President: *Janie Duncan* called The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM

Vice President: *Cal Matthews* November will be Walter Lombardo on rubies and sapphires in the USA. December is out Christmas party. January is Jay Valle who will explain the ALAA.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* The minutes were approved as corrected at the board meeting from what was written in the bulletin. There were a few errors.

Representative: *Camille Rutkowski* no report. **Representative:** *Gail Parks* was absent

Auditor: *Jo Anna Ritchey* Absent We still need the last 2 quarters reports in writing.

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. No report.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. The CFMS Show and meeting and General meeting in Visalia this month. Jo Anna will be going and will give us a report when she returns.

Fellowship: *Louise Stack* Tom finished his Chemo! Good news! Jo Anna's surgery is postponed.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* He reported 41 paid members.

Photographer: *Donald Sneberger* Cal took pics at the general meeting as Donald was absent.

Field trip: *Ray Ritchey* The West Coast Show is in Costa Mesa Nov. 9-11.

Rock of the Month Talk: Becky Fregoso will do a wire wrap talk in November. Louise Stack will do Thundereggs in January.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* No report.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* We have a large calcite crystal slab.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* Jim rearranged some of the garage for us.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

Picnic: Donald Sneberger no report.

Refreshments: Tom and Ann will do November.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* was absent. Letters went out to all the dealers. Many more have paid. Janie printed flyers for Jo Anna. We will still need a new banner.

Old Business: *Janie Duncan* 1. Camille Rutkowski and Louise Stack are the chairman of the 2013 nominating committee. You may nominate someone with their permission or contact the committee. The proposed slates is President Janie Duncan Vice President Camille Rutkowski, Treasurer Jim Lloyd. Secretary Michelle Silcock and Auditor Louise Stack.

3. The club voted to have the Christmas Party at Max's Mexican in Duarte 6 PM across from sonic on Huntington Dr. See the flyer in this newsletter.

New Business

1. Janie got a new nickel bank.

2. Remind Janie at the general meeting to get the items needed for the Christmas Party out of the cupboard.

Adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm



Bench Tips by Brad Smith More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at FaceBook facebook.com/BenchTips or at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips

SANDING/POLISHING IN TIGHT PLACES

Often you'll need to sand or polish an area that's impossible to reach with even a small wheel on a flexshaft. Other times it might be the bottom of a pocket or inside bottom corner of a box that needs to be finished. One trick for these nit-picky jobs may be left over from your last Chinese dinner - a chopstick. I've found quite a few uses for these in the shop. Prepare the tip by simply sawing it off at a 45 degree angle. Then apply whatever abrasive grit you will need for the job or hold a strip of sandpaper around the end. Loose grit can be held onto the tip with a bit of Vaseline or oil. Tripoli or rouge can be just rubbed onto the end of the chopstick.

November 15th**MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING**

President: *Janie Duncan* called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President: *Cal Matthews* Tonight will be Walt Lombardo talking on Rubies and sapphires in USA. December is out Christmas party. January is Jay Valle who will explain the ALAA. February is a DVD on Rhodocrosite.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* was absent The minutes were approved as corrected from written in the bulletin.

Representative: *Camille Rutkowski* No report **Representative:** *Gail Parks* was absent.

Treasurer: Jim Lloyd. 41 members.

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* It is up to date.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* We collected nickels. The 2013 CFMS Show and meeting will be at the Ventura County Fairgrounds 2013 May 31-June 2nd. You can take the train there. It is hosted by 3 clubs. Conjo, Ventura and Northridge. Jo Anna represented our club at the CFMS General meeting in Visalia . The report will be in the newsletter.

Fellowship: *Louise Stack* 1 guest our speaker and Em. Judy McCulloch is in the hospital. Tom is done with his chemo!! Ray has a new dentist and Rudy brought some awesome thundereggs in he cut and polished.

Auditor: Jo Anna Ritchey no report.

Photographer: Donald Sneberger took pictures for the club.

Field trip: *Ray Ritchey* Jewel Tunnel open house is Nov. 17th. Orange Belt has a tail gate this month.

Rock of the Month Talk: Becky Fregoso did a great talk on wire wrapping. Louise Stack is working on one for January on Thunder eggs.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* no report. Janie asked about a prepaid credit card. It was moved to the board mtg.

Picnic: *Donald Sneberger* No report.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* Large Calcite from Mexico was won by Denise Davis.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* Jim No report.

Refreshments: Tom and Aynn Freeman did tonight.

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* 7 dealers paid. We have some new dealers lined up!

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* was absent.

