



Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
PO Box 565  
Nevada City, CA 95959-0565

First Class Mail

July 2009



No July Meeting...Please join us for our annual

**PICNIC**

July 11 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

North Star Mine Powerhouse Museum

Glen Jones Park

Mill St. at Allison Ranch Rd.

Grass Valley





## ***Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society***

**PRESIDENT**

Vicki Black

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Dan Chaplin

**SECRETARY**

Julie-Anne Lay

**TREASURER**

Alan Boone

**DIRECTORS**

Kim Moore

Gary Black

Terry Bartels

**2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS****FEDERATION DIRECTOR**

Jonathan North

**FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS**

Terry Bartels

Tony Kampitch

Vicki Black

**HOSPITALITY**

Melba Sagaser

**LIBRARIAN**

Alex Lay

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jeanne Boone

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Bill Budd

**CLUB PICNIC**

Anita Wald-Tuttle

**PROGRAM**

Terry Bartels

**PUBLICITY**

Robert &amp; Joyce Emerson

Kim Moore

**REFRESHMENTS**

Birthday Honorees

**SHOW CHAIRMAN**

Kim Moore

**SHOW CHAIRMAN, ASSISTANT**

Marty Patton

**SHOW DEALER CHAIRMAN**

Joyce Emerson

**SUNSHINE**

Mary Tucker

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Jeanne Boone

**WEBMASTER**

Jonathan North

<http://www.ncgms.org/>

### **Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings**

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society holds two meetings every month with certain exceptions. The membership is informed of exceptions during meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

**Executive Committee Meeting:**

First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange Building  
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

**Picnic - July 11**

**General Membership Meeting:**

First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange Building  
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

**Membership Dues:** Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are \$20.00 for singles and \$25.00 for families. For more information or an application, contact Membership Chairman Jeanne Boone at (530) 268-8857. \*Deduct \$5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email\*

**NCG&MS is a non-profit organization that has these objectives:**

- ♦ to promote the study of mineralogy, geology and fossils.
- ♦ to encourage the collection of minerals and gems.
- ♦ to foster the study and practice of the lapidary arts.
- ♦ to provide field trips to mineral localities.
- ♦ to promote good fellowship, education and recreation.



NEVADA COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (AFMS)  
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. (CFMS)



PERMISSION TO REPRINT ARTICLES IS GRANTED IF CREDITS ARE GIVEN.  
ARTICLES WITH NO CREDITS ARE WRITTEN BY THE EDITOR, JEANNE BOONE  
**Please send Exchange Newsletters & Newsletter Submissions to: Jeanne Boone, Editor**

# ROCK WRITINGS

Official Monthly Publication of the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 43, Number 7

Nevada City - Grass Valley, California

July, 2009

## July President Message by Vicki Black



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July !!!!!

I will be co-leading a field trip to Buffalo Canyon for fossil leaves over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. I hope to see some of you on this trip and if not then at our club Picnic July 11<sup>th</sup> for sure. We always have a good time when we get together .



# Picnic



The picnic at the North Star Mining Museum (located at the corner of Mill St, McCourtney & Allison Ranch roads) on July 11 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm is held at the picnic grounds located below the museum along Deer Creek. It's shady and cool and there are tables available. Bring your own plates and utensils and a potluck dish to feed eight to share. If you want to cook meat, bring along a barbeque as there aren't any available at the park. Enjoy touring the museum and enjoy the display of rocks and minerals that our club has provided. We hope that you and your family can join us for a fun day.



## July Calendar

July 4	Independence Day
July 7	No Board Meeting
July 7	No General Meeting
July 11	Club Picnic
July 20	Newsletter Items Due

## July Birthday's

Jul 03 – Donna Starr  
Jul 11 - Todd Lawson  
Jul 13 - Krista Faciana  
Jul 15 – Lori Woodhall  
Jul 17 – Gary Black  
Jul 18 – Cliff Swenson  
Jul 21 – John Oakie  
Jul 23 – Bill Budd  
Jul 23 – Jim Evans  
Jul 26 – Vickie Black



## Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Presents

### Earth's Treasures 2009

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 10 & 11  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**42 Annual Show**  
*Exhibits of Rocks, Minerals, Carved and  
Faceted Stones and More*



Mineral Identification  
Half Hour Prizes  
Mineral & Fossil Sales  
Lapidary Equipment Sales

