

Lithosphere

Volume XIV, Number 8

Fallbrook, California



Tourmaline gem pocket in new display cabinet.
Courtesy of Liz Yamaguchi

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

October

2006



Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Quarter-page horizontal 3.5"x2.25" = \$30 for 10 months, or \$3.50 per issue.

Eighth-page horizontal 1.25"x4.5" = \$15 for 10 months, or \$1.75 per issue.

All display advertising must be paid for in advance. All

advertising in the *Lithosphere* must be related to the educational focus of the Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society and its publication the *Lithosphere*.

Deadline for all advertising is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. The *Lithosphere* publishes monthly during the 10 month period between September and June. Classified advertising is free and

is limited to text only. Classified ads will be placed on the classified ad page and run until notification is received from advertiser to cancel ad, or at the editor's discretion based on space available. Editor reserves the right to edit all classified ads to fit the space available.

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Contact the editor Patricia Hartman for more information at 760-723-6624 or email to patricia@hitekdesigns.com. Or write to the editor at PO Box 1390, Bonsall, CA 92003.

Cover Photo of courtesy Editor.

FGMS October 12th Meeting at 7:00p

DIRECTIONS FOR OUR MUSEUM

Presented by John Watson

We've come a long way since the purchase of our museum building in 2002. October's presentation will be a **preview** of briefings intended for the Fallbrook community on our bold new plans for the museum. **John Watson** will make the presentation which will include stunning drawings and perspectives by **Oscar Warren**. The presentation will go through the details of what's planned for our museum and how we intend to pay for them.

The presentation will go over the history and role of FGMS and how it has evolved to 2006. Next year is the **Golden Anniversary** of FGMS and this meeting will further define the role of FGMS in North County.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FALLBROOK GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

Vanessa reported \$3,000 coming from tourist tax funds. We have decided to

spend it for signage and the brochure. The Fleet Fund of \$10,000 (to develop resources for educational programs) is completed with the purchase of two mobile teaching carts. The poster rack, purchased with a donation from the Angel Society, is here.

Anne presented the final draft bylaws to the Board. She hopes that by the October Board meeting they can be approved and sent to our attorney. They will be presented to the Club in October or November, printed in the Lithosphere, and, hopefully, voted on in December, to take effect in January. John Watson is keeping track of items removed, and he will supply this information to Gina for the policy manual. The December elections will be under the existing bylaws. A Special Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26 at 7 pm to discuss the draft Bylaws. Pam will fill in for Anne.

John has firmed up the levels of annual contribution: \$20,000 per year for five years from our members will pay off our mortgage. These contributions are the platform that he will take to the community for additional contributions to construct and outfit the new Gallery One. It is in the space now occupied by Curves. It will enhance learning, emphasizing Garth's educational activities. Later he showed Oscar Warren's drawings for the three phases of development: Phase I is the new upper lot handicapped parking that opens off Pico St., and a new side entrance into the Auditorium. Another drawing shows the lower part of our expanded property with a wall at the sidewalk level and children at learning stations in a park-like area above. Phase II is Gallery One outfitted, and shows separate views of

west wall and east wall displays and a narrow display unit between. Phase III is to replace the concrete parking ramp at front with a glass domed area having a street level entrance and gradually elevated walkway among displays of large mineral specimens, the mastodon skull, and a flying dinosaur. The walkway leads up to the Gallery One entrance. Now John is working on imagery for the new brochure that will incorporate our history, educational activities, and the new concepts. Board members responses to John's presentation: great plan, but a financial plan and schedule are needed. A problem is that there are not enough people to carry it out. We have a difficult time even finding enough docents to keep the museum open three days per week. We have nearly made the move from Rocky Crest by paving, walling and putting in storage in the back of our Alvarado building. We have incorporated the Tourmaline Queen reconstructed gem pocket and the Pala Chief safe in the Auditorium, and installed the mine car in front, and still we are not completely moved. The feeling was that this year we could help with the brochure and the Gala for the Club (October meeting where John will be sharing his plan). Then we could help with the larger community campaign next year.

Janice reported that we made more than \$1,200 on the Rummage Sale. We have a new member, James Alliegro, who helps at the Stewart Mine and has donated jewelry makings to us. The November 5 field trip is to the oyster beds. Garth will lead.

An update was given on Fall Festival plans and volunteers were called for. The

Gift Shop will have a separate booth at the Fall Festival. In the Auditorium there will be a show as well as the Silent Auction. Call Gina if you want to display or volunteer. Anne is doing publicity. A motion carried to give a \$1,000 Don Layton Scholarship to a high school student. Also, grants will be made from time to time to persons doing research in the sciences, especially mineralogy.

