

# *The Golden Frog*

Newsletter of the Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Robin Williams, Editor  
P.O. Box 1135  
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**NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION**

**Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 517  
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Clubhouse: 2500 Meacham Ranch Road

Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

Est. in 1948 and incorporated in 1950 as a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to share our love of rocks & minerals and all the lapidary arts with our community. Member of both the California and American Federation Mineralogical Societies.

**NOV. BIRTHSTONE**



Tibetan Citrine Terminated Crystal Cluster

**2019 BOARD of DIRECTORS**



**PRESIDENT**  
 Anna Christiansen  
[achristiansen7132@comcast.net](mailto:achristiansen7132@comcast.net)



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Lynn Becker  
[beckerbk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beckerbk@sbcglobal.net)



**SECRETARY**  
 Debby Brooks  
[dbb49@att.net](mailto:dbb49@att.net)



**TREASURER**  
 Karen Crabtree  
[kcetc@volcano.net](mailto:kcetc@volcano.net)



**FEDERATION DIRECTOR**  
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**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN**  
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 Amy Sturdivant  
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**3<sup>rd</sup> DIRECTOR**  
 Pat Gulyas  
[golddustmurphy@yahoo.com](mailto:golddustmurphy@yahoo.com)



**ADDITIONAL CLUB POSITIONS:**



**SHOPmasters**  
 Murray Smith & Marilyn Bodle  
[marilyndte@gmail.com](mailto:marilyndte@gmail.com)



**PROGRAMS**  
 Tom Harrington  
[thomasharrington266@gmail.com](mailto:thomasharrington266@gmail.com)



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**HISTORIAN**  
 Loretta Pagni  
[lorettapagni@aol.com](mailto:lorettapagni@aol.com)



*A Message from Our*  
**VICE PRESIDENT...**

Dear Club Members,

**If you're not selling, please come to the clubhouse and shop, visit, eat, and support your club!**

**Saturday, NOV. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**TAILGATE**

**SALE**

**9 am to 4 pm**

**This is a CLUB FUNDRAISER!**

**If you'd like to contribute, please bring**

**cookies and cupcakes and we'll sell those along with our other goodies.**

**All proceeds go to the club!!**

**If you'd like to sell, please let me know.**

Lynn Becker  
2019 Vice-President

beckerbk@sbcglobal.net  
209-352-6204

**NOV~ TABLE of CONTENTS**

Pg	~ DESCRIPTION ~
2	List of 2019 Board Members
3	President's Message & What's New
4	OCT 20 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting Minutes
5	cont. OCT 20 General Meeting Minutes
6	Post Rock Limestone by Romy Mueller
7	Cont. Limestone fence posts by Romy
8	TABLE CLOTHS: History & Report
9	Safety Report by Claudia Bracket Lundin
10	OCT 20 <sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes
11	Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> Work Day Photos
12	NOV 2019 Calendar, B-days & Shows

**NOV 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Info**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, November 17, 2019.
- Meet & Greet begins at 11:00 a.m.
- Thanksgiving Pot Luck at Noon
- General Membership Meeting
- MEMBER AUCTION\* Fundraiser
- opt: 10 a.m. Board Meeting TBA

**\*MEMBER AUCTION RULES:**

To SELL you must have your 2019 PAID membership on file with CGMS.

Membership dues may be paid prior to the auction in order to become eligible.

Everyone at meeting is allowed to BUY.

