

DESERT DIGGINS

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



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The BLM and the Desert Discovery Center are hosting an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at 831 Barstow Road in Barstow, CA.

Our society will be hosting a booth again this year to bring awareness of our society to the community. We need volunteers to help with set up (8:00-9:00 a.m.) and to man the booth. Those staffing the booth will provide flyers and membership applications to visitors.

The event promotes environmental awareness in a fun and festive atmosphere with educational booths focusing on the Mojave Desert, grass mulching, composting, yard waste management, xeriscaping, and recycling. Activities include workshops on reducing waste, reusing various items and recycling. This event is free and open to the public. There is limited seating in the workshops so pre-registration is recommended.

Earth Day was introduced by Senator Gaylord Nelson in support of environmental concerns. It is celebrated each year on April 22nd.



Did you know that the date for Easter changes every year? It falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox. This year Easter is observed on April 12th.

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

April 3rd Meeting

Program: To be announced
 Hostess: Beth Pinnell & Janet Wentz
 Door Prizes: Bill Depue

Annual Membership Dues

Dues are PAYABLE IN JANUARY

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



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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 he or she brought and **tell** about it. The theme for April is "Tumbled Gemstones". 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 - None (Party)

April Birthdays

02 Apr - Ceri Satur
18 Apr - Sam Mallon
18 Apr - Steve Talewich
24 Apr - Nick Beall
28 Apr - Carolyn Fender
30 Apr - Charlotte Robinson

Birthstone: Diamond

Flower: Daisy



Happy Birthday to our club members who are celebrating a Birthday this month!



TRIP TALK

April Field Trip

Place: Barstow Onyx
Date: April 18, 2009 (Saturday)
Time: 8:00 a.m. at Diamond Pacific
Leader: Wayne Mallon
Tools: Rock hammer, gloves, safety goggles, collecting bags

The April field trip will be to the Barstow Onyx. Material found there is a lovely white and gold streaked and banded onyx.

"Proverbs are mental **gems** gathered in the diamond fields of the mind."

William R. Alger



Quotable Quotes

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS:



Barbara Minard (Hesperia, CA) - She is interested in caring, gem trees, jewelry, lapidary arts, rocks, and wire wrap. **Barbara** is also a member of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

Joe Summers (Hinkley, CA) - He is interested in fossils, minerals, and rocks. **Joe** is also a member of the Clark County Gem and Mineral Society in Las Vegas, NV.

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TUMBLLED GEMSTONES

from mineralszone.com



Definition: A gem with an irregular or baroque shape. Polished by random application of an abrasive material.

Tumbling is a process of smoothing and polishing a hard substance like stone. For tumbling of stones a rubber barrel is loaded with consignment of rocks, abrasive grit and a lubricant. Silicon carbide grit is commonly used and water is the universal lubricant. The barrel is then placed on slowly rotating rails and the stones are gradually smoothed and polished. These smoothed and polished stones are called **tumbled stones**.

Tumbled stones possess a rustic and timeworn look. They bring in the beauty of the outdoor inside with their rustic look. Intricate patterns of these stones add extra touch of beauty, uniqueness and elegance to any interior. They are also used for exterior applications. A rich saga of colors, sizes and shapes are available to suit any individual's taste.

Characteristics of Tumbled Stones

Tumbled stones are durable and make beautiful and elegant non-slip floors. These characteristics make them one of the widely used architectural stones.

Finishes of Tumbled Stones

- **Natural Tumbled:** Lightly tumbled to give rounded edges giving an effect of an aged stone.
- **Honed Tumbled:** Gives a smooth, matte look. Creates an atmosphere of cozy comfort.
- **Polished Tumbled:** High gloss surface that gives a mirror like reflection.
- **Antique Tumbled:** Tumbled to achieve a slight rustic look.

Types of Tumbled Stone

- **Tumbled Marble:** Marble that is tumbled has softer looking edges, sometimes almost rounded giving the effect of aged stone. They are used for flooring and walls.
- **Tumbled Limestone:** It is a very beautiful, decorative and practical alternative for backsplashes, tabletops, countertops and small floors. It is practical because the surface is already dull, porous and rustic by nature, so cannot be easily damaged in the ways polished versions can.
- **Tumbled Slate:** It is very durable and water repellent as well as acid, frost, stain and fire resistant. It is used for flooring, walls and in fireplaces. It is an extremely practical finishing material.



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BACKYARD BUZZ

by Tricia Sheppard



Nicolette Grill has been working on her geology senior project at Cal State University San Bernardino. She is studying our "Barstow Coral" and will be able to define it's composition after her study is complete. When her study is finished we know it will not be identified as a coral but it will always be "Barstow Coral" to us. She spent three weekends at the Sheppards, slicing, cutting, polishing all the angles and preparing slices of material for the thin cuts which she will finish at the lab at CSUSB. We will have to await her findings in June sometime.

Vivian Watts provides us with a cliff hanger from time to time. This time she was riding her quad and **Danny Watts** was riding his motorcycle up the hill to the Verde Antique and **Vivian's** quad flipped her. She was very close to the cliff's edge but she was able to quickly gather herself together and upright the Quad and continue on her day. She is a little battered and bruised but everyone is grateful she is alive and well and not over the cliff. Never a dull moment for **Vivian**. **Danny** and she found some nice Verde despite **Vivian's** distracting ascent up the mountain side.



We just learned at the Victorville Tailgate that **JoAnn and Nick Beall's** motor home, which they have been working on so painstakingly for the past 12 years, caught fire while they were in Quartzsite at the QIA. Friends called to them and they were able to get out with only what they had on. They lost everything. Our wonderful members, **Ron and Delores Millard** from Bakersfield, were there with their trailer and took them in for a few nights until they could get back on their feet and make arrangements to get back home. Our hearts go out to them and we are so glad they escaped without injury.

The Victorville Tailgate dealers had especially marvelous materials this year. The Two Sisters' Rock Shop was there selling their goodies. On Friday, we saw **Kemp Root, Danny and Vivian Watts, Leslie and Dave Walker, Julia Begley, JoAnn and Nick Beall, Bill Depue and his sister, Betty, Peggy and Gene Haines, Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde, Katie Boyd, Bill Buehler, Ren Lallatin** and the **Sheppards**. This year there was an amazing amount of Bertrandite/Beryllium in huge pieces. The **Sheppards** rescued some gorgeous slices of moss agate/jasper from the Cady's, **Peggy** had the find of the day with a beautiful pink limb section. **Gene**, Brazilian agate, moss agates. **Johnny Rout** was spotted over the weekend as well as **Janet Wentz, Bob Menelly, Bob Wheeler, Dian Hare, Lovanna Brown, John and Joan Bird, Jim and Sherri Hare, and Barbara Minard**.



Anastasio and Adelina Elizalde are now the proud owners of an Alaskan camper that they received from **Bob Wheeler**. **Anastasio** has been calling **Norm Sheppard** for a few tips on how to do this and that. Congratulations to the **Elizalde** family. When do we get to have a camp over?



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WORKSHOP WRAP

by Vivian Watts



Workshop - March 20, 2009

The Genies were in full swing with many members working on projects. **Sandy Wagner** shaped and polished a Calico silver lace piece and an agate stone. **Wayne Mallon** assisted **Helen Orloff** with a petrified wood hunk. **Danny Watts** helped **Barbara Minard** with a lovely and colorful piece of crazy lace while **Erin Rice** polished fire agate. **Jeannie Laymance** brought in some onyx and **Tim Moore** was busy polishing other rocks.

Among those that polished Christmas agate found at a recent field trip were **Therese Carlson**, **Scott Stevenson** and junior member **Avery Stevenson**. **Scott** also had some burro creek agate. **Scott** found out he didn't know his own strength when the clamp brook on the saw as he was cutting a rock for **Tim**. **Wayne Mallon** and **Bill Depue** put their talents to work and were able to get the saw back into working order. **Bill** also assisted **Avery** with cutting and shaping his Christmas agate.

Leslie Walker brought a friend, **Lisa White** and her daughter **Elisabeth**, to workshop night. They worked on creating delicate wire trees while nearby, **Ruth Mallon** and **Joan Bird** made life-like beaded spiders. **Vivian Watts** provided baked goodies of yummy brownies and orange bread.

FIELD FEATURES

photos by Vivian Watts

Red Rock Canyon (March 21, 2009)

Trip Leader: **Danny Watts**



Location: an area North of Red Rock Canyon.

BURRO SCHMIDT TUNNEL



PALM ROOT AREA



PALM ROOT AREA



A special thanks to **Danny** for leading the trip and **Vivian** for taking the photos and submitting the "workshop wrap" article above.

