

# Palomar Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



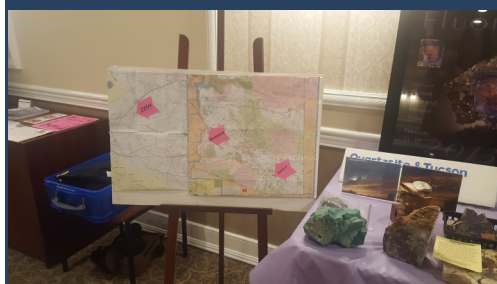
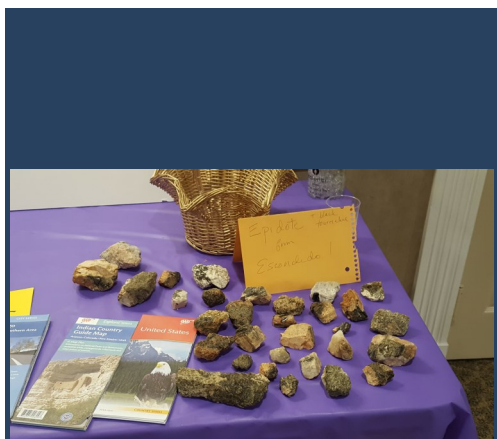
FEBRUARY 2017

Volume 58 Issue 2

## February Meeting

### *February Meeting*

Our February meeting was a nice show and tell of all the fun and wonderful treasures that our members found this year at Tucson and Quartzite. Toni Floyd, Michelle Shepard, Bob Verish, and others gave us some great samples of their visit to Tucson and Quartzite, as well as some great impromptu field trips recently. Thank you all for your great contributions!



### *Note from the PGMC President:*

We are approaching our club birthday once again in March. Let's take a few moments to not only celebrate but to reflect as a club where we are and where we would like to be. I would like to ask the membership to offer ideas, suggestions, etc. so our club could reach it's full potential. If anyone would like to respond, my e-mail address is [jjraabe2023@yahoo.com](mailto:jjraabe2023@yahoo.com). or speak with me anytime.

## PGMC Membership 2017

The 2017 Membership Drive has been terrific! We are ready to release the 2017 Spring Roster. This roster will be continually improved and added to as our membership grows throughout the year. You should be receiving the roster in your email in the following days. If you have not received it by the March meeting, please see Jef Wright and let him know so he can get it to you as soon as possible. If you are not on the roster, you will not get one, which also means we haven't received your 2017 membership. It's NOT TOO LATE!! Get the most out of the PGMC club by renewing your membership as soon as possible!



### March PROGRAM

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY PGMC!

**A special birthday celebration!  
Potluck and Special Speaker**

**Gems of Mogok, Myanmar  
Brendan Laurs, Gem-A and formerly GIA**

MARCH 15, 2017

7:00 PM

DITTUS HALL, REDWOOD TERRACE  
710 WEST 13TH AVE.,  
ESCONDIDO

Is the Burmese ruby truly the most beautiful red gem? The country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) has been opened to foreigners and to trade for a few years now. Finally outsiders are able to travel to the fabled lands of the Burmese ruby! Brendan will tell us about his trip to this rugged area and about the fascinating things he learned there.



We'll start off with our annual potluck dinner, so bring a non-dessert dish to share along with your place setting. The club will provide a birthday cake and drinks.

Once we're all full, we'll enjoy Brendan's presentation.

*Please bring any Burmese stones you might have as well as any examples of rubies and sapphires from other lands.*



# Gem & Mineral Show 2017

We are making progress on the 2017 show, but there is still much to do. We have 15 vendors signed up. We need another 15. As you go to other gem and mineral shows don't forget to bring our flyers and vendor packets. Many vendors are looking for good shows, and ours is one of the best. If you think of a vendor we should invite, send them a vendor packet or contact Michelle Shepard and she will handle it.

We are getting the word out to interest groups and the public. Our flyer will be appearing in newsletters and at least 2 magazines. Our show is on the CMFS website, and will be on other websites as well. Dawn is making sure as many people as possible know about the show. If you attend other club meetings, take some flyers with you to hand out. Post them on public bulletin boards such as Starbucks. We have plenty, any left over after show are worthless, so let's use them all up!

Other things being worked on include the street banner, room setup, room layout, demonstrators, display cases, draping and supplies, signs, and much more. There are plenty of opportunities for you to be a part this show, so please come to the next committee meeting which is right after the board meeting. Date and time is listed in this bulletin.

The show is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds provide the funds to pay for shop rent, operating expenses and equipment costs, as well as other club expenses. The shop is one of the jewels of our club.

The show is also one the most fun events of the year, let's not forget that! The excitement of vendors displaying wonderful merchandise, the crowds of happy faces, seeing new and old friends, and the thanks we get from vendors who have had a good show. You, our members, can help make this the best show we've ever had!

Archie Keuhn

PGMC 2017 Show Chairman

63rd Annual Palomar Gem and Mineral Club's  
**Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**  
California Center for the Arts, Escondido  
304 N. Escondido Blvd  
Escondido, CA  
Saturday June 3, 2017 10am - 5pm  
Sunday June 4, 2017 10am - 4pm  
**Featuring**  
- Precious & Semi-Precious Gems  
- Collectable Mineral Specimens  
- Unique Custom Jewelry  
- Rough Material  
- Jewelry Findings & Supplies  
- Gem Identification  
- Lapidary Art Demos  
- Rock Treasure Dig for kids!  
Admission \$5 for Adults  
Children 12 and under FREE  
Details at: [www.palomargem.org](http://www.palomargem.org)

## FIELD TRIP!

### DIAMONDS : RARE BRILLIANCE , COLORED DIAMONDS

**PLACE :** LOS ANGELES NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (NHM)

**DATE :** SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

**TIME :** 9:00 AM AT THE PGMC, WORKSHOP FOR THOSE WANTING TO CARPOOL

**DIRECTIONS :** USE GOOGLE, MAP QUEST OR YOUR GPS

**COST :** ADULTS \$12.00, SENIORS \$9.00

Exhibit closes March 19, so this is our last chance to see these beautiful rare diamonds. Since we don't have a field-trip chairperson, this is a do-it -yourself outing. Parking, Admission, Lunch etc, is the responsibility of the participants.

Please contact Chris Toft if you plan to join us : ((760) 739-1826 or [omphalos41@gmail.com](mailto:omphalos41@gmail.com). Thanks!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.**

# Weekly Workshops



## THESE WORKSHOPS MEET EVERY WEEK

### Cabochon/Lapidary & Open Workshops

Wednesday 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Thursday 2:00-5:00pm

Learn to cut and polish a rock into a beautiful stone suitable for wire wrapping or fabricating in metal. A fantastic assortment of material is available for purchase on site.

*The workshop is also open for general use. No prior registration needed.*

### Metalsmithing Open Workshop

Thursday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

***open for METAL SMITHING only, to those students who have had metal smithing instruction or experience and/or have instructor approval.*** Attendees should be able to work independently as this is not a class. An experienced metalsmith will be available for consultation. **NEW** – Exception for students who have made arrangements with instructor for Beginning Silversmith lessons. See the right for class information and fees.

**Cost:** A \$7 shop fee will be collected for regular workshop. Club membership required.

## Beginning Silversmithing

This is a twelve hour introductory silversmith class. The students will learn to develop their designs, use a jeweler's saw to cut out a pattern, solder a bezel to a backing and add a bale, creating a wearable piece of jewelry.

Intermediate students can work on a project of their choosing with instructor approval.

**Instructors:** Diane Hall & Annie Heffner

**Dates & Times:** *to be scheduled when enough students for a class*

Cost: \$60 for 12 hours of instruction. (club membership required - \$25 fee for single membership)

Materials additional - please bring a cabochon to set in silver or let us know if you need one.

**\*\*Call Diane Hall at (760) 741-0433 (leave message for call back) or email [dianehall213@gmail.com](mailto:dianehall213@gmail.com) for more info or to register.\*\***

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP IS LOCATED AT

2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260

ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

# SPECIALTY CLASSES



## Wire Wrap

Wire wrapping for making jewelry dates back thousands of years and can be seen in museum collections from the ancient Sumerians and Romans. Learn how to make a lovely piece of jewelry with Dawn Vaughn, by using wire to wrap to your stone.

**Instructors:** Dawn Vaughn

**Dates:** March 25, 2017

**Time:** 10-5

**Cost:** \$30

**Sign-up:** Call Dawn at 951-265-8745 to register or email dawnvaughn@hotmail.com.

## Rock Giveaway!

Wendy Hammarstrom, one of our members is in the process of moving and has many rocks she is looking to give away. Contact Wendy if you are interested in checking out what she has. Many of these rocks have been found near gold mines in Escondido and may have gold in them!. Contact Wendy at 951-303-4508 to schedule a time to see what she has.



## Chiseled and Cut Bezel Ring with Overlay Ring Shank with Jeff Fulkerson

Have you ever wondered how to make a chiseled and cut bezel with an overlay ring shank? This is the class for you! Students will learn: How to pick cabochons, silver solder, proper stamping techniques, silver overlay, various texturing techniques and finishing. De-mystify silver soldering, overlay, and stone setting. This class will boost your confidence in using a torch and creating beautiful rings you can be proud of. Jeff Fulkerson is an accomplished, award winning silversmith who is published frequently in Lapidary Journal.



