



SLABS & CABS
OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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Volume 50

Number 2

February 2011

Next Meetings

Board Meeting
1 March 2011
Downtown Library
6:00 PM– 9:00 PM

General meeting
15 February 2011
Watergarden Room
Corpus Christi
Museum of Science & History
1900 No. chaparral
Corpus Christi, Texas
6:30 PM

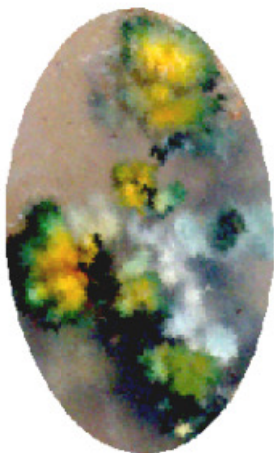
Membership Fees for 2011

Membership dues for 2011 are due in January 2011
We have 4 types of memberships and they are as follows:
Single \$ 15.00
Spousal \$ 20.00
Junior \$ 5.00
This is for any member from the age of 6-17 years Of age
Honorary
Sandra Hinkle , Membership Chairlady

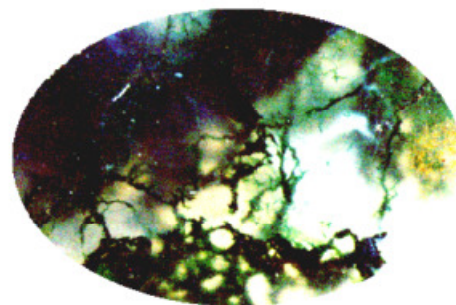
All those that signed up for the set up crew for the annual GCG&MS show, should meet at the storage building at 7 :00 AM Friday, March 4, 2011. The storage building is located at 863 Savage Lane, Corpus Christi, TX. That is across the street from The Bar-B-Q restaurant. Savage lane runs between the storage facility and the Bar-B-Q Man. If you need directions while on the way over, please call Jerrold Simpson, 361-877-3073. Jerrold Simpson GCG&MS Show Chairman

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Green Moss Agate
Sierra Aguja 1994



We are on-line

www.gcgms.org

Thanks to Chris Davis of Spurfire and Owen Hopkins
For getting us back up and running! Take a look.

**10 February 2011 Board Meeting of the
Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society**

The meeting was opened at 6:50 PM by President Kevin Schleicher. Board members attending were: Kevin Schleicher, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Linda Simpson, Jerrold Simpson, Mark Walbrink, Art Worley, Kyle Hinkel and Shanda Hinkel

Shanda Hinkel reported we have 42 regular members, 4 junior member and 11 honorary members.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in the January Cabs & Slabs and it passed.

Gene Schade gave the treasurer report which was voted on and accepted as presented.

Mark Walbrink gave the shop report indicating all the machines were working at this time. New switches were installed on a couple of the machines to make them safer. Howard Overby, a winter Texan member from New Mexico, will be teaching a wire wrapping class after the gem show in March. It was reported that our web site did not have the Monday night shop hours listed. Art Worley will correct that.

Jerrold Simpson and Donna Grimes gave the show report. We have 30 dealers this year. Joe Grimes has the floor plan about ready. He just has to make a few corrections. Channel 3 has a morning spot for us to announce the show. Jerrold Simpson will be the spokes person this year. Donna reported the radio and television advertising will start the week of the show. Our post cards will be sent out next week. We will be having channel 3 at the show on Saturday afternoon to shoot footage for a new advertising spot for the following year. There will be some cost and the board approved a budget for the filming and editing. We will have to have a script for the show and Donna will get someone to do that. Linda Simpson will check on prices for table coverings for the club tables.

Casa de Oro will hold a beading class during the show with part of the proceeds going to the GCG&MS. There will be a Saturday afternoon class and a Sunday class. Sign up sheets for the classes will be at the club booth during the show. The cost of the class will be \$40.00 per person.

