

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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MEMBERSHIP DUES



It's time to pay your annual membership dues. Fees are only \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for juniors (10-18 years). If you haven't already done so, please remit your payment to our treasurer, **Janet Wentz**. If paying by check, make checks payable to MDG&MS.

In conjunction with this month's theme, **Walt Wright** will present a lecture on Petrified Palm. Bring your curiosity and questions.

The 2009 sign-up sheet for **hostess** and **door prizes** is posted on the bulletin board.

Volunteers are needed for all months. Sign-up now!



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 2009

<i>President</i>	Nicolette Grill
<i>Vice-President</i>	Jeanne Laymance
<i>Secretary</i>	Sandy Wagner
<i>Treasurer</i>	Janet Wentz

Board of Directors

Dian Hare, Wayne Mallon, Kemp Root, Rob Stapp, Danny Watts

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

February 6th Meeting

Program: Petrified Palm (Lecture)
 Hostess: Vivian Watts & Peggy Haines
 Door Prizes: Gene Haines

Annual Membership Dues

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

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

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FIELD FEATURES

by Tricia Sheppear and Walt Wright

South Cady Mtns (January 16, 2009)

Trip Leader: *Bill Depue*



Bill Depue led the trip to the South Cady Mountains by heading East on Highway 40 and going North out of Ludlow. There were 12 cars and trucks. After seeing *Bill's* samples at the workshop, a number of additional members were enticed to go on the field trip and we had a number of guests.

Those in attendance included: *Jody Boyd, Floyd Burns, David and Andrew Cain, Therese Carlson, Bill Depue, Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde, Sue Gallegher, Nicolette and Nick Grill, Don Ogden, John Pickett, Scott Stevenson, Jay Valle, Sandy Wagner, Jay Walley, Ofelia and Don Wartan, Danny and Vivian Watts, Bob Wheeler, Frank Winn, Don Wortham, and Walt Wright.*

Walt says he has a great picture of the group all lined up on the hill digging in the seam of Christmas Tree Agate. Maybe he will have pictures when he speaks to the club in February. *Walt* wonders where the word "Tree" applies to the Christmas Tree Agate description. *Walt* feels confident that all got a nice selection of material. *Bill, Bob and Walt* did a lot of exploring but did not find any petrified woods.

Bill, Bob, Walt, John, David and Andrew stayed the night and enjoyed the traditional bonfire that evening. The next morning they went to the pink hills on the north side of the Cady's looking for sagenite and blue agate and exited out to Highway 15. (*Nicolette* said she and her Dad and *Floyd* also drove through from Highway 40 to the 15 on Saturday.) It has been many years since we have heard of others who have been able to travel north to south or vice a versa. Our travelers share that the stories of deep sand dunes were not the case this time. It sounds like a good time was had by all.



MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

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SHOW AND TELL THEMES 2009

by Gene and Peggy Haines

How it works: Members bring their favorite "themed" specimens that they have acquired through trade, purchase, or personal finds to the general meeting. Everyone has a turn to **show** what they brought and **tell** about it. The theme for February is "Petrified Palm Wood". Be sure and bring your "themed" specimens to share.

- ✓ ~~January~~ - Agates
- ✓ February - Petrified Palm Wood
- ✓ March - - - Broken Dish China
- ✓ April - - - Tumbled Gemstones
- ✓ May - - - - Quartz Varieties
- ✓
- ✓ June - - - None (Barbecue)
- ✓ July - - - None (No Meeting)
- ✓ August - - None (No Meeting)
- ✓
- ✓ September - Artifacts & Knapping
- ✓ October - - Fossils & Dinosaurs
- ✓ November - Amber
- ✓ December - Christmas Party

"Chop your own **wood**, and it will warm you twice."

Henry Ford



Petrified Palm

Quotable Quotes



TRIP TALK

February Field Trip

To be announced. If anyone would like a field trip to a specific site let the President know. We are open to any and all ideas. Field trips are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month.



WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS:



Philip Gaskins

(Sacramento, CA) - He is interested in shaping stones for his silversmithing hobby.

Erin Rice (Hinkley, CA) -

She is interested in lapidary arts.



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

- 07 Feb - Norm Sheppard
- 11 Feb - Ronald Millard
- 16 Feb - Kent Berryman
- 16 Feb - LaVella Tomlinson
- 17 Feb - Gene Haines
- 20 Feb - Joan Bird
- 20 Feb - Donna Patterson
- 26 Feb - Vivian Watts



Birthstone: Amethyst
Flowers: Violet & Primrose

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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



Tricia Sheppard recently had cataract surgery and has near 20-20 vision in the right eye. The two eyes are still having some trouble working together. The hard part is she isn't to bend over or pick up things, like heavy rocks, which is cramping her style for a few weeks.



Leslie Walker and Dian Hare have set up the Two Sisters Rock Shop at the AVI in Laughlin. Hope they do well and are having fun too.

The **Haines** and the **Sheppards** were in Quartzsite the first of January to visit the Rock-A-Rama at Tyson Wells. We spent some time in The Gardens as well. We all found something special. We hope more of our members will have an opportunity to experience Quartzsite, Arizona and the AVI/Clouds in Nevada.

Walt Wright and **Bob Wheeler** were in Quartzsite the first of January looking over all the wood specimens the various dealers had brought in.

It was wonderful to see **Sam Mallon** home from college over the Christmas Holiday.

Nicolette Grill and family visited Quartzsite and met up with the **Haines and Sheppards**. **Nicolette** found a great deal on Brazilian agates.

The **Haines** and the **Sheppards** returned to Quartzsite on January 22-25 to experience the QIA Pow Wow. **Gene and Peggy** had never been to the QIA and it had been several years since **Norm and Tricia** had been. We did a lot of walking and shopping and saw many of our club members there. It was wonderful to visit with **Jack Brown and Lora Charak** whom we hadn't seen in over a year. We also saw **Chuck Eastman, Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde, Randy and Carie Gillmore, Jim and Sheri Hare, Bob Menelly, and Danny and Vivian Watts**. We had a great time and found some good buys to add to our growing collection.

Pictures from Quartzsite



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WORKSHOP WRAP

by Tricia Sheppard

Workshop - January 16, 2009

Considering all the rock events in Laughlin and Quartzsite we had a good showing at the workshop (23 members and 2 guests in all). The saw was sawing and the Genies were humming.

Scott Stevenson was cutting rock. **Carl Atkinson** was cutting rock. **Janet Wentz** was collecting membership fees and giving tips on how to use the rock saw. **Gloria Moore** was using the trim saw to work on a craving. **Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde** were working on Genies. **Sandy Wagner, Therese Carlson and Danny Watts** were polishing stones. **Wayne Mallon and Norm Sheppard** were in deep conversations solving the world problems or something like that. **Jeanne Laymance** cut an agate nodule in half that had a very small amethyst crystal pocket. We had a discussion about whether it could be called a geode because it did have a tiny amethyst pocket or would it have to remain a nodule.



Katie Boyd has been going to the Victorville club taking wire wrapping lessons. She brought two of her latest creations and they are absolutely awesome. Everyone who saw them (or in **Norm's** case felt them) were in awe of her workmanship. They were gorgeous!

LaVon Rippetoe, who is a long time member and been missing from our ranks, visited with us. She and **Earl** will be moving soon. **LaVon** brought in and donated about 20 of her seashell creations with rock critters for the 2009 show. She has such a wonderful creative touch. What a joy it was to spend some time with her.



Tricia Sheppard brought in some ideas of crafts that had been made in years past to share with members in hopes some more people could help make items for the 2009 show. **Therese** brought in some more sewn grab bags for 2009.



What a delight it was to watch **Ruth Mallon** help **Morgan Stevenson** make one of the beaded spiders. I believe it was **Morgan's** first spider. She was delighted with her finished spider.

Walt Wright was answering questions, talking about the field trip and was kept quite busy. **Bill Depue** was showing his fine specimens found in the Cady's and then explained they were one of a kind but anyone could be lucky on the trip to find more of the Christmas Tree Agate and sagenite.

Also in attendance were **Nicolette Grill, Dan Moore, Beth Pinnell, Vivian Watts, and two guests**. Close to 9:00 pm we cleaned up the shop and went home to prepare for the field trip.

