



# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



FEBRUARY 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOOUNDS SINCE 1940

VOLUME 83 ISSUE 2

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Mar. 2, 2023 - Board Mtg**  
**Mar. 6, 2023 - General Mtg**

**SNGMS Contacts:**

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### Happy Valentines!

Please accept my apologies for such a long meeting this month. We finished up a lot of business and announcements and I appreciated your patience. I promise that future meetings will be much, much shorter.

Have you noticed our days are warmer? What a great time to get out and rockhound. Just a few days ago, I enjoyed the sun and the hunt for that special rock. Once again, that particular one has eluded me, but just being out in the desert has me still smiling. Speaking of rockhounding, the Field Trips Committee continues to receive ideas for new searches. They have mentioned to me they need leaders for these trips. If you would like to volunteer to be a trip leader or helper, please contact Joel Coombs or Del Walkenshaw.

Do you have a special skill you'd like to share with club members? We are always open to new ideas and teachers at the shop. Please talk to Andrea Kincannon the next time you visit the shop. Lately, the shop is very busy with items coming in that were purchased at Quartzsite. If you like it a little bit slower, please visit on Tuesday or Friday evenings. Personally, I like the busier times since I get free advice (Ah Ha!).

Do you realize we have almost 900 members? That's a lot and so we encourage you submit your annual dues to Claudia Crouse if you have not already done so. Feel free to invite newbies to our meetings or for a quick shop tour.

Remember to keep watching your email and the Newsletter for lots of new happenings this year!

See you in the rocks!

Your 2023 SNGMS President,  
 Andrea Packo

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## 2023 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
SNGMS Field Trip to Ute, Nevada for petrified wood	February 18, 2023	Ute, Nevada, meet at 8 am, Valley of Fire I-15 exit (Smoke Shop) west parking lot. Depart 8:30 am
Clarkdale Gem & Mineral Show	February 25 – 26, 2023	Clark Memorial Clubhouse Auditorium, 19th N Ninth Street, Clarkdale AZ
Spring Jamboree	May 6 -7, 2023, 9 am – 4 pm	Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, Nevada
Desert Arts Parking Lot Sale <sup>2</sup>	March 11, 2023, 9 am – 4 pm	2750 N Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89014
Firelight Barn Spring Festival <sup>3</sup>	March 25, 2023, 11 am - 4 pm	546 S Boulder Hwy, Henderson, NV 89015
Glass Craft & Bead Expo 2023 – exhibits <sup>4</sup>	March 31 – April 2, 2023	South Point Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Tonopah Rock and Bottle Show <sup>5</sup>	August 4 – 6, 2023	Tonopah, NV

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Joel Coombs [joel.coombs@bldr.com](mailto:joel.coombs@bldr.com)
- 2) Contact Del Walkenship to purchase a vendor's spot 702-451-8040
- 3) Contact Toni Jackson to purchase a vendor's spot 702-518-7464
- 4) Classes available March 29 – April 2, 2023. Check [glasscraftexpo.com](http://glasscraftexpo.com)
- 5) Vendor booths available, no details available at the present time

### Some links with information about shows and exhibits that you may find helpful:

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

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

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

### Photos from Quartzite 2023



Photos courtesy of Barb Mazz



## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 2/2/2023

On February 2nd, 2023, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:06 PM by the President. All Board members except the One Year and Three Year Directors were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the January 5th, 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported account balances: Brokerage account: \$108, 453.30; Sweep Account: \$11,519.80; Checking account: \$20,061.25. Treasurer reports that a member with a financial background, Karen Barrett, as well as a Wells Fargo Representative will speak to Board Members about our investments. Lloyd Chayette proposed, seconded by Jack Toogood, and approved by the Board, that "up to \$60 be spent to purchase diamond powder for use by the faceting class." Expenses and receipts for 2022 were discussed and a number of ideas for increasing club income were proposed including selling donated items on Etsy, shows, increased classes, etc. Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Jack Toogood, and approved by the Board, that "up to \$500 be spent to purchase supplies for clock making classes." Bob Belcher had requested purchase of an additional oxygen/acetylene torch for silversmithing class use. The Board decided that it was not feasible to make the purchase at this time and proposed to stock butane torches in the shop to sell to members so they can use their own equipment in the class where feasible and use the oxygen/acetylene torch for larger item when needed. Orville Wiemers proposed, seconded by Lloyd Chayette, and approved by the Board, that "up to \$200 be available to purchase shop items each month without Board approval." Shop item donations will be requested from the members and can be brought to the shop or to the monthly general meeting. Board agreed to keep \$100 allowance for Kid's Club monthly expenses in place..

