

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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Letter from the President

March's meeting was our annual birthday celebration. The Palomar Gem and Mineral Club is 64 years old. One of the oldest in San Diego. We had a great potluck meal and I want to thank everyone in participating!

The paddle auction that we had seemed to be a great hit with everyone as well. Quite a bit of competition for some great items. I think all our winners were very happy with their prizes.

I am looking forward to a great 65th year and hope that each and every one will get a chance to support and value their membership with the Palomar Gem and Mineral Club.

Jef Wright – President 2018

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April's Program

April 18, 2018 | 7:00 pm

Dittus Hall | Redwood Terrace | 710 West 13th Ave, Escondido

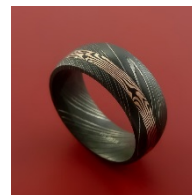
Mokume Gane

Chris Ploof, Interweave

Have you ever worked with Mokume Gane? The ancient Japanese art of fusing layers of different metals to form unusual patterns?

Well, here's your chance to learn how to do it! This Interweave video goes through the details of how you can do this. We have almost all the tools we need in the shop and you can even do it with a stack of quarters or dimes.

Join us for an evening of instruction in this beautiful artform!





Workshops

The Lapidary and Silversmith Workshops are held weekly. There is a shop fee of \$7 per person to attend these workshops.

Cabochon and Lapidary Class & Open Workshop

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.

Tuesday: 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday: 2:00pm – 5:00 pm

Silversmith Workshop

This workshop is open to all students who have had metal smithing instruction or experience and/or have instructor approval. If you have attended an introductory class, you can continue to improve your skills at this weekly workshop.

Thursday: 6:00pm – 9:00pm

You must be a member of the PGMC in order to partake in any of the workshops or classes provided by Palomar Gem and Mineral Club.

Lapidary Workshop
2120 W. Mission
Suite S
Escondido, CA

Faceting Workshops

Contact Bob Johnson for registration
 email: Facetguru@palomargem.org
 phone: 760-809-0152

Introduction to Faceting –

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.

Sat., Apr 14 & Sun., Apr. 15– 9:00am – 5:00pm

\$80 for new students \$70 for returning students

Faceting Continuation Class

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

January Workshop: Sat., Apr 21 9:00am – 5:00pm

\$35 for all students



Special Classes

Introduction to Silversmithing

This is a 10-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 or a ring shank, creating a wearable piece of jewelry. Intermediate students can work on a project of their choosing with instructor approval. At the completion of this introduction the student can continue learning in the Thursday night workshop.

Please bring a cabochon to set in silver or let us know if you need one ahead of time!

Saturday April 28 and Sunday April 29, 2018 **Note Date Change! (full)*

Saturday June 2 and Sunday June 3, 2018

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost is \$60 plus materials.



Register by contacting Diane Hall

phone: 760-741-0433 and leave a message

email: silversmithing@palomargem.org (preferred method)

San Diego County Fair

Every year our members volunteer at the San Diego County Fair.

We’re looking for volunteer for the kid’s dig at the gem and mineral exhibit. If you are interested in volunteering for a 2-3 hour time slot,

please contact Chris Toft at vp@palomargem.org and she can get you assigned. All volunteers receive free admission to the fair for the day!



Volunteer Days

Wednesday, June 20

Friday, June 22

Sunday, June 24

Sunday July 1

It’s a fun time and for your efforts you get free admission to the fair!

Old Geologists Tale

BY GENE CIANCANELLI

INCIDENTS WITH WILDLIFE (PART 2)



Continuing my face-to-face encounters with wildlife. Chuckwalla's are large lizards about one and a half feet long that live in the Sonora and Mojave deserts. I'm mapping structural geology near Salome, Arizona. One day climbing up a cliff face hand over hand, while measuring structural elements preserved in the limestone, my head clears the top of the cliff face and I meet a chuckwalla coming from the opposite direction. Our faces are suddenly about four inches apart. Chuckwalla's are not warm cuddly animals but big fat ugly black lizards with a face not that much different from a snake. Startled, I lurch back but have the presence of mind not to let go of the rock. When threatened, a chuckwalla goes into a rock fissure and inflates his body to wedge himself securely to the rock. That is what this chuckwalla does making a hissing sound as he inflates. It is quite disconcerting to come face to face with an ugly lizard's head and two seconds later hear an ominous hissing sound. That was one of my most startling animal encounters and one for which I was completely unprepared.

In 1962, I'm camped on a remote deserted beach on the eastern shore of the Sea of Cortes about 15 miles north of Guaymas, Mexico. An extinct volcano is about a mile south across a wide dry riverbed and I decide to climb it to look at the rock. Unlike mountain climbers, geologists climb mountains to look at the rock; not to get to the top. While banging away on a rock outcrop, a large black scorpion, the size of a man's hand, walks across the rock. I bash him and looking down there are dozens of scorpions around my feet. Time to leave as scorpions crunch under my boots. Something moves in my peripheral vision as I'm returning to camp across the wide gravel covered riverbed. Turning there is a big 6 foot long jaguar keeping his eye on me as we walk parallel about 150 feet apart. My sole protection is a geology pick, but I suspect the jaguar is unlikely to charge, because jaguars are ambush predators. Sure enough, as we approach the wooded thicket on the riverbed's north side, the jaguar runs ahead and disappears into the thicket. He may be setting up an ambush. I turn and follow the river channel west to the sea and take the longer beach route back to camp. No juicy geologist dinner for that jaguar.

One afternoon working near Quartzite, Arizona, I encounter an injured desert tortoise. Part of his shell is cracked and he is bleeding. I make a rock shelter to get him out of the sun and to offer some protection and leave water and fruit for the tortoise eat. Each day, I bring more fruit and water and he seems to be getting better. A week later he is gone and perhaps Mr. Tortoise is still out there somewhere enjoying cactus fruit.

Like most guys, I have done some dumb things and some of these involved wild animals. Working in central Arizona, I'm walking down a steep game trail and notice a very large mule deer buck moving toward me along the trail. He has a huge rack and will make a great picture. There is a large rock outcrop on the side of the trail where I can hide to step out and snap a close up picture. With the camera ready, I wait until he is almost at the rock and step out to take the picture, but this buck is not about to cooperate and pose. Instead he lowers his large antler-rack head to gore me. Jumping to safety behind the rock, he charges past. You would think that lesson had been learned, but two days later I spook the same deer and he runs up over a low ridge and out of sight. I know he is likely to turn up the next draw and cross back over the ridge. I run along the ridge to where a large game trail crosses the ridge. There I'm crouched behind a bush hoping to get the picture. Sure enough here he comes back over the ridge along the game trail. Again, I stand to snap a picture and again he puts his head down and charges. This time there is no safe rock outcrop and at the last minute, I hit the buck's nose with

Continued next page

Old Geologists Tale *cont.*



my metal clipboard. That must have hurt, because it took the fight out of him and he trotted off. Now much wiser, I lost all interest in taking his picture.

The following encounter occurred in the mid-1970's, while mapping a large volcanic structure in the southern Cascade Range in northern California. There is no water in the area except for a spring seeping out of a hillside. The country is dry open pine and cedar forest, but the moist spring area supports tall brush. Low on water, I detour to fill my canteen. Walking through the brush, suddenly a large "animal", covered with black hair, jumps up about 10 feet in front of me. I can see he is facing away from me, but I can't see a head, because he is stoop shouldered. The animal is on two legs and his hairy back is broad shouldered with long large arms. He is much taller than me, perhaps 6 ½ feet tall, as he runs away on two legs. I'm running after him while fumbling for the camera, but he is too fast in this brush and gets away. I don't know what he was. A black bear is the only large animal in this locality, but bears do not typically run on two legs, because they are faster on four legs. The sensational conclusion is of course it is a Bigfoot, but I can't say for sure what I saw. It is a very large broad-shouldered long-arm black-hair-covered animal running on two legs. I search for tracks but the soil is too rocky for footprints.

Driving down a narrow canyon east of Wickenburg, Arizona, there are bees flying in and out of a fissure in the canyon wall's rock face. Using a Brunton compass mirror, I shine sunlight into the fissure and see a large honeycomb filling a cavity inside the rock fissure. Returning to Wickenburg, I mention the find to my geologist partner Andy. We decide to collect the wild honey, but protection is needed to avoid being stung. Using two small cardboard boxes that will cover our heads, we cut holes in front, which are covered with clear plastic. The boxes are now transformed into crude square-shaped "space" helmets. Cloth is stapled around the box helmet's open end. The cloth will drape over our shoulders to prevent bees from flying into the helmets.

The next day, we are out in the desert at first light. It is a cool January morning and the bees will be cold and somewhat dormant. Parking the Jeep, string is tied around our shirtsleeves and pant cuffs to make them "bee proof". Donning the helmets and gloves, Andy and I walk down the canyon carrying buckets. This is the 1960's and many people, especially desert dwellers, see and believe in flying saucers. I mention to Andy, "If some Yahoo happens to be out here hunting and sees us, he is going to think aliens and we could get shot." Andy replies, "I'm more worried someone might recognize us and then how will we live this down?" Luckily, no one is around as we approach the hive. Reaching in, we quickly stack honeycombs in the buckets without getting stung. Back in Wickenburg, it is time to extract the honey and then two geologists not biologists notice the winter bees have not stored any honey. All we get for our trouble is a pail of bee's wax and two laughing wives.

Flying along in a helicopter one afternoon, Bob and I notice the peaks of several surrounding mountains are orange colored, which we assume is a flowering plant. Curious, we land to investigate and stepping out onto the ground, I notice every rock is covered with ladybugs. There were millions of these bugs. Later research revealed they are a specific species of ladybugs called *Hippodamia convergens*, the "convergent ladybug". They converge on mountain peaks where they mate and hibernate in rock crevices over the winter. On another occasion, I stopped the jeep in a forest in Mono County, California and as I get out there is an awful stench. It is one of the worse odors I have ever smelled, but this is a usually pleasant pine forest. There aren't any dead animals or anything out of the ordinary and then I happen to look up into the treetops and there is the answer. The trees are infested with millions of foul smelling moths. The stink is so bad that it makes me nauseous and I leave.

Animals such as herds of elk, antelope, and mountain sheep as well as solitary animals like bears and puma are easily spotted from a helicopter. Flying over a mesa, we see a rare desert wolf on the mesa top. The pilot decides to see if he can force the wolf to run off the cliff. In today's environmentally conscious world this sounds shocking, but in the pre-environmental awareness 1960's this was sport because we didn't know better. The helicopter chases the wolf back and forth across that mesa, but he is too smart to run off the cliff. Finally, the exhausted wolf goes into a small depression where he curls up and snarls at us. The wolf wins and we go back to work.

Old Geologists Tale *cont.*

I'm walking along a gently sloping dry wash in the Patagonia mining district near Nogales, Arizona. The area is at a higher elevation than much of southern Arizona. Small oak trees replace the usual Sonora Desert cactus and these trees are scattered across rolling grassland similar to the desert environment around Escondido. There is a commotion in a tree growing alongside the dry wash. Walking closer, I observe the tree is filled with coutimundi's, an animal that resembles a cross between a raccoon and a monkey. The tree has at least a dozen coutimundi's swinging from branches and playing together. Time to sit down for a well-deserved rest to enjoy this unusual sight. Animal watching is one of my few fringe benefits. Such a waste of time would meet with extreme disapproval from my jerk boss, but who is going to tell him?

As many of you know, Gene Ciancanelli is a long-standing member of the PGMC. Gene had a long career as an exploration geologist searching for energy and mineral resources throughout North America and Asia. These Old Geologist's Tales are excerpts from a book Gene wrote for the Huntington Library's archive of The History and Development of the Western United States. That book documents the life of a geologist and his wife working in the west during the latter half of the 20th Century. We hope to include many of these tales in this newsletter for your entertainment and perhaps another perspective of how our hobby can become a lifetime career.

GIA Field Trip

Centuries of Opulence: Jewels of India



EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

This exhibit features 50 exquisite gemstone jewelry pieces and objects from India on loan from a private collection. Never seen in public, these pieces - including several from the magnificent Mughal Empire (1526–1857) - showcase more than 300 years of adornment from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The exhibit explores the distant sources of the diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and other gems decorating these pieces, their religious and cultural symbolism, the wars fought for them and the historical tradition of gemology in India.

Chris Toft is organizing a field trip to this exhibit on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 2 PM – 3:30 PM. If you are interested in attending this exhibit, please contact Chris at vp@palomargem.org and she can put your name on the list. There are a limited number of seats available, so please register early!

Board of Directors - 2018

Ever had an idea for the club and wanted to get it to the right people? Here is your opportunity. Here is our Board of Directors. We have given each of them their own palomargem.org email. Feel free to use it and send them your ideas!

PRESIDENT – Jef Wright – president@palomargem.org

VICE-PRESIDENT – Chris Toft – vp@palomargem.org

SECRETARY – Fred Floyd – secretary@palomargem.org

TREASURER – Toni Floyd – treasurer@palomargem.org

DIR. OF COMMUNICATIONS – Dawn Vickers – publicity@palomargem.org

SHOW CHAIRS – Archie Kuehn & Michele Shepard –
PGMCshow@palomargem.org

PROGRAMS – Michele Shepard – programs@palomargem.org

MEMBERSHIP – John Raabe – membership@palomargem.org

Membership

Membership dues are now due. If you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time! You can download the membership form from our [website](#) or from the Facebook members' [page](#).

Website

Our new website is up and running. Please check it out at www.palomargem.org.

You will find calendar of events, past issues of newsletters as well as information regarding the club. This will updated on a timely basis as items come up and you can find the latest and greatest info at your fingertips!

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.

PGMC IS AFFILIATED WITH

