



THE CONGLOMERATE

NOVEMBER, 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Nichols

November. In this month's General Meeting you will be introduced to and asked to vote on a slate of new officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

One constant theme I have stressed in every message has been to encourage you to volunteer. This month let me take the opportunity to THANK everyone who HAS volunteered. This year as President I have only begun to grasp the extent and range of time and skills that are necessary to make RGMS work. RGMS is based ENTIRELY on volunteers contributing their skills and time. Our field trips and classes and our outreach education efforts are provided by volunteers. Volunteers fix and maintain our building and our equipment. Volunteers run our fundraising efforts—the Jackpot of Gems and our Craft fairs. Don't forget that the tax returns and reports that RGMS files with government agencies are filed by volunteers. When it looked like it would be impossible to fulfill a need, a member has stepped up. Every volunteer has made RGMS better.

Let me offer a **THANK YOU** to every volunteer, from me and from every RGMS member.

CONGLOMERATE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019:

Digital edition: no charge to members

Shortened edition by USPS: \$1 per copy or \$12 annually, in advance

Full edition by USPS: \$1.75/ copy or \$21 annually, in advance

Full edition copies at the meeting: \$2 except to guests. Free to guests.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at headquarters monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request.

Steve Norman , Secretary; *Virginia Keeley*, Treasurer

WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2019 7:00 p.m.
General Meeting

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor
865 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV

Dana Bennett
President, NV Mining Assoc.
Contributions & Impact of Mining on NV

“WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2019 7:00 p.m.
RGMS Board Meeting
480 S. Rock Blvd. Sparks, NV

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RGMS, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

The **mission** of the **Reno Gem and Mineral Society** is to create, develop, and encourage interest in the Earth Sciences and to locate and identify various material through field trips. As a **501C₃** corporation RGMS qualifies for donation write offs of cash and materials. Donation receipts are available at the society's headquarters.

A General Meeting, open to the public, is held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Baldini's Casino, Second Floor, 865 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV. Board meetings are open to all members and are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at headquarters. Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Donna Durham, Membership Director

The beautiful Fall weather is here along with three new members. I am pleased to introduce

Heidi Hall

Toni Jones

Dana Bennett (our fascinating speaker from the October meeting) to the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. A very warm welcome to you all! It is also time to start renewing memberships for 2020. (I know, we can't possibly be this far into the century yet!)

The good news is: Membership dues are remaining the same as last year! Yay! The 2020 Membership application is attached to the newsletter. Please fill out a membership application even if you are a returning member and mail it and a check to the rock shop (480 S. Rock), or save the postage and come by and see me at the meeting. Cash and Checks are accepted in person and you will get a great big smile in the bargain.

RGMS LIBRARY REPORT

Juliet Hitchcock, Library Director

Our library is a beautiful selection of books and reference materials for your reading pleasure. We are always interested in donations to add to our library.

The library will be open by appointment only. I am having surgery on my right forearm and won't be able to drive for part of the month.

You may contact me to arrange a time to visit our library; ""

Due to all the robo calls coming to my cell phone, please text me, stating that you are a member of the RGMS so that I may return your call. Thank you!

PROGRAM

Melissa Petterson, VP

Our November meeting is always one at which the proposed slate of officers for the following year are presented to the members, with elections following. Although the nominating committee will present a slate of candidates, RGMS always welcomes additional nominations from the floor. If anyone is interested, the Vice President is responsible for scheduling your monthly general meeting speakers, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to start the General and Board meetings, and booking the venue to hold the monthly meetings at Baldini's.

It is your right as a member of RGMS, to vote on the leadership for 2020. It's an important year what with the new venue for the Jackpot of Gems, and other things coming up.

Please make an effort to attend and exercise your voting right. It's your chance to influence our Society's future.

VOLUNTEERS

Renée Samuels, Volunteer Director

Happy November, everyone! Now that we've wrapped up our wildly successful 2019 field trip season, here's a shout out to **Rob Kendrick**, Field Trip Director extraordinaire, and to **Alan** and **Bobbi Metzger**, **Michelle Sundland** and **Robert Greiner**, **John Peterson**, **Jim Welker**, and **Melissa Petterson** for leading field trips, as well! Thank you for all the work you do for our members, to help them find all that good stuff and learn about the amazing material Nevada has to offer! You rock! At this time, we need people for the following positions:

Silver Casting Instructor

Beginning Metal Smithing Instructor

Education Outreach Volunteers

Photographer

If you are interested in filling any of the positions above, or being an RGMS officer or board member for next year, please let me know, or contact **Steve Norman**, chairman of the nominating committee. You can email me at "", call me at "

, or send me a message on our Facebook page. One more thing: I need your hours! Please send them to me! Thanks to all of our volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you!

HELP!

Several members sent photos of the picnic, and I promised to include them in a later issue. Somehow, those photos have disappeared. Would the photographers please send them to me again?

SUNSHINE

Bobbi Metzger, Sunshine Director

Hello November to you all! Get readied up for winter, it's on its way. Please think about Dean Sizemore and our editor, Sue Webb, who are on the mend and who would appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers their way to quick healings.

Welcome to **Lori Connel**, our new Sunshine director. She is excited to be our contact for sharing health news and current events in your lives.

Also, I want to thank **Teresa Langhans** for a great Artisan Faire at Reno Town Mall. Her work provides all members with an event to show our wares and RGMS talents. I also wish to thank so many of YOU, our great members for your support at this show. Alan and I enjoyed visiting with members old and new who came and were impressed by RGMS members varied talents and expertise. You were the sunshine for our weekend! Thanks, Bobbi

SEPTEMBER 2019 FIELD TRIP REPORT

Rob Kendrick—Field Trip Director

The 2019 field trip season for the society has officially come to an end with a very successful trip, led by **Jim Welker**, to the Monte Cristo Range near Tonopah.

19 people attended the trip and came home with a lot of nice material. As always the potluck was AWE-SOME and included a trash can turkey, (thanks to **Art and Debbie Gravenstein**).

A cool thing happened one afternoon at camp, we were visited by **Jonathan Price**, retired Nevada State Geologist, and he was kind enough to identify some of our finds.

I want to say a big thank you to all of the people that helped lead some of the field trips this year to make it a very successful season.

Bobbi and Alan Metzger (Wonderstone Mountain and Gabbs),

Rob Greiner and Michelle Sundland (Moss Agate),

John Peterson (Black Rock), and

Jim Welker (Monte Cristo Range),

and also thank you to all of the members that attended the wonderful trips. Until next season...Happy Hounding!

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Steve Norman

Reno Gem and Mineral Society Education Outreach consists of: **Sven Sanders, Rachel Carrol, Cate & Bob Tangren**, and **Steve Norman**. Part of the team made presentations to Hidden Valley and Verdi Elementary Schools on October 3 and 4. These 71 second and third grade students loved the rocks and minerals! Students learned about the many ways that rocks and minerals are used in their everyday lives. **Sven** explained uses of silicon from making glass windows to electrical equipment. There are many people working behind the scenes including **Steve Rose** supplying gifts for the students, this time with labeled bags of quartz. **Sam Knipmeyer** provides minerals to teachers and beefs up our minerals collection that we show students. **John Peterson** donates classroom gifts; some rocks have an animal glued on top of them. The Nevada Division of Minerals helps with handouts to keep families safe and away from danger when collecting rocks and gems in the great Nevada outdoors.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK DECEMBER 7

Denise Sizemore

Since the Holidays are fast approaching, I thought I would get a jump on marking your calendar to join us Saturday, December 7th, 5p.m. to 8 pm, for the 2019 RGMS Holiday Potluck, at 480 Rock Blvd. Come at 5 p.m. to mingle and make new friends, 6 p.m. start digging into some yummy food, and 7 p.m. dessert, gift exchange and special Holiday Door Prize.

Sign up to bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share. RGMS provides main dish meats Ham and Turkey, coffee and water. Don't forget your table service of plate, utensils, and drink cup. There will be table stuff available if you forget, as I have in the past, a donation of \$1 to RGMS will supply paper plates and plastic tableware. BYOB please.

For the Gift Exchange, bring a wrapped gift, not to exceed \$10, labeled 'For Woman', 'For Man', 'For Child'. Have some fun with this!!!

Lastly, come join us after the December 4 General Meeting to decorate the Society Building. We always have fun with this. I will have more details as we get closer.

Remember many hands make light work, and many smiles make the Angels sing.

JACKPOT OF GEMS 2020

Daniel Ellis, Show Chair

Jackpot of Gems 2020 So it is September. My how the year moves on so quickly these days. Fall is almost here and we still are looking for the big find as we hunt for "the" rock. So that means that Spring will be here sooner than we think giving us a break from those winter blues. Then we are looking at our show. Remember that the April show is 4th and 5th in 2020. That is the first weekend of April. We will be loading the truck and setting up that first week. So please put the dates on your new calendars so we can get your help to make our 2020 show a success. Did I mention that the show is also moving to the Reno Convention Center! Yes across from the Atlantis Casino. So if you care to help plan, input ideas, or just want to get involved, please come to the monthly planning meetings. The next one is on the 9th of Sept. at 6PM at the Rock Building.

PHOTOS OF MONTE CRISTO FIELD TRIP



All photos by
George Forbes.



THARS SILVER IN THEM THAR HILLS!

Text & Photos by Virginia Keeley



First and foremost, we want to say a huge THANK YOU to **Sam Macaluso**, **Drew McGregor** and **Joe Riney** at the Nevada Mining Association and **Robbie Anderson** and the entire Coeur Rochester Mine operation for an informative and comprehensive look at the workings of a silver mine in the twenty-first century. Also, to our driver, **Dave** who gave us a safe, comfortable ride deserves a special thanks .

We were very fortunate on Saturday to have a beautiful day for the hour and a half drive from the Nevada Mining Association offices in Reno to our destination at the Coeur Rochester Silver Mine east of Lovelock, NV.

After leaving I-80, we followed the winding road through the hills for 13 miles into the canyons leading to the open-pit mining operation. It was a scenic drive with wonderful rock formations and, as if on cue, a herd of pronghorn headed to their drinking hole. The question by one of our members was, "How did people ever discover silver way out here?" **Joe Riney** explained that they just followed the old prospector's diggings. As we rockhounds know, there is not a lot of land in Nevada that hasn't been explored.

Upon arrival, we were escorted into the Security office where we were issued our hard hats, safety glasses and safety vests to be worn for the duration of our visit.

Robbie Anderson, geologist for Coeur Rochester, took us through a safety training followed by a slide show describing the history and operation of the mine and the geology of the area.

In the 1860s, a group of miners from Rochester, New York came to the area in search of gold. The silver vein that started the Rochester boom was discovered in

1912 by **Joseph Nenzel**. Some 2,000-3,000 people settled in small towns around the area. The first shipments of silver ore from Nenzel Hill (now Rochester pit) occurred in 1912. Coeur acquired the site in 1983 and began open-pit mining in 1986. From 1912 to 1924, this operation yielded approximately 8.7 million ounces of silver and 81,343 ounces of gold. Since 1986, Coeur Rochester has produced more than 155 million silver ounces and 1.6 million gold ounces. Robbie explained that the site yields less than 0.55 ounces per ton of silver and 0.0047 ounces per ton of gold.

The Coeur Rochester mine covers approximately 16,354 acres in Nevada and employs about 280 men and women.

After Robbie's presentation, we all loaded into the mine's vehicles to get a first-hand look at the pit, the equipment that is needed to run the operation and the surrounding area. The mine's profitability is based entirely on efficiency and volume. Therefore, digging and extraction is a 24 x 7 process. We visited an area that had been recently blasted to break up the surrounding dirt. The dirt is then loaded into huge dump trucks that hold about 165 tons. The trucks carry this dirt to the crusher where it is broken up into smaller pieces and fed into a conveyor leading to the leach fields. There the dirt is spread onto a thick layer of PVC and then sprayed with a mixture of water and cyanide to remove the silver and gold from the dirt and rocks. From there the solution goes to the processing plant.

[Continued p. 6.]

[Continued from p. 5]



More Rochester Mine photos by Tom Nichols



Chuck Jackson (a big guy) and a mine shovel



Digger digging



And, of course, here's what happens when you tell Rockhounds that they can have samples!



Weird beauty

Before mining operations can even begin, a plan must be submitted and approved for the reclamation of the land once the mine is no longer operating. This plan includes removing all the equipment, regrading the land and replanting vegetation. The mine is monitored constantly for safety and compliance by both Coeur Rochester and the State Mining regulators.

The reclamation process brings to mind an [old saying](#) I once heard: "We do not inherit the earth from our parents; We borrow it from our children."



Take a bite of dirt & chew it up

SCHOOL REPORT*Julie Hilsabeck, Director*

If a class must be cancelled, each Instructor or Host will post a cancellation notice to the RGMS Facebook page. If you do not see a cancellation post, the class will be held as scheduled.

Want to take or teach a new class? Have any ideas or suggestions? "

or talk to her at the general meeting! All official information regarding scheduling and class details is published in *The Conglomerate*. Register and pay for classes at the general meeting. We accept cash or check made out to RGMS!

Children may register for classes only at the discretion of the teacher. Wear protective shoes or boots to work in the shop—NO open toe shoes, sandals or slippers. **Please Note: To register for classes you must either be a member or have \$1 million of liability insurance naming RGMS as the certificate holder. If you are not a member, unless you present a valid insurance certificate at registration, you must wait until the next general meeting after you join to register for classes. Your insurance is included in the membership fee.**

BE NICE! Each class using headquarters is responsible for leaving the premises clean and tidy. Any tools belonging to RGMS should be put away securely and headquarters locked.

MONDAY OPEN HOUSE

Make your own projects! You must take at least 2 months of lapidary classes before you will be cleared to attend open house and must have your name on file as approved to work on your own in the shop. Speak to the lapidary instructors to be added to the list. Please be sure to follow shop safety rules. **At 8:45 please start clean-up so chaperones can go home.** Supervised by **Daniel Ellis**. Shop fee \$5/hour. Monday, November 4, 18, 25 from 7-9pm. Closed 11/11.

BEADING AND STRINGING

Beading in 2020 may be offered quarterly on a **Saturday** morning. Next class will be offered in January. . Class is taught by **Sue Webb**. \$2.50/hour payable at class or the meeting.

CASTING

Casting is currently on hiatus until an experienced instructor is found. When offered and weather permitting, casting is taught in two classes held on Friday evenings. Classes enroll a maximum of 4-6 students. Sign ups will be taken at the general meeting when classes resume.

LAPIDARY

Lapidary is limited to 4 new students, but a **daytime class** is now available. **For shop safety, an absolute limit of eight people may work in the shop at one time.** First time students **must** attend a one-time **shop safety seminar (11/12) on the Tuesday following the general meeting at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm.** Drop-ins are welcome on a first come, first served basis. Registered and pre-paid students always take precedence over drop-ins. Materials for your first two projects are included in your class fee. Evening class taught by **Lloyd Raymond & Barbara Hartman, 7-9 pm**; daytime class taught by **Barbara Hartman and Julie Hilsabeck, 11am –1pm**, Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19, 26. \$5/hr.

SILVER FABRICATION

In November **no beginning silver** fabrication classes are available, but advanced members may attend Thursday open house with Jill Atkins.. When offered, beginning classes are structured classes. The first two projects are specifically designed to teach you the fundamentals of silver fabrication (making jewelry). Therefore, you will not be able to do other projects until you complete the two projects. RGMS provides tools to use on your first two projects. There is a \$20-\$25 fee for the silver which we provide for the first project. Stones are not included; however, we do have some for sale. For these two projects, **only oval stones** will be used. Suggested size for the first project is 18 x 13mm, and 30 x 32 mm for the second project. The stone size does not have to be the exact size but should be very close. You can purchase silver from the instructors for the second project, or you can use our own. Upon completion of the two projects, if you wish to continue, you will need your own basic set of tools. **The tools that RGMS provides are for new students only.** Before purchasing any tools, talk with your instructors. Instructors: Jay Logue, **Jill Atkins** and Al Bolshazy. **Open House—no classes** Thursdays Nov. 7, 14, 21 6- 9 pm. \$5 per hr.. No class 11/28.

WIRE ART

Drop in to work with wire the second and fourth Monday. Classes vary by the month, so check at the general meeting to see what will be offered for April. Brass wire only and tools available to lend in class to new students. Taught by **Jennifer Rhodes** and **Sami Ellis**. Monday, November 11, 25. 7-9 PM \$2.50/hour (\$5/class), payable in class.

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

Must sign up. See Julie at the meeting. Nov. 20, 27, 7-9 PM

NO CLASSES IN DECEMBER!

Lost Wax coming in January 2020.

Potential for **Faceting** classes in 2020.

Beading will be eliminated unless January class attracts at least 4 students.



NOVEMBER 2019



2Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

3	4 Open House 7-9 PM	5 Lapidary 11 AM-1 PM 7-9 PM	6 General Meeting 7 PM Baldini's Second Floor	7 Adv. Silver Fabrication Open House 6-9 PM	8	9
	11 Wire Art 7-9 PM No Open House	12 Lapidary safety Meeting 10:30/6:30 11 AM-1 PM 7-9 PM	13 Board Meeting 7 PM RGMS facility	14 Adv. Silver Fabrication Open House 6-9 PM	15	16
17	18 Open House 7-9 PM	19 Lapidary 11 AM-1 PM 7-9 PM	20 Mineral ID 7-9 PM	21 Adv. Silver Fabrication Open House 6-9 PM	22	23
24	25 Open House 7-9 PM Wire Art 7-9 PM	26 Lapidary 11 AM-1 PM 7-9 PM	27 Mineral ID 7-9 PM	28 THANKS- GIVING	29	30 -



Monte Cristo photos by Lori Connel—the tarantula sneaked in!



Barbara Miller and **Scott Olsen**, both active R.G.M.S. members on their wedding day, September 15. RGMS and *The Conglomerate* extend them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a happy future.



Photo by **Barbara Hartman**, edited and submitted by **Dale Sworthout**

UPCOMING CFMS SHOWS

See additional information at cfmsinc.org.

NOVEMBER**November 2 - 3: ANAHEIM, CA**

American Opal Society
Business Expo Center
1960 S. Anaheim Way

November 2 - 3: CONCORD, CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

November 2 - 3: RIDGECREST, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 South Richmond Road

November 9 - 10: YUBA CITY, CA

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Franklin Hall
442 Franklin Blvd

November 16 - 17: LAKESIDE, CA

El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12584 Mapleview Street

November 23 - 24: OXNARD, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way

DECEMBER**December 7 - 8: BARSTOW, CA**

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road

JANUARY 2020**January 18 - 19: EXETER, CA**

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Avenue

FEBRUARY 2020**February 14 - 23: INDIO, CA**

San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

February 22 - 23: VALLEJO, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairground

February 15 - 17: ANTIOCH, CA

Antioch Lapidary Club
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
1201 West 10th Street

MARCH 2020**March 6, 7 & 8: NEWARK, CA**

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Avenue

March 7 - 8: VENTURA, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 West Harbor Blvd.

March 13, 14 & 15: VICTORVILLE, CA

Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Club
44th Annual Rockhound Tailgate
Stoddard Wells Road/Dale Evans Pkwy

March 21 - 22: SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road

March 29 - 29: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Road

March 28- 29: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society
@the Grounds
800 All American City Blvd

APRIL 2020**April 4 - 5: CHICO, CA**

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair Street

April 4 - 5: RENO, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society
Reno Convention Center **new venue**
4390 S. Virginia Street

April 11 - 12: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5007 Fairgrounds Road

April 25 - 26: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Avenue H

JUNE 2020**June 1 - 2: CAMBRIA, CA**

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cambria Veterans Hall
1000 Main Street

June 25-28**81st CFMS SHOW and CONVENTION****Grape Festival Fairgrounds****Lodi, California**

Hosted by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies