

# The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

January, 2023



### General Meeting

Wed. Jan. 4, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

### Board Meeting

Wed. Jan. 11, 6 pm

Rock Building, 480 S. Rock, Sparks

### RGMS 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 501C(3) 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 6 PM at the Rock Building, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV.

**Annual membership dues:** student: \$25, Individual: \$35, and Family: \$50.

### Conglomerate 2022

**Digital edition:** Accessible to members on <http://renogms.org/conglomerate>

**Copies at the meeting** \$3 each, free to guests.

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## President's Message

Dean Sizemore, President

Happy New Year! I'm very excited for 2023 and hope you are also. The building expansion will be moving along and by the end of this year or a little into 2024 we should have an amazing shop, classrooms, meeting areas and so on. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make 2022 an amazing year.

We are financially more stable than we have ever been, our membership is over 1,000 strong, and one goal for 2023 will be to maintain and grow both of those. Some members are having a hard time with all the success we are experiencing. I invite them to ask questions, see the building, and enjoy all our successes. We have been so successful due to the Board we have and all the leaders that are now in place. I know change can be hard for those who are used to things a certain way, but please enjoy this and help us to continue all the positive changes that are happening.

Our Christmas party at Lazy 5 was a dazzling success, so a big thank you to Denise and her merry elves is deserved for all their hard work, the great food, and the fun. The kids really enjoyed Santa and their gifts. The grown-up kids had a great gift exchange and provided lots of help cleaning up afterwards. I would love to see more of our long-term members at the picnic and party each year, and hopefully we can see that happen in 2023. We welcome **Debbie Bush** into her new role as Social Director and I'm so grateful to **Denise Sizemore** for all her years as our Social Director. she was able to keep all the great traditions of the past while adding new ideas.

Please take a moment to read the article about the history of RGMS. This history and legacy are what we always strive to honor and grow upon. **Steve Smith** and I are so excited and honored to be continuing as President and Vice President for

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President's Letter, cont. from p. 1

2023. The membership's confidence in us is not unnoticed or ever unappreciated. All decisions we make as a Board are to better this Society and make it the most successful Society anywhere. Please join us at the Board meeting and share your ideas or thoughts. I wish to thank **Robyn Howard**, our 2020-2022 Treasurer, who we have to thank for the grant that provided so much new equipment. She was my building mate during COVID, helping me to keep Open House going until others could join us and help.

Congratulations to **Julie Hilsabeck**, our Presidents award winner for 2023. Julie works tirelessly to make our classes the success they are. She built relationships with TMCC who now has classes with us, and she is always fighting to improve our equipment and classes.

Please check out our always-improving website--renogms.org--along with our Facebook pages. You will find information about upcoming events, schedules, and news, along with being able to renew your membership. Speaking of membership--it's time for all of us to renew so we can continue to enjoy one of the best values anywhere. You can renew through the site or at our general meeting.

I wish you all a safe new year and all the blessings your family can handle. Thank you for the great support and I'll see you all at the first general meeting of 2023 on January 4<sup>th</sup> at Baldini's, upstairs at 7pm.

**Jackpot of Gems 2023**  
**Daniel Ellis, Show Chair**

Well, Christmas and the start of a New Year have passed us by and we are looking forward to the first hints of Spring so we can turn the ground and find the good stuff once again..

In the meantime, the show is being put together and we need some help. We are looking for someone or someone's to run the Silent Auction

Next column



for the JOPG. Lori is stepping down and is asking for someone to take it over to oversee the cleaning tagging and bagging of the store of rocks we have next to our shop in the Rock Building.

We are still looking for a Publicity person who will oversee the ads and social media and whatever else we need to get our show date out there. Please come and help us do the show.

**Below is the December JPoG article accidentally left out of the December 2022 issue:**

Hello all. With winter fast moving in on us, we have a new show to put on for next year. September, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17. So be sure to mark your 2023 calendar now so you will not forget.

So as we look forward to a nice late summer show, we need to fill some of our leadership roles so the show can go on.

We're looking for a Silent Auction lead and assistant. Same with the rest of the team from top down. We all need help to make this happen. We need a Publicity leader to help steer and guide our team to get out the word about the show. We need assistants in each of our positions so we can pass on what we do to the next leaders of our circus.

Now that you are members of this Rock Hound Society, please, we need you to give some time to help keep this rock show and this society on the move.

The time involved during the year is just a few hours a month until the show gets here. So we don't ask a great deal of time from you, but the time you invest helps all of us do better.

Please ask one of us about what you can help with, or just come to one of the JPOG meetings we have every month and see what we do and where you can give your talent a place to grow.

Thanks!

*Daniel*

**Used Equipment Sale Update  
for the Committee,  
Patrick Davis, Shop Director**

We would like to take a moment to update everyone on the Used Equipment Sale for the upcoming year, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2023.

We have been acquiring equipment through donations since the end of the show last year until now. We hope that we will obtain some more donations for RGMS in time for the show.

This year we have a 24" rock saw for sale; it definitely needs to be rebuilt. We will have various small equipment items--a few trim saws and some electric motors. The electric motors are 12v and 110v. We do take donations of equipment and supplies with the proceeds going to RGMS.

We also allow our Society members to sell their own equipment at the show. Anyone who wishes to sell their own items has to bring them in, set them up and stay for the entire time to sell your own stuff. We ask for a donation of 10% of sales for one 8' table. We also allow our members to sell rocks and other items at the show with the same requirements as above.

All proceeds from the show will be donated to the Building Fund for this year for our expansion project. Hopefully, the show for this year will be more successful than last year's.

After the show this year, we will again be advertising for the position of Used Equipment Sale Co-Ordinator. So, if you are interested in volunteering for the position, keep your eyes out for the email blast and notice in the Conglomerate.

If you have any questions please contact the Shop Director at [shopdirector@renogms.org](mailto:shopdirector@renogms.org).

Thanks.

**The Committee for the Used Equipment Sale:**  
President Dean Sizemore, Vice President Steven Smith, Asst. Treasurer Robyn Howard, Used Equipment Sale Team and Shop Director Patrick Davis

**Education Outreach  
Steve Norman**

The Education Outreach program made 7 classroom presentations to about 145 students. Each presentation takes about an hour. Dunn Elementary School (ES) second-grade classes, Washoe Inspire Academy ES eighth - tenth-grade class, and Mt. Rose ES 3-grade classes. The Washoe Inspire Academy had only boys who need a little extra attention and the staff and students seemed to enjoy looking at the minerals.

Classes are encouraged to do well in school and think about exciting science careers. All students are given a mineral gift and information about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society to take to their parents. We get support from the Nevada Division of Mineral with stickers, pencils, and brochures that explain to parents how to keep safe in the wild spaces of Nevada.

I want to thank **Debbie Bush** for her help and **Alan and Bobbi Metzger** for furnishing students and teachers with a polished rock

**Officers' Reports**

General Meeting and Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the Rock Building monthly. Treasurer's reports are available to any member on request. **Steve Norman**, Secretary; **Janet Longueria**, Treasurer

**Sunshine Report & Thanks  
Joanne Sworthout**

Joanne would like to thank everyone at RGMS for their support during this very difficult season. If you need support from RGMS, please contact Joanne at [sunshine@renogms.org](mailto:sunshine@renogms.org).

**January General Meeting**

**Steven Smith, Vice President**

Happy new year to you all. We start off the first general meeting on Jan. 4th 7PM at Baldini's.

We will have a show-and-tell event. Please bring in Items and share your passion around everything Gem and Minerals. This is a great time to see and share what our RGMS society is doing and what our members have a passion for. Please plan to attend and support our wonderful door prize event. I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces as we start off our new year.

Our Guest presenters schedule for our 2023 General Meetings is starting to fill up. If you have a passion for all things Gem and Minerals and would like to share with your fellow RGMS members, please let me know. I will work to get you on the presentation schedule. We like hearing from our membership, and we would like to hear about your interests. Our Guest speakers provide a vast array of information to our membership. They share their passions and knowledge with us and they are an important part of our meetings. Each presenter is allocated 30 min. with 10 min. Q/A.

An RGMS disclaimer: all information and viewpoints presented are those of the presenter. Any specific information provided during these presentations may be subject to change.

Time, availability, road conditions, directions, locations, weather, government regulations, local rules and regulations, all are subject to change over time and it is the responsibility of the member or guest to verify the above before venturing out.

Please contact me at any general meeting if you would like to share your interest with the RGMS membership at our general meetings.

**Membership**

**Janet Longueira, Director**

Membership has soared in 2022! Currently we have 541 memberships and 1007 members! We hope you are enjoying all features that RGMS has to offer. Please help us welcome all of our new members and welcome back those who have renewed recently. **NOTE:** We will be unable to accept online/credit card payments December 23 thru January 2 as there will be some restructuring behind the scenes. But we can still accept cash and checks at the Rock Building or through the mail during this time.

These are the members who have joined since our December meeting:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Arthur & Jenell Abate, Paris Muller, Jordon Grove, Chase, Melvin, Miya, Janie, Tristan, Rosie | Aimee LeMay , Michael Lavelly, Trey, Camille Elouise      |
| Laura Bishop  | Marilyn McDonald  |
| Laurie Carey  | Bruce & Sidnie Miller, Twig, Charley                      |
| Garritt Cusack  | Wynne O'Brien Persons                                     |
| Laura Hassman   | Nancy & Clifton Snyder                                    |
| Lauren Kelly  | Donna & Kurt Solomon                                      |
| Heather Kerwin  | Arissa & John Panches, Torin, Levi                        |
| Christine Lee   | Aria Torii, David Isabell, Dale Kaduk, Alicia Christensen |
|   | Jessie Ysunza & Josh Sisler                               |

Don't forget to renew for 2023 if you haven't yet. It promises to be a great new year at RGMS!

**2022 RGMS HOLIDAY POTLUCK**  
**Denise Sizemore, (Retired) Social Director**

OMGoodness, another RGMS Holiday Potluck for the memory books! I have an overwhelmed heart at the moment. What a lovely party!

So many familiar faces and a lot of new faces, too. RGMS is sure growing. 50 people braved the rainy weather with some of the yummiest foods in hand. I have a tie this year as to what my favorites were—those Crockpot Meat Balls and the fresh Baked Breads. YUMMY!!! We had about 10 kiddos, and don'tcha know, Santa was right on with those gifts. The smiles where so big.

Watching the gift exchange is always a highlight for me. Some of those gifts, just WOW!

Thank you to all my helper elves that helped put this together: **Dean Sizemore, Terry Bush, Lori Connel, Eric Fendelander, Janet & Albie Longueira, Nanette & Philip Mentz, and Sherry Hayes.** Hopefully, I didn't forget anyone, THANK YOU ALL!!! And all those full bellied people that stayed to help clean up. Thanks so very much! That was a record cleanup time!! A round of applause to our two photographers **Steve Smith** and **Phillipp Weirauch**, great memory photos! You brought the warmth and love of the evening back to life for me! Oh, and lets not forget—SANTA! Wherever you are—WE BELIEVE!

I also want to take a moment to say "Thank you" to all who have reached out to me and Dean in the weeks after the party. We love you all and are so happy to be part of such a wonderful group of people.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and lots of Blessings in 2023.



Photos: Steven Smith and Philipp Weirauch

## Kid's Corner

### Sand for Something

Steve Norman & Steve Rose  
(retired geologist)

Sand is what you get when rocks are broken up by various kinds of weathering and erosion. This process can be by rushing water in rivers and streams, by ocean currents or waves, by freezing and thawing, by wind-blown particles, or even by the grinding of glaciers. Rock fragments much bigger than sand grains are called *gravel* or *conglomerate* and, if smaller, *silt* or, if really small, *clay*. Sand is usually a mixture of minerals that came from the source rocks, perhaps like the many kinds of sedimentary, volcanic, and metamorphic rocks exposed in Nevada mountain ranges. Sand is an important industrial mineral. For example, millions of tons are used annually in the construction industries or, where pure quartz sand is mined, to manufacture glass.<sup>1</sup>

Accumulations of sand reflect the source of the eroded material. In some cases, the source results in distinctive features, like pure, white-quartz sand beaches, or the snow-white dunes at White Sands, New Mexico that are nearly 100% grains of gypsum from nearby outcrops of that mineral. Some beaches in Hawaii and other tropical areas are made up of grains of coral and broken shells. In some beaches, up to 80% of the grains are made up of coral broken up by parrot fish as they nibble the reef and eat the coral polyps and then excrete the bits of ingested carbonate.<sup>1</sup>

Here in Nevada, the desert has a lot of sand that accumulated from blowing winds. The lake beds of now dried-up Lake Lahontan, which once covered much of Western Nevada, are the source of many wind-blown sand features. How many of you have seen the huge dunes at Sand Mountain a few miles east of Fallon? Pioneers crossing the Northern Nevada deserts during the gold

rush of the 1840s found crossing these flat, dry sandy lake beds difficult and the bones of thousands of animals and almost a thousand graves mark their trails.<sup>3</sup> These bones are now weathered into dust and sand to become part of new dunes and layers of sediments.

References: <sup>1</sup>oceanservice.noaa.gov Kidadl on 19 October 2021 By Joseph Castro published May 28, 2013. <sup>2</sup>Forty-Mile Desert Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Retrieved April. State Historical Marker No. 26. <sup>3</sup> David F. Coppedge.

## From the RGMS Librarian

### April Young

1. I would like to thank everyone who donated to the library for the wonderful books and magazines.
2. I would also like to request that ALL the library books that are currently checked out be returned for the beginning of the 2023-year inventory by the last day of January, please.
3. I WILL BE AT THE ROCK BUILDING FOR OPEN HOUSE on Mondays from 2pm to 8pm.

## Amazon Smile

If you are a regular Amazon customer, please support RGMS by signing up for Amazon Smile. 1/2% of all eligible purchases goes to **Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.** when you set up an Amazon Smile account. Simply specify Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. as your charity of choice. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. Thank you.

**UPDATE: January 2023: New Classroom Expansion and Tenant Improvement**

**Project Manager: Patrick Davis and LLC Manager: Linda Johnston**

As Project Manager of the New Classroom Expansion and LLC Manager of the Rock Building, we would like to take a moment to again explain what the new expansion entails, and why we are doing what we are doing. We actually do have a plan. LOL.

We are definitely expanding into the building unit next door at 1690 Pittman Avenue, formerly leased by Ace Motorcycle. This allows us to keep our existing space and address at 480 S. Rock Blvd. It also allows us to have to build out only half as much space, which again saves us lots of money.

**For your information and background.**

The new classroom expansion area is classified as a tenant improvement (TI) with the City of Sparks Building Department. As a commercial tenant, even though we own the building, we are required by law to obtain a building permit. We are also required to use an authorized, licensed Architect and General Contractor for the project. We are in the process of doing that at this time. We have been collaborating with the architect for a number of months due to the complexity of the issues that we were facing in the various units. Most of those issues are now resolved and we are almost done with the plans.

**Why are we doing an expansion ?**

The expansion of the home of The Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. has been in the works since the Society purchased the building in October of 2018. As many of you who have visited the building recently know, it is readily apparent that we are outgrowing the space we currently occupy. In addition, the classrooms are sometimes very busy with holding different classes at the same time in the limited space that we have. This makes it noisy and a bit busy with interruptions. We plan to have every class in its own classroom.

**Why has it taken this long to expand ?**

After purchasing the building and creating an LLC so that we can manage the building for profit, the funds generated over the last few years were spent on major repairs to the building.

A new roof was installed, many new doors and windows have been put in, and the outside of the building has been painted. Various repair projects were undertaken in other parts of the building to get units into better shape for our tenants for the foreseeable future. And we are currently doing a few projects to make things better for our tenants.

**Why are we doing the expansion now ?**

Before RGMS purchased the building, the previous property owners, who were Society members, allowed the Society to pay a minimal amount of rent for the space that we had occupied over many years. This allowed the Society to save and save, which ultimately allowed us to buy the building. This was definitely a good thing as we now pay an extremely low rent for the almost 5000 square feet that we will be occupying when the expansion is done.

Continued next page

## **UPDATE: January 2023: New Classroom Expansion and Tenant Improvement**

**Project Manager: Patrick Davis and LLC Manager: Linda Johnston**

So, after purchasing the building, over the last 4 years the Society was able to save funds from the rentals of the other units in the building and put those funds towards the above mentioned projects. Now we are able to put the majority of those funds into the new tenant improvement project in the former Ace Motorcycle unit.

As some of you know who attend the Board Meetings or read the minutes, our tax advisor and enrolled agent, **Will Hitchcock**, gives us advice on how much money we need to spend each year. This help allows the Society to confidently pay the least amount that we can in taxes. The Society is currently at a point where we either spend the funds over the next couple of years on this project or pay taxes on it. That is why we are trying to do the early phases of the expansion now.

### **Why are we moving into the space previously occupied by Ace Motorcycle ?**

The Society first thought of moving into the last 2 units of the building which are actually on Pittman Drive. Over many conversations with the Architect and the City of Sparks, we realized that this was not feasible as the costs were way too high to do that. The City of Sparks was going to require us to fix, install and build too many items for our budget. The costs were estimated to be too prohibitive for the Society to expand into those two units.

While we were looking at the 2 end units, I had a casual conversation with **Jerry at Ace Motorcycle**. He offered to move into the last unit and give up the unit that they were in to help us out. By doing so, we estimate that he has helped to save the Society \$200,000 to \$250,000 dollars. That is the estimated difference between moving into the last 2 units or keeping our current unit and expanding next door.

In appreciation of his offer to do move, the Society cleaned up the last unit, fixed a lot of items that needed repairs and painted the unit. We were able to do this for an exceedingly small sum which again saves us a lot of funds to put towards the new project.

By the way, in addition to moving, **Jerry**, his wife **Patty**, and all of their friends completely moved their entire inventory by themselves without the Society's help. Please thank Jerry and his wife Patty if you happen to see them at their business. With their help, this will definitely aid the Society in achieving many of our long range plans.

### **Where are we on the current Expansion ?**

Ace Motorcycle is now completely moved into the last unit of the building at 1680 Pittman Avenue. The Society has taken over their former digs at 1690 Pittman Avenue.

We still have a few things to finish in the unit that Ace Motorcycle is now occupying. We are also beginning to fix some things in our new unit because it is not in good condition. We are allowed to make small repairs, clean up, and paint the new unit without a permit.

2690 Pittman is now our new expansion unit. Last summer we used the unit for storage and staging for the Jackpot of Gems show in September. We had the best JPOG show to date in the 60 years that we have been doing the Jackpot of Gems Show.

Continued next page

**UPDATE: January 2023: New Classroom Expansion and Tenant Improvement**

**Project Manager: Patrick Davis and LLC Manager: Linda Johnston**

After we get all of our ideas tentatively approved by the City of Sparks, we will submit everything we need to obtain a permit and go from there.

**What is the timeline for the Expansion?**

We are hoping to turn our project in for permit to the City of Sparks sometime around the beginning of January 2023. It might take 2 to 3 months for us to have the permit approved as everything to do with building in the Sparks area is very slow and backed up.

The Rock Building LLC is continuing to put away funds for their part of the project. The donations to our RGMS Building Fund continue to go up monthly. At this time, we have approximately \$58,000.00 in the Building Fund. However, we do need more donations to pay for new cabinets, countertops and specialty equipment that we would like to purchase to adequately furnish the new classrooms appropriately. We are looking to receive around \$150,000 in donations to the Building Fund.

Please help us out and continue to donate to our Building Fund. Thank you for any previous and future donations. We are also taking donations from businesses. If you feel comfortable asking your employer to donate to our Society, please do so. We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization that is conducting business as a non-profit and we do give charitable letters for donations.

It would be great to have the funds to completely finish the project within the next year. I am hoping to have the expansion completely done and signed off by the end of 2023. However, we will have to wait until the Architect and the various engineers decide what we need to do to satisfy the Building Code used by the City of Sparks. After we have an approved set of plans, we will bid out the various projects and see where we are with our funding and schedule.

We are starting to work on projects that we can do during the permit process, and we will be cleaning up the existing space and painting it over the next couple of months along with other improvements.

We hope that this has answered a number of questions that our members have and has quashed a few rumors that might be floating around. I believe that this will be the biggest project that the Society has ever undertaken. We will continue to update the Society members quarterly with our progress.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and hopefully understand where we are on our Building Project.

## School Report

Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

You must register for the following classes by responding to me, Julie Hilsabeck, at [school@renogms.org](mailto:school@renogms.org) before class starts. Please be aware that class size is limited and spaces fill quickly. So, if you want to attend a class, respond soon!

### **Mondays:**

**Open House:** 11:00am to 9:00pm. Fee is \$7.50/hour.

**Tuesdays: These classes begin before the general meeting.**

**Beginning Lapidary:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Mandatory Safety class 11-1-22 at 12:30pm. Class fee is \$60.00.

**Beginning Lapidary:** 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Mandatory Safety class 11-1-22 at 6:00pm. Class fee is \$60.00.

**Slab Saw Use:** 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Class fee is \$60.00.

**Beginning Silver Fabrication:** 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Class fee is \$120.00. 3 Tuesday evenings and 1 Wednesday evening.

**Wednesdays: So does the first tumbling class.**

**Tumbling:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Class fee is \$60.00.

**Wire Wrapping:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Class fee is \$60.00. Class will be held November 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

**Thursdays: Check the email blast for dates and times or sign up at the general meeting. .**

**Beginning Silver Fabrication:** 11:00am to 2:00pm. Class fee is \$120.00.

**Casting Classes.:** Check the email blast for dates and times

**.Advanced Silver Fabrication:** 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Class fee is \$90.00. Check date on the calendar.

**Saturdays: Check the email blast for dates and times or sign up at the general meeting**

**Sunday January 15—double check date on the calendar.**

**Beading:** Beginning beaded bezel. Sign up at the General Meeting. Will need to learn peyote stitch as part of the class. Materials are a round rivoili (easier) or an oval cab, a tube of complementary size 11 seed beads and another of same color size 15 seed beads. No cabs of any other shape, please. Experienced beaders may bring other cabs, but will work mostly on their own.

**Special days:**

**CFMS/AFMS Shows 2023**

**Additional information is available on the CFMS website, [cfmsinc.org/shows](http://cfmsinc.org/shows)**

**February 18-19, 2023 – Antioch, CA 94509**

Antioch Lapidary Club  
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St. Antioch, CA 94509

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and Sunday  
Contact: (925) 301-6957, [edysnyder@gmail.com](mailto:edysnyder@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

**February 25-26, 2023 – Vallejo, CA**

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: 10 AM-5 PM  
Contact: (415) 254-1506, [ddahonvgms@gmail.com](mailto:ddahonvgms@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://vjgems.co/>

**March 4-5, 2023 – Ventura, CA**

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA

Hours: Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
Contact: (805) 312-8467, [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

**March 11-12, 2023 -Turlock, CA**

Mother Lode Mineral Show  
Stanislaus Co. Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock, CA  
Contact: [bwendx2@yahoo.com](mailto:bwendx2@yahoo.com)  
Website: <http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

**March 3, 4 & 5, 2023, Newark, CA**

Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave., Newark, CA  
Contact: [showchair@mgscv.org](mailto:showchair@mgscv.org) Website: <http://mgscv.org>

**March 10-12, 2023 – Stoddard Wells**

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
47th Annual Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate  
Contact (760) 245-2330 - leave a message  
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

**March 18-19, 2023 – Lemoore, CA**

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Club  
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion St., Lemoore, CA  
Website: <https://facebook.com/AndLemoore>

**March 24-26, 2023 – Clovis, CA**

Fresno Gem and Mineral Society  
The Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 748 Rodeo Dr., Clovis CA 93612  
Website: <https://www.fgms.online>

**March 25-26, 2023 – Angeles Camp, CA**

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Show  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun Club Rd., Angeles Camp, CA 95222  
Contact: (262) 348-6804, [clairemathison1@gmail.com](mailto:clairemathison1@gmail.com) Website: <http://calaverasgemandmineralsociety.net>

**March 18-19, 2023 – San Jose, CA**

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds,  
344 Tully Rd, San Jose, CA 95111  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

**June 10-11, 2023 – Escondido, CA**

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club  
The Convention Center at the California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido, CA 92025  
Contact: [tonifloyd41615@gmail.com](mailto:tonifloyd41615@gmail.com) Website: <http://palomargem.org>

**June 23-25—Lodi, CA**

California Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies  
Grape and Harvest Festival Grounds, Lodi, CA  
Contact Bob Rush, [rocksbob@sbcglopbal.net](mailto:rocksbob@sbcglopbal.net)

**Volunteering**  
**Terry Bush (outgoing director)**

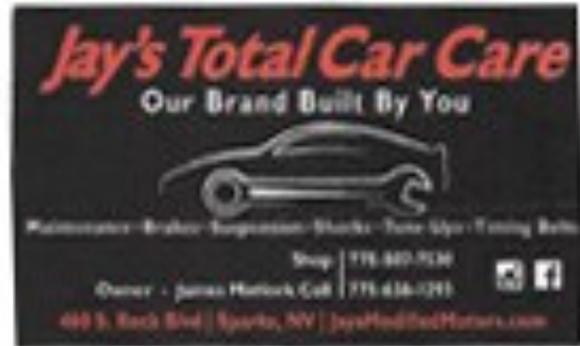
As of December 14, Incoming volunteer director **Wendy Kazas** and I are compiling a list of day-to-day tasks that members can volunteer for. What we need from all of you is a list of any and all tasks that people other than board members can accomplish. No task is too small as we are trying to get as many members engaged as possible. That being said please also list tasks that you feel may require more than one person to accomplish. Please list everything that comes to mind. Wendy and I will weed out the repeats and come up with a final task list for the February Conglomerate that can also be used for sign-ups at general meetings. Stay Tuned!

**Ichthyosaur Fossil Mystery Solved??**

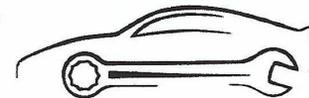
**Sue Webb, Editor**

The Smithsonian Institution recently published an article on their website about a report from *Current Biology* theorizing about why ichthyosaur fossils are found in such a large deposit at Nevada's Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. The researchers also dismiss earlier theories about climate or ecological disasters and vulcanism killing large numbers of these animals. Researchers Neil Kelley, Peter Buck, and Nicholas Pyenson propose that these fossil-rich deposits were actually ancient birthing locations for these gigantic creatures. In support, they point to examples of how present-day whales also return year after year to specific locations to birth their young. Also cited in support is the absence of juvenile ichthyosaur fossils whereas infant and embryonic fossils are present. To read the complete article go to

<http://https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/paleontologists-uncover-birthing-ground-for-earths-first-ocean-giants-180981320/>



