

# LITHOSPHERE

Volume XVII, Number 9  
November 2008

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
Fallbrook, California



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## LITHOSPHERE INFORMATION

Cover Image - Ametrine from the Anahí Mine, Bolivia  
courtesy Caltech, © George R. Rossman

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## November Meeting Program - Guest Speaker

Robert Weldon, G.G. presents

### **From the Andes to the Amazon: Ametrine and the people who mine it, cut it, and love it**

Thursday, November 13th, 7:00 pm  
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society Meeting Room  
presented by Robert Weldon, G.G.

Robert and the GIA takes us on a visual visit to Bolivia's high Andes Mountains to catch a glimpse of the country's historic mineral legacy. Our trip winds through Bolivia's high valleys and down towards the Amazon basin. Our ultimate destination is the Anahi Mine. Come let GIA'S Robert Weldon take you on a fascinating visit of the world's one and only source of Ametrine.

Robert Weldon, G.G. is the Manager of Photographic and Visual Communications at GIA in Carlsbad, California, working out of the Richard T. Liddicoat Library and information center. Before returning to GIA he was a Senior Editor for JCK & Professional Jeweler magazines. His beautiful photographic images have appeared in numerous publications.



Image Credit: Caltech  
© George R. Rossman

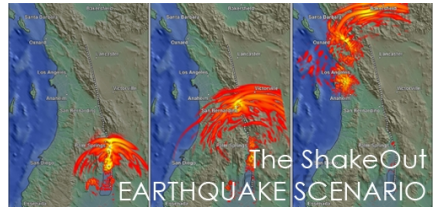
Submitted by Michael T. Evans, Program Chair FGMS

Refreshments for the November general meeting will be generously provided by:  
Diane Rose, Bonnie Parsley, and Roberta Weber  
Thank you!

# Are You Ready to ShakeOut?

courtesy of The Great Southern California ShakeOut

With 22 million people living and working in southern California, a major earthquake in the region could cause an unprecedented catastrophe. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like after. With earthquakes an inevitable part of southern California's future, Californians must act quickly to



ensure that disasters do not become catastrophes. With this in mind, the Earthquake Country Alliance has organized the Great Southern California ShakeOut, a week of special events featuring a massive earthquake drill at 10 AM on November 13, 2008.

The ShakeOut drill centers on the ShakeOut Earthquake Scenario, a realistic portrayal of what could happen in a major earthquake on the southern end of the San Andreas Fault. Created by over 300 experts led by Dr. Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey, the scenario outlines a hypothetical 7.8 magnitude earthquake originating near the Salton Sea, which would have the potential to devastate the region.

While earthquakes cannot be predicted or prevented, steps can be taken to prepare in order to make a difference in how our lives will be after an earthquake. Secure your space by strapping top-heavy furniture, water heaters, and other items to walls or tabletops. Strengthen your buildings walls and foundation if necessary. Of course, it is important to have resources to protect yourself and others should assistance be slow in arriving. Three to 14 days worth of water for each person, non-perishable food, and a fire extinguisher, among other supplies, can be valuable resources to have stored and ready for such a disaster.

With a goal of at least 5 million participants, the ShakeOut drill will be the largest in U.S. history. To participate, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/register](http://www.ShakeOut.org/register) and pledge your family, school, business, or organization's participation in the drill. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill, connect with other participants, and encourage a dialogue with others about earthquake preparedness. There are many ways to take part, but at the least participants should Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10 A.M. on November 13. It all begins with registering, which is free and open to everyone.

For more information, visit [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org) and be sure to visit the official ShakeOut Blog at [greatsocialshakeout.blogspot.com](http://greatsocialshakeout.blogspot.com).

## Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Club Welcomes its New Members

Pamela Myers  
310 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd. Ste. 107-209  
San Marcos, CA 92078  
760/522-0480  
[glassartdzns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glassartdzns@sbcglobal.net)

Jeani Willis  
5219 Robinwood  
Oceanside, Ca 92056  
760/594/1237  
[jwillis@semprautilities.com](mailto:jwillis@semprautilities.com)

Rhonda Rose  
Paul Guthary  
P.O. Box 390873  
Anza, CA 92539-0873  
951/897-0186  
[tlingit2k@gmail.com](mailto:tlingit2k@gmail.com)

Arnold W. & Norma Mantyla  
201 Grand Ave #144  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760/435-2462  
[normamantyla@gmail.com](mailto:normamantyla@gmail.com)

*West Coast Fall*

# GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Holiday Inn – Costa Mesa

Bristol Plaza \* 3131 S. Bristol St. \* Costa Mesa, CA

**NOVEMBER 14 – 15 – 16, 2008**

Show Hours: Friday & Saturday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

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Minerals \* Fossils \* Gemstones \* Jewelry \* Beads \* Meteorites

**Open to the Public \* FREE Admission \* Wholesale \* Retail**

So easy to find . . . less than a mile from John Wayne Airport!  
Take the Bristol Street exit (south) from I-405. South of the South Coast Plaza Shopping Center.

Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C., P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
Fax: (505) 867-0073, email: [mz0955@aol.com](mailto:mz0955@aol.com), [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

# Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

September 6, 2008 – 10:00 am

The Members of the Board of Directors present were: Gina Palculich, Janice Bricker, Elizabeth “BJ” Cheatham, Vanessa Jones, Erich Kern, Bill Hollingsworth and Don Parsley.

## **Member Forum**

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The President reported that no one had signed up to speak.

## **Secretary's Report: Minutes**

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The Board reviewed the Minutes of August 2nd, 2008. (M) Vanessa Jones (S) Janice Bricker to accept the Minutes of August 2nd, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion passed.

## **Treasurer's Reports: Vanessa Jones**

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The profit and loss statement for July was reviewed as well as the Allocated Cash report. There was discussion about the open grant monies and how to spend them.

## **Vice President's Report: Mary Fong-Walker, Avocado & Fall Festival Coordinator**

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Mary was absent. Vanessa reported that there had been a Fall Festival planning meeting the previous Wednesday evening. Many tasks had been allotted but Janice and BJ would try to call members to get more signed-up to help.

## **Directors' Reports**

---

Public Programs – Bill Hollingsworth

Bill had nothing to report.

Facilities – Erich Kern

Erich reported on the routine maintenance done. Don Parsley spoke about the lot and FCDC's desire to complete an agreement with FGMS about the lot development.

Education – Elizabeth Cheatham

BJ asked that the Board consider closing the museum on Thursdays to maximize docent hours. There was discussion about other alternatives such as recruiting docents from local mineral clubs or organizations such as retired teachers, Kiwanis, etc.

Development – Don Parsley

Don had nothing to report.

*Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – September (continued)*

**Member Services – Janice Bricker**

Janice reported no new members. Erich confirmed that most of the needed changes to the website that had been done.

**Reports from Appointed Positions and Ad Hoc Committees**

Gina solicited one member of the Board for the Nominating Committee. Erich Kern volunteered.

**New Business**

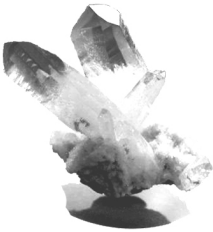
Gina asked whether we wanted to give an award at the SD County Fair. (M) Janice Bricker (S) Vanessa Jones that FGMS give a \$50 award for 2009 with category to be determined. Motion passed.

Gina said FAVB had requested to put up a sign at their front entrance for the month of October. Board approved. FAVB had also requested additional storage space. Board disapproved.

The revised VFM/FGMS fair agreement was reviewed. (M) Erich Kern (S) Janice Bricker to approve the revised agreement. Motion passed.

President Gina Palculich, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

## **Quartz, Quartz, Quartz!**



In late 1992, the Toft Family Trust purchased the entire Brazilian mineral collection of Sr. Victor Estafano. It consisted of over 2,500 specimens, from thumbnail to large cabinet size, acquired during a forty-five year period, from the late 40's to the early 90's.

During our four-year sojourn in Sao Paulo (1981-1985), Sr. Estafano introduced us to many miners, cutters, mineral dealers, wholesalers and retailers. We also had his “letters of introduction” for contacts for our forays into Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais and Ceara. Sr. Estafano was discriminating in his choice of specimens and meticulous in documenting his “finds.”

All specimens offered for sale contain the original labels in Portuguese and have detailed local information. The first group consists of various quartzes, chalcedonies, amethysts and agates. Viewing is by appointment only. Tax ID is required or sales tax will be added to purchases. Cash or checks made out to “Toft Family Trust B” will be accepted. If interested, please call (760) 739- 1826

## **Draft - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

October 4, 2008 – 10:00 am

The Members of the Board of Directors present were: Gina Palculich, Janice Bricker, Elizabeth “BJ” Cheatham, Vanessa Jones and Don Parsley.

### **Member Forum**

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The President reported that no one had signed up to speak.

### **Secretary's Report: Minutes**

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The Board reviewed the Minutes of September 20, 2008. (M) Vanessa Jones (S) Don Parsley to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Reports: Vanessa Jones**

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The profit and loss statement for August was reviewed. Vanessa reported that after the Fall Festival, there would be a clearer financial picture.

### **Vice President's Report: Mary Fong-Walker, Avocado & Fall Festival Coordinator**

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Mary was absent.

### **Old Business**

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Litigation Update

Gina will contact our lawyers to request a year-end report.

### **Directors' Reports**

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Public Programs – Bill Hollingsworth

Bill was absent.

