

THE BULLETIN

April 2025

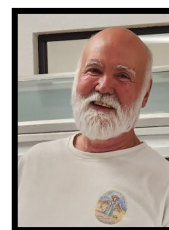
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President's Message



Dave Duncan

Greetings to all members and friends.

First of all, a big and sincere THANK YOU to all of you who helped with the tailgate. It was a great success thanks to you. There are too many to list, but you all know who you are!

Here's a good reason not to miss the general meetings. Last week we received a generous rock donation from Jessie, down in Riverside. These rocks belonged to her great grandfather who spent a lot of time in the Quartzite area (See John's article elsewhere in this issue). The collection included lots of Turquoise, some Jade, Petrified Wood, Fossilized Coral and more. Many of these items will be available to members at a great price at the silent auction table after our monthly meetings.

Meanwhile, we need someone to help with building maintenance. From door and cabinet problems, ceiling tiles, HVAC filters or fixing the fences, it seems like there is always something that needs doing. So if you have the desire and availability, please let us know.

See you at the clubhouse.

Welcome to our new members!

Gail Afton

Elroy Garcia

John Ontiveros

Julie DeRose

Christine Tyreaud

Sarah Parsley

Kacper Shilpetski

Welcome to all and see you at the club!

Tri-Color 2025

The second weekend of March typically brings some wind, cold chills, and rain. Another thing it always brings is the VVGMC tailgate and the field trip to the Hillis Quarry aka the Tri-Colored Marble Quarry... and March didn't let us down!

After a cold and windy Friday, Saturday arrived with some much needed sunshine. Also arriving: a modest group of mostly guests (some on their first field trip) for the annually Marble run. While we all assembled for the trip there was a bit of juggling before we headed off; some attendees needed rides due to not having a 4WD (myself included!), this was no problem as in typical rockhound fashion those with space graciously made room so all who came could get to the site.

Soon thereafter we were off, John Alcorn and me leading the 7 vehicle caravan the roughly 4 miles south to the so called road to the hills. The so called road is a bumpy rocky mess but negotiable with careful driving and our crew arrived without a hitch where we were greeted by Rex Nishimura and members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, who were also having a field trip to the location. Rex gave me a box of rocks to share with the club and attendees: slabs, endcuts, and rough of the green marble. Thanks Rex!

The 2 things the Tri-Color Quarry is best known for is the terrible road and the awesome collecting. This site is just loaded with tons of very nice material, from chips to Volkswagen sized boulders and it is everywhere! After showing first time attendees what to look for everyone was off looking for the green, some in the quarry, some on the hillsides, and some on the road, which is partially paved with the stuff. Within a record breaking 2 hours all attending had their fill, including a big boulder that took 2 of us to lift into the bed of a pickup truck. This was my third time leading this annual trip and was, by far, the easiest visit despite the many obstacles this site can throw at you.

Another Tail Gate and another trip to the hills in the bag! Big thanks goes out to John Alcorn for the pre-site visit and helping me run the trip, to the field trippers who made room for extra riders and their rocks, and to Rex from the PLS for the box of goodies, you all helped make a good trip into a great one!



Scott Gray Wagon Master



APRIL FIELDTRIP**The trip is filled!**

Hey rockhounds!

The field trip for the month of April will be Saturday April 5th to Kokoweef Caverns to collect the beautiful cave onyx found there. This trip is in conjunction with the Southern Nevada Gem And Mineral Society's trip and is a great opportunity to get into a site that usually isn't accessible. Space is limited: there will be room for 8 additional club members and this will be by a "first come first serve" system so contact me asap to confirm your space. Once these 8 openings are filled that will be it.

