

ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.



Volume 67 Number 4
April 2026

Club Calendar

MONDAY

Apr 6th

Business Meeting
on Zoom
7 PM

SATURDAY

Apr 11th

Thalia's Birthday

SATURDAY

Apr 18th

Society Meeting
At the Church
7:00 PM
Meeting will be in
Room 10.

SATURDAY

Apr 25th

Class
Thalia's House

SUNDAY

Apr 26th

Field Trip
Meeting
Maureen's House

Hello Dear Rock Chippers!

Welcome to the very special edition of the newsletter. This month is extra with our dear Thalia reaching a milestone at 100. Yes it quite special. She is a key member of this club

She has participated in every position. Her dedication and love for this is admirable. I personally enjoy every meeting with her. Thalia is a fascinating lady with stories and experiences to share at every level.

This newsletter is filled with memories and pictures that celebrate her. Thank you Thalia for that you do. We sincerely appreciate you. ❤️

The April Program is on how to identify rocks. We hope to see you there April 18th at 7pm.

Thank you,

Paty M.
President

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Corporate Mission
Officers and
Functionaries

Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Debbie Hirlinger 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:
At the Church in Room 10

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

Honoring Thalia Goldsworthy

Thalia was born in Berkeley, California April 9, 1926 but grew up with her family in her grandfather's house in San Francisco. They moved to his house when she was a baby with mother, Bertha, Dad and sister Jean. Dad was known as Tom, his family went by the name of Baharis. Brothers were Mike and John and another relative was Gus. Dad was always in the restaurant business, he and brother Mike and Gus had a restaurant on Geary Street called "Eat Well." Brother John had moved to Brawley, CA.

Grandpa John Bermel's house in San Francisco was on a typical lot, 25 feet by 125 feet. The front door opened right up on the sidewalk, but there was a huge backyard. It was two story, as is usual in that city. Next door was the Gratten School which her mother had attended and where Thalia and her sister went, through the 8th grade. Some of the teachers remembered her mom, Bertha who was active in theatrical activities. When she went to high school she had to take the streetcar to Commerce High School near the Civic Center.

When she graduated in 1943 the war was being waged and Bertha was a member of the Red Cross. When the Civil Defense system was set up Bertha said - "While the adults are at their stations, what happens to their children?" So she was assigned that duty. They did furnish a school for a location and she and her unpaid aides, Thalia and Jean, handled the child care when Civil Defense alarms went off. It was a wild dash to get to that school from their house.

Grandpa John was a barber in the Financial District, had a shop with a chair and a rack where his customer's own personal mugs were kept. Fortunately he was quite a talker as his customers who needed a shave every day were often muffled with warm towels.

He was also an avid gardener, had raised beds in the backyard as he said the city was built on sand dunes. He imported topsoil for them and specialized in growing Dahlias. He hybridized a Dahlia to get a white centered one with red edges, he named it the "Union Jack."

After high school Thalia spent a summer at SF Junior College to prep for transferring to UC Berkeley that fall. During the summer mom said to check with Parks & Recreation, Thalia had some experience working with children so she applied to be a playground assistant. That didn't work out, Thalia was referred to the Junior Museum, a three-winged structure consisting of a model-building room, a science room and a garden shop. Among her responsibilities were the care and feeding of a raccoon and two snakes in cages. The snakes were "Monsters" left over from the Treasure Island Fair. One was a gopher snake, the other, a black pilot snake. It was 6 feet long and looked like patent leather and he was tame, a big hit with the kids who could walk around "wearing it". Rats and mice also needed care as they were "in-house snake food". The Junior Museum also had insect exhibits and twenty years after Thalia left that job some of her drawings were still on exhibit.

Thalia got her start in geology from working in the Junior Museum. Another volunteer, a lady who took the kids on field trips on weekends to collect specimens invited Thalia to go along. One memorable event was collecting Fishtail Selenite crystals from a bluff near the ocean in San Francisco.

