

👉 JOIN US FOR THE JULY GENERAL MEETING

NOTE: This meeting is on **ZOOM** — Friday July 7th at 7pm

“Dinosaur Gembone” with Alan Meltzer



Dear members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society: The July program will feature **Alan Meltzer**, an avid collector of agates, petrified wood and dinosaur “gembone”. His talk will explore *gembone* with an emphasis on banded agate in Jurassic dinosaur bone.

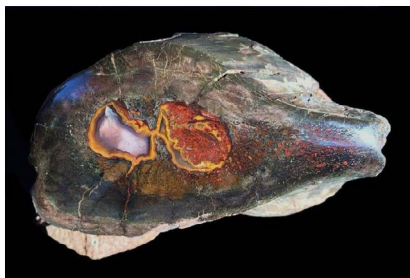
Dinosaur bone is common and usually decayed, unstable and muted. However “Gembone” from the Colorado Plateau is stable, infilled with silica and, at its best, brilliantly colored. It’s rare and sought out by high-end jewelers, lapidaries and collectors.

Wherever you are, settle in with a favorite drink or snack and enjoy! After Alan’s presentation a general discussion will follow.

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Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuc-mpqTIjH9edrrJ2CsEsL0DmnXHdAg9a>



MINERAL G



SAN FRANCISCO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

(415) 564-4230



Part 158

Masthead by Kevin Anderson

Lemmings ...

I woke up this morning thinking about lemmings. I learned as a child that lemmings reproduce in great numbers and then jump off the nearest cliff in one huge mass suicide. So, I checked Wikipedia and as I thought; it's nonsense, it's a myth. They're just little rodents that breed too fast and end up creating a real treat for their predators.

Time has a way of revealing the truth about the silly things we're told as children. Often these lies are told by adults to fool and control kids and sometimes it's the adults that get fooled.

Later in the day, I found a phone message from my sister who lives up in Oregon. She will call, get the recording machine, and leave a monologue until the recording space is filled. Then she wonders why it cuts her off. In her defense I've seen other people do this too.

The message said, "Susie, I've been watching the news, the regular news that everybody else watches,* and guess what? IT'S TRUE, THERE ARE SPACESHIPS FROM OTHER WORLDS VISITING US! The government HAS been keeping it a secret just like we knew they did. The X-Files WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG!" Then she paused for a second and added, "Oh, and don't eat too much bran, it could send you to the hospital."

I'm not making this up, if you've heard me mention my sister before, you won't be too surprised.

Watching the news the other night, I heard educators suggest that special classes for children are now needed to teach them the difference between reality and that stuff they get from social media. So, taking a hint from

that "lemming" thing, I did my own research, looking for other revelations about those old "truisms" that aren't really true, to wit...

If you swallow your gum, it will stay in your stomach for seven years. No, not true, it just passes through. The same with fingernails, they don't get stuck in your guts either. As a serious nail biter, that one had me plenty worried. There was an old lady in our neighborhood who told us kids horrible stories about stuff staying in our bodies including a real shocker about a little boy who swallowed a quarter.

Sugar makes kids hyper? No, I've always known that was bunk: fat, yes, and it rots your teeth, but it doesn't make kids hyper. And, coffee does not stunt a kid's growth, but, the caffeine will make them hyper.

You can't go swimming after eating, you have to wait at least an hour or you will get cramps. That's BS. That one spoiled a lot of picnics at the lake when I was a kid. And, that "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day," that's wrong too. And, there was "You MUST drink eight glasses of water every day." Nah, that's been debunked too.

When I was a kid, I was lucky to go to summer camp, but when we sat down to have dinner one night, we heard a rumor that they were serving us HORSE MEAT! Well, I was a coward, I didn't eat it. When I got home I told my parents, and my dad said, "Oh, oh, we should have warned you about those stories..."

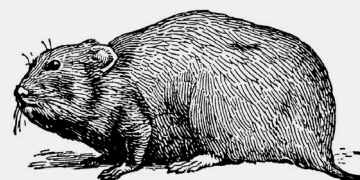
As a child I tried never to cross my eyes; everyone knew that sooner or later they would get stuck that way. I believed it, many people believed it.

Remember woolly bears? Those fuzzy little caterpillars that are reddish-brown in the center and black on the ends? I loved those things, but if their center stripe was wider than usual, we were in for a very, very cold winter. Nah...another myth busted.

