



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

P.O. Box 2804
Victoria, TX 77902

www.victoriagemandmineral.com

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.

Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

I would like to take this time to say thanks. Though I've just begun, I am thankful for the opportunity you have given me to serve as the president of the Victoria Gem & Mineral Society. I am thankful for being presented with the gift of the chance to get to know the real treasures of the club, ***you***; the membership, the good people of the VGMS. Having lead just a couple of membership meetings and just one board meeting so far, it is wonderful to see the sincere interest in your faces to work together on some challenges the club is facing. VGMS membership is exhibiting a genuine desire to be progressive and establish organization that will help us grow, cultivate and maintain that growth, and become bigger, better contributors as we aim to infuse sparks of enthusiasm in our community's youth. In a way, it could be perceived that by seeking a Workshop/Clubhouse/Meeting Place that can we call our VGMS home, we are all striving toward building a foundation with which to instill a desire in our community, especially in our youth, to seek a better understanding of the benefits that come from learning about earth science. Life enriching benefits that don't just come from the knowledge of and/or identification of fascinating rocks; but rather those benefits that come from having a better understanding of our world, and the people, our membership, that would like to see more and better nurturers of our world. In essence, we are working to build a better community, by building membership that will hopefully manifest as a reached goal; to grow, to do more than sustain, and to enrich the lives of our community while being optimal servants and educators. With the sparks I've seen lately, we will build a fire of inspiration. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of that great plan and goal.

With unswerving dedication and respect,

Dave Winston Snell

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2010 VGMS MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society held its regular monthly meeting on February 5, 2010 in the Victoria Electric Co-op building. 21 members, 2 jr. members, and 3 guests (Carolyn Arlington, Penny Lewis, Margie Ensminger) were present. Monthly competition entries were judged prior to the meeting. President Dave Winston Snell called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary, Patty Shay read the minutes of the January meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Ken Lemke; seconded by J.R. Palmer - motion carried.

Reports

The January Board of Directors meeting was discussed.

Snell to check on Settlers' Day.

The monthly competition rules are to be printed in the newsletter.

Discussed the decision to have a club booth at the show. Shay will head the committee. Asked that interested members meet after the business meeting to provide input to form guidelines.

Ken Lemke presented the Treasurer's report:

\$18,039.30 - Show Acct.

\$ 9,500.00 - transferred to General Fund Acct.

\$ 8,539.30 - balance for Show Acct.

\$ 2,470.99 - General Fund Acct.

\$ 9,500.00 - transferred from Show Acct.

\$11,970.99 - balance for General Fund Acct.

\$20,510.29 - Show Acct. + General Fund Acct. balance

Lemke provided a Fixed Asset Inventory. The 2010 Show Dates are: Oct 14 - set up; Oct. 15-17 - show.

Monthly Competiton:

Jewelry - 1st-Les Pagel; 2nd-Jennifer Snell

Wire Wrapping - 1st-Dave Winston Snell; 2nd - Jennifer Snell

Open - 1st-Lisa Stryk

Program

Howard Camp presented a very informative program on rock tumbling.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

March Program

The March program will be presented by Ken Lemke. Here's what he has to say about it:

"Hands on for beginners dopping and templates for making cabachons. If you have a preform for a cabochon, bring it and I will help you connect it to a dopping stick with dop wax. If you have a slab you wish to mark with a template to prepare a preform, bring it. If you have any dopping sticks, bring them. If you have none of these but still wish to learn a dopping technique I will have everything we need to practice. Lets have some fun!"

VGMS MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

These are to be used as guidelines only. Judges may need to use other criteria. Our goal is to encourage **quality workmanship and creativity**. It is recommended that these guidelines be reviewed annually.

RULES FOR ENTRIES

1. A member may enter in all categories every month.
2. A member may enter only one item per category.
3. Items must be made by the competitor - no collected items.
4. Use of natural stones is encouraged, but not required for all categories.
5. First place items cannot be entered again in the same category.
6. An item may be entered again in the same category, if it has not won first place in a prior month.
7. Cabochons, faceted stones, or pendants, which have won first place, can be used in items to enter other categories in future competitions.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

CABOCHON

Workmanship

1. May be any standard size or free form.
2. Must be a natural stone.
3. Standard ovals should be checked with a template.
4. Free form cabochons should have pleasing balanced shape.
5. Dome should be even or uniform.
6. Girdle should be uniform.
7. Check for scratches.
8. Should have good, shiny polish.

Quality of Material

1. Pleasing design and color.
2. No fractures.
3. No pits.

FACETING

Workmanship

1. Stone should be very brilliant.
2. Facets should meet at the points nicely (no over cuts or undercutting).
3. Polish should be uniform.
4. No scratches or chips.
5. Girdle should not be too thick or too thin.
6. Table facet should not be more than 60% of the diameter.

Quality of Material

1. No fractures or veils.
2. No bubbles.
3. Clear and not murky looking.

OPEN CLASS - Item should show USE OF STONES not covered in other categories.

Examples: Stones used in pottery, picture frames, stepping stones, gem trees, coasters.

1. Consider originality and creativity.
2. Consider quality of workmanship.
3. Consider choice of materials.

JEWELRY - Item can be any form of making jewelry.

Workmanship - Consider the following:

1. The number of different skills used.
2. The difficulty of the skills used.
3. Neatness of the work, such as loose ends, burrs, scratches, polish.

Design - Consider the following:

1. Choice of materials.
2. Originality.
3. Creativity.
4. Overall attractiveness.

METAL SMITHING

Workmanship

1. Solder seals joints without holes, but is not seen as run off or blobs.
2. Edges are sawed and smoothed to hide soldered seams.
3. Bezel needs to be smooth and follow the contour of the stone.
4. Bezel is not buckled around the stone nor crinkly at corners.

5. The stone is set tightly and is not loose.
6. Polish is shiny, not smoky or hazy.
7. Scratches have been polished out.
8. The back has a nice finish - textured or smooth.

Design - Consider:

1. Choice of materials.
2. Originality.
3. Creativity.
4. Overall attractiveness.

WIRE WRAPPING - May be wire jewelry or other wire art using any type of material.

Workmanship

1. Consider the difficulty of skills to complete the piece.
2. Should not have scratches on the wire.
3. Should not have burrs or unfinished wire ends.
4. Bindings should be even and tight.
5. Cabochons or stones should be held stable.
6. Bails on pendants should be adequate size.
7. Work should have a nice, shiny polish.
8. Consider neatness of the work, smoothness of the wires.

Design

1. Work should look balanced and in proportion.
2. Consider choice of materials.
3. Consider originality and creativity.
4. Consider overall attractiveness.

JUNIOR DIVISION

1. May be any item of the other six categories.
2. Judges may use the guidelines of the other categories.
3. Consider the difficulty of the skills used.
4. Consider neatness of workmanship.
5. Consider creativity and design.

Items for competition should be in place by 6:45. Judging will take place before the meeting, so results can be announced during the meeting.

Important Dates in March

4th-Patty Shay, birthday
6th-Virginia Laskoskie, birthday
16th-Mary Ann DeBord, birthday
16th-Penny Lewis, anniversary
21st-Janice Horton, anniversary
28th-Bunny Tordt, birthday

Items are needed for the club's Silent Auction at the annual show. If you have anything relating to the rock hobby, contact Leola Camp - 576-5306 or lcamp114@gmail.com

HISTORY OF THE VICTORIA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY by Leola Camp, Club Historian

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society was organized October 1959 by 40 rock enthusiasts with the help of Jim Kee and Oscar Lockstedt. Charter members were Norma Arnold, Oscar and Edith Lockstedt, Kerry Lockstedt, and Carole Lockstedt Parker. Mr Kee was president and Oscar Lockstedt was treasurer.

The society was organized for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the membership in all phases of lapidary arts, collection of specimens, minerals, & archeology. The name Victoria Gem & Mineral Society was chosen for the club at the first meeting in November 1959, in the CPL auditorium in Victoria.

In 1960, the first constitution and by-laws were printed. Membership was/is open to all ages, juniors and seniors. That same year, the first (2 day) Hobby Show was held at the Optimist Youth Center.

As the years from 1960 polished their way on to brighter shines, there have been lots of memories of good activities, accomplishments, and opportunities. The members worked hard and long to get their hobby known. Besides the club meetings, there were rock hunts, workshops, and lectures on the hobby. They exhibited their works not only at their own Hobby shows but at out-of-town Hobby shows as well. Awards were won too. They even had "free rock shows" at the Town Plaza Mall to introduce the public to the rock hobby. Shows were soon moved to Patti Welder School Auditorium and have been held at the Parks Community Center for the last several years.

Many interesting special exhibits have been at the shows, including the exciting Moon Rock and jade carvings by R.S. Harvill. One was "Genie of the Lamp". The genie was carved from black jade and the lamp of green jade. Another of his carvings was "Old Man Planting a Tree", carved of grey Burma jade. Another special exhibit was the beautiful glass and rhinestone Cinderella pumpkin carriage and horses made by Les Fisher. Currently, the last few years the Texas zoo has displayed the fossilized Allosaurus skull.

VGMS has given scholarships to Victoria College and University of Houston-Victoria. Donations were made to the Texas Zoo, Christ's Kitchen and many other organizations. We have sponsored animals at the Texas Zoo. The club participated in purchasing the beautiful 22,892.5 carat American Golden Topaz for the Smithsonian Museum. It is the largest cut yellow topaz in the world, as well as one of the largest faceted gems in the world, period.

In 1995, a three day show was started for the purpose of having school children come to the show. Friday was the day set aside for "Student Day". All school children, teachers and sponsors are admitted to the show free of charge. Leola Camp visited all of the area schools, Victoria ISD, Parochial Schools, home schools and Scouts - talking to teachers, principals and parents. Our first year we had about 2,012 students come to the show. One year we had over 3,000 students. We still have student day on Friday, the first day of the show.

VGMS has participated in many outside activities such as Settlers' Day, having a working exhibit at the Kmart store, and members have presented programs at various schools.

VGMS belongs to the Texas Federation of Mineral Societies, the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Victoria Electric Coop on Ben Jordan beginning at 7:00 P.M.

The meetings consists of workshops and educational programs. Visitors are always welcome.

Working exhibits, dealers, a silent auction and wheel of fortune, a touch table, club members displays, a gemologist & the Food Table are always featured at the show. The 50th anniversary of the Victoria Gem & Mineral Society was celebrated in 2009.

Upcoming Shows

March

6-7--ROBSTOWN, TEXAS: Show; Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society; Richard Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, student group rates, Scouts in uniform and children 12 and under free; demonstrations, exhibits; contact Jerrold Simpson, 1302 Annapolis Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78415, (361) 851-8788; e-mail: jsimpson1@Stx.rr.com; Web site: www.gcgms.org

20-21--LIVE OAK, TEXAS: Show, "Fiesta of Gems"; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, students and seniors \$3, children 50 cents, military discount, special school group rate; minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewelry, lapidary, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Robert Bowie, (830) 935-3373; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: swgemandmineral.org

April

16-18--ALPINE, TEXAS: Show, "Wonders from our desert and beyond"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Kokernot Lodge, Rte. 223 bypass; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; Kids' Corner, door prize, dealer demonstrations, video "What's Hot in Tucson"; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 837-3824; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Web site: www.agates123.com/cdgmc/

24-25--WACO, TEXAS: 50th annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; TSTC Industrial Trade Center; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (both days), students \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Rd. 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311

"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

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