

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society presents:  
**RockhoundRambling**  
The Official Bulletin of the VGMS

Volume 69 Issue 4

April 2023

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## Silent Auction This Month!

Our April Member Meeting promises to be a fun one! We'll have a Silent Auction to offer some nice specimens at great prices, all while raising funds for our club. Come prepared to bid on specimens, slabs, rough, cabs, and any surprises in store. If you have interesting items to donate, feel free to bring them to contribute to the auction. The meeting is April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Poinsettia Pavilion. –Terry Wilson, VP of Programs



Our field trips chair, David Springer, collected this beautiful piece of Lavic Siding jasper on the club's March field trip to the Cady Mountains. Read more in Field Trips.

## Renewing Members FAQ

Missing communications from VGMS? Just a reminder that, according to our by-laws, VGMS membership is due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, with a grace period extending until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Members who didn't renew by March 1<sup>st</sup> were removed from my e-mail list. Luckily, there's an easy way to fix that—simply renew your membership. You may find any issues of the newsletter you missed in the members' section of our website, [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org). Welcome back! –Celia Churchill, Bulletin Editor

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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](mailto:info@vgms.org) Website: [www.vgms.org](http://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: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month

November and December: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

Certified Members' Workshop: 1<sup>st</sup> 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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author's contact information.

Photo of the month credit

Photos provided by David Springer.

## 2023 Elected Officers

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

## 2023 Committee Chairs

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

## Welcome, new VGMS members!

Please welcome the following new members: Shadoe Austin; Nathan Battle; Lori and Paul Caron and Pebble Pup Brenna; Vicki Duckworth; Karen and Doug Kirk; Michele Milder and Pebble Pup Connor; Emma Murphy and Pebble Pup Orianna; Tanya Reyes, Cyndi Smith and Junior Member Elizabeth.



## LETTERS

# President's Message

John Cook



Our March club meeting was at Poinsettia Pavilion. We had a great turnout. The program speaker was Dr. Marcus Eriksen, who gave a very interesting talk about plastic/trash in the world's oceans and how virtually nothing is being done about it. We did get to learn about the area where dinosaurs are being dug in Wyoming and Dr. Eriksen has invited VGMS in July to hunt for Dinosaurs with him. Send me an email if you are interested, and

I will forward the brochure.

Additionally, clubhouse maintenance and upgrades are still being scheduled. Several items are on the list, so again we

will need help from club members and people who have special skills. Please contact me or if you can help us.

The CFMS show this year is at the Lodi Grape and Harvest Festival in Lodi, California on June 23-24-25 and some of the VGMS club members are volunteering to help with the show. There is still time to sign up and help! There will be lots to do and hope to see you there! This show is a no host show, which means it is hosted by the CFMS, so all clubs in California! We could use all the volunteers we can get to help.

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

Rock on,  
John

## Editor's Note

Celia Churchill



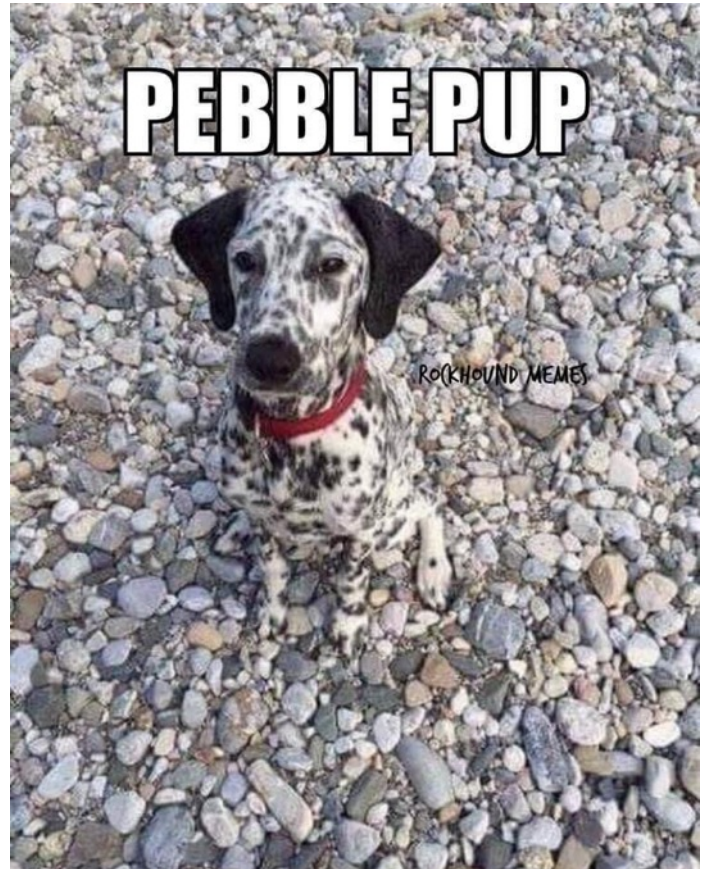
As I've mentioned at this year's member meetings and here in this newsletter, this is the year to enter your work in the bulletin. The CFMS/AFMS show will be held in Ventura in 2024, so if you win a bulletin contest award, you'll receive it right here in Ventura!

So far, I've reviewed the article and the feature. This month, I'd like to finish up by discussing the **poem**. Most of us are probably not in the habit of writing poetry, so this category can seem a little

daunting. The good thing is all kinds of poetry is accepted, serious or fun. The poems may be structured, like a haiku, acrostic poem, or limerick. They can also be free verse. There is no length requirement. Poems must be hobby-related or club-related.

This category is split by Adult entrants and Junior entrants; unlike articles, there are no separate categories for adult advanced poets or an age break at 12 for pups vs. juniors. However, VGMS has done really well in the Junior Poetry category in the past. Last year, our own Pups Lucia H., Valerie C., and Ellie L. swept the category at both CFMS and AFMS levels. I would love to see some more Pups and Juniors get involved, not to mention adults!

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



*Great camouflage! Thanks to Phyllis White for sending this in from Rockhound Memes.*

## NEWS

# Program Review and Schedule

Terry Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs

## Program Review - Dr. Marcus Eriksen

In March we had a fun and informative talk by Dr. Marcus Eriksen. Dr. Eriksen and his partner, Anna Cummins, have 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 spoke about several of his adventures in the natural world: his love of collecting, work at the LA County Natural History Museum, development of the Five Gyres Institute, and current projects involving dinosaur digs and a science museum in

Ventura County. The thread connecting them all was his passion for science education. Thank you to Marcus for delivering such an interesting talk.

## This Month - Silent Auction

This month we're having our spring Silent Auction! Come prepared to bid on specimens, slabs, rough, cabs, and any surprises in store. If you have interesting items to donate, feel free to bring them for the auction.

The meeting will take place in person at Poinsettia Pavilion on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. Social time begins at 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

# Attention Shop and Equipment Users!

John Cook, Club President and Steward

As with any organization, when you grow sometimes you have "growing pains". We are experiencing a record number of members who are using the lapidary equipment at the Clubhouse. We love this, but we have rules in place to be fair to all members. To start, if you are planning on attending the workshop, please register on our website, under the Member Section, scroll to the bottom where it says: Workshop sign up—click to register. This helps to let us know who to expect, how much help we need to have and to notify members if we need to cancel the workshop/event. Once you register, you will check a box specific to what machines you want to use. For example, options are: using a Genie, trim saw, flat lap, library, visiting the Museum, or other. Please bring your "money" card and if you don't have one, you can get one at the regular club meeting. E-mail Lauren Wideman, Diane Cook or Nancy Brace-Thompson to make arrangements to purchase a saw card before going. We are seeing too many people showing up and expecting to use equipment who have not registered on the website. We only have so many machines. If you come to clubhouse and have not registered, you will be asked to step aside and wait to

use equipment which has already been reserved.

Also, we now have a new "VGMS Saw Room Rock Cutting Request" form and procedure. This form is now in triplicate and is only to be filled out by Shop stewards. The white copy goes to VGMS treasurer, yellow copy stays in saw room and pink copy goes to the club member requesting saw cutting. The reason for these changes is because in the past there has been a lot of confusion around saw cutting. Forms filled out by club members resulted in unreadable requests, indecipherable to the stewards who do the work. Shop Stewards will be the only authorized people to complete the form. They will then place rocks to be cut in the order received in queue. We only have three large slab saws and it is the shop steward's responsibility to determine if there is enough time to cut the rock for slabs during shop time. If there is no time left during three-hour shop period to cut the rock, then the it will be locked up for the next available saw cutting time. Please be aware of these new policies. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to seeing you at the clubhouse!

# Field Trips

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## March: Cady Mountains Field Trip Report

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David Springer, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Field Trips

Our annual trip to rockhound the Cady Mountains occurred in late March spanning Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, depending on the attendees present. Due to the

travel distance of about 3.5 hours from Ventura, many folks often desire to come the Friday before the Saturday morning meet up location in Ludlow, CA. Ron Wise and I started off early at zero dark thirty of Friday morning to get to Barstow by



8 a.m., when Diamond Pacific opens for business, in order to have them look over a recently estate-acquired Titan. There we met with John Pickett, longtime friend of our club, who invited us into the bowels of Diamond Pacific to meet some of the other staff, and to witness him taking loving care of our Titan. Turns out the Titan was one of the early models dating to 1993, even though it was quite clean and newish looking when we picked it up from the O’Lear estate in Arleta back in late 2022. We eventually peeled away from his attention to the Titan to spend a few hours looking over Diamond Pacific’s famous rock pile in the back. This pile included several barrels of rocks recently moved there from the Estate of legendary rockhound, founder of Diamond Pacific and friend to VGMS, Mr. Bill Depue. While we were content looking over the rocks, we were soon joined by VGMS club members Tyrone LaFay and Lauren Wideman, as well as Jake Bailey and Robert Seaton, all traveling at a more sane time of morning from Ventura, who eagerly joined in on the rock inspections.



*Cut face of Cady Mountain “stick agate” named by John Pickett.*

We spent a good 2-3 hours poring over the rocks and overall, I believe we ended up purchasing nearly 300 pounds of rocks priced at a flat \$3/pound, if you you ask me, we did quite well, as attested by some recent slabs sliced off our finds (see photos)! After weighing out and paying for the rocks, we had the opportunity to visit the Diamond Pacific Museum which we all attended, and were regaled with some classic old school specimens and examples of what once could be found back in the hey day of rock collecting. After checking into our hotels, we scheduled a group dinner at D’Napoli’s Firehouse in downtown Barstow, a place I recommend others consider convening at in future endeavors. Great atmosphere, great Italian food, and large portions.

Saturday morning at 8:30 we all met at the Chevron Station in downtown Ludlow on the south side of Highway 40. Ludlow is really more of a truck stop than a town. Ron and I arrived early to attempt to scout out a few access roads only to find ourselves a bit limited in options in terms of how easily we could access our first collecting location. By 9 a.m. at the prescribed

meeting time, we had collected a total of 21 souls based on my waiver sign in log, including folks from VGMS, Conejo Gem and Mineral Club, Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society, and about six folks from the Victor Valley Club who had joined us for the morning. The air was only slightly breezy and weather proved to be perfect for rockhounding, sunny and in the low 60s, by mid morning. Our first stop was to mobilize our caravan to a South Cady Mountains location identified in the various field guides as a Cady Agate location with collecting following an alluvial fan. We spent about two hours scouring this area and some folks found some really nice classic Cady Mountain agate material. Overall, it did seem to be pretty well picked over, which was a bit disappointing given all the recent rainfall. At the end of this first trip, the folks with Victor Valley went their own way to explore other Mojave Valley locales and thanked us with generous donations of \$30 for the effort. Wow, thank you guys; we appreciate it!



*Cut face of Cady Mountain “stinkhole agate” named by John Pickett.*

Phase Two of the trip was to explore Lavic Siding south of the tracks at what is commonly referred to as Location B in the Gem Trails Guide. Lavic never disappoints and within one hour we all pretty much found ourselves with filled sacks and buckets. We had enough time to check out Location A on the other side of Pisgah Crater off Hector Road also called the Wall, and we were again treated by a plethora of jasper and common opal targets as well as a few agates. Ty LaFay hounded a beautiful 12 pound chunk of agate at Lavic Siding. Most of what we were finding though can be termed Lavic jasper which is a colorful brecciated jasper in colors of oranges and yellow, a slab of which I cut from the trip is shown as Photo 4. We called it a day at about 3:30 p.m. after a solid six hours of rockhounding. We took a photo at this stage after losing a few folks along the way (Photo 5). I think it is safe to say that this was an event-filled weekend enjoyed by all, and if the mass of rocks can be a measure, we all thoroughly enjoyed participating in this trip.



*Ty's 12-pound Cady Agate.*

I am happy to also report out that we were able to collect approximately three five-gallon buckets full of fun and interesting jaspers and agates to support the kids' booth activities. This is a sorely needed infusion of material given all the recent show success our club has realized.



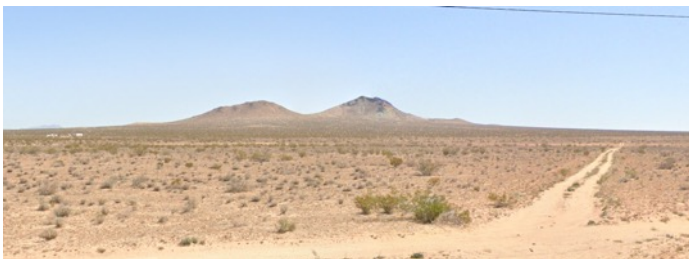
*Group shot at day's end at Lavic Siding.*

## April: Join CGMC at Castle Butte

Brett Johnson, OGMS Field Trips Chair

*(Editor's note: This article was previously published in the April 2023 issue of The Rock Bag, the newsletter of the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.)*

This month's field trip will be hosted by our sister club, Conejo Gem & Mineral Club and Chuck Borchard on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. It should be a beautiful day with the possibility of some wind (it is the Mojave desert after all, so bring sunscreen, a hat and a light jacket). We will meet at the Shell gas station (16048 Sierra Hwy, Mojave 93501) at 8 a.m. for the Meet & Greet, and then drive west to North Edwards on Hwy 58.



*Join CGMC for a trip to Castle Butte.*

The first stop will be to the saddle between two volcanic hills that Claymine Road cuts through. There will be some gemmy agate seam and nodules to collect. This is a great location for wire wrapping material.



*Agates from volcanic hills near Claymine Road.*

Next, we will continue north on Claymine Road to Sequoia Boulevard (end of pavement at this point) and driving east toward Castle Butte. There we can find an area of breathtaking, stark beauty. At the foothill of Castle Butte itself, we will search/collect Jasper, Chert, petrified Palm root and Chapenite rough. Anyone can get a bucket full of really nice material.





If there is time, we will drive to the Sierra Pelona Gem & Mineral Club Travertine mining claim to do a little quarrying. With permission, we can dig in the quarry to get at the layers of banded travertine. Some of the material was a black and white banding and others are what the Club refers to as "Red, White & Blue" banding. This travertine has layers of terracotta reds, calcite creams and manganese bluish/blacks.



*Feeling patriotic? Come collect red, white, and blue travertine.*

See you soon for another rewarding adventure. Please register for the trip at <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/>.

## Workshop

### Clubhouse Adventures

Jim Brace-Thompson

March 18<sup>th</sup> proved to be a busy day up at the clubhouse! Not only did we host our usual Workshop, we had a Pebble Pup gathering that included a class and a silent auction. The Workshop that morning saw Jake Bailey, Troy Schmidt, Robert Seaton, Rich Pisor, Shirley Layton, Jessica Lynton, Lauren Wideman, Kimo Zaiger, Chris Churchill, Jenifer Russell, Richard Slyker, Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick (plus Pebble Pup families), Nancy Brace-Thompson, myself, and Shop Stewards John Cook, Ron Wise, and David Springer. Both the saw and Genie rooms were humming, along with the flat lap. Lisa and her fellow instructor Erin Valenzuela ran the Pebble Pup class and activities; Jen worked at inventorying Kids' Booth stock and materials; Richard looked through our show exhibit cases; Nancy and I helped with the Pebble Pup Silent Auction and elsewhere; and Troy installed new lighting into museum display cases. April 2<sup>nd</sup> proved just as busy. Some 18 folks trickled in from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., under the guidance of Workshop Stewards Ron Wise, John Cook, and David Springer. The early-morning arrivals came to get certified on shop machines. These included Steven Schwab, Sheri Hultman, and Mike Abbruscato. Shirley Layton also arrived early to sort through Country Store items from our club show, as well as to get some lapidary work in. Others arriving later in the day for lapidary included Jake Bailey, Rich Pisor, Tyrone LaFay, Loretta Russell, Robert Seaton, Kathryn Davis, and myself. I also did some cleaning in the Museum storage area and gathered materials for upcoming Educational Outreach events, while squeezing in time to craft one cab from local Ventura beach jasper. Troy Schmidt continued his diligent work on improving Museum display case lighting, and Heather Seaton continued her work sorting through our Library collection.

If future Workshop days remain as busy as our last two, we may need a bigger place! Speaking of which, has anyone found one?!



*Machines were humming at the March 18<sup>th</sup> workshop.*





*Jessica and Jake crafting cabs.*



*Erin and Lisa teach the Rock Cycle.*



*Lisa and Erin prep for the March 18<sup>th</sup> Pebble Pup class.*



*Pebble Pups enjoyed their very own Silent Auction.*



*Pebble Pups and Juniors gathered together for a fun class on March 18<sup>th</sup>.*



*Every saw was humming during our April 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Day.*





*Our April 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Day offered family fun!*



*Shirley reorganized and packed away Country Store wares.*



*It ain't over till it's over! A big crew unloaded the show U-Haul at the clubhouse on March 6<sup>th</sup>.*



*Heather checks out our library books on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.*



# 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, [eczlosson@yahoo.com](mailto:eczlosson@yahoo.com) (310) 227-5647. Gregor also encourages folks to contact the official MTNM manager, Noelle Glines Bovio at [nglinesbovio@blm.gov](mailto: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?*




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**Continuing to Ring the Bell for the 2023 CFMS Show & Convention!**

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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 [schaisson@yahoo.com](mailto:schaisson@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 1<sup>st</sup>; 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!*

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## Camp Paradise Still Accepting Applications for Lapidary Classes

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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 General Meeting, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

## Attendees:

Called to order at 7:30pm PST, John Cook, Presiding.  
There were 39 participants. 1 Pebble Pup and 6 guests. 7-7:30 p.m. was Social Time.

## Announcements

### Show Thank You

To everyone for helping at the VGMS show from loading the truck, setting up the building, working the show, tearing down after the show, and unloading the truck at the clubhouse.

### Name Badges

See Diane Cook if you need one.

### Member's Workshop

Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 12-3pm.

### General Workshop

Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 9am-12.

### Conejo Show

The Conejo Gem & Mineral Club has its show April 22-23 at Borchard Park, Thousand Oaks. Setup is April 21.

## Old Business

### 2024 CFMS/AFMS Show

VGMS will host the 2024 CFMS/AFMS show at the Ventura Fairgrounds. Committee signup sheets are on the back table. We will also be hosting our own show in March 2024

### Finding a NEW Clubhouse

The Scottish Lapidary Society, the oldest society in the UK, is interested in being a sister society. The details will be discussed at the board meeting. Jim will check to see if we have any other sister clubs.

## Presentation

Dr. Marcus Eriksen spoke on plastic pollution in the world's ocean and on land plus dinosaur digging in Wyoming where he found the skull of a Triceratops. He bought a Santa Paula ranch and is working on starting the Ventura County Science Center. People can sign up to go dig for a week in Wyoming for information go to LEAPLAB.ORG. Dr Eriksen also has a science speaker series going on. Contact Dr. Eriksen at [marcuseriksen@gmail.com](mailto:marcuseriksen@gmail.com) to come and see the museum in Santa Paula.

## Officer - Committee Reports

### 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs: Terry Wilson

The April program will be a silent auction. May will be Petrified Forest in Calistoga by John Cook.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Field Trips: David Springer

Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> will be to Ludlow and Cady Mountains and on Friday some will be stopping at Diamond Pacific. Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> will be Castle Butte and Aerial Acres lead by Chuck Borchard of the Conejo club. The Hornitos jasper fieldtrip might be in September. Signup on <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Show: Diane Cook

Thank you everyone for chairing and/or volunteering at the show! It was the best show we had in many years! Now it's time to start working on the two 2024 shows. During the year, the different chairs will be giving a quick presentation on their areas and what is involved. We're getting low on items for many areas. If you have items for the kids booth, silent auction, country store or plant sales let the specific chairs know.

### Treasurer: Lauren Wideman

Not Present. Diane Cook - Buy your saw cards! There are new VGMS t-shirts on sale for \$25. Bills are paid.

### Secretary: Nancy Brace-Thompson

February meeting minutes were motioned by Diane Cook, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Seaton and approved by all

### Bulletin Editor: Celia Churchill

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the March bulletin. Due date for the April bulletin is April 10<sup>th</sup>. Think about writing an article, poem, or a word puzzle for the bulletin. Any of these could be considered for the CFMS/AFMS bulletin article competition.

### Federation Director: Jim Brace-Thompson

There is a CFMS 'no-host' show in Lodi on June 23-25th. Everyone is welcome to volunteer, attend and display. Jim is in charge of the kid's booth and is looking for volunteers! Two members, Janelle Thompson and Barbra Meisenheimer, have been busy making bags for kid's booth grab bags. Thank you! Contact Jim or Diane Cook if you are planning on going and can volunteer some time.

The Show Chair's Award for Outstanding Junior Exhibit will be awarded at Lodi for the best Junior exhibit. The show chair will choose the exhibit and the winner will receive a certificate, \$100.00 (donated by Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson) and a specimen (donated by Susan Chaisson-Walblom). VGMS also gives out a novice award. Camp Paradise now accepting applications for either one or two weeks of 8/20/23 to 9/2/23. For more information go to: [\[!\]](#)

Parliamentarian/Scholarship: Shirley Layton



Logan Cattanach was awarded the 2023 scholarship at the March board meeting and helped at the show. Dr. Grey (Professor Emeritus at Santa Barbara City College) will donate money towards another scholarship in the future.

Web Master: Troy Schmidt

Website is up to date. Go to <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/> for field trips and workshops.

Membership: Krishna Juarez

Not present.

## Committee Reports

Pebble Pups: Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick/Erin Valenzuela

An Excellent meeting on Saturday 318. With 6 new pebble pups. A tremendous showing at the VGMS show. Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> is by invitation only to Tony and Roslyn Demaria's house in upper Ojai.

Ways and Means: Adrian Ruiz and Jenifer Russell

Raffle madd \$119! Ron Wise donated a Death Valley onyx trivet as a special prize.

Museum: Troy Schmidt/Jim Brace-Thompson

No updates

Educational Outreach: Jim Brace-Thompson

**Ventura Charter School Earth Day Eco-Festival** on Sun. April 16th. More information coming.

**Pierpont Elementary Assembly** on Wed. April 19<sup>th</sup> starting

at 8:30am in the school cafeteria. Will start with a general presentation and then break out into four different stations.

**Dos Caminos Elementary Family Science Night** on Fri. April 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm, setup starting earlier. Erin Valenzuela will be in charge.

**Walnut Canyon Elementary Science Night** on Fri. April 28<sup>th</sup>. More information coming. Ocean View School District Summer Program. More information coming.

**YMCA Summer Camp Summer Program** on Fri. August 11th for Fossils. More information coming.

Hostess: Susan Slyker

There are three more slots available for the year to bring refreshments for meetings.

Archivist/Historian: Jim Brace-Thompson

On hold

Librarian: Heather Seaton

She's working on it.

Stewards: John, Ron and David

Buy your saw cards tonight!

Next Meeting

The next member meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, beginning at 7:30pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

With no further business, President John Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm.

*Respectfully submitted on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

*Celia Churchill, Bulletin Editor*

## Meeting Minutes

VGMS Board Meeting, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, via Zoom

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

### Attendees

John & Diane Cook, Nancy & Jim Brace-Thompson, Celia Churchill, Phyllis White, David Springer, Lauren Wildman, Terry Wilson, Shirley Layton, Erin Valenzuela, and Troy Schmidt

### Announcements

Meeting Minutes

The March board meeting minutes were approved by David Springer, seconded by Terry Wilson and approved.

Members Meeting

Next Members meeting will be held on Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in person at the Poinsettia Pavilion starting at 7:30pm.

Members Workshop

Saturday April 15, 2023 from 9am-12.

### New Business

Classes

Sandy and Tony Fender are willing to give a class on chain making for 10 people if the club is interested. We're also looking at offering more classes such as wire-wrapping, silver clay, dichroic glass, metal clay and beading.

Backyard Rocks for Sales

Discussion on the backyard rocks and how dangerous it is to have members going up to the throw away rock pile and how to move the pile to the side of the clubhouse. It will be in the bulletin when the pile has been moved to let all members know how much a pound a rock will be. The club needs a good scale to weigh rocks.

Saw Cards

The Saw card does not say for sawing only so it be used to buy rocks from the pile when it opens. There will be large saw instructions printed in large print on colored paper, laminated and then posted throughout the saw room and clubhouse.

## Old Business

Board Member Duty Adhoc Committee: Celia Churchill

Celia Churchill will chair it and looking for members. This will go over the duties of the board member duties.

2024 CFMS/AFMS Show

Diane Cook is the show chairperson, and she will send an email to set up the first show planning meeting.

By-laws and Operating Regulations: Laura Wideman

Lauren Wideman will get a committee together to look at both the by-laws and the operating regulations.

Clubhouse Search: Diane Cook

Diane will have a zoom meeting with the committee soon to go over ideas and start a to-do list.

Sister Clubs

Jim Brace-Thompson and David Andrews, with the Scottish Lapidary club, will look into becoming Sister Clubs and what that entails.

## Officer - Committee Reports

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs: Terry Wilson

April will be a silent auction; May will be Calistoga Petrified Forest by John Cook. Terry is working on more programs for the future.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Field Trips: David Springer

The Cady mountains trip in March had about 20 people. April 29<sup>th</sup> Chuck Borchard will lead a trip to Castle Butte and Aerial Acres; May is TBD for Hornitos Poppy Jasper and June 10<sup>th</sup> is a trip for DeeDeeite at Avila beach and bicanoids farther up the coast.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Show: Diane Cook

I emailed all the final figures for the 2023 show to the show committee and board members. Show planning meeting will happen soon to talk about making a new postcard and poster. The Gold Coast show is coming up on May 27-28<sup>th</sup> and does the club want to participate with a free table and a second table would be \$50? Diane suggests we sell T-shirts but will check with Jenifer Russell. David Springer motioned for VGMS to participate at the Gold Coast show with a free table and a second table for \$50 seconded by Shirley Layton and passed. Pebble pups will be asked if they'd like to volunteer at the show

Treasurer: Lauren Wideman

Diane, Lauren and Nancy will meet at Bank of America to officially get Lauren on the VGMS bank accounts and Greg Davis off. Diane went over the 2022 final budget and the 2023 proposed budget. David Springer suggested having a fund for the member(s) who brings refreshments to the members meeting to be given \$30 to help defray the cost. Nancy made the motion and David Springer seconded, all approved. The

2023 proposed budget was motioned by David Spring and seconded by Celia Churchill, all approved.

Secretary: Nancy Brace-Thompson

Minutes were taken.

Web Master: Troy Schmidt

Not present, website has been updated.

Membership: Open

12 new adult members and 7 pebble pups. Shirley Layton made a motion to accept the new members, David Springer seconded and all approved. 139 adult members, 35 Pebble Pups and 6 Juniors for a total of 180 members. The roster will be done by Celia in an electronic form and emailed to members. She will print the membership roster for the members who have the bulletin mailed to them. The roster is also in the members' only area of the VGMS website. Diane Cook made a motion to print more VGMS brochures that Terry Wilson updated, Celia Churchill seconded, all approved. Terry Wilson will go ahead and have 1000 printed with an estimate of \$350.00.

Federation Director: Jim Brace-Thompson

2023 No Host Show will be in Lodi on June 23-25, 2023. Seeking volunteers if you're going to Lodi. There is still vendor space. CFMS is taking applications for Camp Paradise. They are also seeking nominations for the Golden Bear award. The Mojave National Monument Working Group seeks input on collecting localities within the Mojave desert trying to preserve access to rock collecting sites which might be shut down if the Mojave National Monument is made.

Bulletin Editor: Celia Churchill

Thank you to everyone who wrote articles for the March bulletin. Articles are due April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please look for a confirmation from Celia to make sure she received you article.

Parliamentarian/Scholarship: Shirley Layton

Dr. Grey, professor emeritus of Santa Barbara City College, spoke with Diane and has said he will give money towards giving out more scholarships. Diane and Dr. Grey will talk again in August.

## Committee Reports

Pebble Pups: Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick/Erin Valenzuela

The March meeting went very well with 22 pups and juniors attending, plus parents. They all learned about rocks and the rock cycle. Also learned how crystals are formed. Then to top it off there was a silent auction where pups could use pebble pup bucks or real cash. Next month on April 22 there is a RSVP only fieldtrip to Tony and Ros's house in upper Ojai. The invite is on Band with Erin Valenzuela and Celia Churchill will monitor.

Ways and Means: Adrian Ruiz and Jenifer Russell

Made \$119 at last members meeting.

Museum: Troy Schmidt/Jim Brace-Thompson

Troy has been putting lighting in all the cases and they are



looking great.

Educational Outreach: Jim Brace-Thompson

Blue room group would like to come to the VGMS clubhouse in the next month or two. Ventura Charter Eco fest 4/16/23 all day. Pierpont Elementary School 2ND and 3rd grades 4/19/23 in the morning. Dos Caminos family science night 4/21/23, Erin Valenzuela is the lead. Fillmore science night 4/27/23, Walnut Canyon Science night 4/28/23. Jim will send the information to Celia to be sent in an email blast. Two summer presentation are on the calendar as well. The EP Foster library display will be dismantled on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. If you can't make it, please let Jim. He'll pack up your items and make arrangements to give them back to you.

Archivist/Historian: Jim Brace-Thompson

Assembling the 2023 archive binder. Working on changing slides into electronic media

Librarian: Heather Seaton

Not Present. Still inventorying the library

Stewards: John, Ron and David

Nothing to report

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, beginning at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Next Membership Meeting:

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

With no further business, President John Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:40pm.

*Respectfully submitted on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

*Nancy Brace-Thompson, Recording Secretary*

## MUSEUM

# A Bright New Day for Our Museum Rooms!

Jim Brace-Thompson, Museum Co-Chair

In the event you haven't visited our Museum rooms lately up at the clubhouse, the next time you do you may want to wear a pair of shades. Thanks to ongoing efforts by Troy Schmidt, our Museum display cases are looking a lot brighter! Troy has spent the past couple of months carefully checking out our display cases, taking measurements, and ordering and installing brand new strips of up-to-date lights.

The downside? Now that we can actually see what's in some of these cases, I guess we gotta upgrade the labeling and clear out the cobwebs and dust. The work never ends...But thanks to Troy, we're seeing beautiful results!



*Jedi Troy and his light saber. The Force is strong with this one!*

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

# Many April Outreach Events!

Jim Brace-Thompson, Educational Outreach Chair

Hold onto your hats! We have a busy April scheduled with our Educational Outreach program. By the time you read this, many of these events will likely be concluded but we may still need volunteers for the last week of the month.

**Ventura Charter School Earth Day Eco-Fest.** April 16, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Ventura Charter School, Ventura. Allison Beck is giving us a free spot for a pop-up and a table in the open-air "green space" behind the school that is slated to be filled with vendors, local businesses, and other groups with connections to our Planet Earth. There, we'll have our Dig-a-

Dino sandbox, a display of our skull cast of the California State Dino "Auggie" along with our "hadrosaur horn", coloring pages featuring Auggie, and a basket of free shark teeth for kids plus info on VGMS and our Pebble Pups Program.

**Pierpont Elementary School Assembly.** Martha's Vineyard Court, Ventura. Stacy Mikkelson invited us to address all 100 second and third graders in their school cafeteria starting 8:30 a.m. on April 19. I'll start with a general presentation to the whole group on basics of our hobby and treasures to be found locally. Then kids will visit four stations around the cafeteria: State Symbols, local fossils, "magic minerals"

featuring fun with magnets, and jewelry featuring things made from stuff collected on the beach just outside the school doors. Along the way, they'll collect materials to fill Goodie Bags for one and all as each teacher is presented with their very own specimens of our State Rock. As of this writing, Celia Churchill, Erin Valenzuela, David Springer, and Robert Seaton have volunteered to help me with our varied stations. Thank you, one and all!

**Dos Caminos Elementary School Family Science Night.** Robert Waggoner has invited us to set up a table at Dos Caminos Elementary School's "Family Science Night" in Camarillo, 6 - 8 p.m. on April 21. Erin Valenzuela has volunteered to oversee our table, and she'll do a re-do of "Magic Minerals" featuring fun with magnets. Says Robert, "It's the first year of this event, so it's tough to gauge what overall attendance might be," but perhaps as many as 200 kids? Best wishes, Erin—and thank you!

**Fillmore Family Science Night, San Cayetano Elementary School.** Anne Thille has invited us out to Fillmore 5:30 - 7 p.m. on April 27. Details are still being worked out, but we'll likely have a table space at the event and are leaning toward our Dig-a-Dino activity and State Dino display.

**Walnut Canyon Science Night.** Roberta Brodie has invited us to Walnut Canyon Elementary School in Moorpark 5:30 - 7 p.m. on April 28 for yet another all-school Science Night, where we will likely do our "Magic Minerals" hands-on display and fun with magnetism.

**Monica Ros "Blue Room" Preschool.** Teacher Nancy Klimbal has been a long-time visitor to our club Museum and, as in years' past, once again is requesting a field trip visit to our museum rooms for her preschoolers and parents to take a tour, hear about California Dinosaurs and California Ice Age creatures, and to see a volcano pop its top. We've just received this request, so no date has yet been set.



*Pierpont students will see treasures plucked literally from their own backyard.*

## Easter Earth Day Event

Diane Cook

The Tri-Clubs, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, and Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, participated in the Easter/Earth Day on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Teague Park in Santa Paula. This was a great outreach event for our community. Dick and MaryPat Weber, Adrian Ruiz, Erin Valenzuela, Diane and John Cook and "Doghounds" Mr. Tourmaline and Miss Leia all took time out to share our love for rocks at the Easter/Earth Day event. The event was very well attended. The Parks Department hosted the event. They had several different groups and lots of fun things for the kids to do. They held three Easter egg hunts (different age groups), several different inflatable bouncers, sack races, wagon ride, games, food and lots of prizes. We gave out free tumbled stones

and shark teeth (thank you Daisy's Rocks & Things for the donation). Kids picked their favorite colored egg and opened it to find polished stones and shark teeth inside. I loved watching their eyes light up when they saw what they got. We also had samples of different types of rocks and books on rocks. Another big favorite was the "ugly" rocks that when turned over turned into the beautiful rocks! (Thank you to Larry and Donna Knapton for loaning them us). We also passed out show cards in anticipation of Conejo Gem & Mineral Club's show April 22-23, 2023. We all had a great time—every one of us loved talking about our love for rocks and sharing information on what the clubs offer.



PEBBLE PUPS

# Rock Cycle, Crystal Formation, and Silent Auction

Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick, Pebble Pups Chair

Our March meeting was very well-attended by old and new pups and juniors. We had 22 altogether (pups and juniors) and their parents to learn about rocks and the rock cycle. Erin Valenzuela and I shared about how the rock cycle is formed and why the Mohs scale is important to understand when identifying rocks. The pups and Juniors were able to build their own rock boxes with examples for each part of the cycle; Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic. We learned how crystals are formed, built paper crystal forms to understand their shapes, and sent them home with a borax crystal kit along with a sweet treat of rock candy. The enthusiasm was high right after our show and we were happy to see so many faces join us while the weather held out.



*Junior Elizabeth S. demonstrates a paper crystal shape.*



*Erin explains the rock cycle to the pups and juniors.*

We also had a wonderful silent auction for the pups that Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson put together with many exciting things for the kids to bid on with their Pup Bucks. Everyone left with at least one new item for this collection. Pup Bucks are earned in many ways. They are given with their Name that Specimen prize, earned throughout the class, given for helping at the clubhouse or at an event, or given when asking questions of other members about things hobby related. Kids save them throughout the year and spend their Bucks at Silent Auctions that happen during the year. It's a great way the club gives the kids a chance to build their collection by being inquisitive and helpful.



*Juniors choose specimens of the three rock types for their rock boxes.*



*The Silent Auction was a hit!*

Our next class is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is a special member-only field trip to members Tony and Roslyn DeMaria's home for a tour of their collection in Upper Ojai. It's sure to be a great time.

## Had Any Challenges Lately?

Jim Brace-Thompson

We continue emailing a puzzler for Pebble Pups and Junior Members to solve every-other week. Solve the puzzle and add a free specimen to your collection! Here are the most recent puzzlers and those who successfully solved them:

**Fluorite:** Osiris, Izzy, Gabby, Lucia, Colin, Grayson, Chloé, Bianca, Solana, and Violetta.

**Poppy Jasper:** Caelan, Teagan, Izzy, Gabby, Joey, Osiris, Valerie, Colin, Grayson, Chloé, Bianca, and Elizabeth.

Congratulations to all winners! Your rocks are in the mail! To all Pebble Pups and Junior Members: take The Challenge to test your knowledge and your research skills while adding free mineral and fossil specimens to your collection in a way that's fun!



*Recent Challenges included fluorite and poppy jasper.*

## Pups Answer the Challenge

VGMS Pebble Pups

Following are two of the responses to our latest Challenges:

"Ooohh!! Glow-in-the-dark rocks, so cool! It's fluorite!" – Izzy

and Gabby

"I know this is a poppy jasper because our state flower is the California poppy!" – Valerie

**Great job, Pups!**

**Thank You to Jim Brace-Thompson for hosting the Challenge!**

**Thank you!**

Everyone who has helped make VGMS sparkle

### Jim and Nancy

Thank you to Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson for setting up the Pups Silent Auction. –Valerie C.

### Troy Schmidt

Thank you to Troy for the brilliant results of his efforts upgrading lighting for our Museum display cases! –Jim Brace-Thompson

### Barbra Meisenheimer and Janelle Thompson

Thanks to Barbra Meisenheimer and Janelle Thompson for sewing hundreds (and hundreds and hundreds) of grab bags for use at the CFMS Show and our next VGMS club show. In fact, Janelle sewed some 300 and Barbra herself sewed no fewer than 1,534 bags. –Jim Brace-Thompson





*That's a lot of thread!*

### Educational Outreach Volunteers

April is proving to be fully booked with Educational Outreach events. Thank you to all who are volunteering assistance at our local schools! –*Jim Brace-Thompson*

### Field Trip Crew

Thank you to David Springer and associates from recent field trips for gathering and setting aside several five-gallon buckets of material for use in our Show Kids' Booth for next year. David has also donated a big bucket of calcite rhombs from the old mining district of Darwin that should make for great spinning wheel prizes, egg carton collection material, and grab bag stuffers. Thank you, David! –*Jim Brace-Thompson*

## Sunshine Report

### Come to the Gold Coast Gem Show!

Our very own Show Chair, Diane Cook, will again be hosting her very own trade show, the Gold Coast Gem Show, here in Ventura on Saturday, May 28, 2023 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 29, 2023 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Let's wish Diane the best and go to the Gold Coast Show to show our support, buy some beautiful rocks, and have fun!



**THE**  
*Gold Coast*  
**GEM SHOW**



**VENTURA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS**  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY • MAY 27-28**  
SAT - 10am to 5pm • SUN - 10am to 4pm

*Free Admission*  
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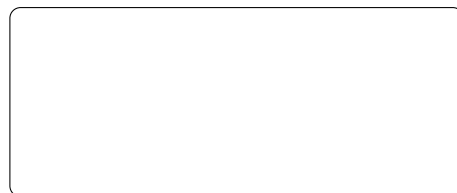
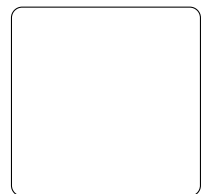
# CALENDAR

## April-May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 April Happy Birthday, Heather Seaton!	17	18	19	20	21	22 Pebble Pups Field Trip Happy Birthday, Frank Boulch!
23	24	25	26 Member Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Poinsettia Pavilion	27	28	29 Field Trip: Castle Butte (CGMC)
30	1 May Happy Birthday, Lisa Batchelder- Hetrick!	2 Happy Birthday, Linda Valentovich!	3	4 Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Happy Birthday, Gilbert McFarlane!	5 Happy Birthday, Dan Kitay and Valerie C.!	6
7 Certified Members' Workshop, 12-3 p.m.	8 Happy Birthday, Stephanie Young!	9	10	11	12	13
14 Happy Birthday, Tobe Herndon!	15	16	17	18	19	20 Clubhouse: Open Workshop 9 a.m. - noon Happy Birthday, David Mautz!

**Celia Churchill**

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