

THE COWTOWN CUTTER



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Check out page 7 for important information.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Minutes	1
President's Corner	2
Birthdays	2
Program	3
Field Trips	3
The Editor's Pen	3
Minutes Continued	4
Area News	5
Officers	5
Real Gems	6
Articles of Interest	7
Club Info.	8

Want to add something? Contact Stephanie Moran at: fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com



Minutes for MARCH 24th, 2009



Recorded by Secretary, Dora M. Hale

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President Susan Thielker.

Welcome new members Chad, Daylynn, Lani, and Kaylie Decker.

Sunshine report: No news. May start checking mid-month to see if everybody is well.

KUDOS & MANY THANKS to the Loyds for the new driveway!!

Minutes approved as printed in newsletter. Moved to accept by Peter and seconded by Delta.

Show Business: Steve says we have 24 dealers, and maybe one more. We have fewer tables this year. (64 vs 67 before). Flyers are made. Some have \$1 off. About 1500 people are on the mailing list. We are looking at having a meeting at 7:00 on Thursday, May 7 to get the cards out to those folks. Food will be discussed at the April meeting.

Classes: Lee has volunteered to teach cabbing after the show is over.

Maintenance: We need saws running so we can do stuff for the show. We are still in a procurement study for oil to run them. May be able to get food grade mineral oil at \$87.50/55-gal barrel.

(MINUTES continued on page 4.)

President's Corner by Susan Thielker

Greetings Friends,

Can you believe our big show is next month? Where is this spring going? I sure hope everyone has been able to sneak in some rock hounding time.

Things for the show seem to be progressing very well. Thank you to those who have been coming in for Thursday night work nights. On May 7th at 7 P.M. we will need as many people as possible to help address and stamp the many show notification postcards that we mail out. Anyone who has large paper grocery sacks with handles on them, we could sure use them for the silent auction table. Guests who spend a lot of time accumulating wins from the bidding auction really appreciate them.



Thank you to everyone for their help, cooperation, and patience as we try to update our many files and get things set up on computers. Thank you also for your patience as we tweak our newsletter format and switch to sending them out electronically. Stephanie, thank you so much for all of your work.

The April meeting is one of our 2 a year club auctions. Please bring donations, or checkbooks, and let's have some fun acquiring new pieces and raising money for the club.

Susan



APRIL

Helen Meyers	3 rd
Leonard Stansbury	6 th
Jeff Crews	18 th
Dora Hale	20 th

MAY

Jared Crews	11 th
Barbara O'Conner-White	18 th
Jeri Campbell	19 th
Chris Miller	21 st
Linda Kessler	25 th

Did you know ?

The largest ammonite ever found (on record) is 8'6" in diameter & weighs 3.5 tons! It was discovered in 1895 by Prof Hermann Landois and is currently on display at the Munster Natural History Museum. A cast can be seen at the LA Museum of Natural History.



Program For April



For many years our club has included two rock auctions as part of the year's program schedule. These evenings are a lot of fun, especially when a couple of members get into "bidding wars". The way it works is that any and all members can bring a rock, fossil, mineral, book or any item that in some way relates to our wonderful hobby. Depending on how much material shows up - up to 10 items per individual may be entered. If there are a lot of items the auctioneer will limit individual submissions to a lesser number. This is a Split Auction. The donator gets 50% and the club treasury gets the other half. (Members can always choose to have the full amount donated to the club.)

Instructions to participate: Come as close to 7:00 P.M. as possible so you can study the items or get your donations set up. Please, supply an identification card explaining what and where the item is, if you know, and your name so we know who half of the money goes back to. See you there!



Field Trips by Peter Cornell



May Field Trip: We will be going to Jasper, Texas for beautiful petrified wood. This is an area rock collectors dream about as the petrified wood is very abundant. It has nice color, cuts, and polishes great and is plentiful. Great trip for the whole family! You can get more information about this upcoming trip at our meeting on the 28th of April.

The Editor's Pen by Stephanie Moran

Greetings! Wow, taking on this newsletter sure has been a fun challenge that I have also found educational as well. I've been able to talk to so many wonderful members during this project! I hope you all enjoy this edition of the letter. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the letter. If you have anything you'd like to see printed here in the newsletter, please feel free to write me and let me know. You can reach me by email: fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com or you can call me at (817) 499-8414. Once again, thank you for having the confidence in me to take on such a great responsibility!

Going off topic here, I wanted to pass on our newest hunting spot. On April 10th, my family & I found a small jackpot of pretty selenite gypsum not but 7 miles from our house! It's off of 360 (Watson Rd or S. Watson Rd) in Mansfield. Walnut Creek feeds into this smaller creek where people often fish under the bridge area. Well, opposite direction of the creek is a motorcycle trail to walk down & down that hill side is where we found our collection. We spent the whole day digging & brought home two gallons of the stuff. We'll be bringing a few pieces to the next meeting. -Stephanie

Minutes continued from page 1.

