



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #2

February 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

With the cooler weather, I hope your society or club is leading their members on exciting field trips.

One might take a field trip to Quartzsite or Tucson. Both places provide the opportunity to learn about new rocks & lapidary processes each year. It is always a learning experience in Quartzsite for me.

Please mark your calendar for this Spring's CFMS Convention & Competitive Exhibits and awards in Lancaster, CA. This will be held at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on May 10 & 11, 2025. This will be in conjunction with the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Look for registration forms and information for Competitive Exhibits & Awards Banquet on the CFMS website.

If you have any exciting or important Rockhound news to share please let me know, or contact Pat LaRue with an article for the CFMS Newsletter. If your Society is interested in information on hosting one of the future CFMS Convention/Show, please contact me. CFMS needs to find a home for the 2026, 2027 & 2028 Shows as soon as possible.

The California Golden Bear will be on exhibit at the CFMS Convention in May. Here is a little history on the BEAR.

...Continued on page 3

Susan Chaisson-Walblom



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 5..... Deadline for Mar Newsletter
Mar 5..... Deadline for Apr 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
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: pmcdaniel@mcd-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

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(530) 677-8440
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CFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

CFMS Newsletter is published 11 times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$10 per year, January through December if you wish to receive a hard copy. Newsletters are currently emailed. Newsletters are also available for download on the CFMS website. No password required.

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

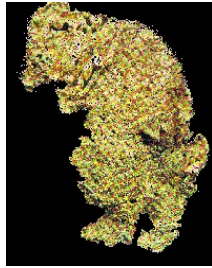
Your donations should be sent to:
Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

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.

DUES ARE DUE

Copies of the dues/insurance payment and society officer change forms were included in the January newsletter. **Dues are due January 1 and considered delinquent on March 1.** Please be sure that your club treasurer or other authorized person receives these forms. The insurance was increased \$1 per member due to an increase in the policy premium. The \$10 is allocated as follows: \$2 is the amount of the combined AFMS/CFMS dues (\$1.25 for CFMS; \$.75 for AFMS) and \$8 for the mandatory general liability insurance provided by CFMS. The overall cost of the insurance policy includes the service fees charged by the firm which services all the components of the CFMS insurance program. I am happy that Fred Ott came back on board as our CFMS insurance chair. As a former insurance professional, he is well equipped to answer questions you might have.

THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEAR



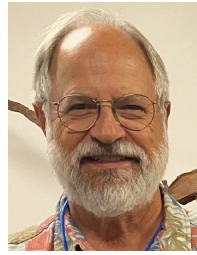
Weight:..... 1 oz. 19.2 grains
Maximum Height: .. 2 1/4 inches Maximum
Width:... 1 5/16 inches

THE STORY

This outstanding and unusually formed crystallized gold nugget is the property of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS). The history of the nugget is rather obscure. The story has it that it was picked up (date about 1857) in a sluice box at the Georgia Hills Mine in Jim, California, by a fourteen-year-old girl.

Upon her death at the age of 75, a son or brother pledged the nugget for a loan from an engineer from the Division of Mines. The nugget was foreclosed by the engineer. He wanted to recover his money and offered it to C. D. Woodhouse, who regularly visited the Division of Mines. Mr. Woodhouse purchased the nugget for \$300.00 in 1937. It was shown to the CFMS and a decision was made to purchase it in June of 1938. The CFMS made its final payment in 1940. Mr. Woodhouse's attempt to obtain further information on the nugget was unsuccessful. The purchase price was \$300.00, but its value as a unique specimen, like anything that cannot be duplicated or replaced, can be considered in the realm of "priceless." Physically, the Golden Bear is a magnificent specimen and is readily recognized by its characteristic shape. It is on exhibit at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, but each year it is put on display at the annual convention show.

Small replicas of the Golden Bear Nugget are used as CFMS pins and lapel buttons. The replica with the gavel is used as a pin for the past Presidents of the individual Member Societies and Clubs as well as CFMS past presidents. The pins currently in use are vermeil (sterling silver plated with 14K gold).



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

***The 2025 CFMS Junior
Achievement Award:
Need Kids! Need Judges!***

As reported the past couple months, it's time again to consider outstanding kids within your club to apply for our 5th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards, which are given for two age groups: 11 & under and 12-18. I outlined the procedure on page 3 of the December newsletter, which also included a copy of the official entry form on page 11. If you have superior kids in your society, please share last month's newsletter with them and their parents. Go to <https://cfmsinc.org/newsletters/> and click on the December newsletter. The form is also posted to the juniors section of the website at <https://cfmsinc.org/juniors-achievement-award/>. In addition to the general honor this represents, winners receive a Certificate-of-Achievement and \$100. All entries are due by March 1, 2025.