Old Business: *Janie Duncan* 1. Camille Rutkowski and Louise Stack are the nominating committee for the 2013 proposed slate of officers. You may contact them is you want to run or be nominated. You must have permission from the person you nominate. This is the slate. President: Janie Duncan Vice President: |Camille Rutkowski Treasures: Jim Lloyd Sectary: Michele Silcock Auditor Louise Stack.

2. Christmas Party at Max's Mexican Restaurant at 6pm in the private room. Buy your own dinner. See the flyer in this newsletter!!!! Gift game!

New Business: *Janie Duncan*

Janie Duncan Adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

Top Ten Mineral TV Shows:

10. "I Love Leucite" 9. "Broken Hill 90210" 8. "Third Natural Aggregate of One or More Minerals From the Sun" 7. "Divorce Quartz" 6. "Little Heist in the Quarry" 5. "S*T*A*S*H" 4. "Pey-dirt Place" 3. "Leaverite to Beaverite" 2. "The Rockhead Files" 1. "Eight is Never Enough" *Via the Roll'in Rock*



<http://www.amlands.org> for more information on what you can do to protect our rock sites.

Fossil of Ancient Spider Attack Only One of Its Type Ever Discovered



CORVALLIS, Ore. – Researchers have found what they say is the only fossil ever discovered of a spider attack on prey caught in its web – a 100 million-year-old snapshot of an engagement frozen in time.

The extraordinarily rare fossils are in a piece of amber that preserved this event in remarkable detail, an action that took place in the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar in the Early Cretaceous between 97-110 million years ago, almost certainly with dinosaurs wandering nearby.

Aside from showing the first and only fossil evidence of a spider attacking prey in its web, the piece of amber also contains the body of a male spider in the same web. This provides the oldest evidence of social behavior in spiders, which still exists in some species but is fairly rare. Most spiders have solitary, often cannibalistic lives, and males will not hesitate to attack immature species in the same web.

“This juvenile spider was going to make a meal out of a tiny parasitic wasp, but never quite got to it,” said George Poinar, Jr., a professor emeritus of zoology at Oregon State University and world expert on insects trapped in amber. He outlined the findings in a new publication in the journal *Historical Biology*.

“This was a male wasp that suddenly found itself trapped in a spider web,” Poinar said. “This was the wasp’s worst nightmare, and it never ended. The wasp was watching the spider just as it was about to be attacked, when tree resin flowed over and captured both of them.”

Spiders are ancient invertebrates that researchers believe date back some 200 million years, but the oldest fossil evidence ever found of a spider web is only about 130 million years old. An actual attack such as this between a spider and its prey caught in the web has never before been documented as a fossil, the researchers said.

The tree resin that forms amber is renowned for its ability to flow over insects, small plants and other life forms, preserving them in near perfection before it later turns into a semi-precious stone. It often gives scientists a look into the biology of the distant past. This spider, which may have been waiting patiently for hours to capture some prey, was smothered in resin just a split second before its attack.

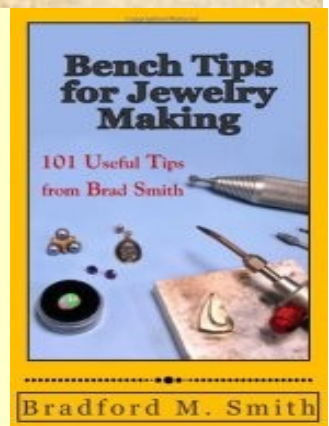
This type of wasp, Poinar said, belongs to a group that is known today to parasitize spider and insect eggs. In that context, the attack by the spider, an orb-weaver, might be considered payback.

Both the spider and the wasp belong to extinct genera and are described in the paper. At least 15 unbroken strands of spider silk run through the amber piece, and on some of these the wasp was ensnared.

Its large and probably terrified eyes now stare for eternity at its attacker, moving in for the kill.

Oregon State University Press Release Oct 8, 2012 via Beehive Buzzer

Bench Tip Book Each week I post jewelry bench tips on the Net, and each month I share new ones with rock club newsletters like your own. Many readers have asked for a paper copy to use as a bench guide. So over the last few months I've selected 101 of the most useful and popular bench tips and organized them into a book, "Bench Tips for Better Jewelry Making". Announcing "Bench Tips for Better Jewelry Making", a new book for beginning and intermediate jewelers by Bradford Smith. It contains 101 useful Bench Tips to help improve skills and increase quality at the bench. The 96 page book is filled with close-up photos to explain the techniques and makes a great gift for the holidays - Just \$16.95 For more details, see: [//CreateSpace.com/3976439](http://CreateSpace.com/3976439) or <http://Amazon.com/dp/0988285800/> *Brad Smith*



Famous Opals: The Galaxy – The World’s Largest Polished Opal via Gem Cutters News.

from The Opal Express, January 2011 *The Galaxy The Galaxy Opal © (Photo by Harold & Erica Van Pelt. Used with permission.)*



*The Galaxy Opal ©
(Photo by Harold & Erica Van Pelt.
Used with permission.)*

A superb double-sided gemstone specimen that appears ethereal with shimmering molten rainbows smoldering just beneath pearly blue ice.

