



# ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 42

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2016



## COMING SHOWS 2016

**November 5-6, 2016**  
**Amarillo, TX**  
Golden Spread G&MS  
Amarillo Civic Center  
Exhibition Hall

**November 11-13, 2016**  
**Humble, TX**  
Houston G&MS  
Humble Civic Center  
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy

**November 19-20, 2016**  
**Dallas, TX**  
Dallas G&MS  
Restiol Expo Cen.  
Mesquite, TX

**November 19-20, 2016**  
**Round Rock, TX**  
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin  
Old Settler's Heritage Assoc.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. October Meeting Minutes
3. Club Happenings
4. Club Happenings Continued
5. Mineral Cleaning
6. Junior Activities / Editor's Note
7. Bench Tips / Membership Form
8. Officers and Directions

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone, this is my first message as President of the club and since this is all new to me please bear with me as I stumble through the adjustments. The last meeting we had our annual club auction and it was a success. I would like to thank Keith Harmon for being our auctioneer and he did a superb job. I also want to thank all of the members who donated items for the auction. Attendance was good and I think everyone had a good time. The past weekend we had our critter workshop at Kinney and Vicky Polve's workshop and loaded the trailer for the annual show. Thank you to all who showed up to help. I would also like to thank David Russ for agreeing to be the Field Trip Chairman. Speaking of fieldtrips, if you wanted to go to the Midlothian Quarry but were not available on the 8th it was rescheduled to Saturday, October 29th. The agenda for the next meeting is a surprise, so please make sure you are there. We will also talk about our December meeting as well. I would like to see if anyone would be interested in coordinating the refreshments for the meetings. I know a lot bring items and that is great. However, if there is a club member who would like to be in charge of the refreshment table that would be awesome. So, until next time be safe while rock hounding.

Fred Mahaffey

## ROCK HUNTING HEADQUARTERS

### FIELD TRIP UPDATES

**Hi! Everyone,**  
**The Midlothian field trip has been rescheduled to the 29th of this month. I am working on coordinating a field trip next month to Arkansas for crystals at a private mine. I will send out more info as soon as I have the information. It will be the weekend of 11, 12, 13th of Nov.**

Fred Mahaffey



EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERALS SOCIETY

The ETGMS met for its monthly meeting on October 3, 2016. The newly elected President, Fred Mahaffey, called the meeting to order at about 7:00 p.m., beginning late as we had a good turnout for the auction and pieces for sale. He asked for patience as he has never had this job before. The only new officer not present was Rip Criss, vice president. Julia Toombs is Secretary and Trish Hamilton is Treasurer.

There was no silent auction item and no door prize tickets for sale.

Visitors and new members were asked to introduce themselves. There were 2 new members, Leslie Carvell and Zachary King. There were no visitors.

Trish Hamilton gave the treasurer's report.

Fred asked for a motion that the minutes from the last meeting be approved as they were printed in the newsletter. Trish made the motion and Lynn Metcalf seconded. All others were in favor.

**Fred asked for reports from the sub-groups:**

\* **Lapidary Arts:** Terry Roberts reported that the group met at Kinney's workshop on September 10. The subject was water glass. Also, Vicky gave out vegetables from her garden. The October meeting will be a critter workshop.

\* **Mineral and Fossil:** The group met at Richard Armstrong's and Becky Whisenant reported that they looked at micro-mounts under a microscope and discussed blue quartz llanite.

**Announcements are as follows:**

\* Fred received an email from Gilbert Barton saying he will be having a yard sale at his house in Chandler. His health no longer allows him to make jewelry and, he and his wife are selling everything: gems, minerals and fossils. The sale is October 4-6. Fred said he would forward the email to everyone.

\* Fred reported that the critter workshop will be at Kinney's on October 15.

\* Kinney said cabochons had been donated to the club.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

\* Terry and Becky made a presentation to Kinney. He received a Performance Award for a job well-done. Kinney was President for three years. Kinney also received a gift of a chunk of copper mounted as a trophy. Pete Keiser also spoke his thanks for both Kinney and Vicky's hard work. Terry and Carolyn were also given Performance Awards for their time as Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. Becky and Penny Hawkins then presented a gift to Vicky Polve, a journal (for future excursions?).

Kinney made a motion to adjourn the business meeting, Lynn seconded and all were in favor. Everyone enjoyed a short period of refreshments and visiting as all were eager to start the auction.

