

BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

President	Jef Wright
Vice President	VACANT
Secretary	Fred Floyd
Treasurer	Toni Floyd

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (APPOINTED)

CFMS Chairperson:	Charles Shoup
Field Trips:	Melissa Takagi
Parliamentarian:	Chris Toft
Shop Coordinator:	Alan Mazzola
Program Chair	Karen Wagner
Show Chair	VACANT
Newsletter Editor	Carol Hiestand
Website:	Ian Burney
Membership Chair	Karen Wagner

STANDING COMMITTEES (APPOINTED)

Facebook Page	Admin
Ways & Means	Dawn Wright
Historian	Barbara Bury
Hospitality & Good Cheer	Judy Jessup
Meeting Displays	Barbara Bury
Picnic Coordinator	Moni Waiblinger
Refreshments	Dawn Wright
Redwood Rep	Barbara Bury
Librarian	Chris Toft
Calendar	VACANT

CONTENTS:

Misc:	p 1-3
Classes, meetings & field trips	-none scheduled yet
Old Geologist Tales	p 4-8
CFMS Show Dates	p 9
NOV. birthstones	p 10-25
Mystery rock formation	p 26
Bricker's Rock Sale 11/20	p 27

Everyone, thank you for your patience. As you've heard, Covid shows no signs of abating. Please try to enjoy having more time for your hobbies and stay safe, practicing unselfishness by wearing a mask and respecting distancing. We will overcome this; don't whine and complain and act like a loser. We are better than that!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY PEOPLE!!!



yūgen

(n.) a profound, mysterious sense
of the beauty of the universe that triggers
a deep emotional response



A FEW SHORT STORIES

By Gene Ciancanelli

Max Gets Nailed

In 1960, I'm a carpenter building houses in a very large housing development. I ride to work with the Muller brothers, two German carpenter brothers, Max, the foreman, and Carl. After work each day, we make a mandatory stop at the Muller brothers' favorite German bar for beer und schnapps. The owner and his patrons are mostly Germans like Max and Carl. One day, Fat Joe and I are nailing plywood sub-flooring in a kitchen when Max walks in with the building inspector. They stand in the kitchen examining blueprints, while I'm nailing near their feet. I give Fat Joe the silent signal to watch me as I continue to nail closer to where they're standing. Soon, I'm nailing into the floor joists just inches from Max's right foot and he doesn't move or notice me. I angle a nail to go through Max's right work boot sole and into the plywood. A few more nails and I'm alongside the Inspector. I do the same to his work boot. Incredibly they never notice what I have done and they don't move. I nail across the room and, return nailing along their left side. I do the same thing to their left boots and now both their feet are nailed down. Fat Joe and I can hardly keep from laughing as we continue nailing and waiting. Minutes pass and incredibly, they have not moved. Fat Joe gives me the "what goes" look. Finally, Max tries to move and can't. They immediately know why and once loose they will be after me. Dashing from the house, I have a good head start. This housing development has blocks of completed and unoccupied houses and I am well hidden in the basement of an empty house by the time they pull the nails from their boots and set out to find me. Peeking through a small cellar window, I see Max and the inspector on the hunt, but they turn down a side street and never find me. Fat Joe quickly spreads the prank around the job site. Max has to accept the prank and at the day's end we are in the Muller brothers' favorite German bar, where Carl has me recount the tale for all the regulars. All night, the regulars bought me free beer and German sausage, which they grilled outside in back of the bar. We enjoyed a mini Oktoberfest.

Foreign Delicacies

In 1980, I am exploring for geothermal resources in volcanic areas in rural Japan for a large Japanese oil company. I'm working with Paul, a Belgian geologist, and Kumagawa, a Japanese geochemist. Our work takes us to remote areas that still retain very traditional Japanese customs and accommodations.

In the mountains northwest of Tokyo, there is a thermal hot spring area called Okukinu. The Okukinu Hot-Spring Hotel specializes in cooking their food in hot-volcanic-fumarole vents. The food is chicken or fish with vegetables, which are placed in ceramic pots and lowered by rope into the steaming volcanic vent to be cooked. There is one problem with this geothermal cooking method. Volcanic vents emit sulfur-dioxide gas and hydrogen-sulfide gas, which has a rotten-egg smell. These gases flavor the food with a disagreeable sulfur taste and strong odor. The cooked meat is also not brown and crisp but has an unappetizing gray rubbery texture. The Okukinu hotel solves the bad-taste and unappealing appearance problem by their unique method of food presentation. In the restaurant business, presentation is a very important part of the dining experience. In front of the Okukinu Hotel's restaurant, there are wooden racks from which thousands of lizards are hung by a string tied around their necks. Approaching the restaurant's front door, there is this horror show of hundreds of lizards jerking on strings as they slowly die to then join their departed brother lizards to cure in the sun like jerky. At dinner, we learn that all meals at Okukinu are served with a pair of ten-inch-long sun-dried lizards lying on top of the food. The diners are expected to eat this dried lizard "jerky" as a delicacy. Needless-to-say, seeing the dried lizards with their mummified eyes, tiny clawed feet, and shriveled skin, a person hardly notices the food's disagreeable sulfur smell and gray appearance. Lizard jerky is a delicacy to be eaten head, tail, skin, bones, claws, guts, and all. I'm wracking my brain thinking how can I get out of eating the lizard without giving offense. In Japan saving face is extremely important. Then suddenly the God Vulcan, who protects all geologists, takes pity on me and I instantly become an Orthodox Jew. Leaning across the table, I whisper to Kumagawa that I have a problem, *"My religion does not allow me to eat lizard meat"*. With the swift and decisive skill of a Samurai, Kumagawa's chopsticks sweep across the table to grab both lizards in one deft stroke. Bowing politely, he says, *"Gene San, I understand that some people's religion does not let them eat some foods"*. Then Paul says, *"I have the same religion as Gene"*. Paul later thanked me, because he too was wracking his brain trying to think up an excuse not to eat the dead lizards. Kumagawa seems to actually enjoy his six-lizard appetizer. Fortifying myself with a couple of cups of sake, I am ready to enjoy a gray rubber sulfur chicken delicately presented with the head and feet still attached. Another delicacy we gaijin do not appreciate.

