

ROCK-N-ROSE

THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



PAGE 1

VOLUME 44

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

Upcoming Shows

JAN 20-21, 2018
FREDERICKSBURG
ROCKHOUNDS
PIONEER PAVILION LADY
BIRD JOHNSON PK.
FREDERICKSBURG, TX

JANUARY 26-28, 2018
EAST TEXAS G & M SOC.
TYLER ROSE GARDEN CTR.
TYLER, TX

JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 10
TUCSON SHOWS
TUCSON, AZ

FEBRUARY 24-25
CLEAR LAKE GEM &
MINERAL SOCIETY
PASADENA CONVENTION
CENTER
PASADENA, TX

MARCH 3-4, 2018
GULF COAST G & M SOC.
RICHARD M. BORCHARD
REGIONAL FAIRGROUNDS
ROBSTOWN, TX

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone! I hope you had a great New Year! With our annual show and fundraiser right around the corner, I want to remind everyone that we need your help at the show. We anticipate a very busy show this year. There are events going on at Harvey Hall the same weekend which should help pull in extra visitors to our show this year. So, if you haven't already signed up then let me know when you are available, and we will get you signed up. After the show, we will have a workday at our new clubhouse on the following Saturday. The purpose of the workday is to get the building ready for our first monthly meeting to be held there. We will need everyone to help clean and do some repairs to the chairs that were donated and do some general cleaning to make the building more presentable. This will be a great opportunity for you to see the building and the potential it holds for the club. I would like to ask for volunteers to plan an Open House. If you have any party planning skills, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you at the show and the workday.

Fred Mahaffey

SEE A NEED; FILL A NEED.

We need everyone's help at the annual show. Yes, this means you too! There are still a lot of open positions on the sign-up sheets. This is just the minimum personnel needed to operate the show. We've had a whole year to prepare, and it comes down to these last few days. We have had many of our members commit to work all four days, but we have had many that haven't offered to work one shift. Please don't be part of the second group; get with Keith Harmon and volunteer to help. We only have one chance to get things right, and with your help the 2018 Gemstone & Jewelry Show will be spectacular!

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met on January 8, 2018 and was called to order at 6:50 PM. There were 3 new members who introduced themselves. Kinney Polve stated that this was as unofficial meeting, as neither the President nor Vice-President were in attendance. The approval of the December minutes would have to be given at the next meeting. There was no Treasurer's report as Colleen was also absent.

Old Business:

Lapidary Group – There isn't a meeting this month.

Pre-show workshop – Bullard Church of Christ, January 13 at 9:00 AM.

Fossil Group – good field trip to the Cement Quarry at Midlothian.

Mineral Group – will meet at Amy's at 522 S. Broadway on Jan 9 at 6PM.

Field Trips - There will be no field trip this month.

Announcements:

- There are sign-up sheets for positions at the show. Please fill in the empty spaces.
- We need someone to take over the Club advertising. Show preparation should begin in August.
- On Thursday, January 25, at 8 AM, we will start setting up for the show.
- The dues for 2018 are due.
- The new date for newsletter articles is the 10th.
- Clubhouse – We will meet at 9AM on February 3 at the Clubhouse for a day of cleaning. Bring whatever you can to aid in cleaning & landscaping.
- On February 5, we will have our first official meeting at the Clubhouse.

- On Saturday, February 10 at 10 AM, there will be a special meeting to discuss changes and expectations for remodel of the Clubhouse. The Lapidary Group will also meet there at 2:00.
- In order to get the Certificate of Occupancy, we had to show that we had 13 parking spaces. We have an agreement with another business to share their lot.
- Kinney has received an estimate of \$19,000 to build a concrete parking lot. \$15,000 has been donated that will be put toward the parking. We have a possible donation of the striping needed.
- Elsa Jerger has donated a microwave. Shelving has also been donated.
- Upright cabinets with locks & work stations need to be brought from Murchison.
- For new members, the Newsletter will only come via e-mail.
- All members will have to attend an orientation class to be around the equipment.

Door prize tickets were then drawn, followed by a break for refreshments, visiting, and looking at Sharron Barton's rocks, etc. for sale.

The program was a DVD on fossils presented by a man in British Colombia, Canada.

Submitted by
Julia Toombs, Secretary



East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
GEM & JEWELRY SHOW
January 26- 28, 2018
Tyler Rose Garden Center
420 South Rose Park, Tyler, Texas



Most of you know Bud McSparren. He passed away on Dec 28, 2017. He was our cabochon demonstrator at the annual show and a true Rockhound. It was always a pleasant experience every time I had a conversation with him, and he was always willing to share his knowledge. He will be missed.

LAPIDARY GROUP

Hi Folks: I want to remind everyone that our annual show will be January 26 through 28, 2018. This is the Club's major fund-raising effort, and we need everyone's help to make it successful. As you may already know, our Club has just purchased a building to hold our meetings in and will have a workshop available for our members to use for doing their lapidary and jewelry work.

The Lapidary/Jewelry Group has an opportunity to help educate the public and school kids in particular, by doing a capping and wire wrapping demonstration on Friday (Jan. 26) and Saturday (Jan. 27). I will do the wire wrapping demonstration on both days, but I am asking for volunteers to help with the capping demo on both days. Please let me know if you can show up for 1 or 2 hours or even a half or full day on either or both days. I will bring my Genie cab machine for you to use and will even furnish some doped cabs for you to use. If you finish the cab, you can keep it. I need you to tell me if you can come, when you will be there, and for how long and which day, and if you can do it on both days. The club depends on us to do a demonstration to get the public interested in our hobbies and perhaps join the club. We need new members to help our club to grow and become a viable organization, so please plan on participating in this event. I believe Kinney will be demonstrating sphere making to show the group's diversity in the lapidary and jewelry arts. So please help us make a good showing for the public. Terry Roberts

Falling Rocks

By Colleen Hayes

Watch out for falling rocks it says.
 A promise, I can't resist.
 I wait and wait and wander around.
 Not looking up, but looking down.
 And sure enough, I hear a rumble.
 They are on the way.
 I see the rocks begin to tumble.
 That just made my day!

Please keep Penny Hawkins in your thoughts and prayers. Her husband John has been in the hospital for the past few weeks. His illness started out minor, but due to complications, became serious. He is beginning to improve, but they can sure use your prayers.

ADVERTISING WORKS

This could be your ad, and you could be helping ETGMS.

Yearly rates are available on request.

Monthly rates are:

\$25.00 for a 3.5" X 4"

\$12.50 for a 3.5" X 2"

Contact the Editor for ad approval or more information.

PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP

Vicky and I arrived at the Bullard Church of Christ around 8:30 AM Saturday morning. When we arrived, Bill and Jan Faulkner were already there to greet us. After a cup of coffee and a few minutes of visiting, we went to work unloading and getting things organized. A few of our creative members, that usually make some of the bigger items, weren't able to attend. We had a good turnout for the workshop, despite the flu that is going around this year. I was extremely glad to see two of our junior members (Emma Clark and Sydney Davis) helping out. Most of the crew were focused on making critters, but there were some other amazing items being made. Kinney Polve



IT'S SHOWTIME!

Most of the preparation has been made, but there is still plenty to do. It never fails, every year we plan and plan so everything is ready for the January show, but it seems there is always something left to do. Everything runs smoother when members volunteer to do their part. If you still haven't volunteered or been drafted to take part in the show, it's not too late. Thursday, January 25th, is setup day. We can always use an extra hand setting up all the tables and displays. If you're setting up a display case, this is the time to do it. Everything needs to be ready to go for Friday morning's show startup. Once the doors open, things get busy in a hurry. It takes a big crew, all working together, for things to run smoothly. It can become stressful if we have extra things to do without a full crew. The plan for this year is to have our demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday, in the past we've only had demonstrations on our Friday's school day. If we don't have enough volunteers, we won't be able to have those demos. If you haven't signed up to work the show, do it now, don't wait to be called! We always appreciate the members that haven't signed up to work showing up, but it makes things go much smoother when you sign up on the sign-up sheet. The members organizing the show can focus more on other areas that need their attention, instead of using that time trying to fill the open spaces in the empty time slots, and trying to get members to set up display cases. Remember, we are all volunteers, and the show is our biggest fundraiser, so let's all do our part and make it a good one.

CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

We have the last permit needed, now we can start using the new clubhouse. The utilities are on, now it's time to get things organized and cleaned up. There are many things that will have to be done, some right way and some as we go along. We have scheduled a workday to do the initial work on February 3rd, starting at 9:00 AM. We need to clean up the building and the donated chairs. Some of the chairs are in need of a little repair, so we'll get that taken care of during the workday. There are also a few issues found during the inspection that need to be addressed. As Fred Mahaffey has been saying, there are many things related to having a clubhouse, and a lot of details that will have to be worked out. As with any clubhouse, rules for use will have to be established, and any shop fees will have to be put into place. But most importantly, there has to be volunteers to fill the positions related to the operations. What that means is, if nobody volunteers, the clubhouse won't be open to the rest of the members. We are also holding a special meeting on Saturday, February 10th, at 10:00 AM, to discuss plans for how to make the best use of the clubhouse, remodeling to add class rooms and workshop area, equipment, and shop fees. It is important that as many members as possible attend, so everyone is involved in the process. Elsa Jerger has a microwave she is donating. Karl Siggelow is donating a refrigerator. Colleen Hayes is donating some shelves. John Morrison is donating some workstation, cabinets and a few other things. I appreciate everyone for their donations, and help getting the clubhouse ready to use. Everything is coming along nicely.

Kinney Polve

**NEW WEBMASTER NEEDED**

We are still in need of a new webmaster to take over the website. As you all know, but I'm going to say it again, the club functions best when we have active members that volunteer. Getting volunteers is sometimes like pulling teeth. It would be nice to have someone step up, that is familiar with updating webpages. If there is someone that knows your way around computers and thinks you can spare a little time, this may be the perfect position for you. If you have a thirst to learn, we can certainly train you. Anyone interested should contact Fred Mahaffey or me.

Kinney Polve

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you may have noticed, I have made a few changes to the newsletter. With the start of the new year, there's a new look, and it will continue to develop as time goes on. There will be a few changes. The cutoff for submissions will now be the 10th of the month, except for the Minutes and the President's Message. It will still be the 15th. This will allow me to publish the newsletter a few days earlier. We have decided to only offer an email newsletter to new members to cut out printing and mailing costs. Current members that don't have email addresses, even though we live in the electronic age, will be grandfathered in. What that means is, those that receive the newsletter currently by mail will continue to receive a mailed newsletter, as long as your membership stays current. I say newsletter, but you might think magazine, as you have noticed the increase in the number of pages. The size of the newsletter will

only be limited by the participation of our members. If you don't send it, I can't print it. There's a lot going on every month with the club and our members, and we want to know about it. Many thanks to those of you that have already taken time to send me articles, features and other submissions for the newsletter. That said, we need more members to participate. You are our photographers and journalists, and I'm not able to keep up with all the activities in the club. I know we have some very creative and knowledgeable members in the club, and I want to hear from you! You poets, send me some poetry. Let us know about field trips, completed projects, tips & tricks, equipment reviews, the list is endless. All submissions need to be original, and any photos need to be taken by you, or you need to have written permission to use them. There is no reason to plagiarize the work of others.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

January begins a new year, and it's the perfect time to think about gaining new members. As you all should know by now, the membership term was changed to coincide with the fiscal year, running from January 1st to December 31st. All our members that have paid their dues already are paid up through the end of the year. Kelly Ford mentioned that we should have a membership drive, and there's no better time than now to get started. The club has been in Tyler for more than 60 years, and it seems that nobody knows we're here. Fred Mahaffey has plenty of ETGMS business cards, and you can pick some up from him at the show or at the monthly meetings. Anytime someone shows an interest, I just give them a card and tell them to check out our website to learn more about us, and the monthly meeting information is on the back of the card. I always keep a few in my wallet, glovebox, backpack, and workshop. I never want to miss a chance to share my

hobby. Think about how you first found out about ETGMS. I wish someone had told me about us. Living 50 miles from Tyler, and at the time, ETGMS didn't have a website, so you couldn't Google "rock club". Just by chance, we were driving down Broadway on the day that the monthly meeting was going on, and Vicky saw rocks on the table. What luck! The only way to continue to grow is to gain new members. I'm not talking about growing in size but growing in knowledge and experience. Most new members are novices, but they are excited and eager to learn, as was I when I first joined. I learned a lot from our members, then from others around the country and the world. I'm still learning, but now I have the knowledge to share and teach, and so the cycle continues. That's what new members bring to the club, so get out there and spread the word.

Kinney Polve



There were no field trips scheduled for January due to the annual show. Stay tuned, things will get back to normal in February.

For field trip information or suggestions, contact Kelly Ford.
903-647-0878 or kellyjeanford@gmail.com

TYLER LIBRARY DISPLAY

Kinney Polve

Members Randy Harmon, Gene Goar, Vicky Polve and I met at the Tyler Library on January 2nd and went to work setting up the displays. Anticipating a shortage of volunteers, due to the flu season, we all brought plenty of items to put on display. Although there were only a few of us participating, the display came out excellent. When you're competing with Stormtroopers, you have to step up your game a little. It didn't take long for the displays to begin to attract some interest, young and old. It will be available for viewing until January 31st; then it will be taken down. If you get a chance to go by the library and view it, you may be impressed. The photos were taken by Vicky Polve.





Chalcopyrite from this location.

direction of sediment transport. The elongate sand bodies represent ancient fluvial systems and offer optimal locations for high yield water wells. In western Rusk County, the Wilcox reaches a maximum thickness of approximately 1500 feet. The unit thins toward the uplift and is reduced to slightly over 600 feet thick in its outcrop in the eastern portion of the county.

During the mid-1970's, the state highway department undertook a widening project on the section of Hwy 259 south of Henderson, Texas to Mt. Enterprise. Approximately 8 miles south of Henderson construction cut through a high hill exposing a good cross-section of the Wilcox Formation. The Wilcox is not only a very good aquifer in East Texas, but it is economically important as a source of lignite that is fuel for several area electric power producing plants.

The author made many weekend trips to that road cut when the heavy machinery was not working to collect petrified wood and several very unusual mineral species for this part of the country including quartz crystals with carbon inclusions, halotrichite, sulfur, pyrite and chalcopyrite. About halfway up the cut, a thin seam of very fine-grained siltstone was exposed that contained shrinkage cracks lined with tiny tetrahedrons of chalcopyrite sparkling in a rainbow of color. They were deposited as copper-rich water permeated the cracks and combined with the free sulfur that leached out of the sulfur rich lignite. There have been a number of reports of high concentrations of copper sulfate in some water wells in Rusk and Nacogdoches counties that could explain the presence of copper. It combined with the iron from the limonite stringers that are shot all through the formation to form chalcopyrite, CuFeS_2 . The other "rare" mineral for East Texas was the presence of halotrichite, a hydrated iron, aluminum sulfate, $\text{FeAl}_2(\text{SO}_4)_4 \cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$. It was rarely seen, usually late in the day when there was no moisture, since even morning dew could dissolve it. It appeared as a white "fuzzy" efflorescence on the siltstone. Tiny well terminated quartz crystals lined cavities in the petrified wood and many had a sprinkling of cubes of pyrite, FeS_2 , on them. Here again, the iron coming from the limonite and sulfur from the lignite.



Crust of tiny Halotrichite "hairs" on rock.

A RARE MINERAL OCCURENCE FOR EAST TEXAS

By Charles Creekmur

In East Texas and Rusk County, the Eocene age Wilcox Group consists of beds of sand, silt, and clay, with locally economic amounts of lignite. These Wilcox Group sediments represent multi-facies, fluvial-deltaic systems where channels and associated sand facies form the framework for groundwater movement. The Wilcox aquifer is the source of good quality and quantity of water for Henderson, Overton and New London. The sand bodies are elongated, sinuous, and laterally discontinuous with axes generally oriented north to south consistent with the

The material removed from the cut was used to build up the roadway back toward Henderson so large pieces of petrified wood could be found for a half mile north. There were several logs of wood that were too large for me to handle at the time, and I had intentions of going back better prepared to get them. I shared the location with a fellow rockbound and he went the next week with a 16-foot trailer, ramps and a winch and cleaned every scrap wood he could find; pretty well putting an end to the collecting.

After 40 years, Mother Nature has reclaimed the cut and large pine trees have pretty well covered the collecting area; however, the siltstone layer can still be found to contain a few shrinkage cracks.

Members Happenings



SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

By Kinney Polve

When it comes to Lapidary I'm game to trying just about anything, at least once. When you have friends that know you cut and polish rocks, it seems that they always come up with a new project for you to do. So, when a friend of mine needed a handle for his custom knife blade, you guessed it. I had seen a lot of nice handles made by other hobbyists, so I figured it was time for me to give it a shot. I've heard that some of the best designs come from mistakes, and that was the case with this one. The handle was going to be made of Rainforest Jasper from Australia but while shaping two preforms, a piece fractured off. While I was selecting another slab to replace the broken piece, my friend noticed another material that he thought was nice. I have to agree; the Fossil Coral from India did add some interest to the final piece. Then it was time to make one for myself. This Sonoran Sunrise handle will look nice in the display case at the show. The moral of this story is don't be afraid to step

out of your comfort zone; you might just enjoy it!

MY LATEST PROJECT

By Vicky Polve

This is the pine needle basket I just finished. I plan to add it to my display case at this year's show. The stone is Green Tree Marble. I like the contrast of the green against the white background. The colors make me think of springtime.



January / February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 2018 Show Set Up	26 2018 Show School Day	27 2018 Show
28 2018 Show & Teardown	29	30	31	February 1	2	3 Clubhouse Workday
4	5 Monthly Meeting	6 Mineral Group Meeting	7	8	9	10 Special Clubhouse & Lapidary Meeting
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day ♥	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24



BEZEL SANDING

By Kinney Polve

I always had a problem holding on to bezels when I'm sanding the bottom to level before soldering. At the last silversmithing class I instructed, Fred Mahaffey came up with a solution. With just a little modification to his technique, it worked great. He used the foam back of my diamond sanding block, but I think a piece of high density foam would work just as well. Lay your bezel on a piece of 400 grit sand paper and place the foam block on your bezel. Now just sand in a circular motion. Be sure to use a circular motion. If you just use a straight back and forth motion, you will end up taking more material from the edges on the end of your stroke.

I hope this will help you on your next project.

If you have a tip or trick that you would like to share with the rest of our readers, please email me.

It is time to renew your membership. You must be a paid member to attend club activities, such as Field Trips, Lapidary or Mineral group meetings, and classes. We purge the membership list in January, so don't let your Rock-N-Rose Newsletter subscription lapse. Renew your membership today!

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

Member Registration Form

Date Paid _____ Dues Paid \$ _____ CASH CHECK _____

Name(s) _____ Adult ____ Jr. ____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Newsletter via email Y ____ N ____

Special Interest in Hobby _____

Home Phone _____ Work/cell phone _____

NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 15th of the month. Please keep your address, phone and email up-to-date, so that we can get the newsletter to you in a timely manner. Out-of-date information costs the club time and money in returned newsletters. If you need an issue dealt with quickly, don't hesitate to call. AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it is felt that it needs repeated. Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. Thank you, Kinney Polve

Check us out on the web: WWW.ETGMS.COM

THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Purpose of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society: Is to promote; the study of Geology, fossils and the Lapidary Arts. The public is always invited to attend monthly club meetings.

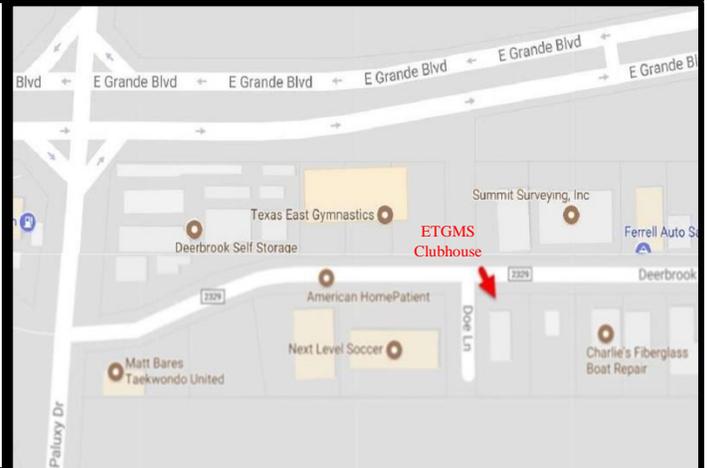
ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN: First Monday of the month unless a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE: ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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