

The Cowtown Cutter

MARCH 2011

Volume 3 - Issue 3



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Want to add something? Send to:
fwgmc.editor@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline for next month:

4/17/11

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It's getting closer to that time of year! Show time! Volunteers are appreciated, and so are gem & mineral donations.

Minutes for Feb. 22nd, 2011

Meeting called to order by President Martha Phillips at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome new members Mike and Valerie.

Minutes: Moved by Jeri to accept minutes as reported in newsletter, seconded by Faye, accepted.

Sunshine Report: Elise is back.

Old Business: Still need structural engineer to check building and determine safety.

Cleaning has been done at the club house. Susan has organized alot of the rocks. Steve and Mary have organized the meeting room it is much more user friendly.

South Central Federation Conference needs a club representative for the alpine meeting. Steve volunteered to represent our club. The club will fund part of the expense. Motion made by Faye, seconded by Jeri to set a \$300.00 limit with any unused portion to be returned. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion to accept minutes in e-mail correction format. Motion to accept by Steve, seconded by Mary.

Show Committee: 15 dealers have signed up. Please bring stuff for the silent auction. We are low on petrified wood and quartz.

We are checking into car magnets to advertise our annual show.

Membership Committee: No report

Announcements: Ft. Worth Bead Market March 5-6th at Will Rogers.
North Texas Earth Science Fair Feb 26-27th
Cisco field trip Feb. 26th.

We received an invitation from Cephus Hall to look for quartz at Broken Bow Ok. \$15.00 a day, date to be determined. Pass on to Schuyler for scheduling.

Program presented by Bob Boyd on fluorescing minerals.

Red ticket: Susan Thielker White ticket: Debbie Kersh

Mens and Womens restrooms need repair. We have an estimate of \$500.00 to replace flooring and reset toilets. We should also replace the toilets. Motion made by Jeri, seconded by Susan to spend \$700.00 to repair restrooms. Motion carried.

Scholarship auction followed meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Porter, Secretary

The Editor's Pen

Hello again! I hope this Spring weather is providing some nice opportunities to get some good hunting and findings in for everyone. The Moran family took advantage of the weather & had a nice rock hunting trip in New Mexico a couple of weeks ago. We found, what we believe

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The Editor's Pen



to be chalcedony, and possibly a little fire agate mixed into it as well. We have little pebbles and great big chunks of

this stuff! We'll be donating some of it to the rock club for the show, or whatever other ways the club would like to use it. I'd love to see a piece that has been sawed in half and shined up!



We had so much fun. Of course, when we weren't pulling over on the sides of roads and looking at the ground like some tourists who lost their contacts, we were wondering

around the Old Tucson Studios, and having a ball there. Even in Tucson, there were rocks and geodes abundant just about everywhere we looked. Mostly what we saw was behind pretty glass cases, but still - it was quite the site to see.

It was a great trip. This time, the dust storms stayed at bay until our last day, and it followed us all the way through Arizona, throughout New Mexico, and clear into west Texas. But none of us got sick this time! I have to take a moment though and tell you all about this fantastically charming little town we run across in Arizona called Bisbee. My goodness was it a sight to see. I'd absolutely adore having a vacation there!



There was the Queen Mine, and all the various homes and businesses that were built right into the mountain sides. The alley ways had stairs that seemed to never end! There

were peddler's alleys, stairs that went every which way like something right out of Labyrinth movie, and bridges to get you from here to there. We even found a very neat



hotel there that had a spring built right in the middle of their restaurant area, and I've just never seen anything so amazing in my whole life. This town was chalked full of creativity,

nature, and history. If you've never been there before, and you ever have the chance - you absolutely must make a stop there. It's worth it! I truly have a ton more photos, but this is the best I could do with sharing my vacation with you all. If you're interested in seeing more photos, contact me and I will send you a link to my photo gallery. I've got pictures of amethyst geodes that are taller than me, wall to wall varieties of rocks and copper plate slabs, fluorescing minerals, mine museum photos, and so much more!

As always, if you've anything at all you'd like to add to this newsletter, please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to bring more content to the newsletter. And a quick note, there were some errors in last month's newsletter. They've been corrected for the online edition, but to let you know - Fayer's name was changed to Fran for assisting on the membership committee, and of course Martha's correct phone number is now showing. Thank you for the note on the corrections. If you spot anything else wrong, please do let me know so I can correct it for the online edition.

Until next edition....
Stephanie Moran

Article of Interest

Torre Quinn of the [Arlington Gem and Mineral Club](#) contacted me, not knowing who I was, through the Steampunk Illumination Society. Some folks in the Fort Worth club know that James and I founded and organize the [Steampunk Illumination Society](#) which encompasses the D/FW area for those who are interested in, and actively participate in, anything to do with Steampunk. What a small world it is that two entirely and seemingly different interests of mine would eventually collide right into one another. She asked for our input on an article she wrote, and as I read it, it really did take the words right out of my mouth. It's exactly what I would have said, if I were going to explain Steampunk and what it is or how it can relate to gem and mineral societies and clubs. After I'd read her article, I asked her if I could please reprint it in this month's newsletter, and she happily obliged, with proper credits to her and Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, of course. I thank Torre for her very well written piece, and hope that this brings a new interest to you all reading, and new ideas for projects involving some of those beautiful specimens you've collected.

STEAMPUNK

Written by Torre Quinn of
Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
www.agemclub.org

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, The Time Machine, and Frankenstein were among my favorite stories when I was growing up. My imagination was saturated with images of Captain Nemo's submarine, the Nautilus, and of laboratories whizzing and popping with all manner of electrical devices. I also recall staying up late many nights so that I could watch reruns of *The Wild Wild West*. While the old west styled, Secret Service agent James West was always entertaining, his cohort Artemus Gordon captured my imagination with his brass and bronze inventions that inevitably helped West save the day. What I did not know at the time was that these stories were at the forefront of a new movement in art and literature that would become to be known as "Steampunk". Steampunk has recently started gaining acceptance as a defined genre. Many bookstores now have a small section dedicated to these types of works. It is a strange genre that crosses boundaries between romantic works like those by Jane Austin, fantasy and even science fiction. More recently books and even movies have been made that highlight this growing style; movies like: *The City of Ember*, *Stardust*, and *The Golden Compass* or television series like *Warehouse 13* all have elements of Steampunk.

To visualize Steampunk, imagine what the world might have been like if the industrial revolution continued to evolve but never leaped into the modern, computerized, atomic world we know it to be today. Visualize a world where dirigibles are the de facto mode of transportation and brass boilers and cast-iron cog works are commonplace. Throw in a healthy dose of Victorian attire and perhaps a dash of magic and whimsy and you are smack in the middle of the Steampunk fantasy. However, one interesting thing about Steampunk is the stringent lack of rules used to define it.



Image by Peter Pohle
http://www.cornucopia3d.com/brokereadf.or.php?artist_store=100

of the sky while riding giant airships. Even others yet, include visions of safari-clad big-game hunters/explorers with their Shikar helmets and pocketed khaki jackets.

The one commonality seems to be the anachronism of devices and gadgetry, textiles and jewelry of the past, evolved to an alternative reality of our present and future.

In finding examples of Steampunk imagery, one need not look terribly hard. Googling images for Steampunk art will reveal literally thousands of impressive, unique works cataloged and displayed for your amusement. Imagination is the only limit to where and how Steampunk can be applied. Since Steampunk is a reflection of an alternative reality it is common to see items that we readily recognize as having been "Steampunked".

For example, there are many variations of computer keyboards being transformed with bronze and copper clad shells and the keys replaced with the keys from an antique Smith-Corona typewriter.



Work by Richard Nagy;
<http://www.datamancer.net/>

(Article of Interest, continued from page 3...)



Even recognizable characters from Science Fiction, like Star Wars' R2-D2, have been transformed into brass, steam powered automatons adorned with vacuum tubes and metal gears. It is certainly a difficult task to define Steampunk but it is quite easy to identify it when one sees it.

Work by Mark Edwards

<http://amoebabloke.deviantart.com/art/antique-d2-project-8-78029152>

So as an artisan why should one care about Steampunk? Without question I think works made in silver or gold are absolutely beautiful, but one of the things I love most about Steampunk is how it showcases the beauty in the "simpler" materials like copper, brass, bronze and even woods like Oak, Walnut and Teak. For an artisan this is a great opportunity to work in affordable materials and be able to sell them at prices that most anyone can afford.

Pendants can be as simple as watch gears affixed to a necklace chain or affixed to a simple ring.



Work by Tanith Rohe

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/tanith>

Other curiosities are intricate sculptures of insects or animals that seem like they have been forged into life.



Work by Tom Hardwidge

<http://www.arthrobs.com/about.html>



Work by Daniel Proulx

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/catherinetterings>

Most professional artisans create their works with intent to sell them at various venues. Most of the artisans would likely agree that it is far easier to sell a dozen bobbles for under thirty dollars apiece than it is to sell

a single piece for the same sum. Steampunk designs open a wide range of possibilities. Truly unique and beautiful designs for rings and pendants can be made surprisingly easily and quickly with very little investment in materials where the artisan uses a little imagination.



Work by Daniel Proulx

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/catherinetterings>

Another thing that I really admire about Steampunk, and that benefits artisans, is the tendency to repurpose found items. Thrift stores are a great source of material such as watches, old cameras, and other mechanical items that can be disassembled and used in various works. Often electronic surplus stores have bins of old micro motors, gear housings, or other components that could easily find their way onto a wonderful piece or work. In this way, items that likely would have found their way to a trash heap are given new life as trinkets of admiration.

As incredible as the jewelry of Steampunk can be, the people that make up this burgeoning subculture are by far the real gems. Their love of these wonderful oddities and the warm spirit and longing of adventure and romance that seems to fill each one of their unique personalities is truly to be admired. As the popularity of the genre has grown organizations have been formed to allow admirers of this genre to meet and share camaraderie. Groups such as the Steampunk Illumination Society, and Texas Steampunk.

As with most pop and subculture movements, the beginnings tend to be no more than a quiet grumbling, a handful of scattered artists and dreamers.

At some point the number of enthusiasts swells to a fever pitch and eventually, as most movements do, subsides to whatever the next craze is. I perceive that the Steampunk genre is still growing and has not yet reached the pinnacle of its popularity. I also think that it has a longevity about it because the movement is the epitome of "what's old is new again". As an art form, Steampunk is a very rapidly growing genre. Two years ago it would have been hard to seek out purveyors of geared bobbles and trinkets made from brass and copper. More recently, nearly every art and crafts showing I have attended, has had some showing of Steampunk artistry and I perceive that the trend is growing. Even as I edit this report one major supplier of jewelry crafting products, Rio Grande, is headlining their sale of Steampunk bobbles and bangles, even the March 11' issue of Jewelry Artist has included an article entitled Trends: Steampunk and another showing how to make Steampunk earrings. I encourage you to investigate this unique genre. Take notice of the works being created, the craftsmanship, the attention to detail, and note the people that admire them. But be warned, once you see how wonderful and exciting this genre can be, you may find yourself hopelessly addicted to it, as I have. Before you know it you will be clamoring to attend the next Steampunk convention or club meeting.

With this I leave you with a few words from one of my favorite poems by one of my favorite poets, M'Andrew's Hymn by Rudyard Kipling. I have read the poem many times, in my best Scottish accent no less, and every time I can smell the salty sea air and hear the bowels of this magnificent steam ship, with it brass pistons, bronze crankshaft and cast iron rods feverishly working to their task. Such are the visions of Steampunk.

"Mister McAndrews, don't you think steam spoils romance at sea?" Damned ijjit! I'd been doon that morn to see what ailed the throws, Manholin', on my back - the cranks three inches off my nose. Romance! Those first-class passengers they like it very well, Printed an' bound in little books; but why don't poets tell? I'm sick of all their quirks an' turns - the loves an' doves they dream - Lord, send a man like Robbie Burns to sing the Song o' Steam! To match wi' Scotia's noblest speech yon orchestra sublime Whaurto - uplifted like the Just - the tail-rods mark the time. The crank-throws give the double-bass; the feed-pump sobs an' heaves: An' now the main eccentrics start their quarrel on the sheaves. Her time, her own appointed time, the rocking link-head bides, Till - hear that note? - the rod's return whings glimmerin' through the guides. They're all awa! True beat, full power, the clangin' chorus goes Clear to the tunnel where they sit, my purrin' dynamoes. Interdependence absolute, foreseen, ordained, decreed, To work, Ye'll note, at any tilt an' every rate o' speed. Fra skylight-lift to furnace-bars, backed, bolted, braced an' stayed, An' singin' like the Mornin' Stars for joy that they are made;



MARCH

Norman Stemple 7th
Susan Thielker 14th
Elsie Kennedy 22nd
Stephanie Moran 22nd

APRIL

Leonard Stansbury 6th
Dora Hale 20th
Chris Phillips 25th
Mark Cohen 26th

Note: If your birthday should be on this list and I have missed it, please let me know and I will make a note to announce you in the next newsletter. In the mean time, Happy Birthday!

Field Trips

ASHGROVE QUARRY FIELDTRIP

900 Gifco Rd Midlothian, Texas 76065
April 2nd 2011, 7:30AM to Noon

Our host Sean Harris at Ashgrove says we are the first ones this season. So maybe the shark teeth, pyrite, and septarian nodules will be easy to find. Lets meet in the employee parking lot by the silos and smokestacks. We will need to be there before 7:30AM to sign paperwork and listen to the safety talk. This is not a trip for kids, but teens 15 and older are welcome. Hard hats and steel toed boots are not required, but sturdy shoes or boots are. No sandals or sneakers. This is one of the closest field trips and we are limited to 25 people, so get on the roster early by email, phone, or text. Please include the number in your party and your cell #.

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR FIELDTRIP

Jacksboro, TX 76458
April 30th, 2011 9:00AM

These Pennsylvanian fossils are more varied than the Cisco fieldtrip. You can expect to find coral, gastropods, bivalves, and small ammonoids. But there are also possible shark coprolite, enigmatic conularia, and crazy zigzag chambered ammonites. We will meet on the east side of the courthouse in Jacksboro and convoy to the lake at 9:00AM. It is 0.68 miles from the parking place to the dig site along a gravel bike trail, so bring bikes if you can. Kids are welcome but everyone should be aware of snakes, scorpions, and other noxious critters. Hiking boots, long pants, kneepads, and gloves are recommended.

Contact Schuyler Bullock at sky.brenda@uwmmail.com or call (682) 365-0517 for more information or questions.

Committee Positions

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THE FORT WORTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB



*The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club was founded in 1950. It is also a member of the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** and the **South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies**.*



PURPOSE: The purpose of this club is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, and the lapidary arts. We also strive to stimulate the interest in the searching, and collecting, of minerals and fossils.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the purpose described above.

DUES: \$15.00 per person, per year. \$20.00 per family, per year.

NEWSLETTER: Published monthly, before each meeting. Send articles, editorial corrections, announcements, and classified ads to:

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CLUB WEBSITE:
www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

Refreshments For MARCH:
POT LUCK! Bring your favorite dish!

Club Address: 3545 Bryan Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Meeting starts at: 7:30pm
Social starts at: 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 22nd 2011 - NORMAL MEETING