

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 65 Number 4
April 2024

Club Calendar

April 6th
Business Meeting
On Zoom
7 PM

April 13th **Class**

At Thalia's
10:00 AM
See Page 4

April 20th
Society Meeting
7 PM
At the Church

Hello Fellow Rock Chippers,

I hope everyone is doing well.

Thank you for all that attended our last meeting. And, Thank You very much to our dear club secretary Paty Mejorado, for a very informative and educational presentation. I love seeing that there are still people that have a love for our wonderful hobby and are able to make the time to contribute so much knowledge into it.

I hope to see more of you on our next gathering. Our next board meeting will take place via Zoom on April 6th at 7pm and our next gathering will be our society meeting taking place on April 20th.

Stay Safe and Healthy
Sagi

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Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Virginia Rotramel at whrc@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at whrc@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:00PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at:
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307

Visit our website www.rockchippers.org
WHRC Editor: P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Gemstone of the Month

Diamond Birthstone Meaning & History

Our love for the April birthstone started in India, where diamonds were gathered from the country's rivers and streams. Traded as early as the fourth century BCE, diamonds were coveted by royalty and the wealthy. Later, caravans brought Indian diamonds, along with other exotic merchandise, to medieval markets in Venice. By the 1400s, diamonds were becoming fashionable accessories for Europe's elite. The first diamond engagement ring on record was given by Archduke Maximilian of Austria to his betrothed, Mary of Burgundy, in 1477. Recent evidence supports the origin of the legendary 45.52 carat (ct) blue Hope diamond in India's Golconda mining area and its sale to King Louis XIV of France (then known as the French Blue diamond) in 1668.

In the early 1700s, as India's diamond supplies began to decline, Brazil emerged as an important source. Diamonds were discovered when gold miners sifted through gravels on the banks of the Jequitinhonha River in Minas Gerais. Brazil dominated the diamond market for more than 150 years.

The discovery of diamonds near Kimberley, South Africa, in the late 1860s marked the beginning of the modern diamond market. Entrepreneur Cecil Rhodes established De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited in 1888, and by 1900 De Beers controlled an estimated 90 percent of the world's production of rough diamonds. The largest diamond ever found – at 3,106 ct (621 grams) – was recovered from South Africa's Premier mine in 1905. From it was cut the pear shaped 530 ct Cullinan I diamond, also known as the Great Star of Africa, which is now set in the Royal Sceptre with Cross and housed with the other Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.



A “CO-OP MEMBER”/ALL CFMS SOCIETES FIELD TRIP TO HAUSER GEODE BEDS

(date of publication 2/3/2024)

This trip is open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rockhounding.

Call the field trip leader (see Contact) beforehand to sign up and for further information.

Remember to wear your name badge and sign in and sign out with the field trip leader.

CO-OP website has information: <https://www.co-opfieldtrips.com>

Also see CFMS Website: <https://www.cfmsinc.org> (no password needed)

A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site.

All non-CFMS members are required to contact the Field Trip Leader before a field trip for any insurance requirements.

TRIP LOCATION – Hauser Geode Beds, Palo Verde, CA

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE

Vehicle Access & Parking - 5-7 dirt roads, hills, some steep sections and ravines

Collection Site - 5-7 dirt parking at lower collecting area, can hike up hills

WHEN – APRIL 19-20-21 2024

SPONSOR CLUB – COOP (Field Trip Leaders Association, a CFMS Society)

LEADERS– GINA MALCOLM COOP President and JIM BARTON COOP Permanent Director

CONTACT JIM BARTON IF ATTENDING (916) 847-7321 geologist1@surewest.net

MEMBER'S GUESTS - Allowed Not Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Geodes, Porcelain Jasper

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Meet up and conduct safety meeting each day before convoying to collection sites.

MEET (where/when) – Near intersection of Wiley’s Well Rd and Hauser Geode Beds Road 0900 hours daily

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP - Take I-10 Wiley Well exit before Blythe, travel south on blacktop to CA State Prison then south on rough gravel road past Wiley Well and Coon Hollow BLM campgrounds to Hauser Geode Bed Road, where vehicles will congregate at 9 am each morning. Camping at BLM Coon Hollow Campground

VEHICLE REQ'S – recommend 4x4 or carpooling with a 4x4

CAMP/FACILITIES – Coon Hollow is a BLM fee required, gravel pads dry camp with pit toilets, shaded picnic tables and no hookups. There are several motels in Blythe (consult Google or Apple Maps for names)

TOOLS – Shovel, bucket, hoe or cultivator rake, rock hammer, safety glasses, work gloves

SAFETY CONCERNS – potential for heat or cold (layers), dehydration, sunscreen and full coverage hats, rattlesnakes and scorpions, slips-trips-falls (bring first aid kit), rough roads

CLIMATE/WEATHER – variable this time of year in the Mojave Desert, bring lots of water and sunscreen

CLOTHING - long pants and shirts - dress in layers, hiking boots recommended, sun protection (full cover) hats

OTHER REMARKS – The BLM and CFMS have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) to allow recreational (not commercial) collection of geodes at the Hauser Geode Beds.

