



# Slabs & Cabs

Volume 52 Number 1 January 2012

## Our Prez Sez

Happy New Year I hope all of you had a very joyous Holiday with your family and friends. We had a nice visit with our two sons, daughter-in-law and our favorite grand dogs Jinks and Jacks.

I want to thank the nominating committee and club membership for the opportunity to hold the office of president. I also want to give thanks to the 2011 officers, board members and committee chairs for your leadership and time you provided to the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society. It takes many hours of hard work and commitment to have a successful year. Thanks Kevin, Kyle, Gene, Suzy, Mark, Jerrold, Linda, Shanda, Sylvia, Donna, Art and Letty for a job well done.

Our 50th Anniversary Gem and Mineral Show date is March 3-4, 2012 at the Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds. Please make plans to volunteer and participate this year. We will have the committee sign up sheets at the January 17, 2012 general meeting. Let's make the 50th Anniversary show the best Gem and Mineral Show that our society has produced.

Our January program will be "A Journey through the Rock Cycle". We will also have a kid's corner time of fun.

I am borrowing this fun event from Owen Hopkins. At the January meeting bring your "Red" gemstones and minerals for display on the

"IT CERTAINLY IS EXQUISITE TABLE" – and any "BUT WHAT THE DICKENS IS IT" items you may have. Also, a special prize for the best "RED" outfit.

See you Tuesday, January 17.

*Joe*

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## 2012 Board

- President  
*Joe Grimes*
- Vice-President  
*Jerrold Simpson*
- Past President  
*Kevin Schleicher*
- Secretary  
*Gilbert Trejo*
- Treasurer / Webmaster  
*Gene Schade,*  
[gene@casadeoro.net](mailto:gene@casadeoro.net)
- Membership / Newsletter  
*Sylvia Kernen,*  
[syltrans@gmail.com](mailto:syltrans@gmail.com)
- Education:  
*open position*
- Librarian:  
*Linda Simpson*
- Show / Dealer Chair:  
*Jerrold Simpson*
- Show Publicity:  
*Donna Grimes*
- Shop Coordinator:  
*Mark Wolbrink*
- Field Trip Coordinator:  
*open position*
- Federation Liaison:  
*Linda Simpson*
- Historian:  
*Frances Marten*
- Communications:  
*Suzy Nick*
- Door Prizes:  
*Gilbert Rodriguez*
- Refreshment Hostess:  
*Letty Rodriguez*
- Next Board Meeting**  
**7 Feb. 2012 6:30pm - 9pm**  
**at the Lapidary Shop**

# About Quartz

Quartz is a very common mineral, a chemical compound of silicon and oxygen, silicon dioxide SiO<sub>2</sub>, commonly called **silica**. If pure, quartz is a colorless, transparent, and very hard crystalline material of glass-like look. The well known rock crystals, six-sided prisms with a six-sided pyramid at their ends, are simply well formed crystals of quartz.

Quartz appears in a number of **colored varieties**, like amethyst (violet), citrine (yellow), or smoky quartz (gray to brown). It also occurs in **dense forms** with no visible crystals, like the multi-colored agate and the gray flint.

Quartz is an important rock-forming mineral, being a constituent of many common rocks, like granite.

The word "Quarz" (the "t" is missing on purpose) is known from European literature on mining dating back to the 14th century. It is probably of German or Slavic origin.



*Quartz - Rock Crystal*

## Quartz Varieties

Quartz occurs in a great number of varieties that differ in form and color. It occurs as massive aggregates, dense nodules, or crystals in druses. Quartz is colorless if pure, but may assume any color due to inclusions of other minerals or built-in trace elements.

The more common of the varieties have been given their own names - on these web pages about 25 different varieties are distinguished. The different forms of quartz are usually classified in 2 big groups:

**Macrocrystalline** varieties are those that form crystals, like amethyst, or have a macroscopical crystalline structure. When people talk about "quartz", they usually think of macrocrystalline quartz.

