



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXI #11

December 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marcia Goetz

Hello Fellow Rock Friends,

Have you found it interesting that when people think of you they think of rocks. I'm amazed at times because someone will say something like "I was in Australia recently and I saw a rock at a shop and it reminded me of you". Of course they knew we were rockhounds, yet, looking at or visiting a gem store is a spark for them. I think that I talk rocks and gems more than I realize.

It was good to see many of you in Visalia for the Directors Meeting. There was much chit-chatting and helloing before the meeting started, The New Directors meeting with Fred Ott was well attended and I know there were more directors there than there were new directors and that was nice - I think some may have attended it as a refresher class.

The Executive Committee had a lot of items on their agenda this time. We celebrated Pat and Bural LaRue's 30th anniversary of attending CFMS Directors meetings - Wow!! We thank you for your commitment. After that we discussed: Membership and insurance fees - 2025 the insurance per member will increase to \$8 - that means the cost per member will now be \$10 (CFMS membership dues are \$2). Camp Paradise - the cost per person in 2025 will be \$550. Camp Paradise was successful this year and fell short by about a thousand dollars. The EC will be asking Jill Atkins to submit some bids from other caterers. The trailer that used to be at Camp Zzyzx and the contents will be sold...the contents will be sold at a silent auction at the Endowment table at the upcoming CFMS Convention. Some of the items at the silent auction will be a rolling mill, buffing machine without pads, chasing tools, various tables, buckets, goggles, silver tool kit, a kiln, etc. If you are interested, I will be sending out the list via an email. The trailer will be sold. The price is yet to be determined, but the trailer will be at the fairgrounds during the Convention. The EC voted to hold the 2025 CFMS Convention at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on May 10 and 11, 2025. Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Society is inviting CFMS to use some unused space for their Cracker Barrel, Director's Meeting, Banquet, Endowment table, and Competitive and Non-Competitive cases. There will be a new Supplemental Trophy to honor Cheri George. This will be a Beading Award sponsored by the Palmdale Gem and Mineral Society. Brett Allen Johnson and Lisa Murphy are going to design the trophy. The above items were approved at the Director's Meeting.

I want to thank all of the Directors for letting me serve a second year as CFMS President. Susan Chaisson-Walblom will be serving as President in 2025 so you all will be in good hands. Susan was CFMS President in 2012 so she has lots of knowledge about the position.

Marcia Goetz



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 5. Deadline for Jan Newsletter
Jan 5. Deadline for Feb Newsletter
May 10-11. CFMS Convention-Lancaster
Aug 17-30. Camp Paradise

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

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

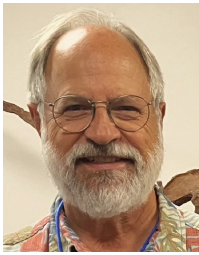
Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$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.





JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

Reward the Outstanding Kids in Your Society!

As I reported in September, it's time again to consider outstanding kids within your club to apply for our 5th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards. Here's the process. Please share this article with parents and kids in your club.

The CFMS Junior Achievement Award requires a formal application from the junior member that will be scored against other applications. At the CFMS Show & Convention Awards Banquet, winners receive a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100.

Membership Requirement & Age Groups.

Applicants must be in a CFMS-affiliated society and will fall within two age groups. Group 1 (Pebble Pups): ages 11 and under. Group 2 (Juniors): 12-18. The child's age as of December 31, 2024 determines the group. If a child won in the past year, that child needs to wait out a year to enter again UNLESS s/he has moved up from Group 1 to Group 2.

Application & Deadline. The 2025 Application form was distributed last month at the CFMS Directors Meeting in Visalia, will be posted to the CFMS website, and is included in this month's newsletter. After completing the Application, kids need signatures of two representatives from their society (for instance, President, Fed. Director, Membership Chair, Juniors Leader). They will then mail or email their Applications to the CFMS Junior Activities Chair, i.e., me. Questions? I'm happy to field them! (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com). The deadline is March 1, 2025.

Areas Evaluated. The following areas are considered: 1) hobby, 2) educational achievement, 3) community involvement, and 4) work related. For each area, kids should provide as much detail as possible covering the full preceding year (2024).

Cover Letter. Applications should be accompanied by a short cover letter written by the child or dictated to a parent highlighting any info or accomplishments to which s/he wishes to draw special attention. Basically, "in your own words, tell us where you really shine."

Scoring. Applications will be evaluated by the CFMS Jr Activities Chair and at least 2 other CFMS representatives selected by the Chair from different societies to minimize bias. Scores will be averaged to determine the winner in each age group. To earn the Award, juniors must achieve a minimum averaged score of 80.

Notification. Top winners will be notified by letter, text, email or other method within 1 to 2 months of the deadline, as will entrants who did not win. (They will receive runner-up certificates.) Notice of the winners, with brief descriptions of accomplishments, will be posted in the CFMS Newsletter, and they will be honored at the CFMS Show & Convention Awards Banquet. If winners are unable to attend, certificates and checks will be mailed or passed along in trust to an affiliated club member in attendance.

Let's all help our outstanding kids! Please share this info today with parents and kids within your society! Still Encouraging Kids to Crack the News!

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

By Frank Van Hecke, Chair

The Museum Committee oversees the CFMS's mineral collections housed in a number of accredited institutions. These institutions include the San Diego Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Buena Vista Museum (Bakersfield, CA.), Jurupa Hills Discovery Center (Riverside, CA.), and The Keck Museum (Reno, NV.). The Museum Committee ensures that contracts with these institutions for the CFMS collections are kept up to date. Contracts with all the listed institutions have been signed and returned, extending most contracts into mid 2025 with some in force until 2026.

For 2025, the Committee will embark on a becoming a regular contributor to the CFMS Newsletter, sharing what makes up the different collections, the collection histories, etc.

Lastly, the Committee would like to thank Bob Papac, (Committee Member) for the repairs to the showcase which houses the Golden Bear/Benitoite specimens displayed at CFMS Shows.

Originally presented as a report at the Fall Business Meeting, Visalia, 11/9/24

THE 2025 CFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr Activities Chair

Can You Help Judge?

Five years ago, we held our first ever CFMS Junior Achievement Award to acknowledge and reward especially active and outstanding club kids in two age groups: under 12 and ages 12-to-18. Kids submit applications and winners earn a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. The deadline is March 1, 2025.

Rules call for members from three different CFMS clubs to serve as judges so as to avoid bias in evaluating applicants. Can you help?

If interested in serving as a judge for the 2025 CFMS Junior Achievement Award, please contact me: 805-659-3577 or jbraceth@roadrunner.com. Let's all join together to recognize and honor the outstanding kids within our ranks!



Photo: Daniel Nishimura of the Pasadena Lapidary Society won our 2024 Junior Achievement Award.

Editor's note: I helped judge the entries during the first two years Jim conducted this opportunity for the juniors to shine a light on their achievements not only in the hobby but in the community and at school as well. Yes, it takes a bit of time to evaluate each of the entries, but it will be time well spent to find out just how outstanding these young people are. Don't hesitate to contact Jim to say "Yes, count me in."

Let's hope our judges get lots of entries to evaluate!

MEMORIES OF TOM BURCHARD

By Colleen McGann, PGGs Federation Director



Oh my, I didn't know Tom was a singer, but here are my memories of him. He joined my club, Peninsula Gem and Geology in Los Altos sometime in the 80s or 90s and published the newsletter, The Petrograph which his mom edited. Both Tom and his mom Jo were instructors at Zyzxx and Camp Paradise; Tom taught lapidary. He taught with clear instructions, care and dedication while helping students make their best cabochons. I can attest to his help on how to make one's first and subsequent cabochons. Later Tom went through the Executive Committee chairs and served as CFMS president in 2015. After marrying Brenda and moving to Ogden, Utah, he joined two local clubs and participated with the Northwest Federation too.

I will remember Tom for his infectious smile and funny stories which entertained us daily at camp. One year at Zyzxx I worked the kitchen with Tom and Marion Roberts as chief dish washer. What a learning experience! We loved going out on the field trips from Zyzxx and I would find the first agate on the ground in front of Tom; then I'd laugh! Tom will be remembered for his years with CFMS and the local clubs and missed by his friends.



BULLETIN AIDS

By Celia Churchill, Chair

I. CFMS Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame Inductees.

Seven editors from CFMS were nominated and inducted into the Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame at the 2024 AFMS Show & Convention in Ventura. They are:

1. **Suzanne Webb**, inducted for both her work as editor of *The Conglomerate* from Reno Gem and Mineral Society, and as AFMS BEAC.
2. **Celia Churchill**, editor of *Rockhound Rambling*, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society.
3. **Josephine "Jo" Borucki**, editor of *Breccia*, Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
4. **Laura Driskell**, editor of *The Rock Bag*, Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society
5. **Lawrence Killough**, editor of *Rocky Review*, Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
6. **Alyson Nishimura**, editor of *Rockhound Ramblings*, Pasadena Lapidary Society
7. **Lisbet Thoresen**, editor of *The Pegmatite*, San Diego Mineral & Gem Society.

Congratulations to the inductees.

II. 2023 CFMS and AFMS Bulletin Contests Concluded. All awards from the 2023 Bulletin Contest have been distributed to the winners. Please contact the CFMS BEAC at cfmsbeac@gmail.com if there are any issues. Thanks to all clubs to entered the contest.

III. Announcing the 2024 CFMS and AFMS Bulletin Contest. Calling all clubs and Bulletin Editors! Please begin preparing your entries for submission to the CFMS Bulletin Contest.

Updated forms and entry guide will be on the CFMS website by December 1, 2024. We will again be using the same forms as AFMS.

The deadline to submit entries to the 2024 Bulletin contest will be January 10, 2025. Please note this is earlier than usual. Entries may be submitted and inquiries made to cfmsbeac@gmail.com.

We need judges for this contest! Please contact the CFMS BEAC if you have time to judge between January 10-17, 2025 and are willing to receive and send entries by email.

Originally presented as a report at the Fall Business Meeting in Visalia on 11/9/24

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Chair

Purchase!

Donate!

Let's show other regional federations how it's done!

The AFMS Endowment Fund Committee holds a fund-raising raffle at the annual AFMS Show & Convention. I'm once again charged with helping within the California Federation.

What does this mean? It means I'm hitting up ***YOU!***

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

Make a specimen donation! We invite hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, beadwork, etc. For instance, I'm donating two silver pendants of a Ventura beach sand dollar and a California live oak leaf crafted from precious metal clay. Items should weigh less than five pounds and have a minimum value of \$75. Tickets will be drawn at the 2025 EFMLS-AFMS Show & Convention March 27-30 in Hickory, North Carolina. Prizes will be mailed to anyone not at the show.

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), ***In my pocket are raffle tickets itching to get into your pocket!***

We in the California Federation stood out this past year, raising \$1,000 and donating 10 of the 17 raffle prizes for the last drawing.

Can we do it again? You bet!

Originally presented with minor edits as a report at the Fall Business Meeting in Visalia on 11/9/24



THE RECORD BREAKER

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

In April 1940, the 5th Annual Convention of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies was referred to by the *Mineralogist Magazine* as, “the record breaker.” As some of you will recall, the *Mineralogist* was a national semi-technical magazine devoted to mineralogy, geology, gemmology and the collector. You could get 12 issues a year for \$2.00, or one copy for 20 cents. Every issue was jam packed with a cornucopia of information spotlighting everything that was happening in every nook and cranny of our exciting hobby.

There were reports about the programs given at club meetings across the country, previews of Federation and AFMS annual conventions to spark enthusiasm in attendance followed by articles covering the spectaculars with attention to detail of those events, field trip experiences, along with techniques, advice and knowledge on everything imaginable engaging our hobby.

The convention was held at the Natural History Museum in Santa Barbara, California, hosted by the Santa Barbara Mineral Society. The event was noted in the magazine as the largest of its kind in America. Thirty-five hundred people attended the event which included the public, special visitors and delegates from just a few other states, as the AFMS and some of today’s Federations had not formed yet.

The Gem Cutting Section was in its own building at the museum and very popular. There were round table discussions of every lapidary technique from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days of the convention. One of the highlights of the Gem Cutting Section was the large display of modern lapidary equipment at the commercial exhibits. Leaders of the round table discussions included Jess Abernathy, Frances Sperisen and Fred S. Young of Portland, Oregon.

