



Birthdays

Moniah Marquez
November 1st

Joe Azevedo
November 8th

Elaine Von Achen
November 14th

Sara Ferrell
November 20th

Dee Dee Magri
November 21st

Wayne Mills
November 21st

Brenna Ferguson
November 27th

Anniversaries

Robyn Burgess
November 6th

Bill Brown and Jeanne Watkins
November 9th

Marshall and Glenda Reeves
November 18th

The Prez Box - November 2023



As my reign as president draws to an end, I'd like to review a few things that have taken place over the past 2 years. First the negative, we accomplished next to nothing on revamping the clubs Bylaws and the Standing Rules and Regulations. One of the new actions voted on and accepted unanimously by the Board was to confirm that the Bulletin Editor will now be a member of the board I was hoping to get much further than we did! Therefore I will have to pass the job on to the incoming President to continue working on. Sorry!

On the positive side, we had a record number of dealers attend our 55th annual Rock and Gem Show this year. Our thanks go out to Renea and her persistent recruitment and problem solving to make everything work out. Also, as far back as I can remember, we had more new members join the club during the last 2 year then we have in the past decade or more. We signed up 12 new members. At least five of those have become very involved and active members in OMS. They have been there whenever we needed someone to help out in whatever capacity they were needed. Their involvement eased the workload on the Board members made everything far less stressful and more fun for one and all. Hopefully this trend will continue for many years to come. Their fresh minds and new ideas have brought a breath of renewed spirit and energy into our club! We thank you all!

As we finish up 2023, it's election time again. We will be voting on and electing the new Board of Directors and

Who is Bringing Snacks?

November is cookies!!! Joey Nichols has signed up to bring some, but no one else has.

Please bring some yummy cookies to share or we will have some slim pickin's.

November 2023

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

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

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

November 18 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Special Members Only Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's Museum. YOU MUST RSVP WITH JOEY NICHOLS! She will then provide you with the address of the field trip. This is a private residence.

Save the Date

December 9 from noon to 3:00 pm at the Quarterdeck restaurant in Arroyo Grande. Address is:
1500 W Branch St
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Prez Box continued from page 1

Officers for 2024. If you want your opinion to be heard, come put in your vote at Oasis Senior Center Tuesday, November 14th from 7:00 -9:00 pm. The new Board and Officers will be sworn in at our annual awards dinner at the Quarterdeck on Saturday, December 9th from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. The club will hand out \$15 gift certificates to club members to help cover the price of our dinners. There will be no restrictions on what you wish to order from their menu. If you wish to bring a bottle of wine, you are welcome to but there will be a \$10 corking fee charged on each bottle. Hope you can come join us there. We will be taking a head count of those who plan to attend including guests at the next general meeting on November 14th.

We have our last Highway clean up for 2023 on November 11th at the southeast corner of Highway 101 and Route 166 E. Come and join the entertaining work and lite breakfast after at the Mayor's Place on E. Tefft in Nipomo. I think the camaraderie, fun, and laughter at the after meal makes the work well worth it.

Renea will be attending the CFMS meeting in Vasllia this month and will add the notes from that meeting to the Dec. Bulletin.

Our November field trip will be to Ralph Bishop's Museum in Santa Maria from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you have never been, it's a must see for any and all rockhounds! He usually regales us with a story or two from his collecting days. He's a wonderful story teller. I hope you will make an honest attempt to join us. It is well worth your time and effort! Since this is a private residence, you must RSVP with Joey Nichols. Her contact information is at the back of this newsletter.

Our program for November general meeting will be brought to you by Wes Lingerfelt. He will present one of his videos from his vast library. I have not been told the topic yet so it will be a mystery for now.

The display for the general meeting will be anything you would like to share. Anything you have found, bought or found interesting with various patterns, colors or formations.

See you all soon,
Sally

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting - October 2, 2023

Call to Order: 7:15 pm by President, Sally Griffith

Members present: Wes Lingerfelt, Sally Griffith, Wayne Mills, Tara Machin, Renea Sutcliffe, Jan Ferguson, Jeanne Watkins, and Joe Goetz. Absent: Joey Nichols, Tara Machin, and Betty Campbell

Minutes: No corrections

Treasurer's Report: We are waiting to receive the bill from the high school to complete our show income statement.

Correspondences: AFMS Bulletin, SLR Bulletin, and the Porta-Potty bill

Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin**- Bulletins have been distributed by mail and e-mail. Thank you Wayne and Tara!
2. **CFMS**-CFMS Annual meeting coming up in November. Renea plans to attend. Wayne sent October reports to Tara, but no room for them in the bulletin. E-mail Wayne for a copy, or read the whole bulletin at the AFMS or CFMS website. Wayne will read notes at October meeting.
3. **Membership**- Board voted to accept Debbie Evans as a new member. Board previously accepted the applications from Abbie Nichols and Steve Strachan. Wayne was requested to order pins and bars for December meeting.
4. **Field Trips**- October 21 field trip is planned for Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. We might stop at one of the Santa Barbara beaches on the way home. See Joey Nichols for details at October meeting. The November 18 (members only) field trip will be to the Ralph Bishop Museum in Santa Maria. Details at our November meeting.
5. **Adopt-A-Highway**- Wes Lingerfelt led the September clean-up. Eight folks helped the work go swiftly. Snacks afterward at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo. The next clean up will be on November 11th.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet**- Banquet will be held Saturday, December 9 at the Quarterdeck Restaurant in Arroyo Grande. You can choose any item on the menu. As a thank you for assistance with our activities during the year, each member attending will be given a certificate good for \$15 off their menu choice. See the menu at: www.quarterdeckseafood.com . Corkage fee at Quarterdeck will be \$10/ bottle.
7. **Education**- No updates
8. **Library**- No updates
9. **Sunshine**- Our good thoughts go out to Bill Hood who is undergoing some physical difficulties, and to Debbie who is caring for him.
10. **Scholarship**- We are awaiting the bill from the School District to determine the final amount for our scholarship. (\$300 plus 10% of our show net income.)
11. **Show**: We are awaiting a bill from the Lucia Mar School District to determine our final show income.
12. **Elections**—All positions are open. We have volunteers for some of them, but OMS members for more than one year can apply for any position. Positions needed include: Board (five members), President, President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominees for each position will be requested at each of our next two meetings.

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Board Meeting Notes continued from page 3

Old Business: None

New Business:

- The Board voted to make our Bulletin Editor a member of the Board of Directors. Treasurer, Jeanne Watkins announced that we had a new Tax ID number assigned since we reported no income during COVID, and our previous number was cancelled.

Program: Our October general meeting program will be done by Joe Goetz who will feature his interest in "Pictures in Rocks".

Display: The display will be picture rocks, or anything. PLEASE consider bringing a display you get a free "Opportunity Table" ticket for doing so.

Adjourned: 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne W. Mills for Tara Machin Secretary/
Bulletin Editor.

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting - October 10, 2023

Call to Order: 7:14 pm by President, Sally Griffith

Invocation: Cary Holst

Pledge of Allegiance: Sally Griffith

Members present: 20 Members / 1 Guests

Minutes: No corrections

Treasurer's Report: Still waiting for the invoices from the school. The scholarship will be \$300 plus 10% of our show proceeds

Correspondences: AFMS and Santa Lucia Newsletters, a letter for a mysterious Elizabeth Weiman (Wayne to help track her down), a letter about our new tax ID number since it has changed and an advertisement from Montecito bank and trust.

Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** No corrections. Wayne read the minutes from the board meeting on September 2nd and read the AFMS and CFMS bullet points from September
2. **CFMS-** See above
3. **Membership-** 1 new member was approved in October
4. **Field Trips-** Natural history museum with a stop at the beach to rock hunt. We will try to coordinate with the Santa

Lucia rockhounds. Joey will let us know the dates once she finds out when their field trip is.

5. **Adopt-A-Highway-** The next highway clean-up will be November 11th at the south east corner of Highway 101 and 166. We meet at 8:00 am and all safety gear and trash bags are provided. Please note that Cal-Trans has installed a new stoplight at that intersection so please proceed with caution when parking.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** Please see the October Board meeting notes.
7. **Education-** No updates
8. **Library-** No updates
9. **Sunshine-** Please see the October Board meeting notes.
10. **Scholarship-** Please see the October Board meeting notes.
11. **Show:** Please see the October Board meeting notes.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was a call for nominations for Elections. Joe Goetz was nominated for president elect. Jeanne Watkins

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General Meeting Notes continued from page 4

was nominated for President, Cary Holst was nominated for treasurer, Tara Machin volunteered to be the secretary with Joey Nichols as a backup, Tara Machin volunteered to continue to be the newsletter editor, Joey Nichols volunteered to be the field trip coordinator with Joe Goetz as her backup. Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Jan Ferguson, and Renea Sutcliffe were nominated for the

board. However, Wayne Mills asked to step down next year. Kathy Holst agreed to be the new greeter at the general meetings since Bill Hood might be stepping down.

Program: Joe Goetz gave a program on using rocks in his artwork.

Display: Picture rocks

Adjourned: Approximately 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Tara Machin

Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

November 3, 4 & 5, 2023 - Eureka, CA
Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society

November 4, 2023 - Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
Contact: berylman50@aol.com

November 4-5, 2023 - Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Contact: mike@diablorocks.com
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/>

November 4-5, 2023 - Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Contact: iwgmjfrocks@gmail.com

November 18-19, 2023 - Lakeside, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: ecvgms@gmail.com
Website: <http://ecvgms.org>

December 2-3, 2023 - Barstow, CA
Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society
Contact: John Printz (760) 979-6138,
MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.mdgms.net>

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



CFMS / AFMS News

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 newsletters on the AFMS or CFMS website.

AFMS (amfed.org)

President Roger Buford is from the South Eastern Federation. He calls Baron Rouge, La. His home town. He is a former Navy man who has been married four times. He developed back problems, and uses a motorized wheelchair. He developed a love for rocks later in life, and has a Rock Business in Louisiana. Thanks Cheryl for a job well done! (Page 1)

Public Relations (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim mentions that there will be a prize for whomever can name the locations of the Mermaids posted in the November 2023–May 2024 AFMS Bulletins. Jim suggests calling rock club shows “gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry shows to attract more people to the shows. Jim also mentioned again his proposed Public Relation in the Modern Era Zoom meeting on October 28. Jim will record the session for future interest.. Contact Jim at: jbraceth@roadrunner.com, or 805-659-3577 to participate in the conference.

2024 AFMS Website Contest (Lori Carter, Webmaster of Southeast Federation.)

The timeline has changed so that it is consistent from year to year. The 2024 contest will not start in October, but will start early in 2024 and run through the end of the year. First Place Plaque and Certificate will be prepared for the AFMS Annual Meeting at the AFMS/CFMS Show in Ventura, CA.

AFMS Rockhound of the Year Award (Judy Allison) Clubs are urged to submit entries for outstanding members to their Federation Representative. In California, that is Chris Ward—chris_ward678@yahoo.com. One honoree from each Federation will receive a plaque at the AFMS Show in Ventura.

AFMS Scholarship Report (Sandie Fender) Each Federation is requested to send names and contact information of Scholarship Contacts to Sandie. Pick your winners!

Safety (Ellery Borow) Information about establishing a club safety program including; having a club safety chair for shop, meeting and field trips.

Historian (Jennifer Haley) Talks about Robert’s Rules of Order (for guiding a meeting). It has been revised 12 times since 1876 when it was first published. (Page 4)

AFMS Uniform Rules (Larry Halstrom) Summary of Rule changes from the meeting in Billings, Montana 8/2023. Page 5)

Quick Tips for Editors (Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor) Bulletin content, deadlines, rules, revisions, and categories. (Page 6)

Venturing to Ventura (Cheryl Neary) Part two of our outgoing AFMS President has an engrossing article containing more history of Ventura for the upcoming AFMS/CFMS Show (Page 7-8)

Article on Flourite (Jillian Primrose, Mini-Miner’s Monthly, August 2023. (Page 8)

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CFMS / AFMS Notes continued from page 6

Article on Clinozosite (Ahziah Malley, 10, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, Washington) (Page 9)
Standard Features of the Bulletin Include AFMS Land use Policies, AFMS Code of Ethics, AFMS Purpose, (34) AFMS Committees (2022-2023), and Upcoming Shows and conventions. (Pages 10-12)

CFMS (cfmsinc.org)

President's Box (Kimberly Fiala) Her last message as president reminds us of the November Annual Meeting in Visalia. Deadline for reservations is November 6. (Page 1)

Information on Insurance, newsletter subscriptions, CFMS Website, Editor Notes, Donations, and the Director's Meeting (Page 2). More Information on the Fall Business Meeting in Visalia (Page 3)

Juniors—(Jim Brace-Thompson) Discusses how to keep a Junior's Program alive through "practice, patience, and persistence". (Page 3) Jim is seeking nominees for the 2024 AFMS Juniors Achievement Awards. Application requires the Juniors to fill out an application with their achievements. (Two age groups). Deadline for filing is March 1, 2024. (Page 4)

2023 CFMS Nominating Committee Report (Page 4)

2023 All American Club Yearbook Deadline for entry is January 20, 2024. Send applications to johndianedaisy@yahoo.com. (Page 5)

Report on September Topaz Mountain Field Trip (Jim Baron, Field Trips North (Page 6)

Follow the Mermaids to the CFMS Federation show in Ventura, CA on May 24-26. A person attending the Convention at the (2024) Federation Show in Ventura will win a "rocky reward" for identifying the specific location of mermaids pictured in the November 2023-May 2024 CFMS Bulletins. More information on the show can be found at: www.2024cfms-afms.com. (Page 6)

Information on receiving the AFMS Newsletter (Page 6)

Upcoming shows, How to advertise your club show (Page 7-8)

2023 Officers, Chairmen and Committees. (Page 9-10)

It also has a form for: Juniors Achievement Award Application (Page 11).



Mohs Hardness Scale

By Tara Machin

The Mohs hardness scale was invented in 1812 by German scientist, Friedrich Mohs. However, it would be more accurate to say that Friedrich Mohs standardized the hardness scale. It is known that there has been some type of hardness scale for centuries. Greek philosopher, Theophrastus wrote a book about stones in 300 BC and Pliny the Elder wrote his famous *Naturalis Historia* in 77 AD before losing his life in the historic Pompeii eruption in 79 AD. Both books documented different ways to identify minerals by comparing their hardnesses. Mohs was not even mentioned in my 1934 book on geology so it got me wondering, what exactly is this hardness scale?

Friedrich Mohs decided to make a hardness scale based on easily accessible minerals. This way the scale could be consistent and easy to replicate for any budding geologist. It is one of the basic ways that we can inexpensively determine unknown minerals in our collections today. The hardness scale can be used in conjunction with streak testing, cleaving, crystal morphology, and others.

One point of note, the Mohs hardness scale is not linear. Diamond is not 10 times harder than talc or 5 times harder than gypsum. The scale is arbitrary. We can only know that an unknown mineral is harder than one standard and less hard than another. Since many gemstones have the same hardness value, this is just one tool in the identification process.

The standard Mohs hardness scale is as follows:

- 1 = Talc
- 2 = Gypsum (AKA selenite or satin spar)
- 3 = Calcite
- 4 = Fluorite
- 5 = Apatite
- 6 = Orthoclase (A type of Potassium Feldspar)
- 7 = Quartz
- 8 = Topaz
- 9 = Corundum
- 10 = Diamond

Do you have an example of all of these standards? Probably not. I admit that I had to look up Apatite as a mineral since I had no idea what it was. Luckily there are some other tools you can use. Your fingernail is approximately 2.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, a copper penny is approximately a 3.5, and a pocket knife is approximately a 5.5.

The Mohs hardness scale is most important in jewelry making. A hardness of 7 or more is necessary for the durability of most jewelry. However, it will continue to be an important identification tool as we continue to hunt for our rock treasures.



Calcite



Fluorite



Topaz



Diamond

Orcutt Mineral Society Officers		
President	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
President Elect / Treasurer	Jeanne L. Watkins	(805) 481-1811
Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Tara Machin Joey Nichols	(805) 863-5992 (805) 714-7108
Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members		
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
	Joe Goetz	(408) 707-8005
	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
CFMS Federation Director		
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
OMS Membership		
Membership	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
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		
OMS Webmaster	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Website	omsinc.org	
Email	info@omsinc.org	
Ore-Cutts Information		
Editor and Publisher	Tara Machin	(805) 863-5992
Email	taradmachin@gmail.com	

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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.

