

HILL and GULLY PAY DIRT

Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Volume 16 Issue 3

March 2010

PGMC HAPPENINGS GENERAL MEETINGS

March 29, 2010
the 5th Monday at the
Chimbole Cultural Center
Palmdale
7:00 PM

April 26, 2010
Monday at the Chimbole
Cultural Center Palmdale
7:00 PM

May 24, 2010
Monday at the Chimbole
Cultural Center Palmdale
7:00 PM

BOARD MEETINGS

April 13, 2010
Tuesday at the Chimbole
Cultural Center Palmdale
7:00 PM

May TBD, 2010
Tuesday at the Chimbole
Cultural Center Palmdale
7:00 PM



PROGRAM *Mineral Identification* *Cont'd*

WORDS of WISDOM



**Rodney
Skillings
President**

No message was available at
the time of publication. Have
a great Month!

REFRESHMENTS

This month refreshments are
brought to you by:

Rodney Skillings

DISPLAYS

This month the dis-
plays are Favorite
Aquamarine, Green
Stone, & Petrified
Wood

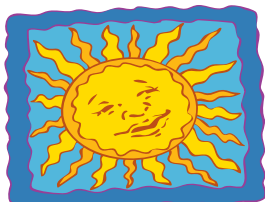
To all Lapidary Artists

*Rock Saw Oil \$12.00 (plus
sales tax) per Gallon in 5
Gallon increments*

*\$60.00 (plus sales tax) for a
5 Gallon bucket.*

*\$20.00 (plus sales tax) per
gal in 1 gal jugs.*

*Contact John Martin for
details.*



SUNSHINE

Russ Lass had
Angioplasty on 3/10/10.
*Please keep positive
thoughts headed his way.*

*Maggie reports:
Anna Burton hasn't been
feeling well since Decem-
ber but since then she's
had some setbacks with
small strokes. I think I'm
remembering the diagno-
sis correctly but has defi-
nitely had a bad reaction to
a medication. Anna went
to the hospital about a
week and a half ago and
had spent a few days there
at the AV. She's spending
most of her time in bed
and sitting in her favorite
living room chair. Anna is
getting around with a walker
and with Kathy at her side.
I happened to stop by yes-
terday just kinda impromptu
to visit her that's when I
found out the extent of her
illness at this time.
I don't know if anyone
knows any details or
whether anyone knew of her
situation as it has become.
Please let others know --
she's feeling kinda lonely
and could use some paper-
back books of mystery or
love stories.*

PGMC - TID BITS

MEMBERSHIP

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

March Birthdays are:

John Martin	4th
Jasmine McClung	7th
Lloyd Kempton	9th
Vanessa Skillings	11th
Veronica Skillings	11th
Eric Tinniste	17th
Susan Walblom	20th

Your Birthstone is **Bloodstone**
for Courage and your flower is
Jonquil for affection

ANNIVERSARIES

*Lloyd & Louise Kempton 3rd
David & Susan Walblom 22nd*

Some People

*Some people search for
diamonds*

*Some people search for
gold.*

*Some people pick up only
rocks*

*At least that's what we're
told.*

*Diamonds can make you
famous*

*Gold you have to spend
Rocks just bring you plea-
sure*

And a host of happy friends.

Unknown

FEDERATION REPORT

By Don George

Are you ready yet?? The time is dissolving and June is coming along pretty fast. This is March! We will be having a program in April for those of you who want to enter a case in the CFMS/AFMS Show. Cheri George & Susy Martin will be giving this program; they have been to the Exhibiting & Judging Class offered by the AFMS at Wildacres. If you want to put an entry in at CFMS, bring your exhibit to the April General Membership meeting and they will evaluate it according to the updated 2010 AFMS Rules. The CFMS Earth Science Seminar at Camp Paradise is scheduled for May and that too is coming up fast. If you want to attend, please get the form off the CFMS Website and fill it out and send it in. There are still openings available. The Tri-Federation Field Trip to the Blue Forest in Wyoming is still scheduled for Memorial week. Information about that trip can be located on the AFMS Website at www.amfed.org, who knows we may see you there.

**PALMDALE GEM &
MINERAL CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES****22 February 2010****LARRY CHIMBOLE
CULTURAL CENTER
38500 SIERRA HIGH-
WAY PALMDALE,
CALIFORNIA**

Meeting of the Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club was called to order at 7:13pm by President Rod Skillings.

