Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society Of Southern California



Volume 84 Number 7

July 2012

The 887th Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

July 13, 2012 7:30 pm

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

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Program

The Crystallography of Gold by Wayne Leight

Most native gold occurs as very small to microscopic particles embedded in rock (lode deposits). Native gold is also found in the form of free flakes, grains or larger nuggets that have been eroded from rocks and end up in alluvial deposits called placer deposits. Natural crystals of native gold are less common than alluvial nuggets and usually occur as octagons, but other isometric forms are found occasionally. Drawing on photographs of his extensive collection, Wayne will speak on the crystallography of gold.

The company *Kristalle*, operated by Wayne and Dona Leight has a worldwide reputation for offering the finest quality minerals and particularly gold specimens. No other dealer in the history of collecting has offered the numbers or quality of California gold specimens. Wayne's interest in gold began in grade school with his visits to his grandfather's log cabin along a stream in the California gold country near Yosemite. He also has an extensive library on the California gold rush.

MEANDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Meister

My boss has been on vacation so I've been up to my eyeballs in too much stuff. So I'm tired, my brain is mush and I'm plumb out of ideas. However, several items which relate to summer safety are in the forefront of the news and relate to being out in the field, as we would be when collecting.

Fire safety! According to the news, the Dump Fire that started on 6/22 near Saratoga Springs, Utah, and forced thousands out of their homes, was caused by target shooters. BLM officials say they believe the UT blaze was caused when a bullet hit a rock and sparked a fire. This is the 20th target-shooting related fire this year in Utah alone. Colorado and other states have reported this as a problem also. But it's not just target shooting (which I know some of you do when you're out in the field), any kind of spark can potentially be a hazard. I've never heard of a rock hammer or chisel starting a fire, but I suppose it is possible. Certainly hot cars and ATV's have been the cause of fires. I remember a cartoon a while back that showed two tumbleweeds wedged under the hot exhaust of a parked car. One tumbleweed says to the other, "Do you

want to start something?" Please be careful! It's tinder dry everywhere in the West. On the other hand, if you are in a monsoon area, beware of flash floods. Always be aware of your surroundings, especially where to go in case of fire or flood.

Be prepared! I live in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountain and frequently hear the thump of search and rescue helicopters because people are not careful when hiking. They go places where there are no trails, they wear inappropriate footwear and hats (heat stroke), they don't take adequate water, or they are not physically in shape for the terrain. Don't put yourself (or your potential rescuers) in jeopardy when you are out collecting. And watch for snakes, cacti, and other nasties.

So much for preaching. Have a great summer everyone.

GEO-LITERATURE RESOURCES

New book – the L.A. Times book review had a full page!, enthusiastic report on a geology book "Rough-hewn land" by Keith Heyer Meldahl, can you imagine – so I got it. It is wonderful; it explains (with illustration on almost every page!) the geology formation of the entire west from Denver to San Francisco. It is extremely readable and an eye-opener when traveling, how to interpret rock formations, scarps, valleys etc. It is actually exciting!!!

It is written by geology professor at U.C. Berkeley, of California Press – (ISBN 978-0-520-25935-5) (hardback; the price in the L.A. Times mentioned \$40, but I got it on Amazon for \$26.95), 295 of text pages.

by Kay Robinson

Member Update: Kay Robrtson

I have been a member of MSSC since about 1955, but at age 92 and handicapped (besides being deaf) I can't make the meetings. There used to be a number of members in WLA in the 50ties and 60ties so we could go together – in the good old days in the park (with the building that had live local animals in cages, they were usually asleep). I miss not being able to visit with fellow collectors – I have a large collection and a good library to go with it. Being "sun allergic" I could never self-collect! So the collection is very international, and by species, which makes it interesting. Come and see me some time! I

live immediately west of the Fox Studios between Olympic and Pico Blvd.

