



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
A Non-Profit Educational and Scientific Organization

THE PEGMATITE

September 2022



SDMG instructor Denny Turner traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2015–16, where he participated in a three-month artist-in-residence training program to learn the art of aluminum embossing. Read LuAnn Benton's profile on pg. 6.

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Official bulletin of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Lands Access Association

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Liability: The San Diego Mineral & Gem Society is not and cannot be held responsible and liable for personal injuries, for damage or loss of property at any meetings, field trips, classes, shows, or any event sponsored or recommended herein.

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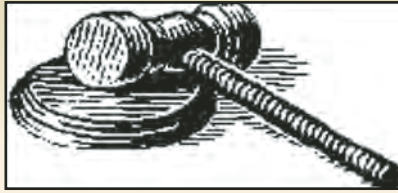
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The mission of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and earth sciences; to encourage the study of these subjects; to conduct classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; to conduct field trips for the collection and study of specimens; to encourage interest in mineralogy and lapidary arts among young people; and to procure and maintain a collection related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2022

by Dave Smith

president@sdmg.org

WE HAVE BEEN SWELTERING in the heat, but we'll miss it when ole Autumn comes along and takes charge. Just as the weather has changes, so has **SDMG** with a new slate of officers voted onto the board at the last General meeting held on June 27th. The board of directors consists of 17 officers, with six members returning from the previous two-year term. Ten people are starting their first term, with one vacant position. Unfortunately, we lost **Andy Anderson** after the slate of candidates had been set last spring. We will all miss Andy for the kind and thoughtful person he was. **LuAnn Benton** wrote a heartwarming profile about him, with input from Andy's son **Dylan** for the June bulletin. Read the article at: <https://bit.ly/sdmg-0622-p7>.

Our board of directors meetings are held virtually every third Monday at 7:00PM, and any member in good standing may ask to sit in and watch. If you are interested, contact me at president@sdmg.org, and I'll ask our meeting coordinator to provide you the login info.

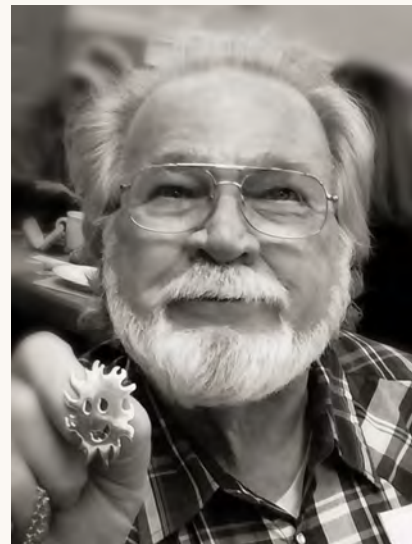
Another change is the appointment of **Simon King** as the new School Director. Simon has been very active in the Society for many years. In recognition of many contributions over the years, he and his longtime companion **Gladys Walker** were awarded lifetime memberships. They improved our club in so many ways. Simon has stepped up once again, and we all thank him and wish him well as he takes on his new role.

Fall classes begin Monday, September 12. Our class schedule with the instructors' names had been experiencing problems with the contact links that enable students to click on the name

and email inquiries about class availability. We apologize for the inconvenience. The links should be working correctly now. Please remember that the cabochon class is a prerequisite for all classes.

The SDMG General Meeting will continue on the fourth Monday at 7:00PM in the museum. Our June meeting was a sell-out, with 29 visitors. Well-known geologist **Chuck Houser** was the guest speaker; his topic was **Calcite**.

We are pleased to have **LuAnn Benton**, SDMG Vice-President, as our speaker for the September meeting.



Simon King at SDMG's Annual Banquet in 2019. Photo: Jim Parrish.



SDMG General Meeting Monday, September 26, 2022

7pm SDMG bldg.

Public Welcome!

Dave Smith, SDMG President

FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING, **LuAnn H. Benton** will make a presentation on **Rock Carving**. She has been a member for 10 years and learned how to carve under **Jan Kunsu**, who taught rock carving for more than 20 years. Jan passed the teaching job on to LuAnn in December 2019. Two of her carvings received first place awards at the **San Diego County Fair**: the turtle in 2017, in the beginner class, and the lizard in 2022, in the advanced class.

If you've never seen how something you imagine can step out of a piece of rock and take on a life of its own, then you won't want to miss this presentation. Tools of the trade will be displayed and discussed as well.

Refreshments will be on hand, if you bring something to share. Coffee and punch are provided, and a drawing of door prizes will be offered.



Lizard carved from Soapstone
by LuAnn H. Benton, 2019.



Turtle carved from Quartz, with Matrix
by LuAnn H. Benton, 2017

This 'n' That...

General Announcements

Fall classes start September 12.
Check with your instructor with questions.
(see schedule at the end of this bulletin)

SDMG Board Meeting
September 19, 2022, 7:00pm SDMG Bldg.

COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in San Diego County about a month ago and they have not changed. We continue to ask students to respect their instructor's requests regarding social distancing and masking. All students must agree to abide by school rules and sign a waiver. If you have any questions, please speak with your instructor and/or email the [SDMG president](#).

GEMOLOGICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO



GSSD General Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
7:00pm SDMG Building

Agenda for the September meeting will be
Opal. Please bring snacks to share.



JUNIOR DIVISION

*Coordinated by
Dave Smith*

THIS SUMMER has seen a variety of changing students, with some steady regulars and some who stopped by for a few classes before heading off on vacation or another family trip to see relatives. One student moved to Texas. Our students range in age, with different hand-to-eye dexterity and learning skills. I hope to pass along the mission statement from one of my jobs at the County of San Diego which was, “Let’s get better before we get perfect.” I’m glad to say most everyone meets the mission.

Earlier this summer, the class entered an educational display case at the San Diego County Fair. The case won a green ribbon and a \$50 prize. Besides the display of cabochons created by seven class members, a description of the last field trip to the Oceanview Mine on April 24, 2022 was featured in the exhibit. In addition to the educational display case, nine Juniors volunteered for a two-hour shift at the Mineral and Gem Department’s sandbox demonstration. The sandbox is a tub of sand containing hidden, polished semi-precious and mineral specimens. Children of all ages pour two scoops of sand into a sifting screen and keep their choice of the found rocks. Our heroes include Noemi G-A., Emma S., Aimee K., Barcal R., Bowen C., Cheyenne H., Kensington M., Mariella S., and Lucius J.



The Juniors’ exhibit at the San Diego County Fair, 2022. Photo: Dave Smith.



Emma, Addison, Paul Williams, James, Kensington. Photo: Dave Smith, 2022.



Emma carefully grinds a cabochon. Photo: Dave Smith.

The Juniors meet each Saturday from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Students should be between 12 and 17 years old and willing to learn lapidary arts. The cost is \$10 annual membership and \$1 class fee. All materials, training and extras are included with the class fee.

Please email **Dave Smith** at smith0815@sbcglobal.net to inquire about joining the class.



Kensington and James hard at work on their cabochons. Photo: Dave Smith.



Addison is laser-focused. Photo: Dave Smith.

Friendship, and Who & What's News

by LuAnn H. Benton, Friendship Chair

Attention all students and instructors: Jackie Leverone has taken over responsibility for the SDMG museum student display case. She would like to borrow some of your artwork to display in locked cabinets for viewing by the public. Contact Jackie (SDMG Advanced Metals Instructor) at 619-384-6601 or via email at jackieleverone@yahoo.com.

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Update on **Nancy Brescia** – “My healing continues slow but steady.” Stay well. Peace, Nancy.

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To all students. Please put your name and phone number on your personal containers you bring to class. It makes it easier to contact the rightful owner when lost. Thank You!

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FRIENDSHIP, and WHO & WHAT'S NEWS Contact **LuAnn** at friendship@sdmg.org to add information to *The Pegmatite*. You can also leave notes to me in the casting room in the Friendship mailbox. Please submit information with your name and email by the 5th of the month for entry into the next month's bulletin. Your input is valued and appreciated!



LuAnn H. Benton
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society

Would you like your name on a **SDMG BADGE** to wear at meetings or other activities? Order by contacting **Angela Cannon**, the Badge Chairman at: membership@sdmg.org.

The price per badge with a standard magnetic holder is \$14.00 plus \$7.95 tax & shipping.

A badge with the pin back is \$13.00. If you have a pacemaker, please order the pin back.

The badge measures 1" x 3". It has a light color (white, off white, or tan) with black lettering (see sample above).

If five or more badges are ordered, the cost is \$14.50 per badge (magnetic or pin back) and shipping is free.

Member Profile Denny Turner

by LuAnn Benton, SDMG Historian & Friendship Chair

Dennis (Denny) Alan Turner, was born November 1, 1948, in Glendale, California. He has a sister, five years younger. His dad was a driver/salesman for Cal-Ray Cookies, who became known as the “Cookie Guy.” The Turner family stayed in the Los Angeles area, which Denny calls his official stomping grounds. His mom was a “stay-at-home” mom until Denny got into high school, and then she returned to work as a librarian.

Denny started at a recently built Gladstone High School as a sophomore, one of 260 kids in the first graduating class. Denny ran cross country and was Captain of the track and field team for two years, lettering in both sports. But just as important, and probably more fun was being the school mascot as the “Gladiator.” Denny said, “can you imagine seeing me at 135 pounds, wearing horn-rimmed glasses in a gladiator outfit?” (see *Figure 1* for proof). Great spirit, Denny! While he was a senior in high school, his dad lost his job and had a hard time finding work. Denny felt he could help. Although he had to drop out of sports and other school activities, he maintained going to school, while taking on a job to help the family out financially. He was employed in the first “Head Start” program working with preschool children.

After high school, Denny attended the University of Redlands, in San Bernardino County, on a scholarship to study physics. He found calculus harder than he thought, so he changed his major to geology/geophysics. While in that field, he lived on a ship for two summers in the Gulf of Mexico but found he didn’t like the lifestyle of being at sea for 10 days and then on shore for only four. You guessed it: he changed his major again, choosing biology.

