



ROCK~N~ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015

COMING SHOWS, 2015-2016

**NOVEMBER 21-22
MESQUITE, TEXAS**

Annual show
Dallas Gem & Mineral Soc. Mesquite
Rodeo Center
Exhibit Hall; 1800 Rodeo Dr.

**DECEMBER 4-6
EL PASO, TEXAS**

Annual show
El Paso Mineral & Gem Soc. El
Maida Auditorium
6331 Alabama

**JANUARY 16-17
FREDERICKSBURG, TX**

Annual show
Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady
Bird Johnson Park
HWY 16 SO.

**JANUARY 22-24
TYLER, TEXAS**

Annual Show
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society,
Tyler Rose Center
420 Rose Park Drive

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 9, 2016. We will be holding it in Bullard, same as last year. Please mark your calendars so you don't forget. 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.



I want to congratulate all of the members that won awards at the SCFMS & AFMS Conventions. Your contribution to the newsletter and website, not only help educate our members, they bring recognition to ETGMS at a district and national level. Also to Susan Burch for being inducted into the National Editors Hall of Fame. I hope to see a lot more member's contributions in the newsletter in the future.

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

I have added an instruction booklet on the website, on how to recoat diamond grinding wheels, for those members that may be interested in saving some money on the cost of replacing their worn wheels with new ones. Let me know if there is any other information that can be added to the site that may benefit our members.

Membership dues were due in October, if you haven't paid yours, please get them paid.

Kinney Polve

At right is an Ocean Jasper cut by Kinney, check out more of this year's accomplishments on page 8!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- Bench Tips By Brad Smith
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EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

President, Kinney Polve called the meeting to order on November 2, 2015 at 6:45 pm.

Jay Olson, a visitor, introduced himself. He wanted help identifying a rock so came to our meeting. Keith Harmon helped him.

A silent auction item was out for bids. Also, door prize tickets were for sale.

Minutes for October were approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made by Keith Harmon and seconded by Penny Hawkins.

No treasurer's report was available. Colleen Hayes, retiring treasurer, and Elsa Jerger, the new treasurer are still working on the transfer of all accounts and records.

Lapidary Arts Group: Terry Roberts reported the October meeting consisted of making "critters" at Kinney's workshop. The next meeting will be November 14th at the home of Terry. The meeting is open to the desired activity of those attending. Bring your show and tell.

Field Trip: Fred Mahaffey has planned a field trip on November 14th to the Midlothian quarry. This is dependent on the weather. At this time it is too wet. Let Fred know if you are interested in looking for fossilized fish, pyrite, ammonites, and seapterian nodules. This way you can be notified of last minutes changes. Fred is also working on a trip to Arkansas to hunt for quartz.

Newsletter: Susan Burch asked for help from all members. Send articles and pictures to her about your special interest or project. Also send these to Kinney and he will put them on the web page.

Announcements:

- Patches and pins are available for purchase.
- Kinney thanked all who bring refreshments and those that come to the meeting early to help set up the room.
- Susan Burch presented certificates and plaques to those who won recognition at the South Central and American Federation Convention this last weekend in Austin. She recognized Becky Whisenant, Terry Roberts, Suzan Chapman, Sherry Breedlove, Carolyn Davis, Mary Owens, Kinney Polve and herself. Susan was very proud of being named into the Editors Hall of Fame. This is a great honor.
- Our junior club member, Willow Lanchester has served as the East Texas Honey Queen in 2014. This year she will serve as The Texas Honey Princess making appearances all over Texas.

Old Business: Kinney gave a report from the Board meeting. He reported that the Board appointed Elsa Jerger to the office of treasurer. Kinney will look at the constitution and bylaws and rewrite the portions that need clarification. He will then bring it to the Board. The needs of the Gem Show were discussed. The annual show will be January 22nd – 24th. A workshop was planned for January 9th to make items used at the show. A mailing company will be used to send the postcards for the show. It was agreed to have the club vote on the desire to reactivate our Facebook page with several people serving as monitors. A motion to that effect was made by Susan Burch. The motion passed.