Rock Crystal	Ametrine	Aventurine
Citrine	Ferruginous Quartz	Cat's Eye
Prase	Amethyst	Blue Quartz
Rose Quartz	Prasiolite	Hawk's Eye
Smoky Quartz	Milky Quartz	
Pink Quartz	Tiger's Eye	

**Cryptocrystalline** or microcrystalline varieties that do not show any visible crystals and have a dense structure, like agate. Cryptocrystalline varieties are sometimes grouped together under the term chalcedony.

Chalcedony	Flint	Jasper
Agate	Plasma	Sard
Carnelian	Chrysoprase	Onyx
Heliotrope	Chert	

ABOUT QUARTZ *CONTINUED*

If you know what tiger's eye and aventurine look like, you might be confused to find them among macrocrystalline varieties. To understand the difference between the two groups it is best to look at the way the different varieties form in nature.

In addition to these varieties sometimes form varieties or growth forms are distinguished. These are defined by their general shape and are given names that reflect their resemblance with another object, like scepter quartz, artichoke quartz or needle quartz. Note that these categories are only used for macrocrystalline varieties.

**Occurrence**

Quartz is very abundant. It can be found in many different geological environments, and its visual appearance reflects the various conditions under which it was formed.

Large parts of the earth's surface are literally covered with quartz - sand left over from the weathering of rocks, due to its great physical and chemical resistance. Along with calcite, quartz is one of the few minerals that form rocks made up almost entirely of them: quartzites and sandstones. The greatest amounts are hidden in granites and related rocks, though, which contain about 5-50% quartz. The earth's crust as a whole contains about 12% quartz, most of it in continental crust. The earth's mantle and core are completely void of quartz, and very likely the upper mantle does not contain any free silica at all.

**Use**

Colored quartz varieties have been used for jewelry for ages, but most quartz is used as a component of



*Quartz - Agate*

concrete: quartz sand and quartz gravel.

Pure quartz is needed for producing glass, ceramics, and chemical apparatus. Quartz glass, also known as "fused quartz" or "fused silica" (produced by quickly cooling molten quartz) has a number of interesting properties: its thermal expansion coefficient is very low, it is transparent for ultraviolet light, it is chemically almost inert, and it can form very thin but strong threads used in physical instruments.

A well known application of quartz is its use as an oscillator in electric circuits in watches and computers. Less well known is, for example, its use as a membrane in ultrasonic devices.

Quartz is of course the major "ore" of silicon, used in the integrated circuits ("chips") of your computer.

Last but not least, the on-going New Age movement and its associated esoteric culture has (re-)discovered quartz, and probably most of the quartz web pages in the Internet are related to the marketing of rock crystals and other quartz varieties for esoteric purposes.

Because of its technical importance, its abundance, and its role in geologic processes, quartz is probably the best-studied of all minerals. But still not everything about it is understood.

*Check out more information on the Source Webpage: <http://www.quartzpage.de/intro.html>*

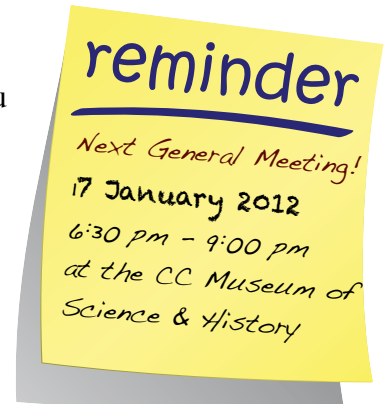
# Club News and Information

## Happy Birthday!



A very happy birthday from all of us goes out to:  
Dee Schade on 24 January

Please send me your birthdate information, so you can be mentioned as well. [syltrans@gmail.com](mailto:syltrans@gmail.com)



## Newsletter Submissions

If you went on a field trip, would like to share information about gems and minerals, or have any information (articles, minutes, ideas) for the newsletter, please email them to Sylvia: [syltrans@gmail.com](mailto:syltrans@gmail.com) by the first Thursday morning 9:00 a.m. of every month.