To help score entries that we receive, I'm still seeking another judge or two. If you can help, please contact me at (805) 659-3577 or jbraceth@roadrunner.com. Let's all join together to recognize and honor the outstanding kids within our ranks!

Also, as we begin a new year, I wish to remind all CFMS-affiliated societies of the many great programs available to help them with their youth members through our affiliation with AFMS. All are entirely free! These include the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program; opportunities to publish articles, poems, cartoons, and photos in *Crack the News* (a national newsletter by kids for kids); the Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Rock Exchange program; and the Future Rockhounds Juniors Volunteer Award. To learn about these programs and more, go to <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/>. Here's to engaging and encouraging our next generation of Rockhounds. Even if your society has just a single junior member, take advantage of these resources that are yours for the taking—if only you take the time and make the effort. Every child is worth it!



CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward, Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is proud to present the following inductee(s) into our 'Rockhound of the Year' program. Keep sending me your submissions through 2025!

David and Cynthia Haven - Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club. David and Cynthia Haven joined the AVGMC in 2014 looking for a safe and educational after school activity to engage their two grandchildren. Cynthia immediately took on projects in the Kids program, making pet rocks, dinosaur dioramas and rock grab bags which were prizes for the AVGMC Kid's Booth at The Poppy Festival, AVGMC Gem and Mineral Show and The Antelope Valley Fair. She continues now as de facto chair of the AVGMC Kid's Booth as she runs it at all three events. She joined the Board in 2016 as Secretary and has held that position since; most recently being elected as the 2025 club Secretary. In all those years she may have missed two of the twice monthly meetings for which she takes and publishes the minutes. She has lead programs on making gem trees and on making prizes for the Kids Booth. For the last eight years the Havens have allowed the club to store its inventory of rocks and club supplies on their property including the use of a Conex. During those eight years she has hosted numerous work parties there. Cynthia is an integral and essential member of our club, and we proudly honor her as our choice for recognition by the CFMS as the AVGMC's Rockhound of the Year.

Submitted by Jim Betz - President, Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club



ENTER A COMPETITIVE DISPLAY AT THE 2025 CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Rules Committee Chair

As noted last month, we'll all be gathering May 10-11 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds in Lancaster for the CFMS Convention being held in conjunction with the annual show of the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club. And what's a convention without an Awards Banquet? And what's an Awards Banquet without awards for Competitive Exhibits? We invite you to join the fun by entering a fine display and stepping up to the podium to receive your trophy!

We're including a Competitive Exhibitor Application form in this month's newsletter. Please share it with members of your society. It's being posted to the CFMS website, where we'll also soon post an updated listing of Supplemental Trophies for 2025. There are a few changes to Supplemental Trophies this year. While we'll have a new one—namely, the Cheri George Beading Trophy—we'll be losing a couple classics, like the Choate Jewelry Trophy and the Ruth Bailey Award of Excellence and possibly the Diamond Pacific Trophy for Cabochons (stay tuned for news on that one).

Because this will be a truncated 2-day event, timing will prove much tighter than usual. We're looking at the following scenario: exhibitor set-up on Friday, May 9 between Noon and 6:00 PM followed immediately by judging that same evening so results can be tabulated and posted in time for the awards ceremony on Saturday, or the same day when we'll be holding our spring Directors Meeting in the morning. Again, very tight timing with, unfortunately, no wiggle room for exceptions on exhibitor set-up time.

Finally, we can always use help with judging! If you have judging experience and will be at the convention, please contact me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com) or Pat LaRue (bp1arue@earthlink.net). This also applies to anyone interested in assisting as a judge's clerk. Help is needed and valued!

Keep tabs via the CFMS website, where more details will be posted as they emerge.



Jim Brace-Thompson photo.

ONE LAST TIME!
Two Easy Ways to Support the American Federation

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

I've said it before and I'll say it one last time as the clock ticks quickly toward the 2025 AFMS Show & Convention taking place next month in North Carolina: help us help AFMS raise income for the AFMS Endowment Fund to support new programs, the Future Rockhounds of America youth program, judges training for competitive exhibiting, and more. How can you help? Via the annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. In short...

