



# **SOUTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**



**Volume 64, No.5 December 2023**

**Next Meeting: Thursday January 18, 2024**

**Location: San Antonio Garden Center**

**3310 N. New Braunfels Avenue**

**San Antonio TX 78209**

**(corner of Funston Place & New Braunfels Ave)**

**Time: 6:30 PM Social**

**7:00 PM Meeting**

**Club Website: [www.swgms.org](http://www.swgms.org)**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Holiday Greetings!

We had a modest turnout for our November meeting hosted by UTSA. Those who were able to attend were treated to three interesting presentations. The last one was by our own Lauren Maleski. She gave an excellent presentation on how to manage our collections.

I hope everyone has been enjoying a happy and safe holiday season. Our December gathering starts a 6pm on December 14th at Blanco BBQ. The upcoming SWGMS Newsletter will have more details on that as well as other items of interest.

Best wishes to you and your families!

Joann Socash  
President - SWGMS

## **Upcoming Shows and Events**

**The Fredericksburg Rockhounds Annual Show** will be on January 20-21, 2024, at the Ladybird Johnson Park (Pioneer Pavilion), Hwy 16 South; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free

**2024 Fiesta of Gems Rock & Mineral Show – April 6 & 7, 2024**

Our Public Relation Team is still come together. Rory, Norm Simpson, Sophia Tucker and Dora Brown are interested in helping out. We will be coordinating a meeting sometime during the first 2 weeks of December. There are so many different angles of public relations and advertisement that we would welcome help especially in social media (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram), advertisement, public speaking and web design (specifically in a payment program for memberships, fees and items for sale).

We are still in need of a lead person for the Lucky Wheel. This would involve coordinating volunteer shifts during the show, set up and tear down of the booth, and final inventory at the closing of the show.

This year we are planning on designing another Fiesta Medal so we need designs and artwork. Anyone interested in submitting a design for the medal for our 62<sup>nd</sup> show is encouraged to do so. All entries need to be in by the January 18, 2024 meeting where we will vote on the best entries.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above mentioned requests, please contact the show chair - Kitty Swoboda at [kitty.swgms@gmail.com](mailto:kitty.swgms@gmail.com) or at 210-651-6111.

## **Southwest Gem and Mineral Society**

### **November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The November meeting of the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society was hosted by the University of Texas at San Antonio. We met at the Flawn Sciences Building in room 2.01.20. The meeting was opened by President Joann Socash at 7:05 PM. Joann began the meeting by thanking Lauren Malesky for arranging the lectures and meeting site. Joann then welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Joann announced that we would have an abbreviated meeting so that our presenters have ample time for their topics.

**Old Business:** Joann announced that the club Christmas Party will take place on December 14. We will celebrate at the Blanco Bar B Que restaurant which is located at 13259 Blanco Road San Antonio. You must be a paid member to attend. The party will be from 6 pm till 8 pm. Dues for the upcoming year 2024 can be paid at the party. In January we will resume meeting at our usual site at the San Antonio Garden Center which is located at 3310 N. New Braunfels Avenue.

Joann reminded members that the club is sponsoring a competition to design a special Club Fiesta Medal celebrating our 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. It will be sold at the 2024 SWGMS Show.

**Announcements:** Joann announced that the program for the January meeting will be presented by John Eyres on the topic of “Man Made Gemstones and Assembled Stones”.

**Program:** The program consisted of 3 presentations. The first presenter was one of our UTSA scholarship recipients, Tiffany Barker on her research on paleoclimates titled “Keck

Geology Advanced Research Experiences”. It was about her research and data collection in Devonian age rock sequencing. The second topic was “Why is Mars Red?” by Dr. Kaushik Dr. Mitra, Assistant Professor in Earth and Planetary Sciences gave a fascinating presentation on the composition of surface materials in Mars crust and how minerals present today are the key to processes that shaped Mars in the past. The third presentation was done by our club member and graduate student Lauren Malesky on “Cataloging Collections”. Lauren stressed how important it is for collectors to have proper documentation of their specimens. She provided us with helpful information on how to catalog minerals in our collections, what to include in the documentation, and showed us resources to assist us in this important task. Minutes submitted by Joann De Luna: SWGMS Secretary

Dr. Mitra



Lauren Malesky



### **The 13 Days of a Rock Hound Christmas**

Sung (loosely) to the tune of the Twelve Days of Christmas  
**Thanks to Linda Simpson for sharing this**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 7 topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 8 ammonites, 7 topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 9 flint artifacts, 8 ammonites, 7 Texas topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 10 cabochons, 9 flint artifacts, 8 ammonites, 7 topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 11 varieties of agates, 10 cabochons, 9 flint artifacts, 8 ammonites, 7 topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas my true love gave to me, 12 fluorescent minerals, 11 varieties of agates, 10 cabochons, 9 flint artifacts, 8 ammonites, 7 topaz crystals, 6 Llanite slabs, 5 gold nuggets, 4 picture jaspers, 3 septarian nodules, 2 trilobites and a piece of a petrified tree.

And on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas I had a rock sale because my true love had given me:

- 12 pieces of petrified trees
- 22 trilobites
- 30 septarian nodules
- 36 picture jaspers
- 40 gold nuggets
- 42 Llanite slabs
- 42 topaz crystals
- 40 ammonites
- 36 flint artifacts
- 30 cabochons
- 22 varieties of agate
- 12 fluorescent minerals

This totaled to 364 pieces. If that's not true love then I don't know what is!

Rockin'  
around  
the  
Christmas  
Tree



Can you identify these minerals by their Christmas colors?



A



B



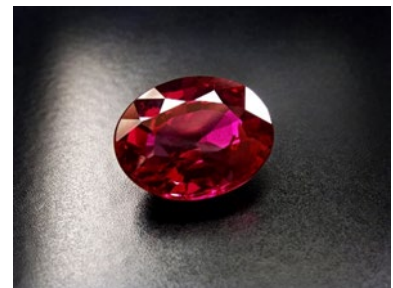
C



D



E



F



G



H

Answer Key: A is Malachite, B is Red Beryl, C is Cuprite and Malachite, D is Red Rhodochrosite, E is Emerald, F is Ruby, G is Green Fluorite, and H is Garnet.

**Announcements:**

John Speck is offering classes in Gemstones and jewelry making. You can enroll by going to [www.nisd.net/ace](http://www.nisd.net/ace) for more information. Or call 210-397-8100

NISD Com Edu Spring 2024 Registration opens on Monday, December 4 at 8 am!

The course is Gemstones and Lapidary Arts (Beginning & Advanced) Fee: \$55.00

Item Number: 2302JWL10105

Dates: (Check Spring course offerings for dates) Times: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Days: Tuesday Sessions: 3

Location: Northside Learning Center - Bldg C Room: C112

This course is intended for beginning and advanced students. Beginning students learn the art of lapidary, cutting and polishing gemstones that can be used to make beautiful jewelry. Using diamond-based lapidary equipment, each participant will make 2-3 finished gemstones. No prior experience is required. Advanced students are those that have taken this course before and will, therefore, require less supervision. They will be allowed to work with a larger range of and more challenging lapidary materials. Special thanks goes to The Southwest Gem and Mineral Society in San Antonio for supplying the lapidary equipment used in the class.

A supply fee of \$30 is payable to the instructor and provides safety equipment, raw gemstones, use of all tools and equipment, and jewelry materials.

Gemstones and Lapidary Arts (Beginning & Advanced) Fee: \$55.00

Item Number: 2302JWL10106

Dates: (Check Spring course offerings for dates) Times: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Days: Tuesday Sessions: 3

Location: Northside Learning Center - Bldg C Room: C112

This course is intended for beginning and advanced students. Beginning students learn the art of lapidary, cutting and polishing gemstones that can be used to make beautiful jewelry. Using diamond-based lapidary equipment, each participant will make 2-3 finished gemstones. No prior experience is required. Advanced students are those that have taken this course before and will, therefore, require less supervision. They will be allowed to work with a larger range of and more challenging lapidary materials. Special thanks goes to The Southwest Gem and Mineral Society in San Antonio for supplying the lapidary equipment used in the class.

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**Geology Photo Contest:** There were no entries, so I am submitting this one.



Road cut fold West Texas

**Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and  
a Happy Holiday season!**



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Web site for Southwest Gem & Mineral Society [www.swgms.org](http://www.swgms.org)

We are also on Facebook!