As a new convert to Orthodox Judaism, I should be enjoying a hot pastrami on rye. Oh well, tomorrow morning there will be another gourmet breakfast of raw fish, pink tofu, raw egg, and rice. God! I wish these people had discovered fire.

I subsequently went on to use the excuse "my religion does not allow me to eat this" to avoid weird food on other occasions. People don't seem to be offended when you use the religion excuse.

Burt Reynold's Brother

Bill Long is one of my good friends. Bill is slightly younger than Burt Reynolds and the two of them looked like brothers. Early one Friday morning in the late 1970s, Bill, several of our geologist friends, and I are having an early breakfast in a Salt Lake City hotel. The dining room is empty except for an old man eating alone in a nearby table. The waitress is taking our orders and she says to Bill, *"You know you look like Burt Reynolds."* I reply, *"That's because he's Burt Reynold's brother."* (Waitress to Bill) *"You're not Burt Reynold's bother."* (Bill) *"Yes I am!"* (Waitress) *"If you're Burt Reynold's brother then show me your driver's license."* Bill hands her his driver's license which says Bill Long. (Waitress) *"See you can't fool me; your last name is not Reynolds."* (Gene) *"That's because Burt's real name is Burt Long, Reynolds is just his stage name. All movie stars use stage names."* The waitress now leaves to take our breakfast orders into the kitchen. When she comes back later with a couple of plates of food, one of the other guys, Dan, says, *"How would you like to meet Burt? He's flying in late this afternoon and we are all going duck hunting tomorrow"*. The waitress gives him a skeptical look and she heads back to the kitchen. Now the old man at the next table leans over and says, *"I was finishing my breakfast just as you guys started playing this game. I decided to stay and drink another coffee to see how far you could play this out."* When the waitress returns, Bill says, *"I have an idea. How would you like to go out on a date with Burt?"* That set the hook! She replied, *"Really!!"* (Bill) *"Sure why don't you get some of your girlfriends to come along with you and we will all go to dinner and party together. Meet us right here at 7 PM."* We all had planes to catch and I hope that waitress figured out she was being kidded with; otherwise it was a rotten thing for us to do to that gullible girl and her friends.

The Geothermal Alligator Farm

Bill Long and I were looking for gold prospects in northern Nevada and southeast Oregon, which we could sell to mining companies for cash and a carried royalty. It is about 2 in the afternoon, when we drive into Lakeview, Oregon and stop at an empty café for lunch. The nearby city of Klamath Falls, Oregon was one of the first places in the modern world to extensively develop their geothermal resources. Many of the homes in Klamath Falls have been heated with geothermal water for more than half a century. The city uses geothermal energy to melt snow and ice off a bridge and the city's hospital, where my son was born, and college have all their buildings heated by geothermal water. The city of Lakeview also has geothermal resources and in copycat fashion it is making similar applications.

The café is empty as the lone bored waitress, a middle age woman, approaches our table. She starts a friendly conversation and asks, *"What are you fellows doing here in Lakeview?"* It is the perfect opening for another prank. (Gene) *"We're geologists looking for geothermal energy here in Lakeview."* (Waitress) *"Are you going to build a geothermal powerplant?"* (Gene) *"No, our employer is in the alligator business. The company raises alligators and sells the meat and uses the hides to make alligator leather for shoes, purses, and other uses. As you know alligators only live and breed in warm water. We plan to use geothermal energy to raise and process alligators at a new geothermal alligator farm and factory we are going to build here in Lakeview."* (Waitress) *"Will your company be hiring people to work in the farm and factory? We need jobs here in Lakeview because there is almost no work here."* (Bill) *"There will be lots of jobs. There will be jobs feeding and processing the alligators. We need skimmers, butchers, packers, office staff, engineers, and financial people."* (Waitress) *"I would sure like to get one of those jobs. Do they pay well?"* (Bill) *"A lot more than you can make as a waitress. I'll tell you what to do. When you see we are beginning to hire people, apply for the job and use me, Bill Long, as a reference. I am sure that you can get hired."* During the course of our lunch she sat down and was asking us all sorts of questions about the geothermal alligator business. Naturally we enjoyed making up all sorts of nonsense about the alligator business. After all, a guy has to do something while he is drinking a beer.

After lunch we got back into the truck and Bill said, *"What possessed you to come up with a ridiculous geothermal alligator farm?"* (Gene) *"I used to live in Klamath Falls and I know everyone in this part of Oregon is interested in geothermal energy. I tried to think of a really ridiculous geothermal energy project and the thought of raising alligators in a cold climate by using warm geothermal water to heat the alligator ponds popped into my head."* (Bill) *"Well she sure bought it."*

A year passed and one day there was an announcement in a geothermal trade magazine that the Federal Government, no less, gave a multi-million-dollar grant to some guys to build an alligator farm in Idaho using geothermal water to heat the breeding ponds. Bill and I were flabbergasted. No matter how ridiculous an idea I could dream up, here was the Federal Government using taxpayer money to fund this hairbrained project. Apparently, no one in government understood that vast swamps in the southeastern United States breed millions of wild alligators that are virtually free to catch. No one could profitably commercially raise alligators in Idaho. Probably the grant money went into politicians' pockets, because the geothermal alligator farm was never built and operated commercially. I guess Bill and I were either too honest or too stupid to make millions in the geothermal alligator business scam.

Your Mom Should Never Know

When you're a little boy, sometimes you do stuff you don't want your mother to know about. By today's standards, the things we did as kids were pretty innocent, but in those long-ago days, when corporal punishment was considered part of responsible parenting, these were bound to get you in trouble. Here are a few things mom never knew about.