Since 1992, when it was first certified by “The Guinness Book of Records”, ‘Galaxy’ has earned the distinction of still being The World’s Largest Polished Opal. October’s birthstone treats the eye to an explosion of shimmering colors, not unlike the spectral dance of the northern lights; the Aurora Borealis. Shakespeare in “Twelfth Night” called the opal “that miracle and the Queen of Gems” so ‘Galaxy’ opal is the ‘King of Stones’, weighing approximately 1 lb. 10 oz. (0.75 kg) and measures 5-1/2 x 4 x 1-5/8 ins. (14.0 x 10.2 x 4.1 cm).

Bob Kammerling, universally respected editor for the quarterly journal of the Gemological Institute of America (G.I.A.), “Gems and Gemology”, describes ‘Galaxy’ in the 1990 Winter issue as an “exceptionally large gem-quality opal... [that] displays a predominantly pinfire play-of-color across its entire surface ... [and] appears gemmy throughout...”

‘Galaxy’ an exceptional translucent gemquality, mineraloid of high-fire light crystal base is significant for its size and thickness as well as for its exceptional iridescent fire and beauty. ‘Galaxy’ was carefully excavated by hand from clay near quartzitic sand-

stone cliffs at Boi Morto Mine, 3.5 km NNW of Pedro II, in northeast Brazil in 1976, in the state of Piauí and is the paramount specimen from this locality and the world. Beginning with a grapefruit-sized piece of rough weighing 5,205 carats, gem cutter Scott Cooley sculpted this one-of-a-kind specimen to resemble a child’s head now weighing approximately 3,749 carats, (1 lb. 10 oz.). The weight of the finished stone was beyond the capacity of any gem measuring scale at the G.I.A. and an approximation of its weight in carats had to be determined using a postal scale.

This utterly magnificent sculptured slab-like specimen, fairly uniform in thickness at 1-5/8” (44.0 mm), is extremely well polished all around. Veins of opal displaying a ‘play-of-color’ (an interplay of diffracting wavelengths), are often quite thin, fragile and are on a host stone. This opal’s stunning luminous crown is mostly a lively broad-flash pattern, with patches of color 0.5 - 1.5 mm wide showing a radiant fountain of fiery orange-reds, cool phosphorescent limeyellow-greens and electric flashes of violet shot through with glimmering flecks of gold. Viewed from the side, a harlequin-type pattern is displayed with distinctive sedimentary banding. By tilting the opal towards a light source, generates a lustrous medley of everchanging colors that ebb and flow as the gem is rotated and angled in relation to the light source. From the obverse side a lively greenblue pinfire appears showing no trace of patch or crazing to interrupt the symmetry of the effect.

Stones of this size, with color play on both sides and without fractures, are very rare indeed”. It has been estimated that ‘Galaxy’ a talisman irresistible to the touch, began its 22 million year trek to lustrous beauty when dinosaurs still roamed the earth. The finer specimens of Piauí’s opals have been mistaken for the best from Australia, similar to those mined at Coober Pedy. Brazilian gem opal has been found to contain only about 5.7% water content compared to other locations containing 10% - 20%. The importance of this is that the Brazilian opal is not likely to crack due to exposure to sunlight or heat. It has also been noted that Brazilian Opal is slightly harder than most opals making it more durable for jewelry use.

To truly comprehend the uniqueness of ‘Galaxy’, this unparalleled, one-of-a-kind museum quality specimen, it must be experienced firsthand and touched.

A Petrified Fact By Ed Wengerd in Gem Cutter’s News, via El Gambrisino

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially those from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas left between the cast and the wood were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

December will be our Christmas Party 6:00 pm Max's Mexican Duarte

CFMS Board Meeting 11/10/2012 Report by Jo Anna Ritchey

The CFMS Board Meeting started meeting the quorum with representatives from 61 clubs, 5 officers and 26 committee members.

The new officers for the 2013 CFMS will be President Bud Mcillan 1st. VP Jennifer Hayley

2nd VP Tom Burchard Treasure Margaret Kolacyzk Secretary Robert Sankovich

The 2013 Show will be from 5/31 to 6/2/2012. It is being hosted by three clubs: Oxnard Gem and Mineral, Conejo Gem and Mineral and Ventura Gem and Mineral with the theme of **California Rocks**. They are planning to have 50 dealers and 70 cases. They have scheduled a field trip for the Tuesday, 5/28/2012 to Kanan Dume Road.

The 2012 Show in Riverside had 36 Competitive Cases and 17 Trophies. The Show Club had a wonderful time putting on the show. This is remarkable considering the initial problems

- They took over hosting the CFMS Show after another club withdrew--so they had less than the normal amount of time.
- They started with the Convention Center was still being remodeled so they had to be moved to another space.



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS

Thursday December 20th 2012

CHRISTMAS DINNER & PARTY



DINNER 6:00 P.M. Meeting and Games 7:00 P.M.

You pay for your own dinner. We will be in a private room.

Max's Mexican Cuisine

1101 E Huntington Drive Monrovia, CA 91016 Max 's (626) 303-3330

We will be having a members only drawing for the Arizona petrified wood donated by Ann Dayne.

We will also have other raffle prizes for all.

Gift Exchange Rules If you bring a guest and want them to play you must have a gift for each guest. Here is what you do: 1. Bring a gift worth \$10.00 wrapped up **without** your name on it. 2. To determine the gift-choice play order, participants may draw numbers. Starting with one and up to the total number of participants, the players take turns in the corresponding succession. Once an order has been established, each person takes his or her turn choosing a gift. The first person picks a gift, opens it, and shows it to the rest of the company. Then in turn, the next participant choose to **either** unwrap a new gift **or** to "steal" a previously unwrapped gift. If a gift is "stolen", the person who had their gift taken from them gets to un-wrap any unopened gift or "steal" and then, the turn passes. When all the gifts have been opened, the game is over. But a gift can be stolen only three times.



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTURE PAGE

By Donald Sneberger

November General Meeting Walter Lombardo Speaker



Becky Fregoso Demonstrating wire wrapping



11/15/2

11/15/2012

↑
Rudy's
Thunder
egg

**GEM CORUNDUM (Ruby & Sapphire)
of NORTH AMERICA**

By Walter Lombardo, Geologist
Nevada Mineral & Book Company



Ralph Camille

Ray

Tom

Colleen

CFMS DECEMBER SHOW DATES

December 1-2: BARSTOW, CA; Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society; Cora Harper Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road (North of I-15); Hours: 10-5 Daily; Gene Haines, <Email@mdgms.org>; Website: <www.mdgms.org>.

December 7 & 9: SAN BERNARDINO; Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Ball Park,

LAPIDARY	BEADING	PRECIOUS METAL CLAY
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SOFT STONE CARVING & SCRIMSHAW	FACETING	FIELD TRIPS AND KNAPPING

The fee for the week is \$375.00 per person and includes room or RV space, three meals per day, and classes. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by instructors

-- IF YOU USE YOUR R.V. YOU CAN SAVE \$50.00 PER PERSON --

NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER MARCH 1, 2013 unless a replacement is provided. A \$25.00 Administration fee will be assessed for cancellations made prior to March 1, 2013.

Please complete the Registration Form below and mail it with full payment, payable to C.F.M.S.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY CONTACT:

MARION ROBERTS
(209) 538-0197
email: mvroberts@bigvalley.net

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

AUDREY HARVEY
3363 Tuxford Place
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 492-2253

**CAMP ZZYXZ REGISTRATION
CAMP DATE: MARCH 31 to APRIL 7, 2013**

REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2013

Applications received after this date will be placed on a standby list and considered only when a vacancy exists.

Please use block printing:

Mr. Mrs. Ms _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

ROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY: R.V. _____ DORM _____

ROOM REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL REASONS; PLEASE DESCRIBE _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: DIABETIC _____ OTHER (explain) _____

ALL CLASSES OF YOUR CHOICE ARE AVAILABLE AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE.

West Coast GEM & MINERAL SHOW

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2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

(Take 55 Fwy exit 8 for Dyer Rd. to S. Grand Ave.)

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Tourmaline
Jeff Scovil Photo©

MASTERPIECE ROCKS & FOSSILS OPEN HOUSE

**Dec. 8&9 and Dec 15&16 (Sat.
and Sun.--10am-5pm)
10% Discount**

*For an appointment other than these
days call Phone (818) 249-9736*

WHERE: 2367 Uteley Road, La Crescenta (Off Fwy. 2 or 210 near Pasadena and Glendale); **Directions:** (2367 Uteley Road, La Crescenta): from 210 Fwy. Exit at Ocean View Blvd., go uphill to Foothill Blvd. and turn left. Go to Briggs. Turn right. Go one mile to Uteley Road. Turn right on Uteley