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Wlr_dkr@msn.com

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“Owyhee Gem”

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society

PO Box 1053 | Caldwell, ID | 83605-1053

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society | [Facebook](#), www.owyheerocks.com

Volume 58 No. 4

April 2026

April President's Message



Congratulations to everyone involved in the OGMS Gem Show. The 72 nd show is now in the books. Overall, we did very well with an increase in revenue and attendance over the prior year.

The surveys that were returned by attendees indicated that most do not want to see the show change and it's perfect the way it is. From the feedback, we also can determine what advertising venues worked well for us with digital medium being our best source.

Last month we announced two committees being formed. The first one is the “fun show” to be held in the fall. This will be headed by John Wright. He will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. The overall objective is to allow club members the ability to sell whatever items they would like. It doesn't need to be rock related – it's whatever hobbies you have that you want to sell at. More to come!

Also, we have the workshop committee headed by Ken Christensen. This committee will investigate options for holding workshops for our members. This will cover everything from equipment to locations. At our board meeting on March 30, we discussed having a mobile trailer set up for a workshop that could be taken to various locations. We will bring this up to a vote at the general meeting in April. This will give us a jump start to get the workshops going while the committee investigates potential permanent locations. If you know of anyone that would like to donate equipment, a trailer or even a building and take a tax donation for it, please reach out to Ken or me. If you are thinking about leaving anything to the club in your will or trust documents, please let us know and we can help.

See you at the April meeting! If you need to reach out, I'm only a phone call, text or email away.

Sue Cassidy, OGMS President

Field Trip Report —John Wright



USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR FIELD TRIP

Buckets, Shovels, Rock Hammer, Pick (Large and Small), Sieve, Gloves, Spray Bottle for Water, Small Scrub Brush, Knee Pads, Magnifier, Plenty of Drinking Water, Food, Appropriate Clothing, Protective Eyewear, Sun Protection, Day Pack or Back Pack, Umbrella, Pry Bar, Tick Spray, First Aid Kit, Protective clothing and sunscreen to avoid burns.

Shovel and fire extinguisher to put out any fires that may start.

- Trips can last most of the day.
- Generally, a High-Clearance vehicle and sometimes 4WD or an ATV is required.
- Please remember to not park on tall grass or sagebrush as the fire season is in full swing and watch out for snakes.
- When you are finished, fill in all holes that are dug at the site.



ALL FIELD TRIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS.

Owyhee Gem Club Field Trips for 2026

April 18th: * Big Egg Claim for Thunder Eggs. Meet @ Chevron, Hwy 55/95 Junction

May 23rd: * Tony Funk Rock Yard with Boise & Idaho Falls Clubs 204 Washing St. Gooding, ID
BBQ pot luck. Everyone can go on their own or meet at the Rest Stop on I-84 East of Boise

June 20th-21st: Texas Springs for Pink Limb Casts. Meet @ Cactus Pete's in Nevada @ 9:00 am
leave @ 9:30. This is an overnight trip.

July 18th: ** Graveyard point for moss agate, Meet @ Chevron, Hwy 55/95 Junction

Aug 22nd: ** Picture Jasper Claim, Meet @ Chevron, Hwy 55/95 Junction

Sept 19th: * Blue Egg for Blue Opal Thunder Eggs. Meet @ Homedale City Park with Tank

Oct 24th: * Pink Plume Claim for Pink Plume Agate, Meet @ the Owyhee Junction, Hwy 201
and Owyhee Ave

Legend:

* (meet @ 8am – leave @ 8:30)

** (meet @ 7am – leave @ 7:30)

For further information, Contact John (208)571-6873 or David (208)250-7739

Field Trip Photos: Rockville for Leaf Fossil Provided by Miranda



Owyhee Junior Geologist Program (OJGP)

OWYHEE JUNIOR GEOLOGIST 2026 EVENTS

April 11, 2026, 10:00 am to Noon:

Idaho Museum of Mining & Geology walking tour and museum exhibits

April 15, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm:

Geology 101 Practical Uses, at the College of Idaho, Boone Hall in Caldwell, ID

May 20, 2026, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm:

Geology 201, Geomorphology, at the College of Idaho, Boone Hall in Caldwell, ID

June 13, 2026, 10:00 am to Noon:

Owyhee County Museum tour & presentation in Murphy, ID

July 25, 2026, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm:

Narkaus Mineral Collection & BBQ in Nampa, ID. Gifts for Junior Geologists!

September 26, 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm:

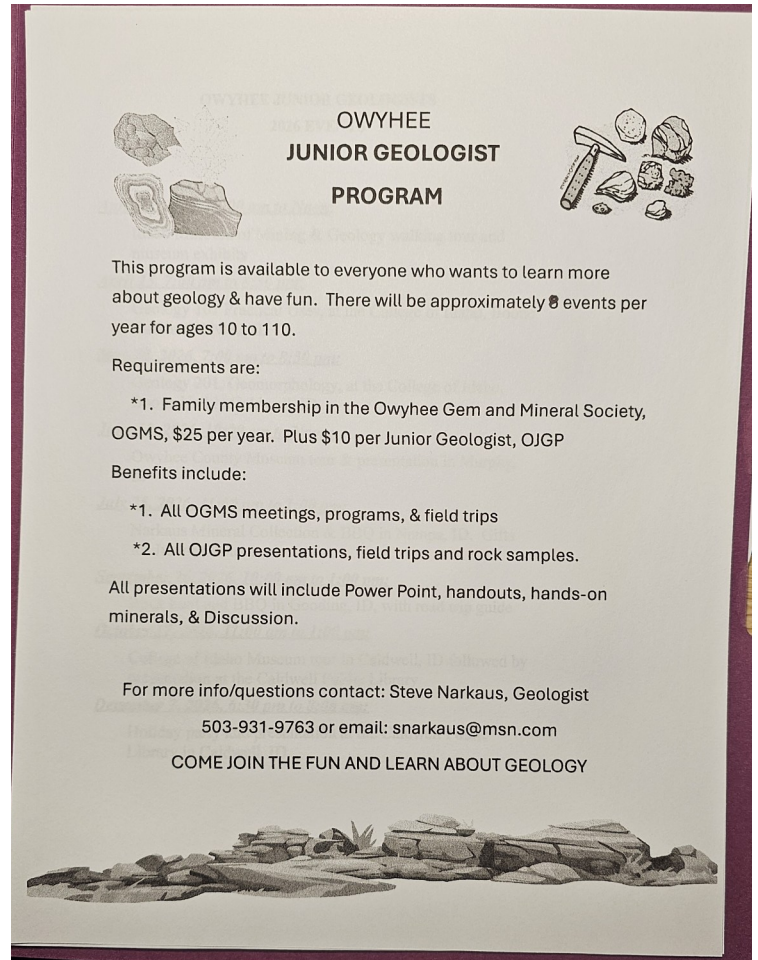
Rock hunt and BBQ in Gooding, ID, with road trip guide

October 17, 2026, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm:

College of Idaho Museum tour in Caldwell, ID followed by presentation at the Caldwell Public Library

December 7, 2026, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm:

Holiday party and presentation at the Caldwell Public Library in Caldwell, ID



Steve Narkaus

Vice-President’s Corner— Deana Ashton

“My Favorite” Presentations

If you have a favorite rock, gem, mineral, or fossil you would like to talk about and share with the members at the next meeting and in the newsletter, please contact Deana at (208) 794-5628



Deana Ashton

Monthly Meeting Topics

OGMS 2026 Meeting Presentations :

- April 15,2026 Geology 101 by Steve Narkaus and Karen Davis
- May 20,2026 Geology 201 by Steve Narkaus & Karen Davis
- June 17,2026 Intro to Lapidary Tools by Deana Ashton, Robert Garner, Surprise Guest
- July 15,2026 Potluck Picnic in Park 6:30pm Auction
- August 19,2026 6:30pm Ice Cream Social.

