



CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**
Member of Corporate **Employee Recreation Association**
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Commissioner's Report

Happy New Year Everyone! With a vaccine rollout it may indeed be a much better time for all of us. I look forward to restarting all of our activities when things improve ... we have several new members who are chomping at the bit! *Steve*

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Please check the CERA website for the status of your club membership. Keeping up our membership numbers will ensure that CERA continues operation and we continue to have a well equipped shop. Thanks!

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.

Classes

No classes will be offered this month.

It may take another month or two before we can offer classes.

We want to keep all of our members safe and we hope we can offer classes soon.



CJ's Jewelry Projects from 2020

Here are some of my December projects. The bracelet is Project 31 from the Alan Revere's facebook tutorial from his book "Professional Jewelry Making".

The "family" pendants are pieces I made for my daughter and daughter-in-law for Christmas.

Alan Revere's project tutorials can be seen on Facebook on the page titled "Let's Make Professional Jewelry. ^{EBook} Check it out. There's no cost for joining, except for access to his book. He has

two different groups going at the same time. The first completes his first 18 projects in his book. The 2nd group works on the advanced group projects 19 through 35. In both series the projects teach continually advancing skills which you will use on many of your jewelry projects and will be needed as you progress through his book.

Both groups will complete their projects in April 2021. But he will then start another group, and you can work at your own pace starting at any time, even today. Each group has a certificate of completion available if you complete the entire series. You can download the e-book for \$10.00 or buy the printed book for \$60-\$75. I used the e-book for the first part, then bought the book. I still use them both. This has been a great thing to do during our year when we were not meeting or going on field trips.

If you want more disinformation on this incredible opportunity to learn from such a great teacher, please feel free to contact me [at cjzwri@icloud.com](mailto:cjzwri@icloud.com) or call at 505-239-5711. Or just look it up on Facebook and ask to join the group. Carole Jean (CJ) Wright



BENCH TIPS

ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.



IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club Invitation:

CERA members are invited to join the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club's January meeting. Tuesday, January 19th at 7pm for a Zoom meeting with Dr. Neal Immega (Paleontologist (Houston Gem and Mineral Club). Topic - *The impact at Chicxulub in Mexico did not kill the dinosaurs.* Do not believe

everything a physicist tells you. Paleontologists have the right answer.

Topic: FWGMC Meeting

Time: [Jan 19, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time](#) (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88522067741?pwd=b1R5OXZEaD13YVYwb0xmeHBKUEhNz09>

Web and Email Addresses

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

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

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<http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/>

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



Sunshine News

If you have any get well wishes, congratulations, etc., please let Tina know and we will include the information in the newsletter.

tinamoorepac@yahoo.com



Glass Activity

I have been working with bottle glass and float glass for the past month and while progress is slow I have managed to produce mostly flat sheet glass (<http://glasswithapast.com/knowledgebase/making-fusible-flat-glass-from-bottles/>), a few mangled stars (<https://glasswithapast.com/knowledgebase/fused-bottle-glass-stars/>), and some other odds and ends. Nothing has turned out great, but these are really the cheapest fused glass projects

that you can imagine. There is a bottle cutter at the shop in the cabinet that contains the Morton tool. It is a little hit or miss, but even a broken bottle has a lot of useable glass. There are also a bunch of glass bottles that Steve donated under the main table. One important tip is that the inside of the bottle is likely to devitrify. When using the bottle glass you need to make sure that the inside of the bottle is the bottom of your finished piece.



GEM & MINERAL AND BEAD SHOWS

January 2021

22-24—TYLER, TEXAS: Annual show; The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 South Rose Park Drive; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, students and children \$1; contact: mlkilanski@yahoo.com; Website: etgms.org

January & February 2021

TUCSON, ARIZONA: Multiple wholesale and retail shows. See <http://tucsongemandmineralshows.net/tucson-ez-guide/tucson-ez-guide.htm>

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, Brook-haven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane; second Wednesday of the month at 7:30.

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W.

Keist, Dallas, TX 75233, Fourth 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.