

# Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

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

## The Cowtown Cutter



### Special Announcements:

See page 5 for New Member Lapidary Class information.

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### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING:**

We will hold our club auction at the March meeting.

There will be club items for auction as well as you can bring items to include in the auction. The items you bring can be donated to the club or you can do a 50/50 split; 50% of the sale goes to you and 50% goes to the club. It is time to clean out your rock and fossil closet to make room for new stuff.

7:00 Potluck/Social time      7:30 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*

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

## Upcoming Events

March 19; Waco, TX: Mammoths on the March Festival. Waco Mammoth Site, 10-4; 6220 Steinbeck Bend Dr, [Check out their FB page](#)

April 9: Austin, TX: 2016 ROCK SWAP; Gems, Minerals & Fossils; In conjunction with TEXAS TOPAZ DAYS by the Texas Faceters' Guild. 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin Texas; 9 to 3; **Head to Austin for an old fashion swap meet:** Plenty of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, petrified wood, agates, fluorescent minerals, crystals, rough rock, gift items, jewelry, beads, tools & equipment, local mineral & fossil specimens. Texas Faceters' Guild will be on hand selling gem stones, gem rough and giving demonstrations FREE ADMISSION; FREE PARKING; Club House Tours; Potluck Lunch; KIDS Activities; Demonstrations; Raffles. [www.AustinGemAndMineral.org](http://www.AustinGemAndMineral.org)

April 9-10; Abilene, TX: Annual Show; Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society. Abilene Civic Center, 600 Pine St.

April 15-17; Alpine, TX: Show and sale; Chihuahuan Desert Gem and Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center, 801 W. Holland. Free Admission.

April 22-24; Houston, TX: Fine Mineral Show, Embass Suites Hotel, 2911 Sage Rd., [www.FineMineralShow.com](http://www.FineMineralShow.com)

April 30-May 1; Waco, TX: Waco Gem and Mineral Club, Extraco Event Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd, \$5; [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

May 7-8, Lubbock, TX: The Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; 58<sup>th</sup> annual show and sale; hosting the South Central Federation of Mineral Society's annual convention. Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; [www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

## What Is A Rockhound?

A Teacher/Educator, A Mineralogist, A Geologist, A Paleontologist, An Archaeologist, A Biologist, A Botanist, A Herpetologist, An Entomologist, A Lapidary, A Student, A Sculptor, A Jeweler, A Photographer, A Painter, A Four-Wheeler, A Hiker, A Biker, A Conservationist, A Recreationist, And a Responsible Citizen

*From Feb., 2013 MOROKS via March, 2016 Gritty Greetings*



### March:

02-Russell O'Donnell  
10-Linda Fuller  
13-Cherilyn Graham  
14-Susan Thielker  
16-Sean McClaskey  
23- Pam Nolen

### April:

03-Kathy Silvey  
09-Alayna Frost  
10-Eric Keller  
21-Dora Hale  
22-Debbie Woods

## Annual Dues are Due in

**January:** \$15 Individual; \$20 Family

Pay at meeting or print/mail with membership application to Schuyler Bullock, Deer Valley Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085. Get the application [here](#).

March is the last month before you get dropped from the membership roster....

# Field Trip Report!

On a cool February morning a group of nineteen members from Gem and Mineral clubs from Fort Worth, CERA & Dallas & Dallas Paleo met at the post office in Bluff Dale.

*It was a nice day and a good place. Very peaceful collecting along the creek. We found some nice pieces of petrified wood and had a great time with friends. Pam*

Where is Bluff Dale you ask? Just southwest of the meteroplex near the small town of Tolar, 15 miles south of Granbury on 377.

*I enjoyed it because it was close, easy to get to and I found interesting rocks. Don*

Everyone wanted to be the first down the steep, slippery slope into the creek. Some stayed close to where the landowner had pointed out he had seen lots of wood while others wanted to be the first down the creek to explore new venues.

We followed the

landowner out to the site. Upon arrival, he hurried off to pen the cattle in another field. Everyone wanted to be the first down the steep, slippery slope into the creek. Some stayed close to where the landowner had pointed out he had seen lots of wood while others wanted to be the first down the creek to explore new venues.

