



T H E I N F O R M E R

Email information to ctgms50@gmail.com

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From the Front Desk— President —Bob Patterson



On November 9, several members of the CTGMS went to the Stillwell Ranch in Brewster County, Texas for a rock-collecting and fun trip. This ranch is located a few miles north of the Persimmon Gap entrance of the Big Bend National Park and is about 50 miles south of Marathon, Texas. The ranch consists of several thousand acres of wild ranch land, with dusty rough roads and low hills covered by various Cacti, Creosote bush and short stunted Mesquite. Everything that grows seems to have thorns. Also, on the hills is an assortment of rocks of varying sizes. Within this assortment,

(the majority of which are worthless) are a variety of rocks, agates, petrified wood and fossils of various sizes, some of which are very attractive and unusual.

These rocks were the objects of our four day hunt, and everyone seemed to find some, good, bad, and indifferent ones. The main ingredient for finding good rocks seems to be a lot of walking and looking.

We also had a number of good meals together produced by the participants on successive nights. James and Betty Stanford produced a fish fry on the second night that he alleged to be Gar fish. I am somewhat skeptical of the true nature of the fish although it was delicious, and suspiciously like catfish. I had a great time and think everyone else did too.

Our annual Christmas Party, which winds up our 2009 year is on the evening of December 7 at 7 PM. Members bring a covered dish for each person and a rock related gift for the traditional Chinese auction. Try to bring a wrapped gift that you would be happy to receive.

DUES NOTICE

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN

DO IT TODAY

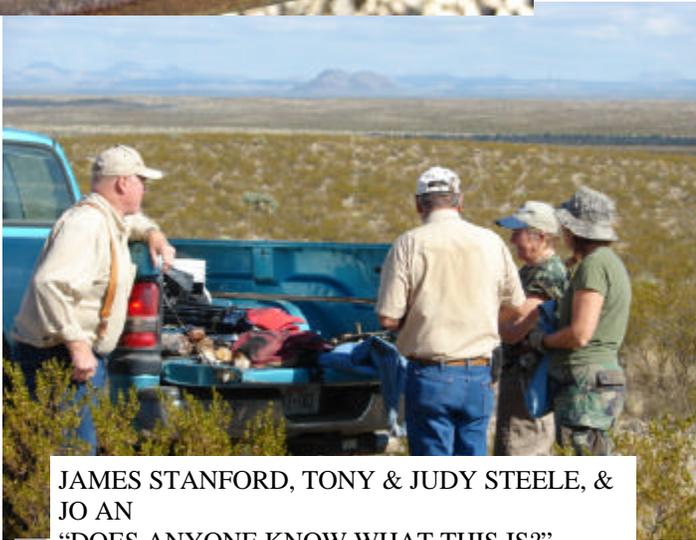
This letter and this month finishes my year as President. In retrospect, I could probably have been a better president, if I had applied myself to the job a little more diligently. However, that is all past and I have enjoyed the give and take of the group. We all are supportive of the organization and have a good time and get a lot of good things done together. It has been my pleasure to participate during the past year.

Your friend, Bob Patterson.

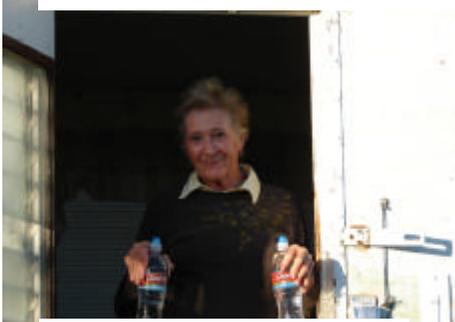
PHOTOS BY BRUCE EAST



JUDY EAST
"WHERE DID THAT ROCK GO?"



JAMES STANFORD, TONY & JUDY STEELE, & JO AN
"DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THIS IS?"



JO AN "ANYONE READY TO START DRINKING?"



DON, JAMES, & TONY
"WE'RE NOT UP TO ANYTHING"



Minutes of CTGMS meeting held Monday, November 2, 2009:

President Bob Patterson called the meeting to order. 35 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.

Our new member Virgil Rule introduced himself.

Old Business: The picnic at Don's place was fun, if cold. There is a write up about the picnic in The Informer. Thanks to Randy Ward for organizing the field trip.

The silent auction of donated equipment netted the club \$890. Bob suggested we hold an auction next year of donated equipment or perhaps equipment or other items on consignment.

