



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6 JUNE 2007

THE INFORMER



Flag Day June 14th

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Editor's Notes:



"Remember, if you don't send me news I can always make up some."

Well, a vacation can interrupt the writing of a newsletter. A fishing trip though is worth getting away for a few days. The newsletter will be more brief during the summer months anyway. If you take a trip into some area "rock hounding" please send me a story about the trip and I will include it in the newsletter.

Many of us will find the heat a little too suffocating to get

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FEATURED ROCKHOUND Tammie Dollison



in Whitney, Texas. When I went to my first rock club meeting, I paid 25 cents for a chance to win a Lone Star Cut smoky quartz

that had been faceted by one of the club members. I won that stone and had it mounted in a beautiful ring.

Dad and I would go out hunting rocks, and arrowheads, and I filled several drawers full of rocks at home. I think my parents still have them. I made several cabochons with my lapidary machine.

After high school, I first attended 1 year at Hill Jr. College in Hillsboro Texas, and then

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I became interested in rocks at about the age of 15 and got my first cabochon machine that year for Christmas. I took a class for a week at Hill Jr College and made my first cabochon, which I still have today. It is in my display case at the show each year.

My uncle, James Miller, took me to my first rock show; he was a member of the Cross Timbers club in Stephenville. I became a member of the rock club



Father's Day June 17th

Featured member Tammie Dollison

transferred the next year to Abilene Christian University. I graduated from ACU in 1984 with Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. I didn't have much time for rocks when I was in college, and starting my nursing career. I started working as a nurse at Scott & White Hospital in Temple Texas from 1984-1985. I moved back to Abilene in 1985, and went to work at Hendricks Medical Center as a registered nurse. I worked for Hendricks for 10 years. I also worked at Woods Psychiatric Center for 1 year, and at Outreach Health Services for 3 years.

I met my husband David Dollison and we got married in 1991. We moved to San Angelo in 2001, and I worked for San Angelo Community Medical Center for 7 years. I am currently working at MHMR for the Concho Valley in the Mental Health Clinic as a registered nurse and I have been working for them for the past 2 years. My husband is working at Delta Electronics in San Angelo.

I went to a couple of the club's rock shows before becoming a member. I'm not exactly sure, but I think I joined the club in 1993, after the show that year. Don Brenholtz was one of the first members I met, and he showed me the workshop. I started coming on Monday nights, and making cabochons. I met Dee and Russ Cable. Dee helped me learn beading, and Russ taught me silversmithing

and faceting. Jim Owens also taught me a lot about faceting. Jerry Davis has also shown me things about silversmithing. I have met several club members and have learned from their talents. I have participated in the shows each year and have demonstrated beading, silversmithing, and faceting.

I went on one of the club's field trips to Mason, TX, looking for topaz, and really enjoyed it. I have served as the club's Vice President and Treasurer in the past. I was very active in the club and came out every Monday night, until we moved to San Angelo.

I miss getting to come to club, and seeing everyone. I wish I were still in Abilene where I could come and participate more in some of the classes that are being offered. I would really enjoy learning from some of the talented teachers of these classes. I try to find time to work on things at home with my own cabochon machine, faceting

machine, saw, silversmithing equipment, and beading supplies. I make things from time to time, but not as much as I once did. I enjoy beading and trying to learn faceting and silversmithing. I look forward to the show each year, and seeing everyone.

..... Tammie Dollison



The Rockhound Sticker



The Rockhound Sticker is an easy way to identify oneself to others as a rockhound. It provides an easy way to recognize other rockhounds. The sticker not only promotes and publicizes rockhounding, it is a service to rockhounds to facilitate meeting one another. The sticker is a identifier for club

members as well as unaffiliated rockhounds. It lets everyone know you are interested in collecting rocks, minerals, or fossils and you are willing to discuss collecting, to share rockhounding experiences and to help other rockhounds. It tells others that you are a rockhound friend.

This sticker is not intended to replace club or federation badges, it compliments them by saying "I am a Rockhound". No other words or mottoes are necessary. In short, everyone, rockhound or not, will

recognize it, thus widening your circle of friends and helping you to learn of new locations and ideas.

Because of its simple design it can be recognized easily and from a distance.

Use it anywhere and in anyway to attract the attention of other rockhounds. Use it to advertise that a rockhound is present and willing to talk about rocks, minerals, fossils and related subjects. Look for the sticker where rockhounds may be present, such as campgrounds, potential collecting areas, craft shows, etc.

The stickers sell for 50 cents each for 1 to 59 stickers (minimum order – 10 stickers) or 30 cents each for quantities of 100 or more; price includes postage and handling. Frank will accept checks or credit cards. When ordering make check payable to: ROCKY FIVE. To order stickers, contact:

Frank Mullaney
5705 Begonia Dr.
San Jose, CA 95124-6535
Ph.: 408-266-1791
E-mail: rockyfiv@aol.com

Promote rockhounding.
Proudly display your

Rockhound Sticker.
[www.rockyfive.com/
contact.html](http://www.rockyfive.com/contact.html)

**THIS COULD
HAVE BEEN
YOUR NEWS
Spot!**



UPCOMING SHOWS

June 2007

9--CEDAR PARK, TEXAS: Show; Sue Ellen Gem Stones LLC; Holiday Inn Express, 1605 E. White-stone Blvd. (Hwy.1431); Sat. 10-4; free admission; semiprecious odds and ends, rocks, minerals, stone jewelry, gold panning demonstrations; contact Susan Schiff, P.O. Box 92, Leander, TX 78646, (512) 680-2079; e-mail: Sales@MyGemShow.com; Web site: www.MyGemShow.com.

23--24--COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO: 43rd annual show; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; Phil Long Expo Center, 1515 Auto Mall Loop; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils; contact Kaye Thompson, (719) 636-2978, or Roger Pittman, (719) 683-2603; e-mail: rpittman@netzero.net; Web site: <http://csms.us>.

SEPTEMBER 2007:

1-2--ARLINGTON, TEXAS: 50th annual show; Arlington Gem & Mineral Club; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; gems, jewelry, beads, SCFMS convention, annual Rolling Rock meeting; contact Karen Cessna, (817) 860-5232, Rick Kupke, 2004 N. Meadow Way Cir., Arlington, TX 76015, (817) 465-5270; e-mail: rickkupke@nwiis.com; Web site: <http://tses.org>.

Cookbooks!

Cookbooks!

We still have
cookbooks to sell.

Pick up a few at the next meeting.



Pumice

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Specimen of highly porous pumice from [Teide](#) volcano on [Tenerife](#), [Canary Islands](#). Density of specimen approx 0.25 [g/cm³](#). Scale is in [cm](#).



Pumice is a highly [vesicular pyroclastic extrusive igneous rock](#) of intermediate to [siliceous magmas](#) including [rhyolite](#), [trachyte](#) and [phonolite](#). Pumice is usually light in colour ranging from white, yellowish, gray, gray brown, and a dull red. Most of the time, it is white. As an extrusive rock it was made from a volcanic eruption. Pumice has an average [porosity](#) of 90%. Pumice is formed as pyroclastic material is ejected into the air as a froth containing masses of gas bubbles or vessicles, the lava solidifies quickly and the vessicles are contained in the rock. The [basaltic](#) version of pumice is known as [scoria](#) and has many differences due to [mineralogy](#). When larger amounts of gas are present, the result is a finer-grained variety of pumice known as pumicite. Pumice is considered a [glass](#) because it has no [crystal structure](#). Pumice varies in density according to the thickness of the solid material between the bubbles; many samples float in [water](#). After the explosion of [Krakatoa](#), rafts of pumice up to 25 [m](#) long floated through the [Pacific Ocean](#) for up to two years, some with palm trees and other vegetation growing on them. In 1979, 1984 and [2006](#), underwater volcanic eruptions near [Tonga](#) created large

[pumice rafts](#), some as large as 30 [km](#) that floated hundreds of miles to [Fiji](#).

Pumice has a very low density.



There are two main forms of vesicles. Some pumice contains tubular and subparallel ones which give the pumice a silky fibrous texture due to extrusion and flowage of the pumice as it is formed. The other form of vesicles are subspherical to spherical and result from high [vapour pressure](#) during eruption.

Pumice is widely used to make lightweight [concrete](#). When used as an additive for [cement](#), a fine-grained version of pumice called [pozzolan](#) is mixed with [lime](#) to form a light-weight, smooth, plaster-like [concrete](#). This form of concrete was used as far back as [Roman](#) times.

It is also used as an [abrasive](#), especially in polishes and [cosmetics](#) exfoliants. "Pumice stones" are often used in [salons](#) during the [pedicure](#) process to remove dry and excess skin from the bottom of the foot and also calluses. Finely ground pumice is added to some toothpastes and heavy-duty hand cleaners as a mild abrasive. Perhaps the most famous product advertised to contain pumice is [Lava soap](#). It is a heavy-duty hand soap, sold in both bar and liquid form, for mechanics and others who get very dirty hands.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumice>

Hulla'b'Lou

feature by Lou Jane Davis

Vacation time should allow for some rock hunting time, right? That's just what I did while Jerry and Zack fished (Don't ask!).

At the jetty, several small pieces had been chipped off the huge, beautiful, pink granite blocks that had been used to secure the long walkway out from the Gulf shore. Some of these found their way into my bag as Gelene and I looked for shells—while the guys fished (Don't ask!). We didn't find any "sea-rocks" and not many keepers among the shells, but we did find several pieces of driftwood with artistic possibilities.

The trailer parks at New Braunfels and Corpus Christi had only caliche fill, so no good keeper-rocks there even though we checked to give our eyes a rest between the pages and pages we read while the guys fished (Don't ask!).

The restaurant and museum parking lots in CC had nothing of interest; **however**, inside the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History was a fabulous collection of "rocks" and one of the largest and most beautiful amethyst geodes we had ever seen. It contained several perfect crystals about two inches in diameter. Of particular interest was the description of how this type geode is found and mined by hand. The display of rocks and minerals were inside the Natural History section of the museum. A **highly recommended** place for your consideration when you go to CC or nearby places.

Jerry and I stopped at Fredericksburg a few days on the return trip; and, again checking out the parking spot rocks, I found several attractive specimens of flint and a particularly interesting piece tentatively identified as limestone, containing a fossil and tiny calcite crystals.

Field trip, anyone?

--ljd

Birthstone of the month



A pearl is unique because it is the only gemstone to be created from a living creature. Pearls are characterised by their translucence, lustre and by a delicate play of surface colour. The most perfect shapes are either a round or a teardrop, and their value increases with size and lustre. Irregular-shaped pearls are referred to as Baroque and Blister pearls.

The colour of a pearl depends on the type of mollusc and the environment in which it grows. Pearls range from black to white, the most prized being the Indian Rose Pearl. Other colours include cream, black, grey, blue, yellow, lavender, green, mauve and champagne. Pearls are often acknowledged as symbols of purity and modesty.

One easy way to check if a pearl is genuine is to gently rub one against the teeth - only a real pearl will feel rough to the touch.

Natural Pearls - These are born when a foreign particle squeezes itself into the shell of an oyster, far below the surface of the sea. The irritated oyster tries to rid itself of the intruder, and when it cannot, it coats the foreign object with layer upon layer of a smooth, hard substance called nacre.

Gradually, over the years, this tiny 'bead' grows and is formed into an iridescent and lustrous pearl. Only molluscs capable of producing mother-of-pearl are able to create a quality pearl - the most notable examples being freshwater clams and saltwater oysters.

Cultured Pearls - These are created by man; the oyster shell is opened and an irritant (usually a mother-of-pearl bead) is placed inside to encourage the oyster to produce its precious nacre. After that, it is up to Mother Nature to produce the pearl. The most popular cultured pearls are Freshwater, Japanese Akoya and South Sea Pearls.

Imitation Pearls - These are made of glass, wax and / or fish scale. They are not created by a mollusc. Despite advanced techniques, these copies never capture the beauty and deep-seated lustre of Natural or Cultivated Pearls.

*Permission granted from Lanka Jewels.
www.lankajewels.com located at Sri Lanka.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM APRIL 2007



Annual Membership Dues : Adult s \$15 each, Juniors , age 15 and under \$10 each

The Central Texas Gem and Mineral Club met May 7, 2007, with 30 members and 2 guests present. Both President Calvin Donaghey and Vice President Gary Hudson were absent so the meeting was conducted by Past President Carlos Talley.

Sallie Lightfoot expressed her appreciation for all those who helped to make the Show a success.

Charlie Lightfoot reported on the Lubbock show. Charlie, along with Dave and Beverly Vargo, displayed cases at the show and spent the weekend. Charley and Ann Harrison attended the show on Saturday. Always a nice show at Lubbock.

A thank you card was read from Nicole Moore who was the 2007 Scholarship recipient. Also a thank you was read from the Chrones/Colitis Foundation for the club's donation made in honor of Joe Turnbow's mother.

We still have between 50-60 **cookbooks** left, and **they are now on sale for \$ 5.00!**

Display at the library was discussed and tabled until the club hears from Lou Jane Davis.

We welcomed guests Peggy Ford and Jackie Soninburg.

Next meeting will be June 4, 2007,

June refreshments will be brought by Helen Patterson, John Baker, and Calvin McCarty .

Extra Note:

I know that not too many people want to take on the secretary/treasurer job, but it is something that all the members need to start looking at. Yes, it is early to be thinking about the 2008 officers, but I have already told several members that I will not take the job again in 2008. So at this time I am making the official announcement that the members need to start talking to each other about the job. All that I have discussed it with say they do not want it. So this will give the members time to talk someone into taking it.

Ann Harrison

CELEBRATIONS

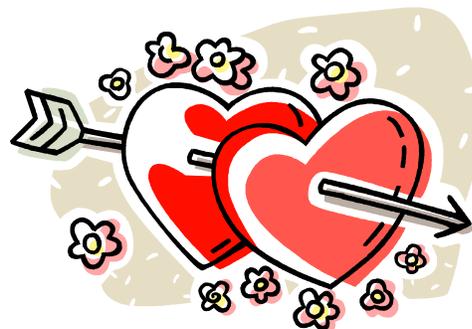
BIRTHDAYS

Elliott Stringfellow	June 4
Randy Ward	June 13
Ricky Alaniz	June 17
Betty Scarborough	June 17
Aaron Maiville	June 18
Joanne Bilskie	June 21
Floyd Gee	June 22
Penny Rorabaugh	June 23
Joyce Talley	June 24
Marlene Bilberry	June 25
JoAn Wilks	June 25



ANNIVERSARIES

Tammie and David Dollison	June 8
Bob and Helen Patterson	June 12
Charles and Sallie Lightfoot	June 30



PO Box 7343
Abilene, TX 79608-7343

Editor: Jerry Davis
Email: jde@txol.net

We are on the web:
www.txol.net/rockclub

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2007



President	Calvin Donaghey	325 695-1508
Past President	Carlos Talley	325 692-0063
Vice President	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804
Sec./Treasurer	Norma Ann Harrison	325 548-2199
Corresp Sec	Joyce Talley	325 692-0063
Editor	Jerry Davis	254 643-4586

Committees/Chairpersons

Show	Sallie Lightfoot
Field Trips	Tony & Judy Steele
Classes	Zack Stockton
Nominating	Bob Patterson
Programs	vacant
Workshop	Gary Hudson and Mike Baker
Club House and Grounds	Charlie Lightfoot
Dealers for show	Tony & Judy Steele
Budget	Norma Ann Harrison
Scholarship	JoAn Wilks
Show Demonstrations	Jerry Davis
Silversmithing Classes —	Jerry Davis

out and work in a rock shop unless it has air conditioning. If I cut any rocks in the summer, I would like to do the work early in the morning. I have found though that very few days are hot enough to keep a rockhound from stopping to check a road cut for fossils or other good rocks.

I haven't caught any fish this summer but I did find a piece of pumice about the size of two basketballs that had washed in from parts unknown. The largest I have ever found washed in on the beach were 3 or 4 inches in diameter. If you aren't familiar with pumice just use some Lava soap on your hands and you will feel the grit of the pumice. Pumice is a frothy volcanic glass with enough air pockets to cause it to be a "floating rock" when in water. Pumice power is used in the gritty tooth cleaning paste used by your dental hygiene assistant. Silversmiths use pumice to clean the surface of large pieces of metal art to prepare it for patinas or for soldering in some situa-

MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of rocks, minerals and fossils. We offer field trips and provide educational opportunities and instruction to members in a variety of areas related to the Lapidary Arts and Jewelry making. We also award a scholarship to a student enrolled at a local college in a field closely related to geology. We provide educational displays related to this hobby at shows of a similar interest. — Jerry

tions.

One of my favorite hand cleaners "GOJO Natural Orange pumice" is a great hand degreaser and cleaner with an obvious load of pumice. *To read more about this fascinating light weight stone see article inside about **Pumice** (page 5).*
..... Jerry



ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.