



The Conglomerate

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

June, 2024

General Meeting

Wed. June 5 7 PM

Baldini's Casino, Second Floor

Board Meeting

June 12, 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

.Happy June and to our new members welcome and thank you for joining the Reno Gem and Mineral Society (RGMS). Your membership is very valuable to us, and we always welcome your opinions and ideas. We have so many events throughout the year for our members at no cost. I want to mention a few right now but we are not limited to these. Our directors are always adding new ideas; some are our annual picnic, Christmas party, Jackpot of Gems (JPOG), open houses and field trips. All these events require help --from a little bit to lots. We need new teachers for classes, help with our picnic and our JPOG potluck (a very popular event and appreciated by our members and vendors who've worked all day), our Christmas party, field trip assistants and leaders. JPOG requires the largest number of helpers leading up to and the days of the event. The board of directors needs new directors and assistants. There are so many ways we can use and appreciate your help. You will hear about openings for help we need at our monthly general membership meeting, in our monthly newsletter and at the monthly board of directors meeting. My wife and I both found that the best part about volunteering was meeting new people and making new friends.

You will all be receiving an email with a link to a Survey; the Survey is anonymous. We send this out every few years and even annually to get your feedback. We as a board are looking for information on what your society is doing right and more importantly any way you feel we are not doing well or can improve. Please take the time to reply so we can make this the society you are looking for.

Field trips are going full speed and have already been impressively attended. These are included with your membership and are a great way to make friends, discover great finds and learn about the many minerals that Nevada offers. . Our field trip director offers a variety of field trips—day trips, weekend trips, and weeklong trips. Many of the weekend trips can also be done as day trips. They are great for families, and some are for children specifically.

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After you make your finds, you can then take classes to learn how to change them from rough rocks into jewelry or just clean them up. We are asking when you make all you finds on a trip that you see if you can possibly donate some to the society to be used for any of our fund raisers.

Classes are led by our very talented members who have years of experience; we have many to choose from and new ones being offered all the time. We are always open to new ideas and new instructors. The classes are offered at very reasonable costs and at different times and days throughout the week. Once you've completed a class and qualify, you can then attend one of our many open houses to work on your new and special items.

At the general meeting please stop up front and meet me, **Dean Sizemore**, and **Tim Steeper**, our vice president—just say hi so we can meet you. We look forward to meeting all of you. Have a great month, be safe and most of all, have lots of fun.

Jackpot of Gems 2024

Hello everyone. Hope you have had a wonderful spring so far.

Please make sure on your outings to find that one in a million rock that you bring back the extras you do not need to donate to RGMS. As you know, we always need more rocks. We use them for classes as well as to make some money on them at the show.

As this is June, we only have 3 months til the show on **Sept 14th and 15th** at the Grand Sierra. At the general meeting we will have our sign up sheets for all jwe need help with. We will have the small and large signage for the show so you can get a few to give to others or put in up in the windows of your favorite store.

The set up is going to be Friday morning at 7AM the 13th. If you are one of the vendors for the show set up will open for you at 12:00PM to 7PM. Display cases also set up at noon. So be sure to mark your calendars for those hours.

We will be loading the truck on Wed the 11th. Hours will be posted later.

Yep it is here already and 90 days will be gone before we know it.

Thanks to all who have gotten us this far. And thank you for helping make this show a success.

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.

Speaking of Shows

Remember **Gem Faire**? Well, it's coming back to Reno. It will be at the convention center (where we had our last 3 shows) on June 28-30. You can print free admission coupons at their web site gemfaire.com. I'm not sure, but I'm assuming convention center parking is not free for this event, but you can park for free at the Atlantis and take the bridge across, or at the Town Mall across Virginia Street.

Membership

Lynda Traves, Membership Director

Wow! As I write this it will be June 2024 when the newsletter is published. We still did not go on any rock hounding trips in May. Tis the season when our weekends are booked up with our honorarium art project for Burning Man. We were also helping our daughter with her new-born girl.

