

# ROCK-N-ROSE



THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

VOLUME 44

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST, 18-19

ARK-LA-TEX G&MS  
BOSSIER CITY CIVIC  
CENTER  
BOSSIER CITY, LA

### AUGUST 25-26

PINE COUNTRY G&MS  
THE EVENT CENTER  
JASPER, TX

### OCTOBER, 13-14

TRI-CITY G&MS  
MAYBORN CIVIL CENTER  
TEMPLE, TX

### OCTOBER, 19-21

AUSTIN G&MS  
PALMER EVENT CENTER  
AUSTIN, TX

### NOVEMBER 3-4

MIDLAND G&MS  
ECTOR CO. COLISEUM  
ODESSA, TX

## Inside This Issue

2. [August Meeting Minutes](#)
3. [Calendar](#)
3. [Sub-Groups](#)
4. [Gemology](#)
5. [Rock Swap](#)
6. [Clubhouse Update](#)
7. [Lindale Library](#)
8. [Member Happenings](#)
9. [Field Trip](#)
11. [Information](#)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to everyone who has been steadily working on the clubhouse. Slowly but surely, we are getting there. The one room is almost ready to move the workbenches around and set up equipment. I know everyone is doing their last-minute summer vacations, however we have a lot of activities going on. Please make sure you are checking the calendar in the newsletter for the upcoming activities. There is a knapping class coming up for those interested in learning how to make arrowheads.

I missed the rock swap but heard everyone had a great time. I am taking suggestions for a date to host another one. We are also looking for someone to take over the scholarship program. It is not very labor intensive but it is very important.

We have a close field trip coming up over near Henderson at the Polve Estate. Kinney and Vicky graciously offered to let us hold our field trip out at their place again. Also, a big thanks to them for allowing us to come out this month. I look forward to seeing everyone out at the Polve Estate. We will be hunting for petrified wood, and maybe you will find some with crystals.

Don't forget to submit articles to the newspaper editor (Kinney Polve). I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Remember, stay hydrated and be safe while out in the heat.

Fred Mahaffey



## MEETING MINUTES

The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society met for its regular monthly meeting on August 6, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM. Fred Mahaffey asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written in the Newsletter. Aleasha Carpenter made the motion and Kenny Carpenter seconded. The motion carried. Fred gave the Treasurer's report.

### Announcements & Old Business:

- Geva Roberts reported that she had seen a 10'x10' commercial canopy-style tent with roll-up sides on sale in a Sam's ad. With Board approval, the tent was purchased for \$50 off.
- Lapidary Group – the next meeting is August 11 at 2 PM. Terry Roberts requests as many attend as possible as the discussion will be the Bergfeld Park Arts and Crafts Festival in October.
- Mineral Group – Charles Creekmur said the next meeting will be August 14 at 6:30 PM. The subject will be Garnets.
- Gem Group – Richard Armstrong said the next meeting is August 16 at 6:30 PM. He is thinking about bringing electronic test instruments.
- Field Trips – There will be a search for petrified wood at Kinney Polve's son David's place on August 18. In September there will be a trip to the North Sulphur River for fossils, Indian artifacts, etc.

- David Polve has an 8" 3-wheel cab machine for sale. The asking price is \$400.
- Marcia Graham has natural soaps for sale for the club.
- A thanks was given to all the people who have been working on the Clubhouse.
- Reminder – articles, etc. for the newsletter.
- Program – Kinney and Vicky's vacation to the Northwestern U.S.
- Fred reminded everyone that the September meeting would be **September 10**.

Fred asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Terry Roberts made the motion and Gene Goar seconded. The motion carried.

Submitted by  
Julia Toombs, Secretary



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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF JEWELRY APPRAISERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August</b> 12	13	14 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16 Gemology Group 6:30 pm	17	18 Field Trip Petrified Wood 9 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Knapping Class 9:00 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>September</b> 1
2	<b>Labor Day</b> 3	4	5	6	7	8 Lapidary/Jewelry Group Meeting 2:00 pm
9	10 Monthly Meeting 6:45 pm	11 Mineral Group Meeting 6:30 pm	12	13	14	15

## LAPIDARY GROUP

Four members of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at the ETGMS clubhouse August 11<sup>th</sup>. We were going to discuss various polishing compounds, the pads to use them on, and how to use them to get that important mirror shine on a cabochon. This discussion was supposed to help prepare members for upcoming cabochon making classes. However, since so few members were in attendance, we may have to repeat this introduction, but only if the group members indicate an interest in learning this technique in the future. We did have a discussion of polishing techniques for the members that were present.

After the trim addition and painting work was completed on the new room, Kinney took several pictures of the craft work that has been completed for the upcoming sale at the Tyler Arts & Crafts Fair that will be presented to the Tyler Parks people when our application to attend the fair is presented later this month. This work was completed a little after the group meeting was to start, so there was plenty of time to explain polishing techniques to any members in attendance.