Facilities – Erich Kern

Erich was absent. Don Parsley requested help from the Board to get bids from Fallbrook companies for the removal of the eucalyptus trees.

Education – Elizabeth Cheatham

BJ had nothing new to report.

Development – Don Parsley

Gina reported that David Mitchell had attended a CDBG grant meeting. She suggested that we not apply this year since the grant was due on October 24th and required a lot of work. David had also told her there was a grant available in February that looked promising.



*Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – October (continued)*

#### Member Services – Janice Bricker

Janice reported two new members, the Mantylas, who recently gave us a large donation of magazines, geodes and other material. An invitation was received from Jewel Tunnel Imports to an open house on November 23rd. Janice reported that Patricia Hartman had offered her resignation from the Lithosphere. Henry Park and David Mitchell were considered as possible replacements.

#### **New Business**

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Gina showed a letter from Jackie Jackson thanking FGMS for having given Liz a place where she had enjoyed spending her time.

Gina announced the Vista show on October 11th & 12th.

The Calendar of Community Events was discussed. There would be nothing done for Earth Science week but Garth was going to spend the whole day on Wednesday 10/8 at the Sullivan School. There was talk about participating in the Christmas Parade and hosting a Sundowner's. For the November meeting we will discuss participation in Christmas holiday shopping events.

Gina reported that a group of home schooled children would be visiting the museum on Wednesday 10/8 and a group of Newcomers would be visiting on Thursday 10/9.

## **Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society Online Store**

Why should I buy a book or other items via the FGMS online store?

Purchasing books or any other item from Amazon.com website, by first following a link from our club website at <http://www.fgms.org/store.htm>, FGMS will receive a commission from Amazon.com. These commissions can be used to purchase other books for our library, or added to our operating capital.



By following a link in our online store, you will be taken directly to Amazon.com, where you can purchase that item or any other item you wish. The purchase is between you and Amazon.com. FGMS receives different commissions based upon the items you purchase, however, any items returned will result in the commission being refunded. FGMS is not responsible for any issues concerning your order.



## New Endangered Species – “The Rockhound”

by John Martin, Public Lands Advisory Committee – South, from the CFMS Newsletter 10/2008

The habitat of the rockhound is diminishing at an astounding rate. More and more of its free roaming areas are being gobbled up each and every day by the changing environment. Soon the range of the Rockhound and its offspring the Pebble Pup will become so diminished that extinction will be imminent. As the environment changes, the ecosystem of the rockhound is slowly being replaced by the ecosystem known as “Wilderness”, which is a poisonous dead zone for the Rockhound and Pebble Pup. Soon they will go the way of the Smilodon, the California Grizzly Bear and the now extinct Naugas (which were hunted late in the last century for their hides that were used exclusively in the creation of the Bean Bag Chair).

What can be done to save the ecosystem and the free range habitat of the endangered Rockhound and Pebble Pup? We can do a lot if we ban together and take action now, before it is too late. We need to review all the facts, formulate a plan, distribute the plan and then execute the plan by contacting all of our elected representatives with our facts, figures and recommendations for saving the ecosystem of the rockhound.

Currently before congress there are 4 new wilderness bills and one bill that will make some fossil collecting and ownership a federal crime. The California Wild Heritage Act and The Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act when passed by Congress could reduce the ecosystem of the rockhound, just in California, by around 3.26 Million acres of new wilderness habitats.

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act when passed by congress will make the collecting and ownership of vertebrate fossils found on public land (BLM, USFS, and State land) a federal crime with punishment with fines and/or imprisonment. Collecting of these fossils on private land is allowed with the proof of collecting on the holder of the fossils. There needs to be allowances for the collecting, ownership and public display of these vertebrate fossils by the amateur collector without the fear of criminal prosecution or civil legal action. We all understand that significant finds like “Sue” need to be preserved for all to enjoy, but the collection, ownership and public display of smaller finds of non-significant, nondescript vertebrate fossils should be allowed in the legislation.



Image credit: Henry Park

*New Endangered Species – “The Rockhound” (continued)*

If we do not get involved and take a proactive approach the above legislation will become law and the Rockhound and Pebble Pups will become extinct just like their ecosystem and free range habitat.

So what can we do? First read the proposed legislation, determine the effect of the legislation in your collecting areas. Inform all of your club members of the urgency of the legislation. Formulate a response with recommendations that are attainable. Write letters to your elected officials and present your case and points. If we do not make our voices heard we will lose the battle of the Rockhound and we will become extinct. We can make our voices heard in Washington by supporting and joining the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) as clubs or as individuals. <http://www.amfed.org/ALAA.htm>. I have copies of all the above bills in MS Word format. If you or your club would like copies please send me a note with your email address and I will send them to you.

John Martin, Public Lands Advisory Committee – South

Below are the Bills and their authors with links to the websites with full information on their status.

S. 493: California Wild Heritage Act of 2007

Introduced by B. Boxer [D- CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-493>

H.R. 860: California Wild Heritage Act of 2007

Introduced by Hilda Solis [D-CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-860>

S. 3069: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act

Introduced by B. Boxer [D- CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s110-3069>

H.R. 6156: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act

Introduced by Howard McKeon [R-CA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-61569>

H.R. 554: Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

Introduced by James McGovern [D-MA]

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-554>

An invitation for the members and friends of the  
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society to attend an open house at:

## Jewel Tunnel Imports

Sunday, November 23, 2008

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

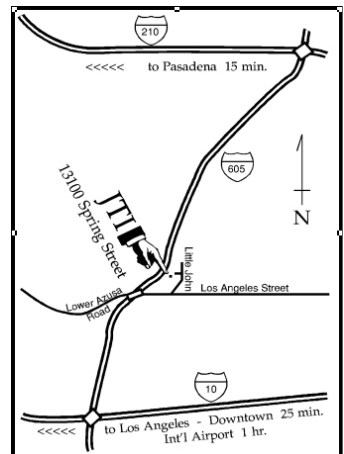
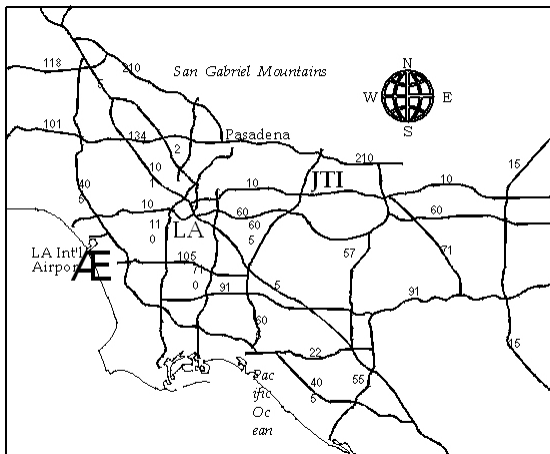
13100 Spring St.  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
(626) 814-2257

Map available at [jeweltunnel.com](http://jeweltunnel.com)  
Refreshments will be served.

Jewel Tunnel Imports is a leading wholesale distributor of mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, tumbled stones and many different kinds of lapidary items like balls, eggs, jewelry etc. made from different minerals. We have a warehouse in excess of 10,000 sq. feet full of mineral related natural history items, perhaps the largest of its kind in the United States.

Historically Jewel Tunnel Imports has had limited open house parties for mineralogically and geologically oriented groups such as the students and faculty of various university geology departments and members of certain gem and mineral societies. These open houses, by invitation only, on a few weekends just preceding Christmas, offer a chance for individuals belonging to these groups to buy minerals and crystals at wholesale prices and to learn something about the wholesale gem and mineral business.

The owner of Jewel Tunnel (Rock Currier) is also interested in learning about new sources of mineral specimens and has been known to buy and trade such items. He is a micromounter and always interesting in trading for good micromount material not represented in his collection.



# NASA'S Dirty Secret: Moon Dust

courtesy of Geological Society of America



The surface of the Moon is covered in powdery gray dust that caused unforeseen problems for NASA astronauts. Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison “Jack” Schmitt took this picture of Eugene Cernan during their third and last walk on the lunar surface in December of 1972. Image credit: NASA

**Boulder, CO, USA – The Apollo Moon missions of 1969-1972 all share a dirty secret. “The major issue the Apollo astronauts pointed out was dust, dust, dust,” says Professor Larry Taylor, Director of the Planetary Geosciences Institute at the University of Tennessee. Fine as flour and rough as sandpaper, Moon dust caused ‘lunar hay fever,’ problems with space suits, and dust storms in the crew cabin upon returning to space.**

*NASA'S Dirty Secret: Moon Dust (continued)*

Taylor and other scientists presented their research on lunar dust at the “Living on a Dusty Moon” session on Thursday, 9 October 2008, at the Joint Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) in Houston, Texas, USA. NASA will use these findings to plan a safer manned mission to the Moon in 2018. Taylor will also delivered a Pardee Keynote Session talk on Sunday, 5 October 2008 entitled “Formation and Evolution of Lunar Soil from An Apollo Perspective.”

The trouble with moon dust stems from the strange properties of lunar soil. The powdery gray dirt is formed by micrometeorite impacts which pulverize local rocks into fine particles. The energy from these collisions melts the dirt into vapor that cools and condenses on soil particles, coating them in a glassy shell.



