



ROCK ~N~ ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 43

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2017
DALLAS G & M SOC.
RODEO CTR. EXHIBIT HALL
MESQUITE, TX

DECEMBER 9-10, 2017
DERIDDER G & M SOC.
WEST LA FORESTRY
FAIRGROUNDS
LEESVILLE, LA

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

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looks like this year is nearing the end, and that means it's going to be a busy time with all the holidays and preparing for our upcoming show. Yes, it's that time again. I have signup sheets for the different areas of the show. Also, for those members interested in setting up one of the display cases, get your name on the list. Let's get all these signup sheets filled out early. Volunteering to help out at the show is a great way to help and support the club. I want to thank everyone who signed up already, or who has let me know that they want to help. I realize that everyone is busy and we all have responsibilities outside the club. I also know that when we want to do something, we somehow make time for the things we really want to do. We all have different reasons for being a part of our awesome group of individuals. Such as our love for fossils, lapidary, minerals, the adventure of exploring a new place, or friends with a common interest. What I also know that we only get back what we put into something. I understand that everyone cannot participate in every activity, or go on all the field trips. Each of you have talents and abilities that you can use to help make our organization better. If you are afraid to volunteer because you are new and don't know everyone's name, or maybe like me it just takes a while to remember all the different faces and names. That's ok. We don't see each other every day. That is normal. The best way to learn each other's name is to participate in activities. The best way to do that is to volunteer. I'm saying this, (not just because of the upcoming show and the need for volunteers) it's because we rely on you and I would really like to see more of you step up and enjoy all the benefits of participation. It is truly amazing what a group of individuals can accomplish when they work together. If you have not helped at a show, it is amazing, the things you can learn, the people you can meet, and the cool stuff you can see. The good thing is when we have more people than are scheduled, then people can help give folks restroom and walk around breaks. When we don't have enough people to cover all the areas, then it makes it hard for those who do volunteer to actually walk around and see the show themselves. A lot of the show positions are sitting, some involve standing and moving around, so we can accommodate just about anyone. I'm not just talking about the show; it is also about making field trip suggestions, meeting topic ideas, etc. I want to make your club experience something you look forward to each month.

Also, we have a pre-show workshop scheduled for January 13th. We will be making items for the Wheel of Fortune and the silent auction. If you have never been, plan to attend. You'll be glad you did.

Also, the club has been invited to set up displays at the Tyler Library, starting January 2nd at 10am-7pm. This will be on display for the whole month. This is a great way to promote the club and our interests. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Harmon.

I want to thank all the members who helped make the November meeting a success. We will be having our Annual Gift Exchange at the December meeting. Bring a club related wrapped gift, and let the fun begin. This is definitely the meeting you want to attend. Also, you are encouraged to bring some snacks for our Christmas gathering. I look forward to seeing you there.

Membership dues were due in October so if you haven't paid yours, please do.
See you at the December Meeting! Fred Mahaffey

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society met on November 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM. There were 5 visitors who introduced themselves. Fred Mahaffey asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written in the newsletter. Kinney Polve made the motion and Penny Hawkins seconded. The motion carried. Colleen Hayes gave the Treasury report. Fred asked for reports from the sub-groups:

Lapidary group: The next meeting will be at Kinney's house on November 11.

Mineralogy group: This group will meet again at 522 S. Broadway on November 8. Tourmalines will be the subject and the presenter will be Charles Creekmur.

Field trip: This month's field trip will be to the Ashgrove Cement Quarry in Midlothian for fossils, calcite, crystals, and shark's teeth.

Announcements:

Kinney requested entries for the newsletter.

Carolyn Davis requested ideas for involving schools in the show.

There will be another on-line Cab auction on November 21. Terry, Kinney, and Keith are donating and anyone else is welcome to also.

Pete Kaiser has some minerals from the Graves Mountain field trip displayed on the front table.

The next meeting will be the annual Christmas gift exchange.

ETGMS will again display at the Tyler Library January 1 – 31.

The Clubhouse should close sometime next week.

Club member deaths: Mike Austin, Richard Carter, and Jim Marler. Mr. Marler demonstrated faceting at the shows.

Old Business: There was none.

New business:

Kinney explained and then made a motion to amend the By-Laws to read that the Board could instate a Treasurer

or Secretary temporarily until one could be voted on at the next meeting. Discussion was requested. Following this, Amy Long seconded the motion and it carried.

Kinney said that the Board had nominated Colleen and asked for any other nominations. As there were none, Kinney made a motion to elect Colleen and everyone raised their hand.

Sign-up sheets are out for the different positions at the show. Fred said that if you wait until the end, you may not get what you want.

Demonstrations: Kinney stated that many volunteers are needed so that the people who are supposed to do demonstrations don't have to fill in at another position and forgo a demonstration.

The Bank appraisal is on November 8.

John Morrison has 60 padded restaurant chairs that he intends to donate to the Clubhouse.

Following the end of the business meeting, door prize tickets were drawn, of which there were 12. There were also 2 silent auction items: a quartz crystal cluster from Mt. Ida and a geode, both halves.

A short break for refreshments and visiting followed.

The program on Garnets was presented by Fred Mahaffey. He told us what they are and how they form. They are a group of silicate minerals, used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Most gem-quality stones are found in Africa. In the United States, they are found in New York and Idaho. Where you find garnets, you may also find diamonds.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2017.

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



The December meeting program is our Annual Gift Exchange & Christmas Party.

Bring a club related wrapped gift, and let the fun begin.

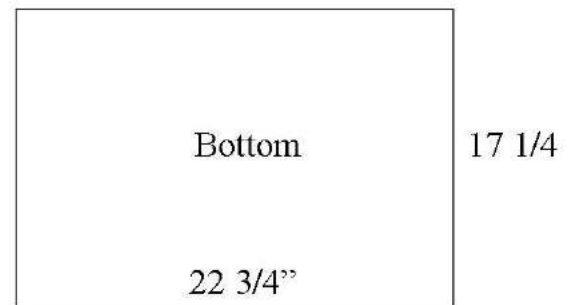
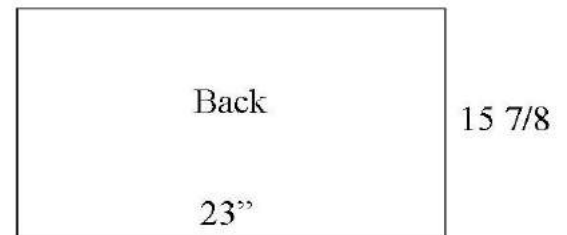
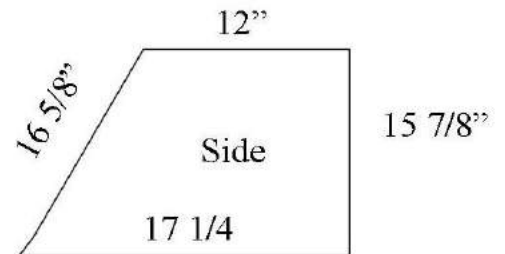
Oh, and please don't forget to bring some snacks.

JANUARY SHOW

Display Cases

For those of you that are planning to set up one of our 15 display cases at our 2018 show, here are the dimension specifications. These can be used for a size guide to make liners, for those of you that wish to dress your case up. The bottom measurement can be used to decide how many items will fit in the case, without overcrowding things. If you haven't reserved one of the display cases yet, contact Fred Mahaffey to get on the list.

Display Case Liners



SAD PASSINGS

I never like to hear the news of a member that has passed away. I was notified that Mike Austen had passed away on October 10, 2017, by his wife Ann. I had met Mike on the field trip to the Coleman Mine, last March. He was from Little Rock, AR., and even though he lived miles away, he still stayed active in the club. A true Rockhound, and he will be missed.

