



CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**
 Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association
 3300 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109
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Program, Tuesday, February 11

6:45 Social Time
 Meeting: 7:015

mineral ['min(ə)rəl]

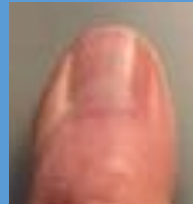
a solid inorganic substance of natural occurrence

There are many ways to identify minerals: taste (be careful with this one), smell, streak/color, cleavage (how the mineral tends to break), fracture, specific gravity, luster, and hardness. A simple field test can help identify if what you are finding is quartz, topaz, or calcite. Our program will discuss methods for identifying specimens in the field, or at home, as well as demonstrate how to test minerals for hardness. If time permits we will also discuss how to test for density and display equipment which can be purchased from various suppliers to further assist you in making an accurate identifications.

Paul Smith and Carmen Sorenson

Common tools for testing

hardness (without spending a lot of money)



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The Purpose of the Cowtown Gem Mineral & Glass Activity

is to promote a spirit of fellowship among members and to promote popular interest and education in certain arts and the various earth sciences, in particular, those facets dealing with the arts of lapidaries, metals, glass, and jewelry and the sciences of minerals, paleontology, geology, and archeology.



Commissioner's Report

At our last meeting we held officer elections. Thanks to all of those who stepped up to fill these important functions that keep our club running smoothly. We have some new names and some familiar ones so be sure to check the front page of the newsletter to see the updated officer's slate. We still need a volunteer to take on VP of Field Trips. This is a vital and fun part of our club – please consider volunteering ... we have fliers and details for all previous trips to make it easy to transition into this much needed officer position!

Exciting Class News – in the world of metal smithing, sand and lost wax casting, wax carving as well as torch safety Jeri Elkins has volunteered to teach or assist Paul (or others) in teaching all of these classes. She has offered to teach a recurring Intro class (ring or bangle or earring) once or twice monthly which will quickly get new and interested members engaged. This is fantastic as I know many new members often wait months for a beginner class in metal smithing to come along. Great idea Jeri!

Along with the recurring Intro class she

envisions offering a series of projects at the beginner and intermediate level including Simple textured band rings + Stacker rings with a stone (tiny cab in a cup setting), Hammered bangle and cuff, Forged and textured earrings, Stone setting with pre-made tube settings, Heavy Link bracelet with charm, Fused chain bracelet or necklace with a combo bezel prong setting for an irregular surface stone (druzy or crystal), Argentium pendant or earrings with gold dust accents, and more!

Paul is excited and already looking at possible advanced classes he can offer ... I suggested Depletion Gilding like Tumbaga (hint, hint Paul. See page 4 of this newsletter.).

We have new easy to use forms for anyone wanting to teach a class. Email myself or VP of Education for a copy – you simply fill it out and email to Brad to have it scheduled online!

Please continue to bring in your goodies for Show & Tell as well as Stump the Experts. These have been fun.

Play safe, clean as you go, report supply shortages or broken equipment by writing it down on the white board in the shop and have fun!

Cheers **Steve**

Classes

We are in the process of planning some new classes this year. They will be announced when the planning is complete. The following classes are currently open for enrollment:

[Beginning Stained Glass: Copper Foil Method/Zinc Came Frame](#) \$50.00 Tue Feb 18, 2020 6:30 PM

[Intermediate Fusing: Pattern Bars](#) \$40.00 Sat Mar 14, 2020 9:30 AM

[Intermediate Fusing: Swirling Powders](#) \$75.00 Sat May 23, 2020 1:00 PM

[Intermediate Stained Glass: Lead Method](#) \$55.00 Tue Apr 21, 2020 6:00 PM

Brad

Minutes, January 14, 2020

General

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by President, Tina Owens. Visitor: Joshua Hussong. There were 25 people in attendance.

Commissioner's Report / Announcements (Steve Shearin)

- Jergen's class: Can handle 12 students. With 12 people splitting the total cost it will be around \$150+ per person. Will be taught the weekend of March 7 & 8. Brad will put the class online and will list basic metalsmithing as the pre-requisite.

- There will be a trip to Hillsboro to the Live Through Texas Museum. Andre Lujan is the Director. It will be a day trip and probably on Saturday, January 25. Steve will send out the official announcement.

