

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Fort Worth, Texas



The Cowtown Cutter

President: Carl Silvey
940.206.5580;
txrootbeer@yahoo.com

1st VP of Field Trips:
Felice Moreno
FeliceMoreno@yahoo.com

2nd VP of Programs:
Irene Stemple
nstemple@att.net

Secretary:
Dora Hale
Campmaent@aol.com

Treasurer:
Schuyler Bullock- 682.365.0517
sbbr@cirranet.net
657 Deer Valley Rd
Weatherford, TX 76085

Membership Chair:
Kathy Silvey
diversewoman@hotmail.com

Sunshine Chair:
Fran Loyd
817.822.6954
Fran.loyd@att.net

Show Chair: Mary Hilliard
Vendor Chair: Steve Hilliard
817.995.8351
samehill@embargmail.com

Website Manager:
Stephanie Moran
817.449.8414
Fwgm.webmaster@gmail.com

Special Announcements:

Annual Picnic: Sunday, October 23rd
in Weatherford, TX. See page 2 for
details.

Meeting, October 25th ---

This month's program
will be NOVA production,

Life's Rocky Start

The vital link between minerals and
the evolution of life.

7:00pm Potluck/Social time
7:30 Meeting/Program

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 fwgm.editor@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor/Shop Foreman

Upcoming Events

Oct 21-23 – Austin, TX: Austin G&MS Annual show; Palmer Event Center; 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children ages 13-18 \$2 / 12 and under free;
www.gemcapers.com

Oct 22 – Mineral Wells, TX - The Crazy Fossil Dig 2016 at the Mineral Wells Fossil Park; for more information
<http://mineralwellsfossilpark.com/crazy-fossil-dig.html>

Oct 28 – 30 – Glen Rose, TX – Fossilmania XXXIV presented by the Dallas Paleo Society. Somervell Expo Center, Glen Rose, TX

Oct 29-30 – Oklahoma City – The Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society presents River of Gems, the 2016 Mineral and Gem Show. 3001 General Pershing Blvd, Oklahoma City, \$6

Nov. 11-13 – Humble, TX - The Houston Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX. Mineral, Fossil, Bead & Jewelry Show and Sale.
www.hgms.org

Nov 19-20; Mesquite, TX – The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society 59th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5; Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, 1800 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, TX, 75149. Adults \$8; Kids under 12 \$3; Hourly door prizes, silent auction, fluorescent display, gems and minerals from around the world, lapidary equipment, jewelry supplies, demos.
www.dallasgemandmineral.org

South Central Federation of Mineral Society's ANNUAL SHOW 2017

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Houston, TX will host the South Central Federation of Mineral Society's Annual Show in conjunction with their Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Bead & Jewelry Show and Sale to be held on November 10-12, 2017. So, mark your calendar and plan to be there for that show.

Annual Club Picnic Sunday, October 23rd 11:00 - ?

657 Deer Valley Rd,
Weatherford TX 76085

I hope everyone can make it to the FWGMC picnic this year! The club will provide the burgers and hotdog fixin's, ice, and gas grill. Members please chairs, drinks, sides, and other picnic fare. You can come at 11AM and help set up, and then relax before we start grilling about 12:30.



The normally dry creek has some water in it, so if you want to fossil hunt you might want to bring shoes that can get muddy or rubber boots. You can find echinoids, ammonites, oysters, and gastropods from the Goodland and Walnut Clay formations. It is about a 5-minute walk away or you can drive your pickup.

If you have trouble finding it call Schuyler Bullock; 682-365-0517



CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE

Geology and Planetary Science,
www.robertbeauford.net/home

It's the website of Robert Beauford, son of Fredericksburg Rockhounds member, Ed Beauford. He's a geologist, an Anthropologist, and jewelry craftsman. His website covers all of these interests.

