



**PO Box 3708
Cresta
2118**

Wits Rock Digest

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club

May 2012

We are now on FaceBook ! arranged by Stephen Gomersall – find us on:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Witwatersrand-Gem-and-Mineral-Club/346437298736246>

1.0 Meetings

Venue: Room 215, 2nd floor, Department of Geology, University of Johannesburg

Visitors are welcome at club meetings.

1.1 Mineral Section meetings

Second Wednesday of each month (Time: **19h00 for 19h30**)

May 9th : Epidote Group
Namibian Locality – Your choice

Here is the program of Mineral Topics for the remainder of the year:

June 13th : Minerals containing Be and/or Al
Inclusions in Quartz

July 11th : Southern African Smithsonite
Thumb nail specimens, bring 6 of your favourites

- August 8th :** Sodalite Group
Minerals of the Mussina area
- September 12th :** Minerals that Fluoresce
Faceted Gemstones
- October 10th :** Yellow Minerals
Minerals of economic importance
- November 14th :** The six crystal systems, bring one example of each system
Southern African Calcite

Remember to bring your specimens for show and tell !

For more information on the Mineral Section or its themes contact:

Damian Kislig (Mineral Section Committee member and Vice Chairman) on 072 203 1351

1.2 Month-end Meetings

Last Wednesday of each month (Time: **19h30**)

May 30th : To be announced

Topics for the remainder of the year are still to be finalised.

Copies of past month-end talks/presentations may be made available to members, depending on whether the speaker is willing to release copies or not. Please contact Allan Fraser in this regard.

NOTICE: At the last meeting it was agreed with all members present at the meeting that the tea and coffee available will no longer be enjoyed in the cups and saucers that have been used for the past years, since there is no-one willing or able to undertake the fortnightly task of washing the cups and carrying the equipment home and back to the next meeting. Dispensable polystyrene cups and plastic spoons are now made available for your tea and coffee consumption. There is a suggested donation of R2 for your cuppa.

2.0 Club Raffle

The raffles are still going well. Raffle tickets are on sale in the meeting room and your attention will be drawn to this. If you are selling minerals at the club meetings, please donate a mineral specimen to the raffle. Contact Keith Bailey in this regard at club meetings. Interesting mineral specimens

have been won by lucky raffle ticket holders. Thank you mineral dealers for your donations of beautiful mineral specimens for the raffles.

3.0 Library

Massimo Leone is taking care of the library and will give assistance to members wishing to borrow books and in returning them. If you have any old books on minerals, geology or lapidary that you wish to donate to our library, please contact Massimo. The library is still being updated and rearranged and a register is being drawn up to maintain proper control of the books and magazines held in the library and out on loan. You will be notified of further acquisitions when they are made.

4.0 Membership

4.1 Membership Fees for 2012

Membership fees for 2012 are as follows:

Single or Family membership	R240
Pensioner	R200
Student	R 90

Fees for 2012 were due in January and members who have not yet paid their club fees may still make payment of fees to Ray Biram at meetings or these may be transferred or deposited to the club's bank account with reference *surname, initials, fees 2012* :

Account name **Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club**
Bank **Standard Bank**
Branch **Northcliff**
Branch code **006 305**
Account number **200551744**

4.2. WGMC Membership Cards

New membership cards for 2012 are being issued upon payment of fees.

4.3 New Members

We welcome new members Elismha Lubbe and Daniel Levy to the club. May you both derive much pleasure and benefit from the club meetings, activities and your mineral hobby. More new members will be most welcome.

4.4 Access Cards

There are a number of renewed cards awaiting collection and some cards still need to be renewed.

Members who have provided photos for issue of cards are informed that UJ have now levied a charge of R25 for the issue of a new access card and UJ also requires a certified copy of your ID. Those members who have provided photographs should please pay R25 to Louise (or other committee member) at the next meeting and also provide the certified copy of ID, so that the cards may be issued.

New members who require access cards and have not yet supplied a photo, please do so at the next meeting. This should be an ID sized colour photograph with your name and ID number written on the back, accompanied by payment of R25 and a certified copy of your ID. These should be handed to Louise Dibb or other committee member.

5.0 Forthcoming and Past Events

5.1 45th Annual Gemboree 2012 in Springbok

Easter 2012 and this year's Gemboree came and went in a flash, a flash of sparkling minerals and dusty, derelict mines. Held in Springbok, N. Cape, it turned out to be an exciting affair and we believe successful, having been enjoyed by all who were there. Some participants' vehicles being very low down on their axels as they were so laden down with rocks for the journey home ! A couple of reports with lots of pictures have already been circulated. Please note that a DVD of this Gemboree is available from Johan Snyman from Windhoek and he will have to be contacted directly at johans@iway.na .

As is the custom, FOSAGAMS annual meeting was held during the Gemboree and we congratulate Linda Stone on being nominated for and having accepted the position of President for the ensuing year. Many congratulations and we wish Linda well in this position.

A letter received from Linda Stone, new President of FOSAGAMS, follows:

"The Chairman
Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club
Cresta

Massimo and members,

It was a pleasant experience to have met such a wonderful group of people at the 2012 Gemboree at Springbok. FOSAGAMS is an inspiring federation. We have common interests as most of us hold this hobby very close to our hearts, becoming a close family.

We should introduce this family to the rest of South Africa, i.e. the youth, the man in the street, the government and then to the outside world. Our awareness and the care for our environment should be an inspiration to others. It might sound ambitious but throughout my life I have experienced that if one commits oneself to a cause, nothing is unattainable and there are no limits.

(continued)

Furthermore I wish to remind you that each club will be accountable for decisions made. Aspire to be open-minded in the running of your club. All members and clubs are invited to discuss any unresolved club issues with me and to feel free even to do so with trivia.

Finally, I wish an enjoyable and creative next term to each club and member. May you attain more gems than you can handle on your own!!

GEMBOREE 2012

Witwatersrand Gem and Mineral Club is to be congratulated on organising a splendid Gemboree.

It was evident from the start that a lot of thought went into organising this event. Wits catered for every taste; making this Gemboree relevant for the mineral -, and polishing collector as well as for those interested in the educational side of the hobby.

The accommodation and food provided were of a high standard.

This was surely an event one can be proud of.

SA LAPIDARY MAGAZINE vol 44 / 1

This has been posted. Thanks to Allan Fraser for all his hard work.

Regards

Linda Stone.
President: FOSAGAMS"

5.2 Fourways Mall Gem & Mineral Expo

This show has been scheduled for the week from 24 May to 3 June 2012. A communication for dealers who wish to participate has been circulated.

5.3 PGMC outing to Vivo

Another outing to this popular venue has again been arranged by Linda Stone for the period from 4th to 8th July 2012. A lot of details about the trip are given in Linda's notes, as well as booking procedures. The notes and a map to the meeting place are appended hereto (see attached).

This is an outing members have been looking forward to !

5.4 4th Southern African Mineral Symposium 2012

This event, organised by Allan Fraser, Graham Reeks, Maria Atanasova, Bruce Cairncross and Ray Biram, will be held at the Council for Geoscience, Silverton, Pretoria on Saturday 17th November 2012. The First Circular has been issued and has been inserted in the March 2012 issue of the S.A.

Lapidary Magazine Vol.44 No.1 currently available to members. Your indication of interest in attending the Symposium, a talk you may wish to present or dealers who would wish to be present, must please register by 30th June 2012 by submitting their completed Pre-Registration Form (reverse of the 1st Circular) to Allan Fraser at mineralman@telkomsa.net or post to the address quoted on the form. The form is available electronically from Allan Fraser in an MS Word version.

5.5 Other Events

The Wits club and Pretoria club have a reciprocal arrangement to participate in the outings arranged. Please refer to the PGMC Newsletter which has already been circulated to our members.

NOTE : Newsletters from other clubs are displayed on the notice board in our meeting room at UJ for your interest, should you have deleted or misplaced your e-mail edition.

6.0 Jewellery Making Tip

Tip for the month:

We give the following "BenchTip" from Brad Smith brad@greenheart.com of Santa Monica, CA, USA

"Broken Drills

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole ? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole.

If this happens, you can usually dissolve the steel in a solution of alum. Alum is typically available from a food store or a drug store (pharmacy).

Use about a teaspoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole."

More "BenchTips" by Brad Smith are at Yahoogroups.com/group/BenchTips/

or

Facebook.com/BenchTips/

7.0 Mineral of the Month



Boltwoodite on Calcite, Goniakontes, Namibia. 4 x 3 cm.
Picture and specimen: A.Fraser

Committee Members

Committee members for the year ending February 2012 are as follows:

Chairman	Massimo Leone mass@thefacetingstudio.com 082 372 0328
Vice Chairman and Mineral Section	Damian Kislig jill@fourwaysequine.co.za 072 203 1351
Treasurer	Ray Biram biram@worldonline.co.za 072 134 1539
Librarian	Massimo Leone mass@thefacetingstudio.com 082 372 0328
Administrator / Newsletter Editor	Louise Dibb namaste@telkomsa.net home 011 942 2266 or 074 116 4459 or 083 333 3379

Louise Dibb and Massimo Leone
May 2012

E&OE