



CGMG News

Publication of **CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**
Member of **Corporate Employee Recreation Association**
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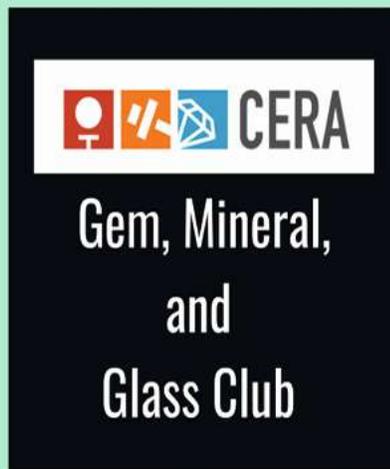
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YOU ARE INVITED
Tuesday, March 11, 7pm
3300 Bryant Irvin Rd.
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Guest Speaker
Tom Reddick

UK Fluorite: A Brief History

**An overview describing
the geologic history of
Weardale, England,
including photos of
historic fluorite
specimens and recent
discoveries.**



The Purpose of the CERA 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.

From Your President

Warm weather is back! Love it! No more excuses.

Time to clean the leaves out of my outdoor rocks. I have containers of rocks waiting to be cut, wire bins full of rocks from former field trips and rocks I've found at garage and estate sales. Some of the better material is in the garage and even it calls me to see what is in those boxes.!

What do I want to cut? What just needs to be cut to see what is inside? I love the surprise, especially when it is better than I thought it might be, because there are always some duds. And as I clean up, what can I donate for our door prizes, our auctions and the silent auction at the show?!

The many years of field trips has left me with containers of great material. If I keep the best, do I really need the rest? My collections need thinned. What can I cut next? What will I never use? I have plenty, can I share some of this with the new members or those who are not able to go to that location since it is now closed? Or just share so others know what they can find and where?!

Do you need to thin your collection too? Bring some to our meetings to share, give to new members or just to show others what can be found. It is fun to talk about your previous trips as we plan more trips for the year. And if you thin your collections, you make room for new material from your 2025 trips.!

While I'm looking over the rocks that I need to cut, who knows? I might just find treasures that I forgot I had. Or some that I've been looking for and couldn't find. And almost every time I go through older material, I find something pretty hiding in my collection that I kept without knowing what it was. With more experience I may now recognize the mystery material that I stumbled on or bought at a great price. Or bring it to the meetings, someone else may help identify it.

And sometimes I get that oh "Wow! I didn't know that I had some of this rare, precious, or just pretty stone, rock or mineral !

So thin your collection and get ready for our new field trips. There are some great ones in the planning. Come to our meetings and see what you learn about opportunities to collect more while we have the beautiful warm, but not too hot weather!

And if you enjoy the beauty of glass, there have been some great pieces of glass work from our glass studio classes lately. If you are the artist, bring them to show at the meeting. See you there!!

Carole Jean Wright!

President, CERA Gem, Mineral and Glass

👉 If I start now, I might even have enough room for some of our great field trips this summer.

Commissioner's Report

Fellow Gem, Mineral & Glass Members.

I am really excited on the direction we are going so far this year! We are up 11 members since January, we have classes ramping up, the weather is getting nice enough for field trips and we are planning for the 2nd 2025 Panther City Expo to be held Labor Day Weekend. Thank you to everyone that has been stepping up.

I would like to further encourage everyone to bring your skills, talents, and new ideas forward to share with us. The CERA Staff has requested that all Activity Commissioner's communicate new offerings with them

so they can help promote us. It is nice to have their support. One example that has recently been shared is the new petroglyph inspired casting class being offered by Paul Smith. We also have some potential new glass instructors bringing new ideas to us. More on those as they develop.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the club meeting on March 11th. I'm sure all of our Officers will have interesting reports on upcoming opportunities.

Best Regards, Robert Reed

Gem, Mineral & Glass Commissioner

Field Trips

Brownwood for *Horn Coral* March 29

See the January News letter on the CERA website for complete details.

Oregon for *obsidian, petrified wood and much more*

See the email sent to you on February 2 for details. June 7-21

If you have questions or would like to register for a trip contact Gina Koenig

Phone: 817-480-0569

Email: gkrockhunts@gmail.com

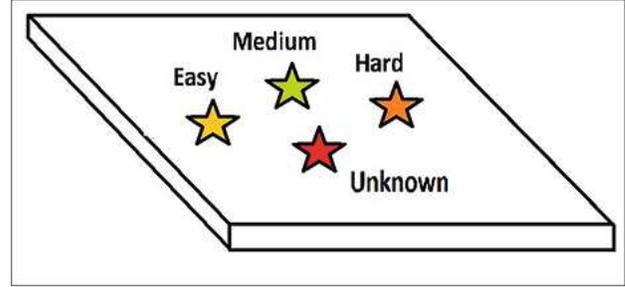
Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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 piece. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



EMERY BOARDS

I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for prepolishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200.

While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.



See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series

<http://amazon/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

You Know You're A Rockhound If:

- You prefer barite roses to real ones.
- Your dream holiday destination is Coober Pedy or Far North Queensland.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit.
- You collect Interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
- You've ever dumpster dived at a marble warehouse.
- You color co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
- You treasure ancient, fossilized animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.

Bloodstone is a green chalcedony with splashes of red. It is sometimes referred to as "heliotrope" in books from the 18th century. It has been used as a birthstone for the month of March since 1912.

As a chalcedony, bloodstone is a cryptocrystalline quartz with conchoidal fracture and a hardness of approximately 6.5 on the Mohs scale.

Tiny inclusions of chlorite, amphibole, , and pyroxene contribute to the green base colors of bloodstone. The splashes of red are concentrations of iron oxide minerals - most likely hematite.

The most highly regarded bloodstone has a solid base color of deep forest green. On top of that is a light spatter of sharply contrasting and clearly visible blood-red dots that look like blood spatter.

geology.com



Bloodstone



*May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more*

Web and Email Addresses

GMG main page

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

Registration page

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

Newsletter

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

Link to Facebook

<HTTPS://www.facebook.com/CERAFortworth>

Glass Activity

I really wanted to thank Debb, Kelly, and Sharon for organizing the fusing glass. They have some great ideas up on how to organize the glass area and make better use of our space. Keep an eye on our shop continuing improvements.

Thanks, Felice

Classes

Dear GMG Club Members,

We are excited to bring you some updates for our upcoming March classes:

- Faceting 101: The current session will conclude on March 12th. Robert Reed is considering offering another session of Faceting 101 before moving on to Faceting 201. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the first session or would like a refresher.
- Sculpting a Petroglyph in Metal: The start date for this class, taught by Paul Smith, has been moved to March 24th. We hope this new schedule will be convenient for everyone interested in this unique class.

As always, I welcome your suggestions for classes you would like to take or teach. Feel free to reach out with any ideas or questions. Thank you for your continued support. Looking forward to seeing you in class! Sharon

Kelly
Leaded
Glass
Panel
Class
Project



Mini-Leaded
Glass Panel
Class

Instructor:
Janice
Assistant:
Felice

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.