



Jeff Fulkerson - How to Make a Ring

April 8th, 7:30 PM [on Zoom](#)



Award-winning artist Jeff Fulkerson will walk us through the steps to create a cabochon ring with a castellated bezel and give us tips along the way to make your ring-making experience smoother.

Artist Jeff Fulkerson, M.A., has been creating stunning, imaginative jewelry for over 40 years. A contributing artist to Lapidary Journal/Jewelry Artist Magazine, his work has also been featured in Art Jewelry Magazine, Rock & Gem Magazine, the Tucson Show Guide, and Step by Step Wire.

Jeff has produced several instructional videos, including "Beginning Inlay." His Silversmithing Video Library offers jewelry artists of all levels the opportunity to learn and improve their skills.

Jeff invented the Steady Stamp™ and the Fast Flare Forming Disks (pat. pend.) for making spinner bangles. He has taught at Bead Fest, Bead & Button Show, Art Retreat in the Desert, Art Unraveled, the San Diego Museum of Man, and several private studios and bead shops across the country. A self-



taught silversmith with a background in construction and design, he counts himself fortunate to have studied with many great Native American artists in the last few years, most notably, Richard Tsosie, Navajo, Jesse Monogya, Hopi/Navajo and Michael Cheatham, Cherokee. "It's very satisfying to me to help others grow in their gifts and talents."

The Culver City Rock & Mineral Club brings together persons interested in the Earth Sciences to engage in research and study, to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals, and in the study and practice of lapidary and related arts.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Members,

The club has a number of activities heating up this spring. Get ready to get busy!



On April 8th, we will have our regular monthly general membership meeting on Zoom. This will be followed by a presentation by Artist Jeff Fulkerson, who will show us how to make a ring.

Saturday, April 13th, will mark our first field trip in over four years. The adventure destination for rock collecting will be in Acton, CA, a short 1.5-hour drive from Culver City. We will be hounding for agates and will not need pickaxes to find them! We will have some folks offering rides, as carpooling is always the best option for being kinder to our environment. Details about ridesharing and a specific meet-up place in the town of Acton will be in a forthcoming email with 'CCRMC Field Trip' in the subject line.

On Monday, May 6th, we will host Charles Lewton-Brain in person at the Veterans Memorial Rotunda room to show and discuss ways to recognize real minerals and semi-precious gems from fake material. See Jette Sorensen's article in this issue for more information.

On Monday, May 13th, we will have our annual "Work Party" meeting—an important preparation for our Fiesta of Gems show. This includes prepping for a mass mailing of our show's postcard and filling the goody bags for kids. We need many volunteers for this date to get the work done quickly and efficiently. Pick some cards up at the shop to distribute. On May 18th, the club will hold a Club Alley Sale (in the back of the shop) for the sale of tools, raw materials, books, and jewelry. If you want to participate as a seller (you must be a paid-up member,) you can, and it's free, please get in touch with Fran Einberg at effieacct@att.net.

The show chairs have informed us that 95% of our FOG vendors have signed their contracts, so we are in very good shape for this time of year.

I hope to see many of you at our Zoom meeting, the Club Alley Sale, and our upcoming field trip.

Happy Spring,
Alexa

A Special Treat! ***Charles Lewton-Brain Lecture & Workshop on Gemology***

It is not every day you get the chance to participate in a free lecture/workshop with world-renowned, award-winning master goldsmith, inventor, teacher Charles Lewton-Brain, so **save May 6th** for just that!



Gemology on a Shoestring: Glass, composite, and imitation gemstones can be determined, and many gemstones can be identified without using complex or extremely expensive instruments. This workshop teaches what can and can't be identified with different degrees of instrument sophistication, from eye identifications on up. Some inexpensive instrument-making is discussed in the workshop.

It is a basic introduction to gemology from a practical viewpoint. And how to quickly tell if the thing you are being sold is glass or a fake. Be the detective: Note everything you can about the gem, anything you can definitely say. This builds a pattern of information you can place in context, infer and conclude from.

Bring a penlight, a 10X loupe and faceted gems or examples of items to look at – please bring only a few, not one of the 5-gallon buckets you (might) have.



mation email to Fran at effieacct@att.net to reserve your spot.

In case we do not have access to the tables in the scout house, be prepared to bring your own 6-foot tables and chairs.

BENCH TIPS



SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).

The ones I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

Usually many of Charles's workshops are quite expensive so this is a real treat and we are very excited that Charles agreed to do this for Culver City Rock & Mineral Club.

Not sure just who Charles Lewton-Brain is? [Have a look at this.](#)

CLUB ALLEY SALE - IT'S BACK!

We are again organizing the much appreciated - by members and the public - club alley sale.

As in the past, the sale will take place adjacent to and behind our shop. Any member in good standing (your dues are up to date) can sell without charge.

Save the date, Saturday, May 18th—10 am to 3 pm. Set up starts at 8:30 am. Please send a confir-

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

The shop is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 pm.

