



## APRIL'S PROGRAM HAS MANY FACETS

To contribute articles and event notices, email to: [Rockorder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Rockorder@sbcglobal.net)

The subject for the program at the April meeting will be faceting, to be presented by George Coburn.

George will have a display of stones showing the several stages of producing a round brilliant gem, and the equipment needed to do it, using slides to

assist in the explanation of the way the rough material is turned into a gem.

George started faceting about 1974 while a member of the San Diego Gem and Mineral Society. Elbert McCune, better known as MAC who is still teaching at San Diego Gem and Mineral, was his

instructor and guided him through the early stages of learning the art. He also took a few private lessons from Earl Manor, a faceter, and prominent figure at San Diego Gem and Mineral Society.

George moved to Vista in January 2002 and joined the Vista Gem and Mineral Society after learning about it at the senior center.

## STONE OF THE MONTH

### LARIMAR

Larimar is called the Caribbean Gemstone. It is a blue colored variant of the mineral pectolite with the hardness of 5 to 7. The color can range from deep sky blue to azure bluish green of the Caribbean, with white marbling to milky greenish shades. Its characteristic colors and variations of texture make it a very unique and interesting gemstone.

It has only been found in one location on earth, in the mountain region in the Dominican Republic, which is difficult to access. The Dominican Republic is

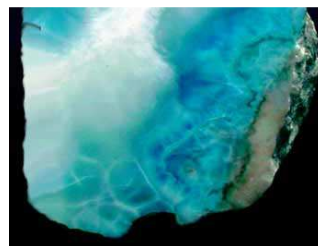
also an important source of amber and conch pearls.

Larimar was found in the seventies although natives knew of the stone much earlier. Water-eroded fragments of pectolite were first found in the alluvials of the Rio Borucco, and later traced to their upstream source. The trade name Larimar was given to the stone by Miguel

Mendez, who named the stone after his daughter LARissa and the Spanish word for sea: MAR – LARIMAR.

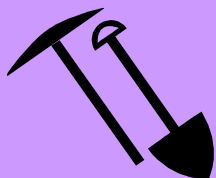
All mineral rights in the Dominican Republic belong to the government, and pectolite mining is permitted only by concession from the Dominican Bureau of Mines: the Minería. The commercial

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We have signed up 14 people to receive the Rockorder by e-mail. So far, that saves the club approx. \$122.00 per year! Thank You! You can sign-up for e-mail delivery by e-mailing Dawn Zimmer at csjzim@cox.net Remember, you can always change back to regular mail if you like.

## February Program Recap

In February, Andy Lucas, manager of instruction at GIA, spoke and showed slides of his trip to the emerald mines of Columbia. Columbia produces 60 % of the world's finest quality emeralds. The emerald mines are located near Muzo, Columbia, about 75 miles NW of Bogota. The three main mining areas are Muzo, Coscuez, and Penes Blaneas. Violence by drug cartels and gorilla groups closed the mines in 1973. In 1991, relative peace returned to the region and mining returned. Still security around the mines remained tight.

The mining areas are leased on a long term basis from the Colombian government. Each mining area is composed of many individual mines. For security reasons, the best way to get to the mines is by helicopter,;

however, there is so much fog in the hot muggy climate, the usual access is by Jeep with heavily armed guards. The terrain is beautiful, lush and green with beautiful mountains, but very hot. The traditional mines are open pit and they still exist; however, newer methods exist along with the open pit.

These are underground tunnels [horizontal] and shafts [vertical] with power generators, drills, and explosives. The emeralds are found in quartz pipes located in the shale host rock. They are also found to a lesser extent in the tailings of the mines. All of the workers in the open pit, the underground mines and those working in the tailings are not paid a

salary, but are allowed to keep and sell "a little bit" of their finds. If they keep too much, they are shot!

Most of the selling of the emeralds takes place at the Emerald Trading Center located in Bogota. The large deals are done inside the center. The dealers wear towels around their necks to identify themselves as sellers.

Emeralds are in the beryl family of rocks, are green in color, and have a hardness of 7 1/2 to 8.0. Treatment is often done with clear cedar oil to make fractures less visible. Emeralds are valued by both clarity and color, but color is most important. It is often included with a gorgeous green glow. There is one "state of the art" emerald cutting facility in Columbia. In the future, they plan to cut all of their emeralds in Columbia before moving them to distribution.

--Carolyn Jungwirth and Margaret LaMontagne

## LARIMAR ...

quantities of blue pectolite available at this time are all mined in that mountain area.

Larimar is still a very rare gemstone. Working Larimar can be very tricky. Some use Opticon to

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stabilize the piece while working on it.

*This article is from The Opal Express Feb. 2007, via the Montreal Club's Geminews, March 2006 issue. Via the GMFC Newsletter Spring 2006.*



## From the President

Another month is past and with it another very successful silent auction. A hearty Thank You to all of the folks who donated so many things which were sold at bargain basement prices and made a lot of people happy with such good deals. Thanks also to the folks that came early and helped set up, collected the money and then stayed to put the tables away and clean up the center. Special thanks for all the nice goodies and to Donna for the banana bread.

Monte held a three day field trip to the Ludlow area but no one showed up, so after collecting all the nice rocks he could carry, he came home a day early. Fred and Sue Wilson, Mark Smith, Debbie George and I went to the Victorville club's tailgate at Stoddard Wells on Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, and found lots of nice things we just couldn't live without. On the way home, every one of us was wishing we had bought that special rock or piece of jewelry that we passed on. We almost turned around and went back, but didn't.



On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, Fred, Sue and I went to the Palomar show in Escondido where we spent the rest of our money we'd saved from Stoddard Wells. Both were really nice shows. In closing, I want to say thank you to all the folks who donate so much time and effort toward keeping the club running smoothly and making my job so much easier.

**Ray Pearce, VGMS President**



## Remembering Edna Spinner Hansen

Edna Spinner Hansen, the last charter member of VGMS died the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 07, ending an era of a group of very dedicated Rockhounds of the late 50's.

Edna and her husband at that time, Kenny Spinner, were part of a dozen or so people that, out of necessity, filled many positions of this new group.

Edna played an important part in those early years, performing the functions of many people: typing, producing the bulletin by mimeograph, publicity and much else.

During these early days, these few but dedicated members put on a show to inform people of the group. By the time there were enough people interested, they incorporated the club around 1959 or 1960.

Edna hadn't been able to participate in club activities for quite sometime due to ill health but her heart was always with the group.

Edna, your hard work is living on and will be for a long time yet.

Thank you and be in peace.

Written by:  
Ruth Pawelski

## COMING EVENTS

### April 14 - 15 2007, Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Peggy Ronning (209) 742-7625  
Email: [mineralmuseum@sti.net](mailto:mineralmuseum@sti.net)

### April 14 - 15 2007, San Jose, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
334 Tully Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584  
Email: [geologistm@aol.com](mailto:geologistm@aol.com)  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

### April 28 - 29 2007, Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society  
Civic Auditorium at Corner of Center & Church Streets  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Eleanor & Hubert Drake (831-8086)  
Email: [hmdrake@pacbell.net](mailto:hmdrake@pacbell.net)

### May 4, 5, 6 2007, Bishop, CA

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society  
Tri County Fairgrounds  
Sierra Street & Fair Drive  
Hours: Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 3  
Francis Pedneau (760) 876-4319  
Jeff Lines (760) 937-4498

### May 12-13 2007, Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Reno Livestock Events Center

1350 N. Wells Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
John Peterson (775) 356-8820  
Website: [www.renorockclub.com](http://www.renorockclub.com)

### May 19, San Diego

San Diego Mineral and Gem Silent Auction and Barbecue  
Hours: 10 - 4  
War Memorial Building Lawn  
Anne Schafer,

### May 18-20 2007, Redding, CA

Superior California Gem & Mineral Association  
Shasta county Fairgrounds, Anderson, CA  
Hours: Fri, & Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Bill Seward (530) 365-8641

### May 19-20 2007, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Community Center  
34900 Oak Glen Road  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

Bill Jochimsen  
Email: [bjim2285@aol.com](mailto:bjim2285@aol.com)  
Website: [www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html](http://www.mysite.verizon.net/YucaipaGem/103.html)

### May 19-20 2007, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Bochard Park  
190 Reino Rd., Newbury Park, CA  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4:30  
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734  
Email: [rmsorca@adelphia.net](mailto:rmsorca@adelphia.net)

## Del Mar Fair Deadline is Looming!

**The registration deadline for entering an exhibit in the Fair is Friday, April 27.**

### NEW! Belt Buckle Contest

Got a great-looking belt buckle? Bring it to the Fair on Saturday, June 23 for judging. No pre-registration required, and separate divisions will judge best buckle made by the exhibitor and owned by the exhibitor. Free admission between 10:00AM and noon when you show your belt buckle and entry form at the gate.



### Bola Tie Contest

Got a great-looking bola tie? This fun contest returns to the Fair on Saturday, June 16. No pre-registration required, and separate divisions will judge best bola tie made by the exhibitor and owned by the exhibitor. Free admission between 10:00AM and noon when you show your bola tie and entry form at the gate.

For more information, call the Entry Department at 858-792-4207 or send email to [entry@sdfair.com](mailto:entry@sdfair.com).

**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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month except July and August at

**Gloria McClellan (Senior) Center**  
**1400 Vale Terrace**  
**Brengle 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  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Barbara Gelman  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Wavs & 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month/Day) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to take part in Committee work? \_\_\_\_\_

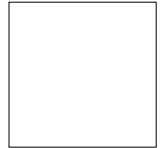
Please list any special talents and abilities \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Dues</b> (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

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**Apr 19** – VGMS Meeting

**Apr 27** – Del Mar Fair Entry  
Deadline

**May 19** – SDMG Barbecue

