BULLETIN of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Volume 99 Number 11 November 2026

The 1,056th meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

A ZOOM Meeting

November 13, 2026, at 7:30 P.M.

Program: "Rockhound Nostalgia“ Presented by Jim Mills

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Remember: If you change your email or street address, you must let the MSSC Editor and Membership Chair know, or we cannot guarantee receipt of future Bulletins



Program: "Rockhound Nostalgia“ Presented by Jim Mills



Jim Mills' presentation is an entertaining, pictorial history of the beginnings of rock and mineral collecting and the explosive growth it enjoyed in the mid-20th century. From National Parks, roadside attractions, rock shops, and magazines for the amateur, all the way to field collecting, lapidary, and specimen collections, this review will provide the old-timers a pang of nostalgia and the younger enthusiasts with a better appreciation for the origins of our hobby.

Jim Mills grew up in Southern California right around the corner from the North Hollywood Gem and Mineral shop and began collecting rocks and minerals at the age of 9 years. So much time was spent hanging out at the shop that the proprietor started giving him odd jobs to do. Of course, the payment was in rocks and minerals! He graduated from UCLA Earth and Planetary Sciences Department in 1965 and joined the US Air Force as an Intelligence Officer very soon after graduation.
In a second career Jim worked for the National Park Service. It was a good match - the first national parks were related to interesting geology, fumaroles and hot springs at Yellowstone and the glacial features at Yosemite. In fact, a very early National Monument was Petrified Forest set aside by Teddy Roosevelt in 1908 – 8 years prior to legislation that established the National Park Service to administer the nation's treasures. Jim is an avid collector of petrified wood. Along with his spouse, Beth Myers, he also operates a small Internet business selling petrified woods and plant fossils to collectors and museums around the world.

How to Join our ZOOM Meetings

MSSC members are automatically included in the invite list each month.

For non MSSC Members who want to attend this meeting. You must respond to our Programs chair, Carolyn Seitz speakers@mineralsocal.org. no later than the Thursday prior to the next scheduled meeting. Please include "*current month* ZOOM Meeting" in the subject line of your response. This response date will allow time for us to send you the information needed to participate in the ZOOM meeting.

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From the Editor: Linda Elsnau.

Looks like we have another interesting program scheduled for the November meeting; try not to miss it.

Here's wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a good start to the 2026 holiday season.

I also have one correction to the roster that was sent out last month. Marcia Goetz has a new email address. The correct address is now joeandmarciagoetz@gmail.com.

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From Our President Leslie Ogg

The mineral jadeite is one type of the gemstone Jade (the other form of jade is nephrite). While researching jadeite I found a list of the top sites for collecting jade in California.

Top California Jade Locations (nephrite and jadeite)
Jade Cove & Southern Big Sur (Monterey County): Famous for being the world's only concentrated underwater deposit of quality nephrite jade. You can search the beaches and tide pools from Sand Dollar Beach to Cape San Martin.

Trinity River & Willow Creek (Trinity County): Popular public riverbeds where you can find jade cobbles alongside jasper and gold.

Happy Camp Jade Mines (Siskiyou County): A public area known for yielding jade, serpentine, and gold.

Klamath River & Creeks (Northern California): Known for river-worn green and dark nephrite pieces.
San Benito County & Clear Creek: An area recognized for local jadeite deposits.
San Luis Obispo & Mendocino Counties: Coastal and riverbed zones where amateur rockhounds search for loose stones. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

I have been to all of these locations but not necessarily looking for jadeite. I know I have collected some jade/jadeite pebbles from California beaches; I have no idea where they are!
I do have some samples of jadeite from Guatemala.




Photos © Leslie Ogg

Data from Mindat:
Jadeite formula $Na(Al,Fe_{3+})Si_2O_6$, is an apple-green, greenish white, purplish blue, blue-green, violet, white, or black mineral. It has a pearly luster and a hardness of 6; it's microcrystalline structure consists of densely interlocked, fibrous grains that resist fracturing. It is monoclinic. The type locality is Myanmar.
Jadeite is a member of the Clinopyroxene Subgroup > Pyroxene Group and is named after jade.
Interesting Jadeite Facts:

- Jade is named after the Spanish "piedra de ijada", "stone of the flank", as it was thought to cure kidney pains.
- For thousands of years, Chinese dynasties carved nephrite exclusively. Jadeite only arrived in large quantities from northern Myanmar (Burma) during the 18th century, quickly becoming a favorite of imperial rulers.
- If you visit the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana you can see exhibits of historical jade collections.

