



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

# THE PEGMATITE

## September 2023



*The finest gem mineral show in San Diego is back*

*Demonstrators & Volunteers, your club needs you*

~ Save the Date ~  
October 28 & 29, 2023

by LuAnn Benton, Gem Diego Chair  
Details on pg. 5

~ Set Up & Installation ~  
October 27, 2023

Official bulletin of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society

**Affiliations:** California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Lands Access Association

**Sister Club:** Kingston Lapidary, Hull, England

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**Membership:** Anyone with an interest in minerals, fossils, lapidary, gems, or hand-crafted jewelry may join the Society.  
Contact: [membership@sdmg.org](mailto:membership@sdmg.org)

**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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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 2023

by *Dave Smith*

[president@sdmg.org](mailto:president@sdmg.org)

**W**E HAVE BEEN ENJOYING the best weather in the final weeks of the summer. Let's welcome the return of reopened workshops. The Fall Workshop Schedule can be found at the end of this bulletin and online at: [sdmg.org/class-schedule/class-schedule.pdf](http://sdmg.org/class-schedule/class-schedule.pdf). Please contact the instructor regarding space availability before heading over to the shop. Fall classes for 2023 will begin on Monday, September 11th.

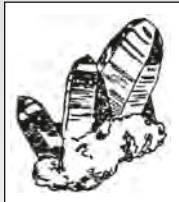
A few updates in the shop include the new saw oil cleaning system which is now operational. This process allows the used oil to be drawn into a centrifugal filtering canister while the saw is operating. Filtered oil is pumped back into the saw. The previous filtering steps of draining used oil into buckets with paper bags used as filters will be unnecessary. The thanks go to **LuAnn and Dick Benton, Paul Williams, John Kruzel, and Mike Frye** for completing this installation. (More on this topic on pg 9). The new drinking fountain has been a blessing this summer, with chilled and filtered water available to everyone working in the shop. The recently installed ceiling fan has also made the shop more comfortable on those extra warm afternoons.

Looking at the calendar for the rest of the year, our next General Meeting will be September 25th. Our guest speaker will be **Bill Kordela**, who will give a presentation on Jade. In October, we have five Mondays, so I am moving our General Meeting to October 30th, when our guest speaker will be **Helen Serras-Herman**. She is planning a presentation on the best mines to visit in the

USA. **Richard Eddy** will be our speaker at the November 27th General Meeting. His topic will be about his travels throughout Australia and various mines of interest.

At the end of next month, SDMG will host **Gem Diego**, the finest gem mineral show in San Diego. Mark your calendar: the dates are Oct. 28 and 29. The Liberty Station Conference Center, which is located in the Point Loma neighborhood, is the new venue. **LuAnn Benton** is Chairperson of the event, and she tells me that Demonstrators and Volunteers are needed, so please look for signup sheets in the casting shop after September 11th or email her at [benton.luannz@gmail.com](mailto:benton.luannz@gmail.com). For more details about Gem Diego Show, see LuAnn's article on pg. 5.

In December, two events are planned: **December Nights** (aka Christmas on the Prado) will be on Friday, December 1st, and Saturday, December 2nd. Our annual **Christmas Potluck** is planned for early in the month, with a date to be determined soon. The Potluck is usually held in the Casa Del Prado meeting room No. 101, but the venue is subject to confirmation. Look for more details in *The Pegmatite* in the coming months.



## SDMG General Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023  
7pm SDMG bldg.  
Public Welcome!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM features guest speaker **Bill Kordela**, who will give a presentation on **The World of Jade, Rare and Unique Discoveries**. Bill is a Certified Gemologist from the Gemological Society of San Diego. He is jade-trained in the field and recently awarded certification as a Jade Expert by the International Gem Society. He participated in monthly jade club meetings for 20 years and learned from well-established Jade expert, Roger Merk and also Larry Shute. He has 30 years active jade field and Internet collecting. He will share his knowledge as attendees will view and learn how the collection defines 'rare finds' and disturbing parallels to 'look-a-likes.'

The talk will be on **ROUGH JADE – Nephrite and Jadeite from North and Central America**. His presentation will include a discussion on the history, value and identifying properties of jade. A display



Bill Kordela with jade specimens from his collection.

with samples from world locations will be included. Please feel free to bring in your jade specimens for both identification and to share with members.

We'll have refreshments and door prizes. If you want to bring something to share at the refreshment table, we won't stop you. Everyone is welcome and we hope you'll have an enjoyable time. We will have the meeting in the SDMG museum at Balboa Park, located adjacent to Spanish Village (the largest building, at the back) at 7 PM.

### Workshop News

Yvonne Juarez, Coordinator  
[school@sdmg.org](mailto:school@sdmg.org)

The fall workshop session begins on September 11, 2023, with the first Juniors' class set for Saturday, September 16th. Check the SDMG website for a current workshop schedule at: <https://sdmg.org/class-schedule/class-schedule.pdf>. This schedule is sure to be updated, so refresh your browser to obtain a fresh copy from the server whenever you visit the website.