Mick Palculich reported that the boundary adjustment is at the County. Garth reported problems with a colony of bees in the pepper tree west of our building.

Laura Coleman and Vanessa handled Chili Night (Hot Summer Nights) for FGMS. Signs have been redesigned and a banner developed that Liz will take to Design Review so that we can get them up before the Fall Festival. Alec did a display for FGMS at the Fallbrook Library including a mastodon tusk, antique faceting equipment, lapidary and mineral carvings. It will be on display all month. Gina suggested that we do a gold display next year in honor of our anniversary, and we should have displays here in the museum also.

Vanessa reported a very nice letter received from the new president of the Historical Society, Jack Story.

SUMMARY OF REGULAR CLUB MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Thursday night saw members gathering early, bringing wonderful goodies for the Pot Luck, which began about 6:15. Nearly 50 people attended.

Guests were Diane Tjepkes, Daria Peterson, Kathy Shattuck and Evelyn Niedbule, and Diane became a member!

President Gina Palculich welcomed everyone and hoped all had a pleasant summer. She reviewed the Society's activities of the summer: Family Night, Western Night, Taste of Fallbrook and Chili Cook-off for Hot Summer Nights, painting of hall and unfinished parts of the auditorium, unpacking our museum quality mastodon skull that will be displayed somewhere in the Fossil Corner, parking lot re-stripping, and raffle post cards printed (Janice has tickets for you to purchase). We worked on the new Bylaws which we hope to have ready by next month. John Watson is working on fund raising and will be our program for next month and then he will present his fund raising concept to all groups in Fallbrook. On Saturday Erich will hold another class on how to clean minerals. The Beading Brigade, under B.J. Cheatham has made fifty necklaces and other items for sale at the Fall Festival. They meet Thursday at 10 am and welcome fellow beaders. At 1 pm another group works on grab bags. Publicity for the Fall Festival will be in both local newspapers and the Union Tribune is doing an article. It has also been sent to exchange bulletins. Signs will go up in the downtown area starting tomorrow. If anyone is interested in showing how they work with minerals, contact Alec Conley. Gina reminded everyone to take a look at our reconstructed tourmaline gem pocket in its new cabinet. She also announced that September 23 and 30, Saturdays, would be work days for the Fall Festival.

Speaker was Gary Peterson

B.J. Cheatham reported new books purchased for the Gift Shop are on display and available for a discount to members tonight. She is also taking orders for calendars. Volunteers and substitutes are still needed to work as museum docents on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. She reminded everyone that Mike Evans was as usual in the opposite corner, and had interesting mineral specimens for sale at good prices.

The field trip on November 5 is to Ocotillo to collect fossil oysters, barnacles and some anemones.

After the Raffle, Gary L. Peterson, Professor of Geology, San Diego State University, gave an interesting and informative talk on planetary geology and showed samples of objects found on earth that had come from outer space. He answered many questions from interested members and guests.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Vista Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting its biennial show next month.

WHAT Vista Gem and Mineral Society Show

DAYS Saturday, October 28 AND Sunday, October 29

TIMES Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ... Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WHERE 1200 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA 92084

The show will be held indoors in the Brengle Terrace Recreation Center building in Brengle Terrace Park

Donations to the Store will be gratefully accepted Saturday, and Sunday. Sharron Smith, Vista Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Membership Chair 760.724.8673

rocksmithgal@sbcglobal.net

Driving directions are on the www.fgms.org website.

GARTH'S WORLD

Garth Bricker,

FGMS Member and Museum Curator

Lithosphere, October, 2006



I was long on what was happening at the museum all summer so I'll be shorter this month. For this month's meeting the cabinetmaker put the tourmaline pocket into a mineshaft

entrance using aged pecan wood found in Fallbrook. This sets the pocket out from the wall and gives the allusion of being in a mineshaft. If you didn't get a chance to see it, come by Thursday, Fri., or Saturday and bring your family and friends to see it, 11-3

Last Saturday was our work day at the museum where Gina Palculich got the new sheds organized with name tags for each kind of rock box so those working on grab bags will know right where to go to get the next mineral. Dave LaMarr climbed up in the shed rafters to put away the filled grab bag boxes ready for the next fair. We did have a good potluck with everybody bringing something. The reason for this work is to get the museum organized to operate more efficiently and the next two work parties come before the October 1st open house to get all the

different tasks done and ready to set up on the 1st. This is really important because it gets us moving the day of the open house with the least amount of looking for what we should have had to set up. We need you and your skills!

