



Birthdays

Glenda Reeves
February 8th

Mirko Lopez
February 12th

Dave Lambert
February 14th

Jan Ferguson
February 16th

Alexis Van Natta
February 20th

Cary Holst
February 23rd

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries listed in the red book for February.

Who's Bringing Snacks?

Jeannie Lingerfelt, Jan Ferguson, and the Azevedos are all bringing pie on February 10th.

The Prez Box - February 2026



We had a nice turnout for our January 13 meeting, including some new faces. We passed around sign-up sheets for meeting treats (Liz Azevedo) and desired presentations or offers to do the same (Michelle LeWinter). We heard about the recent Highway Clean-up (included in this bulletin) and a summary of our annual meeting, including new officers

and award winners: Golden Bear (Tara Machin), Member of the Year (Robert Pottebaum), and Rockhound of the Year (Michelle LeWinter). Wayne made a plea for ideas to move our 40' x 9' sea train by June.

We presented a great program from the Heart of Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society called "Vein and Sedimentary Agates" (as opposed to amygdaloidal agates formed in igneous rocks). Several members displayed beautiful agates—some were even free! After the program, Renea led the Door Prize Activity, with several lucky attendees winning rock prizes.

In February, we've scheduled a fun talk by four members, each sharing three of their favorite self-collected rocks, fossils, or minerals. The February display will feature self-collected rocks (or anything!). We also look forward to hearing about the January 15 field trip to Jalama Beach announced by prospective member Josiah Frias.

See you at our February 10 General Meeting,
Wayne W. Mills, OMS President

February 2026

February 2 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

February 10 at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center.

Presentation: Favorite Self Collected Rocks

Display: Favorite self collected rocks or whatever you choose.

February 15 - Field Trip to Jalama Beach - Details to follow at the general meeting

March 2026

March 2 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

March 10 at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center.

Presentation: TBD

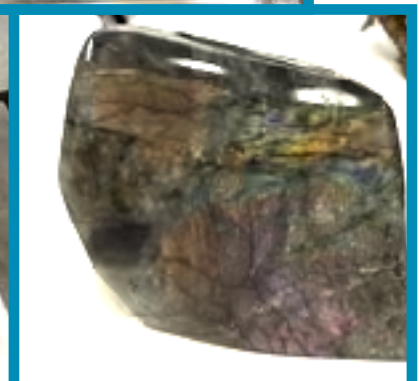
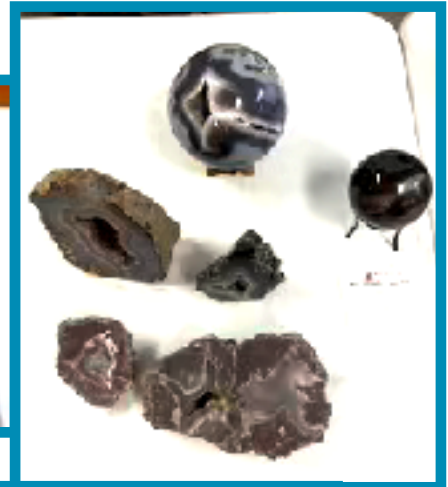
Display: TBD

Membership dues are to be paid by this deadline for 2026.

March 14 at 8:00am - Highway Clean Up at the southwest corner of Highway 101 and 166.

March Field Trip - TBD

January Displays





OMS Highway Clean Up - January

By Wayne W. Mills, AAH Coordinator

Today we had a great turnout for our bi-monthly highway clean-up. 9 of us showed-up on the coldest morning I can remember doing a clean-up on (About 38 Deg. F when we started!) Fortunately, the highway was not that dirty, but grass near the road was pretty tall! MANY thanks to: Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, Joey Nicholls, Joe Goetz, Joe Garcia, Tom Gastineau, Michelle Le Winter and MarK from the Santa Lucia Rockhounds who joined me for the effort.

With all the help, we got through in good time. After our efforts, seven of us headed to the Mayor's Place in Nipomo for snacks. Some of the items we found on this clean-up included a bunch of white plastic shards, a painted "Take a rock, Leave a rock" rock, 20' truck tie-down, dirty diapers, and a flower bouquet (I want to know the story behind THAT cast off.)