Warmest greetings, and thanks for your good work Sincerely, Kay Robertson

Mineralogical Society of Southern California

MINUTES June 8, 2012

The 888th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California was held on Friday, June 8, 2012 at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA. President Ann Meister brought the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

The following business and announcements were made:

<u>Minutes</u> of the May 11, 2012 meeting were moved, seconded and approved;

Announcements:

La Habra Show

Glendale - Goddard Middle School show June 16 & June 17, 2012

Culver City show June 30 – July 1, 2012

CFMS Convention/Show July 13 - July 15, 2012

Nevada Minerals and Books Open House going to Oceanview Mine 6/24/12 (must be in good health, 18 or over). Collecting and Tour \$75; Collecting only \$60 and \$50 for kids under 12. Make reservations, filling up fast!

Show & Tell

Ann Meister mentioned the Geo Literature Resources and brought John Shelton's Geology Illustrated. This book was used in some schools as a text book but it is an excellent resource. Also, Ann mentioned the website mindat.com, another comprehensive resource.

Program:

Presentation by Dr Bruce Carter - *Morocco - Mountains, Mines and Minerals*.

A fantastic visual exploration of the highest mountain range, the Atlas Mountains, in Morocco, active mines found there, minerals mined there and interesting facts about the region were presented by Mineralogical Society of Southern California's Vice President, Dr. Bruce Carter.

Basement rock of west Africa was formed Precambrian, approximately 4.5 billion years ago. The highest peak in the Atlas Mountains is at a 13,671 feet elevation in southwest Morocco. The Anti Atlas mountain range is bordered on the south by the Sahara Desert. The Atlas Mountains are located through Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

The Atlas mountain range contains important mineral deposits including iron ore, lead ore, copper, silver, mercury, rock salt, phosphate, marble, anthracite coal and gas. There is one specific deposit of cobalt, over 5%, in the Atlas Mountains.

Dr. Carter also presented interesting information on New Caledonia's soil and plant life there. Minerals, such as Skutterudite, Roselite, Serpentine were also mentioned.

Dr. Carter and his wife travelled to Morocco with a group from the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles.

At the end of his presentation, Dr. Carter announced that the speaker in July will be Wayne Light who will speak on gold, specifically gold crystals.

Submitted by Angie Guzman, Secretary



Weight: 1 oz. 19.2 grains Troy, Maximum
Height: 2 1/4 in., Maximum Width: 1 5/16 in.
This outstanding and unusually formed crystallized gold nugget is the property of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS).

The Golden Bear will be on display at the CFMS Show in Riverside, July 13-15, 2012.

Calendar of Events



July 13-15, 2012 Riverside, CA 2012 CFMS Gold and Gem Show & Convention., Hosted by Valley Prospectors

Riverside Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA. Metered parking on street and city lots on weekdays **Free parking on weekend**

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 410:00-4:00 each day

CFMS Fieldtrips

July 28, 2012	Palos Verdes: Glaucophane, agate, barite, selenite, dog-tooth dolomite	CFMS Field Trips – South.
Sept. 7-9, 2012	Jade Cove : Nephrite jade, serpentine, actinolite, soap stone, abalone shells.	CFMS Field Trips – South
October dates tba	Nevada: Ammonites (specific location tba)	CFMS Field Trips – South
Nov. 22-25, 2012 (Thurs Sun)	Wiley's Well: Geodes, nodules, psilomelane, chalcedony, fire agate, agate	CFMS Field Trips – South
December 2012 Dates tba	Sharktooth Hill: Shark teeth	CFMS Field Trips – South

Additional details on each Field Trip can be found at http://www.cfmsinc.org/ Field Trips. To be announced dates will also be announced there.

*Please let me know if you are going to go on the field trip, weather changes. If I don't know you're going on the field trip, I won't be able to contact you if the field trip is canceled. Even if you might not go, still contact me for the information and maps. Don't wait until the day before.

CONTACTS: For maps, more info & sign up: *Robert Sankovich rmsorca@adelphia.net, (805) 494-7734 Adam Dean theagatehunter@verizon.net, (909) 48

Ancient Threat Awakens in CA By Mark Nelson, EMT

After sleeping for many decades, an ancient threat rises from the ashes! Under the topic of field trip safety, I learned something interesting during my recent biennial Emergency Medical Technician recertification course provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Most of the L.A. County Sheriff's EMT's are mountain rescue specialists and, among other things, the course updates these EMT's on hazards facing potential rescuers. One of the new hazards is the widespread growth of a plant that threatens the unwary with weeks of irritation and suffering. The Poodle Dog Bush, sticky nama or Turricula parryi, is endemic to the California and is now being found in chaparral from the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley southwards to Baja California. In the last year authorities in areas such as the Angeles National Forest and in Orange County reported hiker's complaints of severe reactions to contact with this colorful plant. Those hikers told of wandering through fields of beautifully colored purple flowers. Those search and rescue members that I spoke with described the plant as having puffy and colorful flowers and leaves reminding them of a poodle dog's trimmed tail. Stimulated by intense heat, the plants are erupting in areas where forest and brush fires have burned away the other vegetation that was once dominant and which kept the poodle dog plant dormant. Often mistaken for Lupine or Phacelia, clusters of lavender shaded flowers top stalks of up to 8 feet tall with slender leaves of 1.5"-4" long. The leaves and stalks have fine hairs. On the tips of these fine hairs is a sticky chemical compound of benzoic acid that produces a most unpleasant reaction in humans. These sticky hairs can be deposited on clothes or skin after the slightest contact with the plant. It is believed that even breathing the air around the plants can be dangerous to lung tissue, similar to poison oak. These hairs are on the leaves and stalks all year long and the toxic effects are not seasonal.

Skin contact with this plant's needles results in a delayed outbreak of intensely irritating rash, blisters, itching and pain. Search and rescue squad leaders described it to me as being ten times worse than the most severe case of poison oak dermatitis. The effects can last for a month and the current best treatment products for poison oak - Zanfel and Technu - have little effect. Experts recommend initial over-the-counter pharmacy products containing hydrocortisone and seeing a doctor for a cortisone injection or other treatment options should blisters develop. When in the field avoid any contact with the plant! Wear gloves, long sleeves and pants. If you find yourself near the plant, wash your tools at the end of the day and wash your gloves and clothes separately from other laundry. Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water after contact with the plant or with clothes. I suggest that field trip leaders in California include this plant in their field trip safety briefings on potential site-specific hazards. **Resources:**

http://www.socaltrailriders.org/forum/generaldiscussion/ 59360-poodle-dog-bush-toxicity.html

http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/24/local/la-mepoodle- dog-bush-20110724 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turricula plant Via CFMS Newsletter, July 2012



Poodle Dog Bush

About Kristalle from http://www.kristalle.com/

This section from their web site gives a brief biography of our July Speaker, Wayne Leight, and the company, Kristalle, Wayne and Donna Leight run.

Kristalle, Est. 1971 Wayne & Donna Leight *KRISTALLE*, operated by Wayne and Dona Leight, was founded in 1971. Since then *KRISTALLE* has gained a worldwide reputation for offering the finest quality mineral and gold specimens. The world's museums consistently come to *KRISTALLE* to add to their collections as well as collectors from around the world. Located in a landmark cottage in Laguna Beach, California, USA, *KRISTALLE* is considered one of the finest galleries of natural history items for sale. Thousands of specimens are on display of interest to the beginning collector or the most sophisticated advanced collector. In 2009 the gallery underwent a major renovation, rearrangement and redecorating, reopening in 2010 by 'by appointment only' Mon thru Thurs, and open to the public noon to 5pm Fri, Sat, Sun.



