



# Slabs & Cabs

Volume 70

Number 07

July 2013

Howdy Rockhounds!

June's get together at the shop was a blast! There was a good turn out with several of the Jr. Rockers from the kid's camp attending along with their parents.

Thank you Norma and Gilbert for preparing the hot dogs and all the fixings that were enjoyed by all.

The Rock Swap was fun, whether you participated in it yourself or sat back and watched the kids wheeling and dealing!

The July get together is this Thursday, July 18th. We will meet at the shop at 6:30 for an Ice Cream Social, with the ice cream being provided by GCGMS.

The Jr. Rockers that attended camp this summer will be awarded the badges that they earned.

Come and join the fun this Thursday evening!

*Joe*

## 2013 Board

President  
*Joe Grimes*

Vice-President  
*Jerrold Simpson*

Past President  
*Kevin Schleicher*

Secretary  
*Gilbert Trejo*

Treasurer  
*Gene Schade*

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  
*Theresa Cline*

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

Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 60781  
Corpus Christi, TX 78466

## INSIDE

- Presidents Message \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 1
- Club News and Information \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 2
- Board / Gen Meeting Minutes \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 3
- Birthstone \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 4
- Shop Keys & Rules \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 5
- Upcoming Events \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 6
- Kids Corner \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 7
- AFMS \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 8
- Last Page \_\_\_\_\_ Pg 9

### 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.

## Club News & Information



### Happy Birthday

to: Susan Cadogan Wendy Crook-Abel  
 Edward Crook-Abel Amanda Gabehart  
 Clarence Givens Danny Gohlke  
 Sarah Hofemeister Janet Harris  
 Jay Jacko Hans Kern  
 Serena Longo Michelle Alvarado  
 Barry Watkins

and all members born in July! Please send me your birthdate information. newsletter@gcgms.org

### Summer Time Rock Swap

The Rock Swap Social was a huge success. We had many of the kids there who had participated in the two Rock Camps. Rocks were discussed, shown off and swapped. It was a wonderful evening and we are hoping that the next one will follow in it's foot steps. We will meet again this coming Thursday, July 18th at 6.30 pm for a ice cream social!

Please come to the Thursday meeting if you or a child in your family participated in the camp this summer. Linda and Jerrold will be handing out the badges!



## Board Meeting Minutes July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The meeting was called to order by Joe Grimes, President. The meeting started at 6:45 PM and was held at the lapidary shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Linda Simpson, Jerrold Simpson, Gene Schade and Kevin Schleicher.

Gene Schade, Treasurer, gave his report indicating the society had a negative income for this month. The final expenses for this year's Jr. Rock Hound camp are in. There were no shop expenses this month. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept the treasurer report as presented. Linda Simpson seconded it. The motion was accepted.

Gene also presented the Membership report. We now have 114 adult members, 33 junior members and 8 honorary members. This month we had two members renew and three withdrew. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kevin Schleicher seconded. The report was accepted.

The secretary was not present. After a discussion of the printed minutes in the Cabs & Slabs, Gene Schade made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Linda Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted and the minutes approved.

Joe Grimes and Jerrold Simpson gave the shop report because Mark Wolbrink, the Shop Foreman, was not present. The attendance has been down. The equipment is working well except for the 10" saw which has a problem with the vice. The green 18" saw still does not work properly. Gene Schade made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kevin Schleicher seconded. The motion was approved.

The show report was given by Jerrold Simpson and Donna Grimes. Jerrold said the contract had been re-written as well as the cover letter. The Board reviewed the contract and made suggestions to make it better. Jerrold will make the corrections and get the contracts mailed to the dealers this weekend. Donna indicated there was a refund from the television station because they did not use all our funds we had paid them. Linda Simpson made a motion to accept the report as given and Kevin Schleicher seconded it. The motion passed.

Linda Simpson gave the education report. Linda Land Jerrold have been participating in the Corpus Christi city summer program by giving presentations at several city recreation sites. On 7/11/2013 they gave a presentation at Solomon Coles Rec. Center. There were 40 kids and leaders in attendance.

Old business was discussed regarding purchase of new carts to use to load the show equipment and honorary membership certificates. Both subjects were tabled until the next Board meeting.

New business discussed was the upcoming ice cream social to be held July 18, 2013 at 6:30 PM. In addition to the social, the Jr. Rock Club members that attended our recent camp will receive their badges. The Board also discussed the possible purchase of a used, 24" rock saw. Gene Schade presented photos of the saw and the specifications. The purchase was tabled until more information can be obtained.

Kevin Schleicher made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.

Submitted by Jerrold Simpson on behalf of Gilbert Trejo, Secretary.

## Birthstone for July - Ruby



### Ruby

**Chemistry:** Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, aluminum oxide

**Class:** Oxides and hydroxides

**Group:** Hematite

### History of Ruby

The ruby is one of the most highly valued of all gems. Ancient Hindus referred to it as “the king of gems,” and royalty used ruby to ward off evil because it was believed to have magical powers. One such magical power was that the ruby would get darker in the presence of evil and lighter when the evil was gone—but only if possessed by its rightful owner.

### Science of Ruby

Ruby originates from metamorphic rock, and is a variety of the mineral corundum, second only to the diamond in hardness. Rubies exist in a wide variety of colors, including blue, which is more commonly known as sapphire. Chromium is what causes the red color of rubies, however. Rubies can range in color from pale

pinks to the deepest possible red, known as “pigeon blood.” When rutile crystal inclusions are oriented in a specific pattern, a six-pointed star (called an asterism) becomes visible—these prized gems are called “Star Ruby.”

An alternate birthstone for July is carnelian, a translucent orange to reddish-brown version of the cryptocrystalline quartz.

[http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones\\_jul](http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones_jul)



source: Wikipedia

*Natural ruby crystals from Winza, Tanzania*

test your  
knowledge!

## Mystery Fossil



Yes, this is a leaf from a tree — a 160-million-year-old one! This tree belongs to a plant group that is represented today by a single genus. What do you think it is?

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/historyoflife/mysteries/mystery49/mystery49.html>

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



Schist happens!

## 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*

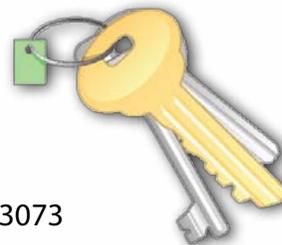
## Lapidary Shop Keys

Lapidary Shop key masters are:

Shop Supervisor:  
Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

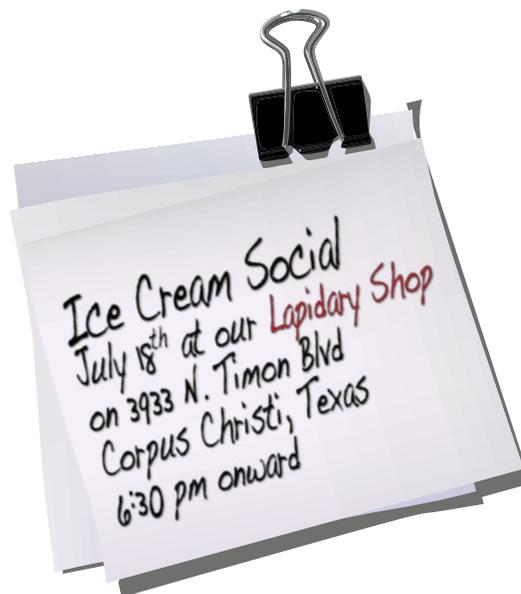
Jerrold Simpson  
361-851-8788 / Cell 361-877-3073

Hank Swan 361-813-1844



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.



## Shop News!

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.

Shop Supervisor: Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

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

Hank Swan 361-813-1844

## Upcoming Events

### August 2013

**AUG 17-18 BOSSIER CITY, LA: SCFMS FEDERATION SHOW**, sponsored by the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier Parish Convention Center, 620 Benton Road; \$4 daily admission; free parking, including RV overnight (no sewer hookups); <[www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)>, <[www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)>

**AUG 24-25 JASPER, TX: 19TH ANNUAL SHOW**; Pine Country Gem Mineral Society; The Event Center; 6258 Hwy. 190W, five miles west of Jasper; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, free, students and children free; includes petrified wood field trip; contact Ann James, 2738 FM 92 S., Woodville, TX 75979, (409) 429-7444; e-mail: [earthscache3@yahoo.com](mailto:earthscache3@yahoo.com); <[www.pinecountrygms.org](http://www.pinecountrygms.org)>

## PYRITE CLEANING - AN ALTERNATE CLEANER

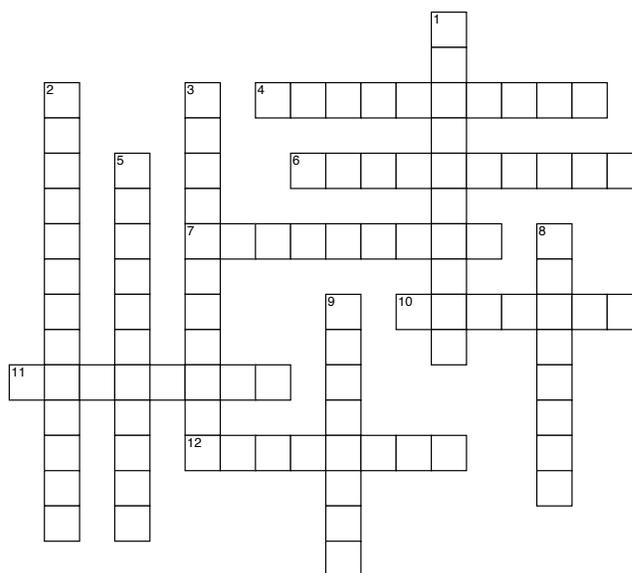
I recently collected a bucket of pyrite specimens at the TXI Cement Factory in Midlothian, TX. The condition of the collected specimens ranged from bright and shiny (just a few) dull. Many had limestone matrix still attached. Based on conversation with club members, I decided to try cleaning some in an Oxalic Acid wash. The pyrites were soaked in the a solution of oxalic acid (1 cup acid powder in 3 gallons of water) for 4 hours to several days depending on the initial condition of the specimen. The specimens were then thoroughly rinsed in water and dried. I am quite pleased with the result.

*source: Chips and Chatter, May, 2013 - via The Pineywoods Rooter, June 2013.*



# Kids Corner Rocks

## The Paleozoic Era



www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com

**ACROSS**

- 4 follows the Cambrian Period
- 6 a nautiloid with a straight cone shaped shell
- 7 era who's name means old life
- 10 the last period of the Paleozoic Era
- 11 the age of fish; follows the Silurian
- 12 The first plants and insects move onto land

**DOWN**

- 1 an arthropod the first to develop eyes
- 2 large forests of ferns and conifers on land
- 3 scorpion like arthropods
- 5 benthic marine bivalve not a mollusk
- 8 an echinoderm that looks like a flower
- 9 first period of the Paleozoic Era

### Grow Your Own Salt Crystals

**What you'll need:**

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A jar                    | Water                |
| About half a cup of salt | A spoon for stirring |
| String                   | Scissors             |
| 2 toothpicks             |                      |

**Instructions:**

Fill the jar with water.  
 Add about half a cup of salt to the water.  
 Mix the solution together with a spoon.  
 Cut a piece of string with scissors and tie each end to a toothpick.  
 Place the string over the top of the jar so that the string dangles into the middle of the solution and the toothpicks hang over the edge. Don't forget to clean up when you've finished.

**What next?**

Leave the experiment and wait for salt crystals to form along the string. They are an excellent example of cubic crystals and you can do further research with them by examining them under a microscope. When you look at various crystals under a microscope you can examine the differences between them: Are they perfectly formed? What shape are they? What color? Can you see any microorganisms on the crystals? Crystals can be found grouped together as lots of small crystals or as huge individual crystals. They vary in size from those at the microscopic level all the way up to crystals that are meters in length! Try collecting a range of crystals for your project, label the different types and make a rock collection box to keep them in.

source: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/saltcrystals.html>



### 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.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>

## AFMS Land Use Policy

*From the AFMS website*

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no wilful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
11. I will cause no wilful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. 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.
16. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
17. I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



**MEMBER of**

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.



**Meeting**

Held the **third Thursday** each month at **6:30 pm** 4234 Weber Rd. in Corpus Christi 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](http://www.gcgms.org)



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

Next board meeting  
1 August 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

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