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56th annual Gem and Mineral Show features new venue, nationwide vendors

By La'Erica Conner-Sims Today's News-Herald
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For almost 60 years, the Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society has showcased its devoted rock community. On Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15, the nonprofit hosts its 56th annual Gem and Mineral Show.

President Elley Ringo is producing this year's show and expects more than 36 vendors from across the Southwest. The annual show benefits scholarships for high schoolers entering earth sciences and related degrees. Ringo said raffle baskets available at the event support the students' fund.

She estimated that 2,000 people attend the nonprofit's yearly show. Attendees this year will notice a venue change, as the show spans Lake Havasu State Park.

Ringo said the event takes place at the Windsor Beach overflow lot and features daily activities.

“The show creates a sense of community for those who love rocks, the outdoors and the minerals that our earth has,” Ringo said.

Attendees can browse new and returning vendors, including the Pleiades Fluorite Mine, Gemtique and Ringo’s Elley Knows Rocks.

Ringo said gem-cutting demonstrations take place on Saturday, with a mobile petting zoo on Sunday. The show includes a silent auction, food trucks and door prizes.

“The vendors’ love for sharing their passion and enthusiasm for those minerals with all who visit the show makes for a really great time in the rock community,” Ringo said.

Attendees can also vote for their favorite mineral display collection, which decides the People’s Choice awards.

Amid changing venues and new and familiar faces, Ringo said the show has grown immensely since its inception.

“The show has truly evolved into a variety of new and old vendors that are coming from across the country to visit Havasu,” Ringo said.

The Lake Havasu Gem and Mineral Society hosts its 56th annual Gem and Mineral Show on Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15, at Lake Havasu State Park, Windsor Beach Overflow, 699 London Bridge Road. The show is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free parking for attendees.

Admission is free for children 12 and under, $5 for seniors and $7 for adults. To learn more, visit lakehavasugms.com.

La'Erica Conner-Sims
Reporter