



**The Pres Box—  
April 2020**  
Bill Brown, OMS President

April will be a month of challenges. The Coronavirus is causing issues for all of us.

**We didn't have our meeting last month** due to weather. When I was out in it, it was scary. For many of us driving at night in heavy rain is scary. Our speaker was afraid to drive from Los Osos and canceled. As it turns out, we would probably have been OK because the weather moved on.

**We are still planning on our April meeting**, but don't know if we'll be able to. Governor Newsom just held a press conference where he announced a statewide "shelter at home" order. If that's still in effect, we won't be able to hold our April meeting.

I worry as most of our people are in the high risk groups. I'm over 65 and with my asthma, I take a double hit. I pray that everyone takes care and stays well, whatever that takes.

The board meeting will on Tue, April 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. I'll talk to the chamber and see if the room is available or if they have closed it. I'll inform the board by email what we will be doing.

**Our regular meeting will be on Tue, April 14.** We are still planning on having it, but I'm afraid that the "shelter at home" order will still be in place. The theme will be petrified wood. Let's see some limb casts or something!

Refreshments will be cookies, brought to you by Truman, Debbie, Don, and Jeanne.

The last highway cleanup was interesting, but we got it done. I got there on-time but we thought Wes

was still coming so waited instead of going to find him. Missed out on most of the cleanup. Just because I didn't get much done, I won the prize. This was one I would have preferred someone else won!

I think that we have to cancel our March Breakfast with the "shelter at home" order in place. I will be trying to activate the phone tree to let everyone know that.

Our April breakfast is scheduled for April 25 at Denys in Santa Maria. We'll have to see what the virus situation is for that.

Everybody stay well.

*Bill*

**LATE BREAKING NEWS: Due to COVID no Board or General meeting in April unless we figure out video conferencing (for the Board)**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**Greetings** go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in **April**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Katherine Nybo	4/19	♈
Bob Bullock	4/21	♉

**ANNIVERSARIES**

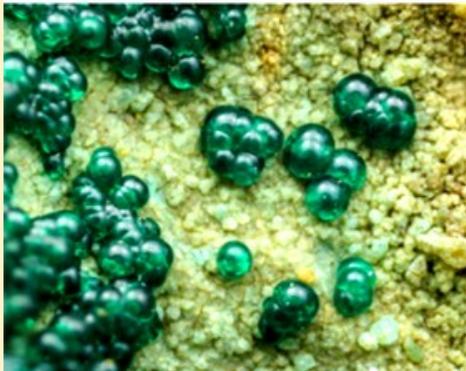
Karen (and Richard) Dry	4/3
John and Elaine Von Achen	4/21

***Congratulations!** If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please write your important dates down and give them to **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (May 2020)*

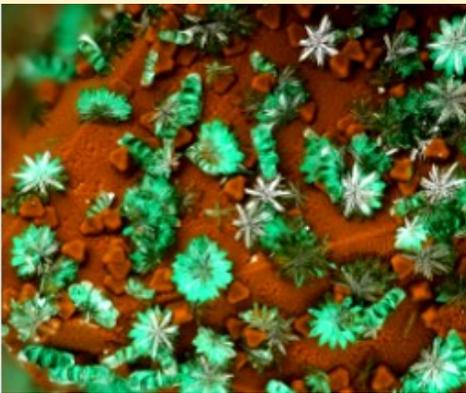
## MINERAL OF THE MONTH— Erinite (Cornwallite)

Text by Wayne Mills From <https://www.mindat.org/min-1133.html> )

Erinite (think green for Ireland) is found in different locations in different forms. It is a copper arsenate hydroxide with a lovely green color derived from its copper content. It is fairly soft, making it unsuitable for jewelry, Besides, it contains arsenic!



