



January 2024

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 1

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Happy New Year!

Winter is finally upon us and it seems to have arrived on blustery winds. Rock hounding this week is only for the truly adventurous.

Our monthly meeting was busy and fun. In case you missed it, UNLV has acquired a huge donation of rocks, geodes, and specimens. SNGMS has been asked to help identify and assign prices to these items. Contact Del Walkenshaw (sngmsnews@gmail.com or 702-451-8040) if you are interested in helping with your knowledge.

SNGMS is now sponsoring two \$500 scholarships to be awarded in April to High School seniors who plan to major in earth science. Debbie Bucknam (grandmadeb10@gmail.com) is looking for three volunteers to screen the scholarship applications.

Budgets for the 2024 Boulder City Spring Jamboree and the 2024 Viva Las Vegas Rocks were voted upon and approved. Orville Weimers will be Chairman for the 2024 Spring Jamboree and the 2024 Viva Las Vegas Rocks! shows. Let's all support these efforts to spread the word about our club, educate children, and raise a few funds.

A big THANK YOU goes to these volunteers:

- Kerry (Chops) Wenzl - Shop Manager
- Barb Belcher- Hospitality
- Mary Beth Paladino - filling in as needed for Kids Club and Sunshine Club
- Kendra White and Harrison Brooks - Media Committee
- Jonathan Tredwell - Field Trips

Jonathan has already designed a form so SNGMS members can make field trip suggestions. It will be on the website soon. **We still have an opening for the Refreshments table**, starting in February 2024. Easy job!

Sheri Johnston announced the American Federation Show will be in Ventura, California on March 3 & 4, 2024. The Rocky Mountain Federation show will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in October 2024.

Congrats go to Mike Kirk for a Lifetime Membership for his more than 10 years of service to the club.

Our class instructors brought beautiful examples of the items you'll be able to make in their next classes. If you have a rock related craft you'd like to teach others about, please contact us!

See ya in Quartzsite (4 pm on January 19th Friday at Silly Al's if you are there).

Andrea Packo, SNGMS President

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**January 4, 2024 - Board Mtg**  
**January 8, 2024 - Genl Mtg**

#### SNGMS Contacts:

www.sngms.org  
sngmsnews@gmail.com  
sngmspresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
sngmssecretary@gmail.com  
sngmstreasurer@gmail.com  
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

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2024 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
Purple Jasper/Agate	February 17, 2024	Bitter Springs, NV <sup>2</sup>
American Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show	March 3- 4, 2024	Ventura, CA
Stalactite/Stalagmite Calcite	March 16, 2024	Kokoweef, CA
Marine Fossils Pay to Dig	April, 2024	Ernst Quarry, Kern County, CA
Chrysocolla	April, 2024	Goodsprings, NV
Fluorite Pay to Dig	May 25 – 26, 2024	Austin, NV
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show	October 2024	Oklahoma City, OK

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (jbtredwell@gmail.com)
- 2) If you have been to this site and can co-lead the trip, please contact Jonathan Tredwell (jbtredwell@gmail.com)

## Some links with information you may find helpful:

American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies – [www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm](http://www.amfed.org/whatsnew.htm)

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies – [www.rmfs.org](http://www.rmfs.org)

Rock & Gem Magazine website – [www.rockngem.com](http://www.rockngem.com)

## VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Invites you to their  
48th Annual

Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate

Victorville, California

Friday—Sunday

March 8-10, 2024

9:00am to 5:00pm Daily

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FREE Event! FREE Vendor Spaces

Dry Camping Restrooms

Silent Auction Grab Bags

Spin the Wheel and more...

All donations are gladly accepted to help offset expenses!

Come visit us for Handcrafted and Faceted Jewelry, Slabs and Cabs, Findings and Equipment, Minerals and Fossils, TONS of Rough Material and LOTS of surprises.

Saturday FAMILY Field Trip: 9 am to 1 pm

We'll be collecting Tri-color marble!

Verde Antiques is less than 1 mile from area !!

For more info visit our website at [vvgms.org](http://vvgms.org)

Or call 760-243-2330 and leave a message

## Directions

From I-15 N towards Barstow: Hwy 15 N THRU Victorville. EXIT Rt. at 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoddard Wells at Bell Mtn, Exit 157. Turn left/east at ramp Stop sign. Stay on Stoddard Wells Rd 4 mi until next Stop sign at Dale Evans Pkwy. "Tailgate" signs high on NW corner power pole. **Check odometer here!** Continue straight on Stoddard Wells Rd 7 mi to "Tailgate." Road becomes graded dirt about 0.4 mi from the Dale Evans Pkwy intersection. Proceed East/NE past Grange fork to "Tailgate" site. Cars & RV can make it w/ease & care. "Tailgate" signs along route.