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

Our next meeting will be December 7th. This will be the annual gift exchange. Bring a gift related to the hobby for a fun evening of exchange. Also bring something to add to the refreshment table to complete the party.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Becky Whisenant. Terry Roberts seconded the motion.

Door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served.

Kinney Polve presented a power point that he prepared on the structure and workings of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society. The first organizational meeting recorded took place on November 12, 1956. We are now a 501 C3 organization. He wanted everyone to understand their role in the club and how they might be able to assist in making the club better for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Davis





SHADOW AND IRIS AGATES BY TERRY ROBERTS

When I read "The Beauty of Banded Agates" by Michael R. Carlson several years ago, I was awed by the beauty of these agates. Most rockhounds are familiar with the outstanding patterns and colors exhibited by Laguna, Brazilian, Dryhead, Fairburn, Condor, Queensland and other banded agates shown in the book. However, the author showed two types of agates that I was determined to find. These are the Shadow and Iris agates. Mr. Carlson provides an excellent description of each phenomenon in his book.

Shadow Agates display a shimmering optical effect caused by a phenomenon known as parallax. The shadow is caused by regularly spaced bands that are alternately clear and opaque. The opaque band is usually white in low quality agates, but can be bright colors in high quality agates. As light enters the agate at an angle to the surface of the bands, the opaque band will cast a shadow in the clear band since light is not reflected out of it. By moving the stone back and forth, the shadow will move across the bands. This can be seen in the photo where the shadow moves along the upper left side of the cabochon. A word of caution: This is not "chatoyance" which is an optical effect caused by the reflection of light from some fibrous material as seen in Tigereye.

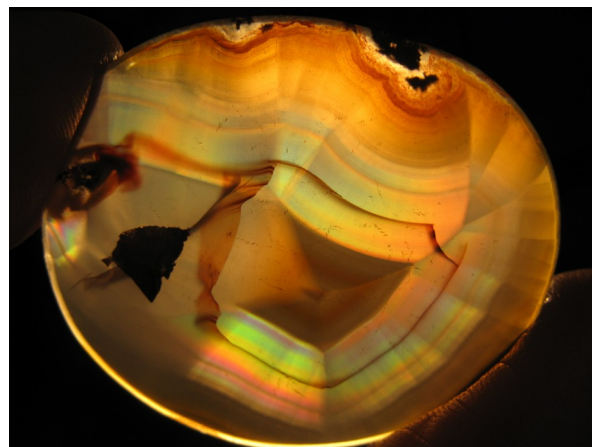


The Iris effect is often, but not always, found in low quality agate that a collector may be tempted to discard. I finally found a good example of this phenomenon in an ordinary Brazilian agate slab that had no noteworthy patterns and very little color. This can be seen in the photos which show the Brazilian agate in reflected light and again in transmitted light from an incandescent bulb (the cab has pieces of lint on the surface from the polishing cloth that appear to be scratches).



This phenomenon is produced when light passes through a clear agate with extremely fine bands (up to 10,000 bands per inch). The bands act as a diffraction grating where the edges of the bands have alternately high and low refractive indices which cause the light to break into spectral colors. Since not all agates have evenly spaced bands and refractive indices suitable for separating colors in white light, the iris effect varies in quality and the number of colors that will be displayed.

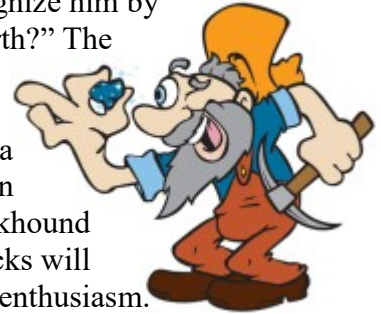
In order to get the best colors from this cabochon, I had to grind it down to a thickness of about 2.5 mm in the center of the dome and 1.5 mm at the edge. If the agate cab had been any thicker, the colors would not have been noticeable. So, if you find a clear agate slab that appears to have wavy shadows that are caused by microscopic bands, you might try to grind it to a very thin slab. You may be rewarded with a beautiful Iris Agate.



