



ALL-AMERICAN CLUB “Yearbook” ENTRY – For the Year 2023

**Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (VGMS) P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002
805-312-VGMS (8467)**

www.vgms.org info@vgms.org

PREFACE: ALL AMERICAN CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

We offer sincere thanks to VGMS members who devoted time and effort to constructing this manual. In addition to those listed below, many other club members provided advice, info, photographs, and other help. Our thanks to each and every one!

CELIA CHURCHILL

NANCY BRACE-THOMPSON

LISA BATCHELDER-HETRICK

DIANE COOK

JIM BRACE-THOMPSON

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ENTRY FORM

SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (NO POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address **Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002**

Date organized **1944** Federation affiliation **CFMS, AFMS**

Number of members:

Adults **169** Honorary/Life **1** Pebble Pups (age 5-11) **46** Juniors (age 12-17) **7**

Meeting Place: **Poinsettia Pavilion, Santa Paula Room, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93003**

The person filling out form: **Celia Churchill**

Address: **P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002**

City **Ventura** State **CA** Zip **93002**

Phone: **805-312-VGMS (8467)** E-mail: **vgmseditor@gmail.com**

Mission or purpose of the club: In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts, including jewelry making. Our monthly meetings feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer workshops and opportunities for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a museum and library for educational use. We also sponsor an annual show for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community, during which we award a student scholarship in the earth sciences.

X By submitting this entry, permission is granted to CFMS and AFMS to publish this entry or excerpts of this entry, on the official AFMS website if this entry becomes a Gold-level winner in the All-American Club Award contest. *(Only public information regarding the club as posted on their website will be included.)*

SECTION 2 – SERVICE & MEMBER ENGAGEMENT (33+ POINTS)

General Meetings: Number of meetings **12** Average attendance **40** Guests **3**

Programs: Include a separate list of programs for the year, including topic, speaker, etc. See supporting documents.

Board Meetings: Number of meetings **12** Average attendance **14**

Officers: Include a separate list of officers, directors, and committee chairs. See supporting documents.

Junior Meetings: Number of meetings **11** Average attendance: **15** pebble pups/juniors, their parents, and up to 4 club member mentors

Adult leader(s): **Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick and Erin Valenzuela**

Bonus: Club uses Future Rockhounds of America AFMS/FRA Badge Program or has separate junior workshops or events other than meetings? Yes. See supporting documents.

Special Group Meetings (Established groups): Number attending:

Cabbing: **24** meetings (approx. twice a month), **8** attending Tumbling: **3** meetings, **26** attending Metal-working/metalsmith **1, 2** attending

Other Certification and safety workshops for qualification to use equipment at the workshop located at the clubhouse, **5** classes with an average of **3** attending each.

Social Events: Number attending

Picnic “RocktoberFest”: **42** members attended.

Banquet Informal dinner held during the VGMS show weekend to thank all those helping. **30** attended

Holiday Dinner We held a holiday dinner at our meeting location, Poinsettia Pavilion. **42** members attended.

Other (Describe):

1. **June Rendezvous: tailgating, swapping, Silent Auction, fun! 30** attended.
2. **Grab Bag Stuffing Party @ Clubhouse.** Members gather at the clubhouse for brunch and a team effort to stuff grab bags for our upcoming Show. **12** members attended.
3. **Grab Bag Stuffing & Potluck @ Brace-Thompson residence: Members stuffed 771 grab bags and packets for our upcoming shows and enjoyed a potluck party. 20** members attended.

Club hosts Show: **Yes** Date(s): **Our 2023 VGMS Show was held March 4-5.**

Dealers: **#20** Demonstrators: **#5** and **#2** demo-dealers Member Displays: **#34** members with **#44** exhibits Pebble Pup & Junior Displays: **#4** Guest Displays: **#13**

Bonus: Competitive Displays by members? We do not have a competition at our show. However, members are encouraged to enter their CFMS-bound competitive displays as a “practice round” to be scored informally by volunteers with judging experience.

Special Features: Club library: **Yes**

Yearbook committee or Website committee: **Yes, both**

Lapidary studio/workshop (supported by and available to members): **Yes**

Field Trips: **Yes** Number of trips in field **5** Other trips (museum, shows) **3**
Other clubs invited? **Yes**

Workshops: (beading, lapidary skills, jewelry, etc): **Yes** Include a separate list of workshops. **See Supporting Documentation**

Club maintains an active Website: **Yes** URL **http://vgms.org**

Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.): **Yes**

Bonus: Creation or promotion of virtual workshops, podcasts, museum tours etc) Yes

Bonus: Created virtual club displays on Facebook or club website (album featuring special collections or minerals) Yes

SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (16 POINTS)

Bulletin: **Yes** Bulletin name *Rockhound Rambling*

Editor's name **Celia Churchill**

Club Website/Facebook site: Show information posted: **Yes**
Meeting information posted: **Yes**
Workshop information posted: **Yes**

Other Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, etc) sites maintained by the club: **Yes**
Which ones? **Band**

Meeting notices posted in public places: **Yes** Where? **VGMS Museum, locations throughout Ventura County via our club fliers**

Meeting notices published in local media: **No** Where?

Show fliers posted in public places: **Yes** Where? **We distribute show fliers and posters throughout businesses in the Ventura County Area**

Show information published in local media: **Yes** Where? *AAA Westways* magazine, the *Ventura Breeze*, the *Ojai Valley News*

Free or paid ads on TV/radio/web: Meeting notices: **No**
Show information: **Yes**

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS, AND OTHER CLUBS (20+ POINTS)

Members served in Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:

Regional federation: **Yes, 5 members in 11 positions**

AFMS: **Yes, 1 member in 2 positions**

Members attended a Federation convention or show:

Regional Federation: **Yes, #8**

AFMS: **Yes, #5**

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:

AFMS: Scholarship fund: **Yes** Endowment fund: **Yes**

Other support for regional federations? **Yes, CFMS Scholarship Fund**

Members gave programs for other clubs: **Yes** Include a list of programs. **See supporting documentation**

Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc: **Yes**
Members held joint field trips with other clubs: **Yes**
Members displayed/demonstrated at other shows: **Yes**

Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs: **Yes** Include a list. See supporting documentation

Bonus: Club was host to a Regional Federation Convention or AFMS convention in 2023: The 2023 CFMS Show & Convention was a no-host show, but VGMS members were instrumental in its success.

Bonus: Bulletin Editor is a member of Scribe: **Yes**

Bonus: Members performed as judges for Bulletin Editor's contest, Competitive displays, or Website competitions? **Yes** List names, details, or photo documentation.. See supporting documentation

SECTION 5 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (16 POINTS)

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: **Yes**

Include a separate list of those given. See supporting documentation

Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups: **Yes**

Include a separate list of those given. See supporting documentation

Members maintained displays at local public sites: **Yes**

Include a separate list of sites. See supporting documentation

Members maintained a booth or an activity at a local event: **Yes**

Include a separate list of events. See supporting documentation

Members donated materials to school, college, scouts, etc: **Yes.**

Include supporting documentation.

Members active in local affairs: **Yes.**

Include supporting documentation.

Bonus: Activities or engagement above and beyond points listed above: See supporting documents

SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (Bonus 5 POINTS)

Members served on governmental agency committees: **No**

Members commented on government agency proposals, etc: **Yes**

List of proposals and participants. See supporting documentation

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access and collecting sites: **No**

Include a list of representatives contacted and legislation or copies of letters.

Members supported access/collecting lobbying organizations like ALAA: **Yes**

List organization(s). Club is a member of ALAA: **No, we maintain that it is not appropriate for our non-profit club to take up a political stance. However, we keep members informed of all actions that are available to them and encourage them to be involved and have their voice heard by voting or petitioning for causes important to them.**

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



SECTION 1 – CLUB INFORMATION

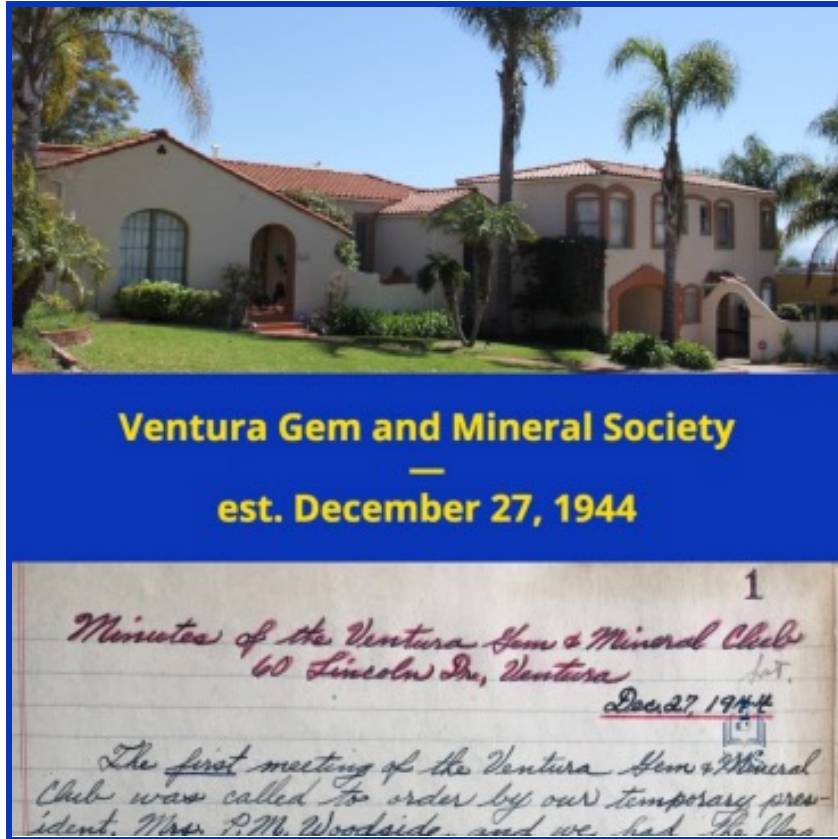
Club name and address

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1573
Ventura, CA 93002

Date organized and federation affiliation

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. joined the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies** in **1946**. That has long been used as our “official” start date; however, the story is a bit more complicated. The society held its first meeting **December 27, 1944**, in a “rumpus room,” with mostly teenagers in attendance. A constitution was adopted on November 10, 1945, and the club voted to join CFMS on February 9, 1946. But it wasn’t until **November 14, 1953**, that a motion was made to execute formal articles of incorporation with the State of California. That incorporation became official in **1954** with a new set of by-laws, the first separate Board Meeting, and the official name of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Incorporated.





Number of members

In 2023, we had **222 members**: 169 adults, 46 Pebble Pups, and 7 Junior Members. We had **1 honorary member**. (One-year honorary membership is extended to awardees of our club-sponsored college scholarship.) Children members fall into two categories: Pebble Pups (5-11 years old) and Juniors (12-17 years old) . Annual dues (not prorated) are \$20 for an individual and \$10 for each subsequent adult member/s in a household. Children ages 6 through 18 are \$10 each. Children 5 years old and under are free when enrolling with a paid adult.

Meeting Place

General Meetings

The Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Road

Ventura, CA 93003



We meet at 7:30 PM on the fourth Wednesday of most months; meetings are the second Wednesday in November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Poinsettia Pavilion is dramatically located in the foothills overlooking Ventura with ample parking and has the advantage of large meeting rooms with amenities (podium, sound system,

screens with VCR and DVD connections, slideshow screen, tables, and chairs, etc.) and an adjacent full-service kitchen. The two meeting rooms we have frequently used in the past are spacious and inviting. Any virtual meetings are held on Zoom.



Pebble Pup & Junior Meetings, Workshop, and Museum at Camp Comfort

11969 N. Creek Rd.

Ojai, CA 93023

Our clubhouse is located in Ojai, California, just Northeast of Ventura across from Camp Comfort County Park. Our Pebble Pup Program is normally held at this location on the third Saturday of the month from 10-12 pm. The clubhouse is also the location of our museum, library, and workshop.

Mission or purpose of the club

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization to promote popular interest in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and lapidary and jewelry arts; to sponsor educational activities centered around these subjects, including lectures, classes, demonstrations, and field trips; and to make and exhibit collections for the enjoyment and education of both society members and the community at large.

In advancing this mission, our specific strategies are:

1. To offer a warm club atmosphere in which experts and amateurs can pursue and share their interests and knowledge at monthly club meetings and in workshop settings.
2. To host a gem and mineral show once a year for our surrounding community.
3. To host field trips for collecting, as well as trips to other club shows, museums, rock shops, and similar venues.
4. To maintain a club museum collection of gems, minerals, and fossils for educational purposes within the larger community (particularly for school visits) and a collection of lapidary rough for use by members in club workshops.
5. To maintain a library of relevant books and magazines for reference by members.
6. To provide the children of our community with a safe place to learn, explore, and appreciate the earth sciences with activities under the guidance of our adult members.



SECTION 2 - SERVICE & MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

List of 2023 Club Programs

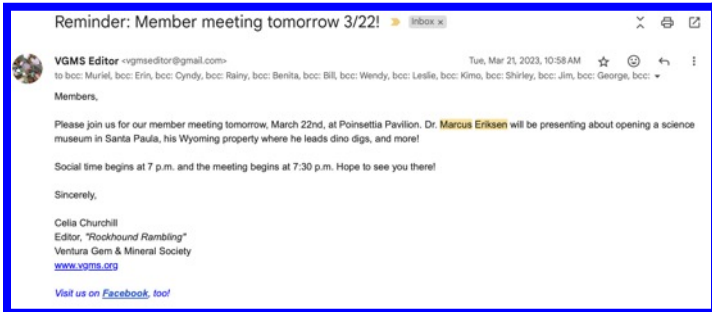
January 2023 “Show and Tell”: Our January program was the annual Show and Tell. A dozen or so members, including youth members, presented their finds, projects, and collections.



February 2023 “Show Planning” led by our Show Chair, Diane Cook. This month we went over everything related to our upcoming club Show. Our club Show moved to a new building at the Ventura County Fairgrounds so there were some changes from previous years.



March 2023 “A Science Museum for Santa Paula” by Marcus Eriksen: Dr. Marcus Eriksen and his partner, Anna Cummings, recently moved to Santa Paula with the goal of opening a Science Education Center in Ventura County. They’re already off to a great start in terms of specimens, with a *Triceratops* skull currently housed in a hangar on their ranch. Dr. Eriksen also spoke about dinosaur hunting on his Wyoming property.



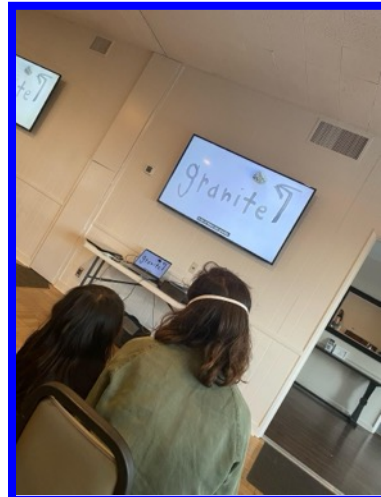
April 2023 “Silent Auction” led by our Programs Director, Terry Wilson, and our Club Stewards. Members came prepared to bid on slabs, rough, cabs, and any other fun surprises brought from our clubhouse and donated by members.



May 2023 “The Petrified Forest of Calistoga, CA” by VGMS President John Cook. John took us on a virtual trip to Calistoga in Napa County. Not only is it home to therapeutic hot springs and mineral spas, Calistoga has the purest, award-winning and best tasting sparkling mineral water in the area. Calistoga is also home to a spectacular petrified forest of redwood trees! About four million years ago, the now extinct Mount Saint Helena volcano (which also goes by the Modoc Indian name “Kenoki”) let loose like an early version of Mount St. Helens. The volcano is extinct but that long-ago blast flattened a forest of immense trees, and its ash buried and preserved them as they fell, frozen in time.



June 2023 “Mini Presentations” by the VGMS Pebble Pups. Several Pups in our club earned their Communications badges by delivering hobby-related presentations.



July 2023 “Geologic Features of the Ventura Foothills and Harmon Canyon” by Tim Garvey: Geologist Tim Garvey helped us look beyond the iconic scenery to understand the geologic processes that shaped the fascinating rocks found in some of these locales. Member Melissa Baffa also gave us an short presentation on her recent experience at a dinosaur dig.



August 2023 “Condor Agates” by Luis De Los Santos: Luis De Los Santos regaled us with his adventures collecting agates in Argentina. Members greatly enjoyed his descriptions of the land, people, and especially the rocks he came across during his time there. Luis shared beautiful pictures of condor and puma agates, as well as a wide variety of fossil cycads and pine cones.



September 2023 “Emerald Mining in California” by Richard Edley: Richard Edley delivered an interesting talk about his search and discovery of emeralds in Southern California. Richard and his son, Bruce, own two federal mining claims in Barstow, California. The Beautiful Paige mine produces turquoise and azure malachite. They also discovered a deposit of emeralds in the Julian mining District in Southern California.



October 2023 “The Inner Beauty of Caves” by Mary Pat Weber, CGMS: Mary Pat Weber provided us with a visual treat of the highlights of this recent event and why this show rocks! Located at the Tucson Convention Center, TGMS Show attendees find approximately 250 dealers selling a variety of minerals, fossils, jewelry, and lapidary. Throughout the show there are lectures and symposiums. Jaw-dropping world class exhibits from private collections, major universities and museums are on display. Other exhibit cases, both competitive and non-competitive, round out this mix.



November 2023: Annual Election of Officers, followed by a Silent Auction: in November we had a Silent Auction and November autumn potluck. It was well-attended with something for everyone to see, buy, and eat. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the auction and to everyone who brought delicious food to share. Thank you also to the nominating committee, who delivered the slate of nominations for the 2024 VGMS Board.



December 2023: Holiday Party our **Annual Holiday Gathering**, followed by **Installation of Officers** and an **Awards Ceremony** in person at the Poinsettia Pavilion. Awards included Rockhound of the Year, presentation of officer and committee pins and bars, and a gift exchange.



Board Meetings

We normally convene monthly board meetings at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month. 11 board meetings were held via Zoom, and one was held in person at the Ventura County Fairgrounds before our March Show. **Attendance averaged 14**, including both elected officers and committee chairs. Our organized and efficient board members are extremely detail-oriented, but we still manage to have fun!

Officers and Committee Chairs

2023 Elected Officers:

President: John Cook
1st VP/Programs: Terry Wilson
2nd VP/Field Trips: David Springer
3rd VP/Show Chair: Diane Cook
Treasurer: Lauren Wideman
Recording Secretary: Nancy Brace-Thompson

Membership Secretary: Erin Valenzuela
Federation Director: Jim Brace-Thompson
Bulletin Editor: Celia Churchill
Parliamentarian: Shirley Layton
Webmaster: Troy Schmidt

2023 Committee Chairs:

Archivist/Historian: Jim Brace-Thompson
Hostess: Susan Slyker
Librarian: Heather Seaton
Museum: Troy Schmidt & Jim Brace-Thompson
Educational Outreach: Jim Brace-Thompson
Clubhouse Custodian: Jake Bailey

Pebble Pups: Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick and Erin Valenzuela
Shop Stewards: John Cook, Ron Wise, David Springer, Jake Bailey
Ways & Means: Jenifer Russell & Adrian Ruiz

Pebble Pup & Juniors Program

IS YOUR CHILD A "ROCKHOUND?"
Earth Science, Geology, Lapidary Arts, and Collecting

Led by educators, geologists, scientists, and artists, together they provide hands-on, interactive, and engaging learning experiences. Kids finish the day with a project or specimen for their collection. The age appropriate lessons are crafted for all to enjoy!

ARE YOU READY
Come Join The Fun!

Phone: 805-312-VGMS (8467)
Email: vgmppups@gmail.com
Address: VGMS Clubhouse, 11969 Creek Rd., Ojai CA 93023

Meetings are typically held on the third Saturday of the month from 10-12 pm.

Visit our website for more information

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Pebble Pup & Junior Members

"Learning together about the magic of rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils."

YOUTH CLUB OF VGMS
Learn with Us!

Pebble Pup
Age 5-11

Juniors
Age 12-17

Pebble Pups and Juniors are invited to share their knowledge and collections with each other. In person classes and field trips are offered throughout the year at the clubhouse location and throughout Southern California. Volunteering and community education is encouraged at both levels of the group. Additionally, online classes are available to allow students to experience locations and experts from out of the area.

AFMS BADGES
National Program

Our lessons and topics are based on the national American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Badge Program. Upon completion of a lesson or topic each child earns a badge working towards earning all 20 badges and their Rock Star pin. Patches can be proudly worn on the club sash or vest representing their accomplishments and inspiring future members to enjoy the program.

"The Pebble Pup and Junior program is a unique opportunity for kids to learn about the science, art, and fun of rocks, minerals, and fossils."
-Parent of a member

We have 46 Pebble Pups and 7 Junior Members in good standing (a Pebble Pup is defined as being age 5-11 and Junior Members are age 12 through 17). On average, 12-17 pups/juniors regularly attended meetings or field trips each month. **Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick is our Pebble Pups Program Director and Committee Chair. Erin Valenzula is the Lead Educator.** Lisa and Erin are working together to provide a well rounded program while also developing a more robust Junior Member program. The program meets in person, but can hold classes on Zoom at any time due to weather, illness, or to invite an out-of-the-area guest speaker for the group. If a meeting is a planned ZOOM event a learning kit is mailed to the children who have RSVP'd for an event. All others are welcome to join and follow along. For in person classes, an RSVP is requested to prepare materials for each child. Specimens or projects are given at every class.



Our youth leaders Lisa and Erin

Junior Meetings

Pebble Pup & Junior Member		
Schedule and Events for 2023		
Date	Leader(s)	Class/Event Topic/Badge
Jan 21	Lisa	ZOOM class due to weather. Show & Tell, Mineral Bingo, and program planning.
Feb 18	Lisa	Collecting and Curating
Mar 4 & 5	VGMS	VGMS Show. Kids booth volunteering and educational support.
Mar 18	Lisa, Erin, & Jim	Rocks, Minerals, and Silent Auction
Apr 22	Lisa, Tony, & Roz	Upper Ojai fieldtrip to the Demaria's home.
May 20	Lisa	Specimen Cleaning & Pollinator Rock Garden Bee Dish
May 27-28	VGMS/GCGS	Gold Coast Gem Show Kids booth volunteering and educational support.
June	Independent	Rocking the Computer
June 21	VGMS	Individual presentations at the General Club Meeting.
July 22	Lisa & Chris	Earth in Space
Aug 2-13	VGMS @ VC Fair	VGMS at the VC Fair. Kids booth volunteering and educational support.
Sept 16	Lisa	Earthquakes and Mapping
Oct 28	Erin & Jared	Dinosaurs
Nov 4-5	VGMS/GCGS	Gold Coast Gem Show Kids booth volunteering and educational support.
Dec 2	Lisa, Diane, Jim, Nancy, & Celia	Pup Holiday Party

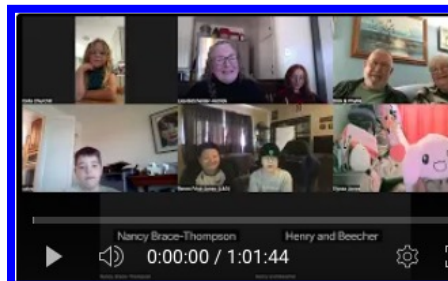
Events of the year*.

**Not included here are the club field trips that Pebble Pups and Juniors can attend as a member.*

2023 List of VGMS Pebble Pup Programs

- **January 21: Show & Tell, Mineral Bingo, and Program Planning (ZOOM Meeting due to weather).**

Children shared their favorite pieces from their collection. But the fun was all about Mineral BINGO. Before the meeting was over we talked about their ideas to add to the schedule of the year.



- **February 18: Collecting and Curating**

The focus of this class was to talk about how to collect, highlight, and display the collections they all have piled up at home. We took simple wood frames, a collection of rocks and made shadow boxes for their room. The frame included a list on the back identifying what they displayed. This gave the kids a chance to decide how “less is more” so they can control the outcome of their collections.



- **March 4-5: VGMS Show**

There is always excitement around the annual show. This is where their collection visions come to life. It all starts with the set up! This is the perfect opportunity for other members of the club to highlight their mentorship by sharing stories and insights with the kids.



Junior members took the lead in designing and assembling the club case sharing what we love.



More set up fun!



Enjoying the SHOW!



Kids volunteering their time and inspiring others make this event extra special.



- **March 18: Rocks, Minerals, and Silent Auction**

This class highlighted rocks and minerals, their structure, the Mohs scale, and an easy personalized collection to take home. Back by popular demand was the Kids ONLY Silent Auction. They earn Pebble Pup Bucks throughout the year and they finally get the chance to spend those dollars on something special to add to their collection. They are always so polite to each other if they recognize someone is really hoping to get a particular piece. They love celebrating the win when the time is up.



- **April 22: Upper Ojai Field Trip**

Fellow club members open their home for a one of a kind experience. This was ‘Hair-Raising’ fun!



Rocks, minerals, and fossils were everywhere for us to learn about and enjoy.





- **May 20: Specimen Cleaning & Pollinator Rock Garden**

This class encouraged the kids to do something fun for their collection outside. We made our pollinator garden bee watering stations. We also learned how to clean our rocks with a variety of tools and solutions (soapy water and vinegar).



Our class also included celebrating our latest Rockstar Pin achiever Elyssa and Volunteer Pin achievers Elyssa and Rylee!



- **May 27-28: Gold Coast Gem Show**

The Pups helped volunteer at the Kids Booth at the Gold Coast Gem Show in Ventura. One of our Pups also demonstrated carving.



- **June: Independent Rocking on the Computer**

This month, interested Pups prepared presentations independently for the club's general member meeting on June 21. This was part of earning the "Rocking on the Computer" FRA badge. Please see our Meeting List for a photo!



- **July 22: Earth in Space**

This month the Pups earned their Earth in Space FRA badges. Students mapped the solar system, did constellation projects, and we had a guest speaker. Member Chris Churchill, an aerospace engineer, brought examples of Earth minerals used in spacecraft. We also had samples of the ores of those minerals from our Museum for Pups to compare.



- **August 2-13: VGMS at the VC Fair**

This month the name of the game was the Ventura County Fair! Our Pups volunteered, demonstrated, and displayed cases. Many of them won ribbons and our Pups Society Case took home a First Place.



- **September 16: Earthquakes and Mapping**

After a series of earthquakes in Ojai, the Pup chairs thought it would be a great time to study Earthquakes and Mapping. After explaining the geology of the recent earthquakes, we held an engineering challenge for the Pups. They built graham cracker houses and tested them on a shake table made by VGMS member Chris Churchill.





- **October 28: Dinosaurs**

This class was all about Dinosaurs! Pups co-chair Erin Valenzuela, a dinosaur enthusiast and science educator, brought some of her materials and activities to class so Pups could explore everything dino, from teeth to tracks.



- **November 4-5: Gold Coast Gem Show**

Once again, the VGMS Pups helped out the club by volunteering at the club table at the Gold Coast Gem Show. They ran games, sold “adopt-a-rocks” and grab bags, and acted as ambassadors for our Pebble Pups program.



- **December 2: Pebble Pup & Junior Member Holiday Party**

The Pups ended the year with a Holiday Party. There were many reasons to celebrate. We had club awards for Pups who volunteered during the year, several rock-related holiday crafts, and our Junior Rockhound of the Year Awards.





Custom Learning Kits:

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Pebble Pups Chair Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick began creating learning kits to send to Pups for virtual meetings. The learning kits were popular, so after many of our meetings Pups go home with something to do related to that class's activity. We also still use them for any virtual meetings.



FRA Badge Program

We use the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program and try to focus each monthly activity around a topic whereby kids can emerge having earned a badge. In 2023, we awarded the following badges based on group and individual work: Collecting, Showmanship, Rocks & Minerals, Field Trips, Lapidary Arts, Rocking on the Computer, Earth in Space, Mapping, Leadership, Communications and Earth Processes. We also completed a club-designed badge on Dinosaurs.



Members of our 2023 Pebble Pups Committee were Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick, Chair, Erin Valenzuela, Lead Educator, with Diane & John Cook, Nancy & Jim Brace-Thompson, Dick & Phyllis White, Renée Frisk-Jones, and Celia Churchill.

Special Group Meetings

Our **cabbing** group meets at our Workshop twice a month.



Member Chris Churchill led three tumbling classes for a second-grade classroom at Pierpont Elementary. 24 students participated.



VGMS Member Richard Slyker led a **silversmithing** class for members to make earrings.



Social Events

1. **Picnic “Rocktoberfest”** On October 21st, VGMS hosted its annual fall breakfast and picnic, “Rocktoberfest.” Our sign-up sheet shows 34 but 42 members were counted in attendance.

Rocktoberfest Rocks Again!

Our annual Rocktoberfest picnic brunch and silent auction took place Saturday, October 21st from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The day before, Ron Wise, John Cook, Robert Seaton, David Springer, Rich Pisor, and I gathered as a clean-up crew to rake leaves, sweep clean the sidewalks and parking lot, and prep pop-up canopies, chairs, tables, etc., for quick layout and assembly.

Despite it being fall, perfect summer weather prevailed with

lots of sunshine flooding happy faces during the Fest. The sign-in sheet showed a total of 34 folks, including at least five Pebble Pups and Junior members, but an informal tally suggests attendance was actually closer to 40. To tempt members to sit down and dig in to the big variety of potluck goodies everyone brought, Dick White filled the air with flavorful aroma at the bacon station while other volunteers prepared fresh pancakes and scrambled eggs. Once fortified, folks had table after table

of silent auction material to view and bid on. Offerings included not just rocks but also used lapidary equipment, and one table was reserved just for kids. In all, the silent auction added \$363 to club coffers.

At the opposite end of the property, trucks and cars were parked with tailgates down and trunks popped open for good old fashioned tailgate sales. I don't know about others, but I came away happy. Last year, I made three dollars (and spent two), but this year, I tucked away the most I've ever raked in at a tailgate: a whopping \$18.00! At this rate, I just might be able to afford that summer house. Best of all, my home rock pile has shrunk, if ever so little. It's the thought that counts? See you next Rocktober!



- Banquet** Our club hosts an informal dinner for all Show Volunteers on the final night of our March Show.



- Holiday Dinner:** Our Holiday Party this year was a potluck dinner held in-person at our member meeting location, the Poinsettia Pavilion. 42 members attended. We presented the Rockhound of the Year award, congratulated John Cook as outgoing President, installed the 2024 VGMS Board, had a gift exchanged, and socialized.



4. **Other: Rockhound Rendezvous:** A great time was had by all who attended the Rendezvous on July 15th, to enjoy good company, picnicking, a silent auction, and tailgate sales for terrific bargains. In all, some 30 members and kids were there.

Another Fun Rockhound Rendezvous!

Jim Brace-Thompson

I think everyone who attended would agree: our annual spring/summer Rockhound Rendezvous on July 15th was another fun success this year! Several folks set up tailgate stations in the parking area. Others set up pop-ups for a food station. Dick White once again cooked up his secret-recipe pulled pork that's always in high demand. An abundance of used lapidary equipment was on sale at bargain prices. And even more bargains were to be found at both the adult and the kids-only silent auctions.



5. **Other: Grab Bag Stuffing Party:** We hosted two grab-bag stuffing parties for members this year. During these events, members get together to socialize and help stuff our grab bags to be sold at our annual Show. This year we had a particularly large party at Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson's house where a record number of bags was stuffed in anticipation of the 2024 VGMS and CFMS/AFMS Shows.

Jim Brace-Thompson

On Sunday, October 29th, Nancy and I invited members to our home for a potluck lunch and grab bag stuffing party. The plan was to start stuffing bags with rocks and only then stuff our faces with edible goodies, but the tasty assortment that arrived through the door (particularly Dick's tri-tip with his signature bar-b-que sauce) proved too tempting. Thus, the boxes of stones covering two tables in the backyard took a brief backseat to the goodies covering the tables and countertops indoors. But we got there eventually! (Also stuffed were teacher packets for our 2024 club show and Federation show promotional packets to be distributed to other clubs within the CFMS.)



First order of business at a stuffing party? Stuff faces!

We had a goal of assembling 1,000 grab bags. By day's end, as supplies ran low, we had assembled 771. But it turned out we had 170 more bags leftover from our last club show in two buckets up at the clubhouse, giving us a total of 941 bags at present. I'm already assembling more stones for another mini-stuffing-party that will definitely get us over that 1,000 mark. I'm certain all will be needed between our own local club show in March and the big national Federation show we host in May.

Speaking of that national show, for show committee members the day wasn't done when the last bag was bagged. The stuffing party was followed by a show planning meeting for the national CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention, including discussion of the mermaid outfit yours truly will be wearing at the November 11th CFMS Directors Meeting when our club puts on a promotional skit to tempt people to come to the big show. Then again, me in a mermaid outfit may not be the best temptation?

By the way, for a bit of history, our handwritten meeting minutes from June 14th, 1952, indicated that the club had assembled 40 grab bags that they intended to sell at 25 cents each. It appears inflation has hit both the number of bags we need to produce and their ultimate price tag!



Annual Show

Our club had a great show in 2023. It was held March 4-5 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Below is a summary of our Show that appeared in the March, 2023 issue of our newsletter, *Rockhound Rambling*.

VGMS Show

Our 2023 Show Rocked!

VGMS Show Committee Chairs

The 60th diamond anniversary Ventura Gem and Mineral Show took place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on March 4th and 5th, 2023. From the first show planning meeting in 2022, to the round of applause ending the post-show meeting, VGMS members took part on every level to create a memorable show. Thanks goes out to our 2023 Show Chair and 3rd VP, Diane Cook, for overseeing it all. It was clearly a great success. Most of the show Committee Chairs wrote something about their part of the event so we can all appreciate how it came together.

2023 VGMS Gem and Mineral Show Exhibits, Richard Slyker: Forty-five exhibits were enjoyed by the visitors to the 2023 60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. Members displayed their lapidary skills, beautiful collections and geological and paleontology knowledge. The exhibitors provided collections and education in all areas of the show's genre. Mineral crystal specimens with the active fluorescent displays were exhibitor highlights. Fossil exhibits were popular, including excellent cases by Pebble Pups. Beautiful agate exhibits depicted spheres opened to crystal centers, polished specimens and jewelry. Educational displays provided geological and paleontology information. Members displayed talents with carved, polished and lapidary skills. Who did not enjoy the native Gold display? The exhibitors did an outstanding job of displaying the interests of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society.



Leslie Cox's Pac-Rock Men made a popular exhibit.

Big Wins at the Raffle, David Springer: A big shout out to all who participated in the Raffle for our 60th Diamond Jubilee Annual rock show, as it truly takes a village to run. For starters, I wanted to echo some previous praise given to the publicity chair, without whom we could have had potentially dismal attendance. So, let us all not forget who helped us get the word out to get the people inside to then participate in our various activities...thanks Jim and all who helped get the word out! Thanks also to the ticket sellers over the two days and to

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

those that assisted with running the auction including Richard, Sherri, Janelle, and Riley as well as some other named ticket pickers. I was a "newb" to this raffle role, having taken over for Richard who has run the raffle for many years now. Under his wise guidance, and using his well-conceived and designed cases and boxes, things went pretty smoothly. A few changes this year I applied were the all digital format using our laptop and projector, which I believe sped things up a bit, and the introduction of Yoda holding the bowl for the winning ticket to be picked from. Well, at least the projector worked well.

Thanks to all those who donated items to the raffle. Without compelling items to draw interest, a raffle can flame out. In keeping with trends, since we always seem to break records nearly every year, I want to ask those members who have the talent to plan on contributing something for next year's raffle. The parameters to consider for submitting an item for the raffle are: something that will show well in a lit display case (jewelry and mineral specimens tick this box quite nicely!); something small enough to mail out if the winning ticket is not present; and something with a value of at least \$25. Thanks all for your assistance and for your consideration for assisting next year as well.



We had a lot of appealing items to win this year in our raffle.

Silent Auction Sold Well, Ron Wise: First we had a huge booth, we almost needed roller skates. The auction booth worked on a one hour time frame, 15 minute set up and 45 minute sales. This time frame kept everyone working continuously. This left little time to shop or eat lunch. Someone left us a pair of reading glasses, so please contact us if they're yours. Thank you from me and my co-Chair John Cook to our wonderful workers: Jake Bailey, Martha Moran, Cindy Treutelaar, Lowell Foster, Debbie Sander, Tyrone LaFay, Lonnie Sutton, and Terral Matsumoto.



The Silent Auction offered a nice variety of items for sale.

Two Busy Days at the Teacher Station and Scavenger Hunt, Jim Brace-Thompson: During our Diamond Jubilee Show, we had a fun busy time at the Welcome Booth with our Teacher Station and Scavenger Hunt. The Teacher Station had free educational packets and rocks. To increase their educational value, I packaged all rocks with labels providing background info, such as whether the rocks were igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic, if they were an economic mineral, etc. Most teachers tentatively selected one rock from the bin but jumped right in when they learned they got five specimens each. We distributed 70 Teacher Packets and gave out 350 fist-sized specimens.

Kids turned in 211 "Rock Out!" Scavenger Hunt questionnaires and kept us busy throughout the weekend passing out questionnaires and pencils then directing kids to the "Treasure Basket" to pick free prizes. The questionnaire had four questions designed to give us a little survey as to what were the most popular displays, demos, etc. Following are stats from this year's hunt with the top five responses (and the percentage of kids responding) for each question.

What were your favorite activities at the Kids' Booth? Spinning wheel – 22%, Sand Sifting – 21%, Dino Dig – 16%, Coloring Corner – 15%, Cinderella Rocks and Touch Stones – 8%. Here are a few of the more interesting responses. "I liked the ugly rocks because they are ugly and not ugly." "Wheel was my favorite because the suspense made it even more exciting and it was cheap!" "The sand sifting because you could find rocks you don't even know!" "The kids booth because I'm a kid." "The whole booth because it brings joy to my day."

What was your favorite display case? Answers were all over the map on this one, and I think each display earned at least one vote. In fact, one kid wrote, "I love them all!" Those receiving the most votes, though, were: Chris and Bob's Volcano – 9%, The saber-tooth cat in the California State Symbols display ("I like tigers.") – 7%, a tie at 6% each: Fluorescent Minerals and Fossils, a four-way tie at 4% each: Marine Fossils, Lake Superior Agates, Boulder Opal, Attack of the Pac-Man Rocks, Dinosaurs – 3%. We enjoyed at least one

unusual answer here. Can you spot it? "The rock." "The Pac-Man rocks because they looked funny and made me laugh." "Chickens." "The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society case – it had a blade from Apex Legends. They're sooo cool!"

Check out our dealers. If you could be a dealer, what would you sell? Rocks. (Just rocks). – 13%, Fossils – 8%, Geodes and Jewelry – 6% each, Dino Fossils and Gems – 5% each, Diamonds, Opals, and Amethyst – 4% each. Some of the things kids said they would sell were, well, interesting. For instance... "Chickens." (Again?? What's with the chicken kid?) "I'm gonna sell money." "Amethyst or emeralds at \$20 each." (Hey! I'm buying from that kid!) "Mermaid rocks." "Surf boards." (If you had seen this kid and his dad, you would understand.) "Cookies." "Gelato." "Toys." "Rock unicorns."



Kids completed a "Rock Out!" quiz to earn a prize in our scavenger hunt.

Who was your favorite demonstrator? Gold Panning – 26%, Rock Carvers (Go, Rylee and Dick!) – 11%, Chris Ward's Matching Games – 10%, Bob Knox's Volcano – 9%, Tony and Sandie Fender's Beading and Jewelry Making – 7%. Here are a few individual responses about our demonstrators. "I like volcano guy best because he explains the insides of a volcano and it has cool rocks and pretend fire and lights and he was very nice." "There was a lady making glass jewelry and she had a heat thingy which was cool." "The different egg demonstrator because you played a fun game and learn new eggs and we need to give the animals the eggs."



Per usual, kids rated gold panning as their favorite demonstration.

Remember this for next year: it pays to be nice! Several kids rated various individuals as their favorite demonstrator, including Jenifer, Elyssa, Bob Knox, and Joe-the-Gold-Panner. Why? "Because s/he is nice!" No grumps allowed!



Teachers enjoyed picking from our tub of free educational rocks.

The Food Chair Stops the Hunger!, Erin Valenzuela: This was my first year as a chair for the Gem show and I had a wonderful time. We fed lunch to volunteers, exhibitors and dealers over four days—close to 200 sandwiches were made and eaten! Thank you to Nancy Brace-Thompson for all her help restocking food, inventorying club supplies, washing dishes and assembling sandwiches! Also a big thank you to volunteers who donated or made goodies to share, helped in the kitchen or carried food and supplies from the kitchen to our eating area in the Show Pavilion—most of whom were recruited at a moment's notice. We couldn't have done it without you. Can't wait to feed everyone again next year!!

Notes from the Show Photographer, Jim Brace-Thompson: Even though the VGMS Show Chair refused to give me a budget for film, your show photographer was busy clicking away on a cell phone during our 60th Annual "Diamond Jubilee" VGMS Show. I've forwarded all files to newsletter editor Celia, so I

hope you'll enjoy a few memories in this issue of *Rockhound Rambling*. If you would like the full unedited "Director's Cut" of all 360 photos, drop me a flash drive and I'll load them up (if there's room). As Show Photographer, I was explicitly told, "No butt shots." I tried to comply, butt...I'm sure Celia will select photos judiciously. (*Editor's note: That's right, this is a family publication! Thank you, Jim.*)



No butts about it, the show photographer caught folks flocking to our show!

Sue Slyker, my hard working co-chair and I would also like to thank the members who helped us to get the store set up at the beginning, helped our customers on Saturday and Sunday and packed up at closing. The much appreciated troopers were Adrian Ruiz, Debbie Sander, Jessica Lynton, Lisa Rittenberg, Gary Leberknight, Julie Cox, Janelle Thompson and another Jessica (new member) whose last name I don't know! Thanks to you all and to any others I may have missed. We couldn't do it without you all!



The Country Store enjoyed another successful year.



Country Store, Shirley Layton: This year was one of the best shows our club has ever had, you could see why our show is one of the vendors' favorites. Our members are so friendly and accommodating to make their stay fun and prosperous. The Country Store enjoyed this year's venue as we got to be in the same building and experience the visitors' awe at all the wonderful things the vendors had to offer.

We were sort of low on items for sale due to storage capacity, but as usual when we put the word out to the members they came through with lots of great donations. They amaze me every year! Thank you to all who contributed.



The Plants Booth is a relaxing and beautiful spot to spend time (and money!) during the show.

Plant Sales Report, Terry Wilson: We had strong plant sales this year, with good donations from a variety of members. We love having our section in the same building as the rest of the show. Along with the assortment of leftover and newly-propagated plants from my own backyard, thanks to Rich Pisor for his generous donations, including ever popular *Tillandsia* and plumeria; Susan Marquez for rose bushes and other plants that came with the condo she recently purchased; and Ron Wise for his assortment of plants. In addition to Rich and

Susan who worked the whole show, Leslie Cox also tended our booth. Thanks to those of you who took home leftover plants at the pizza party. This helps tremendously by freeing up my tiny yard.

Publicizing our "Diamond Jubilee" Show, Jim Brace-Thompson: Ever wonder what goes into publicizing our annual show? No? Well, I'll tell you anyway. Each year, I start with a checklist and work my way down. That checklist includes 26 "action items" spaced out over the course of a year. As you can surmise, we've hit the bottom of the list. Here's a brief summary of just some of the items, along with a few statistics.

Show flyers were distributed at local club shows, the 2023 CFMS Show, the Ventura County Fair, the Fall CFMS Directors' Meeting, and sent to all our dealers. A supply was placed in the E.P. Foster Library downtown and given to members to distribute locally, along with a sweep of Main Street, Ventura. Plus, some teachers requested supplies to distribute within their schools.

I mailed show postcards to the 800 names we've built up on a direct-mail list based on folks who have attended our past shows and have asked to be kept posted about future shows.

I sent out an email blast to nearly 600 teachers who have voluntarily given us their email addresses at our Show Teacher Station over the years.

Letters, along with show flyers and a press release went to 116 geology professors from UCLA to UC-Santa Barbara and all colleges in between.

A press release was sent to the CFMS newsletter and website, 22 local and national publications, and all local newspapers and TV/radio stations. An ad and article appeared in the *Ventura Breeze*, plus we made the calendar listing in *Westways* magazine! (One family attending our show from San Luis Obispo said that's where they heard about it.)

Invitations went to 25 local youth groups and to 43 rock clubs within convenient driving distance.

We had displays promoting our club and our show at both the Ventura County Fair and in our downtown library, along with club and show flyers, which were also distributed to local hotels and the Ventura Visitor's Center.

Diane Cook and Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick took charge of blanketing social media, which has become ever more important.

Finally, YOU, our local members, helped immeasurably with good old fashioned word-of-mouth to tempt friends, family, neighbors and work colleagues to come on down. Thank you!

As you can see, there's a lot more to publicizing a show than meets the eye. By the way, publicity has already begun toward our 2024 Show! Watch for our "rough-and-ready" informal show flyers at the Conejo club show next month in Newbury Park. See you there?



Displays like this at E.P. Foster Library helped publicize our show.

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

60th Annual
**Gem, Mineral,
Fossil & Jewelry
Show**

MARCH 4 & 5, 2023
Saturday 10 - 5 • Sunday 10 - 4

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Jewelry • Silent Auction
Exhibits • Dealers • Kids' Activities • Demonstrations
Raffle • Country Store • Plant Sale

FREE Admission
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura CA 93001
Visit us at vgms.org

Special Features - Club Library

Our Librarian **Heather Seaton** maintains a room with a reading table and walls lined with bookshelves housing approximately **615 books**. These include over 135 specific to California geology and rockhounding. We also have a **significant periodicals collection**: a nearly complete run of *Desert Magazine* from 1945 to 1961, a nearly complete run of *Lapidary Journal* (back to Volume 1, Number 1), along with miscellaneous issues of *Rock & Gem* magazine. We stock several dozen videos and DVDs. To promote the use of the library, Angela included an occasional column entitled “The Book Report” in our newsletter detailing new books added to the library.

For ease in finding just the right title for their needs, our club members can access our catalog of titles entirely online via the “Library” page on our website. Within the library room, books are arranged by broad topical areas, such as Field Trip Guides, Lapidary Arts & Jewelry Making, Geology, Fossils & Paleontology, Mineralogy, Gold Prospecting, Meteorites, etc.

The Archives

The archives are in year-by-year binders recording our entire club history from our founding in 1944 to the present all stored in nearly four dozen binders. By the way, conveniently located right next to our Library Room is our Todd Schowalter Reading Room (more commonly referred to as the club toilet).



Special Feature – Yearbook Committee

We have an officially designated committee position for **Historian/Archivist**, which has been held for the past couple of years by **Jim Brace-Thompson**. When we decided to enter the All American Club program for this year, we did designate a full committee for the effort. We have listed our **All American Club Committee** members at the very beginning of this document. They include **Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick, Jim Brace-Thompson, Nancy Brace-Thompson, Diane Cook, and Celia Churchill**.

Special Feature – Website Committee

In 2023 our Website Committee consisted of current and former Web Directors Troy Schmidt and Terry Wilson.

Special Feature – Lapidary Studio/Workshop

Our club maintains a workshop and lapidary studio at our Clubhouse. We offer a saw room, flat lap, and Genies for crafting cabochons. Under the supervision of our Club Stewards, we offer monthly Open Workshops to all club members. We also offer a certification process

Special Feature – Museum

VGMS developed and maintains **The Ray Meisenheimer Memorial Museum** at our clubhouse, which is open during VGMS open-house days the third Saturday of each month and by advance appointment for individuals and/or group public visits. The museum is publicized at our annual show, shows of neighboring clubs, the Ventura County Fair, and fliers distributed at all public events we attend, including school visits and programs. Prior to the pandemic, we hosted several schools and home-school groups for tours and activities. Member **Jim Brace-Thompson** and **Troy Schmidt** are the co-chairs of the Museum Committee. The museum consists of two rooms. One focuses on California Dinosaurs and Lapidary Arts. Displays consist of bone casts and actual bones of dinosaurs and marine reptiles from California and a 6-foot long display case illustrating a full range of lapidary arts and jewelry making. The second room houses an “Ice Age California” collection and display of bone casts and actual bones and tusks of Pleistocene mammals, as well as a wall mural (painted by our member and professional artist **Martha Moran**) that reconstructs what Ventura County looked like during the Ice Ages. The room also houses educational displays showing gems, minerals, and fossils from our local region and from around the world and a fluorescent mineral case.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society's
EARTH SCIENCE MUSEUM



A TEACHING MUSEUM FEATURING

- > **Gem & Mineral Collections**
...beautiful specimens from California & around the world
- > **The Three Rock Types**
...an educational display matching school curricula
- > **Mineral Identification**
...learn basic ways to identify a mineral or gemstone
- > **Ice Age California Wall Mural & Fossils**
...see who roamed Ventura County 10,000 years ago
- > **California Dinosaurs**
...step back 100 million years to a very different California
- > **The Fossils of Shark Tooth Hill**
...see what frolicked in an inland sea 15 million years ago

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society's **Ray Meisenheimer Memorial Museum** is located in Ojai and is home to the Bruno & Opal Benson Fossil Collection and varied educational exhibits. Displays and hands-on teaching collections match California earth science curriculum standards for students and help Boy and Girl Scouts earn merit badges related to geology.

Viewing by appointment only
To arrange a field trip visit with your classroom, homeschoolers, or youth group:
> call: (805) 312-8467
> email: info@VGMS.org
> visit us on the web: www.vgms.org



We also have an outdoor self-guided rock and fossil museum in the front yard of the clubhouse. Each specimen is labeled. This is an especially good location because our Pebble Pups classes are held here.



Field Trips

Our club maintains close relationships with the two other rock clubs in Ventura County: Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society (OGMS) and Conejo Gem & Mineral Club (CGMC). The three field trip chairs from our clubs meet to plan the annual field trip schedule, which are then offered to members of all three clubs. Thus, while we offer almost-monthly field trips to our members, our own club hosts about a third of these events. These are the field trips VGMS hosted in 2023.

1. March 24-26, 2023: Cady Mountains led by VGMS 2nd Vice President Field Trip Chair, David Springer.

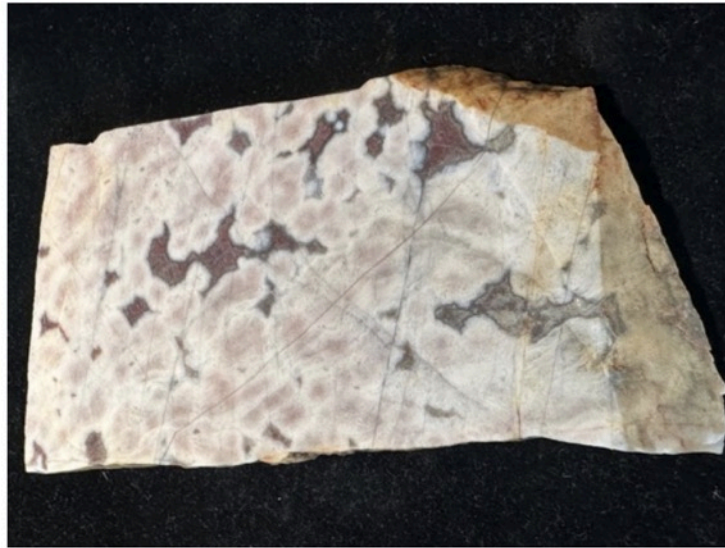


Cut face of Cady Mountain "stick agate" named by John Pickett.



Cut face of Cady Mountain "stinkhole agate" named by John Pickett.

2. May 12, 2023: Chowchilla area for Hornitos poppy jasper. Led by VGMS 2nd VP David Springer.



Hornitos macro Poppy Jasper.

3. June 10th, 2023: Avila Beach for DeeDeeite. Led by VGMS 2nd VP David Springer.



Our DeeDeeite collecting area.

4.. October 8th, 2023: Ralph Bishop Museum Tour. Led by VGMS 2nd VP David Springer.



Looking through Wes Lingerfelt's pile.

5. November 18th: Barstow area for Silver Lace Onyx and Petrified Palm Root. Led by VGMS 2nd VP David Springer.



Other Trips

VGMS promoted the 2023 CFMS Show & Convention in Lodi, CA and a club contingent attended. We also had members attend the 2023 CFMS Directors Meeting in Visalia, CA to promote our hosting the 2024 CFMS/AFMS Show. (See Section 4, Regional Federation Support.)

Workshops

VGMS holds a twice-monthly **Workshop Day**. It revolves around slabbing, cabbing, and flat-lap polishing, with two to four workshop stewards/instructors (**John Cook, Ron Wise, Jake Bailey, David Springer**) on hand to answer questions, provide tips, and ensure safe workshop procedures are being observed. In 2023, we were able to offer at least **19 workshop opportunities**.

List of 2023 Workshop Dates: January 25th, February 7th, February 11th, February 18th, March 1st, April 15th, May 7th, May 20th, June 4th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, August 19th, September 3rd, September 13th, November 5th, November 18th, December 3rd, and December 9th.



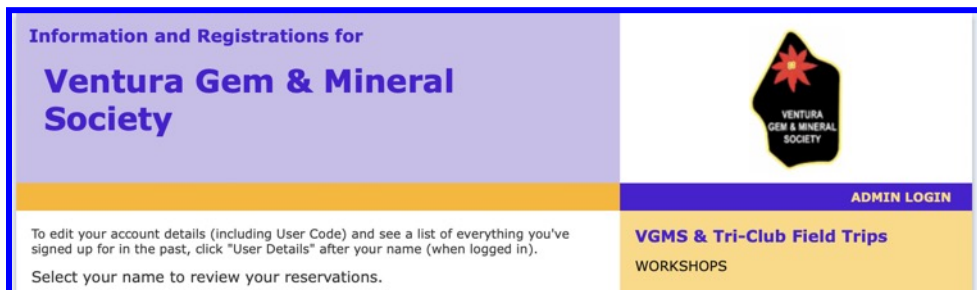
Club Website

Our current club website, www.vgms.org, is maintained by **Troy Schmidt**. Many new members and visitors have told us they found out about us via the site. Our website has password-protected “Members-Only” and “Board Members” areas so that information that should not be available to the public is accessible to members (i.e., tax information, contracts, field trip specifics, etc.).



The site includes helpful links for both club members and visitors to the site. These include links to the American and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, other Ventura County rock clubs, the U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureau of Land Management, museums, and more.

Our former Web Director and 2023 First VP **Terry Wilson** is a web developer by trade and has created a website called Whoscoming.com/vgms and WhosBringingWhat.com/vgms. These were crafted to better facilitate potluck sign-ups, working time slots for volunteers helping at club events (the annual Show, clubhouse clean-up days, etc.), and field trip sign-ups. They can be viewed by any member who wants to sign up for a club function via links on the main club website. They have proven helpful in preventing duplication of food items at potlucks and doubling-up of volunteers in one location during our Show. It has been a great addition to the club’s main site.



VGMS membership payments online are available online with all major credit/debit cards or with PayPal. In 2023 we also introduced accepting membership payments via Zeffy. Our membership application can be completed entirely online, or it can be downloaded in printed form to be completed and mailed.

Finally, our club also maintains a **Facebook page**, which is linked to numerous other clubs, museums, scientific sites, and community sites. This page is maintained by members **Diane Cook** and **Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick**. It's a great method for sharing club activities, meeting information, photos, scientific articles, field trip information, and our Show, of course!



Traveling Club Displays

We don't have a single, pre-made, or pre-set club case. Instead, we have compiled materials that can be quickly accessed and assembled to address a variety of themes.

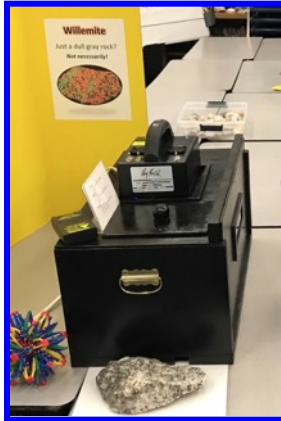
● **California State Rock, Mineral, Gemstone, and Fossil Symbols.** This has been a regular feature at our own annual Show and is also frequently requested at other nearby club shows (Conejo and Oxnard). In a take-one bin beside the case, we stock fliers telling about the state symbols along with a blurb about the club. We also frequently use materials from this display when giving school presentations.



● **California Dinosaurs.** We maintain a large selection of replica bones and fossils of dinosaurs and Ice Age mammals, and these have frequently been requested for full table-top displays at the neighboring Oxnard and Conejo club shows. We have a tri-fold board and fliers with information about California dinosaurs (and about our club museum) that go along with a full-size skull cast of our California State Dinosaur “Auggie” and a cast of a Mosasaur marine reptile skull.



- **“Magic Minerals.”** We built a portable traveling fluorescent mineral display case, which proved instantly popular during school visits. This was used at Fred L. Williams Elementary School and Flory Elementary School Science Night. Alongside this, we offer hands-on fun with activities using magnets and magnetic minerals. We also present elements from this case as a hands-on Magic Minerals table.



- **Petrified Wood.** When long-time members Ray and Florence Meisenheimer passed away many years ago, they donated a terrific set of polished petrified wood rounds from across the West, along with labels, case liners, risers, and stands. This has proven to be a quick-and-easy backup display to pull into service at shows where gaps are left by no-show exhibitors.



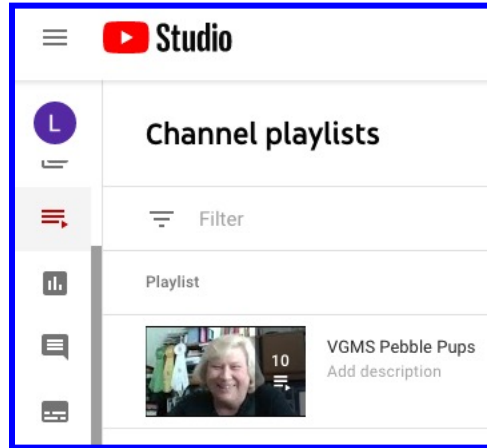
- Finally, we create a **Club Publicity Case** with content that changes each year. This is installed at our March Show, including in 2023. This same case is also often installed to promote VGMS at nearby club shows.



Bonus: Creation or promotion of virtual workshops, podcasts, museum tours, etc.

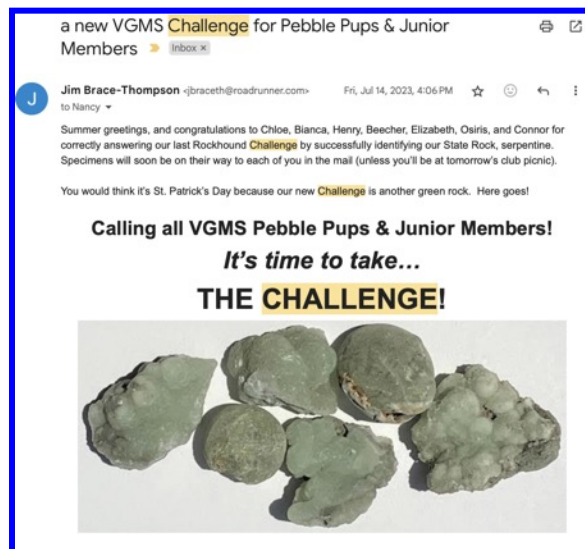
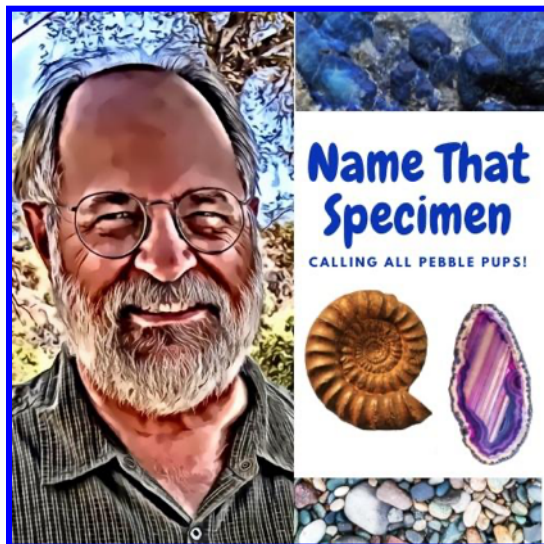
Pebble Pups Virtual Class Library

Our Pebble Pup Chair Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick, continues to maintain and augment a library of our virtual Pups classes available on YouTube. By the end of 2023, the video library has over 24 episodes and documents available to view, with four new videos added in 2023. Visit our video library of classes and virtual field trips on our YouTube page or located on the members-only Pebble Pup page of our website.



Name the Specimen

Throughout 2023 VGMS member Jim Brace-Thompson continued to host his **Name That Specimen** bi-weekly virtual challenge that began in 2020. Jim donates or collects donations of specimens, sends a clue via email to VGMS Pebble Pups, checks their answers, and mails out specimens to every Pup who provided the correct answer. Other VGMS members have collected and donated specimens for the challenge. This has continued to prove to be a great way to keep our Pups engaged and researching gems and minerals all year.



Bonus: Creation or promotion of virtual workshops, podcasts, museum tours, etc.

Workshops and Museum tours

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
8 November 2023 · 🌐

Check it out!

This lecture is happening next Tuesday! It is sure to give us great information about our local fossil past.

Follow the link for more information and to rsvp if you are interested in attending. ... [See more](#)

Swimming Mammoths & Mountaintop Sea Cows
An Exploration of Fossil Megafauna in the Channel Islands

Presented By: **LEAP LAB**
Ventura County Science Center

TUES. NOV. 14th

Doors at 6:30 PM
Talk begins at 7:00 PM

Limited seating, RSVPs strongly encouraged

1001 E Main St.
Santa Paula, CA 93060

STEAM Speaker Series

Dr. Jonathan Hoffman

Venturacountysciencecenter.org @leaplabsc

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
11 October 2023 · 🌐

Happy National Fossil Day!

I'm a paleontologist at the Smithsonian's

Play
0:03 / 3:40

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
11 October 2023 · 🌐

Happy #NationalFossilDay! 🌱 Found across the planet, fossils serve as the record of millions of years of life on Earth and are invaluable tools to understanding... [See more](#)

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
28 January 2023

We love the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



SoCal MUSEUMS
socialmuseums.org

ANNUAL FREE-FOR-ALL

SUNDAY
Feb 5, 2023

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
28 January 2023

Thank you Noozhawk for spreading the word about Santa Barbara and Ventura County museums participating in Free Admission at the Museum - SoCal Museums Free-for-...
See more

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
9 December 2023

Teachers get the chance to bring the past to life through this unique experience.

Over the summer the director and curator of the Dinosaur Institute at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Luis Chiappe, led a team of California researchers to the Utah backcountry, a desolate place where many dinosaurs once roamed.

#LANaturalHistoryMuseum #DrLuisChiappe #NBC4 #JonathanGonzalez #UtahDinosaurs #Paleontology #fossils #scienceteachers



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
21 March 2023

This looks like fun!



DISCOVERY DAY

FOSSIL FEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 08
10AM - 4PM

SAT, 8 APR 2023
Discovery Day: Fossil Fest
Claremont
Jared was interested


Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
28 January 2023

Let's learn about fossil preparation! Today at 11am PST!

Keely Sweeney
Fossil Oasis
Fossil Preparation

PALEO PORTAL
PaleoPortals.com/join

Saturday, 1/28/23
11am PST / 2pm EST



Fossil Crates is at: Fossil Crates
27 January 2023


@Paleokeely is the next Paleo Portals guest this Saturday, 2 PM EST / 11 AM PST and High Noon in Arizona!

We are excited to hear Keely's paleo journey into the... See more

Outdoor Education Opportunities

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
14 January 2023

Just a reminder to get outside and see nature's beauty and geological wonders. 🌲🌿🏞️



nationalparkservice Come experience the national parks! On five days in 2023, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone. Mark your calendar for these entrance fee-free dates in 2023:

- January 16: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- April 22: First day of National Park Week
- August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act
- September 23: National Public Lands Day
- November 11: Veterans Day

The fee-free days provide a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite, especially one of the national parks that normally charge an entrance fee. Many park areas are free all the time.

Boost this post to reach up to 1129 more people if you spend \$14. [Boost post](#)

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
26 November 2023

What a find in our back yard!
A rare mammoth fossil found on the California Channel islands continues to prompt scientists to search for answers. Here's why.



VCSTAR.COM
Mystery of rare Channel Islands mammoth fossil continues

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
30 March 2023

Sounds like a great opportunity! Who's going to apply?



Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology is at **Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology**
29 March 2023 · Claremont


Meet professional paleontologists and grow your network this summer as part of the ACCESS Paleo SoCal program. This is a 7-week paid summer internship available... [See more](#)

Interesting Educational finds for members and the community.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
22 August 2023 · 🌐

As Ojai continues to rock and roll with earthquakes here is some great information about the fault lines that are impacting our area; the Silar and the San Cayetano thrust faults. Remember, the aftershocks will continue for weeks if not months. They are releasing the pressure that is built up as the earth continues to move. These faults have the potential to deliver a quake of 7.1 or greater.

This is a great time to remind yourself of the supplies you need in case of an e... [See more](#)

 SCSN.ORG
08/20/2023, M5.0 near Ojai | SCSN
*Earthquakes can occur both near or on major known faults, and in places where no clear fault zones are known. Using the statistical method of Evans et al. (in prep. 2019) the location and focal mechanism of this...

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
1 April 2023 · 🌐

California's story of Gold isn't complete without giving Jennie Wimmer credit.

#GoldGirlPower



KRON4.COM
How one woman helped start the California gold rush
James Marshall is enshrined in California history as the man who discovered gold at Sutter'...

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
11 September 2023 · 🌐

Dazzling find from a 7yo. Pebble Pup Power!



CNN.COM
A 7-year-old discovers a 2.95-carat diamond while visiting a state park
A lucky youngster got the birthday gift of a lifetime when she discovered a 2.95-carat gold...

Promoting a fellow show

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
9 June 2023 · 🌐

Who is ready to head to Lodi?



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
8 June 2023 · 🌐

Attention all gem and mineral enthusiasts! Discover the captivating world of gemstones and minerals at the California Federal of Mineralogical Societies Lodi Sh... See more

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
30 October 2023 · 🌐

The Gold Coast Gem Show is almost here, and you won't want to miss it! 🌟 We will have a great booth with activities, lots of great rocks!

📍 Ventura County Fairgrounds 📅 Saturday, November 4 (10 am - 5 pm) 📅 Sunday, November 5 (10 am - 4 pm)


Get ready for a gem-tastic weekend of fun for the whole family. Explore the dazzling world of gemstones, minerals, and jewelry. There's something for everyone!

💎 Discover rare and exquisite gemstones. 🔍 Learn about the art of jewelry-mak... See more



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
11 November 2023 · 🌐

Check it out.



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
28 April 2023 · 🌐

Another good Southern California Gem show



SAVE THE DATE

2023
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club's
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Saturday, May 6, 2023 10-5
Sunday, May 7, 2023 10-5

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING



Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Raffle, Silent Auction, Kid's Activities,
Demonstrations, Door Prize Drawings

Vendors with something for everyone!
Rocks-Beads-Minerals-Jewelry-Gems
Crystals-Tools-Books-Much Much More

PIC•COLLAGE

Taking up a cause

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
25 May 2023 · 🌐

Rockhounds! It's time to have your voice heard to protect the collecting spaces we all enjoy. Get involved.

1.6 million acres containing the best rockhounding in SoCal could be closed to recreational rockhounding with the Management Plan for the Mojave Trails National Monument. Let's get all Rockhounds at these meetings. How does filling the rooms with Rockhounds in their club shirts and vests and hats sound? Can't make a meeting? Register now for the virtual meeting nex... [See more](#)

BLM.ZOOMGOV.COM
Webinar Registration - Zoom

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
12 June 2023 · 🌐

16 days to submit your comments on the Mojave Trails National Monument Management Plan. Here are some things to consider.

1- You can submit multiple comments. Send one on one thought or site then another on the next as you work through it all.

2- If you have not already done so, SEND ONE NOW, today or tomorrow- asking the BLM to EXTEND the scoping period another 30 days. Rockhounds don't have representation like other stakeholder groups. We don't have full time land ... [See more](#)

📣 Boost this post to reach up to 848 more people if you spend \$14. [Boost post](#)

👍 Shirley Layton and 6 others 3 comments 4 shares

👍 Like Comment Share

View more comments


Ruth Hidalgo
Thanks for sharing this info.
<https://www.facebook.com/100080065726172/posts/252271377451718/?mibextid=cr9u03>

33 w Like Reply

Articles written by members for a national magazine

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
9 July 2023 · 🌐

Great article by Jim Brace Thompson!




ROCKNGEM.COM
Gemstone Lore & Legend: Wishing Stones | Rock & Gem Magazine
Wishing stones may be drab gray rocks with a belt of white quartz but they are rumored to ...

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
26 December 2023 · 🌐

Our own Jim James Brace-Thompson wrote this. A great article

Rock & Gem magazine
26 December 2023 · 🌐

Do you know how to properly store your rock collection? Do you know how much it's worth? How to insure against theft or damage? Here's your guide to collection storage.



ROCKNGEM.COM
How to Store a Rock Collection Properly | Rock & Gem Magazine

VGMS PSA after the winter storms of 2023



Bonus: Created virtual club displays on Facebook or club website (albums featuring special collections or mineral)

We share club displays on both our Website and our Pebble Pups Band page. In 2023 club members Tony and Roz Demaria shared their unique home and collection with the Pups in person and through a video posted on the Members section of our Website. The Pebble Pups also shared their Show & Tell class for members of all ages to enjoy their specimens.

