

# Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society

Editors: Leslie Walker, La Vella Tomlinson, Wayne  
Mallon August 2017

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## MDGMS Officers 2017

President: **Danny Watts**  
Vice-President: **Scott Stevenson**  
Treasurer: **Judy Livingston**  
Secretary: **La Vella Tomlinson**

## Board of Directors

**Bill Johnson**  
**Janna Johnson**  
**Joe Sumners**  
**Toni Pizzo**  
**John Printz**  
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: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</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 4 - 6: NIPOMO, CA**  
**Orcutt Mineral Society**  
**Nipomo High School**  
**525 Thompson Avenue**  
**Hours: Fri-Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4**  
**Contact: Wayne Mills, (805) 481-3495**  
**Email: [wwmills50@hotmail.com](mailto:wwmills50@hotmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.omsinc.org](http://www.omsinc.org)**

**August 19 - 20: 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**  
**Email: [ellen\\_nott@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_nott@yahoo.com)**  
**Website: [www.sfgemshow.org](http://www.sfgemshow.org)**



**Lana Heller-Wood**  
**Ruth Mallon**  
**Sandra Depue**  
**John Baum**  
**George Ast**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**14<sup>th</sup>**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**25<sup>th</sup>**

## Rock of the Month: **Unakite** From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

First discovered in the [United States](#) in the [Unakas mountains](#) of [North Carolina](#) from which it gets its name, **unakite** is an altered [granite](#) composed of pink [orthoclase feldspar](#), green [epidote](#), and generally colorless [quartz](#). It exists in various shades of green and pink and is usually mottled in appearance. A good quality unakite is considered a [semiprecious stone](#); it will take a good polish and is often used in [jewelry](#) as beads or [cabochons](#) and other [lapidary](#) work such as eggs, spheres and animal carvings. It is also referred to as epidotized or epidote granite. In some of the Blue Ridge occurrences, an epidotized augen [gneiss](#) is present exhibiting [foliation](#) structures.



The dominant green epidote in unakite rocks is the [metasomatic](#) alteration product of [plagioclase](#) feldspar, while the orthoclase and quartz crystals remain unaffected.

Unakite can be found as pebbles and cobbles from [glacial drift](#) in the beach rock on the shores of [Lake Superior](#). It also occurs in [Virginia](#) where it is found in the river valleys after having been washed down from the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#). Unakite is not limited to the United States, and has also been reported in [South Africa](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Brazil](#), and [China](#). Some material labeled *unakite* lacks the feldspar and is more properly called [epidosite](#), and is also used as beads and cabochons.

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**Workshops** Friday, July 21st, 6:30 p.m. Wire Wrapping your Cabs

Our Expert Rock Club Members  
are going to show you their best techniques.

1. Bring your beautiful cab.
2. Bring Tools -Small Needle Nosed Pliers are best if they have a smooth working face. Groves will mark & scrape your wire.
3. Small Round Nose Pliers are helpful.
4. Small Wire Cutters —(might be able to share)
5. Bring wire — most use 20 ga. or smaller 22 ga, ( "Dead Soft" if given a choice)  
There will be some wire available at the class.

Wire Wrapping your Cabs continued...

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

to learn to wire wrap an Arrowhead  
to make a pendant.

Arrowheads will be provided.

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General Meeting Minutes, July 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by president **Danny Watts** at 7:10 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. **Ceci** and **George Kawasaki** were back tonight with a big welcome after long illnesses. Happy July birthdays were wished to our club members. Business: AFMS & CFMS —The Ventura Show and business meetings were attended by **Danny & Vivian Watts**, our club representative. **Bill** and **Don Depue** of Diamond Pacific were awarded the Golden Bear Award — highest award from CFMS. **Norm & Trisha Sheppard** were awarded CFMS Rock Hounds of the Year. **Joseph Deer** was awarded CFMS **Junior Rock Hound of the Year**. The CFMS Executive Committee Meeting reported that the insurance provided by CFMS covered liability to our club members. Clubs can go outside of this insurance for coverage of Gem & Mineral shows. **Judy Livingston** reports that we continue to have problems with our show insurance from last year, so this change could be advantageous for our club. The Ventura show displays were great & were in several buildings. **Vivian** brought back California show announcements to share. CFMS provided a directory of all the clubs in the federation.

Rock & Gem Magazine— **Danny** reported that the first magazines from our club's new subscription have arrived and are in the club library. Members can read and check out books and magazines from the club's library. Rock & Gem has a list of shows that they publish in the magazine and also on their website. Show dates can also be found on **Bill's** Rock Shop web site.

Show: Grab Bags, Trees & Spin the Wheel — **Trisha & Norm Sheppard** gave grab bags to their daughter's class and received some very nice thank you letters which were read by **Judy Livingston** to the members. It was obvious that the children liked the rocks being labeled and listed favorites of the iron ore (closely examined for sparkles in the sun), the modern arrowheads, chevron amethyst, chalcopryite, & the whiteness of the calcite. They also liked our colorful bags. **Therese Carlson** brought 100 grab bags that she has sewn for our December 2017 Show— they are all in colorful prints, including more of her popular "Dragon" bags. **La Vella Tomlinson** reported that **Joan Bird** is also sewing 200 bags and **La Vella** has a couple of hundred in progress.

**Ceci Kawasaki** brought a hundred gem trees that she has made for the show. She has created a new design for the trees that go to those with a display case.

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Minutes continued...

These trees are glittering gems. And more trees for prizes on Spin the Wheel. She requests that the boxes with dividers be saved for her at the end of the show. These storage boxes are tricky to make. Rock items are still needed to fill the grab bags. **Dian Hare** is busy labeling minerals for the grab bags. **Danny Watts** discussed the price for the bags and the different amounts the bags sold at other shows & clubs. He also suggested the idea that two prize boards be set up for Spin the Wheel— one on each side of the wheel — one continues to have small gifts at \$1 a spin and the new one with more intricate gifts at \$5 a spin. **Danny** reported that new tables, & floor cable protectors have been purchased for the show. The possibility of needing new blue table skirts was discussed. The Cora Harper Center has been reserved by **Dian Hare**. Thank you to all who work year round to make our Gem & Mineral show happen.

Treasurer' s Report: **Judy Livingston**, treasurer, reported the club had income from dues, the June silent auction & Gold Pan. Expenses were for the Cable Protectors **Bill Johnson** purchased as required by the City of Barstow for the show; meat & charcoal purchased by **Robb Stapp** for the June barbecue; Sunshine flowers for **Donna Patterson & Ceci Kawasaki**; Post Office Box rental; and Scholarship first payment for **Ludymar Cester**. **Judy** reports the club continues to have problems with our insurance claim for breakage at the Show. **Heidi McDaniels** from CFMS is working to solve their insurance carrier problem. **Judy** is keeping on top of the claim. **Judy** reports that **Allison Mata**, one of our club' s past scholarship recipients, is having a Resource Fair on July 28th at the Baptist Church. Contributions will help autistic and other children with school supplies - such as crayons, pencils, paper. **Allison** has invited us to put up a table at the event to promote our rock club. **Donna Patterson & Lana Heller-Wood** volunteered to help her with the table. **Lana Heller-Wood** motioned and **Trisha Sheppard** seconded that the club spend \$100 on school supplies to donate for the children. The motion was discussed and passed by the membership.

Minutes: **Trisha Sheppard** moved & **Joe Summers** seconded that the minutes for the May general meeting be approved as read in the newsletter; the membership voted to approve the minutes as motioned.

Program: The program was a Jewelry Treasures DVD on unusual and rare gemstones. Several of our members reported having some of these gemstones in their collections and they are as beautiful as the movie describes. **Danny Watts** reminds that the club will reimburse up to \$30 for DVDs on suitable topics anyone finds for the club library.

Hostesses: Thank you to our hostesses for the delicious food for our conversation time: **Judy Livingston & Donna Patterson** brought Root Beer Floats and **Vivian Watts** brought a Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Frosting to celebrate the July birthdays

Workshop: On our third Friday workshop, July 21st at 6:30 pm, there will be a wire wrapping workshop given by our club experts demonstrating their best techniques. Tools & wire needed were discussed and of course, bring your cab to wire wrap. There will also be an opportunity to wire wrap an arrowhead - arrowheads are provided.

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Minutes continued...

**Field Trips:** There are NO field trips in this HEAT. The Antelope Valley mineral club is having a trip in July to San Simeon; if you are interested, contact **Danny Watts**.

**Cab of the Month:** There was a three way tie for first place with cabs made by **Lana Heller-Wood & Danny Watts**. One of **Lana's** was 'almost' chrysocolla made into a large rectangle. Obsidian and Death Valley agate were also first place winners.

**Show & Tell:** **Mayla Avila** thanked the club for her scholarship award. **Mayla** shared her self-collected crystal collection of tourmaline's from the Himalaya mine in Diego County & Opals from the Virgin Valley, Nevada, and gold nuggets panned up in the gold country by **Mayla & her father Carlos**. **Mayla** was wearing a necklace and earrings made from gold nuggets her father found. She has certainly won the title of our club's new gemologist.

**Danny Watts** brought tumbled stones he collected in Green River, Utah. They took 4 months to complete tumbling in **Norm Sheppard's** large rock tumbler.

**John Printz** brought interesting rocks from his backyard: a small boulder cut in half & beautiful inside was identified as won from the Silent Auction years ago. A 9 inch smoky quartz crystal, more mysterious than a perfectly shaped quartz crystal, was also found. And a true mystery of a probable mud ball formed around a petrified branch. He is going to bring it to the Show for **Walt Wright's** identification. **La Vella Tomlinson** brought a fist sized chalcedony covered with quartz crystals found at Hector. The chalcedony is fluorescent green.

**Door Prizes:** Prizes were gifted by **Scott Livingston, Lana Heller-Wood, Judy Livingston & Donna Patterson**. Happy winners of agate & jasper slabs and potted baby succulents tucked in with rock treasures, were **Trisha Sheppard, Donna Patterson, Norm Sheppard, Judy Livingston, Mayla Avila, Chieko Printz, Scott Stevenson, Carlos Avila, John Printz, Theresa Carlson, Bill Tomlinson, Lana Heller-Wood, La Vella Tomlinson & Vivian Watts**. **Danny Watts**, president, adjourned the meeting at 9pm. Respectfully submitted, **La Vella Tomlinson**, secretary



Trisha Sheppard, La Vella & Bill Tomlinson, Elgin Wood and Jonathan, working on projects in May.

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Gem & Mineral Society  
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Stamp

First Class Mail



Newsletter



# *Desert Diggings*

