



SLAB-GAB

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August 2010

No. 5

Member of: The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies &
The American Federation of Mineral Societies

Meetings—First Friday of Month
No meeting in July

P.O. Box 2804
Victoria, TX 77902

Purpose: To promote education and share our interest in the various earth sciences through the study of lapidary arts, mineralogy, and archaeology within the meaning of section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of future United States Internal Revenue Code.

The August meeting will be held Fri., Aug. 6, at the Victoria Art League located at 905 S. Bridge, Victoria, TX.

Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

Good times. I had a wonderful visit with a long time member and friend of the VGMS this week. Chic Tolbert. Chic lives right behind, catty-cornered actually, our home. The history she has to share reminds me of how valuable and precious the experiences are and knowledge is of those that have traveled so far and have learned so much. For those that know Chic, and knew Jesse Tolbert, you are genuinely fortunate. As Chic tells it, she and Jesse had, at one time, minerals from every continent around the world and many of the countries within those continents. There's no disputing how talented Jesse was. The built-in, wall length display in the Tolbert home is testament to Jesse's skills and the appreciation he had of the minerals he so artfully shaped and polished. (Chic was quick to state that the home was one of the first constructed in the subdivision and was built by fellow VGMS charter member Oscar Lockstedt.)

Chic talked about plenty related to the early years of the VGMS. The special times gathering with early members of the club, like the Lockstedts, Gislens, Camps and others. Backyard gatherings and talk about rocks. Pre-rock hunt morning breakfasts and talk about rocks. Evidence of the spirit of Jesse and Chic's enthusiasm for rockhounding, and all things Earth Science related, is reflected in the faces of their children, Dick and Nancy, who were also there when Jennifer and I visited the Tolbert home. How rich that giving of knowledge is!

I guess that's where I'm going with sharing about my visit with Chic, Dick and Nancy Tolbert. Of all that they saw, of all that they cut, tumbled and polished, of all that they learned, the richest part of what they did was share with others. Great givers. Educators.

Chic is still sharing...giving...serving.

I believe we can all be inspired by the Tolbert's. As the time for the next VGMS Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show nears; I am infused with enthusiasm and filled with anticipation to again give.

It matters little how many or how few the years we've been a part of the experience of presenting another show, it's the giving that counts and makes it all so worth it.

It's time to let all those rocks in our heads fall out...to have them picked up as gems of encouragement, inspiration, and joy. How many times will you make someone smile?

Chic smiles when she gives.

Sure, we'll pick up some treasures that we will keep, but it's the smiles from those that give, and those that we gave to, that we'll carry with us for far longer. You can't help but carry the smiles with you.

Remember Edith's smile? It's timeless really.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

With highest regards,
Dave Winston Snell

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2010 VGMS MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society held its regular monthly meeting on June 4, 2010 in the Victoria Electric Co-op building. Vice-President, Lisa Strykl, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance

10 members, 0 junior members and 2 guests (Pat Stahl, Linda Palmer) were present. There were only single entries in the Monthly competition, so winners were announced: Jewelry-Ken Lemke, mother of pearl & sterling silver; Silversmithing-Ken Lemke, tiger eye.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting, as printed in the Slab Gab, was made by Leola Camp, seconded by Bunny Tordt - motion carried.

Reports

Treasurer's Report - distributed by Ken Lemke:

\$8,366.80 - balance for Show Acct.

\$11,507.65- balance for General Fund Acct.

Ken reported that all vendors for the 2010 show are paid up.

Old Business

Lisa announced that she would take orders for name tags after the meeting, so all members would have them for the show.

New Business -none

Meeting adjourned to bag rocks for the Wheel-of-Fortune.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

Important Dates in July

7th-Jenell Gisler, birthday

7th-Les Pagel, birthday

8th-Joanne McGinnis, birthday

13th-Denise Mebane, birthday

17th-Ken and Pam Lemke, anniversary

18th-Lisa Stryk, birthday

30th-Jennifer Snell, birthday

Important Dates in August

3rd-Cheryl McGinnis, anniversary

4th-Almon and Betty Carroll, anniversary

10th-Barbara Burkett, birthday

13th-Carol Ann Watkins, birthday

14th-Carolyn Arrington, anniversary

26th-Mike Byrd, birthday

28th-Barbara Burkett, anniversary

30th-Allison Payne, anniversary

31st-Barbara Dietzel, birthday

MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2010 VGMS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Executive Board held a meeting at Golden Corral at 6 pm. President, Dave Winston Snell called the meeting to order.

Board members present were: Snell, Ken Lemke, Leola Camp, Bunny Tordt, Patty Shay, Lisa Stryk

Discussed the possibility of using the Senior Citizens' Center for future club activities. Snell reported that the facility has a Board of Directors, so we would need to approach their board before making any decisions.

Our Sept. and Oct. meetings are mostly show preparation, so the meeting can be anywhere we decide.

Local news carried a story about the Community Center having a rental increase. Our contract already reflects an increase for the 2011 show from \$750 per day to \$900 per day. Discussed possible ways to cover the price increase including raising the price of admittance and having limited workshops during the show (ex. Ann Pearce-beading).

2010 schedule for the show

Thurs., Oct. 14 - 8 am -table and electrical set up

Fri., 9 am-6 pm (school tours day)

Sat., 10 am-6 pm

Sun., 10 am-5 pm

It was suggested that we put a donation jar on the lunch table to help cover the costs in the snack room.

Leola reported that the zoo will allow us to display the Allosaurus again this year.

A motion to have Ken pay the 2012 deposit for the show made by Leola Camp; 2nd by Bunny Tordt. Motion carried.

Club Booth at Show - discussed a few details:

1. Seller must have their actual tax # certificate at the show
2. All items must be made or assembled by club members
3. There will be a selection committee to inspect the quality of items to be sold-no junk or inferior materials
4. There will be a contract for sellers
5. Club will not be responsible for theft or losses
6. Set up will be Friday evening after school tours have ended

So far, there are only 4 people who have shown interest in selling at the show.

Board members who have keys to the storage building are: Les Pagel, Patty Shay, Ken Lemke, Howard Camp, Dave Winston Snell.

Meeting adjourned.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

August Meeting Activity - Wire Wrapping with Les Pagel

Tools needed:

Wire Wrapping tools if you have them. Otherwise you will need: round nose pliers flat nose pliers needle nose pliers wire cutters Mandrel if you have one. I will be bringing extra dowels for wrapping, not sure if I have enough. If there are any questions. Please contact Les at 361-578-5888

Are you a rockhound or rockhead?

Test your knowledge of mineral and rock names by putting one of the names listed below into each blank.

1. The geologist played poker, but wound up losing his _____.
2. The bar where mineralogists break the Ten Commandments is called the _____.
3. If we _____ rocks, we'll all lose our teeth.
4. There are four _____ to the gallon.
5. "What shall we give Mike?" "Let's give _____ new mineral for his collection!"
6. Fracture of the _____ column usually results in paralysis.
7. All of the talkative geology students were put in one row, soon christened the "_____".
8. When Fred Zir was swindled of his jewels, it was called the Great _____.
9. You sent her flowers? What a _____ thing to do.
10. If I don't get this _____, when someone walks in he'll fall through to the basement.
11. The mineral that is the very symbol of hunger. _____
12. The con man tried to _____ mineralogists with a fake ruby, but he got caught.
13. At the circus, a clown threw a fake rock at another and got a _____ in his face.
14. Put Nick's book _____ shelf where it belongs.
15. A baseball player's favorite gem. _____
16. If a rube is a type of hick, does it follow that hickeys are _____?
17. Says one hip geologist to another, "Hey, that's really _____ man."
18. If you drop a rock on your foot while in polite company, you should say "_____ all!"
19. Of all things, we must never take rocks for _____.

- a. **Albite** b. **Apatite** c. **Chert** d. **Cinnabar** e. **Coal** f. **Diamond** g. **Fluorite** h. **Gabbro**
i. **Garnet** j. **Granite** k. **Gneiss** l. **Gypsum** m. **Mica** n. **Onyx** o. **Pyrite** p. **Quartz**
q. **Rubies** r. **Spinel** s. **Zircon**

If you get stuck, answers will be at the meeting!

from a random search on the internet for geology jokes

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080110030334AAWkHQE>

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel at Christmas and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Nothing to do with rockhounding, but I found it punny - ed.



Staurolites



Staurolite is a metamorphic mineral that is famous for its twinned crystals that form the shape of a cross. It is composed of iron aluminum silicate and its color ranges from yellowish brown to reddish brown to black. It can be transparent or opaque. It forms with garnet, tourmaline and kyanite in mica schists and gneisses and other aluminum-rich metamorphic rocks. They can be found in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and New Mexico. Deposits are also located in Russia, France and Brazil. It is the official state mineral of Georgia.

The cross most commonly forms at a 60 degree angle (St Andrew's Crosses) but the 90 degree angle (Greek Crosses) is most sought after. They sometimes form with both types of crystals creating a specimen that looks like a 6 rayed star.

Staurolite gets its name from stauros, the Greek word for cross but is also known as Fairy Stone and Fairy Cross. It has long been prized as a good luck charm and is thought to aid in healing and provide protection from evil spirits. A popular Christian legend states that tears shed by the angels at the time of Christ's crucifixion crystallized and fell to the earth as Staurolites. Other legends claim they were formed by the tears of fairies, shed in sorrow over the death of Christ.

The Cherokee have their own legend which tells of the little people who brought to them a tale of greatness and sadness. The little people spoke of a special boy-child who had grown into a man of wisdom and taught his people the ways of the Creator and the straight white path of peace. He brought strong medicine (nuwati) to his people but had many enemies who would not hear his message of peace. On this day they would torture and kill the wise man. Because of their sorrow, the Cherokee began to cry. When their weeping had ended they looked down and saw that their tears had been changed into small stone crosses. (legend preserved by the Chiltoskey family of Cherokee North Carolina)

The Cherokee also tell of an annual ceremony centered around staurolites that was held at the Spring Solstice full moon. At sunset staurolite crosses would be put into the fire and heated until they were glowing hot, then carried to a special mound with green sticks. There they glowed for hours and were reheated as necessary to keep them hot until sunrise. The ceremony assured the people of safe passage, rain during the growing season and an abundance of food in the fall.



Staurolite from Pestsovye Keivy, Keivy Mountains, Kola Peninsula, Murmanskaja Oblast', Northern Region, Russia, 2.5 x 2.2 x 1 cm
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staurolite>

Sources: Smithsonian Rock and Gem by Ronal Louis Bonewitz
<http://www.galleries.com/minerals/silicate/staurolite/staurolite.htm>
<http://www.luckygemstones.com/staurolite-jewelry-fairycrosses.htm>
http://web.dps.k12.va.us/gibson/roadside_geology/fairystone.htm
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Staurolite>

In Sympathy

On behalf of the club, I would like to offer our heartfelt sympathy to Jay Allison's family on the loss of his brother, Henry E. Allison, on July 5th.

- ed.

GINNA'S GEMS

Virginia Adian, Executive Vice-President,
South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Last month, Ike House and I represented you at our AFMS annual meeting hosted by the California Federation. You probably know by now that we did get enough donations to give the 2010 AFMS scholarship awardees their full \$4000 grant for graduate studies. Much of that money came from the South Central and Eastern regional Federations. South Central was commended for its leadership role in support of the scholarship fund. Thanks to all our clubs who sent unrestricted donations to make this possible!!

Just a reminder that nominees for AFMS Scholarship Honoree for 2011 need to be sent to me by October 31. Not at the end of December as printed in the directory. This is a way of honoring a person or couple who has made significant contributions toward earth science education in our region. If you have questions, please email me at: v.adian@gvvc.com.

One of my more somber duties is to read the list of rockhounds who have died since our last annual AFMS meeting. Please do not forget to send me (or current executive VP) those names throughout the year. I was saddened to read 7 names of Fredericksburg Rockhounds who gave many years of service before their passing. I was given the names of 6 people from the Lubbock Gem & Min. Soc.. The loss of so many of these dedicated members means that we must be diligent in recruiting new members and be willing to step up to fill the void of jobs left open.

I returned home to a garden struggling in the summer heat. Some of the plants cannot withstand the stress and wilt and die from the scorching sun. But there are others which thrive and fill in the space left by the removal of the dried plants. Sometimes I need to buy some new plants which can last the rest of the summer to fill the spaces. I need to change the watering or fertilizing pattern for others.

A garden is a bit like our clubs. We will lose some members. We need to work to replace them. We need to provide things which make our clubs thrive. As I have talked with clubs, I have been given two main reasons for keeping them alive and growing. Those two factors are GOOD PROGRAMS and INTERESTING FIELD TRIPS. If your club is has grown weaker, I encourage you to strive to improve these two things. Just like our gardens, they don't recover on their own, THEY TAKE WORK.

Thanks to all those members who do work and keep your clubs thriving. Happy collecting, cutting, and polishing,

Virginia Adian

South Central Federation Newsletter

July-August, 2010

<http://www.scfms.net>

Annual Dues

Annual membership dues will be collected at the Aug. meeting.

For Sale

Chic Tolbert has a high-quality display case for sale. This case was built using the same plans that the club cases were built from. The wood is a lighter color. Please contact her for further information @ 575-1870.

Upcoming Shows

August

7-8--AUSTIN, TEXAS: Show; Austin Bead Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; admission \$5, \$1 off with food donation; handcrafted jewelry, supplies, raffles; contact Austin Bead Society, P.O. Box 656, Austin, TX 78767-0656, or Michele Chesak; e-mail: mchesak@gmail.com; Web site: www.austinbeadsociety.org

28-29--JASPER, TEXAS: 16th annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society; The Event Center, 6258 Hwy. 190 W, 5 miles west of Jasper; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students and children free; silent auction, Spinning Wheel, door prizes, grand prize raffle, rock food table, lapidary demonstrations, educational exhibits; contact Jonetta Nash, Rte. 2 Box 248, Jasper, TX 75951, (409) 384-3974; e-mail: jonetta.nash@yahoo.com

September

4-5--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: 53rd annual show, "Texas Treasures"; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children \$3; Kids' Korner, Rock Food Table, gem identification, silent auction, Grand Prize, hourly door prizes, vendors, jewelry, beads, gems, minerals, fossils; contact Karen Cessna, 2213 Hackberry Dr., Arlington, TX 76013, (817) 860-5232; e-mail: cessnak@ont.com; Web site: www.agemclub.org

18-19--STAFFORD, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; Bead Jamboree; Stafford Convention Center, 10505 Cash Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Robert Khork, 914 164th St. #449, Mill Creek, WA 98012, (206) 769-3987; e-mail: info@beadjamboree.com; Web site: www.beadjamboree.com

October

7-9--MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: 22nd Annual World's Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$80 (\$95 late registration); meet other miners, keep all you find, maybe even win a prize; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Web site: www.mountidachamber.com

9-10--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show and sale, "LMRA Rockfest Fort Worth"; Lockheed Martin Recreation Assn.; LMRA Trinity River Park, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; rocks, flint, gems, minerals; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr., Saginaw, TX 76131, (817) 777-1997; e-mail: steve.l.shearin@lmco.com; Web site: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001244652268&v=app_2309869772#!/group.php?gid=132202050142082

22-24--AUSTIN, TEXAS: Show, "Gem Capers 2010"; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (all three days), seniors \$4, children 13-18 \$1, 6-12 50 cents, 5 and under free; more than 30 vendors, displays, Rock Food Table, touch table of rocks and fossils, demonstrations of cabbing, wire wrapping, faceting, polymer clay, fossil cleaning, kids' day Fri., Wheel of Fortune, Gem Mine, jewelry making, rocks that glow in the dark, grand prize; contact Brian Wetzig, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: ShowChairman@AustinGemAndMineral.org; Web site: www.GemCapers.com

"Code of Ethics"

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 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.
- 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.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- 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.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- 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.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

VGMS Slab Gab
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