

# The Rockytier

---



L u b b o c k   G e m   a n d   M i n e r a l   S o c i e t y

## Monthly Meetings

### General Meeting:

Tuesday January 5, 2021. 7 pm at Forrest Heights United Methodist Church, 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock, Texas.

### Board Meeting:

Tuesday January 12, 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!

## Upcoming Shows

### September

25 - 26 Lubbock, TX

---

## Message from the President

Hi. I am so excited to be the 2021 President of the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society. The board is also excited to keep the club moving in the positive direction we have been heading for the last several years.

Since many of you have not been able to attend meetings recently, I haven't had a chance to talk with you about my vision for the club.

I don't have any radical plans for change. I plan to follow the lead of my predecessors. Walt welcomed all new ideas for improving or expanding the club. Like Walt, my response will be "Great idea, take it and run with it." This is what happened with Michael and I wanting the club to sell T-Shirts. This is how we got the fluorescent tent, Daniel took the lead and ran with it, and made it happen. So along those lines, my philosophy will be, I am thrilled you have an idea, take it and make it happen.

Michael's presidency focused on getting us a place to call home. We currently are scattered, our MEW and storage shed are in my backyard, our rocks are in Mica's parent's backyard, and our equipment is at Tim's shop. Let's focus on finding a place where we can put everything together again. Please, everyone, be on the lookout for either an empty property where we can build or a building with enough space for our storage shed. We are now 2+ years of being homeless. Tim McIntire has been graciously allowing us to use his shop space to work, but it would be nice for everyone if we had our own space again.

Good news. We successfully acquired a trailer for transporting our displays to shows. (Thanks for the lead, Brian Owen.) With the addition of this trailer, we want to see if we can use both trailers and our shed for storage and turn in the MEW for recycled metal. Our metal drive is adding to our coffers for buying the club a new home. It isn't a lot of money, but with a small club like ours, every penny counts. I plan to keep the metal drive going through 2021. We are saving the environment, and helping ourselves.

One new goal I do have for 2012 is to see if we can resurrect some of the club committees. Anyone interested in running a committee or being on a committee please let me know.

Here's hoping 2021 brings us a return to normal and a great new year for the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society. See you in January.

~ Val Zink, President ~

There are many vacant positions in our club committees. Look over the following list and let Valerie know where you would like to help. Her email is [valerie.n.zink@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.n.zink@gmail.com), and you can find her home and cell phone numbers on our website.

The Audit Committee shall audit the financial transactions and records of the Society (including an inventory of fixed assets) in January.

The Field Trip Committee shall plan, locate places, and conduct field trips.

The Awards Committee shall consider the recognition of deserving members.

The Membership Chairperson shall offer assistance to new members.

The Constitution and By Laws Committee shall present any recommended changes to the Constitution or ByLaws to the Board of Directors when changes are recommended.

The Entertainment Committee shall arrange and handle all entertainment activities for the Society.

The Historian shall compile and maintain the history of the Society.

The Club Workshop Chairperson shall have responsibility for the overall supervision of the club workshop and the associated storage building(s) and has the authority to revoke the privilege to use these facilities.

The Club Workshop Committee shall maintain a record of Members using the club workshop and the status of their liability waivers. This committee shall also service and maintain the equipment at the workshop.

The Newsletter Editor shall prepare, publish, and distribute a society newsletter.

The Nominating Committee, appointed in September, will seek members willing to run for office and make recommendations to the Board.

The Photographer shall record, pictorially, events of the Society. The Photographer may collect photographs from other members giving them credit.

The Program Committee, under the direction of the Vice President, shall provide for a minimum of ten programs for the Society's monthly meetings.

The Publicity Committee shall obtain publicity for Society activities.

The Show Committee shall assist the show chairman with the management of the annual show.

## The Day I Met Sue

By Colleen Hayes

The year was 1990. Dinosaur hunters were swarming all over South Dakota in search of dinosaur fossils. Sue, a Tyrannosaurus Rex, was discovered in Faith, South Dakota. The Hell Creek formation to be exact; by a woman named Sue Hendrickson. There was a long legal dispute regarding ownership of this specimen, however, after several year's it was determined that the rancher whose property that the T Rex had lived and died on 67 million years previously was the legal owner.

At this time my two boys were 5 and 9 years old and were of the perfect age to be fascinated with dinosaurs. We took trips to the Dallas area for special Dino events, and we had many books and dinosaur toys in the house. Perhaps their enthusiasm for dinosaurs sparked my interest in this event. The skeleton of this particular T Rex was nearly complete.

A T Rex skeleton has approximately 321 bones. Sue was found missing only one foot, one arm, and a few miscellaneous bones. After the legal ownership was established, the rancher decided to auction the dinosaur through Sotheby's Auction House. With the help of Disney and McDonald's corporate pledges, the Field Museum in Chicago, IL won the auction with a final bid of over eight million dollars. This is when the work really began, reconstructing the mammoth dinosaur. Sue is a total of 42 feet long, the weight of the bones alone are over 3000 pounds and the head itself is over five feet in length. It took several years to completely clean and mount the bones for display.

I followed the saga of this particular dinosaur with much interest. It just so happens that my bother lives in Chicago, and I've visited this museum several times in the past. I made a pledge that as soon as Sue went on display, I was going to Chicago.

It was the early 2000's and by then my boys were out of the dinosaur phase and had moved on to cars, girls, and such. However, I was still fascinated by this story. I made plans to fly to Chicago and see Sue with my own eyes. It was an amazing sight. Until you are standing under the completed structure, you cannot imagine the size of this creature. My memories are now immortalized in printed literature and grainy Kodak photos. But at the time it was something!

Sue remains on exhibit at the Chicago Field Museum in Chicago, IL, for all to see.



Story and photo by Colleen Hayes via the Rock-N-Rose, Vol 45 Issue 2, 2/2019

## The Day I Did Not Meet Sue

By Walter Beneze

I spent all of my teenage years in South Dakota, only moving to Texas when I was 20. We lived in Rapid City, about 124 miles South West of Faith, SD where Sue was discovered. Having an interest in rocks, minerals, and fossils led me to follow the story of the discovery and legal battles over the possession of Sue. Having lived in South Dakota just added to the intrigue.

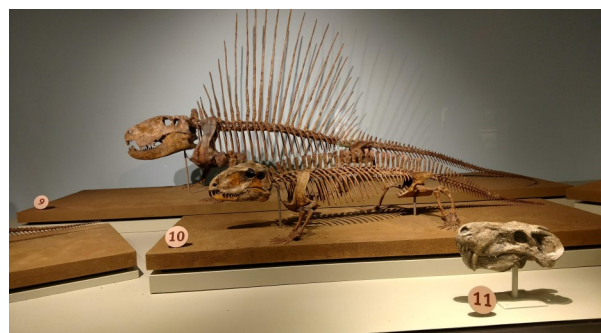
In 2018 I had the occasion to be in Chicago and determined that I was going to go to the Field Museum with the express purpose of seeing Sue. Little did I know, the museum was in the middle of a remodel of the area where they kept Sue. The new digs would not be complete for several months, and we could just look through a plexiglass barrier to the under-construction display about 30 feet away.

Sue



The visit was by no means a waste of time; anyone interested in the Earth Sciences would enjoy seeing the museum. Don't plan on seeing the whole museum in one day, however, I spent six hours there and only made it through about one-third of the displays on one floor. The Chicago Field Museum has three floors and more than 24 free permanent exhibitions in separate wings throughout the building. Several additional exhibitions require a separate ticket, and they have a 3D cinema as well.

If you ever have the chance to go, I highly recommend taking the trip.



More dinosaurs in the Hall of the Dinosaur





Cross section of Meteorites from the Meteorite Exhibit



Specimens in the Grainger Hall of Gems



Story & photos by  
Walter Beneze



Jade carving in the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Hall of Jades



## Rock Tumbling Clean-Up By James Marburger Via The Pick & Shovel Vol 63 Issue 4. 11/2020

Here we are, stuck inside our homes and not able to do much in the rock hobby. Many parents suddenly realize they can engage their kids with rock tumbling. The transformation of stones going from rough to polished gems should keep their interest going.

The clean-up between grit stages will give hints of the gems as they progress through the four-week process of rotary tumbling. Depending on the size of the tumbler, clean-up can be done with a plastic colander and a pan, to a 5-gallon bucket. The following method for clean-up works best for me because I use tumbler barrels that are 12-pound size or larger.

In the pictured examples, the tumbler barrel is a 40-pound tumbler; YES, 40 pounds of rock. I use three 5-gallon buckets and about five gallons of water to wash up between grit runs.



To start with, you need 3 clean buckets and a piece of nylon window screen that is about 36 inches square. Push the screen into the bucket to form a sack. Pour into the bucket

sack. Add about a gallon of fresh water and swish around and drain.

Move the bucket sack to the next bucket and rinse with a couple gallons of fresh water and swish around and drain. Then move the bucket sack to the third bucket for a final rinse and swish. The rocks should be clean enough to place back into the tumbler.



After each grit step, a wash cycle with Ivory bar soap is needed to remove any remaining grit from both the rocks and barrel. This large tumbler uses a half bar of soap and water to cover the rocks, then run overnight. Using the three-bucket method, rinse everything and proceed to the next grit step. You will be surprised how much embedded grit washes out of the barrel. If not removed, this carryover of grit will hinder a good polish.

bled stones.

Here are the finished gems after 4 weeks of tumbling, now about 25 to 30 pounds of tum-

All of the rinse water should be discarded out in the yard, driveway, or garden, Never put the rinse water down a drain as it will plug your pipes with a concrete sludge. Happy tumbling and making beautiful gems with the kid in all of us.



## General Meeting notes

December 1, 2020

Our annual Christmas party was held on December 1st, with 14 people in attendance. We had the usual Ham and Turkey, with several side dishes and desserts. Anyone that left hungry did so on purpose, lol.

Aside from good food and fellowship, we played a new game this year in place of the white elephant gift exchange thievery. "Rocks" was the game (think bingo). The object was to be the first one to score rocks and then to be the first to reach blackout. Once a player had a straight line filled in any direction, they were allowed to pick from the gifts that were brought. The next player to score was the next to pick a gift, and so on. Since the next goal was to reach blackout, no one was supposed to clear their card between rounds. That, however, was not what happened; a couple of players did. After a minute of confusion and laughter, the game resumed. It was a fun way to enjoy the evening, and everyone came away with a nice gift or two.

There was no board meeting, so there are no notes for that. Meetings will resume beginning January the 5th, hope to see you there!

---

*Another fresh new year is here ...Another year to live! To banish  
worry, doubt, and fear, to love and laugh and give! This bright new  
year is given me to live each day with zest...To daily grow and try  
to be my highest and my best! I have the opportunity once more to  
right some wrongs, to pray for peace, to plant a tree, and sing  
more joyful songs!*

William Arthur Ward

# Happy New Year!



The Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society is a member of the [South Central Federation of Mineral Societies](#), one of seven Regional Organizations that make up the [American Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#).

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies has about 40 clubs with 3800 members in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The American Federation has about 700 clubs and more than 50,000 members in the United States.

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. Any content in this newsletter not attributed to someone else is from the editor.

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

Appointed voting Board Members:

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

A Membership Directory w/contact info is on the website. You must be logged in to see it.

The Rockytier. January 2021

### Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 6371  
Lubbock, Texas 79493  
E-mail:  
[walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org)

