

# Slabs & Cabs

APRIL 2017

## President's Message

Howdy Rockhounds, April is here again and that means the seasons are in full change. We have been blessed with some spring and summer like conditions which provided some good opportunities to get out and explore our nearby localities for rocks. Johnny French was able to get a few out on April 1st to hunt for rocks and he provided us with some photos and a quick recount of their finds.

Speaking of change, the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society is also going through some changes. I'd like to announce several new board members for 2017 that were able to volunteer their time. I'd like to welcome Rita Allen as our secretary, and Karen Shaffer and John Weiss as our field trip co-chairs. These new additions to our board are eager to help out and I think will make great additions to our leadership. I'm also excited to tell you that Mark Wolbrink is our newly elected Vice President.

Another change you might notice is the newsletter, and hopefully it will prove to continue the quality of others in the past.

We will strive to continue to get you all of the news and developments of events associated with the club before our general meetings. If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, please send us your information either by mail or preferably by email to [newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org).

Coming up in the short term future, we will have the general meeting this Thursday evening at the bridge club location off of Weber at 6:30pm. We have another informative video to present on Lava Cap Thunder eggs from New Mexico. If you've enjoyed our recent videos on the agates, then you should enjoy this one as well.

Kids Camp is set to be held on June 19th-23rd. This will be the 7th annual event for kids between 10-17 years old. You will find directions on how to sign up in the newsletter.

Monday evenings, the lapidary shop is open to the members and is an excellent time to get some advice on how to create your next project. See you there,

*Russell.*

### Board Members 2017:

**President**  
Russell Wheeler

**Vice President**  
Mark Wolbrink

**Treasurer**  
Gilbert Trejo

**Membership**  
Gene Shade

**Secretary**  
Rita Allen

**Shop Coordinator**  
Mark Wolbrink

**Newsletter**  
Russell Wheeler

**Field Trip Coordinator**  
Karen Shaffer  
& John Weiss

**Education**  
Open

**Show Chair**  
Open

**Librarian**  
Open

**Historian**  
Open

**Federation Liason**  
Russell Wheeler

**Communications/ Web**  
Gene Shade

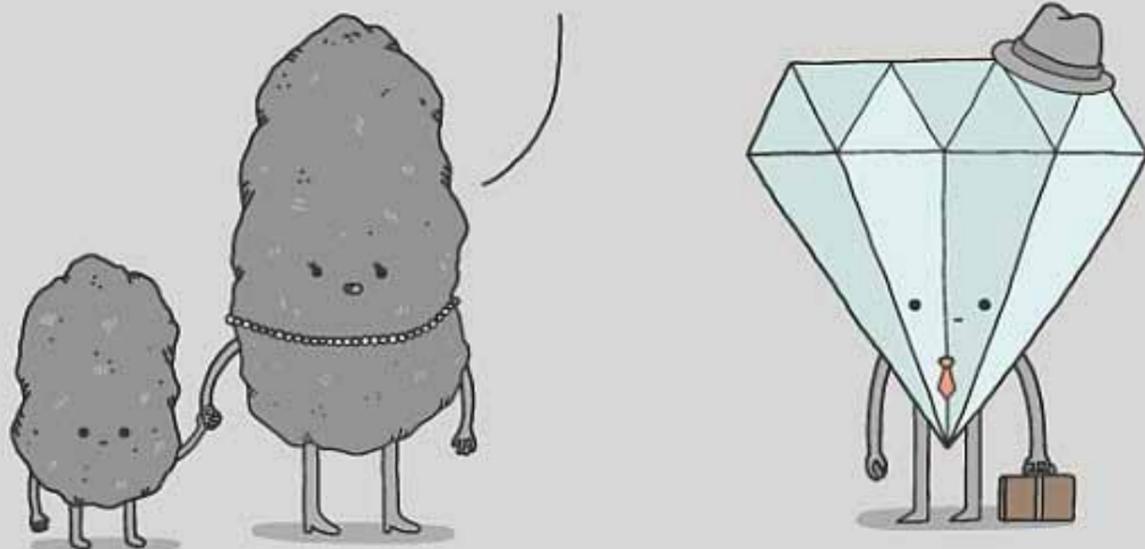
**Door Prizes**  
Gilbert Trejo

**Refreshments Host**  
Sue & Jim Ryland

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

Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
PO BOX 60781  
Corpus Christi, TX 78466

YOUR DAD'S BEEN  
UNDER A LOT OF  
PRESSURE LATELY.



**A little pressure can create great things**

### 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.



### Shop News

Open Monday Evenings  
4:00pm-8:00pm

Cabochon Classes available,  
The introduction to shop skills  
nessacary to create a cabo-  
chon. \$35

Saw Class available, you will  
need the saw class to make  
slabs or cuts on the large rock  
saws \$15

### Shop Contacts

Shop Coordinator  
Mark Wolbrink  
361-442-6915

President  
Russell Wheeler  
361-944-7877

**Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society**  
**Lapidary Shop**  
3933 Timon BLVD  
Corpus Christi, TX 78402  
**Open Mondays 4-8pm**

The shop has been busy each monday night since the past gem and mineral show. The machines have all been full and there's even people wait-



### Notes from the Coordinator:

ing in line to get a chance at the genie polishing units. We are even considering getting another polishing station added to help with the back-up. We've had several people bring in some large specimens to be cut on the rock saws. We can accomodate rocks up to 12" of deepest cut. We are currently offering classes for cabochon making and rock saws. We are going

to start requiring people to take the rock saw class, or otherwise the coordinator will have to setup the saw for your cuts.



### Come see what's happening at the shop!

The Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society maintains a Lapidary Shop at 3933 North Timon Blvd., on Corpus Christi beach (North Beach, across from Villa Del Sol). The shop is equipped with slab and trim saws, several cabbing units, polishers, laps and other equipment to cut and polish your stones. A blasting cabinet is available to assist in preparing your fossil finds. Use of the facility is made available to the membership for a minor usage fee per hour to cover wear and tear on the equipment and supplies. The Work Shop Coordinator and individuals who function as monitors/supervisors are all society members who volunteer their time. They open up the shop and help people with projects or teach how to cut slabs, polish, etc. A parent or adult sponsor must accompany any minors, and the adult will be held responsible for the child's behavior. All users of the shop should read and be familiar with the Shop Rules.

**Do you have something and you don't know what it is?**  
*Bring it in to the rock shop on monday evenings and our geologists can identify it for you.*

## Board Meeting Minutes, 4/6/2017

The GCGMS board meeting on 4/6/17 was called to order by President Russell Wheeler at 6:18pm. The meeting was attended by Russell Wheeler, Mark Wolbrink, Gene Shade, Rita Allen, Karen Shaffer, and John Weiss.

Russell Wheeler announced new board members to fill the recent vacancies. Rita Allen was voted to be Secretary. Mark Wolbrink was voted to be Vice President. Karen Shaffer and John Weiss were appointed as field trip chairmen.

Russell Wheeler gave the treasurers report. Russell discussed the income and expenses. Russell reported on the success of the 2017 gem and mineral show. Karen Shaffer made a motion to accept the treasurers report as presented and Mark Wolbrink seconded it, all voted aye.

Russell Wheeler gave the secretaries report, which he said there no reports written in lieu of resignation of past secretary. Rita Allen was introduced as new secretary.

Gene Shade gave the membership report. Gene said that as of March 31st, 2017, there are 93 adult members and 3 junior members. Down from 127 adult members. Gene announced that he had not officially dropped the 34 adults who had not paid to renew membership as of 3/31/17, and that he would send out one final notice to those who had not paid before officially dropping their membership. Gene announced applicants Dale London as a renewal, and Joe and Cherie Garrett, Jack Rader, Terrie Quinn, Aaron Gates, and Megan Mize as new members. The board voted to accept the applicants as members.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. Mark described a busy shop recently following the gem show, and said that we have several new members who are actively participating each Monday. Mark mentioned that the equipment is usually full with people waiting to be able to use the machines. Mark mentioned purchasing a new genie machine to provide additional workspace, but said it would be a good idea to watch the attendance over the next month before requesting a new machine.

Under old business, Russell gave a show report, and said that we would be receiving final numbers when Gilbert Trejo is present at the next meeting. Russell also mentioned that the board will need to come together as a committee to handle the 2018 gem and mineral show and appoint a new ways and means chairman. Gene Shade said that he had received mailers back as returned addresses and that they were to be removed from the show mailout list. Gene said that we are waiting to receive the mailout list from Linda Simpson.

The Kids Camp was discussed. Linda Simpson will be in charge of the camp again this year. Rita Allen and Karen Shaffer said that they would help Linda Simpson with the kids camp this summer.

Under new business, Karen Shaffer said that she would offer to be an editor on the facebook page. Russell Wheeler said that we would stepping in to fill the newsletter editors position and was offered help from Rod Haffemeister and Mark Brackin to assist.

The topic of the general meeting place was brought up by Gene Shade. Gene said that the bridge club has been very generous in allowing the club to use the building for general meetings. Items discussed included sending letters of appreciation and a possible donation to their club. The board decided to wait until the next meeting to make any final decisions regarding a donation.

Russell Wheeler said that the club received a new display case donated by the Blackmar family, and that the club would making the appropriations to get the case ready for a permanent display at the lapidary shop to house the specimens donated by the Blackmar family.

Russell Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm. Karen Shaffer seconded, and all voted aye.

## A Very Big Thank You:

The Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society would like to acknowledge and thank the Blackmar Family for their generous donation of Fred Blackmar's collection of polished rocks and minerals. The Society is greatly benefited by the donation, and will proudly display the exhibits at the gem shows and permanently at the lapidary shop. The Blackmars also donated a beautiful display cabinet which we make a feature at the lapidary shop. Fred Blackmar loved the mineral sciences and created many wonderful pieces that will go on to show others his legacy and hopefully inspire others to create and collect like he did. We hope to have an unveiling of the cabinet as soon as we get it ready with a base and lights. Thank you again for your generous donation and thank you for members like Fred Blackmar and family.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April 2017

14-16—ALPINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center; 803 W. Holland Ave. (W. Hwy. 90); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; contact Paul Graybeal, Marfa, TX, (432)-739-4526; e-mail: paulgraybeal@moonlightgemstones.com; Web site: moonlightgemstones.com

28-30—SHENANDOAH THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS: Annual show; Fine Mineral Show, Holiday Inn & Suites Shenandoah The Woodlands; 19333 David Memorial Dr; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; The April Houston 2017 Fine Mineral Show has changed the location. It will not be held in the Embassy Suites in Houston. The same show has now moved to the Woodlands. ; contact Dave Waisman, P.O. Box 8543, Spokane, WA 99203; e-mail: davewais2011@gmail.com; Web site: finemineralshow.com

29-30—WACO, TEXAS: Annual show; Waco Gem and Mineral Club, Extraco Events Center Creative Arts Bldg; 4601 Bosque Blvd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5, Children 6-12 \$1; Scout and Leaders in Uniform will get in free. Cabochon Contest. Kid's zone with new Game for kids. Numerous vendors and exhibitors to include the Waco Mammoth National Monument.; contact Jennifer Bennett, TX; e-mail: bennettje70@gmail.com; Web site: www.wacogemandmineral.org

### May 2017

6-6—ARLINGTON, TEXAS: Swap Meet; Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club; 1408 Gibbins Road; Sat. 7-3; free; Free swap meet for all rock, gem, and mineral related items. No electrical hookups. Come sell, swap. and buy rough, slabs, finished stones, mineral specimens, tools and equipment, etc.; contact J K Peel, 1408 Gibbins Road, Arlington, TX 76012; e-mail: president@agemclub.org; Web site: agemclub.org

6-7—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Annual show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Students \$2, Children free; 59th Annual show; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; Vendors with Jewelry, Loose Stones, Rough, Cabs, Slabs, Geodes, Beads, Gemstones, Mineral Specimens, Crystals, Fossils, Spheres, and Lapidary Tools. Hourly door prizes. Drawings for two grand prizes, one for Kids, and one for Adults. Numerous free exhibits and demos and big rocks you can touch! Our kid's area will have games and grab bags, and we will feature displays by our youth. We will have presentations about geology by experts in the field on both days! ; contact Walter Beneze, PO Box 6371, Lubbock, TX 79493; e-mail: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Web site: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

27-28—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club, Fort Worth, TX; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 West Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children under 16 are free; 66th Annual show of the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club featuring numerous dealers offering jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils and beads from all over the world. Wheel of Chance and Rock & Fossil Dig for kids. A silent auction, hourly door prizes and a Grand Prize raffle add to the entertaining and educational experience.; contact Steve Hilliard, (817)-925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

### June 2017

19-23 -- GCGMS, Kids Camp, see the insert in the newsletter

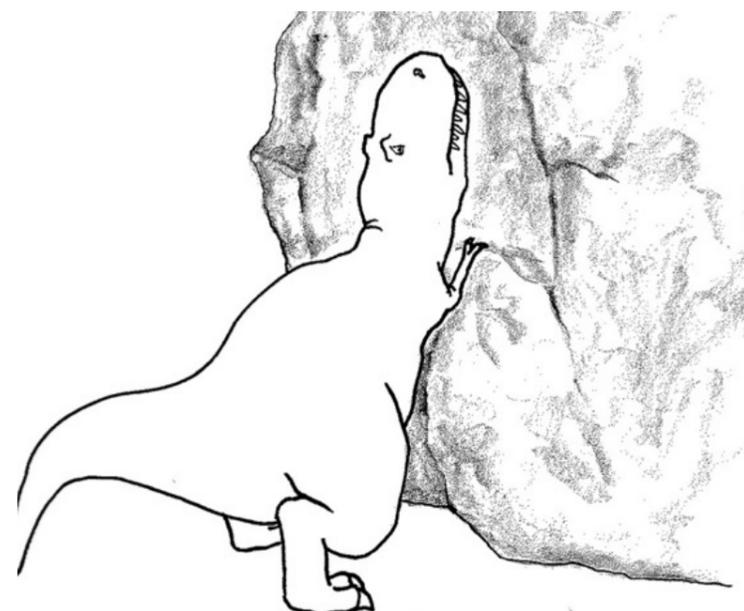
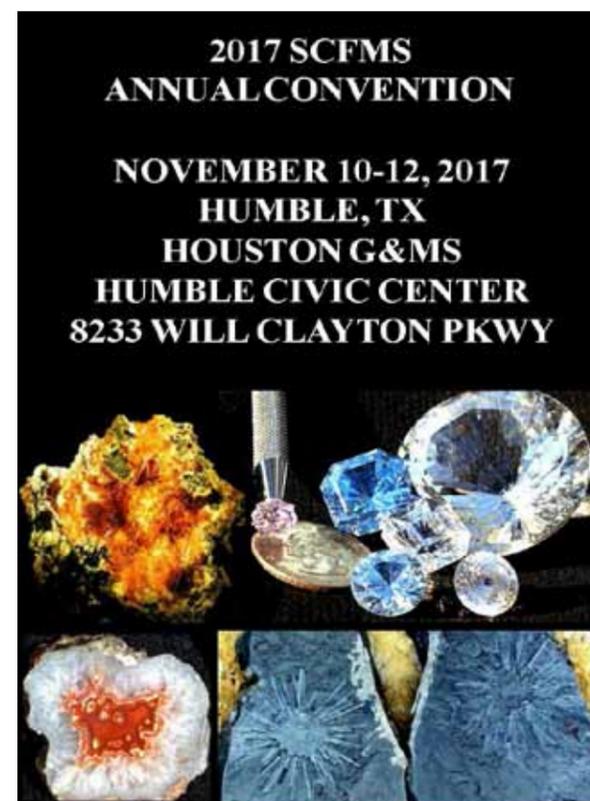
### July 2017

1-2—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; AGMC, Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 South

### 2017 AFMS National Show



### 2017 SCFMS Annual Show



*T-Rex trying to rock climb . . .*

# **THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**

**Come visit us for the next general meeting on Thursday, April 20th, 2017. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm, located at the bridge club location 4234 Weber Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78411.**

**Program will include a video presentation on Lava Cap Thunderegg Agates from Lorrie Coleman.**

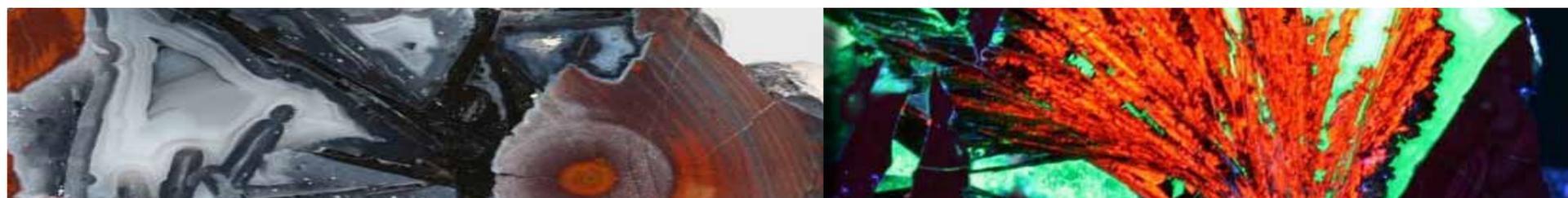
**We will be raffling off door prizes. Everyone gets a chance.**

**We will be providing refreshments**



## *LORRIE COLEMAN'S LAVA CAP THUNDER EGGS*

**F**rom the 2016 Agate Expo series, Lorrie Coleman of the Spanish Stirrup Rock Shop presents her experiences as a prospector for Lava Cap Thundereggs from southern New Mexico. The talk deals with the complexities of mining the thundereggs, processing the materials and final handling of these beautifully complex agates. There are some great examples of these volcanic agates showing the striking contrast of the different mineral growth types within a hollowed gas pocket. Dark colored pseudomorphs covered by white banded fortifications, with a pool of water line and then finally macro crystalline quartz finished off the pocket from the photo above.





# April Fools Day in George West, TX

Johnny French led a group on April Fools Day outside of George West, TX. They spent a few hours combing the county roadsides for petrified woods and agates. Shown in the photo to the left, Johnny reported a decent yield for only a couple of hours.

Johnny French sent in photos of some of the rocks collected on the April 1 field trip to George West.

"The attached pix are what I brought home, the rest having been shared with the others in the field. Everyone who said they might come, did."

## Field Trip Reports

"The stuff on the left of the shillelagh (real wood, unpetrified) goes to my friend Patty Reagan; hence, they are 'Patty Rocks.' The skinny pieces of petrified wood are known as 'cowboy legs.' On the right are pieces I thought I might saw and/or tumble polish." end of that row must be sawn to be sure what they are.



Close-up of the cowboy legs.

Close-up of the cut & tumble rocks. The row in the foreground are or may be agates, mainly banded agates. The two on the left end of that row must be sawn to be sure what they are.



Send us your field trip reports and photos, and we'll publish your findings...

Email us at [newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org)

# Kid's Rock Camp

The Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society presents the 7th annual summer program for kids ages 10-17.

You will learn about rocks, minerals, fossils, gems and start your own collection with at least 30 specimens. Included are projects, printed materials, T-shirt, demonstrations, and the use lapidary equipment.

Camp activities will allow you to earn badges in:

- Collecting
- Stone Age Tools & Art
- Identification of Rocks & Minerals
- Fossils
- Lapidary Arts
- Earth Processes
- Fluorescence
- Gemstone Lore & Legend
- Careers in Earth Science

Bring a sack lunch. Bottled water and snacks will be provided.

**NOTE: GCGMS Membership required. Membership form is on our website. [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)**

Register for Rock Camp

Dates: **June 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2017**

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Membership Requirement: American Federation rules require family membership in the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society.

Send membership check and form to Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, P.O. BOX 60781, Corpus Christi, TX 78466

Dues: Couple \$20, Individual \$15, each child \$5.

Camp Fee: \$40 per child. No refunds if accepted to camp.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's birthdate: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
MM DD YYYY

Parent /Guardian name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and camp check to:

Linda Simpson  
1302 Annapolis Dr.  
Corpus Christi, TX 7415

Form and payment must be received by May 15, 2017 to reserve your space. Admittance will be limited to the first 16 paid registrants. Applicants will be notified by email of acceptance and additional details.

The camp is held at the GCGMS Lapidary Shop located on 3933 N. Timon Blvd. (North Beach), CC, TX 78402 June 19-23, 2017 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Contact: Linda Simpson at [rockcamp\\_speaker@outlook.com](mailto:rockcamp_speaker@outlook.com) 361-877-5820 *no texting*



# CLASSIFIEDS

**H**ave something you'd like to place in the classifieds? Looking for something in particular? Submit your want to sell or want to buy/trade to the classifieds to find potential people to find what you are looking for. Send your ads to ***newsletter@gcgms.org*** and well post it for you.