Her interest in western Indians began with her childhood friend and at the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island in the Indian exhibit the curator named Charles Daumb which means thumb in German because he had lost a thumb. He said he would teach her to make a moccasin. So he showed her, she gave him her first moccasin to critique and he said "Your child will have sore feet." He showed her one more time and her next moccasin would have suited her child better. That Fair went on for 2 years; she took the ferry there as often as she could.

In the fall at SF Junior College, she planned to be a mathematics major but got into a class where the instructor would not repeat anything from the previous day so switched to chemistry. However, even with the teaching assistance's help, her experiments hardly ever came out as expected. So Mineralogy. Identifying specimens was actually fun, and that led to geology and paleontology.

She then was introduced to a larger community of people interested in rocks, she started cutting stones with what they had at the time, a wooden flat lap and grit. Dr. Walker, the curator at the museum, had lapidary tools and people could buy specimens from him. He also went on field trips to get rocks to sell. Her dad got her a saw blade (I'll bet she still has it.)

The paleontology classes at UC Berkeley had field courses, The Kettleman Hills had oyster shells as large as shoes. They prepped the fossils which were then school property. At first she had to stay in a motel instead of the camp tents, only female on the trip. It was challenging at the time being in a male-dominated field. She learned to use a Brunton compass - like a surveyor's tool - you could map, read dips and strikes, read angles, create a geologic map with formations. (Photo attached.) Part of the class was to create maps to locate fossils, for example a Miocene sandstone. Her degree was a Bachelor in Letters and Science but after that she hit the glass ceiling, couldn't go any farther.

However, at that time she and Ed were dating. Students could earn tuition credits by working in the co-op central kitchen and she and Ed both did and met each other. He peeled potatoes, she cleaned up the lettuce heads. She went to a co-op dance, there were no chairs and quite a crowd, she got mashed up against the wall and he came up and said "How would you like to step on their feet for a change?"

'They married in 1948 and moved to the central valley. Ed worked as an entomologist for J.B. Boswell, a cotton grower. He would sweep the field to find out if they needed to spray for cotton-eating bugs. After that business it was either join the army or go back to San Francisco to get a teaching credential, which is what they did. Thalia's mom had a friend whose tenant had passed away so they got into a rent-controlled flat. Claire was born in 1950 in Corcoran, Allen in 52 in Hanford and they were in the SF Valley when Ann was born in 1958 in Encino.

When Ed received his teaching credential he had two choices of where to teach - one was Watts - not the best idea - so he took the position in Pacoima - he would be the head Science teacher in the Granada Hills school which was under construction, he moved there in 6 months. Winnetka was a new tract and they had to borrow \$3,000 from Ed's folks for the down payment on their house. The streets weren't paved and had no curbs. Lots of first-time buyers, young families with kids who played outdoors. The school, Superior, was a bunch of bungalows. She was a homemaker and took care of the kids.

She did work at Christmastime for May company, she was the apprentice photographer to the official photographer of the children visiting Santa. Since her pictures sold more often than the official lady's photographer's did, they kept her on as a photographer for family groups.

They were members of the WH Rockchippers in the early days of the club. She was the more enthusiastic one.

She's had various interests besides geology. After Ed passed, about 2000, she took a belly dancing class for exercise. The Bjorklands needed someone who could transcribe music, so she helped out. She wound up involved in a three piece band, called Scimitar and at first played the accordion, then a keyboard and finally she got involved in playing the qanun, a long 72-stringed instrument from Egypt. With a leap of faith she gave a man going to Egypt \$3,000 for hers. For Scimitar she played the qanun, he played the oud and his wife played percussion. They played for belly dancing groups and festivals.

Who knows what other talents she has?

