



# Slabs & Cabs

Volume 54 Number 3 March 2012

## Our Prez Sez

Our 50th Anniversary Gem and Mineral Show was a great success. Thank you to all of our club members who worked set up, ticket table, club booth, kids' wheel, silent auction and take down, without you it would not have run so smoothly. The show was well attended by those who come out every year and some for the very first time. We hope to see them again in the future.

Special thanks to Hunter Paradise and the Flour Bluff ROTC members, Timothy Darst, Josian Anderson, and Sawyer Paradise that helped out on Sunday.

A big Thanks to our Show Chairman, Jerrold and his wife Linda, for a well organized show. This takes many hours of planning and we thank you for your dedication. Also thank you, to your out of town family members that came and helped out for the weekend. Harlan came from McAllen, Saul, Heather, Cecelia and Iva came from Austin, they were a tremendous help.

Plans are already made for our 51st Annual Show, so save the date: March 2nd and 3rd, 2013.

Come to the March meeting and see what Jerrold has planned for us. We will also have a kid's corner time of fun, hosted by Norma Trejo.

At the March meeting bring your "GREEN" 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 "Green" outfit.

See you Tuesday, March 19th.

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*Joe*

*Who in this world of ours their eyes  
In March first open shall be wise,  
In days of peril firm and brave,  
And wear a bloodstone to their grave.*



### 2012 Board

- President  
[Joe Grimes](#)
- Vice-President  
[Jerrold Simpson](#)
- Past President  
[Kevin Schleicher](#)
- Secretary  
[Gilbert Trejo](#)
- Treasurer / Webmaster  
[Gene Schade](#)
- Membership / Newsletter  
[Sylvia Kernen,](#)  
[newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org)
- 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 Martin](#)
- Communications:  
[Suzy Nick](#)
- Door Prizes:  
[Michelle Alvarez](#)
- Refreshment Hostess:  
[Letty Rodriguez](#)

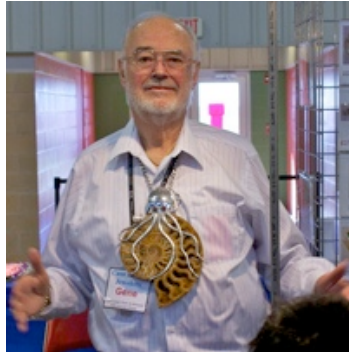
# GCGMS' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show

## in Pictures

I think it's safe to say that the show was a success in every way.

We had a great turnout on Saturday, and Sunday was good as well. Saturday was better than any of the previous three years. It was great to see all show cases filled with member contents, three of them were Junior Member exhibits. Well done!

Thanks to all that volunteered and made this show possible!



*Gene Schade*



*Petrified Wood Display by Hunter Paradise*



*Junior Rock Hound Display by Jacob White*



*50 years in Pictures*



*Fossil Display by Junior Rock Hound Jarrett Kernen*



*so many Visitors*





# Club News and Information



## Happy Birthday!

A very happy birthday to:

David Satterwhite on the 6<sup>th</sup>

Auston Adams on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Robert Owen on the 18<sup>th</sup>

and all members born in March! Please send me your birthdates information, so you can be mentioned as well.

[newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org)



## Welcome!

A warm welcome goes out to all our new members who signed up at the Show.

## Congratulations!

At the last general meeting Art Worley received a certificate of Appreciation for his dedication to the GCGMS and his services as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.



And last but not least we have the monthly meeting color contestants.

The winner was Suzy (on the very left). She was tone in tone from head to toe. Suzy Nick received a very pretty Orange Calcite.



*Never lend a geologist money.  
They consider a million years ago to be recent.*

# Club News and Information



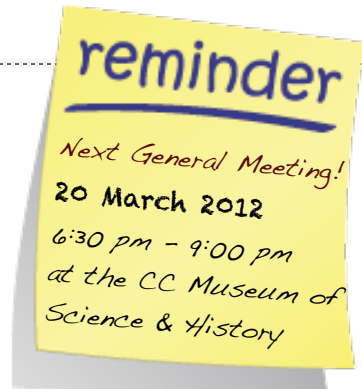
## Website

Come and check out the new website! Gene and Sylvia worked hard - and are still at it - to make the new site look nice and have the information our members and potential members need and want. It is a work in progress and if you have any input you would like to share let Gene Schade know.

