



Slabs & Cabs

Volume 68

Number 05

May 2013

Prez Says May 2013

Howdy Rockhounds!

School is almost out for the summer and vacations and summer fun is about to begin. Our 3rd annual kid's camp is June 10-14. Linda has been preparing a fun filled exciting week for the Jr. Rockhounds. If you are available to help out during this time give Linda a call.

May 16th, is our last general meeting before the summer break. Jacob White, one of the Jr. Rockhounds will be giving the presentation for this month. Please come out and support him.

During the months of June, July and August we typically do not have our monthly meetings. This summer we would like to continue meeting on the 3rd Thursday nights, at the shop for some time to socialize. We may have a home made ice cream social, a cook out or something else that we could enjoy together. If you have any ideas let us know.

A big thank you to Jerrold for the entertaining presentation at our April meeting. We all had some good laughs and really enjoyed learning about all the Urban Rocks in our area.

Remember we still need copies of your show photos. Please get them to Donna by the end of June.

The color for the month of May is Pink. Wear your pink outfit and bring your pink minerals for the, "It Certainly is Exquisite but what the Dickens is It?" table.

See you Thursday May 16th.

Joe

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Birthstone - Traditional

Who first beholds the light of day
 In spring's sweet flowery month of May
 And wears an emerald all her life
 Shall be a loved and happy wife.

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

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

Club News & Information



to: Dylan Bailey Sawyer Paradise
 Nicolas Longo Jerrold Simpson
 Kathy Simpson

and all members born in May! Please send me your birthdate information. newsletter@gcgms.org

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for last months' meeting was Jerrold Simpson. He talked about Urban Rocks. Thank you Jerrold for taking the time!

I apologize for the lack of information about last months' general meeting. I was not able to attend.



General Meeting Minutes April 18, 2013

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Regular Meeting for 4/18/2013 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:59pm. 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. Hank Swan made a motion seconded by Mark Wolbrink to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted aye.

Gilbert Trejo gave the Secretary Report. Gilbert said there were no changes from the Cabs and Slabs. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Russell Wilson to accept the Secretary's Report. All voted aye.

Gene Schade gave the Membership Report. Gene said there were 99 adult members and 22 junior members. Norma Trejo made a motion seconded by Jerrold Simpson to accept the Membership Report. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink gave the Shop Report. Mark said the shop is primarily getting ready for Kids Camp. Mark said the focus is getting the machines running properly. Jerrold said that Gene got a new refrigerator for the shop and Jerrold installed

it. Linda Simpson made a motion seconded by Hank Swan to accept the shop report. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson gave the Education and Kid Camp Report. Linda said that both camps are full. The Camp will be June 10-14 with first year camp from 9 to 1 and second year camp from 2-6. Linda said that for May she will make a school presentation in Alice, Callallen and possible another school.

Under old business Joe Grimes asked if you had digital pictures of the Rock Show to give them to Donna.

Under new business, Linda Simpson got an e-mail from Sylvia that t-shirts for members with logos were available for \$9.50 for adults and 2x to 5x plus \$2 per x. Linda said that Sylvia said they were available in three colors, royal blue, Galapagos blue, and sapphire blue. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Donna Grimes to accept royal blue for all t-shirts. All voted aye.

Hank Swan makes a motion to adjourn seconded by Bill Patillo. The motion passed.

Board Meeting Minutes May 2, 2013

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Board Meeting for 05-02-13 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Society Lapidary Shop. Those in attendance were Joe Grimes, Donna Grimes, Gene Schade, Mark Wolbrink, Kevin Schleicher, Jerrold Simpson, Linda Simpson and Gilbert Trejo.

Gene Schade gave the Treasurer's Report. Gene goes over income and expenses. Gene said that most income was from one rock sale and Kids Camp. Gene said most expenses were shop expense and Kids Camp. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Kevin Schleicher seconded it. All voted aye.

Gilbert Trejo gave the Secretaries Report. Gilbert said there are no reports written yet.

Gene Schade gave the Membership Report. Gene said that there are 101 adult members, 25 junior members and 8 honorary members. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept the Membership Report seconded by Mark Wolbrink. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. Mark went over the need for trim saw blades. Mark stated that he is buying new oil that is easier to clean. Mark said he was given a list by Hank Swan of materials for the PMC class. Mark said he needs to know how many people are going to use supplies. Kevin Schleicher made a motion to accept the Shop Report seconded by Jerrold Simpson. All voted aye.

Linda Simpson gave the Education and Kids Camp Report. Linda said we have gotten the last money for Kids Camp. Kids are going to have to pack their own lunch or snack but we will provide water or juice. Linda said that the binder needed for each kid will have to be printed by herself with their paper and ink cartridges or sent to a printer to be copied and bound. Linda said they would be doing a presentation at Hilltop Community Center. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to accept the Education and Kids Camp report seconded by Jerrold Simpson. All voted aye.

Under old business, Joe Grimes asked Jerrold Simpson about carts to replace the old carts. Jerrold said he has not had a chance to get this information but will e-mail it when available.

Linda Simpson said the t-shirts for Camp II are changed from prior camps and will have the logo of Junior Rockhound Camp.

Gene Schade said that the fliers for next year's rock show should be available for other rock shows this year. Gene said we had previously paid \$58 for 800 small cards. Gene said Sylvia was preparing a mock up on new fliers to be presented later.

Jerrold Simpson made a motion to make some long time members into Honorary Members seconded by Linda Simpson. All voted aye.

Under new business, Joe Grimes said that Jacob White will do the presentation next meeting.

Joe Grimes then asked by Board to come up with ideas to increase attendance at meetings. Several ideas were discussed such as changing the meeting day or time, having social or swap meets, try and call or e-mail new members and remind them of meeting time and location. Joe said that all items are on the table and think of ideas for the next meeting.

Joe Grimes asked if the two scholarship winners could attend a meeting and talk about how they are using the scholarship. There was discussion that some scholarship winners may not be comfortable with getting in front of an audience and making speeches so an informal question and answer session may be better. No action was taken.

Joe Grimes asked about the printing of binders for Kids Camp. Mark Wolbrink made a motion to let Linda Simpson use her ink cartridges and paper and be reimbursed or send the material to a printer as Linda decides she needs seconded by Gilbert Trejo. All voted aye.

Joe Grimes asked about the chemical and material for the PMC class. Mark said there is one confirmed student and two more that may take the class. Jerrold and Mark said most of the material is equipment that can be used by others later. Jerrold Simpson made a motion to buy the supplies on Hank Swan's list for the PMC class seconded by Gilbert Trejo. Five voted aye, one voted no and one required.

Linda Simpson makes a motion to adjourn seconded by Kevin Schleicher. The motion passed.

GEOLOGIST

Corner

by Russell Wheeler

May has already arrived and summer is right around the corner for us. The short spring in Texas has showed up in force of late. The flowers are blooming, strange birds of all colors are headed north, and the during this time of the year the grass is not the typical brown color, but instead it's green; emerald green. Since the spring green is in full effect and it also happens to be the birthstone of May, I thought I'd bring a little knowledge of one of my favorite gems, the Emerald.

Emeralds are known by their common name, but the Emerald is one of several color variations of the mineral Beryl. Colorless Beryl is known as Goshenite, Green Beryl is Emerald, Blue Beryl is Aquamarine, Pink Beryl is Morganite,



and Yellow Beryl is known as Heliodor. Being members of the Beryl family, they all share the common elements of Beryllium, Aluminum, Silicon and Oxygen, but the individual species are each colored by trace elements that cause impurities in the Beryl crystal. Emeralds are commonly found to contain the trace elements of Chromium and Vanadium. Emeralds are commonly found with many inclusions of other minerals and impurities, so they are commonly seen without perfect clarity. The chemical composition of the Emerald gives it a hardness of 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale, which makes it a suitable stone for jewelry purposes. While it is considerably hard, Emeralds are not very tough, and they tend to be brittle. Because of their durability Emeralds are best worn as earrings, pendants, or brooches and not as rings.

Emeralds come from around world. They are unique in that they can be formed in many different environments from igneous and metamorphic settings and also in hydrothermal deposits. Emeralds have been found in the United States at places in the Carolinas. They are commonly found in the mountains of Afghanistan. Recently there was a major find of gem emeralds in Zambia on the African continent. Brazil has long been a producer of fine quality Emeralds as well, but one place in the world is known as the home of emeralds; Columbia. Long before the conquistadors, natives found the rich deposits of green rocks within the Colombian mountains north of Bogotá. Columbia Emeralds are the standard for Emerald color and quality, and it's because of this that Bogotá has become the epicenter of the world emerald trade.

Emeralds are one of the oldest known gemstones. For centuries, people have been wearing emeralds as jewelry for adornment and for protection. The Egyptians were known for their emerald jewels that would be buried with the owners in order to provide payment during the afterlife. Emeralds were part of lore from the New World when explorers like Cortez travelled home to Spain with satchels full of the glittering green gems. Still today, Emeralds intrigue the public with wild stories like the Bahia Emerald, the largest Emerald ever found, and it weighs about 840 pounds or 1.9 million carats. In 2005, the Bahia almost drowned in a storage basement during the floods of Hurricane Katrina and then was reported stolen in 2008. The Bahia was recovered and now has become the center of a legal custody battle that has yet determined who actually owns the \$400 Million Dollar valued specimen.

Emeralds have long been the center of attention, but their reputation has not always been a good one. Within the past 30 years Emerald values took a downturn when it was discovered that most of the emeralds on the jewelry market were treated in order to improve their clarity. The nature of inclusions within emeralds makes them rarely found with perfect clarity, so miners and cutters found a process to "hide" the inclusions.

The process involves pressure impregnating the emerald with cedar oil. Cedar oil has about the same Refractive Index as emerald, so when the oil is used to fill in the voids of the inclusions the oil makes the inclusion disappear within the emerald. This process was not commonly disclosed and the news of the treatments hurt the value of the stones. However, with full disclosure being common practice now and the fact that most gems are treated to improve their value, Emeralds have seen a resurgence of value and demand.

Based on the fact that there are only a few gemstones in the world found with green hues, Emeralds have long commanded the top of the market for the color green. Other gemstones found in green hues are Malachite, Tourmaline, Peridot, Diopside, Sapphire, Spinel, Alexandrite, and Demantoid and Tavorite Garnets. Of those stones, the Tavorite, Demantoid Garnets, and Diopside are the runners up in the category to best illustrate the color green, but it has been said that the only the Emerald can produce the most true hue of green, and has been described as verdant or grass green. They say that imitation is the highest form of flattery, and the richness of the green in emeralds is so desired that we figured out how to grow emeralds in a lab in order to reproduce the colors found in nature. Few other stones out there have captured the essence of a singular color like the Emerald has, and it remains as one of the top three major colored gemstones along with ruby and sapphire. So the next time you have a chance to admire an emerald, take the time to look close and appreciate the beauty of a such a magnificent mineral, but be careful not to become GREEN with envy!

Russell Wheeler



Birthstone for May - Emerald



Emerald

Chemistry: $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$,
beryllium aluminum silicate

Subclass: Cyclosilicates

Class: Silicates

History of emerald

Thousands of years ago, the ancient Egyptians mined the Earth, suffering through extreme conditions to find the prized green emerald. Cleopatra was so taken with these stones that she claimed the mines for herself. In fact, she was known for wearing lots of huge emerald jewelry, and gave emeralds carved with her portrait to her important visitors.

Science of emerald

Emerald is another variety of beryl, the mineral that includes aquamarine (blue), heliodor (yellow to gold), and morganite (pink to peach). The reason for emerald's vivid green color is that chromium and

iron infiltrated its mineral structure during formation. It is surprisingly common for emeralds to contain flaws and veins of chemicals called inclusions. These little imperfections are an accepted feature of the stone's identity.

An alternate birthstone for May is chrysoprase, an bright apple-green variety of chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz), often called Australian Jade.

http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones_May



Mystery Fossil



Well-preserved Ordovician ice cream cones? Sorry, no. Though you may not be able to nail the genus, you should be able to identify the phylum or maybe even the class. What do you think it is?

Did you guess correctly?

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/historyoflife/mysteries/mystery47/mystery47.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

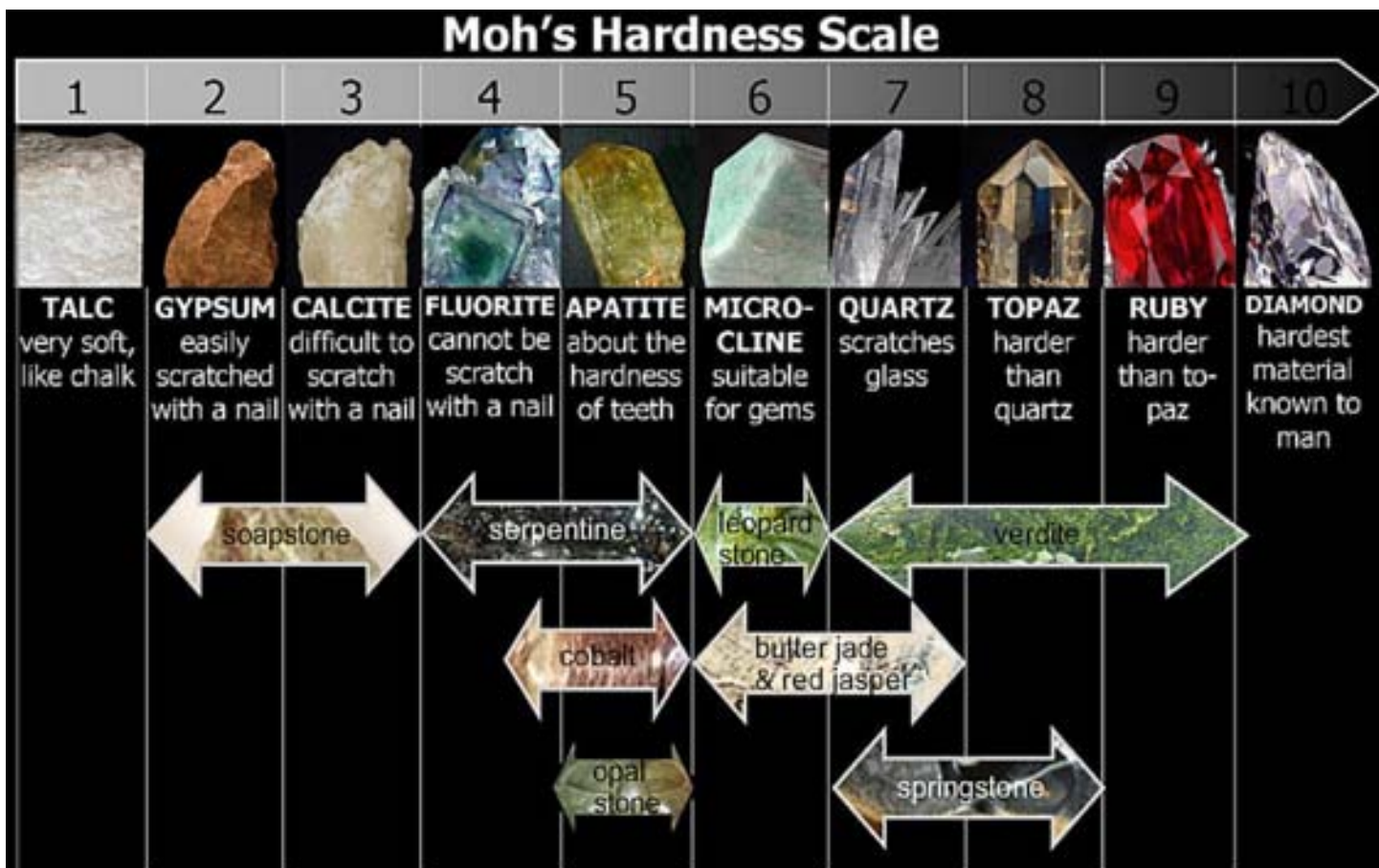
Jerrold Simpson 361-851-8788 / Cell - 361-877-3073

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

Upcoming Events

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: jfspinks@sbcglobal.net; www.agemclub.com
- MAY 18** **FORT WORTH, TX**
 Tailgate Swap and Sale, LMRA Rockhounds & Glass Crafters; Lockheed Martin Recreation Association clubhouse parking lot, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd; 8am-2pm. Anyone is welcome to come and set up in the parking lot and sell products relevant to rockhounding, lapidary and stained glass arts, prospecting, and the like. There is no fee for vendors or attendees! Contact Steve Shearin, steve.l.shearin@lmco.com or 817-777-1997 or 817-733-5368 (cell). <www.lmra.org>
- 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>



Kids Corner Rocks

MOHS SCALE OF HARDNESS

a scale devised by Friedrich Mohs

Scratching tools:

- fingernail (2.2)
- copper penny (3.5)
- pocket knife or common nail (5.2)
- piece of glass (5.5)
- steel file or concrete nail (7.5)
- piece of corundum (9)



Notes for testing:

Each mineral can scratch the minerals with lower hardness ratings. Each mineral can scratch itself. Don't press hard, normal scratching should do. Weathered surfaces are softer. Corners or edges of crystals are softer. Small pieces seem softer than large pieces. When you scratch, take a close look at the scratch line - which often looks white. Is it really a scratch or is it a powder line made from the tool you used because it was softer than the item you were trying to scratch?

source: rocks for kids website

Earth Word Scramble

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. LAEK | 1. _____ |
| 2. OLDG | 2. _____ |
| 3. CAVOLNO | 3. _____ |
| 4. AKTQURAHEE | 4. _____ |
| 5. TANMINUO | 5. _____ |
| 6. VIRER | 6. _____ |
| 7. STEDRE | 7. _____ |
| 8. ONCAE | 8. _____ |
| 9. KRCO | 9. _____ |
| 10. TREWA | 10. _____ |
| 11. TEER | 11. _____ |
| 12. VALA | 12. _____ |
| 13. OCNTTINEN | 13. _____ |
| 14. MAMAG | 14. _____ |
| 15. STEROF | 15. _____ |
| 16. GREIECB | 16. _____ |
| 17. ASRGS | 17. _____ |
| 18. LIOS | 18. _____ |
| 19. RIAN | 19. _____ |
| 20. ROLDW | 20. _____ |

Stalactite Project

Stalactites and stalagmites found in caves are an impressive feature of nature but they take a long time to form. Let's speed up the process by making our own stalactites and stalagmites.

With enough time they might even join in the middle and form a column.

Make Stalactites and Stalagmites

What you'll need:

- Two glass jars
- A saucer
- Woolen thread
- Either baking soda, washing soda or Epsom salts

Instructions:

Fill both jars with hot water. Dissolve as much soda as you can into each one. Place the two jars in a warm place and put the saucer between them.

Twist several strands of woolen thread together before dipping the ends into the jars and letting the middle of the thread hang down above the saucer. The ends can be weighed down with various small, heavy objects to keep them in the jars.

The two solutions should creep along the thread until they reach the middle and then drip down onto the saucer.

Watch what happens to the experiment over the next few days. Don't forget to wash your hands when you've finished.

What's happening?

Over a few days the dripping water will leave behind the baking soda, forming a tiny stalactite (which forms from the roof) and stalagmite (which forms from the ground). With enough time these may eventually join to create a single column. Stalactites and stalagmites are columns of stone which form in underground caves. They are made from minerals dissolved in rainwater that slowly drips from the roofs and walls of caves.

source: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/stalactite.html>



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.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 wilful 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 wilful 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.



Earth Word Scramble Answers

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. LAKE | 6. RIVER | 11. TREE | 16. ICEBERG |
| 2. GOLD | 7. DESERT | 12. LAVA | 17. GRASS |
| 3. VOLCANO | 8. OCEAN | 13. CONTINENT | 18. SOIL |
| 4. EARTHQUAKE | 9. ROCK | 14. MAGMA | 19. RAIN |
| 5. MOUNTAIN | 10. WATER | 15. FOREST | 20. WORLD |

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



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

Next board meeting
6 June 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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