

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

President's Message

James May – KCMS President 2022



March Madness is here, so make sure you fill out your brackets accordingly. Just like the energy associated with the NCAA Basketball Tournament, a lot is going on with the KCMS. March is filled with Rock and Mineral Shows starting with the Ventura Shows and concluding with the Clovis show. Hopefully you can fit one or two shows in your schedule this month. We also have the Grand Opening of the KCMS Workshop on Saturday, April 16th at Steve and Connie Fleishauers. They have been hard at work making final preparations for this significant event. If you have a rock you want cut, a sphere to round, or a cab to polish, this will be the place and event for you. We would like to keep this open for KCMS members.

Wind Wolves is very pleased to announce the return of their Annual Spring Festival. It has been two long years without the festival, and it will be nice to return to this very unique festival. We are scheduled to be out there on Saturday, March 19th and Sunday, March 20th. David Schaad is going to be showing the public how to make cabochons and beginner wire wrapping. Dennis Huggins will have his black light to observe fluorescence in minerals. Unlike previous events, we will be out on the grass near the flowing stream. Food vendors will be on site as well and plenty of other activities.

Please also remember that there will be a Celebration of Life Ceremony for Alicia (AJ) Johnson on Saturday, March 19th and 11:00 AM at the Taft Petroleum Club. I know this conflicts with the Wind Wolves Spring Festival, but if you can make it over to show your respects, the family would be very appreciative. Zach and Annemarie will be there honoring the great life that AJ lived.

The KCMS also lost one of its more honored and influential members with the passing of William (Bill) Leslie last Saturday evening. We all loved to visit Bill and Mary Jean, and we were very saddened by the news of his passing. The family will reach out to us when they know further about a memorial service.

If you haven't had a chance, please look over the new KCMS website that Michael has been working on. The site address is as follows:

<http://www.kerncountymineralsociety.org>

Michael and Anita have done fabulous work with the site, and I encourage you to check it out. I know many of you would like to be able to find out about details, such as field trips and workshops from the website in addition to emails.

Speaking of Michael and his contributions, he has also designed our new business cards for us to give out to the public during the Wind Wolves Spring Nature Festival. The business card has all the access information for our email address, website, and Facebook page.

On the fieldtrip front, Bernie will be leading an overnight excursion out to Ludlow the second weekend in April. Camping will be at the Thulite site which overlooks the splendid valley.

Our General Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 PM. We would certainly like to get the bylaws approved as we have been working very hard on them since last August. We hope to have a guest speaker as well. I hope you all can attend and keep the momentum going strong in the KCMS.

--- James



Upcoming General Membership Meeting

➤ **Thursday, March 17th - East Bakersfield Veterans Hall at 7:00 PM**

**GENERAL
MEETING**



Next Workshop

➤ **Saturday, March 26th**

**The Fleishauers House @ 10:00 A.M.
Grand Opening of KCMS Workshop**





Next Field Trip

April 8th through April 10th

Ludlow (Mojave Desert)

Meet at 7:00 AM at Harbor Freight on April 8th



The Snows of Castle Butte

A short memoir inspired by Ernest Hemingway



Castle Butte is an occasionally snow-covered mountain 3,124 feet high, and it is said to be the highest mountain in North Edwards. Its western summit is called Prospect Peak or the House of the Lion. Close to the western summit there are the tracks and scat of a large mountain lion. No one has explained what the mountain lion was seeking at that altitude.



The day was selected because of the recent snow in the Tehachapi Mountains, the calm northeast breeze, the Sun-splashed morning, and the company of great rockhounds. Bernie led us down a dirt road at the north end of Clay Mountain Road to multiple collecting sites. Buckets, rock hammers, solid shoes, and strong backs were needed for this excursion. The Rockhounds were ready for collecting.

The rock of choice that day was the mysterious chapenite, which is described as a yellow nodular jasper that was brecciated by tectonic activity, we were near the left-lateral strike-slip Garlock fault, and then fortified and recemented with silica. It took a while to find some pieces, but once we did, we filled up our buckets. Once cut, polished, and shaped, you get something that looks like this.



A little further down the beaten path, we came to an isolated volcanic deposit with aplite dikes, large potassium feldspar-rich pegmatite rocks, and even porphyritic andesites. Steve thought it necessary to dig out a number of unique pieces from the vein using a pry bar.



The main reason for the excursion was the Castle Butte though....

What about the ranch with the silvered gray of the sage brush, the quick, sparse water in the irrigation ditches, and the heavy green of sage brush. The trail went up into the hills and the cattle in the spring were shy as deer. And behind the butte, the Tehachapi Mountains covered in snow, the clear sharpness of the butte in the afternoon light. Now he remembered coming down through the rocky slope on past field trips in the dark guided only by dim flashlight and all the stories that he meant to write.



Castle butte has been described as a Late Cretaceous aged Quartz Monzonite with andesite breccia and occasional dusting of volcanic tuff. The feeder dikes radiating to the east appear to be porphyritic dacite and occasional veins of aplite. The samples of agate and jasper are associated with the Miocene aged Tropic Group.

He remembers the snow before in the desert. That one trip to Ludlow when the weather turned. It rarely snows in the Mojave Desert, not because it doesn't get cold enough, but because the Sierra Nevada Mountains strip the moisture from the clouds. I think the guide said it was orographic lifting or something like that. The last significant snow fell the morning of January 18, 2021, while he was out collecting jasper from Lavic Siding. Gosh he loved that stuff. The red color shined up real nice when polished and made real nice spheres. The stuff out at North Edwards was ok though. I really love Lavic though! Now in his mind he saw the railcars at Ludlow and the headlight of the BNSF trains as he collected the precious jasper from the hillside called Siding.

It was late afternoon now and had been daylight for some time now. He heard the plane off in the distance, but then it closed in and made a long round loop and landed to the north of the trucks in the hard sand. We all made introductions to the pilot and offered him water and oranges. The pilot said he had room for only one to take for a plane ride and that would have to be Bernie, after all he was the Field Scout.

As the plane began to climb, Bernie and the pilot started off to the north heading into the prevailing winds before banking around to the west and Bernie pointed and there, ahead, all he could see, as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the setting sun, was the jagged top of Castle Butte with only the well camouflaged mountain lion bearing witness. And then he knew that there was where he was going.



Buena Vista Museum
1801 Chester Ave in Downtown Bakersfield
Events Calendar



Thu, Apr 21
On line Virtual Event

Meet the Expert, Biology Dr. Rae McNeish

Ever wonder how much plastic is in your seafood? Discover how human activities play a critical role in the interactions between terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, as well as the effects of plastic pollution on rivers and animals.

[Time & Location](#)

[Apr 21, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM PDT](#)

[Online Virtual Event](#)

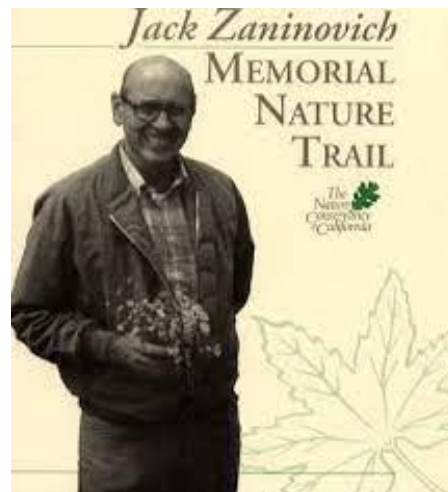
[About the Event](#)

[Only one ticket reservation necessary per family/group](#)

Dr. Rae McNeish will help us discover how human activities play a critical role in the interactions between terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, as well as the effects of plastic pollution on rivers and animals. Learn how research into plastics in the environment can be used to create a framework for managing plastic pollution in terrestrial and freshwater habitats.







According to the Center for Natural Lands Management website, Jack Zaninovich was an amateur botanist and a second-generation table grape grower who lived in Delano, California. The Jack Zaninovich Memorial Nature Trail was dedicated to the memory of Jack in the Spring of 1993. The 1.2-mile self-guided nature trail traverses the Sand Ridge and features 22 stations marked by numbered metal stakes. Each station is described in the trail guides available at the trail head. The trail is an easy-to-moderate walk, topping out at the Preserve's crest at 880 feet elevation. The average visitor will take around 45-60 minutes to walk the complete trail. The Sand Ridge is a wonderful and unique spot. It has many fascinating examples of natural wonders waiting to be discovered. Jack loved and treasured this very special place.

The Wonders of Mother Earth

A short reflection of Nature by Bernie Bentsen



Have you ever took the time to look at what our earth offers us? I mean really looked at the beauty of our Mother Earth. Earth is a wonderful and beautiful place to live. Did you know that Mother Earth is very creative and artistic! The list of naturally occurring awe-inspiring sights on earth could wrap around the planet numerous times. there's no shortage of beauty on Earth.

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." -- *Albert Einstein*.

Do you realize that every stone has a different hardness, with diamond being the hardest of them. Have you ever seen the beauty that is inside of many rocks? Use your creative mind and look closely at these specimens. See if you can find images of something. These materials have not been altered except cutting and polishing. Do not judge a rock from what it looks on the outside, as you will be amazed at what you might find inside. Maybe the next time you pick up a rock, you will wonder what may be on the inside.

There is a name for these images in stone, it is a Japanese art called *suseki* (pronounced *suu-ee-seck-ee*)

Suseki (Sui = water, Seki = stone) are naturally formed stones admired for their beauty and for their power to suggest a scene from nature or an object closely associated with nature.

Among the most popular types of *suseki* are those that suggest a distant mountain landscape, a waterfall, an island, a face, or an animal. There are also sophisticated tools for inner reflection that stir in all who see them an appreciation for the awesome power of the universe. They represent nature in the palm of your hand. Explained in a simple way, the *suseki* is the comprehension and the appreciation of nature through a stone, resulting from nature.

It's every collector's dream to someday find the perfect Stone, to create the perfect miniature landscape. Perfection is always the next stone, and the dream lives on.



 **UPCOMING ROCK, MINERAL, AND GEM SHOWS** 

March 11-13, 2022 – Victorville, CA

Hours: 9 to 5 Daily

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club

46th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Dry camping, silent auction, grab bags, spin the wheel, restrooms, handcrafted and faceted jewelry, slabs, cabs, findings, equipment, minerals and fossils. Tons of rough material and more.

Contact: smaquilter12@gmail.com

March 12-13, 2022 – Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society

Stanislaus Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway in Turlock, CA 95380

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM daily

55th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show! EDUCATIONAL FAMILY EVENT!

Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads, Fluorescents, Children’s activities, and More! Learn to make beautiful jewelry out of natural rocks and gemstones from our demonstrators.

March 19-20, 2022, Lemoore, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club

Lemoore Trinity Association Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA 93245

Hours: Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM; Sunday, 10 AM – 4 PM

Contact: (559) 362-8904, dmorrell321@gmail.com

Website: <http://lemooregemandmineralclub.org>

March 25-27, 2022, Clovis, CA

Fresno Gem & Mineral Society

748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis, CA 93612

The 2nd Annual Central Valley Gem and & Mineral, sponsored by the Fresno Gem & Mineral Society, presents a great show for viewing, learning about and purchasing minerals, fossils, gems, beautiful handmade jewelry & much more! FREE ADMITTANCE AND PARKING

Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Sunday, March 27th 10 AM – 4 PM

[Central Valley Gem and Mineral Show | Facebook](#)

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



**Be patient with
geologists –
they all have
their faults.**



RD



KCMS Monthly Meeting

Please join the KCMS at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th at the East Bakersfield Veterans Hall located at 2101 Ridge Road 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; \$15 for singles, \$20 for couples.

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

Pseudomorph Subscriptions

The Pseudomorph is published 10 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

Articles in this publication may be reprinted if attribution is given to the author and to *The Pseudomorph, Monthly Newsletter of the Kern County Mineral Society.*



KCMS Officers 2022

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James May
geojim9@hotmail.com

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Connie Fleishauer

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geojim9@hotmail.com

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Scholarship
David Schaad

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Anita Anderson

**FUN, GAMES, & FIELD EXCURSIONS****GUESS THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY SLAB**

Here is this month's mystery slab. Please submit your answer to geojim9@hotmail.com. Each month's winner will be placed in a drawing at the end of the year for a special prize. Last month's winner was Bernie Bensten who correctly identified the slab as Jadeite.