To see if there is room, go to the [Lapidary Shop tab](#) on the [Club's website](#) and send an email, do not just show up.

Saturdays: [Steve Dover](#)

Sundays: [Jette Sorensen](#)

If you have not made a reservation, you can call the shop during open hours to see if there is room, 310-836-4611

Do not wear open-toed shoes. Wear old clothes. Bring eye and ear protection.

Exhibitors needed for our 61st annual Culver City Fiesta of Gems

The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club needs exhibitors to display their creations and or collections at our upcoming show June 29th and 30th at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City.

We provide the display case, liners, lights, locks and security during the show. All you have to do is set up your display Friday evening or Saturday morning and pick it up Sunday after the show closes. If you need help setting up your display, assistance will be available at the show.

Please contact Steve Dover directly at skdover@yahoo.com, 760-764-2422 or sign up at the shop or at a club meeting to reserve a case.

Thanks!
Steve Dover, Display Chairman

MINERAL REPORT



Serpentine crystalization on the right side, talc on the left.

Serpentine (serpentinite) is this month's mineral necessary for the emergence of life. This may be the one that we are most familiar with. Being in Southern California, serpentine abounds. If you head to the north side of Mount Baldy, you'll find tons of serpentine along the roadsides and if you go further north, along the winding pacific highway, you'll be traveling through serpentine country. Serpentine often forms when there is a volcanic or tectonic boundary underwater, as magma interacts with ocean water, it forms this hydrated form of phyllosilicate. Serpentine is usually greenish or brownish in color and has been used for millennia as a decorative stone. The iconic white and green duomo in Florence is clad in polished serpentine, generally anytime you see a polished green stone used in architectural cladding, it's going to be serpentine of some form. It is also co-incidental with asbestos so if you're picking around for serpentine, be careful and look for the tell-tale hairs of asbestos and avoid disturbing those deposits. In the summer of 2023, I was in residence in Corsica next to an abandoned asbestos mine. The beach next to this mine was composed solely of green/black pebbles, a result of the mine dumping serpentine tailings into the ocean where they were tumbled and brought back to shore. This beach during summer, at midday, was so hot as to be unbearable to walk over, but the waters were soft and healing. It was as if taking an epsom salt bath as serpentine released excessive amounts of magnesium salts into solution.



Piazza del Duomo and Piazza San Giovanni, Florence, the dark green geometric accents are all polished serpentine.

Serpentine is of interest to geoengineers as well. It readily absorbs carbon dioxide and is an essential element of geological carbon sequestration just like olivine. When serpentine encounters carbon dioxide, it produces three familiar compounds: water, silica, and magnesium carbonate. Yes, the active ingredient in your Tums. So why don't we see strata of Tums? Magnesium carbonate will bond with other elements, often losing the magnesium ions for another metal. Carbonate classics of our terrestrial surface like dolomite, aragonite, calcite, and malachite. Serpentine is especially reactive when at a beach like the one I found myself quickly tiptoeing over in Corsica. As the water of the Mediterranean pushed and sloshed through the mining till, it exposed unreacted serpentine to the air as well as dissolved carbon dioxide in the seawater, allowing for carbon dioxide to be sequestered at a faster rate.

Serpentine, however, isn't just important for pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby stabilizing our climate and atmosphere. Serpentinization is crucial for the formation of alkaline convective hydrothermal cells, which are similar to underwa-

ter hot springs but with alkaline properties. These cells create environments where chemical reactions occur, contributing to the formation of organic molecules essential for life. These alkaline springs release substances such as hydrogen, methane, and formate. These substances interact with other compounds in the water and minerals nearby, leading to the creation of organic molecules which would later develop into increasingly more complex forms, a.k.a. life.

I have [five works currently on exhibition at the Brand Library in Glendale](#) that used synthetic olivine (the precursor to serpentine) single crystals to encourage us contemplate life in the cosmos. With the path of abiogenesis becoming so well known, I think the time has come to stop thinking of ourselves and the life on this Earth as unique, but rather that life abounds in the universe and ALL of it is worth protecting from our extractive instincts.

- [Joel Kuennen, Mineral Chair](#)

MINUTES - EXECUTIVE MEETING

3/11/24 – Attended by Alexa Hunter, Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Regina Lozano and Joanie Rippner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by club president Alexa Hunter.

Treasurer – Darrell Robb could not attend, but let Alexa know that the club is in good standing.

Fiesta of Gems – The event will be June 29th and 30th. Darrell Robb is the vendor co-chair. He told Alexa that the postcards and fliers for the show were ready. Some of these were brought to the meeting for members to start passing out. Raffle tickets are in the process of getting printed out.

30 of the 33 vendors and demonstrators from last year have signed contracts to participate this year. Staircase rental ordered.

The City of Culver City will let us know how many tables will be provided before we contract to rent more.

Membership – Regina Lozano stated that there are now 76 active members. 81 members from last year have not renewed, so she will send out an email reminder.

Shop – Ellen Moe deep-cleaned a saw after it was taken apart by Steve Dover.

CMFS/AFMS – Ellen Moe will be attending their annual meeting at Ventura County Fairgrounds, May 24-26.

Jette made a motion to end the executive meeting and it was seconded by Joanie Rippner. The meeting ended at 7:32 PM.

GENERAL MEETING

3/11/24

Started at 7:35 PM started by President Alexa Hunter.

The Fiesta of Gems will be June 28th and 29th. The May 13th meeting will be a work party for

FOG

Membership – Regina Lozano said we have 76 paid members.

Program chair – Jette Sorensen said we do not have a program yet for the April meeting, working on a Zoom presentation.

For May there is a Fiesta of Gems work party.

Jette informed that the Club would have a master goldsmith, author, and teacher, who invented and disseminated foldforming, a system of working sheet metal, new to the field, award winner Charles Lewton-Brain will make a presentation at a special meeting on Monday, May 6, where people from other clubs and social media will be invited. The presentation will be about telling the difference between real and fake faceted stones.

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies/ American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting – Federation Chair Ellen Moe will be attending the meeting at Ventura County Fairgrounds, May 24-26.

Fiesta of Gems – The theme is turquoise. June 29th and 30th.

Ellen Moe showed sample slabs of Howlite and Jasper that will be prizes for the children's games. Display cases will be available at no charge, we have 20 in the middle of the show. Steve Dover is in charge of the display cases and you can reserve a case from him.

Field trip – Alexa wants to organize a field trip to Acton. Had a sign-up sheet at the front of the room, to find out the best date.

Jette Sorensen made a motion to end the meeting and it was seconded by Stephanie Dangott. The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

Program Report from Last Meeting 3/11/24 was an Ice Cream Social with members making sundaes with a lot of different ice creams and toppings and

mingling to get to know new members and reacquaint with “old” members.

Contact: nancyjbird68@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org>

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 6-7, 2024 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083

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

Contact: info@vistarocks.org

Website: <https://vistarocks.org/>

April 13, 2024 – Lake Elsinore, CA

Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society

32097 Corydon Road, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
4th Annual Lake Elsinore Spring Rock & Craft Show

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM

Contact: (909) 208-6956, berylman50@aol.com

April 13-14, 2024 – Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society

El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville, CA

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

Contact: (530) 676-2472, office@edcmgs.org

Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

April 20-21, 2024 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park Community Center, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

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

“Pageant of a Thousand Gems” – 47th Annual Show

Contact: (805) 209-3173, conejogemandmineral@gmail.com

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

April 27 – 28, 2024 – Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

Brookhurst Community Canter, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801

Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4:30 PM

May 3-4, 2024 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Show will be held on Yucaipa Blvd near Adams Street, Yucaipa CA 92399

Hours: Friday 5 PM – 10 PM, Saturday noon – 9 PM

Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club

2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536

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

Contact: marylandoriele@gmail.com

April Member Birthdays

Janice Metz	4/4
Richard Shaffer	4/8
Jodi Bye	4/12
James Powers	4/14
David Scheuer	4/14
Vanessa Fry	4/18
Jette Sorensen	4/18
Stephanie Dangott	4/27



to our newest members:

Dom Bastian

Michael Braff

Annie Karasarides

Mohammad Rejali

Maryam Rejali

Jamie Remmers

David Rivas

Arlyn Torres

Ethan Wolderberg

The Nugget – Submissions

The submission deadline is on the 15th of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Photographs without credits are shot by a CCRMC member. Email the Nugget submissions to the Editor: nugget@culvercityrocks.org

The Nugget – Advertisements

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Size is about 2" high x 3.5" wide. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor.

Ads, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month.

Email submissions to the Editor:
nugget@culvercityrocks.org

Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
PO Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231
info@culvercityrocks.org
310-836-4611

See local field trips posted on LA-Rocks at
[facebook.com/groups/411978609512229](https://www.facebook.com/groups/411978609512229)

More field trips are posted on SoCal Rocks www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691

Zoom Address

<https://zoom.us/j/3108364611?pwd=WnRTclZTS-3RJMEdWdlV2c01mQWxqdz09>

Meeting ID: 310 836 4611

Password: rocks

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2024 Elected Officers

President - Alexa Hunter
Vice President - Steven Dover
Treasurer - Darrell Robb
Recording Secretary - Stephanie Dangott
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Wallen
Parliamentarian - Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

2024 Committee Chairs

Education - Vacant
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field Trips - Vacant
Librarian - Joannie Rippner
Membership Co-Chairs - Bradford Smith,
Regina Lozano
Minerals - Joel Kuennen
Photography - VACANT
Programs - Jette Sorensen, Lorna Herf
Publications Committee - Jette Sorensen, Joel
Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Sunshine - Karen Wallen
Trading Post - Gary Mitchell
Webmaster - Bart Gampe
Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2024
Gary Mitchell
Karen Wallen

2025
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith