



CGMG News

Publication of **Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association
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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

Hi guys!

First – please welcome our new BOD representative (all Leisure Activities), Cole Hagar, whom I have cc'd on this email. His photo is on CERA's site so be sure to say hello should you see him at CERA. ALSO – Colleen, would you please add Cole to the club distribution for newsletters? Thanks!

Second - many thanks to Carmen and her GRO committee – the work they have done (nicely put together into a presentation by Robert) addressed many of the concerns the BOD had and showed we were ahead of the ball. Great work guys ... you will see how your slides addressed some of these concerns below and then more to come in the newsletter and at the meeting.

Tonight's meeting was very positive and our presentation was well received. Much support and positive encouragement and some good ideas from all Board members.

Status following meeting:

Funds turned back on - I will submit a PO request for a new 55 gallon drum of oil in a day or two and CR's for regular supplies, class supplies as needed

Exception – the new casting machine – board to consider and get back to me but this consideration has to do with the 'use' of this expensive equipment. Quite fairly they pointed out the "perception" is that just a handful of members use it or the entire shop for that matter – this is because so many enter through the rear gate and do not "badge in" at the lobby. This is crucial for our continued operation – no matter where you enter from or whether or not you check out the key you MUST badge-in at the lobby to use the shop. The "logbook" in the shop is to be thrown away. This is so critical to our club being funded in the future that members found in violation risk losing their membership.

Guest Membership for a couple changed from \$100 + \$90 to \$100 + \$50

At our October Show – for that weekend only we can offer a discounted rate for NEW folks wanting to join. I am to coordinate with Cole on what that discount will be which he will present to the Board for consideration

Need more signage throughout facility to increase awareness of us and Pottery being Activities out back

On that note – with prior approval between myself and Crissy we may use CERA's contracted "media company" (ADP Media) for everything from signs to cards and pamphlets. They have all the CERA templates.

Also on that note – we need artisans to put items for sale (or display) in the lobby showcase. BOD is willing (possibly eager) to add a wall display if needed.

Pitched 2 ideas for a second show in the Spring:

Show similar to October – impossible as the Trinity Ballroom is soon to be used by a Church every Sunday of the year except for our October show and contract is finalized for (I think) three years while they are building a new Church.

A Gem, Mineral, and Glass (and possibly Pottery, etc) to rival something like the Arlington Show utilizing the full gymnasium (think Brookhaven). My action assigned by BOD – provide Cole with a presentation outlining requirements (floor coverings, lighting, electrical for vendors, fee structure, number of likely vendors, advertising plan/cost), and all that goes into a big show.

Also brought up Pottery allowing non-members to purchase "Intro Classes/Experiences" that are project based to the general public (complete non-members) in order to increase interest, membership, and income. Discussed how that would be difficult for our "Intro" classes which last weeks, use dangerous equipment and they brought up some really good ideas:

Check out SiNaCa Glass and their offerings to the general public like Christmas ornaments and such where to 'guests' get to prepare their project and our club experts do the firing – minimal teaching other than specific to the project plus basic safety. Main goal is to get them in the shop and excited. Advertising required of course online, also on CERA website (see what is under Pottery for examples).

Our club can do the same (including lapidary and jewelry) as we think up projects in those areas (polished piece of rough, simple jewelry project...)

Plus I would really love to see the "Glass" get a shot in the arm as we have so many talented folks willing to teach.

Reported to BOD that per last EC meeting our new name is simply "CERA Gem, Mineral & Glass" – will update FB, etc

Accommodation for Meg to access shop through big back gate approved!

Steve

April 11, 2023 Minutes

Robert, our President called the meeting to order and welcomed all.

Secretary, Jacque asked if there were any changes or corrections in the minutes in the March newsletter.

Steve, Commissioner again reminded members that funds are frozen until the upcoming CERA Board of Directors meeting. He would be presenting the Grow Committee's intentions with presentation created by Robert.

President, Robert took over the meeting and stated we have a door prize and raffle tickets are available to purchase for items donated by members. The Show & Tell, Stump the Experts and the Design Corner areas have some interesting things to note

The May 9 meeting will consist of our Auction that is being held in this room and option of 50/50 split for items to members. In June we will have a silent auction set up prior to the meeting on tables to check out.

The Executive Committee will meet approximately two more times this calendar year to review the Bylaws or Policies which haven't been done since 2018.

Brad, VP Classes noted the ongoing classes and upcoming classes to watch the website for additions to schedule.

Gina, VP Field Trips talked about the upcoming trips to Arkansas and Kentucky, and is working with Albuquerque club and on Alpine trips in future.

Colleen, Newsletter Editor asked for articles and hobby

related sales are available to be put in the newsletter free for members if we would like to sell anything.

Felice, VP GlassCrafters asked for helpers in pricing and organizing the large donation of glass that we have acquired as some sheets are very rare and valuable. Some will have a fixed price and some will be auctioned.

John, Shop Status Chair talked about working on the existing equipment and lighting upgrades and repairs as well as the need for oil for the saws. It was suggested that a magnetic sign be attached on equipment that is down for service. And lastly, the cleanup date will be moved to May 13 as it was suggested to have these the weekend after our regular meetings.

Carmen reported on the Grow Committee's efforts to the Executive Board at the recent meeting.

New Business: Steve requested members to consider being a chairperson for the October Show and we also need to greatly increase advertising especially on social media and in CERA's Ways to Play emailing. He also asked that we have an active participation from members in the shop area with demonstrations.

The program was then presented with the help of Janice with a video of Rock Identification and CJ who brought her equipment with demonstrations how to ID to members.

The door prize was awarded, and a raffle was held.

Our meeting was adjourned with members looking at the Design Corner drawings and Show and Tell materials brought in.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacque Brock



Classes

The faceting class will be ending in a few week and the advanced class will be announce as soon as this one completes. Also the Mold Making and Silversmithing classes will be announced after the faceting class ends. The instructors for both are in the faceting class. In addition, the class for lost wax casting will be scheduled after the mold making class. So get ready for some great classes to sharpen

your skills. If you want to teach a class talk to me at the meeting, call me, or send me an email. My contact info is in the newsletter. If you are a little apprehensive we can help you with very talented assistants. As an instructor you learn many things from our very talented attendees and so you get something to use for your own endeavors. Teaching has been very rewarding to m

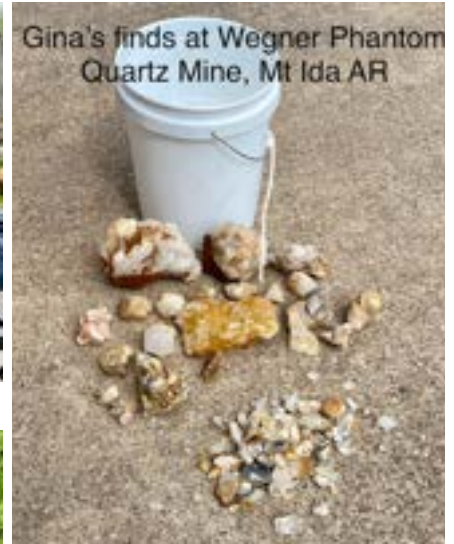
Brad



Pretty little cluster found at Wegner Phantom Mine



Wet and soggy return back from Wegner Phantom Quartz Mine Mt Ida AR



Gina's finds at Wegner Phantom Quartz Mine, Mt Ida AR



Agatized horn coral from Irvine KY agate hunt



Irvine, KY agate hunt creek



Photos from the field trip described below.

Field Trip

The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club and the CERA Gem, Mineral and Glass Clubs recently wrapped up a rockhounding adventure to Hot Springs, Arkansas and Irvine, Kentucky! The trip began on Monday, April 24th and finished up on Saturday, April 28th, and resulted in some fabulous adventures. Between our clubs we had about 16 total participants, including Simon and Alice from the Arlington, TX club.

Adventure #1! On Monday, the group all met up bright and early at the Ron Coleman mine, in Jessieville, AR. The weather was sunny, cool and perfect!!! The mine owners were so great to work with and offered us a group discount! The goal that day... get dirty and practice looking for beautiful, Arkansas quartz crystals! The mine provides a field of diggings brought out from the mine, allowing patrons to dig for treasures. We were allowed to dig for as long as we wanted and keep all that we found!!!! LOVE IT! The mine

owners were so accommodating that they even went over and above to dig up several new piles for us to pick through, as well as turning over the existing piles for a fresh look! We dug through the orange dirt, looking for those perfect, flat and shiny signs that there might be a gift from mother nature in the form of a clear, crystal point (or cluster!) We all had so much fun digging, getting dirty and finding treasures. One of our members, David Nolan, even found a huge cluster in which the mine owners brought a forklift to put it in their truck for them (for a small fee of course). Other members went on the mine's zip line adventure! Once we finished and made our way back to our lodging, and after a shower and change of clothes, most of us met up at Bubbas Brewhouse on Lake Hamilton. We shared some of our treasures and stories and plotted our next adventures to come!

Adventure #2 began very early Tuesday morning at the Wegner Crystal mine in Mt. Ida, Arkansas. And this one was a real adventure, let me tell you! The Wegner mine consists

continued on next page

of 3 sites/tours, the Crystal Garden mine, the Tailings Pile, and the famous Phantom Quartz Mine. Our goal was to attend the Phantom Quartz Mine, but we had found out a few days earlier that the truck was broken, and we might not get to go! Luckily, the owner really came through for us and approved an alternate truck could be used to take us in! We were so lucky, because apparently, we were the first group that had been allowed to visit the mine in some time. Also, it had been wet weather recently. All this meant was the rain had a chance to wash away dirt and expose new crystals that had not been picked over in a long time! We were so very lucky, and the tour guide, Mike, said not to expect that if we come out again! It was looking like it might be cold, wet and rainy, but we were determined! We piled into the back of a large work-type truck with built-in, small benches, and prepared for an hour of off-road driving to get to the mine... not covered, raining, cold and crowded! Still, we were determined! We got rained on and wet and cold and ducked limbs, and shared stories. We finally arrived and had to back up to a hill, just so we could get out since the motorized tailgate lift was broken! But we were finally in! And all we saw were piles and piles of wet, orange dirt and rocks! Mike was amazing and showed us exactly what to look for and where to look. The rain even subsided for several hours - and the sun even peeked out for a little bit! It was meant to be. Just so you know, this is the only place in the world that this type of phantom quartz can be found. We stayed out there for about 6 hours and everyone seemed to find all they hoped to find and even more! After hours of getting muddy and tired, we decided it was time to head out before more storms were due to come. Just getting our gear, our finds, and ourselves back in the truck was quite a story (remember tailgate lift broken!). I would highly recommend anyone to go visit the Phantom Quartz mine. and the Wegner mine in general. I will for sure plan future group trips there!

Adventure #3 involved our Kentucky Agate hunting adventures. Only 4 of us continued on from the Arkansas portion of the trip and that was myself and my husband, Bri Gilberto and David Morgan. However, I did get to meet Michael Koenig - he is the new field trip chair for the Arlington club - and NO WE ARE NOT RELATED! Such a small world we have the same last name! We are already working on planning some field trips together! It was about a 9 hour drive on Wednesday from Hot Springs to our destination in Kentucky. The agate hunt was hosted by the Southwest Kentucky Gem, Mineral and Fossil Club and our contact was David Davis. The club was hosting a show in conjunction with the Mountain Mushroom Festival in Irvine, KY. We met up on Thursday at our location at 9am, at the Estill County Fairgrounds in Irvine. We were separated into 2 groups, the easy terrain and the rough

terrain. We of course all signed up for the rough terrain! At check-in, we were shown samples of what the agates looked like inside and outside. Let me just say - gorgeous! The most desirable agate will have yellow, black and red banding. We caravanned about 13 miles on a winding road and parked at a pull-out alongside a creek. We had three guides, Taylor, Carl and Gene - they were excellent guides! We geared up in rain boots, waders, walking sticks, buckets and food and water. The weather turned out to be an absolutely perfect day - sunny, butterflies and birds, crystal clear water that wasn't too cold and not too deep. Just being there was enough, let alone the treasure hunting. We all walked, picked up rocks on the banks and in the creeks, showed them to our guides to get their opinion, then threw most back! LOL. We probably walked about 2 miles in then decided our bags were heavy enough and we were tired enough to start working our way back. Our guide Taylor was an avid herpetologist and showed us a rare non-poisonous snake and other creatures of interest. We had the most wonderful day and all-in-all I'm sure we found some amazing agates that will reveal themselves soon once we cut them open! I would highly recommend this trip each year to our members and will keep in touch with the club for future opportunities!

Adventure #4. On Friday morning the club was hosting their show at the school administration building. We walked through all the booths and admired the many vendors that were selling specimens, jewelry and slabs of gorgeous Kentucky Agate. Our guide Taylor had a booth for his business. If you are interested, check out his business [Rocksnthingsllc - Etsy](#). The school buses came through with kids on field trips and all the vendors handed out samples of rocks to the kids, and they had set up a panning/sifting station to dig their own rocks. It was a great show, and of course, I helped fund a good chunk with some of my purchases.

Saturday was the Mountain Mushroom Festival but my husband and I could not attend since we had a long day of driving ahead of us to make our way back home. I am sad we missed it but will plan to attend some day in the future!

Here are some links to the Kentucky club and the Mountain Mushroom Festival site!

[\(20+\) Southeast Kentucky Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club | Facebook](#)

[Home | Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine, Kentucky](#)

It was an extremely fun and successful adventure and can't wait to hear some of the stories from our members that went, share our treasures at our meetings and hope to see some of the agates cut from Kentucky!

Gina

Design Corner

Here is the stone for the May Design Corner column.

Use this stone in a drawing or sketch to come up with a creative way to fabricate a piece - any kind of piece and bring your ideas to the next meeting to share. This should be a fun endeavor and hopefully interesting addition to our meetings.

Don't worry about being an artist - drawing skill doesn't matter! Just sketch the best you can whatever Idea you have will be welcomed!

Jacque



Frank Lloyd Wright May Basket

Web and Email Addresses

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CowtownGMG/>
CowtownGMG@groups.facebook.com

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

GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

May 2023

13-14—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show and sale; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; Wonderland of the Americas Mall, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free; Free parking; contact John Speck, (210) 596-1611; Email: jspeck2@att.net; Website: www.swgms.org

7-28—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; FORT WORTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB; WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL CENTER, 3401 W LANCASTER AVE, PO Box 123975; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6-Adults, \$5-Military, Seniors, Students, Free-Children 12 and under; Twenty-six vendors with wide variety of gems, minerals, and fossils, and beads. Rough material to finished jewelry. Special games for children. Fun for the Whole Family; contact Glenda Bradley; Email: fwgmc.info@gmail.com; Website: 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.