



# THE INFORMER

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE INFORMER:** [ctgms50@gmail.com](mailto:ctgms50@gmail.com)

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## From the Front Desk— President —Bob Patterson



We had a nice picnic and outing at Don Brenholtz' ranch this month. The turnout was good, about 30, particularly since it was a cold dreary day. Everyone seemed to have a good time and get in some rock hunting up the hill and also there was an unstructured comparison of rocks that several members brought for a show and tell. Also there were four tables for a chicken and brisket feast. The party was organized by Randy Ward and was well planned and executed. We all had a chance to get better acquainted and everyone seemed to have a good time.

We should do this several times a year since this gives us all a chance to form better relationships.

Thanks to Randy and his family for the work they did in planning and organizing , hauling and setting up the tables and chairs and furnishing the chicken. Also, thanks to Don for being the host and everyone who participated and brought the food.

Another successful event was the sale and silent auction of the donated and surplus equipment at the last business meeting. The sale was planned and organized by Gary Hudson and Tim Walker. This sale cleared out 15 items that we didn't have any use for and made this equipment available to members on a bargain basis. Not to mention the \$890 raised by the club. Thanks to Gary and Tim for their good work on this. This is something we could do once a year. The club could sell rocks and equipment that are donated to the club or even on a commission basis for members.

Don't forget that our next meeting on Nov 2 is the election of officers for

**DUES NOTICE  
IT'S TIME  
TO RENEW  
YOUR DUES  
FOR NEXT  
YEAR**

2010.

The nominating committee led by James Grant secured the following persons who have agreed to stand for election; Betty Scarborough- President, Linda Hollowell -Vice President, Errol Rutledge -Treasurer. During the November meeting additional nominations will be taken from the floor and the election will be held.

Tony Steele is planning a field trip to the Stillwell Ranch on November 9-13, after the Midland Gem and Mineral rock show. We wanted to go on Thanksgiving but the ranch has many deer hunters and the season starts on Thanksgiving weekend. Most of the ranch is closed to rock hunting during deer season and the rental facilities are usually reserved for hunters. There is no reason that we couldn't have an early Thanksgiving rock trip this year. The Stillwell Ranch is located about 50 miles south of Marathon, Texas just north of the North Big Bend Park entrance off High way 385. The Stillwell Ranch has full hook-ups for RVs and several large trailers for rent, clean showers and tent camping spots. Maybe we can get Tony to put a notice about this in the Informer....Bob

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire that hung from a tree in our front yard. We 20 rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a Grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. She heard the children getting more and more rambunctious and her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three year old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

**FIELD TRIP...**Tony and Judy Steele are leading a field trip to the Stillwell Ranch for a little rock hunting. They will be attending the Midland Show and leaving from there Monday, November 9 for the Stillwell Ranch. They plan to be there until maybe Friday. Tony has asked that all planning to attend to let him or Bob Patterson know. If you want to rent one of the trailers they have for rent, you should call the Stillwell Ranch for reservations. Everyone come out and have a good time. Be sure to bring your eats and drinks with you. There is a small store there but, they don't have a lot of stuff. They do NOT have diesel, so have a full tank!

They can be reached at:

Phone: 432-376-2244

Website: Stillwellstore.com

Email: Info@stillwellstore.com

### CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

Notes have been sent to the following folks:

Lou Jane and Jerry Davis

Ernie Wright

A thank you to May Kidwell for the pickup load of lapidary related items.

By: Joyce Talley

Lisa Mayfield Helen Pfeiffer

*Alamo Rock 'n Jewelry*

alamoroc@texas.net  
www.alamorocknjewelry.com

Tues-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5  
4102 Buffalo Gap Rd., Ste R 325.232.8527  
Abilene, TX 79605 fax: 325.232.8529



Minutes of CTGMS meeting held Monday, October 9, 2009:

President Bob Patterson called the meeting to order. 33 members were in attendance. After the pledge of allegiance and prayer, the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. The financial report was read and accepted.

New members James and Betty Stanford introduced themselves. They live near Ranger, so have quite a drive to attend meetings.

Old Business: Gary Hudson explained about the silent auction that will be held after the meeting. Bid sheets for the items available are on the table and members who wish to see the auction items can see them in the storage building. Some of the items already have bids and others do not. The auction will end at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Randy Ward reminded the membership about the picnic at Don Brenholts' place on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. He has provided maps to Don's house and Gary also sent out emails to remind people to come. Everyone should bring chairs and covered dishes. Randy said he would provide some of the meat. We should all meet at Don's house by noon. Lunch will be served first while the food is still warm and the afternoon's activities will include a rock swap and rock hunt on Don's property. We plan to have a great time together with food and fun.