The museum’s geology department was open during the entire event, and one of its highlights was the distinguished opal collection of C.D. Woodhouse, president of the CFMS from 1940-1946. During the convention, the museum received many specimens for their collection from visitors and exhibitors. Given the descriptions of the special exhibits and the quality of the dealer material, these gifts would have been impressive.

There were 54 exhibitors. Special Awards were for Best Appearing Exhibit, Best Crystal Exhibit, Best Polished Slabs, Best Loose Crystals Exhibit and Best Exhibit of One Species of Minerals. A special award for Best Mineral Exhibit for Collecting in California During 1939-1940 was won by James Underwood.

Highlights at the exhibition were Thomas Warner’s display of his famous collection of kunzite and tourmaline publicly displayed for the first time. The display contained thousands

of the finest specimens and was known to be the most valuable of its kind. Wendal Stewart and Earl Calvert had a large display of fine and rare specimens from their expeditions into Old Mexico. Ellsworth Beach had an exceptional display of botryoidal hematite from England. Henry Ringwald won first prize as amateur lapidarist with his cabochons encased in wood mounts. Albert Quensel was mentioned for his beautiful collection of polished specimens skillfully set in hand carved wood mounts. E.P. Matteson had a wonderful display of Arizona minerals.

Commercial and professional exhibitors outnumbered other vendors at previous shows on the Pacific Coast with a count of 28. Dealers had excellent merchandise with many also being educational in their displays. It was noted there was very little “junkite” for sale.

The banquet was held at the historical El Paseo restaurant built in 1922, which to this day is still in business dishing up fine Mexican food. Out of state visitors were given priority when it came to seating because space was limited to 340 people. Tickets sold out with many not able to get in.

For those of you who have seen the CFMS Golden Bear on display at their annual show and convention, you know how special that specimen of gold is as is its story. It was announced during the banquet the Golden Bear had become the sole property of the CFMS and it would be the Federation’s official insignia. The nugget is extraordinary because its outline shape is in the shape of a bear, and presents on the crystalized surface two perfect octahedral crystals of gold not often seen.

There have been a couple of variations on the early history of the bear, however the *Mineralogist* reported in 1940 the Golden Bear was found at the bottom of a sluice box in 1857 by a 14 year old girl who kept it until she died at the age of 74. It was passed on to an heir for a certain period of time, and in 1939 C.D. Woodhouse bought it and reserved it for the Federation. The CFMS raised money and bought the Golden Bear. The bear has been on loan to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History for many years now except when it is released back to the CFMS to be shown at their annual show and convention.

There’s always one if not more humorous stories during a convention. One story was told that Oscar Smith of Portland was wearing a fancy green shirt which he was talked into trading for one of W. N. Whittemore’s opals. Whittemore who was from Santa Barbara was into fancy shirts, especially green ones, and had to have the shirt off Smith’s back.

Reading about our history as a whole brings back lots of cherished memories, but it can also inspire some good ideas we can put into our Federations and the AFMS today. Instead of only listing the dates in our annual calendars for all the Federation shows as we’ve done for years, as space permits, how about contributing articles to each other about our

annual conventions. Maybe your Federation would like to create an annual contest for the best club programs given during monthly meetings. You may come up with a great idea just for your Federation for a new exhibit contest for a particular stone or anomaly found only in your territory. There are always new ideas to explore and create for your members.



The CFMS Golden Bear Nugget
Weight: 1 oz., 19.2 gr.
troy
Maximum height: 2¼ inches
Maximum width: 1 5/16 inches

Note: Jennifer indicated that this was written for the AFMS Newsletter but did not say in which issue it was published.

ESS CAMP PARADISE 2024 REPORT

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

We had 104 students and 14 instructors. We had anticipated having at least one full week but for various reasons we had last minute cancellations so we did not attain our goal. Camp Paradise was approximately \$1100 short of breaking even. We are looking forward to both weeks being full in 2025!

We will continue to advertise through flyers sent to anyone who contacts the team and through Facebook. The Facebook name is CFMS-Camp Paradise. At this point we are not paying for advertising. We have a new registrar who has set up an email account. The address is RegisterForCampParadise@gmail.com.

We had new teachers and new classes. We added Cold Connections, Gem Tree and Chain Maille. They were well received. We had two medical issues with our teachers but they were resolved in a way that did not impact our students.

