



October 2024

# THE POLISHED SLAB

## SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940



VOLUME 84 ISSUE 10

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**November 4, 2024 - Board Mtg**  
**November 4, 2024 – Genl Mtg**

**SNGMS Contacts:**

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sngmsnews@gmail.com  
sngmspresident@gmail.com  
sngmsvicepresident@gmail.com  
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sngmsshowchair@gmail.com  
sngmspublicity@gmail.com  
sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com

**Volunteer for the 2024 Viva Las Vegas Rocks gem & mineral show!** Floor assistants, and SNGMS booth workers are needed Nov 1-2-3. All shifts available. Also ticket takers any time on Nov 1 between 12 -7 pm, or Nov 3 in the afternoon. Contact Andrea Packo (sngmspresident@gmail.com) or Karen Griffith Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com)

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Hi Everyone!

Now that cooler weather is upon us, we can all get back to our 1st love of rock hounding! Take a look at the all the trips we have planned and be sure to reserve your spot.

We also have some great new classes available. Jump in early to sign up for the ones you are interested in.

Our Viva Las Vegas Rocks show promises to be a big hit. We appreciate your donations to help the silent auctions be successful. You can drop them off at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop with your name and addressed to Orville Wiemers. We also love our volunteers. Thanks in advance!

There are a lot of great speakers so bring your friends to attend these free events and get a head-start on your Christmas shopping. That's on November 1-2-3, 2024 at the Santa Fe Station casino.

The Annual Awards Banquet tickets are available from Chops Wenzel (702-378-2205) or Del Walkenshaw (desertartsupply@aol.com or 702-451-8040) only through the November 2024 General Meeting. Get yours now! Always a fun time!

And lastly, we will elect some new Board members next month. If you want to consider running for office, nominations are still open. Just contact Amber Palecek (702-343-7150 – no emails)!

See you in the rocks!  
Andrea Packo  
SNGMS President

SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
**ROCKS, GEMS & JEWELRY SHOW**  
**VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKS**  
November 1st, 2nd & 3rd  
VENDORS, DISPLAYS, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!



2024/2025 Field Trips<sup>1</sup> & Events

Field Trip <sup>1</sup> /Event	Date	Location
Opalized fluorite	October 12, 2024	Austin, NV
Yellow Mountain Wonderstone	October 13, 2024	Fallon, NV
Agate, jasper, rhyolite, & more with Reno Gem & Mineral Society	October 24 – 28, 2024	Monte Cristo Mountains, NV
Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Show <sup>2</sup>	October 25 – 27, 2024	Oklahoma City, OK
Viva Las Vegas Rocks! <sup>3</sup>	November 1-3, 2024	Santa Fe Station Casino, 4949 N Rancho Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130
Petrified Wood	November 16, 2024	TBA
Awards Banquet <sup>4</sup>	December 8, 2024	Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014, \$35 for SNGMS members
Fluorite, amethyst, jasper, chrysocolla	January 18 – 19, 2025	Quartzsite, AZ

- 1) Field trip destinations, dates, and times are subject to change. Contact Jonathan Tredwell (sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com)
- 2) <https://www.rmfmms.org/general-clean>
- 3) Contact Andrea Packo (sngmspresident@gmail.com) or Karen Griffith Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com) to volunteer
- 4) Contact Chops Wenzl for tickets (702-378-2205)

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 Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Gem and Mineral Show

By Orville Weimers

The 2024 Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show is less than a month away. We have filled all 64 booth slots and eagerly await the opening afternoon. There are going to be guest speakers again this year as well as the Silent Auction hourly and door prizes throughout the event. There are still gaps in our volunteer positions so please contact Andrea Packo (sngmspresident@gmail.com) or Karen Griffith Hedberg (kgriffithhedberg@yahoo.com) to sign up for a slot. We are asking for 4 hour commitments on most positions. Plan on coming down to the Santa Fe Station Casino, November 1 -3, and having fun as we roll through our third year of this increasingly successful show!



## SNGMS Board Meeting Minutes for 10/7/2024

On October 7th, 2024, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at the Eagles' Lodge at 4:07 PM by the President. All Board members except the Parliamentarian were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 9th, 2024, meeting were approved as read.

### Ongoing Business

**Treasurers Report:** Balance of the checking account as of September 30th was \$25,789, an increase of \$2,811 from the previous month, primarily due to receipt of Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show booth rental fees and sale of Award Banquet tickets. The investments balance is \$127,644, an increase of \$83.

The Treasurer presented information on rental of the shop space next to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. This would almost double our shop expenses and would require a major increase in revenue to support it. It will be brought up at the general meeting and interested members will be able to sign up to attend a meeting on this issue.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** Everything at the Shop is in working order.

**Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Show:** Orville Wiemers reported the booths are sold out and the floor plan is complete. Advertising is on-going and tickets are available through Eventbrite.

**Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies:** Mary Beth Paladino will attend the RMFMS as the SNGMS representative. Orville Wiemers proposed, seconded by Bruce Martin, and approved by the Board, that the "SNGMS Representative to the October 2024 RMFMS meeting be reimbursed for travel, lodging, and food up to \$1,000."

### New Business

**Classes:** Andrea Packo will teach a class in making 'dragon eyes' and wire wrapping an agate slice this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

## SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 10/7/2024

On October 7th, 2024 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 September 9th, 2024 meeting were approved as read.

### Ongoing Business

**Membership:** SNGMS has close to 900 members.

**Treasurers Report:** The balance of the checking account as of September 30th was \$25,789, an increase of \$2,811 from the previous month, primarily due to receipt of Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show booth rental fees and sale of Award Banquet tickets. The investments balance is \$127,644, an increase of \$83. Interest has been expressed by members in renting the empty shop next to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. Any member is invited to sign up for a meeting with the Treasurer where this can be discussed. Contact Dave Ford (sngmstreasurer@gmail.com or 831-521-0214). The Treasurer presented T-shirts commemorating the Kids' Club trip to the Moqui Cave to Wendy Dresser and Mary Beth Paladino, praising them for their contributions and the effort they put into the Kids Club.

**Kids' Club:** Wendy Dresser reported on the Kid's Club activities. She thanked members who have donated to and helped with the Kids' Club. Special thanks for the donation of Lorri Syddall's crafts and jewelry. Volunteers are needed to help with the Kids' Club booth at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show. The October 13, 2024 Kids' Club meeting will be at the SNGMS Lapidary shop and Peggy Sue Moore will teach wire wrapping. This will help earn the Lapidary Badge. Saturday, October 26, 2024 will be a Halloween Party at the Eagles Lodge from 12-2 PM. Volunteers are needed to help with the Kids' Club booth at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show. The



**SNGMS General Meeting Minutes for 10/7/2024**

(continued)

November Kid's Club meeting will concentrate on making cabochons and jewelry. A Holiday Party and Awards Banquet for the kids will be held jointly with the Eagles Lodge in December; the date and time TBA.

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Report:** Chops Wenzl reported the Shop is in good condition. Awaited trim saw parts are on the way. Tickets for the December 8, 2024 Awards are available through the November 2024 General Meeting from Chops. The cost is \$35 for members and \$70 for non-members. The Awards Banquet will be held at Sunset Station Casino in Henderson, NV. Donations are needed for the auction at the Awards Banquet and can be labeled and taken to the Lapidary Shop.

**Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies:** The RMFMS Show will be in Oklahoma City on October 25-27, 2024. Mary Beth Paladino will attend as our representative.

**Classes:** Metal smithing classes continue at the SNGMS Lapidary shop on Sundays from 3-7 pm for \$25/class. There are three openings at this time. Contact Andy Gomez to reserve a spot (andrewquilesgomez415@gmail.com)

**Speakers:** Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show speakers were announced, and donations of speaker gifts are needed. Please take them to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop and label as speaker gifts.

**Sunshine:** Mary Beth Paladino shared news from the membership. The Sunshine report is available in the Polished Slab.

**Cabochon Contest:** The contest theme for August was Fall Leaf Colors. First place was Ralph Voelker, and second place was Ken Bucknam. The October 2024 contest theme will be Landscapes.

**Other:** The President thanked Mary Savage for compiling the SNGMS History. Chops Wenzl has 2 copies for sale - \$37 each to cover printing costs (702-378-2205).

**Old Business**

**Shows:** Orville Wiemers reported the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show booths are sold out and the floor plan is complete. Advertising is on-going and tickets are available through Eventbrite. Donations of silent auction items is needed. Take donations to the SNGMS Lapidary Shop labeled for Orville. Craft demonstrations are needed, contact Peggy Sue Moore (moorepeggysue@gmail.com) if you want to volunteer.

**Field Trips:** Field trip plans were discussed. See Slab and emails for field trip details.

**New Business**

**Officer Nominations:** The Nomination Committee Chair asked for nominations. The resultant nominations are: President – Mary Beth Paladino, Vice President – Ron Mazz, Secretary – Lorrilee Stackhouse, Treasurer – David Ford, Parliamentarian – Chops Wenzl, 3 Year Board – Harvey Bergeron. Additional nominations can be made at the November 2024 General Meeting and voting will follow.

**Classes:** Classes were discussed, see emails and Slab for details.

**Open Volunteer Positions:** A Raffle Chair for General Meetings is needed, as well as previously needed positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.



**Spotlight on Chrysoprase**

“Chrysoprase” is from the Greek words for green gold. Chrysoprase is the most valuable form of chalcedony. It is usually bright green, but the color varies from greenish-blue to deep green. Most green gemstones owe their color to chromium or vanadium, but chrysoprase gets its color from nickel. It is evenly colored and hard enough to make good cabochons. Chrysoprase is mined in Australia, Tanzania, Brazil, and Poland.



**Chrysoprase from Poland**  
www.wikipedia.org

Chrysoprase was quite admired in the 1980s and is now having a comeback due to the popularity of Charli XCX’s “brat” album cover according to the New York Times. Its popularity may grow because some jewelers and lapidarists are substituting chrysoprase for malachite since malachite can be an irritant when its dust is inhaled.

**Did You Know?**

If you wear your official SNGMS nametag to the monthly meeting, you get an extra free door prize ticket. Nametags are available for \$10 each. Orders can be placed through Claudia Crouse by sending an email to [sngms.vegas@gmail.com](mailto:sngms.vegas@gmail.com) and paying for them at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop. Badges must be paid for before they’re ordered and must be picked up at the shop.

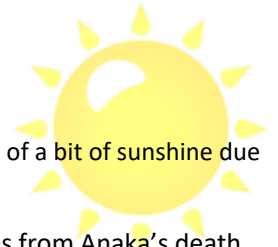
**Viva Las Vegas Rocks! Speaker Schedule**  
*Courtesy of Romy Umholtz*

Speaker	Topic	Date	Time
Garrett Wake Abandoned Mine Program State of NV Division of Minerals	How to Stake a Mining Claim	Friday, November 1, 2024	1:30 pm
Josh Solberg GIA Certified Gemologist, Geologist	Local Rocks of Nevada - A visual tour of the different stones across the state and their geological implications	Friday, November 1, 2024	3:00 pm
Sandy Croteau & Dev Basudev Protectors of Tule Springs	A History of Discovery in Tule Springs	Saturday, November 2, 2024	11:00 pm
Dr. Nick Saines Local author and geologist Professor, College of Southern NV	<b>FOR KIDS</b> A Dinosaur Lives in Red Rock Canyon: An illustrated reading of his book about a dinosaur that comes to life in Red Rock Canyon	Saturday, November 2, 2024	1:30 pm
Dr. Nick Saines Local author and geologist Professor, College of Southern NV	The Great Unconformity at Frenchman Mountain/Rainbow Gardens: The geology and other features of the proposed national monument	Saturday, November 2, 2024	3:00 pm
Josh Solberg GIA Certified Gemologist, Geologist	Local Rocks of Nevada - A visual tour of the different stones across the state and their geological implications	Sunday, November 3, 2024	11:00 am
Michele Slater - VP of Membership, Women’s Jewelry Association, Las Vegas Chapter and Owner of Crucible Creations	My Journey as a Master Jeweler	Sunday, November 3, 2024	12:20 pm
Sherri Grotheer - President of Protectors of Tule Springs	The Fight to Save the Tule Springs Fossil Beds	Sunday, November 3, 2024	2:00 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.

David Jenkins is still ill. Anaka Rau’s rock collection is still being sold to help cover her family’s expenses from Anaka’s death. Please contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647 for details.

### SNGMS Elections

Several SNGMS Board of Director members are stepping down at the end of 2024. This leaves openings for the following positions: President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Three Year Board Member. Peggy Sue Moore wants to train a new Federation ribbon manager for 2025.



The following members have been nominated for board positions: Mary Beth Paladino – president, Ron Mazz – vice president, Chops Wenzl – parliamentarian, Harvey Bergeron – 3 year board member. Additional nominations will be accepted at the November 4, 2024 General Meeting. Please consider running for these positions. For full descriptions of officer responsibilities, please visit <https://www.snvgs.org/bylaws>

### Unearthing History: The Remarkable Discovery of the Giant Ground Sloth in Southern Nevada *Editorial by Sonya Edwards*

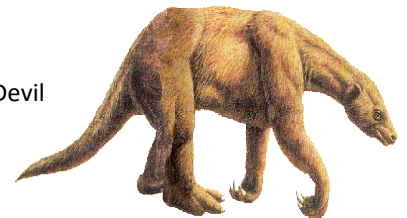
In an extraordinary chapter of Southern Nevada's paleontological history, SNGMS members made a groundbreaking discovery: the first Giant Ground Sloth skeleton in the region. This remarkable find, unearthed by LaRae Bringhurst and Doris Currington near Sloan, adds a significant piece to the puzzle of prehistoric life in Nevada.

The remains belong to the Devil Peak Shasta Ground Sloth (*Nothrotheriops shastensis*), and this skeleton is one of the most complete specimens of its kind ever found. Today, a detailed replica of this ancient creature can be admired at the Nevada State Museum at the Springs Preserve, inviting visitors to step back in time and explore the life of these fascinating mammals.



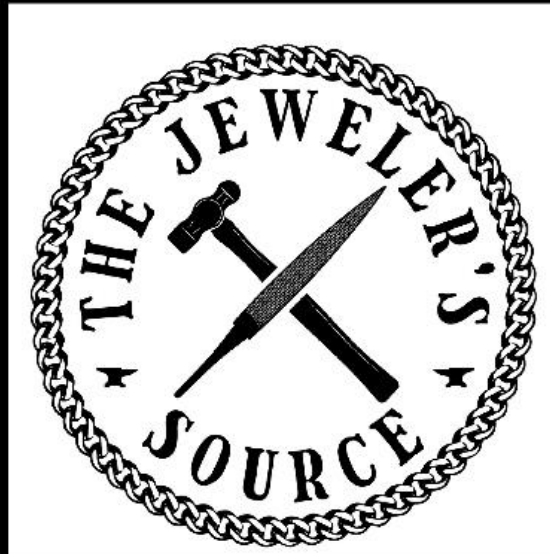
The study surrounding the Devil Peak sloth aims to delve deeper into the morphology of *Nothrotheriops shastensis*. By comparing its dimensions with those of the Aden Crater sloth—the only other complete skeleton known of this species—researchers hope to paint a clearer picture of these prehistoric giants. Radiocarbon dating of associated eggshells suggests the Devil Peak sloth lived around 32,000 years ago, making it a remarkable link to the past.

In a meticulous analysis, various dimensions were measured, including both humeri, one radius, both ulnae, the pelvis, both patellae, and one tibia. While many bones of the Devil Peak skeleton are smaller than those of the famous La Brea specimens, they closely match the size of the Aden Crater sloth. Intriguingly, the pelvis of the Devil Peak sloth is considerably larger than that of its Aden Crater counterpart, leading researchers to hypothesize that the Devil Peak sloth was likely a female adult.



This discovery not only enriches our understanding of prehistoric fauna in Southern Nevada but also highlights the invaluable contributions of local enthusiasts like Bringhurst and Currington. Their dedication continues to inspire curiosity and appreciation for the rich geological and paleontological heritage of the region. The replica of the Giant Ground Sloth at the Nevada State Museum serves as a reminder of the incredible stories hidden beneath our feet, waiting to be uncovered.





Members Receive 5% Off

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

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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>
Nov. 4	Nov. 4	November 10, 2024, 3 – 5 pm
Dec. 5	Dec. 8 – no general mtg, Awards Banquet Sunset Station Casino, 1301 W Sunset Rd, Henderson, NV 89014	

Due to limited staffing of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop on Sundays, shop users are asked to help keep the trash emptied and the floor mopped

- 1) Meets at Eagles’ Lodge, 4 pm, before the general meeting
- 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. Details on page 11

Location of the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

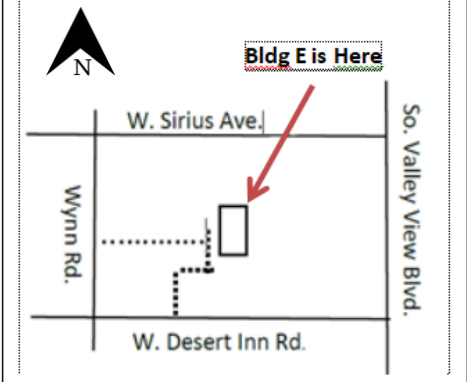
The SNGMS Lapidary Shop is located at:  
3111 South Valley View Blvd,  
Building E Shop Suite 125  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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.**

SNGMS Lapidary Shop Locator Map



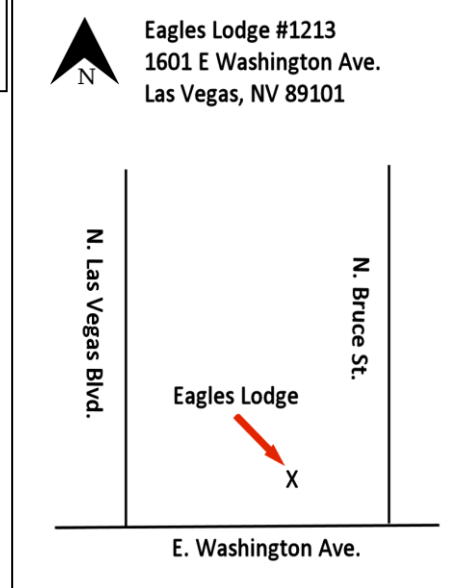
Finding the SNGMS Lapidary Shop

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

Eagles Lodge Locator Map



Due to a SNGMS Lapidary Shop Supervisor volunteering for hurricane relief, an additional supervisor is needed to cover the Saturday 4-7 pm shift. Please contact Chops Weinzell if you can help (702-378-2205)





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	1 <sup>st</sup> – Joel Coombs 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette
April	Storm Clouds	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lloyd Chayette, Bruce Martin, tie 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ron Mazz
May	Blue Skies	1 <sup>st</sup> – Peggy Sue Moore, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – tied, Ron Mazz & Lloyd Chayette
June	Sunset	1 <sup>st</sup> – Bruce Martin 2 <sup>nd</sup> – tied, Peggy Sue Moore & Bill Moore
July	Mountains	1 <sup>st</sup> – Bruce Martin 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ron Mazz
August	Tropical	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lloyd Chayette 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bruce Martin 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Ron Mazz
September	Ocean Blues	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ron Mazz 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Lloyd Chayette
October	Fall Leaf Colors	1 <sup>st</sup> – Robbie Voelker 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Ken Bucknam
November	Landscapes	
December	No Contest	

The SNGMS hosts a cabochon contest at 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 November 2024 cabochon theme is “Landscapes.” **Good Luck!**



Times of India Photo



Photo by Dietmar Rabich, wikipedia.com



Valley of Fire, <https://geologyscience.com>

**SNGMS Lapidary Shop Lockers**

Lockers are available to rent at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop for \$3/month, or \$36/year. You can pay in cash at the Shop.



Left to right: Ken Bucknam, 2<sup>nd</sup> place with entry No. 8, and Robbie Voelker 1<sup>st</sup> place with entry No. 5



October 2024 Cabochon Contest Entries

**SNGMS Rental Space Expansion**

SNGMS is considering renting additional space next to the existing Lapidary Shop on South Valley View Blvd. To participate in the discussion, contact Dave Ford ([sngmstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sngmstreasurer@gmail.com)).



**BIRTHDAYS**

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



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**



ELIZABETH ABELL-SHEARING, DANIEL BROOKS, JEAN CHAYETTE, LLOYD CHAYETTE, NIKKI CLAPHANSON, CARYN CROTTY, LANDON CURLEY, SUSAN DOBSON, WENDY DRESSER, RUTH DZIADON, TIANA ELLIOTT, JOANNA EMMETT, SHAWN FARINA, SHAWN FARINA, DEBBIE FARNSWORTH, ELAINE FORTUNA, ANN HARRIS, GARY HARTLEY, NANCY HARTLEY, BETH JONES, KYLE JUSDON, JESSE KATZ, RANDALL KESSELRING, WILLIAM KOGAN, DEBRA KOLADZIEJ, CHERI LARKOWSKI, MICHAELA LASH, THOMAS LONG, ALFONSO LUNA, BRUCE MARTIN, NEAL MASTERS, ERIC MATESEN, AMANDA MORGAN, DAVID MORRISON, PEGGY MORRISON, SARAH MORTIMER, CORA NORRIS, JOHN PERRY, ROBERT PETERSON, KEVIN PITRE, JR., EVAN PLUMLEIGH, KENNARD REAL BIRD, LAUREN RIVERS, BELLA ROMERO, JAMES SLOANE, BETSY STARK, BARBARA SULLIVAN, BRIAN SZERENYI, CRYSTAL TAYLOR, JAMES TAYLOR, FRANK TIMBERS, CHARYSSE TORNIS, MATT VARTAN, JILL VOELKER, ELLY WALKENSHAW, KENDRA WHITE, MIKE WISNIEWSKI

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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

**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
Sunday, October 13, 2024	10 am - noon	\$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
Sunday, November 10, 2024			
Sunday, December 8, 2024			

**Speakers For 2024 General Meetings**

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

Date	Speaker	Topic
Nov. 4, 2024	SNGMS Elections – no speaker	
Dec. 8, 2024	Holiday Party, no meeting	

**Speaker Gifts**

Donations of mineral or fossil specimens for speaker gifts, and display stands for specimens are needed. Please leave donations at the SNGMS Lapidary Shop with “Romy” or “Speakers” written on it, AND contact Romy Umholtz (702-503-0252 or romyvision@gmail.com).



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

Field Trip/Meeting	Date	Location
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</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*



**Kids' Club Field Trip to Moqui Caves  
September 7, 2024**  
*Photo courtesy of Dave Ford*



**Dino Races at Kids' Club Campout, Sandy Valley, NV  
October 4, 2024**  
*Photo courtesy of Wendy Dresser*

**Hello Rock Stars!**

We had a great weekend camping in Sandy Valley and rock hounding at the Lincoln Mine. A special thank you to Keith, Heather, and Gavin Waller who welcomed us onto their property for the weekend of fun. Thank you to Mr. James Sloane who joined us and was our guide on Sunday to the Lincoln Mine. Thank you to Orville and Lisa Wiemers and Chops Wenzl for helping me make Christmas Ornaments in September's Crafter's Christmas to sell at our Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show. And thank you to the Weimers for buying pizza for our lunch.

We have a special thank you to Mr. Joel Coombs and the family of Lori Sydall. Lori passed away recently and they graciously donated Lori's costume jewelry and crafts to sell at our Kid's Club Booth at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show. In loving memory of Lori Sydall, we have reserved one table just for her items and we ask that everyone come over to our Kid's Club Booth and check it out. May she rest peacefully.

Sunday, October 13th we'll be at the shop from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Miss Peggy Sue Moore will be teaching Wire Wrapping for the Lapidary Arts Merit Badge. The parking lot will be under construction so please park in the other parking lot at the end of the building. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Saturday, October 26th we'll be having a Halloween Party from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles (1601 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101). There will be a costume contest, candy, games, prizes, etc . The Eagles will provide lunch. Please RSVP no later than Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 if you plan to attend (Wendy Dresser 702-556-2748).

We still need some energetic volunteers to help us work the Kid's Club Booth at the Viva Las Vegas Rocks! show, November 1, 2 & 3, 2024. If you can help, please contact Wendy Dresser (702-556-2748). We also need a member to be our Santa for the Viva Show. I have a Santa suit, just need a man to fill it one hour a day during our Blue Light Special to hand out rock specimens to the kids.

Thank you Rock Stars for a great year!

**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	sngmspresident@gmail.com	702-279-7679
Vice-President	Orville Wiemers	owarea22@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Secretary	Lorrilee Stackhouse	lorrilee@proton.me	702-817-5602
Treasurer	Dave Ford	sngmstreasurer@gmail.com	831-521-0214
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Two Year Board	Bob Belcher	f35fighterman@yahoo.com	702-210-9612
Three Year Board	Jean Chayette	jalmiz201@gmail.com	714-474-6384
One Year Board	Bruce Martin	brucemartinlv@yahoo.com	702-896-5811

**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	sngmsfieldtrip@gmail.com	725-377-0166
Lapidary Shop Manager	Chops Weinzl		702-378-2205
Historian	Sonya Edwards	worldgemart@gmail.com	
Hospitality	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
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	Richard and Elizabeth Nelson	richard_nelso89@hotmail.com	
Rock Stars	Wendy Dresser	wndresser@gmail.com	702-556-2748
Scholarship	Debbie Bucknam	grandmadeb10@gmail.com	
Spring Jamboree Show	Orville Wiemers	sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com	702-743-3277
Sunshine	Mary Beth Paladino		702-255-1647
Viva Las Vegas Rocks Show	Orville Wiemers	owarea22@gmail.com	702-743-3277

**Back-Up Lapidary Shop Supervisor Volunteers Needed**

**Contact Chops Wenzl for details 702-378-2205**



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**SNGMS Life Time Member  
Bernada (Bernie) French**

(October 18, 1905 - September 21, 1994)

Bernada Jordan was born in Missouri in 1905. Sometime between 1925 and 1929, Bernada married Maurice E. Clapp, a retail tire merchant, and moved to California. The Clapps operated a tire business, and by 1940 they were manufacturing rubber products. Their marriage ended and Bernada was living in Las Vegas, Nevada, when she remarried. Her new husband wanted to move to Alaska, so they did. Bernada hated Alaska, and moved back to Las Vegas. Bernada’s third and final attempt at marriage was in September 1957 to Lester French, but that marriage also ended.



**Bernada French**  
Undated photo

Bernada said she had seven jobs she could remember and three husbands she’d like to forget!, explaining “I had a few boyfriends after that. It’s easier to just get rid of ‘em without having to go through a divorce.” She rented rooms in her home to women (mostly) who were waiting to finish their six-week divorce in Nevada. She rented a room on weekends to a Nevada Test Site geologist, Dr. Isaac Winograd, who took Bernada and her renters into the desert on rock expeditions. As early as 1966, Bernada joined the Clark County Gem Collectors (CCGC), an ancestor of the SNGMS.

In 1973, Bernada created the UNLV Bernada E. French Scholarship in Geology. The scholarships are awarded annually as \$1000 grants.

Bernada wrote articles for a variety of gem and mineral magazines. She authored two published books, *Jewelry Craft Made Easy* and *Pebble Pets and Rock Rascals*. The books are still available on Amazon!

**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 Turquoise Grading

(Based on: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/06/fashion/jewelry-turquoise-grading-system.html>  
<https://www.turquoiseinamerica.com/post/turquoise-grading>  
Gemguide, May/June 2024, Standard in the Making: A New Grading System for Turquoise, by Maureen Pratt)

There have been efforts to create an objective form of turquoise grading. An early attempt was made by Robert Biesecker in 1977. Dennis June, a former art gallery owner in Scottsdale, Arizona, led an unsuccessful grading effort on Facebook. Mike Ryan proposed a grading method in 2015 which also failed. Many collectors and consumers favor development of a grading method. Miners and dealers have been opposed, presumably because they worry about a drop in price for their stones.

Jacob Lowry and his father, Joe Dan Lowry have been developing a turquoise grading system over the past five years. The Lowrys operate the Turquoise Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For diamonds, the Four Cs (color, clarity, cut and carat weight) are the standard for determining gem quality. For turquoise, there are varying opinions. Turquoise can be monochromatic or variegated, clear or spider-webbed. Preferences about what makes the best stones are not standard. Sometimes the source and availability of a stone come into play. There are no widely accepted standards to determine what makes one turquoise stone better than another.

The Lowrys' proposed grading system focuses on natural, untreated turquoise. Color is the most important factor, followed by the presence or the absence of matrix. Then there is the quality known as "zat," a kind of wow factor. Jacob Lowry defines zat as "the contrast of the stone and the 'pop' of the stone. If you put two stones on a solid background, one will have more vibrancy and one will fade into the background. If you take the highest grade turquoise into the sunlight, you can see into the stone. That's part of what 'zat' is."

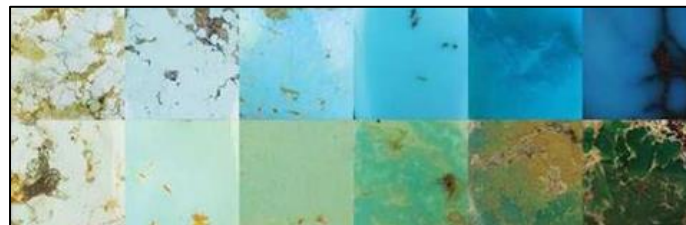
The Lowrys have compiled 24 master sets of turquoise stones related to color, matrix and zat, totaling 192 stones. Their idea is to compare a stone to the master set with the closest hues, and score it for color. The same process would then be followed with the master sets of turquoise for matrix and zat.

Once a stone has a numerical score based on color, matrix, and zat, a grader would make note of other factors that do not affect grade, but might affect value, such as cut, carat weight and provenance.

Plans are underway to photograph the master sets so more graders will have access to them. The Lowrys expect to offer classes on the grading system in addition to the courses they currently offer on turquoise identification.



**These Stones Have A Zat Score Of 7 On A Scale From 1-10**  
*Gemguide, May/June 2024, Standard in the Making: A New Grading System for Turquoise, by Maureen Pratt*



**Sample Turquoise Color Range**

<https://tskies.com/blogs/news/grading-turquoise-color-what-color-of-turquoise-is-worth-more>



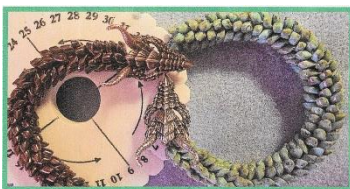
October 2024 Class Schedule

(see page 10 for New Member Orientation Schedule)

Class	Instructor	Date and Time	Cost	Location	Contact
Beading	Theresa Brooks	Monday Oct. 14 from 5 – 8 pm	\$10 (exact change only)	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
Dragon Eye and an agate wire wrapped ornament	Andrea Packo	Monday Oct. 21 5 pm	\$10	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	sngmspresident@gmail.com
Clock Class – reservation required	Amber and Steve Palecek	Monday Oct. 28 5 – 7 pm, pickup completed clock Oct. 29, time TBA	\$35	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	max of 8 people – text 702-343-7150 to reserve a spot - <b>NO EMAILS</b>
Faceting	Tom Kidwell	Saturdays 9 am - 1 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 - must commit to 3 consecutive classes
Cabochon Making	Peggy Sue Moore	Saturdays 1 pm – class limited to 3 people		SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	moorepeggysue@gmail.com for reservations
Silver Smithing – 3 spots available	Andy Gomez	Oct. 6, 20, 27 from 3 – 7 pm <b>NO CLASS OCT. 13</b>	\$25	SNGMS Lapidary Shop, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd, Bldg E Suite 125, Las Vegas, NV 89102	andrewquilesgomez415@gmail.com
Silver Smithing*	Bella Romero & Mary Savage	Fridays 12:30-3:30 pm	\$35 all materials provided for first class	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.



**Beading Class**  
Photo courtesy of Theresa Brooks



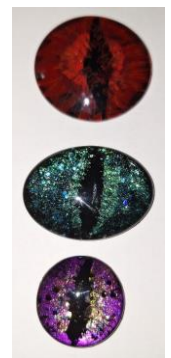
**Silver Casting with a Tufa Block**  
Photo courtesy of Bella Romero



**Faceting Class**



**Hand Made Silver Pendant**  
Photo courtesy of Mary Skaarup



**Dragon Eyes**  
Photo courtesy of Andrea Packo



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.

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  
 1601 E Washington  
 Las Vegas, NV 89101  
 (702) 642-1213  
 No meeting is held in December. Instead we have  
 our annual awards dinner.

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