We have to decide where and how to set up the mastodon head. The people at the meeting didn't see it so you will have a chance to see it first on Sunday, October 1st. It took up a lot of room in the Peter Bancroft Library and we have to decide also where it will go in the meeting room. One suggestion is to set it up in a corner and another suggestion is to set it up in the middle of the room recessed into the ceiling but still hanging down some. If someone is capable of doing this kind of work we would be very pleased to get it done. We need a sidewalk superintendent, a cleaner upper, a pass the tools up person, a person to say when it is level or not, a person to watch for falling insulation, and a person to come in and say, "What a great job you did." We need to get as many people as possible doing things so you feel good about the museum and you have had a hand in making it a better place. You can really see it getting better week-by-week. There really ought to be a listing of all the improvements made at the museum and who did them to just see how much work has been done. There is a worthwhile job

for another person to do so everyone can see how much is being done.

Report on old news. The bees are gone after David LaMarr knocked down the hive and sent the bees on their way to a new home so we wouldn't be attacked by bee stung people. People attack mines for tourmaline also.

Before the turn of the century the Stewart mine was claimed for a source of lithium in the mineral lepidolite, which had pink tourmaline all through it. This mine was on Hiriart Mt. Two Basque shepherders had located a claim on that mountain and Mr. Fred M. Sickler started looking for quartz and pink and blue tourmaline in that general area. There were very few people in the Pala area at that time and your prospects for finding a pegmatite dike was pretty good. Norm Dawson wrote in the Lapidary Journal of 1948 that he thought all the pegmatites had been found already.



September Meeting. Garth Bricker in foreground.

Fred M. Sickler staked out the White Queen claim in 1901 which was on Hiriart Mt. and can be seen as you drive today just past the new Indian casino and looking up Magee Rd. It is a slice in the hill near the top. Mr. Sickler also claimed the Vandenberg, Sempe, Caterina and Anita and did his \$100 assessment work on each of these mines. This was to show good faith to the county that you were mining the claim. The \$100 was the value of the work you did and not actual money.

Mr. Sickler found Kunzite and the record states that it came from the White Queen but Mr. Dawson said that Sickler owned this mine and also the Vandenberg, which adjoined each other. The Vandenberg had the kunzite and I saw no evidence of kunzite from 1960 to 1980 while I worked at times with Roger Helsel, my wife's brother at the White Queen mine.

From what I could tell Mr. Fred M. Sickler never did much work at the White Queen mine because in 1960 as Norm Dawson start to dig into the entrance of the pegmatite little rock had be removed and Norm had Roger put in a steel door and later put a sign up over the door saying there was dynamite rigged up to go off if anyone tried to break down the door. He had been getting high graders (unauthorized diggers at night trying to remove the minerals for themselves). Norm knew about this activity himself because he might have done some of this in his earlier years.

Mr. Sickler eventually sold the White Queen and other mines to George Ashley of Pala and later George sold the White Queen to Norm Dawson in the 1950's. Roger Helsel had married Norm's younger

daughter and took over the operation of the White Queen as chief engineer and worker building a road up to the mine and developing the system of lifts to lower the bucket down to the levels as they went down following the center of the pegmatite. The center is where the minerals are the biggest and can get more complete in form. The minerals are black tourmaline, quartz, mica and feldspar. A pegmatite is the last burp of a mass of molten rock pushed up towards the surface, say, seven miles down forming a batholith that cools. It is made up mostly of feldspar and quartz to form the future granite or small grain size rock. The mineral rich fluid that didn't crystal out is pushed up through cracks in the earth probably due to the pressure from the mass rising below. These cracks are like a ribbon heading toward the surface but never make it. The minerals are carried in this fluid and as the mineralized fluid moves up the earth gets cooler as it gets further from the center of the Earth and the minerals can crystallize more easily.

Miners will come across a bend or fold in the pegmatite called a horse. Horse is what I heard but this might not be the correct spelling. It seems the fluid would build up there in a dam and then crystallize into little to big quartz and feldspars and morganites, micas and rarer minerals like clinobisvanite and namibite. Put your reading glasses away now due to lack of space in the Lithosphere until next month. Its nice to have had all these experiences but not back to 1901 though. I use personal and written experiences, magazines, interviews by Pete Bancroft and myself, books, and miners to gather information about San Diego pegmatites and the Red Cloud mine. Garth Bricker

garthbricker@adelphia.net
information.

Send me



September speaker with specimen.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE CFMS FOR SEPTEMBER 2006 The Trona Pinnacles

Submitted by John Martin from the Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club pgmc@antelecom.net PLAC South

AREA DESCRIPTION: However it may appear to you, a visit to the Trona Pinnacles will be a journey into one of the most unusual geologic wonders in the California Desert. This unique landscape consists of more than 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) pinnacles rising from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake basin. These tufa spires, some as high as 140 feet, were formed underwater 10,000 to 100,000 years ago when Searles Lake formed a link in an interconnected chain of Pleistocene lakes stretching from Mono Lake to Death Valley.