Education Chairman Kyle Hinkel reported that we do have videos from the Federation that will be shown at the February and March meetings. The April program will be put on by Linda Simpson and will be rock and fossil identification.

Linda Simpson gave the South Central Federation report. We need to make sure we have insurance because the Austin club had problems and had to go outside the Federation to get insurance for their show. It is time to submit a name for the Rock Hound Of The Year award. Names can be submitted to Linda and she will forward them to the Federation.

Kevin Schleicher has researched what other clubs are doing to bring in new members and keep them. He reported that Midland has over 100 members. They have the experienced members of their club mentor new members. They also hand out a new member packet with information about the club and programs they have. The club also has programs in local schools to get their name out.

A Rock Camp for Junior Rock Hound is in the works. The committee will meet soon to work out the plans so it will be ready by show time. They are working on a brochure.

Gene Shade reported three applications for the scholarship were received. The board reviewed the applications and chose Chester Gene Scotch of Rockport to receive the \$1,000.00 prize. Mr. Scotch was the scholarship recipient last year. He attends Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi, TX. He is an older student with a family and has one more year to graduate.

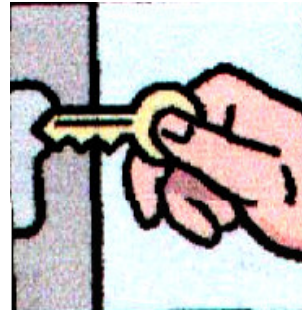
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jerrold Simpson
for Suzi Nick

GCGMS Lapidary Shop Rules

1. The lapidary shop equipment may not be used by anyone who has not signed a liability waiver.
2. Shop equipment use flat fee is \$2.00 per hour. Sign in on arrival.
Pay Supervisor and sign out before leaving the shop.
3. "Open shop" hours are to be used only by those who have taken the cabochon class or have shown proficiency on the equipment.
4. All children under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult trained on the use of the equipment.
5. Supervisor must inspect rock "set-up" prior to anyone starting slab saw.
6. Long hair should be tied back, loose sleeve should be secured, and safety procedures followed.
7. Safety glasses are recommended and are the responsibility of the individual. Some are furnished by the GCGMS, or you may bring your own.
8. The last person to use a piece of equipment before the shop closes is responsible for cleaning that piece of equipment and the work area. This may include tabletop, sponges, aprons, catch trays, etc.
9. Shop Supervisor is the final authority on shop rules and usage.

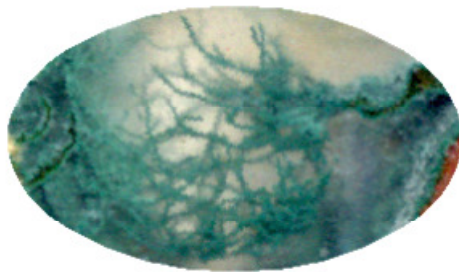
Revised May 2009



Those with keys to the Lapidary Shop are

Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495 Shop Supervisor
 Jerrold Simpson—361-851-8788
 Cell - 361-877-3073
 Hank Swan—361-993-9861/361-857-2405

Please call one of these when you would like to use the shop. They will not all be available at the same time, and once in a while none of them will be available. Most of the time at least one of them should be able to work out a time and date the shop could be open for you. Remember the club has a lot of good equipment to use. Several different classes are being conducted on Monday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The shop is open during these times for use of the equipment even if you are not involved in a class. Shop is also open Saturday 9:00 Until Noon.



**Green Moss Agate
 Sierra Aguja 1994**

Any Articles, Minutes are other items not received by Thursday Morning 9:00 am After the Board Meeting. Will Not Be Published in That Months Newsletter The Editor

February Birthstone, Amethyst

Compiled by Roger K. Pabian, Research Geologist, Emeritus
School of Natural Resources, UNL

Amethyst usually is a transparent variety of **quartz** that comes in shades of purple. Some translucent to opaque amethyst is also found and the purplish zones alternate with white or grayish areas. Color zonation can be very intense in transparent, translucent and opaque varieties. Amethyst is the traditional birth stone for the month of February.