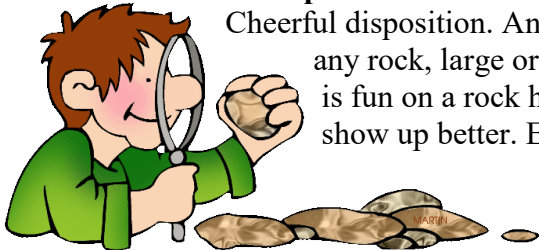


WHAT KIND OF ROCKHOUND ARE YOU?

The Fortune Hunter - this rockhound sees potential wealth in every pebble. You recognize him by his clutch on a new find. He has a greedy glitter in his eye as he asks, "What is this worth?" The beauty of the stone means nothing to him. First and foremost is their monetary value.



The Optimist - Called the Happy Hunter, this one is characterized by a Cheerful disposition. Any colorful rock excites him. At once he sees in any rock, large or small, a gem of rare beauty. This type of rockhound is fun on a rock hunt. A drenching rain only means that the rocks will show up better. Even when he finds nothing, he has relentless enthusiasm.

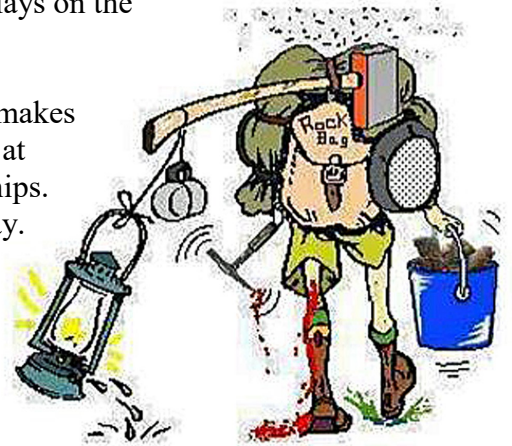


©Hicmatin.com

The Road Runner - No mountain trail or river bed for this roadside seeker. He operates with the rule - never look further than 12 feet from the car. Road runner depends on low cunning for his supply of rocks. By wearing flimsy shoes, he avoids sloshing along stream beds or climbing hills. By forgetting equipment, he plays on the sympathy of others who offer him part of their finds.

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The Smasher and Basher - this one is recognized by the trail of rubble he makes with his sledge hammer. As he goes into rock areas, he smashes and bashes at everything in sight. By the time he is done, there is nothing but worthless chips. This convinces him that the rock must have been originally unsound, anyway.



From the Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society via Monrovia Rockhounds Moroks Newsletter, Oct. Via Cowtown Cutter 11/14



FOR THOSE WITH ACCESS TO THE INTERNET:



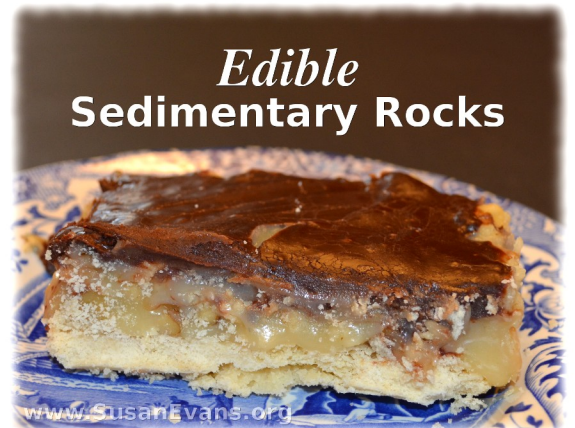
Cute song about the three types of rock in Geology....appropriate for those under 10:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPgE74Vltdc&feature=youtu.be>

For a yummy treat that will shoot your blood sugar sky high and I'm hoping someone will make this for the dealer's dinner:

<http://susanevans.org/blog/edible-sedimentary-rocks/>

Edible Sedimentary Rocks



www.susanevans.org



NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE LAPIDARY/JEWELRY GROUP

Six members and one guest of the Lapidary/Jewelry Group met at Terry's home for the November meeting. Three members brought the cabs that they had completed since the last meeting and two others brought some opal that they had purchased. Jack Shull had a beautiful triplet that he wanted to mount in silver as a pendant and Richard Armstrong had a bag containing 48 carats of opal rough that he will work on later. Richard also had a beautiful faceted gem that exhibited color change similar to Alexandrite.

