



The Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

# ROCK CHIPS



VOLUME 63

NUMBER 11

December 2024



## Words from the President

Hello Club Members;

What a busy month this has been. At the general meeting we had a good turn out of members and we had an awesome opal presentation by Dave H. Thank you Dave! Come on out to January's general meeting (January 11<sup>th</sup>) to see Laura's presentation on local Minerals and Daily uses.

I would like to thank all the members who brought in kids gifts for the healing house here in Deming.

I would also like to thank Carolyn A. for designing some beautiful business cards for the club.

Novembers field trip we collected some beautiful Ryolite, unfortunately, the turquoise trip was canceled due to weather. This months trip will be on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> to the Zulu Museum in Las Cruces. On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be rockhounding for Amethysts by Duncan Arizona. Bring your picks and pry bars and come collect some purple beauty's.

Time is flying by and its almost 2025, and the new years means its almost Rockhound Roundup time. This year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. Marilyn (Roundup Chair), Beka & myself (Co-Assistants) would like to make this years Roundup extra special. This can only be done with your help/ The first Roundup meeting of the year will be January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Hope to see you there. If you can't make the meeting and would like to help, Send us an email.

The new year also brings the election of Board Members. If you would like to run for an office position, January & February General meetings to get on the ballot.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Enjoy my rendition of Jingle Bells

Dashing through the hills, in a 4x4 open sleigh, over the trails we go, Hounding all the way. Bells on Hounder's rings, making rocks shine bright, oh what fun it is to hound and find pretty rocks tonight.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Rockhounding all the way, of what fun it is to hound in a 4x4 open sleigh.

A hounding trip or two ago, I thought I'd take a rockhounding ride, and soon all the Rockhounders were seated by my side. The 4x4 was shinny & dark, misfortune was on the run, we got into a sand bank and then we had some fun.

Jingle Bells, Jingle bells, Rockhounding all the way. Oh what fun it is to hound in a 4x4 open sleigh.

Rose

### \*NOTE Field trip information

Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> Zulu Museum. Meeting at the museum at noon

Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Near the Arizona Boarder for Turquoise. Meeting at the clubhouse At 8am and leaving at 8:15am.

### Things to bring on a field trip

Full tank of gas, lots of water, snacks, lunch, bag or bucket for rocks, tools, hat, whistle, proper shoes and a jacket

## Words from the Vice President

Veep Report

Greetings everyone.

Christmas came early for the DGMS members in attendance at the Dec 14th general meeting. We were treated to a presentation on Opal polishing basics from longtime DGMS member Dave Hoggit. Dave has been finding and polishing opals for many years and was gracious enough to share some of his wisdom with the club.

Included with his talk was a hands-on display of many opals in various stages of processing, all the way from raw ore to the finished product. Thanks to everyone's support, Dave has agreed to present a more in depth talk covering intermediate/advanced opal polishing and we are working to put together an opal polishing class here at the DGMS shop which will include materials and hands-on instruction. That was truly a Merry Christmas to us, if you listen closely you can almost hear the sleigh bells, Thank you Santa Dave !!

Christmas time brings the start of winter, and Saturday Dec 21st will be our winter solstice. The 21st will be the shortest day and longest night of the year. That means starting on Sunday the 22nd, each day will add a few more minutes of daylight. I just love all that extra sunshine and extra daylight, but this year we are wishing for more, and at our Saturday January 11th meeting, that wish is coming true as DGMS delivers all the extra sunshine of DGMS member Laura Koppang.

Laura will light up the meeting with her presentation of "Minerals used around the House". You could be using your favorite minerals every day without even knowing it, and this is your chance to find out. Mark your calendar to be there, it's the brightest thing you can do!

See you there, and Keep Rockin!

Dave Bleicher

Happy Holidays everyone! Stay Safe, Warm and Healthy!

### Not getting your chips bulletin by email?

When you've requested it that way? Please add The Club's email to your contact list as the bulletins are sent out in bulk and may go to your SPAM list if not listed in your addresses. Our Club's email is: theDGMS@gmail.com

### Shop Hours

In December 9am til 12pm  
Monday, Thursday and Saturday  
(Closed December 22-January 4th)

## Board Meeting December 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by President Rose Baros Townsend who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those Board members in attendance were Rose, Larry Baros, Dave & Darlene Bleicher, Carolyn Abbey, Jim Paddock, Kathy Townsend, and Beka Sternhagen, and club member Frank Watts.

**Secretary:** Previous minutes approved as published in the bulletin.

**President:** Rose reported that she was working on a rock adorned wreath to enter in the Mimbres Museum contest

**Vice President:** Dave said he has not found any deals available for the Dog fencing.

**Treasurer:** Not present.

**Roundup:** Next meeting will be on January 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**Shop:** Larry stated the holiday closure hours will be December 22nd thru January 4, 2025.

**Bulletin:** Like to have more ads.

**Claims:** Not present

**Librarian:** Nothing new.

**Field Trips:** Saturday Dec. 21st to Zulu Museum (*Now changed to the 20th*). Sun. possible Amethyst & Turquoise.

**Property:** Good

**Membership:** 6 new members (3 family & 3 individual)

**Sunshine:** Pauline said she is sending cards right and left, 8 so far this month.

**Craft Show:** Beka gave a financial report and said that the Craft Show was a success. She wants to take some of the proceeds and have several larger and more direct signs, that can have changeable dates, made for next year. There was also a discussion on possible dates and the lengths for 2025.

Carolyn has ordered new Membership and Business Cards for the Club. Will look into pencils or pens and flyers for the 2026 Roundup.

There was a discussion of possibly having Club members run the gates at the Fair in 2025, in trade for Fairground's rent for the Craft Show and the Rockhound Roundup. Will be discussed at the General meeting.

The **General Meeting** on Saturday December 14th will begin with a 12:00 meal and the meeting to follow at 1 p.m.

We are asking members to bring a gift (\$10 value) suitable for a Child to the Dec. 14th meeting or before. It can be wrapped or unwrapped, labeled boy or girl and an appropriate age group.

**Next Board Meeting** will be Thursday, January 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

**General Meeting** will be Saturday January 11th at 1:00 p.m. preceded at Noon by a luncheon. There will be several Soups and dishes to accompany them.

**February Board Meeting** will be on the 6th, and the **General Meeting** will be at 1:00 p.m. on the 8th.

**March Board Meeting** will be on February 27th.

**March General Meeting** will be on Saturday, March 1st at 1:00 p.m. Last meeting before Roundup March 6—9th.

April Board meeting on Thursday the 3rd, and General Meeting on Saturday, April 12th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Abbey, DGMS Secretary

HELP, HELP, I NEED HELP.

I have been doing advertising for the Rockhound Roundup in papers and magazines for many years. I am aware, now, that we need our advertising to be brought into the current century, i.e. ONLINE. I am looking for someone to do our on-line ads. So, please contact me via the club email [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com), or in person at a meeting.

Thank you, Carolyn Abbey

P.S. You do not have to live anywhere near Deming to do this.

## General Meeting December 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Rose Baros Townsend who then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 members present including new members Bob & Barb Teuscher.

Dave B. announced the program for today, Dave Hogatt giving a presentation on Opals. He talked about identifying various types of Opal, polishing methods, etc. He passed around several specimens one of which was a very rare piece of Opalized Cactus root. He also said he would like to give an advanced talk and if people are interested, a class in working Opal.

Minutes were approved as published in the Chips Bulletin.

Rose reported that she had finished the rock adorned wreath being made to enter in the Mimbres Museum contest.

Dave asked that anyone who would like to give the Club a talk about their interest in rocks, contact him to set a date to do so.

The Treasurer said all is up to date.

