



CFMS NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

As we move into the spring season, I want to share a few upcoming opportunities that I hope many of you will take advantage of.

First, a reminder about our upcoming **CFMS Club Insurance Zoom Meeting** in February. This session will focus on why insurance is so important for our clubs, what Directors & Officers (D&O) coverage means, and will include time for questions. Our CFMS Insurance Chair will be on hand to provide guidance and answers. If you haven't signed up yet, this is a great opportunity for club officers and board members to learn more about protecting your club. In March, I would also like to host a **CFMS Club Show Round Table Zoom**. This will be an informal discussion where clubs can share what has worked well for their shows, what hasn't, and exchange ideas on fund raising, vendors, publicity, layouts, and volunteers. Whether your club hosts a large show or a small one, there is always something new to learn from each other.

You will also find in this issue a **CFMS Southern California Lapidary Camp Interest Survey**. This is a very early exploration of whether a second CFMS camp program could be developed for Southern California. No decisions have been made — this project will only move forward if there is strong interest from our members and clubs. I strongly encourage CFMS Representatives to share this survey with their full membership and submit collective feedback. Your responses will directly guide whether this opportunity becomes a reality.

Looking ahead, the **2026 CFMS Show & Convention in Reno** is moving along nicely. The information packets for clubs, exhibitors, and

members should be going out in approximately a month. We are currently finalizing details and will share more very soon.

If you are interested in either of the Zoom meetings, or have questions about the camp survey, please feel free to email me and I will send you the information. Thank you all for your continued involvement, dedication, and support of CFMS. It's exciting to see so many clubs staying active, creative, and connected.

Warm regards,

Diane Cook

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar 5. Deadline for March Newsletter
Apr 5. Deadline for April Newsletter
Mar 15. Camp Paradise registration begins

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

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

It’s that time of year again. Societies/clubs are reminded that payment of the CFMS dues and club share of the public liability insurance is due January 1 and delinquent after March 1. The cost is the same as last year—\$10 per member (including juniors). The updated forms are available on the CFMS website. This includes the officer change form.

Please be sure to pass this information on to your treasurer. New to the job? Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions. Do NOT send payments to McDaniel Insurance Services. All CFMS dues/insurance payments are mailed to CFMS, PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

The 2026 CFMS Junior Achievement Awards: *Can you help judge?*

Six 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. By the time you read this, the deadline of March 1 for receipt of applications will have passed. (I'm writing this in early February and, so far, no applications received, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed!)

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 2026 CFMS Junior Achievement Awards, 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!

CFMS CAB CASES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT LOCAL SHOWS

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Public Relations

Looking to add a special element to your next club show? CFMS has cases displaying cabochons that have been crafted and donated by all affiliated clubs over the years. These attractive cases are available for loan to be displayed at local club shows. Three committee members house these cases: Cab Cases-North, Cab Cases-Central, and Cab Cases-South. So wherever you are across California, a cab case is readily available near you. Check the directory at the end of this newsletter and make arrangements for a case to be on display at your next club show!



AFMS NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL FEBRUARY 2026!

By Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor

When February 2026 rolls around the AFMS Newsletter will be completely digital. There will be no hard copies mailed from AFMS. As always, the newsletter will be posted on the AFMS website. The newsletter or the hotlink directly to the newsletter on the website will be emailed to each of the regional federation editors for them to forward to the clubs in their federation. Each club would then email (forward) the same email or hotlink to their club members. Clubs can print the newsletter for their members who do not use email. See the September AFMS Newsletter for more information about the decision to go digital.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, Dec 25

CFMS editor's note: I will email the link to the AFMS Newsletter to those who are currently on the list to receive the CFMS Newsletter. This list is being revised as the officer change lists come in.

OFFICER CHANGE FORMS NEEDED

By Pat LaRue, Executive Sec/Treas

Does your society/club have new officers for 2026? Did you have a change of address, different contact information? Please take a few moments to complete the officer change form which you will find with this newsletter or on the CFMS website. What do I do with this information?