[La Atalaya prospect, Pastana, Mazarrón, Murcia, Spain](#)



[Clara Mine, Oberwolfach, Ortenaukreis, Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany](#)



[Yudnamutana District, Arkaroola Region, North Flinders Ranges, South Australia,](#)

## LOCAL ROCKS--Agatized Whale Bone

Text and pictures by Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor,

If one looks at a geologic map of the Central Coast, they see a LOT of brown shading representing the Cenozoic Era (roughly 65 million

years ago to the present. Mm on the Geologic Map designates the Middle Miocene (about 15-10 million years ago (mya). In our area, the Mm formation is the Monterey Formation, one of the most extensive sedimentary formations in California. The Monterey Formation represents deposition in shallow to deep ocean waters and includes the pecten shells and crab fossils from Lake Lopez, and fish, whales and petrified wood from Jalama and Gaviota Beaches (to name a few). Through whatever processes, occasionally the fossil bones (and wood) become indurated with silica that fills in all the pore spaces and creates a durable and often beautiful reminder of the once-living organism. This agatized thin section of a whalebone was made from a bone collected Atascadero State Beach many years ago.



*Above—agatized whale bone—Wayne Mills Collection. Below, Portion of Fossil Whale skull, Santa Ynez Valley. Collected by M.*



## BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR APRIL

Wayne Mills, OMS Editor text and picture

The traditional Birthstone for April is **Diamond** . Interestingly, Diamond , the hardest naturally occurring element, is pure carbon '(C) Element #6 on the Periodic Table. Graphite, one of the softest elements is also pure carbon. Elements can take on a variety of forms depending on the environment they are created in (temperature and pressure). Diamond comes in a variety of colors, but is by no means the rarest gemstone in the world. (The ad man who wrote: "Diamonds are a girl's best friend was a genius!")

Although I have a small diamond in Kimberlite matrix in my collection, one of my "Bucket List": items is to look for diamonds in Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.



More on that here: [www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds)

## BITS AND BYTES

**More information** about the day the dinosaurs died.

<https://affluenttimes.com/anthropology-and-history/archaeology/crater-reveals-how-dinosaurs-died-extinction-asteroid-chicxulub>

Space minerals and quasi-crystals

<https://magellantimes.com/science/space/scientists-uneearthed-meteorite-siberia-inside-made-extraterrestrial-discovery>

Rare treasures washed up on beaches. Check out the picture of Ambergris (whale vomit) that can fetch up to 43 million per lump. Ambergris is prized in the Perfume Industry.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/personalfinance/treasure-that-washed-up-on-beaches/ss-BB10KfCJ?li=BBnb7Kz#image=3>

## WHAT IS CRYSTAL FORM?

From Snippets (Gold Coast Lapidary, Australia) February, 2020

Crystal form is a concept similar to crystal habit. A crystal form is a solid crystalline object that is bounded by a set of flat faces that are related to one another by symmetry. Euhedral crystals are the best representations of a crystal form.

Examples include:

- Cubic crystals of halite or fluorite
- Octahedral crystals of diamond or fluorite
- Dodecahedral crystals of garnet
- Hexagonal crystals of quartz or corundum

### Banded minerals

have narrow layers or bands of different colour and/or texture. These may be a response to changes in the composition of the growth liquid, the sedimentary process, or other conditions.

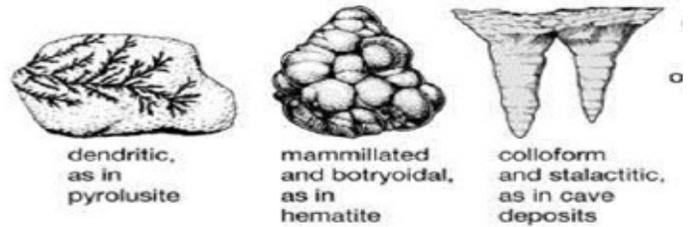
Mineral examples: quartz (agate), malachite, **rhodochrosite**, and fluorite. The photo shows rhodochrosite cabochons that display a banded habit. In one of the cabochons, the banded habit is actually an internal feature of a stalactitic habit.



