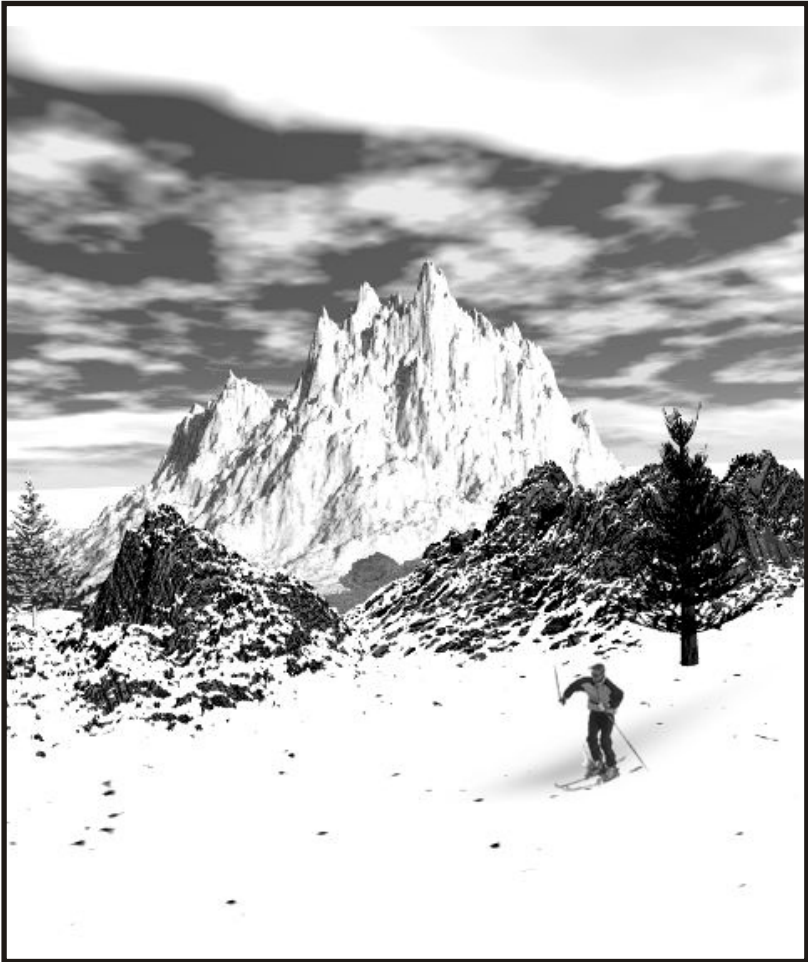


# Lithosphere

Volume XIV, Number 1

Fallbrook, California



**Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.**

**January 2006**



## Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Full page, 7"x4.5" = \$120.00 for 10 months, or \$14.00 per issue.

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

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

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the right to edit all classified ads to fit the space available.

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# Lithosphere

## FGMS Club Calendar January 2006

First Saturday: Board meets at 10:00 a.m. at 123 W. Alvarado St.

Second Saturday: Work party 10 a.m., 123 W. Alvarado St.

Tues., Thurs., Fri.: Museum at 123 W. Alvarado open 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Painters Wanted on January 14th

FGMS will start the New Year off with a fresh coat of paint in the auditorium. There will be a paint party on January 14, and another day

of getting ready to paint on January 14th.

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>February</b><br><b>Tucson</b><br>Show<br>Display   | <b>March</b><br><br><b>Rummage</b><br>Sale                 | <b>April</b><br><br><b>Avocado</b><br>Festival<br><br>Arts in the<br>Park | <b>May</b><br><br><b>49er Frolic</b>   | <b>June</b><br><b>FGMS</b><br>Night-Silent<br>Auction<br>SD CO. Fair<br><br>Hot Summer<br>Nights, |
| <b>July/Aug.</b><br><br><b>SDCO. Fair</b><br>7/1-7/5<br>Hot Summer<br>Nights, Chili<br>Cook off | <b>September</b><br><br><b>Fall</b><br>Festival of<br>Gems | <b>October</b>  | <b>November</b><br><br><b>Rummage</b><br>Sale<br>Nov. 12<br>Alvarado<br>Museum | <b>December</b><br><br><b>Christmas</b><br>Parade, 3rd.<br>Meeting,<br>Silent Auction             |

### Notice:

FGMS dues are now due and will be delinquent by the March meeting.

## **Mineral Adventures in Mali January 12th, 7pm Meeting**

### **Given by Rock Currier of Jewel Tunnel Imports**

Rock Currier, that world renown mineral dealer will be sharing with us his most recent trip- to the Kayes region of Mali. He will show slides of the mines he visited, describe the minerals seen and show some samples (not for sale) that he brought back. Rock is known for entertaining and informative lectures so plan to be present. He is filling-in on short notice for Dr. George Rossman of Cal Tech who is scheduled to speak at our March meeting.



Phrenite sample from Mali

*Next month: due to Tucson Show the meeting will be a week later than usual. It is planned that we will have a speaker from the Pekov Mineral Study Tour (which FGMS is a sponsor of) at that meeting.*

*-Michael Evans*

## **Meeting Summary Annual Meeting December 8, 2005**

Laura Coleman introduced guests, Joanne McCracken and Eva Niedbule.

Treasurer, Vanessa Jones reported that FGMS prospered this year, with increased income in almost all activities, ranging from 10% in the monthly raffle to 57% in grants received. Many members did much work to make this happen.

Erich Kern read all that had been accomplished by the Building Committee in the past year, including tenting for termites, more roof work, new railing around enlarged patio, and a new wall and concrete slab in the back.

Garth Bricker, Curator, reported sending thank you letters for eight donations received. Regarding Education, he listed seven of the student groups that visited the museum.

Mike Evans, Programs and Displays, described some of the speakers of the past year and listed the displays put on, including those on site, the ones that went to Tucson and Del Mar, and the Fall Festival show (ten excellent displays).

Gina, Docent Committee, listed current docents and announced the Museum's current open days (Thursday, Friday and some Saturdays and Sundays). The Rocky Crest museum is closed except for special appointments. The Library is being used for storage while the move from Rocky Crest is going on and until our storage areas here are completed. Gina plans to have it ready for use as a library by the end of 2006. A Scholarship was awarded this year to Mike Wise of the Smithsonian. The Reorganization Committee is working on a management structure in which every Board member will oversee some aspect of FGMS operations.

Kerith said that Fund Raising depends on each of us and invited all to come to the office and volunteer. She listed all the events that raised money this year.

Janice Bricker, for Membership, said we have 115 memberships; 15 of which are new this year.

Regarding Publicity, Anne Ondraka reported that she took over in September from Helen Bancroft, who did a fine job. Recent work has been to get FGMS activities on Adelphia and in the North County Times museum section. Anne has placed a full report on file in the office.

Pam Bruder presented the work so far on the Strategic Plan and discussed details of accomplishing its goals of increasing membership, providing financial stability, increasing public interest, building a management structure, and finishing the Alvarado facility. Each Board member will be responsible for the implementation of some of the goals.

Webmaster, Patricia Hartman has been keeping the FGMS Web Site up-to-date and will begin making it more user-friendly after the holidays.

Mick Palculich, last year's Volunteer of the Year, announced that Liz Yamaguchi had been selected for the honor this year.

All candidates approved at the November meeting were elected. The new Board: Gina Palculich, President; Laurie Kern, Vice President; Vanessa Jones, Treasurer; Liz Yamaguchi, Secretary; Directors: Bill Hollingsworth, Lea Barton, Anne Ondraka, Janice Bricker, and Erich Kern (a continuing member).

Gina announced Peter Bancroft's pledge of \$10,000, to be made available when a member or friend pledges a similar amount.

John Watson reported on the FGMS grant to Russian scientist, Dr. Igor Pekhov, for his US tour. He requested additional funds to help offset the cost of travel. The Kerns pledged \$100.

Refreshments and the Silent Auction were enjoyed by all. The Silent Auction was successful, bringing in at least \$1,480 for the Building Fund.

## **Board Meeting Summary December 3rd**

The Board discussed the Strategic Plan that Pam Bruder is to present at the Annual Meeting.

Members approved a motion to make the tourmaline part of the FGMS logo. The concept will be developed and presented at a future meeting.

Authorized reps to FCDC (Liz Yamaguchi and Joe Ondraka) were asked to look into the needed boundary adjustment on the new property next door.

The color, Swiss Coffee Flat, was chosen for painting the Auditorium. Members who rent the Auditorium will get a 25% discount. Patricia Hartman volunteered to work with Sally Larsen, Lithosphere editor.

## **Strategic Plan Goals**

I. Increase Membership and Member Support

II. Provide for Financial Stability

III. Increase Public Interest and Awareness Through Public Programs and Educational Opportunities

IV. Build a Management Structure to Support Operations

V. Complete Alvarado Museum Facility

### **CFMS Field Trip to Wiley's Well**

**November 23 - 27, 2005  
(Thanksgiving Weekend)**

*by  
Bob Fitzpatrick*

### *CFMS Field Trip Chair South*

All 88 of us that signed the disclaimer plus a few that didn't had a wonderful time on this field trip. We all found lot's of great material and the weather was nice for most of the weekend.

#### **Day One, Wednesday:**

I arrived at the camping area around 12:30 p.m. and was greeted by some of our group that had arrived earlier and already had the campsite in good shape. That first night around the campfire was the start of some great evenings filled with a lot of stories, jokes and previous adventures.

#### **Day Two, Thursday (Thanksgiving Day):**

We planned on leaving around 8 a.m. and drive over to the Pebble Terrace area for a few hours and be back at camp by 1:00 to get ready for our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. The road over Opal hill was in really bad shape, but all 18 vehicles made it over and back without any problems. After arriving at the collecting site, I explained what we were looking for and how and where to find it. We spent most of the morning walking around looking for marine life fossils, petrified wood and jasper-agate in many colors.

Much of the material was laying on top of the ground, so all of us were able to find lot's of nice collectibles. When we got back to camp there was a large group getting the food ready to eat. There was so much food, turkey with all the trimmings and all kinds of tasty food to go with it. To finish off the day, we enjoyed another

great time around the fire before bedtime. fire in the evening.

### Day Three, Friday:

At 8:00 a.m. we decided to drive to the town of Palo Verde so everyone could get gas and any supplies they needed and then stop by Kinney's Rock Shop before getting petrified wood. When we arrived at Kinney's Rock Shop we found out it was closed and that they gone to Mexico for the weekend.

While we were there, we spent some time looking at all of his petrified wood and different types of rough rock material from all over the Southwest. He had lot's of nice stuff and several of us wanted to purchase some of his items but because he was closed, it saved us several hundred dollars. All 23 vehicles were off to the Arizona side of the Colorado River to collect petrified wood where some nice specimens found. After a great time in Arizona we went back to California to our campsite for another nice time around the

### Day Four, Saturday:

Today was the day for us to dig for geodes and nodules, so at 8:00 we were off. For the next few hours all 24 vehicles were off to the back side of the Hauser Beds and from there we went to the Cinnamon Beds. We all had to work really hard at digging for the geodes, they didn't jump in our buckets. I dug up around 75 pounds, a few of them the size of softballs, I can't wait to cut them.

Back at camp some of our group had packed up and were leaving for their homes. The one's that stayed had another great time around the fire.

### Day Five, Sunday:

This was an open day, everyone could do anything they wanted to do. By sundown most of our group had left to go home, another great night around the fire.

### Day Six, Monday:

Almost everyone had left, so I packed up and headed for home too. We had a few little problems on this trip, but with so many people I guess we should expect some. For the most part, we all had an enjoyable time and of course all of us "rockhounds" can't wait to go out again and bring home our treasures to show our friends. Come join us on an upcoming trip, I'll bet you'll be glad you did.

### *Costa Mesa, CA - Spring*

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# Garth's World

**Garth Bricker,**

**FGMS Member and Museum Curator**

## **Lithosphere, Jan.05**



Changes are taking place. Henry has removed 2 of the three containers at the Historical property. We moved all the rocks out and stored a lot at Henry's place and a lot in the museum and workroom at the old museum. We are getting ready to transfer the museum material to the new museum. We think we will be done at the end of January or Feb. Henry will move all the heavy display rocks outside the museum and we will be working out of the Alvarado museum totally.

This is not at all an easy transition. We have to find a way to make grab bags in the new museum indoors which is a rocky, messy activity with almost no place to store the mass of boxes of different minerals and rocks that go into making up grab bags. We then have to store the made up grab bags until County Fair time. We usually take a year to replenish the supply for the Fair and we haven't touched the process for months except for a weekly helper. We are going to call on you to come at different times such as evenings

and weekends to get out the required number for the fair opening in June.

We've finished two-thirds of the cementing in back of the museum with the last third coming soon. Billy Meza, son of my high school classmate, is doing the cement work. Mick Palculich is doing the on-site layout and I'm doing a lot of digging and supervising temporary labor work (I'm retired). My motto is, "Have shovel, will dig."

Once the cement is in we can put up sheds to house our 'stuff' stacked in the old museum and have a place to put all the Fair grab bag making materials and have a place to work and break up rock and not worry about the rug. I have to vacuum it.

A tree was removed today at no cost. Mike Evans came to work at labeling minerals and get them boxed ready for the next sales event. This is a very important job. There are many jobs like this. You can't count all the hours Vanessa puts in weekly to keep our books up to date. We learned how important this is after Harold passed away and Vanessa Jones and Gina Palculich spent many months getting everything squared away again. Richard Levering, our accountant, helped us out greatly. We really appreciate his concern.

Erich Kern is on the computer looking for mineral locations and found one for celestite in Barstow. It is in the form of 1inch seams of blue needles all stuck



together. This will be a good grab bag material for the color. It is heavy which helps the grab bags.

PAST HISTORY and VERY RECENT HISTORY Last month I told you of a new mineral called ANSERMETITE that was characterized in 2003 that was found in the Swiss Alps. I found this same mineral in 1979 and in 1980 it was given to Tony Kampf. I misspelled Tony's last name so you see it right this time. You should know his name because he is the Curator of Minerals at the Los Angeles County Museum. He checked my unknown from the Hale Creek inesite locality in Trinity County but due to the ultra-small size he couldn't get enough information to characterize the mineral and took it to the Smithsonian in Washington. It has a mica cleavage and they couldn't get a polish.

This mineral is so small that I couldn't see any sign of crystal shape at 100 magnification in my microscope. It looked like a purple cauliflower with mineral scraps around it. Tony took a SEM (scanning electron microscope) photo of it and this enlarged it hundreds of times bigger so you can see the crystal shape. I think more recently he took a regular photo of it with a new technique shining a powerful fiber optic beam at it and the mineral cluster just exploded and as Tony Kampf said, "The mass actually appeared to "blossom" like a flower. I assume that this was due to dehydration."

Tony now had 5 very little micros from the first location and Swiss mineral scientists have the only other material in the world from their new location. Both locations are a manganese deposit. The Hale Creek deposit was developed about

1941 as a response to World War 11 as a manganese mine and worked to 1943 when the ore gave out. There were about 4000 tons of ore shipped about 80 miles away. The manganese minerals were dark red hausmannite, bementite, and rhodochrosite. There were several other minerals I didn't find that were listed. I did find with the help of Tony Kampf, witherite, and wellsite, plus the new mineral ansermetite.

The miners had made a platform as they dug out the ore pod enclosed by chert and sandstone. There were about 100 manganese mines in the general area of Northern California but only one had well crystallized sizable minerals of inesite. This mine was written up by Trask and others during mining listing the mineral inesite. These were in geological reports produced by the State of CA. This is how the abandoned mine was relocated by Al McGuinness and friend. They went through old reports looking for potential mineral deposits to gather saleable minerals. My mineral dealer, mining buddy saw the inesite in Tucson and asked Al where they were found and that's how I got in on the inesite gathering and why I found the new mineral. It is likely that it never would have been found at this mine if a person interested in micro minerals wasn't there looking for tiny minerals. nobody else would have picked it up.

The minerals had been bulldozed out the manganese ore pod and dumped.

Everything not good quality ore went over the edge and down into Hale Creek where it stayed until 1971 when Al McGuinness rediscovered it. I got there about 1978. I had to cross the Mad River in my truck with the water up to the hubs

going over big stones and boulders all the way across the river to get to the dirt road and up to the mine. It was a little scary not knowing what size boulder you will meet in the middle. The water was rushing and you couldn't see the rocks. The road was washed out in places and we had to fill in spots to get on up the road. The road ended at the mine. And then you had to slip and slide down this almost 300 ft. steep dump slope to the creek bed. There was no water flowing because all the mine dirt and rock filled the creek with rubble but you could go up stream and find water where the creek was in its regular creek bed and not covered with rock. What you did was dig into the rubble and find chunks of calcite and manganese material with signs of inosite imbedded in the calcite. That kept you going from about six or seven to about six or seven at night looking for more to haul up that steep slope.

