



# Slabs & Cabs

Volume 60

Number 9

September 2012

Howdy Rockhounds!

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our Sept. meeting. I hope you all can make it. It has been a fun filled busy summer and I am sure there are many rock hunting adventures to share. I am anxious to hear your stories.

Our monthly meetings begin again on Sept. 18th, at 7 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History. 1900 North Chaparral St. Doors are open at 6:30.

I am looking forward to the presentation on our 2nd Annual Owen Hopkins Memorial Kid's Camp. 18 Kids attended the camp, they will be receiving their badges and we will see a display of some of the projects and activities they did. Please join us for this.

The Business Meeting will follow the presentation.

The color for September is Turquoise! Bring your Turquoise gemstones and minerals for display on the "It Certainly is Exquisite, but What the Dickens is it?" table.

Also there will be a prize for the best turquoise outfit!

See you Tuesday Sept. 18th.

*Joe*

## INSIDE

Presidents Message _____	Pg 1
Club News and Information _____	Pg 2
Birthstone _____	Pg 3
Board Meeting Minutes _____	Pg 4
Shop Keys & Rules _____	Pg 5
Comming Events _____	Pg 6
Kids Corner _____	Pg 7
Last Page _____	Pg 8

### Birthstone - Traditional

*A maiden born when September leaves  
are rustling in September's breeze,  
A sapphire on her brow should bind  
Twill cure diseases of the mind.*

## 2012 Board

President

*Joe Grimes*

Vice-President

*Jerrold Simpson*

Past President

*Kevin Schleicher*

Secretary

*Gilbert Trejo*

Treasurer / Web master

*Gene Schade*

Membership / Newsletter

*Sylvia Kernen, newsletter@gcgms.org*

Education

*open position*

Librarian

*Linda Simpson*

Show / Dealer Chair

*Jerrold Simpson*

Show Publicity

*Donna Grimes*

Shop Coordinator:

*Mark Wolbrink*

Field Trip Coordinator

*open position*

Federation Liaison

*Joe Grimes*

Historian

*Frances Martin*

Communications

*Suzy Nick*

Door Prizes

*Michelle Alvarez*

Refreshment Hostess

*Letty Rodriguez*

[www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)

## Club News

We received 5 applications for our fall scholarship. The board agreed on rewarding Chester Scotch and Arthur Oaden a \$ 1'000 each. Congratulations to the two recipients!

The following article was printed in the Corpus Christi Caller Times on 28 August 2012

### Two area men land science scholarships

**Chester Scotch**, of Rockport, and **Arthur Oaden**, of Corpus Christi, received \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. Since 2006, the society has offered scholarships to students at Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Texas A&M Kingsville who are enrolled in earth science programs. Both Scotch and Oaden are students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



Oaden



Scotch

The purpose of the society is to promote popular interest and education in the various earth sciences, especially those dealing with the art of lapidaries and the science of minerals, fossils and their associated fields.

Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.



to:

- Charlene Hooten
- Ray Juarez
- Lisa Verkest
- Dena Walberg
- Sharon White
- Mark Williams
- Sylvia Kernen

and all members born in September! Please send me your birthdate information, so you can be mentioned as well. [newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org)



### Welcome!

A warm welcome goes out to all our new members who signed up in the summer months.



### Memories

Our deepest sympathies go out to Art Worley who's wife Georgina Joyce Worley died on Aug. 31, 2012. She was 81. The celebration of her life was held on September 6<sup>th</sup> at Charlie Marshall Funeral Home Chapel in Aransas Pass. Please remember Art and his family in this time of adjustment.

### WANTED:

#### Newsletter Contributions

If you went on a field trip, would like to share information about gems and minerals, or have any information (articles, minutes, ideas) for the newsletter, please email them to Sylvia: [Newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:Newsletter@gcgms.org) by the first Thursday morning 9:00 am. of every month.

## Birthstone for September - Sapphire

### Sapphire

**B**irthstone Color: Deep Blue

The striking deep blue of a quality sapphire is reminiscent of a cloudless night sky. Ancient civilizations believed that the world was set upon an enormous sapphire, which painted the sky blue with its reflection. This legend, as well as the belief that the ten commandments were inscribed upon tablets made of sapphire, gives September's birthstone a royal place among gemstones.

