

The Prez Box—December 2021
Wayne Mills , OMS President



The end of another less than stellar year is upon us. Mistletoe and holly are just around the corner after turkey, mashed potatoes with stuffing and pie for dessert. In fact, that is what I will be having at our **Annual Meeting** on December 11. We have 33 folks who have signed up for the affair at the **Madonna Inn Round Room**, and I hope we can have a merry end to a troubled year. Remember to bring a rock-related gift worth \$10 or more for our gift exchange if you wish to participate. **See page 7** for more on this.

At our November meeting, we elected a partial slate of officers and Board members for next year by acclamation after reading each available position 3 times and asking for other nominees or volunteers—not a peep! Also at our meeting we had our (nearly annual) 1' x 1' contest. After announcing at our October meeting, and putting it in the November newsletter, we only had 2 entries— Sally Griffith with her Lampropyre book ends holding 3 geology picture books, and Wayne Mills with a display of 20 world minerals. And the winner was Sally Griffith. She won a lovely double terminated smoky quartz crystal from Brazil donated by Wes Lingerfelt. **See pictures on page 7.**

Eight folks showed up for our **last highway clean-up of the year** on November 13, Read more about this on page 5.

Our December Board Meeting will be held on

Monday the 6th. It is supposed to be a joint meeting with the incoming and outgoing Boards, but those Boards are pretty much the same people who have been keeping OMS running for the past two years. I believe these people deserve the **sincere thanks** of the entire membership. Our incoming President, Sally Griffith is going to need a LOT of help from us all to get through next year. One big help would be someone to take her job as **Refreshment Chair**, and another big help would be a **President Elect**.

May your days be merry and bright. We look forward to seeing you at the Madonna Inn on the 11th, and next year.

Wayne Mills

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Brown	12/1	♂
Truman Burgess	12/6	♂
Renea Suttcliffe	12/15	♂
Karen Dry	12/22	♀
Jeannie Nybo	12/23	♀

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob and Rosie Bullock **12/9**

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.

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR DECEMBER

Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS
From the December 2017 Ore-Cuts

ZIRCON, TURQUOISE

These stones are both blue, perhaps reflective of the iciness that we typically associate with the last month of the year. Although they come in other colors, blue is the overwhelming favorite color.

Turquoise (calcium aluminum phosphate) (Photo free image—invaluable.com), is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.



Although **Zircon** (Zircon silicate) (Photo stock.adobe.com free images) isn't as well-known as some other gems, this stone is a celebrity among geologists. The oldest rock ever discovered was a zircon found in Australia dating to 4.4 billion years ago, nearly as old as the planet itself (the oldest diamonds are 3.3 billion years old). Zircon can be found in a rainbow of colors, including blue, brown, green, orange, yellow, red and even clear. Clear zircon is one of the most brilliant non-diamond gems, and was often used as a diamond alternative in the nineteenth century (though zircon is different than cubic zirconia, a type of imitation diamond). According to the American Gemological Society, folk wisdom says that zircon has the power to relieve pain, protect travelers and prevent nightmares.



LOCAL ROCKS AND MINERALS—

Wayne Mills, Bulletin Editor OMS
(Text and pictures)

GOLD

Gold has been found at several places on the Central Coast of California. From the old Chinese diggings near La Panza to the Gold Mines above Willow Creek In the Big Sur area to the mouth of the Santa Maria River Some of the oldest gold diggings in the State were made the native Americans who mined gold for the Spanish missionaries somewhere east of San Miguel back in the late 1700's.

A local group **Central Coast Gold Prospectors** continues the passion of searching for gold wherever it occurs.



Gold in matrix (location unknown) from author's collection



Gold panned from \$45 commercially purchased bag. Probably less than 1/31 Troy ounce (one gram). Author's collection

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY--
BOARD MEETING
Nipomo C of C**

Nov. 1, 2021 (7:00 P.M.) Note: on Monday!

Members present: 2021 Board--Wayne Mills, Dick Bazzell, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Renea Suttcliffe, Absent: Jeanne Brown, Betty Campbell
Called to Order at 7:05 PM. by President Wayne Mills.