Protected: Videos

VGMS VIDEOS

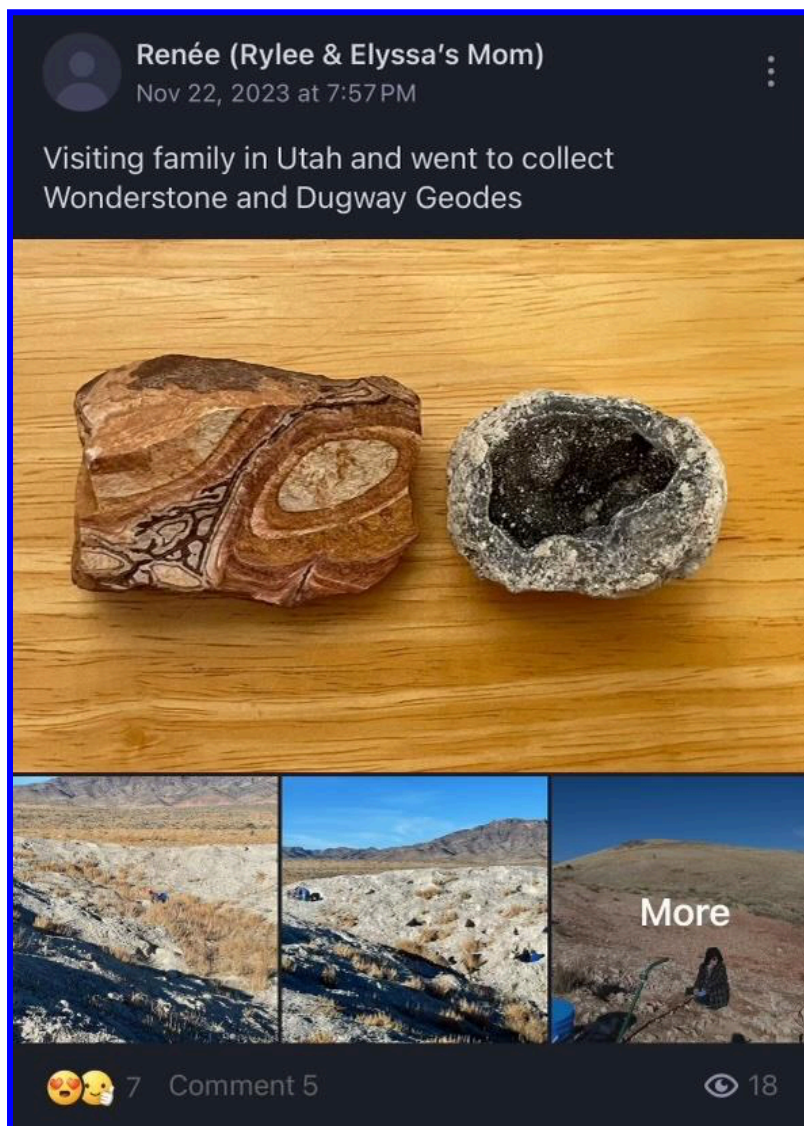
PROGRAMS VIA ZOOM

Program June 2022: "Gemstones as Seen in Master Paintings" by Justin Primm
Program, April 2022: "The Mountains and Mines of Peru..." by Bob Kamilli
Program, March 2022: ["Trilobite Treasures" by PaleoJoe Kchodl](#)

PEBBLE PUPS VIDEOS

[Pebble Pups Field Trip April 2023](#), Demaria Home
[Pebble Pups Jan 2023 Meeting](#): "Show & Tell", show planning, mineral Bingo

On our Pebble Pups Band Page, Pups are welcome to share items from their collections, lapidary projects, and anything rockhounding related. Below is an example of one Pup who shared the fruits of a recent collecting trip.





SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

We publish a bulletin entitled *Rockhound Rambling* eleven times a year. (We have a combined November/December issue because of an early November meeting date due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and to give our editor a break over the Holiday Season.) The bulletin is a four-color publication provided to members in their choice of print or as an electronic attachment, with most members requesting the electronic version. It averages 20 pages in length. At the end of this document, you'll find a full copy of our September 2023 issue.



Our bulletin has been awarded First Place several times over the years in Federation bulletin competitions, and many of our club members have won both CFMS and AFMS recognition for individual articles. Below are the lists of awards VGMS won in the 2023 Bulletin Editor's Competitions for CFMS and AFMS:

Congrats, CFMS Winners!

The results of the 2023 CFMS Bulletin Contest are in, and VGMS Members did really well. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our newsletter last year; let's do it again in 2024! (Please see the Federation Director's Report for additional winners of Show awards.) Let's hear a round of applause for the Bulletin Contest winners:

Bulletin, Large

Celia Churchill, 1st place. *Rockhound Rambling*

Article, Adult Advanced

David Springer, 1st place. "Quartzsite Scouting Report"

Steve Mulqueen, 2nd place. "Ichthyosaur Fossils of Nevada"

Jim Brace-Thompson, 3rd place. "VGMS Rocked the Federation Show"

Article, Junior Ages 12-17

Lucia H., 1st place. "Benitoite Mining to the VC Fair"

Beatrice B., 3rd place. "My Visit to the UCLA Meteorite Collection"

Article, Junior Under 12

Valerie C., 1st place. "The Rocks from the Movies"

Rylee J., 2nd place. "My Colorful Agate"

Henry and Beecher I., 3rd place. "Visit to Red Rock Canyon State Park"

Features

Troy Schmidt, 2nd place. "Highlights From the Museum: Bisbee, AZ Calcite"

Poetry, Adult

David Springer, 1st place. "Ode to a Rock Sphere"

Poetry, Youth

Valerie Churchill, 1st place. "My Christmas Gem Tree"

Congrats, AFMS Winners!

VGMS members performed especially well in the national AFMS Bulletin Contest. Awardees from within our ranks were as follows. Thank you to Jim Brace-Thompson for bringing most of these awards home to California. Let's hear a round of applause for the Bulletin Contest winners:

Bulletin, Large

Celia Churchill, 1st place. *Rockhound Rambling*

Article, Adult Advanced

Steve Mulqueen, 3rd place. "Ichthyosaur Fossils of Nevada"

David Springer, 10th place. "Quartzsite Scouting Report"

Jim Brace-Thompson, Honorable Mention. "VGMS Rocked the Federation Show"

Article, Junior Ages 12-17

Lucia H., 3rd place. "Benitoite Mining to the VC Fair"

Beatrice B., 4th place. "My Visit to the UCLA Meteorite Collection"

Article, Junior Under 12

Valerie C., 1st place. "The Rocks from the Movies"

Rylee J., 4th place. "My Colorful Agate"

Henry and Beecher I., 6th place. "Visit to Red Rock Canyon State Park"

Features

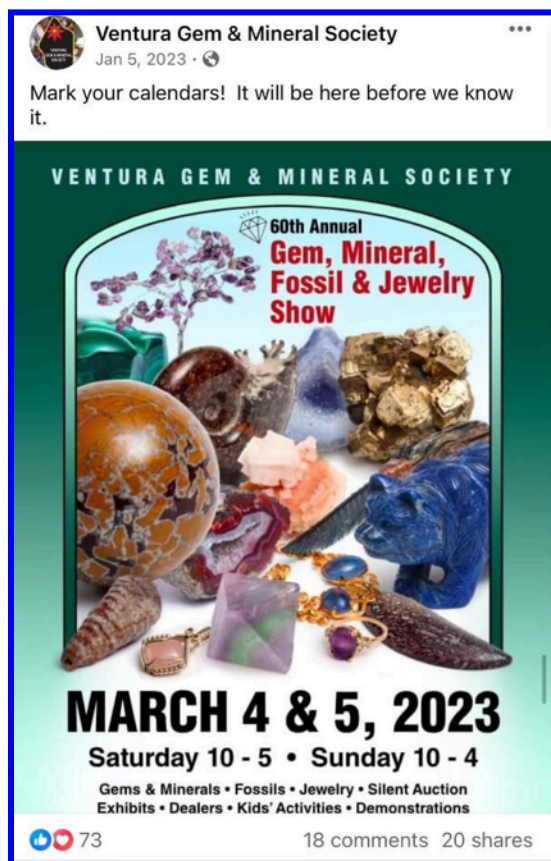
Troy Schmidt, Honorable Mention. "Highlights From the Museum: Bisbee, AZ Calcite"

Editor's name

Our editor for 2023 was **Celia Churchill**. 2023 was her second year as Bulletin Editor. She has encouraged all members to contribute throughout the year and helped to grow the Pebble Pup and Junior article submissions. In 2022, our newsletter won First Place at both CFMS and AFMS levels for New Editor. In 2023, our newsletter won First Place at both CFMS and AFMS levels for Large Bulletin. Celia is enrolled as a member of **SCRIBE** and participates in the SCRIBE Facebook group.

Club Website and Facebook Page

We have provided information about our VGMS website (www.vgms.org) in Section Two. We also maintain a Facebook page ("Ventura Gem & Mineral Society"). Via both media, we always post our **show information** (both for the public and for club members, for instance, with sign-up sheets posted on the members' section of the website for show jobs). General **meeting information** is available on the public-facing Website homepage. Our 2023 webmaster, Troy Schmidt, posts sign-up sheets and information for our **workshop days** and detailed meeting information (date, time, speakers, etc.) in the Members section of our Website.



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Jan 5, 2023 · 🌐

Mark your calendars! It will be here before we know it.

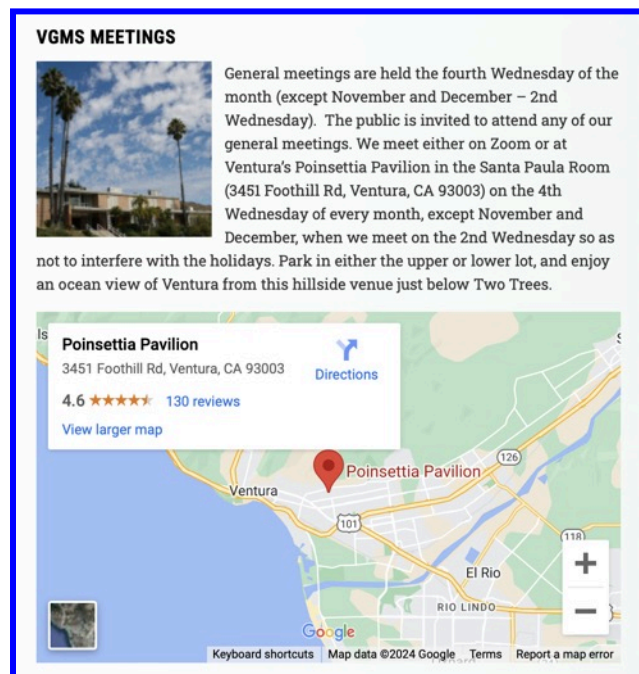
VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

MARCH 4 & 5, 2023
Saturday 10 - 5 • Sunday 10 - 4

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Jewelry • Silent Auction
Exhibits • Dealers • Kids' Activities • Demonstrations

73 18 comments 20 shares



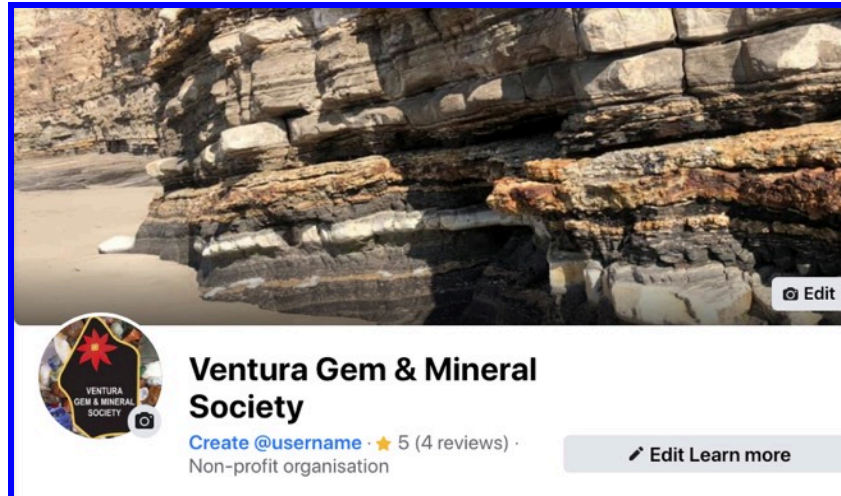
VGMS MEETINGS

General meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month (except November and December – 2nd Wednesday). The public is invited to attend any of our general meetings. We meet either on Zoom or at Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion in the Santa Paula Room (3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003) on the 4th Wednesday of every month, except November and December, when we meet on the 2nd Wednesday so as not to interfere with the holidays. Park in either the upper or lower lot, and enjoy an ocean view of Ventura from this hillside venue just below Two Trees.

Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003
4.6 ★★★★★ 130 reviews
View larger map

Ventura El Rio RIO LINDO

Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2024 Google Terms Report a map error



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Create @username · ★ 5 (4 reviews) · Non-profit organisation

Edit Learn more



CATEGORY ARCHIVES: WORKSHOP

Our workshop at the clubhouse is open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am to noon and for certified members, the first Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

Learn and Practice Lapidary in Our Workshop

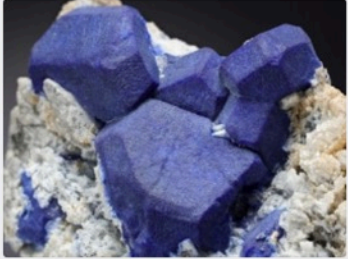
Pursue individual lapidary and jewelry-making projects under the supervision of our shop stewards. The workshop space is divided between two buildings. Our garage holds slab saws and trim saws for cutting rocks to size for lapidary work. And within the clubhouse, the kitchen and laundry rooms have been converted to hold grinding and polishing units to craft cabs. The shop also features a fossil-prep station for extracting small fossils from matrix. Members must be certified by a shop steward in order to use the equipment. A request for certification can be found in the Member Area of the website.

Other Social Media Sites Maintained by the Club

Our Pebble Pups Chairs maintain a private social networking page via the Band app. Youth members and their parents are able to share news, discuss hobby-related topics, and add photos. Leaders are able to post meeting and field trip notices, collect RSVPs, and communicate outside of our Pups classes. This has been a great addition to our Pups program.

BAND Search Bands, Pages, and Posts

Post Albums Events Attachments Members



VGMS Pebble Pups & Junior...

38 Members · [+ Invite](#)

Band Description

VGMS has an active club youth program. The Pebble Pup program is geared toward children aged 5-11. The Junior Rockhound program is geared toward children aged 12-17. Both groups' core programming is based on the AFMS Badge Program which includes 20 different topics for the children to learn about and earn badges towards the programs' completion. Classes are offered monthly at the clubhouse location in Ojai. We enjoy activities locally and virtually as well as field trips throughout the year.

Meeting notices posted in public places

We are including a sample of our **Club Flier (below)** that has meeting notices on the back panel. Club fliers are stocked in area libraries and various locations throughout Ventura County, including the Little Rock Libraries in Ojai and Ventura. We also stock them at the 'take-one table' of our Welcome Booth during our **Annual Show** which is held on the first weekend of March, and at both Gold Coast Gem Shows in Ventura. Finally, as noted on the page above, our meeting schedule is posted on the public-facing page of our Website.

Annual Gem Show
On the first full weekend of March, we hold a gem and mineral show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds with a full range of activities including showcase displays, demonstrations, kids' booth, dealers, raffles and silent auctions. Attendance is free!

Youth Programs
Our Pebble Pups and Junior Rockhound programs introduce youth to the fascinating world of rocks, fossils and geology. Activities are held on Saturday once a month at our Camp Comfort clubhouse in Ojai.

Field Trips
Members participate in field trips from the local beaches to the opal fields of Idaho, and in the deserts in between. We also hold field trips to regional museums.

Come & Join Us!
Day: 4th Wednesday of the month (except 2nd Wednesday in November & December)
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Poinsettia Pavilion
Santa Paula Room
3451 Foothill Road
Ventura, CA 93003

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
www.vgms.org
info@vgms.org
805-312-VGMS (8467)
Founded in 1944
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Field Trips
Gem Shows
Lapidary Arts
Collecting
Education
Youth Programs
Museum
Library

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts, including jewelry making. Our **monthly meetings** feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer **workshops, youth programs** and a **lapidary studio** for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a **museum and library** for educational use. We also sponsor an **annual gem & mineral show** for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community during which we award a **student scholarship** in the earth sciences.

If you love to make jewelry or love to collect gems, minerals, or fossils and/or display them at our annual gem, mineral, and fossil show, or if you need rocks identified or if you can identify rocks, or if you simply want to meet like-minded people, **come to our meetings** where you will make new friends and learn about this fascinating hobby. Membership applications are available at the meetings and on the website.

Monthly Meetings
Our monthly meetings are well attended with engaging speakers, raffles, refreshments and camaraderie. Join us at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month (2nd Wed. for Nov. and Dec.) at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. Guests always welcome!

Lapidary Workshop
Members learn the lapidary arts using our well-equipped workshop. Our training program teaches the proper use of the polishing machines to make a finished cabachon. Occasional separate workshops teach specific skills.

Club Museum
The **Ray Meisenheimer Memorial Museum**, located in our clubhouse, is home to the Bruno & Opal Benson Fossil Collection and our hands-on educational exhibits. Several exhibits and collections are geared to match California earth science curriculum standards for elementary and high school students as well as to help Boy and Girl Scouts earn badges related to geology. To arrange a field trip visit with your classroom or scouts, call (805) 312-VGMS (8467) or email info@VGMS.org.

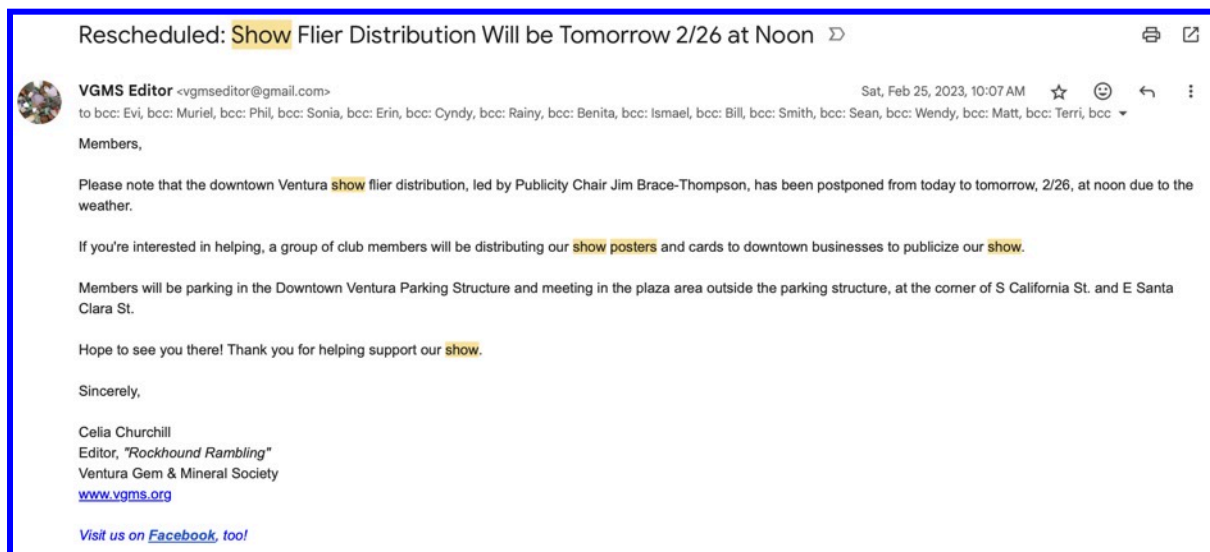
Library
The VGMS library, also housed in the Camp Comfort clubhouse, contains nearly 1000 books and archives of several mineral and lapidary magazines, available for checkout by VGMS members.

Show fliers posted in public places

Print materials advertising our 2023 show (posters and postcards) were distributed to members to help pass out throughout the Ventura County community starting at the end of 2022. The posters are suitable for posting to windows, doors, and bulletin boards. The postcards work well for countertops in local stores, literature bins at hotels, and places like our local Ventura Visitor's Center.

Where members took Show fliers:

- Members took stacks to all local clubs and events they attended, including those as far away as Quartzsite.
- Members shared cards and posters with dealers in person at the above events such as the Walblom's of Walblom's Tools and Cam of Cam's Crystal Gallery.
- Our Show Publicity Chair and Federation Director Jim Brace-Thompson took stacks to place on tables at the 2022 CFMS Directors Meetings.
- Posters and cards were distributed throughout local retail, community boards, and libraries in Ventura County and beyond.



- fliers and posters, along with a cover letter, were sent to several Geology, Earth Science, and Paleontology professors at colleges between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara (UCLA, UCSB, Santa Barbara City College, Ventura College, Oxnard College, Moorpark College, California Lutheran University, CSU-Channel Islands). We encourage professors to alert any college geology club and to encourage students to attend the show. Some, such as at Moorpark College,

■ Publications

Environment

Science and Policy for Sustainable Development.

www.tandfonline.com/venv

Lapis

Leading European, monthly mineral magazine & bookstore (over 500 titles online!)

www.lapis.de
lapis@lapis.de

Mineralogical Almanac

Mineral books and videos from Russia.

www.minbook.com
minbooks@online.ru

Mineral News

A monthly newsletter for mineral collectors dedicated to descriptive mineralogy and new specimen discoveries!

www.mineralnews.com
news@excaliburmineral.com

Rock & Gem Magazine

Index for current issue of Rock & Gem Magazine, showdate listings, links to resource Websites and more.

www.rockngem.com

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www.tandfonline.com/vwws

■ Shows

Cincinnati Geofair 2023

57th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. May 6-7, 2023.

www.geofair.com
tehuizing@fuse.net

Internet Directory Rates

Must reserve six issues and prepay

Annual Rates are \$245 for up to 20 words in all six issues

Coming Events

NOTICE TO CLUBS—Listing of all shows is a free service provided by ROCKS & MINERALS. Information on upcoming shows must be received at least four months before date of publication. Include date, place, sponsoring club, contact person, phone number, and email and/or website. Send all notices to advertisingmaterials@taylorandfrancis.com.

Many events advertised in *Rocks & Minerals* are being canceled due to COVID-19. Please use the contact information included in the Coming Events listings to ensure an event is taking place.

January 6-9—Mesa, AZ. Flagg Mineral Foundation's 50th Flagg Gem and Mineral Show, Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave. Info.—Dana Slaughter, 602/312-9791, or dsminals@aol.com.

February 11-12—Oak Harbor, WA. Whidbey Island Gem Club's 57th Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show, The Center in Oak Harbor, 51 Jerome St. Info.—Victoria Lovett, vick_o_rama@hotmail.com.

February 25-26 and March 4-5—Anchorage, AK. Chugach Gem and Mineral Society's Spring Rock and Gem Show, Midtown Mall, 600 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Info.—Paul Burger, cavemonpaul@hotmail.com.

February 25-26—Boise, ID. Idaho Gem Club's Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Expo Idaho, 5610 N. Glenwood St. Info.—Brent Stewart, 208/342-1151, or rocksbybrent@gmail.com.

March 3-5—Forest Grove, OR. Tualatin Valley Gem Club's 64th Annual Rock and Gem Show, Forest Grove National Guard Armory, 2950 Taylor Way. Info.—William Harvey Jr., WLHARVEYJR@msn.com, or www.tvgc.org.

March 4-5—Caldwell, ID. Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society's 69th Annual Rock and Gem Show, O'Conner Field House, 2207 Blaine St. Info.—

Paul Deveau, 208/994-8025, or devidaho@q.com, or www.OwyheeRocks.com.

March 4-5—Issaquah, WA. East KingCo Rock Club's Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave. NW. Info.—Kim Vilines, 425/828-3872, or earthlightgems@gmail.com, or www.EastKingCo.org.

March 4-5—San Francisco, CA. The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Cnty. Fair Bldg., 1199 9th Ave. Info.—Jerry Tomlinson, 415/383-7837, or jerry@crystalfair.com, or www.crystalfair.com.

March 4-5—Ventura, CA. Ventura Gem & Mineral Society's 60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Arts & Fossil Show, Ventura Cnty. Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Info.—Richard Slyker, 805/312-8467, or info@vgms.org, or www.vgms.org.

March 4-5—Wilmington, DE. Delaware Mineralogical Society's 59th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show, DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pk. Info.—Christine Verdi, IDMS.President@gmail.com, or www.DMSRocks.org.

March 10-11—Colville, WA. Panorama Gem and Mineral Club's Annual Rock Show, Northeast WA Fairground, 317 W. Astor Ave. Info.—Johnie Pitman, jgpitman@outlook.com.

March 10-11—Richboro, PA. Leidy Microscopic Society's 46th Leidy Micromount Symposium, Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd. Info.—Don McAlarnen, 610/247-5097, or donmcalarnen@outlook.com.

March 17-19—Albuquerque, NM. Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club's Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, Creative Arts Bldg., 300 San Pedro Dr. NE. Info.—Paul Hlava, 505/850-7524, or paulhlava@gmail.com, or www.agmc.info.

March 18-19—Missoula, MT. Hellgate Mineral Society's 28th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Lapidary Sale, Hilton Garden Inn, 3700 N. Reserve St. Info.—Neil Maier or Lora Hall, info@hellgatemineralsociety.org, or <http://hellgatemineralsociety.org>.

March 24-26—Spokane, WA. Rock Rollers Club of Spokane's 62nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Spokane Cnty. Fair & Expo Ctr., 404 N. Havana St. Info.—Steve Koon, silakoondioxide@yahoo.com, or www.rockrollers.org.

March 25-26—Ferndale, WA. Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club's 61st Annual Rock and Gem Show, Pioneer Pavillion, 2007 Cherry St. Info.—Wes Gannaway, debnwes@comcast.net, or www.mtbakerrockclub.org.

April 1-2—Sweet Home, OR. Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society's 73rd Annual Sweet Home and Mineral Show, Sweet Home High School Gym, 1641 Long St. Info.—Joe Cota, 541/451-2740, or Ed Anderson, 541/451-1577, or ela4rocks@gmail.com.

April 21-23—Yakima, WA. Yakima Rock and Mineral Club's Sparkling Parade of Gems 2023, Central WA State Fair Park, Modern Living Bldg., 1301 S. Fair Ave. Info.—Martí Sondgeroth, 509/910-3484, or marthams@q.com, or www.yakimarockclub.com.

April 29-30—Kennewick, WA. Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club's 26th Annual Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show, Benton Cnty. Fairgrounds, Bldg. 2, 1500 S. Oak St. Info.—Larry Hulstrom, 509/308-8312, or rockhound132@charter.net.

April 29-30—West Seattle, WA. West Seattle Rock Club's Annual Rock Show, Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Ave. SW. Info.—Annette Nelson, 206/379-3677, or www.westseattlerockclub.org.

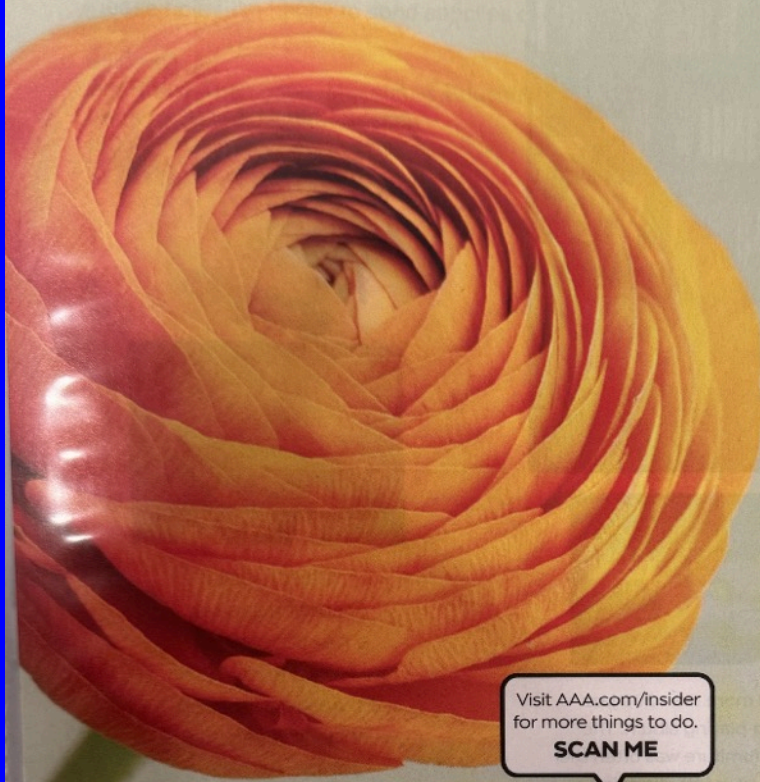
May 5-7—Kalamazoo, MI. Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society's 62th Rock, Gem, Fossil, and Mineral Show, Kalamazoo Cnty. Expo. Cntr., 2900 Lake St. Info.—stonehouserocks@cs.com, or www.KalamazooRockClub.org.

May 6-7—Cincinnati, OH. Cincinnati Mineral Society and Cincinnati Dry Dredgers' 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, Sharonville Convention Cntr., 11355 Chestnut Rd. Info.—Terry Huitzing, tehuizing@fuse.net, or www.geofair.com.

LIVE

5 Worth the Drive

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SCAN ME



[CARLSBAD]

The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch

MARCH 1–MAY 14 Fifty acres of vibrant color greet visitors at this working ranch dedicated to growing the extravagantly petaled Tecolote Giant Ranunculus (a.k.a. Persian Butter Cup). Follow trails through the approximately 80 million blooms or opt for a wagon tour (adults, \$8). The seasonal display is accompanied by activities such as a Sweet Pea Maze, blueberry picking, and tea in the garden.
Adult admission, \$23.

[SANTA ANA] **FREE**

International Festival of Chocolate

FEBRUARY 5 Indulge in a favorite treat while learning about the cultures that discovered and used the cacao bean. Lee Scott Theisen, known as the Chocolate Guru, explains all things chocolate and hosts a chocolate-tasting session. Activities include face painting, chocolate sampling from specialty providers (also available for purchase), and folk-dancing performances. Bowers Museum courtyard.

[VENTURA] **FREE**

Ventura Gem Show

MARCH 4–5 Are you fascinated by raw rocks and fossils, or do you prefer the smooth finish of polished stone? Either way, you can learn about these planetary treasures and hone your lapidary or jewelry-making skills through workshops, demonstrations, and meetups. Proceeds from sales fund earth science and jewelry arts scholarships, as well as resources for teachers. Ventura County Fairgrounds.

[COACHELLA VALLEY] **FREE**

“Desert X 2023”

MARCH 4–MAY 7 This site-specific exhibition continues its focus on social and environmental themes. This year’s theme considers water: how the memory of it has formed our deserts, and how the forces humans exert on the planet affect our environments, for better or worse. Visitors can view the works of participating sculptors, painters, architects, and others via the Desert X app, which includes details about the artists and their installations and a map to the locations.

[LOS ANGELES]

Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour

APRIL 15–16 Want to replace your water-hogging lawn but not sure where to start? Take a self-guided tour of some 30 to 40 public and private gardens heavy on native plants and other drought-friendly options. These gardens not only save water—and dollars—but also provide a welcoming habitat for wildlife. Tickets, \$45; includes an all-you-need-to-know guidebook.



Indicates free admission to event. Additional fees may be required.



Send information about upcoming events to westways@aaa-calif.com.



Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol.

mushroom workshops sold out so those interested are encouraged to act soon if they want to be able to participate in this very special event.

The cost for the workshop, including all materials, is \$145. Registration and more information can be found at HerbWalks.com or by calling 805-646-6281. This workshop will go on rain or shine with a change of morning venue in case of a heavy downpour.

In preparation for the upcoming H2O Show at the Ojai Art Center, 24 Pastel Society of the Gold Coast (PSGC) members have been busy creating works of art in various mediums - all in the name of environmental love.

Although this group of artists is generally known for creating beautiful pastel paintings - they are also extremely talented in various mediums and this particular show will showcase their broad range of talent.

Not only are these artists doing this in the name of art, but they want to build awareness as well, through their art, of our most precious resource: water. And in so doing, they will also be raising funds to support the tireless efforts of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLV).

The H2O Show opening will be held Saturday, March 4th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ojai Art Center. Everyone is invited to come meet the artists and bid on some beautiful pieces to support the environment as well as the arts! If you can't make the reception, H2O will be on display from March 4th through March 29th. The Ojai Art Center is located at 113 So. Montgomery Street in downtown Ojai.

The Ventura Gem Show "Diamond Jubilee"

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) is pleased to announce our "Diamond Jubilee" 60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show taking place March 4 & 5 (10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Saturday; 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Sunday) at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (10 W. Harbor Blvd, Ventura). The show is open to the public and admission is free, although the Fairgrounds charges a parking fee if using the Fairgrounds lot.

The Ventura Gem Show has been a fun family event for six decades with its

focus on kids and education, gemstone cutting and jewelry-making, and rocks and fossils. At the show, we'll announce the recipient of our \$1,000 Scholarship Award, given annually to a local college student. Upon entering the show, kids are given a free polished stone at our Welcome Booth, where we also will have free rock samples and educational packets for teachers. At the Kids Booth, children can enjoy activities offering an assortment of rocky prizes. A nearby display offers info about the society's two-room museum in Ojai, where teachers, home-schoolers, and other youth groups can arrange tours by appointment.

Here in California, there's gold in them thar hills (try Lake Piru!), and you can learn how to pan for it at the Show. At one booth, expert prospectors will guide you through basic steps of gold panning, and you can purchase "psy dirt" to pan for real gold nuggets and flakes at the show or in your own backyard. In addition, this free show will feature some 50 displays of gems, minerals, fossils, and award-winning handcrafted jewelry. These include educational exhibits of fossils collected locally in and around Ventura County, as well as a display of our State Rock, Mineral, Fossil, and Gemstone (including a gold nugget, an Ice Age saber-tooth cat, and "Auggie", the California State Dinosaur). Still other displays will show how stones collected locally have been crafted into jewelry. Demonstrations give visitors up-close looks at artists pursuing their crafts: gemstone cutting, silver work and jewelry making, beading, and other arts and crafts made from nature. Raffle prizes include fine jewelry, carved stones, a \$100 bill, mineral and fossil specimens, and more. In addition, enjoy hourly silent auctions for rocks, minerals, and fossils, as well as a "Country Store" white elephant sale, a plant sale, and 15 dealers selling beads, opals, jade, gemstones, crystals, fossils, jewelry and jewelry-making supplies, and gift items.

VGMS was founded in 1944 to encourage interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry-making, and related areas through education, activities, and exhibitions such as this annual show, which is open to the community.

The Ventura Gem Show is the society's major fund-raising event helping to underwrite educational activities, including the annual college scholarship and school visits and donations. For further details, call (805) 312-8467, email info@vgms.org, or visit our web site at www.vgms.org.

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., is a nonprofit educational organization.

The heavy rains that hit Ventura caused much damage including much damage to the 91-year-old Buenaventura Golf Course. The city-owned course was immediately closed after the storms and will be for at least two months.

At least 14 people were rescued from a homeless encampment in the riverbed of the Ventura River. Ventura firefighters used a ladder and rope system to reach the stranded people. One homeless woman died in the Santa Clara river.

The pier was damaged and work has started to repair the damage to the pier.

Pier photos by Yana Khyod.



VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

MARCH 4 & 5, 2023

Saturday 10 - 5 • Sunday 10 - 4

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Jewelry • Silent Auction Exhibits • Dealers • Kids' Activities • Demonstrations Raffle • Country Store • Plant Sale

FREE Admission Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Ventura CA 93001 Visit us at vgms.org

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	4	1	3	7	2	6	8	5
7	6	3	8	5	1	9	4	2
8	2	5	4	9	6	1	3	7
1	8	2	6	4	3	5	7	9
5	3	6	9	1	7	4	2	8
4	7	9	5	2	8	3	6	1
2	9	8	1	3	4	7	5	6
3	1	7	2	6	5	8	9	4
6	5	4	7	8	9	2	1	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	E	E	M	A	D	D	E	B	A	Y		
I	S	L	A	D	O	W	V	A	L	E		
B	A	B	Y	F	A	C	E	I	R	O	N	
S	U	F	D	F	S	H	A	F	T	S		
A	V	E	S	U	N	I						
R	U	B	Y	D	I	M	E	G	A	R		
I	S	A	T	A	S	E	R	H	A	I		
P	A	L	O	M	A	R	S	T	A	B		
L	M	N	L	E	S	T						
B	E	F	A	I	R	K	O	A	L	A		
F	T	O	N	B	R	A	I	N	F	O	G	
S	T	U	N	I	C	I	E	R	O	O		
T	A	K	A	S	A	M	S	C	H	E	N	G



The Ventura Gem Show "Diamond Jubilee"

- Sat at 10:00AM - 5:00PM / Sun at 10:00AM – 4:00PM
- [Ventura County Fairgrounds and Event Center](#)

10 West Harbor Boulevard
Ventura
93001

MORE DETAILS

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) is pleased to announce our "Diamond Jubilee" 60th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

The show is open to the public and admission is free, although the Fairgrounds charges a parking fee if using the Fairgrounds lot. The Ventura Gem Show has been a fun family event for six decades with its focus on kids and education, gemstone cutting and jewelry-making, and rocks and fossils. At the show, we'll announce the recipient of our \$1,000 Scholarship Award, given annually to a local college student. Upon entering the show, kids are given a free polished stone at our Welcome Booth, where we also will have free rock samples and educational packets for teachers. At the Kids Booth, children can enjoy activities offering an assortment of rocky prizes. A nearby display offers info about the society's two-room museum in Ojai, where teachers, home-schoolers, and other youth groups can arrange tours by appointment. Here in California, there's gold in them thar hills (try Lake Piru!), and you can learn how to pan for it at the Show. At one booth, expert prospectors will guide you through

Free or paid ads on TV/radio/web

Meeting notices: We have not put free or paid ads on TV or radio for our monthly meetings, because we've found from past experience that paid ads, are cost-prohibitive and that our requests to include such notices as public service announcements have not been fruitful from these outlets.

Show information: We do alert all area TV and radio stations with our show info, seeking free public-service announcements but not paid ads through traditional media. We have enjoyed success with these events and boosting posts through Facebook for a small fee of \$25 or less.



SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS, AND OTHER CLUBS

Members served in Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:

Regional Federation

Diane Cook served as CFMS Treasurer, All-American Committee Chair, and Internet Committee Chair

Celia Churchill served as Bulletin Aids Chair

Jim Brace-Thompson served as CFMS Rep to AFMS, Golden Bear Committee member, Junior Activities Chair, Long Range Planning Committee member (as Past President), and Rules Committee member

Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick served as Internet Committee member

Dick White served as Nominating Committee member

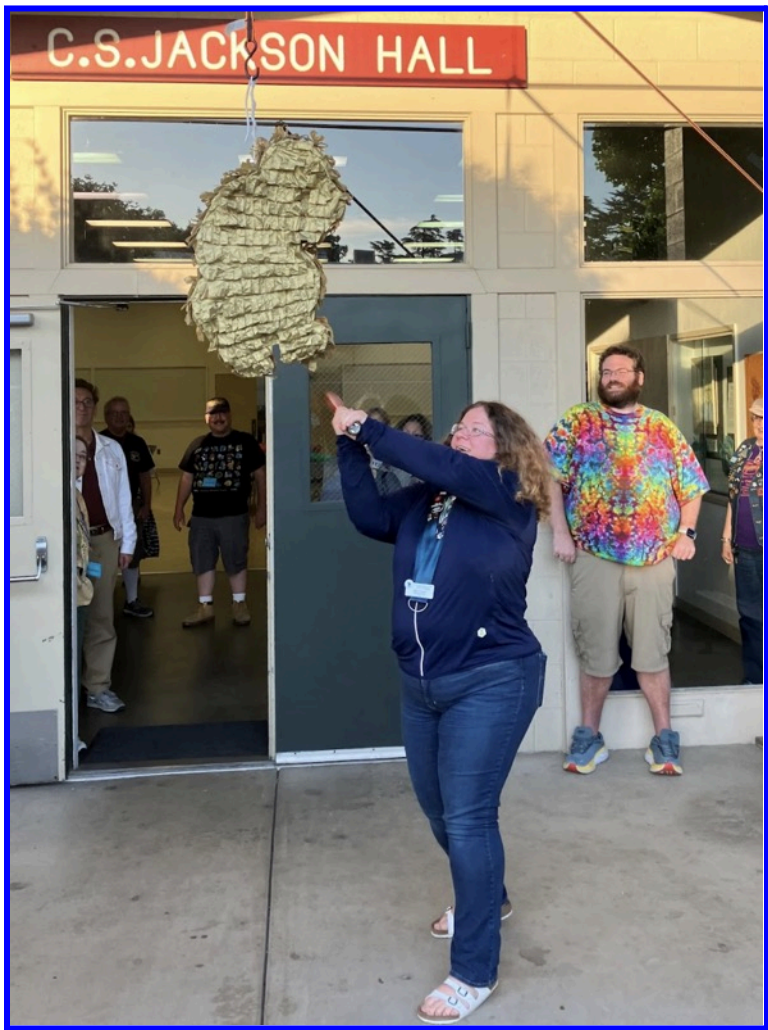
National Federation

Jim Brace-Thompson served as AFMS 5th Regional Vice President and Public/International Relations Chair

Members attended a Regional Federation Convention or Show

Eight VGMS members attended the 2023 CFMS Show & Convention in Lodi: Diane and John Cook, Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson, Dick and Phyllis White, Celia Churchill, and Robert Seaton.





Members attended an AFMS Convention and Show

Jim Brace-Thompson attended the 2023 AFMS Convention in Billing, Montana in person and submitted printed reports as AFMS 5th Vice President and as AFMS Public Relations Chair and also participated in the Uniform Rules Committee meeting and provided them with a PowerPoint program that he developed on Showmanship that will be posted to the AFMS website alongside the Uniform Rules Manual. Club members Terral and Michael Matsumoto, David Springer, and Ron Wise also attended (see page 99 for coverage in our newsletter).

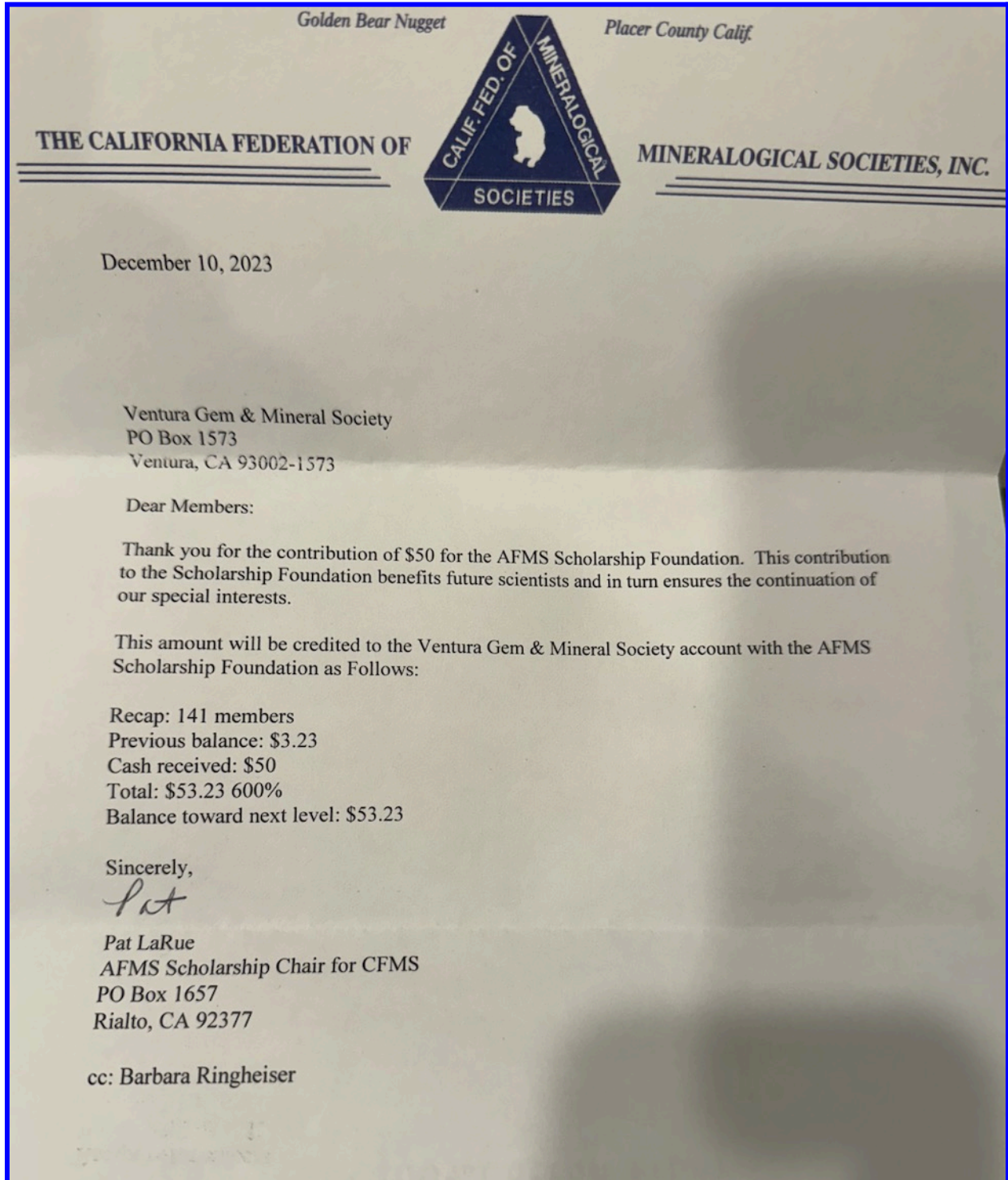
On Vacation



While in “Dinosaur Country” of Montana to attend the annual National Show & Convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), Jim Brace-Thompson brought the Breeze to keep up on news from home during the 18-hour drive. Next year, the AFMS Show comes to Ventura!

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds

AFMS Scholarship Fund



AFMS Endowment Fund

In August, 2023, VGMS member Jim Brace-Thompson began overseeing raffle ticket sales and securing donated specimens toward the 2024 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. In 2023, Jim donated a hand-crafted silver sand dollar pendant (estimated value: \$90) as a prize for the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle.

Volume 76, Number 5 -- June 2023 www.afmsd.org

2022-2023 Endowment Fund -- AFMS

Chair of the Endowment Fund

It is about time that I reach out to all of you about the Endowment Fund for this year! I am happy to report that several beautiful items have been donated. This year we are also having a live auction for a beautiful quilt and for an exquisite necklace with handmade pouch.

Endowment fund tickets are sold by your regional federation representative, listed below. To win one of the prizes you need to donate either \$5.00 for one ticket or \$20.00 for five tickets — the bargain price. Please consider spending the \$20.00 for a good cause.

What is the good cause? Donating to the Endowment Fund helps tremendously with this important Federation fundraiser. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, new programs — just to name a few.

One of the committees that reaps the rewards of your donations is the Juniors Program. Badges are no cost to any of the clubs with junior programs. AFMS provides this to the clubs, and it is a substantial number — free, because of the Endowment Fund.

Please reach out to your federation representative listed below. **Note:** the @ in emails has been replaced with the word "at." You will need to use the @ symbol and no spaces instead of what is printed in the chart. (keeping bots from picking these up and sending spam)

Federation	Representative Name	Address	Contact Information
California (CFMS)	Burl LaRue	PO Box 1657 Rialto, CA 92377-1657	bplarue at earthlink.net
Eastern (EFMLS)	Larry Huffman	PO Box 2444 Hickory, NC 28603	ldhuff1314 at embarqmail.com
Midwest (MWF)	J.C. & Donna Moore	25235 N. State Route 97 Cuba, IL 61427	jcmoores3rd at gmail.com mwfsecretary at gmail.com
Northwest (NFMS)	Judi Allison	1701 NW 11th St. Hermiston, OR 97838	judinsec at gmail.com
Rocky Mountain (RMFMS)	Richard Jaeger	3515 E. 88th St. Tulsa, OK 74137-2602	rjgrsci at aol.com
South Central (SCFMS)	Don Shurtz	4904 Dublin Rd. Allen, TX 75002	don.shurtz at gmail.com
Southeast (SFMS)	Dennis Buchanan	4138 Steve Reynolds Blvd. Norcross, GA 30093	president at southeastfed.org

The quilt and the necklace with hand pouch will be a live auction, but you still can be in it prior to the auction on Saturday night, August 5th, by contacting either your regional representative or me with your highest bid amount. Both items are handmade by AFMS Historian, Jennifer Haley (also NFMS 1st VP). **The minimum bid for either item is \$100.00.** I know I want to win one of them!

If you are interested, you can also donate an item. The specifications are:
 -minimum value of \$75.00
 -maximum weight of 5 pounds (to keep postage at a minimum, if necessary to ship)

Please consider donating an item or two — hobby-related!

And, check the AFMS website for updates! amfed.org

Some of the Items that have been Donated so far:

Item:	Donated by:	Value:
#1: Bear Canyon Agate, Bear Canyon, MT	Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2018-2019 AFMS President	\$95.00
#2: Amethyst (pics of front & back)	Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas (POGMC)	\$75.00
#3: Cherry Blossom Tree	Jeri Hear, SFMS Federation Secretary	\$175.00
#4: Moss Agate Pendant on handmade argentineum silver foxtail chain	Doris Keane, Keane Creations, MWF	\$100.00
#5: Hematite, La Paz Co., AZ	Larry Huffman, Southern Gems, Minerals & Fossils, EFMLS	\$100.00

continued on page 9

Page 8 AFMS Newsletter -- June 2023

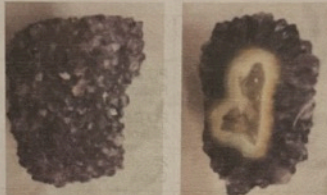
Endowment Fund
continued from page 8

Item:	Donated by:	Value:
#6: Pietersite, Namibia	Richard & Linda Jaeger, RMFMS	\$80.00
#7: Eudialyte, Kola Peninsula, Russia	Richard & Linda Jaeger, RMFMS	\$120.00
#8: Wire-wrapped Fordite with magic ball gold-plated sterling silver chain	Harry Polly, Polly Rocks! EFMLS	\$200.00
#9: Silver Sand Dollar	Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations, CFMS	\$90.00
Live Auction Item A: 19" Aquamarine & Morganite necklace (15mm x 6mm beads), sterling silver adjustable clasp, Rhodochrosite fabric padded pouch purse	Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian, CFMS	Minimum Bid is \$100.00
Live Auction Item B: Rockhound Lap Quilt, 37" x 53", 100% cotton, wash & dry	Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian, CFMS	Minimum Bid is \$100.00

#1: Bear Canyon Agate



#2: Amethyst, front & back



#3: Cherry Blossom Tree



#4: Moss Agate Pendant



#5: Hematite



#6: Pietersite



#7: Eudialyte



#8: Wire-wrapped Fordite



#9: Silver Sand Dollar



Live Auction Item A: Aquamarine & Morganite Necklace

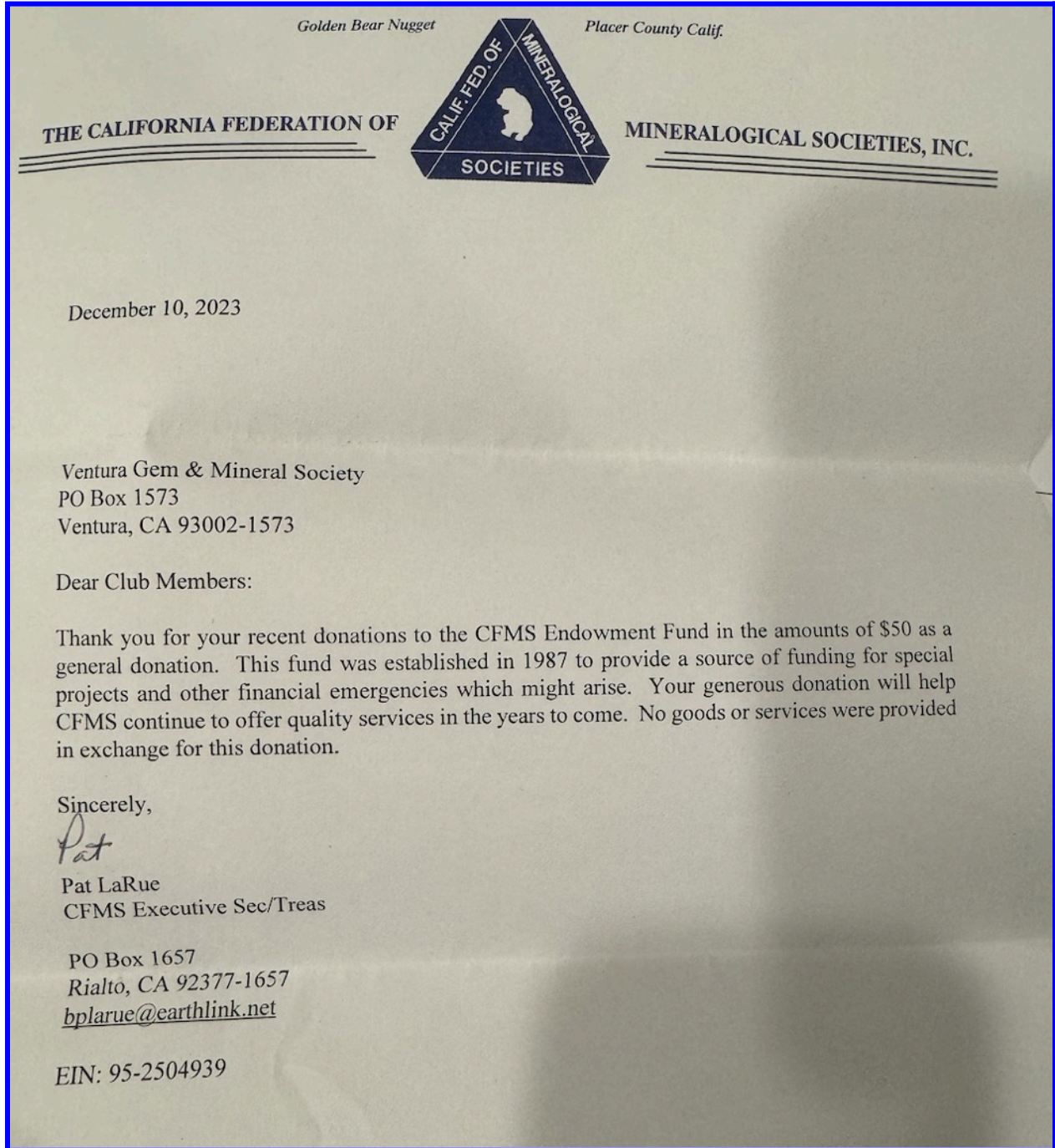


Live Auction Item B: Rockhound Lap Quilt



Other support for regional federations?

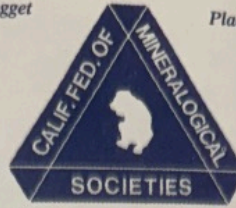
Our club makes contributions to the CFMS Endowment Fund in memory of members who have passed away. This was a \$50 donation. Our club also donated to the CFMS Scholarship Fund.



Golden Bear Nugget

Placer County Calif.

THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF



MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

December 10, 2023

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 1573
Ventura, CA 93002-1573

Dear Club Members:

Thank you for your donation to the CFMS Scholarship in the amount of \$50. This fund was established in the early 1960s with the goal of providing scholarships to undergraduates in their junior or senior years who are majoring in the earth sciences. It was later expanded to include those students with a major in the lapidary and/or jewelry arts. Your generous donation will help grow the income used to provide these awards.

There were no goods or services received in exchange for this donation.

Sincerely,

Pat LaRue
CFMS Executive Sec/Treas

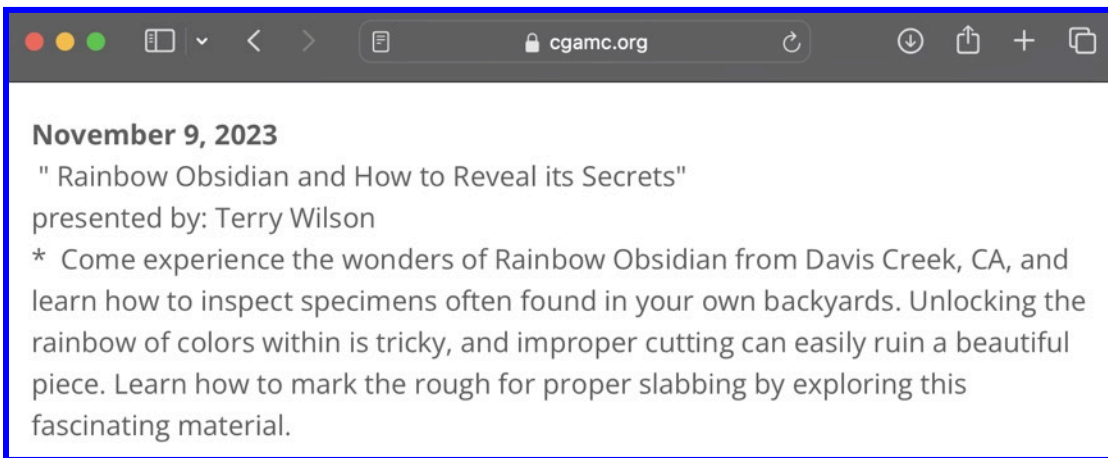
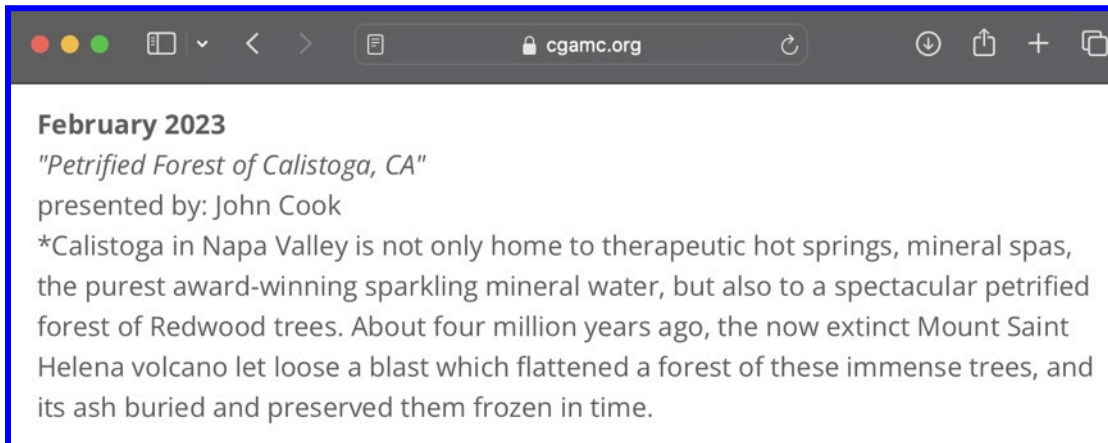
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657
bpelarue@earthlink.net

EIN: 95-2504939

Finally, Diane Cook served on the 2023 CFMS Show Committee as Raffle Chair and Building Layout. She hosted all the show meetings, took notes, and supervised set-up of the show and publicity. Jim Brace-Thompson served as Kids Booth Chair for the 2023 CFMS Show & Convention and donated all grab bags, spinning wheel prizes, paint-a-fossil plaster casts, and other materials out of his own rock pile and out of his own pocket. Jim also donated rocks and minerals for silent auctions benefiting the CFMS Endowment Fund at both the CFMS Show and at the Fall Directors Meeting.

Members gave programs for other clubs

VGMS members John Cook and Terry Wilson presented talks at Conejo Gem & Mineral Club in 2023. Here are notices from CGMC's website:



Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc:

VGMS Members attended Long Beach, Pasadena, Orcutt Mineral Society, and Quartzsite, to name a few. Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson are also members of the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society in Monterey, and participated in their September 2023 show with exhibits, help in set-up and tear-down, and by organizing and running their Silent Auction fundraiser. Several VGMS members exhibited at the Conejo Show (example below) and Diane Cook was their Show Chair.



Members held joint field trips with other clubs

As noted above in the Supplemental Information for Section 2, all of our club field trips are run as joint Tri-Clubs field trips with the Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society and the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club. We also regularly see participation in our field trips from members of other central coast and Southern California rock clubs, e.g. Orcuttters, St. Lucia, Pasadena Lapidary Society, Woodland Hills Rockchippers.

Members displayed/demonstrated at other shows

Many VGMS members displayed at the Conejo club show. Dick White and Pebble Pup Rylee demonstrated soft stone carving, Phyllis White demoed wire wrapping (pictured below), and David Mautz demonstrated fossil cleaning also at the Conejo show. Nancy and Jim Brace-Thompson displayed at the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society and Jim entered an exhibit into the combined AFMS-Northwest Federation-Billings Gem & Mineral Club show.



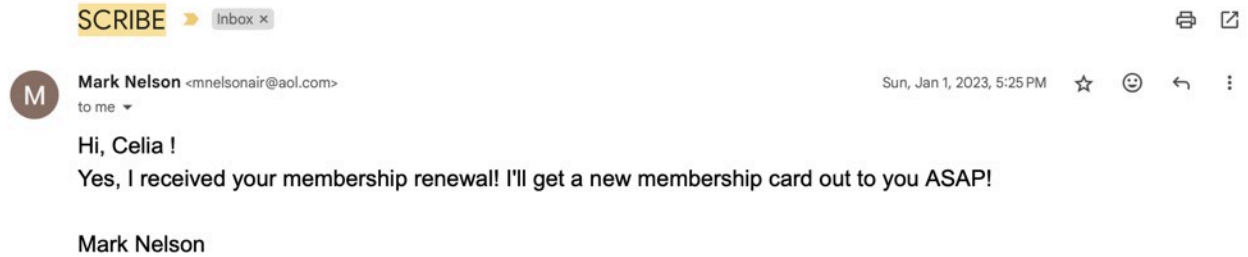
Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs

We actively participate in bulletin exchanges with **71 clubs in the CFMS, other regional federations, and even overseas as far and wide as Scotland and Australia.** These include:

Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club, Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society, Alberta Paleontological Society, Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club, Belleview Rock Club, Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club, Blue Grass Gem & Mineral Club, Boston Mineral Club, Burlington Gem & Mineral Club, Calaveras Gem & Mineral, Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Cascade Mineralogical Society, Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geological, Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Club, Cincinnati Mineral Society, Clackamette Mineral & Gem, Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Del Air Rockhounds, Delaware Valley Earth Science Society, Everett Rock & Gem Club, Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Franklin Gem & Mineral Society, Geelong Gem & Mineral Club, Georgia Mineral Society, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Idaho Gem Club, Kawartha Rock & Fossil Club, Keene Mineral Club, Kern County Mineral, Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society, Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Minnesota Mineral Club, Mother Lode Mineral Society, Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club, New York Mineral, No. Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society, Northern Seattle Lapidary & Mineral Club, No. Shore Rock & Mineral Club, Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society, Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, Orcutt Mineral Society, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Lapidary Society, Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral, Reno Gem & Mineral Society, Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, San Diego Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Scottish Mineral & Lapidary Club, Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society, Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society, Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club, Southern Maryland Gem & Mineral Club, Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club, Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club, Tooele Gem & Mineral Society, Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society, Waco Gem & Mineral Club, Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society, Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Worcester Mineral Club

Bonus: Bulletin Editor is a Member of SCRIBE

Celia Churchill is enrolled as a member of **SCRIBE** and participates in the SCRIBE Facebook group.



Bonus: Members performed as judges for Bulletin Editor’s contest, Competitive displays, or Website competitions?

In 2023 Jim Brace-Thompson judged junior article at the AFMS level. Jim Brace-Thompson and John Cook judged exhibits at the Kern County Fair (pictured below) and John and Diane Cook judged at the Antelope Valley Fair. John Cook judged at the Ventura County Fair. Nancy Brace-Thompson served as a judge for the CFMS Junior Achievement Award competition.





SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools:

In 2023 we gave quite a few talks and demonstrations at schools and at science nights. Our Educational Outreach Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, attended all events except 4/21. Many other members, including Pebble Pups, volunteered to help on various days. Articles describing all of our Educational Outreach events may be found in our monthly newsletter, Rockhound Rambling. Here is a list:

- 1/26 Flory Elementary School STEM Science Night hands-on activities (pictured below).
- 4/16 Ventura Charter School Eco Fest with hands-on dinosaur activities.
- 4/19 Pierpont Elementary School assembly on many aspects of rockhounding
- 4/21 Dos Caminos Elementary School Science Night with hands-on activities
- 4/27 Fillmore Science Night with hands-on activities
- 4/28 Walnut Canyon Science Night with hands-on activities.
- 5/19 Blue Room Preschool field trip visit to VGMS Museum rooms.
- 5/31 Elmhurst Elementary classroom presentation on varied aspects of rockhounding.
- 7/18 Gems, Minerals, Fossils activities for the entire Ocean View School District summer school program at Tierra Vista Elementary School.



Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups:

Celia Churchill is a Girl Scout Troop leader and held a meeting about the AFMS Code of Ethics, whose outdoor-related principles relate directly to scouting. Jim Brace-Thompson gave talks/activities for 4H (2/14, on local fossils & rocks) and YMCA (8/11, a whole group of VGMS members helped with Summer Camp Fossil Day with hands-on activities), pictured below.



Members maintained displays at local public sites:

Members of our club maintain Little Rock Libraries in Ojai (1), Ventura (2), Simi Valley (1), and Carpinteria (1). These displays promote rockhounding and the club, and several have boxes for club fliers and show postcards. There is a treasure chest of tumbled stone available for children at a local jewelry store. We also provide a service to Ventura County by maintaining county buildings, our clubhouse, which houses the museum and workshop. which has mineral and fossil displays open to schools, youth groups, and others by advance arrangement. We installed a group display covering all aspects of the hobby in the E.P. Foster Library in downtown Ventura for the first few months of the year.





Members maintained a booth or an activity at a local event:

Terry Wilson (pictured) and Kathryn Davis had booth spaces at the Gold Coast shows, where VGMS also had a booth with activities & sales.



Members donated materials to school, college, scouts, etc:

Jim Brace-Thompson ran a Teacher Station at our annual show, where he donated 350 free rock, mineral, and fossils specimens to teachers, as well as 70 teacher resources packets filled with earth science educational materials; at the same station he gave out 211 free Scavenger Hunt prizes for kids. Also, during some of the educational events listed above at local schools, teachers were given free large specimens for classroom use (these events included the 4/19 Pierpont assembly & the 5/19 Blue Room museum visit, described above). Materials were also donated for the 2/14 4H talk and 8/11 YMCA Summer Camp.



Members active in local affairs:

Many of our members are involved in community organizations and events.

- **Diane Cook** is active with the Ventura County Fair. She is the superintendent of the Gem and Mineral building. She is in charge of set-up, take down, staff, and hires all judges and recruits exhibitors for the 2-week event.



- **Richard Slyker** is involved with local parades. Richard Slyker serves as President of his local Ventura County Model A Ford Club and, when not driving his Model A in local parades, he may be found putting around local greens as a member of the Olivias Senior Golf Club.



- **Terry Wilson** serves as Web Services Chair for the Ventura County Potters' Guild. Terry also serves as Director II – Education for the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society.



Plant Sale

September 4, 2021 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

- **Troy Schmidt** is self-taught in the art of miniature pottery, having learned through practice and experimentation. He began creating wheel-thrown pottery on a one-inch scale in 1993 (after he had already learned to make full-size pottery). Today he continues to create high-quality replicas of historic ceramics as well as modern art for discerning collectors in diminutive yet delightful sizes. Troy is also featured at the Yes Store in Santa Barbara. The Yes Store - Santa Barbara's original artists' pop-up gift gallery has become a Santa Barbara tradition. It offers one-stop shopping for arts, crafts, custom fine jewelry, fused & blown glass,

graphics & photography, ceramics & woodworking, clothing, leather & so much more at the co-op shop like no other.



- **Lucia Hetrick** worked alongside her mom, **Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick**, with homeless shelter meal programs in Ojai, California. She helps to make meals and package them for the homeless shelter. She enjoys decorating the lunch bags, filling the bags with supplies like a comb or ChapStick, along with the meals for dinner, breakfast, and a snack for the next day. When a hot dinner meal is made, she helps to fill the trays with hot food and package them for delivery to the shelter.



- We have two members who are leaders of Ventura Girl Scout troops, and three Pups who are Girl Scouts: **Celia Churchill and Valerie C.** from Troop #65017, **Susan Lopez and Skyla Z.** from Troop #65030, and Girl Scout **Elizabeth S.** Celia and Susan are also members of the Service Unit Action Team for the Ventura/Ojai Area.



Bonus: Activities or engagement above and beyond points listed above:

VGMS holds an annual **Scholarship** competition. The rules are made available on our website for all to apply. The scholarship is a \$1,000 award to a graduating high school senior, college student, or graduate student who intends to pursue, or is pursuing, a degree in Earth Sciences, or a related field directly relevant to the mission of VGMS (e.g., science education, gemology, and lapidary arts, etc.). The scholarship winner also receives a 1-year honorary membership to VGMS. Our 2023 Scholarship awardee was Logan Cattanach.



Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Winner!



