

# January 2021



# OCMS SHALE MAIL



Join us for our monthly meeting via zoom on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 pm. As you can see it's a good time with exceptional visuals so pull up your couch, make a coffee and join us for a little rock hound socialization. **SEE YOU ALL THERE!**



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## Mailing Address:

254 Rt. 17K, Suite 204, Newburgh, NY 12550-8300

# President's Message!

Mike Tedford

Welcome to great expectations for OCMSNY in 2021. Our officers have all continued from 2020 to 2021. Your camaraderie in person is dearly missed, but we do enjoy keeping up on personal and business matters each time we meet via zoom. We all expect more live activities to resume in person this year and wish you good health and happiness in all you do. Please join us via zoom Jan 8, 2021. Business meeting followed by a presentation on Red Cloud Mine. Also, never hesitate to contact any of us personally via email or phone. This is YOUR OCMSNY....

## Orange County Mineral Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting!

**Topic:** Orange County Mineral Society's Zoom Meeting

**Time:** Jan 8, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84619695139?pwd=d3gva1had1FyYm-c3YmZtelkvV29hZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 1969 5139

Passcode: 489399

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84619695139#,,,,\*489399# US (New York)

+13126266799,,84619695139#,,,,\*489399# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 846 1969 5139



Our monthly business meetings with lecture program will continue via zoom until the Chester Senior Center is again available. If anyone has another indoor venue or outdoor venue in mind, please contact us. Our lecturers have kept us entertained in minerals, geology and fossils with quality presentations during the pandemic. The audio-visual quality on your personal computer actually can be better than the senior center. When you are on the road, your smart phone gets you to zoom also.... Our monthly meetings will continue via zoom until we have an outdoor venue or suitable indoor venue available.

### 2021 Calendar

Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14 our spring rock barbecue, June 5-6 mineral show, Jul 9, Aug 13, Sep 4 rock barbecue, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

. We all appreciate keeping current with the progress of other clubs and shows that have run successfully later in 2020. Our annual show is scheduled at the most scenic outdoor venue, Museum Village, 1010 Rt 17M, Monroe, NY 10950 June 5-6 , 2021. We have also learned that field trips are also being run successfully, on a smaller scale, and inclusive with our sister societies in the EFMLS. We are reminded at our zoom meetings that we are invited to a lot of meetings, shows, sales and lectures on line. Please check out the newsletters from our regional and national societies. EFMLS and AFMS. We also get invited to attend other virtual meetings and we are grateful for these opportunities shared by our sister organizations. Our Program VP, Mark, and Shale mail editor, Alison include links to our lecturers, website and facebook pages as well. We really do intend more local field trips this year. Alaska is on my wish list, and a few local spots around the county. HAPPY 2021!

# Surviving 2020

Hello there everyone! I thought 2020 was going to last forever. Here we are Christmas is over, New Years is over and we can officially say we survived the year 2020!

2020 has tested us like never before. We have shown what we are made of which is mostly grit and stone. Although most of us are old fossils we survived 2020.

We were shut out of the Chester Senior Center. We didn't give up, we found Zoom. Along with zoom we found comfort in the hardships we faced as a federation. David Nock formed committees so we could join together. We discussed the hardships our individual clubs were facing on a day to day, month by month time frame. These zoom sessions gave comfort in the fact we are not alone! We helped one another, gave advice and bonded.

The best part about the round tables, committees and the editors unite group is the friendships we are forming. We need to keep all of these going moving forward. Only we can do that! Let's keep the new friendships we have formed going. Let's keep adding new ones. David is the tree trunk and we are the branches so lets reach out to the stars and keep pulling them into our little network until it's not so little anymore.

May we keep all the good things about 2020 and bring back all the good things we knew before 2020. May 2021 bring back face to face meetings. I can't wait for the rock shows to return because I miss them so much! I can't wait for field trips to return. I want to see what kind of treasures are waiting for me!

**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!  
2021** 

# Minutes of the Meeting!

December 11, 2020

John Pacut

**Business Meeting:** Mike Tedford brought the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and the Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Minutes were approved as written in the Shale Mail.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurers report was read by Ron Nelson and accepted. EFMLS insurance has been extended to Feb. David Knock as acting coordinator payment will be due around Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Programs:** Under the circumstances Mike said we would be using Zoom for future meetings. Invites will be sent via email each month, we encourage everyone to join us. When the status changes concerning our meeting we will email the information out as well as post it in the Shale Mail.

**Show Report:** Mike will pass info to Alison. Heather will be doing the show publications.

**Membership Report:** No new members.

**Shale Mail Report:** Alison is looking for articles from members & Officers on any topic.

**Old business:** All officers where nominated by Alison to stay in their current positions for another year. It was seconded by John Wheeler, there was a show of hands, nomination passed.

**New business:** David Nock updated the EFMLS business. The EFMLS has upgraded their Zoom acct so member societies can use this acct to conduct monthly meetings if they so wish. He also talked a little about a program being set up for clubs to easily get connected like a little network and to be able to easily make a website for there club.

**Adjourn business meeting:** Motion and accepted.

# Collecting at the Red Cloud Mines!

Article taken from the MNCA November Mineral Mite,  
Photos taken by Scott Braley

January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm via Zoom Dr. Scott Braley Collecting at the Red Cloud will be discussing the Red Cloud mines of Lincoln County, New Mexico. There are two small, distinct mines a few hundred feet apart in the Gallinas Mountains, within the Cibola National Forest. The Red Cloud Fluorite mine presents interesting micro fluorites and some rare earth minerals, while the Red Cloud Copper mine yields beautiful vanadinite, wulfenite, mimetite, cerussite, and more. Both have been only sparsely written about in the mineralogical literature, so are only lightly visited.

is a past president of the GLMSMC. After retiring from the Air Force, he completed a PhD and is now a professor at a small college in northern New Mexico. With the recent limitations on travel, he spent much of the summer investigating some less well-known micro-mineral localities in his area of New Mexico.

**Vanadinite, Mottramite**, Red Cloud Copper Mine, Lincoln Co., New Mexico



Scott striking it rich, Herkimer, NY 2015



**Wulfenite**



**Vanadinite, Mottramite**

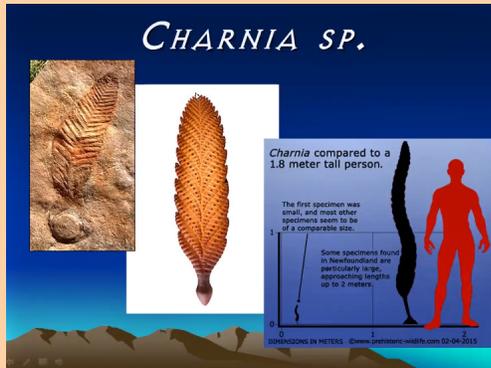
## Biography:

Scott has been collecting minerals since childhood, with a focus on micro-minerals and photography for the last 15 years. He had previously been a member of the NVMC and the MNCA and

# THE EDIACARIN Fauna

Alison Pacut & Derek Yoost

I want to apologize to everyone because I was experiencing major technical difficulties during the beginning of Derek's Presentation on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks Mark Kucera for picking up the recording for me so I could get what I did!



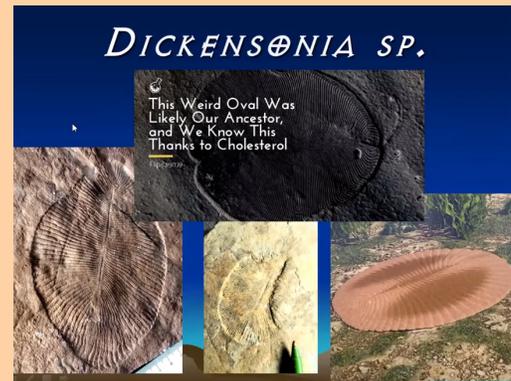
I was found on a large boulder or outcrop however, the young girl's geography teacher discounted Charnia as being a fossil. Why? Paleontologists had not yet discovered any fossils from the pre-Cambrian period. A year later Roger found the same fossil and got a much different reaction. Fossils of the pre-Cambrian were discovered.