The information provided on the form is used to create the Society Roster which is distributed to your group's representative at the Convention meeting. Since this year's Convention meeting will be later in the year, I will be emailing the document to whomever you designate as the person to receive CFMS mail. Usually this is the Director or secretary. Please be sure to provide the email addresses of those persons who should receive the CFMS Newsletter. A personal email address is preferred. My email provider tends to reject mailings to addresses linked to club websites. PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!!

**ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK
AWARDS – 2026 (FOR 2025
YEARBOOKS)**

By Diane Cook, Chair

It's deadline time! The **All American Club Award** entry deadline is **March 10, 2026**.

The All American Club Award recognizes a club's **yearbook** that best highlights its activities and achievements over the past year. Entries should showcase what makes your club active and vibrant—club meetings, workshops, shows, community outreach, and individual member participation.

Credit is given for:

1. Attending regional and national shows
2. Serving as officers or committee members
3. Educational programs and public service efforts

Awards are presented at the **Bronze, Silver, and Gold** levels, with an overall **First Place Gold Award** for the top entry.

If you haven't formed a small committee, don't wait, now is the perfect time to form a small committee and start gathering materials for your **2025 yearbook**. The more members who contribute, the more complete and meaningful your yearbook will be. It's not just a contest entry—it's a lasting record of your club's history and a great way to recognize member involvement.

Be sure to collect photos, flyers, newsletters, letters, and any documentation of your club's activities. Filling in those small details can make the difference between a good entry and a great one!

All forms and instructions are available on the **CFMS and AFMS websites**.

Submission Deadline: March 10, 2026

Email entries to: DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

If you have any questions or need guidance, feel free to reach out—I'm always happy to help!

**AFMS ENDOWMENT RAFFLE
ONE LAST CALL!**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

I suspect you may know this by now: the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosts an annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle to support worthy causes like the AFMS Youth Program and its AFMS/FRA badges that are available free to all local societies.

As one last reminder, I'm selling raffle tickets at \$5 for one, \$20 for five. I also seek donations of raffle items with minimum value of \$75 of anything rock-related (rock or mineral specimens, fossils, jewelry, metalwork, books, etc.) Call or email me to buy tickets or to offer a donation. (Phone 805-659-3577; email jbraceth@roadrunner.com.) The raffle takes place at the AFMS/Midwestern Federation Show & Convention on May 23 in Illinois. You need not be present to win. I'll be there and can bring home prizes won by CFMS members.

My thanks to all who have already made prize donations and/or purchased tickets. Everyone's generosity is appreciated!



I welcome similar items. You don't have to craft them yourself. Jewelry you've purchased is just as good, as are fine specimens of minerals, crystals, or fossils. Let me help you downsize your collection by removing duplicate specimens for a worthy cause!

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 CFMS BULLETIN CONTEST

By Celia Churchill, Bulletin Aids Chair

Calling all Bulletin Editors! It's time to review your 2025 club newsletters and select your best submissions for entry in the 2026 CFMS Bulletin Contest.

As in previous years, CFMS will follow the AFMS rules and categories. You may find these on the AFMS website <https://www.amfed.org/contests/bulletin-and-special-publications>. There are contest guidelines for specific categories and fillable templates.

For each entry, please fill out the top portion of a judging sheet (fillable template or PDF on the AFMS website) and include a PDF of the submission as it appeared in your club newsletter. For example, an entire newsletter for the Bulletins category, or one to several pages of a newsletter for an article.

For each club submitting, please make a list of all your entries for the contest year. Email this list and all entries to cfmsbeac@gmail.com by February 28, 2026. You will receive a confirmation that all your entries have been received based on your list of submissions. Please also feel free to email any questions regarding the contest.

Interested in being a judge for this year's contest? Please let me know! The judging period will be during the first two weeks in March, and conducted via email.

CFMS has traditionally done well at the AFMS level, and we look forward to another year of excellent entries. Good luck to all our editors and authors!



