



# ROCK ~N~ ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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APRIL 2015

## Coming Shows, 2015

May 02-03

Waco TX

Waco G&MS

Extraco Events Ctr.

May 02-03

Lubbock, TX

Lubbock G&MS

Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 16-17

DeRidder, LA

DeRidder G&MS

Beauregard Parish  
Fairgrounds 506 West Dr.

May 23-24

Fort Worth, TX

Fort Worth G&MS

Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

June 13-14

Grapevine, TX

Arlington G&MS Grapevine  
Convention Ctr.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looks like Spring has finally made it. The trees are putting on their leaves, and I'm seeing green everywhere. With the warmer temperatures, it's time to get out there on a field trip. I know I'm ready for another trip. And with all the slabbing of material we collected on the last trip, my slab saws probably wish I would give them a break and go somewhere.

We had a good turnout for the April meeting. Keith Harmon gave a program on Smithsonite. He had brought a lot of specimens from his collection. There was Smithsonite of just about every shape and color. Eddie Harmon will be giving a program on fossils at the May meeting. And for June, Jack and I will be giving a program on fluorescent minerals. If you would like to give the July program, let me know.

For those of you that haven't heard, I entered the Rock & Gem Magazine's Lapidary of the Month back in December. Well, the April issue is out, and my Pietersite pendant won. And I put a little plug for ETGMS in the article that I wrote up for it. I want to thank Keith Harmon for the piece of Pietersite that I used, and our club members for their constructive criticism along the way.

While I'm on the subject of competition, the AFMS & SCFMS combined show is coming up on October 23-25, in Austin. I know it is still 6 months away, but it's not too early to think about entering a competitive display case in the show. If you might be interested, and want more information, I will be glad to help. I'm pondering the idea myself, I just can't decide on which category to enter.

I know we've gained a lot of new members over the last year that may be interested in getting some hands-on instruction in some areas of the lapidary arts (cutting, polishing, cabochon making, wire wrapping, etc.). Contact Terry Roberts or myself, and we can schedule a class, whether it would be a one on one class, or a small group class that would be separate from our normal Lapidary/Jewelry group meeting.

On a sadder note, Bud Trammell passed away March 14th. Those of you that have been in the club for a while know Bud best from our annual show. Bud was our flint knapper, but because of health reasons, he was unable to attend our last two shows. I first met him at our 2013 show, the last one he attended. It was a joy talking with him, I know I spent a lot of hours at his booth. He will be missed.

Kinney Polve

*Look for Kinney's Lapidary of the Month article from the April Rock & Gem Magazine in May's issue of the Rock N Rose.*

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APRIL MEETING MINUTES

President, Kinney Polve, called the meeting to order on April 6, 2015, at 6:55 p.m.

Kinney announced door prize tickets were on sale as well as a silent auction item. Members enjoy adding new finds to their collections.

One new member introduced himself.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Penny Hawkins and seconded by Jack Shull.

Colleen Hayes gave the treasurer's report.

Lapidary Arts Group: The group will meet Saturday, April 11th at the home of Terry Roberts. The meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. Bring projects you have finished for show and tell. Terry has some slabs for anyone interested in making a cab.

Field Trips: The next field trip will be to hunt petrified wood south of Crockett. The date is Saturday, April 25th. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Crockett at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Fred Mahaffey if you are interested in attending so that he can contact you if there are changes in plans.

Newsletter: Susan Burch needs your help with the newsletter. Kinney said more items about your activities in the newsletter would encourage others to become a part of our club. The web site is improving and changing. Check it out often.

Announcements: Wayne (Bud) Trammell of Stephenville was the flint knapper that gave demonstrations for our gem show in years past. Keith Harmon announced that Bud had passed away. Kenney had to be encouraged to announce that he was published in the magazine Rock and Gem. We are very proud of him.

Old Business: April 18th will be the Makers Fair at the Science Discovery Museum. Our club will have a booth to help those attending make rock critters and quick wire wraps. All members are asked to help with this all day event from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kinney will send an email to all who signed up to help. This is an opportunity to spread the word about our club. Colleen is still working on moving the Money Market account to our new bank.

New Business: Keith Harmon made a motion to send \$500 to the American Federation Scholarship Fund. Becky Whisenant seconded the motion. Keith explained the importance of providing scholarships to students earning their Masters Degree. The funds used are interest from an endowment fund. The next meeting will be May 4th. The program will be general information on the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society that all members need to know. The June program will be on minerals that fluoresce.

*Below: Keith Harmon explains different characteristics of Smithsonite at the April 6 meeting of the ETGMS.*

Susan Burch made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Keith Harmon seconded the motion. Refreshments and door prize drawings followed.