MINUTES: (General meeting) Published in Nov.. Bulletin.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Jeanne) Jeanne not present.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne)—letter from Salvation Army, AFMS Newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin-(Wayne) Bulletin out. No corrections noted

AFMS/CFMS- (Renea) Renea is going to November Director's meeting. A report on AFMS/CFMS included in the November Ore-Cutts.

Membership – (Wayne) Vote on application from Jeannine Todd. Requirements met, and Application and fee received. Board voted unanimously to accept Jeannine. **Order name Badge.**

Field Trip – (Sally)-- None planned

Adopt-a-Highway – (Wayne) Our next and last highway cleanup of the year is November 13 at 8 AM. **Extra help is appreciated.**

Annual Awards Banquet: OMS Annual Meeting is ON for Dec. 11 (12-3 PM) at the Madonna Inn. About 32 folks have sign-up to date.
Members to pay for meals by end of November Meeting.

Breakfast- Breakfasts have been cancelled until further notice.

Education (Wayne) None to report.

Library- (Alexis) No report.

Sunshine-(Margaret). Per Jeanne, Bill continues to improve he is now at home under a nurse's care.

Scholarship (Jeanne) No scholarship will be awarded until (perhaps) 2022.

Our annual scholarship depends on our show revenue.

Our show was canceled this year due to Coronavirus.

Old Business-. Call for nominations and/or ac-

cept slate of officers at November General meeting.

New Business: Our November Meeting is **Wes on a Geological Wonder Program. Display is Best 1 x 1.** Wes said he would bring a prize for the 1' x 1' contest.

Positions needed:

Pres.	Sally G.	Pres. Elect.	VACANT
Treas.	Jeanne B.	Secty.	Tara M.
Board	Betty C.	VACANT	Jan F.
	Renea S.	Dick B.	
Bull. Ed.	Tara M.		

Adjourned at: 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt
November 9, 2021 (7 P.M.)**

Opened meeting at 7:05 PM (Wayne Mills, President)

Invocation by Debbie Hood

Flag Salute by: Jeannine Todd

Members/Guests—members, guests: We introduced our new member Jeannine Todd.

Other guests were: Robyn Burgess, Bryan and Sharon Pearson of Los Osos, and Lisa and Steve Siemsen of Orcutt. Minutes of the November Board meeting were read. **Membership application is on our website.**

Correspondence – Was included in the Board minutes.

Treasurer—Jeanne—Treasurer's report. Few checks have been written in the last few months. Mostly for the bulletin. We are still solvent!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin-(Wayne) Bulletin is out. No comments or corrections.

CFMS- (Renea) Renea is going to November Director's meeting. A report on AFMS/CFMS is included in the December Ore-Cutts.

Membership – (Wayne) Our new member, Jeannine Todd was introduced. We need to order a badge for her.

Field Trip – (Sally) None planned for December or January.

Adopt-a-Highway – (Wayne) Our next highway cleanup is Saturday, Nov. 13 at 8 AM. Members participating in the Highway Clean-up voted to continue the activity through 2022.

Annual Awards Banquet: OMS Annual Meeting is ON for Dec. 11 (12-3 PM) at the Madonna Inn. 33 members and guests have signed-up for this event.

Breakfast- Breakfasts have been cancelled until further notice.

Education (Wayne) No report.

Library- (Alexis) No report.

Sunshine-(Margaret). Bill is now home under a nurse's care. .

Scholarship (Jeanne) No scholarship will be awarded until (perhaps) 2022. Our annual scholarship depends on our show revenue.

Our show was canceled in 2021-22 due to Covid.

Old Business—November concluded our Election process. Each position was announced 3 times and no new nominations or volunteers came forth. The proposed slate was accepted by acclaim.

New Business— Board voted to include Board Meetings and additional General meetings (after 2) to toward meeting the requirement of “additional activity” for membership.

The Board will try to get an amendment passed in the next year that lowers requirement for an officer position to one year. We need a new Refreshment Chairperson, and more prizes for the Door Prize Activity.

2022 Officers and Board:

Pres.	Sally Griffith	Pres. Elect.	VACANT
Treas.	Jeanne Brown	Secty.	Tara Machin /w. Jeannine Todd
Board	Betty Campbell	Dick Bazzell	Jan Ferguson
VA-CANT	Renea Suttcliffe		
Bull. Ed.	Tara Machin		

PROGRAM Wes Lingerfelt presented a program on Geological Wonders. The display was BEST 1' x 1'. There were two entries and Sally Griffith won the prize donated by Wes Lingerfelt. After the program, Renea Suttcliffe awarded the door prizes.

Closed meeting at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

AFMS/CFMS NEWS—DECEMBER

2021

Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep

CFMS (cfmsinc.org)

Juniors—Jim Brace Thompson. Bulletin contains an application for Junior Achievement Awards.

Bulletin—CFMS Bulletin is now being edited by Par LaRue.

Rockhound of the Year (ROY). Several clubs have made nominations for this Honor.

BLM—A comprehensive list of local Bureau of Land Management Offices and contact information is included in this bulletin.

Safety—Article on common safety and Health Hazards and their remedies.

Exhibits—Informative article by Pat La Rue on how to create a competitive display.

Earth Science Summer Camps (Tony and Sandie Fender)—There was no **Camp Zyzxx** this year and will not be one next year due to COVID restrictions.

Camp Paradise experienced a few mishaps this year, and did not break even on expenses due to lower than attendance. Camp Paradise is planned for August-September 2022.

California Federation Show—Planned for May 6-8 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds.

AFMS (amfed.org)

Bulletin—Pat LaRue is the new AFMS Bulletin Editor.

Juniors—Jim Brace Thompson. Incoming AFMS President Margaret Kolaczyk appointed Lora Hall to this position. Contact Lora at silvertop-minis@msn.com.

Committees—Bulletin contains a complete list of Committee Chairs and Officers and contact information for each. A list of the By Laws for the Scholarship Committee is included as is the AFMS Land Use Policy.

Safety—Chairman Ellery Barow has included a thorough article on Fire Safety.

Articles—Interesting article about the **History of Jet** and its' imitators as lapidary products. Also an article about a possible **8th Continent** submerged off the coast of New Zealand. Aptly named Zealandia, the “continent” has a granitic crust (not often found in the ocean), and is about ½ the size of Australia.

AFMS Show—Set for 8/3-6/2022 in Billings, Montana.

OMS HIGHWAY HEROES AND HEROINES AND THE MARSHALL PLAN

Wayne Mills, Adopt a Highway Coordinator

Eight folks represented OMS on our last highway clean-up of the year (November 13). Two of our participants were prospective members Steve and Lisa Siemsen of Orcutt. The other participants were Wes and Marty Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, Sally Griffith, Dick Bazzell and yours truly.

We needed the extra help because the highway was dirty than usual.. Lisa and Steve got an introduction to the bane of “trucker bombs”, and Wes found an I-Phone 5. Steve found a 2020 dime, and Wayne found a 2”-diameter pipe coupler (and 4 trucker bombs). Half the crew were done with their stretches by about 9:30 a.m., after starting at just after 8:00 a.m. Lisa, Steve and I enjoyed coffee and conversation at Francisco’s for about 20 minutes before the rest of the crew showed-up. The winner of Wes’s “incentive prize”, a 2.5” sphere of brecciated jasper, was Dick Bazzell. Dick in turn gave it to Lisa and Steve, perhaps as a thank you for taking the time to join us on our highway adventure.



THE MARSHALL PLAN (aka “Pick-up Stix”)

Lisa asked about the two bag system that Sally and I use for keeping our recyclables separate from the trash we pick up during our Highway Clean-ups (rather than pawing through the trash bags to pick-out the aluminum cans and plastic bottles after the clean-up). This simple (but clever) system was developed by OMS Lifetime Member, Marshall Reeves, who now resides in Oregon (as far as we know). The “system” consists of a 23” x 1” diameter piece of PVC and 2 small hand clamps that open 1 1/8 inch, plus two Caltrans trash bags (provided by OMS). The bags are placed back-to-back, and the inside sides are rolled around the PVC “Stick”. The clamps are placed at each end of the rolled assembly, and voila! Separated bags for trash and treasure” (recyclables), and a handle to carry both with.



Wes (Sphereheaven.com) found the material for this white agate sphere on our November highway clean-up.



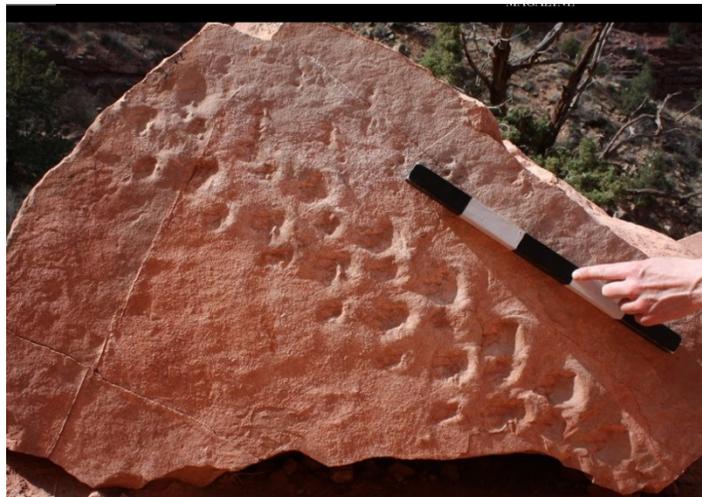
BITS AND BYTES

Geologist discovers huge boulder in the Grand Canyon with 313 million year old amphibian footprints from a time this part of the Earth was nearer to the Equator. (Picture from Smithsonian Magazine)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/fallen-boulder-grand-canyon-reveals-ancient-footprints->

What is the difference between agate, jasper and Chalcedony?

[What Is the Difference Between Agate, Jasper and Chalcedony? - Geology Page](#)



Davemaoite—a new mineral occurring in Diamonds

<https://www.npr.org/2021/11/17/1056397181/rare-mineral-discovery-davemaoite>

Zircons—holding secrets to the first life on Earth?

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/news-earth-rocks-sediment-first-life-zircon?](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/news-earth-rocks-sediment-first-life-zircon?hpid=hp_zircon%3Afirst-life%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

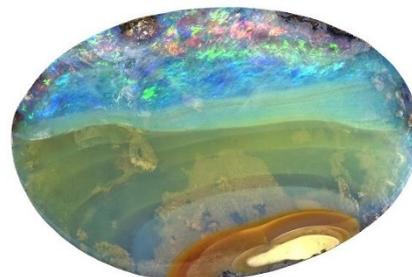
Excerpts from an interesting book that details how scientists combined brain power to locate Chicxulub . Fascinating science book from the 90s (T-Rex and the Crater of Doom)

<https://www.nytimes.com/books/first/a/alvarez-trex.html>

Precious opal found in Meteorite from Antarctica. So many amazing articles on this web page (Geology.com)!

Read also about the recent discovery of a baby bird from 127 million years ago. The 2.5 inch fossil was revealed in a slab of rock through the use of “synchrotron radiation”.

<https://www.geologyin.com/2016/06/opal-discovered-in-antarctic-meteorite>



New dinosaur species discovered in Missouri. The juvenile duckbill dinosaur dates to the late Cretaceous, about 70-65 mya.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/dinosaur-bones-from-species-never-uncovered->

CFMS SHOWS

December

December 5, 2021 – Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
Rock 'n Craft Winter Festival, 32097 Corydon Rd.,
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

Hours: Sunday, December 5 – 10 AM – 4 PM

Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com

Website: Facebook: Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society

January

January 15-16, 2022 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Memorial Building, 324 N. Kaweah Ave., Exeter, CA

Contact: (559) 802-6029

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE RULES

Sylvia Nasholm, OMS (Clipart—Bing free images)

It is time for our Annual Christmas gift exchange during our Luncheon at the Madonna Inn. As a reminder, participation is voluntary. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped ROCK related \$10.00 gift. You pick a number when you enter. First up chooses a gift and opens it for all to see. Second person called can choose a gift and open it OR steal the first gift chosen, which sends that person back to the pile. And so it goes down through the list. The strategy comes in play when you understand a gift may only be stolen twice

