



SLAB-GAB

Volume 45

September 2010

No. 6

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 September meeting will be held Fri., Sept. 3, at the Senior Citizens' Center located at the intersection of Murray and Navarro.

We will be finalizing plans for the October Show. Your attendance and help at the show would be appreciated.

Precious Gems From the President

Hello VGMS Gems,

This month I will "roll" over a couple of topics for you to sort through.

BETWEEN A CHUNK OF COAL AND A DIAMOND...

...is better than being "between a rock and a hard place."

As the 'ol John Anderson country song goes "I'm just an old chuck of coal, but I'll be a diamond someday..." so goes the effort to find a new "home" for the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society to conduct meetings and workshops. We continue to dig up what we can to find that place that will help us to maintain and grow our membership. Thanks to conversations with past VGMS members, Ann Pearce and Virginia Adain, and the hunting by current members including Ken Lemke, Patty Shay, Bunny Tordt, Les Pagel and my wife and I, two prospects; the Victoria Art League and the Senior Citizens Center of Victoria (on Murray Street) are being considered. While those locations are under review, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind *all* club members that you are encouraged to help in the search. Think you've found a better place? Know someone that might let us use a portion or all of their building? Perhaps a friend or relative has some land that might be a great place for us to break ground or build on and will help us achieve our ultimate goal. I believe the wonderful diversity of our membership is a valuable asset that will help us to make that great clubhouse discovery.

STEP RIGHT UP...FOR A REALLY BIG SHOW

With the 51st Annual Victoria Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show just a little over a month and a half away, have you considered how you will be helping to make it a success? The show is an excellent way for all club membership to be a part of the effort to raise the funds needed to continue our mission to "promote education and share our interest in the various earth sciences..." If you're not sure how you may serve, I urge you to seek out your assignment during the meeting this Friday. Planning is already under way and now is the time to unearth an enriching opportunity to serve your club and community.

Thank you for the giving of your valuable time; you're all diamonds in my book.

With dedication and respect,

Dave Winston Snell

MINUTES OF THE August 2010 VGMS MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society held its regular monthly meeting on August 6, 2010 in the Victoria Art League building. The facilities were offered free-of-charge to allow members to tour the facilities and consider having meetings or workshops there. 10 members and 1 Jr. member were present. President, Dave Winston Snell called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, as printed in the Slab Gab, was made by Ken Lemkel, seconded by Les Pagel - motion carried.

Reports

Ken Lemke presented the Treasurer's report: He said the accounts were identical to the ones given at the July meeting. He also announced that membership renewals are due and suggested the mailing address be added to the web site to allow members to mail it in.

Dave reported that he had received all information required to promote the show and was tentatively looking at direct mail and expanding to smaller communities.

Jennifer Snell reported that she was currently working on a direct-mail coupon magazine. A 1/4 page ad is available for \$250 and will be sent to 18,000 homes in Victoria. The magazine will also be available on-line.

Admission - A motion was made by Ken to increase the admission fee to \$4 for the 2010 show; seconded by Bunny Tordt. Motion carried.

Dave reported that he had met with Debbie Garner of the Senior Citizens' Center. He said that Garner had stated that she has the authority to approve any offers by VGMS regarding use of their building. Les will find out if we can have our Sept. meeting there, allowing the club to consider the area for future meetings and workshops.

A motion was made by Ken to have the Sept. meeting at the Sr. Citizens' Center if available; 2nd by Les Pagel. Motion carried.

The Gemologist we have used at our past shows will not be available this year. Attempts will be made to find someone else.

Security will have to be figured out by the Sept. meeting.

Suggestion to add 'How did you hear about our show?' to the tickets.

Les and Patty proposed having a 'gem dig' at the show using sand and polished stones. Members stated that the Community Center did not allow that type of activity because of the potential mess.

Discussed having workshops at the show to raise more money. Ann Pearce has volunteered to lead a beading workshop, with all profits going to the club.

Member Sales Booth- Decided the club would not charge for the tables the first year, instead would take a percentage of sales.

Motion by Howard Camp to charge 20% of sales by club members at the show; 2nd by Les. Motion carried.

All members selling at the show must present their original tax certificate to Ken before the show. A club receipt book.(triplicate) will be used for all items. Each seller will provide an inventory list and everything will be tagged and numbered. All items must be pre-approved by a quality control committee consisting of the Club President, Booth Chair, and Show Chair. Items must be made or assembled by the club member. No pre-made items or items which have had no labor involved by the club member (cannot resale items which have not been altered by member). NO JUNK!!

