PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
By Juanita Pardun  

I’m your new CFMS President for 2021. I hope I do as well as Marcia. Her move to obtain a Zoom package kept us on track. She has also helped a great deal in keeping me on track. The past three years have been an experience for myself as Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President. A greenhorn I was and still am.

During the same period I went through a mastectomy, moved into a travel trailer on my daughter’s property, and discovered her disability limited her ability to maintain the property. So I took over a half acre of brush, etc. I have repaired 3 water pipes (never heard of using PVC pipe for the main water line), repaired electrical problems and put in raised garden beds (cabbage, sprouts, broccoli, onions, and peas are doing fine).

Some things I did catch was: A.) Nearly everyone active in CFMS has been President or have been active in CFMS for a very long time. B.) Every President has had a goal for their term. Well, I don’t meet A, so here is B.

The Mineral Societies are not here to support CFMS. CFMS is here to support the Mineral Societies. That is PROACTIVE Support. To be Proactive we need to do the following:

A. If you are a Chair of a Committee, then you need to have members. If you have people helping you, then list them as members. It’s nice to have members. It encourages people, who are interested in your Committee, to take part and learn the job. It splits the load. And if this past year has done anything it has taught us that anything can happen.

B. Communications: i.e. newsletter, phone, in-person. A two inch column doesn’t take much time, but it keeps you up front. If your column gets to be a book, ask yourself, does it need to be this large or should you split into a series. Ask Pat La Rue if there is room or set up the series. Proof read your article. A committee member can do this. Watch your language. If someone did something you didn’t like, say what you didn’t like, but don’t name names. We are supposed to be a team.

C. Have you kept the Handbook for your Committee up to date as to Time Line, Forms, Sources, etc.? Planning? Someday you will be moving on to other things and you will need to give the new person (possibly a committee member) all the information you have gleaned from your experience. Let’s not make the new guy/gal reinvent the wheel. We are a team supporting the Mineral Societies.

Well that’s enough. There is a new roster attached. I’m on it.

Juanita
CFMS Newsletter January 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Jan 5......... Deadline for February newsletter
Feb 5........... Deadline for March newsletter
June 25-27....... CFMS Convention & Show

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

McDaniel Insurance Services
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024
Tel (805) 646-9948 or (800) 400-7288
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: mcins@west.net
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

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CFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins
from this website. Please be patient as our new
webmaster builds our new website.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5th day of the month
prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent
to the editor at bplarue@earthlink.net. “snail mail”? Please send to the CFMS PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Articles without a byline are written by the editor.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS
and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules
governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3).
Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof
of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax
return. If a personal donation is $250 or more, a letter
attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs
and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the
following:

CFMS Scholarship Fund
CFMS Endowment Fund
CFMS General Fund
Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
AFMS Scholarship Foundation
AFMS Endowment Fund
Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science
Studies)

Your donations should be sent to:
Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be
forwarded on to the committee member responsible for
acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to
CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the
memo section.

DUES ARE DUE

It’s that time of the year again. Dues and insurance are
due as of January 1. A copy of the payment form is
enclosed in this newsletter if you no longer have the one
from the Directors meeting packet which was mailed to
you prior to the November meeting.

As noted last month, the general liability insurance policy
premium was discounted a small amount this year. We
are pleased to pass this savings along to our
societies/clubs so you will notice that the per member
cost of the insurance will be $5 for 2021. Dues remain
the same. The total cost per member for 2021 will be
$7—a savings of $1 per member.
JUNIORS ACTIVITIES
By Michelle Cauley & Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Juniors Chair

2021 National Youth Poster Contest:
“Rockin’ Around the USA”

Calling all artists! The North Lakes Academy Rockhounds of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies is hosting a National Youth Poster Contest. It is open to any kids in 1st through 8th grade across all seven AFMS regional federations and beyond. The theme is “Rockin’ Around the USA.” Participating kids should pick a rock or mineral found in the USA that they are passionate about, create a poster about it, and provide a brief explanation of why they like that particular rock so much. OR they can pick a location in the USA where they LOVE to go rockhounding and craft a poster around that while providing a brief write-up about where it is, what they have found, and why others should go there.

