



The Cowtown Cutter

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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This newsletter is distributed the third week of each month. Send articles, editorial corrections & announcements by the second Tuesday of the month to:

*Janice Craddock
fwgmc.editor@gmail.com*

Meeting at 7:30 pm

Potluck at 7:00 pm

Bring your favorite dish to share!

Special Announcements:

Club Annual Picnic - October 21st - Map on page 4
Gate will be open at 11:00 a.m. Lunch at 1:00 pm

Meeting – October 23rd

Auction Time Auction Time Auction Time

The October meeting program will be our semiannual auction. This is a fun way for the club to make a little money and for us to both pass on and acquire some fun new specimens for our own collections. This is a lot of fun, especially when a couple of members get into a friendly "bidding war". The way that it works is that anyone can bring rocks, fossils, minerals, books or any items that relates to our wonderful hobby. You can either donate all of the proceeds to the club or split the profit 50/50.

Please come as close to 7:00 as possible so that you can study the items and set up your donations. Supply an identification card stating what the item is (if you know) and your name so we know who half of the money goes back to, or write club donation on it. By getting there early and studying the donations it will help speed the auction along. Items will NOT be handed around the room each time.

Bring your rocks, bring your money, and let's have some fun.

Field Trip & Picnic:

Oct. 21st - Gates open @ 11:00 am Annual Picnic

Thanks to friends of David and Linda Kessler, we are returning to our favorite spot on the Brazos for the club annual picnic. Bring your lawn chair, buckets or bags for the goodies you find, water, sunscreen and hunting skills. This is a surface hunt; arrow heads, petrified wood, assorted fossils, and pretty rocks have been found in the past.

Lunch will be at 1:00; club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs and fixings. Bring a side dish and your own drinks.

Oct. 27th - 7:30 am to 2 pm ASHGROVE QUARRY FIELDTrip

900 Gifco Rd Midlothian, Texas 76065
This is one of the closest fieldtrips we will do. So come prepared to find some shark teeth, septarian nodules, and pyrite.

Let's meet in the employee parking lot by the silos and smokestacks. (Past the Tire Recycling entrance) We will need to be there by 7:30AM to sign paperwork and listen to the safety talk. This is not a trip for kids, but teens 15 and older are welcome. Hard hats and steel toed boots are not required, but sturdy shoes or boots are. No sandals or sneakers.

You should bring a zip-lock or small container, gloves, kneepads, small pick, water, snack, sunscreen, and bug spray. We are limited to 25 members, so sign up early. Call, text, or email me if you plan to come.

Field Trip Contact: Schuyler Bullock
(682) 365-0517 sbbr@cirranet.net



The Field Trip to the Waco Pit on September 22nd - We had ten people turn out for the field trip to the Waco Pit including two of our newest members. Sharks teeth and pyritized ammonites were among the goodies found. Janice found her first shark's tooth. Hope found a snake skeleton. Several of the people enjoyed a side trip to the Waco Mammoth Site, just down the road. Thanks to Sky for organizing the trip.



Local Events:

Brookhaven (North Texas) Earth Science Fair

October 20-21 2012

Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute
Brookhaven College, Building H; 3939
Valley View Lane; Farmers Branch, TX.
Free admission, parking, rock climbing
wall, popcorn, and cotton candy!

Fossilmania

October 26-28 2012

Fri - Oct 26: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sat - Oct 27: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sun - Oct 28: 9:00 am to Noon

Somervell County Expo Center
202 Gibbs Boulevard, Glen Rose, TX
North side of Highway 67 at Gibbs
Boulevard, Glen Rose, TX.

Presented by the Dallas Paleontological
Society. Admission is free. Free
educational programs on Friday and
Saturday. Free fossils for all kids. Free
fossil identification. Hourly door prizes on
Saturday. Fossil auction on Saturday
night at 7:30. Tickets for great raffle
prizes available at the show Friday and
Saturday. Drawing at auction. Need not
be present to win.

<http://www.austinpaleo.org/fossilmania.html>

Keith and Charlotte Harmon's Backyard Rock and Equipment Sale

Saturday October 27th from 9am to 5pm

LOCATION - 9116 U.S. HWY 84 West,
Rusk, TX.

Largest private sale. Lots of great
equipment and enough nicely organized
rough and slab to keep you there all day
- over 30 tons! For those of you who
have attended before please note they
have moved to a NEW 75785. This is "in
the country" so you might want to give
them a ring for detailed instructions -
903-795-3860.

Joint AGMC and LMRA Rockhound Field Trip to collect Topaz, Smoky Quartz, and Quartz Crystals from private property in the Mason area.

October 27th; 9:00 am, Meet at North
side of courthouse in Mason, Texas

Cost: 20 dollars per person

Contact Bob Boyd, 817-917-4977 (cell),
boydr154@att.net

Background: The location where we'll be
hunting is private property that has
rarely allowed rockhounds in the past 50
years. The two largest sapphires in North
America have been collected on this
property and can be viewed in the
museum in Mason. Last Spring we found
nice smoky quartz crystals (one was 6"
long and approx 4" diameter) and clear
quartz points as well.

Preparations: Participants should supply
all rockhounding and essential gear.
Bring sifting screens shovel, hand spade,
gloves, hat, insect repellent, sunscreen,
Hiking boots, food and snacks for lunch,
water. We will be on a ranch out in the
country, there are no facilities other than
behind a bush (be prepared). We will be
crossing water at times to access sand or
gravel bars so rubber boots or waders
may be handy if you have them.

The headcount is restricted to the first 40
people to sign up.

Weather: This time of year, weather could be a problem; keep an eye on the forecast and if it looks like heavy storms assume the trip is cancelled.

Special Note: If by some happy circumstance someone discovers a museum quality Topaz crystal they are obligated under our agreement with the property owner to sell it to the Museum in Mason should they want it.

Map to Picnic

Take Hwy 180 West from Mineral Wells
Go 0.6 miles AFTER crossing the Brazos River looking for a gate with streamers.

Save the date:

Brownwood – November 17th
LMRA's Rockhounds are planning a trip to Brownwood to collect fossilized horned coral. Details to follow.

Big Bend – December 26 – 31st
Another trip in the planning stages is to Big Bend for agate. Watch for details in next month's newsletter.

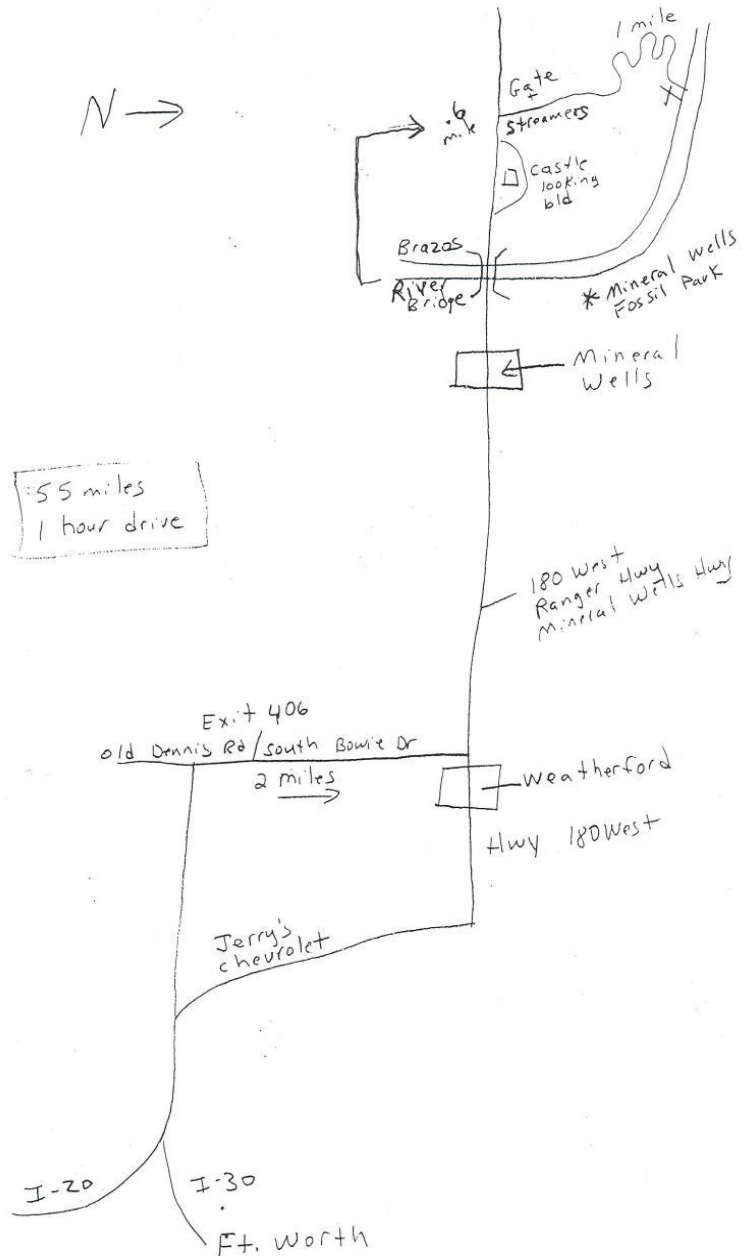
ATTENTION FACETORS!

Saturday January 12th from 8am to 4pm, possibly later. The second annual Facetor's Swap Meet will be held at the Arlington G&M Clubhouse at 1408 Gibbons in Arlington.



This event is exclusively for facetors and those who like to purchase or possibly swap for their fantastic creations. Faceting rough, finished stones, equipment, and findings should be available.

Jack Spinks (who just did a wonderful job organizing the AGMC Show) is chairing this event as well. If you are interested in being a vendor or just need more details you can contact him at 214-335-9452.



Minutes from Sept 25th:

President Martha Phillips called the business meeting to order at 7:30 pm

She presented South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies Rockhounds of the Year award to Susan Thielker.

There are copies of estimates for repairs available for review.

Irene introduced the speaker, Dr. Mayne, Curator of the Monnig Meteorite Collection at TCU. She presented a talk about her excursion to Antarctica to find meteorites.

Ticket drawing – white ticket – Susan Thielker, red ticket – Martha Phillips

Steve Hilliard presented George Kennedy a monetary gift; a collection from members to help with expenses in memory of his wife, Elsie.

Old business – none discussed

Field Trips – Sherman, Tx – Oct 6th; Ash Grove – Midlothian, Tx – Oct 27th

Nominations for officers:

Mary Hilliard - President

Sky Bullock – 1st VP of Field Trips

Martha Phillips – 2nd VP of Programs

Fran Loyd – Treasurer for one more year (we need someone to learn the system and take over in January 2014)

Hope Porter – Secretary

Slate of Officers will be voted on at the October meeting.

Brazos River Picnic, Oct 21st. Bring a covered dish to go with hamburger & hot dogs. Bring your own drinks.

Treasurer's report given.

Foundation was checked and we will receive an estimate for repairs.

Cards were sent to Bob and Patrick.

Name badges will be ordered soon. Sign up with Steve Hilliard if you want one. Cost will be about \$10.

October will be out bi-annual Club Auction. 50/50 split proceeds with club

Minutes – Motion made by Sky to approve the minutes as printed in the September newsletter. 2nd by Judy. Minutes approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Porter, Secretary

Meeting Dates:

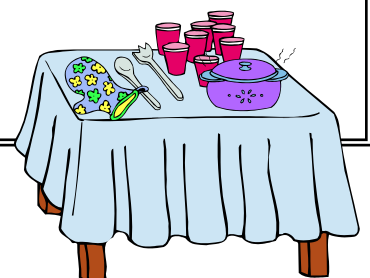
October 23rd

November 27th

3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth

7:30 Meeting

7:00 Social time: Bring a covered dish for the Pot Luck.



President's Notes:

Our October meeting promises to be a productive one. We will be voting in our new officers. Mary Hilliard, as those of you who were at last month's meeting know, has offered to run for president, which pleases me greatly. Thanks Mary! Also, keep in mind we need someone to step up to be "Treasurer-In-Training," as Fran can commit to doing it for one more year only, and terms are for two years. I am putting out a serious call to ALL of our members: please consider what you can offer our club. If it wasn't for officers, our rock hunting organization wouldn't exist, and what can we do without a treasurer?

On another note: don't forget to bring items on Oct 23 to contribute to our annual club auction. This is our auction whereby half of what the item sells for goes to you, the donor, and half to the club. Bring money and think of all the Christmas presents you can buy for your rockhound friends or for yourself!

By the time you are reading this, you will most likely be thinking of our picnic on the Brazos to happen on Sunday, Oct 21. To the Keslers and their friends who own the property: thank you for hosting this event for our club. Thanks Dora for picking up the grilling goods and to all of you for bringing the delicious covered dishes to share. I am sure we will collect fond memories and treasured artifacts from this event, and for those of you who aren't able to be there this year, hope you can make it next time!

Welcome New Members!!

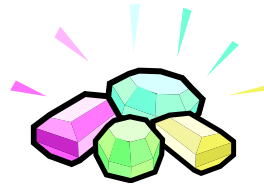
Kristin & Andrew Wendel

Kimber Pafundi

Bob Staglik

Michelle Garrison

Mitch Fenner



October:

10 - Debbie Kersh

27 - Steve Hilliard

Hope Porter

Steve Street

November:

09 - Martha Phillips

11 - Suzanne Macfadzean

17 - Farns Teas

22 - George Fields

29 - Raymond Campbell



Committee Positions:

Martha Phillips - President

marthamirantiphillips@yahoo.com

817.306.1475

Schuyler Bullock – Field Trips Chair

sbbr@cirranet.org

682.365.0517

Hope Porter - Secretary

hopeporter5150@aol.com

817.495.2331

Mary Hilliard – Sunshine/Show Chair

samehil@embargmail.com

817.995.8351

Fran Loyd – Treasurer

P.O. Box 123975, Ft Worth, TX 76121

Susan Thielker - Vice President

ammonite_hunter@yahoo.com

817.247.8467

Irene Stemple – Programs Chair

nstemple@att.net

817.798.5241

Stephanie Moran – Site Manager

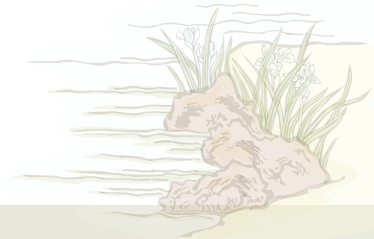
Fwgmc.webmaster@gmail.com

817.449.8414

Janice Craddock – Newsletter

Editor/Shop Foreman

fwgmc.editor@gmail.com



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.

ANNUAL DUES: \$15.00 per person; \$20.00 per family.

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76121

CLUB WEBSITE: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org