



# Rockonteur

The Monthly Newsletter of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds

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## President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

Our March General meeting was a real treat for the geologically minded folks as our guest speaker, Jeff Grover, took us on a fascinating tour through the geological history of California, both recent aspects and the formation of our state over geological time. I, for one, learned a lot about the tectonic forces and processes that brought California into being over the last 100 million years or so.

An interesting factoid brought to my attention by our founding member, Barbara Bilyeu, is that Jeff was the speaker at the very first meeting of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds back in July of 1991! That was 38 years ago! Bravo for the longevity of the club and Jeff Grover!

For those who want to learn more from our esteemed guest, Jeff is presenting a FREE Geology class for six weeks in Morro Bay beginning April 10th! A flyer with all the pertinent information is included in this month's newsletter. I, for one, will be attending this informative class to learn even more about the history of the Golden State and our own Central Coast.

Speaking of the Central Coast, the premier rock show of the Central Coast is coming up soon, in just a little over three weeks, our own "Treasures of the Earth" rock show in Atascadero. Our rock show is the club's biggest event of the year and is our primary educational and fund-raising activity.

The success of the show depends on the involvement and participation of the club membership, both young and old! Volunteering to work at the show is one of the best ways to meet and get to know your fellow rockhounds. A sign-up form is found in this edition of the Rockonteur.

Although the T-Shirt Design Contest had to be deferred until after the show, the club will still provide a special Rock Show T-shirt to each volunteer who identifies you as a working rockhound! I can't wait to see the design! In addition to the stylish attire, you'll also have access to the feast in the Volunteers Hospitality suite and free entry to the show! So, this is your invitation to be part of the show!

Although the rock show tends to dominate the club's attention this time of year, we should not forget that there is \$3,000 of scholarship funds on offer to our local college-bound students. The awards are open to any North County student planning to major in a geology- or environmental science-related field. A link to the application form is found on the club's website, so spread the word!

As for the April general meeting presentation, we're still working on that and I'll send out an e-mail announcing the topic as the meeting draws closer.

**Get Rockin'**  
**Ted Gray**  
**El Presidente, Santa Lucia Rockhounds**



P.O. Box 1672  
Paso Robles, CA 93447



# 2025 Board Members & Committee Chairs

## Board Members

### President

Ted Gray  
tnggray@nautiloid.net  
805-801-0007

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805-610-0603  
kimnoyes@gmail.com  
and  
Heidi Adams  
714-309-1238  
mrs.cpt.adams@gmail.com

## Upcoming Events

### April Board Meeting

Monday, April 6th, Templeton Community Center, 7 p.m.

### April Junior Rockhound Meeting

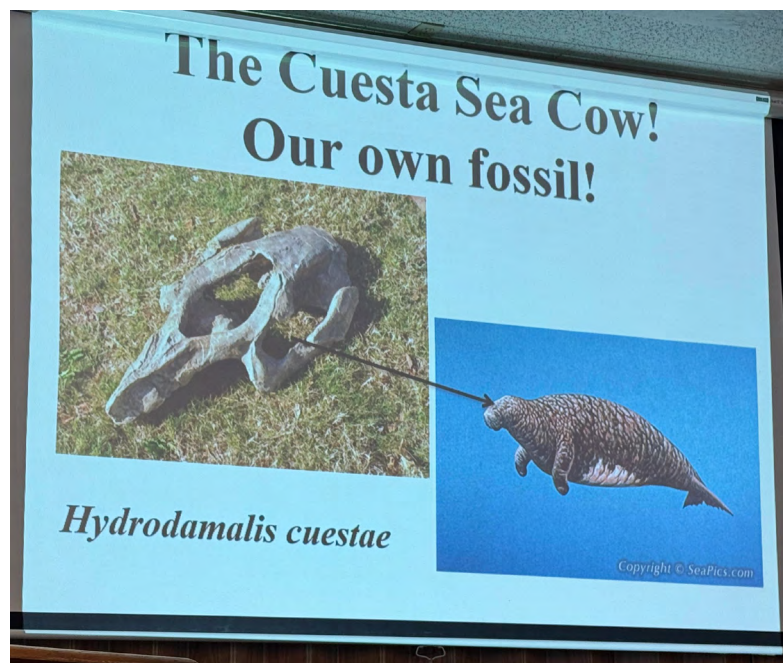
The March Junior Rockhounds Meeting will be held Monday, April 20th at 6 p.m. at the Templeton Community Center.

### April General Meeting

The March General Meeting will be held Monday, April 20th at the Templeton Community Center at 7 p.m.

### April SLR Rock Show

April 25-26, Volunteers needed April 24-26  
See page 13 for Rock Show volunteer needs.



