



February 2024

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 2

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 28, 2024 - Board Mtg**  
**April 1, 2024 – Genl Mtg**

#### SNGMS Contacts:

www.snvgs.org  
sngmsnews@gmail.com  
sngmспresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
sngmssecretary@gmail.com  
sngmstreasurer@gmail.com  
sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

#### Refreshment Volunteers

SNGMS needs volunteers to distribute refreshments provided by members at our general meetings. Please contact Andrea Packo (sngmspresident@gmail.com or 702-279-7679) if you can help.

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Hi Everyone!!

Hope all of you enjoyed the Super Bowl... what a huge promotion for Las Vegas.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and I hope you remembered a heart rock for your sweetie. ❤️❤️❤️

Please review the calendar sent in your email for all the great classes and field trips we have coming up. Sure looks like a lot of fun.

Thank you to all the members who helped last Saturday in analyzing and evaluating the large donation given to UNLV. We are about halfway through and will attempt to finish on Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 10 am.

The plans for the Boulder City Spring Jamboree are in full swing. Please consider whether you might have time to volunteer May 3, 4, or 5, 2024. We'll have a schedule to help you find your best fit. Contact Orville Weimers (owarea22@gmail.com, 702-743-3277) or Andrea Packo (sngmspresident@gmail.com, 702-279-7679).

Our first meeting for the fall Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show is Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 4 pm at:

Desert Art Supplies  
2750 N Green Valley Pkwy  
Suite D  
Henderson, NV 89014

We'd love your input.

It's stopped raining and the sun is out so I'll see you in the rocks!

Andrea Packo  
SNGMS President



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
Parking Lot Sale	March 9, 2024, 9 am – 4 pm	Desert Art Supplies, 2750 N Green Valley Pkwy # D Henderson, NV 89014
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) As of publication time, this trip is full. Please contact Jonathan Tredwell (jbtredwell@gmail.com) to be put on a wait list.

**SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

**GEM & MINERAL SHOW**  
First Weekend in May  
BOULDER CITY, NV

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 9am - 4pm

Rock and Mineral Displays  
Gems, Jewelry & Crafts Sale  
Great Activities For Kids  
Dinosaur Pics & Selfies  
Geode Cutting

First Weekend in May

900 Arizona Street, Boulder City, NV  
Inside the Parks & Recreation Gymnasium  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

**Joshua Tree GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Rocks  
Fossils  
Gemstones  
Slabs  
Equipment  
Cabochons  
Crystals  
Spheres  
Jewelry

**IN OUR NEW LOCATION**  
JOSHUA TREE LAKE RV & CAMPGROUND  
2601 SUNFAIR ROAD, JOSHUA TREE

**APRIL 24 - 28**  
WEDS. - SAT. 9 to 5  
SUNDAY 9 to 4

LOTS OF VENDORS  
SELLING ITEMS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.  
COME ONE & ALL FOR A DAY OR WEEKEND  
DISCOVERING THE EARTH'S AMAZING  
WONDERS!

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING FOR ALL

Find us on facebook

**SECOND ANNUAL TONOPAH NEVADA ROCK & BOTTLE SHOW**

JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> 2024

Vendors please contact Chrissy Page, Tourism & Events Coordinator Town of Tonopah at 775-277-0804 or email: chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com

To view a full list of vendors please visit TONOPAHNEVADA.COM/TONOPAHROCK

OTESON TURQUOISE  
TURQUOISE

THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY THE TOWN OF TONOPAH

**VICTOR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB**  
Stoddard Wells Rockhound Tailgate  
Victorville, California  
Friday—Sunday, March 8-10, 2024 9:00am to 5:00pm Daily

FREE Event!    FREE Vendor Spaces    Dry Camping    Restrooms    Silent Auction    Grab Bags

For more info visit our website at 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.



## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 2/1/2024

On February 1, 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop at 6:09 pm by the President. All Board members were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited. The minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

**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.

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of checking account is \$27,047 and is staying stable, with the increase mainly due to Spring Jamboree booth sales. The investments balance is \$124,228. The Board discussed 'safe' cash balances and the possibility of investing some of the brokerage cash balance in short term instruments such as T-bills or CDs that provide both liquidity and safety. This will be further discussed at future meetings.

**Shop Report:** All equipment is up and running. Needed parts have been ordered.

**New Business:** Kerry "Chops" Wenzl reports that Station Casino raised the price for the Awards Banquet by \$3 per person. If the club wants to secure the event venue a \$500 check deposit needs to be made. The ticket cost would be \$35 per member, \$60 per non-member. Del Walkenshaw proposed, seconded by Orville Weimers, and approved by the Board that a proposal to secure Station Casino for the Awards Banquet be presented at the General Meeting.

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

**Unfinished Business:** Classes: Amber Palecek is presenting a clock class on Feb 18 & 19 and it filled up rapidly. A Gemstone ID class is being discussed for Spring.

The Spring Jamboree and Viva Las Vegas shows were discussed with a status update from Orville Wiemers. The banner layout and a proposed handout for the Viva Show were reviewed by the Board.

There was a proposal to give new members 1 hour of shop time. The Board felt that it would be appropriate when they attend an orientation session at the Shop.

An opportunity for community outreach at a Science and Literature Fair at Gene Ward Elementary School was proposed by Jean Chayette, and the Board enthusiastically supported the proposal.

The Board will discuss time and location of Board meetings at next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.



### Did You Know?

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop has a small selection of tools and supplies for sale. Ask any Shop Supervisor to make a purchase.



**SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 2/5/2024**

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved as read.

**Treasurers Report:** The checking balance as of end of January was \$27,104, up over \$3,000 from the previous month mainly due to Spring Jamboree booth sales. The Brokerage account balance was \$100, 135 in investments and \$24,092 in cash.

**Membership:** Claudia Crouse reports that the membership list has not been officially purged but expects to have about half the number remaining following the purge of those who have not continued their membership.

**Kids Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities, thanking Mary Beth Paladino and her family, and additional members for making sure the Kid's Club Holiday/Awards Party was a success, and for pitching in to make the January meeting happen. There will be a field trip to trilobite hill on Sunday.

**Lapidary Shop Report:** "Chops" Wenzl reported that there are two saws down and waiting for parts. The Shop will be closed Feb 14 from 3-7 PM.

**Publicity:** Romy Umholtz reported that there is no speaker this month but she presented the slate of speakers for the rest of 2024 and discussed possible presenters for the Viva Las Vegas Show this Fall.

**Sunshine:** Harvey Bergeron is having leg and foot problems, and Rita Bergeron is also under the weather. Lori Syddall had a good checkup.

**Cabochoon Contest:** The theme was Forest Colors. First place was Mary Savage. Second place was Joel Coombs. March 2024 subject will be Spring Flowers.

**Old Business:** A Refreshment Chair is still needed. See any Board Member to volunteer.

The Sunset Station venue is available for the Awards Banquet again this year. The cost will be \$35 for members and \$60 for non-members. Joel Coombs proposed, seconded by Ken Martin, and approved by the membership that, "The Awards Banquet be held at Sunset Station again in 2024."

Show updates were provided by Orville Wiemers. The Spring Jamboree has 70% of booths taken. Everything is going fine and table and chair rentals will be about the same cost as last year. The Viva Show is waiting on a contract with the Casino. Verbally Orville was told the cost would be the same as last year. Mockups of signage and brochure were shown.

**New Business**

Jonathan Tredwell discussed upcoming Field Trips. See the Slab and emails for details. Classes were discussed, see emails and Slab for details.

Jean Chayette discussed the Science and Literature Fair at Gene Ward Elementary School on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jean or Wendy Dresser to volunteer to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 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.

Rita and Harvey Bergeron have not been well. Lorraine Syddall had a good checkup. Wendy Dresser's husband has been ill.

