



## Birthdays

Kim Noyes  
April 15th

Robert Bullock  
April 21st

## Anniversaries

John and Elaine Von Achen  
April 24th

## Who is Bringing Snacks?

Cookies are being served at the April General Meeting. The Azevedos have signed up along with Robyn Burgess and Don.



## The Prez Box -April 2024



By Joe Goetz

Greetings,

I want to welcome the many new members. We have a really great club! Although I only joined this gem club two years ago, I am so impressed with the knowledge and skills many members bring with them. We hope to tap into those skills at our next meeting. It is always scary to take on a role you are not familiar with.

Don't be afraid to mess up, there will be plenty of time for that. Kidding aside, we want to invite you to take on a task for the club. After all, great clubs share the load. It's what we do that counts! In that spirit, I want to thank those that stepped up to share my job at the last meeting. I am out here on Long Island with my daughter and her family at the moment and having a great time rockhounding with them on the north shore (where the rocks are). Now, if I don't overload my suitcase.....

See you soon,  
Joe Goetz

## Current Vacancies in the Club

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| President Elect                 | Historian                 |
| Annual Awards Banquet Organizer | Junior Rockhounds         |
| Parliamentarian                 | Librarian                 |
| Budget and Auditing             | Publicity and Advertising |
|                                 | Public Lands Access       |

Please help where you can. Some positions have minimal time commitments.

## April

**April 1** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

**April 9** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center - Correction to the last newsletter that listed the incorrect date.

**April 20** -Field Trip TBD

## May

**May 6** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

**May 11** at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-up at the southeast corner of Highway 101 and 166

**May 14** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center

**May 18** - Field Trip TBD

## Upcoming Dates

**June 8** - 11 am to 3 pm - Annual Picnic Pot Luck at Rotary Park in Santa Maria. Address is: 2625 S College Dr Santa Maria, CA 93455

**August 2, 3, and 4** - Annual Rainbow of Gems Club Show



## Flashlight for Finding Dee-Deeite

Joey Nichols has a favorite flashlight for hunting rocks at night. It is a UV flashlight. Her flashlight has become a favorite tool for many of the club members since hers is ultra powerful and in a specific wavelength.

Joey uses a Convoy C8 plus 365nm UV LED Flashlight from The Petrosky Stone Company. Here is a link to [Amazon](#) if you want to purchase one of your own. However, you will need to purchase batteries for it. It uses 18650 Lithium Ion batteries.

This flashlight is very cool and it can help you find Dee-Deeite on the beach. This will be important to you since we are trying to plan a night hike to look for this special rock.



Photo from Amazon.com

## Warning! Rock Pox

A Cautionary Advisory From Ralph Smith, Jan Ferguson's Dad - Original publication from Covington Engineering Corp of Redlands, CA 92323

**Warning! Rock Pox** - Very Contagious

**Symptoms** - Continual complaint as to need for fresh air, sunshine, and relaxation. Patient has blank expression, sometimes inattentive to rest of family. Has no taste for words of any kind. Frequent checking of dealers' catalogs, and lapidary and mineral shops longer than usual. Secret phone calls to rock pals. Mumbles to self. Lies to rival collectors. Only one cure.

**Treatment** - Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal. Victim should go rock hunting as often as possible at beach, mountain, or desert hunting grounds; and make frequent visits to his lapidary dealer.

## New Facebook Group

Here is a direct link to our Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/orcuttgemandmineralsociety>