Submitted by Celia Barnett, Secretary & Federation Director



Membership News

Steve Dover Made Lifetime Member

I was pleased to accept the Life Membership award from the Woodland Hill rock Chippers and have been asked to write a few words on how I became acquainted with the club and how I have benefited from this association. From my records I joined the club in 1993 and have been a member for about 33 years. Before that I had always been interested in camping, hiking, off road exploring, and partying. Rocks were just something in the middle of the road or trail to be kicked away. I met Gary Levitt at Hughes Aircraft Co where we both worked. He was also interested in off road exploring and partying so we had something in common. He was a member of the club and invited me to attend the annual Gem Fair show. At that show I won a Morgan Hill poppy jasper belt buckle made by Ed Goldsworthy. The next year I won the \$100.00 grand prize. Needless to say I was hooked and shortly thereafter joined the Rock Chippers as a full fledged member. Ed kindly showed me how to craft belt buckles in his dining room. My current collection now includes over 125 buckles of all different materials. I also learned wire wrapping from Thalia. The club in 1993 consisted of about 44 members. Almost all the members were hard core rock hounds and had their own shop at home. I learned from members named Backus, Beeler, Blair, Bond, Brennan, Brown, Goldsworthy, Grothuseman, Kennedy, Levitt, Meyer, Torgensen and many others who shared their passion for rocks with me. Over the next many years I served the club in many different capacities including: Programs 3X, Membership 3X, Librarian 7X, Field trips 4X, Treasurer 2X, Auditor 2X, Ways and Means 2X, insurance VP 2X, Board of Directors 2X, and have been the show displays chairman since 2018. I wish I could say I excelled at all these jobs. I think Virginia said I was the worst treasurer the club ever had. The club learned the importance of having a good treasurer after Virginia and Barbara took my place. My appreciation and knowledge about rocks has greatly increased from being a member and attending all the programs and classes put on by the club. I have also immensely enjoyed all the party's and social events put on by the club. I hope to continue to serve the club the 405 and my night vision allowing in to the future.

Steve Dover

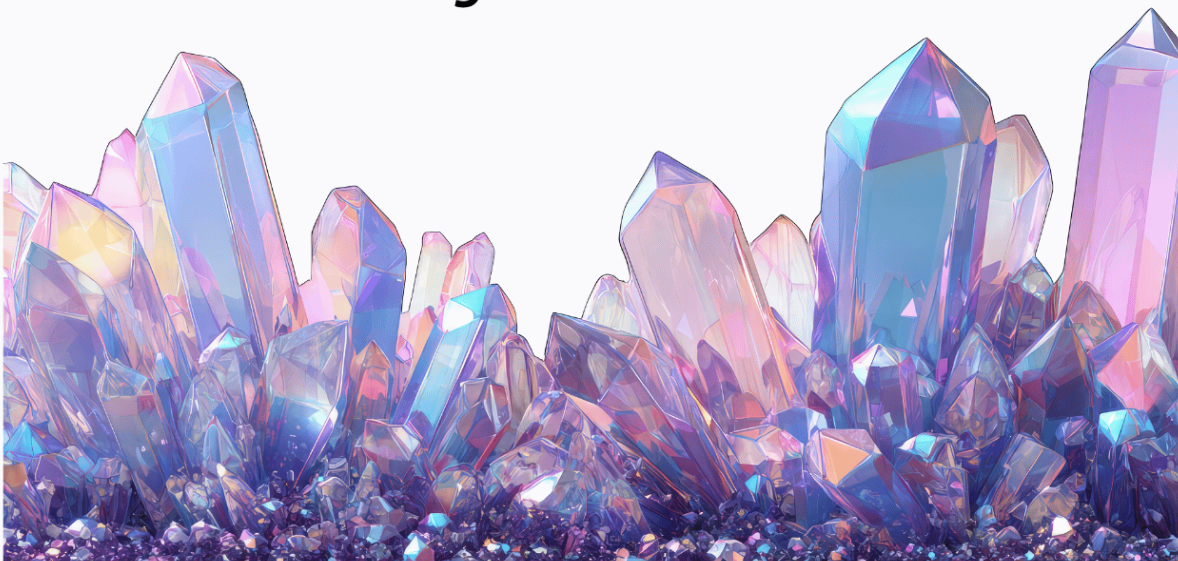
WOODLAND HILLS ROCK CHIPPERS

ID Night

Bring your Mineral, Rock or
Specimens for ID.

April 18, starts at 7PM

See you there!



22700 Sherman Way, West Hills 91307

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

Monday Board Meetings - via Zoom

6:45 pm Log In / 7:00 pm start time

February 2

March 2

April 6 - Easter Monday

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 7 - Labor Day

October 5

November 2

December 7



We will be holding our social meetings in Room 10 at the church. Here are the dates you can put on your calendar for the rest of this year:

March 21

April 18th

May 16th

June 20th

July 18th

August Picnic TBA

September 19th

October show TBA

November 21st

December Christmas Party TBA

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.

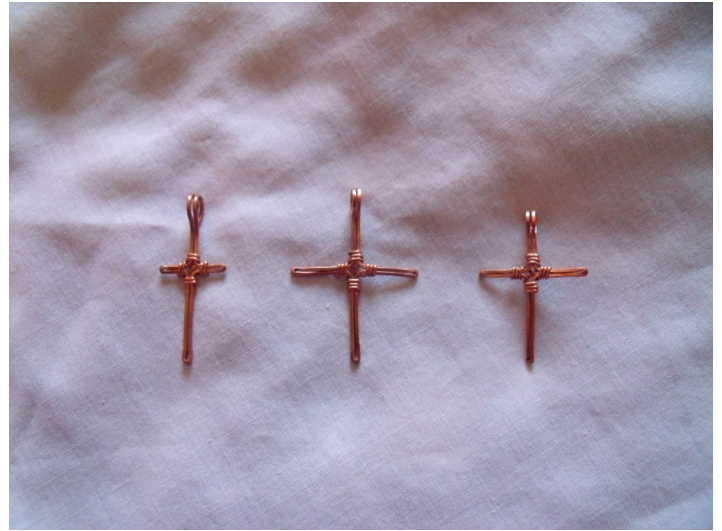
In the early 1700s, as India's diamond supplies began to decline, Brazil emerged as an important source. Diamonds were discovered when gold miners sifted through gravels on the banks of the Jequitinhonha River in Minas Gerais. Brazil dominated the diamond market for more than 150 years.

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 Scepter with Cross and housed with the other Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.



March Class

Our class for March was on a square wire simple cross. Thalia, Shanna, John, Debbie, Barbara, and Juliet were present. We had a great time with discussions on this, that, and many things while making our crosses. Our next class is undecided at the moment.



April Class

Undetermined class at Thalia's House on
Saturday April 25th

April Birthdays

Thalia , Shanna

Lisa, Mike



Anniversaries

Nobody!

Announcement!