Kinney brought some worn-out 8-inch diamond capping wheels that he had replenished the diamond working area by mixing diamond dust with 220 epoxy and applying it to the worn wheels while it was slowly rotating on a rotisserie. He cautioned the group that this system works well, but you have to be careful and not overload the rotisserie with too many wheels or it will break. He showed the group a sadly broken rotisserie rod as evidence of this mistake. He may demonstrate the diamond charging process at the next meeting at his home in February.

There will not be a L/J Group meeting in December due to the Christmas Holiday activities. The January meeting of the L/J Group will join the regular Club work meeting to work on crafts for the Annual Gem and Mineral Show later that month. The work meeting will be at the usual church location in Bullard. More information on the exact date and location will be sent out in early January. Terry Roberts



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations to all those who took away awards and certificates from this year's Author's and Editor's contest. Those included participation certificates for Becky Whisenant (2), Terry Roberts, Suzan Chapman, Sherry Breedlove, Kinney Polve and Susan Burch.

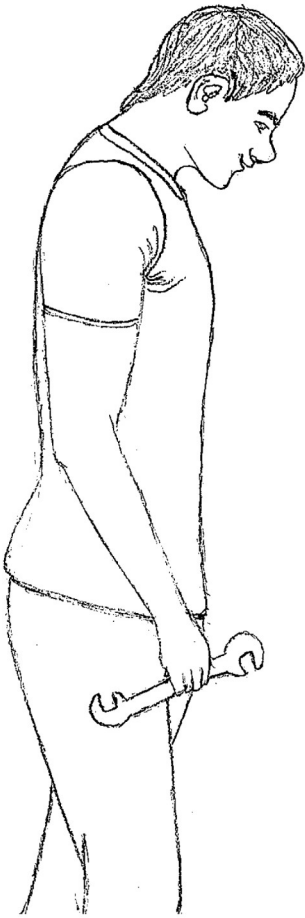
Carolyn Davis took away a 4th place/honorable mention in the Adult Features category. Kinney Polve also won 3rd place in the SCFMS contest and 5th place in the AFMS contest for the poem he entered this year, and 3rd place as Webmaster for the www.etgms.com website. Mary Owens won 2nd place for her Adult Poetry entry in the SCFMS and AFMS contests. Our newsletter placed 2nd and Honorable Mention for our two entries in the SCFMS contest and 5th in the AFMS giving us a "Best of the Best" Top 10 designation. My drawn feature placed 1st in the SCFMS competition.



It is also my great honor to have been inducted into the AFMS Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame. The Bulletin Editors' Hall of Fame was established in 1995 as a way to recognize and honor the hard working editors of local gem and mineral clubs throughout the United States, Canada and other areas of the globe where there are organized clubs. There are seven federations in the AFMS, and inductees may only be honored when their federation hosts the AFMS Annual Convention, or only every seven years unless special circumstances apply. Except for the first year where they were 'catching up' on those from the past, there are usually only one or two inductees from each federation per year of induction.

Thank you to all members who have contributed to make our newsletter the great communication tool it is. My appreciation goes to those whom have supported me over the last 10 years (almost, lol) I've been editor of the ETGMS' Rock-N-Rose newsletter.

Susan



Hunter, if you bring home another rock, you're going to catch Rock Pox!



DO YOU HAVE LITHOPHYLLOSIS?

There is NO cure! The word comes from Latin: lithos meaning rock: phyl, an attraction to: and osis, condition. Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age, and . . .

IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS!

Sounds like common old **ROCK POX** to me, we have had that for years anyway! It is often caught at, and symptoms may become aggravated by, but may also for some, be relieved by, attending rock shows, club meetings and field trips. Although be sure to use caution as all these things are **HIGHLY** addictive!!

And are usually passed on to your children who will then be lifelong sufferers.

