

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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GEMS! COLORS OF LIGHT AND STONE
from www.bowers.org

The most important private gem collection in the United States, with few rivals in the world outside of the royal families, the Michael Scott Collection is back at Bowers Museum and features even more luxurious pieces. *GEMS! Colors of Light and Stone* opens on June 17, 2007 for a year-long run in the new Anderson-Hsu-Tu Gallery.

GEMS! Colors of Light and Stone is the most important exhibition of colored gemstones, diamonds and gems as art ever shown in a U.S. museum," says Dr. Peter Keller, president of Bowers Museum, who is also a geologist and gemologist and who curates this exhibit.

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**OCTOBER 19th WORKSHOP
GRAB BAG FILLING**

Reminder: We will be filling the club grab bags for the December 2007 show at the October 19th workshop. It is also Root Beer Float night!

Anyone still sewing grab bags please bring them to the October 5th meeting or give them to **Tricia** or **Peggy** prior to the workshop.



Grab bag filling is always a fun event, mark your calendar and plan on attending.

The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society (MDGMS) is a nonprofit organization. The objectives of this society are:

- To collect and study minerals and rocks.
- To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects.
- To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.

MDGMS Officers 2007

<i>President</i>	Gene Haines
<i>Vice-President</i>	Nicolette Grill
<i>Secretary</i>	Linda Ellston
<i>Treasurer</i>	Janet Wentz

Board of Directors

John Bird, Peggy Haines, Donna Patterson, Kemp Root, Norm Sheppard

Board Meetings - 6:30 p.m.

Jan 3, Apr 3, Jul 3, Oct 2

Meetings/Workshops

Meetings: 1st Friday (7:00 p.m.)
 Workshops: 3rd Friday (6:30 p.m.)
 Dark Months: July, August
 Location: 25647 W. Main Street,
 Barstow, CA 92311

October 5th Meeting

Program: Rockhounds the Movie (DVD)
Hostess: Dian Hare & Leslie Walker
Door Prizes: Charlotte Robinson

Annual Membership Dues

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

Adults: \$20.00
 Juniors: \$10.00 (10 to 18 years)



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 Website: www.mdgms.org

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FROM THE FIELD

by Gene Haines

HECTOR'S WHITE AGATE and "COLLECTING"

September 22, 2007



My thanks go out to **Jim Fosse** of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Society for providing a relatively new hunting site for us this month. The surprising thing was that it was only 300 yards south from the last place we hunted near Hector Hills a few months ago! There were seven of us in four vehicles who made this trip. The weather was outstanding with bright sunny skies (as ordered) and cooling cloud cover came later as we left the site later in the afternoon. There was just a slight hint of a breeze and it was so calm you could hear a whisper from many yards away - all in all a perfect day for Rockhounding. We all found something that favored our interests and curiosities. The Victorville club had gone there for the White Agate, of which there is a plentiful supply. There was the heath bar looking light and dark chocolate agates (as I enjoyed finding them among the light colored sandy hills) as well as various colored chalcedonies. There were many jasp-agates and even rarer Opalite that Eagle eye **Danny Watts** found (I still think his dog **Shadow** knows where the best specimens are!). **Peggy Haines** was excited as she found some unusually beautiful mottled Pink and or Mauve colored agates. There were two types of chunky chalcedonies with an ever so light pink and or lavender hue (**Vivian Watt's** favorite find of the day!) to them which made a prized find. **Tricia Sheppard** found a few but most that she has was given to her by **Vivian**. **Vivian** found the most and biggest lavender and pinks and has an exquisite small lavender that is an eye opener. **Gene Haines** found the prettiest, deepest pink round chalcedony about 2" across and it is a show stopper. **Wayne Mallon** managed to become somewhat of an Archeological-Geologist since



he found a whimsical looking 'Dinosaur' rock during his wanderings. **Danny** found the original 'hound rock' while rockhounding as his find looks like the face of a Collie. **Norm Sheppard** fixed lunch for **Wayne** and **Tricia** and also enjoyed immensely the solitude this area provided him during this outing. And bringing in the most specimens once again was **Tricia** with eleven collecting bags containing EVERYTHING that Hector has to offer! Hector is a wonderful collecting site with a plethora of specimens for those who take the time to go there.



