



The Southwest Gem & Mineral Society

# The Southwest Gem

Volume 49 No. 4

April 2008

**PO Box 17323, San Antonio, TX 78217- 0323**

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.

**Inside this issue:**

Member Health Updates	2
Upcoming Events	3
Announcements	3-4
Greetings from the President	2
Meeting Minutes	4-8
Mini Classifieds	5
Officers & Directors	9

**General Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Place: St. Mary's University, Geology Building  
San Antonio, Texas  
(See attached map)**

**Refreshments**

Provided by St. Mary's University this month.

**If you can not attend, please let Jim Meloche or Debbie Krause know so they can bring refreshments. Thank you for your consideration.**



## Health Updates of Our Members

We regret having to report the passing of Marion Sunvission recently. She and her husband, Lester, are Charter Members and were very active in the early years of our club. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Lester and the rest of her family. She will be missed.

Debbie is back at work from her surgery and doing well. Doctor reported he got all the cancer.

## Greetings from the President

I just want to remind you of the upcoming events. Saturday, April 5, 2008, a rock hunt at Eagle Pass Quarry. Details in this bulletin. Please advise Jim Meloche if you plan to attend so we can watch for you at the HEB in Eagle Pass before we convoy to the site.

Our monthly meeting on April 8th is at St. Mary's University Geology Building with a presentation on *Super volcanoes*. St. Mary's has always been supportive of our club so lets have a good turnout.

Note: You can park in spots identified for University Officials and you will not be towed away.

The Austin club is having a rock swap on April 12th. There is no charge and you can put out a table and sell/swap. Map is attached.

Bob Bowie

---

## Announcements

Our President, Bob Bowie, has made arrangements for a field trip to Eagle Pass at the Santos Quarry on April 5th. We have gone there before and collected some very nice material; agates, jaspers, petrified wood, etc. These rocks have been dredged from the Rio Grande. The owner sorts for the size rocks he uses and piles up the rest, so the rocks are well water worn.

Eagle Pass is about 150-160 miles SW of San Antonio. We will depart from the HEB (in Eagle Pass {there's only 1 there}) parking lot at 9:00 am and convoy to the site. Trucks, SUVs or decently high clearance vehicles are recommended. Last time I went in our Town & Country, and made it just fine driving carefully.

No fee, but will have to sign a liability release.

Jim Meloche

## Upcoming Events

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| April 5, 2008    | Rock Hunt @ Eagle Pass Quarry  |
| April 8, 2008    | Austin Rock Club Rock Swap   |
| April 12-13, '08 | Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Show , Abilene Civic Center, North 6th & Pine      |
| April 18-20, '08 | Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club Show in Marfa, TX<br>(no address given)           |
| April 26-27, '08 | Waco Gem & Mineral Club Show, Heart O' Texas Fair Grounds, 4001 Bosque Blvd., Waco, TX |
-

### **Announcements, Con't:**

The Southwest School of Arts and Crafts is offering us a good deal! They are selling 1# jars of Tin Oxide and /or Cerium Oxide for \$1.00. These normally go for around \$7.00 a jar. Anyone interested in buying some jars should contact Claire Holliday @ 224-1848. She is in the Metal Arts Department. Please leave a message if she does not answer and she will return your call.

Thank you to Fernando for this info.

### **Meeting Minutes**

President Bob Bowie called the meeting to order @ 7:05 p.m.

Jim Meloche presented the Treasurer's report.

Gail Hyatt and Jim M. discussed the completion of the updated membership roster. A correction to the minutes received recently was the correct address of our Club's website. It is *SWGemandMineral.org*.

Bobby Schultz has it open and welcomes everyone to bring it up and begin browsing. Great job Bobby!

Bob Bowie announced the Board is currently working on the 2009 Show details. In the next few days Bob, Curtis, Bobby and Jim will be going to the Live Oak Civic Center to begin actual measurements for the booths, etc.

Jim M. discussed several items. He has secured the flag from the Dixie Flag Company for the 2009 Show. Also, 2500 "regret" post cards were mailed out. The Corpus Christi Club contributed \$200.00 toward this mailing for mentioning their show. (con't page 5)

---

### **Mini Classifieds**

This space will be for anyone wanting to sell something or is looking for something that someone else might be able to help them with.

Gail Hyatt is looking for a flex arm magnifying light for a desk. Call her at 658-5876.

Debbie Krause is looking for used equipment to start slabbing and polishing rocks. Also in an old floor lamp base for a Tiffany type shade. Call her on 659-7125.

### **Meeting Minutes, con't:**

Several field trips were discussed. Bob B. discussed the Eagle Pass trip coming up soon. While Claude Townsend gave details for the hunt on 3/29 at San Saba, Kuykendahl Ranch.

Marie Banta & Eva Meloche discussed plans for a wire wrapping class given by Marie. This is tentatively being planned for summertime. More details will be available soon.

Our evening program was a Show and Tell, as follows:

The Bantas presented a large number of Tom's bolas & belt buckles mounted with various stones, which he made. Marie showed off her extremely well made wire wrappings.

Billye Harris shared her beautiful collection of stalactites & stalagmites, along with cave rock formations & crystals from around Georgetown. Wonderful collection, Billye!

---

Anne Kolle presented *Argentum & Argentium* (types of silver). She also discussed her jewelry lessons she does for church members, and would do for Club members as well.

Sam Rogers showed us titanium & druzy quartz mounted into Padauk, which is a very nice wood from Africa. Maybe messy to work with, but was wonderful to examine.

Aumon Burnett was very interesting. He showed us beautiful pieces in slabs & others already finished into jewelry. Just some of the types of rock were petrified palm wood, corral and dinosaur bones. He said that only 6-8% of the dino materials have lapidary possibilities. He also stated that while wetting rocks does enhance their colors, it also hides many imperfections. Sooo, if it is wet, dry it off & tilt to the light to see the true quality. Thank you Aumon!

Barbara Schmidt showed green garnet specimens and one mystery piece she believes to be rhodochrosite. Whatever it is, it was truly pleasing to the eye.

Fernando displayed several pieces of slabs mounted into wood bases. Some of his pieces were black plumb and Brazilian agate. What skill!

Bob Bowie had set up his microscope and had a large variety of minerals including spesserite garnet, wolfinite, pyromorphite, hemimorphite, malachite and more. We were able to closely examine these specimens. Without doubt there is so much more to see than what the naked eye is capable of. Thanks Bob!

Gail Hopkins showed her talent of spool knitting. She showed how, with only an old empty wooden thread spool, a crochet hook & very fine wire she could create beautiful pieces of jewelry.

Sandra & Clyde Jones displayed a wonderful piece of aquamarine rough.

Lastly, I showed off my worldly talent (I thought) of stringing beads, most of which are natural stones such as turquoise & tiger's eye.

Two items brought the program to a close. Claude asked if anyone knew why his wife's gold turns red when worn? Fernando said that the iron in our bodies can cause this.

The Clyde Jones passed around a "mystery" rock. Most were guessing it to be iron ore. Wrong! It was dark brown & quite heavy. It was Touralite from Bolivia. It is usually crushed and packaged in 55-gallon drums and used in capacitors. Brazilian samples were found to be radioactive. Clyde explained that he and a partner thought they had discovered their "gold mine" when in the end it turned out to be a dud. Sorry Clyde, but at least you were trying and thanks for the mystery.

If you were not present for this meeting you missed out on seeing the wonderful interests and talents of our own Club members. We have a "gold mine" of experience and talent in our Club. I hope everyone possessing these talents will be able to share their knowledge with the rest of us.

A huge thank you to all participating. It made for a truly interesting meeting.

Of course the evening ended with a few raffle items. Many beautiful and interesting specimens were out the door to new homes. Thanks to all who donated.

We also had a great spread of goodies to munch on during the evening. Thank you to all that brought these tasty treats.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.