**Program:** Annual club auction with Keith Harmon as the auctioneer. The auction got underway about 7:30 p.m. There was jewelry, fossils, minerals, rocks and equipment.

The next scheduled meeting is November 7, 2016 at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Julia Toombs







# CLUB HAPPENINGS

## APPRECIATION AWARDS



*Fred Mahaffey, new president with Kinney Polve, outgoing president who is holding the performance award he was given for a job well done.*



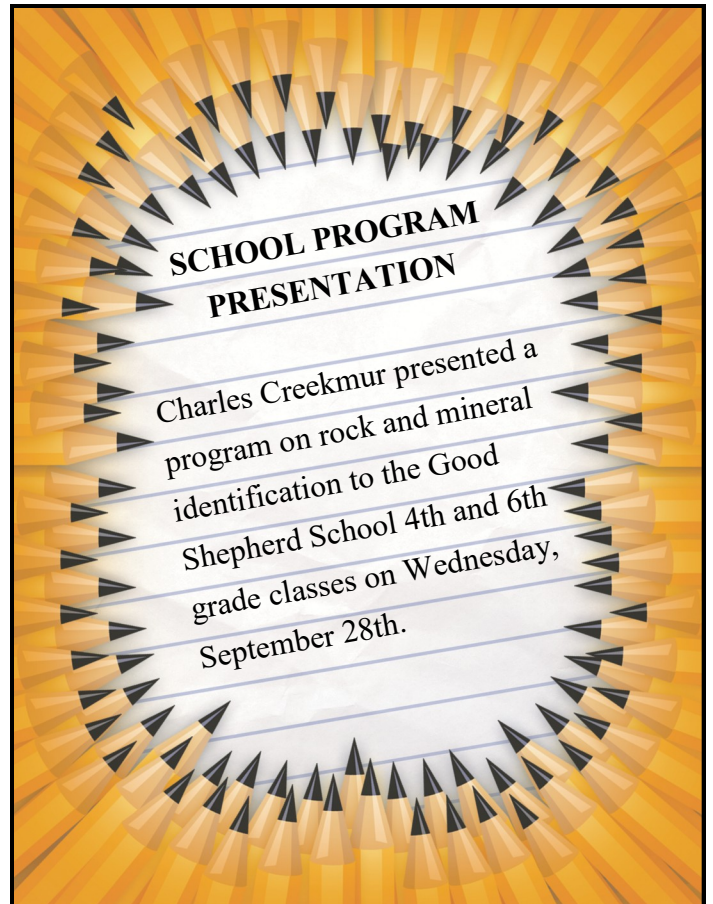
*Fred Mahaffey presenting a performance award to Terry Roberts for his time as vice-president. Becky Whisenant shows support in the background.*



*At left: Becky Whisenant and Penny Hawkins presenting a special journal to Vicky Polve.*

At this month's meeting, awards and certificates were presented to our outgoing officers in appreciation of a job well done. Terry Roberts, Becky Whisenant and Fred Mahaffey presented a performance award to Kinney Polve for his three years service as club president. He was also given a copper specimen mounted as a trophy. Terry Roberts and Carolyn Davis were also given performance awards for their time as vice-president and secretary, respectively. Becky, and Penny Hawkins presented a special journal to Vicky Polve for her continued support while Kinney was in office. Pete Keiser also spoke his thanks for both Kinney and Vicky's hard work.

*Photos provided by Kinney and Vicky Polve.*



### SCHOOL PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Charles Creekmur presented a program on rock and mineral identification to the Good Shepherd School 4th and 6th grade classes on Wednesday, September 28th.



## MINERAL GROUP MEETING

There were six attendees at the mineral group meeting in October at the home of Richard Armstrong touring his gemology testing lab: Becky Whisenant, Charles Creekmur, Richard Armstrong, David Russ, Lynn Metcalf and Julia Toombs. We examined crystals under the microscope including some blue quartz crystals from a llanite specimen. Members are encouraged to bring micro specimens to examine under the microscope enabling members to take advantage of the expertise offered by professional gemologist and geologist members. If interested in more information please contact David Russ at [druss50@earthlink.net](mailto:druss50@earthlink.net)