What do you see?

In taking the time to prep and ready oneself for a field trip I began to think about what we do when we go "collecting" at various sites. I often feel like the TV '**Kung Fu**' character **Cain** who was constantly admonished by his Master to think about "What do you see Grasshopper, what do you hear Grasshopper"? We do much more than walk around picking up specimens of rocks, minerals, gemstones and fossils. We are collecting **Adventures** when we go where we have not gone before and experience something that is new and different to all our senses. We are collecting **Answers** to those curiosity questions we've always had. We are collecting **Memories** of these places, people, and products we happen upon that will serve our memories years from now.

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Hector White Agate - September 22, 2007

Continued from page 2

We are collecting **Views** that are better than any National Geographic since our stereoscopic eye vision can capture much more of a scene than the finest camera ever made by man. We are collecting **Specimens** certainly, but much more the out of doors activity gets all your senses involved as you look, touch, smell, taste (for you agate lickers!), hear surrounding sounds, and for you women who have the 'sixth sense' you gain whatever it does for you. If you were learning a new language, the best way I've been told to learn one, you'd be put in an environment known as total immersion to learn it three times as fast! That's what I often feel like since I am learning more than just seeing and then picking up a sample specimen to take home. You can become totally immersed in this wonderful and rare ecosystem with its fascinating and myriad number of elements that surround you. These trips are *living adventures* at each new site that attract and entice you to come experience it for yourself.

We are collecting **Rare Sightings** of natural and beautifully designed Flora and Fauna. Others dearly miss these since they may be in their cars going 70+ miles per hour to get to or from their destinations. They never once stop and smell the roses or see the rocks! We are collecting **Awareness** of our surroundings that are so different from your comfortable living room or neighborhood if you walk around either of them. We are collecting **Photos** to share later with friends and family of our awesome adventures. We are collecting **Communication** sound bytes too since you hear nature sounds around you as well as others shouting out with glee with their latest newfound treasure. And often it may be the sound of your own unhesitating shriek because are truly excited with an exceptional find.



Danny and Vivian find a shady spot for a lunch break

We are collecting **Ideas** for shows, gifts, and various hobby interests with new and different specimens we find. We are also, know it or not, collecting **Stories** to share since there are always happy or funny incidents we get to experience on each new trip. We are definitely collecting **Health Benefits** as we walk, climb, hike, stoop, pull, dig, lift, tote, pry, pound, etc., etc. in our quest to take one more trophy home with us. We are collecting a very healthy **Appetite** after a few hours of real and rewarding Rockhounding - anywhere! We are, by default, collecting **Materials** for Shop and Show no matter where you might decide to go! We are collecting life long **Friendships** in some cases as we hunt with club members from our own and or co-op clubs with like interests. We are also collecting **Interests** in many other things whether or not we know it right then and there. Can that bee on a single cactus blossom not capture your attention, that hawk circling above, how about the silly walk-run-gate the road-runner shows you as he leaves his famous "X" footprint in the sand? The birds and lizards no doubt gets a kick out of watching us scramble (not as nimbly as they) around their environment looking for treasures. And I get a kick out of seeing the vast variety of plant and animal species within just a small 100' by 100' area. Those travelers whizzing by at 80 on the freeway never will know what they are missing since they will not stop, look or experience them. Oh yeah and besides all of these benefits, we are collecting **Character**, because Rockhounding is a well rounding hobby for all those curious minds. And for strangers as well as friends that are out there looking for something just a little bit different in their lives, why not share that spirit with them? Then you'll be collecting **Friends** that just might last you a lifetime!

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CALIFORNIA CORNER



STATE TREE

Redwood Taxodiaceae

Sequoia sempervirens

by Peggy Haines

On April 3, 1937 the State Legislature designated the **California Redwood** as the official State Tree of California. There are two genera of **California Redwood**: the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

The **coast redwood** is a genus of a single species in the cypress family Cupressaceae. It is an evergreen, long-lived, monoecious tree living for up to 2,000 years. It is the tallest tree in the world (over 300 feet), straight, with a narrow loose crown. The crown is conical, with horizontal to slightly drooping branches. The bark is very thick (up to 1 foot), fibrous, soft and red-brown when freshly exposed, weathering darker. The evergreen leaves are ½ to 1 inch long, yellow-green to green, spiral arranged, flat on young trees and shaded shoots in the lower crown of old trees, and scale-like. The cones are ¾ to 1 inch long, reddish-brown, egg-shaped, and bear 3-7 seeds.