- We are holding officer elections tonight. The following positions were filled:

- Linda Groom – Secretary
- Vice President of Field Trips: No election at this time; C.J. Wright will continue during the transition to someone else; Steve will send out an email to other members not in attendance.

Glass Program – Felice Moreno

Vice President of Programs – Carmen Sorenson will continue with Janice Burns acting as her backup.

Secretary's Report (Jean Fox)

- The Minutes from the November meeting were offered up for questions and/or revisions. None presented so the Minutes stand as submitted. Note: There were no Minutes for December since that was the club Christmas party.

Classes (Brad)

- Go to our website as there are some interesting classes posted there now.
- Will start setting up rockhound type classes soon.
- Big saw class will be set up again.

Field Trips (C.J. Wright)

Upcoming field trips:

- Feb. 8 – a trip to Arkenstone from 1:00-2:00 PM; limit will be 20; the location address will not be published – it will be sent to those attending. Colleen will send out a notice about it. Attendees can go early and lunch before the visit. There is also a rock shop in the area to check out if people are interested. This is a top of the line gallery with world class specimens.

Newsletter (Colleen Reigh)

- She needs articles and photos to publish; want ads are free for members. The deadline for submittals to her is one week prior to the next monthly meeting.

- Photos and hyperlink to videos would be useful.
- Remember free want ads for members

Glass Crafters (Tina Moore)

- There is a problem posting the Intro to Glass class on our website; cannot get it to post. Christy or Emily at CERA will be contacted for assistance.

- Intro to Fusing class will be taught by Janice Craddock on Tuesday, January 21 at 6PM.

Sunshine News (Tina Moore)

- Nothing to report.

Shop Maintenance (Robert Reed)

- From December report – the new breaker box has been installed in the saw room.

- All breakers have been mapped.

- Motor pulled on lab saw #1 and checked; it was a start capacitor – it was overcharging and blowing the breaker; motor will be reinstalled.

- New diameter trim saw – motor is out on it; John Powell has both motors right now; cost options do not look good.

- Light bulbs replaced.

- Sink is working again.

- New doorbell installed.

- Have a new oil drum.

- All shop requests or concerns need to be written on the white board.

Program

- A presentation by Jack and Colleen Reigh on the use and maintenance of the flat lap machine and the slant cabber. A very important thing to remember is to never cross-contaminate the machines. Always clean each before and after use. Can teach a class on it and Colleen will email a list of the types of things that can be done on these two machines. Brad will schedule the classes – three people at a time. It was pointed out by Carmen that classes aren't usually taught using these machines because people have to provide their own wheels. It is great for perfectly flat things, e.g., a scenic slab.

New or Unfinished Business

- Nothing specific.

Door Prize

Won by our visitor, Josh Hussong

Monthly Challenge

JEWELRY

N/A for this meeting.

GLASS

N/A for this meeting.

Minutes taken, typed, and submitted 01/29/2020

Jean Fox

BENCH TIPS

Cutting Molds

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



Using Your Thumb

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32" burs, the larger 1/8" shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of twist drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.



So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key

Solve Your Jewelry Making Problems With Brad's "How To" Books [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



TUMBAGA

Tumbaga is an alloy composed mostly of gold and copper. It has a significantly lower melting point than gold or copper alone. It is harder than copper, but maintains malleability after being pounded. Tumbaga can be treated with a simple acid, like citric acid, to dissolve copper off the surface. What remains is a shiny layer of nearly pure gold on top of a harder, more durable copper-gold alloy sheet. Tumbaga objects were often made using the lost wax technique and the alloy used was a mixture of copper (80%), silver (15%), and gold (5%). The indicated concentrations varied from object to object. Once the object was taken out of the cast, it was burned and as a consequence, copper from the surface of the object was oxidized to copper oxide and was then removed mechanically. The object was then placed in an oxidizing solution containing, it is believed, sodium chloride (salt), and ferric sulfate. This process removed through oxidation the silver from the surface of the object leaving only gold.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tumbaga>



