



ROCK-N-ROSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST TEXAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 39

TYLER, TEXAS

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2013

Coming Shows, 2013

Nov 2-3

MIDLAND, TX

Midland GMS show
Midland Center
105 N. Main St.
(corner of Wall & Main)

Nov 8-10

HUMBLE, TX

60th Annual Show
Houston Gem & Mineral Soc.
Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy

Dec 6-8

EL PASO, TX

Annual show
El Paso Mineral & Gem Society
El Maida Auditorium
6331 Alabama

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to begin by thanking everybody for the opportunity to serve as president. Also I would like to thank everybody else that stepped up to serve as officers and chair people. I would also encourage other members to take an active part in the activities our club provides. In the short time I have been a member of the East Texas Gem & Mineral Society I have found that the more involve I am in the club activities (monthly meeting and programs, field trips, subgroup meeting, etc), the more I learn and enjoy my obsession with rocks. If that was not enough, the fellowship with other members has been priceless.

With all that said, anybody interested in presenting a program at our monthly meeting, please contact me. I am interested in learning more about the interests of our other members and the knowledge you have in the different areas of geology, mineralogy, fossils, and the lapidary arts. This will assist us in trying to structure activities to meet the needs of our members.

It's not too early to be thinking about our January show, if we are planning to have a great show we will need to plan ahead. I would like to encourage all our members to try to take an active part in our show. Last year we had a problem getting members to set up display cases. This is something that is very important at the show, because it gives people an opportunity to see part of what goes on in our club. It also encourages new membership. This year was the first year for me to be involved in the show, and I thought I would be lost, but I had a very enjoyable time sharing my hobby with others. The members that had been involved in previous shows helped out the newer members. If you would like to work during our January show, and want more information, contact me.

Also a big thanks to all the members for their donations for the Annual October Auction. I think we all had a great time, and I know I went away with some great pieces.

We are planning to have two programs at our November monthly meeting, one on preparing a show case for the January show by Don Campbell. And one on the Walker Ranch field trip by Terry Roberts. Terry is also planning to bring some of the beautiful material he found on this trip and give to members at the meeting. I will also bring some of the beautiful agate and crystals we collected on this field trip for club members. So plan to attend the November meeting and get some great material as a bonus.

Kinney Polve



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order October 7 at 6:55 p.m. by President Kinney Polve

Kinney welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Colleen Hayes moved they be approved, Jack Shull seconded. Minutes were approved.

Bill Faulkner read the Treasurer's report.

It was announced Keith Harmon will again chair the show.

Kinney encouraged members to set up display cases for the show.

Susan Burch was appointed by Kenny as editor of the newsletter this year.

Randy Harmon accepted the position of Field Trip Chairman.

Members are encouraged to communicate with Randy about where they want to go and what they wish to see.

Under consideration is a trip to Waco to hunt for fossilized sea shells. Randy wanted to determine which weekend is the best for most. Pete Keiser suggested he just pick a date.

The Rock Swap was discussed. Club is looking at April. Per Don Campbell, initially it will be a club focused social event, not necessarily the general public. Location might be a park – more of a social event.

Lapidary Sub Group

Terry Roberts announced the October meeting has been postponed to the third week in the month. Terry and several members will be on a field trip to the Walker Ranch on the regular meeting date. Meeting will be at Bill Faulkner's home. Subject will be an open forum. Discuss further requests and cabbings assistance will be available.

The November meeting will be held at Terry's home on the second Saturday.

The 18" saw is nearly finished – the gears are working, new belts are being installed and will be ready for a dry run soon.

Mineral Sub Group

Meets on the third Thursday (17th in October) at 7 p.m. at Don's home. Sign up sheets are available. Discussion continues on crystallography.

Old Business

501c3 – Board voted to have a CPA assist Bill in completing the application. Cost will be less than \$750 for the CPA expense.

New Business

A vote was taken to make the trip to the Walker Ranch a sanctioned club event. This will allow the club insurance to cover the Walker Ranch facilities should any damage occur. Suzan moved this be a sanctioned club event, Terry seconded, motion passed.

Kinney stated we need to discuss where the club work shop will be held to prepare for the show. Several ideas were proposed however no firm decision was made.

Susan stated the newsletter and web site received several awards from the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Membership name tags were discussed. Club is checking into "permanent" tags. In the past, Keith obtained TX shaped tags for \$8 – 9.

A short break was called, then the annual auction was held.

Kinney requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill moved the meeting be adjourned, Susan seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Suzan Chapman



This month we elected a new president to serve the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society for the next year. His name is Kenny Polve, his wife is Vicky and this article is to introduce their love of the hobby to the club. Hope you enjoy, SB



Above-Slabs cut from specimens collected by Kenny and Vicky Polve on trips to different locations around the United States and Canada.

ABOUT KENNY AND VICKY POLVE

By Kenny Polve

Vicky and I have been married for almost 35 years. We have three children and five grand children (Three of them already show a strong interest in collecting rocks). The Henderson, Texas area has been home for us for more than forty years. I have been a rockhound most of my life, getting a start as a teenager with my father. Not long after Vicky and I married, she became interested in rocks.

We love to travel and hunt for rocks, and occasionally pan for gold. We have rock hunted all 50 states and Canada. I find that our trips always seem to be routed around the next best rock location. I tell people I have a lot of gypsy blood in me, because I love to travel and I feel at home where ever I am. Vicky on the other hand always likes a place to return to that she can call home. We were fulltime RVers for about 3 years, and stayed gone on rockhounding trips for as long as 3 months. Our favorite states to hunt are New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Mon-

tana and Michigan. Of course, we'll go anywhere there might be good material and beautiful scenery. In the last few years we decided to start cutting all these rocks we had collected over the years. We knew we wanted to turn some of these ugly rocks into beautiful gems. So we bought a small used cab machine and some other used equipment (slab saw, tumbler and grinders). Then another slab saw and 2 bigger cabbng machines.

Now we had plenty of equipment, plenty of slabs, but no beautiful cabs and jewelry. So about a year ago, we decided to look for a local club with people that shared our interests. That's when we found East Texas Gem & Mineral Society. After joining the club, spending time with the members and sharing knowledge, we finally gained the confidence and knowledge we've needed to

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At right– Kenny and Vicky Polve utilizing equipment to cut slabs and polish cabochons out of 'ugly rocks'.





The Polves, continued from page 3.



begin turning ugly rocks into beautiful pieces. It seems to me that everybody that takes an active part in the club meetings and activities really benefits. I also think that the sub-group meetings have been very beneficial in helping, those of us that attend them, to gain the knowledge and confidence from the other members in the club. I would encourage other members, no matter what your skill level, to attend our sub-group meeting. We will all benefit from your participation. And for those of you that wonder why I always carry my little backpack wherever I go. A good rockhound is always prepared; you never know when you will need a notebook and pen, Ziploc bags for samples, Band-Aids, toilet paper and protection from various things on your next adventure.

Photos:

Top-A group of free form cabochons cut and polished by Kenny Polve.

Middle-Several oval cabochons cut and polished by Vicky Polve.

Bottom left-Kenny's first finished jewelry piece in Argentium Silver.

Bottom right-A free form Malachite cabochon set in gold filled wire by Kenny.



DOP POT?

I needed an extra pot for my cab wax, and I was too cheap to buy one, so I found enough parts lying around the shop. Works great. Kinney Polve





STONE LORE – and MORE!

Rubies

By Maria McEwen

The Bermuda Triangle.....Atlantis.....hidden treasure! Stuff of fantasy? Or could there actually be a giant Ruby crystal buried beneath the ocean floor of the infamous Triangle? According to esoteric traditions discussed at length by former geologist James Tyberonn on his website called “Earth-Keeper,” (1) not only does a giant Ruby exist, but during the month of December 2012 it was expected to be reactivated after lying dormant for over 12,000 years. For more details, check out the archives on the above-referenced website.

Considered to be related to both December and January by Zodiacal tradition, (2) Rubies are unquestionably beautiful to contemplate during the often drab and colorless winter months. Associated with solar energy in Hindu tradition, as well as in their modern role as Cancerian birthstones, (3) Rubies are available to warm the hearts of all of us in the form of breathtaking photographs of jewelry belonging to almost any historical period you might care to explore.

Cautionary information is available for anyone contemplating the purchase of a Ruby to present to that special someone on Valentine’s Day. Several articles discuss the subject of “Lead glass-filled Rubies,” also called “Composite” or “Hybrid” Rubies. Supporting photographs allow viewers to compare the altered stones with authentic Rubies. The composite material is frequently a mix of 50% low-grade corundum and 50% glass filler that is heavily treated to improve transparency, resulting in stones that can be easily damaged beyond repair. (4)

Rubies are thought to have been available in Sri Lanka as far back as the 13th century when Marco Polo wrote of finding them there. (5) The famous explorer may have been referring to Spinel, however, for that mineral is also known as “Balas Ruby,” (6) and is found in Sri Lanka. Notable examples of the confusion between Rubies and Red Spinel in antiquity include the Timur “Ruby” in the royal collection of the current British monarchs, as well as Catherine the Great’s “Ruby,” (7) now housed in the Kremlin in Moscow.

Just to make things more interesting, in ancient times, Rubies--along with Spinel and Garnets--were collectively called “carbuncles” (from the Latin for “live coals”) and it was not until the development of scientific gemology in the 18th century that a Ruby could be reliably distinguished from other beautiful, glowing red stones. (8) Nevertheless, the field of folklore did offer at least one test for authenticity: “If you put a real ruby gem in a glass jar, a red hue of light will be seen to emit from the jar.” (9)

Among Hindus, one folk belief is that a person becomes more charismatic by wearing a Ruby. A divine glow is said to shine on the face of the wearer, thought to occur because of Ruby’s alleged ability to stimulate the process of building red blood cells. In this tradition, Ruby (called the “Manik” stone) is used to treat anemia (10) and is believed to benefit the circulatory system in general, thereby protecting an individual from other blood-related problems, as well. However, part of the lore specifies that the stone will provide these benefits to the wearer only if the individual adheres to certain detailed astrological instructions and methodology in its use. (11)

The Assyrians in 1400 BC theorized that the mineral content in precious stones offered specific benefits to wearers. In Exodus, Chapter 39, the Jewish high priest is described as wearing a breastplate adorned with twelve precious stones, with each stone serving a particular purpose according to Jewish thought. (12) Ancient Egyptian tradition associates the Ruby with their sun goddess Sekhmet, while 8th century Christian tradition pairs the Ruby with St. Andrew, originally one of the twelve apostles. Clearly, precious stones in general and Rubies in particular are highly regarded in a number of significant cultural traditions.

Among Buddhists, an ancient saying was that when Buddha shed tears, the tears turned into Rubies. (13) A Burmese mine owner, wanting to give thanks for a spectacular find of Rubies in the family mine, dreamed of building a pagoda as a votive offering to the Buddha. In an article entitled “The Ruby Mines of Mogok: Chapter 3,” gemstone expert Martin Ehrmann recounts how he unexpectedly acquired a group of fabulous Rubies from the above-mentioned mine owner, his purchase of the stones enabling her to realize her dream. (14)

[Note: Information pertaining to footnotes is available upon request. (1) email me at: mc1122mm@gmail.com, or (2) call me at: 227-6433 or 504-5802.]



BENCH TIPS by Brad Smith

MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

BENCH TIPS HOLIDAY SPECIAL

If you find these monthly tips useful, then think how nice it'd be to have the full bench tips reference guide for your shop or as a present for a jewelry friend. Between now and Thanksgiving I'm offering a Holiday Special that includes a free bonus pack of jewelry articles with every copy purchased.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" contains 101 of the most popular and useful bench tips organized into ten main problem areas. It's filled with close-up photos and has a detailed index to help find the solution you need by key word.

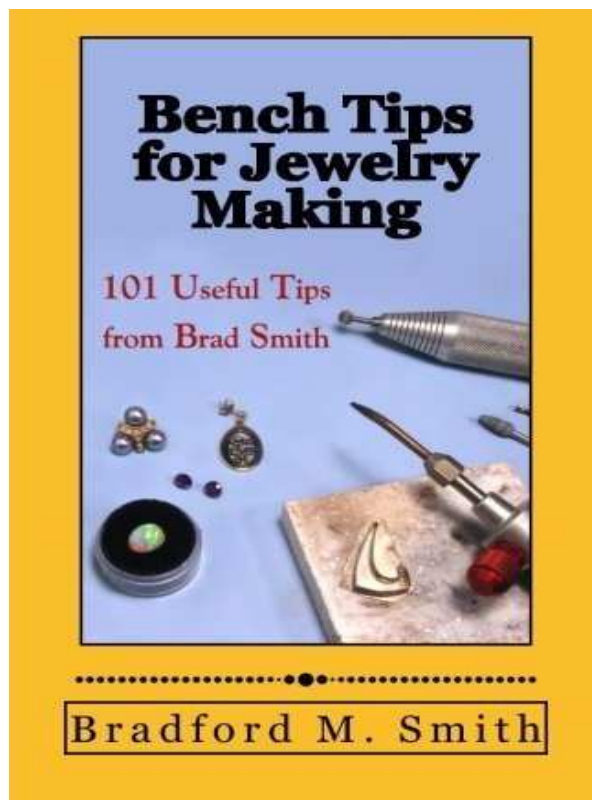
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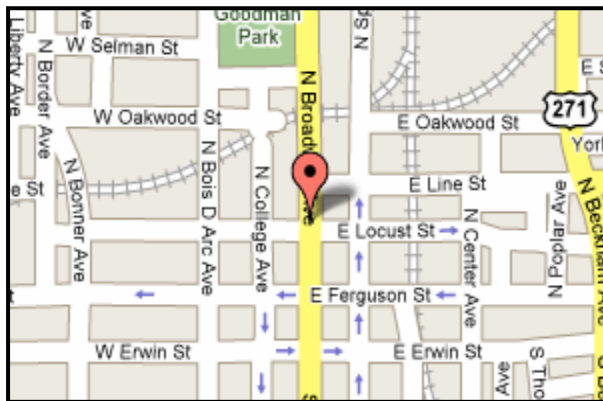
1. Cuttlebone Casting - Get wonderful textures quickly and easily
2. Bezel Basics - Hints for making a perfect bezel every time
3. Make Your Own Wax Pen - You'll love this \$20 electric wax tool
4. Depletion Gilding - An easy way to avoid tarnish on your pieces
5. Setting Up A Home Shop - Tool tips and safety considerations
6. Building a Jewelry Web Site - Develop a plan to save money

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or search for "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon



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THE EAST TEXAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY MEETS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS THAT DAY IS A HOLIDAY, THEN THE MEETING IS MOVED TO THE SECOND MONDAY. WE MEET AT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE PLACE, 308 NORTH BROADWAY, JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN TYLER, TEXAS. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:45 P.M.

Please send any info or articles to be included in the newsletter to the editor 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 me and I will direct you to the right party.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Feel free to use contents and graphics for non-profit newsletters. Give credit when and where due.

**Purpose of the
East Texas****Gem & Mineral Society**

Is to promote the study of geology, mineralogy, fossils and the lapidary arts.

The public is always invited to attend all club meetings.

Annual dues are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.50 for juniors.

Thank you... SB



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