*I found some nice wood and creek junk too! Sky*



Fran said there were plenty of pieces of petrified wood in the level areas without going down into the creek. Some found some good size pieces of wood, while others were more attracted to the interesting sandstone yard rock. And others collected 'creek junk', like car doors and license plates.

*I enjoyed the trip. I love it when I go places I've never been, especially when they aren't real far away. I didn't find a lot that I wanted, but I totally enjoyed exploring. I did find the old car doors and the set of license plates dated 1937. Belinda*

*I enjoyed watching what others were finding. I especially enjoyed the beautiful day and the peaceful area. Many thanks to Randy and everyone else for making this a great hunt. Fran*

*Loved the 'holy' rocks we found. Good day! Mary*



The big, sandstone shaped by years of water flow, seemed to be the favorite of the day.

*"Oh Steve, look at this"; "where's Glenn"; "Glenn"; I want this."; "Glenn"; "I've got to have this" said Mary pointing to a rather large rock at the bottom of the creek.*



It took a group to help load a rather large piece of sandstone yard rock for Schuyler.

The day warmed up nicely and there were no encounters with snakes so I was happy. We gathered around the vehicles at lunchtime to share snacks and stories and our finds.



*Great trip!*

After lunch some decided it was time to head home, a few choose to stay a little longer, and a smaller group went to explore the Puluxy River in the area.

The quality of the wood wasn't the best, a little sandy to cut and polish, but it made good yard rock. It was an awesome day.

*I had a great time hiking up and down the river looking for petrified wood. The weather was nice and we had a nice turn out of people. I have to say I did not find much because I was looking for bigger pieces but in a way that was ok. They would have been too heavy to carry up the river bank. As it was, my bucket got pretty darn heavy anyway. I will tell you, one piece I brought home I cut at the shop last week. I intended to cut off one end so I could set it up to display. When I did, the end looked so nice that I decided to cut a little more of it for slabs. I would also like to say thank you to the owner for letting us on his property and he if would invite us back, I would sure like to go. David*

We found a few rocks and made some new friends.

Keep rock'n ~ Janice



## Note from the President

I am sorry we had to reschedule the February meeting due to the power failure on the regular night. Thursdays are not good for everyone, but it was a day the speaker was able to come again. And what a fantastic program! I'm talking about a very interesting program in which I lost all control of the meeting because of the enthusiasm shown to the presenter. To say he caught everyone's attention is an understatement! The program was put on by John Maurice; he was one of very few people to ever enter "The Cave of Crystals" at Naica, Mexico. He showed pictures of Selenite crystals that were 13' in diameter. It was an extremely interesting program with lots of questions answered and even an opportunity to touch one of the crystals. I warned him but someone licked the crystal.....bet you can't guess who? The photographer promised to send pictures so we will share those when we get them.

The recent heavy rains and flooding should expose some new fossils for those that go out looking. I will be out looking for arrowheads, etc. and a few fossils myself. If you venture out be safe, keep a constant look out for critters that may be harmful. Have fun but be careful.

Our program time this month will be a club auction. I hope Steve is feeling up to being the auctioneer again this time. The club will have items but you can put items up for auction also. You can donate the items to the club or do a 50/50 split. Bring your wallets, cash or check, we don't take credit cards.

Remember to bring your T-Shirt design to the March meeting to be voted on. We will also have a show meeting this month. Come out and see how you can participate in the annual show. It is our main fund raiser for the year, so we need every one to help out. The potluck supper is at 7 with the meeting at 7:30 PM. Thanks to everyone for bringing their favorite dish, salad, or dessert and remember

we always want enough so guests feel welcome to participate.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

*Carl Silvey*

## Minutes from Jan 26th

\*Meeting called to order at 7:35 p. m.

- Welcome to the following visitors: John and Rosa Maurice, Lilia Calderon
- Minutes from January; moved to accept by Pam and seconded by David. Approved.
- Treasurer's report: given.
- Sunshine committee: Steve in the hospital. Gifts and thank you cards were sent to landowner from the last field trip. He sent a very nice reply.
- Field trips: Bluff Dale field trip report given by Janice. Felice reports a trip to TXI on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Need to RSVP to Felice if you are interested. Also interest list if you want to go to Cameron for petrified wood.

\*Speaker John Maurice spoke of his trip to Naica, Mexico and into the Cave of the Crystals. .

- Show committee: Mary & Steve absent. Janice (per Mary) requested a refund given to Michael Hartz for last year due to illness. Nomination made by Carl and seconded by Kathy. Approved. Irene will help with the kid's corner. Discussion regarding having members set up a display case or two. A show meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss details and needs.

Because there were not a large number of people at the meeting and the meeting being on a different day than normal, a list of show themes were made which will go out to members to be voted on.

•Shop report: Workshop scheduled Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to make earrings. RSVP to Janice if you are interested.

•Drawings: White ticket—Rank. Red tickets (3)—David, Schuyler, Felice

Meeting adjourned 9:16

Respectfully submitted, Janice Craddock

## Shop News *from Janice:*

March is here and so is spring. It is time to get another new member lapidary class going. If you are interested please email [fwgmc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.editor@gmail.com). Everyone needs to attend the first class so I can cover safety issues. Then you will finish two cabs to show that you understand the procedures and safe use of equipment. Training will be 6pm to 9pm on Tuesday and Wednesdays, starting March 29<sup>th</sup> (One day a week; but I will be flexible; we can talk about which days you want to meet.) You must RSVP and tell me which days work for you.

With much anticipation, David set up the new 10” saw in the saw room. We decided to use oil instead of a water based solution to handle a larger variety of materials. We set up a nice piece of tiger eye for the beta test. It did a great job!



## OF WASPS, SNAKES AND BLACK WIDOWS

### **HOW USING OUR EVERYDAY FEARS GREATLY HELPS US OBSERVE AND AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS**

*By Owen Martin, SCFMS/HGMS via 2016 Jan/Feb SCFMS Newsletter*

As a Safety Professional I am always looking for ways to help people understand where hazards exist around them. Over the years my message has “evolved.” Breaking things down into simple and sometimes visceral terms can really get a point across. I’ve

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

broken it down into three areas of discussion for this article.



### **Wasps!**

This is about not putting your head or body in a place where it can get stung. If you walk into a crowded and cluttered storeroom how would you proceed if I told you that there was a wasp nest in there?

Slowly, looking first at eye level and above to make sure nothing dangerous could be seen or heard.

Or, how about if you put your head under a work bench to pick up something you dropped?

Check first and when backing out and up make sure your head is clear so that you don’t whack your head on the underside of a drawer (the nest).

### **Snakes!**



If I told you there was a 5’ long rattle snake in your garage how would it affect your behavior? For starters you would be really careful where you put your feet. Again, you would look first, then listen and finally move. If you observed the location of a hazard (the snake) then you could avoid it or better yet eliminate it! These metaphorical snakes exist all over the place: garage, closet, bathroom, laundry room, attic, shed, shop, office, etc. If you don’t watch where you are putting your feet you can literally get bitten if you fail to recognize that hazard.



### **Black Widows...**

Finally as to spiders. I know more people with spider phobias than anything else. If I told you there was a black widow in your tool box how would that change your behavior? Rummaging around in a tool box that is filled with rusty nails, saw blades, screws, pins, scissors, utility knives, etc. certainly poses a hazard where something could “bite” you. How about under the hood of your car? Under the sink? Your fuse box? The knife drawer in your kitchen???

OK – so the moral of the story is related to Behavioral Based Safety and how we can improve our personal hazard recognition skills. If we see the spilled oil on the floor of our garage we can avoid stepping in it. We can even clean it up before anyone slips in it. So think about these critters and how they relate to hazards. Hazards that are observed can be avoided or better yet eliminated. That is how we learn to stay safe.

Discover something new.

## 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)

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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  
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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](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)