**Bladed crystals** are elongated. They are much longer than they are wide, and their width exceeds their depth. They are shaped like a straight sword or knife blade. Their ends sometimes taper to a point. They might exist as single crystals, a cluster of many parallel crystals, or radiating clusters of crystals. Mineral examples: kyanite, actinolite, and stibnite. **Kyanite crystals** have a hardness of 4.5 to 5 parallel to the length of their blades, and a hardness of 6.5 to 7 across the width of their blades.



**Drusy** is a habit name used for a surface that is covered with small crystals. The crystals themselves are referred to as a druse. Quartz is the most common mineral found as a druse. Other mineral examples: uvarovite garnet, malachite, and azurite. **The rock in the photo** has a drusy surface because it is covered by a layer of uvarovite crystals.

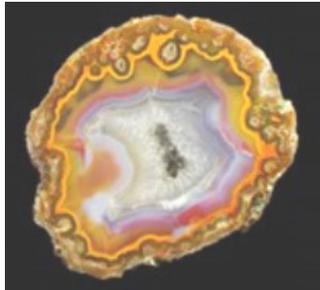


## OMS FAITHFUL SHINE WHILE CLEANING A DIRTY HIGHWAY

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

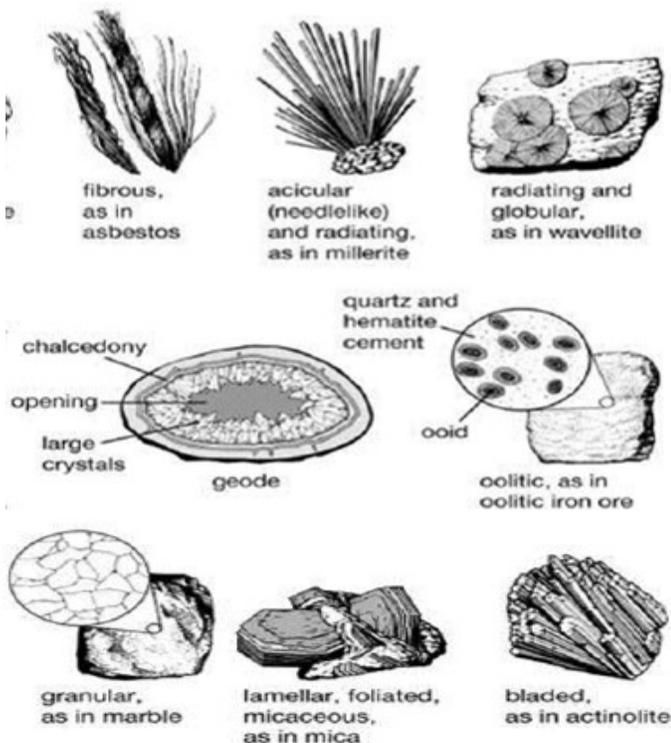
Six OMS'ers met on an cold, misty and overcast Saturday morning to clean our 2 mile stretch of highway 166 East. Many thanks to Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, Sally Griffith and Bill Brown for joining me for our bi-monthly highway clean-up. We had a surprise visitor, member Bob Bullock whom we haven't seen for a couple of years. Bob dropped by to pay his annual dues. (Bob is 2 years away from earning his Life membership!)

**Geodic** is a habit in which mineral aggregates form a rounded or oblate mass by crystallization on the inside walls of a cavity. Concentric bands or layers of mineral crystals subsequently develop, gradually infilling the cavity without infilling it completely and with a crystal-lined central void. The specimen in the photo is a geode formed by the precipitation of banded agate to form the external wall and initial layers. The centre of the geode is lined with quartz crystals.



## COMMON CRYSTAL AGGREGATES AND HABITS

Encyclopedia Britannica



We had our waitress, Morgan, draw our lucky winner of the prize that Wes donated, a nice geode of Brazilian agate. And the winner was our President Bill Brown. After a pretty tough clean-up (for me anyhow), it was nice to relax with good conversation and a tasty piece of Cherry Pie.

---

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY**  
Board Meeting  
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce  
March 3, 2020

---

**The March Ore-Cutts incorrectly reported the reason the Cake Wes Lingerfelt shared with us in February was given to him. He has hosted the San Joaquin Valley Club in his home several times, and has helped them identify rocks that they have brought him.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Bill Brown.

**Members Present** were Bill Brown, Betty Campbell, Debbie Hood, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith Wayne Mills and Renae Sutcliffe. Absent were Jeanne Watkins-Brown, and Dick Bazzell.

**Minutes** of the February general meeting were accepted as printed in the Ore-Cutts with the exception that the bulletin incorrectly mentioned the purpose of the cake that Wes was given. It was for his having the club members visit his rock pile from time to time.

**Treasurer's Report** will be presented at the General Meeting. Betty is working through learning Quick Books. 20 members have paid their 2020 Dues.

**Correspondence**— Salvation Army, Rockonteur (Santa Lucia Club Bulletin), AFMS Bulletin.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bulletin** (Wayne) is out, and looks good. Contact Wayne Mills with any questions or delivery problems. Submit all articles for the April Bulletin by March 20.

**CFMS**—(Renae) next Board of Directors meeting is June 28-29 at the CFMS Show in Lodi. 4-16-19 AFMS Topaz Mountain, Dugway Utah geode hunt. 4/10-12 in Ogden, Utah, AFMS Judges training.

**Membership**—(Wayne) 20 members have paid their 2020 dues.

**Field Trip**—(Sally) March 7-8 Ventura Club show. Next Field Trip is March 21 to Ralph Bishop's Museum. Meet at his house at 10:00 am. On May 16, we will go to Ozena for pink and black meta-granite. Meet at 101/166 East at 8:30 am.

**Adopt a Highway** (Wayne) Next Clean-up is March 14. Meet at SE corner of Highway's 101/166 East at 8:00 am.

**Annual Awards Banquet** (Dyanna) Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Madonna Inn.

**Breakfast**—Saturday March 28 at Hometown Buffet in Santa Maria.

**Education**—(Wayne) No report.

**Library**—(Alexis) No Report

**Sunshine**—(Margaret Henson and Dyanna Cridelich) No report.

**Scholarship**—(Jeanne Watkins Brown) No report.

**Show**—(Bill Brown) Show dates are August 7-9, 2020. Additional insured for Lucia Mar School District costs have been sent to Nipomo High School. Board voted to raise show space fees by 5-10 dollars outside, and \$.50 per foot or table space inside.

**Old Business**—Jeanne Watkins Brown reviewed the programs she has proposed for our General meetings this year. **Programs** on Electroforming in **March**, and Dinosaurs in **April**. **Displays** are homemade jewelry in **March** and Fossils in **April**.

**New Business**—Debbie Hood is working on a new phone tree in case of sickness. We need to verify club and show committee chairs for the Red Book. Pages 6 and 10 in the Red Book.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Wayne Mills, Secretary,  
OMS

---

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY**  
General Meeting  
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA  
March 10, 2020

---

**Meeting was cancelled** due to rain and our speaker backed out about two hours before the meeting, also due to the rain. President Brown called as many folks as he could, and Wayne Mills was at the hall until about 7:15 pm and turned away two more folks.

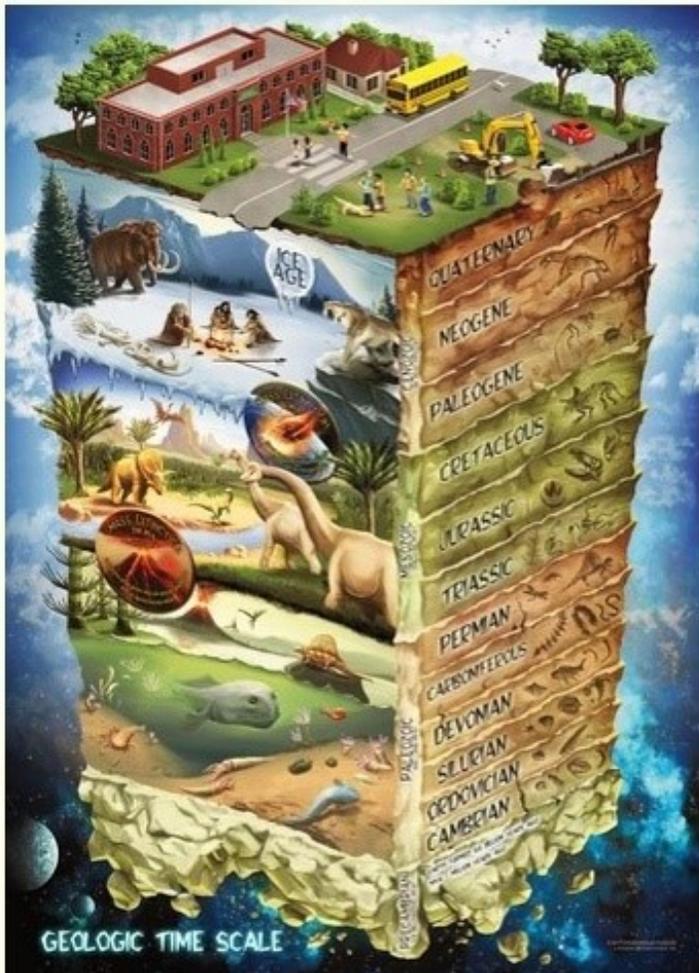
Earlier in March, we received news that the April speaker, Jim Mills, cancelled due to concern about the Coronavirus.

**IF WE HAVE A MEETING IN APRIL**, We will have another program for our meeting.

Respectfully Submitted  
Wayne Mills, Secretary

## KID'S PAGE

The world is very old. It is made of many layers. Each layer (rock type) like a page of history. Think of all the things that have happened beneath your very feet in the last 4.5 billion years since the formation of the Earth. Oceans have risen and fallen, amazing animals have lived and died. Rocks that you find help tell this story.



<https://standardsinpuzzles.com/collections/science-puzzles/products/geologic-time-scale>

If you check out the website above, you can purchase the puzzle and work out the story piece by piece!

## Ideas for making a rock collection.

You can collect a variety of rock types of the **same color** (green, red, purple...)

You can collect rocks of the **same shape** (hearts, circles, diamonds...)

You can collect a **variety of crystals**— there are over 3000 known minerals, many of which occur in crystal form.

You can see **how many different kinds** of rocks or minerals you can find **at one location**. (Like jasper, chert, serpentine, chalcedony and mushroom rhyolite at San Simeon State Beach)

You can collect **rocks of the same origin** (Igneous, Metamorphic or Sedimentary, or agate, jasper, petrified wood, etc.).

One of my favorite displays is **rough and finished** rocks, one polished and one unpolished of each type of rock.

One neat way to **store your collections** is in egg cartons, (assuming your specimens are all about the size of an egg). You can put labels on the cover and store a lot of rocks in a small space this way. Once, a few years ago, I was inspired to make a **“crocodile rock” collection** from an egg carton. I put a head and tail out on it and rapped it with bubble wrap (back and tail) and painted it after this. I thought it came out kind of neat! (See the Kids Column in the March 2020 Ore—Cutts).

## OMS CALENDAR

**Note: Schedule is tentative based on COVID 19 Virus measures**

### APRIL 2020

Tuesday, April 7 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. <b>CANCELLED</b>
Tuesday, April 14 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting—Luis Oasis Senior Center. Program—TBD <b>CANCELLED</b>
Saturday, April 25 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast—Dennys, Santa Maria <b>CANCELLED</b>

### MAY 2020

**Check May Bulletin for COVID Updates**

Tuesday, May 5 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. All members are welcome at this meeting.
Saturday, May 9 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up –SE corner 101/166 East in Santa Maria
Tuesday, May 12 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting—Luis Oasis Senior Center. Program—TBD Display—Something or Anything Refreshments—PIE—Jeannie Lingerfelt, Tara Machin
Field Trip—Ozena?	Watch for details in May Bulletin
Saturday, May 23 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast—Country Kitchen, Santa Maria

### 2020-OMS OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>President-Elect</b>	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
<b>Secretary</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
<b>Treasurer</b>	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

### 2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123)
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783

### CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
------------------	---------------

**Copyright 2017 Orcutt Mineral Society.** Material in this newsletter may be duplicated provided that credit is given this publication and the author(s). For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted. Editor may be contacted c/o OMS, P.O. Box 106, Santa Maria, Ca. 93456-0106, or via club web site [omsinc.org](http://omsinc.org).

**OMS Membership** \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. **OMS Membership Chairperson is: ?**

**OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811**  
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org>  
or send e-mail to: [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

### Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495 <a href="mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com">wwmills50@hotmail.com</a>
-------------	--

## SAVE THE DATE (Maybe— Depends on COVID 19)

**May 16-- OMS Field Trip to Ozena**  
**Meet at 101/166 East at 8:30 a.m.. Details to follow.**

**August 7-9— OMS 53rd Annual Gem Show**  
**plan to help set-up August 5-6 and clean-**

## CFMS SHOWS

### APRIL (2020) ALL APRIL SHOWS CANCELLED

#### April 3 – 5; VISTA, CA—CANCELLED

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083  
Hours: 9 am-5 pm each day  
Contact: (760) 659-6545, [vistarocksgms@gmail.com](mailto:vistarocksgms@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)  
Great show with about 75 vendors.

#### April 4 – 5: CHICO, CA—CANCELLED

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society  
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds  
2357 Fair Street  
Hours: Sat 9 – 5; Sun 9 – 4  
Contact: Trish Haggerty, (530) 966-5112  
Email: [hagboyz5@gmail.com](mailto:hagboyz5@gmail.com)  
[www.paradisegem.org](http://www.paradisegem.org)

#### April 4 – 5: RENO, NV—CANCELLED

Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Reno Convention Center  
4390 S. Virginia Street  
Hours: Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4  
Contact: Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-2442  
Email: [greybeard65@hotmail.com](mailto:greybeard65@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.renorockhounds.com](http://www.renorockhounds.com)

#### April 11 – 12: MARIPOSA, CA—CANCELLED

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds  
5007 Fairgrounds Road  
Hours: Sat 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4  
Contact: Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535  
Email: [mgmc@sti.net](mailto:mgmc@sti.net)  
Web Site: <http://mariposagemclub.org> [Show Page](#)

#### April 18 -19; PASO ROBLES, CA —CANCELLED

Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Paso Robles Event Center  
2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles CA  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm  
Amazing Agates!  
Contact: (805) 610-0603, [slockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:slockhounds@gmail.com)  
Web site: <http://www.slockhounds.org/show.html>

#### April 25-26; ARCADIA, CA—CANCELLED

Pasadena Lapidary Society  
Arcadia Masonic Center  
50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia CA 91007  
Hours: Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 10 am – 5 pm  
Contact: (727) 512-0381, [info@pasadenalapidary.org](mailto:info@pasadenalapidary.org)  
Web site: <http://pasadenalapidary.org>

#### April 25 – 26: LANCASTER, CA—CANCELLED

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 West Avenue H  
Hours: Sat 9 – 5; Sun 9 – 4  
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom, (661) 406-0143  
Email: [slchaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:slchaisson@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.avgem.weebly.com](http://www.avgem.weebly.com)

#### MAY (2020) —

**Due to COVID 19, many shows have been cancelled, but have not notified the CFMS Website. Check given reference before going.**

#### May 1-3; YUCAIPA, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA  
Hours: Fri 6 pm – 9 pm; Sat 12 noon – 9 pm; Sun 12 noon – 6 pm  
Contact: [grandpasgems@gmail.com](mailto:grandpasgems@gmail.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.yvgms.org>  
The Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society show is part of the Yucapia city-wide Music and Arts Festival, with activities for all ages, music, local artists, food booths, carnival rides, beer garden, plus much more. A great time for the whole family. No admission fee.