Based on popular demand, new "Beginning Metals Fabrication" and "Casting" workshops have been added to the Fall Schedule. If you're an SDMG member, and have already mastered the lapidary art of Cabochon creation to the tune of at least 10–20 cabs, you're eligible to participate! Please click the link in the instructor's name on the published online schedule to send an email expressing your interest, or email me.

If you don't see the instructor you're looking for on the schedule, email me, and I'll assist you.



## JUNIOR DIVISION

*Coordinated by*

**Dave Smith**

[smith0815@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smith0815@sbcglobal.net)

Earlier this summer, the Juniors' class entered an educational display case at the **San Diego County Fair**. It is one of the top ten fairs in the U.S. and Canada, and this year 997,720 visitors responded to the “**Get Out There!**” theme by turning out enthusiastically. The case won an Educational Award of Merit and a \$50 prize. The display of cabochons created by eight class members also included photos from the last Juniors' field trip to the **Oceanview Mine** on April 24, 2022. This year's judge of educational exhibits observed that it was the best display case mounted by the Juniors in the 12 twelve years she has been coming to the Fair. Congratulations, Juniors, on a job well done!

In addition to entering an exhibit at the Fair, nine Juniors volunteered for two-hour shifts at the Mineral and Gem sandbox, where young visitors used a sifting screen to find polished rocks hidden in the sand. Our volunteers included **Noemi G-A, Emma S., Kiera R., Gabriella F., Steward F., Harold F., Adella F., Theodore F. and Kekoa P.** Thank you for participating!

The Juniors meet every Saturday from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the SDMG building in Balboa Park. Students should be between 12 and 17 years old and willing to learn lapidary arts. The cost to participate is \$10 annual membership plus \$1 class fee for each session the student attends. All materials, training and extras are included within the class fee. Please email



Juniors' summer school class: Max at the sander. August 19, 2023. Photo: Dave Smith.

**Dave Smith** at [smith0815@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smith0815@sbcglobal.net) to inquire about joining the class.

Please don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't done so already for 2023/24. SDMG's annual membership renewal period begins July 1, 2023 and expires June 30, 2024. You can renew online at: <https://sdmg.org/sdmg-membership/>.

Juniors' summer school class, left to right: Andrew, Michelle O'Sullivan (Wire wrap instructor), Emma, Tint, Alice, Adella, Priscilla. August 19, 2023. Photo: Dave Smith.



# GEM DIEGO

San Diego's finest gem mineral show

**Saturday and Sunday, October 28–29, 2023**

**Venue:** Liberty Station Conference Center  
2600 Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106

**Time:** Saturday 9:30am – 5:00pm  
Sunday 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Admission & Parking:** Free.

**Website:** <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2023>

**Show Committee Mtg:** **Wednesday, September 13, 2023** at 7:00pm (virtual)

Contact LuAnn via [benton.luannz@gmail.com](mailto:benton.luannz@gmail.com) for the link, if you'd like to join us.

**Show Set-Up:** **Friday, October 27** (meet at Liberty Station Conference Center)

8:30am – **Loading Crew meets at storage garage**

9:00am – Skirting & other Volunteer workers arrive at Liberty

10:00am – Unload truck, set up cases

1:00pm to 8:00pm – Demos, Dealers & Exhibitors set-up

**Show Break-Down:** **Sunday, October 29 at 4:00pm** (loading crew & everyone else!)

EXHIBITORS, DEMONSTRATORS, BUYERS and SELLERS, now is the time to start preparing for **San Diego Mineral & Gem Society's** annual Gem and Mineral Show. Gem Diego features 23 high-quality Gem and Mineral Dealers selling gems, gemstones, minerals, and fossils from all over the world, and so much more. Demonstrations in the past included: Wire Wrapping, Faceting, Lost Wax Casting, Silver Chain Making, Intarsia, and Sphere Making. There will be Gemstone and Mineral Identification free of charge both days, and on Sunday, late afternoon, there will be door prizes and a raffle for the grand prize. Don't worry, you don't have to be there to win.

This is SDMG's biggest annual event. After the show in 2017, we lost our longtime venue, and then there was COVID-19. We are restarting this event at a new venue, increasing the number of dealers from 13 to 23 and have an almost all-new volunteer committee of Chairpersons. Our legions of Volunteers have

## The New Show Committee

email **LuAnn** at [benton.luannz@gmail.com](mailto:benton.luannz@gmail.com)  
include the committee member  
you wish to contact

Chairman	LuAnn H. Benton
Consultant	Jim Parrish
SDMG President	Dave Smith
Advertising, Signs & Flyers	Ed Hart, Kerry Stone Rich Yarbrough & team
Dealers	LuAnn H. Benton
Demonstrators	Yvonne Juarez & team
Door Prizes	Terry Thomas & team
Electrical	Rich Yarbrough & team
Exhibits	Nancy Arthur-McGehee & team
Secretary	LuAnn H. Benton
Security	Larry Shute & team
Skirting Tables	Marna Morimoto & The Cast of Thousands
Treasurer	James Curtis

become known as “The Cast of Thousands,” because Gem Diego is bigger than any other event SDMG hosts during the year and many more volunteers are needed.