In the 4th and 5th grade, I had a classmate friend named Willie Wilson. Willie was a black kid, who lived down by the Hudson River. Willie and I both liked to go fishing and we would meet after school to fish. We lived in Beacon, a factory town just outside New York City. Beacon was a dirty industry town filled with pollution spewing factories dumping chemicals and other foul stuff into the air, onto the land, and into the river. The river was so polluted that everyone knew not to eat fish from the Hudson river, but Willie and I were "catch and release sportsmen" long before that idea had been invented. Down along the river there were docks for loading ships. The Hudson is a deep tidal river and ocean-going freighters can sail all the way up the Hudson for more than 100 miles. There was one dock, where they had loaded some especially foul stuff during World War II and after the war the dock was closed off because it was too polluted for human exposure. I know they did some atomic bomb stuff in Beacon, because my mother worked on the A-bomb, although she never knew she was helping to build the A-bomb. This dock must have been really badly polluted, if Beacon closed it in the 1940's, because Beacon was so polluted that deaths by cancer outnumbered deaths by all other causes including other diseases, accidents, war, crime, etc. combined. The dock was locked off by a high chain-link fence with big warning signs including giant skull and cross-bone emblems. Willie and I found a small break in the fence that little boys could squeeze through and we would sneak out onto the dock. At the end of the dock, we could climb down and sit on a big support timber and fish out of sight. The fishing was pretty good and we mostly caught eels and catfish. Sometimes, we caught deformed or cancerous fish dying from pollution caused diseases. One day my friend Willie didn't come to school. I never saw him again and I never knew why Willie left town. I lost my fishing friend, but perhaps his departure saved both our lives.

After World War II there was all sorts of military stuff floating around and there were Army Navy Stores selling surplus military gear and guns for practically nothing. We boys used to play war and everyone had miscellaneous pieces of discarded military gear. There was a large abandoned field that contained loamy soil easy to dig and generations of kids had converted the field into a battlefield. There were deep trenches, foxholes, and underground bunkers with scrap wood holding up the soil covered roofs. We would divide into two armies and no kid ever wanted to be in the NAZI or JAP army; so, we drew lots to see who would be on the enemy side. I guess we had a kid version of the draft to get you into the enemy AXIS army. Then the pretend war would start as we threw dirtballs at each other. One day a kid showed up with a hand grenade that his stupid big brother brought home from the war. The kid pulled the pin and threw the grenade, which luckily landed in an empty trench. The grenade exploded, which scared the Hell out of us and fortunately didn't kill anyone. After that sobering incident, I stopped playing war. No mother ever found out about the hand grenade incident.

As I already mentioned, Beacon was then a factory town, where residents worked in dirty chemical, metal fabrication, container, brick making, paint, rubber, clothing, hat making, fiberglass, and plastic industries. Beacon also has Mattawan, the state's 19th century prison facility for the criminally insane, where a uniform is the only thing that distinguishes guards from insane patients. Periodically, a patient, whom locals call a "Nut", escapes and then the town goes into lockdown manhunt mode. Deer-rifle-toting beer-drinking "deputies" join the sheriff and his hound dogs to track down the Nut, while mothers keep their children locked safe indoors. Apparently, Nuts can escape from massive stone prisons with iron bars, high walls and fences with armed guards, but they cannot break into a home with the door shut and glass windows, a conundrum that baffled me as a child. In one memorable escape and capture, a newspaper reporter accompanies Deputy Smart, who was not, as he searches along a deserted railroad track. The reporter writes, *"Suddenly we are facing the Nut. Smart raises his rifle and*

stammers, you shoot and I'll run." This humorous heroic statement makes Smart famous and he is soon elected sheriff. Today, such inept people are considered presidential candidates and we elect one every 4 years.

Mattawan is a very large prison that includes a vast farm where the inmates raise enough vegetables and animals to feed the entire New York State prison system population. A chain link fence surrounds Mattawan's extensive farmland and forest acreage, which is a short distance from our house. A large tree, in the forest section, had fallen across the fence and collapsed it. Being a government run operation, it remained that way for years and any inmate had merely to walk through the broken fence to freedom. We stupid little kids used to enter the prison through that gap and once inside we enjoyed great fun stampeding the feral pigs through the prison's forest. Lucky for us, we never encountered one of the Nuts. They included murderers, rapists, child molesters, and all of the state's other violent insane criminal people, including the celebrity Nuts with names such as The Axe Murder, The Mad Bomber, The Cape Man, and The Butcher. When I left town for college, that collapsed section of fence was still there. Perhaps, even today, there are little boys enjoying the fun of stampeding pigs through the prison's forest.

The Blue Eagle

About 30 years ago, I met an old retired geologist named Ezra. who lived in Rancho Bernardo. Ezra was retired and dabbling in gold prospecting. For some strange reason, geologists spend their careers occasionally meeting gold prospectors. In my experience all these gold prospectors are a little bit or totally crazy and they never get rich. Instead they spend a lot of money and hard work with nothing to show for it except the belief that this next prospect is the bonanza. Many geologists, once they are retired, get the urge to go out into the field. They satisfy that urge by becoming gold prospectors and thus morphing into the very people they formerly scorned. Today, several of my geologist friends have retired and become gold prospectors, although they would never apply that name to themselves. No, they are geologists exploring for gold, but the same crazy get-rich-quick schemes spew from their mouths. Old Ezra had the idea he wanted to prospect an area near Earp, California. Earp is a tiny cross road community on the west bank of the Colorado River just across the bridge from Parker, Arizona. I should have kept my mouth shut, but I mentioned that Betty and I lived for several months in Parker in the 1960s and I was very familiar with the local geology. That clinched it and 80-year-old Ezra was now constantly after me to go to Earp and help him find his gold mine.

