



# The Rockette

NOVEMBER 2017

A Publication of the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)

P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

## MEETING IN NOVEMBER

**Date: November 13, 7 pm**

Note that the meeting has been moved up a week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. And it is a class covering

### **Basic Wire Wrapping**

In Lieu of a meeting.

Same location as the meetings, the Redwood City CAB Building,



If you've ever been interested in learning how to wrap a cabochon and create a lovely pendant, this is your opportunity. We will be using copper wire because it is perfect for beginners to work with.

Cost is either \$10 or \$15 depending upon the stone you choose. You may not bring your own stone, however if you prefer to bring your own tools you certainly may. All instruction, tools and supplies are provided.

Guests are welcome. First come, first served and space is limited to 20. For those members who already have wire wrapping experience, please join us and help the students. All proceeds will help the club pay for supplies to continue offering future classes. We will also be offering tool kits to get people started on their own at a discounted price of \$20.

For more information or to reserve your place, please contact Catherine at [Catherinef@fraseradv.com](mailto:Catherinef@fraseradv.com).

### **Christmas party**

Mark your calendars for Monday, December 18 at 6! The folks at PGGG will be joining us for great conversations, Rock Bingo, a great entree created by Chef Paul Rose (this years' theme is Italian) and everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish, salad, appetizer or dessert to share. We will also be collecting donations to assist St. Anthony's mission in our community. Please bring prizes to donate to the bingo table.

### **SGMS Mission Statement**

The Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society serves the community by providing education in the Earth Sciences and training in the lapidary arts and, in doing so, promotes ethical behavior, sound resource stewardship, and good fellowship. The Society fulfills its mission through year-round offerings of field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.

Member of:  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
North Bay Field Trip Association

Exchange bulletins are welcome. You are free to reprint if credit or citation is noted.

Everyone likes the fact that you can get a little space and sell your wares! If you would be interested, please contact Cathy at [catphalen@comcast.net](mailto:catphalen@comcast.net).

## **TIPS AND TRICKS**

Peter H. Adams

For those of us who cut rocks, we have all had to deal with a rock that is forever glued to a block of wood. So, how to get that rock unstuck without breaking the rock or relying upon some friendly termites? Soaking generally works. But sometimes, we forget to glue some paper between the rock and the wood. Then, the two are not likely to come unglued. So, what to do?

Here is a solution that some of us probably already thought of doing. Put the rock/wood in a bucket of water. Leave the rock/wood completely covered in water there for 4 days or until you can see that the wood is completely soaked. Then, take the rock/wood out. Check to see if the rock will come away from the wood. If not, put the rock/wood in a paper bag and put the bag in the microwave. Nuke the bag for 1 minute. This time works well for small pieces of wood, such as piece of 2 by 4 by 3 inches. The water in the wood heats up the glue. The glue becomes gooey but pliable. I was able to handle the wood almost immediately after the microwave stopped. I peeled off the rock without too much effort. If the rock is very likely to crack, be especially careful. If you try this idea and it does not work for you, please contact me. I have only tried this idea once, and it worked for me.

## **Sad news to relay from the Portland Regional 2017 show.**

Montana Gems, Inc. was robbed of their entire inventory while at dinner. Randy and Katie Gneiting had left the Fairplex and were on their way to another show. They stopped to eat and their car was broken into. All of the cases with inventory were taken. This would have been Sunday, October 15, after 5:00pm when the show closed.

Montana Gems, Inc. is best known for their Montana Yogo sapphires. Their inventory is valued at over \$300,000.00 and was collected over 40 years of their lives.

Detective Patrick Brady of the Hillsboro Police Department is in charge of the investigation for this crime. If you have any information - saw or heard anything suspicious during the show or at the end during tear down - please contact him. He can be reached at 503.615.3444 (his direct line). The case number is 17-08625. Please refer to the case number if you contact him. Be on the lookout at shows you attend.

## **October Meeting Notes**

Lots of great stuff on sale from the Bruce Short collection. We were fortunate to have his widow, Charlotte Short, join our meeting and provide information about some of the stones, as well as Bruce's life.

Bruce was raised in Arizona and graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson then began a mining career as a ventilation engineer for the Magma Mine in Superior. He also worked a small lead mine with his brother at one time. He later became a consultant and travelled quite a bit. He was able to collect a lot of material over the years and learned lapidary from our own Preston Bingham. Bruce was quite prolific in grinding stones and

silver smithing, making several unusual pieces. We appreciate the donation to our club of all of his stones and equipment.

## **USGS Lecture:**

**Thursday, November 30 @ 7:00 PM**

## **Sea Otters: Confessions of a Keystone Carnivore**

**by Tim Tinker, USGS Research Wildlife Biologist**

Sea otters are perhaps the best-known example of a "keystone predator".

Sea otter behavior -- in particular diet specialization and limited mobility -- can mediate their effects on ecosystem dynamics.

Other predators, especially large sea stars, can complement and reinforce the keystone role of sea otters: this became apparent with the loss of all sea stars from wasting disease.

If you can't make it to the evening lecture, you can join at noon for the preview.

[Rambo Auditorium/Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park \(map and directions\)](#)

SGMS: Unless specified, the meetings will be held at the usual place, The Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society holds its General Meetings from 7-9pm on the third Monday of the month (with exceptions for holidays, or during July and December). Each meeting features a presentation, raffle drawings for specimens, a member Show & Tell, and access to the club library. **Guests are welcome to join us!**

Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062

If you would like to contact any of our officers, please see our website for their information.

## **Membership:**

Dues will not increase for 2018. \$25 for individuals and \$40 for a family. Please be prepared to pay your dues by December. Thanks.

## **OFFICERS**

**President & Web Mistress: Valerie Concello**

**Vice President, NBFT Director & Rockette Editor: Catherine Fraser**

**Treasurer: Doug Gottschlich**

**Secretary: Susan Abellera**

**CFMS- Paul Rose**

**Show Chair: Bill Spence and Bob Simms**

**Programs and Classes: Open**

**Field Trips: Ben Nagler, Doug G, Chuck Trantham**

**Membership, Sunshine and more: Cathy Phalen**

**Library & Historian: Preston Bingham and Cathy Phalen**

**Happy Thanksgiving to All of You!**