

**Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society Of
Southern California**



Volume 83 Number 2 February 2012

The 885th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern
California

***Program: Demantoid & Tourmaline - Mineral Adventures
in Madagascar***

by Dr. Federico Pezaotta

The 184th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern
California

February 17, 2012 7:30 pm

**Geology Department, E-Building, Room 220 Pasadena City
College 1570 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena**

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Program: Demantoid & Tourmaline - Mineral Adventures in Madagascar

Dr. Federico Pezzotta is the Curator of Mineralogy at the Museum of Natural History in Milan, Italy and one of the most knowledgeable people in the world on the mineralogy of Madagascar.

In his years of work on this island nation, located off the southeastern coast of Africa, Dr. Pezzotta has experienced high adventures enough for three lifetimes. From shady dealings to outrageous characters to muggings and robberies - Dr. Pezzotta's life is right out of a storybook encapsulating al

l the adventure and excitement of international mineral collecting. On February 6, 2011, Dr. Pezzotta shared his, often funny, stories of hunting down Demantoids and Tourmalines in Madagascar. With over 10 years of experience working closely with local miners, Dr. Pezzotta will show you Madagascar in a way no one else can.

This 66 minute DVD is his live presentation as he gave it at the 2011 Sunday Evening Program at the Westward Look Mineral Show and we're proud to include it in our Sundays At The Westward Look film series.

MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister

What a successful banquet! Good program, good food, good company and good stuff for the silent auction. It was fun to have the Gem & Mineral Council join us.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the officers and board for a successful 2011. Your service is greatly appreciated and you have done a great job. Thank you very much.

Now comes the hard part. We not only need a successful 2012, but we need to plan for on-going operations, meaning that we need volunteers to fill positions for 2013. I'm starting on this now

because I want all of the membership to consider how they can participate in the future, and even if you have been an officer or board member in years past, re-use and re-cycle are the current catch-words. For example, I'm President again after 30 years. What would you like to do again? What would you like to see the MSSC do in the coming years

Officers, such as Vice President Bruce Carter, have served for more than their allotted terms. The VP position has traditionally included being program chairman, but the two jobs can be separated though both should be filled. Without a program chairman, there are no meetings. Think about that. I know my dad, who was program chairman for many years, liked the position because it gave him an "in" to contact people who he might otherwise not have a chance to meet and talk to; he could ask them to be a speaker at an upcoming meeting. With some of these people, such as Paul Desautels of the Smithsonian, he had a long friendship. Perhaps one of you would see that as an interesting opportunity.

If a current officer or board member approaches you to fill their job next year, say yes if you can. Just remember, without your help there will be no Installation Banquet in 2013.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED ITEMS TO THE
SILENT AUCTION.**

Elizabeth Moller donated books from the Bill Moller library; Janet Hammond donated books from her library and from Veryl Carnahan; Linda Elsnau made earrings; Anette Pumphrey donated a Fluorite from Jessie Hardman; Carolyn Seitz donated the Tucson "gold" poster; Leslie Ogg and Jim Imai donated Gem Fest T-shirts. Thank you all.

**Minutes of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California
January 21, 2012**

The Mineralogical Society of Southern California held its general 884th membership meeting on January 21, 2012. The Installation Banquet meeting was held at Coco's Oak Tree Room in Pasadena. President Ann Meister brought the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Buffet dinner and silent auction preceded the installation of officers for 2012.

The following officers were installed:

President	Ann Meister
Vice President	Bruce Carter
Treasurer	Jim Kusley
Secretary	Angela Guzman
Board Members	Bob Housley
	Fred Elsnau
	Linda Elsnau
	Leslie Ogg

Swearing in and presentation of token gems was performed by CFMS Director Jo Anna Ritchey.

