



Slabs & Cabs

Volume 63

Number 12

December 2012

Howdy Rockhounds!

Happy Holidays to you! I enjoy the Christmas Holidays and all the festivities that lead up to Christmas Day when we celebrate the birth of the Light of the World.

As 2012 comes to a close and I reflect on it, I am thankful for how blessed we are in the U. S. and in South Texas in particular.

I am thankful for each and every board member that has served the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society in 2012. Thanks Jerrold, Gene, Gilbert, Mark, Kevin, Sylvia, Linda and Donna. A special thanks goes out to Gene who served as our treasurer for the past 5 years. He will continue on the board as the Membership chairman, publicity chair, web master and in many other needed areas! Thanks Gene. Also a special thanks to Sylvia who served as membership chair. She is stepping down from that position, but continues on the board in the position as News Letter Editor. She does a fantastic job and is much appreciated.

The board welcomes Hank Swan as the 2013 treasurer.

At the November General Meeting Russell Wheeler gave a presentation on "Mineral Families." It was a fantastic presentation that we all enjoyed and was very informative.

Russell will be giving additional presentations in the near future; you won't want to miss them. Thanks Russell.

Our December meeting was the Annual Christmas Banquet. The 2013 officers were installed, and we enjoyed good food and fellowship!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you!

See you January 15, 2013

Joe

INSIDE

Presidents Message _____	Pg 1
Club News and Information _____	Pg 2
Birthstone _____	Pg 3
Regular Meeting Minutes _____	Pg 4
Board Meeting Minutes _____	Pg 5
Shop Keys & Rules _____	Pg 6
Coming Events _____	Pg 7
AFMS _____	Pg 8
Kids Corner _____	Pg 9
Last Page _____	Pg 10

Birthstone - Traditional

If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
Place on your hand a turquoise blue;
Success will bless whate er you do.

2012/13 Board

President
Joe Grimes

Vice-President
Jerrold Simpson

Past President
Kevin Schleicher

Secretary
Gilbert Trejo

Treasurer
Hank Swan

Membership / Web master
Gene Schade

Newsletter
Sylvia Kernen, 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
Joe Grimes

Historian
open position

Communications
Suzy Nick

Door Prizes
Michelle Alvarez

Refreshment Hostess
Letty Rodriguez

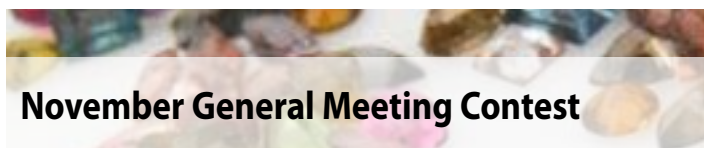
www.gcgms.org

Club News & Information



November General Meeting Contest

At our November general meeting the color of the month was silver. Our contest of 'best dressed in that color' had 4 lovely participants. It wasn't easy to choose a winner. Our last month's winner also won this month. Congratulations to Victoria Longo. She received a galena as prize.



November General Meeting Contest

We also had a very special treat ... our guest speaker was our own member and geologist/gemologist Russell Wheeler. He gave a very interesting presentation about all the different mineral families and the chemical relationships that the individual families share. Thank you Russell for taking the time to speak to us we look forward to your next presentation.



Happy Birthday

to: Linda Simpson William Bisbee
 Elaine Boughton Servando Caballeno
 Susan Fest Lupita Franco
 Daniel Griswold Stephen Johnston
 Jarrett Kernan Mary Juarez
 Dale London Donna Satterwhite
 Kelly White

and all members born in December! Please send me your birthdate information, so you can be mentioned as well. newsletter@gcgms.org



We all shared a lovely evening at our annual Christmas Party on the 7th of December. Everybody brought goodies and we all had a great Christmas dinner. After the dinner the new board was presented. Gene Schade completed the term as treasurer but decided to stay on the board as the membership and web master chair. Hank Swan will be taking over the treasurer position. Thank you Hank for volunteering and Gene for all your hard work over the years. The meeting was



From left to right: Secretary Gilbert Trejo, Vice President Jerrold Simpson, Treasurer Hank Swan and President Joe Grimes

adjourned and the fun part of the evening began. We exchanged gifts (bring one get one) and the drawing of the paid up membership people, took place. The Kernan family won a wonderfully polished Geode prepared by our shopmaster Mark Wolbrink.



