Gemstone of the Month

Chalcedony

Volcanic geode filled with chalcedony, Morocco. Size 17 x 12 cm. Photo: Albert Russ
Club News

Our last meeting was devoted to our annual auction. We had some wonderful rocks there, thanks largely to donations from the Frank O'Donley estate and Joyce and Delbert Speed. Rick Litsinger was an awesome auctioneer! He got us through everything members had "stickered" as items they wanted to buy so we could end the auction shortly after 9PM. We made over $1400 for the club coffers. Thank you, Rick! Thanks also to Sue Poarch, Joyce and Delbert Speed, and Dale Miller for helping run the auction.

Since we devoted the last meeting to the auction, I didn't have a chance to tell you about some of the other things that have been happening at the club. We have a new roof! A new gutter system will be installed soon. Best of all, insurance covered the cost of the entire project!

You may have noticed a new AGMC communication in your inbox. We frequently get emails about items for sale that the sender would like us to forward to the membership. While we'd like to accommodate everyone who asks, we don't want to flood members with emails they may consider as spam. John Crabb came up with a solution to our ongoing quandary of what to send and what not to send. He has started a separate E-Bulletin Board that will forward emails about lapidary-related items for sale, events from other clubs, etc. If you don't want to receive these emails, just let John know and he will remove you from the E-Bulletin Board mailing list. All official AGMC communications will still go out under our original header.

And speaking of bulletin boards - Vickie Follett has taken over responsibility for the long-neglected clubhouse bulletin board. If you have something posted that you expected to stay forever, be advised that it will be coming down in a couple of months.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, November 3. It's safety training and instructor and supervisor appreciation night.

Carrie Baum, President
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING: 7:00 PM, LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVE AS UNPAID VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO FILL A VACANT POSITION PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESIDENT.

ELECTED OFFICERS (Voting)

President                                 Carrie Baum
Secretary                                Marlenia Cohen
Treasurer - Finance                      Stephen Bennett
1st Vice Pres. (Operational/Educational Classes)   Emie Stewart
2nd Vice Pres. (Programs)                 Jesse Baum
3rd Vice Pres. (Field Trips)              Billy Harris
4th Vice Pres. (Youth Programs)           Janet Gray
Delegate at Large (Ombudsperson)         Ray Wilkes

APPONTED POSITIONS (Voting)

Past President (Donations Chairperson)    Carl Wells
Bulletin (The Hound’s Tale) Editor        Gerald Pennington
Show Chairperson                         Anastasia Chaparro
Lapidary Department Chairperson           Barbara Maloney
Membership Chairperson                    John Crabb

APPONTED POSITIONS (Non-Voting)

Library Chairperson                      Earlene Davis
Building Chairpersons                    Lauren Smith & Jesse Baum
Hospitality Chairperson                  Jackie Peel
Welcome Chairpersons                     Jan Schulte
Constitution and By-Laws Chairperson     Karen Cessna
Long-Range Planning Chairperson          VACANT
Parliamentary Procedure Chairperson      Deana Whitney
Historian Chairperson                    VACANT
Lost and Found                           Ingrid Hoffens-Lantz

People interested in serving the club in these VACANT positions, please contact President Carrie Baum.

OPERATIONS VOLUNTEERS (Non-Voting)

Webmaster                                Darcy Sety
Sunshine                                 Vickie Follett
Newsletter Mailing                      Lois McCormick
Grounds                                  Barbara Poplin
Computer/Electronics Technology          Torre Quinn
Website Software Development             Darcy Sety
International Gem and Jewelry            Joyce Speed
AKS Shows                                Kris Galbraith

THE HOUND’S TALE
Published monthly by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club.

ADS AND ARTICLES
Lapidary related ads and articles from members of AGMC are welcomed. They will be placed on a space available basis, first in first out. Include your name and contact information. Send ads and articles to the editor at our website: http://www.agemclub.org, click on “CONTACTS” (upper right), then, on the next page click on “Hound’s Tale Editor” (bottom center). Alternatively, you can send them to GeraldinDallas@gmail.com.

Deadline date for ads and articles is the 15th of the month.
Chalcedony - the Chameleon Gemstone
Author: Joelle Paroline

Chalcedony is very variable and versatile stone and occurs in many environments. It was used since prehistoric times for stone tools and became one of the most used gemstones. Despite its abundancy, chalcedony still has some secrets.

Structure
Chalcedony is not a scientifically recognized mineral, since it is a variety of quartz. Similar to alpha (lower) quartz, chalcedony sports a trigonal crystal system. The chemical composition of chalcedony is the same as that of quartz - SiO₂, or silicon dioxide. This shared chemical formula can be attributed to the fact that chalcedony is itself a cryptocrystalline form of quartz. Its crystals are only able to be seen when it is viewed under a microscope. Its appearance, to the naked eye, makes it seems like it contains no crystalline structure whatsoever. Chalcedony forms botryoidal, rounded, mammillary or stalactitic aggregates, and it is common to find geodes filled with chalcedony.

Volcanic geode filled with chalcedony, Morocco. Size 17 x 12 cm. Photo: Albert Russ

Tiny chalcedony crystals form microscopic fibers aligned along the c-axis. The microcrystals stacked perpendicular to the c-axis are called length-fast chalcedony. The microcrystals stacked parallel to c-axis are called length-slow chalcedony, or quartzine. Both of these chalcedony forms are often intergrown, but quartzine is far less common. Chalcedony also often contains monoclinic SiO₂ called möganite (usually up to 20 %). Móganite is unstable and slowly recrystallizes into normal quartz. A small amount of water is also often present in the chalcedony structure. The water is partially absorbed into the fibrous microstructure and partially incorporated into the structure as Si-OH bonds. Chalcedony might seem to be a simple mineral, but its structure still contains a lot of scientific mysteries.

