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February 2011

**PICKIN'S AND DIGGIN'S**  
***WILLIAMSON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY***



**Presidents Message:** I want to first thank all who signed up on the show worksheet and refreshment list.

Thank you for taking our show flyers and if you haven't put them out yet Please do so. The more people we get the more money our club makes.

Since our January meeting Jo Tooley and I went to Fredricksburg, Texas on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup>...We attended the "Rollin Rock Club" meeting on Sunday morning the 16<sup>th</sup> Jo joined the Rollin Rock Club...they served some wonderful breakfast tacos...then we attended their gem and mineral show...it was small but nice...great members...Bill Morganstern and Mary had attended the Saturday show and left our flyers...I took photos of course.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> I drove up to Tyler, Texas and attended the "Rollin Rock Club" meeting on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and then checked out their gem and mineral show...it was small, but really nice...met some really nice club members...they also had a silent auction table at their show, they also had a real nice mineral display with a write up on each mineral...I took photos as always...then I headed back to Austin around 4P.M. Long Way Home.

I enjoyed both shows... I left our Show Flyers in Tyler...the photos from both shows will be at our Show in February..

Now lets all be sure and tell all our friends about our show..encourage them to attend and bring their friends, family, etc....Lets make this Our BEST EVER SHOW...

Lets see if we can increase our membership status...lets sign up some new people...

Bill Morganstern has another fieldtrip planned and I have been there and All of You will really enjoy this trip...so please try and attend...

**Thanks**

**Wanda Reynolds**

**Presidents 2010-2011**

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**Secretary Notes:** Meeting started with refreshment furnished by Wanda Reynolds, thank you Wanda.

Meeting was called to order after the pledge.

We have a new member Dana Schubert, from Georgetown. Dana owns Friendly Computers where our meetings starting in March will be held.

Jo Ann Tooley read the minutes from our November meeting.

Will Holton gave the treasurer report and Rochelle Margolis gave the show treasurer report.

Del Jester has been banned from the Club.

There was not a monthly challenge for the month of December.

Bill Morgenstern spoke of a new membership forms, new membership dues that are now due. Bill also spoke about a fieldtrip to Lampasas, this will be on a Saturday after February show on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Bill slao spoke of upcoming programs for future meetings.

The Fredricksburg show will be the 14<sup>th</sup> , 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January , at Lady Bird Park off Hwy. 16.

The door prize was an Agate, furnished by Wanda Reynolds, Tim Morrison won the door prize.

Tim Morrison donated a 40 course, Gemologist Instruction Book.

Sign up worksheets were passed around for people to sign up for the upcoming show.

Show notifications were handed out for people to distribute to local libraries.

Dana Schubert will handle table decorations for the Dealers Dinner for the upcoming show. Thank you Dana.

Jo Ann Tooley

WCGMS Secretary 2011

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## February Birthstone

### *AMETHYST*

The **Gemstone** Amethyst is the **Birthstone** for February. It is also the Zodiac Stone for the constellation of Pisces. Amethyst is associated with spiritually, wisdom, sobriety, and security.

Amethyst is the **purple** variety of the mineral **Quartz** and is a popular gemstone. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades. Its color is unparalleled and even other, more expensive purple gemstones are compared to amethyst's color and beauty. If it were not for its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive.

The name "amethyst" come from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was perhaps due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered.

However, amethyst is not the same everywhere. Different localities can produce a unique amethyst to the particular region or even or even the particular mine. Experts often identify the source mine that a particular amethyst came from. The key to this is the specimen's color, shape of crystal, inclusions, associations and character of formation.

The following is a list of some of the locations where amethyst comes from, and attributes that characterize the amethyst found there.

**VER CRUZ MEXICO:** Very pale, clear, prismatic crystals that are sometimes double-terminated and have grown on a light colored host rock. Crystals are typically phantom, having a clear quartz interior and an amethyst exterior.

**Guerrero, Mexico:** dark, deep purple, prismatic crystals that radiate outward from a common attachment point. Often the crystals are phantom, opposite of the Vera Cruz amethyst having a purple interior and a clear or white quartz exterior. These are some of the most valuable amethysts in the world.

**Thunder Bay, Canada:** the distinct red hematite inclusions just below the surface of the crystals is unique to this locality. Clusters are druzy crusts that line the fissures formed in ancient metamorphic rocks.

**North Carolina, U.S.A.:** Druzy clusters that have a bluish-violet tint.

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**Africa:** crystals are usually large but not attractive. However, the interior color and clarity are excellent and polished slices and carvings as well as many gemstones are prized and admired.

**Colorado, U.S.A.:** druzy clusters form inside a fissure in sandstone , often on top of a crust of green fluorite. Crystals are dark but rather small.

**Ural Mountains, Russia:** a very clear and dark variety that is cut for fine expensive gemstones, natural uncut clusters are rarely on the market.

**Italy:** Both Vera Cruz like crystals, although not as well defined, and large parallel growth clusters with good evenly distributed color.

**Germany:** associated with colorful agates that form druzy light-colored crust.

Often , cut gems of amethyst are graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain to represent high medium and low grade respectively, regardless of the actual source. Because of the patchiness of the color distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is often cut as brilliant round cuts to maximize the color. Other cuts can be used when the color is better distributed.

The color purple is traditionally the color of royalty and amethyst has been used since the dawn of history to adorn the rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Today, amethyst is a lovely and affordable gemstone that is fortunately available in a wide variety of cut and uncut stones that we can all possess and admire.

**Prasiolite** is leek-green variety of quartz, rare in nature but used as a gemstone sometimes (wrongly) called Green Amethyst..

**EDITOR NOTE:** If there is an item you would like put in the newsletter please contact Roger at [www.rd4006@suddenlink.net](mailto:www.rd4006@suddenlink.net) or 512-819-0606..



THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY  
PRESENTS THEIR 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY

## \* \* GEMBOREE \* \*

AN EXPOSITION OF GEMSTONES, BEADS, JEWELRY,  
FOSSILS, MINERALS, AND ARTIFACTS

**FEB. 19 & 20, 2011**

COMMUNITY CENTER SAN GABRIEL PARK  
GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

FROM IH35 TAKE THE RR 2338 EXIT THEN GO EAST AT THE  
LIGHT AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO THE PARK

### SHOW HOURS

SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM

SUNDAY 10AM - 5PM

FREE PARKING

### ADMISSION

ADULTS \$2.00

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UNDER 6 FREE

### FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

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EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS \* FLUORESCENT MINERALS

\*CUSTOM AND DESIGNER JEWELRY \*

HOURLY DOOR PRIZES \*\*\*\* GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

### FEATURING

ARTISANS, CRAFTSMEN, COLLECTORS, DEALERS, EXHIBITORS,

JEWELRY-MAKING TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

FOOD AND REFRESHMENT AVAILABLE

BILL MEDFORD  
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512-930-2768

PROCEEDS SUPPORT COLLEGE EARTH SCIENCE  
SCHOLARSHIPS

ROLLIN' ROCK CLUB  
MEETING 9:00AM FEB. 20, 2011