Lunar dust as seen under a microscope. Each is covered in a glassy coating that may be smooth and round or jagged and sharp. Particle types shown include plagioclase (upper left, white), volcanic glass beads (lower right, smooth and black), impact-glass beads (upper right, black but rough), rock chips (rough and gray) and agglutinate (center, rough and gray, with hole). For scale, the smallest round bead at upper right is approximately 1 mm in diameter.

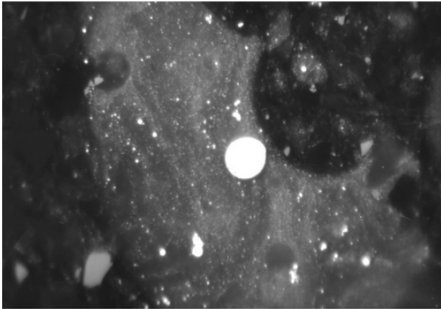
Image credit: Larry Taylor

These particles can wreak havoc on space suits and other equipment. During the Apollo 17 mission, for example, crew members Harrison “Jack” Schmitt and Gene Cernan had trouble moving their arms during moonwalks because dust had gummed up the joints. “The dust was so abrasive that it actually wore through three layers of Kevlar-like material on Jack’s boot,” Taylor says.

To make matters worse, lunar dust suffers from a terrible case of static cling. UV rays drive electrons out of lunar dust by day, while the solar wind bombards it with electrons by night. Cleaning the resulting charged particles with wet-wipes only makes them cling harder to camera lenses and helmet visors. Mian Abbas of the National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville, Alabama, will discuss electrostatic charging on the moon and how dust circulates in lunar skies.

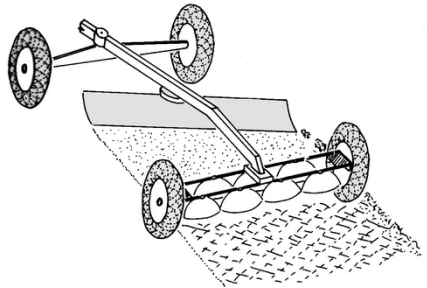
*NASA'S Dirty Secret: Moon Dust (continued)*

Luckily, lunar dust is also susceptible to magnets. Tiny specks of metallic iron (Fe<sub>0</sub>) are embedded in each dust particle's glassy shell. Taylor has designed a magnetic filter to pull dust from the air, as well as a "dust sucker" that uses magnets in place of a vacuum. He has also discovered that microwaves melt lunar soil in less time than it takes to boil a cup of tea. He envisions a vehicle that could microwave lunar surfaces into roads and landing pads as it drives, and a device to melt soil over lunar modules to provide insulation against space radiation. The heating process can also produce oxygen for breathing.



Flecks of metallic iron (white) embedded in the glassy coating of lunar dust. All lunar impact glass contains grains of iron a tenth of a micron across or less.

Image credit: Larry Taylor



Lunar dust melts readily when exposed to microwave energy. Professor Larry Taylor of the University of Tennessee envisions a lunar paver fitted with microwave generators that could sinter, or melt, lunar soils into landing strips or roads.

Image credit: Larry Taylor

But the same specks of iron that could make moon dust manageable also pose a potential threat to human health, according to Bonnie Cooper at NASA's Johnson Space Center. "Those tiny blobs of pure iron we see on the surface of lunar grains are likely to be released from the outside edges of the particle in the lungs and enter the bloodstream," she says. Preliminary studies suggest that the inhalation of lunar dust may pose a health hazard, possibly including iron toxicity. Members of NASA's Lunar Airborne Dust Toxicity Advisory Group, Cooper, Taylor, and colleagues are studying how moon dust affects the respiratory system. They plan to set a lunar dust exposure standard by 2010, in time for NASA engineers to design a safer and cleaner trip to the Moon.

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 Established in 1888, The Geological Society of America provides access to elements that are essential to the professional growth of earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academic, government, business, and industry.

## **“Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008” Takes Effect** courtesy Jewelers Vigilance Committee

### ***U.S. Customs & Border Protection Provides Detailed Implementation Plan for Act 30-Day Grace Period Is Established; Ends October 26, 2008***



The U.S. Congress passed legislation to ban the import of jade or other gems from Burma

The U.S. Customs & Border Protection has issued Phase 1 of its Implementation Plan to enforce the “Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008.” Phase 1 includes detailed requirements to import and export non-Burmese rubies and jadeite into and out of the United States. No jadeite and rubies of Burma origin can be imported into the United States. This importation ban encompasses all Burmese origin jadeite and rubies, notwithstanding “substantial transformation” in Thailand or elsewhere. Burma is also known as Myanmar.

A 30-day grace period had been established whereby importers and exporters that may not meet all mandatory requirements can still import and export non-Burmese goods until Sunday, October 26, 2008.

