

THE VOICE

VOLUME LXII NUMBER 7 APRIL 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 Any articles received after that will not be published until the following month.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 **April 28, 2011 at 6:30pm**. This will be an **“EATIN’ Meeting.”** All members attending are asked to bring a covered dish, salad or desert.

Secretary Report

The EPMGS General Meeting 03-24-2011 was called to order at 6:27pm. The minutes and financial report were approved as read.

The school reported that there was “Special Arts” class meeting Tues-Thursday 12:30-4:00pm involving different medias. Contact Peggy at the School for more information. Currently the classes are full.

Harry Bruntz reported that the 2011 show vendors list is currently full and that there is a vendor’s waiting list. The show committee is forming and beginning to organize for the next show.

A special thanks to the Pulners from the Crystal Shop for a donation to the school. The shop is going out of business. On April 19 there will be an auction of the Crystal Shops equipment of tumblers, saw, polishers and shelving. Contact the shop for more information.

The Committees Chairs were announced: Reggie Medlock, Harry Bruntz, Teresa Ziraldo and Sue Critz.

Executive committee: Liz Kosturakis Pres., PJ Schabaker VP, Rita Gillespie Treasurer.

Trustees: Tom smith, Matthew Durning and Mike Chrisman.

The meeting then held its silent auction. S special thanks to those who donated items.

Editors Mine

Hello spring time, you’ve been a long time coming. Here spring unofficially starts at the Deming Rock hound Round Up show. It was a pleasant surprise that there was no rain or 50mph wind gusts. It was a great show. One family/vendor was selling their late father’s gigantic collection, tons of petrified wood, Brazilian agates, equipment and just about everything else under the sun. The prices were a once in a life time too. Good to see a large group from our club there.

In early March my wife Linda and I and a big group from the Las Cruces rock club went to Silver City to the “Keep Our Forest Open” rally. There we joined up with approximately 750 Gila Wilderness supporters from all over the state of NM and AZ. We heard from several supporters rallying us to fight the Forest Service plan to close more than three quarters of the Gila’s roads to the public. The featured speaker was U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce-NM. Petitions were signed, protest letters were turned in and now it’s a waiting game. There is a strong movement to limit the public (you and me) from our public land. Additional attempts are being brought forward to change vast sections of BLM status to “Monuments”, again limiting access. Don’t think it can happen? Do

nothing and find out. There was a whimsical term being use to describe the dictatorial environmental groups that want to close our public lands as “water melons”, green on the on the outside red on the inside. Though the protest period has come and gone with the USFS, don’t stop there. Contact your U.S. Congress representatives’ let them know how you feel. Educate and demand your voice be heard and our public land remain open to you and your families.

You thought that it would stop there didn’t you. Our government bureaucrats wouldn’t try anything else would they! Now the NM State Park system wants to ban and outlaw rock collecting from “**Rockhound State Park**” in Deming, NM. For those on our e-mail list I’ve sent you the back up this. To refresh your information go to www.friendsofrockhounding.org at the bottom there is a link to the draft.

Imagine the park whose land was donated to the state of NM for the original purpose to rock hound and collect rocks on, now on their own volition deciding to change the land use. They also state in their draft that rock collection was once popular in 1966 at the establishment of the park.

Okay what can you do? The public hearing will be on March 29 so not enough time there for our snail mail readers. Get the draft familiarize yourself with it. We have until April 18, 2011 to mail and or fax your concerns and protest to the park service. Their address is; NM State Parks, P.O.Box 1147, Santa Fe, NM 87505, FAX 505-476-

3361. Politely and firmly state your opinion to them. Imagine making it a crime to rock hound?

When I bring up these issues with some theirs eyes start to look like a cow looking at a new gate, I know. Believe me I’d rather talk rocks not politics but do you see a trend here? It’s about our land and our rights. Do we want to be the generation who will tell their grandkids about the “once popular” hobby of rock collecting on our public lands? **“Not taking action is taking action and not speaking out is speaking out.”**



Time Machine

I was reading an article in the March 1974 Rock and Gem magazine about the oil and gas shortage then. Imagine that? Rationing and high gas prices were an issue to rock hounds, sound familiar? Their terms were “greed and incompetence”. Don’t hold back! The author goes on about rock hounding as a way of life that there is an inherit need to go out and search the hills and deserts. It’s still there 37 years later,

both the energy crisis and need to rock hound. Will we stop taking trips, no but we can do it smarter and we can figure that out too. Perhaps camping out at one location and launching off from there to other areas. One idea is to pawn your kids X-Box or other game programs for gas money. Shorter trips or searching new closer spots, luckily for us we have so many options.

I'm glad they got the energy issue resolved in the '70's, I heard they even made a Dept. of Energy to correct this whole problem, "you bettcha!"

Display Tip

Got an old bat at home? Not my fault! No really a Louisville slugger. A wooden bat can find new life as a specimen stand. Cut the wood in the thickness you desire, sand and refinish. Most bats have decent grain lines to accent the stands. Drill a hole for a cooper tube cut with a hack saw and peel back the tube end and attach the specimen to the end. Wire stands can also be inserted as well and cutting a canal for a slab display.

Rock of the Month

Petoskey Stone, the stone of Michigan. I recently saw an article on the Petoskey stone and knew I've got one of those around my shop. After some digging I found

my one and only Petoskey stone.



A.K.A. Hexacorrillia, a variety of Prismaiphyllum peccarnanem. Actually this stone is corral colony that has been completely replaced by calcite. It was formed approximately 350 million years ago during the Devon period. During that time a warm sea covered the area where Traverse Bay near Petoskey, Michigan is located. In this picture you can see the corral fossils surrounded by the hexagon rings. I decided that this stone had sat unattended to long.

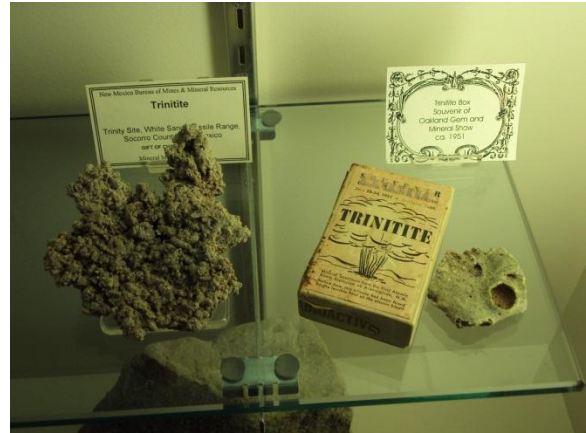
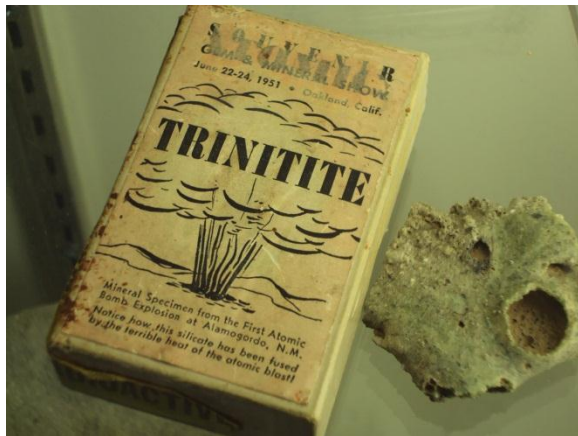


The stone was a breeze to cut. They shaped easily going from grits 80, 320, 600, 1200 on belts to diamond paste polishes; 8000, 14,000 and 50,000. The light brown, grey and white cabs are truly beautiful and were

worth the extra polish work. The corral show great detail. Most fossils I've polished are soft at perhaps 6 on the mohs. After working with hard agates it's nice. The cabs are very nice specimens of the stone and would make nice jewelry. It's unique already in that it is 350 million years old from ancient sea from Michigan. By the way, the great lakes were formed glaciers.

Blast from the past

On July 16, 1945 at 5:29am and 45 seconds the first Atomic bomb was detonated at the Trinity Site, Alamogordo, NM. Besides ending WWII and changing the world for ever it created my favorite man made specimen; Trinitite.



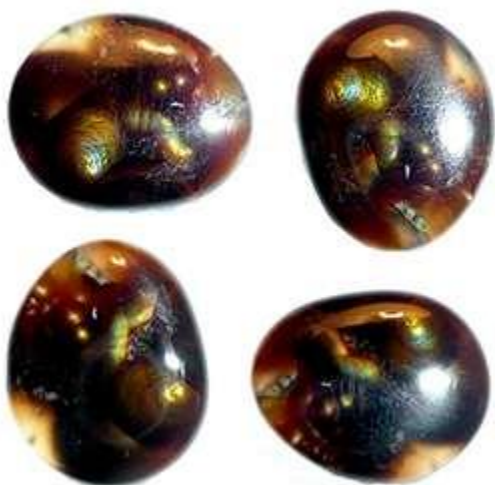
The above pictures are from the NM Tech Mineral Museum in Socorro, NM. Trinitite is glass created from the nuclear blast. At one time they were sold as souvenirs in card size boxes. If you wish to include this rare mineral to your collection, purchase only from a trusted source as fakes are out there.

The Trinity Site is opened to the public twice a year the next time is April 2, 2011. For information www.wsmr.army.mil you may not be able to ever stand on the Plymouth Rock, but you can stand on the spot that changed the world forever.



Field Trip

The **April 16, 2011** field trip will be to Round Mountain near Lordsburg, NM . There we will be looking for fire agate, chalcedony roses and quartz nodules. The club will meet at the Whata burger located at the Outlet Mall on Trans mountain and I-10 at **7:30am**. Please contact Sue Critz, scritz@earthlink.net 203-4783 for more information



Show information

APRIL 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.cdgm.org

For more show dates,
www.rockngem/showdates/

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.

