



Rock Chips

Deming Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 thedgms@gmail.com
July, 2020



Message from the Prez:

Our July 4th ice cream social will begin at 7 pm. Fireworks are due to start at dark. Please be advised that in order to attend you must wear a mask inside the shop. Hope to see all of you there!

Board Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2020

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

No board meeting was conducted in April or May due to Coronavirus.

Marilyn: Bylaws needed to be revamped. Carolyn Abbey appointed by Marilyn to head new by law committee. Carolyn will make her new by-laws public via newsletter and other ways, can be replied to via email or text.

Marilyn will be filtering questionable content on web page and political/religious content.

Bills issues, new hand truck, Geiger counter, mineral oil, re-key or webcam of parking lots. Take Teds obsidian to Hillsboro or mail it.

If shop is not scheduled open then members cannot work, shop hours now

Monday and Friday 9-12...Saturday by appointment with Marilyn.

Marvin: Claims good, paid up, need a report submitted to BLM about field trips, being done. Also LED lights have been approved. Marvin acquiring and 2 other guys will install.

Marilyn: 2 more library cabinets needed; Jerry Abbey said he can build.

Judy said some hot paving still happening, please avoid road work when driving around the shop.

Flowers being sent to Zandy.

Judy ordering Ziplocs for kids bags.

4th of July tentative depending on state of medical emergency.

A shop expenditure book is to be instituted where receipts are logged as they happen.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Gallagher, Secretary

SHOP REPORT

Submitted by Bill Gallagher: <https://youtu.be/XY9gHEKsSNk>

Be sure and watch the video as Bill explains the "state of the nation" in regards to the condition of our lapidary and saw rooms.

June Summer Club Shop Hours

Monday 9-12

Friday 9-12

Saturday by appt. with Marilyn

July Summer Club Shop Hours

THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED FROM JULY 6 at noon until AUGUST 3

DGMS 2020 Officers:**President: Marilyn Page****Vice President: Judy Murphy****Secretary: Bill Gallagher****Treasurer: Donna George****Board Members: Marvin Clary, Cathy Burnett, Carolyn Abbey**



Field Trips

Since no club field trips were scheduled for the month of June due to the heat I wanted to include some information submitted by members Bonnie Cotton and Becky Walden from Colorado. I happened to see a post of Bonnie's Big Diggins agate on the Agate Collector's Worldwide Facebook page. Bonnie is an enthusiastic new member who scored amazing finds at the Roundup hunt and so did Becky. Prepare to be amazed!

Note from Bonnie:

"I am a long time chalcedony collector and I was 'pressured' by another member, Becky Walkden, to actually dig. So my first try (at Big Diggins) and probably within 20 minutes, I struck this stone. I'm beyond thrilled to be a member of this club. Everyone I have met has been friendly, informative, and just plain old nice. I think I've talked quite a few families into showing up at next year's show. I know I will be there!" The second agate is a smaller piece she picked up as are the group of pics.





Photos from social media of Bonnie's rock

And these below from Becky Walkden. Becky and Bonnie made a quick trip back to Deming to hunt a little more and to get some of their rocks cut. The rock below on the left was found during roundup and is a 35 pounder which was cut by Art, I think. They said he was a great sawyer! The rest are Becky's too, I think. Y'all correct me if I'm wrong. Becky said some of their rocks were found in the Day 1 pile from the Roundup field trip.

In the meantime, these women are giving back by collecting Colorado petrified wood for the kids' grab bags for the Roundup next year. Thanks to both of you for sharing these with all of us.



Critter of the Month

Coyote: The Desert Dog



COMMON NAME: **Coyote**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Canis latrans**

TYPE: **Mammals**

DIET: **Omnivore**

GROUP NAME: **Pack**

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: **Up to 14 years**

SIZE: **Head and body: 32 to 37 inches; tail: 16 inches**

WEIGHT: **20 to 50 pounds**

SIZE RELATIVE TO A 6-FT MAN:



The coyote appears often in the tales and traditions of Native Americans—usually as a very savvy and clever beast. Modern coyotes have displayed their cleverness by adapting to the changing American landscape. These members of the dog family once lived primarily in open prairies and deserts, but now roam the continent's forests and mountains. They have even colonized cities like Los Angeles, and are now found over most of North America. Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high.

Opportunistic Diet

These adaptable animals will eat almost anything. They hunt rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, and even deer. They also happily dine on insects, snakes, fruit, grass, and carrion. Because they sometimes kill lambs, calves, or other livestock, as well as pets, many ranchers and farmers regard them as destructive pests.

Behavior

Coyotes are formidable in the field where they enjoy keen vision and a strong sense of smell. They can run up to 40 miles an hour. In the fall and winter, they form packs for more effective hunting.

Coyotes form strong family groups. In spring, females den and give birth to litters of three to twelve pups. Both parents feed and protect their young and their territory. The pups are able to hunt on their own by the following fall.

Coyotes are smaller than wolves and are sometimes called prairie wolves or brush wolves. They communicate with a distinctive call, which at night often develops into a raucous canine chorus.

If you listen closely at night, especially around a campfire, you may hear them harmonizing with the Jackalope tenors.

- Article and image credit to National Geographic

According to Davidson College, "Coyotes have at least three different types of vocalizations used in various situations. The first call is lone howling done by a single coyote. Lone howling lasts a long period of time and has a higher pitch compared to the other types of calls. This call is thought to be a type of communication by lost or separated members of a pack. The second type of vocalization is group howling. This type of call is characterized by several coyotes each giving a lone howl at the same time. The third type of vocalization is the group-yip howl. The group-yip howl is identified by patterned high intensity yips and howls performed by multiple coyotes in a group. Both the group howling and group-yip howling appear to serve the same functions. One function is to advertise the location of the group's territory and the second is to coordinate group hunting strategies. By announcing the general area of a coyote pack's territory they can reduce the risk of encountering another pack of coyotes which may result in a violent and costly fight.

<http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/vecase/behavior/Spring2004/holmberg/Holmberg4.html>



Spotlight on Rocks and Minerals by Bill Gallagher

Tampa Bay Agatized Coral Chalcedony Pseudomorphs After Coral

The most well-known type of Agatized Coral is found at Tampa, Florida, and is, in fact, part of a geological feature called the Tampa Formation. This agatized shallow water reef derives from about the time of the Oligocene-Miocene boundary, 25-30 million years ago, and these fossils are pseudomorphic replacements in agate (Chalcedony) of corals which existed at that time and place. Some are extinct species, and fairly rare. More than a few are New Species, occurring only there in Tampa, at Ballast Point, and they carry names of the Tampa area within their Latin names. Several of these are *Goniopora ballistensis*, after Ballast Point, or *Acropora tampaensis*, after Tampa. There is even *Montastrea davisina*, incorporating Davis Island in its name, and then the ever popular *Montastrea peninsularis* named after the Gadsen Point Peninsula where all this is located today, very near MacDill AFB.

Almost all the Tampa coral specimens are very nice geodes and highly collectible. They can be located on the beaches at Ballast Point Pier (Jules Verne Park, off Bayshore Boulevard) at low tide, and

also a little further south at Shell Point Road, where it meets the bay. In between these two points is the main source of Tampa Bay Agatized Coral. At Ballast Point and environs, the reds, blacks, and blues are the most sought after, and in my experience only about 40% of the geodes from Tampa are visibly crystalline, but the ones that do have visible crystals are nothing short of magnificent.

Winter low tides are many times extreme in Tampa Bay, and that's when most of the diggers and collectors are out on the flats, collecting this rare and beautiful fossil material. Think Different and Dress Warm. There are other places around Tampa Bay to find Agatized Coral, and it's always good to check spill islands and dredged areas around Tampa for fossils of all kinds. You never know what you will find.

Another type of Agatized Coral, though less well known, can be found around Perry, Florida, along the paper-mill road-cuts out by the Gulf of Mexico, south of Goose Pasture, technically known as the Econfina River deposit. A lot of looking is necessary, and the locals are not helpful at all. The Perry Agatized Coral is manifest as geodes too, and seems older than the Tampa Agatized Coral. The outer crusts and most other fossil evidence of coral have been eradicated by time from the Perry pseudomorphs, and most of the interiors of these geodes are extremely fine druse crystal. There have been leases taken on some of the pockets of this coral over time, and though it is said to be depleted, that is never the case. It is just harder to get. There are some nice agatized shells and echinoids to be found in that same area as well.

The last fairly well known source of Agatized Coral in the same general area is at the Withlacoochee river, near Valdosta, Georgia. Leave interstate 75 at the Valdosta exit, and go west 5 miles on Highway 31 to Clyattville. Take main street west 1.5 miles, then south on Blands Dairy Road 4 miles to the river. Collecting can only be done during low water conditions. This coral is comprised of large heads, or pieces of heads, and about 75% of it is good quartz crystal inside, very nice.

Almost every state and country has some form of fossil coral, and much of it has been silicified in an attractive manner. Many times the polyps of these formations possess patterns and designs from the way they grew; when cut with a diamond saw, then polished into cabs or beads, the material may be attractive enough to be called gemstones. I recently discovered a fine type of Agatized Coral in New York, from a deep fossil layer within a limestone quarry. It is blue agate and will cut some fine stones. It was in very limited quantity, but that

makes it that much more desirable. There is bound to be some fossil coral near you too, and though it may not be of lapidary grade, perhaps it will lead you to better things one day, or be valuable for its information.



Agatized coral and lapidary articles by Bill Gallagher



Variety of specimens collected by Bill Gallagher

Upcoming Area Events:

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)



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	The Deming Gem and Mineral Society

Help us keep in touch with you.

If your email has changed, please contact:
 Carolyn Abbey at thedgms@gmail.com

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