

# DESERT DIGGINS

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## SOCIETY OBJECTIVES:

- 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.



## WHY QUARTZSITE?

BY GENE HAINES

If you haven't been then you really need to plan on going next year. Mark your calendar for Jan - Feb 2013, you can go any days therein. It is a mere four hour drive but you can see many different things on the way there, even the Wind Farm in Palm Springs if you have never seen it - is quite a sight! I would like to encourage you to think about planning and going next year, it's fun, educational, entertaining, enlightening and entuses you with renewed vigor for the love of the arts. Why would I recommend this trip you ask, I'm glad you asked because here is why;



Hand knapped custom arrowheads, spear points, knives, etc.

**Places** - This is one unique site within our wonderful 50 states where you can meet and greet people from all over the country and world. The local Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Club is one of the largest in the U.S. This is a unique Rock-hounds paradise (since 1856 - Ft. Tyson) and

there are tours all around within a 10-mile radius where you can collect varieties of rocks and minerals. The local club schedules field trips and you can not only find new items but also meet nice people

*Continued on page 2*

## RENEWAL ROUNDUP MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Payment is **due in January** and becomes delinquent March 1st.

Membership renewal is fast and easy.

1. Find our treasurer Janet Wentz (usually located in the back of the room.

2. Make check payable to MDGMS. Adults \$20.00 Juniors \$10.00

Keep your membership in good standing!





Hi Jolly camel made of wrecking yard auto parts



Stalactites as objects of art for corporate or personal galleries



Obsidian Jade and Abalone mosaic tortoise



Recycled metal prospector

## WHY QUARTZSITE?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

along the way! If you're not sure you can find products of all kinds at the **Tyson Wells**; 1. Rock & Gem Show, 2. Sell-A-Rama Show, and 3. Art & Craft Fair (they each run for 10 days in Jan and Feb). There is also the **QIA** (Quartzsite Improvement Association) "Main Event", the annual **POW-WOW**, and the **Desert Gardens** (great prices that have always been for rock hounds) where the original 'Tailgating' started years ago. **But... if you don't go you'll never know!**

Besides the rock hounding there are other historical places to see right around the town. There is the Hi Jolly pyramid (see, you don't have to go to Egypt to see the big ones!), there are the welded horseshoes in the shape of a huge Whale, a larger than life Saguaro Cactus, a great Fish, etc., a life sized Camel made out of auto junk yard parts, an old adobe house, several restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations and a few motels. There is also a local library, a book store - with an owner who wears only a loin cloth year round and you might want to avert your eyes here - rides a bike as well!

There is also the well-known phenomenon of the "**Alumi-naughty**" - this is where the desert suddenly sprouts Aluminum campers and RV's on all the hillsides of Quartzsite and you can see them for miles around. And of course there are sales lots selling the same if you only have the money. The town also sports special places where you can see cactus blooming this time of year, have humming birds being curious around your campsite and witness spectacular Technicolor sunsets that will stun your senses. **If you don't go you'll never know.**

**People** - There are people there from everywhere and every walk of life according to faith, occupation, imagination, etc. The **Africans** from Botswana have lovely Agates with extremely tight banding and fabulous pastel colors that dazzle the eyes, **Australians** are a fun bunch, they stick together and they really live their mantra of "no worries" since they never get frustrated or flustered with issues. **Brits, Canadians** coming down from the south have a double reason; get out of the cold and make some gold!

**Europeans** who like the climate this time of year as well and want to come here to sell, sell and sell. I've met **Greeks** who love the arts, **Russians** - Da! Da!, **Germans** enjoying the outdoors and machinery, **Indian** craftsmen, **South Sea Islanders** - the desert is strange to them, **Scots** looking for bargains to be had, **Mexicans** with wonderful wares, **Nordic** folks with smiles for days, **Jamaicans** mon!, and **New Yorkers** with their Herkimer's in tow. Like I say - **If you don't go you'll never know.**

**Products** - Where to even start on this topic? There are so many sights to see and so little time it seems every year. From small items for only a quarter to custom crafts costing \$20,000 you can see it all. It seems like Utopia for those who love natural things from the Earth. The intrinsic beauty abounds in the rocks, minerals, gemstones, crystals, etc., and is all-inclusive with miles of isles and tons of smiles. As a bonus **Diamond Pacific** has a huge well-stocked building (cool inside!) where you can shop for Accessories, Books,

Continued on page 5

# SHOW, TELL, SHARE

BY 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 “**Fossilized Plants**”. Be sure to bring this month’s “themed” specimens to **share**.