The nominating committee made the following nominations for officers for 2010: President, Betty Scarborough; Vice President Linda Hollowell; Treasurer. Errol Rutledge; and Secretary, Grace Hoy. Nominations remain open. Elections will be held at the business meeting in November.

New Business: Helen and Bob Patterson went to Utah recently and promised to bring out some of the rocks they found to the picnic on Saturday. They spent three days with their son in Durango and then went to Utah. Gary Hudson went to Apache Creek, New Mexico, to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and then to Utah. He had about three weeks off and went to four other national parks on his trip. He had a great time but he broke some ribs breaking up firewood.

Carlos reported that our generous donor, May Kidwell, has found another machine in her shed. Carlos took a friend out and brought back a pickup load of things. Ms. Kidwell may have more things to give us once she gets the shed cleaned out, as well as a pile of rocks she'd like hauled off once her grandkids have their pick of the pile.

Carlos also reported that the lawn mower has a new battery, oil and gas. It uses about ½ quart of oil and about a gallon of gas for each use.

The Federation rock show is this weekend, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Temple, Texas. The Midland rock show is the first weekend in November, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Bob reported that the South Central Federation dues and insurance fees are due again.

Illnesses: Ernie Wright is not doing as well as he'd like and has had bad days. Joyce sent a letter to him last week. Bill Gilles has been in a VA program in Topeka, Kansas and is improving. He and Kathy hope to bring out some specimens to show us.

James Grant, Gary Hudson and Errol Rutledge will provide refreshments for the meeting in November.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Beverly Vargo

## The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker

The 24" saw is now working. The pump that supplies the oil to the 3 larger saws had to be replaced. Don't know why it quit working. Only been working in sludge about 8-10 years!



## AN OUT-WEST VACATION

Elaine & I left September 9 for a wild and wonderful vacation. Our first stop was at the Davis Mountains State Park for a couple of nights. We really like this area of the great state of Texas. Friday morning we left for Pinos Altos, New Mexico where we spent several days with Sylvia and Don Davis, my wife's sister and her husband. We were on the continental divide at about 7000 feet. It sure was a nice break from the heat at home.

I left Tuesday morning and headed for Cook's Peak area just east of Deming, NM for a day of rock hunting. I found lots of rhyolite, fluorite, druzy quartz, and one rock with orange spots all through it. The next morning, Don and I headed for the Apache mine south of Hachita.

We found lots of colorful blue/green copper minerals. We had a very enjoyable time looking for treasure. There was leaverite everywhere. We even brought some of it home with us.

Thursday morning we headed for Apache Creek Campground in the Apache National Forest. The next morning Don and I left for a trip up Lee Russell Canyon to



look for some rocks. We found a plentiful supply of white banded agate. We each gathered enough for ourselves and a bag for me to bring back to the club. Friday evening while gathering firewood, I decided to break a nice long dead limb off a large Ponderosa Pine while carrying an armload of wood under my left arm. I reached up and started pulling...it just bent under my weight. I pulled harder and took another step.....it was tougher that I thought....I took another step and right in mid stride, it finally broke! But I wasn't ready....I hit the ground flat out on the wood I had gathered under my arm! As soon as I could breathe again, I got up and drug my 10 foot prize back to the campfire. For some reason, my ribs sure were hurting....and kept hurting for the duration of the trip. It sure made hooking the trailer to the truck rather difficult. In fact, sleeping was even difficult. I never had broken ribs before....now I KNOW! I need to remember that I'm not as young as I once was!

The next morning we headed for Meteor Crater in Arizona. That's one big hole in the ground. The next morning I decided to take a stronger pain pill for those pesky ribs. It worked! Reduced the pain....but....I found out I'm

allergic to codeine! Another day in that campground...everyone was happy. Monday morning it was on the road again to Williams, AZ. We got on the train for the trip to Grand Canyon NP. What a sight!



It was a short 4 hours and back on the train for the return trip to Williams.

Don got up sick the next morning and they had to head back home. That left Elaine and I to fend for ourselves. We decided to head north into Utah

for the first time. We wound up in Hatch at a nice campground.



Thursday morning found us in Bryce Canyon NP. What a beautiful place. This turned out

to be the prettiest park we would visit.

That afternoon we took a quick trip to Zion NP. We got to the visitor's center too late to take the tour bus up the canyon. It was still running but we were too tired to get on it. This is a very rugged and massive park. We'll have to return when we have more time. The drive through the park and over



the mountains back to Hatch was really a nice drive. We saw lots of mule deer and very beautiful scenery.

Friday found us back on the road again, headed for Moab, UT. We managed to find a campsite there to spend a couple of days. Too crowded for our likes, but we were tired and weren't going to spend much time there. Saturday morning we headed for Arches NP. This is another pretty place.



There were lots of arches and columns all around. It is amazing what nature can do with sand! That afternoon, on to Canyon Lands NP. Wow! This is another



amazing place. It is hard to fathom what water can do to erode the land away and leave such rugged terrain.



I will be returning to Utah to visit more National Parks and leave some time to hunt rocks. I recommend this area to anyone that wants to see nature at work.

Gary Hudon



**Editor's Notes:**

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*If you have a story or a news item please email it to me at [ctgms50@gmail.com](mailto:ctgms50@gmail.com)*

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

Many thanks to Bob and Helen Patterson for having the newsletter printed each month.



**BIRTHDAYS**

Ethan Russell	Oct. 11
Moira "Mo" Namuth	Oct. 14
Bobbie Owens	Oct. 20
Jon Denison	Oct. 23
Sallie Lightfoot	Oct. 24
Linda Hollowell	Oct. 26
Doyle Dacus	Nov. 11
Paula Kinter	Nov. 14
Missy Reynolds	Nov. 14
Tammie Dollinson	Nov. 15
Gary Hudson	Nov. 17
Grace Hoy	Nov. 19
Dylan Landtroop	Nov. 21
Helen Patterson	Nov. 22
Lonnie Boggs	Nov. 23
Phyllis Sikes	Nov. 30

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Bonnie & Harold Turner	Oct. 3
Betty & Walt Scarborough	Oct. 29

**GET WELL SOON!**



Ann Harrison .. hospital with heart problems. Back home now and back to work Monday..

Lou Jane Davis shoulder healed well.....but, managed to break her other arm/shoulder.. back to the drawing board..

Ernie Wright..still not doing well

As you may have noticed, I missed getting an issue out for the month of October. With being missing for 3 weeks on vacation, I just ran out of time. I have included the Birthdays and Anniversaries for October in this issue. Happy belated birthdays for those last month.

It was busy this month as well. We had a lot of welcome rain and the temperatures have cooled off considerably. We had a wonderful time at Don's place last month for a nice picnic and some great fellowship. It was a mite cool for some folks. But, Don had his house open for all that wanted to get inside and warm up. Randy did an excellent job setting it all up. Thanks you Randy! I agree with Bob, we need to do something like this several times a year.

As most of you know, hunting season will start next weekend. Please be safe and I hope each of you enjoys your time in the field.

Our equipment auction was a great success. We made enough to more than cover the expenses in our shop.

I am still looking for articles for the newsletter each month. When you do or have anything you think may be interesting to the membership, don't hesitate to share it with us. It doesn't take much time to write something down and email it to me.

Until next time,

Gary



# Upcoming Shows

NOV 7-8--AMARILLO, TEXAS: Show; Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society; Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, wheel of fortune, silent auction, 43-pound sapphire display; contact Dee Hawkins, 108 S. Polk St., Amarillo, TX 79101, (806) 681-0960

NOV 7-8--MIDLAND, TEXAS: 47th annual show: Midland Gem & Mineral Society; Midland Center, 105 N. Main St. (corner of Wall and Main); Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, kids' corner, geode cutting, fluorescent mineral room; contact Craig Tellinghuisen, (432) 697-7668; Web site: [www.mgms-tx.com](http://www.mgms-tx.com)

NOV 7-8--OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Show, "River of Gems"; Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society; Oklahoma State Fairpark, 3001 General Pershing Blvd.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; adults \$6, children 12 and under and Boy/Girl Scouts/Campfire members in uniform free with adult; museum and member exhibits, dealers, minerals, cabochons, faceted stones, findings, demonstrations, wirewrapping, silversmithing, knapping; contact Arlene Burkhalter, 1267 Kingbird Ln., Choctaw, OK 73020, (405) 732-0808; e-mail: [maburkhalter@cox.net](mailto:maburkhalter@cox.net)

NOV 13-15--HUMBLE, TEXAS: 56th annual show; Houston Gem & Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7, seniors and students \$6, children under 12 free; displays, gems, minerals, fossils, fluorescent rocks display; demonstrations, jewelry making, beading, lapidary, children's activities, Scout Merit badge program, famous "Dino Dig", jewelry, minerals, fossils; contact Patty Scott, 14906 Summerland Circle, Cypress, TX 77429, (281) 373-1578; e-mail: [nigels\\_mom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nigels_mom@sbcglobal.net); Web site: [www.hgms.org](http://www.hgms.org)

NOV 13-15--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Expo Square, Exchange Center, 4145 E. 21st St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: [beadshow@aol.com](mailto:beadshow@aol.com); Web site: [www.beadshow.com](http://www.beadshow.com)

NOV 20-22--ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 300 San Pedro; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: [beadshow@aol.com](mailto:beadshow@aol.com); Web site: [www.beadshow.co](http://www.beadshow.co)

NOV 27-29--TERLINGUA, TEXAS: Show; "Rock & Gem Fest"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Big Bend Motor Inn Conference Room, Rte. 118 and Rte. 170; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dealers, rocks, gems, jewelry, Kids' Corner; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 837-3824; e-mail: [marybrogan@rocketmail.com](mailto:marybrogan@rocketmail.com); Web site: [www.agates123.com/cdgmcc/](http://www.agates123.com/cdgmcc/)

DEC. 5-6--ROUND ROCK, TEXAS: Show, "Fossil Fest"; Paleontological Society of Austin; Old Settler's Heritage Association, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children \$1; grand door prize, fossil dealers, specimens from around the world, fossil exhibits, demonstrations, special youth group presentation, "Wheel of Fossils", fossil identification; contact Linda McCall, 29617 Evans Ln., Highland, CA 92346, (512) 422-2322; e-mail: [Indmccall02@yahoo.com](mailto:Indmccall02@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.texaspaleo.com/psa/fest.html](http://www.texaspaleo.com/psa/fest.html)

JAN 8-10--MESA, ARIZONA: 38th annual show, "A.L. Flagg Gem & Mineral Show"; Mesa Community College, US Hwy. 60 and Dobson Rd.; free admission; Peralta Stones display, more than 100 dealers, local clubs and organizations, displays, free activities for children, kids' egg carton kits; contact Ray Grant, (480) 814-9086; e-mail: [raycyn@cox.net](mailto:raycyn@cox.net); Web sites: [www.azminfun.com](http://www.azminfun.com) and [www.flaggshow.info](http://www.flaggshow.info)

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**We are on the web:  
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Editor .....	Gary Hudson	325 554-7804

**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**



**TOPAZ**

comes in many colors, but the yellow variety, discovered in the Middle Ages during a quest for a supreme golden stone, is the most familiar. At one time, all yellow-colored stones were called topaz. The name Topaz is a derivative of the Sanskrit word topas meaning "fire." When worn as an amulet, it was as said to drive away sadness, strengthen the intellect and bestow courage. A topaz mounted in gold and hung around the neck was believed to dispel enchantment.

The powdered stone was put in wine and used as a cure for asthma, insomnia, burns and hemorrhage. It was regarded as the stone of fruitfulness and faithfulness and one that conferred cheerfulness on the wearer. It was supposed to calm passions and prevent bad dreams. The topaz was believed to counteract poison and instantly quench the heat of boiling water. All these magical powers were supposed to increase or decrease with changes of the moon. The topaz was credited also with banishing the fear of death and ensuring a peaceful demise. It gave its owner faith and charity and symbolized true friendship, lasting love, intelligence and beauty.

Of all the colors in which topaz is found, the violet-red stones are the most valued. The sherry topaz is so called because its color resembles that of sherry wine. Valuable topaz displays a slightly velvety texture and has a high luster. Blue topazes are often quite beautiful and some rare specimens are comparable in color to aquamarines and, more rarely, to sapphires. All colors except yellow and brown are light to very light in tone.

[www.cgams.org/index.php/gem-of-the-month](http://www.cgams.org/index.php/gem-of-the-month)



**NOVEMBER FLOWER  
 CHRYSANTHEMUM**

**November Flower** Chrysanthemum: Modern chrysanthemums are much more showy than their wild relatives. The flowers occur in various forms, and can be daisy-like, decorative, pompons or buttons. This genus contains many hybrids and thousands of cultivars developed for horticultural purposes.

[www.gone-ta-pott.com/flower\\_of\\_the\\_month.html](http://www.gone-ta-pott.com/flower_of_the_month.html)

**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