



# The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



**Gem, Mineral, Geological Education and Experience**

**February 2016**

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## Upcoming Events

**Mar 7**

Grab bag sewing 9:00 am

**Mar 17**

Club Meeting 7:00 pm

**Mar 26**

Grab Bag Filling

**April 2**

Grab Bag Filling

**April 8**

Show set up 1:00 pm with  
pot luck afterwards

**April 9 & 10**

Helena Gem and Mineral  
Show

## *A Word from the President*

Are you ready for the mineral show! Our annual Gem and Mineral show is just around the corner; April 9th and 10th. Your help is needed to make this event happen. Every little bit helps, starting with setting up on Friday at 1:00pm (don't forget the potluck afterwards) and then helping throughout the show. Even if you only have a couple hours to give on Saturday or Sunday, we can use your help. There are many options for you to contribute!

Greeting people and selling tickets at the entrance is a lot of fun. Introducing kids to the world of rocks and minerals they win at the ball toss game or helping them hunt for garnets is very rewarding. You can also help kids and adults alike as they learn to identify the minerals they find in grab bags. Don't forget the Fluorescent mineral display and Silent Auction are great opportunities to learn new things and share your knowledge.

Speaking of grab bags, you are invited to attend a grab bag sewing get-together at Dave & Natalie Jordan's house on March 7th at 9 am, 424 W Lawrence, in Helena. Please let Natalie know at 444-0348 if you can help. Material for bags is also needed. Non transparent material like printed cotton bed sheets is best. Please no heavy material like terry cloth or corduroy.

Then at 9:00am on March 26th, everyone is invited to meet at Wayne Waters house to fill grab bags. We can use many small, roughly 1/2 inch to 2 inch, minerals, polished rocks or fossils to fill the bags. Bring as many as you can spare. If you can't attend, please get them to Wayne ahead of time.

Have you considered setting up a display case? We still have cases available. If you have any questions about display cases, call Gary Parisi at 442-1226.

I hope to see you all at the show. What a fantastic way to kick off a season of rock hounding! -Martin

## **World's Largest Sapphire Worth More Than \$100 Million Discovered in Sri Lanka**

(Originally published: January 7, 2016, by Sean Breslin)

**Presented 1/21/2016 by Carolyn DeMartino HMS Historian**

A large sapphire with an estimated value of at least \$100 million has been discovered in Sri Lanka, and now the man who made the purchase will have to decide what he'll do with it next.

Weighing 1,404.49 carats, the blue, oval-shaped gem is about the size of your palm, according to Reuters. The stone was mined from the country's Ratnapura district and has been verified by the National Gem and Jewelry Authority of Sri Lanka as the largest sapphire in the world, the report added.



The record-breaking sapphire is pictured here. (Screenshot via Reuters video)

"I was a bundle of nerves when I was told that it's the biggest blue star sapphire in the world," the man, who requested to remain anonymous, told Ceylon Today.

Now, he must decide whether he will sell the historic find or put it on display in a museum. It'll be a tough decision either way – some gemologists said the sapphire could sell for up to \$175 million, Mining.com reported.

He told the BBC that he purchased the stone, suspecting that it might be the largest ever discovered, but did not disclose the price he paid for it. Once gemologists took a closer look, they confirmed that it was slightly larger than the previous world record sapphire, which weighed 1,395 carats.

According to the BBC, the sapphire was named "Star of Adam" because of a belief that when Adam was sent away from the Garden of Eden, he went to Sri Lanka.

# Thank-You!

For a long time, Wayne Waters has been spreading the news about rock collecting to children and adults alike. A big thank-you to Wayne for having a long-term, positive impact on the community. Your continuing enthusiasm is admirable and we hope you will be inspiring everyone for years to come.

**Helena Mineral Society  
Officers for 2015-2016**

**President**

Martin Landry  
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**Vice-president**

Sally Caputo  
458-5862

**Secretary**

Open

**Membership Chairman**

Sally Brooks

**Treasurer**

Teri Smith  
449-2454

**Member-at-Large**

Gene Hodge  
442-9704

**Historian**

Carolyn De Martino

**Field Trip Chairman**

Wayne Waters

**Show Chairman**

Gary Parisi  
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**Program Chairman**

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443-0348

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**Stuff n Things For Sale**

Leland Stanford has the following for sale.

1. The book,  
***Calcite: The Mineral with the Most Forms (ExtraLapis English, No.4)*** \$35.00
2. ***Bounty Hunter Gold Digger Metal Detector*** with ear phones, no manual.

This will be auctioned off by bids starting at \$150.00 and sent by mail to:

Leland Stanford  
150 Lincoln Road West  
Helena, MT 59602

Best offer over \$150.00 wins.  
Any questions please call 458-1129

Annette Stockdale is selling a  
***Facetron Faceting Machine***. For more  
information please call 406-461-8167

Sharon Liederman has a ***Mineral Collection*** for sale. The collection includes many nice Montana, African, Mexican and other specimens from around the world.  
Contact her at 458-816 or leroyspuds@yahoo.com to view the specimens and price list.

## Club Meetings

**The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Neighborhood Center, 200 S. Cruse Ave the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. There is no regular meeting for the month of December. See you there! Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome.**

## Classified Ads

To place a classified ad, please see me in person at one of our regular meetings or you may e-mail me (Sally) with your information at sbrooks245@aol.com. Your ad will run in the newsletter for that month only unless specifically requested to run longer.

## Pictures and Articles Needed

If you have a picture that you want to share, please send it to me, along with a short description of the activity, where it took place, and when, and I'll put it in the newsletter. If you'd like to share your field trip adventures with those members who are unable to attend, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Just e-mail me your experiences, and I'll make sure they're entered. Remember, this is your newsletter, and your contributions make it better. Please have all items submitted no later than the Monday following the Club meeting.

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