There are a few changes coming for 2025. The first is that Camp Paradise is going modern! We will have registration online and students will be able to pay electronically too. Registration opens March 15, 2025. The camp dates are August 17-23 2025 and August 24-30, 2025. The fee for Camp Paradise will be \$550 per person, per week; still an amazing bargain. The second change is scheduling. We break down camp on Friday afternoon of the second week. Our students were losing ½ day of classroom time. To compensate, the schedule will include one evening of class the second week only.

The third “possible” change is a class or two added on the weekend between weeks. The class will not come from our current instructors. (They need their rest.) A former teacher has come forward to teach a class Saturday/Sunday between sessions.

Overall the evaluations were positive. Most of the negative responses had to do with facility itself and there were only about 5 of those. Every year we see that the owners of the camp are making upgrades. This is what keeps the cost reasonable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat LaRue and Diane Cook for their unwavering support of Camp Paradise. Camp Paradise takes a committed team and we have the best.

Originally presented as a report at the Fall Business Meeting in Visalia on 11/9/24.

CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

As always, we are requesting that both individuals and societies donate to the Endowment Fund for the benefit of the California Federation. Checks are always appreciated as are rock related items which can be sold at shows to raise money for the fund which supplies support to the Federation in general.

Think of us when you are downsizing or just needing to make room for something new. Tools, buckets, gloves, picks and other peripheral items would also be good donations. Contact Sharon for help with other ideas.

Sharonrr@cox.net

Originally presented as a report at the Fall Business Meeting in Visalia on 11/9/24.

PUBLIC RELATIONS VS. PUBLICITY

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

The Difference That Matters! Public relations. Publicity. Is there a difference? And does it matter? On both counts I contend, “Yes!” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary says this. “Publicity: an act or device designed to attract public interest; specific information with news value issued as a means of gaining public attention--promotional material, advertising.” “Public Relations: the business of inducing the public to have understanding for and goodwill toward a person, firm, or situation.” To that, the Google AI bot adds that PR is “the strategic management of a company’s image and reputation....Publicity can be generated by PR, but it’s not the only aspect of PR.” It further notes publicity often seeks immediate, short-term attention whereas PR seeks to forge long-lasting impressions, “building credibility, trust, and positive relationships through authentic and strategic communication and actions.” I’ll underscore that last word: actions.

To me, public relations equals synergy. Synergy between your club and your community. Synergy based on actions yielding mutual ongoing benefit rewarding both. Publicity is more one-sided. It seeks an immediate pay-off for your club, be it attracting new members or convincing customers to spend a day at your annual show. PR enhances the reputation, standing, and visibility of your organization as an active contributing member of its respective community throughout the year.

My career was in academic publishing. There, publicity was considered the realm of the sales and marketing department and revolved around getting word out about book lists and individual titles and such. PR tended to be the realm of the HR department and executive board and involved enhancing the standing and image of the company as a whole; for instance, sponsoring scholarships, hosting academic committees and associations, donating to the American Library Association, etc. In other words, getting word out about who we were, what we did, and what we cared about through positive, constructive actions for the broader community we were part of while waving a goodwill flag.

In recent weeks, I’ve seen a couple excellent examples of synergy in action showing the community the positive contributions a local rock club is making. Ellen Dupuy cued me in on the South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society’s “Jewelry & Gem Roadshow” in California. In a press release promoting it, she notes, “It amazes me how often our club is contacted for help by widows or family members who’ve had a rock collector pass away and they have no idea what to do with their lapidary equipment,

buckets of rocks, collections of gems and other valuables.” So SOCGMS has assembled club members, appraisers, experts in downsizing for elders and in estate liquidation, and they’re holding the Jewelry & Gem Roadshow as a public service.

The second example is occurring at the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies 2024 show and convention hosted by the Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society. They’re offering several services for the community at large: rock identification kits for teachers attending the show, rock and mineral identification services (in association with the University of Oklahoma) for any and all attendees, and free geology educational lessons for home schoolers and their parents/teachers on the Friday of the show. In their press release, they highlight how income from their annual club show allows them to provide a half dozen college scholarships each year for local youth. They’re clearly illustrating that they’re not just a bunch of rock collectors, but an education-oriented nonprofit adding value to the community through their actions.

