



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

PAGE 1

VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2015

Coming Shows, 2015

April 11-12
Abilene, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th & Pine

April 16-19
Alpine, TX
Chihuahua G&MS
Alpine Civic Ctr.

May 2-3
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS
Extraco Events Ctr.

April 25-26
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 23-24
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another month has past, and it doesn't look like winter is ever going to leave us. I think I made a wise choice to take a rock hunting trip out west. The weather was perfect, plenty of sunshine, not too hot, and a lot of nice rocks. We collected Garnet material, Fire Agate, Pyrite, Malachite, Azurite, Petrified Wood, colorful agate, Dumortierite, Porcelain Jasper, Lavic Lake Jasper and a few others. But we had to end our trip and come back home, we didn't have any more room in our truck. I have to say, we brought back more than we probably needed. Looks like I have a lot of slabbing ahead of me. Hopefully this will put my Rock Fever in check for a while.

I hear that I missed a great program at the March meeting. Also I see that we gained a few more members in my absence. I would like to welcome all of you to the club. I hope to get the chance to meet each of you. The program for the April meeting will be given by Keith Harmon, I believe it will be on mining. And I just might have some samples for my latest field trip.

We have the Tyler Mini Makers Faire coming up April 18th, at the Discovery Science Place. Anybody interested in participating at our ETGMS booth will need to put their name on the list. I will have the list at the April meeting. We will be assisting in making rock critters and wire wrapping tumbled stones.

Susan appreciates all the articles and pictures you members are sending her. Keep it up, you know we all like to stay informed on what's going on with our members.

Kinney Polve

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Check out more scenery and rocks from Kinney and Vicky's latest rockhounding trip on [pages 4-6](#).





MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Vice President, Terry Roberts, called the meeting to order on March 3, 2015, at 6:45 p.m.

Terry announced door prize tickets were on sale as well as a silent auction item. Your participation helps the club and is so much fun for you.

New members introduced themselves. Karen Nance has moved here from Colorado. Faith Hamilton and Al Gay are interested in learning about the hobby.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Fred Mahaffey and seconded by Mike Howe.

Colleen Hayes gave the treasurer's report. Members are keeping their eyes and ears open for a space to use for a workshop.

Lapidary Arts Sub Group: Terry announced that the group meets the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. This month the meeting will be at Kinney Polve's workshop. Directions will be emailed to club members and put on the members only page of our web site. You will be able to see all the different pieces of equipment used, work on a cabochon and see the new rocks that Kinney and Vicky gathered on their last trip.

Field Trips: Fred Mahaffey passed out information on two trips. March 21st is a trip to Badu Hill Pegmatite area in Llano County, Texas. March 22nd is a trip to White Eagle Copper/Silver mine in Burnet County, Texas. Please put your name and phone number on the field trip list so you can be notified if there are any changes. A trip can be planned to find petrified wood in Angelina County. Let [Fred](#) know if you are interested. There is also an article on [Pegmatic Minerals](#) in this issue.

Newsletter: Susan would like to have your help to make a great newsletter. Please send articles, pictures, poems, or anything of interest to rock hounds. Also, please send your contribution to Kinney so he can put them on the web site.

Old Business: Saturday, April 18th will be the Mini Makers Fair at the Discovery Science Museum. Sign up to help.

Thanks to the generosity of Carolyn Davis, ETGMS now has a 27" Highland Park Model 27-ML Vibra-lap. Thank you Carolyn for your donation. Kinney

This is an all day program so we will need plenty of volunteers. You can work for a few hours or all day if you like. This is a great opportunity to share what we enjoy with others.

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

The next meeting will be April 6th. Keith Harmon will present the program.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Richard Carter and seconded by Karen Nance. Refreshments and door prize drawings followed.

Pete Keiser presented the program on coprolite. We enjoyed his pictures of dino poop.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Davis





SYNOPSIS OF THE MARCH CLUB PROGRAM BY PETE KIESER



On March second Pete Keiser presented the club program on the subject of dinosaur coprolite from southern Utah. By far, hands down, this was the best program ever put on by anyone anywhere in the history of club programs. Hey, what do you expect? As long as I'm the one that has to critique my own program, I'm going to embellish it.