Jim Marler, one of the dealers from our annual show, passed away on October 25, 2017. Jim was one of those people with whom you would like to visit. He never hesitated to share his knowledge, or answer any question you might have had. He had taught many of us how to facet, myself included. He will also be missed.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

There was an oversight in the October newsletter, and the October Mineral Group meeting was lost in the shuffle. I apologize for the oversight, and will try to pay a closer attention in the future.

MINERAL GROUP OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

By Kelly Ford



The meeting photos on this page are courtesy of Kelly Ford.

The Mineralogical Group met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 for their monthly meeting. Nine members were present. The meeting was held at the law office of Amy Long. Our meeting will continue to be held there until further notice, with the intent of providing a more central location for the meetings.



The meeting began with tortas and chips from Don Juan's on the Square, as well as plenty of fellowship. Several members brought beautiful specimens from their Garnet collections as this was our topic of discussion. It was amazing how many museum quality specimens we had in our midst, and we had the experts to go along with them! One of our very own, Lynn Metcalf gave a very informative presentation on garnets including classifications, structure and color. The group continued to discuss additional subgroup classifications, as well as garnets in general, including common uses. The meeting continued with the inspection and admiration of the many garnet specimens, as well as other minerals that were brought to the meeting. They included lots of copper and Lake Superior agates from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Fluorite and Pyrite Suns from Cave In Rock, Illinois; as well as Iridescent Hematite and other fascinating specimens found at our last field trip to Grave's Mountain, in Lincolnton, Georgia.

The meeting concluded with establishing our topic for next month's meeting, which will be Tourmaline.



Continued on page 5.



Photos above and top right are courtesy of Kelly Ford.



Photos above, center left, and bottom left are courtesy of Amy Long.



The Mineral Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Amy Long for more information. amy@amydlong.com



TOURMALINE

By Charles Creekmur



Above; A large Dravite Tourmaline from Australia. Below; Dravite/UVite Tourmaline from Mexico.



Above; A large Rubellite Tourmaline in Quartz and Lepidolite exhibiting a bent or curved crystal structure, called a gliding plane. At right; Elbaite Tourmaline from the Himalaya mine in Pala, California.



A variety of colors of Elbaite Tourmaline from Maine.



Schorl Tourmaline

Tourmaline is a broad general family name for a complex series of silicates that includes some 33 recognized members. The tourmalines have a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale and crystallize in the Trigonal system. They have often been called “Nature’s Garbage Can” because it seems that every cation that wasn’t used somewhere else wound up in tourmaline. The main species that the average collector will come across are Schorl, the black or dark brownish-black, iron-rich member; Dravite, dark yellow to brown; and Elbaite (named for the Island of Elba, Italy). Some others include: Rubellite, the pink, lithium-rich variety; Indicolite, light blue to bluish green; Verdelite, green; Achroite, colorless; Liddicoatite; and a fairly rare, brownish-black one called Buergerite, the best of which comes from Mexico. Pictured are a few from the Charles Creekmur collection.

NOVEMBER MINERAL GROUP MEETING

A very small group turned out for the November group meeting. We had sandwiches and discussed tourmalines. We watched a video of an amazing Brazilian coffee plantation turned tourmaline mine, yielding some of the most unusual and best quality specimens. The December 11th meeting will be at Kelly Ford's house in Arp. The subject will be geodes, because they all have a surprise gift inside. We are thinking about doing a wrapped rock swap like those white elephant parties where you bring a wrapped gift. If you are coming bring a wrapped rock gift, if you want to take one home.

Amy Long

How do Crystals Form

By: Fred Mahaffey

I was asked the other day by a curious soon to be rock hound how crystals are formed. I was showing her some quartz crystals I collected in Arkansas. I attempted to explain in a simplified way, that would not be too complicated and put her to sleep. I decided that there may be others who might have the same question. After taking my limited knowledge, and researching on several geology sites on the web, I decided to try to put in simple words, my understanding of how crystals form. Most of us at one time or another have made sugar crystals on a string. By dissolving sugar in water. With a few sugar grains (crystals) rubbed into the string, hang it in the supersaturated water solution for a week or longer. Then watching the sugar crystallize on the string grow. These crystals are formed by evaporation. Crystals formed in the earth's crust are not much different. Water is the medium through which most minerals dissolve and will form a solution. Since water is abundant in the earth's crust the opportunity for crystals to form increases. If you have ever been around the sea then you will notice, as seawater evaporates it usually leaves salt and other mineral crystal residues. This leads us to the next piece of the puzzle. The type of minerals the water interacts with, will determine the types of crystals that form underground. The minerals are dissolved in the ground water and they pass through cavities in the earth. The minerals may crystallize into crystalline form, depending on the minerals present as the water is deposited in a crack or cavity which have been left over from previous volcanic activity. The combination of heat, pressure, and the minerals in the water solutions, create different opportunities for crystal growth. Based upon composition of the solution and time. Some minerals such as kimberlites are brought up through volcanic activity. These

are formed under high pressure and heat deep underground. This is called Hydrothermal processes. Imagine a large crack in the ground and at the bottom is a flowing river of molten magma/lava, as the magma starts to rise up through the crack it runs into a spring of mineral rich water. As the lava/magma starts cooling down some of the minerals in the water, they start separating out and bonding together to form crystals based on the chemical makeup of the solution in the cracks and voids in the earth's crust. This is called a Hydrothermal Process. The longer and more space a crystal has to grow, the larger it will be. If enough of the elements are there to produce the crystal(s) then crystals may form.



*Photo of quartz veins in a quarry in
Arkansas*



Above, from left to right, Melissa & Zachary Weeninik, and Kelly Ford. Below, Zachary admiring his door prize.



OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

30th Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig by Kelly Ford

This event was rightly hosted in the beautiful Ouachita Mountain area of Mt Ida, Arkansas, which is known as the quartz crystal capital of the world. The Mt Ida Chamber of Commerce hosts this event on the 2nd weekend of October annually. The Quartz Crystal Dig is part of a series of events which begins on Friday and concludes on Sunday.

This year 135 diggers of all ages assembled from all over the country, and as far away as Japan, to compete for the world championship! Many Gem & Mineral Society clubs were represented, with a prize going to the club that had the most participating members. The winner of the contest will be posted soon, but I don't think it will be ETGMS this year, as we only had three participating members (Kelly Ford, Zachary & Melissa Weeninik). We are hoping to be more competitive next year!

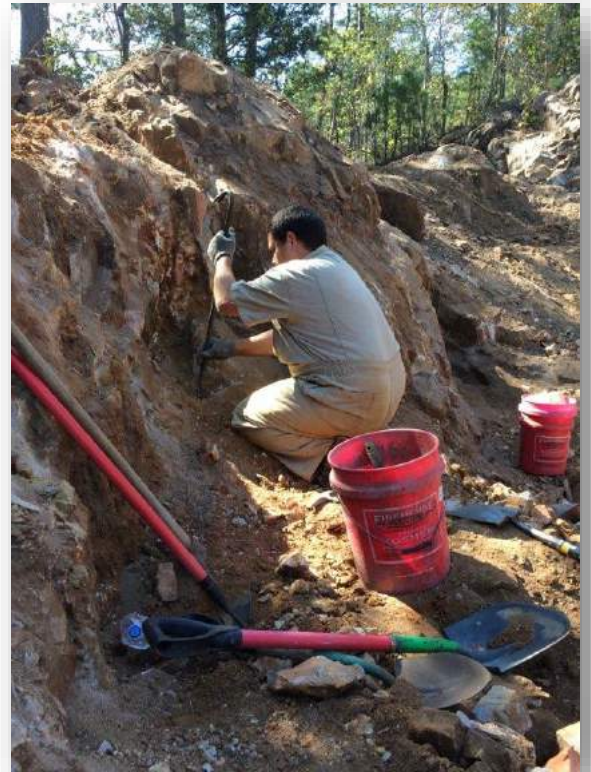
Two mines participated in the competition; Twin Creek Mine and Sweet Surrender Mine. Twin Creek Mine had digging; an upper and lower levels. So technically there were three digging areas. Many nice points and clusters were found at all three sites and fun was had by all! The event concluded with a dinner and award ceremony, where lots of prizes and recognition were given. The top five places for points and clusters, for both adult and youth categories, were announced. Although ETGMS members unfortunately didn't place, I have to say, our very own Zachary won a beautiful wire wrapped tree of life door prize!

In honor of the 30th anniversary an additional category was added this year for Grand Champion. This was for the digger that had the highest score in the combined categories of points and clusters. Guess who won? The digger who had previously been recognized for being at all 30 digs! He was surely a champion, as he spent most of his time helping and teaching others!



*Hardrock mining.
Courtesy of Kelly Ford.*

If you like rocks, there is never a shortage of things to see and do in this area, especially on this weekend! Mark your calendars! Let's ensure ETGMS is the highest participating club next year!



Zachary going for a winning crystal.
Courtesy of Melissa Weeninik.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

November 19, 2017	Ashgrove Cement Quarry Midlothian, TX.	Fossils, Pyrite Balls, & Septarian Nodules
December, 2017	No field trips scheduled at this time.	

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

A lot of our members have begun to wake up from their slumber, and started to participate in club activities. I'm not speaking about field trips and those kind of things, I'm talking about the activities that go on, from day to day, that many of you never notice, until they don't get done. It might have something to do with the excitement of finally getting a clubhouse. I want to commend all the members that do their part, and more, to keep everything running smoothly. Keep up the great work!

Cab of the Month



To the left are a couple of photos of the cabs I did out of the Queensland Agate that Terry Roberts gave me.
Mike Howe

Below are four Turquoise cabs and four Rhodonite cabs that Terry Robert made recently.



Above is Bumblebee Jasper cab wire wrapped by Terry Roberts.

Lapidary/Jewelry

Group

Unfortunately, there was no meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group in November. Although Kinney graciously offered to have the meeting at his workshop since I couldn't host it at our home, he forgot he had to attend the SCFMS Convention on that Saturday. In addition, we do not hold our L/J Group meetings in December and January due to holiday activities in December and our critter making shop for our annual show in January. Our next meeting of the L/J Group will be on February 10, 2018 at my home. Wishing everyone an early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Terry Roberts



HERE'S A FEW MORE

By Terry Roberts

I finished some new cabs recently, several of which I had started a long time ago but put aside to work on other projects. The first (at the left) shows two Tecolote agates from the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. The second (left top on page 11) shows a Laguna agate, also from Chihuahua, which is actually a double-sided cab since it was a thicker than a normal slab. I didn't show the second side since there is very little difference in them. I decided to make it two-sided just to see if I could do it. The only problem it caused is that it is very difficult to hold it properly for the photo since it is so slippery. The third picture (left center on page 11) is a



Queensland agate from Australia. The fourth and fifth pictures (below, right center and far right) show the same black plume agate from the Walker Ranch in west Texas in reflected and transmitted light. I did this because the plumes are too thick to easily see those located deeper inside the cab. Another problem with the plume density is that they left quite a few small voids or pits in the surface where the softer material composing the plumes sometimes undercut during the cabbing process or just didn't completely fill the void during formation. Unfortunately, the picture also shows a reflection of me holding the camera. Sometimes you have to take the bad along with the good when taking pictures.

In case you're interested, the nearest city to the Tecolote agate site (as well as the Laguna and Coyamito agate sites) is San Carlos in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Terry Roberts



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As most of you already know, I keep myself pretty active in the operations of the club, sometimes a little too much. Mostly because I enjoy it, but partially because other members don't volunteer to fill the void. I volunteered to take over as the newsletter editor, because I feel that it is the most important means of communication our club has. I also think that the information it contains should, mostly, come from our members, and be about what we do as a club. I think it should have informative and educational articles, that help our member grow, along with our membership. I didn't feel that the newsletter was meeting the needs of the club, and I can't throw all the blame on our past editor. When someone holds a position for a long period of time, and they give that same statement every month," I need articles, photos, poems, etc. for the newsletter", it can get old. When the rest of the members don't seem to care, it seems to rub off on more members. I always look for the negative, not because I'm a negative person, but because it gives me the opportunity to make a positive change. The negative is that we had less than 12 members submit articles, features, and poems for publication in the newsletter last year. Out of 168 members, 6 % contributed, and out of this 6 %, only 1.2 % wasn't an officer, chairman, or editor. To put it plainly, 2 members, out of the other 160, that don't fill a position, contributed. Now there's the negative, and here's where we get to make it a positive. I don't care if you are, or are not interested in winning an award in the SCFMS or AFMS contests, for something you write, that's just a bonus. I want articles, informative articles, a personal field trip can be an article, but it must have some educational value added to it. Otherwise it is considered a feature. This is still great. I would like them to be able to compete with other clubs, for the top awards, but mostly I want them to help our members grow. And don't forget about all the rest of the things that are needed to make a newsletter great.



Clubhouse Update

We can finally say that ETGMS has a permanent home. On November 16, 2017, it became official with all the paperwork signed. I began thinking this day would never arrive. As we were in the final stretch it appeared that Murphy's Law had come into play. All of the little things could go wrong and delay the closing date. The simple things turned into problems. Even after all the extra time spent, it was well worth it. This part of the journey is complete, but there is more required to reach our goal. Because there are still many things that must be done before the building can be used for club activities, we are not planning to hold any club activities there until at least January. I have already started the permitting process with the City of Tyler to obtain all the necessary permits. There is much to be done, to get things up and running. Thankfully some of our members have already stepped up to help out. Gene Goar has purchased a few tables from the buildings previous owner, and donated them to the club. John Morrison has donated enough chairs, for us to hold our meetings. He also volunteered to have his son diagnose the HVAC problem. Ronny Jerger has volunteered to help get the necessary permit, and oversee the electrical work. He also said that he can get the materials at cost, saving the club from having to pay retail prices. Jacob Moore has volunteered to bring his tractor, when we schedule a work day to help with debris removal and dirt work. We will need a refrigerator and microwave for the kitchen, so if anyone is upgrading, or has a new or used one they want to donate, contact me. Once we figure out everything we need, we'll publish a list of those items. We'll need to get all of the club's equipment moved to the clubhouse, and figure out what we're going to do with all the lapidary material the club has. Walls will need to be put up for classroom and workshop areas. All the details will have to be worked out for these, and I'm sure many more things. It's exciting to see all the enthusiasm this has generated. I met Charles Creekmur at the building, once Fred Mahaffey and Terry Roberts had signed the papers. This was a historic event. Charles is the only charter member of the club, and has been instrumental in keeping our organization together. Since the mid 60's he has wanted a clubhouse for ETGMS. I could almost feel his excitement as we entered the building. Afterwards, I returned to Central Title Co. to watch Bill Faulkner put the final signature on the document, and the property was ours. Kinney Polve

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In a discussion I had with Kelly Ford last month, she mentioned that we should have a membership drive. I decided to take a closer look at the past membership list, to see what the club growth looked like. We had 106 members in February 2015, and we currently have 168 on the November membership list. In the past, we gained new members, only to lose most of them by the next year. With the efforts put forth in the last year, (a lot of this by new members that have really jumped in) the club is getting more active and involved. I'm sure that some of the new classes have helped. The Mineral Group starting back up is also a factor. A clubhouse will definitely be a plus. I agree with Kelly, we have a lot to offer, and I think the January Show would be an excellent time to kick it off. Make an effort to get some ETGMS business cards from Fred Mahaffey at the next meeting. Carry a few with you, and hand them out to people that show an interest. It might surprise you, many people don't know we exist. Although we've only been in Tyler for 60 years! It's time to let the secret out.

