I hope all are enjoying good health and the sunshine. Did you have a happy St. Valentine’s Day? If you didn’t I’m sorry. So much candy in the stores and to think that Easter is another candy holiday, too. We’re going to have to make our candy last until then. Thank goodness the next holiday doesn’t have any candy associated with it, at least not that I’m aware.

No candy but there’s green beer, so I’ve been told. Guinness stout goes nice with Corned Beef. It’s been boiled, roasted with a sauce covering it or sliced when it’s uncooked and treated like steak. Vegetables can be cooked along with the meat and just cooked in the cooking water by themselves. Potatoes, carrots, cabbage and even turnips are used with the meat. We mustn’t forget the Soda bread. Now we can slater it with butter and jam or Lemon Curd. So I was wrong about the sweets for this day. Oh I forgot to mention this is for St. Patrick’s Day.

I’m so happy to see the bees out and about. I saw them on my Loquat blossoms the other day. My sweet little white and violet violets are showing their little faces here and there in the yard amongst the rocks. Some pink flowers with large leaves are also blooming.

When my late husband, Cliff, was alive I remember the "old" timers being very active in Lapidary. There wasn’t a Lapidary shop that I knew of back then because most of them had their own shops. Perhaps they even shared them with members. Well those days and people are mostly a thing of the past. When I asked once who had any equipment, I saw only a few hands go up. How sad. I know that the equipment now days is very costly. I can see that in the new Lapidary catalogs that I receive and then check out the old Lapidary magazines and see their prices, like wow. My things are very old because they came with me from Paradise when I came here 20+ years ago. Believe me when I say that there’s no room in the shop, not even for little me in my studio. I’m saying all of this because your board and I realize that a shop is needed for the Society. Where to put it, that we have but and It’s a BIG if of what it should be. I was thinking and I mentioned it to John that perhaps a trailer/mobile home might fit the build. Bathroom, sinks for washing rocks etc. and windows to let in light. Gut out what isn’t needed. Reinforce it to make it safe and secure from break-ins and perhaps an area where a little work room could be used for classes. I’ll get shot down but it makes more sense than a box without the above things. That way we can only use the Grange for our meetings.

Well I guess this will be another long letter. Sorry. Stay healthy and take your meds, think positive, and enjoy life. See you March 3, 2020.
Lapidary Tips: Cab Costs

**Lapidary Equipment**
At the very least, you will need a Trim Saw and a Cab Machine. A Trim Saw is used to cut down rock slabs (flat pieces already cut from rough rock) as close as possible to the shape of the cabochon. This is a basic machine that uses a blade, and has a water reservoir, used to cut stone. Nothing fancy is needed. You just want to be sure that the surface area on the machine is about 4-5 inches on each side of the blade.

A Cab Machine is used to shape and polish the cabochon. Prices vary widely, from $330 to $1600 and up. Remember the higher priced machine will prevent you from changing out pads and wheels every few minutes, and to take off all the wheels to change the saw blade! When it comes to cabbing equipment, don’t cut corners, because you will end up wasting a lot of your time. A Diamond Pacific Genie with 6 wheels and a totally separate machine for cutting the slabs, may well be worth the extra money!

**Lapidary Equipment Cost Breakdown:**
*Excluding CA Tax and Shipping*
- Trim Saw – $425 (for cutting slabs, not rough rocks)
- Cab Machine – $1,600

**Additional supplies:**
- Templates
- Apron
- Safety glasses
- Coolant
- Polish
- Blades
- Rock Slabs
- If you really want to start from the ground up, you need a Slab Saw for cutting rough rock – A 16” Slab Saw will cost: $1,700, but you can buy a lot of quality slabs for $1,700!
- 5 gallons of water-soluble cutting oil
- Sharpening Stone

**Maintenance Costs**
If you do your cabbing at a ‘hobby’ level, you will probably need to buy new wheels and blade for the Slab Saw about once every 12 to 18 months. The Trim Saw will require more blades; a good blade for a 6’ Trim Saw is $28, and you should have two different sized blades, depending on what you’re cutting. Material like rhodochrosite is soft and easy to cut, but materials like agate are very hard, and will dull a blade quickly. A sharpening stone will help extend the life of the blades.

**The Cost of Making Cabochons**
A word about cabochons... there are two different types.
First is a ‘generic’ cab, in which you cut as many cabochons from a slab as you can. You’ll get more cabs, and very little waste, which is more cost-effective. Then, there is a ‘designer cabochon’, where you select the best pattern or colors on the slab to create a more beautiful cabochon. You create a spectacular piece, but there will be more waste, and a higher cost as a result.

Last but not least is your time. If you are starting with a rough rock, a slab saw will take about 20 minutes to make a pass; the nice thing about this is that they come with an auto-feed system, so while you’re cutting a rock in that machine, you can be working on something else. You can spend about an hour at the Trim Saw to produce 10-15 pre-cabs, depending on the material, harder rocks take longer to cut through. The cabbing machine takes the longest, and you don’t want to rush any of these processes. This will need anywhere from 20-50 minutes per cabochon.

In summary, each individual cabochon will take 45 minutes to 1-1/2 hours to make. Your basic cost for equipment will be about $3,725, plus the additional supplies and the raw material/rough stone. You will need to produce 150 cabs and sell them for an average of $25 each to pay for the equipment. By that time you’ll need to replace some blades, and you can start recovering your costs for supplies and stone.

-Adapted from [https://jewelrymakingjournal.com/lapidary-start-up-costs/](https://jewelrymakingjournal.com/lapidary-start-up-costs/)
Meeting opened: 5:35 pm by Keven Clark VP, president was sick.

Treasurer’s report:

a. Frank submitted a list of checks written for this month and identified which needed board approval. These payments were for CFMS dues and insurance, USPS for PO box rental, Grange for yearly rent, Storage for 6 months’ rent, American Lands Access Assoc. for membership and donation (see CFMS newsletters for information on ALA), Grass Valley and Nevada City Chambers, CA State Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa, Frank check for mailings, Underground Mine Museum in Alleghany, and Christie Harris for newsletters. Items needing approval were moved and approved.
b. Beverly Glenn requested funds for junior members’ project. It was moved and approved. They are currently looking at small cases for each junior member.
c. Request for additional fundraiser raffle and monthly member incentive both moved and approved.
d. Fat cow web site needed to be paid, moved and approved.

Secretary report: Terry has decided to resign: A new secretary is needed.

Junior Report: The kids are progressing and will present their projects at the March meeting. Julie De Hollander will take the Juniors in April.

Membership: Reports new members.

Newsletter: Blaze needs material by the 15th of each month.

Field trips:

a. Co-op field trip in April to Topaz Mountain. It is sponsored by the Roseville Rock Rollers
b. What is involved in field trips? John and Sue passed out information that we discussed. Goals: adopt a field trip leader’s kit, discussed incident form, discussed our club’s written passage “must come prepared to go on trip”, look at all the materials and suggestions during month and come prepared to give suggestions and finalize recommendations. Mentioned GPS emergency device, stronger language in the field trip package, use of tailgate for check in and sign up.

New Business: Suggestions that the presentation be at the first of the general meeting, tighter control of the break time (10 – 15 min max), and the raffle be limited to no more than ten items. Frank introduced the CFMS stamp collection donation and their recommendation for clubs to adopt a highway project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm to set up for General meeting.

Submitted by Gwen Fissel

WANTED
A Secretary to take down the minutes for the Board and General meetings.

Please email the NCG&MS Club President at: edwina.m.swenson@hotmail.com or come to the next meeting at 5:30 pm at the Grange Hall.
General Meeting Minutes - February 4, 2020

Meeting called to order and flag salute by VP Keven Clark at 7:24 pm. The delay was caused by missing projector screen.

Welcome and introduction of guests present by Keven Clark. A number was chosen from the sign in list and Keven gave that member a wire wrapped pendant.

Program: VP Keven Clark demonstrated wire wrap art with three different objects, an arrowhead wrapped with two colors of wire, an aragonite star cluster and a cabochon. Keven did a remarkable job considering the projector screen was missing from the hall. We formed a circle around him and he was able to explain how to use double wires showed how he measured them and explained why he used the different techniques for each item.

After the break and raffle, the officers and committee reports were given.

Sunshine: We hope our President gets well soon.

Treasurer: Report given, see the board minutes.

Field trips: The information was out for all to pick up. There are now seven field trips offered for the year with more to come from the co-op. Anyone interested in leading a field trip please see John Dolman.

The agenda for the next two months will be a presentation from the juniors in March and the History month materials out in April along with the club’s birthday cake.

Show Chairmen: No report given.

Secretary: Terry L. has resigned but issue not resolved at this time.

Newsletter: Please submit all items by the 15th of the month to Blaze.

CFMS: See board minutes, Frank presented two suggestions from federation.

Several items were shortened due to the late start of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

-Submitted by Gwen Fissel

Welcome to our new members!

Lillian Kirtly
Mark Steele
John & Jennifer Thibodeaux
Frank, Sadie, Lilah Post
Lori Garcia & Lee Hall
Dennis & Carole Heaney
Olivia, Brett & Adrian Ellis
Samantha, Brett & Bonnibel Shady

NCGMS 2020 Field Trips:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Trip Leader/Contact/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7-8 - Nevada: Lapis, Quartz Crystals</td>
<td>John Dolman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20-23 – Chinese Camp: Opalite, Mariposite, Quartz. Crystals, Jade</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12 - Placer County/Ford point: Quartz. crystals</td>
<td>John Dolman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15-17 - Nevada: Tuledad agate, Pet.wood</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23-24 - Near Washington CA: Argillite</td>
<td>John Dolman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 19, 20 - So. Markleeville, Ca: Crystals in Rhyolite,</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/camping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Happy Birthday to our February Birthday members Terri C., Scott I., and Jeff M. Your birthstone gems are aquamarine and bloodstone. As is club tradition, birthday members bring a birthday treat to share with members at the next general meeting.

The serenely colored aquamarine invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea.

Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Like emeralds, this gemstone is a variety of a mineral called beryl. Large gemstones have been found all over the world, including one gemstone found in Brazil that weighed over 240 pounds. Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals that can be up to a foot long, making it a great gemstone to be cut and polished in larger carats for bold statement jewelry pieces.

Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it’s also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It’s a beautiful gemstone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones. This gemstone was once believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene blue of aquamarine gems was said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded.

In the Middle Ages, many believed that the simple act of wearing an aquamarine stone was a literal antidote to poisoning. The Romans believed that if you carved a frog into a piece of aquamarine jewelry, it would help to reconcile differences between enemies and make new friends. Still, other historical groups took this lore even further, using aquamarine jewelry as gifts to the bride at a wedding to symbolize long unity and love. Some even believed it could re-awaken love between two people.

The Sumerians, Egyptians, and Hebrews all admired aquamarine gemstones, and many warriors would wear it into battle to bring about victory. Many ancient medicines used powder made from aquamarine to help cure all manner of infection, but it was thought to be particularly good for eye ailments. Today, fans of aquamarine like it for its cool and tranquil color, and as the perfect complement to any skin tone or setting.

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green gemstone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this gemstone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Bloodstone is also called heliotrope, a word from the ancient Greek that means “to turn the sun.” Many believe it was probably named such because of ancient ideas about how minerals reflect light. In fact, some believed that the sun itself would turn red if this gemstone was put into water. Bloodstone is sometimes known by another name, Blood Jasper, although it’s actually chalcedony, a cryptocrystalline quartz. There are two forms of bloodstone: one is more transparent (heliotrope) with red spots while the other is more opaque (plasma) and has little or no red spots.

For those looking for good-quality bloodstone gems, a solid green color with visible veins of red is usually considered the best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts, including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion. Bloodstone may not have the overt beauty of aquamarine, but many value this gemstone for its symbolism and other properties.

-Submitted by Frank Van Hecke
Please start clipping any used stamps from your mail. Long time CFMS member Dick Panky, Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society, collects bags of stamps from member societies at the annual CFMS Directors meeting, in November. These stamps are donated to the Easter Seal Society, which sells them to dealers and collectors as a fund raiser for Easter Seals. Please bring your stamps to any future meeting and give them to Frank Van Hecke, NCG&MS CFMS Director.

Camp Paradise Lapidary Camp is once again being held in La Porte, CA., with two sessions, late August and early September. Many of our members have attended this superb camp, with many of them being repeat attendees. Application forms will be available soon. For more information go to www.cfmsinc.org.

-Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, CFMS Director

### CFMS SHOWS 2020

#### Winter/Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 6, 7 &amp; 8: NEWARK, CA</td>
<td>Mineral &amp; Gem Society of Castro Valley</td>
<td>Newark Pavilion</td>
<td>Cathy, (510) 305-4196 Email: <a href="mailto:cmiller59@gmail.com">cmiller59@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.mgscv.org">www.mgscv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7 – 8: VENTURA, CA</td>
<td>Ventura Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Ventura County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Richard Slyker, (805) 312-8467 Email: <a href="mailto:info@vgms.org">info@vgms.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.vgms.org">www.vgms.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13, 14 &amp; 15: VICTORVILLE, CA</td>
<td>Victorville Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>44th Annual Rockhound Tailgate</td>
<td>Ruben Martinez, (760) 429-8263 Email: <a href="mailto:rmstonewalk54@gmail.com">rmstonewalk54@gmail.com</a> Website: vvgmc.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21 – 22: SAN JOSE, CA</td>
<td>Santa Clara Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Santa Clara County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>(408) 265-1422 Email: <a href="mailto:info@scvgms.org">info@scvgms.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.scvgms.org">www.scvgms.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29 – 29: ANGELS CAMP, CA</td>
<td>Calaveras Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Calaveras County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Robin Williams, (209)-728-8277 Email: <a href="mailto:robinski@yahoo.com">robinski@yahoo.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org">www.calaverasgemandmineral.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28- 29: ROSEVILLE, CA</td>
<td>Roseville Rock Rollers Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>@the Grounds</td>
<td>James Hutchings, (916) 995-7380 Email: <a href="mailto:jhutchings22@hotmail.com">jhutchings22@hotmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.rockrollers.com">www.rockrollers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4 – 5: CHICO, CA</td>
<td>Paradise Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Silver Dollar Fairgrounds</td>
<td>Daniel Ellis, (775) 229-2442 Email: <a href="mailto:greybeard65@hotmail.com">greybeard65@hotmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.paradisegem.org">www.paradisegem.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4 – 5: RENO, NV</td>
<td>Reno Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Reno Convention Center</td>
<td>Meredith Meehan, (559) 868-3535 Email: <a href="mailto:mgmc@sti.net">mgmc@sti.net</a> Website: <a href="http://mariposagemclub.org">http://mariposagemclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 25 – 26: LANCASTER, CA
Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Avenue H
Hours: Sat 9 – 5; Sun 9 – 4
Contact: Susan Chaisson-Walblom, (661) 406-0143
Email: slchaisson@yahoo.com
Website: www.avgem.weebly.com

Summer/Fall

June 1-2: CAMBRIA, CA
San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club
Cambria Veterans Hall
1000 Main Street
Hours: 10 – 5 daily
Contact: Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603
Email: kim@gmail.com

June 23-28; Lodi, CA 81st CFMS Show & Convention California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Grape Festival Fairgrounds
413 E Lockeford Street

September 26-27; Lancaster, CA
Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 West Ave H
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Contact: Allison McClung; 661-839-7403
Email: ali_cares@aol.com
Website: palmdalegemandmineral.org

October 10th and 11th
Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds
More Details to follow

October 11: Fallbrook, CA
Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
123 W Alvarado St
Hours: 9-4
Contact: Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184
Email: info@fgms.org
Website: www.fgms.org

---

**2020 Earth's Treasures Show**

Show news: planning for the 2020 is well under way. Beverly Glenn will be taking sign-ups beginning at the March meeting. The show would not happen without the efforts of our membership.

This year’s show will be held October 10th and 11th with set up on Friday, October 9th. Please begin to think how you can help to make the 2020 show even better this year. There are positions available for everyone, and many of them do not require a lot of physical activity. Please see Beverly Glenn or myself to sign up.

Doug True will be returning to this year’s show, along with his T-Rex skull. Other vendors and museums are being contacted for other display material as well.

- Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, Show Chair

**New at next meeting!**

Beginning in March we will have an exciting new drawing right after our refreshments break. All current adult members will have a name card placed into a bin. One name will be drawn, at each meeting. If the member whose name is drawn is in attendance they will win $5. If a member's name is drawn who is not in attendance, the prize will roll over to the next meeting and an additional $5 will be added to the prize pool each month until there is a winner.
It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2020

It’s that time again! Well, actually past time to renew your Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Membership. What do your dues cover? They go a long way to keep our club going. They also go to pay dues for AFMS and CFMS, Insurance for fieldtrips and other club activities, rent for our meeting hall, and to help produce our newsletter. There are many other things we haven’t mentioned. We get a lot from such a small amount. When you look at it that way, don’t you get some real “Bang for Your Buck?”

Please fill out the below form and bring along with a check to the next General Membership Meeting or Mail to:

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Sue Valencia - Membership Chairman
PO Box 1686
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Pay to the order of:
NCG&MS
My 2020 dues

If your personal information is the same, just write SAME on the form, under your name(s)

Dues are due by December 31st, and will be delinquent after that date. Paid-up members will be listed in the 2020 Membership Roster and continue receiving the Newsletter.

Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for families. Deduct $5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email.

Thank you. Sue Valencia, 2020 NCG&MS Membership Chairman

NEVADA COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please provide the following information along with the appropriate dues payment:

Name(s) ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

Street    City/State    Zip

Phone: ( ___ ___ ) ___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___

Email Address: ____________________________________________________________

(Email address will be part of Club Membership Roster unless omission is requested)
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 1686, Grass Valley, CA 95945

2020 Elected Officers

PRESIDENT Edwina Swenson
VICE PRESIDENT Keven Clark
SECRETARY Vacant
TREASURER Frank Van Hecke
DIRECTORS Christie Harris **
Eric Trygg
Christy Busch

2020 Committee Chairpersons

FEDERATION DIRECTOR Frank Van Hecke
TREK LEADER John Dolman
HISTORIAN Beverly Glenn
HOSPITALITY Open
LIBRARIAN Beverly Glenn
MEMBERSHIP Sue Valencia
JUNIOR PROGRAM Beverly Glenn*
CLUB PICNIC Lori Woodhall
REFRESHMENTS Birthday Honorees
SUNSHINE Lori Woodhall
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Blaze Baker (acting)
WEBMASTER Charles Lindquist
2020 SHOW ORGANIZER Frank Van Hecke
Dan Chaplin
SCHOLARSHIP Joyce Emerson

* Only signed on until March ** Call if sending email

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings
The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society holds meetings every month with certain exceptions. The membership is informed of exceptions during meetings and through Rock Writings. You are welcome to attend any meeting.

General Membership Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting: First Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Building, 11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, CA

NCG&MS is a non-profit organization with the following objectives:
- To promote the study of mineralogy, geology & fossils
- To encourage the collection of minerals and gems
- To foster the study and practice of the lapidary arts
- To provide field trips to mineral localities
- To promote good fellowship, education and recreation

Membership Information
Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for families. *Deduct $5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email* For more information or an application, email our Membership Chairperson Sue Valencia at susanmoody08@comcast.net

Check out our website at: http://www.ncgms.org
Program: Juniors Presentations & Member Show-N-Tell

Tuesday March 3
7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Guild
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

** Bring a Friend! **

Reminder:
2020 Membership dues
Yearly membership dues for NCG&MS are $25.00 for singles and $30.00 for families. Deduct $5.00 if you receive your newsletter via email. Dues are annual and payable in January.