



# ROCK CHIPS

January, 2020



## Message from the Prez:

Hi, DGMS members! Welcome to all our new members. I'm Marilyn Page, president of DGMS. We are starting a new year and have had one field trip already. In addition to our monthly field trips we are planning new informal exploratory trips and hope to be going out most every Sunday. Jim Paddock and Judy Murphy will be taking us to new areas.

We have a new lease with the city and I have signed it. It will be in 5-year increments with renewals. We will be working with the city and with the FAA for our land. Our Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00. All members can attend. General meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2:00. Please make every effort to attend. Any questions or concerns, please call me at 575.544.9019. See you at the club! Marilyn.

## General Meeting Minutes, 12/19/2019 submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary:

### Old Business:

- Elections were conducted by Zandy Darrow. Thanks, Zandy, for your assistance!
- Officers elected for the 2020 year include the following:
  - Officers:
    - President- Marilyn Page
    - Vice President- Judy Murphy
    - Secretary- Bill Gallagher
    - Treasurer- Donna George
    - Board Members:
      - Marvin Clary
      - Cathy Burnett
  - Committee Chairmen:
    - Finance- Donna George
    - Publicity- Judy Murphy
    - Big Diggin's- Marvin Clary
    - Shop- Joe Morone
    - Rock Chips Newsletter- Linda Moore
    - Facebook: Jan Hayes, Donna George
    - Rockhound Roundup- Jan Hayes
    - Holiday Craft and Gift Fair- Linda Moore
- Marvin Clary reported that the exploratory dig for the claim was cancelled due to rain so an extra day will be added for the Roundup field trips to the claim, making four days of digging instead of three.
- Joe Morone Shop report: Shop is good, some maintenance being done. Having to thin the saw oil; new grinder coming in.
- Also Joe reported our tax-exempt status is still up in the air and we currently continue as 501-C7.

### New Business:

- Acquisition of a flat screen TV was approved and Big John from ELP is donating one to the club and will bring to the next board meeting.
- Passwords have been located and we can now load digitized movies and have our other film media digitized.
- The club needs the phone repaired and it was decided to table discussion until the board meeting.
- Marvin Clary reported we have received a 10-year BLM permit for Big Diggin's instead of our 5-year permit which expired last year. This is a great improvement and Marvin saw it through! Thanks, Marvin!
- He also reported that we are now limited to 35 cars and 50 people per day during Roundup. We are also required to have one CPR certified representative onsite for our field trips on BLM land.
- Bill Gallagher reported that the club is trying hard to attract flintknappers, metal detectorists and people with interest, knowledge and skill in other aspects of hobbies in the lapidary field. Members are encouraged to bring knapping materials to the Roundup for our club tables which include, but are not limited to, flint, obsidian, exotic agate in rough and slabs.
- Roundup: The club approved four \$50.00 gift certificates for member gifts at Roundup. KN may send gifts for prizes again dependent on their stock.
- The shop will be closed from June 15-Oct. 15 due to lack of participation.
- Field trip: Group voted on a trip to Cooke's Peak for January 18. Meet at Clubhouse at 8:00 am and leave at 8:30 am.
- **Dues are Due** Meeting adjourned.

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## Monthly Member Highlight: Marilyn Page, President of DGMS

Marilyn and her husband of 58 years, Lloyd, hail from New Hampshire and moved to Deming 15 years ago looking for a warmer climate. They have 4 children, five grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Her interests are wide and varied. She is very creative and loves needle work, canning, lapidary and numerous crafts. Marilyn is member of Eastern Star where she has served as Worthy Matron (president) for 15 years both in New Hampshire and New Mexico.

She describes herself as a historian, loves all areas of history and is a big reader, currently reading the Children of the Earth series by Jean Auel which has a historical focus. Her favorite focus of rockhounding is lapidary and discovery/field trips.

Marilyn has served DGMS in every capacity for 15 years and is currently in her 4<sup>th</sup> term as president. In addition to her leadership skills, she is a fan of children and working with them in the area of earth sciences and gems and minerals. She and her husband, Lloyd, have been married 58 years. Lloyd is a woodworking craftsman who creates lovely toys for children and donates them to many causes.

Marilyn is the workhorse of our club. Whenever a job needs doing Marilyn will always jump in and get it done. Marilyn works behind the scenes and is willing to offer a helping hand to anyone, anytime. We would like to thank you, Marilyn, for your tireless efforts to promote the goals and focus of DGMS over the years and for the personal sacrifices you have made.

### *Field Trips:*



I know it's cold out there but bundle up and come on out with us. It's a great time of year to hunt. The rattlers are scarce and with the foliage gone, you can find a lot of good stuff that's usually covered by vegetation in the spring and summer.

November Field Trip to Fiero near Silver City and the mines. Everyone came home with something. Serpentine was on the menu and a good time was had by all. We hunted several areas and also visited the cemetery. Fiero is virtually a ghost town but has really interesting ruins and relics. The great thing about group field trips is

that someone usually has a lot of knowledge in areas you are not familiar with, and safety. Always safety, as well as getting to know club members and laughs. Lots of laughs.

January Field trip to Cooke's Peak was rescheduled for January 10 with 18 people attending. Carnelian was scarce but other treasures were located.



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### Shop Talk:

Our lapidary shop is the envy of many. Joe Morone, our Shop Chairman, and our Shop Bosses can teach you how to create your own cabochons and projects. For a small fee the Sawyers can cut your rocks for you as well. Our members have an abundance of knowledge and are always willing to help and share!

Sample of rocks coming out of our new dig site at Big Diggin's

#### Club Shop Hours

Monday - 9 a.m.-noon

Wednesday - Noon-3; 6 pm-9pm

Friday - 9 a.m.-noon

Saturday - 9 a.m.-noon

*Hours subject to change-check the board at the club*

**Pics from the *Holiday Craft and Gift Fair***



***Rockhound Roundup News:  
Roundup dates: March 12-15  
Jan Hayes***

The first Roundup meeting was held Monday, January 13, with 19 people in attendance. Committee Chairmen were determined and plans are underway for another outstanding show. If you haven't worked the show before you would be amazed at the number of activities going on and the amount of coordination and pre-planning required. We have 120 vendors, ongoing auctions, numerous activities for adults and kids and of course, concessions! Geodes will be cut, exhibits on view and 4 days of field trips for the public. Additionally, we will host our second year of the metal detecting contest. An important note to remember: The Rockhound Roundup is our big event for the year and our primary fundraiser. All members are encouraged to volunteer to cover the four-day event.

**Committee Chairpersons:**

Building 1	Merchandise - Marilyn
Building 2	Raffle tickets- Marilyn, Donna
Outside vendor set-up- Art K and Nancy	Security- Jim, Alan Hebert
Building Set-up- Jerry	Advertising- Judy and Carolyn
Metal Detecting- Bill	Silent auction Fri.- Joe, Jerry, Sam Martinet
Inside vendors- Carolyn, Barb Voss	Continuous auction-Joe
Accounting- Donna G. and Linda W.	Banner- Jan and Galen
Food Vendors-	Programs/Packets- Carolyn
Field trips- Cary Voss; trailer: Donna J	Sound system/ MC- Darrell J
Geode cutting- Joe	Spinning wheel
Membership table- Derrall M.	Vendor packets- Art and Carolyn
Trash- Bill Grainger	

As you can see there are many opportunities to volunteer in areas that may interest you. Most of the sign-up sheets are broken into 2-hour blocks and are located at the club.

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## *Jewelry Classes Begin!*

Wire-wrapping 101- Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10-12 at the club. Instructor: Jan Hayes. During this class we will wrap a cabochon. Bring your own tools if you have them, wire, and cabs, or purchase cabs at the class. Sign up at the club and call or text Jan at (503) 266-5451 for wire details. Currently this class is full but you can text or call Jan to be placed on the waiting list.

We have a number of talented people in the club who can teach all sorts of crafts and classes. Check the calendar for dates and times. All classes require registration with instructor so they don't overfill and so the instructor will have enough provisions on hand for you. There will be a small club fee for the class as well as other fees for materials, etc. If you know of an area you would like instruction in, please let us know and we will put the word out for an instructor.

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## Upcoming events:

"55th Annual Rockhound Round-up Gem and Mineral Show March 12-15, 2020 at the SWNM State Fairgrounds in Deming, NM

Treasures of the Earth 2020, Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Expo at the NM State Fair Grounds, March 20-22 Albuquerque, NM ([www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info))

Sierra County Rock and Gem Society (SCRAGS) first annual Rock and Gem show March 28-29, 2020 at the Civic Center in Truth or Consequences, NM. For vendor information call Trudie at 928.916.1299.

Albuquerque Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show 2020, October 2-4, Expo New Mexico, State Fairgrounds. ([www.abqfallshow.wixite.com/fairplay](http://www.abqfallshow.wixite.com/fairplay))

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## Community Participation:

First, a note was received from Bell Elementary School as follows:

"Dear Deming Gem and Mineral Society,  
We are so thankful for your help in collecting bottle caps. We need 400 pounds per bench and are nearly halfway there for one, which is exciting! Keep 'em coming!  
Bell Elementary Special Education Department."

And another that reads:

"Thank you so much for helping us collect bottle caps for our special Buddy Bench at Bell Elementary in Deming."  
Attached is a picture of what appears to be a man and a dead dinosaur which is on display at the Club. :)

Our club supports a number of community projects and activities. Some of these include:

- Collection of cancelled stamps for dialysis and cancer patients.
- Collection of plastic bottle caps for Special Education class for the Buddy Bench at Bell Elementary in Deming.
- Aluminum can collecting for donation to the Scouts, 4-H, and underprivileged.
- Earth Science Scholarship/Donation of \$1000.00 to schools to buy materials.
- Donation of \$500.00 to Kindergarten, First grade, and Special Education class to buy school supplies Bell Elementary.
- Annual donations to various charities as determined by the Board.



## Mojave Green

The Board wants the membership to be aware that the Mojave is slowly migrating east and Border Patrol states that more are being seen locally than ever before. BEWARE.

The **Mojave rattlesnake** (*Crotalus scutulatus*) is a [highly venomous pit viper](#) found in the deserts of the southwestern United States and central Mexico, with 2 subspecies recognized by scientists.

In the United States, the Mojave rattlesnake is found in most of Arizona, southern California, Nevada, southwestern Utah, southern New Mexico and some parts of Texas. Its range extends south to Puebla, near the southern edge of the Mexican plateau in the central region of Mexico.

As the species, common name indicates this snake lives in the [Mojave Desert](#), but that's only a small part of their range. They live mainly in the high desert and lower mountain slopes from 500 to 5000 feet (150m to 1500m) in elevation but the species seems to prefer the desert flats over rocky, hilly or canyon type habitats.

Found in most desert habitats it's most commonly found in areas of scattered creosote bush, but also mesquite, cactus scrub, desert wash, semi-grasslands and Joshua tree woodland habitats.

Adult [snakes of this species](#) reach a length of 2 to 4 feet, making it a medium-sized rattlesnake. Mojave rattlesnakes can be colored greenish gray to olive-green in the higher regions and brownish or yellowish on the lower habitats.

They have a triangular shaped head and the tail has white and black bands, the white bands are wider than the black bands, besides the obvious rattle. Because of the species occasional greenish hue they are also known as the Mojave green rattlesnake in some areas.

The Mojave rattlesnake is often mistaken for the [Western Diamondback rattlesnake](#) (*Crotalus atrox*), because of their overlapping ranges and similar appearance.

Both species have well defined diamonds with light edges down the middle of their backs.

They brumate alone or in small groups during the winter, and are active from April until September. They are primarily nocturnal and sometimes crepuscular snakes, hiding in rodent burrows or under crevices or desert bushes during the heat of the day.

The Mojave rattlesnake has a reputation for being aggressive towards humans, such behavior is often exaggerated but like other snakes, they will defend themselves if disturbed or harassed. These snakes are hunted, killed and eaten by other snakes like the [California kingsnake](#) but also roadrunners and other mammals and birds of prey.

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 **Reminders** 

**January General Meeting is Thursday, January 23, at 2:00 pm**

Our meetings are an opportunity to network about rocks, gems, and minerals, make some new acquaintance and friends and find out which areas you can be involved in. Please make others welcome. Some people need the friendship only you can provide. We need everyone to make an effort this year to attend and participate. We don't want to just be a "field-trip" club or a lapidary club. We have an important mission with important activities that depends on everyone's attendance and participation.

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If you are seasonal, come by the clubhouse as soon as you get in to let us know you are back and see what's going on. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

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Reminder! We are building up our library and the **Library Cupboard** is open during meetings and when staff are available. Donna George has been working hard to organize it for us. Come take a look at all of our Southwest resources

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***Help us keep in touch with you.***

If your address or email has changed, please contact: Linda Moore at: [thelindamoore1@gmail.com](mailto:thelindamoore1@gmail.com)  
Or mail changes to DGMS Membership, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031

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