

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Fort Worth, Texas



The Cowtown Cutter

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Special Announcements:

Open shop nights continue on Thursdays, 6pm to 8:30. Come out and use the machines if you have taken the safety class; wire wrap with the group or hang out and socialize.

Meeting, May 24th –

We will have our Potluck at 7pm followed by a short meeting, and then have time to work on show stuff.

Volunteers needed for our annual show and sale.

Thursday, May 25th @ 6 pm meet at the club house. Load everything at the clubhouse, transport to Will Rogers Memorial Center and unload.

Friday, May 26th @ 8am until about noonish. Meet at Will Rogers Memorial Center to help cover and set up the club's tables.

Saturday, May 27th SHOW & SALE - 9 to 6 pm

Sunday, May 28th SHOW & SALE - 10 to 5

This newsletter is distributed the 3rd week of each month. Send articles, announcements, & editorial corrections by the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Permission is granted to reprint material from other sources provided credit is properly cited.

Janice Craddock

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Upcoming Events

May 21-22, DeRidder, LA; DeRidder G&MS
Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds; 506 West Drive.

June 25th – **Fort Worth, Tx.** CERA
Rockhounds will have a grand opening
10 to 5pm. Tours of the new shop, free
excellent BBQ and drinks, and much
more. New shop is located at 3300
Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX
76109 (the CERA facility).

Nov 10-12, 2017; Annual SCFMS
Humble, TX; Houston G&MS
Humble Civic Center; 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy

May 28 & 29th, 2016

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club presents the
65th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry & Bead
Show @ Will Rogers Memorial Center, Amon
Carter Exhibit Bldg, 3401 West Lancaster, Fort
Worth, Sat: 9-6; Sun: 10-5



President's Note *from Carl*

Show time is here. Tuesday's meeting will start with potluck and then a short meeting to follow so we can have time to gather and sort stuff for the show. Please plan to attend because we need you to help get ready for the show. We will lay out plans at the meeting for where and when we will need volunteers.

Thanks to those members that lent a hand Thursday evening for labeling and stamping reminder cards. We appreciate the extra hands that made the task easier for all.

We are very fortunate to have the wonderful volunteers that come help at the show. It is a big money maker for the club. Many hands make lighter work. See page one for the times and give at least a few hours to support the club.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and anxious for the Show and Sale.

Carl M. Silvey, President

Club News *from Janice*

Lapidary class continues with five new members learning to use the equipment to cut and polish. Most of the class has finished an obsidian cab and moved on to a work on an agate. We will have another class at the end of June to welcome members that join at the show.

We are looking for a weekend to have a shop workday. We haven't had a work day one in many months and Janice's TO DO list is getting longer. Check out the chalkboard and see if your talents and skills are a match to any of the tasks listed. You don't have to wait till a work day. You can start on these tasks anytime you have some free time. Your help is always appreciated.



May:

04-Mary Boyce
10-David Eckhardt
14-Nonette Barnes

June:

15-Melanie Monroe

Minutes from April 28

Meeting called to order at 7:35 by President Carl Silvey.

[Note: moved to Thursday due to bad weather on Tuesday.]

Welcome to new member, Susan Hardy

Sunshine report (officer absent). Well wishes offered to Dan and Steve

Minutes from March meeting pending. As of May 14, still missing.

Treasurer’s report made. A check for the show has been forwarded to fulfill the second half of WRMC’s charge.

Field trip report: A trip to Waco is planned for this upcoming Saturday: going to MacGregor for turitella, lunch at Mother Neff State Park, then to Waco Gem & Mineral Show.

Pyrite collection at Martin-Marietta coming.

Plans in the works for a trip to Sherman for shark teeth, etc.

Shop report: New lapidary class starting with 5 people. We need to schedule a “shop/work day” soon.

T-shirts for this year have arrived. New ones are \$15, previous years’ are \$10 until the show.

Show report: Silent auction is being prepared. Susan & Pam working on this. “Kids’ corner” has volunteers. Need to show up at 08:00 on Friday 27 th for setup of the exhibit hall. We need to check with WRMC to see if we can drop everything off on Thursday night. Each year we meet to stamp and address cards for the show. This year’s meeting for this will be Thursday, May 12. We have 24 dealers at this time.

A discussion was held to see if we wanted to send a picture post card or the traditional yellow ones. A vote was held and it was determined to continue using the yellow cards because they ae familiar and are also less expensive.

Mary proposed that we buy some new table covers that will fit the 8’ tables better. They will be fire-retardant, also. Price \$28 for those proposed, and we have 13 tables. Carl moved to check into it. After further discussion Carl moved to buy 15 covers, Pam seconded, motion carried. Further discussion about color resulted in a motion for black and 18 covers. Re-vote carried.

Steve has 5-count packets of tickets for us to sell in advance for \$4/ticket instead of \$5 at the door.

Other old business—we need to sheetrock some more areas of the shop.

New business—tabled until next meeting.

Door prizes—white ticket—Dora Red tickets won by Janice and Mary.

Felice moved we see video (program) at another meeting, seconded by Janice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p. m.

Dora M. Hale, secretary

Rockhounds on the Road

Rock hounding in Big Bend territory and the Alpine Gem and Mineral Show

On Thursday, April 20th three rockhounds climbed into an old 4-wheel drive Jeep and took off for an adventure to Alpine and Terlingua.

We got a late start, so we shared the driving for a 7 hour drive arriving in Alpine about 11:30; got a little sleep, and a quick breakfast before meeting the rest of the group of about 15. After receiving instructions to the hunting grounds, we detoured to the Alpine Rock and Gem show for a couple of good buys before heading to the meeting place. After about an hour drive we came to the gate and in we went. Down a dusty bumpy road/trail, we found the others and started our first hunt.



South Larremore was a flat area with beautiful mountains in the distance. Rocky outcrops exposed agate, jaspers, and drizzly. After hunting for a few hours, we met back at the Jeep for lunch and decided to try another spot. So back in the Jeep and off down the dusty trail we went. Soon we found a spot that looked good so we



took off on foot again. Too soon, it was time to go, so back. So into the dusty Jeep, down the road we went, taking several pounds of dust and dirt on our car. It was a good day but the shower was very welcome that night.



(East Needle Peak seen in the distance from our meeting spot in Terlingua)

The next day we joined about 13 cars and caravanned about 75 miles down the highway to Terlingua. When we came to another gate, we had another hour's drive down another dusty road. We came to a dry creek that separated the 4-wheel drives from the others. By now, our car was totally engulfed in dirt. After a couple of hour of hunting, we started to move the car and it screamed as if we had a cat in the engine. It turned that we had picked up three pebbles that had wedged in the front brake while driving down the creek bed. So the tire came off, the pebbles were freed, and we headed down the creek to hunt a little more. It got a little warm and some were hot and tired so we cut the day short and stopped for a bite to eat at "The Chile Pepper Café" on the way home before hitting the car wash.

Next day was Sunday and time to head home. But first, we went back to the show and hunted some of the dealers' booths. We heard about blue Balmorhea Agate, so we took off on our own and after about an hour and a half we tried our luck on a road, not so dusty this time. We hunted a little, had a little lunch and decided we had about as much fun as we could take so we started for home.



(Beautiful formations on the road to Balmorhea)

We made it home safely, no one got chiggers or snake bit so we considered our trip successful.

Submitted by Bobbie Wilson

Turritella and the Waco Gem and Mineral Show

I left the house with my GPS set to Waco, TX, not realizing that McGregor was another 30 minutes away, I had just read the part near Waco. No worries though, I arrived in plenty of time. It was an enjoyable drive out, the early morning was nice and everything is so green from the rain. We



meet in the parking lot of one of the busiest little cafes I have ever seen in the town or McGregor, TX. There were about 15 people altogether.

We caravanned to the dig site, a nice peaceful hill on the side of the road, with a nice parking area across from it. When we approached the hill with

our rock hammers and buckets, all we saw was white limestone.

None of us would have known what we were looking for without the expertise of Billy, our guide /leader. He brought additional equipment needed to extract the turritella from the hillside. Without the rock bar, shovel and the pickaxe, we would not have been near as successful. Note to self: Don't go on anymore rock trips without every single tool! It was definitely a team effort extracting the turritella from the hillside. Working together, we all ended up with nice pieces of turritella to bring home.

The weather was perfect and we tried to picnic at Mother Neff Park, but all the picnic areas were closed due to flooding.

Afterwards, I headed to the Waco Gem and Mineral Show. It

was a much smaller show than others I have attended. Of course, I bid on silent auction rocks and was able to score a nice piece of palm wood for my collection. As with all the Gem and Mineral Shows I have been to, all the members are friendly. I enjoyed chatting with everyone.



Submitted By Pam Nolen

South Central Federation Meeting, Seymour, Lubbock Gem and Mineral Show and a visit with family

It is always a good trip when you can combine sharing your love of rocks with an extended group of rockhounds and a visit with family.

Friday, May 6th, Pam Nolen joined me and my sister, Carol, headed toward Lubbock. On the way, we stopped in Seymour to investigate the Whiteside Museum of Natural History. Chris Flis, the Museum director, met us at the door and gave a grand tour of the Museum and prep lab.



The Whiteside Museum was established a few years ago when “the greatest Permian bone beds in the entire world” were

discovered on the Craddock (no relation of mine!) Ranch. Dimetrodons, Seymouria, Edaphasaur, and Eryops are some of bones they are bringing back to life in the prep lab, where we got a front-row seat to watch the tedious task of cleaning the fossils. Even though their focus is pre-Jurassic, they have a couple of dinosaurs including a T-Rex that has a striking resemblance to a vulture!

I know what you are thinking. Me? Talking about fossils, again? Hard to believe, but I can honestly say this museum is a true gem. Check them out when you are in the area.

<http://www.whitesidemuseum.org/>

And to prove you can run into rockhounds anywhere, Steve and Mary Hilliard showed up in the middle of the tour!



The weather was nice, so we had a picnic lunch

in the city park and a swing on the playground before hitting the road again.

Being our first SCFMS meeting, Pam and I signed up for everything. First, early Saturday morning, the Editors’ breakfast, where yours truly (that would be me) placed 4th in the Editors’ small bulletins competition. (With a shout out on Pam Nolen’s great trip report!) Then, we explored the Lubbock GM Show. I loved all the display cases that the club members put together. I did not count, but there must have been at least 50!

We attended the annual meeting of the SCFMS. Thanks to all the people that put in the extra volunteer hours that pull our parent organization together and to Pam for being the FWGMC delegate and Steve our district VP.

After lunch, we took a break from rocks and explored the National Ranching Heritage Center on the Texas Tech Campus. It was a nice afternoon to wonder the grounds of this facility, established to preserve the history of ranching, pioneer life and the development of the livestock industry in North America.

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ranchhc/Museum.htm>



You can’t visit Lubbock without a trip to the American Wind Power Center. www.windmill.com

I do believe Lubbock is one of the windiest cities I ever visited, from my experience. We ended the day with my sister, Ann, walked us through her trees. Peach, Apple, Pecan, Almond, Pear...

To get the full show experience, Pam and I attended our first

Rolling Rockhound meeting early Sunday morning. If you don’t know about this group, they meet on Sunday mornings at every Gem and Mineral Show and are the largest supporters of the SFCMS scholarship fund.

We couldn’t stay long because my brother-in-law, Robbie, was making beer batter pancakes for breakfast before our long drive home.

Great weekend and a great adventure into the larger rockhound experience.

By Janice Craddock

Household Products That Can Be Used As Rock Cleaners

Via The Franklin County Rockhouser, 5/2007;
via Gem Cutters News, 4/2007;
via The Collecting Bag, 12/2006. Via Breccia
6/2007, via Backbenders' Gazette

by Betsy Martin
via The Rockhouser 4/2015

Safety:

Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation, and great care when handling these products.

1. Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.

2. Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) dissolves calcite rapidly.
*** after treating anything with an acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in dilute Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.

3. Lime Away (dilute hydrochloric acid) dissolves calcite more slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).

4. Calgon—Dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.

5. Vinegar (Acetic acid), soda water, colas (carbonic and phosphoric acids) -Will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above)

6. Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.

7. Bleach— Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.

8. Hydrogen peroxide— Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.

9. Citric acid- Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.

10. Windex (with ammonia) A good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.

11. Distilled Water— Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings:

On moderately hard minerals—use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush.

On hard minerals— use toothbrush with pumice powder and water.

On calcite (including bruised places)- quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterward to leach any acid from

Cleaning Tools:

Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, X-ACTO® knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes.

The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1950. It is 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. \$15.00 per person, per year. \$20.00 per family, per year.

The Cowtown Cutter

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

P. O Box 123975

Fort Worth, TX 76121

To:

MEETINGS: Every 4th Tuesday @ 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110
3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110.

Visitors Welcome

MAILING ADDRESS: Schuyler Bullock, Treasurer, 657 Deer Valley Rd,
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www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org