



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LX #11

December 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kimberly Fiala

Hello Everyone,

I hope you're all keeping warm in this chilly weather. It's hard to believe that this will be my final note as President, but I am excited to welcome the new President in January. I know the person will be embraced with open arms by all of you.

This year has flown by, and I hope that you had the chance to attend and enjoy many of the shows throughout the year. It's great to see that some clubs are thriving and bouncing back. Keep up the fantastic work! I want to express my gratitude to everyone who helped out at the June CFMS Show in Lodi. Although my presidency is ending, there is still a show to look forward to in May 2024 in Ventura. I hope you can attend and appreciate the sights there as well.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire Committee and Board members who have made this year a pleasure. It has been a wonderful adventure working alongside you and learning new things. To all the new and returning committee members, welcome and keep up the amazing work. For those who are new, don't hesitate to reach out to others for advice and support. Let's continue to work together and stay connected.

As we approach the end of the year, take this time to cherish moments with your loved ones. You never know what the new year will bring, so make the most of every adventure life throws your way. Stay safe and enjoy this festive season.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kimberly Fiala



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 5. Deadline for Jan Newsletter
Jan 5. Dealine for Feb Newsletter
May 24-26. ... CFMS/AFMS 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: pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

Ellen Ferrell
1392 Bouquet Dr. #A
Upland, CA 91786-3358
(727) 512-0381
ellenbf2007@aol.com

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. Be sure to cite the source.

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)
Facilities Development Fund

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.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2023 ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK

By Diane Cook, Chair

IMPORTANT! – Deadline for entry in the CFMS contest is January 20, 2024. Please send your entry to me, Diane Cook @ johndianedaisy@yahoo.com by January 20, 2024 – and it will be judged at CFMS level, and the winners announced at the end of May at the CFMS-AFMS Show in Ventura.

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook, highlighting a club's activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, etc. - all these activities reflect an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone. The AACA awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

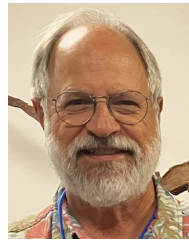
Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due!. The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club, as well as an excellent tool to encourage prospective members. Canvassing members for any missing documentation, letters, flyers or other materials to fill in some gaps just might make the difference between a good club and a great Club Yearbook entry.

Take advantage of the guide that is on the AFMS site written by John Washburn. "An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation." This gives an explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book.

Remember – you can get credit for activities such as participation in Competitive Displays, Junior activities, and for club members volunteering as Judges for AFMS contests.

PDF entries are welcome as it saves a lot in postage. Page limit is 150 single pages for the pdf, and 100 double sided pages if printed. Scrap Books are great too!

Document your club's year for 2023 and send it to me no later than January 20, 2024. Hope to see lots of entries in 2024 – showing what your club did in 2023.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

CFMS Offers Many Awards for Junior Members in 2024 *Encourage & Nominate Your Club Kids!*

As 2023 winds to a close and we look to the New Year, encourage kids within your clubs and societies to strive for any of several awards available to them. These include...

The CFMS 2024 Junior Achievement Award. We will sponsor our Fourth Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Award to acknowledge and reward outstanding kids in two age groups: under 12 (Age Group 1) and ages 12-to-18 (Age Group 2). Kids submit applications, and winners earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. An application form was distributed at the Fall Directors' Meeting in Visalia and is posted to the CFMS website (<https://cfmsinc.org/juniors-achievement-award/>). In order to evaluate entries and announce winners at our CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention in Ventura May 24-26, the deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2024. Applicants must be enrolled in a CFMS-affiliated society. The child's age as of December 31, 2023 determines the age group he or she will be in. If a child won last year, that child will need to wait out a full year to enter again UNLESS s/he has moved up from Age Group 1 to Age Group 2. If a child submitted an application last year but did not win, s/he can enter again this year. Should you have questions, contact me (805-659-3577) or jbraceth@roadrunner.com. (As an aside, I'm seeking volunteers willing to judge entries for these awards. If you're interested, please contact me.)

Show Chair's Award at our Show & Convention. Our Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit will be determined and presented by the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show Chair at our annual Show & Convention in Ventura. The award will consist of a Certificate, a \$100 cash prize, and a mineral specimen. There are no rules (nor applications to fill out) for this award, which may be presented to any kid's exhibit at the show, whether competitive or noncompetitive. In short, it is like the President's Award granted to whatever display appeals most to the CFMS President. May each club encourage kids to enter exhibits!

Bulletin Contest Awards. Newsletter editors of each CFMS club and society are encouraged to submit entries into the CFMS Bulletin Contest each year. These include several categories for kids: Junior Poetry, Junior Articles written by kids under age 12, and Junior Articles written by kids ages 12 through 17. Details are posted to the CFMS website (<https://cfmsinc.org/cfms-bulletin-contest/>). Nominations are traditionally made by the newsletter editors of individual societies.

Junior Rockhound of the Year. Each year, societies within CFMS may award “Rockhound of the Year” recognition to an individual or a couple who has shown outstanding achievement and participation within their club. This award is published and celebrated in both the CFMS and the AFMS newsletters, along with certificates-of-achievement. In addition to adults, each society is encouraged to honor a “Junior Rockhound of the Year.” All you need do is write a brief paragraph about your Junior Rockhound of the Year and submit it to ROTY Chair Chris Ward (chris_ward678@yahoo.com). Here’s looking forward to honoring a kid within *your* society!

Here’s to a great New Year helping kids earn recognition and awards—while having fun!

CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

With the Endowment Fund being the stable underlying source of revenue to financially assist the programs and services that CFMS provides to its members, we greatly appreciate the member clubs and individuals who donate money, rock related items and jewelry on an ongoing basis.

Donations may be made for many reasons, among those being, "in memory of", "in honor of", "in celebration of" or for any other reason that your creative mind may choose. You've heard of "give til it hurts" but a new way to think about it would be, "give til it feels good!! Between now and Spring of 2024 when the CFMS/AFMS Show and Convention will take place in Ventura, CA, your donations will be especially appreciated as we may be conducting a raffle of higher value items. In addition, the Endowment Fund will have tables set up where we will be selling a variety of donated items including handmade, natural and commercially produced pieces. We will have a roulette wheel, as usual, for kids of all ages and where everyone wins!

Donations may be made by a number of methods: using the form that is in the newsletter, delivering a check at a business meeting Also, you may bring checks or product to the Endowment Fund Table at CFMS Shows. Additionally checks may be mailed to Pat LaRue at:

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657
or

Send rock, gem, mineral, jewelry and related items to:

Sharon Rogow
PO Box 35078
Las Vegas, NV 89133-5078

All proceeds go to the CFMS Endowment Fund

Report given at Fall Business Meeting, Visalia Nov 2023

2024 CFMS-AFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

Follow the Mermaids to Ventura!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Ventura GMS

My hometown of Ventura is officially named San Buenaventura, which some translate as “City of Good Fortune.” We invite you to seek your good fortune by attending the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention being hosted May 24-26 by the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. To keep tabs on the show and various resources (exhibitor application forms, info on local hotels, things to do in and around Ventura, etc.), check in now and then to the official show website: www.2024cfms-afms.com. The website is a work-in-progress and will be continually refreshed with new info, forms, and updates.

As noted last month, in each issue of the CFMS Newsletter leading up to Show Time, we’ll present a different mermaid photo taken in Ventura. The person attending the convention who can correctly identify the specific location of each mermaid will receive a rocky reward at the show banquet. If we have tied scores, the winner will be drawn from a hat. And to keep things fair-and-square, I’ll likely have two prizes—one for locals and one for out-of-towners. That said, here’s my dog Tornjak sharing this month’s Ventura mermaid. Call him on his dog-phone, and he may reveal the location, which he visits every Monday morning and comes home with sandy paws.





ROCKHOUND SOAPBOX

By John Martin
alaa@amlands.org

Public Lands Advisory Committee (PLAC) Report about the new proposed legislation, **H. R. 5660: Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act of 2023**, which is composed of 700,000 acres of the California Desert covering 2 counties and extends from the southern edge of the Joshua Tree National Park to the California-Arizona Border.

