

MOROKS

January 2012

Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter

P.O. Box 553

Monrovia, CA 91017

Editor – Janie Duncan



MOROKS Newsletter February 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Board Mtg. @ Janie's	3	4 Grab Bags 10 am Ray's
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Gen Mtg. CA fossils	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

MOROKS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS



Club Information Our Website is www.moroks.com

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Cal Matthews	(626) 798-7481
VICE PRESIDENT – Janie Duncan	(626) 358-8157
SECRETARY – Michele Silcock	(626) 357 8425
TREASURER – Jim Lloyd	(626) 793-9239
AUDITOR – Jo Anna Ritchey	(626) 359-1524
REPRESENTATIVE – Ray Ritchey	(626) 359-1624
REPRESENTATIVE – Linda Wu	(626) 357-4296
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
CLUB SHIRTS – Linda Wu	(626) 357-4296
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

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
February
Birthdays**

Charlene Marks	4
Michael Vannatta	12
Thomas Witt	11



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS
www.moroks.com
52nd ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW



MARCH 3 – 4 2012

9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Both Days

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway at 301 North
Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, NW of Santa Anita Race Track

15 Dealers, Display Cases, Geode Cracking, Kid's Corner, Treasure Wheel,
Raffle Prizes and our famous \$2.00 Grab Bags and we will identify the rocks for
you.

**MOROKS SHOW IS FREE You only pay Arboretum
admission.**

Cash or Check – no Credit Card	Adults.....\$8.00
Students & Seniors ...\$6.00	Children 5-12.....\$3.00
Children under 5.....Free	



Our Rockhounds at the January Meeting



PREZ SEZ We lost two good friends this past month. Our long time member, Rodney Warner, and a helper and sphere maker, Curt Quackenbush. These people REALLY helped our club. Rodney took pictures of our meetings for the newsletter and provided transport of our cases to/from our annual show. Curt provided consistent, helpful identification of rocks at the show. Both of them had participated in many of our field trips to collect rocks. Rodney never married and Curt had no children so there is no one to pass their legacy onward. Remember: Get your affairs in order long before you need to as both of them died very suddenly. It can happen to you. Be prepared! *Cal Matthews*



VICE PREZ SEZ I am doing much better but just when I was planning to go to the Jan. meeting I came down with a terrible head cold and could not go. Sorry I missed such a good program by the Webers. Well, I am working hard on the show do publicity and working on my cases. I hope all of you thinking about what you can do to help. On another note, I so sorry for the loss of our longtime member Rodney, Peggy Cooley who was a member for a few years and friend of MOROKS Curt Quackenbush. They will all be missed. *Janie Duncan*

JANUARY 5th

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS BOARD MEETING**MOROKS BOARD MEETING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO
Janie Duncan knee replacement surgery Dec. 28th**

What is a Fossil?

Definition: A fossil is the remains of a living organism or the indications of living organisms that have been preserved in the rock record. The word fossil is from the Latin word fossus which means having been dug up. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks like limestone, dolostone, coal and sandstone. Rarely fossils are found in metamorphic rocks and some extremely rare fossils are found in igneous rocks. Fossilization is the process by which a living organism becomes a fossil. Here are a few of those processes:

- 1. Mold and Cast.** An organism, like a clam, dies and settles into the mud, leaving an impression in the mud in the shape of the shell (the mold). The mud hardens and the shell dissolves away. Later, the impression is filled up with new mud, which then hardens. This new mud has the shape of the original shell, which is called the cast.
- 2. Petrification.** Suppose a tree is suddenly buried by sand. Water that is carrying minerals flows through the wood. Microscopic pieces of the wood are washed away and are replaced by a mineral, like agate. This continues until the entire log has been transformed from wood to mineral. This is also called petrification or silicification.
- 3. Original Material.** In rare situations, the original material of an organism can be preserved. Examples include frozen mammoths, insects in amber, and sea shells that are preserved in their original form.
- 4. Pyritized Fossils.** When an organism dies and settles in mud that has a lot of iron but no oxygen, the iron can combine with sulfur from the decaying animal and create the mineral pyrite (also called Fool's Gold) which takes the form of the original shell. Left: A pyritized ammonite.
- 5. Carbonization.** This is typical of plants. When plants die and are buried, they rot away. But when all the conditions are right, instead of rotting away they decompose and leave a film of carbon, usually in coal or shale. This film (a very, very thin layer of carbon) preserves the shape of the plant, often including the leaves and the stems.



Article reprinted with permission from Diamond Dan Publications; Vol. 5 No. 5, May 2011

www.diamonddanpublications.net via MLMS Ghost Sheet

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



For those of you who are interested in learning basic lapidary (cutting and polishing gemstones) Lapidary Journal - Jewelry Artist Magazine offers a free download of an E-book called "The Complete Lapidary Experience: Hunt, Cut, and Set Gems". This collection of articles takes you on a field trip to collect rough moonstone then through the cutting and polishing phases and finally to setting the stone in a piece of jewelry. Being able to cut or modify a gemstone opens up whole new areas of jewelry making and gives greater depth to the feeling you get when you reply "Yes, I made it myself" Get the free E-book at: http://jewelrymakingdaily.com/Lapidary-Hunt-Cut-Set/?utm_source=megalist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mgl110525e

DECEMBER 15TH

MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS GENERAL MEETING

President: *Cal Matthews* called The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM and we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President: *Janie Duncan* was absent. Tonight is Mary Pat and Dick Weber on "Amethyst of Thunder Bay Ontario Canada" where they have visited a couple of times before. They have great pictures to show of their trips. February will be Howell Thomas a Paleontologist from the LA Museum of Natural History who will do an exciting program on California Fossils. Howell lives in Monrovia.

Secretary: *Michele Silcock* The minutes were approved as written in the bulletin.

Representative: *Ray Ritchey* had no report

Representative: *Linda Wu* no report

Website: *Jo Anna Ritchey* no report.

Federation: *Jo Anna Ritchey* CFMS 2012 Show in Riverside at the City Auditorium. There will be a meeting with the BLM at that time. 2013 will be in Ventura with 3 Clubs hosting the show together in July.

Fellowship: *Louse Stack* 13 members and 3 guests present. Janie Duncan is recovering from her knee replacement and would have been here tonight but has a terrible head cold now. Donald Sneberger's daughter had a baby girl on Wed. this week. Donald is no officially retired. Curt Quakenbush's Memorial is this Sat. Jan. 21st at 1 pm at St. James Episcopal Church in South Pasadena. There will be a viewing of Rodney at Harrison and Ross Mortuary in LA on Friday the 20th. There will be a memorial in MI. Tom Freeman is having a special treatment and he and Ann are staying at a hotel for a few weeks while he is treated. We all wish Tom a speedy recovery.

Treasurer: *Jim Lloyd* He reported 35 paid members. Janie needs a check and reimbursement.,

Photographer: Donald Sneberger has volunteered to be our new photographer. Thanks Donald!

Field trip: *Ray Ritchey* Our club has been asked to work with Pas lap and Whiter and N. Orange County to do combined Field trips. There will be planning meeting soon.

Rock of the Month Talk: Ray Ritchey talked on petrified wood. Donald Sneberger volunteered for February. He plans to talk on Lake superior agates.

Bulletin: *Janie Duncan* was absent No report.

Great Rock Drawing: *Louise Stack* was won by Thomas Witt. It was a calcite.

Custodian: *Jim Lloyd* Jim got Grab Bags for the 4th out of the garage.

Refreshments: Gail Parks brought them tonight. Nancy Hamrick & Mishele Silcock volunteered for February

Show: *Jo Anna Ritchey* We will be in Ayers Hall. More dealers paid. Jo Anna print more show flyers. They are at the Arboretum. **Grab bags February 4th 10:00 AM at Ray's house.** Please bring lunch money and let Ray know if you are going. Janie has tickets ready to print thanks to Jim Lloyd who picked them up. He also got hourly prize tickets for us. Janie has letter with flyer for all local clubs ready to mail when she gets postage. We need to think about what to do as we are down 3 men from last year as far as loading and unloading the truck and overnight security. Janie will work on Kids Quiz. What do we have for prizes? Janie will have sign up sheets next meeting or call her if you want to sign up ahead of time.

Historian: *Nancy Hamrick* had no report

Old Business: *Cal Matthews* 1. The bi-laws are ready. 2. Janie called MHS and tell them we are giving a \$500 Scholarship. 3. Louise Stack is Chairman of the 2012 nominating Committee. The slate of proposed officers is as follows: **President:** Janie **Vice President:** Cal Matthews **Treasurer:** Jim Lloyd **Auditor:** Jo Anna Ritchey **Secretary:** Michele Silcock if you wish to run or nominate someone with their permission, please contact Louise or a member of the committee. 4. Thomas Witt was installed as a new member.

New Business: *Cal Matthews* None.

Cal Matthews Adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm Thanks to everyone who helped clean up and set up.

High Magmification

(Sung to the tune of "Music, Music, Music")

Drop another crystal in
To the mixture alkaline;
That's the way that you begin,
Granite, granite, granite.
When you get it good and hot,
Put some potash in the pot,
Stir it well until you've got,
Granite, granite, granite.
Water. Pour in some water.
Your recipe will really be in style,
If the water's juvenile.
In the salts and bases throw;
In the pot they all must go;
When it's finished out will flow,
Granite, granite, granite.
Add a dash of CO₂,
Not as limestone -- that's taboo!
Gee, it's fun to barbecue,
Granite, granite, granite.
Now some quartz, but not too much,
Then some mica -- just a touch;
Who has seen the likes of such,
Granite, granite, granite?
Closer, my boy, look closer!
You see, the textures clearly demonstrate,
It hardens from the liquid state.
Stir it with a rod of glass,
To homogenize the mass;
Even Nature can't surpass,
Our Granite, granite, granite.

.via **The Rollin' Rock Roseville Rock Rollers**



A Mineral Lovers' Opera

By Beth Simmons— a funny mineralogical fact found in "The Crest of the Continent," by Ernest Ingersoll, 1885. via Strata Gem

Did you know that there is an **opera** named after one of Colorado's minerals? It was a comedy (a sitcom), the first opera to be written in Colorado and was first performed in Denver's Tabor Opera House on January 23, 1882. Stanley Wood wrote the libretto (words) and W. F. Hunt composed the music. Throughout the rest of the year, the opera company played this satirical production in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Leadville, and other cities across the state. One of the opera's madrigals sung by the comical academic, Professor Polycarp P. Pilycamp, pokes fun at mineral names and collectors:

**I have found out a gift for my fair,
I have found where the calcites abound,
Where sklopsite and zircon appear
With sárcolite scattered around.
Then come love, and never say nay,
With picrosmine thy heart I'll delight,
With diaspore and manganoblend gay
And phármakósiderite.**

Obviously librettist Stanley Wood was more interested in rhyming and rhythm than mineralogical nomenclature! However, according to the *Minerals of Colorado* (p. 365), pharmacosiderite (a hydrated potassium/iron arsenate) was reported from Colorado, one hundred years after its name was sung on the stage of the Tabor Opera Hall!

What mineral name gave its name to this famous great Colorado operatic production? A silver/antimony sulfide called **BRITTLE SILVER** by the miners. What is the mineral's present name? **STEPHANITE**.



Sodalite By Dave Jacobson

Sodalite, $\text{Na}_4\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3\text{Cl}$, a sodium aluminum silicate chloride. Sodalite is used in lapidary work, building stone and as a specimen in a mineral collection. Sodalite is formed in igneous and plutonic rocks, which are low in silica (SiO_2). It is in a group of minerals called feld-spathoids, which are silica poor minerals (low in quartz), which have similar chemistries to alkali feldspars. Some of the more famous locations where sodalite has been found are Bancroft, Ontario, Canada, Brazil, Mt. Vesuvius, Italy; Ice River area, British Columbia, Canada, Litchfield, Maine, USA and Magnet Cove, Arkansas, USA.

Sodalite is in the isometric crystal system but most material is massive. It is rarely crystallized and then found only as small dodecahedrons (12 faces). The color is typically blue but it can also be white, gray or green. Hardness is 5.5 – 6.0. Specific Gravity is 2.1 to 2.3. Streak is white. Sodalite is the only feldspathoid mineral to contain chlorine. With the use of some swimming pool test kits, sodalite dissolved in dilute solution of HNO_3 will give positive results on the test for chlorine. Sodalite takes its name from the sodium (Na) in its chemical formula.

There is a pink variety called hackmanite in which the chlorine in the sodalite is replaced by sulphur. The pink color fades to white in daylight, but will return to pink upon exposure to UV light. Hackmanite is also fluorescent. It fluoresces bright pale pink in short wave; brilliant orange yellow in long wave UV. Hackmanite was found in quantities large enough to cut in Quebec, Canada in 1991.

I used the following reference materials in preparing this article: *A Field Guide to Rocks And Minerals* by Frederick H. Pough via **Canaveral Moonstone Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.**

Fossil Fakes by: "Brad Smith" via PLS Rambling

We all know there's a lot of fakes on the market these days - fake beads, fake gemstones, fake metals and fake fossils. I've bought turquoise beads that turned out to be dyed white rock, and my students have bought silver jump rings that can be picked up with a magnet. But we're not the only ones who get deceived by fakes. You can't assume that dealers are the problem. Many who sell these fakes are unaware they're bogus. They've been ripped off by their own sources. The problem is two-fold. The fakes are getting very good and few people have enough training to spot the deception. If you're into fossils, I tripped across a web site that lets you read up on clues for how to spot "enhancements" or outright faking. Some of the techniques used to create these fakes are quite novel! <http://www.paleodirect.com/fake-fossils1.htm>



The above image shows a "fossil" that is nothing more than pretty painted pictures of fossils. The slab does not possess ANY fossil and is a blank rock sheet. It is a 100% fake specimen. The price of these "masterpieces" usually sell for around \$20 to \$50.

This is a very rare and genuine specimen. The high quality image shows anatomical features that are perfectly preserved and lacking in the fake specimen. Without these close-ups, to the untrained collector, both appear similar. The price of \$995 for this genuine fossil cannot be compared to fake renderings on blank limestone slabs. Quality will cost you, like anything in life.



MONROVIA ROCKHOUNDS PICTURE PAGE

January 2012 General Meeting

By Donald Sneberger



Mary Pat and Dick Weber on Amethyst Ontario Canada



Ray Ritchey gives Rock of the month talk on petrified wood



Thomas Witt Installation With Cal Matthews

01/19/2012

Nicolas Steno Did anyone notice Google's graphic (Google Doodle) on January 11 to honor Nicholas Steno's 374th birthday?

If one day in history had to be picked as the birth of paleontology, it might be the day in 1666 when two fishermen caught a giant shark off the coast of Livorno in Italy. The local duke ordered that this curiosity be sent to Niels Stensen (better known as Steno), a Danish anatomist working at the time in Florence. As Steno dissected the shark, he was struck by how much the shark teeth resembled “tongue stones,” triangular pieces of rock that had been known since ancient times. Today, most people would instantly wonder whether the tongue stones were giant petrified shark teeth, but in 1666 such a presumption was a tremendous leap. Few could imagine how living matter could be turned to stone, and beyond that, encased in solid rock—especially if the rock were well above sea level and contained remnants of a marine organism. Fossils were instead thought to have fallen from the sky, or to be “sports of nature”— peculiar geometrical shapes impressed on the rocks themselves.



From living tissue to stone

Steno made the leap and declared that the tongue stones indeed came from the mouths of once-living sharks. He showed how precisely similar the stones and the teeth were. But he still had to account for how they could have turned to stone and become lodged in rock. Naturalists of Steno’s day were becoming convinced that matter was composed of different combinations of tiny “corpuscles”—what today we would call molecules. Steno argued that the corpuscles in the teeth were replaced bit by bit, by corpuscles of minerals. In this gradual process, the teeth didn’t lose their overall shape as they turned from tissue to stone.

