

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Meetings held every 4th Tuesday @ 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

The Cowtown Cutter



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Special Announcements:

Fort Worth 64th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry & Bead Show May 23 & 24th, 2015

April 28th Meeting Program:

We will have a speaker from the Geology department at Tarrant County College.

7:00 Potluck

7:30 Meeting/Program

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This newsletter is distributed the 3rd week of each month. Send articles, announcements, & editorial corrections by the 2nd Tuesday of the month to:

Janice Craddock

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Events

The Annual Rock Show

By Margaret Good

Via SCFMS Newsletter, Aug 2013

May 2-3 —WACO, TX: Waco Gem & Mineral Club Show, Extraco Events Center; 4601 Bosque Blvd., Creative Arts Bldg.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, students/children \$1

May 2-3 LUBBOCK, TX; Lubbock Gem & Mineral society, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4.00, Seniors \$3.00, Students \$2.00, Dealers, Exhibits, Silent Auction, Hourly Door Prizes, Fluorescent Mineral Display, Kid's Games, Grab Bags, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

Apr 24 – 26, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc., Dallas Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/shows/> Apr 25 – 26, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Cntr, babydocmac@aol.com May 2 – 3, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Cntr., walt@lubbockremandmineral.org, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org May 2-3, Waco, TX,

Jun 13-14, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Conv. Cntr, www.agemclub.org

October 23-25 – AFMS/SCFMS combined Federation Show will be hosted by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. The proposed schedule is posted online:

http://www.scfms.net/2015_show/schedule_2015_show.pdf

***For more shows at later dates, or outside Texas: www.rockngem.com/showdates

Fort Worth 64th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry & Bead Show

May 23 & 24th, 2015

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Amon Carter Exhibit Bldg., 3401 West Lancaster, Fort Worth, Tx

The Cowtown Cutter, Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Every year the gem and mineral club
Holds a show for all to see
With displays neatly in the cases
Showing individual ingenuity

There we saw the Texas palmwood
A large hunk polished on one end
The owners proudly light it up
To show just how the colors blend

Fossils distinctively displayed
In cases lined with white
Dug from the dirt and rocks of yore
Shine now beneath electric light

A special display of items of food
So many you could not name
All looked so real, so very good,
But all were natural, just the same

Minerals shown from around the world
In colors of various hues
Took your breath away when you saw
Purples, greens, pinks, turquoise blues

Jewelry galore, all sizes and forms
Were there for eyes to gaze on
Or purchase if that's what you prefer
Lovely and practical to be worn

Agates, opals, and petrified wood
Made into works of art
Many of them were there for sale
But with some owners wouldn't part

There was so much more for one to see
But naming them one by one
Is just an impossibility
Still everyone had lots of fun.

Field Trips

May 2nd Field Trip to McGregor, Tx

Purpose: To collect TURRITELLA and attend the Waco Gem & Mineral Show. This trip is led by Billy Proffitt and we have recovered some wonderful pieces here in the past. This trip is open to anyone interested in joining – you do not have to be a club member.

Date & Time: Saturday May 2nd, 10:00am

Please RSVP if attending to cera.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Cost: No cost to hunt. Park entrance fee of two dollars to have picnic lunch

Location: Near Waco, Texas.

Meeting Place: 10am at Don Citrano's Coffee Shop Café, 1005 George W. Bush Parkway (Hwy. 84), near Waco...arrive early and enjoy breakfast!

Background: The hunt will take approximately two hours. All rockhounds are then invited to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy each other's company at Mother Neff State Park which is nearby, followed by an optional trip to the Waco Gem & Mineral Show located at Extraco Events Center, Creative Arts Building, 4601 Bosque Blvd, Waco, Texas..

Preparations: Participants should supply all rockhounding and essential gear. Pry bars are useful on this trip. The area we'll be collecting in is grassy and hilly, so durable clothing such as jeans and hiking boots and leather gloves are suggested. There is always a possibility of encountering snakes, so be sure to keep children close to the hunt area and it would be best if they wore high top boots of some kind. Insect repellent is also recommended as there is sometimes a problem with ticks. Bring a hat for sun/rain protection and also a raincoat or poncho just in case. Be sure to bring buckets to carry your treasures home.

Important Note: This time of year, weather could be a problem. Check the weather and if you have any questions, you can call Billy to confirm the trip is a go at [817-295-2132](tel:817-295-2132)

Field Trip to Comanche, OK

Purpose: to visit Herb's Rock Shop which has a nice selection of very affordable rough and finished materials and some used equipment and to collect barite nodules and fluorescent minerals.

Date & Time: Saturday May 9th, 10:00 am. The rock shop opens at 8 am please feel free to arrive early and shop. We will be leaving the rock shop at 10 am and caravanning to the collection site near Lawton, OK. The rock shop is very large, with a big selection so make sure to get there early.

RSVP: CERA.fieldtrips@gmail.com If you are coming please let me know so I can get a rough head count

Location: The rock shop is in Comanche Oklahoma, about 2 and a half hours from Fort Worth.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@34.358901,-97.964526,3a,75y,81.41h,79.88t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1si4IS5rSDfkdU-xRq3kqcDA!2e0>

Meeting Place: 10:00am in parking lot of Herb's Rock Shop which is on the south end of Comanche on highway 81. (east side of road) 907 South 81 Hwy, Comanche, OK

Preparations: Participants should supply all rockhounding and essential gear. (spade, gloves, 3-tine hand rake or full length recommended) Durable clothing such as jeans and hiking boots are suggested. There is always a possibility of encountering snakes, so be sure to keep children close to the hunt area and it would be best if they wore high top boots of some kind. Insect repellent is also recommended as there is a problem with ticks. Bring a hat for sun/rain protection and also a raincoat or poncho just in case. Be sure to bring buckets or boxes to carry your treasures home.

Directions: Comanche is approximately 120 miles northwest of Fort Worth. About a two and a half hour drive up 287 to Bowie and then 81 to Comanche. Herb's Rock Shop, 907 South 81 Hwy, Comanche, OK, 580-439-4186

President's Note *from Carl:*

Greetings fellow rock hounds, I hope you are enjoying this cool spring weather as much as I have been. I just returned from a trip to Fredericksburg where I was a guest on a large ranch. I was free to climb the hilltops looking for high quality flint. Then I searched some large gravel bars where I found more tabular Pedernales flint than I could carry. I had a great time and wonderful people. I'm leaving tomorrow for Louisiana to search for Citronella cobbles of flint, small material but very colorful.

Don't forget the upcoming show, lots to talk about at the next meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Carl M. Silvey

Minutes *from Dora:*

Meeting called to order by President Carl Silvey at 7:37 p. m.

Program: Dr. Mayne from TCU presented a program on the Moon and Apollo (missions)

Old Business: no February meeting due to bad weather.

Treasury report was given.

Minutes from January: moved by Mary and seconded by Susan to accept as written in newsletter. Motion carried.

Reminder to pay dues if you have not already done so.

Program chair: Looking for a co-chair. If anyone has ideas for programs, please share with Irene.

Field trips: Trying to set up a group to go

- TXI in April.
- Clifton quarry – working with them
- Dallas Paleo—Lost Creek Reservoir this weekend, March 28th near Jacksboro at 9:00.

Work days needed: Saws need fixing. Make new signs for the show. (Two were stolen last year). Need a table top in the meeting room. Need plumbing in the cab room.

Bring items for silent auction, etc. if you have something that can be shared. Two dates were selected for work days: March 28 and April 18th at 9:00 a. m.

Glass Classes—Need to set a date to start—email Janice if interested, and then a date will be set through email.

Wire wrapping classes—Mike Hartz will teach it. Students will need some items such as those found in a basic wire wrapping kit. A rawhide mallet is another item that may come in handy. He will need about 6 weeks such as 9-12 on Saturdays. Best time is after June or July because he has shows to work before that time. A good starting date would be the second week in July.

Cabochon classes—Thursday nights by notice.

Visitors—

- Heather Gunter
- Paul and Ashley Harrison

Covered dish-pot luck meal at each meeting, Carl is considering the idea of us having a food theme each month around which to build our meal. What do you all think?

Show T-shirts—votes held on design = State of Texas design chosen and 50-50 cotton blend fabric chosen.

Drawing: White ticket—won by Cheryllyn

Red ticket (2) – won by Lynne and Donna

Show business:

- Friday, May 22—set up at WRMC (not known if we can load and drop off on Thursday, yet). Saturday,
- May 23—front table-need volunteers. Show time is 9-6. Sunday,
- May 24—10-4 ;
- Parking is **\$10**, reimbursable by club, if desired.
- Coliseum raised rent by **\$1250**
- We are going to raffle an amethyst cathedral.
- Need to get together **May 7th** to mail cards.
- Dealers—have lost 4 dealers this year.
- Our biggest response each year is due to the cards as opposed to ads. Can get a company to print for \$0.08/pc on glossy. Approved to do this.
- Questions about a “rock food table” came up. Keith Harmon can furnish for \$50/day. Mary moved to approve this, I seconded, motion passed to have the rock food table. If we have to use the space for a dealer this might be sacrificed.

New business: show meetings to be held.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora M Hale, secretary



Sean McClosky
Glenn Hilliard
John Stagle
Heather Gunter

If My Body Were a Car...

*from Beehive Buzzer 7/2012,
Via Strata Gem 3/2013 and Rocky Mountain
Federation Newsletter 4/2013 via Backbender's
Gazette 6/2013*

This is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish, and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus, and it's especially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was—I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather. My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently. But here's the worst of it—almost every time I sneeze, cough, or sputter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!



April:

03-Kathy Silvey
09-Alayna Frost
10-Eric Keller
20-Dora Hale

May:

10-David Eckhardt
12-Ashley Harrison
14-Abigail Williams
25-Linda Kesler

Shop News *from Janice:*

The Shop has been a rock'n this month with lots of activity. Even though we had a low turnout for Saturday work day, we accomplished a lot! Steve worked on the big saws; Janice and Pam cleaned out the water lines in the cab room, made a pexi cover for one of the small grinders, & hung the bulletin board; Felice changed light bulbs, put new batteries in the smoke detectors, picked up trash and all the little things that make a big difference around the shop; David fixed the drain on the kitchen sink and Mary restocked the kitchen and cleaned up the meeting room. The big project of the day was applying laminate to our new tables and it took everyone to get it done. It was a busy day and what a difference it made.



Others came out last Thursday to help get ready for the annual show.

We cleaned and sorted rocks and fossils, cut rough into slabs, and organized the silent auction shelves.

We cancelled the April Saturday work day due to scheduling conflicts but join us on Thursday nights in April and May to get ready for the show. We will be sorting, cleaning, cutting, polishing, and lot of other activities.



Articles of Interest

“SMART ROCKS” TAKE A SWIM BY DR. VIVIEN GORNITZ

Stream hydrologists and geologists would like to know where the tons of cobbles, pebbles, and sediment moved by rivers actually wind up. Clearly, they move downstream, but how fast they move, how far they go, how they respond to the continuous jostling they experience, and how they interact with other cobbles along the way are not well understood. Current models that attempt to predict how sediments move in a river are often off by at least a factor of ten. Engineers in charge of protecting bridges, dams, and levees from floods, and naturalists concerned with river ecology need such information, since rivers transport hundreds of millions of tons of rock, sand, and silt each year, worldwide. Building “smart rocks” is an attempt to gain more such information. In one recent experiment, over 200 brightly painted natural rocks were equipped with radio tags inserted into small drill holes. Four others were brushed aluminum “smart rocks”, cleverly designed to imitate the shape and density of real stones, and outfitted with custom-made electronics to measure and record movements 512 times per second. These aluminum, smart rocks are pricey—costing roughly \$800 each. Of the 200 tagged stones launched in an Idaho stream early in 2011, eventually 150 were recovered. Half had moved 2.5 km downstream, while a few adventurous ones had gotten as far as 6.4 km. A couple of smaller ones even traveled as far as 7 km! The faux rocks were less fortunate. Metal detectors supposed to find the aluminum “rocks” proved worthless—the streambed was full of metal junk—old cans and ranching tools. A curious rancher’s dog spotted one “smart rock” over 2 km from its launch point; one of the researchers accidentally found a second, 900 meters downstream. The other two have wandered off to parts unknown. But the batteries of the two survivors that should

have lasted a month had died after only 40 hours. Worse yet, these smart rocks “very accurately recorded no movements whatsoever.” The radio-equipped genuine rocks, however, did yield some useful information on the role of local topography and channel width affected the distribution of the tagged stones. Meanwhile, a new kind of smart rock is being tested along Reynolds Creek, Idaho. This type is made by filling rubber molds of natural rocks with wet concrete. A matchbox-sized accelerometer is inserted before the concrete sets. Its battery lasts for months and records the rock’s spatial orientation four times an hour, allowing researchers to determine the movement of rocks along the streambed “from the point of view of the rocks.” For easy spotting and retrieval, the special rocks are spray-painted in gaudy colors. In the spring of 2012, 73 of this new batch of smart rocks, along with 1200 simpler, radio-tagged rocks were launched into the same stream. Over a 10 km stretch, the experimenters later recovered 33 out of the 73 rocks, and this time most had continued to collect useful data. These initial attempts point out the utility in eventually scaling up the use of smart rocks to examine river networks of all shapes and sizes, even major continental rivers, such as the Nile, or the Mississippi. But further research is needed before such lofty goals can be achieved. Further Reading: Underwood, E., 2012. “How to build a smarter rock.” *From Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Society January 2013 via The Rockhouser via Monrovia Rockhounds, Moroks Newsletter, Feb 2015.*



Officers and Committees

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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.

MAILING ADDRESS 657 Deer Valley Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085

PHYSICAL ADDRE: SS: 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

CLUB WEBSITE: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org