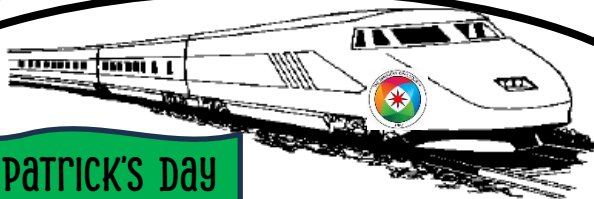


The Opal Express

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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WELCOME NEW
MEMBER(S):



President's Message

Hi Opalholics!

For those who missed the meeting we will have a booth at the OC Fair Imaginolgy April 12 and 13. It is a great event and it helps get the word out about our club and show. Please let Veronica or myself know if you would like to volunteer to help. I would love to see a great turn out from our club members.

Stan McCall
AOS President
Custom Creative Gem Cutting

March symbolizes
transformation and new growth



Editor's Note:

Found an interesting article (American Beauties) from the Tucson show guide I thought would be an interesting read.

See page(s)
3 and 4

Where are our international members from?

Please send answers to:

Aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com

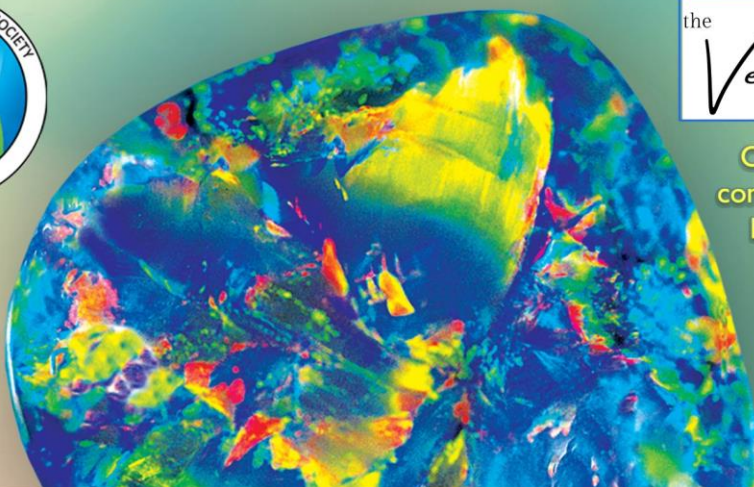
We are on
Facebook – Instagram – YouTube

American Opal Society





Opal photo
compliments of
Len Cram



55th Annual Opal Show October 18-19, 2025 Velvet Rose Event Center



American Opal Society proudly presents **55th Annual OPAL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW**

October 18th & 19th, 2025

Saturday 10AM - 6PM

Sunday 10AM - 5PM

!Fabulous Location!

Velvet Rose Event Center

300 S. Flower St., Orange, CA 2868

Opal and Gem Dealers from around the USA and beyond
Rough and Cut Opals, other gemstones, jewelry & supplies
Huge Drawing Grand Prize custom design by Stan McCall
Many other prizes: gemstones, jewelry, books, tools, surprises

Free Demonstrations gemstone cutting, jewelry making,
gemstone identification, faceting, gold panning and more!

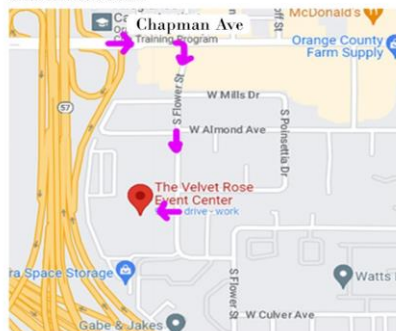
ADMISSION \$5.00 ADULTS

STUDENTS WITH ID & CHILDREN UNDER 15 FREE

FREE PARKING

American Opal Society, Inc.
PO Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
Contact: Veronica Purpura (714) 501-9959
info@opalsociety.org <http://opalsociety.org>
(dealer inquiries welcome)

DIRECTIONS: Exit Chapman from the 57 towards Orange. Turn onto Flower Street and go straight. Make a right into the venue just after passing Larkspur Drive. Parking lot is in the back. There is a church next door.



American Beauties

Six US Gems

By Katie Hacker

The Tucson gem, mineral, bead, and fossil shows feature gemstones and treasures from around the world, including many stones from the western United States. As you shop for gemstones this year, look for information about where the stones were mined. You might find they're from a place near where you live or enjoy visiting. In addition to bringing beauty to your collection, they may become meaningful mementos.

Many newly discovered stones have been launched in Tucson, as well as unusual or plentiful gemstones. Jeff Elvin, president of Dakota Stones, shares that many North American mines are rented or seasonal claims. He advises, "When miners find new rough material, they bring their finds down to Quartzsite, Arizona shows, which take place before the Tucson gem shows." Then, a vendor might take it to Tucson as part of their inventory. Every year is different as rocks and gems vary in availability.

Read on for an introduction to six of our favorite American stones, a jeweler's take on their significance. (Check out sidebar for metaphysical properties).

MONTANA SAPPHIRE

Found in the Treasure State, Montana sapphires come in a range of colors. They are second in hardness to diamonds, making them a popular choice for wedding and engagement rings. Montana sapphires are mined using ethical and environmental mining practices and they have a transparent supply chain, which makes them especially attractive to buyers looking for sustainable gems.

Gem cutter John Dyer says, "I was able to purchase an exceptionally large Montana sapphire. According to my research, it is the largest gem quality faceted Montana sapphire by a wide margin. So far, the largest faceted one I have been able to find info about is around 20 carats. This is HUGE for a Montana sapphire as the vast majority of rough will cut less than one carat. But the one I'm calling Montana Sun Sapphire tips the scale at 33 carats exactly!"

OREGON SUNSTONE

Sunstone is a type of feldspar, which is a large group of minerals that includes tourmaline, moonstone, and labradorite. It is found predominantly in the Pacific Northwest, and it is the Oregon State Gemstone. Oregon sunstone can exhibit different colors when viewed from different directions, which is called pleochroism. Its other key feature is the way light reflects off its unique structure.

Dyer thinks it is "cool to cut American gems, as I also was born in the USA (as they were) so there is that emotional connection for me and many of the buyers," says Dyer. "Interestingly it is not only American buyers who prefer American gems. One of the biggest markets for American mined gems is Japan. They are strong buyers of smaller Oregon sunstones, Montana sapphires and tourmalines from California.

CALIFORNIA TOURMALINE

Colorful tourmalines are found in many places throughout the world, including San Diego County, California. Mining began there in 1892 and has resulted in an abundance of colorful stones from rosy California Pink to pink and green Watermelon tourmaline.

In over a century of gem mining, San Diego County is a North American destination for gem and jewelry professionals. The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) is based in San Diego and provides industry experts with knowledge, standards, and education in gems and jewelry including its local California Tourmaline.

BISBEE TURQUOISE

The Bisbee Mine in southern Arizona has been closed since the mid 1970s, and its spectacular blue stones with dramatic red-brown matrix are in high demand. It has a special appeal at the Tucson shows because it is very collectible and because Tucson visitors enjoy owning a piece of turquoise from the area.

Artist Jeff Fulkerson loves turquoise in every color and pattern. He advises, "There are turquoise mines all over the American Southwest, almost too numerous to count. Some are still active, most are closed. Some of the mines produced incredible amounts of turquoise: some were one-man operations and produced very little. But just like people, it's the quality of the stone that counts. So much of the turquoise on the market now is treated in some way. That bothers some people, and others have no clue and don't care. With turquoise, as with friends, I want the genuine article."