Well, don't take my word for all these revelations, check them out yourselves, but don't use the same weird sites my sister does.

And also, according to Wikipedia, "It's NOT true, LEMMINGS DO NOT EXPLODE!"

*I've been accusing her of consulting that "SPECIAL NEWS" online.



Confessions of a Rock Addict

War Against the Ravens

Disclaimer: None of this relates to Lapidary!

By Mary Lou Froese

I am waging a battle against the Common Ravens in my area. There is a very large tree across the street, which is inhabited by these birds. They are larger than Crows and as large or larger than Seagulls!

I have a tall Eucalyptus tree behind my back fence on Hickey Blvd. in South San Francisco. I have a simple bird bath (BB) which is what draws the Ravens to my yard. I have a few bird species such as House Finches, Hummingbirds (we have a feeder), Dark Eyed Juncos, California Towhees, smaller Finches, Doves, and a few others. At times, we have had a group of American Robins, as well as California Scrub Jays, Western Bluebirds, a Hawk (on the fence), a Night Heron, and probably other species. I love watching and photographing birds and, when they take a bath, it is hilarious how they get all their feathers puffed up!

The war with the Ravens started several years ago. I had two Miniature Poodles at the time. One time, I found a small bone on the ground near the BB. Another time, there was a skinned mouse in the water! That was *the catalyst!* The Ravens check out garbage bins around my area on garbage days. Many people overstuff the bins which the birds get into by poking holes in the plastic garbage bags, then use my BB to wash food for themselves and their babies.

Recently, there have been more Ravens to scare away from the tree, some in pairs. There also was a pair on the BB, beak-to-beak, romancing each other. They are out to colonize my tree and I will never hear the chirping of my resident birds again! Ravens are not only scavengers, but feast on bird eggs, and smaller birds—not nice at all! And their cackling and chatter is very annoying!

I have a can of rocks which I shake at them. When that doesn't work, I get the hose out & try to blast them off the tree. Most of the time that works, but there are some stubborn ones. My two dogs chase them if they are on the BB.

Several weeks ago, I had a squadron of 6-7 in my tree. I shot them with the hose, but they came back a few more times. It took a few soakings to get them to stop. Perhaps they were giving lessons to their offspring? They were very persistent. We had our fence replaced recently



and our neighbor had a handyman building a shed, the those noises kept the Ravens away.

Ravens are very smart and are found in many parts of the world. I recall working at The Gap when it was in San Bruno many years ago. On the 5th or 6th floor, on the ledges, they would perch and leer at people in the rooms! Gave me goosebumps! Their wingspan is about 4.5 feet, and their life expectancy is about 15 years!

I am attaching a photo of a Raven I took in February 2017, at the berm which begins to the left of the promenade at the Pacifica Pier. I watched this Raven picking up rocks about 3 feet away from where I was and then tossing them aside. He finally found a thin oblong rock. Going to the area where this material was found, he used the rock to pry under the rubber to get at whatever was under there! If you look closely, you can see the rock in his beak.

On another visit, three Ravens were on the sandy beach. I saw one of them, a male I believe, bore into the sand with his beak and pull up something which I later found out is a Pacific Mole Crab (Sand Crab). It was very small and, as I was several feet away, I couldn't quite see what it was. The male then passed his prize to another Raven which I believe was a female. There was a third Raven (a juvenile) just watching the exchange. The female then passed the crab back to the male. Just another lesson by smart birds!

My girlfriend has a large tree in her front yard which the Ravens have taken over, cackling, and squawking all day! I don't begrudge them for a drink of water in my BB, but I don't want my dogs to pick up chicken bones or other dangerous items in the yard. So, the war continues! Hopefully, I will win! They are more persistent when nesting (March – June) so hopefully it will not be that bad in the coming months. I ordered a nozzle that puts out a swift thin stream of water so I can reach the upper branches of the tree. The Ravens sometime also perch on the branches behind the tree where I can't get at them. That is when I must work harder to get them to leave. Let's see who the smartest old bird in the area is!

4TH ANNUAL

Monterey Bay Jade Festival

Report and Photos
by Bob Kozak

The goal of the festival is to inspire the discovery and celebration of Jade and Jade culture. The weather and turnout was very good and this looks like a sustainable annual event. While most dealers were from the U.S., jade from around the world could be found. New this year was a Jade Carving and Natural Stone Exhibition. Unfortunately the original Big Sur Jade Festival in October has been canceled so this was the best place to find material for projects and gifts.



