

TURQUOISE (DECEMBER) BIRTHSTONE *CONTINUED*

Science of Turquoise

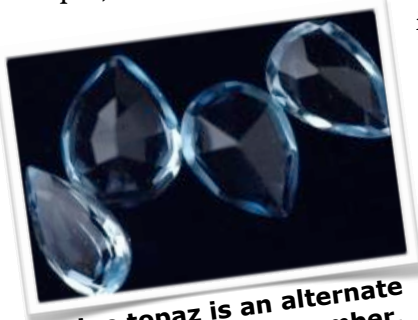
Turquoise is composed of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate. It forms when circulating water alters other aluminum-rich rocks in desert environments. Turquoise has a slightly waxy appearance and can range in color from blue to shades of green and yellowish gray. The most valued color of turquoise, though, is the beautiful greenish-blue that contrasts so nicely with precious metals such as silver.



Sky-blue turquoise set in silver jewelry.
Photo by Ron Eng

Alternate birthstones for December are **Zircon** and **Blue Topaz**.

As cool and inviting as a blue lake on a blistering summer day, the alternate birthstone for December is derived from the Sanskrit word "tapas,"



Blue topaz is an alternate birthstone for December.

Photo by Ron Eng,
[Burke Museum](#)

meaning fire. This is because Blue Topaz was considered by ancient civilizations to have cooling properties. Not only was it believed to cool boiling water when thrown into the pot,

but to calm hot tempers as well! This gemstone was credited with many other healing powers, among them the ability to cure insanity, asthma, weak vision and insomnia. The Blue Topaz was even thought to have magical properties in its ability to make its wearer invisible in a threatening situation.

Blue Topaz is the hardest of the silicate minerals.

While pure Topaz is colorless, minor changes of elements within the stone result in a variety of other colors, such as blue, pale green, red, yellow and pink.



Turquoise in its uncut state.
Photo by Ron Eng

The blue hue is created when Topaz is heated, whether the heat source is natural or engineered by man. The three shades of Blue Topaz are Sky, Swiss and London Blue. The latter is the deepest blue and is often used as a less expensive substitute for Sapphire.

Topaz is found primarily in Brazil, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Pakistan, China, and the United States.

A gift of Blue Topaz is symbolic of love and fidelity. Luckily, this cool blue gemstone has no legendary power to put out the burning flame of love!

source: [Burke Museum](#) & [About Birthstones](#)



General Meeting and Board Meeting

of the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

General Meeting 11/15/11

The General Meeting was called to order on 11/15/11 at 7:08pm by President Kevin Schleicher.

The Membership Report was given by Sylvia Kernan and we have 101 regular members, 25 Junior Members and 10 Honoree Members. The minutes were published in the Cabs and Slabs. There was one correction that the General Meeting would not meet at the museum but we will have our Christmas party instead. Dick Cline made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Hank Swann seconded it. The motion was approved.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Art Worley made a motion to accept the report as given and Jerrold Simpson seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mark Wolbrink gave the Shop Report by saying activity has picked up some. Art Worley donated blanks and they are ready to be made into cabs for our show.

The Field Trip Report was given by Kevin Schleicher. We had one trip and everyone had a good time. He is working on another trip and will let us know when it's been finalized.

There was no Education Report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the show report by saying we have 15 Dealer Contracts back to date. We have 15-20 cases available for the show and we need to members to fill them. Please start thinking about what you would like to display.

Donna Grimes said the winner of the Poster Contract was Sylvia Kernan and she was given a prize of \$50.

Under old business Hank Swann said he will be giving classes. He will be offering Silver/Gold Smithing and Precious Metal Clay. Jerrold Simpson will be giving beginner and advance Cab classes with Hank Swann assisting as needed.

Hank Swann also found a cheaper fiber optic mag lite that can be made from a fiber optic cable and the mag lite can be purchased from Wal-Mart.

The Christmas Party will be held on 12/2/11 at the 1st Baptist Church on Ocean Dr in the rear at the recreation room. It will be held from 6pm-9pm.

The Club will furnish the drinks and paper good. Club member will need to bring a dish for our pot luck. Anyone that would like to exchange gifts will need to bring one and it should relate to our club and be about \$10.

Donna Grimes made a motion to present the slate of officers to be elected by acclamation. The officers are: Joe Grimes (president), Jerrold Simpson (vice-president), Gilbert Trejo (secretary) and Gene Schade (treasurer). Norma Trejo seconded the motion and it was passed.

Under new business Jerrold Simpson said we had a new editor for the Cabs and Slabs. Sylvia Kernan is now doing the newsletter along with being our Membership Chairman. We would like to thank Art Worley for all his hard work on the newsletter for the last several years.

Hank Swann made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jerrold Simpson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

General Meeting - Christmas Party 12/2/11

A brief meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by President Kevin Schleicher. Kevin Schleicher presented a variety of patches and badges to our

Junior Rock hounds who attended our Summer Rock Camp. There were six Junior Members who received badges. The new officers were installed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

General Meeting and Board Meeting

continued

Board Meeting 12/6/11

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by President Kevin Schleicher. Board members in attendance were Kevin Schleicher, Mark Wolbrink, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson, Sylvia Kernen and Suzy Nick. Members in attendance were Joe Grimes, Gilbert Trejo and Dee Ann Schleicher.

The Membership Report was given by Sylvia Kernen. There are 36 members, 10 junior members and 10 honoree members for 2012. For 2011 there were 103 members, 26 junior members and 10 honoree members.

Mark Wolbrink presented the Shop Report. There has been an increase in activity due to the Winter Texans. The machines are all working and he is waiting for a pump for one of the Genies.

The Show Report was given by Jerrold Simpson. We have lost three dealers. He received applications for two new dealers and their submissions were reviewed. We have received 15 dealer contracts to date. We need more material for the Kids Wheel at the show. We need fluorite, rose quartz and calcite. Jerrold Simpson made a motion for Joe/Donna Grimes to get this at Tucson and the club will reimburse them. Suzy Nick seconded it and the motion was approved.

Donna Grimes said the posters have been done as well as the pre-sale tickets. She has also contacted the magazines, the TV and radio stations. The video that was done at our show last year is not what they expected and it will be better to use our previous advertisement for the show.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Donna Grimes made a motion to accept the report as given and Jerrold Simpson seconded it. The motion was approved.

Under old business, Jerrold Simpson said the scholarship winner from last year, Gene Scotch said the application for this year's scholarship was given to all students. Gene Schade said it has also been updated on our website. Gene Schade is now doing our website and he would like to make it a content

management site where several members can post information as needed. We also need to get the information from our previous historian. Donna Grimes has been talking to their daughter and hopefully we can get the information soon. Joe Grimes would like to get a chairman for each of the responsibilities for our show and have them be responsible for the committees rather than a few member being responsible for the entire show.

Dee Anna Schleicher said she was impressed by the hard work of our members and officers and we should do something to recognize them.

Donna Grimes asked if we were going to do the Summer Rock Camp again this summer. It was decided it was a success and we would like to do it again.

Kevin Schleicher will be the chairman for this year. Sylvia Kernen will revise the brochure and help with the camp. Gene Schade would like to get pictures of last year's camp to present at our show. Kevin Schleicher and Sylvia Kernen will get him the pictures.

Joe Grimes asked about replacing our air conditioner for the shop and if we should look at getting one with a heat pump. A discussion followed about just getting some heaters vs. a heat pump. The cost that has been submitted seems to be on the high side. Donna Grimes made a motion for each of the board members contact someone about replacing the air conditioner. Jerrold Simpson seconded it and the motion was passed.

Under new business Joe Grimes presented each board member with a copy of the club's bylaws. He would like for each board member to review them and be ready to start revising them at the next meeting.

Gene Schade would like for the Membership Chairman to provide the board members a current copy of the membership list the 1st of each month.

Mark Wolbrink made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Suzy Nick seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Club News and Information

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome goes out to our new members:
Dana and Theresa Cline with their daughter **Victoria**



Happy Birthday!

A very happy Birthday from all of us goes out to:
Linda Simpson on the 4th (sorry we're a little late)
Kelly White on the 13th and
Jarrett Kernen on the 23rd

Please send me your birthdate information, so you can be mentioned as well.
syltrans@gmail.com

Christmas Party

You missed out if you did not make it to the Christmas party this year. The food was delicious and the spirit of Christmas in full swing.

We exchanged gifts, at least the ones that could remember to bring them and not leave them at home on the counter ☺.

*Merry Christmas and
a happy 2012 to all
fellow GCGMS
Rockhounds!*



Badge recipients

The children got their well deserved badges and now are official Junior Rockhounds of America.

Everybody who paid for the membership in advance was entered into a pot (their names of course) for a drawing whom Gene Scotch, our scholarship recipient, won. He

received a lovely rose quartz lamp.
We all had a lovely time!



Gene Scotch
winner of the
Membership draw



More Club News and Information



New Board Officers

We would like to thank the outgoing officers for their valuable services on GCGMS' board.

Kevin Schleicher served his two year term as president and **Joe Grimes** was elected president for the next year

Kyle Hinkle stepped down from his position as vice president and **Jerrold Simpson** was elected vice president

Suzi Nick stepped down from the position as secretary and **Gilbert Trejo** was elected secretary

Gene Schade stays in his position as treasurer for an other year.

A very big thank you is also going out to our **Art Worley** who has been putting together the newsletters and Website for several years now. He is handing over the website to **Gene Schade**.

Art and I (Sylvia Kernen) have been co-authoring the Newsletter in November and this month before I take over fully in January. I'll be counting on Art's vast knowledge and resources in the future, though. So, don't go anywhere Art. ☺

Thank you to the outgoing and incoming officers for their services to the GCGMS board!

*No duty is more
urgent than that of
returning thanks*

· Saint Ambrose ·

Classes

Jerrold Simpson and Hank Swan have put together a proposal for classes to start in January 2012.

- ◆ **Bench Jeweler** Various Metals
Instructor: Hank Swan
Fee: \$150.00
(can be paid in three (3) installments)
20 hours of instruction and/or hands on work time
- ◆ **Precious Metal Clay** Various Metals
Instructor: Hank Swan or Jerrold Simpson
Fee: \$ 50.00
- ◆ **Basic Cabochon Stone Cutting**
Instructor: Jerrold Simpson or Hank Swan
Fee: \$35.00
- ◆ **Advanced Cabochon Cutting**
Instructor: Jerrold Simpson
Fee: \$50.00

Students can ask for and receive a question and answer session along with demonstrated abilities to receive a certificate of proficiency in one of the listed classes.

The club will provided needed tools and expendable supplies. Students will provide their own findings and mill metals.

Class schedules will be established based on the greatest need by the greatest number of students. We would prefer to give glasses at times other then the usual Saturday and Monday shop open times.

Please fill in the form below and email it back to one of the board members.



**Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society
Club Class Request**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: H _____ C _____

Email: _____@_____

Interested in what classes?

Bench jeweler

Basic cabochon cutting

Precious metal-clay

Advanced cabochon cutting

Please mark the time of day requested:

morning a.m.

evening p.m.

Please circle the day of week requested:

S M T W T F S

Remarks: _____

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**), **ideas** for the newsletter, please email them to: Sylvia Kernen syltrans@gmail.com by Thursday morning 9:00am after the board meeting.



The Geminid Meteor Shower

article provided by Art Worley

The Geminid meteor shower will peak on the nights of December 13 and 14, 2011.

As the year 2011 draws to a close, meteor-watchers are looking forward to the last big shower of the year on the nights of December 13 and 14. Wouldn't you know it? The moon will be only a few days past full. Its light will interfere with the shower.

Still, you will probably see some of these bright, medium-speed meteors, if you look.

Look for the Geminid meteor shower on the nights of December 13 and 14, 2011. For us in the northern

hemisphere, it's cold on these December nights. That's probably the only reason the Geminid meteor shower isn't as well-known or popular as the Perseid meteor shower in August. The Geminids often fall at rates even greater than the Perseids. But, in 2011, moonlight will interfere with the shower.

excerpt from Deborah Byrd's EarthSky website. Please check out the link for more information: <http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/when-is-the-next-meteor-shower>

New Rock'hound'

by Gene Schade

Hi! My name is Melody. But everyone calls me Mel. You can tell from my picture that I'm a rock hound kitty.

It all began when the people I had been staying with dropped me off on Corpus Christi Beach by the Gem & Mineral Lapidary Shop. I don't know why they didn't come back to get me. It was sort of fun playing on the rocks outside but they were too big for me to roll around. Then one night some rock hounds showed up for a board meeting. I talked to them a lot about letting me inside but they wouldn't do it. Maybe it's because I had not been trained on the equipment or maybe they just thought I was talking about being hungry (and I was very hungry). Anyway everyone left except for two people. They were outside talking to each other and I was talking to both of them as loud as I could. I even climbed around on them a little to make sure I had their attention.

Good News! When they left one of them took me along. So here I am today back amongst the rocks. The difference is that on November 1st I was hungry and homeless. Today I own Casa de Oro Jewelers. Come see me.



New Year New You



Kids Corner Rocks

About Fossils

How are fossils formed?

*Some animals were quickly buried after their death (by sinking in mud, being buried in a sandstorm, etc). Over

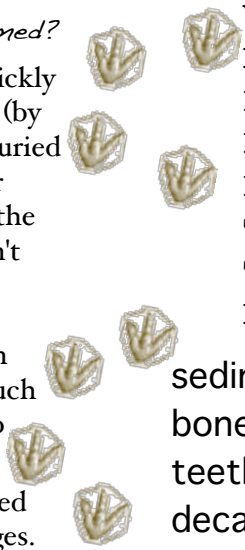
time more and more sediment covered the remains. The parts of the animals that didn't rot (usually the harder parts like bones and teeth) were encased in the newly formed sediment. In the right circumstances (when there is no scavengers, quick burial, not much weathering) parts of the animal turned into fossils over time.

- * After a long time the chemicals in the buried animals bodies underwent a series of changes. As the bone slowly decayed, water infused with minerals seeped into the bone and replaced the chemicals in the bone with rock-like minerals. The process of fossilization involves the dissolving and replacement of the original minerals in the object with other minerals (and or per-mineralization - the filling up of spaces in fossils with minerals, and /or recrystallization in which a mineral changes its form).
- * In the end we get a heavy, rock-like copy of the original object - a fossil. The fossil has the same shape as the original object, but is chemically more like a rock!

source: www.sciencekids.co.nz

Fossil Word Search

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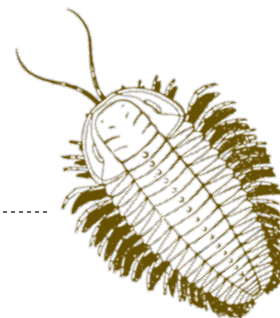


sediment
bones
teeth
decayed
minerals

fossilization
rocks
object
process



Q: What kind of dinosaur can you ride in a rodeo?
A: A Bronco-saurus!



CHECK OUT SOME COOL KIDS LINKS

-  KidsGeo.com
-  Rocksforkids.com
-  KidsHabitat
-  BBC fossils
-  BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles
-  Gray Fossil Museum
-  Dino Dan

WHAT IS THIS? *Answer on bottom of last page*



I'M GNEISS



DON'T TAKE ME FOR GRANITE

Coming Events

December 2011

10 - 11 DE RIDDER, LA

De Ridder G&MS, Beaugard Parish, Fairgrounds

January 2012

06 - 08 MESA, AZ

40th annual show; Flagg Mineral Foundation; Mesa Community College; US 60 at Dobson, southwest parking lot; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; Peralta Stone maps exhibit, fluorescent display, free children's activities, free samples for children and teachers, more than 100 dealers, crystals, minerals, fossils, club and museum booths; contact Dr. Ray Grant, (480) 892-0779; e-mail: Presmyk@cox.net ; Web site: www.AZMinFun.com

6-15 QUARTZSITE, AZ

Annual show; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds; 100 W. Kuehn St.; Fri. 9-5 daily; free admission; rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, silver and gold smithing, faceting, precious metals, lapidary tools, equipment, supplies; contact Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: www.tysonwells.com

20-22 GLOBE, AZ



Annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds; 3 mi. north of Globe on US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$3 per adult or \$5 per couple, students and children free; live demonstrations, gold panning, fossil program, silent auction, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact John O'Brian, PO Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539, (408) 421-2657; e-mail: rocksbynature@hotmail.com; Web site: <http://gilagem.com/>

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; show cases, 11 dealers, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, minerals, geodes, lapidary demonstrations Rock Food Table; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

MEMBER of	<u>American Federation of Mineralogical Societies</u>		<u>South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.</u>	
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 Vice President: Kyle Hinkle Past President: Suzy Nick		Secretary: Suzy Nick Treasurer: Gene Schade, gene@casadeoro.net	
Board Appointees	Membership: Sylvia Kernen Education: open position Librarian: Linda Simpson Show Chair: Jerrold Simpson		Show Publicity: Donna Grimes Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Field Trip Coordinator: John Anderson Dealer Chair: Jerrold Simpson	
Standing Committees	Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Federation Liaison: Linda Simpson Historian: Frances Marten Librarian: Linda Simpson Communications: Suzy Nick		Bulletin Editor; Sylvia Kernen /Art Worley Webmaster: Art Worley/Gene Schade Door Prizes; Gilbert Rodriguez Refreshment Hostess; Letty Rodriguez	
2012 Officers	President: Joe Grimes Vice President: Jerrold Simpson Past President: Kevin Schleicher		Secretary: Gilbert Trejo Treasurer: Gene Schade, gene@casadeoro.net	

Slabs & Cabs
Sylvia Kernen
3942 FM 1781
Rockport TX 78382



Slabs & Cabs Awards



2003 SCFMS
Small Bulletins 4th place

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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XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
xxxx First Street
Anytown, State ZIP



Answer P: 11: *Dinosaur tale drags found in the Blanco river*