

THE VOICE

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 6 MARCH 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE EL PASO MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

P.O. Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931

Membership Dues are due and payable as of December of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for Adults (18 and Over) and \$4.00 for Juniors. Make check out to EPMGS and mail to PO Box 31516 El Paso TX 79931. **Delinquency of over 90 days will result in being removed from the Membership Roster.**

Meetings will be held on the 4th Thursday of every month at The Memorial Senior Center, 1800 Byron, El Paso TX at 6:30 PM. Board Meetings will usually be held a half hour prior to the general meeting

THE VOICE

The Voice is the official bulletin of the Society and is published monthly. All articles must be in the editor's possession no later than the Monday following the monthly meeting. Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.

E-mail madtex@q.com and mailing address: EPMGS, Editor, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided that credit is properly cited. Ads are accepted from members for publication at no charge for the sale or exchange of items pertaining to the hobby.

WEBSITE: www.epmgs.com

The El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be to increase and

disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials; to encourage mineral study, collecting and fashioning as a hobby; to conduct meeting, lectures, displays, field trips, and to sponsor shows for the general edification of the public.

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Anyone who has a change in mailing address, phone number, etc. please send e-mails to Judy Herd at pyritejudy@sbcglobal.net, or mail to: EPMGS Membership, PO Box 31516, El Paso TX 79931. Thank you.

General Meeting

The next meeting will be **March 24, 2011 at 6:30pm**. This will be a **ROCK AUCTION** meeting! Do you have one too many agates lying around, or crystals? Does your mother's afghan clash with your rock and mineral décor? Are those gem and mineral books taking up room you'd rather put your display on? If so please bring in your **Good condition items** for the auction. You never know what you'll see. The proceeds will go to the club's activities and functions. Great deals and fun await. Don't forget to bring your cash.

All members whose last name begins with A – L please bring in snack or desert items.

Secretary Report

Minutes General Meeting El Paso Mineral and Gem Society
2.24.2011

Meeting called to order at 6:30
Minutes from past meeting read by Sec. Teresa Z.
Guests in attendance: Michael Nassa
New Members: Pam & Jim Contreras
Financial report read by Pres. Liz Kosturakis,
School Reports given by each teacher,
All classes are full with new and continuing students.
Sue Critz reported on past field trip to Socorro New Mexico and announced the upcoming field trip to Pebble Mounds on March 19th.
9 am meeting time at the corner NM213 &

Martin Luther King
For more info see The EPMG website

There was no old business
New Business-
Liz announced the Albuquerque Show March 18-20
New Registered Agent is Gloria Rivera
The club will continue to do a phone tree to remind all members of up and coming meetings
Hospitality will assign someone to keep up with news of present & past members.

A special Thanks was given to Roy Smith for donating every year to the school and to Peggy for donating 3 afghans for a school fund raiser.

Congratulations To Matt on retiring.
Announcement was made that past member Paul Garland died last December.
Members that do not pay annual dues by March will be dropped from the roster.
Deming show is March 10th-13th
P.J asked for help with giving out scholarships-Peggy and Martie will be helping.

Door Prize Winners-Pam Contreras
Eddie & Gordon
Show & Tell
Matt brought pseudo fossils
Liz brought interesting buys from Tucson Show
Harry brought information and examples of work by Edward Klotz.
Every one enjoyed snacks brought by members M-Z
Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Written by
Secretary
Teresa
Ziraldo

Sadly Missed

We are saddened to announce the deaths of two fine gentlemen belonging to our club and common interest;

Paul Garland –December 2010 and Michael Roblin –January 2011.

Editors Mine

KEEP OUR FOREST OPEN!

“Dear Fellow Outdoorsmen,

The National Forest Service has a hidden agenda to close the forest to the public. They don't want to limit the public's access, they want to eliminate it!

The National Forest service believes the forest belongs to the wolf, the silvery minnow, the Gila trout and the spotted owl, not to the taxpayers who enjoy the outdoors.

They want to stop rock hounding, camping, hunting and any other activity we currently enjoy in our forests.

Imagine their vision of the forest. WITH THEIR permission, we may drive along a few approved roads, BUT we may NOT get off them any farther than the length of your vehicle! You can't camp anywhere except a few designated areas.

Have you ever been to Elephant Butte Lake on the 4th of July? That's what camping will be like in the forest if this goes through!

Next will be camping fees and travel permits, just like our state parks.

The national forest has been the last place of true freedom for us. Are we going to let the Forest Service take them away from us? They will if we fail to fight for them! We must speak up and let them know in no uncertain terms that we not stand for this. If we don't, gone will be the days of free camping, rock hounding, trail riding, hunting and all the things that we enjoy as our birthright as an American.”

How can they do this? By closing and gating the roads in the forests under the pretention of not maintaining them. The Forest Service has several proposals, from ZERO USE to 30 % road use!!This determination will NOT be made by elected officials, but by individual forest supervisors.

At first I said, “No way, they can't do this” but I looked in to this and it is so very TRUE they are in fact doing this.

I and other groups have been in touch with NM Congressman Steve Pearce. He is leading the federal fight with our support. Please go to the website www.keepourforestopen.org for more information. **The forest Service is proposing CLOSING 70% of the Gila National Forest roads.**

There will be a meeting in Silver City on March 5, 2011 at 12:00 at the Convention Center. Congressman Steve Pearce 855-473-2723

There are people who don't want ANYONE in the forests. They are organized and marching to achieve their agendas. Please get involved.



Gems

Weights Used in the Gem trade

In the international gem trade, the carat, gram and grain are used as units of weight.

Carat – The weight used in the gem trade since antiquity. Origin; the name derived from the seed *kuara* of the African Coral tree or from the kernel (Greek *keratin*)

Since 1907 Europe and America have adopted **the metric carat of 200 mg or 0.2g**. Small diamonds are weighed in points, which are 1/100 carat (0.01ct).

Examples of carat using the Brilliant Diamond cut:

Diameter in mm – 5.2 6.5 8.2 11.0

Weight in carat- 0.50 1.0 2.0 5.0

The price of the gem stone is usually sold “per carat.” When a one carat piece for example sells for \$750 then a two carat is not necessarily worth \$1500 but maybe \$3000 or more.

The carat weight of gems should not be confused with **karat** used by the goldsmith. In

the case of gold karat is not a weight measure at all but a measure of quality. The higher the karatage, the higher the content of gold in the piece of jewelry.

GRAM – The weight of measure used in the trade of less precious gemstone especially for rough stone.

Grain – Formerly the weight measure of pearls. It corresponds to 0.05g or ¼ carat. Today it is increasingly substituted by use of the carat.

“Gemstones of the World”, Walter Schumann
pg 26

Dendritic Agate

Dendritic agate is a colorless whitish-gray Chalcedony with tree or fern like markings. (Dendritic-Greek tree-like) The dendrites are iron or manganese inclusions.

Despite their looks, they have nothing to do with the organic world, but rather resemble ice crystals on windows in the winter.



Dendritic Agates



Field Trip

February Field Trip: Mineralogical Museum at New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM. Our February field trip was attended by Larry Hager, Tom Smith and Sue Critz.

Only one word can come close to adequately describing this museum, and that is "AWESOME!" You are greeted immediately as you come through the door of the building where the museum is located with large specimens of minerals common to New Mexico, which is just a hint of what is to come when you climb the stairs to the second floor and the museum itself.

Upon arrival in the museum, Larry immediately began cursing, having discovered that although he had fully recharged it in anticipation of the trip, he had left his camera battery sitting in the charger at home. Sue thought this was amusing until, after taking many pictures herself, her own camera battery went dead! So Tom had to pick up the slack and take pictures for all three.

Unfortunately, the fossil exhibit was closed due to water damage from frozen pipes, but the mineralogical exhibit more than made up for the inability to see the fossils this time around. The museum displays about 2,000 of its full

collection of 15,000+ specimens, from time to time changing what is displayed so those of us itching for a return visit won't be disappointed at not seeing something new. Aside from some of our areas more interesting minerals, the museum also houses a meteorite display and a display of gem minerals along with their faceted counterparts. (Larry had to be held back from breaking into cases and taking everything he thought would facet well.)

March Field Trip - "The Pebble Mounds" - Our **March 19** field trip will be to a local spot I particularly like for good tumbling stones, stones for smaller cabochons, Apache tears, jasper, chert and petrified wood. I call the spot "The Pebble Mounds" because that's what the area looks like - mounds of small stones. Most material is small - in the one to two inch size frame - but very nicely colored. If you like tumbling stones for wire wrapping or would like some good material for making small cabochons, this is the trip for you. My rarest find in this area is a petrified egg, so an alert eye might yield you a rare find.

We will meet at 9 AM on March 19th at the corner of War Road and NM Highway 404.

Take US 54 North to the Kenworthy exit. Make a left on Kenworthy; this becomes Martin Luther King Drive as you swing up past the North Hills development and War Road farther north. Keep going north until you cross the New Mexico state line about 2 miles north NM 404 goes to the left just before you get to Chaparral. I'll be parked with my gold Dodge Ram 1500 on the right side of the road just before you get to the intersection; just pull in behind me. BE PROMPT as we will depart from this location to the collecting spot at 9 AM. Contact me at 915-203-4783 or email scritz@earthlink.net if you need more info.

Lapidary

I like machines, big powerful grinding spinning machines. My likes are usually bigger than my wallet. Which brings me to, why are the machines so expensive; Movable moving parts, motor, wheels and arbors. Last I checked not scribed in gold.

Has anyone made their own flat laps, saws or grinders? If so we'd love to post your success or horror stories about your experiences.

I received a call from my realtor about a property she was selling. She knows about my obsessive relationship with rocks. My realtor rolled her eyes the two times I moved and I took wheel barrels of rocks from the yard to the new destinations.

The owner long gone had been a rock hound and had a couple of old combo grinding machines outside. They had been heavily used in their day and now lay in a sad state of abandonment and disrepair. So my current project is to rehab them to the point of useful life again.

Tips

When cutting rough on saws that cool with oil, after the cut place the rough in a bucket of kitty litter. Be sure the kitty has not used it before you. The litter will absorb the oil before washing.

March 18-20—ALBUQUERQUE, NEW

MEXICO: 42nd annual show, Treasures of the Earth" Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; Creative Arts Center Bldg., State Fair Grounds, EXPO NM (San Pedro entrance); Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$1 Fri., \$3 Sat. and Sun., kids 12 and under free; more than 40 dealers, displays, door prizes, silent auctions, mineral and gem identification, juniors' booth, live wolf, geode cracking, faceting demonstration, gold panning and more; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; e-mail: paulhlava@q.com

March 15-17—ALPINE, TEXAS: Show, "Alpine Agate Festival"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center, Hwy. 90W and 13th St. N; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; South Central Federation convention, grand prize, door prizes, silent auctions, field trips, kids' corner, demo dealers; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Web site: www.cdgmc.org

March 2011

10-13 DEMING, NM: 46th Annual "Rockhound Roundup", Deming Gem & Mineral Society S.W New Mexico Fairgrounds, Deming, NM. 9:00am – 5:00pm Thursday through Friday. Jewelry, rocks, Buyers' Market, Lapidary Equipment. Guided Field trips to "Big Diggins and other locations. Field Trips leave at 8:30am Thurs., Friday and Saturday from the fairgrounds. Silent auctions. For more

information call Bud Daily 575-267-4399.

Web site: www.dgms.bravehost.com

SCHOOL INFORMATION AND CLASS ENROLLMENT

Call 915-562-4268 for information and to enroll in Lapidary and Jewelry-craft classes. The Instructors are volunteers from the school committee of the Society and are not paid in any way by the Society or the students. If you want to enroll in one of the classes, all you have to do is sign up at the Memorial Park Senior Center which is located at 1800 Byron Street, El Paso TX. It is important that you register early because a minimum of three students is needed for a "Go" with a maximum of six students per class. Sign up well in advance as there are usually waiting lists. Each Class has a \$20 fee plus a Lab Fee and any other material costs. The \$20 fee payment is to be made on the first day of the class to the Senior Center, and the Lab Fee will be paid to your instructor. All other material purchases should be paid for at the time of purchase or delivery.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings are all held at noon in the conference room at the Memorial Park Senior Citizens Center. Anybody who wishes to sit in on any of the meetings is welcome. We recommend that you call Rose Strong at the Center first to make sure that the meeting date has not changed. Her number is 915-562-4268.

Wed Jan 26	Tue Feb 22	Mon Mar 21	Tue Apr 19
Wed May 25	Tue Jun 21	Mon Jul 18	Tue Aug 23
Mon Sep 19	Tue Oct 18	Mon Nov 14	Tue Dec 13

2011 Class Schedule: (Classes run from 9 AM to 12 Noon unless otherwise noted)

Monday & Wednesday Lapidary and Silversmith

3 Jan thru 9 Feb 21 Feb thru 30 Mar 11 Apr thru 18 May

Tuesday & Thursday Casting, Faceting, & Wirewrap 4 Jan thru 10 Feb

Classes

22 Feb thru 31 Mar

12 Apr thru 19 May

Monday & Wednesday ADVANCED Silversmith 1 PM to 4 PM 3 Jan thru 9 Feb

21 Feb thru 30 Mar

11 Apr thru 18 May

Thursday (Only) ADVANCED Lapidary 1 PM to 4 PM

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19

Friday Beading

Held from 9 AM to 12 Noon.

Fee \$3.00. Bring your own materials.

NOTE: ADVANCED CLASSES ARE FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS. THERE WILL BE NO MATERIAL SALES DURING THIS WORKSHOP. YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS.

The shop at the Memorial Senior Center is open for anyone's use on Friday's from 9 AM to 12 Noon. The shop fee for every session is \$3.00 to be paid to the instructor in charge of the Workshop.

2011 CLUB OFFICERS

President Liz Kosturakis (915)595-1413 Vice President P.J. Schabacker (575)589-5068

Treasurer Riitta Gillespie (915)821-4273 Secretary Teresa Ziraldo (915)526-9445

Historian Marty Gaugler (915)859-6634 Editor Matt Durning (915)491-3244

Field Trips Sue Critz (915)203-4783 Membership Judy Herd (915)821-7818

3 Year Trustee Tom Smith (915)778-5240 2 Year Trustee Miguel Chrisman (915)740-0301

1 Year Trustee Matt Durning Show Chair Harry Bruntz (915)345-2415

Assist. Show Chair Jeanette Carrillo (915)533-7153 Webmaster Matt Durning