

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Coming Shows, 2016

May 28-29, 2016
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Center

July 2-3, 2016
Arlington, TX
Arlington G&MS
Grapevine Convention Center
Grapevine, TX

July 30-31, 2016
Cowtown Gem & Mineral
Glass Society
3939 Bryant Irvin RD
Fort Worth, Texas

Aug 13-14 2016
Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge GMS
Lamar Dixon Expo Center
Gonzales, LA

August 20-21, 2016
Bossier City, LA
Ark-La-Tex G&MS
Bossier City Civic Center

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finally things are starting to settle down around here, now that all the April and May club activities have come and gone. I want to thank all of you that helped out with our booth at the Tyler Makers Faire, and Terry Roberts for helping with the club's booth at the 2016 Boy Scouts Quad Jam.

There was a great turnout for our May club meeting. David Russ gave an interesting program on geology. The June meeting program will be presented by Lynn Metcalf. If you are willing to present the program for our July meeting, please contact me. Let's try to keep program length between 30-45 minutes, if possible.

The SCFMS Convention was in Lubbock this year. I have to say that I'm glad to be back home. Not to say that I didn't enjoy the Lubbock show and the convection, it was quite the opposite. I just didn't enjoy the 8 hour drive there and back. I was impressed by the number of display cases set up by Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society. They set up about 50 cases, and they only have about 50 members. I want all of our members to think about this when it comes to setting up a display case for our January show. So with over a hundred members, we shouldn't have any problem having members volunteer to fill our 16 cases. It's never too early to think about our next show, and if you think you might want to set one up, and want more information, just let me know.

I'm also seeing a lot more members getting active in the club activities. It's always good to see more active members, which relieves the load from the members that are continually involved, and makes everything run smoother. On that note, David Russ has the Mineral Sub-group up and running again, and they have already held their first meeting. David is going to head up the Fossil Sub-Group also. And Lynn Metcalf has volunteered to take over as Webmaster on the website. Our election of new officers is a little over 3 months away, so if any of you are interested in volunteering some of your time to serve in one of the six elected positions, please contact me or one of the other club officers. Remember, the club operates best when our members get involved, and we spread the work load so that it isn't carried by just a few.

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8. Officers and Directions

While in Lubbock, I was talking to a member of one of the clubs, and they suggested having a special membership fee of \$500.00 for members that just wanted to join, but didn't want to take an active role. That may be a little drastic, but I can understand the feeling sometimes when we need the help of the members, but they don't make their selves available. I guess what I'm trying to say is don't wait for someone to call on you, if you see a need, go ahead and volunteer to fill it, if your capable, and have the time available. Don't wait for the member that is already overloaded to pick up the extra load.

And finally, a reminder that the temperature is climbing, so if you're going out in the field, be safe and carry plenty of water.

Kinney Polve



## MAY MEETING MINUTES

President, Kinney Polve called the meeting to order on May 2, 2016, at 6:55 p.m.

Two past members came to renew their membership and become active again. They are Brenda Hargis and Nichole Langston. We welcome them back.

Two silent auction items were up for bids and door prize tickets were for sale for 25 cents each.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Penny Hawkins and seconded by Karen Nance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Trish Hamilton, treasurer gave an update on accounts.

**Lapidary Arts Group:** This group meets on the second Saturday of the month. This month the meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Kinney's workshop. The topic this month will be hints on polishing cabs. Terry Roberts will send an email with directions to Kinney's workshop. If you would like to be on this email list give your information to Terry Roberts.

**Mineral and Fossil Group:** David Russ reported that five people attended a meeting on April 22nd. With the expert assistance from Charles Creekmur and Keith Harmon they concentrated on identification of minerals. This group will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. David would also like to have a meeting for those interested in fossils. He also wants to work on micro mounts. If you have interest in these activities make sure Davis Russ has your contact information.

**Field Trip:** The next field trip will be on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Make sure you are on Fred Mahaffey's list so you can get last minute information or cancelations due to weather. On May 21<sup>st</sup> meet at McCoy's Building Supplies in Palestine at 8:00 a.m. Then all will caravan to the location where you can hunt for selenite crystal clusters. Another trip is forming to hunt for fossils on the north Sulfur River on May 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Fred needs to know if you are interested in joining this trip.

**Newsletter:** Make sure you send articles and pictures from your field trips to Susan Burch, She always needs contributions from members to make a more interesting newsletter. Have you entered a picture and article on a cab you have made?

**Social Media:** Lynn Metcalf Polve is our new web master. She wants your contributions to show off the talents of our members. This is a great way to interest new members.

### Announcements:

- Terry Roberts and Kinney Polve are offering cabbing classes. Sign up with either of these members and plan a time and date for your class.
- The Tyler Mini Maker's Fair was a success. Thank you to the members who worked in our booth. A lot of people stopped to make "rock critters" and do simple wire wrapping.
- Kinney and Terry volunteered at the Boy Scouts Jamboree in Tyler. Thank you to these two who do so much for the organization.
- Allen Brown told about a field trip he went on with Jack Shull and Fred Mahaffey to a salt flat to hunt selenite crystals.
- Some nice durable buckets were offered to anyone who needed one for rock collecting.

Continued on Page 3.



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**Old Business:**

- There was discussion on the type of land and building needed for a clubhouse. Everyone was asked to think about contacts and keep an eye open for a suitable location.
- There was discussion on the scholarship that we had voted to establish. Planning for this is ongoing. Carolyn Davis, Brad Martin, and Brenda Hargis will continue to work on this project.

**New Business:** No new business was brought to our attention.

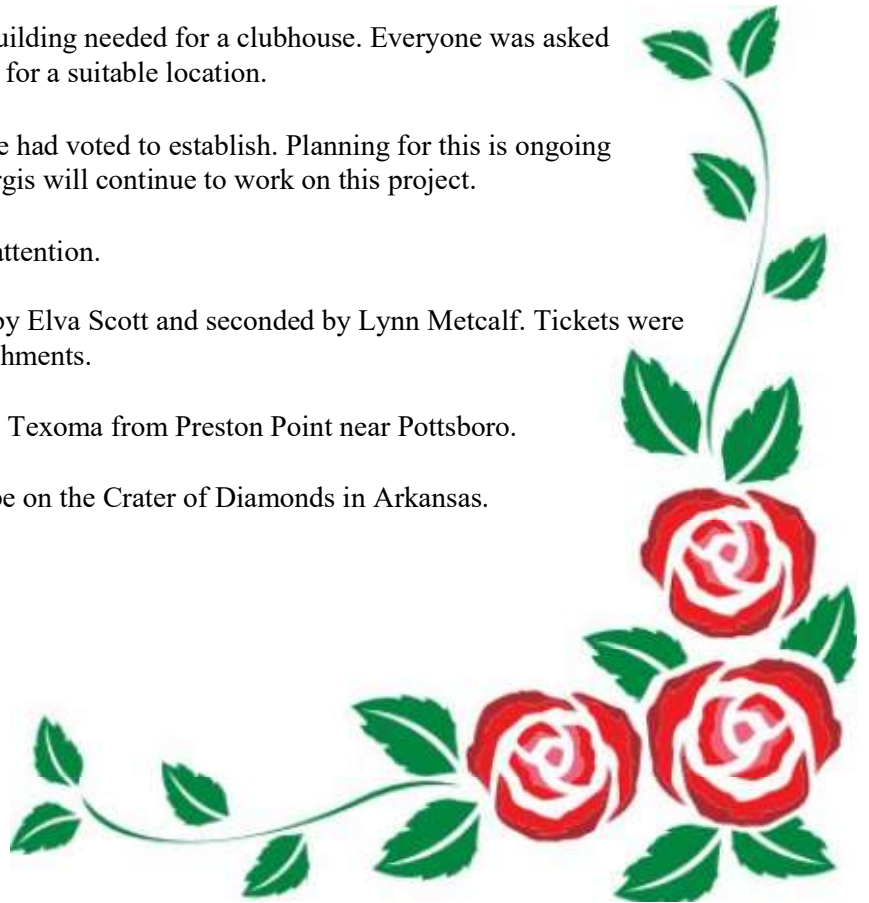
A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Elva Scott and seconded by Lynn Metcalf. Tickets were drawn for door prizes. All enjoyed visiting and refreshments.

David Rusk gave the program on the geology of Lake Texoma from Preston Point near Pottsboro.

Our next meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup>. The program will be on the Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis



# CAB OF THE MONTH



*Seam Plume Heart Cab by Kinney Polve*





### JUST ROCKS

By Kinney Polve

I never know, where I will go,  
 To look for rocks, I just don't know.  
 Sometimes I plan, to go out west,  
 That is the area, which I like the best.  
 Sometimes I plan, to go out east,  
 But that is the place, I like the least.  
 I could go north, if I had a lead,  
 You could bet I would, oh yes indeed.  
 I have been down south, not long ago,  
 And I might be back, you never know.  
 I have collected rocks, in about every state,  
 From my experience, collecting rocks is great.  
 What's inside a rock, we really don't know,  
 Until it is cut open, to let the insides show.  
 I might slice some rocks, in to thin slabs,  
 And turn all those slabs, in to nice cabs.  
 I might put some slabs, into a display,  
 For all of the nice ones, that's the best way.  
 All of the smaller ones, can be put aside,  
 And thrown in the tumbler, and go for a ride.  
 They'll roll and tumble, for a period of time,  
 And when they're all done, wow what a great shine.  
 So whether you go, south, north, east, or west,  
 There are plenty of rocks, so just bring home the best.  
 What you do with them, is all up to you,  
 You can do like me, or try something new.



Photo by Vicky Polve.

### LAPIDARY/JEWELRY SUB GROUP

The L/J Sub-Group met at Kinney Polve's workshop on May 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 members and one guest present. The group discussion was over polishing techniques, media, and compounds. Pat Beene brought some cabs that she had been working on for inspection. Members also brought rocks to show and have identified. Later we all went out to the Lost Agate Mine to look at rocks, and some members loaded up rocks from the scrap rock pile. While Vicky Polve helped the others saw some of the rocks they had brought.

### PLAY IN THE DIRT...

Because life  
 is too short  
 to always have  
 clean fingernails.





# Member Happenings



*Photo selected from the Internet*

## FIELD TRIP TO NORTH SULPHUR RIVER

For all of you that have expressed interest in going up to the North Sulphur River. I just want to remind you that it is a very physical hike up and down the river bank. It looks like we will be going on Monday the 23rd. So far I have 6 members going. I will be meeting with David Russ to plan where we want to try hunting.  
Fred Mahaffey

## A NEAT MIMOLITH FOUND IN MY LAST BATCH OF TUMBLED ROCKS

After cleaning out a load of tumbled rocks and slabs in my tumbler last week, I noticed that a small slab of red and black plume agate had a resemblance to a triggerfish. Any resemblance of a rock to a familiar shape, such as an animal, plant, heart, etc. is known as a mimeolith. I thought it was unusual enough to share with everyone.

Terry Roberts



*Photo by Terry Roberts*



## 2016 BOY SCOUTS QUAD JAMBOREE

Terry Roberts and Kinney Polve set up a ETGMS booth at the 2016 Boy Scouts Quad Jamboree, at Durango Canyon, near Minden, Texas, on April 30th. Our focus was on geology and fossils. It's always a joy to have an opportunity to talk about rocks, and watch everyone, young and old, start to get the fever.

*Terry Roberts shows a group of Boy Scouts a variety of minerals and fossils. Photo by Kinney Polve.*







In next month's issue the results from the 2016 SCFMS Authors and Editors' contest will be listed. If you want to find out before everyone else, come to the June meeting where the awards and certificates received May 7 at the SCFMS Convention in Lubbock will be presented.

## It's Not Too Late! For What? ....You Ask

*by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair*

The American Federation Endowment Fund is having a drawing for some wonderful pieces. Of course, I am still seeking donations and of course-I am still requesting that you purchase tickets for the event which takes place late in July at the annual Federation convention.

The good news is that it is not too late to either donate an item for the drawing. Your donation could be a mineral specimen, piece of jewelry, cutting rough, fossil, important book, finished cabochons, or other related hobby items. Ideally each item should have an estimated value of \$50 or more to encourage your members (and the general public) to purchase tickets. Just in case you are not aware, the following people are selling the tickets for this event in your Federation as follows:

California Federation - Colleen McGann  
 Eastern Federation - Carolyn Weinberger  
 Midwest Federation - J.C. or Donna Moore  
 Northwest Federation - Judi Allison  
 Rocky Mountain - Delane Cox or Richard Jaeger  
 South Central Federation - Joyce Speed  
 Southeast Federation - Jerri Heer

Contact information for each of the above is on the AFMS website.

Tickets are only \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

You can purchase tickets by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the representative for your Federation. You need not be present to win.

So, why the drawing? In case you haven't heard-the money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for the AFMS special projects, such as , junior badges, judges training and digitizing slide-shows, to name a few. Every club in the Federations benefits from the special projects.

We have some new donations. Unfortunately, I do not have photographs of some of them, but they will be uploaded to the AMFS website by the time you read this article! Besides due to limited space in the newsletter, I am only speaking of the newest donations in the last month.

You also have the opportunity to purchase Federation pins. For \$100.00 you receive a full set of the seven Federations, which are the separate Federations each in a different color. Not interested in spending a \$100.00? – You are in luck because you can purchase each Federation with the exception of South Central for \$20.00.

Do I need to remind you to notify your clubs in your Federation of the chance to help the Endowment Fund by either donating a piece – preferably with a minimum value of \$50.00 and not over 5 lbs in weight to facilitate mailing (postage on heavy items is outrageous!) OR by buying tickets! Thanks to all who have already donated to the Fund! Via AFMS newsletter May 2016.



### BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

**DRILLING SMALL ITEMS**—Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the jaws of the pliers if needed to avoid scratches.



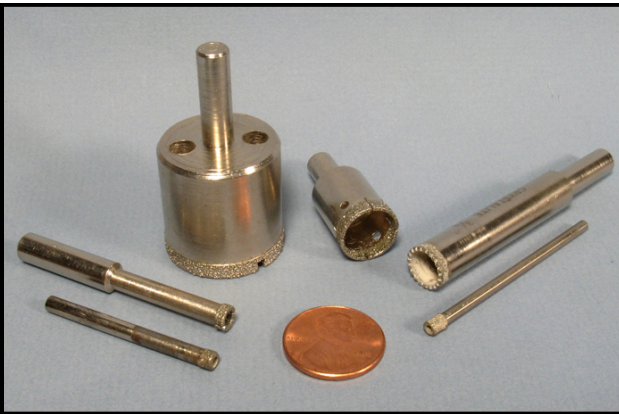
**DRILLING A STONE**—One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and does not cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck up the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris.

Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

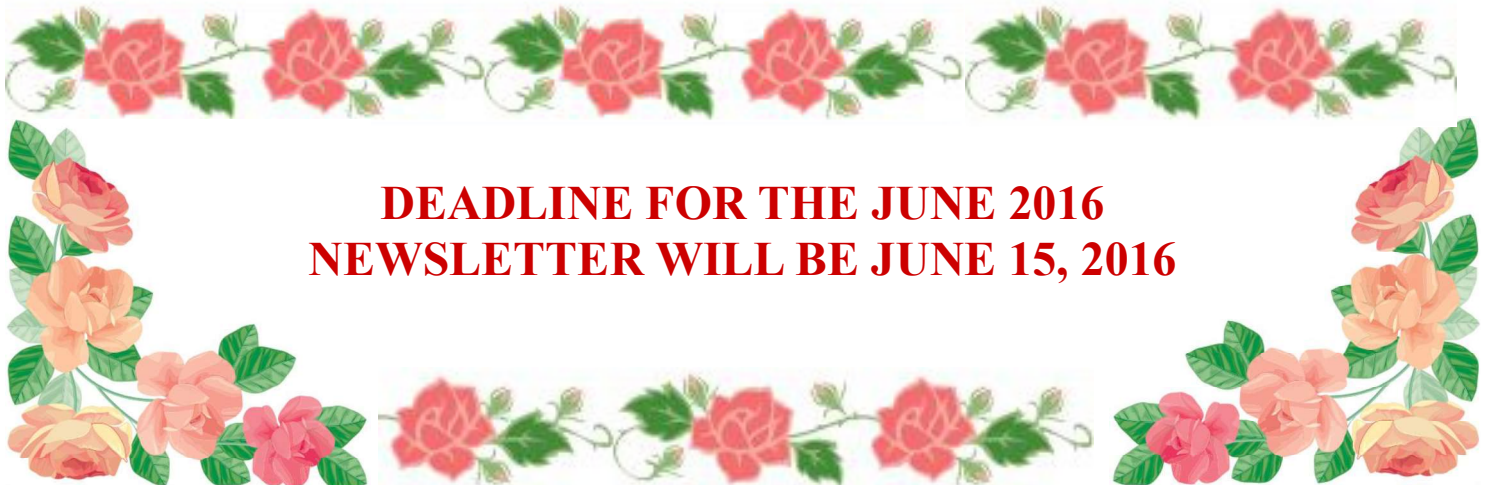


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[www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2016  
NEWSLETTER WILL BE JUNE 15, 2016**





Check us out on the web: [WWW.ETGMS.COM](http://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.

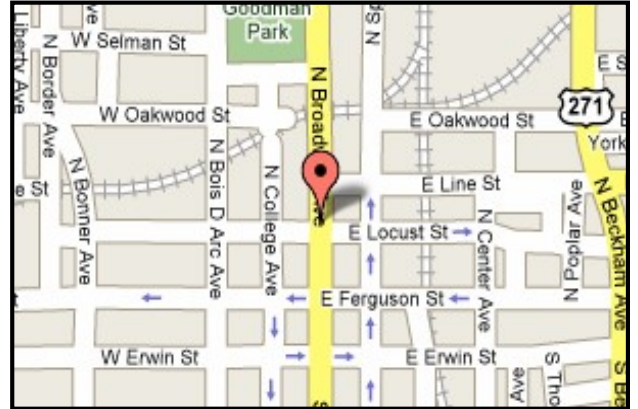
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place  
308 N. Broadway  
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

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

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**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 information 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, as that is the best way to reach me. Thank you... Susan Burch

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