

# NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 28 No. 3

March 2009

## President's Message

*by Don Warthen*

We are well into the New Year and it has been a busy time. Jay has had some great field trips, but it's to bad not more NOC members are able to attend. Hope more members can attend in the next trips. Ofelia and I have been out only twice this year but look forward to attending this month.

The show is developing nicely so far. We had thought about expanding the show a little more this year by adding two or three more dealers but with the turn down in the economy we though it may be best to keep it the same as last year.

It was announced at the January meeting that the San Bernardino Club that was scheduled to do the 2010 CFMS/AFMS Show in Riverside was going to cancel out and we were ask if we wanted to do it. We had a motion on the floor that we investigate the possibility of taking over the show. A few days later the San Bernardino Club announced that they were going ahead with the show. We had a short discussion but took no action. About two weeks later the San Bernardino Club again announced they were pulling out of the 2010 show. As a result several club members and Civic and City leaders met to see if it was possible to bring the show to La Habra area.

It was stated that we could not do two shows in one year and it would not be wise to move our show to Riverside. So the number one item that needs to be addressed before we can go forward is to find a location to hold the show. The Community Center is not large enough (we had 14 dealers in the Community Center last year and for the Federation show we will have 40 or more dealers).

After discussions, a committee was appointed with Mike Beaumont as chairman, first to locate a place. Several locations were mention to investigate. We will need an answer by the middle of the month if we should continue or not. Also will need everybody to participate.

<CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >

## NOC Club Activities

Board Meeting — To be announced  
Field Trip — Lavic Siding — Mar. 21-22  
Deadline for NOC News — Mar. 17.

## Programs

*by Mike Beaumont*

Speaker: Our club member Misha Farinech is presenting the March program on Antarctica.

## Refreshments

Thanks to Dave & Fran Swanston, and Frank & Kim Winn for bringing the goodies to the February meeting. Don & Ofelia Warthen will bring the goodies to the February meeting.

## Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in March.

*Virginia Grafton  
Don Rees  
Valeria Ruzgys  
Rae Smith  
Jay Valle  
Mary Villaescusa*

Your gemstone is Bloodstone or Aquamarine.  
Your flower is Daffodil or Jonquil.

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## Shows and Events

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### **February 27-28, 2009, Northridge CA**

Delair Rockhounds  
United Methodist Church  
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior St.)  
Hours: Fri. 3 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Julia Marin (818) 886-7190  
Email: [jomarin@disextreme.com](mailto:jomarin@disextreme.com)

### **March 7-8, 2009 Arcadia, CA**

Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles Arboretum  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days  
Jo Anna Ritchey (626) 359-1624  
Website: [www.moraks.com](http://www.moraks.com)

### **March 13, 14 & 15 Victorville, CA**

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Tailgate Show & Fieldtrips  
Stoddard Wells Road, Victorville, CA  
Hours 9a.m. - 5 p.m. daily  
Gil Gilbert (760) 868-6900  
<http://www.vvgmc.org>

### **March 14-15, 2009 San Marino, CA**

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
San Marino Masonic Temple  
3130 Huntington Drive  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5  
Drew Wilson (626) 449-4910  
Email: [TODREW@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TODREW@sbcglobal.net)

### **April 17, 18 & 19, 2009 San Jose, CA**

Santa Clara Valley G&MS/CFMS  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Road, San Jose  
Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5  
Frank Mullaney (408) 265-1422  
E-mail: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Webpage: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

### **April 18-19 2008, Lancaster, CA**

The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Lancaster High School  
44701 32nd St. W.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309  
Email: [vivlea22@yahoo.com](mailto:vivlea22@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.geocities.com.av.gem](http://www.geocities.com.av.gem)

### **May 16-17 2009, Yucaipa, CA**

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center  
4900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10 - 4  
Bill Jochimsen (909) 795-2540  
Email: [webmaster@yvgms.org](mailto:webmaster@yvgms.org)  
Weppage: [www.yvgms.org](http://www.yvgms.org)

### **May 30-31 2009, Glendora, CA**

Glendora Gem & Mineral Club  
859 E. Sierra Madre  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4  
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638  
Email: [Ybidwell2@aol.com](mailto:Ybidwell2@aol.com)

