

Lithosphere

Volume XIII, Number 3

Fallbrook, California



Madagascar map courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas Austin.

“Emeralds from Madagascar” presented by noted gem miner Jim Clanin on March 10 at the FGMS general meeting.

Come —and bring a friend.

—Final Notice—
For those memberships not paid for 2005 this is your last *Lithosphere*.

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.



March, 2005

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All display advertising must be paid for in advance. All 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 is limited to text only. Classified ads will be placed on the classified ad page and run until notification is received from advertiser to cancel ad, or at the editor's discretion based on space available. Editor reserves the right to edit all classified ads to fit the space available.

Contact the editor Sally Larsen for more information at 760-728-9065 or slarsen@tfb.com. Or write to the editor at 5415 Rainbow Hts. Rd., Fallbrook, CA 92028.

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Lithosphere

March, 2005



March 10th Meeting

“Emerald Mining in Madagascar”

With guest speaker Jim Clanin



On Thursday, March 10th, our regular meeting will feature noted gem miner Jim Clanin who's talk is titled “Emerald Mining in Madagascar”.

Jim, a graduate of San Diego State University, has mined many of the famous mines of our favorite local gem and mineral haunts including the Pala District, Ramona, Chihuahua Valley, Henshaw Valley, Cohilla Mountain and Ju-

cumba. If that weren't enough he also went abroad to mine in such exotic locals as Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar (the Ambodiakatra Emerald Mine, the topic for the evening). He's even worked mines in not so exotic places as England where in recent times he's dug for fluorite in the Rogerley mine. In the past four years Jim has mined for tourmaline and beryl in the now famous Cryo-genie mine near Warner Springs.

Needless to say, this promises to be an exciting talk and I urge you all to attend!

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Alvarado Museum at 123 W. Alvarado Street in Fallbrook. A business meeting will precede the program and an opportunity drawing and sales table will follow the program. Refreshments for the March meeting will be provided by Kerith Graeber and Chris Toft.

Next month: Look for Brendan Laurs, Editor of *Gems and Gemology Magazine* who will be speaking on his recent travels in Africa: “Bright Spots on the Dark Continent. The Gem and Mineral Wealth of Zambia and Malawi”.

Michael T. Evans Program Chairman and Assistant Curator

FGMS Club Calendar

March 2005

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

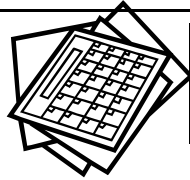
March 5: Rummage Sale at the Alvarado Museum, 9 a.m.; FGMS display at the Dog Walk at Los Jilgueros Preserve.

March 10: Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at 123 W. Alvarado St.

Thursdays: Volunteers meet at 9:30 a.m. at Rocky Crest Museum to work on grab bags.

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

Thurs. & Sun.: Rocky Crest Museum open 1-4 p.m.



FGMS Event Calendar

2005

February Tucson Show Display 10-13th.	March Rummage Sale, 5th.	April Avocado Festival 17th. Arts in the Park 24th.	May 49er Frolic 22nd.	June FGMS Pie Night-Silent Auction 9th Del Mar Fair 10th-30th Hot Summer Nights, 24th
July/Aug. Del Mar Fair 7/1-7/5 Hot Summer Nights, Chili Cook off 26th.	September	October Fall Festival of Gems 2nd.	November	December Christmas Parade, 3rd. Meeting, Silent Auction Dec. 8th.

FGMS February 2005 Board Summary

Elizabeth Yamaguchi Secretary

At the Board meeting of February 5, treasurer Harold Day reported that we are still solvent, \$10,000 was paid on the mortgage, making the balance \$118,067. Income exceeded expenses by \$1,042.

Garth Bricker will display faceting machinery and faceted stones at the Tucson show. Janice Bricker called for more volunteers to work at the March 5th Rummage Sale. The FGMS booth at the Dog Walk will focus on wolf evolution, and fossils. The booth at the April 3rd Flower Festival will have art and jewelry demonstrations, and there will be a new exhibit of faceted stones in the museum. Assignments were given for the Avocado Festival April 17th. Alec Conley is in charge of Arts in the Park, April 24th.

Membership in the California State Mining & Mineral Museum was approved. The member display in the Auditorium is fluorite and galena specimens from the collection of Erich and Laurie Kern. Helen Bancroft is the new publicity chairwoman.

West Coast - Spring
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Garth's World

*Garth Bricker FGMS Member and
Museum Curator*

A French Canadian lady contacted me in 2001 and came over to see my wulfenites from the Red Cloud mine. She called again today, the 17th, and said that she had been acting as a dealer at Tucson. She brought along a box of Mont. St. Hilaire minerals that she digs every weekend that has good weather. Who wouldn't want to do that? She traded me for other minerals, and a black light. She mentioned having sodalite, from her Province of Quebec, which fluoresces a beautiful orange. I bought a piece from Tucson last year that was fist sized, because that's all I could afford. I want a big head-sized piece, and this lady probably could get it for me for a trade. This would look great in the fluorescent room. She is coming to see our museum, which wasn't in existence in 2001.

She taught me something about French male and female names, which I'm going to pass on to you. The male name Francois, Franswah' (phonetic spelling) is changed to the female Françoise called Franswahzee. Francois, male—Françoise, female. A little learning can't hurt anybody! Can you imagine work-

ing in one of the worlds' most famous mines every weekend. She missed hearing Peter Lyckberg this month by one day, but said she would be to our next meeting before she goes back to Canada. Try not to miss it. You probably live a lot closer.

All of our members who went to Tucson described the wonderful minerals that they saw at this year's show. Cal Graeber told of the fabulous, best ever aquamarine from North Carolina. It's probably better than anything in North America by a factor of 10,000. It was deep blue, about 17 centimeters on a matrix where it stood straight up.

From Mt. Antero there were two matrix pieces with very long, slender aquamarines of good color. These were the first of their size found, in memory, due to the snow pack being much thinner on the mountain, exposing the area where these were waiting for the lucky digger.

One other thing noticed were the prices! I was after inexpensive things for the raffle. I was looking for things by the box full for grab bags. I would like to have found things by the flat for our mineral sales places like our

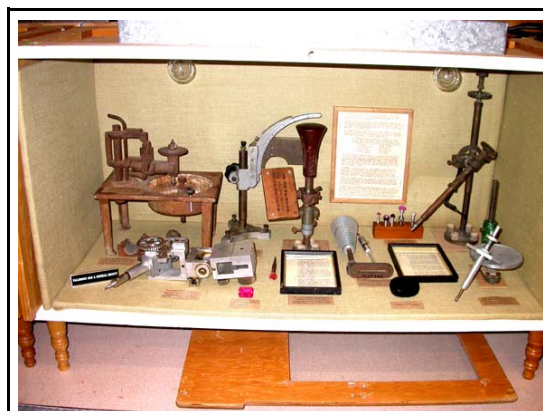
store, street fair, or Avocado Festival. I came home with very little, but having the Tucson sickness didn't help.

Little 1/2 to 3/4 inch staurolite crosses were \$3 apiece and they were so tiny. Everyone had these for sale and they should have

store. We will still double our money over the time it takes to sell all the garnets.

In one motel room I found three to four inch stibnites for \$5 a piece. I had found this same mineral years back for \$5 for two inch pieces. This pleased Mike Evans when we got them back to

the museum. One little success. It will be harder and harder to come up with raffle prizes and grab bag stuffers as years go by. **PRICES HAVE GONE WILD.** You go down the rows of dealers and all you see are big dollar signs on all the minerals. This is good for people who have collected things a long time ago but not good for people starting out, or even wanting to better what they have.



Garth Bricker photo
FGMS case displaying old faceting equipment.

been 25 cents to a dollar at most. I would have bought 400 at 25 cents. I finally found garnets from China marked one dollar each. I offered 25 cents for the bottom of a flat. The Chinese man made sure I wanted the whole flat and said, "OK." It took a little while to count out the layer on the bottom of the box. He said \$100 dollars and it looked reasonable. I counted out the garnets at home and had only 377 of the 400 needed for \$100. These will go into grab bags, and be sold for 50 cents apiece in the

Bryant Harris, from Montana, who donates minerals to us each year, brought a dealer friend with him from Tucson to our museum for our February meeting, and was surprised to find our prices were pre-WW I prices (no, not that good, but not at the raging current prices). Our motto is to keep prices where kids can buy something they like. By the way, Bryant was Fallbrook's downtown welder for years and years and dug many good specimens from our mines.

Continued on page 7

FGMS February Meeting Summary

Sally Larsen Editor

Alec Conley presided over the FGMS general meeting on February 17. Mick Palculich gave a report on the progress of the purchase of the lot next to the Alvarado Street Museum. Escrow is expected to close on the 28th

of February. The purchase of the land is a joint venture with another Fallbrook Community group, and will increase FGMS monthly mortgage payment by \$20.

Garth Bricker gave a report on the Tucson show, and remarked that

prices on minerals has increased. FGMS had a case on display at the show.

There will be a work party on February 20 at 10 a.m. at the Alvarado Street Museum, with a potluck following at 1 p.m.

A rummage sale on March 5 was announced, and a Certificate naming Peter Bancroft as our Ambassador at Large was presented to Pete by Mick Palculich. Lea Barton asked those interested in a field trip to the La Brea Tar Pits to contact her. Vanessa Jones asked for prize donations for the Wheel of Fortune and Silent Auction for the 49er Frolic held in May.

The program was presented by Peter Lyckberg, from Sweden, on the beryls found in Finland. His presentation included pictures, and specimens of the large green beryls found there.



Sally Larsen photo

Peter Lyckberg, right, talks about the beautiful beryls found in Finland.

Bumper Sticker Philosophizing

High Country Gleamings 12/04, via Chats & Chips, 12/03 & Breccia 9/02

Honk if you like Peace and Quiet. When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty. A day without sunshine is like, well—night. You can't have everything—where would you put it? Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool. Everyone has a photographic memory, some don't have film.

INESITE PART 4:

Solitude. You dig for 12 hours a day and you don't even hear the water running down Hale Creek because it is under all the rubble pushed off the stripped hill above. It was just plain quiet. One time when Bill Larson was there, we smelled smoke coming down into the creek bed, so we had a fire council, and decided it was smart to evacuate before we saw flames. After scratching our way up the steep mine rubble slope, and getting down toward the river, we could see the fire was actually quite a few miles away, and I think we actually stayed away for the rest of the day to watch how things were going. We went back the next day, and the fire was not coming our way.

One year I was goofing off and walked along Hale Creek (about where the new bulldozer path went up the side of the mountain to make a new logging road to the mine). Along the creek I came to a big boulder about 18 to 20 inches long, and maybe 12 to 14 inches wide. It had alternating bands of white massive quartz and gray native rock. It was very unusual and nothing else was like it in the area. I backed up the truck and somehow rolled it into the camper. I still have it and still haven't seen anything like it.

I started up Hale Creek toward the top to see where it came from. There is not much like hiking into unknown territory and seeing what you can find. I came to a depression in the streambed filled with nice clear water. The sides of the creek got very rocky, and made it hard to keep going, so I stayed and enjoyed the sun and water. This was my first bath in possibly two weeks. I would like to have climbed to the source, but time was running out for that day. What a great way to spend a day.

Back at the inesite locality Bill and I had a bulldozer operator come up to the mine, and dozer around uncovering areas that we couldn't do with shovels. It didn't do any good, because chunks of the vein were already down at the bottom of the creek. We did find an active colony of red ants that we had to avoid. Our money didn't buy us anything with the dozer.

GIA Program

Noted photographer Jeff Scovil will be showing pictures of some of the most outstanding mineral collections in the U.S. at the Gemology Institute of America in Carlsbad. The talk is March 9th at 6:30 p.m., admission is \$10.00. RSVP to 760-603-4169.

The GIA is located at 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad.

MARCH-APRIL SHOW CALENDAR

- Mar. 4-6, Mesa, AZ - Maricopa Lapidary Society,** Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St.
- Mar. 4-6, Costa Mesa, CA - Gem Faire.** Orange County Fairgrounds, Bldg. 12, 88 Fair Dr.
- Mar. 4-6, Hayward, CA - Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley.** Centennial Hall, 222292 Foothill Blvd.
- Mar. 4-13, Imperial, CA - Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society.** Gem & Mineral Building, Imperial Valley Fairgrounds.
- Mar. 5-6, Ventura, CA - Ventura Gem & Mineral Society,** Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Jim Brace-Thompson, 805-659-3577.
- Mar. 5-6, Arcadia, CA - Monrovia Rockhound Show.** Arboretum of Los Angeles County.
- Mar. 11-13, Del Mar, CA - Gem Faire.** Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
- Mar. 12-13, Turlock, CA - Mother Lode Mineral Society.** Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway.
- Mar. 12-13, Salinas, CA - Salinas Rock & Gem Club,** Spreckels Veterans Memorial Bldg, 5th & Llano Sts.
- Mar. 12-13, San Marino, CA - Pasadena Lapidary Society,** 3130 Huntington Dr. 12th, 10-6; 13th, 10-5. Vern Cliffe, 626-355-6964 or 626-914-5030, pls_rockhounds@yahoo.com; or Marcia Goetz, 626-914-5030, joenmarl@gte.net.
- Mar. 18-20, Cottonwood, AZ - Mingus Gem & Mineral Club.** Mingus Union High School, 1801 E. Fir St.
- Mar. 19-20, Bakersfield, CA - Rock & Mineral Rendezvous.** 3rd Annual. Kern Co. Fair Grounds, 1142 S. P St.
- Mar. 19-20, Angels Camp, CA - Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.** Calaveras County Fairgrounds.
- Mar. 25-27, San Francisco, CA - Gem Faire.** Fort Mason Center, Herbst Pavilion, Landmark Bldg. A.
- Mar. 30-Apr. 3, Las Vegas, NV - Glass Craft & Bead Expo.** Cashman Center.
- Mar. 30-Apr. 4, Yuma, AZ - Yuma County Fair.** Yuma Gem & Mineral Society
- Apr. 1-3, Sacramento, CA - Gem Faire.** Cal Expo, Bldg. A, 1600 Exposition Blvd.
- Apr. 1-3, Santa Monica, CA - The International Gem & Jewelry Show.** Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.
- Apr. 2-3, Torrance, CA - South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.
- Apr. 3-4, San Jose, CA - Rock, Fossil, & Jewelry Show.** Santa Clara County Fairground, 344 Tully.

Humor!

A penny saved is a government oversight. The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement. *High Country Gleamings* 12/04, via *Gravel Gazette*, 6/02

**NEWS & NOTES
FROM THE CFMS
MARCH 2005**

John Fry Director

“America the Beautiful”, that beguiling phrase is not the title of a song or a statement of faith; it is a phrase, which may become a serious threat to all our rock-hounding and collecting activities in the USA in the coming year.

The rump of the last Congress, in the days after the election and before the holidays, late one night, passed an appropriations bill 3,000 pages long. Apart from the necessary budgets for departments, in it were thousands of 'pork barrel' projects by which our Senators and Representative get Federal funds for projects in their districts, and then go home and trumpet what great representatives they are. Most of the bill is never read or discussed in either the Senate or the House. The bill was signed into law by President Bush a few days later, and in that bill, never read in Congress, never discussed, was the America the Beautiful bombshell.

In summary this is what the legislation does. Sometime in the next year or so it cancels the legislation which covers the Golden Age and Golden Access passes, once in a lifetime payments to allow Seniors into National Parks, US Forests and BLM land. In their place will be an 'America

the Beautiful' card, whose estimated cost will be \$100 per year, every year adults would need to buy such a card. This would allow the user access to all USFS and BLM lands for the purposes of recreation, and entry to National Parks, which are not 'improved' and have no facilities. Failure to produce such a card on demand could result in a fine of up to \$5,000 and 30 days in jail. As the USFS and BLM do not have enough staff for enforcement and collection, they are allowed in the legislation to outsource these activities. The threat to Gem and Mineral and Rock-hounding clubs is clear, but we are not the only ones affected. Consider the impact on a church picnic into a USFS forest, and the need to ensure everyone has their pass. Perhaps the commercial collecting agents will turn their primary focus on rockhounds and the Godly, and leave hunters alone; who will demand a pass from someone with a loaded rifle

Like so many acronyms invented nowadays 'America the Beautiful' is meant to mislead, 'America the Overtaxed' would be a better fit.

So what can we do about it? All may not be lost. Other interested groups have been protesting and it is having some effect. A spokesman for the Parks Service has been rapidly backtracking stating that the initial fee for sen-

Continued on page 10

iors will only be \$10, and few of the provisions will be implemented, so protest can make a difference. The States, which will be hit hardest, because they have the most USFS and BLM land, are the west and those same 'red' states, which voted Republican last November, and in these partisan days, something may yet be done. In November the late night deal was stitched together between a Representative from Alaska and one from Ohio who has no public lands in his district. It has created anger among numerous of their colleagues and there is talk of reversing this legislation. Politicians listen to their voters, so the CFMS plan is to send as many letters as we can to complain and ask whether they agree with legislation, and if not, what do they intend to do about it. To help the CFMS will draft a sample letter and ask you to ask all club members to send four letters, one to each of your Senators, one to your Representative and one to President Bush, and more to anyone you might think it worth influencing.