**49TH
ANNUAL
GEM &
MINERAL
SHOW**

APRIL 18TH-19TH, 2026

SATURDAY: 10AM-5PM

SUNDAY: 10AM-4PM



Free Admission - Free Parking

Borchard Community Center

190 N. Reino Road
Thousand Oaks, CA

www.CGAMC.org



**Vendors
Exhibits**

**Live Lapidary-
Demonstrations**

Silent Auction

Hourly Raffle

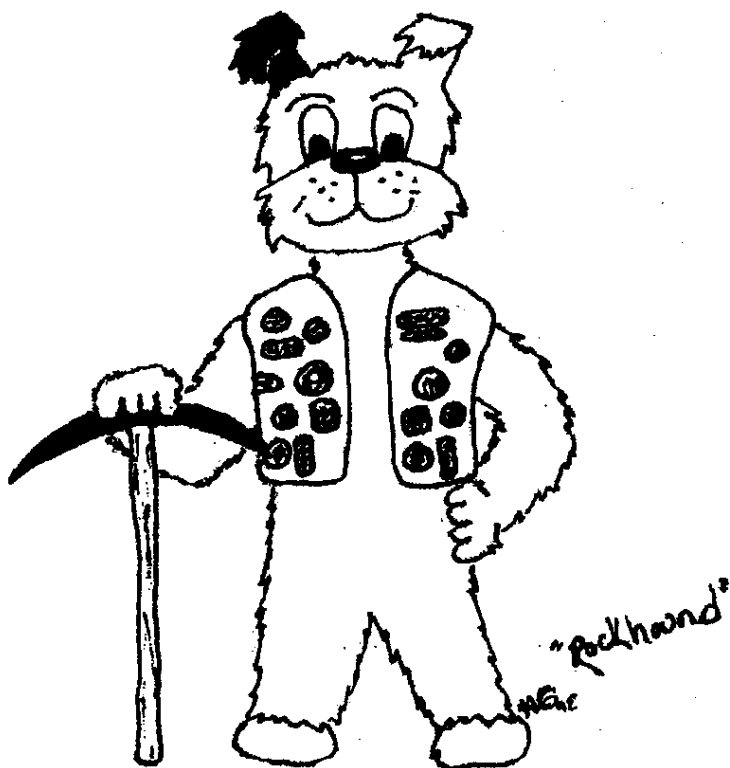
Plant Sale

Youth Room

Showcase News



Golden Oldies



WHRC Board meeting
March 2, 2026
Via Zoom

Members in attendance: Paty Meorado, Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, Gene Berwager, John and Shanna O'Brien, Celia Barnett, Thalia Goldsworthy, Virginia, Maureen and Steve Dover

Meeting called to Order by Paty at 7:05 and Minutes of Feb. 21 meeting in newsletter approved.

Treasurer: Barbara - bank statement not received yet, receipts from Silent Auction detailed.

Auditor - Virginia does in July.

Newsletter - John will send out the March newsletter, will make corrections.

Classes: Shanna - Dichroic class cancelled due to illness. March will be cross pendant 3/14. Maybe dichroic later this year.

Courtesy - per Lillian sending out birthday cards, Aurora's birthday in March and she is added to newsletter.

Community outreach - Thalia says classes, display case are outreach and educational. Debbie put together Rough & Ready case and will return what was not utilized at next meeting. She will take pictures & send to John & Shanna for setup at Conejo. She listed 28 different rocks & minerals in the case.

Federation - Ceia - John sent out CFMS form regarding So Cal lapidary camp interest.

Field trips - Natural History Museum has the mineral exhibit until April 2027, we will visit in August. Ocean View mine in April.

Historian - Gene - Nothing new. Debbie has the WHRC flag from the Silent Auction.

Insurance - Debbie - Received a communication from Hartford, will pay before 6/4/26, same price. Barbara still getting numbers to her for tax forms.

Library - Shanna - Not much to report. She will check on rainbow obsidian book. List of inventory that was attached to the door not there, she will do one. Debbie will follow up with Yvonne regarding list, maybe for website. Maureen will donate books.

Membership - Two new members, Aurora and Mike, Mike e-mailed he wasn't able to make March meeting. Steve received letter, happy to be a lifetime member. Debbie will get a hanger for his badge.

Publicity - John has a QR code for the website - origin unknown. Will take it off, no website yet.

Discussion re: show at church. They have their March meeting next week. Both locations limited inside space. No venue right now, on calendar for Tarzana and contract ready but waiting on church. Discussion re: how many cases in church. Maybe set up in meeting room on Friday? Maureen said church she contacted told her our organization doesn't "fit their mission." Steve noted the Culver City shop being kicked out for an arts center.

Debbie has Tarzana Community Center ready but hasn't contacted them, doesn't want to rock the boat till we know about the church.

Culver City show is 6/27-6/28 and Steve will reserve spaces for our cases. John requested a flyer from Steve.

Program - Rainbow obsidian in March, TV needed. April program "ID night" - Thalia will give criteria for identifying. Debbie has hardness set but she will be absent.

Ways & Means - Celia - we did well at Silent Auction.

Website - John - no website, has not been able to contact Yvonne. He's studying tutorials for setting one up. Yay.

New Business - CFMS form for So Cal lapidary classes sent out. Debbie has liners & riser for Ventura show.

Old Business - Barbara looking for place for picnic or Xmas party - we should be on the lookout. Debbie noted our meeting last Saturday before the 25th. Barbara will check on community center in Owensmouth Community Center. Debbie mentioned Los Toros.

No other business, meeting adjourned by Paty at 8:00

Respectfully submitted, Celia Barnett, Secretary, Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

WHRC Meeting March 21, 2026
First United Methodist Church

Members in attendance: Paty Mejorado, Debbie Hirlinger, Barbara Bradbury, Gene and Lillian Berwager, John and Shanna O'Brien, Thalia Goldsworthy, Celia Barnett, Maureen Levitt, Larry Lorenz, Juliet Manglicmot and Mike Grey.

