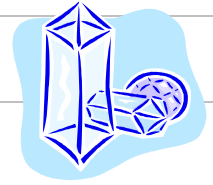


THE ROCKORDER

May 2007

Vista Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 1641, Vista, CA 92085



To contribute articles and event notices, email to: Rockorder@sbcglobal.net

COME TO THE TOURMALINE TALK

Tourmalines will be the topic at the May 17th program of the Vista Gem and Mineral Society. Simon King and Gladys Walker, long-time experts on tourmaline, will be presenting. They will

be showing a slide program of the newest find of tourmaline and apatite at the Himalaya Mine in east San Diego county. This bi-colored tourmaline and 5 oz.

Smithsonian quality red apatite were discovered just this last March. They will present a virtual tour unearthing of these semi-precious gemstones - taking us

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STONE OF THE MONTH

LABRADORITE

Labradorite is truly a fascinatingly beautiful mineral. Its a mineral whose charm is not fully noticed and may be overlooked if not viewed from the proper position. Generally a dull, dark looking mineral with no special virtue until the colorful shimmer is observed glowing on the surface. Labradorite can produce a colorful play of light across cleavage planes and in sliced sections called labradorescence. The usually intense colors range from the typical blues and violets through greens, yellows and oranges. Some rare specimens display all these colors

simultaneously.

The color display is from lamellar intergrowths inside the crystal. These intergrowths result from compatible chemistries at high temperatures becoming incompatible at lower temperatures and thus a separating and layering of these two phases. The resulting color effect is caused by a ray of light entering a layer and

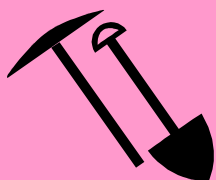
being refracted back and forth by deeper layers. This refracted ray is slowed by the extra travel through the layers and mixes with other rays to produce a light ray coming out that has a different wavelength than when it went in. The wavelength could correspond to the wavelength of a particular color, such as blue. The effect

Continued...



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LABRADORITE (continued)

Did you know?

"Brazilian Emerald" is actually transparent green tourmaline sold to tourists under the misleading name.

However, true emeralds are also found in Brazil, adding to the confusion.

depends on the thickness and orientation of the layers. If the layers are too thick or too thin no color shiller is seen. Also if the viewer does not observe from the precise angle or if light is not supplied from the proper angle then no color shiller is seen. The labradorescence is truly a one of a kind mineralogical experience and must be observed in person in order to truly appreciate its beauty.

Labradorite is a member of the plagioclase series of minerals. The plagioclase series comprises [felspars](#) that range in chemical composition from pure $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ to pure $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$. Labradorite is defined at approximately the 50% to 70% $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$. Labradorite by definition must contain 50-70% calcium to 50-30% sodium in the sodium/calcium position of the crystal structure. All members of the plagioclase series usually display lamellar

twinning called "Albite Twinning". The [twinning](#) is caused by a error in the crystal structure during its growth.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is gray to smoky black.
- **Luster** is dull to vitreous.
- **Transparency** crystals are transparent to translucent.
- **Crystal System** is triclinic; bar 1
- **Crystal Habits** include blocky crystals that rarely form free of the host rock and therefore do not usually show their full crystal forms. In sliced sections of rock, the labradorite appears as blocky chunks with a predominance of near right angled corners. [Twinning](#) is common and pervasive so that in labradorite it produces a layered or stacked effect. The twin layers are typically only fractions of millimeters to several millimeters thick. Crystals of labradorite are found imbedded

in gabbros and other mafic igneous rocks of low silica content. In anorthosites, labradorite is a main constituent.

- **Cleavage** is perfect in one and good in another direction forming nearly right angled prisms.
- **Fracture** is conchoidal.
- **Hardness** is 6 - 6.5.
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 2.70 - 2.74 (average)
- **Streak** is white.
- **Associated Minerals** are [biotite](#), [pyroxene](#) and [hornblende](#).
- **Other Characteristics:** index of refraction is 1.55 - 1.75. Play of colors called Labradorescence seen from certain directions can cause flashes of blue, violet and green and sometimes orange and yellow.
- **Notable Occurrences** include Labrador, Canada and Scandinavian Peninsula.
- **Best Field Indicators** are occurrence, twinning striations and Labradorescence.

For more information: www.galleries.com/minerals

From the President

So far this has been an uneventful year and everything has been going really well. The silversmithing school has been staying very busy and the students are really turning out some nice pieces of jewelry. Monte has led several field trips and found some really nice rocks and mineral specimens. The only problem has been club members' participation in the field trips -- no one shows up. I went with Monte to Arizona and we only had four people go with us, but we had a good time anyway and found some nice material.

The program chairman is doing an excellent job and has an exceptional program scheduled for the May meeting. The Himalayan mine owners hit a pocket of tourmaline and other gems and Simon King is going to show slides and give a show and give a presentation about the find and what they pulled out so far. It should be a very interesting evening, but unfortunately I won't be there to



A Big Welcome to Our New Members:

Larry & Mary Nuzum
Michal Costello

see it! I will be at Lake Roosevelt from the sixth to the twenty first of May, so I will miss the meeting, much to my disappointment. But I hope I'll get to go up to the mine after I return and see what's left of the pocket. Until next month, everyone enjoy yourselves and be safe.

Ray Pearce, VGMS President

COMING EVENTS

May 5-6 – Searchers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show

Brookhurst Community Center
2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim
10-5 Sat, 10-4:30 Sun

May 16 – Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club Silent Auction, starting 7:30 pm

"Ole Hansen Room"
San Clemente Community Center
100 North Calle Seville, S.C.
Sharon Langdale (949) 361-1885

May 19 - San Diego Mineral and Gem Silent Auction and Barbecue

Hours: 10 – 4
War Memorial Building Lawn
For tickets contact:
www.sandiegolapidarysociety.org
or (619) 295-6905

May 18-20 - West Coast Gem and Mineral Show

Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
3131 S. Bristol St.
Fri and Sat: 10- 6, & Sun 10-5
Free Admission

it's ALL Happening at the Fair!



Want to get free admission to the Del Mar Fair? Keep reading ...

The Fair will be here before you know it. The dates are Friday, June 8, through Wednesday, July 4, except for three Mondays and two Tuesdays (closed June 11-12, 18-19 and 25).

If you want to participate, you can enter one or both "One-Day Contests:" "Bola Tie" and "Belt Buckle".

The "Bola Tie One-Day Contest" will be held Saturday, June 16. There are two classes:

(1) bola tie made by the exhibitor

(2) bola tie owned by the exhibitor

There is no entry/processing fee. One entry per person per class.

Persons of all ages may enter. Exhibitors need only to **show up at a Fair gate** between 10:00 a.m. and noon the day of the contest with their entry form filled out to receive free admission to the Fair. What a deal! The contest will be judged at 1:00 p.m. The winner of each class will receive \$25. To print an entry form, go to:

http://www.sdfair.com/fair/pdf/07entry_bolotiecontest.pdf

The "Belt Buckle One-Day Contest" will be held Saturday, June 23. There are two classes: (1) belt buckle made by the exhibitor and (2) belt buckle owned by the exhibitor. Procedures and rules are the same as with the bola tie contest: simply show up "day of," as above. Same judging time. Same prize money. To print an entry form, go to:

http://www.sdfair.com/fair/pdf/07entry_beltbucklecontest.pdf

If you have questions, please contact the Entry Office at 858-792-4207 Monday through Friday,

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or send email to entry@sdfair.com For general information re the Fair, go to:

www.sdfair.com/fair

Lets have a VGMS showing that we can rave about!!!

And, remember, to enter either the Belt Buckle or Bola Tie contest and get free admission to the Fair, you need not be the creator – only the proud owner!

April Program Recap

Thanks to George Coburn for his excellent presentation on faceting gemstones at our April meeting. We appreciate the fact that he spent time making slides of the faceting machine and the cutting of the stone on the machine.

According to George, faceting seems complicated, but it isn't. It is like sewing - you learn how to use your machine and you learn how to follow a pattern for cutting the stone. It isn't a cheap skill to learn, because of the price of a new machine, but you can often find good buys on used machines, or if you are mechanically inclined, you can build your own. There are instructions on the internet on building a faceting machine. The nice thing about faceting your own stone is that there are some fancy patterns and unique cuts that bring out the most sparkle or reflection of light. You don't often find this in commercially cut stones.

We thank George also for his donation of one of his pink faceted stones set into a beautiful gold setting for our drawing. We thank everyone for their donations for the drawing.



Old Rock Collection For Sale

Linda in Westminster is selling her parents' family rock collection.

April 13, 14 and 15 and April 20, 21, and 22. 13452 Olympus Dr. in Westminster (Fountain Valley/Garden Grove area). 13 to 20 tons of material, rough and slab, no equipment. Sounds like a wide variety of material being sold per pound at "reasonable" rates.

She is trying to get the word out. (714) 497-7252.

May program continued...

through all aspects of this exciting moment of a gemstone find. We are very fortunate to have them give this presentation, because they give very few programs. Thank you, Ray Pearce, for talking Simon and Gladys into coming to our club.

Simon organizes tours

to the Himalaya mine most Saturdays. He is booked at this time through July. If you are interested in going on a tour, you can call him and schedule at 619-444-3731. You are allowed to look on the dumps for tourmaline and can keep all your gem findings - "unless Simon can talk you out

of taking them". I was there about 15 years ago and found two very nice pieces of tourmaline. Others on the trip found even more.



Pepper Tree Day Participation Furthers Environmental Awareness

Fred and Ray set up a display of rocks, minerals and fossils at the annual Pepper Tree Day at the Mission San Luis Rey on Sunday, the 15th of April.

The public was invited to learn about the importance of environmental awareness and conservation while celebrating the oldest pepper tree in California which stands in the mission's courtyard which is usually closed to the public.

Festival goers from North County and beyond listened to California American Indian storytelling, dancing and buying fresh produce

and plants at the farmers market while others checked out about 40 environmentally focused displays. Food booths,

adobe brick making, Indian sand art and other interactive crafts attracted children in droves, as well as adults. The Vista Gem and

Mineral display was among the most popular, as attested to by Fred and Ray.



TIPS FOR TAKING PHOTOS ON LIGHT BACKGROUNDS

Keep in mind that sometimes the photo-editing is almost more important than the photo-taking; that's where you can really make the adjustments to all the nuances that can turn an ordinary photo into a really great shot. Most digital cameras can not hold deep shadows and detailed highlights in the same picture. The shadows can be "brought up" to some extent by adjusting contrast and/or gamma. If you have Photoshop, use the "levels" tool, and adjust the middle slider to the left a little, until the dark parts look right. Another easy to use method when editing your photos is to take your photos on a white backdrop and make any necessary adjustments to make the background of the image pure white. By matching the backdrop and background of the image, all of the colors within the photo should be very close to what they are in real life.

The two keys to light backgrounds and dark subjects are exposure and contrast. If your camera has manual controls, try a one stop over-ride toward over exposure. The terminology may be different for some cameras. But there should be

some setting that allows you to make the camera give more exposure than it normally would. If it doesn't have that, but does have an exposure lock (most cameras lock exposure and focus by pressing the shutter half way), you can place an 18% grey card (available at photo shops) over your scene filling the entire frame, lock your exposure on the card, then remove the card to actually take the picture.

You may get better color accuracy and be able to see more detail on the wire by diffusing the light; this is often important with jewelry because of so many shiny surfaces.

