

**Fossil Trove Found in CALAVERAS COUNTY!  
Declared One of the Most Significant finds in State History!**



**Mastodon teeth**

**Robin Williams, Newsletter Editor  
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 517  
Angels Camp, CA 95222**



*The Golden Frog*  
**JUNE 2021 EDITION**

**Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**

P.O. Box 517  
Angels Camp, CA 95222

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.

**JUNE BIRTHSTONE**



Alexandrite aka Chrysoberyl

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



**IT'S TRUE!**

We are having our 1<sup>st</sup> POT LUCK since the 2020 pandemic left us dazed and confined to our homes!

Break out those recipes and let's fill the clubhouse with members and guests!

**Anna Christiansen,  
2021 President**

annachristiansen7132@comcast.net

**PLEASE, DO NOT ATTEND IF:**

- You are sick.
- You have been traveling.
- You have been exposed to Covid.
- You have Covid.

JUNE ~ TABLE of CONTENTS	
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**JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Info**



**POT LUCK RETURNS!**

**Lunch at NOON!**

**MEETING STARTS at 1:00!**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, JUNE 20, 2021
- Meet & Greet at 11:00 a.m.
- POT LUCK LUNCH at NOON
- General Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- opt: Board Meeting TBA

The SUN is shining and it's time for all things ROCK & MINERAL!  
June holds two exciting events - one close to home, the Mariposa Rock Swap, and the other a few extra miles away in Ely, Nevada.  
Both are open to those wishing to rent a space and SELL as well as those who SWAP AND SHOP 'till you DROP!  
Dates and Details on Page 10.

It's time to vote for



**of the Year ~ 2020**

Details will be coming soon from Club Secretary Debby. Be thinking of the member you feel has carried us victoriously through this past insane year!

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from MAY 16, 2021

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society May 16, 2021

**Call to Order** at 11:39 a.m. by President Anna Christiansen

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Introduction:** 20 members 0 Guests

### Board Members Absent:

Federation Director: Marion Roberts  
Newsletter Editor: Robin Williams

**Minutes:** April 18, 2021

- Cookie Hirn made a motion to accept the April 18, 2021 minutes as presented. Bob Young seconded the motion. Motion passed. Minutes accepted as presented without changes.

**Club Correspondence:** Debby Brooks

- No correspondence noted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lynn Becker

- Lynn reported the March-April bank balances, income and expenses.

- An invoice was received for the club's portion of the road work completed on Meacham Ranch Rd. Brad Becker made a motion to send a check for the road work. Claudia Brackett seconded the motion, motion passed by majority. Lynn will send a check to pay the invoice for the road work.



Pay attention... Marilyn Bodle is considering teaching Silver-Smithing in the near future. Don't miss this opportunity!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Federation Report:** Phyllis Kyle

- Update on Camp Paradise. There is a provision made for "day trippers." Day Trippers are camp participants who would not be staying or eating at the camp, there is a daily charge or \$255.00 per week. Currently all attendees are required to be fully vaccinated with Covid-19 vaccine.

**Field Trips:** Bob Young

- Last trip was great. The Ely show is happening; Bob will email show details to club members.

**Historian/Sunshine:** Anna Christiansen

- Loretta is improving and hopefully will be able to go home in the near future.

**Newsletter Editor:**

- Robin needs MUG SHOTS of all the new members...2019 to 2021! Email them to: robinski@yahoo.com

## SHOP/CLASSES/TAILGATE:

Brad Becker – Bob Young –Lynn Becker

### SAW SITUATION:

- 3 saws not working. Club Members not able to cut rocks at this time until the saws are repaired. Bob young will get an estimate on the cost of repairing the saws and will report back at the June meeting.

- Saw for sale: Bob will check on a saw that is for sale. Claudia Brackett made a motion to check on the saw and purchase if within the approved parameters. Brad Becker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Bob will report at our next meeting about the purchase of the saw.

**Cont...GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from MAY 16, 2021**

**CLASSES?**

● Marilyn Bodle shared with Lynn that she is willing to host a silver smithing class at her house. Lynn will report back details of possibility having a class at Marilyn's.

**TAILGATE as ANNUAL GEM SHOW?**

● The tailgate discussion centered on the shift of the annual show is possibly moving from an annual event at the Fairgrounds to a tailgate venue at the clubhouse.

● There is the idea of possibly doing 2 events a year ~ fall and spring. A "Show by Committee" will be forming to plan and make decisions on the future of the event.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Hand Held Lenses:** Rich Lundin

Rich Lundin has hand held lenses for sale. They are \$20/each. See Rich to purchase.