Via Fredericksburg Rockhounds News, Oct 2016

President's Note *from Carl*

Busy, busy, busy.....just can't get caught up this month. We camped a few days at Bandera, TX. I was able to pick through some gravel bars on Medina river looking for flint. Found some, but nothing exceptional. While there, I made a point and gave it to a friend. We also spent some time north of Springfield, MO at a primitive skills event. I was able to trade for some chert from Spanish Diggings in Wyoming; anxious to knap some of that. We just arrived home this evening from a trip to Kansas City, MO and Atchison, KS where I dug around in some glacial leftovers. Lots of quartz stuff in it and some interesting chunks of granite in various colors and texture. The river bluffs in northern Missouri are hundreds of feet tall and made entirely of dust that collected on the face of the great ice age glaciers; when they melted, they left behind the bluffs. It just amazes me. It is fun, just to be outdoors, poking around. I hope all our members have had a chance since the weather has started to cool down now.

Don't forget that we are looking to fill club officer positions we have open. We will vote on these at the upcoming meeting. Our annual club picnic is Sunday October 23rd, hope to see lots of you there. See you all at the meeting.

Carl Silvey, President

Minutes from Sept 23rd:

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

Sunshine report: It was reported that one of our newer members, Susan Hardt, passed away.

Minutes for August meeting as published in the newsletter: Jim moved to approve, Sky seconded, passed.

The Cowtown Cutter, Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Treasurer's report: given

Field trip report: Felice reported that the trip to the Llano area yielded plentiful serpentine material. Digging for llanite – some good, some bad.

October 1: Trip to Martin-Marietta (TXI) is planned for 7:30; usual finds are shark teeth and pyrite and marcasite.

Working on a trip to take place at the dairy farm near Calvert. Petrified wood is quite abundant. Price is 25¢/pound.

Shop talk: Electrical panel still needs labelling. Janice moved we refund Susan Hardt's membership fees, Joyce seconded, motion carried. Interest in a saw class and cab class.

New business: Nominating committee appointed. We will need a new Show chair. Jacque has volunteered to print the mailing cards we send out each year to previous attendees.

Drawings: White ticket: cactus jelly goes to Dan G. Red tickets: won be Janice, Sky, Felice, Steve and James.

Program: Speaker was Diane Brownlee from the Texas Energy Council/Education/Geology division of the Heard Museum. Her talk centered on the new story of earth as related to age determined by using computers to compare all the activities that have happened. The material is discussed at length in The Story of Earth by Robert Hazen. Thank you Linda for use of the computer.

Fall picnic to be held at 11:00 on October 23rd at Sky's place in the Weatherford area.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora M. Hale, secretary

Shop Talk *from Janice*

Thursday Nights continue to be very active. You can always find David in the saw room cutting away or working on something.



Others are busy cabbing or wire wrapping or just socializing. There is always something going on in the shop on Thursday evenings. Except we will be taking a little break...**the shop will be closed during the month of November.**



I want to thank Joyce Griffith and Mary Boyce for teaching assistance with the lapidary class. I hope more of our experienced members will consider helping teach new members.



New members, James and Buddy Wilson, finished up class this week.



October:

01-Tony Huddleston
11-Nathan Johnson
15-Kristy Johnson
18-Janis Weisner
20-Maudi Morris
27-Hope Porter

November:

14-Joseph Morris
16-Jim Wilson
19-Connor Wilson

Llano Serpentine and Llanite trip September 24, 2016

Written by Carole Jean Wright

Alarm clock goes off and it is dark and humid outside. Jacque Brock gets here as planned and it is time to head to Llano, TX. We have a beautiful peaceful drive of three plus hours. We arrive in Llano a few minutes early so we head to Enchanted Rocks and Jewelry, a shop on the square. They are closed. We thought they opened at 9:00; guess not. We join another 30 or so rock collectors at the meeting place. Most are from the Houston area club; seven or eight are from Fort Worth. There is a collecting fee so we all ante-up. And away we go South...

We're here! Easy pickings at this site. The quarry has recently been worked and there are tons of collectible pieces of serpentine piled everywhere. Yellow has more iron content; green has copper; and blue has chromium. There is serpentine of all the colors with yellow and green the most common. Some with a high enough iron content to stick to a magnet and some, we are told, are radioactive. The group quickly fills buckets too heavy to carry and disperses to the almost dry riverbed in search of agates, flint, and whatever may have been washed down river by the rains.