There are a few ways to diffuse the light; one is to put something in between the light source and your subject like a semi-transparent, semi-opaque plastic bin with a hole in the top for your camera lens.

Another way is to have your lights aiming away from the subject into umbrellas or other reflectors (i.e. a piece of silver poster paper) which bounce the reflected light onto the subject. This method is very good at

eliminating the hot spots from the lights, but the intensity of your light is cut down from the process. Also when using poster paper you need someone extra to hold it in place.

Probably the easiest method is to use natural light by taking your photos outdoors. Overcast days are perfect because they provide very even lighting. Also try the shade of a building. Having your piece in the shade will take advantage of all of the bright natural light, but it will also avoid any hotspots created by the sun.

If using just your camera flash, you could try taping a small piece of thin white fabric or a Kleenex over the flash unit to diffuse the light a bit.

If you want to make life easier, photographically, go outside and use natural foliage (in sun, not shade) as your background. Most consumer cameras are designed to take exactly that kind of picture. Outdoor scene in sunlight. It's what most do best.

From: http://wire-sculpture.com/jewelrymaking supplies/gemstones_birthstone_sets.php

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A Big Thank You!

Ray, Fred, Mark, Lois, Cheri, Donna, Mary Anne, Pennie and Jon.

Sharing specimens at the Lapidary School, bringing goodies, placing Orders, endless amounts of free knowledge and expertise!

These and all the other Volunteers make our club and class Rock!!!

I have learned so much from you all!
Thank you from,

Dawn Zimmer

P.S. Thanks to Sharron also for always keeping us updated and reminded of important details.

A note to Our Members:

Don't forget that July and August are our dark months. No meetings or Rockorder Newsletter.

**The Rockorder
Bulletin of Vista Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1641
Vista, CA 92085-1641**

Membership in this Society is open to anyone interested in mineralogy, gemology, and related educational subjects. Regular meetings are held

The **3rd Thursday** of each month except July and August at

**Gloria McClellan (Senior) Center
1400 Vale Terrace
Bregle Terrace Park
Vista, CA
7:30 P.M.**

Please send exchange Bulletins to:
Cherie Wilson
4904 Amador Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-4969

**Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Officers for 2007**

- President Ray Pearce 726-7570
- 1st Vice President Barbara Gelman
- 2nd Vice President..... Cherie Wilson 941-7073
- Treasurer Mary Anne Mital 758-4599
- CFMS Rep Fred Wilson 433-8446
- County Council Rep Ray Pearce
- Secretary Debbie George,

Committee Chairpeople

- Programs Carolyn Jungwirth
- Publicity Lois Harr 724-0395
- Bulletin Co-editor..... Dawn Zimmer
- Bulletin Co-editor Aleta Dirdo 726-4486
- Lapidary School Fred Wilson, Ray Pearce
- Educational Svcs Carolyn Elliott 295-6505
- Sunshine Carol Pelly 630-5674
- Field Trips Ray Pearce 726-7570
- Field Trips Monte Hazen 940-0379
- Hospitality Ruby & Ernie Schmidt 724-4737
- Hospitality Sue Wilson 433-8446
- Hospitality Ellie Page
- Membership Sharron Smith 724-8673
- Finance Director Calvin North 433-9527
- Ways & Means Laura Stearn

Application for Membership Vista Gem & Mineral Society

All information for club use only

Date _____

Last Name First Nickname

Spouse and Children

Street Address City Zip Phone

E-mail address

Are you willing to take part in Committee work? _____

Please list any special talents and abilities _____

Dues (includes bulletin):	Family (husband, wife & children under 18)	\$25.00 year
	Couple	\$22.00
	Single member	\$12.00

Please make checks payable to Vista Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1641, Vista, CA 92083-4599
For more information phone (760) 724-0395 or (760) 758-4599

VISTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1641
VISTA, CA 92085-1641



May 18 – VGMS meeting

May 16 – Capistrano Valley
Silent Auction

May 19 – SDMG Annual
Barbecue