Make a purchase! Endowment Fund tickets are available for donations of \$5.00 for 1 or \$20.00 for 5. Please consider purchasing a batch of 5 for a good cause. And please spread the word to fellow club members by reprinting this article in your club newsletter and making announcements at your meetings.

Make a specimen donation! We invite hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, bead projects, etc. I wish to thank Kelly Plumb (Antioch Lapidary Club and Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Society) for donating the wire-wrapped charoite pendant; Diane Cook (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society & CFMS 1st VP) for a lapis pendant with silver chain; David Springer (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) for a handcrafted sagenitic onyx sphere; and me (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) for two handcrafted items—a silver sand dollar pendant + chain and a silver ammonite pendant + chain. All items collected so far within CFMS are pictured here.



Jim Brace-Thompson photo

I welcome additional donations. 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 2025 EFMLS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place March 27-31 in Hickory, North Carolina, and I'll be there to pick up prizes for any winning CFMS members.

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

MAILING LIST UPDATES

I need your help! The member societies/clubs are beginning to mail in their CFMS insurance/dues as well as the officer change forms for their organizations. The information on the change forms are used to update the contact information needed for providing vital information to you in a timely manner.

We ceased to mail the physical newsletter to your members in September of last year. The newsletter is now sent electronically to those persons for whom an email address is provided. This is where your help is desperately needed. When you send the information form to me, please provide not only the names of your officers, but the email address of those who should receive the electronic (digital) newsletter. The only physical addresses requested are those of your society/club and the Federation Director. Please print the information so it can be easily read. Upper case letters are preferred. Sometimes I have to guess what the letters are and I don't always get it right.

Marcia Goetz continues to reach out by email whenever there is news and/or information which needs to get to you quickly. Please contact her directly with the name and email address of the person who should receive these urgent messages. Her email address is marciagoetz195@gmail.com.

One last thing—do not mail your CFMS dues/insurance payments to Patt McDaniel. These come to the CFMS address at PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377.



CFMS INSURANCE

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

I'm back! Having been the chairperson of the Federation's Insurance Committee for many years, I took a 'leave of absence' following my retirement after a 40+-year career as a professional insurance agent, only to be invited back again to chair that committee for 2025. Insurance can be very confusing and my goal is to provide newsletter articles that will help each C.F.M.S. society and its members to better understand the many aspects of the Federation's insurance program.

Background: I was first introduced to the Federation in the late 1990s by the (then) Federation's Tax Advisor, Mike Kokinos, who happened to be a fellow member of our local mineral and gem society. He explained to me that a claim had recently been filed against the Federation by a woman who, with her husband, had participated in a club-sponsored field trip. Unfortunately, during that trip, the husband had under-cut a bank (clearly an extremely unsafe activity) and the bank collapsed; her husband died from asphyxiation. The wife then sued the Federation and the individual club. The insurance company subsequently agreed to settle the claim for \$250,000!

After the claim was settled by the Federation's insurance carrier, two things happened: 1) the CFMS Insurance Committee chairperson resigned and 2) the insurance company non-renewed the Federation's insurance policy. The 'scramble was on' to find a new insurance carrier as well as a new committee chairperson (which turned out to be me).

As you can imagine, it was nearly impossible to locate any insurance company willing to insure a new 'client' (i.e. the 'Federation') which had just cost their prior insurance company a quarter-of-a-million-dollars in a single claim! Happily, after a significant amount of time and effort, a new insurance agent (Patt McDaniel) was located and a professional relationship was established which exists to this very day.

It's very important to note that, had there been no liability insurance policy in force covering the CFMS and all of its member societies, the Federation would have been responsible to pay all of the defense attorney fees as well as the quarter-million dollar settlement to

the plaintiff. And, even if the plaintiff had not prevailed, the Federation (and its member societies) would have had to pay ALL of the defense attorney fees! Fortunately, the Federation's insurance policy has always included coverage for the costs of defense, even if no payment is made to a plaintiff.

This year, the cost of the Federation's policy is 67 cents per month (\$8.00 per year) per member. It is really one of the many valuable benefits of belonging to the CFMS.

WHAT'S YOUR WHEEL HOUSE? (Part 2)

Continued from *CFMS Newsletter*, Jan 25

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations

We've also become known within our region's school districts as a reliable provider for a science night booth with earth science activities that offer both education and hands-on fun. We've become so well known for this, we no longer need to go looking for an invitation—the invitations come to us. This is helped by having a Teacher Station at our annual show where we provide each teacher a free packet with helpful earth science background sheets, coloring pages, classroom activities, and lists of educational web links as well as their choice of 5 big educational rocks from a bin: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic specimens that help with Rock Cycle lessons; minerals like copper, calcite, or hematite with everyday uses; and specimens that are just sparkly, colorful, and fun. We also ask any interested teachers to leave us their names and email addresses so we can stay in touch about future shows and events.

We've received requests right on the spot to give classroom talks or demos, and we've benefitted from word-of-mouth as teachers tell fellow teachers about us. It especially helps to tap into the science specialists within your school district.

Efforts like the two I've just described evolved from members with skills in lapidary and jewelry arts and from members with background and interest in education—and most of all, from members with enthusiasm about sharing their passions. Tapping into your members' expertise and passions to determine your club's wheelhouse will allow you to reach out to your broader community with a vision, a focus, and a strategy. This is a wonderful hobby with any wonderful people who love to share. Reach out beyond the confines of your club and your annual show, and let the rest of the world know.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Dec 2024

A CASE FOR SAFETY

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

A case could be made for having safety supplies in the car/truck, boat, on the field trip, at the annual rock and mineral show, in one's lapidary or jewelry making shop, as well as the club's meetings. The case to be discussed here is not one offering reasons for having safety supplies on hands but instead what one may use as a box, bag or container for those supplies.

A great many businesses offer safety kits for various needs. To mention just a few establishments where safety kits may commonly be found: we have pharmacies, department stores, some grocery stores, hardware stores, farm supply stores, marine supply centers, office supply stores, and garden centers – to name a few. The offerings vary widely. Noted have been safety kits so small that they have a loop on them so as to attach them to a key ring, to large elaborate kits suitable for just about any accident that may occur. The middle of the range kits are often packaged in small, rather flimsy, cardboard boxes. Following the old adage that one gets only what they pay for, the keychain kits likely have just a few adhesive bandages, while the large kits likely contain a wide assortment of supplies.

After a club or individual decides upon one's needs for safety and either purchases a ready-made kit or assembles a personalized kit of supplies from the offering of a medical supply store, the decision then becomes one of how to store or carry those supplies and have them available when necessary.

We have seen safety supplies stored in paper bags, heavy steel ammo boxes, old cardboard boxes, nap-sacks, tool boxes, and a couple fantastic hand-crafted wooden boxes. One can safely say that people's opinions vary considerably as to how to store and carry their supplies.

To have a case, a physical case, for storing one's supplies there are some important criteria as follows:

- Have the safety supplies container easy to open with no complicated twist and turn clasps. By the same measure, the case should not pop open with the slightest bump and drop all its contents onto the ground.
- The container should be daylight and air tight, as well as waterproof. A small container of desiccant (moisture absorbing material) may also be desirable for use/storage in damp conditions.
- Having handles or a shoulder length carrying strap can make transport easier.
- Having a case with distinct color (white, bright red, fluorescent green, striped or whatever) and have it be clearly labeled are all important considerations.

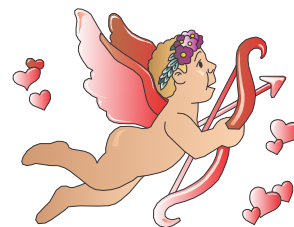
- Try not to have a supplies case that is tall and opens at the top, as one often seems to first need the items on the bottom of the case. It may take far too much time to paw through the top supplies to get to the ones on the bottom – especially in an emergency, just sayin...

- Ideally, when the supplies case is opened, all the supplies should be visible and organized so as to easily and quickly locate what one needs. This includes the medical aid guidebook which should be available in every kit.
- The kit should not be too heavy. It should be easy to carry. If the kit is too heavy, people may complain about having to carry it a long way to the dig.
- Plastic safety supply containers are perfectly fine but should be air, light and water tight. They should also be sturdy enough to withstand the rigors and hazards of the collecting site.
- Having a safety kit with movable divider inserts is handy in keeping contents organized.