The full wording of the act may be found under <http://www.wildwilderness.org/docs/therat.htm>.

If you want to read more about this matter check some of these web sites:

<http://www.sespewild.org/HR3283analysis.html>

http://www.planetj.com/klobnak_2004_12_01_pay.html

http://www.traditionalmountaineering.org/News_FeeDemo_Permanent.htm

<http://www.americantrails.org/NewsAction/feedemo04.html>

<http://www.aznofee.org/aznofee/home.php>

The CFMS show in June will be here sooner than you expect! This month Gloria Tomczyk , Show Chair for the "Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast" would like to extend an invitation to ALL of you, to consider submitting an exhibit case. Show off your gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, gold or other related items. So maybe the thought now intrigues you, well there are two categories in which you may participate:

1. COMPETITIVE - Your entry will be judged according to CFMS standards, and scored by CFMS judges followed by an award.
2. NON-COMPETITIVE - Your display is for pure enjoyment, a feeling of accomplishment, and it provides enjoyment for all our visitors. This year you have the option to request the judge's comments, for future improvement, if you so wish.

CASE SIZE: a standard case is approximately 2 feet high x 4 feet long

CFMS continued on page 11

CLASSIFIED ADS

BUY—SELL—TRADE—WANTED—GIVEAWAYS



RUMMAGE SALE: March 5, 123 W. Alvarado Street Museum. Be sure to shop the sale.

YOUR AD HERE: Free ad space, email the editor Sally Larsen at slarsen@tfb.com, write to Sally Larsen at 5415 Rainbow Hts. Rd., Fallbrook, CA 92028, or call 760-728-9065.

Intrepid Trekkers!

Sally Larsen Editor and Field Trip Co-chair.

Well, we did it again! Lea Barton and I set a date to return to the Amboy area and scout out the Marble Mountain site for a future field trip. Our last attempt was in December. Frustrated by having to cancel our fieldtrip to the Fano mine because of snow and rain, we decided to seize the day, and venture forth to Amboy via Twenty-Nine Palms. Garth Bricker kindly agreed to accompany us. We got as far as Yucca Valley, and found snow on the ground, snow coming down, and a few stranded vehicles dotting the highway. We turned around and beat a path for home.

The three of us started out for our Amboy destination again on Saturday, February 19 with Lea as our driver. It started to rain as soon as we left the driveway of my place here in Rainbow. It started to rain even harder, in fact, by the time we got on to I-15 it was raining harder than I had ever seen it rain—at a crawl we ponied onto the lights of the big truck in front of us to guide us along the road (you know road conditions are bad when California drivers slow down). There were grease-wood plants down on the freeway, apparently blown there. I wondered what sort of wind could get at a low-growing plant like that, roots and all, and blow them off the side of the hill (the next day I learned that a tornado touched down in Temecula, so maybe it was that sort of wind?). We got off the freeway at the first chance we could, and took the surface streets, they were flooded, but we felt safer.

At least it wasn't snowing! We did make our destination, and the rain stopped, the clouds were fascinating, and the 4-wheel-drive roads to the collecting area had all been beheaded, (by the BLM I understand). We are out there trying, and we **WILL GO SOMEWHERE!** **SOON!** As soon as the snow and tornados pass by.

The Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society is a §501(c)(3), non-profit, educational and recreational organization dedicated to promote the study of mineralogy and allied earth sciences; to study and practice the art of lapidary; and to promote good fellowship. Regular meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month, except February (generally the third Thursday) and July and August (no meetings), at 123 W. Alvarado St. The public is invited to attend our museum located at the corner of Rocky Crest Road and Hill Avenue in Fallbrook. Rocky Crest Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, and by appointment with our curator. Museum at Alvarado is open Tues. and Thurs., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Annual dues are \$25 for adults, \$20 for each additional adult in the same household; \$6 per child to age 17. The initiation fee is \$6 per person. Membership fees must be submitted along with an application, obtainable from the Society or its web site.

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Exchanges: Free reciprocal exchanges for the bulletins of other gem and mineral societies are welcomed. **Please send all exchange bulletins to the Editor.**

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Deadline: The deadline for all submitted material is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Allow extra time if line drawings or photographs are submitted.

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