### **June 6-7 2009, La Habra, CA**

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society  
La Habra Community Center  
101 W. La Habra Blvd.  
Hours: 9 - 5 both days  
Don Warthen (626) 330-8974  
Email: [warthen@earthlink.net](mailto:warthen@earthlink.net)  
Website: [nocgms.com](http://nocgms.com)

### **October October 17-18 2009, Whittier, CA**

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
Whittier Community Center  
7630 Washington Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5 both days  
Jay Valle: (626) 934-9764  
Email: [res19pnb@verizon.net](mailto:res19pnb@verizon.net)

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## Aquamarine Birth Stone for March

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*by Ofelia Warthen - Education Chairman  
Ref. Wikipedia*

Aquamarine (along with Bloodstone) is the March Birthstone and is also the accepted anniversary gem for the 19<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. Aquamarine is mined primarily in Brazil, Nigeria and Zambia.

**Water Baby:** Created by combining Latin words for water (aqua) and sea (mare), aquamarine does indeed resemble the bottomless blue of seawater, like Emerald. It is a variety of beryl (a mineral that crystallized within large rocks on the earth's crust). Aquamarine varies in color from blue-green to a light sky blue, and for generations, those stones containing green are often heat-treated to remove this less desirable color.

People in the Middle ages thought that aquamarine could magically overcome the effects of poison. Ancient sailors traveled with aquamarine crystals, believing that it would ensure a safe voyage and guarantee a safe return; they often slept with stones under their pillow to ensure sound sleep. They believed the siren's (mermaid) fish-like lower body was made of aquamarine.

The biggest aquamarine ever mined was found at the city of Marambaia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm long and 4as Gerais, Brazil, in 1910. It weighed over 110 kg, and its dimensions were 48.5 cm long and 42 cm in diameter.

**Composition:** Aquamarine has a Mohs hardness from 7.5 to 8. The pink variety exhibits a high specific gravity of around 2.8. Refractive indexes range around 1.57 to 1.58

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## Education Committee Report

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*by Ofelia Warthen - Education Chairman*

By the time you read this message, our committee will have completed our first class. We have a full house attending and members can display their Pendant Wire Wrap project at our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our next class is on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the La Habra Community Center from 9:30 AM to 12 PM. If you are interested in learning more about our Planet Earth, you want to attend this class that will be hosted by our member, Mike Beaumont, who holds a degree in Geology. A small fee of \$10 will be charged which include materials. Space is limited. Please sign up at the meeting or call Ofelia Warthen at 562-946-0828 or e-mail her at [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net).

Another class on Wire Wrap to be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – This will be a continuation on basic wire wrapping but will be on a cabachon. Our teacher will be Fran Swanston coordinated with Don Eschbach. Again, Space is limited, so please sign up right away. Fee will be \$20 for Members and \$25 for non-members.

Mark your calendar for April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Class to be announced on our next bulletin. Our host and member will be Dave Swanston.



**Aquamarine**

## NOC General Meeting Minutes La Habra Community Center February 10, 2009

*by Jay Valle, NOC Secretary*

**Call to Order:** President Don Warthen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

**Call to Order:** President Don Warthen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the flag salute.

**Membership:** The meeting was attended by 27 members & 1 guest.

**Program:** Videos from the NOC library: "Modern Gold Mining Techniques"

### <Break & Drawing>

**Announcements:** Dues are due.

### Committee Reports

**Treasurers Report:** John Erskine gave the monthly income and expense report. He noted that geodes were purchased at Quartzsite and that the operating expenses account was low on funds at the moment. He asked that if anyone wanted to incur any expenses that would need reimbursing, they should call him first to make sure the money is available at that time. Once the rest of our dealer money comes in then we will back in our normal operating range.

• **Proposed Budget:** John E. presented the proposed budget for 2009. John Erskine **MADE A MOTION** to accept the proposed budget as written. Richard Shirer **SECONDED THE MOTION**. After discussion the **MOTION was PASSED** unanimously, none opposed.

