



GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 48, No. 12

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

December 2010

Rappings of the Gavel

I apologize for changing the meeting location at the last minute but it seemed like the best option under the circumstances. Please join us as we install our new officers.

2010 has been an interesting year. I wish to thank all who participated as officers and directors. Those members who provided refreshments at each meeting are due a special thanks.

We are now listed with the IRS as a 501(c)(7) tax-exempt organization thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, Linda Rakey. That classification is as a "social" organization although we have revised our constitution to comply with rules that would be considered as a tax exempt "educational" organization. At a later time we may be under the group status of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies that is already classified as an educational 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

I thank all of you for helping our club grow. Next year we want everybody to become involved in planning the meeting topics. Please adopt a meeting that emphasizes your interests. I will be available to assist the new officers. Happy New Year.

Fred

NEXT MEETING January 18, 2011

Kickoff meeting for the New Year. Some of this meeting will be devoted to planning our meeting topics for the year. We need your input. Please *Adopt a Meeting* and help Larry start the new season.

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

The December meeting of the PDGMS has been moved to the meeting room at the **Hibachi Grill China Buffet** on Tiger Boulevard in Clemson. Meeting time: 6:00 p.m. on December 21, 2010. We will NOT have a gift exchange as originally planned.

Please join us for dinner and to install next year's officers and pass the gavel to the 2011 President, Larry Boller. For those who attended, this is the same location and room as last year's December meeting. However, the club will not be able to pick up the tab this year.

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting

November 16, 2010

Location: Room 127 at Tri-County Technical College.

Attendance: 19.

President, Fred Sias, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Refreshments were provided by Viola Wolf

The minutes from the October meeting were approved as published in the *Gem Scoops*.

Treasurer, Phyllis Phillips, sent a report showing a bank balance of \$1158.08.

Program:

Connie and Steve Compton gave a program on lampworking, glass bead making. Connie is an art teacher in the Oconee school district. She has tried many forms of art, but began lampworking after receiving a torch for Valentine's Day.

Originally, the practice used oil-fueled lamps to melt the glass, hence the name. Connie began with

a MAPP gas torch, but found it freezes up during use. She now uses a torch, which uses oxygen and propane. This heats to 1300 degrees, a good reason to keep an aloe Vera plant nearby. She stressed ventilation and safety glasses.

Supplies of colored glass rods for melting are available online and at the Mercantile store on the square in Pendleton. All of the glass for one bead should have the same coefficient of thermal expansion (COE). Different glass types cannot be mixed.

Connie demonstrated the process by melting the glass rod with a torch until the liquid glass could be turned onto a mandrel and

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2010 Officers

President: Fred Sias	864-654-6833
V.P. : John Palmer	941-545-3713
Secretary: Linda Rakey	864-224-4245
Treasurer: Phyllis Phillips	864-654-8514

2010 Directors

Larry Boller	864-296-8077
Chris Cicimurri	864-650-7115
Dr. Richard Warner	864-654-0913

Minutes (Continued)

formed into a bead. The bead, still on the mandrel, was finished by plunging into a pot of hot vermiculite to cool. The beads are then annealed in a glass kiln to make them stronger.

Members were invited to turn a bead using the torch, but no one did. The book, *Dressing the Flame*, was mentioned for step by step directions of lampworking for beginners.

Steve Compton spoke for a few minutes on the subject of invasive Cogongrass. He passed out brochures to alert members to keep an eye out for this grass and report it to DNR. A native of Asia brought to this country around 1911, it is highly flammable and contributes to wild fires. Underground rhizomes spread this vicious grass. It may only be identified when it puts on its autumn plumes. The species was recently found in the botanical garden at the Geology Museum!

Old business:

Many members brought their finds from the Diamond Hill dig in November. A new member, Angela Epps, found a huge clump of purple crystals right on the surface of the dump pile. Our club was lucky to be the first group to search after a recent mechanized dig, and many beautiful specimens were found.

New business:

[Editor's Note: The December meeting has been changed as described on the previous page.]

The Christmas party will be a potluck supper held at Ted's subdivision common room on December 21st. Please bring a gift related to the gem and mineral hobby with a

\$5 value for a gift swap. Mark it for male or female. A notice will be forthcoming. Sign up for bringing food items to supplement a main dish, which will be furnished.

Fred Sias received a certificate of excellence for 6th place for the website he founded and maintains. Congratulations, Fred! The Southeast Federation lists the items of importance for the website. This information will be useful for the new Website Coordinator.

Next year's refreshment list is available for sign up.

Membership dues are due January 1st and are considered delinquent by February 1st.

A suggestion was made by Chris Cicimurri to handle programs for the Program Chairman: members can suggest a program idea or adopt-a-month and be responsible to get a program.

At least one meeting during the summer will probably be deleted due to vacations, the Christmas party is in December, which only leaves 10 programs necessary.

Two monthly programs were suggested:

1. "What is it? – Bring your specimens for identification," with experts such as Dave and Chris Cicimurri.

2. Swap meet.

Additional Resources:

The Federation maintains a huge library of tapes, videos, and slides for a member to request for a meeting of interest. See the website and pick the topic for a monthly program.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers and asked

for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were proposed and the following slate of Officers and Directors was presented:

Officers for 2011

President – Larry Boller

Vice Pres. – Ed Overly

Secretary – Cecilia Jackson

Treasurer – Phyllis Phillips

Three **Directors** were nominated:

Jim Dusenberry

Rich Warner

Dave Cicimurri.

As Past President, Fred Sias automatically becomes a Director.

John Palmer will assume the appointed position of Website Coordinator. Fred Sias will continue in the appointed position of Newsletter Editor.

The Quorum of members present elected the slate of the Nominating Committed unanimously.

A comment was made by Larry Boller that, per our by-laws, Vice Presidents should be groomed to assume the presidency. It was stressed that you do not need expertise to be an officer, just an interest. Quarterly meetings of Directors and Officers may be expected, and some standing committees remain to be filled.

A round of applause was offered to Fred Sias to thank him for keeping the club in continuance this year by filling several jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rakey

Secretary