



Diablo Diggins

"We Dig Rocks"
Since 1950

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

March 2024
VOL. 72 NO 3

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**Photo above: Black Dimond Mines Tour
See story within**



CCMGS MISSION STATEMENT: Our purpose is to promote popular interest and education in the earth sciences, including geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and related subjects; to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of persons and groups with similar interests; and by and through such means to strive toward greater community and international good will and fellowship.

We also support promoting and ensuring the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes related to the earth sciences. We fulfill our mission by holding monthly meetings and special programs. Members attend and participate in local and statewide events and hold a yearly public show.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: March 11, 6:30pm Endeavor Hall

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

SPRING IS HERE AT LAST –
WELL SOON ENOUGH ANYWAY!

I am looking forward to a great spring and summer filled with activities for our group. A little word of caution, the creeks are running high, rocks above you may have loosened during the winter and skunks, scorpions, and snakes [oh my] will soon be out. Be careful out there, enjoy and be safe.



Thank you, Rudy, for the outstanding work on the Black Diamond Mine Tour, super fun, and good companionship.

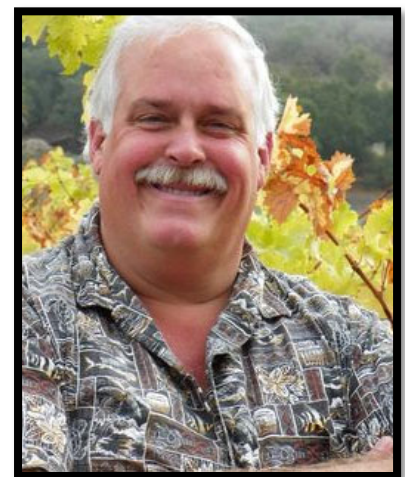
And thank you to the Calaveras Mineral and Gem Society members who came down to share the adventure. We will look forward to visiting with you when you next host an outing.

Rob will host a local Creek Crawl on Donner Creek in Clayton. I am personally looking to pick up a few stream-washed stones from a local creek.

We also have a great opportunity for a geologist led outing to the Sonoma Coast. My family and I have participated in several tours along the central coast area, a little collecting, super interesting and always great fun.

Inside you will find A list of local society shows and few coupons. Please wear your badges.

Get out and have a great spring, please share your finds and adventures with the club, and as Sergeant Phil on Hill Street Blues always said, 'Let's be careful out there'.



Michael Hopkins
President CCMGS

Welcome our new members

Please welcome new members Finnius, Brigido, Elijah. and Pierre to the CCMGS.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Presentation by PRIMO FACCHINI

Primo led an outstanding presentation and discussion of antique bricks from the local area. And a raffle was held led by Cheryl Morgan with help from Jessica Enriquez



Black Diamond Mines Outing

On a beautiful early spring day, intense green hills, and a sky so blue it hurts to look at, we met in the early morning chill for the short walk up to the mine entrance.

Rudy Trautner, with help from his wife Mary Dougherty, organized and led our first club outing of the year. Over 20 people attended with members from CCMGS and the Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society.

The Black Diamond Mines History Tour covers two mining eras in the park. Coal mining took place in the late 19th century, and the Hazel-Atlas sand mine was active in the early 20th century. The wonderful park docents wove a compelling story of early mining activities and hardships. Impressive, near life-sized posters depicting early miners lined the entry tunnel and several fixed displays depicted miners working the shallow coal seams.