VGMS President John Cook and Scholarship Chair Shirley Layton presented Logan's award at the March board meeting.

We would also like to highlight the exceptional accomplishments of two of our members. First, **Jim Brace-Thompson** is a regular contributor to *Rock and Gem Magazine*, sharing the love of our hobby with a national audience.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Published by Diane Jolliff Cook · 26 December 2023 · 🌐

Our own Jim James Brace-Thompson wrote this. A great article

Rock & Gem magazine
26 December 2023 · 🌐

Do you know how to properly store your rock collection? Do you know how much it's worth? How to insure against theft or damage? Here's your guide to collection storage.

ROCKNGEM.COM
How to Store a Rock Collection Properly | Rock & Gem Magazine
Wondering how to store a rock collection? What's your collection worth or how you can...

Second, **Diane Cook** hosted two Gold Coast Gem Shows here in Ventura in 2023. She brings all the hobby-related opportunities a show provides: shopping, demonstrating, club publicity, education, and more, to our local community. All three of the Ventura County Tri-Clubs, Ventura, Oxnard, and Conejo, were invited and participated.



THE
Gold Coast
GEM SHOW

Morganite, Afghanistan

VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY • NOV. 4-5
SAT - 10am to 5pm • SUN - 10am to 4pm

Free Admission
Gems • Minerals • Fossils • Beads • Jewelry
Lapidary Supplies • Demonstrations
GoldCoastGemShow.com



SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY & LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

Members served on governmental agency committees:

We have no members we're aware of who served on governmental committees in 2023.

Members commented on government agency proposals, etc:

Jim Brace-Thompson contacted the Bureau of Land Management on the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument and he wrote an article on this for our newsletter to inform other members and tell them how they might take action, which he reiterated at a club meeting.

Federation News

Mojave Trails National Monument Working Group Seeks Input on Collecting Localities

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director



It's been in the works for something like a decade now: turning a broad swath of the old Route 66 corridor into the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). What was once administered by BLM, with more-or-less free access for rock collecting, will soon be administered by the National Parks Service.

With that could come elimination of rockhounding in such classic localities as the Cady Mountains, Marble Mountains, Bristol Mountains, and many, many more sites across an enormous region.

Rockhounding groups (including the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, ALAA, and local California clubs) have been involved from the beginning to seek to preserve access to and collecting within rock, mineral, and fossil sites that go back to the early years of the 1900s. They've been on varied government committees, attended public input sessions, and have provided information on prized collecting localities and their access roads throughout the MTNM planning stages.

Now is when the pedal hits the metal. Rules and regulations and final implementation for formal establishment of the Mojave Trails National Monument could be just months away. Will Rockhounds retain collecting privileges within certain designated areas? Will the roads to those areas be kept open and maintained? If you are interested in learning more about all this and providing your voice and input, the designated contact person for the rockhounding community is Gregor Losson, eclosson@yahoo.com, (310) 227-5647. Gregor also encourages folks to contact the official MTNM manager, Noelle Glines Bovio at nglinesbovio@blm.gov. From what I gather, if interested, you should contact them sooner rather than later!



Are our days of collecting at the Cady Mountains numbered?



Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access and collecting sites:

We have no record of individual members contacting elected representatives in 2023.

Members supported access/collecting lobbying organizations like ALAA:

Our CFMS Federation Director, Jim Brace-Thompson, is a member of ALAA and, within the pages of our newsletter and at club meetings, he informs members of pending legislation and how they can provide their opinions pro or con as they determine best.

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION
NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION
Must be postmarked by December 31st of each year

Member / Contact Name: Last Brace-Thompson First Jim
Member / Contact Name: Last Brace-Thompson First Nancy
Club affiliations: Ventura Gem & Mineral Society & Carmel Valley G & M S
Organization Name: Ventura State CA Zip Code 93003
Address: 7319 Eisenhower Street City Ventura State CA Zip Code 93003
Mailing Address: same
Phone Number: (805) 659-3572
Email Address: jbrace@roadrunner.com
Member Signature: [Signature] Date: August 27, 2023
Dues are: New Member: Donation:
 \$22 for an individual or couple Renewal: Amount Enclosed: \$ 25.00
 \$50 for a Club or Society
Leave a note for us: [Blank]
Please check an option to subscribe to our Email or Snail Mail list.
Please make checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)
Please mail this completed form along with your check to the following address:
American Lands Access Association
C/O Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 54398
San Jose, CA 95154
For more information or questions, please email: membership@amlands.org
ALAA is a 501(c)(4) Educational, non-profit organization. Our organization is present wherever there are hobbyists and recreational users of public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level.
ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

Bonus: Club is member of ALAA

No, we maintain that it is not appropriate for the club to take up a political stance, however we keep members informed of all actions that are available to them and encourage them to be involved and have their voice heard by voting or petitioning for a cause important to them.

APPENDIX – CLUB NEWSLETTER ISSUE

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society presents:

Rockhound Rambling

The Official Bulletin of the VGMS

Volume 69 Issue 9

September 2023

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Congrats, AFMS Winners!

VGMS members performed especially well in the national AFMS Bulletin Contest. Awardees from within our ranks were as follows. Thank you to Jim Brace-Thompson for bringing most of these awards home to California. Let's hear a round of applause for the Bulletin Contest winners:

Bulletin, Large

Celia Churchill, 1st place. *Rockhound Rambling*

Article, Adult Advanced

Steve Mulqueen, 3rd place. "Ichthyosaur Fossils of Nevada"

David Springer, 10th place. "Quartzsite Scouting Report"

Jim Brace-Thompson, Honorable Mention. "VGMS Rocked the Federation Show"

Article, Junior Ages 12-17

Lucia H., 3rd place. "Benitoite Mining to the VC Fair"

Beatrice B., 4th place. "My Visit to the UCLA Meteorite Collection"

Article, Junior Under 12

Valerie C., 1st place. "The Rocks from the Movies"

Rylee J., 4th place. "My Colorful Agate"

Henry and Beecher I., 6th place. "Visit to Red Rock Canyon State Park"

Features

Troy Schmidt, Honorable Mention. "Highlights From the Museum: Bisbee, AZ Calcite"



Our Tri-Clubs Members and friends had a great time at the AFMS Show in Billings, Montana

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Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS)

P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA 93002

Purpose of the VGMS:

In a welcoming club environment, VGMS encourages interest in the earth sciences, mineral and fossil collecting, field trips, and the lapidary arts, including jewelry making. Our monthly meetings feature interesting lectures by amateurs and experts. Via facilities in our clubhouse, we offer workshops and opportunities for crafting polished stones, in addition to maintaining a museum and library for educational use. We also sponsor an annual show for members to share their collections and jewelry with the community, during which we award a student scholarship in the Earth sciences.

Club Essentials

Contact

Email: info@vgms.org Website: www.vgms.org

Annual Membership Dues

First adult member in a household: \$20

Subsequent adult member(s) and children ages 6-18: \$10 each

Children ages 5 and under: no dues with adult member

Print subscription to *Rockhound Rambling*: \$35

Regular Meeting

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. via Zoom or at The Poinsettia Pavilion
Santa Paula Room, [3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, CA 93003](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3451+Foothill+Rd.,+Ventura,+CA+93003)

January through October: 4th Wednesday of the month

November and December: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Anyone may attend and is welcome. The December meeting is normally a holiday party.

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. via Zoom or at The Poinsettia Pavilion

Santa Paula Room, [3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, CA 93003](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3451+Foothill+Rd.,+Ventura,+CA+93003)

First Thursday of the month

Field Trips

Announced monthly in the bulletin and the regular meeting.

Annual Show

The Club's Annual Gem Show is held the first full weekend in March at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Workshop/Museum

[11969 N. Creek Road, Ojai, CA 93023](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11969+N.+Creek+Road,+Ojai,+CA+93023)

Open Workshop Day: 3rd Saturday of the month

Certified Members' Workshop: 1st Sunday of the month

Federation Affiliation

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)

VGMS Club Colors

Blue and gold

Permission to reprint

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Photo of the month credit

Photo provided by David Springer.

2023 Elected Officers

President	John Cook
1st VP, Programs	Terry Wilson
2nd VP, Field Trips	David Springer
3rd VP, Show Chair	Diane Cook
Treasurer	Lauren Wideman
Recording Secretary	Nancy Brace-Thompson
Membership Secretary	Erin Valenzuela
Federation Director	Jim Brace-Thompson
Bulletin Editor	Celia Churchill
Parliamentarian	Shirley Layton
Web Director	Troy Schmidt

2023 Committee Chairs

Ways and Means	Adrian Ruiz and Jenifer Russell
Museum	Jim Brace-Thompson and Troy Schmidt
Library	Heather Seaton
Historian/Archivist	Jim Brace-Thompson
Host/Hostess	Susan Slyker
Pebble Pup Chairs	Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick and Erin Valenzuela
Club Custodian	Jake Bailey
Club Stewards	Ron Wise, David Springer, Tyrone LaFay, and John Cook

LETTERS

President's Message

John Cook



It is September already and temperatures are still hot outside! Summer is gradually winding down and the weather should cool down soon. After the fair we are getting more people joining the club. With more club members showing up at workshops, we will be doing more certifications. More members are using the workshop facilities, including late afternoon workshops on the second Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. However, September is the

last month we will be offering the second Wednesday workshop. We are requiring sign-ups for the Workshops. Please go to members areas of our web site and sign up for the workshop, field trip or get-togethers.

It is time to begin nominations for next year 2024 board members and elected officers. It is time to form the nominating committee and we need your help! Consider volunteering for this committee (we need three more non-board members by the night of our meeting). The committee will help in selecting club members for the vacant positions. Please consider volunteering to help our club continue to grow. If you want to help, contact me.

We are planning to have our "Rocktoberfest" breakfast, October 21st at the clubhouse. We will need help setting up the clubhouse, organizing the activities, cooking the breakfast (propane camp stoves are needed). Please sign up to bring food for the feast. Our activities will include having a great breakfast, a silent auction, club member tailgate selling and auctioning off some equipment items for sale to club members. Look for an email with the details.

It is also time to dominate the "Rockhound of the Year" for VGMS. The form will be in this bulletin – if you know of someone who has gone above and beyond to help our club, please nominate them by completing the form and sending it in ASAP.

If you are attending our workshops, please consider signing up to help clean, and keep our clubhouse neat. I want to give a big THANK YOU to all who helped with the 2023 Ventura County Fair, you all made the difference to help make the fair a great success. With over 200 members, we really need more members to offer to help so we can continue to offer workshops, events, classes, etc.

I am always available to answer questions and to listen to any new ideas or opinions by E-mail: cookjohnr@sbcglobal.net or phone: 805-320-5611.

Rock on,
John

Editor's Note

Celia Churchill



September is here and thus, only a few issues of this volume of *Rockhound Rambling* remain for this year. I would like to thank everyone who has submitted entries to the bulletin this year, especially everyone who submitted something for the first time (or the first time in a few years). The more members who contribute to the bulletin, the better!

Speaking of sharing our hobby with others, as temperatures cool many of us will be getting back out into the field to collect specimens. We would love to read about your adventures, even if it's just a photo with a caption. Some of our club members are just getting into rockhounding, and others are experts. Let's keep the flow of information going so we can promote our hobby and encourage everyone to be active! Happy hunting, everyone.

As always, if you have any articles, photos, or comments about the bulletin, please E-mail me at vgmseditor@gmail.com.

NEWS

Program Review and Schedule

Terry Wilson, 1st VP – Programs

Program Review - Condor Agates

Last month Luis De Los Santos regaled us with his adventures collecting agates in Argentina. Members greatly enjoyed his descriptions of the land, people, and especially the rocks he came across during his time there. Luis shared beautiful pictures of condor and puma agates, as well as a wide variety of fossil cycads and pine cones.

This Month - Prospecting for California Emeralds

Richard Edley and his son Bruce have been prospecting and mining gemstones for twenty years. They own two federal mining claims in Barstow, California. The Beautiful Paige mine produces turquoise and azure malachite. They also discovered a deposit of emeralds in the Julian mining District in Southern California. Articles about this discovery were printed in the Gems and Gemology Journal published by the Gemological Institute of America, Winter 2020 issue. Another article was published in the Gold Prospectors Magazine, May/June 2022 issue.

Richard's presentation will explore searching for and discovering emeralds in Southern California. Topics that will be discussed will be filing claims, mining gemstones and jewelry

making. He will gladly answer any questions during and after the presentation.



Speaker Luis De Los Santos regaled us with adventures in collecting fossil pine cones and agates in remote regions of Argentina.

Heartfelt Thanks to the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society Dream Team!

Diane Cook, 3rd VP, Show Chair

I wanted to take a moment to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your incredible efforts in making the fair's opening a resounding success. It's truly remarkable how, thanks to your dedication, we managed to get everything done on time and ensure the event's smooth operation.

Your hard work did not go unnoticed, and I'm immensely grateful for your contributions. I understand that it was a lot of work, and I want you all to know just how much your support means to me and the entire society. A special I owe you goes out to my dedicated staff, who went above and beyond: **John Cook, Nancy Brace-Thompson, Celia Churchill, Erin Valenzuela, and Shirley Layton.**

To those who played crucial roles in set-up, take-down, and floor walking, you are the unsung heroes of our society: **Ron Wise, Adrian Ruiz, Jim Brace-Thompson, Robert Seaton, Richard Slyker, Jake Bailey, Rich Pisor, David Springer, Sheri Hultmon, Lonnie Sutton, Debbie Sander, Hadie Tobar, Terry Wilson, Troy Schmidt, Jen Russell, Leslie Cox, Julie Cox, Art Lopez, Susan Lopez, Stuart Bloom,**

and Jeff Miller.

Our demonstrators played a pivotal role in showcasing our society's expertise: **Phyllis White** (Wire Wrapping), **Dick White** (Carving), **David Mautz** (Fossil Cleaning), and Ron Wise, John Cook, Robert Seaton, and Terry Wilson for your outstanding lapidary work on the Genie.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our wonderful Pebble Pups who lent a helping hand: **Valerie C., Lucia H., and Rylee J.**

And finally, I'd like to extend my gratitude to those who aren't even rockhounds but still stepped up: **John Wingate** (who joined us with our speaker!), **Pattie Tanzman, and Cortney Simpson** (friends of Club Members).

Your collective efforts and support made a significant impact on the success of our society and the fair. I couldn't be prouder of our team.

Thank you all once again for your unwavering dedication and commitment. You are the backbone of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, and I look forward to more successes in the future.

Field Trips

Visit to the Ralph Bishop Museum in Santa Maria, Plus Bonus

David Springer, 2nd VP – Field Trips

On Saturday, October 8th, starting at 11 a.m. we will be meeting up in Santa Maria, CA to visit the museum of Ralph Bishop, a longtime Orcutt Club member and local rockhound legend. His museum is a large garage on his property off Cook Street in Santa Maria. The trip will be limited to a total of 16 persons, since Ralph personally escorts groups of four to make their way through the rows of rockhound fantasy. Sign ups and information are on <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/> in addition to pertinent details, addresses, etc.

You will be treated to a comprehensive collection of local treasures, many perhaps known to you but also I promise some will be unknown to you as well. Ralph has been an avid rockhound since being a young child, and has spent a great deal of his life actively prospecting and finding new mineral sources. He is also a raconteur who can regale you with a wide variety of crazy but true stories over his career of hounding. Some classics on display will include drool worthy specimens of Biggs and Bruneau Jasper, Nipomo Sagenite and Beanfield agates, Deedeite, Biconoids, Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper, Dryhead Agates (he used to own this mine himself!), some rare Laguna Agates, nice Monterey Formation fish fossils, some beautiful

petrified wood specimens including cycads, Boron Wood, etc. He has an entire wall of little polished slab collections showing the varieties within each different types of classic material displayed. And there is a lot more I have not listed. And like the Smithsonian, most of his collection resides in boxes that are not on display! Ralph has also shared some portions of his collections with other museums, notably, I observed two of his larger spheres (about 10-inch diameter) on display in the Crater Rock museum in southern Oregon, one made from a ginormous Dryhead agate, and the other a Wrightwood Rhodonite sphere.

After all participants have had their guided tour through Ralph's museum, it is off to the home of Wes Lingerfelt in Nipomo, (about 15 minutes north of Santa Maria). Wes is an early sphere making phenom and rockhound legend unto himself, who started collecting in earnest about 30 years ago. He has a yard full of equipment, rough rock, and a shop full of polished and rough specimens, spheres, jewelry, knick knacks, etc. Rough rock prices are generally \$0.25/pound!

Again, sign-ups are on <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/>. If there is robust interest in this trip, we can create a second day to enable more folks to participate.

VGMS Show

Third Call For Grab Bag Specimens and First Call for Raffle Donations

Jim Brace-Thompson and David Springer

Grab Bag Specimens As I've been noting, in 2024 we will sponsor not only our traditional club show in March but also the national CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention just two months later in May. With more-or-less back-to-back shows on the docket, we are in dire need of supplies to support the Kids' Booth, especially specimens small enough to serve as grab bag stuffers.

To any club members with small rocks, minerals, crystals, and/or fossils: please contact me to help us build a stockpile for a grab bag stuffing party later this year. Nancy and I plan to host this at our home with lots of good goodies from the refrigerator to provide the energy for stuffing hundreds and hundreds of bags in the backyard. But before stuffing our faces, we'll need a lot of material to stuff those bags! If you have material to donate to the cause, please email



See this supply of grab bag stuffing materials? Multiply by two. That's what we'll need to make it through 2024. Donate today!

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

jbraceth@roadrunner.com or call (805) 659-3577. Here's thanking you in advance, and here's to David Springer and Jeff Lawton, who replied to last month's request. David provided a baggie of fossils from Kentucky and Jeff sent a large flat-rate box in the mail containing a wonderful assortment of polished stones. Thank you, David and Jeff!

Raffle Donations We are now accepting donations for the raffles for both the upcoming March 2024 show and the AFMS July 2024 show. The ideal donation should not be too big (since many items need to be mailed to the winning ticket), have good case appeal to attract purchasers of raffle tickets,

and have a nominal value of at least \$25-\$50. Generally, items like a single cabochon are just not able to generate enough interest, however items such as a mounted polished cabochon as a finished jewelry item are quite popular!

Last year, we had a dinosaur blanket and a dinosaur original art piece generate significant interest, so feel free to use your imagination. All proceeds of the raffles flow to our club and are needed to forward fund our activities. Please see or contact David Springer (805) 450-5025 with any proposed item donations. And thank you in advance.

Workshop

Closing out Summer With Workshop Fun

Jim Brace-Thompson

Our regular Saturday morning workshop day on August 19th saw many of the usual suspects engaged in the usual activities of rock sawing, flat-lapping, and cab-crafting. Those on hand included Shop Stewards John Cook and David Springer and members Jake Bailey, Shirley Layton, Jessica Lynton, Rich Pisor, Lonnie Sutton, Robert Seaton, and myself. Jenifer Russell also stopped in to drop off a display case she had used at the county fair.

fun with rocks: Shirley Layton, Jake Bailey, Rich Pisor, Robert Seaton, Lonnie Sutton, Troy Schmidt, Shae Andrae, Steven Schaab, Bella Welch, and myself. While most of us enjoyed cutting, slabbing, and cabbing, Jake ventured into new territory with an obsidian knapping tutorial provided by Master Knapper Ron. Troy continued making progress sorting through our club mineral and fossil collection, and I spent a little time in the library room going through our club archives. See the results in my "Blast from the Past" article!



Shirley and Jessica cab together.

The sign-in sheet for our Sunday afternoon workshop on September 3rd showed Shop Stewards Ron Wise and David Springer assisting the following members in having still more



Rich keeps perfecting his flat-lapping technique.



While John and David tend to slab saw repairs, Robert trims happily away.



Troy wonders what to do with a fossil fish.



Jake learns a new skill knapping obsidian.



Robert, Shirley, Lonnie, and Bella grind cabochons.

Workshop

Requesting Silent Auction Donations

Ron Wise, Club Steward

The club is in need of donations to make the silent auction beneficial to everyone. Donations should be something you would consider purchasing and working. Items should be accompanied with name, location and suggested value if known. This is of great help to the member working in the silent auction.

Speaking of volunteering in the silent auction, it is fun and a great benefit to you. You will learn to visualize new materials

and their prices. Additionally, it's fun!

Donations will benefit the club pocket book and supply Rockhounds who are in need of additional rock and materials for your collection. Your castoffs may be another rockhounds treasures, as you know I scavenge dealers' throw-away and scrap plies in searching for something to polish. An example is a Wingate Pass cab David is selling on Etsy.

Please Note VGMS will have four silent auctions coming up soon: Rocktoberfest, the November Club Meeting, the Annual

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Show in March, and the CFMS/AFMS show in May. Please consider any rock that you may not use a candidate for the silent auction. The club stock pile is short of quality rocks and materials. Also consider working in the silent auctions, note at the last CFMS/AGFMS show the silent auction was so big we almost needed roller skates!



Wingate pass cab

Federation News

Recap of the 2023 AFMS Show & Convention

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) is a national umbrella organization composed of seven regional federations (like our CFMS) and some 600 local clubs (like our own VGMS). AFMS gathers for business meetings and festivities once a year, with the location cycling around the 7 regions. This year's Annual Show & Convention took place August 3-5th in the Northwest Federation and was hosted by the Billings Gem & Mineral Club in Billings, Montana. I attended and participated as AFMS 5th Vice President/CFMS Rep to AFMS, AFMS Public Relations Chair, and a member of the Rules Committee that directs competitive exhibiting at Federation shows. In addition to me, several others from Ventura County attended, including members of our own VGMS and our neighboring Conejo club. Following are selected items of interest emerging from the convention meetings.

New AFMS officers were voted upon and sworn in for 2024:

President – Roger Burford, **President-Elect** – J.C. Moore, **1st Vice President** – Ronna Watkins, **2nd Vice President** – David Wayment, **3rd Vice President** – Sheri Johnson, **4th Vice President** – Jim Brace-Thompson, **5th Vice President** – Ellery Borow, **Secretary** – Donna Moore, and **Treasurer** – Pat LaRue.

Efforts are well underway to make the Uniform Rules Manual more user-friendly by breaking it into more-or-less self-contained sections to minimize the need to flip back-and-forth among sections. The manual will also be supported with PowerPoint presentations that I'm preparing to provide visual

guidance (for instance, photos of actual exhibits to illustrate elements of showmanship that judges score). They also hope to sponsor a Judges' Training Seminar in conjunction with the 2024 AFMS Show in Ventura.

Lora Hall has assembled an outstanding team between herself, Dennis Gertenbach, and Joan Stoker for the Junior Programs Committee. They've added much to the AFMS/FRA program beyond the badges; for instance, a newsletter by kids for kids, contests, the Juniors Volunteer Award pin, and more. Check out the many fantastic resources at www.juniors.amfed.org.

Work on upgrading the AFMS website is nearing completion. As a sneak preview of what the new site will be like, check out the AFMS Juniors section, which is already completed.

A Zoom roundtable seminar hosted by yours truly is planned for late October/early November on "Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media." Whether promoting a club as a whole or a special event like an annual show, social media is now a vital part of the marketing mix. Tips and suggestions emerging from the seminar will be shared in the pages of the AFMS and CFMS newsletters.

