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SLAB-GAB

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No. 2

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 February meeting will be held Fri., Feb. 4, at the Victoria Art League located at 905 S. Bridge, Victoria, TX. Fellowship-6:30, Competition Judging-6:45, Business Mtg.-7pm.

Until further notice, all subsequent meetings will be held at the Victoria Art League.

Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

This time around please consider my note to you as encouragement to pause and pay tribute. On January 11th, a long-time member of the Victoria Gem & Mineral Society passed away; Chic Tolbert. The world of "rockhounds" lost a beautiful, talented person known simply as "Chic" to many and known as a *treasure* to all that really knew her. Though I had really just begun to be acquainted with my neighbor, Chic, (and her equally exceptionally cordial family), it quickly became clear that 'beautiful' and 'talented' could barely begin to describe her wonderfulness.

Leola Camp recently shared some interesting and genuinely endearing stories about Chic and Jesse Tolbert. Chic's warmhearted spirit must have been inherited by Dick Tolbert and Nancy Tolbert Denison; exhibited by Dick's giving of Brazilian agate for the club to sell at our silent auction during our show last year and Nancy's sharing of stories of Chic and Jesse's past rock seeking adventures and jewelry making skills. When I visited the Tolbert home the day after Chic's passing, Nancy said there were many more stories to be told.

Through the generosity of Chic's children, Dick, Peggy and Nancy (may they never be more than a stones' throw away from the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society!) I respectfully submit the following newspaper article and photos for your review.

Please remember and celebrate the life of Chic (and Jesse) Tolbert.

Humbly,
Dave Winston Snell

Minutes of the January Meeting

THE VICTORIA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETING ON JANUARY 7 2011 WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY DAVE SNELL WE HAD 11 MEMBERS AND 1 JUNIOR MEMBER

. DAVE RECOGNIZED JANUARY BIRTHDAYS CARROLL EDGE, BOB CLARK AND GENE KENNEDY

- THE MINUTES WERE RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED THERE WERE 2 CORRECTIONS WHICH WERE MADE.
- THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IS EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS THEY ARE ASKED TO CHECK THE LIST AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THEIR NAME.

DAVE BROUGHT UP POSSIBLE FIELD TRIPS MAYBE THE SAN ANTONIO SHOW IN MARCH OR THE HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE, GULF COAST MUSEUM CORPUS CHRISTI MUSEUM GRAVEL PIT IN CORPUS CHRISTI DAVE ENCOURAGED MEMBERS TO THINK OF IDEAS FOR A FIELDTRIP AND E MAIL HIM YOUR IDEAS

DAVE DISCUSSED ANOTHER WORKSHOP IN REFUGIO WHICH THE LAST ONE WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERY ONE ATTENDING. THE WORKSHOP IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AT THIS TIME

THE CLUB RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM TRAVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HELP WITH A PROGRAM FOR THEIR SCHOOL ON MARCH 11 AND LES PAGEL VOLUNTEERED TO DO HER EXHIBIT OF HER MAP AND GEMSTONES AND ASKED FOR DONATIONS FOR ROCKS TO HAND OUT

KEN LEMKE GAVE THE TREASURERS REPORT

FEBRUARY PROGRAM IS A WIRE WRAP WORKSHOP

WIRE WRAP 1ST JENNIFER SNELL WITH AUTUMN JASPER AND STERLING SILVER

2ND LES PAGEL ARTISTIC WIRE WITH 3 COLORS

CABOCHON 1ST DAVE SNELL DINOSAR BONE

2ND KEN LEMKE PALMWOOD

3RD LES PAGEL RAINBOW MOONSTONE

OPEN 1ST LES PAGEL GLASS BEADS

JEWELRY 1ST LES PAGEL GLASS BEADS AND CRYSTAL

METALSMITHING 1ST KEN LEMKE WITH DYED CORAL AND LAPIS WITH STERLING SILVER

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO THE PROGRAM OF GEMSTONE BINGO BY LES PAGEL WHICH WAS VERY ENJOYABLE AND DIFFERENT WITH GREAT PRIZES FOR THE BINGOERS

By LISA STRYK

What is Prasiolite?

Perhaps you've seen this clear, lime or mint green gemstone at mineral shows. Various sold under trade names such as green amethyst, lime citrine, vermarine, or mint quartz, prasiolite is simply green quartz. Pleasant green color and reasonable prices make it a popular gemstone.

Prasiolite's green color is due to minor traces of iron (Fe) trapped in the quartz (hexagonal SiO₂). An alert collector might ask, "Isn't the yellow color of citrine caused by iron? How can it also give a green color?"

The answer appears to depend upon the valence (or ionic charge) of the iron impurities. If you take iron in its ground state (Fe⁰) and take away two electrons, you get the ferrous iron (Fe²⁺) ion. Take away another electron and you have ferric iron (Fe³⁺). When synthetic citrine is prepared, scientists introduce traces of ferric iron (Fe³⁺). Prasiolite, on the other hand, appears to require ferrous iron (Fe²⁺).

Interestingly, amethyst also requires iron. It is well known that citrine responds to irradiation by turning to amethyst. You can take naturally purple amethyst, heat it to somewhere above 400°C, and it transforms into yellow citrine. If you then subject it to radiation (either naturally over many years, or artificially for a few minutes in a gamma-ray irradiation facility), the yellow color of the citrine converts to the purple of amethyst.

Synthetic prasiolite is manufactured using ferrous iron (Fe²⁺), but it is also possible to produce prasiolite from white quartz or light amethyst found in Uruguay and Brazil. Specimens are first irradiated at gamma-ray irradiation facilities, then heated, to "green" the quartz. Although rare, naturally green prasiolites are known to occur as well; they are found in association with hot springs.

Dr. Andrew A. Sicree is a professional mineralogist and geochemist residing in Boalsburg, PA. **Popular Mineralogy** provides technical answers to your general mineral questions. If you have a question you'd like to have answered, please send email to sicree@verizon.net

©2007, Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D.

from The Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club, Inc., Smoke Signals, Feb 2010

Bead Spray Brooch

This delicate brooch looks wonderful pinned to a jacket lapel, or worn as a smart, single-color sweater or dress. You can choose any colored beads that blend together or create something that is quite classic, perhaps as a traditional combination of pearl beads with gold wire.

YOU WILL NEED

- 28-gauge (0.4 mm) wire
- 20-gauge (0.8 mm) wire
- Beads
- Masking tape
- Super glue (optional)
- Wire cutters
- Round-nose pliers
- Ready-made brooch fitting



OPPOSITE: This delightful little spray of jewel "flowers" could not be simpler to make—the perfect project for the novice jewelry maker!



1 Cut 4–5 in. (10–12.5 cm) lengths of 28-gauge (0.4 mm) wire. Thread a bead or beads onto the center of the wires, then “fold” the wires down on each side.



2 Bring both wires together around the bead and twist, securing the bead at 210–270°.

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Les Pagel will lead a beading workshop for the Feb. activity. “Bead Spray Brooches” will be constructed. Les will have kits available for \$10 ea. for anyone wanting to participate.

SOUNDS, SCENTS, & STONES

Feb. 12, 2011 11:00 a.m.-till

Presented by—Kay Hornsby, M.Ed., Holistic Practitioner

The Lighthouse at Sandcastle
73 Sandcastle Dr., Port Lavaca, TX
Phone 361-552-4709 or 361-652-4615 R.S.V.P

No Fee Drinks provided

Bring snacks to share

SOUNDS—Discussion & Personal Practice Intoning “sacred” sounds to balance energy centers, using color visualization & kaleidoscope-type images via “Harmonic Visions” DVD by Jonathan Goldman (sounds) & Jonathan Quintin (visuals)

Meditation Time with Sacred Sounds

Angel Harp, drums...

SCENTS—12 Oils of Scripture, using Young Living Oils.

Explanation and use of essential oils in balancing energy centers and their connection to Biblical Scripture.

STONES--Top 10 Healing Stones--

Discussion of powers/properties & uses of stones and crystals in balancing body, mind & spirit.

Texas Faceters' Guild at Texas Topaz Day

Dear Texas Faceters' Guild members, Gem and Mineral Societies, Faceters Guilds, and fellow gem cutters,

I've written before about the struggle of Texas Faceters' Guild to survive. The membership strongly desires that their accomplishment continue, but there is not the will, as most of these folks have been members a long time and they're tired. We've watched guilds all over the country fold or languish. But there are others that are thriving. Active faceting guilds often center on an educational and fun event, such as most of the gem and mineral societies do. The size of Texas makes keeping contact difficult, but some, such as the Midwest Faceters Guild covers large territory.

Saturday, March 26, is Texas Topaz Day here in Mason, Texas. This will be the 4th year for the event, and is a chance for the public to celebrate our state gem and the people that create them. Texas Faceters' Guild will have their annual meeting @ 9am at the Mason Chamber of Commerce office, on the north side of the courthouse square. The membership will vote on continuing or folding. Sunday, the guild presents its annual seminar. This is the same program that was cancelled last October.

The Texas Faceters' Guild has charged me to find a path to survival. My recommendation is that the guild takes over sponsorship of Texas Topaz Day and permanently moves their annual seminar to the same weekend as TTD.

The seminar will be held at The Wildlife Ranch lodge, a block off the Mason courthouse square. We have it for the entire weekend. It offers space for presentations, as well as on site lodging. Faceting machines can be left up for the entire weekend. There's a kitchen, outdoor area with fire pit and BBQ pit, and a room for cards. There are 2 to 4 beds per room. The down side- a communal bath- the lodge is a repurposed old folks home. Photos are attached. There are a couple of motels in town, and many B&B's.

If the Texas Faceters' Guild is to survive, it needs new blood. The current members can vote to save the guild, but cutters outside the membership have to get involved for it to survive. Several gem and mineral societies in the state have strong faceting groups in them. I know you're out there. Do y'all want an identity bigger than your local group? Do you want to create a wonderful, fun event for all of y'all? Texas Topaz Day is an annual event that celebrates our state gem and the people that create them. This event brings rockhounds, faceters, and the public together to share a beer and learn something. An opportunity to celebrate Texas in a very unique way. If y'all want an event to rival Franklin Frolics, this is your chance.

Please come to Mason on March 26-27. Please attend the Texas Faceters' Guild meeting 9am Saturday at the Mason Chamber of Commerce office on the north side of the Mason square, just east of Gems of the Hill Country. Show that you have the will, and want to be in on the fun.

Feel free to Email or call me. I could sure use help putting on the event, as well. In the past, we (I and my employees and friends) have hosted Texas Topaz Day each year. This year we add the Texas Faceters' Guild seminar and guided rock hounding. There are not enough of us to do this event justice. Come join the party.

Thanks mucho for reading,

Diane

B. Diane Eames, GG, Graduate Gemologist (GIA), gemologist@texas-topaz.com, Cell 325-347-4316, P. O. box 762, Mason, TX, 76856, 325-347-0475, Texas-topaz.com, Gems of the Hill Country, Lapidaries & Jewelers, On the historic Mason square at 126 Ft. McKavitt, Mason, TX 76856

from Fredericksburg Rockhounds News, Feb. 2011

Important Dates in January

3rd- Jay Allison, birthday

17th- Kay Hornsby, birthday

17th- Harry Wagner, birthday

20th- Howard Camp, birthday

20th- Ken Lemke, birthday

THE PETOSKEY STONE

RISING SUN...RAYS OF DAWN...SUNBEAMS OF PROMISE

Did you know that a Petoskey stone is both a rock and a fossil? Composed of fossilized coral, The Petoskey stone is found in the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan, along the beaches of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. It can also be found in rock quarries in Traverse City and Alpena. "The specific fossil coral is found only in the rock strata known as the Alpena Limestone. The Alpena Limestone is part of the Traverse Group of Devonian age."¹ Fragments of coral reefs, they were originally found about 350 million years ago, during the Devonian period². The Petoskey

stone is the national stone of Michigan and is easily identified by its six-sided mottled pattern, which clearly shows its coral fossils. These patterns are called eyes. The darker the eyes, the more collectable. The Petoskey stone got its name from an Ottawa Indian Chief called, Chief Pet-O-Sega. Legend has it that when his French nobleman/fur trading father and Ottawa princess mother married, his mother gave birth to him on the banks of the Kalamazoo River. At sunrise, the rays of sun shone down on his face and his father declared that he would be an important man. He called him Petosegay or Bedosegay, which translated means: rising sun, rays of dawn, or sunbeams of promise³. Years later after his death, around 1873, a city along the bay at Bear Creek, Michigan, was named Petoskey, which is English for Petosegay⁴. The Petoskey stone is actually a type of calcite and is also known as hexagonaria. (It also has some clay, quartz and /or pyrite in it as well⁵.) There are about seven species. The species attributed to the Petoskey stone can be found in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Canada, Germany, England and Asia⁶. It has a hardness from 4 to 5. It's said that the stone looks like limestone when it's dry. However, when polished or wet, it grayish tan surface becomes very shiny, displaying the hexagonal pattern and coral. This stone is a good choice for polishing because it can be easily polished by hand.

- 1.http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey_stone
3. Bruce Mueller and William H. Wilde, 2004, The Complete Guide to Petoskey Stones.
- 4.http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ogs-gimdl-GGPS_263213_7.pdf
- 5.Ibid.
- 6.Ibid.

From The Northern Virginia Mineral Club Inc., The Mineral Newsletter, Vol. 52, No. 1, Jan. 2011



Polished Petoskey stone



Unpolished Petoskey stone

images from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey_stone

CHIQUITA RAY TOLBERT

VICTORIA - Chiquita Ray Tolbert, 93, passed away on Jan. 11, 2011. She was born March 31, 1917, in Fairview, Okla., to the late Mayme and Bert Mitchell. She was a Catholic and a member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

She and her husband, Jesse Tolbert opened the Dairy Treet in Victoria in 1955 and were owners until Jesse's death in 1995. They spent most of their retirement years traveling, being "rock-hounds," and making jewelry. She enjoyed fishing, swimming, hunting, sewing, playing the piano, and being our beloved "Grandma T" to her family and friends. One of her greatest joys was praying the rosary with her "Wednesday Night Prayer Group" for 20 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and brother, Bobby D. Mitchell.

She is survived by her son, Richard B. Tolbert, and daughters, Peggy Howard (husband Bill Howard) and Nancy Tolbert Denison. Her grandchildren are Richard A. Tolbert of Edmond, Okla., Matt Tolbert (wife Ginger) of Austin, Angela Hughes (husband Joe) of Sunrise Beach, Jay Howard (wife Annette), Christy Uresti (husband Patrick), Jess Howard (wife Dana), and Lisa Lively (husband Matt), all of Victoria, and Brad Denison of Kerrville. She also has 22 great-grandchildren: Christian, Avery and Austin Tolbert; Toby and Thomas Tolbert; Stephanie, Kaitlyn, Travis, and Steven Hughes; Marian, Sam, John and Clare Howard; Jack, Grayson, William, and Vivian Howard; Jessica and Gennavieve Uresti; Mason, Andrew, and Luke Lively.

She was a member of the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society, Catholic Daughters, Court of St. Ann # 369, Texas Restaurant Association, and Mid-Coast Sportsman Association.

The family wishes to extend their deepest appreciation to her devoted caregivers Diane Olvera and Monica Garcia, as well as the assistance of Neezy Hall.

A rosary will be recited on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, at 7 p.m., at Colonial Funeral Home.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at Holy Family Catholic Church on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at 10 a.m., the Rev. Bryan Heyer officiating.

Burial will follow at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Yoakum.

Pallbearers will be grandsons and grandsons-in-law.

Honorary pallbearers are Mike Hathaway, Bill and Margot Reichert, Maryjean Seiler, Diane Olvera, Monica Garcia, Maricela Hernandez and all past members of her Wednesday Night Rosary Group.

Memorials may be made to Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victory School, St. Joseph High School, or Hospice of South Texas.

Arrangements by Colonial Funeral Home, Victoria, 361-578-3535.

from Victoria Advocate January 14, 2011



GINNA'S GEMS

Virginia Adian

I was elected to become SCFMS president only about one month ago, but I have already realized how grateful I am for officers and committee members who give of their time, knowledge, and skills to give our federation stability and make transitions smooth.

As we begin a new year with new leadership, the word "responsibility" comes to my mind. I have worked with various organizations where this word was not taken very seriously. We have all perhaps been in positions where we gave this word little importance.

Webster defines "responsibility" as a duty or a charge. I see "responsibility" as a combination of the words "response" and "ability". "Response" is defined as an answer or reply; a reaction. It implies doing something, not being idle. "Ability" is defined as the state of being able; possession of qualities necessary; competence; skill; a particular talent.

I think people often accept a leadership position because they have the skills or talent to perform the duties of that position. Unfortunately they fail to take any action or give any response, the job is not done, and nothing gets accomplished, or others have to step up and fill the void.

Sometimes people refuse to accept any position of leadership because they feel they do not have the skills, talent, or knowledge to do a job. They do not understand that many times "response" is the most important aspect. Response comes before ability. After a person responds and accepts a position, they find there are resources and people to help. It really doesn't "take a rocket scientist", and they can quickly learn to do the job. Response is actively working to do a job, not just having skills and carrying a title.

I want to thank all the SCFMS officers, committee members, and club officers for your willingness to accept a position. As we begin a new year in SCFMS and in our local clubs, I want to challenge all of us to make this a good year by also taking seriously our responsibilities. There are none of us who cannot do our jobs a little better and give more response. Jobs don't get done unless we are willing to put out the time and effort to accomplish them. If you need help, ask some of those club members who might be shy at taking a position, but who are willing workers. And never hesitate to ask assistance from SCFMS officers, if you have questions or concerns.

You are aware by now of our increased use of the internet for communication. We will be getting more information regarding various programs, resources, and policies on our website in the next months. Check it out often at: <http://www.scfms.net> . Happy hunting and polishing,

Virginia Adian, SCFMS President

from South Central Federation Newsletter, January-February 2011

Upcoming Shows

February

1-28—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn St. (I-10 Exit 17, south side); 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

19-20—GEORGETOWN, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park

26-27 PASADENA, TX Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society; Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway; Al Pennington gapening@earthlink.net; www.clgms.org

March

05-06 ROBSTOWN, TX GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL 49TH ANNUAL SHOW JEWELRY-MINERALS-FOSSILS BEADS AND MORE! RICHARD M. BORCHARD REGIONAL FAIRGROUNDS 1213 TERRY SHAMSIE BLVD, ROBSTOWN TX Sat. 10-6** Sun 10-5 KIDS WHEEL-DOOR PRIZES-VENDORS DISPLAYS-SPEAKERS ADMISSION \$5.00 TWO DAY PASS Under 12 FREE WITH ADULT PURCHASE

5-6—BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 42nd annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, dealers, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hourly prizes, jewelry repair, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS: 50th annual show, "Fiesta of Gems"; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Dr., Canyon Lake, TX 78133; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.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
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