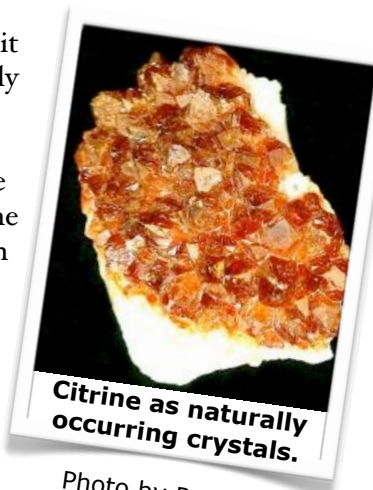


CITRINE (NOVEMBER) BIRTHSTONE *CONTINUED*

the first to wear the yellow quartz, crafting it into cabochon, or highly polished but uncut facets of stone set into jewelry. Citrine became more popular during the Romantic Period, when artisans often favored these warm colored gems to enhance gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as a talisman against evil thoughts and snake venom. It was also considered to have medicinal properties and was commonly used as a remedy for urinary and kidney ailments.

Sister stone to the purple quartz known as Amethyst, Citrine crystals are found in igneous metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is believed that some Citrine may have actually begun



Citrine as naturally occurring crystals.

Photo by Ron Eng

as Amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to the yellow form of quartz. Citrine is known to change color when subjected to heat and is routinely heated in the jewelry-making



Citrine as cut and polished gemstones

Photo by Ron Eng, [Burke Museum](http://www.burkemuseum.com)

process to intensify its color. For this same reason, though, this gemstone should not be left in direct sunlight for a long time because it will permanently alter the color. Most Citrine is mined in Brazil, but other sources of the quartz are Bolivia and Madagascar.

A gift of Citrine is symbolic for hope and strength. With its sunny brightness, this gemstone is ideal for helping anyone to get through the tough times in life!

ALTERNATE BIRTHSTONE

Yellow Topaz is an alternate gemstone for those born in November. It's golden color was believed by the Egyptians to be the glow cast by the sun god Ra. Yellow Topaz ranges in color from a peachy blush to a deep cognac. A gift of this gemstone is said to symbolize friendship and to strengthen one's capacity to give and receive love.

source:

www.about-birthstones.com



Yellow topaz is an alternate birthstone for November

Photo by Ron Eng



01 November 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 11-01-11 was called to order by president Kevin Schleicher at 6:50PM. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Kevin Schleicher, Donna Grimes, Gene Shade, Linda Simpson, Jerrold Simpson, Art Worley and Sylvia Kernen.

We did not have a membership report because all the information is not available. Sylvia will have a complete report by the next Board Meeting.

Gene Shade gave the Treasurer report. The rent for the Fairgrounds space for our 2012 show has been paid. The Federation insurance dues are due at this time and the amount is based on the number of members reported.

The shop report was given by Jerrold Simpson because Mark Walbrink, our Shop Foreman, was ill. Mark has purchased new blades for the trim saws and will have them installed when he gets to feeling better.

Donna Grimes and Jerrold Simpson gave their portions of the show report. We have 14 dealers that have returned their contracts with payment. We have collected enough dealer fees to offset the rent for the show space. Donna indicated the TV and radio ads are lined up. We will have a larger ad in the Caller Times this year. It will run from February 24 through March 4. We have two of our dealers that will not be at the show this year, so far. One we will need a permanent replacement and the other should only be out for one year. We are reviewing dealer information at this time for replacements. The poster contest judging rules were presented by Donna Grimes. Two of the board members were the only ones to enter a poster. The other board members judged the posters. The winner will be announced at our regular meeting Meeting.

There was no education report this month. We are still trying to get the badges for the Kids Camp

held in July. Donna grimes will follow up on that and see if we can get them by the next meeting.

There will be a field trip to Blanco, TX on November 5, 2011. This trip was announced at the last board meeting. The group will meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Calallan. We will leave at 6:00 AM. We will be collecting marine fossils 5 miles north of Blanco on Hwy. 281.

There was nothing new to report about the Federation.

The Christmas party will be held at the Baptist church at 3115 Ocean Drive. The party will be in the back in the Rec. hall. It will be a pot luck dinner. The Society will provide drinks. If you would like to receive a gift, bring a gift. Names of the ones that bring gifts will be drawn to pick out their gift's. Those who have paid their dues by the party, will have a chance to win a prize. The party is from 6:00 PM until 9:00PM. The officers for 2012 will be installed at the party. Come out and join in the fun.

Gene Shade checked with other air conditioner people and received quotes to replace one for \$1,720.00 and \$1,475.00. We had a previous bid for \$1,770.00. The matter has been tabled by the board for now.

Sylvia Kernen has agreed to take over the membership chair duties and will be taking over the editors duties for the news letter. Sylvia became a member this year. Her son attended the Kids Camp and Sylvia helped out there. Welcome to the board and thank you for taking the positions you have.

Gene Shade will be the new Web Master.

Linda Simpson brought up the idea of having a table in the show where members can display and sell items they have made. The Board is working on the details of how that would work.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Jerrold Simpson for Suzy Nick.

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

Lapidary shop Keys

Those with keys to the Lapidary Shop are:

Shop Supervisor:
Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

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 9:00pm. 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.

Newsletter Submissions

If you went on a field trip, would like to share information about gems and minerals, or have any other information (articles, minutes) for the newsletter, please email them to: syltrans@gmail.com by Thursday morning 9:00am after the board meeting.

Fossil Hunting Field Trip

to various sites in Blanco Texas, *by Sylvia Kernan*

It's 5am Saturday morning (Nov. 5th), we are packed and ready to go. I turn the key to start the car and nothing happens! Hurriedly my husband gets out the jumper cables and we jump it with our old truck. Finally, 5:05am we start out towards Sinton and on to the intersection of 188 / interstate 35. 5 Minutes after we arrived at the intersection the two car



finding fossils on top of the embankment.



Kevin found a quartz crystal

convoy, with the rest of the fossil hunters, arrived and we tagged along behind the organizers Jerrold and Linda who had Earl in their car and Kevin following. Approximately one hour later we stopped for a bathroom break. During that break Linda gave all the participants information to prepare us for today's fossil hunting trip and a Black Hills Institute pamphlet about fossils. Armed with reading material we were ready to continue our trip. But our car did not want to cooperate. Kevin jumped our car and we set out to find an auto parts store to get a new battery and then catch up to the group.



Jerrold and Kevin (2nd site)



Embankment on River Road

We arrived on the first site 5 miles north of Blanco on 281 about 45 minutes after the group. Linda and Jerrold showed us the various fossils that could be found. Linda also handed

out some helpful tools and she showed us where and for what to look. Soon we got a feel for it, we filled our pouches with hearts of Texas (clam), many other types of shells, snails and sea-urchin fossils. We found fossils in the embankment and on the area where we parked the cars. We crossed the



Dino tracks in the Blanco riverbed

street to the second site where more fossilized sea-life was scattered in and on a steep embankment. We broke for lunch at around noon at DQ in Blanco, meeting up with Jerrold and Linda's son and family. Freshly energized we drove to River road where there was a wall of sedimentary rock from which we pulled more fossilized sea-life. Then Jerrold turned our attention to the large indentations in the rocky ground at the water's edge. He explained that they were dinosaur foot prints as well as tail drag marks. They were large and we stepped into them, just to get some perspective.

From there we went 3 miles west of Blanco on 1623. We



Explaining the shape of the foot.

parked on the side of the road and then made our way down Trainer Wuest road to the river, which was - due to the drought - absolutely bone dry. We stepped into the riverbed and within a few meters saw indentations in the hard, smooth, stone riverbed. Jerrold explained that the indentations were dinosaur tracks. We started out seeing



standing in tail drag indentations



Tail drag marks and foot imprints

FOSSIL HUNTING FIELD TRIP *CONTINUED*



dino foot imprints, then tail drag crevices and finally the riverbed was just covered with various imprints. Some were following, what now is, the riverbed and some were criss-crossing and then disappeared

Exploring the sedimentary

under what now is eroded layers of a sedimentary rock embankment.

What a fantastic experience and great day outdoors! Thank you Linda and Jerrold for organizing and guiding this educational field trip!



