

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 41

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

Coming Shows, 2015

OCTOBER 25-26

GLEN ROSE, TX
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin
Somervell Expo Ctr.

**OCTOBER 23-25
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**Annual show combined with
the AFMS & SCFMS
annual conventions
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Center**

NOVEMBER 07-08
AMARILLO, TX
Golden Spread G&MS
Amarillo Civic Ctr.

NOVEMBER 07-08
MIDLAND, TX
Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2015
ROUND ROCK, TX
Paleo Soc. Of Austin
Old Settlers Park, Hwy 79 E

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2015
MESQUITE, TX
Dallas G&MS
Resistol Arena Exhibit Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't know about the rest of you, but it seems like I've been a little too busy lately. With meetings, a critter workshop, and preparing for the SCFMS Convention, I haven't had a lot of time at the cabbage machine. The Austin Gem & Mineral Society Show will be October 23 – 25, and will be hosting the AFMS and SCFMS Conventions this year. We didn't schedule a field trip for October, because the Austin Show is going on at the perfect time. I look forward to seeing some of our members there.

The Board of Directors convened on October 13, and appointed Elsa Jerger as Treasury. I hope next year that we have more members speak up and serve in the different club offices. It is a lot harder on the members that donate their time to serve in an office when they have to devote a lot of extra time trying to find members to feel the needs of club. I know that everybody's spare time is a precious commodity, and for some of the members that can't commit to serve in one of the offices because of their current life situation, I understand. For the rest of you, please donate your time where you can.

I will be bring the program for the November monthly meeting, "What You Did or Didn't Know About ETGMS". It should be a great program for all our members new and old. I will try to cover all the information on the inner workings of the club. Most of our older members just find out that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that they weren't aware of. And for the new members, this program will answer a lot of your questions. I will also have sign-up sheets for our January Show that is only 3 months away.



I would also like to thank our member that donate refreshments and snacks at our monthly meeting. I know sometimes your efforts go unnoticed, but they are appreciated.

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

Kinney Polve

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OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order 6:50 by club president, Kinney Polve.

Motion to accept minutes of September meeting made by Richard Carter, approved.

No treasurer report given.

Lapidary group report by Terry Roberts. September meeting was at Bill Faulkner's house and Richard Armstrong led the discussion of gem's identification. Terry had brought cabs to the meeting to show Richard and have him point out salient points of identification. The lapidary group will meet Saturday, Oct. 9 at Kinney and Vicky's house as part of a club workshop. The workshop will be to make items for the club show in January.

Field trip chairman, Fred Mahaffey, had signup sheets for a club trip to Arkansas in November. He expressed that there is also some interest by club members in a trip to the diamond mine state park in Arkansas. An October trip will be an informal trip to the Austin Gem & Mineral show for those interested in going.

Kinney announced that the November meeting topic will be, "What you know and don't know about ETGMS" and he encouraged everyone to attend. He also reminded everyone that dues for 2016 are due.

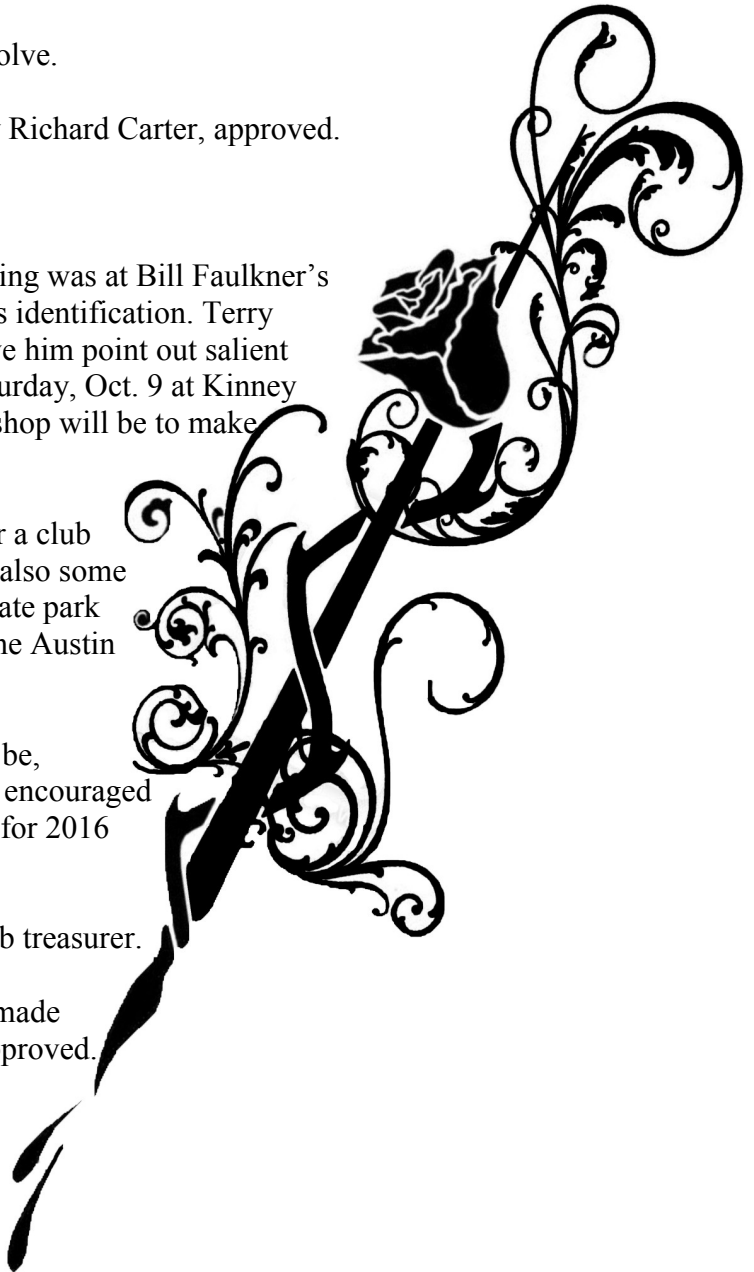
New officers were noted and there is still a need for a club treasurer.

No new business. Motion to close the business meeting, made by Keith Harmon and seconded by Becky Whisenant. Approved.

Following a break for refreshments and examination of auction items, the annual club auction was held. Keith was the auctioneer with Kinney as assistant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Hawkins for Club Secretary Carolyn Davis





TOO MUCH FUN WITH CRITTERS

The weather was perfect Saturday Oct. 10th when 9 members of the ETGMS met at the Polve's workshop to get a head start on making items for our gem, mineral and jewelry show in January. The annual show is the primary income generating event sponsored by the club each year in an effort to procure a permanent meeting site with classroom facilities and a workshop available to members. Preparations and planning have already begun for the 2016 show and the usual second Saturday meeting of the lapidary group contributed to that effort.

Club members Kinney and Vicki Polve, Penny Hawkins, Pete Keiser, Jack Shull, Becky Whisenant, Terry Roberts, Richard Armstrong and Elsa Jerger spent a fun and productive day creating the ever popular rock critters which are a hit with adults and children alike at the wheel-of-fortune and silent auction table. Kinney and Vicki provided lunch and refreshments along with a tour of their "rock cave". Another work/fun day will be scheduled as show time draws near. All members are invited to come participate and contribute their creative skills -- its a great way to get to know your fellow rock hounds!

Becky Whisenant



Pictured above Elsa Jerger, Penny Hawkins, Pete Keiser, Kinney and Vicki Polve, Jack Shull and Terry Roberts are making rock 'critters' for the annual January rock show. Photo by Becky Whisenant. At left are critters found at <http://www.momincdaily.com/make/make-rock-critters/> Below are 'happy feet' selected from the internet.





TELL ME ABOUT APATITE

APATITE gets its odd name from the Greek word meaning “to deceive” be-cause its varied forms and colors caused early mineralogists to confuse it with

a half-dozen other minerals. Apatite may be transparent, translucent, or opaque, with a color that varies from white to brown, green, yellow, or violet. Apatite occurs in veins with quartz, feldspar, and iron ores. Hexagonal crystals are common, some similar to gem minerals. Apatite is a phosphate of calcium, usually with some fluorine ($\text{Ca}_5(\text{Cl},\text{F})_3(\text{PO}_4)_3$). H. 5; sP. GR. 3.2; luster, glassy, streak, white. Outstanding commercial deposits are present in Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Phosphate rock, used for fertilizer, contains minerals related to apatite.

Ref: Rocks and Minerals, by Herbert S. Zim & Paul R. Shaffer; via SCFMS Sept./Oct. Newsletter.

Images selected from the internet of specimens from the Smithsonian Institute.



JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

FUN FACTS

The Roman writer named Pliny the Elder noticed that quartz crystals are very cool to the touch. He also found many quartz crystals high in the mountains. So, he came to the conclusion that quartz is petrified ice. In other words, he believed that quartz was ice that had frozen so hard that it would never thaw out and melt! (Today we know that quartz is silicon and oxygen and that it absorbs heat quickly and easily.) Sulfur cannot absorb heat very well. If you put your warm finger on the surface of a sulfur crystal, the crystal will crack. Sometimes you can even hear the cracking.

From Mini Miners Monthly 8/15, with permission (images are from internet) ©2015, www.diamonddanpublications.net via Fredericksburg Rockhound News 10/15



GEM CAPERS 2015

PEGMATITES

It's almost here!—This year, the Austin Gem and Mineral Society's annual show, Gem Capers 2015, will proudly host the American Federation And South Central Federations convention and show. Included in the weekend are meetings, judging, talks and field trips as well as the annual meeting of A.L.A.A. (American Lands Access Association) and S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors).

These organizations' activities will begin on Wednesday, October 21. The talks will be open to the public for the price of admission and will include topics such as Central Texas pegmatites, mineral preparation, and North American Diamond mining by Charles Kirkpatrick. Please see the Gem Capers website for a detailed schedule <www.gemcapers.com>.

The show will include over 30 vendors selling jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, fossils, spheres, meteorites, and lapidary equipment. There will also be a cabochon cutting contest and a SCFMS and AFMS display case competition. The show and many events will be held at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road.

Hours for the show are:

Friday, October 23-- 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday, October 24-- 9 am - 6 pm

Sunday, October 25-- 10 am - 5 pm

Admission is \$8 per adult (\$7 for seniors 60+) and \$2 for children 13-18. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Multiple day tickets are available when registering in advance. In addition to competitive and non-competitive exhibits, special exhibits will include the popular "touch table" of rocks and fossils and an "illumination station" containing fluorescent minerals.

There will be a silent auction Saturday and Sunday, as well as demonstrations such as stone faceting, wire wrapping, cabbing, fossil cleaning and polymer clay. There will also be numerous activities for children. Friday, October 23 is Youth Education Day, with field trips to the show from various schools sponsored by Silicon Labs.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds of the show support the society as well as provide scholarships for students in the Earth Sciences.

-- See You At The Show --

Via the SCFMS Sept./Oct. Newsletter





I let this ghost out just in time for Halloween.

Thanks, Kinney

FLOWERS OF FAITH

I thought all of you would enjoy seeing what can be done with the proper shaped agate/jasper slabs. I hope it helps bring out the artistic muse in all of you. Terry Roberts

The letter included in the email from Terry:

Patty (Patty Reagan),

The pic of your latest works is another excellent reason to be proud how a few hours spent while enjoying my simple hobbies provided "paint for your palette." Sharing like that needs no more rewards, but I'm ecstatic to have the two crosses you gave me last week to pass along to Doctor Stanley and his wife in Alpine next April. They worked hard to provide the Queensland agates in the middle of the pic.



I'm astounded how well the petals made from agates and jasper found on the roads near Falcon Lake a few weeks ago turned out in the two larger flowers. The jasper ones give cause to reconsider what shapes lend themselves to sawing petals. I hope Matt and I find enough rain fell today on the right locations to go hunt more this weekend.

Johnny French



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS—Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff wheel or other type of grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small pierced areas of your waxes.



REMOVING A STONE FROM BEZEL SETTING—If you've forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there's one thing you can try before starting to pry.

Find some sticky wax or beeswax. Roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it on well and yank.

But if the stone is really stuck, there are two other tricks - but each with risks and consequences. The first is to pry open the bezel with a sharp knife blade being very careful not to wrinkle or tear the bezel. If you try this, make sure to pry gently in several places around the stone.

The last solution is to drill a small hole into the bezel setting from the back side so that you can push the stone out. Note that this does leave a hole, but in some cases you can use it to saw out a design under the stone.

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/ and www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835

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

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.

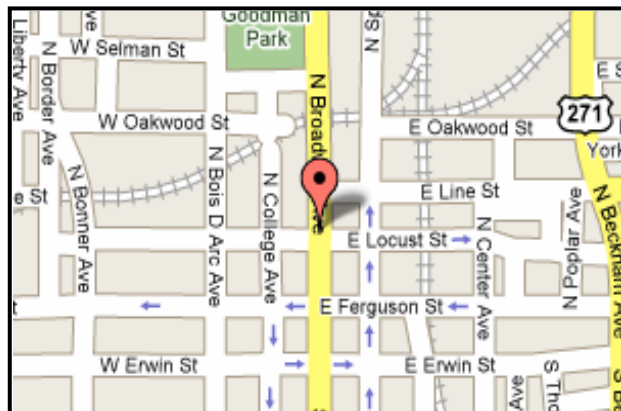
WHERE:

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:
903-567-4162

Carolyn Davis
1042 VZCR 4201
Canton, TX 75103

VICE PRESIDENT:
903-881-5108

Terry Roberts
12243 Cross Fence Trail
Tyler, TX 75706

**FIELD TRIP
CHAIRMAN:**
903-978-0268

Fred Mahaffey
1637 CR 1306
Rusk, TX 75785

TREASURER:
903-520-6629

Elsa Jerger
13238 CR 468
Tyler, TX 75704

**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:

Elsa Jerger
13238 CR 468
Tyler, TX 75704



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

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