We wound up with about 8 bags of trash, and 2 bags of cans and (plastic) bottles. At The Mayor's Place, all participants present got \$10 each toward their meal courtesy of OMS. Wes brought a nice polished agate slab as the day's incentive price, and the winner was Joe Nichols who was not present (for her present). Our next highway clean-up will be on March 10, 2026.



From an Antique Store to a Place of Honor

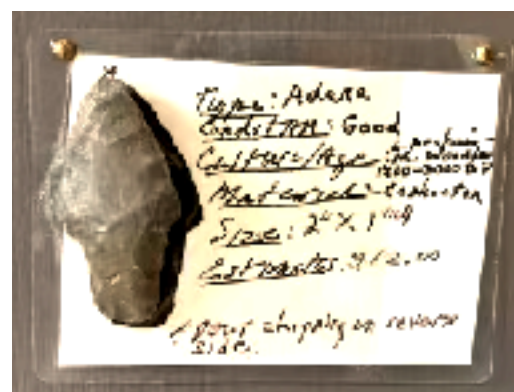
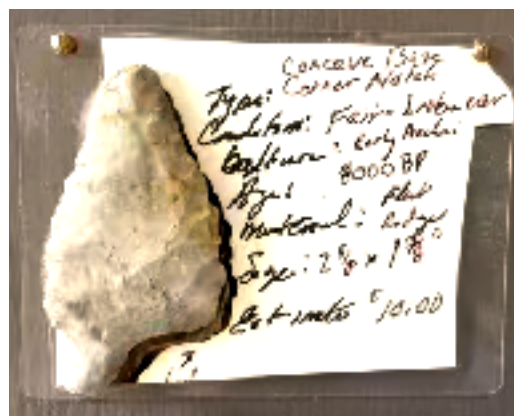
By Tara Machin

As with many of my rock-related stories, this one comes from my travels through Ohio. As you might know, the Midwest can be a great place to find Native American points in fields, forests, and riverbeds. One such assemblage was gathered over a man's lifetime. The arrowheads were carefully categorized and labeled with detailed descriptions. The paper labels were then laminated, and the points were attached to them. These specimens were clearly cherished by their original collector.

Sadly, the owner passed away, and his family didn't know what to do with the assemblage, so they sent it to a local antique store. My cousin, Ron, discovered it while shopping one day and instantly fell in love. Unsure about the legalities of purchasing the artifacts, he expressed interest in giving the well-loved cards a good home and asked about acquiring them. The shop owner put

Ron in touch with the family, and they agreed to let him have the collection.

Ron took them home and mounted the cards on his office door. "They fit perfectly," he said—one more or one less would have thrown off the entire balance of the display. The assemblage now has a new home, where it is loved, admired, and respected every day.



Carey Plume Agates in Prineville, OR

Story curtesy of Wes Lingerfelt

The following history was shared by the previous owner of the slab:

"I started my collection in 1985 at the Nyssa, Oregon Rock Show, where I met one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever known, Howard Ball of Bend, Oregon. I knew Howard until his passing in 1998.

Howard later introduced me to the man who sparked the Carey Plume craze. He lived within a few miles of the mine and had discovered it. Everyone knew him as 'Quant' (Q-want), though his friends called him 'Shirts.' He earned the nickname because he never carried a backpack—he wrapped his finds in his shirt, ruining them in the process.

Shirts became a good friend over the years. Whenever I passed through the area, I'd stop in, and he would share stories of mining that always fascinated me."

Additional information was later provided by Shirts' daughter:

"I read your story about Shirts—my dad—and while it's a nice story, not all of it is true. His given name was Shirley, which is where the nickname 'Shirts' came from. If you want the real story, stop by the shop anytime you're passing through Prineville or give us a call at Quant Rock Shop. My older brother Bill or I would be happy to share the story of the Carey and many other agate beds from Central Oregon." – Marcy (Quant) Gascon

According to accounts shared by those close to Shirley "Shirts" Quant, Carey Plume was discovered while he was deer hunting as a young man. He noticed pieces of agate that had weathered out and followed the trail uphill to the source—an outcrop at the top of a small volcanic cone. He returned the following spring, in 1946, after returning from military service, to begin digging.

Within a few years, he believed the deposit was extensive and purchased small equipment to help remove material from the cone. At one point, his mother accompanied him to the site, and it was then that he decided to name the material after her: Carey.

Over the years, extensive digging transformed the cone—once about 200 feet high—into a pit roughly 10 acres wide and 75–100 feet deep. Eventually, the plume material was exhausted, and no significant deposits have been found since.

Despite years of searching, Shirts continued to study the pit, hoping to uncover another vug containing Carey Plume. Multiple attempts using heavy equipment produced little more than small chips. A final dig in 2001 reportedly yielded only a handful of fragments.

One long-time rockhound later clarified some commonly repeated details:

"His name was Shirley C. Quant—his nickname was Shirts. I knew him well since the 1960s and am familiar with the history of Carey Agate. He did not die in 2002 sitting in his shop. He passed away on November 26, 2003, at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon."



Carey Plume Agate 7.4oz Lapidary Display collection slab
US \$8,000.00 or Best Offer (Found on eBay)

Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

February 28-March 1, 2026 - Vallejo, CA
Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: (707) 644-9764,
vgms01@yahoo.com
Website: <http://vjgems.com>

February 28 & March 1, 2026 - Newark, CA
East Bay Mineral and Lapidary Club
Contact: (510) 353-3787, info@ebml.club
Website: <http://ebml.club>

February 12 - March 1, 2025 (13 days) -
Indio, CA.
San Geronio Mineral and Gem Society
Contact: (951) 963-6751,
peggyrichard@yahoo.com
Website: <http://sgmgs.org>

March 7-8, 2026 - Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
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
Contact: (760) 490-8401
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

March 15, 2026 - Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

March 28-29, 2026 - Lancaster, CA
Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club
Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com
Website: <http://AVGem.weebly.com>

March 28-29, 2026 - Lemoore, CA
Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club
Contact:
lemooregemandmineralclub@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AndLemoore/>

For more information please visit:
<http://cfmsinc.org>

OMS Membership

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.

OMS Online Contacts

Website	oms-inc.org
Email	info@oms-inc.org

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2026 VENTURA GEM SHOW

EXHIBITOR FORM

63rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show!

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA

March 7-8, 2026

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society would be honored to have you display your case(s) at our 63rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary, and Fossil Show to be held March 7 and 8 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. We hope you will be able to join us at our show and encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to attend. Admission is FREE!

Show Times	Set-Up:	Friday, March 6	2 PM to 8 PM
	Show:	Saturday, March 7	10 AM to 5 PM
		Sunday, March 8	10 AM to 4 PM

All exhibits must be set up Friday and remain on display until show closing 4:00 PM, Sunday. Exhibitors will receive a free parking pass. The Fairgrounds provide security within the Fairgrounds building, but VGMS cannot be responsible for any loss or damage. Fill out the form below and email or mail to:

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2026

No exhibits accepted after this date so as to allow time for exhibit hall layout & printing of show program.

Richard Slyker
VGMS Show Exhibitor Chair
P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002
805-561-9614 (cell)
exhibitorsvgms@gmail.com

***** Please keep the above portion for your records *****

EXHIBITOR NAME _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____

Number of Cases _____ Title(s) _____

**Note: VGMS has a limited number of 4 ft x 2 ft club cases. If you have a case, we ask that you kindly use it so that we can provide those without a case one from the club supply. Thank you for this consideration!*

CASES: Bringing Your Own? Yes ___ No ___ Case Size (Inches): Width ___ Depth ___
(Note: Max 150 watt lights, prefer LED)

Need to Borrow One? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how many? **Pony** ___ **Clasen** ___

Case Inside Size: width* height* depth — **Pony** 46 ¼ x 22 x angled sides from back, 22 top, 20 bottom
Clasen 46 ½ x 22 ¾ x angled sides from back 22 ¾ top, 20 ¾ bottom

Note: These are case inside dimensions, *provide clearance for your liners!*

Do you intend to camp at fairgrounds? Yes ___ No ___ (Contact Diane Cook for pricing & info)

Additional Requests: _____

VGMS, in its sole judgment, reserves the right to accept or deny any application.

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.

