

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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Swearing in ceremony for our 2009 Officers and Board Members will be held at our annual Christmas potluck.

Officers

Nicolette Grill (President)
 Jeanne Laymance (Vice-President)
 Sandy Wagner (Secretary)
 Janet Wentz (Treasurer)

Board Members

Dian Hare
 Wayne Mallon
 Kemp Root
 Rob Stapp
 Danny Watts



- The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society annual show is December 6-7 2008.
 - The annual Christmas potluck is the second Friday, December 12th, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the MDGMS clubhouse. Bring a dish, your utensils and plates, and a **"rock related"** gift.
- Gentlemen bring a gift for a man
 - Ladies bring a gift for a woman
 - If you bring a child provide a gift

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 2008

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

Board of Directors

Gene Haines (Past President), John Bird, Wayne Mallon, Kemp Root, Rob Stapp

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

December 12th Meeting

Program: Annual Christmas Potluck
 Hosts: Dian Hare, Kemp Root,
 and Leslie Walker
 Door Prizes: Gift Exchange

Annual Membership

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

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



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WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines

Workshop (Grab Bag Filling) - November 21, 2008

Our traditional filling of the grab bags was a huge success! Dedicated members worked like a well-oiled machine taking roughly an hour to fill the "700" cute and colorful fabric bags with 4,900 specimens. **Bill Depue** provided the delicious Root Beer and Vanilla Ice Cream treats following the annual event.



The **Sheppear**s and **Haines** arrived an hour early to pre-stage the many boxes holding the specimens and cloth bags. Adding to the efficiency, **Tricia Sheppear** instructed the 35 attendees on the filling process. Members marched in a clockwise direction, selecting and admiring, then stuffing. There were two teams of three members assigned to tying the grab bags. They were **Janet Wentz, Beth Pinnell, Vivian Watts** at one table and **Kemp Root, Peggy Haines, and Dian Hare/Leslie Walker** at the other table. In addition to our "special number", the **Sheppear**s donated 42 spheres (snowflake obsidian, sodalite, and tiger-eye) as an added bonus.

Several members utilized the workshop with grinding, shaping, and polishing on the Genies. **Norm Sheppear** instructed new members with operating the 14" oil saw safely. He also assisted others with cutting.

Wheel-of Fortune Creations



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CALIFORNIA CORNER



STATE POET LAUREATE

by Peggy Haines

On September 1, 2001, Governor Gray Davis signed the **California Poet Laureate** bill establishing an official two-year position and specifying the methods of appointment and responsibilities. Prior to 2001 the title was unofficial and the position was held for life.

During their term, the **Poet Laureate** provides a:

- minimum of six public poetry readings
- is charged with educating community, business and government leaders about the value of creative expression, and
- undertakes a cultural project

The program is run by the California Arts Council.

The current **Poet Laureate** is Al Young. Throughout his literary career, Mr. Young has been a poet, writer, teacher and lecturer. He has authored a number of books, co-edited several works, and been the recipient of numerous literary honors.



TRIP TALK

December Field Trip

To be announced. If anyone would like a field trip to a specific site let your President know. All ideas welcomed.



SHOW AND TELL THEMES 2009

by Gene and Peggy Haines

- ✓ January- - Agates
- ✓ February - Petrified Palm Wood
- ✓ March- - - Broken Dish China
- ✓ April- - - Tumbled Gemstones
- ✓ May- - - Quartz Varieties
- ✓ September- Artifacts & Knapping
- ✓ October- - Fossils & Dinosaurs
- ✓ November - Amber

No show and tell for:

- ✓ June - - - - Barbecue/Auction
- ✓ July - - - - Dark No Meeting
- ✓ August - - - Dark No Meeting
- ✓ December - - Christmas Party

"The more **sand** that has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it."

Jean Paul



Quotable Quotes

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



CONGRATULATIONS are due to our very very special, extraordinary long time member, **Jim Hare**. **Jim and Sherri Bond** were married in Las Vegas on Nov. 25, 2008. We wish them all the happiness in the world. Yeah, **Jim & Sherri!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

About a week and a half ago, the **Sheppeards** received a call from the **Haines** that they needed a ride from the tow company because their car wouldn't start. The **Sheppeards** went to the tow company to pick them up but couldn't find them but their car was there still on the tow truck. Low and behold, they got a ride inside their car on top of the tow truck bed. They said it was a little unnerving when the tow truck went over a bump and rocked, however, the view was great! Darn those fuel pumps.

Wayne Mallon led our club on the field trip to the Silver Lace Tailing Pile in Calico Hills. We haven't had a report yet. Report will follow.

Janet Wentz, Katie Boyd and Therese and Steve Carlson and son took an outing to the South Cady's and were most pleased with their finds of Jasper.