Customs has issued new Harmonized Tariff System codes for use for all non-Burmese rubies and jadeite and jewelry containing these gemstones imported into the U.S. Shipments of rubies and jadeite from non-Burmese sources must use these codes when entering the U.S. In addition, importers are required to:

- Maintain full records related to purchase, manufacture and shipment of non-Burmese goods for five years;
- Provide these records to Customs, if asked.

Exporters are also required to maintain and file specific records. Exporters are required to declare upon entry that the jadeite or rubies have been subject to a system of verifiable controls from mine to first export that demonstrate that the gemstones were not extracted from Burma and that the exporters have records to prove it. This applies also to jewelry containing non-Burmese rubies and jadeite.



*“Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008” Takes Effect (continued)*

Phase 2 of the implementation plan will be developed over the next few months. The purpose of Phase 2 is to determine if further steps are needed to support additional verification of export controls and to streamline the process. Importers and exporters can send questions to Customs at [jade.act@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:jade.act@cbp.dhs.gov). Customs will be posting frequently asked questions on their website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). Custom’s full Implementation Plan, Phase 1 will be available on JVC’s website, [www.jvclegal.org](http://www.jvclegal.org).

The importation ban does not apply to Burmese jadeite or rubies that are imported for personal use, meaning for personal wear by the importer. Further, the bill does not address U.S. sales of any inventory of Burmese jadeite or rubies currently in the U.S. U.S. jewelers can to sell existing inventories of Burmese jadeite and rubies already in the US.

Said Cecilia Gardner, JVC president, CEO and general counsel, “The ‘Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008’ has serious and long-term impact on U.S. jewelry manufacturers who import jadeite and rubies. Effective immediately, all importers and exporters of non-Burmese rubies and jadeite must follow Phase 1 of the Burmese JADE Act Enforcement Plan and use Custom’s new Harmonized codes, although there is a generous grace period. JVC will continue to monitor developments with the agencies working to develop import instructions for non-Burmese ruby and jadeite to inform the trade on further implementation details.”

Visit JVC’s website, [www.jvclegal.org](http://www.jvclegal.org), for late-breaking news on the “Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008,” along with other important legal compliance information and JVC products and services.

Jewelers Vigilance Committee, founded in 1917, is a not-for-profit legal trade association fulfilling its mission to maintain the jewelry industry’s highest ethical standards. JVC offers dispute mediation and arbitration services for trade and consumers, compliance monitoring and precious metals testing, among many other services. JVC, long considered the industry’s guardian of ethics and integrity, is a resource for the entire jewelry industry and its customers as well as an industry representative before government agencies, media and adjunct fields. For more information visit: [www.jvclegal.org](http://www.jvclegal.org).

## Garth Bricker, FGMS Member and Museum Curator

November 2008, continued from October, part 3 of 3



Garth Bricker  
FGMS Member &  
Museum Curator

Take the case of the hollow green worms from the Himalaya mine. I probably found this in the early 1990's looking through the binocular microscope at Himalaya minerals. This was the first bright green hollow worm casings like material. Gene Foord x-rayed it and said it didn't match any known mineral in the literature. A new mineral! It was the first Chromium mineral found at the Himalaya mine in Mesa Grande, Calif. Gene had it for a while and decided not to characterize it and sent it back with a number of other micros I had sent him to look at. I sent Tony Kampf recently a copy of Gene's letter where he had said this was a very weird mineral in its structure and characteristics.

This whole thing was for naught. Gene sent the micros back and I never saw the green hollow worms again. My theory is that I opened the package and unwrapped the micros and just missed seeing the tiny green worms or Gene thought he had wrapped them but being small just didn't see them and they went into some paper and disappeared. One less chance for Brickerite.

My wife's brother was the worker at the White Queen in Pala, San Diego Co. Calif. and his family's work had continued a drift into the side of Harriart Mt. called the White Queen mine above the Indian village of Pala. They ran across two minerals that no one could identify. I sent them to Gene Foord at the USGS in Colorado to identify and they came back saying there is no known mineral name for either. I gave them to a mineral scientist at the Southern Calif. Micromount Conference a lot of years ago and he lost them. My memory is fuzzy here but I think Gene Foord later came back with the names they were given after I found them. One should have been named whitequeenite. Two more lost chances for Brickerite but now we have namibite and clinobisvanite.

While working at the New Method mine I came across what we were looking for which was a radioactive mineral called boltwoodite. Of course it was a micro mineral but other minerals were growing on it, which made it more interesting, and two of them had no names that anyone knew of. One or both of these were new minerals!!! One was a yellow hexagon but only a few of the sides were showing. The other one was only on one tuft of minute yellow needles. Both of these were sent to Canada to a uranium mineral specialist. He worked on them and used up the very few needles of the one and couldn't get any logical picture of the clear yellow hex mineral because its crystal structure was destroyed by bombardment of atoms being given off by the uranium molecules. That state of affairs would be called metamict where the internal crystal structure was destroyed. Two more off the list.

*Garth Bricker, FGMS Member and Museum Curator (continued)*

I sent an unknown to Canada that Bob Housley had checked out as a new mineral. It was going to be characterized in Canada and hopefully named Brickerite. The checking went on for several years and the stumbling block was that it was the same mineral twice on the same crystal called twinning. Two pieces of the same mineral joined together as if glued to each other. This is sort of like butterfly wings both at different angles but joined like Siamese twins.

How to interpret this as only one mineral was the problem. Our mineral scientist finally got some help from a twinning CD meant to help scientists with this problem. The twinning was solved and now the elements that made up this specimen were found and their size and distance apart were determined and how much water was in the structure and a picture where the atoms were placed all were worked out. There was so much to do and some parts had to be shipped out to others that had special equipment to make needed measurements so all this could be sent to the International Mineral Association that had the last word on naming minerals after they checked all the data to see if everything fit.

And, hey, no fair. A German fellow did the work on a mineral called plumbotsumite from South Africa before my mineral was found and wrote the formula down so all the reference books in existence had what he had said was the formula. My mineral had a different formula. My Canadian mineral scientist had sent for this mineral and it looked just like mine. He checked out the elements the German scientist said were in the mineral and found that mine had a CO<sub>2</sub> component that was missing from the German's formula otherwise they were the same mineral. I think my scientist asked for a piece of the German's plumbotsumite and ran checks on it and found that his had a CO<sub>2</sub> component just like mine. CO<sub>2</sub> ought to be the easiest thing to check but he left it out and left us scratching our heads and feeling just a little unhappy about this fellow. Another of my new minerals bit the dust and all this time and effort could have been used on a valid new mineral and all the reference book on minerals in the world now have to be corrected to boot.

It pays to listen to your mineral scientist. My most recent find at the Blue Bell was in the same place as my supposed new mineral. This mineral was not like a leadhillite, a hexagon, but like light blue chisels arranged side by side. The word blue was my undoing. Adamite is usually green but it is chisel shaped on the end or termination just like the blue mineral I found first. I looked in the reference books and there was one reference saying that a particular adamite was blue so I figured that I had that blue adamite. Bob Housley, when I told him of my blue adamite, said that he had never found adamite at the Blue Bell mine. I think that he had said that several times in e-mails to me. It looked exactly like a blue adamite so I stuck with that.

Some time passed and several of us went back to the Blue Bell and I was showing the other good micromounters where I had found my blue adamite. They also found some blue?? and sent it to Bob to check out and he told them that there was no

*Garth Bricker, FGMS Member and Museum Curator (continued)*

other mineral with the same set of elements arranged that way and it probably was a new mineral. All my minerals had been too microscopic and couldn't be characterized with the equipment available at that time, the 1970's and 80's. Now I had my first new mineral that you could actually see with your naked eye. What an easy job to characterize, a breeze! The moral is, Listen to your Mineral Scientist!

Listen, Listen, there were no adamites found at the Blue Bell mine near Baker, California. No one had ever seen a blue adamite but there might have been one in Mexico, possibly but no had ever seen one!

This is enough to make a grown man cry. I've run out of new minerals. I don't see any more new minerals coming my way. It's up to you to get out there and find the new minerals. Start planning your next trip, now!

## **20th General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association**

in Budapest, Hungary in August 2010

[www.ima-mineralogy.org](http://www.ima-mineralogy.org) – [www.univie.ac.at/Mineralogie/IMA\\_2010/contact.htm](http://www.univie.ac.at/Mineralogie/IMA_2010/contact.htm)

Tradition: 50 Years of IMA -- The International Mineralogical Association (IMA), the oldest international scientific body of mineral sciences, organized its 1st General Meeting (GM) in 1959. The next meeting of the recently quadrennial world conference series, the 20th IMA GM, is standing on, and will pay tribute to the solid basis built up by the results of two complete generations of mineral scientists, having met traditionally at IMA GMs.

Exciting Field Programmes:

The region has many attractive mineralogical / petrological / geochemical / sites, ore and non-metallic deposits and also cultural sites to visit. Intensive pre- and post-congress field trip programme is planned. The trips will vary both in length (1-5 days) and in subject (covering all fields of mineral sciences + cultural programme).