Vice President Bruce Carter introduced Brendan Laurs (M.S., G.G.) Editor and Technical Specialist of *Gems & Gemology* at Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in Carlsbad, CA. Mr. Laurs' interesting presentation covered his team's visit to Tibet and the Andesine Mines. Laurs and his colleagues set out to prove the controversial claim that Tibetan andesine mines are genuine. In the course of his presentation, it appeared as though an area searched had quite possibly been "salted" with the mineral. However, further investigation in a different area and underneath a randomly selected bush andesine was found proving that the mineral andesine is native to the area but the color is not as claimed.

Mr. Laurs acted as our sightseeing guide to the area showing the people, villages and structures of Tibet, including physical problems that his team encountered due to the high altitude of the area.

After the presentation, Mr. Laurs took questions from the audience

Announcements:

- Monrovia Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show: March 3-4, 2012 at L A Arboretum in Arcadia
- Pacific Micromount Conference: January 27-29, 2012 at San Bernardino Natural History Museum in Redlands

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Submitted by
Angela Guzman, Secretary

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES **By Jim Brace-Thompson**

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES By Jim Brace-Thompson **Diamond Dan's *Mini Miners Monthly* for All CFMS Societies** **Darryl Powell** of Manchester, New York, is creator of **Diamond Dan Publications** and author of a wide range of fun, educational, continued materials for young mineralogists, ranging from coloring and activity books to "Earth Digger Clubs" activities and patches, mineral note cards and placemats, and more. (See his web site at: <http://www.diamonddanpublications.net>.)

His excellent activities for mineral identification and crystal shapes and models are referenced in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program manual, and I've referenced the terrific resources he provides in a number of my prior CFMS junior's columns and in talks I've given about kids' activities. I especially encourage any CFMS club that hosts a show to look into getting a supply of his coloring/activity book *Minerals of California*, which he put together for the 2011 Tucson Show; these are great to sell at your kid's booth or to donate to teachers visiting your show.

One neat resource Darryl provides is *Mini Miners Monthly*. Now in its fifth year, it's the only periodical about minerals written specifically for young collectors. Throughout the year, it brings kids interesting articles at a level they can appreciate about minerals, crystals, and mineral collecting, along with fun activities like crossword puzzles, word searches, cut-and fold crystal models, and coloring pages. It features interviews with important mineral collectors of our day and suggestions on how to build and take care of a collection. It also welcomes mineral art, photography, and articles by kids themselves.

For the past two years, CFMS has purchased electronic subscriptions to *Mini Miners Monthly* for all CFMS societies with an active youth program. As announced and approved by the Directors at our November meeting in Visalia, CFMS will be extending the subscription for another two years, but with a bonus. When we started talking about extending the subscription, Darryl made just one demand: that we pay the same amount as before, but that we provide the subscription to *all CFMS societies*. A pretty gracious "demand," by any standard, and our sincere thanks to Darryl for this generous arrangement!

Darryl is working with Pat LaRue and Merryan O'Neill to compile email addresses from our CFMS directory of local societies so that he can start emailing an electronic copy of *Mini Miners Monthly* each month to each club. Let this serve as a reminder to all clubs to make sure your CFMS directory info is complete, accurate, and up to- date! The best person to receive the subscription in a club is either the junior's program leader or the newsletter editor.

With the electronic subscription, clubs receive permission to reproduce a reasonable amount of material from each issue (4 or 5 pages) in their newsletters, on their web sites, and/or as handouts at club meetings with kids. CFMS is underwriting these subscriptions with the goal of encouraging clubs to grow their kids' programs, providing them with good material to use, and encouraging our children in the pursuit of the earth sciences as a hobby and potentially as a career.

If you have questions about the subscription, please contact me (805-659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com).
Meanwhile, here's thanking Darryl for enabling us to continue providing this fine service, and here's to having fun with it! - *Jim*
via CFMS Newsletter February 2012

SAFETY By Bural LaRue, Chair Safety Committee
Simple Steps Help Prevent Household Fires

Ever left the house when the clothes dryer was running? Or stepped away from the stove while something was simmering? If so, you're not alone.