Flag Salute was led by Rod.

MINUTES: The previous month's minutes were published in the newsletter. John Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Brad Murphy. Motion Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Ginny was not present due to illness, but Rich Stanford said that she had told him we had received one Scholarship application. John Martin brought six exchange newsletters for the membership to peruse.

BIRTHDAYS: Yvette McClung was the only member in attendance with a birthday in February, she stood up and we sang to her. Susan Walblom put money in the cup for all three of her granddaughters, whose birthdays are this month.

FAIR BOOTH: This year's AV Fair is 20-29 August. Rod

reminded people to put those dates on their calendars. Brad said he bought some stuff for the fair booth but that he had just moved and right now things were sort of confusing. He would get back to us with the list of stuff he bought.

FEDERATION REPORT: Don George says that he put the Camp Paradise Info in the newsletter, along with the form to fill out and submit.

FIELD TRIPS: We will probably make the Ventura Show the field trip for March. There is a CFMS Field trip to Ant Hill in Bakersfield this coming Saturday. If you want to go, go on the CFMS website and get the info. Make sure to take a mask for your mouth and nose, a shovel, a rock pick, and a sifter.

HOSPITALITY: There were 22 members present, 4 Pebble Pups, and 1 guest, Steve Wittick (who has been to a previous meeting as well). The Badge drawing was won by Chris & Jennifer Martin, the Attendance drawing was won by John Spargur, the all member cash drawing (which was for \$10 since there was no drawing in January) was won by Scott Pelka.

MEMBERSHIP: Brad passed out three badges, and said that he had made contact with almost everyone for the

2010 dues. He still needs Melba LePage's new address and phone number,

SUNSHINE: It was noted in the newsletter that Gail Becker, a former member, had passed away last week. There was no further sunshine.

SOCIAL: Contrary to the announcement made in the February newsletter concerning the Tehachapi picnic, we will be having our annual summer cool down outing at the Sierra Flat campground the 21 thru the 24th of July. There will be several couples camping out starting on Wednesday and leaving on Sunday.

DISPLAYS: Robert Garner brought a nice piece of Jasper from Sebastian Beach near San Simeon, Lorna Lass brought some jewelry, Russ Lass brought some Charoite, purple shells, & Glass and Susy Martin brought some pretty Porcelain Jasper she bought in Quartzsite. Our guest Steve Wittick brought some of his cabs to show and tell us about; David Walblom brought a nice piece of Stalactite from Morocco. Next month the displays will be Aquamarine and green rocks.

Rod reminded everyone to buy their raffle tickets.

February Gen. Mtg Minutes Cont'd

Break for refreshments.

PROGRAM: Rich Stanford brought a DVD with several Programs on it, we saw Identification of Minerals. We will discuss whether we want to watch anymore of the programs on the DVD at the Board Meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob High and seconded by Cheri George. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Sights from the 2010 Venture Show