TIFFANY STONE

Western Utah is the exclusive location of Tiffany Stone, also known as opalized fluorite or opalite. It is comprised of several minerals including fluorite, opal, quartz, chalcedony, and others that grow in nodules. The purple and white color is highlighted by a dark and sometimes silver matrix. Tiffany Stone is extracted from a beryllium mine, where the focus is on the light-weight beryllium metal and not on the jewelry grade Tiffany Stone. The stones hardness on the Mohs scale ranges from 4 to 7 depending on the combination of minerals making up the nodule. Some jewelry artists recommend caution when setting the stone since it may be easy to scratch, or at least taking care to test the hardness before you use your Tiffany Stone to make jewelry.

DINOSAUR BONE

Fossilized dinosaur bone is primarily found throughout the western United States. Prized specimens are agatized, with quartz crystals giving them a colorful, shiny appearance. Intricate patterns are revealed when the agatized bone is cut and polished. Fulkerson is fascinated by fossilized dinosaur bone because he loves the colors and link to the past. He has made many designs using dinosaur bone, including a ring that was originally for himself until his wife wanted it. (That ring became a set with a matching bracelet. As Fulkerson says, "Happy wife, happy life.")

CRYSTAL THERAPY

There are many ways to appreciate rocks and gems, and they have long been believed to contain or enhance healing metaphysical attributes. Here are a few common characteristics:

Montana Sapphire have a mystical quality that brings tranquility to the wearer. They enhance creativity and promote emotional wellbeing.

Oregon Sunstone reflects the power of sunshine to enhance the wearer's mood. It is believed to increase optimism and harmony.

California Tourmaline is used to alleviate emotional pain and heartache. It helps with stress and anxiety relief.

Bisbee Turquoise is sacred to Native American communities, where it is used in ceremonies and promotes healing. It offers protection and positivity to anyone who wears it.

Tiffany Stone stimulates spiritual growth and linking to a higher consciousness. Assists with clarity of the mind and spirit.

Dinosaur Bone promotes grounding, connection to ancestors, and enhancing intuition.

ROCKHOUNDING REMINDERS

Tips for Successful Opal Hunting

For those interested in gem mining and rockhounding, these locations provide excellent opportunities to discover and collect opal while enjoying the natural beauty of the region. Here are some tips for a successful opal hunting experience:

- **Come Prepared:** Bring the right tools, such as rock hammers, chisels, safety glasses, and sturdy gloves.
- **Patience and Perseverance:** Finding opal can take time, so be patient and persistent in your search.
- **Learn the Terrain:** Familiarize yourself with the mining site and its specific rules and regulations.
- **Take Breaks:** Mining can be physically demanding, so take regular breaks to rest and stay hydrated.
- **Respect the Environment:** Always follow the "leave no trace" principles to preserve the natural beauty of the area.

Whether you're a seasoned gem hunter or a novice rockhound, the thrill of finding opal is an unforgettable experience. These beautiful and unique crystals offer a tangible connection to the geological history of the region and provide a rewarding hobby for enthusiasts of all ages.

<https://www.rockhounding.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reader: If your organization has an opal or rockhound-related event, please email particulars to info@opalsociety.org. Upcoming Event listings will be included at the discretion of The Opal Express editor as space and scheduling permit.

Shows for 2025

March 1-2, 2025 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura CA 93003
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
62nd Annual VGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Kids' activities; jewelry-making demos; exhibits; raffle prizes, hourly silent auctions; dealers in fossils, mineral, lapidary materials; gold panning, Second-Hand Treasures Store of gently used items, books, and plants.
Free admission but the Fairgrounds charges parking if using the Fairgrounds lot.
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 7-9, 2024 – Stoddard Wells, CA

Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
1-15 toward Barstow. EXIT #157, stay on Stoddard Wells Road.
Follow the signs 7 miles to tailgate
Hours: Daily 9 M – 5 PM
49th Annual Show; Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Annual Stoddard Wells Tailgate; Friday-Sunday 95p; Free to vendors and public; Vendors offering slabs and cabs, findings and equipment, minerals and fossils, rough material, handcrafted and faceted jewelry. Family field trip on Saturday 9a-1p at local collecting site.
Contact: Dave Duncan (831) 406-0214, president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgmc.org>

Mother Lode Mineral Society Rock & Gem Show - 03/08/2025

Start Date: 03/08/2025
End Date: 03/09/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: Turlock Fairgrounds
Address: 900 North Broadway Ave
Turlock, CA 95380
Website: <http://www.turlockgemshow.com>

San Francisco Crystal Fair – 03/08/2025

Start Date: 03/08/2025
End Date: 03/09/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: San Francisco County Fair Building
San Francisco, CA 94122
Website: <http://www.crystalfair.com/>

Lemoore Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show – 03/15/2025

Start Date: 03/15/2025
End Date: 03/16/2025
Hours: Sat. 10-6 Sun. 10-4
Venue: Lemoore Trinity Association Hall
Address: 470 Champion St
Lemoore, Ca. 93245
Website: <http://lemooregemandmineralclub.org/>

Santa Clara Gem & Mineral Show - 03/15/2025

Start Date: 03/15/2025
End Date: 03/16/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
Address:
344 Tully Rd
San Jose, CA
Website: <http://www.scvgms.org>

Fresno Gem & Mineral Show – 03/21/2025

Start Date: 03/21/2025
End Date: 03/23/2025
Hours: Fri/Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: Clovis CA Rodeo Grounds
Address: 748 Rodeo Dr.
Clovis, CA 93612
Website: <http://fgms.rocks/>

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Show – 03/22/2025

Start Date: 03/22/2025
End Date: 03/23/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: Calaveras County Fairgrounds
Address: Gun Club Rd.
Angels Camp, CA 95222
Website: <http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org/>

Joshua Tree Gem & Mineral Show – 04/02/2025

Start Date: 04/02/2025
End Date: 04/06/2025
Hours: Wed-Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 9:00-4:00
Venue: Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground
Address: 2601 Sunfair Rd
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1620716395007100>



Be sure to visit your local gem and mineral shows. It's a great way to learn about these natural wonders and meet other people who have a passion for this fascinating hobby.

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES	AMOUNT PAID
DUES: SELECT ONE	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35.00	
	NEW MEMBERS	\$45.00	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$15.00	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$10.00	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your First Badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$15.00	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:
American Opal Society; PO BOX 4875; Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
To pay via PayPal, please visit the [PayPal](#) page. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org
You may pay with a Credit Card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. If paying by PayPal, please download, complete and send this application form by mail to the address above or email to AOS Treasurer aos.treasurer.02@opalsociety.org

NAME		
BUSINESS NAME		
ADDRESS		APT # or PO BOX
CITY		STATE
ZIP or POSTAL CODE		COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()	FAX ()
E-MAIL		
WEBSITE		
OCCUPATION		HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership directory once per year in its Newsletter, the Opal Express. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information that you want listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____ Date _____

The Opal Express is published monthly by The American Opal Society. Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. Non-Commercial Reprint Permission Granted Unless Otherwise Reserved. Please address all inquires and exchange newsletters to: Editor American Opal Society, Inc. P.O. Box 4875 Garden Grove, Ca. 92842-4875 E-mail: aos.newsletter.03@gmail.com	Are Your Dues Due Now? <u>PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL or NEWSLETTER E-MAIL.</u> There should be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue. A warning will be stated if you are overdue. A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, however, that as the system is now set up, if your renewal is not received you will be <u>AUTOMATICALLY</u> dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current. Thank you, The Editor (revised 06/23/24)
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The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume 58, Issue 3

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

3rd Thursday of the Month

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Anaheim Community Center

250 E. Center Street

Anaheim, CA 92805



TO:

Meeting – Thursday, March 20, 2025

at the Anaheim Community Center

Social Time: 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.



General Meeting Location at:

Anaheim Downtown Community Center

250 E. Center Street

Anaheim, CA 92805

**Next meeting will be Thursday, March 20, 2025 at the
Anaheim Downtown Community Center**

**→ Social Time: 6:30 p.m. ←
General Meeting - Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.**

American Opal Society

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>
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YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegTIH1IEyO7y8wdqvRfyUA?view_as=subscriber

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