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## 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: [Newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:Newsletter@gcgms.org) by the first Thursday morning 9:00 a.m. of every month.



## Mystery Fossil



At about three meters tall, this organism from the Middle Devonian was among the tallest of its kind. Its living relatives may include ferns and horsetails.

**Did you guess correctly?**

# March Birthstone

## Bloodstone

Well, researching this months birthstone was quite an interesting quest for this new rockhound. I entered Bloodstone in Google's search engine and went through several articles. Right from the beginning there seemed to be contradictory information. All the articles agreed that bloodstone was also called heliotrope which stems from the Greek 'helios' for sun and 'trepein' to turn. But what a bloodstone or heliotrope actually is was confusing. Several sites told me that it is a green Jasper dotted with bright red dots of iron oxide. Wikipedia however told me it was a form of chalcedony. But my husband always tells me not to trust Wikipedia and to double check my sources, so I did. I went to our trusty encyclopedia Britannica and found the following definition:

Dark-green variety of the silica mineral chalcedony that has nodules of bright-red jasper distributed throughout its mass. Polished sections therefore show red spots on a dark-green background, and from the resemblance of these to drops of blood it derives its name. Bloodstone was greatly prized in the Middle Ages and was used in sculptures representing flagellation and martyrdom; it later became of small importance. Notable occurrences include the Kāthiāwār Peninsula, India. Its physical properties are those of quartz.

*Source:*

*MLA Style: "bloodstone." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate*

*Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2011.*

*APA Style: bloodstone. (2011). Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica*

*Ultimate Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica.*

After checking and double checking I went back and put in the search engine Jasper. To my surprise the response was: Jasper is a form of chalcedony. So I am still not quite satisfied with



by Sylvia Kernen

the answers I found. When I looked up chalcedony I got this answer:

Is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, composed of very fine intergrowths of the minerals quartz and moganite. Chalcedony occurs in many different forms. Many semi-precious gemstones are a form of chalcedony. Some of the varieties are:

Agate, Aventurine, Carnelian Chrysoprase, **Heliotrope**, Moss Agate, Mtorolite and Onyx

If you are like me and still not quite clear what a bloodstone is exactly, then maybe this helps:

The Heliotrope/Bloodstone belongs in the category of Minerals, the chemical formula is SiO<sub>2</sub> (silicon dioxide). Under Identification I found these facts:

Crystal system:	Trigonal
Mohs scale hardness:	6.5 - 7
Luster:	Vitreous
Specific gravity:	2.61
Refractive index:	1.53 - 1.54
Birefringence:	0.004

The primary source of the stone is India. It is also found in Brazil, China, Australia and the United States. There is also an outcrop of bloodstone on the Isle Of Rum, in Scotland.

*Source:*

[Wikipedia](#)

From the esoteric side I read that the Bloodstone should be used as a charm for athletes who require added strength. In ancient times it was also believed to stop hemorrhages by merely touching the stone.

If you are confused by this whole article you might want to grab a bloodstone as it is said to dispel bewilderment. ☺

The alternative Birthstone for March is the Aquamarine.

# Kids Corner

## Rocks

### About Fossils

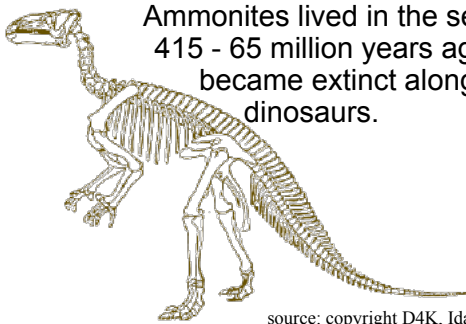
#### Invertebrate Fossils

You're probably familiar with dinosaur fossils, but did you know that they form only a small fraction of the millions of species that have lived on Earth?

Most of the fossil record is dominated by fossils of animals who had shells.

What is an [ammonite](#)?

Check out these Invertebrate Fossils  
Probably the most familiar fossil is the ammonite. These predators belong to the group called cephalopods, which include squid, octopus and nautilus.



Ammonites lived in the seas between 415 - 65 million years ago, then became extinct along with the dinosaurs.

source: copyright D4K, Idaho Public Television  
<http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season6/fossils/facts.cfm>

#### Rock & Fossils Word Search

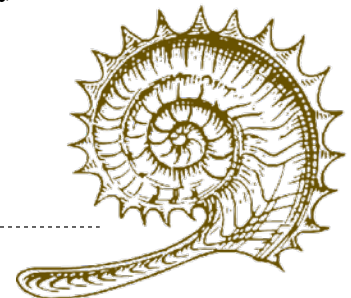
E	E	O	A	E	P	N	S	L	A	O	E	I	S
E	T	R	O	R	J	D	H	T	N	E	S	E	N
F	S	G	W	M	I	N	V	B	B	A	O	T	P
S	Z	E	C	J	X	N	O	E	P	I	R	O	R
W	A	N	A	C	S	V	R	D	H	O	S	O	G
L	S	C	I	E	O	W	R	R	O	Y	R	X	D
Z	E	N	T	I	W	R	S	O	S	A	D	I	H
G	H	P	I	F	S	F	E	C	P	Q	M	D	J
H	E	R	W	I	J	M	Z	K	H	I	E	E	O
E	M	M	D	S	S	U	L	F	A	T	E	S	Z
N	A	Y	F	N	I	T	R	A	T	E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

bedrock  
mantle  
core  
sulfides  
halides

oxides  
nitrates  
sulfates  
phosphates



Q: Is it true that a dinosaur won't attack if you hold a tree branch?  
A: That depends on how fast you carry it!



#### CHECK OUT SOME COOL KIDS LINKS

- [KidsGeo.com](http://KidsGeo.com)
- [Rocksforkids.com](http://Rocksforkids.com)
- [KidsHabitat](http://KidsHabitat)
- [BBC fossils](http://BBC fossils)

- [BBC walking with beasts](http://BBC walking with beasts)
- [BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles](http://BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles)
- [Oxford University Museum about fossils](http://Oxford University Museum about fossils)
- [Oxford University Museum about rocks](http://Oxford University Museum about rocks)



# Coming Events

March 2012

**8 - 11**

## **DEMING, NEW MEXICO**

47th annual show and sale; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; SWNM Fairgrounds; Raymond Reed Blvd.; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 100 dealers; contact Maurice Crawford, 713 W. Spruce PMB 726, Deming, NM 88031, (575) 546-0056; e-mail: mauryjudy@yahoo.com; Web site: [www.dgms.bravehost.com](http://www.dgms.bravehost.com)

**10**

## **BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

Show; Baton Rouge Recreation Commission; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center; 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.; Sat. 9-4; adults \$5, children \$4; activities, displays, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, hiking trails, gemstone identification card activity, pyrite "gold" mine, exhibits, dealers, rough and polished mineral specimens, fossils, stone crafts, rock climbing wall, flint-knapping demonstration, geode-cutting station; contact Claire Coco, (225) 413-5355; e-mail: ccoco@brec.org; Web site: [www.brec.org/swamp](http://www.brec.org/swamp)

**16-18**

## **ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Annual show; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; New Mexico State Fairgrounds; CAC Bldg., San Pedro Ave. entrance; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3; more than 40 dealers, crystals, jewelry, fossils, rocks, minerals, decorator items, jewelry, books, supplies, beads, mineral ID booth, visits by a well-behaved and socialized wolf, NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources educational booth, kids' grab bags, silent auctions, about 20 displays; contact Paul Hlava, PO Box 13718, Albuquerque, NM 87192, (505) 255-5478; e-mail: [paulhlava@q.com](mailto:paulhlava@q.com); Web site: [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

**17 - 18**

## **LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TX**

Annual show; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors and military \$3, students (with ID) \$2, children (5-12) \$1, under 5 free; contact Robert Bowie; e-mail: [krobotx@gvtc.com](mailto:krobotx@gvtc.com); Web site: [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

**24 - 25**

## **MASON, TX**

Mar 24: Texas Topaz Day (free admission); Mar 25: Texas Faceters' Guild Seminar (\$75 for non-members).

for more March 2012 shows all over North America go to:  
<http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

Well, the other day I heard that the snakes are out again, so I thought this article might be appropriate. Be safe out there!

## RATTLE - RATTLE

by Mel Albright - RMFMS Safety Chairman  
taken from the <http://www.amfed.org> site

When we are out on field trips, we should remember that we are not alone. We are visiting the home of a great number of other critters - some of whom - snakes, bugs, and varmints - are not real friendly. They even attack to protect themselves and their homes or because they are ill.

Rattlesnakes are everyone's big worry, of course. With some reason, too. Their bite can be very dangerous. And, contrary to myth, they don't always rattle to warn you before they bite. Of course, there are other poisonous snakes too - the copperhead, the cottonmouth water moccasin, the coral snake. And a whole bunch of harmless ones, too. The only way out from meeting one of these snakes too closely is to not get where they are. When you are where they might be, you must ALWAYS 'look before you leap'. Before you take a step, look ahead. Before you step over a rock (or branch, or trunk, or whatever), look on the other side to see who's lying there. Before you stick your hand in a hole or behind a rock, poke around with a stick to see if it is occupied. Always go slow, so you won't "run" into a snake. And - if bitten, go immediately to a hospital. ALL the old first aid we heard about as kids is NO LONGER RECOMMENDED!

Scorpions are another danger. These range from as dangerous as a bumble bee to deadly as you go from the oak woods to the desert. Remember, these are shy creatures. They like to hide in cracks, crevices, under rocks, under brush, in brick pile holes, in concrete blocks, in your unattended shoes, in unattended gloves, in bedrolls, or under picnic baskets - almost anywhere. So, if you stick your hands or feet into hiding places without looking first, you may get stung. Another thing, never assume a place is too small for one - they can squeeze into and through unbelievably small cracks. So - LOOK FIRST - then reach - even if you have spotted an

egg size facet grade ruby. Again, if stung, it's hospital time.

Ticks, mosquitoes, flies, 'can't see-ums', chiggers and other bugs are, for the most part, irritating nuisances. They can be avoided through proper use of bug repellants and flowers of sulfur. And should be. Tick bites should be closely watched after the tick is removed. If they don't clear up immediately, check with your doctor - they may have been carrying Lyme's disease - potentially fatal if not treated.

Finally, if you see an animal - skunk, fox, squirrel, rabbit, whatever - that isn't acting naturally, then RUN the other way. One symptom of rabies is for animals to become unafraid of predators - including you. Another is for them to change normal habits- like nocturnal animals wandering around during the day. Don't make friends, feed, or approach wild animals. Avoid them.





# General Meeting Minutes 21 February 2012

## of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Regular Meeting for 02-21-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 7:01pm. The meeting was held at the Corpus Christi Museum.

Linda Simpson made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meetings. Suzie Nicks seconded it. The motion passed.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Bill Patillo made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report seconded by Kevin Schleicher. The motion passed.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. He said there will be 24 vendors. Jerrold said there will be \$8,770 net income for show fees and the building is paid and the tables and chairs rent will be paid at the end of the show. There will be 18 cases available for club member displays. The Flour Bluff ROTC will send member to work Sunday.

Donna Grimes said that the Rock Show will be on Channel 3's Early Show, in the newspaper and KOUL 93.8 radio. Donna goes over the letter to dealer explaining the comp tickets we are giving them.

Sylvia Kernen gave the Membership Report. There are 50 adult members, 10 junior members.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. Mark said the city representative came by and took pictures. Mark told him of problems at the shop. Later, items such as lights outside, ceiling tiles and light covers were repaired.

Joe Grimes said we have no field trips scheduled and we need a field trip chairman.

Linda Simpson goes over the library at the shop. She said you can sign a card and check out magazines and books. Linda said she has new Federation rule changes.

There was no old business.

Under new business, a presentation was made to Art Worley in recognition of his years of service

as web master. A plaque and mounted agate slab were given.

Donna Grimes goes over the rules for club member selling items at the silent auction. Five items can be sold with a separate colored sheet that has the member name, the minimum bid and the bid raise limit.

Jerrold Simpson asks Sylvia to put into the newsletter that Michelle Alvarez is the ticket chairperson.

Bill and Lois Patillo judge the members wearing orange. They select Suzie Nicks as the winner.

Kevin Schleicher goes over the Rock Camp. Linda Simpson said the dates are the 13, 14, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of June. She said there will be flyers at the Rock Show.

Jerrold Simpson said that those persons working on the set up for the Rock Show meet at 7:30 at the storage unit.

Les made a motion to rent a trailer seconded by Kevin Scheicher. During discussion, a club member volunteered a trailer. The motion to rent a trailer was denied. The volunteered trailer would be used.

Suzie Nicks makes a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm seconded by Donna Grimes. The motion passed with Joe Grimes voting no.

A separate Board Meeting was requested by Joe Grimes of all Board Members after the meeting. Joe Grimes called the meeting to order at 8:20pm. Joe Grimes explained that he had received the contract for lease with the City of Corpus Christi for the Timons Building. The City Staff would like the lease signed this week to send to the City Council for approval. The Board Members went over the lease agreement which is the same as the prior agreement except for mailing address changes. Donna Grimes made a motion to allow the Chairman to sign the Lease with the City of Corpus Christi. The motion was seconded by Gilbert Trejo. The motion passed.

# Board Meeting Minutes 06 March 2012

## of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 03-06-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:49 pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Sylvia Kernen, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Donna Grimes seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. He said that there was more activity in February. Mark stated that some of the donated machines were now working.

Sylvia Kernen gave the Membership Report. There are 80 adult members, 15 junior members. Donna Grimes made a motion to accept the Membership Report seconded by Mark Wolbrink. The motion was approved.

Donna Grimes gave the Show Report. Donna Grimes presented the bills for advertisements, the kids wheel, the grand prize, raffle prize and food for set up. Donna said that there were 1,504 paid tickets, 97 give away tickets and 70 prepaid tickets for a total of 1,671 tickets. That gave total ticket revenue of \$7,479 ticket receipts. She also said not all the ad bills are in. Jerrold Simpson said that Gene Schade had paid for the facility in the amount of \$6,507.25. The raffle prize winner was Marilou Wendlan and the grand prize winner was Marissa Telge.

Joe Grimes said that by the next meeting the total bills will be in and the show report can be given. He said the color of the month is green. Jerrold Simpson will give the program at the meeting and Gilbert and Norma Trejo will do the kids activity.

Joe Grimes asked that the people that did the show activities write down a list of items that could be done to make the show better.

Under old business, Linda Simpson talked about the Kids Camp. She has talked to Kevin Schleicher and they have a schedule for the

camp. We are still looking for a field trip site. She is looking into a rock quarry. Linda said that the activities will be following the badges to be awarded. The camp will be June 13-16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Joe Grimes asked if the museum had set the date on their calendar. Linda said she would contact them. She also stated she is working on a list of items needed and we already have some.

Gene Schade said that the audits have been done for the months of January and February and the year of 2011.

Mark Wolbrink asked about the air conditioners. The air conditioner repairman had stated that we could buy a unit and have him install it or have him buy it and install it but either way it would be cheaper than the estimate given before of \$1,700. Jerrold said he would contact Suzie Nicks to get the number of the air conditioner repairman.

Gene Schade was approached by someone at the show about scholarships. He stated that since no scholarship applications were received this year we should do a fall and spring scholarship. Linda Simpson asked if each scholarship would be \$1,000 and Gene said yes. Donna Grimes said that two scholarships and the Kids Camp would take almost all the revenue of the Rock Show. Jerrold Simpson said we also had other revenue such as the auctions at the meetings. Gene Schade made a motion to make a fall and spring scholarship grant. The motion was seconded by Jerrold Simpson. The motion passed.

Under new business, Joe Grimes said that the Clearlake Club chairman had approached him to say that he has a trailer that does sluicing demonstrations. He would like to have space at our rock show. He said the trailer is self contained and had its own water that is recycled and separates fractured gemstones.

Linda Simpson makes a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm seconded by Jerrold Simpson. The motion passed.

# Shop Rules

## 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 the above mentioned 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 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The shop is open during these times for use of the equipment even if you are not involved in a class.

The shop is also open Saturday 9:00 until noon.



Luck o' the Irish to you!





**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

**Purpose**

The objective and purpose of the society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy, the earth sciences and the lapidary arts. To encourage study in these subjects through the means of: presentation of public exhibitions, field trips for exploration, study and collection of specimens, the presentations of lectures, illustrated programs, demonstrations and similar programs pertaining to the fields of mineralogy, earth sciences and the lapidary arts.

**Mark your calendars!**



**www**

Visit us on our website [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)



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

**GCGMS**

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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