This fossil comes from an extinct giant relative of modern manatees, known as the Cuesta sea cow. Discovered along California's central coast near Cuesta College, this species was named after the region. Living between 5 and 2.5 million years ago, these gentle giants could grow up to 30 feet long and spent their days grazing on seagrass in warm, shallow coastal waters.

Photo by Beth Walls

Rockonteur - April 2026

# March General Meeting Highlights

**Beth Walls, SLR**

California's landscape, as taught by former petroleum geologist and now-retired Cuesta College geology professor Jeff Grover, is best understood as a dynamic system where landforms and natural resources are deeply connected. The state's 11 geomorphic provinces are not just regions on a map—they are the result of millions of years of tectonic movement, volcanic activity, and sedimentation, all working together to shape both the land and the resources found within it.

Jeff emphasized that each province tells a different geologic story. The Sierra Nevada, for example, exposes ancient granitic rocks that formed deep underground and were later uplifted and eroded. These processes concentrated valuable minerals, helping spark the California Gold Rush. In contrast, the Central Valley represents a vast basin filled with sediments eroded from surrounding mountains. Over time, these layers buried organic material that eventually transformed into oil and natural gas, making the region an important energy resource.

Energy is not limited to fossil fuels. California's geology also provides geothermal energy, especially in tectonically active regions influenced by the San Andreas Fault and nearby volcanic systems like those in the Cascade Range. These areas demonstrate how heat from within the Earth can be harnessed as a renewable resource.

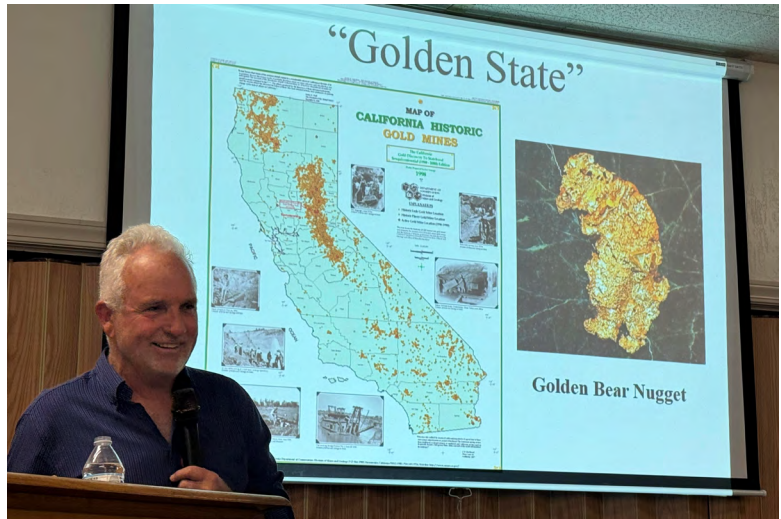
Oil deposits, particularly in parts of the Central Valley and coastal regions, formed from ancient marine environments where organic material accumulated, was buried, and chemically transformed over millions of years. Gold, on the other hand,

is tied to hydrothermal processes in mountainous regions, where mineral-rich fluids moved through cracks in rock and deposited valuable metals.

Finally, Grover highlighted the importance of rocks as the foundation of all these resources. From the complex, accreted terranes of the Klamath Mountains to the faulted landscapes of the Mojave Desert and Basin and Range Province, rocks record the processes

that created California's wealth of natural resources.

Through this lens, California's geomorphic provinces become more than physical regions—they are interconnected systems where geology controls the distribution of energy, gold, oil, and rock formations. Jeff's teachings reveal a state shaped not just by time, but by powerful Earth processes that continue to influence its future.



Photos by Beth Walls

# General Meeting Highlights (continued)

Great rockhound resources speaker Jeff Grover recommended were: *Rough Hewn Land and Surf, Sand and Stone* by Keith Heyer Meldahl and *Basin and Range and Assembling California* by John McPhee

Below: Barbara Bilyeu, SLR Librarian, is always prepared with an assortment of books centered around each month's presentation. Members can check out books from the club's library during a meeting to expand on the information shared during the presentation.



Above: Exploring, observing, and identifying different rocks—then taking home a few favorites! From texture to color, each rock tells its own story, and every discovery is a small piece of Earth's history.

Below and Below Right: The club's silent auction and drawing tables are always a popular place to find treasures to add to a rockhound collection.



Photos by Beth Walls

# March Junior Rockhound Highlights

*Beth Walls, SLR*

During their March meeting, the Junior Rockhounds gathered like curious detectives around layered stones, each rock holding a quiet story from long ago.

As they learned about sedimentary rocks, they discovered how tiny grains of sand, bits of shells, and even traces of ancient life can slowly press together over time, forming solid layers like pages in Earth's history book.

