

# Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society

Editors: Leslie Walker, La Vella Tomlinson, Wayne Mallon

August 2016

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## MDGMS Officers 2016

President: **Danny Watts**  
Vice-President: **Dian Walker Hare**  
Treasurer: **Judy Livingston**  
Secretary: **La Vella Tomlinson**

## Board of Directors

**Bill Johnson**  
**Kemp Root**  
**Leslie Walker**  
**Rob Stapp**  
**Joe Summers**  
Past Pres. **Vivian Watts**

## Annual Membership Dues

Adults: \$ 20.00  
Juniors: \$ 10.00 (10-18 yr)

## Meetings / Workshops

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 7:00 PM  
Workshop: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 6:30 PM  
Location: 25647 W. Main St  
Barstow, Ca 92311

## Club Objectives

- To collect and study minerals and rocks.
- To disseminate a general knowledge of the science of mineralogy and allied subjects.
- To provide opportunity for the exhibition and exchange of specimens.

facebook — [www.facebook.com/mojavedesertgemandmineralsociety](http://www.facebook.com/mojavedesertgemandmineralsociety)

web site — [www.mdgms.net](http://www.mdgms.net)

email — [mdgms.contact@gmail.com](mailto:mdgms.contact@gmail.com)

## SHOW DATES – August- September

### August 5 - 7: NIPOMO, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society, Nipomo High School  
525 North Thompson Avenue  
Hours: Fri/Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Wayne W. Mills, (805) 481-3495  
Email: [wwmills50@hotmail.com](mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)

### August 13 - 14: SAN FRANCISCO, CA

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society  
San Francisco County Fair Building  
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5  
Contact: Ellen Nott, (415) 564-4230  
Email: [ellen\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_nott@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.sfgemshow.org](http://www.sfgemshow.org)

### September 16 - 18: PLACERVILLE, CA

**77th CFMS Show & Convention**  
Hosted by El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society  
El Dorado County Fairgrounds  
100 Placerville Drive  
Hours: Fri - Sun 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Barbara Terrill, 530 676-2375  
Website: [www.cfms2016show.com](http://www.cfms2016show.com)

### September 17 - 18: CHICO, CA

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, Oroville  
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds  
2357 Fair Street  
Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5; Sun 9:30 - 4  
John Scott, (530) 321-6331  
Email: [jweazel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jweazel@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.featherriverrocks.org](http://www.featherriverrocks.org)



## August Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> **Ruth Mallon**  
14<sup>th</sup> **Sandra Depue**  
23<sup>rd</sup> **John Buam**  
25<sup>th</sup> **George Ast**

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Rock of the Month: **SUNSTONE** From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Sunstone** is a [plagioclase feldspar](#), which when viewed from certain directions exhibits a [spangled appearance](#). It has been found in [Southern Norway](#), [Sweden](#) and in various United States localities.



Unpolished sunstone

The optical effect appears to be due to reflections from inclusions of red [copper](#), in the form of minute scales, which are [hexagonal](#), [rhombic](#), or irregular in shape, and are disposed parallel to the principal [cleavage-plane](#). These inclusions give the stone an appearance something like that of [aventurine](#), hence sunstone is known also as "aventurine-feldspar." The optical effect called shiller and the color in Oregon Sunstone is due to copper. The middle part of this crystal sparkles, and usually the color is darkest in the middle and becomes lighter toward the outer edges.

The feldspar which usually displays the aventurine appearance is [oligoclase](#), though the effect is sometimes seen in [orthoclase](#): hence two kinds of sunstone are distinguished as "oligoclase sunstone" and "orthoclase sunstone."