The Meeting was called to Order by Paty at 7:17 following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Terry Wilson from the Ventura club presented her program on Rainbow Obsidian. She showed slides of the Davis Creek area, CFMS sponsored a trip there, it's in Northern California. More recently native Americans have limited collecting areas because of commercial collectors abusing entry. Within the last 5 years, restricted now to two buckets and a short season - 7/1 to Labor Day. Last time there a forest geologist was present. Middle fork Davis Creek you can't drive up, it's a ¼ mile walk uphill.

To show the optical effects you need a direct bright light. Colors show when viewed perpendicular to the layers. When making cuts parallel with the layers. She showed specimens from the Pink Lady Mine and the Needles Pit - those are used in wind chimes and are only found in 3 places in the world, they have a fibrous matrix, found uphill from triple flow mahogany obsidian. In that the layers are folded, not straight. In the Rainbow Mine, electric blue and deep green, but hard labor digging it out.

Layers in obsidian not as thin as opals, they're 1/4 " thick. Use a Genie to grind surface dirt off the specimen and cut at a 15 degree angle to the layers, rainbow will be visible depending on the angle you're viewing it at. For polishing, she recommends 145 polish from Johnson Bros. Obsidian forms very hot & cools slowly so bubbles form - very difficult to polish.

Following a break the meeting resumed at 9:00

Secretary - Celia - Minutes of Board meeting approved as corrected.

Treasurer: Barbara stated we did well on the Silent Auction.

Newsletter - John - Deadline 25th of the month.

.Classes/Workshops: Shanna - next one undecided, will announce in Newsletter. Fourth weekend of the month. Second weekend is Thalia's 100th celebration.

Courtesy/Hospitality: Up to date per Lillian, getting cards all ready.

Corporate Admin. - Debbie filed Federal & state tax returns and will do Attorney General paperwork and pay \$25 fee.

Community outreach - Showcase was in Ventura March 7-8. Next show Conejo, Shanna & John will set up, after that Culver City.

Federation - Celia - contacted CFMS about getting badges.

Field Trip - Class 4/25. Ocean View will be in May. Maureen brought field trip information from years past - separated them by distance and location. Question which areas are still open, Celia will check with John Barton from CFMS. A Field trip meeting will be held Sunday, 4/26, at Maureen's. to look over the information.

Historian: Gene, nothing new.

Insurance - Debbie - due early June, same price.

Librarian - Shanna - Received donation of books from Maureen and will inventory them.

Membership - Debbie - We welcomed Mike. She contacted Ventura club and got a company in San Jose, turns out Del Aire uses them also. She will touch base and get information.

Publicity - Barbara - She sent pictures of St. Martin's in the Valley at Winnetka & Sherman way. Has courtyard, tables available, large hall = just \$200. Gated & secure area, can set up at 4 on Friday, be out by 7:30 on Saturday. She penciled us in for 10/17/26. Big parking lot. Paty moves we cancel Tarzana Community Center, Shanna seconds. Passed, Debbie will cancel. Barbara will inquire about a contract, but we need to finalize before Conejo show.

Barbara is checking into Canoga Park at Owensmouth for August and December meetings.

Thalia will not be doing flyers any more - we need someone to take that on.

Ways & Means - raffle after program.

Webmaster - John has email address he's checking daily. Half of club addresses have kicked back. We have a website and the newsletter is on it, Rockchippers.org. John applauded.

No other business, meeting adjourned 10:01. Larry the big winner in the raffle this time, some nice items donated by Maureen.

Celia Barnett, 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	Paty Mejorado	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Lillian Berwager
Secretary	Celia Barnett	Corp. Admin. V/P	Debbie Hirlinger
Directors At Large John & Shanna O'Brien (1 vote)			

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Membership	Debbie Hirlinger
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.....	Celia Barnett
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster-Temp. Acting...	John O'Brien
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		
Librarian.....	Shanna O'Brien		



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