Participate to make this a Fun & Successful Day! See also Pg. 5



**We still have MAJOR SHOW CATEGORIES**

**That do not have a volunteer chairperson:**

- STREET BANNER permit & hanging of SIGNS & BANNERS put up, take down
- FLYER & POSTER distribution
- GOLF CARTS supervisor
- In-show SIGNAGE, plus flags, balloons
- SECURITY & work with Sheriff Vol. Unit
- DOOR PRIZES need 26 minimum
- DISPLAY CASE GIFTS need 49+
- KIDS ACTIVITIES & make prizes
- PHOTOGRAPHER
- TABLE COVERINGS supervisor

**YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!**

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from Oct 20, 2019

- Oct. 20, 2019 -CGMS Membership Meeting
- Meeting Called to Order at 1:04 p.m. by Vice President Lynn Becker
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Board Members Absent:
  - President - Anna Christiansen
  - Secretary - Debby Brooks
  - Treasurer - Karen Crabtree
  - Fed. Dir. - Marion Roberts
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Director - Pat Gulyas
- Members Present: 38      Guests: 2
- **TREASURER'S REPORT** -Lynn Becker
 

El Dorado Savings	18,170
Umpqua Checking	10,169
Umpqua Savings	200

Accounting Laptop is complete with all CGMS Treasury information. Karen will provide a readout at each monthly meeting and have copies available at the clubhouse. All 2019 insurance and our property tax has been paid.

This was a HUGE undertaking and everyone should thank Lynn and Karen for all the HOURS and DAYS they contributed to not just getting the job done but getting it done to perfection!

# THANK YOU!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **FIELD TRIPS** -Brad Becker  
All out-of-state trips have been put on "hold" but we may be able to have some local trips. Watch for email(s).
- **NEWSLETTER** -Robin Williams  
RE: Printer. Robin will continue to use her B&W laser printer to print the monthly newsletter for now and when the time comes, will order one for the club pending club approval.
- **SHOPS & EQUIPMENT** -Shop Crew  
Vance reported that the faulty switch has been replaced. Brad reported that the 80-grit belt on the new Gem Show rock polisher is inefficient. After discussion with members, Brad asked that we purchase two new belts:
  1. \$6 silica-carbide 60-grit belt
  2. \$175 diamond 80-grit belt.

*Continued in next column →*

*Shop continued...*

This should cover all types of polishing conditions and we can also compare the efficiency between the two types of grit.

Jerry Culver added that it was very important to keep sufficient water on the diamond belt, especially.

Brad motioned for \$200 to purchase the two belts and Romy Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **DAN BROOKS MEMORIAL BENCH**  
The bench is ready and will need about \$50 in concrete and materials to secure it outside the clubhouse. Loretta Pagni motioned we allot the \$50 and Brad Becker seconded. Motion passed. A volunteer crew will do the honors of installing the bench.

## REMINDER!

PLACE YOUR VOTE FOR



of the YEAR.

BALLOT BOX is on the front desk.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **DECEMBER ELECTION**  
Info from the Nominating Committee:  
Our ELECTION of BOARD OFFICERS will be at the December Christmas meeting BUT, names can still be added to the ballot list.  
  
All Board positions are open for new officers except the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Director positions. Contact the committee to have nominees added to the ballot:  
  
Lynn      beckerbk@sbcglobal.net  
Anna    annachristiansen7132@comcast.net  
Loretta    lorettapagni@aol.com  
Marilyn    marilyndte@gmail.com

*Continued on next Page →*

## Cont.....GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from Oct 20, 2019

● **THANKSGIVING POT LUCK** Marilyn Bodle has graciously volunteered to prepare her lip-smackin' smoked turkey for our November 17<sup>th</sup> POT LUCK DINNER and Brenda Barboza will be whippin' up piles of mashed potatoes. Club members are asked to bring the rest of the fixins.

● **DISPLAY CASE** for November Meeting will be Presented by the Earl Family, AGAIN! HURRAY! And, we were delighted to discover that the wonderful specimens we saw in October were actually the collection of Brandon's son, Benny!

Eleven years old and already a seasoned Rock Hound!



Benny said he didn't have IDs for some of his specimens, so if anyone knows the missing names, please help him with his labels.

● **NOV. MEMBER AUCTION & FUNDRAISER:**

Twice a year, May and November, we provide an opportunity for members via a 75-25% fundraising AUCTION of their rocks, jewelry, books, and all things earth-sciences related.

