

January 2012 - Volume 48 Issue 1

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Searchers and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone enjoyed thier holidays and are ready to jump toward 2012! In December we enjoyed a great Holiday Party at Marie Calendars. We had a great turn out and it was fun to get together with everyone and celebrate the holidays! I'm excited about the club this year. With some updated equipment in the work shop, fanstastic trips in the wings and all sorts of other fun stuff, it's sure to be a fantastic year for the Searchers! Our website is also undergoing some updating, so be sure to check it out and join in on the fun where ever you can!

Thanks, *Tery-Lynn*

JANUARY BIRTHSTONE

Garnet

The garnet (pronounced /'garnit/) group includes a group of minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. The name "garnet" comes from 14th century Middle English word gernet meaning 'dark red', from the Latin granatus granatus coming from granum (grain , seed) + suffix "atus" , possibly a reference to "mela granatum" or even "pomum granatum" ("pomegranate",[2] scientific name: "Punica granatum"), a plant whose abundant vivid red arils contained in the fruit are similar in shape, size, and color to some garnet crystals.[3]

Six common species of garnet are recognized by their chemical composition. They are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamomstone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series: pyrope-almandine-spessarite and uvarovite-grossular-andradite.

Garnets are nesosilicates having the general formula $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$. The X site is usually occupied by divalent cations (Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+}) and the Y site by trivalent cations (Al^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+}) in an octahedral/tetrahedral framework with $[SiO_4]^{4-}$ occupying the tetrahedra.[4] Garnets are most often found in the dodecahedral crystal habit, but are also commonly found in the trapezohedron habit. (Note: the word "trapezohedron" as used here and in most mineral texts refers to the shape called a Deltoidal icositetrahedron in solid geometry.) They crystallize in the cubic system, having three axes that are all of equal length and perpendicular to each other. Garnets do not show cleavage, so when they fracture under stress, sharp irregular pieces are formed.



GENERAL INFORMATION

General Meetings: 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
Board Meetings: 7PM, 3rd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov
Workshop: Thursday, 6 - 10 PM, free wire-wrap class, Saturday, 3 - 7 PM
Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies)
Location: Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 East Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805
Mailing Address: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc, P.O Box 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803
Membership Dues: Individual- \$25, Couples- \$35, Junior (17 & under)- \$10
Valid Jan. 1-Dec.31, not prorated

Bulletin: Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: editor@searchersrocks.org.
Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:
Yery Camacho, 13900 Studebaker Rd, #4, Norwalk, CA 90650
Charter Date: April 20, 1958
Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Sponsored by: Anaheim Arts Council
Web Site: www.searchersrocks.org

FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS 2012			
Date	Leader	Location & material	Status
Jan 20, 21 & 22	Norbert Bernhardt	Burro Creek, Arizona	Planned
February		Castle Butte	Pending
March		Four Corners/Kraemer Junction	Pending

For a more complete listing of shows go to website: www.cfmsinc.org

Also see www.motherlodemineralsociety.com/events.html.

Other websites of interest:

www.firemountaingems.com

www.southsunproducts.com

www.pioneergem.com

www.route66goldminers.org

www.auctionmasters.com

CLUB MEETING ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2012

Date	Presenter	Subject
Tuesday Jan 10, 2012	Multiple	Searchers General Meeting/Silent Auction/Show meeting

Folks,

The general meeting this week will be a silent auction, so if you have some especially nice pieces you could donate to the club for the auction bring them to the meeting. They will be appreciated. Please only bring the sweet stuff, the auctions are nicer with less material which is high quality than with quantities of lesser material.

We will also have a quick show meeting after the silent auction. So if you are on the show committee please plan on attending, and be prepared to give a quick status report.

Thanx,

Steve

Steve Duncan
714 724 7102 (cell)
wsd@iteris.com

UPCOMING 2012 CFMS GEM SHOWS

January 21 - 22, 2012 : EXETER, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
 Exeter Veteran's Memorial Building
 Highway 65, 324 N Kaweah Avenue
 Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
 Contact: Steve Hayward, (559) 734-3843, cell (559) 967-1084
 Email: smhay734@aol.com
 Website: www.tulegem.org

Contact: Dr. Robert Housley, (626) 697-4435
 Email: rhousley@its.caltech.edu
 Website: www.mineralsocal.org/micro/index.html

January 27 - 28*: REDLANDS, CA

Mineralogical Society of Southern California/Micro-Mineralogists
 Pacific Micromount Conference
 San Bernardino County Museum
 2024 Orange Tree Drive
 Hours: Fri. 4 - 10; Sat. 8 - 10
 *Field Trip on Sunday, January 29