During his junior year of college, Denny received a draft notice. He knew he’d get drafted for Vietnam – his number was 15 of 365. While in line for the draft with others, the sergeant told those who were going to serve to step forward. Denny, being a conscientious objector, stepped back. He was then sent back to school and told to serve his country after



Denny Turner in Chiang Mai, Thailand,
Christmas Day, 2015

he graduated from college, which he did in 1971, with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

After college, Denny joined a Teacher Corps for one year, followed by a two-year stint in the Peace Corps. This counted as “alternative service” for his military obligation. It was a three-year program, and all were required to enroll in a master’s program while training and teaching. He took a full load of classes at the University of Hartford, Connecticut and was required to teach four classes at the local high school. He taught secondary school biology to the inner-city kids and would then hang out with them after school. While there he lived with three other Teacher Corps volunteers and continues to this day to stay in contact.

After the Teacher Corps, he had two more years



Figure 1 Denny’s school spirit as the Gladstone High School “Gladiator” Mascot. 1965–66.

with the Peace Corps and went to Kenya. Once in Kenya, Denny and the others were required to take a four-week intensive Kiswahili (pronounced, Key Swa Helee) language class. While Kiswahili is the official language, people often spoke their own dialect, but fortunately, classes were taught in English. While in Kenya, he also took remote learning classes to finish his Master of Education degree. He spent 50 hours a week teaching third and fourth-year biology in an all-male boarding school. Although feeling alone, Denny had a companion from the states with whom he was corresponding. They had met in choir while at the University of Redlands, and she decided she'd come for a visit while he was in Kenya. Well, Denny's mind went to work as he had other thoughts up his sleeve. He wrote to all his old friends back in the states, "I'm in the Peace Corps, in Africa. I've fallen in love, and I'm going to marry a woman here and bring her home!" Denny couldn't wait to hear what commotion that would bring!

Ruth Siewertsen had long blond hair down to her tush (his words, not mine), and she became Mrs. Dennis Turner at a wedding ceremony in Kenya, a year into Denny's two-year commitment with the Peace Corps. Ruth remained for the rest of Denny's term and taught general science at a small all-girls high school. He spent two years in Africa, living, teaching, and marrying the love of his life. He says, "Kenya, was the top experience of my entire life."

They returned to the states in 1974 and settled in San Diego so Denny could pursue a Master of Science degree at San Diego State University (SDSU). He enrolled in a two-year program to get his master's in biology, but his two-year salt marsh ecology project expanded into four years. Denny made a tough decision to quit the master's program after completing 50 units of classes, because his project was taking too long. He had lost all his frozen samples before he could do chemical analysis on them, and by this time he needed a paying job. So he went to work for the city of San Diego for 11 years as a Land Use Planner, which meant he was an "environmentalist." This required Denny to do long-range planning 10 to 15 years out for what needed to be done to ensure everything would work out down the line. During this

time their son Christopher was born, in 1980; their daughter Wendy arrived in 1988.

Denny's next job was for the city of Carlsbad, working in the same capacity as for San Diego. At this time, he also started studying to get his master's degree in Public Administration at SDSU. Denny continued to work for Carlsbad for a total of 16 years. He then left for the County of San Diego as one of two chiefs of Land Use, with 20 people reporting to him, but he only stayed two years because of the fraught political environment. At the same time, his mother's health was declining, and she needed Denny for full-time care.



Figure 2 Denny and Ruth sifting for sunstones in Oregon. November 2004.

Sometime in the mid-90s, Denny and Ruth took a family vacation to an old mining town outside Reno, Nevada, where there was a rock and gem store. The owner was sitting in the window making cabochons on his Genie. He showed them what he was doing and showed off the many opals he had cut himself. He told them about the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society (SDMG), where they could take classes. When the Turners returned to San Diego, they both joined SDMG and started taking cabochon classes

in the evenings and on Saturdays. They took classes for three years. They went rockhounding and bought lapidary equipment to use at home (*Figure 2*). Denny took a couple of silver fabrication classes under Wayne Moorhead, who then encouraged Denny to start teaching silversmithing, which he reluctantly did beginning in June 2008. The rest is history. Denny said, “I finally figured out what I wanted to be when I grew up after I became a silversmith at SDMG.” So, with three retirements to live on, he retired from land planning at the age of 55 to do silversmithing.

In 2005, Denny and Ruth divorced, each going their own way to do other things in their lives, but to this day they each remain the other’s best friend. The hardest part of the divorce was deciding who got what rock. One day they sat down and each took a turn picking out the rocks they wanted until they were all gone. Ruth continues to live here in San Diego, and she and Denny still do many things together including going on vacations. Denny said, “It’s a little unorthodox, but it works well for us.”

Over the years, Denny has taken many classes from experts in metal arts. He then turned right around to teach it to his SDMG students, which helped him retain the information. He also taught the art of working with metal in an Adult Education Program, in Point Loma for three years, until 2018.

Denny and Ruth’s two children, Chris and Wendy, are 41 and 33, respectively this year. Chris is a mechanical engineer, married with three children, and living in Rancho Bernardo. Wendy lives in Lemon Grove and has pretty much followed in her father’s footsteps. She sings, took classes at SDMG, majored in biology, became a field biologist, and spent a semester studying in Kenya. As she was nearing the end of her studies in Kenya, Denny went to Tanzania to refresh his Kiswahili, then met up with Wendy. They traveled for six weeks throughout Kenya. During this time, they took a five-day (three days up, two days down) expedition to the top of Mt. Kenya. Denny remembered that it was a hard climb at his age, but he didn’t suffer from any symptoms of altitude sickness. They were also very fortunate that three helpers carried their food and gear up and down the mountain for them (*Figure 3*).



Figure 3 Denny and his guide conquering 17,000-foot Mount Kenya on a five-day expedition. December 2008. Photo: Wendy Turner.

From November 2015 through January 2016, Denny took a leave of absence from teaching his popular silver fabrication classes at SDMG and traveled to Thailand. His goal was to see if he could study for three months with the monks. He knew they did large-scale aluminum embossing at the Wat Sri Sufan in Chiang Mai, which sits in the middle of a moat. When he got there, Denny joined a tourist embossing class, and the instructor, Tu, was impressed with his talent. She told him, “You’re not bad at this,” which made Denny feel pretty good. He asked if he could learn the techniques there and study with the monks. He became an artist-in-residence, learning aluminum embossing, which we call chasing



Figure 4 Denny with his teacher Tu and another student, standing next to Tu’s aluminum embossed plaque. Chiang Mai, January 2016.



Figure 5 Denny collaborates with an instructor on embossing an aluminum plaque. Chiang Mai, January 2016.

and repoussé (*Figures 4, 5*). Although he had been teaching these techniques for a few years at SDMG, while in Chiang Mai, Denny said, “I’ve been learning a great deal from masters of the craft.” Upon his return, he resumed teaching beginner and advanced silversmithing classes at SDMG. Denny always participates in society activities and shows, and he served briefly as the Assistant School Director under Wayne Moorhead’s directorship. He also served on SDMG’s Board of Directors.

Throughout Denny’s life, he has always been involved in numerous activities. He sang at an early age, from elementary school until his stroke. He even sang while he was in the Teacher Corps. Ruth joined Denny to sing with the San Diego Master Chorale for 12 years and eventually with the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus of 110 voices for 15 years. For awhile, he also taught classical music appreciation. Denny and his daughter auditioned for “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” and they were both accepted to perform in the full-length Broadway musical at the La Jolla Playhouse. It ran six to seven weeks, six days a week. It involved rehearsals and performance time, with Denny performing every third day. Denny said, “it was very hard, but it was so much fun.”

In 2019, while Ruth was recovering from a broken hip, Denny called her, saying that he didn’t feel well and was going to sleep. When Ruth didn’t hear from him for two days, she contacted the kids to go check on him. Unfortunately, Denny had had a stroke, and too much time had passed to benefit from medical intervention. So, he went home and did as much as

he could on his own to make the best of the situation. Fortunately, Denny didn’t suffer any paralysis. A clot had lodged in the back left side of his brain, where the tissue died, which affected his right side. What had been affected most was his vision and the ability to process thoughts. Although he can see out of the left side of both eyes, he has no vision on the right side of both eyes and he has double vision. An ophthalmologist made him a pair of glasses with special prisms to help cut down on the double vision, but he still sees some doubling. Now unable to read, which he loved to do, he had a special program added to his computer that reads his emails and Word documents to him. His brain doesn’t correctly process all the letters in a word; for example, when he sees the word “elephant,” he might only see “elep,” which is difficult to understand when he tries to read.

Denny’s acceptance of what’s happened to him shows his resilience to keep moving forward, adapting to whatever makes life easier, more manageable, and as fulfilling as it can be. Denny says, “I’m so much better off than others who have had a stroke. I came out of it really, really well compared to so many others. I walk to the grocery store, live by myself, have a program on my computer that reads emails to me (if they’re formatted in Microsoft Word), and I have a lot of family support and friends. I can’t do torch and metal demos anymore, but I can talk things through for them. I’m also thankful to have students who tolerate what I bring to class.”

Denny, you’re such a huge inspiration to everyone! Keep up the great work you do!

If you’d like to see photos and read about Denny’s three-month Thailand trip, his reports can be found on the SDMG website at:

<https://bit.ly/turner-2015-pt1>

<https://bit.ly/turner-2015-pt2>

<https://bit.ly/turner-2016-pt3>



Please be courteous and call the field trip leader to ask if you may participate in the field trip. Be sure to call again if you decide to cancel, so folks aren't waiting around for you. All CFMS affiliate clubs will ask you to sign a waiver, and you must agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and listen to directions of the field trip leaders.

Sept 24, 2022**Jurupa Valley, CA****Sponsor:** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society**Details, Directions & Sign-Up:** <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/Jurupa-Valley-2022.html?trig=new>
Sign up required.**Contact/field trip leaders:** David Springs**Materials:** Almandine and Andradite Garnets, Epidote, and Calcite specimens.**Meeting Place:** Taco Bell parking lot located at 6970 Mission Blvd., Rubidoux, CA. Arrive by 8:45 AM; departing at 9 AM sharp, so please be on time.**What to Bring/What to Expect:** Bring a bucket or backpack to collect, along with rock pick and chisel to free up minerals from matrix. Also consider a spray bottle and newspaper to wrap up your specimens. We will be inland so please bring a sun hat, sunscreen, along with something to eat and drink (it could be hot so bring plenty of chilled fluids!). There are lots of rocks and boulders, some with sharp edges, in our collecting area, so closed-toe footwear is recommended. We'll access collecting locations on foot so 4-wheel drive vehicles are NOT necessary.**Oct 12, 2022****Clear Creek, north of Coalinga, CA****Sponsor:** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society**Details, Directions & Sign-Up:** <http://whoscoming.com/vgms/ClearCreek2022.html?trig=new>
Sign up required.**Contact/field trip leader:** Chuck Borchart at 805-551-9946 or chuck.cgmctrips@gmail.com**Two Permits Required in Advance.** Go to www.recreation.gov and search: Clear Creek Management Area. Choose the Serpentine ACEC permit per person (per day) and the Vehicle permit per each vehicle (per week). YOU NEED BOTH! Don't forget to call the day before you leave and get the gate combination for getting into the main area. Once in the area, cell reception is iffy.**Materials:** Plasma Agate, Serpentine and more.**Recommendation:** 4x4 isn't necessary, but a high clearance vehicle would be best.**Meet Up:** 9AM on Saturday – Meet at the turn to the Jade Mill Campground (see website for map). Chuck will arrive on Friday and will be camping at the Jade Mill Campground. Turn left at the road right before the gate across the road. You can also stay at one of the hotels in Coalinga. It is about 45 minutes to 1 hr from Coalinga up to the gate, depending on how fast you drive the curvy road.



Please be courteous and call the field trip leader to ask if you may participate in the field trip. Be sure to call again if you decide to cancel, so folks aren't waiting around for you. All CFMS affiliate clubs will ask you to sign a waiver, and you must agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics and listen to directions of the field trip leaders.

Oct 14–15, 2022 Sperry Wash, Tecopa, CA

Sponsor: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

Details & Directions: Check out the website for trip details later in September or early October at: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/next-field-trip>.

Sign up required: Virgil Talbot at virgil_talbott@roadrunner.com. Be sure to bring a signed liability waiver (download waiver at: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/joint-field-trips>.)

Contact/field trip leaders: Virgil Talbot at virgil_talbott@roadrunner.com. Be sure to check the website after confirming your participation and before setting out to the meeting place in case there is a last-minute cancellation due to weather (see URL above).

Materials: Amethyst, fossils, and palm root agate.

Meeting Place: TBD. Check out the website in September or early October.

What to Bring/What to Expect: Checklist on the Searchers' website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/field-trips>. A high clearance (SUV or pickup truck) may be required for this trip.

Nov 12–13, 2022 Afton Canyon, Mojave Trails National Monument (near Barstow), CA

Sponsor: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

Details & Directions: Check out the website for trip details later in October or early November at: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/next-field-trip>.

Sign up required: John O'Connor at jwoc1269@gmail.com. Be sure to bring a signed liability waiver (download waiver at: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/joint-field-trips>.)

Contact/field trip leaders: John O'Connor at jwoc1269@gmail.com. Be sure to check the website after confirming your participation and before setting out to the meeting place in case there is a last-minute cancellation due to weather (see URL above).

Materials: Agate, Jasper, Fluorite.

Meeting Place: TBD. Check out the website later in October or early November.

What to Bring/What to Expect: Checklist on the Searchers' website: <https://www.searchersrocks.org/field-trips>. A high clearance (SUV or pickup truck) is required for this trip.

ON THE GO ... TO A SHOW



SEPTEMBER

24–25 SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Gems by the Sea

Sponsor: San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club

Where: Veteran's Memorial Building

801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Hours: 10am – 5pm daily

Admission: Adults \$5.00; Children 12 and under Free.

Parking: Free.

Contact: 2022show@alogem.org

Web: slogem.org

The show will feature dealers selling a fantastic array of gems, minerals, fossils, carvings, jewelry, beads, jade, crystals, meteorites, lapidary and metaphysical items. There will demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts.

24–25 LONG BEACH, CA – Rock Gem & Jewelry Show

Sponsor: Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society

Where: Signal Hill Library

1800 E. Hill St., Signal Hill 90755

Hours: Sat 10am – 5pm; Sun 10am – 4pm

Admission: Adults \$4, under 16 Free.

Contact: Carol Kron at 562-577-9044 or

lbmineralgemsociety@gmail.com

URL: www.facebook.com/LBMGS

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

28–2 JOSHUA TREE, CA – Annual Gem, Mineral & Craft Show

Sponsor: Hi-Desert Rockhounds/Morongo Basin Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree

Where: Sportsman's Club

6225 Sunburst Street, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Hours: Open daily 9am – 5pm

Admission and parking: Free.

Contact: 760-366-2915

or jtsportsmans@gmail.com

Website: jtsportsmansclub.com

JOHN E. GARSOW gems & minerals

September 9 – 17, 2022
Colorado Mineral & Fossil Fall Show

Crowne Plaza
Denver Airport/Convention Center
15500 E 40th Ave.
Denver, CO 80239

Facet Rough • Cabbing Rough
Jewelry • Mineral Specimens

www.johngarsow.com

Vista Gem & Mineral Society 2022 Fall Show

September 30 – October 2, 2022
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave.
Vista, CA 92083

vistarocks.org

***Fabulous vendors
in a fabulous rustic setting***

If you've never been to a VGMS show at the
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum,
you've gotta see it – it's a hidden treasure!

OCTOBER

- 9 FALLBROOK, CA – Fall Festival of Gems**
Sponsor: Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Where: Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility
 123 West Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028
Hours: 9am – 4pm
Admission and Parking: Free.
URL: <https://www.fgms.org>
- 15–16 SANTA ROSA, CA – SRMGS 45th Annual Mineral & Gem Show**
Sponsor: Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Where: The Veterans Memorial
 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Hours: Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 10am – 5pm
 Admission: Adult \$6.00 (\$5.00 w/ coupon),
 Children under 12 Free.
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Web: srmgs.org
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Contact: Virginia Rotramel, whrc@rockchippers.org
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Vendor Art

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Sun 10:00am – 5:00pm**Admission &
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but only **SDMG or GSSD** members may come
use the reference library.

Public Lands Update

by Lisbet Thoresen

Public Lands Representative for SDMG

September 1, 2022

The DAC Meeting in August

THE DESERT DISTRICT Advisory Council (DAC) of the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** met on Saturday, August 27, 2022. The agenda included presentations and reports by council members, five BLM Field Managers and one monument manager, as well as formal introduction of **Shelly Lynch** as the new DAC District manager. The August DAC meeting agenda is posted online at: <https://on.doi.gov/3QybEQA>.

The virtual all-day Zoom meeting was better attended than the May meeting, with 23 participants

from the public in the morning session. Rockhounds showed up and stayed to participate in the public comment period in the late afternoon along with some conservation group representatives.

For Rockhounds, the most important item on the agenda was a presentation on **Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM)** by **Noelle Glines-Bovio**. It was her first introduction to the public via a DAC meeting since assuming the role of monument manager in the summer of 2020. For anyone who attended the Zoom information sessions on MTNM, which the BLM hosted in April, the overview presented at the April meetings was substantially the same as the one given at the DAC meeting. However, the timeline is now better developed for the Management Plan, which is slated to be finalized by late summer/early fall of 2024 (see figures below).

	Task	2021	2022			2023/2024		
			Fall - Spring	Summer - Fall	Winter - Spring	Summer - Fall	Winter/	
Pre-NOI	NEPA contract prep, selection, and award							
	Project management plan							
	Assemble existing and collect new data							
	Dingell Act compliance							
	Initiate MOUs with cooperating agencies							
	Communications plan							
	Preliminary alternatives development							
	ESA/NHPA consultation							
NOI/Scoping	NOI (includes planning criteria) and scoping period							

MTNM Project Status/Timeline

Source: DAC presentation, 8/27/2022, N. Glines-Bovio

Notice of Intent/ Winter (January 2023)

Red and Orange = under development or review.

	Task	2021	2022			2023/2024		
			Fall - Spring	Summer - Fall	Winter - Spring	Summer - Fall	Winter/	
Draft MMP/EA	Respond to scoping							
	Develop draft document							
	Publish Draft MMP/Plan Amendment /EA							
	Public comment period 30 days (60 days and FRN if ACEC revise ROV proposals)							
Proposed MMP/ revised EA/FONSI	Comment response; revise EA; finalize proposed MMP							
	Publish Proposed MMP/Plan Amendment/ Revised EA/FONSI; Governor's review and protest period							
	Resolve protests							
DR	Conclude ESA/NHPA Consultation							
	Sign DR/Approved Plan Amendment; finalize MMP; appeal period							

Draft MMP/ Late 2023

Proposed MMP/ early 2024

Approved MMP/EA 2024

Mojave Trails National Monument Countdown to a Final Management Plan

It will be important for Rockhounds to participate during every step of the management planning process over the next two years. We'll be playing an active role and coordinating with **Gregor Losson**, who will be advocating Rockhounding interests to the DAC via the Mojave Trails subgroup.

National monuments belong to everyone, not only the local residents where a monument is located – we welcome rockhounds everywhere to get involved. **Got questions?** Contact Lisbet at editor@sdmg.org.

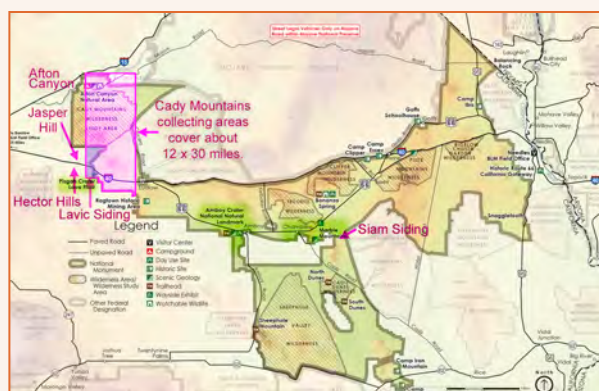
Join SDMG's mailing list to stay abreast of public lands-related news. Longform articles and reports appear in the monthly bulletin (September – June).

Check the topics that interest you, including “public lands” to receive public lands-specific updates and Calls to Action, such as signing onto comment letters:

<http://bit.ly/sdmg-signup>

Planning Schedule for MTNM through ROD

Fall/Winter 2022	Notice of Intent
Summer 2023	Draft MMP / EA
Winter 2023	Proposed MMP / Final EA
Summer 2024	Approved MMP / ROD



Collecting areas highlighted in the Mojave Trails National Monument. Source: BLM, with annotations by L. Thoresen.

On the Docket: Industrializing California's Deserts

It bears repeating that since the **Desert Renewal Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)** was made final in September 2016, the permits issued for industrial scale renewable energy (RE) projects, especially solar, have sky-rocketed. DRECP was designed expressly to fast-track permits for such projects and get Californians running on 100% renewable energy ASAP. Once again, at the August meeting, as previously, DAC member **Richard Holliday** pointed out that a fabulous amount of solar has been powered down in California because the “frequency cannot be controlled in the system,” i.e., California has more solar, with more production capacity than can be used. It cannot be stored, so building more RE projects without having a storage solution as a variable in the equation is not actually getting us closer to 100% RE

usage. Nonetheless, it is being pursued aggressively. Dick Holliday's background is in the energy industry dating back 30+ years. Without explicitly saying that the way the transition to renewables is being managed in California is programmatically chaotic, it was clear from his comments that the cart has been put before the horse. And so, at the present time, 40 percent of industrial scale solar projects already built are offline, even as new projects are breaking ground at a feverish pace. If the future portends the building of quite a lot of infrastructure to support all these RE projects, it does not require a crystal ball to see that the desert will be the obvious target of still more exploitive activities – rare earth element mining, building battery storage facilities and transmission corridors to connect RE projects to a grid that needs its own bolstering and building out to meet demand.

Public Lands News for Rockhounds

New Rules for Fossil Collecting on Department of Interior (BLM) Land

by Andrew Hoekstra

editor, Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

ON AUGUST 8TH, [regulations](#) that will govern paleontological resources and fossil collecting on DOI lands were published. The final rules reflect a number of changes from the original proposal, including several changes that were suggested by rock hounds during the public comment period in 2017. These favorable changes included some that are potentially relevant to the collecting of rocks and minerals [on BLM-managed lands](#).

The new rule states that “casual collecting” by amateurs of [non-vertebrate](#) fossils is allowed on [all](#) BLM land, except when an area is closed by authority of a specific statute. Collecting is to be allowed – except by specific restriction – within [BLM-managed](#) National Monuments (such as the Mojave Trails NM), Conservation Areas, Scenic Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, other outstanding natural areas, and Wilderness Areas. Where non-vertebrate fossils can be collected, it would be reasonable for the collection of rocks and minerals to also be allowed.

Collecting of petrified wood by the public is specifically [not](#) subject to these new paleontological resource rules, it being governed instead by [43CFR part 3620](#) in accordance with the [Petrified Wood Act of 1962](#).

Several restrictions proposed to limit “disturbance” have been removed or modified. This is important because disturbance is also an issue when collecting rocks. Removed is language that restricted a collector to a one square yard area of “disturbance” and that required collectors to be separated by 10 or more feet. Gone is a limit of 100 lbs per year of fossils, and the remaining daily limit of 25 lbs of fossils now includes an exception allowing for collection of a single large piece including matrix that exceeds 25 pounds.

The final rules allow for non-motorized “hand tools” of any size, including large picks, shovels and pry-bars.

Federal lands managers may determine that specific fossils are not “paleontological resources,” including for reason of “redundancy,” i.e., that a particular exposure of abundant and extensively researched fossils lacks “paleontological interest”; fossils (including vertebrate fossils) determined to not be paleontological resources would not be regulated under this regulation, but would be subject to other existing laws and regulations.

These are a few of the more relevant changes. Those interested are encouraged to read the [BLM’s discussion of their response to public input](#) and its effect on the final rule. The way that the BLM incorporated comments critical of the original proposal is encouraging, and those of us who wrote comment letters should feel that our efforts were rewarded. Rockhounds need to continue to participate in the process, with the management plan for the Mojave Trails National Monument being the important local issue during the next year or two.



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Hoekstra, A. 2022. Public Lands New for Rockhounds: New Rules for Fossil Collecting on Department of Interior (BLM) Land. *Delvings*, 75(9): 1.

SDMG Editor’s comment: As members of the Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS), Karol McQueary and Andrew Hoekstra wrote a detailed comment letter in 2017 on BLM’s proposed rule for implementing the Paleontological Resources Act (PRPA). SDMG signed onto that letter, along with many other gem mineral societies and individuals. As the author noted in his article, the final rule reflects a responsiveness to many of the concerns raised in the SCPS letter, available here: <https://bit.ly/scps-ltr-prpa-2017>.

The proposed rule had many onerous and impractical constraints on collecting, while treating the activity of collecting invertebrate fossils as something akin to archaeology on the one hand and a wantonly destructive activity on the other. Paleontological resources left in the ground cannot be studied, and they may weather out, resulting in loss or destruction of resources everyone should want to preserve. The questions devolve to how does one define and practice preservation, and how does one maximize the educational value of a fragile resource, including one discovered by hobbyists?

Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Minerals in 19th century America

Howard Heitner

Friday, September 9, 2022
7:30 PM

AT THE BEGINNING of the 19th century, most of the men who studied the natural sciences were physicians. Among these physician/mineralogists were Lewis Beck, Samuel Robinson, and Ebenezer Emmons. The earliest academic mineralogist was Benjamin Silliman, who started the Yale University collection. Minerals were studied in detail even in the absence of modern atomic theory and structural analysis. By the 1850, a number of private collections had been started. Specimens were obtained by field collecting, trading, and purchasing.

Among the more prominent collectors were Washington Roebling and Clarence Bement. Their collections became the starting point of museum collections. Among the dealers supplying collectors at this time were A. E. Foote, Henry Ward, and George English. A monthly journal, *The Mineral Collector*, was started in 1894.



HOWARD HEITNER has been collecting minerals for 60 years. He started as a field collector, collecting in New York, New Jersey, Maine, and other U.S. states. Later he started purchasing specimens. He purchased several old collections and became interested in the history of mineral collecting and dealing in the United States. Other interests include fluorescent minerals and pseudomorphs. He was the president of the Stamford Mineralogical Society for many years. In his professional career, he was a chemist specializing in water soluble polymers. Most of his career was spent at Cytec Industries, in new product development of chemicals

used to process minerals. His post retirement mineral time has been spent finally organizing and cataloguing his collection. He spent several years as an explainer at the American Museum of Natural History. He is also working on new Zoom presentations on mineral-related topics.



ZOOM MEETING

Friday, September 9, 2022, 7:30 PM

Registration required.

Please Email Program Chair **Rudy Lopez**

No later than September 8, 2022

programs@mineralsocal.org

In the subject line of your email,
please include:

“SEPTEMBER ZOOM Meeting”

SDMG Membership...

New Applications & Renewals for 2022–2023

The membership year “officially” started on July 1st. There is no pro-rating of dues, so it doesn’t matter when you sign-up or renew – all memberships for 2022–2023 will expire on June 30, 2023.

There are two ways to apply for or renew your membership –

1.) Send a check with your membership form to the membership secretary. The renewal form can be found on the **SDMG** website at:

sdmg.org/pdf/sdmg-membership-app-and-renewal.pdf

OR

2.) Sign up online using major credit cards via PayPal. Visit the SDMG website for details at:

sdmg.org/sdmg-membership/

Membership renewals are usually mailed to current members in late May or early June, and are typically “due” before classes begin in September, because people must be current members to attend fall classes. Some just pay their membership dues in class, on the day they show up, which is fine.

Subscribe yourself to the eNewsletter at:

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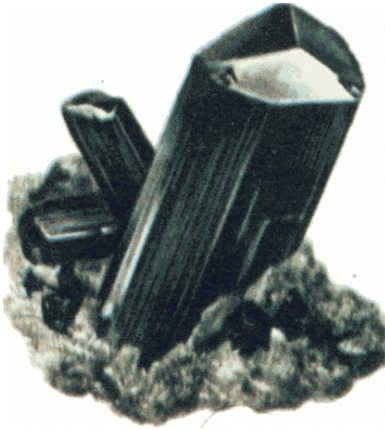
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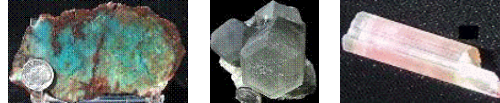
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	Wed	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<u>Nita Sani</u>
	Thu	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<u>John Kruzel</u>
<u>FACETING</u>	Wed	9:00 am - 11:30 am	<u>Mike Harkleroad</u>
	Wed	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<u>Tim Sandiford</u>
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<u>ADV. FACETING</u>	Wed	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<u>Donna Beers</u>
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	Thu	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<u>Bud Green</u>
<u>INT. METALS FABRICATION</u>	Tue	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<u>Yvonne Juarez</u>
<u>ADV. METALS FABRICATION</u>	Wed	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	<u>Denny Turner</u>
	Wed	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<u>Jackie Leverone</u>
	Thu	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Denny Turner</u>
	Thu	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<u>Ellen Riceman</u>
	Fri	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	<u>Jill Williamson</u>
<u>CASTING</u>	Tue	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	<u>Dave Smith</u>
	Wed	4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<u>Simon King</u>
	Fri	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<u>Rich Yarbrough</u>
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<u>SPHERE MAKING</u>	Sat	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<u>Paul Williams</u>
<u>JUNIORS</u>	Sat	9:30am - 12:30pm	<u>Dave Smith</u>

* If you have difficulty with using the link to contact an instructor due to your computer/mobile device's restrictions or security settings, please send an email to school@sdmg.org for assistance.

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28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 GSSD General Mtg 7pm, SDMG Bldg	7	8	9	10
11	12 SDMG Fall Classes start	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 SDMG Board Mtg 7pm, VIRTUAL	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 SDMG General Mtg 7pm, SDMG Bldg	27	28	29	30	1