



THE INFORMER

**CENTRAL TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
 ABILENE CIVIC CENTER, N 6th & Pine Street
 APRIL 11th & 12th**

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From the Front Desk— President —Bob Patterson



It is time for the big push again; our annual rock show is April 11 and 12. Only two weeks from now. The day before the show is the setup day and this day is vital to the success and organization of the event.

The day before the show involves very clever orchestration of the setup of all the dealer's displays and the organization and layout of the various functions is managed by Tony and Judy Steele. Sally Lightfoot is the show chairman; if you have any related questions and would like to help I suggest that you start with her. She has a massive job to do and has managed our shows successfully for several years.

This event is vital to the health and well being of our rock club. Many of the dealers have told me that this is one of the better shows that they attend for profitability, organization and member support. So we have a high standard to continue to meet.

One of the problems that we periodically encounter is the conflict with Easter weekend and this occurs again this year. Also, we are facing the problem of the continuing adverse economic events. So we need to recognize and prepare for these conditions for which we don't have any control. This simply means we will have to work harder and support the chairpersons of the various areas of responsibility and get the word out to friends and potential attendees.

The silent auction is a vital function that generates substantial benefits for the club as well as being a place you can acquire some good items of both unfinished rough as well as cut stones and finished jewelry. If you have some material that is gathering dust on your shelves it might just be what someone is willing to pay a premium for. All these materials are donated to the club and high quality rocks, finished cabachons and jewelry commands premium prices and competition from interested buyers. The club realizes substantial income here so lets support the silent auction with donations and purchases.

Also, our club furnishes a lunch of sandwiches and snacks on Friday to the dealers and workers This food is prepared and donated by members and this is an important way that we can help. Each year the club sponsors a dinner Friday evening for the entire membership in honor of our dealers. Again, this function is based upon food prepared and donated by



Ocotillo Blooms
 South of Dryden,
 Texas

members. Each member is expected to provide two dishes of prepared food. To my knowledge, our club is the only one that provides these two functions. This means a lot to the dealers to have a good meal served at the end of a long tiring setup day. This dinner also provides an opportunity for communication and friendly hospitality. One of the high points of the evening of course is the award of the annual scholarship. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of Joann Wilks. And believe me this is harder than it looks.

Something to watch for:

During the last few years we have occasionally had some losses to dealers and others of valuable items due to theft, so we must be vigilant and watch for unusual people and occurrences. Some of our members have seen one individual coming in the back door, which is not guarded. It would be is easy to walk out with almost anything.

I personally lost a valuable short wave black light within 5 minutes of the close of the show. This was taken from my display just after I had left the fluorescent display area. These people also frequently target our dealers. As you are well aware, some of their items are quite valuable and portable. One dealer lost a very valuable stone, again, right at the close of the show.

Everyone, please remember to look after our dealers and personal items. Watch for unusual or peculiar occurrences. I am not experienced in this respect and maybe if any of our members are they might come forward and give us some tips of what to watch for.

Just remember it is very painful to lose an item you are proud of and which is irreplaceable. Let us all enjoy the show but also try to prevent this problem.

This could go on and on and maybe I am belaboring the point, but the success of this annual event is absolutely vital to the continued health and well being of the Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society. Our club is small but it has a reputation that vastly outweighs its size and I am proud to be a part of this friendly supportive group of people.

We were sad to learn of the passing of the wife of Herman Jones .Funeral was at the First Baptist Church in Midland at 2:00 on Saturday March 28th, For those who may not know Herman, he has been bringing Midland's club cases to our show for many years. May the good Lord comfort this family in this time of sorrow.— Don Brenholtz

Central Texas Gem & Mineral Jewelry Show - April 11th and 12th, 2009.

We need everyone at the civic center both days to make this show a success.

On Friday morning, we need several pickups and men to meet at the club house at 8:30am to haul all the show items to the civic center.

On Friday, our dealers will be coming in to set up their booths; we will feed them at noon so they do not have to go out of the civic center to find something to eat. I need volunteers for soup and sandwiches. Please let me know if you can furnish one or the other.

Our Dealer Dinner is Friday, April 10th at 7pm. We need the food there by 6:30pm. Everyone is to bring 2 large dishes (meat and salad, meat and dessert, vegetables and dessert.) At this time, we will present our two scholarship winners.

