



www.victoriagemandmineral.com

SLAB-GAB

Volume 46

December 2011

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 Christmas party meeting will be held Fri., Dec. 2, at the Victoria Chili's Restaurant located on Navarro. Members will pay for their own meals.

Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

Thank you. The two words that are often placed near the closing of a letter seem most appropriately the best words to start this end-of-the-year message.

Thank you for all your support during 2011; it has been a genuine pleasure to serve you and be the president of the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society.

Much gratitude to Jay and Mary Allison for their inspired giving of their time and home for workshops and sharing. I will always treasure your knowledge, experience and generosity.

Ken, Patty, Jay, Mary, Les, Lisa, Howard, Leola, Jennifer, Bunny, Bob, Doris, Philip, Carroll, Denise, Pam, Kay Marie, Brian, Matthew; each and every member (and even some close past members!) of the VGMS stepped up and served most admirably to/for the club and our community in 2011. It is the unified effort of all membership that came together during the 52nd Annual VGMS Show that I will hold most memorable and with highest appreciation. Included in the deserving recognition is the service of junior members, Abby and Joshua, proving that they're chips off the ol' rocks.

In 2012, the opportunity to enjoy more workshops and field trips looks better than in years past. New and rekindled relationships with members of the SWGMS and past VGMS membership give reason for enthusiasm and anticipation for more great rockhounding experiences; more skill sharing and learning.

Let us not forget that the December meeting will be more than a great opportunity for Christmas fellowship and the enjoyment of a tasty meal. Though a motion of acclamation was made and carried at the November meeting, it is important to recognize that we will have a different line up of VGMS board membership for 2012.

I sincerely hope all of you have a very blessed Christmas and find that 2012 is a New Year overflowing with peace, prosperity, and awesome rockhounding discovery!

With gratitude and respect,
Dave Winston Snell

Victoria Gem & Mineral Society
Minutes of the October 7, 2011 Meeting
Victoria Art League Building

President, Dave Winston Snell, called the meeting to order at 7pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 20 members, 3 jr. members, and 2 guest present (Linda and Gerald Simpson).

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 2011 minutes as printed in the Slab Gab was made by Les Pagel; seconded by Jennifer Snell. Motion carried.

Show Advertising- Dave explained the advertising for the show. 3 banners will be hung and a location is being sought for the 4th. Portable signs were distributed. There will be no television advertising. Adding newspapers-Rockport and Hallettsville (Yoakum, Shiner, & Moulton).

Nancy Tolbert Dennison and Dick Tolbert will organize a show case in memory of Chic Tolbert.

Will meet at 10 am Thursday to go to storage building to load up everything for the show.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers who are willing to run in the election in November:

President-Dave Winston Snell

1st Vice-President-Les Pagel

2nd Vice-President-Jay Allison

Secretary-Patty Shay

Treasurer-Ken Lemke

Board Members:

1 year-Howard Camp, Bob Clark

2 years-Mary Allison, Leola Camp

Show Details- table cloths were distributed to members to take home, wash, and return to set-up. 2 display cases are available (9 spoken for). Les reported that she only had 357 students who would be attending. No VISD schools will be attending because of a bus driver shortage due to the oilfield boom. Club discussed having a 2 day show in the future if there will be fewer students attending.

Competition- Jewelry- Les Pagel (opal ring)

Cab- Les Pagel - tiger eye

Wire Wrapping- Les Pagel- labradorite and silver wire.

2011 overall winners-

Ken-metalsmithing

Les- cabochon

Les-wirewrapping

Les-jewelry

Les-open

Door Prizes -Jay Allison furnished door prizes which were won by Bob Clark, Pam Lemke, and Kay Marie Lagal.

Meeting adjourned.

respectfully submitted by Patty Shay, VGMS Secretary

A NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

from *The Gem News* 1972

T'was the eve a'fore Christmas
And there in the night,
The desert was quiet
Not a rockhound in sight.

