

Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Meetings held every 4th Tuesday @ 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

The Cowtown Cutter



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

Open Shop Thurs, Oct 23rd; NO OPEN SHOP hours in November. We will start again Dec. 4th!

Meeting, Tuesday, October 28th:

Join us this month for our
annual auction!

Everyone is invited to bring rock-related items to auction at the meeting. 50% of sale will go the club and 50% to the individual (unless you want to donate all of the proceeds to the club). There will be club items for sale also. Bring a friend, this is always a fun activity.

7:00 Potluck/Social time
7:30 Meeting/Program

Events

Oct 24-26; Glen Rose, TX; Dallas Paleo Society's FOSSILMANIA; Free Admission and free parking; Annual fossil and fossil-related show, with dealers from all over the country. FREE educational displays, fossils for kids, and fossil identification (bring your unidentified finds!) Special events include Tom Vance of Navarro College presents Friday, 10/24 at 7:30 PM: "ROLAND T. BIRD: THE QUARRYING OF GLEN ROSE DINOSAUR TRACKS"; Guided fossil hunting trip Saturday 10/25 at 10:00 AM; Guided trip to Dinosaur State Park Saturday 10/25 at 1:00 PM; Hourly Door Prize drawings on Saturday; Raffle Drawing and Fossil Auction on Saturday night
www.dallaspaleo.org/fossilmania.htm

Nov 1-2; Midland, TX; Midland Gem and Mineral Show, Midland Center, 105 N. Main, Sat 9-6; Sun 10-5. Featuring silent auction, kid's corner, geodes cut while you wait, fluorescent mineral exhibit, live working demos, lots of local & out of town mineral, fossil, and lapidary displays.

Nov 1-2; Amarillo, TX; Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Amarillo Civic Center; 400 S. Buchanan St., Regency Room; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children (under 12), military and Scouts in uniform free.

Nov 7-9; Humble, TX; Houston Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, seniors and students \$7, children (10 and under) free; Kids Daze Friday; www.hgms.org.

Nov 15-16; Round Rock, TX; Paleontological Society of Austin 24th Annual fossil show - Fossil Fest; This year's theme is: Ice Age Texas - highlighting fossils from in and around the central Texas area. A fun and educational event for the entire family with door prizes, demos, displays, a spin the Wheel of Fossils, a

fossil Dig Pit and dealers from around the country selling fossils and fossil related material from around the world. Old Settlers Park, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd, Highway 79, 3 miles east of IH-35; adults \$3, children (6-12) \$2, children under 6 free; -
www.austinpaleo.org.

Nov 22-23rd; Mesquite, TX ; Dallas Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, 1800 Rodeo Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$8, family (4 or more) \$20, students (4-12) \$3, children (3 and under) free;
www.DallasGemandMineral.org .

***For more shows at later dates, or outside Texas:www.rockngem.com/showdates

From October 2014 *The Rock Prattle*, Temple GMS WE BLAST THE ROCK AND YOU KEEP EVERYTHING YOU FIND!

www.topazmountainadventures.com

We will be opening soon for regular tours. Beat the rush contribute now to our crowdfunding campaign to receive special offers that will not be available once we open for regular tours.

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/topaz-mountain-adventures-gemstone-mining-tours-great-adventure-vacation>

Free Lapidary E-Book

For those of you who are interested in learning basic lapidary (cutting and polishing of gemstones), Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist Magazine offers a free download of an e-book called "The Complete Lapidary Experience: Hunt, Cut, and Set Gems". This collection of articles takes you on a field trip to collect rough moonstone then through the cutting and polishing phases and finally to setting the stone in a piece of jewelry. Being able to cut or modify a gemstone opens up whole new areas of jewelry making and gives greater depth to the pleasure you get when you reply "Yes, I made it myself" Get the free e-book at:

http://jewelrymakingdaily.com/Lapidary-Hunt-Cut-Set/?utm_source=megalist&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mg110525e



October

27-Hope Porter

November

29-Ken Wilks

<http://www.paleoportal.org/nps/>

Fossils in US National Parks

Our national parks have been described as our country's greatest treasure — full of natural wonders, history, cultural icons, and places to explore — to be safeguarded for all time. Many of these parks are also the home to fossils! This website provides a map indicating those National Parks where fossils have been found or where they exist in collections.

Minutes from Sept 23rd:

Meeting called to order by President Mary Hilliard at 7:30 p. m.

Guests welcomed included Keith and Deborah O'Donnell from Willow Park.

Minutes from August meeting published in newsletter. Irene moved to accept, Dora seconded. Motion to accept minutes carried.

Treasurer's report: given.

Steve moved to accept, Janice seconded; motion to accept report carried.

Program was a talk given by Estella on the art of suiseki (sui = water, seki = stone). Suiseki is the display of stones in as natural a state as possible. The stones are not altered except to flatten one side so they have a bottom to rest on. Igneous rocks work better for bonsai

displays. Japanese kneel so most displays are at their eye level. Locations of bonsai displays are not always close to where the plants are grown. Rocks are used for planting bonsai. Granite = moonstones; pots are made to fit the shape of moonstones. Chrysanthemum stone is similar to snowflake obsidian. Some stones that have hills and valleys and stripes that look like waterfalls or rivers are really prized. Daises, raised platforms, are made to fit the stones.

Officer nomination: A committee of 3 members was formed to make a slate of nominees for officers for the October meeting.

Field trips: Fort Worth GMC members are invited to the Cowtown Rock and Glass Club's trip to TXI this coming Saturday. We are also invited to the Dallas Paleo bus trip featuring geology of Dallas County. It includes lunch and a stop at the Heard Museum on Saturday.

Maintenance: Blades and other items were ordered to repair saws. We need a new 10" saw. There are used ones for sale up to \$1100, and a new one for \$849 (previously priced at \$999). (Kingsley-North) We only have one saw that is self-feeding. Janice moved that we purchase a 10" self-feeding saw. Estella seconded. Motion carried.

Picnic: Choice of Sunday, Oct. 19 or Nov. 2 at 1:00. Members voted to have it on October 19th. Club will furnish meat, buns, lettuce, tomatoes, and onions. Members bring side dishes and drinks.

Drawings: held

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora M. Hale

President's Note *from Mary*

We had another great picnic on the Brazos! We had a pretty good group show up- Janice and I counted 27 in all.



Our Nominating Committee is working hard on getting together a slate of officers to present at our Oct. meeting. I want to thank Janice, Dora, and Carl for serving on this committee. "Many hands make light work" so please consider how you can help make the load lighter by joining a committee. Email your interest to fwgmc.editor@gmail.com.

Okay, start going through all of your goodies you have acquired over the years and bring them to our October meeting for an auction. We always get some really neat items. Start saving your money between now and the Oct. 28 meeting. Hope to have a good crowd. Bring a friend! *Mary Hilliard, President*



Editor's Note *from Janice*

I love October. Not only do I get to celebrate my daughter's birthday, it's a busy month for hobby related activities. As the weather starts to turn cooler, I am thrilled to be able to get out doors and start exploring. I hope you all had an opportunity to celebrate National Fossil Day during the month of October. We are blessed with abundance of fossils in our area and I hope you took advantage of the many activities in the Metroplex to share your love of fossils and foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value.

The club picnic was also held this month. David and Linda Kessler once again secured a spot on the Brazos River for a day of socializing with members of the club as well as a bit of hunting along river banks. Steve was awesome at the grill and Mary organized the food. Everyone brought a side dish and there was enough food to feed an army.

Several of us headed over to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park after the picnic for a few finds. Don't forget it is open regularly and a great place to find "Pennsylvanian Period" fossils.



A couple of our members found Holey stones at our picnic. They are fairly hard to find and it is considered extremely lucky to find one. Holey stones also known as Holed stone, Hag Stone and Witches Amulet is any rock weathered/eroded with a hole created naturally by wind or water over a very long time. These stones are believed to have healing and magical properties. There are many stories of them being used for personal protection, to protect against diseases, and to prevent nightmares. It's a mystery whether the stories are true or not, but it's always fun to find a rock with a history.



How to Make a Tumbler:

For all you techies out there. Now there is something you can do with those old inkjet printers that are out-of-date. Make a rock tumbler! Sounds Cool; try it out and let me know if it works! Here are the instructions: <http://www.instructables.com/id/Printer-Rock-Tumbler-with-adjustable-speed-leds-an/?ALLSTEPS>

Just for fun

What Kind of Rockhound are You?

The Fortune Hunter - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is the monetary value.

The Optimist - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, as a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

The Road Runner - No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

The Smasher and Basher - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.

From the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society via Monrovia Rockhounds Moroks Newsletter, Oct 2014

Rockhound Prescription

I don't need Pilates

I don't need a gym

I don't need a diet plan to keep me trim.

I belong to a Rock Club which serves me quite well lugging rocks up hill and down for the monthly show and tell.

I struggle through brush with my bag and pick and check now and then for the occasional tick.

I wade through rivers and lower into caves for those highly prized gems my impassioned heart craves.

My stamina is strengthened by my ooh and aah finds.

My house and yard are filled with rocks of all kinds.

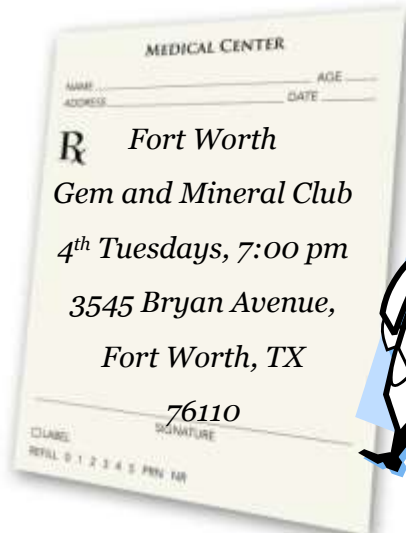
My doctor says, "You're in great shape. Tell me how do you do it?"

"Being a rockhound," I answer, "keeps me active and fit."

He looks at me for a moment then grabs prescription pad and pen.

"I want to be a rockhound, tell me where do you meet and when."

by Jaka via The Rockhouser via Monrovia Rockhounds Moroks Newsletter, Oct 2014



Do you have LITHOPHYLLOSIS?

There is NO cure! The word comes from Latin: lithos meaning rock: phyl, and attraction to: and osis, condition.

Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks.

The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age, and . . . IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS!

Sounds like common old ROCK POX to me, we have had that for years anyway! It is often caught at, and symptoms may become aggravated by, but may also for some, be relieved by, attending rock shows, club meetings, and field trips. Although be sure to use caution as all these things are HIGHLY addictive!!

And are usually passed on to your children who will then be lifelong sufferers.

(Source: Beehive Buzzer 9/09; CLACKAMETTE GEM 6/14 via The Slate via Moroks Newsletter, 9/14)

Welcome New Members!!

Keith and Deb O'Donnel

Officers & Committee Positions:

President/Sunshine Chair/Show Chair

Mary Hilliard - 817.995.8351

samehil@embargmail.com

1st VP of Field Trips

Judy Shaw

jshaw59@aol.com

2nd VP of Programs

Carl Silvey

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Secretary

Hope Porter -817.495.2331

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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: 657 Deer Valley Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085

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

CLUB WEBSITE: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org