**Shop Report:** Eight new Shop Supervisors are being trained. An Affiliate program for Cab Kings is available which will benefit the club and member purchasers. There will be additional display provided for donated cabs, slabs, specimens, etc. for sale in the shop. Additional classes will be developed.

**Unfinished Business:** Parliamentarian, Jack Toogood, proposed By-Law typo and terminology changes as well as removal of standing rules from the by-laws. It will be discussed at General Meeting and proposed changes posted on website for review. Due to club's financial losses in 2022 the proposed scholarship program will be tabled with review next year. The budget committee has been working and will continue. Ron Mazz has volunteered to head the Inventory Committee and will co-ordinate efforts to inventory all club property. Users of shop lockers will be identified and there will be a monthly charge for locker usage in the future. Efforts to digitize club information will be focused on inventory as the first step. Sara Schiller is taking the lead on the Spring Jamboree Show with SNGMSJam@gmail.com as her email. Wendy Dresser is taking the lead for the Kids Club. They will be making a schedule for the year's activities. The club will be having t-shirts printed for sale. The design on the back will be the winner of a competition to be announced at the General Meeting.

**New Business :** Peggy Sue Moore proposed, seconded by Orville Wiemers, and approved by the Board that "up to \$120.00 be spent to purchase a portable screen to use for presentations at the General Meeting." The new Hospitality chair will be David Ford. The Historian Chair position will also include being in charge of the American Federation 'All American Club' preparation and entry. A committee will look into charging for field trips and offsetting some of the incurred site scouting expenses. To eliminate any club liability classes not sponsored by SNGMS will be listed as non-sponsored classes when advertised. Lorrilee Stackhouse proposed, seconded by Lloyd Chayette, and approved by the Board that "two 1TB memory sticks be purchased at up to \$30 each for used by the Membership Chair."

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.



**SNGMS General meeting minutes for 2/6/2023**

On February 6th, 2023, the regular meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. The Secretary was present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the January 9h, 2022 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported account balances: Brokerage account: \$108, 453.30; Sweep Account: \$11,519.80; Checking account: \$20,061.25

**Shop Report:** Shop foreman, Andrea Kincannon reported on saw status. Seven to eight new supervisors have been recruited. There are donated slabs and specimens for sale in the shop and more donations would be appreciated. Donation of office materials such as copy paper, paper towels, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies are also appreciated. The office update is on hold pending fund availability. Anyone with remodeling type skills is welcome to volunteer to help update the shop on a limited budget. Please identify any shop locker you are using. There will be a \$3 per month charge starting in March. Slow times in the shop are Tuesday 3-7 and Friday 5-9. Come down to use the equipment without a wait time.

**Cab Contest and Door Prize Changes:** Orville Wiemers explained improvements to the cab contest - better lighting, posting the contest theme, and delaying voting until all entries to the contest have arrived. Door Prize ticket sales will be cash only.

**Kids Club:** More than two hundred kids attended the Sanford Elementary School Science Fair. It was a very successful community event. Wendy Dresser is taking lead for the Kids Club. She is organizing a Young Adult program for teens and will be helped by Chay Beaston who will be a Junior Leader, Mary Beth Paladino, the long-time Kids Club Chair was given a standing ovation from the club for her long and dedicated service.

**Sunshine Report:** See page 6 of this issue of The Slab.

**Unfinished Business:** Two 1TB flash drives will be furnished for Membership Chair file storage. Up to \$500 will be used to purchase clock making class supplies. The request for an Oxygen/Acetylene tank setup was not approved. The proposed scholarship program is tabled until next year. Up to \$120 will be used to purchase a portable screen for General Meeting presentations. If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues please do so. Parliamentarian, Jack Toogood, proposed By Law typo and terminology changes as well as removal of standing rules from the by-laws. Proposed changes will be posted on website for review and there will be a vote at the March General Meeting.

