



THE INFORMER

Pottery from the past

PHOTOS BY JERRY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITOR COMMENTS AND POTTERY	1
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	2
LET'S MAKE SOMETHING	3
NEW MEMBERS	4
UPCOMING SHOWS	5
GEODES BY JUDY	6
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	7
BEV'S MINUTE BY MINUTE	9,9
OFFICERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS	10



Pecos diamonds by Gary

Editor's Notes:

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

+++++



Photo by Bill Gillis

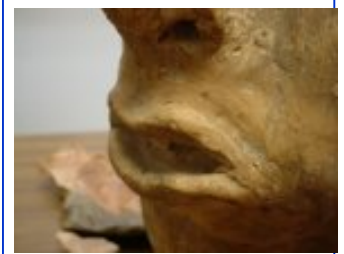
If you have a story or a news item please email it to me at jde@txol.net.

Send it in email or as a Microsoft Word document attachment. Remember to get it to me by the 20th of the month.

Well, if we didn't have windy days what would our days be like. I'm glad I don't have any shedding cottonwood trees in my front yard. I

(Continued on page 2)

This pottery head was found 40 years ago in a gravel pit between Odessa and Crane. It was lodged about half way up in the wall of the gravel pit and had to be dug out.



The pottery is formed from yellow ocher mud. Hair is scratched in with grass.



Editor's comments

(Continued from page 1)

went into Rising Star this week and it looked like a snow flurry with all the seed fuzz from the cottonwood trees. I do have some 1 year old cottonwood trees about two feet tall that I came by quite by accident. Last spring Lou Jane and I spent a couple of weeks at Corpus Christi fishing. Zack and Gelene Stockton stayed in a park model and we parked our trailer under a cottonwood tree. The cottonwoods shed their seeds and fuzz the whole time we were there. Kept me wiping fuzz out of my mustache the whole time. When we returned home from the coast, it rained and rained. I soon noticed trees sprouting up out of the gutters of my trailer. When I decided to clean out the gutters, the trees were about a foot tall. I just pulled the sprouts out of the gutter and we decided to plant them in a wooden basket planter in the front yard. Now I have to decided what to do with the little trees. They made it through the winter and are now very healthy. Should I plant them in front of the house and let them "fuzz" on us all spring?

I guess the next time we go to the coast we will park under a different kind of tree and see what we can transplant from the gutter of our travel trailer when we get home.



Lou Janes's Iris

BIRTH-

Larry Ross	June 4
Amalia Mullen	June 6
Tim Walker	June 7
Kathy Gilles	June 8
Randy Ward	June 13
Betty Scarborough	June 17
Joanne Bilskie	June 21
Floyd Gee	June 22
Marlene Bilberry	June 25
JoAn Wilks	June 25

ANNIVERSARIES

Tammie Dollinson	June 8
Bob and Helen Patterson (celebrating 55 years)	June 12
Floyd and Nell Gee	June 17
Bill and Harryette Patrick	June 30
Charles and Sallie Lightfoot	June 30

ILLNESSES/RECOVERIES

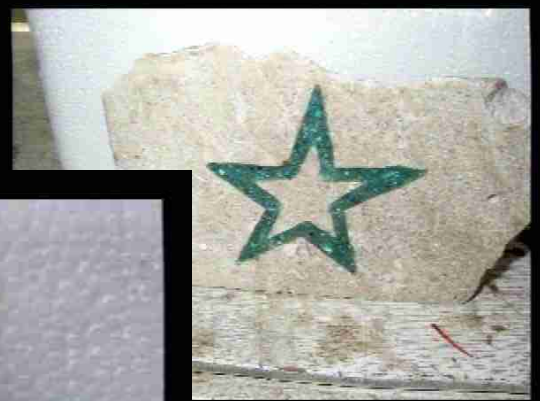
Gelene Stockton, Ernie Wright, Jim Owens, Penny Rorabaugh, JoAn Wilks mother. Get well soon!

LET'S MAKE SOMETHING

Do you have some end pieces left from slabbing some rocks? Here are some ideas on how to use them.. First cut some off the thickest part so it will stand up.. If it is a beautiful stone all you may need to do to it is polish the front. Leave the back as it is. This is a good way to show what the native rock looks like. If you want to dress it up some, make a cross and glue it to the top... You could just etch a cross or something on it.....If it is not too thick draw a map of Texas on it then saw it out leaving enough on the bottom, say from the Big Bend to the gulf, so it will stand up. Then carve a little off so the rest of the state is outlined. Polish the flat part and you are done....This is easier with softer stones.

Another idea would be to cut a star or heart from a thin slab and imbed it into it or maybe just glue it on.....If the rock is big enough you might make a small gem tree or maybe use one of the little miner figures...I'm sure you can think of lots of other ideas. Here are examples of some I have made..

