

SOUTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 50 No. 11.....November 2009

P O BOX 17323, San Antonio, Texas 78217-0323

Our Website: www.swgemandmineral.org

General meetings will tentatively be held the second Tuesday of the month, except in September and December. Board meetings are usually held the second Monday after the general meeting.

GENERAL MEETING: November 10, 2009

TIME: 6:30pm Refreshments, 7:00pm Meeting

PLACE: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas

Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive

*******REFRESHMENT HOSTS/HOSTESSES*******

*Bob Bowie Auman Burnett
Richard Busch Gary L Curtis
Pat & Floyd Duncan Susanna & Michael Ellison*

Hosts and Hostesses: If you cannot attend, please let Jim Meloche know so we will have the needed refreshments. Thank you for your consideration.

Health Updates of our Members

Connie Moultrup is recuperating with a broken wrist/arm. Connie you are in our prayers.

Members, please let us hear from you if any of our members need to be remembered with prayers and mentioned in our newsletter. Thank you!

In Memory

Frank L. Whitehead was called home by our Lord on September 1, 2009. He was 96 years old. He passed peacefully in his home surrounded by his family. Born on August 22, 1913, in Brownwood, Texas, he and his family later moved to San Antonio in 1922. In his professional life, he was a beloved schoolteacher and later principal of several local middle schools. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Fairbanks Whitehead, in 2000. They had two children, Frank Gordon Whitehead and Carole

Whitehead Meyer. He later married Elizabeth Griggs with whom he shared the remainder of his life.

He remained active in his church and in various civic organizations including Habitat for Humanity and the San Antonio Gem and Mineral Society. He was a joy in the lives of all that knew him, from the beginning to the end.

Frank was a long time member of SWG&MS. Recently, in August, we celebrated his 96th birthday and bestowed a Lifetime Membership to him. Frank sent us a "Thank You" card on August 13th. Frank will always be in our hearts and memories.

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our annual Picnic was a success and lots of fun. I would like to thank everyone that was able to attend. Cathy and I enjoyed visiting with everyone. All the wonderful dishes seemed to be enjoyed by All.

This is the really busy time of year for everyone. There are family gatherings as well as all the hustle and bustle of the holidays in general. With that said, let me add something else to everyone's To Do List...our Annual Fiesta of Gems Show (rock show) takes place in March. It is now, that we must put our minds into action to be ready for the "show". There are many things to do between now and then. Yes, the oldtime members will be doing what they know how to do, BUT they all need help to get the job done.

Some things you can begin to do now are 1) save plastic shopping bags and newspapers for the Club Booth and the Silent Auction (these will be used to put purchased items in for the customers. 2) Those that tumble and cut rocks—now is your time to shine...the Kids' Wheelspin game needs tumbled rocks, maybe some not so good geode halves, fossils ie deer heart clams, roadside snails etc. 3) All so, if you would like to sell pieces that you have cut, polished or even rough pieces...you can put these in the Silent Auction. You will make money and so will the club. We will discuss this further at this month's meeting.

We are pleased to announce that the program for November's meeting will be presented by Eric Swanson of University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Eric never fails to present interesting and educational materials. This program will deal with the history of studies on the Volcanic Rocks in Mexico. We hope for a big turnout to welcome Eric.

See you Tuesday, November 10th.

Bob Bowie

MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL SOON BE DUE FOR 2010. For newmembers joining from September, 2009 Your dues are considered paid until end of 2010. Dues are \$15 for an Individual, \$10 for a Jr. 8-17 yrs of age, or \$25 for a Family. When dues become past due, the newsletter will stop until paid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Board of Directors has appointed two new officers. We welcome Kyle Quobrosi as the new Program Chairman. Sam Rogers also agreed to accept a position as a General Director. Thank you gentlemen, we appreciate your accepting these positions.

- 1) Still looking for good ideas for the 2010 Fiesta of Gems Club Pin. Please bring your submission to the November meeting. If we are going to have a club pin, we must get the ball rolling. These are pins that our members can purchase to wear as well as guests coming to our annual gem show will purchase to wear. These are collector's pieces.*
- 2) We are asking for someone with computer knowledge to take over the Newsletter Editor's position. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Gail Hyatt at lala1950@sbcglobal.net.*
- 3) CHRISTMAS PARTY...Please put this date on your calendars now!! Monday, Dec. 7th, @ Harmon's BBQ in Cibolo. We can arrive about 6pm and supper will be served at 6:30. If we have 40 folks or more, we will have a buffet with BBQ Chicken and Brisket. Otherwise, we will order individually. There is some discussion about the gift exchange. Instead of doing our regular exchange, why not have everyone bring some canned and/or boxed food items that we can donate to a food pantry. There are so many folks in need at this time; it may be a better way to spend our own monies. We will discuss this at the coming meeting.*
- 4) NAME TAGS....for those that still want to order a name tag, please email or call Gail Hyatt @ lala1950@sbcglobal.net or 210-658-5876. Will need the correct spelling of each person's name as well as do you want a plain pin on or the magnetic type.*

UPCOMING SHOW DATES

November 7-8 Midland Gem and Mineral Show; Midland Center, Midland, Tx
November 13-15 Houston Gem and Mineral Show, Humble Civic Ctr, Humble, Tx
November 21-22 at the Resitol Rodeo Arena Exhibition Hall, Mesquite, Tx

MINI CLASSIFIEDS

This space is for members that are looking for something or have something to sell or trade.

Century Cactus pups...Call Debbie Krause (see club roster).

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING:

The October meeting (our Annual Picnic) took place at McAlister Park, Pavilion #3 on October 10. Activities began at 2:00 pm.

Jim Meloche provided amber and demonstrated how to polish it. About 15-20 folks took advantage of Jim's generosity and knowledge. Everyone learned about amber and what to do (and not do). This activity lasted all afternoon.

Supper took place about 5:30. The club provided BBQ and members brought a wonderful assortment of covered dishes and desserts. The BBQ was really tasty and the covered dishes were great as usual.

Bob Bowie, our President, spoke a few words of welcome to everyone...

Jim Meloche, our Treasurer, gave a brief report on our funds.

We welcomed some new members and revisited with those members that we do not get to see often.

An announcement was made about needing someone to take over the responsibilities of our newsletter. Members were asked to contact Gail Hyatt if they would like to take on the job.

There was a lot of good fellowship that afternoon. The weather was great, the fellowship was wonderful and the food was delicious.

We were glad to have so many folks come out to join the fun. A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

Submitted by Gail Hyatt, Secretary