Please note the rules and regulations as noted below in the SNGMS bulletin. The VVG&M meet up will be Saturday April 5th at Eddie World on the southern side of the parking lot near the EV charging area in Yermo... 7:45 am at the very latest: Kokoweef is a approximate 1 hr and 10 min drive east from Eddie World so be fueled up and ready to go, the earlier your arrival to Eddie World the better as we will have to meet SNGMS at the Bailey Rd exit promptly. Please also note there is a 1 bucket limit of cave onyx and a fee of 20 dollars for your bucket due before you leave: cash only per the management at Kokoweef. Thanks again to Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society for including us!

Please text me, Scott Gray, at 951-492-9806 and reserve your space for the trip. Hope to see you there!



Examples from Kokoweef Caverns

**This article is for your information only. THE TRIP IS FILLED!**

We're going to run this important article again this month.

Information about the newest monuments in Southern California that rockhounds Need to know

From "Save Gem Hill, Lonely Butte and Rock Collecting in Southern California."

There is a ton of misinformation going around due to the Chuckwalla National Monument having been declared by Proclamation last month. This is understandable as the Hauser Geodes beds, Chuckwalla, and all the Wiley Well's collecting spots are within the boundaries of the monument.

Know that:

1) Nothing changes with respect to recreational rock and mineral collecting until a Management Plan is created. That plan will replace the existing management plans in place for the public lands within the boundary of the new monument.

Mining is affected now in that upon proclamation, no new mining claims can be made. As with the Mojave Trails National Monument, existing claims will remain unchanged.

There is some provision in the Proclamation for areas to be closed in the interim for Native American ceremonies and to protect artifacts.

2) The existing MOU with the CFMS and BLM DOES NOT protect the Hauser Beds from being closed to collecting in the Management Plan for the Chuckwalla National Monument. It can be useful in arguing that they should stay open, but it holds no water over formal land management plans.

A VERY FIRST FOR RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUDING, THE PROCLAMATION SPECIFIES RECREATIONAL ROCKHOUDING AS A RESOURCE AND THAT THE HOBBY BE ALLOWED IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

"Protecting the Chuckwalla region will preserve an important spiritual, cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and protect places inscribed with history for future generations; maintain a diverse array of natural and scientific resources; and help ensure that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific resources and values of the region endure for the benefit of all Americans. As described above, the region contains numerous objects of historic and scientific interest, and it provides exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, backpacking, rockhounding, sightseeing, nature study, birding, horseback riding, hunting, climbing, mountain biking, and motorized recreation, all of which are important to the travel- and tourism-based economy of the region."

The Proclamation for the Chuckwalla National Monument can be found at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/DCPD-202500054>

I have no doubt Rockhounds have Linda Castro from Cal Wild to thank for the Proclamation specifically specifying recreational rockhounding be considered for inclusion in the Management plan. Linda is a fierce proponent for the Chuckwalla National Monuments. She has supported recreational rockhounding the Mojave Trails National Monument as well. Her goal when pushing for Chuckwalla National Monument to be declared by Proclamation was to avoid the problems that arose with the management planning for Mojave Trails and recreational rockhounding.

While no monument would certainly be much better for our hobby, if they are going to be pushed, we have to appreciate the work of those that support our hobby being involved.

The Proclamation protects many resources, and conflicts definitely exist that will affect where and how the management plan may allow collecting. IT IS IMPORTANT that all rockhounds and Clubs stay involved in the management planning process and take part when given the opportunity to speak up.

APRIL SHOW DATES

April 5, 2025 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers

Roseville Rock Rollers Lapidary Shop @ the Grounds, 200 Corporation Yard Road, Roseville, CA 95678

Hours: 9 AM – 3 PM

Roseville Rock Rollers Tailgater/Rock Swap and Sale. Over 20 vendors confirmed, selling gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, lapidary material, and equipment. Bulk rock sales from the Roseville Rock Rollers famous rock yard. Additional vendor space available, call if interested.

Contact: (916) 798-0235

Website: <https://rockrollers.com>

April 12-13, 2025 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Contact: (530) 676-2472

Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club

Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338

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

Mountains of Minerals! Mountains of minerals, rocks, fossils, jewelry, supplies, geode cutting, silent auction, raffle, and FOOD!

