

SOUTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 53, No. 1.....January, 2012

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

Our Website: www.swgemandmineral.org

GENERAL MEETING: January 12, 2012

TIME: 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM

MEETING PLACE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1018 E. GRAYSON STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TX

DIRECTIONS: *(traveling south on IH35)*
Exit #159A, turn right at N. New Braunfels Ave.,
Continue on to E. Grayson St and address will be on the left.
Entrance will be through door marked OFFICE.

~ ~ ~ JANUARY PROGRAM ~ ~ ~

For our January meeting Dr. Robert Smith will continue his presentation on methods of crystal identification. He promised his next lecture will not have any formulas, and will not be as technical as his last lecture. Although I learned a lot from that lecture, I realize it went over the top of our heads, including mine, and as a result of that I requested that he simplify his next presentation so everyone can comprehend the methodology.

Kyle Qubrosi

~ ~ ~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ ~ ~

Hope you all had a blessed Christmas and will have a healthy and prosperous and safe New Year.

Our next three monthly meetings will be very important as we will be getting volunteers and any new ideas you may have for our March Show at the Live Oak Civic Center.

Hope to see you all at our meetings !!!

Bob Bowie

~ ~ ~ **MINUTES** ~ ~ ~

Our December meeting was actually our annual social Christmas gathering. We met at St. Paul's Episcopal Church instead of Harmon's BBQ restaurant as their facility suffered a recent damaging fire. However, we all enjoyed a great BBQ dinner as they were gracious enough to cater our event at the church instead; and we certainly enjoyed having them present to interact with us. Everyone was in high spirits, enjoying fellowship with members, family, and friends.

President, Bob Bowie welcomed everyone to the Holiday event. Although we did not hold our usual meeting Agenda; Bob focused on one necessary business item - voting for Officers and Directors of our organization. The slate of nominees for 2012 – 2013 was presented. He updated the membership stating that the Board had established a change in the terms being held. These have been increased to two-year terms. He read the slate of nominees; and invited nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominees suggested. Fernando opened commentary that perhaps the membership might need to vote on the change of term length. Bob Bowie explained the issue had been discussed at length by the Board during several board meetings. The Board has the authority to establish change by vote process; and it had been handled appropriately. No other comments or suggestions were made by those present. Voting commenced and the presented Slate of Officers and Directors were accepted and approved by majority vote of membership present.

It was noted that members had participated with very generous donations to the food pantry charity; and thanks was extended to everyone.

Further fun was enjoyed by all as we held our usual raffle. This one was pretty exciting as we had three remaining servings of BBQ dinners; and the bidding was very competitive !! We also auctioned a very special batch of peanut brittle that Keith made. We all enjoyed the portions that were placed on the "snack table" and that had disappeared very quickly!! All evening, many of us were talking about that treat !!! Lucky Wayne Sturdevant had the winning final bid of \$16.25 - and worth every penny! Additionally, SWG&MS purchased a number of \$5 gift cards from the Golden Corral Restaurant and raffle winners were very pleased with those !! It was a great raffle enjoyed by all. Thanks to all those who participated.

The church had set up a nicely decorated Christmas tree and placed it in front of the large glass doors by the patio garden area. A number of members discussed the possibility of our having future Christmas gatherings there at St. Paul's. The round tables configuration was very conducive for members to mingle around and visit.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Brooks for Secretary Gail Hyatt

~ ~ ~ **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** ~ ~ ~

DUES FOR 2012 - \$15.00 INDIVIDUAL & \$25.00 FAMILY

Dues may be paid at any meeting. You are also welcomed to mail them to Gail Hyatt, 3116 FM 1518, Schertz, Texas 78154.

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~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**~ ~ ~ SOUTHWEST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY ~ ~ ~
ANNUAL FIESTA OF GEMS SHOW ~ MARCH 17-18, 2012**

Dealer Possibilities for Club Members - SWG&MS Annual Show

The Board of Directors is continuing consideration of the possibility of making available a limited number of tables for club members to sell items at our show. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Bob Schultz and/or Curtis Threatt. We would like to know how many people would be interested.

Bob Schultz - Show Chairman

and

Curtis Threatt - Dealer Chairman

~ ~ ~ FALL ROCK SHOWS ~ ~ ~

Please review the web site and click on the newsletter link to review various shows currently in process or scheduled.

South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.scfms.net/>

SHOW LISTINGS FOR ALL 50 STATES

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>

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An afternoon of demonstration and instruction on knapping will be held this weekend. There will be assistance to help participants select good candidate rocks; and we encourage you to try your hand at this art.

Safety is our first consideration, so bring gloves and eye protection! Since we must hold this event out-of-doors, we keep an eye on the weather. We've added a shade tent (which works for light rain, too) for your comfort! If the rain is heavy, or temperatures low, we'll move the event inside and focus on history. However, weather forecasting is for cool temperatures but dry conditions.

This event will be this coming SATURDAY, January 14, 2012. Noon to 5:2000 P.M.

Dick and Bess Shields ~ ~ Boerne Rock Shop and Studio

~ ~ ~ *On a personal note . . .* ~ ~ ~

☞ Our condolences are extended to Eva Meloche as her sister Pauline, passed away on December 30, 2011. Jim and Eva have returned safely from their trip to the services held in Missouri. Please send the family positive thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

☞ Also, we have recently heard from members Brent & Marilyn Henkle. Brent has advised that after a long illness, his mother passed away in October 2011. They are looking forward to returning to our meetings soon and interacting with our group. Let's keep the family in our prayers and good thoughts.

☞ On a lighter note, Troy and Uli Railsback were in attendance at our Christmas gathering. We all had a special treat visiting and interacting with them and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

~ ~ ~ **FIELD TRIP UPDATES** ~ ~ ~

Please let us know of your ideas and suggestions for organizing various hunts in 2012.

Sam Rodgers buckrogers000@yahoo.com (210) 240-7721
Claude Townsend ctownsend@satx.rr.com (210) 655-8959

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~ ~ ~ **CLASSIFIED ADS** ~ ~ ~

Got something to sell, trade or just find a new home for? Or maybe you are looking for something specific...that is what this space is for. Contact Gail Hyatt.

TWO ITEMS FOR SALE: #1 = 18-inch rock lapidary rock saw. in good condition, \$170.00
#2 = 8-inch, two wheel sanding machine with hoods. Motor, three speeds, adjustable, \$180.00. Please contact Jim Meloche @ (210) 658-8920 or email: jmeloche@satx.rr.com.

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We now offer the opportunity to our members to use our newsletter as a source of advertising for businesses that are related to our fields of study.

We appreciate our two paid advertisers highlighting their businesses in our newsletters each month. If you are interested in advertising as well, contact Gail Hyatt. The price is a great deal for the exposure you will receive.

Web site for Southwest Gem & Mineral Society
www.swgemandmineral.org

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