Starting September 11, there will be sign-up sheets on a clipboard in the casting room for the many volunteer positions that need to be filled.

Some activities need physical strength, but others do not. Pick one or more activities that you can help with, and sign up! It will be both fun and rewarding – you’ll learn a lot, and you’ll meet a bunch of your fellow members. You’ll be proud of your club and amazed when you see how beautiful YOUR SHOW turns out.

Demonstrators and Exhibitors, don’t forget that you need to plan ahead. Start your projects now in order to have them ready in time for the show.

### SUPPORT YOUR CLUB & PARTICIPATE!

To set up a show of this magnitude, **SDMG** will need many volunteers. If you would like to help:

1. **Sign up** on one of the clipboards located in the Casting room at SDMG (available September 11, 2023);
2. **OR contact** any one of the Committee Chairs (see list on the preceding page);
3. **OR attend** the Show Committee Meetings. The next one is Virtual and will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 7 PM.

Contact LuAnn at [benton.luannz@gmail.com](mailto:benton.luannz@gmail.com) for an evite to attend the virtual GoTo Meeting.

**Please lend a helping hand  
to make our show a success.**

### EXHIBITORS

We have a few exhibit spaces still available for your displays. You do not have to be a member of SDMG to participate, and exhibiting is free of charge, but commercial promotion is not allowed.

**Download an Application Form  
at: <https://bit.ly/gd2023exhapp>**

- 1.) *Fill out the app and sign it*
- 2.) *e-mail or s-mail it (postmarked no later than Sept 30)  
(See instructions on the form)*

### CALLING ON OUR TALENTED MEMBERS TO BE DEMONSTRATORS

If you have the know-how to make Wire Wrapping, Faceting, Lost Wax Casting, Silver Chain Making, Intarsia, Chasing and Repoussé, or Sphere Making, Rock Carving or something else, please consider volunteering to demonstrate your skills at Gem Diego.

**Please email Yvonne Juarez at  
[admin@sdmg.org](mailto:admin@sdmg.org)**



## Kruzel's Cabochon Show & Tell

John Kruzel's Thursday morning Cabochon Workshop ended its year in June with a stellar Show and Tell. Glenn Billman, who is a new student, took the gold on June 1st with his oval beauty. Nicole Corpuz took the next top honor on June 8. At the June 15 class, Candace Shannon, who was a three-time winner in May, garnered the gold again in June. Bud Morris swept into the winner's position and took the coveted prize on June 22nd and 29th. Congratulations to all. The "gold" medal will be stored in a safe place until the Fall Session begins in September!

As a reminder, at the end of every workshop, all the students show what they worked on that day, sharing what type of stone they cut and showing what they did to make it look good. The students then vote on the person they think did the best job on their cabochon. The prize is having their picture taken, holding their cabochon, while wearing a coveted gold medal, which is then posted in *The Pegmatite*. The winners for June are shown below.

*Congratulations  
to all on your  
beautiful cabochons!*



Glenn Billman – June 1



Nicole Corpuz – June 8



Candace Shannon – June 15



Bud Morris – June 22



Bud Morris – June 29

## Cut of the Month

by Bill Brisebois

I used a design called “Fourth Dimension” to facet an ametrine entered in the Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Department exhibition at the 2023 San Diego County Fair. It was one of a trio of faceted stones that won the First Place Award in the Three Natural Gemstones category. This is a challenging, but very fun cut and will look great in most materials. The higher R.I. materials will have an amazing effect, with no changes to the angles.

For the ametrine, the color split is pretty well lined up, which was as good as I could get it when I cut the crystal. The pavilion cutting is pretty self explanatory, but the meets on P4 can be tricky when trying to hit the culet and girdle line meets at the same time, all the while keeping the facets squared up. It's like a plus (+) sign where the “arrows” come together.

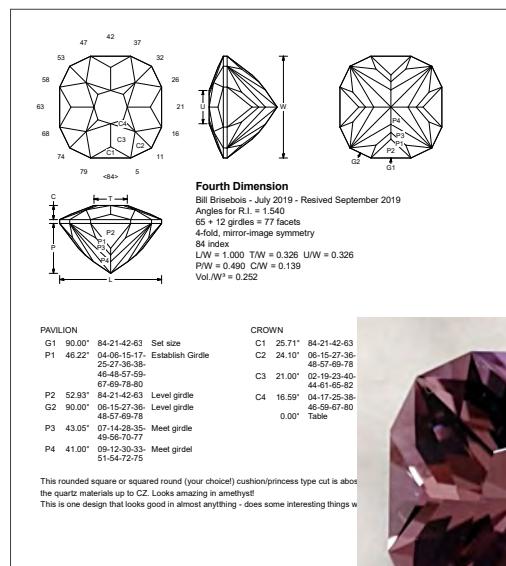


Bill demonstrates faceting at the Gem, Minerals & Jewelry Department of the 2023 San Diego County Fair.

After getting a good girdle line polish, for the final polish on the pavilion I recommend working in the order of P1, P2, then P4, and do P3 last. I like to work culet facets first in my final polish and then go back if I have to, as it seems to create less headaches. Sometimes, I have to work P3 and P4 a little to get everything to line



The faceted Fourth Dimension ametrine.



## Friendship, and Who & What's News

by LuAnn H. Benton, Friendship Chair  
 friendship@sdmg.org

**Nancy Brescia** is getting ready to undergo radiation treatment of her neck where the thyroid cancer returned. It is scheduled for September 16th. Afterwards, she will be recuperating at home. Right now she said she is feeling really, really tired, so texting works best communication-wise. Please keep Nancy in your thoughts and prayers during this very tiring and stressful time. Keep your spirits up, Nancy and know we are all here for you.



### SDMG Improvements

The filter under the sink was due to be changed and a new one put in on July 15, 2023. This was actually done right on schedule. See record above sink for last date changed.



### Oil Cleaner for Slab Saws

You've probably noticed a big green tub at the far end of the 18" saw and in the corner of the wall to the faceting workshop and the back of the orange lockers and wondered what is that, or you didn't notice at all. Well, this summer, **Paul Williams, John Kruzel, LuAnn Benton** and her husband **Dick** permanently raised the legs of the 24" slab saw high enough so Paul Williams, **Mike Frye**, and **John Kruzel** could later attach the necessary plumbing to fully convert both saws over to a drainage system without using old socks to trap the sludge.

The sludge and rock will now pass directly into the green tank and by running the filter (attached to the outside of the tank with its own on/off switch), it will pull the oil from the tank into and through the filter. This will need to run awhile in order to keep the dirty oil running through the system until it's clean. Each saw still has



Fig. 1 Oil cleaning filter canister, 8-22-23.  
 Photo: LuAnn Benton.

its own pump so when you turn either one saw on or both saws on at the same time, each pump will still do its work of pumping oil to each of the saws.

The filter system can run even if the saws aren't running in order to get the oil in the green tank clean. So, if you are in the cabbing room or even in another room and you see the oil still needs cleaning, turn the filter on, then turn it off when you leave or just leave it on. Its only purpose has to do with cleaning the oil in the tub, nothing more (fig. 1).

Have you already been on or going on a vacation?

Gone rockhounding with a friend, spouse, partner or group?

Is anything happening in your life that you'd like to share with SDMG?

Want to make it funny, please do, so everyone can enjoy.

Include name and phone number (for contact purposes only).

I'll take care of any necessary corrections you may need.

Send to LuAnn via [friendship@sdmg.org](mailto:friendship@sdmg.org)

I really want to hear from YOU!

There is a mailbox slot  
 in the casting room  
 for any **Suggestions**  
 you may have for SDMG.

We value your input!  
 Paper & pen are available!

Once it's determined how often we need to check the filter to see if the filter canister is full and needs emptying, I'll pass this information on to you. The filter works by centrifugal force, separating the oil from the grit. The oil goes back into the green tank and the sludge dries out up against the walls of the filter canister. This is all emptied into the trash can!

There will be some heavier rock material staying on the bottom of the green tank which will have to

cleaned out on a regular basis as well but, it will be so much easier than dealing with the old socks in a bucket underneath each saw! I know, because I've done it a time or two and it was a lot of work! You're down on your bad knees and getting oil all up and down your arms and sometimes on your clothes as well. So be thankful there are those who do try to make improvements in the systems that have been in place for many decades.

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](mailto: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 white background 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.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**OCEANVIEW MINE  
TOUR & SCREENING TRIPS:  
*CALL FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE***

For more information  
please visit [digforgems.com](http://digforgems.com)

or email [digforgems@gmail.com](mailto:digforgems@gmail.com)

Reservations required.

\$75. Adults    \$60. Children (ages 5 to 11)  
Family rates available.

**HIMALAYA MINE TAILINGS:  
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At the Lake Henshaw Resort on Highway 76.  
Adults, \$75 per day. Kids 12-15, half price.  
Screening tables, buckets, and shovels provided.

Call (775) 830-5797  
or (775) 772-7724 for more info

[www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com](http://www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com)



ON THE GO ...  
TO A SHOW



**SEPTEMBER .....**

**16-17 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:** 10 AM – 5 PM daily

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

**Parking:** Free.

**Contact:** [info@slogem.org](mailto:info@slogem.org)

**Web:** [slogem.org/gems-by-the-sea](http://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. There will be demonstrations of jewelry-making and lapidary crafts.

**OCTOBER .....**

**7-8 LONG BEACH, CA – Gems on the Hill**

**Show**  
**Sponsor:** Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society  
**Where:** Signal Hill Library  
1800 E. Hill St., Signal Hill 90755

**Hours:** Sat 10 AM – 5 PM; Sun 10 AM – 4 PM  
**Admission:** Adults \$4, under 16 Free.

**Contact:** [lbmineralgemsoociety@gmail.com](mailto:lbmineralgemsoociety@gmail.com)

**Web:** [lbmineralgem.org/goh-2023.html](http://lbmineralgem.org/goh-2023.html)

[www.facebook.com/LBMGS](http://www.facebook.com/LBMGS)

**8 FALLBROOK, CA – Fall Festival of Gems**

**Sponsor:** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
**Where:** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Facility  
123 West Alvarado St., Fallbrook, CA 92028

**Hours:** 9 AM – 4 PM

**Admission and Parking:** Free.

**Web:** <https://www.fgms.org>

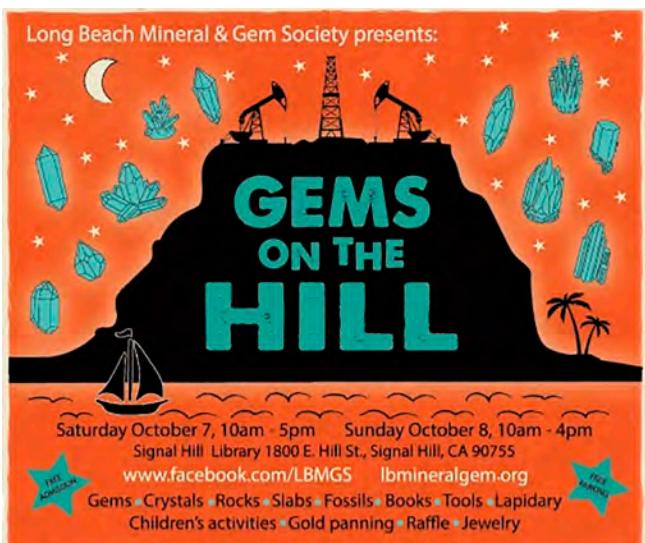
Join us for a Festival of Gems, Fossils, and Minerals with over 40 vendors of crystals, jewelry, mineral specimens, gemstones, unusual

**JOHN E. GARSOW**

**gems & minerals**

September 8 – 16, 2023  
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](http://www.johngarsow.com)



gift items, Gem ID, bargain booth, lapidary rough and cut, wheel of fortune, kids activities, food booth, plus a raffle of spectacular prizes!

**21–22 SANTA ROSA, CA – SRMGS 46th Annual Mineral & Gem Show**

**Sponsor:** Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society  
**Where:** The Veterans Memorial

1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**Hours:** Sat and Sun 10 AM – 5 PM

**Admission:** Adult \$6.00 (\$5.00 w/ coupon), Children under 12 Free.

**Parking:** Free

**Contact:** Jolene [jolene4srmgs@gmail.com](mailto:jolene4srmgs@gmail.com)

**Web:** [srmgs.org](http://srmgs.org)

Dealers from all over California, Nevada and Oregon. There will be games and crafts for the kids, a fun Raffle, Gold Panning, member display cases, special exhibits (fluorescent rocks this year), rock identification, plus lots more.

**21 WEST HILLS, CA – WHRC Gem Show**

**Sponsor:** Woodland Hills Rock Chippers

**Where:** First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way, Woodland Hills, CA 91307

**Hours:** 10 AM – 5 PM

**Admission:** Free

**Contact:** [whrc@rockchippers.org](mailto:whrc@rockchippers.org)

**Web:** [rockchippers.org](http://rockchippers.org)

Our next show will feature Dealers, Displays, a Country Store, Silent Auctions, Games, Rocks, Fossils, and Demonstrations. There will be free Hourly Drawings, and a Prize Raffle that is held during our show. The Two Raffle Grand Prizes are \$50.00 each, with many other prizes. Tickets for the Prize Raffle can be purchased at the show, ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

**28–29 Orange, CA – 53rd Annual Opal, Gem & Jewelry Show**

**Sponsor:** American Opal Society

**Where:** Velvet Rose Event Center

300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 92868

**Hours:** Sat 10 AM – 6 PM, Sun 10 AM – 5 PM

**Contact:** 714-501-9959 or [info@opalsociety.org](mailto:info@opalsociety.org)

**Web:** <http://opalsociety.org>

Rough & cut opals and gemstones, jewelry, supplies. Huge drawing. Free demonstrations.

**NOVEMBER .....**

**4 Lake Elsinore, CA – 3rd Annual Winter Festival Rock & Craft Show**

**Sponsor:** Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society

# GEM DIEGO

San Diego's finest gem mineral show

**October 28 – 29, 2023**

9:30 AM – 5 PM (Sat) | 10 AM – 4 PM (Sun)

**Liberty Station Conference Center**

2600 Laning Road ♦ San Diego, CA 92106

FREE ADMISSION ♦ FREE PARKING ♦ PUBLIC WELCOME



San Diego Mineral & Gem Society | [sdmg.org](http://sdmg.org)



**Where:** 32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

**Hours:** 10 AM – 4 PM

**Contact:** 909-208-6956 or [berylman50@aol.com](mailto:berylman50@aol.com)

A wide variety of local vendors, plus fossils and minerals.

**10–12 Costa Mesa, CA – West Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show – Fall**

**Sponsor:** LLD Productions Inc.

**Venue:** Holiday Inn – Orange County Airport  
2726 South Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

**Hours:** Fri and Sat 10 AM – 6 PM

Sun 10 AM – 5 PM

**Admission:** Free. Public welcome.

**Customer Parking:** Free parking at Holiday Inn Orange County Airport

**Web:** [www.mineralshowslld.com](http://www.mineralshowslld.com)

80 vendors dealers, wholesale and retail featuring gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, meteorites, decorator items, lapidary, and more. (Resale certificate needed for admission to wholesale.)

## *Public Lands* *Rockhounding: Front page LA Times, above the fold*

by Lisbet Thoresen, SDMG public lands rep.

**L**OS ANGELES TIMES staff writer **Louis Sahagun** wrote a feature story this past July on the potential demise of rockhounding in Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees the monument's 1.6 million acres, whose western boundary is located 45 miles east of Barstow and forms a keystone block of land surrounded by the Twentynine Palms U.S. Marine Corps base and federal lands on three sides. Sahagun's front page article (<https://bit.ly/mtnmlat0729>) coincided with BLM officially commencing the drafting of a management plan, which will constrain what activities are permissible in the monument. A 60-day comment period inviting public input on what should go into the plan ended on July 5th.

**Sahagun's** article lays out in stark terms what rockhounds stand to lose, if BLM decides to define their hobby as mining instead of a recreational activity. Casual collecting, or rockhounding, in the United States dates back to the early 20th century. In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the U.S. Bureau of Mines actively encouraged the hobby. The campaign proved wildly successful. Gem mineral societies like SDMG proliferated all over the country. In Southern California, it spawned generations of mineral enthusiasts who ventured into the dramatic desert landscape to explore its unique geology and thrill at discovering first hand its beautiful and varied minerals. Early life experiences that included going on field trips turned many young people into avid hobbyists. For others, it provided the catalyst that set them on career paths in the earth sciences including geology and mineralogy and also conservation.

## The long tradition of casual collecting on BLM-managed lands may come to an end soon

BLM has begun work on drafting a monument management plan for Mojave Trails that will define permissible activities going forward. It appears that BLM is contemplating redefining casual collecting as mining, despite having defined it previously as a low-impact recreational activity. Accommodation of casual collecting and rules for it are enshrined under authority of several federal laws including but not limited to the **Federal Land Policy and Management Act** of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701, et seq.) and the Final Rule (2022) of the **Paleontological Resources Act** of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 470aaa et seq., see: 87 FR 47329). The relevant passages are recorded in **Title 43 CFR** including Sec. 8365.1-5; and **Subtitle A Part 49**, see especially 49.810.

# Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS • 2020

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020

latimes.com

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

**My search of hell on Earth for a story haunts me**

By Heather Doerr

At 1 a.m. in Mirrored, I thought I knew death.

In the dark, the temperature was 100 degrees, and my "parental" nose would tell me I was about to die. But the sounds of Bobcat Plush's snoring were louder.

An amateur at rock-hunting, I thought I knew everything — that the desert was a place where the temperature could rise 100 degrees, within 10 feet of the ground, and that the world around you could be a dark, silent, featureless and prickly hell.

But never fear, I thought. I had a plan. I had a rock. I had a rock hammer. And when the temperature reached 100 degrees, within 10 feet of the ground, I would retreat to the valley of death.

It was the heat of hell. But the heat of hell had a name. That shiny orange rock, and the sweat, and the heat, and the desire to leave.

As a reporter who has written about the death of millions of wildfires, floods and other natural disasters, I've seen it all. And I've seen it all, sometimes twice, sometimes three times, and more.

Once, I was writing about a wildfire that had killed 100 people. I drove to the front. I thought I was there to report. I was there to see the fire, or the smoke, or the heat. But the heat is its own, and it's the heat that makes it hell. That's what I mean when I say it was the heat of hell.

