



Birthdays

Ralph Bishop
June 2nd

Joey Nichols
June 4th

Geary Sheffer
June 9th

Abbie Nichols
June 15th

Robert Potterbaum
June 19th

Dan Diaz
June 28th

Anniversaries

Bill and Debbie Hood
June 7th

Nancy Knapp
June 22nd

Joe Goetz
June 26th

Stan and Jan Ferguson
June 27th

The Prez Box - June 2024



I just came back from the Ventura Gem Show, "Seaside Gems at Ventura." Since they are like the main gem and mineral society for California, it was no surprise that they did a great job. I wanted to really get a good look at the member display cases. However, judging was going on and it was not possible to see all the display cases. The ones I did see were enough to remind me that making a display case is a great way to share your special area of interest or skill. I do want to take time to go over what it takes to make a great display at the next meeting. It only takes a little creativity and some neat labeling. It's a great way to share all you know about your favorite rock. And in addition we all learn so much from each other. Fortunately, the club has display cases that can be borrowed and set up for our August show. Just let us know.

Another area that the Ventura gem show shared involved the resources and shared craft. I was given some free "teacher supplies" consisting of well labeled rocks and minerals and some lessons that I will share with children the next time I do a "rock talk" at a school. I also really appreciate the people that came to share their skill and personal craft. I picked up a few new ideas from the wire wrap demo and also I really liked watching the soapstone carving demo. Do you know you can cut soapstone with a handsaw!

Well, I hope my enthusiasm helps get you ready for our upcoming show. Also, I want to remind you that we will be looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Bar-B-Q potluck on June 8 at Rotary Park in Santa Maria.

Joe Goetz
Orcutt Mineral Society President

June

June 3 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

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

June 11 - NO General Meeting

July

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

July 9 at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center in Orcutt

July 13 at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-up at the southeast corner of Highways 101 and 166 E

Upcoming Events

The field trip to Bonito Mine is being finalized. More details to follow.

The grand opening of our new club shop was postponed by the Board. New details coming soon.

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



OMS Annual Picnic - June 8th

The annual BBQ will be at Rotary Centennial Park in Santa Maria. The address is 2625 South College Dr.

- Bring a side dish
- Bring your own plates, napkins, and cutlery
- Bring a rock or plant for the silent auction
- Bring money for the auction
- Bring your own drinks (coffee and tea will be provided)
- Bring yourself
- HAVE FUN



Photos from the 2023 BBQ - Wes is the pit master. We also had quite the selection of auction items!

Mystery Rock - Have you heard of Kaolinite?

By Tara Machin

My husband was recently doing some research on the Lassen Volcanic National Park for a new video he is preparing. He wanted to use some photos of various rock types found in the park. He asked for opal, check, travertine, check, and kaolinite, huh? I had examples of opal and travertine, but the kaolinite I had never even heard of. No worries, we decided to look for a specimen of kaolinite at the Ventura Rock Show. We asked 4 dealers before we found one who knew what we were looking for. Apparently it is not a popular rock specimen even though it is a clay made of feldspar. I decided to share what I learned about this clay since I bet most of you haven't heard of it either.

Kaolinite is found in the mud pots in Lassen Volcanic National Park. It is a sedimentary rock that is formed by chemical erosion. The feldspar (aluminum silicate) is broken down by the acidic water around the volcanic steam vents. These are small deposits in the park. Large formations are found in Georgia and in Pennsylvania near the town of Kaolin (named for the mineral).

Kaolinite or Kaolin once mined is one of the most common mineral on the earth. It is also known as China Clay since it was used to make Jingdezhen porcelain in 12th century China. The porcelain was used in the Imperial Court of China. Although Kaolinite is still used to make china today, it has a wide range of uses in our everyday life.

Kaolinite is chemically inert which means that it doesn't react with other chemicals or compounds. It can be safely used in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. It is highly absorbent, but does not swell up like other clays. The mineral is also used in cement, paper making, fiberglass, and paint. It can also be used to save a life. The mineral can be used as a clotting material to stop bleeding. See the video about Lassen at

ViewmasterTravels.com

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaolinite>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jingdezhen_porcelain

<https://activeminerals.com/blog/kaolin-guide/>

<https://www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-44/kaolin>

Displays at the May General Meeting



Benitoite and the Benitoite Mining Company

By Tara Machin

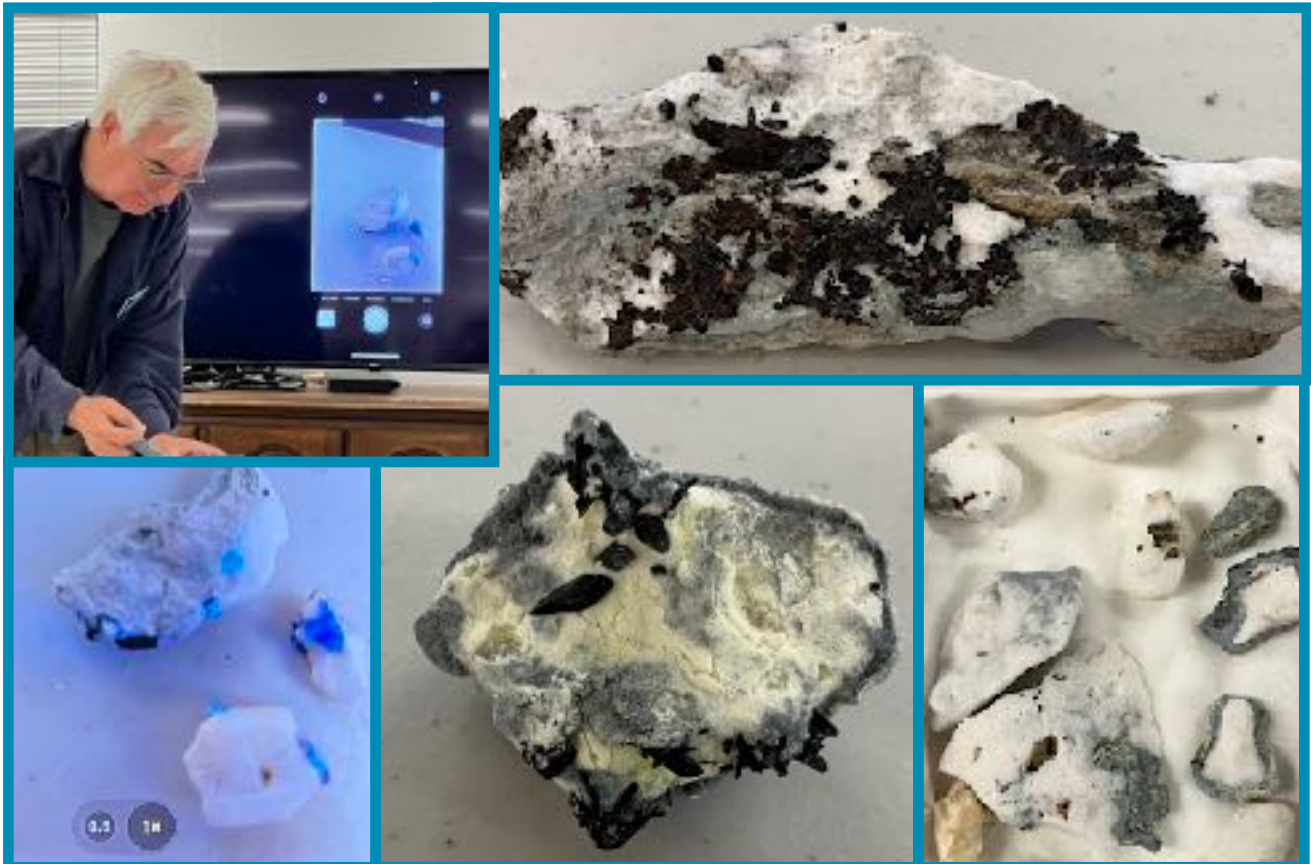
The OMS has been trying to plan a field trip to look for the California State Gemstone, Benitoite. This is another mineral that I had never heard of until Joe Goetz, and Robert Potterbaum showed their specimens at a recent club meeting. Joe also demonstrated that the Benitoite glows bright blue under certain UV wavelengths. Many thanks to Robert for bringing the correct UV light to the meeting for us to use.

Benitoite was discovered in San Benito County, California in 1907. The blue crystals were originally thought to be sapphires. The black crystals found near Benitoite was originally named Carlosite after San Carlos Peak, but they were later determined to be Neptunite.

The original name of the Benitoite mine was the Dallas mine, after the mine owner, Roderick Dallas. The name of Dallas was used up until the 1960s. If you are researching the history of the mine, you will stumble upon this original name. The mine was open from 1910 to 1912 before it was closed for the first time. It was briefly opened in 1933, but the mine was never operated continuously until 1967.

Benitoite is considered one of the rarest minerals in the world and is especially revered by Californians. The waste material has been a source of treasure hunters since the mine opened. You can still find small pieces for your collection if you visit the mine. This sounds like a lot of fun and I hope that we can schedule our OMS field trip soon.

<https://benitoitemining.com/>



Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

June 8-9, 2024 - Escondido, CA
 Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
 Contact: (425) 281-6218,
tonifloyd41615@gmail.com
 Website: <http://palomargem.org>

June 15, 2024 - Bellflower, CA
 Delvers Gem and Mineral Society
 Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 14515 Blaine
 Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706
 Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM

June 29-30, 2024 - Culver City, CA
 Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
 Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
 Website: <http://culvercityrocks.org>

No shows are listed on the CFMS Website for July.

More information can be found on the CFMS
 website at cfmsinc.org

AFMS / CFMS News - June 2024

By Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep.

The following summaries are intended to give the reader a hint of what is contained in the current newsletters. If any of these topics are of interest, PLEASE take the trouble to look up the newsletter on the AFMS or CFMS website.

[AFMS Website](#)

NOTE: THE NEXT AFMS NEWSLETTER IS THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE

PRESIDENT-ELECT (J.C. Moore for President Roger Buford who is attending to family illness) Celebrating the conclusion of the 2024 AFMS Convention in Ventura, and encouraging rockhounds to attend the Regional Conventions and interact with "Old Timer" rockhounds to gain some of their knowledge and enthusiasm for the hobby.

Poem: THOUGHTS OF A SCRAMBLING ROCKHOUND (Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary) (Page 1)

AFMS OFFICERS (Listed)

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (Jennifer Haley, ALAA PRESIDENT) Several Areas currently open to rockhounding (including Wiley Wells) are currently threatened by pending legislation. Read the article to find which areas. Members with collecting areas within the areas of pending legislation are urged to provide comments whether written or oral at meetings provided by the government. A current need is fighting to retain our use of Wiley Wells as we have under a MOU with BLM for the last 25 years. (Page 2)

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim is researching past PR articles in the AFMS Newsletters to assemble a list of best advice for local public relations. In October 2023 he held a zoom meeting on his findings, and hopes to do a similar zoom before the end of 2024. Contact Jim at: jbraceth@roadrunner.com if you are interested in participating.

KEEPING KIDS CONNECTED TO SAFETY (Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair). Helping to keep yours and others kids safe on their "headlong rush to adulthood. (One way you can help keep kids safe is by setting a good example!) (Page 3)

Continued on Page 6

AFMS / CFMS News Continued from page 5

MOHS HARDNESS SCALE (Micaden Steele, Age 14, Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society, Lubbock, Texas) - Some facts about the scale we use to judge the relative hardness of minerals.

Latest Update of the 9th Edition of Uniform Rules (for judging displays) -- A new link is provided--<https://www.amfed.org/contests/Rules>.

PROJECTS IN MOTION (Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian) Jennifer has several cool ideas to help preserve the history of and interest in our amazing hobby. These include: a collection of vintage cartoons about rockhounding. Another is a collection of poems about the hobby. The final project is collecting articles about how rockhounds contributed to our war efforts during World War II. If you have any old bulletins with these kinds of articles, please contact Jennifer to share this information. You can reach Jennifer at (ladybuglane@napablogger.com. (Page 4)

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS (Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor) -Recipe for "Jumping off the page" (i.e. grabbing your reader's attention), Expanded recipe for same, including things that make a bulletin "readable". (Page 5)

AFMS BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST - Local highlights include: 2nd best Small Bulletin--Tara Machin, Orcutt Mineral Society, 2nd Best Large Bulletin--Beth Walls, Santa Lucia Rockhounds (Pages 6-8)

MACLURITES FOSSILS (David Liles, Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society) Discussion of unusual gastropods recovered from Middle Ordovician-aged (470-458 mya) limestone (Chicamagua Formation?) found in and around Knoxville, Tennessee. (Page 8-9)

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS, AFMS PURPOSE, SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION, ACROSTIC POETRY ("Realgar") (Page 10)

AFMS LAND USE POLICY, AFMS CODE OF ETHICS, ACROSTIC POETRY ("Collector") (Page 11)

2023-2024 COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (Page 12)

[CFMS Website](#)

No CFMS Bulletin as of Press Time

Lifetime Member - Margaret Henson

Congratulations to our newest lifetime member, Margaret Henson! Other lifetime members are:



Orcutt Mineral Society Officers		
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
Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members		
	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
CFMS Federation Director		
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
OMS Membership		
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.		
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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.

