



CFMS NEWSLETTER

Vol LXIII #7

July 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diane Cook

DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com

Summer is here, and many of our member clubs are busy with shows, field trips, educational programs, county fairs, and community outreach.

Across California and neighboring states, rockhounds are sharing their passion for earth sciences and introducing new people to our wonderful hobby.

Planning continues for the **2026 CFMS Convention**, which will be held September 18–20, 2026, in Reno, Nevada, in conjunction with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's *Jackpot of Gems* Show. Registration forms are now available on the CFMS website and are included with this newsletter when possible. I encourage everyone to review the information and begin making plans to attend. We are looking forward to a fun and educational convention with opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

I would also like to encourage members to take advantage of one of the Federation's most popular educational opportunities— **Camp Paradise**. This year's program offers more than a dozen classes covering a variety of lapidary, jewelry, gem trees, and hobby-related topics. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced in lapidary arts, Camp Paradise provides a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and immerse yourself in our hobby. For complete details, class information, and registration, please visit the CFMS website.

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a Zoom workshop on **Competitive Exhibits** in preparation for the 2026 Convention. This workshop will be designed for both first-time exhibitors and experienced competitors. Topics will include how to prepare exhibit liners, where to find the rules and judging criteria for each division, tips for creating effective displays, and a question-and-answer session to help exhibitors feel comfortable entering their work. We hope this presentation will encourage more members to participate in one of the most educational and rewarding aspects of

our hobby. Please send me an email if you would like to attend.

As your clubs continue their summer activities, I encourage you to share your successes through the CFMS Newsletter. Whether it is a show, field trip, outreach event, youth activity, educational program, or special project, your stories help inspire other clubs and demonstrate the many ways our members contribute to our communities.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events and hearing about the exciting activities taking place throughout the Federation.

Together We Shine!

Diane Cook

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 5. Deadline for Aug Newsletter
Aug 5. Deadline for Sept Newsletter
Aug 16-22. Camp Paradise wk 1
Aug 23-28. Camp Paradise Wk 2
Sept 18-20. CFMS Show and Convention

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. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'm once again asking the various committee chairs to send an occasional item for the newsletter.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$250 or more, a letter attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the following:

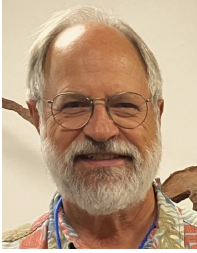
- CFMS Scholarship Fund
- CFMS Endowment Fund
- CFMS General Fund
- Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- AFMS Scholarship Foundation
- AFMS Endowment Fund
- Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
- Facilities Development Fund

Your donations should be sent to:

Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.





JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS
Junior Activities Chair

Seeking Responses for a Survey on Clubs with Kids

As I noted last month, the Juniors Program committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is doing a survey of all the seven regional federations to get a handle on youth involvement within our ranks. The survey involves just four simple questions, but so far I've only heard back from a single society. Can you please email me your answers to the following?

1. What is the name of your society?
2. Do you have kids under the age of 18 formally signed up within your society?
3. Do you have an active program for those kids with a designated youth leader?
4. Do you utilize the AFMS/FRA badge program or the other free resources provided by the AFMS Youth Program?

Easy-peasy! Send your answers to jbraceth@roadrunner.com, and thank you!

Encourage Kids to Exhibit at Our Upcoming Convention

Our 2026 CFMS Convention is being held in conjunction with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society's "Jackpot of Gems" Show September 18-20 in Reno. That date will be here before you know it, so if you haven't done so already, it's time to encourage kids within your society to exhibit. I always look forward to seeing the fun and creativity evident in kids' displays.

The show schedule and the forms for preregistration, competitive exhibits, and noncompetitive exhibits are posted at <https://cfmsinc.org/2020-cfms-show-forms/>

For those entering competition, a vital starting point is the Uniform Rules, which may be found at

<https://www.amfed.org/contests/Rules>. Kids need to consult these to determine the division and class of their displays and to immerse themselves in the rules.