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. The nominees were acknowledged and elected by acclamation. Thank you to all the members who accepted office.

Jim Owens reported that two people have completed the Silversmithing I class. Jerry still needs to approve their projects before certificates are awarded. Thanks to Jim and Jerry for sharing their skills.

We have still not received Tim Walker's Rockhound of the Year award from the Federation. Gary said he will email the Federation president.

Jerry Davis said our website now has a membership application and a map to the clubhouse. Thank you, Jerry, for maintaining the website.

New Business: The Midland rock show is next weekend. Some of the club members will be taking displays. Tony and Judy Steele plan to go to the show and then on to the Stillwell Ranch on Monday. Bob and Helen Patterson and Jo An Wilks will accompany them. If anyone else would like to go, they plan to stay through Thursday. Jo An has reservations at the bunkhouse. She says they have good facilities and plenty of trailer hookups. Trailers are also available for rent, but there is no diesel fuel at the site.

The club Christmas party will be held Monday, December 7th in lieu of a business meeting. Jo An and Penny will chair the decorating and cleaning committee, which will meet at the clubhouse on Sunday the 6th at 2:30. Volunteers include Joyce, Linda, Jim, James, Ricky, Betty and Carlos, but everyone is welcome to come help. Members should bring a covered dish on Monday by 6:30 and dinner will be at 7:00. Each attendee should also bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange. The gifts should be rock related.

Scholarship chair Jo An Wilks says that three students at Hardin Simmons are interested in applying. She will have a report in January.

Judy and Tony brought more cabs donated by Bill

Myers for a silent auction after the meeting.

Illnesses: Jo An Wilks fell last May and broke her hip but she says she's improving and is happy to be back at the clubhouse. Lou Jane Davis had broken her shoulder in July. Eight weeks later she was back to work, then broke her other shoulder 5 or 10 days ago. She said Jerry's cooking wasn't that good. They anticipate seven to eight weeks for recovery. Ann Harrison spent a few days in the hospital recently for congestive heart failure. She's now back at work.

Charlie and Sallie Lightfoot, Bruce and Judy East and Joyce Talley will provide refreshments for the meeting in January.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Beverly Vargo

It's been a pleasure being Secretary for the club for two years. I appreciate Gary Hudson for all his assistance, and especially for maintaining the membership list. He certainly made my job easier. Thank you, Grace, for taking over.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last she headed for the door saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"

My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

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**

Check out the Sale

Starts Nov 27th and runs through Dec 24th. 25% off all jewelry, beads, rocks, minerals and books.

This was our first field trip with the Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society (CTGMS)

Submitted by Bruce East

This was one of the primary reasons we joined the club, because we have always had a “thing” about rocks. We’ve been collecting them for a long time, but didn’t know what we had.

Anyway, Judy and I left San Angelo on Monday morning, Nov 9 and drove to Stillwell Ranch just north and east of Big Bend National Park. Prior to our departure we had received a number of emails about the trip from JoAn Wilks. She provided tips on what to take and most importantly what food to bring. We arrived at Stillwell Ranch about 3PM on Monday and discovered that JoAn and Tony and Judy Steele had just arrived ahead of us. JoAn had reserved the “bunk house” for herself and us and anybody else who decided to come that didn’t have some kind of travel trailer, motor home, etc.

The bunk house was really a mobile home about 50 feet long with one double bed (that was JoAn’s), a set of bunk beds, four single beds and a kitchen and dining area. JoAn, Judy and I were the only ones in the bunk house. After everything was unpacked, JoAn and Judy began to discuss fixing supper for everyone. There were a lot of canned goods and chips and other things. JoAn was the main cook, Judy was the helper and I opened cans. JoAn made a taco soup that was delicious. Around 5PM everyone was called to come and get it. Other rock hounds at supper were: Tony and Judy Steele, James and Betty Stanford (sp), James Grant, Bob and Helen Patterson, and John and Susanna (last name unrecalled, who were dealers who came down from the Midland show). The soup was a great hit and there were plentiful seconds for all. There were even three quart bags of leftovers. We got one and brought it home.