Ezra and I set out for Earp in my Chevy Bronco in the late spring. We spent the night in Parker and then went over into the Earp mining district. The area is named after Wyatt Earp, who had a gold mine just outside the tiny town. We explored around the area all day and did not find anything; except I found an old miner's candle holder made out of bailing wire and stuck into a crack in the mine's wall. I call it Wyatt Earp's candle holder. Late in the day, we got stuck crossing a dry-wash. It was over 100 degrees and old Ezra kept wanting to help me instead of sitting in the shade. I was afraid he might die of a heart attack or heat stroke. After about an hour I got the Bronco free and suggested we return to San Diego. I guess old Ezra had enough prospecting and he agreed.

We were driving back to San Diego and talking about various things. Suddenly, Ezra says, "*What do you think about Roosevelt and this Blue Eagle scheme?*" I said I didn't know what he meant and he said, "*You know this scheme with the NRA and the farmers and big companies.*" At first, I'm thinking NRA is the National Rifle Association, but then it dawns on me that he is talking about Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the National Recovery Administration. As the conversation progressed, I realized his mind had somehow switched and he thinks it is the early 1930s and he is talking as if it is the 1930s. He is in the 1930s and I'm not sure what to do. I have taken a shortcut and we are in the middle of nowhere in the Mohave Desert and I'm hoping he is not having a stroke, which is what may have occurred. I don't know much about the NRA except what I read in the history books. Ezra keeps referring to the Blue Eagle and then I recall the symbol of the NRA was a blue eagle and people at the time referred to the controversy as the Blue Eagle. It was an economic scheme to try and resolve some of the problems and causes of the Great Depression, but the Supreme Court ruled the Blue Eagle unconstitutional and it died. For about ten minutes it was 1934 as we discussed the Blue Eagle and suddenly his mind snapped back into the present and he is talking about geology. It was obvious, he did not remember the Blue Eagle conversation. For the rest of the trip he was perfectly lucid. Afterward, I always had an excuse when he would call and want to go on another field trip or time travel adventure back to the past.

Captain America

In 1971, I was mapping the geology of Long Valley Caldera, a super-volcano located in Mono County, California. Long Valley's last major eruption was 760,000 years ago but there have been more recent eruptions. In the last couple of decades, new magma has entered the volcano's magma chamber inflating the ground surface and significantly raising the temperature and gas emissions at hot springs and fumaroles. A call from my employer brought me to Los Angeles, where I learned the company had chartered a plane for a week, from Layton International Aviation, to fly me around the west to get an aerial view of geothermal prospect areas that I had recommended to the company for future study. I considered this a complete waste of my time, but the company's genius arm chair lawyer and accountant amateur geologists thought this was a great idea. Off I went to meet Bob Layton, the ace pilot of Layton International Aviation. I knew Bob from previous charter flights on prior business trips and he was a likeable guy. Bob had been a World War II pilot and after the war he bought a small twin-engine plane and started an air charter business that mainly serviced companies in the energy business. Bob was a colorful character, who always wore an old worn-out crushed cap that he must have had since his army days making bombing runs over Germany. There was always a cigar in his mouth, but he never lit the cigars, just chewed on them until they were soggy cigar butts that he spit out as he grabbed a fresh one from the box of cigars he kept in the plane. The floor of the plane around his feet was covered with these cigar butts. Bob was legendary for his complete indifference to just about everything that happened good or bad. I previously wrote about one of Bob's adventures in the story "AN INCIDENT AT THE PLUMBING STORE". Over the years, someone hung the nickname Captain America on Bob and everyone called him Captain.

We boarded the plane and flew up to northern California and flew around Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, and Medicine Lake Volcano. I was very interested in Medicine Lake Volcano, because it was my number one geothermal prospect. Six to eight years later, I mapped Medicine Lake's geology and geothermal resource potential. A few years after my work was completed Union Oil Company and another company drilled several successful geothermal wells there. Medicine Lake Volcano is today considered America's largest undeveloped geothermal reservoir, but development has been held up for decades by politics. The area is capable of producing enough electric power for a million or more people, but I doubt I will live to see a power plant built there. I began working on the area at age 29 and now I'm in my 80's and still the corrupt politicians keep development stymied. (I guess it is redundant to say "corrupt politician", after all, what other kind are there?)

After flying around all morning, we landed at Klamath Falls to refuel the plane and our bellies. When we tried to depart Klamath Falls, the plane would not start and we had a two-hour delay for repairs to Captain America's aging battle scarred plane. I think flying shot up bombers in the war had made the Captain less concerned about aircraft maintenance than was prudent. We flew around central Oregon and as the sun set, we headed to Portland to spend the night. The next morning, once again the plane would not start and we wound up spending two nights in Portland while the plane had some parts replaced. I then told the Captain, *"I'm not getting combat pay to fly this crippled old plane around the west."* He said, *"I was worrying about nothing, that this was just minor routine aircraft maintenance."*

We continued flying around the west for two more days and wound up in Salt Lake City. We left Salt Lake and headed out into Nevada. About 40 minutes out of Salt Lake, the Captain mumbles, *"OH Shit!"* in a voice that does not sound good at all. I asked him what was the matter and he said the plane's entire electrical system just went out. He turned around to go back to Salt Lake and tried contacting the airport by radio, but there was no response. As we approached the airport, he is radioing Mayday, Mayday, but there is no answer. He slipped in among large passenger commercial flights and landed without permission, which caused a ruckus. There was another lost day fixing the plane's electrical system and the next morning we are about to take off. I'm looking the outside of the plane over and I see these tiny hairline cracks through the plane's aluminum skin all over the plane. Bob says not to worry these are normal on all planes. Looking back now, I suspect he meant these are normal on all the planes he flies but not on planes smart people fly. I now suspect, the Captain's stupidity was contagious because, I get into the plane and close the door and it falls off. I don't mean the door fell open, no the door actually fell off the plane onto the ground. The door repair only took a few minutes and we were on our way. We were talking as we flew out over Nevada until he suddenly went silent. I asked if there was anything the matter and he said no, but I was not reassured. Then I remembered that I had left a truck parked at the Mammoth Lake's airport over by the California and Nevada state line. I told the Captain to drop me off at that airport, because I had to get that truck.