#### May 2 – 3; JACKSON, CA

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society  
Kennedy Mine off Hwy 29/88. 12594 Kennedy Mine Rd., Jackson, CA 95642  
Hours: 10 am – 4 pm daily  
Contact: [mountaingirl@volcano.net](mailto:mountaingirl@volcano.net)  
Web site: <http://www.amadorgemandmineral.org>

#### May 2 – 3; ANAHEIM, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society  
Brookhurst Community Center  
2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim  
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4:30 pm  
The show features displays of member's work, demonstrations by Searchers (and some of our friends) of lapidary work, stone carving, jewelry making, wire wrap, faceting and many other rock and jewelry related skills. There is a children's jewelry area where children can make a piece of jewelry and take it home, and a wheel of fortune. There are many dealers with their rock and jewelry related wares, and the best silent auction around, door prizes and gold panning. Free parking and admission.  
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

Their Facebook page still shows the show is on as of March 28, 2020



## Kern Rock and Gem Festival

Family-Friendly Fun! FREE Admission

Food, Beverages and Snacks Will be Sold

Saturday: **May 2, 2020:** 10 am - 4 pm  
 Sunday: **May 3, 2020:** 12 am - 4 pm

Location: East Bakersfield Veterans Hall →

**Follow Us on Facebook!**



**ACTIVITIES:**

**Demonstrations:**  
 Sawing Rocks  
 Shaping and Polishing  
 Mounting Gem Stones

**Lapidary Arts & Crafts:**  
 Artisan-Member Crafts

**Games for Kids:**  
 Spin the Wheel  
 Grab Bags for Sale  
 Treasure Hunt

**Educational Exhibits**  
 Silent Auction  
 Raffle



Downtown Bakersfield  
Veterans Center  
East Bakersfield  
Mt. Vernon Avenue

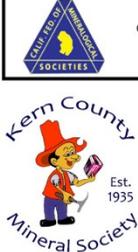


All the kids LOVED fluorescent minerals





Kern County Mineral Society is a Charter Member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Kern County Mineral Society  
Est. 1935

**East Bakersfield Veterans Hall**  
 2101 Ridge Rd,  
 Bakersfield CA 93306  
 (Corner of Ridge Rd & Mt Vernon)

For Information, e-mail  
 Cathy Collett: [twkix2@bak.rr.com](mailto:twkix2@bak.rr.com)



Bernard St.  
Ridge Road  
Veteran's Hall

## THIS ONE'S FOR ME

WAYNE MILLS, OMS EDITOR

A friend gave me this neat turquoise piece that she got at a yard sale! She had no information about the piece. If I had to guess, I would say it was Tibetan turquoise and carved in Tibet, but that is just a wild guess. If anyone has more definite info about the origin and meaning of the carving, I would really appreciate hearing about it.



## A PLEA TO OUR MEMBERS

Due to the ongoing Corona Virus problem, the Ore-Cutts requests your submissions of fun / interesting / educational projects for our readers. How about:

1. Pictures of your favorite rocks, fossils or minerals? With and explanation WHY it is a favorite?
2. Stories about your favorite rock collecting trips or show experiences.
3. Rock-related crosswords or word games?

**How many 4 or more letter words can you make from the word "metamorphic"?**  
 (Hint "Charm" is one.)

- 4.—What area of the rock, fossil or mineral collecting hobby do you especially enjoy, and WHY?

You can write me at [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 106  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**The ORE-CUTTS** (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.