



THE CONGLOMERATE

AUGUST 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dean Sizemore

Here we are in August already. Summer's at its peak and heading towards all the colors of Fall. We haven't met since March, and it's hard to believe it's been 5 months already. I hope this finds you and you families all well and working or enjoying retirement. Baldini's is still not open to large meetings, we had hoped by August but still no date yet.

We had some exciting news from the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, they sent 3 Awards—a first place in the CFMS Bulletin Contest for **Virginia Keeley** for her Original Adult Article., “Thar’s Silver In Them Thar Hills;” we were able to present this to Virginia at the July Board Meeting. The next award was for **Jennifer Rhodes**: the prestigious CFMS Golden Bear Award; our congratulations to Jennifer for this well-deserved Award. We will get the plaque to Jennifer when we see her. The last award was also the Golden Bear Award for **Heidi Hall** who joined RGMS last November. Congratulations to Heidi. We are holding her plaque for her also. **Sue Webb** will be explaining in detail later (p. 6) in *The Conglomerate* the importance of the Golden Bear Award. This is a prestigious award not given out lightly and we have 2 Members who received one. I am very grateful for the participation and hard work put in by so many of our members to better both our Society locally and then regionally and nationally. Thank you all for the hard work.

We had our Board meeting on July 15th at the Rock Building. As you can imagine, not much is going on right now, but we are good on financials, and a few members of the Board are looking into amending our By-laws to allow for situations as we are in now so we could meet and conduct business remotely, how to accomplish voting remotely and so on. We are meeting distanced at the Rock Building so all Board Members are safe and comfortable.

Open House is back open on Mondays and has been busier each week. It's nice to see our membership working on projects. **Rob Kendrick** reported that Field Trips have been very successful with the numbers in the high 40's, the last trip of the Summer, the one to Black Rock is coming up in August and you can find that information in the Field Trip Section. Thank you to Rob and the other leaders for making these trips such a great success.

At this time, the Craft Fair and the Christmas Party are still being planned and since they are far enough away.

Wednesday, August 5, 2020
General Meeting **Cancelled**

WEDNESDAY, August 12, 2020
Board Meeting **TBA**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2 , Pres. Msg. cont, Field Trips, Officers' rept. Black Rock Desert Trip
- Page 3 Library Rpt. John Boyne obit, Social Rpt., Sunshine Lib. Rpt.
- Page 4 .Goldfield Photos
- Page 5 Goldfield Photos
- Page 6 ALAA, Mineral of Month, Craft Fair
- Page 7 School Report
- Page 8 Calendar, JPOG
- Page 9 Shows, Golden Bear
- Page 10 Officers & Committees

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 usually 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 the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV. Annual membership dues: student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

CONGLOMERATE *SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020*

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.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP REPORT

Rob Kendrick field trip director.

Hello fellow rock hounds. We had a well attended trip to Tonopah for the Royston turquoise dig with over 40 people attending. We also did some rock hounding in the Monte Christo Range for some seam agate and a wonderful mine tour in Goldfield of the Florence and Rustler #2 mines. Some people even found gold in the tailings piles that we were allowed to search through

.Our next adventure will take us to the Black Rock Desert. A high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicle is required if you want to attend either the Christmas tree agate site or the geode mine on Saturday. Cars can make it easily to the campsite. See more information in **John Peterson's** article. That's all for now. Happy hounding!



Photo: Rob Kendrick



Photo Doug Drake



Photo: Michelle Sundland

Pres. Msg. cont. from p. 1

there's no reason to cancel them unless circumstances dictate otherwise. . It has been suggested that we allow members to sell craft and equipment items through *The Conglomerate* and perhaps the website as we move forward. Many times, members are no longer using a piece of equipment and it would be nice to see that go to other local members since we can't have an equipment sale at this time. All of our artisans have lost money during this pandemic due to cancellation of shows and fairs. We will let you know if and when the craft fair happens. I would like to get your feedback on this for the next Board Meeting. My email is below.

Tom Nichols reported that the website is getting very close to going live. We had a delay for a few months, but the changes are happening fast, and it looks great. Once it goes live, we want everyone to know it is a work in progress and changes will keep happening.

Have a safe August. You are all in our thoughts and we wish you well. If there are any needs please contact **Lori Connel**, our Sunshine Director, who has been amazing during all of this, meeting with members, and helping even with her breaking her hip and having replacement surgery. Last item, as we move forward we will be looking for a Volunteer Coordinator, a Used Equipment Sale person (this is once a year). **John Peterson**, who has made it a big success, will help with the first sale. We also need wire wrap instructors, and a Historian. If you would be interested in any of these positions, please contact me. **Rgms.president@gmail.com**

RGMS BLACK ROCK DESERT FIELD TRIP AUGUST 14-16

John Peterson

We will again camp at the south end of the Calico mountains. From Gerlach, take Highway 34. Go 12.5 miles to junction of Soldier Meadows Road. Take Soldier Meadows Road 9.7 miles and turn west (left) on the bucket road. Go 1.4 miles and then take the right fork. Go 1.1 miles to the campsite. There will be RGMS signs along the way.

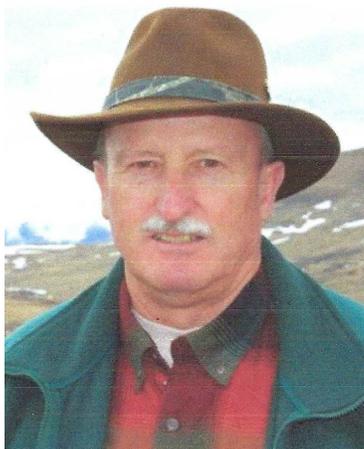
Friday collecting will be near the campsite. Saturday, you will have a choice between the thunderegg site or the Xmas tree agate site. Leave time for Saturday is 7:30 a.m.

High clearance and 4-wheel drive are required for both Saturday sites. It will probably be warm, so don't forget to bring lots of water!

No potluck dinner this trip. Please remember to pack out everything you bring in!!

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; **Robyn Howard**, Treasurer



JOHN BOYNE 1947-2020

RGMS member, **John Boyne** (72), passed away on Friday, July 17. A Reno native and a third generation Nevada, John is survived by his lovely wife, **Kathy**, our RGMS li-

brarian. They were married for 45 years. John will be cremated and interred privately at Mountain View. John was diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer a couple of years ago and treatment seemed to be working well enough; however, he began to go downhill in March. He and Kathy were able to take a long-anticipated trip to Mt. Shasta in May, but it was very difficult for him. After that, the cancer seemed to gain virulence and he was hospitalized in June for about a week. Once home, Kathy cared for him herself with a bit of assistance from home health until hospice was able to come for the final week. John retired from UPS after 33 years, driving long-haul 18-wheelers for 28. He was also a member of Snowshoe Thompson Chapter 1827 ECV The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America #989, and Reno Flotilla 11-03 Coast Guard Auxiliary. He loved the RGMS field trips, and members may recall the wonderful photos he took of the 2019 Monte Cristo trip. Kathy says that if you wish, you might check the Mountain View website to leave comments

SOCIAL REPORT

Denise Sizemore, Social Director

I hope this finds you all well and I miss your smiling faces.

As we all know by now the 2020 Summer Potluck Picnic has been canceled. We have our new date for 2021. Saturday, June 12, 2021. Lazy 5 Park, 7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks, Sugarloaf Pavilion. More details and sign-up sheets will be posted as time draws nearer.

So, 2020 is not a total loss with our social gatherings, we have a date set for 2020 Holiday Potluck. Saturday, December 5, 2020, at The Rock Building, 480 S, Rock Blvd. I will have sign-up sheets and details on food as it gets closer, probably around October.

Hope to see y'all very soon!!!

SUNSHINE

Lori Connel, Sunshine Director

Dear fellow rock hounds, this summer sure has been hot. I was so glad to see the reports from the July field trip. It was a great turnout and everyone had a great time. Kudos to **Rob**. I was sure sad to miss it. But **Eric** brought me back lots of goodies. It is so important to get out in the fresh air and away from the concerns and controls over our life right now. So, if you can get outside, please do it. It sure will help our mind and body. I failed to mention last month about the Poeville fire on June 27th. We had a couple of members that I was aware of that sure came close to the fire. **Ike Isaacson** and **Jennifer Rhodes**. Jennifer had to evacuate and luckily, she was ahead of the fire. I headed over to check on Ike and he was partially packed but was a little hesitant in leaving. His area was under voluntary evacuation orders. We stayed and watched the planes drop retardant until dark. It was under control after that.

Our hearts go out to our librarian, **Kathy Boyne**. Her husband, John, passed away June 17th. Please also give your thoughts and healing prayers to **Sam Macaluso**, **Peter Rivera** and **Bobby White**. They are continuing to make good progress and look forward to our meetings.

Please stay safe and adhere to the social distancing rules. We need to stay healthy so we can get back to our meetings, rock hounding and celebrating our friendship with our society friends. I miss that terribly. I'm sure that others do too.

With that I'll leave you with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson about making others happy::

"Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself." Being kind and considerate to others sometimes benefits us more than the people were helping. We sure need to remember that during this time of challenge.

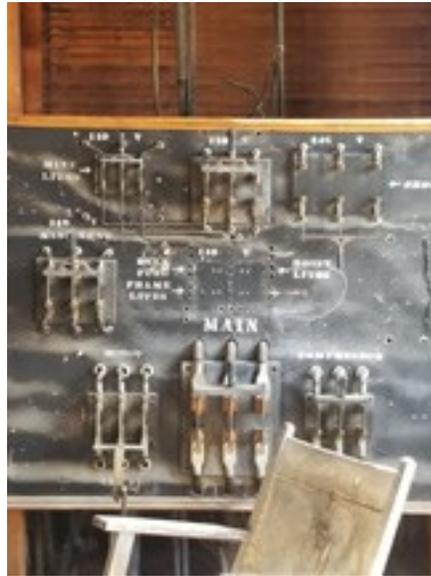
Email-

RGMS LIBRARY REPORT

Kathy Boyne, Library Director

Like us all, I am still Staying Home for Nevada. When restrictions are lifted, I will be actively involved with the RGMS Library. I am accepting donations to the library. Donations may consist of magazines, journals, books, and/or maps related to RGMS interests which include Nevada History, Jewelry, Beading, Metalwork, Lapidary, Geology, Rocks and Minerals. Contact Kathy via phone or email address: RGMS.librarian@gmail.com.

GOLDFIELD MINE IMAGES BY CHARLES JACKSON



MORE GOLDFIELD PHOTOS



UPDATE FOR NEVADA

Al Bolshazy
ALAA – CFMS PLAC

NAS Fallon Land Grab (My term)

It appears the US Senate said “NO” to the expansion! Of course, that is as of today, Nothing more from Congress yet. So this is some pretty good news for all of us. You know the Navy has spent millions on this expansion, and it is not over yet, but we are heading in the right direction on this one but here is more...

House Armed Services Committee

The Committee has approved an amendment by Rep. Bob Bishop to give the Air Force 850,000 acres of the Desert Refuge area. The amendment cited provided that there would be co-management between the refuge and the military; however; *the military would make all the decisions*. I am following up on this story. As if this was not enough, there is more...

Truckee Meadows Public Land Management Act!

Washoe County, Reno and Sparks have all agreed to:

- Release 400,000 acres of Wilderness Study area
- BLM to sell 1000s of acres to TMPLM so that TMPLM then could sell the land to developers

The land is in the northern areas of Washoe County from just north of Reno, up along the Pyramid Lake and up towards the Oregon border. The money from the sale of the land would be used by the local governments.

This is just a proposal but next year it might become a reality. This is just the tip of the iceberg. I will keep you posted.

Opinion: *Selling off OUR land is not the mission of the Bureau of Land Management. Their mission is to protect our land keeping it in trust for the citizens of this country. Their mission is NOT to sell off land so developers can become wealthy at our expense.*

Here is some good news:

Peterson Mountain Range which comprised about 16,300 acres is to be kept as a “Natural Area” which means no development of any kind including roads, buildings, power lines etc. Friends of Nevada Wilderness requested BLM and Washoe County to keep Peterson Mountain Range a “Natural Area” which BLM has done; also, BLM is acquiring additional lands around the Peterson Mountain Range to protect the integrity of the range.

This is a very important range especially for the animal habitat. It is also very important to us so we can continue rock hounding and finding beautiful crystals.

Our partners in protecting our lands include RGMS, Carson City Rock Club, ALAA, CFMS, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Paiute & Shoshone Tribes and concerned citizens.

Lastly... My statements are as accurate as I could make them. I will correct any errors or inaccuracies ASAP.

RGMS ARTISAN CRAFT FAIR

OCTOBER 4, 5, 6 2019

Theresa Langhans, Coordinator

If you are interested in being a vendor at our upcoming craft fair, please complete the attached reservation form and return to me so that I may save you a spot. I do need to receive your reservation before September 4. This is a great opportunity to sell your craft.

Here are some more specifics:

Friday, October 4 10am-6pm

Saturday, October 5 10am- 5pm

Sunday, October 6 10am-3pm

The event will be held at Reno Town Mall, South Virginia Street, next to Burlington Coat Factory.

Hope to see you there as either a vendor or as a CUSTOMER!

MINERAL OF THE MONTH

PERIDOT

Webb Varnum



San Carlos Indian
Reservation

Peridot, $[Mg_2SiO_4]$ is a semi-precious gem generally found in lava, but occasionally in meteorites. It is used as a gemstone, and in antiquity peridot substituted for emerald in several crowns. It has poor cleavage, a conchoidal fracture, a specific gravity of 3.2-4.3, and a

Mohs hardness of 6.5-7.0. It is found in emerald green, yellow-green, yellow, and brown. It has a vitreous luster and no streak. In the US it is frequently found on or near the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona.

SCHOOL REPORT*Julie Hilsabeck, Director*

Want to take or teach a new class? Have any ideas or suggestions? E-mail **Julie Hilsabeck** 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. Non-members must present a valid insurance certificate at registration. Otherwise, you may not register for classes until the next general meeting after you join.. Your insurance is included in your dues.**

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**. 6-9 PM Shop fee \$5/hour.

BEADING AND BEAD WEAVING

Must sign up. Beading in the rest of 2020 may be offered on a **Saturday** from 10-2. Class is taught by **Sue Webb**. **Projects: August: Chevron Stitch 8/22; September: Herringbone stitch 9/12; October: Russian spiral 10/10; Kits will be available at cost for those who sign up.** \$2.50/hour (\$10/class) payable at class. To sign up for August, email Sue at rgms.bulletin@gmail.com. State if you wish a kit (about \$15), state preferred color, can't guarantee.. Materials: 34 tila beads, 68 3mm glass pearls or round crystals, 1g size 11 seed beads, clasp, 6# fireline, #12 needle.

**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 up at the general meeting when classes resume.

KNOTTING AND STRINGING

Learn to string natural stones and beads beading wire, use silk for knotting pearls and craft wire for wire linking as well as stretchy for bracelets. The different tools involved in each project as well as different gauges of craft wire will be explained. You will be supplied with all you need to make bracelets. \$20.00 material fee. First and third Mondays, 7-9 PM. \$5 course fee. Taught by **Laura Jackson**

LAPIDARY

Must sign up. 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 ()** 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, \$5/hr.

SILVER FABRICATION

Must sign up. 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. Thursdays. 6-9 PM Instructors: **Jay Logue, Jill Atkins and Al Bolshazy.**

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 ?. 2nd and 4th Monday, .6-8 PM \$2.50/hour (\$5/class), payable in class.

AUGUST 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

2	3 Open House TBA	4 Lapidary? TBA	5 General Meeting Cancelled	6 Silver Fabrication? TBA	7	8
9	10 Open House TBA ? TBA	11 Lapidary? TBA	12 Board Meeting? TBA	13 Silver Fabrication? TBA	14	15
16	17 Open House TBA	18 Lapidary? TBA	19 ???	20 Silver Fabrication? TBA	21	22 Beading Basics Chevron Stitch 10-2
23	24 Open House TBA TBA	25 Lapidary? TBA	26 ???	27 Silver Fabrication? TBA	28	29
30			29	30	31	

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

Must sign up. See Julie at the meeting. And watch Calendar and Facebook. If offered, 3rd and 4th Wed. in October. For a small fee, identification kits are available for purchase ahead of the class. Taught by **Webb Varnum**

LOST WAX CARVING

Cost is \$50/month **Please note this class is on Saturdays and Sundays!** Bring your lunch and beverages. Nott offered in summer.

OTHER

Potential for **faceting** classes, beginning **enameling**, and **precious metal clay** if there is enough interest. Speak to Julie at the General Meeting if you are interested.

Contact **Julie Hilsabeck** to schedule **ALL USES** of the Rock Building. She manages the schedule to avoid scheduling conflicts such as we had in January. Julie can be reached at [or](#)



WRAPTOR DESIGNS
WIRE ART JEWELRY BY DENISE SIZEMORE

CELL : 775.378.1705
EMAIL: WRAPTORDESIGNS@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: WRAPTOR DESIGNS BY DENISE

UPCOMING CFMS SHOWS

See additional information at cfmsinc.org/shows-2/

All California shows were cancelled through June, due to Corona Virus. One is rescheduled for August. August and September are still iffy. Check with show contact for current status.

AUGUST TO NOVEMBER

August 15-16; TEHACHAPI, CA
Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
500 East "F" Street
(661) 972-1117

September 12-13; ARROYO RANDE, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club
South County Regional Center
800 West Branch Street
show@slogem.org

September 26-27; LANCASTER, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave H
Allison McClung; 661-839-7403

September 26-27th ; LODI CA
Stockton Lapidary And Mineral Club
Earth Treasures Gems Minerals, & Jewelry Show
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
413 E Lockeford St
<http://stocktonlapidary.org>

September 26-27; LONG BEACH
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Long Beach Expo Arts Center
4321 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach 90807
Carol Kron and Karin Alvarez, (562) 577-9044

October 10-11; TRONA, CA
Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
slgms@iwvisp.com

October 10-11; GRASS VALLEY, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds,
11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945
<http://www.ncgms.org>

October 11; FALLBROOK CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St
Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184

October 16-18; KNOXVILLE TN CANCELLED
AFMS and SFMS Show & Convention
Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society
TBA

October 17-18; SANTA ROSA, CA
Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Contact: 1 707 849-9551, santarosarockshow@hotmail.com

October 24 – 25; SACRAMENTO, CA
Sacramento Gem & Mineral Society
Scottish Rites Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-2604
Contact: (916) 662-5819,
gemshow@ sacramento-mineralsociety.org

November 7 – 8; RIDGECREST, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society Inc.
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest
Hours: Sat & Sun 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: (760) 375-7905, jfrocks@dslextreme.com

November 14 – 15; YUBA CITY
Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991
Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net

November 21-22; ANAHEIM CANCELLED
American Opal Society
Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim 92805
Contact: (714) 501-9959, aos.editor02@gmail.com

GOLDEN BEAR AWARD

The Golden Bear award is given by CFMS to a member or members of an affiliate society such as Reno Gem and Mineral Society. The award is granted annually except when the executive council does not have a suitable nominee. It is unusual for more than one person to be given the award in any single year. Since the inception of the award, (1961) only one member of RGMS has been so honored until this year, and that person was **Norvie Enns**. This year CFMS is honoring two RGMS members—**Jennifer Rhodes** who has long been an active member of RGMS and has served CFMS in several capacities, and **Heidi Hall** who came to us in November and who has served CFMS for a number of years when she was a member of the Santa Rosa society. Both continue to serve CFMS and RGMS.

Note; At deadline it is still uncertain whether fall shows can proceed. **If the listing does not show a cancellation, it is best to check with the show chairs to be sure it is still being held. See the CFMS Website for additional information.—**
<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>