Charnia appears to be a fractal type animal that probably died out around the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cambrian period. By fractal they were probably filter feeders with no digestive track.



They would have fed by absorbing nutrients directly through their skin, they may have been breathing that way too. The size of the Charnia is about the length of your palm but some grew to be taller than an average size man.

The Kimberellia is mostly from the Russia sea locality. This animal has been interpreted as a soft bodied snail. They made impressions in really soft mud only leaving impressions of the bottom half of their bodies. Artists have to interpret the top half when drawing them. Now we do



know that kimberellia had a ruffle around the mantle. It had a proboscis that went in front of it to feed it. We assume it had a mouth on the end of the proboscis. We know by the impressions in the mud that it didn't need to move its body much, it just moved its proboscis to feed. They don't really know it the top of Kimberellia's body was a shell or soft bodied. Derek says that this is a relatively new area of science so these impressions tend to be rather frustrating!

The dickensonia fossils are likely the size of your thumbprint however they have been found up to 3 feet in diameter. The reason its flat was to increase its surface area for feeding. It would go over an area of that had lichen or plankton and absorb it right through their skin.

# THE EDIACARIN Fauna-cont.

Alison Pacut & Derek Yoost

Recently they have begun to look at fossils like this chemically. By doing chemical analysis one of the fossils they tested had traces of cholesterol. This is one of the few fossils in the Ediacarin that they can say "this was an animal". Right now the options they have to choose from are limited to plants, animals or a third option that we don't yet know about. Dickensonia is the oldest animal to this point so far. Finding cholesterol is a huge discovery because it's an animal only chemical.



The Spriggina were found in the Australia Hills. It had a soft body with leathery armor. The spriggina could grow as long as it needed to be by adding more segments to it. This is probably the oldest ancestor to all the arthropods. It's also probably the oldest animal that had a tail and a head. It would have been able to move in one direction with purpose. Like us this guy would have had most of its vital organs on its head perhaps this is one of our earliest ancestors!



The Fractofusus Misrai was found at Mistaken Point Newfoundland, Canada. They have been interpreted as jellyfish.

There are other findings from the Ediacarin time period that we have no idea on what they can be. In today's world they don't appear to have any known ancestors. Derek had a few photos to show us what they looked like. Pizza was also found at Newfoundland Canada.



Thank you Derek for the very interesting and informative presentations you have given us from this series. We can't wait for the next one, I hope it's soon.



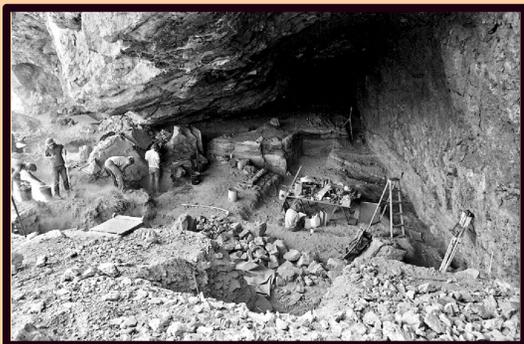
# Virgin Valley Opals

Keith Allen

Nevada is famous for its beautiful, colorful black Opal. The state contains some very rich precious opal beds and has produced some spectacular and extremely valuable specimens. The Virgin Valley opal beds in northwest Humboldt County are perhaps the most famous gemstone locality in Nevada. High quality precious opal emitting a multi-hued rainbow of color is found replacing wood or other plant material in this remote location.



Located on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge near Denio in northwestern Nevada, Virgin Valley is home of America's most famous precious opal deposits that produce the world's brightest Black, Crystal, Fire, and other opal types. Opals were discovered here in 1905 and opal mining predates the Wildlife Refuge. There are 3 pay-to-dig (fee dig) sites open to the public in the valley where you can mine and dig for your own opals! The opal fee dig mines generally open in late May and close in September/October. The Royal Peacock Mine is the overall favorite mine in the valley (with both bank and tailings dig-



ging) and has a pay campground with amenities. The Sheldon Refuge offers many recreational opportunities for the visitor.

This area is famous for the rare and fabulous black opal, known to occur in only two places on Earth: Virgin Valley, Nevada and New South Wales, Australia. These wonderful specimens flash and gleam with a rainbow of brilliant reds, blues, greens and purples in a jet black matrix. Prime examples can be worth more per carat than even diamonds.

About 20 million years ago, this area was



forested, and received over 50 inches of rain annually. The opalized limbs of an ancient tree are buried in volcanic ash from eruptions that occurred 12 to 20 million years ago. As the limbs from trees disintegrated in the ground, they left hollow casts which were later filled with a silica solution, as hydro-thermal water flows percolated through the ash layer.



# Virgin Valley Opals -Cont.

Keith Allen

Legend has it that a range rider, perhaps a Pony Express rider, found the first glistening piece when passing through the area in the early 1900's. The discovery was widely reported by the press and within a few years several claims were staked in the area and commercial mining of Virgin Valley Opal began. Some of these early mines still exist today. The Bonanza has been producing opal since 1905 and the Rainbow mine since 1911.



Most Virgin Valley Opal are for specimen purposes only and these are the most beautiful specimens found anywhere. This is because the vast majority of the opal found in Virgin Valley has stability problems and crazes/cracks soon after removal from the ground. Few Virgin Valley Opals survive longer than 25 years, prized as gems; with that said, however, rarely opal from the valley can cut proven stable gems and when they do they are among the highest priced opals in the world and are far more rare and valuable as collectors gems than opal from major fields producing vast amounts of stable stones.



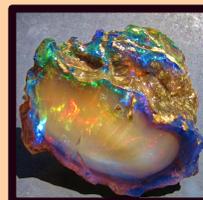
The area has been inhabited by man for more

than 10,000 years. Like much of Nevada, it was covered by lakes and lush forests which were slowly drained and buried due to volcanic activity, climate change and geological uplift. Remnants of this wetter period are evident in the abundant petrified and opalized wood found everywhere. These fossils can range in size from small twigs to huge petrified logs, many 30-50 feet long.

In the southwestern portion of the valley lies



the 'Last Supper Cave.' Its bones and artifacts have been carbon dated to 10,000 to 12,000 years. Little is known about these early inhabitants. It is believed they were nomadic peoples following the game herds and seasonally occupied the caves surrounding the marshy valley. Petroglyphs carved in boulders near the area are thought to be created by the Piute or Ute people who populated the area in later times. The abundant common opal and obsidian in the region made an excellent material for creating tools and weapons as shown by the numerous artifacts which are still found nearby.



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**Orange County Mineral Society, Inc. Officers:**

President:	Mike Tedford	(845) 542-6441	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Mike</u></a>
VP/Programs:	Mark Kucera	(914) 423-8360	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Mark</u></a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP:	Alex Kerstanski	(845) 978-4141	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Alex</u></a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP:	Ryan Richardson	(845) 629-5120	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Ryan</u></a>
VP Emeritus/Historian:	Frank Clyne	(845) 361-4710	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Frank</u></a>
Treasurer/Facebook:	Ron Nelson	(845) 469-9080	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Ron</u></a>
Min.Show Chairman:	Ron Nelson	(845) 469-9080	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Ron</u></a>
Membership Com Chair	Brigitte Nesteroke	(845) 386-4119	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Brigitte</u></a>
Secretary:	John Pacut	(845) 883-0019	<a href="#"><u>Click to email John</u></a>
Editor:	Alison Pacut	(845) 883-0019	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Alison</u></a>
Webmaster:	Heather Shields	(845) 649-9623	<a href="#"><u>Click to email Heather</u></a>