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Lori Connel	Albie Longueira	<b>Available</b>
Stephanie Leonard	Jim Wellker	<b>Available</b>
Theresa Langhans		

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<b>Social:</b>	Debbie Bush	<a href="mailto:social@renogms.org">social@renogms.org</a>
<b>Sunshine:</b>	Joanne Sworthout	<a href="mailto:sunshine@renogms.org">sunshine@renogms.org</a>
<b>Tech Director</b>	Breia Sanders	<a href="mailto:tech@renogms.org">tech@renogms.org</a>
<b>Volunteers</b>	Wendy Kazas	<a href="mailto:volunteers@renogms.org">volunteers@renogms.org</a>

## ***Volunteer Page***

A new feature in the *Conglomerate*, this space will feature those members who are not officers or directors but who regularly volunteer their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways, or sometimes in addition to serving as an officer or director. Please thank them for their service if you see them at the Rock Building or at the meeting. You will notice that some members serve in more than one capacity—for example, Steve Norman has 3 jobs—count ‘em. A number of others are doing 2. Think you might find time to do just one job? There are several available.

Used Equip, Sale Coord.	<b>Patrick Davis</b>
Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter	Joanne Sworthout
Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord	Denise Sizemore,
Assistant Door Prize Coord.	Lori Connel
Educational Outreach	Steve Norman
Future Rockhounds Advisor	Steve Norman
JPOG Silent Auction	Available
Facility Expansion	Patrick Davis
JPOG Dealer Chair	Terry Bush
Safety Officer	Spencer Ennis

### Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

<i>Bead weaving:</i>	Sue Webb
<i>Casting:</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Jewelry 101 &amp; Cold Connections</i>	Robyn Howard
<i>Lapidary</i>	Julie Hilsabeck Barbara Hartman
<i>Lost Wax Carving</i>	Tim Steeper
<i>Mineral ID</i>	Webb Varnum
<i>Silver Fabrication (Adv.)</i>	Jill Atkins Al Bolshazy
<i>Silver Fabrication (Beg.)</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Slab saw</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>Tumbling</i>	Janet & Albie Longueira
<i>Wire Art</i>	Ginger Ragazzi
<i>Etching</i>	Irene Comstock

**RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
*A Non-Profit, 501(c)3 Educational Corporation*  
 480 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks, NV 89431  
**2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP DUES for January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

Fields marked with an \* are required fields. Additionally, please fill in any information that has changed from last year. If you would like a hard copy of the Conglomerate or Badges, please fill out the appropriate field at the bottom of the form. Thank You for becoming a member with RGMS. We exist through your support.

**New Membership**                       **Renewal Membership**                       **Other**

* Please circle type	INDIVIDUAL \$35.00	FAMILY \$50.00	STUDENT \$25.00 with valid student ID
----------------------	-----------------------	-------------------	---

\*NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAME(S) OF FAMILY MEMBERS under age 18 participating in RGMS activities                      School age? Yes / No

\*MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ \*STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ \*ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*MESSAGE PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Conglomerate**, our monthly newsletter, will be emailed free of charge with your membership.

*We exist due to the generosity of our volunteers. Please list skills or talents you possess and could volunteer to the Society.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID</b>	\$ _____
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<b>BADGES</b> (optional) \$10.00 each	# _____ X \$10.00	\$ _____
NAMES ON BADGES _____		

<b>CONGLOMERATE</b> MONTHLY NEWSLETTER will be emailed free of charge with your membership.		
If you would prefer a printed copy, please complete below and include the appropriate amount in your check.		
Complete printed version (b & w) sent by US mail	\$30.00	\$ _____

<b>Office Use Only</b>
*Check # _____ Cash _____ CC _____
Application Date _____
_____ Add to Roster
_____ Send welcome letter w/conglomerate
_____ Email names to Sue / Sven
_____ Deposit
_____ Order badges if requested

<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____
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<b>Yes! I want to donate to the Reno Gem and Mineral Society</b>	Date: _____
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