One night while heading back to the truck I walked past a buzzing noise and went to investigate. The buzzing came from around a paper sack about the size of a basketball and sort of tear dropped shaped but upside down. I sort of walked right up to it and then these little frying, buzzing guys with stripes around their back end discovered me and started giving me a very close look and this gave me the idea that I shouldn't disturb them or else...

This was in the mountains, underbrush, no people, peaceful, lazy at times, busy digging a lot, and hopefully getting great minerals once you etched them out at home. WOW!

*Hopefully more next month.*

## **Famous Crystal Inclusion Specimens**

**by Rock Currier**

*Editor's Note: Rock Currier is a collector and wholesale mineral dealer and has Jewel Tunnel Imports in Baldwin Hills. He has written several pieces related to collecting and minerals. He has been kind enough to allow his first person account of his encounter with cinnabar and Chinese medicine to appear in the Lithosphere.*

### **Question: What are the well-known and not-so-well-known inclusion crystal specimens?**

Among mineral collectors probably the two best known and sought after inclusions for display collections are the rutile in quartz specimens from Bahia, Brazil and the pyrite crystals in quartz from Minas Gerais in the same country. More specifically the most highly sought after rutile in quartz specimens are the hematite stars with epitaxially oriented golden rutile growing on them. The good examples of these can bring thousands of dollars and are often cut up and made into cabochons and jewelry.

The best ones show more or less flat laying plates of hematite up to perhaps almost an inch with golden rutile needles oriented on the rutile shooting out from the black rutile. For many years, and probably still, the best quartz specimens including quartz specimens have come from Minas Gerais and are clear quartz crystals, almost always with some damage with well formed pyrite crystals up to perhaps almost a half an inch floating inside the clear quartz.

The best one currently belongs to Pete Bancroft of Fallbrook, California. These came out mostly before the Second World War. Efforts were made to mine the original locality for more specimens, but very little was found. About ten years ago some very nice specimens were found of well formed quartz crystals containing inclusions of pyrite. The quartz was in better shape than the original find, but the quartz was not nearly as transparent and many of the pyrite crystals were altered to limonite.

There are vastly many more examples of crystals included in other crystals. Once the crystals become small, they are cherished only by micromounters and mineralogists looking for unusual things. Almost always we neglect to say we mean crystals included inside of transparent host minerals. The world is full of crystals inside of opaque minerals and rocks.

The Andes mountains are full of andesite crystals included in the volcanic rock that makes up many of the mountains there. Crystals included in opaque minerals would make an entire book or more probably many books.

Some years ago when the new age movement started I had so many requests

for quartz crystals I finally broke down and went into the sandstone areas of Minas Gerais state and started to buy quartz crystals for my customers.

Very shortly it became evident that there were not enough undamaged long thin hand held quartz crystals to supply the need so I also started to buy quartz crystals that had been cut and polished or repaired by the lapidary processes. Some of the crystals had interesting inclusions. Soon I found that there was a good market for the quartz crystals that had interesting inclusions and began to import quantities of them. I also could not help pick out a few each trip for my own collection. For a while I and a couple of partners ran a quartz crystal mine in the hills outside of Joaquim

Felicio that produced fine green phantoms inside of quartz crystals. We had them polished up and sold thousands of them to collectors, jewelry makers and the new age crowd. I think that this area of the world produces the best and greatest variety of quartz inclusions in the world.

From around Crystalina, south of Brazilia there were some very nice clear quartz crystals that had inclusions of stout black reticulated prismatic crystals terminated rutile crystals that were quite striking. From near the down airport in Belo Horizonte, a guy was digging a septic tank and ran into clear quartz crystals that had crystals of pink fluorite inside them up to about 2 cm. I managed to snag a couple of those for my collection. Some times you can get quartz crystals from China that have Cinnabar inside of them.

Jaraslov Hershyl and friends recently published a book about inclusions that is quite good and had many pictures showing outstanding crystals with inclusions, mostly quartz with inclusions.

*Rock*

*Lithosphere*

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