Now how do we cross the boggy river? We blazed a trail through the thistles, threw a few rocks across the narrow shallow areas, and we were in that dry riverbed. There are lots of rocks in the sand. Some carnelian looking flint (I'm not a geologist, so excuse my descriptions). Lots of miscellaneous stuff all tumbled together and left behind. Some of it worth collecting, but our group did not see much of the hoped-for agate.



Jacque Brock did some research before the trip so she knew rock shops, places to eat and some of the history and information about the balanced rock competitions in Llano. After we finished loading our heavy buckets at the quarry, we checked out the rock shop which was open. They had a great case showing minerals, rocks, crystals and fossils from Llano County. I want to find some of that clear and blue quartz... topaz... just like everyone else, I'm sure.

Next stop, was the outcropping near Baby's Head Cemetery on Hwy 16 to collect Llanite. Collect? We couldn't even chisel it off with my pickaxe and Jacque's hammer and chisel. The other side of the road was not as hard and we choose some nice quality pieces with pretty red and blue flecks. Some of the diehards keep chiseling away at the harder stuff. I'm sure they were rewarded for their efforts.

It would have been fun to have a show and tell with the group to see what great finds we missed, but no gathering was planned for that. We all had different plans for the rest of the day. Jacque suggested another shop to visit in nearby Mason. Country Collectibles, just off the square, had the prized blue, clear, yellow and rose quartz- topaz in faceted gems. The sparkling gems with the famous Texas star pattern was beautiful with a price to

match. They also had some small rough for sale, which made me want to learn to facet...as I don't have enough hobbies yet.

We had a fun full day of rocks, dirt and exploring new areas in Central Texas Hill Country.



Rock hounding Trip to New Mexico – Sept. 15-18, 2016

Written by Cerena Fain

The invitation from the Arlington Gem & Mineral Club came at just the right time. We decided to leave on Tuesday the 13th so we could explore along railroad tracks and under creek bridges as we meandered our way to Deming, New Mexico. It was so liberating to get away from the city and watch the landscape change from low rolling hills to wide open flat plains and then to mountains.

We began by exploring Deming. Since we were only about 25 miles or so from Mexico, we walked across the border and down thru town. On our way back, we stopped off at a small state park. It was a short mountain climb and an amazing view - definitely worth the side-trip. One of the shops on the main highway proved to be one of the best rock shops that we had ever been to. The owners were very knowledgeable and friendly. Our car was a little heavier as we headed into Deming.

The next morning, we met the group and soon were caravanning south towards the 'blimp' that was used for spotting illegal entry into New Mexico. Our destination: Three Sisters Mountains where we would collect psilomelane, rhyolite, jasper, barite, quartz, and 'pretty

rocks'. We spent the morning digging among the tailings of open shaft mines.

A quick lunch and a long drive on miles of dirt roads, we arrived at the Baker Mine ready to collect Thunder Egg agates. Our drive proved successful – all of our vehicles were riding lower as we drove over bumpy, pot-holed roads to return to Deming for the evening.

On Friday morning, the group headed to into the mountains near Hatch, New Mexico. As we neared the mountain destination, I began seeing sparkly stuff everywhere. I was so excited. Mining there was really a matter of picking up rocks off the ground and putting them in the trunk. Very little digging was needed and actually, very little looking – beautiful rocks of rhyolite, barite and quartz were everywhere. We found so much that we gave a lot away because our car was getting so full and we still had 2-more mines to go to, plus a 2-week vacation.

Around lunchtime, we drove to the cute town of Hatch, surrounded by chile fields; the harvested peppers were everywhere, including on rooftops to dry in the sun. Then on to the Green Fern Mine. I found a nice vein of really pretty, green fluorite. I was thrilled, as my fluorite collection was pretty scarce. Everyone left with a lot of green fluorite.

Saturday was our last day of mining, we drove towards Los Cruces to a private copper



mine that I call 'Ken's Mine'. Ken was there – a delightful man that wanted us all to go home with a lot of turquoise, chrysocolla, raw green garnets, hematite, and quartz. And we all did.

Leaving Ken's mine, we headed northwest into Arizona. We had a great adventure reaching the Grand Canyon just before sunset. What an amazing sight that was! That next morning we saw the beauty of an elk herd. We drove south to get out of the rain and arrived midafternoon at Canyon de Chelly, which is the origin and center of the Navajo Nation. We booked a 3-hour tour of the canyon floor for the next day where the guide showed us petroglyphs, pictographs and several cliff dwellings, in addition to giving us canyon history and lore. The most spectacular overlook is 'Spider Rock'. It is about three football fields tall. It is quite amazing.

Went to Window Rock (the town is built around it) on our way to Albuquerque and explored 'Old Town' which is old adobe homes that are now little shops with clothing, art, food, drink, and the unusual.

Loved the group from the Arlington G&M - wonderful people and am so grateful to them for inviting the FW G&M on this trip. Looking forward to more rockhounding adventures.

Some of the treasures from the trunk.



MINERAL CLEANING
BRIDGET JOUBERT / JIM MARLER
CENLA ROCK HOUNDS

From SCFMS Newsletter, Sept-Oct 2016

At a past rock show (Clearlake show, Pasadena, TX) , we stopped by the Fender's mineral specimen booth to chat about their very fine minerals. Jim ask him how he got such beautiful pyrite and galena specimens. He said it was all in the clean-ing he did prior to displaying. Here is what he said:



Galena: Soak the specimen in warm "Iron-Out™" to remove surface iron and lead oxides. This may take an all day of soaking if very 'dirty'. Rinse well and scrub lightly with a bristle brush, NOT a wire brush, it scratches! Spray well with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" (non bleach type) and give it a good scrubbing with the brush. Rinse well and let the specimen air dry completely (a fan helps speed this up) before putting it away. By the way, are you wearing kitchen dish gloves? Some people are sensitive to the aggres-sive chemicals in these cleaners so put on those gloves and safety glasses!



Pyrite: One of the problems with many Pyrite (FeS) specimens is that they may be in a mixture with Marcasite. Marcasite (HFeS₂) is an unstable "Pyrite" and will slowly deteriorate as it is stored, especially in the damp air of Louisiana. If you find your nice pyrite specimen sitting on a pile of sulfur smelling grey ash, it is a mixture specimen! The Marcasite

slowly converted to sul-furic acid and iron, eating away at the whole specimen.. cardboard box and all!

To clean up specimens with Marcasite, use that wire brush that was forbidden above! Get rid of all the visible Marcasite with a good soap scrubbing. As always, be sure to wear safety goggles when scrubbing any specimen, fine particles will fly all about and love to land in eyes! Rinse well and let dry for a while.

Ok, now spay the specimen with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" and use the brush with vigor. The pyrite part will brighten up very nicely. For specimens that have pyrite on another mineral (i.e. dogtooth calcite), adjust your scrubbing to prevent damage to the other mineral. Always Dry completely before storage.



Chalcopyrite: This iron sulfide mineral containing copper is often misidentified as pyrite. Look carefully at the "pyrite" crystals and see if there

are multi-colors showing, besides the plain 'gold' of pyrite. If so, this is probably chalcopyrite (peacock ore). Again, spray the specimen with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" and brush scrub it. Though it will not be as bright as pyrite, it will shine up quite a bit, making your specimen come alive!

Other minerals: so far our experience with cleaning other minerals has been that "Scrubbing Bubbles™" works on all minerals but not as dramatically as it does on Pyrite and Galena. What it has done, however, is show us the presence of pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and other crystals where we did not see them before due to oxidation and/ or dirt. Yes, plain ole soap will clean minerals but the "Bubbles" seems to put that shine on them that other cleaning agents do not!

No, we do not have financial interest in Johnson's Company and their "Scrubbing Bubbles™" but we wish we did since we have gone thru CANS of it and it works so well on our specimens!

Photos chosen from the Internet collection of the Smithsonian.

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.

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

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:

MAILING ADDRESS: Schuyler Bullock, Treasurer, 657 Deer Valley Rd,
Weatherford, TX 76085

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www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org