I was through flying on Layton International Aviation and I told my employer to never charter that plane again. A few weeks later the Captain was flying out of a small local airfield with one passenger, when the plane crashed and they both were killed. Once again, Vulcan the God of Geologists had protected me.

CFMS Newsletter November 2020

CFMS SHOW DATES

Shows and Events

Sponsored by

CFMS Clubs & Societies!

Please submit your

*Show or Event as soon as possible
to receive maximum advertising value!*

Email to:

SHOW DATES

Use the Online Show Form

at www.cfmsinc.org

(click on Shows)

*You should receive a confirmation
within 5 days after submitting your
Show Date information!*

****Special COVID 19 Message

Our shows are cancelling due the current mandates of not gathering people in groups. If I am notified, we immediately post on line the cancelled show. Notice the future shows listed here lined out, are cancelled. If you have your new dates, get them to me and I will post them.

2020 Rescheduled Shows are shown in bold.

****Please check the Society Website before planning on attending a show. Stay healthy and safe where ever you are.
Sincerely, Jennifer Rhodes

2020

November 7-8 Concord, CA
Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society

November 7-8; Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Indian Wells GMS 65th Annual Show
Field Trip on November 8
520 South Richmond Road
Hours: 9-5 Daily
Contact: John De Rosa; 760-375-7905
Email: jrrocks@dslxtreme.com
Website: www.indianwellsgemandmineral.com

November 14-15; Yuba City, CA
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
29th Annual Festival of Gems & Mineral
442 Franklin Hall
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4
Contact: Karen Horita; 916-677-6696
Email: horita@comcast.net
Website: www.sutterbuttesgemmin.org

November 21-22; Anaheim, CA
American Opal Society
Business Expo Center
1960 S Anaheim Way
Hours: Sat 20-5; Sun 10-4
Contact: Kathleen James; 714-501-9959
Email: aos.editor02@gmail.com
Website: www.opalsociety.org

2021

February 20-21; Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
1201 West 10th Street
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Brenda Miguel; 925-301-6957
Email: brenda.miguel@yahoo.com
Website: www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

February 27-28; Vallejo, CA
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society FCC
56th Annual Gem & Mineral Show
900 Fairgrounds Drive
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Debra Duhon; 415-254-1506
Email: dduhonvgms@gmail.com
Website: www.vjgems.org

March 6-7; Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W Harbor Blvd
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: Richard Slyker; 805-312-8467
Email: info@vgms.org
Website: www.vgms.org

March 13-14; Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Inspiration Unearthed
62nd Annual Tournament of Gems
Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W Duarte Rd
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Ellen Ferrell; 727-512-0381
Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com
Website: www.pasadenalapidary.org

September 25-26 Palmdale, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Details to follow

National/Regional Shows:

California Federation

*Eastern Federation
2021 July, Syracuse, NY
2022 September,
Harrisburg, PA*

*Midwest Federation
2021 September 10-12
Toledo, OH*

Northwest Federation

*Rocky Mountain
Federation
AFMS 2021
April 21-25
So Jordan, UT*

South Central Federation

*2022 AFMS Show
January 29-30, 2022*

Southeast Federation

Citrine and Topaz - the November Birthstones



The term "birthstone" refers to gems which are related to any specific birth month, and each of these stones has its own historical significance, meaning and healing properties. If you ask someone about their birthstone, they usually seem to know the answer. Birthstones are used in various types of jewelry, such as bracelets, necklaces, earring or rings, and help to remind us of some special occasions in our birth month.

Birthstones have become an integral part of contemporary society and it is widely believed, since the ancient times, that wearing them will provide one

with good health and fortune, as well as many other benefits. In this article, we will look at options for November birthstones and all the beneficial aspects associated with them.

What are the November birthstones?

As many as two significant birthstones are considered to be November birthstones, namely topaz and citrine.

These are also the Sagittarius zodiac stones (23rd Nov to 21st Dec). Topaz is an energetic birthstone that is available in a variety of colors, ranging from intense orange to red and blue, while citrine is available in tones ranging from pale yellow to brownish red.

You can present either of these birthstones to someone who is born in the month of November and they will be delighted. By doing this, you will prove yourself to be a thoughtful and sensible person who has given lots of thought to choosing one of these wonderful items. This can be a boon to your relationship and bring you closer to the person you care for.

What is the color of the November birthstones?

Topaz:

As mentioned earlier, topaz is a versatile birthstone, which can vary in color from champagne to orange, yellow, pink, red, and blue, but pure topaz is colorless and is often used as a diamond substitute. The yellow variety of topaz that was available in ancient Egypt was believed to be an embodiment of Ra,

the Sun God, due to the intensely vibrant color. As a result, you will find topaz in quite a few ancient Egyptian talismans and other artifacts.

We often tend to confuse topaz with quartz thanks to their identical colors. While, it is quite natural to mistake champagne-colored topaz for Smokey Quartz with the naked eye, it is not difficult to differentiate between these two minerals, thanks to contemporary gemological testing methods. Furthermore, topaz is a pleochroic mineral, which means that it can show different colors when viewed from different angles.

Topaz can commonly be found in an attractive blue shade; a special irradiation treatment is used to alter colorless topaz to a bright blue. This treatment is widely accepted nowadays and it can be taken for granted that a great deal of the affordable blue topaz on the market has gone through this treatment.

You will come across a couple of popular varieties of this November birthstone on the market, namely Imperial Topaz and Precious Topaz. Imperial Topaz was originally obtained in Russia in the form of an orange crystal with red dichroism, (this means that when tilted in the light, Imperial Topaz can appear red or orange), though today it is more widely defined as yellow, pink, red, lavender-pink and peach-pink, and is primarily found in Brazil, along with Precious Topaz, an intensely yellow variety of topaz. Currently, both of these varieties can be quite pricey as compared to other types of topaz.

Due to the lack of naturally colored blue topaz gemstones, the colorless variety is usually subjected to irradiation to transform it to different shades of blue.