In Liberty Mutual's recent fire safety survey, household appliances were among the concerns cited most often and the above were the two most frequent causes of home fires. To prevent those and other common hazard, follow these simple steps:

****Discontinue using any appliance that overheats. Do the same if an appliance shorts out, smokes, sparks or emits odd smells.**

****Make sure all appliance cords are in good condition. Don't use an appliance with a worn, damaged or frayed cord.**

****Clean your clothes dryer's lint tray with every use.**

****Have your gas-powered dryer professionally inspected once a year. This will help prevent fires and contribute to the dryer's energy efficiency.**

****Keep flammable items away from the stove. Pay particular attention to potholders and towels.**

Original source not known. Bural LaRue, via CFMS Newsletter, February 2012

Geography of Madagascar and Ecoregions of Madagascar (Source: Wikipedia)

At 592,800 square kilometers (228,900 sq mi), Madagascar is the world's 47th-largest country and the fourth-largest island. The country lies mostly between latitudes 12°S and 26°S, and longitudes 43°E and 51°E. The prehistoric breakup of the supercontinent Gondwana separated the Madagascar-Antarctica-India landmass from the Africa-South America landmass around 135 million years ago. Madagascar later split from India around 88 million years ago, allowing plants and animals on the island to evolve in complete isolation. The island of Madagascar can be divided into three broad geographic zones. These include the highlands, a plateau region in the center of the island ranging in altitude from 750 to 1,500 m (2,460 to 4,920 ft) above sea level; a narrow and steep escarpment that runs the length of the eastern coast and contains much of the island's remaining tropical rain forest; and a wide, dry plain that gently slopes from the western boundaries of the highlands toward the Mozambique Channel. The central highlands, traditionally the homeland of the Merina people and the location of their historic capital at Antananarivo, is the most densely populated part of the island and is characterized by terraced, rice-growing valleys lying between grassy, deforested hills. Here, erosion has exposed the island's red laterite soil, source of the country's sobriquet "The Red Island". Madagascar's highest peaks arise from three prominent highland massifs: Maromokotro 9,436 ft (2,876 m) in the Tsaratanana Massif is the island's highest point, followed by Boby Peak 2,658 m (8,720 ft) in the Andringitra Massif and Tsiafajavona 2,643 m (8,671 ft) in the Ankaratra Massif. To the east, the Canal des Pangalanes is a chain of man-made and natural lakes connected by French-built canals just inland from the east coast, running parallel to it for some 600 km (370 mi). The western and southern sides, which lie in the rain shadow of the central highlands, are home to tropical dry forests, thorn forests, and deserts and xeric shrublands. Presumably due to relatively lower population densities, Madagascar's dry deciduous rain forest has been better preserved than the eastern rain forests or the original woodlands of the high central plateau. The western coast features many protected harbors, but silting is a major

problem caused by sediment from the high levels of inland erosion carried by rivers crossing the broad western plains.

Natural Resources and Trade of Madagascar (Source Wikipedia)

Madagascar's natural resources include a variety of unprocessed agricultural and mineral resources. Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is a mainstay of the economy. Madagascar is the world's largest vanilla exporter and provides half the world's supply. Other key agricultural resources include coffee, lychees and shrimp. Key mineral resources include various types of precious and semi-precious stones, and Madagascar currently provides half of the world's supply of sapphires, which were discovered near Ilakaka in the late 1990s. The island also holds one of the world's largest reserves of ilmenite (titanium ore), as well as important reserves of chromite, coal, iron, cobalt, copper and nickel. Several major projects are underway in the mining, oil and gas sectors that are anticipated to give a significant boost to the Malagasy economy. These include such projects as coal mining at Sakoa and the extraction of nickel near Tamatave by Rio Tinto, as well as the development of the massive onshore heavy oil field at Tsimiroro and ultra heavy oil field at Bemolanga by Madagascar Oil.

Exports formed 28% of GDP in 2009. Most of the country's export revenue is derived from the textiles industry, fish and shellfish, vanilla, cloves and other foodstuffs. The Madagascar-U.S. Business Council was formed in May 2003, as a collaboration between USAID and Malagasy artisan producers to support the export of local handicrafts to foreign markets. France is Madagascar's main trading partner, although the United States, Japan and Germany also have strong economic ties to the country. Imports of such items as foodstuffs, fuel, capital goods, vehicles, consumer goods and electronics consume an estimated 52% of GDP. The main sources of Madagascar's imports include France, China, Iran, Mauritius and Hong Kong.

HISTORY OF LAND USE AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS ON FEDERAL LANDS IN CALIFORNIA

This paper explains how access to federal land has been restricted in California since 1850. It explains current means by which additional access to additional federal lands is being restricted. The paper ends with recommendations on how to reverse this 120 year trend. In this paper, “access” means vehicular access on roads.

When California entered the Union in 1850, there were no restrictions on public access to federal land. Over the next 100 years, about half of federal land was transferred to private individuals or companies and to the State of California. When federal land was transferred, it was done with a patent. There were agricultural, ranching (stock raising), and mining homesteads. Each had a different kind of corresponding patent. The only patent law still on the books is the Mining Law of 1872. But administration of mining homesteads (patents) has been suspended by annual congressional appropriations bills since 1986.

Restrictions on access began with the early patents. When land was patented, citizens lost all rights of unrestricted access to those lands. For agricultural and mining patents, the applicants got both surface and minerals. For ranching homesteads, those lands were (and are) open to mining claims because those patents were surface-only land transfers. So miners have some rights of access to ranching homesteads, but only under convoluted regulations of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Beginning in 1851, the Military began asking Congress and the President for land in California for the military applications. The earliest military lands were lighthouses, then managed by the Light House Corps. Later, the army, navy, and air force requested and received federal land from the General Land office for their bases. Public access was restricted or prohibited on these bases.

Beginning in 1864, 25 National parks and monuments (beginning with Yosemite) were created from federal land. These lands are now managed by the National Park Service which was created in

1916. Access is severely restricted in all the National Parks and Monuments.

In 1908, under the Antiquities Act, the President got the power to create special land classifications. President Roosevelt used it to establish National Monuments.

In 1910, Congress passed the Pickett Act. It declared that "President may, at any time in his discretion, temporarily withdraw from settlement, location, sale or entry any of the public lands of the United States ... and reserve the same for ... purposes to be specified in the orders of withdrawals, and such withdrawals or reservations shall remain in force until revoked by him or Congress." This broad power was given to the President because of concerns that minerals were being unfairly developed and exploited under the General Mining Law of 1872.

In 1911 the Weeks Act established eastern National Forests. Later, western forests were added by various legislative acts. This legislation empowered the Secretary of Agriculture to put restrictions on public access to the forests. The U.S. Forest Service was established to harvest the forests in an orderly way, and to prevent or combat forest fires. So they had authority to restrict surface-use activities including public access.

In 1964, the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) required environmental effects of government actions (like building or maintaining roads) to have environmental reports. These could be Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's), Environmental Assessments (EA's) or Categorical Exclusions (CX's). These are different kinds of documents that the law requires be prepared, based on the severity of impacts an action has on the environment. As a result of NEPA analysis, access is often restricted or prohibited on federal lands.

Beginning in 1964, congress and the President began establishing wilderness areas (WA's) and also wilderness study areas (WSA's) under the authority of the Wilderness Act. For access issues, WA's and WSA's are the same, because land management agencies have

to manage WSA's the same way as WA's. They stay on the WSA list until congress removes them. For 25 years many WSA's have been classified as NOT suitable for wilderness status, but Congress has never released them for multiple use. That is a legislative technique proponents of restricted access to federal lands use to keep people and their vehicles out of the WSA's. Charts on wilderness history can be found at <http://wilderness.org/content/timeline-wilderness-history-and-conservation>.

In 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act began to restrict access to certain rivers that met "wild and scenic" criteria.

In 1973, the Endangered Species Act required government agencies to preserve "species" and "populations" of animals that were in danger of extinction. This law later was expanded to include insects and plants. The Fish and Wildlife Service has the job of identifying "Critical Habitat". Vehicular access is restricted in these "Critical Habitat" areas. For example, the BLM, USFS, Park Service and Military have identified 20 million acres of Critical Habitat in the Mojave Desert for the California Desert Tortoise.

In 1976 Congress passed the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA). This act created the Bureau of Land Management through merger of the General Land Office and the Taylor Grazing Service (see <http://www.blm.gov/flpma/>) As part of that legislation, the California Desert District (CDD) was established, and a Desert Plan was required to be prepared.

The history of the Desert Plan is an example of how effective anti-Access forces are in influencing policy and practices of government agencies so as to restrict access to federal lands. After several years of inventory and analysis, the BLM recommended that 2 million acres in the CDD as wilderness. The Sierra Club proposal, at that time, was for 12 million acres. For wilderness suitability analysis, criteria were established, among them a requirement that wilderness had to be "roadless". In the CDD miners and other users of the federal lands had created roads almost everywhere. So most of the CDD did NOT meet the criteria

for wilderness. Not to worry. To accommodate the anti-Access factions, BLM came up with an innovative idea: just call the roads “unmaintained ways”. By that change in definition of a road, if it had not been recently bladed or maintained (of course most are not maintained) several million more acres of land instantly qualified for wilderness status. By that slight of hand, BLM’s wilderness recommendation escalated to 6 million acres. But that was not enough. Senator Allen Cranston, and later Senator Diane Feinstein sponsored and successfully passed the Desert Protection Act of 1994. In that Act, 12 million acres of wilderness were created by legislative action, bypassing 18 years of administrative land use planning efforts. What was eventually enacted by legislation was the Sierra Club’s preferred alternative in 1976. But even that was not enough for the Anti-Access groups.

In 1989, a group formed that called themselves the Center for Biological Diversity (<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>). This group sued BLM for incorrect implantation of the Desert Protection Act. This illustrates a fourth way that federal land is restricted for access. The first way is by Presidential action. The second way is by Legislative action. The third way is by Land Use Planning. When all that fails, then you go to the courts and seek Judicial intervention. That is what the Center for Biodiversity did. They took Secretary Bruce Babbitt to court. Since the Clinton administration was sympathetic to the Anti-Access groups, they did not fight the law suit. Instead Babbitt capitulated, and sought a settlement. As a result many millions of additional acres in CDD were restricted for access.

The Center for Biodiversity, and other NGO’s like them are very influential. They routinely sues government agencies for failing to make what they consider to be the correct land management decisions regarding closing of federal lands to multiple use. When they sue, they often win, and get money from the government for all their legal fees in bringing the suits. So in reality, the public funds these NGO’s in a big way. They are the ambulance chasers of environmental law and regulation. The Access Advocates need to learn how these groups operate, and emulate them.

Additional Access Restrictions: Land Use Planning

The next stage in the development of access restrictions on federal lands came as a result of more lawsuits involving implementation of the requirements of NEPA and the other laws described above. These law suits took place in the 1970's and 1980's. In response to these law suits, Agencies began preparing land use plans of the areas they managed. The Land Use Planning (LUP) process has several ways to further restrict access to federal lands. These are listed below:

Travel Management Plans (TMP's). These dictate what routes can be used for vehicular access. They prescribe where there can be hiking trails, mountain bike trails, equestrian trails, OHV trails, and roads for 4x4 vehicles, and roads for 2x4 vehicles.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's). Any resource can be used to justify establishment of an ACEC. Usually they are biological, botanical, or archaeological areas of concern. But there are ACEC's for paleontological, geological, visual and a host of other resources. Vehicular access is often restricted in these areas because of perceived need to protect the ACEC resource. BLM and USFS often remove ACEC's from "mineral entry" under the 1872 mining law. This keeps out mineral explorationists and developers, because they have no way to stake mining claims.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Zones. These areas are ones that have exceptional visual values. To protect them, roads are often forbidden in them. Or if they exist, they may be removed. They are often associated with Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Special Management Areas (SMA's). These can be anything that is "special". There is a trend away from SMA's and a shift to ACEC's in Land Use Planning. Access is generally restricted or prohibited in an SMA. The term SMA is often used to include all special areas in one term. In this paper, when I use the term SMA it means Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic River, or any other Special Management designation.

Wilderness Characteristics (WC's). It used to be that only the President or Congress to establish wilderness. Now the administrative process of Land Use Planning (LUP) can identify lands with "wilderness characteristics" in a LUP. This gives the staff of a local BLM or USFS office the authority to do what formerly only the President or Congress could do: identify lands for the Wilderness System.

Usually these are additions to existing wilderness. Over the years, as LUP's are produced, access and allowed uses of Wilderness and WSA's has been reduced from what the original legislations prescribed. In short, there is an erosion of the intent of many older Wilderness designations by the LUP process.

Today there are several ways the government can restrict vehicular access on public lands. To review:

1. The President has the power to make National Monuments. Almost every President does it, usually at the end of their term of office.
2. Congress can make National Parks, and other SMA's.
3. The Administrative Process of the Land Use Planning is the third way access gets restricted.
4. When these fail, proponents of increased access restrictions to public lands file law suits in order to get their way. The Center for Biodiversity is a very influential group that routinely sues government agencies for failing to make the correct land management decisions regarding closing of federal lands to multiple use. When they sue, they often win, and get money from the government for all their legal fees in brining the suits.

End Part 1, to be continued March 2012 with

- How to Reverse the Trend of Increased Restrictions on Access to Federal
- Grass Roots Political Alliances
- Organization

- Summary

Source: Bob Reynolds in an attachment to an e-mail January 2012

Calendar of Events

February 4-07, 2012—TUCSON, ARIZONA. The Westward Look Show, 245 E. Ina Rd. Tucson, Arizona. 10:00-4:00 daily. Special Sunday Evening Program--check web site: <http://www.westwardminerals.com/>

February 9-12, 2012—TUCSON, ARIZONA Tucson Gem and Mineral Show at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Street, Tucson, Arizona. 10:00-6:00 each day

February 17-26—INDIO, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society; Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival; Gem & Mineral Bldg, Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia St.; Fri. 10-10, Sat. 10-10, Sun. 10-10, Mon. 10-10; adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6, children (under 5) free.

February 24-25—NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Del Air Rockhounds Club; United Methodist Church; 9650 Reseda Blvd.; Fri. 3-9, Sat. 10-5; free admission

February 24-26—COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Gem Faire Inc.; OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$7, children (11 and under) free;

March 3 & 4: ARCADIA, CA Monrovia Rockhounds, LA County Arboretum, 301 South Baldwin Avenue, Hours: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Daily

July 13-15, 2012 Riverside, CA 2012 CFMS Gold and Gem Show & Convention., Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. 10:00-4:00 each day

OFFICERS

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**2012 PACIFIC MICROMOUNT CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Bob Housley
Speakers: Bob Housley
Pre-registration: Bob Housley
Electrical: Alan Wilkins
Sales Table: Garth Bricker
Give-away Table: Gene Reynolds
Food: Ann Meister, Sugar White

About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study and collecting of mineral specimens. The MSSC is a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports the geology department at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California. Support is also given to the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County Museums of Natural History. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. The MSSC meetings are usually held the second Friday of each month, January, February and August excepted, at 7:30 p.m. in Building E, Room 220, Pasadena City College, 1570 E Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. The annual Installation Banquet is held in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting is held in August. Due to PCC holidays meetings may vary. Check the Society web for details. The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the San Bernardino County Natural History Museum during the last weekend of January. Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$20.00 for an individual membership, \$30.00

for a family membership. The Society's contact information:
**Mineralogical Society of Southern California 1855
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bgbrdpen@earthlink.net Web:
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open house, field trip, annual show or any other MSSC event**

West Coast
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

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California Gold
Jeff Scovill Photos