



SLABS & CABS OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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March 2011

Next Meetings

Board Meeting
5 April 2011
Downtown Library
6:00 PM– 9:00 PM

General meeting
15 March 2011
Watergarden Room
Corpus Christi
Museum of Science & History
1900 No. chaparral
Corpus Christi, Texas
6:30 PM

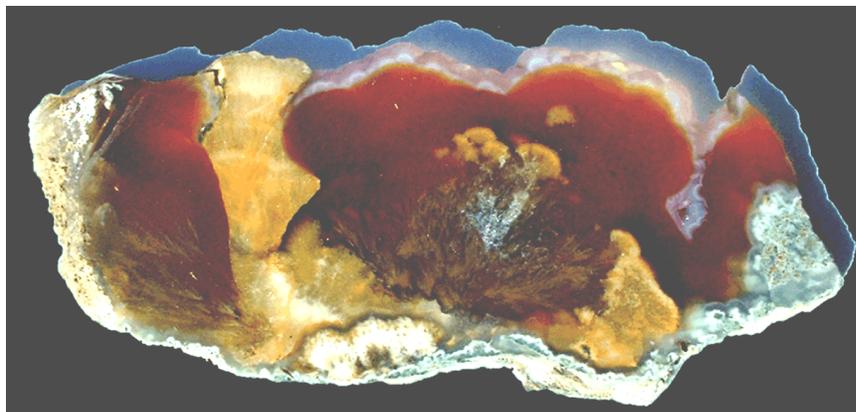
Membership Fees for 2011

Membership dues for 2011 are due in January 2011
We have 4 types of memberships and they are as follows:
Single \$ 15.00
Spousal \$ 20.00
Junior \$ 5.00
This is for any member from the age of 6-17 years Of age
Honorary
Sandra Hinkle , Membership Chairlady

All those that signed up for the set up crew for the annual GCG&MS show, should meet at the storage building at 7 :00 AM Friday, March 4, 2011. The storage building is located at 863 Savage Lane, Corpus Christi, TX. That is across the street from The Bar-B-Q restaurant. Savage lane runs between the storage facility and the Bar-B-Q Man. If you need directions while on the way over, please call Jerrold Simpson, 361-877-3073. Jerrold Simpson GCG&MS Show Chairman

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We are on-line

www.gcgms.org

Thanks to Chris Davis of Spurfire and Owen Hopkins
For getting us back up and running! Take a look.

**1 March 2011 Board Meeting of the
Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:46pm by President Kevin Schleicher. Board members in attendance were Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson, Kevin Schleicher, Kyle Hinkle, Donna Grimes, Art Worley, Gene Schade and Suzy Nick.

Kyle Hinkle gave the membership report as 80 regular Members, 8 Junior Members and 11 Honoree Members.

The board meeting minutes were published in the Cabs and Slabs. Kyle Hinkle made a motion to approve the minutes and Gene Schade seconded it. The motion was approved.

Gene Schade presented the Treasurer's Report. The payment was made to the city for the rent and electric for the Rock Shop for the year. The rent on our storage unit was also paid. Suzy Nick made a motion to accept the report as presented and Jerrold Simpson seconded it. The motion was approved.

Since Mark Wolbrink was not in attendance, no shop report was presented.

The show report was given by Jerrold Simpson. We had a dealer cancel and this was the same dealer that canceled last year. We added a clause in the dealer contracts that the club would keep 25% of the deposit. There was some discussion about refunding the entire amount or keeping the 25%. It was decided to keep the 25% that was outlined in the contract.

One of the members had paid for a booth and was now not able to attend. He wanted the amount to be donated to the club but other members came forward and said they would take the booth. A discussion followed. Gene Schade made a motion to allow club members to take over the booth that had been donated and Kyle Hinkle seconded it. The motion carried.

There were 161 mail outs returned to us with over 2000 being sent out. Security for the show is provided by the Fairgrounds.