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SHOW SCOOP - FEBRUARY 2009



13-22 - INDIO, CALIFORNIA: San Geronimo Mineral and Gem Society; Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival; Gem and Mineral Building Bldg #1, 46-350 Arabia Street; Hours: 10:00 am - 10:00 pm; contact Bert Grisham: (915) 849-1674, email: bert67@verizon.net

27-28 - NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA: Del Air Rockhounds Club; United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior Street); Hours: Fri. 3:00 pm - 9:30 pm, Sat. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; contact Julie Marin (818) 886-7190, Website: <http://delairrockhounds.blogspot.com>

27-March 8 - IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA: Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Gem and Mineral Building on Fairgrounds; Hours: Fri. thru Sun. Noon - 10:00 pm, Mon. thru Thur. 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm; contact Jim Strain (760) 356-2361

PETRIFIED WOOD

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Petrified wood (from the Greek root "petro" meaning "rock" or "stone", literally "wood turned into stone") is a type of fossil: it consists of fossil wood where all the organic materials have been replaced with minerals (most often a silicate, such as quartz), while retaining the original structure of the wood. The petrification process occurs underground, when wood becomes buried under sediment and is initially preserved due to a lack of oxygen. Mineral-rich water flowing through the sediment deposits minerals in the plant's cells and as the plant's lignin and cellulose decay away, a stone mould forms in its place. It probably takes less than 100 years for wood to petrify.



Elements such as manganese, iron and copper in the water/mud during the petrification process give petrified wood a variety of color ranges. Pure quartz crystals are colorless, but when contaminants are added to the process the crystals take on a yellow, red or other tint.

Petrified wood can preserve the original structure of the wood in all its detail, down to the microscopic level. Structures such as tree rings and the various tissues are often observed features.

Petrified wood has a Mohs hardness of 7, the same as quartz.

Petrified wood is the provincial stone of Alberta and also the state gem of Washington.

MINUTES - JANUARY 2, 2009

President **Nicolette Grill** called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, the Club saluted the flag, and welcomed new members, **Rory and Sean Strahm**. Happy Birthday wishes went to **Donald Goldsmith, Kemp Root, Dian Hare, Brenda Santiago, Bill Depue, Bill Earnest, and Ronda Crocker**. We welcomed visitors **Anita Snedeker, Herb, Yvonne, and Neil Carlson**.

MINUTES: December 2008 minutes were approved as written.

SHOW AND TELL: Show and tell preceded the scheduled DVD while we waited for **Wayne and Sam Mallon** to bring the DVD player. **Janet Wentz** shared Oregon Tube Agate and Lake Superior Agate. **LaVella Tomlinson** brought Brazilian Agate. **Gene Haines** showed Ribbon Stone Agate and an Agate from N. Queensland. **Danny Watts** had Utah Moss Agate, Condor Agate from Argentina, and carved Soapstone. **Tricia Sheppard** displayed an Agate sphere and trivet. **Tim Moore** showed Chalcedony.

PROGRAM: The Club then viewed the "World of Agates" of Michael Carlson. We viewed gorgeous agates from Botswana, Brazil, Montana, Mexico, Queensland and natural water tumbled agate from China.

NEW BUSINESS: **Nicolette** reminded everyone to pay their dues. **Bill Depue** donated a big bag of rocks that was enough for everyone present to have one. The Victorville tailgate is March 13-15. **Beth Pinnell** is stepping down as our CFMS representative. **Nicolette** asked if there were any volunteers to represent the Club. This matter was tabled until the February 6th meeting.

FIELD TRIP: A field trip is scheduled for January 17th to Cadiz, meet at Diamond Pacific at 8:00 am. Leader **Bill Depue** says we will be digging through ash for Christmas Tree Agate; this is a 4-wheel drive adventure. The government is planning to close this area for future public use.

DOOR PRIZES: **Kemp Root** generously donated Onyx eggs for door prizes. The door prize winners were: **Gloria Moore, Janet Wentz, Vivian Watts, and Bill Tomlinson**.

HOSTESS: There was no official hostess, but treats were brought by **Nicolette Grill, Jeanne Laymance, and Ruth Mallon**.

ATTENDANCE: There were 26 members and 4 guests in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Sandy Wagner
Secretary