In addition to qualifying for a Federation trophy, any kids who enter also automatically qualify for the Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit. With that award, there's a crisp \$100 bill thrown in (from me) and a nice big mineral specimen (from Susan Chaisson-Walblom). And you don't need to enter a competitive exhibit for that Show Chair's Award. All kids' exhibits are eligible, competitive or noncompetitive.

But hurry! The deadline for receipt of competitive and noncompetitive exhibitor applications is August 1. Get the word out to the kids in your society TODAY—then offer your advice and encouragement!

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!



CAMP PARADISE

By Jill Atkins, Co-Chair

Camp Paradise is almost upon us. As of this writing the camp in general is almost full. Ann Marie and Gary and I have been overwhelmed and excited to see how fast the camp is filling up. If you have intended to fill out an application, now is the time to do it. The deadline for registration is August 1, 2026. Camp begins on August 16, 2026. For more information go to www.CFMS.org and scroll down to Camp Paradise.

Camp Paradise is also asking clubs to donate slabs, tools, findings or anything jewelry or lapidary related to the silent auction. 100% of the funds raised will be used to offset expense of future camps.

Most of the same wonderful instructors are returning and are bringing new ideas and projects. We look forward to and are excited about seeing returning and new students this August.

CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Sharon Rogow, Chair

Hello there, it's Sharon here with a brief reminder about the Reno CFMS Show, convention, and business meeting. It will take place on September 18th, 19th, and 20th in Reno, Nevada, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, and it's getting to be time to make your travel plans, registration, hotel, and banquet reservations.

Once again, we will be in place at the show with several tables displaying rocks, minerals, and related materials all for sale to raise funds to benefit Endowment Fund supported projects. If you wish to donate items, bring them to our table space at the show. If you have monetary donations, you may send them to Pat LaRue at PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377 as well as bringing them to the meeting or to us at the show.

The Endowment Fund serves an important source of income to the Federation and has been used in recent years to help pay the cost of our insurance and insurance servicing fee. We look forward to seeing all of you there, so join us to peruse the table for treasures. We appreciate all that you do.

CFMS SCHOLARSHIP

By Bob Papac, 2nd Vice President

I just wanted to send out a reminder to all of our Clubs, that the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) offers an outstanding scholarship opportunity every year, and possibly one of your club members can have the opportunity to play a major role in nominating a potential recipient in your community, as well as assisting in awarding this scholarship.

This is really an amazing opportunity for all of us, involved in our common interest in Rocks and Minerals, to participate in finding, and awarding this award, to a student which can make a huge difference in their life.

If there is a standout member in your club who has gone above and beyond the norm, whether through volunteer work, board service, or representing CFMS as a Federation Director, or in another capacity, why not submit their name, and resume, giving them the opportunity to give back?

The process is actually quite simple. All you would have to do is submit a letter outlining the remarkable contributions of your chosen member (the Honoree) to the Club and CFMS. Send the letter to Robert L. Papac, and the CFMS Scholarship Committee, who will review all the submissions. The committee will then select the Honoree(s), who will have the unique privilege of choosing a college student to receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

This scholarship is multi purpose, in that it is about financial support, as well as acknowledging and rewarding the efforts of individuals who have made a substantial impact on our community. This is just another way that the CFMS is utilizing to foster and maintain a connection between our Rockhounding Community and promising students studying the Earth Sciences.

For those of you who might be interested, please review the following guidelines for potential scholarship recipients, which are: A course of study, including a major in Earth Science, Lapidary/Jewelry Arts, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and entering their Junior or Senior year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. The selected student must be attending a university within the CFMS boundaries.

Please help us in this endeavor, and make a difference for both our Rockhound community, as well as the life and goal of one of our students.

REPRESENTING CFMS AT THE AFMS CONVENTION

By Diane Cook, CFMS President

I was honored to represent the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) as one of our two delegates at the recent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Convention held in St Charles, Illinois.

The AFMS Convention is where delegates from the seven regional federations meet to conduct business, discuss issues affecting our hobby, and share ideas and successes from around the country. All seven federations were represented this year, making it an excellent opportunity to exchange information and build relationships with fellow rockhounds from across the nation.