How Do I Store All this Glass Stuff

1. When storing sheet glass or finished panels, consider how it is displayed at your glass store. It is placed vertically on the shelves so that one can quickly look at the piece. Vertical storage is much better than horizontal store for your glass.
2. Glass working tools should be stored away from your chemicals. If you must store tools and chemicals together, then enclose each chemical in its own plastic zipper bag to prevent tool corrosion.
3. Easy pattern storage comes in many forms – binders, cardboard paper towel cores, file folders, etc. Whatever system you use, make sure your patterns stay clean. Remember that paper patterns that have become crumpled can always be ironed if you are careful.
4. Scrap storage is as unique as each crafter. Some ideas are: plastic food containers, plastic shoe containers, empty foam meat trays that have been cleaned, canning jars, and caboodles, to name a few. Whatever you use, label each container with the color of easy identification at a distance. In our shop we use plastic containers with lids on them, keeping a given color of glass together. These are kept immediately to the left as you walk in the front door of the shop.
5. Copper foil is best stored in a copper foil dispenser for short term (while working), but for long term storage, place the foil in a plastic zipper bag. Put it in the refrigerator for even longer storage.
6. All types of rigid came (brass, zinc & copper) should be stored in a manner that will keep it from bending and twisting. A piece of PVC pipe cut to the length of the came works nicely. The important thing to remember is to keep the came straight and dry. These metals can oxidize and/or tarnish when stored for long periods. A quick clean-up with fine steel wool will remove any oxidation as you prepare them for soldering.
7. Lead came should be kept straight and flat. If it gets twisted it can be very difficult to straighten out again. Lead should be kept dry and cleaned up before soldering, just like rigid came.

Hopefully, these few hints can make your own glass shop just the place you want to be!

From Stained Glass News, Issue #133, January 2019.



Field Trip Texas Through Time Museum Hillsboro, Texas



Big Saw Experts: contact if you need to use the 24" or the 36" hydraulic saw:

Victor Sedinger, victorsedigner@gmail.com
817-726-2433

Janice Craddock, jmc2356@yahoo.com

Jack Reigh, jack_reigh@icloud.com 817-249-3095

Paul Smith, gldslngr@yahoo.com 817-733-5369

Steve Shearin, steve.l.sherin@lmco.com
817-777-1997

La Donna Stroud, 817-781-5324

Web and Email Addresses

• [https://www.facebook.com/groups/
CowtownGMG/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CowtownGMG/)

• CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com

• [http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/
home/newsletter](http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/newsletter)



Help Wanted

As your editor, I am always looking for hobby-related photos, articles, field trip reports, etc for the newsletter. Email items to me or give me the address where I can find the article. I will also run a free want ad for hobby-related items you wish to sell. All submissions are greatly appreciated! *Colleen*



GEM & MINERAL AND BEAD SHOWS

February 2020

15-16—GEORGETOWN, TEXAS: Annual show; Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Georgetown Community Center at San Gabriel Park, 445 East Morrow Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$3, Youth (ages 6-12) \$2, free admission for children under 6; 50th annual show; Email: wcgms1@outlook.com; Website: www.wcgms.org

22-23—PASADENA, TEXAS: Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Club; Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$7, children (6-12) \$3, free admission for children and scouts in uniform; contact Sandra Christiansen; Email: clgmsvendors@gmail.com; Website: <http://www.clgms.org/page2.html>

22-23—PLAINVIEW, TEXAS: Annual show; Hi-Plains Gem & Mineral Society; Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S Columbia; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$3, students \$1; 58th annual show; contact Bobby and Kitty Shipman, 1616 Ennis St., Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 685-3748; Email: bobcat22@suddenlink.net

March 2020

7-8—BIG SPRING, TEXAS: Annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn, 2900 Old State Hwy 80; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Lola Lamb, lolabellelamb@yahoo.com; Website: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspringprospectorsclub/>

AREA CLUBS

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Ave, Fort Worth, TX; forth Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX; first Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society,

American Legion Hall, Suite 105, 10205 Plano Road, Dallas, TX; third Tuesday of month at 7:00.

Dallas Paleontological Society, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane; second Wednesday of the month at 7:30.

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, South Hampton Community Hospital,

2929 Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX; forth Tuesday of month . at 7:00.

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lather Dr., Dallas, TX; first Saturday of month at 10:00.

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Activities Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, TX; first Tuesday of month at 7:30.