There are still club shirts available. Contact Patty Shay. Shirts and name tags must be worn by members at the show.

Dave reported that Dick Tolbert has graciously offered to donate, to the silent auction, some of the collection left

to him by his father

Monthly Competiton:

Wire Wrap-1st-Les Pagel(chrysacholla & silver with blue zircon); 2nd Jennifer (Boytroidal druzoy

Cabochoon-1st Ken Lemke(Botswana agate)

Jewelry - 1st-Les Pagel (mother-of-pearl, wire)

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 after touring the facilities.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

MINUTES OF THE August 23, 2010 VGMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Executive Committee held a called meeting at 7 pm on August 23, 2010 at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Members present were Dave Winston, Leola Camp, Bunny Tordt, Patty Shay, Carroll Edge, Les Pagel, Ken Lemke, Lisa Stryk, and guest Howard Camp.

Decided that we couldn't afford to pay the hourly fee required by the Victoria Art League. Will tell them the club would be interested in their facilities for special meetings or workshops, but not for regular monthly meetings.

Dave reported on his meeting with Debbie Garner of the Sr. Citizens' Center.

1. We would be responsible for developing a contract for use of building.
2. Contract would remain in force only as long as Debbie Garner is Regional Director.
3. She assured us that she can speak for her Board of Directors and can make all decisions.
4. Garner is asking \$250-\$300 per year.

When divided out, 11 regular meetings a year @\$275 per year is \$25 per meeting. Figuring in 6 workshops @ \$25 each, the total would be \$425 per year. Since the agreement would be null and void if Garner leaves, the Committee felt that the best solution would be to pay monthly.

The club's insurance through So. Central Federation will have to be checked to see what it covers in the way of facilities.

Decided to require 30 days notice of termination of contract by either party. We will clean up and haul away our trash after meetings.

Discussed the show preparations - Will have a banner at Anchor Lumber, but need somewhere on the north side of town for the other.

Decided to go with a 1/2 page ad in the direct mailing.

Ann Pearce suggested charging \$35 (includes \$10 for supplies) per person for the beading workshop she will conduct at the show on Saturday. She would consider a class on Sunday, as well. Committee feels that members of the club will be working at the show and will not be able to participate in the workshops. We will try to have Ann come down for a longer workshop for the club members later. Ken suggested that all participants pre-pay and no refunds after Oct. 1. Considered age limits for the workshops.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

submitted by Patty Shay, club secretary

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year! If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may send your dues to: Victoria Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 2804, Victoria, TX 77902.

Peridot

By John Zentz for Star-O-Lite

Wear a peridot or for thee, No conjugal fidelity, The August born without this stone, 'Tis said, must live unloved;

alone. [Author unknown]

The traditional birthstones for August are sardonyx and carnelian. The modern birthstone is peridot. Last month's newsletter touched on sardonyx and contained a brief article on carnelian, so I will focus on peridot this month.

No matter how you pronounce the word peridot, it stands out as an affordable, yet striking, gemstone. There will always be people ready to correct you when you pronounce it, but you can easily find authorities for either —pear-a-doe or —pear-a-dot. My advice? Pick your preference and defend it like an authority.

Besides its attractiveness as a yellowish-green gemstone, the physical composition of peridot is interesting to many rockhounds. While not technically classified as a mineral, olivine is a series between two end members, fayalite and forsterite. The whole series contains SiO_4 with pure fayalite being Fe_2SiO_4 and pure forsterite being Mg_2SiO_4 . These pure end members seldom occur in nature. The iron and magnesium can occur in varying percentages through the series with iron rich specimens being much darker than magnesium rich specimens. Though some iron is required for the color, gem peridot is usually olivine with less than 15% iron, and includes trace amounts of nickel and chromium for what is considered the very best color.

Another interesting fact about olivine in general, and peridot specifically, is its presence in many iron-nickel meteorites. These crystals from outer space can sometimes make up over 50% of the volume of the meteorite.

Peridot has been mined for well over 3,000 years but has only become known in the United States in the past century. Until recently its primary source was a tiny Red Sea island off the southeast coast of Egypt currently named Zabargad. Today, substantially sized gem quality peridot is found in Myanmar (aka Burma), Pakistan, Southwest USA, and China. Small crystals of peridot are found all over the world, with the green sand beaches of Hawaii being a notable example.

With a hardness just under seven, peridot wears well and is used in all types of jewelry. Its color is foremost when evaluating quality and is sometimes compared against emeralds. This is unfortunate because even the most desirable peridot cannot compare favorably against the much costlier emerald. Compare peridot colors against each other and enjoy one of the few green gemstones in its own right.

Another interesting physical characteristic of peridot is its double refraction, or birefringence. As light enters the gem it splits in two and results in double images of anything seen inside or through the gem. As the gem gets larger, so does the effect. This results in what is termed a 'sleepy' appearance. This characteristic is usually demonstrated with the more common mineral calcite.

The terms chrysolite and evening emerald have been associated with peridot but are somewhat vague in their exact meaning. Chrysolite was used before we could accurately identify stones and was also used to describe some colors of topaz. The long used term evening emerald probably stems from peridot's brilliant green glow under some artificial light, but is also used by some sellers in an attempt to enhance a stone's value.

Peridot is thought to bring good luck, peace, health, protection, sleep and success. Some believe it attracts love and calms anger as well as other negative emotions. Legend says that if set in gold, it

will develop its full protective potential. Further, according to the first century authority Pliny the Elder, peridot must be worn on the right arm to work its strongest magic. Pliny's advice stands in contradiction to another commonly held belief that peridot must be strung onto donkey's hair and worn on the left arm to fully realize its potential.

Some believe peridot to be an excellent healing stone, strengthening and regenerating the body. It is also said to strengthen eyesight and provide relief from stomach disorders. Even the stone's color is associated with healing.

As a gemstone, peridot has something in common with diamond. Most inorganic gemstones form in the earth's crust. However, diamond and peridot are exceptions and form much deeper in the region known as the mantle. While diamond forms significantly deeper, both require transfer to the earth's surface by tectonic or volcanic activity where they can then be found in extrusive igneous rock.

While relatively inexpensive, I believe the processes and circumstances required to make a peridot gem available to us make it a very desirable adornment. Whether transported upward by volcanic activity, folded or pushed miles upward tectonically, or fallen from some unknown celestial origin, the sleepy green stone that seems to glow in manmade light commands respect and admiration as it adorns a child of August.

Stoney Statements, VOLUME 36 AUGUST 2010 NUMBER 08

Enhanced, Treated, Heated, Dyed, Stabilized, Created, and Irradiated – Fake?

Gemstones and semi-precious stones have been fiddled with for centuries to make them 'more': colorful, more eye-catching, and easier to work. This does not make them 'fake', however one should know what some of those terms and treatments mean.

Heat Treated - This is the most common treatment and is as old as fire. Humans heated agate and jasper so as to be able to knap the stones for tools. Humans also heat gem materials to enhance, clarify or create color in a stone. Amethyst is heated for citrine and ametrine. Zircon is heated to clarify the stone to clear white. Sapphires are heated to get the most amazing pinks and blues. Tigereye is turned blue or red. Carnelian turns orange red. Aquamarine may go from greenblue to blue. Rubies may lose a purplish tint. Iolite may be turned a deep blue. It is also used to enhance the 'color change' gems such as tanzanite.

Dyed - This is also a very common practice. Agate is dyed to get fancy pinks, purples, orange and blues – eye catching and very saleable. Chalcedony is often dyed; black is sold as onyx and green is sold as chrysoprase. Howlite is often dyed to look like turquoise, lapis, sodalite and charoite. Turquoise and jadeite are often dyed to enhance the natural color. Alabaster, coral, banded calcite, and marble are dyed to enhance their color or to imitate other semiprecious stones.

Irradiation - While topaz is currently the most commonly irradiated gemstone (to get various shades and tones of blue) this is also how one gets those fabulously colored diamonds. In fact diamond was the first gemstone color treated with radiation.

Stabilized - Opals are often stabilized - either by filling such as with Opticon resin (or similar agent) or by capping either as a doublet or triplet. Emerald has a long history of fracture filling due to its popularity and its tendency to be highly included and fractured. While natural oils have traditionally been used for fillings and stabilization, modern synthetic resins are now being used, such as Opticon,

which are more permanent than the natural oils were. Turquoise and coral are also stabilized in such a manner so as to make them a bit more durable.

Created -This is a touchy subject. Much like farmed pearls are real with a center of plastic or mother of pearl rather than sand. Still real, still a pearl just helped to grow by a human. Laboratory grown crystals of ruby, sapphire, diamond, emerald, and star sapphire are real semiprecious stones. They just weren't grown in the earth. So what is the answer: Real or Fake? This 'real vs fake' can be argued with all sides being technically correct. That is not the most important information one can have. The really important bit about this from a lapidary or jeweler's point of view is disclosure. Does one know up front that the stone you are getting has been 'helped along' by the human touch? Do you as a lapidary artist, gemsmith, jeweler or craftsperson know what you are using? The beauty and art that we create with these stones is being helped along by our touch, much as it was to first get our attention. There is beauty in the knowing - be sure to share with those around you.

Are You Sure It's Jade?

via CIGMC Newsletter, April 2008

- If a chip is knocked off the freshly broken surface should not sparkle in the sun. If it does, it's not jade.
- If you can scratch it with a knifepoint, it isn't jade.
- It will be much heavier than a common rock of similar size.
- Tap the specimen with a hammer. If a moon shaped fracture appears, it is agate or jasper, but not jade.
- If it is jade, it will have a smooth, waxy, almost greasy look.
- The only positive test for jade is x-ray analysis and specific gravity tests.

From Rockhound Rumblings 11/00

The more milky the water is when cuffing jade, the better the grade of jade. If the water isn't milky, then you don't have true jade. You have something else.

from Chips 'n Splinters 12/00

Still Think It's Jade? Lapidaries and jewelers should constantly attempt to call gemstones and rough materials by their correct names. The term jade is applied to many nonjade stones, such as: Korean jade is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine; Transvaal jade is a massive variety of green, grossular garnet; Amazon jade is aventurine; American jade is a rock - a mixture of idocrase and grossular; Australian jade is chrysoprase; Colorado jade is green microcline; Jasper jade is green jasper; Flukien, Manchurian and Honan jades are all soapstone; Mexican jade is green-dyed marble or calcite; Oregon jade is dark green jasper; Silver peak jade is malachite. It would be clearer to beginners if jade were called jade, malachite called malachite, aventurine called aventurine.

From Carmel Valley Prospector

Gem Cutter's News, April 2009, Vol. 59, #3

Available via Internet-

I stumbled across this interesting site. It belongs to the Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society. Not only are the past issues of their newsletter located there, How-to-Do-It plans are available to build your own equipment! A bucket classifier, gas-powered vacuum, large rock saw and rock saw combo are available. Now you might think this is above your capabilities, but it might spur your own inventions.

<http://www.larockclub.com/rockrattler/download.html>

-ed.

Important Dates in July

2nd-Allison Payne, birthday	13th-Virginia Laskoskie, anniversary
4th-Doris Clark, birthday	18th-Leola Camp, birthday
6th-Lee Ann Wagner, birthday	29th-Brian Trungale, birthday
13th-Eric Mebane, birthday	

Upcoming Shows

September

4-5--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: 53rd annual show, "Texas Treasures"; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children \$3; Kids' Korner, Rock Food Table, gem identification, silent auction, Grand Prize, hourly door prizes, vendors, jewelry, beads, gems, minerals, fossils; contact Karen Cessna, 2213 Hackberry Dr., Arlington, TX 76013, (817) 860-5232; e-mail: cessnak@ont.com; Web site: www.agemclub.org

18-19--STAFFORD, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; Bead Jamboree; Stafford Convention Center, 10505 Cash Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; contact Robert Khork, 914 164th St. #449, Mill Creek, WA 98012, (206) 769-3987; e-mail: info@beadjamboree.com; Web site: www.beadjamboree.com

October

7-9--MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: 22nd Annual World's Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$80 (\$95 late registration); meet other miners, keep all you find, maybe even win a prize; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Web site: www.mountidachamber.com

9-10--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show and sale, "LMRA Rockfest Fort Worth"; Lockheed Martin Recreation Assn.; LMRA Trinity River Park, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; rocks, flint, gems, minerals; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr., Saginaw, TX 76131, (817) 777-1997; e-mail: steve.l.shearin@lmco.com; Web site: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001244652268&v=app_2309869772#!/group.php?gid=132202050142082

22-24--AUSTIN, TEXAS: Show, "Gem Capers 2010"; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (all three days), seniors \$4, children 13-18 \$1, 6-12 50 cents, 5 and under free; more than 30 vendors, displays, Rock Food Table, touch table of rocks and fossils, demonstrations of cabbing, wire wrapping, faceting, polymer clay, fossil cleaning, kids' day Fri., Wheel of Fortune, Gem Mine, jewelry making, rocks that glow in the dark, grand prize; contact Brian Wetzig, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: ShowChairman@AustinGemAndMineral.org; Web site: www.GemCapers.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

VGMS Slab Gab
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