Keith Harmon presented a program with examples on Smithsonite.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis





### MARCH FIELDTRIP TO BADU HILL AND EMERALD RIDGE MINES BY FRED MAHAFFEY

We (Fred Mahaffey, Kenny and Vicki Polve) started out Saturday morning with high expectations for the Badu Hill Mine. With heavy rains the day before and misty conditions we were ready for some serious rockhounding. After a short safety briefing we headed out to see what kind of treasures we would find. The group included experienced geologists, geology students, parents with their kids, (beginning rock hounds of all ages). Some were looking for the elusive radioactive minerals, some were looking for smoky and rose quartz, quartz crystals, the elusive & rare dark purple fluorite (Chlorophane) that glows brilliantly blue/green when heated. There were lots of biotite crystals in different metamorphic rocks. The ones that had been exposed to the sunlight for a while had turned a golden color resembling pyrite, the ones freshly dug out of the ground were a dark black/brown. Kinney found a rare earth mineral that he almost threw away because it didn't look like much. Fred found a piece of Chlorophane, and lots of other interesting pieces including several that are fluorescent and a few that actually fluoresce. The next day we headed out with another group to Emerald Ridge, which turns out is in the middle of a cattle ranch in the middle of nowhere. Here we were looking for green fluorite, quartz crystals and topaz. Several members in the group did find all of the above. It was a beautiful day and after several hours of collecting we decided we needed to head back home to East Texas. Turns out on the way home we passed the only known site for collecting Llanite so we added a bonus field trip and stopped to collect a few samples on the way home. It was a long drive but it was a great learning and collecting experience. And I learned that even if I pick up a bunch of "Ugly Rocks" some of them turned out to be special. After all rock collecting is all about collecting what appeals to you, not what always appeals to others.

*At right: Kinney Polve and others collecting.*





### KINNEY & VICKY'S ROCKHOUNDING ADVENTURE — PART II

We finally decided to leave Silver City, NM, and head for another site that we had collected at twice in the past. Black Hills Rockhound Area is located near Safford, AZ on route 191. It is a good place to collect Chalcedony and Fire Agate. Also the road to the camping area is usually maintained well enough that I can pull our 35' toy hauler in, and camp near the collecting area. The only amenity at the camping area is a trash can, and that was added since our last visit. But with all the beautiful scenery, who needs anything else? We found some nice Fire Agate this trip, along with some nice Chalcedony roses. We decided to take a day trip to survey a wash just south of 191, near Thumb Butte. And another location on AZ 78, near the state line. This was a productive trip, we found some picture stone and a few pieces on Birdseye Rhyolite.



We left this area, and headed to Brenda, AZ. Gem Trails of Arizona shows a collecting site for this area, for collecting agate and jasper. We use these locations as a starting point, because more times than not, there is not much to be found. We did however begin to start finding a little jasper about 2 miles further west, past the listed location. As we were getting ready to quit for the day, a truck coming from west of where we were collecting, stopped and gave us information on a better area, and showed us some of the material they had collected. So the next day we went further west, a lot further west, but didn't find the location he was talking about. We did find some Chrysocolla, and a lot of agate and jasper. I figured a sure fire way to find some good rock locations was to contact the local rock club, so that's what I did. The Quartzite Roadrunner Gem & Mineral Club has 5 claims in the area and a wealth of information, and we made good use of it. Their Red, White, and Blue Jasper claim, near Brenda, had plenty of nice material. Some of it even resembled a moss agate, but I wouldn't argue whether it was agate or jasper, it was nice material. Then we when to another location 30 miles south of Quartzite on Hwy 95, and collected some Birdseye Rhyolite and Mushroom Jasper. Now with all this collecting the truck is filling up fast, along with the toy hauler. If we didn't slow down, we would have to cut our trip short, because we were running out of room.

We joined a field trip with QRGMS to collect Porcelain Jasper, near the Hauser Geode Beds in California. We had visited the geode beds on a past trip, without much success. But this wasn't the case on the jasper hunt. We found plenty of very nice material, and we didn't have to cover very much area. I found a large piece, about 20 pounds,

buried right beside our truck. Well we had enough of this material, it was time to visit QRGMS's Dumortierite claim. So we headed back to the Quartzsite area. There was plenty of material at the claim site, but most of it was a very light blue, so it took a little while to find some darker blue material.



It was time to move on to our next location, the Lavic Lake area in California. My gipsy blood was flowing, I rarely stay anywhere for a whole week. We dropped the toy hauler at an RV park in Newberry Springs, CA, and headed to Barstow for supplies. While in Barstow we receive a treasure map from a local Rockhound to the best collecting area at Lavic Lake. The next morning we started out early, armed with the extra information. This collecting area is a little hard to reach, due to the deep sandy gravel wash, which the road follows for the last leg of the journey. It didn't help matters having about a ton of rock already in the truck.

Adventure continued on page 5



For those attempting this collecting site, I would recommend a high clearance vehicle and 4-wheel drive. I will tell you it is well worth the effort. The material here is mostly jasper, lot of which can contain hematite and Drusy Quartz pockets. There was material everywhere, but a lot of it was too plain for my taste. But there was plenty of excellent material around to get me excited, and as is usually true, the material gets better the further you walk from the parking area. I was kind of disappointed after collecting in this area. Not by the material, but after 2 days of collecting it looked like we were going to have to head back home, the truck was full.



Time for the trip back home. We decided to travel to Holbrook, AZ the first day. And I figured if we were going to be in Holbrook, we might as well stay an extra day. See, the town of Woodruff is just south of there, and that means colorful petrified wood, and who would pass up that. Ok, I'm sure we can make a little more room in the truck. It didn't take long to collect our limit of petrified wood, and the little bit of rain that was going on at the time really helped out. With the truck full, my rock fever under control, it was time to get these rocks to the house.



Next time you decide to take a rock hunting adventure, slowdown from time to time, pick your head up a look around. And maybe snap a picture or two. If your rock pick is starting to rust up a bit, it might be time for you to plan your next adventure. Be safe, and have fun.

Kinney Polve



*At left: Here's a picture of a few of the slabs cut from the material I collected on last field trip out west. The biggest group was collected at Lavic Lake area, to the right of that is Porcelain Jasper collected Hauser Geode Beds, and material at the top was collected north or Brenda, AZ. Kinney*



**MEMBERS AT WORK**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Gene Goar and Jack Shall presented programs at the Discovery Science Place Dinosaurs & Fossils Camp. There were two different age groups they presented programs to.



**MARCH LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP MEETING REPORT**

Twelve members of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at Kinney Polve's shop last Saturday for a lecture on the types of lapidary saws and watch Kinney demonstrate the operation of several of his saws. Kinney also showed the members a 27 inch flat lap that was donated to the club.

There were two new members present, so Kinney discussed the different types of cab machines and showed how to operate his cab machine. He also discussed how to recognize prize mineral specimens in the field and how to separate them from "leaverites". As an added bonus, Kinney let the members look through his latest piles of agates, jaspers, petrified wood, and other minerals that he and Vicky collected on their February trip to New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Several members took home some pretty rocks and slabs that Kinney generously donated. Terry Roberts



**APRIL LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP MEETING**

The April meeting of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at the home of Terry Roberts. Eight members, including one new member (Amy Mullins), attended the meeting. Mitch Young brought two large Riker mounts filled with beautiful cabs of various sizes, shapes, and mineral types. A third Riker mount contained three very beautiful wire wrapped pendants mounted on beaded necklaces. Mitch also brought two unusual pieces of petrified wood and one large cluster of quartz crystals growing over columns (stalagmites) of another mineral, probably a banded calcite. The calcite was noticeable only where the columns were broken, thus exposing the interior calcite with what appeared to be petals or rosettes of small quartz crystals surrounding it. Mitch did not know the location where each specimen was found since he bought them from the widow of the man who collected them.

Following everyone's admiration of Mitch's prize collection, Terry took the group outside to let them go through about 40 lbs of agate slabs he had accumulated and take home their favorite pieces. The group then went to the shop where Terry explained the operation of his slab and trim saws and Genie cab machine to the new member. Elsa Jaeger then started work on making her first cab from a preform she selected from a group that Terry had already prepared. Time did not allow her to complete the cab, but she was able to learn the process for preparing a cab. The meeting ended at 4:30 and everyone left with some prizes from the visit.

The next meeting of the L/J Group will be at the home of Bill Faulkner in Whitehouse on Saturday (May 9) at 2:00 pm. Terry Roberts

*Examples of Mitch Young's work*





**BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**

**DIVIDERS**

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

**PIECE OF LEATHER**

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise, for instance a draw-plate.



Attribution to be included with each publication: Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon at [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/)

**IN MEMORY BUD TRAMMELL**

**Bud Trammell passed away on March 14, 2015. Bud was the husband of Mary Trammell, a Past-President of the SCFMS. Bud would have been 91 on March, 29, 2015**

**Bud owned a Jewelry Store for 30 years. After he retired, he did some faceting, cutting cabs, demonstrated the Art of Knapping. He did some beautiful work. He will be missed by his rockhound friends.**

**By Paul Good, via SCFMS Mar/Apr 2015 newsletter.**



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.

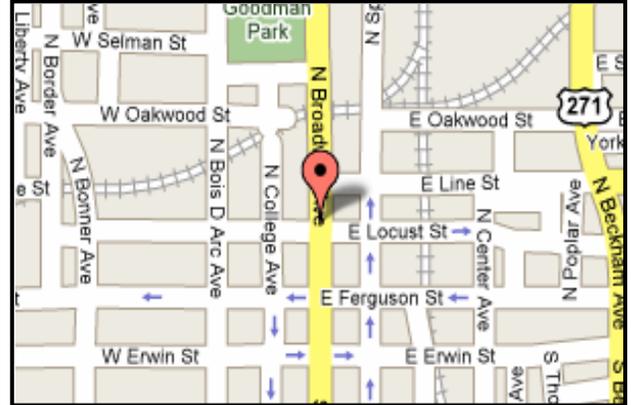
WHERE:

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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