Field Trips: (Peter Cornell) We have a trip planned on **April 18** at Ash Grove Cement Quarry in Midlothian. We are limited to two trips a year here and can have 25 people on this trip. We will have the quarry to ourselves. Please remember to bring a hold-harmless agreement, wear steel-toed boots, safety glasses, and hard hats. Notarization is not necessary this time. Meet at the employee parking lot (past the tire place), at 8:00 a.m. Age limit needs to be checked. **[Note: update—Meet at 7:30 instead of 8].** On **May 2**—We have the opportunity to go to Jasper for our last petrified wood dig. No age limit.

Treasurer's report made.

Drawing: White ticket won by David & Red ticket won by Nathaniel Moran.

Note: We are getting low on door prizes. Donations appreciated.

New Business: Steve & Mary Hilliard put on a program for Deer Creek Elementary in Crowley today. Thanks, y'all.

****Watch for snakes!** Copperheads have been sighted this spring.

Newsletter: We have a new editor for the newsletter. Thanks to Stephanie Moran for volunteering for this duty.

Program: A slide program on “Dino Tracks” was presented by Peter & Steve. It followed dinosaur trackways in Colorado and New Mexico. Most areas accessible by visitors are in Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Most in Oklahoma, Arizona, and Utah are found on private lands. Most known dinosaur tracks in North America are found along the western shore of the Western Interior Seaway.

Note: The official dinosaur of Texas is known as Palyuxysaurus Jonesi. The reason for the name being the location near Glen Rose and the remains are being excavated on the Jones ranch. {ed. More information available at <http://salon.glenrose.net/default.asp?view=plink&id=9546>}.

Program for next month: *Semiannual club auction.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora M. Hale, secretary

Fossil hunting, digging, reaping -
My fun in finding, not in keeping.
So here's a tooth your way I'll toss,
Just don't forget to brush and floss!
~Authored by a Tyler club member~

Area News

Mineral Shows in Dallas

- From May 1st through the 3rd the Dallas Fine Mineral Show will be going on. It will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 14021 Noel Road, Dallas. Dozens of fossil, gem, and mineral specialists descend upon Dallas for a must-see mineral show in an intimate setting. Attendance is free.

Information provided courtesy of 2009 Dallas Events website.

- From May 1st through the 3rd, the [International Gem & Jewelry Show](#) in Dallas will be taking place. The location of this event will be held at the Dallas Market Center, Market Hall (Main Hall) at 2100 Stemmons Freeway in Dallas, TX 75207. The hours will be noon to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission to this event will cost adults \$8. No known information has been provided on the admission price, if any, of children. Sorry, no strollers or photography will be permitted.

Information provided courtesy of Strung Out in San Antonio website.

Did you know?

Texas's state stone is petrified palmwood, making it a fossil, but we don't have an official state fossil. Go figure!

Officers

Susan Thielker, President
5908 Walraven Cir
Fort Worth, Tx 76133
817.247.8467

ammonite_hunter@yahoo.com

Peter Cornell, Field Trips
254.644.5724

fossilmaniac@hotmail.com

Lydia Gayle Ellis, Programs
817.798.5241

lgellis@ergo.com

Elsie Kennedy, Treasurer
817.648.9416

elsiegeorg@aol.com

Stephanie Moran, Editor
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006
817.449.8414

fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com

Mary Hilliard, Sunshine Chairman
817.995.8351

samehil@embarqmail

Charles Graham, Show Chairman
817.457.6103

charlesgraham@fortworthisd.org

Schuyler Bullock, Show Chairman
682.365.0517

sky.brenda@uwmmail.com

What do our officers do, you ask?

Additional information on our officers and what their duties entail can be found on the upcoming (newly reconstructed) Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club website. Find us online at www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

Real Gems by Stephanie Moran

You Might Be A Rockhound If . . .

You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions.
You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.
The rockpile in your garage is over your head.
Your PC screen saver features pictures of rocks.
You find rocks when you empty your pockets at night.
You went to a rock festival and you hate music.
You gave rocks, tumblers, or rock tools for Christmas.
When friends say they're going to Tucson, you assume it'll be in February.
You can find Quartzsite on a map in less than 5 seconds.
When someone mentions "Franklin" you think of New Jersey rather than Ben.
You can pronounce "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter
The bookshelves in your home hold more rocks than books; & the books that are there are about rocks.
On a trip to Europe, you're the only member of the group who spends their time looking at cathedral walls through a pocket magnifier.
You think you KNOW how to pronounce "chalcedony."
You are thinking about giving out rocks for Halloween.
You planted flowers in your rock garden.
You purchase things like drywall compound just to have another nice bucket to carry rocks in.
The club you belong to uses rocks for centerpieces for the annual Christmas dinner.
The first thing you pack for your vacation is a chisel and a hammer.
You spend hours and hours in the ugliest room in your house.
You give directions like, "turn right at the green farmhouse..."
You bought the ugliest boots available cause they were water proof.
You know what findings are for.
You watch the scenery in movies instead of the actors.
Your company asks you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.
The local jewelry stores & libraries give out your name for information on rock clubs.

(To be continued next edition....)

THIS LIST WAS WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE GMEDITORS E-MAIL SWAP GROUP.

Contributors included Mel Albright, Richard Busch, Betty Commean, Dan Imel, Bob Keller, & Paul Kline

I Need To Inspect It . . .

A cocky U.S. Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with an old farmer. He told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm."
The old farmer said, "OK, but don't go in that field right over yonder."
The Agriculture representative said, "Mister, I have the authority of the United States Government with me. See this card? The card means I am allowed to go WHEREVER I WISH on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand!"
The farmer nodded politely and went about his farm chores.
Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Agriculture Rep running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's huge-horned prize bull. The bull was gaining on the Agriculture Rep with every step. The Rep was clearly terrified, so farmer immediately threw down his tools, ran to the fence and shouted out..... "Your card! Your card! Show him your card!"

Articles of Interest by Stephanie Moran

This important information was provided by Peter Cornell via SVP Government Affairs.

On March 25, 2009 the House of Representatives passed a Public Lands Bill that contained the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA) by a vote of 285 - 140. The bill has been signed by the president and is now public law.

Although the information has always been readily available on the SVP website, we offer this reminder of what the PRPA actually does:

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act codifies the existing practice of requiring that vertebrate fossils and other rare and scientifically significant fossils be collected only by qualified researchers who obtain a permit. Permittees must agree to deposit the fossils in public institutions, which will ensure their future availability to researchers and the public. The PRPA strengthens penalties and acts as a deterrent for illegal collecting activity.

The PRPA greatly benefits amateur paleontologists. For instance, the BLM and Forest Service have been allowing casual collecting of common plant and invertebrate fossils for many years, but without specific statutory authority from Congress. This activity could have been taken away at any time. However, the PRPA ensures amateurs can continue to pursue their hobby on BLM and Forest Service lands. The Savings Provision specifies that, "nothing contained in the Act shall apply to, or require a permit for, casual collecting of a rock, mineral or invertebrate or plant fossil that is not protected under this Act."

Over the years there has been an abundance of misinformation regarding the PRPA. Please note that the PRPA DOES NOT:

1. Affect Private lands or Indian lands in any way.
2. Prosecute anyone for misidentifying a fossil unless that misidentification is made in association with a knowing criminal violation of the PRPA.
3. Interfere with rock collecting.
4. Restrict access to those who do not have a Ph.D.
5. Interfere with mining on federal land.
6. Create restrictions for public lands access.

In the days ahead, SVP's Government Affairs Committee will offer any expertise that is required by federal agencies in regard to regulations and implementation of the PRPA. We will also take a look at new initiatives and opportunities that will greatly benefit the SVP and the science of vertebrate paleontology.

This has been a very long and arduous process that has been under consideration for almost 18 years. It is hard to imagine how many members of the Society, Congressional staffers, associated societies, and friends that have contributed to the success and passage of the PRPA. We want to thank everyone who helped in a small and large way, because without your determination and support, passage of the PRPA would not have been possible.

Sincerely,
The SVP Government Affairs Committee

SVP 69th Annual Meeting
Sept. 23-26, 2009
University of Bristol

Bristol, United Kingdom and the 57th Symposium of Vertebrate Paleontology and Comparative Anatomy (SVPCA)
© Copyright SVP - All Rights Reserved

THE FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB

PURPOSE: The purpose of this club is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, and the lapidary arts. We also strive to stimulate the interest in the searching, and collecting, of minerals and fossils.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the purpose described above.

DUES: \$15.00 per person, per year. \$20.00 per family, per year.

NEWSLETTER: Published monthly, before each meeting. Send articles, news, items, and classified ads to:

Stephanie Moran
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006
817.449.8414
Email: fwgemclub.newsletter@gmail.com

CLUB WEBSITE (Check it out!):
www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

**Refreshments For APRIL:
POTLUCK - Bring your favorite dish!**

**Club Address: 3545 Bryan Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas 76110**

**Meeting starts at 7:30pm
Social starts at 7:00pm**

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 28th 2009 - REGULAR MEETING

**Stephanie Moran
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006**