Contact: mgmc@sti.net

Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 12-13, 2025 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Canejo Gem and Mineral Club

Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

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

Canejo Gem and Mineral Club's "Pageant of a Thousand Gems" 48th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Free admission and free parking. Club members' displays, vendors of jewelry, gems, fossils, metaphysical art supplies, lapidary demonstrations and rock carving demonstrations. plant sale, silent auction, youth activities and prizes.

Contact: Karen Abrahams (805) 908-1428

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

Free **SEARCHERS** *Gratis*

64TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW
 Saturday, **April 26th, 2025** / hours 10am - 5pm
 Sunday, **April 27th, 2025** / hours 10am - 4:30pm




Photo courtesy of
Veronica Purpura
polished Agate
Ammonite




BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER
 2271 W. CRESCENT AVE, ANAHEIM, CA
www.searchersrocks.org



72nd ANNUAL SHOW
CRYSTALS, GEMS, JEWELRY,
ROCKS, MINERALS, FOSSILS
Santa Cruz Civic – April 26 & 27, 2025
Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 10am-4pm



\$8 Admission; \$1 off with ad
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
<https://www.scrockngem.org>

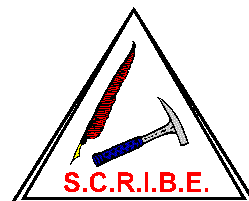


2025 Gem and Mineral Shows

GEM SHOW SCHEDULE

MAR.-MAY 2025

7-9 MAR. 2025	STODDARD WELLS TAILGATE 9AM-5PM VVGMC TAILGATE APPLE VALLEY, CA.
2-6 APRIL 2025	JOSHUA TREE GEM SHOW SPACE 312 9AM-5PM 2601 SUNFAIR ROAD SUN 9AM-4PM JOSHUA TREE, CA. 92252
5 APRIL 2025	LAKE ELSINORE GEM SHOW 10AM-4PM 32097 CORYDON ROAD LAKE ELSINORE, CA. 92530
11-13 APRIL 2025	PEARBLOSSOM GEM SHOW 9AM-5PM 34141 116TH ST. E PEARBLOSSOM, CA 93553
10-11 MAY 2025	ANTELOPE VALLEY GEM SHOW 10AM-5PM 2251 W AVENUE H. SUN 10AM-4PM LANCASTER, CA. 93536



Small but Mighty

Merri Lynn Casem

What comes to mind when you hear the word “fossil”?

Do you think about the awesome, articulated dinosaur skeletons displayed in museums? Or do you think about the petrified wood, palm, or camel bones we can find in our local desert? Chances are the fossilized remains of ancient bacteria don't rank very high on your list.

From a biological perspective, life on Earth originated as assemblages of organic macromolecules that over vast amounts of time evolved into simple, single-celled organisms. A key property of life is the ability to obtain and use energy to grow and reproduce. The evolution of the biochemical reactions associated with photosynthesis was a critical step in the story of life on Earth. The reactions of photosynthesis capture the energy of sunlight to build molecules of sugar that can be stored or used to create energy. A byproduct of photosynthesis is oxygen gas (O₂). Evidence suggests that the activity of these photosynthetic organisms changed the atmosphere of Earth to its current oxygen-rich composition.

So, what about the fossils??!!

Among the early forms of cellular life were a type of photosynthetic cell called *cyanobacteria* or blue-green algae. These cells grew in colonies, forming slimy mats, near aquatic environments. Because cells need carbon to build sugar molecules, the activity of photosynthesis by the cyanobacteria resulted in the depletion of CO₂ from the water and triggered the deposit of a layer of calcium carbonate (think calcite) on top of the mat. Over time, the cells would group upwards forming layers. If the mats became buried by silt or mud the pattern of layered calcium carbonate could be preserved. The result is a type of fossil we call a **stromatolite**. Stromatolites are associated with the Precambrian, around 3.5 to 2.5 billion years old! What's even more amazing is that, unlike the dinosaurs, these cells are still around!

