



CGMG News

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

Hello Club! & Happy New Year!

We will ring it in right by holding our January Officers Elections (or postponing to February).

First though a big thanks to all of our officers, instructors, and volunteers for their time and effort this past year running the club, assisting with the shop, chairing shows, offering classes and so much more. Officer elections are on the agenda this month and if you would be interested in volunteering for any position please contact me prior to the meeting. Per our club by-laws we should set up a nominating committee to handle this process but I have found holding elections at our first meeting of the year really makes this difficult. In the future I will either suggest we set up that committee earlier in the year or move elections to March or even April. My reasoning is that in the fall we are spread very thin from the annual October club show, November auction, and December holiday dinner.

As for this year I will hold a brief discussion during the meeting to see if any officers are leaving and/or any who wish to volunteer. Our current officers are:

President: Tina Owens

VP Programs: Carmen Sorenson

VP Fieldtrips: Gina Koenig

VP Education: Brad Sigley

VP Glass Crafters: Felice Moreno

Newsletter: Colleen Reigh

Secretary: Jacque Brock

Shop Chair: Robert Reed

We have an exciting new year ahead with lots of classes spinning up including silver-smithing, mold-making, jewelry casting, unique new glass classes and more. As most of our experienced and talented instructors tend to vanish from mid-January to mid-February look for some of the afore-mentioned classes to begin shortly after that. Where do they go? They save up a wad of cash and head for the two biggest annual shows in the country - the Quartzsite Show (great for rough material that needs to be slabbed) and the Tucson Show (great for everything). If you are new to the hobby please ask one of our experienced

continued on page 2

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,

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members why these two shows are a must-do. You might also do a Google search to learn more.

Prior to COVID we had implemented several fun challenges all members could participate in at the meetings and I'd like to start two of them up again -

Stump the Experts? Do you have a rock or fossil you cannot identify? Or do you just want to challenge our experts? We encourage you to bring it in and let us do our best to identify it for you. One exception is faceted gemstones as those require special equipment to ID. We will set aside one meeting a year for identifying faceted gems. Please bring in your items and place them on a back wall desk with your name printed on a card or sheet of paper.

Show Off! Finished a glass, jewelry, or lapidary project recently? Find some great specimens? Bring'em in and let us have a look-see. As above just place them on a back wall desk with your name and

a description printed on a card or sheet of paper.

It all began with Meg - weekly meet-ups at the shop to work on your projects beside other club members with more or less experience than you who could help out or ask for help along with a bit of food, fun, and camaraderie among members with like interests. They are an opportunity for people with similar experience and interests to get together on a recurring day or evening and work independently on personal projects while enjoying each other's company. It can be weekly, monthly, or whatever. The hosts are not expected to instruct or to feed everyone but attendees could volunteer to bring in a snack tray, etc. If you would like to host a recurring group with similar interests please contact Colleen to post it in the newsletter.

Looks to be a busy meeting to fire off the new year, I hope to see you all there! Steve

December 2022 Minutes

No minutes were taken at the December meeting because of the Christmas party.

Classes

We are planning to start classes early this year with the General Lapidary class already posted on the website and starting in January. Also, the saws class will be scheduled soon. There will be many classes scheduled this year so keep an eye on the website for the classes you want to attend. If you want to start the new year working with glass for the first time please contact Felice Moreno or myself to schedule the beginning glass class.

Brad

Glass Activity

I hope everyone had a good holiday. I am going to work on scheduling some intro glass classes in the next couple of months. There seem to be a lot of people who want to take Intro to Leaded glass, so that will be the first one I will try to set up, If there is anything else that people want to take, please let me know.

I would like to thank John Powell for fixing the small kiln, I know it was a giant pain to get it fixed and I really appreciate the time and effort he spent on it. Please feel free to use the little kiln on the right as it is now in service.

Felice



The Ring's the Thing

→ Have you ever dreamed of adorning your honey's finger? Or secretly fantasized about walking in Lucrezia Borgia's footsteps, with a poisoner's ring upon your finger? Or wished to build yourself a ring worthy of kissing? ¶

¶

→ If so, we have a day in the studio and a contest for you. On Sat 3/25/23 (and maybe Sat 4/1/23) we will gather in the jewelry studio at CERA from 10 am to 5 pm to share a pizza lunch and make a ring. At 4:30 pm, we'll put down our tools, have a little show and select our favorites. ¶



Artist-unknown

¶

→ There will be three divisions: beginning, intermediate and pro. If you have completed intermediate silversmithing or equivalent, you should compete in the intermediate division. Pros are those who have sold high-end jewelry within the last year. The club will provide torches, studio space, pickle,

buffing compounds and limited specialized tools. Silver, stones, hand tools, solder and flux should be brought by the participants. Arriving with a plan and a design is strongly recommended. Everything must be fabricated between 10 am and 4:30 pm. Please, no castings or pre-fabricated settings—e.g. pre-cut tube settings, bezel cups, or commercially made prong, crown or basket settings. Stones can be cut or faceted by someone other than the participant. ¶



Ian Wilson

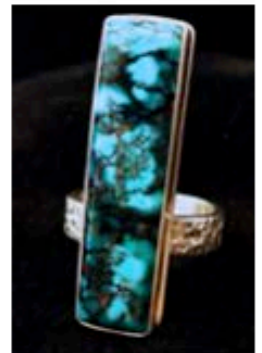
¶

→ Folks will need to register for the appropriate division with the online system. There will be a nominal fee to recoup the cost of club consumables. Our studio can only safely accommodate 12 people. Should enrollment exceed that number, we will have the divisions compete on different days. When registering please be aware that we may have to divide the sections, therefore plan on being available for either day. ¶

→ Since no contest is complete without prizes: First place, in each division, will receive a \$75 gift certificate for Otto-Frei Jewelry Supply. Second place—beginning and intermediate only—will receive a \$50 gift certificate for Otto-Frei Jewelry Supply. And, everyone will earn all the bragging rights they want.



Pillbox/"poisoner's" ring.
Artist-unknown



Ian Wilson



Field Trip

The Fort Worth, Cowtown CERA, Dallas and Arlington clubs combined together for an awesome rockhounding trip to the Kokernot of Ranch in Alpine, Texas.

We arrived Thursday, December 1st and some of us met for dinner at Guzzi Up Pizza to plan our next few days.

On Friday, December 2nd, we met up at 8am with Aaron and Roy, our guides, and James, the Ranch Owner. Friday, we headed out to Happy Hill and hunted there all day! The weather was gorgeous, sunny and 80 degrees! This was our private group outing and we had several members that had not been on this trip. We had a blast and everyone found some really gorgeous pieces!

On Saturday, December 3rd, some of us went on the trip to Skyline Drive, about 1 1/2 hour drive in

through some pretty bumpy roads! The weather was a bit cooler, but still sunny and gorgeous. The drive was so worth it. One of the group members found two giant "biscuits!" We saw Javelina, Elk, Deer, rattlesnakes :-(and some kind of long horn sheep.

All-in-all it was a wonderful trip with many treasures that were found. We will be planning another trip next spring!

I have included some photos of the group but will have to attach photos of some of our finds later!

Now that the new year has begun I am trying to plan out several trips throughout the year. Both local and distance! If anyone would like to suggest and lead a trip, please contact me. I am happy to coordinate communications and sign-ups!

Gina Koenig





Web and Email Addresses

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Best Wishes for 2023!

GEM & MINERAL AND BEAD SHOWS

January, 2023

21-22—FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: Annual show; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Lady Bird Johnson Park, Pioneer Pavilion, Hwy. 16 South; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free; Free door prizes hourly and silent auction, raffle prizes and dealers for all over the southwest. Demonstrations and a geologist to identify your mystery rocks; contact Frank Rowell, (325) 248-1067; Email: hcgms20@gmail.com; Website: fredericksburgrockhounds.org

27-29—TYLER, TEXAS: Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Tyler Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, students \$1; Rock Food Tables, Florescent Rock Display, Club Member Collection Displays, Lapidary Demonstrations, kids game; contact Ed Grounds, (903)

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.