## The Conglomerate

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

December 2022

#### **General Meeting**

Wed. Dec. 7, 7pm
Baldini's Second Floor
Board Meeting

Wed. Dec. 14, 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**<sub>(3)</sub> 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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# Important Message about Mailed Newsletters

Beginning with the January Conglomerate, the Reno Gem and Mineral Society is going paperless, as have many other organizations. This change will affect primarily those members who have opted to pay for a paper copy to be sent by postal mail. That option will no longer be available as of January. You may have noted that stamp prices recently increased 2 cents, and it now costs 60 cents to mail a first class letter. Postage for mailed newsletter copies has also gone up (\$0.84. Members who do not have digital access via phone or computer will need to acquire newsletters at the monthly general meetings for \$3 or by using a computer at a local library, or by asking a friend or family member to print one for them. Phone access and library access will also require establishing an email account, but those can be had for free from Google or Yahoo. This change will not affect distribution of The Conglomerate for the rest of 2022. Copies will continue to be mailed throughout 2022 to those who have paid for them.

## President's Message Dean Sizemore, President

Merry Christmas to everyone and Happy Holidays. Denise and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. The end of the year has reached us already. Please join us all, first at the General Meeting this month to celebrate our members that are being recognized and honored and swearing in of the new Officers and Board. Second, join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Christmas party at Lazy 5. This party is always well attended and so much fun for adults and children. Santa always appears with gifts for the children, so make sure to let Denise, our current social director know how many and the ages of any children coming. We always have extra gifts for the kids, so don't hesitate to bring them if plans change at the last minute.

Continued p. 2.

President's Letter, cont. from p. 1

Steve Smith and I are so very honored to be elected to continue as President and Vice President for a fourth year. We began this journey two months before COVID hit, so that was an interesting first year to say the least. We began this with about 350 members and are at this time close to 1.000. We could not be prouder of this accomplishment. Our finances are in better shape than they've ever been, all while buying new equipment, working on the current building, and improving the society atmosphere. We have done this because of the best board, directors, instructors and volunteers of any non-profit. So many individuals have selflessly given countless hours of their time, energy, and talents. To all those members, we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we can't wait to see what will be done this year.

Our building expansion will be ramping up during 2023, finances are in a great spot and fund raising will be in full force. We can use donations of funds or materials. If you haven't seen our expansion plans, please check them out at our general meetings or stop by the Rock Building and see them there. We can use your talents and help with the expansion. Please contact Patrick who is leading this expansion and who cannot be thanked enough for the work he has done.

We still have a few openings; please contact **Terry Bush** our volunteer coordinator. We need your help with filling these openings and with coming to the general meeting. For 2023 I would like to see better attendance at the general meetings where our guest speakers are always exciting and knowledgeable, and the information passed on during the business section of the meeting is very helpful and will answer many questions. We are currently seeing less than 10 percent of our members at the meeting. I would lover to hear from you at <a href="mailto:president@renogms.org">president@renogms.org</a> with suggestions for improving attendance and with any information about challenges that may be keeping you from attending.

We have a new Sunshine Director-- **Joanne Sworthout--**and you may contact her at <u>sunshine@renogms.org</u>. <u>Sunshine</u> is there for you to share health challenges or pretty much any other need you may have. She will share your name, with your permission, and will not share specifics other

than the type of challenge, so we as a group can provide emails, encouragement, and prayers (for those members who believe in that). Please contact Joanne. In January's newsletter I will be introducing our new leadership and some exciting new things we will be implementing for 2023. I wish you all the safest of New Year's and may you and your family be blessed during 2023.

# IN SEARCH OF SOCIAL BUTTERFLY Denise Sizemore 2022 Social Director

After lots of thought I will be stepping away from the Social Director volunteer position at the end of 2022. I feel it is time for me to spread my wings in other directions regarding Reno Gem and Mineral Society and personally. This position has been a wonderful experience. When **Tamela Germano** asked me if I would do this, I said, I am not a social person. She said you certainly are. I stepped out of my comfort zone and the rewards personally and Oh my goodness, the friendships, they will forever stay with me.

The requirements for the Social Director position are first and foremost be social. Attend General and Board meetings in person, as you are also a member of the Board of Directors for the RGMS. There are 3 main events a year: Annual Potluck Picnic, the Holiday Potluck, and the Vendor Potluck the Friday before Jackpot of Gems.

The other day someone said to me, those are some big shoes to fill. NO! Tamela's were big shoes to fill. And I am honored to have been of service.

I will still be around in 2023 to assist the incoming person with any help they may need. If you are interested, contact me at <social.renogms. org >

## 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; **Robyn Howard**, Treasurer

### Classroom Expansion Fundraising Steven Smith, VP

Hello to everyone. I want to update you all on our classroom expansion project. We have been raising funds all year to reach our fundraising goal. RGMS is a 501C(3) non-profit organization, and your tax deductible donation is so very important to our society. Currently, we have raised over forty thousand dollars toward our goal. One donation was made specifically to go toward ADA bathrooms. This just shows what your donations can do to meet our expansion goals.

**Patrick Davis** is moving forward with getting heating, air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing design and estimates, The architect is working on the drawings that will go to the city for permitting. We are planning to start the new build out early next year, with completion by the end of the year.

Your donation to the building fund will insure we can meet these expansion goals. When completed, we will have a premium RGMS educational facility for Northern Nevada which will serve our growing membership for years to come. We need your donation to reach our goal. With your donation we can make this dream come true. You still have time to make a 2022 tax deductible donation to the classroom expansion project fundraising effort. You can find copies of a donation card at the end of this newsletter.

## Sunshine Report Joanne Sworthout

If you have a situation for which you could use some support from your RGMS friends, or if you know of someone who could, please get in touch with **Joanne** at sunshine@renogms.org.

## **Scholarship Presentation Steve Norman Scholarship Chair**

**Rory Fletcher** attended the September General meeting to receive his certificate for the Reno



Gem and Mineral Society Scholarship for 2022. Rory mentioned that he is excited about some new research about a type of grass that

absorbs lead in the soil. Technology is moving so quickly.

Rory has a busy life with his wife and two small children, but he is also excited about school and appreciates that the society's \$1500 scholarship will help him reach his educational goals.

Right after the Society awarded Rory his scholarship, the scholarship committee received four additional Scholarship requests from the University of Nevada, Reno!. They included applications from a civil engineering major, a student studying to be a meteorologist, a geology major getting a Master of Science degree, and a first-year Ph.D. student from the mining engineering department. Her project is for a fully immersive teleoperation platform for mining equipment. There seems to be a lot of need for more scholarships to support education.

The Society has budgeted \$1,500 per year for Scholarship awards; however. there are additional options to support deserving students. For example, if ten society members would be willing to donate \$100 each, we could enable an additional scholarship that could benefit a needy student. If you are interested, simply make a check out to the Society designating *Scholarship fund* and who knows, we might be able to provide an additional scholarship or add money to next year's scholarship. Your check could be delivered at any general or board meeting, or you could mail it to the society. Attention: Treasurer.

## December General Meeting

Steven Smith, Vice President

Happy holidays everyone. Please join us for the last general meeting of the year, Dec. 7th, 7pm at Baldini's. We will be swearing in our new leadership for next year and **Scott Warner** will also present part two of his "Prospecting in the USA" Presentation. He will be covering the Northeast and Northwest locations and will bring material to share with the group. We will have our wonderful door prizes as well. I hope to see you all at Baldini's.

Please also mark your calendar for the Jan. 4th General meeting. We will start the year with our "show and tell" and tables will be available for members to wax passionate about things Rock, Mineral and Gem related. Please see me at the meeting if you would like a table to share.

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS 2022 HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Denise Sizemore, Social Director

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2022 Holiday Potluck, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Lazy 5 Park, 7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks. We will be in the Cottonwood Room, 3pm to 4pm Mix & Mingle, Potluck starts at 4pm until 5:30pm, and I believe Santa is scheduled to come by at 5:30 to visit with all the children. And there will be a gift exchange, please bring a male or female gift to be able to take part in this exchange.

We will need everyone to RSVP by December 30<sup>th</sup>, so we can arrange seating and get our message to Santa. When RSVPing, please let me know how many people, how many children, under 18, and whether you will be bringing an appetizer, side dish, salad, main dish meat, or dessert. We will supply soda, water, plates, silverware, cups. If your dish requires serving spoons or bowls, please bring with you, as this is not at the RGMS Building. Please: NO PETS & NO ALCOHOL!!!

Have a very Happy Fall and I look forward to seeing you all for our end of the year tradition,

## **Membership**Janet Longueira, Director

2023 is right around the corner, which means it is time to renew your membership. You can use the application attached, download the application from the website, or renew online at <a href="https://renogms.org/membership-2/">https://renogms.org/membership-2/</a>. Any questions, email <a href="membership@renogms.org">membership@renogms.org</a>. Please welcome these new members:

Debbie Adams Jackie Douglas

& Mark Sage

Ivy Allen Jeff Haines

Chuck & Lavon Gray Heidi Klinck

Tracey Baldwin Andrew & Jan Pokk

Sean E Block Leo V Shebalin

Nick Bombard Brian Sullivan

Jen Churchward Lisa Syfers

Carolina Galicia, Kaitlyn Quick, & Cade Gailcia

### **Educational Outreach**

#### Steve Norman

The Education Outreach program made 16 classroom presentations to about 355 students from September through October 2022 including to Palmer's second grades, Vaughn 's sixth grade, Dodson's first grades, Sun Valley's second grades, Westergard's second grades, and Mariposa's fourth and fifth-grades.

Each presentation lasted an hour and also encouraged students to do well in school and think about exciting science education careers. Every student was 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 Minerals with stickers, pencils, and brochures explaining to parents how to stay safe by staying out of abandoned mines.

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

## THE RENO GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, Inc.

A non-profit, 501 (c)3 Educational Corporation
Summary of October 12, 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Steve Norman, Secretary

President **Dean Sizemore** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Vice President **Steven Smi**th led the pledge of allegiance. The Secretary's report can be reviewed upon request by contacting **Steve Norman**. The Treasurer's report is available for review by getting in touch with **Robyn Howard**.

<u>The Rock Building Manager Linda Johnston</u> reports financials look good with money available to begin the upgrade of the building.

<u>School</u>: The new lapidary equipment is making money for society. The new invoice system for a student taking classes is working well as a decreasing balance as classes are taken.

<u>Volunteer Director</u> **Terry Bush** announced that **Patrick Davis** will continue as the temporary Shop Director.

<u>Craft Fair</u>: **Theresa Langhans** reported a successful event last month with vendors doing pretty well.

<u>Social Media:</u> **Sven Sander** reports the Facebook group with 18,476 views with eleven new followers. There have been 188 Facebook groups with 13,534 views. There were 76 posts which is up 200%. Seven mail chimp blasts.

<u>Tech Manager</u> **Breia Sanders** reports that the website has 18,204 views with 124 visitors. There were 2,329 website activities with 2,186 new users to the website.

<u>Field Trip:</u> **Eric Fendelander** reports that the field trip to Gabbs went well and the Las Vegas group left with some good material.

<u>Membership</u>: Director **Janet Longueira** reports RGMS currently has 508 memberships which totals 929 members.

<u>Sunshine</u>: Director **Joanne Sworthout** reminds people anyone needing a card or some friendly communication to contact her for at sunshine@renogms.org.

New Business: Vice President **Steven Smith** explained a proposal regarding RGMS affiliation. Currently, we work with CFMS (California Federation Mineral Society) mainly for our insurance needs which currently cost \$8.00 per member. Nevada is in the Rocky Mountain Federation geographic area and their insurance plan cost is \$1.50 per member. The proposal is to get all the information possible from both organizations to determine which plan is best for RGMS. Private insurance could also be considered. The process could take up to a year.

New Business: VP **Steven Smith** discussed the need for legal waivers for RGMS. There are many instructors, field trip leaders, and other people representing the Society that should have a legal waiver on file. Society members doing volunteer work should be protected as much as possible to prevent problems for the individual or the society. The legal form could be signed at general membership or during renewals of membership. A legal waiver is to be reviewed by a lawyer.

<u>Jackpot of Gems</u>: **Daniel Ellis** announced the next show meeting is Monday, October 28, and after that November 14, at 6:00 PM. Mark your calendar:

Social: **Denise Sizemore** announced the holiday party for December 10, 2022.

## Future Rockhounds of America Renée Samuels, Volunteer

Future Rockhounds of America is off to a great start after our summer break. At our October meeting, Steve Norman taught us about volcanoes and the minerals and rocks formed when a volcano erupts. Many questions were answered: Why does pumice float? Why is obsidian a rock, and not a mineral? How is volcanic ash good for plants? What is a tectonic plate? How do volcanoes form, in the first place? After the lesson, our students each received two mineral specimens for their collections, and then we painted rocks with a Halloween theme. Lots of fun was had by all. In November, we revisited volcanoes in a lesson about mountain building. We learned about batholiths and the carbon cycle. We learned about how the Sierra Nevada Range was formed, and the forces that created Devil's tower. This time, our students used yarn, beads, mica and other small mineral pieces to build their own mountain collages, and received another specimen for their collection. One of our students brought a very large, amazing agate nodule that she found right outside of her house! Another pitched in as the class ended, and had most of our mess cleaned up before we knew it. We've got a great group of kids, parents and grandparents! I hope you'll join us for our next class on December 17th, at the Rock Building at 480 S Rock Blvd in Sparks, from 2:00-3:30 pm, when we will be learning about the weathering and erosion of mountains and minerals.

Photos: Renée Samuels





















#### Kid's Corner Steve Norman

Some of the oxygen that we breathe starts from, of all places, the Sahara Desert! Now that is weird. Spread over eleven North African countries amounting to almost four million square miles of land, the Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world. Deserts are dry and dusty places where the wind blows about 100 million tons of dust into the air every year. The winds move a lot of this dust to the Amazon Basin in South America, a distance of 6,000 miles from Egypt to Brazil.

The wind-borne dust from the desert attaches to the moisture in the humid jungle air to form raindrops and create clouds. Ever wonder why clouds are grey or even black? It is because of all those dust particles!

This process is a good thing because every time it rains or snows, dust is deposited providing food for plants to grow all over the world. The rainwater flows into the streams and rivers and so it is not wasted either. The river water with all that dust runs into the ocean and provides food for phytoplankton and blue-green algae. These tiny plants use nutritious water, carbon dioxide, and sunlight to give off oxygen that every living animal uses to breathe.

It is estimated that for every three breaths you take, the oxygen for two comes from ocean algae and the oxygen for the other breath from vegetation on the planet. Trees, algae, and many plants all over the world get some of their nutrition from places like the Sahara Desert.

## CFMS Convention Visalia, CA, 11/11/22 Sue Webb, Alternate CFMS Rep.

The fall meeting of CFMS Officers and Chairs was held November 11 at the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia CA. which is the usual location for the Fall meeting. Several items were addressed at the meeting that RGMS may have some interest in:

Officers for 2023 were elected: President—Kim Fiala, Roseville GMS; 1st VP and President Elect, Bob Rush, Mother Lode GMS; 2nd VP—Heidi Hall, Reno GMS, Treasurer—Diane Cook, Ventura, and Secretary—Frank Van Hecke, El Dorado GMS. The officers were installed at the banquet that evening.

Due to increases in the cost of the public liability insurance CFMS provides for its member societies/ clubs, CFMS found it necessary to increase the per member cost to \$7. This amounts to a \$1 increase (less than the cost of a cup of coffee or bottle of drinking water). The total amount due is \$9. The cost breakdown is \$2 for the CFMS dues and \$7 for the mandatory insurance.

Costs also impact Camp Paradise and the fee will need to increase. Camp Zzyzx may no longer be available. There is a new award for Juniors, the Junior Achievement Award as well as an award for best case by a junior at a CFMS show. CFMS is financially solvent, but has little available for operating expenses. Historian Steve Collett announced that digitizing of early newsletters is nearly complete. A committee was established to investigate locations in the cloud to store CFMS documents rather than as paper. Museum director commented that cases need tempered glass to foil smash and grab thefts. The Golden Bear nominee for 2022 was announced. Endowment raffle awards were distributed, and the 2023 CFMS Convention was announced for Lodi, CA June 23-25 at the Grape Festival grounds. Ventura will host the CFMS/AFMS convention in 2024, dates to be determined.

Representatives were reminded that the Federation officer reports are due, and that societies must report individuals and not simply number of family memberships for insurance purposes.

## School Report

Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

RGMS classes are (mostly) on hiatus for the month of December. They will resume in January. However, Open House on Mondays will be open from 11 to 9 at \$7.50/hour so members may complete any projects they need to before the holiday.

#### Mondays:

Open House; 11:00am to 9:00pm. Fee is \$7.50/hour. Open until the Monday before Christmas.

#### Tuesdays:

Wednesdays:

Thursdays:

Saturdays:

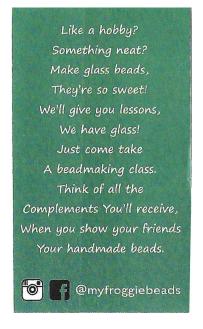
Sundays:

Bead Weaving Dec. 4 10am to 2pm Class fee is \$20.00









### CFMS/AFMS Shows 2023

## Additional information is available on the CFMS website, cfmsinc.org/shows

#### February 18-19, 2023 - Antioch, CA 94509

Antioch Lapidary Club

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St. Anti-

och, CA 94509

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM Saturday and Sunday Contact: (925) 301-6957, 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 Fair-

grounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Hours: 10 AM-5 PM

Contact: (415) 254-1506, ddahonvgms@gmail.com

Website: <a href="http://vjgems.co/">http://vjgems.co/</a>

#### 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

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

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 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 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 5 Websiet: 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 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@sbcqlopbal.net





#### The Conglomerate Volume 56, Issue 12 December, 2022



#### **Officers**

President: **Dean Sizemore** President@renogms.org

Vice President: Steven Smith Vicepresident@renogms.org

Steve Norman Secretary: secretary@renogms.org

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Asst. Treasurer: Ana John assistanttreasurer@renogms.org

**Past President** Tom Nichols pastpresident@renogms.org

**Board Members at Large** 

**Lori Connel** Albie Longueira

Eric Fendelander **Available Hilary Loupee** 

Rob Kendrick Webb Varnum

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**Philipp Weirauch** historian@renogms.org Historian:

Available Instagram & Twitter

**Jackpot of Gems Daniel Ellis** jpog@renogms.org

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Librarian April Young library@renogms.org

Asst. Librarians: Available

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Security

Shop: (temporary) **Patrick Davis** 

Social: **Denise Sizemore** social@renogms.org Sunshine: Joanne Sworthout sunshine@renogms.org

**Tech Director Breia Sanders** tech@renogms.org

Volunteers volunteers@renogms.org Terry Bush

## 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. Available

Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter

Gen. Mtg Door Prizes

Educational Outreach
Future Rockhounds Advisor
JPOG Silent Auction
Facility Expansion

Joanne Sworthout
Denise Sizemore,
Steve Norman
Lori Connel
Patrick Davis

#### <u>Instructors (Alphabetical by class)</u>

Bead weaving: Sue Webb
Casting: Spencer Ennis
Jewelry 101 & Robyn Howard

**Cold Connections** 

Lapidary Julie Hilsabeck

**Barbara Hartman** 

Lost Wax Carving Tim Steeper

Mineral ID Webb Varnum

Silver Fabrication (Adv.) Jill Atkins

Al Bolshazy

Silver Fabrication (Beg.) Spencer Ennis
Slab saw Patrick Davis

Tumbling Janet & Albie Longueira

Wire Art Ginger Ragazzi