You can see living cyanobacterial mats in the Antarctic, around deep-sea hydrothermal vents or in western Australia. But you don't have to go that far to encounter these living fossils “in the wild.” Next time you collect a piece of chalcedony or agate that has a layer of green where it was in contact with the soil, you are looking at a cyanobacterial mat!



A Generous Donation!

Today I enjoyed going with our club president, Dave, to Riverside to pick up a donated rock collection. It was very nice and, according to one of our experts, Chris, had some goodies in it. Turquoise and petrified wood were included.

This gift to our club was made by Jessie, who was the great granddaughter of Leo Barker. Leo, who was part Native American, lived in Quartzite, Arizona. He bought rocks there and then polished them. This collection was inherited by Jessie's grandfather who, in turn, gave it to her. She selected several pieces to keep for her memories.

We honor the memory of Leo and give abundant thanks to Jessie for sharing these rocks with us. Thank you Lori!



Thank You for March!

Ken Villars and Family, Stina Smith, Scott Gray, Merri Lynn Casem, Cristiane Stoll, Emily Stephens, Jessie. Everyone at the tailgate including, Brett, David D, Nancy D, Sarah, Gayland, and many more!



Don't forget to pay your dues for 2025.

Lady of Turquoise: A Brief Look Into An Ancient Egyptian Goddess

The Sinai Peninsula was a site of Egyptian mines that produced copper, turquoise, and malachite during the Middle (2055 B.C. – 1650 B.C.) and New Kingdoms (1550 B.C. – 1070 B.C.) of the ancient Egyptian timeline. The goddess Hathor was called “Lady of Turquoise” in that region within those mines. She was most commonly depicted as a woman wearing a headdress of the horns and the sun disc while wearing a red or turquoise sheath dress. Sometimes the dress consisted of both colors.

Hathor was a sky deity of the ancient Egyptian religion who played a variety of roles. She is connected to trade and foreign lands as a possible result of one of her roles being a sky goddess. The Egyptians had viewed the sky as a body of water, and that she was one of the deities that navigated through it. It is also believed that she protected ships in the Nile and in the seas. Egyptians privately worshiped her by leaving offerings at her temples and shrines. Common items for this purpose were cloths and plaques with her image painted on them, musical instruments, and written prayers.

Egypt had established trade agreements with the coastal city of Byblos and coastal region of Nubia. Egyptian Kings donated goods to the temple of Balaat Gebal in Byblos. They did this to establish that Hathor of Egypt and Balaat Gebal of Byblos were the same deity in order to maintain their trading relationship.

Meanwhile, Egyptian expeditions to mine gold from Nubia introduced the Hathor cult to the region during Middle and New Kingdoms. The pharaohs during the New Kingdom built temples to the goddess in the portions of Nubia that they ruled. Harkhuf, an official of Upper Egypt, claims that Hathor was responsible for the great quantities of ebony, panther skins, and incense that he was able to bring back to the pharaoh from the coastal region between 2345 B.C. – 2181 B.C.

Mentuhotep II established a permanent cult site at Dier-al Bahari during the Middle Kingdom. The most frequent rite performed was the daily offering ritual, which is when the cult image or statue of the deity would be clothed and given food. During the New Kingdom, Amehhotep III renewed his rule by symbolically marrying the goddess in a festival that celebrated his leadership. Hatshepsut emphasized her relationship to the goddess to legitimize her position as pharaoh. She did this by building several temples to Hathor and placed her own mortuary temple, which included a chapel dedicated the deity.

It’s rather fascinating that blue stones were so valuable to the pharaohs in obtaining and retaining of political power. So valuable, that they linked the mineral to an important figure of their culture. At any rate, there is much more information available than what I have included regarding the Lady of Turquoise. It’s a good thing that we have the Internet to sate our curiosities.

