

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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Walt Wright Paleobotanist



PETRIFIED WOOD Identification Seminar

The Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society is sponsoring a Petrified Wood Identification seminar by renowned expert, **Walt Wright**.

The seminar will be October 17 (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm); October 18 (8:30 am to 9:00 pm); and October 19 (8:30 am to 5:00 pm). There will also be an overnight field trip to Sperry Wash, CA on October 20-21.

This is your opportunity to learn about the complex and beautiful world of Petrified Wood.

Cost is \$75.00 and space is limited! For more information contact **Tricia Sheppard** at (760) 252-5656.

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

President	Nicolette Grill
Vice-President	Gene Haines
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	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

September 5th Meeting

Program: Making Your Own Jewelry
Hostess: Joan Bird & Nicolette Grill
Door Prizes: Kemp Root

Annual Membership

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

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



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AUCTION ATTRACTIONS

by Gene Haines



Club Auction/BBQ - June 6, 2008

The annual June Barbecue was once again a success. Everyone enjoyed the variety of food as well as the stimulating conversation. Thanks to all members who assisted in setting up as well as those providing extra dishes that allowed everyone to have a grand time. **Rob Stapp** did an outstanding job once again with the meat. Thanks **Rob!**



The evening progressed with everyone moving to the auction tables. One definition of an **Auction** is; a sale of goods or property at which intending buyers bid against one another for individual items. I personally define **Auction** as; a darn good time with great deals for all!

We worked hard to assemble, clean, group in lots, mark and offer a vast variety (more than we see at other clubs' shows) of rough, slabs, spheres, minerals, gemstones, and fossils. These were provided by the generosity of the following people (members and non-members): **Beth and Bill Depue, Walt Lauterbach, Dave Oxley, Katie Boyd, Kemp Root, Mr. Sappington, Gene and Peggy Haines, and Danny and Vivian Watts.**

There were two auctions (#1 had 65 items and #2 had 79 items) with 56 different specimens involved (lots of fine material - too many to list in this small article). After this auction though I am sure that there are members that are not aware of how much of a savings they really gained by attending. The bidding was not as heavy as last year's auction however, where guests were included, since we did not make as much but still contributed to the Clubs' bottom line!



If you were to price out some of the items on the Internet and or eBay or other 'Online Auction Houses' you would find that you had obtained outstanding material for little to nothing. Online prices bring top dollar due to Rockhounds who really study and know their material and their current values on the open market (including Tailgates!). One example is the Rutilated Quartz and Tourmaline lots; three items in a bag of average size went for only \$4.50 - and so I priced similar items online and they brought over \$90.00! See what I mean? I thought we'd bring in a little better than last year but unfortunately we didn't have as many members participating this year in the 'clubs auction'.

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Club Auction/BBQ - June 6, 2008

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The basic premise of the clubs auction is to share in the experience, produce income for the clubs needs, have a good time, see new and different items, and be proactively involved with one of many activities to support your club. One more advantage is to have a small tax deduction for yourself to reduce your fair share of taxes-unless you are independently wealthy - ha! Even our club President had a good time and carried away multiple, extremely well priced winning bid items!

So I hope to encourage you to at least attend our December show and participate in our auction there since many other clubs' members come who know the value they are getting for their time and money. By participating and contributing, you will be adding to the bottom line of our income statement and you will be supporting the club in some of our administrative costs we incur.

We are always accepting various donations of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, equipment, books, accessories, etc. especially at this time of year.



COLLECTING ROCKS

submitted by Dian Hare

*I think that there shall never be
An ignoramus just like me,
Who roams the hills throughout the day,
To pick up rocks that do not pay.*

*For there's one thing I've been told
I take the rocks and leave the gold.*

*O'er deserts wild and mountains blue
I search for rocks of varied hue.*

*A hundred pounds or more I pack,
With blistered feet and aching back,
And after this is said and done
I cannot name a single one.*

*I pick up rocks where e'er I go
The reason why I do not know.*

*For rocks are found by fools like me
Where God intended them to be.*

Author unknown

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CALIFORNIA CORNER



STATE TARTAN

by Peggy Haines

The California Tartan is based on the Muir Clan to honor naturalist John Muir. Enacted by legislation in 2001 to recognize the contributions by Scottish ancestry residents to California.

In 2002, California Legislature proclaimed April 6 as "California Tartan Day." Chosen as it is the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence.

What is a Tartan? A tartan is a special kind of cloth design from Scotland, usually made of wool. The design consists of stripes of various widths and colors that cross at right angles against a solid color background. The principal clans in Scotland, especially in the Highlands, have their own tartans. In the United States, the word tartan means a cloth or garment with a tartan design.