**By-Laws Committee:** Izzy Burns said that they were working on it.

**Education:** The Workshop Committee consisting of Ofelia Warthen (Chairperson), Loretta Ogden, Fran Swanston and Wendi Erskine, has scheduled workshops, beginning with a wire wrap pendant project on February 24 at the La Habra Community Center. Wendi did an article.

**Field Trips:** Jay Valle said that Wiley's Well was happening on February 14 to 16 (maps & directions are in the bulletin). Contact him if you are going so he knows when to expect you. Next month's field trip is to Lavic Siding.

**Federation Report:** Loretta Ogden reminded us of the CFMS Show in San Jose in April.

- Izzy said that the club which had been scheduled to produce the 2010 CFMS Show had backed out. She talked about the NOC possibly taking on the CFMS Show next year. It will be a combined CFMS/AFMS three day event, with 35-50 dealers. Possible locations were discussed and Mike Beaumont will discuss the idea with local organizations at a scheduled meeting next week. The CFMS Show would be in June 2010 and would replace our regular annual show for that year. Izzy then gave a brief summary of what the CFMS does for local clubs.

**Fund Raising Committee:** Nancy Bird talked about a yard sale this summer at the Warthen's house.

**Programs:** Mike Beaumont informed us that Misha Farinech is presenting next month's program.

**Social Secretary:** Clarence Pool celebration his 100th birthday on February 8.

**Librarian Report:** Mike Beaumont wants to convert our VHS library to DVD.

**Refreshments:** Kathy Valle said that the meeting snacks will be provided by Dave & Fran Swanston and Kim & Frank Winn. Next month Don & Ofelia Warthen will be refreshing our meeting.

### New Business:

- Nancy Bird informed us that the case in the Community Center entrance needed to be changed and proposed that we change it with new displays about every 2 months.
- Don Warthen passed around sign up sheets and asked everyone to sign up.

**Old Business:** None  
Meeting adjourned.

Jay Valle, NOC Secretary  
February 19, 2009

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## Field Trip Report Wiley's Well February 14-16, 2009

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*by Jay Valle*

While many were toughing it out at home during last weekend's storms across Southern California, a few die-hards dared the outback of Blythe called Wiley's Well. And I am sorry to say... the weather was perfect. Sunny, blue skies, very light winds and daytime temps in the 60s - perfect for rock hunting.

The February field trip was attended by Caroline & Charlotte (PLS), Rex & Chuie Nishimura and their delightful kids Jennifer 7, Jared 5, Alyson 3 (PLS), and rookie rockhounds Jollen & Richard Sprouls with their 3 kids Andrew 6, Riley 4, and Wyatt 3 (friends of Rex & Chuie). No members of the NOC, WGMS, Palmdale or the Delver's Clubs made it.

We spent Saturday digging geodes around the Straw Beds and exploring the collecting at the infamous lost agate claim. Later, we enjoyed the evening potluck around a blazing campfire. Finally, Rex & Chuie rounded off the evening by serving ice cream cones for dessert.

Sunday we made a foray up to the amygdale collecting area above Chuckwalla Spring. Many fine agates were collected, some with banding, quartz and opal centers and fine rich colors (the kids started their own agate collections). In the afternoon we visited the Graham Pass sagenite area and collected a few nice nodules containing red and black needlelike inclusions (sagenite). It was a very good day.

Everyone but the field trip leader left for home on Sunday afternoon. He stayed and enjoyed one more spectacular sunset and relaxing campfire before heading back on Monday morning. Sorry you missed it.

Jay Valle

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## Yard Sale

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*by Nancy Bird*

We are having another yard sale, this time at the Warthens in May-the date to be figured out yet. Soooo-don't throw anything salable away. Last time we sold a lot of clothes and lots of odds & ends but hardly any rock or plants. And we will need a lot of help starting real early and ending around 2.

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## Cases

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*by Nancy Bird*

Do you want to display anything this year at our show? We have space for 22 and i will need to know if you want a space and if you have your own case or not. I will be bringing a sign-up sheet in March or you can call or email me.

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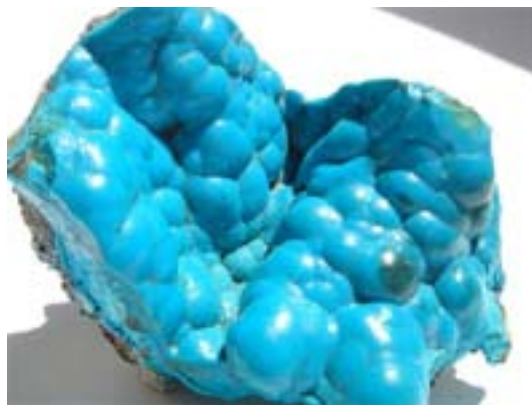
## Chrysocolla

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*via The Pegmatite 2/09*

**Chrysocolla** The name was first used by Theophrastus in 315 B.C. and comes from the Greek *chrysos* meaning "gold" and *kolla* meaning "glue". A mineral of secondary origin, commonly associated with other secondary copper minerals, it forms in rounded masses or bubbly crusts, mats of small needles or fibers. It is bluish green to green, with a hardness of 2.5 to 3.5.

(Ref: <http://www.mindat.org/min-1040.html>)



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## How TO Write Good

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*By Frank L. Visco via SCRIBE*

My several years in the word game have learnt me several rules:

1. Avoid alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Employ the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
8. Contractions aren't necessary.
9. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
10. One should never generalize.
11. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
12. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
13. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. Profanity sucks.
15. Be more or less specific.
16. Understatement is always best.
17. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be avoided.
21. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
22. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
23. Who needs rhetorical questions?

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Frank L. Visco is a vice-president and senior copywriter at USAAdvertising.  
Contributed by Ed Mattson

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## Wire Wrapping Gemstone Class

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*By Ofelia Warthen, Education Committee*

In this Wire Wrapping Workshop, we will focus upon a simple Wire Wrapping on an Oval Stone at the beginners level. Instructors will be available. The class will be Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 6 to 9 P.M. at the La Habra Community Center located at 101 La Habra Blvd., La Habra. Parking is free.

We will be using Sterling Silver Wire. The cost of the class including material is \$25.00 for non-members. Tools will be furnished, if needed.

Seating is limited and reservations are required by contacting Ofelia Warthen at [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net). Or 562-946-0828.

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## All You Want to Know About Geology

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*By Ofelia Warthen, Education Committee*

A Beginning "101 geology" class is on the way! Learn the history of the earth and its life especially as recorded in rocks. A very interesting short basic study of the one and only place we call home, "earth"!

The class will be sponsored by North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society with well-known Geologist, Mike Beaumont, officiating. The class will be conducted on Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 9:30 AM to 12 PM at La Habra Community Center located at 101 La Habra Blvd., La Habra. A small fee of \$10 will be charged, includes material.

Seating is limited. Please call for reservation by contacting Ofelia Warthen at [odwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:odwarthen@verizon.net) or 562-946-0828.

## March Field Trip Lavic Siding March 21-22, 2009

by Jay Valle, NOC Field Trip

On March 21-22, we will have a field trip to Lavic Siding off the I-40. Come and collect jaspers in red, green, yellow, orange and brown. Some are mixed color, others have agate “windows” with flecks of color in them. Jaspers are abundant on the campground (!) and in the surrounding area. Also, we may visit the nearby abandoned mines and look for malachite, azurite, chrysocholla, and other South Cady Mountains specimens.

