



# SLAB-GAB

Volume 45

December 2010

No. 9

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 December meeting will be held Fri., Dec. 10, at the Victoria Art League located at 905 S. Bridge, Victoria, TX. *Please note that this is not the first Friday. Please arrive by 6:30 because the food will arrive at 6 pm.***

## Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

The VGMS Workshop at the Refugio Expo Center at the Refugio County Fairgrounds was a success! If success is to be measured by the quality of the opportunity and the generosity of the individuals giving their time to teach, then the workshop was a *resounding* success! Knowledge was gained and valuable "tools" were picked up that will help those participating to inspire others to enjoy membership in the Victoria Gem & Mineral Society. The workshop exemplified our society's existence to "promote education and share interest in the various earth sciences..."

Patty Shay is to be highly commended for both facilitating the opportunity for the club to have the workshop in Refugio and for the giving of her time and materials. Ken Lemke demonstrated abundant generosity in not only showing us how stones are cut/slabbbed, but also how useful a simple tile saw can be in trimming slabs to prep them for making cabochons. Ken loaded up one of his slab saws onto his flatbed trailer and hauled the equipment to Refugio for the very educational demonstration. I most appreciatively had a piece of Crazy Lace Agate cut (obtained from Howard Camp years ago) that had been collecting dust for years. Thanks to Ken's patient and skillful direction, Patty, Jennifer and I walked away with nice first time cabs. Les gave her encouragement and guidance more than a few times as well.

The Refugio Expo Center was a very nice place with plenty of space and amenities conducive to having a workshop; especially allowing us to fire up (pun intended!) equipment/machines, inside and out, for a successful event. There's talk about having another workshop there sometime next March or April.

Don't forget that the December VGMS meeting will be the *second* Friday of the month and will again be held at the Victoria Art League. While the meeting will include the induction of 2011 VGMS Officers and Board Members, and the presentation of trophies for those that won various competitions, it will also be a festive gathering complete with a tasty meal! With that said, please allow me to express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to have served with you as a member of the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful New Year. New opportunities abound for the VMGS rockhound in 2011!

With greatest respect,

Dave Winston Snell

## **MINUTES OF THE October 2010 VGMS MEETING**

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society held its regular monthly meeting on Oct.1, 2010 at the Victoria Electric Co-Op. 19 members, 1 Jr. member, and 3 guests (Ronnie Stanford, Pam Stanford, and Gary Marshall) were present. President, Dave Winston Snell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no minutes from the Sept. meeting.

A presentation was given by Trinity Lutheran Church members about the annual "LutherFest", to be held on the Sunday of our show at the Community Center. They donated four barbeque tickets for meeting door prizes.

### **REPORTS**

**Nominating Committee**-Leola Camp distributed ballots to be used for next month's election. Will also be printed in the *Slab Gab*.

**Advertising Committee**-presented report on show advertising. Brought information coupons, signs, and flyers for club members to distribute. Television ads are running, Advocate Community Calendar has been submitted. Ads and releases to be in area newspapers, Victoria, Cuero, Goliad, etc. with Refugio and Beeville added this year. New tickets to be printed with the question, "How did you hear about our show?"

**School Committee**- Les reported that 900 children have been scheduled to attend the show so far.

**Show Committee**-Ken Lemke reported that the show would be dedicated to Edith Lockstedt and one showcase will be used to display items from her family.

The Ann Pearce workshop will be limited to 12 people on Saturday. Could possibly have another on Sunday. \$40 fee will include \$15 for materials. Information to be included on club website.

Copies of show job duties were handed out.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The November 5th meeting will be held at the Victoria Art League. We will have a mini workshop. Refreshments will be served.

The December meeting will be held at the Victoria Art League on Friday, Dec. 10th. This will be our annual Christmas dinner. Each family should bring a side dish or dessert. The club will furnish Turkey and dressing. Donations of new toys will be accepted to be distributed in the community.

Patty Shay suggested having a full day workshop in Refugio. A location is available free-of-charge. The club agreed and Shay will find available dates for November.

Ken Lemke reported that our storage building rates will increase from \$40 to \$50 per month. To be paid by Jan. 1.

Winners of the trophies for monthly competition are: Wire Wrapping-Les Pagel; Jewelry-Les Pagel; Metal Smithing-Ken Lemke; Cabochon-Ken Lemke; Open-Lisa Stryk; Jr. Member-Megan Berry.

Leola reported that the Victoria Zoo and the Master Naturalists are installing a paleontology dig working display at the zoo. They are seeking donations of fossils to be used in the display.

A motion was made by Ken Lemke for the club to aid the zoo by donating fossils. 2nd by Bunny Tordt; motion carried.

It was suggested that a Facebook page be set up for the club. Shay to look into it.

### **MONTHLY COMPETITION**

Wire Wrapping - 1st-Les Pagel(silver, turquoise, jasper); 2nd Jennifer Snell (sugelite& druzy in silver)

Jewelry- 1st-Les Pagel (mother-of pearl, copper); 2nd Dave Snell (dichroic cross)

Jr. Member- 1st Megan Berry (hematite and pearl necklace)

Open - 1st-Patty Shay (glass and agate slab box)

**Victoria Art League Holiday Market Day.** Sat. Dec. 4th, 7:00am to 5:00 pm. Spaces rent from \$15 to \$20 depending if it is covered or uncovered patio. For information contact 649-8309 or 645-3748 or e-mail yougottacreate@yahoo.com.

**Annual Elections will be held during the Nov. business meeting. This is the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee.**

**2011 Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Ballot**

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NOMINEE</b>	<b>WRITE-IN</b>
PRESIDENT-----	Dave Snell	_____
1st VICE-PRESIDENT-----	Lisa Stryk	_____
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT-----	Les Pagel	_____
SECRETARY-----	Patty Shay	_____
TREASURER-----	Ken Lemke	_____

**Board Members:**

Carroll Edge--1 year		
Bunny Tordt--1 year		
Howard Camp--2 years		_____
Bob Clark--2 years		_____

**RICHARD LEE BAKER**

HALLETTSVILLE - Richard Lee Baker (Bob), our beloved Marine... husband, father and grandfather, passed away Tuesday morning Oct. 26, 2010 at the age of 76. He died at Lavaca Medical Center of natural causes after a life of service devoted to his family, his community and his country.

Richard was born March 4, 1934 in Stroud, Okla. He grew up on a farm and lived a simple country life where he developed a love for the outdoors and a curiosity for nature that became a life long passion. Throughout his life he shared that passion with any who would join him, and he pursued it wherever it led him.

On March 21, 1951 Richard joined the [United States Marine Corps](#). At the age of 17 he became a Marine for life. He enlisted with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Division and began a distinguished military career as a weapons technician, earning expert badges in rifle and pistol marksmanship. Richard loved the Marine Corps and lived his life by the moral standards and strict discipline he acquired while proudly serving in Korea and Vietnam. He retired from active duty on Feb. 28, 1971 and transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve where he served for an additional 10 years. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Lone Star Chapter 854.

After leaving the military, Richard owned a gun repair shop and worked in construction before settling in Hallettsville in December 1979. He joined the Hallettsville School District in August 1983 and worked in the maintenance department until he retired as maintenance director in August 2008.

An avid gardener and rock hunter, Richard made the most of his place in Hallettsville. He was the "Rock Man" to school children and fellow rock hounds who came from all around to see his popular Rock Shop, known for the collection of beautiful exotic rocks and gems he traveled all over the country to find. He sent many students on their way with pockets full of polished rocks and gems. Richard was loved for his enthusiasm and generosity. He was a gracious friend to many and a role model to his children.

Richard is survived by his brother, Wayne; sisters Noni, Jackie and Gwen; and wife of 35 years, Marianne Newman Baker. Surviving children are sons, Richard Lee Baker Jr. and wife Kathy, Malcolm Trey Baker and wife Charlotte, and Kevin Edward Kendall; daughters, Rhonda Burrage, Lara Bennett and husband Clay, and Kathleen Lee Prescott. Dearly loved were his grandchildren, Michelle Baker Wright, James Matthew Baker, Kelli Baker Palermo, Kenneth Burrage, Ciara "Niki" Major, Chloe Burrage, Henry and Owen Bennett, Erin Kennedy Rutecki, John Paul Prescott, Emma and Sofia Baker; and great-grandchildren Haylee, Kylie, Ethan, Kierston and Caleb.

A memorial service with military honors will be held for Richard at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5, 2010 at First United Methodist Church, 206 South Dowling Street, Hallettsville TX 77964.

In lieu of flowers donations to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Lone Star Chapter #854 Scholarship Fund would be greatly appreciated.

He was our hero. We will miss you dad.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.kubenafuneralhome.com](http://www.kubenafuneralhome.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

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VGMS Slab Gab  
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