**New Business:** Amazon Smile program is ending as of February 20<sup>th</sup>. David Ford is taking over as Hospitality Chairperson. We still need a chairperson for the Historian who will also lead the All American Club efforts. The All American Club program requires documenting club activities for the year and would be of benefit to SNGMS in many ways. Sara Schiller is taking the Spring Jamboree lead. Volunteers are needed to help during the Jamboree. Eight display cases are available on a first come first served basis. Contact Orville Wiemers to reserve a case for display or competition. All members who have a December birthday are asked to bring refreshments to the General meeting in January.

**Upcoming Events:** Shows: Rocky Mountain 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Federation Show July 14-16 in Casper Wyoming, Northwest Federation/American Federation Show Aug 3-6 in Billings Montana. 2023 Classes: Beading, Feb 13; Silversmithing, Feb 26-27; Wire Wrapping, Feb 20; Cabochon Making, Feb 19; Clock Making, Feb 12-13; Faceting, every Sat 9 am; non-SNGMS sponsored silversmithing at Desert Art Supply, Fridays 12:30-3:30, \$35, max of 8 participants. Kids Club – Feb 12. 2023 Meetings: Mar 2 – Board Meeting, Mar 6 – General Meeting. Rockhounding Trips: Ute – Feb 18. Parking Lot Sale – Mar 11, 2023

**General Meeting Speakers for 2023:** Mar 6, Jon DeCelles - Stone Sculpting; Apr 23 , Harrison Brooks – Drone footage from Easter Blue Mine Tonopah NV; May 1, John Fish – Gemology; Jun 5 – Open; Jul 10 – Open; Aug 7, Michelle S. French - Flood Control – Clark County Regional Flood District

**Cab Contest:** February contest theme was Lion Fish. Lloyd Chayette took first place, and George Stewart won second place.

Lloyd Chayette proposed, seconded by Del Walkenshaw, and approved by the membership, that “the meeting be adjourned.” The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

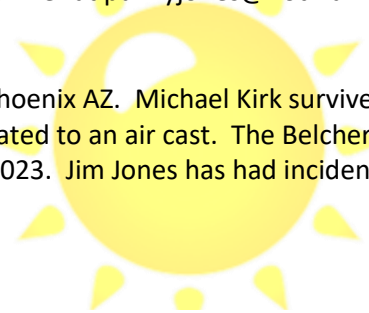


# Sunshine Report

*from Beth Jones*

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 call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com) (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject).

DiAnn Lawson participated in a 13.1 mile marathon finishing in 2 hrs. 15 minutes in Phoenix AZ. Michael Kirk survived an encounter with a semi truck. Peggy Sue Moore is off her knee scooter and has graduated to an air cast. The Belchers have COVID. Maria Demeo has two slipped disks. Dick Askew died on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Jim Jones has had incidences of increased clarity.



## Amethyst, the February Birthstone

The name “amethyst” comes from the Greek word "amethystos", which means “a remedy against drunkenness!” Because of its wine-like color, early Greeks associated the gem with Bacchus, the god of wine. Amethyst was believed to keep the wearer clear headed and quick witted in battle and business affairs. Renaissance Europeans thought it calmed lovers overrun by passion.

Russia was the major source of amethyst until the 1800s, when big deposits were found in Brazil. Now, Africa and South America are the most important sources of amethyst. Brazil is still a major supplier. Amethyst is also found in the United States. There are amethyst deposits in northern Nevada, notably on Petersen Mountain in the Hallelujah Junction area outside Reno.

Amethyst is a 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Because it is softer than rubies, sapphires and diamonds, amethyst jewelry should be stored separately from these gemstones. Heat treatment can improve the color of natural amethyst. Heat treatment can't make pale amethyst darker, but it can lighten the color of very dark amethyst and make it more attractive. Some amethyst turns yellow – to citrine – with heat treatment. Too much heat can remove all the color, and some amethyst fades with prolonged exposure to strong light. The color is stable with normal use, but to prevent fading, don't wear amethyst hiking in the desert every day!

Amethyst jewelry can be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner, but steam cleaning is not recommended. A soft brush with mild soap is a good option.





**SNGMS MEETING SCHEDULES AND LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS**

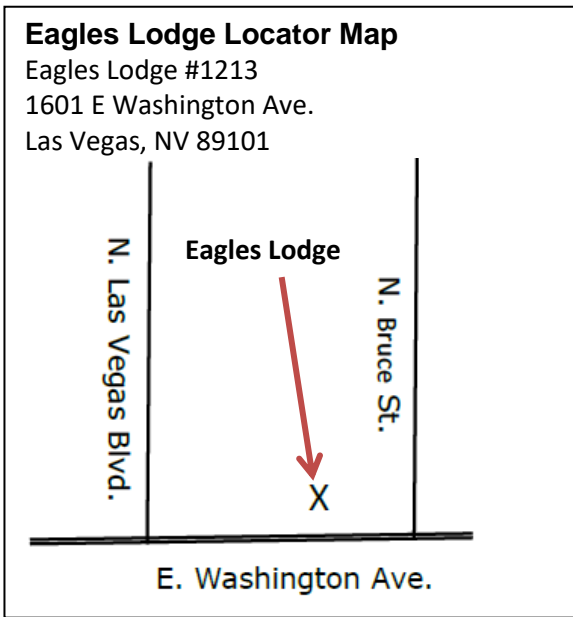
SNGMS 2023 Meeting Schedule	
Board Mtg	General Mtg
2-Mar	6-Mar
30-Mar	3-Apr
27-Apr	1-May
1-Jun	5-Jun
6-Jul	10-Jul
3-Aug	7-Aug
7-Sep	11-Sep
28-Sep	2-Oct
2-Nov	6-Nov
30-Nov	none
<b>Awards Banquet</b> Dec-03	

**SNGMS General Meeting**  
*Non-members welcome!*

1st Monday of every month (2nd Monday if a holiday falls on the first Monday). No meeting in December.

We meet at:  
Eagles Lodge  
1601 E Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Show & Sell 5-6 PM  
General Meeting 6-8 PM



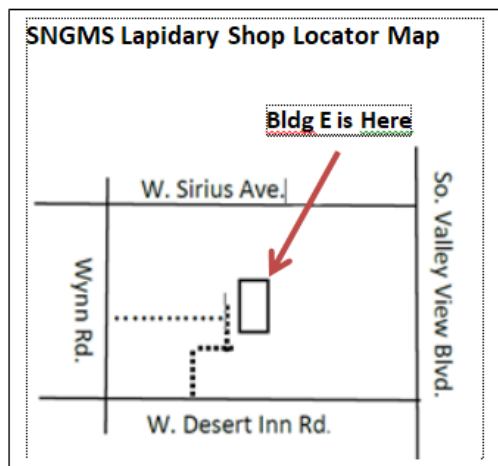
**Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop**

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 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.

**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.



**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 Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 - Approx 7 pm

*\*Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.*



Lapidary and Jewelry Studio  
Tips & Tricks

Cutting Book-Matched Pairs of Cabochon Using Double-Sided Tape  
from Lapidary Dave  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-Mil5xn33o>



### Materials and Equipment Needed

Shurtape DF 545 Double-Sided Carpet and Duct Tape  
Slabbed rock  
Trim saw  
Scissors or exacto knife  
Oil-based paint pen  
Cab machine  
Plastic razor blade (optional)  
Flat lap or fingernail polish remover or acetone



### Directions

1) Trim two pieces of a slab into two matching shapes (2 rectangles, 2 squares, 2 triangles, 2 circles, etc.) that are about the same size. If the two pieces don't lie flat, use a flat lap to even them out. You should be able to stack one on top of the other without major gaps.

2) DO NOT remove the protective film from the double-sided tape. Cut or tear a piece of tape that is slightly larger than your slab pieces. Place the tape sticky side down on one of the slab pieces and press the tape onto the slab piece.



3) NOW remove the protective film from the tape that's attached to the first slab piece from Step 2. Place the first slab piece on top of the second slab piece with the sticky side down and press the two slab pieces together to make a sandwich.

4) Use a pair of scissors or an exacto knife to trim the tape as close to the edges of the slabs as you can. The tape will try to stick to scissors. Using small scissors (like fingernail scissors) helps you trim close to the slab edges and minimizes the sticking problem. At this point, you should have a rock sandwich with tape in the middle.



5) Mark your cutting design on top of the slab sandwich. A fine point oil-based paint pen works well.

6) Use a cab machine to shape the slab sandwich. IF YOU WANT TO DRILL HOLES, after you are done using the third wheel on the cab machine is a good time to make the holes. Shape and polish both sides of the sandwich using the cab machine.

7) Use Zam or some other polish and a buffing wheel to add extra shine to both sides of the slab sandwich.

8) Use your fingernails or a PLASTIC razor blade to force the two slabs apart. Sometimes a narrow PLASTIC putty knife will also work.



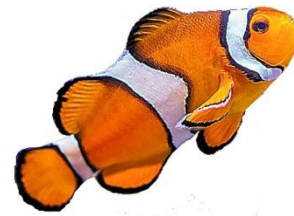
9) Use a flat lap to grind the tape off the backs of the slabs. Alternatively, you can use fingernail polish remover or acetone.



2023 CABOCHON CONTESTS

MONTH	CABOCHON THEME	CONTEST WINNER
January	Rainbow Trout	Lloyd Chayette & Bruce Martin tied
February	Lion Fish	Lloyd Chayette 1 <sup>st</sup> George Stewart 2 <sup>nd</sup>
March	Clown Fish	
April	Jellyfish	
May	Lobster	
June	Starfish	
July	Octopus	
August	Seahorse	
September	Coral	
October	Shark	
November	Whales	

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 March 2023 cabochon theme is "clown fish." **Good Luck!**



Clown Fish

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

February 2023 Cabochon Contest Winners

Lloyd Chayette won 1<sup>st</sup> place (entry #3) and George Stewart took 2<sup>nd</sup> place (entry #5) in this month's cabochon contest.



Left to right: Lloyd Chayette and George Stewart with their prize-winning cabochons



Entries for the February 2023 SNGMS Cabochon Contest





## Additional 2023 SNGMS Contests

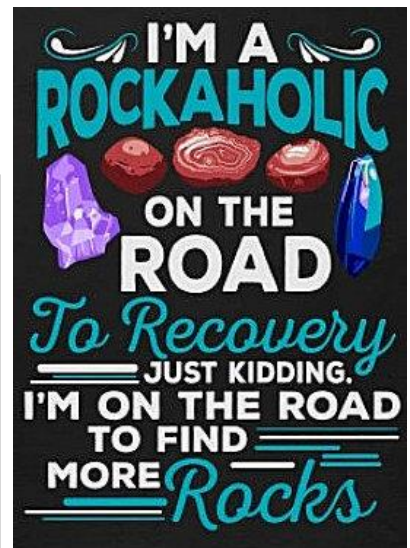
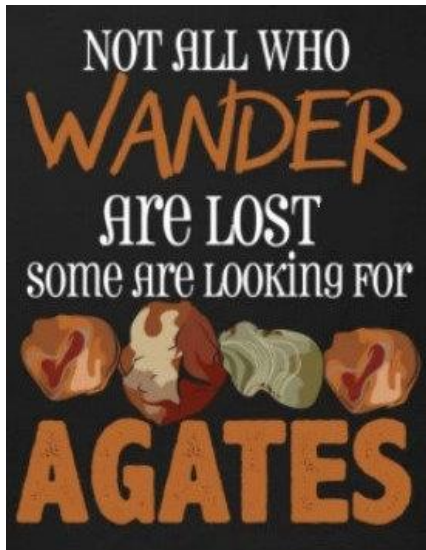
### SNGMS T-Shirt Contest

Design a T-Shirt that you'd love to see SNGMS members wear!

Lloyd Chayette will lead the SNGMS T-shirt contest. Please start thinking about your original design for the **BACK** of a club T-shirt. The club logo will be on the front of the shirt. The color of the shirt will be turquoise, the SNGMS club color. Additional details will be announced next month. Meanwhile, please consider including these items in your original design:

- Visuals that you think embody what it means to be a part of SNGMS
- Slogans

For inspiration, here are some T-shirt designs used by other groups:



### SNGMS Awards Banquet Centerpiece Contest

The Society is considering a centerpiece contest for the Awards Banquet in December 2023. Details of the contest have not yet been announced. Here are some inspiring photos!



