



ROCK CHIPS

February, 2020



Message from the Prez:

Hi everyone! I was impressed that so many of you came to the general meeting. It was a good meeting and the firemen and ladies should be commended for the great job they did. Everyone learned something. Many questions and many answers.

I would like to mention a few things. First, any off-road vehicles are to remain on the trails or roads on BLM land. The consequences could be severe. Second, whoever mistakenly removed some rocks from the table in the shop, these are not shop rocks. They belong to others that dropped them off to be cut. Please return them. Third, many thanks to Linda and Derrall for straightening out the back room. Looks great.

We need someone to contact me for refreshments for our next general meeting. The officers have been providing them for the past 4 months and I hope some of our members will step forward and donate.

Again, thank you to our fire dept. for their program and thank you to our members for such a good showing.

Marilyn

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 you may have, please call me at 575.544.9019. See you at the club! Marilyn

General Meeting Minutes, 1/23/2020

The DGMS General Meeting was called to order by Marilyn Page, President, at 1:34. Eight new members were introduced to the club.

Old Business:

- We are NOT a non-profit 501C-3; our application was rejected though we were not notified by the attorney. We currently continue as a 501 C-7 social club while Donna George is preparing a new application for submission following receipt of IRS letter.
- DGMS leases are in good shape, new 5-year lease just signed.
- We are still working on walkie talkies, but need to locate them first.
- Dues Are Due
- Jim Paddock is the new SW New Mexico county fair board representative for DGMS.

Secretary: Bill Gallagher

- We are trying to get flint-knappers to our Roundup so slabs for knapping will be in demand.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Donna George:

- We were going to donate money to Peppers but apparently missed the deadline.
- We approved \$500.00 donations to the teachers of Bell School who financed some geology programs on their own.
- Everything else is good

Vice President: Judy Murphy

- During the Roundup, representatives from the Santa Fe visitors center are coming to video and do an article on our facility and club. Also, The ABQ journal, who we advertise with annually, has interviewed Marilyn Page and Judy Murphy.
- Fire Department members gave great presentation on safety in the desert and CPR.
- We are trying to get a trip organized to New Mexico Bureau of Geology Mineral Museum in Socorro, and are also going to ask them to do a case at the Roundup and to do a presentation at one of our meetings.
- Round Mountain Field Trip Feb 22. Meet here at 8:00 AM and leave at 8:30. This trip will be restricted to 8 vehicles with 4wd. (See below Field Trip section)
- Our program for the February meeting will be a fascinating presentation by Lynn Edwards on Wyoming Black Jade. Lynn is a Montana native whose grandfather, James Newton "Newt" Edwards, discovered the rare black jade in 1958. Named Edwards Black Jade, a specimen is in the Smithsonian today. Lynn is past president of the Billings Rock and Gem Club, a BLM volunteer, and member of our club. Don't miss this one!



Photo credit: Billings Gazette

Shop Report: Joe Morone

- Problems in the saw room! The last three blades replaced were due to broken teeth, not wear. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THE ROCKS ARE CHECKED WHEN THEY ARE IN THE VISE TO ENSURE THEY WILL NOT MOVE DURING CUTTING.** Also, no rocks glued to wood will be cut on DGMS saws anymore.
- Some rocks are coming up missing in the shop because it appears that people are picking up the wrong rocks. Any rocks on the shelf or table are off-limits except for silent auctions.
- We need volunteers to run shop.

Rockhound Roundup: Jan Hayes

- **REMINDER:** We are coming down to the wire. The Roundup is next month!!!
- We need all club members to volunteer to help if you can! Please sign up soon to get the time slot you prefer.
- Committee meetings: 2/12/2020 and 2/26/2020 at 10:00 am

Announcements:

- The Deming Luna Mimbres Museum in Deming has asked us to stock two display cases with New Mexico specimens and information about our club. We are soliciting donations of nice specimens and need to act on this within the month. If you have items you could donate or would like to assist, please contact Donna George at the club.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary

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



Rockhound Roundup News

Roundup dates: March 12-15

Jan Hayes, Chairman

Plans are underway for another outstanding show. If you haven't volunteered at the show before, you would be amazed at the number of activities going on and the amount of coordination and pre-planning required. This is a four-day event! We have 120+ vendors, ongoing auctions, numerous activities for adults and kids and of course, concessions! Geodes will be cut, exhibits on view, and 3 days of field trips provided 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. As you can see there are many opportunities to volunteer in areas that may interest you. The sign-up sheets are located at the club and involve a two-hour block.

This year's Rockhound Roundup field trips have been announced. They will be conducted on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be daily trips to Big Diggings, Fluorite Ridge/Greenleaf mine, and Hatch Barite mine at 8:00 am. All trips will be limited to the first 35 cars or 50 people. The Big Diggings trip fee will be \$20.00 per person ages 8 and up. The other sites will be \$5.00 per person. No restrooms are available. Be prepared to bring water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, etc. All persons will need to be off the sites by 2:00 pm. Instructions will be given by the field trip leaders the morning of the hunts. *Field trip sites are always subject to change depending on weather, road conditions, etc.*



Monthly Member Highlight: Donna George

Donna George, our Treasurer for 2020, is a woman full of curiosity which fuels her varied interests, hobbies and talents and one who devotes many hours to our club. Originally from Pennsylvania, Donna is a tax attorney and arrived in Deming fifteen years ago via Utah where she studied archaeology. She also has a degree in library science and is our DGMS Librarian! Donna is currently seeking certification through the Audubon Society to create a horned toad sanctuary in her yard. Donna and husband, Todd, are involved in animal rescue and can be counted on to have many dogs and cats to love and care for running around their home. They also rehab houses in their spare time. Donna will always go out of her way to help anyone in any way she can.

Field Trips:

February's Field Trip will be to Round Mountain on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Meet at the club at 8:00 am. The drive is about 1 ½ hours. Judy is limiting this trip to 8 vehicles. Four-wheel drive required. We can ride-share if you don't have a vehicle. Lots of rocks!!! Lots of fun!

The target rocks will be chalcedony roses, quartz, and fire agate. Also keep an eye out for small nodules about golf ball size and larger. Many of these reveal geodes when cut.



Image credit Linda Moore



Image credit: internet

We've had several group field trips and also exploratory trips looking for new places to rock hunt. September found us at Hatch where we joined the Sierra County Rock and Gem Society (SCRAGS) on a hunt at their claim. October saw Fierro. Hachita was November and reconnaissance trips were to a spot near Akela Flats. January hunt was Cooke's Peak/Greenleaf and another exploratory back to Hachita. Whew! Be sure and come join us!

Photo credits from Nancy Guernsey and Judy Murphy



Cooke's Peak/Greenleaf for carnelian, fluorite, and rhyolite



Hachita



Hatch Mine for Barite, rhyolite, and fossils



Jewelry Classes!

Jan Hayes taught a class in January on Wire-Wrapping. Lovely pendants were the result! We are planning on offering another Wire-Wrap class after the Roundup so stay tuned!

Earrings- Saturday Feb. 15 from 10-12. call Linda Moore at 601-750-8750 to register.

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 materials on hand for you. There will be a small club fee for the class and possibly other fees for materials, etc. depending on the class. If you know of an area in which you would like instruction, please let us know and we will put the word out for an instructor.

Community Participation:

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 classes at Bell Elementary to buy school supplies.
 - Annual donations to various charities as determined by the Board.
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Horned Toad



New Mexico is home to four types of **horny toads**: the Regal and the Texas **horned** lizard, the round-tailed and the mountain short-**horned**. And the Texas and the mountain short-**horned** have a unique protective ability. When they are under attack, they squirt blood from their eyes. They do this by restricting the blood flow leaving the head, thereby increasing blood pressure and rupturing tiny vessels around the [eyelids](#). The blood not only confuses predators, but also tastes foul to [canine](#) and [feline](#) predators. It appears to have no effect against predatory [birds](#)

Horned lizards (*Phrynosoma*), also known as **horny toads** or **horntoads**, are a [genus](#) of North American [lizards](#) and the [type genus](#) of the family [Phrynosomatidae](#). The common names refer directly to their flattened, rounded body and blunt snout.

The genus name *Phrynosoma* means "toad-bodied". In common with large true frogs and toads, horned lizards tend to move sluggishly, making them easy to catch; this may also avoid triggering attacks by predators. They are adapted to arid or semi-arid areas. The spines on the lizard's back and sides are made from modified [reptile scales](#) which prevent the water loss through the skin, whereas the horns on the head are true horns (i.e. they have a bony core). Of the 22 species of horned lizards, 15 are native to the United States. The largest-bodied and most widely distributed of the US species is the [Texas horned lizard](#).

To avoid being picked up by the head or neck, a horned lizard ducks or elevates its head and orients its cranial horns straight up, or back. If a predator tries to take it by the body, the lizard drives that side of its body down into the ground so the predator cannot easily get its lower jaw underneath

A University of Texas publication notes that horned lizard populations continue to disappear throughout the southwest despite protective legislation. The Texas horned lizard has disappeared from almost half of its geographic range. Population declines are attributed to loss of habitat, human eradication of the ant populations upon which the lizards prey, displacement of native ant populations by invading fire ants (aided by synergistic effects of native ant eradication), and predation by domestic dogs and cats.

Credits: Wikipedia

Chances are you will encounter one of these amazing creatures on your hunts. The babies are really cute but hard to spot. Their protective coloration is amazing. Take care of these special creatures and take a picture home with you. Below is a baby that Marilyn Page pointed out to us at Greenleaf Mine.



Image credit: Linda Moore

Upcoming Area 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)

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)

🔨 Meeting Reminders 🔨

February Board Meeting is Wednesday, February 5 at 2:00

All members are invited

February General Meeting is Thursday, February , at 2:00 pm

Our meetings are an opportunity to network about rocks, gems and minerals, to make some new acquaintance and friends and to find out which areas in which you can be involved. 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 be just a "field-trip" club or a "lapidary club." We have an important mission with important activities that depends on everyone's attendance and participation.

Library Cupboard



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. We have over 500 books and resources available. Check-out time is 4 weeks. Come take a look at all of our Southwest resources. If you are looking for a project, Donna could use the help.

Highlights this month are the New Mexico Field Guides. We have a selection of Gem Trails guides in our library. These guides show locations of rocks, gems, minerals and fossils in each state with maps and directions to the locations, and are a wonderful resource for your personal field trips. Included in our library are the Gem Trails guides for New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Texas.

Resources

Recommended website from Paula Landry: www.blackrange.org

This site contains an amazing amount of information about the Black Range, the area that encompasses the northern side of Deming and up through the Black Range including human history, mining, hiking, birding, wildlife, nature, geology, natural history, towns and places. This is a site you will want to Bookmark in Favorites! Take a look.
Thanks, Paula, for the recommendation!

Communication

WEBPAGE and FACEBOOK Administrator: Pamm Reynolds nmpamm@gmail.com.

If you have information for the webpage please email it to Pamm. If you have information for Facebook please post on our page. We need items that pertain to our club or member activities to be posted including pictures of rocks found, experiences, reminders of meetings, suggestions of where to hunt, class info., etc. It's OUR page!

Website	www.thedgmsclub.com
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Facebook	Deming Gem and Mineral Society

Help us keep in touch with you.

If your email has changed, please contact:

Linda Moore at: thelindamoore1@gmail.com

If your membership information has changed you can mail changes to DGMS Membership,
P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 or email thedgms@gmail.com

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!

DGMS 2020 Officers:

President: Marilyn Page

Vice President: Judy Murphy

Secretary: Bill Gallagher

Treasurer: Donna George

Board Members: Marvin Clary, Cathy Burnett