Posters will be judged by grade level with ribbons and prizes awarded for 1st through 5th place in each grade. Overall Champions will also be selected and will receive a prize.

Here are the rules:
1. All entries must be presented on 12”X18” paper.
2. Include name, address, and school grade of participant on BACK of the poster.
3. A title should be on the FRONT of the poster.
4. Artwork can be done by pen, ink, crayons, magic markers, paint, print, photography or any other artist’s medium, but no three dimensional posters will be accepted.
5. Accompany the poster with the background information requested in the 1st paragraph above.
6. Posters will not be able to be returned.
7. Posters postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted. (Please allow a week for mailing.)
8. All entries become property of the North Lakes Academy Rockhounds and AFMS.

Judges will award points as follows: 30 points for originality and art work; 10 points for title (including theme organization, design, spelling, grammar); and 20 points for background information, facts, and details provided.

Posters and accompanying background info should be sent to Michelle Cauley, c/o North Lakes Academy Rockhounds, 4576 232nd Street North, Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025. Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2021. Direct any questions to Michelle by email at mcauley@northlakesacademy.org and see further contest information on the AFMS website at http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm

ROCKHOUND SOAP BOX
CFMS – PLAC
John Martin – PLAC Chair 2020 plac@antelecom.net

This is a continuation of the Shop Tips column from December.

"CANDLE" your MONTANA AGATES as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a 2 pound coffee can—turn it upside down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light coming through the hole will show dendrites. This saves cutting time.

....Rockhound’s Rag...via Rocks and Gems

Used automobile distributor caps make good holders for dopped stones.

REMEmBER THIS! Do Not Put water filled stones, such as opals in the freezer to remove the cab from the dopstick. The water will freeze and crack the stone.

TO KEEP OPALS, put a few drops of rubbing alcohol in the bottles of water in which they are kept. It will keep them from turning black and the water from getting stagnant.

FOSSIL JEWELRY — Clean fossils very thoroughly. Dry out slowly, using low heat. It prevents air bubbles later. While still warm, coat the fossil with Epoxy 220 in which you have put a tiny amount of dry color such as gray, blue or ochra. Bake in oven 20 minutes or air-dry overnight. The treatment with Epoxy gives the fossil strength and brings out color and pattern. Glue on findings.

Do your SOLDERING IN A DIM LIGHT, for then you can watch the color of the work as it is being heated. The first visible red shows that the work is at about 900° F.,
dull red, the temperature is around 1200° F. Cherry red indicates 1400° F. Medium hard silver solder is fluid at 1400° F. Remember silver is molten at 1641° F.

....The Agatizer

BLONDE TIGER EYE: You can not buy it, but you can MAKE IT. Take regular golden tiger eye of good quality, cut your cab and polish it. (Reminder: Tiger eye should be sanded ACROSS THE GRAIN) Then place it in hydrochloric acid for several days. Do this ONLY OUT OF DOORS! Rinse it well and LO AND BEHOLD you have BLONDE TIGER EYE.

....Spit and Polish

A NOTE OF CAUTION: After you have soaked your TIGER EYE cabs in Hydrochloric acid to bleach them, YOU MUST NEUTRALIZE THEM! This is done by soaking in baking soda overnight. If you don't do this, the mounting that you put the stone in will tarnish from the acid in only a few days.

....Pegmatite

The CUTTING of a TIGER EYE CABOCHON with a FLOATING EYE has for many amateurs been a case of hope, luck, and try again. It is difficult to obtain a floating eye, although of course, the fixed eye is easily obtained from the margin.

There is, however, a way to pre-determine the hoped for results. Take a slice of tiger eye that has been properly cut. PARALLEL to the GRAIN of the fibers. A difference of 2 or 3 lines will make a difference between proper and improper cutting. Look across the slice at an angle of 60 degrees, you should see the half of the slice toward you, either dark or light, and see the far half the opposite color.

Mark lightly the dividing line between the light and dark, then holding the slice on the same plane, rotate it end for end, and if the light side was toward you before, it should be toward you now, even though you have rotated the slice. Again mark the dividing line of light and dark and hope that your pencil marks are in the same place. Now turn the piece over so that the bottom becomes the top and you should have the reverse lighting effect. If the light side was toward you before, you should now have the dark side toward you, and that will remain true if you rotate it again on the same plane. When you look down the slice at 60 degrees and see the dark side toward you, you are looking at what should be the TOP OF THE FINISHED STONE. So, place your template on the side where the light half is toward you, as this will be the bottom of the stone.

If you cut a stone oriented in this manner, when you are through polishing, you should have a stone with a floating eye of light.

....The Diggers Digest

BLACK PETRIFIED WOOD can be soaked in a household bleach, such as Clorox. Avoid metal containers. Cover and let stand for several weeks. Once a week add bleach and check results. This brings out the growth rings in a plain black slab. The slab should be ground and shaped before soaking, as the bleach does not penetrate too deeply.

....Pegmatite

To work out the FLAT AREA in the center of a cab, mark the preform with intersecting lines forming a cross in the center. When you have ground and shaped the stone to its proper curve, the cross will have disappeared and the flat spot along with it.

....The Contact Zone

When you have a MOUNTING you want to make a cab for, but you're not sure of the size, take the mounting, hold the bezel down on a stamp pad and then transfer to a card. You will then have the outline of the opening. Cut out and use the opening as you would a template.

....Spit and Polish

TOUCHING SLIGHTLY ON SILVER

When silver-smithing, have BAKING SODA added to a pan of water kept near your working area, so that you may rinse your hands frequently. This prevents possible BURNS from the pickle bath.

....Strata Gems

To STRAIGHTEN KINKS IN SILVER, place silver between two strips of Masonite (smooth sides together) lay on a smooth solid surface and tap sharply with a rubber mallet, turn over and repeat tapping.

....Gems

To prevent "fire color" while soldering, coat piece with a solution of one teaspoon powdered boric acid and one ounce of alcohol.

....Strata Gems

By pressure with the burnisher, a SCRATCH IN METAL can be PULLED SHUT.

The Diggers Digest
TO CLEAN SILVER — rub it with lemon, wash and dry. It will stay bright longer.

....Rockhound's Rag

EPOXY

The Rock, Stone, or other object should be very clean before using epoxy. Alcohol is very good in most instances because it dries quickly. When applied to BELL CAPS, it should be used sparingly but enough to hold securely. A good idea is to use a BOX OF SAND about an inch and a half deep and FLORISTS CLAY to hold the stones in position until the epoxy sets. Hold the bell cap with tweezers while applying the epoxy.

....The Tumbler

When using tiny stones like Peridots, you will have trouble dunking them into the glue — put the glue in a metal cup or bell cap and simply drop in the tiny stones.

....The Tumbler

DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL can be used to MAKE A BACKING for stones. This method can be applied to irregularly shaped turquoise or other stones. Mix Devcon according to directions and apply to bottom of the potential cab or nugget. Turn the stone over, and place top side up on waxed paper — or better still on a sheet of heavy plastic laid on a smooth surface. The Devcon will harden and can be easily removed from the plastic, leaving a flat, smooth surface ready for dopping and needing no grinding.

....Strata Gems

BE CAREFUL WHEN USING SUPER-GLUE! It dries so quickly that fingers may get stuck to whatever you are working on. Some have had to have medical assistance to separate the two.

....Rockhound Ramblings

Thank you John for taking the time to glean all this information from the historical material contained in our storage facility and retype all of it for the newsletter. It was really interesting to see how many of the issues jewelry and lapidary artists face today were dealt with back when. It is amazing to note that most of them are still in practice today. I for one, can really relate to that last tip concerning super glue. Fortunately a little bit of acetone generally takes care of the problem. Never had to visit Urgent Care to unglue a finger.

ONE LAST TIME

By Suzanne Webb, Chairman

Greetings Editors,

What a great job you’ve all been doing given this strange and horrible year. Still, you’ve created some really great bulletins—pick the best one and send it in by January 10. In those great bulletins, you’ve published some astoundingly interesting articles and features—winnow them out and send them in along with your bulletin. Or by themselves. Also, please do not zip the file(s) you send, and send all entries to rgms.bulletin@gmail.com.

The January 10 deadline will facilitate getting your submissions to the CFMS judges who have their own deadline to meet. They have to send their results on to the AFMS judges who then have a set period of time to get their own judging done before the date for the April AFMS meeting in Utah. That’s a lot of judging that needs to happen in about 2 months to be ready for the national meeting (if we even get to have the national meeting).

If you want to know what the judges are looking for, check out the score sheet for each category. It may be a little late for this year, but you can keep those requirements in mind for next year. But there’s one requirement that frequently gets ignored by editors: each issue should have some kind of news of the California Federation and of the national federation. It’s not enough to forward the CFMS newsletter to your members, although that’s nice. But you might find an article to republish, or some information about shows, field trips, insurance, contests, juniors, and so on. Same goes for the national newsletter. If you can’t find something in those newsletters, you might go directly to the newsletters of the various clubs and societies in your region or in other regions. The list of each year’s winners is published in the AFMS newsletter (and in the CFMS newsletter), and you can go to the appropriate locations to find good material.

A further word: As the CFMS BEAC, I’ve seen articles submitted which include glaring grammar errors. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure those errors are corrected before you ever publish the article. Your authors will thank you as will your readers, at least some of them. Allowing such errors to persist ensures that the entries you submit will not score well enough to be among the winners. (You have to submit entries as published, so the only chance your author has is if you correct any grammatical slips before you print the article.)

Finally, it is also your responsibility to ensure that all information is correctly sourced. Taking information from a source without acknowledgment—even from the Internet—is plagiarism, and it is also your responsibility to turn the item back to your member and ask for sources. This also goes for images. The judges are strict about this. I know for certain that one judge regularly checks each article submitted for judging, so take note.
IN MEMORIAM

Dee Holland passed away December 9, 2020. He was the last of a group of pioneers in the Northwest Federation. Dee, along with Ed Romack, John Spunaugle, Cliff Jackson, Dorothy & Glenn Lee and Richard Glissman all hung around together and created so many things we can all look back on with awe and reverence. The fellas were all involved in faceting, they were all involved in competitive rules and exhibiting, they were all involved in the formation of ALAA, American Lands Access Assn. Dee was NFMS president in 1987-88 and went on to be AFMS president, 1998, and finally in his later years, he was president of AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

His great love was judging competitive exhibits all over the regional federation shows, and worked hard to update the AFMS Rules. Along with Jay Bowman, they created the first program of bringing people from all the regional federations to Wildacres for a week-long seminar of teaching how to judge competitive exhibits. Both Dee and Jay always said, 'you are not a judge, YOU are a teacher.'

Dee had been in bad health for many years, but he leaves a legacy we will not soon forget.

R.I.P.

Submitted by Shirley Leeson, AFMS President 2008

Editor’s note: Dee was actively involved with the CFMS Rules Committee for a number of years and was the recipient of the Golden Bear Award in 2012.

SAFETY MATTERS: LEADING BY EXAMPLE MATTERS
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

It's real. It's here. It's now. It Matters. COVID - 19 is here. How we deal with it matters. There is a debate about mask wearing, but few debate the question as to whether masks help or not. They help, significantly so, in reducing transmission to others and protection of oneself. While a person may show no outward and commonly recognized symptoms of COVID-19, they may have it and unknowingly be spreading it.

Have you been close by someone who has it? If they do have it, they might not know it. So, since it is not always possible to be sure, the old advice is still sound. An ounce of prevention (a mask and hand washing) is usually worth the pound of cure (the consequences of having COVID-19). There are and will continue to be health reasons, pulmonary function and so on issues, for not wearing a mask. The reasons should be minded.

Rockhounds are leaders. They write articles, deliver speeches, and zoom all they want, but the best example of leadership, is leading by example. Often words are not really needed for that style of leadership. Go on a field trip and wear goggles while hammering or chipping rocks. Wear ear plugs if the noise is high and one is using an air compressor or battery-powered tools for hammering on rocks. Have gloves on while needing to protect your hands. Mind the chips flying when using rock splitters. Use protective guards when operating machinery. Those exemplify leading by example. Leading by example works--rockhounds are smart people.

With children around, well, they are little sponges. They may not show it, but they watch everything, especially what parents and any adults do. Children want to be adults, and often, the sooner the better. Children observe adults and learn in that observation. Setting a good example for kids, for anyone, will give the hobby, our health, and our ideals a good size boost.

Sources of additional information include:

WHO - World Health Organization
CDC - Centers for Disease Control
NIH - National Institute of Health
NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases
NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Checking with the above sources, as well as your own personal and trusted sources, plus your state and local sources, would be wise in order have the most current mask advice.

Your safety matters. Please be extra cautious in this current Covid-19 virus day and age.

The disclaimer--understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice but merely compiles data from several sources about masks and the Covid-19 virus. For current information please check with trusted sources.

From AFMS Newsletter, December 2020
CFMS SHOW DATES
Shows and Events
Sponsored by
CFMS Clubs & Societies!

Please submit your
Show or Event as soon as possible
to receive maximum advertising value!
Email to:
SHOW DATES

Use the Online Show Form
at www.cfmsinc.org
(click on Shows)
You should receive a confirmation
within 5 days after submitting your
Show Date information!

****Special COVID 19 Message
Our shows are cancelling due the
current mandates of not gathering
people in groups. If I am notified,
we immediately post on line the
cancelled show. Notice the future
shows listed here lined out, are
cancelled. If you have your new
dates, get them to me and I will
post them.
Sincerely, Jennifer Rhodes

2021

March 6-7; Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10-W Harbor Blvd
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: Richard Slyker; 805-312-8467
Email: info@vgms.org
Website: www.vgms.org

March 13-14; Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Inspiration Unearthed
62nd Annual Tournament of Gems
Arcadia Masonic Center
50-W Duarte Rd
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Ellen Ferrell; 727-512-0381
Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com
Website: www.pasadenalapidary.org

September 25-26 Palmdale, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Details to follow

National/Regional Shows:

California Federation
June 25-27, 2021
Lodi, CA

Eastern Federation
2021 July, Syracuse, NY
2022 September, Harrisburg,
PA

Midwest Federation
2021 September 10-12
Toledo, OH

Northwest Federation

Rocky Mountain Federation

South Central Federation
AFMS 2021
April 21-25
So Jordan, UT

Southeast Federation
EACH CLUB/SOCIETY SHOW
SHOULD BE LISTED HERE

DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR CLUB
WEBSITE WITH YOUR NEW SHOW DATE

Check for show links at
www.cfmsinc.org/shows

REMINDER
Advertise your Show in as many
Free locations as possible!
1. Local newspapers
2. Current events
   sections!
3. Local TV stations,
4. Community
   calendars!
5. Other Local Shows

Advertise your shows in
the Rock & Gem Magazine!
www.rockngem.com/
showdate-submissions/
Send the information in
early so it's published in
the magazine as well as
online.

Happy New Year!
USE CAUTION WHEN RENTING VEHICLES
By Fred Ott

From time-to-time, a Society may find the need to rent a vehicle such as a car or truck to help in an activity such as moving equipment and supplies. The Federation’s General Liability Insurance policy includes a benefit called **Non-Owned and Hired Car Liability** coverage which protects the Society and its members against claims and lawsuits because of an at-fault accident as stated in the policy. In order to provide coverage, the vehicle must be **rented by the Society and not rented in the name of an individual Society member.**

Several years ago, a CFMS society arranged to have a truck rented by a Society member who, unfortunately, did not own his own vehicle. When the truck was involved in an accident, neither the Society nor the individual had any liability insurance coverage to provide a legal defense or pay for the damages caused by the accident involving the truck. Had the Society rented the truck, the CFMS Insurance policy would have covered the accident. Had the individual owned a vehicle that was insured with non-owned auto coverage (as almost all car insurance policies automatically provide), he would have been covered for the accident by his own insurance company.

Bottom line: Accidents do happen. Make sure your Society has **property coverage** as well as **adequate liability limits** when vehicles are being used or rented for Society activities.

Originally published in November 2016 CFMS Newsletter

LOOKING TO BETTER TIMES

There isn’t hardly one of us who wasn’t affected in some way by the year about to come to an end. Who would have thought that a new dangerous and potentially deadly unseen foe would change our lives and how we live them possibly forever.

I’m not aware of any CFMS member society/club that was able to carry on business as usual. Some went dark completely, others learned to use Zoom or other web based media to conduct meetings and present educational programs for their membership. Shows were cancelled after mid-March and even the shows tentatively scheduled for early 2021 are in limbo waiting to see if local authorities and conditions allow them to proceed.

CFMS was unable to host its Earth Science Studies camps in 2020 and will be unable to host the 2021 camp at Zyzxx. We have our fingers crossed that between the new COVID vaccine and potential reduction in disease transmission, we will have Camp Paradise. Hopefully we can all meet in Lodi in late June for the 2021 CFMS Convention and Show which had to be cancelled last year.

Clubs might ask–why do we want to remain a part of CFMS when we can’t have meetings, etc. etc. A few of you have asked about a reduced per member cost. As mentioned earlier we were able to pass along a reduction in the mandatory general liability policy premium in the form of a $1 reduction in the per member share of the cost paid by the society for coverage. The pandemic won’t last forever and scientists anticipate we may be able to return to some amount of normalcy later in 2021. Coverage under this policy is why some of the societies became a part of CFMS and why they remain. All the optional forms of coverage are available to societies/clubs in good standing.

CFMS leadership fully understands the pain all of you have felt over the past months–all of our own clubs have been in the same boat and like you the Federation itself has felt the pinch of the ongoing bills and limited cash flow to pay them. Marcia Goetz worked with our webmaster to post sources of online educational programs available to our member societies/clubs. Some of our membership are already taking advantage of this opportunity and all are encouraged to try a new program source.

Let’s all look forward to having a less eventful new year!!
2021 CFMS Officers, Chairmen and Committee Roster

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Juanita Pardun (See President)  
Marcia Goetz (See Long Range Planning)

**CFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
Pat LaRue (See Exec Sec/Treas)

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**CUSTOMIAN**
Jim Barton (See 1st VP)

**EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES**
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Sandi Kilcrease–Camp Mgr North  
Registrr  
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Registrr

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AD HOC
FACILITY FUND
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COMBINED DUES & INSURANCE–2021

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Insurance: $5.00 per member
Total: $7.00 per member

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CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
2021 Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival
June 25–27, 2021

Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fair
413 East Lockeford Street
Lodi, CA

10am – 5pm Friday & Saturday
Educational Exhibits
Speakers

10am – 4pm Sunday
Demonstrators
Dealers

For information contact:

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Bob Rush
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