



The Conglomerate

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

May, 2024

General Meeting

Wed. May 1, 7 PM

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor

Board Meeting

May 8, 6 PM

Rock Building, 490 Rock Blvd

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.

From the President's Desk Dean Sizemore

We are entering May, and field trips are ramping up. In April, we've had 2 already that were very successful. For those of you that are new or haven't been on a field trip yet, please do go; you'll experience the fun of being together as a group, of meeting others and making friends, of the thrill of the hunt, of finding that one special rock or specimen, and then taking it and making something beautiful out of it. In our many classes available, you can learn what to do with your finds. You can start with a class before you've even been on a field trip; the classes may give you an idea of what you want to look for when in the field. Remember that even if a field trip is planned for several days in the field, most can still be a day trip for you if you don't have the time or vehicle or trailer to camp in. Please remember when you're out rock hunting to keep an eye out for some nice rocks to put aside and donate to the Jackpot of Gems Silent Auction, or to our monthly 32 Auction or our monthly Door Prizes. We use these and other ways to raise funds to finance our kids' programs and many others.

Work at the building is coming along, not as fast as I'm sure everyone would like, but that's exactly how a major construction project goes between permitting and contractors schedules. Luckily for us, Patrick Davis, who oversees this remodel, is a retired contractor who knows how the system works and thus has it all moving forward faster than it seems. Watch his blasts for help on the things we can do ourselves--the more people to help, the quicker it will go.

I want to remind everyone about our library for 2 reasons:

- 1, There are many great resources available in there to help begin your rock hunting journey, learn new skills and history.
- 2, April has it open on Mondays during open house. She needs help to man the library and check out and receive books. We'd like to have it open during all our open houses. Please contact her or our Volunteer Coordinator.

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You are welcome any time to attend, ask questions, and give ideas at our monthly board meeting or ask someone that is a member of the Board at Large group or any Board member to present that question or thought for you. RGMS runs through its board like any other non-profit organization. I as President have only one vote when it comes to new ideas. I and others have many responsibilities also, but none of us may make changes without the Board's approval, or through some Directors who have the authority to make decisions in the best interest of the Society overseen by the President. The Reno Gem and Mineral Society follows and functions based on our By-Laws that anyone may look at any time. We use committees to discuss, narrow down and then present new ideas to the board. We need your help and thoughts because that is how we grow and advance.

Denise and I look forward to seeing everyone at the many summer events coming up and we wish you all a great month.

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.

Jackpot of Gems Exhibits 2024

Theresa Langhans Co-Chair Exhibits

Attached to this issue of the *Conglomerate* is the Exhibits Entry Form for the upcoming Jackpot of Gems show in September. Please complete the form and send to us so that we may reserve a case for you! We have about 50 exhibit cases to fill.

I know there are quite a few new Society members who may not know what I am talking about. At our annual Jackpot of Gems show, Society members and guests "show off" their collections in glass exhibit cases. The collections are usually related to our hobby, but can be other collections as well. Some examples of past exhibit case entries include: Field Trip Finds; Varieties of Petrified Wood; Jewelry; Stone Carvings; Stone Knapping; Stone Spheres; Stone Knives; and all kinds of rocks (rough and polished) both mixed varieties and similar items. Your creativity is what makes your case interesting! Any one of our experienced members can assist you with pulling together your exhibit.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am more than happy to help! theresaAlanghans@gmail.com

And if you would like to try your hand at competition, we do have that level of entry available. This can greatly aid you in preparation for future competitions at the Regional and National levels. Several members of Reno Gem & Mineral Society have won at all levels of competition.

On Saturday, June 15, from 10am-1pm I will be teaching a class on how to construct your own liners for your showcase. There is no cost for this class, and I will provide you with a list of suggested materials prior to the class. Liners show off and complement the material that we put inside of our cases. Please reach out either to me or to Julie Hilsabek, our School Director, to sign up for this class.

Membership

Lynda Traves, Membership Director

Wow! As I write this it will be May 2024 when the newsletter is published. We did not go on any trips in March and April. We were busy handling our Burning Man obligations. Our Reno Core Project received an honorarium from Burning Man Project and this will take up all the time for the foreseeable future. I did include a picture of me with our dogs. We are all very matchy matchy as Mark would say. Many of you have met our dogs or I have talked about them. Three of those dogs were rescued from Beagle Freedom Project and are over 9 years old where they tested on in various laboratories. We do hope that we can do a couple of the field trips and you will probably meet our furry family. New members (March 16 to April 15).

Adam Roe	Marty, Marla, & Sadie Federspiel
Alex Prokop	Matthew, Jessica Albee, & Alice Grime
Andres Segovia-Cortez	Melissa A Fry, John C Fry and Suzy Zima
Anita Harsh	Meryl Delabarrera
Cherie Garrison	Nathan Makowski
Gary & Kim Seidler	Paul Bigelow
Jacobs Adams	Penelope, Marie, Jacob and Hannah Blalack
Jamie Strong & Ina Healy	Ray Guthrie
John & Janice Jackson	Ron Marks
John Robert Jackson & Janice Rae Jackson	Shayleigh Avalos
Julie Parris	Stan, Adam and Noah Rahn
Kristopher Attabit	Stuart & Katie Sherburne
Linda Lubin	TIFFANEE HUTTON and Steve Hnat
Lynda Roubineau , Jean Gomez, Cassie Alan and Danika Hurwitz; Andrew Anderson	Travis Phelps & Alejandra Bernardez de Phelps, Lincoln Phelps, Emma Phelps

To pay your membership online or in person, download the membership form:<https://renogms.org/membership-2/> If you have any questions, please email me at membership@renogms.org .. A family membership is for those living in the same household.

- 1) Membership Dues paid from January through June cover a membership through the year 2024: \$50 for Family; \$35 for individual; and \$25 for student memberships
- 2) Membership Dues paid from July to October are prorated for the year: \$25 for a Family membership;\$18 for an Individual membership; and \$13 for a student membership. For the next year's membership, you will renew at the annual membership rate.3) Membership Dues paid in November to December covert to full annual rate and cover the full membership for 2025: \$50 for Family; \$35 for individual; and \$25 for student memberships

Also, new for 2024, is the signing of the RGMS waiver. If you renew online, it is a one click affirmation. Otherwise, print the waiver , sign it and send with your membership dues. If paying at the General Meeting or at a class, there are copies at the shop for you to sign. For those who have not signed the waiver with their dues, a form will be emailed in the coming weeks.

May Field Trip Report

Hilary Loupee, Field Trip Director

Hello Fieldtrippers! We are off to a great start this year. We had a huge turnout to Wonderstone Mountain, as always. A big thank you to Steve Smith for leading that trip. Everyone was able to find some nice pieces and the weather was pretty nice. The wind was a little cold, but overall it was a pleasant day. The Huffaker Hills hike was also a huge success and the weather cooperated. We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day! Professor Putnam shared his expertise with our group and we all learned a lot of geology about our very own valley. Seeing the fault lines right here in Reno was so cool!

Here are the remaining scheduled field trips for the year. I have included brief descriptions which include what type of vehicle you will need and how far they are from Reno. We will also be doing 3 additional day trips, including a trip for amethyst on a private claim, a trip led by Patrick Davis to Crystal Peak, and a location to be announced from Eric Lundin. We will not be doing the Davis Creek Rainbow Obsidian and Oregon Sunstones as a field trip this year, but we are supplying maps and instructions to all members to form their own smaller groups to do these locations. The limited permit system makes it very difficult to do as a field trip, but I encourage you to try to make it to these locations. They are both world class collecting sites. The maps are being handed out at the general meetings, but you can email me at fieldtrip@renogms.org to get a copy of the maps and information. As always, details and meet up information will be included

Lovelock May 5th day trip– Collecting rainbow jasper, light blue agate and Apache tears. Anything but street-only vehicle to rainbow jasper. 4WD and high clearance required for Apache tears. Will do the jasper and agate in the morning, Apache tears after lunch. 2 hours from Reno. Meeting at the McDonalds in Lovelock.

Luning May 25th-27th– Collecting ammonites and other sea fossils. First overnight trip on Memorial Day weekend. RV campsite in Mina with showers! 4WD high clearance vehicles only. Plan to visit the Luning rock shop! 3 hours from Reno. Could be done as a day trip (a long one).

Gabbs –June 8th-9th Led by the Metzgers for a variety of rocks including jasper, agate, and petrified wood from Gabbs Valley. 4WD high clearance vehicles only. Camping at Quartz Mountain on Hwy 361. 2 hours from Reno. Easily done as a day trip.

Texas Springs July 4th-7^t– The famous pink limb casts. Maps will be provided to campsite. 4WD high clearance vehicles. Great ranch road to campsite to tow campers. Plan on 7-8 hours to campsite.

Fairview – July 27th-28th– Collecting blue agates. 2 hours from Reno, high clearance 4WD only. Campsite near dig site with good road able to tow campers. Very difficult digging only.

Gabbs Opalized Wood - August 2nd – 4th Back to our opalized trees north of Gabbs. Mostly hard digging. 4WD high clearance vehicles. Camping at Quartz Mountain on Hwy 361. 2 hours from Reno.

◇ Continued p. 5

Austin August 31st-September 2nd – Collecting Mt. Airy geodes, fluorite, and snakeskin agate. 3 day weekend, but any day can be done as a day trip. High clearance 4WD only. Camping/RV near the Mt. Airy site. Motels or RV sites available in Austin.

Tonopah September 21st-22nd – Special fee dig on Saturday at the Royal Blue Mine. www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com. All vehicles can make this one. Hotels in Tonopah. For those staying, Tori and I will be organizing a ghost tour on Saturday night and a visit to the mining museum on Sunday. 4 hours from Reno.

Black Rock Desert –October 4th – 7th collecting Black Rock geodes. 4WD high clearance vehicles. The playa must be dry as we have to cross the entire thing! Camping on the playa. 4 hours from Reno.

Coaldale –October 18th-19th Trip to the Monte Cristo range led by Jim Welker. Collecting agate, jasper, rhyolite, and more. About 3.5 hours from Reno. 4WD high clearance vehicles only. Good campsite for RVs off of Highway 6.

Hilary's Rockhound Photos
Wonderstone Mtn & Washoe Valley



Prof. Putnam showing mudslide over pyroclastic flow



Hilary atop Wonderstone Mtn.



Small natural fault showing displacement



Ron collecting Wonderstone beside the road.



View over Washoe Valley

**Educational Outreach
Steve Norman, Youth Advisor**

Sun Valley has an after-school program where sixteen third and fourth-grade students can examine Nevada rocks and minerals. The presentation has examples of minerals and their uses that show how technology advances. Students learn some examples of minerals and their uses in everyday life. Every student is given a mineral gift, and information is provided to their parents about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. 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 most of the polished rocks students and teachers receive.

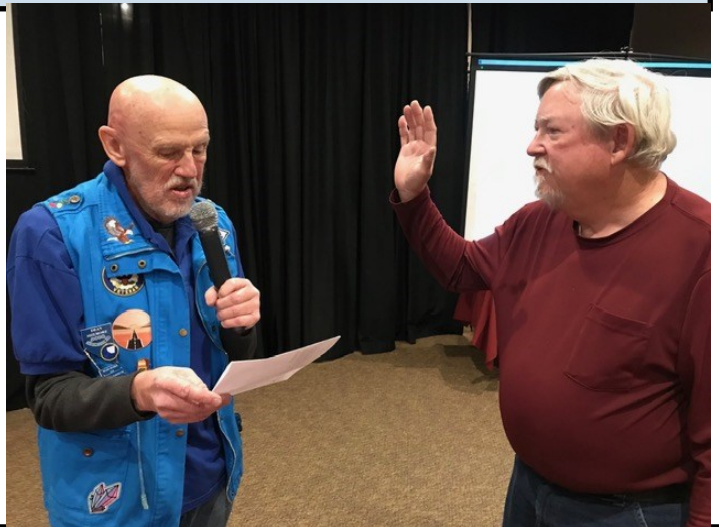
The Future Rockhounds program is on the second Saturday from 3 pm to 4:30 pm each month. The April 13 youth education program had five students from five to ten years of age. The class identified Nevada minerals in a game and then did some "mining" with a spoon to collect some gems. Students painted a rock as an art activity. Each student receives a rock for their collection and earns points towards badges.

