



# Slabs & Cabs

Volume 67

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April 2013

Prez Says April 2013

Howdy Rockhounds!

March brought several changes for the Gem and Mineral Society. We met at our new location at 4234 Weber Rd. for the first time, and we are now meeting on the Third Thursdays of the month. The location is easy to find and a big Thank you Gene for securing the location for us.

The March program was presented by Russell Wheeler on Crocoite from Dundas, Tasmania. Russell does an outstanding presentation, and I appreciate his time and effort he puts into his program for us.

Be sure and join us in April, our meeting topic is Urban Rocks and will be presented by Jerrold Simpson. We will have a time of fellowship with refreshments brought by Teresa Cline.

Please remember to copy your photos of the club show and give a disk copy to Donna for the 2014 television ad.

The color for the month of April is "Green." Wear your green outfit and bring your green minerals for "It Certainly is Exquisite, but what the Dickens is it?" table.

See you Thursday April 18th!

*Joe*

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**Birthstone - Traditional**

*She who from April dates her years,  
Diamonds shall wear, lest bitter tears  
For vain repentance flow; this stone,  
Emblem of innocence, is known.*

## 2013 Board

President  
*Joe Grimes*

Vice-President  
*Jerrold Simpson*

Past President  
*Kevin Schleicher*

Secretary  
*Gilbert Trejo*

Treasurer  
*Gene Schade*

Membership / Web master  
*Gene Schade*

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  
*open position*

Communications  
*Suzy Nick*

Door Prizes  
*Michelle Alvarez*

Refreshment Hostess  
*Theresa Cline*

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

Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 60781  
Corpus Christi, TX 78466

## Club News & Information

### A HUGE Thank You!

A huge thank you goes out to **Letty Rodriguez**. She has been our general meeting refreshment provider for 20 Years! She is stepping down from that position and Theresa Cline has stepped in to fill the position. Thank you Letty for volunteering all these years!



### Happy Birthday

to: Terri Barrada Donald Gray  
 Agnes Herschbach Ron Holdorf  
 Lois Pattillo Brandon Smithwick  
 Harold Sullivan Russell Wheeler  
 Carson Solis

and all members born in April! Please send me your birthdate information. [newsletter@gcgms.org](mailto:newsletter@gcgms.org)

### Kids Camp Update!

Since the last board meeting, all the slots for the Owen Hopkins Memorial Kid's Rock Camp have filled. The camp runs from 9 - 1, June 10-14, 2013.

If you have sent in children's names but have not yet sent in your money for camp, the deadline is May 1, 2013. Any unpaid slots will be given to those on the waiting list.

The Junior Rockers Advanced Camp is also full. This camp is open to those who have completed camp the previous year. We need volunteers who are familiar with the genies and flat lap to help supervise kids on the machinery. The focus for this group is advanced lapidary work. Advanced camp runs from 2 - 6 pm, June 10-14, 2013.

Adults are always welcome and needed for supervision during both camps. Please let Linda Simpson know if you are available to help at either or both camps at [lsimp@swbell.net](mailto:lsimp@swbell.net)  
 Rockhound badges from the [American Federation of Mineral Societies!](http://www.rockhound.org)



### March General Meeting

We had our general meeting at our new location at 4234 Weber Rd. Everybody found it and we had a great meeting. Our March color of the month was blue. Our contest of 'best dressed in that color' had 6 lovely participants. It wasn't easy to choose a winner. Our winner was Linda Simpson. Congratulations! She received an azurite as prize.



### Guest Speaker

Russell Wheeler volunteered to be our guest speaker. We watched a documentary about Crocoite found in Tasmania. It was very interesting and Russell brought some lovely specimens along to show us. He also answered questions about Crocoite. Once again it was a great presentation.



## General Meeting Minutes March 21, 2013

### of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Regular Meeting for 3/21/2013 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:58pm. The meeting was held at the Bridge Club 4234 Weber.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer Report. Gene gave the expenses for the month. Gene said the Rock Show profit is \$4,557. Bill Patillo made a motion seconded by Suzie Nicks to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted aye.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Secretary Report. Jerrold did the minutes of the last Board Meeting. Hank Swan made a motion seconded by Jerrold Simpson to accept the Secretary's Report. All voted aye.

Gene Schade gave the Membership Report. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Russell Wheeler to accept the Membership Report.

Mark Wolbrink was not in town to give the Shop Report. Hank Swan said he has bench jewelry classes and has a new PMC class next week. Jerrold Simpson goes over shop fees, shop hours and states that after taking the basic cabochon class for \$35 then the shop fees are \$2 an hour.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. Jerrold said that we had a good show with no trouble collecting from dealer. Jerrold said that we had a touch table with Russell Wheeler explain mineral to kids. Jerrold said the count of attendants was a little less than last year. Lois Patillo made a motion seconded by Hank Swan to accept the Show report. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson gave the Education and Kid Camp Report. Linda said the second year camp is full. Linda said there are 5 kids in camp one. The Camp will be June 10-14 and we need to get a final number to order t-shirts. Linda said the field trip is to the rock quarry. Linda said that she will make a school presentation on the 28th at Kostorez Elementary. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Vicky Watson to accept the Education report. All voted aye.

