

**SOUTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**  
**NEWSLETTER**

*Volume 52, No. 12.....December, 2011*

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

*Our Website: [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)*

*GENERAL MEETING: December 8, 2011*

*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.*

*~ ~ ~ DECEMBER PROGRAM ~ ~ ~*

*For the month of December there will be no program. Instead, on December 8th, we will be having our annual Christmas party; and it will be held at the Church.*

*There will be a nominal charge of \$5.00 for the BBQ dinner being catered by Harmon's Barbecue. The menu will be brisket and chicken; beans; potato salad, condiments; and tea. We are to provide the desserts.*

**➔** *Instead of a present exchange ~ please bring canned goods for the food drive that we are once again supporting this Holiday Season.*

*We will begin gathering at 5:30pm and will eat at 6:30pm. We must leave the building by 8:30pm.*

*"Happy Holidays to all; and look forward to seeing you at the party.*

*Kyle Qubrosi*

*~ ~ ~ ~ ~*



Thursday - December 8, 2011  
5:30 PM until 8:30 PM  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



*~ ~ ~ Christmas Holiday Gathering ~ ~ ~*

*Our Christmas dinner gathering will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Thursday, December 8, 2011. We shall start gathering at 5:30pm, but must be out of the building by 8:30pm.*

*We shall be having BBQ dinners with all the trimmings. There will be a "pay as you go bar" and tea is provided with the dinner.*

*Once again, we are asking you to bring some can goods or other food items for the local food pantry. The food pantry was thrilled with our donation last year. This is a great way for our Club to give back to our communities and the less fortunate.*

*Remember, we will be voting on a new slate of officers and directors for 2012.*

*Blessings to you all for a wonderful Holiday Season,  
Your Board Members and Directors.*

*~ ~ ~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ ~ ~*

Blessings to you all for a wonderful Christmas Season and a Prosperous 2012 !!

Also, I am sure you have heard about the changes to our Christmas Party that will be held at our usual monthly meeting location, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, due to the fire at Harmon's restaurant.

Looking ahead into January and February, our monthly meetings will be very important as we will be getting ready for our annual show in March. Don't forget to bring or send in your 2012 dues.

Hope to see you at our Christmas and our future meetings !!

Bob Bowie

## **~ ~ ~ Election - Officers & Directors for 2012 ~ ~ ~**

*During our Christmas gathering, we will be electing new Officers and Directors for the year 2012.*

### **Nominations for Officers and Directors for 2012-2013**

President	Bob Bowie
Vice-President/Program Chair	Kyle Qubrosi
Show Chair	Bobby Schultz
Assistant Show Chair	Debbie Peterson
Vendor/Contracts chair	Curtis Threatt
Treasurer	Jim Meloche
Assistant Treasurer	Wayne Sturdevant
Secretary	Gail Hyatt
Newsletter Editor	Trish Brooks
Director/Hunt Chair	Sam Rodgers
Director/Silent Auction	Debbie Krause
Director/School Support/Education	Joe Noonan

We will also take nominations from the floor for any position; and members will be asked at the December Christmas Party to vote on acceptance.

***Thank you, Your Board Members and Directors.***

## **~ ~ ~ MINUTES OF LAST MEETING ~ ~ ~**

*Kyle Qubrosi, Vice President called our meeting to order at 7pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Kyle introduced Dr. Robert Smith of the University of Texas, San Antonio as our speaker for the evening. Dr. Smith gave a presentation on identifying the crystal structure of calcite rhombs, also known as optical calcite. His lecture included instructions for identifying the clear calcite, by looking through it to view dots and or lines on a paper. He explained the special light refraction characteristics calcite exhibits, and how Snell's Law is used to calculate the angle of refraction to identify the specific mineral.*

*This was a most enlightening program for our group. Dr. Smith will continue his program at the January meeting.*

*Following the evenings program the general business meeting took place.*

*Jim Meloche gave the treasurer's report.*

*Joe Noonan gave a briefing on our "Day at the Witte" and also discussed his activities in local schools recently. Joe asked that if anyone was interested in participating with the schools to please let him know.*

*Sam Rodgers gave info on the Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> rock hunt in Eagle Pass.*

*Kyle gave details on the Christmas party.*

*Kyle discussed the coming election of officers that will take place at the Christmas party. Gail Hyatt nominated Debbie Peterson to be an assistant to the Show Chairman, Bobby Schultz. Kyle advised that further nominations can be made at the party and will then be followed by the election and installation.*

*Our Show will be coming soon. Anyone that is interested in participating in the silent auction needs to be starting now to ready their items for sale.*

*A brief update was given on members that have been ill to include the Moultrups. It was mentioned that they had been able to attend the picnic.*

*Our hopes and prayers for better health to come for them and other members that have had difficulties.*

*A great raffle was enjoyed at the end of the meeting. Thanks to all those that participated.*

*Gail Hyatt*

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

**DUES FOR 2012 ARE DUE -- \$15.00 INDIVIDUAL & \$25.00 FAMILY**

Dues may be paid at the meeting or you are welcomed to mail them to Gail Hyatt, 3116 FM 1518, Schertz, Texas 78154. If you joined and paid dues since this past September, your dues are considered paid through December 2012.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Wayne A. Sturdevant 210.573.6307  
Wayne@LoneStarGemstones.com  
*Luxurious Jewelry at a Reasonable Price*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

~ ~ ~ ***SOUTHWEST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY*** ~ ~ ~  
***ANNUAL ROCK SHOW ~ MARCH 2012***

Dealer Possibilities for Club Members - SWG&MS Annual Show

The Board of Directors has been considering the possibility of trying to make available a limited number of tables for club members to sell items at our show. The booths would consist of one table; and the cost would be \$100. If you need electrical, that may or may not be an extra charge.

The number of booths that we might make available is yet to be determined as well as if we will be able to do this at all. We are just in the process of studying feasibility and interest. If you would be interested in something like this, please send an email to Bob Schultz and/or Curtis Threatt. Again, this is just in the conceptual stages and may not happen at all for various reasons but we are considering it and would like to know how many people are 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/>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**BOERNE Rock Shop  
& Studio**



37110 IH-10 West  
Boerne, TX 78006

830-331-8642  
BoerneRockShop.com

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

On November 20th, we had a very good hunting day at the Eagle Pass rock quarry. Although the pile has certainly been diminished by the road building operation, much is still to be had by the discerning enthusiast !! A very rare horn coral specimen was found by Betty Tilick, and it was a doozy !! Very often throughout the day, a yelp or howl of triumph was heard by one person or another. It can be said that all participants had a very interesting and profitable experience. There will be a reprise on the site. Read on.

**FOSSILS. . . and more FOSSILS !!!**

Please let us know if anyone is interested in having a fossil hunt in December. We would be collecting 'Texas Harts' i.e. clams, snails, etc. and the thrill of walking in dino tracks and dino tail trails ~ ~ all of this just about 45-miles from here !!

Regards, Sam

Sam Rodgers

[buckrogers000@yahoo.com](mailto:buckrogers000@yahoo.com)

(210) 240-7721

Claude Townsend

[ctownsend@satx.rr.com](mailto:ctownsend@satx.rr.com)

(210) 655-8959

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



At this time, we have a number of members within our organization that are having various medical issues they are dealing with. Please keep them in your positive thoughts and prayers during this Holiday Season.

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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](mailto: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.*

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*Web site for Southwest Gem & Mineral Society*  
[www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)