



# SLAB-GAB

**Volume 46**

**September 2011**

**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. 2, at the Victoria Art League located at 905 S. Bridge, Victoria, TX. Fellowship-6:30, Competition Judging-6:45, Business Mtg.-7pm.

## **Annual Show October 14th, 15th, 16th**

The time is upon us to finalize preparations for the annual show. There are jobs available for every member of the club! Show cases need to be filled. Set-up and take-down help is always needed. We need admission executives at the door.

Club members will also have the opportunity again to sell items in the club booth.

There are a few rules:

1. Seller must have their actual tax # certificate at the show
2. All items must be made or assembled by club members
3. There will be a selection committee to inspect the quality of items to be sold—no junk or inferior materials
4. There will be a contract for sellers
5. Club will not be responsible for theft or losses
6. Set up will be Friday evening after school tours have ended - Contact Patty Shay

We always need members to demonstrate techniques. Do you bead, make cabs, facet, or wire wrap? Then you could sit at the demo table and answer questions from people passing as you work on your craft.

We need members to donate snacks to the snack room. Contact Bunny Tordt.

The silent auction needs items donated. Contact Denise Mebane.

The schools attend on Friday. If you can help with that, contact Les Pagel.

We really need all members to attend the Sept. and Oct. meetings . See you there!

### **Minutes of the August 5, 2011 Meeting**

President, Dave Winston Snell, called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 17 members, 1 Jr. member, and 1 guest present. Dave recognized the birthdays and anniversaries for July and August.

### **2011 Show**

Discussed plans for the 2011 show, which will be held Oct. 14th, 15th, and 16th.

**Silent Auction** - Discussed the need for items to be donated. Anything relating to our hobby would be welcome, including rough, slabs, cabs, jewelry, specimens, or machinery. Denise Mebane will be in charge this year.

Dave announce that National Fossil Day™ will be October 12, 2011, and Earth Science Week, October 9-15, 2011. Discussed building on those days in conjunction with our show.

**Ann Pearce** - has once again, graciously donated her time and expertise to teach classes at the show. All profits generated will go to the club. This year, we will try to allow time for members to attend classes.

**Banners** - Ken will explore the options for more banners. He will report to the executive committee and a decision will be made. He announced that we are still looking for prime locations to hang the banners to be seen by vehicles entering the city. A long chain link fence would be ideal.

**Club Booth** - any members interested in selling items at the show in the club booth should contact Patty Shay. A tax i.d. will be necessary. All items must pass a quality committee inspection to be allowed for sale.

**Club Workshop** - The club expressed thanks to the Allison's for hosting the Saturday workshop at their home. There was a good turnout by members. Les taught some new techniques in beading and wire wrapping. Members got to tour Jay's extensive rock yard and equipment shops. Another workshop was planned for Saturday, Aug. 20th, at 10 am at the Allison's home.

**Treasurer's Report** - Ken announced that there would be no formal report because the only expenditure was for a book of stamps.

**Minutes of the June Meeting** - secretary, Patty Shay, apologized for not having the minutes due to just getting back from a 3 week vacation.

**Competition** - Cabbing- 1st- Les Pagel (carnelian agate)

Jewelry- 1st- Les Pagel (natural pearl and silver)

Wire Wrap-1st- Les Pagel (Swarovski crystal and silver)

**Program** - Members examined specimens collected by the Allison, Lemke, and Shay road trip to Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.

Meeting adjourned.

### **Important Dates in July**

7th-Jenell Gisler, birthday

7th-Les Pagel, birthday

13th-Denise Mebane, birthday

17th-Ken and Pam Lemke, anniversary

18th-Lisa Stryk, birthday

30th-Jennifer Snell, birthday

### **Important Dates in August**

26th-Mike Byrd, birthday

30th-Allison Payne, anniversary

31st-Barbara Dietzel, birthday

## **MORE ABOUT NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011**

Eva Lyon, National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eva Lyon and I am working with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, American Geological Institute and other partners to organize and coordinate the 2011 National Fossil Day. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in this year's National Fossil Day, which will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. This event is in conjunction with Earth Science Week, as sponsored by the American Geological Institute.

As part of the Paleontological Resources Act of 2009, U.S. federal agencies have been mandated to promote public understanding of the importance of our nation's fossil resources. The National Park Service and its partners believe that one of the best ways to accomplish this is through National Fossil Day.

This is only our second year for National Fossil Day, so we hope to build upon the success of our last event and make this year even better. This is where you come in; we are seeking to bring on board new partners from across the country to join in our efforts to promote public appreciation and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater understanding of their scientific and educational values. Many of our other partners have organized their own events for the day including presentations, mock digs and fossil identification games, among other educational opportunities for children and the public.

In an effort to contact as many people as possible, I have reached out to you as representatives of large, over-arching gem and mineral societies in hopes that you will be able to spread the word to your respective communities. In my efforts, I have come to realize that there are far more rock hounds in this country than I ever could have imagined!