## Quartzsite. Arizona Showcase &amp; Swapmeet

January 1 - February 28, 2024

The Quartzsite, Arizona shows are famous among professional and amateur lapidaries and jewelry artists. The small desert town lies about 18 miles east of the Arizona-California border, and about 250 miles northwest of Tucson. A quiet town of about 3,000 year-round residents, that population explodes during the January-February show, making Quartzsite a vibrant outdoor desert shopping mall. About 3,000 vendors from all over come to Quartzsite to sell virtually anything and everything, including serious dealers (about 500) of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and jewelry. Of the ten or more shows happening simultaneously there are **four that are strictly rock and mineral related: Desert Gardens Show, QIA Pow Wow, Prospector's Panorama, and Tyson Wells Show.** Prices are notoriously cheap — compared to Tucson, where costs for many of the same items tend to be quite higher. All shows have free admission and parking — though very difficult to find — and no registration is required.

Check here for individual show information:

[www.xpopress.com/showcase/shows/5/quartzsite-showcase-swapmeet](http://www.xpopress.com/showcase/shows/5/quartzsite-showcase-swapmeet)

## 66th Annual Gila County (Arizona) Gem and Mineral Show

Come join us for the 66th annual Gila County Gem and Mineral Show! The show will be held indoors at the Gila County Fairgrounds, 900 E Fairground Rd, Globe, AZ 85501 on January 12th, 13th & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This will be a fun time for rock and mineral collectors, fossil hobbyist and kids of all ages. The show runs from 9am to 5pm Friday and Saturday and 10am to 4pm Sunday. Students and children are free and \$3.00 per Adult.

## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 1/4/2024

On January 4<sup>th</sup> 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at Desert Art Supplies at 4 PM by the President. All Board members except Parliamentarian were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

The minutes of the November 30th 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of checking account is \$23,986 and is staying stable. The investments balance is \$124,241. The club purchased two new CDs, a 6 month and a 12 month. They were purchased near interest rate peak. Our lapidary shop lease expires on 3/31/24 and we will need to negotiate a renewal.

**Shop Report:** All equipment is up and running. Cabinets have been hung on the wall and bookshelves for the library will be constructed beneath them. The rock shelves will be restocked and the back storage room cleaned out. Plan is to tile the office later this year.

### New Business:

Del Walkenshaw presented proposal to purchase banners and lighting for club use at upcoming shows. The Board approved presenting proposal at General Meeting.

Debbie Bucknam discussed plans for scholarships to provide two graduating high school seniors \$500 each in order for them to pursue a college education in one of the following fields of study: geology, paleontology or mining. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Orville Wiemers, and approved by the Board, that "the scholarship plan be presented at the General Meeting for approval."

Jonathan Tredwell has volunteered to head the Field Trip Committee.

More classes are needed. Members who wish to share their knowledge by teaching are encouraged to reach out to any board member with their proposal. Any ideas for community outreach are also encouraged and David Ford has volunteered to consolidate any information he is given.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.



## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 1/8/2024

On January 8, 2023, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The checking balance as of end of December was \$23,986. The brokerage account balance was \$124, 241. Our finances are in good shape, membership is growing, the Shop comes close to breaking even and our shows are making money.

**Membership:** There are 732 adult and 151 child members. Membership Chair, Claudia Crouse, explained the SNGMS policy for membership renewal. A normal renewal must be received before January 1. Between January 1-31, you can renew and for an additional \$5 retain your original join date. After January 31 a renewal will reset your original join date to the renewal date.

**Committees:** Chair positions filled include: Kerry "Chops" Wenzl – Shop Manager, Barbara Belcher – Hospitality, Jonathan Tredwell – Field Trips. A form will be posted on the SNGMS web site for members to make field trip suggestions. Harrison Brooks from Desert Art Supplies has volunteered to provide media help.

**Shop Report:** "Chops" Wenzl reported that the equipment is up and running. Some reorganization is happening.

**Club Event Equipment:** Debbie Bucknam proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and passed by the membership, that "up to \$1,000 be allocated to purchase four sets of lights and table flags for use at club events." "Chops" Wenzel proposed, seconded by Ken Bucknam, and passed by the membership, that "up to \$1,000 be allocated to purchase four sets of lights and table flags for use at club events."

**Kids Club:** Mary Beth Paladino reported the Kids will be working on their Fossil Badge. SNGMS will be helping some Boy Scouts get their Geology Badge. SNGMS will also participate in a school science fair on April 4, 2024 for approximately 500 kids. The Society was present last year, giving out rock specimens and presenting educational demonstrations. Contact Mary Beth Paladino (702-255-1647) to volunteer to participate.

**Sunshine:** John Stackhouse passed away last month. Wendy Dresser's husband has been ill. Lorraine Syddall is recovering from surgery. Gail Wisniewski broke her wrist rock hounding! Dave Jenkins and Jim Jones are ill. Diane Hale is recovering from surgery.

**Gem & Mineral Societies Federation:** Sherri Johnson updated the members on upcoming shows. The American Federation Show in conjunction with the California Federation Show will be in Ventura, California, March 2-3, 2024. The Rocky Mountain Federation Show will be in Oklahoma City on Oct 25-27, the week before Halloween.

**Cabochon Contest:** The theme was Snow. First place was Del Walkenshaw. Second place was George Stewart. January 2024 subject will be Forest Colors.

**New Business:** Bruce Martin proposed, seconded by Debbie Bucknam, and approved by the Membership that a budget of \$8,000 be allocated for the Spring Jamboree Show. Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the Membership that a budget of \$26,800 be allocated for the Viva Las Vegas Show.

Lloyd Chayette nominated Michael Kirk for lifetime membership. He mentioned Mike's constant help and donations as well as his recent chairmanship of the Nomination Committee. Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Lisa Wiemers, and enthusiastically approved by the membership, that Michael Kirk be made a Lifetime Member.

Debbie Bucknam presented a proposal to offer two \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will seek education in the Earth Sciences. She needs three committee members to select candidates. Contact Debbie to volunteer.

Classes were discussed, see emails and page 15 of this newsletter for details.

Thanks to Jean and Lloyd Chayette for filling in for the open Refreshment chair. We need a permanent chair, contact a board member to volunteer.

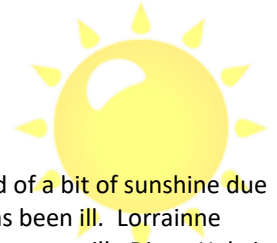
The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.





# Sunshine Report

from Mary Beth Paladino



If you hear of any SNGMS member with an event to celebrate (wedding, anniversary, etc.) or who is in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, etc., please contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647. Wendy Dresser's husband has been ill. Lorraine Syddall is recovering from surgery. Gail Wisniewski broke her wrist rock hounding! Dave Jenkins and Jim Jones are ill. Diane Hale is recovering from surgery.

SNGMS lost a lifetime member when John Stackhouse died on December 6, 2023 after battling cancer. John held SNGMS Board positions, and served as the lapidary shop manager and the SNGMS Membership chair. He died in hospice care, encircled by family, including his wife Lorraine Stackhouse, the current SNGMS Secretary.

## Rock Spotlight: Caliche

Excerpted from:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliche>

<https://geology.com/rocks/caliche.shtml>

Caliche - the unassuming rock that packs a punch. This sneaky underground surprise is a natural cement of calcium carbonate that binds gravel, sand, clay and silt. It's found world-wide in arid regions. As many Las Vegas gardeners know, it forms a compact and stubborn mass that can be almost impossible to dig up (or through). It inhibits water drainage and halts plant growth. Caliches can store carbon, making them important to the overall global carbon cycle.



Caliche from Kern County,  
California

Photo by Dave Dyet

<https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Caliche is usually light-colored, but can range from white to light pink to reddish-brown. Caliche can be fluorescent. The major process of forming caliche begins when calcium carbonate is leached from soil near the earth's surface by water percolating down. The calcium carbonate then precipitates below the surface to form caliche layers.

At first the calcium carbonate precipitates as small grains or thin coatings on sediment grains or soil particles. As the grain coatings thicken, nearby grains will be cemented together, and nodules made of multiple grains form. As the cementing process continues, a large subsurface layer may form. Layers can be over three feet thick and extend for miles.



Casa Grande Ruins, Arizona

Photo by Greg Hume

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17890939>

Caliche is used in construction worldwide when higher grade materials are not available. It has been used in Portland cement. The Great House at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Arizona was built with walls of caliche. Caliche was also used in the mortars for Mayan buildings in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico.

With its hardened exterior and uncompromising nature, caliche is a desert legend that refuses to be ignored or underestimated!

