



~ PREHISTORIC BEADS ~

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

SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

*The Golden Frog*

**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.

**SEPT. BIRTHSTONE**



**SAPPHIRES**

**2021 BOARD of DIRECTORS**



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



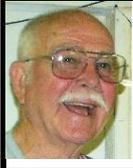
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Lynn Becker  
[beckerbk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beckerbk@sbcglobal.net)



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



Election for Treasurer will be at the Sept 2021 general membership meeting.



**FEDERATION DIRECTOR**  
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**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN**  
Bob Young  
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**1<sup>ST</sup> DIRECTOR**  
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**2<sup>ND</sup> DIRECTOR**  
Jim Vicars  
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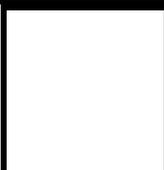
**3<sup>RD</sup> DIRECTOR**  
Phyllis Kyle  
[boomakyle@yahoo.com](mailto:boomakyle@yahoo.com)



**ADDITIONAL CLUB POSITIONS:**



**SHOP Steward**  
Bill Bruce  
[dbruce@hughes.net](mailto:dbruce@hughes.net)



**Shop Steward**  
Neil Mckeown  
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**PROGRAMS**  
Rich Lundin  
[wondjinaman@gmail.com](mailto:wondjinaman@gmail.com)

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



Well, CFMS sure knew that I was not monkeying around when I set out to get the certificates and pins for Marilyn & Murray as our RockHounds of the Year.  
No sirreee!

Granted, it took a while but we finally got them... just a few years after the fact.

Thanks for getting the cake, Debby.  
It was delicious.

Don't forget to cast your ballot for 2021 Rockhound(s) of the Year. Remember...this is for the person (s) who unselfishly volunteered to keep our club alive and healthy NOT who collected the most rocks! Lol We'll announce our winner(s) at the Sept. meeting. Get there early and vote!

**Anna Christiansen  
2021 President**

**SEPT 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Info**

**POT LUCK Lunch  
at NOON!  
MEETING STARTS at 1:00!**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
- Meet & Greet at 11:00 a.m.
- POT LUCK LUNCH at NOON
- General Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- opt: Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.

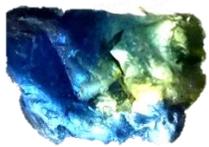
**Board Meeting  
To discuss policy  
10:30 a.m.**



**Lapis at its artistic best!**

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## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from AUG 15, 2021



Australian Sapphire



Padparadscha  
Sapphire

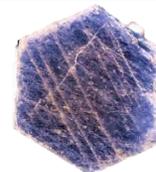
- Meeting Called to order at 12:48 p.m. by President Anna Christiansen.

- Pledge of Allegiance

### ● BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Secretary Debby Brooks  
Federation Director Marion Roberts  
3<sup>rd</sup>-Year Director Phyllis Kyle

- MEMBERS PRESENT: 18 GUESTS: 0



Sapphire Crystal



Faceted Sapphires

### PAST MINUTES

A motion was made by Brad Becker and seconded by Sandi Kilcrease to accept the minutes of the previous CGMS monthly meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.  
Motion voted on and passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lynn Becker is mentoring Claire Mathison for the position of CGMS Treasurer. Claire gave the treasurer's report and has posted the monthly documents on the chalk board for members to review. All financial activities are up to date.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FEDERATION REPORT

Federation Report was given by Sandi Kilcrease as Registrar of Camp Paradise. Due to Covid concerns and health cancellations, there were about 30 spaces still available for both Week One and Week two.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT

FIELD TRIP REPORT was presented by Bob Young regarding the Gabbs Nevada Trip for the end of August (28, 29, & 30). Emails have been sent out to the club with all the details and hopefully temperatures will hold to below 95°.