In order to get a better idea of what we do, I encourage you to visit our website at:

**<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>**

We hope you will join us for this year's event so that we might reach an even greater number of fossil enthusiasts! If you are interested in joining our team, please reply to this email so that we can begin putting together a plan of action.

Thank you,

Eva Lyon

National Fossil Day 2011 Coordinator

GeoCorps America Guest Scientist

National Park Service

Phone: (703) 379-2480 ext. 249

"Eva Lyon" <national.fossil.day@gmail.com>

*South Central Federation Newsletter*

*July-August, 2011*

<http://www.scfms.net>

**National Fossil Day™ - October 12, 2011**  
**Earth Science Week - October 9-15, 2011**

## **TAKE CARE OF THE MOTOR in Your Slab Saw**

If you have a slab saw that really works, and it has a separate feed motor other than your main motor, and if it is mounted on the front of your saw, try this tip:

Try raising the front of the saw by putting a piece of 2 x 4 under the front legs. What this does is reduce the side pull pressure on your feed motor. For example, my slab saw has a front feed motor, and over time I have had to replace my feed motor about six times. What happens is the gears in the motor will not hold up to the side-pull pressure of your saw. By raising the front of your saw, this allows your rock saw vise to move toward your blade much easier. This works on table mount saws also. This also helps other saws such as your Highland Park as it reduces pressure on your feed system. If you try this, you will find that your saw will also use less cutting fluid.

by Dick Peterson, in Rock Chips, June, 2006, via Gem cutters News, Jan., 2007

## **SMOOTHING EARWIRES**

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy or fast.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip.

## **MAGNETIC PIN FINISHER**

There is a good article about making your own magnetic tumbler at <http://www.rchristopher.com/tech/tumbler.html> The person reporting this on the YahooGroups Jewelry Casting list says he's made two units from these plans and they work very well. In addition to the primary job of burnishing and polishing finished pieces, he also uses the units for cleaning investment from castings.

The stainless steel pins are available from either Gesswein or Rio Grande.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at

[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)

or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

The newsletter could use any submissions that members would like to make. Even send along an interesting article that you find (assuming that permission is given for reprinting.) Tell us about your favorite gem and mineral-related activity, or write about a collecting trip or show you attended. - ed.

## Upcoming Shows

### September

3-4—ARLINGTON, TEXAS: Annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children \$3, Scouts in uniform free; silent auctions, Gem ID, Kids' Korner, door prizes, gem, lapidary and jewelry displays and demonstrations, Rock Food Table; contact Jack Spinks, 209 Overlook Dr., Midlothian, TX 76065, (214) 335-9452; e-mail: jlspinks@sbcglobal.net; Web site: [www.agemclub.org](http://www.agemclub.org)

24-25—RICHARDSON, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; The Bead Market; Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; gemstones, glass beads, lampwork, vintage beads and buttons, Swarovski Elements, crystals, pearls, bone beads, jewelry, books, tools; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; e-mail: [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net); Web site: [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

### October

1-2—STAFFORD, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; The Bead Market; Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, glass beads, seed beads, gemstones, pearls, lampwork, PMC, Swarovski Elements, crystals, jewelry, vintage beads and buttons, books, tools; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; e-mail: [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net); Web site: [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

8-9—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; The Bead Market; Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, lampwork, glass beads, vintage beads and buttons, bone beads, PMC, silver, findings, books, tools, jewelry, Swarovski Elements, crystals, pearls; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; e-mail: [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net); Web site: [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

8-9—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; LMRA Stone Steppers; Lockheed Martin Recreation Association, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-6; free admission; rocks, gems, minerals, flinters, prospecting equipment, GPAA, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, children's activities; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr., Saginaw, TX 76131, (817) 733-5368; e-mail: [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com)

8-9—TEMPLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society; Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N. 3rd St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3; silent auctions, raffles, door prizes, grand prize, demonstrations, dealers, rough, slabs, cabs, faceted gems, equipment, finished jewelry; contact Chip Burnette, 2630 Polk St., Killeen, TX 76543, (254) 630-3573; e-mail: [burnette@aceweb.com](mailto:burnette@aceweb.com)

21-23—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show, "Gold"; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors (60 and over) \$4, students (13-18) \$1, children (6-12) 50 cents; more than 30 dealers, jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, spheres, lapidary equipment, exhibits, "Rock Food" table, touch table, fluorescent minerals, member collections, silent auction, demonstrations, faceting, cabbing, fossil cleaning, polymer clay, "Youth Education Day" Fri., Gem Mine, Wheel of Fortune, Jewelry Making, door prizes, grand prize; contact Susan Postlethwait, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: [showchariman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchariman@austingemandmineral.org); Web site: [www.gemcapers.com](http://www.gemcapers.com)

## SCFMS—Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Will Host the 2012 Show

*from SCFMS Newsletter 5/6, 2011*

The Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society, Jasper, TX, will host the South Central Federation Show in 2012. The dates are set for August 25–26, 2012. You won't want to miss this show, so mark your calendar for those dates and plan to be there. We will have more information about the festivities as time goes on, and they are being planned at this moment.

## "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

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