Kyle Hinkle showed the brochure that has been prepared for the 1st Annual Owen Hopkins Rock Summer Camp. A discussion was held about the brochure and the activities that have been planned. It will be limited to 16 children and every-

There was no Federation Report.

Under old business, a letter has to sent to all non winners of the scholarship, thanking them for their participation and encouraging them to apply next year.

Under new business, Gene Schade made a motion for us to take over the cost of the web site dominion name and hosting from Owen Hopkins. This was seconded by Kyle Hinkle and the motion was approved.

Kyle Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gene Schade seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectively Submitted
By Suzy Nick
Secretary



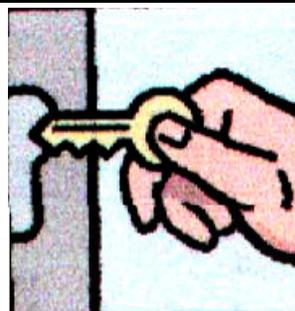
**Stalagmitic Agate
Walker Ranch
Brewster County Texas**



GCGMS Lapidary Shop Rules

1. The lapidary shop equipment may not be used by anyone who has not signed a liability waiver.
2. Shop equipment use flat fee is \$2.00 per hour. Sign in on arrival.
Pay Supervisor and sign out before leaving the shop.
3. "Open shop" hours are to be used only by those who have taken the cabochon class or have shown proficiency on the equipment.
4. All children under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult trained on the use of the equipment.
5. Supervisor must inspect rock "set-up" prior to anyone starting slab saw.
6. Long hair should be tied back, loose sleeve should be secured, and safety procedures followed.
7. Safety glasses are recommended and are the responsibility of the individual. Some are furnished by the GCGMS, or you may bring your own.
8. The last person to use a piece of equipment before the shop closes is responsible for cleaning that piece of equipment and the work area. This may include tabletop, sponges, aprons, catch trays, etc.
9. Shop Supervisor is the final authority on shop rules and usage.

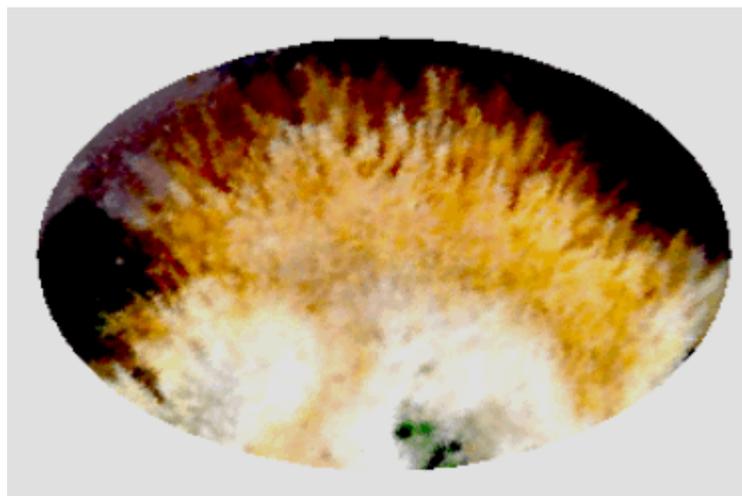
Revised May 2009



Those with keys to the Lapidary Shop are

Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495 Shop Supervisor
 Jerrold Simpson—361-851-8788
 Cell - 361-877-3073
 Hank Swan—361-993-9861/361-857-2405

Please call one of these when you would like to use the shop. They will not all be available at the same time, and once in a while none of them will be available. Most of the time at least one of them should be able to work out a time and date the shop could be open for you. Remember the club has a lot of good equipment to use. Several different classes are being conducted on Monday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The shop is open during these times for use of the equipment even if you are not involved in a class. Shop is also open Saturday 9:00 Until Noon.