Steno’s Law of Superposition

But how could fossils end up deep inside rocks? Steno studied the cliffs and hills of Italy to find the answer. He proposed that all rocks and minerals were originally fluid. Floating on the surface of the planet long ago, they gradually settled out of the ocean and created horizontal layers, with new layers forming on top of older ones. Molten rock sometimes intruded into the layers, reaching the top and spreading out into a new layer of its own. As the rocks formed, they could trap animal remains, converting them into fossils and preserving them deep within their layers. Those horizontal layers represent a time sequence with the oldest layers on the bottom and the youngest on top, unless later processes disturbed this arrangement. This ordering is now referred to as Steno’s Law of Superposition, his most famous contribution to geology. Steno was not the only naturalist of his day to propose that fossils belonged to living creatures. Leonardo da Vinci and Robert Hooke, for example, also took up the same view. But Steno pushed the idea much further. He argued for the first time that fossils were snapshots of life at different moments in Earth’s history and that rock layers formed slowly over time. It was these two facts that served as the pillars of paleontology and geology in future centuries. And fossils ultimately became some of the key evidence for how life evolved on Earth over the past four billion years. (*Ed. Note:* Steno's insights had great ramifications beyond geology. He noted that the deepest rocks (which often are metamorphic or igneous, the very strong rocks that geologists call "competent") are at the lowest levels, and the softer (generally sedimentary, less competent) rocks are at the top. Others soon noticed that the correlation of decreasing competence with higher position applied to other disciplines as well, the most notable of which is the Peter Principle.)

Via The Rockhound Official publication of the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.



Welcome new member Thomas Witt. He is very enthusiastic about rockhounds and we are very happy to have a new member.

Welcome from all the MOROKS

CFMS FEBRUARY SHOW DATES

February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1 Arabia Street Hours: 10 -10 daily Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674 Email: bert67@verizon.net

January 27 – February 12, Tucson 22nd Street Mineral, Fossil & Gem Show 600 22nd St. & I-10, Tucson Hours: 9-7 Admission and parking: Free Website: www.22ndstreetshow.com Sponsored by: Eons Expositions Dealers Contact: Christine at (516) 818-1228 Email: lowellcarhart@yahoo.com

The Trivia Vug

by R. J. Harris from Gem cutters News

Sources: Discovery, NatGeo, and Launch Radio

- Twenty-four-karat gold is not pure gold; there is a small amount of copper in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands.
- Leaded crystal glass is not crystal. Glass consists of atoms and molecules in a jumble, not in the well patterned order that defines a crystal.
- The crocodile does not chew its food, but swallows it whole. It carries several pounds of small stones in its stomach to aid in grinding up and digesting what it eats.
- Zircon crystals from the Jack Hills of Western Australia are thought to be the oldest pieces of our planet's surface at 4.4 billion years old.
- The streets of New York City are not paved with gold, but the schist bedrock contains opal, beryl, chrysoberyl, garnet and three types of tourmaline.

West Coast

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport
2726 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

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

MAY 11-13, 2012

90 Top Quality Dealers!

*Minerals • Fossils • Gemstones • Jewelry • Beads
Meteorites • Lapidary • Metaphysical Supplies*

FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING
WHOLESALE • RETAIL

Show Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6 • Sun. 10 - 5

Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C., P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004
Fax: (303) 223-3478, mzexpos@gmail.com, www.mzexpos.com



California Gold
Jeff Scovil Photo©

Website of Interest

Jaspers at

<http://www.worldofjaspers.com/> by Hans

Gamma, originally from Switzerland, but now retired to AZ. Search for pictures by geographic locations in the Western US, and Mexico, Australia, Africa, and Madagascar. Let your imagination take over and visualize picture scenes akin to modern art.

By Wendell C. Mohr in The Rockhounder, July/August 2011 One example of Picture Jas-