Ventura Show 2010 Friday Night Dinner



Competitive Case Class



Case Critic for CFMS Show Judging



Don George Demonstrator



Cheri George - Demonstrator



Case by Cheri George

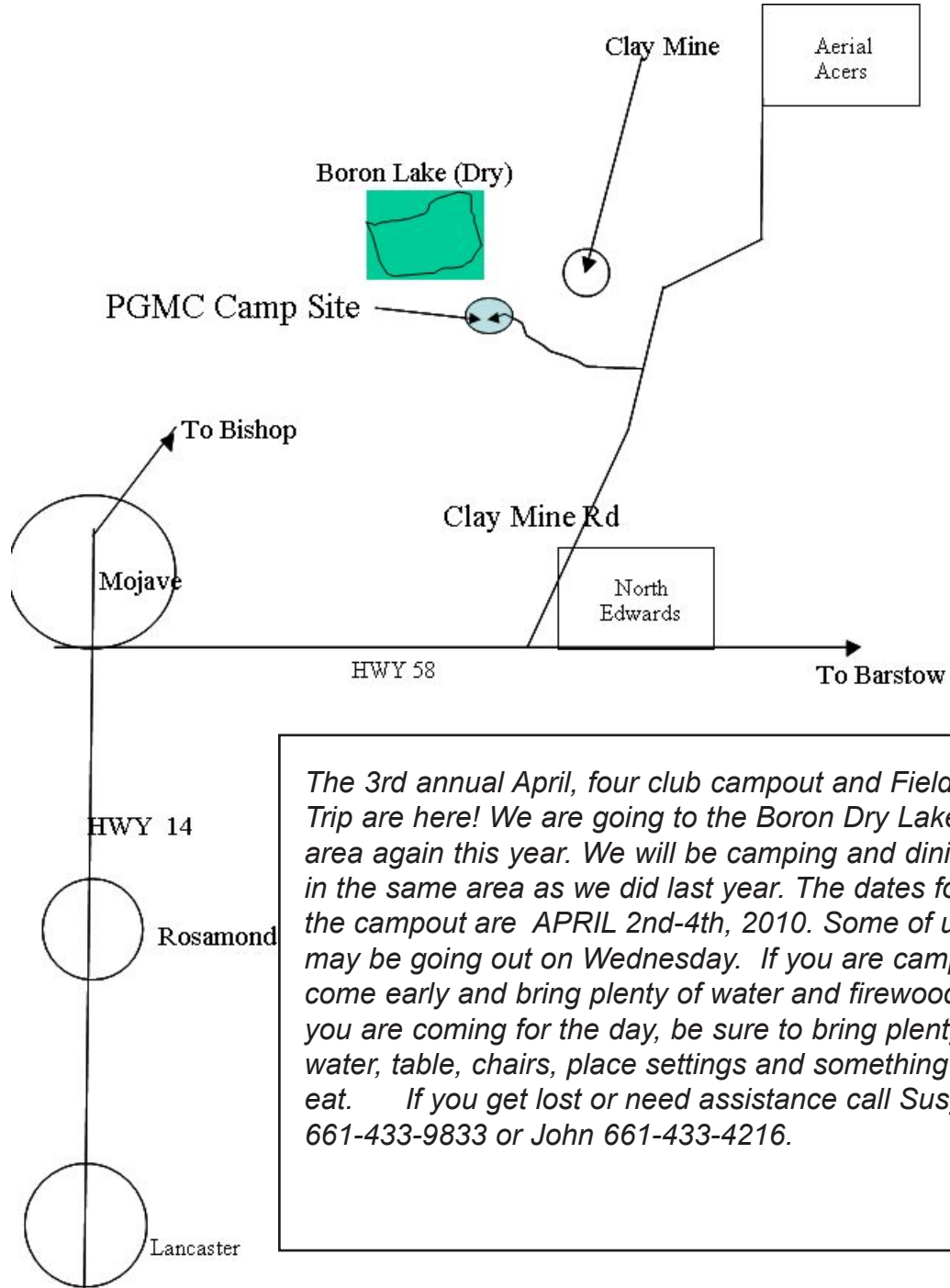
Case by Susy Martin



State Symbols Case by John Martin



APRIL FIELD TRIP
Boron Dry Lake Area



The 3rd annual April, four club campout and Field Trip are here! We are going to the Boron Dry Lake area again this year. We will be camping and dining in the same area as we did last year. The dates for the campout are APRIL 2nd-4th, 2010. Some of us may be going out on Wednesday. If you are camping come early and bring plenty of water and firewood. If you are coming for the day, be sure to bring plenty of water, table, chairs, place settings and something to eat. If you get lost or need assistance call Susy 661-433-9833 or John 661-433-4216.

COLLECTING FOSSILS ON PUBLIC LANDS

MIKE NELSON, CSMS

Reprinted from March Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter
Submitted by John Martin

The Paleontological Resources Protection Act (PRPA) was passed by the U. S. Congress in 2009 and signed into law by President Obama on 30 March as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. The PRPA is an emotional issue for many people and has caused a great deal of concern among both the rock and mineral clubs and individuals. There is a tremendous amount of misunderstanding about this law and the Web is full of inflammatory statements about what this bill “does” and “does not” do. I hope to present, in this article, information about rock, mineral, and fossil collecting on public lands as now stated in the PRPA. There are a variety of federal agencies in the U.S. that manage lands containing natural and physical resources such as rocks, minerals, and fossils. The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation’s largest land manager and our

principle conservation agency with a mission to protect “America’s treasures for future generations.” The DOI manages over 500 million acres (ma), about one-fifth of the surface land in the U.S., within the following agencies: 1) Bureau of Land management (BLM) with 256 ma; 2) National Park Service (NPS) with 84.6 ma; 3) Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) with 8.7 ma; 4) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 66 ma; and 5) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with 96.2 ma. In addition, the major federal research organization concerning geology, water, and biology is housed within the DOI—the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS). The second major federal land manager is the Department of Agriculture (USDA) that contains the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with a mission “to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people” and managing 193 ma of forests and grasslands. Most of the federal land management agencies derive their authority to manage rocks, fossils, and minerals from the specific act that created the particular agency (such as the Organic Act of 1916 creating

