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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. 5

May 2026

May President's Message



Our new committees are working diligently and moving forward with their fact-finding missions. John Wright is heading up the Fun Show committee that we hope to hold this fall. If you wish to be involved with that or have some ideas on locations to hold the event, please contact him. Ken Christensen is heading up the Workshop committee. They are currently looking into a various ways to hold workshops for our members that do not have access to equipment and are wanting to learn more about what can be done with rocks. Covington (you have seen them at our shows) has committed to helping us out with equipment and supplies and has provided some guidance as well.

The first field trip turnout to the Big Egg claim was a success and everyone went home with some nice eggs. The work done by the utility company to put in platforms helped to expose some of the eggs which made it easier for picking. We hope to have some work done on the claim to expose more eggs for next year.

Roadside cleanup should have happened by the time you receive the newsletter, many thanks to Ted Diehr for his efforts in setting this up. There is a lot of work that happens behind the scenes such as paperwork, picking up the signage, vests and bags; setting up the flagging and then taking it down and returning it. Please be sure to thank him for his efforts!

See you at the May 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. Check with the Field Trip Chair before you go.
- 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.

For further information contact John Wright at 208-571-6873 or David Korn at 208-250-7739

Owyhee Gem Club Field Trips for 2026

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

Vice-President’s Corner—Deana Ashton



Deana Ashton

Greetings!

General Meeting Programs:

We enjoyed an exciting geology lesson by Karen Davis/ Junior Geologist Program during our April General Meeting! Thank you Karen for sharing your knowledge! The May 20th Program will be by Steve Narkaus, and topic is Tectonic Plate Movements. In June we will learn about Lapidary Tools and have some demonstrations! July/ August will be Potluck Picnic Meetings at Caldwell Park, and an auction will be held in July. Ice Cream Social during August. In October the kind owners of the Idaho Opal Mine will give a mining presentation! November is officer elections month and December will be the Christmas Holiday Program.

Summertime Swap Meets:

During the summer, please join our pre- meeting Trunk Show and Swap Meets in parking area from 5:00pm to 6:45. This is a fun way to add to your collections and support others by selling your rocks, slabs, jewelry, critters, crafts from your tailgate or car trunk! We will park in a group area of Boone Science Bldg. Parking lot.

Jewelry Making Opportunities:

Maryann Weed from Wackadoo Wonders in Boise is hosting wire wrap workshops and teaches how to create interesting pendants for a low fee of \$10.00. She provides copper or brass wire and tools, and you can pick from her featured rock specimens. Maryann is a talented instructor sharing skills to create Tree of Life pendants and other unique designs. Contact Maryann to schedule a group or individual session at her studio: 208-412-0205

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

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



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!

- Geesen, Evelyn
- Skinner, James & Arianna

Road Side Cleanup —May 9th, 2026

Ted would like to thank everyone who came out for the roadside cleanup and stuck around for the Field Trip. Everyone had a great time.



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](#)

Junior Geology: Summer 2026 Events

Please RSVP for ALL Events & Watch Your Email for Updates

May 20th 7pm at College of Idaho: Boone Hall (West Entrance) in Caldwell, Idaho.

TOPIC: Mountain Building & Plate Tectonics. Learn How Plate Tectonics build mountain ranges across the planet.

June 13th 10am-12pm Flint-knapping w/ Chris Siepert @ Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho

See how Arrow Heads, Spear Points & Artifacts are made. Also, come see numerous types of obsidian & chert.

Demonstration

Free Obsidian Samples for Junior Geologists

Road Guide to See "Melon Gravel" on your Return Home

July 25th 11 am – 1pm Location: Steve Narkaus's Home. Nampa, Idaho

GOLD!! Come Learn About Gold Panning from Treasure Valley Gold Prospectors

Free Rock Specimens for Junior Geologists and a flake of real Gold. Gold Panning @ 11am. Box lunch & Tour Entire Mineral Collection @ 12pm. Grab your Treasures & Ask final questions@ 1pm.

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

General Meeting —April 18, 2026

The April 2026 General Meeting of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by OGMS president, Sue Cassidy at 7:04 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, then stated that the March newsletter was missing the show chair notes. Willa R made the motion to accept the minutes with the missing notes. Deana A 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 – Karen Davis educated and entertained the members with a very informative game of "Match the Rock to the Product" demonstrating how nearly everything we use on a daily basis contains some type of rock or mineral.

Vice President – Deana A thanked Karen for the program presentation and announced that Steve Narkaus will be doing the May program presentation. It will be about tectonics and mountain building.

Treasurer Report – Ken C discussed the show's income and expenses and OGMS accounts and balances. He reminded members that in the spirit of transparency the OGMS books are always available for member viewing.

Field Trip Chair – John announced that the April field trip would be postponed one week due to in-climate weather. He then asked Barbara K to talk to the members about the Texas Spring field trip. She talked about some of the changes in the area and showed the members different limb-casts to give members an idea of what they will find there.

Membership- Kim was not present.

Historian Report- took show pictures for the newsletter and pictures of the junior Geologists last event.

Sunshine Report – Card was sent to Cliff Metcalf

Junior Geologist- Steve discussed the impressive turn out at their last event. He also said he would be giving members insight into how tectonic plates create mountains at our next general meeting.

Show Report – Sue discussed possible ways to improve next years silent auction at the show. She also announced that Jeff Hill will be having a lapidary sale May 2nd & 3rd. The adress is 1251 Thunder Egg blvd in Nyssa, Or. (Corner of Wilson and Thunder Egg Blvd.

Old Business- Fun show committee . All those interested please sign up at the front table. Hoping to have this event in October or November.

Work shop committee. Ken said the board members are discussing the possibility of establishing a portable workshop. Anyone interested in participating on the workshop committee please sign up at the front table.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:45 followed with our slab and door prize drawings. The door prize drawing winner was Cindy Woosy



Board Meeting Minutes—April 27, 2026

Present: Kim Bashford, Chris Merrell- Rawson, Don Dixon, Sue Cassidy, Ed Moser, Ken Christensen, John Wright, Dale Rawson

Guests: Cindy Woolsey, Steve Narkaus

April 27, 2026 OGMS Board Meeting was called to order @ 7:01 p.m. by President Sue Cassidy in the Caldwell Public Library at 1010 Dearborn in Caldwell Idaho. Willa called for a motion to accept the march board meeting minutes as printed in the OGMS news letter as printed. Ken C made the motion to accept the minutes as printed. Kim B seconded the motion, all the board members were in favor, there was no further discussion and the motion to accept the minutes passed.

Secretary – Chris Merrell-Rawson stated that the mail was picked up from the post office and distributed appropriately.

Vice President – Deana –No report

Treasurer – Ken Christensen –Ken reported on disbursements and deposits and all OGMS accounts balances. He also touched on BLM's requirements

Membership Chair - Kim announced new members, Evelyn Geeson & James Skinner and asked for a motion to accept the new members. John Wright made the motion, it was seconded by Ed Moser. All the board members were in favor with no further discussion, the motion to accept the new members passed.

Federation Chair – Ed Moser – Please keep saving your stamps. Sue asked the board about how they feel about the federations representation for the amount of money paid by the club.

Field Trip Chair – John Wright said there was a good turnout at the Big Egg Claim and commented there were quite a few kids "nice to see". Ken inquired about piggy backing a field trip with the Boise club. Next field trip is May 23rd, at Tony Funk's. There will be a pot-luck so bring a dish.

Junior Geologist – Steve Narkaus said he received good feedback about the meeting format changes at the last general meeting. He also said that they are changing the juniors membership cap from 50 members to 100.

Show Chair – Sue announced that she spoke with O'Connor Field House about the possibility of having food trucks at next years show. They said yes so it's something to consider. She also announced some slight changes in dealer location and asked if there are any objections to John and Dale separating their booth next year. There were no objections raised. She also said that we will be doing away with the paper table covers and that fact has been added to next years vendor contracts.

Old Business – John is waiting for committee to meet and discuss possible location. Workshop- need to present the members at the general meeting in may purchasing a trailer for portable workshop.

New Business – Ken motioned and John seconded the motion to begin our board meetings at 6:30 vs 7:00pm. All were in favor with no further discussion and the motion passed.

OGMS Board meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.



Show Committee Chair Report:



These next few months are relatively quiet for the show, but rest assured there is work going on. The contracts have been sent out, and some have already been signed and returned even though they are not due until September 1, 2026. There have been some changes made in the layout and Dale is working on finalizing that information. There are plans to pull out the silent auction rocks in storage and power wash them. Then there will be the task of grading what we have and culling the rocks that are not likely to draw much attention. With that in mind, please continue to collect rocks for the silent auction. If you have some leftover cut rocks, please consider donating them to the show. This would be helpful for the auction as it gives bidders an opportunity to see the inside of what they will be getting if they win and hopefully beef up the bidding.

As always, tumbled stones are sought after, and you would get paid \$125 for a 5 gallon bucket of nicely tumbled stone. The kids especially love getting them in the grab bags. We have also been giving some out at the entrance to the young kids and their eyes light up with delight.



May Birthdays

- 2 Walt Barnett**
- 4 Hazel Lang**
- 5 Dean Parrish**
- 7 Tasha Marcelletta**
- 8 Jim Collord**
- 8 Jon Lang**
- 11 Bob Bashford**
- 11 Aaron Battershell**
- 22 Harald Villarreal**
- 25 Rob Scott**
- 26 Chuck Fawcett**
- 29 Paul Deveau**
- 29 Mary Potts**
- 31 Jeremiah Rivera**



May Anniversaries

- 14 Dee & Janet Huntley**
- 15 Theo & Mercedes Rawson**
- 17 Guy & Claudia DiTorrice**
- 19 Garry & Marjorie Davis**
- 25 Chris & Peggy Blickfeldt**
- 29 Jim & Vickie Wise**

Birth Stone Chart
Choose your birthstone by month



Newsletter Editor

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

May Birthstone

• Emerald •



Thought to improve memory, faith, and intuition, **emeralds** are a symbol for constancy and true affection. Some cultures believe them to grant their owner foresight, good fortune and youth. The name emerald is derived from the Greek word 'smaragdus' meaning 'green'.

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.



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



Steve Narkaus, Geologist

Call for appt 503-931-9763



Would you like to see your ad here?

You can buy an ad like this for one month, 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)

April's Meeting Topic
Flintknapping



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.

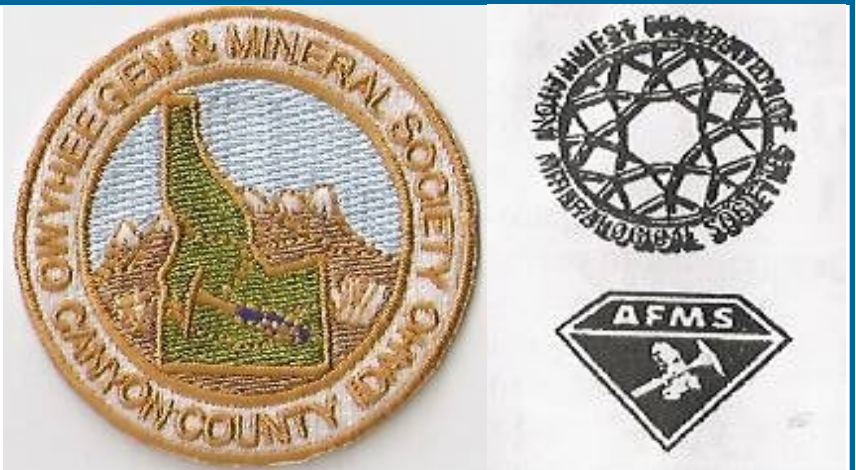
GENERAL MEETING: The club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Boone Science Hall at the College of Idaho, Room 103, except for the summer months and the December holiday party.

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/>