



Jean Klotz, El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society board member, has been interested in geology since age 7. She has been collecting rocks since then and has many specimens like these amethyst crystals from Brazil. Visitors to the Rock and Gem Show at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds will have a chance to see many crystal exhibits since the beautiful rock is being featured at this year's show.

Democrat photo by Shelly Thorene

Rock your weekend at the Rock and Gem Show

By [Dawn Hodson](#) | October 18, 2017

Rock hounds of the world, put down that tumbler and get on down to the El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive in Placerville, this weekend for the Rock and Gem Show.

A popular event sponsored by the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society for 33 years now, the show is Oct. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the **fairground's main building** as well as some of its auxiliary buildings.

For sale by quality dealers will be an embarrassment of riches including all types of rocks, minerals, gems, jewelry, beads, petrified wood, amber, opals, gold, meteorites, lapidary materials, supplies, equipment, tools and books.

For adults who like to gamble, there will be different sized geodes for sale that they will cut open for free.

There will also be jewelry and lapidary demonstrations and displays of all kinds including stunningly beautiful fluorescent rocks and special crystal exhibits.

Jean Klotz, who serves on the board of directors of the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society, said each year they try to emphasize a particular theme at the show.

Crystals

This year **it's quartz crystals from around the world. Often associated with gold and other valuable ores, this beautiful mineral comes in a dazzling variety of colors such as rock crystal, amethyst, rose, agate, onyx, jasper, tiger's eye and more.**

Klotz, who has her **own collection of quartz, said back in the 1960s and '70s you could easily pick up quartz crystals all over the county but now it's harder because the area has largely been picked clean.**

“For years people would go out looking for a vein of quartz and it would be filled with crystals,” she said.

To engage the kids and spark their interest in geology, there will be special activities for them including free pendant making, free gem panning and soap stone carving.

There will also be door prizes and a grand drawing on Sunday; **you don't have to be present to** win. Klotz said the proceeds from the event go to the annual Scholarship Program for El Dorado County graduates who are or will be majoring in earth sciences or lapidary arts.

Admission to the show is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and active military. Children 12 and under get in free. Look for the \$1 off coupon in the Mountain Democrat to use toward the admission fee. Parking is additional if you use the fairgrounds parking lot.

A society of rock lovers

Aside from just enjoying the show, potential rock hounds will also have a chance to learn more about the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society.

Meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 4561 Greenstone Road in Placerville, the organization was founded in 1949 and is 168 members strong.