



Rock Chips

Deming Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 thedgms@gmail.com

April, 2020



Message from the Prez:

Jan and I want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped make our Show a success. We had a little Mountain to climb but we persevered and everything came out all right. Thank you, Bill, for keeping up with the rubbish, the place looked real good. Jan, being your first time as a chairman, you done a Fantastic Job. I want to say that you were on top of it all. THANK YOU. I want to thank Gert and Gerry for working all day Sunday at the membership table. They both have been laid up with broken bones, but are doing real good now. Nice to see you ladies up and about. Hope you have a great summer. No meetings till further notice. The shop will be open on Monday, Fri, and Sat 9-12, Wed. 12-3 if anyone comes, otherwise it will be closed on Wed. Call 575-544-9019 if you have questions.
Marilyn

Board Meeting Minutes, March 4th, 2020

The DGMS Board Meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Page at 2:00 pm.

- The digital camera has been misplaced- need to locate it
- Marilyn will bring a shade awning for the saw room for summer.
- Bill asked the club to consider purchasing an ultrasonic drill. The benefits of the drill are many including fast cutting of holes for beads and other adornments. He will prepare a report on types and prices.
- There was a question about claim usage and the club requests that all who hunt Big Diggings be members of DGMS or be with a member on site.
- The board has now decided to keep the club open during the summer. The summer hours will be Monday and Friday 9-12 and Wednesday 12-3. Other hours may be available to sawyers and board members.

- Board suggested that members who are out in the field consider getting a Public Lands App on their cell phones if possible. This App will tell you when you are on public land or private land even if you don't have cell service in the area.
- The SCRAGS club (Tor C) allowed us to include their claim at Hatch as a field trip destination for Roundup so we have allowed them to access our claim on the volunteer hunt.
- We have received a new 30" blade for the saw.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary

General Meeting Minutes, March 26, 2020

The DGMS General Meeting has been **CANCELLED** by Marilyn Page, President



Rockhound Roundup News Jan Hayes, Chairman



Our NEW banner!!!

Due to all the circumstances with the Health Dept. because of the virus, I feel that the Rockhound Roundup turned out well. I want to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work. We couldn't have done it without you! The Vendors were mostly satisfied with the outcome, so that was a bonus. Thanks again, Jan Hayes – Director



Jan and Galen Hayes

We want to take this opportunity to thank Director Jan and Assistant Director Galen Hayes for their dedication, organization and hard work in taking on the task this year with Marilyn Page, and steering this ship through a morass of red tape from the state during the threat of Coronavirus. In spite of conflicting orders from the Health Department during the show the show was finally able to continue. The Roundup is a monumental undertaking and is a testament to all involved who volunteered to make it the success it always is. You know who you are. Once again everyone stepped up to do their part and worked tirelessly before, during and after to ensure it ran smoothly. Many thanks to all of you. It makes one proud to be a part of this great club!



Joe Morone and Linda Welton at the claim digging the trench for new Big Diggins material!





New specimens coming out of our new location at Big Diggins! Auction pieces

DISPLAY EXHIBITS



In memory of Cal Humble. Big Diggins spheres made for Judy Murphy by Cal Humble



Display by Zuhl Museum, Las Cruces, NM



Vendor display of Thundereggs



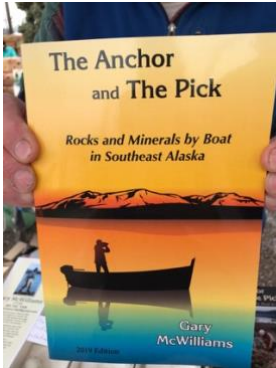
Agatized coral and lapidary articles by Bill Gallagher



Variety of specimens collected by Bill Gallagher



Marvin Cleary and Judy Murphy at her booth



Even an Alaska vendor!



Coral pendants from Rick



Raffle sales at Peppers

Club Shop Hours

Monday – 9 a.m.- noon

Wednesday- Noon – 3 p.m.; 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Friday – 9 a.m. - noon

Saturday – 9 a.m.-noon

Hours subject to change-check the board at the club



Monthly Member Highlight: Bill Gallagher

Image credit- Judy Murphy

Bill Gallagher is Club Secretary for DGMS and does a great job! He has been collecting rocks since boyhood and has been active in lapidary since the mid 1970's. Bill is a publishing author with almost 200 magazine published articles to his credit. Most of Bill's magazine sales concern collecting, lapidary work, and metal detecting. Bill also promotes and helps sponsor the metal detecting competition now being held during the Rockhound Roundup. He has many interests and hobbies including leatherwork, beadmaking, treasure hunting, antiques, old coins, coral and bass fishing.

Bill is a mysterious and fascinating, creative genius who lives off the grid and likes it that way. He is also trying to lure flint knappers to DGMS! A generous man, Bill does more for the club than he gets credit for. He's awesome! Thanks for all you do, Bill.



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Did You Know?



Club Secretary Bill Gallagher produces a newsletter about metal detecting and treasure hunting for subscribers only published twice a year. The 11 page newsletter is mostly text, and it is called Gettin'. Issue 4 is due out September 2020. This is a by-product of the annual metal detecting competition, though all DGMS club members can subscribe. The newsletter is \$20.00 per year and includes a lot of hard to find, even unique information. All proceeds go to DGMS to support club activities. New subscribers signing up before September 2020 will also receive the first three issues of the Gettin' newsletter. Mail checks to: DGMS, PO BOX 1459, DEMING, NM 88031. (Write "Gettin'" on the Memo line.)



Field Trips:

The following dates and times are for the April Field trip:

- The February Field Trip to Round Mountain was rescheduled due to weather. The new date is Saturday April 4. Meet at the club at 8:00. THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN CANCELLED.

Volunteers' Reward Field Trip to Big Diggins on March 21.

Although we couldn't hunt the new dig site and the roads were a concern, we all made it to the claim and found our share of our beautiful Big Diggins agates! A big thanks to those who helped at the show and especially to those who prepared our claim and also those who prepared and led the other field trips to Hatch and Greenleaf during the show.





Image credits to Linda Welton and Judy Murphy

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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Critter of the Month Meet Mr. Badger



American Badger



Skunk

Image credits Fox News



Coyote and Badger

The American badger –(*Taxidea taxus*) a superbly designed, heavy-bodied mammalian excavator – belongs to the Mustelidae family, which also includes weasels, ferrets, skunks, wolverines and various other species.

The badger, a carnivore, makes its home in open grasslands, pastures and fields, from sea level to alpine meadows, where it can find a wide choice of prey: small rodents, reptiles, birds, insects and even scorpions. It especially favors the small rodents – for instance, ground squirrels, rats, mice, gophers and prairie dogs – which it usually captures by digging into the animals' burrows.

Within its habitat, the male badger often stakes out a territory of a square mile or more; the female, somewhat less. The male badger's territory may overlap that of several females. It does not appear to mount especially aggressive defenses of its territory.

The badger, following a solitary lifestyle, ranges and hunts primarily at night. If it has no family, it may dig itself a new den, each with one entrance, virtually every day during the summer, when it is most active. It digs fewer dens in the fall as days begin to cool and its activity level declines. It may dig only a single den for most of the winter when temperatures become chilly to frigid, and its activity level falls to minimal. Although the badger does not hibernate, it may remain in its winter den for days or weeks without emerging. Fastidious, the animal, like a house cat, buries its droppings, and it often grooms itself.

In hunting, it capitalizes on its excellent ability as a digger, invading burrows to reach prey. In an extraordinary example of "mutualism," or cooperation between different species, the badger may team up (wittingly or unwittingly) with a coyote in pursuit of prey. As the badger digs into a burrow, it may chase out prey, which may dash right into the jaws of a waiting coyote. Conversely, if the coyote gives chase, it may drive the prey back into the burrow, right into the jaws of the waiting badger. If the badger kills more than it can eat, it will cache the surplus, burying it in the ground.

The badger hunts one of its favorite prey, the rattlesnake, with impunity because, with the exception of its nose, it seems immune to the serpent's venom.

Defending itself from predators such as eagles, bobcats or cougars, the badger – shielded by its thick fur, loose hide and powerful neck muscles – snarls, growls, squeals and hisses. Like its taxonomic relative, the skunk, the badger has a scent gland that it uses to produce a strong, musky odor when it is threatened or excited. The odor may put off would-be predators. *(Ed. Note-The two species resemble each other in their protective coloration and I'm not sure who is trying to imitate whom as they are both dangerous and stinky!)*

Bearing total responsibility for rearing the young, the female prepares an elaborate burrow for her family. She may, in fact, dig 10 feet below the surface and excavate 30 or more feet of passageways. She fashions a grass-lined chamber for her offspring, which are born blind and helpless, bearing only a thin coat of fur and weighing only a few ounces. She nurses the youngsters for two or three months. She introduces them to solid food a few weeks before she weans them. She continues to feed them solid food for the next two or three months. Meanwhile, she induces them to begin exploring the outside world when they are four to six weeks old, soon after they open their eyes. Her brood will disperse at five or six months of age. The badger may live for as long as 14 years in the wild, and for as long as 25 years in captivity.

The Badger's Perils

The badger suffers more at the hands of man than any other predator. In some areas within its broad range, its numbers have fallen because of hunting, trapping, poisoning, traffic fatalities and habitat destruction. Although the American badger is not presently considered threatened, there are warning signs in New Mexico that may signal concern for the future.

The badger is a protected furbearer in New Mexico and may be hunted and trapped.

Read more: <https://www.desertusa.com/animals/badger.html#ixzz6FIlyG5ol>

If actually attacked, it bites and claws ferociously. Given the opportunity, it may quickly dig a burrow, issuing a spray of dirt into the face of its adversary, then turn in the entrance with teeth bared and claws showing. The badger faces few attacks.

In all of your travels you may have had a close encounter with Mr. Badger. I know I have. As I was traveling down our dirt road on the way to town, I saw him ease out of the ditch to cross the road in front of me. I slowed and approached, thinking he would move on across so I could get a quick photo. But, no, he turned in the middle of the road and we had a five-minute face-off. Me, in a giant truck, and him all bristled up like he would eat the truck alive if it dared move an inch closer. Such courage! No, I don't want to tangle with you, sir. Ever!

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
Facebook	Deming Gem and Mineral Society
YouTube Channel	

Help us keep in touch with you.

If your email has changed, please contact:

Carolyn Abbey at thedgms@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 interested in membership, come by the clubhouse to see what's going on. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

Upcoming Area Events:

****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. (Facebook) ****** CANCELLED******

Buena Vista Contin-tail, August 6-9, 2020, Colorado Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, Colorado.
www.bvrockshow.com

Woodland Park Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show, August 13-16, 2020, 19250 E. US 24, Woodland Park, Colorado. www.woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com or wpgemshow@outlook.com

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



April Board Meeting for Wednesday, April 1st at 2:00 is **CANCELLED**
April General Meeting is Thursday, April 22nd, at 2:00 pm
All members are invited

Our meetings are an opportunity to network about rocks, gems and minerals, to make some new acquaintances and friends and to find areas in which you can be involved. Please make others welcome. Some people need the friendship and knowledge 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.

DGMS 2020 Officers:

President: Marilyn Page
Vice President: Judy Murphy
Secretary: Bill Gallagher
Treasurer: Donna George
Board Members: Marvin Clary, Cathy Burnett, Carolyn Abbey

Resources

Recommended App: **US Public Lands**

The US Federal Government owns nearly 650 million acres of land- almost 30% of the land area of the United States. These are lands that are held for all Americans.

The US Public Lands App allows you to quickly retrieve the boundaries of these lands without carrying physical maps, tools or digging deep online. The best part of all is that you can quickly locate yourself on the App to see if you are on private or public land- even without cell service! Viola! There you are! It's amazing.

There are three maps included: Basic, Satellite, and Standard. You can switch between them to find out roads, and what type public land you are on. If you get lost you can probably find your way back. Always a plus. Also, I think it's still free.

If for some reason this App doesn't work for you- find one that will. THIS IS A GOOD SAFETY RESOURCE! Check it out!

Gila National Forest

The following is a message DGMS received regarding 90 day comment period for revisions to the Gila National Forest Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please see the attached link to make your comments known. (<http://go.usa.gov/h88k>). As a reminder, comments on these draft documents are due by April 16th.

Thank you for staying engaged in the process.
Sincerely, Adam Mendonca, Forest Supervisor

Sheila L. Williams
Forest Plan Revision-NEPA Planner/Ecologist

Forest Service
Gila National Forest, Supervisors Office

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Caring for the land and serving people

Message from the Editor

The worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic has begun to affect us all in ways we never could imagine. Both our President and the NM governor have implemented restrictions in response to health concerns and our club is trying to keep up with daily directives as we are made aware. Please continue to check your emails and our FB page and website for further updates from us. As we cease most of our club activities it becomes a time to focus on our own health and the health of others.

Our forced isolation is challenging us in many ways. For some it means organizing closets and recipe boxes. For others it is researching and beginning a new hobby interest, journaling, organizing your rocks, trying some lapidary work or cleaning that garage (ugh).

Please make an effort to network with others by phone or internet, especially those who are single or those with no family close by. This can be a lonely time for many. Deming is a great community with a history of community service and care. Please send the club an email if you know of any of our members that are affected or impacted. We are certainly praying that everyone pulls through with no loss.

That being said, hopefully next month's newsletter will have a brighter outlook and it won't be too long before we all get back in the field together. Take care!

Signs of the Times

Let's not forget to keep our sense of humor.

QUARANTINE DIARY



Day 1: I have stocked up on enough non-perishable food and supplies to last me for months, maybe years, so that I can remain in isolation for as long as it takes to see out this pandemic

I have a 24 pack of toilet paper from Walmart. Looking to swap for a 4 bedroom house.

Day 1 + 45 minutes: I am in the supermarket because I wanted a Twix



That moment when you're worried about the elderly and realize that you are the elderly. 😂



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