



## Birthdays

Glenda Reeves  
February 8th

Jan Ferguson  
February 16th

Alexis Van Natta  
February 20th

Cary Holst  
February 23rd

## Anniversaries

Don and Sylvia Nasholm  
January 10th

Sorry that I missed them last month.

## Who is Bringing Snacks?

The Azevedos, Jeannie Lingerfelt, and Jan Ferguson have signed up to bring pie on February 13th.

Thank you for volunteering!

## The Prez Box - February 2024



Happy Valentine's Day!

Our January general meeting was our organizing meeting. What do we want and expect in the new year? Where can each of us help? What do we want from our club?

The general meeting started with a presentation of "Agates" by Wes (thank you Wes, for another colorful & informative program), followed by each board member giving a short introduction of themselves. What was

really exciting was the fact we had 10 guests along with our members! I looked back and I do believe that is a historical record for total participants! What an excellent start to the new year!

We passed out signup sheets as usual; one for the Christmas luncheon and one for ideas and/or desires on field trips and education in 2024. I thank you for your ideas! I shall strive to put as many of them into effect as possible. The most interested ideas for field trips was museums trips. In the education category, most popular ideas was wire-wrapping. Tied for second was cabbng, casting, and soft stone carving. I'm looking for trainers...any out there? Please contact me to discuss potentials.

At our February general meeting, February 13th, be sure your membership dues are paid and that your red book contact information is accurate. We try to get red books out to all members at our March meeting.

Any new ideas for our annual show this year? (August 2-4, 2024). Our committee, headed by Renae Sutcliffe, would like to hear from you. We're looking to branch out a bit with additional interests.

My hope and aspiration for 2024 is to get an educational lab or something similar established so members can learn how to use

## February

**February 5** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

**February 13** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center - Correction to the last newsletter that listed the incorrect date.

**February 17** -Field Trip - Mark your calendar. Updates are coming soon

## March

**March 4** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

**March 9** at 8:00 am - Highway Clean Up at the Southeast corner of Highway 101 and 166.

**March 12** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center - Correction to the last newsletter that listed the incorrect date.

**March 16** -Field Trip TBD

## Upcoming Dates

**June 8** - Annual Picnic Pot Luck

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

Prez Box continued from page 1

equipment, learn how to wire wrap, and learn other skills. Presently it's being set up and it's starting! No location yet, but we are organizing trainers. Margaret Kolaczyk will help us train trainers if need be. Again, currently a "work in progress". Interested?... call me.

Some upcoming dates to remember: Tuesday, Feb 13th is the general meeting, our annual picnic will be on June 8th, and the gem show will be August 2nd, 3rd and 4th of 2024. Other dates will be discussed at the next general meeting so see you there!

Our February program will be MYSTERY ROCKS by Wayne Mills. Wayne is the Rock Doc and he can help identify rocks. Bring your "I don't know what this rock is" and not only will Wayne help you identify your mystery rock will, it will count as a display. Remember that you can earn extra raffle tickets by bringing a display.

To each and every one of us, remember we are what makes our events successful! Know it, own it. Do it!

Now, lets have some fun!  
Jeanne

## Valuable Pyrite?

Pyrite or Fool's Gold has had a reputation of being worthless compared to other metals. However, Pyrite is a valuable commodity for many industries.

Pyrite (iron disulfide) is the most abundant sulfide mineral on earth and is most commonly used for the manufacture of sulfur dioxide gas and sulfuric acid. Sulfur dioxide gas is used in the food and beverage industry to protect against spoilage microorganisms. It is also used in paper manufacturing.

Recently pyrite has been used as a cathode in non-rechargeable lithium batteries as well as components of solar panels.

Don't forget that pyrite has a polymorph called marcasite. It has the same chemical composition as pyrite, but a different crystal structure. Just to be confusing, marcasite jewelry is usually made from pyrite and not its polymorph.



## Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting - January 8, 2024

### Board Meeting - January 8, 2024

**Call to Order:** 7:12 pm by Jeanne Watkins

**Members present:** Wes Lingerfelt, Sally Griffith, Wayne Mills, Tara Machin, Renea Sutcliffe,, Joey Nichols, Cary Holst, Jeanne Watkins, and Joe Goetz  
- Absent: Jan Ferguson - Guest: Dan Diaz

**Previous Minutes:** In the previous board meeting notes from December 4, 2024, the date of the January general meeting was incorrectly reported as January 8th, but the general meeting is on January 9th. In the upcoming dates, the February general meeting was incorrectly listed as February 6th. The correct date is February 13th.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cary will be signed onto the OMS bank account on January 9th. Jeanne gave a corrected 2023 financial report. Some checks from 2023 were misplaced into the 2022 files and they have now been reported into the correct year. Jeanne presented a budget for 2024 and the board needs to review in February.