## Jeanne Watkins-Brown 1950—2024

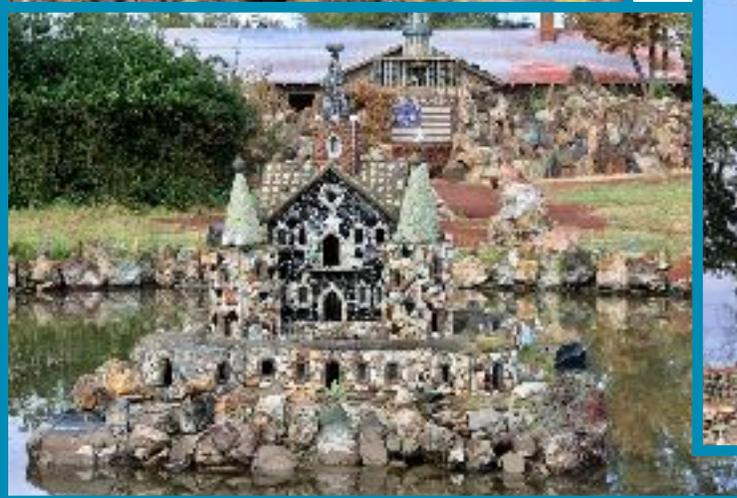
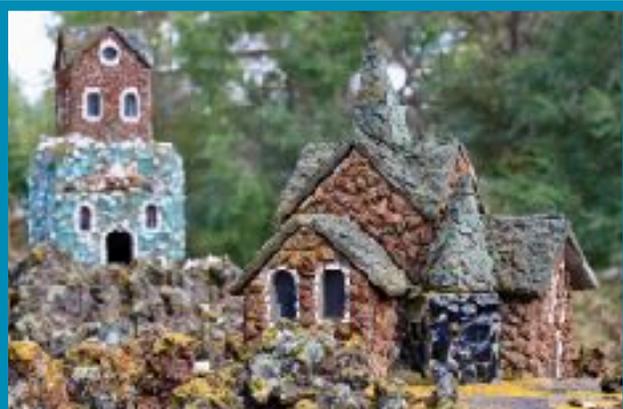
Our Rock-loving President

Oh fair of hair and soft of voice  
You died too soon ('twas not your choice).  
The lives you've touched with warmth and charm,  
The pat on back and touch on arm.

I wish you knew how much we cared,  
The ones with whom your glow you shared.  
As I go along my way, I hope a better man I'll be  
That knew a gentle soul as thee.

Wending my way through life's uncertainty  
I'll oft recall how kind you were to me.

Wayne W. Mills  
Orcutt Mineral Society 2/27/2024



## Petersen Rock Garden

By Tara Machin

If you are up for an eleven hour drive through eastern Oregon, you can stop by a very special place. Just off highway 97 north of Bend, OR is a little known roadside stop called the Petersen Rock Garden.

The rock garden was started by Rasmus Petersen in 1935 and was faithfully added to until 1952. Rasmus was not a rockhound in a traditional sense. He loved to collect rocks, but could not identify any of the rocks that he used in his construction projects. Some of his projects included an American flag, the Statue of Liberty, the London Bridge, a small chapel, fairy castles, and much more.

The rock garden is still semi open to the public. You put your admission fee into a box at the entrance, but no one is there officially to greet you or give you a tour. I happened to visit on a day that a tour bus had stopped, but by the time we finished viewing the spectacular garden, the doors to the museum were locked and we almost had the gate closed on us while our car was still in the parking lot. I would have liked to stay longer, but fate was not on our side.

All of the rocks at the garden were found within 100 miles of the property. Oregon is a treasure of ancient volcanos and so many of the rocks are igneous in nature. A red lava rock, known

locally as cinder rock, is the most widely used rock at the garden. There are also pieces of obsidian from the nearby fields and pieces of agate which are also in an abundance around Bend, OR.

The garden is 87 years old and is still an impressive place. Please visit if you can.



<https://petersenrockgarden.org/welcome>

## Important Web Links

**Link to the OMS Bylaws** - <http://www.omsinc.org/archives/BYLAWS.pdf>

**Link to the OMS Rules and Regulations** - [http://www.omsinc.org/archives/OMSRULES\\_2019.pdf](http://www.omsinc.org/archives/OMSRULES_2019.pdf)

## Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

**April 6-7, 2024** - Vista, CA  
Vista Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: [info@vistarocks.org](mailto:info@vistarocks.org)  
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/>

**April 13, 2024** - Lake Elsinore, CA  
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: (909) 208-6956, [berylman50@aol.com](mailto:berylman50@aol.com)

**April 13-14, 2024** - Mariposa, CA  
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club  
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

**April 13-14, 2024** - Placerville, CA  
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society  
Contact: (530) 676-2472, [office@edcmgs.org](mailto:office@edcmgs.org)  
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

**April 20-21, 2024** - Thousand Oaks, CA  
Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Website: <http://www.cgamc.org>

**April 27-28, 2024** - Santa Cruz, CA  
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society  
307 Church St., Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

**April 27 - 28, 2024** - Anaheim, CA  
Searchers Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: [nancyjbird68@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjbird68@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org>

**May 3-4, 2024** - Yucaipa, CA  
Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: [grandpasgems@gmail.com](mailto:grandpasgems@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

**May 4-5, 2024** - Lancaster  
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Contact: [marylandoriele@gmail.com](mailto:marylandoriele@gmail.com)

**May 11-12, 2024** - Jackson, CA 95642  
Almador County Gem & Mineral Society  
Contact: (209) 304-9622

**May 24-26, 2024** - Ventura, CA  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society and The American  
Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
**AFMS/CFMS GEM AND MINERAL SHOW AND  
CONVENTION**

Contact: (805) 312-8467, [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: <http://www.2024cfms-afms.com>, <http://www.vgms.org>

More information can be found on the CFMS  
website at [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)



## OMS Highway Clean-up for March 2024

Wayne W. Mills, Adopt-A Highway Coordinator

On a cold Saturday morning, the OMS "Highway Posse" met-up at the southeast corner of Routes 101/166 East of 101 at 8:00 am for their regularly scheduled (second Saturday of odd months) Highway clean-up. The group included: Wes Lingerfelt, Sally Griffith, Steve and Lisa Siemsen, Geary Sheffer, Joey Nichols, Cary and Kathy Holst, and yours' truly. The highway was not too dirty, but we got about 7 bags of trash and 2 bags of cans and plastic bottles from it, as well as some good exercise. Some of the unusual things we came across, or picked-up included: a dead deer (Wes), dead opossum and raccoon (Wayne), several dirty diapers (Marty), a kernel less corncob on a stick, a bungee hook (Marty) and a whirligig (Joey).

After the clean-up, we met at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo for snacks. The Siemsen's had other plans, but the rest of us had some fun conversations and good food. Sally wound up winning the nice polished Brazilian agate slab that Wes donated as our incentive prize, for the second time in a row!

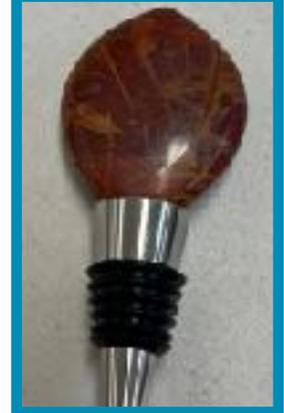


Above - Wes, Sally, Wayne, Joey, and Marty - Photos by Kathy and Cary Holst



## March Displays from the General Meeting

---



## AFMS / CFMS News - April 2024

---

By Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep.

The CFMS and AFMS were not included in this newsletter due to the early printing. Please click the links below for the latest newsletters.

**CFMS Newsletter Page** [cfmsinc.org](https://cfmsinc.org)

**AFMS Newsletter Page** [amfed.org](https://amfed.org)

| <b>Orcutt Mineral Society Officers</b>   |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| President  | Joe Goetz  | (408) 707-8005 |
| President Elect  | Vacant   |                |
| Immediate Past President   | Sally Griffith   | (805) 631-9955 |
| Secretary  | Tara Machin  | (805) 863-5992 |
| Treasurer  | Cary Holst   | (805) 345-0883 |
| <b>Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members</b>  |  |                |
|  | Jan Ferguson   | (805) 474-9977 |
|  | Joey Nichols   | (805) 714-7108 |
|  | Renea Sutcliffe  | (805) 929-2783 |
|  | Wayne Mills  | (805) 481-3495 |
|  | Wes Lingerfelt   | (805) 929-3788 |
| <b>CFMS Federation Director</b>  |  |                |
|  | Renea Sutcliffe  | (805) 929-2783 |
| <b>OMS Membership</b>  |  |                |
| Membership   | Sally Griffith   | (805) 631-9955 |
| Membership is \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. |  |                |
| <b>OMS Online Contacts</b>   |  |                |
| OMS Webmaster  | Wes Lingerfelt   | (805) 929-3788 |
| Website  | <a href="http://omsinc.org">omsinc.org</a>                       |                |
| Email  | <a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a>             |                |
| <b>Ore-Cutts Information</b>   |  |                |
| Editor and Publisher   | Tara Machin  | (805) 863-5992 |
| Email  | <a href="mailto:taradmachin@gmail.com">taradmachin@gmail.com</a> |                |

**Copyright 2024 Orcutt Mineral Society.** Material in this newsletter may be duplicated provided that credit is given this publication and the author(s). For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted. Editor may be contacted c/o OMS, P.O. Box 106, Santa Maria, Ca. 93456-0106, or via club web site [omsinc.org](http://omsinc.org).

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 106**  
**Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106**

*ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.

