



# The Pineywoods Rooter

Newsletter of  
**PINE COUNTRY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**  
of Deep East Texas

April 2016

Volume 24 Number 4

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### Club Officers

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### **President's Message**

**April 2016**

Greetings Everyone;

Any rock hounding going on? Perfect weather for it. Well, the temp is perfect just wished the gnats weren't such an issue. I have however, found a great repellent – Skin So Soft. It really works well for those pesky critters. Will be putting some in my "rock hounding" knapsack as well as my tackle box.

Lonnie and I have been working on the show and it promises to be a good one. All of the vendor's booths are filled and as an added excitement it seems that the "Sluice" may be returning. Last year, they were unable to bring the sluice because of not having anyone to operate it. In talking with Jerry, he says that it appears that they will have someone to work it – Yay!!! It certainly is lots of fun AND a big draw. We will know closer to the show. Sonja and Desiree are making plans for the kitchen, Jonetta is already getting publicity out and Ms. Ruth is accumulating the goodies for the spinning wheel. So that brings me to the Silent Auction. Ron, Donna and Fred are in need of auction items. So keep that in mind when you're doing spring cleaning and find rocks/slabs/driftwood etc that you can part with—just put them aside and bring them to our meetings. We are already starting a collection. We have yet to find our "grand prize" but we are on the hunt.

On the day of our next meeting, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the PCGMS Board Meeting will be held at 4:00. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome. It's a great time to learn about the inner workings of the board and the club as well as time to express your views.

The program for Thursday night's meeting is entitled "Creative Ideas for Your Rocks/Slabs". Jonetta and John Nash have "volunteered" to share some of their hidden talents. I have no doubt it will be a great one.

Hostesses for the meeting are Shari Gunter and Michael and Linda Lang.

See you soon,

*Ann*

### Membership

Club Membership is open to all who are interested in the Earth Sciences and the Lapidary Arts.

Dues are \$24 yearly for families, \$18 for Single Adults, and \$2 kids.

### Meetings

The regular monthly meeting is held on the third Thursday of every month at 7PM in the Club Building at 110 N. Zavalla St. Jasper TX 75951

**Visitors are always Welcome!**

### Club Purpose

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society was formed for the purpose of encouraging interest and a better understanding of all phases of the Earth Sciences and Lapidary Arts and to promote fellowship and cooperation among members and with other groups with like interests.

### Member Club Affiliation

**South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

and

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

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**Minutes of the Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society Meeting for February 2016  
Presented by Secretary Wanda Page**

The **PCG&MS** met at the Tonahill/Nash Building, our club house, on March 17, 2016. Present were twenty-nine members and three visitors.

President Ann James called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**—Ruth Howell moved and Red Lawrence made the second to approve the February minutes, as printed in the Pineywoods Rooter. The motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Linda Lang gave the Treasurer's report. She also passed a copy to members to peruse. The report was MSP to accept the report, as presented by Linda.

**Old Business:**

**Education**—No report.

**Membership/Publicity**—Jonetta Nash reported that a recent email was sent to members, regarding dues for 2016. Jonetta asked those present to check the 2015 roster, which was passed, for any changes or corrections.

**Historian**—No report.

**Chamber of Commerce**—Wanda Page encouraged members to support the Azalea Festival, which will be held around the Courthouse Square.

**Hostess**—No report.

**Show**—Lonnie Stalsby/Ann James—no report.

**Building**—Paul James reported a successful "Paint Party Day" where not only did members paint, but we were served "Rita Chicken". He also indicated a pile of dirt/debris will soon be removed from the club's property.

**Constitution and Bylaws**—no report.

**SCFM News**—Jonetta reminded members that we are not only members of our club, but that we also belong to the South Central Federation and the American Federation. The South Central Federation publishes a newsletter every other month.

**Bulletin Editor**—Mike Harvey indicated he is learning; however he does need articles for our newsletter. Mike was thanked for taking on this very important job, Editor of our "The Pineywoods Rooter" newsletter.

**Activities/Field Trips**—Position open. Rich Geist has offered to have a field trip to his home to view his many rock and mineral specimens. Kimberly Brannon reported that a field trip, sponsored by the Mineral Wells club, is available to all Gem and Mineral club members.

**Programs**—Position open. Ann James encouraged our members to volunteer as program presenters. She indicated that Jim Marler has been asked to be the program presenter in June. Jim is a major vender at our show and is always willing to assist club members and the public in identifying various gems and minerals

**New Business:**

**Benefits**—The Fun Day for Veterans and Their Families, will be held in Lufkin on May 14, 2016. Ruth Howell is helping to make plans for this important event. She has asked club members for donations of rocks to be used during this event.

**Up-coming Shows and Meetings**—One topic of discussion was the dates of various shows. Our Gem and Mineral show will be August 27 and 28, 2016 and will be held at the Event Center on Highway 190, a few miles west of Jasper. The SCFMS Annual Meeting will be in Lubbock, TX on May 7, 2016. It was moved, seconded and passed to ask our Board of Directors to reconsider the amount our club provides for our attendee who attends this important event.

**Annual Audit**—The annual audit was performed by Sharon Stalsby and Wanda Butterfield Page with expert assistance from Linda Lang, Treasurer. All necessary data for deposits and checks written were accounted for. We thank Linda for

her efforts and accurate accounting in serving PCGMS.

**Show and Tell**—Several members brought various pieces of jewelry they had constructed.

**Program**—John Nash and Mike Lang gave instructions and use of the Slab Saw, for the program this month. The presentation was conducted in the work shop, with safety instructions and use of the saw. Members were divided into two groups for the presentation. All seem to agree, we have a "Mighty" Powerful Saw!!

**Drawing and Door Prize**—Half & Half was won by Donna Ducote and the Door Prize was won by Rich Geist.

**Auction**—The Auction was conducted by John Nash, and as always, it was a "lively" one. Donated items do help to finance the club. Club members are encouraged to be generous and donate for this purpose.

It was MSP to close the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Wanda Butterfield Page, Secretary

### Coming Show Dates

Apr 15–17, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MC, Alpine Civic Center

Apr 22–24, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, [www.intergem.com/](http://www.intergem.com/)

Apr 22–24, Houston, TX, Fine Mineral Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, [www.FineMineralShow.com](http://www.FineMineralShow.com)

Apr 30–May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

May 7–8, **Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention**, <http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show>

May 14, Arlington, Arlington G&MC Swap Meet, 1408 Gibbons Rd, [www.agemclub.com](http://www.agemclub.com)

May 21–22, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds

May 28–29, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Mem. Center, [fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)

Jun 17–19, Carlsbad, NM, Carlsbad G&MS, Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park, [www.carlsbadgms.org](http://www.carlsbadgms.org)

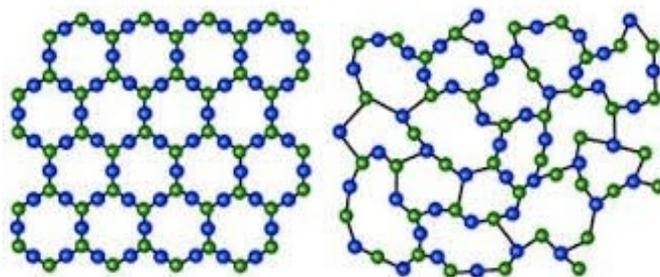
Jul 2–3, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, <http://www.agemclub.org/>

Jul 30–31, Farmers Branch, Cowtown GMGJA, Brookhaven Geotechnology Inst., [steve.l.shear@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shear@lmco.com)

Reference: March–April 2016 SCFMS Newsletter Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## What is the difference between minerals and crystals?

A crystal is any solid that has an organized structure. That means that the atoms of this thing are positioned in very accurate distances and angles one from the other, as opposed to glass for example, in which atoms are in an more or less random arrangement.



left: crystalline solid

right: amorphous substance like glass



Minerals are inorganic, naturally occurring substances that have crystalline structures. So it is a prerequisite to be a crystal in order to be a mineral. All minerals, therefore, form crystals.

On the other hand, there are crystals that are not minerals, because they are not naturally occurring, or because they are not inorganic. Sugar and proteins are examples of solids that form crystals but are organic, so they are not minerals. Some synthetic substances used in nanotechnology are crystalline, but are man-made, so not considered minerals either.

Source: [Frederico Guimaraes](https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-minerals-and-crystals/answer/Frederico-Guimaraes), geology BSc from UFMG <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-minerals-and-crystals/answer/Frederico-Guimaraes>

### A Few Best Types of Rocks for a Rock Tumbler



**Agate** is the most popular tumbling rough be-

cause it often has great color, interesting patterns (bands, eyes, moss, lace, fortifications), translucence, and it usually accepts an exceptionally bright polish. It is usually easy to polish and is a great tumbling rough for the beginner.



**Jasper** is another very popular tumbling rock. It is a semi-translucent to opaque material. It can be any color but is most often reds, earth tones and green. Most jaspers accept a very bright polish and polish easily for the beginner.



**Crystalline quartz** is found in a wide variety of colors. This photo shows some pastel-colored quartz: amethyst (purple), rose quartz (pink), aventurine (green) and yellow quartz.



**Petrified Wood** is a favorite with people who do rock tumbling. The pieces of petrified wood above show distinct wood grain patterns.



**Obsidian** has many varieties that are popular with people who tumble rocks. The rough specimens above on the left are mahogany obsidian (named for its brown wood-grain swirls). The two center obsidian specimens are rough Apache tears. The specimens at right are snowflake obsidian (named after the white cristobalite blooms).



**Sodalite, Lapis Lazuli, and Blue Chalcedony** have the unusual color Blue for a rock. This color makes this material especially popular with people who tumble rocks.



**Agates with "eyes"** are rare but if you tumble enough agate you will probably accumulate a nice collection of tumbled stones with "eyes."

*Newsworthy-Referenced excerpts from rock-tumbler.com*



## Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair  
From the March 2016 AFMS Newsletter

Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools -- your hands.

There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of the folks who does not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and then going on about your day. The hand behind ones back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important, give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset -- hands.

Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of Gray's Anatomy I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm and fingers. Counting the bones of the right and left hands that's 60 bones of the body's 200 or so bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body's total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care, they deserve great care.

Soon I will transition from winter's snow shoeing enjoyments to Spring's bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition I will move from using certain muscle/ bone groups to other muscle/ bone groups. During that transition I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition I will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that

I'm not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken.

We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I'm using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl -- that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand I finger position frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity and I'm sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act.

Next, for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty -- and I'm not talking about the resultant air turning a bluish color. Hands do not have an easy life!

What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are (a ta-da moment) hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike. There are also numerous chisel holding

devices available. There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands. We have available to us dirt, and flat rocks, and really great holding devices that can support/hold a rock so that it is not held in ones hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly -- so if in doubt about any program or device please consider consulting with a professional. Oh and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, stay safe.

## Mysterious Giant Sphere Unearthed!



Suad Keserovic un-earths a huge stone ball in Podubravlje village, Bosnia Credit: REUTERS/Dado Ruvic



The giant sphere has a radius of between four and five feet, and has an "extremely high" iron content and is strongly magnetic.

A Bosnian National Reporter asked Suad—"What will happen to the sphere after you excavate it. His answer was—"I will find a giant rock tumbler to polish it, and then I will take it home and place it in my fish pond"????

That's all folks until next month—Stay Safe and Keep Licking Rocks

Michael Harvey, Editor