

SOUTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 51 No. 3.....March, 2010

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

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

**PLACE: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas
Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive**

March, 2010

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

Debbie Krause	Myles Lindeburg	Mary Lomax
Fernando Lozano	Bob Lucas	Michael Messer
James Mixon	Sarah Moore	Valerie Mortensen

****Hosts and Hostesses: If you cannot attend, please let Jim Meloche 658-8920 know so we will have the needed refreshments. Thank you for your consideration.*

Health Updates of our Members

There are quite a number of our members that are in poor health. Members, please let us hear from you if you know of any other members needing to be remembered with prayers and mentioned in our newsletter. Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was fortunate to again attend the Tucson Rock and Gem Show. I probably spent more than I intended, although I do save up throughout the year for this event. I did pick up a few flats for our club to sell at the "Silent Auction". (purchase authorized by the Board) Also, we purchased about 1000 Moroccan Fossil Sharks Teeth (for \$20) so we can give one to each child that attends our show. I hope to give you some more feedback about the Tucson Show at one of our upcoming meetings.

Your Board is also looking for a new venue to have our monthly meetings. As you may be aware, the current venue is sometimes crowded with no available kitchen and just no longer ideal for our meetings. If any of you know of a possible meeting hall, please let one of our Board members know and we will check it out.

Our meeting in March is very IMPORTANT as we will be finalizing our volunteer jobs and HOPEFULLY EVERYONE WILL PARTICIPATE. Our Show, March 21 & 22 is our PREMIER yearly event and we all have FUN in helping with the different needs required.

We have several HUNTS coming up. We will be discussing each one. Also, one of our members will be making a surprise presentation.

Bob Bowie

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Folks, it is that time of year to renew our dues. This is the dues schedule:

*Junior Members 8 years old- 17 years old.... \$10
Individual Membership....\$15
Family Membership....\$25*

Dues are due now. You may pay them at the meeting or if you prefer, mail them to Gail Hyatt, 3116 FM 1518, Schertz, Texas 78154. Your membership cards will be available for you to pickup at the meetings.

New Members that joined since September, 2009, your dues are considered paid up until this time next year, 2011.

aThank you, Jim Meloche, Treasurer

SHOW CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our 49th Fiesta of Gems is upon us. The dates for the show are March 20th and 21st. Setup day is March 19th.

Our level of preparedness is at a very good level this year, but now is not the time to relax. Gather up items for the Silent Auction. We have a reputation for having one of the best Gem Show Silent Auctions around. We got that reputation from having a great selection of items to bid on. Let's keep up the good work.

Work towards putting together items for your showcase. We have 20 cases to fill and as of now we have only five cases spoken for. The cases are about 23 ¼ x 39 inches and 22 ½ inches tall. Anything that you have collected over the years would be great items for a showcase. Making small ID tags for rocks and minerals is a nice touch.

If you don't think what you have would be very interesting, just think how interesting an empty case looks. Enter your case in the competition, it's fun, free and you could win a nice "Best of Show" plaque. If you would like to have a display case, please call me at 210-337-8908 or email at wshultz@satx.rr.com.

For those helping to setup on Friday, March 19th, you will receive a coupon for a substantial meal discount.

*Don't forget that after the show on Sunday, even though **WE ARE ALL TIRED**, the Show has to be taken down. Please try to stay and do your part, even for just a little while.*

*Thanks for all of your **HELP**. Let's look forward to a **GREAT SHOW** and a lot of fun working with fellow members.*

Thanks, Bobby Schultz, Show Chairman

A CALL TO ARMS FOR THE KIDS' LUCKY WHEEL

As in years past, Jim and Eva Meloche will host the annual "Rock Critter Creation Day". Saturday, March 13th is the big day. The day's work begins at 10am and goes as long as folks can work. We make the prizes for the 'Lucky Wheel'. Lunch will be provided. If you have a hot glue gun, please bring it. That is all! You will find all this action taking place at the Meloche's home at 220 Kingsman in Converse, phone 658-8920.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAME TAGS:

Now is a very important time to be sure to wear your nametags. It will help in knowing who is working with whom, but our guests will be helped as well, to know whom they are talking to.

NAME TAGS....are still available. If you have not ordered one as yet, or if you are a new member and would like one, email Gail Hyatt (see last pg for contact info) or phone. Will need the correct spelling of each name as well as do you want a plain pin on back or a magnet. These run around \$7.50 to about \$9.00 with the magnet. If you ordered a pin...they are ready to be picked up at the next meeting.

MINI CLASSIFIEDS

These classifieds work. This is a place that one hand washes the other. Let us know if you have something to sell/trade or if you are in need of a particular something.....

I am going to have about 30 Cub Scouts come to my farm for a rock hunt. They are hoping to find arrowheads. I have a lot of flint. They will find that and scrapers, but the possibility of finding many arrowheads is pretty slim. Soooo, I am hoping that someone may have some kinda sorta arrowheads that they would like to GIVE me. I plan to seed the fields with some of the flint and arrowheads, if I can come up with some. Gail Hyatt

MINUTES OF THE February MEETING

Our meeting began at 7pm following the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Meloche, Treasurer, conducted the meeting as President Bob Bowie was visiting the Tucson Gem Show.

Jim gave his Treasurer's Report.

Jim recognized visitors and welcomed back onboard a previous member, James Griffin. Welcome back James, we are really happy for your return to us.

Bobby Schultz discussed and made available Sign up Sheets for the Show. Eva still needs workers for the Lucky Wheel for the kids. This is really a simple place to work and is a lot of fun dealing with the little ones. Call Eva at 658-8920 if you would like to work. She will greatly appreciate your help....as will any of the booths.

Bobby also talked about the availability of ShowCases for members to use to display their collections and/or works. Also, he explained that there would be a prize (voted on) for Best of Show, showcase with the presentation of a plaque.

Bobby discussed the importance of our membership's participation at this time of year. It is really important for the success of this annual Show. This is our most important group effort of the year. This is how we earn the monies for the scholarships that we fund.

Jim showed the Club brochures and mentioned that they were available in the back.

Instead of having a program, a Show and Tell was the theme for the evening. There were three members having displays. Keith King had an outstanding display of projects of intarasia. Keith would be able to give a wonderful lesson on this process. His works, in my not so educated explanation, included beautiful rocks that he sliced into pieces and then reassembled in geometric designs both beautiful and unbelievably intricate.

Sam Rodgers displayed his "chain maille" which is French for knitting. Sam cuts and makes his own jump rings, bends and connects them. It is a form of Byzantine. Again, this could be an entire lesson for us. It certainly takes patience and very nimble fingers to do such delicate work. Sam makes and sells jewelry he creates in this fashion. It is a wonder to look at a piece, if your eyes see strong enough, and try to follow the pattern of how it comes together.

I brought a collection of antique jewelry. I made none of the items; I just love to collect them. I enjoy estate sales, thrift stores and lovvvvve pawn shops. I find the older pieces interesting in the workmanship and materials used.

While folks were checking out these displays our Raffle was taking place. Many wonderful contributions to the Raffle, by some of our really dedicated members, found new homes with the generous members purchasing the raffle tickets. Thanks to all that participated.

An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Submitted by Gail Hyatt, Secretary

COMING ATTRACTIONS

FIELD TRIPS

March 6th Cherokee Hunt

*We are invited to join the Geological Society of San Antonio. Directions to Cherokee: Go I10 West to Hwy 87 to Fredericksburg, take Hwy 16 thru Llano to Cherokee (abt 120 mi). Meet 9 am at the yellow caution light in Cherokee (don't be late). We pull out at 9:30 sharp Cost \$5 per person. Things to bring: food, water (for drinking and washing), small bucket, rock hunting implements, boxes & paper to wrap cactus, and small digging tools. There is no water or outhouse facilities on the ranch, so bring TP unless you are in to using cactus pads. Restrictions: **NO FIRE ARMS!***

March 27th Tessman Ranch (Poth/Fall City area)

This is a good hunt for a beginner. There isn't much climbing up and down, it's mostly flat land. Details: IH37 south to Falls City. Meet at Bucky Beaver convenience store (only store in town) at 8:30 am. Will then caravan out to the ranch. There is a \$5 per person fee.

April 10th Eagle Pass

May 1st Llano

**********The following is general rock hunting info from experienced hunters. Please keep this info in a safe place so you can refresh your*

memory prior to any rock-hunting trip. (Especially for our new club members.) Everyone needs to bring the following:

- 1) insect repellent*
- 2) water to wash rocks and hands, and to drink*
- 3) a hat*
- 4) a small hoe, pick, shovel, an implement for digging out rocks*
- 5) lunch or snacks*
- 6) rags or wash cloth (for whatever you need it for)*
- 7) a tote bag or bucket to carry rocks*
- 8) in hot weather, sun screen*
- 9) also in sunny weather, a long sleeved shirt or jacket*
- 10) wear comfortable hiking type shoes*
