May 2013

The Cowtown Cutter

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

This newsletter is distributed the 3rd week of each month. Send articles, announcements, & editorial corrections by the 2nd Tuesday of the month to:

Janice Craddock

fwgmc.editor@gmail.com

Special Announcements:

Thursday nights are shop night. We still have lots to do around the club house. Come and join us!

It's Show Time!

We need every member to pitch in as time permits to support our annual show.

Thursday @ 6 pm – meet at the shop; load up

Friday @ 9 am - set up tables and run cables

Sat and Sun – we need members at the front desk, selling t-shirts, and a lot of other little things all day long. Sunday @ 5pm we have to load up and take everything back to the club house.

Next Tuesday's meeting, May 28th @ 7pm will be a follow up on the show. Bring a dish for the potluck and catch up with other members. No program.

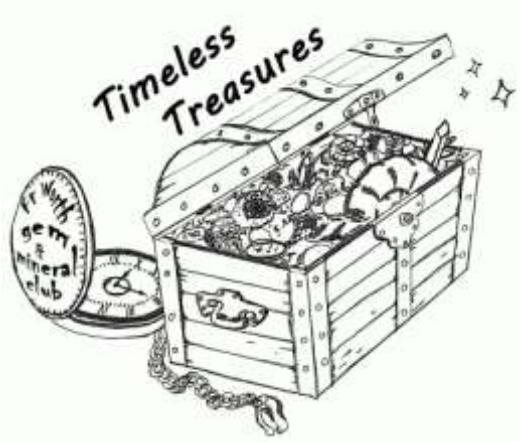
3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

62nd Annual Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club Show:

"Timeless Treasures"

May 25 & 26, 2013

Sat: 9am to 6pm; Sun: 10am to 5pm



Minutes from April 23

President Mary Hilliard called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes: Susan made a motion to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter, Schuyler seconded; minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: None given

There were 8 people who turned out for the Saturday workday. Thanks very much for your time and effort.

The next Saturday workday will be May 11th, at 10:00 am.

Show: Sign up sheet is available for Show days. We need volunteers for all days of the Show.

We also need a volunteer to do the announcing this year.

T-shirt design was presented and approved for this year's theme - Timeless Treasures.

We have 24 dealers for this year's show.

We will meet Thursday May 9th to address and stamp cards to be mailed for this year's show. Let's meet at 6:30 pm.

Drawing: White ticket- Eric, Red ticket- Susan.

Field trips: April 27th, Post Oak Creek in Sherman TX.

Club Auction was held following the business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Porter, Secretary

May:
09-Jason Conomikes
25-Linda Kessler

June:
06-Andrew Wendel

Post Oak Creek Field Trip Wrap-up, April 27th

The day was not looking promising when we stepped into the cold Post Oak Creek. It had drizzled a little and the temperature dropped about 10 degrees from Ft Worth. But Lilly almost immediately found a nice Ptycodus tooth and we forgot about the weather. Carl started spotting the tiniest shark teeth and vertebra.

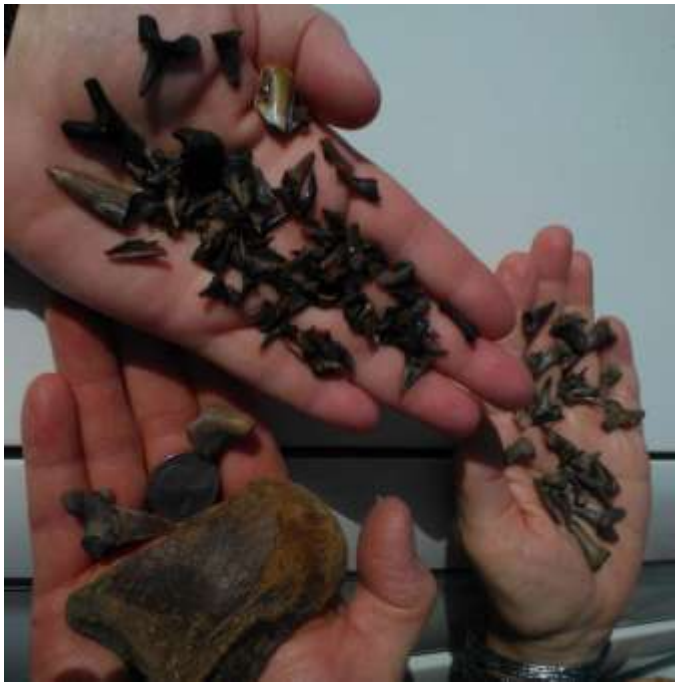
I cannot sit still sifting for long so I explored upstream a while. All I found were several beaver dams. (We had a beaver swim by us underwater earlier.) By about noon the sun started peeking through and soon the overcast disappeared. The finding started getting better too. In addition to a handful of nice shark teeth, Susan sifted out a possible horse molar and a mysterious tooth I hope she can get identified. I ended up with an unexpected 3" Mosasaur vertebra.

All in all, a nice day hunting.
Submitted by Sky

Susan found a cool spot in the creek to hunt and brought home 153 teeth.

Carl had to say, "*all of mine were small and then I got to finding some extremely small ones. The one at the upper left of the dime is really small. To the right of the dime is the lower jaw bone and tooth from a fossilized mouse or something. Even found a tiny piece of coral. Pretty cool stuff, I brought home some of the siftings to look through with a magnifying glass. Two other small flat and rectangular pieces, don't know for sure what they are*."

Susan, Lilly, and Sky show off their treasures:



Just for Fun

Gemdat.org

by Carolyn Weinberger from Gem Cutters News 4/2013 via Backbender's Gazette, 6/2013

If you are interested in minerals, you already know the best source of information about them on the Internet is a site called **mindat.org**. Continually being updated, this site contains a vast amount of information along with numerous photo-graphs about almost all the minerals that have been identified (approximately 4,129 as of this writing).

Now there's a companion site, sponsored by the same folks as Mindat called **Gemdat.org** that's dedicated to providing information about gemstones and gemology.

I encourage you to visit the site. To date, 498 data pages on gemstones have been posted and the site is growing almost daily as additional information and photographs are added.

Interested in topaz? Type in the name and you'll be transported to a page showing information about it plus all the colors that it's available in. Click on a specific photo and you'll have an instant enlargement of a faceted or cabochon cut gemstone. Or just click on the "photo" button and you'll get a full gallery of the photos that have been posted thus far.

Scroll further down on the main topaz page, and you'll find some of the more technical data about the gem including chemical formula, optical properties, localities where the gems are mined, and the various treatments that have been given to the natural stones to enhance their beauty.

Like its companion Mindat, Gemdat.org is an interesting and useful site. One caution though—don't expect to take a quick peek and log off—you'll get hooked like I did.

President's Report

IT'S SHOW TIME!

I'm sure by now all of you know that this weekend is our big show. This is our major fundraiser of the year. We will need all the help we can get. If you have not signed up for a job, please let me know what you would be willing to do. Anyone working for 4 hours or more a day will have their parking paid. Thursday night we will meet at the clubhouse at 6 o'clock to load up all of the equipment. Hopefully, we will be able to take the things over to Will Rogers that evening.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you this weekend ready to make this another successful show. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 817-995-8351.

Thanks to all of you who have been working on Thursday nights to get things ready for this show.

Mary

Other News

Herkimer Diamond Quarts Crystals

Reposted from Stoney Statement, May 2013

"Herkimer Diamonds" is the name given to the doubly terminated quartz crystals found in Herkimer County, New York and surrounding areas. Examples of these crystals are shown in the photo. Note that these crystals have the typical hexagonal habit of quartz; however, instead of having a termination on one end, they are doubly terminated. This is a result of the crystals growing with very little or no contact with their host rock. Such doubly terminated crystals are very rare and this is part of what makes Herkimer Diamonds so popular with mineral collectors.

The host rock for Herkimer Diamonds is the Cambrian-age, Little Falls Dolostone. The Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago and the Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities within the dolostone. These cavities are frequently lined with drusy quartz crystals and often are coated with a tarry hydrocarbon.

Although Herkimer County, New York is the location for which these crystals are named, similar doubly terminated quartz crystals have been found in a few other locations, including Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, Ukraine and China. They have the same appearance but cannot rightfully be called "Herkimers".

Julie's Page

By Julia Larson, Pinellas Geological Society from Outcroppings, Jan 2011 via The Hound's Howl, March 2011, Aiken, SC via The Pineywoods Rooter, May 2013.

I like words. If I hear a new word, I will turn it over and over in my mind, savoring the sound and the definition. I am a great fan of the Wordsmith web site which recently featured a word that was new to me.

The word was **ventifact**, which is a stone shaped, polished or faceted by wind. That got me thinking about other interesting rock-related words, and I will share a few of them in this month's page.

Astrobleme is a word derived from the Greek for "star wound." It is an impact feature formed by a big (building-sized) meteorite. The Meteor Crater in Arizona is one example.

An **impactite** is a terrestrial rock that has been radically deformed by the intense heat, pressure and shock waves of a meteorite impact. There are many types of impactites. Here are a few:

A meteorite impact, volcanic activity, landslides and other geologic activity sometimes cements smaller terrestrial rocks together, forming **breccia**. This type of rock is usually composed of sharp, angular fragments that can be from widely differing eras.

Meteorites that contain abundant silicate inclusions, usually gem-quality olivine crystals, in a nickel-iron matrix are called **pallasites**.

Moldovites are emerald green impact glass from the Czech Republic.

Similar to obsidian, **tektites** are black and glassy, but these meteorite glasses have crater-like features on the surface. They come in many shapes, from spheres, drops, buttons, even dumbbells. The most abundant tektites are indochinites from a meteorite strewn field that covers parts of China, Thailand and Cambodia.

Turn these words over in your mind and see what kinds of images they conjure.

CHALCEDONY

*Gem Profile by **Rose Marion** via El Paso Mineral & Gem Society – The Voice, May 2013*

Chalcedony used to be considered a fibrous variety of quarts. However, it has been shown to contain quartz as well as moganite, a different form of silicon dioxide with a crystal structure unlike quartz (named for Mogan on the Canary Islands).

However, you will still see various sources say that chalcedony is a form of quartz, and that agate is a form of chalcedony. They all are made up of silicon dioxide.

Joan Madouse wrapped this chalcedony druzy pendant in silver filled wire, accented with a blue briolette bead.

Being quartz like, chalcedony (kal-SED-uh-nee) typically ranks a 7 on Mohs scale, and has been used in carvings since before Roman times: even Roman carved seal rings are still in good condition today. This stone is called chalcedony in the gemstone trade when it is gray, white, or blue translucent; the AGTA ranks it among the "Sky Blue" gems. However, chalcedony, can naturally appear in practically any other color as well: yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, green, black, and multicolored and banded. Forms that are colored, in the gem trade, typically have other names, such as Tigerseye, Aventurine, and Bloodstone.

Blue Chalcedony has become popular in recent years, often named for its place of origin, such as Mohave Blue Chalcedony (from California) and African Blue from Namibia. The blue in blue chalcedony can have pink (as mentioned) or gray hues within the stone, and even a slight adularescence (as moonstone does). Bluish chalcedony from Oregon is not "blue chalcedony," rather it often has slight bands or clouds of pink, creating a lavender color, which is confusingly called Holly Blue. Holly Blue is often grouped with the blue chalcedonies, though, and is typically considered the most valuable of the group. Difference in color and transparency is due to metallic impurities, meaning that minerals and elements such as titanium, copper, nickel, and iron are present as the stone crystallizes. For example, the form of chalcedony that's Granny Smith apple green, Chrysoprase, gets its verdant color from nickel. Chalcedony is typically cabbed, carved, or made into beads; particularly transparent pieces are sometimes fascinated.

Joan Madouse wrapped this chalcedony druzy pendant in silver filled wire, accented with a blue briolette bead.

White, blue, and gray chalcedony is mainly found in the California and Nevada deserts, India, Siberia, and Iceland, but is found in many more smaller locations all over the world. To clean natural chalcedony, the AGTA recommends to rinse with mild dish soap and let dry; it needs no special care. Chalcedony doesn't typically react to heat, although sometimes it is dyed or stained. Glass is often used to imitate chalcedony, but you may be able to see tiny bubbles, swirl marks, or "too-perfect" inclusions that will tip you off to the true glass nature of the "stone."

Resources & Recommended Reading

- http://en.w ikipedia.org/wiki/Chalcedony
- http://www.gemstonesguide.com/Chalcedony.html#Uses_of_Chalcedony_in_Jewelry_&_Fashion
- http://www.jckonline.com/article/291399-Blue_Chalcedony.php
- http://www.addmorecolortoyourlife.com/gemstones/chalcedony.asp
- http://www.minerals.net/gemstone/chalcedony.aspx
- http://www.gemsociety.org/info/gems/chalcedony.htm

Committee Positions:

President/Sunshine Chair/Show Chair
Mary Hilliard - 817.995.8351
samehil@embargmail.com

1st VP of Field Trips
Schuyler Bullock - 682.365.0517
sbbr@cirranet.org

2nd VP of Programs
Martha Phillips - 817.306.1475
marthamirantiphillips@yahoo.com

Programs
Irene Stemple
nstemple@att.net

Secretary
Hope Porter -817.495.2331
hopeporter5150@aol.com

Treasurer
Fran Loyd
P.O. Box 123975, Ft Worth, TX 76121

Membership
Susan Thielker -817.247.8467
ammonite_hunter@yahoo.com

Site Manager
Stephanie Moran – 817.449.8414
Fwgmc.webmaster@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor/Shop Foreman
Janice Craddock
fwgmc.editor@gmail.com

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.

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 76121

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

CLUB WEBSITE: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org