**May 1, General Meeting
Tim Steeper, Vice President**

Steve Norman will talk about the Reno RGMS educational outreach at the May meeting. This effort is a very important activity for our society as it is one of the primary means of interesting potential younger members about the science of rocks and minerals. For the new members that may not know Steve, he is a superb educator. One only needs to watch him interact with the young people that attend his Future Rockhounds of America meeting as I did last month. I have never before seen a group of kids remain so focused for an hour or so while learning about science. Steve will be the first person to say he doesn't do it all himself, so I'm sure we will hear about others that support the educational efforts of RGMS as well.

**RGMS Gets a New Vice President
Photo: Steven Smith**

The April meeting saw the swearing-in of **Tim Steeper** as Vice President, replacing **Steven Smith** who has been trying to retire from the post for several months, having already served RGMS as VP for 4 years. Tim has been serving on the Board at Large and teaches the popular Lost Wax Carving class as well as showing up whenever some volunteer help is needed around the Society. Among Tim's responsibilities as VP are scheduling the program for each general meeting, leading the pledge of allegiance, and filling in whenever the President can't serve.



RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024**Respectfully Submitted by Steve Norman, Secretary**

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.

President: **Dean Sizemore** called the meeting to order at 6 PM, and **Steve Smith** led the pledge of allegiance. Dean announced that Steve Smith would resume working as vice president until someone volunteers. Dean asked everyone to respect each other's opinions. The Historian director is open, as **Philipp Weirauch** is stepping down due to his professional duties. **Juliet Hitchcock** volunteered for the open at-large position.

Treasurer **Robyn Howard**, who filled in for **Janet Longueira**, reviewed the February expense and profit reports generated from QuickBooks. **Patrick Davis** made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. **Sue Webb** seconded, and the motion carried. The budget review had a couple of minor changes. **Debbie Bush** motioned to accept the budget. **Dan Ellis** seconded, and the motion carried.

Past President/Tech Chair: Director **Tom Nichols** is updating some of the website's photography. The Jackpot of Gems page has some revisions, and the Grand Sierra Casino picture needs updating. Tom thanks **Sven Sander** for all his work on social media.

Jackpot of Gems: Director **Dan Ellis** reports twenty-five vendors. The next show meeting is April 15, 2024, at 6 PM. Thanks to the work of a large group of volunteers organized by **Albie Longueira** and **Lori Connel**, twenty-three buckets of material are now ready for the silent auction.

Facility: Director **Terry Bush** reports that the fire extinguishers are certified.

Conglomerate and AFMS/CFMS (American Federation Mineral Society & California FMS): Editor **Sue Webb** reminded society members of the big show at Ventura, CA, where the AFMS and CFMS meet on May 24, 2024, and she will attend to represent RGMS. Sue outlined the travel expenses for gas and hotels at \$950. **Eric Fendelander** motioned to pay all expenses, including the banquets, which Sue needs to attend. **Juliet Hitchcock** seconded, and the motion carried. Articles are needed from board members quarterly or annually on projects they are involved with during the year. These articles are due on the 15th of the month.

Security: Director **Lori Connel** reported a meeting with a committee of **Terry Bush**, **Patrick Davis**, **Eric Fendelander**, **Theresa Langhans**, and **Janet Longueira**. There is a need for motion sensors and camera equipment for the additional rooms added on from the classroom and shop. The equipment cost is \$598. The existing codes and keys have been used for several years and require an update. Bids are in the process to rekey door locks and reissue alarm codes.