Top: Heart of Texas clam fossil

right: Snail fossil



Slowly eroding embankment along the Blanco river



Coming Events

November 2011

11-13 HUMBLE, TX

58th annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.;
Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, seniors and students \$6, children under 12 free;
contact Theresa Peek, Houston Gem & Mineral Society, 10805 Brooklet, Houston, TX 77099,
(281) 530-0942; e-mail: show@hgms.org; Web site: www.hgms.org

11-13 PASCAGOULA, MS

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show, Magnolia State Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Jackson County Fairgrounds, 2902 Short Cut Road;
Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$3, children 12 & under free; door prizes, raffle, 20 dealers, gold panning and sluicing; contact James Darnell, 7121 Oakhurst Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564, (228)875-2310

19-20 MESQUITE, TX

Show, Dallas G&MS; Resistol Arena Exhibition Hall, I-635 & Military Pkwy (exit 4);
adults \$8, 12 & under \$3, 3 & under free;
for details visit www.dallasgemandmineral.org
or contact Mollie Cutting at mollie_cutting@sbcglobal.net

December 2011

2-4 EL PASO, TX

El Paso Mineral & Gem Society; El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama; Fri. 10-6,
Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, students \$3, children (under 12) free;
contact Jeannette Carrillo, 4100 Alameda Ave., El Paso, TX 79905, (915) 533-7153;
e-mail: gemcenter@aol.com; Web site: www.epmgs.com

January 2012

21-22 FREDERICKSBURG, TX

Gem, mineral, and fossil show; FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS;
Ladybird Johnson Municipal Park, three miles south of Fredericksburg on hwy 16;
free admission; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Rolling Rockhounds meeting Sun 9 am;
contact Jeff Smith, jeffbrenda@windstream.net or 830-895-9630;
printable flyer on website: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

27-29 TYLER, TX

Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Dr.;
Fri. 9-5; adults \$3, students \$1, Scouts in uniform free;
contact: Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068;
e-mail: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

Kids Corner Rocks

About Fossils

What are fossils?

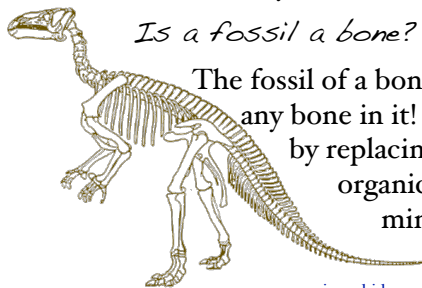
Fossils are the remains of ancient animals and plants, from long ago. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock.

What is sedimentary rock?

Sedimentary rock is rock that has formed from sediment, like sand, mud and small pieces for rock.

What happened to a fossil?

Over long periods of time these small pieces of debris are 'squeezed' and buried under more and more layers of sediment that piles up on top. Eventually, they are compressed into sedimentary rock.



Is a fossil a bone?

The fossil of a bone doesn't have any bone in it! Fossils are made by replacing the original organic material with minerals.

source: www.sciencekids.co.nz, <http://keep3.sjfc.edu>

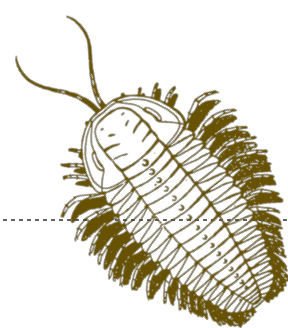
Fossil Word Search

A D O O W D E I F I R T E P
 E G G D F H M R T D D S A E
 E R H E S I E I E O D Z N P
 N L R I S O A V P I W O R N
 D F A U C E R O O Q T T R R
 T M S H L E R N J S R C A Z
 I N C V S T I E E I D M N E
 I E T E S R O M L I S S O F
 O B R A C H I O P O D J Q N
 M P G S X L B D M L F R P L
 P R N E F I D N Q C H F N S
 E Q B K T A Y G R D O S T Z
 J T W E T I N O M M A M E K
 V N O N C X E E L T Q M T F

- ammonite
- brachiopod
- crinoids
- fossil
- gastropod
- limestone
- petrified wood
- preserved



Q: What do you call a fossil that doesn't ever want to work?
 A: Lazy bones!



CHECK OUT SOME COOL KIDS LINKS

- KidsGeo.com
- Rocksforkids.com
- KidsHabitat
- BBC fossils
- BBC walking with beasts
- BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles

Federation, What Is, and Why Is, A Federation?

By Lewis Elrod, President AFMS Printed in Mid-Tenn Gem'ers, March 1998, updated 7/2/99

I am frequently asked “Why should our society even belong to a federation?” This is a good question and there is nothing wrong with wondering about the benefits to being a member society of a regional and the national federation.

To begin to answer this question we must first decide just what a federation really is and why one should exist. After this is decided then we can explore the benefits to a local society to being a member. Webster is a good starting point to determine the meaning of “federation”. We find that to “federate” is “to unite in an alliance” and a “federation” is “a union of organizations”. Thus the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is a union of the local clubs and societies in the Southeast States. The American Federation is a union of the seven regional federations over the United States.

Just what are these “alliances” a union of? Why it is the individual members of all the local organizations. It is you and me! We are the local societies, the regional federations and even the American Federation. Without us, there is nothing, no clubs, no regionals and no American Federation. Now that we have defined what a federation is we need to decide why one should exist. The reason is given in the Webster definition of federation. It is an alliance. Our own society is an alliance of all of the individual members as the regional are of the societies and the American is an alliance of the seven regional federations. An alliance, again according to Webster, is “an association to further the common interests of the members”. Thus the local societies exist to further the common interests of the members. The same reason stands for the existence of the regional and national federations as they also exist for the purpose of promoting the common interests of the individual members. At times we neglect this aspect of the matter and do not pay sufficient attention to the common needs. We are striving to return to this and to provide more for each member. This is seen in the attention paid to the development of programs for the use of the local societies, the expanded distribution of the newsletters of the federations and the efforts to get

more members involved in the activities of the federations. One means to learn more, is to do more. Spend some time learning more about the federations, their working systems, etc. and see what you can do to assist in the efforts of the officers who are, after all, your elected representatives. By assisting the officers in the discharge of their duties you will also assist yourself and all other hobbyists in the pursuit of their interests. You will also learn more about the hobby and the people involved and will make many new friends. Now, we are getting down to the real reason for a federation. It is to provide a means for the communication with other members of the hobby and a system of interaction with these persons over the country. The various bulletins published by the societies and federations provide a valuable source of information about the hobby and the persons involved therein. By making these bulletins available to the membership of a society the information will thus be shared by an ever growing number of people. This provides an excellent opportunity for networking and exchanging information about collecting sites, areas of interest such as museums and shops, areas of expertise and general strengthening of the hobby as a whole.

To wrap this up we now see that the societies, the regional federations and even the American Federation are just-US! This means you, me, our next door neighbor who likes rocks, etc. All of the groups exist to serve the needs and interests of the individual and all actions taken are with this end in mind. Look around and see what you can do. You can become a valuable part of the federations and will find that you enjoy it while you are contributing and learning. Come on and join in. We would love to have you with us. Editor's Note: Lewis mentioned this article at the Directors' and Editors' seminars in Nashville and said to watch the next AFMS Newsletter, that the Editor had the article- so, here it is. There have been several other similar "Federation" articles in Vol. 52. We hope they are of some value to those who ask why they should belong to this larger association of rockhounds. Club Presidents and Editors, all of whom should be receiving the AFMS Newsletter, should share this information with all of your club members, and try to answer their concerns and questions.

MEMBER of

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



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 (under17) \$5.00

2011 Officers President: Kevin Schleicher Secretary: Suzy Nick
 Vice President: Kyle Hinkle Treasurer: Gene Schade, gene@casadeoro.net
 Past President: Suzy Nick

Board Appointees Membership: Sylvia Kernen Show Publicity: Donna Grimes
 Education: open position Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink
 Librarian: Linda Simpson Field Trip Coordinator: John Anderson
 Show Chair: Jerrold Simpson Dealer Chair: Jerrold Simpson

Standing Committees Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Bulletin Editor; [Sylvia Kernen](#)/Art Worley
 Federation Liaison: Linda Simpson Webmaster: Art Worley
 Historian: Frances Marten E-mail artleew@agates123.com
 Librarian: Linda Simpson Door Prizes; Gilbert Rodriguez
 Communications: Suzy Nick Refreshment Hostess; Letty Rodriguez

Slabs & Cabs
 Name
 Address
 City TX Zip

Slabs & Cabs Awards



2003 SCFMS
 Small Bulletins 4th place

XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
 xxxx First Street
 Anytown, State ZIP

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

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