Kinney Polve

BACK TO SCHOOL

ETGMS CLASSES

Here is a reminder and update about the classes offered to ETGMS members. For those of you that may not know, we currently offer three classes: Basic Wire Wrapping, Beginners Basic Silversmithing, and Advanced Beginners Silversmithing. I'm still working on holding the first Knapping class. Classes are open to all members 14 and older, junior members, under the age of 14 may be eligible, that will be decided by the instructor. You can put your name on the list at our regular monthly meeting, or contact Terry Roberts or me.



Above pendants wrapped at one of our classes. Below is an arrowhead knapped by Kinney Polve.



Projects completed in the silversmith classes. Above are pendant by Marcia Graham and Lynn Metcalf. Below is a ring by Marcia Graham.



Basic Wire Wrapping

is about a 4-hour class. There currently is no fee for the class or materials. Class size is limited to a maximum of eight people. The class covers wire types and hardness's, and technique. By the end of the class, you should have a good understanding of the process, and a wire wrapped pendant, handmade by yourself.

Basic Beginners Silversmithing is an all-day class. There is currently only a \$25.00 fee to cover materials. Class size is limited to a maximum of two people. In this class, students will be making a pendant, and will learn about metals, solder types, torches, and the soldering process. The student should have the basic knowledge to silversmith on their own, at completion, and a sterling silver pendant handmade by you.

Advanced Beginners Silversmithing is an all-day class. There is currently only a \$25.00 fee to cover materials. Class size is limited to a maximum of two people. In this class, students will be making a ring, and will reinforce techniques learned in the basic class, along with learning additional metal working skill and soldering techniques. The student should have a more advanced knowledge to silversmith on their own, at completion, and a sterling silver ring, handmade by you.

Knapping is about a 4-hour class. There is currently only a \$10.00 fee to cover knapping tools and materials. Class size is limited to a maximum of eight people. This class will teach you the basic knowledge and skills needed to make arrowheads and knife blades. At completion, you should have a knapped arrowhead, handmade by yourself.

Kinney Polve

MEMBERS HAPPENINGS



USING ROCKS IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Article and photos by Colleen Hayes

I would like to share with you how I incorporate my polished agate slabs and other items into my glass art. I've been rock hounding since I could walk, collecting all kinds of pebbles and stones. As an adult I collect a bit of everything, however I really like polished and faceted stones.

One of my other hobbies is stained glass. I use the Tiffany style method of securing the glass pieces together. This method uses a copper tape that is adhered to the edges of the glass or stone. The pieces are then placed and soldered together. It is a perfect method to use to incorporate polished agate slabs and faceted gemstones into the projects.

Recently I have experimented with three dimensional projects. Examples include boxes, lamps, and of course, the traditional windows.

Here are a few pictures of recent work. Enjoy!

Colleen Hayes



November/December 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13	14	15	16	17	18 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Show	19 Ashgrove Cement Quarry Midlothian Field Trip
20	21 ETGMS Fundraiser Cab Auction (Online)	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	DECEMBER 1	2	3
4 Monthly Meeting Christmas Party	5	6	7	8	9 Deridder Gem & Mineral Society Show	10
11	12 Mineral Group Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve



PORTABLE WASH STATION

By Kinney Polve

I believe it was a couple of years ago, when the club went on a field trip to one of the Lignite mines, to collect petrified wood. I have to say that it was a trip worth taking again. After a day of collecting in black mud, and it was time to clean up, some of us broke out our bottles of water to wash up. But not Scotty & Therisa Johnson, they came prepared. Now, I don't know if they came up with the idea, or they got it from someone else, I didn't bother to ask. I do know that on most of my rock hunting trips now, it comes with me. I don't have stock in Tide detergent, and any brand will work just as well. Recycling (which people always encourage) the empty laundry detergent jug into an easily transportable wash station is a great way to go.



I would like this to be a regular addition to our newsletter, but that's going to depend on our members. Send in your Tips and Tricks for the Rockhound, to share with the rest of us.



Top, HGMS greeters. Above, Susan Fairchild and Kinney Polve. Below, getting ready to start the SCFMS meeting. Bottom, Nathalie Brandes, guest speaker, and in constant motion, as pictured.



SCFMS CONVENTION

Another convention has come and gone. This year's South-Central Federation of Mineral Societies Convention was hosted by the Houston Gem & Mineral Society at the Humble Civic Center. For those of you that weren't able to attend, you missed out. For me, it was a very, long, tiring day, but it was well worth it. It started with a 3-hour drive to Humble, Texas, for Vicky and me, to attend the 8 AM Editors' Breakfast. We met up with Susan (Burch) Fairchild, SCFMS Editor and past ETGMS Editor. As with past conventions, the Editors' Breakfast is a great function to attend, if you are interested in gleaning helpful information from your counterparts. After a buffet-style breakfast, it was time for handing out awards. I thought that I was never going to get a chance to sit down. I'm not sure, but I think ETGMS may have taken more overall awards than the Houston club, and that's just fine with me. If you want to know which members won awards in the competition, you'll have to come to the December meeting! I can tell you that we had three members which placed in the top three.

After breakfast, I sat down with Susan and went over past newsletters, so I would have a list of all the articles, features, and poems, wrote by our members, that I would be sending to the SCFMS, for next year's entries. I thought it was important that we both review the selections, because she had published nine of the issues for this contest period. For the members that rarely send in items for the newsletter, the selection process was easy, but for the members that contribute regularly, the process was more of a challenge. It's sometimes difficult, choosing between two great articles. I think that the awards won in the Editors Contest, at the regional and national levels, say a lot for our club and its members. When a club, receives a lot of top place award; it only does so because it has active members willing to take the time, and make the effort writing articles for the newsletter. The articles are where our members gain new knowledge and grow; not only the ones reading the articles, but also the ones that write them. It would surprise you, what is learned researching information during the process, thus, the cycle continues.

After, what seemed to be a brief break (looking at exhibits and demonstrations) it was time for the SCFMS Convention meeting. This had to be the longest convention meeting I have attended. Three hours of motions and discussion, and more motions and discussions, all the business was completed. More was brought to light, that will have to be dealt with at the next convention. I was beginning to think that Fred Mahaffey knew something that I didn't when he schedule his trip for the weekend of the convention, and needed me to fill in as a delegate.

After what seemed like a shorter break, (talking to friends and vendors) it was time for the Awards Banquet. We settled in for a buffet style Barbeque Dinner, and after everyone rounded their midsections a bit, we



Above, Kimberly Brannon presenting the Cheesecake Award.

sat back and listened to the keynote speaker. The speaker for the breakfast and the dinner was Dr. Nathalie Brandes, currently a Professor of Geosciences. It didn't take more than a few seconds into the program to know that she knew what she was talking about, and had a passion for it. After the program, it was time for the awards ceremony. The one award that everyone is waiting was to see who won was the Cheesecake Award, which was started just a few years ago. If you want to find out what it's for, you'll have to attend the next banquet in May! Kinney Polve

A FEW PHOTOS FROM THE HGMS SHOW



October was the time to renew your membership. You must be a paid member to attend club activities, such as, Field Trips, Lapidary or Mineral group meeting, and classes. We purge the membership list in December, 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 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. 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: The Discovery Science Place, 308 N. Broadway, Tyler, Texas



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