Emily Stephens

The Met – Turquoise in Ancient Egypt

<https://www.metmuseum.org/essays/turquoise-in-ancient-egypt>



Left: Turquoise Scrab Ring

Right: The goddess Hathor, Lady of Turquoise



Club, Rock Star Birthdays & April Birthstone

Agnetha Faltskog ABBA
 Peter Frampton The Who
 Roy Orbison
 Bjorn Ulvaeus ABBA
 Carnie Wilson

Club Birthdays

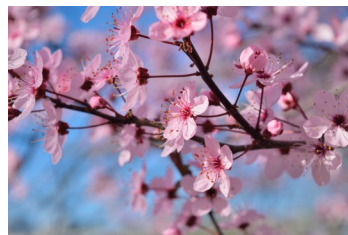
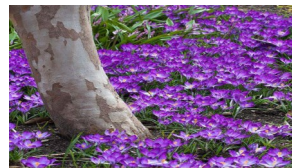
Thomas Salley
 Lisa Leyde
 Lia Hamilton
 April Henson

Elaine Sullivan
 Emilio Vasquez
 Iona Ellsworth
 Angela Auberry
 Justin Morrison
 Jake Morrison
 Steve Smith
 Cory Beck



Happy Birthday to all!

April Birthstone The Diamond



Natural diamonds are a rare and unique ultimate gift for a loved one. Thought to be one of the hardest substances on the globe, natural diamonds date back billions of years.

The diamond is the traditional birthstone of April and holds significant meaning for those born in that month, it is thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

Wearing diamonds is purported to bring other benefits such as balance, clarity and abundance. It's also symbolic of eternal love, and those fortunate enough to call April their birth month will enjoy learning about the history of this rare gem.

Adapted from the Greek word *adamas*, meaning "invincible," diamonds come in a wide range of colors such as black, blue, green, pink, red, purple, orange and yellow. The color is dependent upon the types of trace impurities and structural irregularities in the crystal when the diamond forms. For instance, yellow diamonds have minuscule traces of nitrogen and blue ones contain boron. The colors of pink and red diamonds are due to graining or distortion of the crystal lattice.

Stoddard Wells Tailgate Stina Smith

At this year's Tailgate, I decided to forgo manning a booth and instead focus on exploring the vendors and taking photographs for VVGMC. In previous years, I had shared a booth with Beka. I was intrigued by the idea of rearranging the layout to position VVGMC's booth at the entrance of the parking lot, providing visitors with immediate information about the club and the event. Upon arriving Friday morning at 10am, I was heartened to find the event already teeming with activity. A promising start to the first day. As I strolled through the vendors, I came across Blaine and Judy, fellow club members, at their booth. Their display showcased a variety of cabs, knives with stone handles, and slabs. After chatting with them, I heard my name being called out. Turning around, I saw Scott and DiDi's 'Let's get stoned lapidary' booth. I remembered purchasing my first two Australian Andamooka Opals from them and setting them in silver. Those pieces hold a special place in my collection.

I continue walking and pause at Christopher Anthony's booth, browsing through his extensive collection. Notably, I overlook his Fire Agates, and it's worth mentioning that he has an impressive array of various items. I notice several exquisite Larimar pieces that catch my attention, as well as a few other slabs that I require. Proceeding further, I arrive at Mary Lou and Janet's booth. Mary Lou's handmade glass beads are truly stunning, and I've had the pleasure of creating glass beads with her in the past, which was a rewarding experience. Janet's wood boxes are consistently popular, showcasing her exceptional woodworking skills. I also appreciate browsing through her cabochons, slabs, and finished jewelry. The next booth belongs to Martin, featuring an extensive assortment of specimens, fossils, and rocks, including tubes from tube worms dating back approximately 15 million years.





