

CFMS/AMFS 2024 SHOW SPEAKERS

Friday, May 24th @ 2:30pm

Luis de los Santos: “Condor Agates from Argentina”

A native of Argentina, Luis de los Santos transformed a childhood passion for rocks into an extensive hunt for these elusive agates in the vast region of the Mendoza Province high in the Andes Mountains. With only the geologic field notes from an earlier exploration by Dr. Franz Mansfeld, Luis spent two years retracing the footsteps of this exploration geologist. A few years later his perseverance and effort led to the rediscovery of these brilliantly colorful agates.

Luis continues to explore this region and has subsequently discovered the Puma, Crater and Black River agates, just to name a few. As a dealer, he brings these popular agates to market to eager collectors from all over the world.

Saturday, May 25th @ 11:00am

Michael Santos: “What’s So Mysterious About Meteorites”

I will present Meteorological samples and describe how they have affected our planet and our place in the Universe...

Saturday, May 25th @ 1:00pm

Keri Dearborn: “The Geological Wonders of California's Channel Islands”

From volcanic sea caves to out-of-this-world sedimentary formations, the Channel Islands are a collection of geologically varied islands. Join environmental educator Keri Dearborn on a tour of the Channel Islands to see some of their unique geology, including San Nicolas Island which is a U.S. Navy Base and closed to the public.

The geology of the Channel Islands directly impacts the plant and animal species that live there. Keri will explain the role geology has played in shaping the living species on the islands in the past and how it continues to do so today. She will include a look at the fossils, archaeological sites, and evidence of islands on the move.

Saturday, May 25th @ 3:00pm

“Amber, Intriguing Tree Sap” by Maxine Dearborn

The magic of Amber for some lies in the fact that some Amber contains evidence of another world, trapped inside of it from millions of years ago when Baltic resin dripped from trees and lay in pools on the forest floor. This resin captured spiders, insects, small lizards and plants, all evidence of past earth's inhabitants.

This unique material is one of the few non-mineral gemstones. Amber comes in many colors and Maxine will have several samples to see and touch. She will address where Amber is found and what it looks like both in the rough as well as in finished items of jewelry. She will also explain how to polish and take care of your Amber.

Maxine is a long time active member of the Del Air Rockhounds. Over the years she has served her club in various officer positions. Maxine is a skilled lapidarist and teaches workshops covering such topics as wire wrap and chain mail jewelry. Maxine and her husband Bob frequently participate in education outreach at local schools and community events.

Sunday, May 26th @ 11:00am

“Geology and Minerals of The DeGrussa Copper & Gold Deposit of Australia” by Dick Weber

The DeGrussa deposit is the largest copper mine in Australia. Discovered in 2009, the mine produced 45,000 ounces of gold and 200,000 tons of copper per year. Shortly after the deposit was discovered, a geologist and mineral collection curator was hired to collect and preserve mineral samples during the development and production of this mine. This allowed thousands of rare mineral samples to be saved and made available to the research community and the general public. This material is usually destroyed by modern mining techniques or would typically be crushed and destroyed during milling and processing of the ore. This unique situation has enabled the copper minerals and beautiful lapidary material to be preserved.

Dick Weber is a retired exploration geologist and has traveled extensively in Australia. He is a long time active member of the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club, serving on the board as a past president and treasurer. Dick will have on display his personal collection of mineral specimens from this mine.

Sunday, May 26th @ 1:00pm

“Do you See What I See”? By Ken Rogers

This fun and whimsical program contains paintings and photographs discovered in stones when they are cut open. What will you see?

Ken's interest as a retired photojournalist and his curiosity with pictures and patterns in rock specimens results in an entirely different way of looking at them. With his artistic eye he appreciates the beauty of nature and enjoys sharing his love of geology and the lapidary arts with fellow rockhounds. Although known for his sports photography, his work as a photojournalist appeared in many prestigious publications such as Time, Life, Forbes and De Spiegel and included countless magazine cover photos.

Ken Rogers is a long time member of the Culver City club, serving on the board of directors and a shop volunteer for many years. He is also a member of the Bead Society.