I was interviewing a man who had been working on the southern edge of the fire. He was sweating, and he was breathing hard, and he was sweating, and he was breathing hard, and he was sweating, and he was breathing hard. All though it was just after 8 a.m., the temperature was 100 degrees, and he was sweating, and he was breathing hard.

Heck, damn, it was 100 degrees. I asked him a few questions, and he was sweating, and he was breathing hard, and he was sweating, and he was breathing hard.

By the time I finished, he was sweating, and he was breathing hard.

PHOTO BY HEATHER DOERR FOR THE LATIMES

**GERONIMO LOMBARD**, an amateur rock collector, examines a specimen in the Early Mammal in Mojave Trade National Monument, where the removal of rocks and minerals is prohibited.

## Rockhounds fight for access to their jewel in the desert

BLM considering a move to declare rock collecting a form of mining

By Louis Sahagun

Los Angeles Times

NATIONAL PARKS/OUTDOORS CALIF.

If dried-out, world-class rock specimens are to be found in the vast, arid, bone-dry terrain, he's prepared to set out safety harness in hand, and to use a range of high-end dry rock-hunting equipment.

The rockhounds who are on the southern fringes of the Carrizo Mountains in the Carrizo Plain National Monument are not the only ones who have the urge to plunder them and their mineral wealth.

"This place is as good as it gets," says Geronimo Lombard, a 40-year-old geologist and amateur mineralogist based in Quartzsite, Arizona.

But that may not be the case for much longer.

A federal agency next month may whether to prohibit the removal of rocks and minerals from the Carrizo Plain National Monument (see sidebar, page 1).

**GERONIMO LOMBARD** and **LINDA CRAMELL**, the long-term rockhunting couple, look at a specimen they found in the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

**Summer brings a rise in COVID cases**

It's too early to tell whether this is a significant health concern, experts say.

By Brian Gorman LKT

Summer has brought an increase in COVID-19 cases in California, but experts say it's too early to tell whether the opening represents a new, sustained peak in the state's daily health metrics.

The increase in new COVID-19 hospital admissions for the past two weeks has been accompanied with the previous two weeks of new daily cases and hospitalizations, which remain near record levels, according to state data.

Hospitalizations are on the rise in Los Angeles, Orange, Fresno, Placer and Sacramento counties, but not in San Joaquin, where they have fallen.

"There are doubtless many reasons for this increase in the stability that we've enjoyed, but the most likely is the weather," says Dr. Mark Ghaly, director of the California Health and Human Services Agency.

"As the weather gets warmer, people are going to the beach and the pools and the parks, and that's where the virus is transmitted."

The extent of the increase in new daily cases, hospitalizations and new daily deaths is not yet clear, but the latest numbers are more largely consistent with the latest iteration of a test-timing model developed by the University of California, Berkeley, which has been used to predict last month's peak in new daily cases and other metrics since March.

California health officials have been tracking upward trends in new daily cases and hospitalizations since early July. For the week ending Monday, July 13, the state's cumulative total of new daily cases reached 10,000, the first time people are getting sick — or are at least detected

## **U.S. Tells Gem Hunters: Leave No Stone Unturned**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (P)—An estimated total of 50,000 children and adults last year picked up gem stones in the United States with an estimated value of more than \$500,000.

Reporting this today, the Bureau of Mines said it encouraged the rock hunting. This bureau said it was a hobby that was resulting in a rapid increase in amateur gem-stone cutting.

It says the week-end treasure hunts sooner or later may lead to a "find" of an important strategic mineral, such as manganese or nickel.

"With thousands of people out looking, the chances of uncovering a significant deposit certainly are increased," said one bureau engineer.

The bureau also recalled that a few years ago one treasure hunter found a massive jade boulder in California. After cutting, it was estimated to be worth about \$25,000.

**The New York Times**  
Published: January 16, 1956  
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January 16, 1956 – US Tells  
Gem Hunters Leave No Stone  
Unturned. Source: © 2023 The  
New York Times.

**Rockhounds are not asking BLM to create new rules.  
The message to BLM about casual collecting  
in Mojave Trails is simple:**

We are asking BLM to write into the monument management plan its multiple-use mandate based on its previously defined rules for casual collecting under authority of existing laws and DRECP.

In 2016, the largest land use plan amendment in California state history known as the **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)** gave rockhounds continued access to all the collecting areas they asked for in Southern California's deserts including in Mojave Trails. The California Energy Commission (CEC) and BLM were co-administrators of **DRECP**. It is inexplicable that this long-range land use plan amendment would have validated rockhounding within the footprint of Mojave Trails only to have BLM reverse itself and forbid rockhounding a few years later when the agency finally drafted a management plan for the monument.

High public interest like that shown for **DRECP** may influence BLM's decision on Mojave Trails.<sup>[1]</sup> At 1.6 million acres, it is the third largest land-based national monument in the lower 48 states. It is also Southern California's crown jewel of hobby collecting areas. If you care about the adverse precedent BLM could set in California and extend as a standard applicable to public lands nationwide, click and share the Los Angeles Times article and drop a note to the LA Times editor at: [www.latimes.com/opinion/submit-letter-to-the-editor](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/submit-letter-to-the-editor).

1. BLM-CEC received more than 12,000 letters on DRECP during the comment period ending February 23, 2015, with many coming from rockhound advocates. According to BLM's Victoria Campbell, in a conference call on September 13, 2016 (the day before the Record of Decision on DRECP was signed), the many letters from rockhounds influenced the decision to give rockhounds every single accommodation they requested.

Read SDMG's comment letter to the BLM on its management plan for Mojave Trails at: <https://bit.ly/mtmmp-sdmg-final>.

Sign up to SDMG's mailing list at <https://bit.ly/sdmg-signup> to receive updates on Mojave Trails (check all the boxes that apply to your interests; don't forget, you will receive a verification email from Constant Contact containing a link to activate your enrollment). Questions on this topic can be directed to [editor@sdmg.org](mailto:editor@sdmg.org).

Cite this article (online): L. Thoresen. 29 July 2023. Rockhounding: Front page LA Times, above the fold. San Diego Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. Available online at: <https://www.sdmg.org/articles/202307/Rockhounding-LATimes-front-page/> or short URL: <https://bit.ly/rock072923>.

May 6, 1956 – You can be a week-end gem hunter, by Thomas H. Miller, Director, Federal Bureau of Mines. © 2023 Los Angeles Times. One of several articles that appeared in major newspapers in the 1950s courtesy of a federal effort to stoke public interest in hobby collecting.



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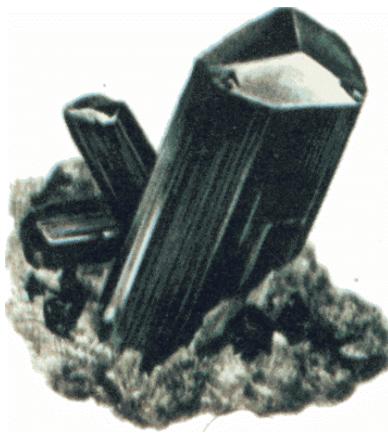
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**FALL 2023 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**  
**September 11 – December 22, 2023**

**Signing up for classes:** Prospective students must contact the instructor prior to attending a workshop; click on the instructor's name in the schedule below to send an email message. (If you have trouble with the links, please email [school@sdmg.org](mailto:school@sdmg.org), we'd be happy to help facilitate contact with an instructor.)

**Class fees:** **Adults:** \$6 per 3-hour class. \$8 per class if longer than 3 hours. **Juniors:** \$1 per class. Cash or checks only, please. Instructors may require prepayment of class fees per class, month, or semester.

✓ Classes are open to SDMG members only: Sign up or renew membership at:  
<https://sdmg.org/sdmg-membership/> – Or – in person during Society hours.

✓ Students must read and follow the School Rules, available in the classroom and online at:  
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<b>FACETING</b>	Wed	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<a href="#">Mike Harkelroad</a>
	Wed	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Tim Sandiford</a>
	Thu	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Bill Brisebois</a>
<b>ADV. FACETING</b>	Wed	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Donna Beers</a>
<b>BEG. METALS FABRICATION</b>	Sun	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Miguel Asmar</a>
	Sun	3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<a href="#">Miguel Asmar</a>
	Mon	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Al Puente</a>
	Tue	3:00pm – 6:00 pm	<a href="#">Yvonne Juarez</a>
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	Thu	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<a href="#">Bud Green</a>
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	Thu	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Ellen Riceman</a>
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	Wed	3:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Miguel Asmar</a>
	Fri	7:00pm – 9:00 pm	<a href="#">Rich Yarborough</a>
<b>ROCK CARVING</b>	Mon	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	<a href="#">LuAnn Benton</a>
<b>SPHERE MAKING</b>	Sat	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<a href="#">Paul Williams</a>
<b>JUNIORS</b>	Sat	9:30am – 12:30pm	<a href="#">Dave Smith</a>

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\*\* Please use [info@sdmg.org](mailto:info@sdmg.org) to contact anyone without an email address shown above \*\*  
A number after a name means there is more than one contact person  
for a position (e.g., Bill Brisebois, Faceting Lead (1 of 2)).

## SDMG Membership...

### New Applications & Renewals for 2023–2024

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 2023–2024 will expire on June 30, 2024.

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](http://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/](http://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.

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	27	28	29	30	31	1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	SDMG Board Mtg 7PM Virtua	26	27	28	29	30 Gem Diego Exhibitor Deadline <a href="https://bit.ly/gd2023exhapp">https://bit.ly/ gd2023exhapp</a>
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