### HISTORIAN/SUNSHINE REPORT

- Loretta Pagni is still at Avalon and really needs to hear from club members with a cheery card. Mail to: Loretta Pagni, c/o Avalon Health Care, 19929 Greenley Road, Sonora, Ca 95370.
- Phyllis Kyle is recovering from her surgery.  
Her address: Phyllis Kyle, 327 Del Mont St., Lodi, CA 95242
- Rich Lundin and Claudia Brackett are both dealing with injuries but are improving.  
Their address: 22510 Confidence Rd. Twain Harte, CA 95383
- Marion and Vivien Roberts are both dealing with serious health issues and need your prayers.  
Their address: 1505 Plumas Ave. Modesto, CA 95351

Continued...GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from AUG 15, 2021

### NEWSLETTER REPORT

- Robin is in dire need of photo headshots of all the new members since 2019. Thank you, Bill & Carolyn McCrea, for sending me your “mug” shots. Use your phone’s camera and take a selfie and email it to: [robinski@yahoo.com](mailto:robinski@yahoo.com)

### SHOP REPORT

- Bill Bruce and Bob Young brought members up to date with the saw repairs. Still chasing an electrical short in one. Regarding those they took to Idaho: the 12-inch should be ready in about two weeks. The 18-inch is done. The 24-inch needs rewiring.
- We have a donated 24-inch cut saw that needs a new lid. Unfortunately, we’ve been unable to find or have made a lid so the saw is taking up space. Brad Becker made a motion to see if Idaho Tony would be interested in taking it as a trade or as discount for the payments on the saws he is currently working on for CGMS. Pat Gulyas seconded.  
Motion passed. If he says no, we’ll sell it at a future club fundraising event.
- Un-official Treasurer Claire Mathison has discovered that the Shop Fees are not being properly documented and has made signs to be posted at the Clubhouse & Shops:

**SHOP DAY NOTICE. STOP!**

**DID YOU SIGN IN AT THE  
CLUBHOUSE  
AND PAY YOUR FEE(S) YET?**



### OLD BUSINESS

#### ROCK HOUNDS OF THE YEAR for 2019

It’s been a long time coming but the CFMS has finally honored our 2018 recipients with their Certificates and Pins for Rock Hound of the Year. Debby Brooks ordered a delicious carrot cake with cream cheese frosting to celebrate our amazing WINNERS: MURRAY SMITH and MARILYN BODLE.

Unfortunately, Marilyn and Murray were unable to attend their party so the members present for the Pot Luck Lunch ate up every last bite of the yummy CARROT CAKE with CREAM CHEESE FROSTING! To add to the irony of the day, Debby was out-of-town herself and didn’t get a single bite of

**CARROT CAKE with CREAM CHEESE FROSTING**  
to celebrate Marilyn & Murray or even her own masterful cake-ordering talents!

**Continued...GENERAL MEETING MINUTES from AUG 15, 2021****ROCK HOUNDS OF THE YEAR for 2021**

Ballots are being collected and will be counted at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for our current 2021 ROCK HOUND(s) of the YEAR Award. These Covid-19 months have taken a toll on attendance and at last count, there were 3 ballots in the Ballot Box.

**2020 RENTAL DEPOSIT REFUND REPORT**

We have done our part and are now waiting for the Fairgrounds to hold a Board meeting to approve our refund for Covid cancellation of our 2020 Gem Show.

**ELECTION of NEW TREASURER REPORT**

As outlined in the August newsletter, per our bylaws the replacement of a board vacancy will be made by the vote of the membership. To date, only one member has volunteered to take on this very important task, Claire Mathison. Nominations can be presented up to the time of the election which will be held at the September meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS****MEMBER AUCTION REPORT**

Bob Young motioned that we hold our MEMBER AUCTION FUNDRAISER at our 2021 October Meeting. Jim Vicars seconded. Motion passed. That gives members about 6 weeks to prepare 1 to 4 items to be auctioned off via a Silent Auction with 75% of the sale price presented to the Seller and 25% to the club.

**NOVEMBER TAIL GATE SALE & PARKING REPORT**

Lynn Becker discussed the need to expand our visitor parking options during our Club events. There is a small area of land adjacent to our vacant lot that could provide more parking. Lynn proposed that the club consider making a request from the land owner to either use the parcel or possibly to put in a bid to purchase the "lot". Debby Brooks and Lynn Becker will go to the county assessors office for parcel and title information on the lot. Robin Williams motioned to begin the inquiry with the owners. Pat Gulyas seconded. Motion passed.

Our Fall Tail Gate Fundraiser is scheduled for the second weekend in November.

**AUGUST ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Patsy Gonzales was scheduled to present a program on the Chemistry of Rocks and Minerals but unfortunately broke her leg. Robin Williams was scheduled to present a program on Camp Paradise Activities & Logistics but unfortunately doesn't have a laptop and Rich Lundin unfortunately was not leaving the house with his due to escalating Covid Delta variant concerns in our two counties.

● Meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m. by President Anna Christiansen.

● Minutes Respectfully submitted,

Robin Williams, Assistant to Secretary Debby Brooks  
Member, CGMS



## PROUD TO BE A "BEADER"



It all started a few weeks ago. I thought I'd write a few words for The Golden Frog about BEADS. I mean, "Beads - what's there to tell?!"

It seems that Beads and Beaders hold a low position in the Lapidary World, (made clear to us when we were labeled as "Just Beaders").

Not to be deterred, I began my research, secretly hoping to bring dignity to the Art of Beading equal to Finding The Cure For Cancer.

So, I began my research. Oh, my goodness! Let me share what I have found about BEADS and their profound influence in human history - right up to today. Let's start with sustainability.



Archeologists recently discovered that **NEANDERTHALS** began making BEADS and MINING for mineral pigments to paint them over 200,000 years ago!

### BEAD FACTORY FOUND!



A large-scale bead-making factory dated c. 35,000 BC. Was found in Castelmerle Valley, France

Tens of thousands of beads were made and even woven into clothing. There were even separate "factory" stations, each specializing in one part of the process.

It is believed that the standard 6 mm beads found there were produced by women!

### 100,000 year old PAINT KIT FOUND!

Blombos Cave, South Africa

A complex tool kit was uncovered providing the oldest known evidence for the use of containers and for the production of an ochre pigment (paint).

Aside from food, water, tools, clothes and a warm home, mankind *should have been* perfectly content. And yet...



...in the midst of hunting scary wild cats they took the time to set up **BEADING & PAINTING GROUPS!?**



- What's even more amazing is that their methods for making hand-made & hand-painted beads are still being used today!

The "past" doesn't seem so far away now, does it?

**BEADS...THEY'RE NOT JUST A PASSING FANCY!**

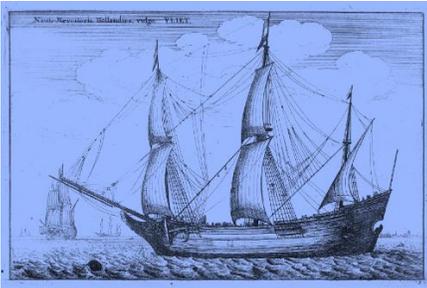
**The 2021**  
Global Glass Beads market is valued at  
**\$1,969,800,000**  
(that's BILLIONS in U.S. dollars)  
and...the 2021

Global Gemstone and Jewelry market was forecast to reach  
**\$331,000,000.**

Mankind has been designing, making and mass-producing BEADS for many, thousands of years and it doesn't look like BEADING is going to stop, folks!

Note: Every website had a different date for every discovery so let's just say "a long time ago".

# WHAT EXACTLY WERE BEADS USED FOR?...



Well, one brilliant use was as **BALLAST**!

Yep. By 1500 AD, Europeans began sailing the oceans looking for yummy spices and they took with them the "time-proven currency of the world"...**BEADS!** In fact, they took **TONS** of beads in all sizes and shapes and materials. And being efficient sailors, they left Europe with thousands upon thousands of beads packed in the bowels of the ship as **BALLAST** for the long trip south.

## Each Culture Around The World View's BEADS With Different Eyes

Beads are used for:

1. Indicators of royalty or power
2. Adornment
3. Status, wealth
4. Currency, Trading
5. Spiritual prayer & rosaries
6. Burials
7. Self-decoration
8. Clothing
9. and as legal contracts or treaties  
(see "wampum" below)

Even Lewis & Clark in their travels through North America took **33**

**pounds of beads** with them!

The indigenous peoples loved the sky blue and white ones.

A single beaver pelt "cost":

- 6 (six) Hudson's Bay beads;
- 3 (three) light blue Padre (Crow) beads;
- 2 (two) larger transparent blue beads.



**WAMPUM:** white and purple beads made from the "quahog" or hard-shell clam.



Native Americans along the eastern coast had their own beads. These beads were used for personal decoration, and when arranged on a string in a particular color pattern they were even used to convey secret messages between various tribes.

Belts woven from Wampum beads were often used in ratifying treaties: a specific pattern of colors becomes the treaty document. **There are even records of court judgments and tuition in some of the early American Colleges as being payable in Wampum!**

Only a small portion of the shell could be used to make the **PURPLE** bead, resulting in purple beads being twice the value of the **WHITE** beads. The Dutch and English colonists established factories in New Jersey to speed up the production of Wampum, thus becoming one of the earliest industries in America and Wampum remained a medium of trade exchange until 1792, when the US government established coinage laws.

**This is why I edit Net articles:**

**BEADS: HOW OLD ARE THEY?**

By Robert G. Bednarik  
Archaeologist, Anthropologist

This article scrutinizes the available empirical record in the light of taphonomic logic to translate the known spatial and temporal distributions of such remains [BEADS] into epistemologically meaningful pronouncements about the significance of the primary evidence.

Some of the earliest objects with indisputably human-made perforations we know of are the two perforated pendants from the Repolusthöhle in Styria, Austria.

If their age estimate is correct, they are in the order of 300,000 years old. They were excavated with a lithic industry variously described as Levalloisian, Tayacian, and Clactonian, which is in fact an undifferentiated Lower Paleolithic assemblage clearly free of Mousterian elements.

# CONFESSIONS of a BEAD SNOB

I have to admit that when I started this report I knew less than nothing about BEAD history.



After reading a zillion articles I *still* know next to nothing about BEAD history! There is so much to learn and so many thousands of BEADS to cover. **Beads have touched every aspect of every culture on earth.**

**Mankind seems to crave beads!**

How can an object with a hole drilled through it bring so much joy to so many for so long?



When I started this bead article,

**I was a Bead Snob!**

I was pretty persnickety about my beads... ew, that one's lumpy, ew, that one's crooked, ew, the hole is wonky on that one...

Then I started my research...WHAT?...they were making beads 115,000+ years ago!

I tried lampwork bead making at Camp Paradise. It was extremely fun but *were MY BEADS PERFECTLY ROUND?* Nope. So...

Before I thumbed my nose shouldn't I have walked a mile in their shoes? I mean, have *you* ever tried to make a bead? How about ten beads exactly alike? A 7-layer glass bead? Organic, molten glass bead? No kidding they weren't exactly plumb and square 115,000 years ago! And when was the last time you tried to drill a hole in a rock? Perfectly? How about bone? or shells? or how about gemstone chips the size of sesame seeds?



Royal Ghana Bodom Bead



African Etched Beads

So now imagine what it was like 115,000+ years ago! ROCKS! They had rocks for tools! Rocks to drill their holes! And these folks were serious about their bead making: A cache of ~5000 glass beads was recovered from a small pit in at Sibudu Cave from its Iron Age layer!



Ancient Phoenician Glass Beads



Glass Trade Beads

Get out your brain calculator...Workers would spend 3 days or more for each bead! How long did it take to make 5,000 beads? Gobsnacked! Forty-one years! Then, remember the **TONS** of beads they used for ballast in the sailing ships???

**TOTALLY GOBSMACKED!**

As I learned about the history of the different BEADS and all the skill that goes into creating them, the years of practice and perfecting, the traditions and patters passed down for *hundreds* of generations, I acquired a true appreciation for the BEAD MAKERS AND THEIR WONKY BEADS!.



yellow jacket chevron bead



1700s Trade Bead

In fact, I'm quite in love with them. I think I just jump-started my beading habit. And now I know where to find the ones I really like! Looks like I'll be adding to the \$1,969,800,000 Global Glass Beads market this year.



And to think it all started with a small round hole 115,000+ years ago!

**Bead Makers...Don't Stop Now!**

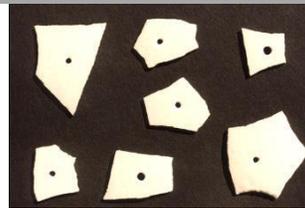
# A Potpourri: WHO made WHAT BEADS WHEN?



Prehistoric: stone



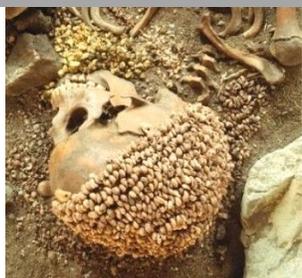
Prehistoric: shell



Prehistoric: ostrich egg shell beads



Stone Age: bead hole pecking 'drills'



Mesolithic: shell cap



Bronze Age: rock



10,000-year-old beaded clothing



Trade Beads: India



Bead Workshop



Poverty Point, Arkansas: DOG 5,000 BC



20,000 year old Stone pendant

Circa 1480 BCE, Pharaoh Thutmose III labored in a glass factory (presumably by choice) and is credited with inventing a new hue of blue glass.



Millefiori: Glass Beads originated in Egypt, flourished in Venice.

Up until +/- 1480 AD beads were all hand crafted... **one-at-a-time.**



1,000 AD: beaded Viking necklace



Ute head bands



African Waist Beads



Carnelian: Prehistoric



Hudson Bay Trade Beads



Ghana: Present



2000 BC Egypt Amethyst



China: 300 BC



1500 AD: Trade Beads

## LAPIS LAZULI

Lapis Lazuli is the alternate September birth stone to Sapphire so, since I had a whole page to fill I thought I'd look up some interesting facts about Lapis.

“Lapis is a rock of vivid dark blue, like the sky at twilight or the ocean depths. Often it is flecked with specks of pyrite - fool's gold - which sparkle like tiny stars.”

The greatest reserves of this "blue treasure" are in Afghanistan, where it has been mined from the same small area of a single river valley in the remote Afghan province of Badakshan for more than 7,000 years.

Its main mineral is blue LAZURITE.

$(\text{Na,Ca})_8(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6(\text{S,Cl,SO}_4,\text{OH})_2$ .

Lapis forms in marble and often contains white calcite and flecks of pyrite.



To be called "lapis lazuli," a rock must have a distinctly blue color and contain at least 25% blue lazurite.

- Beads made of Lapis have been dated back to 3,000 BC. and more.
- Lapis pendants mined here decorated the necklaces of the princesses of the first known city, **Ur** in Mesopotamia.
- Ancient Egyptian craftsmen used lapis from the same source to trace out the eyebrows of the young pharaoh Tutankhamun for his magnificent funeral mask.
- Thousands of years later it was ground into dust and made into the most prized blue pigments called ultramarine.
- Medieval monks used the ultramarine inks and paints it created to illustrate exquisite manuscripts.
- Renaissance painters are said to have reserved its unique colours to depict the robes of the Virgin Mary.

Lapis Lazuli has been considered to be worth more than gold for centuries and Afghanistan has been the world's primary source.



# SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 SHOP 10-2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 SHOP 10-2
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 SHOP 10-2
19 Meet-Greet 11 a.m. POTLUCK at NOON	20	21	22	23	24	25 SHOP 10-2
26	27	28	29	30	<b>CANCELLED</b> <b>MURPHYS</b> <b>STREET FAIR</b> <b>SAT. OCT. 2</b>	

SEPT. BIRTHDAYS	UPCOMING EVENTS	
<p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</b></p> <p>Kyle Myrick 1 Andrew Brown 11 Richard Pilpott 15 Samuel Theule 20 Cyndra Nelson 25</p> 	<p>October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Murphys, CA <b>CANCELLED</b> 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Murphys Gold Rush Main Street Faire &amp; Grape Stomp Main Street, Murphys One Day Only Saturday 10 am – 5 pm</p> <p>Plan now to attend this great event &amp; come visit your fellow club members in their booths!</p>	<p>October 30-31, 2021 Mariposa CA Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club <b>Mountains of Minerals Show</b> <b>Mariposa Co. Fairgrounds</b>  5007 Fairgrounds Rd. Mariposa CA  Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 Ppm  Contact: Meredith Meehan, mgmc@sti.net  Website: <a href="http://mariposagemclub.org">http://mariposagemclub.org</a></p>