The topic for the L/J Group meeting on September 8th will be how to make a gem tree. We hope there will be a greater interest in attending this meeting.

Terry Roberts

## GEMOLOGY GROUP

Just a reminder, the Gemology Group meeting this month is August 16th at 6:30 pm. I am still working on a program. I have a couple topics in mind I think you will find interesting. If anyone has something they would like to see, discussed or presented let me know.

Richard Armstrong



## East Texas Gem and Mineral Society

### *Gemology Sub-group*

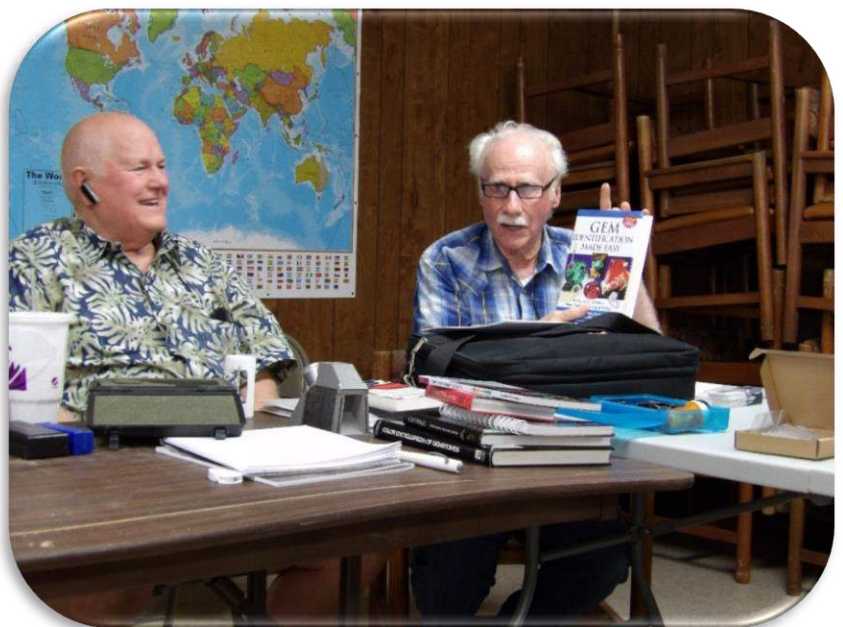
Richard D. Armstrong, CM, ASG, GG, GP, AJP

What is Gemology? Webster in the “Gemmologist’s Compendium” defines gemology as “The science which deals with precious minerals and other materials used for adornment and for *objects d’art*”. Gemology is concerned with the identification and quality grading of gems. Gems can include natural minerals, organic materials, manufactured materials, fossils and anything else that can be or has been used in personal adornment commonly known as jewelry. How will a Gemology sub-group relate and work with the other sub-groups? Gemology will enhance and support the other sub-groups and vice versa. It will provide a dimension to our coverage of the earth sciences beyond the scope of the other sub-groups.

- Lapidary/Jewelry making sub-group; lapidaries and jewelry makers need to know and understand the materials they work with. Gemology will provide that knowledge.
- Mineral Sub-group; many gems are minerals. Gemology draws upon mineralogy in understanding gem properties and their identification. Gemology can provide mineral collectors an understanding of quality grading of their specimens.
- Fossil Sub-group: some gems are also fossils, petrified wood, some opal, amber, ammonite, and jet for example. Therefore, fossil collectors can benefit from a study of gemology.

Currently we have three gemologists who are members of the club. We have a resource of knowledge and experience that can be shared with all the club members. I have also talked to a local gemologist/jeweler who is not a member but was supportive of having a local gemology group of some type. At our first meeting, he indicated that he would join the club and be part of the Gemology Sub-group. The Gemology Sub-group of the ETGMS is open to all members. The first meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July with ten members and a guest who will be a member. I believe the Gemology Sub-group may be a way of recruiting new members, such as the gemologist/jeweler I recently talked to and possibly others in the jewelry trade in our area.

Programs and activities are being worked out and will include: presentations and workshops on gem identification, gem grading, study of various gem materials, and mentoring of those who want to delve deeper into the study and practice of gemology. We are currently discussing the possibility of an ongoing gem identification class conducted by one of our gemologists with 35 years of experience teaching gem identification. Gemology is a lifelong study as there is always more to learn. Perhaps we can even schedule field trips. There is a diamond cutting shop in Dallas that might be open to a visit. I understand the Ross Museum in Dallas has a good gem and mineral exhibit. I would like to see a display on some topic of gemology at our annual show. I would also like to suggest that each of our subgroups have a display at our annual show. We could also provide career information and guidance to young people, and even older persons looking for a second (or third) career.