The proposed Monument includes the Wiley Wells District which contains the Hauser Geode Beds and several other Geode Collecting Sites. If the legislation passes it could have an impact on Recreational Rockhounding. However in the proposed legislation is a paragraph on allowable recreational activities with in the Monument boundaries, Paragraph (4) Recreation states:

“The Secretary shall continue to authorize, maintain, and enhance recreation in the Monument, including, but not limited to, camping, hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, hunting, hang gliding, climbing, mountain biking and motorized recreation on authorized routes, and the noncommercial collecting of rocks, minerals, and semi-precious gemstones, so long as such recreational use is consistent with the purposes specified in section 4(b), this section, other applicable law (including regulations), applicable management plans, and input from the Commission regarding potential impacts to culturally sensitive sites and resources.”

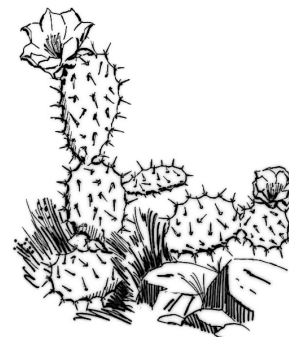
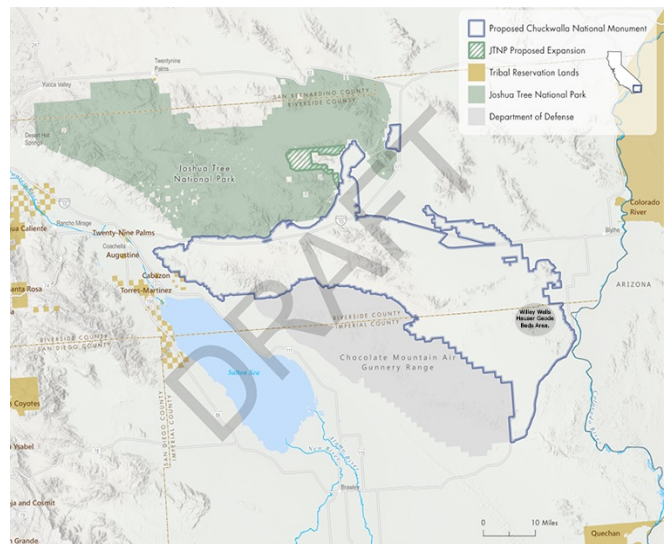
However, there are some other conditions which may make Recreational Rockhounding a thing of the past. There are outside activities and activist groups pushing that if the legislation fails to pass congress that the President use the Executive Order to Create the monument which would most likely not include the ability to continue Recreational Rockhounding. To make things worse, there are actions in progress in which the entire proposed Monument area of 700,000 acres will become an expansion of the Joshua Tree National Park, where there is No Removal of any Natural Resources for any reason, except by government agencies The collecting of Geodes will be no more.



What can be done by Recreational Rockhounds to preserve the sites for continued collecting now and for future generations? Become Rockhound Activists! Read the proposed Legislation:

[https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/hr5660\)](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/hr5660)

Contact/write your elected officials and let them know your position on the legislation. Contact the BLM and get their information on the the Monument and ask that Recreational Rockhounding be included in the Monument Management Plan. Attend any meetings pertaining to the Monument, search the internet for any information on the monument legislation. Most of all make your voice heard and make the united voice of the Rockhounds across America be heard. If you remain a pacifist, you will lose your right to be a Recreational Rockhound.





RULES COMMITTEE

By Colleen McGann, Chair

Thanks go to all folks who entered display cases at the CFMS Lodi show. We had 6 competitive cases and 10 non-competitive ones. I thank Donna Albrecht, Michael

Hawkins, Robert Seaton and Frank Van Hecke for their awesome displays in education, open and mineral divisions. All did well. Thanks go to the members who judged these displays. Also thanks to all the non-competitive cases on fossils, field trips, minerals, jewelry and our past presidents cases.

I would like to see more clubs assisting members to display cases at Ventura in May 2024 for a good showing of all the different interests and aspects of earth science that we experience in our clubs. These displays show others the fun times we enjoy.

Report given at Fall Business Meeting, Visalia 2023

BULLETIN EDITOR

By Pat LaRue, CFMS Bulletin Editor

Anyone who takes on the responsibility of editing the newsletter for any organization knows that it is not a job for the faint of heart. The goal of any newsletter, large or small, hard copy or electronic, is to keep its membership informed of what is taking place and providing information of interest to the readers.

What exactly is the job of the editor? The editor is responsible for publishing the vital information provided by the leadership of the organization as well as original items/articles provided by the membership. The editor should not be expected to write the whole thing. The range of information contained in a Federation newsletter should be provided by the chairpersons of the various committees. It isn't necessary to provide something each and every month, but once or twice a year would be nice. I greatly appreciate those individuals who contribute something each and every month. You don't have to be an accomplished writer; the editor is more than happy to correct the grammar, punctuation, etc. The important thing is that the membership wants to hear from you; you help them appreciate that CFMS does more for

them than providing a comprehensive source of insurance.

Currently the CFMS Newsletter is available free of charge to up to 3 members of each CFMS Society/Club. It is also being emailed to those clubs which have provided Marcia Goetz with a contact email. If preferred, anyone can read it when it is posted on the CFMS Website, www.cfmsinc.org. A few people are still subscribing to receive the hard copy in the mail. Effective January 1, the cost of a subscription will increase to \$6. The current price is \$5.50.

I have resisted the idea of eliminating the hard copy and going to an electronic format. Unfortunately the increasing cost of duplication and postal fees is rapidly making me think that the time to make the conversion from print to electronic is rapidly approaching. Perhaps the newly revamped Internet committee would be able to accomplish the task of emailing a link to the monthly newsletter to those persons interested in receiving it. My email program is very limited in what it can do, so I must leave that task up to others. Our bulk mail permit expires in August, so any decision whether to keep things as they are or change to the electronic format must be made prior to then.

In the meantime, please provide the names and mailing addresses of those persons who should receive the newsletter in 2024 on the Officer/Chairman form. A personal address is preferred unless that person wants it sent to the club address. Bulk mail is not forwarded so if you do move, please let me know the address to which it should be sent. Occasionally newsletters are returned with the notation "addressee not known", among others. If a newsletter is returned for the same reason two months in a row, I generally will delete that person from the mailing list. I do attempt to verify addresses through one of the data sources readily available on the Internet and am sometimes able to make a correction that way. The Post Office does provide the known forwarding address if it is on file. Be assured the organization does not sell its mailing list to others.

Report given at Fall Business Meeting, Visalia 2023



GOOD MEETING PROGRAMS REALLY NEED TO BE SHARED

By DeLane Cox, AFMS Program Chair

Have you ever had a program at a Rock Cub meeting that you thought was just really good? Or that the program should be shared with others so they have this information?

Getting these programs onto an electronic medium is a great way to share the information. And a great way to have an entry for the AFMS New Programs Competition!

For many years the AFMS has had a program called Program Competition, now called "New Programs Competition," that people could produce programs by way of slides and videos and enter into this competition. The top two programs were awarded prizes, and then reproduced and passed along to each Federation for their lending library. This was a great way to get new programs the rock clubs could borrow and use at their meetings.

However, in the past few years, there have been few to no new programs submitted. We need that to change. The clubs still need programs. We have people who are doing great programs for their clubs, so we need to get these programs onto an electronic medium and make them available for more people to see.

The New Programs Competition invites clubs and individuals to put these programs on PowerPoint or sides or another electronic means and submit them for the competition. There are Helpful Hints, Rules, and Judges Forms on the AFMS website to help with the technical side. And using PowerPoint is fairly simple and fast. It takes a little planning, but the results might be worth the time. There is a \$200 First Place award, and a \$100 Second Place Award in this competition. Entries are not competitive but based on its own merits. And the top two winners are then reproduced and given to each Federation for their Program Library.

There are five different classes for entries: Educational; Field Collection; How to Do it; Miscellaneous; and Just for Juniors (ages under 18 years, with their own rules). In addition, there is a category called "Excellence in Education" for commercially produced programs that is judged separately. You must be a member of a club in good

standing, and entries must be submitted before the April 2, 2024, deadline. (The AFMS Convention is in May, so deadline is early.). There is time to get a production done, but it needs to be started very soon. Submissions are preferred in PowerPoint, but other media can be accepted upon consulting with the Committee Chair.

Several Federations are now in the process of turning old programs into YouTube content that anyone can download for their own use or for a Club to download at their meetings for club programs. This will be so convenient for our clubs, and the New Program winners will be made compatible for these changes.

So, if you know of a club member who did a great program that might be a good entry, or have a great idea yourself, get going and get the planning done. Check out the Hints, and the Judging Form and see what technicals need to be considered, and get that program turned in. Entry form is also on the AFMS Website. So, get going. Get that program together. Get it entered. Before April 2, 2024.

If you have questions, contact DeLane Cox, Committee Chair, at (479)254-0894, or email to: delanec3@earthlink.net.

IN MEMORIAM

I just learned that long time CFMS member Dot Beachler recently passed away at the age of 102. She and her late husband Robert chaired the All American Club Committee. After Robert's passing Dot continued to assume the responsibility of promoting and administering this program for many more years. Until her move to the Bay Area to live with her daughter, she would attend many of the local shows and was a long time member of the Palos Verdes Gem & Mineral Society.

The last time I saw Dot was a Zoom party hosted by her daughter and family to celebrate her 100th birthday. In the age of Covid an in person party would have been impossible but thanks to technology her many friends from CFMS and her old neighborhood were able to share in the joy of this special occasion. Our condolences go out to her family. She was a great lady and I value the privilege of having known her.

Submitted by Pat LaRue



CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society is honored to have Shelley Breidenstein selected as Rockhound of the Year for 2023. Shelley grew up in Dixon CA and currently lives in Mokelumne Hill with her husband Bill and 2 children, Ricky and Bo. While taking care of Bill's mother, his brother offered Shelley and family a two week respite care. Bill had spent time with his dad in the Nevada desert exploring and enjoying the desert. Bill & Shelley decided that would be a great way to get away with their children. They purchased some rockhounding books and took off exploring. This was the beginning of her adventure into rockhounding and all the things that can be done with the rocks she was finding. Shelley & Bill attended a Calaveras Gem & Mineral tailgate and then attended their first club meeting, which happened to be the famous Thanksgiving pot-luck. She was hooked. She has become an integral part of the fabric of our club. She and Bill are shop stewards and have expanded shop hours and the number of days the shop is open. She is the Queen of the kid's section for our annual show, working tirelessly to get the kids involved. She is a hospitality activist! She feeds the club on her shop day while always providing cheer to the activity. With their commitment to kids, Shelley & Bill were instrumental in initiating a Junior Rockhound Club starting in January 2024. Thank you, Shelley, for your commitment to Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society. You make a difference now and in the future.

Submitted by Debby Brooks-Secretary-Calaveras GMS

Barbara Roderick-Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

It is my great pleasure to submit Barbara Roderick as our Rockhound of the Year for the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society. Barbara assumed the position of secretary at the beginning of the year and took over as our membership chair when the previous chair had to step down. Barbara attacks everything she does with boundless energy and enthusiasm and is the glue that holds us together. As our secretary, Barbara takes meticulous minutes at all meetings. She organized and led phone trees and emails regarding meetings and upcoming events. In her spare time, she is reorganizing and updating every document and form for the CCMGS. Barbara coordinated our legacy contributions by organizing and communicating with the contributor and the pick-up of the donated items. She helped with the storage, separation, cleaning and distribution of tons of materials and donated equipment. As membership chair, she created a New Member package of information to ease new members into our club. Barbara helped to create and continually update our interactive membership database with all the information necessary for the BOD to run efficiently. She is always available to all members with a welcome smile and helping hand. On a personal note, this is my first year as president. Barbara has always been there for me as a sounding board to bounce ideas and keep me focused.

Submitted by Michael Hopkins-President-Contra Costa GMS

Ken Davis - Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society

Our Club is so lucky and pleased to have the expertise of Ken Davis. Ken has been with the Club only a few years, and has volunteered countless hours in a short amount of time. Most

recently we thanked him for organizing and guiding us to success at our annual show, Gems on the Hill. He also jumped into the task of renovating a few of our rusty lapidary machines, down to the last nut and bolt. Along with our Federation Director, Luis Morente, both represented LBMGS for the first time in June at the CFMS show in Lodi. Congratulations Ken, we thank you for a good year and look forward to many more.

Submitted by: Karin Alvarez- VP-Long Beach MGS

Steve Whittick - Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society

For well over a decade, AVGMC member Steve Whittick's contributions to our club have been substantial and far reaching. He is our club's Master Cabochon Maker as attested to by all the awards his showcases have won in competition, including both CFMS and AFMS Shows. During his membership he has taught dozens and dozens of fellow members how to use lapidary equipment, especially the Genie, and that includes me. When it comes to field trips, he always brings back some rocks which he donates to the club, a five gallon bucket of Kokoweef cave onyx here, a five gallon bucket of San Simeon Creek Agate there. He always seems to bring something interesting to our General Meetings which he shares with other members, like once he brought in a sea shell he had submerged in CLR, a cleaning fluid, which dissolved all the calcium and left in place a shell of iridescent mother of pearl. More than once he has come to a meeting with "some spare Cabochons" he had made to be offered as door prizes that evening. At all three of our club's main events, The Poppy Festival, the AVGMC Show and the AV Fair, he was present and busy with the set-up, the running and the tear down of the event, and this is true of past years as well. He often attends club work parties, coming early and working hard. He has led club programs, notably how to present a showcase and the useful tools and tricks that he has discovered over the years. He has led club Field Trips and held club Chairmanship positions. The current Board of the AVGMC proudly submits Steve Whittick for the CFMS Honor of Rockhound of the Year for the continuous and dedicated support he has given to the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

Submitted by Jim Betz-VP-Antelope Valley GMS

Jeff Dengrove - Del Air Rockhounds Club, Inc.

Jeff has been an outstanding and generous member of our club since 2007. He has been our field trip chair the entire time and has also been our Vice President since 2018. An avid field collector, Jeff has traveled all over the western states and many other areas of the country as well as several international destinations looking for unique rocks and specimens. He always brings back rocks for the club and is our go to guy to tumble and provide the stones that we give out to kids during our Education Outreach activities. He also deftly handles the opportunity draw at our monthly meetings. Jeff maintains the club's equipment and has a fully functioning lapidary shop at his home that he generously opens up to our membership for a 'Shop Day' several times a year. It is my distinct honor to submit Jeff Dengrove as the Del Air Rockhounds Club 'Rockhound of the Year'.

Submitted by: Chris Ward-President-Del Air Rockhounds Club, Inc.

SAFETY TALK? - HO HUM!

By Bart Solomon

What's your reaction when someone says there's going to be a safety talk? If you're like most people, you immediately wish you were somewhere else. Is it because the people who talk about safety are boring? Or, do you consider yourself infallible and immortal? Yes, many speakers are and no you aren't either. When we get bored at the sound of the word "safety", we're not really thinking danger is a part of the things we do.

However, we are engaged in a hobby in which there are a great number of ways to hurt yourself or be hurt by others. So, we really should think about what we are doing and how we are doing it. We use poisonous materials, have flammable materials, use acid and caustic materials, use fire, generate dangerous fumes, drive in convoys, get out in the sun a lot, are often around unstable cliffs, ditches, and the like, use tools which often release flying material, use electrical equipment around water, use rotary tools, and more.

Do you know how to protect yourself and your friends in every one of these cases. Or, are you like many of us? - just go ahead and never think about something going wrong? Do you own protective equipment - like canvas and rubber gloves, eye protection, safety shoes, safety hats. If you own them, do you use them? Face it, most of us don't. Can you treat insect and snake bites?

May I suggest something new/old? How about a "Safety Minute" at the start of each club meeting and each club activity. Either have a safety chairman or the leader of the activity simply mention one thing that people participating in the activity do that will reduce the risk of injury during the activity, for example it could simply be the means of evacuation from the meeting room in the event of a safety issue or the strategy for vehicle convoying during a rockhound trip. No one has time to get bored. Everyone is reminded that there are ways to get hurt in participating in this hobby. An extra free benefit of this idea is that people will become more safety conscious during the club activities. Hey, just put safety first on the agenda for all club activities and help increase safety awareness!



TWO EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN FEDERATION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Rep to AFMS

Every year at the AFMS Show & Convention items are raffled to raise income for the AFMS Endowment Fund. This fund is drawn upon to support new programs, the Future Rockhounds of America youth program and the free badges it provides to local clubs, judges training for competitive exhibiting, and more. We invite your help and participation. How so?

Make a purchase! Endowment Fund tickets are available for donations of either \$5.00 for one or \$20.00 for five. Please consider purchasing a batch of five for a good cause. (And please spread the news to your fellow club members by reprinting this article in your local club newsletter and making announcements at your monthly club meetings.)

Make a specimen donation! We invite hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, bead projects, etc. For instance, see the accompanying photo of a pure silver sand dollar pendant that I'm donating for the 2024 raffle. Items should have a minimum value of \$75. We also request a maximum weight of not more than five pounds to keep postage at a minimum if necessary to ship the item to the winning ticket holder. Tickets will be drawn at the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place in Ventura in May.

How to make arrangements to purchase tickets or to donate items? It's easy! Just call (805-659-3577) or email me (jbrace@roadrunner.com) and I'm happy to assist.



silver sand dollar with chain donated to AFMS Endowment Fund
drawing by Jim Brace-Thompson

2023 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!*

CLUB/SOCIETY SHOWS ARE LISTED HERE

2023

December 2-3, 2023 – Barstow, CA
Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community/Fitness Center
841 Barstow Rd., Barstow, CA 92311
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10-5
Contact (760) 979-6138,
MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.mdgms.net>

2024

January 20-21, 2024 – Exeter, CA
Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 N.
Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA 93221
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (559) 802-6029, bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

March 2-3, 2024 – Ventura
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura Co. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.,
Ventura, CA
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

May 4-5, 2024, Lancaster, CA
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
2551 W. Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
Contact: marylandorile@gmail.com

National/Regional Shows:



DON'T FORGET TO UP- DATE 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!**

- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations,
- Community calendars!
- Other Local Shows

**Advertise your shows
in the Rock & Gem
Magazine!**

**[www.rockngem.com/
showdate-
submissions/](http://www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/)**

**Send the information
in early so it's
published in
magazine as well as
online.**

VISUAL PROGRAMS

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

Sadly, as of this writing, I am reporting that there were only three requests for programs and of those, two were returned unused. With the easy access to the internet, streaming and other digital availability, use of the materials in our library is down to the bare minimum. I thought about reviewing in detail, one program every few month so I did that and I did not get any response in the form of requests for the programs. On questioning other people, I was told that some program chairs prefer to have live programs. I would welcome any ideas that any of you may have so please send me a message with your suggestions.

We had briefly spoken about setting up the ability to access programs directly from the website so that would eliminate mailing costs and time delays. However, that is beyond my job description, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who feels that they may be able to suggest how to set this up.

Report given at Fall Business Meeting,
Visalia Nov 2023



CFMS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

2023 CFMS Officers, Chairmen and Committee Roster

PRESIDENT

Kimberly Fiala (Glenn)

(916) 412-0453

fialakimberly at yahoo.com

TREASURER

Diane Cook (John)

(805) 340-9026

johndianedaisy at yahoo.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Rush (Pat)

(209) 365-3301

rocksbob at sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY

Frank Van Hecke

(530) 575-4252

4vancian5 at att.net

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Heidi Hall

(707) 291-8904

hdafler at yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Pat LaRue (Bural)

(909) 874-5664

bplarue at earthlink.net

ALL AMERICAN CLUB

Diane Cook (John)

(805) 340-9026

johndianedaisy at yahoo.com

BULLETIN AIDS

Celia Churchill (Chris)

cfmsbeac at gmail.com

BY-LAWS

Tony Fender (Sandie)

(626) 807-5279

arhfender at gmail.com

CFMS CAB CASES - NORTH

Paul Rose (Jo Ann Maesi)

(650) 302-6684

pmrose63 at gmail.com

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Chris Ward

(818) 439-0217

chris_ward678 at yahoo.com

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getback at csurfers.net

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CFMS REP TO AFMS

Jim Brace-Thompson, chair (Nancy)

(805) 659-3577

jbraceth at roadrunner.com

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EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES

Gary & Jill Atkins, Co-chairmen

(775) 232-6626

atkinsdesign at gmail.com

Glenda Keil—Camp Registrar North

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(702) 499-0272

sharonrr at cox.net

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(951) 644-5004

bplarue at earthlink.net

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(916) 847-7321

geologist1 at surewest.net

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(909) 644-5004

bplarue at earthlink.net

Susan Chaisson-Walblom

(661) 406-0143

slchaisson at yahoo.com

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Kimberly Fiala (See Pres)

Jim Barton (See Field Trips North)

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starmstr1 at bak.rr.com

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Past Presidents Case—Sandie Fender

Photo Restoration—John Martin

INSURANCE

Ellen Ferrell

(727) 512-0381

ellenbf2007 at aol.com

INTERNET COMMITTEE**JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

Jim Brace-Thompson, chair (Nancy)

(805) 659-3577

jbraceth at roadrunner.com

LEGAL ADVISOR

OPEN

CFMS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Jim Barton, Chair (See Field Trips North)

All living CFMS Past Presidents
2022 Executive Committee

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Dick Pankey (Betty)
Fred Ott (Susan)

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Frank Van Hecke

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4vanclan5 at att.net

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(661) 406-0143
slchaisson at yahoo.com

Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)
Dick White (Phyllis)
Bob Papac (Debbie)
Steve Collett (Cathy)
Glenn Fiala, alternate

OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN MANUAL

Jim Barton (See Field Trips North)

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Tony Fender (See Bylaws)

PHOTOGRAPHER

John Martin (see PLAC)

PROGRAM AIDS

Emmy Lam
(818) 297-7132
CFMSprogramaids at gmail.com

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY

John Martin, Chair (Susy)

(661) 942-8336 FAX (661) 945-2589
plac at antelecom.net

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Chris Ward (See Cab Cases South)

RULES COMMITTEE

Colleen McGann, Chair

kmcgann0009 at gmail.com

Pat LaRue (See Exec Sec/Treas)

Jim Brace-Thompson (See Jr. Activities)

Bob Rush (See 1st VP)

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Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)

(702) 499-0272
sharonrr at cox.net

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SCHOLARSHIP--CFMS

Heidi Hall, Chair (See 2nd VP)

Executive Committee

SHOW CONSULTANT--SOUTH

Susan Chaisson-Walblom
(661) 406-0143
slchaisson at yahoo.com

SHOW CONSULTANT--NORTH

Bob Rush (See 2nd VP)

SHOW COORDINATOR--2024

Bural & Pat LaRue (See Exec. Sec/Treas)

SHOW DATES

Marcia Goetz (Joe)

(626) 260-7239
marciagoetz195 at gmail.com

TAX ADVISOR

Pat LaRue (see Exec Sec/Treas)

TROPHY COORDINATOR

Frank Mullaney

(408) 691-2656
rockyfiv at gmail.com

VISUAL PROGRAMS

Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)

(702) 499-0272
sharonrr at cox.net

WEB SITE CONTEST

Merryan O'Neill

(530) 622-4229
logtown49 at gmail.com

CFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPLICATION, 2024

Name: _____ Age (as of 12/31/23): _____

Mailing address: _____
street address or P.O. Box

city, state, zip code

Email address of parent/guardian: _____

Phone number: _____

Name of your local club: _____

Signatures of 2 officers in your club: _____

Instructions: Provide info requested above & accompany this application with full responses to all sections/subsections listed below. Info should be provided for the past calendar year (2023). Also include a brief cover note highlighting accomplishment/s to which you wish to draw special attention where you feel you really shine. Mail or email this application with your responses to:

Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Junior Activities Chair
7319 Eisenhower Street
Ventura, CA 93003
Email address: jbraceth@roadrunner.com

All entries should be postmarked by March 1, 2024 (if sent by mail) or should be received via email not later than March 1, 2024. Should you have questions, call or email Jim at (805) 659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com. Winners will be announced at the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention. Kids who won 1st Place last year in the 2 age groups need to sit out a year **UNLESS** they are moving from Age Group 1 (under 12 years old) to Age Group 2 (ages 12-18).

Section I. HOBBY RELATED (Possible 45 points)

- A. Club involvement (field trips, committees, show participation, etc.). 20 points
- B. Hobby/Craft involvement (faceting, lapidary, metalwork, beading, collecting, etc.). 20 points
- C. Competitive involvement (displays, articles in competition, awards, etc.). 5 points

Section II. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 25 points)

- A. Scholastic (GPA, honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades, etc.). 15 points
- B. Extracurricular (sports, drama, debate, drill team, music, school clubs, etc.). 10 points

Section III. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 20 points)

- A. Events involvement (charity, volunteer, donation programs, etc.). 10 points
- B. Scouts, Campfire, 4H, church, or other community or youth groups. 10 points

Section IV. WORK RELATED (Possible 10 points)

- A. Employment, home chores, neighborhood work, sidewalk or beach clean-up, etc. 10 points

CFMS NEWSLETTER

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Pat LaRue, Editor

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