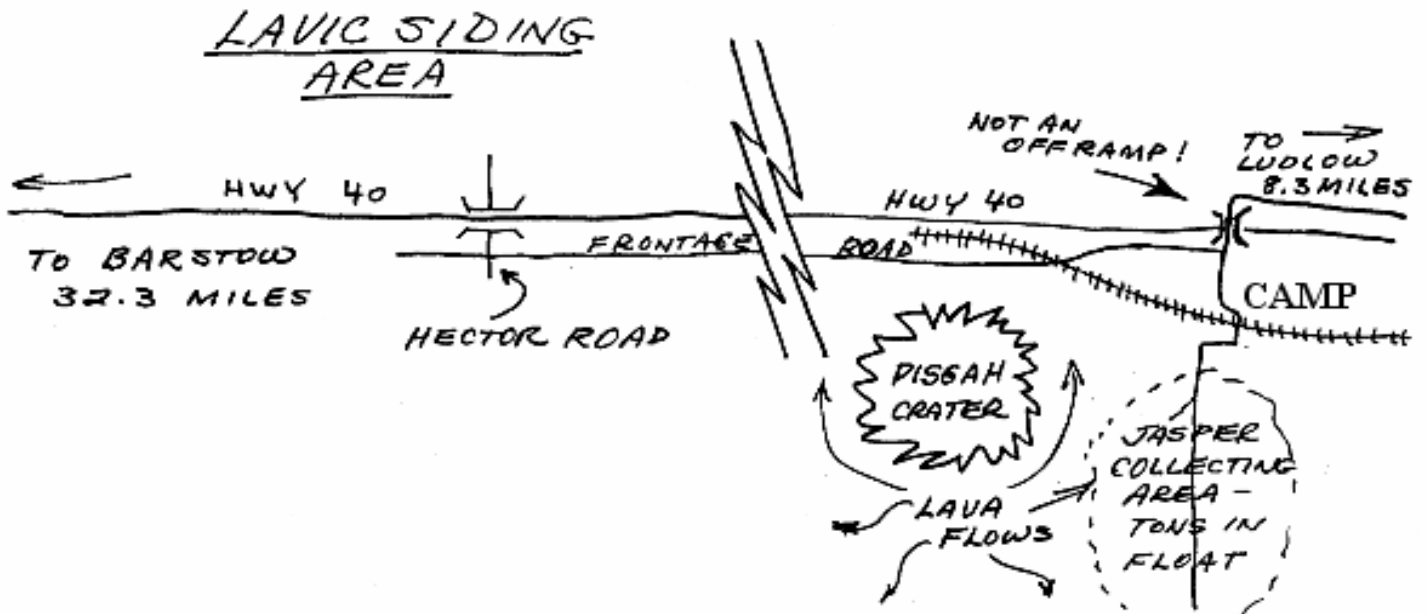
Please bring firewood for the campfire and prepare for a variety of weather conditions.

**TOOLS:** Rock hammer and collecting bag.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-40 east out of Barstow about 32.3 miles and go off at Hector Road. Turn right to the stop sign and go left onto Route 66. Continue about 10 miles to where Rte 66 crosses I-40. **DO NOT CROSS THE FREEWAY.** Instead, turn right and follow the signs to camp.

**NOTE:** Though this is a great place to camp, motels are available 40 miles away in Barstow. If you want to collect but don't want to camp, the motel option works fine.

Jay Valle



## February 24, 2009 Workshop



Jay \*\*\* Dusty \*\*\* Susan



Ofelia \*\*\* Marilyn



Yolanda \*\*\* Fran



Kim \*\*\* Frank



Bernie \*\*\* Mary

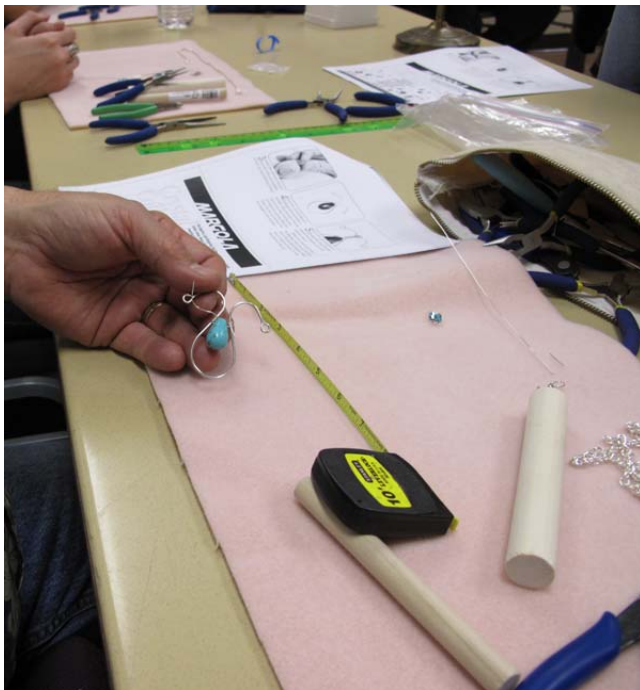


Don W

## Prez Message Continued

Nancy Bird is heading up a fund raising committee to come up with some new ideas to raise money. She is presently working on a yard sale and some ideas to enhance the auction.

