



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXII #3

March 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

Spring is almost here! Hopefully that mean warmer weather is right around the corner. Time to start planning those fun Club Field Trip.

The 2025 Spring's CFMS Convention & Competitive Exhibits Competition will be held in Lancaster, CA. This will be held at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds on May 10 & 11, 2025, in conjunction with the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Registration forms and information for Competitive Exhibits & Awards Banquet are on the CFMS website. For Competitive Exhibit questions, please contact Jim Brace-Thompson (jbraceth@roadrunner.com). For Award Banquet questions, please contact Diane Cook (dianecook.cfms@gmail.com).

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 Show as soon as possible.

CFMS will be well represented at the 2025 AFMS Show & Convention this March in Hickory, North Carolina. Highlights will be shared in future CFMS newsletter.

California State Gem:



Benitoite (ben-EE-toe-ite). A rare blue barium titanium silicate mineral, found in hydrothermally altered serpentinite. Benitoite fluoresces under short wave

ultraviolet light, appearing bright blue to bluish white in color. The more rarely seen clear to white benitoite

crystals fluoresce red under long-wave UV light. It was first described in 1907 by George D. Louderback, who named it benitoite for its occurrence near the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County, California. Benitoite occurs in a number of sites, but gemstone quality material has only been found in California.

Happy Rockhounding!

Susan Chaisson-Walblom



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar 5. Deadline for Apr Newsletter
Apr 5. Deadline for May Newsletter
May 10-11. CFMS Convention-Lancaster
Aug 17-Apr30. 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

Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair
(530) 677-8440
fred.ott@att.net

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:

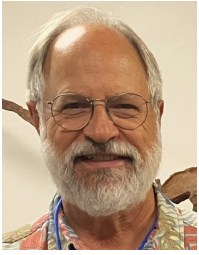
- CFMS Scholarship Fund
- CFMS Endowment Fund
- CFMS General Fund
- Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- AFMS Scholarship Foundation
- AFMS Endowment Fund
- Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
- Facilities Development Fund

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.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

Encourage Kids to Display & Announcing New Developments

Have kids in your society entered brilliant exhibits in your local show? Encourage them to kick it up a notch by entering competitive exhibits at this year's CFMS Convention on May 10-11 at Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. In addition to qualifying for a regular trophy, they might also receive the Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit. With that award, there's a crisp \$100 bill thrown in. (We are not above bribing kids.) Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter you'll find an article with details on entering a competitive exhibit. But hurry! The deadline for receipt of exhibitor applications is April 1.

By the time you read this, applications will be closed for our 5th Annual CFMS Junior Achievement Awards. (As reported in prior CFMS articles, the deadline was March 1.) I wish to thank Tony and Sandie Fender, Kelly Plumb, and Yvonne Mack for volunteering to serve as judges, but as I write this article in February, we have yet to hear from any applicants. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll soon have Tony, Sandie, Kelly, and Yvonne occupied with score sheets and that we'll be able to award both an outstanding pebble pup and an outstanding junior at the 2025 Convention Awards Banquet.

Last month, I reminded you of the many great programs available to help your local club with your junior members through our affiliation with AFMS—all entirely free! I've recently been in a Zoom meeting with the AFMS Youth Program Committee, and there are a lot of neat developments in the works, including a new AFMS/FRA badge on sand collecting and new resources on the website, like helpful guidance on promoting your local kids' program. I hope to learn more at the AFMS Show & Convention, so watch for details to come. Meanwhile, here's to engaging and encouraging our next generation of Rockhounds. Even if your society has just one junior member, take advantage of these resources that are yours for the taking—if only you take the time. Every child is worth it!

ALL AMERICAN

By Diane Cook, 1st VP/All American Chair

Exciting News for CFMS All American Entries!

This year, CFMS received two fantastic All American entries, showcasing the dedication and accomplishments of our member societies. These entries are currently being judged, and their scores will be forwarded to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) for national-level evaluation.

The winners will be announced at the AFMS Convention in Hickory, NC, in late March 2025. Additionally, CFMS will recognize and award our winners at the Banquet during the CFMS Convention in May.

A huge thank you to all who participated—your efforts help highlight the outstanding work being done in our clubs and federation!

CFMS CUSTODIAN REPORT

By Diane Cook, 1st VP
dianecook.cfms@gmail.com

Call for CFMS Inventory Updates – Help Protect Our Assets

As First Vice President of CFMS and Custodian Chair, one of my key responsibilities is to maintain an updated inventory of all CFMS physical assets. This essential task has not been completed in years, and with the increasing risk of wildfires and other disasters in California, it is critical that we account for and safeguard our property.

I am asking all CFMS committee chairs and officers who oversee physical assets—such as equipment, display materials, trophies, and any other CFMS-owned property—to provide an updated inventory list. Please include a description of the item, quantity, and location.

Send your inventory list via email to me as soon as possible. Having a comprehensive record will not only help protect our assets but also ensure that CFMS continues to function smoothly.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter!

WHAT IS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (D&O) LIABILITY INSURANCE

By Fred Ott, CFMS Insurance Chair

Why is it vitally important that each CFMS society purchase such coverage?

While the Federation's General Liability Insurance policy covers a myriad of exposures (primarily those actions that cause bodily injury to someone else or damage to property belonging to someone else), it does not cover the actions of Board members for wrongful acts or even the allegation of wrongful acts!

If you are an officer or director of a Federation society that has not purchased D&O insurance, you- can be held personally liable for actions taken while a director or officer, including:

Mismanagement: Allegations that Board members failed to manage the society effectively.

Breach of Fiduciary Duty: Claims that directors or officers did not act in the best interest of the society.

Fraudulent Behavior: Accusations of deceit or intentional misrepresentation by Board members.

Failure to Comply with Laws: Claims that the Board of Directors did not adhere to relevant laws and regulations.

Negligent Misrepresentation: Allegations that false statements were made unintentionally, leading to financial losses.

Wrongful Termination: Claims of 'wrongful termination' without just cause or due process.

Discrimination: Allegations that Board members engaged in discriminatory practices based on race, gender, or other factors.

Harassment: Claims involving allegations of harassment by members of the Board of Directors.

Avoid the risk! The current cost of D&O insurance coverage through McDaniel Insurance Services for all of the directors and officers of a CFMS society is only \$325 for an entire year. This is one of the lowest premiums for D&O insurance in the entire insurance industry! Patt's contact information is: telephone: (800) 400-7288 or (805) 646-9948; mailing address: PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024, email: agent@mcd-ins.com, Fax: (805) 646-9976

CFMS CONVENTION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Rules Chair

Last Call to Enter a Competitive Exhibit!

On May 10-11, CFMS holds its 2025 Convention in conjunction with the Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club's annual show. Here's one last invitation for you to join the fun by entering a fine display into competition.

We included a Competitive Exhibitor Application form in last month's newsletter. Please share it with members of your society. It's also posted to the CFMS website: <https://cfmsinc.org/2020-cfms-show-forms/>. **The exhibit entry deadline is April 1.** Also being posted to the website is an updated listing of Supplemental Trophies for 2025. If you wish to go for a Supplemental Trophy, you should specify which one/s on your Competitive Exhibitor Application form.

With a truncated 2-day event, timing will be tight, with 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 in time for the Saturday awards ceremony. Unfortunately, no wiggle room for exceptions on exhibitor set-up time.

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



CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Earth Science Studies Co-Chair

Camp Paradise registration opens March 15, 2025 and I, for one, am looking forward to another camp of learning, experiencing new jewelry and lapidary techniques and of course shenanigans. Camp dates this year are August 17-23 & August 24-30; \$550 per person, per week. You can find everything at CFMSinc.org. Scroll down to Camp Paradise and click on it. Thanks to Diane Cook registration will be online and payment will be online as well.