### Rock Swap

By Sonny Powell

Despite the grueling heat outside, dedicated rock enthusiasts made Saturday's 'Rock Swap' amazing! There was everything from fabulous specimens to stunning rock art, along with rock stories and burgers. What more could you ask for?!!



## CLUBHOUSE WORKDAY

When you have a few dedicated members willing to volunteer some of their time, things can happen. Here's some of the progress that has happened over the past month and photos of some of the members that made it happen. Just think what could be accomplished if all the members would get involved. The hallway and restrooms are painted and the partition wall is finished. The room is cleaned up and ready to use. Now it's time to finish up the office area.

Kinney Polve



*At left – Charles Creekmur is a real rockhound, and real rockhounds don't need claw hammers when there's a rock hammer handy. He's preparing some of his hand-painted artwork for display in the hallway.*

## Lindale Library

By Terry Roberts

Randy Harmon talked to the Lindale Library about making a presentation to the kids in the area on rocks and Indian artifacts on Wednesday, July 18. Terry Roberts and Gene Goar met Randy at the appointed time for the presentation with more than enough examples of different types of rocks and Indian artifacts to keep the kids busy for an hour. The presentation started off with a drawing to give away prizes to the kids which really got their attention. One prize was awarded by the library, and about a dozen more were given out by Randy. Randy also gave out about eighteen booklets on rocks that were donated for the event by Julia Toombs.

Terry Roberts started off the presentation by talking about the three main types of rocks and showing them examples of each type. The kids had lots of questions and several even brought their own collections to get their rocks identified. Gene Goar then talked about arrowheads, tomahawks, atlatls (short spears thrown with the aid of paddle-like device to give extra force to the spear), indian flutes, pottery, and knives. The kids really loved this topic and wanted to get a close look at all the different types of arrowheads that Gene has collected over the last 70 years.

After the presentations were completed, Randy spread a large tarp on the library floor and then emptied a bucket of dirt in which tiny sharks' teeth could be found. Randy collected the material at the Hwy 69 road cut just north of Jacksonville. He said that he saw at least three tiny sharks' teeth that were found in the dirt pile by the kids. This last event provided the perfect ending for all the kids, and they went home happy with all the goodies that they got at the presentation.





*The two cabs above from one nodule may be a Coyamito agate according to Johnny French. The agate below is particularly intriguing due to the complexity of the colors and patterns in the cab.*



replaced by agate, but there were definite signs of vascular bundles (those little dots) spread around the interior. It has to be petrified palm wood. I don't ordinarily get excited about petrified palm wood, but this one definitely has some colors that I haven't found before in the palm wood pieces around here. Of course, I've seen some pictures of really gorgeous, even outrageous, colorful palm wood that my friend has found down there before. But this is a first for me. Terry Roberts

After looking at the pictures of a beautiful agate that Matt found in Webb County, I thought I should show all of you some pictures of three different types of agate that I collected during a trip down to Webb County with Johnny and Matt back in May. I cut a bunch of small agate/quartz nodules that I collected on a gravel road back in May. Of course, most of them were leaverites, but I did come across three very nice agate nodules in the mixture. I decided to go ahead and cab and polish four of the slabs that I cut from the three nodules. The cab picture below is also different from the cabs that I've collected and slabbed before, but it does have some pitting in it as does the cab in the middle left picture. However, I believe all of them will make some nice pendants when I get a chance to wire wrap them. Terry Roberts

I finally got a chance to cut one of the pieces of petrified wood that I collected when I visited two friends in South Texas in May. I can't remember where I picked it up, but I think it was on the Little Peyote Ranch. I just cut off one end of it and was surprised to see what it was. The first picture shows what it looked like when I picked it up. I just thought it was an ordinary piece of wood, but was I ever wrong! It was mostly





## AUGUST PETRIFIED WOOD FIELD TRIP

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am, we will meet at Kinney and Vicky's house located in Minden, Texas (map is provided on the website). From there, we will head the short distance to the collection area. For this rock hunt, we do allow ATV's from the Polve's house to the collecting area. From where we park, it is downhill for a couple hundred yards on a maintained trail. I will have my ATV available to shuttle those members that may have a problem, and to help bring your finds up the hill. Most of the collecting is done near and in an artesian stream bed. The water is only a couple of inches deep and a couple of feet wide, but rubber boots are recommended. The tools used on past hunts are: hand rake or shovel, probing tool, or shovel. Material is located on the surface or just below. This time of year, it warms up quickly, so we want to get to the site as early as possible. Try not to be late; it doesn't hurt to arrive early. We will also be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. If you don't want to do any collecting, just join us for lunch. I'm sure Vicky won't mind the help and company.

This may be the last opportunity to collect in this area, as the property is up for sale, and I don't know if the new owners will be open to us collecting. We have had a lot of nice material found on every field trip to this location. The photos are of wood collected at this site.