## Mystery Fossil

The University of California Museum of Paleontology has given GCGMS permission to use their wonderful site for a new 'test your knowledge' quiz about mystery fossils. Thank you UCMP! We will have one mystery fossil every months, so don't go peeking ahead ☺. To check the answer click on the link 'Did you guess correctly'.



This month's Mystery Fossil hails from the Miocene age Monterey Formation of southern California. Their fossil record is rather sparse, as these organisms do not produce hard parts.

**Did you guess correctly?**

Source: University of California Museum of Paleontology  
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/>

# Kids Corner Rocks

## About Fossils

### What do fossils tell us?

Rock layers can tell us Earth's history because they preserve past events. Fossils help scientists determine the age of the layered rocks. Fossils also tell us what happened in Earth's history and when it happened. Fossils can be used to recognize rocks of the same or different ages. They are clues to former life.

Learn about how earth's time is organized at [Geologic Time Scale](#)

Take a journey through the history of earth at the [Geology Wing](#).



<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/exhibit/geology.html>

### Rock & Fossil Word Search

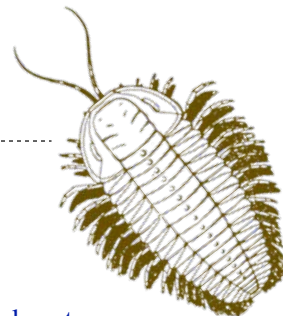
E O T L H W N F T I D S T E  
 T T H E U E C I N N N T E K  
 M E T A M O R P H I C I Z S  
 O K H N A A Y T F V K G I P  
 F N M C R U S T S T P X X L  
 S R O D Y I T L T F S E S I  
 M H E S N C A E E S S R E Q  
 O S R L N R L Z S E O E N L  
 H D O O E S S E S R O L G F  
 S G S N C U I O I E T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

rock  
 mineral  
 soil  
 erosion

crust  
 cycle  
 crystals  
 metamorphic






Q: Why are there old dinosaur bones in the museum?  
 A: Because they can't afford new ones!



### CHECK OUT SOME COOL KIDS LINKS



-  [KidsGeo.com](#)
-  [Rocksforkids.com](#)
-  [KidsHabitat](#)

-  [BBC fossils](#)
-  [BBC walking with beasts](#)
-  [BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles](#)

# Coming Events

January 2012

**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](mailto:tysonwells@tds.net); Web site: [www.tysonwells.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jeffbrenda@windstream.net) or 830-895-9630; printable flyer on website: [www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://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](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com)

February 2012

**18 - 19 GEORGETOWN, TX**

Annual show; Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society; Community Center; San Gabriel Park; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, children (under 6) free; Rollin' Rock Club meeting Sun.; contact Wanda Reynolds, 2100 Magazine St., Austin, TX 78727, (512) 461-0084; e-mail: [dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com); Web site: [www.cgms.org](http://www.cgms.org)

**25 - 26 PASADENA, TX**

Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$1, children (under 12) and all Scouts and leaders in uniform free; contact Ben Duggar, 2109 Laughing Gull Ln., League City, TX 77573, (281) 316-6710; e-mail: [sailduggar@verizon.net](mailto:sailduggar@verizon.net); Web site: [www.clgms.org](http://www.clgms.org)

# Code of Ethics

- 🕒 I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- 🕒 I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- 🕒 I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- 🕒 I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- 🕒 I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- 🕒 I will leave all gates as found.
- 🕒 I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- 🕒 I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- 🕒 I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- 🕒 I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- 🕒 I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 🕒 I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- 🕒 I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- 🕒 I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- 🕒 I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes
- 🕒 I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.



We'll be on our way in no time Agnes  
You unload the rocks and I'll change the tire

by Bill Mittlebeeler via Dust & Grit 2/00  
via Golden Spike News 4/00

# 03 January 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

## of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 01-03-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:36 pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Jerrold Simpson, Kevin Schleicher, Sylvia Kernen and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. He stated that there were few expenses in December. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Gilbert Trejo seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. He said that there was more activity in December. An A/C man looked at the A/C unit and stated that a small unit that could fit the space available would not be expensive. Some of the lights outside the building and inside do not work. Mark will check with the city. After discussion on heating the lab, a motion was made by Joe Grimes to have Mark purchase two or more oil filled heaters and Jerrold Simpson seconded it. The motion was approved.

There was no Federation report.

Sylvia Kernen gave the Membership Report. There are 38 adult members, 10 junior members and 10 honorary members.

Donna Grimes and Jerrold Simpson gave their portions of the Show Report. We have one new dealer contract. The advertisements have been sent.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Education Report. Jerrold and Linda Simpson are preparing an educational program.

Joe Grimes went over the duties of each officer per by-laws. The term of Treasurer being five years as approved but not written was discussed. The division of Librarian and Membership Chairman was discussed. The Standing

Committees are an area where other club members can become involved.

Under new business, an audit was discussed. As per by-laws, the Past President and Treasurer will do an audit of the funds.

Joe Grimes requested what can be done for kids activities for the meetings. He said the activities should be hands on during the break. He said he would do the first kids activity for the next meeting.

Joe Grimes asked for the insurance certificates. Jerrold Simpson said they could be received by sending an e-mail to the company.

Joe Grimes stated the other members should be in charge of specific activities at the show such as the ticket booth and kids wheel. Having more members involved would spread the work.

Joe Grimes asked about scholarship applications. Gene Schade said there are no applications. The deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup> so we will get some applications by that time.

Under old business, the club web site was discussed. The domain must be renewed in February. Gene Schade said he has been trying to contact the person who hosts the site. Sylvia Kernen said she would also try and contact him. Gene stated we do not have a contract with the web host. Donna Grimes expressed concern that the web site might be unavailable before the Rock Show.

The Rock Camp was discussed. A chairman is needed by the February meeting. Kevin Schleicher said he is willing to be chairman, but will need help. Donna Grimes made a motion to have Kevin Schleicher Rock Camp Chairman with Gene Schade second. The motion passed. Jerrold Simpson makes a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm seconded by Joe Grimes. The motion passed.



## MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2012

Membership dues for 2012 are due in **January 2012**.

We have 4 types of memberships and they are as follows:

1. Single \$ 15.00
2. Spousal \$ 20.00
3. Junior \$ 5.00 (this is for any member from the age of 6 - 17 years of age)
4. Honorary, does not pay dues

If dues are not paid by the time of the show you will

**Forfeit your membership**

## 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.



## 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*

**MEMBER of**

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**



**South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.**



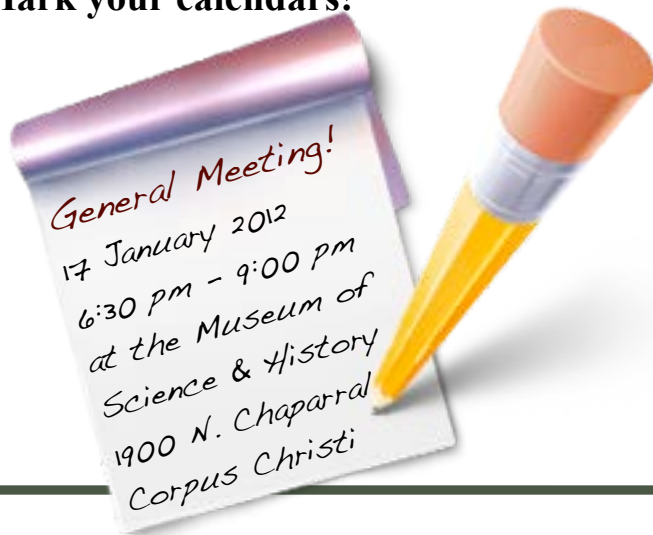
**Meeting**

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

**Mark your calendars!**



Visit us on our website

[www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)



we are also on [Facebook](#), come and 'like' us on there as well!

Slabs & Cabs  
Sylvia Kernan  
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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Anytown, State ZIP

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