

President's Message

Well, we got through another annual show – and with high style! While we were a little short on volunteers, we had many who worked “bell to bell” so we got by. Many thanks to those who gave up their entire weekend to make our show a success.

We will view a video of the show at our December meeting/Christmas party, and you don't want to miss it. The film maker did a great job of capturing the spirit of the show, and the musical background makes it entertaining. We may have created a few new “movie stars!”

We started out planning this year's show with the philosophy of making it a successful event for our patrons and our vendors – to give us something to build on for the future. In that respect, I think we were extremely successful. All the feedback we received from vendors and patrons was extremely positive – a credit not only to the site and the hard work done by the Exhibition Hall staff, but also to the hard work and diligence of the members of the show committee. We tried several types of advertising, and now have a better idea of what works...and what doesn't. We have more experience and can spend our money more wisely next year.

Our objective from the beginning was to make the move to a new venue successful, with the first year profits secondary to success

continued on page 4

CHARTERED IN 1957

**DALLAS
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY
2006 OFFICERS**

President – Rick Ramsey
First VP – Dave Greenberg
Second VP – Mike Russell
Secretary – Ben Edens
Treasurer – Paul Floyd
Member Rep – Ben Hong

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Show Chairman –
David Pirnie
Asst. Show Chairman –
Coco Johnston
Vendor Chairman –
Linda Dallas
Asst. Vendor Chairmen –
Sylvia Pepper &
Tray Bradford
Advertising Coordinator –
Steve Wheeler
Field Trip Coordinator –
Brad Tanas
Newsletter -
BK Wagner &
Coco Johnston
Web site -
Worn Steps Web Design

Next Meeting:

December 20, 2005

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Ridgewood Rec Center
6818 Fisher



Christmas Party

&

A MOVIE

of the

November 19 & 20

DGMS

Gem & Mineral Show

As always, we are asking that members bring a dish for the pot luck supper, but the CLUB will be providing beef and ham.

We need **SIDE DISHES** and desserts. To avoid getting all deserts, all breads or all vegetables, please email

coco@wornstones.com

and tell us what you plan to bring. If we have an abundance of one item, the club will try to level out the choices by providing whatever we're short on.

You don't have to be specific on what you're bringing. Just let us know if you're bringing

- a dessert
- a potato, noodle or rice dish
- a vegetable dish
- a salad (leafy green, pasta or fruit/Jello)
- bread or rolls

We need to know by

NO LATER THAN

December 19

**BRING A GUEST!
Bring a wrapped gift!
Value limit - \$20**

Rockhounding in Alpine Texas

By Brad Tanas

October is a fine time to go rockhounding in West Texas. The average daytime temperature is in the 70s and the nights cool to the low 40s.

The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society sponsored trip was a seven day trip (Sun - Sat). Alpine is about a 530 miles west of Dallas, an 8-9 hour drive, depending on stops. Nine people were in attendance with one from Kansas City, Kansas, and two from Lone Pine, California.

The elevation in Alpine is over 4,000 feet, and the collecting area is over 5,000 feet. Rather than roughing the camping experience (dry camping at the collecting site) a decision was made to pitch our tents in the tent area of an RV campground in Alpine. What a great decision! A cold front blew through, dropping the temperatures into the high 30s. The bathrooms have hot water, heaters and daily cleaned showers. An end-of-day hot shower is an excellent way to cap off each full day of collecting.

Others stayed at the Alpine Lodge just down the street. There are many places to eat from fast food and bakeries to old hotel restaurants. Most open at 7am and close their doors at 9pm to new visitors. One bakery even has free Internet access to check and send email while waiting for breakfast to be prepared. There is no large, elaborate menu, you just tell the owner what you want, and if they have the ingredients, it is ready in short order.

One evening after dinner we took a trip to the MacDonald Observatory in Fort Davis. We saw a lot of wild life on this week-long field trip, such as: deer, pronghorn antelope, wild turkey, javelina, terrapin, cottontail, jackrabbits, roadrunners, a turtle, a gecko and large multi-colored grass hoppers. There was only one rattlesnake and it was road kill.

The main collecting area is south of Alpine. The setting is rolling volcanic hills. The material is nodules that formed in ancient gas pockets in the basalt lava. The red and black plume agate seems to have formed in different stages. In some cases the plume

grew first in the gas pockets and was later covered and surrounded by clear chalcedony. In other examples, it appears that the plums grew and are suspended in the chalcedony. In both cases, the material is beautiful and each piece is unique. The nodules have eroded out of the basalt and lie scattered on the ground downhill from the lava outcrops. Nodules can be found still held in place on the face of the lava outcrops for the adventurous hiker.

The real challenge comes from slabbing and capping the small nodules. The cuts need to be parallel with the plume growth and you never know how the plume will display until the cut is made. This will often limit the size of the slab. Sometimes the cuts are perfect and other times the cut will be right through the plume.

First the nodule needs to be oriented in the saw to maximize a parallel cut. Using both a 10" and 18" saw to slab the rocks provides options for the size of nodules selected. The use of a 5 inch aluminum clamp provides flexibility and a secure grip in an 18" saw vise to cut slabs down to the last cut.

The next decision is to choose the right cab size and technique to maximize the presentation. With three different templates of sizes and shapes to choose from, the template is placed over the slab to frame the area of interest. Study the slab (both sides) to eliminate any fractures. The fractures are a result of temperature changes over millions of years. Some cracks are healed (chalcedony fills in the cracks) and many others are not. Once again these internal fractures can limit the cab size and shape. Choose the flat surface cab to display a plume floating near the surface, or dome the cab if the plumes run through the entire slab. Choosing the dome technique for a surface plume will leave only the plume at the center of the cab. Creative and artistic decisions are made at each step of the process. What a fun hobby!

This area is on the top of my list for a re-visit in the spring. See you in 2006.

Visit www.dallasgemandmineral.org/trips.htm

for photos from the trip.

Are you getting your newsletter?

We are trying to update our membership files and we need your help. If you have NOT been getting the newsletter, either by mail or email, we need to know.

We would like to email as many newsletters as possible - you'll get them faster, and it won't become another scrap of paper that you have to deal with. In this age of electronic information, you can just read it on your monitor. They are stored on the Web site, so if you need to go back and look something up, the old copies will be there.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, and you did not get the November RokTok, please email

coco@wornstones.com

If you have been getting the email version and would prefer the hard-copy, send that request as well to the address above.

If we don't have any email information about you in our files, then you will continue to get the hard copy in the mail.

The newsletter will be posted on the opening page of the Web site by the Wednesday before the club meeting. It will stay there until the next newsletter comes out, and then it will be stored on the Rok-Tok page for up to a year.

If you have moved in the past year, we may not have your new home address. Please notify **Ben Edens** so that he can update our files.

Home phone: 214-367-8673

or

eMail:

ben-in-tx@sbcglobal.net

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

Chain Making

Stone Setting

Faceting

Contact Mike: **214-906-8834**

for class info or
to volunteer to teach!

Check DGMS Web Site For Details & Updates

Because this newsletter and our meetings happen only once a month, they don't allow you to know the latest news going on in the DGMS. The Web site,

www.dallasgemandmineral.org

is updated as new information becomes available.

If we hear about an upcoming field trip, rock swap, special event or gem show organized by another club, we post it immediately on the Web calendar.

Get into the habit of checking the DGMS EVENTS page often to find out about the latest happenings.

A printable calendar is also available, but changes are made to it as they come up, so you may need to print a new one as events are added to it.

It's the fastest way to get information about what's going on that is of interest to rockhounds.

TX Gem & Mineral Show Listings Now Available On DGMS Web site

Check the DGMS Web site often for changes and additions. A new calendar has been added for Jan - Mar 2006.

A new link to a list of all Texas Gem & Mineral Shows is now available by clicking the button that says **TX Shows**.

If you learn of any shows that are not on that page, please notify

coco@wornsteps.com

so that they can be added. We need your help keeping it up to date.

Coming up:



JANUARY

2006



Jan. 4 - Feb. 1

QUALIFYING CLASSES

Wednesdays in January

6:00 - 9:00 PM

at the shop

- Call Mike -

to sign up

214-906-8834



January 5

Pleasant Oaks GMC Mtg



January 7

Women of DGMS/POGMC

Field Trip

Saturday, 9:30 AM

Meet at

The DGMS/POGMC Shop

Carpool to Bally Bead

&

Have Lunch in Rockwall

Wooo-hooo!



January 11

Show Committee Meeting



January 17

DGMS Meeting

Dr. James Carter - UTD

Guest Speaker



January 21 & 22

Hill Country

Gem & Mineral Show

Fredericksburg, TX



January 28 & 29

East Texas

Gem & Mineral Show

Tyler, TX



President's Message

continued from page 1

in other aspects of the show. In spite of the increased costs in almost every area, and an advertising budget that exceeded the previous three years combined, it appears that we almost broke even on the show in its first year. At a time when shows across the country have experienced an average attendance decline of 20%, we were UP over 30%! With this good base to build on, we can assure a successful show at our new venue for years to come.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making the past year such a good one, and to those who have stepped forward to assure a good year in 2006.

I am very excited about our new slate of officers and committee chairs for this next year. When you review that list (on page 1 of this newsletter), I think you will have to agree that we are **guaranteed** another successful year at DGMS.

I am looking forward to it!

R2

Shop Supervisor needed for Dec 24

Assuming there may be a few people needing shop time on Dec. 24th to finish up some of those Christmas gifts for Santa, we are in need of a shop supervisor to volunteer for that morning. If you can do it, please contact Mike Russell

214-906-8834

Got a good idea? Tell us!

Meeting topics:

Dave Greenberg
davegreenbe@yahoo.com

Field trip suggestions:

Brad Tanas
btanas@aol.com

Show suggestions:

David Pirnie (ideas)
dpirnie@yahoo.com

Linda Dallas (vendors)
lindajdallas@gmail.com

Newsletter article ideas:

BK Wagner
wagnerbk@hotmail.com

Events or Websites to share:

coco@wornsteps.com

We welcome your comments, suggestions, questions and contribution of ideas.

Womens Group Field Trip

The Women's Group of the DGMS and POGMC will meet at 9:30 AM on Saturday, January 7, at the shop. From there we will consolidate cars and drive out to Rockwall to visit the Bally Bead Co. The drive out there is lovely, and the shop is a treat if you've never seen it. They would like to know how many to expect, so please contact Coco if you plan to go. If you have a tax ID number, bring it.

After Bally Bead, we'll have lunch and head back to Dallas.

If you live out by Lake Ray Hubbard or far east of the workshop, we can meet you out there. Just contact Coco to let us know if you are joining us. 214-575-5524

New Gem & Mineral Show Listings on DGMS Web Site

For the convenience of our readers, a listing of Texas Gem and Mineral Shows has been posted on the DGMS Web site

www.dallasgemandmineral.org/shows.htm

We don't want anyone to miss attending or participating in every available show out there.

If you hear of a show (or other gem/mineral-related event) that is not listed on this site, please email the information (email link will be found at the bottom of the page) so that it can be added.

This newsletter exists to serve its readers. If there is any information you think should be added to this publication, please contact the editors.

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club NEWS

On December 1st we held our annual Christmas party and had a great time. As usual, we had the Chinese gift exchange, but with a twist. Any thief with larceny in his heart had to pay a fine if he actually stole someone else's gift. By the end of the evening, a hefty amount had been collected. All was turned over to the treasurer for our scholarship fund, proving that crimes does pay in more ways than one.

At our January 5 meeting, we plan on discussing ways to improve shop attendance, increase membership, and improve communication both within our club and between the two clubs. Dallas members are invited attend and join in on the discussion.

WEB SITES WORTH EXPLORING

www.beadworks-dallas.com Beading newsletter, classes, nice selection of some unusual things.

www.rockbarrell.com Bookmark this one; better yet, pay a visit!

www.ballybead.com Beaders' Paradise; you have to see this place - well worth the trip.

www.earthstone.com Online catalog; large selection of beads.

www.texasrockshop.com Great little shop in New Braunfels; if you're heading that way, don't miss it.

Send your Web site suggestions to: coco@wornsteps.com



Dallas Gem & Mineral Show

I had an opportunity to go to the Austin show on Dec 4, and it was fun to see new things and familiar faces. I think it would be great to get a carload of DGMS folks and go to the Tyler show on Jan 28 & 29. We could drive up early and be home before dinner. Email Coco if you're interested in joining the caravan to Tyler. coco@wornstones.com



Austin Gem & Mineral Show

2005 DGMS Gem & Mineral Show Grand Prize Winner



The winner of the grand prize drawing at the close of the 2005 DGMS Gem & Mineral Show was Jan Steele, of Dallas, TX.

As you can see, Rick Ramsey presented Ms. Steele with the beautiful amythest cathedral and took the photo.

Field Trip News

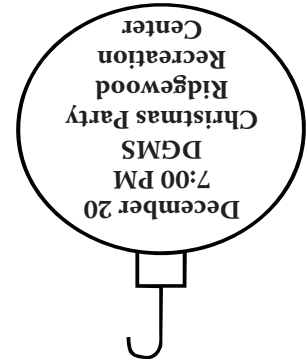
The next trip back to Alpine is being planned around the Big Bend Gem & Mineral Show in Marfa, April 14-16. Check with Brad Tanas for details and to get on the list.

You can see some great photos taken on the last Alpine trip at Brad's Web posting (go to "Field Trips" link on DGMS page and click on Photos link). Lots of wildlife and photos of the gems Brad found and finished.

Brad would also like to get a group together to journey down to Crockett and search for petrified palmwood. Contact Brad if you are interested.

btanas@aol.com

Home phone: 972-442-2926



DALLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
PO Box 742033
Dallas, TX 75374-2033

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 20

DGMS Christmas Party

7:00 PM - 9:00ish

6818 Fisher (at Trammel)

Ridgewood Rec Center

- Bring a Dish
- Bring a Guest
- Bring a wrapped gift
(\$20 or less value)

We'll watch a video of the 2005

DGMS Gem & Mineral Show

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

(Next meeting: January 17)

January 5

POGMC Meeting

7:30 PM

715 Austin

in Downtown Garland

Dallas GMS members are
invited for discussion on im-
proving communications be-
tween clubs

January 7

Women of the DGMS &

POGMC fieldtrip to

Bally Bead in Rockwall -

Call 214-575-5524 for info

JANUARY GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

JAN 21-22

FREDERICKSBURG, TX

JAN 28-29

TYLER, TX

SHOP HOURS:

Monday evenings

6:00 - 9:00

Saturday mornings

8:00 - noon

If you have questions,
call Mike: 214-906-8834
Shop phone: 214-349-2022

For details on these events,
visit our Web site:
www.dallasgemandmineral.org