



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2017



April 08-09, 2017
Abilene, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Center

April 15-16, 2017
Alpine, TX
Chihuahua G&MS
Alpine Civic Center

April 29-30, 2017
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS
Extraco Events Center

May 06-07, 2017
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Mem. Civic Ctr.

May 27-28, 2017
Fort Worth, TX
Cowtown G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Center

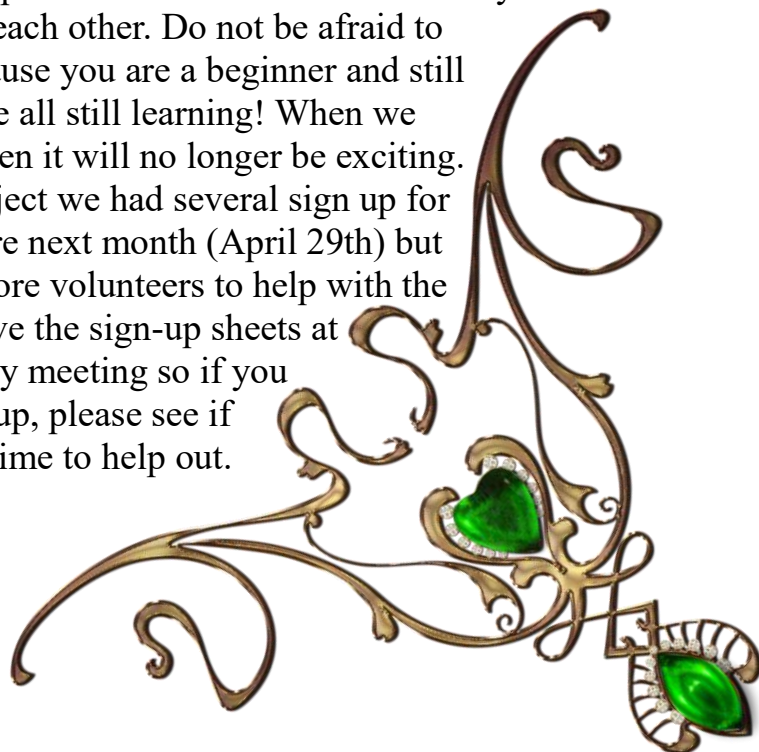
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to start off by thanking everyone who helps in making our meetings and club events successful. Without everyone helping out when and where they are able our club would not be as awesome as it is. Not only for everyone who volunteers to help give presentations at the regular club meetings. (Thank-you! Kinney Polve, for the excellent presentation on your and Vickie's trip out to Quartzite) But also to those who are participating in the special interest groups such as the Lapidary and Mineral Sub Groups. We have a lot who are also interested in fossils and I would like to see one of you who has an interest in fossils to take up leadership of a Fossil Sub group as well. The one thing I have noticed is you do not have to know everything about any of these subjects to be a part of the group. When you get a group of individuals together with a common interest and start learning together it is always more interesting and fun and you learn together. Did I say FUN? I did, and I believe that our activities are fun, exciting opportunities to learn more. But they are also to teach and help each other. Do not be afraid to participate because you are a beginner and still learning. We are all still learning! When we stop learning then it will no longer be exciting. On another subject we had several sign up for the Makers Faire next month (April 29th) but we still need more volunteers to help with the event. I will have the sign-up sheets at the next monthly meeting so if you haven't signed up, please see if you can find a time to help out.

Fred Mahaffey





MARCH MEETING MINUTES

President Fred Mahaffey called the meeting of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society to order at 6:50 P.M. There were four visitors and four new members present and they all introduced themselves. Fred asked for a motion to approve the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion and Becky Whisnant seconded.

Fred then proceeded with announcements:

- * Fred asked that anyone who had experience with real estate dealings to help with finding us a permanent building.
- * Fred announced Keith Harmon's Annual Rock Sale April 1 beginning at 9A.M.
- * The Maker's Faire will be April 29 at the Discovery Science Center in the usual meeting room.
- * Ed Beene has health issues and we should keep him in our prayers. The equipment that he did want to trade is in storage at their new residence and is "off the market" as he really didn't want to trade it.
- * Lapidary Group: the next meeting will be at Kinney's workshop outside Henderson on Saturday, March 11. He will show the material they got in Quartzsite, Az. and what he learned as a silversmith. They also need help unloading the show trailer back into the workshop attic. That will begin about 12:30 P.M., prior to the meeting at 2 P.M.
- * Mineral Group: The next meeting will be Thursday, March 16 at Richard Armstrong's house in Flint. It will begin at 7 P.M.
- * March field trip: There will be an excursion to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park on Saturday, March 25. We will meet there at 9 A.M. Also, two people have volunteered to be the Chair Persons for field trip planning.
- * Our group is now listed under the Texas Gem and Mineral Club list.
- * Becky has pine seedlings that anyone can have to plant.



Fred asked if there was any old business. There was none.
Fred asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry Roberts made the motion and Elsa Jerger seconded.

Door prize tickets were then drawn. There were about 14.
The silent auction item was a good sized slice of "bacon" agate.

At 7:40 P.M., the program began – The subject covered Kinney and Vicky Polve's three months in Quartzsite, Arizona and Quartzsite Rock Central where there are dealers from around the country and as far away as Australia. He had a slide show of their experiences. He also took a flint napping class and showed a picture of an arrowhead made out of obsidian.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2017.

Submitted by Julia Toombs, Secretary





ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS

Field Trip News: I would like to thank Kelly Ford and Darby Spears for volunteering to coordinate field trips. Kelly has sent out a request to everyone for your field trip requests and suggestions. Please reply to her request and get your ideas and fieldtrip suggestions to her so they can plan for the rest of the year.

The last field trip up to Dallas to collect septarian nodules turned

out to be a beautiful day and several really nice specimens were found. Terry Roberts found a section (about 4"-5" long) of an ammonite lying in the road that everyone else must have just driven over. Scotty and Thresia Johnson found some really nice calcite crystal formations and combinations. I found a complete ammonite inside one septarian when I cracked it open looking for crystals inside.

Next Field Trip is scheduled on March 25th, to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park, it has been highly recommended by a geologist friend.

Fred Mahaffey

Good Afternoon Fellow Rockhounds!

Just a quick note to let you know Darby and I have volunteered to assist with the field trip coordination. We hope to serve the club well so we would like to start by getting input from you.

Please take a minute and send us any ideas you may have, including but not limited to ... Is there any particular place you would like to go? Or any particular type of specimen you would like to hunt? If you have any other ideas, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We would like to be able to report our progress at our next monthly meeting, so please respond as quickly as possible. Your time and consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Respectfully,
Kelly Ford (kellyjeanford@gmail.com)
& Darby Spears (darbyofbrightmoon@gmail.com)



Photo credits: At Left, Photo and Ammonite found by Fred Mahaffey; Top and second right, Dogtooth Calcite crystals by Fred Mahaffey; Third at right, Fred Mahaffey hammering away at a large find, photo by Darby Spears; Bottom Right, bucket, tools and a few finds, photo by Darby Spears.





MEMBER HAPPENINGS

LAPIDARY / JEWELRY SUBGROUP MEETING-

The March meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was held Saturday, March 11, at Kinney Polve's workshop with eight members and one visitor attending. Kinney started the meeting by showing everyone some examples of his creations that he completed during his visit to Quartzite, AZ. He also explained that he learned silversmithing while in Quartzite and went into detail about the steps needed to do silversmithing and showed everyone the equipment needed to complete the work. In addition, he discussed the problems and difficulties a novice may encounter while working with silver and how to avoid mistakes. Everyone appreciated and admired his work and asked many questions, one of which is when he will start teaching silversmithing and how much it would cost. Kinney explained that due to equipment limitations, he could only teach two people at a time. He will put together a list of materials and costs to let everyone know before they sign up for a class. He will work with those interested in the class to set up a mutually agreeable date for the first class. Terry Roberts will send out a notice to the L/J Group asking for names of those interested in the silversmithing class as well as another class in basic wire wrapping. At the end of the discussion, Kinney showed the group all of the rocks that he and Vicky Polve collected during their stay in Arizona. He also let the group sort through two tubs of slabs for something they wanted for their next project.

The next L/J Group meeting will be held at the home of Terry Roberts on Saturday, April 8.

