

The Rockytier

The official bulletin for the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society



Monthly Meetings

General Meeting:

Tuesday January 7, 2020. 7:00 pm at Forrest Heights United Methodist Church, 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock Texas.

Board meeting:

Tuesday January 14, 2020. 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm meeting starts at The Red Zone Café, 3602 Slide Road, Lubbock Texas.

Everyone is welcome at either meeting!

Happy Birthday

Skylar King	22nd
Michael Zink	27th
Sharon Scott	27th

Happy Anniversary

None for this Month

Happy New Year!

Looking forward to a great year with many opportunities to enjoy our hobby? We have monthly meetings with a competition, show and tell, and something educational. If you have not been to one lately, come out and enjoy meeting with us. There will be plenty of shows to go to, and we are planning a few field trips this year as well.

The Mahon library has asked us to fill the display cases again in April and our annual show will be on May 30 & 31, so start planning your display now. If you don't know what to display, ask any member for ideas and tips, someone will be glad to help.

Our workshop is open on the first and third Sunday every month from 2 pm until 5 pm for club member use. If you are an accomplished lapidary you will be able to use one of 3 cabbing machines and 2 saws that we have set up. If you need to learn, that's ok, we can help with that too. We will make an announcement soon about classes that we are planning to offer.

We are still looking for a place to call our own, if you know of anything please let a board member know so we can check into it.

Upcoming Shows

January

18 - 19 Fredericksburg TX
24 - 26 Tyler Texas

February

15 - 16 Georgetown Texas
22 - 23 Pasadena Texas
22 - 23 Plainview Texas

March

7 - 8 Big Spring Texas
7 - 8 Robstown Texas
12 - 15 Deming NM
14 - 15 San Antonio Texas
20 - 22 Albuquerque NM

April

11 - 12 Abilene Texas

May

30 - 31 Lubbock Texas

For more information see our website: Gem & Mineral Shows



From publicdomainvectors.org

New Year, New Editor

I think most of you know me so I don't need to say much about myself, but for those that don't my name is Walter Beneze, and I am going to take a shot at editing the newsletter this year. Please notice I said 'edit'; that means I will be hoping for you to give me content. Stories, articles, jokes, tips and tricks and your own pictures are all

welcome. If you see an interesting article that I can legally reprint, please let me know, so it can be included. If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, the deadline is the 20th of the month, although I may adjust the deadline as necessary.

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." Vern McLellan

Meeting notes

Our December general meeting was also our annual Christmas party and was a lot of fun. We had plenty of good food and the white elephant gift exchange went well.

There was no business conducted, and the board did not meet in December. Business as usual will resume in January.

Have you visited our website recently?

The LGMS website is a dynamic source for the club and makes communication with other club members very easy.

First off, the Membership Directory (which is for members only) is a place to find contact information for every member of the club (unless they have opted out).

You can go to the committees menu to see what committees there are and who is on them and you can go to the Interests menu to see who is into the same things that you are. Additionally, you can click a button and send an email to a certain Committee or Interest group, right from the website.

Another great feature of the website is our Forums. When you post to a forum, every member of the club gets an email about your post and can reply as well. Have a question about a stone identification? Ask on the Stone Identification Forum, someone will probably know what it is and reply. Know of an estate sale that has rocks? Post it on the estate sale forum. Do you have equipment to sell? You can post that on our members only classifieds.



Orogrande New Mexico. Photographer; Walt Beneze



AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind; fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material; matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regard-less of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

Workshop information

Our club workshop is temporarily located at 2259 34th Street in a building owned by one of our club members. It is available on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 2 pm to 5 pm by appointment. Space is limited, and **we do have a \$5 equipment use fee, so please bring that with you each time as well.**

Equipment use is limited to club owned equipment only, do not use any of the equipment owned by the McIntires.

We have 3 genies and 2 trim saws set up along with 1 polishing pad and a 14" slab saw. The 24" saw will be set up soon.

Until you have been signed off to use the equipment on your own, showing proper use and safety practices, our shop steward or another member that is qualified will assist you and offer guidance.

SCFMS 2020 Convention

The 2020 annual SCFMS convention and show will be held on October 10 & 11, 2020 in conjunction with the 51st gem and mineral show of the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society at the Mayborn civic and convention center, Temple, Texas.



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Amethyst, photograph by Walt Beneze

Geological mystery

Eight craters, each several miles wide, run in a perfectly straight line from western Kansas, through Missouri, into Illinois. This 435-mile long line of mystery craters runs along an ancient fault system. These geologic structures are eroded and buried beneath a mile of sediment.

Some look like meteorite impacts, but some don't. Some have volcanic rock, but some don't. Some craters contain "shocked rocks," where rocks are subjected to high pressures, such as those found around meteorite craters. The craters contain deformed and crushed rocks surrounded by faults. Geologists, trying to determine what formed these craters, have tended to form two viewpoints: terrestrial and extraterrestrial; volcanic or meteoritic. The structures have several different ages, which would tend to rule out a single meteoritic event and multiple meteorites, falling in a perfectly straight line, seems highly improbable. A volcanic theory problem is that high-pressure shocked rocks have so far never been found at any known volcanic site, not even Krakatoa.

A graduate student at Johns Hopkins came up with a theory that may solve the plausibility and probability aspects of this mystery. He noted that the ages of the craters roughly coincide with some major tectonic events: the continental breakup during the Cambrian Period, formation of the Mississippi Valley, and two episodes of mountain building of the Appalachians. He believes that this violent shoving of the crust in the proximity of deeply embedded volatile gasses could cause a gas explosion with enough energy to shock rocks.

Whatever caused them, Missouri's six great linear craters remain a fascinating anomaly with the query, "When will the old fault POP again"?
(via Chatbox, St. Louis MO)



Pre- setup 2019 show, photograph by Walt Beneze

"Never lick an unidentified rock, and always wash your hands after handling one."

Fossil at the Field Museum,
Chicago, Illinois

Do or Die

What you do not know about a mineral can hurt you. You cannot always tell by looking whether or not a mineral contains harmful elements, or if it is radioactive or if it's fumes or dust might be deadly. Most minerals are completely harmless, but with a few simple precautions you can protect yourself from those with potentially deadly effects.

Elements such as lead, mercury, arsenic, uranium, antimony and cadmium are toxic. Without proper identification, you can never be sure if you might be handling some of these potentially dangerous substances. Never lick an unidentified rock, and always wash your hands after handling one. Wear gloves if there is any suspicion that a specimen may contain harmful elements.

Three methods can be used to spot some hazardous minerals. Color is one indicator. If a specimen is an unnatural looking neon yellow, yellow orange or green (such as tyuyamunite, realgar, autunite and torbernite), it is probably a radioactive mineral. Radioactivity, which is found in over 200 minerals, can be easily detected with a geiger counter. Even though most fluorescent minerals are not radioactive, sometimes fluorescence can be an indicator, as the radioactive agent (such as uranium salts) can be fluorescent. Generally, only long term exposure or ingestion would cause problems, but, as the guys at the Smithsonian say, don't put them in your pockets either. Radioactivity can affect fertility in men.

Unless you work extensively with quartz, cristobalite, tridymite or quartz bearing rocks like granite; asbestos minerals (amosite, chrysotile, tremolite, actinolite, anthophyllite and crocidolite); or coal, you are unlikely to be at risk for silicosis, asbestosis or black lung. The hazard from these and other minerals is in the airborne particles that get caught in the lungs or migrate to other areas of the body. Lapidaries should work in a well ventilated space, and they should be especially concerned with avoiding the fumes from working with materials like malachite, natural cinnabar and many shells. Wearing masks can help too. When working any new material, always check John Sinkankas' Gemstone and Mineral Data Book for precautions and possible toxicity. Be safe not sorry.

by Cathy Gaber

Opal Express, Bulletin of the American Opal Society via AFMS website



Photographer, Walt Beneze

The LGMS meets at 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock Texas on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Membership is open to all interested parties. Visitors are always welcome! Annual dues are \$20 for Adults, \$10 for Students 16 years and older, \$5 for Students up to age 15, or a Family Membership for \$40.

Exchange editors are free to copy anything of interest from The Rockytier provided credit is given to the author of the article and The Rockytier.

The Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization recognized under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an educational entity. Donations in any form are tax deductible.

The purpose of this society shall be:

☐ To bring about a closer association of those persons interested in the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

☐ To increase, document and disseminate knowledge about geological materials including rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, historic and modern cultural lithic artifacts.

☐ To encourage the study, collecting and display of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, artifacts, and the performance of lapidary and jewelry arts.

☐ To provide guidance, education and information; share ideas and techniques; and assist in the development and refinement of skills through the combined resources, knowledge and experience of the Society's Members.

Elected Officers & Directors who are voting members of the Board of Directors:

President	Michael Zink
Past President	Walter Beneze
Vice President	Mica McGuire
Secretary	Sabrina Krieger
Treasurer	Timothy McIntire
Director (first year)	Yvonne Hoffman
Director (first year)	Jennifer Philips
Director (second year)	Mark Smith
Director (second year)	Lisa Smith

Appointed voting Board Members:

Membership Chair	vacant
Club Workshop Chair	Dave Swartz
Show Chair	Walter Beneze
Newsletter Editor	Walter Beneze
Field Trip Chair	vacant

Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society

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