LLC (Limited Liability Corporation): Director **Debbie Bush** reported a March 8, 2024 committee meeting. The committee agreed to spend money on the building maintenance and upgrade monthly rather than doing all the work towards the end of the year. Two proposals for installing outside lighting with a timer from dusk to dawn will illuminate the sidewalk area. The cost will be about \$5,500, depending on bids. Delmar Furniture is giving up its storage area with Jay's Automotive to assume the rent charge. Jay's will upgrade that portion of the building as needed for a five-year lease. There has been some trouble contacting **Will Hitchcock** on a tax issue. Dean will use email or text to get the problem resolved.

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RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024
Respectfully Submitted by Steve Norman, Secretary

Sunshine: Director **Joanne Sworthout** and the board got news from **Dean** and **Denise Sizemore** about some of their health issues. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

New Business: Past President **Tom Nichols** suggested shortening the General Meeting business portion to allow more time for the speaker. The Bureau of Land Management BLM meeting went well, and **Steve Smith**, using the microphone, got lots of questions answered about the gathering sites affected by the Navy expansion of their training space.

Vice President **Steve Smith** announced that **Hilary Vass** will do the program for April on field trips, supplies, equipment, and rules for a successful gathering. Steve reported that the survey would help determine the best general meeting methods. **Steve Smith** motioned to work on this general meeting length and content issues, and **Tom Nichols** seconded. Motion carried.

Silent Auction: **Lori Connel** and **Albie Longueira** are working on the upcoming event for the Jackpot of Gems. Lori indicated a need for more materials, especially the "wow stuff." The Society needs good material to benefit the 32 Auction, Wheel of Fortune, education outreach, Kids Corner, and the Silent Auction. The Field Trip participants could be encouraged to donate something to the Society.

Social Media: Director **Sven Sander** via email report shows Facebook, Mailchimp, and Eblasts for February 2024. There were 14 E blasts. There were 475 page or video views on the RGMS Facebook page. The Facebook page had 80 posts and comments, with 7,255 group views and 19 posts.

Public Relations: Acting Director **Stephanie Leonard** announced the Nevada State Museum tour to document involvement in the community as part of the yearbook for the All-American Club Award. The Rotary Club event wants raffle prizes to support the Pink and Purple Trail run. Stephanie asked for donations to fill a basket for this community outreach. She needs the materials by May 4, 2024. No other business meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Wonderstone Mountain Field Trip Photos
Susana Calibuso



Kid's Corner: Yellowstone National Park

Steve Rose and Steve Norman, Youth Coordinator



Yellowstone National Park, the spectacular crown jewel of the National Park system, was established in 1872 as the first park. The park covers some 3,500 square miles, mainly in Wyoming but extending into parts of Idaho and Montana.

The geologic history of the area is unique in North America and results from the North American plate moving over a hot plume of magma from deep in the mantle that thins the overlying crust and, at times, creates conditions that allow for monumental explosive volcanism, resulting in the surface features and events that we find today. These features include the famous Old Faithful geyser and some 10,000 additional

sites of hot springs, steam vents, hot pools, tufa mounds, etc. The area is subject to thousands of seismic events each year, most small enough to go unnoticed by visitors.

The past 2.1 million years have seen several explosive events. The first was the largest and resulted in the ejection of some 600 cubic miles of magma and ash from the area over the hot spot. Small volcanic eruptions happened 6,000 years later, another at 1.3 million years, and the most recent blast came 640,000 years ago. There will be another at some point, hopefully not soon, as any significant explosive event here could cause severe climate changes.

The explosive ejection of material from these events has created an enormous caldera, some 30 by 45 miles, that is three related calderas. The ejection of material allows the crust to collapse, forming what might be called a giant sinkhole. If you are fortunate enough to visit, remember that you are standing on a moving piece of the earth's crust only a few miles above the molten magma below.

