



## *Club Notes*



**General Meeting:** Wednesday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 P.M. at Mt. Eden Presbyterian Church, 26236 Adrian Ave, Hayward (Next to Chabot College, behind Burger King). See map on back page.

**Program:** President's Choice.

**November Refreshments:** Members with a last name starting with I-L please bring snacks.

**New Members:** Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at the church at 7:30pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend! There is a silent auction and door prizes at every meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:**

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the shop is the next Board Meeting.

**MGSCV Annual Rock and Gem Show:** March 2, 3, and 4, 2012



## *Special Fall Edition*

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## General Information

This publication is the bulletin of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, Inc., a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the North Bay Field Trip Association.

### Bulletin Submission Policy

Submission deadline is the second Friday following the General Meeting (normally the second Wednesday of the month.) Anonymous contributions will not be considered for publication in the Petrograph; however, if requested at the time of submission, the contributor's name can be withheld. Members are encouraged to submit articles that may be of interest to the general membership. The bulletin editor reserves the right to edit any submitted articles or omit any submission from publication. Source must be cited for material quoted from other authors. Permission to reprint Petrograph articles is hereby granted provided properly cited.

### 2011 MGSCV Officers

#### Elected

President - Ron Miller	<a href="mailto:President@mgscv.org">President@mgscv.org</a>	
Vice President - Jim Ewing	<a href="mailto:VP@mgscv.org">VP@mgscv.org</a>	
Secretary - Sheryl Cooper	<a href="mailto:Secretary@mgscv.org">Secretary@mgscv.org</a>	(510) 589-8858
Treasurer - Betty Milam	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@mgscv.org">Treasurer@mgscv.org</a>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Director - Unappointed	<a href="mailto:Director1@mgscv.org">Director1@mgscv.org</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Director - Norm Hodgson	<a href="mailto:Director2@mgscv.org">Director2@mgscv.org</a>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Director - Mary Jane Holmes	<a href="mailto:Director3@mgscv.org">Director3@mgscv.org</a>	
Federation Director - Ron Hasemeyer	<a href="mailto:Federation@mgscv.org">Federation@mgscv.org</a>	
Shop Manager - Beth Farmer	<a href="mailto:ShopManager@mgscv.org">ShopManager@mgscv.org</a>	
2011 Show Chairman - Ron Miller	<a href="mailto:ShowChair@mgscv.org">ShowChair@mgscv.org</a>	
Membership - Tony Cooper	<a href="mailto:membership@mgscv.org">membership@mgscv.org</a>	(510) 589-5292
Editor - Jodi Minshall	<a href="mailto:Editor@mgscv.org">Editor@mgscv.org</a>	

#### Appointed

Scholarship Chair - Mary Howell  
Librarian - Mary Howell  
Historian - Jamie McDonald  
Purchasing Agent - Beth Farmer  
Education Coordinator - Shirley Buschke  
Field Trip Coordinator - Ron Hasemeyer  
Parliamentarian - Doc Buschke  
Reception/Hostess - Ann Vargas/Dan Gilson  
Sunshine Reporter - All members  
Door Prizes - Bonnie Andrade  
Web Master - Tony Cooper

[webmaster@mgscv.org](mailto:webmaster@mgscv.org)



Publication Staff



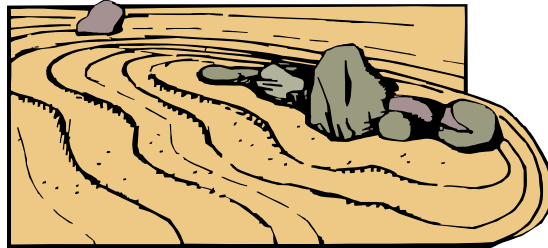
◇Contributors: Shirley Buschke, Diana Adams-Cohoon, Betty Milam, Sheryl Cooper, Members

## Editor's Note

All,

This edition is a compilation of the summer vacation reports received from MGSCV members and describes their exciting summer travels in (mostly) their own words. Please enjoy these wonderful reports and feel free to submit similar reports about your own travel adventures in the future.