The California state tartan pattern consists of alternate squares of meadow green and pacific blue separated and surrounded by narrow charcoal bands. The squares of meadow green are divided by a gold seam with charcoal lines on each side. There are three redwood stripes, the middle of which is broader, that are added to each side of the gold seam. The pacific blue square is divided by a sky blue stripe, with charcoal lines on each side.

The tartan's blue reflects the sky, the ocean, and the state's rivers and lakes, while the green stands for the state's mountains, fields, and parks. The red, gold, and blue seams signify the arts, sciences, agriculture, and industry of California.



TRIP TALK

September Field Trip

To be announced. If anyone would like a field trip to a specific site let your President know. We are open to any and all ideas.



SHOW AND TELL THEMES

by Gene and Peggy Haines

Themes for 2008:

- ✓ ~~January~~ — Petrified Wood
- ✓ ~~February~~ — Gemstones
- ✓ ~~March~~ — Rock Crafts
- ✓ ~~April~~ — Local Rocks
- ✓ ~~May~~ — Carvings
- ✓ September - - Jewelry Art
- ✓ October - - - Spheres
- ✓ November - - Mojave Desert

No show and tell for:

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

"Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut **diamonds**. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest **gems** in a useful life."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Quotable Quotes

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



A big thank you goes to **Janet Wentz** who donated more polished stones for the grab bags.

Gary Grant donated materials for our auctions - Marcasite, jaspers, agates, petrified wood. Thank you, **Gary**.

Danny and Vivian Watts were sad to miss our BBQ/auction. They had a family wedding/gathering/vacation in Oregon.

Many thanks to **Janet Wentz** and **Peggy Haines** for collecting the auction monies.

For those club members who have been to other club auctions, I know you appreciate the information you find on our auction slips with donor names and the material identified. You will not find that any other place that I know of. **Gene and Peggy Haines** have jazzed up our auctions so they are a joy to participate in and the bidders know what they have when they win the prize. It takes an enormous amount of time to get things gathered together, identified, our beautiful individual auction slips prepared by **Peggy** and then set up each auction section so at the end of one auction another setup can be prepared and put on the table. Huge **THANK YOUS** should be given to the **Haines** for so many "behind" the scenes upgrades and giving our club efficiency and "CLASS."

Sandy Wagner was missed at the auction as well. Her grandson was having a graduation ceremony from kindergarten and it was **a must go to affair, of course**. **Tricia Sheppard** was instructed to bid on some Rutilated quartz for her.

We owe a big **thank you** to **Wayne Mallon** for getting our last Genie emitter working again. Our five Genies are full speed ahead.



LaVon Rippetoe has given us another huge envelope of cut out pictures for our resin picture projects.



"Thank yous" go to **Nicolette, Gene, and Jeanne Laymance** for the Earth Day at the Desert Center. **Dian Hare, Leslie Walker, Janet Wentz** and the **Sheppards** donated tumble polished stones to the Earth Day for June 14th. **Jeanne** brought in quite a few of her slices and hunks to show people different kinds of rocks.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:



- **LoVanna Brown** (Oakdale, CA) - Member of the Mother Lode Mineral "MLMS" Society. She is interested in fossils, gems, jewelry, lapidary arts, and rocks.
- **Randy Gillmore** (Barstow, CA) - He is interested in minerals and rocks.

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WORKSHOP WRAP

by Peggy Haines



Workshop (Glass Flower & Resin Pictures) - August 15, 2008

This time of year we always find ourselves tasked with multiple craft projects readying for our annual show. Our resin pictures have always been a favorite for club members to create and a big hit at the show. Last year we added glass flower pictures to our assortment of prizes. The club had introduced them several years ago but hadn't made them for many years.

This year our activities coordinator, **Tricia Sheppard**, combined the "Glass Flower" and "Resin" picture workshops. With so many supplies and the preparation it takes to ready for these two events it makes sense to combine them. Prior to the workshop the **Sheppards** and **Haines** spent an hour setting up tables, chairs, laying out the myriad of pictures, dried flowers and foliage, and all of the supplies that go along with the projects.

We had 16 club members and 1 guest at this fun event. **Tricia** once again brought her beautiful array of hand-grown, picked, and pressed flowers and foliage. What a delight it is to see the vibrant colors and delicate patterns among the many varieties. And what a talent **Tricia** has to grow such beauties!

After **Tricia** gave a brief refresher course we were ready to start. Thanks to **Janet Wentz** and **Norm Sheppard**, we had 100 pre-cut rock slices waiting for artwork. There were 50 pre-cut sets of glass, generously donated by **Barstow Glass**, ready to decorate, frame with copper foil, and apply a polished stone for a stand.

Nicolette Grill shared her "gigantic Zucchini" for all that wanted them. She grows them so big you could feed a small country on one. A special thank you to **Joan Bird** for providing delicious Zucchini Bread and **Bill Depue** for our much anticipated root beer floats. What a treat!