**Correspondences:** Sally lost her keys so she did not pick up the mail.

#### Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** (see above)
2. **CFMS-** We may want to attach the CFMS and AFMS newsletters to the email with the our OMS newsletter. Members who want printed copies may need to pay an extra \$12 per year for printing expenses. Jeanne will talk a poll at the January general meeting and make a decision in February.
3. **Membership-** Tara and Sally will be taking over for Wayne. The board approved 2 new members. Wayne will bring the red book to the January general meeting so that members can correct their information.
4. **Field Trips-** January 20th is the field trip. Big changes to the original plan. We will meet at the Guadalupe Dunes Center at 10:00 am. After the Dunes center, will meet up at Avila Beach at 11:45 am. Joey will bring updates to the general meeting..

5. **Adopt-A-Highway-** January 13th is the highway clean-up. Meet at the southeast corner of Highway 101 and 166 at 8:00 am
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** Tentative date will be December 7th, 2024. We want to look for a new location for next year since the Quarterdeck was not private enough.
7. **Education-** No updates
8. **Library-** No updates
9. **Sunshine-** Card to Jan since she has the flu. Jeanne Lingerfelt is also under the weather.
10. **Scholarship-** Board voted to increase the scholarship to \$1000 with the new 2023 financials.
11. **Show:** Tara and Renea both got costing for banners, but we need to talk further.

#### Old Business:

- We still need to 'revamp' the regulations and bylaws. A committee is needed.
- We discussed the advertising needs for the club. How do we reach new members? How can we update our Facebook page? Joe Goetz and Tara Machin will try to investigate options.

#### New Business:

- The board agreed to change the August board meeting to August 12th instead of August 5th.
- We are on the hunt for 3 inch geodes for the kids booth as well as small polished stones. Renea has a contact for the geodes. Tara will follow up with members for polished stones.
- Jeanne and Wayne will meet the at the High School next week.
- Wes has added "tips and tricks" to the OMS website. Please send ideas to Wes.

**Program:** Agates by Wes Lingerfelt. Jan is sick and cannot bring donuts. Jeanne or Sally will pick up donuts instead.

**Display:** Agates

Adjourned: 8:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Tara Machin

## Rocks for Sale

An Orcutt Mineral Society member is selling his personal case of Nipomo treasures. It includes high grade specimens of Nipomo Marcasite, Sagenite as well as large Quartz crystals.

There is also a large sphere of local Calcium based rock with Aragonite plumes that is shown in the picture.

Dan is asking \$2000 but is willing to accept offers. Please contact him at 805-363-1134 if interested.



## Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting - January 9, 2024

**Call to Order:** 7:00 pm by Jeanne Watkins

**Members present:** 24 Members / 10 Guests

**Invocation:** Cary Holst

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Wayne Mills

**Previous Minutes:** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.

**Treasurer's Report:** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.

**Correspondences:** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Bulletin-** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.
2. **CFMS-** We did a poll of the members to see how they would like to receive CFMS and AFMS updates. We will continue with the CFMS / AFMS notes only in the OMS newsletter with the links to the CFMS and AFMS websites.
3. **Membership-** The 2023 Red Book was passed around for corrections.
4. **Field Trips-** See the board meeting notes. There is an admission fee to the Dunes Center. Adults are \$7 and seniors are \$5. We might add a stop at Mystic Nature as we convo from the Dunes Center to Avila

Beach. Joey to send out confirmation emails.

5. **Adopt-A-Highway-** See board meeting notes. We got \$1000 from the state in 2023. It was misreported as \$750 in a previous newsletter.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th. Jeanne passed around questionnaires for interest the annual meeting and where we might want to have it next year.
7. **Education-** No updates
8. **Library-** No updates
9. **Sunshine-** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.
10. **Scholarship-** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.
11. **Show:** Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.

**Old Business:**

- Please see the board meeting notes from January 8th.

**New Business:**

- Sign up sheets were passed around for refreshment sign-ups.
- Jeanne passed around questionnaires for interest on classes and field trips.

## OMS Highway Clean Up Adventure - January 2024

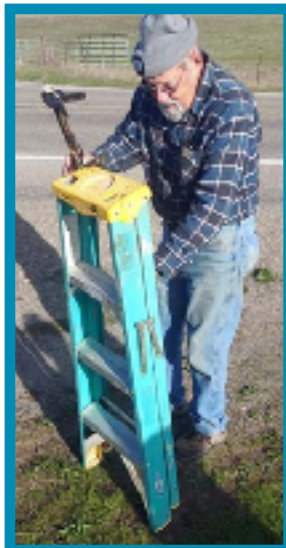
By Wayne W. Mills, Adopt-A Highway Coordinator

On a cold Saturday morning, the OMS "Highway Posse" met-up at the southeast corner of Routes 101/166 East of 101 at 8:00 am for their regularly scheduled (second Saturday of odd months) highway clean-up. The group included: Wes Lingerfelt, Sally Griffith, Steve and Lisa Siemsen, Geary Sheffer, Joe Goetz, and yours' truly. The highway was not too dirty, but we got about 6 bags of trash and 2 bags of cans and plastic bottles from it, as well as some good exercise.

Wayne found a dime, a penny, and a lampshade in the western section (plus about 4 trucker's bombs), and Joe Goetz found a ladder on our easternmost section.

We had a little drama when Steve and I were walking back to our parking lot on the south side of the highway. One moment Steve was behind me, and the next he was gone! I returned to the parking lot and Lisa asked where Steve was and I said "I don't know, he was right behind me!" So she headed back up the highway in her car, and I proceeded back on foot. Opposite the big gully I called out for Steve and he said "I am here with cans!" So we tried calling Lisa but could not reach her. We loaded up the cans, and took them back to the parking lot where Steve and Lisa were soon reunited.

After the clean-up, we met at the Mayor's Place in Nipomo for snacks. Only Wayne, Sally, Joe and Gary made it to the Mayor's Place, as Wes was sick, and Steve and Lisa were going to the Bird Fest in Morro Bay. Sally drew the winning name for the incentive prize donated by Wes (a nice Brazilian agate slab), and it was her own!



## Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

### February 17-18, 2024 - Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contact: (510) 693-9075,

[kellyplumb900@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyplumb900@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

### February 24-25, 2024 - Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: (415) 254-1506, [dduhonvgms@gmail.com](mailto:dduhonvgms@gmail.com)

Website: <https://vjgems.com>

### March 1-3, 2024 - Newark, CA

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley

Website: <http://mgscv.org>

### March 2-3, 2024 - Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: (805) 312-8467, [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)

Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

### March 8-10, 2024 - Victorville, CA (Stoddard Wells area)

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Contact: (760) 243-2339, [president@vvgc.org](mailto:president@vvgc.org)

Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

### March 9-10, 2024 - Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society of CA

Website: <http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

### March 17, 2024 - Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: (760) 728-1130, [info@fgms.org](mailto:info@fgms.org)

Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

### March 16-17, 2024 - San Jose, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Contacts: (408) 265-1422, [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)

Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>

### March 16-17, 2024 - Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society

Contact: [Facebook Lemoore Gem and Mineral Club](#)

### March 16-17, 2024 - San Jose, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: (408) 265-1422

Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>

### March 22-24, 2024 - Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society

Website: <https://fgms.rocks/>

### March 23-24, 2024 - Angeles Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society

Contact: (209) 736-4892, [dbrooks49@att.net](mailto:dbrooks49@att.net)

Website: <http://CalaverasGemandMineral.net>

More information can be found on the CFMS website at [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

## January Displays



## AFMS / CFMS News - February 2024

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By Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep.

The following summaries are intended to give the reader a hint of what is contained in the current newsletters. If any of these topics are of interest, PLEASE take the trouble to look up the newsletter on the AFMS or CFMS website.

**CFMS** [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

**President's Box** (Marcia Goetz) February is a good time to love your rocks. Remember to send in your Officer Change Forms. Plans are underway for the AFMS/CFMS Show May 24-26 in Ventura. (Page 1)

**Information on** Insurance contacts, newsletter subscriptions, CFMS Website, Donations and Endowment Fund. (Page 2)

**AFMS Endowment Fund** (Sharon Rogow) Looking for volunteers for AFMS/CFMS Show!

**Juniors**—(Jim Brace-Thompson) Seeking 3 judges for the 2024 AFMS Juniors Achievement Awards. Deadline for filing is March 1, 2024. Prize will be awarded at the AFMS Ventura Show May 25. (Page 3)

**Call for Golden Bear Awards** (Jim Brace-Thompson) For outstanding service to CFMS. Deadline for nominations is April 30.

**Rule Committee** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Encouraging club members to enter a competitive or non-display for the upcoming Federation show in Ventura.

**Dues are due** as of January 1. A \$50 late fee is charged if postmarked after April 1 (Page 4)

**CFMS Rockhound of the Year** (Chris Ward) Two clubs submitted entries, none from the Central Coast.

**2024 AFMS Show and Convention** (Jim Brace Thompson) FOLLOW THE MERMAIDS to the AFMS Federation show in Ventura, CA on May 24-26. The second hint to the Mermaid contest is included.