From left to right: President Joe Grimes, Sylvia and Hans Kernan

Thank you everybody who participated and joined us in our annual Christmas Party.



From left to right: Donna, Gene (hard at work in his new position) Mrs. Longo, Kevin, Mark and Dee

Birthstone for December - Tanzanite

Tanzanite

November Birthstone :
Tanzanite

Birthstone Color: Blue/
Purple

(calcium aluminium hydroxy silicate)

Until recently, the question, what is the December birthstone, could be answered only two ways. In 2002, however, the American Gem Trade Association officially added tanzanite, a new gemstone, to the birthstone December list. Tanzanite is a blue-lavender stone primarily mined in Tanzania that was discovered only in 1967 and has since been associated with the virtues of contentment and understanding—powerful symbolism for a beautiful new stone. The tanzanite is said to have better fire, and therefore more sparkle, than similar stones like the tourmaline or peridot, and it is hard and durable enough for use in many kinds of jewelry settings.

Tanzanite has a unique attribute called trichroism—meaning it can appeal alternately



A rough sample of tanzanite

deep blue, violet, or burgundy depending on the orientation of the crystal structure and the



cutting of the stone. When it is mined, tanzanite is usually a deep red, but once it has been heated to 600 degrees, it gradually transforms into a violet blue. While tanzanite has made some impression on the gemstone market, it remains a rare stone, and is still found mostly in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, deep in the heart of Tanzania.

source: <http://www.about-birthstones.com/decemberbirthstone.html>

Alternate Birthstone

ZIRCON

Derived from the Arabic words zar and gun, meaning gold and color, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.



TURQUOISE

The name turquoise, from the French expression Pierre tourques or Turkish stone, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.



<http://www.americangemsociety.org/december-birthstones>

Regular Meeting 27 November 2012

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Regular Meeting for 11-27-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:56 pm. The meeting was held at the Corpus Christi Museum in the Junior League meeting room.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer Report. Gene went over the income and expense items such as rock sales, dealer fees, shop expenses, refreshments, printing costs and next year's kids' camp. Mark Schleicher made a motion seconded by Michele Alvarez to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted aye.

Gilbert Trejo said there were not any changes to the Secretary Report. Donna Grimes made a motion seconded by Mary Lou Swan to accept the Secretary's Report. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. He said that he met a gentleman who donated equipment we do not have. Mark said all saws are working. Dick Kline made a motion seconded by Jerrold

Simpson to accept the Shop Report. Sylvia Kernen gave the Membership Report. She said there are 129 adult members. Serena Longo made a motion seconded by Russell Wheeler to accept the Membership Report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. Jerrold said that there are 22 committed dealers. Donna Grimes has contacted Channel III and the radio stations and they are preparing contracts for the advertisements. The presale and complementary tickets are in, as are the posters. Russell Wheeler made a motion seconded by Serena Longo to accept the Show and Advertising reports. All voted aye.

There is not a Field Trip Chairman to make a report.

Under old business Joe Grimes went over the Nominating Committees Report. He stated the slate is Joe Grimes as President, Jerrold Simpson as Vice President and

Gilbert Trejo as Secretary. Joe said that nominations can be made from the floor at this time. There were not nominations from the floor. Serena Longo made a motion seconded by Mark Wolbrink to accept the slate of Officers as presented. All voted aye.

Joe Grimes said that the Officers would be installed at the Christmas Dinner in December. The meeting will include a pot luck dinner from 6 to 9.

Joe Grimes said that any member who renews their membership before or at the December meeting will be eligible for a drawing.

Under new business, Linda Simpson said they will be making presentations at Sinton schools and the Neyland Library.

Joe Grimes presented the new logo made by Sylvia Kernen.

Serena Longo makes a motion to adjourn seconded by Sylvia Kernen. The motion passed.

Mystery Fossil



This fossil skeleton appears to have long arm bones. Could it be a pterosaur of some kind? Nope. Fossils of this kind of critter are quite rare and don't appear until after the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction episode. Do you know what it is?

Did you guess correctly?

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/historyoflife/mysteries/mystery12/mystery12.html>

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

Board Meeting 04 December 2012

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 12-4-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:37pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson, Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Kevin Schleicher, Sylvia Kernen and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Gene gave an overview of the Show income. Gene said the totals are not correct and he needs to review them to see where the report needs to be corrected. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Sylvia Kernen to not accept the report until Gene has reviewed it and e-mails the correct report. All voted aye.

Gilbert Trejo gave the Secretary Report. He said there were no corrections. Linda Simpson made a motion to accept the report seconded by Mark Wolbrink. All voted aye.

Sylvia Kernen gave the membership report. Sylvia said there are 131 adult members and 33 juvenile members. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the membership report, seconded by Jerrold Simpson. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. Mark said the machines are running fine. He said that we will have to buy oil soon but not now so he gave several options and said he will make a recommendation when action is needed. Jerrold

Simpson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Kevin Schleicher. All voted aye

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. Jerrold said he had contact all dealers but some have not responded back. Jerrold and Linda Simpson went over the status of the display cases in storage.

Donna Grimes said that she has gotten together with the advertiser and the prices will be about the same as last years. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the Show Report and the Show Advertising Reports, seconded by Linda Simpson. All vote aye.

Under old business, The Christmas Party will be next Friday. The gift for early registration was discussed. A gift of the material at the shop was felt by members to be appropriate.

Under new business, Joe Grimes said that an audit is needed before the new Treasurer comes in. Joe said that Kevin Schleicher need so get a written audit performed. Joe said that Kevin can get others to help him with this report. He said that expenses will not be done until January.

Gene Schade reviewed the Treasures Report. Gene said that totals for the month of November were wrong and gave the correct totals. Kevin Schleicher makes a motion to accept the corrected Treasures Report, seconded by Jerrold Simpson. All voted aye

Gene Schade went over that four

new members that had recently joined and if that membership was for FY 2013 and also if it was 2013 membership are they eligible for the early member drawing. The discussion was that membership should be prorated if taken later in the year. Mark Wolbrink made a motion seconded by Kevin Schleicher to roll these new members into 2013. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson said that some of the display cases for the Rock Show have broken glass. Mark Wolbrink made a motion seconded by Donna Grimes to buy glass for the broken display cases. All voted aye.

Joe Grimes said that a bill had been presented by Hank Swan for reimbursement for purchase of a flexible rotary head. Joe asked if the Shop Forman had approved this bill prior to purchase and Mark said no. Mark Wolbrink made a motion seconded by Donna Grimes that the bill be reimbursed.

Joe Grimes said the new Membership Chairman is Gene Schade.

Donna Grimes said that the club should get new table covers for the display cases and show and club tables. Donna said she would get price quotes and bring this back to the Board.

Linda Simpson made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm, seconded by Mark Wolbrink. The motion passed.



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



Shop News!

The Lapidary shop will be **CLOSED**
Sat December 22 and
Mondays December 24 and 31.

Remember, if you are interested in lapidary classes such as cabochon making or wire wrapping ask Mark, Jerrold or Hank. They are always happy to teach you.

Lapidary Shop Keys

Lapidary Shop key masters are:

Shop Supervisor:
 Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

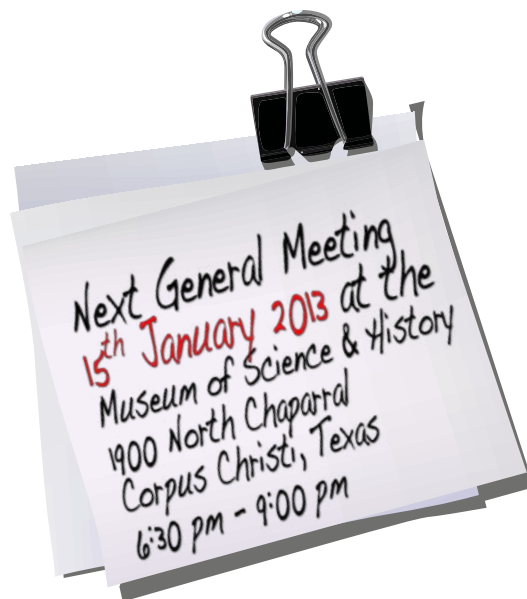
Jerrold Simpson
 361-851-8788 / Cell - 361-877-3073

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 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The shop is open during these times for use of the equipment even if you are not involved in a class. Shop is also open Saturday 9:00 Until Noon.



Upcoming Events

January 2013

Jan 19-20 FREDERICKSBURG, TX

Annual show; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park; Pioneer Pavilion, 1601 S. Hwy. 16; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; hourly door prizes, fossils, geodes, exotic minerals, meteorites, gems, jewelry, findings, "mystery" rock identification; contact Jeff or Brenda Smith, 208 Castle Pines Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028; e-mail: jeffbrenda@kctc.com; Web site: fredericksburgrockhounds.org

Jan 25-27 TYLER, TX

Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Tyler Rose Garden Center; 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; 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



We finally have a picture of our last Gem and Mineral Show raffle winner:



Linda handing the prize to Mrs. Wenland, Wendland Farms, Taft, TX.

AFMS Land Use Policy

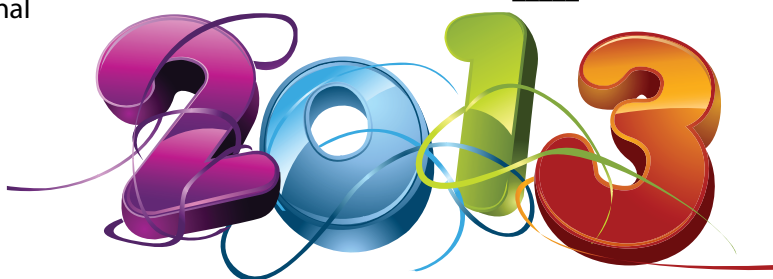


1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.

Do you know your Carols?

source: <http://www.humormatters.com/holidays/Christmas/xmassongs2.htm>

1. Bleached Yule _____
2. Castaneous-colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration _____
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors. _____
4. Righteous Darkness _____
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs - Weather Cloudless _____
6. Loyal Followers Advance _____
7. Far Off in a Feeder _____
8. Array the Corridor _____
9. Bantam Male Percussionist _____
10. Monarchial Triad _____
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness _____
12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers _____
13. Red Man En Route to Borough _____
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence _____
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle _____
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Probiscis _____
17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant _____ ?
18. Delight for this Planet _____
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings _____
20. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals _____



Answers to Carol Quiz

1. White Xmas
2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
3. All I want for Xmas is my 2 front teeth
4. Holy Night
5. It came upon a Midnight Clear
6. Oh Come all Ye Faithful
7. Away in a manger
8. Deck the Halls
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. We Three Kings
11. Silent Night
12. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
13. Santa Claus is coming to Town
14. Let it Snow
15. Go Tell it on the Mountain
16. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
17. What child is this
18. Joy to the World
19. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
20. The 12 Days of Christmas

Kids Corner Rocks

All about Rocks

What else do we know about rocks?

A rock is a material made of one or more minerals. Minerals are made from 92

element: substances which cannot be broken down into other substances elements that join together in many different ways. Some minerals are made of only one element, such as silver.

Most are a combination of two or more elements, such as granite which is made of quartz, feldspar, mica. Scientists have identified over 3,000 minerals. The particles of minerals are arranged in a repeating pattern called a

crystal.

Recognizing a mineral is not an easy job. There are several different properties of minerals and tests that are used to identify them. The properties are:

luster, hardness, color, streak, cleavage, crystal shape, and magnetism.

source: copyright D4K, Idaho Public Television
<http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season9/rocksminerals/facts.cfm#start>



Rock & Fossils Word Search

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

elements
 crystal
 luster
 hardness
 streak

cleavage
 magnetism
 shape
 pattern



Q: What's the best way to talk to a Tyrannosaur?
 A: Long distance!



Check out some Cool Kids Links

- <http://www.kidsgeo.com>
- <http://www.rocksforkids.com>
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/fossilfun/>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric_life/games/
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/inverts>
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/rocks/index>

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

Annual fees: Individuals \$15.00, Couples \$20.00, Junior (under 17) \$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



we are also on Facebook, come and 'like' us on there as well!

Next board meeting
8 January 2013
at the Lapidary Shop
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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

Permission is granted to use any article in this publication, provided proper credit is given.