

Volume 50, Issue 03, March 2007

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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

March Program

March - Mr. Schaefer from Schaefer Art Bronze Casting. It has been several years since Mr. Schaefer has given a program.

April - Show and Tell. Now you can not say this is not enough time to prepare an item to show and tell about.



50th Anniversary

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

Trip to Tucson

by Dale Miller, member

January 25, 2006 Frances Johnson, Anita Leaky and I left Fort Worth for Tucson. We had borrowed my sister's minivan and taken out the third row of seats. It took time for all three of us to get out gear together. Yes it was a late start, we ended up eating lunch about three blocks from my home.

After spending the night in Van Horn we arrived in Tucson about 7:30 PM where we found Bill Candler had already checked us in.

In 2001 and 2002 I went to Tucson with Joyce Speed. We used the shuttle service provided by the shows. But this year we had a handicap license plate. We were able to park at the show and take our purchases to the car whenever we were overloaded. This happened often.

Frances was at the show last year so she knew where some of the dealers were located. This was a big help because there

are thousands of dealers in over 40 show locations. If you don't know where you are going you can miss the shows that have what you are looking for.

If you are interested in beads they were everywhere this year. Yes, I did break down and buy some. But why? I don't know how to string beads.

Every year it seems there is an abundance of one mineral. This year there was a lot of pink and blue opal and buckets of turquoise. I now have enough to cut the rest of my life. Who am I kidding? There is always a kind of turquoise I don't have and can't live without.

Five days is not enough time to see all the shows. We left before some of the show started. Next year I will pre-register and stay longer. I better start saving now.

Geology Library Book Sale

NORMAN - Books, maps, atlases, and journals, will be for sale on Friday, March 16, 2007. The sale begins at 8 AM and ends at 5 PM that day.

Books on general geology, geophysics, geomorphology, hydrology, mineralogy, oceanography, paleontology, petroleum, and other subjects will be available for sale. Publications of state and international geological surveys, as well as some journal titles, will be offered for purchase.

Prices are: hardbound books - \$1.00, softbound books - \$.50, atlases - \$1.00, journal issues - \$.25, and maps - \$.25.

The materials being sold were given as gifts to the Geology Library. Money raised from the book sale will be used to purchase additional materials for the library.

For more information, call Jody Foote at (405) 325-6451 or e-mail at jbofoote@ou.edu.

Just a Thought from Your President

by Rick Litsinger, President AGMC

2006 was indeed a great year for AGMC March is here and spring is around the corner. However, we can't let Winter leave without having our annual chili contest. So, get out your chili recipe and join us March the 10th with judging at 4 PM and all you can eat at 5 PM. The only rule is NO BEANS! You can bring beans to add after judging. I would like to see a great turn out for this first of several monthly Saturday gatherings so we can get together and have a good time and support the club. There will be a \$2.50 donation at the door. We also ask that you bring a side as a salad, corn bread or some other side that will go with chili. Last year we only had two entries so we canceled the contest and just had fun. So, this year lets have lots of chili and lots of club members show up to enjoy it.

In April, we will have our annual rock swap and fajita lunch. This will be April 28, start the swap at 8 AM and eat at noon. This will be a mini fund raiser and will be \$5.00 for

the all you can eat lunch and \$10.00 per vendor spot. The spots will be marked off with first come first choice. Also, please bring a side for the lunch.

May 19 will be a spaghetti supper at 6 PM and \$2.50 for all you can eat.

June 23 is tentatively set for our fish/shrimp dinner. Tentative because of availability of shrimp and fish which is provided by Frank Krystinik. There is a 30 person minimum at \$7.50 per person and we will do a ticket pre-sale to get an idea of whom wants to enjoy a great fish/shrimp dinner.

July is getting into the hot part of the summer so why not cool it off a little bit with an ice cream social. This will be on July 21 and the time will follow. Bring homemade or store bought and forget the calories and have fun.

Our next social will be in October for our first Fall Festival. This will be October 20 at 6 PM. Full details will follow. We will

need a chairperson to head this up. Any volunteers?

December will be our annual Christmas party and present swap. This will be December 8th at 6 PM. I will need a chairperson to head this up. Any volunteers?

More details will follow each month concerning that month social.

On another note, our newsletter needs some HELP! YOU and your articles. Other than the regular monthly articles in February, there were no other contributions to the newsletter. May I suggest checking out a book from the library about a subject you do not know anything about and write a short article about what you have learned. I bet there are quite a few members that would like to learn about that subject as well. We have a great library and newsletter. I would like to see both utilized more.

Just a Thought.



FOLKLORE THAT ROCKS



March: Agates

by Jeremy Dubhros, member

The word agate is derived from the Greek "Agateec" meaning happy. A suiting name as it was believed agate would cure melancholy.

Agate is one of mans earliest gemstones; some estimate that humans first began working the stone over 18,000 years ago during the Stone Age. Cameos were carved from this beautiful semiprecious stone, as well as a great many signet rings and other talismans.



It was highly valued by early civilizations, and a whole array of attributes has been associated with this large family of stones. It is said an agate placed in the mouth would quench thirst, one worn about the neck or applied to the forehead would reduce or ward off fever, and during the medieval ages the stone was even said to render the wearer invisible.



There are numerous types of agates some like chalcedony and carnelian have legends all their own. Others like brown or black agates with a white ring in the center were used in talismans against the evil eye.

According to the manuscript attributed to Albertus Magnus *Le Grand Albert des Secrets des Vertus des Herbs, Pierres et Bestes* a black agate with white bands, presumably black sardonyx, would instill strength and courage to the wearer.

Colors: Agate can be found in almost every color.

Region: Agate is found world wide.

Composition: SiO₂, semiprecious crystallized quartz silicate

Hardness: 6 - 7



Beginning Wire Work & Jewelry Design

Instructor: Catherine Mason
e-mail: cjmason@cjmason.com

Class information can also be found at: ww.cjmason.com. Click on the Class Info link at the top of the page.

Course Description:

Students will learn to turn a straight piece of wire and a few beads into beautiful jewelry using basic wire working techniques.

This is an all-day workshop. There will be a 30-minute lunch break. It will be best to bring your lunch.



Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the properties of wire and how to work with it.
2. Identify and use wire working tools.
3. Work with different types and sizes of wire to create units that can be assembled into jewelry.
4. Understand the basic principles of good jewelry design and finishing.
5. Design and construct at least one project, e.g., a bracelet or necklace, using the techniques learned in class.

Tools

- Wire cutters, round nose pliers and flat nose pliers are required for the first class. Other tools that will be helpful are Bent chain nose pliers, measuring tape, paper & pencil, a bead mat or work tray and a small dish to hold beads. Note: Smaller tools are usually better for this type of wirework.
- Magnifying glasses are recommended. *If you do not wear glasses or need magnifying glasses, please bring a pair of safety glasses.* A good light will be helpful.

Materials

- Medium size wire is easier for learning this technique. Copper wire kits (used for practice) will be available for purchase in class. If you purchase your own, you will need 20 or 21 gauge copper or brass wire. If you use Sterling Silver, you need half hard wire. 5ft of wire should be plenty for this class. Make sure your wire will fit through the beads you choose for your project.
- Primary beads: 6-8 lampwork, gemstone, metal, glass, etc., beads, ~8-10mm.
- Optional: enough 2.5-3mm round beads suitable for your primary beads. You will need 2 round beads for each primary bead (metal are best but others are okay).
- Lobster, toggle or other type of clasp suitable for your project.

I will have a few extra tools and bead mats available for use during class. I will also have assorted beads and findings available for purchase.



Introduction to Art Clay Silver

"Introduction to Art Clay Silver" is perfect for the individual who is curious about Art Clay Silver, or needs a "refresher" course for those of you who have used metal clay (either Art Clay Silver or PMC) in the past and want to simply brush up on your skills.



"An Introduction to Art Clay Silver" will be held on March 17, from 10:00 to 2:00 (with a 30 minute break for lunch) at the AGMC facility at 1408 Gibbons, Arlington. You will have your choice of projects - a pendant, a pair of earrings, or several charms for a bracelet. Whatever project you choose, you will leave the class with a lovely piece of jewelry to show off to your friends!

All tools and equipment are supplied. The cost of the class is \$12.00 (payable to AGMC); the cost of the clay (10 grams of Art Clay Silver 650/1200 Slow Dry) is \$19.00 (payable to the instructor).

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Certified Art Clay Instructor
gltrz@sbcglobal.net
817 926-7975
www.deplatapura.com

Buffalo Hunter seeks Big Game or at least old coins

Well, it's the season and time to go hunting buffalo (nickels, that is) and Indian pennys (or is that pennies?) or

whatever is available in the way of old coins.

Get some extra money to buy that "Whatever" you wanted from old coins.



I'm in the club directory so call me or meet me at the club at your convenience.

Sam Howeth 972-263-8002

March Class Schedule

by Pat Vaughan

Art Clay Silver OPEN

Saturday, March 17, 10 AM-2 PM
Instructor: Colleen Fitzpatrick

Beginning Wire Working Workshop

Saturday, March 24, 10 AM-4 PM
Instructor: Cathy Mason

Cab Class OPEN

1st Saturday, 1-4 PM
Instructor: Dale Miller

Chainmaking* OPEN

2nd Saturday from 9 AM-Noon
Instructor: Mary Owren

Faceting* OPEN

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

Glass Fusing & Enameling OPEN

2nd Sunday, 1:00 – 4 PM
4th Saturday, 9 AM-1 PM
Instructor: Becky Downey

Silversmithing

Instructors: Sam Howeth/Rick Litsinger

Silversmithing Lab Open

3rd Saturdays from 8 AM – Noon

Level 102 FULL

Wednesday, 7-10 PM
Open to those that have completed 103

Level 201 OPEN

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

Level 301 OPEN

Fridays 7-10 PM
Open to those that have completed 201

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

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. s check class board for sign-up sheets.

Note: All classes are \$3.00 per class hour.



AGMC's Annual Chili Contest

Get out your chili recipe and join us March the 10th with judging at 4 PM and all you can eat at 5 PM. The only rule is NO BEANS!

Shop Supervisors for March

by Dale Miller, member

Thursday, March 1 - Jeremy Dubhros
Saturday, March 3 - Dale Miller
Thursday, March 8 - Larry Ryan
Saturday, March 10 - Ray Batson
Thursday, March 15 - Harold Hoskison
Saturday, March 17 - Gary Copple
Tuesday, March 20 - Bob Boyd (Free Lapidary)

Thursday, March 22 - Frank O'Donley
Saturday, March 24 - David Abbott
Thursday, March 29 - Larry Ryan
Saturday, March 31 - Ray Batson

We now have a supervisor for every day the shop is open. Ray Batson is an old member who has rejoined. Thank you Ray for stepping up to help.

Spring Cleaning

by Sam Howeth, member

Feed the Silent Auction Coffers

Someone's trash can be another's treasure. Spring cleaning provides an opportunity to get rid of an accumulation of no longer wanted items that are under foot and taking up space.

Donations of lapidary items and associated crafts are especially appreciated. We have club members that can refurbish and repair such items for club activities, so do not let condition be a concern.

Bring such items to the club on any Saturday morning, the first Tuesday of the month or contact via e-mail Rick Litsinger at rockdoctor76016@aol.com if you need help with the size, weight or quantity of items. Got rocks in your garage or back yard? Chemical plating solutions? Rock saw? Polisher? Findings? Maybe it's a

whatchacallit, a thingamabob or a dodad? You know—one of them things. It could be scales to weigh, instruments to view or test, electrical tools to clean, cut or polish. Some tools defy description and you may not know what it is or what it does.

Give us a chance to help you and make this a win-win opportunity for yourself and the club.

Mo-Da-Lawn Day

It's that time of year again to clean away the remains of Winter and make way for Spring's welcome arrival. Let's have a turnout to clean up on Saturday March 17th. The irises need the leaves and weeds cleaned away. The small trench near the entrance needs to be cleaned out. All the mowers need to be started, as well as the weed eaters.

And, of course, any of the ladies that would like to fix small snack items would be gratefully appreciated. When you use the weed eater to eat weeds, you need a little food to get that green taste out.



March 2007

AGMC Classes and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ****Lab Open	2 SILVERSMITHING 301 OPEN 7-10 PM	3 ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon Juniors 9 AM-Noon Cab Class OPEN 1-4 PM
4	5	6 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM	7 Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM SILVERSMITHING 201 FULL 7-10 PM	8 ****Lab Open	9 SILVERSMITHING 301 OPEN 7-10 PM	10 ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon **Chainmaking OPEN 10 AM-1 PM CHILI CONTEST
11 Glass Fusing & Enameling OPEN 1-4 PM	12 SILVERSMITHING 101 OPEN 7-10 PM	13	14 Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM SILVERSMITHING 201 FULL 7-10 PM	15 ****Lab Open ***DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER	16 SILVERSMITHING 301 OPEN 7-10 PM	17 SILVERSMITHING Lab OPEN 8 AM – Noon Art Clay Silver OPEN 10 AM-2 PM ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon
18	19 SILVERSMITHING 101 OPEN 7-10 PM	20 Free Tuesday 7-9 PM for members	21 Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM SILVERSMITHING 201 FULL 7-10 PM	22 ****Lab Open	23 SILVERSMITHING 301 OPEN 7-10 PM	24 ****Lab Open 9 AM-Noon Glass Fusing & Enameling OPEN 9 AM-1 PM Beg. Wire Working OPEN 10 AM-4 PM
25	26 SILVERSMITHING 101 OPEN 7-10 PM	27 Board Meeting 7 PM	28 Faceting OPEN 7-9 PM SILVERSMITHING 201 FULL 7-10 PM	29 ****Lab Open	30 SILVERSMITHING 301 OPEN 7-10 PM	31 ****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.

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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-enrolleés 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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