ENTRANCE ROAD TO BLACK DIAMOND REGIONAL PRESERVE



HARD HATS REQUIRED



RIPPLE MARKS IN SANDSTONE ON ROOF OF TUNNEL



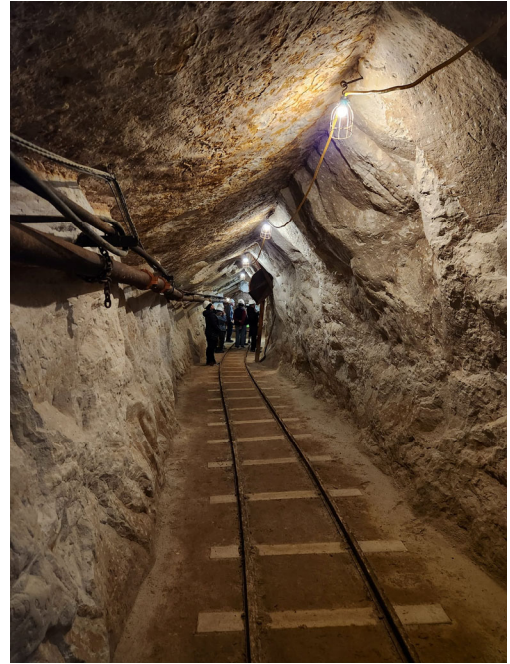
MINER'S CONVENIENCE

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? - Ripple Marks

An undulatory surface or surface sculpture consisting of alternating small-scale ridges and hollows formed at the interface between a fluid and sedimentary material (esp. loose sand).

Black Dimond Mines, Cont.

The Hazel-Atlas mine produced high quality silica-sand that was used in the making of glass jars. Highly sought after by collectors, a mason jar and saltshaker with the HA logo embossed on the base were available to the tour members. The sands of this ancient seabed make up the rocks of our nearby foothills and the Diablo range. Undulating ripple patters are clear on the roof of the mine. This pattern is possible evidence of shallow water moving over the sand leaving the pattern we see millions of years later. Our tour was a rousing success; thank you Rudy.



TOUR PARTICIPANTS LAGGING BEHIND

EDITOR'S NOTE

After the tour, the editor found that the mine maybe closed over the summer for inspections by the state. And as a cost saving measure, EBRP may also be closing the park— No mine no need for a park



PAST TOUR PARTICIPANTS



MINE REPAIRS ARE ALWAYS ON GOING

CLUB OUTING - DONNER CREEK, CLAYTON, CA

CREEK CRAWL

When: Saturday, March 23, 2024 10AM to 1PM (or so)

Where: Meet on El Molino Dr. near Marsh Creek Road (right next to the creek)

What to bring: Boots, bucket, lunch/snack, brush, spray bottle, hammer or small pry-bar

What to find: Jaspers, serpentines, quartz, epidote, schist, hematite and more

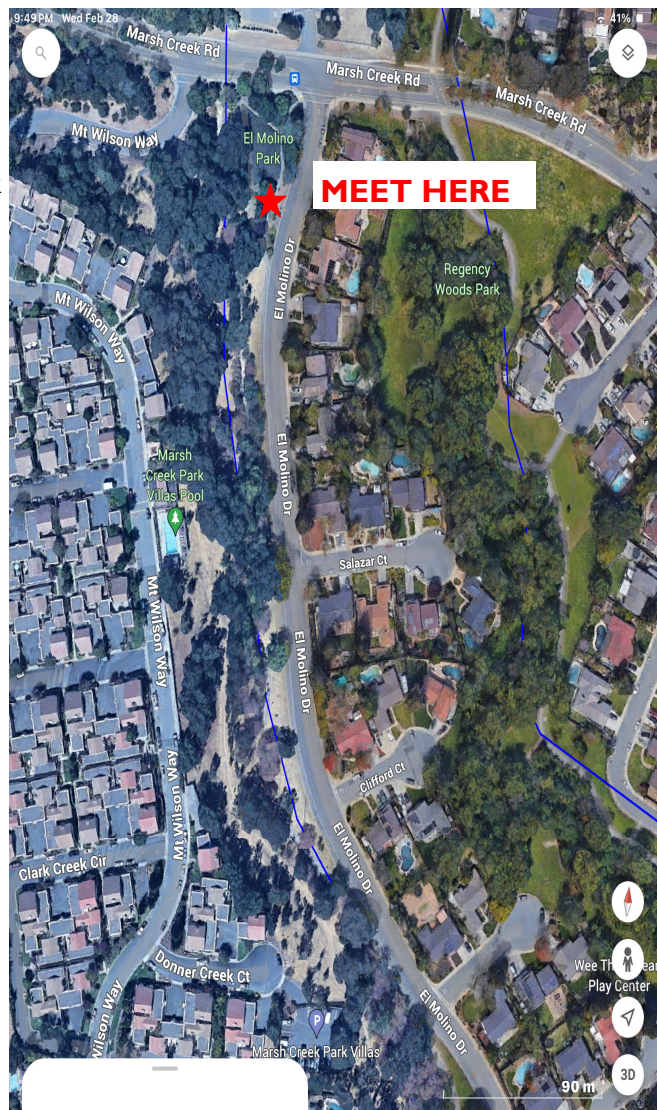
Tour Guide: Rob Savre

Cost: \$0 [Ed. Note -bring a lunch or stop in Clayton after the event]