### Did You Know?

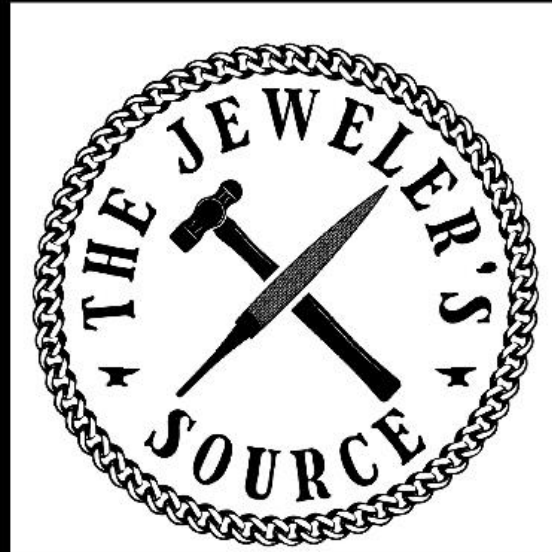
There is a suggestion box at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. It is on the side of the lockers in the back left corner of the shop as you face the American flag. Please feel free to contribute your suggestions about how to improve anything SNGMS-related.



Templo Redondo in Mayapan, Mexico

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayapan#/media/File:Mayapan\\_chac.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayapan#/media/File:Mayapan_chac.JPG)





Members Receive 5% Off

- **JEWELRY SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**
- **JEWELRY FINDINGS & METALS**
- **LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**
- **JEWELRY WORKSHOPS**

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7022 West Charleston Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89117

702-745-1127

[thejewelerssource@gmail.com](mailto:thejewelerssource@gmail.com)

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2024 Meeting Schedule			
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Mineral Group Meeting <sup>3</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>4</sup>
Feb. 1	Feb. 5	Feb. 7	2nd Sunday of every month (unless it falls on a holiday) from 3pm - 5pm
Feb. 29	Mar. 4	Mar. 14	
Mar. 28	Apr. 1	Apr. 10	
May 2	May 6	May 8	
May 30	Jun. 3	Jun. 12	
Jun. 27	Jul. 1	Jul. 10	
Aug. 1	Aug. 5	Aug. 14	
Sep. 5	Sep. 9		
Oct. 3	Oct. 7		
Oct. 31	Nov. 4		
Dec. 5	Dec. – no general mtg, Awards Banquet		

1) Location and time announced via email

2) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, unless there’s a holiday, open to the public. Show & Sell 5-6 pm, meeting 6-8 pm

3) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop, membership required, meeting starts at 6:30 pm

4) Meets at SNGMS Lapidary Shop with exception of some field trips, membership required

Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:  
3111 South Valley View Blvd,  
Building E Shop Suite 125  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop). The owners of the units come in at odd hours and need access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the SNGMS Lapidary Shop that is not in front of any unit.

SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS\*

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm  
Monday Closed for general use:  
Various Classes  
Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm  
Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm  
Thursday 12 - 9 pm  
Friday 12 - 9 pm  
Saturday 1 - 6 pm  
**SHOP EQUIPMENT FEES:**  
All equipment is \$6/hour. Machines are metered, so you only pay for the time the equipment is actually running.  
**SHOP CLOSED:**  
Kids Club: 3- 5 pm 2nd Sunday of the Month  
Board Mtg: Various Thursday 6-7 pm  
**\*Check Email and “Polished Slab” for possible date changes.**

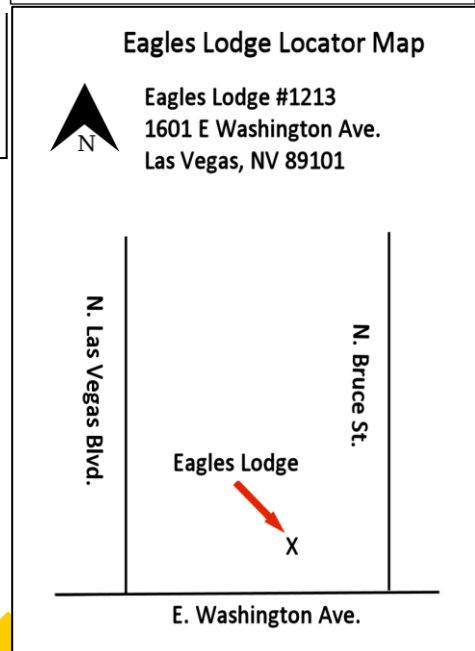


Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past South Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E. Another option is to enter off of Wynn Rd. Go west on Desert Inn Rd. to Wynn Rd., turn right onto Wynn Rd. and go to the first entrance on the right (past the BIG white Commercial building sign) turn right and straight in front of you is Building E, Suite #125.

Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

The Eagles’ Lodge is located at:  
1601 E Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101



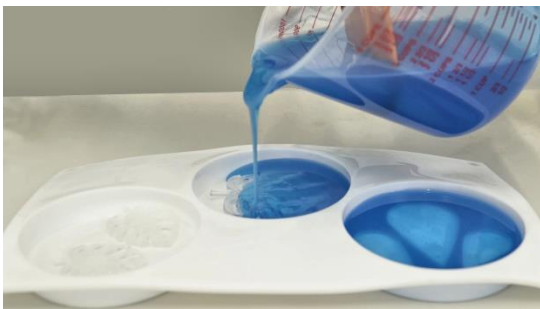
**Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips & Tricks****Working with Jewelry Resin***Excerpted from:*[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJxo9Db1DNk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJxo9Db1DNk)[www.resinobsession.com/resin-frequently-asked-questions/best-resin-for-jewelry](http://www.resinobsession.com/resin-frequently-asked-questions/best-resin-for-jewelry)

Resin is a liquid plastic commonly used in mixed media jewelry projects. It can be poured into molds, used to fill bezels, and much more. Resin is poured wet and then "cured" to make clear hard shapes or surfaces. The main types used for jewelry are two-part epoxy resin and UV resin (sometimes also called 1-part resin). Two-part resin consists of two different solutions, which are mixed in equal parts and allowed to dry to a clear solid over 2-3 days. UV resin is applied in thinner layers and remains wet until being exposed to UV light, either from bright sunlight or a UV lamp. This article will focus on two-part resin because epoxy resin is more scratch and heat resistant than UV resin. Two-part resin also resists yellowing.

Resin can be used to embed items in metal bezels, and to cast shapes in molds. For bezels, you want to use a resin that produces a domed finish. A domed finish self-levels create a raised but gently curved surface, magnifying everything in the bezel and giving it extra sparkle and shine. Because doming resins mix thick (like honey), they are meant to be poured to a depth of eighth-inch or less to allow bubbles to escape before the resin starts to cure.

**Domed Resin Bezel**

<https://resincraftsblog.com/the-resin-doming-technique-explained>

**Pouring Resin Into A Mold**

[www.artresin.com/blogs/artresin/how-to-make-resin-jewelry?pos=9&sid=80428da1f&ss=r](http://www.artresin.com/blogs/artresin/how-to-make-resin-jewelry?pos=9&sid=80428da1f&ss=r)

If you are working with molds, you need a casting resin. Casting resins mix thinner than doming resins, allowing bubbles to escape easily. You can pour them into deep molds, allowing you to get crystal-clear bubble-free resin shapes. Because casting resins mix thin, they will produce a flat surface.

It takes some practice to get the best results with resin. Be patient! Resin is versatile and can allow a lot of creativity. Here are some tips for working with two-part resin:

1. Use jewelry resin, it doesn't cure as fast as urethane resin so you have more time to pour the jewelry resin.
2. Work on a silicone mat because it wipes clean with a baby wipe. Use packing tape to remove any small, dried, stuck pieces of resin from the mat.
3. Don't make too much resin to avoid waste. Mark your measuring cups with a marker.
4. Make sure bezels and molds are dry before using them.
5. Less is more when adding colorant, mica, and other materials to the resin.
6. Mix the resin SLOWLY to minimize bubbles.
7. Work on a level surface so the resin fills the bezel or mold evenly.
8. Wear clean disposable nitrile gloves at all times when working with resin. Work in a WELL VENTILATED area.
9. After the mold is filled with resin, smack it on a flat surface a couple of times to get rid of bubbles.
10. Let the resin dry for 24-48 hours. If it's not dry by then, you didn't mix the resin correctly, the portions were wrong.