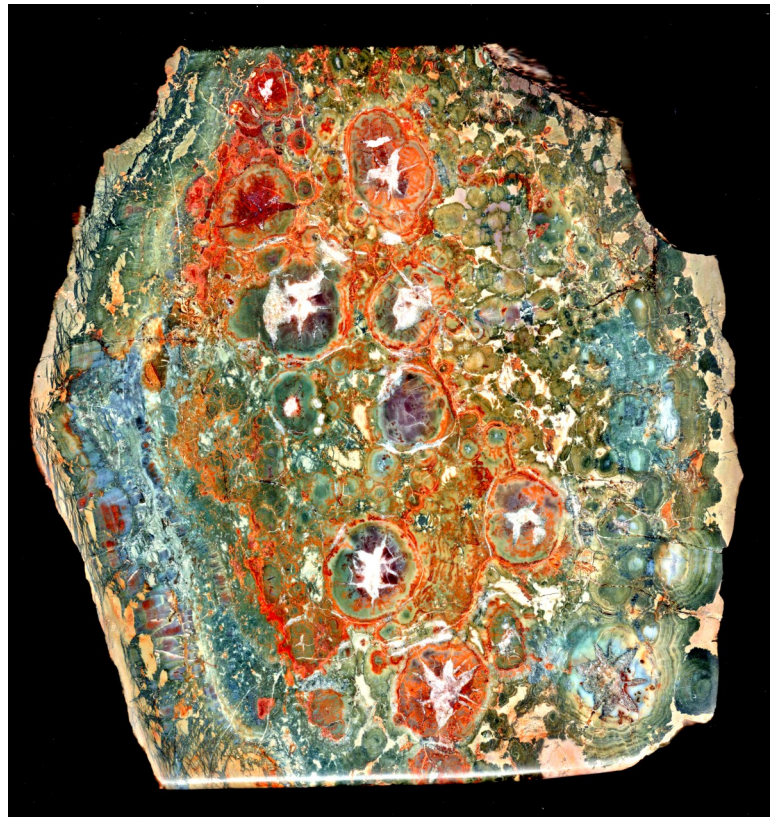
I started out by explaining the definition of coprolite. It's petrified excrement (poo, poop, etc.) from any creature. At that point, I gave the crowd the option of forgoing the coprolite program, and instead, having an intervention or discussion regarding the mental and psychological issues of those that would like to go, or do go out in the middle of a barren desert with all the potential dangers this venture could entail to look for old dead critter poop. As it turned out; most of the attendees have issues. Serious issues.

From there I explained that coprolite is formed in the same manner as petrified wood and that the specimens displayed are from the Chinle Formation of the upper Triassic period (a little over 200 million years ago). From there I presented photos of the landscape

leading into the rock hounding area, and a large number of photos from southern Utah. The surrounding county has the largest number of National Parks, National Monuments/recreation areas, and scenic areas on Navaho reservation land than any other area of the country. Photos showing the desert wildlife and a few unmarked Pueblo Indian ruins were also presented. Next was the projection of nearly sixty coprolite and petrified wood specimens I found, cut & polished.

When driving home the evening of the program it dawned on me there was one item left out. Not only does the area have the prettiest poop I've ever seen, it also has the best smelling poop I've ever had the pleasure of sensing. Yes, you read that correctly. It was very cold there one night while camping out. Firewood within a reasonable range was nonexistent, but there were plenty of cow pies left from the open-range cattle. About the only vegetation for them to eat in the area is an aromatic wild sage. That burning pile of cow pies smelled better than anything you could buy at an incense shop.

Poo Poo Pete





KINNEY & VICKY'S

ROCKHOUNDING ADVENTURE—PART I

Finally a chance to get out and do a little rock hunting. After a brief stop in San Antonio, Texas, to visit some family, we started the long drive west. The drive down Interstate 10 always seems to be endless, with its limestone road cuts, one after another. When will it end, where is all the agate? After a long day of driving we decided to spend the first night at Balmorhea, Texas. While there, we had to visit the Balmorhea Rock Shop and find out a little more about Balmorhea Blue Agate. We had collected some in the general area on a previous field trip, and I want to compare what the locals collect to what we had collected. Plus it is always nice to swap stories with other Rockhounds.