Kinney Polve





With all the club activities that I have been involved with lately, it is hard to find extra time to do a little silversmithing. I did manage to find some time this past month. Terry Roberts supplied me with a few beautiful cabs, and I found enough time to whip out a couple of pendants to add to our fundraising collection. All these items are available to purchase, so if you see anything you like, just let us know. Kinney Polve

### Fundraiser Items

These are a few of the items made by our members to help raise money for equipment. They were on display at the August monthly meeting, along with many other items.



As your editor, I try my best to put together an informative and interesting newsletter. Sometimes this can be a time-consuming task, especially when I don't have the help of our members. I know there is a lot going on with the club, but it is hard for myself alone to keep up with everything that's happening. I'm really thankful for the few members that do take the time to send photos and articles to me. I don't want to sound ungrateful, but I need more. We live in a digital age, where it's possible to send and receive photos and documents in seconds. I know that many of our members take advantage of these technical advancements. If our group leaders don't send me updates on the sub-group meetings, I can't pass it on to the rest of our members. As your editor, I should be the most well-informed person in the club, because it's my job to pass information on to our members. There are so many of our members that are passionate in their particular area. I have spoken with many of you. Please share your knowledge with the rest of our members.

### Knapping Class

We will be holding a knapping class on August 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am. It will be held at the clubhouse. The cost is \$10.00, which covers the tools and materials required to get started knapping. Anyone interested in taking the class that hasn't put their name on the list, needs to contact me. Space is limited. Be on time: if you arrive late, you won't be allowed to take the class.

Kinney Polve



**Lapidary/Jewelry Group** – Meets on the second Saturday of each month, except December and January. The meeting time is 2:00 pm. This group's meeting is all about lapidary (anything to do with cutting and polishing rocks) and jewelry making. Terry Roberts leads this group. To have your name added to the email list contact Terry Roberts - [terry.roberts45@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.roberts45@yahoo.com)

**Mineral Group** – Meets every second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about minerals, how to identify them, geology and the locations they can be found. Topics are decided on by the group leader and the members. Charles Creekmur heads up the group. If you are interested in learning more about minerals, get your name on the email list for this group by contacting Charles Creekmur - [calcite65@gmail.com](mailto:calcite65@gmail.com)

**Fossil Group** – Meets every third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. If fossils are your thing, or you just want to learn a little more about fossils, this would be the group for you. Topics about fossils, locations where they can be found, and geological time periods are all discussed in this group. David Russ heads up the group, and if you would like to have your name added to the email list, contact David Russ - [dbruss50@gmail.com](mailto:dbruss50@gmail.com)

**Gemology Group** Meets every third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. This group is all about gemstone and the identification of gemstones. Topics are decided on by the group leaders and members. The group is led by Richard Armstrong. If you are interested in gemstones, identification, where their found, or any other related topic, this is the group for you. To have your name added to the email list, contact Richard Armstrong - [keltfire@msn.com](mailto:keltfire@msn.com)

**NEWSLETTER CONTENT:** Please send any original info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the Editor at the address or email listed below by the 10th 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. AFMS & SCFMS Newsletters will be emailed to members, as to not duplicate that information here, unless it needs to be repeated. Board meeting minutes are not published in the newsletter. If you would like to see a copy, contact an officer on the Board. The information in this newsletter may be reproduced for nonprofit use, as long as credit is given to the source. Thank you, Kinney Polve

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 regular monthly club meetings.**

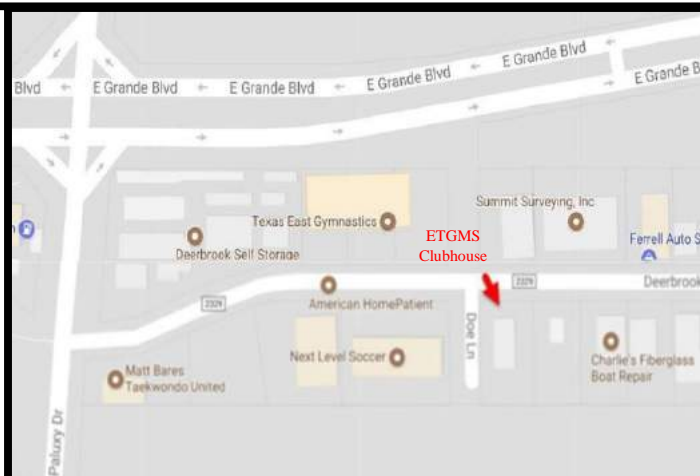
#### ANNUAL DUES:

Single: \$10.00 - Family: \$20.00

#### MONTHLY MEETING:

**WHEN:** First Monday of the month unless it's a holiday, then the second Monday, at 6:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** ETGMS Clubhouse, 2015 Deerbrook Drive, Tyler, Texas



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