In addition to the safety supplies container, some other practical safety items to consider may be:

- Have a flashlight with the kit and an extra set of fresh batteries.
- In the kit have a magnifying glass and tweezers.
- Any liquid or paste containers in the kit may need to be additionally kept in re-sealable plastic bags to contain spillage and the resulting contamination of the other supplies in the kit. Sealable plastic sandwich bags are a convenient size for this purpose.
- If the dig site is large, please consider having each person on the dig have a safety whistle to signal for help.
- Have as many members as possible receive prior training/familiarity with the use of the contents of the kit and proper aid techniques.
- Please consider having a suitable, and cased, safety kit at all club activities, including club picnics where too much sun and hot sauce could become concerns. Pardon, is there such a thing as too much hot sauce?
- Your safety matters. No matter where you are, no matter what you are doing, please be safe.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, 12/24



2025 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**

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, CA 93003
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://WWW.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,
annachristiansen7132@comcast.net
Website:
<https://calaverasgemandmineral.net/show.html>

March 22-23, 2025 – Torrance, CA
Suth Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center, 3341
Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: edwhitefire@gmail.com or (213)
283-3448
Website:
<http://southbaylapidaryandmingeralsociety.com>

March 21-23, 2025 – Clovis, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 748 Rodeo Dr.,
Clovis, CA 93612
Hours: Fri-Sat 1-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (708) 821-7575
Website: <https://www.fgms.rock>

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 Mineral & 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>

April 26-27, 2025 – Anaheim, CA
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center 2271 W.
Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30
Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA
(also CFMS Convention)
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W. Ave
H, Lancaster, CA
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

May 15-17, 2025 – Vista, CA
Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum,
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@vistarocks.org
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

June 7-8, 2025 – Escondido, CA
Palomar Gem and mineral Club
The California Center for the Arts, The
Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,
Escondido, CA 92035
Hours: Sat, 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (425) 281-6218,
tonifloyd41615@gmail.com
Website: <http://palomargem.org>

October 18-19, 2025 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower
St., Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959,
angeldragonofflight@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.opalsociety.org>

National/Regional Shows:

*California Federation (Convention only) in conjunction with Antelope Valley Gem Show
May 10-11, 2025
Lancaster, CA*

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

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

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

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

*South Central Federation
TBD*

*Southeast Federation
TBD*

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.

THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU!!

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

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

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC

Do You OBFUSCATE? obfuscate, v.t., 1. to darken; obscure; hence, 2. to confuse; stupefy; bewilder.¹

Have you ever begun to read (listen to) something and put it down (quit listening) because it was confusing or hard to understand? I have. It seems like it doesn't matter what profession we're in – each has its own “exclusive” language.

As a teacher I have seen many things in “educationese,” which I can usually “translate.” Even so, I found it infuriating to be a parent who had to listen to this mostly confusing language from one of my kids' teachers.

Good grief! Aren't we supposed to be communicating with each other? Doesn't that mean we want to understand each other?

You might wonder what this has to do with editing and/or writing articles for rock club newsletters. My point is that we want our readers to understand what they are reading. They don't finish reading what they don't understand. If we write for the general public (most of our readership), we need to write for an 8th grade reading level. Job applications and ballot questions used to be written at this level.

What do you suppose “at this juncture of maturization”² means? Would you believe “now”? Zinsser² calls this “clutter.” I could use the word “obfuscation” – the meaning of the phrase is hidden, and if I don't understand it I feel rather stupid and will not read the rest of the article. Come to think of it, I'd better use “clutter” instead of “obfuscate” – keep it simple!

One of my pet peeves is the way articles about land access and US Senate/House bills are written for our bulletins. Let's make them short and understandable! Perhaps the language has limited how many people voice their opinions. (No, I am not volunteering to write those articles. I am weary, just trying to read the bills.)

Have you read any of the AFMS winning advanced articles? This category is for professionals in the earth science field and for previous winners in the adult articles category. “Advanced Articles” does not mean written in technical terms or with obfuscation. If you check some of the winners, you will see that most of these authors know how to communicate: simply, some with humor, all with knowledge to share.

What is an editor/author to do? Write it. Come back to it. Read it again. Cut out unnecessary words. Ask someone else to read it. Remove confusing words. Revise. Can your personality still shine through your article? Yes – don't hide it!

Do you obfuscate? Stop it! Keep it simple!

(One of my references is a good read. Try *On Writing Well – The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William Zinsser, and enjoy.)

References:

¹Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition. 1968. Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company. 1724 p.

²Zinsser, William. 2006. *On Writing Well – The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* (30th Anniversary Edition), p. 14. New York. Harper Collins. 321 p.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, 12/24 This article re-printed from *AFMS Newsletter*, 11/2009.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU

The past days have brought nothing but unspeakable destruction and tragedy to Southern California. Some of the worst winds in recent memory swept through the Los Angeles area and turned small brush fires into raging infernals that destroyed multiple neighborhoods and took the lives of far too many people who were unable to escape the flames. It is only fair to assume that it will take many months, perhaps years, to recover from this disaster.

Many members of our CFMS family were directly affected by the events. Just how many we don't know, but there are clubs in the area affected who have members who live in the communities which were destroyed. Our thoughts are with you and we know that you have the support of your fellow club members who were spared.

Even if you don't live in what might be considered a fire prone area, we should all have an emergency plan in mind should the unthinkable happen, be it a fire, flood, earthquake or some other natural disaster affecting where you live.



2025 CFMS CONVENTION

In conjunction with the Annual Show of the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club

May 10-11, 2025 (Sat., 10am–5pm; Sun., 10am–4pm)

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds

2551 W Avenue H (Hwy. 14 & Ave. H), Lancaster, California

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM

Exhibit Entry Deadline: April 1, 2025

SET-UP: Competitive exhibits must be installed between Noon and 6 PM on Friday, May 9. All entries must be ready for judging by close of set-up at 6 pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SECURITY: Club security will be provided and the building has an alarm system set at night.

CASES: Cases will be assigned space on tables approximately 36 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor must supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables (approximately 10 feet).

Please complete all information on the entry form and this certification form and mail to the Competitive Exhibit Chair for acceptance and acknowledgement – ***an email copy may be sent, but a hard copy with all signatures is required for entry.*** Mail to:

Jim Brace-Thompson, Competitive Exhibit Chair
7319 Eisenhower Street
Ventura, CA 93003
jbraceth@roadrunner.com

Address questions to Jim. There are no separate application forms for CFMS Supplementary Competition. Fill out this form for the competition you wish to enter. **If entering more than one exhibit, you must fill out a separate application for each exhibit.**

Refer to AFMS Uniform Rules, Revised 2023. Download the rules from: www.amfed.org
Basic info on CFMS Supplemental Trophies may be obtained from the CFMS website, www.cfmsinc.org (Supplementary Rules). If you are uncertain as to the class or group you should enter or for clarification of rules, contact Jim: jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club will not be liable to any exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application/certification form for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

SIGNATURE _____

Please Print Date _____
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SOCIETY & REGIONAL FEDERATION _____

JUNIOR ONLY: DATE OF BIRTH _____
DISPLAY DESCRIPTION _____

EXHIBITOR GROUP: MASTER _____ ADVANCED _____ NOVICE _____
JUNIOR _____ SOCIETY _____ JR. SOCIETY _____

EXHIBIT DIVISION _____ EXHIBIT CLASS _____

This display is to be entered in: CFMS _____ CFMS Supplemental _____

A limited number of cases are available for loan at a \$10 fee if you lack your own case.

Using your own case? _____ If yes, external dimensions in inches:

Width _____ Height _____ Depth _____

Do you need a case? _____ (2'x4' rental cases may vary slightly, with liner sizes approximately back 48.75"x20", bottom 48.75"x21.5", and sides 21.5"x20")

If you wish to be considered for a CFMS SUPPLEMENTAL TROPHY, please note which one/s here; please be specific (e.g., don't say "any that apply"):

Have you judged at annual CFMS shows? _____ If so, what categories? _____

Would you like to volunteer as a clerk? _____ Would you like to volunteer as a judge-in-training? _____

Are you a certified AFMS Judge cardholder? _____ If so, what categories? _____

CERTIFICATION FOR EXHIBITORS

I hereby certify all material in competition by me is my own personal property (with exceptions as allowed by competition rules in certain divisions). If a Society Exhibit, all material belongs to members of the Society. All work, except minor findings or where otherwise allowed by the rules, was completed by me. **I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.**

Exhibitor's Signature _____

Print name _____

OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION: I certify, as an officer of the above named society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to AFMS Rules.

Signature _____ Title _____

If certification is sent by email, we need the officer's email _____

Date _____

Both pages must be sent to Competitive Exhibit Chair. Be sure to make a copy for your files.

By attending this activity I give consent for CFMS to make photos, videos, films or other likenesses of me. I hereby grant to sponsor unrestricted right to copyright any of the above mentioned materials containing images of me as well as the unrestricted right to use and reuse them, with their caption information, in whole or in part. These rights include but not limited to the right to publish, copy, distribute, alter, license and publicly display these materials and images for editorial, trade, marketing and/or advertising purposes. I also grant CFMS and its licensees the unrestricted right to use and disclose my name in connection with use of the above material.

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Website Contest:	Merryan O'Neill	(530) 622-4229	logtown49 at gmail.com

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Pat LaRue, Editor

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CFMS CONVENTION

May 10 - 11, 2025

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