Welcome to the following new members for the past month (16 of April to 15 of May):

Bailey, Richard, Declan & Brinley and Rachel
Hobensack

Levandoski, Gerry

Bifulco, Tiffani

Lyon , Alexa

Carlson, Erin and Isaac Spake

McClintock, Paul

Cameran, Cody

McCray, Birdy

Clayson, Alan

McGarvey, Terry

Dessert, Theresa, Curtis, and Brooke

Manning, Mary, Neumann, Shannon, Katie, Lanie,
Reese, and Adley

Gandolfo, Sage

Owen, Patricia

Gapusan, Leonard and Julie

Rodewald, Annie & Dave Emmil

Grueninger, Robin

Siebels , Jeremy, Baily and Sierra; Taylor, Tanner
and Chan Taylor

Guelker, Katherine & William

Silva, Sable, Chayse and Dakota Cantrell

James, Leslie

Schutmaat, Danielle

Latham, Teresa, Jerry and Jack and Ambert Rodri-
quez

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 for January to June covers a membership through the year 2024: \$50 for Family; \$35 for individual; and \$25 for student memberships. 2) Membership Dues 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, you will renew your membership in January 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 and sign it with your membership dues. If paying at the General Meeting or at a class, there are copies at the shop. For those who have not signed the waiver with their dues, one will be emailed in the coming weeks

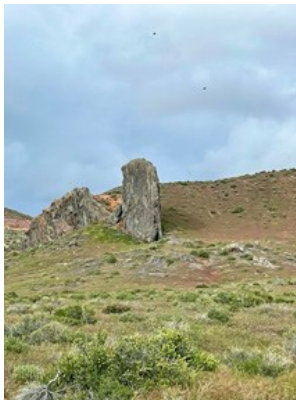
We currently have 423 memberships representing 722 members. And, a respectable number of school-aged children, some of which attend the kids rock classes. (kids can start any time). There are crafts where kids can identify rocks and paint rocks. Thank you.

June Field Trip Report

Hilary Loupee, Field Trip Director



Hello Field trippers! Our May 5th field trip to Lovelock was a lot of fun and definitely one for the record books. Despite freezing temperatures, high winds, and pelting sleet and snow, around 50 people came out to find rainbow jasper, agate, and Apache Tears! **Nick** insisted on wearing his signature shorts, so now he will be forever known as “Shorts Guy”. Everyone left with some great rocks. The digging is hard, but rewarding. And there is still good material to surface pick for those who don’t like to dig.



After the field trip ended, **Todd** and I went down to the next exit to find “The Tombstone”, which I was told was a big rock that looked just like a tombstone. Wow, they weren’t kidding. It is two or three stories high and only maybe 6 feet wide, so it looks just like a giant tombstone sticking out of the ground. I found it on Google Maps, so if you are in the area, definitely stop and take a look. It’s only a short distance off of the main road.

This month, we have our field trip to Gabbs, led by the **Metzgers** who know the area well. They will take us to multiple locations to find jasper, agate, chalcedony, and petrified wood. Some of these will be different to previous field trip locations, so definitely one to come out to! I’m really looking forward to it!

We will be camping at our usual site at Quartz Mountain, right off of highway 359 between Gabbs and Middlegate.

And start planning for the Texas Springs trip in the beginning of July if you want to go. It is a classic RGMS spot and definitely one of my favorite field trips. Texas Springs is located north of Wells, NV. It’s a long drive, but worth the amazing pink limb casts that you will fill your buckets with. Lithium companies have been exploring the area, so don’t put this trip off, as it might be inaccessible in the near future. We camp near the dig site at a level spot off of a good ranch road. There are also accommodations in Wells or Jackpot.

Gabbs June 8-9– 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 4-7– 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 27=28– 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.

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Gabbs Opalized Wood August 2-4 – 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.

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.

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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
Lovelock trip



Educational Outreach

Steve Norman, Youth Advisor

The Education Outreach program went to the High Desert Montessori School. Two class presentations to 56 students explained minerals in everyday products. **Debbie Bush** and **Steve Norman** then went to Pinecrest Academy school for two days, teaching four fourth-grade classes to one hundred and eighteen students. **Debbie Bush** arranged all these classes. Thanks to Society members **Alan** and **Bobbie Metzger**, students and teachers receive a labeled polished rock.

The presentation includes examples of minerals and their uses that show how technology advances. Students are encouraged to think about science as a career, and their parents receive information about the Reno Gem and Mineral Society. We get support from the Nevada Division of Minerals' program to keep out of abandoned mines.



