



Birthdays

Stan Ferguson
May 6th

Sally Griffith
May 12th

Lisa Azevedo
May 19th

Anniversaries

Wes and Jeannie Lingerfelt
May 20th

Who is Bringing Snacks?

Jeannie Lingerfelt and Jan Ferguson have signed up to bring pie to the next general meeting on May 14th.

As always, we appreciate any help



The Prez Box - May 2024



We are already moving into May and we have so much to think of. We have a big gem show coming up in August. I was just at the Santa Lucia Gem Show and saw Wayne Mills doing his part as "Rock Doc" and I was reminded of what a key role he plays for us and the other clubs. As I cover some updates and reminders, you will see how important full participation is to making our club a great club.

I want to welcome the many new members who we hope to get to know as we work together on the upcoming events. We welcome you and your enthusiasm for rocks and minerals. We look forward to your participation and support.

At our monthly general meeting on May 14, we will be covering a number of upcoming events. So, mark your calendars. Also, we still have many jobs to fill (no stress, it's fun). We look forward to our educational program that always informs and inspires. Please bring any rocks you want to share.

We look forward to our annual picnic on June 8 and we will have plenty of information to share at the meeting. Start looking over your rocks for the "silent auction". Also, don't forget we have a Highway clean up on May 11.

For the future, I will share a little about our state gemstone, benitoite. There is a free dig site where everyone can look (for a price). However, if you find benitoite it can be worth as much as a diamond.

Please join our group page on Facebook, groups/Orcutt Mineral Society. It's a fast way to keep up with events and allows members to give feedback as well.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on May 14,
From Joe Gliebe-Goetz

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 at 3:00 pm - Memorial Service for Jeanne Watkins-Brown at the The Oceano Elks Lodge.

May 25 at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm- Field Trip to our new OMS Shop. Contact Joey Nichols for the address.

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

Upcoming Dates

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



Celebration of Life for Jeanne Watkins-Brown - May 18th

On May 18th there will be a Celebration of Life for Jeanne Watkins-Brown at the The Oceano Elks Lodge in Oceano, CA. The address is 410 Air Park Dr. Please RSVP by May 5th to Jenna at 805-550-0812.



Upcoming May Field Trip - May 25th Grand Opening of the OMS Shop

The new OMS shop is up and running with equipment for us to use. We will have a grand opening celebration on May 25th at 10:00 am so that members can see all the equipment that is available to use.

Following the grand opening we will have a presentation on rock repairs by Wes Lingerfelt as our May field trip. After Wes' presentation, you may stay and use the equipment until 2:00 pm.

This is very exciting news for our club. We have been without a work space for a very long time. Please come and show your support and give Joey and Steve your gratitude.

Since the work space is in a private home, please contact Joey directly for the address and directions. Her contact info is posted at the back of this newsletter.

OMS Annual Picnic - June 8th

- 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

New Facebook Group

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

April Field Trip to Jalama Beach



We had a wonderful turnout for the field trip to Jalama Beach. We had 6 participants. The last round of spring rain storms helped to uncover many interesting rocks. Hopefully we can keep this momentum up for future trips.

A special thanks to Joey & Steve for organizing the trip.

Turquoise - Can You Spot the Real Deal?

By Tara Machin

I recently travelled to New Mexico to spend some time looking for new geologic wonders. We of course travelled to White Sands to see the gypsum sand dunes, to Carlsbad Caverns to see the largest cave chamber in North America, and to the Clovis Archeological site. We also took side trips to smaller destinations such as the Sherman Dugan Museum of Geology in Farmington, the The Zuhl Museum at New Mexico State University, and a crazy Turquoise Museum in Albuquerque. I was hesitant to go to the Turquoise Museum because I just thought it would be a boring showcase of ugly, southwestern jewelry. However, my mind was completely blown away by all of their exhibits. I had no idea how much turquoise is not real turquoise or that real turquoise is graded in much the same way that diamonds are. Here is a little bit of what I learned in the 2 hours that I spent in the museum.

Continued on Page 4

Turquoise continued from Page 3

Did you know that most turquoise is almost white in color? It is! The most common form of turquoise is a very soft, chalk like substance that cannot be made into jewelry from its natural state. Unfortunately, this low grade turquoise is in fact the most used turquoise in jewelry. How can that be? How can you turn chalk that has a hardness of 2 into something that has a hardness of 5 or higher for jewelry making? It turns out that low grade turquoise is stabilized and enhanced in a variety of ways so that it can be used in cheap jewelry.



I was completely interested in stabilized and enhanced turquoise and the processes behind them. It is very scientific even if it is a little shady. My favorite enhanced technique? Cooking medium grade turquoise in Crisco in a \$20 electric skillet. Apparently the high heat helps the oil soak into the rock and darken the color.

Another way to work the lower grade turquoise is to grind it up into a powder and then add resins, plastics, or other binders to form it into a workable block for jewelry making. These "blanks" are readily available for purchase for a few dollars at many gem and mineral supply stores. It is a great way to start working with turquoise on your own without the expensive price tag.



Some turquoise isn't even turquoise at all. So many people love the look of turquoise that many substitute matrices are used. Glass and plastic "turquoise" is used along side dyed minerals such as Howlite or Quartzite. Think you can spot a fake? Think again. I was fooled over and over again. Cultured turquoise is a process of taking chalk turquoise, removing as many impurities as possible and then stabilizing it to match high grade turquoise. This process is so advanced that the fake turquoise can beat chemical tests and x-ray diffraction techniques. The cultured turquoise is almost identical to mined, high grade turquoise nuggets.

Try your luck! Below is a photo of 48 different "turquoise" pieces. Only 3 are real. Can you guess? Play the game and click this link. <https://turquoisemuseum.com/interactive-displays/pick-the-natural/>



Interesting Internet - New Mexico Edition

New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources Museum - <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/>

The Turquoise Museum - <https://turquoisemuseum.com/>

Cerrillos Turquoise Mining Museum - <https://www.casagrandetradingpost.com/mining-museum>

Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences - <https://geronimospringsmuseum.org/>

City of Rocks State Park - <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/city-of-rocks-state-park/>

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument - <https://www.blm.gov/visit/ptnm>

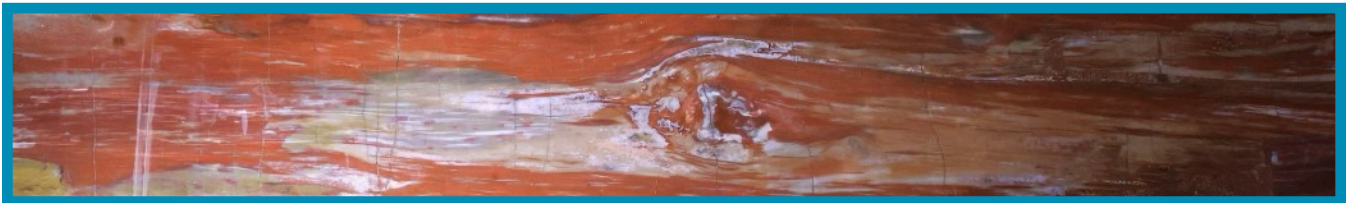
The Zuhl Museum - <https://zuhlmuseum.nmsu.edu/>

White Sands National Park - <https://www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm>

Carlsbad Caverns National Park - <https://www.nps.gov/cave/index.htm>

Backwater Draw Archaeological Site "Clovis People" - <https://www.enmu.edu/about/general-information/local-events-and-info/arts-and-culture/blackwater-draw-museum>

The Sherman Dugan Museum of Geology - <https://www.facebook.com/SDMGatSJC?ref=ts>



Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

May 3-4, 2024 - Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

May 4-5, 2024 - Lancaster

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Contact: 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

Website: <http://www.2024cfms-afms.com>, <http://www.vgms.org>

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>

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

AFMS / CFMS News - May 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

PRESIDENT'S BOX (Marcia Goetz) Marcia urges members and guests to attend the "Really big show" the AFMS/CFMS Show in Ventura on (May 24-26) at the Fairgrounds in Ventura. CFMS is still looking for volunteers for this show. A list of activities is included. (Page 1)

CFMS Insurance, Newsletter Subscriptions, Website, Notes from the Editor, AFMS/CFMS Funds needing donations and Camp Paradise Information. (Page 2)

AFMS/CFMS SHOW (Jim Brace-Thompson) Information about the upcoming CFMS/AFMS Show in Ventura. "Follow the Mermaids to Ventura" - Last installment (and a mobile one at that) in the series of mermaids whose locations will win a prize for a dedicated mermaid watcher. (Page 3)

AFMS/ CFMS Endowment Funds How to donate prizes (minimum value \$75), and buy tickets for the Endowment Fund Raffle at the AFMS/CFMS Show in Ventura May 24-26.

ALL AMERICAN CLUB (Diane Cook) Winners of the 2024 contest will be announced May 25 at the 4 Points Sheraton in Ventura. And now is a good time to start preparing your Club entry for 2025. For assistance, contact Diane at: dianecook.cfms@gmail.com (Page 4)

JOIN US AT THE 2024 AFMS/CFMS SHOW AND CONVENTION (Diane Cook, Show Chair) Highlights of the upcoming show at the Ventura Fairgrounds May 24-26, 2024.

BEWARE OF SCAMS Some phishing scams have been received by clubs in regards to the upcoming show and convention. If you are not sure of the source, be wary of what you respond to.. (Page 5)

AFMS ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (Chris Ward) There were 5 awardees including 2 couples from CFMS,, none from the Central Coast. Submit names and qualifications to Chris Ward-chris_ward678@yahoo.com (Page 6)

GOLDEN BEAR COMMITTEE (Jim Brace-Thompson) "GOLDEN BEARS AND STERLING KIDS" winners will be announced at the AFMS-AFMS Awards Banquet on May 25 in Ventura. NOTES FROM THE EDITOR -No CFMS Bulletin in June. CFMS will stop mailing print copies except for to paid subscriptions.

AFMS UNIFORM RULES (For displaying) 9th EDITION is available from the AFMS Website (Page 7)

CFMS SHOW DATES Page 8)

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS (Page 9)

CAMP PARADISE APPLICATION - August 18-24, August 25-31. Cut-off date for application is August 3.

2023-2024 COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (Page 11)

AFMS Newsletter Page amfed.org

PRESIDENT (Roger Buford) Roger adds to his discussion of National Monuments and their effects on Rockhounding. National Monuments were created by the National Antiquities act of 1906. (Pages 1-2)

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CFMS / AFMS News continued from Page 6

AFMS/CFMS SHOW (Jim Brace-Thompson) Follow the Mermaids to Ventura Part 7 included in this issue. Check out the last 6 issues of the AFMS Bulletin to find all the Mermaids and (maybe) win a prize at the Ventura Show (May 24-26). Includes more information on the show. (Page 2)

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim discusses the value of having a "Social Media Consultant" (SMC). Jim's article includes perspectives on this from the SMC from the Eastern Federation. (Page 3)

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (Sandie Fender) The Scholarship Meeting will be held Thursday, May 23 after the AFMS Meeting. Sandie will auction off a whale bone Whale "Tail pendant created herself and her husband Tony at the AFMS Banquet.

SAFETY (Ellery Borow) Play safe, stay safe—discusses safety problems that can befall older rockhounds. Sleep well, and stay alert on your feet. (Page 3-4)

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND (Jim Brace-Thompson) You can buy tickets or make donations (Minimum value \$75) for this event. (Page 4)

HISTORY (Jennifer Haley) The first AFMS National Convention was held in Denver, Colorado in June, 1948

AFMS ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (Judy Allison) There were 5 awardees from CFMS, none from the Central Coast. Submit names and qualifications to Chris Ward—chris_ward678@yahoo.com (Page 5)

UPCOMING AFMS AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND SHOWS.

AFMS Purpose, Subscription and Content Information (Page 6)

STANDARD FEATURES OF THE BULLETIN INCLUDE: AFMS Land use Policies, AFMS Code of Ethics.

AFMS COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (2023-2024) (Page 8)

ABC's of Rocks from the February 2024 General Meeting

By Wayne Mills

The new forming Earth was primarily volcanic, as is the composition of the Moon Rocks we have harvested. The ages of the oldest Earth and Moon rocks are similar too. About 4.5 Billion for the Moon Rocks, and 4.3 Billion for the Earth.

The Periodic Table of the Elements lists 107 elements known to man. An element is inorganic in origin, and homogeneous in composition, meaning each molecule is the same. These 107 elements occur in 6 different classes (see Periodic Chart) and combine to form over 3000 minerals that we are currently aware of. These minerals occur in 11 main classes:

1. Native metals - gold, silver, copper
2. Native non-metals -diamond, graphite, sulfur
3. Borates - Borax, Colemanite,
4. Carbonates - Calcite, Dolomite, Azurite, Rhodocrocite
5. Halides - Halite, Fluorite
6. Oxides - Cassiterite, Corundum, Hematite, Bauxite
7. Phosphates - Apatite
8. Silicates - Beryl, Garnet, Quartz, Topaz
9. Sulfides - Chalcopyrite, Cinnabar, Galena, Sphalerite,
10. Sulfates - Anhydrite, Barite, Gypsum
11. Tungstates -- Sheelite

Continued on Page 8

ABCs of Rocks continued from Page 6

Rocks are composed of one or more minerals and form in 3 main rock types, let's start with volcanic (IGNEOUS) rocks since they appear to have been the earliest kinds of rocks. These are rocks that form from a liquid, both inside the earth (intrusive) and outside the Earth (extrusive). Intrusive Igneous rocks include: Granite, Dacite, and Diorite, and Extrusive Igneous rocks include: Basalt, Andesite, Obsidian and pumice.

As all rocks weather, they turn into sediment or precipitate (think of the high calcium water that makes stalactites). As the sediment and precipitate hardens by evaporation or by compression and cementation, (SEDIMENTARY) rocks form. Some Sedimentary rocks include: sandstone, siltstone and claystone (based on particle size), limestone, conglomerate and coquina (conglomerate made from seashells) among others. Agate is a sedimentary rock often forming in veins and gas bubbles in volcanic rock (witness the Sagenite and Marcasite agates from Nipomo). Chert is also a sedimentary rock forming from the compressed siliceous skeletons of single-celled animals called Foraminifera in deep, undisturbed parts of the ocean. Diatomite is also a sedimentary rock, formed from the compressed siliceous skeletons of single-celled plants called Diatoms. Lompoc has the largest diatomite quarries in the world. I have had some fun field trips there collecting fossil fish and seeing the fossil dolphins, pipefish and whales in the Cellite Quarry there. The diatomite comes from the Monterey Formation that is very wide-spread in Central Calif, and represents a period about 15 million years ago when this area was under the ocean. The Monterey Formation is also where a majority of our (California's) oil comes from.

The third type of rocks are those that have undergone a change in form after being exposed to intense heat and/or pressure. These are called METAMORPHIC (changed form) rocks, mimicking (sort of) the process that a caterpillar undergoes to become a butterfly. Some notable metamorphic rocks are:

Original form	Metamorphic form		
	(Low grade) Greenschist facies	(Medium grade) Blueschist Facies	(High grade)
Shale	Slate	Schist /Phyllite	Gneiss
Sandstone	Quartzite		
Limestone	Marble		
Basalt	Amphibolite		Eclogite

There are circumstances when different rock types can be mixed. A common one is when agates (sedimentary) form in cavities in volcanic (igneous) rock. Another example can be when you have clasts of igneous or metamorphic rock in a conglomerate.

To conclude these remarks, I ask you what do you think is the #1 mineral industry in the United States? (Sand and Gravel)



Orcutt Mineral Society Officers		
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President Elect	Vacant	
Immediate Past President	Sally Griffith	(805) 631-9955
Secretary	Tara Machin	(805) 863-5992
Treasurer	Cary Holst	(805) 345-0883
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	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.

