

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

***Volume 51 No. 5.....May, 2010***

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

*Our Website: [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://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: May 11, 2010***

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

***PLACE: 17018 Silverwood Drive, San Antonio, Texas***

***Just East of Hwy 281 on Donella Drive***

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***REFRESHMENT HOSTS/HOSTESSES***  
***FOR THE MONTH OF MAY ARE:***

*Richard & Connie Moultrup    Joe & Susan Noonan*  
*Clara Norris    Rafael & Caroline Parra    Debra Peterson*  
*Praphulla Kanugov    Gary & Charlotte Proulx*

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***Health Updates of our Members***

*Our get-well wishes are sent out to all our members who are dealing with health difficulties. Sam and Pepper Rodgers have had some severe health concerns lately. We are glad to see they are back on their feet.*

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

*Hopefully you had an opportunity to attend one of the recent hunts at Tessman Ranch and/or Eagle Pass. I heard good reports on both.*

*We had a good meeting at St Mary's University. Our thanks to Brother Fitzgerald for such a pleasant and interesting evening.*

*As you are aware, we are looking for a new meeting room, but have not located one that is satisfactory, as yet. In May we will meet back at the Bible Church on Donella.*

*Several of our members have been asking about some basic information on rock types, mineralogy, crystal systems, etc. I have an educational background on these subjects (45 years worth) so will give a presentation using rock and mineral samples.*

*Hopefully, our younger members will benefit from some of this information.*

*See you on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.*

***BOB BOWIE***

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## ***MINI CLASSIFIEDS***

*Items for Sale: Dayton Lap unit...works great! Is a variable speed with clamp for table or workbench and drip. Comes with Owners Manual \$100.00*

*Also, Ultra Tee faceting unit, variable speed cw/ccw, with light tools and drip post. (needs new riostat) \$500.00*

*Call D. Peterson 830-627-8200*

*Debbie Krause has Century Cactus pups looking for new homes. 210-659-7125*

*If you have anything to sell, trade or get rid of, contact Gail Hyatt.*

## ***Minutes of the APRIL Meeting***

*The Pledge of Alligance began our meeting. Following refreshments and time spent browsing all the wonderful displays we settled in for the program.*

*David Fitzgerald introduced the new head of their Earth Sciences Department, Dr David Turner, and Ph.D. Also introduced Dr. Evelynn Mitchell, Ph.D., the instructor of the student that presented the program.*

*During David's opening remarks he presented a bit of history of Southwest Gem and Mineral Society's contributions to their program. It seems that (I hope I have all the figures correct) since 1979 \$32,750.00 have been presented to St. Mary's by SWG&M. Of that amount \$22,000 has been paid out to 25 recipients. The Endowment today has a balance of \$110,000.00.*

*There are several criteria that must be met for one to be considered for this award. Some of these are GPA, community service, participation at the University and must be an Earth Science student.*

*David then introduced the speaker for the evening, Ms. Lisa Duran. Some of Lisa's activities include McNair Scholars Program, Best Buddies, Alpha Phi Omega and is a tutor for math and science for GED candidates. Lisa is also a recipient of our scholarship of \$3,000.*

*Lisa's presentation is entitled, 'A Study of Meteorological Differences between Caves of Different Geologies. Her talk discussed measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> in three different cave environments in the San Antonio area. One cave was in the Austin Chalk formation and another in the Glenrose Trinity Limestone. She measured CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and temperatures at different times of the day and in different parts of the caves. In general, she was attempting to understand cave carbon dioxide concentrations and ultimately, how much carbon dioxide is vented to the atmosphere from underground caves.*

*This was a fine program and we could tell all the effort and knowledge that is necessary to do this type of study. Our evening ended at 8:30. Adjourned.*

***Gail Hyatt, Secretary***

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **FIELD TRIP**

***Members and guests of members only unless prior arrangements are made.***

*Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Llano*

*Highway 16 leads into Llano. We will meet near the WWI Commemorative Statue. Hwy 16 will bring you right into this intersection. We will meet at 9:00 am and leave out at 9:30. We will then travel to the site (Ash Street), park our vehicles and walk down to the Llano River. About noon we will discuss if we will go on to the llanite outcrop at Baby Head some 12 miles north on Hwy 16. The treasures to be found at the river can be gold, jasper, quartz, topaz, tourmalinated specimen, llanite, leaverites and more.*

*Sam Rodgers will be the guide for the day. His cell # is 210-240-7721.*

*Check over your list of items to bring and we'll see you there. Drive carefully!*

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***\*\*\*\*\* The following is general rock hunting info from experienced hunters. Please keep this info in a safe place so you can refresh your memory and supplies prior to any rock-hunting trip. (This should be especially helpful to our newer members.)***

***Everyone needs to bring the following:***

- 1) insect repellent***
- 2) water to wash rocks (maybe in a spray bottle), hands, and to drink***
- 3) a hat***
- 4) a small hoe, pick, shovel, an implement for digging out rocks***
- 5) lunch/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 hot weather, a long sleeved shirt or jacket***
- 10) wear comfortable hiking type shoes***

*11) typically on hunt sites there are no restrooms*

*Website for South West Gem and Mineral Society:*

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

