

# The Rockytier

Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society

## Monthly Meetings

### General Meeting:

Tuesday June 2, 2020. 7 pm at Forrest Heights United Methodist Church, 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock, Texas.

### Board Meeting:

Tuesday June 9, 2020. Meeting starts at 7 pm at Forrest Heights United Methodist Church, 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock, Texas.

Everyone is welcome at either meeting!



## Upcoming Shows

### August

**1 - 2 Lubbock, Texas**  
21 - 22 Tahlequah, OK

### September

10 - 11 Temple, Texas

### November

7 - 8 Amarillo, Texas  
7 - 8 Midland, Texas

Be sure to confirm before going!

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## Message from the President

Hello everyone. I am really glad we were able to meet in May, even if it was virtual for many of us. I think we have worked the bugs out, so June's meeting should go smoother.

Good news. We were able to reschedule our 60th Annual Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society Show to August 1st and 2nd. A couple of vendors can't make the new dates, but Walt is diligently lining up replacements. He has designed an alternate floor plan if we need social distancing for the show.

Because this is our 60th show, we still want it to be the absolute best we can make it. We still plan on having the door prizes, silent auction, fluorescent tent, children's area, and demonstrations. If floor space is needed for distancing, we will eliminate presentations and the private display area. We will look at possibly having a few displays co-located with the demo area.

We are still looking for property for the club. Please continue to help with the search.

Stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you at the June meeting, either in person or virtually through Zoom.

Michael Zink

Michael Zink called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was also conducted on zoom for those who were social distancing.

There were 8 members present and one guest, with 6 more on zoom.

Our annual show was the first topic of discussion. It is still unknown whether the city will open the civic center by May 30 & 31, and under what circumstances they would allow the show to run. The possibility of having to have a smaller show or none at all is very real. We decided that we will not cancel the show, but acknowledged that the city still might.

Tim said that he would reopen the shop on the 3rd Sunday if the club wished, but everyone will need to provide their own mask. It was noted that we have never had 10 people there at once and don't expect that to change.

The search for property was discussed, everyone please keep looking.

Walt will send an email to tell everyone where the board meeting will be when we figure it out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Sabrina Krieger, Secretary

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*June JALAF is Spots, Dots, and Bots!  
Any material with spots/dots or botryoidal texture*

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A botryoidal texture or mineral habit is one in which the mineral has a globular external form resembling a bunch of grapes (botrys in ancient Greek). This is a common form for many minerals, particularly hematite, the classically recognized shape. It is also a common form of goethite, smithsonite, fluorite, and malachite. This includes chrysocolla.

Each sphere (grape) in a botryoidal mineral is smaller than that of a reniform mineral and much smaller than that of a mamillary mineral. Botryoidal minerals form when many nearby nuclei, specks of sand, dust, or other particles, are present. Acicular or fibrous crystals grow radially around the nuclei at the same rate, appearing as spheres. Eventually, these spheres abut or overlap with those that are nearby. These nearby spheres are then fused to form the botryoidal cluster.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Botryoidal malachite

License: CCO Public Domain

## Board Meeting Notes

May 12, 2020

Michael Zink called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

There were 7 members present and 2 on a conference call.

Sabrina read the meeting minutes from our last board meeting (in March).

Tim read the Treasurers report. Our building fund is down about 15% due to the current economic situation.

Walter talked about the new show dates. Because of the possibility of the show being canceled at the last minute, he contacted the management at the civic center and was able to reschedule for August 1 & 2. We are still planning on a full-blown show, but he redrew the setup plan in the case we need to spread everyone out and provide more distance, which would eliminate or greatly reduce our display cases. On his recommendation, we are going to return all dealer fees to those dealers that can not make the date change. We are going to have posters printed with dealer contact information rather than have a program printed this year. Pictures of the grand prizes are posted on the website forum.

Michael reminded us again that the club will be homeless in one year and a month.

There was a discussion about moving our building fund to a local brokerage rather than leaving it at T. Rowe Price. We will do some checking around and revisit the issue next month.

Michael mentioned that one of the owners of the Red Zone - Mike Shokraeifard, had passed away.

Sabrina motioned to adjourn at 7:42 pm

Sabrina Krieger, Secretary

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### The LGMS is on Facebook! Are you?

Our LGMS Page is a place to learn about and keep up with club happenings, and our LGMS Group is a place to communicate with other rockhounds. Anyone can see and read content on either platform, and if you join our group, you can post messages and share pictures there as well. Sign in or sign up at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and join the conversation. While you are there, search for other rockhound groups to follow, there are so many!

### SCFMS 2020 Convention

The 2020 annual SCFMS Convention and show will be held on October 10 & 11, 2020 in conjunction with the 51st gem and mineral show of the Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society at the Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas.



[www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)

### AFMS 2020 Convention

The 2020 annual AFMS Convention and show will be held on October 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2020 in conjunction with the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society's annual show in Knoxville, TN



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

Just a follow up from last month's newsletter, this is a piece of Tiger iron that I cut for the JALAF that we weren't able to have. I would love to put some of your work here, send me a picture of what you are working on.

[walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org)



Photo: W.Beneze

### Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument is located in the beautiful Texas Panhandle and was the first industry of Texas. During the end of the last Ice Age, some 13,000 years ago, Paleo-Indians quarried flint at Alibates. These early peoples fashioned small, beautifully crafted spear points to hunt large game such as bison, mammoths, and sloths that once roamed the Great Plains.

Arrowhead points made from Alibates flint were found embedded in skeletons of mammoths unearthed in Eastern New Mexico, near Blackwater Draw, a center of the early Clovis culture. The wide distribution of Alibates flint points suggests that Clovis people placed a high value on this stone.

Later in history, between 1200 and 1450 AD, a Plains Village subgroup (known as the Antelope Creek people), also recognized the beauty and utility of Alibates flint. This subgroup built masonry structures close to the flint outcropping along the Canadian River.

Today many shallow pits, probably dug with sticks or tools made from bison or other bone, marks the Alibates landscape. Waste piles scattered across the dry earth near the pits contain broken and discarded tools and flakes, the result of knapping, the method of shaping flint by striking a flint core with a heavier, harder "hammerstone," often a river cobble.

From the Facebook page [@alibatesflint](https://www.facebook.com/alibatesflint)

## Collecting Rocks

**I think that there shall never be  
An ignoramus just like me,  
Who roams the hills throughout the day  
To pick up rocks that do not pay;  
For there's one thing I've been told  
I take the rocks and leave the gold.**

**O'er deserts wild or mountains blue  
I search for rocks of varied hue.  
A hundred pounds or more I pack  
With blistered feet and aching back,  
And after this is said and done  
I cannot name a single one.**

**I pick up rocks where e'er I go  
The reason why I do not know,  
For rocks are found by fools like me  
Where God intended them to be.**

Kenneth E Owens via The Matrix Oct. 2014

Calling all poets, writers, photographers, and storytellers. Send me your original content to include in the newsletter.

Have any shop tips to share? How about a field trip report? If you visit a gem show or rock shop, tell us about it!

If you see an article that you think other club members would enjoy, forward me a link.

Deadline is the 20th of the month prior.

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Dino day is coming!

Our July meeting is supposed to be our group picture day, provided that it is possible at that time.

Everyone, please wear your club dino t-shirts and dino-themed jewelry for the picture. More information will follow as we see how the situation unfolds.

Our JALAF will be gem bone, coprolite, and fossils.



Deinonychus and Buitreraptor at the Field Museum in Chicago.  
Photo: W.Beneze

The LGMS is a 501c(3) Educational Organization and can provide you with a tax write off for your donation! Like all non-profits, we rely on the generosity of people that contribute time and money to help promote our cause.

If you don't have time for meetings, but would like to contribute, we accept monetary donations, rock and mineral collections, tools and equipment, and even your collected "yard rock".

We also have an Endowment fund at Texas Tech that provides for a scholarship to students in the field of geology and earth sciences; Donations can be designated to that fund.

We have a building fund that will help us acquire a permanent place to hold meetings, house our workshop, and establish a museum of rocks and minerals. If you have a building or land that could help us reach this goal, please contact us today.

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The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 20th of the month prior. Send to: [walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org)

## The Herby Woolbifferous Taste Test

Plagiarized by Emil Yatsko and David Johnson from an article provided for the Mineral Information Institute by Andrew A Sicree, Ph.D., entitled Mineral Taste Test. Via Gneiss Gnuss 6/10, Mid-Summer Madness Edition via Cutting Remarks 8/10 via The Rollin' Rock 7/16.

No one really knows for certain when exactly the first human tasted rock. It might have been Neanderthals or Cro-Magnon sapiens that first put tongue to rock. So far no fossil evidence has emerged to indicate saliva on rock. Animals are attracted to salt deposits, and observation of this activity may have encouraged man to try his tongue. We do know that Indians in the North American Continent placed high esteem on salt as a food additive to improve taste. Today in most academic curricula the "taste test" is included along with the streak, hardness, and simple chemical reactions as a field test to identify rocks and minerals.

Incidentally, the palette was also highly prized by Indians as a field tracker. Trackers were known to identify where someone has been by the taste of the soil left on boots or moccasins. Time of travel could be determined by feeling or tasting the heat (or lack there-of) from horse, mule or buffalo dung. This is perhaps the origin of the universal Indian word "Ugh" which is translatable into English as the term "Aw Shucks".

The taste test is usually ascribed to as the "Herby Woolbifferous Taste Test" named after the legitimate son of the illegitimate Norman/Saxon/Viking Earl of Woolcestshire. Sir Herby had outlined tasting methods from years of experience of placing his tongue in strange places. He described the tongue as "a unique and delicate tool capable of discerning minute differences unavailable to the other senses". Cleaning the palette after each lick of a rock/ mineral is paramount! Sir Herby's personal method involved ¼ cup of white wine, immediately followed by a ¼ cup red wine, finally gargling with ½ cup of Bombay Gin. Plain water was disdained as "unable to excite the tingling taste buds at the base of the tongue so necessary for mineral identification". This method is most successful for sampling up to ten rocks. After ten rocks the identification accuracy seems to fall off. Sir Herby also encouraged "a full and hearty lick of each specimen". This may help explain his early demise when an autopsy revealed high contents of alcohol and arsenic.

Today's taste methods are far more scientific. When tasting a mineral, do not lick the specimen. There are minerals that are

are poisonous and a lick can cause a considerable amount of unnecessary ingestion of the substance. It is recommended that the testing person first wet their finger (not with saliva but with water), then place the wet finger on the specimen and finally taste the finger. This should provide enough of a taste without getting a tongue full of perhaps a badly tasting or worse yet poisonous mineral. Another technique is to just place the tip of the tongue to the mineral for a brief moment. Some minerals have a unique taste that cannot be described except in general terms, but with practice can be identified readily. The list below is composed of sulfates, halides and borates because these minerals can be more soluble in water than other minerals in general and some solubility in water is required in order to have a taste in the first place: Borax (sweet alkaline), Chalcantite (sweet metallic and slightly poisonous), Epsomite (bitter), Glauberite (bitter salty), Halite (salty), Hanksite (salty), Melanterite (sweet, astringent and metallic), Sylvite (bitter), Ulexite (alkaline).

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*‘the “Herby Woolbifferous Taste Test” named after the legitimate son of the illegitimate Norman/Saxon/Viking Earl of Woolcestshire.’*

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Texture and “the feel of the tongue” can also be an important indicator. Some specimens have a characteristic texture. Most rocks or minerals will be gritty when crushed up and tasted. Bentonite is a clay, generated from alteration of volcanic ash. It is composed of Smectite clay minerals, mainly Montmorillonite. It has the interesting property of having a smooth or creamy texture (rather than being gritty) when placed in the mouth. We take advantage of this creamy texture when we use it in non-dairy coffee creamers (Yes, you really are putting a rock in your coffee!). Other minerals have a characteristic tendency to stick to your tongue when tasted. Magnesite, Kaolinite, Montmorillonite, and Chrysocolla fall in this group. When dry, these minerals absorb water and stick to your moist tongue. Sometimes the tongue can be fooled. Pyrite, for example, has a “sulfurous” taste –this is really a smell. Much of what we call a taste can really be a smell or a psychological perception. Talc, for instance, “feels soapy” and has been described as having a soapy taste. Yet there is no soap in talc. Of course there is also the “idea” of what the mind perceives when we taste coprolite (fossilized animal dung).

For eons man has used his tongue for tasting, talking, and other various T’s. But we do owe a debt of gratitude to Sir Herby for initiating the rudiments of an identification process that has proven so valuable to rockhounds, wine merchants, and manufacturers of Bombay Gin.

From Delvings, Vol.69, #9 September 2016

## Arsenic in Water

Dr. Oz made headlines when he revealed that there is arsenic in most commercial apple juice. Maybe that’s not surprising. Arsenic occurs naturally in soil especially in some areas, central India, for example. Now scientists have proposed a way to remove at least some forms of arsenic using two minerals. Tooeleite is  $\text{Fe(AsO)SO(OH)} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and Wurtzite  $\text{ZnS}$ . The key is to control the pH of the solutions, but if it is successful, people in large areas of Earth can avoid drinking arsenic with their water or their apple juice.

Contributed by Ed Goldberg from The Conglomerate Vol 12, Number 2, 2/17

The LGMS meets at 3007 33rd Street, Lubbock Texas on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Membership is open to all interested parties. Visitors are always welcome! Annual dues are \$20 for Adults, \$10 for Students 16 years and older, \$5 for Students up to age 15, or a Family Membership for \$40. Exchange editors are free to copy anything of interest from The Rockytier provided credit is given to the author of the article and The Rockytier. Any content in this newsletter not attributed to someone else is from the editor.

The Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit organization recognized under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an educational entity. Donations in any form are tax deductible.

The purpose of this society shall be:

- To bring about a closer association of those persons interested in the earth sciences and lapidary arts.
- To increase, document and disseminate knowledge about geological materials including rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, historic and modern cultural lithic artifacts.
- To encourage the study, collecting and display of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, artifacts, and the performance of lapidary and jewelry arts.
- To provide guidance, education and information; share ideas and techniques; and assist in the development and refinement of skills through the combined resources, knowledge and experience of the Society's Members.

Elected Officers & Directors who are voting members of the Board of Directors:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| President              | Michael Zink     |
| Past President         | Walter Beneze    |
| Vice President         | Mica McGuire     |
| Secretary              | Sabrina Krieger  |
| Treasurer              | Timothy McIntire |
| Director (first year)  | Yvonne Hoffman   |
| Director (first year)  | Jennifer Philips |
| Director (second year) | Mark Smith       |
| Director (second year) | Lisa Smith       |

Appointed voting Board Members:

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Membership Chair    | vacant        |
| Club Workshop Chair | Dave Swartz   |
| Show Chair          | Walter Beneze |
| Newsletter Editor   | Walter Beneze |
| Field Trip Chair    | vacant        |

A Membership Directory w/contact info is on the website. You must be logged in to see it.

The Rockytier June 2020

### Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society

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