I must make a point to visit Patrick and his wife at Mojave Mineral Miners, which boasts an impressive array of beautiful cabs, stunning amethysts, and a notable selection of Opals. Thus far, my experience has been overwhelming, as I feel compelled to visit every booth, but time is of the essence. I stopped by Thomas's booth, which featured an abundance of Lapis Lazuli, Jade, crystals, and more. En route back, I came across Regina's booth, which this year showcased an impressive Opal collection. Steven had an impressive stash of raw Boulder Opal materials from Australia. One booth that truly stood out this year was that of the Romanian couple, Ella and Cornell, who presented exquisite Petrified wood slabs, most of which were polished to accentuate their striking colors. «Stoned all day» offered handmade necklaces and exceptional crackling candles with a lovely fragrance.

Ann and Gayland shared a table, displaying slabs, handwoven bracelets, pendants, and knives. Kyle from the Outpost is an annual participant, offering exceptional Beef Jerky, handwoven blankets/ponchos, and carefully selected local rocks and slabs. Jeremy Berg's booth features a diverse selection of slabs and rocks across several tables. Currently, I am struggling to keep track of the numerous names, booth names, and geological terms. Overall, I was a pleased visitor, and I think other attendees were similarly satisfied; the event was outstanding, with the notable advantage of a food truck and our booth providing drinks, coffee, and entertainment, including geode cutting.

Hope to see you all again next year !

(Stina is the owner of Smith's Maille and Leatherwork)

Petoskey Stones

Cristiane Stoll

Have you ever come across a stone that, when wet, reveals a mesmerizing pattern of hexagonal shapes? If so, you may have encountered a Petoskey stone—a remarkable fossil with a rich geological history.

What Are Petoskey Stones?

Petoskey stones are the fossilized remnants of *Hexagonaria percarinata*, a coral species that flourished around 350 million years ago during the Devonian period. Through a process spanning millions of years, these ancient corals evolved into the enchanting stones we appreciate today, characterized by their intricate patterns that captivate both collectors and nature lovers.

Where to Find Them

While Petoskey stones are predominantly found in Michigan, especially along the shores of Lake Michigan from Traverse City to Petoskey, their allure extends beyond the state's borders. Notably, these stones have been discovered in various locations across the United States, including:

Iowa: Some enthusiasts have reported finding Petoskey stones in certain areas.

Indiana: Occasional discoveries have been made, particularly near water bodies.

Illinois: Collectors have identified Petoskey stones in select regions.

Ohio: Some findings have been documented, especially along lake shores.

New York: Rare occurrences of Petoskey stones have been noted.

These occurrences are relatively rare, making the discovery of a Petoskey stone outside Michigan a unique and exciting experience.

Polishing Your Finds

Once you've collected a Petoskey stone, polishing it can enhance its natural beauty. Begin by sanding the stone with coarse-grit sandpaper, gradually progressing to finer grits until achieving a smooth surface. Finish with a polishing compound to bring out the stone's characteristic luster. This process not only highlights the fossilized coral's intricate patterns but also transforms your find into a stunning display piece.

A Piece of Natural History

Each Petoskey stone serves as a concrete link to Earth's prehistoric era, offering insight into a period when coral reefs thrived in warm, shallow waters. In 1965, Michigan designated the Petoskey stone as its state stone, solidifying its role as a symbol of the state's rich natural heritage.

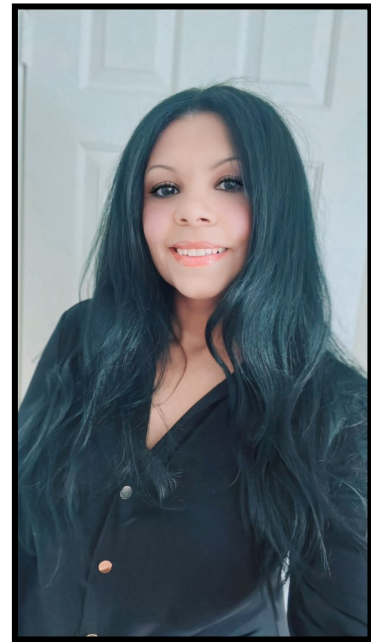
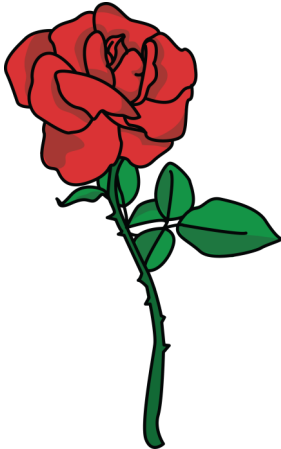
I encourage all members to share their experiences and any Petoskey stones they've found. I recently acquired a beautiful piece of Petoskey stone at the Desert Gardens Show in Quartzsite last January. Can't wait to polish it! Let's celebrate these remarkable fossils and the unique connection they provide to our planet's distant past.

Happy Hunting!

Photos on opposite page.....

Cristianne Stoll

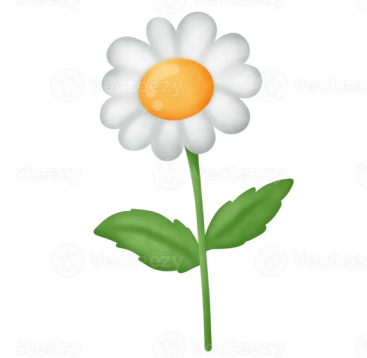
Cristianne is a local, well regarded massage therapist
And VVGMC member



Cristiane Stoll



Photos of
Petoskey stones



Our First Year in the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

Way back before the Pandemic, I was looking at saving up and trying to get some lapidary equipment (especially a rock saw) in order to maximize my flintknapping material rather than have so much wasted as debitage. I kept seeing such equipment for reasonable prices on Craigslist; but once everyone was staying home, prices seemed to immediately rise out of my range.

I had been on a tour of the VVGMC years ago, and it occurred to me that the rock saws might be simple enough machines that I could fabricate one of my own. There was one part of the mechanism I wasn't sure about, but while looking at repairing another machine, I had an "Aha!" moment; and when we were venturing out in public again I headed to the rock club to look at the saws again and see if my idea made sense (it did).

Algot Stephenson met us and gave us a tour. He was very friendly, and invited us to return that evening for education night, where we very much enjoyed a lecture and demonstration of Ultra Violet light. We decided to join the club, and did so at last year's Tailgate event (our second time to that event).

Since then, the time we've spent at the rock club (including Junior Rockhounds and a fine field trip to the Alf museum with them) and education nights (including my snooze inducing lecture on product lighting/photography) have been a valuable part of our children's home school education.

On our first field trip with the club (very local, to Scott and Didi's rock sale), Club President Dave Duncan pointed out a pair of used rock saws they had for sale, and I immediately canceled plans I was finalizing to travel to the Bay Area to pick up a saw and made a good deal for both saws. Scott was kind enough to deliver them to my house, and we also agreed on a price for a cabbing machine that joined them on the trailer. The cabbing machine finally made it into the garage a few days ago, and I was delighted to find that it seems to be in fully operational condition, other than needing new water lines (which I am plumbing after mailing this article). I have high hopes that the rock saws will soon follow suit.

It has, of course, been highly useful to be able to cut my knapping material into slabs using the club saws; but I've also enjoyed the interaction and learning with new friends while there. Having my own saws and lapidary equipment at home won't keep me from coming into the club in the future; but it should be more convenient when doing FOG knapping to be able to grind after a series of flakes right away. I will be able to have the saws running while I work on other projects; and, most importantly, it will allow me to rest my back periodically by laying down for a few minutes when necessary.

We've been on a few other enjoyable field trips, including Diamond Pacific and the Two Sisters, as well as to the Early Man site at Minneola, and the Key Kay claim, (where Dave helped us with a ride from the old Burger King).