Physical Properties
The colors of chalcedony are as varied as the shades of quartz, but they do present themselves a bit differently. Chalcedony may be found in multicolored, banded, or colorless variations; it may be red, yellow, orange, blue, green, purple, pink, gray, brown, or white. Depending on the body color of the type of chalcedony, the stone may be opaque or transparent. Most often, its luster is waxy, dull, or vitreous, but rarely, it may appear iridescent.

Calcite covered by orange chalcedony from Vlastějovice, Czech Republic. Left in daylight, right under shortwave UV light. Size 10 x 8 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival

Chalcedony has conchoidal fracture and no cleavage. Its specific gravity is about 2.6-2.7 g/cm³ and it registers a 6 on the Moh's scale of hardness. Many forms of chalcedony display yellowish or greenish fluorescence in
Occurrence

Chalcedony usually occurs in low or medium temperatures, and it is a very commonplace mineral. It is often present in hydrothermal veins, although that is not the only instance of its natural formation. It may also be found in volcanic rocks as fillings in veins, in volcanic bubbles called geodes, in limestone layers, in sandstone as cement, and as an agent of fossilization.

*Chalcedony from Ahnikov, Czech Republic. Size 9 x 7 cm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel*

Chalcedony forms in a wide variety of geological locations. It may create stalactites or layers of filling in rock cavities and geodes. When naturally-occurring silica gel is present with water and at a low to mid temperature, chalcedony forms. It is uncommon in metamorphic and igneous rocks, but it does still exist in warm veins of watery silica.

*Green chalcedony from Kozákov, Czech Republic. Size 8 x 7 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*

Chalcedony was first discovered in Istanbul, in Turkey, and was named for the Chalcedon area in which it was found. Chalcedony is often connected with occurrence of agates in volcanic rocks. The most important chalcedony locations include agate fields in Brazil, Uruguay, Morocco, Mexico or Malawi. Deccan trap basalts in India usually lack agates, but have yielded some very nice chalcedony specimens together with zeolites. Famous chalcedony-replaced corals are from Tampa Bay, Florida. Awesome fossilized woods made of chalcedony occur in the Petrified Forest in Arizona; lesser-known huge fossilized wood comes from Mongolia. Most of the petrified wood found worldwide is fossilized by chalcedony or opal. Very nice flint comes from Rugen Island in Germany as well as many other sites in cretaceous sediments along the German, French and British coast. One famous chrysoprase location is in an abandoned nickel mine in Szklary, Poland.

*Detail of the fine chalcedony from Železnice, Czech Republic. FOV 0.4 mm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel*

Varieties

Chalcedony comes in many forms and colors, and therefore there are many different varieties of this stone. There is often no solid definition for one particular variation of chalcedony. Many locations have specific labels for their varieties, so that a stone may be called jasper in one place and agate or bloodstone in another. The following list contains only the most widely used and recognized varieties.

**Bloodstone (heliotrope)**

Bloodstone (or heliotrope) is a unique variety of chalcedony, usually covered in red spots that resemble drops of blood. These markings stand out against the dark green body color of the stone. Bloodstone forms when chlorite appears as an inclusion in chalcedony along with iron oxide impurities in the stone. The chlorite causes the stone’s green color, and the impurities provide the "blood."

*Bloodstone with less typical appearance from Kozákov, Czech Republic. Ivo Haliček collection, size 9 x 6 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*
Carnelian

Carnelian is a vivid type of chalcedony, characterized by its bright and striking color, which can be orange, amber, or red. It is not a gem of high value, but it is still used in some jewelry regardless. Most of the time, carnelian presents a natural color, but many carnelians on the market are in fact dyed quartz or low quality chalcedony.

*Carnelian in green fluorite from Blahuňov, Czech Republic. FOV 3 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*

Jasper

One very popular variety of chalcedony is the red, brown, or yellow stone known as jasper. This stone usually presents as multicolored, and features fascinating mottling, stripes, rings, and spots that are never quite the same in two separate stones. There are dozens of different trade names for jasper variations, depending on their colors or the types of inclusions they may feature.

*Colorful jasper from Aouli, Morocco. Size 7 x 6.5 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*

Plasma

An uncommon type of chalcedony that many people have not heard of is the variation known as plasma. This dark green stone is usually opaque, which makes its red, yellow, or white spots stand out well. These spots are caused by impurities in the stone. Although its coloration is similar to bloodstone, the two are different gems. In fact, plasma is not pure chalcedony, but a mixture of chalcedony, quartz and mōganite. Unlike other chalcedony types - often connected with volcanic activity - plasma originates from the decomposition of mantle rocks called peridotites. While the peridotite decomposes, it forms serpentine rocks and releases silica gels. These gels usually form abundant opals and, less often, chalcedony or plasma.

*Dark green plasma from Bojanovice, Czech Republic. Size 7 x 5 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*

Chrysoprase

When nickel impurities are present in a chalcedony specimen, the result is known as chrysoprase. Chrysoprase can occur in a variety of shades of green, from a pale yellow-green mint to a deep apple shade. The darker shades of chrysoprase are commonly used in rings and necklaces, but if the stone is too dark, it becomes classified as prase and is no longer as desirable. Chrysoprase might be easily confused with apple green opals, also colored by nickel.

*Chrysoprase from Szklary, Poland. Ivo Halíček collection, size 13 x 6.5 cm. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival*
Chert and Flint
Chert and flint are often used as synonyms. Both names refer to an easily breakable sedimentary formation of chalcedony, which can be found in nodule form as well as in layered deposits or concretionary masses. Flint is a good quality variety of chert from chalks and limestones. It was used as a popular material for tools in prehistoric times. Chert is a broader term referring to any grayish, brown or black sedimentary types of chalcedony. Exact scientific classification of chert is still uncertain. It has mixed structure made of both microcrystalline quartz and microfibers of silica and thus can be classified also as a sedimentary rock.

Prehistoric blade made of gray flint. Photo: Zbyněk Buřival

Tiger's Eye
Tiger's eye is a popular chalcedony variant used in the making of beads and carved jewelry. It is not commonly used in cabochons or other cuts. When crocidolite absorbs quartz, this fibrous chalcedony is formed. The brown and yellow multicolored nature of this stone comes from its chatoyancy, which means that it has string-like inclusions making it resemble a cat's eye.

Sample of rough Tiger's Eye from South Africa. Photo: Ra’ike

Hawkeye
Hawkeye is very similar to tiger's eye, although it comes in blue-gray to blue-green rather than the yellow to brown of its cousin. Hawkeye, too, is formed when crocidolite becomes embedded with quartz over time, but the pseudomorph is incomplete. Thus, hawkeye is a mixture of fibrous asbestos with chalcedony. Like tiger's eye, too, hawkeye is chatoyant in nature.

Petrified wood and corals
Coral and petrified wood are organic gemstones, as opposed to the majority of others, which are mineral in nature. When a living coral dies in the ocean, pieces of it break off and leave the dead skeleton of the coral behind. The coral skeleton, which is made of calcite, is slowly replaced by chalcedony. It occurs naturally in white or the more commonly seen pink-orange.

Polished slab of wood fossilized by chalcedony from Studenec, Czech Republic. Size 20 x 13 cm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel

Petrified wood is similar, but different. It is organic plant matter that has been overtaken by a quartz - in this case, chalcedony - and fully fossilized. Over time, the organic material simply becomes replaced by the chalcedony. Both of these organic gemstones are popular for use in jewelry.

Agate
This variety of quartz features banded patterns and a variety of colors, including red, blue, green, white, brown, purple, orange, pink, yellow, black, gray, and any combination of these colors. No two cuts of agate are exactly alike, making it an interesting stone for carvings such as statues or pins.

Volcanic geode with agate from Chihuahua, Mexico. Size 12 x 11 cm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel
Agate is not made by chalcedony only. The various layers may consist of chalcedony, quartz and opal, and many agates may contain a hollow space inside that is filled with quartz crystals, calcite, or goethite. Unfortunately, most agates from Brazil are dyed - often with unnatural colors like bright pink, dark blue, green and many others.

**Typical volcanic thunder egg with agate from Nowy Kosciol, Poland.** Size 13 x 11 cm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel

True agate is a typical geode or *thunder egg* (bubble in the lava) that is filled by layers of various SiO$_2$ variations, mostly chalcedony and quartz. However, many dealers and collectors have created special types of agate like moss agate, feather agate and more, which do not have banding at all. These types of agate may as well be labelled jasper or chalcedony.

**Quartz vein with chalcedony from Horní Halže, Czech Republic is often labeled as "lightning agate".** Size 10 x 7.5 cm. Photo: Vítězslav Snášel

Vein material made mostly of quartz and chalcedony from Krusne Hory in Czech Republic and Erzgebirge in Germany is also called agate. However, most of this material also lacks banded patterns. There are so many sub-varieties and alternate types of agate that it requires its own special article.

### PROGRAMS
By Jesse Baum, 2nd V.P.

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### 2016 Annual AGMC SHOW Lapidary

Jeremy Dubhros has kindly offered to be in charge of the cutting for the show auction. He will start ASAP and continue throughout the year in order to assure we have plenty of good rough available. He said that he would be able to find people to help him as he went along. Please see that he has full cooperation in this matter. He will be coordinating with Barbara Maloney.

Thanks much,
Anastasia Chaparro
Collecting Petrified Wood at the Lignite Mine near Jewett, Texas
By Neal Immega
Ph.D. Paleontologist
Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

They said we could bring a big bucket for collecting petrified wood. How about this one? (Below)

Rick Rexroad put together a perfect summer trip to Jewett, Texas, to collect petrified wood. We also got a wonderful mine tour. The Westmoreland Coal Company operates a lignite mine that feeds a BIG power plant near the town of Jewett. The company welcomes visitors so that they can see firsthand how strip mining should be done. They have been mining about 35,000 acres over a period of about 30 years, and the land is being left BETTER than they found it. Ranch land in the area sells for about $1,500/acre in its original state, but after strip-mining, it goes for about $4,000/acre because it is suitable for row crops. The power plant that uses the lignite is extremely clean because it incorporates sulfur scrubbers.
The mine is on a really big scale—it has to be big to be profitable. They recover a puny 6–10-foot lignite seam after removing 100 feet of overburden. To give you an idea of scale, the white box on the dragline in the picture on the previous page is 100 feet long, and the reach of the boom is 300+ feet.

The lignite is found in river swamp deposits of the Wilcox Group, Calvert Bluff Formation. The sediments are mostly sand mixed with a minor amount of clay. The part that interests us is the petrified wood, and that is found in chunks and log jams in and above the lignite. The HGMS expert, Scott Singleton, has used thin section examination to identify these logs as bald cypress. Superficially, the only thing you can tell in the field using a loupe is that the logs are from conifers.

I have seen full round logs in Wilco lignite mines that are half petrified wood and half lignite. I have been told that sometimes the dragline operators find huge log jams positioned above the lignite layer, and they treat them just like all the other non-burnable over burden. Some of wood was partially rotten before burial, and now the rot cavities are filled with sparkling black quartz crystals.

Our tour guide, the mine engineer, would not let us collect from the cut faces for safety reasons. Instead, he took us to the bonanza of wood at the screening station and told us to PLEASE haul away all we wanted. They only want it if it will burn. This is the best piece found, a full round.

The trip was perfect with sightseeing from an air-conditioned van followed by a surfeit of petrified wood. A new member summed it up “This is one of the five best trips I have ever been on!”

Thanks, Rick. Thanks, Westmoreland Coal Company.

“Collect All You Want”
Everybody in every gem & mineral club in the DFW area knows Frances Johnson. Frances is known for her sweet disposition, her beautiful smile, and her unfailing knowledge of gemstones. Frances is the sweetheart of all the DFW area gem & mineral clubs. Frances volunteers at every local gem & mineral show, identifying gemstones.

Frances Johnson with Arnold Duke at the Fort Worth Convention Center. (Photo is on the website of The International Jewelry Show)

I have heard a lot of good things about Frances Johnson and most of them are true but a couple of things I had heard need to be straightened out.

- Number One, Frances is not the first female Gemologist in the state of Texas. She became certified in 1981 and certainly is well respected in Texas but was not the first female GIA certified in Texas.
- Number Two, Frances is the first generation of her family to work in this field. She has copious notes in a notebook that is a treasure trove of information, but they are all her own notes.

Frances remembers her first Gem & Jewelry Show in Dallas at Fair Park in 1958. She was there visiting the vendors and got a big shock when she found her sister-in-law selling Graves Faceting machines with Mr. Graves! Frances had no idea that anybody else in the family was even remotely interested in gemstones or the lapidary arts. Frances had a Graves faceting machine for years and later traded it to a Brazilian for a pound of aquamarines (she still thinks she made a bad deal!). Today she uses a Raytech faceting machine and loves it. Her faceted stones rival any faceted with the high tech faceting machines available today.

Frances keeps current by reading Gems & Gemology, the quarterly journal of the Gemological Institute of America. Frances keeps herself young by keeping busy. She is always helping out at area gem & mineral shows with her free services, identifying gemstones for those attending the shows. You will also find Frances at the club cutting and polishing cabochons.

Frances is fascinated by the orderliness of gems – the crystal planes exhibited by each and the chemical composition. She loves the beauty of gems and that is what got her hooked when she attended the second meeting of the Dallas Gem & Mineral Society in 1956, (at the urging of her friend, Dawn Tims) where Frances became a charter member. As the club was new, members were being solicited for officers during that meeting. While Dawn Tims was talking to Frances the President appointed Dawn in charge of Field Trips, and Frances was volunteered to be the first Editor of the newsletter, Rok Tok. She remembers seeing the “Star of Arkansas”, a 15.33 carat diamond (8.27 carat cut weight) which Winnie Parker found in March 1956 and had faceted by a New York City jeweler. It was bought at Christie's in New York in 1994 per $145,000.
Frances was on the first field trip of the Dallas Gem & Mineral Society - to Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. She actually found a .41 carat brown diamond. She laughs and says she still thinks the President of the club, Dwight Halstead, planted the diamonds for her and the other three women to get them hooked. Frances still loves to hunt rocks.

Dawn Tims became the first Field Trip Coordinator and Frances was the first newsletter editor for Dallas Gem & Mineral Society. Frances made a sugar spoon with her silversmithing skills and won a blue ribbon at the Texas State Fair. She also made a silver bracelet that has gold wire on it, and still has it to this day. Some of her silversmithing was learned at John Zymack Studios across from the YMCA in downtown Dallas.

Some more things that you may not know about Frances:
• In 1961 Frances married the love of her life, John Johnson. Unfortunately he passed away in 1999. People tell me he sang to her all the time, and it was not uncommon for John to burst out singing a love song to Frances.
• Her Grandmother Mallison made a living by sewing, and Frances is no stranger to a sewing machine.
• Frances’ Mother took her to the missions on Harry Hines where children were taught to sew.
• When in Stowe, Vermont, she got to meet Maria von Trapp, and also saw her perform at U.N.T. For those who don’t recognize the name Maria von Trapp, think “The Sound of Music”, singing von Trapp Family. Now you recognize the name?
• Frances graduated from the University of North Texas when it was still a teacher college in January 1943 with a degree in Sociology and minors in Spanish, Home Economics and Psychology. That was just after Pat Boone graduated. Oh come on, you know who Pat Boone is!
• After graduating, Frances went into the Navy as a WAVE in the Hospital Corps, from 1943-1945. She was stationed in Corona, California, at the Lake Norconian Club, a legendary resort of the west coast which was turned into a naval hospital base and prison in 1941, where patients from the Pearl Harbor attack were housed and treated.
• Frances took a class from commercial artist, George Kadel, and did four color screen printing.
• Her favorite silversmithing teacher is Sam Howeth. “He teaches in an orderly manner, so you learn silversmithing better.”
• Did you know that Frances was a pilot? She took flying lessons in 1951 and still has her Student Pilot Certificate.

Don’t forget to send Frances a birthday card this year on December 23, 2015. She does not look it and she does not act it, but Frances will turn 99 this year!

Salute!
U. S. Navy Pharmacists Mate 3c.
Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club
Field Trip to Midlothian, TX

Purpose: To collect many species of shark teeth, other marine fossils, and pyrite specimens.

Date & Time: Saturday, November 7th, 7:30am to noon, if you are late, you will not be let in.
Fees: None
Location: We will be collecting at only one location on this trip: Martin Marietta formerly TXI
Cement Quarry, 245 Ward Road, Midlothian TX 76065

Meeting Place: On the shoulder of Ward Road outside guard gate in front of Martin Marietta (TXI),
near the Credit Union. From Fort Worth take 287 south and get on 67 south and exit Ward Road and turn
left and go about a mile. From Dallas take 67 south and exit Ward Road and turn left and go about a
mile. See map.

Preparations: Closed sturdy shoes and long pants are required by the host facility. Water,
sunscreen, basic collecting tools and buckets. Picnic lunch.

Important Notes: I need to get a head count ASAP so please contact me if you wish to go. CERA and
Fort Worth club members have priority with all others being added to the list in the order I receive their
email or phone call. Members of any area rockhound club are welcome so long as their club has third
party liability insurance. Please be sure you will be able to attend before signing up and if
something comes up and your plans change please let me know so I can contact anyone who may be on a
stand-by list.

I will bring Liability release forms everyone will need to sign.

No children under the age of 7, or pets are allowed due to host facility requirements. These quarries often cancel
our trips, sometimes at the last minute, as a result of recent or breaking weather conditions. My cell number
is 817-800-1367, email is CERA.Fieldtrips@gmail.com
Rollin' Rock Club's Alpine-area Fall Rock Hunt Schedule
Teri Smith, agatehunter@sbcglobal.net

Here's a complete schedule (so far) for the Fall 2015 rock hunts. The 2015-2016 rock hunting season will begin on Wed., 10/7. The schedule includes the Big Bend Agate Roundup rock hunts scheduled for 10/19 - 11/2. Right now, I don't have any rock hunts scheduled during mule deer season, which is 11/27 - 12/13 this year. 11/27 is the day after Thanksgiving, and 12/13 is a Sunday. HOWEVER, I can probably schedule rock hunts during that time on the Singleton, East Needle Peak, and South Larremore ranches, once the landowners have decided when to allow deer hunters onto their ranches. So - if that's your vacation, and you wish to go rock hunting, let me know and I'll see what I can schedule. I won't be available from 11/19 - 24, as the 23rd is our (John & Teri Smith's) 30th anniversary, and we hope to have our family visit us during that time.

Fri., 10/30: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sat., 10/31: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.

Sun., 11/1: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Mon., 11/2: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.
Wed., 11/11: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.
Thurs., 11/12: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Fri., 11/13: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sat., 11/14: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sun., 11/15: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Mon., 11/16: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.

Wed., 12/16: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.
Thurs., 12/17: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Fri., 12/18: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sat., 12/19: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sun., 12/20: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Mon., 12/21: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.
Wed., 12/23: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.
Thurs., 12/24: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Fri., 12/25: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sat., 12/26: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Sun., 12/27: Singleton Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost: $50 per person per day.
Mon., 12/28: South Larremore Ranch. Start: 8:00 a.m. Cost $40 per person per day.

Note that all of the field trips begin at the Antelope Lodge, 2310 W. Highway 90, Alpine.
The price for the Walker Ranch is: $75 per person per day, or $150 per person for 3 days. The fourth and fifth days are $37.50 each. I believe that Bryan Crumpton will offer the usual "pay in full and get an extra day free" deal for the Walker Ranch hunt, but I haven't gotten the details for that yet.

Also, remember that Rollin' Rock Club membership is required for all of my rock hunts, and it costs $10 single/$16 dual. If you haven't joined yet this year, your dues will pay for the rest of 2015 and for the 2016 calendar year. Please let me know as soon as you decide that you are coming on a
particular rock hunt or set of rock hunts. Even if you are tentatively planning on coming, let me know. If I don't have anyone signed up for a rock hunt a week before the hunt is to occur, I will cancel the hunt. I will then make other plans for that day and not be available if someone wants me to "un-cancel" the hunt at the last minute.

Regards, Teri Smith, Rollin' Rock Club

Local Area Club Meetings

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75244), 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 pm
Farmers Branch Senior Center, Rock & Mineral Club, 14055 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234, meets the first Thursday of each month from 10am - noon. NO FEES FOR THIS CLUB!
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club, CERA's Bryant Irvin Recreation Complex, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm.
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas, TX, 75233, 4th Tuesday each month at 7 – 9:30pm
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, TX meets the 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 pm

Lapidary Lab Schedule, November 2015
By Barbara Maloney

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<td>11/28/2015</td>
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Winter Driving Tips
By Neal Chisholm

Being an x-pat Yankee, ‘I have the knowing of a lot of things’ (Mad Max, from the movie Return to Thunder Doom). One of the things I know is how to drive on snow and ice. Before setting out on your winter’s journey, you have to have the right equipment for the situation. Here are my thoughts on the subject.

Let’s start with your vehicle. If the snow depth is more than 10 inches, leave the low-rider and Corvette in the garage. Many cars and some trucks do not have sufficient ground clearance to handle a real, Yankee-style snow storm. This decision may have inadvertently been made for you, because, if your garage is anything like mine, it will be frozen shut. If the road conditions are more like ice, freezing slush or frozen oatmeal, you need a late-model, front wheel drive vehicle, preferable in a dark color if blaze orange was not available when you bought the car. Why dark? Because trying to see a white car on a snowy day is like trying to spot a polar bear, eating vanilla ice cream, in a snowstorm. Driving with your lights on can also help other drivers see you coming and get out of your way. Also, an automatic transmission is preferred over a manual, but, for an experienced gear-jammer, the advantage is minor. Actually, driving in slippery conditions is easier with a manual because you can pop the clutch and the engine won’t stall because the wheels will spin.

If you have a rear wheel drive truck, you can pile 500 pounds of cement blocks in the bed and thereby shift the center of gravity to give you a little more traction, however you will have less steering control, especially if the front wheels are just barely touching the ground. If you don’t have 500 pounds of cement blocks handy, how about using your rock collection? That has to be at least 500 pounds. There is a front-wheel drive corollary to this tactic, but piling 500 pounds of cement blocks on the hood of your car makes it hard to see the road and they scratch the paint.

The other thing you have to do is plan the route to your destination. Avoid roads with ditches, freeways, bridges, hills and drivers who have never been north of the Mason-Dixon Line in January. This may add several miles to your journey, but it is well worth it. Also, select a route that goes past buildings that have good snow removal, such as hospitals, the FBI building, schools and the mayor’s house.

If you are going on a long trip, it is important to have a full gas tank. I remember being stranded on the Ohio turnpike for 7 hours and watching gas gauge on my Dodge sink below 1/4 while the car idled to keep us warm. The next exit was 3 miles up the road and it took another 2 hours to go 3 miles, since the roadway was coated with an inch of ice. I had tire chains on the drive wheels, but that doesn’t help when the problem is a couple of hundred of stuck cars and trucks in front of you. For most typical, but important trips, like going to work, going to your AGMC cabbing class, or going on a cigarette run, half a tank will be just fine. Actually, a good old ice storm or blizzard is a good reason to quit smoking.

Never drive over 20 mph. Never surrender your momentum to a stop sign. If the bridge is level, take your foot off the gas and coast across it. Keep one wheel on dry pavement, or wet pavement, or slushy pavement (in that order). However, if everything is frozen, or re-frozen, keep a wheel in the crunchy frozen slush, even if it is on the centerline. Turn your radio off so you can hear the difference sounds made by your wheels on the snow/slush/ice covered pavement.

Bring a ‘pusher’ – an undrafted burly linebacker type, complete with steel tipped football cleats is the kind of guy you want. Bringing the whole offensive line might be overkill, besides all that ‘beef’ will reduce your ground clearance. A slugging 1st baseman, or DH as long as his knees aren’t shot, will work equally well. Except, baseball players may be at spring training if it is a late-season storm.
Having good tires on your car is important. Winter is no season to get the last few hundred miles of wear out of your old set of firestones. Also, having a fully charged cell phone and the phone number of several towing services is important. Do not count on your husband, boyfriend and/or teenage offspring (of either gender), to be able to pull you out of a snow bank with the family minivan. Other items you might need are a 100 foot long tow rope, jumper cables, a warm hat, coat and boots. In the real north-country where the accumulation is over 100 inches per year (e.g. Buffalo), snowshoes are recommended. Sandals, flip-flops, and stiletto high heels might be the fashion rage, but they are not good for walking 2 miles thru the snow to the nearest farm house, although the farmer will get a big kick out of the stilettos.

A thick plastic window scrapper works a lot better than your American Express card. I have a scrapper I bought 25 years ago in Detroit. It has a rubber squeegee blade in addition to the plastic blade. Such a scrapper is worth its weight in gold, so if you see one at the auto parts store and it costs $15 – buy it. Fill your washer fluid reservoir with solution that has a freezing point of 0 degrees F, or lower. This fluid is usually purple. The sort of washer fluid sold around here is usually blue and I refer to it as ‘Texas bug-wash’. It has a freezing point of only 25 degrees F and doesn’t cut it on a really cold day. If your reservoir freezes solid, pour hot water in, and over it, until it thaws enough to syphon out the slush, then pour in some of the purple stuff. If you are on the road when this happen, you can use hot coffee to thaw out the reservoir. My car takes it black, but you can add cream and sugar if yours likes it light and sweet. If you are paying Starbucks prices for the coffee, it may cost you a 100 bucks. Find a convenience store with free refills.

Some people keep a bag of kitty litter in their trunk for icy conditions. I have mixed feelings about kitty litter; it may get you out of a slippery spot, but it also attracts cats, which drive my dog nuts. If you are vigorously anti-feline, then try a 50# bag of organically grown brown rice as an alternative to kitty litter. Sure, it costs more, but if you ever have to use it, you’ll be feeding the wildlife at the same time. Good luck and hopefully all this prep-work has delayed your trip until after the spring thaw.

Bench Tips, By Brad Smith

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS
Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They’re wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff wheel or other type of grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small pierced areas of your waxes.

REMOVING A STONE FROM BEZEL SETTING
If you’ve forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there’s one thing you can try before starting to pry. Find some sticky wax or beeswax. Roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it on well and yank. But if the stone is really stuck, there are two other tricks - but each with risks and consequences.

- The first is to pry open the bezel with a sharp knife blade being very careful not to wrinkle or tear the bezel. If you try this, make sure to pry gently in several passes around the stone.
- The last solution is to drill a small hole into the bezel setting from the back side so that you can push the stone out. Note that this does leave a hole, but in some cases you can use it to saw out a design under the stone.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"
Are available on Amazon
Area Gem & Mineral Shows

**Oct 30-Nov 1, 2015**, Glen Rose, Texas, Dallas Paleontological Society, Somervell County Expo Center.


**Nov 7-8, 2015**, Midland, Texas, Midland Gem & Mineral Society, Midland Center.

**Nov 14-15, 2015**, Round Rock, Texas, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settlers Park, Hwy 79 E.


**Jan 16-17, 2016**, Fredericksburg, Texas, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, fredericksburgrockhounds.org

**Jan 20-24, 2016**, Quartzite, Arizona, QIA Pow Wow

**Jan 30-Feb 14, 2016**, Tucson, Arizona, numerous shows in the Tucson area, tgms.org

**Feb 20-21, 2016**, Georgetown, Texas, Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society, Community Center, San Gabriel Park, wcgms.org

Save the Date!!!
AGMC Holiday Party
Saturday, December 12
5:00-9:00pm
Lapidary Shop Report

Well, there isn’t a lot to report in the lapidary area this month. I’m still fighting Satan, saw 2, to no avail. It really is a bugger bear! I haven’t actually secured the new motor for saw 3, although I still hold out a lot of hope on that particular item. Saw 4 needs to have the stripped out guide replaced. I believe that someone failed to undo the screw in back before moving the carriage. Please, please, please, if something has to be forced to move it….DON’T! Get a supervisor to help you. There is nothing that requires brute strength to make it work in the saw and cab rooms! If it seems that is the case, you’re not doing it correctly!!!

On a happier note, we have two new supervisors to add to our list. Barbara Betts and Michael Snow, a husband and wife team that are newish members to our club, received a supervisor class when no one showed up for a regular scheduled cabbing class. I was thrilled that they showed so much enthusiasm and, as fate would have it, they were needed right away! Lizette Marquez, one of our supervisors, is moving out of state in the near future and Randall Lantz, will be traveling a lot for the next few months. That left us with the second Saturday and the second Thursday open. Hopefully, Barbara and Michael will be able to help cover these vacancies.

In the cabbing room we continue to have difficulty with sanding belts fitting our expandable drum sanders correctly. After some discussion among supervisors, I am considering replacing the expandable drums with Nova wheels. We have seen that the 14,000 grit Nova wheel has proven a very good choice. It has lasted much better than the belts, and it seems to be used properly by the majority of “cabbers”. I’m at a loss to understand why we are still developing “racing stripes” on sanding belts. I’m sure by now we all know to utilize the entire surface of the wheel as we sand our cabs! If this move to Nova wheels is to take place, it is imperative that all of us realize the Nova wheels are VERY AGGRESSIVE and can remove a lot of material (including skin) in a short period of time! They also do a fantastic job of sanding and polishing and don’t leave shiny flakes embedded in your rock.

This brings me to the last and probably most favorite thing I would like to discuss, the in house cabbing contest! I know that I was remiss in putting down the size of oval cabs for beginners, it said from _mm to _mm. As I said at the September meeting, any size oval that is listed on one of our stencils is fine. I said to avoid the 30x40 and the smallest one. That left three sizes to choose from. Just find the one that showed off your agate or jasper to its best advantage. Because I didn’t put that info in writing, any of the calibrated ovals on our templates will be fine. Remember to finish the back of your cab as well as the front! The advanced “cabbers” may use any material other than agate or jasper. Their pieces need to be either a square or rectangle shape. It should be a calibrated stone of any size that shows the material to its best advantage. All entries are due at the November meeting. They should include the cabochon and on a separate piece of paper with the cab, your name, address, and phone number and a description of the material and size of your cab. Dale Miller will be judging the advanced cabs and Bob Boyd will be judging the beginning cabs. I will have someone there to accept the cabs. They will assign a number to each cab in each category as they are received. A list with your information will be kept separate from the judges, so that there is no way for the judge to know which stone belongs to whom. The prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each category. Prizes will consist of rock from my own collection, either slabs or rough. They will be chosen in order by the winners. There will be two more offerings than places awarded in order to give the third place winners a choice of materials. The winners will be announced at the December meeting along with the distribution of prizes. I hope this will encourage everyone to participate. This is just for fun!!!

Keep on “rockin”,
Barbara Maloney
Lapidary Chair
Thank you for your interest in AGMC and its classes. All official class information and schedules can be found here and in the Class Schedule published monthly by Emie Stewart. Information received after the deadline will be announced at the monthly club meeting. Below are some of the new classes coming up, plus important general information about the classes and how to sign up.

**Announcement:** We will honor and recognize our instructors and supervisors at the November meeting. Please come and celebrate these dedicated volunteers with us!

**New Classes:**
Jurgen Maerz returns on November 21 and 22 to teach an advanced silversmithing project. The workshops are all day, each day, and require a **non-refundable** pre-payment of $160 for the instructor fee. There are still a couple of spots open. If interested, please contact Emie Stewart at schueler@flash.net.

**Beginning Silversmithing:** Plans are underway for a new beginning silversmithing class to start sometime after the first of the year. This time, there will be a pre-requisite class in learning how to safely set up and use your torch, and an introduction to soldering. Please watch the newsletter for information.

**General Information:**
**Class Rosters:** Instructors, after you have checked in your students, please put your roster in the holder on the classroom door so Emie Stewart can use it to compile end of year data. You're welcome to keep a copy for yourself. Thanks!

**Thank You:** We have a new air conditioning unit for the classroom, cabbing room, saw room, and library! It is SO much nicer in there now!

Many thanks to the Executive Board and the membership for approving the proposal for a new classroom! Thank you also to the committee of volunteers who worked so hard to develop the proposal: John Alexander, John Crabb, John Haag, Sue Poarch, and Emie Stewart. The next step is to develop a written contract between AGMC and the general contractor which will contain specific, detailed requirements and other contractual provisions. This effort is being led by John Alexander. Thank you, John, for stepping up to do this.

Thank you to all our instructors and supervisors. While other clubs are dying on the vine, AGMC continues to experience robust growth, due primarily to active members just like you. Our classes bring in more revenue to the club than anything else we do, including the annual show. If you are interested in teaching a class or workshop, please contact Emie Stewart at schueler@flash.net. Our instructors and supervisors are volunteers and do not get paid for their time. Thank you for the generous gift of your time and talent.

**AGMC Facebook Page:** Hooray! Our Facebook page has reached almost 550 Likes!!! Many of our fans are not even members! Visit the page regularly to see what’s new, and “Like” it and “Share” it with your Facebook friends. This is free advertising for the club and a great way to promote the hobby.

**Class Postings:** Please be considerate of your fellow club members during class signup times. A line usually forms just before 7:00 PM when the signup sheets for classes and workshops are posted. Signup sheets are posted at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse on the 1st Tuesday night of each month. Cabbing classes are posted on the hallway bulletin board. All other classes are posted on bulletin boards at the front of the meeting area. They are usually posted a month before the class is scheduled to begin, unless there has been a late addition to the schedule. Only current members in good standing, who have paid their membership fee, may sign up. Whenever possible, advance notice of upcoming signups is given in The Class News and on the club’s Facebook page. The class schedule is emailed to club members.
approximately mid-month, and published in the club’s newsletter, available via email. When you sign up, please include your phone number and email in case the instructor needs to contact you, and make a note of what you have signed up for, along with the instructor’s contact information. Also, please note the club’s no show policy, set forth below and on each signup sheet.

No Shows: If you sign up for a class and are unable to attend, you must let the instructor know before the class date so that they can offer your slot to someone on the waiting list. Failure to do so may cause you to be listed as a “no show.” Club policy is that no-shows will be wait-listed for future classes at the instructor’s discretion.

General Class Information: Class fees are $3/hour to cover building usage, plus any applicable supply fee as noted on the signup sheet. Students are expected to provide their own tools and materials except as noted on the signup sheet. The vast majority of instructors are volunteers who are not paid for their time but are willing to share their knowledge. Students are expected to follow instructor directions, cooperate in a classroom setting, and to observe all safety requirements. Failure to do so may be grounds for immediate removal from the class at the instructor’s discretion. Occasionally, outside professionals may be brought in to teach a class. These instructors are paid by the students, and the class fees are due at signup and are nonrefundable unless the Class Supervisor can fill the student’s seat before the class begins.

ARLINGTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

Date: October 6, 2015 General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Carrie Baum called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Carl Wells reported that Charlotte Krystinik is in the hospital. Nova Wells is in an assisted living facility. Former member, Gene Stapleton, is also in the same assisted living facility as Nova.

Sam Howeth and Bob Boyd are going to be making jigs for bracelets. Let them know if you want to order one.

Delbert Speed made a motion to suspend reports tonight, so that we may proceed with the club auction. Betsy Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The floor was turned over to Rick Litsinger, the auctioneer.

The Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Marlenia Cohen
Secretary AGMC
AGMC November 2015 Class Schedule
By Emie Stewart, 1st VP (Classes)

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS:
Prep Lab for Jurgen’s Workshop
Saturday, November 7, 9 - noon
Instructors: John Alexander, Alma Ramirez, Emie Stewart

Southwestern Native American Silversmithing
Thursdays, beginning August 27, 7 - 10 PM (Nov 5 and Nov 19 only)
Instructor: Sam Howeth

Advanced Fabrication: Flower Pendant
November 21 & 22, all day  Instructor: Jurgen Maerz

ONGOING CLASSES:
Cab Class
1st Saturday, 1 - 4 PM  Instructor: Ray Wilkes
2nd Tuesday, 7 - 10 PM  Instructor: Stephen Bennett
4th Saturday, 1 - 4 PM –cancelled for holiday
Last Wednesday 9am-Noon—cancelled for holiday

Beginning Fused Glass
Sundays, 1 - 5 PM  Instructor: Karen Cessna

Glass Fusing Lab
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructors: Rotating

Enameling Lab
2nd Saturdays, 1 - 5 PM  Instructors: Sue Poarch & Barbara Maloney

Casting Lab
Thursday, Nov 12, 7 - 10 PM (Investing)  Instructor: Katiri Peters
Saturday, Nov 14, 9 - noon (Pour)  Instructor: Katiri Peters

Faceting
Wednesdays, 7 - 9 PM
Instructors: Mike Knuth/Elaine O'Donley/Frank Krystinik/Donna Mallory/Dudley Barnes

Silversmithing
Beginning Silversmithing
Mondays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructors: Diane Neal/John Alexander

Intermediate Silversmithing
Wednesdays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructor: Rotating; Class Assistant: Sue Bedell

Advanced Silversmithing
Fridays, 7 - 10 PM, beginning October 30
Instructors: Emie Stewart/John Crabb/Marlenia Cohen/Linden Blackmon

Advanced Special Projects in Silversmithing for Alumni
Thursdays, 1 - 4 PM  Instructor: Alma Ramirez/Marlenia Cohen
AGMC Tentative December 2015 Class Schedule

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS: TBA

ONGOING CLASSES:

**Cab Class:**
1st Saturday, 1 - 4 PM  Instructor: Ray Wilkes
2nd Tuesday, 7 - 10 PM  Instructor: Stephen Bennett
4th Saturday, 1 - 4 PM  - cancelled for holiday

**Faceting**
Wednesdays, 7 - 9 PM  
Instructors: Mike Knuth/Elaine O'Donley/Frank Krystinik/Donna Mallory/Dudley Barnes

**Beginning Glass Fusing**
Sundays, 1 - 5 PM  Instructor: Karen Cessna

**Glass Fusing Lab**
2nd & 3rd Tuesdays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructors: Rotating

**Enameling Lab**
2nd Saturdays, 1 - 5 PM  Instructors: Sue Poarch & Barbara Maloney

**Silversmithing**

**Beginning Silversmithing**
Mondays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructors: Diane Neal/John Alexander

**Intermediate Silversmithing**
Wednesdays, 7 - 10 PM  Instructors: Rotating
Class Assistant: Sue Bedell

**Advanced Silversmithing**
Fridays, 7 - 10 PM  
Instructors: Emie Stewart/John Crabb/Marlenia Cohen/Linden Blackmon

**Advanced Special Projects in Silversmithing for Alumni**
Thursdays, 1 - 4 PM  Instructors: Alma Ramirez/Marlenia Cohen

**Gemstone quiz…**
**How much do you think you know?**

1. Sapphires CANNOT be what Color?
   A) Red
   B) White
   C) Yellow
   D) Orange from the same Parent Rock?

2. The Gemstones Emerald and Topaz originated from the same parent rock.
   A) True
   B) False

3. If you rub Amber with a cloth you will form Static Electricity?
   A) True
   B) False

1. Red  2. False  3. True