

# DESERT DIGGINGS

JULY/AUGUST 2010

## MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

The Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society (MDGMS) is a non-profit 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

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### MDGMS OFFICERS 2010

President: Kent Berryman  
Vice President: Jeanne Laymance  
Secretary: Katie Boyd  
Treasurer: Janet Wentz

### Board members:

Dian Hare     Wayne Mallon  
Rob Stapp     Vivian Watts  
Danny Watts

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Happy Birthday to: Erin Rice, Bill Tomlinson and Lisa White in July  
And Terry Berg, Sandra Depue, Ruth Mallon, Barbara Minard and Debra Simon in August

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### Meetings and Workshops

Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 7:00 p.m.  
Workshops – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 6:30 p.m.  
Location – 25647 W. Main Street  
Lenwood, CA

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### Themes for the meetings during 2010:

July	Fossils
August	Spheres
September	Petrified wood
October	Opal
November	Gold

### UPCOMING SHOWS/EVENTS

#### Schedule of our field trips for 2010

July: Lucy Tunnell in Rosamond

August – Trish & Norm's house to sort rocks for the show

I will put more details of the destinations as we get closer to going

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I hope everybody reads the CFMS newsletter each month. Their web site is

cfmsinc.org and has news of all us gem & mineralogical societies in California, as well as CFMS field trips, activities, and shows.

A hard copy of the newsletter will be posted on our bulletin board for those who don't have internet.

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FROM THE EDITOR

By now you've all noticed the date on this edition of our newsletter. There won't be a newsletter next month because I will not have the time to write one. However, this doesn't mean there aren't a lot of activities going on! I will just miss them, so I hope someone e-mails or calls me with updates so I can include them in September's edition.

Last month several of our members who are also members in the Victorville club, went on a field trip to Hector Mine where we had a tour and were allowed into the open pit to collect at various places.

We all came home with some amazing specimens of chalcedony, travertine, hector ore, colorful quartz. Besides all that there are lava rocks and some really nice sandstone.

I hope to convince you next meeting that we should set up a tour in the fall. I know you'd all have a good time and learn a lot, too.

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MINUTES OF MDGM JUNE 2010

After the flag salute we all sat down to a great BBQ dinner.

The formal meeting was short. It was decided to hold meetings in July and August. Workshops will also be held during the summer. We therefore need sign ups for refreshments and door prizes.

Betty Stickley applied for our scholarship. Her application is in accordance with our criteria. It was moved, seconded and passed to award her a \$1,000 scholarship which will be paid to the college. They will make the funds available to her.

There was a question about field trips over the summer. Besides the hot weather, there is a conflict with the federation show. There will be no field trip until September. However, we will still be going to Trish & Norm's house in August to sort rock for the silent auctions at the show. The next board meeting in August will plan the trips for the fall.

There was no old business

Katie Boyd,  
Secretary

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Jeanne Laymance is still planning to start a youth program. I don't know how far along she is in the planning stage, but anyone who is interested should contact her. Such programs need several volunteers to make it happen.

## WE GOT MAIL

Donna Patterson wrote to me recently. She is doing OK in her new home, but misses her old friends and fellow rock hounds.

We had a nice note from Dottie Mann who sent a donation for the scholarship fund. For now she is unable to attend meetings, and it sure is our loss – she is a lovely lady.

Doug Wilson of [www.wilsonminerals.com](http://www.wilsonminerals.com) sent an introductory letter. He started his company in Nova Scotia and sells quality specimens of their minerals. His letter will be on the bulletin board along with discount coupons.

It would be great to hear from out of town members – how about dropping us a line and catching us up on your news. We miss you.

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Our first summer workshop was June 18<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately it was not as well attended for various reasons like summer vacations. Leslie Walker and her granddaughters were again bagging specimens for the grab bags, this time quartz crystals. Peggy Haines did the inserts for them.

Ruth Mallon had enough of the ‘spiders’ and is now busy making bracelets of memory wire and gemstones for the wheel.

I saw Joe Sumners polishing a beautiful piece of cave onyx. Danny Watts had a blue agate from the Wiley Wells area.

There were others on the wheels, but several machines were sadly idle.

It was a good opportunity to do some cleaning and maintenance, which Gene Haines and myself undertook. It had been too long since this was done, although our members are careful to wipe, rinse & dry their work stations.

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Sad story: A friend of mine (no names) gave money to a soldier headed for Afghanistan so he could buy a piece of lapis. He came home recently with a decent sized piece of the right color blue rock. My friend was so excited and had me put a piece of it on the genie to polish it. To his disappointment it immediately turned the water bright blue, and was so soft I knew it must be dyed howlite. Gosh I hated to tell him that!

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Now remember, there won't be a newsletter until September, but there will be meetings and workshops in July and August as usual. Hope to see you there.

# *Desert Diggings*



## **MOJAVE DESERT GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

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