**Pom Pom Agate
 Sierra Aguja 2004**

**Any Articles, Minutes are other items not received by Thursday Morning 9:00 am
 After the Board Meeting. Will Not Be Published in That Months Newsletter.
 The Editor.**

March Birthstone, Aquamarine

Compiled by Roger K. Pabian, Research Geologist, Emeritus
School of Natural Resources, UNL

Aquamarine has been the traditional birth stone for the month of March although some jeweler's charts list bloodstone as an alternate. Aquamarine ranges from pale blues to light blues to yellowish blues. Aquamarine is the mineral Beryl, a Beryllium Aluminum Silicate with the general chemical formula $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})$. Beryl crystallizes in the hexagonal system, it ranges in hardness from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 on Moas scale; it has an imperfect cleavage and a vitreous luster. Optically, beryl is uniaxial negative; some specimens may be strongly diachronic; its refractive index ranges from about 1.57-1.58 or to 1.58-1.59.

Other beryl varieties that have been used for gems include **emerald** (blue green to green), **goshenite** (colorless), **morganite** (pink to violet), and **heliodor** or **golden beryl**. There is also a **red** beryl that comes from Utah.

Inclusions in aquamarine may include mica, hematite, liquid-filled (often salt-water) tubes and hoses. The liquid can expand considerably if the crystals become overheated, causing them to fracture badly, or in rare instances, to explode.

The name aquamarine has been used as a modifier for many other materials such as aquamarine tourmaline, aquamarine emerald, aquamarine chrysolite, aquamarine sapphire, aquamarine topaz, etc.

"**Aquamarine Emerald**" is a registered trade name that is used for a kind of triplet stone that has two layers of usually aquamarine or sometimes colorless beryl that are cemented together with a green cement to create the impression of a true emerald. This kind of stone might be difficult to detect by refractive index alone so magnification will help detect the squiggly flow lines of cement and immersing the stone in water will help detect the several layers that make it up.

Aquamarine glass is a term that is used for light blue to medium blue glass that may or may not include beryl as a constituent.

Aquamarine has also been used to describe the sea, the skies, some General Motors cars, or other pale to medium blue objects.

Old World sources of aquamarine include Madagascar, Russia, and Sri Lanka whereas New World sources include Brazil, Colorado, and North Carolina.

Aquamarine crystals are often elongated along the c-axis whereas emerald crystals are often blunted along the c-axis. This creates the effect of the former appearing wand-like or pencil-like whereas the latter may appear barrel-like.

Continued on Page 6



Rough and faceted aquamarine.



Faceted and cabochon cut. Aquamarines from Mines Gerais, Brazil.



Aquamarine crystals from Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Coming Events

March 2011

March 5th & 6th RICHARD M. BORCHARD REGIONAL FAIRGROUNDS

1213 TERRY SHAMSIE BLVD, ROBSTOWN TX Sat. 10-6** Sun 10-5 GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL 49TH ANNUAL SHOW JEWELRY-MINERALS-FOSSILS-BEADS AND MORE!

5-6—BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 42nd annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, dealers, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hourly prizes, jewelry repair, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

5-6—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; The Bead Market; Amon Carter Exhibit Hall Will Rogers Center, 3400 Burnett Tandy; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, pearls, gemstones, lampwork, Swarovski, glass beads, vintage beads and buttons, books, tools; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; e-mail: rebekah@thebeadmarket.net; Web site: www.thebeadmarket.net

11-14—DEMING, NEW MEXICO: 46th annual show, "Rockhound Roundup Gem & Mineral Show"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; SWNM State Fairgrounds, Raymond Reed Blvd.; free admission; more than 100 dealers, display cases, geode cutting, gold panning, spinning wheel, silent and live auctions, door prizes, raffle, guided field trips; contact Terry Dellinger, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031, (936) 433-0108; e-mail: theDGMS@gmail.com; Web site: www.dgms.bravehost.com