February 17 - 26: INDIO, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
 Gem & Mineral Building, Bldg #1
 Arabia Street
 Hours: 10 - 10 daily
 Contact: Bert Grisham, (915) 849-1674
 Email: bert67@verizon.net

BURRO CREEK, AZ FIELD TRIP JAN, 20-22, 2012

Leader: Norbert Bernhardt and crew

The Searchers will have a field trip to Burro Creek Jan 20-22. . We will be camping at the Burro Creek Campground, off of I93 south of Wikieup AZ. This camp has a minimal fee, and has rest rooms. This campground is a very nice one, with scenic views of the river gorge. The trip will target agate, jasper, pastelite, and anything else we can find. This trip is requires 4 wheel drive, so if you don't have a 4x4 please arrange your rides before the trip.

The trips will start at 10:00 on Friday, and 9:00 on Saturday and Sunday. We will be having our normal Saturday night potluck.

Limited supplies and gas are available at Wikieup. There is also a small motel there, depending on whether or not it is hunting season they can fill up.

Because it is winter dress in layers, you will still want sunscreen and lots of liquid. Wear boots, bring picks, gads, rock picks, 5 gallon bucket and 3lb crack hammer if you wish. Some sites may require some hard rock mining, but not all.

This weekend is the same weekend of the Quartzsite Powwow, you may want to include that in your plans, it starts on Wed Jan 18th. Google maps says it takes 2.5 hours from Quartzsite to Wikieup.

If you have any questions call me at 714-904-2181, or email me at nbern@cox.net

Directions:

From Orange County: 15N to 40E to 93S, past Wikieup to the campground. Google maps says it is 6 hrs to Wikieup.

From Quartzsite: 10E to 60E (exit 31) to 71N to 93N to campground (a few miles before Wikieup. Google maps says it is 2.5 hrs to Wikieup.

To Quartzsite from Orange County: Take 10E. Google maps says it is about 3.5 hrs to Quartzsite.

2012 ELECTION RESULTS

These are the continuing and new officers elected for year 2012.

President

Vice President, Programs

Vice President, Field Trips

Secretary

Treasurer

CFMS Delegate

Director

TERI-LYNN WHEELER

VERONICA PURPURA

TRACEY JACKSON

SUZANNE ALSKY

JAY ERB

KIM CAMPBELL

NORBERT BERNHARDT

NOT SO SUNSHINE

TO MY FRIENDS IN THE SEARCHERS

I have very sad news and updates to report:

First, Those of you have been in the club for a while need to know that Maxine Gagnon, widow of Clare Gagnon has passed away.

The memorial service was on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at Holy Family Church in Leisure World, Seal Beach. Please call their daughter, Susan Walker to express your condolences (714) 876-5523.

Maxine had been ill for many years. In the earlier days she and Clare were active participants in all club activities - field trips, meetings, workshops, the annual show and so on. After Maxine became ill, Clare continued to teach silversmithing and participate in the meetings and workshops. Many of us benefitted tremendously from knowing these two people. Please let Susan and her family know how much we all cared.

Clare and Maxine are survived by their daughters Susan Meagher and Elaine Nelson, son William Gagnon, grandchildren Mariah Meagher, T. J. Meagher, Carissa Gagnon, and Brianna Gagnon, great-grandchild Makenzie Minick, sister-in-law Pauline Lica, niece Lorraine Lica, and many other nieces and nephews in Iowa (from the American Opal Society, Dec. 2011)

Elaine Nelson Bill Gagnon Susan Meagher

Brianna Gagnon Carissa Osuna T.J. Meagher
baby McKenzie Mariah Meagher

Second, I have been reporting the progress of member Wes (Bud) Miller, brother to Grant Miller whom most of you do know from current meetings. Wes passed away December 22, 2011, from cancer; he was in hospice at the time. Wes had been a member of the Searchers since the 1960's and a strong participant in all levels of the club: field trips, the annual show, meetings. After a job-related accident left him disabled, he still came to meetings with brother Grant and supported the club. 2011 was an especially hard year for the Miller families as I have reported to you.

There was a private family viewing and a public memorial service.

Grant says donations to the American Cancer Fund will be wonderful and flowers will be much appreciated.

Please let the families know your thoughts as well:

Mrs. Betty Miller, 8308 Portulaca Way, Buena Park, CA 90620

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Miller, 3673 Amherst, Fullerton, CA 92831-1401

I wish I had some happy news this time; If you know of anything we need to know as a club, please let me know as soon as possible: Thanks, graduations, prizes won, obstacles overcome and so on.