The Future Rockhounds program is on the second Saturday (usually) from 3 pm to 4:30 pm each month. The May 11 youth education program had eleven students from five to ten years of age. The class identified the major parts of the earth's structure and did an experiment on air pressure. Students painted and decorated an ammonite-looking fossil made from **Renée Samuels's** oven. Each student receives a rock for their collection and earns points towards badges.

June 5 General Meeting

Tim Steeper, Vice President and Theresa Langhans, Exhibits Chair

Come join us for a presentation and volunteer sign-up for our Annual Jackpot of Gems. This General Meeting will be held at Baldini's on Wednesday, June 5. The Jackpot of Gems show is to be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15 2024 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. The Grand Sierra is a new venue for us and we could use as much assistance as you are able to give. We will be setting up on Friday, September 13. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at this meeting and we encourage you to participate; it's the best way to get to know other members of the Society!

In addition, **Theresa Langhans**, our Exhibits Chair, will be presenting a program on how to set up and show off the materials that you will be exhibiting at the show. Meet and speak with other members who have previously competed AND won trophies for their exhibits at both the RGMS shows and the California Regional Federation shows in past years. Theresa will also have an example of an exhibit case set up. Find out how easy and how truly rewarding it is to exhibit!

Please join us. We look forward to seeing you.

RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 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.

(RGMS) Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2024

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 reminded board members to attend the general meeting if possible to help other members with questions and to assist with the Society's business meeting.

New Business: Board Member at Large **Gayle Dedrick** proposed to make clothing with the RGMS logo using an embroidery machine. She offered to make them and split the profits with RGMS. **Jim Welker** motioned to approve the idea, and **Juliet Hitchcock** seconded. The motion carried. President **Dean Sizemore** likes the concept of RGMS clothing and swag. Dean would donate \$1,000 to get this project started. Working with **Pitch Black Printing**, **Stephanie Leonard** will look at t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies using the RGMS logos or emblems. **Tim Steeper** suggested putting the question of what people wanted on the survey to get a sense of what to produce. The idea is tabled until more information is gathered.

Treasurer: **Janet Longueira** has emailed all Board members a copy of the Financial Report for March 2024. She went over the March expense and profit reports. **Tim Steeper** made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. **Robyn Howard** seconded, and the motion carried.

Social Media: Director **Sven Sander's** report shows Facebook, Mailchimp, and Eblasts for March 2024. There were 14 Eblasts. The RGMS Facebook page had 635 page or video views, 188 posts and comments, 14,826 group views, and 34 posts. Dean requested a listing to send the survey to former and current members.

Craft Fair: **Theresa Langhans**, thanks to everyone for participating and succeeding in the event. The vendors did well; with 23 vendors, RGMS made \$2,735 with some expenses to take from the total. The social media worked well. She has nine vendors already signed up for November 8, 9, and 10th for the Fall event.

Shop/Jackpot of Gems: Director **Patrick Davis** plans to add trim as the next project in the main room of the Rock Building. The front door awning will also have more lights installed. Patrick has worked on reconfiguring electrical switches and plans to modernize the office and insulate the bathrooms. The storage mezzanine will have a drop-down ladder for easier access to the elevated space. There are plans for a mural outside the building and possibly inside. The city has no regulations for murals. Sven Sander may have a person who could do the murals. Patrick reports seventeen paid vendors for the upcoming show in September.

Membership: Director **Lynda Traves** reports 376 memberships amounting to 648 members. There are currently 359 that have not renewed.

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RGMS Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2024
Respectfully Submitted by Steve Norman, Secretary

Field Trip/32 Auction: Director **Hilary Vass** has a listing for this year's field trips that are subject to change with weather conditions. Jim Welker is helping out with several collecting spots. Hilary may add a fee dig for turquoise at the Royal Blue Turquoise Mine in the Tonopah area, depending on a reasonable group rate. **Chris Rose** allowed a free dig on his claim for Sunstones last year. Chris is a vendor at the Jackpot of Gems. The trip to Wonderstone Mountain went well, with lots of people attending. The 32 Auction is going well, with about the same 50 people bidding and supporting the event. People do not have to be members to participate, so more social media exposure could greatly help sales. Selling 100 rocks generates about \$1,300 to \$1,500 per auction.