**Resin Cabochon Ring**

[www.ebay.com/itm/185722645205](http://www.ebay.com/itm/185722645205)





2024 Cabochon Contests

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNERS
January	Snow	1 <sup>st</sup> – George Stewart 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Del Walkenshaw
February	Forest Colors	
March	Spring Flowers	
April	Storm Clouds	
May	Blue Skies	
June	Sunset	
July	Mountains	
August	Tropical	
September	Ocean Blues	
October	Fall Leaf Colors	
November	Landscapes	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at each of our monthly meetings. Bring a cab you have cut that matches that month’s theme. Meeting attendees vote on their favorite cab, and the first and second places winners are announced at the meeting. The first place award is 2 hours of free shop time, and the second place winner gets 1 hour of free shop time. The February 2024 cabochon theme is “Forest Colors.” **Good Luck!**



Deciduous Forest in Fall



Rainforest



Cholla Forest

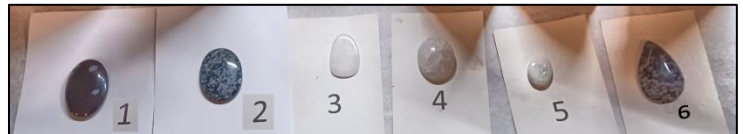


Boreal Forest

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF PAID SHOP TIME FOR THE PRIOR MONTH.



January 2024 Cabochon Contest Winners  
Left to right: Del Walkenshaw 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Entry #6, George Stewart 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Entry #5



January 2024 SNGMS Cabochon Contest Entries

Help UNLV ID and Value Mineral Collection

The Steffire family of Laughlin, Nevada donated a significant rock and mineral collection to UNLV’s geoscience department. The collection was created by Michael and Shirley Steffire, who concentrated on fluorescent minerals. SNGMS member Cliff Jackson assisted UNLV with identification of the fluorescent specimens. UNLV is asking SNGMS members with expertise to help identify and price the non-fluorescent part of the collection which includes fossils and minerals. The dates proposed by UNLV are January 28, 2024, and February 3, 4, and 10, 2024 in the lab at the Lily Fong building on the UNLV campus. Space is limited to 5-6 people. To schedule a volunteer time, please contact Del Walkenshaw (702-451-8040 or sngmsnews@gmail.com).



**BIRTHDAYS**

If you have a FEBRUARY birthday, Please bring something for the refreshment table at FEBRUARY’s meeting.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



Christiane Arends, Jon Asdourian, Susan Atkinson, Linda Beatty, Rita Bergeron, Nicholas William Brooks, Joel Browning, Diane Burgess, Celeste Cattanach, June Cravenn, Tiffany Diacente, Nicole Dobson, Anthony Dominguez, Derien Fallejo, Calvin Foos, Gideon Ford, Dawn Gonzalez, James (Jim) Grulke, Joli Hanks, Jessica Henry, Chris Hill, Lisa Johnson, Chris Kahn, Leesa Kidwell, Sean Larscheidt, Becki Lawrence, Clint Lawson, Mario Luchetta, Patti Ludlow, Glenn Marks, Johnny Martinez, Miesha McIntosh, Roy L. Mobley, Tracey Montague, William (Bill) Moore, Jesse Moyer, Anjnette Nelson, Andrea Packo, Paulette Parente Hahn, Kelly Parker, Ruth Parker, Kevin Perren, Kelly Prince, Juliette Richardson, Linda Rusk, John Schmitz, Patricia Skeary, Merbebe Solomon, Dave Spaulding, George Stewart, Robin Jill Swasey, Tomo Taniuchi, Taciana (Inday) Timbers, Jack Toogood, Emily Volk, Charla Vrchota, Eowyn Walton, Charlee Weeda, Tatianna Wiegand-Stuart, Lisa Wiemers, Jolena Wright, Kevin Zeigler

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

*Deborah Blanchette, Joanna Buffanlini, Richard Cook, David Cummings, Diane Kelly, Jenna Kelsheimer, Jay Kelsheimer, Ginger McLaughlin, Robert A. McLaughlin, Jesse Moyer, Jacob Raccioppi, Matt Vartan, Eowyn Walton, Melinda Walton, Genevieve Walton, Alfred Warner, Wanda Warner*

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Welcome new members to the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society! Your passion for gemstones and minerals is a perfect fit for our community of enthusiasts. To acquaint you with our workshop and equipment, we offer orientation and training sessions at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop.

To reserve your spot, please email Richard Nelson (richard\_nelso89@hotmail.com) . There is a \$10 fee for the orientation to help cover the cost of materials which will be provided for you. The session will include demonstrations on the use of rock saws, flat laps, a geode saw, and other equipment. Best practices for working safely and effectively will be reviewed. Orientations are offered as listed below.

