



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 42

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

Coming Shows, 2017

January 14-15, 2017
Fredericksburg, TX
Fredericksburg Rockhds
Lady Bird Johnson Park

JANUARY 27-29, 2017
TYLER, TX
EAST TEXAS G&M SOC.
ROSE GARDEN CENTER

February 18-19, 2017
Georgetown, TX
Williamson Co. G&MS
San Gabriel Park

February 25-26, 2017
Plainview, TX
Hi-Plains G&MS
Ollie Liner Center

Feb 25-26, 2017
Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake G&MS
Pasadena Convention Center

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 that time again. I have signup sheets for the different areas at 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.

We have a pre-show workshop scheduled for January. 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 again in January. Starting January the 3rd at 10am-7pm. The displays 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 last meeting a success and for the pointers to help me run the business part of the meeting better. I have had several requests for a wire wrapping demonstration/mini class during one of the meetings so if this is something you enjoy doing and do not mind an audience then let me know so we can plan it into one of the meetings.

At the December 5th meeting, we will be having our Annual Gift Exchange. Bring a club related gift, 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

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**REMEMBER TO BRING A
WRAPPED HOBBY RELATED
ITEM TO THE DECEMBER
MEETING FOR THE
ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE**





NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

President, Fred Mahaffey called the meeting of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society to order on November 7, 2016, at 6:55 p.m. Five guest were welcomed.

Door prize tickets were sold for the drawing at the end of meeting. There was one item for the silent auction.

A motion was made to accept the minutes for the October meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Pat ? and seconded by Randy Harmon.

Treasurer, Trish Hamilton gave the treasurer's report.

Lapidary Arts Group – Terry Roberts will host the Lapidary Arts Group meeting on Saturday, November 12th. The 2:00 p.m. meeting will be an open forum. Please bring your projects and questions.

Mineral and Fossil Groups – There will be more information about meetings at a later date.

Field Trips – Thank you to David Russ who has volunteered to be the Field Trip Chairman. There will be a field trip to Mt. Aida Arkansas to hunt in a private mine. You will be joining other groups at 7:00 am in Hot Springs. This is a muddy and primitive location. The cost is \$40. There will be a field trip to Midlothian on November 29th.

Announcements – The next meeting will be December 5th. This will be the Annual Gift Exchange. Bring a wrapped gift with no name on it for exchange. The gift should be something related to the interest of the group. This meeting is traditionally filled with great snacks brought to share, you are encouraged to contribute to this.

* The Annual Show will be January 27th, 28th and 29th. Many volunteers are needed to run the show. There will be a workshop in January to prepare items for the show.

* Randy will need help to fill the showcases at the Tyler Public Library from January 1st until January 30th.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Terry and seconded by Lynn Metcalf.

Tickets were drawn for door prizes and all enjoyed visiting and refreshments.

The program was a presentation by Fred showing the Best of 2016 Field Trips.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis





HUNTING FOR FOSSILS AND SEPTARIANS

By Becky Whisenant



Scotty and Teresia Johnson at the Ash Grove Cement Quarry.

Once or twice a year the Ash Grove Cement Company in Midlothian, Texas allows members of gem and mineral clubs, paleontology groups and master naturalists to collect in its quarries. Plant environmental and community affairs manager Francisco Pinto graciously gives up his Saturday and accompanies groups onto the property so they may dig and surface collect.

Midlothian is located in northwestern Ellis County in the limestone Austin Chalk unit and Eagle Ford Shale Formation, dated in the late Cretaceous to Tertiary or Paleogene period, about 65 - 90 million years old. The late Cretaceous period or K/T boundary, is the time period between the end of the Cretaceous period and the beginning of the Tertiary period or, as referred to today, the K/Pg (for Paleogene), a time of extinction for the dinosaurs.



Jack Shull hunts fossils intently.

Fossils found in this locale are marine, commonly including ammonites, fossil fish, shark and ray teeth, fish teeth and bones, clams, snails, gastropods, also septarian and mud concretions with calcite along with pyrite/marcasite crystal clusters. In the late Cretaceous period, the Texas portion of coastline of the Western Interior Seaway extended roughly along a diagonal line from present day Amarillo to Houston.



A fossilized shark tooth in matrix found by Becky Whisenant.

On October 29, the sun was hot and the temps high for a fall day, however, the 9 members of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society were undeterred. Scotty and Teresia Johnson, Nicole and Lester Langston, Colleen Hayes, Pete Keiser, Kim Benton, Jack Shull and Becky Whisenant arrived at the parking lot about 8:00 a.m. and, after signing liability waivers, were escorted to the quarry along with members of the Dallas Paleo group. The quarry where we collected was not the same as on previous visits since heavy spring rains had turned the original quarry into a lake. The new location did not prove to be as rewarding as the other

so, during the lunch break, several members decided to check out a septarian site a few miles further north located just east of Grand Prairie in Dallas County.



Sharing lunch items in the shade of our vehicles, we heard propellers overhead and looked up to see a World War II fighter plane flying low over the quarry. It was part of the Wings Over Dallas air show taking place not far from us. That was an unexpected and enjoyable sight before we headed to the next location.

At left, everybody takes a break for lunch at the cement quarry before going on to the septarian site.



Continued from Page 3

Our newest club member, Kim, later confided “When we pulled up there to the septarian place, I thought, ‘We’re not going to find anything here – this looks like a trash dump.’ And, then, when we started busting rocks and I saw the beautiful crystals inside, I realized why we had come to this spot.”

After about an hour of splitting rocks and surface collecting along the hillside, everyone took home fine specimens of dog-tooth calcite, some with a reddish coating, found inside the septarians. One large chunk was found by lucky hounds Scotty and Teresia with an ammonite sticking out of the side. Some of the septarians form around once living organisms such as ammonites so that the fossil is locked inside.



The group searches out septarian treasures at a location east of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Everyone was happy with their finds and extra pieces were brought back for the silent auction table at the annual show. The group agreed the club should organize a field trip back to the second site for more septarians, in cooler weather.



From left to right, Pete Keiser, Becky Whisenant, Kim Benton and Colleen Hayes show off their treasures at the septarian site.



At right, a close up of ‘dog tooth’ calcite in a septarian nodule.



FOSSIL GROUP



We're off and running with the Fossil Group. It was short notice for the meeting last night. I've been out of town due to a death in the family. The participants were....well, Fred and myself. We had a good session reviewing some potential field trips back to the NSR, OK and West Texas. I have been researching fossil preparation and want to schedule a trip to Black Cat Mountain at Clarita, OK to visit the world class "shooter" (preparator) Bob Carroll. Hopefully we can get some tips and collect from his trilobite quarry while there. Also, still considering the pontoon boat excursion along Preston Point to collect and see the geology that was the topic of last month's presentation. We're limited to 10 people per boat so may do additional trips (or boats) if enough interest. Cost will be around \$30.00 - \$40.00 per person for the boat plus a \$500.00 (refundable) deposit. give me a shout if anyone else would "card" a deposit for an additional boat. Lots of stuff to do so may be doing more than one field trip per month so you all can have a shot at one or more.

David Russ



NOVEMBER LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP MEETING

The November meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group was held at the home of Terry Roberts on November 12. Six members attended and brought their latest projects to show to the group. Dee brought 10 beautiful Brazilian Agate cabs that he wire wrapped. He showed a lot of improvement in his technique and had some nice pendants to give as gifts to family members. John brought some examples of the latest silver and turquoise jewelry that he made. He had some beautiful pieces for everyone to admire.

After discussing the projects, the group went to Terry's shop where he slabbed two rocks for John and Ed and helped Pat polish some cabs that she was having difficulties with. Terry also showed the group several new agates that he had recently acquired and some interesting mineral specimens that he had slabbed for future pendants. Everyone had a great time and left with their new treasures.

There will not be a L/J Group meeting in December due to the Christmas Holidays and all the related activities. The January L/J Group meeting will be combined with the club workshop meeting to make items for the Wheel of Fortune and the Silent Auction Table. The date for the January workshop will be announced at a future Club meeting. Terry Roberts

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair

Fourth Edition of our AFMS/FRA Badge Manual Now Posted!



...With well over 11,000 badges now awarded to kids nationwide, I'm happy to report we have proven successful! 558 kids have been awarded the Rockhound badge by earning at least 6 of the activity badges, and 26 kids have earned coveted Rock Star status by having earned each and every badge in the program. Their names are recorded on our AFMS Kids Corner website in Honor Rolls recognizing their achievements.

The first edition of my Badge Manual offered 9 badges and 53 activities. Staying true to plan, I've updated and expanded it in 2008 and 2012 (with a minor update in 2010), and I'm now pleased to report I have sent the 2016 edition to Marty Hart to post on the AFMS website. This 4th Edition offers 20 badges and 130 activities. As with past editions, many new activities were suggested by the junior leaders of local clubs. In fact, one of the badges introduced in our 3rd Edition was designed by a junior member, Rock Star Erica Nathan of Florida. Similarly, in our 4th Edition another junior member—Rock Star Jem Burch of California—suggested an "Elements" activity you'll now find as part of our Rocks & Minerals badge.

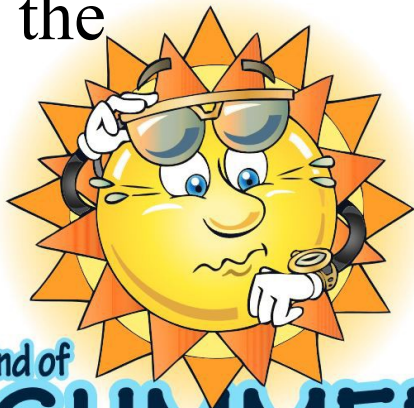
...Here are examples of changes you'll find:

The Manual has grown from 223 pages to 255, with 86 pages revised or entirely new. Over a dozen new activities have been added within our existing badges. Many previously existing activities have been augmented and/or enhanced with new activities. All website links have been checked to ensure viability and any that have evaporated have been replaced, and many new links have been added. I've added many new books as recommended resources. New tables have been added and existing tables have been expanded.

...If you have suggestions for enhancing visual appeal and/or links to video or other multimedia elements, I welcome hearing from you! Meanwhile, my sincere thanks to all who responded to my calls for ideas to add to our 4th Edition. I've incorporated every suggestion I've received. Most of all, I wish to thank local youth leaders who have embraced the program, devoted time and effort, and who found creative ways to implement it so that their juniors members have been encouraged not only to learn about our hobby and passion, but also to have fun!

*This article is paraphrased from the original published in the AFMS Nov./2016 newsletter. Where I have removed portions of the article, I've added ellipsis. You can find the original here: http://amfed.org/news/n2016_11.pdf

Looking forward
to the



End of
SUMMER
and cooler weather



It Isn't All Fun and Games



I just figured I would update everyone on my winter rockhounding adventure. It's not all fun and games out here in the field, there's a lot of hard work involved. Like trying to keep your eyes on the road while driving through the beautiful countryside, looking for rocks. And let's not forget all that chiseling and hammering, when you have your eye on that special specimen. Oh, and let's not forget the endless hours that I have to spend, searching a multitude of rock shops and vendors. And things haven't even started to get cranked up here in Quartzsite, AZ. yet. Vicky and I recently went on a field trip to collect, what the locals call "Bacon Rock". It's a banded material with a high concentration of Barite, so it doesn't take a real large piece to get hard to handle. Like the 80 pounder I collected on that trip. I'm beginning to wonder if I'm going to have enough room to haul all my finds home, being as I still have about 3 months to go. We've joined up with the Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Club, while we're here. I'm putting some of my skills to work, teaching a beginners wire wrapping class once a week. And wouldn't you know, I've had to go back to school. The Roadrunners have a very active club, and a well-equipped shop complex. I have already started classes, learning to silversmith. I've already completed making a ring, and I lack just a little before my pendant will be completed. Oh, and I better not forget the knapping classes that are going to start in a week or so. And maybe I will find a little time to take a casting class or two. Like I said, It's hard work out here in the field, but somebody has to do it. I hope that I did a good job of rubbing it in, of how great of a time we're having on our trip. I'll see if I can find the time to update everyone next month. I look forward to February, when we get back, sharing some of the new skills, and the material that we've collected on this trip. Kinney Polve



Above left, Kinney chiseling and hammering; Middle photo, banded Barite "Bacon Rock"; Bottom left, Arizona scenery; Bottom right, the ring Kinney made is sterling silver with Chrysocolla in Quartz.





CAB OF THE MONTH



**At left:
Chatoyant
Russian
charoite
by Kinney Polve**

**Below:
Agatized
malachite/azurite
or possibly
chrysocola
by Terry Roberts**



Continued...

and fell apart after cutting. I just polished the remaining pieces for display. You will see the results in the picture at bottom left.

My cab of the month is another piece that appeared to be agatized malachite/azurite or possibly chrysocola. This is the heel, which produced the largest slab of the four slabs sliced from the rock. It has some flaws in it, such as cracks and a cavity in the center of the eye located in the middle on the left side. I could not grind out the cavity because it was too deep to leave an acceptable dome on the cab. However, the cab is striking in its color, as well as the banding in the agate in the lower left side.

The first photo below shows two small cabs that I cut from a white quartz nodule with red spots that I collected at a new site on the Walker Ranch that we call the "candy store". Because part of the cabs had quartz crystals in it, the corners started separating on the cab on the left. I used superglue on the other cab before grinding and polishing it and it held up very well.

The second photo shows two unknown cabs that I think Johnny ? sent to me a couple of years ago. I am hoping Johnny remembers them and can identify them for me. The third photo shows one of the cabs with transmitted light to better see what the interior of the cab looks like. It is quite interesting in this view.

The fourth and fifth photos show more cabs cut from the malachite, azurite and/or chrysocola material that I bought from the retired dealer near Chandler. Most of it has chalcedony/agate throughout the cab which makes it harder than if it was just the copper-based minerals and, therefore, easier to work with. I thought you all would like to see them.



RECENT CAB PROJECTS BY TERRY ROBERTS

I recently purchased some agates and other minerals from the dealer who lives in Chandler. I was able to buy about 15 lbs of material (small rough in the form of agates and malachite/azurite specimens, among other odds and ends). I tried cutting some really beautiful azurite/malachite rough, but only made a couple of slices in each rock because the azurite portion was too crumbly





RE-BIRTH OF TWO ROCKHOUNDS

By Vivra (Pat) Beene

Back in the Swinging-Sixties Ed Beene (hereinafter referred to as “The Husband”, because he calls me “The Wife”) and I were newly-weds in London. Getting ready to leave England and move to El Centro in extreme southern California, I wanted to purchase something in London—something special as a souvenir from my home.

The hip place to visit in London was Carnaby Street, with its psychedelic store displays, arts and crafts. I spotted a booth displaying what to me at the time were simply polished rocks. The signs around the booth said, “Pick your rock and have it mounted as a ring.” So I did. I picked a beautiful cube of what I learned was pyrite. When I told the man we were leaving for America the following week, he asked where we were moving to. When I said southern California, he immediately put the chunk of pyrite back in the display case.

“You don’t want any of this,” he said.

“Why not?” I was very upset by his action.

“Because where you are going you can find most of this material for yourself, and possibly learn to cut and polish it for yourself.”

Less than a month after that, after settling in an apartment in El Centro, we drove to San Diego and visited the Museum of Earth Sciences. We found out what the guy in London had been talking about. We learned that the desert was indeed the place to find wonderful semi-precious gemstone material.

Within the month after that, we found the Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, made a host of friends, learned the art of lapidary, and started our rock collection. This continued for nearly ten years until The Husband retired from the USAF and we returned to his home here in East Texas.

We tried to continue our lapidary interests here, we’d brought our capping equipment along with lots of rough material. We immediately joined the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society. However the club, at that time, seemed to be mainly interested in minerals and fossils; we eventually dropped out.

Fast forward to last year. The Husband retired for the second time—after 23 years working for Wal-Mart. We looked afresh at our rock collection, which included several boxes of slices suitable for polishing. We looked at one another and said, “We need to do something with all this--why don’t we start polishing again?”

So we have. Two rock-hounds re-born. We have new equipment—and new friends because we re-joined the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society which has now grown to include a sub-group of lapidary enthusiasts.

In the forty years since we let our California-bought equipment go, machinery has changed, methods have changed. It feels as if we are truly re-born, and learning from the beginning. Thanks to new friends we hope to learn even more and continue for many more years.



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

LOOSE HEADS—Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.



Making Design Stamps for Jewelry

Bradford M. Smith

Announcing Brad's latest jewelry techniques book for those who like Southwest-style stamped jewelry.

"Making Design Stamps For Jewelry" covers the step-by-step process of selecting best steels, carving the design, hardening the steel, and tempering the completed stamp to ensure a long service life. It describes the tools to use, gives examples for how to make several design stamps, and 78 close-up photos that illustrate the important details. Both Kindle and paperback editions are on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/2fvf58T>

Please include the following attribution with each publication: "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/ or www.BradSmithJewelry.com

**EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s): _____ Anniversary _____ Birth Date: _____ Adult: ___ Jr. ___

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Newsletter via e-mail? Y ___ N ___

Special Interest in the hobby: _____ Date Paid: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone or Cell: _____ Dues Paid: \$ _____



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.

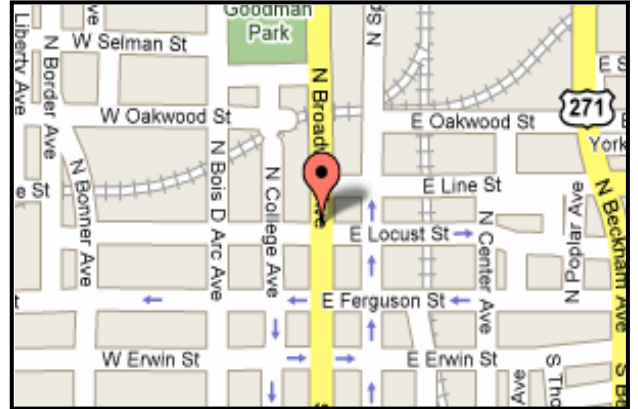
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

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

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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 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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