Speaking of new lapidary techniques, this year we will have a new intarsia program with some brand-new intarsia machines! Our instructor just returned from Tampa Bay, FL. Where she learned about a technique called Cobblestone Inlay, taught by Caitlin Albritton. (I don't have a clue either but am eager to learn.) She will also teach introductory intarsia but is working toward developing some advanced options.

Please pass this information on to your club members and keep checking the CFMS Newsletter and the CFMSinc.org website for updates.



THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

TWO EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT AFMS!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

One last time as the clock ticks down to the 2025 AFMS Show & Convention: Help raise money for the AFMS Endowment Fund to support new programs, the Future Rockhounds of America youth program, and more. How? Via the annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. In short...

Make a purchase! Endowment Fund tickets are available at \$5.00 for 1 or \$20.00 for 5.

Make a specimen donation! We invite items like gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, bead projects, etc. I thank Kelly Plumb (Antioch Lapidary Club and Contra Costa Gem & Mineral Society) for donating a wire-wrapped charoite pendant; Diane Cook (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society & CFMS 1st VP) for a lapis pendant; David Springer (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) for a sagenitic onyx sphere; and me (Ventura Gem & Mineral Society) for two handcrafted silver pendants—a sand dollar and an ammonite. In addition, as of this writing there are also two ocean jasper pendants donated by Richard and Linda Jaeger of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society.

I welcome donations of items with a minimum value of \$75 and a maximum weight of not more than five pounds. Tickets will be drawn at the 2025 EFMLS-AFMS Show & Convention March 27-31 in Hickory, North Carolina, and I'll be there to pick up prizes for any winning CFMS members. To purchase tickets and/or to donate items, call or email me (805-659-3577; jbraceth@roadrunner.com). I'm happy to assist.

CFMS Past President's Case

Tony and I were affected by the Eaton Fire. We are one of the lucky ones, our house is still standing. We are affected by the ash, soot and other toxic chemicals. The Past Presidents case box is safe (all of the contents are safe). It does smell of smoke, but I think with some airing out it should be okay. The 3 cases are safe, once again, just smell. I have not had the chance to check the liners and risers. (we are a bit busy just trying to make the house liveable). Normally I move the box to a safe location when we are out of town, but who expected a fire in January?? Sandie Fender

HELLO? IS ANYONE HOME?

Keep Your Social Media & Website Current & Responsive!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS & AFMS Public Relations Chair

In today's world, social media is essential to spread the word about your society and, indeed, many have embraced Facebook and its affiliated Instagram along with their websites. Just one word of advice: Keep these lines of communication active!

I recently experienced frustration with a local society that shall go unnamed. I had prepared an old-school snail-mail notice that was being sent to a number of clubs when I saw that this club's posted mailing address was inconsistent. The address listed on their website was not the address listed in the regional federation club directory. Last year, I sent a similar mailing to the address from their website. It came back "Address Unknown/Return-to-Sender." What to do with this year's mailing?

I returned to the society's website for guidance, but there was no link to nor archive of the society's newsletter, which generally contains a club's contact info. So, no ability to use that as a check. There was no listing of officers with contact info—not a single one! Not even an anonymous email account like "president@acmeclub.com." No phone number shown anywhere to enable a quick conversation. But there was a "Contact Us" page where you could fill in your email address and phone number along with a question. So I went with that. The result? No response.

As days ticked by, I saw they had a Facebook page. Tried a little check-in. No response. Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised. On that Facebook page, the most recent posting was from January 2023, which made it 22 months old at the point that I was checking in. And nearly all the preceding posts had the following generic Facebook notice: "This content isn't available right now. When this happens it's usually because the owner only shared it with a small group of people, changed who can see it, or it's been deleted."

As I said at the outset, *keep your lines of communication active!* To which I add: *Be responsive!* True, we are all volunteers. We all have much on our plates beyond our rock clubs. But if you're going to put your foot into the game, you need to play the game. Keep current. Keep active. Be responsive.