## BIRTHDAYS

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



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



*Lydia Bell, Christine Boyce, Efim Burda, Leslie Burns, Teresa Carlson, Renee Conklin, Joel Coombs, David Dziadon, Carla Ford, Katherine Frank, Karen Griffith-Hedberg, Jeremiah Hansen, Linda Hill, Sarah Howell, Bryan Huber, Sirinda Isarangrura, Cliff Jackson, Sara Laffin, Kerin Landry, Ann Lawrence, James Longenecker, Charles Maguire, Sara Jean McCulley, Stephen Dale McGavran, Adam Q. Miller, Colton Morano, Dave Munkres, Melvin Nishiuchi, Michelle Novo, Rosa Pascual, Fiorella Ramirez, Merridith Renkiewicz, AJ Rosenthal, Karen Semplinski, Denise Senko, Joshua Solberg, Joseph Soukup, Kathleen Stenberg, Morgan Stinnett, H. Allen Stratton, Catherine Underwood, Dana Vaughn, William (Bill) Wade, James Walkenshaw, Michael Walker, Kerry Wenzl, Charles B. Williams, Bill Wright, Ryan Young, Mania Young*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*Welcome to members who recently/rejoined SNGMS. We look forward to getting to know you better.*

*Analy Braza-Stull, Colleen Carroll, Charles B. Davis, Carla Ford, Katherine Frank, Sheryl Ganson, Chris Hall, Alexandria Hall, Jeremiah Hansen, Noel Helwig, Jenelle Hopkins, Steve Hopkins, Susan Keller, Nicole Larsen, Steven Larsen, Kenneth L. Martin, Connie Masters, Neal Masters, Catherine O'Rourke, Vicki O'Rourke, Bella Romero, Kay Scheel, Joshua Solberg, Randall Spencer, Mary Ann Wagner, Wayne Walker, Kendra White, Sean White*

*Welcome*  
to our  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
and  
**GUESTS**



## SNGMS Kids Club

Mary Beth Paladino provided many years of leadership for the SNGMS Kids Club, but she has decided to step down. Wendy Dresser will now be the Kids Club Chair, assisted by Chayton Beaston as the Junior Assistant Leader.

Wendy and Cha plan to create a young adults program for teens.

SNGMS owes Mary Beth a debt of gratitude for her service to the club and the kids!



Left to right: Chayton Beaston and Wendy Dresser.  
Junior Assistant Leader and Chair of the Kids Club



## SNGMS By-Law Revisions

Jack Toogood, SNGMS Parliamentarian, has proposed updates to our by-laws. The general membership will vote on the proposed changes at our March 2023 meeting. Go to [www.sngms.org/copy-of-bylaws-1](http://www.sngms.org/copy-of-bylaws-1) to see the details.



**SNMGMS 2023 VOLUNTEER STAFF**

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

**SNMGMS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

OFFICE	DIRECTOR	EMAIL	PHONE
President	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com	702-366-5854
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	sngmssecretary@gmail.com	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Peggy Sue Moore	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	702-434-6072
Parliamentarian	Jack Toogood	vegasbmw@hotmail.com	702-510-4192
One Year Board	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Two Year Board	Del Walkenshaw	desertartsupply@aol.com	702-451-8040
Three Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Past President	Lloyd Chayette	chayette.lloyd@yahoo.com	714-474-6384

**SNMGMS 2023 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
Facebook Master	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Field Trip	Joel Coombs & Bill Kogan	sngmsnews@gmail.com	
Shop Foreman	Andrea Kincannon	andrea.kincannon@gmail.com	
General Meeting Greeter	Dave Ford		
Historian	Dale Bright	dalebright1@hotmail.com	
Hospitality	Open		
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	luckyiamr@hotmail.com	
Publicity	Andrea Packo	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Raffle/Lottery	Ron Mazz	zman8229@gmail.com	586-914-4130
Refreshments	Fran & Allen Stratton		
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser		
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam		
Spring Jamboree Show	Sara Schiller	sngmsjam@gmail.com	
Sunshine	Beth Jones	punkyjones@hotmail.com	702-505-5819
Webmaster	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@cox.net	





**SPEAKERS FOR 2023 GENERAL MEETINGS**

*(please contact Romy Umholtz luckyiamr@hotmail.com with speaker suggestions)*

Date	Speaker	Topic
6-Mar-23	Jon DeCelle	Stone Sculpting
3-Apr-23	Harrison Brook	Drone footage from Easter Blue mine, Tonopah, Nevada
1-May-23	John Fish	Gemology
5-Jun-23	Open	
10-Jul-23	Open	
7-Aug-23	Michelle S. French	Flood Control – Clark County Regional Flood Control District

**AMAZONSMILE ENDS**



Amazon announced it will end the AmazonSmile program on February 20, 2023. Amazon said it will help nonprofits transition by "providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program" and allowing them to continue receiving donations until the program's official end.

**SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS**



*"Southern Nevada's Complete Art Store"*  
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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).





## Mineral Musings

### Suiseki Stones

In traditional Japanese culture, suiseki are small, naturally shaped rocks which are appreciated for their beauty. Suiseki is pronounced suu-ee-seck-ee. It means “water stones,” although they are also called “viewing stones.” They are similar to Chinese scholar's rocks.

Suiseki came to the western world when they were displayed in bonsai exhibits. Suiseki and bonsai are still exhibited together all over the world. Suiseki are usually displayed on a wooden base, or in a shallow tray filled with water or sand.

#### Finding Suiseki

The stones are found in mountain streams, on beaches, and in deserts - anywhere that nature has deposited or shaped them. The Mojave Desert seems to be an especially popular source of stones with U.S. suiseki enthusiasts. The best stones are found where erosion is intense.

You can collect suiseki in a variety of sizes. Stones less than 10 inches in size are usually not publically exhibited since they don't have much visual impact in large display halls, and because they are too easy to steal. Most publically exhibited stones are 12-24 inches wide, although they can be much larger.

#### Types of Suiseki\*

Stones must have a special shape, color and texture to be considered suiseki. In Japan, pitch-black stones are considered to be the best suiseki. There are three types of suiseki:

- 1) Landscape Stones. They look like distant mountains, islands, waterfalls, caves, and other geologic formations.
- 2) Object Stones. These stones resemble man-made objects such as boats, bridges, and buildings.
- 3) Pattern Stones. Pattern stones have unique surface patterns caused by variations in color, texture, and mineral inclusions. The most famous pattern stones are Chrysanthemum Stones.

#### Suiseki Organizations

There are suiseki groups in the U.S. Bonsai clubs frequently have members who specialize in suiseki. If you are interested, consider contacting the Viewing Stone Association of North America (VSANA). Their web site is [www.vsana.org](http://www.vsana.org).

*\*Photos from the National Bonsai Foundation in Washington, D.C.*



## FEBRUARY 2023 CLASS SCHEDULE

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb & Sue Dobson	Monday, February 13, 5 pm		SNGMS Lapidary Shop	
Clock Making	Amber & Stephen Palecek	Sunday, February 11, 6 pm and Monday, February 13, 4 pm		SNGMS Lapidary Shop	702-343-7150
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm	\$15.00 for the class plus \$5.00 for instructor fuel fund	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	Contact Peggy Sue Moore moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm Select Saturdays 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
Silver Smithing	Bob Belcher	Sunday, February 26, 3 pm	\$15	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	f35fighterman@yahoo.com 702-210-9612
Silver Smithing	Bob Belcher	Monday February 27, 3 pm	\$15	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	f35fighterman@yahoo.com 702-210-9612
Wire wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	Monday, February 20, 5 pm	\$10.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee	SNGMS Lapidary Shop	moorepeggysue@gmail.com

***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.***



**Beading Projects**  
Photo courtesy of Gary Webb



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

<p>SNGMS Mascot: Rock Wren          SNGMS Gemstone: Turquoise          SNGMS Logo: Rocks-R-Us          SNGMS Web Site: <a href="http://www.snvms.org">www.snvms.org</a></p> <p>Membership is open to anyone with an interest in:          Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or          Silversmithing</p> <p>Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35          Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the          month at:</p> <p>Eagles Lodge #1213          1601 E Washington          Las Vegas, NV 89101          (702) 642-1213</p> <p>No meeting is held in December. Instead we have          our annual awards dinner.</p>	<b>POLISHED SLAB          ADVERTISING RATES</b>		
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