Reference, Wikipedia, National Park Service

Photo: Bing Online Photo

More Wonderstone Mountain Field Trip Photos

Susana Calibuso



Basket Donation for Rotary End Polio Run Event **Stephanie Leonard, Acting Public Relations Director**



A RAFFLE DONATION GIFT BASKET was presented to the Rotary Club of Reno, NV for their 15th Annual Trail Run benefiting the End Polio Now Campaign. Although the monetary donations are used worldwide to continue to eradicate polio, there are now new reports of polio amongst refugees.

When a child is immunized, their pinkie finger is colored purple to show they are safe from this disease. All countries are at risk of outbreaks, including USA. The Rotary Foundation Inc., aligns with Immunize Nevada to provide the vaccines used for this humanitarian effort. Visit their site: www.EndPolio.org

Special acknowledgement goes out to our RGMS members who donated items for this basket which included: handmade beaded necklace and ear-ring set, polished jasper

pendant, petrified opalized wood specimen, rock/crystal/geode collection, 4 Jackpot of Gems Sept. '24 Show courtesy entries and the RGMS brochure, all together valued at \$140.00.

The Trail Run is scheduled on May 4, 2024 at San Rafael Park, Peavine Pavillion and one can run 10K, walk 5K and visit their vender booths and food court. Register at renopoliorun.com. If you go to support this cause, consider wearing your RGMS name plate (badge) or vest to identify our Society.

Giving to our communities here in Northern Nevada by supporting various charities and humanitarian causes is an extension of goodwill and the generosity of the RGM Society



More Wonderstone Mountain Field Trip Photos **Susana Calibuso**



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM TOUR MARCH 16, 2024

Stephanie Leonard, Acting Public Relations Director

If you have not yet visited this museum in Carson City, consider joining RGMS on our next opportunity. Although we were limited to a small group, 13 members were led through the various exhibits by the renowned Sam Knipmeyer, veteran docent.

Sam's extensive historical knowledge brought additional meaning to each of the displays, pointing out artifacts and showing special items that could have been missed.

The museum excels in their Under One Sky indigenous exhibit which can certainly absorb a visitor for some time.

Touring a mine replication with details from Sam revealed what type of life a miner lived while employed by the mine owners. That was quite a walk underground.

Rocks, minerals, dinosaurs, fossils from NV and Western US with over 180 specimens, coral, ammonites, and replicas of ichthyosaur, mammoth and a horse all to be seen and marveled at. Rockhound's eyes lit up, of course.

There is quite the display of historical day-to-day-living items that were prominent here in this desert state over the last several decades. Memories were shared by some of our members while viewing such antiquities.

And of course, the Carson City Mint. The history of the minting of coins was well explained and demonstrated by the docents who had the depth of information of the Comstock Lode and how coins were made, stamped and delivered. The Mint display is a must see attraction and major highlight of this museum.

There was so much more that we saw in the 4 hours and much more that can and should be seen on a private tour.

Further upcoming tours will be scheduled this year and email blasts will be sent to all current RGMS members. Sam is very willing to lead more groups and perhaps we will have a very special opportunity to view the upcoming special exhibit of "Dat So La Lee's basket weaving. She is the Queen of the basket weavers and her baskets are prized worldwide.

Announcements for future tours will be sent via email blasts and announced during the general meetings. If a special museum is on your list, let's see what can be worked out for an outing. There is much to see here in our Silver State!

Spring Artisan Craft Fair

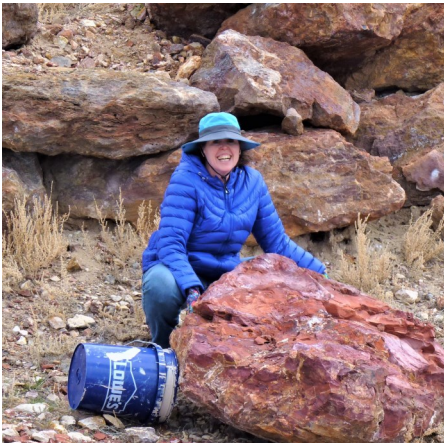
Theresa Langhans

I hope that you were able to visit our Artisan Craft Fair that was held in April. We did have a fantastic turnout and thank all of you who came to support us! We had a total of 21 vendors and some of the vendors were brand new members to our Society. What a range of crafts. And we already have 10 vendors signed up for our Fall Fair.

I would also like to thank Dean S, Janet L, Robyn H... our Wheel of Fortune volunteers. That Wheel spun so many times and every time there was a winner with squeals of joy!

If you are interested in participating as a vendor in our Fall Show (held November 8, 9, 10), I will be posting the form in the June Conglomerate.

Wondersome Mountain Trip Photos: Susana Calibuso



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 rock-hounding, 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 List

Julie Hilsabeck, School Director

Classes Offered by RGMS

First, carefully read the blast sent the Tuesday before the meeting. Please respond via email to me, Julie Hilsabeck, at school@renogms.org, if you want any of the classes offered. Please indicate which class date and time you want. Many of the classes are limited to a maximum of 4 students. The list below shows the cost for each class and, if known at this time, the usual day of the week. Days often change from month to month, **so rely on the blast and the online calendar for the latest and correct information.**

Advanced Silver Fabrication
\$22.50 per class
Beading \$20.00 .
Beginning Lapidary \$60.00
Beginning Silver Fabrication
\$120.00
Lost Wax Carving for Casting
Mineral Identification \$60.00
plus \$25 kit fee
Open House \$7.50/hour of use
Slab Saw Use \$60.00
Tumbling \$60.00
Wire Wrapping \$90

Message from Tim Steeper

If there is enough interest, from time to time I will start setting up for lost wax casting so members can make original waxes and get them cast. Probably will cast during some Monday open houses, maybe bi-monthly if there is enough interest. I would appreciate everyone who has taken my class to send me their name, phone number, and email address so I can put together a mailing list to inform everyone that is interested when such casting dates are proposed. I have a lot of this information already, of course, but not for everyone that has taken the course. My contact info is Tim Steeper, 1timsteeper@gmail.com, 803-599-7021,. Text works best.

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>](mailto:school@renogms.org): Some classes are offered only occasionally.

Advanced Silver Fabrication
Beginning Silver Fabrication
Beginning Lapidary
Intermediate Lapidary
Beading and Bead Weaving
Bezels Using Gallery Wire
Casting”
Cold Connections
Etching on Copper
Jewelry 101
Lost Wax Carving
Mineral Identification
Making your own ear wires
Silver Crocheting
Silver Chain Making
Slab Saw Use Basics:
Tumbling:
Wire wrapping/weaving: ...

Desired additions to the list
when/if we can find a teacher:

Enameling (future)
Faceting (future)
Intarsia (future)

CFMS/AFMS Shows 2024

Additional information is available on the CFMS Website:
<http://cfmsinfo.org>

May 4-5, 2024 – Lancaster

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
2551 W Ave. H, Lancaster, CA 93536
Contact: marylandoriole@gmail.com

May 3-4, 2024 – Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Show will be held on Yucaipa Blvd near Adams Street, Yucaipa CA 92399
Hours: Friday 5 PM – 10 PM, Saturday noon – 9 PM.
held in conjunction with Yucaipa Music & Arts Festival. Name bands both nights, arts and crafts dealers and food, beer and wine booths.
Contact: grandpasegms@gmail.com Website: <https://www.yvgms.org/>

May 11-12, 2024 – Jackson, CA 95642

Almador County Gem & Mineral Society
Kennedy Mine, Highway 49/88, Jackson, CA 95642
No dogs please. Vendor information call (209) 296-4061
public please use Contact: (209) 304-9622

May 24-26, 2024 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society CFMS & AFMS

Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001
Hours: Fri and Sat 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM
CFMS-AFMS National Show and Convention. 100 gem, mineral, fossil & lapidary arts exhibits; speakers & programs; on-going demos of lapidary arts, jewelry making and gold panning; raffle prizes & silent auctions; 50 dealers; children's activities & free resources for teachers. Supports college scholarships earth sciences students and/or jewelry arts & also supports free educational outreach for schools, teachers, home-schoolers & youth groups. This regional and national federation show is being run and sponsored by the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.2024cfms-afms.com>, <http://www.vgms.org>

What Steven Smith Found at the Top of Wonderstone Mountain



Take a few minutes and check out the *CFMS Newsletter* for May. Just enter <http://www.cfmsinc.org> and find the newsletters in the list on the right. Click on the link.

The *Newsletter of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies* is published monthly. You can view the current issue as well as back issues online at www.Amfed.org. There is also a new Kids' Website

. www.juniors.amfed.org



Reno Gem and Mineral Society
 480 South Rock Blvd
 Sparks, NV 89421
 www.renogms.org



The Conglomerate
 Volume 58, Issue 5
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Secretary:	Steve Norman	secretary@renogms.org
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ALAA rep	Available	alaa@renogms.org
Bulletin Editor:	Suzanne Webb	conglomerate@renogms.org
Ass't Editor	Karen Boldi	
CFMS & AFMS	Suzanne Webb	cfms@renogms.org
Craft Fairs	Theresa Langhans	craftfair@renogms.org
Door Prize Coordinator	Denise Sizemore	doorprizes@renogms.org
Building & Facility	Terry Bush	maintenance@renogms.org
Facebook	Sven-Erik Sander	socialmedia@renogms.org
Field Trips:	Hilary Loupee et al	fieldtrip@renogms.org
Historian:	Philipp Weirauch	historian@renogms.org
Jackpot of Gems	Daniel Ellis	jpog@renogms.org
Ass't JPOG	Terry Bush	jpog@renogms.org
Librarian	April Young	library@renogms.org
LLC Manager	Debbie Bush	lhc@renogms.org
Membership:	Lynda Traves	membership@renogms.org
Photographer:	Steven Smith	photographer@renogms.org
Public Relations:	Kristen Gorton	publicity@renogms.org
School:	Julie Hilsabeck	school@renogms.org
Security	Lori Connel	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. Contact Wendy Kazas to learn what’s needed.

<i>32 Auctions</i>	Nick Bombard & Hilary Loupee
<i>Assistant Door Prize Coord.</i>	Lori Connel
<i>Compliance Officer</i>	Ana John
<i>Educational Outreach</i>	Steve Norman
<i>Future Rockhounds Advisor</i>	Steve Norman
<i>Facility Expansion</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>Gen. Mtg Door Prize Coord</i>	Denise Sizemore,
<i>Gen. Mtg. Guest Greeter</i>	Joanne Sworthout
<i>JPOG Dealer Chair</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>JPOG Silent Auction</i>	Lori Connel & Albie Longueira
<i>Rock Bldg Leasing Mgr</i>	Terry Bush
<i>Safety Coordinator</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Used Equip, Sale Coord.</i>	Patrick Davis & Committee
<i>Yearbook</i>	Susana Calibuso

Instructors (Alphabetical by class)

<i>Bead Weaving:</i>	Karen Boldi & Juliet Hitchcock
<i>Casting:</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Etching</i>	Irene Comstock
<i>Jewelry 101 &</i>	Robyn Howard
<i>Cold Connections</i>	“
<i>Lapidary</i>	Julie Hilsabeck
	Barbara Hartman
<i>Lost Wax Carving</i>	Tim Steeper
<i>Mineral ID</i>	Tom Calhoun/Webb Varnum
<i>Silver Fabrication (Adv.)</i>	Jill Atkins
<i>Silver Fabrication (Beg.)</i>	Spencer Ennis
<i>Slab saw</i>	Patrick Davis
<i>Tumbling</i>	Janet & Albie Longueira
<i>Wire Art</i>	Kelly Preston

