

Volume 52, Issue 9, September 2006

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



South Central Federation
of Mineral Societies



American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies

September Program

Safety Film from the South Central Federation Library

October – Auction - Bring and donate rocks, food, plants, whatever. Lots of fun and good buys.



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

Grand Prairie Library Exhibit

Hi, folks:

These are photos from a recent display you provided to the Grand Prairie Library (Veronica Murday installed this for us). I thought you might like the photos for your records or newsletter. Thanks again for the great display; I know our patrons really enjoyed it. I noticed many people stopping to examine the fossils and read the labels.

Elisabeth McMahon
PR/Outreach Librarian
Grand Prairie Public Library System
(972) 237-5740



Just a Thought from Your President

by Rick Litsinger, President AGMC

My fellow rockhounds.

It is show time! The time we have all been waiting for. That time of the year where volunteering comes to the forefront. We will need more help than usual due to this being a three-day show. Regardless of age or physical condition we have a job for you. So sign up at the club or just drop in at the show and ask where you can help. Just as simple as that!

I have returned the engraver the club purchased to make badges for a line of credit at FDJ. We had purchased it to make our own badges, but through some miscommunications they sent a machine that engraves metal, not plastic. After some negotiations, they agreed to give us credit for the machine. We will use that credit to purchase equipment for the club as needed.

We do have a new company to make our badges now and I have picked up the first set of badges for those who signed up at

the last meeting. They will be available at the September meeting. You have a choice of the pin back at no charge, the clip-on at \$1.00, and the magnetic back for \$2.00 while they last.

The 990EZ form has been completed by my CPA and after review by our treasurer, Lori Anderson, she will send it on to the IRS. This was a rather expensive venture but necessary so that we will have a template to follow in future years when our income is over \$25,000.

The phantom lapidary has struck again. There is a club member who thinks he or she is above the rules of the club. This individual has a key to the facilities and sneaks in to use the saws and lapidary equipment, leaves a mess, leaves the lights on and does not pay for the equipment use. Not only is this dishonest but it is dangerous. Many members have worked hard over the past 50 years to provide some of the finest

lapidary facilities in the country. All it takes is one careless person who does not care about fellow members to destroy it all. This person is risking possible injury to self and or damage to valuable equipment, and if something were to happen to that individual while alone at the club, there would be no help available. I will be offering a solution to the Executive Board at the next meeting to hopefully solve this problem.

I am also hanging out the help-wanted sign again. Kris Galbraith is stepping down as show chairperson after two years of very hard work. So, if you have great organizational skills, are a people person, and have time to dedicate to our 50th Golden Anniversary show, please give me a call.

Just a Thought.

Thanks Looong Overdue

by JK Hudson, editor

Time is getting away from us very quickly these days. Wasn't it just last month that we had the 2005 annual show? This year's show preparation has been a roller coaster ride—and I have every confidence that we'll finish on a high note.

Kris Galbraith and her team have been working relentlessly since last December to make this our best show ever. Many of our members may not be aware just how much hard work and determination has taken to get this year's show together.

Bob Boyd and Kris challenged themselves to fill the Arlington Convention Center space with enough quality vendors to make the show a success. For a while, it didn't look like it was going to happen when some of our long-time vendors backed out for a variety of reasons. But, they pulled it off even while dealing with personal crises. I don't know how they found the strength. I'm exhausted just listening to them!

Let's take the brief moment before this weekend's chaos to thank them for all their work. Better yet, there's still time to volunteer! Showing up for even a couple of hours and saying "What can I do?" will make a difference.

September Area Shows

by Grady Shults

2-4 - Arlington, TX.
Arlington Gem And Mineral Club.
Call 817-277-2286

2-4 - Silver City, NM.
Grant County Gem & Min Soc.
Call 505-538-3216.

9-10 - Siloam Springs, AR.
NW Arkansas Gem & Min Soc.
Call 479-254-0894.

22-24 - Humble, TX.
Houston Gem & Min. Soc.
Call 281-239-0377.

30-Oct 1 - Farmers Branch, TX.
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Min. Soc.
Call 972-509-2821.