As many as three irradiation procedures are employed:

1. exposing the topaz to gamma rays within an irradiator made of cobalt
2. bombarding it with electrons within an accelerator
3. bombarding it with neutrons within a nuclear reactor.

It is possible for those topaz gemstones that are treated within a nuclear reactor or accelerator to become radioactive; however, the US NRC (United States National Regulatory Commission) does not permit the release of these types of stones on the market, until and unless the levels of radioactivity drop below a specific limit. The US NRC suggests that any particular dose from these types of gemstones might be relatively small and will decrease over time.

Vendors make use of terms such as Swiss Blue, London Blue, Super Blue, and Maxi Blue for the purpose of describing these darker blue shades achieved through irradiation, and Sky Blue for describing the lighter shades. Generally speaking, the price of the darker blues is going to be higher than the paler tones; however, both of them are usually affordable.

Another common topaz treatment is the creation of pink topaz, achieved by heating yellow topaz. Heat treatment, as well as irradiation, are both permanent in the long run. On most occasions, they are not detectable whatsoever.



Sky Blue



Swiss Blue



London Blue

Citrine:

Citrine, a member of the quartz family, is found in yellow and orange tones, the most famous of which is Madeira Citrine, a golden-yellow variety.



Common Citrine Colors



Madeira Citrine Color

History of the November birthstones

The history of Citrine:

Citrine is one of the most well-known gemstones in the history of the quartz family. The name citrine, initially referred to as yellow quartz, was officially adopted in the year 1556, when it was cited by the German metallurgist named Georg Bauer in a reputed jewelry and gemstone publication. In all probability,

the name was derived from the Latin term *citrus* (the citron tree), or the Old French term *citrin* (lemon-colored). Of course both words are related to the imagery of citrus fruits, often found in yellow and orange tones.

Citrine has been used in jewelry and tools for several centuries. It became extremely popular in Ancient Greece, where it was used as a decorative gem on a wide scale.

Citrine was also used by Scottish weapons manufacturers during the 17th century, to decorate dagger handles, in particular. Afterward, citrine gained popularity in making conventional Scottish shoulder brooches, as well as kilt pins. Citrine's popularity at that time was mainly due to the fact that Queen Victoria loved this gem immensely.

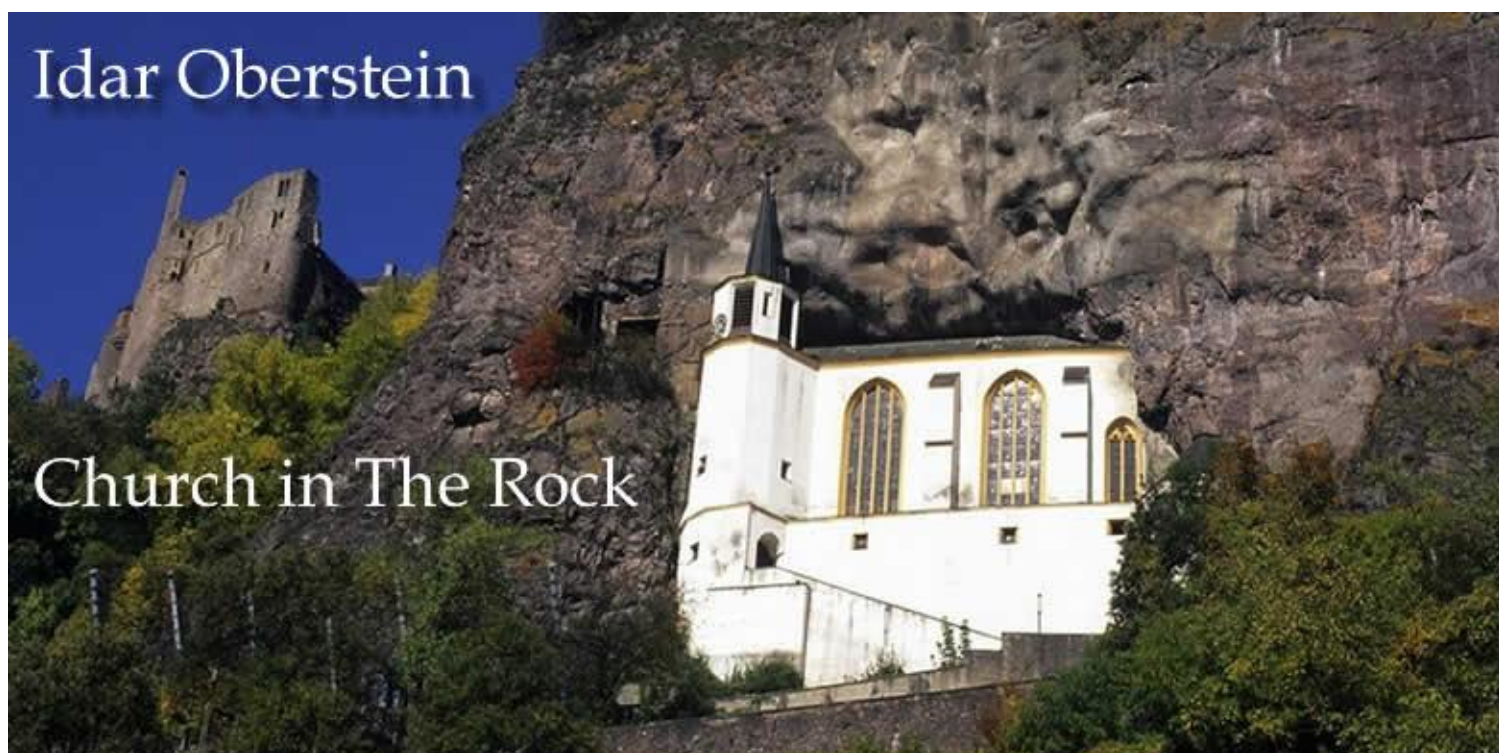


Scottish weapon with Citrine

Citrine once more became well-known during the Art Deco period in the early 20th century. The extensive coloring, as well as the versatility of citrine, proved to be a fantastic match for the visual aesthetic that characterized the Art Deco movement, which encompassed everything from apparel to jewelry, interior design and furniture.