In a simple but powerful hands-on experiment, the juniors explored the process of erosion using chalk, sand, and water. Each junior placed small pieces of chalk into a mini bottle filled with water and added some sand. Then they shook it, setting off a tiny storm inside the bottle.

As the chalk pieces tumbled and collided, they began to wear down, just like rocks do in rivers and streams over time. The water quickly turned cloudy and milky, showing how tiny particles of chalk were breaking off and mixing into the water. At the same time, the once-sharp edges of the chalk became smoother and more rounded.

This activity gave the juniors a clear, visual example of how erosion works, helping them understand how moving water can slowly shape rocks and landscapes over time.

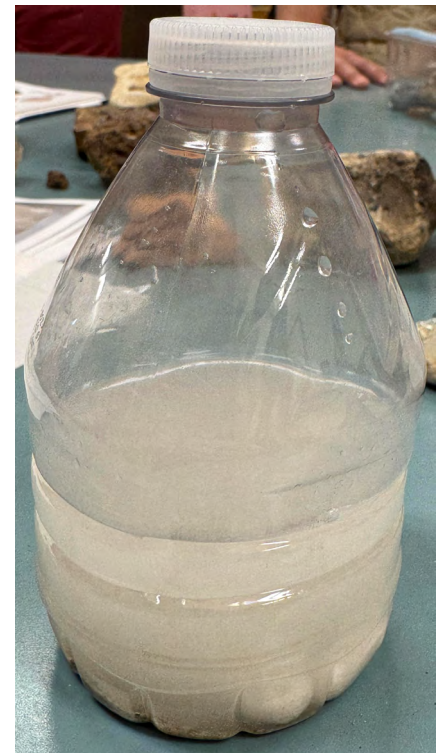


Photos by Beth Walls

# Junior Rockhound Highlights (continued)



Photos by Beth Walls



# 2026 Rock and Gem Shows

*Mark your calendars!*

**April 11-12, 2026**

**Mariposa, CA**

**Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club**

Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338

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

Mountains of Minerals Gem Show

Contact: mgmc@sti.net

Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

**April 11-12, 2026**

**Placerville, CA**

**El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society**

Placerville Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society's Annual Show

Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org

Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

**April 18-19, 2026**

**Thousand Oaks, CA**

**Canejo Gem and Mineral Club**

Borchard Community Center, 190 N.

Reino Road, Thousand Oaks 91320

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

49th Annual Gem & Mineral Show!

Pageant of a Thousand Gems. Exhibits of rocks and mineral collections and lapidary; Vendors of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry; Silent Auction of rocks and minerals in the rough and fossils; Demonstrators of lapidary work; Youth Room with games for prizes; Plant sale; Hourly Raffle. FREE ENTRY; FREE PARKING

Website: [www.CGAMC.org](http://www.CGAMC.org)

**April 24-26, 2026**

**Paradise, CA**

**Paradise Gem & Mineral Club**

Mechoopda Event Center, 149 Openshaw Rd., Butte Valley, CA 95965

Hours: Friday & Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Paradise Gem & Mineral Clubs

71st Anniversary Show. "Tumbling is Easy-Give it a Spin". New show location, Mechoopda Event Center.

30,000 sf of indoor space with a cafe and bar. Significant space is dedicated to earth science education, information, and displays. Door prizes, silent and live auctions. Kid Zone with 8 activities and games. Unique demonstrations, speaker topics, and activities every day. Camping on site and nearby. \$5 one-day admission or \$10 for all three days. Free jumbo tumbled rock of your choice with admission. Dealers: 8 foot tables are only \$150. A free table to earth science education and information providers.

Contact: [paradisegemmineral@gmail.com](mailto:paradisegemmineral@gmail.com)

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

**April 25-26, 2026**

**Anaheim, CA**

**Searchers Gem and Mineral Society**

Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4:30 PM

Free entry, free parking. Gems, minerals, fossils, crystals, beads, rough, slabs, vendors, gold panning, extensive silent auction every half hour, door prizes every half hour, grab bags, tools, equipment and exhibits. Lapidary supplies. Faceting, wire wrapping and cabochon making demonstrations. Snacks and drinks are available. Make a polished stone ring for free, crack a dino egg, treasure hunt activities for kids!

Rain or shine, show is on. Please, no pets. Service animals only.

Contact: [anaheimsearchers@gmail.com](mailto:anaheimsearchers@gmail.com)

com

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

**May 1-2, 2026**

**Yucaipa, CA**

**Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society**

Located on Yucaipa Blvd., in Yucaipa, CA 92399

Hours: Friday 12 Noon – 9 PM, Sunday 6 PM – 10 PM

The YVGMS show is held along with the city of Yucaipa's Music and Arts Festival. Our 60+ year old annual show features dozens of vendors from across the country offering a variety of jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils and related arts and crafts. The club offers demonstrations of lapidary techniques, a kids booth with games and prizes, geodes and the opportunity to crack it open, a raffle with chances to win a variety of prizes, and of course, gems and jewelry for sale. Proceeds go towards keeping our non-profit club and workshop up and running as well as towards funding our scholarship offerings. Contact: [djvintage57@gmail.com](mailto:djvintage57@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.yvgms.com>

**April 25-26, 2026**

**Atascadero, CA**

**Santa Lucia Rockhounds**

Atascadero Colony Park Comm. Center, 5599 Traffic Way, Atascadero, CA 93422

Hours: Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm

The 32nd Annual Rock, Fossil & Gem Show, Treasures of the Earth, will be held April 25-26, 2026 at the Atascadero Colony Park Community Center. Enjoy exhibits, demonstrations, guest speakers, kids' activities, and more. Admission \$5; kids under 16 and active military free.

Contact: [srockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:srockhounds@gmail.com) / 805-610-0603

Website: [srockhounds.org](http://srockhounds.org)

**May 1-2, 2026**

**Yucaipa, CA**

**Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society**

Adams Street and Yucaipa

Boulevard, Yucaipa, California 92399

Hours: Friday 12 Noon – 9 PM,

Saturday 6 PM – 10 PM

The YVGMS show is held along with

the city of Yucaipa's Music and Arts

Festival. Our 60+ year old annual

show features dozens of vendors

from across the country offering a

variety of jewelry, gems, minerals,

fossils and related arts and crafts.

The club offers demonstrations of

lapidary techniques, a kids booth

with games and prizes, geodes

and the opportunity to crack it

open, a raffle with chances to win

a variety of prizes, and of course,

gems and jewelry for sale. Proceeds

go towards keeping our non-profit

club and workshop up and running

as well as towards funding our

scholarship offerings.

Contact: djvintage57@gmail.com

Website: [yvgms.org](http://yvgms.org)

**May 1-3, 2026**

**Vista, CA**

**Vista Gem and Mineral Society**

Antique Gas and Steam Engine

Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe,

Vista, CA 92083

Hours: Friday & Saturday: 10am-

5pm; Sunday, 10-4

Spring Gem & Mineral Jewelry

Show. Show will have finished

products, slabs and specimens.

Vendors can check in on Thursday

night. Overnight camping included

with booth rental. Always open for

more vendors.

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: [vistarocks.org](http://vistarocks.org)

**May 9, 2026**

**Roseville, CA**

**Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society**

The Grounds, 200 Corporation Yard

Road, Lot L, Roseville, CA 95678

Hours: 9am-3pm

Annual RRR Tailgater. This is a free,

family-friendly event. Featuring two

dozen seasoned vendors selling

specimens, gems, jewelry, fossils, petrified wood, minerals, lapidary supplies, and more—all at tailgater prices! Vendors must be pre-registered, contact chairperson for info.

Contact: [irocksac@gmail.com](mailto:irocksac@gmail.com) / 916-798-0235

Website: [rockrollers.com](http://rockrollers.com)

**June 27-28, 2026**

**Culver City, CA**

**Culver City Rock & Mineral Club**

Veterans Memorial Auditorium,

4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA

90230

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM,

Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

This year's featured gemstone is

Malachite, which is celebrated for

its rich green colors and natural

beauty. Admission and parking

are free, making it a perfect outing

for families, hobbyists, and gem

enthusiasts.

Contact: [culvercityrocks35@gmail.com](mailto:culvercityrocks35@gmail.com)

Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

**July 31, August 1-2, 2026 -**

**Nipomo, CA**

**Orcutt Mineral Society**

Nipomo High School, 525 North

Thompson Avenue, Nipomo,

California 93444

Hours: Friday & Saturday, 10 am to

5 pm; Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

Orcutt Mineral Society's 58th Rock

& Gem Show

60 outside and 12 inside dealers;

kids booth and food trucks.

Contact: [nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com](mailto:nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com) / 805-929-2783

**August 22-23, 2026**

**Escondido, CA**

**Palomar Gem & Mineral Club**

California Center for the Arts, The

Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd.,

Escondido, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM,

Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

9,000 square feet of faceted stones,

handmade jewelry, cabs, lapidary

rough, minerals, slabs and more.

Admission \$5.0, under 12 Free.

Free parking;

Contact: [PGMCshow@gmail.com](mailto:PGMCshow@gmail.com),

Vendors Contact: [tonifloyd41615@gmail.com](mailto:tonifloyd41615@gmail.com)

Website: [palomargem.org](http://palomargem.org)

**September 18-20, 2026**

**CFMS Show**

**Reno, NV**

**Reno Gem and Mineral Society**

Grand Sierra Resort, Silver State

Pavilion, 2500 East 2nd Street,

Reno, Nevada 89595

Hours: Friday and Saturday 9 AM –

5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

The Jackpot of Gems is one of

the premier gem and mineral

shows in the western United

States, attracting collectors,

families, educators, students,

and enthusiasts from across

the region. The Show features

dealers from around the country,

competitive exhibits judged under

AFMS rules, demonstrations,

educational programming, and

hands-on activities for children.

The 2026 Show is especially

significant as it is being held

in conjunction with the CFMS,

expanding both our reach and our

impact.

Contact: [showdirector@](mailto:showdirector@renogemandmineralsociety.org)

[renogemandmineralsociety.org](mailto:renogemandmineralsociety.org)

Website: [renogms.org](http://renogms.org)

**September 19-20, 2026**

**Chico, CA**

**Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society**

Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair

St., Chico CA 95928

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM,

Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Feather River Rock, Gem & Jewelry

Show. Admission is \$6 for adults,

free for 16 and under. Free Parking

courtesy of the Feather Lapidary &

Mineral Society

Contact: [shows@featherriverrocks.org](mailto:shows@featherriverrocks.org)

Website: [https://www.](https://www.featherriverrocks.org/show-2/)

[featherriverrocks.org/show-2/](https://www.featherriverrocks.org/show-2/)

**September 19-20, 2026**

**Monterey, CA**

**Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society**

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

Website: <http://cvgms.rocks>

**September 19-20, 2026**

**Chico, CA**

**Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society**

Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St., Chico CA 95928

Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

Feather River Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show. Admission is \$6 for adults, free for 16 and under. Free Parking courtesy of the Feather Lapidary & Mineral Society

Contact: [shows@featherriverrocks.org](mailto:shows@featherriverrocks.org)

Website: <https://www.featherriverrocks.org/show-2/>

**September 26-27, 2026**

**San Luis Obispo, CA**

**San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club**

Alex Madonna Expo Center, 120 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Hours: 10AM - 5PM

Gems By The Sea will feature dealers selling a fantastic array of gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary and metaphysical items. Also unique handcrafted items by local artisans. There will kids' activities and demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts. \$5 Admission (Children, 12 and under free). Free parking

Contact: [2026show@slogem.org](mailto:2026show@slogem.org)

Website: [slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/](http://slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea/)

**October 10-11, 2026**

**Redwood City, CA**

**Peninsula Gem and Geology Society & Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society**

Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood

City, CA 94061

Hours: 10am - 5pm

Contact: [impresciacconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:impresciacconstruction@gmail.com) / 650-575-3144

Website: [pggs.org](http://pggs.org) / [sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org](http://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org)

# MARIPOSA

## Gem & Mineral Show

•Gems •Minerals •Jewelry •Demos  
•Food •Raffle •Silent Auction

Jewelry



Gold



Topaz



Photos Courtesy of Jeffrey Scovil

Diopside



Benitoite



## April 11 & 12 2026

Saturday 10am to 5pm    Sunday 10am to 4pm  
•\$5 Adults    •Kids under 14 free

**Mariposa Fairgrounds Highway 49**  
2 miles South of Mariposa

● **FREE Parking**




[mariposagemclub.org](http://mariposagemclub.org)



32ND ANNUAL ROCK, FOSSIL, & GEM SHOW

# TREASURES OF THE EARTH



**APRIL 25-26, 2026**

Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-4

**ATASCADERO COLONY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER**

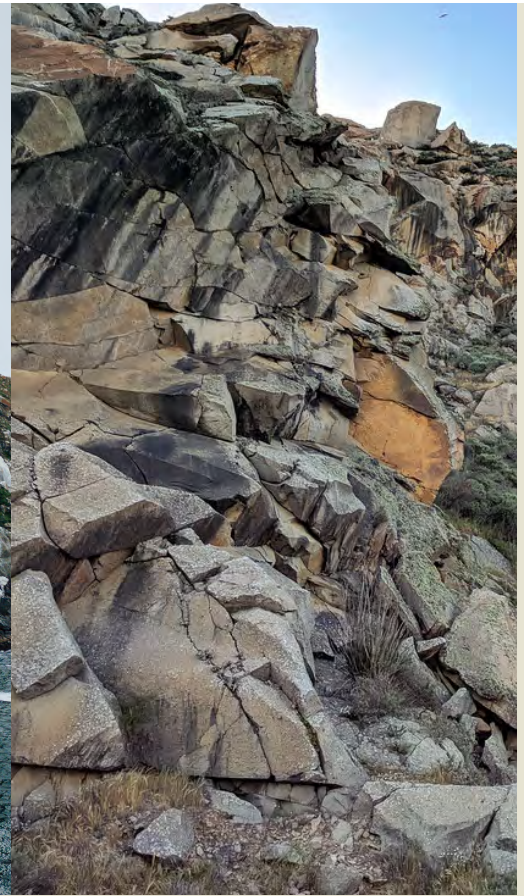
**ADULTS \$5 ADMISSION**

**KIDS UNDER 16 & ACTIVE MILITARY FREE**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- GEODE CRACKING
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- GRAVEL PIT

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.SLROCKHOUNDS.ORG](http://WWW.SLROCKHOUNDS.ORG)**



## **ECOL 433: GEOLOGIC WONDERS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE CENTRAL COAST**

Ever wonder about the origins of California's diverse landscapes or its extraordinary mineral resources? How about California's famous faults and earthquakes? And didn't someone say there are active volcanoes in California?

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### **Register for Free!**

Class starts on April 10th, 2026  
through May 22nd, 2026!

.....

**Fridays, 1-2:30pm**

**Location: Morro Bay Active Adults**



- All these and several other topics will be covered in a series of PowerPoint, classroom style lectures.
- We'll attempt to minimize unnecessary technical jargon and focus on explanations that enrich our understanding of the "Golden State".
- The class is offered through Cuesta College's Continuing Education/Emeritus program.
- It is intended for anyone with a love of our environment and a curiosity for how the Earth works. Enrollment is free but space is limited.

**Questions?** Call the Continuing Education office: (805) 591-6273

**SANTA LUCIA ROCKHOUNDS  
Exhibitor Application 2026**

Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to exhibit at the 33rd annual Santa Lucia Rockhounds Rock and Gem show.

Our show will again be held at **Colony Park Community Center in Atascadero**, located at 5599 Traffic Way. Our club show is known for having some of the best exhibits in the State, and with your help we will continue to offer well-displayed and educational exhibits!

Set-up will be from **noon until 7:00 on Friday, April 24**, and from **8 until 10 on Saturday morning, April 25**. All exhibits must remain in place until the show closes at 4 on Sunday, and must not be opened during the show unless special arrangements have been made with me. Security will be in place during the weekend, but the club will not be liable for any loss or damage to the exhibits.

Please return your completed applications to:  
Ken Gagner  
[KenGagner@Yahoo.com](mailto:KenGagner@Yahoo.com)  
805-234-5475

For questions and further information, please contact me at (805-234-5475) or email me at [KenGagner@yahoo.com](mailto:KenGagner@yahoo.com)

.....Detach here.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have my own case \_\_\_\_\_ Upright: \_\_\_\_\_ Slant: \_\_\_\_\_ Flat: \_\_\_\_\_

Outside dimensions are: \_\_\_\_\_ wide; \_\_\_\_\_ high; \_\_\_\_\_ deep.

I need to borrow a case: \_\_\_\_\_. A limited number of loaner cases may be available. They are standard 4' x 2' x 2'. Please provide your own liners.

Description of Exhibit, please! \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 Treasures of the Earth Volunteer Job Descriptions

**Volunteer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult or Junior?**

**Contact Info:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**T Shirt Size:** Small - Medium - Large – XL - 2 XL - 3XL – None – Kids \_\_\_\_\_ Specify

**Preferred Activity and Shift, Select at least one:**

**Set Up Day – Friday April 24**

**Slots**

- |  |     |                     |
|--|-----|---------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Transportation of Club Storage | 4   | Morning             |
| <input type="radio"/> In-Door Set Up                 | 4/4 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Out-Door Set Up                | 4/4 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Hospitality Set Up             | 1   | Afternoon           |

**Day of Show- Saturday April 25**

- |  |   |                     |
|--|---|---------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Admissions Table – Front | 2 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Admissions Table – Back  | 2 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Merch Table              | 1 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Kids Booth               | 2 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Exhibits                 | 1 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Gravel Pit               | 3 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Geode Cracker            | 3 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Raffle/Drawing           | 1 | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Hospitality Suite        | 1 | Morning / Afternoon |

**Day of Show- Sunday April 26**

**Slots**

- |  |     |                     |
|--|-----|---------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Admissions Table – Front     | 2   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Admissions Table – Back      | 2   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Merch Table                  | 1   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Kids Booth                   | 2   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Exhibits                     | 1   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Gravel Pit                   | 3   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Geode Cracker                | 3   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Raffle/Drawing               | 1   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Hospitality Suite            | 1   | Morning / Afternoon |
| <input type="radio"/> Tear Down and Transportation | 4/4 | 3:30 PM             |

# CFMS Southern California Lapidary Camp Interest Survey

Dear CFMS Club Officers and Members,

The CFMS Executive Board is exploring the possibility of creating a **Southern California Lapidary Camp** to complement our long-running Camp Paradise program. This potential camp would offer an alternative format, including bundled lodging and meals, and would be held during university off-session periods.

No decisions have been made at this time. This survey is intended solely to gather feedback from CFMS clubs so the Board can determine whether sufficient interest exists to pursue this option.

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## 1) Which classes would members of your club be interested in attending?

(Check all that apply)

- Beginning Silversmithing
- Intermediate Silversmithing
- Advanced Silversmithing
- Basic Lapidary
- Advanced Lapidary
- Soft Stone Carving
- Wire Wrapping
- Wax Casting
- Enameling
- Chain Maille
- Beading
- Cold Connections
- Ming Trees / Gem Trees
- Stained Glass
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***CFMS wants your feedback!  
Please look over these  
questions on pages 14-15 and  
be prepared to give Rick Hicks  
your opinions at the April  
meeting.  
Won't be there? Then please  
reach out to Rick directly at  
805-550-9549 or  
Rlhicks1512@sbcglobal.net  
Thank you!***

---

## 2) For a 5–6 day camp held in Spring or Summer 2027, approximately how many members from your club might be interested in attending?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

## 3) Would a class-only fee in the range of \$600–\$700 be acceptable?

- Yes     No     Unsure
-

**4) Would your members prefer:**

- Meals included in the camp fee
  - Meals purchased separately
  - No preference
- 

**5) Preferred lodging options (check all that apply):**

- On-site dormitory / campus housing
  - Hotel
  - Airbnb / rental housing
  - RV / camping
- 

**6) Does your club have members who might be willing to teach at this camp?**

- Yes – within 2 hours travel
  - Yes – more than 2 hours travel
  - No
  - Unsure
- 

**7) Would your club be willing to transport lapidary equipment (saws, grinders, etc.) to support the camp?**

- Yes – within 2 hours
  - Yes – more than 2 hours
  - No
  - Unsure
- 

**8) Does your club have access to a potential venue that could host a lapidary camp?**

- Yes
- No

If yes, please contact:

**Diane Cook, CFMS President**

 [Dianecook.cfms@gmail.com](mailto:Dianecook.cfms@gmail.com)

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Thank you for helping CFMS evaluate this opportunity. Your feedback will directly guide whether this program moves forward.

# April Birthstone: Diamond

**Beth Walls, SLR**

For those born in April, the diamond is their birthstone—one of the most prized and sought-after gems in the world.

Known for its unmatched hardness, dazzling brilliance, and deep symbolism, the diamond has been a favorite for centuries. Whether set in engagement rings, heirloom jewelry, or simple elegant designs, diamonds represent strength, love, and eternal beauty.

## The History and Significance of Diamonds

Diamonds have a rich history that dates back thousands of years. Ancient civilizations believed they were "fragments of stars" or "tears of the gods". The Greeks associated diamonds with invincibility, while the Romans thought they possessed protective powers. In Hindu tradition, diamonds were considered powerful talismans that could bring luck and ward off evil.

The tradition of gifting diamond engagement rings began in 1477, when Archduke Maximilian of Austria proposed to Mary of Burgundy with a diamond ring, setting a trend that continues today.

## The Science Behind Diamonds

Diamonds are composed of pure carbon and are formed under intense heat and pressure deep within the Earth's mantle over billions of



Left: Rough Diamond Right: Polished Diamond  
<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/april-birthstones>

years. They are then brought to the surface through volcanic eruptions.

### Characteristics of Diamonds:

- Hardness – Diamonds are the hardest naturally occurring substance, ranking 10 on the Mohs hardness scale.
- Brilliance – Their unique ability to refract and reflect light creates a breathtaking sparkle.
- Durability – Due to their toughness, diamonds are resistant to scratches and wear.

### The Symbolism of Diamonds

As a birthstone, diamonds represent:

- Eternal Love & Commitment – A classic symbol of romance and devotion.
- Strength & Resilience – Just as diamonds withstand immense pressure, they remind us of our own inner strength.
- Clarity & Purity – The transparent beauty of a diamond signifies mental clarity, wisdom, and truth.
- Wealth & Success – Historically, diamonds have been linked to power and prosperity.

### Diamond Colors and Their Meanings

While diamonds are traditionally clear or white, they also come in a range of colors due to trace elements:

- White/Clear – Purity, clarity, and new beginnings.
- Yellow – Happiness, warmth, and positivity.
- Blue – Peace, loyalty, and protection.
- Pink – Love, compassion, and femininity.
- Black – Strength, confidence, and mystery.