Conglomerate and AFMS/CFMS (American Federation Mineral Society & California FMS): Editor **Sue Webb** welcomes ideas for the Conglomerate monthly publication. Sue has monitored other newsletters, and ours is pretty good. 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. AFMS has updated its website and Sue recommends that people check out this asset to the Society. There is also a new Youth website.

Volunteer: Director **Wendy Gums** reports that a historian, website, and American Lands Association representative are needed.

Sunshine: Director **Joann Sworthout** has news of Renee Samuels's father's passing. She will send flowers and a card from the Society.

Security: Director **Lori Connel** reports that the alarm work for the expansion area, which will soon be under construction, is complete. She is working on the key control listing and has sent a building access procedure to all board members for review. Please email Lori with any questions or suggestions. **Robyn Howard** made a motion to accept the policy and procedures. **Eric Fendelander** seconded, and the motion carried.

Public Relations: Temporarily filling in, **Stephanie Leonard** reports that 13 people took an extended tour of the Nevada State Museum with tour guide **Sam Knipmeyer**. There are plans to do another tour in the future. Stephanie is documenting these kinds of trips for community involvement as part of the process for the All American Club award sponsored by the American Federation of Mineral Societies. Stephanie wants to get RGMS's name out to more people through an event called Run For Rotary Club. Donations from **Jim Welker**, **Eric Fendelander**, **Donna Miller**, and **Steve Norman** produced a \$140 value basket for a prize to help the event. Stephanie is working with Pitch Black Printing for RGMS apparel. There were suggestions for being a sponsor in a school or other ideas that anyone has for public outreach.

No other business so meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Norman, Secretary.

Kid’s Corner: Badlands National Park

Steve Rose and Steve Norman, Youth Coordinator



Badlands National Park in Western South Dakota covers some 245,000 acres of grassy plains deeply eroded by water and wind. The Badlands area became a National Monument in 1929 and a National Park in 1978. Native Americans had a spiritual and practical connection to the area in naming it “Mako Sica,” which translates to ‘Bad Land.’ The rocks in the Park represent some 75 million years of geologic history. The landscape shows evidence of oceans, rivers, swamps, and of volcanic eruptions. Except for an ash bed, the result of Utah and Nevada volcanic activity far to the west some 30 million years ago, the rocks exposed are sedimentary and easily eroded. With some 20 inches

of rainfall and sparse plant cover, erosion reduces the topography by as much as an inch yearly. In contrast, granite mountains and hills take 10,000 years to erode an inch. The marine shale at the base of the badlands rock section is formed by a shallow inland sea that existed until some 70 million years ago. The basin containing this shallow inland sea extended from the Caribbean to the Arctic Ocean.

The inland sea drained during the uplift of the mountainous area to the west and the uplift of the plains to the east. During these epochs, deposition left claystone, sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone. Mammal fossils of great variety are abundant and many are now in museums. Today, the Park is home to various animals, including bighorn sheep and the endangered black-footed ferret. Mineral or fossil collecting is not allowed in the Park, but nearby areas have wonderful golden barite crystals and calcite. Areas around the southern Black Hills are also known for surface collecting of banded agate. There are plenty of fun things to explore in the Badlands area.

Ref: National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior, Goggle Picture: Online Bing Photo

2024 DOOR PRIZES SCHEDULE

Denise Sizemore, Coordinator

*Adding birthstone for each month. If you would like to donate something with that birthstone instead of the theme, you are more than welcome to.

- June: Father’s Day/Pearl Handmade for Dad
- July: Independence Day/Ruby Red, White, and Blue
- Aug: It’s so bleeping hot/Peridot Let’s go to the beach
- Sept: Jackpot of Gems/Sapphire Northern Nevada finds
- Oct: Halloween/Fall/Opal Colors of fall
- Nov: Thanksgiving/Citrine Field Trip finds
- Dec: Holiday Giveaway/Turquoise Mystery gifts: all wrapped packages/ made by RGMS members

**1 RAFFLE TICKET for wearing name tag to general meeting

***Door Prize Raffle held at end of monthly general meeting at Baldini’s, the first Wednesday of the month.

The meeting starts at 7pm, but come early to visit or sign up for classes. Must be present to win.