We have also met a lot of nice people, including generous folks who've gifted us with pretty rock, as well as sharing information and advice. My kids have also been blessed to make new friends among the Junior Rockhounds.

One of the most rewarding things about being part of the rock club is that it has enabled us to find a way to feel useful and serve people. We have been paying attention to the club members (especially Dave Duncan) who give their time to keep the club running. It has been fun to show up before the club meetings to help clean the club, or to decorate the club for holidays; and we've also enjoyed the pot lucks at the club meetings.

I've also grown by contributing articles about flintknapping to the club newsletter, and interacting with the editors (John Alcorn and Jake Brouwer). It has at least benefited me by organizing my thoughts on establishing a curriculum for teaching people to knap.

We are looking forward to another year at the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, and we are grateful to all who have made our first year there so enjoyable!

Villars Family: Ken, Barbara, Jack (14), and Darla (12)



VVGMC

Junior Rockhounds

Invites kids and their parents to join us as we present

Lapidary for the Youth Junior Rockhounds

Hello all, I'm Yaya, director of the Junior Rockhounds program here at VVGMC! I will temporarily discontinue the badge activity and will be introducing Lapidary for the Youth. If you are 17 or younger come join us on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. The only requirement is for you and a parent to be VVGMC members. We will also be doing other art and science projects! Hope to see you there!

Our club is open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday 12pm-5pm

Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month
9:00 – 11:45

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club

15056 – B 7th Street
Victorville, CA 92395

760-243-2330

If you are interested, contact:

Yaya Avila

vvgmcjrrockhounds@gmail.com



Officers, Department Chairpersons & Instructors

President. / Dave Duncan, email : president@vvgmc.org

Vice President / Membership. / email: Kareem Jacobs vp@vvgmc.Org

2nd Vice President: Education. Lia Hamilton

Recording Secretary & Bulletin Editor/John Alcorn email: john.alcorn42@outlook.com

Treasurer / Ann Musick/Regina Walker

Corresponding Secretary / Jake Brouwer

Board Member / 2 Year term - Lorie Cunningham, Pam Trozera

Board Member / Sara Arnold, Past President

Board Member / One year term Corey Beck/Beka McNeil

Maintenance / George Robles

COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....

CFMS representative / Ody Oriva

Tailgate Chairman, Ody Oriva

Wagon Master / Scott Gray

Librarian / Lia Hamilton

Facebook Editor / Stina Smith / stinesmith2@gmail.com

Webmaster / Tech / Jim Fosse / webmaster@vvgmc.org

INSTRUCTORS:

Janet Flecher, Chris Koch, Stine Smith, Dave Duncan, Ann Musik,
Lia Hamilton, Gayland Graves, Beka McNeil and, Lorie Cunningham, Janel Russell

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTORS Ody Oriva

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1947, as a 501/C4 non profit education club. Visitors are always welcome.

Our objective and purpose is to disseminate knowledge of minerology & earth sciences. To encourage study in those subjects though various programs. To arrange field trips for exploration, study, and collection of specimens. The preparations, publication, and distribution of articles pertaining to these fields. The encouragement of interest of young people and fostering of classes in minerology and Lapidary Arts.

MARCH SHOP DAYS:

SHOP DAY TUESDAYS - 12:00pm - 5:00 pm
SHOP DAY: THURSDAYS - 12:00pm - 5:00pm
SHOP DAY: SATURDAYS - 12:00pm -5:00 pm
SHOP DAY: SUNDAYS - 12:00pm - 5:00 pm

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB CLEAN UP DAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED (usually the Thursday before the General meeting at 11:00 am)

INSTRUCTORS MEETING: TBA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: First Tuesday at 5:30pm (April 1st)

EDUCATION NIGHT: None planned at this time.

GENERAL MEETING: - April 19, 2025. 12:00 - 2:00 Shop work resumes APPROXIMATELY 2:00 -5:00 pm.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS:

THE BULLETIN IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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