### Themes for 2012:

- January – Luminescent Minerals
- **February - Fossilized Plants**
- March - Volcanic Rocks
- April - Meteorites
- May - Manmade Tools
- June - None (Barbecue)
- July - Lapidary Arts
- August - Synthetics
- September - Saps
- October - Ores
- November - Metallic Gems
- December - None (Party)

"Movie making is the slowest business on earth next to fossil manufacture."

Aaron Latham



## Quotable Quotes

## TYPES OF PLANT FOSSILIZATION

BRING YOUR EXAMPLES TO SHOW, TELL, SHARE!

Plant fossils include leaves, fern fronds, cones, bark sections, flowers and petrified wood. They are found in one of six categories:

1. **Compression** – Two-dimensional imprint of the plant transformed into a flat impression of the plant often retaining some organic matter.
2. **Impression** – Two-dimensional imprint of the plant buried in sediment not retaining organic matter.
3. **Mold or Cast** – Three-dimensional mold of the original plant sometimes retaining organic matter. When sediment fills in an empty space in the plant it forms a cast. If the sediment surrounds the plant before the plant decays it forms a mold.
4. **Permineralization** – Minerals seep into the plant and harden forming a three-dimensional fossil. Petrified wood is an example of a permineralization fossil.
5. **Compaction** – Three-dimensional reduced volume version of the plant retaining organic matter.
6. **Molecular** – Chemical remains of plant material which can contain fossilized DNA and RNA.

Walt Wright Seed Cone



Petrified Wood is a very well-known fossil plant. In the petrification process, the solid trunk of a tree is replaced by a mineral, usually silica. The cellular structure of the tree is then an exact replica of the original tree now in rock. The colors associated with petrified wood come from the trace elements associated with the mineral that replaced it.



### The Plant Fossilization Process

Fossilization is the process where plant and animal remains are preserved in sedimentary rock. The fossilization process begins when a plant or animal dies and is quickly covered with sediments. The loose sediments protect the remains from the elements, bacteria and other forces that cause decay, preserving some of the remains. Sediment layers continue to collect becoming hard solid rock.

We are members of:



Subject to change, these classes will be offered:

- Lapidary
- Silver Fabrication
- Beading
- Soft Stone Carving & Scrimshaw
- Advanced Wire Art
- Wire Art
- Field Trips
- Precious metal clay
- Faceting
- Alternative Casting



For information only, call:  
**Marion Roberts**  
(209) 538-0197

**ZZYX CAMP DATE:**  
**April 1 - April 8, 2012**

Mail application to:  
**Audrey Harvey**  
3363 Tuxford Place  
Thousand Oaks, CA  
91360  
(805) 492-2253

**REGISTRATION FORM - DEADLINE**  
**March 1, 2012**  
Applications received after this date will be placed on a stand-by list and considered only when a vacancy exits.

# NOTEWORTHY NEWS

from CFMS Newsletter-January 2012, page 13

We invite you to join us at the Earth Science Seminar to be held at Soda Springs (Zzyzx) located approximately 50 miles northeast of Barstow, CA, off 1-15 at Zzyzx Rd. Facilities are rustic, dormitory style rooms with bed, mattress, and desk. Cleaning responsibilities lie with occupants. You must bring bed linen or sleeping bag and any creature comforts you may desire, i.e., lamp, throw rug, ice chest. RV parking is approximately 1/4 mile from the center and has no facilities of any kind. All restrooms and showers are located in separate buildings at the center and are communal. The Earth Science Committee retains the right to accept or deny applications as they deem appropriate. This area is designated by the Government as a Desert Studies Center; consequently, **NO PETS ARE ALLOWED.** A limited number of reservations are available and early application is recommended. Subject to change, these classes will be offered:



The fee for the week is \$375.00 per person and includes quarters or RV space, three meals per day, and classes. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by instructors.

### IF YOU USE YOUR R.V. YOU CAN SAVE \$50.00

No cancellations after MARCH 17, 2012, *UNLESS A REPLACEMENT IS PROVIDED.* A \$25.00 Administration Fee will be assessed for cancellations made prior to March 17, 2012. Please complete the Registration Form and mail it with full payment, payable to CFMS.

***Please use block printing:***

Mr. Mrs. Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Mrs. Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ R.V. \_\_\_\_\_ DORM \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM REQUEST FOR MEDICAL OR PHYSICAL REASONS; PLEASE DESCRIBE

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:    DIABETIC                      OTHER

EXPLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

***Please fill in classes desired:***

First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
A _____	_____	_____
B _____	_____	_____

# BACKYARD BUZZ

BY TRICIA SHEPPEARD



Gene and Peggy, Norm and Tricia, Dian and Leslie, Danny and Vivian, Bill Depue, Bob Wheeler, Walt Wright, (and we hope many others) had an opportunity to visit Quartzite.

Bill Depue's birthday was on January 14<sup>th</sup> and he invited Tricia and Norm to take a trip with him and John Pickett to the Cady Mountains. We had a wonderful trip and celebrated Bill's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday with an apple pie.

At the workshop on

January 20<sup>th</sup> Vivian was looking for information about our club CFMS membership. In doing so Joan, Vivian and Tricia cleaned cabinets and shelves, discovered the most marvelous pictures of the club's beginnings back to the mid 40's. We are now officially organized and the photos are wonderful and Vivian found the info she needs for the federation.

Norm and Danny went early to the workshop and installed five replacement wheels on

the Genies. They also replaced the blade on the trim saw.



## New Members

Robert "bob" Brant  
Viola Basulto  
Teresita Basulto  
Allen Olsen



happy birthday

- 01 Feb – Tim Fernandez
- 07 Feb – Norm Shepheard
- 09 Feb – Eve Toles
- 11 Feb – Edward Deren
- 11 Feb – Ronald Millard
- 14 Feb – Konner McWhitney
- 15 Feb – Betty Stickleby
- 16 Feb – Kent Berryman
- 16 Feb – La Vella Tomlinson
- 17 Feb – Gene Haines
- 20 Feb – Joan Bird
- 20 Feb – Donna Patterson
- 24 Feb – Melita Crowell
- 26 Feb – Vivian Watts

**Birthstone:** Amethyst  
**Flower:** Violet and Primrose

## WHY QUARTZSITE?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Equipment and Supplies for all of your lapidary needs. Stop by, rest, relax, shop and visit with them for a while, you may just get a good tip on some good deals. You can walk a little or a lot, it's all your call. I've seen walkers, joggers, toddlers, wagons towed and wheelchairs stowed, bikes and trikes; it matters not as long as it doesn't get too hot! You are guaranteed to see things you will never see anywhere else no matter where you travel, it's a sight to behold but you have to be bold; but

remember; **if you don't go you'll never know.**



Petrified Woods

If you can't find it here you must not need it. You should go and pick up a few souvenirs of your visit or at least pick out gifts (you'll have them ready throughout the year for special occasions) for your family

and friends. It's a real treat to meet fellow club members and other club members that you may not see but once a year. It is amazing how many you will meet no matter which of the shows you go to. Oh, did I mention that if you don't... **well you now know by now don't you?** Hope to see you there next year!!



Beaded antler knife handle

End of article



Mark Your Calendar

## Club Calendar

February 2012

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 3 - Gen Mtg 7:00pm
- 14 - Valentines Day
- 17 - Workshop 6:30pm
- 18 - Field Trip ?
- 20 - Presidents Day

**Hostess:**  
Penny Harper



**Door Prizes:**  
Kemp Root



**Primary Business Address**

Mojave Desert  
Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 138  
Barstow, CA 92312

Phone: (760) 255-1030

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.mdgms.org](http://www.mdgms.org)


**MDGMS Officers 2012**

**President:** Vivian Watts  
**Vice President:** Dian Hare  
**Secretary:** La Vella Tomlinson  
**Treasurer:** Janet Wentz

**Board of Directors 2012**

Nick Beall  
Donna Patterson  
Kemp Root  
Rob Stapp  
Danny Watts  
**Past Pres:** Scott Stevenson

**Meetings/Workshops/Trips**

Meetings: 1st Fri (7:00pm)  
Workshops: 3rd Fri (6:30pm)  
Field Trips: 3rd Sat (8:00am)  
Location: 25647 W. Main,  
Barstow, CA 92312

**Annual Membership Dues**

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

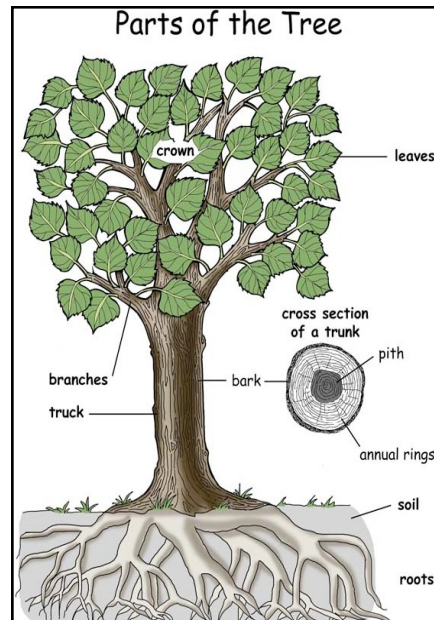
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**WORD WISE (PARTS OF THE TREE)**

BY PEGGY HAINES

Word Wise corresponds to the "theme of the month" imparting basic knowledge of that theme. A tree has been chosen to reflect one of many possible categories for **fossilized plants**. Definition of a **fossilized plant**: A remnant or trace of an organism of a past geologic age, such as a skeleton or leaf imprint, embedded and preserved in the earth's crust.



- **Tree** — A plant having a permanently woody main stem or trunk, ordinarily growing to a considerable height, and usually developing branches some distance from the ground.
- **Trunk** — The main woody axis of a tree.
- **Log** — A portion or length of the trunk or of a large limb of a felled tree.
- **Branch** — A division or subdivision of the stem or axis of a tree, shrub, or other plant.
- **Limb** — A large or main branch of a tree.
- **Stem** — Stalk that supports a leaf, flower, or fruit.
- **Foliage** — Plant leaves, tree leaves, considered as a group.
- **Leaf** — One of the expanded, usually green organs borne by the stem of a plant.
- **Roots** — A part of the body of a plant that develops, typically, from the radicle and grows downward into the soil, anchoring the plant and absorbing nutrient and moisture.

## CALENDAR COUNTDOWN FEBRUARY 2012



**17-26 - INDIO, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society; Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival; Gem & Mineral Bldg, Bldg. #1, 46-350 Arabia St.; Fri thru Mon 10-10; adults \$8, seniors \$7, students \$6, children (under 5) free; contact Bert Grisham, 1029 N. 8th St., Banning, CA 92220, (915) 849-1674; e-mail: bert67@verizon.net

**18-19 - ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Antioch Lapidary Club; Contra Costa County Fairgrounds; 1201 W. 10th St.; Sat and Sun 10-5; adults \$4, children (under 12), Scouts in uniform, and active military with ID free; jewelry, gems, findings, supplies, auction, grab bags, exhibits, hands-on projects for kids; contact Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957; e-mail: [brenda.miguel@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda.miguel@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com)

**24-25 - NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA:** Annual show; Del Air Rockhounds Club; United Methodist Church; 9650 Reseda Blvd.; Fri. 3-9, Sat. 10-5; free admission; contact Julia Marin, (818) 886-7190; Web site: [www.delairrockhounds.org](http://www.delairrockhounds.org)

## Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 7pm by president Vivian Watts, followed by the flag salute. Our new member Robert Sloan was introduced. Suzanne was our guest tonight. January Happy Birthdays were wished to our members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the change that Charlotte Robinson's husband prepared the spheres that Danny Watts finished for the Silent Auction. Additions to last month's newsletter: Katie Boyd baked the cornbread for the set-up workers Chili Lunch on Friday of our Show. And Therese Carlson was also a member of the team for sewing Grab Bags.

Treasurers report was given by Janet Wentz. Our Club came out ahead in finances after the Gem & Mineral Show in December.

Vivian Watts discussed the necessity of continued club security at the end of the Show and during take-down time in the evening. An expensive ring was stolen from Graywolf's booth during this time; this was the booth on the west side beside the club's Spin the Wheel. Take-down time is 5pm, not earlier.

The new elected officers for the year 2012 were sworn in by president Vivian Watts: President, Vivian Watts; Vice President Dian Hare; Treasurer, Janet Wentz; Secretary, La Vella Tomlinson; Board of Directors: Kemp Root, Rob Stapp, Donna Patterson, Nick Beall, Danny Watts. Scott Stevenson is the past president.

The Hostess for tonight's refreshments was Vivian Watts.

Nicolette Grill wrote a thank you letter for receiving the MDG&MS's scholarship this year and also thanked everyone tonight.

Danny Watts explained the different activities at Quartzite.

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club is having a raffle for a 16 inch saw, \$5.00 a ticket. The drawing will be when 100 tickets are sold.

Door Prizes were gifted by Janet Wentz and Danny Watts. There were 12 lucky winners.

Cab of the Month winner was #7 made by Danny Watts using a man-made material.

The program about Luminescent Rocks & Minerals was led by Danny Watts. Ultraviolet specimens from Danny, Dian Hare, Leslie Walker, Bill & La Vella Tomlinson were examined with the black light. Many were discovered also to be phosphorescent. Broedy also brought to Show & Tell a Rhyolite specimen that he found.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectively submitted,  
La Vella Tomlinson, Secretary

Happy  
Valentines Day



# Desert Diggins



**MOJAVE DESERT  
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 138  
BARSTOW, CA 92312  
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