We need 3 or 4 raffle items for the show. These need to be nice items that you have made. Please let me know if you can furnish one. We also need 15 door prizes to give away to children. Please let me know if you will furnish one of these.

If you are going to fill a display case, you need to do this Friday or Saturday morning before we open at 10:00am

I need someone to volunteer to take show flyers to the radio stations and motels the week of the show. Please let me know if you would do this.

WE NEED EVERYONE WORKING TO MAKE THIS SHOW A SUCCESS!

Please call Sallie Lightfoot ASAP to let her know what you can do to help.

Call 325-692-4642 or email slightfoot@aol.com

Jim Belcher, a dealer at our show from the 70's thru the 90's passed away in Witchita Falls last week. Some of the old timers will remember him. He did shows all over the US and was one of our core dealers. He went to Hong Kong and other places and was known for his gemstone carvings and quality jewelry. The show circuit will miss him very much. He was a good friend to many of us and I talked to him quite often. — Dee Cable



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

President Bob Patterson called the meeting to order. 27 members and one guest were in attendance. Our guest was Lynne Beddoe, a past member who is interested in being a member again.

She signed up after the meeting. Bob Patterson asked James Grant to compose a prayer for the club. James wrote "A Rockhound's Prayer" which was read by the members, as follows:

To God, the creator of all Heaven and Earth
We are truly grateful
For the splendor and richness of your work.
Help us to see the beauty that surrounds us.
Show us how to preserve this bounty,
and share it with others. Amen.

After the pledge of allegiance, the secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. The financial report was read and accepted.

Old Business: For the club display at the Abilene Library from April 1st through the 30th Carlos suggested that five people each bring items to fill one shelf of the display case. Gary Hudson, Carlos Talley, Judy Steele, Ricky Alanis and Helen Patterson all volunteered to bring display items. Carlos and Joyce Talley and Gary Hudson volunteered to be at the library during Artwalk on Thursday, April 9th. They will hand out show fliers and talk to visitors about CTGMS.

New Business: Charlie Lightfoot suggested that the club buy a building to house the lawn mower donated by John and Ruth Sparks. The mower is at Charlie's house and he doesn't have room to store it. Tony suggested that a committee be appointed to look into buying a building. Tony, Gary and Charlie will serve on the committee and present its findings to the membership soon.

Zack Stockton said thank you for the cards and letters during his recent illness. Zack is donating copies of the club newslet-

ters that cover the last three years for the club archive. Thank you, Zack.

A new member arrived during the meeting. He is William Cooper, a writer. William brought several copies of his work "A Regal Collection of Poems", which he gave to interested members.

Judy Steele brought more cabs that Bill Myers sent. The cabs were sold at silent auction after the meeting. Bill has donated these and other cabs for the club's benefit and they are much admired and appreciated.

Committee Reports:

Show chair: Sallie Lightfoot needs workers for several projects for the show. She needs someone to be in charge of the portable signs for the show in April. These volunteers will distribute signs to members and be responsible for picking them up. We seem to lose several signs each year and if we don't collect them we will not have them for next year. Ricky Alanis volunteered to head the sand art table. This year the adult and children's tables will be combined. We also need someone to take show fliers to the hotels and motels near the Civic Center the week of the show.

Donations are needed for the children's door prizes. Fourteen prizes are needed. If you have something that would be appropriate for a child please talk to Sallie. She would also like to get donations for raffle items that are displayed at the registration table. Helen will be making a gem tree.

For the dealer lunch on Friday we need volunteers to provide soups and sandwiches. Please tell Sallie what you plan bring for the lunch. For the dealer dinner Friday evening everyone should bring two large dishes for the pot luck. Sallie has completed the labels for mailers and she will bring the labels and cards out to the clubhouse the last week of March.

Dealer Chair: Judy reported that all 12 dealers have paid and are squared away. The bead dealer from Oklahoma needs people to help during the show. She will pay the helpers. Ricky thinks he knows someone who can help out.

Jerry Davis needs more entries for the demonstration table this

The Shop Report — Foreman - Tim Walker

We have tumbling grit, polish, and saw oil for sale.

Look me up at the shop before you use the saws. You will be instructed in the use of each. A ruined blade can be very expensive to replace.



year. He would like demonstrators in lapidary, faceting and beading. Instruction sheets for demonstrators are at the clubhouse, along with sign up sheets.

Charlie Lightfoot will also have a sign up list for people who wish to check out a display case for the show. We still have a few cases available for members.

Scholarship chair Jo An Wilks reported that no student from the Boys Ranch has applied for a scholarship this year. She pointed out that no student from the Boys Ranch would be qualified as they are not over high school age. Jo An asked that the decision to award a scholarship to a Boys Ranch recipient be amended as follows: "The club will offer a second scholarship for 2009 and will determine annually if additional scholarships will be funded, making a total of two for that fiscal year. This additional scholarship will depend on the Club's funds available. The club will include Ben Richey Boys Ranch in our search for qualified scholars attending Abilene Christian University, Hardin Simmons University and McMurray University." After discussion, Bob asked the scholarship committee to review the issue and present its findings at the meeting after the show.

Jo An was happy to report that the scholarship committee has three students who qualify and have applied for the scholarship this year. One student has been selected. Jo An requested that a second scholarship be awarded this year to one of the other applicants. Gary moved that the second scholarship be awarded and the motion carried.

Shop Foreman Tim Walker asks that if anyone is having trouble with any of the saws to please let him know. Some of the saws are a little bit touchy and he doesn't mind showing you how to do it right!

Illnesses and deaths: Lou David Allen said thanks for all the cards, etc. for his family during Sierra's illness. She is doing really good now. She is within a few weeks of getting a new leg. Sierra has had nine surgeries in about a year. She is on interferon and low dose chemo for a lung tumor. Jay Abernathy is back home now after heart and lung transplants. Bill Gilles is taking radiation for prostate cancer.

Judy Steele, Helen Patterson and William Cooper will provide refreshments for the meeting in April.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

By:
Secretary, Beverly Vargo

TRIP TO ALBUQUERQUE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Carlos and I attended, along with our son, daughter in law and our 8 & 11 year old grandchildren, the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club Show on March 21, 2009.

They had a theme mineral for the show, which was the ruby. They hold their show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They also had 42 dealers. The club gives two awards of \$100 each to the North West Regional New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair. Also Two \$1000 scholarships to two undergrad students that major in geology at the University of New Mexico and the Other at New Mexico Tech.

They had a silent auction area and held one auction in the morning and two in the afternoon. Each lasts approximately 45 minutes. Five or six tables were set up and individual persons manned them. They also received the monies taken in and nothing went to the club. We didn't quite cotton to that arrangement.

There were also three or four educational displays sponsored or put on by New Mexico Museum of Natural History and other public entities.

We both agreed that they had an over abundance of bead tables. All the tables seemed to run into each other and aesthetically didn't look nearly as good as our show!! We also didn't think the show was that diversified over all.

They had three special exhibits. One was a wild spirit wolf from the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in Candy Kitchen, New Mexico. Another was a faceting demo and the other was a gold panning that I didn't see at all. I spent about 15 minutes with the two lady volunteers and the wolf, a really big white one. One of the ladies had been with him since two or three months old and he was eight years old. This was the best part of the show for me.

Submitted by:

Joyce Talley



OCOTILLO BLOOMS ON HUDSON RANCH



Editor's Notes:

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If you have a story or a news item please email it to me at ctgms50@clearwire.net

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.

Just in case you haven't noticed..... It's showtime!
 I personally am looking forward to mixing with our friends. So many bargains to be found.

I know some of you are in the same boat that I am in. Elaine and I have family coming over for Easter Dinner and the infamous Easter egg hunt after. I love to watch the little ones scrambling after their treasure.

I will be at the Civic Center all day Friday and Saturday. It will probably be around 2:00 or 3:00 before I make it back to help with the Show on Sunday. I'll be there to help pack it all up and haul it away.

I had the opportunity to go to the ranch two weekends in a row. I managed to take a few pictures and get some chores done. My grandson, 7 year-old Nick had a blast...literally! He finally got the hang of his little Chipmunk single shot 22 rifle. He practiced several hours, went through about 250 rounds and was hitting his target consistently at 50 yards by the time we left. Saturday night the wind settled down enough for a camp fire and a wiener roast. He said it just don't get any better than that. The only problem he had was that he was afraid he would probably need a new gun, because he just about wore his out!!!! He picked up several fossils and got in a fight with a catclaw bush. The ocotillo and claret cup cactus was blooming, the deer were around, and the sunset was beautiful!

See you at the Show —Gary



BIRTHDAYS

Jeffrey Swapp	April	9
Errol Rutledge	April	16
Dave Vargo	April	17
Michael Reynolds	April	18
Tricia Harvey	April	21
Harry Dhans	April	25

ANNIVERSARIES

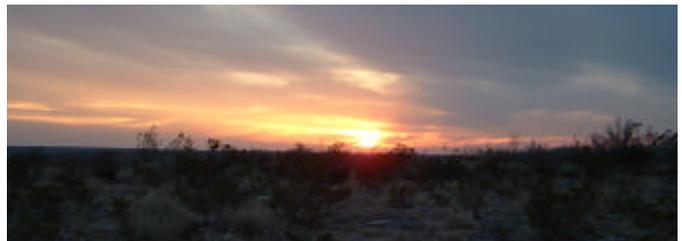
Charley & Norma Ann Harrison April 20

GET WELL SOON!



Ernie Wright
Lou David's granddaughter, Sierra doing better
Judy Abernathy's son Jay is home after heart and lung transplant

They all need our prayers



West Texas sunset by Gary Hudson



Upcoming Shows

APRIL

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society will hold their annual Swap and Sell Meet on Saturday April 18th. If anyone in your group would like to reserve a table please email Kathleen Howard at: khoward15@austin.rr.com. Or you may phone 512 491-9201 and leave a message. The AGMS club house is located at 6719 Burnet Lane, just north of the intersection of Burnet Road and 2222. The meet will be held from 10am until 4pm. The doors will be opened at 7am that morning for set up. There will be a pot luck luncheon that all vendors are welcome to contribute to and attend. Please come!!

17-19--ALPINE, TEXAS: 20th annual show, "Treasures of West Texas"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Highland Events Center, Hwy. 90, across from Sul Ross State University; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; 2nd annual Collegiate Geology "Box of Rocks" Competition, Kids' Corner, door prizes, rock food table, Rock For Life dance, Grub Run Rally, field trips (Woodward Ranch, Shafter Silver Mine, Red Rock Ranch); contact Donna Trammel, (432) 426-2924; e-mail: rocklady2002@sbcglobal.net

25-26--WACO, TEXAS: Show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; Heart of Texas Fairgrounds, Bosque Ave.; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students and children \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Road 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311; e-mail: rkcole8@peoplepc.com

MAY

8-10--OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA: Show; ; Oklahoma State Fair Grounds, 3212 Wichita Walk; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: www.myspace.com/beadjamboree

15-17--GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 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; Web site: www.beadshow.com

16-17--LUBBOCK, TEXAS: 51st show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: asscott3@windstream.net

22-24--CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS: Show; ; Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center, 402 Harbor Dr.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; free admission; \$100 shopping spree drawing each day; contact Kateri Rose, (509) 690-7644; Web site: www.myspace.com/beadjamboree

23-24--FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Show, "Jumpin' for Geodes"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, children 12 and under free; jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, more than 25 dealers, demonstrations, displays, silent auction, kids' Wheel of Chance and rock/fossil dig, door prizes; contact Steve Hilliard, P.O. Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.com

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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
DIAMOND**



If you've ever felt mesmerized by the dazzling rainbow of colors reflected in a skillfully cut diamond, then you've experienced the mystique of April's birthstone. Once an adornment possessed only by kings, this beautiful gem is surrounded by romance, mystery, and passion. Many stories surround the gift of a diamond as a token of affection. The ancient Greeks believed that the fire of a diamond reflected the flame of everlasting love. Archduke Maximilian of Austria apparently agreed -- in 1477, he gave a diamond ring to his fiancée, Mary of Burgundy. And so began the tradition of presenting the diamond as a promise of marriage.



RAW DIAMOND



Claret cup cacti in full bloom south of Dryden, Tx

**APRIL FLOWER OF THE
MONTH
DAISY**



www.gardenersnet.com/flower/daisy.htm

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