18—HOUSTON, TEXAS: Show; Rings & Things; Hilton Houston Southwest, 6780 Southwest Fwy.; Fri. 12-4; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html

19—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show; Rings & Things; Aggie Park & Banquet Hall, 6205 West Ave.; Sat. 2-6; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html

19-20—LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TEXAS: 50th annual show, "Fiesta of Gems"; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Dr., Canyon Lake, TX 78133; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: www.swgemandmineral.org

20—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Show; Rings & Things; Crowne Plaza Hotel Austin; Sun. 1-5; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html

22—DALLAS, TEXAS: Show; Rings & Things; Best Western Dallas Hotel and Conference Center, 8051 LBJ Fwy.; Tue. 12-4; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html



**Walker Ranch
Cabochon-Plume Agate
Brewster County Texas**



Continued From Page 4 **Aquamarine**

Most gem beryl comes from a very coarse-grained rock that geologists call pegmatite. Pegmatite are formed late in the magmatic history of an igneous terrace and they represent the late stage vocatives that crystallize in hydrothermal deposits. Beryl crystals can often become quite large, some exceeding 25 feet or more in length along the c-axis.

Some aquamarines are chatoyant and can produce a nice eye. Asteriated aquamarines do not appear in any of the sources I have examined.

Most synthetic aquamarines are actually synthetic spinel. Flux-fusion processes yield a glass rather than a crystal when beryl is processed in them although the colors can be retained. Light blue is very difficult to produce in synthetic corundum. Some of the hydrothermal processes that are now available for synthesizing gems may yield decent synthetic aquamarines.

Aqua Aura is a registered trade name that provides an aquamarine substitute. It is produced by an essentially monomolecular thick coating of gold over a quartz crystal or other stone. The gold coating is achieved by vaporizing the gold in bell and allowing the gold to precipitate on the object to be coated. Such coatings are used when one is preparing micro- or nanofossils or micro crystals for imaging in a scanning electron microscope.

Because of a fairly low refractive index, aquamarine needs a fairly deep pavilion with angles of about 43° to assure maximum internal reflection. Too shallow a pavilion will cause the stone to appear empty and too deep a pavilion will cause the center to become dark. Best results are often obtained with an emeralds style cut to take advantage of the double refraction and low birefringence.

**Pom Pom Agate
Anderson Ranch
Brewster County Texas**



Aqua Aura™ is quartz with a very thin coating of gold that produces a pale to medium blue aquamarine substitute.



Synthetic spinel aquamarine substitutes. Purplish hue results from selective absorption and transmission of light.



**Aquamarine crystal,
length about 3".**

The minutes were published in our Newsletter and copies were available for those that hadn't seen the Cabs & Slabs. Butch seconded it. The motion was approved.

The Membership Report was given by Shanda Hinkle and we have 48 regular members, 5 Junior Members and 11 Honoree Members.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Art Worley made a motion to accept the report as given and Butch Harris seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mark Wolbrink gave the Shop Report by saying it's been busy and if anyone is interested in taking any of our classes to please let him know. Hank Swan said he would be giving a precious metal clay class if there was enough interest. We have also have the cabochon classes etc. They have been busy getting ready for our show and anyone can still come by on Monday and help.

Jerrold Simpson gave the show report by saying we have 28 cases available and only 15 have been taken. Please consider showing off your materials at our show by signing up for a case. We also have sign up sheets for offering to help with the show. The show barn will open at 7:30am on Fri for set up and Jerrold is not sure about the RV hook ups yet. We have 30 dealers this year and the floor plan has been completed. Jerrold Simpson will be speaking about the show on the early news on Channel 3 on Thurs 3/3 at 5:30am-6am and again from 6:30am-7am. We also will have commercial spots on the evening and nightly news.

The winner of our scholarship will be announced at the show. It was a very difficult choice and the winner has been notified to be at the show about 1pm to be presented with the scholarship.

We will also have a news crew filming our show to be used in the promotional commercials for next year.

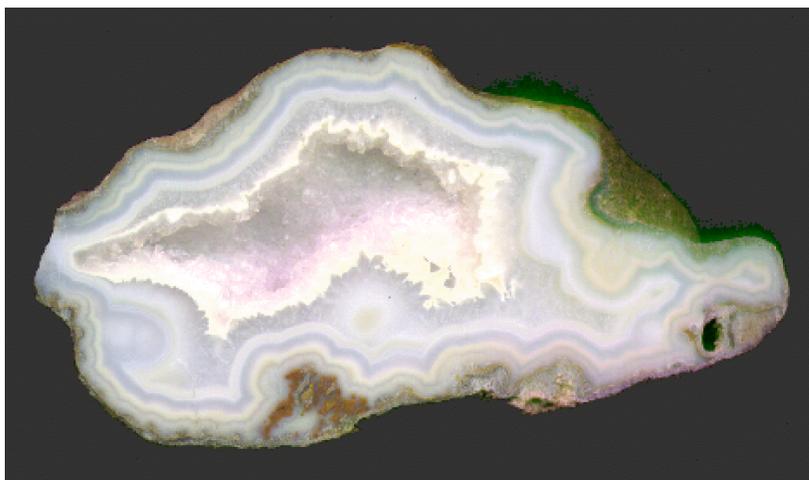
The Education Report was given by Kyle Hinkle. The brochure for the Jr. Rockhound summer camp, tentatively scheduled for the week of June 23, has been completed and will be available for our show. The Federation will not have the badges to mail until after the end of the camp but we would like to have an Award Ceremony at the end of the camp and present them with the badges they earned. Kyle Hinkle is looking at alternatives to having the badges made rather than relying on the Federation mailing them. They will be using our shop, and the museum to meet for the classes. A trip to Harbor Island is planned.

The yearly meeting for the South Central Federation will be held in Alpine Texas on 4/15 and 4/16. A trip to the Walker Ranch is being planned.

Jerrold Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Hank Swann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectively Submitted
By Suzy Nick
Secretary

**Walker Ranch Geode
Brewster County Texas**



GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 60781 Corpus Christi, TX 78466

MEMBER of	American Federation of Mineralogical Societies		South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc		
	Meeting	Held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the museum of Science & History 1900 North Chaparral September through May, and at the Lapidary Shop 3933 Timon Blvd., Corpus Christi TX for June through August.			
	Membership Fees	Individual \$15.00 Couples \$20.00 Junior (under 17) \$5.00			
	2010 Officers	President: Kevin Schleicher Vice President: Kyle Hinkle Past President: Suzy Nick		Secretary: Suzy Nick Treasurer: Gene Schade gene@casadeoro.net	
	Board Appointees	Membership: Sandra Hinkle Education: Owen Hopkins Librarian: Linda Simpson Treasurer Gene Schade Show Chair: Jerrold Simpson		Show Publicity: Donna Grimes Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Field Trip Coordinator: Johnny French Dealer Chair: Jerrold Simpson	
Standing Committies	Shop coordinator: Mark Wolbrink Field Trip Coordinator: Johnny French Federation Liaison: Linda Simpson Historiorn: Frances Marten Librarian Linda Simpson Communications: Suzy Nick Refreshment Hostess; Letty Rodriguez		Bulletin Editor; Art Worley Webmaster: Art Worley E-mail artleew@agates123.com Door Prizes; Gilbert Rodriguez		

Slabs & Cabs

Art Worley
 2561 Raintree Trail
 Ingleside, TX 78362

Slabs & Cabs Awards




TROPHY 2003 SCFMS

Small Bulletins 4th place

PUBLICATION

2nd 2002 2001 1st

2001-4th place AFMS

2000 9th place SCFMS

1999-8th place SCFMS

1999- 9th place (new editor) AFMS

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