Danny Watts brought in an assortment of minerals for sale. Several people bought some but I think **Nicolette** holds the record for most purchases. She has a natural eye for picking out the right specimens. She even bought more than **Gene Haines** this time, which is hard to do.

Bill Depue was busy polishing cabochons on the Genie.

Beth Pinnell donated a lovely hand-painted Howlite picture done by Connie Rogers for our Wheel-of-Fortune. **Janet** donated slices of N. Edwards Travertine, Strawberry Onyx, and Granite with Amethyst crystals. Thanks!

A warm thank you to **Norm and Tricia** for providing all of the pressed flowers, polished rocks, slices, and craft supplies that enable us to create our wonderful items.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER 19TH WORKSHOP
IDENTIFY AND LABEL SPECIMENS

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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 6 and 7, 2008**. 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, 2008** 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, **December 5, 2008**. Tear down will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 7, 2008**.

Our club will host a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, **December 5, 2008** 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.
ADDRESS	Street		
	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 - SEPTEMBER 2008



13-14 - DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Delvers Gem & Mineral Society; Woman's Club of Downey, 9813 Paramount Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; vendors, demonstrations, exhibits, grab bags, boutique, rocks, minerals, gold panning; contact Guynell Miller, 7315 Cloverlawn Dr., South Gate, CA 90280, (562) 633-0614; e-mail: delversrockclub@sbcglobal.net

20-21 - JACKSON, CALIFORNIA: 8th annual Tailgate Gemboree; Fossils For Fun Society; Kennedy Gold Mine, 12954 Kennedy Mine Rd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; parking \$2, indoor exhibits, outdoor dealers, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, live auction Sat., surface mine tours; contact Keith Lindholm, P.O. Box 2484, Fair Oaks, CA 95628; e-mail: fossilsforfun@hotmail.com; www.geocities.com/fossilsforfunsociety/index.html

25-28 - SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA: Annual tailgate, "Lyle 'Pappy' Strayer Memorial Tailgate"; Orange Belt Mineralogical Society; Western Regional Little League Park, 6707 Little League Dr.; Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; rocks, gems, jewelry; contact Emma, (951) 288-6182, or Al (951) 961-5988

27-28 - MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA: Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Sky Paston (831) 417-7477; e-mail: sky@familystones.net; Website: www.cvgms.org



Monday September 1st



Backyard Buzz - June 6, 2008

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Nick and JoAnn Beall brought in a beautiful green petrified wood treasure to our meeting but the potluck/BBQ/auction didn't leave time for "Show and Tell." *Nick*, bring it to our September meeting so we can give it it's proper due.

Dian Hare was on a 10 day cruise this summer. *Katie Boyd* and *Bill Buehler* went to Alaska. Many many thanks to *LaVella Tomlinson* who has sewn the rest of our grab bags for the 2008 show. *Danny Watts*, please bring those two magnificent trivets you have just made to the September meeting--they are just fabulous!

September Birthdays

03 Sep - Janet Wentz
14 Sep - Lora Charak
17 Sep - Steve Depue



Birthstone: Blue Sapphire
Flower: Morning Glory



MINUTES - JUNE 6, 2008

Meeting called to order by President **Nicolette Grill** at 7:18 p.m. Guests were **LoVanna Brown, Jeff Carter, Lawrence Laymance,** and **Shawna Salinas**. We have one new member; **Randy Gillmore**. A very happy birthday to club members celebrating a birthday this month.

MINUTES: May minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS: This is the last meeting for the summer. We will continue to have workshops. The next regular meeting will be September 5th.

NEW BUSINESS: June 14th is National Get Outdoors Days. We will have a booth at the Desert Discovery Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to distribute club information and sell resin pictures. The next board meeting is September 3rd at 6:30 pm. The Desert Discovery Center at Red Rock Canyon is looking for material to buy or rent. They have 1,500 to 2,500 visitors a day. Anyone wanting a club T-shirt can order with or without sleeves, grey or blue for \$10 to \$15. **Walt Wright** will be giving a Petrified Wood seminar October 17-19, 2008. He will also sponsor a trip to Sperry Wash, CA October 20-21. The seminar will be at our club house and club members have priority. There will be a fee, see **Tricia Sheppard** or **Gene Haines** to sign up. **Nicolette** brought an updated members roster for everyone. We have a scholarship application from **Jonathan Szetela**. **Tricia** made a motion that we accept his application and give a \$2,000 scholarship, **John Bird** seconded, and the motion was passed. The board will meet on June 13th at 6:30 to meet and talk with **Jonathan**.

PROGRAM: Annual barbecue and club auction.

HOSTESS: Potluck provided by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. There were 45 in attendance; 41 club members and 4 guests.

Respectively submitted,



Peggy Haines,
Acting Secretary