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1. Robert Patrick Kozak setting up our booth Friday morning
2. Many tables had chunks of jade to select from
3. Many cases of rare jade were on display
4. Wyoming jade varieties were well represented
5. Many dealers had beautiful thin jade earrings of all types



1. Special exhibit organized by top jade carver George Schmerholz
2. A selection of shells made from Wyoming olive jade
3. Boulder of jade recently found found by divers at Jade Cove
4. Luke holding a Manta Ray carved in Guatemalan jadeite
5. A Chameleon carved in Guatemalan blue jadeite



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

***** PLEASE be sure to call the clubhouse (415-564-4230) before traveling *****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 AM - 3 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing	10 AM - 1 PM Lapidary	9 AM - 10 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking	9 AM - Noon Lapidary	9 AM - Noon Lapidary, Silversmithing	10 AM - 5 PM Lapidary	10 AM - 5 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking
	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting	6 PM - 9 PM Gem Carving		

SPECIAL DATES IN JULY

July 7, Friday • 7:00 pm
General Meeting on Zoom
Special Guest Alan Meltzer "Dinosaur Gembone"

July 8, Saturday • 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Instructors Meeting In-Person at The Club
**Zoom option - Info: tonythetm@aol.com*

July 15, Saturday • 10:00 am
Board Meeting on Zoom
**Zoom Meeting - Info: tonythetm@aol.com*

July 17, Monday • 5:00 pm
Mineralog August Submission Deadline

July 22, Saturday • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
SF Gem and Mineral Society Fair and Open House

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Clio Herbert
 Carly Bliss
 Russell Woo
 Robin Brandt
 Daniel Tenenbaum
 Antonio Chavez
 Jack Bascom
 Ben Gutierrez
 Rebecca Cstiglia
 Thomas Huarte
 Charles Larribeau
 Heather Peguero
 Elizabeth Blackwell
 Trey Matkin
 Kent Carter
 Judy Kahn
 Jim Ambrose
 Dianne Estrin
 Betty Iseri
 Judith Piccini
 Mignon McGregor
 John Lang
 James Picerno
 Jean Ng
 Augusta Szego
 Johnny Wan
 Rebecca McMullan

Lily Dang
 Karen Athanasatos
 Steve Quaresma
 Barbara Voltaire
 Ruby Smith
 Anne McFarlin
 Jason Lizotte
 Roland Small
 Micah Welsh
 Charles Ayers
 Melissa Davdson
 Janet Dudley
 Dylon McManus
 Dyanna Quizon
 Lars Johnson
 Nicole Chaney
 Katherine Anne Scott
 Jane Storseter
 Carol Wentzel
 Christine Doo
 Angela Omran
 John Kriebel
 Chris Wiebe
 Dane Volek
 Vanessa Giles
 Aaron Lerer
 Stephanie Kunugi

NEW MEMBERS FROM JUNE

*A warm welcome and congratulations
to the following new members!*



*Dennis Tan and son Michael,
 Jessi Rinard
 Chris Osborne
 Jim Crim
 Charles Jenkins
 Barnabas Gebru
 Lisa Lockhart
 Nadine Samorano
 Suzanne Elliott
 Kristin Tanner*

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

July 21-23 • Gem Faire
 Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA.
 Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Wholesale and retail show. Free admission.
 Fine jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads,
 crystals, gold & silver, pearls, minerals, fashion accessories & much more
 at manufacturer's prices. Jewelry repair & cleaning while you shop.
<https://www.gemfaire.com>

August 5-6 • Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
 Roebbelen Event Center, @the Grounds – Roseville,
 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678.
 Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. 61st show. Over 60 vendors, inside & out, featuring
 Crystals, Fossils, Minerals from around the world. For Kids – "Education
 Station", Gold Nuggets, Prospecting equipment, detectors and
 supplies, Petrified Wood, Stone carvings. Silent Rock Auctions. Free
 – Scientific Mineral and Gem ID! Bring your Rocks, Gems, Minerals,
 Meteorites and treasures, for a no-cost identification. \$8; Seniors
 60+ \$7; Kids – 12 & under Free. Discount coupon. Parking \$10.
<https://www.rockrollers.com/index.html>



**To add, update or change a calendar event,
 please contact mineralog@protonmail.com**

Club Scenes: Turquoise Talk & Sale at The Clubhouse in June

Featuring Dayton Simmons from New Mexico • Photos by Tony DeLeon



Faceting Certification Awarded

Article and Photos by Kirk Kwiatkowski

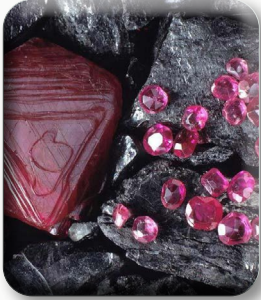


Mikhail Rudoy finished faceting his Sunstone on June 21, 2023. The cut he used was the *round brilliant*. Mikhail received his Certificate of Completion, and look above at how amazing his stone is! If you are interested in taking the faceting class, please contact the instructor Kirk at handsofglass33@gmail.com to attend. If anyone is interested in dropping in on the Wednesday class, you are welcome to see what we are up to and get a demonstration.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Tony DeLeon	tonythetm@aol.com	415-624-7576
<i>Vice President</i>	Bob Kozak	topaz00805@comcast.net	650-554-0251
<i>Treasurer</i>	Joseph Huff	littlehuffy@hotmail.com	415-596-4833
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Heather McCormik	hamster415@gmail.com	
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Wanda Simpson-Baczec		510-909-8461
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Tony DeLeon	tonythetm@aol.com	415-624-7576
<i>Museum Curator</i>	Geno De Hostos	hostos@pacbell.net	415-244-1965
<i>Entertainment Director</i>	Mary Sue Bucher	midnight.cloud@hotmail.com	510-528-3136
<i>Librarian</i>	Mariana Photiou	parathiraki@gmail.com	415-712-2997



DIRECTORS ON THE BOARD

Kevin Anderson	kla@omniskla.com	628-300-6875
Joe Dempsey	dempseygategems@live.com	415-731-2701
Ron Hall	ronaldkhall@gmail.com	415-531-3595
Bill Kaplow	wkaplow@gmail.com	415-722-4939
Kirk Kwiatkowski	handsofglass33@gmail.com	
Trevor McLaughlin	trevormclaughlin9@gmail.com	

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

<i>Donations</i>	Joe Dempsey	dempseygategems@live.com	415-731-2701
<i>Donations</i>	Bob Kozak	topaz00805@comcast.net	650-554-0251
<i>Federation Liaison</i>	Dylan Mooney	djmooney@sfsu.edu	415-308-8271
<i>Field Trip Chair</i>	Stan Bogosian	sbogosian@aol.com	408-568-2489
<i>Faceting Instructor</i>	Kirk Kwiatkowski	handsofglass33@gmail.com	
<i>Mineralog Editor</i>	Christopher DeWinter	mineralog@protonmail.com	
<i>Mining Property</i>	Stan Bogosian	sbogosian@aol.com	408-568-2489
<i>Purchasing</i>	Michael Smith	foghead@mac.com	415-203-6531
<i>Safety</i>	Ron Hall	ronaldkhall@gmail.com	415-531-3595
<i>Shop Foreman</i>	Bill Kaplow	wkaplow@gmail.com	415-7224939
<i>Show Committee Chair</i>	Tony DeLeon	tonythetm@aol.com	415-624-7576
<i>Web Site</i>	Kevin Anderson	kla@omniskla.com	628-300-6875

THE MINERALOG STAFF

<i>Copy Editor/Proofreader</i>	Robin Crabill	recses@comcast.net	415-233-1860
<i>Editing/Calendar</i>	Christopher DeWinter	mineralog@protonmail.com	

THE MINERALOG

We are always grateful for editorial and photographic submissions, especially from our members.

To contribute content, submit story or calendar additions, updates or corrections, please email the Editor: mineralog@protonmail.com

Deadline for **August** Mineralog is 5:00 PM **Monday, July 17**

Any submissions or changes received after the deadline will automatically be included in the following month's Mineralog.

Original material published in the Mineralog that is not copyrighted may be reprinted with all due and proper credits.

For Membership Info, contact the Membership Secretary: tonythetm@aol.com

SAN FRANCISCO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC

4134 Judah Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-1125

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Membership Activities Include:

Earth Sciences, Lapidary, Field Trips, Collecting, Jewelry Making, Shows

An Educational Non-Profit Organization Founded in 1935

Member, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies