

# 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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### Special Announcements:

*Join us for shop activities:*

*Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> 6 to 8:30pm – Class for new members that want to learn to use the lapidary equipment. Must attend first class then work at your own pace with instructor to complete. RSVP to [fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.editor@gmail.com) to sign up.*

*Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 3ish – Crafting Day. Bring your own crafts and join us to learn tips from other crafters or enjoy the company while working on your own project. See page 4 for more information.*

### Join us for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting

Program: Incredible Journey of the Monarch

Follow these amazing butterflies on the 2000 mile unbelievable journey from Canada to Mexico.

7:00 Potluck

30 Meeting/Program

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

*Janice Craddock*

[fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.editor@gmail.com)

## Events

**July 11-12—TULSA, OKLAHOMA:** Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society, Central Park Hall-Tulsa County Fairgrounds; 4145 E. 21st St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults + Seniors + Students \$6.00, 12 and under free with paid adult; Includes Gems, Beads, Fossils, Jewelry, Crystals, Working Exhibits, Free Kid's Zone and Demonstrations. Scout and Military Free-in uniform. [m\\_rongey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m_rongey@sbcglobal.net), [www.ttownrockhound.org](http://www.ttownrockhound.org)

**July 25-26 Dallas** CERA Show at Brookhaven College 3939 Valley View Ln., Farmers Branch TX. Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5; Free Admission, Free Parking; More than 25 vendors. Rocks, gems, fossils, mineral specimens, rough, cabochons, spheres, hand knapped flint knives, stained glass, fused glass jewelry, handmade jewelry. [steve.l.shearin@lmra.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmra.com)

### Earthly Events

#### Kelvin-Helmholtz Waves

<http://news.yahoo.com/amazing-waves-discovered-deep-ocean-trench-112032062.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelvin%E2%80%93Helmholtz\\_instability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelvin%E2%80%93Helmholtz_instability)

#### Earthquakes, Unified Theory

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/05/150518121652.htm>

#### Underwater Craters in Switzerland

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/05/150518102140.htm>

#### Why Do Men Exist?

<http://newsdaily.com/2015/05/why-do-men-exist-scientific-study-offers-an-explanation/>

#### Smokehole Cave

<http://cavingnews.com/20150514-video-dayton-underground-grotto-visits-smokehole-cave>

*The Cowtown Cutter*, Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

#### Megadeath & Biogeography

<http://www.monbiot.com/2015/05/22/megadeath/>

#### Mysterious Lakes

<http://www.amusingplanet.com/2015/05/the-mysterious-lakes-of-badain-jaran.html>

#### Funding Cuts for Earth Sciences

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/05/03/1382065/-House-Republicans-launch-direct-attack-on-Earth-Sciences-slashing-300-to-500-million-from-NASA>  
via A View from the Arbuckles

## June 20<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to Post Oak Creek Field Trip, Sherman, TX

Purpose: To collect shark teeth, Ptycodus teeth, small marine fossils, marbles, old glass, and pottery pieces. This trip is open to anyone interested in joining – you do not have to be a club member.

Date & Time: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am

Cost: No cost to hunt.

Location: 9 am at the Jack in the Box/Shell at exit 56 (FM 1417) on Hwy 75 in Sherman, TX. We will meet on the east side of the parking lot.

Preparations: It is best to wear old shoes and wade into water up to waist deep but some people did fine with rubber boots. Don't go barefoot because there is broken glass. Kids are welcome and will enjoy it. Access to the creek is very steep and can be slick if it has rained recently. You should bring a ¼ inch screen, scoop or shovel, water, lunch, sunscreen, and bug spray. You should also bring zip lock bags for your cellphone wallet and keys. Parking is limited so carpool if possible.

Contact: CERA.rockhounds@gmail.com with any questions or call Felice at 817-800-1367

## President's Note *from Carl:*

Are we melting yet? It's summer and hot. I've been trying to do some rock hunting, taking advantage of washed out conditions. However, I find roads closed, LBJ Grasslands totally closed on account of recent rains and flooding, and high water on the lakes and rivers. So I decided to just scrounge through my stash of rocks to find something new to work with. Interesting how much choice rock I put in hiding waiting until I get better at what I do.....it still sits hidden.

I look forward to our June meeting, maybe a final update on the show results and meeting new members. Don't forget the potluck! See you all at the meeting.

## Minutes *from Dora:*

**Meeting** called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Felice Moreno.

**Welcome** to guests and new members including Paul & Ashley Harrison from Argyle, Joyce Griffiths, Sam McClasky, Scott Goodwin, Paul Lisle, Rich Mallory, Rob & Lori Woodbury, and Naomi and Bob.

**Treasurer's report given.**

**The grand prize amethyst geode** was presented to Janet Green from Midlothian.

**Minutes** from newsletter, moved to accept and approved.

**Field trips:** \*June 1<sup>st</sup> tentatively set for Oklahoma trip to Herb's rock shop and finding potato geodes. \*Waiting for better weather for Post Oak Creek in Sherman.

**Show report:** took in \$6523 cash sales. More details to follow.

**In-club activities and classes:** Janice announced that a glass class would possibly meet at end of June or July. Club will be open this Thursday, but not next Thursday.

Sky will be here this Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 for open shop day.

There will be a safety class about mid-June.

**Drawing:** White ticket won by Sean. 4 red tickets drawn, prizes going to Linda, Scott, Rich, and David.

**T-shirts:** Old ones are available for \$5 and new ones for \$10.

**Program:** Irene gave a talk about club history, rock formation, and dinosaur types and findings. We hosted a national rock and mineral show many years ago, and the \$10,000 we made went to purchase the building we now meet in. Printed material was passed out relating to rock and fossil formation around Fort Worth. Included was information related to the dinosaurs discovered in this area, also.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dora M Hale, secretary



Rich & Jen Malloy  
Naomi & Bob Fron  
Paul Lisle  
Kay Lamb  
Philip & Janie Stach

## Club News from Janice

We are planning a busy summer at the shop.

Thursdays 5:45 – 9:00 pm --Open shop nights. We will be working or playing every Thursday depending on the status of the machines. Call to let me know if you plan to be there.

Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>@ 6 to 8:30pm

*Starts a new safety & lapidary class; it is open to members who want to learn to use the lapidary equipment; it takes a couple of weeks to complete. RSVP to [fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.editor@gmail.com) to sign up.*

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10 -3ish

*Crafting Day: Bring your own craft and join us for a day of crafting. Pam is bringing sea glass and other beach items for wire wrapping, Janice is bringing stuff for making earrings. Whatever you are working on bring it to the club house and join the group. Get a project finished, pick up a tip or two from other members, and enjoy the company of other crafters. Bring a sack lunch.*

*David will be working on the 36" saw starting at noon. If anyone wants to lend a hand, he would appreciate the help.*

The pumps in the lapidary shop have been fixed thanks to David Nolen, so the lapidary room, glass area and saw room will be open for those that have had classes & membership fees are up to date.

Class Glass: RSVP to [fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.editor@gmail.com) if you want to take the beginning stained glass class. Date has not been set but we are looking at a Sunday in July or early August.

## Show News!

What a great show! Mary wanted to express a big thanks to everyone that volunteered. We couldn't have this tremendous success without the dedicated members who put in tireless hours to make it happen.

### Silent Auction Group



### Kid's Corner



### Member Table





### Front Desk/Admissions



### Saturday morning crew



### The unloading crew



And all those too shy or too busy for the camera especially Steve and Mary Hilliard, the show and vendor chairs.



### The sign distributors



The vendors are a major contributing factor in the success of the show. A special thanks for the vendors that participate every year as well as the new faces we had this year. I know it takes a lot of time and planning on your part as well.

Thanks for your support and door prize donations. I love to see the happy faces of the people when their name is called.

If anyone is looking for contact information, the vendors at the Fort Worth Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show and Sale have allowed us to post their information on our website. <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/2015%20Vendors.pdf>



And the winner is....

Thanks to the generosity of our vendors we had many, many happy faces accepting door prizes throughout the day.

A few of the door prize winners.



The grand finale of the weekend was the raffle prize drawing. Janet attended the May monthly club meeting to claim the amethyst cathedral. It was presented to her at the meeting by our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Felice.



### June:

- 08-Rich Stach
- 09-Rich Malloy
- 14-Jennifer Harrison
- 20-Sam McClasky
- 26-Lyn Lanning

### July:

- 02-Joyce Griffiths
- 09-Mary Hilliard
- 09-Brenda Bullock
- 11-Kim McClasky
- 15-Glenn Hilliard
- 22-Kelsey Harrison
- 23-Adeline Collins
- 28-Felice Moreno
- 28-John Stagle

## Articles

### WHAT IS SELENITE?

Selenite is a crystallized form of gypsum. Chemically it is hydrous calcium sulphate. Gypsum is a common mineral which takes on a great variety of crystal forms and shapes.



Here on the Salt Plains, the crystals are formed just below the salt-encrusted surface. They are seldom found deeper than two feet below the surface.

### HOW ARE THE CRYSTALS FORMED?

At certain places on the Salt Plains, gypsum and saline solutions in the soil are sufficiently concentrated to promote crystal growth. When heavy rains or floods bring great quantities of fresh water to the plains, some of the selenite crystals may go back into solution until conditions are again right for recrystallization.

Because these crystals form in wet soil, sand and clay particles are included within the crystal. The included particles often form a characteristic “hourglass” shape, which is

found only in this area. The chocolate brown color is due to the presence of iron oxide in the soil. Other foreign objects in the soil such as sticks, rocks, bones, and even cockleburrs are occasionally embraced as the crystals form. Single crystals, penetration twins, and clusters are the typical crystal shapes most frequently encountered here. Exceptional individual crystals as much as seven inches long are found here, as well as complex combinations of crystals weighing as much as .38 pounds.

As long as nothing happens to change the mineral content of the waters draining into the Salt Plains, these crystals will continue to form, just as they do today.

(The above article was reprinted from the U. S. Department of the Interior pamphlet “Selenite Crystals on Salt Plains) via SCFMS Newsletter via June 2015 Stoney Statement.



## Officers and Committees

**President: Carl Silvey** - 940.206.5580;  
[txrootbeer@yahoo.com](mailto:txrootbeer@yahoo.com)

**1st VP of Field Trips: Felice Moreno**  
[FeliceMoreno@yahoo.com](mailto:FeliceMoreno@yahoo.com)

**2nd VP of Programs: Irene Stemple**  
[nstemple@att.net](mailto:nstemple@att.net)

**Secretary: Dora Hale** - 817.991.9276  
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**Treasurer: Schuyler Bullock** 682.365.0517;  
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657 Deer Valley Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085

**Sunshine Chair: Fran Loyd** – 817.822.6954  
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**Show Chair: Mary Hilliard**  
**Vendor Chair: Steve Hilliard** - 817.995.8351  
[samehil@embargmail.com](mailto:samehil@embargmail.com)

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**Newsletter Editor/Shop Foreman:**  
**Janice Craddock;** [fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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** 657 Deer Valley Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085

**PHYSICAL ADDRE: SS:** 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

**CLUB WEBSITE:** [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)