

The Cowtown Cutter

APRIL 2011

Volume 3 - Issue 4



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Minutes 1

The Editor's Pen 1

Program 2

Article of Interest 2

Birthdays 2

Field Trips 3

Real Gems 3

For Kids 3

Committee Positions 4

Club Info. 4

Want to add something? Send to:
fwgmc.editor@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline for next month:

5/15/11

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It's getting closer to that time of year! Show time! Volunteers are appreciated, and so are gem & mineral donations.

Minutes for Mar. 22nd, 2011

Meeting called to order by President, Martha Phillips at 7:32 p.m.

Welcome members and repeat visitors.

Leonard will be presenting tonight's program: Rocks from the Holy Land and Middle East.

Sinks are leaking in both restrooms, we need a plumber to repair.

Thanks to the Hillards for over-seeing repairs to the restrooms. New floors and toilets are in place.

Motion by Susan to accept minutes as written, seconded by Faye, accepted.

Sunshine Report:

Elise is in ICU at Huguley with congestive heart failure.

George Field fell and broke his hip 6 weeks ago and now has a blood clot in his lung. Get well cards are being sent.

Show Report:

There will be a short show meeting after the general meeting.

There are 23 vendors signed up.

Membership Report:

Membership list is being updated. Dora needs copy.

Field Trips:

Ash Grove April 2nd

Lost Creek in Jacksboro April 30th

Clifton May 14th

Treasurer's Report: Given

Program given by Leonard on Rocks from the Holy Land.

Drawing: Red ticket-Dora. White ticket-Mary.

Scholarship auction followed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Porter, Secretary

The Editor's Pen

Greetings! Well, our cool weather has come just about to an end, and that means fewer cool days left for rock hunting. If you're the type that doesn't let weather hinder your hunting, please be careful and mind the heat. Remember to bring a case or jug of water with you, sunscreen, hats, and seek out shade whenever possible!

We have lots of events coming up, including our annual show Memorial Day weekend in May. If you don't know already, it will be at Will Roger's Memorial Center in Fort Worth, Texas. We hope to see you there!

As always, if you have any news to share, or other contributions, please do consider sharing them with me for the newsletter. Corrections are welcomed, and so is constructive criticism.

Until next time....
Stephanie Moran

Program for April

This month's program will be on the Geology of Ancient Egypt.

Ancient Egypt's history spanned a time interval that included the late Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Age of Iron, but through all that, their interest in and ability to use geological materials was awesome. They were the first geologists, they were great miners and prospectors, and they engineered the largest stone structures the world has ever seen.

This presentation of the geology of Egypt will give an overview of their materials, their methods and their great achievements in using the geological raw materials of Egypt. The talk will offer vivid images of these raw materials and the products they fashioned from them. The products include jewelry, statuary and great stone structures.

Dr. Clair Ossian has traveled widely in Egypt, worked on excavation teams and written a number of papers on ancient Egypt and its geology. His current research in Egypt involves core drilling in ancient harbors, identifying geological materials for Egyptologists, and the study of the ancient Egyptian water lilies (commonly referred to as the 'lotus').

Article of Interest

The largest fossil spider uncovered to date once ensnared prey back in the age of dinosaurs, scientists find.

The spider, named *Nephila jurassica*, was discovered buried in ancient volcanic ash in Inner Mongolia, China. Tufts of hairlike fibers seen on its legs showed this 165-million-year-old arachnid to be the oldest known species of the largest web-weaving spiders alive today – the golden orb-weavers, or *Nephila*, which are big enough to catch birds and bats, and use silk that shines like gold in the sunlight.

The fossil was about as large as its modern relatives, with a body one inch (2.5 centimeters) wide and legs that reach up to 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) long. Golden orb-weavers nowadays are mainly tropical creatures, so the ancient environment of *Nephila jurassica* probably was similarly lush.



"It would have lived, like today's *Nephila*, in its orb web of golden silk in a clearing in a forest, or more likely at the edge of a forest close to the lake," researcher Paul Selden, director of the Paleontological Institute at the University of Kansas, told LiveScience. "There would have been volcanoes nearby producing the ash that forms the lake sediment it is entombed within."

Spiders are the most numerous predators on land today, and help keep insect numbers in check. So these findings help us "understand the evolution of the insect-spider predator-prey relationship," Selden said, suggesting that golden orb-weavers have been ensnaring insects and influencing their evolution since the Jurassic Period.

"There were many large or medium-sized flying insects around at that time on which it would have fed indiscriminately," Selden said.

In modern golden orb-weaver species, females are typically much larger than males. This new fossil was a female, suggesting this trend stretches back at least as far as the Middle Jurassic, Selden said – that is, back before the first known bird, *Archaeopteryx*, or giant dinosaurs such as *Brachiosaurus* and *Diplodocus*.

Although this is the largest fossil spider known to date, it is not the oldest. Two species from Coseley, England, *Eocteniza silvicola* and *Protocteniza britannica*, both come from about 310 million years ago.

Selden and his colleagues are now investigating other fossil spiders from China, "as well as those from elsewhere in the world – currently Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Italy and Korea," he said.

The scientists detail their findings online April 20 in the journal *Biology Letters*.

Source: *Charles Q. Choi, LiveScience Contributor, LiveScience.com* - Wed, Apr 20, 7:54 am ET



	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	
Leonard Stansbury	6 th	Jeri Campbell	19 th
Dora Hale	20 th	Aubrey Bullock	22 nd
Chris Phillips	25 th	Linda Kessler	25 th
Mark Cohen	26 th	Kelly Bullock	30 th

Note: If your birthday should be on this list and I have missed it, please let me know and I will make a note to announce you in the next newsletter. In the mean time, Happy Birthday!

Field Trips

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR FIELDTRIP

Jacksboro, TX 76458
April 30th, 2011 9:00AM

These Pennsylvanian fossils are more varied than the Cisco fieldtrip. You can expect to find coral, gastropods, bivalves, and small ammonoids. But there are also possible shark coprolite, enigmatic conularia, and crazy zigzag chambered ammonites. We will meet on the east side of the courthouse in Jacksboro and convoy to the lake at 9:00AM. It is 0.68 miles from the parking place to the dig site along a gravel bike trail, so bring bikes if you can. Kids are welcome but everyone should be aware of snakes, scorpions, and other noxious critters. Hiking boots, long pants, kneepads, and gloves are recommended.

CHEMICAL LIME QUARRY FIELDTRIP

Clifton, TX 76634
May 14th, 2011 7:30AM to 1:00PM

This quarry is about 85 miles from the club. I've seen some nice sized ammonites found at this site, as well as crystallized rudist clams, some with pyrite encrusted on them. We are limited to 25 people and teens 15 years old and up are welcome. We will meet at the convenience store on the southeast corner of State Hwy 6 and FM 219. From there, at 7:30 we will convoy to the quarry office to sign paperwork. Steel toed boots, safety glasses, and hard hats are required!

Please note; the Safety Coordinator requires me to email a list of attendees first and last names ASAP. So please get on the roster early by phone, email, or text. Include names of everyone in your party and your phone number (if I don't already have it).

BROKEN BOW FIELDTRIP

Broken Bow, OK 74728
June 4th, 2011, 8:30 to 1:00 (or later)

Cephus Hall has invited us on a fieldtrip to hunt quartz crystals! He is an old friend of FWGM Club, and several members have told me how great the crystals are there. Cephus wants us to meet at 8:30AM at his West Slope Rock Shop on Hwy 259 ten miles north of Broken Bow. You can stay later than 1:00PM as long as you can find your way out. This is about 250 miles from our clubhouse.

The cost is \$15 per person and he is limiting it to 12 people. Kids are okay and he said he could accommodate 2 to 3 handicapped. You should bring

buckets, hammers, chisels, gloves, and prybars. The crystals occur where veins in the sandstone open up into clay-filled pockets. Wear long pants, boots, and long sleeved shirts, but be aware that the red clay will stain everything. To sign up please call, text, or email me with number in party and your phone #.

Contact Schuyler Bullock at sky.brenda@uwmil.com or call (682) 365-0517 for more information or questions.

Real Gems

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion, that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a Story in the LA Times read: "California archaeologists, finding of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers"

One week later. A local newspaper in Texas reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Maypearl, Texas, Bubba, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Texas had already gone wireless".

Just makes a person proud to live in Texas, don't it.

For Kids

Q: What do you call a dinosaur that smashes everything in its path?

A: Tyrannosaurus wrecks!

Q: What kind of dinosaur can you ride in a rodeo?

A: A Bronco-saurus!

Q: What was T. rex's favorite number?

A: Eight! (ate)

Q: Why are there old dinosaur bones in the museum?

A: Because they can't afford new ones!

Q: What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with fireworks?

A: DINOMITE!

Committee Positions

Martha Phillips - President
817.306.1475
marthamirantiphillips@yahoo.com

Susan Thielker - Vice President
817.247.8467
ammonite_hunter@yahoo.com

Irene Stemple - Programs Chairman
817.798.5241
nstemple@att.net

Schuyler Bullock - Field Trips Chairman
682.365.0517
sky.brenda@uwmail.com

Hope Porter - Secretary
hopeporter5150@aol.com

Stephanie Moran - Editor, Site Manager
P.O. Box 202664
Arlington, Tx 76006
817.449.8414
fwgmc.editor@gmail.com

Mary Hilliard - Sunshine & Show Chairman
817.995.8351
samehil@embarqmail

Fran Loyd - Treasurer
P.O. Box 123975
Ft Worth, Tx 76121

THE FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB



*The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1950. It is also a member of the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** and the **South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies**.*



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, editorial corrections, announcements, and classified ads to:

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

CLUB WEBSITE:
www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

Refreshments For APRIL:
POT LUCK! 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 26th 2011 - NORMAL MEETING