MAXIMIZING ONLINE TOOLS TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS & CFMS PR Chair

On December 13, I hosted a Zoom roundtable on "Public Relations through Community Involvement," and I provided a few notes from it last month. Here's more! As with prior Zooms, much of the discussion veered away from the topic at hand to center around online presence, starting with the importance of a website. A professional-looking site, along with social media like Facebook and Instagram, is the big way people are learning about clubs today, but as Johan noted, a site needs to be far more dynamic than just a static e-version of printed club brochures that are essentially "sedimentary and buried." Unfortunately, that's what many clubs sites are like. Young people, especially, are attracted by a site that's lively, fresh, and inviting in approach, appearance, and content. Transferring all your print material to a website and leaving it at that is simply not enough.

Lots of website hits come via Google queries, so you need to find a way to increase the odds of coming up as a find on a Google search. One way to do that is by continually refreshing content on your site. Really push club members to submit new material as often as possible; for instance, little reviews of rock shops they've visited, field trips they've taken, a new lapidary technique they've learned. They need not write 500-word essays. In fact, it's best if they don't. Instead, just a couple/few lines accompanied by a great photo or video clip. List events like upcoming shows, not just your own but other club shows within your region. The more, the merrier. And make sure it's current. I've visited websites that still provide info about their 2018 show when you click on the "Show" tab.

Robin noted that posting recordings of special talks, like a jade presentation an expert gave their club, increased traffic to their website from a typical rate of 50 per month to 500 that month. And that brought up another topic: the importance of having metrics that tell you the number of visits to your site per month. It costs extra to access web analytics, but, per our roundtable, it's money well spent to gauge what sort of traffic you're getting and what drove it. High-interest topics (like jade) are used more frequently in searches, but you need to keep feeding new topics. Their host (Wix) says that if you have original content, bots will boost traffic to you since such bots are always seeking new and unique content. They're driven by algorithms that also seek topics appealing to the highest number of people, so you need to pay attention to

including high-interest key words. A talk entitled “Carboniferous Lacustrine Deposits & Siderite Concretionary Coprolites” doesn’t hack it. Jade, yes. Coprolites, no.

Hosting meetings via apps like Zoom can bring more views from folks beyond your club, especially if you have a speaker with an intriguing topic. That really helped some clubs during COVID, but hosting meetings in this way has been largely discontinued post-COVID. Ellen posts videos on YouTube, including talks given at club meetings, that garner lots of hits via Google searches, but she notes it’s difficult to keep up in the fast-moving world of social media. She noted generational divides. For instance, Facebook (and Instagram) is no longer a platform of choice for younger folks, so you need to be open to continually adapting.

In addition to constantly adapting and refreshing, be speedy. If you have a Facebook account or a Contact Us page on your website, check them daily to provide immediate responses. In these times we live, waiting even a minute seems to tax some folks’ patience. Sometimes the query is that frustratingly fuzzy photo of a rock with a one-line question: “What is this?” But Robin and Ellen noted they get lots of inquiries from people wanting to get rid of grandpa’s rocks, which proves a good source of material for their show, and it’s usually first-come/first-served, so move fast! And move especially fast with any queries that show an interest in attending a club meeting and joining your merry band. After two years, I’m still waiting for a response to a question I posted to one club’s Contact Us page!

Most clubs have a predominance of older members with mind sets that can prove difficult to shift. For instance, they don’t necessarily like to pay for media tools (like web analytics), don’t see the value in social media, and just want to get together in-person and enjoy 35mm slides like they used to. (I do miss the comedy of a presenter realizing all his slides are upside down.) But younger members don’t put as high a priority on in-person meetings. There’s a real need to address generational divides and strike the right balance to appeal to everyone. Of course, social media is not a panacea, and it certainly comes with down sides. Some social media apps aren’t regulated and fall into the nefarious arena of the “dark web,” where discourse isn’t always so social. Johan noted you can get drowned out by stuff of a “sensationalist” tendency on sites with little moderation. He’s hesitant about using social media because it has become devalued in many ways and it can prove difficult to gain visibility and traction. In short, as Ronna noted,

social media can be both productive and destructive.

Finally, we discussed QR codes and making it easy to do things online, like submitting a membership application, paying dues, etc. Young folks nowadays would like to do things online immediately rather than via paper with cash or a check in the mail. Robin says her club has been using Zelle for 2 years. My club’s been using Zeffy. In both instances, it’s worked well.

My thanks to Ellen Dupuy, Robin Larzelere, Janice Metz, Johan Maertons, and Rona Watkins, who provided all these great observations from their personal experiences. I hope to see them—and you—at the next Zoom roundtable!

CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

This is the month you all have been waiting for. It is registration month for Camp Paradise! Registration opens on March 15, 2026. As you may know by now we had to rearrange the second week to make sure everyone got the same amount of time for a great learning experience as well as fun! See the new schedule on the cfmsinc.org website.

I would now like to address the elephant in the room, namely the price of silver. To that end I would like to remind you that if it only affected you or me then that WOULD be a calamity but it affects everyone so don’t panic. For myself I am planning on teaching more stone setting, hinges and clasps. For the purpose of learning, copper and brass will work just fine and it will help you to think about to how to add more interest to your work using mixed metals. In addition to adding value to your work with the addition of hinges, box clasps, etc. there is also enamel, carved stones, cold connections (rivets), intarsia and more that you will learn at Camp Paradise. Adding value to the eye of the beholder can make an ordinary piece extraordinary.



CFMS SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

By Erin Valenzuela, Chair

My name is Erin Valenzuela from the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society and I am the new social media director for CFMS. I will be working hard this year to expand our social media presence and would love for your societies and members to follow us on Facebook and Instagram! On Facebook we are: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and on Instagram: cfmsinc. We will be sharing posts, stories and/or event invites of your shows so if I happen to miss it please let me know by email or messaging on Instagram or Facebook. I get most of show cards/posters from the CFMS website/Newsletter so remember to send them to Marcia. Or you can send them directly to me or tag the CFMS pages. Thanks again and I look forward to helping you grow your shows through social media this year!

CFMS EXPLORING A NEW SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAPIDARY CAMP

By Diane Cook, CFMS President

The CFMS Executive Board is exploring the possibility of developing a **Southern California Lapidary Camp**—a potential companion to our long-running and very successful **Camp Paradise** program.

This concept, informally referred to as “**Camp South**,” is still in the early planning stage. No decisions have been made. The purpose right now is to determine whether there is **enough interest from CFMS members and clubs** to justify moving forward.

Given the long-term success and financial stability of Camp Paradise, the Board believes the timing is right to explore whether a second camp—possibly with bundled lodging and meals and held during university off-session periods—would serve our Southern California members.

Several potential locations are already being explored, and we may have a possible site presented at the upcoming Board meeting. However, the most important first step is **hearing from you. We Need Your Input.**

A **CFMS Southern California Lapidary Camp Interest Survey** will be sent to all CFMS Directors and published in this issue. This fillable PDF survey will ask about:

- ▶What classes your members would attend
- ▶Estimated participation from your club
- ▶Acceptable cost range

- ▶Lodging preferences
- ▶Potential instructors and equipment support
- ▶Possible host venues

This survey will directly determine whether this project moves forward.

Please Share with Your Members

CFMS Representatives are strongly encouraged to **forward this survey to their entire club membership** and gather collective feedback. This is not just a Board project—it depends entirely on member interest and support. The more responses we receive, the clearer the picture will be for planning a meaningful and sustainable program.

Thank you for helping CFMS explore new opportunities for education, outreach, and hands-on learning in our hobby.

The survey is being sent as a separate attachment along with the newsletter.

10 COMMANDMENTS OF HOW TO GET TO KNOW NEW MEMBERS

Author unknown

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful work of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown—only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone’s ear is the sound on’e own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like anyone if you try.
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy—yours, the other fellows, and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what you do for others.

From the *Rock Dobber* via *Lodestar* 8/1994

2026 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**

2026

February 21-22, 2026 – Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West
10th Street, Antioch CA 94509
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 28-March 1, 2026 – Vallejo, CA
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
McCormic Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive (Solano
County Fairgrounds), Vallejo, CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: (707) 644-9764, vgms01@yahoo.com
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

February 12-March 1, 2026 – Indio, CA
San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society
Riverside County Fairgrounds, 46350 Arabia St.,
Indio, CA 92201
Hours: Thu-Fri (12-13th, 19-20th, 26-27th) 3 pm-
10 pm. Sat-Mon (14th-16th) 10 am-10 pm and
Sat-Sun (21-22nd, 28th-March 1) 10 am-10 pm.
Contact: (951) 963-6751,
peggyrichard@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

February 28-March 1, 2026 – Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club
The Newark Pavillion, 6430 Thorton Ave.,
Newark
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (510) 353-3787, info@ebml.club
Website: <http://ebml.club>

March 7-8, 2026 – Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W.
Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 13-15, 2026 – Apple Valley, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
7 Miles down Stoddard Wells Rd., Apple
Valley, CA
Hours: 9-5
Contact: (760) 490-8401
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 14, 2026 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem and Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: Sat 10-4
Contact: (909) 208-6956,
berylman50aol.com
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/530281757337262/>

March 14-15, 2026 – Turlock, CA
The Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N
Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: mgibson_76@hotmail.com
Website:
<http://motherlodemineralsociety.com/>

March 15, 2026 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA
Hours: 12-3
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 20-22, 2026 – Clovis, CA
Fresno Gem and Mineral Society
Clovis Rodeo, 748 Rodeo Dr, Clovis, CA
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://www.fgms.rocks>

March 21-22, 2026 – San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Gem and Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Tully
Rd, San Jose, CA 95111
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: info@scvgms.org
Website: <https://www.scvgms.org>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lancaster, CA
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W
Ave H, Lancaster, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 – Lemoore, CA
Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore,
CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact:
lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

March 28-29, 2026 – 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:
calaverasgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com
Website:
<https://calaverasgemandmineral.net>

April 11-12, 2026, Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 11-12, 2026 – Placerville, CA
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem
Society
Placerville Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr.,
Placerville, CA
Contact: (530) 676-2472,
office@edcmgs.org
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 18-19, 2026 – Thousand Oaks, CA
Canejo Gem and Mineral Club
Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino
Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: www.cgamc.org

April 25-26, 2026 – 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>

April 24-26, 2026 – Paradise, CA
Paradise Gem & Mineral Club
Mechoopda Event Center, 149 Openshaw
Rd., Butte Valley, CA
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: paradisegemmineral@gmail.com
Website:
<http://www.paradisegemmineral.com>

May 1-2, 2026 – Yucaipa, CA
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Located on Yucaipa Blvd, Yucaipa, CA
Hours: Fri Noon-9, Sat 6pm-10pm
Contact: djvintage57@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.yvgms.com>

June 27-28, 2026 – Culver City, CA
Culver City Rock & Mineral Society
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City,
CA 90230
Hours: Sat 10=6, Sun 10-5
Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

August 22-23, 2026 – Escondido, CA
Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N. Escondido
Blvd., Escondido, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: pgmshow@gmail.com
Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV, Silver State Pavilion
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org
Website: <https://renogms.org>

September 19-20, 2026 – Chico, CA
Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: shows@featherriverrocks.org
Website: <https://featherriverrocks.org/show-2/>

September 19-20, 2026 – Monterey, CA
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd., Monterey, CA 93940
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

National/Regional Shows:

California Federation
September 18-20, 2026
Reno, NV

Eastern Federation
October 18-20, 2026
Charleston, WV

Midwest Federation
AFMS
May 23-24, 2026
St. Charles, IL

Northwest Federation
March 20-22, 2026
Missoula, MT
Rocky Mountain Federation
July 9-12, 2026
Tulsa, OK

South Central Federation
TBA

Southeast Federation
TBA

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.



BOLO TIES ARE HERE TO STAY

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

The first time I saw a bolo tie was when I joined my first AFMS rock and gem club. Many of the men would wear one to the club's monthly meetings, and for more formal rockhound events. The club presidents if they were men, always wore one. They made their bolo ties with the esteemed silversmithing skills which they learned from members in the club, and with the rock they had collected in the field, along with cutting and polishing the stone to their liking. During the breaks for refreshments and at potlucks, were the good times to ask about the personal story behind each piece. And of course, everyone likes to listen in to a good rockhounding story when they're all sitting around at the tables.

Each bolo did have a good story to tell, especially because there was so much of a person's real-life experience that went into creating such a piece of jewelry. I do think this is one of reasons why we still value the bolo tie today, and why this particular type of jewelry has so much presence.

I never saw women wearing them back then, but one day I bought one from a good friend with the intension of wearing it. Jerry Whitaker was his name, and had been a member of the club for over fifty years when I met him. I loved the story and history of the stone, the color of the stone, and because it was made by him. The stone is called Myrickite, and was from the Manhattan Mine in Napa County, California, where he hand-collected the rock years prior to the mine closing. Combined with his good memories that went into making that bolo tie, and combined with mine from everything he taught me about rockhounding skills, and our wonderful friendship, I will always be fond of that bolo.

When I began looking up the history of bolo ties, I found references with different dates in time for the same aspects of the tie, even to when the state of Arizona named the bolo tie as their, State Neckwear. What we do know is that the bolo tie has its history deeply woven into the Western, Southwestern and Native American jewelry culture for quite some time.

In 1959, a silversmith named Victor Emanuel Cedarstaff patented the slide clasp design for the tie, which is still in use today. Traditionally men have always been the ones seen wearing the bolo ties, but that doesn't mean women can't enjoy wearing them also. Leather and woven cord companies in the United States now sell all kinds of wonderful colors for bolo tie making, along with different

leather weaves that are made exceptionally well. Perhaps, those of you with Kumihimo braiding skills would like to take up the challenge of making your own bolo cording to go with a specific stone, and with certain colors in your wardrobe. I can see a lot of creativity using lost wax casting, metal clay or gorgeous dichroic glass as the tie's focal point.

Share a good story about bolo ties with your Juniors, and they'll want to get involved in making them too. Depending on their individual skills, even the simplest task of gluing a bolo clasp onto the back of a cabochon, and gluing base metal tips to the ends of the cords, will turn a fun project into something they'll want to wear.

When you wear a bolo tie, you will be noticed, or more likely your bolo will be noticed. They are good conversation pieces and can create an assortment of good teaching skills too.

From *AFMS Newsletter*, February 2026

THE TATER FAMILY

author unknown

Have you heard the story of “**The Tater Family**”? Members of the family are found (though perhaps by another name) in almost every club. There is the head of the family, **Dick Tater**, who wants to run everything in the club. His brother, **Ro Tater**, wants to change everything and his sister, **Agi Tater**, is always stirring up trouble. Agi Tater's son, **Hesi Tater**, pours cold water on almost every proposal that is made, while cousin **Vege Tager** helps the proposal to die, even it is adopted. Then there is **Iri Tater**, who doesn't seem to get along with anyone. **Imi Tater** wants the club to do what everyone else is doing, **Spec Tater** is content to sit on the sidelines and let someone else do all the work.

But then thank goodness, not all of the members of the **Tater Family** are trouble makers. There is **Facili Tater**, who is a charming person and very helpful. **Cogi Tater** thinks things through carefully and plans well. His bother, **Medi Tater**, makes a positive contribution at meetings that he attends, and **Common Tater**, perhaps the most down-to-earth and the friendliest of the Tater Family, is helpful and supportive.

From *Canaveral Moonstone vis Cobb-I-Stones*, 6/1995

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Pat LaRue, Editor

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