The Trona Pinnacles were designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark in 1968 to protect one of the nation's best examples of tufa formation. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management to protect its scenic values and has become a popular filming location for movies and commercials.

GETTING THERE: The Trona Pinnacles are located approximately 20 miles east of Ridgecrest. Access to the site is from a BLM dirt road (RM143) that leaves SR 178, about 7.7 miles east of the intersection of SR 178 and the Trona-Red Mountain Road. The 5-mile long dirt road from SR 178 to the Pinnacles is usually accessible to 2-wheel drive vehicles; however, the road may be closed during the winter months after a heavy rain.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT: The Trona Pinnacles are located at around 2,000 feet above sea level in the Western Mojave Desert making it an ideal place to explore in the fall, winter, and spring months. Visiting the site in the early morning and evening is especially dramatic as are nights with a full moon.

Summer temperatures often exceed 115°F at the Trona Pinnacles, so if you plan on visiting in the summer try the early morning or evening hours. Bring plenty of water (at least 2 gallons of water/person), and if you do not have 4-wheel drive, stay out of the sand washes. Quite a few cars have been stranded in the wide sand wash that divides the main Pinnacles group.

A network of dirt roads wind throughout the site and provide numerous vantage points from which to view and photograph the Pinnacles. A .50-mile hiking trail leads into the heart of the

Pinnacles for a close-up view of these spires and the surrounding desert environment. The hike is not difficult, but you should wear sturdy shoes.

Primitive camping is permitted at Trona Pinnacles and campers are encouraged to use existing campsites and fire rings and to pack out all trash. If you plan on having a campfire, bring your own firewood. Camping is limited to 14 days.

The only development of any facilities is a vault type toilet. There are no other services at the Pinnacles.

Operate your motor vehicle and mountain bike on existing routes to protect this fragile place. Cross country travel will destroy vegetation and create scars on the landscape that may take years to heal.

Shooting is prohibited at the Trona Pinnacles to ensure the safety of other visitors. Remember to practice Leave No Trace principles:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

Pack It In Pack It Out

Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

Leave What You Find

Minimize Use and Impact of Fires

To view the on line article go to

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/ridgecrest/trona.html>

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Erich Kern suggests that we take a look at the Central Pennsylvania website. See if you like the look and feel.

<http://www.rockandmineral.org/>

TWO MONTH CALENDAR 2006

October						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Fall Festival 10:00 – 4:00	2	3	4	5 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	6	7 Board Meeting 10:00 – 12:00
8	9	10	11	12 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00 FGMS Meeting 7:00	13	14 Work Party 9:00 – 1:00 Pot Luck Lunch 1:00
15	16	17	18	19 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	27	28
29	30	31				

2006

November						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	3	4 Board Meeting 10:00 – 12:00
5 Field Trip to Fossil Beds – Lea Barton	6	7	8	9 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00 FGMS Meeting 7:00	10	11 Work Party 9:00 – 1:00 Pot Luck Lunch 1:00
12	13	14	15	16 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Bead Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Beading Brigade 10:00 Grab Bags 1:00		

2006

Legal Information

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 123 W. Alvarado. The museum is open Thurs., Fri., and Sat. 11am to 3pm and during special events in the downtown area or by appointment. 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 is published monthly (except July and August) and is sent to all members of the Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society as part of their membership.

Exchanges: Free reciprocal exchanges for the bulletins of other gem and mineral societies are welcomed. **Please send all exchange bulletins to the FGMS Office.**

Disclaimer: The opinions and conclusions expressed in *Lithosphere* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Officers, Editor, or members of the Society.

Contributions: Submissions (articles, letters, notes, announcements, photographs, etc.) are **actively** solicited from FGMS members. Submissions from non-members may be included at the discretion of the Editor. Copyrighted material submitted for publication must be accompanied with a written release from the copyright holder. Original, personally-written articles will be published with a copyright notice in the author's name *if requested*; otherwise all submissions will be published without individual copyright. No anonymous submissions will be considered; however, the submitter's name may be withheld, or a pseudonym used, upon request. All material is subject to editing. Unless previously arranged, all submissions become the property of the Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society. Send all submissions to the Editors.

Deadline: The deadline for all submitted material is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Allow extra time if line drawings or photographs are submitted. **Editor: Patricia Hartman**, PO Box 1390, Bonsall, CA 92003. Email address: patricia@hitekdesigns.com

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Lithosphere

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