**Club Logo Clothing Update:** Anna C.

Anna's daughter is ordering the appropriate shirt according to the order form. Lynn reviewed the prices:

- Polo S-XL \$17.50- \$19.50
- Polo child \$12.00
- Hats \$15.00
- T-shirts \$12.00

**NEW BUSINESS**



**JUNE 20, 2021  
MEETING:  
POT LUCK  
RETURNS!**

● **There will be a Pot Luck at this meeting!** Bring a dish to share. Food can be hot, cold, salads, desserts, typical potluck style. Ok to bring own food if not comfortable eating at a congregate meal.

**CAMP PARADISE TEACHERS SHINE!**

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society is well represented at Camp Paradise and is proud of its members that share their talent with others.

● Tammy DeJarnett has been selected to be an instructor at Camp Paradise this season. She will be an instructor for soft stone carving.



● Pat Gulyas will be returning as an instructor teaching the making of Ming/Gem trees.

● Ron and Sandy Kilcrease will be returning to teach the art of wire wrapping.

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:21 p.m. by President Anna Christiansen.

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted,**

Debby Brooks  
Secretary, CGMS 2021

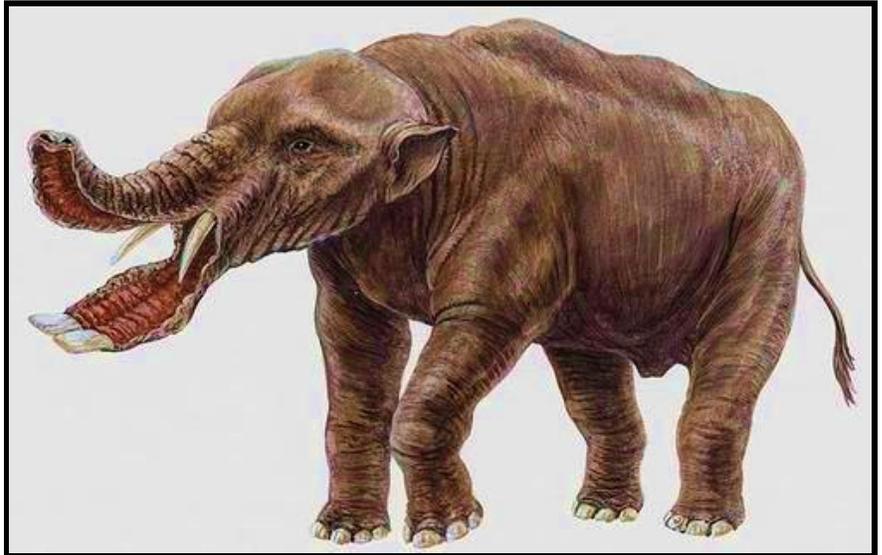
When you're at the family cookout and no one wants to talk about your rock collection.



## How would you like to look out your window and see this in your front yard?!

**“This” would be  
a 4-tusked  
gomphothere-  
Precursor to our  
modern-day  
elephant.**

**YIKES!**



**(CBS13 – May 21, 2021) FOSSILS  
FOUND in Calaveras County!**

– the East Bay Municipal Utility District - EBMUD- announced that a trove of 5- to 10-million-year-old fossils of prehistoric species was discovered in the Mokelumne River watershed in Calaveras County.

The fossils include a four-tusked gomphothere (photo above), two-tusked mastodon, rhinoceros, camel, horse, 400-lb salmon with spiked teeth, bird, tortoise, and tapir with many other fossils still to be identified.

Greg Francek, a ranger for EBMUD, found the fossils last summer (2020) when he was surveying near Valley Springs.

It is the largest find of vertebrates in California since the La Brea Tar Pits and EBMUD has partnered with Cal State Univ Chico to create several excavation sites and has also invited institutions from around the world to participate in the excavation.

Newly discovered fossils can be found at the California State University Chico Gateway Science Museum.

### Gomphothere Fossil Found

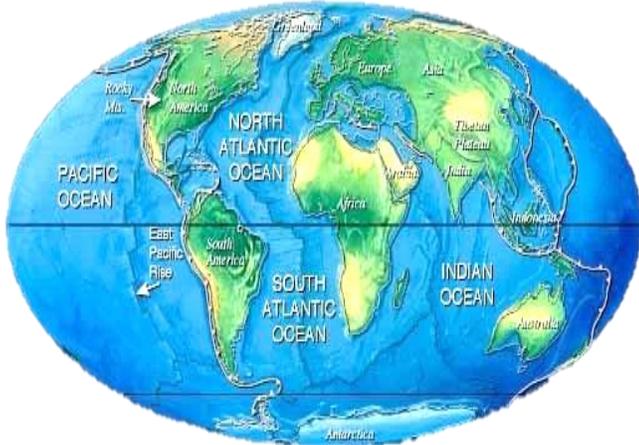


“This new find is highly significant for both the sheer volume and diversity of the fossils,” said Dr. Russell Shapiro, Professor of the CSU Chico Dept of Geo. & Enviro. Sciences and a lead scientist on this discovery.

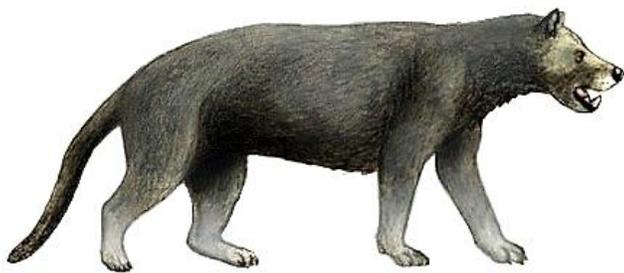
“What’s exciting to me is seeing the creatures that I thought to be forest dwellers and the creatures that I should have liked to be in the grasslands actually mixed together.”

Todd Green, a prof. and chair. of the Depart. of Geo. and Environ. Sciences in Chico: “This was the area where the only fossil reported was horse teeth. And now it seems that we are hanging out with all these different kinds of animals.”

# Life in the Miocene Era ~ 5 to 10 million years ago



The continents were pretty much in their present locations and grasslands were expanding, opening the way for grazing animals. Snakes flourished and 95% of our modern plants already existed.



Sabre-toothed sea otter

Kelp (brown algae) forests appeared in the oceans and became one of Earth's most productive ecosystems with otters, fish and invertebrates. And who can forget the Megalodon! A full-grown megalodon could have been up to 54 feet long!

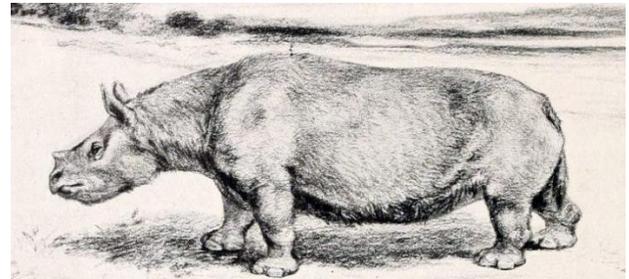


Its teeth were 7.5 inches long!

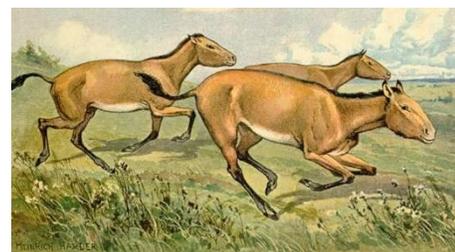
But here in sunny Calaveras County we now know we had our share of unique animals, many that most of us thought only occurred on other continents!



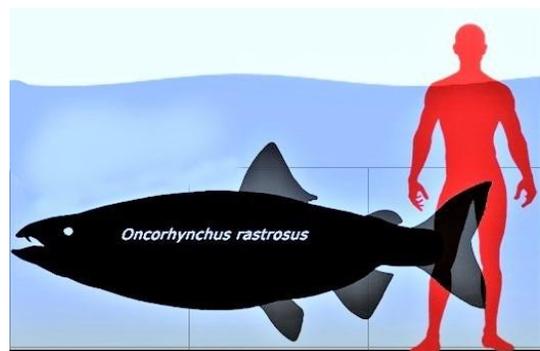
Mastodons existed from the late Miocene until they became extinct approximately 11,000 years ago - due to climate change and over-hunting by the Clovis people!



Horn-less rhinoceros roamed our foothills...



Along with 3-toed horses...



And, 400-lb salmon!

**More About the 2020 Calaveras County Fossil Discovery:**

“The fossil recovery and high concentration of fossils point to the Valley Springs watershed area once being ‘made up of multiple river channels with an abundant and diverse grassland and forested ecosystem,’ the EBMUD said. The new research also suggests that the Sierra Nevada began to rise tens of millions of years ago, and these fossils represent a significant bookmark in that story millions of years in the making.”



These pre-historic animals could have been found wandering around your Calaveras County neighborhood. Tapirs & gazelles & camels, OH MY!



Found: Mastodon tusks.

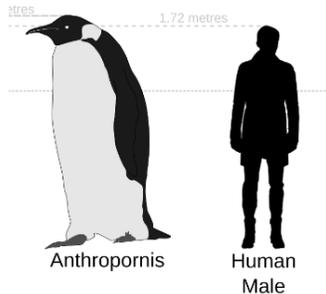


Found: 10 million year old Tortoise shell

# MORE AMAZING MIOCENE CREATURES...

## THE MIOCENE BIRDS

All of the other modern bird families had pretty much been established by this time, although some were a bit larger than you might expect...6-foot tall penguins being the most notable examples.



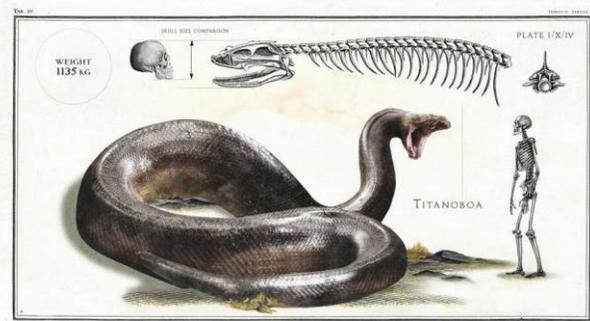
Then there was the PHORUSRHACOS, the MIOCENE TERROR BIRD (now extinct, whew!)



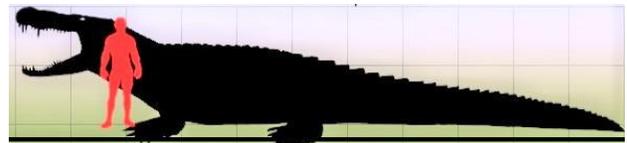
And 200-lb flying birds like the South Amer. ARGENTAVIS with 25-ft wingspans.



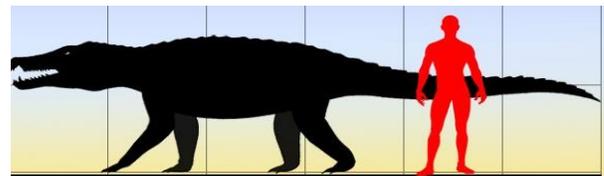
## THE MIOCENE REPTILES



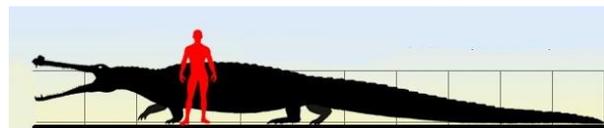
The TITANOBOA...40 FEET OF HORROR was scary enough but the Miocene epoch was most notable for its gigantic crocodiles!



Purussaurus, a South American caiman.



Quinkana, an Australian crocodile.



Indian Rhamphosuchus, which may have weighed as much as two or three tons.

## THE MIOCENE MARINE LIFE

Pinnipeds (seals & walrus), sea otters, fish and prehistoric dolphins shared the seas with 50-ton prehistoric sharks and even bigger SPERM whales: The Livyatan.

At 44–57 ft it was one of the largest predators to have ever existed. Its teeth measured 1.2 ft. and are the largest biting teeth of any known animal! The whale may have interacted with megalodon, competing with it for a similar food source. Its extinction was likely caused by a cooling event at the end of the Miocene which resulted in a drop in food populations.



LIVYATAN vs MEGALODON

JUNE 2021						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 SHOP 10-2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 SHOP 10-2
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 SHOP 10-2 & sale in MARIPOSA!
20 Meet-Greet 11 a.m. POTLUCK at NOON	21	22	23	24 Trip To Ely...	25 Ely 2-day Swap	26 SHOP 10-2 & sale in Ely!
27	28	29	30			

JUNE BIRTHDAYS	JUNE 2021 ~ UPCOMING EVENTS											
<p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sandi Kilcrease</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Marilyn Bodle</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Bill Hirn</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Pat Iwata</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Amy Sturdivant</td><td>23</td></tr> </table>	Sandi Kilcrease	6	Marilyn Bodle	9	Bill Hirn	9	Pat Iwata	21	Amy Sturdivant	23	 <p><b>JUNE 19<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Rockin Tailgate</b>  <b>Rock Swap</b>                  SAT. 10 - 5</p> <p>At the Fairgrounds parking lot in  <b>MARIPOSA</b>  <b>Buy, Sell &amp; Swap</b>                  Vendors are welcome!                  Booth space is \$25 per vendor                  (as much space as you need),                  payable the day of the event.                  You must provide your own tables,                  shade, chairs, etc.                  You can message us on Facebook                  or email <a href="mailto:mgmc@sti.net">mgmc@sti.net</a>.</p>	<p><b>JUNE 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b></p> <p><b>ELY ROCK &amp; GEM SWAP</b>  <b>BUY, SELL, TRADE</b></p> <p><b>10:00AM - 4:00PM</b>  <b>White Pine PUBLIC MUSEUM</b></p> <p>-2000 ALTMAN STREET-                  \$7 entry includes museum access.</p> <p><b>Vendors from around the West!</b></p> <p>VISIT US AT:  <a href="http://www.wpmuseum.org">www.wpmuseum.org</a></p> <p>(775) 289-4710                  @WhitePinePublicMuseum</p>
Sandi Kilcrease	6											
Marilyn Bodle	9											
Bill Hirn	9											
Pat Iwata	21											
Amy Sturdivant	23											
 <p>Alexandrite is pleochroic: it appears blueish-green in natural sunlight and reddish-purple under artificial light.</p>												