One giant sequoia, the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, is over 274 feet high and more than 102 feet in circumference at its base. It is widely considered to be the world's largest tree in overall volume.



TRIP TALK

October 20th Field Trip
To be announced



SHOW AND TELL THEMES

by Peggy Haines

What a terrific display of "**Crystals**" we all enjoyed at our September show and tell. You all rose to the "theme" challenge and brought in a vast variety to share. You can read about them in the monthly minutes on page 9 of this issue. Bring your favorite "**Fossil themed**" specimens to share October 5th.

- ✓ October - Fossils
- ✓ November - Minerals
- ✓ December - Petrified Woods



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 4th
SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR**

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME (DST) ENDS: This year, daylight-saving time has moved to November. Traditionally the last Sunday of October the clocks were set back one hour, reverting back to standard time. However, beginning in 2007, daylight-saving time started on the second Sunday of March and will end on the first Sunday of November.

Intended to promote energy conservation by starting daylight saving three weeks earlier and ending it one week later, the change was part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The official time change is at 2:00 a.m. on November 4th 2007.

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Peggy Haines



It's time for NEW blood! With 2008 elections approaching you need to be thinking about running for an office or nominating someone. Make sure your nominees are agreeable to serving prior to throwing their name into the ring. There are multiple openings for officers and board members. Step up, get involved, and make a difference!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Sam Mades is the newest member of our club. He has attended a couple of workshops and his enthusiasm shows he has been bitten by the rock hound. Sam is interested in fossils, gems, minerals, rocks, gem trees, jewelry, and lapidary arts.
- Gloria Moore comes to us from Boron. Gloria is interested in the lapidary arts and learning more about rocks and minerals of the high desert.



Happy Birthday to our Club Members who are celebrating a birthday!

Therese Carlson brought in 32 more finished grab bags. Thanks again for all of your hard work.

October Birthdays

13 Oct - Don Depue
13 Oct - JoAn Smith
23 Oct - Dan Holub
25 Oct - Penny Jones
30 Oct - Bob Menelly

Birthstone: Opal
Flower: Calendula



"Teachers who inspire realize there will always be **rocks** in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping **stones**; it all depends on how we use them." *Unknown*

GEMS! COLORS OF LIGHT AND STONE

Continued from page 1

In GEMS! Colors of Light and Stone you'll see most of the major gem species in every color and variety known. In addition, you'll see very rare examples of little known color varieties such as green tanzanite's and "electric-blue" Paraiba tourmalines. It also includes examples of cut "collector" stones—those too rare to be used in the general jewelry trade; antique jewelry from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries; spectacular gem carvings, including those by German artists Bernd Munsteiner and Gerd Dreher; and the work of Seattle-based silversmith/contemporary artist, John Marshall.

Event: The Michael Scott Collection

Dates: June 17, 2007 - June 16, 2008

Cost: \$17.00 weekdays/\$19.00 weekends; Seniors (62 or over) \$12.00/\$14.00

Address: The Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone: (714) 567-3600

Website: www.bowers.org

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WORKSHOP WRAP

by Tricia Sheppard

Workshop (Rock Labeling) - September 21, 2007

Those in attendance were--**Janet Wentz, Katie Boyd, Vivian and Danny Watts, John and Joan Bird, Beth Pinnell, Leslie Walker, Sam Mades, Allison Varty, Katie Pratt, Dian Hare, Colt Hare, Wayne and Ruth Mallon, Julie Dupre, Gloria Moore, Tricia and Norm Sheppard, and Peggy and Gene Haines.**



Sheppards. Janet has donated "gorgeous" tumble polished stones **Janet, Katie, Beth, Vivian and Leslie** labeled them. **Leslie and Dian** brought some of their tumbled jaspers. **Ruth, Julie, Peggy, Joan and John** labeled the 525 slices that the **Sheppards'** brought for the grab bags. **Norm** kept filling the table with rock so no one could say they didn't have anything to label. When that was done, labeling began on the 400 rough jasper, 200 quartz rough and 150 feldspar rough that the **Sheppards'** brought for the grab bags. We ran out of time to finish labeling the **Sheppard's** polished rocks for the grab bags so they were divided up with **Katie and Janet** who said they would label them in their spare time at home. **Wayne** kept the tables cleared of rocks that had been labeled and returned them to buckets and boxes and as they filled put them in the **Sheppard's** car. When it was time to clean up, the heavy work had already been done. Thanks, **Wayne** and thanks to all the donated rock and those that did the labeling!



