

# THE SHAWNEE SLATE

LLEWELLYN ALSPACH, EDITOR  
46989 TOOLRY ROAD P.O. BOX 53  
KONAWA, OKLAHOMA SAINT LOUIS, OK  
7474849-5609 74866  
EMAIL: LLEWELLYN53@HOTMAIL.COM



*Merry*



*Christmas!!!*



**SHAWNEE GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

**NEXT MEETING  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2012 6:30PM  
FIRST UNITED BANK  
912 E. INDEPENDENCE ST.  
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA**

**VISITORS WELCOME**

## Club Officers For 2013

### President

Shanda McDonald

### Vice President

Dianna Morris

### Secretary

Robin & Anne Elliott

### Treasurer

Tracie Portrey

### Editor

Llewellyn Alspach

Email: [llewellyn53@hotmail.com](mailto:llewellyn53@hotmail.com)

### Contributing Editor

George Finley & Mandie Briant

### The Club Mailing Address

Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club

c/o Tom Morris

111 West Hickory

Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804

405-386-2314

[tomor@mcloudteleco.com](mailto:tomor@mcloudteleco.com)

The Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club is a non-profit organization. The purpose is to promote the study and appreciation of rocks, gems, minerals and fossils. We teach any and all relevant techniques and the AFMS CODE of ETHICS. We have a club library that is listed in the club directory. These books can be checked out on club nights by prior arrangement. Kept for a month and returned or pay an overdue at rate agreed on by the club.

It is new and interactive! Check it out every month.

**Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club  
Web Site**

<http://www.sgams.net>

## Club Information

### Meetings

Regular meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, held at the First United Bank conference room. 5:30 for juniors and 6:30 for the regular membership meetings. The First United Bank is located at 912 E. Independence Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The Shawnee Gem & mineral Club is one of the clubs that make up the **OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

It is a member of **THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES** and **THE AMERICAN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Single membership.....\$15.00

Family membership.....\$20.00

Junior membership.....\$6.00

Newsletter only.....\$9.00

**The Shawnee Slate is now available for free download on the club web site listed below. It is in the PDF format. Any photos or graphics in the newsletter can only be seen in color in the electronic version. There will be a year printed on your mailing label. This is the year for which your dues were last paid. Please check the year and be sure your dues are up to date. Also notify the editor if there is any mistake in your name, address, email address or dues paid status.**

### EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above.

Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Shawnee Slate and the date.

**Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club  
Web Site**

<http://www.sgams.net>

2012

December Birthdays

Garrette Mc Donald	11 Dec.
Lillian Briant	28 Dec.
Tina Presley	28 Dec.
Jeffery Presley	23 Dec.
Lindsey Nelson	21 Dec.
Robin Johnson	9 Dec.
Paul Johnson	17 Dec.

December Anniversaries

Tina & Cody Prsley	12 Dec.
--------------------	---------

Our Sick Members

**George will be going into the hospital on 11 Dec. for some heart stent placements We all send best wishes to George and will miss him at the Christmas party.**

**Please let the editor know if you or someone we know is sick.**

Special Intentions

For those who are ill and ones we don't know about. For friends and family we have lost. Those who have gone on to Rock Hound Heaven. (Our prayers are with you).

CondolencesDecember RefreshmentsDrinksOther

This will be the potluck Christmas party so everyone bring your favorite side dish or desert and join in the fun and festivities!!

Save canceled stamps

(bring to the membership meeting)

Some people have ask me what this is for. Found a person in the RMFMS Susan Athens and ask her. She said (What I do is collect them for the Federation. We will find someone that will need them for medical help. For Example time on the kidney dialysis machine.) So; if you bring them, I will mail them to her and maybe they will help some unfortunate person in some way.

Up Coming Shows and Events

**Dec. 21-23**—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Wholesale and retail show; John So; Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 Main St.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3; beads, fine jewelry, gemstones, sterling silver jewelry, beading supplies, findings, beading class, pearl and jade jewelry; contact John So, 13337 South St. #633, Cerritos, CA 90703, (714) 494-4546; e-mail: egi168@hotmail.com; Web site: www.egishows.com

**Jan. 1-31**—QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Desert Gardens RV Park; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1055 Kuehn St.; Mon. 9-dusk, Sun. 9-dusk; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon (manager), 1055 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346-2818, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

**Jan. 25-27**—TYLER, TEXAS: Annual show; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Tyler Rose Garden Center; 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1, Scouts in uniform free; grand prize drawings, hourly door prizes, silent auction, Wheel of Fortune, showcases, 11 dealers, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, minerals, geodes, lapidary demonstrations; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: keithharmon19@yahoo.com

Here are current listings for all over the country. When you are on vacation, you might just be near a really great show. Check it out. <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

Are You Interested??

cty31470@yahoo.com  
Spring River Gem & Mineral Club in Cherokee Village, Arkansas, would like to do a rock swap with your club or a member of your club. We trade mineral/fossil specimens, min of 10#, in medium flat rate USPS box- app \$12.  
Are you interested???

**Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club**

Meeting Minutes November 13, 2012

20 members present.....42 members total.....A quorum is present

The meeting was called to order by club vice president Shanda McDonald.

Motion to accept **minutes for November 2012** meeting was made by George Finley and seconded by Tom Morris.

Visitors: Zelda Stewart of Prague joined us.

**Treasurer's report** was given by Tom Morris.

**Correspondence:**

Tom Morris: Greg Geological Society Annual Rock Event Auction December 1, 2012  
at Missouri University of Science and Technology

George Finley: OK Gem and Mineral Society Members Swap November 15, 2012

**Old Business:** "Boo on Bell" was a great success. Kenny Sheldon made rings for the kids; George, assisted by Lillian, was in charge of the Prize Wheel; Robin Elliott and Tracie Portrey engraved names on rocks for many of the kids who stopped by; Tom brought his sphere machine; Shanda McDonald and Annie Elliott dressed up as Gypsies and we were regaled by Shanda's accordion playing which everyone seemed to enjoy. Mandie, along with her kids (Rebekah, Elizabeth, Lillian and Joshua) also took turns helping at our booth. Shanda brought yummy hot chocolate and the Dianna Morris brought scrumptious spicy chili with all the fixin's. Coffee was also available, provided also by the Morris's.

**New Business:** Election were conducted and the outcome is as follows:

President: Shanda McDonald Vice-President: Dianna Morris Treasurer: Tracie Portrey Secretary: Robin Elliott

**Non-elected offices:** Field Trip Coordinator: Mandie Briant Editor: Llewellyn Alspach Assistant Editor: George Finley and Mandie Briant

President Shanda McDonald issued an executive order (no. 1) for our club: "The President will hereby make a list of contributing club writers who will be asked to write an article for the newsletter to help make the editor's job a little easier."

**Sunshine report** was given by Shanda McDonald in the absence of Dianna Morris. Birthday wishes extended to Jenna McDonald, Llewellyn and James Faw. Tony and Elve Knox celebrated an anniversary having been married 48 years.

The Christmas party was discussed. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite holiday foods to share and enjoy. Anyone who would like to participate in the gift exchange can bring a \$10.00 gift. The kids can bring a \$5.00 gift and will be exchanging their gift with other kids.

The meat, bread and drinks which is provided by the club. The brisket will be prepared by Tom Morris.

George suggested that individual members provide table center pieces for all to enjoy at the Christmas meeting which will be given as "door prizes" for the December meeting.

George shared that there will be an activity in Choctaw in December where kids will be able to see Santa, have their picture taken, and receive a goody bag and a gift. George makes a wonderful Santa Claus!!

The 2013 food list was circulated so if anyone didn't get to sign up to bring food for one of our meetings next year, be sure to do that at the next meeting. Also the T-shirt list was passed around. If anyone wants to order a t-shirt and didn't get his/her name on the list, contact Llewellyn Alspach.

Klaus Gohl has a rock saw for sale on Ebay. Check it out if you are interested.

Tom Morris discussed insurance, donations, and dues. **Dues were due at the November meeting so if anyone hasn't paid his/her dues for next year, please do so by the December meeting so that your name can be included in the 2012 club members book.**

Club voted on donations for the Rocky Mountain Federation scholarship. George Finley made a motion to donate the same amount (\$100.00) as the club donated last year. Tony Knox seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Motion was made by Kenneth Sheldon to donate the same amount as was donated last year (\$100.00?) to the Oklahoma Rock and Mineralogical State Council for the scholarship program and a second was made by Tom Morris. Motion was passed.

The silent auction followed the meeting. The donations were great and everyone enjoyed the auction!!

Minutes respectfully submitted by, **Robin Elliott** Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club Secretary

**Note From The President Shanda McDonald**

Happy Wintertime Dearest Rock Peeps!

As the cold winter winds starts creeping in from the North, I find myself reflecting on what an epic and amazing year it's been for me as a member of the Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club. One huge highlight was having Tom Morris teach me the basics of silversmithing. I learned that working with fire and molten metal is such an empowering and satisfying way to connect with my primitive side, (and as long as I don't burn myself, I don't get too overly primitive). A few more memorable rock moments were sapphire sluicing in North Carolina with my sister and caravanning with the Briant family to camp at Apache Creek, NM and hunt Luna blue and gold agate. In fact, being a part of the Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club family has been the most fun and rewarding thing I've ever done! I have fallen in love with each and every member. I look forward to each and every meeting and fieldtrip.

I'm honored to have been chosen as 2013's club prez, and I'm really looking forward to another incredible and amazing year. (I'm also looking forward to our upcoming December meeting Christmas party and Tom's pasta salad....total yum!). Speaking of the Christmas party: For our members that have not been able to attend our regular monthly meetings, I encourage you to make plans to come to the Christmas party. It'll be like a "family reunion"! I would love to see each and every one of you!

Here's wishing you a safe, joyous, and prosperous Holiday Season!!

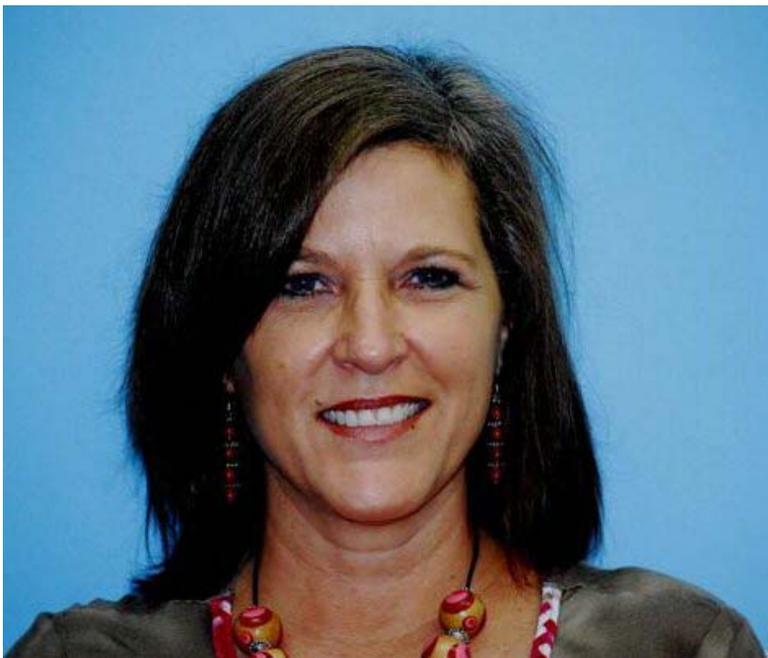
Shanda

**Note From George**

"It looks like I will miss this next meeting as that is the day I go into Hospital." December 11th, 2012. May need a couple Stints put in. Sure hope it works out and keeps me from having a Stroke or Heart Attack. Also when I do anything to get rid of the Pain in my Chest. I have a 4 to 6 week time frame to have this done and time is running out. George.

*My fellow rockhounds it is that joyful time of year. December meeting will be the Christmas party potluck. The club will furnish the meat, bread and drinks. So bring your favorite side dish or dessert and join in the festivities. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange bring a gift marked male, female or either, value approximately \$10.00.*

*Also remember dues are due this month!!!*



### Rockhound of the Month

Our rockhound for May is **Arlene Collins**. She was born on February 11, 1959 in Prague, Oklahoma. Arlene and husband Randy live in Paden. They have two adult children, Emily and Matt.

Arlene has an older brother and they were in an Air Force family. They attended elementary schools from Washington state to the Panama Canal Zone, which must have been an adventure. But she graduated from High School in her home town of Paden.

Her best childhood memories are of

riding with her Dad on his motorcycle and he let her steer it. Arlene's first job was working as an inspector and Blue Bell which manufactured Wrangler jeans. She is currently employed at John Lilly Correctional Center in Boley, as an administrative assistant, working in the records department.

Arlene has been in the Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club since May of 2007. She presented a program for the club last month on making beaded jewelry. She has an impressive display and uses rocks that they have found and shaped in some of her creations. And I have to say she caters quite a feast when she provides the refreshments for the meeting. Seems she does everything in an exceptional manner.

When I gave the questionnaire to Arlene I already knew what the answer to the question "best rock you ever found" would be. It was the 250+ pound Luna blue agate on the field trip to Apache Creek, New Mexico in 2008. Having been there for that event, I believe it would be safe to say it was approximately 440 pounds before we broke it into three pieces to move it. Earlier the same day Arlene found another sizeable chunk of Luna blue that was probably 20 pounds with a lovely crystal vug through the center of it. Even though she says her favorite hock hunting tool is a rock hammer I believe she can stump her toes on some pretty spectacular pieces. Apache Creek 2008 also stands out as her best rock hunting trip this far... I wonder why.

Arlene says she likes all colors but her favorite rock is labradorite or maybe septarian. Her special interest in the rockhounding hobby is making necklaces from the pendants she makes. The part she enjoys the most are the field trips and the people, also meeting new people. When she is not rockhounding she enjoys making jewelry and shopping for beads at bead shows.

The rocks displayed in her home are Randy's spheres on one table and some specimens on the entertainment center.

Arlene is a wonderful club member always willing to help out with events and refreshments. It is a pleasure to see and visit with her each month at the meeting.

Written by Llewellyn

**How sedimentary rock is formed?**

For thousands, even millions of years, little pieces of our earth have been eroded-broken down and worn away by wind and water. These little bits of our earth are washed downstream where they settle to the bottom of rivers, lakes and oceans. Layer after layer of eroded earth is deposited on top of each. These layers are pressed down more and more through time, until the bottom layers slowly turn into rock. Examples: Sandstone, Limestone, Shale, Conglomerate and Gypsum.

**How metamorphic rocks are formed?**

Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have —morphed into another kind of rock. These rocks were once igneous or sedimentary rocks. How do sedimentary and igneous rocks change? The rocks are under tons and tons of pressure, which fosters heat build up, and this causes them to change. If you examine metamorphic rock samples closely, you will discover how flattened some of the grains in the rock are. Examples: Schist and Gneiss.

**How igneous rock is formed?**

Igneous rocks are called fire rocks and are formed either underground or above ground. Underground, they are formed when the melted rock, called magma, deep within the earth becomes trapped in small pockets. As these pockets of magma cool slowly underground, the magma becomes igneous rocks. Igneous rocks are also formed when volcanoes erupt, causing the magma to rise above the earth's surface. When magma appears above the earth, it is called lava. Igneous rocks are formed as the lava cools above ground. Examples: Granite, Scoria, Pumice and Obsidian.

From the *Calgary Lap Journal* March 2008

**Soreness and Possible Nerve Damage**

Don Monroe

This physical problem or injury does not have a particular name that I know of, and I refer to it as —Billfold Bottom. It is almost exclusively a complaint experienced by men since women do not often carry a wallet or billfold in their back pocket. Women can, however, experience neck or shoulder pain caused by often carrying a heavy purse or handbag. While this is not the same issue we are discussing, the results are somewhat similar. When a man carries a wallet in the same pocket for an extended period of time, like many days, pressure on the buttock can irritate nerves in that area, and the pain can become significant. This is particularly likely when the person drives or sits for long periods of time. It has been noted by some medical authorities that this nerve irritation can lead to nerve damage and can become serious.

Very few men are going to be comfortable if they are not carrying some sort of billfold. Now honestly guys, do you want to be without proper identification? At the bare minimum can you be happy or legal or safe without your driver's license? Won't you be more at ease if you have some sort of charge card? I suspect that the majority of us carry too much—junk with us such as your library card, your business card or cards, various membership cards, maybe a picture or two, and of course, money. Now some of this — stuff is vital but we could take time to clean out our wallet occasionally.

If you have experienced — billfold bottom or wish to avoid this situation, consider some of the following solutions.

Use a thinner billfold.

Periodically change the way you carry your billfold by switching pockets.

As I mentioned above, clean out some of the junk.

Reduce the number of credit-type cards you carry. It has been recommended by some security experts that we should carry fewer cards of this type.

Don't carry your business cards in your billfold.

Don't carry other people's business cards in your bill-fold.

Use a money clip. I have always found that this is handy for your smaller bills. I also like a money clip when traveling in other countries to keep the—foreign currency separate from my U.S. bills.

Use a small notebook to take notes when away from home, a small notebook to collect information and receipts when traveling.

From: *Mountain Gem* Nov. 2011

**Petrified wood Facts**

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates the tree was green when it was buried. The water in the green wood evaporated, making it shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the area left between this and cast was filled with chalcedony, making these beautiful pieces of material.

Author unknown

### The 1970s Pet Rocks Craze, History of The Pet Rock

Encyclopedia of POP Culture, by Jane and Michael Stern, *Harper Perennial Press* 1992

Gary Dahl, a Californian, came up with the idea of a pet rock in 1975 after talking with friends about how pets were too much trouble and cost too much money. He said a pet rock was an ideal pet - easy and cheap. Dahl spent the next two weeks writing the *Pet Rock Training Manual* - a step-by-step guide about taking care of it and how to train it. He went to a builder's supply store and found a Rosarita Beach Stone that sold for a penny. He packed the stone in a box shaped like a pet carrying case along with the book. The Pet Rock was introduced at a gift show, where the store, Neiman-Marcus ordered five hundred.

After a news release showing Gary surrounded by boxes of his Pet Rocks, *Newsweek* did a story and within a few months was shipping ten thousand Pet Rocks every day. He even appeared on The Tonight Show, twice. By Christmas that year, two and a half tons of rocks had been sold, three-fourths of all the newspapers in America had run Pet Rock stories. A million rocks sold for \$3.95 apiece in just a few months making Gary Dahl an instant millionaire. The story of the Pet Rock is a never-ending source of inspiration to create new crazes that sweep the nation and make millions for the genius who thought of them.

Via *Cutting Remarks* June 2010

### Tip

A hobbyist says when sawing rocks or other greasy things, he must wash his hands a lot. Soap requires several washings -- even lava soap. One day he accidentally squeezed his wife's lotion instead of the soap dispenser, and found that the oil washed off in one application and his hands smelled like lotion instead of ALMAG! He used Jergens® extra dry lotion and rinsed in plain water.

Source: Chats and Chips, 4/2007, via *Cutting Remarks* June 2010

### More suggestions on rust removal: From Mountain Gems Nov. 2011

Removing rust with vinegar is a very common method of cleaning rust. Simply put the pure vinegar on to the affected rust stain and scrub it with steel wool. For added abrasiveness to scrape the rust off even further, you could add baking soda to the mixture. If you chose to use vinegar and baking soda mix them in to a pasty solution that's fairly thick. The reason household items can be used to strip away even the toughest rust stains, is because of acid. Many food items contain various types of acids including pota-toes, onions, ketchup, and lemons. Vinegar happens to be cheap in large quantities as well as contains high amounts of acid, thus making it ideal to remove rust off many different surfaces. If you need to remove rust off a lot of small items like tools often, you can have a container of vinegar set aside for this. Submerge the tool in the vinegar for about 20 minutes and it will start to eat away at the iron oxide. With just a quick wipe down your metal should be rust free with ease.

### Source: *Kiskigem Journal* 1/97

1. NEVER pour the waste product from your barrels down the sink - it sets rock-hard even under water and will rapidly cause a blockage in your pipework. Find somewhere else to pour it - on the garden or I prefer to use a large outdoor water barrel – pouring the water out and then taking the slurry to the tip from time to time.
2. NEVER use a barrel which has had grit in it for the final polish phase - always ensure that you have one bar-rel especially designated for this purpose only.
3. NEVER allow any grit to contaminate any machinery - your washing machine, your tumbler, your dishwasher etc - GRIT DESTROYS ALL MACHINES QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.
4. NEVER leave your barrels for more than 2 days with-out checking them - always keep an eye on them so that in the event of a problem - such as a lid popping off - you can be around to sort it out quickly.
5. ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's instructions for oiling the bearings on your tumbler, do not ignore this or you will quickly find yourself with a seized up bearing - remember these machines need to run 24/7 without a rest!!
6. ALWAYS use separate spoons/sieves/barrels for each type of grit - you must always avoid cross contamination of grits.
7. ALWAYS protect your machines from damp air con-ditions and wet surfaces for obvious safety reasons.
8. ALWAYS pay close attention to the washing stages - there is no point in attempting to polish stones if cross barrel contamination is occurring - they will simply never shine.

Rocktumblinghobby.com, Via *Breccia* November 2009 *Diggins* 3/2003 Source: