



CGMG News

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April 8, 2025
Program

Deborah Bartlett

Introduction to Fusion: Where You Can Take It

See examples and discover a lot
more about diverse fusing projects



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

I was excited to see so many new faces at our March meeting. It was fun to watch our members interacting, meeting them, taking them on tours to showoff our shop and encouraging them to get involved.

What we offer to our members is pretty awesome. Our monthly programs explore materials, hunting sites, techniques, and even some materials that other members sell and share. Watch our newsletters for what is coming and pictures of previous activities.

We have a fully equipped shop with most basic tools for glass, metal and gems. We have cutters, saws, grinders, polishers, glass and kilns of various sizes; metal working tools, torches, lapidary rock saws from 7" to 36" and sizes in-between, grinders, polishers. If it is for basic skills, we probably have it.

And we have basic and advanced classes. Most are taught by experienced members who share their skills by teaching, assisting and encouraging others. Classes include stained glass, fused glass, metal smithing, forming, casting, enameling, texturing, lapidary, faceting and more.

There are some new classes posted for April and May. Check out the Class Registration form to see what is posted. Some of them fill up fast. Check in often to see what you might like. And if you don't see it ask. We may just need to know there is an interest.

And then once you learn basic skills, we have great tools and equipment for more advanced students. Try the larger kilns for bigger glass fusing, casting furnace, enameling

kiln, melting torches, a rolling mill to roll metals, wire and texturing, faceting machines for faceting gemstones, finishing equipment for metal jewelry, wax carving, melting and casting tools and equipment, mold making, and ultimately the Orion Jewelry Welding machine for most metals used in jewelry and small projects. And the list goes on.....

We ask that you take classes in each type skill to learn how to properly use the equipment, keep yourself safe and take care of the equipment for other members. Once you have the basic skills the shop is open for you to use the equipment on your own.

If you want to try hunting for semi-precious materials and occasionally even precious gems, check out the field trips offered frequently. It is a great way to make friends and have some fun outings. Of course, you can always help with and attend our show in the fall, and other club shows through the year. Sometimes it is better to buy the material that comes from other countries, states and vendors that watch for unique materials for us to buy.

We thank our Officers, Committee Chairs, and all our friendly members for making our club one to be proud to tell our newer folks about. We sometimes take our club for granted. It may take seeing our club through the eyes of a new-comer to realize just how fortunate we are to have our club. It is our CERA Gem, Mineral, and Glass Club. \Let's all enjoy the benefits of our club,

Carole Jean (CJ) Wright President,
CERA Gem, Mineral and Glass

Commissioner's Report

Fellow Gem, Mineral & Glass Members.

I believe we set a record last month. We had 10 visitors and new members in our March club meeting! I am so glad to see so many people interested in our club. Tom Riddick also provided an excellent program on UK fluorites, and many of us bought some.

Now we need to get to work. There have been several general lapidary classes already held, and there are silversmithing, wax carving and casting classes coming soon. There will also be a repeat of Faceting 101 starting up in May – just getting the current students finished up. I really appreciate Paul Smith bringing the new petroglyph casting class for the first time.

Since we are in springtime, we are getting into field trip mode for the year. One word of caution, please look out for snakes, biting insects and other wildlife. I was at my

Dad's place in Jacksboro over this past weekend and experienced all 3 in 24 hours. I went over to an area on the property that has brush piled up and walked up on a copperhead (and quickly got out of its way). Just sitting on the front porch for 5 minutes at dusk resulted in 3 mosquito bites, and I saw 3 wild hogs and a coyote on my 4-wheeler tour of the front pasture just after dark. I stayed in the vehicle for good measure. Note to self - I could have been better prepared with a long sleeved shirt, bug repellent and a gun. I did have my cellphone with me, but the coverage is not consistent across the property.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting on April 8th.

Best Regards,
Robert Reed

CERA Gem, Mineral, and Glass Club Minutes March 11, 2025

Welcome: CJ Wright reporting - We are happy to welcome 7 visitors and one new member. Concerns shared for several officers who are experiencing illness.

Commissioner: Rober Reed reporting - _Crissy (CERA manager) has requested communication with her staff which keeps them informed in greater detail about the activities we are offering, to help them engage people interested in our club. Robert will be the contact person.

Classes: CJ Wright reporting for Sharon- Classes discussed were Paul Smith's Petroglyph Casting on March 24 for about 6 weeks, Judy Dobb's Wax Carving class on April 5 and 12, Paige Pauley's upcoming General Lapidary class and Tina Moore's Stained Glass: Foil Method class on April 21 and 28. Tina will also be offering a Tiffany Lamp Shade class after the summer.

Field Trips: Gina Koenig reporting – 1) March 29, Trip to Brownwood for horn coral, led by Pam and David Nolan

2) June 16 – 23, trip to Bend Oregon with stops at, Lucky Strike thunder eggs, polka dot agate, glass butte, a local Gem and Mineral Show, Richardson Rock Shop, and Maury Mountain agate.

3) working on setting up a trip to collect agates in Alpine, TX

4) Bri and CJ requested a trip to Arkenstone

5) Doug mentioned Mason county topaz hunt was organized by Frank Roberts the weekend of March 15

Newsletter: Colleen Reigh reporting – reminder that ads for

hobby related items are free for all club members, photos of projects or trips you have made are welcome, and information about interesting published articles.

Glass Crafting: CJ Wright reporting for Felice – Refer to glass classes reported earlier in minutes, ad Tina Moore reported on of the large kilns was needing repair. Robert R. mentioned the problem was a relay switch which has been bought and needs to be installed.

Shop Chair: David Morgan reporting – There will be a saw cleaning day at 10am on Wednesday, March 19. A new blade will also be installed on saw #1.

New Business: CJ Wright reporting – 2 jewelry making tools were left at the front table during the previous club meeting. Who left them, and what was their intention? Please notify CJ or Colleen.

Also, discussion about the expectations and responsibilities of the new Communications Chair has been ongoing with intent to share information with executive committee for approval. Thank you to Jacque Brock for being willing to accept this position.

Programs: Carmen Sorenson reporting - Introduction of Tom Reddick and brief remark about his program describing the history and geologic place of fluorite mines in Great Britain specifically leading up to the Timber Pocket and Midnight Oil Pocket mines. Specimens were on sale after program. Thank you Tom!

In the absence of Carla Lacey, submitted by Carmen Sorenson

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

MIXING EPOXY

When mixing epoxy, it's very important to have the same amount of each component. If the ratio is not 50:50, the mixture will not develop the best strength or may not harden at all.



If the amounts are small, I can generally eye-ball the two components correctly. But I have trouble getting the proper mixture for larger quantities. The easiest way I've found is to use a gram scale.

- > Put a bottle lid or piece of scrap paper on the scale.
- > Zero out the scale.
- > Squeeze out the epoxy Part A.
- > Note the gram weight.
- > Zero out the scale again.

> Squeeze out the same amount of Part B.

> Mix thoroughly for use.

It's a trick I had to use when mixing resins for mold making where the ratio is usually 1 to 10

PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.



The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with

continued next page

a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

Happy hammering, Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

Glass Activity

I'm thrilled to welcome Deb to our glass teaching team! She is an incredibly skilled glass fuser with extensive experience, having trained with a variety of talented glass artists. Her fresh perspectives and techniques will undoubtedly bring something special to our classes.

Additionally, we're excited to announce that Tina Moore will be teaching Beginning Stained Glass: Foil Method. In this two-session course, you will master the art of wrapping glass pieces in foil and soldering them together. By the end, you'll have created a stunning eight-piece sun-catcher.

If you're interested in taking this class but don't yet know how to cut glass, please be sure to sign up for Intro to Glass Studio—this class is listed in the course schedule. If the available times don't work for you, don't hesitate to reach out so we can arrange an alternative session.

Felice

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>



Classes

Dear GM&G Club Members,

Here are updates for our April and first of May classes:

- The Wax Building and Carving class is currently full.

By joining the 'Waiting List,' you will be promptly notified via email when a new class becomes available.

- In Lapidary, Paige Pauley will teach a three-day 'Basic Lapidary' class starting April 15th. This course is perfect for those eager to learn the art of cutting their own cabochon.

- A Beginner Silversmithing class is tentatively scheduled to start at the end of April. This three-day course with a focus on soldering, enabling students to craft both a band ring and a ring with a custom bezel set stone.

- On May 3rd, David Dudich will teach a four-hour Saturday class on 'Doublets and Triplets'. In this course, participants will learn the technique of combining two or three stones to create a composite gemstone. It is perfect for making thin opals, synthetic or natural, more stable. This method is also great for backing clear stones such as Rutiled Quartz or scenic Moss Agate with a solid color to enhance their beauty.

As always, your suggestions for classes you would like to take or teach are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out with any ideas or questions.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting!
Sharon

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, Brookhaven 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.