The next day we made it to our first rock hunting area in Orogrande, New Mexico. We had been here on a previous trip, and had found some garnets. I didn't collect many on that trip, because we actually stopped here to do a little gold prospecting. The garnets at this location aren't facet grade, but they do make beautiful cabochons. On this trip I wanted to try to find the source, and spend a little more time looking around. Well it paid off, I found the source of the garnet material, and collected some very nice specimens and cabbing material. I also found a lot of other interesting rocks on this stop. While we were there, we took a look at some of the old mines in the area. There wasn't much to see, because the Bureau of Land Management is filling in a lot of the old mines. And on these vertical shaft mines, they put most of the old tailings back down the shaft.



The next planned stop was Silver City, New Mexico. It took a little longer to get there than planned. Oh, the dreaded tire failure, accompanied by some damage to our travel trailer. Don't you think for one minute that I let that dampen my spirits. This was nothing that I couldn't live with until I got back home. We had contacted the president of the Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society of Silver City before we started our trip. And we timed our arrival at the time of their monthly meeting. If there is one thing I have learned, if you are not

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familiar with an area you plan to hunt, find somebody that is. What better place to start? And it doesn't hurt to bring a few extra rocks to the meeting for their door prizes. This was a great lively bunch of people, and we seemed to fit right in. They must have liked us too, because George Sikba, the president, invited us to go on a little personal field trip, with him and other members, to collect pyrite crystals. It doesn't get any better than that.

We did some hunting on our own north of Silver City, on NM 15. It doesn't take long for one to realize the geological turmoil that had taken place in this area. The formations seem to change every few feet. Running this way and that way, you would need a geology degree just to keep up with them. This makes for an excellent collecting area, agate, minerals and fossils. You just have to keep a close eye on with formation you are in. Where we were collecting there was a lot of material similar to that found near Alpine, Texas, Moss Agate and Biscuits. And in the same area we found Picture Sandstone. There is definitely a variety of material.



We met up with George Sikba and Dan Harold early the next morning at the Wal-Mart parking lot. The plan was to drive about 50 miles to a location to hunt pyrite cubes. You notice I said the plan was. We drove about 45

miles, just to find the Forestry Service had the gate locked to the last leg of our journey. Well we regrouped, made new plans and decided to do a little gold panning before heading to another location. I guess somebody must have got to all the gold in that stream, because I sure didn't find any. On the way back to Silver City, we stopped at the Bayard Mine dumps to hunt for Azurite and Malachite. It wasn't top grade, but we did find plenty to take home. Vicky and I decided to make one more stop at the town of Fierro, while George and Dan headed back to Silver City. There was a location that we had collected at on a previous trip, and I still had pyrite on my mind. I'm glad I decided to revisit this spot.

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We found all the pyrite we wanted, and I found a nice piece to put in my display cabinet.

It's a normal thing on our rock hunting trip for me to collect a lot more rocks than Vicky. She says that's because I pick up all the ugly ones. But she said, on this trip I was the lucky one, finding all the best ones. Time to head back to the RV and get things ready to move west to another location. Where will it be?

To be continued. Kinney Polve



PEGMATIC MINERALS

by Steve Weinberger

This month we will be looking at minerals formed within pegmatites. Pegmatites are usually coarsely grained granitic magmas that contain a number of minerals. Among these are feldspar, quartz, mica, tourmaline, beryl and topaz among other rare element minerals.

Cavities in the pegmatites can be lined with excellent examples of these minerals. Ore veins can also be found and these can include metallic elements such as copper, gold, silver, zinc, lead, etc.

Let's look at three of the above-mentioned minerals. Beryl and tourmaline both have hexagonal crystal systems, while topaz is orthorhombic. All three of them are gemstones and can be cut and polished relatively easily, although topaz can cause problems because of its cleavage planes.

Colors of the three have great variety. Beryl can be green (emerald), blue (aquamarine), pink (morganite), yellow (golden beryl), or colorless (goshenite.) Tourmaline can be black (schorl), brown (dravite), red (rubellite), colorless (achroite), or blue (indicolite.) Topaz can be colorless, blue, yellow, brown-orange, pink or violet pink.