Warm Regards,  
Editor



## The Madonna Inn -

By Teresa Taniguchi

We just got back from our 35th Wedding Anniversary trip. We went to the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo for the 4th of July weekend. We used to go to lunch or dinner there every time we made a trip down the UCSB when one of our kids was there. Every time, we would say, "we will have to stay here someday"... So we made sure "someday" came and stayed for our anniversary treat.

The Madonna Inn has a rich history - Alex and Phyllis Madonna are an American success story. Alex began his construction business with just a pick and a shovel, eventually getting large contracts on Interstate 5. He began with a cattle ranch, and on the property, he eventually built the Madonna Inn. He

would blast to pave the way for the Interstate, and bring the rock to the ranch to incorporate in the design. He obviously loved rock. Check out the hotel website to see views of the inn:

<http://www.madonnainn.com> .

Although, I do not believe the rocks are "special", the way they used them to design theme rooms certainly was. Check out this page to see all the theme rooms, hover over each room name to see a thumbnail photo, click on the name for the description with a larger photo:

<http://www.madonnainn.com/features.php>

Unfortunately we did not think of it until we were checking out, but we hear that when some people stay multiple nights, they change rooms each day so that they can have the experience of different theme rooms!

The rooms on the first floor have rock flooring, rock walls, some have rock ceilings. Check out "Caveman", and "Rock Bottom". We stayed in "Gypsy Rock", and it has rock walls and a rock waterfall shower! What I thought was really cool, was the bathroom had a sink made of a natural granite boulder cut in half and hollowed out and polished. The pool also has a large rock waterfall. They used rock all over the Inn. The gentlemen's bathrooms in the Copper Cafe and Steakhouse are a "must see" for all the ladies too! Have a gentleman clear out the facility before you venture in and take pictures!!!

Alex Madonna used a crossed pick and shovel as his brand for his cattle and this logo is marked all over the pavement of the Inn, on the copper tabletops in the cafe, and wherever else he could think of... His wife loves the color pink, so there is A LOT of PINK all over.

There is a Steakhouse (delicious oak pit BBQ for the steaks - highly recommend the ribeye steak!) that is decorated in really gaudy red velvet wallpaper and enormous pink flowers... red lamps above the dance floor gives the whole place the look of a bordello on steroids... but in a cute Disneyland kind of way. The carved wood, chandeliers, pink upholstery, gorgeous pressed glass water goblets... all add to the charm. All day long, people walk through pointing and smiling, taking pictures and just enjoying every little nook and cranny. You will see

tourist buses stopping by just to see the facility.

Did I forget to mention that most nights; there is a band or DJ for dinner and dancing in the Steakhouse on the wonderful wood floor? So of course, we danced.

Although, Alex Madonna passed away in 2004, Phyllis still comes down to have lunch in the Copper Cafe each day. We used to see the two of them eating lunch together in the same booth on our visits.

They have now named a portion of Highway 101, "Alexander Madonna Memorial Highway". BTW, if you take the Madonna Road exit off Highway 101, you can see the Madonna Inn from the highway. Not too shabby a stopping place for a rock lover!



## What I Did This Summer

By Susan Klas

My husband and I just got back from a wonderful 19-day trip to Spain, France and Belgium. We even managed a day in Tangiers, Morocco, Africa, complete with snake charmer, camel ride and a trip through the Kasbah.

We saw the northwestern most tip of Africa. Street peddlers harassed us

every step of the way. Some of them were selling geodes. One of my nieces purchased one and inside was beautiful purple crystals! Other interesting rock formations there were inside Hercules' Cave.

We also spent time at the D-Day beaches of Normandy. This was a very emotional part of our trip, as both of our fathers were veterans of WWII. My dad, Walt Klas, spent some of the war in England, while my husband's father had shipped out of Pearl Harbor the day before the attack. At Mont St. Michel, we climbed to the top of the 'rock' (island) for a spectacular view.

The Costa del Sol of Spain was spectacular, Belgium beautiful, and France was fabulous.



## A Teaching Summer

By Diana Cohoon

I spent my summer beginning mid-June thru the month of July, teaching lost wax classes on Sundays. The first part of our class involves learning to make a pendant setting for a cab made at the shop. We learned to make bezels, bails, how to weigh the wax, and weigh the silver, mount the wax pick out a cylinder and put tape on it with their name and weight in silver. They also learned to always use 30% new granules with each casting and what will happen if you don't.

The second class we learned to anneal the pieces, pickle and clean them, and cut off the button and prepare it for finish work. I take the pieces home and put them in a tumbling vibrator with stainless needle shot, and this cleans the pieces perfectly. In the afternoon we learned to shoot wax into the rubber molds that the shop has upstairs. Each class lasted about 6 hours.

I took a break from wax classes in August. Wire wrap class is still on Monday nights but new students need to sign up.



## Petrified Forest Calistoga, CA

By Mike McBride

My wife and I recently went up to Glen Ellen, Jack London's hometown for a few days of sightseeing in the Valley Of The Moon. A must see for me was a revisit to the Petrified Forest outside of Calistoga. It is a small family run operation which we had visited with our kids over 30 years ago. The mellow 0.5 mile walk through the Petrified Forest was much as I remembered it. They have the world's largest petrified trees there. Some are as much as 8' in diameter by 65' long, and they are all laying in the same direction knocked down by a volcanic eruption about 3 million years ago near Mt. St. Helena.

The gift shop there was a real surprise; full of gems, minerals and petrified wood for sale. After walking around the shop several times I asked an employee who did their lapidary work, and of course I proudly mentioned our club. The next thing I knew she was discounting our items, and took us into the back room to see more items. She offered to let me buy anything I saw in several buckets of unfinished wood slabs from the property and of course I sure did. She was so nice to us that it really made our visit special. The admission fee into the Petrified Forest was "on us" she said too. Wow! What a great experience it was. We feel that being part of the Rockhound community is always that, a great experience.

Check it out:

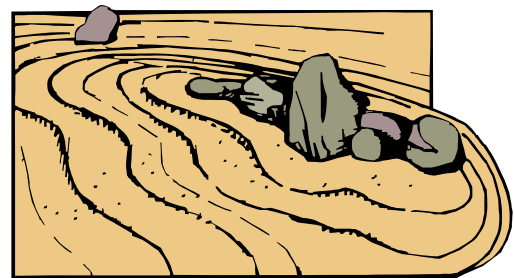
THE PETRIFIED FOREST  
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CALISTOGA, CA 94515, 707-942-6667  
[WWW.PETRIFIEDFOREST.ORG](http://WWW.PETRIFIEDFOREST.ORG)



## Car Convention

By Shirley Buschke on behalf of Beth Farmer

Do ask Shop boss Beth Farmer about her trip to Minnesota and Wisconsin for the national Metropolitan car convention. "It was the best of worlds and the worst of worlds" she quipped. It was fifty miles of car trouble. Fortunately they had a trailer in their caravan they could load their car onto. The lousy weather was expected, but the mechanical problems were not. They forgot to tighten the radiator cap and the temperature was the 100's. Guess what happened, but she says she met some great people and in the end the show was great.



**MGSCV Petrograph - October 2011**  
**Monthly Bulletin of the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Inc.**

**Shop Schedule (For members only)**

- Monday    **10AM to 1PM**, Lapidary  
             **6PM to 9PM**, Beginners only  
             in lapidary
- Tuesday    -Need Daytime Supervisor!  
             **6PM to 8:30PM**, Lapidary
- Wednesday -**9AM to 1:30PM**, Lapidary,  
             intarsia & beading.  
             **Library open 10AM to noon.**  
             **6PM to 9PM**, Lapidary
- Thursday    Need Daytime Supervisor!  
             **6PM to 9PM**, Lapidary
- Friday        Need Daytime and Night Supervisors!  
             Temporarily closed
- Saturday    **9AM to 3PM**, Juniors, adults  
             w/supervisor's approval  
             **Library open 10AM to noon.**
- Sunday       **9AM to 2 PM**, Lapidary

Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)  
 Email us at [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org)



**MAPS**

Our shop: 20948 A Corsair Blvd  
 Hayward, CA 94545  
 (510) 887-9007

**Mt. Eden Presbyterian Church**  
 26236 Adrian Ave, Hayward  
 General meetings held here the 2nd Wed. of  
 every month at 7:30pm, except in July &  
 August.