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SHOW SCOOP - APRIL 2009



3-5 - BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA: San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society; 6th annual show, "Rock and Gem Rendezvous 2009"; San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society; Kern County Fair Grounds, 1142 S. P St.; Fri. 9-8; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; indoor/outdoor show, rocks, gems, fossils, beads, lapidary supplies, hourly drawings, silent auction, spinning wheel, raffle; contact Lew Helfrich, (661) 323-2663; e-mail: lewsrocks@bak.rr.com

4-5 - MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA: Show; California State Mining and Mineral Museum, Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club; Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5005 Fairgrounds Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, crafts, mineral exhibits, children's activities, guest speakers, silent auctions, mining and mineral museum; contact Dianne Bereschagin, P.O. Box 1192, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 742-7625; e-mail: mineralmuseum@sti.net

11-12 - PARADISE, CALIFORNIA: 55th annual show; Paradise Gem & Mineral Club; Paradise Elks Lodge, 6309 Clark Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$1, children free; raffles, demonstrations, auctions, exhibits, youth activities; contact Carol Eggleston, 3745 Cosby Ave., Chico, CA 95928, (530) 343-0894; e-mail: cjeggy@chico.com

17-19 - SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA: CFMS Show and Convention, "Nature's Showcase"; Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; admission \$6; 60 dealers, kids' area, demonstrations, Ice Age fossil display, 6,000 lb. jade boulder, exhibits, jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, gold panning demonstration; contact Frank Mullaney, P.O. Box 54, San Jose, CA 95103, (408) 265-1422; e-mail: info@scvngms.org; Web site: www.scvngms.org

18-19 - LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA: Show; Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Lancaster High School, 44701 32nd St. W; 9-5 Daily; free admission; dealers, tailgaters, raffle drawing, silent auction; contact Jules Ficke, (661) 943-5157; e-mail: av_gem@yahoo.com; Web site: www.geocities.com/av_gem

25-26 - SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society; Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, corner of Center St. and Church St.; 10-5 Daily; adults \$3; Treasure Wheel, demonstrations, more than 20 dealers, gems, minerals, beads, jewelry, fossils; contact Dean Welder, P.O. Box 343, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, (408) 353-2675; e-mail: wdewanwelder@yahoo.com; Web site: www.scmgs.org



Easter Thought to Ponder:
*The nice thing about being senile is,
you can hide your own Easter eggs.*

MINUTES - MARCH 6, 2009

President Nicolette Grill called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, the Club saluted the flag, and welcomed new members; Dan Moore, Henry Rice, and Avery Stevenson. Happy Birthday wishes go to:

Katy Boyd, Peggy Haines, Diane Hale, Dorothy Oberg, Beth Pinnell, Johnny Rout, Morgan Stevenson, Greg Wagner, and Bob Wheeler.

The Feb Minutes were submitted to President Nicolette Grill. Treasurer Janet Wentz said she would give her report at the Board Meeting.

Beth Pinnell gave a short talk about broken pottery, and showed some interesting pieces. Trish Sheppard asked for help with the responsibility of providing items for the Gem Show grab bags, and explained that it takes 3 months to tumble polish a load of rocks. The meeting then broke for refreshments provided by hostess Ruth Mallon, while Janet Wentz passed out door prize tickets.

The next board meeting will be Friday, March 13, at 6:30 pm.

Our next workshop is March 20, at 6:30 pm.

The next Society meeting is April 3, 2009 at 7:00pm

The Boron club is having a show the 13th & 14 of June, 09.

A field trip to Opal Mountain will be led by Danny Watts on 3-21-09. Meet at Diamond Pacific at 8:00am.

Door Prizes were provided by Nicolette Grill and were won by:

Agate-Jasper=Adelina Elizalde, Pet Palm=Gloria, Shard=Leslie Walker, Shard=Gene Haines, Lrg Shard=Bill Tomlinson Shard=Vivian Watts, Jap/Agate=Avery Stevenson.

Cab of the month was won by Gene Haines.

Bill Depue shared about an estate sale of rocks in N. Hollywood.

Show and Tell were a shard by Janet Wentz, Jasper by Morgan Stevenson, Bubble Jasper by John Bird, and a shard by Dian Hare.

Lavella Tomlinson shared rocks that she found locally, and Gary showed Jade, Jadite, Vulcan jade, and Serpentine.

44 people attended and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Wagner, Secretary MDGMS