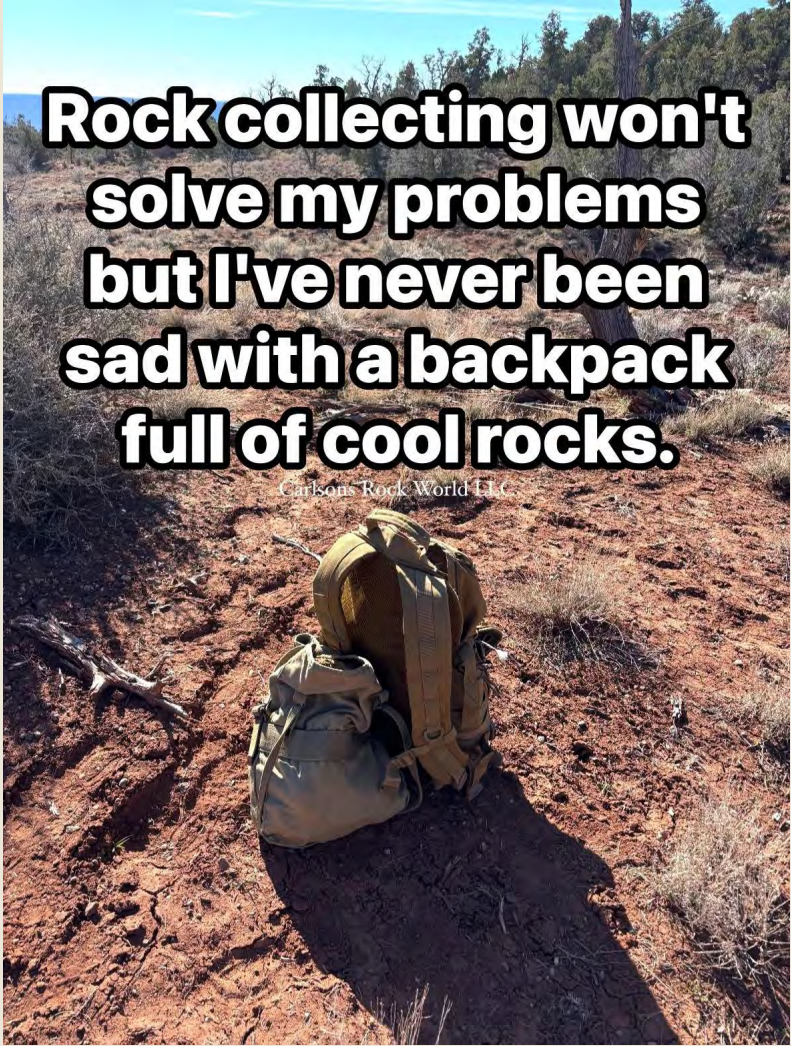
### Caring for Your Diamond

To maintain the brilliance of a diamond:

- Clean regularly using warm, soapy water and a soft brush.
- Store separately to prevent scratching other jewelry.
- Avoid harsh chemicals, such as bleach and chlorine.

The diamond is more than just a birthstone; it is a symbol of endurance, love, and brilliance that has fascinated humanity for centuries.

# Rockhound Funnies



**Rock collecting won't solve my problems but I've never been sad with a backpack full of cool rocks.**

Carlsons Rock World LLC



**I rescue rocks trapped in the dirt**

Carlsons Rock World LLC

**I'm not a hoarder I'm a HERO**

Images from [Facebook](#)

## **The Santa Lucia Rockhounds (SLR)**

is a non-profit public benefit corporation with the specific purpose to promote the study of mineralogy, including (but not limited to) the fields of lapidary, metal working, jewelry design and fabrication, geology and conducts field trips for collecting and education.

We encourage learning and good citizenship in a congenial atmosphere. We respect both private and public property, and we strive to protect natural resources.

The Junior Rockhound meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. with the general club meeting starting at 7p.m. All meetings are at the Templeton Community Center.

We are a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) and affiliated with the American Federation on Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). Santa Lucia Rockhounds, Inc. is also a member of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA).

Annual dues are \$30 for the first adult plus \$10 per additional member of the same household. Annual dues are payable between August 1 and the third Monday of December, in person at club meetings or by mail to P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

The Rockonteur is the official monthly newsletter of the SLR and an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of SLR and of interests to its members.

Circulation of the Rockonteur is approximately 120 copies per issue.

Member submissions are encouraged and may be sent to the editor. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the SLR.

Submissions may be edited as needed without consent. The deadline is the 20th of the month to be included in the next month's publication. Early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged.

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Beth Walls, [bethwalls31@gmail.com](mailto:bethwalls31@gmail.com) Please submit articles for the Rockonteur via email before the 15th of the month to be featured the following month.

Website: [www.slrockhounds.org](http://www.slrockhounds.org)  
Club Email: [slrockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:slrockhounds@gmail.com)