

# *LITTLE GEMS*

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2013



**General Meeting:  
Second Tuesday of the month  
Katherine Heidenreich Senior Center  
1776 Airway Ave.,  
Kingman, AZ 86401  
General Meeting  
7:00 PM**

## **Presidents Message:**

*Hey everyone! The new year is starting out great! Besides last months speaker issue, our show is coming along great, and January's field trips were a blast! We have the new year's membership dues and the deadline is here! Get them in asap! Hopefully next month we will have a meteorite speaker, Mike Miller who is a local collector and is rumored to be quite knowledgeable.*

*I've really come into leading my fellow rockhounds and plan to keep on helping out the club anyway possible. It would also be appreciated if others could too. I'm looking forward to seeing our club propel into new rewarding experiences and with the start of this year I'm sure it will happen.*

*Trent Szabo, president*

## **2013 Annual Rock & Gem Show**

*We are getting responses from the vendors; about a dozen have already secured their tables. This is a very good start. A couple of new vendors have taken advantage of our online application on our web site. This is also very good.*

*On Jan 8<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our first Show Meeting. It will be at the Senior Center from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, immediately preceding the Board Meeting and General Meeting. Any input, donations, or volunteers are encouraged to come. We can use everyone's help on this-our Club's biggest income source.*

*If anyone should ask about renting tables for the Show, the quickest way for them to get information, have access to the Vendor Application and City Event Permit, is to go to our web site. So make sure you have that information:*

*[www.gemstoners.org](http://www.gemstoners.org). If you would like some business cards that have our web site and meeting info on them, see Fred or Trent. Any questions or concerns my # is 757-8121. Thanks.*

***The Mohave County Gemstoners' Club***

***Is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and associated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).***

***The purpose of the Mohave County Gemstoners is to:***

- 1. Stimulate interest in Mineralogy and Lapidary Arts.***
- 2. Stimulate individual's interest in cutting and displaying of minerals, fossils and gemstones.***
- 3. Stimulate interest in stonecutting, carving and setting of fine gems and jewelry.***
- 4. Stimulate interest in other areas, such as faceting, jewelry design, jewelry fabrication and metalsmithing of jewelry.***

*Fiscal year for memberships runs from January 1st thru December 31st.*

*Dues are \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per couple and \$25.00 for family. Junior Membership cost is \$8.00.*

*Name badges are required, Either Pin or Magnetic style available at cost.*

***Little Gems is published monthly. It is available online at [www.gemstoners.org](http://www.gemstoners.org) The Newsletter is in PDF format so it will be necessary to download AdobeReader (free program) to view. Submissions should be to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> the month to: [littlegemsmc@yahoo.com](mailto:littlegemsmc@yahoo.com) or mail to: Mohave County Gemstoners PO Box 3992, Kingman, AZ 86402.***

***\*\* 2013 Club Leadership \*\****

**Elected Officers:**

President – Trent Szabo  
Vice President – Roger Price  
Secretary – Fred Bunge  
Treasurer – Gary Gann

**Board of Directors:**

Year ending 2013: John Smith  
Year ending 2014: Pete Hansen  
Year ending 2015: Mary Gann

**Club Committees 2013**

By-Laws – Fred Bunge  
Field Trips – Mary Gann, John Smith, Gary Bolles  
Greeters—Shirley Darga  
Membership – Dorothy Bunge  
Photographer - \*open\*

Newsletter Editor- Sue Beilman  
Refreshments – John and Laraine Smith  
Telephone - John and Laraine Smith  
Show Chairman 2013 – Mary Gann  
Webmaster – Mary Gann

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING – 08 JAN 2013.**

Due to a scheduling conflict, our guest speakers were unable to attend. They will be re-scheduled at a later date.

The meeting was called to order by President Trent Szabo at 7:02 PM. The flag salute was led by the Secretary.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Assets and expenses reported to membership.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – we currently have 8 paid members for 2013. Dues are now due and must be received by 28 FEB 2013.

Those with birthdays and anniversaries were introduced as well as many visitors who were present.

**Show** – May 4/5, 2013 at KAOL HS. We have 20 vendors currently registered.

**Web Master** – web site is currently being updated.

**Newsletter** – send articles to the Editor at the e-mail listed on our web site.

**By-Laws** – Appendix “B” is currently being reviewed.

**Trip** – 06 JAN, trip to Mary's Wash was very successful with new members and guests. Meet at the Honey Onyx claim, 21 JAN at 9:00am.

***Kitchen*** – need cookies for the FEB meeting.

***Guest Speakers*** – (FEB) Fulgurites by Al Schultz. (MAR/APR) Meteorites.

**Old Business:** (NONE)

**New Business:** (NONE)

**Good of the Order:**

Door prizes.

50/50 –Pete Hansen won \$21.

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:23PM.

## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE***



### ***Amethyst***

***Amethyst***, birthstone for February, is the most precious quartz mineral. It comes in violet, purple, rose, lavender and mauve. The most valuable color is the deep purple with tinges of violet. Citrine has a similar consistency to Amethyst. Citrine is Amethyst that is heated and turns yellow orange in color. Amethyst is a hardness of 7 on the Moh's scale.

Amethyst comes in many sizes, but jewelry grade Amethyst is very rare. Most jewelry grade Amethyst is about the size of a fist. It can be found all over the world. Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Madagascar have the majority of Amethyst. Southern Brazil produces light violet Amethyst. Uruguay has the most beautiful, but may contain blemishes, while Madagascar Amethyst is usually red. Amethyst can also be found in Germany and Russia near the Ural Mountains.

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FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

***Roger Price, Bill Darga, and Aleta Huskinson***

**Andy and Kadek Mangold**

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**COPPER**

by Mary Gann

*Even as a young child copper fascinated me. I was drawn to its warm glow and the fact that I could bend it, braid it, or shape little people and animals to play with. Any lamps or radios set on the shelf in the garage were soon relieved of their cords. Back when kids were allowed to be real, we all carried pocket knives and knew how to use them. And, yes we all nicked and cut ourselves-it seldom required a trip to the hospital or a session with a shrink. And, 60 years later, my husband can testify to the fact that not much has changed with me.*

*Four years ago, when my husband and I got into lapidary, then the silversmithing and wire wrapping of our processed rocks, we used mainly silver. Being able to solder things together opened up a whole new wonderful world for me and my friend copper.*

*As we worked with silver, bronze, and brass, I found out that all these have some copper content to make them shinier, more malleable, raise or lower soldering temperatures, and help everything be more user friendly. Copper is one of the most important constituents of carat silver and gold alloys and carat solders used in the jewelry industry, modifying the color, hardness and melting point of the resulting alloys.*

*I was ecstatic to learn that copper, silver, and gold are in group 1 of the periodic table, and they share certain attributes: they have one s-orbital electron on top of a filled d-electron shell and are characterized by high ductility and electrical conductivity. Together with caesium, gold, and osmium, copper is one of only four elemental metals with a natural color other than gray or silver. I have no idea what the first sentence means, other than the fact that copper has been grouped with some very expensive friends.*

*But, I did get curious about copper. And, in researching, I found out some interesting FFTKAT (Fun Facts To Know And Tell!!).*

*\*Copper is essential to all living organisms as a trace dietary mineral.*

*\*Studies conducted in the past 10 years regarding copper's efficacy to destroy a wide range of bacteria such as microorganisms (e-coli), staph, flu virus, and fungi. Some 355 copper alloys were proven to kill more than 99.9% of disease causing bacteria within just two hours when cleaned properly. Copper doorknobs are used by hospitals to reduce the transfer of disease, and Legionnaire's disease is suppressed by copper tubing in plumbing systems.*

*\*The largest mass of elemental copper discovered weighed 420 tons and was found in 1857 on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan, US.*

*\*Today's average home contains more than 400 lbs of copper in wiring, plumbing, and brass fixtures.*

*\*Since copper can be recycled continuously without any effects on its properties (another reason I am crazy about this metal), it is one of the most resilient and recycled materials in the world. 80% of the copper humanity has produced is still in use today.*

*\*Some of the jewelry we have made came from copper piping and wiring from our house in Portland which was built in 1914.*

*\*Arizona is the leading copper producing state, making up 60% of the copper in the US.*

*The more I learn about copper the more fascinated I become.*

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## ***Devil's Claw-The Legend***

*by Mary Gann*

Our first year here, my husband and I became acquainted with the Devil's Claw. It is a fierce looking seed pod with extremely sharp pointed arms, and built with the toughness and springiness of steel. My husband got one attached to his shoe, looking as if he had on an upside-down spur. He tried to kick it off, and then drug his foot from side to side to dislodge it, but, instead succeeded in making the tough points dig in more. He next tried to step on it with one foot while pulling away with the foot it was firmly attached to, and this did not work either. I, meanwhile, had picked up a beautiful specimen and was studying it, only slightly aware of what was transpiring with Gary. He kicked and stomped and jumped a few more times, and then did what a horse could not do: he sat down and grasping an arm of the pod in each hand, he pulled the sharp hooks free of his shoe and threw it back to the desert floor. I looked at the one I was holding in wonderment. "I gotta get me some of these guys!" I exclaimed. "What in God's name for?" He asked. "I'm not sure yet. But, these are just way cool! I'll think of something." I replied.



I found out that the Indians collected these hearty desert dwellers and stored them in 'balls'. They would soak them in water to make them more pliable, and then would weave them into their baskets. The dark color of the Devil's Claw was used as accents and the toughness ensured a long life for the bottom of the basket.



Through the years they have cultivated a seed pod with arms up to 15" long. I have never seen such a creature, but I read about it on the Internet (and you know the Internet can't lie!). I also read that the Devil's Claw is referred to as a 'Hitch hiking' seed pod, as it secures itself to passing livestock and spreads its seeds as it is *being dragged across the desert*. *The down side to this is: as the livestock drag it, it embeds its sharp hooks deep into the ankle and can cause infection. For this reason parts of Texas and Arizona prohibit the planting of this little menace.*

*I, myself, have used them in all number of ways, but I think that as a Dream Catcher it ennobles their spirit. I do not cut their hooks as I believe this would be like cutting Samson's locks. I do not want to diminish their fierce spiritual attitude.*

*As Dream Catchers they give a sense of serenity and pleasantness, but one should never be fooled. They have a job to do in whatever dwelling they reside. The Legend:*

*If someone enters your home uninvited, and steals from you, they unknowingly leave behind a piece of their soul, skewered by the sharp hooks of the Devil's Claw. Soon they come to realize that something is wrong with them, that something has been taken from them. As this belief begins to gnaw at them it takes its toll mentally and emotionally. The Spiritual Void that the Devil's Claw created in their soul begins to devour them. Before long they are wandering about muttering and slapping at the air.*



Although I am truly a rockhound, the Devil's Claw is one of the best things I ever drug home. It seems to me the epitome of desert survival and deserves to be one of the great things that legends are made of.

## **FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**



- *Sign in 15 minutes before departure time*
- *Leader will state relevant information after everyone has signed in.*
- *Each vehicle is to keep the one behind it in sight. Stop if vehicle is not visible and report situation on radio.*
- *Always notify leader if you are hiking or driving to another site and your approximate return time.*
- *If leaving and not returning, notify leader and turn in radio.*
- *Always take food, water, and first aid kit, full tank of gas.*
- *When hiking from the group, always take a radio. RADIOS: Channel 3*
- *Name badges required at all Club functions.*

**Field Trips:** There will be an announcement for the next Field Trip planning session. Anyone who has a specific place they would like on the list should see John or Gary B., or, better yet! Come to the planning session and help out. Thanks.

**TBA**

## February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	Brd Mtg. 6pm, Gen. Mtg 7:00 P.M.	13	14 	15	16
14	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

## March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	Brd Mtg. 6 pm, Gen. Mtg 7:00 P.M.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	24	28	29	30