For a full week following the show, Doug True of the local Billings club led a field trip a day for everything from agates to fossils. Because I had to be back in Ventura to host a Fossil Day for the Ventura YMCA, I could only stick around Montana to attend the first field trip for Bear Canyon Agate along with several other VGMS and Conejo club members. It was a fun time with fine field trip weather. I'm hoping we might hold a

similar field trip or two when we host the AFMS Show next year.

Finally, VGMS is now officially on the schedule to host the 2024 AFMS Show & Convention May 24-26. I entered a display and handed out packets at this year's show to promote it. As noted earlier, the AFMS Show & Convention cycles around to California only once every seven years. The Billings Gem & Mineral Club did a superb job hosting this year's national show and will be a tough act to follow. We'll need all hands on deck! If you haven't yet volunteered to help with the show, which comes up in just eight short months, connect with Show Chair Diane Cook to see how you can best contribute. We'll be posting details about the show as they emerge at www.2024cfms-afms.com.



The dealer floor bustled in Billings.



Officers were installed at the AFMS Show & Convention in Billings.



VGMS members Jim and David enjoyed agate collecting in Bear Canyon.



Like mother, like daughter: VGMS members did well in the AFMS bulletin contest.



Jim in Billings as recorded in the Ventura Breeze; Ventura is next!

A Win-Win-Win with Rock & Gem Magazine

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

Rock & Gem (the officially endorsed hobby magazine of AFMS) is offering a special deal to members of local gem and mineral societies affiliated with the Federation. It's a win-win-win deal in that Rock & Gem gets subscribers, subscribers get a special 61% discount, and the AFMS Endowment Fund gets a 15% commission on each subscription. This deal applies to both new and renewing subscriptions. (By the way, the same deal applies to any subscriptions we might sell to the general public by having copies of the flyer/order form on the take-one table of our annual club show.)

Rock & Gem has produced a "Rock & Gem/AFMS Subscription" flyer/order form that I hope to get posted to the websites of AFMS and CFMS to ensure that a portion of your payment goes to AFMS. I'll have a supply of these flyers on the take-one table at our monthly meetings. If you'd like a copy right away, I'm happy to send it as an attachment. Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

Here's to supporting our official hobby magazine as it, in turn, supports us as individuals and as a Federation!



Our officially sanctioned hobby magazine. Have you subscribed yet?

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

This year's California Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Show & Convention takes place June 23-25 in Lodi. CFMS is the umbrella organization to which 98 clubs like our own VGMS belong. Each year, they host a Statewide Show. Usually a local club sponsors it, but this year it's a "no-host show", meaning it is being run by CFMS officers and volunteers, and—with no single local club running the event—much help is being sought from all local clubs. For instance...

Seeking Volunteers. Diane Cook and I have been drafted, and we're in dire need of volunteers. Already, several VGMS members have stepped up; for instance, I've heard of offers of help from Dick and Phyllis White, Robert Seaton, my wife Nancy, and, of course, Diane and me. In addition, our members-from-afar Janelle Thompson and Barbra Meisenheimer have provided over 1,800 hand-sewn bags to use for grab bags in the Kids' Booth. We welcome help from any other VGMS members. I'm running the Kids' Booth, which will have several stations, each needing someone to monitor. If you'll be in Lodi, please contact Diane or me. We value even an hour of volunteer service!

Seeking Dealers. If you yourself are a dealer or would like to try becoming one, Show Dealer Chair Susan Chaisson-Walblom is seeking folks interested in signing up for vendor tables and booths. For details, email Susan at slchaisson@yahoo.com. Susan also welcomes suggestions you may have about favorite dealers you might recommend that you've seen at local shows.

Seeking Raffle Items. The Show will hold a fund-raising raffle, with proceeds going to the CFMS Endowment Fund. Even if you can't make it to the show but would like to help the effort, you can do so by donating a quality mineral or fossil specimen or a lapidary or jewelry project. Both Diane and I are happy to accept donations to take to Lodi.

Seeking Exhibits—from Adults and Kids! I'm a member of the Exhibits Committee, so I encourage VGMS members to enter displays. It's a long way to Lodi, but if you can make it there, let's showcase the talents and collections of VGMS members! Kids entering displays, whether competitive or noncompetitive, will be eligible to receive the Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit. The deadline for sending exhibitor forms is June 1st; see <https://cfmsinc.org/2020-cfms-show-forms/>.

Seeking You! Even if not interested in displaying, we encourage you to attend the show. Because it is a no-host show in an area not accustomed to having a show, we're not sure how attendance will pan out, so the more, the merrier. If you show up (and help out), I may even give you a free spin on the Kids' Booth spinning wheel. Heck! That's a one dollar value—well worth the cost of gas to Lodi!



Join us for the CFMS Awards Banquet in Lodi!

Camp Paradise Still Accepting Applications for Lapidary Classes

Jim Brace-Thompson, Federation Director

As I've noted in previous months, the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies is accepting applications to attend "Camp Paradise", where you can sign up for one or two weeks of classes in varied lapidary and metal-working arts. Sessions take place August 20-26 and August 27-September 2. VGMS members attending in the past had great fun and learned a lot. To register, go to <http://www.CFMS.org>, click on "Camp Paradise" in the menu on the right side of the screen, then click on "registration". The website includes a detailed document describing the whole experience. Check it out!



Learn to wire wrap at Camp Paradise!

Meeting Minutes

VGMS Board Meeting, September 7th, 2023, via Zoom

Called to order at 7:06pm., John Cook presiding.

Announcements

Attendees

John & Diane Cook, Nancy Brace-Thompson, Terry Wilson, David Springer, Robert Seaton, Celia Churchill & Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick

Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes were motioned by Erin Valenzuela and seconded by Celia Churchill and approved by all.

New Business

Gold Coast Show

Coming up again in November, plan to vote on tables at the next board meeting

Member Handbooks

Reminder that they are available online

Trim Saw

Wes is working to repair it. There were deep grooves and Wes is doing work on the arbor, services you can't get locally. David is donating repair fees to the club and will be able to pick them up the next time he sees Wes.

Complaint Letter

The board discussed a complaint letter from a member.

Roctoberfest

Planned for October 21 with breakfast and a silent auction. The Slykers can't come.

Alex Jegotka Donations

David was given material from former member Alex.

Old Business

Sunday 9-13-23 Final Summer Workshop

Will be generously supported by David Springer. Last month there was a power outage, hopefully it won't repeat.

By-laws and Operating Regulations

Emails were sent out.

Clubhouse Committee

Meeting on 9/18 at 7pm on Zoom regarding the search for a new site. Lisa, Erin, and Dick are interested in attending.

Officer - Committee Reports

1st VP – Programs: Terry Wilson

All set for Richard Edley in September. Mary Pat will present

October on the Tucson gem and mineral show. November is the silent auction, Terry will need help (David and John volunteered). December is the holiday party.

2nd VP – Field Trips: David Springer

Brett presented a field trip on panning for gold at Lake Isabella, the September field trip. October 14th field trip will be to the Ralph Bishop Museum. After a visit to museum we will head to Wes Lingerfelt's house in Nipomo followed by a DeeDeeite run to Avila beach. Meet at 10:45 at the museum. A group dinner will be at Charlie's Place BBQ on the way back. Ralph may be willing to repeat the trip next day.

3rd VP – Show: Diane Cook

Looking at Tuesday 12th for a Zoom at 7pm. We have show cards. Jim took Ventura Breeze (the newspaper) to AFMS and we have our first ad in the newspaper

Treasurer: Lauren Wideman

Not present.

Web Master: Troy Schmidt

Not Present. Terry reports next meeting is up. There's been a snafu with the forms not going out to VGMS addresses but there's a way they figured out to go around it. Memberships and certification forms may not have gone through. Terry will look at forms for membership to see if Erin got them. Terry will keep an eye on membership requests to make sure Erin is getting them. General inquiries need to be checked too. May want a dedicated inbox for any general contact outside the membership wall of the website.

Secretary: Nancy Brace-Thompson

Celia is taking minutes until Nancy arrives.

Membership: Erin Valenzuela

Belinda Poore, Karen Ard and husband Thomas have joined VGMS. All are background checked and paid. Voted in by 6 board members. 212 total. 162 adults, 42 pups, 8 juniors.

Federation Director: Jim Brace-Thompson

Nothing to Report

Bulletin Editor: Celia Churchill

Thank you to everyone who wrote articles for the August bulletin. Celia proposed using mailchimp for future bulletin deliveries. September articles are due September 10th

Parliamentarian/Scholarship: Shirley Layton

Not present.

Committee Reports

Pebble Pups: Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick/Erin Valenzuela

Class will be 9/16. It will be a combination earthquakes and maps class. Will work with Erin on class.

Ways and Means: Adrian Ruiz and Jenifer Russell

Not present.

Museum: Troy Schmidt/Jim Brace-Thompson
Nothing to report.

Educational Outreach: Jim Brace-Thompson
Nothing to report.

Archivist/Historian: Jim Brace-Thompson
Nothing to report.

Librarian: Heather Seaton
Not present, nothing to report.

Stewards: John, Ron and David
Nothing to report

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, September 7th, 2023, at 7pm via Zoom.

Next Membership Meeting:

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

With no further business, President John Cook adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted on September 7th, 2023.

Celia Churchill

"Hurriquake" Brings Earth Processes into Sharp Relief for Locals

JIM BRACE-THOMPSON

Did you feel it? In the midst of day-long rains from Tropical Storm Hilary on August 20th, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake rattled our region. Centered on the Sisar fault system some three miles southeast of Ojai and 11 miles northeast of Ventura, it struck at 2:41 in the afternoon when I was seated at my home desk. At first my computer screen wobbled, then the wall began to creak and sway, and soon enough I felt the floor rolling beneath my feet. (At my age, it's good to know that these old feet can still rock and roll!) By this time, my dog Tornjak was barking at the window, telling folks to cut it out.

The main quake was followed by dozens of aftershocks, including several that measured above magnitude 3.0. One of those rattled the windows and rolled me out of bed at 4:40 the next morning. The good news? It appears there was little damage in the region. No deaths. No injuries. No tsunami to send us scampering into the foothills. Per the Los Angeles Times, the damage that did occur was rather minimal, but tell that to the manager of the Ojai Beverage Company, who had to witness a \$900 bottle of tequila falling from a top shelf. He breathed a sigh of relieve when it didn't break, only to watch as the cork popped out and the contents glugged across the floor. He told the Times there was just enough left in the bottle for the clean-up crew to enjoy a wee sip each. First time he'd tried \$900 tequila.

Because it occurred in the midst of Tropical Storm Hilary, the media immediately dubbed the event a "hurriquake" while spreading the news far and wide. I received emails from friends in Michigan, Oregon, and even Scotland. Nothing to worry about, I assured them. Just another day in Paradise!



The San Andreas Fault isn't the only fault we have to worry about in So-Cal!

VGMS HISTORY

A Blast From the Past: The Evolution of Show Posters

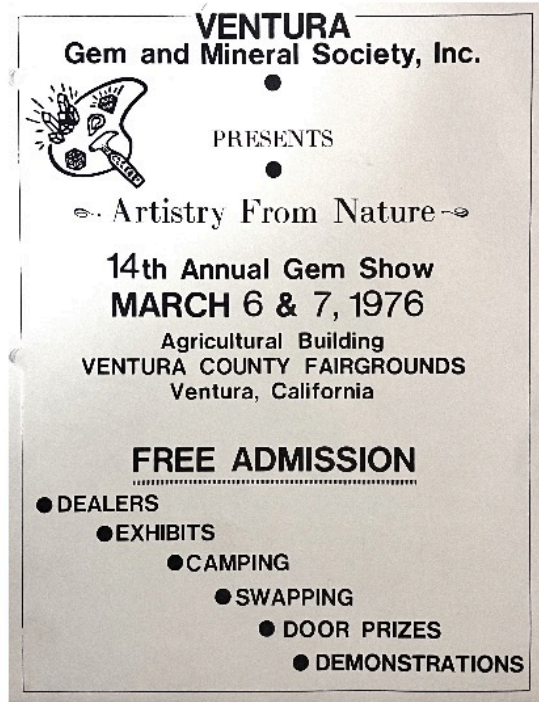
Jim Brace-Thompson, Historian/Archivist

In recent years, we've elevated show poster making to a fine art by sponsoring contests to tap into the creativity contained within VGMS. The results have been impressive, and we've been graced with wonderfully colorful images to plaster around town, at the county fair, and at other local club shows as posters, postcards, and newspaper advertisements. But it

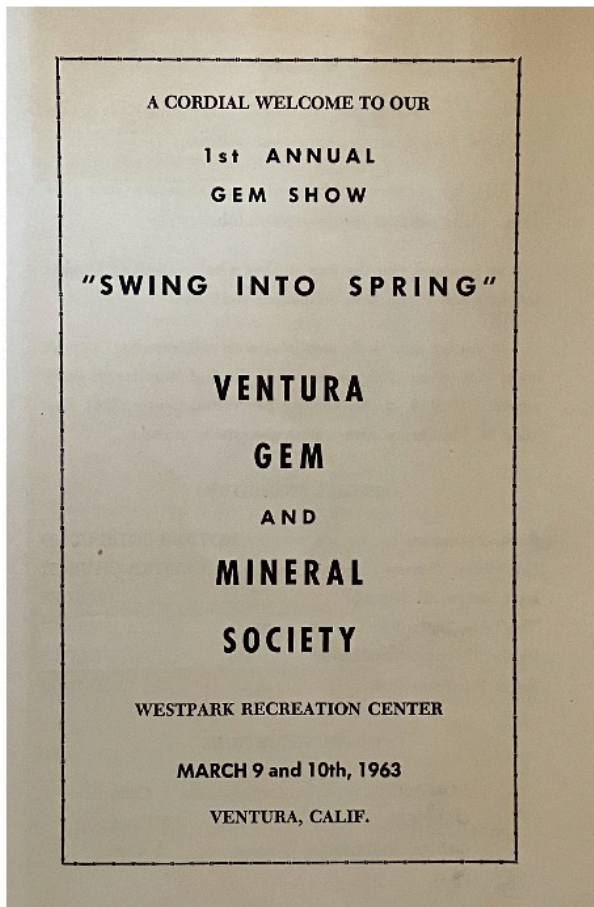
hasn't always been so.

We started with the basics at our very first show in 1963, which featured minimalism at its finest: black-and-white and nothing but print. Starting in the 1970s, we seemed to get stuck in a groove that extended nearly three decades. Our show posters remained almost identical, with an identical show theme and an identical image, throughout the '70s, '80s, and '90s!

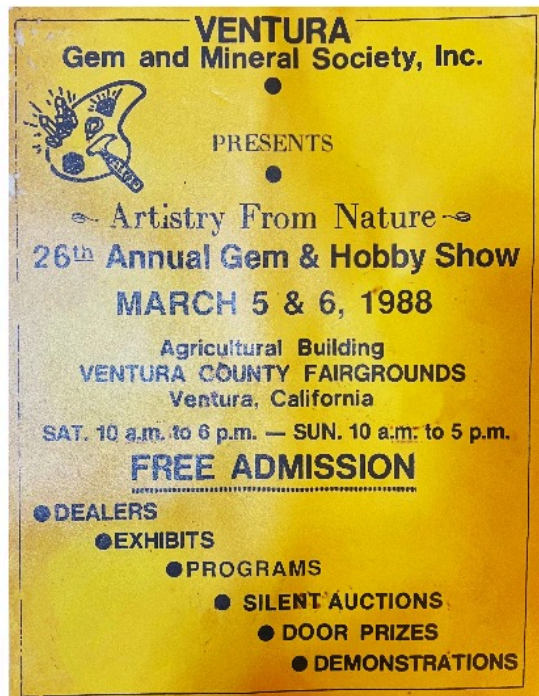
Either it was an excellent design ("When ya got a good thing, why change it?"), or the club had the very same show publicity chair for 30 years. As we entered the first decade of the new millennium, we consigned that design to the dustbin of history and at long last began playing with different designs. But in the teens, we FINALLY embraced truly professional design and production values, an embrace that's continued as we entered the 2020s. With this brief background, I give you selected examples in a portfolio of VGMS show posters over the course of the past 6+ decades. Enjoy!



The 1976 show poster featured a design that kept on giving.




1963 saw our very first show poster—lean and mean.



Show poster 1988 = 1970s redux.

Rock, Gem & Fossil Show

FREE ADMISSION



Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Presents

“ARTISTRY FROM NATURE”
37TH Annual
Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

March 6TH & 7TH 1999
Saturday 10A.M. to 6P.M.
and
Sunday 10A.M. to 5P.M.

Seaside Park
(Ventura County Fairgrounds)
Ventura, California

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXHIBITS • COUNTRY STORE • ROCK SALES • DEALERS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEMONSTRATIONS • KID'S CORNER • FOSSILS • GEMS & MINERALS
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Show poster 1999 still contained shades of the '70s.

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Lapidary Show

FREE Admission More info: vgms.org



natly blue agate

March 3 & 4, 2018
Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM
Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Exhibits • Dealers
Kids' Activities • Demonstrations • Silent Auctions
Raffle Prizes • Jewelry • Country Store • Plant Sale




Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93001

By 2018, we were getting pretty darn professional.

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
presents

**THE VENTURA GEM
SHOW**



**45th Annual Gem, Mineral,
Lapidary & Fossil Show**

Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds
Ventura, California

MARCH 3 & 4, 2007
(10-5:00 Sat., 10-4:00 Sun.)

Gems - Minerals - Rocks - Fossils - Jewelry - Displays - Demonstrations
Video Presentations - Prizes - Dealers - Kids' Activities
Free Admission

Contact: Ed Clark, (805) 943-8878 Society Web Site: www.vgms.org

Finally! After three decades, a new design in our 2007 poster!

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**59th Annual
Gem, Mineral,
Fossil & Jewelry
Show**



MARCH 5 & 6, 2022 Saturday 10 - 5
Sunday 10 - 4

FREE Admission Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Jewelry • Silent Auction
Exhibits • Dealers • Kids' Activities • Demonstrations
Raffle • Second Hand Treasures • Plant Sale

Visit us at vgms.org

Ventura County Fairgrounds • 10 W. Harbor Blvd. • Ventura CA 93001



This 2022 poster illustrates the sort of designs we've come to appreciate and expect.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

All Quiet on the Educational Front

Jim Brace-Thompson, Educational Outreach Chair

After a busy spring fulfilling requests for educational outreach that continued on into the summer months, we're currently experiencing a nice little break. We'll see how long that lasts as a new school year begins. Meanwhile, my thanks to all who helped throughout the spring and summer with all

manner of school visits (single classrooms and whole-school events), science nights, Earth Day festivals, and 4H and YMCA presentations and activities. Your service as club ambassadors spreading our fun hobby to kids throughout our community is valued and appreciated!

PEBBLE PUPS

Time of Your Life at the Ventura County Fair

Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick, Erin Valenzuela, and Chris Churchill

August came and went in the blink of an eye. But only after the Pebble Pups and Junior Members had the time of their lives at the fair!

I'd like to give a huge shout-out to those who took the time to display at the fair. It takes time to plan, build, organize, clean, prepare, label, pack up, and unpack specimens and collections for the fair. It is a labor of love to share what we love. Pebble Pups Valerie C., Skyla Z., and Junior Members Lucia H. and Kaylee T. took on the challenge to display and were awarded many awards for their efforts. The VGMS Pebble Pup and Junior Member group case included specimens from 15 members and together we won first place. Additionally, Junior members Elyssa J. and Rylee J. displayed in Collections and earned awards there too. Congratulations to all!

As we all return to school and our fall routines we have a packed schedule that includes the study of earthquakes, maps, dinosaurs, lapidary, and more. Our 2024 planning has begun and if you would like to be included in that discussion to help in any way, please let Lisa or Erin know for details on our meeting time.



Ventura Gem & Mineral Society



Meat-eating marine reptiles from 70 million years ago.

On every continent their fossils have been found with many here in North America.

Some people think that mosasaurus were dinosaurs, but they weren't.

Another name they are called is Lizard of the Meuse River because the first fossil was found there in 1764.

Some were small as dolphins but others were as large as T-Rex.

A cool fact is they had the ability to adapt to their environment because they gave live birth.

Usually they ate sharks, turtles, fish, mollusks, sea birds, and other mosasaurus.

Ruled the Atlantic Ocean.

Used two rows of teeth to bite prey.

Snakes and monitor lizards are the closest relatives to a mosasaurus.

By Skyla Zuniga

Teeth of the Sea, Part 2



Challenging our Pebble Pups and Juniors

Jim Brace-Thompson

We continue emailing Pebble Pups and Junior Members a new Challenge every-other week to add free specimens to their collections. Here are the most recent Challenges and those who tackled them:

Aragonite: Elizabeth, Colin, Grayson, Connor, Osiris, and Lucia.

Tumble-polished sunstone: Connor, Lucia, Henry, Beecher, and Violetta.

To our winners, congratulations! To all Pebble Pups and Junior Members: we've seen just a handful of you participate recently, so we encourage one and all to take The Challenge. Test your knowledge and your research skills while adding free mineral and fossil specimens to your collection in a way that's fun!

Following are two responses to our most recent Challenges:

"The locality of Aragon was the give-away for aragonite!"

– Connor

"I really am excited for this challenge. I think the answer is SUNSTONE! Am I correct?" – Violetta



Recent Challenges included aragonite and a gemstone variety of feldspar called sunstone.

Thank you!

Everyone who has helped make VGMS sparkle

Outreach Volunteers

Thank you to David Springer for providing a supply of fossils for our Challenge prizes and grab bags. –Jim Brace-Thompson

Jeff Lawton

Really big thanks to Jeff Lawton for a big box filled with polished stones of all manner and colors to fill grab bags and to serve as spinning wheel prizes at our next club show. When he said he had a box to share, he didn't say it was a BIG box. Here's offering BIG thanks! –Jim Brace-Thompson



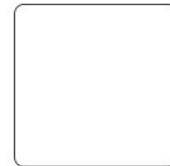
A peek inside the box bearing wonderful goodies sent by Jeff Lawton.

CALENDAR

September-October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 September	18	19	20 Happy Birthday, Gregory Dyer!	21	22 Happy Birthday, Gustavo Garcia!	23 Happy Birthday, Greg Jordan and Troy Schmidt!
24	25	26	27 Member Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion	28 Happy Birthday, Stuart Bloom!	29	30
1 October Certified Members' Workshop, 12-3 p.m.	2	3 Happy Birthday, Erin Valenzuela and Henry I.!	4	5 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.	6	7
8 VGMS Field Trip, Ralph Bishop Museum	9 Happy Birthday, Beecher I.!	10 Happy Birthday, Carolyn Flittie and Teagan F.!	11	12	13 Happy Birthday, Todd Soller!	14 Happy Birthday, Tony Hetrick and Harrison Tasoff!
15	16	17	18	19	20 Happy Birthday, Debbie Sander!	21 Rocktoberfest Club Breakfast at Workshop (No Open Workshop)

Celia Churchill
 Editor, Rockhound Rambling
 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
 P.O. Box 1573, Ventura, CA
 93002



www.vgms.org

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Did you make it this far? Thank you for reading our book.

We had a lot of fun this year.

**Here we are announcing the 2024 CFMS/AFMS Show,
which will be hosted by our club in Ventura.**

We've been hard at work to show you a great time.



Follow the mermaids to Ventura!

We hope to see you there!



Winner of our 2023 Club Contest for Show Poster