Members may bring 4 items each, to be entered in a Silent Auction at the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bidding strips will be available before the meeting.

**MEMBER AUCTION SELLER INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Fill out info on bidding strip for each item.
  - a. Your name
  - b. Name of item
  - c. Starting bid price
2. Register your item(s) and the bidding strip(s) with the Treasurer at the front desk.
3. BUYERS' transactions will be handled first.
4. SELLERS must wait until all buyers have paid for the auction items before the Treasurer will issue you your 75% payment.  
(Additional Auction rules on page 3)

● **FIELD TRIP CO-OP BRUNCH** - Lynn B. CFMS will host the Co-op meeting & Pot Luck Brunch on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at our clubhouse. Meeting is open to all interested members starting at 9 am with a meet & greet hour BUT, please RSVP with Lynn if you are planning on attending.

RSVP to: beckerbk@sbcglobal.net

● **CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY** - Lynn Becker OCT 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until done. Huge list of items to be taken care of that will require a HUGE TURNOUT of MEMBERS!

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ● Bathrooms     | ● Kitchen       |
| ● Floors        | ● Storage areas |
| ● Dusting       | ● Shop          |
| ● Cabinet Locks | ● Busted Shed   |

**DON'T LEAVE ALL THE WORK TO THE SAME 5 or 7 MEMBERS!**

● **WEATHERIZE OLD SHOP ROOF**

Until we can tear it down or repair it properly, we need to cover the old shop roof before the rains begin. Phyllis Kyle moved to purchase a good quality tarp. Marilyn Bodle seconded. Motion passed.

● **13 TABLE CLOTHS ARE FINISHED!**

No small feat! See story on page 8.

● **NEW CD APPROVED** - Lynn Becker

We need to transfer some of our savings into a CD. Lynn will look for best deal and transfer \$10,000 into El Dorado CD. Loretta Pagni motioned to approve the move. Romy Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

● **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS for 2020 GEM SHOW** were passed around during the October meeting. **NOTE:**

7 folks signed up to help at the show.

We have 161 current members.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1:40 p.m. by Vice-President Lynn Becker

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted:**

Robin Williams, for Secretary D. Brooks  
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society

# KANSAS and their LIMESTONE FENCE POSTS

“POST ROCK LIMESTONE” by Romy Mueller



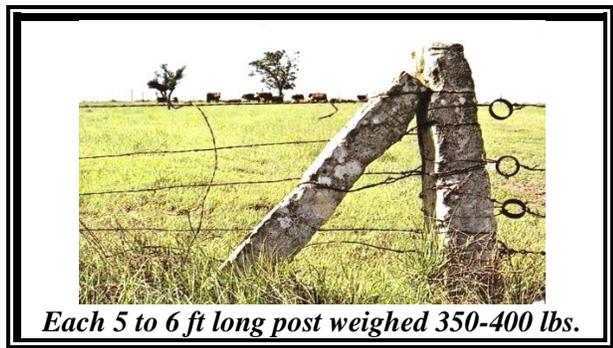
Harold Mueller & Romy

On one of our trips to Kansas, we discovered the Post Rock Limestone used by the early pioneers for fence posts. Trees for posts were almost non-existent due to the drought-like conditions and constant prairie fires!



The limestone was buried just a few inches beneath the top soil so was readily available (see above photo). This limestone was about 8 – 10 inches thick, just about the right dimension for fence posts. In addition to being very uniform in thickness, it was free of joints or linear fractures.

Although it was soft underground, once exposed to air, it became quite resistant to the weather.



Each 5 to 6 ft long post weighed 350-400 lbs.

Some pieces would be used for corner bracing when the barbed wire was strung.

To make a post, the farmers would drill holes in a straight line approximately every 12 inches or so (one place I read “about the length of the hammer handle”). The rain would collect in the holes, freeze in winter, then would easily separate.

“A unique geological feature of the fence post limestone is its characteristic brown streak. No exact reason for this has been made but geologists have found a large presence of fossilized shells and driftwood within this streak. Some thought it to be derived from finely disseminated pyrite...” (1)

Since we didn't get to the museum near Hayes, Kansas, we did not see all of the information available. What a pleasant surprise when we visited a cousin of Harold's and discovered four of these Post Rock fence posts along the road on his property...



The holes for the posts were dug by hand every 15 feet to a depth of 24+ inches. There were about 320 posts per mile.

...and, even more exciting was finding fossils in several of them. It was enough to whet our appetite to learn more about this amazing fence post material.



Fossils dating back to the Late Cretaceous period are preserved in the Limestone of the Greenhorn Formation of the Great Plains Region which covers about

40,000 miles - from Minnesota and Iowa to New Mexico and the Dakotas.

**Cont... POST ROCK LIMESTONE by Romy Mueller**

According to some of our research, this outcrop of Cretaceous-age rocks is prominent in the region. During this period, most of the western half of Kansas was covered by an inland seaway.



As it receded, it left behind the Greenhorn Formation limestone deposits, thus the fossils – including

**Inoceramus labiatus...**



*An extinct genus of fossil marine pteriomorphian bivalves that sort of resembled the related winged pearly oysters. Some have been found 4+ feet in diameter.*

**Collignoceras woolgari...**



*Or, AMMONITE. A relative to the modern squid and octopus, a member of a class of animals known as cephalopods. Period about 65 million years ago.*

*Ammonoids are common in the fossil record and can be traced from as far back as 415 million years ago to the end of the Cretaceous*

...some driftwood and shark teeth.

(We didn't see any shark teeth in the posts at our cousin's farm.)



So, what began as a family visit became a very interesting "field trip" and a brief lesson on early Kansas history/geology.

Submitted by Romy Mueller  
October 2019



NOTE: Photos with single border were taken by Romy Mueller.

Photos with double border are from Google. Info set in Times Roman italics is from Google.



*The limestone known as post rock has had many uses other than for the construction of fence posts. The material's durability makes it an excellent building material.*

*Traditionally homes, churches, businesses, barns, bridges, sidewalks, and even grave markers have been built of the native stone.*

(1) Land of the Post Rock Its Origins, History, and People, by Grace Mulenburg and Ada Swineford; 1975, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence

*Debby Brooks is in New Zealand so I will try to finish her saga of the...*

# Sisterhood of the Travelling Table Covers

First, with some nostalgia from the past...although I doubt that anyone involved will look back on these moments *too* fondly...IT WAS LONG, BACK-BREAKING HARD WORK to "SKIRT" 85 eight-foot tables and 13 jumbo club display tables... all at break-neck speed so that the show could begin setting up!

**First, the men assembled the tables...**



**then the ladies took over.**

The carefully labeled plastic storage containers holding the heavy green plastic sheeting was opened and with the precision of a military drill team, skirting began.



Anna, Paula, Marlynn, ?, & Lois (2012 show)

As a newbie, you didn't *even* think of assisting the skirting team if you hadn't been thoroughly trained in square hospital corners and exact placement of the masking tape. These ladies took their task seriously and worked like a well-oiled machine...right through to complete exhaustion. Year after year after year.  
(2020 will be our 44<sup>th</sup> show!)

Last March we purchased 85 black fitted-cloth table coverings to alleviate skirting the majority of the show tables but that still left the 13 custom-built club tables and that's where our Sisterhood Saga began last August:

160 yards of black fabric for 13 tables!

The table covers had to accommodate a slit down their centers so that the wiring cables could attach to each display case and a brilliant design\* solution was created by the Sisterhood. BUT, the daunting task of sewing\* the 13 custom covers loomed before them. Today, we're proud to announce that after many hours, many hands, and miles and miles of stitching the TASK is COMPLETE!

**THANK YOU!** Because of your hard work and perseverance, no member of the CGMS will ever need to know the anguish of green plastic sheeting and square corners ever again!



\* Sewing Team: (L-R)

- Sandi Kilcrease,
- Dee Demaree,
- Marilyn Bodle,
- Sandy Ostrander
- Cookie Hirn &
- Debby Brooks

\* Design Team: (In alphabetical order)  
Marilyn Bodle, Debby Brooks, Cookie Hirn,  
Phyllis Kyle, Claudia Lundin,  
Sandy Ostrander, and Tom & Sue Reeves

## “SAFETY in the CLUBHOUSE” by Claudia Brackett Lundin

### October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 PROGRAM

As humans we often sink into complacency and Claudia’s PRESENTATION on SAFETY sure knocked me off my soft cushion!

As a club “teacher” with a clubhouse full of “students” WHEN, not IF, there was an emergency I would be accountable for their safety. It sort of made me ill to my stomach to realize how un-prepared I am.

### HOW PREPARED ARE YOU TO HANDLE AN EMERGENCY AT THE CLUBHOUSE?

I actually wrote down every word she spoke but I’m not going to print all of them here right now. I *am* going to give you her

### CHECK LIST

of things you should be aware of so that you can think about it and perhaps be prepared to make the proper safety decisions, too.

#### A. HAVE A CLUB-WIDE PLAN.

FACT: Emergencies are inevitable!

1. Evaluate the risks in advance.
2. Be prepared for the unexpected.

#### B. PREPARE YOUR PARTICIPANTS

1. Establish who is in-charge per event.
2. Keep a DAILY LIST of all people on site.
3. Have current phone numbers for all.
4. Have a pre-assigned MEETING PLACE.
5. Practice your ESCAPE ROUTES.

#### C. ENFORCE SAFETY RULES & USE POSTERS as REMINDERS of RULES

1. No loose clothing, hair, or jewelry
2. Wear OSHA eye protection
3. Wear OSHA breathing apparatus
4. Wear NITRILE gloves (no latex, etc)
5. No food or drink in SHOP AREAS
6. Provide OSHA regulation room ventilation

#### D. TEACH TOXIN HAZARD SAFETY

1. KNOW the toxicity of chemicals in use.
2. Have ANTIDOTES on hand
3. Provide Toxin Info List for everyone

#### E. KEEP UPDATED FIRST AID KIT

1. KNOW WHERE KIT IS LOCATED!
2. Have it separated by type of injury (cuts, burns, chemicals, lungs, eyes)
3. Train leadership in its use.

## THE 4 “P”s

1. PROTECT (Everyone)
2. PLAN (for Emergencies)
3. PREPARE (Teach the Rules)
4. PRACTICE (Enforce the Rules)

These are the RECOMMENDATIONS I took from Claudia’s talk to consider implementing for CFMS SAFETY:

#### 1. BOARD of DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Create a Safety Program
- Teach the Safety Program to leadership
- Teach basics to participants of programs
- Enforce the Safety Program to all
- Utilize training programs of Fire Dept, EMTs, HazMat, OSHA,
- Get Fire Extinguisher training
- Get land-line phone for emergencies - 911

#### 2. PLAN for EVACUATION – Fire, Chemicals,

- Make & post SITE MAP for EMS & fire dept
- Show locations of all flammable items (oil drums, chemicals, gasoline, propane, etc)
- Have list of all occupants readily available

#### 3. PLAN for FIRE: Structure, grass, wildfire

- Install Smoke Alarms in all buildings
- Post evacuation routes
- ...Have plan for each in case of fire:
- Electrical Panel Knowledge outside & inside
- Kitchen
- Water sources & shut offs
- Wood Stove
- Propane Torch use
- Saw & Lapidary Shops
- Storage Containers & Trailers
- Well shed

#### 4. SHOP-USE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Make Toxin list, post in work areas
- Enforce safety precautions

#### 5. include everything from left-hand column

We all hope for blue skies and sun shine BUT we need to be prepared for the inevitable disaster that can raise its ugly head at any moment...sort of like the current random power outages. Stock up on water and batteries and BE PREPARED. It’s coming.

# MINUTES of OCT 20<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING

October 20, 2019 ~ CFMS Board Meeting

● **Call to Order** at 10:15 a.m. by Vice-President Lynn Becker

● **Board Members Absent:**

President - Anna Christiansen  
 Secretary - Debby Brooks  
 Treasurer - Karen Crabtree  
 Fed. Dir. - Marion Roberts  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Director - Pat Gulyas

**NOTE:** Without a quorum, the board will not be able to vote on any major actions. Miscellaneous items will be presented for member vote today, at the October 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

● **NEWSLETTER** RE: Printer. Robin will continue to use her B&W laser printer to print the monthly newsletter for now and when the time comes, will order one for the club pending club approval.

● **TREASURER** The CFMS Accounting Books are now up-to-date and loaded into the club laptop.

The Liability Insurance has been paid and form was adjusted "to actual" so we may see an increase in our insurance payment.

A Step-by-Step process for the yearly Financial Review (a.k.a. "Audit") is being created.

The 2018 Financial Review (a.k.a. "Audit") is set for November 2019.

● **The replacement lid for the big saw** is still pending due to manufacturer inactivity. Bob will continue his search for a lid. Board members unofficially discussed multiple options that might be considered for replacing the lid. No decision was made.

● **The Dan Brooks Memorial Bench** is complete and ready to install at clubhouse but will need approval of \$50 to purchase concrete and installation supplies.

## NEW BUSINESS

● **CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY** set for Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. Clean-up will begin at 9 am and all shops will be closed. List of items to clean:

- Bathrooms
- Floors
- Dusting
- Cabinet Locks
- Kitchen
- Storage areas
- Shop
- Busted Shed

● **CGMS will host the FIELD TRIP CO-OP** meeting at our clubhouse on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meet & Greet begins at 9 a.m. Brunch will be a POT LUCK brought by all attending. Members are welcome to attend. RSVP Lynn.

● **DISPLAY CASE FITTED TABLE COVERS** are done. Extra fabric will be used for back-up covers since it was determined that it was not suitable for vest-making.

● **FIRE WOOD AUCTION** It was decided that we would place the oak rounds, from the downed tree in the yard, for sale at the silent auction today with a U-HAUL starting bid of \$75.

● **WEATHER-PROOF OLD SHOP ROOF** Since we are not in a position to do anything about the old shop at this time (remove vs fix) and the fact that we still have important items stored in it, members have determined that for now we should at least purchase a quality tarp to keep it water-proof through the coming rainy weather. We will ask the membership to approve \$200 for the tarp today.

● **PURCHASE OF CD** Lynn suggested we consider putting \$10,000 into a CD at El Dorado Savings Bank. She will research best type vs length of time required.

● **GEM SHOW** To save on printing costs, we will print flyers 6-up on donated goldenrod legal size paper for 2020 show.

● **MEETING ADJOURNED** at 11:22 a.m. by Vice-President Lynn Becker,

● **MINUTES SUBMITTED** by Robin Williams for Debby Brooks, Sec. Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

# OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup> WORK DAY PHOTOS



For those who remember the German Tale about the Shoemaker and the Elves well, here's our version... although our "Elves" work in the daylight. I'm sure you all know what it takes to keep your own home clean and tidy and guess what?...your Clubhouse is no different. This tiny handful of members is giving up their time and energy to give us all a clean and tidy place to meet each week. As a result of working together they have developed a group friendship and comradery we should all be envious of! Thank you for all you do for us, week after week after week. Bless you all!



I haven't received any write up about the work day so I don't know who did what so we'll have to wait for that bit of info in the next newsletter. I'll keep you posted.

Again, THANK YOU for MAKING our CLUB BEAUTIFUL!