Named after the Greek word "sapphirus", meaning blue, Sapphires have long been a favorite among priests and kings, who considered them symbolic of wisdom and purity. These gemstones are prominent among the British Crown Jewels, and Prince Charles chose this as the engagement stone for his fiancée, Princess Diana.



In ancient times, Sapphires were thought to be protective against envy, and even against poisoning. A common belief was that a venomous snake placed in a Sapphire vessel would rapidly die! Ground to a powder, the blue stone was believed to cure colic, rheumatism and

mental illness, and to strengthen eyesight.



Sapphire is a variety of the mineral corundum. Corundum is found in every color of the rainbow, with red being designated as ruby and all other hues Sapphire. But the most prized color of Sapphire is a rich, deep blue. These gemstones were mined as early as the 7th Century BC from India and what is now Sri Lanka. They are found today in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Myanmar, Thailand, Australia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, China, Madagascar, and the United States. Large specimens of Corundum crystals are rare, although the 563-carat Star of India can be seen in the American Museum of Natural History. This is the largest and most famous of star Sapphires, which are cut to reflect light from inclusions within the stone, revealing a bright six-legged star pattern.

The Sapphire is second only to the Diamond in hardness, making it a durable gemstone for setting into jewellery. A gift of Sapphire represents sincerity and faithfulness. As nourishing to the soul as gazing

up at the sky on a summer day, this

brilliant blue gemstone is truly a heavenly choice!

source text: <http://www.about-birthstones.com/septemberbirthstone.html>

source pictures: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapphire>



## Board Meeting Minutes 04 September 2012 of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 09-04-12 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:37 pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson, Kevin Schleicher and Gilbert Trejo.

Gilbert Trejo gave the Secretary Report. He said there were no corrections. Linda Simpson made a motion, seconded by Jerrold Simpson to accept the report.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. He said that they have a problem with the Highpark saw which does not make a complete cut. Mark said that the sales of rocks on the sale night resulted in about \$1,254 with some sales after that night. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Kevin Schleicher. All voted aye

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Gene said sales of the rock sale night were \$1,239.33. Kevin Schleicher made a motion, seconded by Gilbert Trejo. All voted aye.

Sylvia Kernan was not be able to attend to present the membership report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. Jerrold said that he has heard back from 13 dealers and got 11 responses for electric contracts. Jerrold said that he has received about \$4,550 and needs about \$1,500 more.

Donna Grimes asks about giving free tickets to dealers and club members. She said that we got about 200 more people who may not have come to the Rock Show otherwise. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the Show Report and the Show Report Advertising reports, seconded by Kevin Schleicher. All vote aye.

Under old business, Joe Grimes said the regular meeting in two weeks will be all about the kids' camp and the awards. Linda Simpson said she will send notices to the parents about the meeting. Donna Grimes suggested having the kids' activities before the business part of the meeting. Linda Simpson asked anyone with pictures of the camp e-mail them to her for a presentation.

Under new business, Linda Simpson asked about next years Kids Camp. She asked if we are going to do the same activities for a new group or will have activities for the second year kids. She said these activities would be a refinement of what the kids did in rock lapidary. The second year camp could be held at night. The budget for Kids Camp was discussed and Jerrold Simpson made a motion to set a budget of \$2,000 for 2013 Kids Camp, seconded by Gene Schade. All voted aye. Gene Schade also suggested that a list of any donations by kept to recognize the donors to Kids Camp.

Kevin Schleicher said that Art Worley's wife Joyce had died and services would be held in Aransas Pass. Linda Simpson made a motion to send a \$50.00 donation the South Central Federation in the name of Joyce Worley, seconded by Donna Grimes. All voted aye.

Joe Grimes went over the Federation meeting in Jasper. He said the Federation needs the number of members to get the amount of dues. Joe suggested that we submit reports and articles to the American Federation and/or the South Central Federation for awards. He said we do a lot of activities and we should get recognition. Joe Grimes also said that the South Central Federation wants volunteers for the meeting for 2016.

Joe Grimes said he would review the rules to see what is needed for the meeting.

Joe Grimes said that we need someone to be nominated for Treasurer. Joe said he will get Gene Schade to nominate someone with expertise. He said that we need a nominating committee to make a recommendation. Linda Simpson made a motion to propose Sharon White be put on the nomination committee, seconded by Jerrold Simpson. All voted aye. Joe Grimes said that the president nominates one person to the nominating committee; the board nominates one person to the committee; and the club members elect a member to be on the committee. Joe said the nomination committee will meet in September, presentation of nominees in October, vote in November and installation in December.

The sale of rough rocks to the public was discussed. Club members will be able to buy rough rock at the Lapidary Shop and the public will be able to buy rough rock at the silent auction at the next Rock Show. Joe Grimes suggested that any discussion of sale of rough rock to the public be done after the next Rock Show in March.

Linda Simpson asked if the Gem and Mineral Society would like to be listed on an educational website as informal instructors on rocks. She said that she and Jerrold already do this. The consensus was to be listed on the website

Jerrold Simpson makes a motion to adjourn at 8:28 pm. The motion passed.

## 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

## Mystery Fossil



## Lapidary Shop Keys

Lapidary Shop key masters are:

Shop Supervisor:  
Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

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 9:00pm. 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.

Based on what we think we see in the fossil record, this type of organism has been around longer than any other - about 3.5 billion years! This particular specimen from northern Australia was found in rocks a mere one billion years old. Do you know what it is?

### Did you guess correctly?

Source: University of California Museum of Paleontology  
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/>

## Upcoming Events

### September 2012

#### **Sep 29-30 MESQUITE, TX**

Annual show; Dallas Gem & Mineral Society; Rodeo Center & Exhibition Hall; 1818 Rodeo Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Darrell Harrison, 1808 Tisinger, Dallas, TX 75228; e-mail: bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net; Web site: [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)

### October 2012

#### **Oct 6-7 ARLINGTON, TX**

55th annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; 1010 Collins Events Center, at North Collins and Randall Mill Road (across from Cowboys Stadium); Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Jack Spinks, 209 Overlook Dr., Midlothian, TX 76065, (214) 335-9452; e-mail: [jlspinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlspinks@sbcglobal.net); Web site: [www.agemclub.com](http://www.agemclub.com).

#### **Oct 13-14 TEMPLE, TX**

Annual show; Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral Society; Mayborn Convention Center; 3303 N. 3rd St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; adults \$2; contact Chip Burnette, (254) 630-3573; e-mail: [burnette@aceweb.com](mailto:burnette@aceweb.com); [www.tricitygemmineral.org](http://www.tricitygemmineral.org)

#### **Oct 13-14 FORT WORTH, TX**

3rd annual show; LMRA Rockhound Activity; Lockheed Martin Recreation Assn.; 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.; Sat. 8-6, Sun. 8-6; contact Donna Pelikan, 421 NW Douglas St., Burleson, TX 76028, (682) 970-8362; e-mail: [liznmarie@yahoo.com](mailto:liznmarie@yahoo.com)

#### **Oct 19-21 AUSTIN, TX**

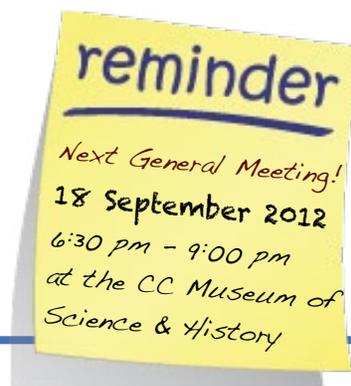
Annual show; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center; 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Susan Postlethwait, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: [showchariman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchariman@austingemandmineral.org); Web site: [www.gemcapers.com](http://www.gemcapers.com)

#### **Oct 20-21 DENISON, TX**

Annual show; Texoma Rockhounds; Senior Center; 531 W. Chestnut; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; contact Rosemary Siems, 91 Country Hill Circle, Sherman, TX 75090, (903) 891-9702; e-mail: [ramblingrosetoo@yahoo.com](mailto:ramblingrosetoo@yahoo.com)

#### **Oct 26-28 GLEN ROSE, TX**

29th "Fossilmania" fossil show; Dallas Paleontological Society and Paleontological Society of Austin; Somervell County Expo Center, north side of hwy 67 at Gibbs Blvd; 8-6 Friday, 9-6 Sat, 9-2 Sun; [www.dallaspaleo.org](http://www.dallaspaleo.org)



# Kids Corner Rocks

## All about Rocks

### Changes

A rock can begin as one type and can change many times. In fact, rocks are always changing. However, the changes happen so slowly that they are difficult to see.

We have seen above that heat and pressure can change rocks which then break down by weathering and move by erosion. It can take thousands of years for rocks to weather and erode. This process of changing is called the rock cycle.



### Weathering

is the process that breaks rocks down into smaller pieces. Weathering can be caused by: wind, rain, ice, running water, plant roots, chemicals, freezing and thawing.

source: copyright D4K, Idaho Public Television  
<http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season9/rocksminerals/facts.cfm#start>

**Kids**  
 Remind your parents to come join us at the **General Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>**. You'll get the badges you earned at camp at the meeting!

## Rock & Fossils Word Search

X H N V E C P T R E E V E E  
 E S L E A H I Q O S R N S H  
 S A S T S B T N O O O S N Z  
 E E O J O D K N T I L O T X  
 E T C H A N G E S A E A E H  
 T E J T S P B O C R H T E T  
 T E W A T E R I U I L O C L  
 P O P T T E M S F U V R G G  
 R P R O C E S S C E I A G N  
 W E A T H E R I N G M O C D  
 J S S C R C F X A O H I E S  
 A P E P Z F N H X J S G W O  
 T A G W I E E Y N Z N F V O  
 T W S D N Z O O E N B T F A  
 O Q D G Z L L R O T K Q I I  
 L P T S O F J J M E R S E A

changes  
 difficult  
 pressure  
 erosion  
 process

weathering  
 water  
 roots  
 chemicals



Q: What do you call Tyrannosaurus rex when it wears a cowboy hat and boots?  
 A: Tyrannosaurus tex!



### Check out some Cool Kids Links

- KidsGeo.com
- Rocksforkids.com
- Earthquakes for kids
- BBC fossils
- BBC walking with beasts
- BBC prehistoric life games and puzzles
- Oxford University Museum about fossils
- Oxford University Museum about rocks

**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**

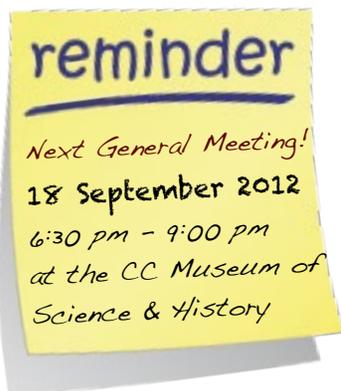
Annual fees: Individuals \$15.00, Couples \$20.00, Junior (under17) \$5.00

**Purpose**

The objective and purpose of the society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy, the earth sciences and the lapidary arts. To encourage study in these subjects through the means of: presentation of public exhibitions, field trips for exploration, study and collection of specimens, the presentations of lectures, illustrated programs, demonstrations and similar programs pertaining to the fields of mineralogy, earth sciences and the lapidary arts.

**Mark your calendars!**

**WWW** Visit us on our website [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)



we are also on Facebook, come and 'like' us on there as well!

Next board meeting  
2 October 2012  
at the Lapidary Shop  
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Slabs & Cabs  
Sylvia Kernan  
3942 FM 1781  
Rockport TX 78382

Slabs & Cabs Awards



2003 SCFMS  
Small Bulletins 4th place

PUBLICATION

2002 2nd  
2001 1st  
2001-4th place AFMS  
2000 9th place SCFMS  
1999-8th place SCFMS  
1999- 9th place (new editor) AFMS

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