## Rock Spotlight: Fluorite

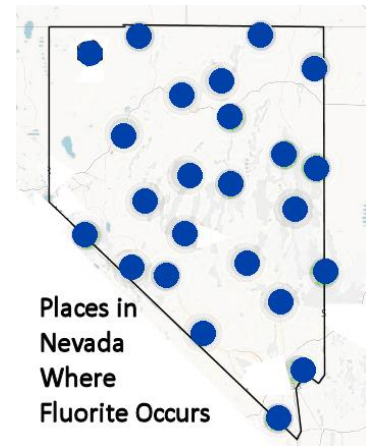
Fluorite (also called fluorspar) is the mineral form of calcium fluoride,  $\text{CaF}_2$ . It is soft, with a Mohs value of 4. Pure fluorite is colorless and transparent, both in visible and ultraviolet (UV) light. Impurities usually make it a colorful mineral in visible and UV light. Fluorite also exhibits the property of thermoluminescence – the mineral fluoresces when it's heated.

In 1852, the word "fluorescence" was coined by physicist George Stokes from "fluorspar" plus "escence". The name of the element "fluorine" is also based on the word "fluorite".

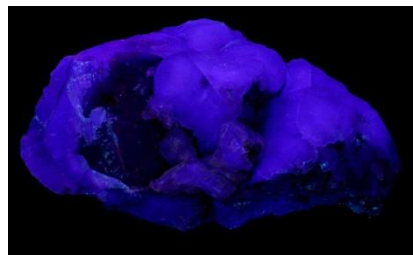
The stone has ornamental and lapidary uses. Industrially, fluorite is used as a flux for iron smelting, and in the production of certain glasses and enamels. The purest grades of fluorite are a source of fluoride for hydrofluoric acid manufacture. Optically clear transparent fluorite lenses are used in microscopes and telescopes.

Fluorite usually forms through hydrothermal activity. It may occur as a vein deposit, especially in limestones. Fluorite can also be found as a constituent of sedimentary rocks either as grains or as the cementing material in sandstone.

There are multiple places in Nevada where fluorite is found. SNGMS members Sara Tredwell, Jonathan Tredwell, Katie Frank, and Josh Solberg manage a fluorite site near Austin, Nevada ([www.tredstoneshop.com](http://www.tredstoneshop.com)).



<https://www.mindat.org/locentries.php?p=14194&m=1576>



Left to right: Fluorite from Esmeralda County, Nevada under visible light; and the same rock under UV light

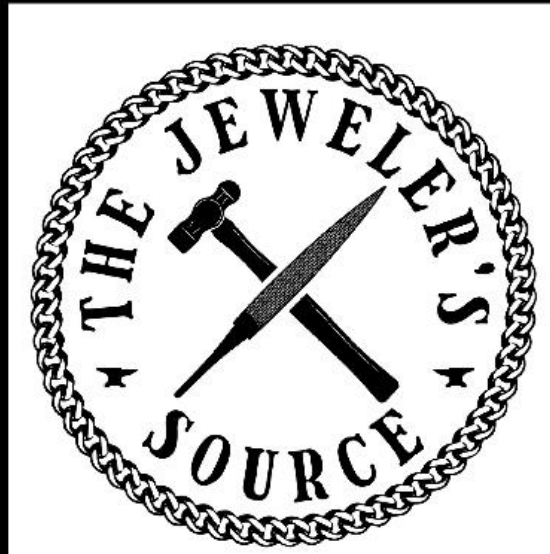
[www.mineralauctions.com/items/fluorite-fluorecent-rare-nevada-bob-reynolds-coll-88036](http://www.mineralauctions.com/items/fluorite-fluorecent-rare-nevada-bob-reynolds-coll-88036)

Fluorite comes in a wide range of colors and has been called "the most colorful mineral in the world". The most common colors are purple, blue, green, yellow, or colorless. Pink, red, white, brown, and black colors are more unusual. Colors may occur in bands.

## Gene Ward Elementary School Science Fair, March 7, 2024

Gene Ward Elementary School, 1555 E Hacienda Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89119, is hosting a Science Fair on March 7, 2024 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Jean Chayette is asking for Science Fair volunteers and goodie bags. For details, please contact Jean at [jalmiz201@gmail.com](mailto:jalmiz201@gmail.com) or 714-474-6384.





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

IG - thejewelerssource



SNGMS Meeting Schedules and Lapidary Shop Hours

SNGMS 2024 Meeting Schedule		
Board Meeting <sup>1</sup>	General Meeting <sup>2</sup>	Kids Club Meeting <sup>3</sup>
Feb. 1	Feb. 5	2nd Sunday of every month (unless it falls on a holiday) from 3pm - 5pm
Feb. 29	Mar. 4	
Mar. 28	Apr. 1	
May 2	May 6	
May 30	Jun. 3	
Jun. 27	Jul. 1	
Aug. 1	Aug. 5	
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 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.

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.

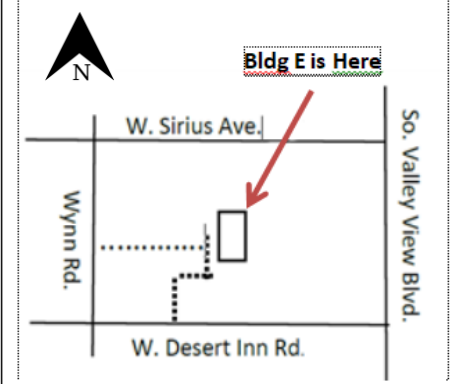
Location of the Eagles’ Lodge

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

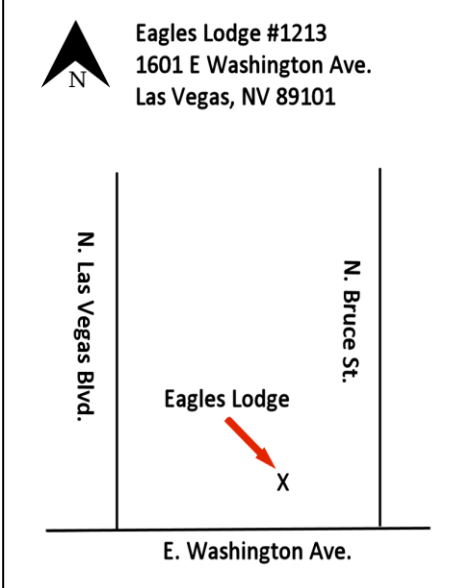
SNGMS LAPIDARY SHOP HOURS\*

Sunday 10 am - 3 pm  
Monday Closed for general use:  
Various Classes  
Tuesday 10 am - 7 pm  
Wednesday 10 am – 7 pm  
**CLOSED AT 3 PM ON WED. FEB 14, 2024**  
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.**

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Locator Map



Eagles Lodge Locator Map



## Lapidary/Jewelry Studio Tips &amp; Tricks

## Simple Clothespin Vise

Adapted from <http://www.lopacki.com/lopacki/tips/index.html>

## CLOTHESPIN VISE

Have you ever ground your fingernails down to the cuticle while polishing tiny stones or shaving off an edge for inlay? To help minimize skin loss, you can make a clothespin vise to hold small pieces. The original version of this vise was developed by lapidary expert Lee Yazzie. The tool is simple to make and holds the tiniest stones firmly. These items are needed to make the clothespin vise:

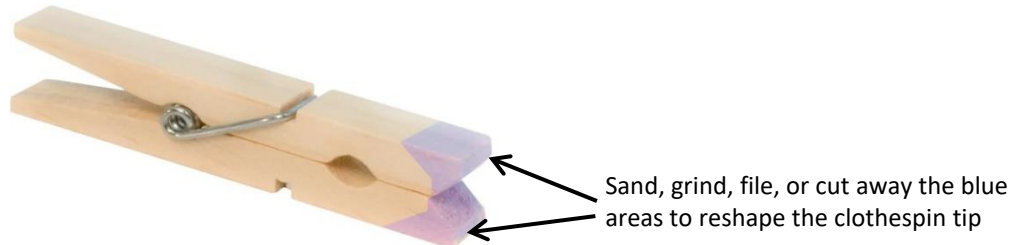
- Standard wooden clothespin
- Heavy rubber band
- 1 piece of coarse sandpaper, or a file, or a grinder, or a jeweler's saw

To make the tool, follow these steps:

- 1) Find a wooden clothespin with a metal spring that is similar to this one:



- 2) Sand, grind, file, or cut both clothespin halves so the tips slope back towards the thin end of the pin half, and blunt the tip:



- 3) Wrap the space between the spring and the reshaped ends of the clothespin halves with a rubber band (one that is 2.5 inches long when folded in half, and 0.25 inches wide works well) to give the vise more clamping power:



- 4) Use your new clamp to hold tiny pieces of stone – open the vise by pressing on the thin ends of the vise! The vise can also hold small pieces of metal for shaping.

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





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	1 <sup>st</sup> – Mary Savage 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Joel Coombs
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 March 2024 cabochon theme is “Spring Flowers.” **Good Luck!**



Desert five-spot Desert Paintbrush Mariposa Lily Beaver-tail Cactus

Photos by Benjamin Chemel

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



February 2024 Cabochon Contest Entries



**Collect your own Palladian Fluorite!  
Mine trips begin May, 2024**

Native to Nevada, this unique botryoidal fluorite is intergrown with silica, causing opalization and fluorescence striations. It forms naturally in bands of purple, green, blue, and white. Fluorescence colors range from deep indigos to vivid greens. Tredstone Innovations has acquired sole access to the private property and is hosting pay-to-digs!

To learn more, contact (725) 867-7009 or [info@tredstoneshop.com](mailto:info@tredstoneshop.com)



Left to right: Joel Coombs, 2<sup>nd</sup> place entry 9;  
Mary Savage, 1<sup>st</sup> place entry 2  
Photo courtesy DiAnn Lawson



**BIRTHDAYS**

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

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

*Tracy Ayers, Robert Burns, Leslie Burns, Teresa Carlson, Joel Coombs, David Dziadon, Mike Fitzpatrick, Katherine Frank, Justine Frederick, Karen Griffith-Hedberg, Alexandar Hayes, Cliff Jackson, Kerin Landry, Roger Lane, Deanna Martin, Carol Morrow, Melvin Nishiuchi, Douglas Pyburn, John Reeks, Thomas Shaw, Joshua Solberg, Morgan Stinnett, Cindy Stordahl, H. Allen Stratton, Marisela Trujillo, James Walkenshaw, Kerry Wenzl, Charles B. Williams, Bill Wright*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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

*Mike Fitzpatrick, Morgan Stinnett*

**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
February 4, 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
March 3, 2024			
March 17, 2024			

**Speakers For 2024 General Meetings**

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Mar. 4, 2024	Eric Cifani, Mine Owner	From Rock to Maker
Apr. 1, 2024	Michele Slater, Jeweler	The 4 C's and Brief Introduction to Faceting
May 6, 2024	Sherri Grotheer, Protectors of Tule Springs	Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
June 3, 2024	Susan Hindmarsh, Stephanie Foote and Joy Ginsberg	Las Vegas Bead Society
July 8, 2024	Jim Boone, birdandhike.com	Hiking, Camping and Birding in Gold Butte
Aug. 5, 2024	Desire Schultz, Protectors of Tule Springs	Horsemanship Program at Tule Springs
Sep. 9, 2024	Lorri Dee Dukes and Connor Murphy, BLM	How Mining is Established and Conducted on Federally Owned Public Lands
Oct. 7, 2024	James Sloan, SNGMS Member	Opal Formation and Its Relationship to Chalcedony
Nov. 2024	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec. 2024	Holiday Party, no meeting	



**Mary Beth Paladino on the left, Sharing Her Rock Expertise with a Boy Scout Troop**



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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
Field Trip –Trilobites at Frenchman Mountain <sup>2</sup>	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>3</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) RSVP Wendy Dresser by Saturday February 10, 2024, call or text 702-556-2748.
- 3) 3111 South Valley View Blvd., Building E Shop Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Hello Rock Stars,

We had a great day "Digging for Trilobites" and everyone found all kinds of Trilobites, plant Fossils, even a beautiful piece of Coral. Thank you all for coming out today on Superbowl Sunday. Next month we will be meeting at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop working on the Fluorescent Merit Badge. Many of you are new members to the club so welcome. Our Shop address is:

3111 S. Valley View Blvd  
Ste. E-125  
Las Vegas NV

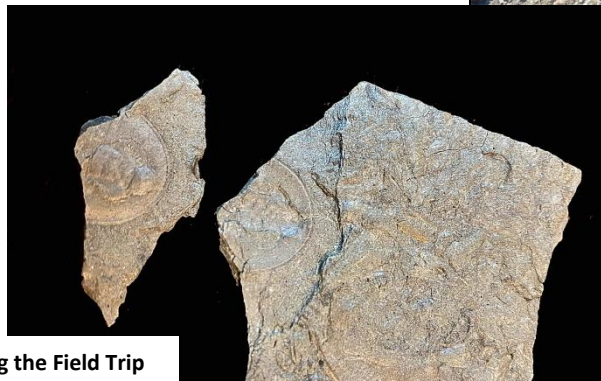
Kids’ Club meets the second Sunday of each month (unless there is a holiday or a field trip), from 3:00 -5:00 pm.

Thank you all for a wonderful day! If you took any photographs and would like to share I'd love to see them. Please text photos to:

Wendy Dresser  
SNGMS KID’S CLUB LEADER  
702-556-2748 or  
wndresser@gmail.com



Trilobite Field Trip Participant



Trilobite Fossil Collected during the Field Trip





**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**

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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
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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



SNGMS CORPORATE SPONSORS



 The logo for Desert Art Supplies features the words "DESERT ART SUPPLIES" in a stylized font. To the right of the text is an illustration of a person sitting at a desk with various art supplies like brushes and a palette.
 

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**Did You Know?**

The SNGMS Lapidary Shop rents metal detectors to SNGMS members.

**Metal Detector Rentals**  
**\$3.00 per day**  
**Provide your own batteries**  
**(8 AA batteries required)**  
**Rentals limited to 7 days**

 The logo for World Class Facility Services features a stylized globe with the letters "W" and "C" overlaid.
 

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HI-TECH DIAMOND DISCOUNT

Hi-Tech Diamond is an online seller of capping 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

### Fluorescent Minerals and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in New Jersey

The Franklin-Sterling Hill area of New Jersey has more fluorescent minerals than anywhere else on Earth. There are two geology museums in the area, about four miles apart: the Franklin Mineral Museum which showcases regional zinc mines, and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum which has a world-class collection of fluorescent rocks. Here is contact information for both museums:

Franklin Mineral Museum 32 Evans St, Franklin, NJ 07416 Phone: 973-827-3481

[www.franklinmineralmuseum.org](http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.org)

Sterling Hill Mining Museum 30 Plant St, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439 Phone: 973-209-7212

[www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](http://www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org)

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum is an old zinc mine. It's one of the oldest in the country, since it opened in 1739, before the Revolutionary War! The mine was in operation until 1986. The abandoned mine was purchased in 1989 by brothers Richard and Robert Hauck. It became a museum in 1990. Every year, about 40,000 people visit the museum. The facility includes outdoor and indoor mining exhibits, an underground mine tour, and the Thomas S. Warren Museum of Fluorescence, devoted to fluorescent rocks.



About 15 percent of the Earth's minerals fluoresce under ultraviolet light (also called UV light or blacklight). UV light shining on these minerals is absorbed into the rock. The light reacts with chemicals in the rocks. Energy from the reaction is released as a glow (fluorescence). Different types of UV—longwave and shortwave—can produce different colors from the same rock. Some rocks that have other materials inside them (called activators) may glow multiple colors.