The Bureau of Land Management Geologist and Scientist staff will give a presentation at the dig site on the geology, wildlife and historical significance of the region on April 19th.

CFMS requests that you, if able, clean up after yourself (fill holes, etc.) and help pick up any loose trash left by others at the sites. Recommend using BLM trash bags to clean up areas as needed. After their talk. BLM staff will haul collected trash out.

Field trips will end daily at 4 pm.

Bring your own water and lunches.

Remember to donate some of your finds to your society when you return.

FEES - Nominal camping fees at Coon Hollow Campground, none currently at dig sites.

April Society meeting

April Society meeting will be at the church

7:00 pm Saturday April 20th

There will be a raffle.

At this time, a program for that night has not been announced.

This month's class

Our class on April 13th will be fusing Dichroic Glass. Thalia will have all the tools and materials needed. We will be using a Quick-Fire kiln for the fusing. As this takes quite a bit of time to cool down after each firing, we will not get more than 2 firings on the class day. The remaining fusing loads will have to be done later. Finished items will be brought to the general meeting on April 20th.

Class fee: \$5.00. Glass: \$20.00 – for 4 projects.



Last month's class

On March 9th Debbie and Thalia worked on the Egyptian Pendant. This was more challenging than we expected. Debbie's example was made with "tear drop" shaped beads. We used oval or round beads. The basic problem was making a bundle of 9 wires. Not an easy task to keep them aligned, flat and square. We solved that by making bundles of 4 and 5 wires and then joining the two bundles together. We were successful and OK with the finished project.



Historian's Report for 2024

WHRC Hist Special 2024

03/19/2024

Special Report from Historian

Forty-eight years of Rock Chippers Historian records are gone.

Our storage trailer was stolen from the church property where it had been located for many years. Confirmation that it is missing was noted on March 7, 2024. Subsequently the trailer was found and recovered by Rock Chippers and friends. However, the contents of the trailer were severely reduced by thieves. Here is at least a partial list of the missing contents:

Rock Chipper Historian records from October 1960 (the beginning of the Rock Chippers) to the year 2008 (forty-eight years of Historian records).

Gem Show display cases made of plywood sides and glass windows.

Electric-powered lights for the display cases.

Extension cords for 110-volt power to the lights.

“Ways and Means” supplies that were intended to be used at Rock Chippers monthly meetings.

“Spin-a-Wheel” game equipment that was intended to be used at Rock Chippers annual show.

Some tables with folding legs.

Other stuff?

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

No Anniversaries

***Lisa, Shanna, and Thalia
Happy Birthday!!***



Let's go to a Show!

Pageant Of A Thousand Gems
47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show

April 20 - 21, 2024
 Sat. 10:00am-5:00pm
 Sun. 10:00am-4:00pm

BORCHARD PARK
 190 N. Reino Road,
 Thousand Oaks, CA
FREE Admission!
FREE Parking!

Exhibits & Dealers
 Fossils, Gems, Jewelry, Metaphysical, Minerals, and Lapidary Equipment/Supplies.
 Door Prizes, Silent Auction, and Youth Learning Activities.

Hosted by the
Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
www.CGAMC.org






CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATORS FOR THE 2024 AFMS/CFMS SHOW

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is honored to be hosting the 2024 CFMS/AFMS Show on May 24, 25, and 26 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in Ventura, CA. This will be a very large show with plenty of activities for everyone. Do you have a lapidary skill you would like to share to help promote interest in our hobby? Now is your chance to share your knowledge. Come and join the fun!

We have space available for you to demonstrate the lapidary arts, jewelry making, or any other skill used in our hobby. Demonstrations are very special to the public; they are always looking for tips and advice about what we do. You can help by sharing your knowledge?

Dick White is the Demo Chairman. The Show dates are May 24, 25, and 26. The hours are Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be demonstrations taking place during the entire Show.

The Show Committee would appreciate any time you can spare to demonstrate: a few hours, half a day, all day or multiple days are available. Please contact Dick White to be added to the schedule. Thank you in advance for participating ... See you there!

Demo Chair: Dick White Phone: (805) 404-7197 or Email: rich_phil@msn.com

WHRC Business Meeting

March 2, 2024

Time: 7:17PM

Location: Zoom

Correction or approval of the minutes: Everything looks good.

Establish quorum: Yes

Corrections or Approval of Minutes: None noted.