Beryl var. Morganite, Oceanview Mine, Pala, Pala District, San Diego Co., CA

Because of the optical properties such as refraction, clarity and colors, all three are used frequently as gemstones. Their hardnesses are 7 1/2 —8 on the Mohs scale which makes them ideal for use in jewelry because they are hard enough to resist wear but not too hard to cut. Although their costs are not in the range of diamond and fine ruby, topaz and beryl are well above gems such as quartz (amethyst and citrine.) Fine emeralds can demand very high prices, though. Via BMS—The Conglomerate 2/15.



NEW BOOK PUBLISHED ON OKLAHOMA FOSSIL LOCATIONS

One of the members of the Dallas Paleontological Society, Mark McKinzie, just published a book entitled, Oklahoma Fossil Localities. The book is softcover, 164 pages, covers 37 fossil localities described in detail - ranging in age from the Ordovician into the Cretaceous. Nearly 350 Oklahoma fossil species illustrated - Most in full color.

You may find it on eBay at:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/Oklahoma-Fossil-Localities/111621728220>

More information will be added shortly to the eBay listing.

Cheers!

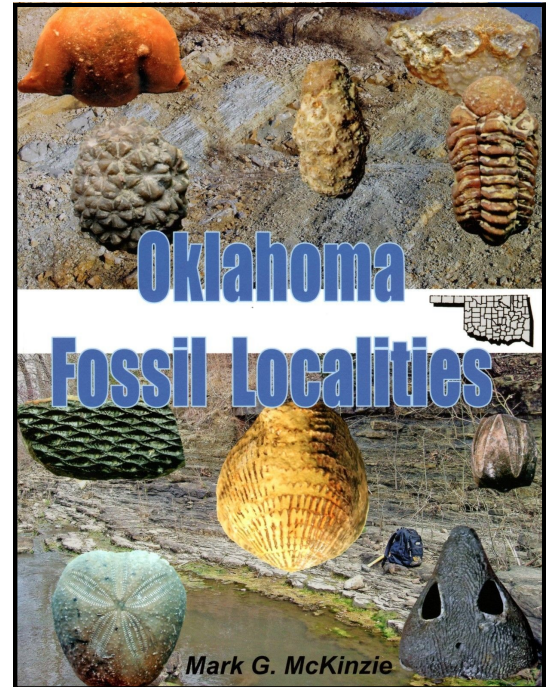
Gerald Pennington

Member:

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

Dallas Paleontological Society

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club



ETGMS ANNUAL SHOW GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

Student Grand Prize winner of a trilobite impression was Shiloh Smith.

Adult Grand Prize winner of an amethyst cathedral was Terry Darryl.





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.

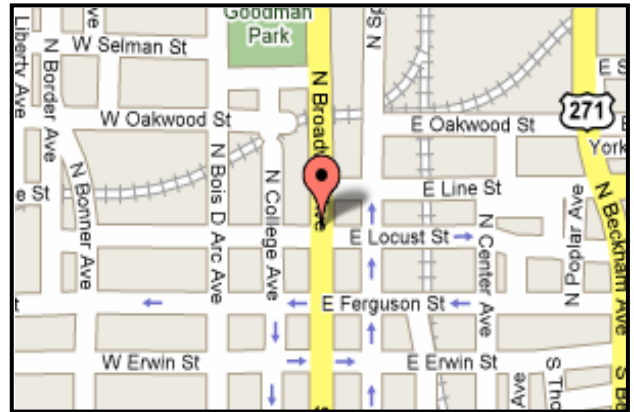
WHERE:

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 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

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:
903-646-3189

Kinney Polve
8665 CR 373 D
Henderson, TX 75654

SECRETARY:
903-848-1312

Carolyn Davis
110 VZCR 2518
Canton, TX 75103

VICE PRESIDENT:
903-881-5108

Terry Roberts
12243 Cross Fence Trail
Tyler, TX 75706

**FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN:**

Fred Mahaffey
1637 CR 1306
Rusk, TX 75785

TREASURER:
903-343-2714

Colleen Hayes
19849 Highland
Whitehouse, TX 75791

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

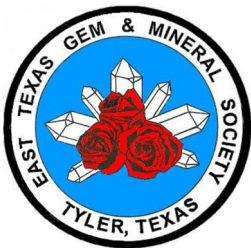
Keith Harmon
9116 US HWY 84 W
Rusk, TX 75785

CLUB ADDRESS:

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

SEND DUES TO:

Colleen Hayes
19849 Highland
Whitehouse, TX 75791



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

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