On Tuesday morning, a group of us went onto the ranch area and up to a water tank on a small rise to hunt for rocks. The road in as pretty rough, but my rear wheel drive old truck made it just fine. We all started to look for rocks and Judy and I got a lot of good pointers from everyone. Even so, we still ended up with a lot of “leaverites” and some nice agates. While we were on the hill, JoAn got out her bubbles and made some really big ones that floated off down the hill. Some of them lasted at least 100 yards before popping. About 12:15PM, we decided to go back in and have some lunch. After lunch, some of us decided to go out again and left about 2:30PM. We stopped short of the hill and looked into a dry creek bed and a road (of sorts). At about 4:15PM we decided to go back in and did so. It was really dusty and Judy and I were covered with dust. But it was a great feeling to be able to join in and do what we had joined to do.



About 5PM, James Stanford called for us to come and get it. We had fried fish (so suspected it was gar, ha!) and french fries. Susanna made a hominy casserole which was really good. Everything was really good and Judy Steele made some fruit cake cookies that were delicious. While we were out on the second hunt, Don Brenholtz arrived and he had supper with all of us. I truly believe that eating out like this is some of the best eating around.

After we ate, JoAn, Don, Judy and I went into the bunk house and played a really strange dice game. Of course JoAn knew all the rules and we just kind of played along. It was fun, except I didn’t win. Judy did. About 9PM we went to bed.

On Wednesday morning, Judy and I loaded up and got ready to leave. It was truly a great time and we look forward to doing it again at our earliest opportunity. We have even decided to look at small campers so we can be “self contained”.

We want to very sincerely thank all the club members at Stillwell for their advice and assistance with the “newbies”. It was gratefully received and much appreciated.

The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker

WORKSHOP RULES



1. Members Only are to use the shop equipment.
2. The workshop is for teaching and hobby work only and is not to be used to make items for sale.
3. Before using any piece of equipment a member must be certified by an instructor.
4. Members will use only one piece of equipment at a time and will work only one stone at a time
5. No one shall use one piece of equipment for more than one half of the work period. If at that time you have not finished, take a break. If no one comes forward to use it, you may return to it.
6. No one is allowed in the shop unless working, supervising or instructing.
7. Eye protection will be worn while operating equipment.
8. Before moving from one wheel the next, members will wash their hands and the stone to prevent contaminating the wheels.
9. At the end of the session, each member using equipment will help clean up the shop. If you leave before the session is over, clean the machine you were using unless someone is waiting to use it.
10. No junior is allowed in the clubhouse or shop unless accompanied by a parent, grandparent, or sponsor.
11. No junior under ten may use equipment unless under constant supervision of an adult.
12. When using saws you must stay in shop or have someone watching it for you.
13. The club is not responsible for any stones left in the workshop.
14. The workshop supervisor is the final authority for all operations in the shop. He may also ask any member to cease their work if he deems it necessary.
15. Please help keep our shop clean.
16. No food or drinks allowed in the Shop area!

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A HAPPY SCOUT

By: Carlos Talley

A friend of Jim Owens, Allen Clute a Scoutmaster, asked him about getting some material for his 25 Boy Scouts. Jim referred him to Allen McDaniel, who in turn referred him to me, Carlos Talley. He asked if I could get him 25 samples of sedimentary, 25 samples of igneous, and 25 samples of metamorphic rocks. He also wanted the same amount of mineral specimens for a rock hunt. The boys were to find one each of the above listed rocks and minerals. I nodded my head and proclaimed, "It will be done."

This all took place on Monday, November 9th. I went to the Club meeting that night and, luck of the rock hound, Calvin Donaghey was there. I took different rocks and minerals from the community table and with Calvin's help in identification, we came up with the desired collection. I cut the specimens into enough pieces to make the 25 of each as requested. I handed the bags of rocks to Jim who passed them on to the Scoutmaster with a promise that Allen McDaniel would be at the meeting and spin a yarn about the rocks.

When I got home, I called the Scoutmaster and advised him what to expect. He was very pleased. The Scouts got their rocks and minerals and Allen McDaniel's knowledge and all was happy.

This is what our Club is all about!



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

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

Judy Steele	December 8
Bobbie Turnbow	December 10
Jo Anna Rule	December 11
Jim Owens	December 13
Judy East	December 18
Steven Norman	December 21
Norma Ann Harrison	December 28

By the time you read this Thanksgiving will probably be over and time to look forward to Christmas. It is always enjoyable to watch the kids with their gifts around the Christmas tree. But, let's not lose site of what the day is all about. Give thanks for all your blessings.

I would like to thank Bob Patterson for his year of being our President. A lot of things were accomplished under his leadership. Then there is Carlos Talley as president of vice...I mean Vice President. He is always supportive and ready to help. I would also like to thank Beverly for her two years as secretary. She did a great job.

I hope everyone has a good time at the Club Christmas party. I won't be there this year. I have a date with a deer (4 legged variety) at the Ranch south of Dryden enjoying nature. Who knows, maybe even harvest a deer. Of course, that's just a bonus. That is the only time my Son-in-Law has to go with me. My 8 year old grandson is going along too. Who knows.... could be, he will get very lucky. I know we will find fossils and bugs!

It is time to get your dues paid. Please include a note with your name on it if you are paying with cash. It is very difficult to keep up with who has paid and we don't want to leave anyone out. Any new members that paid after October 1st is paid up through next year.

GET WELL SOON!



Correspondence Secretary, Joyce Talley sent notes to the following:

Lou Jane Davis who broke her other shoulder

Ann Harrison with heart problems but now back at work



Upcoming Shows

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; Web site: 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; Web sites: www.azminfun.com and www.flaggshow.info

Jan 4-6--EL PASO, TEXAS: Show; El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; gems, minerals, fossils, beads, silver jewelry, geode cutting, silent auction, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Gem Center USA, (877) 533-7153 or (915) 533 7153

Jan 1--GLOBE, ARIZONA: 53rd annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds, 3 miles north of Junction US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$3, students with ID and children with adults free; live demonstrations, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact Jim Mills, P.O. Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539, (928) 701-1712; e-mail: oldulking57@hotmail.com

Jan 1-10--QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show"; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds, 100 W. Kuehn St.; 9-5 all days; free admission; contact Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: www.tysonwells.com

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; Web sites: www.azminfun.com and www.flaggshow.info

Jan 16-17--FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: Show, "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, 1606 S. Hwy. 16, south of downtown Fredericksburg; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Rollin' Rock meeting Sun., hourly door prizes; contact Jeff Smith, 208 Castle Pines Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 895-9630; e-mail: jeffbrenda@windstream.net; Web site: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

Jan 22-24--TYLER, TEXAS: Show, "Gemstone and Jewelry Showcase"; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1; exhibits, demonstrations, fluorescent mineral display, geode cracking, dealers, rocks, minerals, jewelry, fossils, supplies, Wheel of Fortune, silent auction; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net

Jan 1-Feb 28--QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn Rd., south side of I-10, along frontage road; 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry; contact Sharon or Sandy, Desert Gardens RV Park, 1055 Kuhen St., P.O. Box 2818, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

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**We are on the web:
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Committees/Chairpersons

Show	Sallie Lightfoot
Field Trips	Tony & Judy Steele
Classes	Charlie Lightfoot
Nominating	James Grant
Programs	
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

TURQUOISE

Turquoise is a valuable mineral and is one of the most valuable non-transparent minerals used in the jewelry trade. It has been mined by early Egyptians since at least 6000 BC. Most specimens are cryptocrystalline, meaning that the crystals can only be seen by a microscope. The finest turquoise comes from Iran but is challenged by some southwestern United States specimens. Poorer quality turquoise is often dyed or color stabilized with coatings of various resins. The name comes from a French word which means stone of Turkey.

A sacred stone for the North American Indians as well as the Tibetans, it is often used by shamans in rituals and ceremonies. It is said to promote mental and spiritual clarity and expansion and to enhance wisdom, trust, kindness and understanding.

The color is, of course, turquoise, but this color actually varies from very green blue to light sky blue shades. Hardness of the stone ranges between 5 - 6. The color can change with exposure to skin oils if the stone has not been stabilized and therefore, jewelry should be wiped clean to deter this. Besides Iran, turquoise can be found in Arizona and New Mexico, USA, Australia, Afghanistan and other localities in the Middle East.

Folklore, Legend, and Healing Properties:

Turquoise attracts money, success and love. Its powers include protection, healing, courage, friendship, and luck. Relaxes the mind, and eases mental tension.

Turquoise is sacred to many Native American's and was carved in the shape of animals and birds. These carvings were placed in the Indians tombs to attract beneficial spirits and to guard the dead. Turquoise was also used by medicine men for healing and

by warriors who fixed turquoise to the end of their bows to insure accurate shots.
<http://www.bernardine.com/gemstones>



**DECEMBER FLOWER
HOLLY**

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