Beth Pelfrey

pelfrey@sbcglobal.net

home: (714) 774-2754

A MAMMOTH DISCOVERY AT THE FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS

by Steven Wade Veatch, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

From: *Pick & Pack*, 7/2010

(1st Place – AFMS Original Adult Articles Advanced)

The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado is one of the most important late Eocene plant and insect fossil sites in the world. The 34-million-year-old fossils range from plant and insect impressions in paper-thin shale to massive petrified tree stumps. A more recent time period is also represented in gravels that were deposited at various sites at the fossil beds. The gravels accumulated during the last Ice Age, and at one of these locations are the buried remains of a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus colombi*).

The Florissant mammoth was discovered in 1994 in a road cut near the visitor center when an intern noticed small fragments of bone material scattered around the entrance of a rodent burrow. While many fossil discoveries are the result of organized scientific work, this discovery was by sheer chance.



Figure 1. View of the partial molar tooth of a Columbian mammoth found near Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument's visitor center. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument specimen FLFO-2392. Photo by S. Veatch

Two years later, the area surrounding the rodent burrow was systematically excavated by the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in collaboration with the National Park Service. At the site, which is along the road to the visitor center, a grid system was laid out to record the location and depth of every bone and soil sample removed. Five two-by-two-meter squares were dug and fossils were systematically removed. Several squares in the grid layout were dug out quite deeply—close to a meter below the surface. These excavations yielded fragmentary material from a mammoth molar tooth (figures 1 and 2) and mandible (figure 3). The fossil material was carefully boxed and stored as part of the park's fossil collection. This was a landmark dig for Teller County, Colorado.

In 2004, measurements were made by the author on a detached molar fragment using a digital caliper and following the procedures outlined by Maglio (1973).

By studying the thickness of the enamel and number of ridges across the tooth it was possible to identify the specimen as a Columbian mammoth rather than a woolly mammoth (*M. primigenius*), the latter of which was adapted to tundra conditions farther north. The author presented the findings of his research team at a scientific conference in Denver, making the Florissant mammoth part of the permanent scientific record (Veatch et al., 2004).

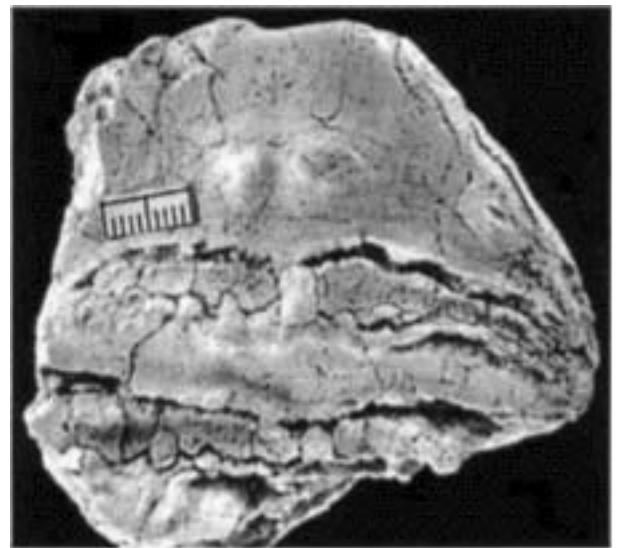


Figure 2. Occlusal (surface) view of the molar. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument specimen FLFO-2392. Photo by S. Veatch.

The fossil material is important for several reasons: (1) it provides documentation of the presence of mammoth fossils at Florissant; (2) this discovery at an elevation of 8,400 feet (2,560 meters) is a relatively high elevation for Columbian mammoths; and (3) the tooth was radiocarbon dated to be at least 50,000 years old. Even though this tooth is older than the reliable range for radiocarbon dating, it shows that mammoths lived at high elevations before the last glacial maximum, about 18,000 radiocarbon years ago.



Figure 3. View of mandible fragment. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument specimen FLFO-2392. Photo by S. Veatch.

The Florissant mammoth is still being studied. Sediments found with the mammoth contain pollen and spores. A team of researchers, including the author, are currently examining these microfossils and plan to publish their results soon. These scientists hope to learn more about the Florissant mammoth's environment.

References Cited:

Maglio, V.J., 1973. Origin and Evolution of the Elephantidae. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, New Series 63, 1-149.

Veatch, S. W., Graham, R, and Meyer, H.W., 2004. High elevation *Mammuthus* from the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Colorado. Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, 2004.: Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, vol. 36, no. 5, p. 381.

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