So here I am. Still stuck with two different mailing addresses, one of which is known to have generated a "return-to-sender" notice. Should I simply waste another increasingly expensive stamp and use the other address that differs from what's on their website? Or is this club simply a lost cause? If someone active in their Federation can't find them or get a response from them, what does that say about someone who might be checking in about potentially becoming a member? Or someone seeking info about an upcoming show or other club event?

As for me, I'm still awaiting a response from the club with two addresses and a "Contact Us" page that seems to be a one-way dead-end street. (By the way, I did try the second mailing address. It, too, came back "Address Unknown/Return-to-Sender.")

As I said at the beginning, this club (which, supposedly, is still active) shall go unnamed. If perchance you're wondering, "*Could he be talking about my club??*" then it's time to roll up some sleeves and get to work!

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps you have seen this in a nature program? There is a herd of grazing animals out on the savannah. Quietly waiting in the underbrush we see a patient and observant predator watching the herd. Suddenly there is action. The predator charges the grazing animals to secure its lunch. The action continues with the intended prey either escaping or becoming a meal. What are the odds of escaping? Are the odds better if the herd is large? What are the odds if the prey is disabled, a bit slower than the others, or in some other way compromised?

Let us bring that into the here and now. Suppose one's partner goes out to the lapidary shop. After an hour or so the first partner still has not heard any noise from the shop, so they go out to check on the person in the shop. Hopefully the person in the shop is quietly cleaning the equipment and not lying on the floor with a medical issue.

What if a group of people, happily digging in a quarry, has one member decide that they want to wander over the ridge and explore what might be collected there? Who will check on that explorer after an hour or so if no one even knew they had left the group? →

Safety cont.....

In both the above narratives, the person in the shop, and the person doing the exploring, could have perfectly safe outcomes. However, in matters of safety, the number we like is at least two. Having a second person check on the first, having a second person know when the first might be back, having a second person carry the safety supplies when the first one, for some reason or other cannot, all rely on that vital second person to help with the safety of the first. So how does safety in numbers work?

- No matter the activity, have a check- in schedule.
- If one must venture out alone, make sure there is another person who has the travelers destination and expected time of return.
- If there are multiple paths or trails to the destination, make sure the other person knows which trail is being used.
- Even if back roads are used, some roads are less traveled so let the other person know the route / roads just in case.
- If one is venturing alone be prepared with cell phone, safety supplies, a flashlight, food, and water among those supplies.
- Having paper trail maps can be a good idea instead of relying on GPS coordinates, especially in remote areas.
- Know the situation, circumstances, weather, and whatever might influence having a safe outcome, because every activity has its variabilities.

Too often one hears of one person working alone in the woods and a tree falls the wrong way, or the chainsaw kickbacks, or the chain on the tractor slips and a serious injury occurs, all with no one nearby to help. So maybe there are no trees for miles around your area, what then? There may be no trees, but there are those who surf alone, collect alone, swim alone, explore the desert alone, hike mountain trails alone, and so many other activities where having a second person could have been there to help in case of emergency.

Oh, in that herd of grazers? All of them escaped safely in that episode. Please consider keeping the numbers high when engaging in any rock and mineral hobby. Please keep others apprised of your activities to help ensure there will always be safe outcomes. Your safety matters.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, March 25

A GOOD IDEA BUILT TO LAST — THE GEM SCOOP

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

In April 1961, Ernest Estwing of the Estwing Mfg. Co. of Rockford, Illinois, makers of World-Famous Rock Picks and Sportsman's Axes, introduced his invention called the Gem Scoop. This same scoop is still sold today. Back in the day it sold for only \$7.50. Today, the same scoop or updated version sells for up to \$65!