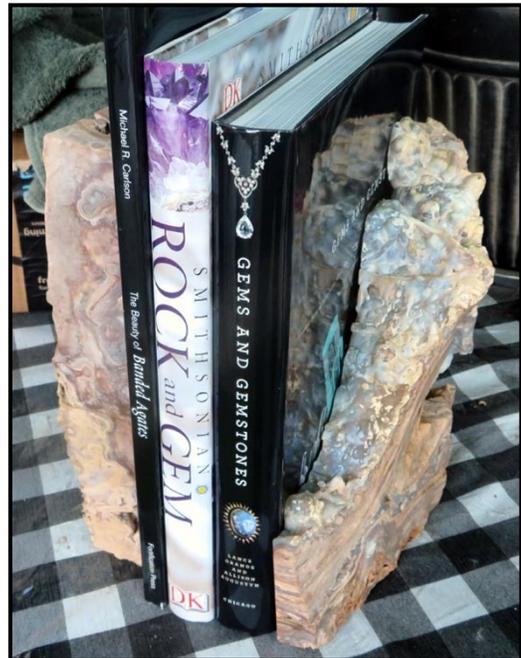
before it is out of play.

Whether you choose to participate or not, watching it all play out is a lot fun. See you at the Madonna at Noon on December 11th!



PICTRES FROM NOVEMBER 1' X 1' CONTEST

There were only two entries for our (nearly) annual 1' x 1' Contest at our November meeting. Sally Griffith came out on top with her Lamprophyre bookends and Rock books. Wayne finished second. Wes Lingerfelt donated the prize, a lovely double terminated quartz crystal from Brazil.



OMS CALENDAR	
DECEMBER 2021	
Tuesday, December 6 7:00 p.m..	OMS Joint Board Meeting, Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt's residence
Saturday, December 11, 12:00-3:00 p.m.	OMS Annual Meeting Madonna Inn. Bring Gift, Cans, Donations for Abused Children
Saturday, December 25 All Day	Merry Christmas to all!
JANUARY 2022	
Monday, January 3 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Build- ing
Saturday, January 8 Highway Clean-up 8:00 a.m.	S.E. Corner of Highways 101/166 East. Followed by treats at Franciscos.
Tuesday, January 11 7:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt.

2021-OMS OFFICERS		
President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
President-Elect	Vacant	
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
2020-2021-OMS BOARD MEMBERS		
	Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
	Betty Campbell	(805) 481-6860
	Renea Suttcliffe	(805) 929-2783
CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR		
	Renea Suttcliffe	(805) 929-2783
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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: Wayne Mills		
OMS Webmaster –Wes Lingerfelt– (805) 929-3788 Check out our OMS web site at: http://www.omsinc.org or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org .		
Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495 wwmills50@hotmail.com	

Check-out the OMS Web page at :omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcutt Mineral Society in Facebook Search)..

ROCKHOUND HUMOR
Captions by Wayne Mills
The 10 Days of Christmas

*On the 15th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**AN ALL –EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO
CRATER OF DIAMONDS PARK IN
ARKANSAS**

*On the 16th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**3 DAYS AT GEM HILL IN
NORTH CAROLINA**

*On the 17th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A 2” SPHERE OF PRECIOUS OPAL
FROM ETHOPIA
(DRY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN)**

*On the 18th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A SMILODON SKULL FROM
THE LA BREA TAR PITS**

*On the 19th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**217 GRAMS of
CRYSTALLINE GOLD**

*On the 20th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A FOSSIL TURTLE FROM THE
WHITE RIVER BADLANDS**

*On the 21st of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**3 DAYS HUNTING OPALIZED WOOD
IN THE VIRGIN VALLEY OF NEVADA**

*On the 22nd of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A WEEK OF METAL DETECTING ON THE
TREASURE COAST OF FLORIDA**

*On the 23rd of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A METAL DETECTING TOUR OF HISTORIC
LOCATIONS IN EUROPE**

*On the 24th of December,
my true love gave to me...*

**A FOREVER LOVE TO
DO IT ALL WITH**

**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.