Report of Treasurer: The bank statement hasn't arrived yet. The silent auction made some money.

Old Business: Roster was sent out. Virginia is editing to add Celia's phone number. Maureen is going to email Virginia for Cecil's phone number.

New Business: We are showcasing at the Conejo Valley Show. The trailer needs a clean up. What is needed for the cases? At least 5 hours set-up. Requesting at the Society Meeting for any volunteers that can help set-up. The Culver City Gem Show is June 28-29-30.

Corporate Administrator: Waiting for 2023 final numbers from Barb for taxes.

Classes/Workshops: We had a great class in February. March Egyptian Pendant. April 13th is Dichroic Glass Class.

Community Outreach: Showcase is going to Conejo Valley and Culver City. We may add more minerals.

Courtesy/Hospitality: Per Lillian everything is up to date.

Display / Education: Barbara and Debbie set up the showcase at Ventura Gem Show with Thalia fine tuning it.

Federation Director - Virginia: not present

Field Trips: March trip pending for the OceanView Mine. April 19-20-21, 2024 - Hauser Geode Beds, Palo Verde, CA

FRA: Nothing to report.

Program: March: Paty is presenting the GemScope.

Show Meeting: Showtime, set-up time and showcase set-up. Set-up on Friday, possible rate increase. Spoke to possible new vendors. As well as a new program for St. Helens. We are working to have returning vendors.

Ways and Means: Raffle in March. We will ask if the Boy Scouts can help set-up tables.

Website: Everything is up-to-date.

Meeting Adjourned: 20:21

Patricia Mejorado

Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers

WHRC Society Meeting

March 16, 2024

Time: 7:05 PM

Location: Zoom Establish quorum: Yes

Call to order: Sagi

Flag Salute: Every one

Introduce Guest: Larry - work schedule changed and made it to the meeting.

Program: Paty - GemScope Presentation

Corrections or Approval of Minutes: All okay.

Report of Treasurer: We are in the black.

Auditor: Checking back in July.

Old Business: Deciding on having a show this year.

New Business: We are showcasing at the Conejo Valley Show. The Culver City Gem Show is June 28-29-30. The trailer was stolen off the property. Almost everything is gone. Thalia made the motion on selling the trailer. It's undecided at the moment.

Classes/Workshops: We had a great class in February. March is the Egyptian Pendant. April 13th is Dichroic Glass Class fee for materials.

Community Outreach: Showcase is going to Conejo Valley and Culver City.

Corporate Administrator: Pending 2023 final numbers from Barb for taxes.

Courtesy/Hospitality: Per Lillian everything is up to date.

Display / Education: Barbara and Debbie set up the showcase Conejo Valley April 20-21, 2024.

Federation Director - Celia: No news. CFMS - AFMS Seaside Gems at Ventura May 24-26, 2024.

Field Trips: March trip pending for the OceanView Mine. April 19-20-21, 2024 - Hauser Geode Beds, Palo Verde, CA

FRA: Nothing to report.

Historian: Gene reported the records from 1960 - 2008 were stolen from the trailer.

Librarian: Nothing new to report.

Membership: Virginia is mailing a new roster.

Program: March: Paty is presenting the GemScope. April: A dvd program.

Show Chairman - Paty: Showtime, set-up time and showcase set-up. Set-up on Friday, possible rate increase. Spoke to possible new vendors. As well as a new program for St. Helens. We are working to have returning vendors.

Ways and Means: Raffle tonight!

Website: Everything is up-to-date.

Meeting Adjourned: 19:45

Patricia Mejorado

Secretary, Woodland Hills RockChippers



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated



Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.



Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Social time from 6:30 p.m.



Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.



Elected Officers/Directors

President	Sagi Salomon	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Lillian Berwager
Secretary	Paty Mejorado	Corp. Admin.	Debbie Hirlinger
Director At Large	John O'Brien	Director At Large	Celia Barnett
Director At Large	Shanna O'Brien		

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Membership	Virginia Rotramel
Bulletin Editor	John O'Brien	Outreach.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Classes.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Programs	Thalia Goldsworthy
Courtesy/Hospitality...	Lillian Berwager	Publicity.....	Open
Custodian.....	Open	Shop	Open
Fed Director.....	Cecelia Barnett	Club Show Chair.....	Paty Mejorado
Alt. Fed Director.....	Virginia Rotramel	Asst.Show Chair.....	Open
Field Trips.....	Paty Mejorado	Ways and Means.....	John O'Brien
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster-A/V.....	John O'Brien
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		
Librarian.....	Shanna O'Brien		



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April Society Meeting At the Church
Saturday April 20th
7:00 PM



Address exchange Bulletins to: Editor at above address

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.
 MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 P.O. BOX 205, Woodland Hills, CA 91365