



# CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**  
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association  
3300 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109  
Volume XXIII • Issue 3 • March, 2021



## Commissioner's Report

### Commissioner

Steve Shearin  
(work) 817-777-1997  
(cell) 817-733-5368

### President

Tina Owens  
940-433-5554

### Vice-President, Programs

Carmen Sorenson  
817-731-8297

### Interim Vice-President, Field Trips

CJ Wright  
505-239-5711  
cjzwright@icloud.com

### Vice-President, Education

Brad Sigley  
817-797-9888  
bsidney25@yahoo.com

### Vice-President, Glass Sunshine Chair

Tina Moore  
tinamoorepac@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor

Colleen Reigh  
colleenreigh@att.net

### Secretary

Linda Groom  
lndgroom@yahoo.com

Hello Rockhounds of CERA!

Wow, next week will mark 1 year that I have been working from home. Back then I thought it might be 6 to 8 weeks, haaaa! Paul, myself, and a few other members we have chatted with have had our vaccinations plus 3 weeks for them to take full effect. The latest CDC guidance says it is OK for such people to meet indoors (let alone field trips) without masks ... though they are still encouraged. I'm thinking we need to soon restart meetings, classes, and fieldtrips...yippee!

With many of our members being older and some like myself having underlying conditions I would want to impose a rule for all of these activities that anyone participating be able to show their vaccination card and that their last (or only for the J&J vaccine) be 3 weeks old. This may be a burden for many of our younger members as it is more difficult for them to get vaccinated at this time but most of our instructors and field trip guides are older and this may give us a chance to get our prep together after a year off so we have great programs for everyone!

You may have noticed we did not have officer elections in January ... as those elected officers only got to serve 3 months I am asking them to finish out 2021, but if any have issues please email me. PLEASE renew your memberships soon as we are down to 38 from 88.

Can't wait to get going again. Cheers,

*Steve*

### 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.

# BENCH TIPS

## Sharp Knives for 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.



## Use Your Thumb

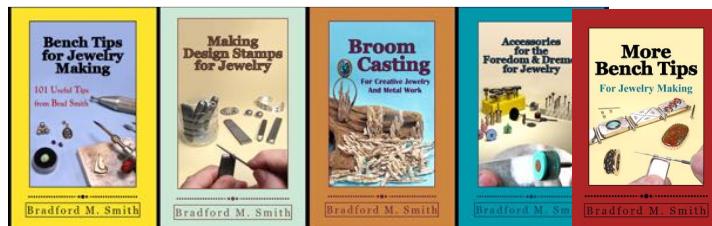
When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32" burs, the larger 1/8" shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the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



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. Happy hammering,

Be More Productive With Brad's  
How To Do It" Books



Classes

Still no classes yet. I hope to arrange some classes by May.

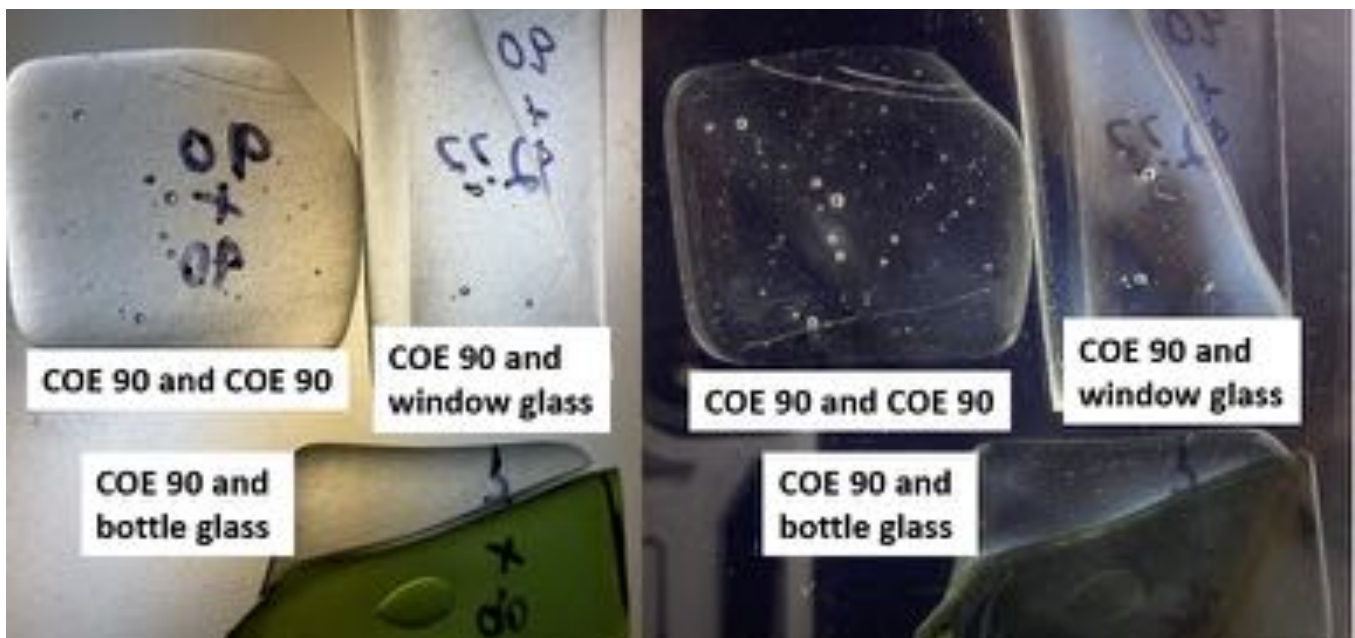
Brad

# Glass Activity

Empty glass bottles are such a cheap source of glass, I wanted to talk about how you can potentially combine them. One of the main limiting factors in fusing with glass bottles is that you cannot reliably mix the glass from bottles together even if they are from the same company.

It turns out there is a fairly easy test to determine if two pieces of glass have the same COE. You need to cut out two small pieces from each source and fuse them with a full fuse. Using a light table (there is one in the shop), place the piece of glass between two pieces of polarizing film (there are a couple of pieces in the shop in the drawer under the middle kiln). If the glass is not compatible, the stress the glass is under will show as a white halo. I heard from a couple of sources that bottle glass is often in the range of COE 90, so one of my tests was Bullseye glass (COE 90) and a piece of wine bottle. For this particular bottle, there were some indications of stress. This piece is very likely to fracture at some point. I then tried bullseye glass and a piece of window or float glass, which is supposed to be in the range of COE 82. Under the polarizing film, the entire piece was white. This piece is under so much stress, if you were to drop it from even a small distance it would most likely shatter. My control was a bullseye fused to bullseye. I have included some not very good pictures; this is something that is much more impressive in person. I encourage you to check it out next time you are at the shop. I left these 3 pieces on top of the polarized film in the drawer under the middle kiln. As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Felice





## Web and Email Addresses

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

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

[CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com](mailto:CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com)

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

Please check the CERA website [cera-fw.com](http://cera-fw.com) 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!

## GEM & MINERAL AND BEAD SHOWS

April 2021

**10-11—ABILENE, TEXAS:** Annual show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Taylor County Expo Center / Display Building, 1700 HWY 36; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$2, free admission for children age 5 and under and uniformed scouts and military personnel ; Displays featuring rock specimens, lapidary work, silversmithing, wirewrapping and jewelry making, demonstrations, vendors with a variety of items, and presentation of a scholarship to a university student; contact Linda J. Walker, P.O. Box 206, Hawley, TX 79525; Email: [ctgms50@gmail.com](mailto:ctgms50@gmail.com)

May 2019

**29-30—FORT WORTH, TEXAS:** Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, seniors, students and military \$5, free admission for children 16 and under; 70th annual gem, mineral, fossil, bead & jewelry show & sale ; contact Janice Craddock, PO Box 123975, Fort Worth, TX 73121; Email: [fwgmc.info@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.info@gmail.com); Website: [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)

## 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**, 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.