**** CONTACT Denise Sizemore doorprizes@renogms.org with donations.

Making Your Showcase Liners

Theresa Langhans, Exhibit Coordinator

I am hoping that I can solve the "Great Liner Mystery"! Each year we ask you to exhibit your treasures at our Annual Jackpot of Gems show. We also ask that you supply your own liners and risers; however, those of us who are new to the Society and the show have no idea what we are talking about. And if we do know, then our questions are: "how do you make liners and risers"?

Let's start with the basics: "what is a liner / riser"? It is a fabric lined piece of Styrofoam that "dresses up" the inside of our cases to make our displays look more professional and really help show off the work that we are exhibiting. We spend so much time creating our treasures--lapidary, wire art, carving, and other collections--we should show them to the best of our ability. Liners cover the back, the sides and bottom of the cases. Risers go on top of the bottom liner and add dimension to our exhibit.

Still confused? Please join me on June 15, 2024 at the Rock Building from 10am-1pm to learn how to make your own professional looking liners and risers. During the class you will completely cover one piece, and will receive detailed, pictured instructions on how to complete your project. As the materials can be somewhat costly, there is no class fee or charge for taking this class. Hope to see you there!

SUGGESTED SHOPPING LIST OF MATERIALS FOR LINERS / RISERS:

Material

Suggestions where to purchase

2' X 4' X 2" thick Polystyrene Insulfoam....

Home Depot

White Styrofoam stuff with plastic coating on one side. Used in insulation for buildings (garage doors). You will need **4 or 5** of these **2' X 4' X 2" thick**.

Headliner Material 4 – 4.5 yards

Mill End Fabrics

This material is used in the ceiling of your cars. Best to get neutral colors like light gray or beige or a color to compliment your display. You don't want the liners to hide your exhibits because the material is too bold. You can use material that is less expensive than headliner material, but you should get something that is a little "stretchy" so it can be pulled taunt around the Styrofoam.

Wood weave or similar plastic edging OR cardboard

Home Depot

Woodweave is sold in the fencing section. It (sometimes other brand names as well) is a plastic 2" wide strip that slides in the slats of chain link fence for privacy. I like to use this product, to keep the edges of the Styrofoam from breaking down, but you can use any 2" wide material that and can be glued to the Styrofoam, bends easily and has sturdy edges.

Spray adhesive (glue) Yard Stick Permanent Marker Straight Pins (a box full) Scissors

Translucent packing tape

Sheet Rock Saw or something similar to cut the Styrofoam.

**RGMS Artisan Craft Fair
November 8, 9, 10 2024**

Theresa Langhans, Coordinator
theresalanghans@yahoo.com theresaAlanghans@gmail.com

If you are interested in being a vendor at our upcoming Fall craft fair, please complete a reservation form and return to me so that I may save you a spot. I do need to receive your reservation before September 23, 2024. Please contact me and I will forward the reservation form. This is a great opportunity to sell your craft at a reasonable booth cost. Please know that your booth fees go directly to RGMS.

Here are some more specifics:

Friday, November 8 10am-6pm

Saturday, November 9 10am- 5pm

Sunday, November 10 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!

EXHIBITS Jackpot of Gems September 14, 15 2024
Theresa Langhans, Exhibits Chair

I would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in our 2024 *Jackpot of Gems Show* by exhibiting one or more of your outstanding cases.

This will be the 59th annual show for the Reno Gem & Mineral Society. It will be held in the Convention Center/ Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, 2500 East Second Street, Reno, on September 14th and 15th, 2024. We expect to have another great show with excellent dealers, exhibits, and demonstrations.

Your Exhibitor's Entry Form can be found on our website or you can contact me and I will forward an entry form to you. If you want to exhibit more than one case, please specify.

Please note: If you are borrowing one of our club cases, please provide your own liners. Although we do have a limited number of liners to lend to our exhibitors, those numbers are limited. I will also be teaching a liner class to instruct you how to make your own case liners/risers. The class will be June 15 at the Rock Building.

And if you are exhibiting again this year, as in the past...I thank you for your continued support of our Show! It would not be a success without each one of you!

theresalanghans@yahoo.com / theresaAlanghans@gmail.com

775-240-0487

Giving Back

Virginia Keeley

I've heard the terms "Pay It Forward" and "Giving Back" so many times in the last few years and even in the last few days. Do something for someone else and they, in turn, tend to do something for someone, etc. .

What does it really mean? It doesn't have to be a huge financial commitment. Someone may buy lunch for a service person or First Responder. Or, it could be as simple as holding a door open at the market for someone whose arms are full or helping a neighbor by holding a ladder. The smallest thing can make a difference to someone's day. What did that cost you? Maybe a few minutes of your time. Maybe just stopping for a few minutes or seconds to think about how you would feel if someone did that for you. How did it make you feel when they turned to you and said "Thank You"? Paying it forward or Giving Back can be as rewarding to you as the person to whom you are extending the courtesy.

I know we're all busy; the job, the kids, the house . . . the list goes on. BUT, take a moment to consider that all of the officers, class instructors and field trip leaders of The Reno Gem and Mineral Society are just as busy, have jobs, kids, homes also.

Maybe it's time to start giving back. We are only three months away from the Jackpot of Gems Show. This is the biggest event for RGMS. An event that takes more than a year of planning, a year of developing an advertising campaign, a year of working on prizes for the Kid's Corner and the Wheel of Fortune, a year of collecting and sorting and labelling all the rocks for the Silent Auction. It's pretty amazing how much work a relatively small group of people (volunteers) do to put on the Jackpot of Gems.

So, what am I getting at? Well, these people have been giving back to The Reno Gem and Mineral Society by volunteering their time to make the Jackpot of Gems the best Gem and Mineral Show of the year and to help ensure that YOUR Reno Gem and Mineral Society can continue to offer classes, to improve the shop facilities and provide the most up-to-date equipment, and continue to find and lead trips to remote and wonderful areas in our state where we can find treasures that we can create into amazing things.

How can you "Pay it Forward" or "Give Back"? Volunteer an hour or two of your time to help set up the show or greet patrons, or help out at the Kids Corner or Wheel of Fortune or one of the other booths. This not only enables RGMS to improve our organization for you, but also for future generations who have a passion for discovery or a desire to learn jewelry making or silver smithing or beading or just going out on a field trip to find that perfect rock that can only be found in the Nevada desert.

We've made it pretty easy for you to volunteer for the Jackpot of Gems. Go to our website, www.renogms.org, and scroll down to upcoming events. There you will find a link to the Jackpot of Gems show. Click on the link and it will take you to the page where you can find the various volunteer opportunities for this year. When you hit the Submit button, wait for the receipt to pop up. It can be a little slow so don't leave the page too soon. You'll be amazed how much fun it can be to interact with people who are interested in hearing why you joined our organization.

After you volunteer, make sure you **mark your calendar for the dates and times**. As a volunteer, you will get into the show for FREE and receive your T-shirt. We are really looking forward to this years show. Don't forget the dates and times at our new venue:

Grand Sierra Resort—Silver State Pavilion

2500 East Second Street

Reno, NV 89595

Saturday, September 14, 2024 9:00 – 5:00

Sunday, September 15, 2024 9:00 – 4:00

If you are having problems signing up online at www.Renogms.org, we will have sign-ups at the monthly General Meetings starting in June.

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: 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**

June 8-9, 2024 – Escondido, CA

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
California Center for the Arts – at the Conference Center,
340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, 92025 Contact:
(425) 281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com
Website: <http://palomargem.org>

June 15, 2024 – Bellflower, CA

Delvers Gem and Mineral Society
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 14515 Blaine Ave., Bell-
flower, CA 90706

June 29-30, 2024 – Culver City, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City,
CA 90230 Contact Janice Metz at culvercity-
rocks35@gmail.com
Website: <http://culvercityrocks.org>

August 3-4, 2024 – Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society
@the Grounds Roseville, 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville, CA
website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/>
Website: <https://www.rockrollers.com/show.html>

August 17-18, 2024 – Tehachapi, CA

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Tehachapi Senior Center, 500 East “F” St., Tehachapi, CA 93561
Contact: (661) 972-1117, travis462@outlook.com
Website: <http://tvgms.rocks>

August 24-25, 2024 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
Arcadia Masonic Lodge, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007
Contact: (626) 260-7239, marcia.pls.emails@gmail.com
Website: <https://pasadenalapidary.org>

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Take a few minutes and check out the *CFMS Newsletter* for June. 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 6
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Volunteers	Wendy Kazas	volunteer@renogms.org

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 Plumb