RSVP to save your spot rudytrautner@gmail.com Subject line 'Donner Creek walk'

The Donner Creek Trail begins at El Molino Park at the corner of Old Marsh Creek Rd. and El Molino Dr. where there is ample Parking. Donner Trail follows Donner Creek and El Molino Dr. for approx 1500', then goes behind the neighborhood following the creek to the entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park where it ends.

Donner Creek drains an area with rich mineral such as copper, silver and gold so you don't know what you might find. Here is a cabochon I made from a rock from this creek. Is that gold?
Sign up today.



COMING FIELD TRIP

APRIL 14 - Sonoma Coast State Park – Geologist led discussion and beach collection at three locations along the coast. Outing is organized by the Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society. [Editor - geologist led outings are excellent opportunities]

SONOMA COAST STATE PARK: GOAT ROCK AND BODEGA HEAD

TRIP DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE (list the number for each)

Vehicle Access & Parking - #2—narrow entrance roads—no trailers or large RVs
Collection or View Site - #2—some walking on sand

WHEN – Sunday, April 14th, 2024. The program begins promptly at 10:00am and ends around 3pm. **Allow minimum of 2 hours travel, where your badge!**

SPONSOR CLUB – SRMGS -Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

LEADER & CONTACT INFO – **Karol Deasy: 707-696-9282** Text preferred or karol@deasy-opus.com

MEMBER'S GUESTS - ("x) Select One: __Allowed **X**. Not Allowed

COLLECTION MATERIAL – Beach rock. **Small Ziploc bag only.**

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Begin at 10:00 at the Goat Rock Parking lot with talk by geologist about local rock formations followed by beach combing. Carpool a mile uphill to view and learn about marine terraces, sea stacks & the Mammoth Rubbing Rock. At Noon, leave Goat Rock and caravan a half hour south to Bodega head for lunch stop (BRING SACK LUNCH) at Campbell Cove on Bodega Bay and talk about faults. Drive one mile uphill to Bodega Head for talk about plate tectonics. END of PROGRAM & CHECK OUT with Karol.

MEET (where/when) – 9:45am to CHECK IN with Karol at the Goat Rock Parking Lot. NO State Park fee.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE/CAMP - Entrance Road clearly marked with a State Park sign for Goat Rock on the west side Hwy 1. Follow the road another 2 miles or so down to Parking Lot: KEEP LEFT, aiming for the large, flat-topped Goat Rock. Lot is built on an old sand bar connecting Goat Rock to the mainland.

VEHICLE REQ'S – No trailers or large RVs. Some carpooling required from the Goat Rock Parking lot to viewpoint (about a mile drive). Limited parking at that site.

CAMP/FACILITIES – None required. However, if you want to camp, Sonoma Coast State Park has camping at Wrights Beach and Bodega Dunes. Sonoma Regional Parks has camping on Bodega Bay at Westside Park and at Doran. Private campground along the Russian River at Cassini Ranch.

All Stops have ADA bathrooms. Water is usually on but just in case, BRING WATER.

TOOLS –None

SAFETY CONCERNS – Sleeper waves even at low tide, steep cliffs with no barriers at Bodega Head. **Children must be supervised.** **CLIMATE/WEATHER** –Could be windy, cold, raining, marine layer.

CLOTHING – **layers.** Trails can be muddy. Beach walking shoes.

OTHER REMARKS –Dogs permitted on leash. LIMITED CELL SERVICE along coast.

FEES -NONE

APRIL 19, 20, 21 - **Hauser Geode Beds, Palo Verde, CA (Outside San Diego)** Contact Jim Burton (916) 847—7321 geologist1@surewest.net Gina Malcolm

February General Meeting Minutes

CCMGS General Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024, Hoyer Hall - Clayton Library 7pm

Note: **GEM** = **G**eneral **E**ducation **M**eeting

President Mike H. calls meeting to order @ 7:12pm Welcome! 19 members (4 new) and 2 guests (Laura E. and Jerald F.) Pledge of Allegiance recited.

The **GEM** program tonight will be on Brick's and collecting presented by Primo Facchini. After the program will be a short break and a club raffle (all proceeds go to the club).

Officer/Committee reports:

VP1/ Programs - Cheryl M. requests ideas or contact info for **GEM** programs. Ideal speakers to invite; (any of the following but not limited to) educated in the fields of geology, mineralogy, earth sciences, gemologist, certified educators, rockhounding or knowledge of land uses, parks & recreation etc. Cheryl noted she is open to helping teach anyone interested in teaching classes.

Treasurer - Cheryl M. reported that we currently have \$39,000 in Club bank account.

Plans for opening a shop are slim. Need more member interest to be a reality. Looking at other options, possibly having classes at the adult school to start. Need more resources for bringing income to the club.

VP2/Field Trips - Rudy : Day trip out to BDM Sat Feb 10 was a great time. BDM may close for the summer. Rudy is looking to set up a couple local creek crawls through another member. Other trips in the works for later in the year include Kennedy mine, Cedarville, Oregon finds: obsidian, pet wood and Oregon sunstones + more. Virgin Valley, NV for opal is being planned for August. Trip details and dates TBA. Over-night trips have camping or hotel accommodation available nearby sites. New and joining member, Finnius B., has offered to help Rudy with trips. Finnius to promote the club through his FB page. Thank you.

Secretary - No report.

Membership - Barbara: Received four new membership applications tonight. Welcome Finnius B., Brigido and Elijah C. and Pierre S. Reminder: Last call for membership renewal. Members not paid will be dropped from the roster. Well check on elder members needed. 36 renewals out of 71

Show Director - Mike filling in for Rob S.: Reminder Rob is the new show director. Committees are needed! Great job saving club money, Rob negotiated a cheaper price and teaching room for free. Rob and Mike are contacting vendors and working on new contracts, new floor plans, etc.

Antioch show Feb 17-18. CCMGS members supporting and working at their show. Naomi M., Donna A. and Kelly P. are displaying their work.

Castro Valley show March 2-3. CCMGS members needed on Saturday to sit at their membership table at the show.

CCMGS to do a display case at the Clayton Community Library in the month of March. Amateurs to pros, items needed from members to showcase what our club can do.

Newsletter - Mike - A printed copy of the newsletter is up front. Includes two months advance calendar, BOD contact information, an article from Donna A. and important club information. Emailed to members beginning each month.

Program: Primo F. did a fantastic job educating fellow members about the different types/kinds of bricks made, used and improved over time to build, bake, heat, shelter and pave the way (literally) from past to present day. Samples of collected bricks on display table. Handout: booklet of facts and brick information by Primo Facchini. **An Important brick fact take away: Know your bricks, some bricks explode [ed: when exposed to fire] causing damage and or injury.**

8:30 pm Jessica E. and Cheryl M. hosted the ticket sales and drawing of winning tickets. Ruffled items are donated by club members. Snacks available courtesy Cheryl m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Barbara Roderick, CCMGS Secretary 2024

From the desk of Rob Savre — Show Chair

2024 CCMGS Mineral Show Open Job Positions

Volunteering is what makes Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society function, and you are expected to volunteer some of your time. You can fulfill your obligation during our **Mineral and Gem Show November 2-3, 2024**. Some of the jobs overlap so please consider helping in multiple areas. Look over the positions below and email me with any areas you can assist. Email me today! **Rob Savre robertsavrejr@gmail.com**

Sub Committees

	# People needed
Show Chair Assistant_____	>>FILLED Mike Hopkins<<
Vendor Liaison_____	>>FILLED Mike Hopkins<<
Internet Marketing (Facebook, Instagram, email etc)_____	[1 - 2 Helpers needed]
Post messages for the Mineral and Gem Show and monthly club meetings and events to social medial platforms periodically.	
Sponsorship/Donation Outreach_____	[1 additional Helper needed]
Outreach to other clubs and associations_____	[1 - 2 Helpers needed]
Municipal Outreach_____	>> Rob Savre <<
Contact local municipalities, TV and radio stations to list our Mineral Show on their local events page	
Flier distribution_____	[2 - 3 Helpers needed]
Contact and distribute fliers to local groups and associations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Churches, Schools, Veterans, Retirement homes and other groups.	
Sign distribution and pickup_____	[1 Organizer, 2 Helpers]
Place signs by well-traveled streets that lead to the show 1-2 weeks before sale and recover all signs after the sale.	
Gift bag sewing_____	>> Kathleen + [2 more helpers]

Sale Day

Layout Thursday, Setup Friday and Tear Down Sunday at Centre Concord_____	[1-2 Helpers]
<u>Friday</u> : setting up display cases, laying electrical cables, plastic covers for tables. <u>Sunday</u> evening: loading display cases in trailer and cleanup after the event. This is an important job involving some lifting.	
Trailer pickup Friday and return after show_____	[1 person with truck]
Entry/Exit staff_____	[2-3 Helpers Saturday] [2-3 Helpers Sunday]
Activities director_____	[1-2 Helpers]
Membership Table_____	[2-3 Helpers Saturday] [2-3 Helpers Sunday]
Door Prize Organizer_____	[1 - 2 Helpers Saturday] [2-3 Helpers Sunday]
Auction Organizer_____	[2-3 Helpers Saturday] [2-3 Helpers Sunday]
Raffle Organizer_____	>> FILLED Barbara and Aaron <<
Display Cases Organizer_____	[1 Organizer]
Demonstrator Coordinator_____	[1 Organizer]
Rock painting_____	>>Cheryl, Kathleen + [2 more helpers]
Spinning wheel_____	>> FILLED Primo <<

Local Shows and Events

March 1-3, 2024 – Newark, CA

The Mineral and Gem Society
of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Ave., Newark CA
Hours: Friday 11 AM – 5 PM,
Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM,
Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Website: mgscv.org

March 9-10, 2024 – Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society of CA
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
900 North Broadway, Turlock, CA
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5
PM
Website: turlockgemshow.com

March 16-17, 2024 — San Jose, CA

SCVGMS Annual Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Rd., Santa Clara, CA
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-5
Website: scvgms.org or [facebook.com/
santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety](https://facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety)

March 23-24, 2024 — Angels Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society
2465 Gun Club Rd.
Angels Camp, CA
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Website: calaverasgemandmineral.net

April 13-14, 2024 — Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds,
5007 Fairgrounds Rd.
Mariposa, CA
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4
Website: mariposagemclub.org

April 13-14, 2024 — Placerville, CA

El Dorado Co. Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds
100 Placerville Dr.
Placerville, CA
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4 PM
Website: edcmgs.org

May 27-28, 2024 — Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Center
307 Church Street Santa Cruz, CA
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: scrockngem.org

May 4, 2024 — Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Artisan Jewelry and Rock Sale
425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch, CA
Hours: Sat 10-4 (Outdoor event)
Contact: (925) 457-1859, (510) 693-9075,
roccosgee1@yahoo.com,
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com
Website: antiochlapidaryclub.com

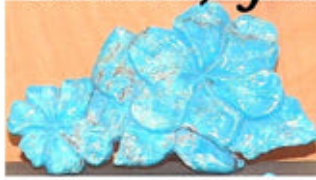
May 24-26—AFMS National & California State Show & Convention

Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W Harbor Blvd Ventura County
Fairgrounds Ventura, CA
Web: <http://www.2024cfms-afms.com/>

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley presents
75th Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale

March 1-3, 2024

- Friday 11am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-6pm
- Sunday 10am-5pm



Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Ave.
Newark CA

**See many things*

you can do with rocks & minerals:
Exhibits, Demonstrations, Gem ID,
Kids' Spinning Wheel, Door Prizes,
Geode Splitting, Raffle, Live Auction



www.mgscv.org • info@mgscv.org

40+ Dealers selling:

- Rocks • Gemstones •
- Minerals • Fossils •
- Crystals • Cabochons •
- Faceted Stones • Jewelry •
- Fluorescent Minerals •
- Beads • Supplies • more •

1-day Pass \$6.00
Under 13 FREE w/adult
or 3-day Pass \$10.00
& \$1.00 off Admission with this Flier
Law Enforcement & Military free.



