

Volume 52, Issue 5, May 2006

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Rockhound Club News of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
 1408 Gibbins Road, Arlington, Texas 76011

Response on Care Packages to Iraq



Rick,
 Thank you for supporting all we are doing. My very close friend has been a gemologist for years. Vernal & Kevin Taysom, 'Gem Jewelers' in Cedar City, UT. The local children are always grateful for everything we give them. These are a few of the kids from one of the schools we visited. We give the school supplies to the school master and then hand out the all the other items to the kids outside. Receiving so much support from great Americans such as you makes us that much prouder to serve. It is an honor to be an American soldier serving the people of Iraq.

SGM Rick Brown
 Operations

Rock Swap and Fajita Lunch
 May 13, 2006



Mascot of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club is an affiliate of



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

May Program
 Dr Keith Brownlee presenting carvings of Idor Oberstein.
Next Month – Dr. James L. Carter will talk on Lunar Islands.

Just a Thought from Your President

by Rick Litsinger, President AGMC

My fellow Rockhounds:

I hope all members who volunteered to send Victory boxes to our troops in Iraq have done so. When I sent mine it had 38 items and weighed over 10 pounds in that small space! SGM Richard Brown sent me an email that he had received the package and has distributed the contents to schools and those in need. He also included a picture of some of the kids his unit are working with. I made a copy of his emails and their picture of the kids and posted it on the club section of the bulletin boards. For those who have sent their boxes I thank you for supporting our troops.

Don't forget May 13 is the rock swap and fajita lunch. Vendor spaces are \$5.00 and on a first come first serve basis and the spaces will be marked off. The lunch is becoming a tradition now and is \$5.00 per person. All proceeds will go to club projects. Volunteered sides as cheese, salsa, salads, and deserts are welcome. We are also making plans for the shrimp/fish fry in June. Frank Krystinik suggests a minimum of 30 people to show up to make it successful. This is a mini-fund raiser and the tickets will be \$7.50 per person. Again all proceeds will go to club projects.

Sue Lyon is forging ahead on the 501C3 reinstatement. This is quite a job and many thanks to her for taking on such a daunting task.

The show is progressing well, however we need volunteers to help. Kris has a list posted on the show bulletin board of areas that need volunteers. I do have a list who

said that they would volunteer to help at the show from the volunteer list that members filled out. We will be calling you. We also need great quality slabs, minerals, rough, and member made jewelry for this three day show. The income from the show is what pays our taxes each year and to have a successful show depends on volunteers getting the word out in every way possible. How can you help, you ask? Call Kris Galbraith.

Jimmy Collins has received the new grinding wheels for the lapidary room and should be installed soon. We will also be setting up a saw cleaning day soon. I also have a list of volunteers for this task as well. We will be calling you.

Spring is here and the flowers are blooming and the grass is growing on the club grounds. I want to thank Lynn Wong, Sam Howeth and the other volunteers who have helped keep the grounds in great shape. Also a big thanks to the Wednesday morning silversmithing class for taking out the trash and the other volunteers who keep the inside in great shape as well.

There is an additional silversmithing help class on the 1st. Saturday from 9 am to noon. Colleen Fitzpatrick has volunteered to assist those who need help and Sam has a makeup class as well on the 3ed Saturday from 8am to noon. So if you are experiencing a problem and need help or just need to catch up on a missed class you now have two opportunities to do so.

Just a thought and do not forget the yellow donation box.

FRA Merit Badge Program in Fossils

by David and Carol Abbott

The third section of the FRA Merit Badge Program is fossils. Here in North Texas, where almost all the bedrock is some kind of limestone, fossils can be easy to study. In other parts of the country, it can be more challenging. The FRA website (<http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS%20Merit%20Badge%20Proposal.pdf>), lists a number of good ideas for pursuing the study fossils.

It seems that many of the old rock-hounding sites are closing or under concrete these days. So while a field-trip is an awesome way to grab the attention of a child, it may not be easy to conduct. I remember a time a decade-or-so-ago, I was trying to get a group of students into a cement quarry to search for fossil shark-teeth. They were VERY reluctant to allow children on the grounds, although the occasionally allowed adults (with hold-harmless agreement). My compromise was to load about 500-lbs of fossil-bearing shale into my car (that poor Honda), and haul it home. We held a fossil-hunt in our back-yard. On the special day, we had about a dozen students breaking-up chunks of this decomposing shale in an impromptu competition for who could find the largest shark-tooth...a few small ammonites were discovered as well. Several years later I learned that some of these students were still carrying-around fossils they had found in our yard.

A variation on the Geological time chart (for people who live in fossiliferous areas) might be to have each student bring a rock they found in their yard. If you live in an area with a variety of fossil exposures, some research should allow you to identify the proper names of the strata from which the rocks originated. This would allow you to add substance to your time-chart.

Many fossils are simple impressions of past-life. The dinosaur footprints near Glen Rose (Texas), and other famous sites can be easily researched and replicated. Gain access to a park or land where wild, or even domestic, animals travel. Near creeks and rivers are usually productive. A simple ring of cardboard can be made for a form. Then, fill the footprint with plaster, and explain the similarity to the natural processes that create fossil foot-prints.

I am personally very excited by many of the fossils I find. When I talk to students, I share my view that fossils should be preserved...as opposed to being "protected". It's never too early to introduce people to such distinctions.

Snuggled Fossils Seized at Gem Show

The Associated Press

ARIZONA-Federal agents seized tons of fossilized dinosaur eggs, pine cones and other artifacts at Tucson's Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase, the nation's largest gem show, after determining that the items had been smuggled out of Argentina. Authorities said three small watermelon-sized and 14,400 pounds of prehistoric pine cones, crab

claws and other artifacts belonging to the Argentine government. Federal agents took photo of the artifacts earlier this month and conferred with Argentine paleontologists after getting a tip that a vendor was selling fossils of significant scientific value. No immediate arrests were made.

e-Rockhounding

by Carl Downey

Howdy Folks! I need to remind everyone of a few points before I start. Neither myself, the Editor nor AGMC can be held responsible for you having an unpleasant experience using the Internet. Banner ads, backgrounds and 'pop ups' can change between the time I submit a link and the time someone visits it. I will not list a link that contains 'adult or prurient' content - but that can change after the fact. The same is true of links that may be 'dead'. When doing business on the net be careful. Few of the commercial links I list will have been actually used by me. Even if I mention I am a customer - as in ANY store - your experience could be quite different. Have fun but BE CAREFUL!

Classic Sites:

Over 10 years old and bigger-better than ever. THE premiere and finest general site for our hobby remains Bob's Rock Shop. Also the official Rock&Gem magazine site: <http://www.rockhounds.com/>

To receive the finest newsletter devoted to jewelers, subscribe to the Orchid Digest. There is a HUGE trove of information in the archives too! (see specific link about a new farther down) <http://www.ganoksin.com/>

Links:

British reprints of interesting articles on gems and faceting:
<http://tinyurl.com/e334r>

Supplies, equipment and tutorials on glass working:
<http://www.warmglass.com/>

Wholesale pearls:
<http://www.isopearls.com/>

Make interesting beads and chains with the Coiling Gizmo!:
<http://www.coilinggizmo.com/>

Video of a meteor!
<http://www.ebaumsworld.com/videos/meteor.html>

Wisconsin kid finds a fossil!:
http://wfrv.com/topstories/local_story_344141543.html

Barbara has had a long internet presence and now has an online gemmology course:
<http://www.bwsmigel.info/home.html>

Imagine finding fossil human footprints!:
<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20051222/D8EKVVBO8.html>

Water well detects earthquakes!:
<http://tinyurl.com/barhs>

WOW! look at THESE carved eggs!:
<http://www.funmansion.com/html/Carved-Eggs.html>

Titanosaurus skeleton found:
<http://tinyurl.com/8zyj5>

Highly decorative cups (caution: use of rude slang term):
<http://tinyurl.com/8ahxw>

My fellow Subaru enthusiast friend also has a nice website devoted to our hobby! what a coincidence!
<http://www.corkysrocks.net/>

Orchid co-produces their first book:
<http://www.ganoksin.com/item--Orchid-in-Print-Vol-1--flexshaftbook>

Bone rings - but not what you're thinking!:
<http://tinyurl.com/9ptdn>

Fascinating discovery of cave drawings underwater!:
<http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/cosquer/>

Here's a simple step-by-step bead project for kids or beginners:
<http://tinyurl.com/7jffn>

and just for fun:
<http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/video/>

Club Notes

Rock Swap

by Rick Litsinger/President

Rock swap will be May 13, 2006. There will be a \$5.00 fee per vendor space and the fajita lunch will be \$5.00 per person. Volunteers to bring sides are welcome, such as cheese, salsa, salads and condiments. We will serve around noon until all are full or run out of food.

May Area Shows

by Grady Shults

6-7
WACO, TX: Waco Gem and Mineral Society; Call (254) 666-4077.

19-21
SOUTHGATE, MI; MFMS/Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society; call (313) 381-8455.

19-21
GRAPEVINE, TX: Dallas/Fort Worth Bead Renaissance Show; Grapevine Convention Center 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051. Call (505) 894-1293

27-28
FT. WORTH, TX: Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Show
Saturday & Sunday - 10 AM - 5 PM

Will Rogers Memorial Center - Round Up Inn, Ft. Worth, Tx

Admission: Adults - \$4
Senior Citizens - \$3
Children 12 & under - Free

For more information, call 817-246-1403

Nuggets of Gold: Lessons in Silver

Short lesson series by Sam Howeth, Silversmithing instructor

Why Bead Stamps

All Silversmiths have a box of trimmings left over from making rings, pendants, bracelets, etc. One of the uses of this material is to be melted into beads for appliqué decorations. However if the beads themselves are decorated they enhance the recipient pieces even more so. Hence the need for steel stamps for decorating beads.

Bead stamps are totally different from surface stamps although some surface stamps can be used to make beads and vice versa; and the patterns will be similar but different. Why? When a flat surface is stamped the result is essentially a two dimensional picture. True there is some depth but minimal. The result on a bead is three-dimensional unless you make a flat bead, and so, the need for bead stamps.

Flat bead rounds are cut from a flat sheet of silver. They cover the same area as a domed bead but require less material. Therefore they are easier to manufacture and use less material to make and lessen the cost but....lower the quality of the piece. Again the need for bead stamps.

So let us consider bead stamps:

1. You begin with a predetermined size and a hemispherical shape (or dome).

2. Most beads are located on the outer perimeter of a piece and receive most of the wear suffered by the piece. A flat bead decoration located on the outside will soon be smooth so the design that offers some protection against wear is more desirable.
3. Therefore a dished or a concaved bead is somewhat protected but a dome or convex provides even more since the tip receives most of the wear protecting the design on the sides.
4. The center or tip is the area that collects the metal flow and allows the design on the sides to form easier.
5. Most surface stamps are struck only once because repositioning for a second strike is difficult to do without making an overstrike obvious. But with most bead stamps the first strike usually seats the bead and stamp together making repeated stamping very easy.
6. And if you do miss center or overstamp no harm done; throw it in the reject box and make another one. You cannot do that to flat pattern designs in most cases.

7. Remember the stamp face is not only a mirror (or reverse) image but it is also physically (or materially) reversed as i.e., a hole in the stamp is a hill on the bead. Lines cut into the stamp will be ridges on the bead. If you round the end of the stamp it makes a dish shaped bead. To cut anything from the face of the stamp is to put it on the bead. Leave what you do not want and take away what you want. Getting a mental fix of this paradox is not easy to picture visually when filing on the stamp face.
8. When you stamp a surface the metal is deformed and flows into the pattern you are forcing on it. The metal must be given an area to flow in to or out of the design on the stamp face. This is a made to order situation for a bead stamp.

In conclusion, have you ever seen bead stamps listed in a jewelry tool catalogue? So make them for yourself. Call AG&MC if you would like additional information or have comments.

May Class Schedule

by Pat Vaughan

Cabochon Cutting** OPEN

1st Saturdays from 1-4 PM
\$3.00 per hour equipment usage fee
Instructor: Dale Miller

Chainmaking* OPEN

3rd Saturday from 10 AM-1 PM
Instructor: Mary Owren

Faceting OPEN

Wednesdays 7-9 PM
Instructor: Frank Krystinik & Mike Knuth

Glass Fusing & Enameling* OPEN

Saturday, May 13 from 2-5 PM
4th Saturdays from 9 AM-Noon
Instructor: Becky Downey

Metal Clay OPEN

4th Saturday from 9 AM-Noon
Instructor: Coleen Fitzpatrick

Silversmithing

Instructor: Sam Howeth/Rick Litsinger
Silversmithing Lab Open
Saturday, May 6 & 20, 8 AM – Noon

102 OPEN

Mondays 7-10 PM
Open to those that have completed 101

201 OPEN

Fridays 7-10 PM
Open to those that have completed 103

Level 300 OPEN

Wednesdays 9 AM-Noon
Open to those that have completed 200

Level 400 Gold FULL

Sundays, 2-5 PM

Small Gem Carving* OPEN

Saturdays from 9 AM – Noon
Instructor: Mary Lavigne

Wax Casting/Carving OPEN

Thursdays 7-9 PM.
(open to all levels of expertise)
Instructor: Royce Cochran

DCCCD CLASS SCHEDULE

**Classes subject to cancellation*

Beginning Wire Working* FULL

Saturdays, May 6 & 13, 10 AM – 2 PM
Instructor: Cathy Mason

Cabochon Cutting* OPEN

Mondays 6-9 PM
Instructor: David Abbott

Chain Class

Saturday, May 6, 10 AM-2 PM
Instructor: Mary Owren

Wax Carving & Casting* OPEN

Wednesdays 6-9 PM
Instructor: David Abbott

* These classes are open to novice as well as experienced members.

** This class is required before a member can use the saws and grinding equipment.

If you have any suggestions for classes or would like to teach a class pertaining to our hobby please contact Pat Vaughan 1st. VP in charge of classes.

Always check class board for sign-up sheets.

OPEN classes currently have space available. Check with the instructor.

Note: All classes are \$3.00 per class hour including AGMC members taking the DCCCD/AGMC scheduled classes.

May 2006

AGMC Classes and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Silversmithing 102 7-10 PM Cabochons 6-9 PM DCCCD	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM	Silversmithing 301 9 AM-Noon Faceting 7-9 PM Wax Carving & Casting 6-9 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 7-10 PM	Silversmithing Lab Open 8 AM – Noon Cabochons OPEN 1-4 PM Small Gem Carving* OPEN ****Lab Open 9 AM – Noon DCCCD <hr/> Beg. Wire Wrap Chain Class 10 AM-2 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Silversmithing 401 (Gold) FULL 2-5 PM	Silversmithing 103 7-10 PM Cabochons 6-9 PM DCCCD		Silversmithing 301 9 AM-Noon Faceting 7-9 PM Wax Carving & Casting 6-9 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting 7-9 PM *** DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER	Silversmithing 201 7-10 PM	Small Gem Carving* OPEN ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon Glass Fusing & Enameling 1:30-4 PM Beg. Wire Wrap 10 AM-2 PM DCCCD
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Silversmithing 401 (Gold) FULL 2-5 PM	Silversmithing 103 7-10 PM Cabochons 6-9 PM DCCCD	Free Tuesday 7-9 PM for members	Silversmithing 301 9 AM-Noon Faceting 7-9 PM Wax Carving & Casting 6-9 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 7-10 PM	Small Gem Carving* OPEN ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon Silversmithing Lab Open 8 AM – Noon ** Chainmaking 10 AM-1 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Silversmithing 401 (Gold) FULL 2-5 PM	Silversmithing 103 7-10 PM Cabochons 6-9 PM DCCCD	Board Meeting 7 PM	Silversmithing 301 9 AM-Noon Faceting 7-9 PM Wax Carving & Casting 6-9 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 7-10 PM	Glass Fusing & Enameling ****Lab Open Small Gem Carving* OPEN Metal Clay 9 AM-Noon
28	29	30	31			
Silversmithing 401 (Gold) FULL 2-5 PM	Silversmithing 103 7-10 PM Cabochons 6-9 PM DCCCD		Silversmithing 301 9 AM-Noon Faceting 7-9 PM Wax Carving & Casting 6-9 PM DCCCD			

Club Mission:

The objectives of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club shall be to educate the public in the study of the earth sciences, lapidary arts, designer jewelry and all related fields.

Yearly Enrollment recommended donation:

Initial Adult Enrollment	\$35.00 (includes \$5.00 badge)
Adult Renewals	\$30.00 per calendar year
Junior Members	\$3.50 per calendar year

Activities take place at:
Arlington Gem and Mineral Club
1408 Gibbins Road, Arlington, TX 76011
Phone 817-277-2286

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 986
Arlington, TX 76004

E-mail Address:
editor@tses.org or webmaster@tses.org

World Wide Web Home Page:
<http://www.tses.org>

Business Meeting on 1st Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Board Meeting on 4th Tuesday at 7 PM.

The Hound's Tale

Published monthly by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club.

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Ads and Articles

Lapidary-related ads and articles from Members of AGMC are welcomed. They will be placed on a space-available basis, first in first out. Any articles may be edited for space and content. Non-enrollees ads are accepted after student ads. You must include your name and contact information.

Arlington Gem and Mineral Club

(formerly Texas School of Earth Sciences)

**P.O. Box 986
Arlington, TX 76004**



Newsletter is available on our Website at www.tses.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Notification Newsletter on-line	\$6.00
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