

# ROK TOK

JANUARY  
2006

THE DALLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Well, we had a pretty good 2005, I think. We increased the number of field trips significantly, we got our newsletter restarted (Thanks BK), got our website revamped (Thanks Coco), got a lot of equipment overhauled (Thanks Mike, John, Paul, Jack, Jeremy and anyone else who helped), had a pretty successful first year at our new show location (Thanks David P, Donnette and Linda and others), and I am really proud of how we had a great team spirit on everything we undertook.

Now let's not lose that momentum! I think we are in a position to improve in every area. It seems like we add new members almost every week, and we need to get to know them, their interest, and how they would like to contribute to our continued success. I have more committee volunteers by far this year than I had last year, so I expect we will be able to do a much more thorough job on the details.

We still need someone to assist Brad Tanas on field trips. If you are willing to organize even one field trip, let Brad or me know so we can get it scheduled. We need to have one every month, and that is too big a burden to dump on one person, so help us out if you know of a good place to go. Brad is new to Texas, and I'm new to rockhounding, so we need some help from you "more experienced" rockhounds.

We know we can increase membership even more if we can get classes scheduled. This is a very urgent need! Our new members are wanting classes, our existing members are wanting classes, and some potential members are out there waiting until we have something scheduled. If you know of anyone who would be willing to teach, (even for a small fee), let Mike know at [twinman72@yahoo.com](mailto:twinman72@yahoo.com).

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to a great year. If I didn't mention you by name, remember I'm not a youngster anymore, and a lot of things leave memory as fast as they enter. You'll just have to forgive me my flaws as I will forgive yours, ... if I can remember who you are!

R<sup>2</sup>

## Next Meeting:

January 17, 2005  
Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Ridgewood Rec Center  
6818 Fisher



Guest Speaker

**Dr. James Carter - UTD**  
Presentation of  
DGMS Contribution to  
Scholarship Fund  
and

Dr. Carter will discuss research and projects he's currently working on

.....

Potluck Dinner starts at 7:00 PM  
Bring a dish, soda pop or dessert.

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

## NEW WEB SITE

A new Web site has been set up for members of the DGMS and POGMC to showcase their works on the Internet. You can either have a page on the site, or you can have a link on the site to your own Web page.

[www.dallasjewelrydesigners.com](http://www.dallasjewelrydesigners.com)

## CHARLIE WADE

A dear friend to many at the DGMS and the Dallas Paleontological Society has gone home. Charlie Wade departed this Earth on Monday, January 9.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife, Michele, his son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Susan, and his daughters, Julie and Angelique.

Charlie was a gifted artist, working in stone, ivory inlay, and buffalo skulls. His fine work commanded admirable prices. He was a friend to all who knew him, and he will be missed.

Services were held Thursday, January 12, at St. Thomas of Aquinas Church in Dallas.

## PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club NEWS

On January 5, we held our monthly meeting and the objective was to brainstorm ideas on how to get increase membership and club participation.

Many ideas were introduced by the membership. One member suggested that instead of trying to plan more events, we should try to get greater participation in the events we do plan.

Committees were set up to organize the 2006 Gem & Mineral Show and to rewrite and update the club bylaws.

### LARGE Estate Sale - Marvin Sigel Collection - Lakewood Area of Dallas

Prolific collector of rocks and shells and many other items. Sale will take place in late January or early February. Date & location will be posted when available on CALENDAR of

[www.dallasgemandmineral.com](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.com)

### Women's Field Trip Report

On January 7, nine women showed up at Bally Bead for the first women's field trip. Andy Smith traveled the greatest distance, coming from Brownsboro, TX, out near Tyler. The Bally Bead staff was very gracious and helpful, and each guest got a gift string of beads and a calendar. We all found treasures to take home with us and plenty of reasons to go back again.

Around noon, we started to get hungry, so we paid for our goodies and then traveled down the road to Snuffers for a big lunch and lots of conversation.

Bally Bead is a unique shop with a very inviting atmosphere. Great music floats through the air from a 50s style juke box, and the beads and findings selection is amazing, with unusual items from African, Egypt, Bali, China and South America. If you stop in, don't miss the display of rare antique Trade Beads.

## Agates: Ice turned into stone

by Coco Johnston

Agates have long been collected and esteemed for the beauty of their mysterious patterns and colors when polished. The ancient Greeks believed that agates were ice that had turned to stone.

When silicon and oxygen combine, they form silica. If they are joined in an igneous environment (from molten rock) they form a coarse crystalline substance we call quartz. If they come together in a sedimentary environment, they form a more tightly structured cryptocrystalline substance we call calcedony. Quartz and calcedony are made of the same elements, but because of the difference in how the molecules come together, moganite is formed in the silica of calcedony, causing the translucent, glassy appearance.

The banding, so common to agate, is the result of repetitions of silica-rich water seeping into the cavity of a rock and coating the chamber a layer at a time. Color variations are the result of whatever other minerals are present in the water at the time it seeps into the rock cavity.

Agates form close to the Earth's surface, requiring little heat and plenty of water. They are often found in riverbeds and in locations where water is, or was once, abundant.

In some instances, the agate is found inside the parent rock, which may have a rough and ugly surface, hiding the beauty within. Other agates have outlived the rock in which they were formed, and are found smoothed and rounded from tumbling through water currents.

Gemstones are rocks that have an aesthetic appeal, and agates are one gemstone that arouses great passion in its collectors. Agates come in an endless array of colors and patterns and can be cut and polished into exquisite jewelry pieces. No two agates are alike, and no two agate deposits produce the same designs and colors. Some experts claim that they can pinpoint within 100 feet where an agate came from.

For more information on agates, and to view some amazing photos, visit this Web site:

[www.agate-nodule.com](http://www.agate-nodule.com)



### Lost in a cloud of beads

L to R

Donna Bowers

Coco Johnston

Nancy Last

Anita Dresner

Louise Leroux

Laura McDonald

BK Wagner

Not pictured:

Andy Smith

Ting Chen

## ASK THE PROS

Q. I've never gone on a rock hunting field trip. What tools do I need to hunt for rocks?

**Scot Wingo replied:**

The most important thing you need is information. Where is what you're looking for and what does it look like? Check in books and ask people.

The tools you need to take along are:

- **Bucket** or bag to carry rocks & other tools.
- **Rock hammer**, brick hammer or any hammer & a chisel to remove the specimen from the surrounding rock. A steel or fiberglass handle is best.
- Camping **shovel** because some times you just need to dig.
- **Water** for drinking and some to rinse specimens. A spray bottle full of water is handy for rinsing. I've used a small water pistol to rinse; it's fun but not very practical.
- Other items you might consider taking along:
  - Magnifying glass
  - Scrub brush to wash rocks
  - Hat & SPF lotion for sun protection
  - Leather gloves, if you care about your hands

Email your questions about minerals, jewelry-making, gemology, or fossils to

Coco ([coco@wornstones.com](mailto:coco@wornstones.com)) or

BK ([wagnerbk@hotmail.com](mailto:wagnerbk@hotmail.com))

and we'll do our best to find an answer and put it in this newsletter.

## Questions? Ideas? Suggestions? Get in Touch!

**Meeting topics:**

Dave Greenberg - [davegreenbe@yahoo.com](mailto:davegreenbe@yahoo.com)

**The Shop & classes:**

Mike Russell - [twinman72@yahoo.com](mailto:twinman72@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter article ideas:**

Coco Johnston - [coco@wornstones.com](mailto:coco@wornstones.com)

**Field trip suggestions & info:**

Brad Tanas - [btanas@aol.com](mailto:btanas@aol.com)

**Show suggestions & info:**

David Pirnie (ideas): [dpirnie@yahoo.com](mailto:dpirnie@yahoo.com)

Linda Dallas (vendors) [lindajdallas@gmail.com](mailto:lindajdallas@gmail.com)

**Events or Web sites to share:**

Coco Johnston - [coco@wornstones.com](mailto:coco@wornstones.com)

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

## FIELD TRIP LOG

If you have an idea about a field trip, contact Brad Tanas, and he'll get it organized. We're looking for ideas for one-day trips in this area.

If you'd like to take a jaunt down to Crockett for petrified palmwood, get in touch with Brad. He'd like to get a group together, if anyone is interested.

[btanas@aol.com](mailto:btanas@aol.com)

**Home phone: 972-442-2926**

The next big trip planned is an expedition to Alpine and the Big Bend area in April. Besides the buckets of agates you'll come home with, the weekend will end with the Marfa, Big Bend Gem & Mineral Show on April 15 & 16.

The Dallas Paleontology Society also plans fossil hunting trips throughout the year. Check their trip schedule on their Web site:

[www.dallaspaleo.com](http://www.dallaspaleo.com)

Visit the DGMS Field Trips page often for the latest information on trips being organized.

[www.dallasgemandmineral.org/trips.htm](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/trips.htm)

## ADVERTISE in the ROK TOK

*With a circulation of 200, your advertising will go directly to the people who create jewelry, beadwork and lapidary art in the Dallas area.*

### ROK TOK ADVERTISING RATES

**Classified ads:** Ten cents per word;  
Members of DGMS: **FREE**

<b>Layout ads:</b>	<i>h x w</i>	
Full page	10" x 7.5"	\$50.00
Half page (h)	5" x 7.5"	30.00
Half page (v)	10" x 3.25"	30.00
Quarter page (h)	2.5" x 3.25"	20.00
Quarter page (v)	3.25" x 2.5"	20.00
Notice	2.25" x 1"	10.00
Photo		10.00

**Member rates: 50% off**

Rates quoted are monthly; circulation is 200/mo. Ads must be submitted by the 10th day of each month. Layout of ad is included in price.



Dallas Gem & Mineral Society  
 PO Box 742033  
 Dallas, TX 75374-2033

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The Dallas Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, a regional branch of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

**2006 Dallas Gem & Mineral Show**  
 November 18 & 19  
**TEXAS ROCKS!**

Jewelry • Rocks • Beads • Fossils • Prizes  
 Demonstrations • Games for Kids • Scout Instruction  
[www.dallasgemandmineralshow.com](http://www.dallasgemandmineralshow.com)

**JANUARY GEM & MINERAL SHOWS**

JAN 21-22  
 FREDERICKSBURG, TX

JAN 28-29  
 TYLER, TX

**January 17**  
**DGMS Monthly Meeting**  
 7:00 PM  
**Ridgewood Rec Center**  
 6818 Fisher Rd  
 Dallas

**February 2**  
**POGMC Monthly Meeting**  
 7:30 PM  
 715 Austin  
 Garland, TX



### LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

A workshop equipped with a wide selection of lapidary equipment is maintained and shared by the Dallas Gem & Mineral Society and the Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club. Only members of either club who have completed the Qualifying Course are permitted to use the shop equipment.

**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 info on events & the club,  
 visit our Web site:  
[www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)