Marilyn just had knee surgery and unable to attend this meeting. Beka and Rose are going to Co-Chair the Roundup to assist Marilyn where needed. It was also announced that this would be the last year for Marilyn to be the Roundup Chair. She and daughter Maria plan to be traveling.

Next Roundup meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4th.

Larry said the saw blades have arrived, but he is still waiting for the the new saws to come. Also, the Shop will be closed from December 22nd to January 4th, 2025.

Beka said she could still use more ads to put in the Chips Bulletin.

Julia and Andy are still working on contacts for possible claim purchases. They could use someone to help them.

Nothing is happening with the Library currently.

The Field Trip to the Zulu Museum, December 21st has been CHANGED to Friday December 20th at noon. There is no charge, but the Museum would like to have a donation.

On December 21st Russell Scoggin will lead a field trip for Amethyst. Meet at the Clubhouse at 8:00 a.m. and leave at 8:15. The material is in the ground, so bring digging tools. No 4x4 vehicle needed. The location is near Duncan, AZ. Be sure to have plenty of fuel in your vehicle.

Larry said the DGMS property is in good shape. Just had to fill both propane tanks, so we'll be plenty warm.

Beka let us know we currently have 256 members. Gained several at the Craft Fair. Our Dues are due in January. If not paid, after March you will be dropped from the Roster, email notices, the Chips Bulletin, and have no Club use. Beka also announced that we made a very good profit from the Craft Fair, so it was worth all our efforts.

Pauline has sent out 11 cards so far this month, and there are two cards at this meeting to sign for members.

Carolyn has ordered new Club badges, membership cards, and business cards, and they have all arrived, so if you don't have your badge you can purchase one at any meeting.

Thanks to all those who brought gifts for the kids. Some need wrapping and all will be delivered next week.

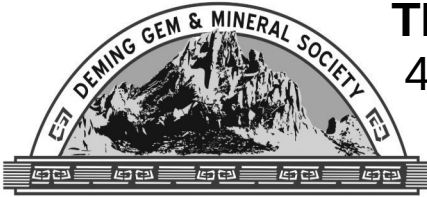
After the holidays, the shop will re-open on Monday, January 6th and then the shop hours will return to Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 til noon.

Laura is putting together displays of "Rocks and Minerals in Your Home" to be given to children, and is asking for donations from members. Varieties needed are: Selenite, Fluorite, Coppers, Iron samples, Quartz, and Mica.

There were several recipients of the drawings, with 50/50 won by Jo, a jar of Jelly Opal (Darlene), donated by Dave Hoggatt, two candy jars (full) (Beka) donated by Rose, and lots of various rocks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Abbey, DGMS Secretary



**THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
 4200 Raymond Reed Blvd. Deming, NM 88030  
**FOUNDED JANUARY 1965**

DUES ARE DUE & PAYABLE ON DECEMBER 1ST OF EACH YEAR  
**Memberships dues: \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per Family**

**OFFICERS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| President...Rose Townsend-Baros 719-242-6460 | Bulletin Editor..Beka Sternhagen 406-468-8116         |
| Vice President...David Bleicher 810-322-0634 | Claims... Andy Taylor 662-418-0103                    |
| Secretary.....Carolyn Abbey 575-543-8916     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Chair...Kathy Townsend 575-545-1806   |
| Treasurer.....Maria Costa 603-738-1921       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair...Jim Paddock 575-494-8522      |
| Roundup Chair...Marilyn Page 575-544-9019    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Chair...Darlene Bleicher 810-338-7689 |
| Shop Chair...Larry Baros 719-225-0184        |   |



**All meetings are held at the Deming Gem & Mineral Clubhouse**

4200 Raymond Reed Blvd, Deming, N.M.-  
*Visitors are invited and welcome at membership meetings*

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every Month  
 Next Meeting  
 will be  
 January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025



**2025 60<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 ROCKHOUND  
 ROUNDUP**  
 March 6-9 2025



DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**General Meetings**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every Month  
 Next Meeting  
 will be  
 January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**THE OFFICIAL SHOW OF THE SOCIETY**

Held every year on the second weekend in March  
 (Thursday through Sunday) at the SW New Mexico State  
 Fairgrounds in Deming

**“Rock Chips” is the official bulletin of the society**

Email: [theDGMS@gmail.com](mailto:theDGMS@gmail.com)

Official Website [www.thedgmsclub.com](http://www.thedgmsclub.com)

THE DEMING GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. an incorporated non profit organization shall be dedicated to the knowledge advancement and enjoyment of the earth sciences and associated subjects. The society's primary purpose is the dissemination and furtherance of knowledge of mineralogy, gem cutting and geology, and to stimulate interest in the development of these studies. It is composed of individuals who have chosen gems and the aforementioned studies as a major interest in their lives.



# Classifieds

For Sale

12" Polishing Wheel. 19" X 22 1/2" platform. 1/4 HP motor. Works well. \$200.

Contact Steve Fowers 576-546-9152



For Sale \$400

10" Commercial Wet Saw converted into a 14".

Comes with new Blade

Contact Beka 406-468-8116



## Sunshine Greetings

If you know of someone who could use a little sunshine Greeting, Please TEXT Pauline Ott at 979-618-3432

## Not getting your chips bulletin by email?

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If you have an item you would like to sell or looking for an item, Send Beka an email with pictures and a discription at; [theDGMS@gmail.com](mailto:theDGMS@gmail.com) or text to 406-486-8116

Roundup meeting for January will be held at 10am on January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to help and volunteer your time during the roundup, Please attend the meeting. Thank you!

A celebration of life for Kaye Greens Husband, John Green, Will be Held Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm Located at the Deming State Community Center, 3004 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street just off of Dona Ana. Everyone is Welcomed!

Shop will be closed December 22<sup>nd</sup> till January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Happy Holidays  
Keep Rocking

Auction is held first Saturday of every month starting at 10am. Next Auction is February 1<sup>st</sup>

**STANDING  
STOUT**  
AUCTION & REALTY

**575-543-8339**

\*\*\*\*DANNA STOUT QUALIFYING BROKER\*\*\*\*

Don't forget to save your receipts and turn them into the Clubhouse



Thank you to all the Vendors and Volunteers for the Winter Craft Fair. Most of the vendors have expressed that they would like to have a Christmas Craft Fair again in June of 2025. I you would like to volunteer to help, Please let Beka know ASAP so things can get rolling and planned. If no volunteers, then there wont be a June Craft Fair but the one in November (Maybe December) 2025 will still be happening no matter what

## Happy December Birthday's

Mark Deleon, Alicia Martinez, Kathy Sutherland, Frank Rogers, Maria Costa, Jim Frederick, Tiffany Hassman, Pam Reynolds, Susan Schiffner, James Weber, Thomas Boyle, Larry Tillick, Erich Bretschneider, Robert Clements, Kevin Lujan, Carol Lyman, Marie Ooley, John Piles, Tina Roose, David Garnard, Tony Sibert

## Happy December Anniversary's

Darlene & David Bleicher, Teresa & Tina (Roose) Guajardo,





# Photos of the Month

If you have photos you want to share, Please send them to [theDGMS@gmail.com](mailto:theDGMS@gmail.com) c/o Beka



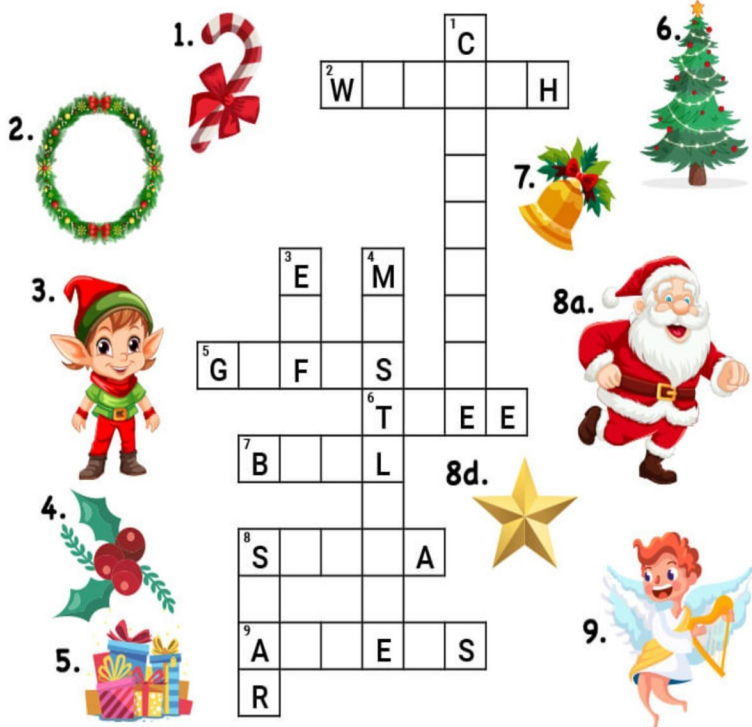
A huge thank you to all who helped with the Christmas wreath. It turned out so beautiful!

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We had a lot of people donating toys for the needy this year! Awesome job everyone and a huge thank you to everyone who donated! There's going to be a lot of happy children on Christmas! You all ROCK!!



Don't forget to send in pictures of digs or rocks to display in the Chips





# December Birthstones

Blue Zircon • Tanzanite • Turquoise



Since the Middle Ages, **Blue Zircon** has been believed to aid in spiritual growth and to promote wisdom. Those who wear blue zircon, it is said, will find beauty and peace.

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As a relatively new gemstone, **Tanzanite** does not have any mythical or mysterious powers associated with it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty in its deep blue and purple tones.

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**Turquoise** attracts money, success and love. Its powers include protection, healing, courage, friendship, and luck. It relaxes the mind, and eases mental tension.



## What is a gemstone?

Gemstones are minerals, rocks, or organic matters that have crystalline properties. Owing to their colourful and iconic look, gems have been used to adorn clothing and artwork for millenia. Perhaps most common of all, gemstones are an intrinsic part of both archaic and contemporary jewellery.

This is far from their sole purpose, however. Gemstones can be used to decorate and add a sense of grandeur to almost any item, with artefacts such as combs, plates, ceremonial objects and even weapons found covered in them.

While the popular belief is that all gemstones are mined from the ground, this isn't always true. Amber and pearl are good examples of gems which possess immense value but come from sources other than underground.

In total there are believed to be as many as 315 different types of gemstones in existence. These gems can be found in every colour imaginable, with some even being classed as "colourless" altogether. These colours are determined by unique chemical and atomic structures in the genetic makeup of the stone.

Summer is here! Stay Cool

Deming Gem & Mineral Society  
Beka Sternhagen, Editor  
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd  
Deming, NM 88030

Change of address, email or phone Number? Please let us know!  
Send the changes to DGMS membership  
4200 Raymond Reed Blvd, Deming, NM 88030

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### December

Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> .....Board Meeting 1pm  
Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> .....Roundup Medeting 10am.....General Meeting 1pm (Lunch at noon)  
Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> .....Field Trip to Zulu Museum. Meet at Museum at noon  
Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> .....Field trip by Duncan Arizona (Amethyst) Meet @ clubhouse @8am, leave @ 8:15  
Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> .....Merry Christmas  
Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon  
Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon  
Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon

Shop closed December 22<sup>nd</sup> till January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### January

Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> .....Board Meeting 1pm  
Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> .....General Meeting 1pm (Lunch @ noon)  
Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> .....Roundup Meeting @ 10am  
Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> .....Field Trip to Museum Socorro  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> .....Shop open 9-noon

All meetings are held at the Clubhouse (4200 Raymond Reed Blvd.) unless otherwise noted.  
Visitors and guests are welcome at membership meetings.