Our socks were all hung
By the fire's ruby glow --
In the hope that Mama
Would sew up the toe.

The kids were all stacked
In their warm little bunks
With visions of agate --
Slabs, boulders, and chunks.

Me in my long johns
And Ma in her sack,
Had jumped into bed
It was cold as a tack.

From out in the sage brush
Came a hullabaloo;
I sprang to the window
To throw out a shoe.

I strained my eyes
'Til my brow was a furrow
Along came a geezer
A-leading his burro.

By the size of his belly
And his face full of hair,
I knew it was Santa...
Or a grizzly bear.

"Go Rudolph, go Rudolph
You stubborn old mule,
Get moving there Rudolph
You lop-eared old fool."

Then quick as a polecat
I heard him on top
That durn red-nosed burro
Goin' clippity clop.

Santa's trip down the chimney
Was something uncanny,
The fire was burnin'
And scorched his poor fanny.

He was dressed all in denim
From his head to his shoes
And his nose was all red
Like he'd drunk too much booze.

He has a middle age spread
That just wouldn't quit,
And a rock bag so big
It was already split.

He spied my old trim saw,
The one that was broke.
"By golly you're rockhounds,
You're my kind of folk."

He sat down at the table
And we both had some java
And threw bull about agate,
And opal and lava.

He told me of old times --
Of Horse Canyon agate,
Of the good times at Boron,
Of jasper from Daggett.

He told of deliveries to
What are now ghost cities --
Of Bullfrog and Bodie
They're dead, what a pity.

Then from out of his pack
For me and for Ma,
What did he pull
But a big slabbing saw.

There was a hammer for Dougie,
And a black light for Ginny,
And a bag of rock candy
So we wouldn't get skinny.

Then lookin' at the fire
And feelin' his sore
He decided it was best
To leave through the door.

But I heard him exclaim
As he fell in the mine,
"Merry Christmas, you rock-
hounds
And Auld Lang Syne."

Shop Tip

One reason for polishing a stone all over, front, back, and edges, is the polish acts as a sealer. It seals and keeps in water, especially opal. It prevents natural corrosion as in Rhodonite, which corrodes to black ore called wad, and helps stop absorption of harmful substances such as perspiration, etc. Polish the back of your cabs by flat lapping on the back of a glass plate or normally.

via Gem of the Rogue 8/98, The Sooner Rockologist 10/09, STAR-O-LITE 11/11
From *The Stone Chipper*, Nov./Dec. 2011, newsletter of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can do this either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling one hole correctly, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

More *BenchTips* by Brad Smith are at: groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips

Prayer of a Rockhound
by Ellis Whitaker June 1976

Dear Lord You know I've suffered so in wind, cold and rain.
Spent some hungry, sleepless nights 'cause my body ached with pain.
From stumbling over rocky hills with a heavy toting bag.
that was always empty going out, a ton when I came back

And, You've seen my bandaged fingers, from digging in the dirt.
As I searched to find rare fairburns, finding nothing more than chert.
Had my old shoes half-soled several times, lost a wallet, tore my jeans.
As I madly dashed from hill to hill to fulfill my rockhound dreams

Worn out several fine old cars, over roads not meant for man.
Licked everything from dirt to dung, guess I've ate a ton of sand.
But, I ain't complaining Lord you see, just praying for that chance to find
that spot You made for rockhounds, before these old eyes go blind.

Where the agates lay in colored piles and chunks of jade abound.
With rubies scattered here and there, and some sapphires on the ground.
where azurite and malachite is piled around in view.
Some garnets and topaz showing off their brilliant hue.

With a nice cool mountain stream nearby and glistening in its sand.
Some diamonds big as marbles and some gold for me to pan.
Lord, I've been so disappointed with the junk that I have found.
Sometimes I'm just too darned ashamed to say "I'm a Rockhound.

Like the crystals that I dug for when I fought Death Valley sands.
Why, they turned out just plain old salt, then they melted in my hands.
And those garnets that I tried to cut, that I picked up in Utah.
They just simply fell to pieces when I put them in my saw.

And that time in Arizona when I met those Indian boys.
Bought that colored clay they said was No.1 Turquoise.
How about that time in Mexico, now them opals sure looked real.
How was I to know just how darned cold glass should feel?

And Lord, the teasing I've taken from my football friends,
about my going hunting rocks on my every off weekend.
Yes, they talk about my hounding, and I know they all have said.
They're not concerned with the ones in my yard, but the ones within my head.

Read all the books on gems and stuff, subscribe to the Lapidary World.
Yet my treasures look so pitiful, I don't even own a pearl.
Lord, I'm still a faithful rockhound, digging till I'm out of breath.
The only thing to slow me down is when I close my eyes in death.

Oh Lord, I pray, please hear my plea, guide me to that promised land,
So that when I kick the bucket, I'll have Moss Agate in my hand.
Fill my rock sack with tiny gems that will shine when wet with spit.
When finally i greet St. Peter, Lord, I just wont mind a bit.

Real Vs. Faux

Going through a box of costume jewelry at a garage sale one might find “real” bargains. Or going through old family jewelry that’s been passed down might find some “faux” finds. Here are some ways to “Sherlock” your way through bobs and bangles. When looking at prongs on rings see if they are sloppy or bent over the stone irregularly? Good chance it’s a faux and the stone is too. Rings made with expensive metal prongs are straight with round heads and uniform in height. Faux pearls have been around since 1675. Just because they’re an old set does not mean they’re real. A simple way to check for “real or cultured” pearls are your teeth. Rub the largest pearl across your teeth if they’re gritty or slightly sandy feeling they’re real. If they’re smooth they’re probably faux. Another way is to look for a plastic mold line usually found near the hole to the “pearl.” If it has one it’s probably faux.

from THE VOICE, VOLUME LXII NUMBER 10 October 2011, newsletter of the El Paso Mineral & Gem Society

Important Dates in November

9th- Dave and Jennifer Snell, Anniversary

25th- Jesus Christ, Birthday

22nd- Pam Lemke, Birthday

28th- Howard and Leola Camp, Anniversary

Merry Christmas!

Upcoming Shows

December

2-4—EL PASO, TEXAS: Annual show; El Paso Mineral & Gem Society; El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, seniors \$2, students \$3, children (under 12) free; gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, tools, books, equipment, geode cutting, silent auction, demonstrations; contact Jeannette Carrillo, 4100 Alameda Ave., El Paso, TX 79905, (915) 533-7153; e-mail: gemcenter@aol.com; Web site: epmgs.com

January

1-31—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1055 Kuehn St.; I-10 Exit 17; Sun. 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1055 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: dggemshow@ureach.com; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

27-29—TYLER, TEXAS: Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Rose Garden Center; 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5; adults \$3, students \$1, Scouts in uniform free; Grand Prize drawings, silent auction, Wheel of Fortune, show cases, 11 dealers, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, minerals, geodes, lapidary demonstrations Rock Food Table; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

February

18-19—GEORGETOWN, TEXAS: Annual show; Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society; Community Center; San Gaberial Park; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, children (under 6) free; Rollin' Rock Club meeting Sun.; contact Wanda Reynolds, 2100 Magazine St., Austin, TX 78727, (512) 461-0084; e-mail: dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com; Web site: www.wcgms.org

25-26—PASADENA, TEXAS: Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Pkwy.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$1, children (under 12) and all Scouts and leaders in uniform free; Scout merit badge assistance, children's Gem Mine and activities, displays, fossils, gems, minerals, hourly door prizes, grand prize, selected dealers; contact Ben Duggar, 2109 Laughing Gull Ln., League City, TX 77573, (281) 316-6710; e-mail: saidduggar@verizon.net; Web site: www.clgms.org

"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
Patty Shay, Editor
306 W. Houston
Refugio, TX 78377