## Oregon sunstone

A variety known as *Oregon sunstone* is found in [Harney County, Oregon](#) and in eastern [Lake County](#) north of [Plush](#). Oregon sunstone contains inclusions of [copper](#) crystals. Oregon sunstones can be up to three inches wide. The copper leads to variant color within some stones, where turning one stone will result in manifold hues: the more copper within the stone, the darker the complexion.<sup>[8]</sup>

On August 4, 1987, the [Oregon State Legislature](#) designated Oregon sunstone as its [state gemstone](#) by joint resolution.<sup>[9]</sup> Wikipedia

\*At **Highland Rock & Gem**, 1316 Hines Blvd, Burns, Oregon, **Mr. Ellis Hawks**, helped me identify sunstone from Plush, Oregon. The sunstone was embedded in lava rock. **Mr. Hawks** had samples of faceted, tumbled and rough sunstone. There are many areas in Oregon to pick samples of obsidian, thunder eggs and sunstone.

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**Scholarships:** Three scholarships were awarded this year — **Nicolas A. Diaz** and **Esmeralda Velasquez** are graduates of Barstow High School and **Kayla Black**, a graduate of Silver Valley High School.

**Nicolas Diaz** wants to become an environmental engineer and design Cave Houses for environmental green living. **Esmeralda Velasquez** writes, “I am beyond excited and thankful to have been selected as the recipient of the MDGMS scholarship. Thank you.”

**Nicolette Grill**, our scholarship chairperson, deserves a big Thank You for her work in contacting the local schools for young students with big goals.

**Nicolette** has ideas for locating those with geology majors, living in San Bernardino County, to apply for our scholarships.

Scholarships are funded by the Spin the Wheel, Grab Bags & Silent Auction at our December Gem & Mineral Show.

**Kayla Black**



**Kayla Black** writes, “Thank you for the scholarship! I am honored and thankful to have your support. My family and I appreciate your help with paying for college. Thank you.”



## NO MINUTES FOR THE JULY MEETING

The monthly July meeting that wasn't... because the electricity was off to the clubhouse after a downpour with hail that also flooded houses & roads in town with mud & water.

Was sort of a Tailgate Party, but there were no tailgates. Definitely a parking lot Show & Share — Rocks came out of trunks, boxes, bags, purses and there was much discussion on identification & where they were found. **Dian Hare**, hostess, brought a fruit platter & cupcakes, that were enjoyed by the members & guests.

Do you realize that it is only FIVE months to Showtime?

Please send us your rock hounding experiences from vacations, weekends or day trips. [twosistersrockshop@hotmail.com](mailto:twosistersrockshop@hotmail.com) Next month, we'll share our trip to Richardson's Ranch and the Poke a Dot Mine near Madras, Oregon! -----

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**\*ROCKS for SALE:** Call John Hill, for a variety of rocks for sale! Jade, Jasper, Silver Lace Onyx and more! (442) 235-2829. All the hard work is done for you!

## Workshop Report

Grab bags are progressing. We are gathering our usual bright colors: **Therese Carlson** has sewn 150; **Joan Bird** has sewn 150; **La Vella Tomlinson** has sewn 150. At the July workshop, another 50 bags were draw stringed & completed by new members **Toni Pizzo** and **Lana Heller-Wood**, plus **Gloria Moore**, & **La Vella Tomlinson**.

Also at the workshop, **Dian Hare**, **Vivian Watts**, **Therese Carlson**, & **Danny Watts** were labeling & bagging Pyrites & Obsidian Apache Tears for the grab bags. Already labeled & prepared by **Vivian**, **Danny** & **Jonathan Watts** are Opalite from the El Paso Mts and **Bill** & **La Vella Tomlinson** have done Peacock Ore.

The club needs 600 grab bags and 4200 rock samples to fill them. Time and materials are donated by club members & some from people who are not club members. This is how the club gives kids & adults a great bag of interesting rocks and also earns the money for the scholarships. Thank you volunteers for your time and donations which make our Grab Bags famous and the Gem & Mineral **Show** great.



More on Sunstones... from the BLM...page 5

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Sunstones are feldspar crystals that formed in lava. Thirteen to fourteen million years ago, a volcano in Steens Mountain erupted, pouring out massive amounts of lava. The lava flow was subsequently covered by a vast lake and remained underwater for thousands of years. As the lake gradually dried up, the exposure to weather caused the lava to decompose and reveal loose sunstones.

**Know Before You Go** The boundaries of the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area are marked by orange plastic posts that say '**Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area**,' and corners are marked with large Bureau of Land Management triangles on wooden posts. There are many private mining claims surrounding the public collection area and several within it. Collecting sunstones from a private claim without permission is not allowed and may result in legal penalties. Please take the time to know where you are before collecting. Due to the isolated location, rock hounds visiting the collection area should be well prepared. The only facilities available at the site are a pit toilet, picnic tables, and a shade structure. You are welcome to camp anywhere within the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area. There is no fee for collecting sunstones, but you may not collect sunstones for trade or commercial purposes. **Private Mining Claims** Within the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area is a 20-acre parcel of private mining claims. Private mining claims are also located outside and adjacent to the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area. Large mechanized mining claim operations are visible near the entrance to the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area. Mining on these claims is regulated through Federal and State permits. These claims are restored at the end of mining operations. No public collection is allowed within these private mining claims. **Collecting;** As you walk within the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area, keep your eyes to the ground and look for the opaque yellowish stones, picking them out of the soil and rocks. Sunstones can be red or green, but pale yellow is the most common color. Hand tools such as shovels

and picks may be used for digging, but please fill in any holes you create. Mechanized equipment for digging is strictly prohibited.

**Flora and Fauna** Although the Oregon Sunstone Public Collection Area may seem somewhat desolate, it is always possible to observe desert animals. During daylight hours, black-tailed jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, short-horned lizards, sagebrush lizards, and the western skink may be seen. Nighthawks may be observed catching insects in the evening, and coyotes heard howling at night. While sagebrush and greasewood are the most common plant, native grasses such as Indian rice grass and Needle and Thread grow.

**Directions to the Site** From Plush: Take County Road 3-10 (the Hogback Road) north for about 10 miles (this road turns to gravel after 4 miles). Turn right onto Country Road 3-11 and drive ½ mile then turn left onto BLM Road 6155. Remain on 6155 for about 8 ¼ miles then turn left onto BLM Road 6115. Follow the 6115 road for about 5 miles until you can turn right onto BLM Road 6195 and see the entrance sign for the Sunstone Collection Area. For southbound travelers on Highway 395: From Highway 395, turn left (east) onto Country Road 3-10 (the Hogback Road). Stay on the Hogback Road for 20.2 miles until you can turn left on County Road 3-11. Drive ½ mile and turn left onto BLM Road 6155. Remain on the 6155 road for about 8 ¼ miles then turn left onto BLM Road 6115. Follow the 6115 road for about 5 miles until you can turn right onto BLM Road 6195 and see the entrance sign for the Sunstone

**Collection Area.** Caution: BLM roads are unpaved and impassable in wet conditions even with a four-wheel drive vehicle. If you are planning a visit from November through May, contact the BLM Lakeview District Office for information on weather and road conditions. The nearest services are located in Plush, Oregon approximately 23 miles south. Services include gas and groceries at the store, and picnic tables, water, and toilets at Egan Park. Contact Information: Lakeview District (541) 947-2177 [www.or.blm.gov/lakevie](http://www.or.blm.gov/lakevie)

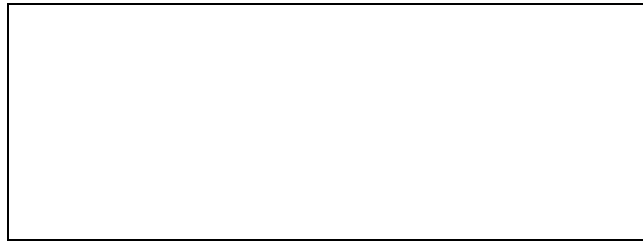
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Stamp

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Newsletter



# *Desert Diggings*