As part of the convention, I attended the AFMS Rules Committee meeting. One significant action taken this year was the approval of changes to the process by which judges are certified for competitive exhibits. These changes will help ensure consistency and support the continued success of exhibit competition throughout the federations.

The convention show itself was outstanding and was hosted jointly by four local clubs. The quality and variety of material available were exceptional. In fact, I enjoyed the shopping opportunities so much that I had to purchase an extra suitcase to bring my treasures home!

In addition to convention activities, attendees were offered several educational opportunities. One of the highlights was a field trip to the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art. The museum houses some of the finest lapidary artwork and mineral specimens I have ever seen. Every display seemed more impressive than the last, and I found myself admiring the craftsmanship and beauty throughout the entire visit.

We also toured a lapidary school sponsored by Reentel, where students have the opportunity to learn and develop lapidary skills. It was inspiring to see

the commitment to education and the future of our hobby.

California was well represented at the convention, with seven CFMS members in attendance. I especially enjoyed spending time with fellow CFMS members Colleen McCann, Sandie and Tony Fender, Susan Chaisson-Walblom, and Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson.



Four of us also took the opportunity to visit "Sue," the famous Tyrannosaurus rex exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago.



The AFMS Convention reminds us that our hobby extends far beyond our local clubs. It provides opportunities to learn, share ideas, make lasting friendships, and represent the interests of CFMS on a national level. I was proud to serve as a delegate and look forward to sharing what I learned with our Federation.



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

By Chris Ward ROTY Chair
chris_ward678@yahoo.com

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Is proud to welcome our newest inductees into the prestigious Rockhound of the Year program. We have one junior member and one couple from the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society joining our ranks. Please send me your honorees so, they too, can be bestowed this honor from your society and the CFMS.

Brett Conner - Junior - Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society. Our Junior Rockhound graduated from high school as 2025 Valedictorian and is attending UC Davis to study Engineering. According to his mom, “Brett started Pebble Pups at age 5, kindergarten. He loved it from day one“. He attended the PP meetings every month and participated in the Field Trips and activities. As time went on, Brett continued to be interested in rocks but grew out of the Pebble Pups, until he got into high school.

When the Junior Director moved away during the pandemic, and another one volunteered, Brett helped get the program back on the ground. He served as the photographer and helped with setup and cleanup. He also summarized the meeting activities for the monthly bulletin. He worked at the Kid’s Booth at the OGMS Show up until 2019, helping with craft education, demonstrations and games. He was trusted to handle booth money, an important task.

Brett and his mom also joined our sister club in Ventura, and went to their events, volunteering in the booths as he could. As Brett astutely commented, he could have volunteered in another club’s Junior program, but he chose to apply his volunteer hours with “kids that don’t always get served...it’s harder to find volunteers in communities, such as Oxnard, where both parents have to work”.

We are very happy to have had Brett Connor as a Pebble Pup and a Junior volunteer and we wish to acknowledge him as our 2025 Junior Rockhound of the Year.

Submitted by: Gail Sanford - President - Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

Jean Smith & Shawn Pixley - Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society. The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society nominates for 2026 a couple who have been members for different lengths of time (she for many years, he for a few years). She is an artist, both graphics and metal, and has taught silversmithing and other lapidary and wire skills for the club. He worked for many years for a large corporation in property acquisition. This was instrumental in negotiating with the City of Oxnard to secure our workshop, after 3 years of waiting for construction to be completed. She has been the Safety Officer and Shop Steward for about a decade and recently took on the task of designing our club exhibit case for the Fair and other club shows.

He has helped set up shows and picnics and helped with organizing and stocking our storage unit. Though he isn’t a “rockhound” he has been a supportive member of the club and partner to his wife. She was our Rockhound of the Year in 2019, but together they have accomplished a great deal for the Society since then, and we wish to acknowledge those efforts this time as a couple for 2026.

Submitted by: Gail Sanford - President - Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

BEWARE OF PHISHING

By Pat LaRue, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Be aware that if you are anywhere on the leadership totem pole of your club or organization, there is somebody out there ready and waiting to help themselves not only to your personal information but also to your club’s financial resources.

To note, I received an email a few days ago from some bogus company informing me that the CFMS domain name had expired and that if I paid x amount of money right then, they would restore it. Of course they knew the domain name but also provided the organization’s address and my contact information. The message was no doubt AI generated because it was grammatically correct and the only clue that it might not be legit was the fact that the dates were configured with the day placed before the month. Our domain name is not due to renew at this time.

I contacted the company that handles our domain name and was assured that it was a phishing attempt and that it would be reported to the proper authority.

CFMS CLUB SHOW ROUNDTABLE – COMING SOON!

By Diane Cook, CFMS President

One of the goals of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is to provide resources that help our clubs succeed. To support that effort, CFMS is planning a Zoom **Club Show Roundtable Discussion** for club officers, show chairs, committee members, and anyone interested in helping organize successful club shows.

This will be an informal discussion where participants can share ideas, ask questions, discuss challenges, and learn from the experiences of other clubs throughout the Federation. Topics may include fundraising, advertising, vendors, exhibits, volunteers, educational activities, insurance, budgeting, and other aspects of producing a successful show.

Whether your club hosts a large annual event or is considering starting a show for the first time, we hope you will join us and contribute to the conversation.

We are currently working on scheduling a date and time. If you are interested in participating, have specific topics you would like discussed, or would like to be notified when the Zoom meeting is scheduled, please contact CFMS President Diane Cook.

We look forward to bringing clubs together to share ideas, learn from one another, and continue strengthening our Federation. Together We Shine!

SO YOU WANT TO EXHIBIT—HOW DO I START

By Pat LaRue, Rules Committee

You can approach the prospect of exhibiting something by simply deciding what type of display you wish to create. Most of us are primarily interested in one or two areas of the gem and mineral realm. Some areas are highly specialized, others are more general.

My primary area of interest is minerals, specifically thumbnail (1" x 1") specimens. Someone else may specialize in some type of lapidary or jewelry arts. Maybe you prefer to develop a display which will help

teach someone a concept or a skill. Whatever you decide to do is your biggest hurdle.

Once you decide what you want to do, it is important to look at the requirements for your display. If you are entering a display in competition, the guidelines are spelled out in a manual. If you are entering a non-competitive exhibit, I still recommend you consult the AFMS Rules book since the guidelines provided will help you create a display that will appeal to the viewing public.

Where is this manual, you may ask. The AFMS Rules Book is available on the AFMS website. Don't be put off by the volume of sections and pages. All you have to do is go to the section which covers the type of exhibit you want to develop. There is some general information that applies to everyone who decides to enter competition, but for now just concentrate on the guidelines covering your proposed exhibit. Since this article was written the AFMS Rules Committee made the decision to split the "book" into a section for each category. Hopefully this makes the "book" less intimidating.

Now that you know what you want to display, it's time to gather up everything that you will need. Does your club have a case you can borrow or will you be able to rent one from the club hosting the show. Measure the inside dimensions of the case so you will know what size to cut the forms you will use to create your liners. The easiest forms to make are cardboard. If you or a friend have access to a table saw you can use thin particle board or masonite. I personally like cardboard because all you need to cut it is a box cutter or exacto knife. Once the forms are ready, it's time to cover them with some type of material. As mentioned in a previous article, smooth textured materials in neutral colors are recommended. Do avoid bright colors or shiny materials. Spray on adhesives are generally okay to use but be sure it doesn't bleed thru. Packaging tape is okay but it sometimes pulls loose.

Now that you have your liners done, it's time to decide what is needed to display the items going into the display. I sometimes refer to these accessories as "furniture". These can range from risers made from fabric covered styrofoam to a dais on which to display the items. I will be the first person to admit that covering risers, especially those which have squared off corners is not easy. It helps if you use fabric which has an amount of stretch. As a person who displays minerals, I use a fabric covered wooden dais which a neighbor made for me,

When you decide what items are going in the display, it's time to make your labels. It really isn't necessary to go to the expense of having engraved plastic name plates made although I have seen these. There are less expensive alternatives. White cardstock or transparency material is what I recommend. Once the labels are created and printed, you can use a paper cutter to cut them to a uniform size. Scissors are okay in a pinch but a paper cutter makes the job easier and your labels will be more even. Hint: before you hit print, be sure to proofread everything to make sure all spelling is correct and needed information is there. There is nothing more annoying than to realize you have a typo after you've printed everything and have to redo one or more of the labels.