# CLUB HAPPENINGS CONTINUED...

## CRITTER WORKSHOP

We held our annual Critter Workshop on October 15th. Turnout for the workshop was a little fewer than I expected, with 14 members attending. We managed to get all the show supplies loaded in the cargo trailer early in the day. And I have to say that the creative juices were definitely already flowing from the members that were already making critters. It seems that each year the artistic ability gets better and better, always coming up with new creations. We were all having such a great time, before we knew it, it was time to take a break for so lunch. By the time everyone started saying their good-byes, we had amassed a large selection of critters for next year's show. I want to thank all of you that took time out of your busy schedules to attend. Kinney Polve



## CABS OF THE MONTH



Pictured at left: This is a Swazi agate from Mozambique in Africa. I had never seen or heard of this agate until a slab of the agate was given to me. It has nice colored bands and even exhibits the parallax phenomenon caused by very minute bands on one side of the cab. Terry Roberts



Pictured bottom left: Beautiful Chrysocolla Heart Cabochon with a nice drusy pocket. Kinney Polve







**MINERAL CLEANING  
BRIDGET JOUBERT / JIM MARLER  
CENLA ROCK HOUNDS**

At a past rock show ( Clearlake show, Pasadena, TX ), we stopped by the Fender’s mineral specimen booth to chat about their very fine minerals. Jim ask him how he got such beautiful pyrite and galena specimens. He said it was all in the cleaning he did prior to displaying. Here is what he said:



Galena: Soak the specimen in warm “ Iron-Out™ to remove surface iron and lead oxides. This may take an all day of soaking if very ‘dirty’. Rinse well and scrub lightly with a bristle brush, NOT a wire brush, it scratches! Spray well with “Scrubbing Bubbles™ “( non bleach type) and give it a good scrubbing with the brush. Rinse well and let the specimen air dry completely ( a fan helps speed this up) before putting it away. By the way, are you wearing kitchen dish gloves? Some people are sensitive to the aggressive chemicals in these cleaners so put on those gloves and safety glasses!

Pyrite: One of the problems with many Pyrite (FeS) specimens is that they may be in a mixture with Marcasite. Marcasite (HFeS<sub>2</sub>) is an unstable “Pyrite” and will slowly deteriorate as it is stored, especially in the damp air of Louisiana. If you find your nice pyrite specimen sitting on a pile of sulfur smelling grey ash, it is a mixture specimen! The Marcasite slowly converted to sulfuric acid and iron, eating away at the whole specimen.. cardboard box and all!



To clean up specimens with Marcasite, use that wire brush that was forbidden above! Get rid of all the visible Marcasite with a good soap scrubbing. As always, be sure to wear safety goggles when scrubbing any specimen, fine particles will fly all about and love to land in eyes! Rinse well and let dry for a while.

Ok, now spay the specimen with “ Scrubbing Bubbles™” and use the brush with vigor. The pyrite part will brighten up very nicely. For specimens that have pyrite on another mineral ( i.e. dog-tooth calcite), adjust your scrubbing to prevent damage to the other mineral. Always Dry completely before storage.



Chalcopyrite: This iron sulfide mineral containing copper is often misidentified as pyrite. Look carefully at the “pyrite” crystals and see if there are multi-colors showing, besides the plain ‘gold’ of pyrite. If so, this is probably chalcopyrite ( peacock ore). Again, spray the specimen with “Scrubbing Bubbles™” and brush scrub it. Though it will not be as bright as pyrite, it will shine up quite a bit, making your specimen come alive!

Other minerals: so far our experience with cleaning other minerals has been that “Scrubbing Bubbles™” works on all minerals but not as dramatically as it does on Pyrite and Galena. What it has done, however, is show us the presence of pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and other crystals where we did not see them before due to oxidation and/or dirt.

Yes, plain ole soap will clean minerals but the “Bubbles” seems to put that shine on them that other cleaning agents do not!

No, we do not have financial interest in Johnson’s Company and their “Scrubbing Bubbles™” but we wish we did since we have gone thru CANS of it and it works so well on our specimens!



# Having Fun: Junior Activities

*by Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair*



## Judging Juniors: Encourage Your Club's "Cub Reporters"

As I've been doing off-and-on for ten years now, I served as judge for juniors articles in the annual AFMS Bulletin Contest, and I was pleased to make a noteworthy observation.

Last year I lamented a disturbing trend, namely, year-on-year declines in both the number of regional federations submitting entries and in the number of entries to judge in the two juniors categories (ages 12-17 and under 12 years old). Well, I'm happy to report that the trend has finally reversed!

Last year saw just four of the seven regional federations participating with five entries for juniors in the 12-17 age category and five for juniors under 12. This year? We saw participation by five of the regional federations with six entries in the 12-17 age group and a big jump to nine entries for juniors under 12. Here's hoping this is just the beginning of still more entries submitted for next year when the AFMS Show & Convention will be hosted in my very own California Federation by my very own Ventura club.

To all club newsletter editors across all regional federations: please encourage your pebble pups and junior members to write a brief article (even a paragraph will do) telling about a recent rock or fossil-related field trip or experience, a museum visit, or about a favorite mineral or fossil. When AFMS Bulletin Contest awards are handed out for best juniors' articles at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in June 2017, let's make sure kids from all federations across the land are firmly in the running!

Even if they don't win a trophy in the contest, the process stimulates their active participation as club members—and they can earn a Communication badge via the AFMS/FRA Badge Program.

Let's all encourage a budding young reporter or two to craft and share a story—it's fun!

From AFMS October 2016 Newsletter.

# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Mark Nelson, American Federation of Mineral Societies' BEAC Chair wrote an article for the AFMS November 2016 newsletter reminding us that this is our opportunity to show the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and North America how nice our bulletin is.

Time is running out for submissions for this year, as there are only two issues left before the contest deadline in January. We are not a large club compared to many in the Federation, however our member's contributions are outstanding as evidenced by the awards we brought in from the SCFMS and AFMS Author and Editor's contests this year.

Many of you have promised to send in items but when it comes time to put the newsletter together each month, I don't see hide nor hair of it. Thank you to everyone who takes an active part in the club by adding your interests, expertise and knowledge to make our newsletter one of the top ten in the nation.

Let's share more of those interesting articles our members write. Please, submit your article, feature, poetry, drawn illustrations or in particular encourage our juniors to contribute. There are a shortage of junior member entries in the SCFMS and AFMS. In the last few years there haven't been any junior entries from the ETGMS. Let's change that. Those with youth associations please check out the article to the left from the AFMS.

Thank you to Fred Mahaffey our new president and the club, for choosing to have me as your newsletter editor for another year. It's my pleasure to represent us well and get the club's information out there.



Susan Burch



### BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

**TEMPLATES**—Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include [www.cooltools.us/](http://www.cooltools.us/) and [www.kingsleynorth.com/](http://www.kingsleynorth.com/)

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My

preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that let's me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

**DENTAL TOOLS**—A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however - If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F.

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/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/) and [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835) or [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://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](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.

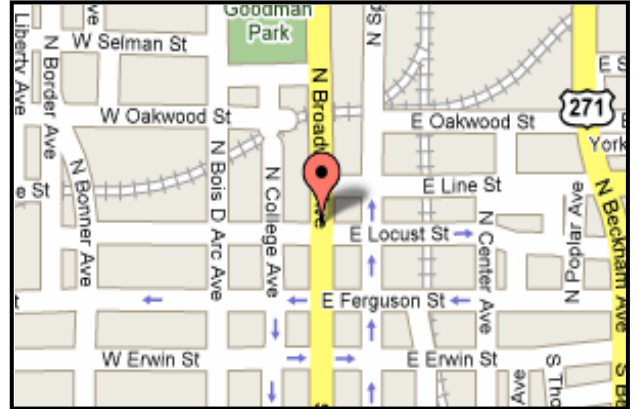
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place  
308 N. Broadway  
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

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

**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

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Fred Mahaffey  
1637 CR 1306  
Rusk, TX 75785  
903-978-0268

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Robert (Rip) Criss  
903-928-2860  
16399 N. US Hwy 287  
Tennessee Colony, TX 75861

**TREASURER:** Trish Hamilton  
P.O. Box 132532  
Tyler, TX 75713

**SECRETARY:**  
903-882-5809

**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:**  
903-894-3642

**SHOW CHAIRMAN:**  
903-795-3860

Julia Toombs  
317 Rustic  
Hideaway, TX 75771

David Russ  
PO Box 755  
Bullard, TX 75757

Keith Harmon  
9116 US HWY 84 W  
Rusk, TX 75785

**CLUB ADDRESS:**

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society  
P. O. BOX 132532  
Tyler, TX 75713-2532

**SEND DUES TO:**

Trish Hamilton  
P.O. Box 132532  
Tyler, TX 75713



**EDITOR:** Susan Burch  
20427 US. Hwy 69 S.  
Alto, TX 75925

**E-Mail:** rocknroseeditor@hotmail.com  
**Phone:** 936-615-5397



RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED