

The Conglomerate

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

October, 2023



General Meeting

Wed. October 4, 7 PM

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor

Board Meeting

Wed. October 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 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.

President's Message

Dean Sizemore

Welcome to October, 3 months until the end of the year already. A few trips left before field trips will be ending. I hope you've been able to make some of them this year. Hillary Loupee, our Field Trip Director, has had a great season of trips planned; she and her assistants have done a great job.

I want to express my thanks for all the Jackpot of Gems volunteers and leadership. The show was a great success considering parking and so many competing events this weekend. Dan Ellis and Terry Bush took this to another level along with the JPOG leaders. Thank you all so much. Everyone worked hard, and when vacancies on a shift occurred, someone always stepped up and/or was right there asking how they can help. It takes so many people to pull this off.

Our membership numbers are through the roof for the 4th year now. We are heading into renewal time, so get signed up asap so you can continue classes and open house starting January. Your renewed membership is good from January to December no matter when you renew it, so it makes since to sign up as soon as you can. Thank you all for a great year; there are many exciting things coming next year--big changes for JPOG, the building expansion going strong.

Have a great and safe "mild" winter; I say that with high hopes. Have a great Halloween, be safe, and have fun. We'll see you all at this General Meeting on October 4th.

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Educational Outreach

Steve Norman, Facilitator

In July, the Reno Gem and Mineral Society's Education Outreach program gave four presentations to 62 students for Reno's **Urban Roots Garden Classroom** organization. Urban Roots brings children from 5-15 years of age to learn about plants and gardening. The garden is an excellent setting to discuss the carbon cycle in detail inside the climate-controlled greenhouse that shelters and warms the plants for maximum growth. The presentation has examples of minerals and their uses that show how technology advances. Students learn how minerals work and why students might consider a science career. Every student is given a mineral gift, and information about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society is provided to their parents. We get support from the Nevada Division of Mineral's program to keep out of abandoned mines. I want to thank **Debbie Bush** for her help on many presentations and **Alan and Bobbi Metzger** for their contributions of polished rocks that students and teachers receive.

The Future Rockhounds program has been on recess for the summer and will resume with classes starting in October 2023.



Photo Urban Roots web-site

October Program

Steven Smith, Vice President

October 4th, 7pm at Baldini's casino is the place to be. I hope everyone has recovered from our wonderful Jackpot of Gems show. Thank you to everyone that made this show so successful.

We do not have a guest presenter this month, but we do have our wonderful door prizes on hand.

Please join us, see friends and hear the latest information about your RGMS.

Photo: Steve Smith



IMPORTANT NOTICE

RGMS provides a selection of activities and events that are of interest to the large variety of its members. But that very fact insures that some events will inevitably conflict. To keep conflicts at a minimum, anyone scheduling ANY event open to RGMS members **MUST** clear the date with **Julie Hilsabeck** who manages the calendar.

Also, your most easily accessible and most accurate event information will always be the calendar on the RGMS Website <renogms.org/calendar>.

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 Longueira**, Treasurer

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.

Membership
Lynda Traves, Director

Wow! It is mid-September and Mark and I returned from Burning Man late on September 6. We survived two rain storms and mud — lots of mud. We still worked and our art project, a recycled metal stegosaur named Stella shone with cool LED lights and a tail of fire. The man burned Monday of Labor Day and we watched the Temple burn Tuesday. I have included a picture of Stella and a couple of our “mud” life. One from our group found a fairy shrimp.



It was quite a year. I am still having problems reintegrating back into the “default” world. It is going to be a few more weeks before I have caught up. I had only limited internet access. I did my best under weird conditions to keep up with email and online memberships. While I was away, Janet Longueira handled the memberships that were mailed in.



Memberships are 1/2 price until October 31, 2023; at which time for November and December, the price returns to full price and covers members fees for those months and 2024. Thus, July-October Family is \$25; Individual is \$18; Student \$13. We currently have 530 memberships representing 966 members. And, there are approximately 55 school-aged children, some of whom attend the kids rock classes. (kids can start any time)

Welcome to the following new members for the past month:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Antonio Smith | Margie Franzen-Weiss |
| Billie Turner | Mary and Monty Mosher |
| Cassidy and Drew and Smith Taylor | Michael Harvey |
| Cheryl Closson | Michele Montoya |
| Chris Kosmach | Mike Rubio |
| Danyell Halvorson | Mona Rivera and Dave Dills |
| Heather Kloes | Nicole French |
| Jason, Samantha, Elliot, Kathryn,
and Hayden Porter | Packy and Melanie Murphy |
| Kristin Gorton | Ryan Walsh |
| Kristina and Derek Van Der Puy | Shelly Thompson |
| Leon Werner Marcia and Bruce Wilmes | Shiloh McGaughey |

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Photos: Lynda Traves

Apologies for the errors and omissions for any names above. Please advise asap any corrections or omissions so I may make the correction. Thank you.

To pay your membership online or download the membership form:<https://renogms.org/membership-2/> If you have any questions, please email me at membership@renogms.org Membership Dues are: Individual: \$18; Family: \$25; and Student: \$13. Family memberships are for those who live in the same household.

Thank you so much. I look forward helping you and meeting you at the next event.

Classes Offered by RGMS

This is a general listing of RGMS classes that are typically offered. For specific dates, consult the calendar on the Website or talk to the school director at the General Meeting or email at <school@renogms.org>: Beginning & Advanced Silver Fabrication, Beading, Lapidary, Casting, Cold Connections, Etching, Jewelry 101, Lost Wax Carving, Mineral ID, Silver Crocheting, Chain Making, Tumbling, Wire Art. .

Sparks Library

RGMS has a large display of rocks and minerals near the front door of the Sparks Library. A few specimens include bright mica, sparkling calcite, and soft yellow iron pyrite. Steve Rose and Sam Knipmeyer (hat) have displayed some of their treasures at the library for many years. There is more to see, including posters and flyers for the upcoming Craft Fair (Nov. 10, 11, & 12) at the Reno Town Mall across South Virginia from the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Details are at renogms.org .

Fall Craft Fair
Theresa Langhans, Coordinator

November 10, 11, 12 2023

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

Here are some more specifics:

- Friday, November 10 10am-6pm
- Saturday, November 11 10am- 5pm
- Sunday, November 12 10am-3pm

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

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

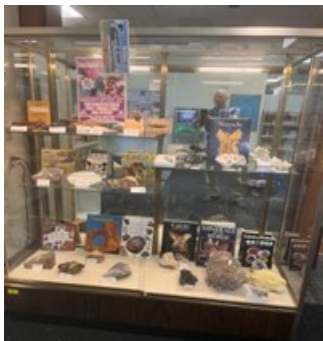


Photo: Steve NORman

Field Trip Director Update
Hilary Loupee

We've been out on a couple of great field trips since our last article, both to the Gabbs area. The trip to the Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park was great again. We started the Saturday digging for fossils and then did the 10am museum tour to see the ichthyosaurs. If you've never been, it's absolutely worth a visit. After the tour, we headed out to the airport road to collect colorful pieces of agate and jasper on the surface. It was pretty hot, so most people headed back to the park early, which is at a higher elevation and in the trees. We dug for fossils again behind the park. I found a few ammonites, which I've never really found in that location. We had a lively potluck in the picnic area that evening.

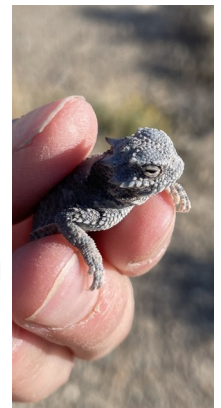


The next day, we headed out to the blue opals. There were a lot of new dig holes in the area, which helped give people places to spread out and dig or sift through the dirt. I jumped into an empty hole and filled a cup with some very pretty blue. Not a lot of fire, but excellent quality blue opal, nonetheless.

Our second trip to Gabbs was for the opalized wood. It was a small turnout, but I was determined to dig those trees back out. We had a few strong diggers that really got to work and made some serious progress. I know I moved a couple of cubic yards of dirt myself, and while we never made it all the way to the trees, I filled two buckets of great material. The dirt is just fill dirt from the old holes and the tailings are rich. I would encourage any members to get out there and work on the holes. Be careful about making the holes too deep too fast, as fill dirt is unstable and a col-

lapse almost buried me at one point, but it is easy digging. I think we could have the main hole dug back out pretty soon.

Not many people camped on this trip either, but wow did we have a surprise desert storm Saturday night! There was absolutely no rain forecasted, but the winds picked up and a storm moved in right over us that dumped so much rain so fast that the campground turned into an ocean. The entire camper was shaking, and the lightning and thunder was cracking so loud that my ears were ringing. I couldn't believe that everything was dried out enough by the next morning to drive back out to the dig site!



We have the Austin trip before this article will come out, and then the [Coaldale area field trip](#) that Jim Welker is leading. As we said in the email blast, the roads are a bit washed out, but still passable, even with a camper. The camping area is located 2.5 miles from

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Photos: Hilary Loupee

Hwy 6, on Gilbert Road. To reach the camp, go south on Hwy 95 to Coaldale Junction where Hwy 95 joins Hwy 6. Proceed east towards Tonopah about 6 miles to Blair Junction (Hwy 265). About 4/10ths of a mile further is Gilbert Road. You will see signs and pink ribbons. Go past the Gilbert Road turnoff about 30 feet to make it easier to turn in. If you are towing a rig, go a couple of miles further to find a place to turn around to approach the turn from the other way. Bring heavy rockhounding tools and a high clearance vehicle for this one.

I don't think we will be able to go on the Black Rock trip this year. There has been more rain, and I don't have a free weekend to go scout it beforehand. This has been a remarkably busy field trip year and you folks have worn me out! I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Jim Welker for leading some field trips this year. It is a lot of work, and I know most of our members don't realize how much that goes into making each trip happen. I am looking for some help for next year. Please reach out if you are interested in being a guest leader on a field trip or two. I am still happy to manage the logistics or even give you a spot, but I need some other members to be the point person on some of the trips as my new work schedule makes it hard for me to leave so many weekends free without the possibility of having to drive out later. I'd say if you've been to a place more than once, you know enough to lead a field trip there!



Email Hilary with questions! fieldtrip@renogms.org

Jim Welker is leading the Coaldale trip in October and sent this to better explain what we are doing and what to expect.

Monte Cristo Range Field Trip Oct 6th to 9th

This is a nice area we have not hunted for a couple of years. We will gather Agate, Jasper, Rhyolite, and other material. In one area there are some nice seam agates with pseudomorphs and/or sagenite inclusions. We may go to an old turquoise mine and search the tailings. Suggest you bring a sprayer to help with finding the material.

The camping area is located 2.5 miles from Hwy 6, on Gilbert Road, and is a nice flat area. To reach the camp site go South on Hwy 95 to Coaldale junction where Hwy 95 joins Hwy 6. Proceed east toward Tonopah about 6 miles to Blair Junction (Hwy 6 & Hwy 265). As Hwy 6 is high speed, I stop there and let all traffic pass. Proceed east 4 tenths of a mile and turn left on a hard-to-see dirt road. Look for pink ribbons and RGMS signs. After turning left go 2.5 miles toward hills camp which will be on the right side on the road. If you wish, you could motel it in Tonopah about 45 minutes away. Also, I top off my fuel tank in Hawthorne. **[**Please read Jim's blast about road conditions!!](#)**

We will leave camp at 8am each morning. On Saturday, the 7th the Potluck is at 6:30. Any high-clearance vehicle will get to the collecting sites. Since we are collecting rocks, we will be in rocky areas that have snakes. Dress for Rockhounding--no sandals. Bring tools and if you wish breaker bars and hard rock tools. To get the good seam agate will require hard work. However, there is a lot of material on the surface that is great. Any questions e-mail me I will try to answer.

Jim Welker jim.vch.reno@gmail.com

I hope to see everyone out there! The weather should start to cool down again this month, so I expect the field trips to get busier. Both of these trips can be done as day trips, but they are more comfortable as overnight trips. Please email fieldtrip@renogms.org with questions.

Various Photos from Our Photographer, Steve Smith



Casey (14) Youngest Vol

Various Photos from Our Photographer, Steve Smith



Award Winners

Board Minutes cont.

The Rock Building, LLC Director **Linda Johnston** via ZOOM reports rents are accumulating as scheduled. She has conferred with **Will Hitchcock** to repay the \$82,000 loan to RGMS.

New Business. The Board formally thanked Vice President **Steve Smith** for all his work on the prospect of changing affiliations from CFMS to RMFMS. **Mary Hicks** brought up the issue of no trash service at the building. There is a need for a trash service proposal and someone to champion this idea to get the service.

Adjournment: 7:48

RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2023

These are the summarized notes. Contact me for the full report at secretary@renogms.org or find them on the clipboard near the office on a countertop.

Treasurer: **Janet Longueira** has May and June 2023 reports for the Board member's inspection. There were no questions, with both reports approved. The Building Fund is now over \$100,000.

Past President & Tech Chair: **Tom Nichols** reports that he has worked with **Renée Samuels** to add some Facebook content. Adding information to the RGMS Facebook page adds credibility to the organization and advertises what RGMS is about to the public. **Stephanie Leonard** has provided a detailed review of the website that will enhance the website once updated. Society members with things for sale could list them in the Conglomerate, announce them at the General Meeting, or put a note on the classroom bulletin board or shop.

Social Media: **Sven Sander** reports 18 email blasts to members from last month.

Jackpot of Gems: Director **Dan Ellis** reports 25 Vendors paid for a spot at the Show, with 30 vendors as the goal.

Vice President: **Steve Smith** reviewed the meetings and information gathered from the California Federation Mineral Society (CFMS) annual meeting and show at Lodi, CA. The investigation aims to determine the facts regarding insurance obtained from CFMS and other benefits from affiliation with CFMS. Steve found that there is a boundary question for Nevada State Societies that reside in CFMS to change affiliation to the Rocky Mountain Federation Mineral Society (RMFMS). The current payment to CFMS for our insurance costs is \$5.95 per member at the California Federation, \$2.00 for CFMS dues per member, and \$.75 per member for the American Federation Mineral Society. Steve found that CFMS has a Scholarship fund that RGMS may be able to add more scholarships or increase the funding presently budgeted. Steve asked Board members to consider being the champion of moving affiliations. RGMS can send more than one delegate to the CFMS and AFMS meetings. RGMS is CFMS's largest membership group. Steve reported that Patrick Davis made inquiries with the vendors at the Lodi Show to consider the Jackpot of Gems Show and is adding more possible vendors to the spreadsheet.

Door Prize: **Denise Sizemore** noted 86 people at July General Meeting with \$211 in donations.

Membership: **Lynda Traves** reports 480 memberships amounting to 883 members. People beginning memberships now get their membership for half price from July to November.

Field Trip/32 Auction: **Hilary Loupee** discussed a busy weekend finding rainbow obsidian and sunstones near Alteras, CA. Twenty people obtained the permit to collect at Davis Creek. **Chris Rose** allowed the field trip participant to collect sunstones from his claim. Hilary is often asked about the costs of attending, not realizing that free field trips are a part of membership. She plans one more 32 Auction before the Jackpot of Gems Show.

Conglomerate and AFMS/CFMS: Editor **Sue Webb** reminds board members that articles are needed and are due on the 15th of the month. Story articles are needed, and photos add interest.

Minutes continued on p. 8

Ruminations on Camp Paradise, 2023**Marilyn Taylor**

“She stood in the storm and when the wind did not blow her way, she adjusted her sails.”

Sometimes in life we take on adventures that become vision quests. That was my wonderful, awesome two weeks at Camp Paradise 2023. It was a blessing that I won the raffle, making it much easier for me to attend two weeks in the high Sierra forest with strangers who became friends and ignorance that became knowledge. I was not sure I would go until I heard **Bob Rush** was teaching, an icon in the rock world, writer for *Lapidary Journal* and a monthly columnist to *Rock and Gem*. He is one of the top experts in hard stone carving methods alive today. That cinched it for me. I am so glad I set the course, as those were probably the best two weeks of my life.

I want to thank RGMS for helping keep Camp Paradise a reality, and providing the means and information to be able to attend. Many kudos need to go out to **Jill and Gary Atkins** for their hard work, patience, and kindness to make this year's camp such a terrific event. Many of you have attended CP, and know the setting. We were fortunate this year that the religious group who owns the camp had put a great deal of money into remodeling the kitchen and dining hall. While the acoustics were a challenge (we do get pretty animated in our rock talks, eh?) it was comfortable, clean, and gave **Pepe Padilla**, our very qualified and terrific chef, a canvas to create good, healthy, tasty meals for us hungry rockhounds. (We got fed very well. Lotsa well. We all came home to a diet!) Pepe did everything he could given the limited access to goods in the remote location to take care of special diet needs. He even made sure we had milk for our cookies and cake. Pepe is a great person, a lot of fun, and absolutely felt like family.

There were so many different class offerings and after some newbie confusion figuring out that you can attend several classes during the day, plus workshops at night, the flexibility really augmented what I went to learn and catch up on – carving and silver smithing. Bob Rush, hard carver extraordinaire, is one of the kindest, genuinely sweet people I have ever had the pleasure of making friends with and studying under. Bob's mission is to teach as many people as much of what he knows about how to make tools and coax breathtaking carvings out of hard stone before the knowledge is lost. Many carvings utilize light to make their brilliance pop. Bob is a master at figuring out what is needed to do a particular cut, and how to make the tool to do it. He is generous with his tools and knowledge and everyone who dug in and put in the sweat equity came away with beautiful stones. Several then went to wire wrapping classes or silversmithing to make beautiful creations with them.

Cold rain the first day of week It did not stop us. I spent half a day with Bob learning fundamentals and the other half with **Edwina Chaney Swensen**. Edwina had come at last minute to cover for an instructor whose mom was not well. If you have never met Edwina, you are in for a treat. Full of life, an exceptional artist, Edwina has many awards for her soft and hard relief carving. She is a master and knew tricks to help finish pieces in a solar oven that truly made your work stand out. She taught both weeks and molded her teaching to her students so they understood the task at hand and how to create soapstone carvings with meaning. Having taken a soapstone class with Angel Camp instructors many years ago, I was able to brush up and gain new knowledge, and gained a really neat new friend.

The flexibility of schedules and kindness for us newbies allowed me to get a coveted seat in **Steve Keil's** Beginning/Remedial Silversmithing. I had not expected to be able to take that intensive class,

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and was thrilled to be able to remediate, learn new, and brush up skills from years past. My silversmithing was learned decades back in college when I was the “art slave” and audited courses. I quickly learned there are far better ways to do things, how to use acetylene rather than the Prestolite I learned on (try soldering chain with a Prestolite!), new tools and supplies that are available, and how to stubbornly push through a piece that simply was problematic from the start (and Steve had dually warned me and supported my trying it anyhow. It would have been a lot better had I not accidentally whacked the firebrick with the torch on the second sweep, scattering the multiple heavily-pinned pieces askew with sticky flux and solder welding them together!) Steve is one of the most helpful, patient, polite men I have ever met. He also has a very dry sense of humor, so listen close lol. An exceptional teacher, smith, and full of knowledge, he helped me learn more in 2.5 days and a few nights than in 2 years of college classes. (Steve also came to the Barn at 6:30 a.m. so students could finish work on time!! Talk about dedication!)

Steve, Camp Paradise’s registrar Glenda’s other half (a beautiful, kind, supportive phenom artisan herself), also served with her as the backup administrators to camp to help the head Administrators, **our own wonderful RGMS members Jill and Gary Atkins**, who did an amazing job organizing and making sure everything (and I mean everything, including power outages, cold rainy days, you name it) run like clockwork. Jill and Gary are to be commended for the very long hours, extreme attention to detail, patience, good humor, and superb organization they brought to camp. Things ran smoothly, on time, with a big dose of cooperation and camaraderie among all attending. They went above and beyond to make sure everyone was taken care of, had what they needed, and were safe and comfortable. Please thank them; they put hundreds of hours and sweat equity into making sure CP was a star event that ran like silk, all with humor and smiles. And, this was on top of Jill teaching Advanced Silversmithing, working extra hours nearly every night in the barn until late, helping as many students as possible. Huzzah!

If you do not know **Tom Burchard**, past CFMS president, well, you need to. There are not words to describe what Tom has forgotten about cabbing and stone identification. If Tom cannot identify it, it is not a rock, simple as that. He is also a character, headed by the “wounded Moose”. Watch for fun next year at Camp Paradise with Tom and his horn that sets the camp schedule. Tom is moving back to Palo Alto so he will be a lot closer and I am sure involved more in regional activities.

Besides classes, lectures, workshops, and beautiful areas to hike, walk, bike, tons of food (and cookies!), there were also Sell-a-Rama and Silent Auctions. Bring your hobby-related goodies to sell, then participate in the Silent Auction. For dimes on the dollar I picked up a fantastic wire mill with exchangeable rollers that needs some cleanup, which I desperately needed to replace for my shop. Another camper got a great assortment of gold sluicing equipment for next to free. All the after graduation let everyone share their hard work to oo’s and ahs. Everyone sales have a bit go to CFMS to help support the camp and mission of the Federation. Show and Tell after graduation let everyone share their hard work to oo’s and ahs. Everyone mixed during meals, hung out in rooms, chatted on the deck, relaxed by the pool, and knew they were among friends.

If you have never been to Camp Paradise, I can attest that it is a BARGAIN. Check out what it costs to go to William Holland or WildAcres, or, even more, to GIA on campus in Carlsbad. The quality of instruction is beyond high quality amazing and you will make lifetime friends of like mind. Do you have any idea what it is like to get to spend two weeks with people who love rocks as much as you do? For me it was heaven! Everyone is respectful, helpful, supportive, and cheers everyone on in their creative process. You are off signal, and trust me, it was a pleasure for the most part to not

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have to answer the emails and worry about calls. The hardest thing is to decide what classes to get in—cabbing, carving, soft stone carving, enameling, Viking weaving, wire wrapping, beginning or advanced silversmithing, intarsia, diachronic glass, fire painting, PMC, casting, and I am sure I missed some!

You might be wondering about my quote at the beginning of this article. I returned to NV three years ago after 16 years gone, taking care of my mom in FL before she passed and 5 years of extensive reconstructive surgery of my own. That quote hangs from my rear-view mirror, having due to my current physical limitations had to give up my 50' catamaran and 40' bus rebuilds that were my planned retirement. Since age 6 I have collected rocks, started by a mom who came in off our ranch with pretty rocks in her jeans pocket who had grown up picking Lake Superior agates from the hill behind her Minnesota childhood home. I have owned an artisan and lapidary rough company since 1986 that has been pretty much in mothballs since 1998. My entire retirement plan was to get the rock business going, as well as some other ventures. Camp Paradise was my springboard, a time to clear my head and think, to purely focus, and to move beyond the last 3 challenging years. I am trimming my sails and heading towards my first love--rocks. And youbecha as they say in my native Minnesota, I will be at Paradise next year!

If you are looking for a brain and stress break among terrific people in a beautiful setting, start planning on going to Camp Paradise next year. Many of our Master instructors will be setting down their torches and saws in near-to-come years, and it is our job to keep the hobby alive and well. Where else can you go for a week, all inclusive, with some of the most knowledgeable, nice master teachers probably in the entire U.S. for \$500 ?? Where else can you sing oldies to ukulele strumming on the deck who plays for rocks? And yes, Pepe is coming back next year with his infectious humor and wicked good cooking. Who knows, we might even see Sasquatch in Clipper Mills. You will have a terrific time, learn a lot, and come home with some gorgeous creations, besides the memories and friends that will stay with you always.

Definition of a Rockhound

Marilyn Taylor

With thanks to my friends in week 2 Camp Paradise 2023 for their input and suggestions

Our very lovely and capable RGMS *Conglomerate* editor recently tossed out a challenge given her by the CFMS, that being there is no definition of a rockhound. I have been pondering this since, and have come to the conclusion it is difficult, if not impossible, to seriously and succinctly provide an intelligible answer to an attempt to define what our hobby entails, and why we are so gung-ho about it. Oh sure, we can talk about the geology and morphology and paleo parts of it, and we can wax poetic about the processes and procedures, but what is it, that *elan vital*, that pushes us and makes us resemble starry eyed teenagers at the sight of a pretty rock? Any definition could start with the old joke about all rockhounds start with a pocket full of marbles, and every time you find a nice rock you drop a marble. When you have lost all your marbles, you are officially a rockhound. I resemble that remark, but I truly do not think we have lost anything but gained much through our fascinating hobby.

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I decided any attempt to encapsulate a definition of what a rockhound is needed to be realistic and humorous, while touching on the true nature that drives us to accept that most of our family and friends think we have rocks in our head instead of in the car, the garage, along the fence, and always a few showing up in the bottom of the washer after a fieldtrip. With my sweaty, dust-stained kerchief off to the master of "might be" Jeff Foxworthy, here is what I believe defines a rockhound. Enjoy!

You might be a rockhound if

- ◇ any serious conversation can immediately resemble Nemo's Dory when someone walks up with a nice specimen and your attention goes haywire, punctuated by, "Oooooh!!!! Pretty!!!!"
- ◇ McGuiver has nothing on you. Adapt? Repair? Evolve that layout? Anything sharp to dig with? Slumped bezel? We are experts at fixing, flexing, finding, and creatively using whatever gets in our line of sight to get that rock out of the ground and into our case or metalwork.
- ◇ your idea of the perfect birthday present is 5# of grit and a tank of acetylene.
- ◇ your idea of the perfect vacation has nothing to do with lounging around the resort pool or fancy dinner, and is more along the lines of how much clearance your 4x4 needs to get to that optimum dig camping site--you know, sort of flat and level without rattlesnakes.
- ◇ you know that rouge doesn't have a thing to do with makeup, and nor grit The Duke.
- ◇ you guard your treasure until a grandchild or neighborhood kid asks you about your pretty rocks and where they came from. After a long enthusiastic chat, the child gets to pick out one of your stones as a keepsake and leaves happy and with a sense of awe. You are thinking, "Ah! That might be a junior rockhound!"
- ◇ you don't like to have to go past the corner store for milk, but the first question to the fieldtrip leader is, "Do I need to haul extra gas?"
- ◇ it is no problem for you to pronounce *and* spell actinolite, hemimorphite, and grossular, but forget tackling Massachusetts.
- ◇ on fieldtrips you make sure to dig extra for the club fundraiser, or to share with members who can't manage the hill or scree so they too can enjoy some goodies and not be left out of the neat stuff that was found.
- ◇ you still believe integrity is important, nature is beautiful and worth protecting, stepping up to volunteer is the right thing to do, claim jumpers need to be run out on a rail, and you are willing to give up alcohol and swearing for two weeks to attend Camp Paradise.
- ◇ downtime to you means working on your latest creation or continuing to polish a cab rather than surfing social media because it is lots more interesting and relaxing.
- ◇ you know the difference between cabbing, micro mounts, faceting, soft carving, hard carving, relief carving, beading, enameling, wire weaving, chain-mailing, specimen collecting, PMC, casting, enameling, lampworking, and other related cousins (whew!), *and* you can truly appreciate and admire the work done by friends in those sibling hobbies related to rockhounding.
- ◇ rush up gushing, "Oh my gosh, that is the most gorgeous ring!! Where did you get it??" and you get to smugly smile, pause, then say, "I made it, after I found and cut the rock."

Continued next page

- ◇ you have people at work that treat you like their creepy Uncle Eddy who wore that ugly agate tie bar covered in epoxy “back when” every time the subject of rocks come up, until the day they rush up gushing, “Oh my gosh, that is the most gorgeous ring!! Where did you get it??” and you get to smugly smile, pause, then say, “I made it, after I found and cut the rock.”
- ◇ you get blamed for multiple stops on trips, delayed vacation events at family reunions, and other happenings. I mean, after all, you saw a table full of rocks out in front of someone’s house, right?
- ◇ your attire is no concern when you get to go through a bunch of virgin estate rocks. (In my case this involved tying up my white pastoral garb, rolling off the white hose and slipping out of the white pumps to climb barefoot through ¼ acre of grass, rocks, and mud to the complete embarrassment of my polite and shy late husband. Found some great rock though!)
- ◇ you know that the older the equipment, the better chance it has of being indestructible, refurbishable, and reliable.
- ◇ New river rock or gravel makes you look at your feet and not look up. The public thinks you are seriously depressed. Your friends, sigh, know better.
- ◇ there really is no such thing as an ugly rock, at least until it is off your saw. You still keep it though, and add it to the bottom of your rock pile as you just cannot bear to throw it away.
- ◇ sniping auctions has become the new “here, hold my beer” to get your hands on rare and extinct cutting material.
- ◇ When asked what BLM stands for you answer something similar to “Bureau of Land Meddling and Mismanagement”.

(All rockhounds know that buckets weigh less on BLM land than coming back to camp on a club field trip.)

- ◇ you don’t have friends, at least ones that will help you move more than once.
- ◇ You understand that most rockhounds do not swear a lot, unless they hear a loud “rriipp-CLINK”. Once the blue clears and the wayward projectile is found, a near-finished expensive piece broken in flight will engage blue once again. All rockhounds already know you are allowed to swear appropriately when holding a torch.
- ◇ when your luggage marked “fragile” and “heavy” is checked at the ticket counter, an immediate TSA inspection is called. You then have to explain why your luggage is full of rocks.
- ◇ when looking for a house, any house with a pile of rocks, rocks along the fence, rock foundation, large rock fireplace, is an immediate candidate. You are definitely a rockhound if your first question is, “Do the rocks come with the house?”
- ◇ you have “special” rocks in “special” places, you know, the bottom of your purse, your desk drawer, in your toolbox, on the floorboard of your car...you know who you are... probably a rockhound.
- ◇ as a kid it really didn’t make any sense to you why Charlie Brown sounded so despondent when he said, “All I got was a rock” –you were an early rockhound
- ◇ you get cut or injured on a dig and 20 people hand you first aid and Band-Aids all at once, then carry your tools and buckets down the hill for you.

Continued next page

- ◇ you know that cabbers, faceters, fossickers, carvers, knappers, specimen collectors, micro-mounters and others are all part and parcel of the rockhounding hobby.
- ◇ *And very importantly...* You are absolutely a rockhound if you have to quickly explain to that nice highway patrolman who stopped to help you change a tire why you have a shovel, a pick, buckets, duct tape, and heavy canvas bags in your trunk.

So, what *is* a rockhound?

A rockhound is an enthusiastic, avid collector and protector possessing a sense of wonder and awe about a wide variety of a usually heavy and often messy, sometimes identifiable but often uncertain, mixture of colorful or not minerals, elements, organic and inorganic materials of questionable parentage and value that take on immediate intrinsic worth and magnetic desirability the moment any of the five senses encounters them. Generally grounded, surrounded by similar rock-loving friends who do not roll their eyes when rocks are mentioned, all sharing a belief in and respect for the value and richness to be found under our feet, and neither they nor the rocks ever taken for granted.

Linda Johnston and the Rock Building ***Steve Norman, Secretary***

The Reno Gem and Mineral Society was in a great deal of trouble back in 2016. The Rock Building's roof leaked heavily after every rainstorm--so much so that **Norvie Enns** and **Bob Tribble** went to the building before or during any rain storm to hook up tarps and place trash cans to capture the water as it seeped through the roof to the meeting room below. More critical was the uneasy feeling that eviction could occur at any time. We were on a month-to-month rent, and the landlord had not cashed the rent checks for eight months. What did that mean? The sewer bill, which was the landlord's responsibility, was not being paid. Society members began to discuss contingency plans to move equipment and show materials to people's garages. One heater worked, and the small swamp cooler was inadequate. It was a tough time for the Society, but there were a few bright spots—for example, a sizeable bank account thanks to fifty years of Society members saving money from the Jackpot of Gems show. No one wanted to consider all the problems if the building disappeared. Another bright spot was key individuals working to provide an answer to so many problems.

Linda Johnston was in the background, fighting in her pleasant voice for the Society. She made numerous phone calls every other week for months to the landlord and his wife, so often that she made herself a distant phone friend. She also wrote letters to help the family know just how much it would mean to the Society to be able to buy the building. There wasn't enough money to buy the building outright. We would need consideration from the landlord for a reasonable price and to carry the loan rather than going through a bank. There was a lot of stress to either find a new place for the Society or possibly buy the building we were renting. Linda's persistence paid off, and the family made an offer in October 2017 to sell The Rock Building!

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ALAA Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

RGMS Class & Shop Hours for October

Please respond via email to me, Julie Hilsabeck, at school@renogms.org, if you want any of the classes below. Please indicate which class date and time you want. Many of the classes are limited to a maximum of 4 students. If the day of the week says Tuesdays (for example), the plural means the class lasts all month.

Advanced Silver Fabrication \$22.50 per class

Thursdays, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Beading \$20.00

Sunday 10/15, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm ,

Materials should be available locally from The Bead Gallery or The Bead Shop, List available at.Meeting 10/4.

Beginning Lapidary \$60.00

Tuesday 10/10 and 10/11 11:00am to 3:00pm

Saturday 10/14 9:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday 10/22 9:00am to 5:00pm

Beginning Silver Fabrication \$120.00 -Rings

Tuesdays 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Thursdays 11:00am to 2:00 pm

Lost Wax Carving for Casting

No class in October

Mineral Identification \$60.00 plus \$25 kit fee

Class planned for November

Open House \$7.50/hour of use

Mondays 11:00am to 9:00 pm

Thursdays 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Slab Saw Use \$60.00

Tuesdays 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Saturday 9/9 9:00am to 5:00pm

Tumbling \$60.00

Tuesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Wire Wrapping \$90

Thursdays 6pm-9pm

Linda, Cont. from p 15

People like **Juliet and Will Handcock** immediately put the building into escrow and negotiated to get agreeable terms with the landlord. **Jim Welker**, and **John and Lorrie Peterson** were also involved with the plan to acquire the building, and they oversaw replacing the roof and cleaning out the rooms to make the entire structure rentable. The Society now has monthly rents on the parts of the building not used by the Society. New members like **Patrick Davis** have stepped up to oversee the upgrade to the building. Long-range plans include a museum for the Reno-Sparks area. A lot has happened in six years, with almost a thousand members bringing ideas, social media, and a friendly attitude so that many people are learning about who we are, and what we do for the community. Work proceeds with volunteers doing all this fantastic work, but the personal rewards are great for people who get involved and help our Society grow.

Linda Johnston is an example of someone who got involved; she was instrumental in obtaining the Rock Building for the Society. Sadly, Linda is stepping down as the manager of The Rock Building to move to Texas to be with her daughter. Linda has had many positions in the Society: president in 2012 and 2014, assistant treasurer for many years, helping out, especially during the Jackpot of Gems Show, board member at large and, of course, part of the steering committee that helped guide the Society during the acquisition of the building. Linda has been honored as a Lifetime Member of the Society. We wish her well with heartfelt appreciation to a wonderful woman who was instrumental in building the Reno Gem and Mineral Society into what it is today.

CFMS/AFMS Shows October 2023

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

October 7-8, 2023 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd.,
Grass Valley 95949 Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net

October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA
Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 7-8, 2023 – Anderson, CA
Shasta Gem and Mineral Society
1890 Briggs Street, Anderson, CA 96007
Contact: sgmsrocksredding@gmail.com
Website: <http://shastagemandmineral.org>

October 8, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St. Fallbrook CA 92028
(show on street & in parking lot), Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

October 14-15, 2023 – Redwood City, CA
Redwood City Community Activities Bldg, 1400 Rosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net Website: <http://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

October 21-22 2023—Santa Rosa CA
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Bldg, 1351 Maple Ave.
Cpmtact (707) 849-9551 jolene4srmgs@gmail.com
Website: <http://srmgs.org>

October 21, 2023 – West Hills, CA
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way,
West Hills, CA 91307 Contact: whrc@rockchppers.Org
Website: www.rockchppers.org

October 7-8, 2023 – Grass Valley, CA
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd.,
Grass Valley 95949
Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net

October 7-8, 2023 – Signal Hill, CA
Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society
Signal Hill Library, 1800 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill,
Contact: (562) 253-1390, lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS>

October 8, 2023 – Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W. Alvarado St. (show in parking lot),
Fallbrook CA 92028
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

October 14-15, 2023 – Redwood City, CA
Penninsula Gem and Geology Soc & Sequoia
Gem and Mineral Soc.
Redwood City Community Activities Building,
1400 Rosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061
Contact: (650) 575-3144, cci@pacbell.net
Website: <http://sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

October 21-22, 2023 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351
Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Contact: (707) 849-9551,
jolene4srmgs@gmail.com
Website: <http://srmgs.org>

October 21, 2023 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman
Way, West Hills, CA
Contact: whrc@rockchppers.Org
Website: www.rockchppers.org

October 28-29, 2023 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning
Road, San Diego, CA 92106
Contact: luannz@att.net
Website: <https://SDMG.org>
Show Web page: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2023>

October 28-29, 2023 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 S. Flower St.,
Orange, CA 92868
Contact: (714) 501-9959, info@opalsociety.org
Website: <http://opalsociety.org>

October 28-29, 2023 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St., Sacra-
mento, CA 95819
Contact: (916) 662-5819, webad-
min@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <http://www.sacgemshow.com>



Officers

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Vice President:	Steven Smith	Vicepresident@renogms.org
Secretary:	Steve Norman	secretary@renogms.org
Asst. Secretary:	Suzanne Webb	assistantsecretary@renogms.org
Treasurer:	Janet Longueira	treasurer@renogms.org
Asst. Treasurer:	Robyn Howard	assistanttreasurer@renogms.org
Past President	Tom Nichols	pastpresident@renogms.org

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Stephanie Leonard	Jim Wellker	Denise Sizemore
	Tim Steeper	

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Safety Coordinator	Spencer Ennis	
Security	Available	security@renogms.org
Shop:	Patrick Davis	
Social:	Debbie Bush	social@renogms.org
Sunshine:	Joanne Sworthout	sunshine@renogms.org
Tech Director	Tom Nichols (temp)	tech@renogms.org
Volunteers	Wendy Kazas	

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.
 Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter
 Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord
 Assistant Door Prize Coord.
 Educational Outreach
 Future Rockhounds Advisor
 JPOG Silent Auction
 Facility Expansion
 JPOG Dealer Chair
 Rock Bldg Leasing Mgr
 Safety Officer

Patrick Davis & Committee
 Joanne Sworthout
 Denise Sizemore,
 Lori Connel
 Steve Norman
 Steve Norman
 Renée Samuels
 Patrick Davis
 Terry Bush
 Juliet Hitchcock
 Spencer Ennis

Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

Bead weaving:
Casting:
Etching
Jewelry 101 &
Cold Connections
Lapidary

Lost Wax Carving
Mineral ID
Silver Fabrication (Adv.)
Silver Fabrication (Beg.)
Slab saw
Tumbling
Wire Art

Sue Webb
 Spencer Ennis
 Irene Comstock
 Robyn Howard
 “
 Julie Hilsabeck
 Barbara Hartman
 Tim Steeper
 Tom Calhoun/Webb Varnum
 Jill Atkins
 Spencer Ennis
 Patrick Davis
 Janet & Albie Longueira
 Ginger Ragazzi