



Slabs & Cabs

Volume 58

Number 7

July 2012

Howdy Rockhounds!

I hope you have enjoyed the summer, taking in some family fieldtrips and spending some time at the Lapidary Shop.

Be sure and join us on Friday, Aug. 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and/ or Saturday Aug. 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a GCGMS Watermelon Social at the Lapidary Shop.

Also this summer the Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society will be having their annual show Aug 25th-26th, as well as hosting the SCFMS Annual meeting in Jasper TX.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Joe

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Birthstone - Traditional

*The glowing ruby shall adorn,
Those who in July are born;
Then they'll be exempt and free
From love's doubts and anxiety.*



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
- 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

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Birthstone for July - Ruby

Ruby

Like a perfect red rose, the Ruby's rich color speaks of love and passion. Called the "Rajnapura" or King of Gems by ancient Hindus, July's birthstone is among the most highly prized of gems throughout history. The Ruby was considered to have magical powers, and was worn by royalty as a talisman against evil. It was thought to grow darker when peril was imminent, and to return to its original color once danger was past—provided it was in the hands of its rightful owner!

Rubies were thought to represent heat and power. Ancient tribes used the gem as bullets for blowguns, and it was said that a pot of water would boil instantly if a Ruby was tossed into it. Ground to powder and placed on the tongue, this crystal was used as a cure for indigestion.

The word Ruby comes from the Latin "ruber," meaning red. It is a variety of the mineral Corundum, and is found as crystals within metamorphic rock. Corundum is the second hardest mineral, after Diamond. It comes in a variety of colors, and is considered a Sapphire in any color except red, which is designated as a Ruby. Rubies range in hue from an orangey red to a purplish red, but the most prized gems are a true red in color. Large sized Rubies are very rare and valuable.

The history of Ruby mining dates back more than 2,500 years ago. The most beautiful crystals are thought to be from Burma, but quality Rubies are also found in India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States.

It has been said that the Ruby's red glow comes from an internal flame that cannot be extinguished, making a gift of this stone symbolic of everlasting love. With its hardness and durability, it is a perfect engagement gem. And if worn on the left hand, ancient lore has it that the Ruby will bring good fortune to its wearer, too!



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

Club News and Information

2nd Annual Owen Hopkins Kids Camp

by Linda Simpson

The Owen Hopkins Memorial Kids Rock Camp was held June 13-16. Eighteen youth participated. It was a busy, educational, and fun time. Many activities were conducted in earning a variety of badges. These badges included Stone Age Tools and Arts, field Trip, rocks and Minerals, Fossils, Collecting, Earth Processes, and Lapidary Arts. Several rock and mineral samples were given each day of the camp. Printed materials pertaining to the day's activities were distributed.

On Wednesday we went to the museum and spent time in the Gem & Mineral display as well as the Flintknapping display. We returned to the lapidary shop and watched Robert Herring demonstrate how to make an arrow head and a spear point. In the afternoon we made coiled clay pots, a petroglyph and a pictograph.

The activities for Thursday included growing borax crystals. We used a field kit to test the hardness of mineral samples. We also modeled the weathering and the sedimentation process by creating a sedimentation jar with colored salt. Picture frames were decorated with tumbled rocks. Collection boxes were organized.

A field trip to the Wright Materials gravel pit occurred on Friday morning. Ronnie Thomas led the group into the pits. He spoke about how deep they are and at which level fossils can be found. We spent the rest of the time searching the mounds for fossils and petrified wood. Back at the shop we modeled how a fossil mold and cast are formed.

On Saturday, kids rotated through different activities while taking turns polishing a rock on the genie machines. They completed activities that show how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks form. Each kid was given a map of the US and a list of state rocks, fossils, gems, and minerals. The kids marked the maps according to which state their samples represent. They also made a gem tree and a rock critter.



Campers on their 1st day



Campers at the gravel pit



Working at the Lapidary shop



Robert demonstrating Flintknapping



Creations: Clay Pots, Sand Drawing, Shell Imprints, Gem Tree and much more...

Board Meeting Minutes 03 July 2012 of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 07-03-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:40pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Gene said that the expenses for the month include the second half of the payment for the rough rock and the second a/c unit. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Mark Wolbrink seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. He said that they have been busy at the shop. Mark gave a suggested price list for newly purchased rock. Jerrold Simpson stated that he would like to take pictures of the rocks and take it to the general meeting to see if members want to buy them. Joe Grimes said that he would like to have a field day at the shop for members to see the rock. Gene Schade said we should send an e-mail to all members showing some pictures of the rocks. Joe Grimes suggests doing a field day on Friday August 10 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm and Saturday August 11 from 8:30am to 12:00pm. Jerrold Simpson made a motion, seconded by Gilbert Trejo to accept the report. All voted aye

Gilbert Trejo gave the Secretary Report. Gilbert said that there was one correction. He said the Rockhound of the Year recommendation had been sent. Linda Simpson made a motion to accept the report seconded by Mark Wolbrink. All voted aye.

There was no membership report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report.

Jerrold went over the new vendor contract. Jerrold said that this year the dealers will be required to send their electric payments with their contract deposits. The GCGMS will forward their payment to the fairgrounds. Jerrold said the change was needed so the Club would know which vendors have paid for electricity. Donna Grimes said that some of the dealers would pay the electric fee with a credit card which we do not have the ability to do. Jerrold said he should send the contracts out in about five days if he can get the electric contact from the facility to send with the contract. Joe Grimes said that the Board Members should review this contract and send any corrections to Jerrold. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the contract with corrections seconded by Gene Schade. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson gave the Federation Report. Linda said that her four year term is ending and a new person needs to be nominated for the Federation Meeting in Jasper on August 25-26.

Under old business, Linda Simpson talked about the Kids Camp. Linda said she has been asked if next years' rock camp will be the same as this last camp or will there be a second year criteria. Linda said that she has not reviewed the educational material to see if there is enough material for second year campers.

Joe Grimes asked that the new logo was not here so it needed to be brought to the Board at the next meeting for review and presentation to the entire club.

The second a/c unit has been installed and if working fine.

Linda Simpson said that the magazines donated by Casa De Oro have been set out but we need to decide what to

do with extra magazines. Suggestions were made to use them as door prizes or auction items.

Under new business, Linda Simpson said that she needs to purchase several small items for the library. Gilbert Trejo made a motion to allow Linda Simpson to make several small purchases for the library seconded by Donna Grimes. All voted aye.

Jerrold Simpson makes a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm 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

Mystery Fossil



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 6:00 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.

Modern descendants of this organism tend to be small, creeping forms, while our Mystery Fossil is known to have grown quite large (over 100 feet!). The fossil remains of this, and similar organisms, "fueled" the Industrial Revolution and are still an important energy source today. What can the Mystery Fossil be?

Did you guess correctly?

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

Upcoming Events

August 2012

II - 12

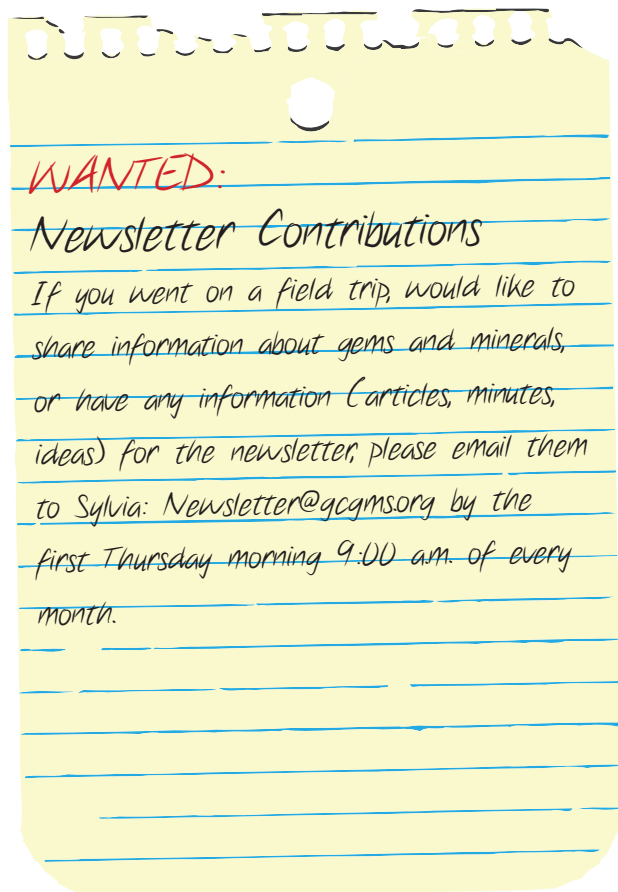
Baton Rouge, LA

Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society Marriott Hotel; 5500 Hilton Ave., off I-10
Diana Martin, (225) 931-7543, cajunladi@cox.net

II - 12

Jasper, TX

August 25-26 Jasper, TX SCFMS & Pine Country Gem & Mineral Soc. The Event Center;
6258 Hwy. 190 W Lonnie Stalsby, (409) 382-5314



A very happy birthday to:

Judy Bisbee
Wendy Crook-Abel
Matthew F. Garcia-Pérez
Clarence Givens
Janet Harris
Clayton A. Hill
Scarlett Hopkins
Sarah Johnston
Hans Kernén
Kelly Langille
Leslie Walberg

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

Kids Corner Rocks

Rock & Fossils Word Search

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

All about Rocks

How do we classify rocks?

There are 3 main types of rocks depending upon how they were formed in the different layers of the Earth.

They are:

Igneous

Igneous rock is formed when melted rock cools and hardens. Created by lava from volcanoes or magma that cools inside the Earth. Can be shiny or glossy Examples: basalt, granite, pumice, quartz, obsidian



Sedimentary

Sedimentary rock is weathered into many pieces of rock and soil which then settles into layers. The layers are squeezed together until they harden into rock.

Found in locations where oceans, lakes, or other bodies of water exist or once existed.

Is layered, soft often containing fossils.

Examples: limestone, chalk, coal, sandstone, shale

look for the third type of rock called Metamorphic in the next newsletter.

limestone
 chalk
 coal
 sandstone
 shale

basalt
 granite
 pumice
 quartz
 obsidian



Q: Which dinosaur slept all day?
 A: The dino-snore!

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

Check out some Cool Kids Links



- KidsGeo.com
- Rocksforkids.com
- Earthquakes for kids
- BBC fossils
- BBC walking with beasts
- BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles
- Oxford University Museum about fossils
- Oxford University Museum about rocks

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 (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



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

Slabs & Cabs
Sylvia Kernan
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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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