Leslie found a partially worked scrapper in the jasper material collected at Lavic by the another large quantity of for the grab bags.

Danny and Gene helped **Sam** cut rocks in the rock saw. **Sam** is doing well as a new rock collector and he also polished a few new stones. **Danny** polished an exquisite piece of agate that literally looks like a perfect eyeball--it even looks like it is looking at you as you look at it. **Dian** kept a low profile since she just had eye surgery. **Leslie** was wearing one of **Dian's** new bracelet creations--very delicate and lacey looking made with tourmaline beads and very delicate wire twists between beads. **Allison** polished a turquoise cab. Visitor **Katie Pratt** polished a turquoise heart cab. **Cody** said he wasn't as interested in polishing rocks as working with metal. **Tricia** suggested he work the metal so his mom, **Dian Hare**, could put in finished polished stones for a finished product. **John** polished a few new agates he recently found from the desert as well as doing some rock labeling. **Gene** kibitzed, helped at the saw and took pictures for the bulletin. **Danny** showed **Gloria** how to use a Genie and gave her some polishing tips so she could polish some of the agates she brought in from her collection.



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EXHIBITOR APPLICATION

MOJAVE DESERT GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O.BOX 138, BARSTOW, CA 92312-0138

Dear Fellow Rockhound:

We invite you to enter a display at our Annual Gem and Mineral show this **December 1 and 2, 2007**. Our show will be held in the Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road, Barstow, CA. If you can join us, please complete this application by **November 1, 2007** and return it to P.O. Box 138, Barstow, CA 92312-0138.

Display(s) may be set up from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, **November 30, 2007**. Tear down will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 2, 2007**.

Our club will host a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, **November 30, 2007** for all guest exhibitors, dealers, and our club members. We hope you will plan to attend.

I will **need** _____ display case(s), size 2' x 2' x 4' wide

I will **bring** _____ display case(s) of my own, size _____

Below is a brief description of my entry/entries:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME TAB INSIDE YOUR CASES

NAME	First	Last	M.I.	
	Street			
ADDRESS	City		State	Zip
PHONE	Home	Work	Cell	
	()	()	()	

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAMES BELOW FOR EXHIBITOR BADGES:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

For more information, call Beth Pinnell at (760) 267-7331

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SHOW SCOOP - OCTOBER 2007



3-7 - JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA: 32nd annual show; Joshua Tree Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Ave.; Tue. 8-5, Wed. 8-5, Thu. 8-5, Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-5; free admission; more than 50 dealers, gems, rocks, minerals, crafts, raffles, lapidary and rock polishing equipment, classic car display, Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue demonstration, flag raising ceremony; contact John, 6225 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA 92252, (760) 366-2915; e-mail: k.brown@unity-home.com. **7 - FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA:** 10th annual show, "Fall Festival of Gems"; Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society; 123 W. Alvarado; Sun. 10-4; free admission; gold panning, geode cracking, gemstone identification, Wheel of Fortune, silent auctions, raffle, vendors; contact Mary Fong-Walker, (760) 723-3484; e-mail: mrwizard@tfb.com; Web site: www.fgms.org/organization/org-locations.htm.

5-7 - COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Orange County Fairgrounds/Bldg. 10, 88 Fair Dr.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5 (weekend pass); contact Gem Faire Inc., (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com.

7 - FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA: 10th annual show, "Fall Festival of Gems"; Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society; 123 W. Alvarado; Sun. 10-4; free admission; gold panning, geode cracking, gemstone identification, Wheel of Fortune, silent auctions, raffle, vendors; contact Mary Fong-Walker, (760) 723-3484; e-mail: mrwizard@tfb.com; Web site: www.fgms.org/organization/org-locations.htm.

13-14 - TRONA, CALIFORNIA: 66th annual show; Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Trona Lapidary and Show Bldg.; displays, dealers, demonstrations, tours, field trips, geode cutting and sales, shows, movies, prizes; contact Bonnie Fairchild, 84830 12th St., Trona, CA 93562, (760) 372-5356; Web site: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/.

19-21 - DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA: Show, "Gem Faire"; Gem Faire Inc.; Del Mar Fairgrounds/Exhibit Hall, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; admission \$5 (weekend pass); contact Gem Faire Inc., (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com.

20-21 - SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA: 31st annual show; Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society; Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 1352 Maple Ave., across from the fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, kids under 12 free; dealers, exhibits, raffles, demonstrations; contact Tom Dering, (707) 546-4537.

Halloween
October
31st



MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Meeting called to order by **Gene Haines** at 7:10 p.m. Salute to the flag. There were 2 guests in attendance; Julie Dupre from Minnesota and Roger Born from Ridgecrest. Happy Birthday to our September members.

PROGRAM: DVD "Intricate Intarsia".

MINUTES: May and June 2007 minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS: The clubhouse had a mini-makeover; photographs are shown on page 10 of the September 2007 newsletter. We had a full summer of workshops with June (Rock Labeling), July (Glass Flower Pictures), and August (Wire Gem Trees). Club business cards are free to members and are still available from the box in the library. The Application for Membership has a new format that gives us more data; the old ones are obsolete. During 2007 we had 15 guests and 9 new members at our meetings with a 60% recruiting rate.

NEW BUSINESS: For the September 21st workshop we will finish labeling rocks. We will stuff grab bags and have root beer floats at the October 19th workshop. **Gene** is trying to get a NASA Rover for the December show. Sign-up sheets will be available at the October meeting; we need your names on multiple sheets. Hostesses are needed for October. The Exhibitor Application form is in the September 2007 newsletter. If you are planning on entering a display case in our annual show you need to fill it out and give it to **Beth Pinnell** ASAP. The next board meeting is October 2, 2007. There is a FREE online Gemology course at www.bwsmigel.info. Mark your calendars for the Joshua Tree gem, mineral and craft show October 3-7 and the Trona show October 13-14.

FIELD TRIP: The September 22nd trip is to be announced.

DOOR PRIZES: **Danny Watts** provided this month's door prizes. Winners were **Wayne Mallon** (Aponite with Pyrite - Russia), **Joan Bird** (Petrified Wood - Oregon), **Therese Carlson** (Jasp-Agate - Area 51), **JoAnn Beall** (Aragonite - Russia), **Gloria Moore** (Celestite - Russia), **Julie Dupre** (Agatized Barite), **Nicolette Grill** (Sulfur with Celestite - Russia), and **Leslie Walker** (Travertine).

HOSTESS: Refreshments were provided by **Beth Pinnell** and **Janet Wentz**. There were vegetables with dip, cheese and crackers, jello, juice, punch and coffee. **Sandy Wagner** added a delicious pecan pie to the mix.

CAB OF THE MONTH: **Leslie Walker** won cab of the month with a Mexican Crazy Lace specimen she acquired from the **Dave Oxley** auction.

SHOW AND TELL (Crystals): **Janet Wentz** shared a Smokey Quartz. **Cliff Lesley** shared his notebooks with articles from Mineralogical Record, Gem and Mineral, and Rock and Gem magazines. There were some interesting articles on the "Cave of Swords" and "Cave of Crystals" showing gigantic Gypsum and Selenite crystals. **Bill Tomlinson** showed a Quartz crystal acquired from the Oxley auction and a Quartz crystal sphere. **Danny Watts** had beautiful Cluster crystals from his CFMS trip, Optical Quartz with green Actinolite, Phantom Quartz crystal, and an Amethyst crystal from Lancaster. **Nicolette Grill** brought in Australian Gypsum. **Gene Haines** had a Pyrite cube and Fluorite. **Tricia Sheppard** shared a Fairfield Variscite and Chapenite from Fort Irwin.

ATTENDANCE: 25 members and 2 guests were in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Peggy Haines,
Acting Secretary