Why labels? You might know what everything is but remember you are putting in this display to help inform the viewers. People want to know what they are looking at. The whole idea behind this whole exhibiting thing is to get people interested in what we do and hopefully learn something new.

How much should I put in my display? Is there a preferred way to arrange everything? The quantity of stuff you put in is dictated by what it is you are displaying. If a case is too busy, the eye is confused and people will tend to walk on by because they are unable to focus on anything. Aim to set up a display which is pleasing to the eye; you might consider placing your showiest or most unusual piece toward the center where it is easily seen. Most people tend to view things from one side of the case to the center and on around to the other side.

Now that you have your case done and all set up, it's time to get a second opinion. Have someone else take a look at the display to see what they think. Last but not least, take a moment and make a diagram of the display so when you get to the exhibit hall, you know exactly where everything is supposed to go. Bette yet, grab your phone and take a picture.

Originally published in the *CFMS Newsletter*, 12/21



AFMS ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

By Judi Allison, AFMS Chair

As always, I encourage you to choose a Rockhound of the Year and submit the name for recognition. This last year I submitted honors to the AFMS Newsletter and created certificates for:

- California Federation — 15
- Eastern Federation — 3
- Midwest Federation — 7
- Northwest Federation — 6
- Rocky Mountain Federation — 9
- South Central Federation — 5
- Southeastern Federation — 2

(That's only 47 for the whole nation. Let's triple that at least!)

Please get the word out about the simplicity of this honor. Remember that a nomination for a person to be honored doesn't have to be something formal. If you, as an individual club member, feel there is a person who should be honored, write up the reason and let your board know that you are planning to submit an entry. If it is a board member you want to honor, you could simply let someone else know about your plans.

Anyone can submit a person. Do remember, though, that it is for one member or couple and one Junior per club each year. Let's honor our youth also!

From *AFMS Newsletter*, June, 2026

Editor's Note:

Thought you might want to see how we rank with the rest of the country. Let's overwhelm Chris Ward with your entries.



**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

June 20, 2026 – Bellflower, CA
Delvers Gem & Mineral Society
14515 Blaine Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706
Hours: 9-4
Contact: (310) 413-4671,
gyunellallen@sbcglobal.net
Website: <https://delersgemclub.wordpress.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/>

July 11-12, 2026 – Willits, CA
Willits Gem & Mineral Society
The Community Center, 111 E. Commercial St.,
Willits, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-6
Contact:
willitsgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com
Website: facebook.com/groups/willits-gem-mineral-society

July 31-August 2, 2026 – Nipomo, CA
Orcutt Mineral Society
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Rd.,
Nipomo, CA 93444
Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com,
(805) 929-2783
Website: <https://oms-inc.org>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi
Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East "F"
Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgems.net>

August 1-2, 2026 – Roseville, CA
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral
Society
Roebbelen Center @ the Grounds, Placer
County Fairgrounds, 700 Event Center Dr.,
Roseville, CA 95678
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 995-7380
Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

August 15-16, 2026 – Tehachapi, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East F St.,
Tehachapi, CA 93561
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: travis462@outlook.com
Website: tvgems.net

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: pmgshow@gmail.com
Website: palomargem.org

September 18-20, 2026 – Reno, NV
Reno Gem & Mineral Society
CFMS Annual Show & Convention
Reno Sparks Convention Center Reno
Hours: Fri & Sat 9-7 Sun 9-5
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>

September 19-20, 2026 – Arcadia, CA
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd.,
Arcadia CA 91007
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (626) 260-7239,
marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

September 26-27, 2026 – San Luis Obispo, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna
Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: 2026show@slogem.org
Website: <https://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea>

October 3-4, 2026 – Anderson, CA
Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs
St., Anderson, CA 96007
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com,
(530) 722-7133
Website: shastagemandmineral.org

October 10-11, 2026 – Redwood City, CA
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society and the
Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Community Activities Building, Redwood
City, CA 94061
Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5
Contact: impresciacconstruction@gmail.com
(650) 575-3144
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 17, 2026 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700
Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
Hours: Sat 10-5
Contact: barnettcelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 17-18, 2026 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa
Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: vcommons@outlook.com,
(408) 691-7823
Website: srngs.org

October 24-25, 2026 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
6151 H Street, Sacramento CA 95819
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 622-5819, gemshow@sacgemshow.com
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

November 7-8, 2026 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral and Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San Diego,
CA 92106
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: luannz@att.net
Website: <http://www.sdgm.org>

November 14-15, 2026 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgsclub.com
Website: <http://www.ccmgsclub.com>

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
Humble, TX

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.



2025 CFMS OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President:	Diane Cook (John)	(805) 340-9026	dianecook.cfms at gmail.com
First VP:	Frank VanHecke (Cindy)	(530) 575-4252	4vanclouk.cfms at att.net
Second VP:	Bob Papac (Debbie)	(661) 821-7103	getback at csurfers.net
Secretary:	Laura Driskell	(805) 218-5160	driskellmom at gmail.com
Treasurer:	Madison Vazquez	(714) 290-7103	Madvas333 at gmail.com
Exec Sec/Treas:	Pat LaRue (Bural)	(909) 874-5664	bplarue at earthlink.net

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Bulletin Aids	Celia Churchill (Chris)	(734) 635-2524	cfmsbeac at gmail.com
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Cab Cases–North	Nick Hughes	(650) 400-5095	wildphotonick at gmail.com
Cab Cases–Central	Bob Papac (Debbie)	See 2 nd VP	
Cab Cases–South	Robert Seaton	(805) 535-9488	launchxps at gmail.com
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	Frank VanHecke	See First VP	
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	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	See Long Range	
	Diane Cook	See President	
	Pat LaRue	See Exec Sec/Treasurer	
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Earth Science Studies:	Bob Papac	See Second VP	
Elec Communications:	Marcia Goetz (Joe)	(626) 260-7239	marciagoetz195 at gmail.com
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:	OPEN		
Financial Adv Comm:	Fred Ott (Susan)	(530) 677-8440	fred.ott at att.net
	Diane Cook	See President	
	Frank VanHecke	See 1 st VP	
Golden Bear:	Sharon Rogow, Chair	See CFMS Endowment Fund	
	Bural LaRue	(909) 644-5004	bplarue at earthlink.net
	TBD		
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	Sandie Fender (Tony)	Past Presidents Cases	
	Susy Martin	Memorabilia	
Internet/Website:	Terry Wilson	(609) 744-6364	Terry at terryfic.com
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Legal Advisor:	OPEN		
Long Range Planning:	Susan Chaisson-Walblom	(661) 406-0143	slchaisson at yahoo.com
	All living past presidents		
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	Jim Barton	Debbie Brooks, alternate	
Parliamentarian:	Tony Fender	See Bylaws	
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PLAC:	James May, Chair	(661) 912-3026	geojim9 at hotmail.com
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Public Relations:	Jim Brace-Thompson	See Jr. Activities	
Rockhound of the Year:	Chris Ward	(818) 439-0217	chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
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Show Dates:	Marcia Goetz	See Electronic Communications	
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Trophy Coordinator:	Frank Mullaney	(408) 691-2656	rockyfv at gmail.com
Visual Programs:	Sharon Rogow	See Endowment Fund–CFMS	
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CFMS Newsletter
PO Box 1657
Rialto CA 92377-1657

Pat LaRue, Editor



Jackpot of Gems Show

Presented by Reno Gem & Mineral Society



September 18-20, 2026

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 S Virginia St., Reno, NV

Dealers

Demonstrators

Speakers

Non-Competitive Exhibits

Competitive Exhibits

Friday 10-7

Saturday 10-7

Sunday 10-5