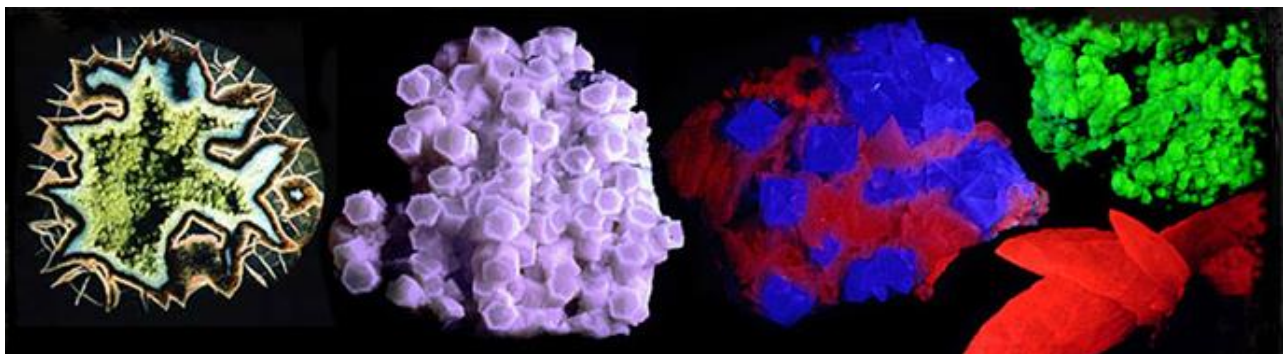


Color Wall at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum

[www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](http://www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org)

The fluorescence exhibits are in the Sterling Hill mine's old mill. At the entrance, more than 100 huge fluorescent mineral specimens cover an entire wall that's lit up by different types of ultraviolet light, displaying the glowing capabilities of each mineral type. For kids, there's a cave with a fluorescent volcano, a castle, and some glowing wildlife. And there's an exhibit of fluorescent rocks and minerals from Greenland.

Among the most impressive parts of the Sterling Hill mine tour is the walk through the Rainbow Tunnel, which ends in an entirely fluorescent room called the Rainbow Room. The walk is lit by UV light, causing bursts of glowing, neon reds and greens from the exposed zinc ore in the walls. The green color reveals a type of zinc ore called willemite. The color of willemite can vary wildly in the daylight, everything from reddish-brown to blues and greens, but under UV it all fluoresces bright neon green.



Samples Of Fluorescent Rocks from the Sterling Hill Mining Museum

[www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org](http://www.sterlinghillminingmuseum.org)



February 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Gary Webb & Sue Dobson	February 12, 10 am – 2 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Clock Making	Amber and Steve Palecek	February 18, 4-9 pm (part 1) February 19, 5-7 pm (part 2)	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	702-343-7150
Wire Wrapping	Peggy Sue Moore	February 26, 5 pm	\$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.



Silver Smithing Student Using Wire Solder on a Bead  
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



Feb. 2024 Beading Project  
Photo courtesy of Gary Webb



Feb. 2024 Clock Class Samples  
Photo courtesy of Amber Palecek



Feb. 2024 Wire Wrapping Project  
Photo courtesy of P.S. Moore

BACK ISSUES OF THE POLISHED SLAB WANTED (hard copy or digital)

The SNGMS archives are missing some back issues of the Polished Slab newsletter. If you have copies you are willing to donate to SNGMS or that you can loan to be scanned, please contact Mary Savage (lasvegassilversmithing@protonmail.com). The missing time frames are:

2012-2014

2003-2009

1989-2000

1984-1968

Pre 1967



Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society  
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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  
 Silversmithing  
 Annual Dues: Individual - \$25; Family - \$35  
 Meetings start 6 pm on the first Monday of the  
 month at:  
 Eagles Lodge #1213  
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 Las Vegas, NV 89101  
 (702) 642-1213  
 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have  
 our annual awards dinner.

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