

# Lithosphere

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Fallbrook, California



"Hummingbird" by Gamini Ratnavira

**Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**

May

2006



## Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Cover Photo of Hummingbird by Gamini Ratnavira, courtesy Vanessa Jones.

# **May FGMS Meeting** **May 11th, 7 pm**

**MEG BERRY**

## **CUTTING MOONSTONE,** **OPAL AND BERYL**

Ms. Berry is an experienced faceter and cuts for Bill Larson of Pala International among others. She will give a Powerpoint presentation at our May 11th meeting at the Alvarado street museum. The meeting will begin at 7 pm. and she is to speak after a short business meeting and the drawing of the raffel items.

*Michael T. Evans*  
*Assistant Curator Fallbrook Gem & Mineral*  
*Museum*

## **April 2006 Board** **Meeting**

On April 1, the Saturday Board meeting was brief due to the need to prepare the Auditorium displays, museum and gift shop, and a street booth for Sunday's Flower Festival.

The Board approved a sign for the mine car now installed on the front terrace above the inclined parking bay. It will read, "Dedicated to the Miners of our Area. Mine cars like this one from California's gold country were used to

bring ore out of the gem mines of northern San Diego County. Donated by Ed Bancroft, 2005" Local granite will be used for the sign and it will be recessed into the wall.

Garth reported conducting several children's tours and he also made a presentation to the Bonsall Rotary. Dave LaMarr discussed a Saddle Back College/Leisure World lapidary program that might be of interest to our members.

The Board approved a concept paper for plantings around the building and the new lot area to the west of the building. To be called the "Mastodon Prehistoric Garden," it will be a technique for demonstrating fossil plant specimens in our collection. A list of appropriate plants will be developed.

Plans for the Flower Festival, Avocado Festival and Arts in the Park were reviewed. John Watson is working on a major fund raising event. There will probably be no spring Rummage Sale. Funds requested and under consideration include \$500 from Vintage Car Club; \$5,000 from TOT program; \$1,100 from Angel Society; \$600 from Rally for Children and \$8,133 from Bill Horn's Community Projects funds.

New members are: Lyn Huettl-Goldwasser; Herb Taylor and daughter, Ainsley; Mike DiVerde and Matt Boeck.

We have had good newspaper coverage of our activities and programs.

The Rocky Crest museum cases will be moved to the Alvarado Auditorium as soon as the fossil specimens are packed (the mineral specimens have already been moved). Dave LaMarr offered to help with moving the cases.

The Bylaws Committee is working to reduce our bylaws to basic parliamentary procedure. This means that a separate document (like an operating manual) must be developed for administrative procedures. Suggestions for changes are welcomed, but please put them in writing.

Laurie volunteered to contact the San Diego Foundation for specifics on representing FGMS in the fund raising program, Endow San Diego. Pete Bancroft, who has ably served us as representative until now, has resigned.

After discussion of the benefits and liabilities, it was decided that FGMS Internet access would not be made available to groups that rent the Auditorium.

## **Club Meeting Highlights for April 13, 2006**

In the absence of President, Gina Palculich (who is still bedridden with broken bones in her leg), Vice President, Laurie Kern, began the meeting with the Flag Salute.

Vanessa Jones reported \$32,000 in the bank. The total is higher this month because of a generous donation of \$1,500 to the Building Fund by Peter Bancroft. He has also donated a beautiful book: "Ancient Forests, A Closer Look at Fossil Wood" by Daniels and Dayvault. For those interested in Field Trips, see the Capistrano Valley Rock and Mineral Club Newsletter. Also the San Diego Natural history Museum has a trip scheduled to Anza-Borrego State Park to look at fossil resources, including vertebrate trackways.

B.J. Cheatham invited club members to see improvements in the layout of the gift shop and museum. There are also new procedures for inventory and cash management. The museum is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11-3, but more volunteers are needed. We are also open on Sundays when there is a Fallbrook festival. Please contact B.J. if you can help. On April 20 and 21 there will be a jewelry-making party for fun and FGMS. Meet here in the Auditorium.

The Flower Festival was a great success. We made \$700 and the museum and Auditorium had non-stop visitors. Dave Mitchell presented a collage of pictures of the display cases of flower-related minerals and jewelry by Dick Knox, the Ondrakas, the Watsons, Joella Olson, Lea Barton and other Club members. The bulletin board display on Malachite and the Legend of the Stone Flower by B.J. Cheatham was spectacular.

A sign-up was circulated for the Avocado Festival on Sunday, April 23. Plans are to continue the bulletin board displays from the Flower Festival and have a small board display on what we know about fossil avocados.

Alec Conley needs a volunteer for the Arts in the Park fun day for children at Live Oak Park on Sunday, April 30.

Vanessa needs volunteers for the Wildlife Festival on May 6 and 7.

Garth announced dates for the County Fair in Del Mar, June 10 through July 4. He has information and forms if you wish to enter an exhibit. Deadline for entering is April 28.

Volunteers are needed for the days when FGMS is responsible for staffing the Information Booth in the Gem and Mineral

Building. This year we have been assigned June 14th (Wednesday) and June 30th (Friday). Shifts are usually 10 to 12 noon, 12 to 3 and 3 to 6.

Marisa Zachovay's presentation on pearls was delightful, and she provided samples for viewing as well as GIA pamphlets for taking

*Submitted by Liz Yamaguchi*

### **Weblinks:**

Gem, Mineral and Fossil show dates and locations at:

<http://www.rockhounds.com>

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/call.cfm>

<http://www.intergem.net/>

<http://www.gemstreetusa.com/shows.php>

Links to email lists and discussion groups for rockhounds you may find of interest are at:

<http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/llist5.shtml>

## **WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL**

### **FALLBROOK GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

#### **PRESENTS:**

#### **Fossils and Hummingbirds**

#### **Featuring Art by Gamini Ratnavira**

#### **Special Exhibits**

#### **Educational Displays Raffle for Ostrich Egg and Stand**

**(Need not be present to win)**

#### **\*\*\* New Jewelry Stock at Museum Store \*\*\***

#### **Saturday and Sunday May 6th & 7th**

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# Garth's World

Garth Bricker,

FGMS Member and Museum Curator

Lithosphere, May 2006



There are some great people involved with the museum and make their time available to the museum to improve it. Henry Vogt is going to the old museum and pick up our very heavy rocks and put them in

his 10 ton truck and deliver them at the new museum to place some of them in the new ore car plot. It is likely he will pick up the four whale head boxes to put in the back of the new museum. These are things we could never do with our tools and David LaMarr has asked to help with moving the rocks on this Saturday.

Rick Rumsey was at our new sheds in back of the museum and heard that we wanted to put in a loft in each one. He was telling me what he would do and the next day the lumber was there next to the door. This was like Dave LaMarr helping with the cement and blocks behind where the sheds would go and getting rain gutters for the cement slab. He also saw the need and bought them.

Rick put up most of the frame work for the loft by himself going up and down the ladder numerous times holding 10 ft.

two by eights, hammer, drill, and screws. This was one of the projects that we wanted to get done but thought it would take weeks or months to get the work done. Rick will do the next shed next week between his plumbing and solar heating work.

At the end of last week, Dave LaMarr told us he was going to bring the final five 6 ft. cases from the old museum that we are closing out and haul them to the new museum. Liz and crew had talked about this for months and even asked about cost. This eventually would be done but .... Dave said that he was getting a rental truck with a long ramp to get the cases up the steep grade to the museum door and also getting two strong young men to volunteer from a church in Oceanside. The electrical wires to the cases had to be removed from their safety boxes and that was my job otherwise I was just in the way.

The cases were tall and unwieldy but not too heavy and Dave brought a piano mover dolly so, out the door went the cases and up the ramp and into the moving van. Dave had talked about the safe and the Queen mine pocket but after lunch it was decided to do that really heavy work the next week. All muscles were tired by then and they needed more strong young men to move the mighty heavy two items. We had a fork lift take the two objects off the delivery truck when they first arrived at the

old museum. I think we might have rolled them in on dowels. The wheels on the safe run in only one direction, sideways. In the museum we wanted to turn it a little so it would be parallel to the wall. The weight is so great that turning it on the rug ripped a five-inch triangle in it.

Elizabeth Yamaguchi and Elizabeth Cheatham haven't been doing heavy duty work but the very time consuming work of selecting, framing, inquiring about pictures on the internet, gluing, pinning and checking how their work looked on the bulletin board in the big meeting room was important for the success of the Mozart Festival and for the Art of the Flower. The ladies put in a display in the museum that many people came to see. The Gems and Minerals and the Art and cultural Center were both involved. The Mozart celebration stretched all the way to San Diego and the officials from San Diego saw Elizabeth's and Liz's work and wanted to use it in San Diego because it was so good. This is certainly a different kind of effort but all these jobs broadcast that our museum is doing things for the community and improving how we handle our jobs better.

This Thursday, the 20th, Janice Bricker, Mary Fong Walker, Elizabeth Cheatham, Venessa Jones, Lea Barton, and my daughter, Michele, with a large spread of necklace and ear ring making beads, wire, string, pliers and paraphernalia were working at the 3 eight foot tables. They are making jewelry for the museum's sales table. They all left at 6:30 PM! What a group. This makes for success.

Along with the bead work I had the grab bag group putting minerals and

fossils and labels in little plastic bags ready to be sacked for the fair. That group was Zack Cione, our junior working for a presidential volunteer certificate, our new member, Lyn Huettl, and our first time volunteer and her granddaughter, Lucelle Reader and Jana. Lucelle and I are both in the retired teachers organization. I try to get people I know and from different organizations to come and help us.

Enough for museum work and on to the Champion Andalusite Deposit. This yearly event for Henry and his two boys and my two boys was always new and exciting. We hike 4 hours to the 7000ft. luxury miners cabins where there were screens on the windows and the mattresses were not filled with straw. We generally started out in the morning for either the rutile diggings or the needle which was the upper and older 9000ft. cabins. The needle was a hole in the peak made by human termites looking for andalusite which made better spark plugs. From that hole it was about a 2000ft. drop almost straight down but we are going for the rutile this time. Everywhere you go it is a mule trail you are on. Up to the rutile is no exception. The path is made to be level while you go straight up in a zig zag path with washouts here and there. There are pinion pines once in a while on the way up and the trail needs some rock work where the trail dips down from a washout. The rock work is pretty good since it has been there since about 1937.

But before I knew about trails, I had taken our president at the time to the mine and we just started up the slope leading to the rutile. This turned out to be a very bad idea because the slope got slopier and slopier and the ground was made of little

bits of rock cemented by something like a calcium cement that was fine until it got slopier and then it broke away but you were already too high and too far up the slope to go any farther and if you tried to step down you started to slip and slide down this slippery slope to where you started an hour ago. This is not a good feeling. Our hands and feet were on the slope and our bottoms were up in the air trying to get as much traction a possible.

I think we sat down finally and had more traction on our bottoms and inched our way to a ridge where the terrain changed to a rock slide area. The rocks were bigger and we worked our way up until we came to the trail we should have been on if we had known it existed. We did get to the rutile diggings and now the 7000ft. cabins were just small dots down below and we could see out toward Bishop, which is between the Sierra Nevada Mts. and the White Mts. to the east.

This would sort of look like the desert except for the water coming off the snow from these two mountain ranges. You can look down this crack in the White Mts. and see the White Mountain Ranch with its irrigated fields using water that goes underground partway down and then is pumped back up to irrigate the fields.

Everywhere you move now is just about straight down as you near the rutile outcrop. Just under the outcrop is a deep, steep gully where loosened rocks roll down and around the bend and across the trail where we came up.

The week after we came up a pretty poor excuse for a rockhound was up at the rutile diggings rolling a big rock down this gully with no warning and a man and his

son were just crossing the gully on the path and the rock came zipping down on the boy breaking his leg. It would be more prudent to send down little rocks and then a few bigger pebbles and then a few bigger one as a warning to those who might be walking up a blind curve in the rocks path to let someone know more might be coming. I love to roll rocks down but I want to see all the way down. More about this fellow later.

## **NEWS & NOTES FROM THE CFMS FOR MAY 2006**

The CFMS has a challenge from the Northwest Rules Committee. They believe they can bring in more competitive exhibits to their show than the California Rules Committee can bring in for our show. The CFMS would like to take up the challenge but need your help. Last year we had nine competitive exhibits and they had eleven. Can we beat their challenge? Only YOU can do that. Please consider putting in a competitive exhibit. Besides being a personal challenge to you, it also helps educate the public as to who and what we are. In addition it helps other rockhounds see that competition isn't that bad, and that they can exhibit and compete too. It's a win-win situation. Plan now for a competitive exhibit in the CFMS show at Angels Camp in June.

CFMS continues to prepare for the 2006 Federation Show (The Calaveras G&MS will host the annual Federation Show and Directors' Meeting on June 9th



to 11th.) and I thought you might like to hear about their awesome plans. First they have an outstanding list of speakers that include the following: Jeffrey Post from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Anthony Kampf from the Los Angeles Co. Museum, Bob Jones of Rock & Gem Magazine, Russ Shoemaker from Stories in Stones and Robert Watters from the University of Nevada.

Also the list of special exhibits include a part of the following collections: Smithsonian's National Gem Collection, Los Angeles Co. Museum and The California Mining Museum. Also slated to be exhibited are two private fossil collections including a prehistoric cave bear and a 30-foot long sea fossil. There will be field trips scheduled everyday so you can chose from times to attend one of these adventures. They will be going to Carson Hill quarry, a former open pit gold mine with over 70-named minerals found there, as well as the Hidden Treasure Gold mine in nearby Columbia State Park.

Of course they will have a great selection of dealers so you can get the latest tools and greatest materials out there on the market. A great buffet style dinner banquet is planned but reservations are going fast so if you plan to attend you can get your forms online at [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org). And while you are checking out the show page you can get further info on lodging and camping. So get ready for a relaxing fun time at this years Federation Show. See you in Calaveras County, home of the frog jump.

There will two tables for selling material at the CFMS Show at Angels Camp. Ray & Florence Meisenheimer

have been fund raising at CFMS shows for a number of years using their own material. They are sold out and need help. Of all the rocks they once had, they are down to two boxes, and his daughter wants them (small rounds of petrified wood). They need donations from members of all club members—lots of donations—good material. Since they have only two tables, they cannot handle large chunks or logs and can use everything—slabs, jewelry, beads, polished rocks, minerals, fossils, etc. No equipment please! There won't be room for it. If every person coming to the show brings at least one item, it will be a great help. Of course if you wish to bring more, all the better. They will be selling Friday and Saturday, only as Ray has to return home to a job first thing Monday morning. They really appreciate donations made in the past and want to thank you all for your consideration at Angels Camp.

Many of us are getting older and have less energy to work with the large collection of rocks and minerals we have accumulated. We now know that we can never cut and polish all the material still in our sheds and yard. Many good rock hounds have passed on and their materials is slowly being covered with grass and weeds. Ray is chairman of the CFMS Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was formed to provide a stable source of income to financially assist the programs and services CFMS provides to the members. The Endowment Fund could certainly use this material—any and all collections. Donations are tax deductible. We can use rocks, minerals, fossils, equipment and any other material related to the hobby. For more information please call Ray at (805) 642-3155.

# Announcements/Calendar

**May 11th at 7pm FGMS Meeting Will feature Meg Berry speaker**

May 6 & 7 WILDLIFE ART SHOW:FGMS will participate with a special exhibit "Fossils and Hummingbirds" featuring art by Gamini Ratnavira. If you have fossils or carvings that would fit the theme and wish to display them in the club case, please contact Vanessa at (760) 598-0152.

**Mineral Cleaning Class**, Saturday May 20th from 1 to 4 PM in the FGMS auditorium. Emphasis will be on ultrasonic cleaning and removing unwanted deposits such as rust stains and calcite crust with common chemicals obtainable in your local hardware store. There will be a recommended reference literature list and where to buy stuff. Also, simple repairs to specimens and the ethical responsibility of the seller of such items.


**Refreshments:** volunteers for May meeting are: Dave Mitchell, Anne Ondraka, Liz Yamaguchi, and Laura Coleman.

***Costa Mesa, CA - Spring***  
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The Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society is a §501(c)(3), non-profit, educational and recreational organization dedicated to promote the study of mineralogy and allied earth sciences; to study and practice the art of lapidary; and to promote good fellowship.

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month, except February (generally the third Thursday) and July and August (no meetings), at 123 W. Alvarado St. The public is invited to attend our museum located at the corner of Rocky Crest Road and Hill Avenue in Fallbrook. Rocky Crest Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, and by appointment with our curator. Museum at Alvarado is open Tues. and Thurs., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Annual dues are \$25 for adults, \$20 for each additional adult in the same household; \$6 per child to age 17. The initiation fee is \$6 per person. Membership fees must be submitted along with an application, obtainable from the Society or its web site.

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*Lithosphere*

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