



DESERT DIGGINGS

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SOCIETY 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.



JUNE BARBECUE AND AUCTION

by Peggy Haines

Barbecue

June's regular meeting will be our annual "Club Members" **Barbecue** and **Silent Auction**.

It will be held on the first Friday of the month, June 1, at 6:00 p.m. at our regular meeting place (25647 W. Main).

The main course will consist of either Tri-tip or Chicken provided by the club and cooked by our resident chef **Rob Stapp**.

You will need to bring a **potluck dish** and your **place setting** (plates, fork, spoon, and knife). Drinks will be provided by the June hostess.

A sign-up sheet is posted at the club. Please indicate your meat choice, # of people attending, and what dish you will bring.

Hope you can make it! This should be a fun evening.



The **silent auction** will follow the meal. Most items start at just 25c. Some of the items up for bid are:

- ◆ Aventurine
- ◆ Silver Lace Onyx
- ◆ Chrysoprase
- ◆ Crystals
- ◆ Petrified Wood
- ◆ Rutilated Quartz
- ◆ Rhodochrosite
- ◆ Tourmalineted Quartz
- ◆ Turritella
- ◆ and more



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER OUR HEROES

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as **Decoration Day**, it

originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the fallen Union soldiers. By the 20th century it had been extended to honor all

Americans who have died in all wars.





Definition

Man-made: Made by humans from natural elements from the earth (metals, stone, wood, etc.).

Tool: A handmade device that aids in accomplishing a task.



What's Happening

Planned Field Trips 2012

Jan 21 — Brown Butte
Feb 18 — Kramer Junction
Mar 17 — Bakersfield Show
Apr 21 — Lucerne Valley
May 19 — Sheep Springs
Jun 16 — Victorville
Jul 21 — San Simeon
Aug 18 — Wrightwood
Sep 22 — Panamint Valley

MANMADE TOOLS

by Gene Haines

In the beginning man had to forage for food and he may have learned how to make tools and weapons in order to also take down game to feed themselves. This could have taken thinking about a broken **limb** that they sharpened with a **stone** to a point and then later learned to heat the point in a fire to make the tip harder. This of course would have necessitated creating an **axe** style tool to chop down wood in small limb sized pieces to create the fire. A **flint** could have been discovered to create a spark if struck with another **stone**. Small **knives** made of **stone, bone, wood** or **obsidian** no doubt became a vital

addition to the hunter's necessary tools. A **rope** made of plant fibers would also have been created later, out of necessity; to carry home some of the game that they managed to hunt down or the use of **snares** and **traps**. **Baskets** would have been needed to carry plants, berries, fruit and nuts that the family unit may have gone out to forage for and take home. The mere storage of water would need a **gourd, animal skin**, or a **clay vessel** of some shape. So as you see, from the beginning tool making was a matter of necessity and therefore the mother of invention! Each stage of hunting, foraging, etc. would

have necessitated the creation of tools to make their job easier. The fingernails of the early hunters would not have been much of a weapon to defend themselves against many animals' claws and teeth!

PHASES OF TOOL DEVELOPMENT

There seems to be phases of tool development that is still continuing to this day. Man is a tool maker and some of his finer tools are used to make other tools too.

The **Agriculture phase** would have been complimented by the hunter phase.

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TRIP TALK (MAY): SHEEP SPRINGS BLACK MOSS AGATE; JASPER

Date: May 19, 2012
Time: BLM Office Jaw Bone Canyon, HWY 14 0900
Lead: Danny Watts

Description: Translucent agate with black tree dendrites.

Equipment: Collecting bags/buckets, gloves, goggles, hat, rock hammer.

Vehicle: Easy access with 2-wheel drive, ground clearance.

Directions: At Sheep Spring; go N on US 395 for 21 1/2 miles, turn S where road crossed railroad tracks for 8 miles and E to Sheep Spring to collect in hills E of spring.



SHOW, TELL, SHARE

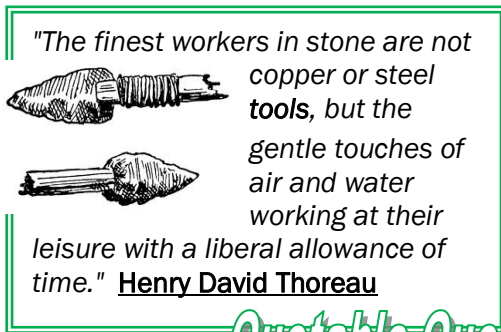
by Peggy Haines



How it works:

Members bring their favorite “themed” specimens that they have acquired through trade, purchase, or personal finds to the general meeting. Everyone has a turn to **show** what they brought and **tell** about it.

The theme for May is “**Manmade Tools**”. Be sure to bring this month’s “themed” specimens to **share**.



Quotable Quotes

Themes for 2012:

- January – Luminescent Minerals
- February – Fossilized Plants
- March – Volcanic Rocks
- April – Meteorites
- **May - Manmade Tools**
- June - None (Barbecue)
- July - Lapidary Arts
- August - Synthetics
- September - Saps
- October - Ores
- November - Metallic Gems
- December - None (Party)

Stone Tools – A stone tool is any tool made either partially or entirely out of stone. Stone tools were the first kind of tool made by humans. They include:

Adze - A wood-working tool, similar to an axe. The earliest adzes were made of stone, shaped into a roughly rectangular form by flint knapping and then grinding the working end into a straight pointy elongated edge.

Arrowhead - Made of stone and shaped through a process called "flaking," gradually chipping away at the arrowhead until it was the desired shape. The heads were attached to wooden shafts and used as arrows for hunting.

Axe - A stone wood working tool, to cut down trees, horizontally slicing through the wood.

End Scraper - Rounded at one end and tapered off to a point with sharp serrated edges. Used to remove hair and fat from the hide of an animal.

Mortar and Pestle - Made of stone consisting of two parts. The pestle is a hand-held piece of stone that looks like a small club used for pounding and crushing herbs and other foods. The mortar is a stone bowl that the herbs and foods are put into for the crushing.

Manmade Tools continued from page 2

BRING YOUR EXAMPLES TO SHOW, TELL, SHARE!

The **Industry and Trade phase** (think cottage industry here, [division of labor] where the family members all could be making contributions to creative efforts to help the community as a whole) required cooperation among members of a family or tribe or none of them would be able to survive.

This would then have led to the next phase of living, the **Arts and Crafts phase** which would have been done in the spare time during hunting/gathering breaks. It seems man has always had an *aesthetic side* as well during normal living environments all over the world.

The last phase could have been the **Warfare phase** and here is where the tools were actually turned into weapons which served two purposes; upgrades to the older style hunting 'tools' and for the individual and societal defense against marauders outside of their living location.

AGRICULTURE

Once agriculture took hold in some areas of the world the farming tools and implements took on similar designs owing to the old adage of “form follows function.” The **hand Sickle** and **Scythe** are farming tools that were unique in shape

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MANMADE TOOLS

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and function. It was a curved **jawbone** or wooden **stick** that would have been hollowed out on the inside edge to glue cut pieces of **obsidian** in, forming a crude blade. This was used to cut down cereal grains and grasses to feed the people and their domesticated animals. It could double as a defensive battle tool if needed.

Pitchforks and **rakes** (wood limbs with forked ends, wood dowels for rakes), **shovels** and **hoes** (made of wood and or cow shoulder bones) made useful tools also [Stonehenge's trenches and mounds were found to have been made using such tools]. Reeds six long cubits in length) were used in the Middle East for measuring sticks. Reeds were also used for pens, flutes, and fishing spears (with bone or iron barbed tips).



Those assigned to foraging would find a **deer antler** handier than a stick. It would last longer and could dig a nice hole or trench for gathering tubers and roots. **Stones** worked into an **axe** or **adze** would help cut down timbers. **Flint, agate, and obsidian** could have been knapped to make **knives, arrowheads, spear points, and scrapers** to work with use in defense. Larger rounded **stones**, fastened to tough sticks with animal sinew and glue would have been handy as a **club** for a longer reach weapon if needed. **Bone** or **ivory** sharpened with points would be useful as an **awl** for making holes for planting seeds or making holes in hides when making clothing.

Each succeeding generation learns from the past and tries to improve the current generation with new and imaginative functional tools that exceed the capacity of the old ones. We must realize that some of the old ones were not that bad for their time, they did the job they were designed to do.

Later periods of history would upgrade such useful tools with better **hammers, saws, pliers, tongs, shears, chisels, awls, picks, trowels, levels, medical instruments** (scalpel, tweezers, probe, spatula – Roman ones look similar to modern ones in an operating room), **oxbow, threshing tools**; (sled with sharpened stones on underside, rake, flail, pitchfork, winnowing fork, shovel, woven reed baskets), and **needles** (bone, ivory and later bronze and iron). We as a people continue to upgrade almost all our tools.

HUNTERS (things they needed and used)

Stone pots, cups, dishes, and bowls (gourds or wooden), **fishhooks** (bone, iron, ivory, wood, bronze), **bow** and **arrow** (wood, water buffalo horn, reeds), **spear, javelin, sling** (a pair of braided leather straps or thongs, used to disable, stun, disarm or kill an animal or man! Stones or lead pellets were used.), **daggers** (wood, bone, iron, ivory, copper, bronze), **battle axes** (stones, iron, bronze), **atlatl** (wood and stone), **grinding stones** and **grinders** (pestles, mano and matate), **buckles, belts, straps, pouches, braziers, snuffers, basins, coal shovels, metal spits, bow-drill** (with quartz crystal tip for drilling holes), **baskets, sinkers** (lead, stone, bronze), **plummet** on nets (made of stone or metal used to sink the nets).



INDUSTRY AND TRADE (such tools help bring economies up to new levels)

Balances and weights, ceramic tiles, glazed bricks, glass, chain mail, cymbals, swords, body armor, kilns/ovens, pottery, terra-cotta, mirrors, grinding stones, milestones, iron locks with keys, door hinges, razors; (flint, obsidian, iron and copper) **cooking utensils, clothes** (robes, towels, linens), **sandals, scepter** (a club to smite foes, a symbol of authority or oppression, a Ceremonial Baton or a Battle mace), **glass, stone steles** and **mile markers** (limestone, sandstone, granite), **olive press** (with iron wedges, washers, and shafts for the pressing stone), **lanterns, combs/brushes** (ivory, bronze, wood, turtle shell), **cosmetic implements, oil lamps, anvil, decorative boxes, figurines, sculptures, coins, mason tools** (mallet, level, scribe, chisel, trowel, wood float, string), and **writing tablets** (wax covered wooden tablet or clay tablet, wood stylus or bone or reed pen, inkpot).

Maritime Trade: Wooden ships, canvas sails, hemp ropes, iron fittings, brass fittings, ballast stones, iron and brass cannons, iron nails, glass, bricks (stove/ovens), bronze rams, cannons, astrolabes, sextants, compasses, etc.

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MANMADE TOOLS

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ARTS AND CRAFTS

Costumes, wigs, cosmetics (jars, brushes, palettes, spatulas, jars, plates, mirrors), **masks, censers, mosaics, carvings, paintings, ornaments, musical instruments** (flute, stringed instruments, harps, lyres, drums, cymbals, horns, bells, pipes, trumpets, zither), **ossuary, canopic jars, jewelry** (carnelian, lapis,

jasper, bronze, silver, gold, beryl, onyx, sapphire, turquoise, emeralds, rubies, moonstone, pyrite, bone, coral, amber), **royal seals and signet rings** (clay, semi precious stones, pottery, wood, stone, bronze), **weavers;** wooden frame (loom), weavers beam (heddle rod), **carding, shuttle, pin or comb to compress threads, spinning spindle, whorl** (small weight tied to end

of the fiber, to help it twist into yarn faster).

WARFARE (outfitting infantry, cavalry and chariots) Advancements in weapons caused a corresponding improvement in armor! **Body Armor** (layered paper and lacquered scales, ceramic scales, leather strips, bronze scales, iron breast-

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ARMED FORCES DAY DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department – the Department of Defense. Each of the military leagues and orders was asked to drop sponsorship of its specific service day in order to celebrate the newly announced Armed Forces Day. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support

for Marine Corps Day but supports Armed Forces Day, too.

In a speech, President Truman “praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas” and said, “it is vital to the security of the nation



and to the establishment of a desirable peace.”

In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of Feb. 27, 1950, Mr. Truman stated:

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1950, marks the first combined demonstration by America’s defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality. It is the first parade of preparedness by the unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense.



- 02 May – Judy Livingston
- 04 May – AJ Schwartz
- 04 May – Cassidy Schwartz
- 04 May – Nick Schwartz
- 12 May – Charles Toles
- 12 May – Martin Baum
- 22 May – Robert Sloan
- 23 May – Wayne Mallon
- 28 May – Leslie Walker
- 31 May – Julia Begley

Birthstone: Emerald
Flower: Lily of the Valley
Signs: Taurus (until 20th)
 Gemini (beg 20th)



Mark
Your
Calendar

Club Calendar May 2012

- 04 – Gen Mtg 7:00 pm
- 05 – Cinco De Mayo
- 08 – National Teacher Day
- 13 – Mother’s Day
- 18 – Workshop 6:30 pm
- 19 – Armed Forces Day
- 19 – Field Trip
(Sheep Springs)
- 28 – Memorial Day

Hostess:
Joan Bird
Leslie Walker



Door Prizes:
Leslie Walker
Dian Hare

Primary Business Address

Mojave Desert
Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. Box 138
Barstow, CA 92312

Phone: (760) 255-1030

We're on the Web!
www.mdgms.org



Organization

MDGMS Officers 2012

President: Vivian Watts
Vice President: Dian Hare
Secretary: La Vella Tomlinson
Treasurer: Janet Wentz

Board of Directors 2012

Nick Beall
Donna Patterson
Kemp Root
Rob Stapp
Danny Watts
Past Pres: Scott Stevenson

Meetings/Workshops/Trips

Meetings: 1st Fri (7:00pm)
Workshops: 3rd Fri (6:30pm)
Field Trips: 3rd Sat (8:00am)
Location: 25647 W. Main,
Barstow, CA 92312

Annual Membership Dues

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

Editor/Webmaster

Peggy Haines
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MANMADE TOOLS

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plates, **mauls** (war clubs made with stones, balls of metal or wood), **iron greaves, helmets** (each nation distinguishable) **swords, maces, chains, shields** (wood and leather), swords, spear points, arrowheads, javelins, spears, daggers, horse tack, clubs, axes archers, battering rams, siege engines. **Sheaths, belts, chariots and fittings** (wheels, axels, tree, tack, bridles, etc.), **stone watchtowers/walls, guns, tanks, rockets, etc.**

THE FUTURE OF MAN-MADE TOOLS

As we look at these various types of man-made tools we see where some of our modern day tools had their origin. There is the one factor that begins this whole process however, and that is the **resources** mankind needs to do all these wonderful things today to help man work and live better. These resources must always be understood to have a limited life span and they are either grown or mined from the earth we live on. The Rocks, Minerals and Oils we take for granted that go into making our tools for living and working are limited in supply. We are but stewards of these resources as we live out our short lives here on earth so we must be very conscious of how we manage all our other resources as well. Think about this the next time you go to get a tool to use on your house or car. Think about it next time you need to buy a new tool for a specific job. Just consider the long trial and error process that brought it to you and be grateful. Remember; the person who takes the best care of his tools is usually the more skilled person.

CALENDAR COUNTDOWN

MAY 2012



11-13 – SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA: Spring West Coast Gem & Mineral Show; Holiday Inn - Orange County Airport; 2726 S. Grand Ave.; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; free admission; 80 retail and wholesale dealers; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

5-6 – ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society; Brookhurst Community Center; 2271 W. Crescent Avenue; Hours: Sat. 10 – 5; Sun 10 – 4:30; Contact: Steve Duncan, (714) 724-7102; Email: wsd@iteris.com; Website: www.searchersrocks.org

19-20: YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA: Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Yucaipa Community Center; 34900 Oak Glen Road; Hours: Sat. 9 – 5, Sun. 10 – 4; Contact: Lee Peterson, (909) 794-0731; Email: res09ayd@verizon.net; Website: www.yvgms.org



Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 7pm by president **Vivian Watts**, followed by the flag salute. Happy Birthdays were wished to our members for April. Guests were **Betty Duitsman**, **Bill Depue's** sister, and **Retha Odegaard**, a rockhound who is **Konner's** great grandmother.

Hostess/Door Prizes: Hostesses for refreshments were **Judy Livingston and Vivian Watts**. Door prizes were generously provided by **Kemp Root**. Ten lucky winners received petrified wood slabs. Thank you, **Judy, Vivian and Kemp**.

Cab of the Month: Won by **Vivian Watts** with her cab of Agate. **Broedy Crowell** seconded with his free-form tri-colored marble. (**Merlita Crowell** was wearing a pendant necklace that she made of mahogany obsidian from the gold pan, and should have been viewed as one of the cabs of the month).

Program: The video on Volcanoes from last month was continued. There were rave reviews of the Hawaiian volcano segment.

Business Reports: The minutes of the March 2nd General Meeting were moved to be approved as read from the newsletter; seconded by **Therese Carlson**, & approved by the members.

Vivian reminded that club members needed to sign up for **HOSTESSES** and **DOOR PRIZES**. The sign up schedules are on the bulletin board. **Gene Haines** was unable to progress on confirmation with the city re the Community Center for December's Gem & Mineral show, as those needed were on vacation.

Danny invited everyone to the Lancaster Show this month. **Vivian** reviewed other shows in California for April. Brochures are on the front table.

Show, Tell, Share: A 1996 newspaper article & photograph of **Rosamond Riggle's** rockhound adventures were reminisced by **Tricia Sheppeard**. **Norm Sheppeard & Gene Haines** shared hefty meteorites. **Broedy** brought a meteorite shard from his visit to Arizona's Meteor Crater. **Gene's** look-like rocks of iron ore, psilomelane, hematite, & manganese (meteorites are never botryoidal) were an educational comparison. **La Vella Tomlinson** shared a Fulgurite made by the heat & fusion of lightning striking the sand.

Field Trip: **Danny Watts** shared Birds or Bugs Eye Rhyolite collected from Lucerne Valley. The field trip in two weeks will be to this site.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by president **Vivian Watts**.

Respectively submitted,
La Vella Tomlinson, Secretary

Desert Diggins



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