During the 1930s, there was a huge demand for citrine that a number of lapidaries (people who process gemstones) relocated from Idar-Oberstein (a

leading European center of gem cutting) in Germany to South Africa, where the stone is found in good quantities. Huge amounts of citrine were shipped from South Africa to Europe to be cut, polished and fashioned into jewelry and other ornaments. Large, rotating sandstones were employed by these craftsmen in order to cut the citrine into outstanding pieces, similar to what they had been doing with other varieties of quartz.



You will find citrine almost everywhere on the planet, but it is particularly common in regions that also have large deposits of amethyst, such as Brazil. Some may mistake heat-treated Brazilian amethysts for citrines, as the purple-colored amethyst crystals become golden-brown once exposed to extreme heat at length. Although the top producer of citrine happens to be Brazil, it is also found in Bolivia, Uruguay, Madagascar, Scotland, Namibia, Spain, Russia, Argentina, Myanmar, as well as the US.

Citrine is available in different sizes and shapes. The finished stones can be either shaped and polished or faceted. You can find many types of stunning jewelry that feature citrine. An extremely versatile gemstone, citrine can accommodate any style of November birthstone jewelry you wish.

The history of Topaz:

According to gemstone authorities, the November birthstone name topaz has been derived from Topazios, an Old Greek name given to a small island, known today as Zabargad, in the Red Sea.

Although topaz was never found on that island, at one time it produced an abundance of peridot, which was actually confused with topaz prior to the advancement of contemporary mineralogy. Some historians even trace the etymology of topaz back to a Sanskrit (India's ancient language) root, *tapas*, which means "heat" or "fire".

According to the ancient Greeks, topaz provided them with immense strength and vitality. Individuals in Europe (from the 1300s right up to the 1600s) were of the notion that topaz could remove feelings of anger, as well as dark magic spells. Those who lived in India during the last few centuries believed that if they wear topaz above their heart, it will ensure long-term beauty, long life, as well as a high aptitude.

In these modern times, there are still many people who believe that they can protect themselves from black magic by wearing a topaz amulet on their arms.

Moreover, topaz is thought to help people to calm down, behave sensibly, get rid of nightmares, and so forth.

In any event, topaz goes on attracting individuals even today. One can wear the stone fashionably in a ring, broach, necklace, or even earrings.

What is the meaning of the November birthstones?

The meaning of citrine:

The primary reason for citrine's immense popularity was a lack of inexpensive gold gems, which are quite attractive to people who believe that gemstones, such as citrine, channel the sun's power and all the positive aspects that are related to it. Many people are of the notion that citrine will help to enhance their mood, as does the light and warmth of the sun, and they will be able to appreciate their surroundings, which is ideal for November, the month of Thanksgiving.

The meaning of topaz:

Topaz, which actually symbolizes affection and love, is believed to offer strength, as well as intelligence to anyone who puts it on. Moreover, a gift of blue topaz will convey your love and devotion to that special someone.

The healing properties of the November birthstones

Topaz's healing properties:

Topaz is quite effective when it comes to manifesting good health and well-being, as well as fixing any specific issues within our bodily systems. Topaz is fantastic for our nervous and digestive system, as well as for stimulating metabolism. According to some, topaz will help significantly with any eating disorders, particularly anorexia. While used in the form of an elixir, this November birthstone has the ability to disperse energy throughout the body.

Topaz was used extensively in the past by individuals to treat disorders of the eye and mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety. It is also possible to use it to alleviate cardiac pains, as well as significantly improve our taste.

Topaz will be one of the most effective stones when it comes to healing our emotional well-being.

A highly active gemstone, topaz will teach us about forgiveness and truth, as it transforms negative feelings into good faith and hope.

Citrine's healing properties:

Citrine has the reputation of being amongst the most effective supporters of energy and stamina, particularly when it comes to our endocrine system. This amazing gemstone will also boost our metabolic processes, plus help to reverse any degenerative disease. While balancing the thyroid, citrine will likewise prevent it from growing whatsoever.

Citrine is fantastic for stimulating our digestive system, the pancreas and the spleen. It will also help to reduce, or even prevent, any skin or hair problems, allergic symptoms, or any other problem linked to the usage of chemicals.

What is the durability of the November birthstones?

Citrine's durability:

As a variety of quartz, citrine has a Mohs hardness rating of 7, which protects it against scratches from other varieties of quartz, and other gemstones such as amethyst (Mohs 7), opals (Mohs 5.5 - 6.5), and some varieties of zircon (Mohs 6.5 - 7.5). Quartz is actually seen as a low-end benchmark for hardness because of the inescapable presence of quartz all over the world. Not only is it found in large mineral deposits, where we mine citrine and amethyst, for example, but it is also a very fine airborne particulate that makes up a great deal of the dust that settles on jewelry, and may be errantly wiped away, causing scratches to material that is lower than 7 on the Mohs hardness scale.

As quartz is such a large and diverse class of mineral, it is important to remember that not all quartz are equal in their hardness due to the likely presence of impurities in the specimen. If, for example, a piece of citrine contains relatively high amounts of iron, it will have a lower hardness. This is true for all gemstones: impurities lower the overall durability of the specimen. However, impurities are typically what give some transparent gemstones their color; so, they are not always negative.

Though citrine is relatively hard, it does have limitations with regard to its toughness (resistance to chipping and cracking) and stability (resistance to chemical and environmental attack). The tenacity (or toughness) of citrine is considered brittle, though that characteristic has broad types that range from

poor (very low toughness) to exceptional (very high toughness). Citrine has good toughness - right in the middle of the spectrum.

Citrine is sensitive to thermal shock (abrupt changes in temperature) and can fracture fairly easily in this condition. Any prolonged exposure to intense light can cause citrine's color to fade. Also, alkaline chemicals, such as hydrofluoric acid and ammonium fluoride (substances found in rust removers and metal polishes), can damage citrine gemstones.

Overall, the durability of citrine requires caution, though citrine jewelry can be worn every day with appropriate care. Still, it may be prudent to save citrine rings and bracelets for special occasions only.

Citrines make excellent center pieces for rings and are often used as such. It is also not uncommon to see a citrine engagement ring, especially if the bride-to-be has a November birthday.

Citrines are also used extensively in tennis bracelets; nonetheless, citrine rings and bracelets should be worn with a bit of caution to avoid hard surfaces and other sources of shock. Citrine is a perfectly safe gemstone to use in earrings and pendants, as these pieces are unlikely to encounter rough conditions.

Topaz's durability:

Topaz enjoys a considerably higher degree of durability than citrine, starting with its place at 8 on the Mohs hardness scale. This puts it in league with such gemstones as emerald (Mohs 7.5 - 8) and spinel (Mohs 8).

Despite this high hardness rating, topaz has a poor toughness, due to its perfect cleavage, which makes it very easy to cut and, therefore, requires a great deal of care so as not to cut - or break - it accidentally.

As a result of this poor rating, jewelry designers avoid placing topaz in rings and, if they do, it is usually done in a protective mounting with a lot of metal. Topaz is more often found in pendants and pins - pieces that are unlikely to encounter mechanical shock.

Topaz has a very good stability and, though it is vulnerable to thermal shock, which can cause it to fracture, its color is stable and its surface is generally unaffected by chemicals. Overall, topaz would, however, be considered less durable than citrine; so if it is a birthstone engagement setting you are looking for, citrine would be more suitable for such a high mounting and everyday use.

Cleaning and Caring for November birthstones

Warm, soapy water and a soft brush is the safest way to clean both topaz and citrine. While ultrasonic and steam cleaners should never be used to clean topaz, due to its instability in high temperatures, citrine may be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner, though not a steam cleaner. This is especially recommended for citrine that have been dyed or fracture-filled; in this case, neither steam cleaners, nor ultrasonic cleaners, should be used to clean citrine.

When storing your citrine and topaz jewelry, take care to keep them in separate compartments of a fabric-lined jewelry box. Make sure that these jewelry pieces cannot scratch, chip or break softer gemstones, or incur damage from harder ones. Also keep your jewelry box in a cool and dry place.

A common, space-saving method of storing gemstones is to place them in acid-free paper envelopes, stored in a parcel paper organizer box. These are often referred to as gemstone parcels or diamond papers. Another approach, which allows you to showcase your birthstone jewelry as you keep it safe, is to use glass or acrylic jars with foam inserts.

Always remove your November birthstone jewelry before doing physical work around the house or back yard, as well as before exercising, swimming or bathing, applying makeup or fragrances, and using any caustic cleaning chemicals. Though both November birthstones, topaz and citrine, are relatively hard gemstones, they both have weaknesses that make it sensible to just avoid any physical or chemical shock with either one.

How much do November birthstones cost?



Loose citrine are remarkably affordable and can be purchased for as little as \$3 each for a 0.5 carat, untreated Brazilian golden citrine, sized 8 x 4 mm. These would make a very nice (and cheap!) set of earrings. Even some of the largest available citrine won't set you back too much. Consider a 26 carat, octagonal emerald cut, untreated Brazilian golden citrine, sized 20 x 15 mm - perfect for a fancy cocktail ring - for just under \$200.

Conversely, topaz can be fairly expensive at the high end, though relatively the same as citrine at the low end, especially for white topaz. If you are after

something more colorful, a pair of oval or square pink mystic topaz earrings are sure to grab anyone's attention. Have a look at a set of 6 carat, square princess cut, pink mystic topaz from Brazil, sized 10 x 10 mm each, for \$90. Anyone looking to design a piece of November birthstone jewelry to remember can go all-out with a 5.5 carat, pear orange Brazilian Imperial Topaz, sized 16 x 7 mm - ideal for a pendant - for \$3,000.

Are there any secondary November birthstones?

There are actually as many as ten different stones that fall into the category of November birthstones when considering planetary associations, relationships to the sun and other stars, or talismanic stones for Sagittarius and Scorpio.

From as far back as the 15th century to the early 20th, pearl was considered appropriate for a November birthstone, along with topaz and citrine. The zodiac signs of Sagittarius and Scorpio include seven additional gemstones: aquamarine, beryl, amethyst, garnet, ruby, sapphire, and turquoise.

Final Thoughts

Citrine and topaz both offer lovely options for November birthstone jewelry without breaking the bank. Although topaz is harder than citrine, both stones have relatively similar durability and can be used in any type of jewelry setting; though it is recommended that topaz be reserved for special occasions, due to its tendency to chip and break. If you want to wear your November birthstone jewelry every day, citrine is the sensible choice for rings and bracelets.

Both of these fantastic November birthstones have a history rich in physical and spiritual healing, as well as cultural importance. Anyone who wears topaz, citrine, or both, will be sure to not only enjoy their birth month, but to lead a happy, healthy and successful life, as well. Add some November birthstone jewelry to your collection, or give it to a loved one, today!

- *First Published: April-01-2016*
- *Last Updated: October-25-2019*

- © 2005-2020 GemSelect.com all rights reserved.

Reproduction (text or graphics) without the express written consent of GemSelect.com (SETT Company Ltd.) is strictly prohibited.



Can you guess where this is???

(Answer in next NL)

[View as Webpage](#)

NOVEMBER 14, 2020 • FALLBROOK CA

Bricker's Rock Sale

Minerals, Wulfenite Specimens, Flats of Fluorescent Rocks,
Garden Rock, Pegmatites, 1/2 off some items,
and lots of free rock!

*Everything will be outside. Bring your own bucket.
Limited to 10 people at a time. Please bring a mask!*

Saturday, Nov 14th • 9AM to 2PM

**Please call Janice Bricker for the address
and to tell her when you will come:**

Home: 760-728-1333

Cell: 760-695-8408

[Download a print-friendly PDF Flyer](#)