

Slab & Gab

August 2026



President's Message

They say time flies when you're having fun, and the old adage couldn't be more true...

Here we find ourselves already in the “delightful warmth” of August, and although it feels like it happened in the blink of an eye, we've managed to do so much. It seems like only yesterday that we were standing among the beautiful open landscape of Wind Wolves, reminded of just how vast our valley really is. Looking out across the San Joaquin Valley—the ancient Tulare Lake basin—it set the tone for a year of adventure and discovery.

Since then, we've ventured out on field trips, gathered along the coast, explored new places, learned new skills and shared what we know with one another. Events like Garden Fest gave us a chance to show up and be seen, reminding us that when we bring our best energy to the public, we make a real difference.

Our meetings have become places to learn, compete, eat, laugh and create together. Our workshop continues to grow in both what we offer and the number of members participating. Now, even our storage space has had to grow along with us!

And our reach is stretching even farther. As you read this, California rocks and minerals are being gathered for an exchange with fellow rockhounds in Austria. Pieces of the places we explore will soon travel halfway around the world, while pieces of their corner of the world make their way back to ours. To me, that is a wonderful sign of what is possible when we continue looking beyond our own horizons.

None of this happens on its own.

It happens because members volunteer their time—planning trips, opening the shop, teaching skills, contributing to our newsletter, helping at events and simply showing up ready to participate. Our officers, directors, committees and volunteers put an extraordinary amount of effort into keeping this Society moving forward, often in ways most of us never see.

You have helped me grow, too. Serving as your President has challenged me to become a better leader: to listen, to learn, and to find ways to turn ideas into opportunities. I am incredibly proud of what we are building together and grateful to everyone helping facilitate the vision we share for the continued growth of SJVLS.

We still have plenty of 2026 ahead of us—the Kern County Fair, a growing workshop, new adventures and probably a few surprises we haven't even thought of yet. Here's to the rest of the journey. Thank you for making SJVLS something worth being proud of.



With appreciation,

Cristian Battazar

President

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society

President's Message

Society News

On the Cover
Red Rock Amphitheater

Gem of the Month:
The Peridot

Dinosaur Poop -
“Endangered Feces”

CMFS Corner

Morro Bay Tide Pools

Birthday Spotlight:
August

Rock Jokes and Puns

The Whispering Whimsy

Upcoming Gem &
Mineral Shows

SJVLS Member
Submitted Events

Board of
Directors



Society News

General Meeting: August

August 10th @ 6:30 pm at

East Bakersfield Veteran's Hall

2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA 93305

This month is Member's Market, so bring your items to sell.

Set up at 5:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm, Food at 6:00 pm & Meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Summer picnic potluck. Bring sandwiches, Wraps, meat and cheese platters, veggies or fruit.

Support SJVLS and look out for updates on our socials-- Join each and share to help increase our following
Website: <https://sjvls.club>
Instagram: @sjv_lapidary
Facebook: San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society

Submission Deadline for Slab N Gab:

The submission deadline is the 25th of every month. This is for articles, photographs and any other information you would like to be included. Please submit to the Newsletter Director at chellecoleman.mc@gmail.com

Marvin's Rock Sale

Happening 8/22 & 8/29 from 9-3 pm

15124 Dobb's Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93314

This is a lifetime collection of Agates, Jasper Geodes, Obsidian and others.

Various prices depending on the material

Kern County Fair

Start thinking about your display for the Kern County Fair if you are planning on submitting one.

It's coming up quickly. Exhibit info available on the Fair's website at kerncountyfair.com

Click on Participate, then Competitive Exhibits

Bring your contribution for the rock exchange from California to send to our friends in Austria to the next meeting. Box will be getting

Sent out on Friday Aug 14th

We need a mixture of polished and raw finds to send out.

field trip

August 15th - Los Angeles Natural History Museum

We will leave from Harbor Freight promptly at 8 am.

It's \$20 per vehicle to park.

Group rate if we have 10 or more is \$15.30 for adults, for Seniors (62+) is \$11.90. If you are a member of the museum, a teacher, an EBT card holder, active or retired military with ID, it is free.

If there is not 10 or more of us then it will be \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors



ON THE COVER

Red Rocks Amphitheatre (also known colloquially as Red Rocks) is an open-air amphitheater near Morrison, Colorado, approximately ten miles (16 km) southwest of Denver. It is owned and operated by the city of Denver. In addition to several other large sandstone formations nearby, the venue is best recognized by its two massive monoliths, named "Ship Rock" and "Creation Rock", as well as the smaller "Stage Rock", which together flank its 9,525 capacity seating area and naturally form the amphitheater. While the venue is primarily known for hosting concerts and music festivals, other events of various types and sizes are held throughout the year.

In 1957, the American Institute of Architects selected Red Rocks to be Colorado's entry at the National Gallery of Art for the AIA's Centennial Exhibition. In 1999, after Pollstar magazine awarded Red Rocks the annual honor of being the best small outdoor venue for the eleventh time, the magazine changed the name of the award to the "Red Rocks Award" and removed Red Rocks from the running.

Construction began in October 2020 to replace the existing stage roof and expand the structure's rigging capacity; the work was completed the following summer

The natural features surrounding the amphitheater were formed millions of years ago as part of the Fountain Formation, then lifted and tilted during a geological upheaval event called the Laramide Orogeny, the same time in which the nearby Garden of the Gods and Flatirons were formed. The characteristic reddish colors of the rock formations is the result of oxidized minerals.

While the grounds were likely used by the Ute tribe in earlier times, an Army expedition led by Stephen Long rediscovered present-day Red Rocks in 1820. The prevalence of the nearby Colorado gold rush between 1858–1859 drew further interest from prospectors and new settlers along the Front Range.

Originally named the "Garden of the Angels", Marion Burts became the first recorded owner of the site in 1872. He sold it to Leonard H. Eicholtz, who in turn developed the property into a park in 1878. Nearly 30 years later, Eicholtz sold Red Rocks to famed magazine editor John Brisben Walker in 1906.

The site was renamed to "Garden of the Titans" and further developed to incorporate a temporary platform for hosting concerts from. In addition to the platform, Walker also built the Mount Morrison Cable Incline funicular railway, which carried tourists from the lower area of the park up to the top of Mount Morrison. The incline operated for about five years beginning in 1909. In 1927, George Cranmer, Manager of Denver Parks, convinced the City of Denver to purchase the area of Red Rocks from Walker for \$54,133 (\$1,014,994 today), officially adopting the title of "Red Rocks" Amphitheatre, a name it had been informally referred to since the area was settled.

On the Cover Continued:

Cranmer then convinced Mayor Benjamin Stapleton to build upon the foundation laid by Walker. By enlisting the help of Denver architect Burnham F. Hoyt and Stanley E. Morse, along with labor and materials provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of the New Deal program, construction of the amphitheater began in 1936 and was formally dedicated on June 15, 1941, with a performance by Helen Jepson

The amphitheater's largest-scale performance to date was the Feast of Lanterns on September 5, 1908. Commemorating the opening of the scenic road up nearby Mt. Falcon, it was patterned after the festival of Nagasaki, Japan, and featured four military bands and fireworks off Mt. Falcon, Mt. Morrison and two intermediate hills

In 1987, former Colorado Senator Gary Hart announced his campaign for president with a press conference at Red Rocks.

Part of the 1990 film The Adventures of Ford Fairlane was filmed at Red Rocks. Opening sequences feature the fictional rock band "Black Plague" playing at Red Rocks Amphitheatre where lead singer Bobby Black (played by Vince Neil) makes a grand entrance hanging from the rock face of the landmark red rocks above the crowd swooping on stage via zipline

To say the least there have been many great concerts at Red Rock Ampitheatre and they continue to this day. It's a beautiful location to go to any event, especially if you love rocks.

FAST FACTS

Red Rocks at a quick glance.

1941

Date Opened/ Dedication:
June 15, 1941

9,525

Amphitheatre Seating Capacity:
9,525

6,450

Elevation:
6,450 ft

738

Red Rocks Mountain Park Size
738 acres

2015

Designated National Historic
Landmark:
2015

193

Number of Steps:
193 (Stage to Top Plaza)

100

Elevation Difference from Stage to
Top Row:
100 ft

2.5

Miles of Seating:
2.5

THE GEM OF THE MONTH:

PERIDOT



Peridot stands out for its lively yellowish-green color, though the exact tone shifts based on how much iron is in its makeup.

No matter the variation, this elegant yet underappreciated green stone has symbolized health, peace, and joy for ages. In short, it's like a perfect mix of cheer and harmony, bringing a touch of wellness to whoever wears it.

Quick Highlights

Color spans from olive to yellow-green, with top pieces displaying a bright lime green tone.

Hardness sits at 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, offering good durability for daily use.

Main sources include Pakistan, the USA, and China.

Usual inclusions feature "lily pads" and tiny black mineral dots.

Prices span \$20 to more than \$300 per carat, depending on color, clarity, and origin.

Linked historically to light, purity, and renewal across cultures.

Serves as the birthstone for August.

Often appears in volcanic rocks and even meteorites at times.

Commonly shaped into cushions and ovals to highlight the color.

Has graced jewelry for over 4,000 years, ranking among the earliest known gems.

Healing Benefits and Uses

Beyond its captivating green hue, peridot connects to various healing perks that many find life-changing.

Thanks to that fresh green look, peridot ties into ideas of detox. People say it aids in clearing out toxins from the body. Dubbed a boost for top-notch health, it might ease stomach troubles, help cells renew for better immunity, and rev up metabolism.

But it's not just for internal fixes. Peridot also gets credit for handling skin issues like rashes. If you're after that youthful vibe, some believe it brings back a fresh, healthy shine to your skin.

With its summery feel, peridot naturally links to emotional and mental perks too. It could steady your moods and chase away envy, anger, or selfishness.

Slip it on, and you might feel an instant lift in joy, self-assurance, and calm – like a guiding light for positive shifts.

Meaning of Peridot

The term “peridot” traces back to the French “peridot,” hinting at gold, likely due to its fancy yellowish-green with golden sparks. It also pulls from the Arabic “faridat,” just meaning gem.

By definition, it's a green semi-precious mineral, a form of olivine.

On a deeper note, peridot stands for steady minds, thriving relationships, and general wellness.

Its earthy green evokes nature's calm.

This refined green gem with golden flecks is August's birthstone and the go-to for 16th anniversaries, sometimes even first ones

History of Peridot

Peridot boasts a fascinating backstory reaching to the second millennium BC.

Egyptians uncovered it on Topazios, a volcanic isle in the Red Sea. Cleopatra adored its stunning green, calling it the “gem of the sun.” It stayed popular into medieval eras, though often confused with emerald.

After a dip in fame, the 1990s brought a comeback with finer finds in Pakistan. Now, peridot's more recognized, valued for healing or as a love token.

The name 'peridot' comes from the Arabic for gem, 'faridat'. Sometimes called "the poor man's emerald" or 'chrysolite' from the Greek 'goldstone'. It's among the oldest gems, noted as far back as 1500 B.C.

The key ancient source was Zabargad (St. John) in the Red Sea, mined for over 3,500 years.

Wrapping Up on Peridot

Peridot stands apart with its lively greens and yellow touches. Symbolizing positivity and harmony, it's a great fit for jewelry lovers.

Dinosaur Poop – “Endangered Feces” Coprolite

This fossil dinosaur “poop”, scientifically known as Coprolite, is the remaining matter eaten by Dinosaurs 135 Million years ago in the Jurassic time period. Coprolite can be found in the Morrison Formation in Eastern Utah near the Dinosaur National Monument. Entire skeletons of Dinosaurs are found there, along with coprolite, stomach stones and other fossil bones and footprints of many types of dinosaurs.

By analyzing coprolites, such as grinding and centrifuging it and then looking for bone chips and or vegetation, the diet of the animal can usually be determined. The recognition of coprolites is aided by their structural patterns, including spirals or annular markings (tapered ends).

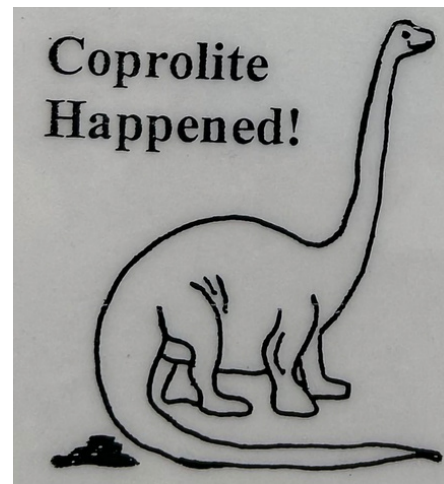
Dinosaur poop include sizes from small pellets to those more than two feet wide and weighing over 100 lbs.

Real Poop On Earth’s Warming (Associated Press LA)

Fossilized dinosaur dung contains evidence that flatulence from the giant creatures may have helped warm Earth’s climate millions of years ago, scientists say. The researchers detected chemical signs of bacteria and algae in known and suspected dinosaur droppings. That indicates plant-eating dinosaurs digested their food by fermenting it, a process that gives off methane gas. Methane is a “greenhouse gas.” Such gases trap solar heat in the atmosphere, warming the planet just as glass traps heat inside a greenhouse. “These great giant lizards, by their flatulence over hundreds of millions of years may have contributed significantly to the warming of our planet and making it much more hospitable for warm blooded mammals such as ourselves who evolved later,” said Indiana University geochemist Simon Brassell, a co-author of the study. Brassell presented the study of 75 million- to 80-million-year-old coprolite (dinosaur dung) during the Geological Society of America’s annual meeting in San Diego.

An Ode to A Relieved Dinosaur

A hundred million years ago
A dinosaur felt the urge to go
He strained and strained with all his might
And left his gift of Coprolite.
As millenniums passed and they all died
This beautiful clump slowly petrified.
Now that it’s mineralized and turned to rock
It’s really sad that the deposit can’t talk
Oh what a story it could tell...
But alas it sits, not even a smell!



Each piece sent by Paula Scheidemann

CMFS CORNER

August Highlights

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: cfmsinc.org

The 2026 CMFS Convention is on schedule for September 18-20, 2026 in Reno, Nevada. Registration forms are available on CFMS webstie, www.cfmsinc.org.

Camp Paradise deadline has passed, but here is some info for next year

The deadline to sign up has passed. We have one know member attending this year. We can't wait to hear his about his experience. For next year we have learned that you can pay for Camp Paradise in payments using Klarna, etc. Camp Paradise is our most popular educational opportunity. For registration, details and class information, visit www.cfmsinc.org. If you get to attend Camp Paradise next year, make sure the board gives you a box of donations to take for the silent auction event. Camp Paradise has asked clubs to donate slabs, tools, findings or anything lapidary related to their silent auction. 100% of funds raised will be used to offset expense of future camps. I plan on sending a few of my lapidary necklaces for their silent auction. During my visits to Camp Paradise I was lucky enough to win a beautiful sterling silver larimar necklace and purchased some great pieces.

What I liked best about Camp Paradise

I have been to Camp Paradise three times and stayed in a cabin with three of my club friends the last time. Staying in a cabin instead of the Women's Dorm was the best! Just make sure you know enough about your roommates so there won't be any crazy surprises. If you have a few friends who are going, make sure you get a cabin to share. I suggest you bring along a fan and a long electrical cord with usb inputs. Silversmithing was my #1 class, followed by Soap Stone carving and beading. I still have some soap stone rocks and plan on getting back to doing some carving. The food was good and the Chef was willing to work with you if you had any food allergies or preferences. Lots of nice people with great lapidary ideas and experiences. I hope in the future CFMS finds a camp location closer to Bakersfield. For myself Strawberry Valley is too remote and far away. (Wrriten by Paula Scheideman)

August 2026 Club Shows

August 15-16 - Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Tehachapi
Senior Center 500 East F Street, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 9-4

Congratulations to the members who received a Certificate of Appreciation from Bernie during our last meeting



Thank
you



We appreciate
all that you do

Morro Bay Tide Pools

By: Paula Scheideman



A Beautiful starfish



Mussels



On July 5th my son and I went to visit the Morro Bay Tide Pools. Off of Hwy 1 there are access stairs at Toro Lane and Studio Drive to the beach. At low tide you can explore the exposed tide pools that are filled with Anenomes, Crabs, Mussels, Starfish and other sea life. The starfish we saw were huge, mussels growing in white clumps until they grew into the popular muscle beach shells. There were tiny craps to five-inch crabs all over. Anenomes of all sizes and some of them looked iridescent. Unfortunately, my pictures didn't capture their glow. If you have kids, or grandkids, or if you've never been to the tide pools, this would be a great place for your to visit.





FUN FACTS ABOUT YOUR AUGUST BABY

Zodiac Signs

- ♌ **Leo (July 23-August 22):** Bold, vibrant, expressive
- ♍ **Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Nurturing, meticulous, thoughtful

**Birth Flowers**

Gladiolus & poppy

Birthstone

Peridot, spinel, sardonyx



Aug. 8th

Most Common Birthday

Celebrity Birthdays

- Barack Obama (August 4)
- Ben Affleck (August 15)
- Meghan Markle (August 4)
- Madonna (August 16)
- Whitney Houston (August 9)
- Melissa McCarthy (August 26)
- Halle Berry (August 14)
- Cameron Diaz (August 30)
- Jennifer Lawrence (August 15)

Did You Know?

August babies tend to be less prone to asthma and allergies.



August Birthdays

Aug 2nd – Galen Dukes
Aug 3rd – Kay Hevle
Aug 4th – Alex Cabe
Aug 6th – Shiela Kington

Aug 6th – Nick Gonzales
Aug 14th – Alyssa Escalante
Aug 15th – Brenda Gagnon
Aug 27th – Cheyanne Hasselbar

Rock Jokes and Puns

**It takes a boulder person
to read through this
list of puns.**



HARD ROCK



How to become a rock hound:

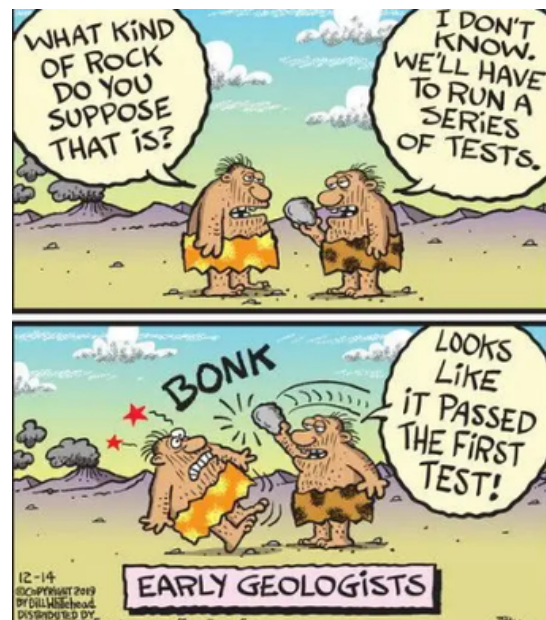
**First get a sack of marble. then
every time you find a rock leave
a marble. When you've lost all of
yourr marbles, you've become a
rock hound!**

(Submitted by Lisa Witthans)

Ten things I want in my life

1. Rocks
2. More rocks
3. Friends with rocks
4. A big house for all of my rocks
5. Money for rocks
6. Rocks
7. A partner who is ok with rocks
8. A big car to fit my rocks
9. A "rock room" for my rocks
10. Rocks

Facebook.com/CrazyRockLadyRocks



The Whispering Whimsy

Pictures taken by SJVLS Members

**Hannah's new additions (they
are so adorable**



Josephine, she is 3 months old
and playful and energetic



Jasper is 2 months old and he is
quiet and softspoken



Mount Shasta



Beautiful



Shasta Lake



Topher and Michelle's kitten Penny



Submit yours to: tophercoleman@hotmail.com

Upcoming Gem and Mineral Shows

Contra Costa Crystal Fair - 08/08/2026-8/9/2026

Venue: Civic Park Community Center, Address: 1375 Civic Drive, Civic Park Community Center
Walnut Creek, CA

Tehachapi Gem and Mineral Society Show - 8/15/2026-8/16/2026: Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4,
Tehachapi

Senior Center, 500 East F. Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Palomar Gem & Mineral Show - 8/22/2026-8/23/2026: Sat 10-5 & Sun: 10-4, Convention
Center

for the Arts - The Museum, 340 N. Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025

Hanford Gem & Mineral Show: 9/5/2026-9/6/2026: Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-4, Hanford Civic
Center,

400 N. Douty, Hanford, CA

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, CFMS Annual Show and Convention: Sept 18-20,
Fri. & Sat. 9-7 and Sun. 9-5 - Reno Sparks Convention Center

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society: Sept 19-20, 2026 - Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4,
Silver Dollar Fairground, 2357 Fair St, Chico, CA 95928



SJVLS MEMBER SUBMITTED EVENTS



Bakersfield Collector-Con

Date and Time

Aug 8 - 9, 2026 · Sat, 11:00 AM - Sun, 5:00 PM (PDT)

 [Add to My Calendar](#)

Address

Dignity Health Arena, Theater and Convention Center
1001 Truxton Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301, USA



Submit your event to Michelle Coleman at chellecoleman.mc@gmail.com

2026 San Joaquin Valley Lapiary Society Board Of Directors

CRISTIAN BALTAZAR President	T: president.sjvls@gmail.com E: (661) 472-4563
ASHLEY PENNER Vice President	T: (316) 249-7204 E: vpsjvls@outlook.com
JAN LOCKHART Secretary	T: (661) 333-3975 E: lockhart.janice26@gmail.com
LISA WITTHANS Treasurer	T: (661) 342-4425 E: sbrlisa@yahoo.com
PAULA SCHEIDEMAN CFMS Representative	T: (661) 437-5996 E: paulawillisscheideman@yahoo.com
BERNIE BENTSEN Field Scout	T: (661) 496-7393 E: bentsenbab@gmail.com
MICHELLE COLEMAN Newsletter Editor	T: (661) 364-1720 E: chellecoleman.mc@gmail.com
TOPHER COLEMAN Director	T: (661) 364-9690 E: tophercoleman@hotmail.com
GERALD CAPPS Director	T: (661) 472-3788 E: geraldscapps@gmail.com
SALEM JOHNSTON Director	T: (661) 699-5098 E: cameron.johnston531@gmail.com

