



THE INFORMER

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Editor's Notes:

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

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

The story can be written and sent as an email or as a Microsoft Word attachment.

No email?
Mail it to Jerry Davis,
1202 CR 380,
Rising Star, TX 76471

It's not long until show time so be getting ready. Don't forget to tell Sallie Lightfoot which job you want to do during the show. Everyone's help is needed, just ask and Sallie can tell you about what is available.



FEATURED ROCKHOUND

Julia McCray



Hi! Finally, I, Julia McCray, am preparing a brief summary about myself as a rock lover. I've worked all my life and have had very little time for fun activities. I put God, my family and then work with very little time for R&R. However, I'll be retiring soon and hope to begin really enjoying leisure time and more participation in the Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society. I'm hoping to go to various shops and shows throughout the country. It is just so interesting!!

I was born in North Carolina in 1948 and married to Robert "Bob" McCray in 1968. We have one child, Robert McCray, who is married and has given my family two beautiful grandchildren. I've always been an outdoors person with little time due to working for lawyers and judges. While attending Greensboro University, in Greensboro, North Carolina, I majored in Political Science and later continued at McMurry University in Abilene; then I took office in 2003 as the Jones County Clerk and Elections Official. This position gives me even less time for fun activities and hobbies.

I was first introduced to the Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society by my sister-in-law, Donna Johnson,

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FEATURED ROCKHOUND *Julie McCray*

(Continued from page 1)

who is an earth and science teacher as well as rock lover. I love stones and noticed that I have more stone jewelry than any other type and really appreciate materials God made and man only enhances. Donna and I joined the Club in early 2007. Since that time, I have participated in several rock hunts. I specifically recall one hunt wherein I went rock hunting on Club member Don Brenholtz's ranch. I found and kept numerous rocks located on the hillsides. When touring his home and front yard, I ran across a small hill of sliced rocks that were beautiful. Don stated he had received them through a friend and gave me some of my first rocks for tumbling. Additionally, Club member Charley Harrison built me a rock tumbler with four barrels. He, along with Carlos Talley, Allen McDaniel, Jim Owens, as well as many other members share their findings by giving new members samples. I used these samples for my first loads for tumbling. It was like opening Christmas presents when opening each tumbler. Each rock was even more beautiful after the tumbling process.

I was very impressed while attending Sallie Lightfoot's chain-making class as well as in the silversmithing class taught by Ann Harrison. I have not completed the silversmithing Class #2 taught by Jim Owens. However, I hope to

continue when a new class starts again, if my job allows enough time.

Since early 2007, with the help of club members, I have been able to collect numerous specimens of rocks and fossils. I've already filled a small building that is 12' x 12' and purchased three saws in hopes to continue learning more about lapidary and silver smithing.

I now have rocks and fossils in my office as well as home, and everywhere I go outdoors, I'm always looking down! One day I might get run over! I encourage new members to come and become a part of such a wonderful group of people.

Sincerely, Julia McCray, Club Member



Gary Hudson's nature photos

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 2008

1-2-BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 39th annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662

Mar 6-9—DEMING, NEW MEXICO: 43rd annual show, "Rockhound Roundup"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; Southwestern New Mexico Fairgrounds; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; displays, demonstrations, jewelry, rocks, drawings, raffle, field trips, silent auction, auction; contact Bud Daily, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031,

(505) 267-4399

April 2008

12-13-ABILENE, TEXAS: Show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Abilene Civic Center, N. 6th and Pine; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children 6-12 \$1.50, children under 6 free with adult; gems, jewels, slabs, rough, lapidary tools and supplies, demonstrations, fluorescent display, silent auction, wheel of fortune, "sand" art, hourly door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Sallie Lightfoot, (325) 692-4642; e-mail: slightfoot@aol.com; Web site: www.txol.net/rockclub

18-20-MARFA, TEXAS: Show, "Big Bend Gem & Mineral Show"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; AmVets Bldg., 300 S. Highland (Hwy. 67 S.), across from Marfa Bank, south off of Hwy. 90; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; gemstones, minerals, jewelry, fossils; contact Paul Graybeal, (432) 729-4526; e-mail: paulgraybeal@sbcglobal.net

May 2008

2-4-DALLAS, TEXAS: 2nd annual show, "Dallas Fine Mineral Show"; Dave Waisman; Embassy Suites, 14021 Noel Rd., near The Galleria; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Dave Waisman, P.O. 8543, Spokane, WA 99203, (509) 458-2331; e-mail: svldave@aol.com; Web site:

www.dallasfinemineralshow.com

3-4-LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 50th annual show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; exhibits, dealers, gems, jewelry, findings, rocks, minerals, fossils; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584, or Ed Ries, (806) 799-2722

From the Front Desk— President —Gary Hudson

Hello everyone!

Don't you just love this nice wintry weather! I must be in Texas. Two days ago it was 75 degrees. Yesterday saw a high of 32 degrees by my thermometer with some light mist and rain. Now as I write this report it is 34 degrees with pea sized hail and thunder. There is ice on all the trees and fences, but the road is clear (I guess). I'm not going out to test it. We really need the moisture.

Preparations are well underway for the CTGMS Rock and Gem Show, April 12th through 13th. I plan to be there most of the time. This is such a fun time for the club. We get to visit with old friends and make new ones. And, of course, we have the opportunity to look at and handle all kinds of rocks and jewelry. I'm just like a kid in a candy store with all the bright displays. We're going to need door prizes for the kids and the adults, too. Everyone will be needed all through the show. There is work to be done Friday through Sunday. Call Sallie Lightfoot to find out where you can be of help or if you need help. There will be signup sheets at the clubhouse at the next business meeting for the door and booths. There will be more information in the April "Informer"

Sallie has requested that as many of us that can, to wear our red club vests at the show. If you need one, let me know ASAP. Mike Baker's wife, Becky, has agreed to make the vests for those needing one. The cost is \$30 for S, M, L, & XL, and \$35 for 2X & larger. This includes the large club patch, which Becky will sew on for an additional \$2.50. There is about a two-week turn around time.

I'm ready for some warmer weather so I can go rock hunting. I just know I can hear some fossils calling my name down at the ranch near Dryden. I plan to get down there with my Dad and Grandson during spring break if all goes well. The cacti should be blooming around that time, too.

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

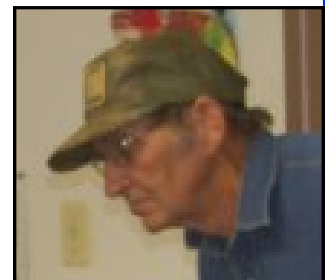
..... Gary

The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker

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

Bob Patterson ordered a grinding wheel for the cabbing machine in the back. A work day may need to be set up to clean the small saws and repair the cabbing machine. The bearings need replacing in the cabbing machine while we are at it. A good general cleaning needs to be done in the shop area also.

We still have a limited quantity of saw oil for sale at \$10 per gallon.



YOU MAY HAVE WONDERED?

BY DON BRENHOLTZ

How do you make a doublet?

Definition: A "gemstone sandwich" made in layered sections. The lower, larger portion is made from glass or an inexpensive stone and has a smaller layer of a more valuable stone adhered to the top of it. Opal doublets are common. www.About.com

Ever have a beautiful stone with small pits or imperfections that can't be sanded out? Here's what you can do. This works great on a lot of the agate and other stones we find. Making a doublet is simply gluing a quartz cap on the top of the stone to be made into a cabochon. There are several advantages to this.

1. You can buy the caps already finished so this eliminates a lot of work.
2. It solves the problem of the imperfections in the stone as the glue between the cap and stone makes them invisible.
3. Because the cap already had a dome to it, you can use a much thinner slab. This lets you get more slabs from a stone. Pick your stone and the size cab you want to make. Mark and cut it as usual. Leave the preform slightly larger than the cap. Then finish grinding it to size after the two are joined. By grinding with a slight angle to the back you can get a perfect match without getting into the cap. If you have a large slab you might want to glue several caps on it then cut it apart after the glue has set. The top of your stone should be perfectly flat. Sand it smooth. A flat lap is best for this. Do not polish it as the glue will adhere better to a slightly rough surface.

Here is the tricky part. You must be sure there are no air bubbles trapped between the cap and stone as these will show up as a silver streak after it sets up. The stone and cap should be cleaned with acetone to be sure they are free of any oil. A trick I use is to mix the epoxy and then heat it a little. This thins it a little and tends to make it easier to get any air bubbles out. This could be done by holding it over a light bulb. Be sure the stone is covered evenly with the glue. The caps can be rather expensive in larger sizes. You can make your own from plate glass but they will not be as durable as the Quartz. Natural or man made quartz can also be used .

..... *Don Brenholtz*

Can you identify these faces?



BIRTHDAYS

Brenholtz	Don	March	8
Davis	Jerry	March	10
Gutierrez	Raymond	March	15
Baker	John	March	19
Baker	Mike	March	25
Stanford	James	March	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Tony and Judy Steele Mar 20

ILLNESSES/RECOVERIES

Ernie Wright
 Bob Patterson— recovering from shoulder surgery.
 Charley Harrison recovering from knee surgery.
 Tim Walker — surgery.
 Jim Owens — surgery.
 Penny Rorabaugh
 Lou David Allen— family
 Elaine Hudson—recovering from knee surgery.
 Bud Trammel—recovering from hip surgery.

Oops, no cheating -- Names to go with the faces

1. Mickey, Emily Phillips, M Designs, custom casting, Tyler, Texas
2. Lonnie Boggs, member, "shield" bolo expert
3. Delbert/Joyce Speed, Love of Land Images, dealer
4. Jon Denison, silversmith, antique dealer, coin expert
5. Charlie Lightfoot in his lapidary costume
6. Charlie Lightfoot, You think you have been scared of the camera! , rock tumbling expert, sand art, silversmith
7. Jackie, customer wearing dealer turquoise
8. Sam Stephens, exhibitor, Intarsia, Midland GMS
9. Norma Harrison, rocksicles specialist, silver smithing teacher, artist with many facets
10. Marlene Bilberry, member, rock enthusiast
11. Larry Sanchez, San Juan Gems, Cortez, Colorado, dealer, silversmith
12. Bill Patrick, former club member and show chairman
13. Mary Trammell, Rolling Rock Club president, The Slab House, Stephenville, TX
14. Keith Wells, war hero (see May 2007 Issue of The Informer)
15. John and Susanna Wease, JS GEMS, CA, dealer
16. Betty Aiello, DAY DREAMZ, lapidary, silver work, bead maker, dealer
17. Bill Myers, expert, dry-sanding cab maker, honored friend of CTGMS
18. Travis Phillips, M Designs, custom casting
19. Allen McDaniel, senior club member and author, contributor of book Spider Rock of Texas, expert cab maker and scout master
20. Donna Johnson, member, rock collector
21. Jim Matlock, sphere maker, High Plains GMS, Plainview, TX
22. Judy Steele, member, carver, gem trees, silversmith
23. Helen Patterson, member and authority on fluorescent minerals, lapidary work, silversmith
24. Penny Rorabaugh, member, gem trees, bead jewelry
25. Keith and Charlotte Harmon, Stone Crystals, Tyler, dealer
26. Wayne (Bud) Trammell, expert flint knapper, The Slab House, Stephenville, TX, dealer and demonstrator
27. Leonard & Margaret Ebersole, dealer of Ebersole Jewelry Supplies, Kansas

Next month we will honor the Scholarship winner for 2008

Information about the award follows:

Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society annually awards a \$500.00 scholarship to a local university student who qualifies. The scholarship money comes from proceeds from the annual Gem and Mineral Show, one major reason for members' supporting the show.

Qualifications for this award are listed below:

1. This award is given annually in April at the Gem Show to a student at Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University, or McMurry University, who is studying geology or the earth sciences or jewelry arts as required for his/her degree plan.
2. Student must come recommended by his/her Professor/Instructor.
3. Student must have high grade point average.
4. Student must complete recommended application by the determined date.
5. Student must state his or her need for scholarship assistance.
6. Student must follow guidelines set forth by the scholarship awards committee to receive the award. (It is presented at the Friday evening dinner for the annual Gem & Mineral Show held the second week-end in April each year.)

Again this year, the Scholarship Committee members are Sallie Lightfoot, Joyce Talley and JoAn Wilks, Chairperson. As Chairperson, I want to thank Sallie and Joyce for helping with this year's award. Also, thanks to Dave Vargo for volunteering to help with this year's Scholarship Showcase display.

Members, please don't miss seeing this case.

And, may I ask our club members to say hello to the new scholarship winner and his wife; please give them a real rockhound's welcome. Winner will be announced at the next meeting and write-up will appear in the next newsletter.

Members, please call me should you know a student who might benefit from our scholarship in the future. I am always available; 325 673-0418.

JoAn Wilks

Scholarship Chairman

MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, February 4, 2008

President Gary Hudson called the meeting to order. 31 members were in attendance. After the opening prayer and pledge of allegiance, minutes of the January 7th meeting were read and approved. No Treasurer's report was read, as acting Treasurer Errol Rutledge was ill.

Old Business: Gary reported that Errol Rutledge has volunteered to be the club Treasurer this year. Errol is a former banker and is eager to serve in this capacity.

Don reported that plumbing repairs to Ernie Wright's kitchen have been accomplished, thanks to the efforts of several club members. Special thanks were given to Walt Scarborough for donation of funds and know-how. The roof on Ernie's work shed still needs repair. Ricky Alaniz has volunteered to do the roofing, and will welcome help from club members. Approximately \$120 is needed for the roofing supplies. Ricky would like to do the work on a Saturday. Please contact him if you'd like to help.

Betty Scarborough reported that the club must fill the exhibition case at the Abilene Library April 1st and remove the display by April 30th. The Library staff asks that club members be available to answer questions at the Library for ArtWalk Thursday evening April 10th. The club members should take fliers advertising the Rock Show, which will be held the weekend after ArtWalk. Anyone who would like to submit work for display should contact the Carlos and Joyce Talley.

Gary reminded club members: "Membership dues, membership dues, membership dues!"

A motion was made and seconded that Errol Rutledge be elected as Treasurer, to fill the position recently vacated by Lou David Allen. The motion carried with no opposition. We extend our heartiest thanks to Errol for filling this difficult position.

New Business: Bob Patterson volunteered to continue to print and copy the Informer each month for club members.

Committee Reports:

Show Chair: Sallie said that we will need everybody to do some work at the show this year. She needs volunteers for the following positions:

Dealer Dinner, Front Door, Silent Auction, Geode Cracking, Demonstrations, Wheel of Fortune, Florescent Display, Show Cases, Scholarship, Club Table, Child Sand Art, Adult Sand Art, and Portable Signs.

We also need three more projects for the raffle cases and at least 13 children's door prizes. The show lasts for two days and we need as many volunteers to work as we can get. Your help is needed!

We'd like everyone to wear his or her club vest at the show. Sallie will ask Mike if Becky can make the vests still needed by our newer members.



MINUTE BY MINUTE BY BEV

Minutes of CTGMS meeting of Monday, January 7, 2008, continued

Dealer Chair: Judy has seven confirmed full dealers and has sent letters out for demos.

Tony has estimated that \$1,100 to \$1,200 will be needed for the purchase of the geodes this year. He will get a quote. Bob moved to give Tony authority to spend \$1,200 for the geodes. Dave Vargo seconded and the motion carried.

Silversmithing Chair: Jerry did not attend the meeting because of the wildfire danger near his home. We don't blame you, Jerry, for staying close to home!

Classes Chair: Jim said there would probably be no classes planned until after the April Rock Show.

Shop Foreman Tim Walker is having surgery soon and was not at the meeting. Gary reminded us that we need to replace an 80-grit wheel.

Maintenance: Charlie Lightfoot will examine the clubhouse roof to locate the leak as soon as the weather allows.

Reports of ill members: Tim Walker and Jim Owens will each be having surgery soon. Lou David Allen said thank you for remembering his 14-year-old granddaughter Sierra, who is facing chemotherapy and surgery in the near future. She has contracted a rare cancer that occurs in only 200 children per year in the U.S. We extend our prayers and hopeful thoughts to each of our sick friends.

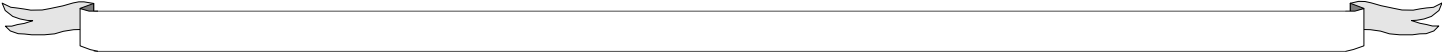
We had a guest appearance by a lady who gave only her first name, Joann. She found our address on the Internet. Her two sons are involved in Boy Scouts and had been to the clubhouse with the Scouts in recent years.

Under miscellaneous business, Dave Vargo suggested Bud and Mary Trammel be made honorary life members of CTGMS. After discussion JoAn Wilks suggested that the Trammels be named Friends of the CTGMS and that a certificate be given to the Trammels as a sign of our appreciation for their support over the years. A motion was made and carried to issue the certificate. Autumn Kekow volunteered to make the certificate.

Amalia Mullen, Marlene Bilberry and Beverly and Dave Vargo will provide refreshments for March's meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Beverly Vargo



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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



Aquamarine (Lat. *aqua marina*, "water of the sea") is a gemstone-quality transparent variety of beryl, having a delicate blue suggestive of the tint of seawater. It's closely related to the gem emerald. Colors vary and yellow beryl (heliodor), rose pink beryl (morganite), and white beryl (goshenite) are known.

In the United States, aquamarines can be found at the summit of Mt. Antero in the Sawatch Range in central Colorado.

People in the Middle Ages thought that aquamarine could magically overcome the effects of poison.

Ancient sailors traveled with aquamarine crystals, believing that it would ensure a safe passage, and guarantee a safe return; they often slept with the stones under their pillow to ensure sound sleep. They be-

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

lieved the siren's (mermaid) fish-like lower body was made of aquamarine.



Three Beryl Crystals - Aquamarine rough crystal in the center.

Photo released to public domain by author Chris Ralph of Nevada.
Photo and information borrowed from:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquamarine>

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