The Education Committee held their first workshop Feb 24<sup>th</sup> on making a wire and gem pendent. They will hold another workshop on March 24<sup>th</sup> to do wire wrap. Also Mike will be giving a day class on geology 101 on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Mike and Dave have classes scheduled through the next few months. Please see Ofelia for details.



Turquoise Pendant



## CFMS Show 2009

*by bulletin Editor*

Since NOC is talking about taking on the CFMS/AFMS show in 2010, it would be a good idea for the show committee to attend the 2009 CFMS show in San Jose.

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Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, San Jose

**April 17, 18 & 19, 2009**

Friday 9 - 5 / Saturday 10 - 5 / Sunday 10 - 5

Beads - Gems

Jewelry - Minerals - Fossils

Dealers - Demonstrations

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Phone: 408-265-1422

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## Editors - Spread the Word

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*by Trudy Martin, President SCRIBE*

This may not be a topic you want to put in your December newsletter but it might be something you can file under **New Years Resolutions** or use at some time in the future.

As Public Relations Director and Newsletter Editor, I get 95% of the phone messages and emails for our club. It makes sense – direct all the enquiries to one person who can then pass them on to whomever can answer the question.

Have you ever received this phone call?

**My father was a Rockhound. He passed away last month. We are trying to clear the house and there is all this ROCK we don't know what to do with.**

OR

**My husband was a club member years ago. We are selling our home and moving into a Seniors Residence. The movers are coming TOMORROW! Can you come today and take all this rock & stuff?**

Well, let me tell you, over the years we have become very adaptable and, since we are both **retired**, we can come and go at a moments notice. At times, I wish we had a TRUCK rather than just two cars to pick up all these items. It would be helpful if people would think ahead and notify us, in advance, not just at the last minute.

We recently went to help the son of a club member. The dad had passed away. The son was not a rockhound and had no idea of the value of the rock, slices, silver or equipment that was left in the boxes and bins in his dad's rock room. The mother had been a silversmith. She had passed away 10 years previous yet there was still all these tools and silversmithing equipment. The dad was a **collector** and hadn't thrown anything out in 40 years! So, as you can imagine, there was a lot to be done. The room had to be cleared as the house was up FOR SALE.

*Hence the purpose of this article.*

### **ROCKHOUNDS – YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!**

There is no way, when your number comes up, that you can take your Rock Collection with you when you go to your heavenly reward. It has to stay behind for your family to dispose of.

What are they going to do? Most of them have no idea what the rocks are or what they are worth. As the old saying goes, **They will probably throw out the baby with the bath water!** They have no idea what is **gem material** and what is **leaverite**. It is up to **YOU** to make sure your collection is correctly identified.

**PLEASE, put labels or stickers on your rock, slices, faceting rough, minerals, fossils and silver.**

An uninformed person can't tell the difference between a piece a sodalite and a piece of lapis. Nor can they tell the difference between **genuine**, gem quality faceting rough and glass. To the novice, slices of jasper are just that – **jasper**. They can't identify Bruno Jasper, Biggs Jasper, Rainforest Jasper from the run-of-mill jaspers found in the local gravel pit. When it comes to **Agate** – well, that's a horse of a different color! Some agate is **priceless** because the area it was found in is no longer available for hunting.

Minerals and Fossils are another major problem. If they don't have a label or a sticker to identify what they are and where they are from, the family will be at a loss to put a value on the specimens. Other collectors, museums and dealers, will be hesitant about purchasing the collection if it is not properly identified.

So, Rockhounds, it is up to you, while you are still here on earth, to properly identify your rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry. If specific pieces are to go to specific relatives or organizations, write it down. An inventory sheet with approximate dollar value would be helpful, too. Don't put it off – **do it now** – while you are still here. Your family will thank you when the time comes.