Gold specimens from California have brought *KRISTALLE* to the attention of the world and no other dealer in the history of collecting has offered the numbers or quality of specimens that are obtainable at *KRISTALLE*. Wayne's interest in gold began in grade school with his visits to his grandfather's log cabin along a

stream in the California gold country near Yosemite. Wayne has assembled a library on the California gold rush of superb first editions, maps, letters and memorabilia that is considered one of the finest in the country. You can visit the gallery in person, see the KRISTALLE booth at shows around the world (visit our show schedule section) or contact us by clicking here. Serious inquiries will be answered in a timely manner. We have been dragged kicking and screaming into this century of the internet. One very vocal internet dealer suggested we were 'dinosaurs' and should get out of the business. After over forty years of success and pleasure we are not about to leave the scene. While preferring to meet our customers in person and establish a report with them, we realize that many collectors choose not to or cannot attend shows or make personal visits. So be it - we'll try to offer a great deal of variety on our site at the best prices we can, and give you an honest opinion about the specimens. Wayne and Dona were married in 1969 and have worked together to keep **KRISTALLE** at the top of its game. Wayne has degrees in Earth Science and Physics; has worked in low temperature physics research (he holds several patents for highly 'secretive' devices he developed while acting as a liaison with one of those undisclosed super sleuth agencies in Washington, D.C. since he held a top secret clearance from his days as an Army Intelligence officer); and left research to take **KRISTALLE** 'full time' and travel the world in search of specimens. Both Wayne and Dona were active field collectors and have collected all over the world. Wayne has officially mapped the Grandview Mine for the U.S. Park Service and they have made over a dozen trips to the locality. It was Wayne's initial work on a mineral dubbed as "Mineral #5" that eventually lead to its formal description and new name of 'Grandviewite'. It was the late Paul Desautels of the Smithsonian that was a mentor to Wayne and in a grand gesture invited Wayne on an around the world trip to introduce him to the players of the day and to museum curators in various countries. Upon Paul's death his personal papers, and his books, were delivered to Wayne for safe keeping. Dona have one son who never inherited the 'rock gene' but prefers to spend his days on the fishing fleets in California and Mexico and play drums in a reggae band formed by him and his friends in the seventh grade. And there are two spoiled cats named Opal and Jet who keep the many visitors to their home company. Citrine, brother of Opal sadly passed away in September 2009, and new kitten Jet is a crazy and mischievous addition to the family. Wayne and Dona belong to over a dozen museums worldwide and are Fellows of the

Bowers Museum. They collect early California art and also have a small collection of minerals with special emphasis on native elements. *KRISTALLE* is a buyer for fine mineral and gold specimens, both individual pieces and full collections, as well as antiquarian books. Payment is done in a timely manner and there is always discretion in all dealings. Since it's beginning *KRISTALLE* has purchased close to 200 collections, including those of major museums.

We like to keep a 'low profile' and don't feel the need to be overly braggadocios or pretend that we are the king and queen of the mineral kingdom - our reputation and performance over the years speaks for itself.

So please check this site often and hopefully you will be pleased at what you see. We are always open to suggestions! Source: www.kristalle.com More information about not only these specimens, but also the location (Round Mountain) where they were found. Beautiful pictures of more specimens can be found on their Mineral Gallery.

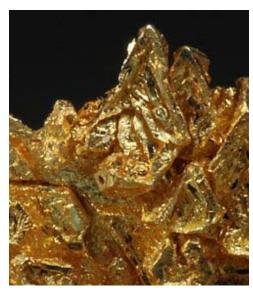
Native Gold



Round Mountain Mine, Nye County, Nevada, USA, North America



Native Gold



Round Mountain Mine, Nye County, Nevada, USA, North America







Bruce Carter sent us a picture of an exceptional specimen of gold crystals for us to enjoy.

WEST COAST GEM & MINERAL SHOW ~ Fall

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Business Card	\$5.00
1/3 page	\$10.00
1/2 page	\$20.00
Full Page	\$35.00

In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be e-mailed to the editor at bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the MSSC Treasurer at 1855 Idlewood Road, Glendale, CA 91202-1053. The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to decline requests for space if material submitted is judged to be inappropriate

California Park Closures

June 29, 2012 The state will cease operations at five parks as of Sunday, though the beaches will remain accessible:

- Benicia State Recreation Area (Bay Area)
- California Mining and Mineral Museum (Mariposa)
- Gray Whale Cove State Beach (San Mateo coast, north of Montara)
- Zmudowski State Beach (north of Monterey)
- Providence Mountains State Recreation Area (eastern Mojave); already closed, will remain so.

Seventy parks were initially proposed for closure because of state budget constraints.

40 of those will remain open, with alternate funding.
25 will remain open while funding is negotiated.

Source: California Department of Parks and Recreation
via e-mail from J R Martin, CFMS PLAC-South: (Public Lands Access Committee, South)

Highlights of Los Angeles Times article by J R Martin, CFMS PLAC-South: (Public Lands Access Committee, South)

Brown also pared a proposal from Democratic lawmakers to boost funding for parks. Matosantos said that **spending was curtailed because it would have shifted money away from off-road vehicle areas** and alternative energy programs.

However, redirected bond funds that Brown left alone will allow some park improvements, such as shifting from diesel to solar power in some places and installing credit card machines to take entrance fees.

Administration officials said there would be a soft landing after the possibility of dozens of closings.

A mining museum in Mariposa County will be shuttered, and a park near the Mojave Desert will remain closed. The state will remove staff and services such as garbage collection from three

beaches, but visitors will still have access to them, said Richard Stapler, a spokesman for the California Natural Resources Agency.

More closings are being prevented by a patchwork of agreements with nonprofits, private donors, private companies and other government agencies.

"We have re-energized the people who love parks, and they are stepping up and contributing to these parks in all sorts of ways," said Ruth Coleman, the state parks director.

Officials and advocates have cautioned that the agreements are a short-term solution, with some lasting only a year.

"The long-term picture is cloudy at best," said Sen. Joseph Simitian (D-Palo Alto), who pushed the parks plan that Brown pared down. "It's way too soon to pat ourselves on the back."

IN MEMORIAM William "Bill" Burns, Jr.

May 28, 1928 to May 13, 2012

The thing I remember most is that whenever I met Bill he always asked about Monrovia. He had gone to the MAD (Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte) High School during and after WWII (with a 2 year interruption serving in the Navy until it was discovered that he lied about his age). After graduation he went on to attend PCC where he fell in love with rockhounding. He never forgot the field trips he went on, and this love of rockhounding continued throughout his life. PCC and the Geology Program is the second thing he always mentioned with a great deal of love.

While Bill Burns went on to participate in the Whittier Gem and Mineral Club and also members of the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society and the Monterey Park Gem Society and was very active in the California Federation of Mineral Societies (CFMS), American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and American Lands Access Association (ALAA) he never forgot PCC and the Geology Program he thoroughly enjoyed. A more complete article of who he was and what he did can be found in the CFMS Newsletter July 2012. (www.cfmsinc.org)

Jo Anna Ritchey

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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 website for details. The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micromount 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 Idlewood Rd., Glendale, CA 91202-1053 E-mail: bgbrdpen@earthlink.net Web: http//:wwwmineralsocal.org The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc. Permission to reproduce and distribute material originally published herein, in whole or in part, for non-commercial purposes, is hereby granted provided the sense or meaning of the material is not changed, the editor is notified, and the author's notice of copyright is retained. Permission to the material reprinted here in from other sources must be obtained them from the original source. DISCLAIMER: The Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is not responsible, cannot be held responsible or liable for any person's injuries, damages or loss of property at or traveling to or from any general meeting, board meeting, open house, field trip, annual show or any other MSSC event

CFMS GOLD AND GEM SHOW & CONVENTION Hosted by Valley Prospectors July 13 – 15, 2012

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