**New Member Orientation Sessions**

Orientation and Training Date	Time	Cost	Location
January 7, 2024	10 a.m.	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop 3111 South Valley View Blvd, Building E Shop Suite 125 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Building E Suite 125 Las Vegas NV 89102
January 21, 2024			
February 4, 2024			
February 18, 2024			



Lovely Geode Cut By A New SNGMS Member, December 2023



Some SNGMS Lapidary Shop Users, December 2023



**SNGMS Rock Stars Kids Club  
2024 Field Trips and Meetings<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Field Trip/Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting – Fossils Merit Badge	January 14, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip – Digging for Trilobites at Frenchman Mountain	February 11, 2024, 1 – 4 pm	Meet at Frenchmen Mountain, Lake Mead Blvd.
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting – Fluorescents Merit Badge	March 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip	April 14, 2024	TBD
Boulder City Spring Jamboree	May 3 – 5, 2024	Boulder City, Nevada
<b>NO MEETING – MOTHER'S DAY</b>	May 12, 2024	
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Earth in Space Merit Badge	June 9, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Field Trip - Planetarium	July 14, 2024	More info coming
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Special Effects Merit Badge	August 11, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting - Lapidary Arts Merit Badge	September 8, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	October 13, 2024, 3- 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
Rock Stars Kids Club Meeting	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm	SNGMS Lapidary Shop <sup>2</sup>
<b>NO MEETING – HOLIDAY PARTY DATE TBD</b>	December 8, 2024	

1) *Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change.*

2) *3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102*

Happy New Year Rock Stars!!!

Welcome to a new year 2024 and welcome to our new members. Last year our Rock Stars picked the Merit Badges they wanted to work on this year. So we are starting the New Year learning about Fossils. Sunday, January 14th we'll work in the shop from 3-5 pm not only studying fossils but you'll also make a fossil to take home with you. We will finish the Merit Badge on Sunday, February 11th from 1pm to 4pm out at Frenchman Mountain (Weather permitting). There's no better way to study fossils but to have fun digging for them. That's right we'll be digging for trilobites!!!

We had a wonderful Holiday Party at the Eagles Lodge on December 16th and I want to thank the Paladino Family and Vikki and her team of Eagle's for making it a success. Mary Beth Paladino helped me in a time of crisis and took over the event and her amazing family stepped in and took over for me. For the Rock Stars who earned a Merit Badge but was not able to attend I will have your awards at the January meeting at the shop. If you are unable to attend please call me so I can get together with you sometime to pick them up (Wendy 702-556-2748). I'm so proud of all of the Rock Stars for your hard work and dedication to the program. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please call me anytime. If you would like to donate anything to Kid's Club please leave it at the shop with a note saying it's for Kid's Club, what it is you are donating and your name so I know who to thank.

Looking forward to a great year !!! ROCK ON!

Wendy Dresser  
702-556-2748



**SNGMS 2024 VOLUNTEER STAFF**

Contact any Director to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chair to offer to help on their committee.

**SNGMS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmспresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	owarea22@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
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**SNGMS 2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	EMAIL	PHONE
Communication	Del Walkenshaw	sngmsnews@gmail.com	702-451-8040
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies	Sheri Johnson		
Alt Federation	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Media Committee	Kendra White	kendrarubywhite@gmail.com	
Field Trip	Jonathan Tredwell	jbtredwell@gmail.com	725-274-3003
Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Open		
Hospitality	Barbara Belcher		
Inventory	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Librarian	Mario Luchetta		
Membership	Claudia Crouse	ccrouse295@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Mary Savage	lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com	
New Member Liaison	Joann Sprott		
Program (Speakers)	Romy Umholtz	romyvision@gmail.com	
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Open		
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-366-5854
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-366-5854





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**Did You Know?**

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop rents metal detectors to SNGMS members.

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HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of cabbing supplies and equipment. They offer a 10% discount to SNGMS members, friends, and families on everything EXCEPT machines, gift cards, and repairs. The discount is applied when you enter the discount code **SNGMS** at checkout. The code must be manually entered at checkout, it is NOT an automatic discount! The Hi-Tech website is [www.hitechdiamond.com](http://www.hitechdiamond.com).



**If something is gneiss, don't take it for granite.**





## Mineral Musings

### Three Kids Mine, Henderson, Nevada

Excerpted from:

<https://ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/black-mountain-industrial-bmi-complex/three-kids-mine>

<https://rivermountainstrail.org/history/three-kids-mine-history>

[www.atlasobscura.com/places/three-kids-mine](http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/three-kids-mine)

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Three Kids Mine Proposed Plan, Feb. 2023

[www.fox5vegas.com/2023/03/31/clean-up-plans-explained-site-three-kids-mine-site-near-lake-las-vegas](http://www.fox5vegas.com/2023/03/31/clean-up-plans-explained-site-three-kids-mine-site-near-lake-las-vegas)



**Three Kids Mine**

<https://ndep.nv.gov/environmental-cleanup/black-mountain-industrial-bmi-complex/three-kids-mine>

The Three Kids Mine is an open pit mine and mill site that produced manganese for the U.S. government between 1917 and 1961. Manganese was needed during WWI and WWII to strengthen steel. The mine is about five miles northeast of downtown Henderson, Nevada and about four miles south of Lake Las Vegas. The Three Kids Mine includes open pits, waste rock, and ore yard, mill site, and tailings ponds.

With the end of WWI, the demand for manganese dropped, mining activities slowed, and the Three Kids Mine was nearly dormant for several years.

In 1942, a mill was constructed for on-site processing of manganese ore to help meet the WWII demand for manganese. The site became the largest open pit mine for manganese in America. There are three pits. The biggest pit is 300 feet deep.

At the end of WWII there was once again a decline in activity at the Three Kids Mine, and the mill closed in 1944. Site activities remained limited up until 1951, when the mill was remodeled and reopened. The mine and mill continued producing manganese until all the open pits were exhausted. In 1961, use of the mine and the mill was permanently discontinued. Lead and manganese had been stockpiled on the site and these materials were sold after 1961. In the early 1980s, a few parcels from the property were sold and redeveloped. Scenes for the science fiction movie "Cherry 2000" starring Melanie Griffith and David Andrews were shot at the mine in 1987.

Environmental assessments of the mine were done from the late 1990s to the early 2000s. Dust, mining residues, and processing wastes containing lead, arsenic, manganese, and diesel fuel were identified as concerns.

In 2012, an artist known as Aware\_Indecline painted a "Wheel of Fortune" type wheel on an old thickener pit\*. The pits were used to leach pulp in the production of manganese.

In 2014, the federal government enacted the Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act. The legislation is a framework for transferring land at the mine from the federal government to the City of Henderson, Nevada. The land will then be transferred to a private developer. Currently, efforts to finish the transfer are underway.

The plan is to clean up the site and turn it into a master planned development named "Lakemoor Canyons". There is too much contaminated soil and waste at the site to remove. The proposed cleanup plan is to put the tailings, waste rock, and contaminated soil into the open pits, and then to cover the backfilled pits and other disturbed areas with 10 feet of clean soil. Cleanup activities will be done concurrently with new home construction.

The current cost estimate for the cleanup is about \$250 million. So far, cleanup money has come from private investors. Some money from land sales will be used for parts of the cleanup. The rest of the money will come from property taxes within the Lakemoor Canyon Development Area over a 45 year period.

*\* Ore was crushed to free grains of manganese from the matrix of the ore. The crushed ore was then mixed with water and chemicals (pulped) in seven acid-resistant structures called "thickener pits." The largest pit was 250 feet in diameter. The chemicals made the manganese float away from other materials in the water so it could be concentrated. This process is called "thickening."*



**Wheel of Misfortune at Three Kids Mine**

[www.casino.org/vitalvegas/wheel-of-misfortune-las-vegas-discovery](http://www.casino.org/vitalvegas/wheel-of-misfortune-las-vegas-discovery)



### January 2024 Class Schedule

**(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)**

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb & Sue Dobson	Monday, January 15 10 am – 2 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, January 22 5pm	\$11	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm	\$35	Desert Art Supplies 2750 N Green Valley Pky Suite D Henderson NV 89014	Text 702-425-0149 no later than noon on Thursday before class for reservation

\* Sponsored by Desert Art Supplies

**All class fees include a modest donation to the SNGMS. SNGMS Instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.**



**Sterling Silver Chain Made By A Silver Smithing Student**  
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



**Beaded Necklace and Bracelet January 2024's Class Project**  
Photo courtesy of Gary Webb



**Wire-Wrapped Scroll Pendant January 2024's Class Project**  
Photo courtesy of Peggy Sue Moore

### Speakers For 2024 General Meetings

*(please contact Romy Umholtz romyvision@gmail.com with speaker suggestions)*

Date	Speaker	Topic
Feb. 5, 2024	Eric Cifani, Mine Co-owner	Columbia 23 Mine
Mar. 4, 2024	Michele Slater, Jeweler	The 4 C's and Brief Introduction to Faceting



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society  
 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125  
 Las Vegas, NV 89102

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The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren

SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise

SNGMS Motto: Rocks-R-Us

SNGMS Web Site: [www.snvgs.org](http://www.snvgs.org)

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:  
 Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or  
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Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35  
 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the  
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No meeting is held in December. Instead we have  
 our annual awards dinner.

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