General Meetings at The College of Idaho— Third Wednesday of the month –March -June

Caldwell, Idaho—Boone Science Hall (#12 on map below), Room 103 at 7:00 p.m.



Federation Director—Ed Moser



Bring your postage stamps to the next meeting. Remember to **cut ½ inch all the way around the stamp**. The money raised will go to help support cancer research. Thank you all for this. It helps others and it might just help someone you know.

Please Respect the Rules when you are out collecting rocks, be careful of ticks and snakes, and have fun.

-Ed Moser, Federation Director
(208) 340-8060, edmoser15@gmail.com

Website:
[Northwest Federation Mineralogical Society](#)

Show Committee Chair Report by: Sue Cassidy

Overall revenue was up from the prior year as was attendance. We added four new dealers to the show: D&C Rocks & Things; DX Mining; Paleo Treasures and Rock Gypsy. After review from this show, we have decided to make a few more logistical moves and consolidate the membership and resources. That will streamline some duplicate tasks that were done by both areas. The swap of the silent auction location and the Flintknappers received all positive feedback. The Flintknappers were especially happy with the change as they felt they had more contact with attendees. There will be more seating areas set up so people can sit, relax and rest. We are also looking into adding food trucks outside. More research needs to be done to determine feasibility of doing so. Lots of great changes are coming based on Advertising surveys and internal feedback.

We are waiting for the final expenses to be submitted and hope to have a report for the April meeting, May at the latest.

Thanks again to all who participated and made the show a success!



Membership—Kim Bashford

We are accepting payment of 2026 dues

Memberships are as follows:

Family—\$25, Couple—\$20, Single—\$15, Child—\$5, Jr Geology Program—\$10

Membership forms are available at every meeting and on the next page of this newsletter. Invite your "rockhound" friends to our next meeting!

Any member needing a name badge, membership card, or patch, please call me so I can have them ready for you to pick up at the next meeting. If you need a "replacement" of any of these, there will be a nominal charge of \$2 for the name badge and \$5 for the small patch. In addition, large patches are available to members for \$10.

Please remember to wear your name badge to meetings, it makes it so much easier to identify you.

Your yearly dues cover membership privileges from October 31st through the following October 31st.

You can either pay at a meeting or by mailing the form on the next page to:

Kim Bashford, Membership Director
P.O. Box 1053, Caldwell, ID 83605-1053
Phone: (208) 454-7287 Email: kmcewan1957@msn.com



Welcome
New
Members!

General Meeting — March 18, 2026

The March 2026 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Sue Cassidy at 7:03 pm on 3/18/26 in Idaho at the College of Idaho's Boone Science Building in room # 203

Sue called for a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes to be accepted as printed in the OGMS news letter. Willa R made the motion to accept the minutes. Ed Moser seconded the motion. All the members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Mail was picked up and appropriately distributed.

Program – Chris Siepert gave an interesting talk and demonstration about flint napping.

Vice President – Deana A introduced that Steve Narkaus and Karen Davis will be presenting upcoming program on Geodes 101 and 201.

Treasurer Report – Ken C discussed the show's income and expenses and OGMS accounts and balances.

Field Trip Chair – John discussed the Rockville field trip's meet-up and departure.

Membership- Kim "THANK YOU EVERYONE for all the help"

Historian Report- Nothing to report this month.

Junior Geologist- Steve announced that the upcoming Idaho Museum and Geology event on April 11 will be split into two groups to accommodate all participants AND "Melody Greer, if you're reading this, please come to a meeting. We have something for you"!

Old Business- None

New Business – David Shmidt discussed claims. Plans being made to rip the ground at our Big Egg Claim. John Wright will head a fun show committee and Ken C will head our new workshop committee.

Meeting adjourned followed with our slab and door prize drawings. The door prize drawing winner was Jim Hopkins.

Board Meeting Minutes—March 30, 2026

Officers present: Sue Cassidy, Chris Rawson, Kim Bashford, Don Dixon, Willa Renken, Robert Murphey, Ken Christensen, John Wright, Dale Rawson, Deana Ashton, Ed Moser

Guests present: Steve Narkaus, Cindy Woolsey

March's 2026 OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 7:04 pm by OGMS President Sue Cassidy in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. Sue called for a motion to accept the previous board meeting minutes as printed in the OGMS news letter. Sue noted a correction to the minutes. The correction being that the junior Geologists mascot name is not "Rocky Ron", but rather is and needs corrected to be "Rocky Tom". John W motioned that the minutes be amended and accepted Kim B seconded the motion. All the board members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion to amend and accept the minutes passed.

Vice President – April and May's program will be presented by Steve Narkaus and Karen Davis during the general meeting. Deana also discussed a very generous donation to the OGMS club from Cheryl Peterson.

Treasurer – Ken Christensen – Ken discussed club's accounts and balances and some lingering show expenses. (duplicate invoices)

Secretary – Picked up the mail and distributed appropriately.

Membership Chair - Kim announced fifty new members, some with Junior Geologists, joined OGMS's club at this year's show at the membership table.

Federation Chair – Ed Moser – discussed his ventures at the recent NWFMS event in Montana. He also passed along a gift bag to Steve Narkaus from the Federations Junior Geologist chair person.

Field Trip Chair – All the feedback received about the Rockville field trip was good. Next field trip is April 18, at our Big Egg Claim. Meet up is 8:00 am at Hwy 55 & 95. Leaving from there as a group at 8:30.

Juniors – Steve announced that all 2026 dates and topics are established. April 11 at Idaho Museum of Geology. June 13, Alibates Chert - flint napping. July 25, from 10:00 to noon, Treasure Valley Gold Panners. December 7, Gemology and gem cutting. He ended by announcing that as of today's date there are 73 Junior Geologist participants with their ages ranging from 9-78 years old.

Show Chair – Sue shared detailed information with the board members about the 2026 show revenues. Board members then spent considerable time discussing ideas about how and what could be done to increase revenue from the silent auction going forward. Many of the ideas shared between members will be implemented for the 2027 show. Also discussed for 2027's show is the possibility of inviting food truck vendors, additional seating, improved black-light room signage, and having hourly vs. half-hourly door prize drawings.

Editor – Please turn in news letter editions by Sunday April 5, 2027.

Old Business – work on a sign/plaque describing the donor of the club's dinosaur egg exhibit.

New Business – Fun Show committee, nothing new to report. Workshop committee, Ken mentioned needing venue. Willa proposed the possibility of a mobile workshop in the interim. This led to a very productive collaboration discussion of infinite possibilities. Stay tuned and be prepared to contribute ideas, equipment, or space. More to come.

March 2026 OGMS board meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.



April Birthdays

- 1 Jessica Baker
- 2 John Benedict
- 2 Sam Irwin
- 4 Joyce Christensen
- 6 Robert Schaffer
- 7 Everett Costa
- 9 Charlene Branham
- 11 Jewels Haines
- 12 Richard Strack
- 13 Karen Butler
- 13 Ed Moser
- 16 Easton Joyner
- 19 Benjamin Sudweeks
- 19 Andrew Wiener
- 22 Willa Renken
- 25 Steve Ford
- 28 Vincent Valenti
- 28 Roxanne Franklin
- 30 Mike Harrelson



April Anniversaries

- 7 John & Teresa Benedict
- 10 Bob & Kim Bashford
- 13 Walt & Thelma Barnett
- 17 Will & Denise Eason
- 20 Chris & Mia Larson
- 29 Dan & Rowena Burnum
- 30 John & Carol Farnham

April Birthstone

- Diamond -



The most coveted gemstone to date, **diamonds** are a symbol of eternal love. They're thought to provide those who wear them with better relationships, balance, clarity, abundance, and an increase in inner strength.

Newsletter Editor

If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please submit to
 Robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com

Sunshine Report



Hi, I am Kim Erb and I am your Sunshine Chair.

If you hear of anyone needing a get-well card or visit, please give me a call at (208) 202-9357.

kimzstones@gmail.com

Community Corner

If you are presenting to the community or working with the community on behalf of OGMS, please submit a summary of what you are doing for our "Community Corner". This helps us maintain our non-profit status and gives you a recognition for a job well done.



Minerals & Fossils For Sale

Call Steve: (503) 931-9763



Jefferson Rockhounds

Lifelong rockhound and collector of earthly treasures, now sharing our passion with fellow rock lovers. Please visit us at a local gun show (follow us on Facebook) and view our treasures at:

Boise: Antique World Mall 4544 Overland Rd.
Showcases 10, 11, & 12

Ontario OR: Vintage Rose, 204 S. Oregon St.

Here are just a few of the rocks we have on display:

Amazonite, Amethyst, Azurite, Carnelian, Chrysocolla, Jasper, Kyanite, Labradorite, Larimar, Lepidolite, Malachite, Moonstone, Obsidian, Petrified Wood, Quartz, Rhodochrosite, Ruby Zoisite, Seraphinite, Tiger Eye, Tourmaline, Unakite, and more!

Available in: Stone & Silver Jewelry, Bookends, Cathedrals, Crystal Points, Flames, Obelisks, Towers, Pyramids, Hearts, Spheres, Skulls, Dragon Heads, Free Form, Natural/Rough, Slabs...



Jefferson Rockhounds

Hildy Langewis
jeffrockhounds@gmail.com



Would you like to see your ad here?

You can buy an ad like these for one month for only \$5.00.

A 12-month ad is only \$50.00!

Your ad will be seen by over 200 club members, plus online visitors.

To place an ad, please email:
robert.murpheyogms@gmail.com

(Ads are subject to Board approval)

OWYHEE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY—2026 Membership Application

Rockhounds' Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

I have read and understand the Rockhounds' Code of Ethics: Signed _____

Family—\$25 Couple—\$20 Single—\$15 Child—\$5 Jr Geology Program —\$10

(Please Print)

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ANNIV: Month _____ Day _____ (Name of Spouse/Other if not a member) _____

BDAY(s): First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ / First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____

BDAY(s): First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____ / First Name _____ Month _____ Day _____

Renewal ___ New ___ Amount Paid: _____ Date Paid: _____ Cash ___ Check # _____ Recd By _____

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society
PO Box 1053
Caldwell, ID 83605-1053

Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society Purpose:

To promote interest in the wonders of nature and in particular, rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils.

To conduct field trips for exploration and collection.

To encourage as wide a participation as possible in the "Rock Hound" hobby and the many activities that go along with it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Family - \$25.00 per year

Couples \$20.00 per year

Singles—\$15.00 per year

Children (under 19) - \$5.00 per year

Jr Geology Program—\$10 per year

The Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was established in 1938 at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho.

GENERAL MEETING: The club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Boone Science Hall at the College of Idaho, Room 103, except for the summer months and the December holiday party.

Bring a friend—Wear your name tag— Bring an unidentified rock and we'll help you figure out what it is!

FIELD TRIPS:

Field trips are scheduled once a month.

Visitors are welcome at all these events!



Have You Visited our Club Website?

Our awesome website has great information on it. There are some great pictures of our outings, and our newsletter is posted on it. Brad Larson, our Web Master, does a great job of keeping it up to date with all kinds of information like upcoming shows, field trip dates, times and much more.

<https://www.owyheerocks.com/>