(Source: Golden Spike 9/09; Beehive Buzzer 9/09; CLACKAMETTE GEM 6/14 via The Slate via Moroks Newsletter, 9/14; via Cowtown Cutter Nov 14; via Huntin' & Diggin' 12/14)



2016 ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING KICKOFF
by Cheryl Neary, 2016 Endowment Fund Chair

...Needless to say, you cannot win anything unless there are donations – so please consider being a donor and buying tickets from your Federation’s representative for the ... great donations we will get! Please either notify your representative or me of your intent to donate an item. Please, send a photo of the item and include your name, clubs’ name and your Federation, as well as the value of your donation. Let’s make it fun! The Federation that donates the most items will win a special prize to be determined. Next I request that you purchase tickets from your representative- who will be announced next month, along with the price of the tickets. Why the drawing? The money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few.

Now for the challenge to you! The 2016 convention will be held in July. That means, I need donations as soon as possible so that I can post them to the website, so that you all have a chance to see what you can possibly win! Please contact me via email at or via cell phone @ 516.449.5341 (texts work the best) to let me know of your intentions to donate. The item can be shipped to my address, which I prefer or brought to the 2016 Convention in Oregon. Via AFMS 11/15 (shortened to fit)



DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM:

ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE, BRING A HOBBY RELATED WRAPPED GIFT AND SOME MUNCHIES TO SHARE.





JUST SHOWING OFF

I have really made a lot of cabochons over the last year, and I mean a whole lot, at least 350 or so. And almost all of them have new homes. I find it very relaxing and enjoyable sitting in front of my cabbing machine just grinding rocks. It sometimes seems as if the cabochon takes on a form all on its own. And slowly as I grind away, it takes shape, and wow it just pops out. Below are some of the cabs I've completed this year. Kinney Polve

Laguna Lace

Botswana Agate

Tiffany Stone

Seam Plume Agate

Waterline Agate



Botswana Agate

Plume Agate

Llanite

Laguna Lace

Brecciated Jasper



Ocean Jasper

Sodalite

Amethyst Lace

Amazonite

Ocean Jasper





BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

SPOT SANDING BRUSH—Sometimes you have a little discoloration or debris to clean from the bottom of a pocket, from an area of coarse textured surface, or from a small space between two soldered objects. Finding something to get into those close areas is always an effort in creativity.

One tool I have for these special occasions is a glass fiber spot sanding brush. It's great for cleaning a small area and doesn't leave deep scratches, only a faint satin finish.

There's probably several manufacturers of these pens, but one is the PrepPen Adjustable Sanding Pen selling for US\$ 7.96 from Amazon. You can see it at <http://www.amazon.com/Prep-Pen-PrepPen-Adjustable-Sanding/dp/B000J18RT6/>



FREE BENCHTIPS E-BOOK—If you have a Kindle, there's two ways to get a copy of Brad's Bench Tips book for free. Amazon's new Unlimited program let's you download as many e-books as you want, and you can try out the program free for a month. Or if you are already in Amazon's Prime program to get free shipping or to download movies, Prime lets you borrow the book for a month at no cost.

Please use the following attribution with each publication:

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE, PLEASE TAKE THIS TIME TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

**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.

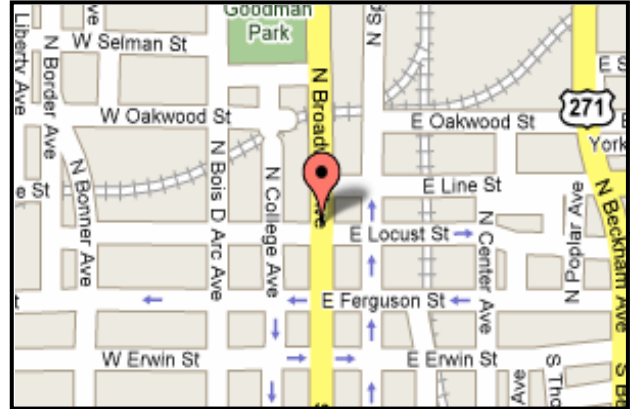
WHERE:

The Discovery Science Place
308 N. Broadway
Tyler, Texas

ANNUAL DUES:

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

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 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

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