**AFMS Endowment Fund** (Jim Brace Thompson) Every year, the Endowment fund holds a raffle at their annual show. Please donate prizes (minimum value \$75) and buy raffle tickets. (Page 6)

**Camp Paradise** (Jill Atkins' Experience) Registration begins March 15. Dates are August-September.

**Important Reminders** (Pat La Rue) Send in your Officer Change Form and address changes.

**All About Exhibiting** (Pat La Rue) Great article with much needed help for the novice and a good reminders for "old pros". (Page 8)

**Upcoming Shows and Conventions** Remember to advertise your upcoming shows! (Page 9-10)

**2023-2024 Committee Chairs** (Page 11-12)

**Junior Achievement Award Application** (page 13)

**AFMS** [amfed.org](http://amfed.org)

**President** (Roger Buford) Roger and his wife are headed (from Louisiana) to Quartzite and Tucson.

**AFMS/CFMS Show** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Pictures for the Mermaid Contest at the AFMS Show in Ventura.

**Public Relations** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim recommends the 9 -book series: Social Media Marketing for Dummy's to help promote your club/show. He will have a test on book 6—FACEBOOK in the March AFMS Bulletin.

**AFMS Website Contest** (Lori Carter) The deadline to request judges for this contest is 9/30/2024.

Continued on page 8

CFMS / AFMS Notes continued from page 7

**Earthquakes Around the Earth** (John Martin) Shows the epicenter of numerous earthquakes (Page 3)

**Bringing Vintage Back to Life** (Jennifer Haley) Jennifer is preserving the history of AFMS with poems and cartoons from past issues of our newsletters. Send copies to Jennifer.

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation** (Sandie Fender) Please forward the Scholarship honoree from each Federation to Sandie by January 15. (Page 4)

**Eastern Federation New Year's Resolutions** (Ellery Borow) Some safe ideas that "rock"!

**Updated Uniform Rules Committee Documents**—Updates rules for shows and exhibiting.

**Judge's Training 2024** (Leslie Wayment) Two Judges training classes this year. One at the Ventura Show in May and second at the Wildacres Retreat on September 9-15 (Cost is \$625) (Page 5)

**AFMS Rockhound of the Year** (Judy Allison) There are 3 awardees on the Central Coast—3 from Ventura, and one from Victor Valley. Submit California entries for outstanding members to Chris Ward—chris\_ward678@yahoo.com (Pages 6-8)

**Telling the Story of a Rock** (Excerpted with permission by Linda Jaeger) Suggestions for Adult and Junior's articles about our hobby (Page 9)

**The Trilobite vs. The Opabinia** (A short Story by Charlotte Small, Age 15, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado) A tale of a sea-floor struggle in the Paleozoic ocean. (page 10)

**Venturing To Ventura Part 4** (Cheryl Neary) More of Cheryl's series on the history of Ventura

**Take a Detour to the Northwest** (Cheryl Neary) Things to see and do when you visit the Northwest Federation Show ("Nature's Treasures Under Foot" in Hermiston, Oregon May 10-12.(Pages 11-12)

**Looking Forward** (Jennifer Haley) Ways you can help preserve your collecting areas, including help from ALAA (American Lands Access Association) (Page 13)

**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Conventions**, AFMS Purpose, (Page 14)

**Standard Features of the Bulletin Include:** AFMS Land use Policies, AFMS Code of Ethics,

## Museum Devoted to the "Lost Dutchman Mine"

By Tara Machin

Have you ever heard the lore of the "Lost Dutchman Mine"? It is probably the most famous lost treasure story known. I had heard the tale about the Jacob Waltz who, on his death bed in 1891, reportedly told his caretaker where a vast gold mine was in the Arizona desert. To this day no one has found this mysterious mine. I didn't think there was much more to the story, but I was wrong.

It turns out that a very prominent family, the vague Peralta family from California, has been mixed into the lost dutchman story. Many believe that this non specific family had also found the missing mine and had marked its location with hand carved stones. These hand carved stones, now called the Peralta stones, were offered as proof that the lost dutchman mine not only exists, but gives the map to find it. More amazingly, these stone maps actually exist and you can see them on display at the Superstition Mountain Museum in Apache Junction, Arizona.

The museum is just outside of Phoenix, Arizona and in addition to its questionable artifacts of the lost dutchman mine also has some amazing exhibits on Native Americans, local geology, and the local film industry. It is also near the Tonto National Forest so the desert landscapes are vast and beautiful. Here is the museum website. <https://superstitionmountainlostdutchmanmuseum.org/>



Photo from [Wikipedia](#)



<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Officers</b>		
President	Jeanne L. Watkins	(805) 235-2966
President Elect	Joe Goetz	(408) 707-8005
Immediate Past President	Sally Griffith	(805) 631-9955
Secretary	Tara Machin	(805) 863-5992
Treasurer	Cary Holst	(805) 345-0883
<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members</b>		
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Joey Nichols	(805) 714-7108
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
<b>CFMS Federation Director</b>		
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
<b>OMS Membership</b>		
Membership	Sally Griffith	(805) 631-9955
Membership is \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00.		
<b>OMS Online Contacts</b>		
OMS Webmaster	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
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Email	<a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a>	
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*ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

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

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

