



RockChips

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The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

February 2016

"DGMS serves to share with the community its knowledge of earth sciences and the lapidary arts"

President's Message

Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day.

Our first General meeting went very well and had a lot of our winter visitors.

We are planning an Open House for March 26th 2 to 5 pm . Sign up sheet will be at the Gen. Meeting for volunteers to bring finger foods and dips. We have had several new members join and they are enjoying the club. Dave will have his program that was scheduled for last month, We are planning other activities and field trips so come into the shop and see what is on the calendar. Carol is working very hard to get everything ready for Round-Up on March 10th -13th. Check the list and see if you can't help for an hour or two. You can have friends help if they would like to work with you.

I gave a speech at the Friends of Rock Hound and appreciate the members that came and gave support. Darryl had some rocks to show and I brought jewelry and items related to the shop. It was fun and interesting to do. See you at the general meeting on Wednesday February 24th at 2:00 pm.

Yours truly ...Marilyn

DGMS General Meeting

Minutes - January 23rd 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. by President Marilyn Page, who then asked any and all past and present Military personnel stand to be recognized in appreciation of their service to our country. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were over 45 members present. (Ran out of fingers and toes to get the exact count). There were seven new members present. They were: Anita Williams, Joyce Vander Molen, Linda Evers, Bob & Bonnie Denzler, and Allen & Karen Wagner. **Welcome new members!**

There was no Secretary's report.

No Treasurer's report.

The general membership approved Linda Edwards as the new Treasurer for 2016. Welcome... and Thank You Linda. (Ben Staff turned in his written resignation to Marilyn, stating health reasons, a few days after the January Board meeting.)

Field Trips: Ken Sholar said he would act as Club Field Trip Chairman. He will be choosing people to help. The Chair will go to various sites and check them out for field trips.

Claims: Frank Barber and Paul Browning will be working Claims.

Membership: It was stated that people were renewing and some more new members joined. More info next month.

January Sunshine: Barbara Hamilton said get well cards were sent to Carol Duncan, Norm Martin and Lloyd Page, and a Thinking of You card was sent to George & Gaylene Laudermilk and Grace & Ernie Bent.

In a sad note: Artist Robert Evans, passed away February 6th after a lengthy battle with cancer.

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine call Barbara at 575-494-6238.

Bulletin: Scott asked that members submit or suggest ideas or information they would like to see in the bulletin.

Rockhound Roundup: Cindy Jordan was approved by the members as the Assistant Roundup Chair. Carol Duncan announced that there will be Roundup meetings at 1:00 p.m. on both Thursday, February 4th and on the 18th. Possibly a March meeting also. She reported that there is still need of Coordinators for Coffee & Donuts, the Spinning Wheel, and the Bucket Brigade. Also need lots of people to sign up to fill shifts, 2-4 hours or whatever you can work. And, in need of a few people to visit businesses and request donations for our drawings and/or items to put in our Vendor packets (i.e. pens and/or pencils, company advertising items, note pads, discount coupons, etc.)

Gail Hennig needs to receive some 'pretty' rock specimens donated for the children's education tables.

Carol said there will be some handouts at the gates to direct people to Bldg.2 as well as the other vendors.

Judy Crawford announced that she will be coordinating the Friday night silent auction. We need to fill 20 tables with 20 items, soooo.... please go through your rocks and rock related items, jewelry is ok too, and choose some items that you can live without. Then sign up with her for a table or only a partial table. All is welcome. If you have not participated in the Silent Auction, it is a fun night. But, we need the items to make it a success.

Frank Barber and his crew will be setting up our Roundup signs around town.

Saturday, Jan. 30th, 10 am. we need volunteers to help move the panels in Bldg. #1 said Joe Morone. Tuesday, Jan 26th help needed cutting geodes on for the kids area.

Sunday, March 6th, at noon, we need help moving the heavy equipment to the show area. Then Monday is general set-up and all members are needed to help.

Between March 8 and 17th the backhoe will be working at

Big Diggings. Will need people to guard the newly dug rock piles. (see Joe for actual dates) Unfortunately, there are some people who will try and take our rocks before the show.

Joe described the all day silent auction, during the show, and said he would need some workers to work the tables.

Sawyers are also needed to cut geodes at the show. He will train. If interested, see Maury for more info. It's a fun job.

Cary Voss said he would be the Field Trips coordinator for Roundup.

Secretary's note on Roundup: On Monday morning at 9:30 am. (not earlier, as I want to get a heater going), those of you who want to help, and can't do the heavy stuff, will meet in the restaurant in Bldg. 2. We will be getting dealer ribbons ready, folding programs and brochures, stuffing dealer packets, etc. There is something for everyone to do. It's a club effort.

Club inventory to be done in January and November.

Shop: Joe stated that the shop is open several days. We have one saw and one grinder down, but the rest is working. We have openings for sawyers and shop leaders.

Scott presented the new proposed Club logo. It had been approved by the Board, and now the members approved it. This logo will be used for business letters, forms etc. The Mimbres Rabbit logo is to be used for T-shirts, etc.

President Marilyn installed Linda Edwards (Treasurer), Cindy Jordan (Asst. Rockhound Roundup Chair), and Carolyn Abbey (Secretary) to their respective offices.

Classes: February 13, Saturday, Judy Crawford will teach a wire wrapping class from 9 til noon. Please bring your tools & supplies. A material list will be at Black Hat, and Trina's Rock shop has some also. If you can't get them, she has some you can borrow, and will sell wire at the suppliers price.

Friday, February 19th, from 9am. til noon, Kate Waldburger will be doing a class on 2" doughnut wire wrap. Material list at the same places listed above. She prefers to use Bedalon wire.

There will be a reimbursement of mileage used for field trip leaders, who scout out areas for field trips.

ByLaws: The new 2015 ByLaws had a whole lot of changes from the last ones which were done in 2008. There are some things members would like changed or added by amendments. If you do, please submit them to a Board member. Or e-mail to theDGMS@gmail.com.

There was a discussion on the last election's absentee ballots. The procedure, to say the least, was confusing. This will be simplified in the By Law's amendments.

Sylvia Golden has requested occasional assistance in the Club's Library.

Linda told us about Rakche Tamang and his family, one of our vendors from Nepal, who had lost everything in their recent earthquake. Linda and Cindy have been collecting donations to help him with space rent and other items.

New Business: Cary Voss Complimented the ByLaws Committee for their efforts in the revision. He then began a discussion of club issues in which most members present were involved.

Refreshment break--

More club discussion--

Program: Dave Hoggatt will give a program on Micro Mounts at the February meeting as we ran out of time this meeting.

Drawings: Door prizes were won by Maury Crawford and Allen Wagner. The name tag drawing was won by Linda Edwards, and the 50/50 was won by Arlene Beem.

Marilyn asked for approval to change the club meetings to the fourth Wednesdays at 2 pm. It was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Abbey, Secretary

DGMS Board Meeting Minutes - February 3rd 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm. President Marilyn Page then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were: Marilyn Page, Carolyn Abbey, Linda Edwards, Carol Duncan Joe Morone, John Edwards, Ed Edwards, and Scott Ehlers. Club members present were: Cindy Jordan, Maurice & Judy Crawford, Pat Smail, Cary Voss, and Mike Tindall.

Gail Hennig will do the black light case for Roundup.

Discussion about Email listings.

Claims will be done by Ken Scholar and help from Paul Browning

Shop: Joe Morone would like someone to run the shop in the summer. At this time, Maury Crawford will be helping him.

It was stated that as there is not a lot of things to do for the Library, and that maybe Historian and Librarian could be combined.

Still need a social hostess and Publicity chairs.

The current shop procedures will be revised by Joe and submitted to the Board to approve.

The By Laws Committee had met at different places to conduct their business as we couldn't meet at the Club house. It was voted to reimburse Carolyn for paper and printer ink, as a result.

Discussion of Roundup field trips, and noted that a person can not go from one site to another on the same day, having paid for only one site.

Information on specialized equipment to grind hearts and crosses was given. Based on the high cost for same, it was decided the Club not purchase the equipment and continue not making them in our shop.

Regarding the upcoming Open House, as most of the snowbirds leave before April, it was decided to hold the event on Saturday, March 26th from 2– 5 pm. Like to thank those businesses who have supported the Club. Hope to have shop demos, entertainment, finger food, etc. It was suggested that fliers for next year's craft show, be included in Roundup dealer packets.

Next General meeting will be on Wednesday, February 24th at 2 pm.

Marilyn received a card of thanks from the Friends of Rockhound Park for the recent presentation. Joe made a motion to give the officers an honorary 2016 DGMS membership. It was approved.

Joe also moved to pay the Fair Board any expenses for Ed Edwards to be on the Fair Board. Approved. It was also noted that according to the By Laws, the Shop Foreman is in charge of the saws at Roundup.

Carol told us that there would be Police security during the days of Roundup and also present at our nightly auctions. Most of her Roundup info will be discussed at her meeting tomorrow.

Joe is looking for help to build tables for the show cases. Also asked for funds to buy materials. A budget of \$500 was approved. Also it was approved for Joe to order propane.

A new By Laws Committee is in place to oversee the amendments to them. Pat Smail, Cindy Jordan, Carolyn Abbey, and Ed Edwards are the committee members.

The Board voted that anyone who works at the Roundup will be eligible to go to the Club's after show *Big Diggins* field trip.

The meeting was Adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Abbey, Secretary

Rockhound State Park Happenings – Feb. 2016

By Rocky Rockhound

Greetings and Happy February to the "rock people" from those of us at Rockhound State Park.

We have had a busy winter so far. Lots of campers are visiting the park and staying for a few days to collect souvenir rocks, walk the trails, and enjoy our beautiful sunsets. People who are coming to this area for the first time are amazed at the beauty of the mountains, and the amount of space we have.

The Friends of Rockhound had their monthly meeting January 27th. The speaker was your very own Marilyn Page, your president of the Gem and Mineral Society. We all enjoyed her presentation, and we thank her immensely.

Friends will meet at the Visitor Center for Garden Care on Wednesday, Feb. 17th at 9:00 AM, so if you would like to make the garden look nicer, come on over.

The February Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at 10:00 AM. There will be no guest speaker, but they will have the annual Birthday Party and Election of officers. Come and see what the group is all about. We appreciate all the help the friends give the park. It wouldn't be this nice if it were not for them.

Rockhound State Park is open all the time. The Visitor Center is open from 10-12 AM, and 1-4 PM. Our telephone number is 575-546-6182 for questions or information.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 13th	Wire-wrap class
Wednesday, Feb. 17th ...	Garden Care Rockhound State Park 9:00 am
Friday, February 19th ...	Doughnut Wire wrap class.
Wednesday, February, 24th	General Meeting 2:00pm.
Thursday, March 3rd ..	RHRU Meeting 1:00 pm.
Sunday, March 6th	moving of equipment to Fair Grounds.
Monday, March 7th ...	general set-up day.
March 10th-13th	51st Rock-Hound Roundup

Big Thank-You for all that helped move Partitions! ~Joe

February Birthdays

Stacy Goldstein
 Ruth Marshall
 Rosalinda Vasquez
 Rana Homs
 Myra Bowling
 Linda Ewers
 Linda Edwards
 Laura Kokkinen
 Larry Randa
 Kathryn Preble
 John Robbins
 Jim White
 Jim Enos
 Harold Buck
 Gustavo Morales
 Frank Barber
 Chet Schilling
 Calvin Jackson
 Bill Davis

either Mark or Anne Burtner (not sure)

February Anniversary's

Mary Davis
 Marilyn and Loyd Page
 Kim Herman
 Joe Morone
 Charlene LeMaster
 Bryan Herman
 Bill Davis

Congratulations to all!**Out and about, Fluorite Ridge Area**

One of our field trips this year will be to Fluorite Ridge and area, one of the closest historical sites to this area is Fort Cummings, but I wish to talk more about a person rather than the area.

When Congress passed an act authorizing the establishment of the first all Black units of the military, later to become known as "Buffalo Soldiers," Cathay Williams, a

former slave, joined the Army. At that time, women were not allowed to serve as soldiers so Williams posed as a man, calling herself William Cathay.

Williams was born into slavery in Independence, Missouri in 1842. Shortly after the Civil War broke out she was freed by Union soldiers and soon went to work for the Federal Army as a paid servant.

In November 1866, she enlisted as William Cathay in the 38th U.S. Infantry, Company A in St. Louis, Missouri. At that time, only a cursory medical examination was required and she was quickly found to be fit for duty. There were only two people that knew her true identify – a cousin and a friend, who faithfully kept her secret.

On September 7, 1867 the regiment moved on to Fort Cummings, New Mexico, arriving on October 1st. They were stationed there for eight months, protecting miners and traveling immigrants from Apache attack. While she was there, a brief mutiny broke out in December, 1867 when a camp follower was expelled for stealing money. Several men were brought up on charges or jailed, but Williams was not among them.

On June 6, 1868 the company marched once again, this time to Fort Bayard, New Mexico. By this time Williams longed to be quit of the army and, on July 13, she was admitted into Fort Bayard hospital, this time diagnosed with neuralgia – a catch-all term for any acute, intermittent pain caused by a nerve.

It was during this hospitalization that it was finally discovered that she was a woman. On October 14, 1868, William Cathay and was discharged at Fort Bayard with a certificate of disability, which included statements from the captain of her company and the post's assistant surgeon. The captain stated that Williams had been under his command since May 20, 1867 "... and has been since feeble both physically and mentally, and much of the time quite unfit for duty. The origin of his infirmities is unknown to me." The surgeon stated that Cathay was of "...a feeble habit. He is continually on sick report without benefit. He is unable to do military duty.... This condition dates prior to enlistment."

Over her two year stint Williams participated in regular garrison duties but there is no record that she ever saw direct combat while she was enlisted. Though seemingly not well regarded by her commanding officer, she was honorably discharged with the legacy of being the first and only female Buffalo Soldier to serve.

What happened to Cathay Williams afterwards is unknown, but it appears that she may have died sometime between 1892 and 1900. She was hospitalized in early 1890, for nearly a year and a half. By the time she left the hospital, she was completely without funds and in June, 1891 filed for a pension from the U.S. Army. Her service in the Army was declared illegal, and any type of pension, disability or otherwise, was denied.