Nuggets From The Prez

Hello to all my stay at home Rock Hound members. I guess that all of you are enjoying good health because I haven’t read of any new virus cases in our County. You may be going stir crazy, but if staying at home will prevent you from becoming sick isn’t it worth it? I have to stay in or near my home, but the rest of you are feeling the hardships that I don’t feel. I’ve no words of wisdom because I’m not missing my job as the rest of you are. Enough. I hope that you’re doing some rock related things. John is tumbling rocks. I’m working on a piece of Alabaster that is "acid rain carved". I’ve never carved it before so this is new for me. I’m so into it that I could do it 24-7. Now it’s raining so no carving today.

How are your fruit trees? Oh the blossoms were plentiful and so pretty. Then along came the winds and rains and they removed most of the pretty flowers. They did leave a few behind so we might have a few apples and cherry plums or not. Wait and see. Can’t do much of anything now. How are your fruited plants doing?

Are you doing any rock projects? You know what would be nice is to write down and tell us how you’re handling this lock down. It has to be rock related and submit them to Blaze Baker for our newsletter. Have you found any rock related articles that would be of interest to share with the group? Send them also to Blaze.

So many rock related activities have been cancelled or postponed to a later date or none at all for this year. Everyone will be hurting this year. Some club shows that are planned for later on in the year might go on like ours but it all depends how this virus thing is doing. This staying at home has kept our county safe health wise but has done damage in so many ways to people. To open up too soon just might reactivate the virus. I mean we might drop our guard and not protect ourselves. Just be careful dear friends.

When will we meet again, I don’t know? Just keep doing what you’ve been doing to stay healthy. Wear your masks when going out because Dr. offices won’t let you in without...
June is the month of marriages. Since May brought us flowers for the brides to carry, so the month of June is when most brides are married, I don't know why that month is chosen. It took me four different times so I could finally get married on that month. Happy anniversary to all who got married in this month.

There’s also a Flag Day on June 14 and a Summer Solstice on June 20. June is when we also celebrate Fathers’ Day on June 21. So happy Father’s Day to all you dads out there!

This looks like this is all for this month except for those of you who have Birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to all of you Gemini and Cancers. I mention them because you both are in the month of June. The birth stone for Gemini is Beryl but Alexandrite and Agate are also mentioned. Cancer’s birthstones are Pearl, Ruby and Emerald. Have fun and enjoy your days.

Well, I wish you to take care and stay healthy and pleas try to think positive because you’re alive and look forward that this too will pass. Sending elbows bumps and waves to all of you.

- Edwina, President

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2020 Earth’s Treasures Show

As you are all aware in the current national health climate, many gem shows have had to cancel or reschedule their dates. Since our show is in October, the current crisis may have subsided enabling our Earths Treasures Show to be staged. Planning for the 2020 show continues to happen. However, a slower approach may have to be taken. This topic will be discussed in detail with the show co-chair Dan Chaplin and the Board at the next board meeting.

-Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, Show Co-Chair

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Happy Birthday to our May Birthday members

Wishing a Very Happy June Birthday to our June Birthday Members, Christy B., Renate P., Griffin R., Jennifer T., David T., and Anita W-T. Remember as is our club tradition, please bring a Birthday treat to share with your fellow members.
Garnet History

The garnet is so durable, remnants of garnet jewelry have been found dating as far back as the Bronze Age. Other references go back to 3100 BC when the Egyptians used garnet as inlays in their jewelry and carvings. The Egyptians even referred to it as the symbol of life. The garnet gemstone was very popular with the Romans in the third and fourth centuries.

This gemstone was used as a talisman for protection both by warriors going into battle and those who wanted to ward off pestilence and plague. Some ancient healers and wise men even placed garnets in wounds and praised its healing powers.

Garnet jewelry has been a fixture throughout the ages. Garnet gems were often used as signet rings in ancient Rome, and the nobility favored garnets in the Middle Ages.

The Victorians made garnets very popular during that time period. Some of the loveliest garnet gemstone jewelry from that era mimics its pomegranate namesake, with clusters of tiny red gems forming a larger statement piece.

Today, the garnet can be found in a range of jewelry pieces and styles, from beautiful rings to stunning tiaras. Since garnet gemstones can come in a range of colors, rare garnets in green or blue make breathtaking pieces, especially in pendants or drop earrings.

Garnet Overview

The word “garnet” comes from the 14th century Middle English word garnet, meaning “dark red.” The word is derived from Latin granatum, which means “seed,” and is called so because of the gemstone’s resemblance to the beautifully red seeds of the pomegranate.

Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that come in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Some rare garnets are even blue, colorless, or—most rare of all—change colors in different lights. But the most common garnet color is a beautiful range of reds, from rust colored to deep violet-red.

The garnet is a very durable gemstone, ranking 6.5-7.5 on the Mohs scale. It is found all over the world, including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Russia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and India. Mandarin Spessartite Garnets, also known as Mandarin garnets, are considered to be the most rare and expensive of all garnet gemstones.

This beautiful gemstone is perfect for those who share January birthdays. -Submitted by, Frank Van Hecke
**NCGMS 2020 Field Trips (please double check before the trip to ensure it is still planned):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Trip Leader/Contact/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 5-6-7-8 - Nevada: Lapis, Quartz Crystals. Dry camping.</td>
<td>John Dolman. Call by June 4th to confirm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20-23 – Chinese Camp: Opalite, Mariposite, Quartz. Crystals, Jade</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/camping</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5 to July 12: R.F.T.F trip planned digging for opal, pet., wood, agate, geodes, and more. Nor-cal &amp; S Or areas</td>
<td>Call Kris Rowe-(559) 250-5057: RFTF is Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics</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>
<tr>
<td>Sep 25-28 – Davis Creek CA, Geodes, Petrified Wood, Crystals</td>
<td>John Dolman – multi-day/dry camping or hotels in Alturas CA or Lakeview OR.</td>
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**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Updates**

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](http://www.cfmsinc.org).

- Submitted by Frank Van Hecke, CFMS Director
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Summer</th>
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| May 1-3; YUCAIPA, CA  
Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA  
Hours: Fri 6pm - 9pm; Sat 12 noon - 9 pm; Sun 12 noon - 6  
Contact: grandpasgems@gmail.com  
Web Site: http://www.yvgms.org  
The Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society show is part of the Yucaipa city-wide Music and Arts Festival, with activities for all ages, music, local artists, food booths, carnival rides, beer garden, plus much more. A great time for the whole family. No admission fee. |
| June 6-7; GLENDORA, CA  
Glendora Gem & Mineral Society  
Goddard Middle School,  
859 E. Sierra Madre Ave.  
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm; Sun 10 am – 4 pm  
Displays, dealers, demonstrations, kids activities, silent auction, food, free entry and parking.  
Contact: 626 963-4638, ybidwell2@aol.com |
| June 13-14; Escondido  
Palomar Gem and Mineral Club  
California Center for the Arts  
340 N Escondido Blvd, 92025  
Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm.  
Admission $5.00 for adults, Discounted admission for Seniors and Military. 32 vendors from all over California and Arizona.  
High class show in downtown Escondido with restaurants within walking distance. There are two large rooms in an art gallery facility with security and comfort facilities.  
Contact: Toni Floyd 1 (425)281-6218, tonifloyd41615@gmail.com  
Website: http://palomargem.org/annual-gem-mineral-and-jewelry-show/ |
| June 23-28; Lodi, CA  
81st CFMS Show & Convention California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Grape Festival Fairgrounds  
413 E Lockeford Street  
**CANCELLED** |
| August 15 – 16; TEHACHAPI, CA  
Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
500 East “F” Street, Tehachapi  
Hours: 9 am – 5 pm  
Contact: (661) 972-1117  
Web site: http://www.tvgms.org  
Annual gem, mineral and jewelry show. We have a wide variety gems, minerals and jewelry plus kids activities and much more. |

*Check websites or call to ensure shows and field trips are still planned during the 2020 COVID-19 crisis*

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<th>Fall</th>
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| September 10 – 11; TRONA, CA  
Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society  
13337 Main St., Trona  
Gem-O-Rama Hours: Sat 7:30 am – 5 pm, Su 7:30 am – 3 pm  
Contact: Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356  
email: slgms@iwvisp.com  
Web site: http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/ |
| September 12-13; ARROYO GRANDE, CA  
San Luis Obispo Gem and Mineral Club  
South County Regional Center  
800 W. Branch St., Arroyo Grande  
Hours: 10 am – 5 pm  
Admission: $5, children 12 and under free  
Email: show@slogem.org  
‘Gems By The Sea’ – The show will feature dealers selling a fantastic array of gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary and metaphysical items. The dealers will include local artisans and vendors. There will be demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts. |
| September 26 – 27; Lodi, CA | September 26-27; Lancaster, CA |
| Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club | Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club |
| Lodi Grape Festival Grounds | Antelope Valley Fairgrounds |
| 413 East Lockeford Street, Lodi CA 95240 | 2551 West Ave H |
| Hours: 10 am – 5 pm daily | Hours: 10-5 Daily |
| Earth’s Treasures; Gems, Minerals and Jewelry show | Contact: Allison McClung; 661-839-7403 |
| Web site: http://stocktonlapidary.org | Email: ali_cares@aol.com |
| Website: palmdalegemandmineral.org |

| September 26-27; Long Beach | October 10th and 11th |
| Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society | Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society |
| Long Beach Expo Arts Center | Nevada County Fairgrounds |
| 4321 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach 90807 | 11228 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945 |
| Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm | Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm |
| Gems by the Beach: Activities including Gold panning, displays, children’s activities, demonstrators, door prizes, food trucks, free admission free parking. Dealers will be selling a variety of gems, jewelry, rocks, fossils, beads, books & lapidary supplies. Contact: Carol Kron and Karin Alvarez, (562) 577-9044 Website: http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS |
| 2020 Earth’s Treasurers Show: Dinosaurs Rule – Come see a life size T-Rex skull, plus other fossil displays. 25+ vendors, gold panning activity, lapidary demonstrations, kids crystal dig, a Kids Korner with lots of educational activities, as well as 30 exhibitors. Lazy Dog ice cream, Top Dog hot dog cart, and our 16-1 Mine 1/4 ounce of gold raffle. Website: http://www.ncgms.org |

| October 11: Fallbrook, CA | October 17-18; SANTA ROSA, CA |
| Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society | Santa Rosa Gem & Mineral Society |
| 123 W Alvarado St | 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404 |
| Hours: 9-4 | Hours: Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 10 am – 5 pm |
| Contact: Michelle Shearer; 760-805-2184 Email: info@fgms.org Website: www.fgms.org |
| Agates Abound — Our show will feature agates this our 44th year . In addition there will be Minerals, Crystals, Fossils and Gemstones finished jewelry and Beads Contact: 1 707 849-9551, santarosarockshow@hotmail.com Website: http://SRMSG.org |
| Flyer: agate-one.jpg |

| October 24 – 25: SACRAMENTO, CA | November 7 – 8; RIDGECREST, CA |
| Scottish Rites Center | Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest |
| 6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-2604 | Hours: Sat & Sun 9 am – 5 pm |
| 84th Annual Sacramento Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show | Contact: (760) 375-7905, jfrocks@dslextreme.com |
| Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm | Website: http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org |
| Contact: (916) 662-5819, gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org Web site: http://sacramentomineralsociety.org Show web site: http://sacge.com |
| 29th Annual Festival of Gems & Minerals: Raffle, silent auction, kids table, door prizes, exhibits and 14 dealers. |
| November 14 – 15: YUBA CITY | November 21-22; ANAHEIM |
| Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society | American Opal Society |
| Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds | Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim 92805 |
| 442 Franklin Hall, Yuba City, CA 95991 | Adults – $5, Students and children under age 15 are free; Free parking |
| Hours: Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm | Hours: Sat 10 am – 5 pm, Sun 10 am – 4 pm |
| Contact: (916) 677-6696, horita@comcast.net Show web site: http://sutterbuttesgemmin.org |
| Guests will see and shop for world-class opal, other beautiful gemstones, jewelry, tools, books, beads, carvings, rough and finished stones, geodes and more at the largest opal show in the United States. | **Website:** http://opalsociety.org**

8 Expert Tips on How to Polish Rocks
By Tom & Kay Benham, Contributing Editors, Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist, from the February 2010 issue

Wondering how to polish rocks for jewelry? Think gemstones are just the best, but you’re not sure how to make them correctly? You’ve come to the right place. We’ve got the best tips on how to become a gemstone polishing expert.

Whatever stage of rock or gem cutting you start with, stone polishing is the final stage that can make or break all your work. Never fear! With these eight tips from jewelry-making and lapidary experts Tom and Kay Benham, you’re halfway to polishing stones successfully!

8 Tips on Stone Polishing:

1. Grind wet. Always grind wet to protect your lungs from breathing in the dust from stone polishing. The dust from some stones, such as malachite, is quite toxic. In addition, wet grinding eliminates damage to expensive diamond wheels and stone-polishing tools.

2. Judge dry. Although we always grind wet, we recommend that you always dry the stone completely before judging its surface. Water on the stone surface will only hide scratches and give a false reading.

3. Use the whole wheel. Use the entire width of the grinding wheel, not just the center. This will ensure a longer life and better performance for your diamond wheel.

4. Skip no grit. Work sequentially from the coarsest to the finest grit. Don’t be tempted to take a short cut by skipping a grit in order to save a little time. The progression through finer and finer grits is necessary to remove the scratches left by the previous grit. The goal is to have the scratches become finer with each grit size until they can no longer be seen. Our experience has been that if you skip a grit, the final polish will show big scratches.

You will wonder where those scratches just came from! The truth is that they were there all the time, but you just didn’t sand them out when you were supposed to. If you skip a grit and find deep scratches, you’ll have to go back three or four grits to remove them. It’s always faster to do it right the first time than to try to take shortcuts and risk damaging the stone you’re working on.
5. Polish slow. Polishing is the final step. There are a myriad of polish and stone-polishing pad combinations; our preference is charging a soft leather pad with a thin paste of Holy Cow stone polishing compound and water. The actual polishing occurs as the pad starts to dry and the stone starts to pull against the surface. We keep the speed of the pad low to eliminate any heat buildup.

6. Keep it clean. Remember, “Cleanliness is next to Godliness” is especially important when it comes to lapidary work. To prevent cross-contamination from coarse grits, we are careful to rinse the stone and our hands at every grit change during stone polishing. We also thoroughly clean our machines after each grinding session to prevent contamination when moving through grit levels. Polishing compounds and wheels should be kept in sealed plastic containers when not in use.

7. Believe what you see. Your eyes are your most important tools when it comes to stone polishing. They are your feedback loop. If your eyes tell you that something is not quite right about the surface, believe them. Stop! Figure out what the problem is before continuing, and think through the steps you’ll take to remedy it before you begin.

8. Grind a little and look a lot. This is the mantra of the successful lapidary. Taking your time and being very observant during the polishing process is essential to secure the results you want.

These expert stone-polishing tips will help you create better gems and cabs for your metal jewelry-making designs. However, there’s a lot to learn before these tips can be applied.

Learn more about stone polishing, from the basics of stone cutting all the way through getting the perfect polish, with Michael Boyd’s *Basic Cabochon Cutting and Freeform Cabochon Cutting*.

Interesting Links:


Dinosaurs have excited the public imagination ever since the first dinosaur was described in 1824. This exhibition features original printed materials related to the history of dinosaur discovery.


https://www.edx.org/learn/geology -- Geology/learning

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/geology - Geology/learning
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         Vacant
LIBRARIAN           Beverly Glenn
MEMBERSHIP          Sue Valencia
JUNIOR PROGRAM      Vacant
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

* Call if sending email

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings

The Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society meets monthly with few exceptions. Membership is
informed of exceptions at 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: History Celebration

Beverly Glenn, our club Librarian/Historian will be hosting OUR HISTORY CELEBRATION complete with a celebratory cake

Tuesday June 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
Golden Empire Grange Guild
11363 Grange Ct., Grass Valley

** Bring a Friend! **

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.