Under new business, Joe Grimes asked that if you took digital pictures at the Rock Show to get a copy to Joe Grimes or a Board Member for the new TV ad.

Kevin Schleicher makes a motion to adjourn seconded by Sylvia Kernen. The motion passed.

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## Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2013

### of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 04-04-13 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:29 pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Gene Schade, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson, Sylvia Kernen, Kevin Schleicher and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Gene goes over the month's expense and show expenses. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Linda Simpson seconded it. All voted aye.

Gene Schade gave the Membership Report. The Membership List was emailed to the Board. Gene said there are 94 adult members and 18 juvenile members. Gene said a member e-mailed a request to drop his membership. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept the request by this member to drop his membership and Jerrold Simpson seconded it. All voted aye. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the Membership Report and Kevin Schleicher seconded it. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink was not in town to give the Shop Report. Jerrold Simpson said the refrigerator at the shop died. Jerrold said the big green saw is still not working. Jerrold said the table holding the rock moves and the blade binds.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Rock Show Report. Jerrold said there is nothing to report at this time. The dealers were satisfied with the Rock Show. Gene Schade said the show profit was \$4,477.07. Gene goes over the expenses at the fairground. Gene asked if we could print cards for the 2014 show and take them to summer and fall Rock Shows. Joe Grimes asked Gene and Sylvia to get prices of card for the next meeting. Gilbert Trejo made a motion, seconded by Kevin Schleicher to accept Show Report. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson gave the Education Report. Linda said that

they will be doing three presentations. Linda Simpson gave the Kids Camp Report. Linda said there are 8 kids signed up for camp I and 8 for camp II which is full. Linda said 8 slots are open for camp I. Linda said that we may have to put the information of Kids Camp on the website. Joe Grimes went over the dangers of kids with inappropriate adults when there are children activities. Kevin Schleicher made a motion, seconded by Sylvia Kernen to accept the report. All voted aye.

Under old business, Joe Grimes asked that anyone with digital pictures of the Rock Show to bring them to the next meeting.

Under new business, Joe Grimes said that the refrigerator is not working. Linda Simpson made a motion, seconded by Jerrold Simpson to get a new refrigerator. All voted aye. Linda Simpson said we need a refrigerator with a freezer to pop the dop sticks. Jerrold Simpson made a motion, seconded by Kevin Schleicher to buy a refrigerator with a freezer for a limit of \$150. All voted aye.

Jerrold Simpson said we will need a new cart because one of the carts is falling apart. Jerrold said that Northern Freight has a cart that is all steel and will hold 1,000 pounds. Jerrold said he will get the information and e-mail it with prices.

Jerrold Simpson said he needs to do some repairs on the sign holders for the Rock Show. Jerrold said the wood is broken. Jerrold asked for a budget of \$100 to buy the wood needed to repair the sign holders. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept a budget of \$100 to repair sign holder, seconded by Joe Grimes. All voted aye.

Jerrold Simpson made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm seconded by Kevin Schleicher. All voted aye.

# GEOLOGIST

## Corner

by Russell Wheeler

April always reminds me of the spring showers that roll through our area bringing the much needed moisture to get the flowers into full bloom. It comes like clockwork every year here in Texas, and other places in the world have their regular schedule of rainy seasons too. The monsoons of the Pacific region are known for their annual relief of seasonal drought and also for devastating floods. Specifically in Tasmania, the seasonal rains create a dramatic effect on things inside the ground rather than growing above it. You see, it's the rain that brings both destruction and creation and it is part of the water cycle of our Earth.

For those who missed the meeting last month, we learned about a very special and unique area across the globe where they produce fantastic specimens of the lead chromate mineral known as Crocoite. A group of local Tasmanian miners resumed mining in an old lead-zinc district near Dundas, Tasmania that once harvested the metal ore for war efforts, but went debunk when the price of the commodities fell through the floor after the war. Only until the miners discovered the value of the rocks as specimens for collectors and museums, did the mines resume digging for the rich reddish orange Crocoite specimens. The extremely delicate nature of the specimens inspires wonder as to how the miners were able to extract such delicate crystals and then package and deliver them across the oceans to get the consumers hands here in the USA.



Photo Courtesy of [www.theadelaidemine.com](http://www.theadelaidemine.com)

This new deposit of Crocoite was named the Red River Find as it is described as a river of red flowing downward through the ground. Geologically speaking, we would describe it as water course because the deposit follows the natural pathways where water erodes and channels through the ground as it percolates back into the water table. The water acts like a knife cutting downward through the rock layers by process of mechanical erosion and chemical dissolution (dissolves with acids). Elements

like Iron, Sulfur, and Potassium are carried along with the water in solution, and in certain environments these can create new minerals through a process called precipitation. In the Dundas region, it's the elements Manganese, Chromium and Lead that are uniquely present in the solution, and they react with the host rock where the water passed leaving behind an altered zone of Crocoite mineralization.

Water Coursing makes it easy for a geologist to determine



Photo Courtesy of [www.theadelaidemine.com](http://www.theadelaidemine.com)

where to dig, simply follow the path of the water and you will find the minerals you seek. There are many mines around the world that have water course sections, and one of my favorites is the

Sweet Home Mine

in Alma Colorado. The water course there was one where manganese rich solution reacted with the host rock to form the manganese carbonate mineral Rhodochrosite. In a story similar to the Red River Find, the Sweet Home Find became perhaps the most significant deposit of Rhodochrosite to be found on the planet so far, and was primarily mined as a specimen mine after the original lead silver mining exhausted post world war.

So the next time you watch a thunderstorm coming through the area bringing rain, know that there is more to it than just watering the crops.

The rain will soon become part of the ever evolving solution of ground water that has the potential to create treasures within the pathways it carves. The rain destroys as it creates in a never ending cycle, but amidst the chaos, jewels like your mothers Opal were borne from the rain... but we'll have to save that for another lesson.

All it takes is Time,  
Russell



Rhodochrosite, Sweet Home Mine  
Photograph provided by Russell Wheeler

## Birthstone for April - Diamond

### Diamond

**Chemistry:** C, elemental carbon

**Subclass:** Non-metallics

**Class:** Native Elements

**Group:** Carbons

### History of diamond

Diamond is the most familiar gemstone and it has a rich and interesting history. Diamonds are known for their prismatic beauty and hardness, and they are highly valued for these and other qualities. At one time, it was even thought that if you took a diamond into bed with you, it would cure your illness!



source: USGS "Minerals in Your World" website

### Science of diamond

Diamond is a form of carbon with a tightly bound crystalline structure. It originates deep inside the Earth under intense pressure and high temperatures. Diamonds are brought up to the surface by very deep-seated volcanic activity. Diamond-bearing volcanoes are called kimberlies, and they erupted millions of years ago. Interestingly, both graphite (used in pencils) and diamond are forms of carbon, but they have very different structures and properties: graphite is opaque and soft, while diamond is transparent and the hardest mineral on Earth. These differences occur because diamond crystallizes in the isometric system while graphite crystallizes in the hexagonal system.



Kimberlite is the ancient volcanic rock in which diamonds are found. Photo by Ron Eng

[http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones\\_apr](http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones_apr)

test your  
knowledge!



### Mystery Fossil



This fossil was photographed at an angle that might make it difficult to identify, but even from the side, this one could fool you. The specimen measures just over 3 cm in width. No more clues—what do you think it is?

**Are you right?**

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/historyoflife/mysteries/mystery46/mystery46.html>

Source: University of California Museum of Paleontology

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/>



## 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

## 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 6:00pm 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.



## Shop News!

Remember, if you are interested in lapidary classes such as cabochon making or wire wrapping ask Mark, Jerrold or Hank. They are always happy to teach you.

Shop Supervisor: Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

Jerrold Simpson 361-851-8788 / Cell - 361-877-3073

Hank Swan 361-993-9861/361-857-2405

## Upcoming Events

### April 2013

**APR 20-21 LUBBOCK, TX: 55TH ANNUAL SHOW;** Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students (6-12) \$2, children (under 6) and Scouts in uniform free; contact Walt Beneze, TX, (806) 797-5832; e-mail: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

### May 2013

**MAY 4 ARLINGTON, TX: ANNUAL ROCK AND GEM SWAP MEET;** Arlington Gem & Mineral; Arlington Clubhouse; 1408 Gibbons Rd.; Sat. 8-1; free admission; faceting rough and equipment, rock swap, rocks, equipment, rough, cabs, gems, related items; contact Jack Spinks, 209 Overlook Dr., Midlothian, TX 76065, (214) 335-9452; e-mail: jlspink@sbcglobal.net; www.agemclub.com

**MAY 25-26 FORT WORTH, TX: 62ND ANNUAL SHOW;** Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibits Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors, students and military \$4, children (under 16) free; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

## Dopping

*by Melanie Hollenshead*

Dopping is a method of attaching a stone to a short stick prior to grinding and polishing. It is an excellent tool used to produce beautiful cabochons. However dopping also leaves you with a big glob of wax on the end of your stick. Most lapidary shops provide a knife to scrape the wax off the stick. I really dislike this task and worked to find an easier, safer and quicker method of removing the wax.

First, I tried melting the wax by dipping the end of the dop stick in the warm dop pot. The wax did soften quickly. However, some of my sticks fell into the wax and got entirely coated. Not good!! Other sticks ended up with partially melted wax and melted wax forming an even larger glob on the end of the stick. The globs were too big for my rough cabs and the wax hardened as I tried to scrape the excess on the side of the dop pot.

Next, I tried to remove wax by cracking it with a pair of pliers. This removed a lot of the wax. However, it also left me with a couple of blood blisters that I really didn't want!

Finally, I got frustrated and hit a dop stick with a hammer. Wonder of Wonders! The wax cracked and fell off the stick. Very little residue remained. I tried plac-

ing the sticks in a plastic zip lock bag. The hammering and the sharp pieces of wax tore holes in the bag. However, a cloth bag works great. Now I can clean my used dop sticks and vent any frustrations at the same time. Hope this tip is useful to you too!

Melanie Hollenshead  
Brazoria, Texas

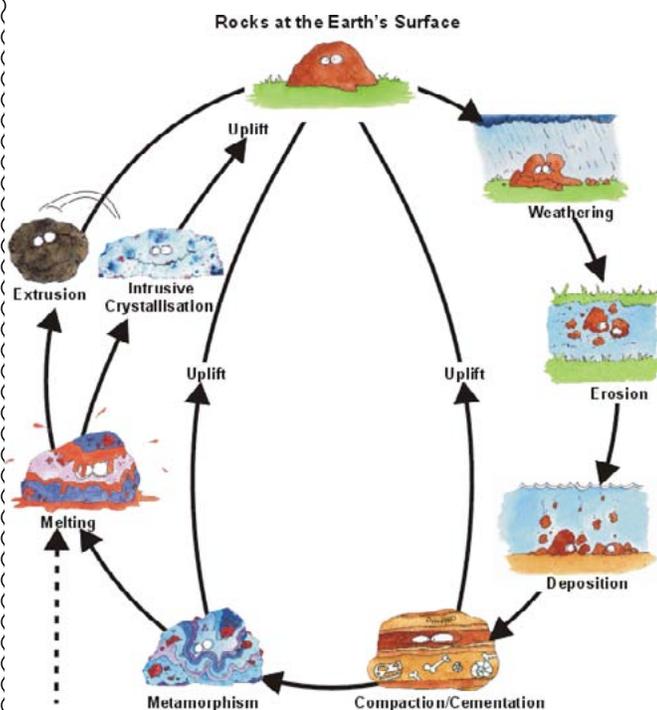


# Kids Corner Rocks

## Welcome to Rocky's journey around the rock cycle!

Hi, my name is Rocky  
I am your guide on the journey around the rock cycle. The rock cycle is a continuous process that occurs over millions of years. It makes new rock, destroys old rock, and recycles the ingredients of the Earth's crust over and over again!

If you want to join me on an amazing journey under the Earth click on the cycle below.



source: <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/rocks/cycle/index.htm>

## Quiz Time

- Which type of rock forms in layers?
  - igneous
  - sedimentary
  - metamorphic
- What's the main difference between lava and magma?
  - temperature when formed
  - location
  - type of rock
- Once a rock has changed to a metamorphic rock, which of these can it later become?
  - a sedimentary, igneous, or another metamorphic rock
  - only another metamorphic rock
  - an igneous or a similar metamorphic rock
- Why are fossils not usually found in metamorphic rock?
  - no organisms were alive when metamorphic rock formed
  - Metamorphic rock is formed from processes that destroy fossils
  - Metamorphic rock is too hard to break open to find fossils



## Igneous Rock Hidden Message Puzzle

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

ANORTHOSITE	BASALT	CARBONATITE
DIORITE	DOLERITE	GABBRO
GRANITE	MONZONITE	OBSIDIAN
PEGMATITE	PERIDOTITE	PUMICE
RHYOLITE	SERPENTINITE	SYENITE
TRACHYTE		

HIDDEN MESSAGE: Start at the top and write the unused letters in the spaces below to reveal the hidden message.

-----  
-----  
-----

Quiz answers: 1. sedimentary/ 2. location/ 3. #1/4. #2

## Check out some Cool Kids Links

- <http://www.kidsgeo.com>
- <http://www.rocksforkids.com>
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/fossilfun/>
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric\\_life/games/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric_life/games/)
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/inverts>
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/rocks/index>



## AFMS Land Use Policy

*From the AFMS website*

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
11. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
14. I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
16. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
17. I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



**MEMBER of**

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.



**Meeting**

Held the **third Thursday** each month at **6:30 pm** 4234 Weber Rd. in Corpus Christi 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 (under 17) \$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 May 2013 at the  
Lapidary Shop  
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Slabs & Cabs  
Sylvia Kernen  
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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