the NPS), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and various sections of regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). FLPMA is perhaps the most comprehensive of the laws and states that the public lands shall be managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific and other values; requires that they be inventoried on a continuing basis; and that the use, occupancy and development of these lands be regulated through easements, permits, leases, licenses, published rules, or other instruments. Unfortunately, the rules and regulations concerning the collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils on federal land vary from agency to agency and often vary within a particular agency. It remains difficult to locate specific collecting rules on web sites and often an inquirer gets conflicting answers from personal questions posed in district offices. The passage of the PRPA will alleviate some of these ambiguities. The NPS, with a mission of the preservation, protection, and stewardship of natural and historic resources in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoy-

ment of future generations, seems to have the most straightforward rules on collecting—essentially you cannot collect anything: collecting, rockhounding, and gold panning of rocks, minerals, and paleontological specimens, for either recreational or educational purposes is generally prohibited in all units of the National Park System (36 C.F.R. § 2.1[a] and § 2.5[a]). However, some units allow scientific research with a valid collecting permit and some Alaskan parks allow limited rock and mineral collecting. The BOR has a mission to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Most land managed by the BOR is found around “water facilities” as the Bureau operates 348 reservoirs and 58 hydroelectric plants in 17 western states. Paleontological resources on BOR lands are protected and anyone wishing to collect fossils must first obtain a permit. Permits are only issued for scientific research (Secretarial Order 3104 delegates authority to BOR to issue paleontological resource use permits for lands under its jurisdiction). As best that I can interpret, causal and recreational

collecting of minerals and rocks is/was not allowed on BOR land; however, all this may/should change with passage of the PRPA. The FWS has a mission of working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The major responsibility of the FWS is the management of 550 national wildlife refuges and other units of the Refuge System, plus 37 wetland management districts. However, the FWS is heavily involved with endangered and threatened species. Rules for collecting appear to be similar to the BOR—causal collecting is generally not allowed and a permit is needed for scientific collecting. Most individual refuges now state a rule similar to Havasu National Wildlife Refuge: All plants, animals, rocks, fossils, items of antiquity, archaeological resources, and minerals are protected. Possession of these objects or parts and pieces of these objects is prohibited. Again, passage of the PRPA may/should change or modify regulations. The BIA’s mission is to ... enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians,

Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. The authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to manage fossil and mineral resources on Indian lands is limited and not mandated by statute. Indian lands are not public lands. Each parcel of Indian land is managed by the individually recognized tribe. Generally, collecting of any resource is prohibited and the PRPA specifically does not apply to BIA land. The USFS has perhaps the most confusing regulations and rules of any federal land management agency. However, in their defense, it appears the Forest Service did not have the authority for the disposal of minerals, rocks, and fossils from USFS lands other than under the Mining Laws and 228 mining regulations. However, the PRPA changes all this ambiguity and specifically gives the Service needed authority to manage fossil resources. The PRPA is an attempt to codify the numerous regulations and rules governing the collection of fossils on most federal lands, especially lands managed by the BLM and USFS. The PRPA continues the existing practice of requiring that vertebrate fossils and other rare and scientifically significant fossils be collected only by qualified researchers who obtain a permit. Collectors

must then agree to deposit the fossils in public institutions which will ensure their future availability to researchers and the public. However, PRPA strengthens the causal/recreational collecting experience:

Sec. 6301 (1) CASUAL COLLECTING.—The term “casual collecting” means the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for noncommercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface and other resources. As used in this paragraph, the terms “reasonable amount”, “common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources” and “negligible disturbance” shall be determined by the Secretary.

Sec.6304. (2) CASUAL COLLECTING EXCEPTION.— The Secretary shall allow casual collecting without a permit on Federal land controlled or administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service, where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those Federal land and this subtitle.

In my opinion, although PRPA strengthens the status of amateur collectors, it does not give collectors the right to deface federal property by large scale excavation, nor sell fossils, nor collect vertebrate fossils without a permit. So how will all of this shake out? Currently the federal agencies are trying to comply with SEC. 6310 that states (for the DOI) that the Secretary of the Interior must issue such regulations as appropriate to implement the PRP subtitle and provide opportunities for public notice and comment. Provisions of the statute that need specific regulatory language include defining terms used in the definition of casual collecting. I have already seen an improvement in collecting regulations as the BLM now states: Visitors to public lands are welcome to collect reasonable amounts of common invertebrate and plant fossils without a BLM permit. No permit is needed for plant fossils, such as leaves, stems, and cones, or common invertebrate fossils, such as ammonites and trilobites. These materials must be for your personal collection and cannot be sold or traded. Commercial collection of any type of fossil from Federal lands is not allowed, except for petrified wood. But,

rockhounds should also note that some BLM areas, such as the Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area near Grand Junction , CO , are off-limits to collecting. I have been unable to locate system-wide information for the USFS concerning fossil collecting. In fact, the major USFS web sites seem to ignore the passage of the PRPA (no current information available), and “fossil collecting” seems to have disappeared from sight, or at least many web sites. It is present in some areas, but often is incorrect! The Manti-LaSal Forest in Utah notes rock, mineral, and fossil collecting on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service requires a permit, which is free to the public. The permit allows one to collect small amounts of material for personal use. The PRPA specifies that permits are NOT required. I can only assume the Service is working to implement the directives of the PRPA in all districts! And, I would like to point out that the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (perhaps there are others) has it correct: Limited collection of rocks and minerals, petrified wood and common invertebrate or plant fossils for personal use is allowed on most National Forest System lands. These materials may

be collected without a permit provided the collecting is for personal, hobby, and non-commercial use. As a final note, petrified wood on BLM land is governed by its own law: 43 CFR 3610, 3621 and 3622. Individuals may remove 25 pounds in weight plus one piece per day, with a maximum amount of 250 pounds removed in one calendar year. The regulations of the USFS differ somewhat from the BLM. The federal code, 36 CFR 228.62 (e), states: A free-use permit may be issued to amateur collectors and scientists to take limited quantities of petrified wood for personal use. The material taken may not be bartered or sold. Free-use areas may be designated within which a permit may not be required. I have been unable to locate a definition of "limited quantities"; however, this definition may be left to the individual land managers since the CFR continues: the rules may vary by area depending on the quantity, quality, and accessibility of the material and the demand for it. All of the federal agencies managing lands seem to have at least five important rules in common: 1) the collection of vertebrate fossils is either prohibited or requires a permit; 2) the commercial collection (for sale or barter)

of any specimen (rocks, minerals, semiprecious gems, common invertebrate fossils and plants) requires a permit; 3) land managers may establish special management areas where all collecting is prohibited (such as McInnis Canyons National Conservation- Area); 4) the collection of specimens is prohibited in developed recreation areas; and 5) if the collection of petrified wood is allowed, then it is governed by a special set of rules. Now, the agencies have new rules codified in the PRPA that will generally allow casual collecting of common (non-vertebrate) fossils.

Mike Nelson is a member of the CSMS and LGGMC in Colorado and is a new member of the RMFMS Colorado Public Land Advisory Committee and the BLM Front Range Resource Advisory Committee. However, this article reflects only his personal views and opinions. He may be reached at csrockguy@yahoo.com. In addition, collectors should check with their local federal land management offices before venturing out. The BLM collecting regulations may be located at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM/>

[paleontology_laws.html](#)>, and the PRPA may be downloaded as a PDF file from <[P.L. 111-011 \(PRPA\)](#)>. Parts of this article were extracted from a previous article in the CSMS Pick & Pack, Vol 49 No 4, April 2009.

Up and Coming Shows

for a complete list visit www.cfmsinc.org

March 27-28 2010, Torrance, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Torrance Recreational Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4
Larry Hoskinson & Leslie Neff (310) 318-2170
Roger L. Mills
Email: roger_mills@acm.org
Website: palosverdes.com/sblap/

April 10-11, 2010, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School
44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9-5 daily
Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309
Email: Vivea22@yahoo.com
Email: av_gem@yahoo.com

April 9, 10 & 11 2010, Vista, CA

San Diego County Council
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9-5 daily
Ray Pearce (769) 726-7570
Cathy Davis (858) 278-9987

April 24-25, 2010, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club Show
Borchard Park Community Center/dd>
190 Reno Rd. & borchard Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5 - Sun. 10-4:30
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsorca@adelphia.net
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

HILL and GULLY PAY DIRT

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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