Terry Roberts



NEW UPCOMING CLASSES

There will two new classes offered soon. The first will be Silversmithing. It will teach the basics of working with silver. The project will be a sterling silver cabochon pendant. Class fee will be \$25.00, for the cost of materials, and is limited to two members per class. I will have all the necessary tools to complete the project. Classes will be held at my workshop, south of Hender-

son. This will be an all-day class, and lunch will be provided. Please contact Terry Roberts to have your name added to the list, classes will start as early as May.

The second new class will be Flint Knapping. This class will also be held at my workshop. The initial cost for this class will be \$10.00, and be limited to about 6 members. The cost is for the basic knapping tools and the material for the project. We will be making an arrow head, and possibly a knife blade. Class should be about 4 hours. I am by far not a professional knapper, but I should be able to teach all the necessary skills so that you will be. Members taking the class will then have all the basic tools for knapping, and should be able to continue on their own. I would hope this will lead to a Knapping Group being formed within the club. Contact Terry or myself to have your name added to the list.

Kinney Polve



Kinney and I will also be offering another class in basic wire-wrapping to be taught at Kinney's workshop. This class is free and all the tools and copper wire used in the class will be donated by the club. However, please note that the tools belong to the club and will not become the property of the student. Kinney is trying to find an inexpensive source for cabs for the class to use, but you will not be charged for the cab. However, if you already have a cab that you want to use, be sure to let us know and bring it with you when you attend the class. We have decided to limit the class size to no more than 4 students per instructor in order to complete the course in one day. Thus, the class size is limited to 8 students per session.

If you are interested in attending one or both classes, please send me your name and phone number and indicate which class(es) you are interested in attending. I will get back with you with more details.

Thanks to all for your patience and enthusiasm.

Terry Roberts



CAB OF THE MONTH

Starburst Stone (aka – Bennetti Stone)
By Kinney Polve



PROJECT OF THE MONTH



I wanted to do some work in my workshop this morning, but it was too cold to stay out there. So, I decided to stay in the house and wire wrap a pendant for my wife as an early wedding anniversary gift. I selected a free-form chrysocolla cab that my wife had admired when I made it a few months ago. I used 14 K gold-filled wire and twisted sterling silver wire to wrap it. Since she saw me making it, I gave it to her and told her it was for our anniversary. She really enjoyed it. Score one for me (finally).

Terry Roberts

FACEBOOK PAGE CONTRIBUTION
By Lisa Vaughan-Shelton





MORE MEMBER HAPPENINGS

NEW OWNERS FOR THE ROCK FOOD TABLE



At our March 14th, post-show Board meeting we received a major donation.

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society is now the proud owner of the world renown Rock Food Table. As most of you know, Keith and Toni Harmon were the current owners, after purchasing it from the past owner, Bill & Lois Pattillo. At the Board meeting Keith announced that he was donating the Rock Food Table to the club. It was his intent, when he purchased it, that the Rock Food Table would be kept together as a unit, and would always be available for our annual show. We also discussed the possibility of club members setting it up at other gem & mineral shows as requested. I would like to personally thank them for this wonderful contribution.

Kinney Polve

BACK YARD ROCK AND EQUIPMENT SALE

CONTACT: KEITH HARMON

903-316-2967/ keithharmon19@yahoo.com

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

START: AT 9 A.M.

WHERE: 9116 US Hwy 84 West, Rusk, TX 75785

WHO: KEITH AND TONI HARMON

WHAT: OVER 50 TONS OF ROCK OF VARIOUS TYPES –

INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO; agates, jaspers, obsidians, Jade, palm wood, Arizona wood, tumbling rough, large rock, Cutting material.

USED EQUIPMENT: SAWS, GRINDERS, POLISHING UNITS, VIBRATING LAPS, FLAT LAPS, SPHERE MACHINE, TUMBLERS

COST: ROCK: FROM \$0.50 TO \$4.00 PER POUND AVERAGE

EQUIPMENT: INEXPENSIVE FOR WHAT IT IS.

PLEASE - NO EARLY SALES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD ARMSTRONG!

He has just been accepted into membership as a voting member to the Accredited Gemologists Association. When he received his membership certificate they had awarded him the title of Accredited Senior Gemologist.

You can find information on the AGA at their website <https://accreditedgemologists.org/>

AGA Membership

As a professional peer society, we believe in excellence and are dedicated to establishing the highest ethical and professional standards of practice. As a member, you gain peer recognition for active participation in educational programs and industry forums gaining the personal satisfaction of improving your skills while contributing to your profession.

Richard D. Armstrong, GG, GP, AJP, CM
Certified Member, National Association of Jewelry Appraisers
Member, Association of Independent Jewelry Valuers
Member, American Gem Trade Association
Member Accredited Gemologists Association
Associate Member, Gemological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A)
www.ArmstrongGemology.com



No AFMS/SCFMS news to report. Please, check out <http://amfed.org/> and <http://scfms.net/>





BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH



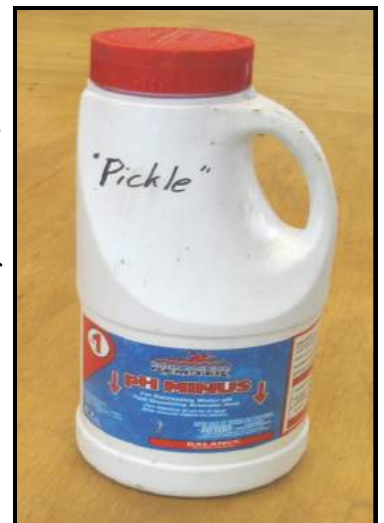
BEZEL PROBLEMS —When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE —Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.



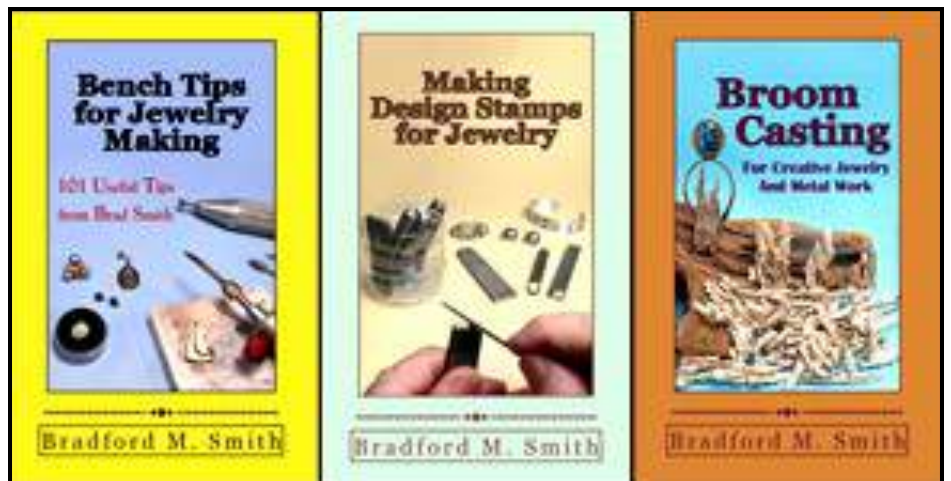
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"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/ and www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835/

www.BradSmithJewelry.com





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 all club meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING:

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

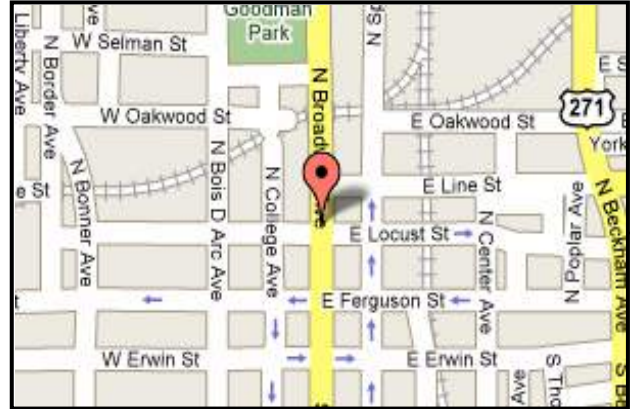
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

- Adults: \$10.00
- Juniors: \$2.50 with adult membership
- Family: \$20

NOTE TO EDITORS: Feel free to use contents for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.



NEWSLETTER CONTENT: Please send any 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. Keep in mind some photos or graphics may be chosen from the Internet. Susan Burch

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