



# The Conglomerate

The Monthly Newsletter of the Reno  
Gem and Mineral Society

JUNE 2022

## General Meeting

Wed. June 1, 7pm

Baldini's Second Floor

## Board Meeting

Wed. June 8, 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:** free to members.

**Paper version,** \$30 paid in advance.

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dean Sizemore*

Well, we've hit half a year already; truly, where does the time go? I can tell you here at RGMS it can't help but fly by. Between the General Meeting, the Board Meeting, building expansion, JPOG coming sooner than we can imagine, field trips & classes there's so much to do.

We're halfway through May as I write this and the survey is going very well, I thank you all for taking the time to provide us the feedback. So far, our positive rating in all categories is over 87%, I'll take that every day of the week. The survey finishes up at the end of May, so I'll have an overview at the July General Meeting and in that month's President's letter. Since our June meeting is on the first, there won't be time to summarize it for the next day.

The Gabbs field trip was a great success. The petrified tree they've found is massive, and *massive* might not even be a big-enough word. Thank you to **Kayla** and our other young members leading trips and stepping up into leadership positions. It's been a big goal of ours to attract a younger group and to enjoy their energy and watch them grow into becoming the future, while they learn from our older members (I be one) and tap into the knowledge we have here.

Jackpot of Gems is fast approaching, and we are ramping up. Most of the leadership volunteers are in place--thank you all so much. Sign-ups will begin for all the positions that are needed to make it the success it is every year. A few of our board members are heading to Las Vegas this month to attend the gem show down there and learn from them. They have about twice the vendors, and have been kind enough to offer us a spot at the show and a chance to meet them and their vendors.

Enjoy the trips this summer; come join us for a few weekends and day trips. Don't forget the suggestion box at the General Meeting. We look forward to your continued interaction with the board members. You're the reason we do all that we do. Thank you for participating in everything, and consider taking on a leadership role. We need you.

I was glad to see many of you at the annual picnic. **Denise Sizemore** and her happy helpers worked hard to be ready for it.

I want to thank **Sue Webb** for nominating Denise and me for Rockhounds of the Year. It was quite a surprise, and we appreciate you all so much. Can't wait to enjoy the warm weather and friendships. Happy June

**2022 RGMS PICNIC**

**Denise Sizemore,**  
**RGMS.socialdirector@gmail.com**

Our 2022 Picnic Potluck was such a success with 50 plus people attending and so many people pitching in donating Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Buns, Side Dishes, and Desserts galore. And that bow-tie pasta – Yummy!!!

I couldn't pull this off if it wasn't for all the help from my assistant **Lori Connel** and our cooks **Eric Fendelander** and **Dean Sizemore**. And let's not forget all those that came early and helped set up, and our Hostesses, and all those that stayed after and helped clean everything up. Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

I think everyone had fun with the Bingo games and the raffle. I looked back at the *Conglomerate* for September 2018 and they had many a wild Bingo ball rolling across the floor then, too. Thank you again to all those who donated their time creating items and donating all the rocks, slabs, cabs & more...

AND... let's not forget the BBQ that gave its life for the cause!!! (See pic. 5)

I so look forward to seeing you all at our Annual 2022 Holiday Potluck. I will solidify the date very soon and get that out to you so you can add it to your Holiday gatherings calendar.

#3



#4



#5



#6



#1



#2



All Picnic Photos: Denise Sizemore

**Field Trips  
Scheduled**

**Education Outreach  
Steve Norman**

**Field Trip leaders have not sent specific information about June trips in time for the Conglomerate**, but watch your email and/or social media for a blast containing details of where to meet and where the sites are for camping. Remember to top off your gas in Fallon or Hawthorne and bring lots to drink and food for the time you will be rockhounding. Some of the roads we will be traveling may be rough dirt roads. If you will need high clearance and/or 4 wheel drive will be made clear in the blast. Car pool could be available. Be ready to have a good time. See you there

**Scheduled Trips**

June 4 & 5  
Peterson Mountain, \$200 fee dig  
3 available on 4th, 17 on 5th  
**Eric Fendelander**, contact person

June 10, 11, 12th:  
Overnight  
Berlin, NV  
Fossils, agate, chalcedony  
**Hillary**, trip leader  
(New location)

July 8,9,10,11th:  
Overnight  
Texas Springs  
Pink Petrified wood and more  
**Eric Fendelander**, trip leader (5 yrs ago last trip)

Sept 16, 17, 18, 19:  
Overnight  
McDermitt  
Geodes, jasper, petrified wood, picture stone.  
Leader TBD

Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 3,  
Overnight  
Black Rock Desert  
Geodes, chalcedony, agates, petrified wood and more

The Education Outreach program made classroom presentations to Pine MS (Middle School), Juniper ES (Elementary School), United Cerebral Palsy, Hidden Valley ES, and Greenbrae ES. There were 255 students/adults. I gave a couple of classes today and had two fourth grade students come up to me after the class and thank me for telling them about rocks and minerals. It is that kind of thing that makes it so worthwhile to talk to students. Students love to learn about new things and rocks and minerals are all around them so it is a fun topic. The first thing that I ask a class is if they like rocks and minerals? Just about everybody raises their hands or shouts "yes". I am reminded that it is sometimes the little things that influence a student to pursue education in a particular field and I am hopeful that some may pursue science education. Students are given a mineral gift and information to take to their parents about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. We get support from the Nevada Division of Mineral with stickers, pencils, and brochures that inform parents how to keep safe by not going into abandoned mines. Thanks to Debbie Bush for her assistance and Albie and Janet Longueira for furnishing students with a polished tumbled rock as a gift. They love them and many may start a collection of their own.

**June Meeting Announcement**

Please join us for our June meeting where RGMS member **Breia Sanders** will present information on our Facebook and social media accounts. Come learn how these platforms have become very important to RGMS and learn how you will be able to access your conglomerate newsletter in the future. Our door prize theme will be Down By The Sea: Shells, crafts, fossils, etc. I hope to see ya at Baldini's.

**Field Trips**  
**Gabbs, May 14-15, 2022**



Photos: Steve Smith, RGMS Photographer & VP

## **Volunteer Report**

**Terry Bush, Volunteer Director**

We still need volunteers to step up to fill the following positions. If you volunteer, keep track of your hours. You **MAY** be able to get credit for them on your 2022 IRS tax return.

**Jackpot of Gems Silent Auction Chairman** – The chairman guides a committee of volunteers collecting, cataloging and labeling donations for the auction and runs the auction at the JPOG show.

**Facility Director** – Responsible for coordinating building repairs and upkeep and working with the Security Director to maintain security of our facilities.

**Assistant to the Secretary** – Work with our current Secretary (Steve Norman) to attend and take notes of various meetings that that require a record.

**Shop Director** – Responsible for the necessary equipment and supplies for and maintenance of equipment needed for classes and other shop uses as approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Officers' Reports**

The 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; **Robyn Howard**, Treasurer.

## **Amazon Smile**

**Robyn Howard, Treasurer**

### **Generate Donations**

Are you a regular Amazon shopper?  
Support us by signing up for



1/2% of all eligible purchases goes to  
**Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc**

- ◇ no fees, no extra cost.
- ◇ Completely free to you.

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/>

## **Can you help a member?**

Hello,

I'm a member who will be moving back to the East in July. I live in Lovelock and have collected quite a few local specimens while here – agate, selenite, rhyolite, etc.

I also brought a wide variety of other rocks/minerals from the East and elsewhere.

I need to sell all I can, due to the expense of sending them back home and am hoping that you can spread the word to club members. I can be reached by phone (203) 285-5427, or [e-mail](#). Also, if sales don't happen, I would be willing to donate to the club or other sources.

Gary Stewart

[agstewart@live.com](mailto:agstewart@live.com)

**Membership**  
*Janet Longueira, Director*

**New Members for June:**

Robert (Bob) & Gail Aldrich  
Mary & Jim, Mason, Roxie, Dean Bellisimo  
Erika Bennett Larry Briggs  
Scott & Elizabeth Cattanaach  
Haiden Clayton  
Irene Comstock  
Dan Coughlin  
Susan Coughlin  
Trish Koch, and Luc, Jason, Jaxon, Miranda,  
Hunter, Lacey, & Madison  
Brad Morse  
Connor New  
Megan Nordin & Eric Day  
Timothy Salisbury  
Dawn Schuyler  
Dean Welder  
Karen Welder

**Returning members:**

Heidi Dafler-Hall  
Rhonda Hanson & Donna Miller  
Richard & Julie Shupe

**RGMS Rockhouonds of the  
Year, 2022  
Dean & Denise Sizemore**



**Testimonial for RGMS  
Classes**  
*Ann Marie McCann*

Dear Janet,

Thank you so much for teaching the tumbling class. I am so glad that I signed up for it and would like to share the following reasons why.

As a new member to RGMS, it gave me the chance to be introduced to other members and to learn to be comfortable within the workshop.

Having purchased, but not opened the box to a rock tumbler, your input reinforced that I made a good decision on my purchase. You also went into things that the Lortone manual did not, such as detailed maintenance and what type of oil to use (the manual just reference a lightweight oil).

I also gained confidence. Yes, I could have researched how to tumble rocks on the internet and watched YouTube videos (we all know that the internet ONLY has the truth—LOL), but I gained so much more. I learned from your experiences. I would have made so many errors, except you gave me the information beforehand so I wouldn't make the errors. You also set my expectations on what I should see after each stage and the reasons why.

I've taken this information and used it with my grandchildren and my own machine at home.

This class was invaluable, and I liken it to the lapidary class that I'm taking now. (I also have a lapidary machine at home, but it's so wonderful to have an experienced member of RGMS providing their experience and guidance).

The cost of this class is so reasonable; I think it's a great way to introduce people to rock tumbling and to RGMS.

Thanks again!

Ann Marie

## **About Camp Paradise**

**Parts 1-7**

**Jill Atkins, Camp Paradise Instructor**

If you're just now learning about Camp Paradise, let me bring you up to speed. Each year the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies sponsor two "Jewelry Camps". One is located in Southern California and the other is located in Northern California. Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra, from Reno, it is a 2.5-hour drive. From other clubs it may be closer or farther. The camp was built in the 1950's and harkens back to another era of mess halls, dorms and a flag pole in the middle of camp. It is charming in its rusticity.

During this one-week (or two week) camp the jewelry arts are taught including silversmithing, lapidary, Ming trees, casting, bead making, wire wrapping, enameling, faceting, precious metal clay, glass making and stone carving. For the cost of \$425.00 per week, students get their housing, great and plentiful meals and all the classes listed above. I would be hard pressed to find a better bargain if the jewelry arts are your bag. If you ever went to camp as a child, it will bring back fond memories.

As you enter the property, there is a flag pole surrounded by rocks in the middle of the camp. To the left is the mess hall and beyond that are the men's and women's dorms. To the right is the couples' dorm. Past the flag pole and up the road a bit is "the barn". (More about that below.). Next to the barn is a wonderful swimming pool. Yes, we certainly do suffer at Paradise. The property is surrounded by a forest of trees and the air is sweet.

Once we check in with Heidi it is time to go to our assigned rooms and unpack, have a look around and greet old and new friends. This is some of the best of times because we learn about the other people we will be spending so much time with over the next week. "Where do you come from? What are you here to learn? Where do you want to start tomorrow? How many times have you been to the camp?" All these questions and more.

Dinner is at 5:30 and we line up to get our plates and utensils and to rubberneck about what is being served. The food is hot, delicious and plentiful. Once served, we find a table and begin new relationships or reconnect with old friends.

We have camp directors. After dinner they explain the rules and let us know what to expect for the next week. The rules are few and easy to abide by. They then invite everyone to the barn. Ahh, the barn. Myths and legend are created there as well as beautiful jewelry. All right, I'm lying about the myths and legends, but I can assure you that beautiful items are created.

If any of this piques your curiosity then I hope you will put money aside every month for the next few months so you can be a part of this creative adventure. Next, I will describe the barn and all the wonders it holds.

### Part 2

In Part 1, I described the physical layout of Paradise jewelry camp. Here I want to tell you about "The Barn".

If you remember, it is located up a little rise. Just before you get to the barn itself there is a swimming pool to the right. On the concrete pad outside the barn is the lapidary area. Two rows of tables are set with trim saws (2), a large Titan grinding/polishing machine, numerous Genie grinding/polishing machines, an Elk hide polisher, a bigger polisher...well, you get the drift. Tom is in charge of this area. Let me tell you a little about Tom. He has been a lapidarist for more years than he wants me to tell you. Talk about the Stone Age. Yes, pun intended.

## ***Camp Paradise—Continued***

In years past there was also stone carving in this area and it may again return in the future. Diamond Pacific has always been generous in lending machines to the students and Tom provides his expertise to teach students how to make a perfect cabochon. Once you have done that, the sky's the limit with what you can do in stone cutting and jewelry making.

Before we go into the barn, I should point out that next to the mess hall is the soft stone carving area taught by Tammi, who is young at heart. Nestled under the shade of the trees, she gently guides your decision making about what you want to create. A little (or maybe not so little) soap stone, some hand tools or maybe electric tools, and you are on your way to making your vision a reality.

Also, in this area and situated inside the mess hall is the faceting area. Yes, the fascinating faceting. Gary Gooch teaches this and is a pro. Don't tell him I said so! Don't let his kind demeanor fool you. He is a tiger when it comes to faceting.

Here the students learn how to make stones flat as opposed to lapidary where they teach making stones domed. Ahem...I digress. If you have ever seen the difference between a rough stone just from the ground and that same stone faceted, then you know that this is magical. The way the light is captured and bounces back to you is a sight to behold. You can do that in this class,

It looks like I didn't get to the barn again here, but I will endeavor to do that next month. Keep saving that money until you decide to go, and you will have your entry fee to a world of creativity.

### Part 3

I started my jewelry career here at Reno Gem and Mineral Society. I didn't know what an exciting, creative, wonderful time I would have making jewelry. I have bought DVDs, gone to jewelry school classes, but can honestly say that I learn more from my weeks at Paradise jewelry camp than by any other mode. I am happy to tell you more about what you too can learn at Paradise.

In Part 2, I was planning to tell you about "The Barn". Now I will actually begin telling you about it because there is a lot to learn.

When you walk in the barn, to your immediate right is the beginning silversmith class. Through the ages silver and gold have always captured people's interest. It has intrinsic value, but more than that a silversmith can take a flat piece of metal and turn it into a thing of beauty. This class sets you on the road to doing just that. Taught by Steve (one of the nicest guys you will meet), he will guide you from how to hold a saw to cutting metal, working a torch, what solder does, the dos and don'ts of pickle (and what pickle is) to cleaning metal and polishing your finished piece. When you are done, you have a piece of jewelry of which you can be proud.

Just beyond the beginning silver fabricating area is the advanced silversmithing taught by Moi, Jill, who will help you achieve your goals in silversmithing. This is where you earn your stripes as a silversmith. If you have taken beginning silver classes elsewhere this is your chance to polish those skills. (Pun intended.) In addition to Jill, your fellow students add to the collective information available--and not only in class. Countless times throughout the week you will find, get, make opportunities to talk with other students about a jewelry problem you have, or you may share a solution to someone else's problem. Camp Paradise is the answer place and the sharing place. You could wear a diamond tiara and no one looks askance at you. The first question they ask is, "Did you make that?" And the other question is, "How did you do that?"

You know what I'm going to say next. Keep saving that moola for a while longer and you will be well on your way to joining in this wonderful educational opportunity.

### Part 4



## ***Camp Paradise—Continued***

In Part 3, I told you about silversmithing. It is located just inside the barn door on the right. Walking past beginning and advanced silversmithing, you come to Pat who teaches Ming Trees. (Pat is hilarious and very kind.)

You might ask, "What does Ming Trees have to do with jewelry?" I'll tell you. Not all the jewelry arts are about necklaces and bracelets. If you think it is, I think you could talk to a guy named Faberge'--if you talk to the dead. He was a wonderful jeweler but you couldn't wear his eggs 'round your neck. Pat will teach you how to create trees from wire, stones, rocks, cement and you will walk away amazed that you made such a wonderful thing. Each year I try to make one tree and now have a virtual forest. Beyond the trees though, is also the ability to make necklaces and brooches. See where I'm going here? She expands the realm of possibility. For those of you who have children, this is a great project to take home to them so they too can explore possibilities.

The next section past Pat is bead making. Some of you work with beads...this class, taught by Dena, (a happy gal if ever there was one and very helpful) shows you how to make the beads. Rods of colored glass melted by the flame from your torch create a story not yet told. As do most of the instructors, Dena has tools and supplies for sale so you can continue your journey into bead making when you return home. What will you be known for in your own bead making? Flowers, people, mermaids, cylinders...the sky's the limit...really, I don't think you can make a sky but maybe you can!

I hope you keep reading this journey of exploring Camp Paradise. Keep saving that \$\$ every month.

### Part 5

To continue in the barn...beyond Dena's bead making area you come to the dichroic glass and silver metal clay area, taught by Judi Gooch who is wonderful and also Karin who is also wonderful. You are in good hands. To say that this area produces spectacular work is an understatement. Judy and Karin teach their students how to cut glass, assemble that glass on a base, add refinements and then slump it in a kiln. The result is a piece that rivals the finest jewels. Add a finding and a neck piece and you wear a beautiful new piece of jewelry. They also teach precious metal clay. If you don't want to learn silversmithing and you want to make jewelry incorporating a stone, then this is the class for you. Your stone is set into the clay before firing and when it has finished firing you just polish and wear. Easy, peasy--sort of. This is jewelry making after all, and nothing is that easy, but Judy and Karin take you through the process to completion. And they are pretty cool gals to boot.

### Part 6

So far, I have covered the layout of the camp, that the food is great, the accommodations rustic, and over all there is no better bargain than \$425.00 for one week of learning about jewelry. But now we continue the tour of the barn. We have covered lapidary and soft stone carving and faceting. We've also learned about silversmithing both beginning and advanced as well as about Ming trees, bead making, dichroic glass and precious metal clay.

Glenn Fiala teaches wire wrapping. I don't know Glenn very well as he is new to Camp Paradise's teaching staff. But what I do know is that he is very talented. I am always surprised and amazed when I see someone take a straight piece of wire and bend it without kinks and wrap it around a stone or piece of glass. The technical skill comes through practice, but the artistic skill is innate, and that is what sets him apart in his artistry. Next to Glenn is Heidi Hall, your registrar. It is impossible to describe Heidi! Picture a volcano in a woman package, and you will recognize Heidi. Funny, talented, and a worker, Heide has it all! Heidi teaches enameling and if you are lucky, she will also teach you to make dragon eyes. I'll just leave that there.

By now I hope I have given you enough information about Camp Paradise that you will be ready to sign up for an opportunity to fine tune your artistic skills. Registration opened May 1, 2022 and you can find the application at the end of this Conglomerate issue.

**Camp Paradise—Continued**

## Part 7

This is the last installment about “The Barn”. The types of classes offered are silversmithing (beginning and advanced), Ming Trees, Bead Making, Dichroic Glass, Precious Metal Clay, Enameling and Wire Wrapping. And these are only the ones in the barn. Outside of the barn is lapidary, faceting and soft stone carving.

The last class to let you know about is casting. The casting class is taught by Joy. In this class you will learn how to create work in wax, put it in a investment mixture where it is baked and then you pour molten metal into the hardened investment for your casting. Once the investment is broken away you can see your casting. A sprue cutter takes the sprues off and your piece can be sanded and polished. Don't worry about what a sprue is. Joy will explain all. She has all the equipment you need but you may need to bring your own silver or buy from Joy. Joy also demonstrates broom casting. This is a process where silver is melted to the molten stage and then poured over a wet broom. Done in silver, copper or brass, you wear your pieces with pride because you will get lots of compliments.

This concludes the tour of Camp Paradise and The Barn. I hope you enjoyed my take on the Paradise experience and that you will join me this year for a week (or two) of creative exploration.

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If you have any questions please contact the numbers listed on the application form you will find at the end of this newsletter, or you can contact [Jill Atkins](#) or me, Terry Bush. We will have applications available at the June general meeting as well.

## **Mineral of the Month: Corundum**

### **D. W. Webb Varnum**

The family of stones, the corundums, are of great use in industry and as gem stones. They are the 2<sup>nd</sup> hardest on the hardness scale—that is, number 9 on the Mohs scale. Yet corundum is made of one of the softest metals—aluminum—and the gas, oxygen (  $\text{Si}_2\text{O}_3$  ). It is a 5-sided crystal and it is used in industry in the form of rubies to focus lasers, to cut metal, for grinding etc.

The main gem corundums are, ruby and sapphire. Corundum comes in virtually all colors of the rainbow—yellow, blue, red, pink, orange, purple, parti-colored, and colorless. But when it occurs in green the resulting extremely rare gem used to be called an “Oriental emerald.” It is still, however, a sapphire. True emeralds are composed of the much softer mineral, beryl. Most gem-grade corundum, of which rubies and sapphires are made, occurs in metamorphic rocks like schist or gneiss, and in igneous rocks like basalt or syenite.

Corundums are relatively rare in the USA, and most are found in alluvial gravels. Because beryl, the mineral most emeralds are made of, is softer than corundum, it does not stand up well to alluvial transport. However, both rubies and sapphires can be found in Montana and Wyoming as well as in North and South Carolina, and recently rubies have been found in Greenland in a mine near Aappalutton, which is named for the Greenlandic word for *red*. But rubies are so rare in North America that those gems that are found are usually snapped up by collectors.

To my knowledge the only emerald found in Nevada was found near Rye Patch and it was not a gem stone. Small gem quality beryl emeralds have also been found in Connecticut, Montana, and North and South Carolina, and Utah is the only place in the world (so far) where the extremely rare red emerald (red beryl) is found. It is worth many times more than the carat equivalent diamond. Many small red-brown corundum crystals can also be found in Northern California in the alluvial placer gold.

Sources: Wikipedia, The Emerald Source, personal knowledge

**Future Rockhounds of America  
Steve Norman**



The club met on April 16, 2022, at the Rock Building with **Sue Webb** presenting a slide presentation on plate tectonics. It was excellent and everyone learned a lot. Later the students cut out a map of Pangea and placed the continents in their present location.

**Renée Samuels** volun-

teered her time to help the students with the activities. Any Society member who wants to help teach a unit or help out contact me. Any parents who have students interested in rocks and minerals please email at [educationoutreach@renogms.org](mailto:educationoutreach@renogms.org), There will be an FRA class on May 14 from 2-4 PM. where we will be making volcanoes. It is a new class and everyone from 6 to 16 is welcomed.

**More Gabbs Photos**



**Report from CFMS Directors Meeting  
Lancaster, CA May 7, 2022  
Sue Webb, Alternate CFMS/AFMS Representative**

The **Antelope Valley GMS**, a group that has only 30 members, hosted the convention and show. Clearly, just about every member had to contribute to putting on the show. CFMS also provided some assistance as, apparently, did some nearby clubs and societies. The CA South Show Consultant, **Susan Chaisson-Wal bloom**, was the show chair.

There were 50 cases, all but 22 of which were competitive. Each day featured programs and speakers as well as vendors. Titles of some programs were “Petrified Forest of Calistoga, CA,” “The Art of Spheres: Collecting to Selling,” “The Geology of California’s National Parks,” “How to Tell Fakes and Phonies,” “The Rainbow Obsidian of Davis Creek.”

Thirty (30) vendors displayed their wares and seemed to be doing a decent business.

At the Directors’ Meeting on Saturday morning, it was announced that there were 2 entries in the All American Club contest, both of which “were excellent.” The CFMS By-laws that are online need to be updated. All of the CA cases—north, central, and south—were on display in Lancaster. The AFMS/SCFMS convention will be held in New Orleans, October 14-16. Earth Sciences camps: repairs have been made to Camp Paradise site, Zzyzx has a new director, and so it is possible there will be camp there in 2023. The Endowment Fund received \$500 from the Friday Night Cracker Barrel’s Silent Auction. To purchase AFMS Endowment Fund raffle tickets, contact Heidi Hall ([hdafler@yahoo.com](mailto:hdafler@yahoo.com)). CFMS is looking for a new person to head up the cooperative Field Trips. The Historian reported he had almost completed scanning the old CFMS records. A question was asked whether paper copies of records would be retained. The president answered that the ones that are important would be kept for 5 years. The Electronic Communication Committee reported that the newsletter would be all digital so it can be sent out to all members. The new Facilities Development Committee is now a standing committee charged with finding storage for CFMS physical assets, a location for a CFMS Museum, and locations for the Earth Sciences camps if camps cannot be continued at current locations. The Juniors director seeks input for ideas post Covid. There is a \$100 award for a high-achieving junior—under 12 and 12-18 categories. The 12-18 category had no entry this year. The award will be offered again in 2023. Keep in mind the badge program, the rock exchange, kids show activities, and bulletin contests for kids. The Rules Committee needs a larger pool of judges, also clerks. The Museum Director reported that the increase in valuation for CFMS items necessitates an increase in insurance. Program Aids needs more in-person presenters. Reno was the main society submitting a Rockhound of the Year nomination. The show consultants are working on 2024 when CFMS will also host AFMS. Eight (8) societies were reported to be delinquent and one has disbanded.

Reno was also present in the awards—Les Flynn placed second in the Adult Original Article contest, and **Sue Webb** was honored with the CFMS Golden Bear award, making 3 current RGMS members who have been so honored—**Jennifer Rhodes, Heidi Hall**, and Sue.

A copy of the program is available to anyone who wishes to see it. Email Sue at conglomerate@renogms.org with a request.

**1872 Mining Law under Review**

***Al Bolshazy, CFMS-PLAC/ALAA Rep***

In 1872 **Ulysses S. Grant** signed into law the “General Mining Law” which governs the extraction of critical and valuable minerals from federal land. On the 150th anniversary of the law, the Biden-Harris administration convened representatives from states, tribes, mining industries, environmental groups, law experts and other groups. The intent of this convention is to reform the outdated law, not to examine the law.

Environmentalists have been wreaking havoc with the forestry services, Bureau of Land Management, and other government groups. For example, dredging in California is now, and has been for several years, illegal. The miners were helping the river system by removing toxic material from the rivers and improving the environment for aquatic wildlife. Environmental groups have been successful at stopping dredging, not only in California but in other states as well.

Critical minerals needed for our national security are currently being bought from China. These minerals are used for everything from our cell phones and computers to our military weapons. Given our growing tensions with China, China can stop imports to us. We do have great resources (located in California) that can replace the Chinese minerals as long as the environmentalist and climate groups do not restrict our mining companies from extracting the minerals.

As rockhounds, we can claim mineral deposits. Will this benefit continue? It depends on how they change the law. Same with recreational rock hounding. Will that change? Don't know. I will keep an eye on this convention and see how it progresses. At some point I will ask you for your help. Hopefully, the change will not affect us or our country's security.

## **School Report**

**Julie Hilsabeck, School Director**

The following classes will have their first class before the General Meeting on June 1, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Register for the following classes via email response to me, Julie Hilsabeck at [school@renogms.org](mailto:school@renogms.org). A rapid response ensures your place in each as class size is limited.

Beginning Lapidary – 2 classes are available; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (limit of 4 new students) and 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (limited to 6 students). Classes are on Tuesdays. Mandatory safety classes occur 30 minutes prior to the first class start time. Class Fee is \$60.00 for the month and includes all tools, slabs, and equipment necessary to complete 3 calibrated cabochons.

Basics of Slab Saw Use – Tuesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Class Fee is \$60.00

Basics of Tumbling – Wednesdays, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Class fee is \$60.00 and includes all materials, tools, and equipment necessary to complete a tumbler full of polished rocks.

**NEW CLASS** Wire Wrapping, the next step. Wednesdays, 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. Class size is limited to 4 students and class fee is \$60.00. Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00pm. All tools, materials, and equipment are provided in the class fee.

There will be **no Beginning Silver Fabrication for the month of June.**

**ALL OTHER CLASSES MUST BE REGISTERED FOR AT THE GENERAL MEETING ON June 1 at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room at Baldini's.**

Open House – each Monday from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$7.50 per hour

Advanced Silver Fabrication – Thursdays 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Class fee is \$90.00. This class is primarily a work on your own with access to a master Jeweler for advice and direction. If a specific project is to be taught, then a kit fee will be required.

Casting – Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Class fee is \$120.00 which includes your materials fee.  
**No casting in June.**

Future Rockhounds of America – Saturday, June 11, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Beading with Sue – Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Class fee is \$20.00. Project is a **beaded crystal 3-D puffy heart**. Material list will be available at the June 1 General Meeting.



**NEW CLASS** Chain Making – Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Classes occur on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> only. Class fee is \$45.00 and includes all materials, tools, and equipment necessary to get 3 different chains started. **No chain making in June.**

**NEW CLASS** Cold Connections – Earrings. Class will be June 11 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Cost is \$22.50 plus a \$5.00 kit fee. Samples will be available at the General Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>May 29 9-5 Field Trip Luning</p>	<p>May 30 Memorial Day 9-5 Field Trip Luning Open House 11am -9 pm</p>	<p>May 31 Lapidary 1-3pm; 6;30-8:30 Wire Wrap 3-5pm</p>	<p>1 General Meeting 7-9pm Baldini's Second Floor Wire Wrap 3-5pm Tumbling 1pm-3pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Field Trip Petersen Mountain 8-5</p>
<p>5 Field Trip Petersen Mountain 8-5</p>	<p>6 Open House 11am -9 pm</p>	<p>7 Lapidary 1-3pm; 6;30-8:30 6-8:30 pm Slab Saw</p>	<p>8 Board Meeting 6 pm 480 S. Rock Tumbling 1pm-3pm Wire Wrap 3-5pm</p>	<p>9 Adv. Silver Fabrication 6-9pm</p>	<p>10 9 AM- 5PM Field Trip Berlin</p>	<p>11 Cold Connections 10-1pm FRA 2pm-4pm 9 AM- 5PM Field Trip Berlin</p>
<p>12 9 AM- 5PM Field Trip – Berlin Bead Weaving 10-2</p>	<p>13 Open House 11am -9 pm</p>	<p>14 Lapidary 1-3pm 6:30-8:30 6-8:30 pm Slab Saw</p>	<p>15 Tumbling 1pm-3pm</p>	<p>16 Adv. Silver Fabrication 6-9pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 Open House 11am -9 pm.</p>	<p>21 Lapidary 1-3pm 6:30-8:30 6-8:30 pm Slab Saw .</p>	<p>22 Tumbling 1pm-3pm Wire Wrap 3-5pm</p>	<p>23 Adv. Silver Fabrication 6-9pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 Open House 11am- 9pm</p>	<p>28 Lapidary 1-3pm 6:30-8:30 6-8:30 pm Slab Saw</p>	<p>29 Tumbling 1pm-3pm Wire Wrap 3-5pm</p>	<p>30 Adv. Silver Fabrication 6-9pm</p>		

**CFMS & AFMS Shows, 2022**

**Covid is still not over! Please check to be sure the show is happening.**

## 2022 Shows

**June 11-12, 2022 —Escondido, CA ?**  
Palomar Gem and Mineral Club  
California Center for the Arts,  
340 N. Escondido, Contact: (425) 281-6218, toni-  
floyd41615@gmail.com Website: <http://palomargem.org>

**July 16-17, 2022 – Culver City, CA**  
Culver City Gem & Mineral Society  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave.,  
Culver City, 90230  
Contact: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com  
Website: <http://CulverCityRocks.org/fiesta.htm>

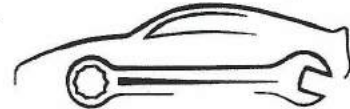
**August 5-7, 2022, Nipomo, CA**  
Orcutt Mineral Society  
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444  
Contact: nipomocowgirl55@yahoo.com  
Website: <http://omsinc.org>

**August 6-7, 2022, Roseville, CA**  
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society  
@the Grounds, Roebelen Event Center, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678  
Contact email: gloriarosevillerockrollers@gmail.com  
Website: <https://www.rockrollers.com/index.html>

**August 20-21, 2022 – Arcadia, CA**  
Pasadena Lapidary Society  
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia  
Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381  
Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com



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<b>Volunteers</b>	Terry Bush	<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 have volunteered their time to help RGMS function in a number of different and valuable ways. 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.	George Forbes
Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter	Joanne Sworthout
Gen. Mtg Door Prizes	Denise Sizemore,
Educational Outreach	Steve Norman
Future Rockhounds Advisor	Steve Norman
Silent Auction	Available
JPOG Auction	Available
Facility Expansion	Patrick Davis

### Instructors

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