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SLAB-GAB

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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 June meeting will be held Fri., June 3, at the Victoria Art League located at 905 S. Bridge, Victoria, TX. Fellowship-6:30, Competition Judging-6:45, Business Mtg.-7pm.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

I am super excited this month! First of all, Mary and Jay Allison have invited the club to come to their home for a workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to come together and learn from each other. Jay has an extensive collection of materials and tools to see. Several people will be offering instruction on wire wrapping, cabbing, and beading. Plans are for everyone to bring his own lunch so we can continue working for several hours. If there is something you would like to learn at this workshop, let us know. We could possibly find someone to teach you! Further information is on page 3. Please let Mary know if you plan to attend.

Secondly, I am really jazzed about going to the Butte, Montana area with several members of the club for a collecting trip! Jay Allison mentioned at the last meeting that he would like to go and I said I would too, and others have shown interest. Jay has been in touch with other clubs in that area. There are many collecting opportunities there - opal, sapphire, Montana agate, and don't forget gold. It's not an official club outing, but any members are welcome to tag along. We are formulating a plan to have collecting times and family sight-seeing times. The great thing about this trip is that there will be people that can show me what is good material to keep. Our family has gone several times on collecting trips and realized, once there, that we weren't sure what we were looking for. I have never been to that part of the country, so I have been doing some research on interesting things to see along the way. My son, Michael, likes to flyfish and has always dreamt of going to Yellowstone for cutthroats. Might be some fly casting lessons going on in the evenings.

Come to the June meeting to help make plans for all upcoming activities!

Patty

MINUTES OF THE MAY 2011 VGMS MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society held its regular monthly meeting on May 6, 2011 in the Victoria Art League building. President, Dave Winston Snell, called the meeting to order at 7:05 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. 10 members and 1 junior member were present.

April and May birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

Patty Shay read the minutes from the March meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as read was made by Mary Allison; seconded by Ken Lemke - motion carried.

Ken read the minutes of the April meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting as read was made by Leola Camp; seconded by Bunny Toradt - motion carried.

Dave reported that the club had received a "Thank You" from Travis Middle School's 'Night with the Stars'. They had 900 attendees. Dave expressed the club's deep appreciation to Les Pagel for her dedication representing the club at the event.

New Business

Workshops - Patty reported that the Expo Center in Refugio would be booked up until August. The Community Center, which is being renovated, will be available soon.

Mary and Jay Allison offered their home for a workshop location. After discussion, it was decided to have the workshop June 25th, beginning at 9 am.

Reports

Patty reported on the Eagle Pass collecting trip she attended.

Jay and Ken reported on their trip to the Wright gravel pit.

Jay expressed interest in a collecting trip to Butte, Montana. Patty was interested in going.

Treasurer's Report - Mar. - presented by Ken Lemke:

\$12,273.98 - balance for Show Acct.

\$10,426.37- balance for General Fund Acct. (The dome rental has been paid for the 2011 show.)

Ken presented the April Treasurer's report -

\$10,339.40 - balance for General Fund Acct.

\$13,078.98 - balance for Show Acct.

A motion to approve the March and April Treasurer's report made by Lisa Stryk; 2nd by Mary Allison. Motion carried.

The results of the annual audit were discussed by Ken and Mary (who performed the audit).

Ken reported that all vendors for the upcoming show have paid except one.

Monthly Competiton:

Wire Wrapping - 1st, Jennifer-ribbon turquoise and sterling

Meeting adjourned to look over rocks from latest field trips.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

Important Dates in June

6th-Bob and Doris Clark, anniversary

21st- Harry and Lee Ann Wagner, anniversary

Workshop and Fellowship

When: June 25th Fellowship and set up at 9 am and start "work" around 10 am. Why not bring a sack lunch so you can stay a while. Drinks will be provided.

Where: Jay & Mary Allison's house at 6526 FM 1090 N, Port Lavaca (in the Six Mile community)

Bring your own supplies if you have them; if not, we will have some on hand that you can purchase for a nominal fee.

Jennifer Snell and Les Pagel, both excellent wire wrappers, will be on hand to guide us in making jewelry.

If you're interested in stringing beads, we can do that also.

Ken Lemke is bringing the club's capping machine and will help anyone who wants to learn.

Anyone else who would like to teach a craft is awesomely welcome to help. Just because we didn't ask you to teach doesn't mean we don't need you.

Jay can show you how to cut slabs and best of all, you can tour his tons of rocks in our back yard. He can probably tell you where every one of them came from! We have lots of slabs also, so talk to him if you need some.

RSVP: So that we know how many to plan for, could you call Mary at 552-5857 or e-mail allison@tisd.net to let her know you are coming. Also which part of the activities you are most interested in doing. This will help with table setup and planning.

Hints & Tips

Eliminating Flats

by Ted Robles

from THE BACKBENDER'S GAZETTE JUNE 2011 via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 5/2011

Awhile back, someone was saying that he was having problems with getting "flats" on his cabs, that there was insufficient "give" in his wheels, and it didn't seem to make any difference no matter how much pressure he applied. That was his first mistake. Diamond and corundum are two different animals; relatively speaking, about the same difference between quartz and chalk. If you "lean into" a diamond wheel, you will get lousy results (flats, etc) on your stone, and your wheels will wear out long before their time. On diamond, you try to do your cutting (and everything else) by almost not touching the wheel. Use essentially no force. Don't "grind" the stone, let the diamond wear it away, but keep it spinning. The technique is simply to use the whole face of the wheel, and keep your cab moving. Any time you stop, you just bought a "flat." Can't help it! It is the same principle as sharpening a knife on an emery wheel. If you don't want notches in your blade, you keep it moving. Do almost all your cutting on the coarsest wheel you have. If you leave any flats on the preform, you are going to have them on the final piece—can't help it. Finally, practice, practice, practice. Machines, like people, take some acquaintanceship before you really know what you can get out of them.

Magnetic Holder for Files

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each.

See <http://www.harborfreight.com/18-inch-magnetic-holder-65489.html>

Only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

"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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