*Antioch Lapidary Club's Annual
Artisan Jewelry & Rock Sale*

Saturday, May 4, 2024 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

NICE MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS!

FREE ADMISSION/Fun for the whole family

Everyone is invited to the Antioch Lapidary Club's annual Artisan Jewelry & Rock Sale/Swap. There will be booths with jewelry, slabs, rough and other rock-related items to purchase.

Join us for a fun-filled "rockhounding" day – visit our Rock and Mineral Museum; games for children; field trip to our rock pile behind clubhouse – rock by the pound – cheap.

BBQ lunch served at 12:00 – only \$5.00 with all the fixings!

Where: Antioch Lapidary Club's clubhouse
425 Fulton Shipyard Road, Antioch, CA

If you would like to sell/trade/swap items, bring a table or two and your jewelry, rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, extra equipment, etc. Please call Gary Casillas at 925-458-4076 to reserve a spot.

(Directions on back)

71st ANNUAL SHOW
CRYSTALS, GEMS, JEWELRY, ROCKS,
MINERALS, FOSSILS
Santa Cruz Civic – April 27 & 28, 2024
Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 10am-4pm



\$7 Admission; \$1 off with ad
Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society
<https://www.scrockngem.org>



ROCK & GEM SHOW
MARCH 9-10
SAT & SUN 10-5

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds - Turlock
900 N. Broadway, Turlock CA

**Dinosaur
Walk - About**

Admission \$8
12 and under free with
paid adult admission

FREE PARKING!



WWW.TURLOCKGEMSHOW.COM

**Contra Costa Mineral & Gem
Society Show**
November 2-3



We're on the web!
www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org

We're on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/

ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the
Contra Costa Mineral
and Gem Society

Editor:
Michael Hopkins

Send reports/articles/
pictures by the 25th of
the month to:

mike@diablorocks.com

2024 Officers:

President
Michael Hopkins
mike@diablorocks.com

Vice President (Programs)
Cheryl Morgan
ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Vice President (Trip Coordinator)
Rudy Trautner

Secretary
Barbara Roderick
ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Treasurer
Cheryl Morgan

Federation Director
Kelly Plumb
ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

Show Chair
Rob Savre

Show Co-chair
Michael Hopkins

Education Cochairs
Cheryl Morgan
Donna Albrecht
ccmgs.2023@gmail.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Saturday March 2, 2024, 10am
Clayton Community Library
6125 Clayton Rd, Clayton, CA

General Meeting

Monday, March 11, doors open 6:30pm, program 7:00pm
Endeavor Hall
6008 Center Street, Clayton, CA

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was formed in 1950 to encourage the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts, and field collections.

Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!

Calendar of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

MARCH 2024							1-31-2024
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
					1 Display Case @ Community Library Newark Show	2 BOD- Library Newark Show	
3 Co-Op meeting Newark Show	4	5	6	7	8	9 Turlock Show	
10 Turlock Show	11 CLUB- Endeaver	12	13	14	15	16 Santa Clara	
17 Santa Clara	18	19	20	21	22	23 Donner Creek Outing Calaveras Show	
24 Calaveras Show	25 Newsletter reports due	26	27	28	29	30	
31				Prep Ca State	RRF-1 form on line		

Holidays and Observances: 17: St. Patrick's Dav. 31: Easter Sunday

Wiki Calendar

APRIL 2024							1-31-2024
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3	4	5	6 BOD- Library	
7	8 CLUB- Endeavor Raffle short program, Officer comm 25	9	10	11	12	13 Placerville Show Mariposa Show	
14 Sonoma Coast outing Placerville Show Mariposa Show	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25 Newsletter reports due	26	27 Santa Cruz Show	
28 Santa Cruz Show	29	30	CFMS Show case deadline 1st	Prep IRS 990N & Ca 199N Ca State RRF-1 for Prez approval	due 5-12		

Holidays and Observances: 1: Easter Monday, 15: Tax Day

Wiki Calendar