**Instructor:** Jeff Fulkerson

**Date:** Sunday, April 23rd, 2017

**Time:** 10am – 5pm

**Cost:** \$80 class and approximately \$65 material. You may bring your own cabochon, or purchase one from Jeff. He has high quality, well cut cabochons.

**Sign Up:** Call Diane at 760-741-0433 to register (leave message for call back) or email me at diane-hall213@gmail.com (preferred). Class is limited to 8 so sign up early.

## Chasing and Repousse with Saign Charlestein

**Save the date** – Tentative August 14-18, 2017. Saign has agreed to return to Escondido for another week-long chasing and repousse class. Stay tuned for more info.



# Faceting Classes

An informative introduction and hands-on experience in the world of gem cutting. Learn how to create a gem out of a piece of rough, during a weekend class. No machine required. Return students welcome with or without their own machine. Each class can accommodate 3 new students without machines and 3 returning students with their own machines.

**Instructor:** Bob Johnson      **Location:** Club Shop

**Dates & times:** Sat. Mar 11 and Sun. Mar 12, 2017 – 9am -5pm

**Cost:** \$80 New. Club membership required. \$70 return

**Contact Bob Johnson for more information or to register -  
tel: 760-809-0152 or email Bob at N78532@yahoo.com**



## Chasing and Repousse Play Date

Come to the shop to work on your current projects and spend time with your fellow chasers

**Date:** Sunday March 19, 2017

**Time:** 10a—5p with an hour lunch break

**Cost:** \$7 for half day, \$14 for whole day.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## Faceting—Continuation Class

This is a class for continuing students who have completed the Introductory Class and is held once per month, from 9a to 5p on the Saturday following the general meeting, (which is always on the third Wed.)

**Date:** *Saturday, February 18, 2017*

**Time:** 9:00am—5:00 pm

**Cost:** \$35

Contact Bob Johnson for more information or to register— tel: 760-809-0152 or email Bob at N78532@yahoo.com

**ALL OF THESE CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE  
LAPIDARY WORKSHOP LOCATED AT  
2120 W. MISSION, SUITE 260  
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029**

## WHEELS & CIRCLES BRACELET

This class is back by request. Annie will teach a one day class on this soldered sterling silver link bracelet originally taught by Cal North. Membership and soldering experience required for this project.

**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2017

**Time:** 10-4pm

**Instructor:** Annie Heffner

**Cost:** \$30 plus materials

Call Annie at 760-855-5406 for more info and to register.



## Calendar of Events



- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Mar 4 & 5 | Intro to Silversmithing class                        |
| Mar 11    | Field Trip to Los Angeles Natural History Museum     |
| Mar 11-12 | Intro to Faceting Class                              |
| Mar. 13   | PGMC Board Meeting 6:00/Gem Show Committee Mtg. 7:00 |
| Mar. 15   | March Meeting—Brendan Laurs from GIA and now GemA    |
| Mar. 18   | Faceting Continuation Class                          |
| Mar. 19   | Chase and Repousse play date                         |
| Mar. 25   | Wire Wrapping class                                  |
| Apr. 10   | PGMC Board Meeting 6:00/Gem Show Meeting 7:00        |
| Apr. 19   | PGMC April Meeting—7:00                              |
| Apr. 23   | Chiseled and Cut Bezel Ring Class                    |
| Apr. 29   | Wheels & Circles Bracelet Class                      |

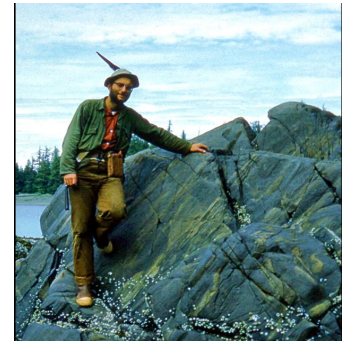
## Inviting *You* to the National AFMS Show in Ventura!



Members of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society invite you and your fellow club members to exhibit in this year's national CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. Enter a competitive or noncompetitive display—or one of each! Go to the show website at <http://2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com> to access and download forms by clicking on "Files and Entry Forms." You'll also find a direct link to the AFMS Uniform Rules manual. The deadlines are May 22 for noncompetitive entry forms and April 30 for competitive forms, so don't delay! The website also holds a host of other essential info about the show. To contact VGMS directly, call (805) 312-VGMS (8467) or email [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org). We hope you'll share this message with all members of your local society, and we hope to see you in Ventura!

# AN OLD GEOLOGIST'S TALES

*As many of you know, Gene Ciancanelli is one of our long standing members of the PGMC. Gene's long history as an exploration geologist searching for energy and mineral resources is far reaching. Gene and Betty wrote a book on compressed air energy storage in porous media reservoirs. We hope to bring you many tales of this 20th Century Geologist over the course of this newsletter for entertainment and perhaps a different perspective of our hobby as a lifelong career.*



My friend Pete Sims, a Dallas, Texas petroleum engineer, is one of the nicest people I have ever known. Pete is a southern gentleman of exceptional intelligence and integrity, who served in Patton's Third Army as a captain in World War II. Long ago, Pete mentioned a family legend regarding a silver mine near his ancestral family home in Calhoun County, Alabama. Pete's uncle operated a general store in Wellington, Alabama, circa 1910. A local Indian would purchase items and pay with native silver ore. With the help of some free whiskey, the Indian told Pete's uncle the location where he obtained the silver. The family never did anything with this knowledge, which has been pestering Pete's brain for decades. Pete has repeatedly asked me to go to Alabama and check out the Indian's legendary silver mine. For years I kept putting Pete off, because geologists are often asked to locate legendary phantom mines, which is almost always just that a legend and no more. Pete did me many favors over the years including referring our services to many clients, which made us a lot of money. On a 1981 business trip to Dallas, Pete again asks me to check out the lost silver mine.

Pete and I fly to Atlanta and drive to Wellington. There we enjoy some southern cooking, which means everything is deep-fried in lard. High cholesterol greasy food is the only choice when dining out in Wellington. Pete always carries a small bottle of Louisiana hot sauce, which he puts on everything he eats even ice cream (true). Pete has an old faded hand-drawn map, showing the silver deposit's location on a hillside above a large bend in the meandering and unpronounceable, but here correctly spelled, Tallasseehatchee River. Driving to the site, we arrive at a large farm, which Pete recalls as being the access point to the silver laden hill. No one is at the farm and the locked gates and the no nonsense "you keep out or we will shoot you" signs prevent our entry onto the property. Pete suggests driving around the hill and walking in from the woodland side to locate the silver bonanza. Parking along a rural road, we walk across a large recently harvested cornfield, whose crop is locally converted into moonshine. We ascend to the top of a forested ridge and descend down the other side, where an impenetrable briar patch halts further progress. I'm reminded of the old Uncle Remus tar baby story where Brer Fox throws Brer Rabbit into the briar patch. In the story, Brer Rabbit gets through the briars by crawling underneath; where the thorn covered briar canes form a roof over open crawl spaces. As a child, I used this tactic when I hid in the briar patch from my mean grandfather. Sure enough, it's possible to crawl through this thicket on hands and knees provided you are willing to put up with a thorn piercing your skin ever couple of minutes. Pete and I crawl across the hillside for hours, as we sample and examine limestone outcrops while pulling out thorns. This was my first and last time doing fieldwork on my hands and knees. I can find no sign of ore mineralization, but in a limestone host-rock, it's possible to be within inches of native silver or sulfide minerals and see nothing. Late in the day, we are exhausted from crawling for hours. I'm 42 years old and hurting. Pete is 62 and I can't imagine how he must feel. It's twilight, as we descend the ridge and cross the cornfields. Inside the cornfield, two cars are parked side by side. Several hillbillies are standing beside the cars and Pete utters one word, **"Shine!"** The bootleggers are transferring moonshine from one car to another and they aren't pleased to see us. No one speaks, especially me with my Yankee accent, as we exchange uneasy nods to acknowledge our brief encounter.

The next day, to my great relief, Pete decides it is futile to continue chasing the mythical silver mine. Neither his body nor mine is up to another day crawling through briars. I'm pessimistic that we will find anything, because outcrops are rare and the native silver, if it ever existed, is likely to be a very small isolated exposure on this impenetrable ridge. I have collected samples for geochemical analysis and suggest waiting for the results before taking another pass at crawling around the ridge. We both return home and two days later, I'm covered head to foot with poison ivy and swollen like the Pillsbury Dough Boy. A phone call to Pete confirms he is also covered in a poison ivy rash. I'm very allergic to poison ivy and formerly took weekly injections to protect myself from this plant. This, my last poison ivy case, was the worst ever. As usual, our efforts to locate the silver deposit were futile. Today, that adventure is just a story recalled by two old men. Somewhere the Indian has the last laugh.



## PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club, a non-profit corporation open to all adults and young people, was organized to promote the study of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and related subjects, such purpose to be developed through regular meetings with educational programs, field trips for the collection of geological specimens, and classes for teaching lapidary arts. The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club shares its knowledge of the earth sciences by sponsoring Gem and Mineral shows featuring exhibits, displays and demonstrations. The Club was founded March 20, 1954.

THE PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB IS AFFILIATED WITH:



PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB | P.O. BOX 1583 | ESCONDIDO, CA 92033-1583

760-743-0809 | [WWW.PALOMARGEM.ORG](http://WWW.PALOMARGEM.ORG)