30-Oct 1 - Denison, TX.
Texoma Rock Hounds.
Call 903-891-9702.

Nuggets of Gold: Lessons in Silver

by Sam Howeth, Silversmithing instructor

Hollow Handmade Silver Beads

Introduction:

The American Indians made beads from coin silver from the United States and Mexico. The choice size was the dime. When new, the U.S. dime measure 16 gauge and after a few years circulation it measures 18 – 20 gauge. Beads are normally made from 20 – 24 gauge sheet silver; the thicker coin beads are heavier than the thinner metal beads.

For our purposes we will use either dimes or discs. A flat dime measures 11/16 of an inch in diameter. A disc 3/4" in diameter is a little larger. When curved, each will measure approximately 5/8". When the two halves are assembled the bead will measure approximately 3/8" thick. So handmade beads are not totally round, but are somewhat flatter than commercially manufactured beads.

Circular blanks may be purchased from supply houses. Coins worn too thin to have numismatic value may be purchased from coin dealers. Prices will vary according to the spot price of silver or the price they paid plus a mark-up. You may cut your own using a disc cutter, or you may cut them by hand. Most beads are made 3/16" – 5/16" in diameter, and from blanks 1/4" – 3/8" in diameter.

Forming the Bead Halves:

1. A dapping block with punches is used to form the discs into bead halves. Begin by pressing the disc into a cavity larger than the disc. Use the punch for that cavity and shape the disc slowly. Do not attempt to dome the metal with one or two blows. You may need to anneal the disc. Look for tears in the edges of the metal, if so, anneal. For thinner metals, use the matching punch with the cavity size. For thicker metal use a smaller punch, taking into consideration the metal thickness. Otherwise, you will reduce the metal thickness and flatten the surface of the metal. Use the next smaller cavity making certain the edge of the disc is below the top of that cavity.
2. Next step, file the edge of the shell. Lay your file flat on the table and move the edge back and forth to flatten the edge.
3. Now drill the bead hole in the center of the dome from the inside out.
4. Lightly file over the hole on top of the dome and break the sharp edge by turning a larger drill by hand to clean away burrs.
5. Repeat the process to create the other half.

Putting the halves together:

6. Clean the halves and flux.
7. On the solder block, turn one half dome side down, leaving the filed edge up, flux and heat.
8. Place snippets of medium solder on the edge together (the number of snippets will depend on the size of the bead, two or three for a dime-sized bead).
9. Place the other half exactly on top of the snippets and align the two halves. Use a t-pin through the holes to assist in mating the two halves.
10. Apply heat to the side opposite of the snippets to draw the silver solder around the edge of the halves. If you do not, the solder will flow out and onto the bead surface.
11. Pickle, rinse and place in a container of water with sodium bicarbonate or ammonia to neutralize the pickle inside of the bead.
12. Remove the bead and rinse in plain water.
13. Remove and place the bead hole side down on paper towels to allow all of the liquid to drain out.
14. Next, file where the two halves join to smooth out the seam.
15. Thread the bead onto a copper wire to act as a holding device and buff the bead to a final polish.

A little trivia—"BEAD" comes from an old German word meaning "PRAYER".

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club

presents
The 49th Annual Show

Art by Nature

Jewelry, Gems, Minerals, Fossils & Beads!

September 2-4, 2006

Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM, Monday 10 AM - 5 PM

Featuring:

- ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ Gemstones
- ◆ Fossils
- ◆ Beads
- ◆ Lapidary Rough & Slices
- ◆ Minerals
- ◆ Tools
- ◆ Demos
- ◆ Kids' Korner Activities
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Register for a Grand Prize
- ◆ Hourly Door Prizes

Location:

Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way
Arlington, TX 76011
\$7 Parking



**Admission
discount coupon
available online!**

Admission:

\$6.00 Adults (at the door*)

\$3.00 Children (6-12)

\$12.00 3-day pass

Free for scouts in uniform

*\$5.00 advanced tickets - call club to request
only one discount per person per day

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club

1408 Gibbins Road, Arlington, TX 76011

817-277-2286 (leave message)

www.tses.org

Rolling Rock Club meets at 9 AM on Sunday

September Class Schedule

by Pat Vaughan

Chainmaking* **OPEN**

2nd Saturday from 10 AM-1 PM
Instructor: Mary Owren

Faceting* **OPEN**

Starting date TBA, Wednesdays 7-9 PM
Instructor: Frank Krystinik

Glass Fusing & Enameling* **OPEN**

2nd Sundays from 1-4 PM
4th Saturdays from 9 AM-1 PM
Instructor: Becky Downey

Silversmithing

Instructors: Sam Howeth/Rick Litsinger

Silversmithing Lab Open
3rd Saturdays from 8 AM – Noon

103 **OPEN**

Mondays 7-10 PM
Open to those that have completed 102

201 **OPEN**

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

Wax Casting/Carving **OPEN**

Thursdays 7-9 PM.
(open to all levels of expertise)
Instructor: Karen Rhodes/Dale Miller

Wire Wrapping (Intermediate) - Ring **OPEN**

Wednesday, September 16, 1-4 PM
Instructor: Susan Potter

DCCCD CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes subject to cancellation

Silversmithing 101A **FULL**

Wednesdays 7-10 PM

* 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.

AGMC Hound's Tale Advertising Rates

Size	Dimensions	Members		Non-members	
		6 months	1 month	6 months	1 month
Full page	9.5" x 7.75"	\$120	\$25	\$240	\$50
Half page (v)	9.5" x 3.75"	\$72	\$15	\$144	\$30
Half page (h)	4.625" x 7.75"	\$72	\$15	\$144	\$30
Qtr page (v)	4.625" x 3.75"	\$48	\$10	\$96	\$20
Qtr page (h)	2.375" x 7.75"	\$48	\$10	\$96	\$20
Biz Card (v)	2" x 3.5"	\$30	\$6.25	\$60	\$12.50
Biz Card (h)	3.5" x 2"	\$30	\$6.25	\$60	\$12.50

All ads are subject to approval by the AGMC executive board. Layout of the ad is included in price as long as all ad content is included with the initial request. Digital artwork must be included with the initial request or the ad will be created as text only. Ad requests must be received by the 2nd Thursday of each month for the following month's newsletter by email at: editor@tses.org. Make payable to **Arlington Gem & Mineral Club**. Send payments to:

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club
P.O. Box 986
Arlington, TX 76004

For any questions regarding layout, please contact JK Hudson at: editor@tses.org.

For any questions regarding appropriate content, please contact Rick Litsinger at: Rockdoctor76016@aol.com.

September 2006

AGMC Classes and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Silversmithing 201 OPEN 7-10 PM	49th Annual Show
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
49th Annual Show	49th Annual Show	Regular Meeting 7:30 PM	Silversmithing 101A FULL 7-10 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting OPEN 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 OPEN 7-10 PM	****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon **Chainmaking 10 AM-1 PM Juniors 9 AM-Noon
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Glass Fusing & Enameling 1-4 PM	Silversmithing 103 OPEN 7-10 PM		Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM Silversmithing 101A FULL 7-10 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting OPEN 7-9 PM ***DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER	Silversmithing 201 OPEN 7-10 PM	****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon Silversmithing Lab Open 8 AM – Noon Wire Wrapping (Intermediate) - Ring 1-4 PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Silversmithing 103 OPEN 7-10 PM	Free Tuesday 7-9 PM for members	Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM Silversmithing 101A FULL 7-10 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting OPEN 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 OPEN 7-10 PM	Glass Fusing & Enameling 9 AM-Noon ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Silversmithing 103 OPEN 7-10 PM	Board Meeting 7 PM	Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM Silversmithing 101A FULL 7-10 PM DCCCD	****Lab Open Wax Carving & Casting OPEN 7-9 PM	Silversmithing 201 OPEN 7-10 PM	****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon

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 the last Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

The Hound's Tale

Published monthly by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club.

Permission To Reprint

Permission is granted for non-commercial reproduction provided the articles remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and source.

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

Annual Newsletter Rates 2006

Printed & Mailed to your Home	\$18.00
Printed & pickup at regular monthly meeting	\$1.00/mth
Notification Newsletter on-line	\$6.00
Download/Print at Home	Free