

Monthly Newsletter of the *Kern County Mineral Society (KCMS)*

President's Message
James May - KCMS
President 2024



As we approach the end of the 2024, it is time to reflect on the success the Kern County Mineral Society had over the past year. We had embarked on many fabulous field trips, had successful workshops including craft workshops learning new techniques. We had a very successful Kern County Fair, and we welcomed new members to the Club. We finished the year with a fun Christmas Party where we all dined on great foods, conversed with fellow members and guests, and played some BINGO for prizes. It was a great year!

One of the more memorable field trips was to Clear Creek in May. The Club had not been there in a number of years, and we picked a great Saturday to go. We also had four trips to the Mojave Desert for collecting colorful rocks.

During our November meeting we conducted our elections for Officers and Committee Leads. I am honored to be voted in as President, and I will be joined on the Board of Directors with Renee Real (Vice President), Anita Andersen (Treasurer), Maggie Izumi (Secretary), Michael Sarr (Federation Director), and Connie Fleishauer (Newsletter Editor). We also have the position of Director that was filled by Claudia Ramirez. Our Board Meetings will continue to be held at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Speaking of meetings, please remember our January 2025 General Meeting will be held at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ on Thursday, January 16th. Thanks Jack Stewart!

We plan on scheduling a unique variety of field trips for 2025. We hope to schedule our field trips on the third Saturday of each month. Our next scheduled field trip is for Saturday, January 18th to the Exeter Show and Jacalitos Creek. Please keep in mind that the Mojave Desert collecting areas are being threatened by National Monument status and we need to continue signing petitions to protect these areas from collecting restrictions. Please don't sleep on these opportunities to protest these decisions for future rockhounds.

The Rock and Lapidary Workshop has been going strong in 2024. We have had a good turnout at each of the workshops as members are honing their skills at making jewelry and cabochons. It is also a great place to socialize with members having similar interests. Our next Rock and Lapidary Workshop is scheduled for Saturday morning, December 28th.

Its not to early to start thinking about the 2025 Kern County Fair. Sue has offered to sew bags for the Club again this year. As we all know, she makes durable and colorful bags for our finished polished rock. If you have any cloth fabric that Sue can use to make the bags, we would greatly appreciate the donation.

In closing, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year. I can't thank you enough and without your dedication to the Kern County Mineral Society we would not have the prosperous and fun Club we have ---- James

Next General Meeting

Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at 6:30 PM
East Bakersfield Church of Christ
3500 Bernard Road

GENERAL MEETING



NEXT FIELD TRIP
Saturday, January 18th, 2025
Jacalitos Creek, near Coalinga





UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS



UPCOMING ROCK AND MINERAL SHOWS – Winter 2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246 Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211

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

Tule Gem & Mineral Society Gemboree

Contact: bandgbing@aol.com

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

February 15-16, 2025 – Antioch, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th Street, Antioch, CA 94509

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

Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show. Admission \$7, Admission is Cash Only.

All vendors take credit/debit cards.

Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

February 22-23, 2025 – Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society

Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM

59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Contact: (415) 254-1506

Website: <http://vjgems.com>

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003

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

62nd Annual VGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Kids' activities; jewelry-making demos; exhibits; raffle prizes, hourly silent auctions; dealers in fossils, mineral, lapidary materials; gold panning, Second-Hand Treasures Store of gently used items, books, and plants.

Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.

Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org

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

2024 Christmas Party Pictures







A Perfect Mineral for the Christmas Season

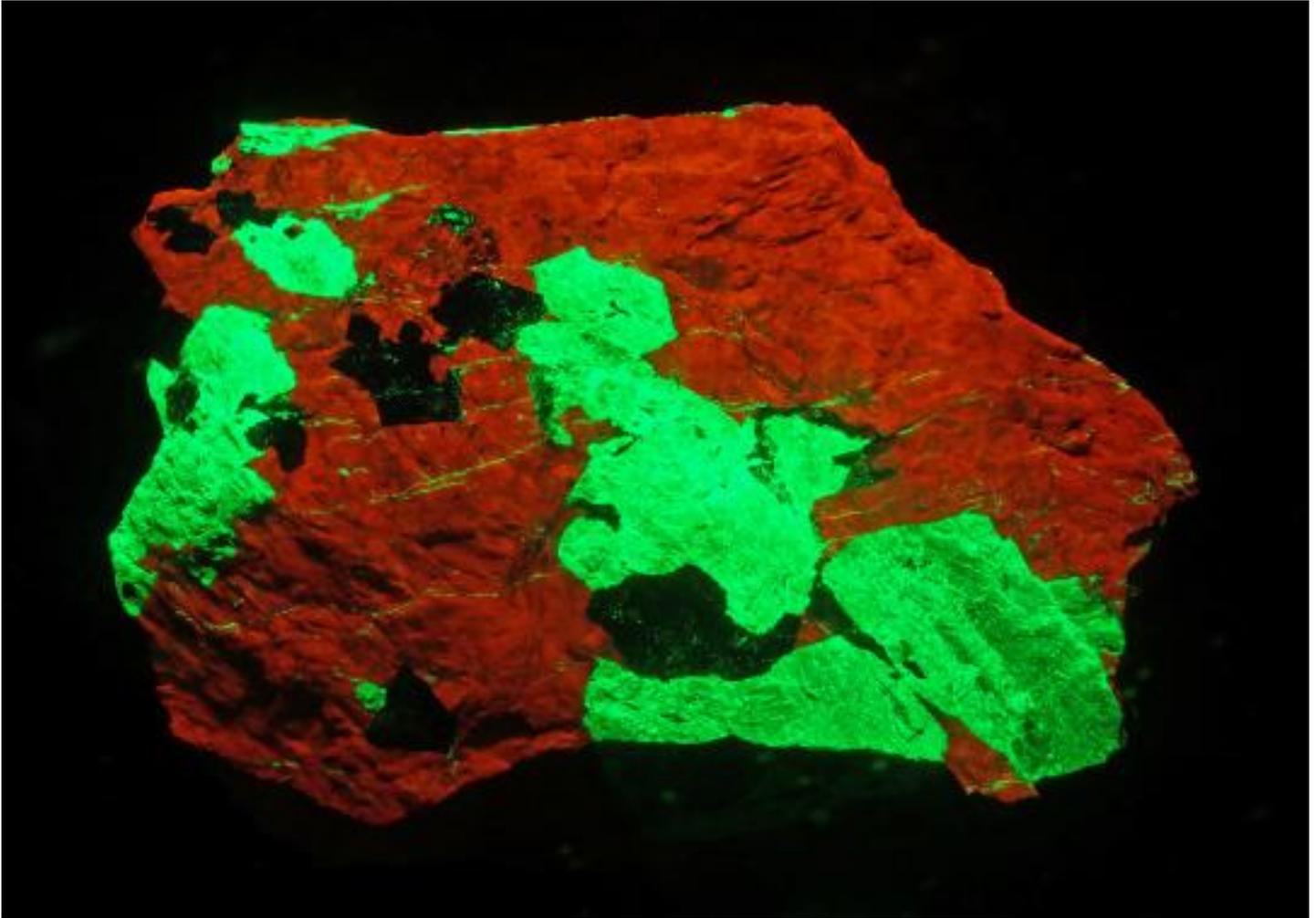
by Debra Wilson

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

How can you decorate a mineral for Christmas? If it's the right mineral, all you need to do is shine a SWUV (short wave ultraviolet) light on it. Such is the case with a mineral that is known as "Christmas Ore." Under normal light it looks like kind of a drab rock as the one in this photo does.



This specimen of calcite (tan color), willemite (brown color) and franklinite (black color) is on display in Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems in the Fluorescence & Phosphorescence exhibit and was donated by the Sterling Hill Mining Museum for this exhibit. It originated from the Sterling Hill mine in Ogdensburg, in the Franklin Mining District of New Jersey. When you shine the SWUV light on it you will see why it is called "Christmas Ore" because it glows with the colors of Christmas. The calcite glows a bright red and the willemite glows a bright green, as you can see in this photo.



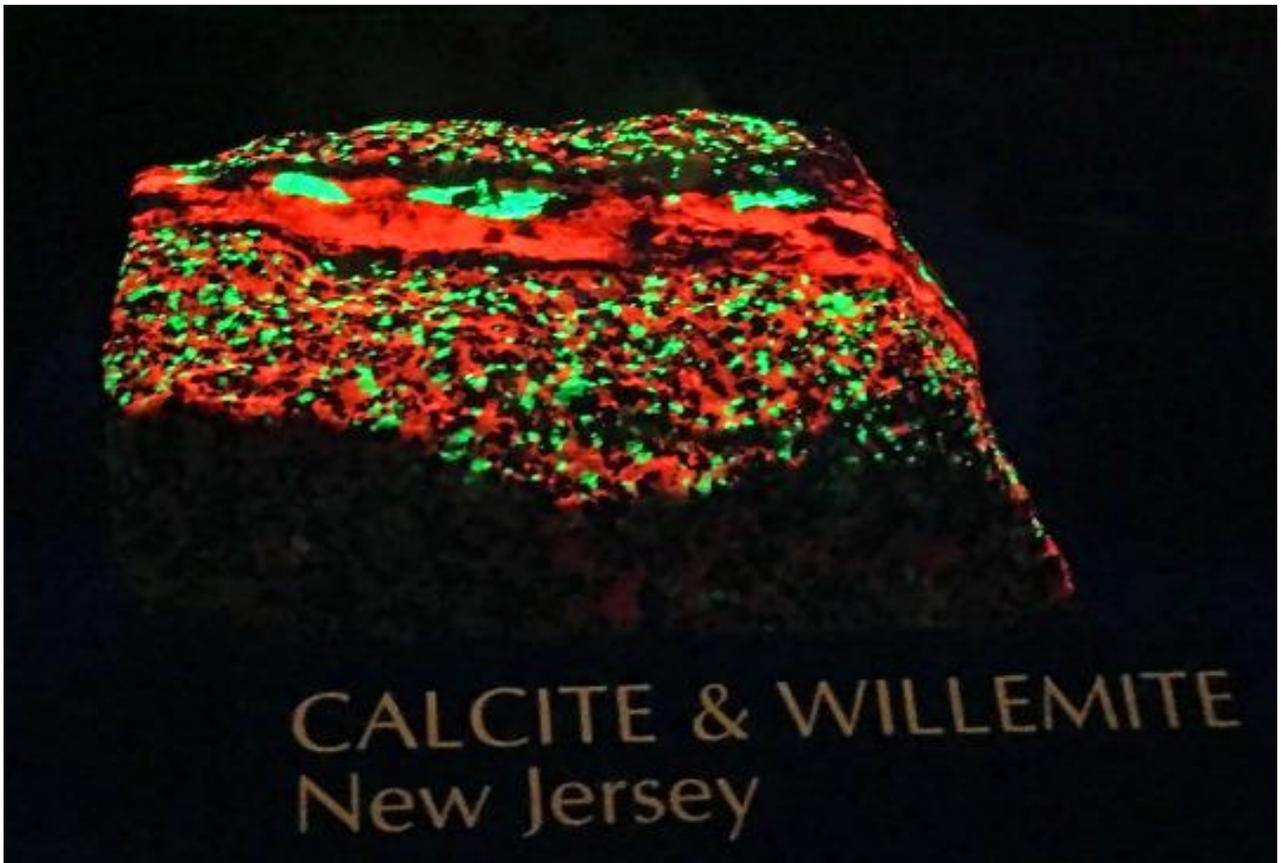
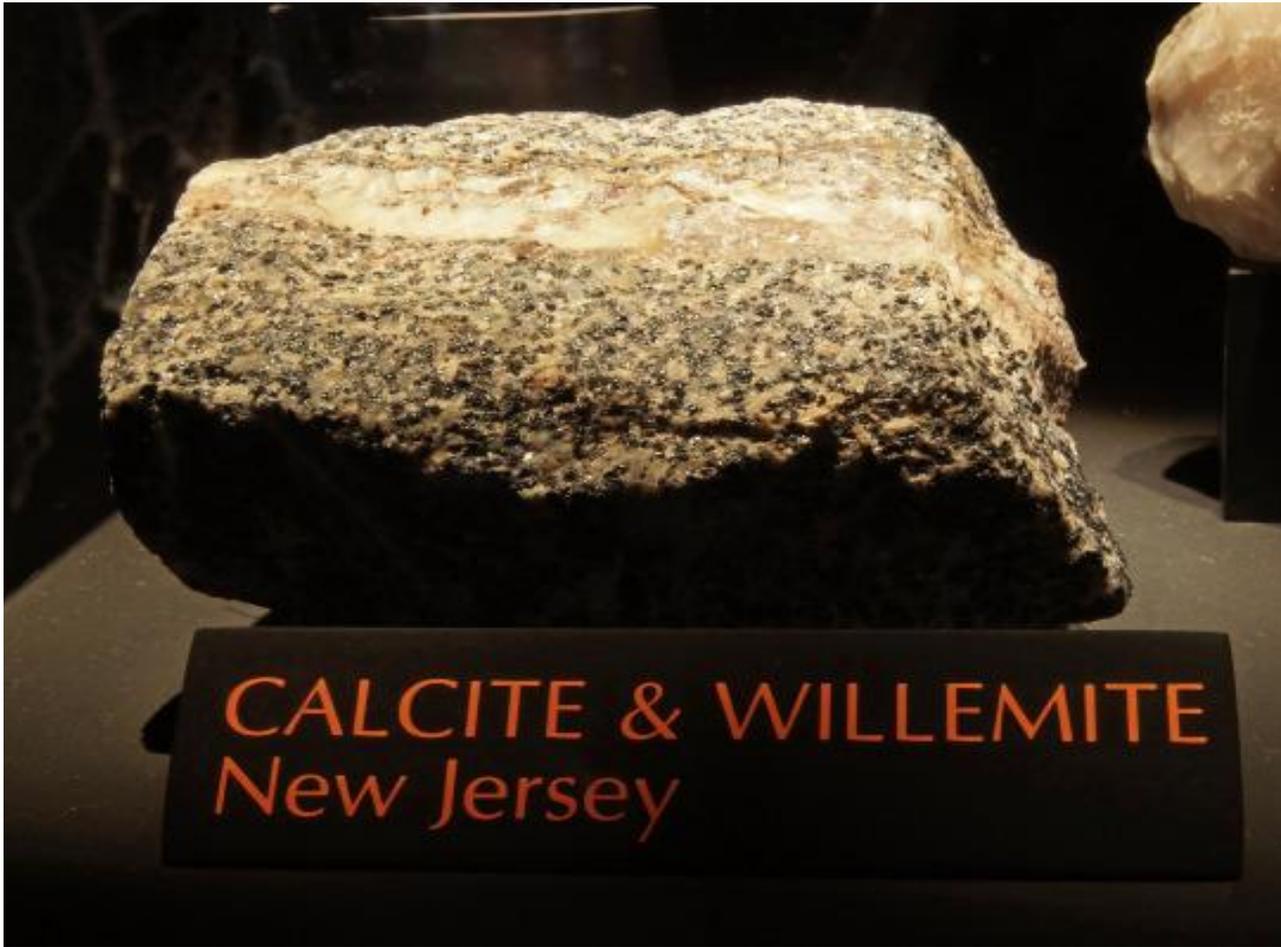
This glowing is known as fluorescence and the Franklin Mining District is known as the fluorescent capital of the world. The Franklin and Sterling Hill ore bodies are the source of at least 350 mineral species. At present, over 80 fluorescent mineral species are known from the area. Willemite and calcite are the most common fluorescents in these ore bodies and are known as “Christmas Ore” when they occur together in the same specimen.

So, what causes the fluorescence? Fluorescence usually occurs when specific impurities known as “activators” are present within the mineral. These activators are typically cat ions of metals such as: tungsten, molybdenum, lead, boron, titanium, manganese, uranium and chromium. Rare earth elements such as europium, terbium, dysprosium, and yttrium are also known to contribute to the fluorescence phenomenon. Fluorescence can also be caused by crystal structural defects or organic impurities. Calcite (CaCO_3) and willemite (Zn_2SiO_4) are examples of minerals that in their pure state do not fluoresce but add a little divalent manganese (Mn^{2+}) and they will fluoresce red and green, respectively.

There are two other specimens of calcite and willemite, also from the Franklin District, in the Fluorescence & Phosphorescence exhibit, shown here under normal light and under SWUV light.







Come to Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems to hear a more detailed explanation of the phenomenon of fluorescence and see all 21 specimens in the exhibit from world-wide localities that glow under the ultraviolet lights.

Debra Wilson is the Collection Manager for the Section of Minerals at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Museum employees are encouraged to blog about their unique experiences and knowledge gained from working at the museum.



Group Picture from the 2024 Christmas Party.

KCMS CLASSIFIEDS

KCMS is proud to announce the addition of a Classified Ads Section to the Pseudomorph Newsletter!!

Calling on all members who have any items that they want to sell or those looking to buy.

Rocks, Minerals, Rock Saws, but that's not all!! We will also accept Lawn Equipment, Electronics, Homemade Crafts, etc.

The Pseudomorph Classifieds will not be limited to only rock & mineral related items, but to any items members are looking to sale.

When making a classified ad for the newsletter be sure to include:

- Description of Item
- Asking Price
- Contact Information
- Picture(s)

Pictures are not necessary but will be added if provided. Please send photographs in JPEG (.jpg) format if possible.

Classified Ads for the Pseudomorph are due to the editor no later than the first Thursday of each month, via Email or by U.S. Mail.

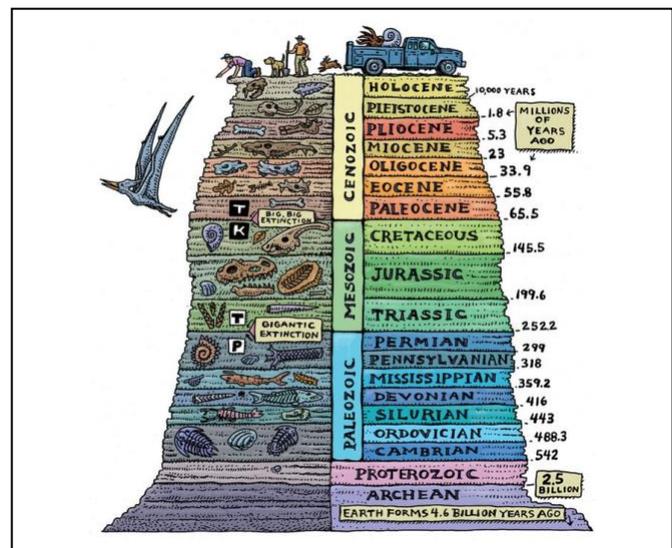
James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

If you have any ads, you want added to the next Pseudomorph, please email me the details and I will post.

Don't Forget the BREAKFAST CLUB

The first Wednesday of each month, year-round, KCMS Members and occasional guests meet at 8:30 AM at Lorene's Coffee shop at 23rd and Eye streets in downtown Bakersfield. Everybody is welcome to attend!

-- Dalia Hernandez



KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16th at the East Bakersfield Church of Christ at 3500 Bernard Street in Northeast Bakersfield. We hope you can attend, and visitors are always welcome.



Kern County Mineral Society



is a Charter Member of the **California Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

and is affiliated with the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**



The Kern County Mineral Society, Inc. was organized in 1935 to promote the study of mineralogy and allied earth sciences, to collect and study minerals and rocks, to study and practice the techniques of jewelry making, to promote good fellowship and good citizenship and to promote education in the earth sciences. Membership dues are \$20 for singles, \$30 for couples, and \$10 for students.

KCMS WEBSITE: <http://www.kerncountymineralsociety.org/>

Pseudomorph Subscriptions

The Pseudomorph is published 12 times a year (September through June) by Kern County Mineral Society, P.O. Box 12305, Bakersfield, CA, 93389-2305. Subscription included with Membership. Non-members \$5.50 per year, Jan. thru Dec., not prorated.

KCMS will email a free .pdf subscription to any high school, college, or university student who wishes to receive it. Just email a request to geojim9@hotmail.com

Articles for *The Pseudomorph* are due to the Editor no later than the first Thursday of each month, via Email, via Facebook, or by US Mail. Please send photographs in JPEG (.jpg) format if possible, and text as Notepad, Word, or other simple text for me to paste and edit.

James May, Editor
Email geojim9@hotmail.com

Facebook: Kern County Mineral Society

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KCMS Officers 2025

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Anita Andersen

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Door Hostess

Renee Real

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Connie Fleishauer
conzkat@aol.com

Sunshine

Sue Kimbriel

 **FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS** 

DECEMBER'S MYSTERY SPHERE

Here is this month's mystery slab. Please submit your answer to kerncountymineralsociety@gmail.com and geojim9@hotmail.com. Each month's winner will be placed in a drawing at the end of the year for a special prize.



Mystery Sphere Hint: This sphere is an opaque chalcedony adorned with green dendrite, possessing a resilient energy that promotes grounding and flexibility. It is a twin to moss agate, and both are a type of dendritic agate, with the only difference being the level of translucency. The color and leaf pattern leads directly to the name of the stone.

To make sure you are credited with the correct answer, please email the Kern County Mineral Society and James (see email addresses above). We would like to keep track of those who get the correct identity of the mystery slab each month.





This variety of stone which is a variety of the sphere on the previous page is called *Christmas Tree Agate*.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE KERN COUNTY MINERAL SOCIETY ----- THANK YOU ALL!