What is fun to note, is the thought that went into creating the actual scoop so many of us have carried with us. The idea for it came from three rockhounding friends from different parts of the country who each wished for a particular type of tool to assist them on field trips. One woman friend from Arizona wished for a tool to use for chasing snakes away while collecting and for grabbing specimens from under prickly cholla cactus and other precarious spots. An Idaho friend wished for a good climber's tool. Another friend wished for a scoop that would help him get specimens out of the water in Lake Superior. All three friends thought a cane type tool would be very effective for what they needed.

After listening to his friends, Ernest spent the winter of that same year inventing and manufacturing the scoop. It was created to be the ideal tool collectors in every region of the country would want to have. The Gem Scoop was and is an ideal tool for its many uses. Skin-divers and beachcombers can use it to explore rocks, shells, sea glass and clams. You can rake and pick up things without hurting your back, and it makes a good hiking cane up and down slopes while collecting. My guess is on a camping trip you could also use it as a handy back scratcher. The original tool was 36" long, which you can buy new today. You can also buy the same size that comes in a more compact design, which folds up for easier traveling. There's a 42" version in either a solid cane style or as a folding type. Prospecting and lapidary supply companies sell the scoop either under the original name, Gem Scoop, or as Treasure Scoop.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, February 2025



A “SLEEP NUMBER” BULLETIN?

By Linda Yeager, AFMS Editor

NO, I don't mean are you putting your readers to sleep! We see commercials for mattresses that have dual controls to make them firmer or softer, depending on what fits your body. These mattresses are designed to fit both of the people using the mattress. So, does your bulletin FIT your club members? Take a look at all the different activities where your club members participate. Is your bulletin providing something for everyone?

If you have groups within your club that meet in addition to the general club meeting, you can:

- Announce those meetings and their programs/events in the bulletin.
- Ask a member of that group to write an article pertinent to their group interest.
- Use articles from exchange bulletins or online sources that would be of interest to each of your club groups.
- Browse the Internet for web sites of interest.
- Highlight a different group each month, especially if your club bulletin is small.

If your club has field trips, you can (should) announce these in your bulletin. Announcements should include:

- What materials expect to be found
- Date, time, meeting place
- Required equipment, clothing to wear
- Food/water information
- Whether waivers need to be signed
- A contact person for Q & A
- Who is leading the trip
- How long the trip is expected to last

If your club has a workshop, you can:

- List days and times it is open.
- Highlight someone and/or something they have created.
- Announce classes offered in your workshop with all the appropriate information.
- Ask for an article about equipment or technique from a workshop user.

If your club has kids as members, you can:

- Announce their meetings/dates/times if they meet separately from the general meeting.

- Use materials from Diamond Dan Publications, which are created just for kids by a real rockhound who is very knowledgeable.
- Use materials from the AFMS program, Future Rockhounds of America (check the AFMS web site, <www.amfed.org>)
- Read or have someone else read a kid's book about some phase of earth science and write a book review.
- Ask the kids to write on a specific topic related to earth science and publish their articles (short articles or poems; even artwork).

If your club offers short-term classes, such as silversmithing, making cabs, minerals, fossils, etc., you can:

- Announce the classes with dates, times, places, instructors, contact information.
- Ask the instructor to write a short article on what will be taught, maybe with a week-by-week synopsis.
- After the class is over, ask a class member to write about their favorite part of the class or about something they learned that really excited their interest.

If your club performs services for the public such as giving programs for schools, participating in a state fair, working at a swap, etc., you can:

- Announce the event
- Use the bulletin to help recruit members to help
- Afterwards, ask a participant for an article about what was accomplished or what was the funniest thing that happened, etc.

If your club includes members who are interested in all phases of geology and lapidary, try to include articles that address each area. We want members to read our bulletins, and they will read what is of interest to them. It's just like going shopping. We try things on (sometimes mattresses!), but we only buy what FITS!

From *AFMS Newsletter*, December 2012



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

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>

February 28 – March 2, 2025 – Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club
Newark Pavillion, 6430 Thornton Ave., Newark,
CA 94560
Hours: Fri 11-5, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Website: <http://www.ebml.club>

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 5, 2025 – Roseville, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville Rock Rollers Lapidary
Shop @ the Grounds, 200 Corporation
Yard Rd, Roseville, CA 95678
Contact: {916} 798-0235
Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

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
Hours: Sat & Sun 10 AM -5 PM
Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Society
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, 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>

October 24-25, 2025 – Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA
95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 682-5819, gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <https://sacgemshow.com>

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*

**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 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**

2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-7239	slchaisson at yahoo..com
First VP:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
Second VP:	Frank Van Hecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclan5 at att.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at surfers.net
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bpalarue at earthlink.net
<hr/>			
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	Nick Hughes	(650) 400-5095	wildphotonick at gmail.com
Cab Cases–Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See Treasurer	
Cab Cases–South	Bob Knox	(747) 206-8506	knoxrobert211 at gmail.com
CFMS Directors to AFMS:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook	See First VP	
CFMS Jury of Awards:	Frank Van Hecke, Chai	See Second VP	
	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
CFMS Newsletter Editor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
CFMS Rep to AFMS:	Tony Fender (Sandie)	(626) 807-5279	arhfender at gmail.com
Earth Science Studies:	Gary & Jill Atkins	(775) 232-6626	atkinsdesign at gmail.com
	Frank Van Hecke	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz	See Long Range	
Endowment Fund–CFMS:	Sharon Rogow (Bart Solomon)	(702) 499-0272	sharonrr at cox.net
Endowment Fund–AFMS:	Jim Brace-Thompson (Nancy)	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Facilities Fund:	OPEN		
Field Trips North:	Jim Barton (Darlene)	(916) 847-7321	geologist1 at surewest.net
Field Trips South:	Ellen Moe	(310) 462-7946	hmcx2 at aol.com
Financial Adv Comm:	Fred Ott (Susan)	(530) 677-8440	fred.ott at att.net
	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See President	
	Diane Cook (John)	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Chair	See President	
	Sharon Rogow	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bpalarue at earthlink.net
Historian:	Susy Martin (John), Chair	(611) 433-9833	cfms.historian at amlands.org
	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet:	Nick Hughes	See Cab Cases North	
Insurance	Fred Ott	See Financial Adv Comm	
Junior Activities:	Jim Brace-Thompson	(805) 659-3577	jbraceeth at roadrunner.com
Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
	All living past presidents		
	2025 Executive Committee		
Membership:	Dick White (Phyllis)	(805) 404-7197	
	Fred Ott (Susan)	See Financial Adv Comm	
Museum Comm:	Frank Van Hecke	See 2 nd VP	
Nominating Comm:	Dick White, Chair	See Membership	
	Nancy Bird Bob Knox	Celia Churchill	
	Sharon Rogow	Anna Robertson (alternate)	
Parliamentarian:	Tony Fender	See Bylaws	
Program Aids:	Emmy Lam	(818) 297-7132	cfmsprogramaids at gmail.com
PLAC:	James May, Chair	(661) 912-3026	geojim9 at hotmail.com
	John Martin (Susy)	(611) 433-4216	john.martin at amlands.org
	Bernie Bentsen	(661) 496-7393	bentsenbab at gmail.com
	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Rockhound of the Year:	Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair	See Jr. Activities	
Rules Committee:	Colleen McGann	(831) 212-1951	kmcgann at gmail.com
	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treas	
Safety:	Bart Solomon (Sharon Rogow)	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Scholarship–AFMS:	Pat LaRue	See CFMS Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Scholarship–CFMS	Frank Van Hecke	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 Long Range	
Tax Advisor:	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
Website Contest:	Merryan O'Neill	(510) 622-4229	logtown49 at gmail.com

CFMS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1657

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Pat LaRue, Editor

Return Service Requested

CFMS CONVENTION

May 10 - 11, 2025

ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR & EVENTS CENTER

2551 W Avenue H

Lancaster, CA