Romania: Transylvania, Banat, Maramures region: Ditrau Alkaline Massif, Rosia

Montana/Verespatak, Baia Sprie/Felsobánya, Cavnic, Ocna de Fier/Vasko

Slovakia: Banská Štiavnica/Schemnitz/, Kremnica, Špania Dolina, Smolnik,

Dubnik/Cervenica/Vörösvágás

Hungary: Úrkút, Rudabánya, Mecsek Mts. (nuclear waste depository), Bakony-Balaton Highland, bauxite

Austria: Styrian Volcanism (Miocene-Pliocene). Eastern Alps, Felbertal, Erzberg

Further trips/trip segments are planned in co-operation with the mineralogical societies of the neighbour countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraina, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia)

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival of Gems – Recap

By Garth Bricker

Sunday, 5 October, 2008 -- Our 11th Annual Fall Festival of Gems was held on the street in front of our building, with Mike Steinsnyder demonstrating faceting and Vanessa Jones in charge of the silent auction. Gina Palculich, our Society president, and the office crew spent the month or two or three planning for this year's Fall Festival. Janice Bricker spent months getting the vendors signed in and passed through the sheriffs requirements and fees. This was the major part of the Fall Festival, getting the vendors in their spots by the 5th. The street had to be lined so vendors would know where to set up, but it rained the night before and washed away many of the lines, which had to be redone in the morning.



The 11th Annual Fall Festival of Gems, early shoppers get the first pick before the crowds show up, filling the street

Another area of concern dealt with the County plans for blocking off streets to close down Alvarado. Mick Palculich had the responsibility for his crew getting all the signs set up by morning. The plans were detailed in exact with about 8 pages of how and where to do it. There were many little things like setting up tables, awnings, trash and recycle bins, electrical cords to machinery and the Kiwanis's food booth.

There were 15 dealers, Ray Pierce showing how his sphere machine turned the rocks into nice round spheres, and Mel Grossman kept the children very interested in panning for real gold and other heavy minerals that are trapped by the gold pan. The kids kept the gold and other minerals they found to take home. The gold was from Sutter's Creek, which was California's first gold strike. I had to tell you this because I'm a retired 4th grade teacher.



Is it real? The Gem ID experts give the thumbs up or thumbs down.

Advertise and the people will come! We had a good crowd and the dealers sold rock and mineral related items. People came and many said they come each year and look forward to the annual event. It's a great place to spend a Sunday. I knew a lot of people from my days teaching and personal friends, I think this happened to a lot of those that came, which makes these outings more fun. We hope to provide this service for years to come, it lets us earn money to help us keep the museum up and improving our whole building. The museum had a good crowd all day. Sunshine and warmth to all on the first Sunday of October.

## November 2008 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Board Meeting 10am – 12:30pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Workshop 9:30am – 1pm Potluck Lunch 1:00 pm
9 Workshop 9:30am – 1pm Potluck Lunch 1:00 pm	10	11	12	13 <b>FGMS General Meeting</b> 7pm - 9pm	14 Gem & Mineral Show at Costa Mesa 10am - 6pm	15 Gem & Mineral Show at Costa Mesa 10 - 6pm
16 Gem & Mineral Show at Costa Mesa 10am - 5pm	17	18 Beginning Beading Brigade 6pm – 9pm	19 Beading Brigade 10am – 4pm	20	21	22
23 Jewel Tunnel Imports Trip 10:00 am -	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30						



## Legend Earth – the story of our planet

Get the latest news about discoveries in geology,  
paleontology and earth sciences.

[www.legendearth.com](http://www.legendearth.com)  
a website by Henry Park, FGMS Member

## Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Director of Facilities.....	Erich Kern.....	(951) 698-7950
Director of New Facilities.....	Don Parsley.....	(951) 600-4890
Director of Public Programs.....	Bill Hollingsworth.....	(760) 726-5878
Director of Education.....	Elizabeth Cheatham.....	(760) 731-0436
Director of Member Services.....	Janice Bricker.....	(760) 728-1333
Lithosphere Editor.....	Henry Park.....	(858) 437-4112
fgms.org Webmaster.....	Patricia Hartman.....	(760) 723-6624
California Federation Representative.....	Gina Palculich.....	(760) 728-2196
Volunteers for Minerals Representative....	Garth Bricker.....	(760) 728-1333
Membership/Refreshments.....	Janice Bricker.....	(760) 728-1333
Publicity.....	Diane Rose.....	(760) 723-1086
Programs.....	Mike Evans.....	(760) 414-9722
Scholarship.....	Bill Rupp.....	(760) 723-6624
Field Trips.....	Matt Boeck.....	(760) 216-8971
Fund Raising.....	Board of Directors	
Historian.....	TBD	
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society Museum		
Museum Curator.....	Garth Bricker.....	(760) 728-1333
Assistant Curator.....	Mike Evans.....	(760) 414-9722
Gift Shop.....	Elizabeth Cheatham.....	(760) 731-0436

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 West Alvarado Street, Fallbrook, California. The public is invited to attend our museum located at 123 West Alvarado Street. The museum is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm 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.

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

*Lithosphere*  
**Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society**  
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