Reminders: Don't forget to vote on November 3, or before!
MSSC elections are at our next meeting on November 9, please join us to vote.

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MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, October 9, 2026

Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC)

General Meeting, Friday, October 10, 2026

President Leslie O. called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and announced that this is our 1055th membership meeting.

Leslie O. announced the passing of longtime member Elizabeth Moller at the age of 103.

Attending: 28 members in attendance and Guest Speaker Dr. Peter Megaw.

Leslie O. announced that there are currently 6,240 approved minerals at Mindat, noting that rruff.net lists 6,231 minerals.

Minutes: David L. made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2026, meeting, seconded by Bert V. Motion carried.

The group then conducted officer and director nominations, with Leslie O., Renee K., Pat S., Angie G., Carolyn S., and David L. agreeing to continue in their roles, while one director seat remained vacant. Leslie will follow up with Marcia to see if she wants to continue as Secretary for the next term.

Dr. Peter Megaw gave a detailed presentation on his 50-year career as an economic geologist in Mexico, covering the geology of the Sierra Madre Occidental and Oriental, carbonate replacement deposits, and specific mining districts like Santa Eulalia, Ojo de la Cal, Naica, and Fresnillo. He shared numerous photos of minerals including rhodochrosite, fluorite, adamite, and native silver, and discussed the challenges of exploration and the impact of mining technology on specimen collection. During the Q&A, he addressed topics such as mineral export regulations, the rarity of certain species, and the current state of the silver market.

Following the presentation, Angie provided a CFMS show report, mentioning a tribute to George Rossman, a lapidary camp project in Southern California, and the disbanding of the American Lands Access Association website.

The conversation ended with a brief discussion on member recruitment and a mention of upcoming field trip planning.

Marek C. said he is thinking of planning a field trip for 2 or 3 weeks from now, depending on weather conditions.

Respectfully submitted, Marcia Goetz, Secretary

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List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
Meeting Dates::	ZOOM December 11, 2026	**TBA**
	ZOOM January 8, 2027	**TBA**
	ZOOM February 5, 2027	**TBA**
Board Meeting	Sunday, December 6, 2026	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
2027 Installation Banquet	Saturday, January 16, 2027	Hoff's Hut in Seal Beach
Field Trip		No News At This Time

Note: Dates and programs shown above are subject to change. Check your bulletins to confirm final information each month.

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California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)
CONVENTION MEETING and Show
September 18-20, 2026, Reno, NV

CFMS Director Report
Director Angie Guzman representing
Mineralogical Society of Southern California
and Pasadena Lapidary Society

Convention Center, November 18,19 and 20, 2026
Reno Gem and Mineral Society ***Show*** sanctioned/supported by CFMS

Convention Center, November 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Cracker Barrel – ***Meet and Greet*** informal gathering, silent auction.

Convention Center, November 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

***BUSINESS MEETING* – CFMS Directors**

After Call to Order, Presentation of Colors, Invocation, verification of a quorum, Introductions and other routine items on the agenda, the Business Meeting got underway. Reports were presented for review with the following items being of note and interest:

In Memoriam: Dr. George Rossman (MSSC) and Frances Comer (PLS). Director Guzman gave commentary/remarks about Dr. Rossman and Ms. Comer.

COMMITTEES

Earth Science Studies:

(a) Camp Paradise in Northern California will continue in 2027 and

(b) Southern California: Ad Hoc Committee will form at the Visalia CFMS Directors Meeting in November 2026. *Possible* location is Cal State Fullerton's Zzyzx facility (formerly Soda Springs); still looking for other sites. Meanwhile, Robin Larzelere (Anaheim Searchers and MSSC member) is looking for teachers and others who may be interested in volunteering for this project.

(Note: Camp Paradise is wholly lapidary; Southern California facility will probably be fashioned in the same vein).

Field Trips: Field Trips South is looking for a leader. Contact your director if interested.

Insurance: Fred Ott invited clubs to a ZOOM webinar to explain the insurance. Did your club or society attend? YES, MSSC President Leslie O. attended the ZOOM webinar.

Internet: Field Trips, Editors and Mailing Lists will be *password protected* for all CFMS members. Pass this on to your members with caution. There is to be NO GENERAL PUBLIC ACCESS to these sites! Contact your director for the password.

Juniors: If you only have one junior, he or she will be eligible to participate in CFMS, as well as AFMS competitions.

Legal: CFMS is looking for an attorney who could help with legal questions/answers. Contact your CFMS Director if you know an attorney who will help.

Membership:

(a) Amador will recover and remain a member; Whittier will disband; No word yet on Mojave or South Bay and

(b) E-mails/communications should go to your members, i.e., Diamond Dan. CFMS contracts with Diamond Dan publications. (NOTE: Diamond Dan is geared for children.)

Newsletter: CFMS Newsletter is E-mail only; there are 5-10 who still pay for snail mail copy. Check group.io

Public Lands: Frank Mullaney announced that American Lands Access Association, ALAA, membership has declined over the years and *will disband at the end of the year 2026*. Their web site was a wealth of information regarding public lands legislation, collecting on public lands, regulations regarding national monuments and a host of other important information. There were several comments including from MSSC's Guzman who stated that ALAA was a go-to resource for information and support needed in the struggle for collecting and education in the "new" National Monuments in Southern California. Mullaney suggested to contact current CFMS Public Lands Advisory Chair May for further information.

Public Relations: Please notify Jim Brace-Thompson (Ventura) if you have a story that got your society or club into the news. "We want to acknowledge that story and you!"

Rules: (specific to show displays) Read the Rules! If there is anything outside of the rules, your display will not qualify. American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) regards these rules as guidelines. [It could be possible MSSC may want to enter a display case in a CFMS sanctioned show.] CFMS has display cases on loan for free – let your director know if your society or club wants to participate.

Scholarships:

(a) If your society or club donates $ for the Scholarship Fund, you must designate it as **Restricted** (it will go to the CFMS Endowment Fund) or **Un-Restricted** (it will go to Scholarships only). Is your society or club interested in donating? and
(b) CFMS Honorees are Craig Poole – Fresno City College and the Honoree from Cal State Fullerton. These Honorees will designate their undergraduate student scholarship recipients and present them at the next Director's meeting in Visalia, November 2026.

Social Media: Our 1st Report shows 82 followers on Instagram and 381 on Face Book. Currently the newly fashioned QR codes are not working – check the website for updates. Chair Erin Valenzuela says Google Work Space for non-profits is at no cost.

Taxes: Pat LaRue reminded everyone about the 990's and 199's filing deadline was May 2026. If there is no filing for three years in a row, your society or club will forfeit their non-profit status. But don't wait! Re-establishing non-profit status is a difficult process.

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be in Visalia in November 2026.

(Note: Certain meetings were held on Sunday, September 20, 2026, for certain committees.)

Adjournment.

AWARDS BANQUET – Saturday November 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m. (Convention Center)
Awards Banquet took place at designated rooms at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center. Among awards: **Pasadena Lapidary Society (PLS)** had two youngsters who placed 2nd each in their categories for Junior Achievement: **Daniel and Adalyn**. **AND,** in the Bulletin category, **Daniel and Adalyn** each received awards for their published articles. **Well-Done! Congratulations!** Awards were accepted by CFMS and AFMS Officer, Tony Fender. He will bring the awards to PLS's next membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Angie Guzman,
Past-President and CFMS Director
Mineralogical Society of Southern California

November 20, 2026: CFMS Director Guzman supported CFMS and the Reno Gem & Mineral Society by attending and contributing to their show.

NOTE: PLS had their annual Gem and Mineral Show the same weekend as the Convention Meeting. PLS CFMS Director Sue Pang designated Angie Guzman as Alternate for this meeting; PLS Board approved to pay 1 night's hotel stay, one-way transportation and Awards Banquet charge for Guzman.

This is an edited version of Director Guzman's 9/21/26 report

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OTHER (FREE) THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The first **Watson Lecture** of this season is on Wednesday, **November 4** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is **Katie Bouman,** associate professor of computing and mathematical sciences, electrical engineering, and astronomy; Rosenberg Scholar; Heritage Medical Research Institute Investigator. The title is **"Physics and AI."** Learn about how physics and AI are working together to illuminate the hidden universe. ADVANCE REGISTRATION is available at Physics and AI with Katie Bouman - Public Events. Enjoy pre-lecture activities and music including food, drinks, and books available for purchase starting at 6 PM. Every Watson Lecture is recorded and published on Caltech's Watson Lecture YouTube playlist.

Advance notice of the second Watson Lecture on Wednesday, **December 2**. The speaker is Sarkis Mazmanian, the Luis B. & Nelly Soux Professor of Microbiology and a Merkin Institute Professor, The title is **"Trust Your Gut: Microbiome Influences on Brain Health and Disease."** While the brain receives visual, auditory, olfactory, and other sensory information, the majority of molecular input to the brain comes through our gastrointestinal tract. Rather than being isolated, the brain is in constant

communication with the gut via neuronal connections, the immune system, or intestinal hormones. Remarkably, many molecules produced by gut bacteria of the human microbiome can be found in the brain. In this talk, Dr. Mazmanian will share his laboratory's work on the fascinating and enigmatic gut–brain connection and its impacts on behavior and brain function. Harnessing the link between gut bacteria to the brain may uncover causes for disorders such as Parkinson's disease, and it may also enable therapies based on entirely novel biological principles. ADVANCE REGISTRATION is available at Gut microbiome–brain connection with Sarkis Mazmanian - Public Events

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** located in room 3697 of the Geology Building on the UCLA campus is open to the public on weekdays from 9 am to 4. Admission is always free. The monthly lectures seem to have been discontinued but the gallery is well worth exploring. Visit the website and check on events, videos, and other neat things including resources for teachers, Go to https://meteorites.ucla.edu

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Calendar of Events:

Only S. CA shows are listed here. Other CFMS Club shows can be found at: http://www.cfmsinc.org/

2026 Shows

Oct 31-Nov 1, 2026 - Orange, CA
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower Street, Orange, CA 92868
American Opal Society
Hours: Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm
Admission $5 Adults; Students with ID and Children under 15 FREE
FREE Parking
Website: opalsociety.org

Nov 7-8, 2026 - Ridgecrest CA
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: 9am-5pm
IWGMS 70th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Free Admission and Free parking
Field Trip to club's Jasper claim on Sunday at 0900 - $5 per adult
Website: https://iwgms.org

Nov 7-8, 2026 - San Diego, CA
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4
Gem Diego Show: Free Admission & Parking.
Website: SDMG.org

Nov. 21-22, 2026 - Lakeside, CA
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview Street, Lakeside, CA 92040
El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Hours: Sat: 9a-5p; Sun: 9a-4p
Free parking, admission, mineral identifications and lapidary demonstrations.
Website www.ecvgms.org

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MSSC Advertisement Policy:
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month

Business Card	$5.00
One-third page	$10.00
One-half page	$20.00
Full Page	$35.00

In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be mailed to the editor at bulletin@mineralsocal.org and the payment should be sent to the
MSSC Treasurer 2231 Golden Circle, Newport Beach, CA 92660

2026 MSSC Officers:

OFFICERS		
President	Leslie Ogg	*president@mineralsocal.org*
Vice President	Renee Kraus	*vicepresident@mineralsocal.org*
Co-Secretaries	Marcia Goetz	*secretary@mineralsocal.org*
Treasurer	Pat Stevens	*treasurer@mineralsocal.org*
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	Angie Guzman	
DIRECTORS		
2025--2026	Carolyn Seitz	
2025--2026	David Lesperance	
2025--2026	vacant	
2026-2027	Pat Caplette	
2026-2027	Bert Vogler	
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	*bulletin@mineralsocal.org*
Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Membership	Linda Elsnau	*membership@mineralsocal.org*
Micro Mineral Conf. Chair	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	vacant	
Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	*Speakers@mineralsocal.org*
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	*webmaster@mineralsocal.org*

About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. We are a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., MSSC meetings are conducted via ZOOM conferencing until further notice**.** The annual Installation Banquet occurs in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting are in August. Check the Society website for details.

The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the Fallbrook Mineral Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are $30.00 for an individual membership, $40.00 for a family membership. Bulletins are sent by email; there is an additional annual fee if you prefer paper bulletins mailed to your address. The Society's contact information:

Mineralogical Society of Southern California
13781 Alderwood Lane, 22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740
E-mail: *treasurer@mineralsocal.org*
Website: ***www.mineralsocal.org*** **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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