

THE

ROCKHOUND'S TALE

**ROCKHOUND NEWS OF THE ARLINGTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
1408 GIBBINS ROAD, ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011
VOL.59, ISSUE 8, AUGUST 2009**



**ARLINGTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
MEMBER OF**



**SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF
MINERAL SOCIETIES**



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

CLUB PURPOSE: To encourage the study of earth sciences, lapidary arts and other related fields, and to enjoy good fellowship with those who share like interests

CONTACTS

webmaster@agemclub.com

World Wide Web Home Page

<http://www.agemclub.org>

**Business meeting and program 1st Tuesday 7:30PM
AGMC Board Meeting Last Tuesday 7:00PM**



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dale Miller

Our August program will be the 2009 show. It is only 7 weeks till our show September 5 & 6. At the meeting we will be passing out sign-up sheets for several areas of the show. Selling tickets, demonstration, club booth, dealers' dinner, etc.

On Friday we will need people and trucks to haul display cases, rocks and other things we need to the Convention Center. We will have sold the rock but the displays will have to be returned to the club Sunday after the show closes.

It would be nice if so many members volunteered that we only have to work 2 hours each. Will not happen but it is nice to imagine.

David Cordova is still recovering from his fall. He landed on his driveway, head first, then a couple hundred pounds of rock landed on top of him bruising his lungs.

Harold Hoskison lost his mother July 14.

Deborah Hartz has been in the hospital but is home as I write this.

Roger and Pam Coleman were on their way to the meeting July 7 when Roger became ill. He is back in the hospital.

David Abbott's father is in ICU in Arkansas as I write this 7/17/09.

I am sure there are more but these are the ones I know about. If you know of someone who needs a card from the club please call Marge Harrand at 817-496-6560. She does not have email and sometimes she does not get the word but she is the one who sends out the cards.

Next time you are in the club look at the 24" saw. It has a new guard covering the belts and pulleys. Travis Houston took David Abbott's class on the lapidary saws. Recognized the danger of having the belts exposed and volunteered to make a cover. He also repaired another saw. Thank you Travis. I don't know when you did this or who helped but I for one will feel much safer using the 24" saw.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Mike Hartz

Did you ever notice how quickly things that are a long way off somehow manage to spring up on you and say here I am when you least expect it? That's kind of how the AGMC show is doing. Before you know, it will be here and we will have all of the things to do that goes along with putting on one of the largest Gem and Mineral shows in Texas. Next months meeting is a good time to see what you can do to help out, if you haven't already done so.

A word about **safety**. Whenever you are working our hobby at the club, (or at home for that matter), you will encounter some things that require some respect if you don't want them to hurt you. For instance, **Hydrochloric acid** historically called **muratic acid** or **spirits of salt** can be harmful or fatal if inhaled or swallowed. These are used widely for cleaning minerals. Another is the simple pickle used in silver smithing. Some pickles are simply sulphuric acid, which if misshandled can have the same effects as hydrochloric acid, with the addition of possible serious burns. The suggestion from here is – before you use any materials or use new procedures, look at the Material Safety Data Sheets (*MSDS*). These are available from the manufacturers and on the worldwide web. And don't forget to wash thoroughly after using dangerous contaminants. While this seems like common sense to some, to others it may seem unnecessary. To these others may I point out that we wash all of our cabochons from one stage of finishing to the next to prevent contaminates from destroying not only our project but those of others in the future. Does it not make sense to wash our hands and not carry those contaminates to the food we consume, the pot of coffee we are making, or using, the refrigerators where our food and drinks will be or are stored and the list goes on and on. Just think of the Lysol commercial where the little boy is leaving germs on the telephone for everyone else in the house to share. Believe me – no one wants to share the germs or your grime.

For more on using acids have a look at the Ted's Safety Corner by Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair in the June– July, 2009 AFMS newsletter on the web at <www.amfed.org>

ACTIVE PARTICIPANT VOLUNTEERS

NOTE: ARE YOU AWARE THAT NO PERSONS ARE PAID IN THIS CLUB ? NOT EVEN INSTRUCTORS ARE PAID FOR THEIR TIME.

VOLUNTEER TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER PARTICIPANT!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ELECTED OFFICERS (Voting Positions)

President	Dale Miller
Secretary	Tom McCormick
Treasurer - Finance	Ray Batson
1 st Vice Pres (Operational/Educational Classes)	Emie Stewart
2 nd Vice Pres (Programs)	David Cordova
3 rd Vice Pres (Field Trips)	Sue Poarch
4 th Vice Pres (Youth Education Programs)	Tamara Wilkins
Delegate at Large (Omnibusperson)	Ray Wilkes

APPOINTED POSITIONS (Voting Positions)

Past President (Delegate at Large)	Rick Litsinger
Newsletter (The Hound's Tale) Editor	Mike Hartz
Show Chairperson	Karen Cessna
Lapidary Department Chairperson	Don Lawrence
Membership Chairperson	Pam Coleman

APPOINTED POSITIONS (Non-Voting Positions)

Library Chairperson	Donna Thomason
Historian Chairperson	Beth Spinks
Building Chairperson	Ray Badson
Show Dealers Chairperson	Harold Hoskison
Show Publicity	VACANT
Grounds Chairperson	VACANT
Grounds assistant	VACANT
Hospitality Chairperson	Deborah Hartz
Welcome Chairperson	Veronica Murday
International Gem and Jewelry Chairperson	Joyce Speed
Telephone calling Chairperson	VACANT
Jewelry Department Chairperson	VACANT
Library Exhibits Coordinator (METROPLEX)	VACANT
Educational Outreach – School Curriculum	Steve and Mary Hilliard
Sunshine	Marge Harrant
Webmaster	Jeremy Dubhros
Graphic Designer	Darcy Sety
Donations Chairman	Rick Litsinger
Long Range Planning	Dale Miller

THE HOUND'S TALE

Published monthly by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club.

ADS AND ARTICLES

Lapidary related ads and articles from members of AGMC are welcomed. They will be placed on a space available basis, first in first out. Include your name and contact information.

Send ads and articles to Mike and Deborah Hartz

**Deadline date for ads and articles
is the 15th of the month.**

ARLINGTON GEM AND
MINERAL CLUB
General Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale Miller at 7:30 on July 7, 2009.

Secretary's Report: Tom McCormick
 The minutes from the last meeting are both posted on the bulletin board and in the newsletter.
 Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Batson
 Treasure's report was not finalized. Will be finalized and posted shortly.

Classes: Emie Stewart:

July Workshops:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
Sun, Jul 12, 26	9 – 11	Channel Inlay	Tony Graham
Mon, Jul 13, Aug 10	6:30 – 9:00	Opal Doublets/Triplets	Frank Krystinik
Sat., Jul 25	2 – 4	Wax Carving Demo	Colleen Fitzpatrick

August Workshops:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Times</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
Sat, Aug 1	9 – 11	Keum Boo	Glenna Wooton
Sat, Aug 1	1 – 3	Advanced Lap	David Abbott
Sun Aug 9, 16	1 – 4	Pierceworking	Dennis Peters
Sun Aug 30	1 – 2	Plating Demo	Colleen Fitzpatrick

Silversmithing Design Contest for the Show Piece;
 Special Thank You to the judges: Dale Miller, Rick Litsinger, Elaine O'Donley, Paula Truitt and Darcy Sety.
 Thank you also to the designers submitting designs.
 The winner of the design contest is: Tamara **Wilkins**
 Display Cases for the Show

Instructors of classes are requested to set up display cases of their classes' work for the show.
 Sign up for cases with Karen Cessna.
 Club Competition: We need members to sign up for the show competitions. The rules are in folders on the table.

Programs: David Cordova
 Not present
 David had an accident at home after helping move the donated rock for the club.
 The August Program will be dedicated to the Show.

Juniors – Tamara Wilkins
 The juniors will be helping Nancy Leary with preparing the decorations for the Dealer's Dinner at show time.

Field Trips: Sue Poarch
 The Jasper trip was very successful. Sue showed some samples she collected on the trip.
 July 25th is the visit to the Arkanstone Gallery. Those who have signed up should have received directions from Sue.
 Sue will be gone most of July and part of August. For any field trip queries please contact Tom McCormick in her absence at either the club website secretary's email or by phone at 817-267-5872.
 August 22 there will be a field trip to the Heard Museum in McKinney, TX. They have a current exhibit on "Diamonds, Gold & Dinos". If we have a group of 10 or more there is a \$1.00 discount for admission. Regular admission is \$8.00 and with the discount it will be \$7.00. For information they have a web site at heardmuseum.org. Please contact Tom to let him know if you are going so he has an approximate headcount. We will plan on meeting at 11:00 am in front of the museum.

Sunshine Report: Marge Harrand

Get Well Cards:
 Bill Wilson
 Thinking of You Cards:
 Ray Batson Harold Hoskison
 Connie Paul had back surgery.
 Alec Gallia is recovering well from back surgery and was in to the club this week.

Hospitality – Deborah Hartz
 Next month it would be nice if other members brought food for the meeting.
 Nancy Leary will need help for the Dealer Dinner for the show.

Membership: Pam Coleman
 6 new members signed up tonight.

Lapidary – Don Lawrence
 The order is in for the saw blades and belts. Should be in and installed by next week some time.

Delegate at Large – Ray Wilkes
 Ray received an anonymous request from someone to please avoid starting to eat you food until you have left the serving tables.

Newsletter – Mike Hartz (agmceditor@yahoo.com) or the link on the AGMC Web Page). Mike needs articles; stories, jokes, experiences from trips, etc. Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month
 Mike's wire wrapping class time is from 9 – 12, not at 1:00.

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July Minutes continued from page 3

Past President: Rick Litsinger

No donations other than the rock donated.

Dale made suggestion to use some of the rocks to construct a new mailbox for the club.

Karen Cessna has talked to the city of Arlington and we can do a sign if we don't put the name of the club on it.

Show Report: Karen Cessna

Show planning is going well, we have plenty of vendors and most have already paid.

Karen introduced new members since she is covering for Pam Coleman. They are: Christine Goudy, Michael Sands, Tom and Nelda Poindexter and Chuck and Linda McRae.

We still need volunteers to sign up to help with the show.

We also need signups for competitions.

There will be a meeting July 21, 7:00pm for the show department head persons.

The August meeting is the show meeting to address cards, etc.

Dale, her husband and Karen went to the Arlington Front Street Festival and promoted the club.

Old Business:

Tom McCormick revisited the maintenance proposal for the A/C service that was presented to the membership previously this year. It has been confirmed that it is still good and we have deleted the provisions for moving the units to the roof and constructing security cages. A motion was made by Carl Wells and seconded by Sandra Brazzale. The motion was passed by a voice vote of the membership.

A recommendation from the Executive Board was presented to raise the limit on expenditures from \$100.00 to \$500.00 as defined in the club's constitution and by-laws. A motion was entertained from the floor by Tray Bradford and seconded by Tom McCormick. The motion was approved by a voice vote of the membership.

New Business: None

Announcements:

Letter from Irv Wonders Geological Museum regarding trying to collect rock from every state. If anyone has a piece of Palm wood to send they will get something back. First come, first serve on the letter.

Dallas PALEO has made arrangements for a Mineral Wells for a fossil park. Gravel pit that has been there for years. They are asking for donations. That will be placed on the bulletin board.

The 2010 AGMC show will be held at Will Rogers in Ft. Worth. We also will need a new show chairman for next year. Karen is retiring from the position.

Frances Johnson made a strong comment about the need to re-instate the once a month Saturday clubhouse clean

up day. The club is a mess. Otherwise we need to hire a cleaning company.

Visitors:

Mason Ice Nathanael Warford

Cody Greaves Denise Lands

Christina Goudy Diana Delk

Haley Smith Le'Faye Warford

Michael Sands** New Member Also

Nelda & Tom Poindexter ** New Member Also

Linda & Chuck McRae ** New Member Also

The Raffle was not held because of the Auction of the rocks.

Business Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm

Submitted by:

Tom McCormick

Secretary



HOSTESS

Deborah Hartz

What a great group of contributors you have been this first six months of the year. Wow! I never no what to expect but you have yet to disappoint any of us.

We need others to step up to the plate and bring food, as well as consume it. Think for a minute. Many of you come from work and grab a bite at the club. Why not bring something along with you for others to enjoy. Stop by the store the night before the meeting and pick up a packaged food that will keep and not need refrigerated. Simple, yes? **Thoughtful.**

On the club upkeep! Webster's Dictionary defines a club as an association for some common object; the meeting place of such an association. Well that's us, but what it doesn't address is who keeps it up and running and that is you and me! Whether it is clean or not, that's up to us. This month is all we have to get the shine back on our club before our show, when visitors or company comes. I don't mean the same people, but all of us. Pick up a broom. Clean a room. Too big an area for one person? You bet it is. Get your whole class involved. Don't wait for the few to do what the whole group needs to!!!!

AGMC SHOW
SEPTEMBER 5TH AND 6TH

CLASS REPORT

Emie Stewart

Thank You: Thank you to the Monday night silversmithing class for making sure the classroom shop towels get washed and returned. We now have a pile of clean towels.

Silversmithing Design Contest: The scores are in, and the winner of the club's silversmithing design contest is Tamara Wilkins. Thank you to all those students who participated, and to the judges who gave up part of their Saturday to judge the designs.

Competitions for the Club's Show: Each year at its Labor Day weekend show, AGMC sponsors several competitions in which you can enter your work and receive valuable critique from a panel of judges. This year's categories include silversmithing, cabochon cutting, chain making, and faceting. As long as your piece conforms to the rules, you don't have to make anything new—you can enter something you have already finished. The rules are located in green folders on the front tables as you enter the club. The good news is that most entrants are eligible for the Novice category! So, enter something you're proud of and show off your good work

Monthly Cabbing Class Change: David Abbott has taken over the Saturday cabbing class, and will teach it on the 4th Saturday each month, rather than the 1st Saturday. The time, as before, is 1 – 4 PM.

Special Workshops: In August, we will have workshops on Keum-boo, taught by special guest Glenna Wooten; Advanced Cabbing, taught by David Abbott; Pierceworking, taught by Dennis Peters; and an Electroplating Demo, taught by Colleen Fitzpatrick. In September, we will have workshops on making a Funky Chunky Bracelet, taught by Fendol Chiles, and two classes on Filigree, one taught by Colleen Fitzpatrick and the other by Jack Spinks. Please check the class bulletin board for signup sheets at the club meeting the month before the class is scheduled

FIELD TRIPS

**Sue Poarch
Tom McCormick**



August 22 there will be a field trip to the Heard Museum in McKinney, TX The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary presents *Treasures from the Earth*, a

new exhibit featuring an exotic collection of diamonds, gems, precious metals, rare minerals, pearls and fossils. Many of these specimens are on loan from exclusive collectors and some have never been exhibited in public, making the Heard's newly renovated exhibit space the perfect place for their debut.

UP COMING SHOWS

Deborah Hartz

August 8th & 9th Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society, Baton Rouge, LA

August 15th & 16th ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA

August 22nd & 23rd Pine country Gem and Mineral Society, Jasper, TX

September 5th & 6th Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, Arlington Convention Center Arlington, TX.

October 10 & 11, 2009, Temple, Texas Tri-Cities Gem & Mineral and South Central Federation Show at Mayborn Civic Center

SHOP SUPERVISORS

Don Lawrence

Notes:

A lot of the grinding wheels and belts are wearing prematurely in the center.

Please keep an eye out for people not using the whole wheel. We are replacing the 280-grit wheel with less than a year on it.

We need someone to volunteer for the first Saturday slot for the next several months. Dale will be out of town. If anybody can take my slot on Saturday (7/25/2009 this month) please call me ASAP. I will be happy to trade slots. We also need someone to volunteer for the 5th Saturday slot.

Several of the Members have expressed interest in becoming Supervisors. I am starting to make notes for a Supervisor Class syllabus. Please send your thoughts on what should be included.

Proposed Lapidary Supervisor Calendar for August 2009. Please let me know soon if there are any conflicts 214-670-6523.

8/1/2009 - 1st Saturday – Don Lawrence **or a volunteer** (9:00am – Noon)

8/4/2009 - 1st Tuesday- Frank O'Donley (**9:00am - Noon**)

8/6/2009 - 1st Thursday - Jeremy Dubhros (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

8/8/2009 - 2nd Saturday - Don Lawrence (**7:00am – Noon**)

8/13/2009 - 2nd Thursday - Jeremy Dubhros (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

8/15/2009 - 3rd Saturday - Gary Copple (9:00am – Noon)

8/18/2009 - 3rd Tuesday – (**Free Tuesday**) Bob Boyd (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

8/20/2009 - 3rd Thursday - Harold Hoskison (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

8/23/2009 - 4th Saturday - David Abbott & Don Lawrence (**7:00am – Noon**)

8/27/2009 - 4th Thursday - Frank O'Donley (7:00pm - 9:00pm)

8/29/2009 - 5th Saturday - Don Lawrence (9:00am – Noon)

JOIN NOW!!!
THE FIRST TUESDAY
CAB AND LUNCH BUNCH CLUB
MEETS AT THE CLUB HOUSE 9:00
AM 12:00 PM
THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH
THEN ON TO LUNCH!!!
Contact person Frank O'Donley

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dale Miller

We have had a VERY LARGE donation of rock thanks to David Cordova for making the arrangements with Chris who donated the left over rock from his sale in Richardson. Several members drove to Richardson to pick up the rock.

Thank you Don Lawrence, David Cordova, Jeremy Dubhros, David, Carol Abbott and their son, and Bill and Dale Miller. It took 6 trucks and one trailer. Since we had 3 trucks Don made 3 trips and Bill and I made 2 trips. Please do not go through the rocks that are stacked everywhere.

Instead of a raffle at the July meeting we auctioned off milk crates of rocks. We selected several crates of mixed material for the auction.

We also are thinking about building a mailbox and a sign for the club out of the rock. The best rock will go to the show auction. Yes, there is enough rock to do all of the above.

My husband Bill, Karen Cessna and I went to the Light Up Arlington celebration in Downtown Arlington July 3rd. We were promoting Arlington Gem and Mineral Club. Since we were told we had to be unloaded and have our car moved by 1PM, we met on Abrams Street in Arlington. When we got there we could not set up until after 2PM. Then the police did not close the street until 3PM. We were set up by 3:30 after sitting on the curb in the heat for 2 1/2 hours. At least we had a shade tree. It was only 95° instead of 103°.

The festival started at 5PM and was over at 10PM. Bill and I were home about 11:15. I slept till 10:30 the next morning, and it was a while before we unloaded the truck. I don't know when I have ever felt so drained. I cannot say it was fun but I hope it was productive. I talked to so many people about the club that I lost my voice.

Karen worked hard and so did my husband (who is not even a member). All three of us were in the street stopping people, sending them to the booth for free polished stones and info on the club. We took turns because it was so hot no one could stand in the sun for long.

A ROCKHUNTERS REVIEW OF ANNALS OF A FORMER WORLD

By Ruth Riza, M.S.

We all want a good book about rocks, and we probably prefer one with lots of pictures and descriptions.

Actually, if they would just give us the rocks, so much the better! I picked up John McPhee's "Annals of the former world", a winner of the Pulitzer Prize, hoping I could turn us all into geologists instantly and solve the big mystery of just where the really good rocks are located. Hopefully, this review will be of some help in understanding the lay of the land, and how the earth works a bit, no matter where you are in the U.S. or abroad.

Annals of the Former World is sort of a misnomer, in that this is our world, the world belonging to us and our ancestors, and, this is our current world. Great chunks of it lay in the hallway to the saw room, and we can find more chunks of our world than we care to count in our back yard, garages, tool kits, handbags and just about anyplace we can stuff rocks that we find.

There are any number of reviews and commentaries about this great book on the INTERNET, so many I could not read them all. John McPhee was an English major that decided to spend twenty years criss-crossing the country in the company of some very prominent geologists. Mr. McPhee had the same question that we all do, what put the gold in the mountains in the first place? Where did the silver come from? And most importantly, is there any left for us? The answer provides comfort for all of us. As far as all the great gold, silver and rock finds in this country, remember that people at a banquet don't often lick their plates. That is why mine tailing piles are some of the best hunting grounds.

"Gold is not merely rare, and can be said to love itself. It is one of the noblest of the noble metals, those metals that resist combination with other elements. Gold wants to be free. In cool crust rock, it is generally free. At very high temperatures, however, it will go into other compounds. And the gold that combines with the volcanic magma may be combined with chloride. Gold chloride is "modestly" soluble and will dissolve in water that comes down and circulates in the magma. The water picks up other elements, too: potassium, sodium and silicon (quartz). The cooling gold breaks away in flakes and specks, and chunks sometimes as big as eggs." Reassuringly, there is lots for us to find, simply because the earth is changing all of the time, shifting, moving. Mr. McPhee points out that the poles of the earth have wandered, and the equator has moved. The continents have moved and drifted in many directions over the last 5.6 billion years. So, how specifically, do we know that the earth has shifted, and the compass points have changed a number of times? " Geologists take paleomagnetic samples. As the earth's magma cools and turns solid into crystals containing iron minerals, they

line themselves up like compasses, pointing toward the magnetic pole. Those poles have switched a number of times. Geologists have figured out just when the reversals occurred and have developed a distinct arrhythmic yardstick through time. Sometimes, instead of calling them geologists or paleomagnetic specialists we just call them paleomagicians." And the earth has not only changed in this way, but in other ways. Not only do moon cycles exert pressures on tides, but also on the earth. We do not notice that "the solid earth bounces up and down from a foot to a foot and a half twice a day", and hence rocks break up, rock shifts, and this is enough force to break up really big rock. Things once hidden from view, become visible to the eye. Earlier this year, I wrote an article in this newsletter about rhyolite, having picked up a large chunk of it with bubbles on the top of it in Arizona last year, I stared at it in wonderment, and wondered how it came to be in a roadside wash in the Cochise stronghold. I was not aware at that time that as magma approaches the surface of the earth, it is so perfused with gases that it fizzes like ginger ale. In cooling basalt, gas bubbles remain. I think I have my answer now how this piece formed. As to how it got to the wash, it bumped and rolled along for probably several hundred years, depending on how much the earth moved up and down each day. All these neat field trips that are offered in our club, are worth taking. Remember the day before something may have broken loose and be there just for you to find. Understanding how the earth works is to our advantage, and also lends a lottery quality to our field trips and rock hunts.

An interesting feature of cooling magma that Mr. McPhee points out is zeolite crystals. Many small cavities of rock filled with magma and gasses over millions of years have formed zeolite crystals. These crystals are white and fibrous, and at the same time smooth and soapy, and most time with a pearl luster. These crystals contain aluminum, silicon, calcium, sodium and an incredible amount of imprisoned water. Zeolite means "the stone that boils". If you take one zeolite crystal, of scarcely more than a pinhead's diameter, and heat it until the water has come out, the crystal will have an internal surface area equivalent to a bedspread. Zeolites are often used to separate one kind of molecule from another. They can for example, sort out molecules for detergents, choosing the ones that are biodegradable. They love water. In refrigerators, they are used to adsorb water that accidentally gets into freon. They could be used in automobile gas tanks to absorb water. And there are a number of other uses for them. They are so sought after that it is rumored when William Wyler made the movie "The Big Country", there was a climactic chase scene in which the bad guy was shot and came clattering down a canyon wall in a shower of a certain type of zeolite crystals, called clinoptilolite. Geologists were on the phone at once, "loved your movie...where was that canyon?"

A ROCKHUNTERS REVIEW continued from page 7

Another rock phenomena that sparked my imagination about this book was that John McPhee mentions some of the hot springs in Nevada, and the processes surrounding them. He talks about "eerie trails of vapor traversing a basin", a direct result of crustal spreading that brings the hot mantle up near the surface. Fractures develop, opening up hot springs. "Hot springs are the source of vein-type ore deposits. When rain water gets into those fractures and heats it up, the water brings what ever is down there up to the surface, including some very nice minerals. Last year, I did quite a bit a research on Arizona, and followed an unsigned thread on the Internet that someone had left about finding a spot rich in opals near a hot spring in an old abandoned town just outside Tombstone. My Arizona friend listened with interest to my theory, indulging me all the way (thinking me mad). I did not fully understand the significance of that Internet thread until now.

So, again, to answer our original question, is there anything left for us? Just everything. And more of it than one can possibly imagine. I think our best guide is a wonderful imagination, and the firm belief that the earth is generous to those who look, and look again. Books, such as John McPhee's fuel our imagination of what the earth once was, how it is changing and moving, and renewing itself constantly. This is an awesome read, and not for the faint hearted since it is 661 pages long. Plan on some cozy evenings with this.

AGMC CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Emie Stewart

All classes are offered at the AGMC clubhouse at 1408 Gibbons Road, Arlington, Texas, depending upon instructor availability. Not every class is offered during the year. All classes have a \$3/hour building maintenance fee, plus any class-specific costs such as tools, materials, and supply fees. Only current members may take classes. Students are responsible for the purchase of all supplies and tools necessary for the class. Members must take the beginning cabochon cutting class before being allowed to use the lapidary equipment.

Sign up sheets are posted on the clubhouse bulletin board the month before the class begins. Due to space requirements and to ensure adequate one-on-one instruction, classes are usually limited to 10 students. At the instructor's discretion, a no-show may be waitlisted for future classes. A no-show is defined as someone who signs up for a class but fails to show up, thus taking someone else's spot.

Workshops are also subject to the preceding policies. For more information and a schedule of classes and workshops, visit www.agemclub.org.

On-going classes:

Beginning cabochon cutting: this is a 3 hour class during which students learn the basics of roughing out, shaping, and polishing a cabochon, along with how to operate the lapidary equipment. It is offered monthly.

Chain making and wire jewelry: this class meets once a month for three hours. Students learn how to make various types of chains, and other wire jewelry. Students may come and go, as they are interested.

Faceting: this class meets once a week, from September through May, for two hours each week. Students learn the four basic cuts: step, round brilliant, Texas star, and emerald. 5 club machines are available for use, or students may bring their own. There is usually a long waiting list for the club machines.

Glass fusing and slumping: there are two classes: an all beginners and a combined beginning and advanced. The all beginners' class is a 12-week class. It meets twice a month, for 4 hours each time, including firing time. Students learn about the types of glass and how to cut it; how to use the equipment; inclusions; metals and punches; grinding; sand blasting; sawing; etching; and wire wrapping. Students can expect to pay up to \$30 for tools, plus approximately \$20 for starting glass. Students may purchase dichroic glass for about \$30 per pound.

The combined class of beginners and advanced students meets twice a month, for 4 hours each time. Students from the waiting list are rotated into the class as other students leave. Students can expect to pay up to \$30 for tools, plus approximately \$40 for glass. A \$6 beginners kit may be purchased from the instructor. Supplemental glass firings are available at \$3/hour per student for pieces assembled in regular class. Topics covered in the combined class include properties of glass and its handling; mica; inclusions; decals; frit; enamels on glass; silver foil; wire; using the glass grinder and sand blaster; etching cream; slumping; drop molds and firing rings; pattern bars; glass weaving; and beginning lampworking.

Silversmithing: this curriculum is divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes, with each being a prerequisite for the next. There are usually separate Monday, Wednesday, and Friday night classes that meet once a week, depending upon instructor availability. Students remain with their class and instructor throughout the curriculum. Each class lasts approximately 6-8 months, for a total course duration of up to 24 months. Depending upon the quality of tools and the market price and amount of silver you buy, expect to pay at least \$350 for tools and about \$100 for silver for the beginning class, plus your class fee.

AGMC CLASS DESCRIPTIONS continued from page 8
Subsequent courses will require additional tools and, of course, additional silver.

Beginning topics include learning the use of the hand tools; how to solder; an all-metal pendant; a pendant with a bezel-set cabochon; a triangle wire bracelet; a wire bracelet with a bezel-set cabochon; and a ring with a step-bezel.

Intermediate topics include making a faceted stone ring; scrolling; Etruscan chain; special settings/shapes; reticulation; rivets; making steel stamps; overlay/appliqué; and spin bail.

Advanced topics include making hollow beads; forging hollow tubes and specula; hollow link bracelet; hinges; Foldforming; patinas and etching; articulation/linkages; and clasps.

Wax carving and casting: this is a 12-week class that meets once a week. It is offered several times a year. Students learn to lay out and carve their ring designs in wax. Students have the opportunity to carve two rings, and then cast them using the lost wax method of casting. Students learn the casting process, how to prepare their wax models for casting, and how to finish their castings. Cuttlebone casting and Broom straw casting are also taught as a way to use up left over silver. Depending upon the quality and type of tools purchased, students can expect to pay up to \$100 for tools. The size of their models determines the amount of sterling casting grain required, but a minimum is ½ troy ounce, at market price. There is a supply fee of \$20 to cover waxes and other consumables.

Wire wrapping: There are two wire-wrapping classes, both for beginners. The first class meets once a month on the second Saturday for 7 weeks. Projects include a beaded cross; a cabochon pendant; and a cabochon ring. Depending upon the quality and type of tools purchased, students can expect to pay up to \$100 for tools. Materials are at market price, and a list is available from the instructor.

The second wire wrapping class meets once a month on the third Tuesday. Information about projects, tools, and materials is available from the instructor, Leslie Wilkes, at mariomom@aol.com.

Special Workshops:

In addition, AGMC offers occasional workshops in special topics, depending upon instructor availability. Workshops offered in 2009 included slab saw; design drawing and rendering; geology; capping materials; marriage of metals; flat bead weaving; silver art clay;

Viking knit weave; advanced wax carving; channel inlay; opal doublets/triplets; keum-boo; advanced lapidary materials; pierce work; electroplating; wire bracelets; filigree; and etching. Workshops are announced and posted at the club the month before they are scheduled to begin, and are subject to the policies set forth above.

FLUXES: A NON-RIGOROUS COMPARISON

Emie Stewart

Sometimes the soldering gods are not pleased with our offerings on the altars of our charcoal blocks. In those cases, after making sure we are using proper soldering technique, it may be useful to have other offerings available. Toward this end, I recently did a fairly casual, non-rigorous comparison of several fluxes. In each comparison, I used sterling, medium solder, with propane, on charcoal. I used similarly sized pieces of sterling in similar configurations. Each piece had been cleaned, pickled, and rinsed. I compared Handy Flux, Magic Flame, Cupronil, and boric acid in denatured alcohol. There are many other fluxes available on the market that are probably worth comparing.

Below are my results; your results may vary. Note: Proper flux application is critical and greatly affects the results. Before drawing your own conclusions, it is recommended that you repeat the comparison several times.

As background, flux serves two primary purposes in silver soldering (technically, brazing). It is a wetting agent, reducing surface tension so that the solder can flow more easily. It is also an anti-oxidant, helping to protect the sterling from the formation of copper oxides (especially firescale).

Handy Flux, the white paste flux traditionally used in our silversmithing classes, has two secondary purposes. When heated to clear, it forms a tacky flux glass that helps hold the pieces together during solder placement. It also goes clear at approximately 1100°F, which is close to the annealing temperature for sterling (1200°F) and also close to the temperature at which medium and easy solders flow. Thus, it gives a reliable visual indicator of temperature. Its primary disadvantage is that it bubbles and pops and can toss your solder around. It also burns off at approximately 1600°F, leaving the sterling unprotected from oxides (i.e., firescale). This is more of a problem for the beginner who is still learning to control the torch and to recognize sterling's temperature by its color. The transition from soldering temperature (dull red--1200°F) to cherry red (1400°F) to danger (pink glow--1600°F) to meltdown (1645°F) happens very quickly, and is best observed in dim light. It is very hard to see this transition in a brightly lit classroom.

Magic Flame (the "pink stuff") can be used in 4 different ways. For soldering, I mixed it with denatured

alcohol per the instructions. The alcohol burns off in a green flame. Because the mixture is very combustible, the container should not be near your torch while you are soldering. The primary advantage of Magic Flame is that it burns off at 1700°F, which is higher than the melting temperature of sterling. It also doesn't bubble and pop like paste fluxes do, so you can place your solder while the flux is wet (no need to heat to clear). Its primary disadvantage is that it does not indicate the temperature of the sterling, so it is more suited for those who are comfortable with the torch. For the same reason, it is not the best choice for annealing.

Cupronil (the "blue stuff") must be applied while the sterling is warm, so the piece must first be dipped into a preliminary anti-oxidant such as a supersaturated solution of boric acid in denatured alcohol and warmed with the torch. (Boric acid is not the same as borax. Boric acid is available from most drugstores.) When the denatured alcohol has burned off, Cupronil is sprayed onto the sterling. A fine mist is necessary to get good coverage. The primary advantage is that, when heated, Cupronil forms a protective white crust, clearly indicating where any exposed areas may be. Anywhere that is not white must be re-sprayed and reheated in order to prevent firescale. The primary disadvantages are: multiple applications are necessary, and it is messy; it is effective only up to 1500°F; and it does not indicate temperature, so it may not be appropriate for the beginner or for annealing.

I also tried boric acid in denatured alcohol by itself to see how it compared.

Flux Comparison Results

Flux	Firescale
Handy Flux	Quite a bit of firescale where flux burned off.
Magic Flame/denatured alcohol	No firescale.
Cupronil/boric acid/denatured alcohol	Some firescale where coverage was spotty or flux burned off.
Boric acid/denatured alcohol	Some firescale.

WORTH THE TRIP

Emie Stewart

Oklahoma City (OKC), about a three-hour drive north from the METROPLEX, offers several attractions for Arlington Gem and Mineral Club (AGMC) members, ranging from silversmithing to glass to rocks. Each year, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum hosts an exhibit of excellent silversmithing work by the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. This is a juried exhibition showcasing work of premier silversmiths in the western tradition: saddle embellishments, spurs, bridles, bits, and accessories. The works feature hand engraving, chasing, and repousse techniques. This year,

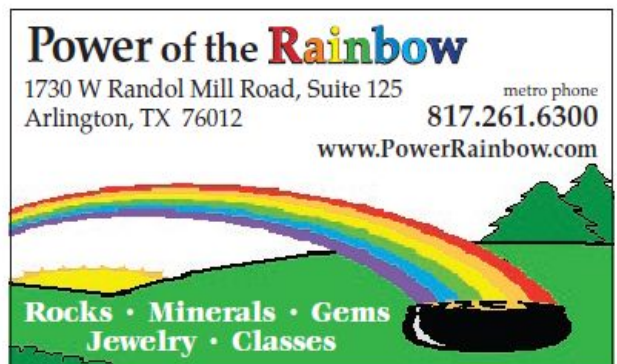
the exhibit opens on September 27 and runs through December 5. For more information, see www.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

For glass artists, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art features one of the most comprehensive collections of glasswork by Dale Chihuly in the world. This collection of 1500 hand-blown pieces features over three decades of Chihuly's work, and includes 18 glass installations. The Persian Seaform Ceiling draws the viewer into a seemingly underwater world as you walk underneath it and look up through the Plexiglas ceiling. Several short video clips show how many of the pieces were made. For more information, see www.okcmoa.com.

For the rockhound, there are at least two rock shops to consider visiting. The first is on the way to OKC and is worth the detour. Herb's Lapidary Shop, in Comanche, Oklahoma is a traditional rock shop, with rough scattered across the front "lawn" and even more treasures inside the building. Herb will regale you with stories of his collecting trips, and somehow seems to know exactly where everything is. His shop is located at Route 1, Box 29, South 81 Highway. He is open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Telephone (580) 439 4186 or (580) 439 5347.

The second, Arrowhead Rock and Lapidary Supplies is in OKC itself, on 330 Southwest 28th Street. Don't let the outward appearance fool you—there are indeed treasures inside for the intrepid rockhound. Their telephone number is (405) 634 7128. They are closed on Sundays.

These are just a few of the things to see and do in OKC, making it well worth the trip.



Members of the club will get 10% off their purchases at the store if they show their badge or membership card

August 2009

AGMC ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 SHOP OPEN & KEUM-BOO 9am-12 noon GLASS FUSING BEGINNERS Noon -4pm ADVANCED CABBBING 1-3PM	
2	3 BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	4 SHOP OPEN 9-NOON ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM FELLOWSHIP 7:00PM BUSINESS MEETING AT 7:30 PM	5 SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	6 SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	7 INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	8 SHOP OPEN 7AM-12N JUNIORS MEETING AND WIRE WRAPPING 9:00AM - NOON CHAIN/ WIRE JEWELRY 1-4PM	
9 GLASS FUSING BEGINNING AND ADVANCED NOON-4PM PIERCEWORK 1 -4PM	10 BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM OPAL DOUBLETS/TRIPLETS 6:30 - 9PM	11 ADVANC GLASS LAB 9AM - 1PM	12 SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	13 SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	14 INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	15 SHOP OPEN, SILVER SMITHING LAB 9AM-NOON GLASS FUSING BEGINNERS NOON - 4PM	
16 PIERCEWORK 1 - 4PM	17 BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	18 ADVANC GLASS LAB 9AM - 1PM FREE WORK SHOP AND WIRE WRAPPING BEGINNER 7:00PM - 9:00PM	19 SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	20 SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	21 INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	22 SHOP OPEN 7AM-NOON GLASS FUSING BEGIN & ADV 9AM - 1PM CAB CLASS 1-4PM	
23	24 BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	25 ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	26 SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	27 SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	28 INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	29 SHOP OPEN 9AM - 12 NOON	
30 ELECTRO-PLATING DEMO 1-2PM	31 BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	<u>THE DEADLINE FOR THE HOUNDS TALE IS THE 15TH</u>				SHOP	

AGMC August Class Schedule

Special Workshops:

Keum-boo

Saturday, August 1, 9:00 AM – noon

Instructor: Glenna Wooten

Advanced Cabbing: Challenging materials

Saturday, August 1, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Instructor: David Abbott

Piercework

Sundays, August 9 & 16, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Instructor: Dennis Peters

Opal Doublets/Triplets

Monday, August 10, 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Instructor: Frank Krystinik

Electroplating Demo

Sunday, August 30, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Instructor: Colleen Fitzpatrick

Cab Class

4th Saturday, August 22, 1 – 4 PM **NEW DATE**

Instructor: David Abbott

Wire Wrapping **CLOSED**

Second Saturday, September 12, 9AM – Noon

Instructor: Michael Hartz/Bobbie Wilson

Wire Wrapping: Beginner **CLOSED**

Third Tuesday, August 18, 7 – 9 PM

Instructor: Leslie Wilkes

Wax Carving & Casting **CLOSED**

Thursdays, 7 – 10 PM

Instructor: Emie Stewart

Chain making & Wire Jewelry **OPEN**

Second Saturday, August 8, 1 – 4 PM

Instructor: Leslie Wilkes

Faceting

Instructor: Mike Knuth/Elaine O'Donley

Wednesdays, 7 – 9 PM

Glass Fusing: Beginning and Advanced **CLOSED**

Second Sunday, August 8, Noon – 4 PM

Fourth Saturday, August 22, 9 - Noon

Instructor: Becky Downey

Advanced Glass Lab

Tuesdays, 9 – 1 PM

Thursdays, 9 – 1 PM (extra kiln firing day)

Instructor: Becky Downey

Glass Fusing: Beginning **CLOSED**

First Saturday, August 1, Noon - 4 PM

Third Saturday, August 15, Noon – 4 PM

Instructors: Lois McCormick/Barbara Poplin

Silversmithing

Beginning Silversmithing **CLOSED**

(new curriculum)

Mondays, 7 - 10 PM

Instructor: Tamara Wilkins

Intermediate Silversmithing **CLOSED**

(new curriculum)

Fridays, 7 – 10 PM

Instructor: Emie Stewart

Silversmithing Lab **OPEN**

Third Saturday, August 15, 9 - Noon

September 2009

TENTATIVE AGMC ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		SHOP OPEN 9-NOON ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM FELLOWSHIP 7:00PM BUSINESS MEETING AT 7:30 PM	SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	SHOP OPEN 9am-12 noon GLASS FUSING BEGINNERS Noon -4pm ADVANCED CABING 1-3PM
6	BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM FUNKY CHUNKY BRACELET 7:00PM- 9:00PM	SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	SHOP OPEN 7AM-12N JUNIORS MEETING AND WIRE WRAPPING 9:00AM - NOON CHAIN/ WIRE JEWELRY 1-4PM
GLASS FUSING BEGINNING AND ADVANCED NOON-4PM	BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM OPAL DOUBLET/ TRIPLETS 6:30 - 9PM	ADVANC GLASS LAB 9AM - 1PM FREE WORK SHOP AND WIRE WRAPPING BEGINNER 7:00PM - 9:00PM	SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	SHOP OPEN, SILVER SMITHING LAB 9AM-NOON GLASS FUSING BEGINNERS NOON - 4PM
FILIGREE 1:00PM-4:00PM	BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	ADVANC GLASS LAB 9AM - 1PM	SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM	SHOP OPEN 7PM - 9PM WAX CARVING AND CASTING 7-10PM ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM	INTERMEDIATE SILVER SMITHING 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	SHOP OPEN 7AM-NOON GLASS FUSING BEGIN & ADV 9AM - 1PM CAB CLASS 1-4PM FILIGREE 1-5PM
27	BEGINNING SILVER SMITHING 7:00PM - 10:00PM	ADVANCED GLASS LAB 9AM-1PM BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	SILVER SMITHING 202 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM FACETING 7-9 PM			
<u>THE DEADLINE FOR THE HOUNDS TALE IS THE 15TH</u>						

AGMC Tentative September Class Schedule

Special Workshops:

Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Funky Chunky Bracelet

Instructor: Fendol Chiles

Sunday, September 20, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Filigree

Instructor: Colleen Fitzpatrick

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Filigree

Instructor: Jack Spinks

Cab Class:

4th Saturday, September 26, 1 – 4 PM

Instructor: David Abbott

Wire Wrapping CLOSED

Second Saturday, September 12, 9AM – Noon

Instructor: Michael Hartz/Bobbie Wilson

Wire Wrapping: Beginner CLOSED

Third Tuesday, September 8, 7 – 9 PM

Instructor: Leslie Wilkes

Chain making & Wire Jewelry OPEN

Second Saturday, September 12, 1 – 4 PM

Instructor: Leslie Wilkes

Faceting

Wednesdays, 7 – 9 PM

Instructor: Mike Knuth/Elaine O'Donley

Glass Fusing: Beginning and Advanced CLOSED

Second Sunday, September 13, Noon – 4 PM

Fourth Saturday, September 26, 9 - Noon

Instructor: Becky Downey

Advanced Glass Lab

Tuesdays, 9 – 1 PM

Thursdays, 9 – 1 PM (extra kiln firing day)

Instructor: Becky Downey

Glass Fusing: Beginners CLOSED

First Saturday, September 5, Noon - 4 PM

Third Saturday, September 19, Noon – 4 PM

Instructors: Lois McCormick/Barbara Poplin

Wax Carving & Casting CLOSED

Thursdays, 7 – 10 PM

Instructor: Emie Stewart

Silversmithing

Beginning Silversmithing CLOSED

(new curriculum)

Mondays, 7 – 10 PM

Instructor: Tamara Wilkins

Intermediate Silversmithing CLOSED

(new curriculum)

Fridays, 7 – 10 PM

Instructor: Emie Stewart

Silversmithing Lab OPEN

Third Saturday, September 19, 9 AM - Noon