The **Haines** and **Sheppard's** picked up the most marvelous donations from **Gary Grant** for our show auction. The entire amount earned goes to the club scholarship fund. **Gary** has donated the most exciting items for our auctions we have ever had. We again cannot express enough our gratitude for his extraordinary generosity each year.

Christmas Gift Suggestions by Oren Arnold



To your enemy, forgiveness
To an opponent, tolerance
To a friend, your heart
To all, charity
To every child, a good example
To yourself, respect



December Birthdays

06 Dec - Bill Buehler
23 Dec - Jerry Depue
27 Dec - Sally Rout

Birthstone: Blue Topaz
Flower: Narcissus

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS:



Celso Edquilang (Barstow, CA) - He is interested in learning about minerals and rocks.

Ceri Satur (Barstow, CA) - She is interested in fossils, gems, jewelry, lapidary arts, minerals, rocks, and wire wrap.

MINUTES - NOVEMBER 7, 2008

President, **Nicolette Grill** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and followed with the flag salute. Happy birthday to all club members celebrating an November birthday. Welcome new members **Terry Berg; Corridan Butler, and Gene Ordelman.**

PROGRAM: Keeping with this month's theme, **Gene Haines** gave a slide show presentation on "Desert Wonders". The show had numerous pictures from past field trips showing club members, critters, flowers, scenic mountains, and specimens found. Many people, especially new members, appreciated seeing where we go, what we find, and how we do it. **Nicolette Grill** brought the laptop and **Bill Depue** supplied the projector.

MINUTES: October 2008 minutes were approved as written.

TREASURY REPORT: Treasurer **Janet Wentz** said the Petrified Wood Identification seminar paid for itself with a little left for the club after expenses. For the annual show 9 out of 10 dealers have paid in full. The club T-shirts are in for those who ordered them.

OLD BUSINESS: The Walt Wright seminar had 24 attendees. Thank you to Walt and the volunteers. Anyone wishing to donate specimens to the young boy from New Zealand can add them to the donation box **Gene Haines** provided. We need volunteers for the annual show which is December 6-7, sign-up sheets for the potluck and activities are in the back.

NEW BUSINESS: Elected 2009 officers: **Nicolette Grill** (President); **Jeanne Laymance** (Vice-President); **Sandy Wagner** (Secretary); and **Janet Wentz** (Treasurer). Board members: **Wayne Mallon; Kemp Root; Rob Stapp; Danny Watts, and Dian Hare.** Swearing in will take place at our December meeting. **Kemp Root** had a mild heart attack and is doing well. The annual Christmas party will be on December 12th at 6:00 p.m. The ham will be provided by the club, bring a potluck dish, your plates and utensils, and a rock-related gift (ladies bring a gift for a lady, men bring a gift for a man, and if you have children attending bring a gift for them as well). We will be filling the grab bags at the November 21st workshop. This is also root beer float night! The Palmdale show held at the Antelope Valley fairgrounds is this weekend; \$5.00 parking but free admission. There is an article on the bulletin board from the Lithosphere on endangered species for anyone that wants to read about it. The next board meeting is Tuesday November 18th at 6:30.

FIELD TRIP: North Cady's on November 22nd leader **Bill Depue.** Meet at Diamond Pacific at 8:00 a.m., 4 wheel drive is required. You can find Calcite, Fluorite, Sagenite, etc. **Leslie Walker** saw big horn sheep on her last trip.

DOOR PRIZES: **Gene Haines** provided door prizes. Winners were: **Leslie Walker (loop); Janet Wentz** (Petrified Wood); **Norm Sheppard** (Petrified Wood); **Ruth Mallon** (lighted loop); **Kent Berryman** (Malachite); **Bob Mennelly** (Petrified Wood); **Sandy Wagner** (Petrified Wood); **Bill Depue** (whistle with compass); **Mikaela Walker** (carved box); and **Gene Ordelman** (Petrified Wood).

HOSTESS: **Ruth Mallon and Sandy Wagner** provided delicious refreshments of cake, chips and dip, mixed nuts, and vegetables.

CAB OF THE MONTH: **Leslie Walker** won cab of the month with a lovely Fire Agate.

SHOW AND TELL (MOJAVE DESERT): **Nick Beall** - brought in Green wood from Arizona. **Danny Watts** - had a colorful picture of a desert sunset taken from his front yard; Palm from the Southeast side of Kramer Junction; Risen from Brown Butte; and Cattail. **Tricia Sheppard** - Had items from our most recent field trip to Sperry Wash, a Palm Frond Branch (Padunkle); pink Palm; Algae balls, and a beautiful Coral toothpick holder.

ATTENDANCE: 33 members and 4 guests were in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,



Peggy Haines
Acting Secretary