Quartz in all varieties is **Silicon Dioxide, SiO₂**, it crystallizes in the **hexagonal** system, it has a **specific gravity of 2.66**, and it defines **7 on Mohs hardness scale**. it has **refractive indexes** ranging from **1.544 to 1.553**, it is **uniaxial, positive**, and may be strongly **dichroic** in several colored varieties.

Most of the amethyst that is used in the gem trade now comes from Brazil. Historically, the Ural Mountains in Russia produced many fine amethysts and thousands were acquired by Catherine the Great. The most desired hues ranged from deep purplish-red to purple-red and these stones were called Uralian or Siberian Amethyst, terms that are now color grades rather than source areas.

Amethysts from Brazil are mostly extracted from large geodes that are found in basalts of either Triassic or Jurassic age that crop out in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in the southeastern corner of the country. Many of these geodes were commonly seen for sale in gem shows in the late 1980's and early 1990's, but fewer of them have been seen in the late 1990's. Many of the geodes with transparent amethyst were broken down to small crystals for the gem trade and this kind of geode is now fairly scarce intact.

Some very attractive amethyst has been produced in Mexico but most of it that has been of desirable gem shades formed in crystals that were quite small and many of the larger crystals were not sufficiently toned to produce fine faceted gems. The amethyst from Mexico has produced many fine, large cabinet specimens that appear in both private and museum collections. When I first took up lapidary in 1961, there were some amethyst tips from Mexico that were nicely colored and produced fine cabochons but they were all nearly opaque. Some of the Mexico specimens had nice small phantom crystals of amethyst in a colorless body of rock crystal.

In North America a great deal of amethyst is extracted from mines in the Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, area. There are several commercial mines and several fee localities where one can pay to collect. The status of the mines and fee localities varies from year to year so it is best for one to write or call ahead before planning trips to these areas. Most of the amethyst from Thunder Bay is strongly color zoned and these zonations appear as **chevrons** if the cut is *diagonal* to the **c-axis** of the crystal or sometimes as **six triangles** of alternating purple and colorless or white areas if the cut is made *perpendicular* to the c-axis of the crystal. The latter have been called **Port Arthur Amethyst**. Port Arthur was the name of a port in the Kwantung Province of Manchuria; this area was an historic producer of very fine amethyst. Port Arthur was also the former name of Thunder Bay,



Coming Events

FEBRUARY 2011:

Jan 29-Feb 13—TUCSON, AZ: Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase. For two weeks every winter, the world meets in Tucson as it becomes a bustling, international marketplace of buyers and sellers; thousands of participants and attendees at more than 40 sites around town. For details: www.visittucson.org/visitor/events/gemshow

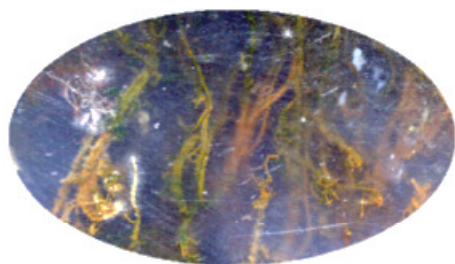
28-13—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Show; ColorWright; ColorWright Warehouse, 1201 N. Main Ave.; 10-6 daily; free admission; cutting and carving rough, slabs, cabochons, gemology equipment, fossils, fossil preparation equipment, Covington lapidary equipment, new Highland Park slab saws, books, jewelry; contact Rob Kulakofsky, 1201 N. Main Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 792-1439; e-mail: rk3@color-wright.com; Web site: www.rglshow.com

31-6—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale show; Arizona Global Gem & Jewelry; The Hotel Arizona, 181 W. Broadway; Mon. 10-6, Tue. 10-6, Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; contact Ron Swanson, (520) 396-4469; e-mail: ron@aggjs.com; Web site: www.aggjs.com

1-28—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side); 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

March 2011

March 5th & 6th RICHARD M. BORCHARD REGIONAL FAIRGROUNDS
1213 TERRY SHAMSIE BLVD, ROBSTOWN TX Sat. 10-6** Sun 10-5 GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL 50TH ANNUAL SHOW JEWELRY-MINERALS-FOSSILS-BEADS AND MORE!



**Green Moss Agate
Sierra Aguja 1994**

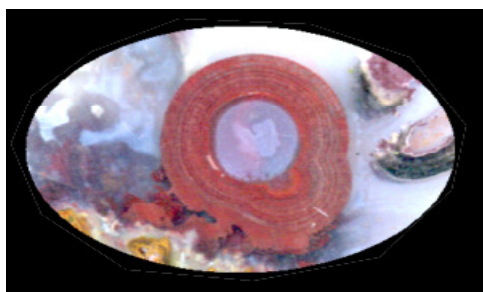
Ontario. Which of the Port Arthurs yielded its name to that color zonation of amethyst is currently unknown to me. Some very fine examples of color zoned amethyst similar to the Port Arthur Amethyst appeared in gem shows in the early 1980's; this material was from India.

The strong color zonations of the Port Arthur Amethyst is probably produced by numerous twinned crystals and twinning planes within the crystal. When observing a section of the India material under polarized light and with a condensing lens, very strong interference patterns are readily observed and the normally fine interference figure seen in most quartz appears to be a garbled set of figure superimposed over figure.

Nebraska is not without its amethyst. Some examples have been collected from small geodes that formed in the Grant Shale of Permian age that is exposed in several areas near Krider and Odell in Gage counties. The amethyst is nearly opaque to be sure and it will fade after exposure to light for a few days. If the amethyst is returned to a dark box, it will regain the purple color in a few days. It may be that the light energy displaces electrons in the chromatophores that color the amethyst. I have also observed examples of Lake Superior agates with amethyst centers that were collected from the glacial tills in southeastern Nebraska.

Ametrine is an unusual form of amethyst that was not well-known in the gem trade until about the early 1970's. Ametrine has the same kind of color zonation as Port Arthur Amethyst but the zones are purple and yellow (citrine). The first ametrine was actually produced in the laboratory by treatment of heat and irradiation. In the late 1970's or early 1980's, large amounts of this gem came onto the market from Bolivia. Much of it was sold under the trade name **Bolivianite**. It was later learned that these stones were natural stones and came from near Anahi in extreme eastern Bolivia and in neighboring Brazil. Because of legal restrictions on mining in that area, the earlier material was said to have been found in Paraguay, Uruguay, or Matto Grosso do Sul in Brazil. Natural ametrine actually consists of zones of citrine intergrown between zones of amethyst. In this sense, it differs from the laboratory produced material that was derived from color zoned Brazilian amethyst. That is to say, the trace element contents in the chromatophores that produce citrine and amethyst are significantly different in the yellow and purple portions of the ametrine crystal. Hence, ametrine should be probably considered a separate variety of transparent quartz at least in the gem trade.

If you are fashioning amethyst for gem purposes, it can be a bit tricky to polish. The problems usually begin at about the time of the 600 grit sand if you are using carbide. It is much easier to sand and polish with diamond compounds. A smooth but matte' surface can be obtained by the time you get to the 14,000 grit. You may lose the polish if you try to bring up the polish with tin oxide on leather. There tends to be a lot of undercutting on the twinning planes. This problem can often be alleviated by putting a few drops of vinegar or oxalic acid in the water used for polishing. It seems to work if you can get the **pH** (concentration of Hydrogen [H⁺] ions in the water) on the weakly acidic side. Polish can be improved with the 50,000 diamond too. Some pieces can be finished with tin oxide and water on a hard leather pad.

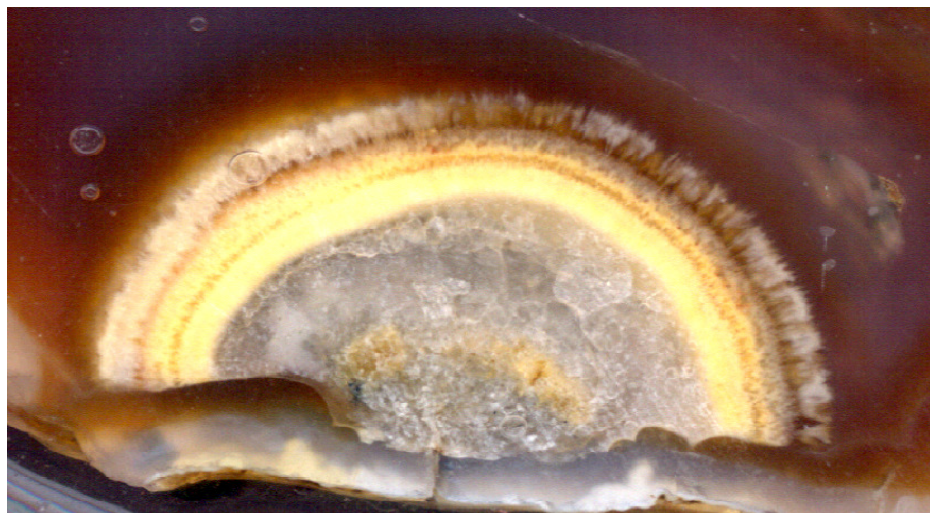


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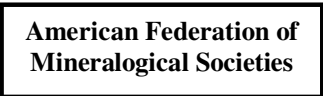

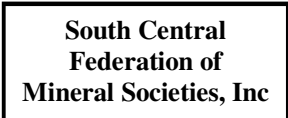



**Stalagmites Agate
Paso Lajatis
Mexico
2004**

**Pom Pom Agate
Sierra Aguja 1996**



GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 60781 Corpus Christi, TX 78466

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|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| MEMBER of |  |  |  |  | |
| | Meeting | Held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the museum of Science & History 1900 North Chaparral September through May, and at the Lapidary Shop 3933 Timon Blvd., Corpus Christi TX for June through August. | | | |
| | Membership Fees | Individual \$15.00 Couples \$20.00 Junior (under 17) \$5.00 | | | |
| | 2010 Officers | President: Kevin Schleicher Vice President: Kyle Hinkle Past President: Suzy Nick | | Secretary: Suzy Nick Treasurer: Gene Schade gene@casadeoro.net | |
| | Board Appointees | Membership: Sandra Hinkle Education: Owen Hopkins Librarian: Linda Simpson Treasurer Gene Schade Show Chair: Jerrold Simpson | | Show Publicity: Donna Grimes Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Field Trip Coordinator: Johnny French Dealer Chair: Jerrold Simpson | |
| Standing Committies | Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Field Trip Coordinator: Johnny French Federation Liaison: Linda Simpson Historiorn: Frances Marten Librarian Linda Simpson Communications: Suzy Nick Refreshment Hostess; Letty Rodriguez | | Bulletin Editor; Art Worley Webmaster: Art Worley E-mail artleew@agates123.com Door Prizes; Gilbert Rodriguez | | |

Slabs & Cabs

Art Worley
 2561 Raintree Trail
 Ingleside, TX 78362

Slabs & Cabs Awards




Small Bulletins 4th place

PUBLICATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 2nd 2002 | 2001 1st |
| 2001-4th place AFMS | |
| 2000 9th place SCFMS | |
| 1999-8th place SCFMS | |
| 1999- 9th place (new editor) AFMS | |

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