Most clubs have a publicity person primarily tasked with promoting the annual show and sometimes posting notice of the monthly meeting to the local news media. To heighten and enhance the visibility and value of your club within your community, I encourage you to go beyond this and give thought to constructing and pursuing a plan of public relations, not just publicity for singular events.

Not all our clubs are cut from the same cloth -- and thank goodness for that! Variety is the spice of life. For instance, I know of an opal society that’s more geared toward professionals like dealers and jewelers. They’re not interested in having, say, a kids program or doing school outreach. Some clubs are solely composed of fossil collectors. Yet another is devoted to gold prospecting and metal detecting.

Each has different clientele and goals. It’s important to know and establish the purpose of your club, and then let that guide your PR program. Consider the interests and strengths of your club and its members and how you can best leverage those for broader community involvement and benefit. What’s your club’s wheelhouse? And do you have a clear vision and a concrete strategy to become a valued player within your community?

From *AFMS Newsletter*, 11/24



2024-25 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**

2024

No more shows this year

2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA
Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246
Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://tulegem.com>

February 15-16, 2024 – Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Society
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West
10th Street, Antioch CA 94509
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall,
900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: (415) 254-1506
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

March 1-2, 2025- Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W.
Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA93003
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 8-9, 2025 – Turlock, CA
Mother Lode Mineral Society
Turlock Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway,
Turlock CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: (209) 499-0533,
skitrish1112@hotmail.com
Website: www.turlockgemshow.com

March 7-9, 2025 - Stoddard Wells, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
I-15 toward Barstow. Exit #157, stay on
Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7
miles to tailgate
Contact: (831) 406-0214,
president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgms.org>

March 15-16, 2025 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral
Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344
Tully Rd., San Jose, CA
Hours: 10-5
Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>

March 22-23, 2025 – Angels Camp, CA
Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun
Club Rd., Angels Camp, CA 95222
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (209) 736-4892,
annchristiansen7132@comcast.net
Website:
[https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/show.h
tml](https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/show.html)

April 12-13, 2025 - Mariposa CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 12-13, 2024 – Placerville, CA
El Dorado County Min & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds,
Placerville, CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10 AM -5 PM
Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA
Canejo Gem and Mineral Club
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino
Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 908-1428
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

**National/Regional
Shows:**

***California Federation
TBD***

***Eastern Federation/AFMS
March 27-30, 2025
Hickory, NC***

***Midwest Federation
April 5-6, 2025
Lincoln, NE***

***Northwest Federation
Sept 12-14, 2025
Walla Walla WA***

***Rocky Mountain Federation
Sept 19-21, 2025
Grand Junction, CO***

***South Central Federation
TBD***

***Southeast Federation
TBD***



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/

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

HANDS — WHERE ARE THEY?

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

One's hands play a big part in our hands-on hobby. Setting up for a rock and mineral show several years ago I was taking show tables off the cart, unfolding the tubular steel legs, and moving them into the positions shown on the show's table layout diagram. The tables were the heavy wooden ones with the metal edge around the perimeter. As I grabbed the next table, one finger was pushed hard against the very tip of a sharp sheet metal screw protruding through the metal perimeter frame. The table had been "fixed" by someone with a sheet metal screw placed exactly where one would grab the table to take it off the cart.

Our hands often seem to be placed in pinch-points with rock saws, grinding machine wheels, and folding table legs. Hands and fingers are often thrust between overhanging yet loose rocks, into holes/cavities/vugs in rocks where we cannot see that which our hands and fingers may be exposed. With machinery and folding table leg pinch-points we can take note of their inherent dangers ahead of time and be sufficiently cautious when /working around them. With rock pinch-points we can explore the rock to try to be certain nothing is loose that

might shift and grab one's fingers or hand. When reaching into a hole, we don't often know what exactly one's hands and fingers might find. A not so common experience is hammering some rock and exposing what looks like a cavity. Sometimes a little more careful chipping may reveal an opening big enough to fit one hand in – a tempting opening to use to explore what is to be found inside the cavity. Think of having such an experience in a pegmatite mine where a hole may very well be a pocket of gem, multi-color tourmaline crystals. It would be hard to resist the temptation to reach inside to feel what is to be found. True, one might find muck and mud, but one may also find long secluded crystals! Who can resist the temptation to reach in and explore? In such a cavity one is unlikely to find critters inhabiting the hole.

In cavities, vugs and openings hammered in near-the-surface rock, it is possible any hole might have another or hidden opening allowing the hole to be occupied by things that bite. Any holes in the rock should be investigated with caution for critters living inside the hole, before sticking one's hand inside.

It is important to know where one's hands are, to keep one's eyes open for dangers to our hands and fingers. I have seen people drilling into a board with their hand holding the board and their fingers out of sight on the board's other side – a situation that is liable to result in a hole being drilled not just through the board but the finger as well. It is wise to always know where one's hands and fingers are located.

There are situations where one will want to empty their boots before sticking their feet in them, or look in the pail before sticking one's hand in, or look underneath the crate for biting spiders before reaching underneath to lift it, or use a stick to check out the area under a bush before digging there with one's hands or — well, you get the idea. Please consider keeping your hands and fingers safe by knowing where they are in relation to any possible hidden dangers. Your hands and fingers will love you for the attention to being safe. After all, your safety matters.

Oh, by the way, that sharp sheet metal screw about to puncture my finger? Due to sensitive fingers and quick reaction time, there was no injury – lesson learned.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Nov 2024



CFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPLICATION, 2025

Name: _____ Age (as of 12/31/2024): _____

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 (2024). 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, 2025 (if sent by mail) or should be received via email not later than March 1, 2025. Should you have questions, call or email Jim at (805) 659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com. Winners will be announced at the 2025 CFMS 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

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2024 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	matciagoetz195 at gmail.com
First VP:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
Second VP:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	johndianedaisy at yahoo.com
Secretary:	Frank Van Hecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclan5 at att.net
Treasurer:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at surfers.net
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net

All American Club:	Diane Cook (John)	See Second VP	
Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)		cfmsbeac at gmail.com
Bylaws	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Cab Cases–North	OPEN		
Cab Cases–Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See Treasurer	
Cab Cases–South	Bob Knox	(747) 206-8506	knoxrobert211 at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Marcia Goetz	See President	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Diane Cook, Chair	See Second VP	
	Kimberly Fiala	See Long Range	
	Marcia Goetz	See President	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceth at roadrunner.com
Earth Science Studies:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
	Glenda Keil–Registrar		
	Diane Cook	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz	(See President)	
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See CFMS Rep to AFMS	
Facilities Fund:	OPEN		
Field Trips North:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips South:	OPEN		
Financial Adv Comm:	Heidi Hall	See First VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See President	
	Fred Ott (Susan)		
Golden Bear:	Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair	See CFMS Rep to AFMS	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Show Consultant South	
	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	cfms.historian at amlands.org	
	Sandie Fender (Tony)		
Past Presidents Cases			
Internet:	John Martin (Susy)	Photo Restoration	
	Nick Hughes	Webmaster	
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See CFMS Rep to AFMS	
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Kimberly Fiala (Glenn)	(916)412-0453	fialakimberly at yahoo.com
	All living past presidents		
	2024 Executive Committee		
Membership:	Dick White (Phyllis)	(805) 404-7197	
	Bob Rush (Pat)		
Museum Comm:	Frank Van Hecke	See Secretary	
Nominating Comm:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair	See Show Consultant South	
	Nick Hughes Dick White Celia Churchill		
	Nancy Bird Sharon Rogow, alternate		
	Glenn Fiala, alternate		
Parliamentarian:	Tony Fender		
Program Aids:	Emmy Lam	(818) 297-7132	cfmsprogramaids at gmail.com
PLAC:	John Martin, Chair (Susy)	(661) 342-8336	plac at antelcom.net
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rules Committee:	Pat LaRue, Chair	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
	Jim Brace-Thompson	See CFMS Rep to AFMS	
	Colleen McGann	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Scholarship–AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Scholarship–CFMS	Diane Cook	See Second VP	
	Executive Committee		
Show Consultant–South:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
Show Consultant–North:	OPEN		
Show Dates:	Marcia Goetz	See President	
Tax Advisor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfiv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Website Contest:	Merryan O’Neill	(510) 622-4229	logtown49 at gmail.com
Ad Hoc Cloud Committee:	Marcia Goetz, Chair	See President	
	Sue Pang Sue Webb		

CFMS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1657

Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