**Special  
Fossil  
Exhibits**



Children's Games  
Silent Auctions  
Jewelry Sales  
Demonstrations

Raffles and door prizes  
Admission \$2.00 Children Free

Plenty of Free Parking  
The Nevada County Fairgrounds - Main Exhibit Hall  
11228 McCourtney Road . Grass Valley  
Show Chairman: Kim Moore (530) 470-0388  
Dealer Chairman: Joyce Emerson (503) 559-2595



## Monte Cristo Field Trip May 23 - 25, 2009 by Vicki Black



Gary and I arrived a couple of days early wanting to make sure all the sites and roads were accessible. The roads were all in excellent condition even allowing a couple to travel in their motor home. People started arriving early Friday afternoon at the campsite. We had four tent trailers, one motor home and three people sleeping in the back of their trucks or cars along with two small trailers. The camp site area was large and flat and able to accommodate everyone including eight dogs. Quite a few people also stayed in Tonopah and came to join us in the mornings.


We were lucky enough to see some Mountain Sheep, a herd of wild horses along with several snakes in camp or the sites with only one being a rattlesnake.

The weather was wonderful, not too hot and even though big black clouds appeared in the afternoon, there was no rain but we did have some wind.

We had 31 people including 15 from our club with six different clubs represented in all. Three junior rockhounds had a great time, found some wonderful rocks and worked on earning a Junior Rockhound badge for the field trip.


We went to six different collecting sites and found three different kinds of Rhyolite and Variegated Agate. We visited an old mining town and the ghost town of Gilbert. On Saturday, we ended the day with a stop at an old mining town that had Apache Tears with some still in the Pearlite matrix. Sunday, we went to the hills area where we found Petrified Wood and fossil shells and snails, some just casts and some that had turned to Agate.

Gary and I had a wonderful time and always enjoy sharing such a great hobby with so many wonderful people.



### AFMS/NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

JULY 30, 31 AUGUST 1, 2 2009




**30,000 SQ FEET OF GEMS, JEWELRY, FOSSILS, & MINERALS**

**SEE THE MOON ROCK FROM NASA**  
DINOSAURS \* YOGO SAPPHIRES \* CAVE BEAR

**WHERE: HOLIDAY INN TRADE CENTER**  
5500 MIDLAND ROAD  
BILLINGS, MONTANA


**HOURS: THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY - 10AM-6PM**  
**SUNDAY - 10AM-5PM**

**Tickets: \$5.00 Ea.**  
**2 Day Pass \$8.00**  
**4 Day Pass \$15.00**  
Children under 12 free with adult



Shop @ more than 35 Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Lapidary Dealers  
Demonstrations, Educational Displays  
Silent and Live Gem and Rock Auctions  
A full week of Field Trips after the show

For more information: email Doug True @ [dtruefossils@yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils@yahoo.com) Call (406) 670-0506  
WWW.AMFED.ORG and Click on AFMS/NFMS Convention & Show





### GEM, JEWELRY & MINERAL SHOW

**August 22 - 23, 2009**  
SAT 10 AM - 6 PM SUN 10 AM - 5 PM

**Over 20 World Class Dealers and Exhibitors**

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY**  
Kids Activities - Gold Panning  
Demonstrations - Displays  
Earth Science Presentations

**ORANGEVALE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
6826 HAZEL AVE, ORANGEVALE, CA

**SPECIAL DRAWING** Proceeds Benefit  
Enter to Win a Treasure Trove of Gems, Jewelry and Minerals  
Drawing 4:00 PM, Sunday



**ADMISSION: Adults \$3; only \$5 for weekend Kids 12 & under FREE with Adult**  
**FREE PARKING GREAT FOOD AVAILABLE FABULOUS PRIZES**  
Proceeds from Admission & Drawing Benefit Sierra Family Services

**[www.TreasureTroveOfGems.com](http://www.TreasureTroveOfGems.com)**  
**[info@treasuretroveofgems.com](mailto:info@treasuretroveofgems.com)**





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## Benitoite Gem Mine

The Benitoite Gem Mine has re-opened for screening at a location with easy access. Here's your chance to come and find the California State Gemstone "Benitoite", one the rarest and most valuable gemstones in the world.

Pricing is \$70 per person with kids under twelve paying \$20 and seniors over seventy years of age paying \$35, For reservations contact <http://www.calstategemmine.com/> The mine is open for visits on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm with registration and demonstrations from 9:00 am - 10:00 am. The destination is The Historic Old Road Camp. 48242 Los Gatos Rd., Coalinga, CA 93210.

They supply: Screens, screening tables, buckets, water and a quart sized ziplock bag. They have a UV dark room to look through your washed material with employees available to assist, demonstrate and identify your finds.

For more information: <http://www.calstategemmine.com/>

Information was emailed from Dave, owner of the Benitoite Gem Mine. [dave@calstategemmine.com](mailto:dave@calstategemmine.com)



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### This & That

We are sorry to report that Cliff Swenson fell in church on May 31st. He broke his left femur and had surgery at Sierra Memorial Hospital on June 1st. We wish you a speedy recovery, Cliff.

Thank you to Dr. Betsy Julian, professor of Earth Sciences at Yuba College. Dr. Julian gave us a great program on volcanoes that included lots of information on California volcanoes. We were given volcano rock samples to view and participated in audience input with special electronic devices that registered our answers to various questions on our knowledge of volcanoes. We learned the difference between tourist trap volcanoes (go see these) and death trap volcanoes (volcanoes to stay away from). A very informative program!

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### What Kind Of Rockhound Are You?

**The Fortune Hunter** - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

**The Optimist** - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

**The Road Runner** - No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

**The Smasher and Basher** - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.

Scribe 2008 CD  
via Ft Lewis Rock Club News 6/01  
and Golden Spike News 6/01





**President's Message**  
**by C. J. Quitoriano, CFMS President**  
**Earth Science Studies Opportunities**



Hello again everybody! Is this year going by fast, or is it just me? We just recently returned from this year's Earth Science Studies at Camp Paradise, and boy, what a great time we had there! If you've never gone, you really should. This year they had some really nice pieces come out of all of the classes. The Intarsia class, which is fairly new to Paradise, really had some pretty work being done, and we had a new teacher giving instruction on chain making. There were Ming Trees with Jo, and Ray was demonstrating spheres. The food was out of this world as usual...I gained a ton...as usual!

This year we are going to be raffling off a spot for next year's Camp Paradise in a fund-raising effort for the Endowment Fund. I will let Ray explain the way it works later in the newsletter. But I still want to encourage everyone to buy at least one ticket and to pass the information on to your club members. Remember, this is for the Endowment Fund, our "life's blood" so to speak, but it's also a \$350 prize if you or one of your fellow club members win!

Zzyzx is just around the corner too, I'm not sure if they are any spots left, but I'm sure if you call Marion Roberts, he could let you know!

Anyway, I really don't have much news this month, and since Jim is probably waiting for this article, I'll be going now and let Ray write his article. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I hope to see many of you at your upcoming shows!

Source: CFMS July 2009 Newsletter Website: [www.cfmsinc.org/](http://www.cfmsinc.org/)

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**CFMS REP TO AFMS**  
**EXCITEMENT BUILDING FOR AFMS SHOW**  
**by Colleen McGann**



The AFMS meeting and Northwest Federation show in Billings, Montana, starts July 30. Every year, the AFMS Endowment Fund sponsors a raffle auction with marvelous items at this annual nationwide show. Some prizes this year are faceted stones, a meteorite, opal pendant, engraved glass vase, smoky quartz dolphin carving, rhodonite dogwood pin, Guatemalan jadeite cabochon pendant set in silver, off-loom beaded pendant, Peterson Mountain smoky quartz wire wrapped pendant, and many more one-of-a-kind creations.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. These are available from Colleen McGann, P.O. Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224. Email me ([colleen.mcgann@hds.com](mailto:colleen.mcgann@hds.com)) this month for tickets. I will take all the tickets with me to Billings to give us all a great chance to win. Let California show the other regions we can sell more tickets than they can! I am waiting to hear from you! I will be leaving Saturday, July 25, so get in touch with me soon.

Source: CFMS July 2009 Newsletter Website: [www.cfmsinc.org/](http://www.cfmsinc.org/)

## A Few Cannot Do Everything

by Joy Bourne, AMFS President



By the time you read this, our local club show for 2009 will have been and gone for another year, And as always we had a wonderful turnout of show patrons enjoying the displays and exhibits and demonstrations and addition to the good food and excellent dealers. The kids especially like the Mini Mine where they can draw a little mine car full of gravel and special stones out of the mine to add to their stores of treasures. They also like the chance to polish their very own stones on the cabbing machine under the watchful eye of a club member. They feel very important to put on the plastic aprons and goggles, choose their own preformed stone on a stick, and then actually finish a cabochon on the cabbing machine. There is always a long line of kids waiting their turns at that table. And, of course the geode-cutting room is another very popular show feature with both kids and adults, as is the spectacular fluorescent room presentation..

It is a lot of work to put on for a two-day event, but well worth it! Each year, we draw new people in to the hobby. Unfortunately, it usually the same 30 or so club members (out of 100+) who are always there to work the whole show from setup to tear-down every year. Does that sound familiar?

In our travels to club and federation shows around the country, I have seen the same phenomenon. And, now as AFMS President, I am seeing that the same sort of thing happening in our Federations - it is the same dedicated people carrying on the work of the local clubs and Federations, year after year. Why? I cannot believe that all the other Rockhounds are lazy hangers-on.

Could it be that those members are just waiting for someone to invite them to take a job? As I read the newsletters I am seeing in my e-mail, I am really impressed with the new young leadership among the newsletter editors' ranks. It is a whole new world out there, and the spirit is contagious!

Why not try it? Ask some bright new (or older) member to do something - whether is to help at the show, or take an office in your organization or plan a field trip. Tell him/her you will be happy to help if you have questions - and then let him/her show you a new thing or two. You just might be pleasantly surprised!

Source: AFMS May 2009 Newsletter Website: [www.amfed.org/](http://www.amfed.org/)

## Advice For Rockhound Watchers

Can you spot a rockhound? The species isn't rare.

You can tell him by his honest face, and his willingness to share.

You can tell him as he saunters by, his eyes glued to the ground.

No matter where he goes, he's sure there's gemstones to be found.

You can tell him by his friendly smile, he's an all-round pleasant guy;

But the sure-fire way to spot him, is the flashy bola tie!!

From EUREKA NEWS 1/86 via QUARRY QUIPS 4/01

Via Beehive Buzzer 11/01



Cartoon by Erston Barnhart, from Breccia 4/97  
via Rockbuster News 3/99  
T-Town Rockhound 4/99



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**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2009**

**Meeting called to order by** President Vicki Black at 6:10pm

**Members present:** Terry Bartels, Vicki Black, Jeanne & Alan Boone, Bill Budd, Dan Chaplin, Joyce Emerson, Julie-Anne Lay and Kim Moore

**Minutes from May Board Meeting:** Approved as printed in June Bulletin

**Treasurer's Report:** Alan showed the Board printouts of all the accounts. Everything looks good. Rent paid through June. Auction raised \$429.

**Correspondence:** San Francisco Mineral Show July 10-12. Fliers available for members at meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** No report

**Bulletin:** No report

**Field Trips:** Co-op trip to Monte Cristo Mountains very successful with excellent turn out. 31 people on trip, including 3 juniors and representing 6 different clubs. Austin trip in June cancelled. Four field trips coming up in June, fliers on table for members.

**Federation:** No report

**Show Chairman:** Planning in progress. Joyce suggested introducing a drawing for kids at the fair to collect names of potential junior members. It was agreed that this was a great idea but there was a discussion on how many juniors the junior club wants to accept initially until it gets established.

**Webmaster:** No report

**Picnic:** July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Program:** "California Volcanoes" presented by Dr. Betsy Julian

**Continuing business:** None

**New business:** Cliff Swenson broke his left leg and had surgery.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 6:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,  
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

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## Independence Day History

We celebrate Independence Day to commemorate that auspicious July 4th in 1776 when the Continental Congress adopted the [Declaration of Independence](#), formally declaring the independence of the American colonies from the United Kingdom. Thomas Jefferson is recognized as the principal writer of the Declaration of Independence, although the Jefferson version was revised a couple times before actually being adopted by the Continental Congress.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence first, and did so with much fanfare and in the largest handwriting of all the signers. As a result of his prominent signature, his name has come to be a colloquialism in America for anyone's signature.

John Adams, later to become President of the United States, predicted in July of 1776 in a letter to his wife, Abigail, that Independence Day festivities would be celebrated with fireworks (illuminations):

"The day (Independence Day) will be the most memorable in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival....it ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade...bonfires and illuminations (fireworks) from one end of this continent to the other, from this day forward forevermore."

Today, Independence Day has become as much a day of celebrating the American family as celebrating American independence and freedom. Families get together in backyards and parks for picnics, fellowship, games, and, of course, fireworks.



Source: <http://www.fireworks.com/independence-day/independence-day-history.asp>

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**Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
General Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2009**

**Meeting called to order by President Vicki Black at 7:00pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Present:** 33 members and 4 guests

**Sunshine:** Cliff Swenson broke his left femur and is in Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. Vicki and Alan have a new baby granddaughter Anika Maria – congratulations.

**Birthdays:** Happy birthday to the June Birthdays.

**Program:** "California Volcanoes" presented by Dr Betsy Julian

**Minutes from May Board Meeting:** Approved as printed in the bulletin

**Treasurer's Report:** Last month's auction raised \$429. Club accounts are healthy. Reminder to add pennies to the birthday mug when it's your birthday month.

**Correspondence:** Flier for San Francisco mineral show, July 10-12.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** No report

**Bulletin:** No report

**Field Trips:** Co-op trip on Memorial Day weekend was well attended by 31 people. 15 members from our club (including 3 juniors) plus 3 guests. 6 clubs were represented. A lot of material was collected, mostly float collecting, including petrified wood, rhyolite, turquoise and agate. Also visited the ghost town of Gilbert. Upcoming trips include: June 13<sup>th</sup> Babcock Peak for rose quartz or Spider Mine for rhodonite (fee dig). July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend Fossils for fun trip to Buffalo Canyon for leaf fossils.

**Federation:** No report

**Show Chairman:** Planning in progress

**Webmaster:** No report

**Picnic:** Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm at the Glen Jones Park. Potluck : bring a dish to share that will serve 8 people

**Program:** Club picnic next month. No meeting in July.

**Continuing business:** Thanks to "Wild Bill" for being auctioneer last month. The Auction was a big success, will do it again next year. Thanks to Alex for running the raffle tonight.

**New business:** Cliff had surgery on 6.1.09 at SNMH on his broken leg.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie-Anne Lay, Secretary,  
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society

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## Geodes

These gem rocks are often called "thunder eggs" and are found as stone balls with a crystal, topaz, or amethyst center. Geodes sometimes have bands of jasper or agate surrounding their crystalline centers. Tiny or immense, they are found in all colors, as stones of great beauty. When sliced open, they reveal an unparalleled crystal universe within. The ones we prize the most are the geodes that contain amethyst.

Geodes are usually found in deposits where two massive land forms have come together. In formation, water between two rocks was unable to be released during the movement of the rocks. Eventually, a formed thunder egg was spit out and usually found rolling down the side of a mountain, like a rolling marble. These wonder stones are found abundantly in Mexico and the southwestern United States. More often found in the Western Hemisphere, they have rarely been noted in the folklore of the Eastern world.

*From "Stone Power" by Dorothee L. Mella*



The Conglomerate: 4/00  
via Beehive Buzzer 4/00

## CO-OP MEMBER & OTHER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2009

Contact your club's field trip leader for further information and revisions. CO-OP website also has information: [www.ourfieldtrips.org](http://www.ourfieldtrips.org) (Password is needed.)

- All non-CFMS members must have proof of personal liability insurance (renters or homeowners policy). These trips are open to all rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rock-hounding.
- Call the field trip leader beforehand to sign up and for further information.
- Remember to wear your name badge and sign in with the field trip leader.
- A Consent and Assumption of Risk Waiver of Liability form must be signed upon arrival at meeting site

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|-----------------|--|
| July 4, 5       | Buffalo Canyon (Middlegate, NV) for fossils. Fossils for Fun, Hugh Brady, phone or email.  |
| July30 – Aug. 2 | AFMS/NFMS Show & Convention in Billings, Montana. During the week following the show, field trips in Montana. Contact: Doug True at <a href="http://www.amfed.org/nfms">www.amfed.org/nfms</a> |
| Sept. 19 or 26  | Hanksville, UT for petrified wood, fossils and agate. Fossils for Fun, Keith Lindholm, by phone or email.  |
| October 3       | Empire Mine Tour. Sun City Lincoln Hills G & M Club, Ron Clawson, by phone or email.   |
| Nov. TG week    | Southern CA – annual Thanksgiving week trips. Mother Lode Mineral Club, Al Troglin by phone or email.  |

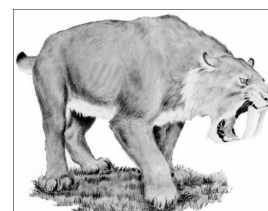


Sources: Florence Brady, Co-op Field Chairman & CFMS website:  
Website: [www.cfmsinc.org/](http://www.cfmsinc.org/)



## California State Symbols

The saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon californicus*) was adopted by the Legislature as the official State Fossil in 1973. Fossil evidence indicates that this member of the cat family with 8-inch upper canine teeth was somewhat shorter than a modern lion, but weighed more. This meat-eater was very common in California during the late Pleistocene epoch that ended about 11,000 to 10,000 years ago. Fossil bones of *Smilodon californicus* have been found in abundance preserved in the tar pits of Rancho La Brea in Los Angeles.



Benitoite was designated as the official State Gemstone in 1985. Sometimes called the "blue diamond", it was first discovered near the headwaters of the San Benito River from which it derived its name. The gem is extremely rare and ranges in color from a light transparent blue to dark, vivid sapphire blue, and occasionally it is found in a violet shade.



As one might expect, gold is the official state mineral and was so designated in 1965. In the four years following the discovery of gold by James Marshall in January of 1848, California's population swelled from 14,000 to 250,000 people. Miners came from all over the world and extracted 28,280,711 fine ounces of gold from 1850-1859 which would be worth approximately \$10,000,000,000 today. Although production is much lower, present day prospectors can still pan for gold in California's streams.



Source: <http://www.library.ca.gov/history/symbols.html>



## July 11-12 2009, Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium and Rotunda  
4117 Culver Blvd  
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5  
Robert Thirlaway (310) 213-7677  
Email: [thirlawr@gmail.com](mailto:thirlawr@gmail.com)  
Website: [CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm](http://CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm)

## August 1-2 2009, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
San Francisco County Fair Building  
Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way  
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5  
Website: [www.sfgms.org](http://www.sfgms.org)

## August 7-9 2009, Nipomo, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society  
St Joseph's Church  
298 S. Thompson Ave.  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Wes Lingerfelt (805) 929-388  
Email: [Rocks4u@prodigy.net](mailto:Rocks4u@prodigy.net)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

## August 14, 15 & 16 2009, Tehachapi, CA

Techachapi Gem & Mineral Society  
St Malachy Catholic Church  
407 West E. Street  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 8-7:30; Sun. 8-5:30  
Chuck Overall (661) 821-4650  
Email: [Luckydog5433@aol.com](mailto:Luckydog5433@aol.com)

## August 22-23 2009, Orangevale, CA

Orangevale Community Center  
6826 Hazel Ave.  
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
John Moulder  
Email: [gbcorp@surewest.net](mailto:gbcorp@surewest.net)  
Website: [www.treasuretroveofgems.com](http://www.treasuretroveofgems.com)

## September 4-7 2009, Fort Bragg, CA

Mendocino Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
Town Hall  
Cr. of Main & Laurel  
Hours: Fri. to Sun. 10-6, Mon. 10-4  
Don McDonell / (707) 964-3116

Source: CFMS Website: [www.cfmsinc.org/](http://www.cfmsinc.org/)

## September 12-13 2009, Vista, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Sante Fe Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4  
Fred Wilson (760) 433-8464  
Cherie Wilson (760) 941-7073  
Lois Harr (560) 724-0395

## September 19-20 2009, Redwood City, CA

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Redwood City Community Activities Bldg.  
1400 Roosevelt Ave.  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Carol Corden (650) 248-7155  
Email: [coorden@comcast.net](mailto:coorden@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm](http://www.sgms.driftmine.com/home.htm)

## September 19-20 2009, Paso Robles, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds  
Pioneer Park & Museum  
2010 Riverside Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Richard Smith (805) 467-2966  
E-mail: [jonme2@wildblue.net](mailto:jonme2@wildblue.net)

## September 19-20 2009, Stockton, CA

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 West Alpine Ave.  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
(209) 946-0113  
E-mail: [footsey1@yahoo.com](mailto:footsey1@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

## September 26-27 2009, Carmel, CA

Carmel Valey Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10-5  
Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

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