..... Don Brenholtz



Photos by Don Brenholtz

Celebrating New Members

Photo by Gary Hudson

Josefina Cardenas, birthday 7/30. Her hobbies are metal detecting, camping, biking, art work. She likes stones, dislikes cheap metal. She is very artistic and is a good cook.

Wayne Witter, born 2/27. Hobbies: amateur rock hound, R/C airplanes, collectible card games, video games. His talents: Some electronics education and handyman.

Nancy Proulx, born 12/30. Hobbies: jewelry making with beads and wire. (Nancy and Wayne are engaged.)

Errol D Rutledge, born 4/16. No additional information provided.

Jarred Rutledge, born 02/18. No additional information provided.

Arabel Mullen, born 1/30 and Amalia Mullen, born 6/6. They like rocks and hiking.

Tim Walker, born 6/7. Hobbies are rocks and horses. His talents: electrician

Doyle Dacus, born 11/11. No further information provided.

When our children were quite young, (ages 4 and 6) we would take our big red wagon and a jug of water and hunt agate in the dry washes in the Ft. Stockton area. It didn't take the kids long to be able to spot raw agate as well as any grown-up. These were great family times and I am now cutting some of these rocks that I collected in the 70's. *Tim Walker*

**May 2008**

24-25--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show, "Let's Rock"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibit Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, children under 12 free; more than 25 dealers, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize drawing, silent auction, educational exhibits; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

JUNE 2008:

20-22--HOUSTON, TEXAS: Show; International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc.; Reliant Center at Reliant Park, 1 Reliant Park; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$7; contact Laurie Reluzco, 120 Derwood Cir., Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 294-1640; e-mail: laurie@intergem.net; Web site: www.InterGem.com

28-29--CASPER, WYOMING: 61st annual show; Natrona County Rockhounds, Parkway Plaza, 123 W. E, Center St. and I-25; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$3, children under 12 free; display contest, silent auctions, raffle, door prizes, grab bags, vendors; contact Helen Hoff, NCRH, P.O. Box 123, Mills, WY 82644, (307) 266-2839; e-mail: hmhoff@bresnan.net

JULY 2008:

4-6--FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO: Show, "San Jaun Co. Rock & Gem Show"; San Jaun Gem & Mineral Club; Civic Center, 200 W. Arlington; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; silent auction, free kids' rocks, wheel of fortune, door prizes, raffle, vendors; contact Mickie Calvert, (505) 632-8288; e-mail: Mickie2@earthlink.net; or Ruth Rightmire, 301 S. Johnson, Bloomfield, NM 87413; ruthrightmire@msn.com

AUGUST 2008:

1-3--PRESCOTT, ARIZONA: Show and sale; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Activity Center, 3700 Willow Creek Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children 12 and under free with paid adult; dealers, fine jewelry, beading components, mineral specimens, tools, lapidary equipment and rough, door prizes; contact Larry Jackson, P.O. Box 3923, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, (928) 636-9188; e-mail: lpjack65@cableone.net; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

Geodes by Judy Steele



The word geode is pronounced with a long "e" (gee-ode). These beautiful natural creations are found in several areas of the world. Some are generally symmetrical and rounded while others are very irregularly shaped and are very different in appearance.

Scientists have studied the sites from which geodes were found and have theorized that they are unique forms of nature and were formed during volcanic activity. It is believed that geodes were originally bubbles created by gases from hot molten lava. The bubbles floated to the surface of the molten mass and cooled leaving untold numbers of hollow cavities. Through cracks and fissures, the cavities ultimately were filled with minerals transported by run-off water from rains and floods. The cavities were filled with minerals, in particular silica, as a base material which was deposited into the volcanic rock and ash. Acidic solutions leached into the gas formed hollow cavities, including such minerals as iron, manganese, chlorine and calcite, all of which became the chemical feedstocks for growth of the crystalline structures. This process makes each individual geode unique.

A great favorite of collectors of the quartz group of minerals and gemstones is the geode. A geode is usually a hollow cavity of mineralized earth, such as rhyolite, processed by nature involving combinations of gas, heat and cooling which caused crystallization of minerals. The formations of crystals began to grow inwardly on the empty inner cavity wall. In some situations a combination of an excessive quantity of available mineral feedstock with proper conditions and temperatures caused the inward growing crystals to completely fill the hollow cavity creating a "solid" geode. The inner surface of the cavity may be covered with quartz, amethyst or smokey quartz as the basic crystal. In addition, many geodes will have other unique secondary crystal formations or deposits as overgrowths and may include several forms of calcite (angel wing, dog tooth and golden) as well as manganese. On very rare occasions, geodes have been known to have bits of silver or gold. Generally, the walls of the geode are formed of agate with banding colorations of blues, browns and grays.

No two geodes are alike, just as no two agates are ever alike, and it is impossible to put into words the thrill that comes to a man when half of the geode he is sawing or cracking falls off into the splash pan to reveal an interior of sheer beauty.

Our club started cracking geodes at the show when Charter Member, John Chalmers, donated his collection of Mexican "Coconuts" to the club. The first year we borrowed a pipe cutter to crack geodes. Roger Valkenaar bought a big pipe cutter and donated it to the club the next year. Our club has been cracking geodes ever since.

Submitted by Judy Steele

Photo by Bill/Kathy Gillis

The Lubbock Show

The Lubbock Show was held May 2nd & 3rd. Abilene club member took 8 display cases. Charles & Sallie Lightfoot took 4 cases.

 Bob & Helen Patterson took 2 cases. John & Ruth Sparks took 1 case. Tony & Judy Steele took 1 case. Pattersons, Sparks, and Steeles set up on Friday evening and stayed for the catered dinner provided by the Lubbock Club. The Lightfoots set-up early Saturday morning .

 We all enjoyed the show and visiting with dealers and members of Lubbock Club.

 By Judy Steele



From the Front Desk— President —Gary Hudson



Hello everyone!

It has sure been a whirlwind month for me so far. My wife and I haven't had time to sit down for very long at a time.

We took a trip to Roswell, New Mexico to visit Elaine's sister. Wouldn't you know it; I wound up tromping around in the desert looking for "Pecos Diamonds" with my brother-in-law. He told me there wasn't anything out there. He had already been looking several times and they only found one. After a couple of hours, I started finding some. We wound up with quite a few of the double terminated specimens and several small clusters. They are the reddish brown to white colored quartz crystals. I promised my wife a new diamond ring....now, if I can just find the right sized beer tab....

We also picked up some colorful agate gravel on the Pecos River. I need to get the tumbler rolling again. I even ran across a small group of Pronghorns.

We also made a trip to Austin. I had to attend a Texas Society of Professional Surveyors Board meeting. On the way home, we decided to stop for a couple of days at the Inks Lake State Park. Darn it! I forgot my fishing poles. Had to think of something else to do besides sit and look at the beautiful lake. Guess what....I went rock hunting, much to Elaine's delight. She gets so excited about this type of activity. I searched high and low and managed to pick up a few pieces of pink granite. We'll see what I do with that. Elaine found some rocks too. We visited the gift shop at the Longhorn Caverns and she picked herself a pair of earrings and a pendant. This rock hunting is too expensive when she tags along!

We also had the opportunity to visit Don's Rock Shop just west of Buchanan Dam on Hwy. 29. I told him I thought he had gone out of business a year or two ago. He said he did! Bought some land in Idaho to build on, and couldn't sell his place here. He decided to just stay put. He had some real nice Mason topaz. He has several rings upon which he has mounted some of his Texas Star faceted topaz. I sure am relieved my wife didn't have her checkbook handy. If you are ever down that way, stop in and see him.

What will I do now? I know...It's time to go back down to the ranch at beautiful Dryden, Texas. I smell a report next month.

Don't forget the cleanup day scheduled for Saturday May 31st.

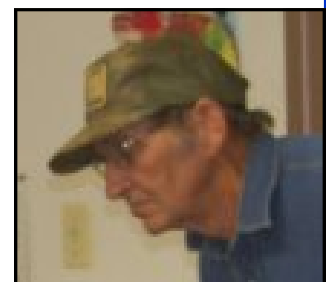
Well it's time to go for now. See you at the Meeting.

.....Gary



WE HAVE SAW OIL FOR SALE IF ANYONE NEEDS SOME. IT IS CANOPUS 13. BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER AND \$10 PER GALLON.

If you want to buy oil for your saws, see Gary Hudson. Rules for the shop are posted on the shop wall.



MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, May 5 , 2008



President Gary Hudson called the meeting to order. 30 members and one guest were in attendance. After the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance, minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Old Business: Saturday, May 31st has been set for the clubhouse clean up day. Come at 9:00 a.m. Bring your garden tools and gloves, and help us clean up the yard and give the clubhouse a good going-over.

We've had good feedback about our gem and mineral show this year. Gary read a letter to the editor that appeared in the Abilene Reporter News that praised the show. Joyce Talley said the show was also mentioned in the "Miz Cheevus" column. Tony and Judy Steele talked to J & S at the Lubbock Rock Show and he reported he had the best two-day show he'd ever had and plans to come back.

New Business: Marlene introduced her guest Jeannie Harrett who says she has rocks all over her yard. She must be a natural rock hound. Tim Walker also introduced our new member, Dylan Landtroop. He goes by D.J. And our old friend Bill Patrick dropped in to visit.

We have discovered that one of the club cases, case number 12, is missing. It was missing before the show this year. The case has green lining. If anyone borrowed the case and still has it, please let us know. We are also missing a silver coffee urn. If we can't find it we'll have to buy another to replace it.

Judy and Sallie saw a mini "food table" display at the Lubbock show this year and thought it would be a good idea to start our own food display. Tony suggested that we keep a list of the donors to keep with the display and Judy volunteered to head the display. If you have any rocks that resemble food items that you'd like to share, please bring them to the clubhouse.

Thanks went out to Sallie and to the Dealer Chairs, Tony and Judy, for their hard work in making our show a success this year.

Gary suggested that we order geodes for our next show early because we really sold out of them this year and the price is only going to go up. Tony thinks we should increase the budget by \$500. A motion was made and carried to increase the geode budget by that amount. Tony will order geodes in the next few

MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, May 5, 2008, continued



weeks.

Jerry Davis said that he and Lou Jane have a display at the Eastland Public Library that we should take a look at. He also thanked everyone for demonstrating at the show this year.

Committee Reports were as follows:

Maintenance Chair Charlie Lightfoot said that he plans to get up on the roof of the clubhouse on our Saturday workday on the 31st to find the leak and see what we need to do to fix it.

Silversmithing Chair Jerry said he's "just about set up and ready to go" for a Level 3 class.

Illnesses and deaths: Alan reported that Ernie Wright is not doing too well. Ernie sent his love and thank you for the help at his house. Helen says Gene Stockton is having good days and bad days and is home from the hospital. She is scheduled for more tests Friday. JoAn's mother fell and is in the hospital. Jim Owens is having surgery Thursday.

Nancy Proulx, Ricky Alaniz and Joyce Talley will provide refreshments for the meeting in June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Beverly Vargo

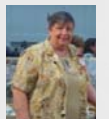
GIANT ROCK SALE

July 5 - 13, 2008

9 am til dark

July 14 - 31, 2008

By appointment



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Dallas, TX 75211

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Rock, Slabs, 12" plus Petrified Wood Polished Rounds, quartz, Large pieces of petrified wood and rock, etc.

All will be sold *cheap* by the basket, box, bag or large individual pieces. \$10 up!!!!

Don't Miss This Sale!!!!

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 2008

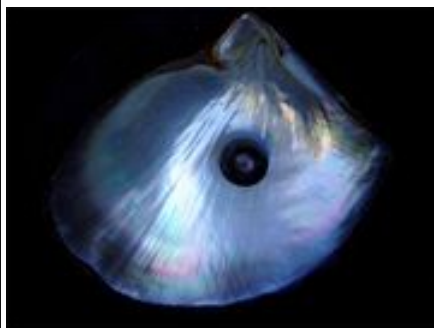


President	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804
Past President	Calvin Donaghey	325 695-1508
Vice President	Dave Vargo	325 690-0750
Secretary	Beverly Vargo	325 690-0750
Treasurer	Errol Rutledge	325 672-7505
Corresp Sec	Joyce Talley	325 692-0063
Editor	Jerry Davis	254 643-4586

Committees/Chairpersons

Show	Sallie Lightfoot
Field Trips	Tony & Judy Steele
Classes	Charlie Lightfoot
Nominating	James Grant
Programs	Dave Vargo
Shop	Tim Walker
Club House and Grounds	Charlie Lightfoot
Dealers for show	Tony & Judy Steele
Budget	Errol Rutledge
Scholarship	JoAn Wilks
Show Demonstrations	Jerry Davis
Silversmithing Classes	Jerry Davis

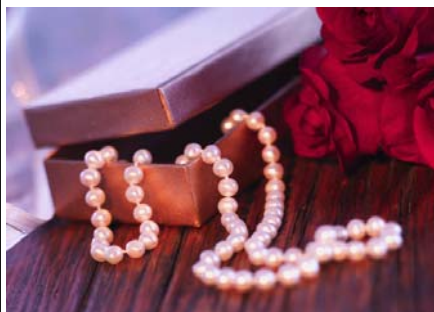
GEMSTONE OF THE MONTH
PEARL



Black Pearl in its shell.

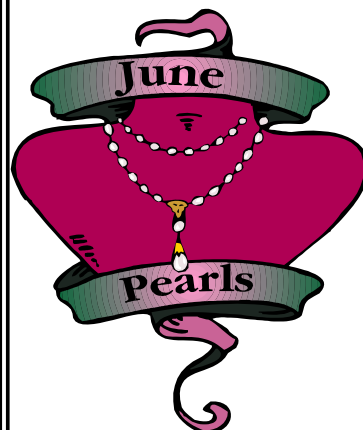
“Quality natural pearls are very rare jewels. The actual value of a natural pearl is determined in the same way as it would be for other "precious" gems. The valuation factors include size, shape, quality of surface, orientation, and luster.”

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



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



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